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Ian Book Scrambled the Irish to Victory

IRISH DUMP TIGERS 47-40 FOR 1ST TIME EVER IRISH MAY ACTUALLY BECOME A CONFERENCE CHAMPION

Recap

So what exactly is the impact of Notre Dame's instant classic double OT victory over Clemson? The knee-jerk reaction to the Irish's 47-40 victory over the No. 1-ranked Tigers is that it sets up the ACC to have two teams in the playoffs. But does it? Yes and no. Barring any slip-ups along the way, Notre Dame and Clemson will meet for the conference title game. If the Irish win again, they're in the playoffs and Clemson, with two losses, is out. If Clemson wins the rematch there will be a pair of one-loss ACC teams making a case as playoff-worthy.

One of those two will definitely be among the four. But so will the SEC champion (likely Alabama) and the Big Ten champion (Ohio State probably). Filling that last spot becomes tricky. If one-loss Florida beats Alabama in the SEC title game the SEC will be the league that gets two teams in. If that doesn't happen, the playoff committee will take a strong look at a potential unbeaten Pac-12 team (Oregon?) and a one-loss Texas A&M, with the Aggies becoming increasingly attractive with each impressive victory. Jimbo Fisher's squad owns a win over Florida and has only lost to Alabama.

Then there's the Cincinnati dilemma and what to do with the Bearcats if they finish unbeaten. Regardless of how it plays out, the Big 12 will be on the outside looking in.

What is going on in the Big Ten?

One statistic sums up the conference this year: Indiana, Northwestern and Purdue are a combined 8-0. Penn State, Michigan and Nebraska are a combined 1-7.

Ohio State is still Ohio State, but the rest of the league is a wonderfully unpredictable jumble. Michigan can't run the ball, is mediocre on offense and does not look well coached – or inspired. Penn State appears to be slow on defense and is struggling in the trenches. And Nebraska, which so desperately wanted to play this year when the Big Ten was on hold, continues to behave as if it is begging to get kicked out of the league. It's fair to say that Scott Frost has been a bust so far at his alma mater.

Wisconsin might be good, but the Badgers have only played one game because of COVID-19. There's no telling what the impact will be from the virus and the down time when Wisconsin does resume playing.

Once-downtrodden Maryland has life because of QB Taulia Tagovailoa. Even Rutgers is entertaining now. Twenty years ago, a game like Saturday's that finds Penn State at Nebraska would have been one of national prominence. Instead it's a meeting of teams that are a combined 0-5.

So here is the new Big Ten: Indiana at Ohio State on Nov. 21 is suddenly the biggest game of the league's regular season.

Since so many teams are adding games on short notice because of COVID-19, can't BYU and Cincinnati – if both finish unbeaten – agree to play to see which one is most deserving of a New Year's Six Bowl?

At 8-0, BYU is off to its best start since 2001, adding an impressive victory to its credentials with Friday's 51-17 rout of Boise State on the Broncos' blue turf. With North Alabama and San Diego State left, the Cougars look well on their way to 10-0. Their added appeal is QB Zach Wilson, a longshot Heisman contender who has been as good as any quarterback in the country this side of Justin Fields.

Cincinnati is 6-0 after routing Houston, with remaining games against East Carolina, UCF, Temple and Tulsa. The UCF and Tulsa games are on the road and both are potential land mines. If the Bearcats finish unbeaten and don't make the playoffs they would certainly merit a New Year's Six Bowl. But just to be sure a BYU-Cincinnati "elimination" game would be a fun addition to this COVID-19 affected season.

Has Hugh Freeze found redemption as the head coach at Liberty, now 7-0 following Saturday's 38-35 upset at Virginia Tech? No one ever doubted Freeze's coaching ability. He went 39-25 at Ole Miss, including two wins over Alabama. But 27 of those wins were vacated because of recruiting violations and he eventually resigned as the Rebels' coach after an ESPN investigation showed he made a dozen calls to escort services over a 33-month period starting in April of 2014 while running the Ole Miss program. So he is back on the sidelines again, with Liberty 7-0 for the first time in school history, a record that includes victories over a pair of ACC teams. Saturday's was the biggest one yet for the Flames, with Alex Barbir converting a 51-yard game-winning field goal with one second left. Two plays prior to that, Barbir's 59-yard try was blocked and returned for the apparent game-winning score by Jermain Waller, with the play nullified because Virginia Tech coach Justin Fuente called timeout prior to the kick. Liberty ran a play on fourth and six, picked up eight yards, and then sent Barbir out to try again, this time with success. Freeze may be a tough guy to root for because of his past, but he is making the most of his second chance. And you have to respect what he has done as Liberty's coach.

What did we learn from the first week of play in the Pac-12? We know Oregon is good, even with Tyler Shough taking over at QB for Justin Herbert, that USC can be very good once it wakes up because of this Kedon Slovis-led offense and that Arizona State will give opponents fits. We don't know about Utah yet since the Utes' game was a victim of COVID-19, which kept four Pac-12 teams idle on Saturday. Other than that, the first weekend wasn't all that revealing. Certainly, there was nothing to change the view that USC and Oregon appear headed for a showdown in the conference title game (they do not meet during the regular season). But are six regular season games enough to sway the playoff committee? That is going to be a hard sell, with the league's late start leaving almost no room for makeup games as COVID-19 forces further postponements and cancellations.

On the Rise

Indiana (3-0)

Another big game from QB Michael Penix Jr. (342 passing yards with three TDs) enabled the Hoosiers to beat Michigan for the first time since 1987. Now Tom Allen's upstart team is eying a showdown with Ohio State on Nov. 21 for command of the Big Ten's East Division.

Nevada (3-0)

A 34-9 rout of Utah State on Saturday gave the Wolfpack its best start since 2010. Jay Norvell's squad has a good one in QB Carson Strong, who threw for 411 yards and three TDs against the Aggies and has gone 282 pass attempts without an interception.

Maryland (2-1)

Terps were 59-0 losers to Penn State last year and had been outscored 163-6 the past three meetings between the teams. Then QB Taulia Tagovailoa arrived and Maryland dominated the Nittany Lions in a 35-19 victory. Terps are markedly better because of Tagovailoa.

On the decline

Tennessee (2-4)

Vols fooled some by opening 2-0 but after being out gained 257 to 16 in the third quarter of Saturday's 24-13 loss to Arkansas have now lost four straight. Tennessee led 13-0 at the half but ongoing QB issues (107 yards passing, two interceptions) have Jeremy Pruitt's team heading for a losing season.

USF (1-6)

Hard to believe the Bulls were 10-2 as recently as 2017. The program has spiraled after squandering a 33-20 lead with four minutes to play in a 34-33 loss to Memphis. That was USF's sixth straight defeat.

South Carolina (2-4)

Gamecocks were manhandled by Texas A&M in a 48-3 loss – good thing Will Muschamp kicked that field goal with six minutes left to avoid a shutout – and have allowed 1,071 yards and 100 points the past two games.

Who's hot

Kyle Trask, QB, Florida

The redshirt senior made SEC history by becoming the first conference player to throw for four TDs in five consecutive games, going 30-of-43 for a career-high 474 in the 44-28 victory over Georgia. He has to be on the Heisman short list.

Alex Barbir, PK, Liberty

The senior transfer from Penn State, a walk on who did not play in 2018 or 2019, delivered the biggest kick in school history with his 51-yard field goal with one second left in the 38-35 upset of Virginia Tech.

D'Eriq King, QB, Miami

It's hard to overstate the impact he has had for the 6-1 Hurricanes after he rallied them to a 44-41 victory at North Carolina State. King finished 31-of-41 for 430 yards and five TD passes. He also rushed for 105 yards.

Who's not

Georgia quarterbacks! Bulldogs need to find an answer at the position in a hurry after Stetson Bennett IV and D'Wan Mathis went a combined 9-for-29 for 112 yards with three interceptions in the loss to Florida.

Michigan running backs

Hard to believe the Wolverines ground game. In the loss to Indiana six players totaled 13 rushing yards on 18 carries, with Hassan Haskins the leading rusher with 19 yards. Eleven of his yards came on one carry.

Rocky Lombardi, QB, Michigan State

He lived up to neither his first name nor his surname in a poor outing in the 49-7 loss to Iowa, going 17-of-37 with three interceptions, one of which was a pick six.

Previewing the top games coming up this weekend (All times Eastern)

Ohio State at Maryland, 3:30 p.m., BTN

Who would have predicted two months ago that this would be a tricky game for the Buckeyes? It is, with the revived Terps having already beaten Minnesota and Penn State.

Arkansas at Florida, 7 p.m., ESPN

How do the Gators handle success after beating Georgia? Razorbacks are the most improved team in the SEC and more than capable of an upset that would derail Florida's season.

Northwestern at Purdue, 7:30 p.m., BTN

A showdown between a couple of unbeaten teams for control of the Big Ten's West Division. Who knew?

Wisconsin at Michigan, 7:30 p.m., ABC

Badgers return to action after being shut down for two weeks due to a COVID-19 breakout. Wolverines are backed against a wall. Does that make them dangerous or have they quit on Jim Harbaugh already?

Notre Dame at Boston College, 3:30 p.m., ABC

Irish need to avoid a letdown against a school that historically gives them fits at just the wrong time.

USC at Arizona, TBA

Trojans were a bit spotty – and lucky – in their opening-game victory over Arizona State. Improvement is needed if they are to win the Pac-12.

Last Week's Top Performers

- D'Eriq King (MIA vs. NCST): 31/41, 430 yds, 5 TD; 15 rush, 105 yds
- Desmond Ridder (CIN vs. HOU): 17/27, 162 yds, 1 TD; 12 rush, 103 yds, 3 TD
- Justin Fields (OSU vs. RUTG): 24/28, 314 yds, 5 TD; 1 rush TD
- Javonte Williams (UNC vs. DUKE): 12 rush, 151 yds, 4 tot TD
- Ronnie Rivers (FRES vs. UNLV): 232 yds from scrim, 4 TD
- Hendon Hooker (VT vs. LIB): 20/27, 217 yds, 3 TD; 20 rush, 156 yds, 1 TD
- Dorian Thompson-Robinson (UCLA vs. COLO): 20/40, 303 yds, 4 TD; 9 rush, 109 yds, 1 TD
- Mohamed Ibrahim (MINN vs. ILL): 30 rush, 224 yds, 4 TD
- Chevan Cordeiro (HAW vs. UNM): 33/43, 410 yds, 4 TD; 1 rush TD
- D.J. Uiagalelei (CLEM vs. ND): 29/44, 439 yds, 2 TD; 1 rush TD

Last Week's Passing Leaders		Last Week's Rushing Leaders	
Kyle Trask (FLA)	30/43, 474 yds, 4TD	Mohamed Ibrahim (MINN)	30 att 224 yds, 4TD
D.J. Uiagalelei (CLEM)	29/44, 439 yds, 2TD	Jarek Broussard (COLO)	31 att 187 yds, 3TD
Brady White (MEM)	30/50, 437 yds, 4TD	Gerrid Doaks (CIN)	16 att 184 yds, 1TD
D'Eriq King (MIA)	31/41, 430 yds, 5TD	Hendon Hooker (VT)	20 att 156 yds, 1TD
Carson Strong (NEV)	36/52, 411 yds, 3TD	Max Duggan (TCU)	19 att 154 yds, 3TD

Note that we're two picks behind because of Covid cancellations. We will attempt to get even with two additional college football picks this week. Hopefully no cancellations this week.

Boise St. - 12 Over Colorado St by 21

Colorado State sits at 1-1 on the 2020 college football season. The Rams fell to Fresno State in the opener but got a win over Wyoming their last time out. As for the Broncos, they're 2-1 this year. Boise State opened with a pair of wins but fell big to BYU on Friday.

Colorado State has had a tale of two games so far in 2020. The Rams opened with a 38-17 loss to Fresno State, and couldn't really get much going in that one. The deficit was 24-10 at halftime and Colorado State couldn't get any closer than that in the opener defeat.

The Rams' matchup against Wyoming went much better however; a 34-24 Colorado State win. Rams QB Patrick O'Brien put up 255 yards with two touchdowns in the victory, and A'Jon Vivens added 62 rush yards on 14 carries. Dante Writh had 146 yards receiving, and Trey McBride had 90 yards with 2 scores off five catches.

Over on the Broncos' side, they opened up the year with a pair of pretty nice wins. Boise State dispatched Utah State 42-13 in the opener, then took care of Air Force 49-30 on Halloween. Game three against BYU didn't go very well though; it was a 51-17 blowout which dropped Boise State to 2-1 on the year.

In the loss to BYU, Boise State quarterback Cade Fennegan posted 182 yards with two touchdowns and an interception. Andrew Van Buren had 45 rush yards on 16 carries, and Khalil Shakir added 10 catches for 139 yards and two scores.

The Rams are 9-3 ATS in their last 12 Thursday games and 5-2 ATS in their last seven games in November. Colorado State is 3-8 ATS in their last 11 games after a straight-up win and the under is 11-2 in their last 13 conference games.

Broncos are 5-1 ATS in their last six conference games and 6-2 ATS in their last eight home games. The Broncos are a great team; they just didn't match up well at all with BYU. Boise State was down 16-3 at halftime in that one and coughed up 22 unanswered points in the third quarter to pretty much flush their chances at a victory. Colorado State may keep pace for a while, but in the end this should be a bounce-back game for the Broncos as they return to form after the BYU blowout. **Broncos run roughshod over the Rams.**
Projected Score: Boise St 41, Colorado St. 20

Minnesota + 4½ Over Iowa by 6

The Iowa Hawkeyes will look to build on their first win of the season to improve to 1-2 on the year after a 49-7 win over Michigan State last time out. Spencer Petras has thrown for 648 yards, 2 touchdowns and 3 interceptions on 54.3% passing while Tyler Goodson leads Iowa in rushing with 233 rushing yards and 3 touchdowns. Mekhi Sargent also has 100+ rushing yards and 3 touchdowns while Sam LaPorta leads Iowa with 13 catches for 128 yards and Nico Ragaini also has 100+ receiving yards. Brandon Smith also has a pair of receiving touchdowns for the Hawkeyes this season. Defeensively, Nick Niemann has a team-high 25 total tackles while Riley Moss has a team-high 14 solo tackles and Chauncey Golston and Davyion Nixon each have a pair of sacks. Barrington Wade also has a pair of interceptions for Iowa this season.

The Minnesota Golden Gophers will try to build off of their first win of the season after a 41-14 win over Illinois last time out to improve to 1-2 on the year. Tanner Morgan has thrown for 602 yards, 3 touchdowns and 2 interceptions on 61.6% passing while Mohamed Ibrahim has rushed for a team-high 571 yards and 10 touchdowns. Rashod Bateman leads Minnesota's receiving group with 24 catches for 302 yards while Chris Autman-Bell has 162 receiving yards for Minnesota this season. Defensively, Tyler Nubin leads Minnesota with 21 total tackles and 16 solo tackles while Boye Mafe has a team-high 3.5 sacks this season.

Iowa is 3-0-1 ATS in the last 4 meetings between these two teams, but Minnesota is 9-4 ATS in their last 13 games overall. Both teams are better than a 1-2 mark this season. I trust the offense that Minnesota brings to the table with Ibrahim, Morgan and Batemon than I do Iowa's. Hawkeyes Petras tosses it at 54% while the Gophers QB Tanner Morgan is clicking at 62%. Gophers RB Ibrahim has a nose for the endzone and is a force in the running game, and he will guide Minnesota to an outright win at home. **Give me the Gophers and the free four points and the hook at home in this one. Projected Score: Minnesota 30, Iowa 24**

Nebraska + 4 Over Penn State by 6

The Penn State Nittany Lions need a feel good victory here to rebound from a rough 0-3 start. The Penn State Nittany Lions have lost three straight road games. Sean Clifford is completing 56.6 percent of his passes for 859 yards, nine touchdowns and five interceptions. Clifford has three or more touchdown passes in five of his last nine games. Jahan Dotson and Pat Freiermuth have combined for 558 receiving yards and six touchdowns while Parker Washington has 14 receptions. The Penn State Nittany Lions ground game is averaging 129.3 yards per contest, and Clifford leads the way with 150 yards and one touchdown. Defensively, Penn State is allowing 36.3 points and 380.7 yards per game. Ellis Brooks leads the Penn State Nittany Lions with 23 tackles, Brandon Smith has two sacks and Lamont Wade has one interception.

The Nebraska Cornhuskers need a win to avoid a 0-3 start for the second time in the last three years. The Nebraska Cornhuskers have lost three straight home games. Adrian Martinez is completing 57.1 percent of his passes for 230 yards, zero touchdowns and one interception. Martinez has zero touchdown passes in his last three games. Wan'Dale Robinson and Marcus Fleming have combined for 156 receiving yards on 15 catches while Austin Allen has four receptions. The Nebraska Cornhuskers ground game is averaging 217 yards per contest, and Martinez leads the way with 187 yards and one touchdown. Defensively, Nebraska is allowing 36.5 points and 404 yards per game. Collin Miller leads the Nebraska Cornhuskers with 13 tackles, Will Honas has two sacks and Myles Farmer has two interceptions.

The Penn State Nittany Lions have not looked good through three games, as their defense is getting lit up weekly and the offense has scored less points each week. The Nebraska Cornhuskers finally get a game at home. Bottom line here is Penn State doesn't deserve to be favored on the road regardless of who they're playing. The Nittany Lions are 0-4 ATS in their last 4 conference games, and 0-2-2 ATS in their last 4 meetings. The underdog is 3-0-2 ATS in their last 5 meetings. Penn St lost at home to Maryland as near 4-TD favorite. Penn State doesn't look like a good football team right now. **It's Nebraska + 4 for me.**
Projected Score: Nebraska 30, Penn St 24

Army + 5½ Over Tulane by 6

The Army Black Knights haven't played in three weeks and are riding a four-game winning streak. The Army Black Knights have lost five of their last six road games. Jemel Jones is completing 47.4 percent of his passes for 156 yards, two touchdowns and two interceptions. The Army Black Knights have nine touchdown passes dating back to last season. Michael Roberts and Tyrell Robinson have combined for 173 receiving yards and two touchdowns while Reikan Donaldson has four receptions. The Army Black Knights ground game is averaging 308.1 yards per contest, and Robinson leads the way with 325 yards on 38 carries. Defensively, Army is allowing 11.7 points and 275 yards per game. Jon Rhattigan leads the Army Black Knights with 54 tackles, Arik Smith has three sacks and Jabari Moore has two interceptions.

The Tulane Green Wave look for a statement win to get a game above a .500 record. The Tulane Green Wave have won six of their last nine home games. Michael Pratt is completing 52.6 percent of his passes for 1,111 yards, 12 touchdowns and four interceptions. Pratt has eight touchdown passes in his last three games. Duece Watts and Jha'Quan Jackson have combined for 624 receiving yards and nine touchdowns while Phat Watts has 12 receptions. The Tulane Green Wave ground game is averaging 230.7 yards per contest, and Cameron Carroll leads the way with 533 yards and 10 touchdowns. Defensively, Tulane is allowing 29.5 points and 432.4 yards per game. Dorian Williams leads the Tulane Green Wave with 57 tackles, Patrick Johnson has nine sacks and Macon Clark has two interceptions.

The Black Knights are 2-5 ATS in their last 7 road games, 5-2 ATS in their last 7 non-conference games. The Green Wave are 4-0 ATS in their last 4 games overall.

The Army Black Knights are riding a four-game winning streak with one of the best defenses in college football, a top-five rushing attack and they're 5-2 against the spread. Tulane is coming off its best two performances of the season, but I do question if the Green Wave are solid enough defensively to slow down this Army offense. Tulane has had issues with Navy's rushing attack over the years and did allow 363 total yards against Army last year. The Army Black Knights have also had an extra week to prepare for this contest. It feels like we're getting free points with the better team. **Dennis is a Viet-Nam veteran, 11 Bravo bang bang! It's Veterans Day and we got your eight! Go Army! Take Army HOOAY!**
Projected Score: Army 27, Tulane 21

Memphis - 13 Over Navy by 3

The Memphis Tigers look to build on their 4-2 record by getting their first road win of the season. The Memphis Tigers have split their last six road games. Brady White is completing 62 percent of his passes for 2,128 yards, 22 touchdowns and five interceptions. White has nine touchdown passes in his last three games. Calvin Austin III and Sean Dykes have combined for 1,082 receiving yards on 13 receptions while Tahj Washington has 21 receptions. The Memphis Tigers ground game is averaging 153.8 yards per contest, and Rodrigues Clark leads the way with 476 yards and one touchdown. Defensively, Memphis is allowing 35.7 points and 519 yards per game. Quindell Johnson leads the Memphis Tigers with 46 tackles, Wardalis Ducksworth has four sacks and Jacobi Francis has two interceptions.

The Navy Midshipmen haven't played in a couple weeks and need to a win after back-to-back losses. The Navy Midshipmen have won seven of their last nine home games. Dalen Morris is completing 53.4 percent of his passes for 555 yards, three touchdowns and two interceptions. Morris and Tyger Goslin have combined for six touchdown passes this season. Mychal Cooper and Ryan Mitchell have combined for 355 receiving yards and three touchdowns while Myles Fells has three receptions. The Navy Midshipmen ground game is averaging 187 yards per contest, and Nelson Smith leads the way with 447 yards and seven touchdowns. Defensively, Navy is allowing 37 points and 445.3 yards per game. Diego Fagot leads the Navy Midshipmen with 53 tackles, J'arius Warren has one sack and Evan Fochtman has one interception.

The Tigers are 2-5 ATS in their last 7 road games, 1-6 ATS in their last 7 conference games and 1-8 ATS in their last 9 games overall. The Midshipmen are 6-1 ATS in their last 7 games in November, 12-4 ATS in their last 16 conference games and 16-7-1 ATS in their last 24 games overall.

The Memphis Tigers are one of the most explosive offensive teams in college football and White could easily be in the Heisman conversation if he played on a more popular school. The issue here is that Memphis plays in a lot of games that come down to the wire and the Tigers are just 1-5 against the spread. The Navy Midshipmen have had an extra week to prepare for this game, and while they're not as efficient as they've been in past years, they're still a tough team to prepare for and that running attack is still effective. Navy has also been one of the better covering teams in college football the last couple of years. **Give me Navy and the points. Take Navy HOOAY!**
Projected Score: Memphis 34, Navy 31

Purdue + 3½ Over Northwestern by 7

The Northwestern Wildcats will look to build on their 3-0 record after a 21-13 win over Nebraska last time out. Peyton Ramsey has thrown for 511 yards, 3 touchdowns and 3 interceptions on 66.7% passing while Drake Anderson leads Northwestern in rushing with 193 rushing yards and Isaiah Bowser has 155 rushing yards. Ramaud Chiaokhiao-Bowman leads the Wildcats in receiving with 11 grabs for 112 yards this season. Defensively, Blake Gallagher leads Northwestern with 29 total tackles while Paddy Fisher is right behind with 28 total tackles including a team-high 16 solo tackles. Brandon Joseph also has a team-high 3 INTs.

The Purdue Boilermakers come into this one rested after having their last game against Wisconsin cancelled due to COVID. Adian O'Connell has thrown for 653 yards, 5 touchdowns and 2 interceptions on 70.6% passing, while Zander Horvath leads Purdue in rushing with 231 rushing yards. David Bell leads the Boilers with 22 catches for 243 yards and 4 scores while Milton Wright has just shy of 200 receiving yards for Purdue on 14 grabs. Defensively, DaMarcuc Mitchell has a team-high 17 total tackles including a team-high 10 solo tackles and George Karlaftis has a team-high 2 sacks this season.

Northwestern is 3-0-1 ATS in their last 4 games overall and 34-16-1 ATS in their last 51 road games while the under is 5-2 in their last 7 road games against a team with a winning home record. Purdue is 5-1 ATS in their last 6 games overall and 5-0 ATS in their last 5 games against a team with a winning record while the over is 44-21-1 ATS in their last 66 home games. The road team is 7-1 ATS in the last 8 meetings between these two teams and Northwestern is 4-0 ATS in the last 4 meetings between these two teams at Purdue.

This is shaping up to be a *defensive war as the two sides are a combined 5-0 under this season*. The line jumped as soon as it was posted Sunday night. Wildcats wiseguy bettors or trend bettors. Either way, I don't think the trend is your friend in this hard fought game. The high pct.passing of the Boilermakers QB O'Connell is my reason for backing the Boilers as they snap the trend. **Give me the Boilermakers + 3 and the hook.**
Projected Score: Purdue 27, Northwestern 20

Arizona St. + 4½ Over California by 6

The California Golden Bears had their season opener against Washington canceled due to COVID-19 issues. The California Golden Bears have won four of their last six road games. Chase Garbers returns at quarterback after throwing for 1,700 yards and 14 touchdowns while completing 61 percent of his passes. Cal has its top receiver returning in Nikko Remigio, who had 513 receiving yards and three touchdowns, while the Golden Bears have their top rusher in Christopher Brown Jr., who had 914 yards and eight touchdowns. Defensively, Kuony Deng returns after 119 tackles last season, Cameron Goode led Cal with 9.5 sacks and Daniel Scott had one interception. Cal has some question marks at key positions and is a bit young in terms of its overall roster, but Garbers did show promise last year and he has his top playmakers returning. Cal could surprise and put a scare in a team or two in this short Pac-12 season

The Arizona State Sun Devils lost to USC in their season opener and need a win here to prevent a 0-2 start. The Arizona State Sun Devils have won five of their last seven home games. Jayden Daniels is completing 47.8 percent of his passes for 134 yards, one touchdown and zero interceptions. Daniels has one touchdown pass in his last three games. Rachaad White and LV Bunkley-Shelton have combined for 98 receiving yards and one touchdown while Geordon Porter has one reception. The Arizona State Sun Devils ground game is averaging 258 yards per contest, and Daniels leads the way with 111 yards on 11 carries. Defensively, Arizona State is allowing 28 points and 556 yards per game. Evan Fields leads the Arizona State Sun Devils with 17 tackles, Jermayne Lole has 1.5 sacks and Merlin Robertson has one interception.

The Golden Bears are 6-1 ATS in their last 7 road games, 10-1 ATS in their last 11 games in November and 4-1 ATS in their last 5 games overall. The Sun Devils are 2-5-1 ATS in their last 8 home games. The under is 20-8 in Golden Bears last 28 games overall. The over is 4-1 in Sun Devils last 5 home games.

The California Golden Bears have some potential on both sides of the ball and could surprise here and there, but it's hard to get a proper read on a team that hasn't played in nearly 12 months. It's also not easy playing the first game on the road against a team that's had a chance to knock the rust off. The Arizona State Sun Devils did a lot of things well last week against USC and should have won, so despite the loss, ASU should feel good about itself moving forward. If anything, the way Arizona State lost its opener should create an angry, focused team this week. This feels like a bad spot for Cal to open the season and the The Golden Bears are 0-4 ATS in their last 4 meetings. **Lay the small chalk with the Sun Devils.**
Projected Score: Arizona State 27, California 20

BREES SCHOOLS BRADY BUCS GET BLOWN OUT, IT WAS A BRADY NIGHTMARE

Brees Rips Buccaneers Defense to Shreds

Recap

Packers 34, 49ers 17

The 49ers entered this game severely undermanned. They were missing Jimmy Garoppolo, George Kittle, their best three receivers, their top two three running backs, their left tackle and their center. And yet, it was the defense that looked completely inept in this completely, one-sided affair.

Of course, this couldn't have been a surprise. The 49ers were down five defensive starters entering this contest, and they were tasked with stopping a motivated Aaron Rodgers, who was looking to both bounce back off a loss and avenge his defeat to the 49ers in the NFC Championship this past January. Rodgers, as a result, torched San Francisco mercilessly.

Rodgers finished with just six incompletions, going 25-of-31 for 305 yards and four touchdowns. Rodgers' only miscue was missing Davante Adams for a big gain in the opening quarter. One of the incompletions was a drop.

The 49ers had no answer for Adams. Despite Rodgers missing him for a nice gain early on, Adams still was able to haul in 10 passes for 173 yards and a touchdown. He also drew an interference flag that set up a touchdown on the following play.

Elsewhere in the receiving corps, it looked like Marquez Valdes-Scantling would have another rough night when he dropped a pass on third down. However, he bounced back to catch two touchdowns, rewarding those who were bold enough to play him on DraftKings. Those were his only catches, and they were good for 53 yards.

Aaron Jones was a surprise active. Dexter Williams and Tyler Ervin were expected to split the workload, but Jones started and was able to have a solid performance. Jones gained 58 yards on 15 carries to go along with five catches for 21 receiving yards. Ironically, Williams left the game with an injury.

Speaking of injuries, a dark cloud over this game was a concussion suffered by cornerback Jaire Alexander. Luckily, the Packers have extra time off for the Pro Bowler to recover. Besides, with the Packers hosting the Jaguars next week, they won't even need him.

Meanwhile, the 49er offense did nothing until garbage time. This was a 34-3 game until the very end, when the Packers stopped trying. Nick Mullens gave San Francisco no chance behind his injury-ravaged offensive line.

Mullens went 22-of-35 for 291 yards, one garbage-time touchdown, an interception and a lost fumble. The pick occurred when Mullens was hit as he released his pass, but he should have been picked on two other occasions. The fumble happened as a result of backup left tackle Justin Skule being easily beaten by Za'Darius Smith. Skule was embarrassed so much in this game that his future grandchildren will have to deal with the humiliation.

With the top three receivers out, Richie James was the star performer for the 49ers. James caught nine balls for 184 yards and a touchdown. Much of this came late, but James logged 72 receiving yards in the opening half.

Excluding James and backup tight end Ross Dwelley (3-52), no other San Francisco player registered more

than 16 receiving yards. Trent Taylor (1-9) was a major disappointment.

Speaking of disappointments, JaMycal Hasty barely did anything, mustering only three yards on four carries. Jerick McKinnon (12-52, TD) was far more productive.

Falcons 34, Broncos 27
There was so much optimism for the Broncos following last week's comeback win against the Chargers. Drew Lock had an incredible fourth quarter to pull out a victory, so the expectation was that he would continue to play well against an Atlanta defense that was missing its top two edge rushers and dealing with problems in the secondary.

Instead, this game was an uncontested blowout, as the Broncos failed to do anything offensively, while the Falcons scored at will. By halftime, the Falcons held a 17-point lead, all while outgaining the Broncos, 258-112.

Then again, it wasn't exactly a surprise that Atlanta had so much success offensively. The Broncos were expected to be without cornerback A.J. Bouye, forcing Bryce Callahan out of the slot to cover Julio Jones. And yet, Callahan was shockingly ruled out an hour-and-a-half prior to kickoff. This made things very difficult for a defense already missing its entire front line. The Falcons, consequently, didn't punt on a single occasion until the third quarter.

Denver simply had no chance without Bouye and Callahan. Matt Ryan took full advantage of the injury-ravaged Denver secondary by going 25-of-35 for 284 yards, three touchdowns and an interception, which was an under thrown ball. Ryan was seldom under pressure, as he had all the time in the world to dissect the Broncos' defense on most downs.

With Ridley out, Julio Jones was poised to have a big performance. Jones caught five passes for 54 yards and a touchdown to go along with a drawn interference flag. This was a stat line that didn't exactly meet expectations. Instead, the standout receiver was Olamide Zaccheaus, who caught four passes for 103 yards and a touchdown. This was a shocking result, as Christian Blake (3-31) is usually the replacement for Ridley. Zaccheaus was excellent, and he even drew an interference flag in the red zone as well, though this was overturned by replay review because the ball was tipped at the line of scrimmage.

Russell Gage was another disappointment in the Atlanta receiving corps. With no Callahan to cover him, Gage was expected to do well, but he reeled in just two of his six targets for 11 yards. Hayden Hurst, meanwhile, was second on the team with seven grabs for 62 yards.

Todd Gurley didn't do anything in this game until scoring a late touchdown off a turnover. He was limited to 53 yards and that score on 19 attempts.

By looking at the score and stats, this 34-27 result may seem like it was a shootout. Lock, after all, threw for 313 yards and two touchdowns. This, however, was incredibly misleading, as all of Lock's positive plays came in garbage time when the Falcons stopped trying, up 27-6 at the end of the third quarter.

Lock's final numbers included 25-of-48 passing and an interception, which was a horrible throw off his back foot. Lock, who missed several passes, including an open Tim Patrick for an easy touchdown, was a colossal disappointment in a positive matchup. He really needs to improve his pocket presence, as he tends to panic sometimes, even when he's not under heavy pressure. He has a habit of moving backward instead of stepping up in the pocket. He did this on several occasions in this contest.

The Broncos couldn't run the ball at all on Atlanta, as Lock finished as the team's leading runner. He gained 47 yards and a touchdown on seven attempts. Phillip Lindsay (8-23) and Melvin Gordon (6-18) offered nothing.

The silver lining for the Broncos in this defeat was that Jerry Jeudy finally had a breakout performance. Jeudy caught seven passes for 125 yards and a touchdown, and he also drew an interference flag. Granted, all but one of Jeudy's catches came in the second half when the game was out of hand, but he still looked great. K.J. Hamler (6-75) and Patrick (4-29, TD) also did well in garbage time, though Hamler dropped a pass in the

second quarter.

Bills 44, Seahawks 34
The Bills just achieved a monumental victory for their franchise last week, finally beating the Patriots to establish full control of the AFC East for the first time since the 1990s. They could have easily rested on their laurels, but instead put together a terrific game plan against the Seahawks. They generated 292 yards of offense in the opening half, leading 24-7 at one point.

Buffalo was fully aware that the Seahawks are much worse against the rush than the pass. We know this because the Bills called a grand total of two runs in the first half, with Zack Moss getting both of them for 13 yards. Instead, Josh Allen ceaselessly attacked Seattle's beleaguered secondary and had great success against it despite Jamal Adams' return. The Seahawks, quite simply, couldn't generate any sort of pressure on Allen prior to halftime, so they adjusted by blitzing way more frequently following intermission. This worked for a couple of drives, the Bills adjusted and hit some big plays to counter the blitz.

In the opening half alone, Allen was 24-of-28 for 282 yards and three touchdowns. Allen had struggled a bit in previous weeks, but rebounded extremely well in this game. Granted, it was an easy matchup, but it was encouraging to see Allen revert to the high level of play he maintained at the start of the season.

Allen ultimately finished above the 400-yard plateau, going 31-of-38 for 415 yards and three touchdowns. He also scrambled in a fourth score, running seven times for 14 yards. His only blemish was a fumble on a strip-sack, but the ball bounced back right to him. Allen, not Russell Wilson, looked like the MVP in this matchup.

Speaking of Wilson, he posted a terrific stat line, that is, if turnovers are ignored. Wilson went 28-of-41 for 390 yards and two touchdowns. That looks great until factoring in a whopping four give-aways. The first was a desperation heave into the end zone on fourth down. The second was a lost fumble. The third was a hurl right to Tre'Davious White on a third-and-25 instance. The fourth was another lost fumble on a strip-sack.

This was a very disappointing outcome for Wilson, who entered this game as a field goal favorite. He's still the front-runner for MVP, but that will change with more results like this.

Stefon Diggs was the leading receiver in this contest, catching nine passes for 118 yards to go along with a drawn interference flag in the end zone. He and John Brown (8-99) posted great yardage totals, though neither scored touchdowns. Allen's scores went to unlikely players like Gabriel Davis (4-70), Isaiah McKenzie and Tyler Kroft. Davis would have scored twice had Sean McDermott challenged a play in which Davis appeared to reach the end zone in the second half.

D.K. Metcalf, meanwhile, nearly matched Diggs' yardage total, and unlike Diggs, he managed to score. Metcalf snatched seven of his nine targets for 108 yards and a touchdown, and he also drew an interference flag for a significant gain. Metcalf and David Moore (4-71) had Wilson's scores. Tyler Lockett (4-40) didn't do as well, though he just missed out on a touchdown in the opening half when he was tackled inches shy of the goal line.

Neither team had much success running the ball. DeeJay Dallas was limited to 31 yards on seven carries, but he had a touchdown. Zack Moss (9-18) also scored, while Devin Singletary was nowhere to be found. Singletary was given just two attempts, turning those into a single yard. He caught three passes for 33 receiving yards, but his decreasing usage is very perplexing.

Despite the win, the Bills saw a couple of offensive linemen - Cody Ford, Brian Winters - suffer injuries in the first 18 minutes of the game. Check status for next game.

Titans 24, Bears 17
The Bengals were missing five offensive linemen against the Titans last week, and yet they were still able to pull out a victory. Thus, there was the possibility of lightning strike twice with the Bears missing three blockers in this game.

The Bears, however, don't have the offensive talent that the Bengals possess. Their offense, by contrast to

what Cincinnati accomplished last week, was absolutely miserable. Chicago gave more points to Tennessee than it scored in meaningful action, as a David Montgomery lost fumble was returned for a touchdown by newcomer Desmond King. Otherwise, the Bears accumulated just 105 net yards of offense in the opening half.

Tennessee, meanwhile, didn't have much more success. It hit a couple of big plays, courtesy of A.J. Brown's brilliance, but the rest of the offensive snaps comprised of Ryan Tannehill sacks, ineffective Derrick Henry runs and Anthony Firkser drops. The Titans were actually being outgained by the Bears, 190-145, when the Montgomery lost fumble occurred in the third quarter. Ultimately, it didn't matter, as Chicago self-destructed far too often to give it a chance to pull the upset.

The stats say that Nick Foles threw for 335 yards and two touchdowns on 36-of-52 passing, but believe me, he did not play nearly as well. All of this came in garbage time. If you want evidence, Foles accumulated just 85 yards in the opening half. He also had two potential interceptions that were dropped. One of the dropped picks was "woefully short," to quote FOX play-by-play announcer Dick Stockton.

Thanks to garbage time, Allen Robinson was able to rebound with a one-catch first half to finish with seven grabs for 81 yards. Anthony Miller and Darnell "Mad Eye" Mooney each caught five passes for 59 and 43 yards, respectively. Jimmy Graham (6-55) caught a touchdown.

The Bears couldn't run the ball whatsoever on the Titans, as Montgomery was limited to 30 yards on 14 carries to go along with his aforementioned lost fumble returned for a touchdown. He was stuffed on a fourth-and-1 on a slow-developing play in the first quarter and then got nothing on a third-and-2 after a converted fake punt in the second frame. His game ended when he left with a concussion. For reasons unknown, the Bears continue to line up Cordarrelle Patterson in the backfield. It makes no sense why they keep doing this.

As mentioned earlier, A.J. Brown made some great plays. He caught four passes for 101 yards and a touchdown, finishing well ahead of everyone else on the roster. His longest gain, a 40-yarder, came with several broken tackles. Jonnu Smith (2-32) was the only other Titan with more than 20 receiving yards, and he caught a score late in the game. Corey Davis didn't catch a single pass, thanks in part to a deep drop.

Ryan Tannehill failed to complete half of his passes, which was the result of some terrific play by Chicago's defense. Tannehill was victimized by some drops, but the Bears gave him lots of problems with their pass rush. Chicago also dropped a potential interception of Tannehill's. Chicago also did a great job of limiting Derrick Henry. The monstrous runner was held to 68 yards on 21 tries.

Ravens 24, Colts 10
If the Colts couldn't beat the Ravens in this game, then they wouldn't stand a chance against the top-tier teams in a potential playoff run. Baltimore came into this contest with some injuries, including a couple on the offensive line. With a potentially limited Lamar Jackson, and Baltimore missing some key defensive personnel, this would be Indianapolis' chance to make a big, statement victory to help its seeding in the AFC playoff race.

The Colts were in complete control of this game in the opening half. Their terrific front seven limited Jackson and the Ravens' offense to just 55 net yards by intermission, with Baltimore netting 2.2 yards per play. The Colts should have been up 10-0, but the Ravens had seven points because Jonathan Taylor lost a fumble that was returned for a touchdown. Still, the Colts seemed in complete command despite being up just 10-7.

The reason the Ravens couldn't do anything offensively in the first half? Darius Leonard. Arguably the best linebacker in the NFL, Leonard was everywhere. If Jackson tried to make a play, Leonard was there to stop him. It was a truly terrific performance.

Curiously, everything changed instantly in the third quarter. The Ravens suddenly had success moving the chains, and Indianapolis' defense couldn't get off the field. The Ravens even overcame Gus Edwards fumbling near the goal line, though it helped that the Colts gave them possession again with a quick turnover. Still, Indianapolis' great run defense couldn't tackle the two Raven running backs, which made things easier for Jackson, who was able to bounce back from last week's four-turnover struggle against the Steelers.

The reason the Colts suddenly couldn't stop the Ravens in the second half? Darius Leonard. With the Colts up 10-7 in the third quarter, Leonard suffered an injury, going to the ground in pain. He missed just one snap, but he was not the same player upon his return. I carefully watched him on every snap, and he was clearly a step slower than he was in the opening half. He also looked hesitant to get in on some plays. With Jackson and fellow linebacker Anthony Walker hurt, Jackson's attempted scrambles worked, while the Baltimore ground attack was far more effective.

Jackson, despite his horrible first-half ineptitude, misfired on just four passes. Jackson went 19-of-23 for 170 yards, and he also led his team in rushing with 58 yards and a touchdown on 13 scrambles. He was fortunate not to throw an interception, as he heaved a first-half pass right to Walker, who dropped the ball.

Jackson, as mentioned, was able to feed off the Colts needing to pay extra attention to the running backs once the Indianapolis defenders forgot how to tackle in the second half. Neither of the stat lines for J.K. Dobbins (12-30) and Edwards (11-23, TD) were overly impressive, but considering that they had just four total rushing yards in the first half, it just shows how much better they were following intermission.

With the Ravens running all over the Colts in the second half, it's no surprise that only three Ravens topped Mark Andrews' 22 receiving yards. Those were Nick Boyle (4-46), Marquise Brown (3-38) and Willie Snead (4-37). Brown had a drop on a third down, which accounted for one of Jackson's four incompletions.

Meanwhile, the Colts couldn't do anything following halftime, as they were stuck at 10 for the duration of second-half play. Philip Rivers crushed his team's chances with extremely mediocre quarterbacking, which included an interception on a dumb, deep shot. It could be argued that the pass should've been incomplete, as the ball was slipping out of Marcus Peters' hands before he fumbled, but replay review gave Baltimore the interception.

Rivers finished 26-of-44 for 227 yards and the sole interception. He was hurt by some drops, but his diminishing arm strength, lacking mobility and underwhelming receiving corps will prevent the Colts from making a deep run into the playoffs.

Rookie Michael Pittman led the Colts in receiving with four catches for 56 yards, followed by Zach Pascal (5-55). Marcus Johnson (2-14), meanwhile, had an abysmal game. He dropped a pass and also couldn't see the ball on a deep shot when he had the Raven corners beaten. Even though Rivers hasn't clicked with T.Y. Hilton, it was clear that Indianapolis missed its top wideout.

Taylor, who had the aforementioned lost fumble returned for a touchdown, was a disappointment once more, finishing with 27 yards and a touchdown on six carries. Jordan Wilkins once again handled more of the workload, gaining 39 yards on 11 tries.

Chiefs 33, Panthers 31
The Panthers clearly came into this game with the plan of keeping the ball out of Patrick Mahomes' hands as much as possible. Their opening drive was a thing of beauty, holding the ball for a grand total of nine minutes. This possession culminated with a touchdown on a very ballsy fourth-and-3 call, resulting in a Teddy Bridgewater touchdown to Christian McCaffrey.

This, of course, was McCaffrey's return to action since getting hurt in September. There were reports that McCaffrey would be limited in this game, but that clearly didn't turn out to be the case. McCaffrey was given 28 touches in his first appearance since Week 2. He made some great plays, helping the Panthers lead for most of the afternoon. Carolina was up 14-3 at one point and then led 17-13 going into intermission.

However, keeping Mahomes off the field forever was an impossible task. Mahomes, who had some uncharacteristic misfires to open the game, eventually caught fire and ultimately threw for 372 yards and four touchdowns. He eventually gave the Chiefs a 33-24 lead, but Bridgewater and McCaffrey made some amazing second-half magic to keep the game close, including one drive that featured some terrific catches and a fourth-and-14 conversion where Bridgewater scrambled successfully, flying through the air "like Superman," as the TV announcer called it. Bridgewater ultimately ran into the end zone to score a touchdown to cap off that

possession.

Bridgewater needed one more score to get the win. He drove the ball into Kansas City territory, but with no time remaining, the Panthers had to settle for a 67-yard field goal, which wasn't close.

Bridgewater was masterful in this game, going 36-of-49 for 310 yards and three total touchdowns (two passing, one rushing.) He was every bit as good as the numbers indicate. Now, the Panthers just need a defense to match their underrated quarterback.

As mentioned, McCaffrey handled 28 touches. Eighteen of those were carries, and they were turned into 69 yards and a touchdown. He also caught all 10 of his targets for 82 receiving yards and a second score. All media reports said he and Mike Davis would split the workload in this contest, but Davis had just six touches.

Curtis Samuel was the only Panther who had more receiving yards than McCaffrey. He caught all nine of his targets for 105 yards and a touchdown. This game was highlighted by a great, diving catch Samuel made in the second half.
Elsewhere in the receiving corps, Robby Anderson also did well with nine grabs for 63 yards. D.J. Moore, conversely, had just two catches for 18 yards.

As for the victors, Mahomes was a stellar 30-of-45 for 372 yards and four touchdowns. The Chiefs would have lost this game if they had most other quarterbacks, but Mahomes is special enough to lead a team to victory when there seemingly is no chance.

Two of Mahomes' touchdowns went to Tyreek Hill, who logged nine catches for 113 yards. He would have scored a third touchdown if it wasn't for a rare Mahomes miss early in the game. Hill finished behind only Travis Kelce, who caught 10 balls for 159 yards, but didn't score.

Mahomes' other touchdowns went to Demarcus Robinson (3-34) and Clyde Edwards-Helaire (3-20). Mecole Hardman, meanwhile, didn't find the end zone, but contributed with three catches for 48 yards.

While Edwards-Helaire did well as a receiver out of the backfield, he did nothing as a runner. He managed just 14 yards on five carries.

Giants 23, Redskins 20
The Redskins lost to the Giants a few weeks ago because two crucial turnovers gave the Giants 14 free points. Apparently, all the Redskins know how to do versus the Giants is commit mistakes because they killed themselves with blunders throughout the afternoon.

The miscues began early when Antonio Gibson lost a fumble on the opening drive, setting up the Giants with a field goal after Daniel Jones connected with Austin Mack on a deep pass. Following a dropped Logan Thomas pass on third down, the Redskins muffed a punt to give the Giants possession in the red zone. New York quickly turned that into a touchdown via a Wayne Gallman run to go up 10-0. For those tracking, that would be 24 points the Redskins' offense surrendered to the Giants in just six quarters this year.

The mistakes continued, however, as the Redskins botched a first-and-goal opportunity with two offensive line penalties to force a long field goal. Soon after that, Alex Smith was intercepted because J.D. McKissic fell down. All of this was just in the opening half alone!

And yes, it was Smith who committed the turnover. Kyle Allen suffered a gruesome ankle injury to force Smith back into action. It was an ideal matchup for Smith, unlike his first appearance, which would explain why he threw for 325 yards and a touchdown on 24-of-32 passing. However, Smith made too many mistakes. He had three interceptions in total. The first wasn't his fault, but the other two ruined potential chances to win the game at the end. His second interception was thrown off his back foot, while the third occurred because Smith didn't see Logan Ryan.

With Smith playing better than excepted - save for the two latter interceptions - two Redskin receivers

accumulated more than 100 yards. Terry McLaurin was the expected player to do so despite James Bradberry's coverage. McLaurin snatched seven of his eight targets for 115 yards and a touchdown. Cam Sims (3-110) also eclipsed the century mark.

Gibson, who had the aforementioned fumble, rushed for 20 yards on six carries, but salvaged his afternoon with a touchdown. McKissic, who was responsible for Smith's first interception, caught nine passes for 65 receiving yards, as Smith's checkdown habits resurfaced.

The Giants, meanwhile, were gifted a second win by the Redskins in a span of a few weeks. Jones made some nice throws, but didn't really have to do very much overall. He went 23-of-34 for 212 yards and a touchdown. He was robbed of a second score by replay review, but the Giants ended up with six on the drive anyway.

Mack, of all receivers, led the Giants in receiving. Given his performance, as well as Golden Tate's locker room issues, perhaps the Giants will use him as the third receiver moving forward. Still, it was disappointing for owners of Sterling Shepard (6-39) and Darius Slayton (1-6) to see this happen. At least owners of Evan Engram (5-48, TD) were happy.

Gallman and Alfred Morris split the workload, with Gallman edging out Morris, 68-67. Gallman, who led in carries, 14-9, scored the aforementioned touchdown.

Texans 27, Jaguars 25
One year ago, the Jaguars were heavy underdogs against the Texans with a late-round rookie quarterback making his first start. Down double digits, the Jaguars were able to come back with their raw signal-caller, ultimately scoring a touchdown at the very end. They tried a two-point conversion, but failed, resulting in a close loss.

Somehow, the same exact thing happened in this game, as Jake Luton couldn't quite get there while supplanting Gardner Minshew, who was the quarterback in question in the previous paragraph. Luton had some bright moments, including a 73-yard touchdown bomb to D.J. Chark on the opening drive. Luton also scrambled for a touchdown at the very end to force the two-point conversion.

This was the ideal matchup for Luton, who was battling an injury-ravaged Houston defense missing its best pure edge rusher (Whitney Mercilus) and top two cornerbacks. Luton faced no pressure for most of the afternoon, though J.J. Watt was able to record his 100th-career sack on Luton, which actually resulted in a fumble that was recovered by a Jacksonville player. Otherwise, Luton was mostly accurate, as he finished 26-of-38 for 304 yards, one touchdown and an interception.

That said, this was nearly a nightmare result for Luton. He threw two passes that easily could have been intercepted. The first was fired right to Zach Cunningham, who dropped a sure pick-six. The second was nearly dropped as well.

Chark certainly won't complain about the quarterback change, as Luton offers more downfield ability than Minshew. Chark caught seven of his 12 targets for 146 yards and the deep touchdown. Chris Conley (7-52) and Tyler Eifert (4-48) also were Luton's preferred targets.

James Robinson also had a good game, finishing just one yard shy of the century mark. His 99 yards came with a touchdown on 25 carries. His one blunder was a dropped pass.

While the Jaguars ran very well, the Texans couldn't do much on the ground, which resulted in them nearly blowing a double-digit lead in the second half. David Johnson left the game in the first quarter with a concussion when he was blown up when he saw the ball thrown to him. So, it was up to Duke Johnson, who mustered only 41 yards and a touchdown on 16 attempts. Duke Johnson lost a fumble in Jacksonville territory.

Deshaun Watson was actually Houston's leader in rushing, as he scrambled for 50 yards on 10 carries. He was also effective as a passer, going 19-of-32 for 281 yards and two touchdowns. He did well and hit some

deep throws, which was expected against Jacksonville's poor defense.

Will Fuller (5-100) and Brandin Cooks (3-83) were the recipients of Watson's touchdowns, with the former drawing a 53-yard interference flag. Tight end Jordan Akins (2-19) had a chance at a couple of touchdowns, but the passes into the end zone were just slightly off the mark.

Vikings 34, Lions 20

Week 9 was so frustrating for so many reasons, and one of those reasons was Matthew Stafford's injury, which prevented any chance of a back-door cover happening.

Dalvin Cook continued his amazing season, running all over Detroit's weak defense. Cook had almost 250 yards from scrimmage with a couple of touchdowns, leading the Vikings to an easy victory. If Cook maintains this prolific play, and the defense continues to improve, Minnesota will be a dangerous spoiler in the second half of the year and maybe has an outside shot at becoming a wild-card contender with the expanded postseason.

The Vikings got on the scoreboard first, taking their opening possession down the field thanks to Cook rolling over Detroit before powering into the end zone. Detroit got moving with D'Andre Swift running hard and setting up Matt Prater, but the veteran kicker missed the field goal. Cook kept running well, and Cousins hit Adam Thielen (2-38) for a gain of 30 yards. To finish the drive, Cousins connected with Irv Smith Jr. (2-10-2) for a nine-yard score, giving Minnesota a 13-0 lead after missing the extra point.

Detroit produced a field goal drive and then Stafford got into a groove, hitting Quintez Cephus for 19 yards and then Marvin Jones (3-43-1) for a 15-yard score. Toward halftime, the Vikings ripped the ball down the field and then used a 22-yard screen pass to Ameer Abdullah, which found pay dirt and put the Vikings up 20-10 at intermission.

Midway through the third quarter, the Vikings put together another drive thanks to Cook and a 35-yard pass to Justin Jefferson. A short touchdown toss to Irv Smith expanded their lead to 27-10. A Detroit drive moved into Minnesota territory, but Stafford made a bad read and threw an interception to linebacker Eric Wilson. However, the Lions special teams came through when defensive end Austin Bryant blocked a punt to set up Stafford at the Vikings' 22. The Lions moved close to the end zone, but Stafford again tossed the ball into the bread basket of a linebacker, giftng Eric Kendricks an interception in the back of the end zone.

Stafford left the game early in the fourth quarter with a possible concussion and was replaced by Chase Daniel. Daniel led a field goal drive to cut Minneosta's lead to 14. Dalvin Cook then put the game away with a 70-yard touchdown run. In garbage time, Harrison Smith picked off a horrible pass from Daniel, but Detroit blocked another punt to get set up just outside the end zone. Daniel then tossed a short scoring pass to T.J. Hockenson (5-39-1).

Stafford was 23-of-32 for 211 yards with a touchdown and two interceptions. Swift led the Lions on the ground with 64 yards on 13 carries. Detroit needed to give Swift more carries, as he was running well. Danny Amendola led the Lions in receiving with seven catches for 77 yards.

Cousins was 13-of-20 for 220 yards with three touchdowns. Cook was incredible, producing an amazing game for the second straight week. He ran for 206 yards and two touchdowns on 22 carries plus had two receptions for 46 yards. Justin Jefferson led the Vikings in receiving with three catches for 64 yards.

Raiders 31, Chargers 26

The Chargers have been finding ways to manage heart-breaking defeats week after week, and this time, the Raiders' hopes for the playoffs were able to benefit from the Chargers' bad luck. Derek Carr and Justin Herbert both played well, but a muffed punt by Los Angeles and two dropped touchdowns on the final plays of the game gifted Las Vegas the victory.

The Chargers missed a 48-yard field goal in the first quarter, and that ended up coming back to bite them late

in the game. Immediately though, that set up the Raiders with good field position. A 19-yard pass to Jalen Richard set up a 23-yard touchdown run from Devontae Booker (8-68-1) to give Las Vegas the lead. Herbert responded with a drive down the field that ended with Kalen Ballage scoring.

A Carl Nassib sack soon helped set up the Raiders with good starting position at the Chargers 45. A short drive after that resulted in a rushing touchdown for Josh Jacobs. Los Angeles came right back to cross midfield and converted a third-and-16 with a pass to Mike Williams (5-81), and Herbert finished the drive with a touchdown toss to Keenan Allen. Carr was strip-sacked by Jerry Tillery with 12 seconds left the half, and Tillery fell on the ball to gift the Chargers' a 44-yard field goal on the final play. Raiders took a 17-14 lead into the locker room.

Two minutes into the third quarter, Carr laid out a beautiful deep ball, dropping it into the end zone to Nelson Agholor (2-55-1) for a 45-yard touchdown. On his next possession, Carr made a great play on which he scrambled when nothing was open and then lofted in a superb pass to Hunter Renfrow (2-60) for 53 yards. Carr was feeling it then, converting a third-and-long with his feet including a leaping dive over a tackler to the 5-yard line. Carr soon fired a fastball to Darren Waller (5-22-1) for the touchdown to give the Raiders a 28-17 lead. Los Angeles responded with a field goal to make it 28-20 going into the fourth quarter.

Herbert kept moving the ball in the fourth quarter and tossed a short touchdown pass to Gabe Nabers. Herbert was injured on the play, bringing in Tyrod Taylor, who tried to run in the two-point conversion. Taylor was stuffed at that two to leave Los Angeles holding a 28-26 lead. The Chargers muffed the punt the next time they touched the ball, gifting the Raiders a field goal and a 31-26 lead.

Herbert was able to return to the field and had one more shot with time winding down in the fourth quarter. He moved the ball down the field and then hit Mike Williams at the 4-yard line to give Los Angeles a first-and-goal. The Chargers spiked the ball to stop the clock, and with six seconds to go, Mike Williams had a pass knocked out of his hands. Rookie tight end Darnell Parham couldn't hang on to pass on the final play, so the Raiders got lucky to hang on to a five-point win.

Carr completed 12-of-23 passes for 165 yards and two touchdowns. Jacobs ran for 65 yards and a touchdown on 14 carries.

Herbert completed 28-of-42 passes for 326 yards with two touchdowns and zero interceptions. Ballage led the Chargers on the ground with 69 yards on 15 carries and a touchdown. Allen caught nine passes for 103 yards and a touchdown.

Steelers 24, Cowboys 19
The Steelers didn't exactly put forth their best effort in this game, which was predictable. Coming off big wins against the Titans and Ravens, they didn't feel as though they needed to bring that same sort of energy against a woeful Dallas team that has shown no signs of life in recent weeks with their slew of scrub quarterbacks.

Pittsburgh ultimately prevailed in a close call, and now the team can move forward with its 8-0 record. However, there are some great concerns, and those would be to Ben Roethlisberger's throwing arm. Roethlisberger was seen wincing and grabbing his elbow area throughout the afternoon, especially after he hobbled into the locker room just prior to halftime.

Some of Roethlisberger's passes were off the mark, and that could be attributed to his arm. In fact, Roethlisberger was bailed out on some plays in the fourth quarter. He lost a fumble, which would've set up the Cowboys in field goal position with a lead, but illegal contacted nullified the turnover. On the next drive, Roethlisberger heaved an errant pass on third-and-10, but a roughing-the-passer call that enraged Mike McCarthy negated that miscue. Roethlisberger ultimately was able to cap off the possession with a touchdown pass to Eric Ebron to give his team a 24-19 lead.

Garrett Gilbert, who played shockingly well in his first career start despite battling Pittsburgh's defense, had one more chance to lead the Cowboys to victory. However, some poor passes resulted in a fourth-and-long situation, and heavy Pittsburgh pressure forced Gilbert to take a sack for a big loss to effectively end the game.

Roethlisberger finished 29-of-42 for 306 yards and three touchdowns. The stats look good, and they would've

been better if it weren't for some drops. However, he was very fortunate that he didn't commit multiple turnovers. In addition to the overturned lost fumble, he also appeared to throw an interception that was dropped. The arm injury could be a big concern moving forward, as it's possible that it could continue to get worse.

Roethlisberger's touchdowns went to JuJu Smith-Schuster (6-93), Eric Ebron (3-22) and James Washington (1-17). Diontae Johnson and Chase Claypool didn't score, but both posted solid stat lines. Johnson snatched six balls for 77 yards, and he had a long gain on what ended up being the decisive drive. Claypool, meanwhile, led the team with eight catches for 69 yards, but he dropped a deep pass.

Being in a deficit for nearly the entire afternoon, James Conner didn't have much of an opportunity to run the ball. Conner was limited to 22 yards on nine carries.

With the Cowboys possessing a constant lead, it wasn't a surprise to see them rush for triple-digit yardage. Ezekiel Elliott was a surprise active. Elliott should've sat, as he was limited to 51 yards on 18 carries and didn't look quite right. Pollard outgained him (9-57) on half as many attempts.
Gilbert proved to be a functional quarterback, unlike Ben DiNucci. He wasn't great, but didn't make any mistakes beyond throwing an interception in the red zone when he was hit upon releasing the ball. He went 21-of-38 for 243 yards, one touchdown and the pick.

With Gilbert doing much better than expected, CeeDee Lamb (4-71, TD) and Amari Cooper (5-67) were able to post respectable stat lines, which hadn't been the case in the past few weeks. Lamb, however, lost a fumble at the end of the opening half.

Dolphins 34, Cardinals 31
The Dolphins demolished the Rams last week, but Tua Tagovailoa had nothing to do with that. He struggled mightily, in fact, as he was bailed out by his defense and special teams. Thus, there wasn't much optimism from most people with Miami potentially winning against an upstart Arizona squad.

However, those who counted out Tagovailoa because of just one game looked foolish, as the rookie was so much better in his second start. It helped that Tagovailoa battled a softer defense that happened to be missing several players in the secondary, but everyone in Miami's organization has every reason to be far more optimistic about Tagovailoa's outlook in this latest win over an NFC West foe.

Tagovailoa made an early mistake when he tried to throw the ball away, tossing it right to Arizona's Jalen Thompson for what seemed to be an interception. Replay review overturned it, and Tagovailoa responded well by slicing through the Cardinals with some great accuracy while on the move. He also had some important scrambles, including one 17-yard run that the CBS crew deemed "magical." On this play, he appeared to run into an Isaiah Simmons sack, only to spin away from it to pick up a key first down on what would end up being the game-winning drive.

The final stat line looked good for Tagovailoa, as he went 20-of-28 for 248 yards and two touchdowns to go along with seven scrambles for 35 rushing yards. His performance in this game compared to last week's struggle was night and day. The real Tagovailoa is likely the one we saw beat the Cardinals, so it'll be exciting to see what the Dolphins have with him as they continue to build around him.

Tagovailoa lost one of his starting receivers in this game, as Preston Williams was carted off the field after scoring a touchdown. It was a shame, as Williams was having a nice day (4-60). He trailed only DeVante Parker and his six catches for 64 yards. Parker drew two pass interference flags.

With Myles Gaskin and Matt Breida sidelined, Jordan Howard handled more carries than the other backs, yet was limited to just 19 yards on 10 attempts, though he scored a touchdown. Someone named Salvon Ahmed led the Dolphins in rushing with 38 yards on seven tries.

The Cardinals had much more success running the ball, though this was not any sort of surprise because Kyler Murray is arguably the best rushing threat at quarterback in the NFL now. Murray eclipsed the century mark on

the ground, tallying 106 yards and a touchdown on 11 scrambles.

Murray also did very well as a passer, going 21-of-26 for 283 yards and three touchdowns without even factoring in some drawn interference flags. Don't take this passing performance lightly, as Murray did this against one of the top secondaries in the NFL. Murray, however, made one crucial mistake when he had a fumble returned for a touchdown on a strip-sack.

Two of those interference flags were drawn by DeAndre Hopkins, who posted a meager stat line of three catches for 30 yards. The Dolphins smothered him, but those interferences helped the Cardinals move the chains on their scoring drives. Arizona was paced by Christian Kirk, who hauled in five balls for 123 yards and a touchdown.

Much was expected from Chase Edmonds, who was starting over the injured Kenyan Drake. Edmonds was a flop, however, as he was restricted to 70 yards on 25 attempts to go along with three catches for 18 receiving yards. He was stuffed on a crucial fourth-and-1 attempt in the final quarter, which helped the Dolphins pull the upset.

Saints 38, Buccaneers 3

Who saw this coming. New Orleans demolished the Buccaneers from start to finish, dominating in every aspect. This was a huge win for the Saints, as their season sweep over the Bucs gives them the tie-breaker.

It was astonishing to see Tom Brady struggle so much, as this was easily one of the worst games of his career. The Saints' great defensive line made life extremely difficult for him, while the defensive backs, who have endured some struggles this year, clamped down on the talented Tampa receivers. On the rare occasions in which the Tampa wideouts were able to get open, Brady occasionally had some miscommunications with them, particularly with Antonio Brown. Brady and Brown not being on the same page resulted in an interception.

This pick was one of three Brady tossed on the evening, as he finished 22-of-38 for 209 yards otherwise. He also fumbled once, but recovered the loose ball. One of Brady's interceptions was not his fault, as a pass was batted at the line of scrimmage and conveniently deflected into the arms of a New Orleans defender. The other two picks were the byproduct of incompetence by either Brady or the receiver, and some should wonder if Brown is doing more harm than good because he has potentially disrupted the rhythm of the offense. Brown, made a nice catch of 15 yards, but did little else. He made three grabs for 31 yards, trailing Mike Evans (4-64) and Chris Godwin (3-41). Evans was completely smothered by Marshon Lattimore and didn't catch a single pass while the Pro Bowl cornerback was on the field.

Constantly trailing, the Buccaneers couldn't establish the run. They tried to rush the ball just 5 times (lowest amount of rushes for a team in the last 60 years), with Ronald Jones (3-9) and Leonard Fournette (1-0) accomplishing nothing. Fournette at least saved his PPR owners a bit with six catches for 41 receiving yards.

Brees was a near-perfect 26-of-32 for 222 yards and four touchdowns, which was surprising because he was considered iffy to play this game with a shoulder injury. He spread the ball around to his entire roster, with a whopping 12 teammates somehow catching passes. Brees nearly made a mistake in the early stages of this game when he threw a potential pick-six right to Jason Pierre-Paul, but the defensive end dropped the ball. Brees was flawless after that play.

Michael Thomas made his return since Week 1 and looked good, catching five passes for 51 yards. He didn't score, but those who did were Emmanuel Sanders (4-38), Tre'Quan Smith (1-14), Josh Hill (2-14) and rookie tight end Adam Trautman (3-39). Veteran tight end Jared Cook (2-30) had a nightmare game, fumbling in the red zone and dropping a touchdown. Alvin Kamara was not expected to perform well against the top run defense in the NFL. However, he still had a decent fantasy output, as he rushed for 40 yards and a touchdown on just nine carries to go along with five catches for nine receiving yards.

Last Week's Top Performers

- Dalvin Cook* (MIN): 22 rush, 206 yds, 2 TD
- Kyler Murray* (ARI): 21/26, 283 yds, 3 TD; 11 rush, 106 yds, 1 TD

- Josh Allen* (BUF): 31/38, 415 yds, 3 TD; 1 rush TD
- Christian McCaffrey* (CAR): 151 yds from scrim, 2 TD
- Patrick Mahomes* (KAN): 30/45, 372 yds, 4 TD
- Drew Lock (DEN): 25/48, 313 yds, 2 TD; 1 rush TD
- Richie James (SFO): 9 rec, 184 yds, 1 TD
- Aaron Rodgers (GNB): 25/31, 305 yds, 4 TD
- Tyreek Hill (KAN): 9 rec, 113 yds, 2 TD
- Davante Adams (GNB): 10 rec, 173 yds, 1 TD

Week 9 Passing Leaders	Week 9 Rushing Leaders	Week 9 Fantasy Breakouts	
Josh Allen 31/38 415 yds, 3TD	Dalvin Cook 22 att 206 yds,	Player	Fantasy Pts.
Russell Wilson 28/41 390 yds, 2TD	Kyler Murray 11 att 106 yds,	Richie James (SFO)	24.40
Pat Mahomes 30/45 372 yds, 4TD	James Robinson 25 att 99 yds,	Curtis Samuel (CAR)	17.80
Nick Foles 36/52 335 yds, 2TD	Chase Edmonds 25 att 70 yds	Marquez Scantling (GNB)	17.30
Justin Herbert 28/42 326 yds, 2TD	Kalen Ballage (LAC) 15 att 69 yds,	Olamide Zaccheaus (ATL)	16.30

PRO FOOTBALL BEST BETS

Jacksonville at Green Bay Over 52 Total by 8

The Jacksonville Jaguars could use a feel good victory here to snap a seven-game losing streak. The Jacksonville Jaguars have lost five straight road games. Gardner Minshew II is completing 65.9 percent of his passes for 1,855 yards, 13 touchdowns and five interceptions. Minshew has two or more touchdown passes in six of his last eight games. DJ Chark Jr. and Keelan Cole Sr. have combined for 817 receiving yards and seven touchdowns while Laviska Shenault Jr. has 30 receptions. The Jacksonville Jaguars ground game is averaging 98.9 yards per contest, and James Robinson leads the way with 580 yards and five touchdowns. Defensively, Jacksonville is allowing 30.9 points and 418.1 yards per game. Joe Schobert leads the Jacksonville Jaguars with 62 tackles, Josh Allen has 2.5 sacks and Andrew Wingard has one interception.

The Green Bay Packers are 6-2 on the season and look to build their lead in the NFC North. The Green Bay Packers have won seven of their last eight home games. Aaron Rodgers is completing 67.5 percent of his passes for 2,253 yards, 24 touchdowns and two interceptions. Rodgers has 11 touchdown passes in his last three games. Davante Adams and Robert Tonyan have combined for 989 receiving yards and 13 touchdowns while Marquez Valdes-Scantling has 18 receptions. The Green Bay Packers ground game is averaging 126.6 yards per contest, and Aaron Jones leads the way with 447 yards and five touchdowns. Defensively, Green Bay is allowing 25.5 points and 345.4 yards per game. Krys Barnes leads the Green Bay Packers with 50 tackles, Za'Darius Smith has seven sacks and Jaire Alexander has one interception.

The Jaguars are 1-4 ATS in their last 5 road games, 1-4 ATS in their last 5 games as an underdog and 1-5 ATS in their last 6 games overall. The Packers are 4-1 ATS in their last 5 home games, 4-1 ATS in their last 5 games as a home favorite and 5-2 ATS in their last 7 games as a favorite. The over is 7-3 in Packers last 10 games overall. The road team is 4-1 ATS in their last 5 meetings.

The Jacksonville Jaguars continue to have issues on the defensive side and at this point shouldn't even be worried about winning games, as it would just mess up their draft position for Trevor Lawrence. The Green Bay Packers are coming off one of their better performances of the season, but it's now about stringing wins together and closing in on the top record in the NFC.

The Jaguars are 8-4-1 against the spread in their last 13 games as an underdog of 10 or more points. The Packers have failed to cover six of their last eight games as a favorite of at least 10 points.

Bottom line here is the Jags have hung around despite their losses, and you can have success offensively against this Packers defense. This is a massive spread for the NFL.

Even though I want to go with the Packers, I'm reluctant to lay the big lumber. Weather should be a little windy and in the low 40's. Should not pose a problem if the weather forecast is correct. Ya I know, wouldn't bet on it. **Give me the Jaguars and the Packers to fly over the posted total of 52. Take the OVER.**
Projected Score: Green Bay 37, Jacksonville 23

Philadelphia - 3 Over NY Giants by 10

Philadelphia enters this game at 3-4-1 on the season. The Eagles are 2-2 in their last four with losses to the Steelers and Ravens alongside wins over the Giants and Cowboys. As for the Giants, they're 2-7 this year. After losing consecutive games to the Eagles and Buccaneers, New York got a win over Washington last week.

Philadelphia hasn't looked great this season, but they've snagged consecutive divisional wins and oddly enough they're sitting alone atop the NFC East. Philly took out the Giants 22-21 on October 22, then in their most recent game the Eagles beat the Cowboys 23-9 to help them gain outright control of the division.

In the win over the Cowboys, Eagles quarterback Carson Wentz posted 123 yards with two touchdowns and two interceptions. Boston Scott led the rushing attack on 15 carries for 71 yards, and Travis Fulgham managed 78 yards and a TD on six receptions.

Over on the Giants' side, it's been pretty much a lost season so far, and the team's only wins have come against divisional rival Washington. Sandwiched between the two victories are close losses to the Eagles 22-21 and the Buccaneers 25-23. New York took out Washington 23-20 in their matchup last weekend.

In the latest win over Washington, Giants quarterback Daniel Jones posted 212 yards with a TD, and Wayne Gallman added 14 carries for 68 yards and a touchdown. Austin Mack was the leading receiver there with four catches for 72 yards.

The Eagles are 2-5 ATS in their last 7 games in November and 1-5 ATS in their last six games as a favorite. The under is 6-0 in Philly's last 6 games in November and the over is 4-0 in their last 4 as a road favorite.

Meanwhile, the Giants are 5-0 ATS in their last five games as an underdog and 5-1 ATS in the last six overall. New York is 5-1 ATS in the last six versus the NFC and 12-3-1 ATS versus a team with a losing record.

I'm leaning Eagles here, and you're wondering why I'm bucking the trends here. Do you remember the last game they played when Philadelphia won 22 to 21? The Eagles played that game with multiple starters on the IR and fielded a shell of a team. They're a lot healthier now and the Giants will be hard pressed to score.

That said, Philadelphia does have some reasonable scoring capabilities, and the defense has been solid against average-to-bad teams. This will be another hard fought Philadelphia vs NY Giants game.
I'm going to back the Eagles in this spot..
Projected Score: Philadelphia 27, NY Giants 17

Las Vegas - 5½ Over Denver by 13

The Denver Broncos will look to rebound after falling to 3-5 on the year after a 34-27 loss to Atlanta last time out. Drew Lock has thrown for 1,240 yards, 6 touchdowns and 6 interceptions on 56.5% passing while Melvin Gordon III leads Denver in rushing with 393 rushing yards and 4 TDs and Phillip Lindsay has 310 rushing yards as well this season. Jerry Jeudy leads Denver with 484 receiving yards coming on 30 catches with a pair of touchdowns while Tim Patrick and Noah Fant each have 300+ receiving yards with Patrick adding 383 yards and 3 touchdowns. KJ Hamler, DaeSean Hamilton and Albert Okwuegbunam each have 100+ receiving yards this season but Okwuegbunam will miss the rest of the season with a torn ACL sustained in the last game. Defensively, Alexander Johnson leads Denver with 64 total tackles including 38 solo tackles while Josey Jewell has 58 total tackles with 40 solo tackles. Justin Simmons has a team-high 42 solo tackles and 3 interceptions while Bradley Chubb has a team-high 5.5 sacks and Malik Reed has 5 sacks this season.

The Las Vegas Raiders will try to build on back-to-back wins after a 31-26 win over the Chargers last time out. Derek Carr has thrown for 2,002 yards, 16 touchdowns and 2 interceptions on 69.8% passing while Josh Jacobs leads the Raiders with 588 rushing yards and 6 touchdowns. Devontae Booker has 223 rushing yards as well for Vegas this year while Darren Waller leads the Raiders in receiving with 50 grabs for 394 yards with 4 touchdowns. Hunter Renfrow has 369 yards and Nelson Agholor has 347 receiving yards and 5 touchdowns while Henry Ruggs III also has 220 receiving yards for the Raiders as well this year. Defensively, Cory Littleton leads the Raiders with 48 total tackles including 31 solo tackles while Johnathan Abram has 42 total tackles and Lamarcus Joyner

has 41 total tackles with a team-high 32 solo tackles. Maxx Crosby has a team-high 5 sacks as well this season for the Raiders.

Denver is 5-13 ATS in their last 18 division games and 7-3 ATS in their last 10 road games while the over is 4-1 in their last 5 games as an underdog. Las Vegas is 4-0 ATS in their last 4 division games and 7-3 ATS in their last 10 games overall while the under is 5-1 in their last 6 games against a team with a losing record.

There's potential for this to be a look-ahead spot for the Raiders with a date with the division-leading Chiefs on deck next week, but the Broncos are simply banged up like nobody's business after Okwuegbunam tore his ACL against Atlanta. The Raiders on the other hand, keep finding ways to win games and need to keep winning games to keep pace in the wild card race. Denver is 0-5 ATS in the last 5 meetings between these two teams and that trend will continue. **I'll lay the points with the Raiders in this spot.**
Projected Score: Las Vegas 33, Denver 20

Miami - 2½ Over LA Chargers by 7

The Los Angeles Chargers need a feel good victory here after losing six of their last seven games. The Los Angeles Chargers have lost three straight road games. Justin Herbert is completing 67.3 percent of his passes for 2,146 yards, 17 touchdowns and five interceptions. Herbert has two or more touchdown passes in five straight games. Keenan Allen and Mike Williams have combined for 1,044 receiving yards and seven touchdowns while Hunter Henry has 33 receptions. The Los Angeles Chargers ground game is averaging 135.6 yards per contest, and Joshua Kelley leads the way with 292 yards and one touchdown. Defensively, Los Angeles is allowing 27 points and 358.5 yards per game. Kyzir White leads the Los Angeles Chargers with 62 tackles, Joey Bosa has 4.5 sacks and Melvin Ingram III has one interception.

The Miami Dolphins look for a fifth straight victory to remain in the AFC playoff race. The Miami Dolphins have won four of their last six home games. Tua Tagovailoa is completing 65.4 percent of his passes for 350 yards, three touchdowns and zero interceptions. Tagovailoa enters this game with 52 career pass attempts under his belt. DeVante Parker and Mike Gesicki have combined for 762 receiving yards and five touchdowns while Preston Williams has 18 receptions. The Miami Dolphins ground game is averaging 97.1 yards per contest, and Myles Gaskin leads the way with 387 yards and two touchdowns. Defensively, Miami is allowing 20.1 points and 384.3 yards per game. Jerome Baker leads the Miami Dolphins with 65 tackles, Emmanuel Ogbah has seven sacks and Xavien Howard has four interceptions.

The Chargers are 4-1-1 ATS in their last 6 road games, 3-1-1 ATS in their last 5 games as an underdog and 0-4 ATS in their last 4 games in November. The Dolphins are 5-1 ATS in their last 6 home games, 6-1 ATS in their last 7 vs. AFC and 4-0 ATS in their last 4 games overall. The over is 5-0 in Chargers last 5 games overall. The under is 4-0 in Dolphins last 4 games as a favorite. The Chargers are 1-4 ATS in their last 5 meetings in Miami and 4-9 ATS in their last 13 meetings.

The LA Chargers have lost all of their games this season by one possession, and it's been the same song and dance with this team, a club that can't finish games or sustain their level of play for 60 minutes. The Dolphins have won four straight with one of the best defenses in the league and a young star quarterback in Tagovailoa who is coming off a brilliant performance in his second career start. The Dolphins are the more complete team here, are riding a wave of momentum and are catching a west coast team on east coast time. You can't confidently back the Chargers with how consistently they blow leads. **Give me the Dolphins as a small chalk.**
Projected Score: Miami 27, LA Chargers 20

THIS WEEKS GRIDIRON GOLD SHEET BEST BETS					
	Best Bet	**Best Bet**	**Best Bet**	**Best Bet**	**Best Bet**
CFB	**Boise St - 12**	**Minnesota + 4½**	**Nebraska + 4**	**Army + 5½**	**N/A**
CFB	**Navy + 13**	**Purdue + 3½**	**Arizona St + 4½**	**N/A**	**N/A**
NFL	**Packers Over 52**	**Eagles - 3**	**Raiders - 5½**	**Dolphins - 2½**	

Gridiron Gold NFL Line Sheet
November 12 – 16, 2020

Date/ET	Rot	Team	Open
11/12/20 8:20 ET	121 122	Indianapolis Colts Tennessee Titans	49 -1.5
11/15/20 1:00 ET	253 254	Washington Football Team Detroit Lions	45.5 -3
11/15/20 1:00 ET	255 256	Houston Texans Cleveland Browns	54 -3
11/15/20 1:00 ET	257 258	Jacksonville Jaguars Green Bay Packers	52 -14
11/15/20 1:00 ET	259 260	Philadelphia Eagles New York Giants	-3.5 44
11/15/20 1:00 ET	261 262	Tampa Bay Buccaneers Carolina Panthers	-6 50.5
11/15/20 4:05 ET	265 266	Denver Broncos Las Vegas Raiders	51.5 -5
11/15/20 4:05 ET	267 268	Buffalo Bills Arizona Cardinals	55.5 -1.5
11/15/20 4:05 ET	277 278	Los Angeles Chargers Miami Dolphins	47.5 -2.5
11/15/20 4:25 ET	251 252	Cincinnati Bengals Pittsburgh Steelers	47.5 -7.5
11/15/20 4:25 ET	269 270	Seattle Seahawks Los Angeles Rams	55.5 -1.5
11/15/20 4:25 ET	271 272	San Francisco 49ers New Orleans Saints	50.5 -9.5
11/15/20 8:20 ET	273 274	Baltimore Ravens New England Patriots	-7 41.5
11/16/20 8:20 ET	273 274	Minnesota Vikings Chicago Bears	-2.5 44.5

Gridiron Gold College Football Line Sheet
November 10-14, 2020

Date/time	Rot	Team	Opening Line
11/10/20 7:00 ET	107 108	Akron Ohio	56.5 -24.5
11/10/20 7:30 ET	109 110	Kent State Bowling Green State	-18 59.5
11/10/20 8:00 ET	111 112	Miami (OH) Buffalo	55.5 -9.5
11/11/20 7:00 ET	117 118	Eastern Michigan Ball State	58.5 -8.5
11/11/20 8:00 ET	115 116	Central Michigan Northern Illinois	-6 60.5
11/11/20 8:00 ET	119 120	Toledo Western Michigan	59.5 -2.5
11/12/20 8:00 ET	123 124	Colorado State Boise State	60.5 -13
11/13/20 7:00 ET	125 126	Florida Atlantic Florida Intl	-9 44
11/13/20 7:00 ET	127 128	Iowa Minnesota	-3 55
11/13/20 7:30 ET	129 130	East Carolina Cincinnati	54.5 -26.5
11/13/20 10:30 ET	131 132	Utah UCLA	-5 58
11/14/20 12:00 ET	139 140	Vanderbilt Kentucky	42.5 -17
11/14/20 12:00 ET	141 142	Texas Christian West Virginia	47 -3
11/14/20 12:00 ET	149 150	Wake Forest North Carolina	66.5 -12
11/14/20 12:00 ET	155 156	Miami (FL) Virginia Tech	63 -2.5
11/14/20 12:00 ET	163 164	Indiana Michigan State	-7.5 51
11/14/20 12:00 ET	167 168	Illinois Rutgers	51.5 -6
11/14/20 12:00 ET	169 170	Middle Tennessee St. Marshall	55 -23
11/14/20 12:00 ET	199 200	Coastal Carolina Troy	-8 52.5
11/14/20 12:00 ET	203 204	Army Tulane	48.5 -5.5
11/14/20 12:00 ET	205 206	Penn State Nebraska	-3 57.5

11/14/20 12:00 ET	217 218	Georgia Missouri	-12 47.5
11/14/20 2:00 ET	215 216	South Alabama Louisiana-Lafayette	55 -14
11/14/20 2:30 ET	181 182	Fresno State Utah State	-12 57.5
11/14/20 2:30 ET	183 184	Georgia State Appalachian State	63.5 -16
11/14/20 3:00 ET	171 172	South Florida Houston	57 -13.5
11/14/20 3:00 ET	195 196	UTEP Texas-San Antonio	48.5 -5
11/14/20 3:00 ET	209 210	North Texas UAB	67.5 -15
11/14/20 3:00 ET	211 212	Louisiana-Monroe Arkansas State	66.5 -20
11/14/20 3:30 ET	135 136	Memphis Navy	-9 65.5
11/14/20 3:30 ET	145 146	Texas AM Tennessee	-12 53.5
11/14/20 3:30 ET	147 148	Notre Dame Boston College	-13 51.5
11/14/20 3:30 ET	151 152	Texas State Georgia Southern	51.5 -10
11/14/20 3:30 ET	159 160	Ohio State Maryland	-26 72
11/14/20 3:30 ET	175 176	Southern Cal Arizona	-13.5 64.5
11/14/20 3:30 ET	193 194	Colorado Stanford	58 -7.5
11/14/20 3:30 ET	219 220	Rice Louisiana Tech	-1 50.5
11/14/20 3:30 ET	221 222	Southern Miss Western Kentucky	49.5 -7
11/14/20 3:30 ET	225 226	Louisville Virginia	67.5 -3
11/14/20 4:00 ET	191 192	Hawaii San Diego State	52.5 -9.5
11/14/20 4:00 ET	197 198	Baylor Texas Tech	59.5 -2
11/14/20 4:00 ET	201 202	Auburn Mississippi State	-14.5 46.5
11/14/20 6:00 ET	223 224	Alabama LSU	-23.5 74.5

Date/Time		Number	Team	Line
11/14/20 6:30 ET	179 180	New Mexico Nevada	-13 61.5
11/14/20 7:00 ET	137 138	Arkansas Florida	60.5 -16
11/14/20 7:00 ET	153 154	Pittsburgh Georgia Tech	-7 50
11/14/20 7:00 ET	185 186	Oregon Washington State	-7 61.5
11/14/20 7:00 ET	207 208	Southern Methodist Tulsa	64.5 -1
11/14/20 7:30 ET	143 144	Florida State North Carolina State	61.5 -7
11/14/20 7:30 ET	157 158	Temple Central Florida	73.5 -29
11/14/20 7:30 ET	161 162	Wisconsin Michigan	49 -1
11/14/20 7:30 ET	165 166	Northwestern Purdue	52 -1
11/14/20 7:30 ET	213 214	South Carolina Mississippi	68.5 -7
11/14/20 8:00 ET	331 332	Louisville Virginia	67.5 -3
11/14/20 10:00 ET	177 178	Air Force Wyoming	46 -4
11/14/20 10:30 ET	131 132	Utah UCLA	-5 58
11/14/20 10:30 ET	173 174	California Arizona State	48 -3.5
11/14/20 10:30 ET	189 190	UNLV San Jose State	58 -16
11/14/20 11:00 ET	187 188	Oregon State Washington	57.5 -12

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