



2023 NFL BETTING GUIDE





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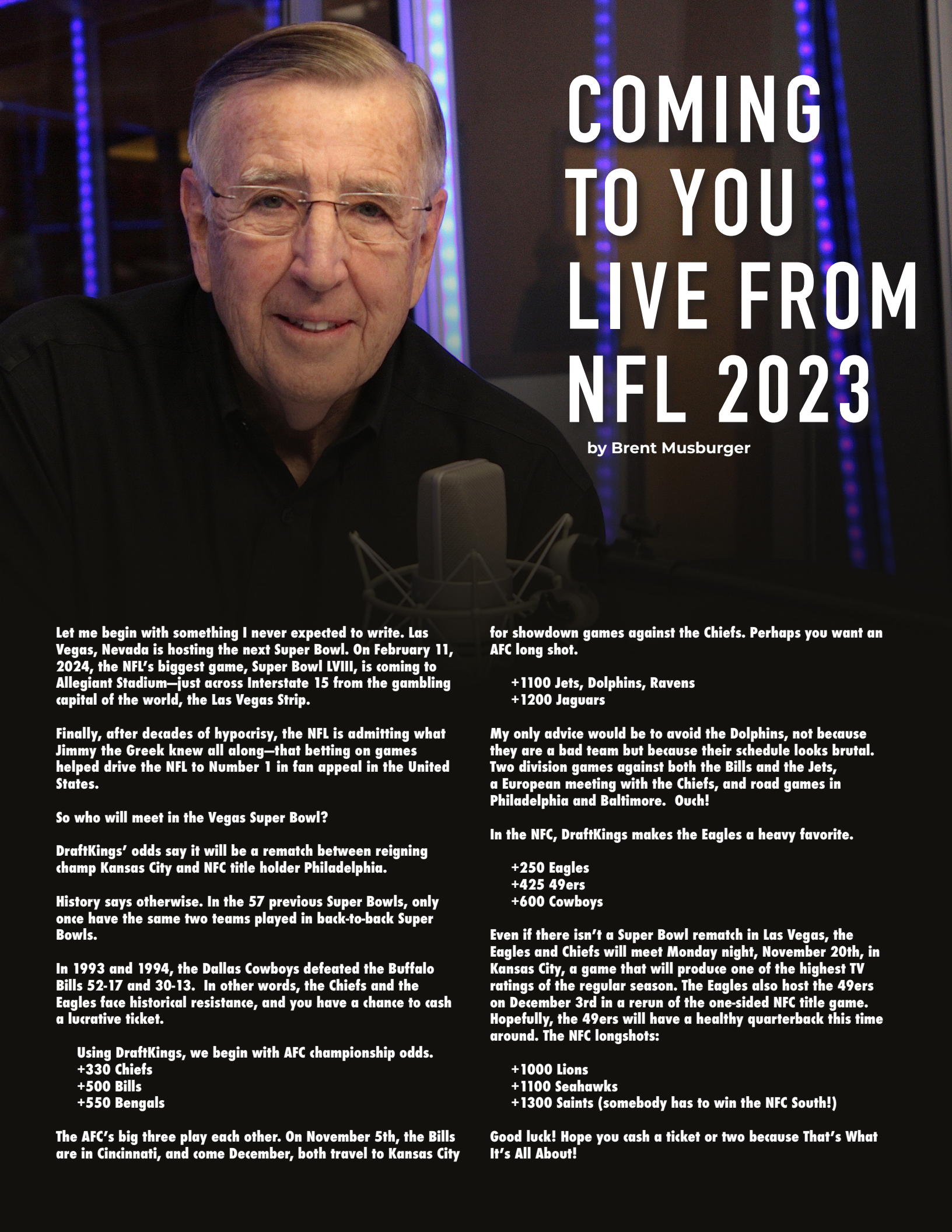


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COMING TO YOU LIVE FROM NFL 2023

by Brent Musburger

Let me begin with something I never expected to write. Las Vegas, Nevada is hosting the next Super Bowl. On February 11, 2024, the NFL's biggest game, Super Bowl LVIII, is coming to Allegiant Stadium—just across Interstate 15 from the gambling capital of the world, the Las Vegas Strip.

Finally, after decades of hypocrisy, the NFL is admitting what Jimmy the Greek knew all along—that betting on games helped drive the NFL to Number 1 in fan appeal in the United States.

So who will meet in the Vegas Super Bowl?

DraftKings' odds say it will be a rematch between reigning champ Kansas City and NFC title holder Philadelphia.

History says otherwise. In the 57 previous Super Bowls, only once have the same two teams played in back-to-back Super Bowls.

In 1993 and 1994, the Dallas Cowboys defeated the Buffalo Bills 52-17 and 30-13. In other words, the Chiefs and the Eagles face historical resistance, and you have a chance to cash a lucrative ticket.

Using DraftKings, we begin with AFC championship odds.

- +330 Chiefs
- +500 Bills
- +550 Bengals

The AFC's big three play each other. On November 5th, the Bills are in Cincinnati, and come December, both travel to Kansas City

for showdown games against the Chiefs. Perhaps you want an AFC long shot.

- +1100 Jets, Dolphins, Ravens
- +1200 Jaguars

My only advice would be to avoid the Dolphins, not because they are a bad team but because their schedule looks brutal. Two division games against both the Bills and the Jets, a European meeting with the Chiefs, and road games in Philadelphia and Baltimore. Ouch!

In the NFC, DraftKings makes the Eagles a heavy favorite.

- +250 Eagles
- +425 49ers
- +600 Cowboys

Even if there isn't a Super Bowl rematch in Las Vegas, the Eagles and Chiefs will meet Monday night, November 20th, in Kansas City, a game that will produce one of the highest TV ratings of the regular season. The Eagles also host the 49ers on December 3rd in a rerun of the one-sided NFC title game. Hopefully, the 49ers will have a healthy quarterback this time around. The NFC longshots:

- +1000 Lions
- +1100 Seahawks
- +1300 Saints (somebody has to win the NFC South!)

Good luck! Hope you cash a ticket or two because That's What It's All About!

BOOKMAKERS' TAKE ON THE JETS

by Matt Youmans

When something is new, it's usually exciting. Most people typically get a thrill from the feel of a new relationship, the look of a new vacation destination, and the smell of a new car, to offer a few examples. Few things excite the betting public more than an old quarterback moving to a new team, and this year's example is Aaron Rodgers joining the New York Jets.

Which team is winning the summer popularity contest on the NFL futures board? "The bettors like the Jets, of course," DraftKings sportsbook director John Avello said. "But I didn't like Aaron Rodgers last year. Is this the new, improved Rodgers? I don't know."

At 18-1 odds to win the Super Bowl, the Jets are the seventh choice on the DraftKings board behind the Chiefs (+600), Eagles (+650), Bills (+900), 49ers (10-1), Bengals (11-1) and Cowboys (14-1).

There are plenty of other ways to bet the Jets — to win the AFC East (+270), to win the conference (11-1), and to go Over the win total (9.5) — for those who are seeing green and getting excited about Rodgers' new team.

South Point sportsbook director Chris Andrews said it has been "no surprise" to see the public jumping on the Jets. However, the first wave of sharp action he took was Under the win total of 10, which he adjusted to 9.5 (Over -140).

"The sharp guys usually bet Under or pass," Andrews said. "I'm taking the Jets seriously. Let's face it, the defense was pretty good last year. I'm not sure the offensive line is all that good, but I think Rodgers can do enough."

Rodgers, who turned 39 in December, did not do enough to get Green Bay to the playoffs last season. He threw 12 interceptions, his highest total since 2008, and the Packers finished 8-9.

"Rodgers was (crappy) last year," Avello said.

So when the crap hit the fan, Rodgers was gone. He emerged from a darkness retreat and announced a desire to play for the Jets, who last reached the playoffs in the 2010 season and have not won a title since Joe Namath's guarantee paid off in Super Bowl III in 1969.

Rodgers' lone Super Bowl win, which came with the Packers in February 2011, is a fading memory. Still, he is one of the league's elite quarterbacks, and his presence will instill confidence in a young Jets team that finished with a six-game losing streak and a 7-10 record. The bright side, as Andrews said, was a defense that ranked fourth in the NFL in scoring.

It's not crazy to think Rodgers can be the final piece to the Jets' puzzle. Tom Brady was exactly what the Buccaneers needed when he moved from New England to Tampa Bay as a free agent in 2020.

At the time, many Las Vegas bookmakers, including John Murray at the Westgate SuperBook, laughed and mocked the public for

enthusiastically betting on the Buccaneers to win the Super Bowl before Brady's first season with a new team.

"We didn't have an appreciation for how good that team was around Brady," Murray said. "We definitely underestimated how bad the NFC South was, but the Buccaneers didn't win the division, and it was an incredible run in the playoffs."

A year after going 7-9 with Jameis Winston at quarterback in 2019, Tampa Bay made the playoffs as a wild-card team, and Brady did win his seventh Super Bowl, going through Rodgers in Green Bay along the way.

"It's not going to be the same with Rodgers in the AFC East because that's a really good division," Murray said. "I don't like the Jets. I never like those teams that are popular with everybody. I also think that Rodgers just looked lousy last year."

While there is some symmetry with Brady and Rodgers, the obvious difference is Brady's postseason track record is unmatched, and Rodgers' playoff performances have been mostly underwhelming in recent years.

The link between Rodgers and Brett Favre, another one-time Super Bowl winner with the Packers, is more relevant. After his relationship with Green Bay management deteriorated in 2008, Favre was traded to the Jets. He spent one year in New York, and the team missed the playoffs with a 9-7 record. Favre finished the season with 22 touchdown passes and 22 interceptions and was released in 2009 before playing his final two years for the Vikings.

Rodgers is not going to be beating up on the Bears anymore. Take a deep dive into the schedule, and it appears the wiseguys have the right idea by initially betting the Jets' win total Under 10.

Based on the opponents' winning percentage of .545 last season (a combined record of 155-129-3), the Jets draw the NFL's sixth-toughest schedule. That's not always the most accurate way to grade strength of schedule, so also consider the number of playoff teams from last season (nine) on this 17-game schedule and some other factors.

In the first six weeks, Rodgers and the Jets will face a firing line of quality quarterbacks — Buffalo's Josh Allen (Week 1), Dallas' Dak Prescott, New England's Mac Jones, Kansas City's Patrick Mahomes, Denver's Russell Wilson and Philadelphia's Jalen Hurts.

The Jets also have two especially challenging short-week scenarios on the schedule. After hosting the Bills and Chargers on Monday nights in Weeks 1 and 9, the Jets hit the road to play the Cowboys and Raiders in Weeks 2 and 10, respectively.

Rodgers is not the best quarterback in his new division — Allen has earned that status — and the top two quarterbacks in the AFC are Mahomes and the Bengals' Joe Burrow.

"It's a big leap the Jets are being asked to make, and the AFC is so much better than the NFC," Murray said. "The Bills are kind of a forgotten team. Going into the playoffs, I think Buffalo was the highest power-rated team in the league. Everyone is talking about the Chiefs, Bengals and Jets. I think it's interesting how under the radar the Bills are now."

The Jets went 2-4 in division games last season, and it requires a leap of faith to predict they will be any better than 3-3 this season. Don't forget the Patriots own a 14-game winning streak against the Jets.

Rodgers appears rejuvenated in New York, where fans and media are celebrating his arrival and dreaming of a postseason paradise. This is the honeymoon phase.

Sharp money says the Jets will need Rodgers at his MVP-level best to win nine or 10 games and reach the playoffs, which seems the best-case scenario. The reality is your Super Bowl futures bet is better off in the hands of Mahomes, Allen or Burrow.

MVP

CHATTER

by Zachary Cohen

Last season, Patrick Mahomes took home the second Most Valuable Player award of his six-year NFL career. Mahomes did it by throwing for 5,250 yards with 41 touchdowns and only 12 interceptions while adding another 358 yards and four touchdowns on the ground. Mahomes' Kansas City Chiefs were the top-seeded team in the AFC, going 14-3 on the year and ultimately earning a 38-35 win over the Philadelphia Eagles in Super Bowl LVII.

Mahomes is once again favored to win this award, and it's hard to argue with his candidacy. However, it's also difficult to ignore voter fatigue. Aaron Rodgers won back-to-back MVPs in 2020 and 2021, but that is something that has only happened six times in NFL history — with Peyton Manning being responsible for two instances.

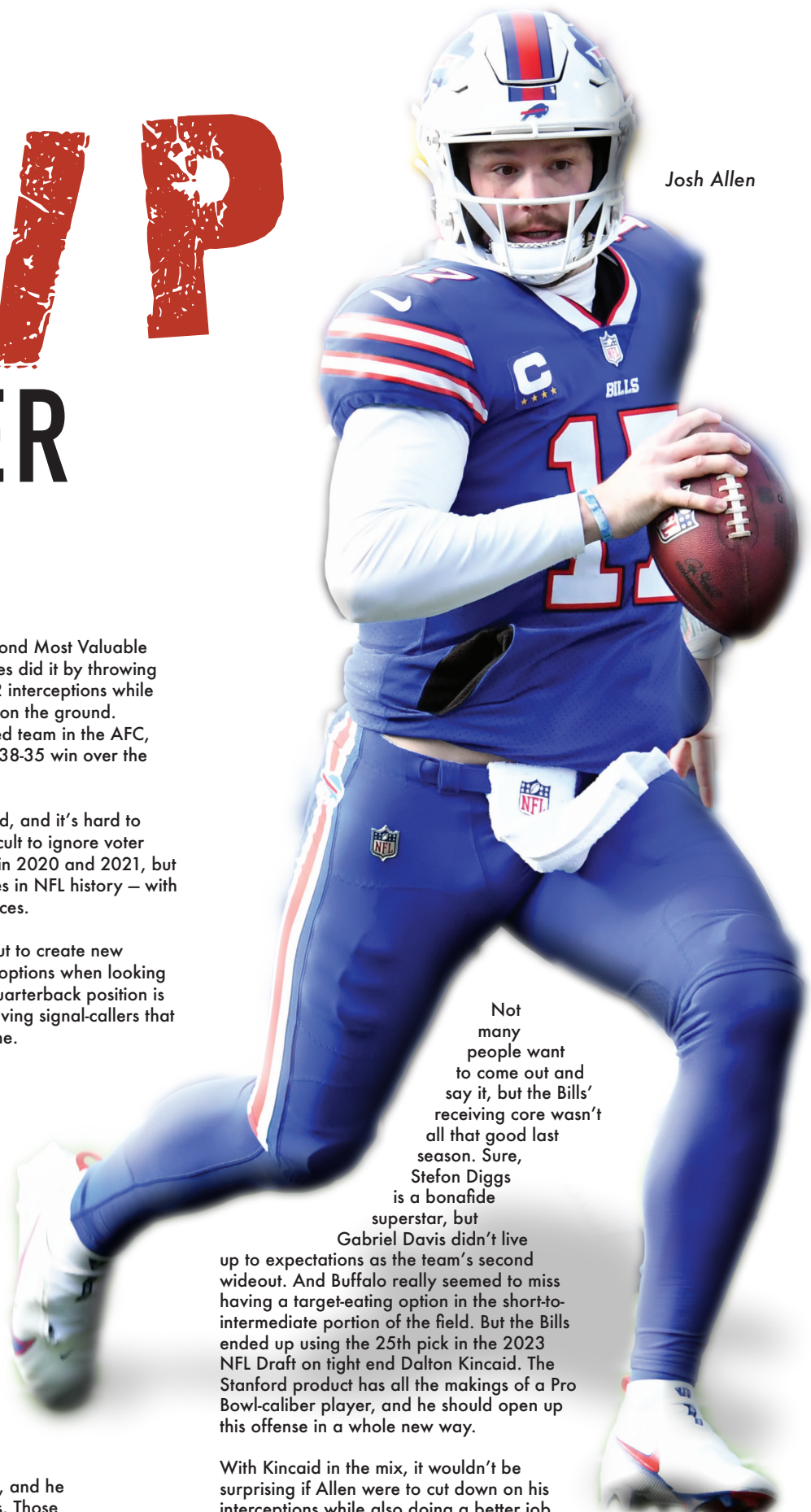
Voters generally want to try and spread things out to create new narratives, and it's not like there's a shortage of options when looking for players that can win. The talent pool at the quarterback position is incredibly rich these days, with multiple teams having signal-callers that are capable of taking home an award like this one.

WHO IS THE BEST OF THE BUNCH WHEN IT COMES TO THE CHALKIER OPTIONS?

Mahomes is listed at +700 to win MVP next season, with Joe Burrow (+750), Josh Allen (+800) and Jalen Hurts (+800) sitting right behind him. We already made a small case for why Mahomes isn't the right pick here, but are any of them worth a play? We can get behind a bet on Allen.

Last year, Allen was the preseason favorite to win MVP. The 27-year-old ultimately failed to get the job done, but he still turned in an MVP-worthy season. Allen threw for 4,283 yards with 35 touchdowns and 14 picks last year, and he also rushed for 762 yards with seven touchdowns. Those numbers were good for third place in MVP voting, and there are reasons to believe that Allen will play a lot better in 2023-24.

Josh Allen



Not many people want to come out and say it, but the Bills' receiving core wasn't all that good last season. Sure, Stefon Diggs is a bonafide superstar, but Gabriel Davis didn't live up to expectations as the team's second wideout. And Buffalo really seemed to miss having a target-eating option in the short-to-intermediate portion of the field. But the Bills ended up using the 25th pick in the 2023 NFL Draft on tight end Dalton Kincaid. The Stanford product has all the makings of a Pro Bowl-caliber player, and he should open up this offense in a whole new way.

With Kincaid in the mix, it wouldn't be surprising if Allen were to cut down on his interceptions while also doing a better job of increasing his passing efficiency. And when you combine that with his ability to run the football, it's hard not to love him as an MVP bet.

IS AARON RODGERS WORTH BETTING IN HIS FIRST SEASON WITH THE JETS?

After 18 seasons with the Green Bay Packers, Rodgers was traded to New York in the offseason. He'll enter the year with a lot of eyeballs looking in his direction, and that's a good thing as long as he can perform at a high level.

Rodgers threw for 3,695 yards with 26 touchdowns and 12 interceptions last season, and he did so with a miserable supporting cast. Rodgers' top wideouts were Allen Lazard and rookie Christian Watson, who entered the league with concerns over how soon he'd be able to produce. Now, he'll be throwing to a legitimate star in Garrett Wilson, and Lazard comes over as the team's second-best wideout. The Jets also have guys like Corey Davis, Mecole Hardman Jr., Denzel Mims and Randall Cobb in the mix. So, there's depth at the wide receiver position, and Rodgers should be able to take advantage of that. New York also has talent in the backfield, which will only make things easier on the passing game.

Rodgers has a lot of familiarity with the system New York is putting in place, as Nathaniel Hackett was essentially handpicked to be the future Hall of Famer's offensive coordinator. The two loved working with one another in Green Bay, and Hackett is going to build everything around Rodgers' strengths. That means there won't be much of a learning curve here. Rodgers should be ready to rock from day one.

If New York wins 10 or 11 games and ends up in the playoff picture, how can Rodgers not be the pick to win this thing? Everybody loves a good story, and this would definitely qualify as one. So, while there are reasons to doubt Rodgers' ability to turn in an MVP-worthy season at this point in his career, just remember that narratives drive voting. And if Rodgers is in the conversation, his name might carry enough weight to push him to a win. At +1400 odds, you might want to bank on that.

IS TREVOR LAWRENCE READY TO MAKE A PUSH?

Last season, we debated whether Justin Herbert was ready to join the league's elite and contend for MVP. This year, Lawrence is the young gun that seems poised to make the leap. The 23-year-old threw for 4,113 yards with 25 touchdowns and only eight picks last season, and he also performed at a high level in the postseason.

Jacksonville now gets Calvin Ridley back from a season-long suspension for sports gambling. In Ridley, Christian Kirk, Zay Jones and Evan Engram, Lawrence has one of the better groups of pass catchers in football. The former Clemson star should benefit from Ridley's presence immediately.

Lawrence will also simply be better with this being his second year in Doug Pederson's offense. Lawrence dealt with all kinds of nonsense in his rookie season, with Urban Meyer being one of the most disastrous one-year coaches in NFL history. Lawrence needed stability, and Pederson brought that, getting the absolute best out of the young signal-caller.

In Lawrence's second year under center, the Jaguars became a playoff team and the quarterback became a Pro Bowler. But Lawrence will be expected to take another sizable step forward in his third pro season, and it's not out of the realm of possibility that he joins the MVP conversation.

At +1400 odds, you can do a lot worse than taking a flier on this play. Lawrence also has the luxury of playing one of the easiest schedules in football. He should easily lead the Jaguars to the top of the AFC South standings, and anything more than that is just gravy.

ARE THERE ANY DARKHORSE PICKS WORTHY OF CONSIDERATION?

Two darts that might be worth throwing are Geno Smith (+3500) and Russell Wilson (+3500).

Smith is coming off a year in which he unexpectedly threw for 4,282 yards with 30 touchdowns and only 11 interceptions. And while a lot of

people expected Seattle to draft his successor in the 2023 NFL Draft, the team went defense with its first selection. Then, the Seahawks got Ohio State Buckeyes wide receiver Jaxon Smith-Njigba later in the draft.

Smith now has one of the most explosive groups of receivers in the league, with Smith-Njigba joining the highly productive duo of DK Metcalf and Tyler Lockett. This offense should be a lot tougher to defend next season, and Smith should be a lot sharper in his second full year as a starter. He also should be rather confident after having signed a three-year, \$105 million deal after the season. Smith is no longer looking over his shoulder. This is his show, and the Seahawks have a lot of faith in him.

Perhaps Smith's ceiling is making the Pro Bowl, as he did in the 2022 season. But at these long odds, it might be worth putting a quarter-unit on this and hoping for a bit more. It's hard to ignore just how bad the NFC might be next season, so a better-than-expected year for Seattle just might put Smith in the mix.

As for Wilson, it's hard to put into words how big of a failure last season was. "Mr. Unlimited" proved to be nothing but limited in his first year with the Broncos, but let's not overlook the fact that Hackett looked completely overwhelmed in his first year as the team's head coach. And Wilson also showed up to Denver in pretty lousy shape.

Wilson now has one of the game's brightest offensive minds calling plays for him, as the Broncos brought in Sean Payton during the offseason. Payton has had success with short, immobile quarterbacks before, so even if Wilson never regains his athleticism, there's still hope he can be effective in this offense. But Wilson has also done a lot of work on his body since the season ended, which should help him regain some of his ability to extend plays.

The Broncos have a ton of talent at the wide receiver position, so it isn't crazy to think that this can become an explosive offense again. The question is whether Denver has a shot at becoming a playoff team in a stacked division — and conference. The team will need to do so in order for Wilson to have a chance of winning. But if he does look like the Wilson of old, Denver should be a much better team. With that said, it isn't the worst idea in the world to bet on this. Payton wouldn't have taken the Broncos job if he didn't believe Wilson could be fixed.

SHOULD ANY NON-QUARTERBACKS BE CONSIDERED?

The short answer is no, not really. The last time a quarterback didn't win MVP was in 2012 when Adrian Peterson — who somehow still isn't officially retired — rushed for 2,097 yards and 12 touchdowns for the Minnesota Vikings. Since then, there have been some special seasons out of plenty of running backs and wide receivers, but that gears more towards the Offensive Player of the Year award.

If Cooper Kupp didn't bring home the MVP after catching 145 passes for 1,947 yards and 16 touchdowns in 2021, it genuinely feels impossible for a skill position player to win this again. However, if there's anybody worth betting, it's Christian McCaffrey at +8000.

In no way is this us touting McCaffrey as a good pick to win the award. But if you are absolutely desperate for a non-quarterback play, this is it. The San Francisco 49ers still have a strong offensive line, and Kyle Shanahan will find all sorts of ways to get McCaffrey touches. The 49ers also have a lot of question marks at the quarterback position, which puts a lot on the shoulders of the two-time Pro Bowl running back.

Last year, in 17 games split between the Carolina Panthers and 49ers, McCaffrey ended up rushing for 1,139 yards with eight touchdowns. He also finished the season with 85 receptions for 741 yards and five scores. McCaffrey was unstoppable once he arrived in the Bay Area, too. So, with a full season of playing in this offense, he could put up astronomical numbers. And he'd deserve a lot of the credit if San Francisco were to be one of the NFC's elite teams again.

STEVE MAKINEN'S POWER RATINGS

TEAM	POWER RATING
KANSAS CITY	30.5
PHILADELPHIA	30.0
BUFFALO	29.0
CINCINNATI	29.0
SAN FRANCISCO	28.5
DALLAS	28.0
JACKSONVILLE	27.0
BALTIMORE	26.5
NY JETS	26.5
MIAMI	25.5
DETROIT	25.0
LA CHARGERS	25.0
CLEVELAND	23.5
DENVER	23.5
MINNESOTA	23.5
NY GIANTS	23.5
PITTSBURGH	23.5
SEATTLE	23.5
NEW ENGLAND	23.0
NEW ORLEANS	23.0
GREEN BAY	22.5
ATLANTA	22.0
CHICAGO	22.0
LAS VEGAS	22.0
CAROLINA	21.5
LA RAMS	21.5
TENNESSEE	21.5
INDIANAPOLIS	20.5
WASHINGTON	20.5
TAMPA BAY	20.0
HOUSTON	19.0
ARIZONA	17.5



INDIANAPOLIS COLTS

HEAD COACH: SHANE STEICHEN (1ST)
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: JIM BOB COOTER
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: GUS BRADLEY

BY WES REYNOLDS

Colts owner Jim Irsay and general manager Chris Ballard truly believed that they were just a few players away from being a serious contender in the AFC, but they quickly realized that perception was way off as head coach Frank Reich was dismissed mid-season and Matt Ryan showed that he just did not have it anymore. Enter Shane Steichen and No. 4 overall pick and rookie quarterback Anthony Richardson.

OFFENSE

Steichen brings Gardner Minshew with him from Philadelphia, and he will likely be the early starter. The potential and athleticism of Richardson are massive, but this is a young player who only completed 54.7% of his passes at Florida, so accuracy is a major concern.

Jonathan Taylor led the NFL in rushing yards and touchdowns in 2021, but he only posted 861 yards and four touchdowns in 11 games due to an ankle injury and an anemic offense. Michael Pittman Jr (99/925/4) is a good receiver but not good enough to be a true No. 1 that can beat double coverages.

Perhaps no group is more responsible for the Colts' recent decline than the offensive line, which was the highest-paid OL unit in the league for 2022. This unit allowed 60 sacks last season, the second-most in the NFL. Center Ryan Kelly is a former Pro Bowler and got pushed around way too often. Bernhard Raimann got baptized by fire at left tackle. Even three-time first-team All-Pro Quenton Nelson declined last season, partially due to injuries.

DEFENSE

Gus Bradley was retained as defensive coordinator as this group was at least solid despite constantly being on the field due to the anemic offense which was largely responsible for the defense ranking 28th in points allowed (25.1 ppg). The defensive line is the best unit on the squad as DeForest Buckner and Grover Stewart are one of the best defensive tackle tandems in the league. Kwity Paye has ten sacks in 27 games over two seasons but must make the leap to reach his full potential.

Nevertheless, the biggest question on this defense is the health of Shaquille Leonard. He made only one start in 2022 due to a lingering nerve issue in his back. "The Maniac" insists he is healthy, and the three-time first-team All-Pro is the man that makes this defense go considering he tallied 538 tackles, 15 sacks, 11 interceptions, and 17 forced fumbles in his first four years before last year's injury-plagued season.

The young secondary has the most question marks on this defense with Stephon Gilmore gone and his replacement Isaiah Rodgers facing a likely suspension for being discovered to have bet on NFL games. Kenny Moore, now in a contract year, was a Pro-Bowler in 2021 as the slot corner but declined last year partially due to an ankle injury.

OUTLOOK

This organization has one playoff win in eight years and has not won the AFC South since 2014. The natives are getting restless for Ballard to put a winner on the field. Steichen worked wonders with Jalen Hurts in Philadelphia, and perhaps he can eventually do the same with Richardson. Minshew is only 8-16 as a starter, but he has the experience to keep the Colts in games early in the season. The schedule is manageable with just five playoff teams from last season on it; however, there are still a lot of questions looming with this team. 6.5 season wins looks to be the right number.

SEASON WIN TOTAL PLAY
OVER 6.5

STEVE MAKINEN'S
POWER RATING 20.5 (#28 OF 32)

2023 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	Est. Line	SERIES TRENDS
9/10	JACKSONVILLE	+4.4	HOME TEAMS are on 8-2-1 ATS run in JAC-IND h2h rivalry
9/17	at Houston	-0.4	UNDER the total is 7-0 in IND-HOU series at Houston since '17
9/24	at Baltimore	+8.8	INDIANAPOLIS is 7-1 in L8 at Baltimore
10/1	LA RAMS	-1.2	The L6 LAR-IND h2h meetings went OVER the total
10/8	TENNESSEE	-0.3	TENNESSEE has won L5 ATS at Indianapolis
10/15	at Jacksonville	+7.3	JACKSONVILLE has won L7 ATS hosting Indianapolis
10/22	CLEVELAND	+0.4	HOME TEAMS have won L4 ATS in CLE-IND h2h series
10/29	NEW ORLEANS	+0.6	NEW ORLEANS has won L4 ATS vs. Indianapolis
11/5	at Carolina	+2.6	ROAD TEAMS are on 5-1 ATS run in IND-CAR series but lost LT
11/12	vs. New England	+2.7	NEW ENGLAND has won L5 ATS hosting Indianapolis
BYE WEEK			
11/26	TAMPA BAY	-2.5	OVER the total is 6-1 in L7 of TB-IND h2h series
12/3	at Tennessee	+2.9	FAVORITES are 5-1 ATS in L6 of IND-TEN series at Tennessee
12/10	at Cincinnati	+10.7	UNDERDOGS have won L3 ATS in IND-CIN h2h series
12/17	PITTSBURGH	+0.4	PITTSBURGH is on 6-1 ATS run vs. Indianapolis
12/24	at Atlanta	+3.4	INDIANAPOLIS is 6-1 ATS in L7 vs. Atlanta
12/31	LAS VEGAS	-0.9	ROAD TEAMS are on 7-1 ATS run in Colts-Raiders series
1/7	HOUSTON	-3.4	FAVORITES are 5-1 in L6 of HOU-IND series in Indianapolis but lost LY

SCHEDULE
STRENGTH **22.59**
(#30 toughest of 32)

FIELD
RATINGS **2 / 0**
(HOME/ROAD)

2023 ODDS



2022 STATS AND RANKS

	OFFENSE		DEFENSE	
	STAT	RANK	STAT	RANK
Points Per Game	17	30	25.1	28
Yards Per Point	18.3	30	13.3	31
Plays Per Game	64.9	11		
Time of Possession	29:47	14		
3rd Down Conv. %	32.9%	29	38.0%	10
Total Yards Per Game	311.6	27	334	15
Yards Per Play	4.8	30	5.2	12
Rush Attempts Per Game	25.8	19		
Rush Yards Per Game	109.8	23	124.1	21
Yards Per Rush Attempt	4.3	23	4.1	5
Pass Attempts Per Game	35.5	9		
Completion %	65.9%	12	68.0%	31
Passing Yards Per Game	201.9	23	209.9	11
Yards Per Pass Attempt	6.4	29	6.6	18
Turnovers	2	32	1.2	19

INDIANAPOLIS IS 1-14 ATS (LAST 15 GAMES) - IN THE FIRST GAME OF THE SEASON



HOUSTON TEXANS

HEAD COACH: DEMECO RYANS (1ST)
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: BOBBY SLOWIK
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: MATT BURKE

BY WES REYNOLDS

Despite winning its final game of 2022 which cost them the No. 1 overall pick, Houston still procured a potential franchise quarterback in C.J. Stroud with the No. 2 overall pick. With Davis Mills in the final year of his contract, Stroud likely sees the field sooner rather than later. DeMeco Ryans brings Bobby Slowik from San Francisco to be his offensive coordinator. Slowik started his NFL coaching career under Mike Shanahan in Washington and served under his son Kyle with the 49ers. More than likely, Slowik will be more run-heavy early on, like his mentors, with a young quarterback and as a first-time play-caller.

OFFENSE

Dameon Pierce had a solid rookie season (939 rushing yards) before an ankle injury ended his season in Week 13. Last year's leading receiver Brandin Cooks was traded to Dallas, so Robert Woods comes in from Tennessee. Nevertheless, the biggest addition to the receiving corps is tight end Dalton Schultz who caught eight touchdowns (including three in the postseason) for Dallas last year.

Left tackle Laremy Tunsil was the No. 1 pass-blocking tackle per PFF last season and is now the highest-paid (3-year, \$75M extension) OL in the league. He and right tackle Tytus Howard are one of the better tackle combos in the NFL. Houston also upgraded at right guard with a trade for Shaq Mason from Tampa Bay. Left guard Kenyon Green struggled mightily as a rookie last year and is coming off knee surgery.

DEFENSE

Ryans' defense in San Francisco was tops in the NFL last year. He and new defensive coordinator Matt Burke believe in an attacking defensive line that gets to the quarterback. The Texans lacked a force on the edge which is why they traded up in the first round to draft Anderson No. 3 overall. Getting more pressure on opposing quarterbacks is all well and good, but the 2022 Texans surrendered the most rushing yards (170.2 ypg) in the NFL last season. The unit will need Sheldon Rankins (UFA-Jets) to make an immediate impact up front paired with Maliek Collins.

The secondary is arguably the best unit on the team led by second-year man and former first-rounder Derek Stingley Jr, who showed flashes but only played nine games due to a hamstring injury. At the other corner, Steven Nelson had a career season last year. Free safety Jalen Pitre led the team in tackles and picked off five passes as a rookie second-round pick. Ryans brought a reinforcement with him from San Francisco as Jimmie Ward takes over the other safety position.

OUTLOOK

The Texans have not exceeded four wins in any of their last three seasons. This is a long rebuild which is why DeMeco Ryans was given a six-year deal. The team should be better this year but will still have a rookie starting quarterback without a true downfield threat in the passing game and a first-time offensive play-caller. The strength of schedule is about mid-pack, and Houston has five of its last eight games at home. More than likely, they will give an honest effort in all 17 games and pick up a couple of late wins due to effort, but there will be growing pains, especially on offense.

SEASON WIN TOTAL PLAY
UNDER 6.5

STEVE MAKINEN'S
POWER RATING 19.0 (#31 OF 32)

2023 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	Est. Line	SERIES TRENDS
9/10	at Baltimore	+10.6	All six prior HOU-BAL matchups in Baltimore went UNDER the total
9/17	INDIANAPOLIS	+0.4	UNDER the total is 7-0 in IND-HOU series at Houston since '17
9/24	at Jacksonville	+9.1	HOUSTON is on 8-3 ATS run at Jacksonville
10/1	PITTSBURGH	+2.4	FAVORITES have swept L6 games in PIT-HOU h2h series ATS
10/8	at Atlanta	+5.2	HOME TEAMS have swept all five prior HOU-ATL matchups ATS
10/15	NEW ORLEANS	+2.6	HOME TEAMS are 4-1 ATS in prior NO-HOU matchups but lost LT
BYE WEEK			
10/29	at Carolina	+4.4	CAROLINA has won L4 ATS vs. Houston
11/5	TAMPA BAY	-0.5	HOME TEAMS are 4-1 ATS in L5 of TB-HOU h2h series
11/12	at Cincinnati	+12.5	HOUSTON is on 5-0 ATS run at Cincinnati
11/19	ARIZONA	-3.1	HOME TEAMS are 4-1 ATS in L5 of ARI-HOU h2h set
11/26	JACKSONVILLE	+6.4	UNDER the total is 5-1 in L6 of JAC-HOU rivalry in Houston
12/3	DENVER	+2.3	ROAD TEAMS are on 5-1 ATS run in DEN-HOU h2h series
12/10	at NY Jets	+9.4	UNDERDOGS are on 5-0-1 ATS run in HOU-NYJ h2h series
12/17	at Tennessee	+4.7	UNDER the total is 6-1 in L7 of HOU-TEN series at Tennessee
12/24	CLEVELAND	+2.4	HOUSTON is on 9-2 SU & ATS run vs. Cleveland
12/31	TENNESSEE	+1.7	HOUSTON is on 10-3 ATS run hosting Tennessee since 2010
1/7	at Indianapolis	+3.4	FAVORITES are 5-1 in L6 of HOU-IND series in Indianapolis but lost LY

SCHEDULE
STRENGTH **23.35**
(#25 toughest of 32)

FIELD
RATINGS **1.5 / -0.3**
(HOME/ROAD)

2023 ODDS



2022 STATS AND RANKS

	OFFENSE		DEFENSE	
	STAT	RANK	STAT	RANK
Points Per Game	17	30	24.7	27
Yards Per Point	16.7	24	15.4	19
Plays Per Game	59.7	24		
Time of Possession	28:38	31		
3rd Down Conv. %	30.3%	31	38.9%	15
Total Yards Per Game	283.5	31	379.5	30
Yards Per Play	4.7	32	5.7	26
Rush Attempts Per Game	23.4	30		
Rush Yards Per Game	86.8	31	170.2	32
Yards Per Rush Attempt	3.7	31	5.1	29
Pass Attempts Per Game	34.1	14		
Completion %	60.8%	28	64.4%	17
Passing Yards Per Game	196.7	25	209.3	10
Yards Per Pass Attempt	6.3	31	6.8	23
Turnovers	1.6	30	1.6	5

HOUSTON IS 8-1-1 ATS (LAST 10 GAMES) ON ROAD - BEFORE PLAYING JACKSONVILLE



TENNESSEE TITANS

HEAD COACH: MIKE VRABEL (6TH)
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: TIM KELLY
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: SHANE BOWEN

BY WES REYNOLDS

It looked like the Titans were going to "three-peat" as AFC South champions as they got off to a 7-3 start. Then, the injuries mounted, and they lost seven games in a row to close the season. They finished with the third-most Adjusted Games Lost (128.6), a Football Outsiders metric that quantifies games missed due to injury by starters and key situational players. Quarterback Ryan Tannehill missed five starts, including the final three games, due to ankle injuries. Tennessee had to start Joshua Dobbs, who was on the Lions' practice squad earlier in the season, on the road in Week 18 to decide the division title.

OFFENSE

The Titans ranked 28th in points (17.5 ppg) and 30th in passing yardage (171.4 ypg). Tannehill does have a little more competition as Will Levis (Kentucky) was drafted in the second round. Todd Downing was shown the door, and Tim Kelly was promoted to offensive coordinator which could ease a little workload for Derrick Henry.

2022 first-round pick Treyton Burks had a disappointing season with just 33 catches and 444 yards and one touchdown in 11 games. This should be a much better season for Burks, but the receiver position is still thin. However, second-year tight end Chig Okonkwo averaged 14.1 yards per catch as a rookie and is the most explosive player the Titans have had at the position in recent memory.

After allowing 49 sacks, the Titans rebooted the offensive line especially at tackle by signing Andre Dillard away from the Eagles and drafting Peter Skoronski (Northwestern) 11th overall.

DEFENSE

The injuries for Tennessee were especially brutal on defense as no team in the league had more Adjusted Games Lost on defense than the 85.6 for the Titans. Injuries were the main culprit for Tennessee allowing a league-worst 274.8 ypg through the air in 2022. The defensive line is one of the NFL's best. Jeffery Simmons signed a four-year, \$94 million extension in the offseason. He anchors a unit that led the league against the run (76.9 ypg).

Harold Landry III also returns after being lost for the season with a torn ACL just before last season began.

Perhaps no unit on this team should improve more than the secondary. Kevin Byard is still one of the best all-around safeties in the league, and Amani Hooker is one of the best safeties in coverage. Sean Murphy-Bunting did miss 13 games over the last two seasons in Tampa Bay but is still an above-average cover corner as he only allowed 4.3 yards per target last season.

OUTLOOK

The Titans certainly have flaws (receiver, still some OL questions, history of injuries in the secondary), but their demise has been exaggerated. Tennessee won nine or more games in each of the four seasons prior to 2022. Mike Vrabel is 20-19 straight up in games as an underdog. He is better when he is doubted a bit. This team is clearly undervalued in the market and due to finishing second in the division, the Titans get a break in the schedule with only six games of the 17 against playoff teams from 2022. At a current price of 4/1, they are a good bet to win the AFC South.

SEASON WIN TOTAL PLAY
OVER 7.5

STEVE MAKINEN'S
POWER RATING 21.5 (#25 OF 32)

2023 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	Est. Line	SERIES TRENDS
9/10	at New Orleans	+3.4	ROAD TEAMS have won L5 ATS in TEN-NO matchups
9/17	LA CHARGERS	+0.8	HOME TEAMS are on 5-0-1 ATS run in LAC-TEN h2h series
9/24	at Cleveland	+3.9	OVER the total is 10-2 in TEN-CLE h2h series since '01
10/1	CINCINNATI	+4.7	CINCINNATI is on 5-1 SU & 6-0 ATS run vs. Tennessee
10/8	at Indianapolis	+0.3	TENNESSEE has won L5 ATS at Indianapolis
10/15	vs. Baltimore	+5.1	UNDER the total is 10-4 in L14 of TEN-BAL h2h series
BYE WEEK			
10/29	ATLANTA	-2.2	The L4 games of ATL-TEN h2h series went UNDER the total
11/2	at Pittsburgh	+4.5	PITTSBURGH has won L3 ATS versus Tennessee
11/12	at Tampa Bay	+0.4	TENNESSEE is on 6-1-1 ATS run versus Tampa Bay
11/19	at Jacksonville	+6	TENNESSEE is 5-1 ATS in L6 at Jacksonville
11/26	CAROLINA	-3.1	All three prior CAR-TEN games in Tennessee went UNDER the total
12/3	INDIANAPOLIS	-2.9	FAVORITES are 5-1 ATS in L6 of IND-TEN series at Tennessee
12/11	at Miami	+6.4	HOME TEAMS have won L3 ATS in TEN-MIA h2h series
12/17	HOUSTON	-4.7	UNDER the total is 6-1 in L7 of HOU-TEN series at Tennessee
12/24	SEATTLE	-0.4	TENNESSEE is on 6-1 ATS run vs. Seattle
12/31	at Houston	-1.7	HOUSTON is on 10-3 ATS run hosting Tennessee since 2010
1/7	JACKSONVILLE	+3.1	OVER the total is 9-3 in L12 of JAC-TEN series in Tennessee

SCHEDULE
STRENGTH **22.89**
(#29 toughest of 32)

FIELD
RATINGS **2.3 / 0.3**
(HOME/ROAD)

2023 ODDS



2022 STATS AND RANKS

	OFFENSE		DEFENSE	
	STAT	RANK	STAT	RANK
Points Per Game	17.5	28	21.1	14
Yards Per Point	16.9	25	16.7	7
Plays Per Game	58.4	31		
Time of Possession	29:23	23		
3rd Down Conv. %	36.5%	23	34.2%	3
Total Yards Per Game	296.8	30	351.6	23
Yards Per Play	5.1	24	5.4	19
Rush Attempts Per Game	28.6	11		
Rush Yards Per Game	125.4	13	76.9	1
Yards Per Rush Attempt	4.4	16	3.4	1
Pass Attempts Per Game	26.8	30		
Completion %	62.5%	22	65.4%	19
Passing Yards Per Game	171.4	30	274.8	32
Yards Per Pass Attempt	7.1	13	7	25
Turnovers	1.4	17	1.2	20

TENNESSEE IS 12-3 ATS (LAST 15 GAMES) - IN OCTOBER



JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS

HEAD COACH: DOUG PEDERSON (2ND)
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: PRESS TAYLOR
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: MIKE CALDWELL

BY WES REYNOLDS

Doug Pederson pulled off the best one-year turnaround in NFL history last season in his first season as Jaguars head coach. Jacksonville started 3-7 and then won six of their last seven games to win the division.

OFFENSE

Quarterback Trevor Lawrence improved in his second year with a 25-8 TD-INT ratio versus a 12-17 ratio in his rookie season. Lawrence brings back his entire receiving corps (Christian Kirk, Zay Jones, Evan Engram, and Calvin Ridley) at over 3,200 combined yards and 20 touchdowns between them, and adds Calvin Ridley, who returns from his one-year gambling suspension, and second-round tight end Brenton Strange (Penn State).

Travis Etienne ran for 1,125 yards and five touchdowns last season, but Jacksonville did lack a power runner in short-yardage situations which is why they drafted Tank Bigsby (Auburn) in the third round. Etienne also must correct his fumble issues (five).

The offensive line is the biggest issue the Jaguars have if they are to repeat as AFC South Champions. No offensive lineman on the Jacksonville roster earned a PFF grade in the 50th percentile or better for their position last season.

DEFENSE

The defensive line is also a question mark. While the down linemen were solid against the run (12th in NFL), they only registered seven sacks between them. Either this group must get more pressure upfront on the passer or the Jaguars edge rushers must make a massive leap, and probably it needs to be a little bit of both considering the Jaguars ranked 27th in sack rate last season (5.5%).

Josh Allen, the 2019 seventh overall pick, only had six sacks last season and last year's No. 1 overall pick Travon Walker only registered 3.5. Walker was not the only disappointing first-round draft pick on Jacksonville's defense last season as linebacker Devin Lloyd often showed a lack of awareness and was benched for two games last season. On the inside of the 3-4 defense is some stability with Foyesade Oluokun leading the NFL in tackles (184) for the second consecutive season, but only 12 were for loss of yardage.

Jacksonville's lack of pass rush led the Jaguars to be 29th on third-down defense, 25th in red zone defense, and 30th in pass defense DVOA. However, the edge rushers were not the only culprits as the secondary struggled. Third-year cornerback Tyson Campbell is the team's only true difference-maker in pass coverage, and the Jaguars did not draft anyone for help in the secondary until the fifth round. This unit can only live off turnovers so much.

OUTLOOK

Jacksonville's offense should continue to put up points and yards with Lawrence's continued development and plenty of talent at the skill positions. However, the offensive line, edge rushers, and secondary do not look to have improved. The Jaguars now have the unfamiliar distinction of being the hunted. Teams will not sleep on this team that probably overachieved in 2022. Furthermore, they now must play a first-place division winner schedule which includes games with Kansas City, Cincinnati, Buffalo, and San Francisco. The Jaguars also had a lot of injury luck in 2022 finishing with just the second-fewest Adjusted Games Lost. The Jaguars are the rightful favorite but probably a tad overvalued at -150.

SEASON WIN TOTAL PLAY
UNDER 10

STEVE MAKINEN'S
POWER RATING 27.0 (#7 OF 32)

2023 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	Est. Line	SERIES TRENDS
9/10	at Indianapolis	-4.4	HOME TEAMS are on 8-2-1 ATS run in JAC-IND h2h rivalry
9/17	KANSAS CITY	+2.4	UNDER the total is 5-1 in L6 of KC-JAC h2h series
9/24	HOUSTON	-9.1	HOUSTON is on 8-3 ATS run at Jacksonville
10/1	vs. Atlanta	-4.5	ATLANTA is on 5-1 SU & 6-0 ATS run vs. Jacksonville
10/8	vs. Buffalo	+2.7	UNDERDOGS have won L5 ATS in JAC-BUF h2h series
10/15	INDIANAPOLIS	-7.3	JACKSONVILLE has won L7 ATS hosting Indianapolis
10/19	at New Orleans	-1.3	NEW ORLEANS has won L5 ATS vs. Jacksonville
10/29	at Pittsburgh	-0.2	ROAD TEAMS are on 6-0-1 ATS surge in JAC-PIT h2h series
BYE WEEK			
11/12	SAN FRANCISCO	+0.3	SAN FRANCISCO has won L5 ATS versus Jacksonville
11/19	TENNESSEE	-6	TENNESSEE is 5-1 ATS in L6 at Jacksonville
11/26	at Houston	-6.4	UNDER the total is 5-1 in L6 of JAC-HOU rivalry in Houston
12/4	CINCINNATI	+0.3	UNDER the total is 6-3 in L9 of CIN-JAC series at Jacksonville
12/10	at Cleveland	-0.8	JACKSONVILLE has won L4 ATS versus Cleveland
12/17	BALTIMORE	-1.7	JACKSONVILLE is on 6-1 ATS run vs. Baltimore
12/24	at Tampa Bay	-4.3	FAVORITES have won L5 ATS in JAC-TB series after five L's
12/31	CAROLINA	-7.5	FAVORITES have won L4 ATS in CAR-JAC h2h series
1/7	at Tennessee	-3.1	OVER the total is 9-3 in L12 of JAC-TEN series in Tennessee

SCHEDULE
STRENGTH **24.01**
(#18 toughest of 32)

FIELD
RATINGS **1.2 / -0.5**
(HOME/ROAD)

2023 ODDS



2022 STATS AND RANKS

	OFFENSE		DEFENSE	
	STAT	RANK	STAT	RANK
Points Per Game	23.8	10	20.6	12
Yards Per Point	15	13	17.2	4
Plays Per Game	63.1	18		
Time of Possession	29:43	16		
3rd Down Conv. %	41.9%	9	43.2%	29
Total Yards Per Game	357.4	10	353.3	24
Yards Per Play	5.7	9	5.4	18
Rush Attempts Per Game	26.4	17		
Rush Yards Per Game	124.5	14	114.8	12
Yards Per Rush Attempt	4.7	9	4.2	7
Pass Attempts Per Game	35.1	10		
Completion %	66.1%	9	64.1%	16
Passing Yards Per Game	232.9	10	238.5	28
Yards Per Pass Attempt	7	18	6.7	22
Turnovers	1.3	14	1.6	5

JACKSONVILLE IS 12-2-1 ATS (LAST 15 GAMES) - VS. INDIANAPOLIS



ATLANTA FALCONS

HEAD COACH: ARTHUR SMITH (3RD)
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: DAVE RAGONE
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: RYAN NIELSEN

BY WES REYNOLDS OFFENSE

Atlanta is going to run the ball and run it frequently. The Falcons ranked third last season in rushing offense (2,718 yards). Smith ran the ball regularly in Tennessee with Derrick Henry and is doing the same with one of the better stables of backs in the league. Tyler Allgeier ran for over 1,000 yards as a rookie. Cordarrelle Patterson ran for 695 and eight touchdowns, and they added Bijan Robinson (Texas) with the eighth overall pick.

That's good news for quarterback Desmond Ridder, who will make just his fifth start in the season opener. Ridder's spark at the end of the season should be good news for the pass catchers - Kyle Pitts and Drake London - that Atlanta drafted in the first round in 2021 and 2022. Smith also traded for Jonnu Smith, who was a staple in his offense during his time as Tennessee's offensive coordinator and will allow them to line up Pitts on the outside.

The offensive line also returns four starters and will be a force running the ball especially on the right side with former first-round picks guard Chris Lindstrom and tackle Kaleb McGary, who both ranked Top 5 at their positions per PFF. Jake Matthews is also solid at left tackle.

DEFENSE

While the offense was the best in the division last year, the defense was 30th in DVOA. The Falcons needed to get better up front and give Grady Jarrett some support, and they appeared to have done that with the additions of Calais Campbell, David Onyemata, Kaden Elliss, and Bud Dupree.

The Falcons allowed 231.9 passing ypg (25th in NFL), 7.29 yards per pass (29th), and 45.9% on third downs (31st). Enter Jessie Bates III from Cincinnati, who signed a massive deal and can line up anywhere. He allows Richie Grant, who is very good against the run, to line up closer to the line of scrimmage. A.J. Terrell is one of the better cover corners in the league. Atlanta also traded for former first-round corner Jeff Okudah, who started 15 games last year after only starting seven in his first two injury-plagued seasons. This secondary at least looks better on paper.

OUTLOOK

The Falcons have not made the playoffs in five seasons. Smith and general manager Terry Fontenot have worked diligently to get this team out of salary cap hell. The offense was the best in the division last year and should be better this year. They were also fifth in special teams DVOA, and the defense should be better. Atlanta ended up losing the second- and third-place divisional tiebreakers last season, which affords them the benefit of playing a last-place schedule this season. That means they'll be the only team in the division to face Arizona and the only team in the division to face Washington. Those matchups are worth a not insignificant amount of extra win probability compared to the slates to be faced by the Bucs (Philadelphia-San Francisco), Panthers (Dallas-Seattle) and Saints (Giants-Rams). There is also some value on the division price at around +250 to +275.

SEASON WIN TOTAL PLAY
OVER 8.5

STEVE MAKINEN'S
POWER RATING 22.0 (#22 OF 32)

2023 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	Est. Line	SERIES TRENDS
9/10	CAROLINA	-2	UNDERDOGS are on 6-0 ATS streak in CAR-ATL rivalry
9/17	GREEN BAY	-1.1	HOME FAVORITES are on 4-0 SU & ATS run in GB-ATL series
9/24	at Detroit	+5	UNDER the total is 10-3 in ATL-DET h2h series since '98
10/1	vs. Jacksonville	+4.5	ATLANTA is on 5-1 SU & 6-0 ATS run vs. Jacksonville
10/8	HOUSTON	-5.2	HOME TEAMS have swept all five prior HOU-ATL matchups ATS
10/15	WASHINGTON	-3.6	WASHINGTON has won L3 ATS at Atlanta
10/22	at Tampa Bay	-0.6	OVER the total is 11-3 in L14 of ATL-TB h2h series
10/29	at Tennessee	+2.2	The L4 games of ATL-TEN h2h series went UNDER the total
11/5	MINNESOTA	-0.3	UNDER the total is 6-1 in L7 of MIN-ATL series in Atlanta
11/12	at Arizona	-2.8	ARIZONA has won L3 ATS hosting Atlanta
	BYE WEEK		
11/26	NEW ORLEANS	+0.4	NEW ORLEANS is on 5-0 SU & 4-1 ATS run at Atlanta
12/3	at NY Jets	+6.1	The L3 games of ATL-NYJ series went OVER the total
12/10	TAMPA BAY	-2.7	OVER the total is 6-1 in L7 of TB-ATL series at Atlanta
12/17	at Carolina	+0.3	UNDERDOGS are on 4-0 ATS run in ATL-CAR series in Carolina
12/24	INDIANAPOLIS	-3.4	INDIANAPOLIS is 6-1 ATS in L7 vs. Atlanta
12/31	at Chicago	+2.1	CHICAGO is 4-0-1 ATS in L5 hosting Atlanta
1/7	at New Orleans	+2.4	UNDER the total is 8-2 in L10 of ATL-NO series at New Orleans

SCHEDULE
STRENGTH **22.08**
(#31 toughest of 32)

FIELD
RATINGS **1.5 / 0**
(HOME/ROAD)

2023 ODDS



2022 STATS AND RANKS

	OFFENSE		DEFENSE	
	STAT	RANK	STAT	RANK
Points Per Game	21.5	15	22.7	23
Yards Per Point	14.8	11	15.9	11
Plays Per Game	59.5	26		
Time of Possession	29:39	19		
3rd Down Conv. %	41.8%	10	45.9%	31
Total Yards Per Game	318.6	24	362.1	27
Yards Per Play	5.4	16	5.7	25
Rush Attempts Per Game	32.9	1		
Rush Yards Per Game	159.9	3	130.2	23
Yards Per Rush Attempt	4.9	4	4.4	18
Pass Attempts Per Game	24.4	31		
Completion %	61.9%	25	66.3%	25
Passing Yards Per Game	158.8	31	231.9	25
Yards Per Pass Attempt	7.1	15	7	29
Turnovers	1.2	8	1	27

ATLANTA IS 12-3 ATS (LAST 15 GAMES) - AS AN UNDERDOG OF 10 OR MORE POINTS



TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

HEAD COACH: TODD BOWLES (2ND)

OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: DAVE CANALES

DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: KACY RODGERS/LARRY FOOTE

BY WES REYNOLDS OFFENSE

Due to the salary cap constraints that helped them get a Lombardi Trophy three years ago, Tampa Bay had to go the economical route in replacing Tom Brady. Baker Mayfield signed a one-year deal to compete with 2021 second-rounder Kyle Trask for the starting quarterback gig. The offensive staff was overhauled by Todd Bowles. Byron Leftwich was fired as offensive coordinator and Dave Canales comes in from Seattle after serving 13 seasons under Pete Carroll, most recently as QB coach/passing game coordinator.

Mike Evans and Chris Godwin are still one of the league's best receiving duos and tight end Cade Otton could have a breakout campaign. Rachaad White split carries with Leonard Fournette last season but is now the primary feature back for a unit that was the worst in the NFL with 3.4 ypc.

Up front, Tristan Wirfs shifts from right to left tackle to replace Donovan Smith. Ryan Jensen returns as the anchor at center. 2022 second-rounder Luke Goedeke likely takes over at right tackle. However, the two other spots on the OL are up for grabs.

DEFENSE

Although the Bucs have many salary cap issues, they were able to re-sign linebacker Lavonte David and corner Jamel Dean. Shaq Barrett also returns after missing half of last season with a torn Achilles. The defense should still be solid although it is aging.

Vita Vea (6.5 sacks last year) will have to shoulder more of the load up front for a run defense that has slipped from the elite units over the past few years. Calijah Kancey (Pitt) was drafted in the first round this spring to help out Vea. Greg Gaines was signed from the Rams and will be moved from tackle to end in the 3-4 scheme. Logan Hall disappointed last year as a rookie but did bulk up in the offseason.

Devin White is David's running mate at inside backer. More is expected out of 2021 first-rounder Joe Tryon-Shoyinka from a pass rush standpoint.

Carlton Davis, along with Dean, are both high-priced corners, so more takeaways are expected. Antoine Winfield Jr returns to his safety role along with Ryan Neal, who was signed from Seattle.

OUTLOOK

After three consecutive playoff appearances, back-to-back NFC South titles, and a Lombardi Trophy, the Buccaneers are heading into the great unknown as Brady's second retirement seems final. There are remnants of the Super Bowl-winning squad from three years ago, but this team is at a crossroads between retooling and rebuilding. Bowles is clearly on the hot seat, although he was not able to select his own staff having taken over for Bruce Arians with Arians' coaching staff. While Brady's production declined, the team will miss his leadership and will have to rely on either a third-year backup or Baker Mayfield, who is on his fourth team in six years. Tampa also draws a first-place schedule having to face other division winners like Philadelphia, Buffalo, San Francisco, which will be difficult for a team in transition. A bad start could lead to a lot of these veterans thinking about their next move.

SEASON WIN TOTAL PLAY
UNDER 6.5

STEVE MAKINEN'S
POWER RATING 20.0 (#30 OF 32)

2023 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	Est. Line	SERIES TRENDS
9/10	at Minnesota	+5.6	TAMPA BAY is 7-2 ATS vs. Minnesota since '01
9/17	CHICAGO	-0.4	TAMPA BAY is 8-4 ATS hosting Chicago since '96
9/25	PHILADELPHIA	+7.7	HOME TEAMS have won L3 ATS in PHI-TB h2h series
10/1	at New Orleans	+4	ROAD TEAMS are on 5-1 ATS run in TB-NO h2h series
BYE WEEK			
10/15	DETROIT	+2.7	ROAD TEAMS are 7-1 ATS in L8 of DET-TB h2h series
10/22	ATLANTA	+0.6	OVER the total is 11-3 in L14 of ATL-TB h2h series
10/26	at Buffalo	+11.6	HOME FAVORITES are 6-0 SU & 5-0-1 ATS in TB-BUF series since '00
11/5	at Houston	+0.5	HOME TEAMS are 4-1 ATS in L5 of TB-HOU h2h series
11/12	TENNESSEE	-0.4	TENNESSEE is on 6-1-1 ATS run versus Tampa Bay
11/19	at San Francisco	+10.6	SAN FRANCISCO is 6-2 ATS in L8 hosting Tampa Bay
11/26	at Indianapolis	+2.5	OVER the total is 6-1 in L7 of TB-IND h2h series
12/3	CAROLINA	-0.3	TAMPA BAY has won L4 SU & ATS hosting Carolina
12/10	at Atlanta	+2.7	OVER the total is 6-1 in L7 of TB-ATL series at Atlanta
12/17	at Green Bay	+5	TAMPA BAY is 6-3-2 ATS in L11 visits to Green Bay
12/24	JACKSONVILLE	+4.3	FAVORITES have won L5 ATS in JAC-TB series after five L's
12/31	NEW ORLEANS	+2.1	NEW ORLEANS has won L5 ATS at Tampa Bay
1/7	at Carolina	+1.9	UNDER the total is 7-3 in L10 of TB-CAR rivalry in Carolina

SCHEDULE
STRENGTH **23.57**
(#21 toughest of 32)

FIELD
RATINGS **1.8 / 0.4**
(HOME/ROAD)

2023 ODDS



2022 STATS AND RANKS

	OFFENSE		DEFENSE	
	STAT	RANK	STAT	RANK
Points Per Game	18.4	25	21.1	13
Yards Per Point	18.8	31	15.4	18
Plays Per Game	68.2	1		
Time of Possession	29:06	27		
3rd Down Conv. %	37.4%	21	36.9%	6
Total Yards Per Game	346.7	15	324.3	9
Yards Per Play	5.1	25	5.1	10
Rush Attempts Per Game	22.7	32		
Rush Yards Per Game	76.9	32	120.7	15
Yards Per Rush Attempt	3.4	32	4.5	19
Pass Attempts Per Game	44.2	1		
Completion %	66.4%	7	63.9%	15
Passing Yards Per Game	269.8	2	203.6	9
Yards Per Pass Attempt	6.3	30	6.1	7
Turnovers	1.3	14	1.2	20

TAMPA BAY IS 16-9 OVER (LAST 25 GAMES) AT HOME - AGAINST TEAMS WITH 40% OR LESS WINNING



VSiN

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