



2023 NFL BETTING GUIDE



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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

Josh Allen

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.

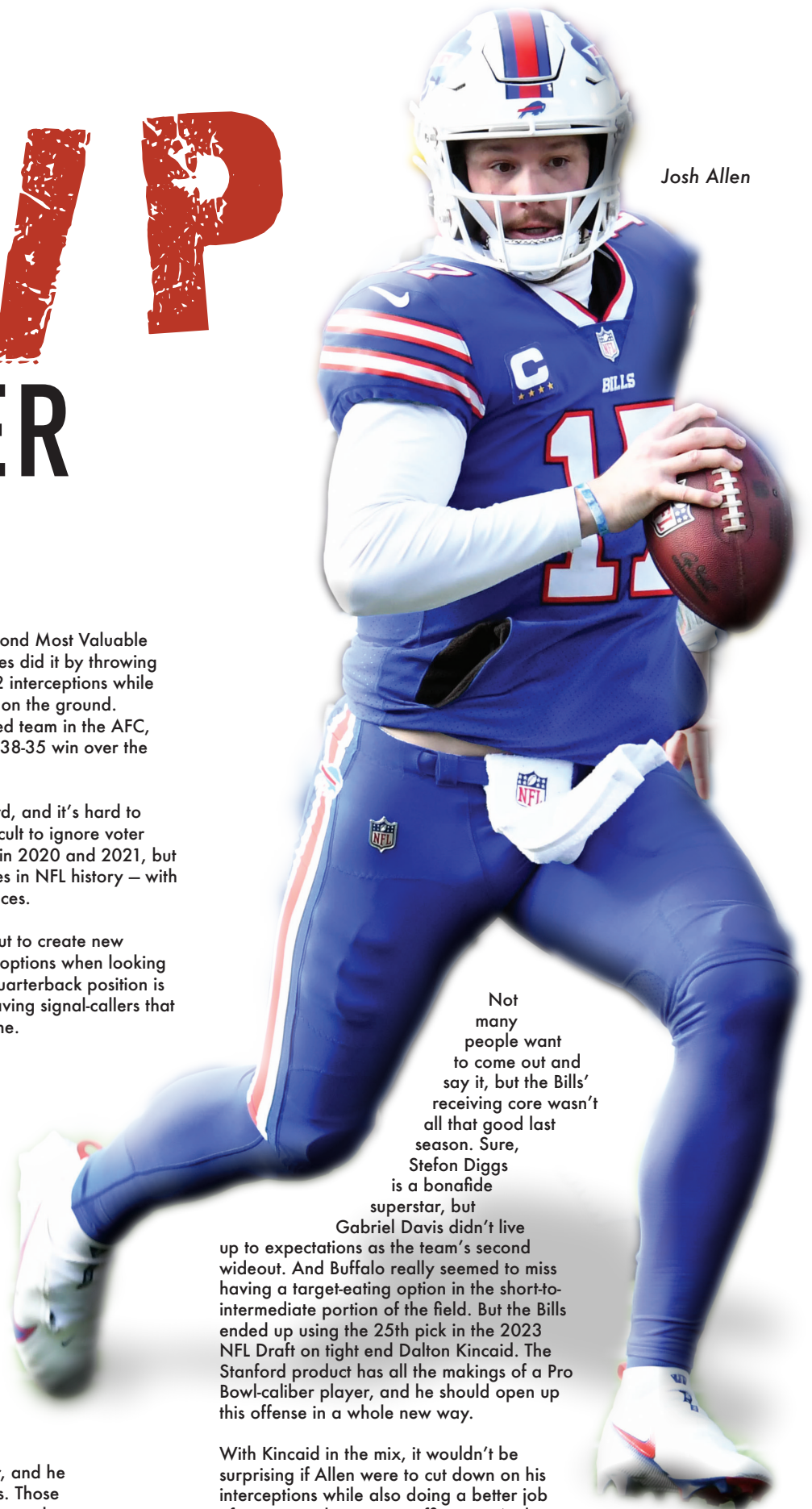
Mahomes is once again favored to win this award, and it's hard to argue with his candidacy. However, it's also difficult to ignore voter fatigue. Aaron Rodgers won back-to-back MVPs in 2020 and 2021, but that is something that has only happened six times in NFL history — with Peyton Manning being responsible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



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



PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

HEAD COACH: NICK SIRIANNI (3RD)
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: BRIAN JOHNSON
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: SEAN DESAI

BY DAVE TULEY

The defending NFC champions are the second choice at +650 in the Super Bowl futures at DraftKings behind the Chiefs at +600. They're also the NFC favorite at +250. After going 13-4 last season to secure the NFC's No. 1 seed and home-field advantage, their Over/Under season win total is set at 11.5.

OFFENSE

The Eagles averaged 29.1 points per game last season (second only to the Chiefs), led by Jalen Hurts, who moved into the upper echelon of NFL quarterbacks and into the MVP race with his dual-threat stats of 3,701 passing yards for 22 TDs and just 6 INTs, plus another 760 rushing yards and 13 more TDs. Hurts ranked fourth in QBR at 66.4.

Philadelphia lost Miles Sanders' team-leading 1,269 rushing yards and 11 TDs (though Hurts led the team in the latter category) as he left for Carolina, but they should still be in great shape with a deep backfield (maybe the deepest in the league) that adds D'Andre Swift from Detroit, Rashaad Penny from Seattle in addition to holdovers Kenneth Gainwell, Byron Scott and maybe even Trey Sermon.

Hurts again has a solid receiving corps with WRs A.J. Brown, DeVonta Smith and Olanive Zaccheaus (from Atlanta) battling Quez Watkins for the No. 3 slot, plus TE Dallas Goedert.

DEFENSE

The Eagles had one of the most-respected defenses in the scoring-happy NFL last season, allowing 19.8 points per game (ranking No. 7). It didn't come through in the 38-35 Super Bowl loss to the Chiefs, but Patrick Mahomes does that to a lot of defenses. Philadelphia might be even stronger this season with the addition of two first-round draft picks from Georgia's defense: DT Jalen Carter (who some regard as the steal of the draft at No. 9) and edge rusher Nolan Smith.

Javon Hargrave is gone, but Carter should fit right in with Fletcher Cox, Josh Sweat and the rest of the defensive line. Hassan Reddick led the Eagles with 16 sacks last season and should benefit from the addition of Smith. The secondary should again be strong (and it makes it easier with such a strong front seven) with CBs Darius Slay and James Bradberry, though the team's weakest link could be their safeties Terrell Edmunds and Reed Blankenship.

OUTLOOK

On paper, the Eagles look every bit like one of the best teams in the NFL, so their short future-book odds seem justified as well as the Over/Under Season Wins of 11.5 after going 14-3 last year. However, there's such a thing as the "Super Bowl loser hangover" (though we saw it more last year from the Super Bowl-winning Rams than the losing Bengals), and the Eagles will certainly get everyone's best effort on every given Sunday. They'll be sizable favorites in their first couple of games, including -6 vs. the Vikings in Week 1, but there are landmines along the way. The Eagles have a brutal stretch starting with a Week 8 home game vs. their biggest NFC East rival, the Cowboys, and then after their bye, they visit the Chiefs, host the Bills and 49ers and then visit the Cowboys.

SEASON WIN TOTAL PLAY
UNDER 11.5

STEVE MAKINEN'S
POWER RATING 30.0 (#2 OF 32)

2023 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	Est. Line	SERIES TRENDS
9/10	at New England	-4.3	ROAD TEAMS have won L5 non-neutral PHI-NE matchups ATS
9/14	MINNESOTA	-9	PHILADELPHIA is 7-2 ATS in L9 hosting Minnesota
9/25	at Tampa Bay	-7.7	HOME TEAMS have won L3 ATS in PHI-TB h2h series
10/1	WASHINGTON	-11.5	WASHINGTON is 9-4-2 ATS in L15 trips to Philadelphia
10/8	at LA Rams	-6.2	PHILADELPHIA has won L4 ATS at LA Rams
10/15	at NY Jets	-1.8	PHILADELPHIA has won L6 ATS vs. NY Jets
10/22	MIAMI	-7.1	UNDERDOGS are on 5-1 ATS run in MIA-PHI h2h series
10/29	at Washington	-8.2	WASHINGTON is on 5-3 ATS run hosting Philadelphia
11/5	DALLAS	-3.6	HOME TEAMS are on 8-1 ATS surge in DAL-PHI rivalry
	BYE WEEK		
11/20	at Kansas City	+3.3	KANSAS CITY has won L4 ATS vs. Philadelphia
11/26	BUFFALO	-3.4	UNDERDOGS are 6-2 ATS in L8 of BUF-PHI h2h series
12/3	SAN FRANCISCO	-3.7	The L5 games of SF-PHI h2h series went UNDER the total
12/10	at Dallas	+0.2	DALLAS is on 5-game SU & ATS win streak hosting Philadelphia
12/17	at Seattle	-3.9	The L6 games of PHI-SEA h2h series went UNDER the total
12/25	NY GIANTS	-8.5	UNDER the total is 11-3 in L14 of NYG-PHI series at Philadelphia
12/31	ARIZONA	-14.8	ARIZONA is on 8-1 ATS surge versus Philadelphia
1/7	at NY Giants	-5.4	OVER the total is 11-3 in PHI-NYG series at New York since '09

SCHEDULE STRENGTH **24.38** (#11 toughest of 32)

FIELD RATINGS **2.2 / -0.1** (HOME/ROAD)

2023 ODDS



2022 STATS AND RANKS

	OFFENSE		DEFENSE	
	STAT	RANK	STAT	RANK
Points Per Game	28.1	3	20.2	8
Yards Per Point	13.9	4	14.9	26
Plays Per Game	66.1	5		
Time of Possession	30:33	8		
3rd Down Conv. %	46.0%	4	38.6%	14
Total Yards Per Game	389.1	3	301.5	2
Yards Per Play	5.9	6	4.8	1
Rush Attempts Per Game	32	3		
Rush Yards Per Game	147.6	5	121.6	16
Yards Per Rush Attempt	4.6	13	4.6	24
Pass Attempts Per Game	31.5	23		
Completion %	65.3%	14	63.0%	12
Passing Yards Per Game	241.5	9	179.8	1
Yards Per Pass Attempt	8.1	2	5.5	1
Turnovers	1.1	4	1.6	5

PHILADELPHIA IS 4-11 ATS (LAST 15 GAMES) - VS. AFC WEST



NEW YORK GIANTS

HEAD COACH: BRIAN DABOLL (2ND)
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: MIKE KAFKA
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: DON MARTINDALE

BY DAVE TULEY

After the Giants went 6-10 in 2020 and 4-13 in 2021 in coach Joe Judge's two seasons, he was fired and general manager Dave Gettleman retired. They were replaced by former Buffalo front office assistant Joe Schoen as GM and former Bills offensive coordinator Brian Daboll as head coach. The Giants beat the Titans and Panthers for their first 2-0 start since 2016 and were right behind the Eagles in NFC East at 6-1 after Week 7. The Giants were mostly doing it mirrors as all were one-score games, and the offense and defense were ranking in the bottom half of the NFL. They cooled off, never winning back-to-back games the rest of the season, but finished 9-7-1 to make the playoffs, and Daboll was named Coach of the Year. DraftKings has the G-men at 25-1 to win the NFC and 65-1 to win the Super Bowl, along with an Over/Under Season Win Total of 7.5.

OFFENSE

The Giants averaged 21.2 points per game (No. 18 in the league) and 333.4 yards (No. 19). As Saquon Barkley goes, so goes the Giants' offense. Barkley carried the team as he played 16 games for the first time since his 2018 rookie season and rushed for 1,307 yards and 11 touchdowns while adding another 338 receiving yards. He scored two TDs in the Giants' 34-31 upset of the Vikings in the wild-card round but was shut down by the Eagles in the 38-7 divisional playoff blowout.

Reduced to mostly a game-manager role, QB Daniel Jones improved in his fourth season, completing a career-high 67.2% of his passes for 3,205 yards and 15 TDs with just five INTs. He also added 708 rushing yards and seven more TDs. To Jones' credit, he did all that with a below-average receiving corps, led by Darius Slayton's 46 catches for 724 yards. The top returning receiver (not counting Barkley) is Isaiah Hodgins, who had 33 receptions for 351 yards and is on top of the depth chart heading to training camp. The Giants are hoping Sterling Shepard, Wan'Dale Robinson and Collin Johnson return from injuries to help pick up the slack, as well as newcomers Paris Campbell and Jamison Crowder. But the biggest upgrade in the passing game should come from former Raiders TE Darren Waller, who provides a solid 1-2 punch at the position with Daniel Bellinger.

DEFENSE

The New York defense was worse than the offense as it allowed 22.8 points per game (No. 22 in the league) and 359.8 yards (No. 25), and it was amazing how the team kept winning. The problem is they didn't do much in the off-season to improve on this side of the ball.

Dexter Lawrence led the Giants with 7.5 sacks and was the defense's only All-Pro selection (left tackle Andrew Thomas was the only one on offense). Rookie linebacker Kayvon Thibodeaux was the only other Giant with as many as four sacks. Safety Julian Love led the team with 124 tackles, which isn't always a good sign if too many of those are far downfield, and he left as a free agent to Seattle to leave another hole in the New York defense. The best defensive pickup is probably middle linebacker Bobby Okereke (151 total tackles with the Colts last season), plus they also added Rams defensive end A'Shawn Robinson, though he needs to recover from a torn meniscus last November that caused him to miss the last seven games.

OUTLOOK

Despite making the playoffs, the Giants still look like a level or two below the Eagles and Cowboys in the division, and they haven't seemed to do enough in the off-season to close the gap. DraftKings has the Giants' Over/Under Season set at 7.5, with the Under shaded to -120 as of mid-June. Considering how lucky the Giants were in one-score games last season, it's logical to expect them to regress after going from four wins in 2021 to nine in 2022.

SEASON WIN TOTAL PLAY
UNDER 7.5

STEVE MAKINEN'S
POWER RATING 23.5 (#13 OF 32)

2023 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	Est. Line	SERIES TRENDS
9/10	DALLAS	+3.7	DALLAS is on 5-1 ATS run at NY Giants
9/17	at Arizona	-4.1	ARIZONA has won L4 SU & ATS vs. NY Giants
9/21	at San Francisco	+7.7	ROAD TEAMS are on 6-1 ATS run in NYG-SF h2h series
10/2	SEATTLE	-1.5	SEATTLE is on 5-1 ATS run vs. NY Giants
10/8	at Miami	+4.9	FAVORITES have won L3 ATS in NYG-MIA h2h series
10/15	at Buffalo	+8.7	ROAD TEAMS are 5-0-1 ATS in L6 of NYG-BUF h2h series
10/22	WASHINGTON	-4.2	ROAD TEAMS are on 6-1 ATS run in WAS-NYG rivalry
10/29	NY JETS	+0.8	UNDERDOG is 5-1-2 ATS in L8 of NYJ-NYG rivalry
11/5	at Las Vegas	+0.4	UNDERDOGS are on 3-0 ATS streak in Giants-Raiders series
11/12	at Dallas	+6.8	L4 of NYG-DAL series in Dallas went OVER total, avg 58.8 PPG
11/19	at Washington	-1.6	NY GIANTS are 4-1 SU & 5-0 ATS in L5 trips to Washington
11/26	NEW ENGLAND	-2.1	UNDERDOGS are 7-2 ATS in L9 of NE-NYG h2h series
	BYE WEEK		
12/11	GREEN BAY	-2.5	NY GIANTS are 5-2-1 ATS in L8 vs. Green Bay
12/17	at New Orleans	+1.9	The L7 games of NYG-NO series in New Orleans went OVER the total
12/25	at Philadelphia	+8.5	UNDER the total is 11-3 in L14 of NYG-PHI series at Philadelphia
12/31	LA RAMS	-3.6	ROAD TEAMS are on 4-0 ATS run in LAR-NYG h2h series
1/7	PHILADELPHIA	+5.4	OVER the total is 11-3 in PHI-NYG series at New York since '09

SCHEDULE STRENGTH **25.22** (#4 toughest of 32)

FIELD RATINGS **1.4 / -0.2** (HOME/ROAD)

2023 ODDS



2022 STATS AND RANKS

	OFFENSE		DEFENSE	
	STAT	RANK	STAT	RANK
Points Per Game	21.5	15	21.8	17
Yards Per Point	15.6	17	16.4	8
Plays Per Game	64.1	15		
Time of Possession	30:12	10		
3rd Down Conv. %	36.8%	22	35.1%	5
Total Yards Per Game	333.9	18	358.2	25
Yards Per Play	5.2	22	5.6	24
Rush Attempts Per Game	30.6	8		
Rush Yards Per Game	148.2	4	144.2	27
Yards Per Rush Attempt	4.8	5	5.2	31
Pass Attempts Per Game	30.6	25		
Completion %	66.5%	6	61.4%	8
Passing Yards Per Game	185.7	26	214	14
Yards Per Pass Attempt	6.6	25	6.4	13
Turnovers	0.9	2	1.1	25

NY GIANTS IS 18-11 ATS (LAST THREE SEASONS) - AS AN UNDERDOG OF SEVEN OR FEWER POINTS



DALLAS COWBOYS

HEAD COACH: MIKE MCCARTHY (4TH)
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: BRIAN SCHOTTENHEIMER
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: DAN QUINN

BY DAVE TULEY

The Cowboys' 2022-23 season was incredibly impressive on many levels, but in the end, they were overshadowed by the Eagles despite going 12-5 and making the playoffs for the second straight season for the first time since 2006-2007. DraftKings has the Cowboys at +1400 in its Super Bowl futures, more than double the price of the Eagles at +650. However, they're still only +600 to win the NFC behind only the Eagles (+250) and NFC West favorite 49ers (+425) and ahead of the NFC's other divisional faves in the Lions (+1000) and Saints (+1300).

OFFENSE

The Cowboys had one of the most potent offenses in the NFL, averaging 25.9 points per game (ranked No. 4) despite Dak Prescott starting only 12 games. After Dallas lost Game 1 to the defending champion Buccaneers, they upset the Bengals as 7.5-point underdogs behind backup Cooper Rush as Prescott was recovering from a thumb injury. The defense was stepping up, but Rush was more than a game manager as he kept leading to Cowboys to wins before suffering his first career loss as a starter in Week 6 at the Eagles. Prescott resumed the starting role and threw for 2,860 yards and 25 TDs.

Tony Pollard led the Cowboys with 1,007 rushing yards last season, with Ezekiel Elliott adding 837. It was clearly a changing of the guard as Pollard averaged a robust 5.2 yards per carry while the aging Elliott averaged just 3.8. The Cowboys released Elliott on March 15, so Pollard takes over the bell-cow(boy) role. Dallas also added former Buccaneers RB Ronald Jones, so the two-headed attack should continue behind the Cowboys' strong offensive line.

CeeDee Lamb led the Cowboys with 107 catches for 1,359 yards. They expected more from Michael Gallup as he had just 39 receptions in 14 games for just 424 yards and four TDs, though he did grab five for 46 yards and a TD in the playoff win over the Buccaneers. Prescott gets another weapon in slot receiver Brandin Cooks, who comes over from Houston, though Prescott loses his safety valve TE Dalton Schultz, who signed with the Texans. Second-year TE Jake Ferguson is expected to step in after backing up Schultz last year with 19 catches and two TDs.

DEFENSE

While the Dallas offense put up impressive numbers, it was the defense that carried the team during Prescott's absence. While they ranked No. 13 at 333.2 yards allowed per game and No. 6 at 19.7 points per game, where coordinator Dan Quinn's defense really excels is in taking the ball away from their opponents. After leading the NFL with 34 takeaways in 2021, the Cowboys forced 33 last season to become the first team to lead the league in turnovers in back-to-back seasons since Pittsburgh's "Steel Curtain" in 1972-1974.

Micah Parsons led the Cowboys with 14 sacks last season and was second to San Francisco's Joey Bosa for Defensive Player of the Year. He's the early betting favorite this year. The Cowboys were No. 1 in pressure rate in addition to Parsons and ranked third in sacks behind only the Super Bowl teams, the Eagles and Chiefs, with a lot of depth from Demarcus Lawrence, Sam Williams, Dorance Armstrong and Dante Fowler Jr., plus linebacker Leighton Vander Esch.

The Cowboys already had ballhawk CB Trevon Diggs and now add five-time Pro Bowler Stephon Gilmore (who was also the 2019 Player of the Year) in a trade from the Colts for just a fifth-round pick.

OUTLOOK

The Cowboys are expected to challenge the Eagles for the division title in the NFC East, which hasn't had a repeat champion in 18 years. The Cowboys look like a value play at +190 to win the division. That also means we expect them to go Over their Season Win Total of 9.5. That's juiced at -165 at DraftKings, as they obviously expect the Cowboys to get to double digits. If you expect the Cowboys to need to get to 11 wins anyway to contend for the NFC East crown, you might as well go Over 10 at around even money.

SEASON WIN TOTAL PLAY OVER 10

STEVE MAKINEN'S POWER RATING 28.0 (#6 OF 32)

2023 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	Est. Line	SERIES TRENDS
9/10	at NY Giants	-3.7	DALLAS is on 5-1 ATS run at NY Giants
9/17	NY JETS	-4.8	UNDERDOGS are 4-1-1 ATS in L6 of NYJ-DAL h2h series
9/24	at Arizona	-9	ARIZONA is on 6-1 ATS run vs. Dallas
10/1	NEW ENGLAND	-7.7	ROAD TEAMS have won L5 ATS in NE-DAL h2h series
10/8	at San Francisco	+2.8	FAVORITES are 5-2-1 ATS in L8 of DAL-SF rivalry
10/16	at LA Chargers	-1.5	ROAD TEAMS are 6-1 ATS in L7 of DAL-LAC h2h series
	BYE WEEK		
10/29	LA RAMS	-9.2	DALLAS is 4-1 ATS in L5 hosting LA Rams
11/5	at Philadelphia	+3.6	HOME TEAMS are on 8-1 ATS surge in DAL-PHI rivalry
11/12	NY GIANTS	-6.8	L4 of NYG-DAL series in Dallas went OVER total, avg 58.8 PPG
11/19	at Carolina	-5.1	FAVORITES are on 5-0 ATS streak in DAL-CAR h2h series
11/23	WASHINGTON	-9.8	OVER the total is 7-1 in L8 of WAS-DAL series in Dallas but lost LY
11/30	SEATTLE	-7.1	SEATTLE has won L4 ATS versus Dallas
12/10	PHILADELPHIA	-0.2	DALLAS is on 5-game SU & ATS win streak hosting Philadelphia
12/17	at Buffalo	+3.8	BUFFALO is 4-1-1 ATS in L6 vs. Dallas
12/24	at Miami	+0	UNDER the total is 6-2 in L8 of DAL-MIA h2h series
12/30	DETROIT	-6	OVER the total is 10-3 in L13 of DET-DAL h2h series
1/7	at Washington	-6.5	L3 games of DAL-WAS rivalry in Washington went UNDER the total

SCHEDULE STRENGTH 24.05 (#17 toughest of 32)

FIELD RATINGS 2.5 / 0.2 (HOME/ROAD)

2023 ODDS



2022 STATS AND RANKS

	OFFENSE		DEFENSE	
	STAT	RANK	STAT	RANK
Points Per Game	27.5	4	20.1	5
Yards Per Point	12.9	1	16.4	9
Plays Per Game	65.5	9		
Time of Possession	29:17	25		
3rd Down Conv. %	45.5%	5	37.7%	9
Total Yards Per Game	354.9	11	330.2	12
Yards Per Play	5.4	15	5.1	7
Rush Attempts Per Game	31.2	6		
Rush Yards Per Game	135.2	9	129.3	22
Yards Per Rush Attempt	4.3	18	4.4	17
Pass Attempts Per Game	32.7	19		
Completion %	63.9%	18	62.7%	11
Passing Yards Per Game	219.8	14	200.9	8
Yards Per Pass Attempt	7	16	6.2	9
Turnovers	1.4	17	1.9	1

DALLAS IS 10-0 OVER (LAST 10 GAMES) AT HOME - IN THE SECOND GAME OF THE SEASON VS. OPPONENT



WASHINGTON COMMANDERS

HEAD COACH: RON RIVERA (4TH)
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: ERIC BIENIEMY
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: JACK DEL RIO

BY DAVE TULEY

While the Giants were an overachieving surprise team in 2022, the same could be said of the Commanders in their first season after shedding the lame "Football Team" name. Washington finished 8-8-1 with the tie coming vs. those playoff-bound Giants while also giving the Eagles their first loss of the season in Week 9. They only missed the playoffs due to a three-game losing streak after their Week 14 bye. They're still regarded as the worst team in the NFC East as DraftKings has them 11-1 to win the division as well as 40-1 to win the NFC and 65-1 to win the Super Bowl with an Over/Under Season Win Total of 6.5.

OFFENSE

Carson Wentz started the season as Washington's starting QB and led the Week 1 win over the Jaguars. They lost the next four games, and then he started in the Week 6 Thursday night win over the Bears, but he went on injured reserve with a fractured ring finger. The Commanders went on a 6-1 run, but that was behind Taylor Heinicke, who kept the starting job after Wentz was healthy. Then, Heinicke was benched in Week 16, with Wentz finishing the loss in San Francisco and then starting Week 17 vs. the Browns—a 24-10 loss that eliminated them from the playoff hunt. Rookie Sam Howell started the finale and beat the Cowboys 26-6 and looks like he'll be given the reins to start this season. He gets to work with new offensive coordinator Eric Bieniemy from Kansas City.

Despite Heinicke's winning run, the Commanders still only averaged 18.9 points per game (ranked No. 24 in the league) and 330.3 yards (No. 20). They also had a rotating lineup of running backs with Brian Johnson Jr. (team-leading 797 rushing yards in just 12 games) and Antonio Gibson (546 yards). Terry McLaurin was the top offensive threat with 77 catches for 1,191 yards but just five TDs. WRs Josh Dotson and Curtis Samuel also contributed, with Samuel also coming out of the backfield. They're all back this season, and maybe the continuity will help Howell.

DEFENSE

The defense really carried the Commanders, as it kept it in most games despite the pedestrian offense. They allowed just 20.2 points per game (ranking No. 8 in the league) and 304.6 yards (No. 3). It was a team effort as no defensive starter was voted to the AP All-Pro team—though special teamer Jeremy Reaves did make the first team—and Chase Young returns from his torn ACL suffered in Week 10 of the 2021 season.

In Young's absence, defensive tackle Daron Payne led the Commanders with 11.5 sacks, with another DT Jonathan Allen adding 6.5. Leading tackler Jamin Davis (104 total tackles, 36 solo) returns. LB Cole Holcomb left for Pittsburgh via free agency, but Washington replaced him with Cody Barton from Seattle.

OUTLOOK

DraftKings has the Commanders' Over/Under Season Win Total at 6.5 with a little added juice on the Over at -120. Like the Giants, the Commanders overachieved last season and could be in for a regression, but if the return of Young improves an already steady defense, this team could continue to surprise. It could all come down to how Howell performs. He played great in the season-finale win vs. the Cowboys, though they didn't have anything to play for. Still, the fact this team upset the Eagles at full-strength and tied the Giants shows they could contend for the division title or a wild-card spot.

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	ARIZONA	-4.7	FAVORITES are on 4-1 ATS run in ARI-WAS h2h series
9/17	at Denver	+5.4	HOME TEAMS have won L4 ATS in WAS-DEN h2h series
9/24	BUFFALO	+6.7	BUFFALO is on 8-1 ATS run vs. Washington
10/1	at Philadelphia	+11.5	WASHINGTON is 9-4-2 ATS in L15 trips to Philadelphia
10/5	CHICAGO	-0.7	WASHINGTON is on 11-3 ATS run vs. Chicago
10/15	at Atlanta	+3.6	WASHINGTON has won L3 ATS at Atlanta
10/22	at NY Giants	+4.2	ROAD TEAMS are on 6-1 ATS run in WAS-NYG rivalry
10/29	PHILADELPHIA	+8.2	WASHINGTON is on 5-3 ATS run hosting Philadelphia
11/5	at New England	+5.3	NEW ENGLAND is 3-1-1 ATS in L5 versus Washington
11/12	at Seattle	+5.7	The L5 games of WAS-SEA h2h series went UNDER the total
11/19	NY GIANTS	+1.6	NY GIANTS are 4-1 SU & 5-0 ATS in L5 trips to Washington
11/23	at Dallas	+9.8	OVER the total is 7-1 in L8 of WAS-DAL series in Dallas but lost LY
12/3	MIAMI	+3	UNDER the total is 6-1 in L7 of MIA-WAS h2h series
	BYE WEEK		
12/17	at LA Rams	+3.4	WASHINGTON is 7-2 ATS in L9 road games versus Rams
12/24	at NY Jets	+7.8	NY JETS have won L4 ATS vs. Washington
12/31	SAN FRANCISCO	+6.4	UNDERDOGS are on 4-1 ATS run in WAS-SF h2h series but lost LY
1/7	DALLAS	+6.5	L3 games of DAL-WAS rivalry in Washington went UNDER the total

SCHEDULE STRENGTH **25.42**
(#1 toughest of 32)

FIELD RATINGS **1.6 / -0.2**
(HOME/ROAD)

2023 ODDS



2022 STATS AND RANKS

	OFFENSE		DEFENSE	
	STAT	RANK	STAT	RANK
Points Per Game	18.9	24	20.2	7
Yards Per Point	17.5	27	15.1	25
Plays Per Game	67.1	4		
Time of Possession	33:05	1		
3rd Down Conv. %	35.2%	25	31.9%	1
Total Yards Per Game	330.3	20	304.6	3
Yards Per Play	4.9	28	5.2	11
Rush Attempts Per Game	31.6	4		
Rush Yards Per Game	126.1	12	113.3	11
Yards Per Rush Attempt	4	28	4.4	16
Pass Attempts Per Game	32.6	20		
Completion %	62.1%	23	59.9%	2
Passing Yards Per Game	204.2	21	191.3	4
Yards Per Pass Attempt	6.8	22	6.3	10
Turnovers	1.4	17	1.1	26

WASHINGTON IS 2-13 ATS (LAST 15 GAMES) - VS. AFC EAST



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