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- TEAM POWER RATINGS

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A KC THREE-PEAT IS WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT!

by Brent Musburger

I'm sick of reading about three-peats. I'm sick of seeing Taylor Swift smooch Travis Kelce on the 50-yard line. And I'm definitely sick of the Kansas City Chiefs owning the AFC West. But damn, they're a helluva organization and I can't pick against them winning the whole enchilada again.

Everybody is tired of hearing that no team has won three Super Bowls in a row. Okay. But who's going to beat Kansas City? San Francisco? Bookmakers give the 49ers the best chance, but that's only because the NFC is easier to win than the AFC. The Chiefs would be favored over the Niners in a New Orleans Super Bowl rematch.

How about Baltimore? Not the worst choice, but Lamar Jackson still hasn't proved he can lead the Ravens from behind in the fourth quarter. Remember, Jackson was last seen slamming his helmet on the bench after throwing an interception and two incompletions on the Ravens' final two drives in their AFC Championship loss.

How about Buffalo? That window may have closed. Josh Allen turns the ball over too often and, besides, he didn't throw for 200 yards or have any completion longer than 15 yards when the Chiefs eliminated the Bills in Buffalo.

How about Cincinnati? Last team to beat the Chiefs in the playoffs. Can Joe Burrow stay healthy? Without him, the Bengals were shut out in the second half of a December loss last season in KC.

Three other AFC teams you might consider: Houston, Miami and New York. I'll stick with Patrick Mahomes, thank you.

And in the Super Bowl, how about Detroit, Philadelphia or Dallas? Thanks, but I'll take Andy Reid.

History says it won't happen, but I say records are made to be broken! The Chiefs will three-peat and write a large check to former Laker Coach Pat Riley who owns the t-shirt and sweatshirt trademark for "three-peat." Oh, Travis, you're wearing lipstick again!



VSIN MVP

BEST BETS

The 2023 AP NFL MVP was Lamar Jackson, a repeat winner, and that seems to be a theme. Dating back to 2007, when Tom Brady won the first of three NFL MVP Awards, the only single-time winners have been Matt Ryan, Cam Newton, and Adrian Peterson.

It is entirely possible that with a young crop of promising quarterbacks, a newcomer will emerge on the scene this season. Not that he's young, per se, but Dak Prescott finished a very distant second to Jackson last year, who previously won the award in 2019. Jalen Hurts had that honor behind Patrick Mahomes in 2022.

When it comes to handicapping the NFL MVP market, there isn't a whole lot left to the imagination based on what I just mentioned. Here are the MVPs dating back to 2007:

Tom Brady: 2007, 2010, 2017
Peyton Manning: 2008, 2009, 2013
Aaron Rodgers: 2011, 2020, 2021
Patrick Mahomes: 2018, 2022

Cam Newton: 2015
Matt Ryan: 2016

Adrian Peterson: 2012

Peterson deserves to stand alone because he is the only non-QB since LaDainian Tomlinson in 2006 to gather enough votes for the honor. Peterson got 30.5 of the 50 votes, while Manning secured 19.5. AP ran for 2,097 yards and had 13 total touchdowns that season.

What we've basically seen is that a QB wins MVP and the top RB/WR wins the Offensive Player of the Year award. While we're focusing on the MVP exclusively here, it is worth pointing out that each of the last five winners of that award has been a RB or WR and the last repeat winner for that award was Peyton Manning in 2013. That process seems to be a little more democratic.

It may be just as simple as taking a QB to win the MVP, but which QB are you taking? Or, are you going to take a real gamble and go with a skill-position player?

That is the question we posed to our VSIN hosts and contributors and these are the answers that they gave.

MATT BROWN

JARED GOFF (40/1)

Jared Goff was better last year than most people realize.

2nd in the NFL in passing yards
4th in the NFL in passing TDs
3rd in the NFL in passing yards per game
5th in the NFL in completion percentage
5th graded passer in the NFL by Pro Football Focus (min 400 dropbacks)

There's very little reason to believe he's in for some sort of big time regression when you consider the Lions stellar offensive line and all the weapons at his disposal. We know Amon-Ra St. Brown is a stud. But let's remember, this will be just Year 2 of Sam LaPorta and Jahmyr Gibbs. This will be Jameson Williams' first full offseason with the team. He plays in a dome for all his home games (with five road games in domes and one in California). And with a defense that might still be a little shaky in pass defense, Detroit will likely have to keep their foot on the gas in most games. It's a big number attached to Goff's name and, with last season's numbers well within reach of being repeatable, we should have a ticket that we can monetize one way or another.



ZACHARY COHEN

JALEN HURTS (18/1)

Last season, Jalen Hurts threw for 3,858 yards with 23 touchdowns and a whopping 15 interceptions. He also rushed for just 605 yards and an average of 3.9 yards per carry. Compared to a 2022 season in which Hurts threw for 3,701 yards with 22 touchdowns and only six picks, while also rushing for 760 yards and 4.6 yards per carry, it's clear he wasn't the same player. Well, Hurts did battle some minor injuries throughout the season, and he often was visibly uncomfortable out there. So, I'm expecting him to bounce back after a full offseason to get healthy.

Hurts is still part of one of the most explosive offenses in football, and Philadelphia should only turn things up a notch in 2024. Kellen Moore is a proven offensive coordinator in this league, so he should do a better job of pressing buttons than Brian Johnson did last year. The Eagles will also have a better running game this season, as Saquon Barkley is now the main man in the backfield. That should open up all sorts of opportunities for this passing game, which also happened to add Parris Campbell after the season. Campbell is a very effective slot receiver, so he should give Hurts a reliable underneath option.

All in all, I just don't think of Hurts as a mistake-prone passer. He has been accurate throughout his career, and his Completion Percentage Over Expected was actually higher in 2023 than it was in 2022. So, look for Hurts to significantly cut down on his interceptions. If he does that and continues to put up big numbers in both the passing and running games, he should be in the mix for MVP. And it doesn't hurt that Philadelphia looks like a team that is capable of winning 12 or 13 games.

ADAM BURKE

JARED GOFF (40/1)

My colleague Matt Brown is a very sharp individual. He mentioned this before the NFL schedule even came out and that May 15 release was the extra push I needed to get involved with this.

Goff plays 14 of his 17 games in a dome this season. One road game (Dec. 22) is almost guaranteed to be played in bad weather at Soldier Field. Otherwise, he'll play at Lambeau Field in early November and Santa Clara on Dec. 30. The stage is set for Goff to be able to have a monster season based on venue and timing. He has a 48/10 TD/INT ratio in domed venues over the last two seasons.

Goff and OC Ben Johnson are running it back for the third year in a row. Over those two seasons, Goff ranks ninth in EPA+CPOE composite (Expected Points Added + Completion Percentage Over Expected) per RBSDM and seventh in adjusted EPA/play. In Year 2 under Johnson, Goff's On-Target% went from 76.2% to 80.3% per Pro-Football Reference and a full season of Jameson Williams and more Jahmyr Gibbs should help in that department.

The Lions have huge potential, a defense that will force Goff and the offense to keep the pedal down, and a tremendously-favorable schedule for their QB.

JONATHAN VON TOBEL

TUA TAGOVAILOA (22/1)

MVP is becoming increasingly less interesting to bet on. The top options are all quarterbacks, and the odds are usually much shorter than they realistically should be. But, every once in a while something slips through the cracks. This year, that would be the odds on Tua Tagovailoa.

The fifth-year signal-caller is the starting quarterback for the best offense in the league. Tagovailoa completed 69.3% of his passes for a league-best 4,624 yards and 29 touchdowns last season. Should he match – or improve – those figures while leading the Dolphins to a division crown and a top seed in the AFC, he will have the inside track to winning this award.

STEVE MAKINEN'S POWER RATINGS

TEAM	POWER RATING
KANSAS CITY	30.0
BALTIMORE	29.0
SAN FRANCISCO	29.0
BUFFALO	27.5
DETROIT	27.5
PHILADELPHIA	27.5
CINCINNATI	26.5
GREEN BAY	26.5
HOUSTON	26.5
DALLAS	26.0
LA RAMS	25.5
NY JETS	25.5
MIAMI	25.0
ATLANTA	24.0
CLEVELAND	24.0
JACKSONVILLE	24.0
LA CHARGERS	23.5
CHICAGO	23.0
INDIANAPOLIS	23.0
PITTSBURGH	23.0
TAMPA BAY	23.0
ARIZONA	22.0
LAS VEGAS	22.0
NEW ORLEANS	22.0
SEATTLE	22.0
MINNESOTA	21.5
NY GIANTS	20.5
TENNESSEE	20.5
WASHINGTON	20.5
DENVER	20.0
NEW ENGLAND	19.5
CAROLINA	18.0

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MIAMI DOLPHINS

2023 Record (incl. playoffs): 11-7 SU & 10-8 ATS
Head Coach: Mike McDaniel (3rd)

The end to Miami's 2023 campaign was extremely disappointing. After a win over the Commanders to improve to 9-3, the Dolphins finished the season 2-4 SU and ATS. That included a loss to the Chiefs on Wild Card Weekend in a brutally cold playoff game. Despite that finish, Miami enters 2024 with expectations of being one of the best offensive teams in the league, and by extension, one of the best teams in the league overall.

OFFENSE

The Dolphins finished seventh in offensive EPA (0.054) and third in dropback EPA per play (0.167). Their success on offense is driven by pure speed. Tyreek Hill and Jaylen Waddle are two of the fastest pass-catchers in the league. The duo posted PFF offensive grades of 93.4 and 90.3 respectively. They combined to rack up 1,112 yards after the catch and 18 touchdowns in 2023. Miami bolstered their depth by adding Odell Beckham Jr. in the offseason.

Mike McDaniel's offensive scheme – which is derived from the Shanahan scheme – maximizes almost any running back, and the Dolphins have two great ones in De'Von Achane and Raheem Mostert. Achane ran for 813 yards last season and averaged 4.94 yards per carry after contact. Mostert was tied for fifth in runs of 10 or more yards (30). This group is likely going to be productive once again.

Even the team's biggest perceived weakness – quarterback – is a strength. Tua Tagovailoa has thrived in McDaniel's system. Tagovailoa was the highest-graded passer by PFF in 2023 (88.6). He posted career highs in completion percentage (68.2%), passing yards (4,878) and touchdowns (30). Despite throwing the most interceptions of his career (15) he actually posted his best turnover worthy play rate (3.4%). There is little reason to believe that he and this offense cannot be among the best once again this season.

DEFENSE

On defense this team looks average on paper. But with an offense like this, average is perfectly acceptable.

Miami does have some injury concerns heading into the season, specifically at edge. Bradley Chubb and Jaelan Phillips are both on the mend after serious injuries near the end of last season. Chubb is recovering from a torn ACL in his right knee. Phillips tore his Achilles. Their status to start the season is in serious doubt, which is why the team added Calais Campbell to the roster in June. Shaquill Barrett remains as well, but this is a thin position heading into training camp.

Kendall Fuller was brought in this offseason to shore up the cornerback position. He will play alongside Jalen Ramsey, giving Miami some competent play at the position. Still, Ramsey is not the player he once was, and the depth behind him and Fuller seems very weak. Kader Kohou is an extremely average cornerback and the other rostered corners are statistically poor.

Statistically, this was one of the best rush defenses by EPA standards, as they finished 10th in that category in 2023. However, much of that was due to opposing teams abandoning their running games in order to keep up with their explosive offense. They were 18th in adjusted line yards allowed per carry (3.99).

OUTLOOK

The outlook for 2024 is extremely positive for Miami. McDaniel's offensive scheme gives them a floor of 10th-best offense in the NFL. They have the best wide receiver duo in the league, a stable of strong runners and an extremely competent quarterback. Add into that mix the league's eighth-easiest schedule by opponent win totals and you get a team that could compete for not only its division, but the top seed in the AFC. – Jonathan Von Tobel

2024 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	LINE*	SERIES TREND
9/8	JACKSONVILLE	-4.5	UNDER the total is 8-1 in L9 of JAC-MIA in-state rivalry
9/12	BUFFALO	+0.7	UNDER the total is 10-4-1 in BUF-MIA series at Miami since '10
9/22	at Seattle	-0.4	MIAMI is on 4-0 ATS streak at Seattle
9/30	TENNESSEE	-7.2	UNDERDOGS are 6-3-1 ATS in L10 of TEN-MIA h2h series
10/6	at New England	-3.9	MIAMI has won L7 ATS vs. New England
BYE WEEK			
10/20	at Indianapolis	-0.2	UNDERDOGS are 14-2-1 ATS in MIA-IND h2h series since '99
10/27	ARIZONA	-5.7	The L5 games of ARI-MIA h2h series went OVER the total
11/3	at Buffalo	+4.7	OVER the total is 8-1-1 in L10 MIA-BUF matchups at Buffalo
11/11	at LA Rams	+2.4	UNDERDOGS have won L5 ATS in MIA-LAR h2h series
11/17	LAS VEGAS	-6	OVER the total is 8-1 in L9 of LVR-MIA h2h series but lost LY
11/24	NEW ENGLAND	-7.5	MIAMI is on 9-2-1 ATS run hosting New England
11/28	at Green Bay	+4.4	GREEN BAY is on 5-1 SU & ATS surge versus Miami
12/8	NY JETS	-2.1	MIAMI is 5-1-2 ATS in L8 hosting NY Jets
12/15	at Houston	+3.2	FAVORITES have won L6 SU & ATS in MIA-HOU h2h series
12/22	SAN FRANCISCO	+1.4	The L4 games of SF-MIA h2h series went OVER the total
12/29	at Cleveland	+1.3	CLEVELAND is 4-1 ATS in L5 hosting Miami
1/5	at NY Jets	+1.5	MIAMI is on 5-1 ATS run at NY Jets

SCHEDULE STRENGTH 23.95
(#17 toughest of 32)

FIELD RATINGS 2.6/0
(HOME/ROAD)

2023 STATS AND RANKS

	OFFENSE		DEFENSE	
	STAT	RANK	STAT	RANK
POINTS PER GAME	29.2	2	23	22
YARDS PER POINT	13.8	3	13.8	28
PLAYS PER GAME	61.9	21		
TIME OF POSSESSION	29:56	15		
3RD DOWN CONV. %	42.1%	7	38.9%	20
TOTAL YARDS PER GAME	401.3	1	318.3	10
YARDS PER PLAY	6.5	2	5.1	10
RUSH ATTEMPTS PER GAME	26.8	15		
RUSH YARDS PER GAME	135.8	6	97.1	7
YARDS PER RUSH ATTEMPT	5.1	1	3.8	6
PASS ATTEMPTS PER GAME	33.3	20		
COMPLETION %	69.4%	2	66.9%	28
PASSING YARDS PER GAME	265.5	1	221.2	15
YARDS PER PASS ATTEMPT	8.3	2	6.6	18
TURNOVERS	1.5	21	1.6	8

2024 ODDS

SUPER BOWL

22-1

AFC

11-1

AFC EAST

+200

WIN TOTAL PREDICTION
OVER 9.5

BUFFALO BILLS

2023 Record (incl. playoffs): 12-7 SU & 8-11 ATS
Head Coach: Sean McDermott (8th)

The 2023 season was a wild one for the Buffalo Bills. The team was 5-5 SU/3-7 ATS through the first 10 games of the season, but finished 6-1 SU/4-3 ATS to finish second in the AFC. The Bills were a sexy pick to make it out of the AFC, but they were eliminated by the Chiefs for the second time in three years. Buffalo enters the 2024 season with the same championship aspirations, but massive changes with the roster and a strong division will present a challenge.

OFFENSE

Josh Allen remains in place at the most important position in football, and as long as he is healthy Buffalo will have a chance to compete. Allen had the highest offensive grade among quarterbacks according to PFF (92.1) in 2023, and he was third at the position in EPA per play (0.193).

Buffalo's wide receiver depth chart looks questionable on paper after the losses of Stefon Diggs and Gabe Davis (241 combined targets). Khalil Shakir – who caught 39 balls for 611 yards and two touchdowns last season – is the most productive returning receiver. Curtis Samuel, Marquez Valdes-Scantling, Chase Claypool and Mack Hollins all join the team to form the main core. Rookie Keon Coleman – a second-round pick – is going to be expected to develop quickly.

Dion Dawkins and Spencer Brown played over 1,200 snaps at tackle in 2023. In 310 true pass set snaps Dawkins allowed just 29 pressures and Brown gave up just 26 in 313 snaps. Connor McGovern looks to be a decent replacement at center for Mitch Morse, who was released. At guard, David Edwards and O'Cyus Torrence are penciled in as the starters. Edwards posted extremely good numbers, but in less than 200 snaps. Torrence, on the other hand, owned a 54.9 offensive grade and allowed 46 pressures for the season while posting a 48.2 pass blocking grade.

DEFENSE

Safety is the biggest concern for Buffalo. None of the currently rostered defensive backs posted a PFF defensive grade higher than 65.3 (Cam Lewis). Projected starters are Taylor Rapp and Mike Edwards. Edwards in particular allowed 23 receptions on 38 targets last season.

Cornerback is the Bills' strongest defensive position and might be the second-best group on the team outside of quarterback. Christian Benford is a legit corner who finished eighth at the position in PFF defensive grade in 2023. He allowed just two touchdowns all season, broke up seven passes and grabbed two interceptions. Rasul Douglas and Taron Johnson ranked 11th and 17th respectively in PFF grading at the position.

The Bills are somewhat bland at linebacker, but there are no big weaknesses at the position group. Along the defensive line, Greg Rousseau anchors the group after a career year in which he posted seven sacks, 62 pressures and 32 tackles. A.J. Epenesa has yet to really show out, but is coming off the best season of his career.

OUTLOOK

Buffalo has one of the best quarterbacks in the league, but the skill position group around him lacks explosive talent. How much better can Allen make them? It is safe to assume the Bills will be a good team competing for its division and a playoff spot, but the roster does not look like an elite group. Considering market expectations – win total of 10.5 and favored to win the division – this is a team that could have a disappointing season by those standards. – Jonathan Von Tobel

2024 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	LINE*	SERIES TREND
9/8	ARIZONA	-8.2	BUFFALO is 5-1 ATS versus Arizona since '99
9/12	at Miami	-0.7	UNDER the total is 10-4-1 in BUF-MIA series at Miami since '10
9/23	JACKSONVILLE	-7	UNDERDOGS have won L6 ATS in JAC-BUF h2h series
9/29	at Baltimore	+3.7	UNDER the total is 9-2 in L11 of BUF-Bal h2h series
10/6	at Houston	+0.3	UNDER the total is 8-2 in L10 of BUF-HOU h2h series
10/14	at NY Jets	-1.4	UNDERDOGS are 9-1 ATS in L10 of BUF-NYJ series at New York
10/20	TENNESSEE	-9.7	UNDERDOGS are on 9-2-1 ATS run in TEN-BUF h2h series
10/27	at Seattle	-3.3	All 10 games in BUF-SEA series since '95 went OVER the total
11/3	MIAMI	-4.7	OVER the total is 8-1-1 in L10 MIA-BUF matchups at Buffalo
11/10	at Indianapolis	-3.1	INDIANAPOLIS is on 5-1 ATS run hosting Buffalo
11/17	KANSAS CITY	+0	ROAD TEAMS are 12-4 ATS in L16 of BUF-KC rivalry
BYE WEEK			
12/1	SAN FRANCISCO	-1.1	FAVORITES are 5-1 ATS in L6 of SF-BUF h2h series
12/8	at LA Rams	-0.5	BUFFALO is on 4-0 ATS road run at Rams
12/15	at Detroit	+2.2	The L7 games of BUF-DET h2h series went UNDER the total
12/22	NEW ENGLAND	-10	NEW ENGLAND is on 16-5 ATS extended run at Buffalo
12/29	NY JETS	-4.6	UNDER the total is 11-5 in NYJ-BUF series at Buffalo since '07
1/5	at New England	-6.8	UNDERDOGS are 6-3 ATS in L9 of BUF-NE h2h series at Foxboro

SCHEDULE STRENGTH 24.27
(#12 toughest of 32)

FIELD RATINGS 2.6/0.4
(HOME/ROAD)

2023 STATS AND RANKS

	OFFENSE		DEFENSE	
	STAT	RANK	STAT	RANK
POINTS PER GAME	26.5	6	18.3	4
YARDS PER POINT	14.1	6	16.8	7
PLAYS PER GAME	65.6	5		
TIME OF POSSESSION	32:05	2		
3RD DOWN CONV. %	49.8%	1	38.6%	19
TOTAL YARDS PER GAME	374.5	4	307.2	9
YARDS PER PLAY	5.7	5	5.1	11
RUSH ATTEMPTS PER GAME	30.1	5		
RUSH YARDS PER GAME	130.1	7	110.6	15
YARDS PER RUSH ATTEMPT	4.3	8	4.6	28
PASS ATTEMPTS PER GAME	34.1	16		
COMPLETION %	66.5%	8	65.8%	20
PASSING YARDS PER GAME	244.4	8	196.6	7
YARDS PER PASS ATTEMPT	7.4	8	6.1	6
TURNOVERS	1.6	23	1.8	3

2024 ODDS

SUPER BOWL

12-1

AFC

+700

AFC EAST

+170

WIN TOTAL PREDICTION
UNDER 10.5



NEW YORK JETS

2023 Record (incl. playoffs): 7-10 SU & 6-10-1 ATS
Head Coach: Robert Saleh (4th)

It's hard to find a season more disappointing than New York's in 2023. Everything was derailed four snaps in when Aaron Rodgers injured his Achilles on Monday Night Football. Rodgers returns from the injury, but a year older. Still, the expectations remain for a team with a lot of talent on the roster.

OFFENSE

Everything obviously hinges on Rodgers' health and level of play. In 2022, Rodgers had posted his lowest PFF passing grade since 2017 (75.9). His turnover-worthy play rate (2.9%) was the highest since that year and he posted the lowest yards per attempt (6.8) since 2015. Rodgers was dealing with an injury at the tailend of the 2022 season, so perhaps that explains it away. Still, he is 40 years old, meaning the decline in production could be real.

Regardless, Rodgers has a great weapon to throw to in Garrett Wilson. The third-year receiver has had the worst group of signal-callers tossing him the ball the last two seasons and still posted consecutive 1,000-yard campaigns. Mike Williams comes in from Los Angeles to be the second option. He has played in just 16 games the last two seasons, but is a rock-solid receiver who has not posted a PFF receiving grade of under 72.3 in his last six seasons.

The biggest question for New York is its offensive line. Tyron Smith is in the building, but the former Cowboy has played 30 games over the last four seasons. Morgan Moses at right tackle is by far their steadiest presence at tackle. No other rostered offensive lineman has a PFF pass-blocking grade from last season over 60 (Wes Schweitzer). Rookie first rounder Olu Fashanu will need to progress quickly and fill a massive role for this team in 2024.

DEFENSE

Defense is obviously the strength of this team. New York finished third in defensive EPA per play (-0.14) and it has talent at each position.

Cornerback is their glamor group. Sauce Gardner, Michael Carter II and D.J. Reed form arguably the best trio of corners in the league. Gardner was third among all corners in PFF defensive grade (88.6). He broke up 10 passes and allowed just one touchdown all season. He is capable of matching up with any receiver in the league.

Quinnen Williams was one of the best interior linemen in the league last season, and is balanced in his ability to both defend the run and pressure quarterbacks along the interior. He was fifth among interior linemen in pressures (70). Behind him is one of the best linebackers in the league in C.J. Mosley, who is fantastic in coverage. Quincy Williams had a breakout campaign in 2023. Along the edge, Jermaine Johnson and Haason Reddick form a strong tandem. Johnson had 56 pressures in a strong sophomore season, and Reddick joins the team after posting 155 pressures over the last two seasons in Philadelphia.

OUTLOOK

New York has the fourth-easiest strength of schedule in the league based on 2024 win totals. Their defense is going to be among the best in the league yet again, and this season they should have competent quarterback play. Even if Rodgers plays at an average level similar to that of his last full season this team has enough. The Jets won 14 games the last two seasons despite some of the worst quarterback performances in the league over that span. It's easy to see this team taking advantage of a soft schedule to make the postseason for the first time since 2010. - Jonathan Von Tobel

2024 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	LINE*	SERIES TREND
9/9	at San Francisco	+6.8	ROAD TEAMS are on 7-1 ATS run in L8 of NYJ-SF series
9/15	at Tennessee	-1.9	TENNESSEE is 10-2 ATS in L12 games versus NY Jets
9/19	NEW ENGLAND	-6.8	NEW ENGLAND is on 5-1 ATS run at NY Jets
9/29	DENVER	-7.9	OVER the total is 7-1 in L8 of DEN-NYJ series in New York
10/6	vs. Minnesota	-3.5	FAVORITES are on 4-0 ATS streak in NYJ-MIN h2h series
10/14	BUFFALO	+1.4	UNDERDOGS are 9-1 ATS in L10 of BUF-NYJ series at New York
10/20	at Pittsburgh	+0.3	UNDER the total is 5-1 in L6 of NYJ-PIT series but lost LT
10/27	at New England	-4	NEW ENGLAND is 8-1 SU & 6-2-1 ATS in L9 hosting NY Jets
10/31	HOUSTON	-1.1	UNDERDOGS are on 6-0-1 ATS run in HOU-NYJ h2h series
11/10	at Arizona	-1.5	UNDER the total is 5-1 in L6 of NYJ-ARI h2h series
11/17	INDIANAPOLIS	-4.3	HOME FAVORITES are on 3-0 SU & ATS streak in IND-NYJ set
BYE WEEK			
12/1	SEATTLE	-5	SEATTLE has won L5 ATS versus NY Jets
12/8	at Miami	+2.1	MIAMI is 5-1-2 ATS in L8 hosting NY Jets
12/15	at Jacksonville	+0.6	JACKSONVILLE is 4-1 ATS in L5 hosting NY Jets
12/22	LA RAMS	-1.8	ROAD TEAMS have won L3 ATS in LAR-NYJ h2h series
12/29	at Buffalo	+4.6	UNDER the total is 11-5 in NYJ-BUF series at Buffalo since '07
1/5	MIAMI	-1.5	MIAMI is on 5-1 ATS run at NY Jets

SCHEDULE STRENGTH 24.12 (#13 toughest of 32)

FIELD RATINGS 1.4/-0.4 (HOME/ROAD)

2023 STATS AND RANKS

	OFFENSE		DEFENSE	
	STAT	RANK	STAT	RANK
POINTS PER GAME	15.8	29	20.9	12
YARDS PER POINT	17	27	14	27
PLAYS PER GAME	61.9	21		
TIME OF POSSESSION	29:02	25		
3RD DOWN CONV. %	26.0%	32	37.2%	13
TOTAL YARDS PER GAME	268.6	31	292.3	3
YARDS PER PLAY	4.3	31	4.6	1
RUSH ATTEMPTS PER GAME	22.8	29		
RUSH YARDS PER GAME	96.9	22	124	25
YARDS PER RUSH ATTEMPT	4.2	14	4.1	11
PASS ATTEMPTS PER GAME	35.4	11		
COMPLETION %	59.2%	31	60.0%	3
PASSING YARDS PER GAME	171.7	30	168.3	2
YARDS PER PASS ATTEMPT	5.6	31	5.5	4
TURNOVERS	1.9	30	1.6	8

2024 ODDS

SUPER BOWL
20-1

AFC
11-1

AFC EAST
+190

WIN TOTAL PREDICTION
OVER 9.5

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

2023 Record (incl. playoffs): 4-13 SU & 5-11-1 ATS
Head Coach: Jerod Mayo (1st)

New England begins another era at quarterback this season after selecting Drake Maye with the third overall pick in the 2024 draft. How much he plays remains to be seen, but what is not in question is how much this team will struggle. Jerod Mayo is now the head coach and the roster is devoid of talent. This has all the makings of a rough season for the once proud franchise.

OFFENSE

Last season New England finished 31st in offensive EPA (-0.189) and scoring (13.9) and 29th in yards per play (4.6). There is little reason to believe this team will improve greatly in those categories in 2024. Alex Van Pelt comes in from Cleveland to fill the role of offensive coordinator. If he brings a similar offense to that of the Browns, the Patriots could certainly take a step forward. But realistically that step will be a small one.

The biggest issue for the Patriots is a roster devoid of talent at the skill positions. Demario Douglas – 49 receptions, 561 yards – is the team's leading returner at receiver. Douglas was a sixth-round rookie out of Liberty last season. New England might have a productive pass-catcher in Douglas, but he cannot be your most talented wideout. Kendrick Bourne and JuJu Smith-Schuster return, but both had less than 500 yards last season.

Rhamondre Stevenson is the Patriots' best offensive player. He has totaled 2,318 yards from scrimmage over the last two seasons and averaged 4.9 yards per touch for his career. In Van Pelt's new system, Stevenson could thrive. The offensive linemen in front of him are sturdy as well, with four on the roster ranking 27th or higher in PFF offensive grade.

Quarterback is going to be fascinating. Does Maye start right away or does Jacoby Brissett take New England through the regular season while the rookie develops? Either way, average quarterback play, at best, can be expected for a team lacking offensive firepower.

DEFENSE

The biggest misconception about Bill Belichick is that he cannot coach any longer. Belichick schemed New England to top 10 finishes in defensive EPA each of the last two seasons. Jerod Mayo is a former defensive player, but can he have the same effect on this unit?

Defensive line should be a strength for the Patriots due to the talent inside. Christian Barmore was the eighth-ranked interior defender by PFF last season. He totaled 49 pressures last season, tied for 17th among interior linemen. But, Barmore is the lone top-tier player up front. The others at the position that played over 300 snaps last season – Keion White, Anfernee Jennings, among others – graded out as below average linemen.

Defensive back should be a position of strength if Christian Gonzalez returns from injury and progresses the way New England hopes. He is playing alongside Jonathan Jones, who has been a solid corner throughout his tenure with the Patriots. Behind them is Jabrill Peppers, who has thrived since joining New England in 2022. But it is fair to ask how much of his production was a byproduct of the coach who is no longer there.

Regardless, there is enough on this side of the ball that the Patriots should be an above average defensive team. What remains to be seen is whether they can achieve the same way they did under Belichick in his time at the helm.

OVERLOOK

Outside of a solid defense, there isn't much to be positive about for New England. The quarterback position is a question, and a rookie will likely be playing at some point this season. The Patriots' schedule is also one of the hardest in the league. They rank 31st in strength of schedule using projected win totals. The team projects to be an underdog in every game this season. Unless Maye is a reincarnation of Andrew Luck it's hard seeing this team not finishing in the bottom five once again this season. – Jonathan Von Tobel

2024 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	LINE*	SERIES TREND
9/8	at Cincinnati	+9.6	FAVORITES have won L3 SU & ATS in NE-CIN h2h set
9/15	SEATTLE	+0.4	The L6 games of SEA-NE h2h series went OVER the total
9/19	at NY Jets	+6.8	NEW ENGLAND is on 5-1 ATS run at NY Jets
9/29	at San Francisco	+12.2	ROAD TEAMS are on 4-0 ATS streak in NE-SF h2h series
10/6	MIAMI	+3.9	MIAMI has won L7 ATS vs. New England
10/13	HOUSTON	+4.3	HOME TEAMS are on 11-3 ATS run in HOU-NE h2h series
10/20	vs. Jacksonville	+3.8	JACKSONVILLE is just 2-6 ATS in L8 games away from home vs. NE
10/27	NY JETS	+4	NEW ENGLAND is 8-1 SU & 6-2-1 ATS in L9 hosting NY Jets
11/3	at Tennessee	+3.5	FAVORITES are 8-4-1 ATS in L13 of NE-TEN h2h series
11/10	at Chicago	+5	OVER the total is 6-1 in L7 of NE-CHI h2h series
11/17	LA RAMS	+3.6	FAVORITES are on 4-0 SU & ATS streak in LAR-NE h2h series
11/24	at Miami	+7.5	MIAMI is on 9-2-1 ATS run hosting New England
12/1	INDIANAPOLIS	+1.1	NEW ENGLAND has won L5 ATS hosting Indianapolis
BYE WEEK			
12/15	at Arizona	+3.9	NEW ENGLAND is 5-0 SU & ATS at Arizona since '93
12/22	at Buffalo	+10	NEW ENGLAND is on 16-5 ATS extended run at Buffalo
12/29	LA CHARGERS	+1.8	NEW ENGLAND is on 7-1 ATS run vs. Chargers but lost LT
1/5	BUFFALO	+6.8	UNDERDOGS are 6-3 ATS in L9 of BUF-NE h2h series at Foxboro

SCHEDULE STRENGTH 24.69
(#4 toughest of 32)

FIELD RATINGS 2/0.2
(HOME/ROAD)

2023 STATS AND RANKS

	OFFENSE		DEFENSE	
	STAT	RANK	STAT	RANK
POINTS PER GAME	13.9	31	21.5	15
YARDS PER POINT	19.9	32	14	26
PLAYS PER GAME	60	28		
TIME OF POSSESSION	28:02	31		
3RD DOWN CONV. %	30.2%	31	36.3%	6
TOTAL YARDS PER GAME	276.2	30	301.6	7
YARDS PER PLAY	4.6	29	4.7	4
RUSH ATTEMPTS PER GAME	24.4	26		
RUSH YARDS PER GAME	95.7	26	93.2	4
YARDS PER RUSH ATTEMPT	3.9	25	3.3	1
PASS ATTEMPTS PER GAME	32.8	22		
COMPLETION %	63.0%	22	64.4%	13
PASSING YARDS PER GAME	180.5	28	208.4	11
YARDS PER PASS ATTEMPT	6.1	30	6.2	8
TURNOVERS	1.7	27	1.1	23

2024 ODDS

SUPER BOWL
150-1

AFC
90-1

AFC EAST
25-1

WIN TOTAL PREDICTION
UNDER 4.5

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

2023 Record (incl. playoffs): 10-9 SU & 11-8 ATS
Head Coach: Todd Bowles (3rd)

The Buccaneers are four-time defending NFC South champions heading into the 2024 season. After surprising a lot of people in 2023 by winning the division and winning a playoff game with Cleveland cast-off Baker Mayfield leading the way under center, the Bucs have reloaded the clip for 2024 by signing Mayfield and WR Mike Evans to extensions.

OFFENSE

The Bucs were kind of boom or bust in 2023, ranking 12th in EPA/play but just 27th in Offensive Success Rate (if that isn't Baker Mayfield summed up in a stat, I don't know what is). Mayfield threw for over 4,000 yards a year ago and had two 1,000-yard receivers in Evans and Chris Godwin – both of whom return in 2024. How much the passing game will be affected by the loss of OC Dave Canales is a key question.

They didn't have a 1,000 yard rusher, which probably explains the poor success rate stat, so that will need to improve if they want to take another step forward. The additions of OL Ben Bredeson and Graham Barton may help.

DEFENSE

Defensively, Tampa was decent last year in the advanced metrics, ranking 18th and 19th in opponent EPA per play and success rate, respectively, but TSI rated them seventh in the NFL in defensive rating – how many points a team is expected to allow versus the average team – due to their ability to still prevent teams from putting points on the board despite the mediocre down-to-down stats.

The back seven took a hit with the losses of CB Carlton Davis III and LB Devin White, but the pass rush may be upgraded with Edges Chris Braswell and Randy Gregory.

OUTLOOK

A veteran-led team, not dissimilar to New Orleans, Tampa Bay is a high-floor football team whose play on both lines is good, which should allow them to stay in playoff contention in 2024. I personally question whether a three-year extension for Mayfield was the smartest thing in the world for them to do, as he hasn't consistently demonstrated the ability to lead a successful football team, but maybe the change of scenery in Tampa and some maturing on his part will continue to serve him well.

The Bucs face the 12th-most difficult schedule, per TSI, and have a win total Over/Under of 8.5. TSI projects 8.2 wins so this is another stay-away, but if I had to choose I would lean Under 8.5 because I would expect some regression offensively and I'm not sure the defense is going to be as fortunate as it was last year in allowing success down-to-down but ultimately keeping teams out of the endzone. – Tyler Shoemaker

2024 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	LINE*	SERIES TREND
9/8	WASHINGTON	-4.7	UNDERDOGS have gone 9-1-2 ATS in L12 of WAS-TB h2h series
9/15	at Detroit	+6.7	FAVORITES are on 5-0-1 ATS surge in TB-DET h2h series
9/22	DENVER	-5.6	ROAD TEAMS are 5-1-2 ATS in L8 of DEN-TB h2h series
9/29	PHILADELPHIA	+2.4	The L4 games in PHI-TB h2h series went UNDER the total
10/3	at Atlanta	+1.5	OVER the total is 7-1 in L8 of TB-ATL series at Atlanta
10/13	at New Orleans	-0.5	ROAD TEAMS are on 7-1 ATS run in TB-NO h2h series
10/21	BALTIMORE	+4.4	ROAD TEAMS are on 6-game ATS winning streak in BAL-TB set
10/27	ATLANTA	-0.2	UNDER the total is on 2-0 run in ATL-TB series in Tampa after 0-5 skid
11/4	at Kansas City	+9.2	UNDERDOGS are on 5-1-1 ATS run in TB-KC h2h series
11/10	SAN FRANCISCO	+4.4	ROAD TEAMS are on 4-2 ATS run in SF-TB h2h series

BYE WEEK

11/24	at NY Giants	-1.2	The L3 games of TB-NYG series in New York went OVER the total
12/1	at Carolina	-4.5	UNDER the total is 8-3 in L11 of TB-CAR rivalry in Carolina
12/8	LAS VEGAS	-3	OVER the total is 8-0-1 in L9 of LVR-TB h2h series
12/15	at LA Chargers	+2.1	OVER the total is 7-1 in L8 of TB-LAC h2h series
12/22	at Dallas	+5.8	The L5 games of TB-DAL series in Dallas went UNDER the total
12/29	CAROLINA	-6.6	TAMPA BAY is on 5-0 SU & 4-1 ATS surge hosting Carolina
1/5	NEW ORLEANS	-1.7	NEW ORLEANS has won L6 ATS at Tampa Bay

SCHEDULE STRENGTH 23.50
(#25 toughest of 32)

FIELD RATINGS 1.6/0.4
(HOME/ROAD)

2023 STATS AND RANKS

	OFFENSE		DEFENSE	
	STAT	RANK	STAT	RANK
POINTS PER GAME	20.5	20	19.1	7
YARDS PER POINT	15.3	17	18	2
PLAYS PER GAME	61.6	25		
TIME OF POSSESSION	29:35	17		
3RD DOWN CONV. %	41.5%	10	40.9%	23
TOTAL YARDS PER GAME	313	23	344.2	23
YARDS PER PLAY	5.1	20	5.4	22
RUSH ATTEMPTS PER GAME	25.8	23		
RUSH YARDS PER GAME	88.8	32	95.3	5
YARDS PER RUSH ATTEMPT	3.4	32	3.8	8
PASS ATTEMPTS PER GAME	33.4	19		
COMPLETION %	64.1%	18	66.1%	22
PASSING YARDS PER GAME	224.2	17	248.9	29
YARDS PER PASS ATTEMPT	7.1	14	6.9	25
TURNOVERS	1.1	6	1.5	12

2024 ODDS

SUPER BOWL

75-1

NFC

35-1

NFC SOUTH

+300

WIN TOTAL PREDICTION
UNDER 8.5