

Gridiron Gold Sheet Football Newsletter

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Dennis Stagliano's Best Bets Gridiron Gold Sheet Football Newsletter

Volume 44 Issue 5

NFL Week 5, 2025

NFL Landscaper

Cowboys tie Packers 40-40

Dallas (1-2-1)

Dak Prescott was in top form, completing 31/40 (78%) for 319 yards, three touchdowns, and no interceptions.

WR George Pickens had a monster game, catching eight of 11 targets for 134 yards and two touchdowns.

RB Javonte Williams rushed for 85 yards and a touchdown on 20 carries (4.2 ypc).

Green Bay (2-2)

QB Jordan Love picked apart Dallas' league-worst secondary, completing 31/43 (72%) for 337 yards, three touchdowns, and no interceptions.

WR Romeo Doubs caught six of eight targets for 58 yards and three touchdowns.

RB Josh Jacobs was a workhorse, totaling 157 yards (86 rushing, 71 receiving) and two touchdowns on 26 touches (6.0 ypt).

Outside of one key play, DE Micah Parsons was quiet in his return to Dallas.

Giants beat Chargers 21-18

New York (1-3)

QB Jaxson Dart had a memorable debut, accounting for 165 yards (111 passing, 54 rushing), two touchdowns, and no turnovers. He completed 13/20 (65%).

WR Malik Nabers tore his ACL in the second quarter and will miss the remainder of the season.

RB Cam Skattebo totaled 90 yards (79 rushing, 11 receiving) on 26 touches (3.5 ypt).

Los Angeles (3-1)

QB Justin Herbert (23/41, 203, 1, 2) was under constant duress — LT Joe Alt suffered a high ankle sprain in the first quarter and will miss multiple weeks.

WR Quentin Johnston caught eight of 13 targets for 98 yards and a touchdown.

RB Omarion Hampton had another huge game, totaling 165 yards (128 rushing, 37 receiving) and a touchdown on 17 touches (9.7 ypt).

Chiefs beat Ravens 37-20

Kansas City (2-2)

QB Patrick Mahomes had his best game of the season, completing 25/37 (68%) for 270 yards, four touchdowns, and no interceptions.

WR Xavier Worthy totaled 121 scrimmage yards (38 rushing, 83 receiving) on seven touches (17.3 ypt), and seemed to elevate the entire offense in his return to action.

WR Hollywood Brown, WR JuJu Smith-Schuster, WR Tyquan Thornton, and RB Isiah Pacheco

caught touchdowns.

Baltimore (1-3)

QB Lamar Jackson accounted for 195 yards (147 passing, 48 rushing), one touchdown, and two turnovers before being removed in the third quarter with a hamstring injury (severity unknown).

RB Justice Hill totaled 117 scrimmage yards (76 rushing, 41 receiving) and two touchdowns on eight touches (14.6 ypt).

The defense managed just one sack and did not have a takeaway.

Rams beat Colts 27-20

Los Angeles (3-1)

QB Matthew Stafford performed at an MVP-level, completing 29/41 (71%) for 375 yards, three touchdowns, and no interceptions.

WR Puka Nacua was also MVP-like, catching 13 of 15 targets for 170 yards and a touchdown.

RB Kyren Williams totaled 94 scrimmage yards (77 rushing, 17 receiving) on 16 touches (5.9 ypt).

Indianapolis (3-1)

QB Daniel Jones completed 24/33 (73%) for 262 yards, one touchdown, and two interceptions.

WR Adonai Mitchell caught three of four targets for 96 yards — but cost the Colts two touchdowns, one on a premature celebration fumble and another on a holding penalty.

TE Tyler Warren accounted for 73 scrimmage yards (70 receiving, 3 rushing) and a touchdown on seven touches (10.4 ypt).

Eagles beat Buccaneers 31-25

Philadelphia (4-0)

QB Jalen Hurts accounted for 192 yards (130 passing, 62 rushing), two touchdowns, and no turnovers — though almost all of that production came in the first half.

TE Dallas Goedert caught all four of his targets for 37 yards and two touchdowns.

RB Saquon Barkley had another inefficient game on the ground, rushing for just 43 yards on 19 carries (2.3 ypc).

Tampa Bay (3-1)

QB Baker Mayfield completed 22/40 (55%) for 289 yards, two touchdowns, and one interception.

WR Emeka Egbuka caught four of ten targets for 101 yards and a touchdown.

RB Bucky Irving totaled 165 scrimmage yards (63 rushing, 102 receiving) and a touchdown on 20 touches (8.3 ypt).

Jaguars beat 49ers 26-21

Jacksonville (3-1)

QB Trevor Lawrence completed 21/31 (68%) for 174 yards, one touchdown, and no interceptions.

RB Travis Etienne was the star on offense, rushing for 124 yards and a touchdown on 19 carries (6.5 ypc).

The defense forced four turnovers (two fumble recoveries, two interceptions).

San Francisco (3-1)

QB Brock Purdy completed 22 of 38 (58%) for 309 yards, two touchdowns, and two interceptions.

RB Christian McCaffrey totaled 141 scrimmage yards (49 rushing, 92 receiving) and a touchdown on 23 touches (6.1 ypt).

San Francisco WRs combined for just eight catches.

Bills beat Saints 31-19

Buffalo (4-0)

QB Josh Allen accounted for 254 yards (209 passing, 45 rushing) and three touchdowns. He completed 16/22 passes (73%).

WR Khalil Shakir caught all five of his targets for 69 yards and a touchdown.

RB James Cook rushed for 117 yards and a touchdown on 22 carries (5.3 ypc).

New Orleans (0-4)

QB Spencer Rattler accounted for 175 yards (126 passing, 49 rushing), one touchdown, and no interceptions. He completed 18/27 (67%).

RB Kendre Miller had a breakout game, rushing for 65 yards and a touchdown on 11 carries (5.9 ypc).

Falcons beat Commanders 34-27

Atlanta (2-2)

QB Michael Penix was much better with OC Zac Robinson on the sideline, completing 20/26 (77%) for 313 yards, two touchdowns, and one interception.

His top targets were WR Drake London (8-110-1) and TE Kyle Pitts (5-70-1).

RB Bijan Robinson totaled 181 scrimmage yards (75 rushing, 106 receiving) and a touchdown on 21 touches (8.6 ypt).

Washington (2-2)

QB Marcus Mariota was somewhat underwhelming (16/27, 156, 2, 1).

WR Deebo Samuel caught all six of his targets for 72 yards and a touchdown.

Steelers beat Vikings 24-21

Pittsburgh (3-1)

QB Aaron Rodgers was fantastic, completing 18/22 (81%) for 200 yards, one touchdown, and one interception.

WR DK Metcalf caught all five of his targets for 126 yards and a touchdown.

RB Kenneth Gainwell totaled 134 scrimmage yards (99 rushing, 35 receiving) and two touchdowns on 25 touches (5.4 ypt).

Minnesota (2-2)

QB Carson Wentz (30/46, 350, 2, 2) padded his stats late.

His top targets were WR Justin Jefferson (10-126) and WR Jordan Addison (4-114).

Patriots beat Panthers 42-13

New England (2-2)

QB Drake Maye was excellent, accounting for 214 yards (211 passing, 11 rushing), three touchdowns, and no interceptions. He completed 14/17 (82%).

WR Stefon Diggs had his best game with the team, catching six of seven targets for 101 yards.

RB TreVeyon Henderson totaled 46 scrimmage yards and a touchdown on nine touches (5.1 ypt).

Carolina (1-3)

QB Bryce Young (18/30, 150, 1, 0) struggled before being pulled for Andy Dalton (5/6, 58, 1, 0).

TE Tommy Tremble caught five of eight targets for 42 yards and a touchdown.

Lions beat Browns 34-10

Detroit (3-1)

QB Jared Goff completed 16/27 (59%) for 168 yards, two touchdowns, and one interception.

WR Amon-Ra St. Brown caught all seven of his targets for 70 yards and two touchdowns.

RB Jahmyr Gibbs rushed for 91 yards and a touchdown on 15 carries (6.1 ypt).

Cleveland (1-3)

QB Joe Flacco was ineffective (16/34, 184, 0, 2).

WR Isaiah Bond caught three of six targets for 58 yards.

RB Quinshon Judkins totaled 115 scrimmage yards (82 rushing, 33 receiving) and a touchdown on 25 touches (4.6 ypt).

Bears beat Raiders 25-24

Chicago (2-2)

QB Caleb Williams completed 22 of 37 (59%) for 212 yards, one touchdown, and one interception.

S Kevin Byard had two interceptions.

CB Josh Blackwell blocked a Raiders' field goal attempt in the final minute.

Las Vegas (1-3)

Geno Smith had another poor outing (14/21, 117, 2, 3).

RB Ashton Jeanty was phenomenal, totaling 155 scrimmage yards (138 rushing, 17 receiving) and three touchdowns on 23 touches (6.7 ypt).

Texans beat Titans 26-0

Houston (1-3)

QB CJ Stroud had his best game of the season, completing 22/28 (79%) for 233 yards, two touchdowns, and no interceptions.

WR Nico Collins caught four of six targets for 79 yards.

RB Woody Marks had a breakout game, totaling 119 scrimmage yards (69 rushing, 50 passing) and two touchdowns on 21 touches (5.7 ypt).

Tennessee (0-4)

QB Cam Ward was horrible (10/26, 108, 0, 1).

RB Tony Pollard rushed for 64 yards on 14 carries (4.6 ypc).

Two Monday Night Games omitted as we went to press Monday morning.

PRO FOOTBALL BEST BETS

New York Giants at New Orleans Saints — Line: Saints -2.5, Total 40.5

The Giants showed last week that even without Malik Nabers, they could control tempo and dictate a game through complementary football. Jaxson Dart wasn't perfect, but his ability to extend drives with his legs allowed the Giants to dominate time of possession by more than 10 minutes. That edge in clock control was crucial against a banged-up Chargers front, and it figures to be just as valuable here against a New Orleans defense that has struggled to finish possessions. The Saints allowed Buffalo to move the ball repeatedly despite missing key offensive linemen, and the Bills scored 31 points because the Saints couldn't get stops in the red zone.

New York's defense, meanwhile, showed that it can close out drives with pressure. Dexter Lawrence generated interior havoc, and Abdul Carter lived in the backfield as the Chargers shuffled through linemen. Even when the Giants lost Nabers, their defense gave them chances to finish the game. That's important against a Saints offense that has been competitive but mistake-prone. Spencer Rattler nearly pulled off an upset last week, but his touchdown throw that could have given New Orleans the lead was overturned on review. The Saints settled for a field goal, and Buffalo immediately scored a clinching touchdown on the next drive.

This matchup favors New York's ability to dictate style. If the Saints can't protect consistently, their offense becomes one-dimensional, and the Giants' pressure packages can squeeze mistakes. Offensively, Dart's mobility helps neutralize New Orleans' front and creates manageable third downs. Even if the Giants don't have Nabers, they can lean on the run game and possession passes to wear down the Saints' defense.

The total is low because both offenses are viewed as limited, but the real difference here is the Giants' trench play and quarterback legs. New York's defensive front can shorten fields, and their offense has just enough efficiency to convert those chances. The Saints, by contrast, have been plagued by missed opportunities in the red zone and costly turnovers at the worst times. In a close game environment, the extra possession edge and stronger defensive front carry more weight than home field.

With an implied line of Saints favored, the Giants are undervalued given their ability to win ugly. They've shown they can manage games, take advantage of mistakes, and finish against teams that sputter in critical moments. That's exactly the profile they face again here.

TAKE: Giants +2.5

Denver Broncos at Philadelphia Eagles — Line: Eagles -3.5, Total 43.5

Philadelphia reminded everyone why they're still among the NFC's elite with their performance last week. Jalen Hurts was nearly flawless in the first half, completing all but one of his passes and adding more than 40 rushing yards. That balance between efficiency through the air and chunk gains on the ground gave the Eagles a 24-3 lead before halftime. Even when the offense sputtered in the second half, the early dominance set the tone. Philadelphia's ability to strike early and then force opponents to chase makes them a dangerous favorite, especially against teams with limited offensive ceilings.

The Broncos are one of those teams. Their win over Cincinnati looked impressive on the scoreboard, but the details were far less convincing. Multiple holding calls and missed assignments from the offensive line killed promising drives, and red-zone inefficiency left points on the field. Against a Bengals team that couldn't move the ball, Denver could afford to leave opportunities behind. Against Philadelphia, those mistakes will be punished quickly. Hurts and company thrive on short fields, and the Eagles' defense is far more capable of turning pressure into takeaways.

This matchup tilts heavily in the trenches. Philadelphia's front can create pressure without blitzing, collapsing pockets and forcing quarterbacks into hurried throws. Denver's offensive line hasn't shown the discipline to handle that for four quarters. On the flip side, Hurts' mobility keeps defenses guessing. If the Broncos overplay the run, he can deliver strikes downfield. If they drop into coverage, his legs can extend drives. That dual-threat ability was on full display last week and should be again here.

Defensively, the Eagles will look to bottle up Denver's run game and force them into obvious passing situations. That's where the mismatch becomes glaring. Denver's receivers struggled to separate against Cincinnati, and the Broncos managed only three points after the opening drive. Philadelphia's corners are much stronger than what Denver saw last week, which means the margin for error

shrinks further.

The spread here doesn't fully reflect the gap between these teams. Philadelphia's ceiling is much higher, and their balanced attack exposes the very weaknesses Denver has displayed. With a healthier roster and momentum after last week's convincing start, the Eagles are positioned to build an early lead and hold Denver at arm's length the rest of the way.

TAKE: Eagles -3.5

Las Vegas Raiders at Indianapolis Colts — Line: Colts -6.5, Total 47.5

The Raiders' loss last week came almost entirely from their quarterback play. Geno Smith's three interceptions gave the Bears three short fields, two of which turned directly into touchdowns. Even with those mistakes, Las Vegas still had a chance to win, but their potential game-winning field goal was blocked. That pattern—outgaining an opponent but losing because of turnovers—has followed the Raiders all season. It's a dangerous profile when facing a team like the Colts, who thrive on forcing errors and capitalizing with quick-strike scores.

Indianapolis showed last week against the Rams that even in a losing effort, their defense can swing games. They forced multiple turnovers and would have had a critical touchdown if not for a celebration blunder by Adonai Mitchell, who dropped the ball before crossing the goal line. That mistake cost them dearly, but the bigger takeaway is that Indianapolis continues to generate turnovers and short-field opportunities. Against a quarterback as reckless as Smith, those chances should come again.

Offensively, the Colts have the balance to stretch the Raiders. Jonathan Taylor remains the centerpiece, and when he isn't negating his own plays with penalties, he's capable of hitting home runs. Pair that with the Colts' improving receiving corps, and they have enough to stress a Raiders defense that has struggled to hold up in coverage. If Indianapolis builds even a small cushion, the Raiders will be forced to throw more often, increasing the risk of additional interceptions.

The Raiders' defense has been middle-of-the-pack, and they were able to slow Chicago at times. But their inability to close out drives and their special-teams breakdowns remain issues. Indianapolis, meanwhile, has shown resiliency and the ability to respond to adversity. Their offense came back late against the Rams despite earlier mistakes, and their defense never quit.

The line sits just under a touchdown, which looks short given the way these teams are trending. The Colts' defensive opportunism and balanced offense should be too much for a Raiders team still reeling from another giveaway-filled loss. With home field on their side and a clear turnover edge, Indianapolis has multiple paths to cover.

TAKE: Colts -6.5

Dallas Cowboys at New York Jets — Line: Cowboys -3, Total 47

This game has the potential to be one of the week's more entertaining matchups, and not just because of the teams' high profiles. The Jets lost a winnable game last week largely due to turnovers, fumbling three times inside Miami territory. Even with those miscues, they pushed the game into the fourth quarter, showing their ability to create chunk gains on the ground and control tempo. If they can simply hold onto the ball, their offense has the balance to pressure Dallas' defense in ways other teams have not.

Dallas enters this contest off a wild shootout against Green Bay that ended in a tie. Their offense looked strong, with Dak Prescott rarely under pressure despite missing two offensive linemen. They

moved the ball consistently and scored 37 points in regulation. The problem was their defense. Jordan Love and the Packers gashed them repeatedly, and Dallas had no answers for explosive plays down the field. That's concerning against a Jets team that has shown an ability to generate chunk yardage in the run game and through play-action.

The total is set in the mid-40s, but the matchup suggests a higher-scoring game. Dallas' offensive line has held up better than expected, and Prescott has a full arsenal of weapons to exploit mismatches. The Jets, meanwhile, can expose Dallas' defensive flaws if they avoid self-inflicted mistakes. Both teams are likely to generate multiple explosive plays, and special-teams volatility only adds to the scoring potential.

Defensively, neither side matches up particularly well. The Jets' secondary is talented but has been vulnerable to coverage busts, while Dallas has struggled to generate consistent pressure against quick-release passing games. With both quarterbacks operating clean, this game could trade scores deep into the fourth quarter.

Given the scoring environment, the over makes the most sense. Both teams have shown enough firepower to reach the high 20s, and the defensive issues on both sides point to another back-and-forth contest. If the Jets protect the football, they'll do more than hold up their side of the total—they'll push Dallas into another high-scoring affair.

TAKE: Over 47

PRO FOOTBALL QUICK PICKS

49ers at Rams (Thu 8:15) — Line: Rams -6.5, Total 47.5

Los Angeles has leaned on Matthew Stafford's vertical game, with Puka Nacua and Tutu Atwell both capable of explosive plays. The Rams' defense has also held firm at home, winning five of their last six against the number. San Francisco has struggled on the road, losing eight of its last eleven ATS in that role. With the Rams' offense showing balance and the 49ers dealing with inconsistency in pass protection, the matchup tilts to the favorite. **TAKE: Rams -6.5**

Vikings vs Browns (Sun 9:30, London) — Line: Vikings -3.5, Total 36.5

Minnesota looked flat overseas last week after losing two starting linemen, but still rallied late behind Jordan Addison's big-play ability. Cleveland, by contrast, committed multiple turnovers and allowed a punt-return touchdown in a blowout defeat to Detroit. The Browns' offensive line allowed Joe Flacco to take heavy pressure, a dangerous sign against a Vikings front that can generate quick disruption. With cleaner quarterback play and more red-zone consistency, Minnesota has the stronger profile in a neutral-site setting. **TAKE: Vikings -3.5**

Texans at Ravens (Sun 1:00) — Line: Texans -2.5, Total 40.5

Houston pitched a shutout last week, allowing only 175 yards while Woody Marks provided a spark with 119 yards and two scores. Baltimore, meanwhile, fell apart in the second half after Lamar Jackson exited with a hamstring injury. Even if he plays, his mobility will likely be limited, which hampers a Ravens offense that depends on his legs to extend plays. Houston's defense is fast enough to keep Baltimore's backs in check, and their offensive rhythm has improved behind C.J. Stroud's decision-making. **TAKE: Texans -2.5**

Titans at Cardinals (Sun 4:05) — Line: Cardinals -8 Total 41.5

Tennessee was blanked last week, managing just 175 total yards and missing two makeable field goals. The Cardinals, while flawed offensively, boast a defense that has thrived against weaker teams. Kyler Murray's connection with Marvin Harrison Jr. continues to develop, while the backfield has shown enough balance to support the passing game. Tennessee's inability to protect the quarterback leaves them exposed against a defense built to feast on mistakes. **TAKE: Cardinals -8**

Buccaneers at Seahawks (Sun 4:05) — Line: Seahawks -3, Total 44.5

Seattle's defense has quietly been one of the league's best, holding opponents under 21 points in three of four games. Zach Charbonnet has provided a steady ground presence, while Jaxon Smith-Njigba's deep catch set up last week's game-winning kick. Tampa Bay nearly rallied against Philadelphia but needed two long touchdown strikes to stay within striking distance. With the Seahawks controlling pace and limiting mistakes, they are positioned to protect home field.

TAKE: Seahawks -3

Lions at Bengals (Sun 4:25) — Line: Lions -10, Total 49.5

Detroit capitalized on Cleveland's turnovers last week, returning a punt for a touchdown and adding a strip-sack score late. Cincinnati, however, was completely over matched by Denver, generating only a field goal on the opening drive and failing to move the ball afterward. Jake Browning's inability to find Ja'Marr Chase or Tee Higgins is concerning against Detroit's aggressive front. With the Bengals' offense reeling, the safer play is a lower-scoring contest than projected. **TAKE: Under 49.5**

Commanders at Chargers (Sun 4:25) — Line: Chargers -3, Total 48.5

Washington bounced back last week with a much more balanced performance, leaning on Drake London and Kyle Pitts to make big plays while Bijan Robinson provided a spark in the run game. The Commanders moved the ball effectively and put up 31 points. The Chargers, on the other hand, were hit hard by offensive line injuries, with Joe Alt joining Rashawn Slater and Mekhi Becton on the sideline. That left Justin Herbert under constant pressure, and Los Angeles couldn't sustain drives outside of a single long touchdown run. With their protection in shambles and the defense struggling to get stops, the Chargers face an uphill battle against a Washington team. **TAKE: Commanders +3**

Patriots at Bills (Sun 8:20) — Line: Bills -8.5, Total 50.5

Buffalo overcame multiple injuries to secure a win last week, with Dalton Kincaid providing a key late touchdown to seal it. Josh Allen absorbed pressure but still found enough explosive plays to keep the Saints at bay. New England, meanwhile, overwhelmed Carolina with special-teams dominance and a near-flawless outing from Drake Maye. With both teams able to create quick scores, the number projects light for a prime-time shootout. **TAKE: Over 50.5**

Chiefs at Jaguars (Mon 8:15) — Line: Chiefs -3.5, Total 46.5

Kansas City jumped all over Baltimore last week, with Patrick Mahomes throwing four touchdown passes as the offense spread the field with pace and precision. Jacksonville benefited from San Francisco's mistakes but otherwise looked pedestrian outside of a long Etienne run and a punt-return touchdown. The Jaguars' tendency to leave points on the field will be punished against a Chiefs defense that has thrived in red-zone situations. With Mahomes in rhythm and Travis Kelce demanding attention, Kansas City should control this matchup. **TAKE: Chiefs -3.5**

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THIS WEEKS GRIDIRON GOLD SHEET BEST BETS

	Best Bet	Best Bet	Best Bet	Best Bet
NFL	GIANTS + 2.5	EAGLES – 3.5	COLTS – 6.5	JETS OVER 47

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