

NFL Analysis

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Key Releases

| Date | Event | Play |
|----------|------------------------|---------------|
| 01-22-23 | Dallas @ San Francisco | San Francisco |

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January 21st, 2023

| 301/302 | Score | Line | PR | GS Line | Avg. PR | Avg. OPR | SUR (H/A) | AT |
|--------------|-------|------|------|---------|---------|----------|-----------|----|
| Jacksonville | 27 | 53 | 7 | | 9 | 4 | 6-3 / 4-5 | 5 |
| Kansas City | 30 | -8.5 | 2(3) | -8 | 2 | 8 | 7-1 / 7-2 | 3 |

The noted Paul Johnson, an English author of considerable repute (not to be confused w Tech) who just passed away last week, once wrote in his acclaimed Modern Times, a his "There are no inevitabilities in history." Neither are there in the NFL playoffs; conference 1 postseason hurdles. We are reminded of this often, most recently last year in the NFC, w

box in the Division Round against the Niners. Failing to cover spreads has repeated ever Browns two years ago in the AFC. We could continue to cite examples, but the point is cl inevitabilities. We are certain this is not lost upon Andy Reid, who might be understandat coached by one-time protégé Doug Pederson, both a QB and an assistant to Reid in the sideline matchup run deep, and Reid will probably be the first to downplay KC's 27-17 mi were able to keep safe distance between themselves and the Jags, bolting to a 20-0 leac would need to kill off the last six minutes of the game to prevent the score from tightening late-season ascent that has now seen the Jags win six straight, including a historic rally i Lawrence endured a dumpster fire of a first half that included four picks to put Pederson's back into the game and dramatically pulling out the win on Riley Patterson's last-play 36-Bolts last Saturday has been part of the J'ville persona, evident several times since that I pitch the Jags back to within shouting distance, including a quick five-play drive just before wins over the Ravens, Cowboys, Titans, and last week vs. the Chargers all featured fight memorable World Cup escapes from decades past, J'ville scoring last on each occasion, had forced 11 turnovers in the last five games of the regular season. All before overcoming last week, and holding the Justin Herbert Chargers offense to a mere field goal in the sec year's Bengals lives for another week. This is also not merely a measure of Patrick Mahc meeting, against Lawrence, who despite his improvement this season (25 TDP and just 8 out ahead in that matchup. But Lawrence only has to be good enough to feature a suppo Evan Engram) that blossomed as the campaign advanced. The Chiefs were certainly not home, where they covered only two of eight (one of those by a half-point vs. J'ville), and also only 2-3 vs. the line in the playoffs the past two seasons, one of those covers of the compelling technical stuff. The more-likely scenario seems another Chiefs advance to the easily.

Play Jacksonville and the Over.

| Last 3 Games | | | PF/PA | | Pts. Diff. | Avg. PR | Avg. OPR | A |
|-----------------|--------------|------------|-------------|-------|------------|-------------|----------|---|
| Jacksonville | | | 27.3 / 16.3 | | +11 | 7 | 8 | |
| Kansas City | | | 27.3 / 15.7 | | +11.7 | 3 | 9 | |
| Results | Date | Opponent | Line | Total | Score | Results | Date | O |
| Jacksonville | 01-14-23 | LA Charge. | +2 | 46.5 | 31-30 | Kansas City | 01-07-23 | @ |
| | 01-07-23 | Tennessee | -6 | 39.5 | 20-16 | | 01-01-23 | |
| | 01-01-23 | @ Houston | -3.5 | 43.5 | 31-3 | | 12-24-22 | |
| Recent meetings | | | | | | | | |
| Date | Team | Score | Line | FD | RA/RV | | | |
| 11-13-22 | Jacksonville | 17 | 51.5 | 17 | 16/75 | | | |

| | | | | | |
|--|-------------|----|------|----|--------|
| | Kansas City | 27 | -9.5 | 26 | 27/155 |
|--|-------------|----|------|----|--------|

| 303/304 | Score | Line | PR | GS Line | Avg. PR | Avg. OPR | SUR (H/A) |
|--------------|-------|------|------|---------|---------|----------|-----------|
| NY Giants | 23 | 48 | 8 | | 8 | 8 | 5-3 / 5-4 |
| Philadelphia | 24 | -7.5 | 2(2) | | 4 | 7 | 7-2 / 7-1 |

Don't let those blustery callers to Ike Reese's show on WIP fool you; Eagles fans are a bit of a Philly fan base can be, even those wise guys eating cheesesteaks at Geno's and Pat's kitchen in the league into December doesn't always count for much, recalling how the Steelers led the unbeaten '72 Dolphins, eventually to get bounced out of the playoffs at the first hurdle in the regular-season finale, as the Birds did on January 8 vs. these Giants. Similarly, it is within an unbeaten mark into mid-December, similarly lost momentum and were KO'd by Eli Manning was not the same Philly closing the season as it was most of the way in 2022, when the Birds were NFL-best 13-1 in mid-December before limping across the finish line to barely hang on to enter the postseason on the heels of four straight spread losses, but the real concern is how a throwing shoulder kept him out of the Dallas and New Orleans losses, and his effectiveness under-strength Giants in the reg-season finale, passing for a modest 229 yards with no touchdowns to be the New York of January 8, when the G-Men rested most of their starters (no Daniel Jones, Jalen Davis Webb was at the controls. With a healthy and rested Jones and Saquon, NY ended the season with his remarkable transformation into a real NFL QB under first-year HC Brian Daboll, passing for 27 touchdowns (including Frank Gifford-like seven runs for first downs!) in Minneapolis. Moreover, since getting pulled on December 11, NY has not only avoided pointspread defeat in five straight, but the Winkler has won across the last three reg-season games, then holding the Vikings to 332, well beneath the 350 mark at the Stadium, as DT Dexter Lawrence continues on a tear, often blowing up the interior of opposing offenses. The same Philly we were watching the first four months of the campaign, one that seemed to be a dead end at Meadowlands, when among other things the Birds limited Barkley to 28 YR. But New York is now away from Saquon in a desperate attempt to play catch-up, and we hardly envision this team as a contender. Remember, with everything to play for in the final week of the regular season, Philly did not want to be wondering if Hurts is diminished from his MVP-like form for most of the regular season, Jalen Saquon can provide a diversion to provide a bit of cover for Jones vs. the Birds' ballhawk. Let's get it onto something.

Play NY Giants.

| Last 3 Games | PF/PA | Pts. Diff. | Avg. PR | Avg. OPR |
|--------------|-------------|------------|---------|----------|
| NY Giants | 28.3 / 18.7 | +9.7 | 7 | 7 |
| Philadelphia | 22 / 25.3 | -3.3 | 1 | 7 |

| Results | Date | Opponent | Line | Total | Score | Results | Date |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------|------|-------|-------|--------------|----------|
| NY Giants | 01-15-23 | @ Minnesota | +3 | 47.5 | 31-24 | Philadelphia | 01-08-23 |
| | 01-08-23 | @ Philadelp. | +17 | 43 | 16-22 | | 01-01-23 |
| | 01-01-23 | Indianapo. | PK | 0 | 38-10 | | 12-24-22 |
| Recent meetings | | | | | | | |
| Date | Team | Score | Line | FD | RA/R | | |
| 01-08-23 | NY Giants | 16 | 43 | 18 | 21/12 | | |
| | Philadelphia | 22 | -17 | 23 | 34/13 | | |
| 12-11-22 | Philadelphia | 48 | -7 | 27 | 31/25 | | |
| | NY Giants | 22 | 44.5 | 18 | 23/12 | | |
| 12-26-21 | NY Giants | 10 | 41 | 15 | 27/8 | | |
| | Philadelphia | 34 | -11 | 17 | 30/13 | | |
| 11-28-21 | Philadelphia | 7 | -4 | 19 | 33/20 | | |
| | NY Giants | 13 | 45.5 | 17 | 27/7 | | |

January 22nd, 2023

| 315/316 | Score | Line | PR | GS Line | Avg. PR | Avg. OPR | SUR (H/A) | ATS |
|-------------------|-------|------|------|---------|---------|----------|-----------|-----|
| Cincinnati | 26 | 48 | 3 | | 6 | 7 | 7-1 / 6-3 | 5-3 |
| Buffalo | 27 | -5 | 1(3) | -5 | -0 | 7 | 8-1 / 6-2 | 4-5 |

Both of these teams have to count themselves at least a bit fortunate to have survived what they needed a big defensive play as Baltimore was on the doorstep of their endzone in a tied game. It took 11 plays of all time when LB Logan Wilson dislodged the ball from Raven QB Tyler Huntley's hands. Wilson scored for a 98-yard fumble return for the decisive score in the game and the longest gain in playoff history (mention the longest fumble-return TD in playoff annals as well). Buffalo had its own travails in the game, shocked to find themselves trailing the Miami Dolphins, led by rookie QB Skylar Thompson, in the second quarter. Josh Allen restored order with a couple of TD passes, but the Dolphins responded with a TD of their own. They got away with something, while Miami likely thinks they let one get away. From our perspective, Buffalo is better than the Bengals. Holding Miami to 231 yards and still allowing them to come into Buffalo territory with two turnovers with one converted to a defensive touchdown would normally be a death sentence for the Bengals. Granted, the same argument could be made with Cincinnati's victory over Baltimore. If you had to gain you 364-234 and allow them to battle back from deficits essentially three times (when they were in possession on a drive until Damar Hamlin collapsed. Emotions have been strained by the fact that they were hard done-by with the unfortunate medical emergency truncating their season. If you had to take them the home field in this match, had they indeed taken the victory on January 2. Without Higgins and Je'Marr Chase for the Bengals or extolling the virtues of Buffalo's Josh Allen, the Bengals feel points well worth taking in this one.

Play Cincinnati.

| Last 3 Games | | | PF/PA | Pts. Diff. | Avg. PR | Avg. OPR | Avg. ATS | |
|-------------------|----------|--------------|-------------|------------|---------|----------------|----------|-------------|
| Cincinnati | | | 24.3 / 17 | +7.3 | 3 | 7 | -7 | |
| Buffalo | | | 34.7 / 22.3 | +12.3 | 0 | 9 | -1 | |
| Results | Date | Opponent | Line | Total | Score | Results | Date | Opponent |
| Cincinnati | 01-15-23 | Baltimore | -7.5 | 40 | 24-17 | Buffalo | 01-15-23 | Miami |
| | 01-08-23 | Baltimore | -11.5 | 39.5 | 27-16 | | 01-08-23 | New England |
| | 12-24-22 | @ New Engla. | -3 | 41.5 | 22-18 | | 12-24-22 | @ Chicago |

| 317/318 | Score | Line | PR | GS Line | Avg. PR | Avg. OPR | SUR (H/A) |
|---------------|-------|------|----|---------|---------|----------|-----------|
| Dallas | 20 | 46 | 4 | | 6 | 8 | 8-1 / |

| | | | | | | | |
|----------------------|----|------|------|----|---|---|-------|
| San Francisco | 31 | -3.5 | 0(2) | -6 | 4 | 9 | 9-1 / |
|----------------------|----|------|------|----|---|---|-------|

Cross another off of the to-do list for the Cowboys, whose romp at Tampa Bay on Monday since Barry Switzer won Super Bowl XXX on January 28, 1996 vs. the Steelers at Tempe in almost 30 years to the day (January 17, 1993), when Jimmy Johnson's Dallas beat Seattle game, and for good measure beating Tom Brady for the first time in eight tries. That's a long installment of a recurring playoff matchup vs. the 49ers across the past half-century since first-ever "NFC" title game in the last game ever for the Niners at old Kezar Stadium during Dallas in '71, an improbable late rally led by Roger Staubach off the bench for Dallas in '71 game. Plus a couple of more NFC title tilts in the following decade (including the aforementioned and most recently in the Wild Card round last year, when the underdog Niners won in the they were last Monday night, here's a sobering reminder to Jerry Jones and his convoy to private box at Raymond James Stadium...Dallas beat a marginal team at best in the Wild record despite playing in the worst division in the NFL. Not to sound too snarky, but let's vs. the Bucs has been the exception to the rule for him across the past two months, when seven straight games, with pick-sixes in three of the preceding four. Instead of a lifeless and a voracious pass rush led by Nick Bosa, whose 18.5 sacks led the league, also a play picks (bad news for the often-careless Prescott) and tied with the Titans for a league low Pollard). There are also some questions about PK Brett Maher, who pushed or pulled his converting on his fifth try, thus helping Dallas avoid becoming the first team to miss all five USC turned that near-impossible trick against Clemson (the Trojans still won, 30-0...we've grass in Santa Clara as opposed to its preferred artificial variety (though the Cowboys did scheduling disadvantage, with two fewer days off since the Wild Card round and having to however, is the team waiting for them, with that aforementioned defense that is unlikely to fooled on a fourth-and-goal bootleg, as Tampa Bay was on Monday. Prescott figures to be ones in which Dak has posted his biggest stats, such as the 5 TD passes vs. the Bucs. A Ferrari that is the San Francisco model couldn't be more stark, with cool-as-a-cucumber couple of forced throws into traffic last week in the Wild Card round vs. Seattle) having won Garoppolo. And Purdy is only asked to be a facilitator anyway by Kyle Shanahan, whose addition of RB Christian McCaffrey, and has more gamebreakers on offense than any team that 74-yard catch-and-run TD last week vs. the Seahawks), Brandon Aiyuk, and TE George games) all big-play threats. Technical factors certainly support the Niners as well, with the Levi's Stadium, where they've won 13 of their last 14 outright and covered 12 of those 14

Play San Francisco and the Over.

| Last 3 Games | PF/PA | Pts. Diff. | Avg. PR | Avg. C |
|----------------------|--------------|-------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Dallas | 21.3 / 17.7 | +3.7 | 3 | 9 |
| San Francisco | 38.7 / 23.3 | +15.3 | 1 | 9 |

| Results | Date | Opponent | Line | Total | Score | Results | Date |
|---------|----------|--------------|-------|-------|-------|---------------|-------|
| Dallas | 01-16-23 | @ Tampa Bay | -2.5 | 45.5 | 31-14 | San Francisco | 01-14 |
| | 01-08-23 | @ Washington | -8.5 | 41 | 6-26 | | 01-08 |
| | 12-29-22 | @ Tennessee | -13.5 | 41 | 27-13 | | 01-01 |

Recent meetings

| Date | Team | Score | Line | FD | |
|----------|---------------|-------|------|----|--|
| 01-16-22 | San Francisco | 23 | 51 | 21 | |
| | Dallas | 17 | -3 | 20 | |

KEY

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Score | The predicted score for an event |
| PR | The team's Power Rating |
| GS Line | The GoldSheet line, calculated using each team's Power Rating. |
| Avg. PR | The average Power Rating of a team over the course of the season. |
| Avg. OPR | The average of a team's opponent Power Rating on the day that they played. |
| SUR (H/A) | The team's straight-up-record, both at home and on the road. |
| ATS (H/A) | The team's record against-the-spread. |
| O/U (H/A) | The team's over-under record. |
| Pts. Diff. (H/A) | The team's +/- point differential. |
| Avg. Ln. (H/A) | The average line the team has had over the course of the season. |
| PF/PA | The average points a team has scored and allowed. |
| FD | The total number of first downs. |
| RA/RV | The number of rushing attempts and yards. |
| PC/PA/PPY | The number of passing completions, attempts, interceptions and yards. |
| RA/RV | The number of fumbles and fumbles lost. |

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