

A promotional banner for the 'Gridiron Gold Sheet Football Newsletter'. The banner features a dark background on the left with the title in yellow and white text. A yellow oval with '\$15' is positioned in the center. On the right, there is a close-up image of a hand holding a brown football. Below the main title, it states '5 NCAA & 4 NFL BEST BETS + PICKS FOR ALL GAMES' and 'Award Winning Football Newsletter Since 1981'. At the bottom, it reads 'Dennis Stagliano's Best Bets Gridiron Gold Sheet Football Newsletter', 'Volume 44 Issue 8', and 'NFL Week 8, 2025'.

**Gridiron Gold Sheet
Football Newsletter**

\$15

5 NCAA & 4 NFL BEST BETS + PICKS FOR ALL GAMES
Award Winning Football Newsletter Since 1981

Dennis Stagliano's Best Bets Gridiron Gold Sheet Football Newsletter
Volume 44 Issue 8
NFL Week 8, 2025

NFL Landscape:

Let's take a look some of the best and worst from around the league in week 7. There were some big breakthrough performances from Super Bowl contenders, and some ugly performances from teams and coaches that could not afford them.

The Best From NFL Week 7

Philadelphia Eagles' passing game. The Eagles passing game has been an inconsistent — and at times bad — mess all season, but everything clicked for them on Sunday in a 28-22 win over the Minnesota Vikings. Starting quarterback Jalen Hurts had a perfect passer rating while wide receivers A.J. Brown and Devonta Smith both topped 120 yards and scored touchdowns.

Kansas City Chiefs' AFC dominance. Joke is on you if you thought this season was going to be any different. Their 31-0 win over the Las Vegas Raiders on Sunday was as one-sided as an NFL game could be. The AFC is still theirs until they show otherwise.

Matthew Stafford, quarterback, Los Angeles Rams. If Stafford stays healthy, the Rams have to be one of the top Super Bowl contenders in the NFL. He threw five touchdowns on Sunday despite not having his top wide receiver, Puka Nacua, in the lineup. He still has the juice to win.

Drake Maye, quarterback, New England Patriots. The Patriots have their quarterback. Maye is already breaking Tom Brady's records in New England and has the Patriots on top of the AFC East. He was 21-for-23 on Sunday with two more touchdown passes, while also rushing for 68 yards. We rode the Patriot's two weeks in a row as Dennis' Private Gold Pick. [Check his Private Gold record.](#)

Dallas Cowboys wide receivers. How would the Cowboys divide the football with both CeeDee Lamb and George Pickens in the lineup? Well, exactly as they did on Sunday. Lamb had five catches for 110 yards and a touchdown in his return to the lineup, while Pickens had four catches for 82 yards and several highlight reel grabs. He also drew a huge pass interference penalty in the end zone to set up Dallas' first touchdown.

Micah Parsons, Edge, Green Bay Packers. Parson has been a constant disruptive force for the Packers defense this season, but it hasn't always shown itself on the stat sheet yet. On Sunday, it did. He finished the Packers' win over the Arizona Cardinals with five tackles, three sacks, four tackles for loss and five quarterback hits. The Packers needed this win. They needed a big day from Parsons to get it.

Professional Handicappers Who Show Results...

The Worst of NFL Week 7

Mike McDaniel, head coach, Miami Dolphins. McDaniel's seat had to be already hot going into Sunday's game. It has to be downright scorching after watching his team get blown out 31-6 by a 1-5 Cleveland Browns team. The Dolphins were not even competitive. It was a horrible look for everybody. Including their starting quarterback, Tua Tagovailoa, after he called out his teammates a week ago.

New York Giants defense. Blame the kicker for missing two extra points if you want. But make sure the defense gets the bulk of the blame for an unbelievably historic fourth-quarter meltdown against the Denver Broncos. They ruined all of the positive vibes they were building.

New York Jets. Well, Justin Fields wasn't the problem because Tyrod Taylor was even worse. This has the look of a one-and-done coaching tenure for head coach Aaron Glenn.

Minnesota Vikings' red zone offense. The Vikings lost by six points on Sunday. They had six trips into the red zone. They scored a touchdown on one of them. Trading field goals for touchdowns is always a losing proposition, especially against the defending Super Bowl champions.

Tennessee Titans. On the week they fired the coach (Brian Callahan) they brought in to replace Mike Vrabel, Vrabel marched his new team into Nashville and stomped them with a 31-13 decision. This whole operation is a mess.

Spencer Rattler, quarterback, New Orleans Saints. Not that the quarterback would make a huge difference in New Orleans right now, but this was a winnable game against the Chicago Bears, and Rattler did not even give them a chance with three interceptions and a lost fumble.

PRO FOOTBALL BEST BETS

1:00 PM ET — Miami at Atlanta -7 / 44

Atlanta's home blueprint has settled into a physical, suffocating rhythm that compresses opponents' options and forces long fields. Their front has cleaned up run fits and limited yards after contact, which matters here against a Miami offense that stalls when schedule goes sideways. Atlanta's defense has also leaned on four-man pressure to squeeze timing routes without sacrificing coverage integrity — a bad recipe for a line that's struggled to pass off stunts and interior games. When opponents hit third-and-7+, Atlanta's disguise looks have been timely, taking away hot throws and funneling completions short of the sticks.

On the other side, Atlanta's offense is doing the small things right. Early-down sequencing has been crisp: inside zone/power to set up crossers, then shot plays when safeties creep. The quarterback has been decisive off play-action and efficient attacking the intermediate windows, which pairs well with a run game that keeps the call sheet balanced. Miami's defense has allowed drive-extending chunk gains in the middle of the field and hasn't consistently closed in the red zone; Atlanta's condensed formations and motion packages have been producing clean answers inside the 10.

Situationally, this spot favors the favorite. Atlanta has been excellent in the middle eight, stealing a possession before half and dictating tempo coming out. Special teams tilt their way too — coverage units are limiting hidden yards, and the punt game has flipped fields when drives stall. If Atlanta protects the football, the cumulative trench advantage and drive quality should create separation. Laying a full seven requires trust in professionalism and closing — things this team has shown repeatedly at home. The match-up edges on both lines, plus cleaner situational football, point to a two-score win. Miami had no fight and looked like they gave up last week. Lay the 7.

TAKE: ATLANTA -7

1:00 PM ET — NY Giants at Philadelphia -7.5 / 44

Divisional familiarity tightens margins, and New York's recent defensive surge gives them a sturdy floor to keep this inside the number. Over the last few weeks, the Giants have forced mistakes with disciplined rush lanes and improved tackling, limiting yards after catch that used to extend drives. Their third-down plan has been sharp: mix man-match on money downs, rally underneath, and make offenses earn every yard. That's the right way to play Philadelphia — cap explosives, win first down, and push the Eagles into longer third downs where penalties and negative plays have crept in.

Offensively, New York has leaned on a tougher run game to keep the down-and-distance manageable while their quarterback has settled into a calm, progression-based rhythm. Quick-game concepts — outs, slants, pivots — have helped them avoid sacks, and timely play-action has yielded chunk gains when defenses overplay the run. Philadelphia's secondary has shown vulnerability to layered routes and bunch releases, and New York's recent play design has embraced those answers. The Giants don't need fireworks; they need clean possessions ending in points and the patience to take what's available.

Add in special teams tightening (coverage busts down, net punting up) and you've got a team built to shorten the game. If New York avoids early avalanches — the short-field touchdown or an immediate three-and-out followed by a bust — this stays on script: possession by possession, kick by kick. In a game lined at seven and the hook with a modest total, every first down matters. The Giants' defensive floor and improved execution give them a live path to the fourth quarter with the cover intact — and an upset window if their takeaway luck hits. Give me the points.

TAKE: NY GIANTS +7.5

4:25 PM ET — Dallas at Denver -3.5 / 50

Dallas arrives with an offense that finally looks layered again: verticals off play-action, perimeter screens to punish leverage, and a backs/TE screen package that punishes pressure. That cohesion showed up last week in a complete, multi-level dismantling — chunk plays to CeeDee Lamb and George Pickens, efficient running from Javonte Williams, and high-leverage execution in the red area. Denver's defense is talented but remains inconsistent at tackling in space and matching crossers, two problem areas that Dallas' route tree hits repeatedly. If the Cowboys stay on schedule, their third-down improvement travels — even in altitude.

Defensively, Dallas can dictate with four. Edge pressure has been constant and the interior has started to win more matchups, disrupting mesh points and compressing launch points for opposing QBs. Denver's offense, for its part, is capable of spurts, but it has repeatedly converted yardage into only threes, not sevens, thanks to penalties and red-zone stalls. That's dangerous when you're laying more than a field goal against a team that can create explosives and has the better turnover profile.

This number is about game state. At +3.5, Dallas can hedge coin-flip fourth-quarter sequences: if they're up, the ground game plus play-action salting drives becomes the script; if they're tied or trailing narrowly, they've got the explosives to flip it. With hidden-yard edges in special teams and a QB playing lights out with confidence within structure, the points are worth pocketing in what profiles as a possession game. Cowboys in a mile high upset.

TAKE: DALLAS +3.5

GUARANTEED NFL PICKS "IF YOU DON'T WIN, YOU DON'T PAY"

GUARANTEED NFL PICKS

Professional Handicappers Who Show Results...

4:25 PM ET — Tennessee at Indianapolis -14 / 47

This is a trench mismatch, and the gap widens the longer the game goes. Indianapolis has been bullying fronts with a downhill run game keyed by Jonathan Taylor's vision and finish; he's been a sequencing engine, turning second-and-7 into third-and-2 and unlocking play-action glance routes that stress linebackers. In the passing phase, protection has been clean enough for Daniel Jones to hit first reads and push intermediate windows, and the red-zone call sheet has been sharp — motion, stacked releases, and quick hitters that minimize negative plays. Put simply: the Colts finish drives.

Defensively, the front has been ferocious without needing to blitz. That four-man pressure has harassed quarterbacks into mistakes and allowed the secondary to keep eyes forward for tips and overthrows. Tennessee's offense hasn't shown the explosives to trade scores for four quarters; when game script flips and they must throw, protection issues show up and drives stall. Their best hope — shorten the game with the run — runs into an Indy front that's winning early downs and playing clean on the edges.

Lay two touchdowns? It's justified by the stats. The Colts have consistently owned the middle eight and hidden-yard phases (coverage units, net punt), stacking short fields that turn a 10-point edge into a runaway. If Indianapolis avoids the sudden change turnover, their sustained drive quality and defensive closers are enough to create the separation this spread implies. Potential blowout here.

TAKE: INDIANAPOLIS -14

PRO FOOTBALL QUICK PICKS

Thu 8:15 PM ET — Minnesota at LA Chargers -2 / 44

Both offenses enter trending upward. The Chargers have rediscovered rhythm through faster tempo and intermediate throws that attack linebackers, while Minnesota's spacing concepts have been sharper since reintegrating Jordan Addison as a consistent boundary threat. Los Angeles' defense remains vulnerable on the back end — opponents are completing over 67% of passes and averaging 8.2 yards per attempt — and Minnesota's tempo can stress those coverage busts. Conversely, the Vikings' own secondary has struggled to hold up when pressure doesn't land, and the Chargers' screen-and-vertical blend punishes overaggression. In a controlled indoor setting with both quarterbacks comfortable attacking downfield, expect drives to finish with touchdowns instead of field goals. Therefore, the play is over the total. **Get our guaranteed side pick for this game [click here](#).**

TAKE: OVER 44

Sun 1:00 PM ET — Chicago at Baltimore -6.5 / 50

Baltimore's defense is built to smother explosives and force field goals, and Chicago's protection issues tend to spike on the road. The Ravens have tightened tackling and improved third-down disguise the past few weeks. Expect a field-position win and steady separation at home.

TAKE: RAVENS -6.5

Sun 1:00 PM ET — Buffalo -7.5 / 46 at Carolina

Buffalo's play-action explosives are back, and the pass rush matches up well against a shaky Panthers line. If the Bills avoid turnovers, their drive quality should produce a two-score window. Carolina's offense has struggled to keep pace when forced off script.

TAKE: BILLS -7.5

Sun 1:00 PM ET — NY Jets at Cincinnati -7 / 44

The Jets' front can muddy run lanes and force long third downs, which is where Cincinnati's offense has bogged down. With a low total and live pass rush, New York's methodical approach travels. Expect a one-score finish.

TAKE: JETS +7

Sun 1:00 PM ET — San Francisco -1.5 / 42 at Houston

San Francisco's motion and misdirection stress linebackers who've struggled with eye discipline, and the 49ers' ground game should keep them on schedule. Houston can answer in spurts, but sustaining long fields will be tough.

TAKE: 49ERS -1.5

Sun 1:00 PM ET — Cleveland at New England -7 / 40

Cleveland's defense and run game shorten the contest, and New England's offense prefers method over tempo. In a compressed total, a full seven carries premium value for the dog.

TAKE: BROWNS +7

Sun 4:05 PM ET — Tampa Bay -4.5 / 48 at New Orleans

Tampa Bay's turnover discipline and red-zone efficiency keep them on script, and their front should win first down. New Orleans' finishing woes persist.

TAKE: BUCCANEERS -4.5

Sun 8:20 PM ET — Green Bay -3 / 45 at Pittsburgh

Two physical defenses, conservative fourth-down tendencies, and red-zone volatility set up a squeeze on points. Expect long drives to stall and the clock to churn. **Get our guaranteed side pick for this game [click here](#).**

TAKE: UNDER 45

Mon 8:15 PM ET — Washington at Kansas City -10.5 / 49

Kansas City's defense has quietly been the steadiest unit on the field, and Arrowhead amplifies communication issues for visiting offenses. Even if the Chiefs lead throughout, their defense can keep the lid on late scoring. **Get our guaranteed side pick for this game [click here](#).**

TAKE: UNDER 49



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