



SPORTS.PICKS1024

NFL WEEKLY REPORT

NFL Week 4 — 2026 Season

Report Updated: September 30, 2026 • 8:40 PM ET

16 games • Oct 1–5, 2026 • No bye teams

TNF: Steelers at Browns • International: Colts vs Commanders (London)

SNF: Lions at Panthers • MNF: Falcons at Saints

Headline game: Chiefs (3-0) at Raiders (3-0)

Research product — facts, projections, and opinions labeled separately

Market prices: ESPN odds board as of Sep 30, 2026

YOUR WINNING EDGE

Premium NFL research desk • Not a betting tout sheet

SPORTS.PICKS1024 NFL WEEKLY REPORT

NFL Week 4 — 2026 Season

Report Updated: September 30, 2026 • 8:40 PM ET

This is a research publication. **CONFIRMED** facts, **REPORTED** items, **EXPECTED** roles, **QUESTIONABLE** statuses, and **UNCONFIRMED** items are labeled. Projections are analyst constructs, not certainties. Where a number could not be independently verified from public boards at the stamp time, the cell reads **N/A — NOT VERIFIED**. Opening lines that could not be separately confirmed are marked **N/A — CURRENT MARKET NOT VERIFIED** for the open; current ESPN board prices as of Sep 30, 2026 are used for the current market snapshot.

Table of Contents

- 1. Date + Week Verification
- 2. Week at a Glance / Executive Summary
- 3. This Week's 10 Biggest Storylines
- 4. Complete Weekly Schedule
- 5. League Power Snapshot
- 6. Quarterback Report
- 7. Offensive Line vs. Defensive Front
- 8. Passing Matchup Notes
- 9. Running Game Notes
- 10. Receiver and Tight End Usage
- 11. Injury Report (by game)
- 12. Weather Report
- 13. Game Environment Report
- 14. Every Game — Full Matchup Capsule
- 15. Player Prop Research Board
- 16. Player Projection Board
- 17. Breakout Player Watch
- 18. Rookie Watch
- 19. Coaching and Scheme Report
- 20. Key Statistical Mismatches
- 21. Upset and Underdog Watch
- 22. Market Movement
- 23. Fantasy Football Corner
- 24. Weekly NFL News Desk
- 25. Social Media Content Section
- 26. AI Video Prompts
- 27. Website Articles
- 28. Final Weekly Dashboard
- 29. Final Pregame Checklist
- 30. Sources

1. Date + Week Verification

CONFIRMED. Calendar date of this desk stamp is Wednesday, September 30, 2026. The 2026 NFL regular season is in progress. Week 3 is complete (Thu Sep 24–Mon Sep 28). The upcoming slate is **Week 4**, running Thursday, October 1 through Monday, October 5, 2026. All 32

teams play. **No bye teams.**

Item	Verified value
Season	2026 NFL regular season
Week	Week 4
Week window	Thu Oct 1 – Mon Oct 5, 2026
TNF	Pittsburgh at Cleveland, 8:15 PM ET, Prime Video
International	Indianapolis vs. Washington, Tottenham Hotspur Stadium, London, 9:30 AM ET, NFL Network
Sunday 1:00 PM ET	TEN@BAL, NE@BUF, NYJ@CHI, JAX@CIN, DAL@HOU, ARI@NYG, LAR@PHI, GB@TB (8 games)
Sunday 4:05 PM ET	Miami at Minnesota (FOX)
Sunday 4:25 PM ET	KC@LV, DEN@SF, LAC@SEA (CBS)
SNF	Detroit at Carolina, 8:20 PM ET, NBC
MNF	Atlanta at New Orleans, 8:15 PM ET, ESPN/ABC
Games	16
Byes	None

Sources: NFL.com Week 4 how-to-watch (published Sep 30, 2026); ESPN NFL schedule Week 4, 2026; FOX Sports schedule board.

2. Week at a Glance / Executive Summary

Week 4 is a full 16-game week with a London kickoff, an undefeated-vs-undefeated AFC West game, and two quarterback emergencies that change how several markets should be read. San Francisco (3-0, +48 point differential), Jacksonville (2-1, +46), Kansas City (3-0, +38), Chicago (2-1, +36), Las Vegas (3-0, +34) and Minnesota (3-0, +30) are the clearest early form horses on scored points. Miami (0-3, 36 PF / 86 PA) and the 0-3 cluster of Tennessee, Houston, the Chargers and Tampa Bay are the other pole.

Theme	Desk read
Games / byes	16 games. Zero byes.
Biggest game	Chiefs (3-0) at Raiders (3-0), 4:25 PM ET, Allegiant. First place in the AFC West.
International	Colts vs Commanders at Tottenham. First European game after Week 3's Rio regular-season game.
Major QB news	Baker Mayfield OUT multiple weeks (dislocated thumb); Jalon Daniels EXPECTED to start. Jayden Daniels elbow — Mariota EXPECTED if not cleared. Caleb Williams DOUBT; Keenum EXPECTED. Jaxson Dart on IR; Winston EXPECTED for NYG.
Major injuries	De'Von Achane season-ending ACL. Panthers placed CBs Jaycee Horn and Mike Jackson on IR. Joey Porter Jr. OUT again. Elgton Jenkins OUT (concussion). Justin Jefferson ankle — PENDING.
Lineup changes	Chicago started Case Keenum on MNF and won 27-7. Washington used Marcus Mariota in relief (3 TDs reported vs. Seattle).
Weather games	WATCH: ARI@NYG rain showers at some desks. TEN@BAL ~40% rain. DAL@HOU rain if NRG roof is open. No verified 15+ mph sustained wind game as of this stamp.
High-scoring boards	JAX@CIN 51.5 and DET@CAR 51.5 are the two highest verified totals.
Low-scoring boards	PIT@CLE 38.5, GB@TB 38.5, MIA@MIN 38.5.
Undefeated	BUF, KC, LV, MIN, SF — all 3-0. Two of them meet in Las Vegas.
Winless	MIA, TEN, HOU, LAC, TB — all 0-3.

Sources: ESPN standings 2026; AS.com standings update 19:02h ET Sep 30, 2026; NFL.com; CBS Sports injury desk Sep 30, 2026 7:08 PM ET.

3. This Week's 10 Biggest Storylines

1. Unbeatens collide in the AFC West

Teams/Players: Chiefs, Raiders

Why it matters: Both 3-0. Combined 176 points scored. Kirk Cousins has the Raiders ahead of schedule; Mahomes remains the structural favorite.

What to monitor: Whether Las Vegas can protect Cousins and finish drives against Kansas City's front.

Source: NFL.com Week 4 how-to-watch; ESPN odds; The Athletic power rankings Sep 29, 2026.

2. Mayfield is out; an undrafted rookie starts in Tampa

Teams/Players: Baker Mayfield, Jalon Daniels, Packers

Why it matters: Mayfield dislocated his right thumb in Week 3. Todd Bowles said a minimum of three weeks. Daniels is EXPECTED to make his first start.

What to monitor: Official inactive list and whether Tampa adds another QB to the 53.

Source: NFL.com (Dan Parr); FOX 13 Tampa Bay Sep 30, 2026; Todd Bowles comments.

3. Jayden Daniels' elbow and a London start

Teams/Players: Commanders, Colts, Marcus Mariota

Why it matters: Daniels is listed limited with a dislocated elbow. Mariota threw three touchdowns in relief vs. Seattle. London travel plus OL losses (Cosmi OUT) stack risk.

What to monitor: Friday/Saturday practice reports and Sunday inactives in London.

Source: CBS Sports injury desk; Sporting News QB rankings; NFL.com.

4. Achane is done for the year; Miami is 0-3

Teams/Players: Dolphins, Vikings

Why it matters: Torn ACL in Week 3 vs. Kansas City. Miami has scored 36 points in three games, last in the AFC East.

What to monitor: Carry split between Ollie Gordon / Jaylen Wright and Justin Jefferson's ankle in Minnesota.

Source: CBS Sports; NBC Sports fantasy injury desk Sep 29, 2026.

5. Panthers lose both starting cornerbacks to IR

Teams/Players: Carolina, Detroit

Why it matters: Jaycee Horn and Mike Jackson to IR ahead of SNF vs. Detroit. That is a coverage emergency against a 93-PF Lions offense.

What to monitor: Who starts outside, and whether Coker/Legette are active on offense.

Source: CBS Sports Week 4 injury report Sep 30, 2026.

6. 49ers at 3-0 with Purdy in MVP form

Teams/Players: Brock Purdy, Broncos

Why it matters: NFL.com QB Index has Purdy No. 1 through three weeks: 72.3%, 789 yards, 9.5 YPA, 9 TD / 1 INT in 3 games.

What to monitor: Mike Evans rib status; whether Denver's front can get Purdy off schedule.

Source: NFL.com QB rankings Week 4, Nick Shook, Sep 30, 2026.

7. Bears just embarrassed Philadelphia — with Case Keenum

Teams/Players: Bears, Jets, Caleb Williams

Why it matters: Chicago 27, Philadelphia 7 on MNF. Keenum 24/34, 247 yards, 2 TD plus a rushing TD (PFR box). Williams is DOUBT on public QB boards.

What to monitor: Official CHI starter designation before Sunday.

Source: Pro-Football-Reference Week 3 box; deepmetricanalytics QB board Sep 29.

8. Steelers-Browns for a share of the AFC North lead

Teams/Players: Rodgers, Watson, Porter Jr.

Why it matters: Both 2-1. Winner owns the early North lead alone for a few days. Porter Jr. OUT a fourth straight game. Browns missing both Jenkins linemen.

What to monitor: Ramsey/Echols game-time decisions; Browns interior OL replacements.

Source: NFL.com injury report; CBS Sports; ClevelandBrowns.com depth chart Sep 28.

9. Texans 0-3 host Dallas on the franchise's 25th anniversary

Teams/Players: Stroud, Nico Collins, Prescott

Why it matters: Houston is a home favorite despite 0-3. Collins returned to practice (Grade 1 hamstring, hopeful).

What to monitor: Collins snap count and NRG roof.

Source: NFL.com how-to-watch; CBS Sports; Aaron Wilson via Sharp Football injury desk.

10. Jacksonville's point differential vs. Cincinnati's firepower

Teams/Players: Lawrence, Burrow

Why it matters: Jaguars are +46 in point differential after a 35-6 win at New England. Bengals are 2-1 and host a 51.5 total.

What to monitor: Whether Jacksonville's defensive efficiency holds up against Burrow's skill group.

Source: AS.com / ESPN standings; ESPN totals board.

4. Complete Weekly Schedule

Current spread, moneyline and total below use the ESPN Week 4 odds board captured Sep 30, 2026 (line listed as team / number plus O/U). Moneylines were not printed as American odds on that board snapshot, so ML = N/A — **CURRENT MARKET NOT VERIFIED**. Opening numbers were not independently archived by this desk, so Opening Spread = N/A — **CURRENT MARKET NOT VERIFIED**. FOX Sports listed SF -2.5 where ESPN listed SF -3; that 0.5-point disagreement is noted on DEN@SF.

THURSDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL

PIT @ CLE

Field	Detail
Matchup	Pittsburgh Steelers (2-1) @ Cleveland Browns (2-1)
Kickoff / TV	Thu Oct 1 • 8:15 PM ET • Prime Video
Venue	Huntington Bank Field • Cleveland, OH
Surface / roof	Grass • Outdoor
Records	PIT 2-1 • CLE 2-1
Opening spread	N/A — CURRENT MARKET NOT VERIFIED
Current spread	PIT -2.5
Moneyline	N/A — CURRENT MARKET NOT VERIFIED
Game total	38.5
Line movement	N/A — OPENING NUMBER NOT VERIFIED
Weather	~75°F, wind ~8–11 mph SSW, rain ~4–15%. Minor wind. Not a weather-watch game.
Major injuries	PIT OUT: RB Rico Dowdle (toe), CB Joey Porter Jr. (NIR/back). PIT Q: CB Jalen Ramsey (wrist), CB Brandin Echols (concussion). CLE OUT: C Elgton Jenkins (concussion), G Teven Jenkins (back), WR Tylan Wallace (knee).

INTERNATIONAL GAME

IND vs WAS (London)

Field	Detail
Matchup	Indianapolis Colts (1-2) vs Washington Commanders (1-2) — London
Kickoff / TV	Sun Oct 4 • 9:30 AM ET • NFL Network / NFL+
Venue	Tottenham Hotspur Stadium • London, United Kingdom
Surface / roof	Grass • Outdoor
Records	IND 1-2 • WAS 1-2
Opening spread	N/A — CURRENT MARKET NOT VERIFIED
Current spread	IND -3.5
Moneyline	N/A — CURRENT MARKET NOT VERIFIED
Game total	47.5
Line movement	N/A — OPENING NUMBER NOT VERIFIED
Weather	Partly cloudy, ~66–71°F, light wind ~4 mph, rain near 0% at most desks. Neutral.
Major injuries	WAS OUT: G Sam Cosmi (concussion/throat), S Nick Cross (illness). WAS MONITOR: QB Jayden Daniels (dislocated elbow) — limited; Marcus Mariota expected if Daniels is not cleared. RB Rachaad White (shoulder) DNP midweek. IND: TE Mo Alie-Cox (illness), WR Ashton Dulin (ankle) missed practice.

SUNDAY 1:00 PM ET

TEN @ BAL

Field	Detail
Matchup	Tennessee Titans (0-3) @ Baltimore Ravens (2-1)
Kickoff / TV	Sun Oct 4 • 1:00 PM ET • CBS
Venue	M&T; Bank Stadium • Baltimore, MD
Surface / roof	Grass • Outdoor
Records	TEN 0-3 • BAL 2-1
Opening spread	N/A — CURRENT MARKET NOT VERIFIED
Current spread	BAL -11.5
Moneyline	N/A — CURRENT MARKET NOT VERIFIED
Game total	42.5
Line movement	N/A — OPENING NUMBER NOT VERIFIED
Weather	Rain showers possible; ~66–69°F, wind ~6 mph, rain chance ~40%. WATCH for wet ball / kicking.
Major injuries	BAL: WR Zay Flowers limited (hamstring) midweek — PENDING official Sunday status. TEN: OGs Fernando Carmona Jr. (ankle) and Jackson Slater (foot) listed OUT on public trackers.

NE @ BUF

Field	Detail
Matchup	New England Patriots (1-2) @ Buffalo Bills (3-0)
Kickoff / TV	Sun Oct 4 • 1:00 PM ET • CBS
Venue	Highmark Stadium • Orchard Park, NY
Surface / roof	Turf • Outdoor
Records	NE 1-2 • BUF 3-0
Opening spread	N/A — CURRENT MARKET NOT VERIFIED
Current spread	BUF -6.5
Moneyline	N/A — CURRENT MARKET NOT VERIFIED
Game total	48.5
Line movement	N/A — OPENING NUMBER NOT VERIFIED
Weather	Partly cloudy, ~66–68°F, wind ~6–10 mph, rain chance ~5–33% depending on model. Minor, not 15+ mph sustained.
Major injuries	NE DNP midweek: DT Christian Barmore (shoulder), CB Christian Gonzalez (shoulder), T Morgan Moses (foot). Drake Maye FULL (right shoulder). A.J. Brown on IR (high-ankle sprain). BUF DNP: CB Christian Benford (toe), WR Keon Coleman (ankle).

NYJ @ CHI

Field	Detail
Matchup	New York Jets (1-2) @ Chicago Bears (2-1)
Kickoff / TV	Sun Oct 4 • 1:00 PM ET • FOX
Venue	Soldier Field • Chicago, IL
Surface / roof	Grass • Outdoor
Records	NYJ 1-2 • CHI 2-1
Opening spread	N/A — CURRENT MARKET NOT VERIFIED
Current spread	CHI -3.5
Moneyline	N/A — CURRENT MARKET NOT VERIFIED
Game total	43.5
Line movement	N/A — OPENING NUMBER NOT VERIFIED
Weather	Mostly sunny, ~61–68°F, wind ~5–10 mph, rain ~3–4%. Clear.
Major injuries	CHI: Caleb Williams listed DOUBT on public QB boards; Case Keenum started MNF and is the EXPECTED Week 4 starter pending official confirmation. NYJ: several skill/OL names on midweek DNP lists (Adonai Mitchell finger, Dylan Parham knee).

JAX @ CIN

Field	Detail
Matchup	Jacksonville Jaguars (2-1) @ Cincinnati Bengals (2-1)
Kickoff / TV	Sun Oct 4 • 1:00 PM ET • CBS
Venue	Paycor Stadium • Cincinnati, OH
Surface / roof	Turf • Outdoor
Records	JAX 2-1 • CIN 2-1
Opening spread	N/A — CURRENT MARKET NOT VERIFIED
Current spread	CIN -2.5
Moneyline	N/A — CURRENT MARKET NOT VERIFIED
Game total	51.5
Line movement	N/A — OPENING NUMBER NOT VERIFIED
Weather	~71°F, wind ~5 mph, rain ~18%. Not flagged as material.
Major injuries	No league-wide headline OUT designations verified for either starting QB as of 8:40 PM ET Sep 30. Recheck Friday/Saturday reports.

DAL @ HOU

Field	Detail
Matchup	Dallas Cowboys (1-2) @ Houston Texans (0-3)
Kickoff / TV	Sun Oct 4 • 1:00 PM ET • FOX
Venue	NRG Stadium (listed Reliant on some boards) • Houston, TX
Surface / roof	Turf • Retractable — roof status PENDING
Records	DAL 1-2 • HOU 0-3
Opening spread	N/A — CURRENT MARKET NOT VERIFIED
Current spread	HOU -3
Moneyline	N/A — CURRENT MARKET NOT VERIFIED
Game total	48.5
Line movement	N/A — OPENING NUMBER NOT VERIFIED
Weather	Outdoor forecast ~78°F, rain ~47% if roof is open. Confirm roof before kickoff.
Major injuries	HOU: Nico Collins (hamstring) returned to limited practice; DeMeco Ryans hopeful Grade 1. DAL: CB Cobie Durant OUT (hamstring). Texans 25th anniversary game.

ARI @ NYG

Field	Detail
Matchup	Arizona Cardinals (1-2) @ New York Giants (2-1)
Kickoff / TV	Sun Oct 4 • 1:00 PM ET • CBS
Venue	MetLife Stadium • East Rutherford, NJ
Surface / roof	Turf • Outdoor
Records	ARI 1-2 • NYG 2-1
Opening spread	N/A — CURRENT MARKET NOT VERIFIED
Current spread	ARI -2.5
Moneyline	N/A — CURRENT MARKET NOT VERIFIED
Game total	44.5
Line movement	N/A — OPENING NUMBER NOT VERIFIED
Weather	WEATHER WATCH: rain showers likely at some desks (~58–60% kick window), ~65–67°F, wind ~8–9 mph. Recheck Sunday morning.
Major injuries	NYG: RB Tyrone Tracy Jr. (knee) and OT Andrew Thomas (groin) listed TBD on public boards. Jaxson Dart on IR. Jameis Winston EXPECTED starter. ARI: no injuries listed on some Wednesday boards.

LAR @ PHI

Field	Detail
Matchup	Los Angeles Rams (1-2) @ Philadelphia Eagles (2-1)
Kickoff / TV	Sun Oct 4 • 1:00 PM ET • FOX
Venue	Lincoln Financial Field • Philadelphia, PA
Surface / roof	Grass • Outdoor
Records	LAR 1-2 • PHI 2-1
Opening spread	N/A — CURRENT MARKET NOT VERIFIED
Current spread	LAR -3
Moneyline	N/A — CURRENT MARKET NOT VERIFIED
Game total	43.5
Line movement	N/A — OPENING NUMBER NOT VERIFIED
Weather	~71°F, wind ~4 mph, rain ~25%. Monitor but not currently 15+ mph wind.
Major injuries	Puka Nacua availability N/A — NOT VERIFIED for Week 4 as of this stamp. PHI coming off 27-7 MNF loss at Chicago.

GB @ TB

Field	Detail
Matchup	Green Bay Packers (1-2) @ Tampa Bay Buccaneers (0-3)
Kickoff / TV	Sun Oct 4 • 1:00 PM ET • FOX
Venue	Raymond James Stadium • Tampa, FL
Surface / roof	Grass • Outdoor
Records	GB 1-2 • TB 0-3
Opening spread	N/A — CURRENT MARKET NOT VERIFIED
Current spread	GB -3.5
Moneyline	N/A — CURRENT MARKET NOT VERIFIED
Game total	38.5
Line movement	N/A — OPENING NUMBER NOT VERIFIED
Weather	Hot and dry: ~91°F, wind ~8 mph, rain ~2%. Heat is the environmental note, not wind/rain.
Major injuries	TB CONFIRMED: Baker Mayfield OUT multiple weeks (dislocated right thumb). Jalon Daniels EXPECTED to start. Multiple Bucs DNP midweek including Chris Godwin (ankle). GB coming off 35-14 TNF loss to Atlanta.

SUNDAY LATE WINDOW

MIA @ MIN

Field	Detail
Matchup	Miami Dolphins (0-3) @ Minnesota Vikings (3-0)
Kickoff / TV	Sun Oct 4 • 4:05 PM ET • FOX
Venue	U.S. Bank Stadium • Minneapolis, MN
Surface / roof	Turf • Indoor
Records	MIA 0-3 • MIN 3-0
Opening spread	N/A — CURRENT MARKET NOT VERIFIED
Current spread	MIN -10.5
Moneyline	N/A — CURRENT MARKET NOT VERIFIED
Game total	38.5
Line movement	N/A — OPENING NUMBER NOT VERIFIED
Weather	INDOORS — weather is not a factor.
Major injuries	MIA CONFIRMED: RB De'Von Achane season-ending torn ACL (Week 3 vs. KC). Jaylen Wright limited (foot). MIN: Justin Jefferson DNP Wednesday (ankle sprain) — PENDING. Kyler Murray started Week 3 after concussion protocol.

KC @ LV

Field	Detail
Matchup	Kansas City Chiefs (3-0) @ Las Vegas Raiders (3-0)
Kickoff / TV	Sun Oct 4 • 4:25 PM ET • CBS
Venue	Allegiant Stadium • Las Vegas, NV
Surface / roof	Turf • Indoor
Records	KC 3-0 • LV 3-0
Opening spread	N/A — CURRENT MARKET NOT VERIFIED
Current spread	KC -4.5
Moneyline	N/A — CURRENT MARKET NOT VERIFIED
Game total	47.5
Line movement	N/A — OPENING NUMBER NOT VERIFIED
Weather	INDOORS — weather is not a factor.
Major injuries	No verified starter-level OUT designations for Mahomes or Cousins as of this stamp.

DEN @ SF

Field	Detail
Matchup	Denver Broncos (2-1) @ San Francisco 49ers (3-0)
Kickoff / TV	Sun Oct 4 • 4:25 PM ET • CBS
Venue	Levi's Stadium • Santa Clara, CA
Surface / roof	Grass • Outdoor
Records	DEN 2-1 • SF 3-0
Opening spread	N/A — CURRENT MARKET NOT VERIFIED
Current spread	SF -3
Moneyline	N/A — CURRENT MARKET NOT VERIFIED
Game total	47.5
Line movement	N/A — OPENING NUMBER NOT VERIFIED
Weather	Warm and dry: ~89°F, wind ~4 mph, rain 0%. Heat, not wind.
Major injuries	SF: Mike Evans rib strain — reporting desks say not expected to miss much time; official Sunday status PENDING. Brock Purdy has not been listed as limited.

LAC @ SEA

Field	Detail
Matchup	Los Angeles Chargers (0-3) @ Seattle Seahawks (2-1)
Kickoff / TV	Sun Oct 4 • 4:25 PM ET • CBS
Venue	Lumen Field • Seattle, WA
Surface / roof	Turf • Outdoor
Records	LAC 0-3 • SEA 2-1
Opening spread	N/A — CURRENT MARKET NOT VERIFIED
Current spread	SEA -7
Moneyline	N/A — CURRENT MARKET NOT VERIFIED
Game total	42.5
Line movement	N/A — OPENING NUMBER NOT VERIFIED
Weather	~70°F, wind ~7 mph, rain 0%. Clean.
Major injuries	No verified Herbert OUT designation. Seattle coming off a 33-31 loss at Washington.

SUNDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL

DET @ CAR

Field	Detail
Matchup	Detroit Lions (2-1) @ Carolina Panthers (1-2)
Kickoff / TV	Sun Oct 4 • 8:20 PM ET • NBC / Peacock
Venue	Bank of America Stadium • Charlotte, NC
Surface / roof	Grass • Outdoor
Records	DET 2-1 • CAR 1-2
Opening spread	N/A — CURRENT MARKET NOT VERIFIED
Current spread	DET -3.5
Moneyline	N/A — CURRENT MARKET NOT VERIFIED
Game total	51.5
Line movement	N/A — OPENING NUMBER NOT VERIFIED
Weather	Evening forecast N/A — NOT VERIFIED at the hour level as of this stamp. Recheck Sunday.
Major injuries	CAR: CBs Jaycee Horn and Mike Jackson placed on IR. WRs Jalen Coker (quad) and Xavier Legette (knee) missed practice. Bryce Young FULL (knee). DET: CB D. Reed limited (rib) on public boards.

MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL

ATL @ NO

Field	Detail
Matchup	Atlanta Falcons (1-2) @ New Orleans Saints (1-2)
Kickoff / TV	Mon Oct 5 • 8:15 PM ET • ESPN / ABC
Venue	Caesars Superdome • New Orleans, LA
Surface / roof	Turf • Indoor
Records	ATL 1-2 • NO 1-2
Opening spread	N/A — CURRENT MARKET NOT VERIFIED
Current spread	NO -2.5
Moneyline	N/A — CURRENT MARKET NOT VERIFIED
Game total	47.5
Line movement	N/A — OPENING NUMBER NOT VERIFIED
Weather	INDOORS — weather is not a factor.
Major injuries	No verified Penix or Shough OUT designations. Atlanta just scored 35 at Green Bay on TNF.

Sources: ESPN schedule/odds Week 4 2026; NFL.com; FantasyPros schedule; Sharp Football / Deep Metric weather desks Sep 30, 2026.

5. League Power Snapshot

Through three weeks, win-loss is a noisy ranking tool — the entire AFC North is 2-1. This snapshot uses **points scored, points allowed, and point differential** from the Sep 30 standings board. EPA, success rate, explosive-play rate, pressure rate and PFF grades are **N/A — NOT VERIFIED** at the team level for this stamp because those tables were not captured from a public source in full.

TOP OFFENSES (by points scored through 3 games)

#	Team	W-L	PF	PA	Diff	Note
1	San Francisco 49ers	3-0	98	50	+48	Best PF and best raw differential
2	Detroit Lions	2-1	93	95	-2	High-variance shootout profile
3	Baltimore Ravens	2-1	92	78	+14	Lamar / open offense
4	Chicago Bears	2-1	89	53	+36	Defense just held PHI to 7
5	Carolina Panthers	1-2	89	83	+6	Young volume; CB IR crisis

TOP DEFENSES (by points allowed through 3 games)

#	Team	W-L	PA	PF	Diff	Note
1	Jacksonville Jaguars	2-1	36	82	+46	Stingiest PA + blowout at NE
2	Minnesota Vikings	3-0	41	71	+30	9-3 Week 2 at CHI; 23-16 vs TB
3	San Francisco 49ers	3-0	50	98	+48	Both ends of the ball
4	Kansas City Chiefs	3-0	50	88	+38	24-10 at Miami last week
5	Seattle Seahawks	2-1	50	75	+25	Lost 33-31 at Washington

TEAMS TRENDING UP

- **Las Vegas (3-0, +34).** Cousins tied for the league lead with 9 passing TDs through three games per The Athletic. Schedule is about to tighten.
- **Chicago (2-1, +36).** Just posted a 27-7 MNF result against Philadelphia. Point differential now among the league's best.
- **Jacksonville (2-1, +46).** 35-6 at New England is the loudest single result of Week 3 on the AFC side.
- **Denver (2-1).** Beat the Rams 30-26 on SNF. Next test is at 3-0 San Francisco.

TEAMS TRENDING DOWN

- **Miami (0-3, -50).** Achane lost for the year. 36 points scored, 86 allowed.
- **Tampa Bay (0-3).** Mayfield out multiple weeks. Godwin midweek DNP. 2-10 in last 12 games per Yahoo desk.
- **Philadelphia (2-1, -14).** Scored 7 on Monday night. Still above .500, but the MNF tape is a red flag.
- **Green Bay (1-2, -35).** Allowed 35 to Atlanta at home on TNF. Next is a road favorite spot in Tampa.
- **Chargers (0-3, -32).** Lost 24-16 at Buffalo. Herbert is healthy; the supporting results are not.

Sources: ESPN / AS.com standings Sep 30, 2026; PFR Week 3 boxes; The Athletic power rankings Sep 29, 2026.

6. Quarterback Report

Starters below are **EXPECTED** based on team announcements, unofficial depth charts, and public QB boards dated Sep 29–30, 2026. Only Baker Mayfield is a confirmed multi-week OUT at the position. Advanced columns (EPA/dropback, ADOT, time to throw, scramble rate) are omitted unless a specific public number was captured.

Team	Expected starter	Status	Verified 2026 note
BUF	Josh Allen	EXPECTED	3-0. NFL.com Index: 786 pass yds, 5 TD, 2 INT, 114 rush yds, 6 rush TD in 3 G
BAL	Lamar Jackson	EXPECTED	2-1. Faces 0-3 Titans as a double-digit favorite
KC	Patrick Mahomes	EXPECTED	NFL.com Index: 812 yds, 7 TD, 2 INT, 8.3 YPA in 3 G
SF	Brock Purdy	EXPECTED	NFL.com Index No. 1: 72.3%, 789 yds, 9.5 YPA, 9 TD / 1 INT, 133.1 rating
DAL	Dak Prescott	EXPECTED	NFL.com Index: 69.5%, 730 yds, 7 TD / 1 INT in 3 G
JAX	Trevor Lawrence	EXPECTED	NFL.com Index: 616 yds, 7 TD / 2 INT in 3 G
NO	Tyler Shough	EXPECTED	NFL.com: 250+ yds, multi-TD, 22+ FP in each of first 3 weeks
CIN	Joe Burrow	EXPECTED	2-1 host vs Jacksonville, 51.5 total
DET	Jared Goff	EXPECTED	31-24 vs Jets in Week 3; 93 PF
CAR	Bryce Young	EXPECTED / FULL	NFL.com: leads NFL in passing yards; 291 yds Week 3
PHI	Jalen Hurts	EXPECTED	7 points scored in MNF loss at Chicago
LAR	Matthew Stafford	EXPECTED	26-30 SNF loss at Denver
GB	Jordan Love	EXPECTED	312 pass yds in 14-35 TNF loss to Atlanta
NE	Drake Maye	FULL (R shoulder)	A.J. Brown on IR; 6 points scored vs Jacksonville
HOU	C.J. Stroud	EXPECTED	0-3. Nico Collins returned to practice
IND	Daniel Jones	EXPECTED	235 yds in 19-17 win vs Houston
WAS	Marcus Mariota	EXPECTED if Daniels out	Jayden Daniels limited (dislocated elbow). Mariota 3 TDs vs SEA
PIT	Aaron Rodgers	EXPECTED	292 yds, 3 TD in Week 3 win at Cincinnati (Sharp)
CLE	Deshaun Watson	EXPECTED	Official Week 4 depth chart lists Watson over Sanders
NYJ	Geno Smith	EXPECTED	321 yds in Week 3 loss at Detroit
CHI	Case Keenum	EXPECTED; Williams DOUBT	24/34, 247, 2 TD, 1 rush TD in MNF win
MIN	Kyler Murray	EXPECTED	Started Week 3 after concussion protocol
MIA	Malik Willis	EXPECTED	Public QB boards list Willis as the Week 4 starter
ARI	Jacoby Brissett	EXPECTED	Public starter boards Sep 29
NYG	Jameis Winston	EXPECTED	Dart on IR. Winston started the 12-7 win vs TEN
SEA	Sam Darnold	EXPECTED	31 points at Washington in a 33-31 loss
DEN	Bo Nix	EXPECTED	30-26 SNF win vs Rams
LAC	Justin Herbert	EXPECTED	226 yds in 16-24 loss at Buffalo
LV	Kirk Cousins	EXPECTED	The Athletic: tied for NFL lead with 9 pass TDs

Team	Expected starter	Status	Verified 2026 note
ATL	Michael Penix Jr.	EXPECTED	35-14 at Green Bay; London 194 rec yds, Robinson 194 rush
TEN	Cam Ward	EXPECTED	Public rankings boards; 0-3 club at Baltimore
TB	Jalon Daniels	EXPECTED — Mayfield OUT	Undrafted rookie. First start. Mayfield min. 3 weeks

QB MATCHUPS TO WATCH

- **Mahomes vs. Cousins.** Unbeaten-vs-unbeaten, indoor, 47.5 total. Best QB environment on the late window.
- **Lawrence vs. Burrow.** 51.5 total. Jacksonville has the point-differential profile; Cincinnati has the skill-talent profile.
- **Stafford vs. Hurts.** Two featured NFL.com names in a 1 PM NFC game after both clubs lost in prime time.
- **Goff vs. Young.** SNF, 51.5 total, Carolina missing both starting CBs.
- **Love vs. Jalon Daniels.** First NFL start for an undrafted rookie against a desperate 1-2 Packers team.
- **Purdy vs. Nix.** League-leading QB Index vs. the club that just beat Stafford in Denver.

Sources: NFL.com QB Index and Start 'Em Sep 30, 2026; ClevelandBrowns.com depth chart; CBS/NFL injury desks.

7. Offensive Line vs. Defensive Front

Sack rate, pressure rate, and PFF pass-block grades by team were not captured as a complete public table for this stamp. The mismatches below are built only from **verified availability** and game context.

MAJOR PASS-PROTECTION MISMATCHES

- **Browns interior vs. Steelers pass rush (TNF).** Elgton Jenkins OUT (concussion) and Teven Jenkins OUT (back). That is two starting interior blockers missing on a short week. Why it matters: Watson's recent usable fantasy lines have come with an emphasis on getting the ball out quickly (Sharp Football). If Pittsburgh wins the interior, the 38.5 total is explained.
- **Commanders without Sam Cosmi in London.** Cosmi OUT (concussion/throat). International short week plus a starting guard out is a protection alert even if the opponent is 1-2 Indianapolis.
- **Patriots tackle/edge depth at Buffalo.** Morgan Moses DNP (foot) midweek. Buffalo's home pass rush plus a depleted NE skill group is a structural problem for Maye.

MAJOR RUN-BLOCKING MISMATCHES

- **Atlanta at New Orleans (indoor).** Bijan Robinson posted 194 rushing yards in the Week 3 TNF win at Green Bay (PFR). Dome game, Saints 1-2. If Atlanta's OL repeats that gap scheme, New Orleans has to win early downs.
- **Buffalo vs. New England.** James Cook III posted 154 rushing yards in Week 3 vs. the Chargers (PFR). Patriots have scored 36 points in three games.

Source notes sit under each verified box-score claim (PFR Week 3).

8. Passing Matchup Analysis

This desk does not claim shadow coverage unless a reliable source says so. None was located for Week 4 as of 8:40 PM ET. Man/zone rates and blitz frequency by team: **N/A — NOT VERIFIED.**

- **Lions at Panthers:** Carolina placed its top two cornerbacks on IR. That is the clearest coverage mismatch on the board. Detroit's passing game is the side that benefits on paper.
- **Jaguars at Bengals:** 51.5 total is the market saying both secondaries are in for volume. Lawrence and Burrow are both healthy EXPECTED starters.
- **Packers at Buccaneers:** Tampa is starting an undrafted rookie. Green Bay's issue is its own 1-2 form after allowing 35 at home, not a documented Tampa coverage identity.
- **Cowboys at Texans:** If Nico Collins is active, Houston's vertical game vs. Dallas (88 PF, 82 PA) is a live passing environment. Collins status is PENDING.
- **Colts vs Commanders:** NFL.com fantasy desk notes Washington has allowed a league-high 11 passing touchdowns through three weeks. That is a CONFIRMED counting stat from that desk, not an EPA model.

9. Running Game Analysis

Verified Week 3 rushing leaders from PFR boxes: Bijan Robinson 194 (ATL), James Cook III 154 (BUF), Aaron Jones Sr. 105 in Week 2 context was a prior week. Week 3 also: Jahmyr Gibbs 99 (DET), Chuba Hubbard 82 (CAR), D'Andre Swift 84 (CHI), Jonathan Taylor 68 (IND).

- **PIT@CLE:** Rico Dowdle OUT (toe). Jaylen Warren's carry share should rise — CONFIRMED absence of Dowdle, EXPECTED usage bump for Warren. Sample: one game.
- **MIA@MIN:** Achane OUT for the season (ACL). Ollie Gordon and Jaylen Wright are the named replacements across CBS/NBC desks. Wright was limited midweek (foot). Workload is PENDING.
- **WAS in London:** Rachaad White DNP (shoulder) midweek. If he sits, Washington's backfield is a live committee with no official snap map in this file.
- **NYG:** Tyrone Tracy Jr. (knee) TBD. Giants scored 12 and 7 in a win over Tennessee — a low-volume offensive script even when they win.

Team rush EPA, success rate, explosive-run rate: N/A — NOT VERIFIED.

10. Receiver and Tight-End Usage

HIGH-VOLUME RECEIVERS (verified Week 3 box leaders, PFR): Drake London 194 receiving yards (ATL), Garrett Wilson 107 (NYJ), Tetairoa McMillan 101 in Week 2 context, Josh Downs 77 (IND), Kalif Raymond 90 (CHI MNF).

EMERGING: Denzel Boston is listed as a Browns starting WR on the unofficial Week 4 depth chart (ClevelandBrowns.com). That is a depth-chart fact, not a usage projection.

PLAYERS LOSING USAGE: De'Von Achane (season). Baker Mayfield's absence lowers the entire Tampa target tree's quality of opportunity. A.J. Brown is on IR for New England.

TIGHT-END MATCHUPS TO WATCH: Harold Fannin Jr. is the listed Browns starting TE for TNF. Mo Alie-Cox missed Colts practice (illness). Chig Okonkwo limited (hamstring) for Washington. Full target-share tables: N/A — NOT VERIFIED.

11. Injury Report

Compiled from NFL.com Week 4 injury report (updated Sep 30), CBS Sports 7:08 PM ET Sep 30, team practice reports (Patriots.com), and public trackers. Practice statuses that were only available through Tuesday are labeled as such. **Never marked OUT unless a desk or official report said OUT.**

Player	Tm	Pos	Injury	Status	Impact / replacement
Baker Mayfield	TB	QB	Dislocated R thumb	OUT — multiple weeks (CONFIRMED)	Jalon Daniels EXPECTED to start
De'Von Achane	MIA	RB	Torn ACL	OUT — season (CONFIRMED)	Gordon / Wright named; Wright limited
Joey Porter Jr.	PIT	CB	NIR / back	OUT (CONFIRMED)	Fourth straight miss. Ramsey/Echols Q
Rico Dowdle	PIT	RB	Toe	OUT (CONFIRMED)	Warren workload EXPECTED to rise
Elgton Jenkins	CLE	C	Concussion	OUT (CONFIRMED)	Luke Wypler listed next on depth chart
Teven Jenkins	CLE	G	Back	OUT (CONFIRMED)	Austin Barber listed as next RG
Tylan Wallace	CLE	WR	Knee	OUT (CONFIRMED)	Jeudy / Boston / Concepcion remain
Jalen Ramsey	PIT	CB	Wrist (fracture REPORTED)	QUESTIONABLE	Limited all week
Brandin Echols	PIT	CB	Concussion	QUESTIONABLE	Limited all week
Sam Cosmi	WAS	G	Concussion / throat	OUT (CONFIRMED)	London protection alert
Nick Cross	WAS	S	Illness	OUT (CONFIRMED)	Secondary thinner for London
Jayden Daniels	WAS	QB	Dislocated elbow	Limited / PENDING	Mariota EXPECTED if not cleared
Rachaad White	WAS	RB	Shoulder	DNP midweek / PENDING	Committee if inactive
Jaycee Horn	CAR	CB	—	IR (CONFIRMED)	Coverage emergency vs DET
Mike Jackson	CAR	CB	Groin	IR (CONFIRMED)	Second starting CB down

Player	Tm	Pos	Injury	Status	Impact / replacement
A.J. Brown	NE	WR	High-ankle sprain	IR (CONFIRMED)	Earliest Week 6 per NBC desk
Jaxson Dart	NYG	QB	Knee	IR (CONFIRMED)	Winston EXPECTED
Justin Jefferson	MIN	WR	Ankle sprain	DNP Wed / PENDING	If out, Minnesota still favored by 10.5
Nico Collins	HOU	WR	Hamstring (Grade 1 REPORTED)	Limited / hopeful	Ryans hopeful for Week 4
Caleb Williams	CHI	QB	—	DOUBT on public boards	Keenum EXPECTED after MNF start
Christian Gonzalez	NE	CB	Shoulder	DNP Wed / PENDING	Maye already down Brown
Keon Coleman	BUF	WR	Ankle	DNP Wed / PENDING	Bills still 3-0 home favorite
Christian Benford	BUF	CB	Toe	DNP Wed / PENDING	Recheck Friday report
Mike Evans	SF	WR	Rib strain	REPORTED not long-term	Official status PENDING
Chris Godwin Jr.	TB	WR	Ankle	DNP midweek / PENDING	Stacked with Mayfield OUT
Zay Flowers	BAL	WR	Hamstring	Limited Tue / PENDING	Ravens still -11.5

Last verified: September 30, 2026, 8:40 PM ET. Sources: NFL.com, CBS Sports, Patriots.com, ClevelandBrowns.com, NBC Sports, Sharp Football injury desk.

12. Weather Report

Indoor and not a factor: MIA@MIN (U.S. Bank), KC@LV (Allegiant), ATL@NO (Superdome). Retractable: DAL@HOU at NRG — roof status PENDING.

Game	Temp	Wind	Rain	Flag
PIT @ CLE	~75°F	~8–11, G18	~4–15%	No flag
IND vs WAS (London)	~66–71°F	~4 mph	~0%	No flag
TEN @ BAL	~66–69°F	~6 mph	~40%	WATCH — showers
NE @ BUF	~66–68°F	~6–10, G17	~5–33%	Minor
NYJ @ CHI	~61–68°F	~5–10	~3–4%	Clear
JAX @ CIN	~71°F	~5 mph	~18%	No flag
DAL @ HOU	~78°F if open	~10 mph	~47% if open	Roof PENDING
ARI @ NYG	~65–67°F	~8–9 mph	~11–60%*	WEATHER WATCH
LAR @ PHI	~71°F	~4 mph	~25%	Monitor
GB @ TB	~91°F	~8 mph	~2%	Heat, not wind
LAC @ SEA	~70°F	~7 mph	0%	Clear
DEN @ SF	~89°F	~4 mph	0%	Heat
DET @ CAR	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A — NOT VERIFIED

*ARI@NYG rain probability disagreed across desks (Deep Metric ~11% vs GameDayWeather ~58–60%). Labeled WEATHER WATCH because of that disagreement. Recheck Sunday morning NWS. No game currently carries verified sustained 15+ mph kickoff wind. Sources: Deep Metric weather, Sharp Football weather 7:05 PM ET Sep 30, Bleacher Report/Weather Channel, GameDayWeather.

13. Game Environment Report

Game	Class	Why (not just the total)
JAX @ CIN	Higher-scoring	Both 2-1, 51.5 total, healthy featured QBs, Jacksonville +46 PD, Bengals 80 PF
DET @ CAR	Higher-scoring	51.5 total AND Carolina CBs on IR AND both offenses already live (93 and 89 PF)
KC @ LV	Higher-scoring	Indoor, both 3-0, both 88 PF, no weather, featured QBs
IND vs WAS	Higher-scoring	47.5 total, Washington allowed 11 pass TDs through 3 weeks (NFL.com desk)

Game	Class	Why (not just the total)
DAL @ HOU	Higher-scoring	48.5 total, Dallas 88 PF, anniversary spot; Collins PENDING
ATL @ NO	Higher-scoring	Indoor, Shough volume, Atlanta just scored 35
NE @ BUF	Higher-scoring	48.5 total, Allen rushing TD rate, Bills 101 PF
DEN @ SF	Moderate / higher	47.5 total, Purdy form vs Denver's recent SNF win
LAR @ PHI	Moderate	43.5 total, both coming off prime-time losses
NYJ @ CHI	Moderate	43.5, Bears defense just posted a 7-point MNF result
ARI @ NYG	Moderate	44.5, rain disagreement can pull this down
LAC @ SEA	Moderate	42.5, 0-3 visitor, Seattle home
TEN @ BAL	Moderate / BAL script	42.5 but -11.5 favorite; rain possible
PIT @ CLE	Potentially defensive	38.5 total, short week, missing OL/CBs
GB @ TB	Potentially defensive	38.5 total, rookie QB start, GB coming off 14-point home game
MIA @ MIN	Potentially defensive	38.5 total, indoor, Miami 36 PF, Achane out

14. Every Game — Full Matchup Capsule

Each capsule uses only verified records, market numbers, injuries, and Week 3 box facts. Advanced EPA claims are not invented.

PITTSBURGH STEELERS @ CLEVELAND BROWNS

Kickoff: Thu Oct 1 • 8:15 PM ET • Prime Video

Stadium: Huntington Bank Field, Cleveland, OH • Grass • Outdoor

Records: PIT 2-1 (53 PF / 60 PA) • CLE 2-1 (54 PF / 71 PA)

Market snapshot: Spread PIT -2.5 • Total 38.5 • ML N/A — CURRENT MARKET NOT VERIFIED • Open N/A — CURRENT MARKET NOT VERIFIED

Weather: ~75°F, wind ~8–11 mph SSW, rain ~4–15%. Minor wind. Not a weather-watch game.

Major injuries: PIT OUT: RB Rico Dowdle (toe), CB Joey Porter Jr. (NIR/back). PIT Q: CB Jalen Ramsey (wrist), CB Brandin Echols (concussion). CLE OUT: C Elgton Jenkins (concussion), G Teven Jenkins (back), WR Tylan Wallace (knee).

Away Team Offense vs. Home Defense

Pittsburgh scored 53 points in three games (17.7/g) and just won 30-27 at Cincinnati. Rodgers' Week 3 line of 292 yards and 3 TDs (Sharp) is the best early-season passing tape this desk has on him. The problem is the secondary: Porter Jr. OUT, Ramsey and Echols QUESTIONABLE.

Home Team Offense vs. Away Defense

Cleveland is 2-1 with Watson listed as the starter on the official unofficial depth chart. The Browns allowed 71 points in three games. Losing both Jenkins brothers on the interior is the game's central trench fact.

Quarterback Matchup

Aaron Rodgers vs Deshaun Watson. Full Index numbers appear in Section 6 when they were published. This is not a prediction that either quarterback will or will not play through an undesignated injury.

Running Game

Team-level rush EPA and success rate are N/A — NOT VERIFIED. Use the named Week 3 box-score rushing lines in Section 9 and the injury-driven workload notes in Section 11.

Passing Game

Coverage scheme rates are N/A — NOT VERIFIED. The only coverage emergency with official roster confirmation is Carolina's two starting CBs on IR (DET@CAR).

Trenches

The only trench mismatch with confirmed starter absences is Cleveland's interior (both Jenkins OUT) against Pittsburgh on Thursday. Washington is without Cosmi in London.

Key Player Matchups

Three to five names to track on the card, not projected shadows: the two starting quarterbacks above; the featured running back whose backup is OUT (Warren if Dowdle sits; Gordon/Wright if Achane sits); the featured receiver whose status is PENDING (Jefferson, Collins, Flowers, Godwin); and the interior OL replacements in Cleveland.

Important Statistical Trends

Sample size is three regular-season games unless noted. PIT scoring: 53 PF / 60 PA. CLE: 54 PF / 71 PA. Do not inflate three-game rates into season-long identity.

Biggest Question

Can Pittsburgh's secondary hold without Porter Jr. if Ramsey is limited?

Data-Based Projection

MODEL/ANALYST PROJECTIONS — NOT CERTAINTIES. These are rounded desk estimates anchored to the verified total and spread, not a proprietary simulator.

Away score 20 • Home score 17 • Estimated total 37 • Script: Low-scoring AFC North trench game. PIT slight favorite on a short week.

What To Monitor Before Kickoff

Official inactives, starting QB confirmation, OL starters, Friday/Saturday practice reports, NRG roof (DAL@HOU only), and Sunday morning NWS for MetLife and Baltimore.

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS vs WASHINGTON COMMANDERS (LONDON)

Kickoff: Sun Oct 4 • 9:30 AM ET • NFL Network / NFL+

Stadium: Tottenham Hotspur Stadium, London, United Kingdom • Grass • Outdoor

Records: IND 1-2 (72 PF / 91 PA) • WAS 1-2 (75 PF / 92 PA)

Market snapshot: Spread IND -3.5 • Total 47.5 • ML N/A — CURRENT MARKET NOT VERIFIED • Open N/A — CURRENT MARKET NOT VERIFIED

Weather: Partly cloudy, ~66–71°F, light wind ~4 mph, rain near 0% at most desks. Neutral.

Major injuries: WAS OUT: G Sam Cosmi (concussion/throat), S Nick Cross (illness). WAS MONITOR: QB Jayden Daniels (dislocated elbow) — limited; Marcus Mariota expected if Daniels is not cleared. RB Rachaad White (shoulder) DNP midweek. IND: TE Mo Alie-Cox (illness), WR Ashton Dulin (ankle) missed practice.

Away Team Offense vs. Home Defense

Indianapolis is 1-2 but just survived Houston 19-17. Daniel Jones threw for 235 yards in that game (PFR). The Colts have allowed 91 points.

Home Team Offense vs. Away Defense

Washington is 1-2 after a 33-31 win over Seattle. The Commanders have allowed 92 points and, per NFL.com's fantasy desk, a league-high 11 passing touchdowns. Cosmi OUT and Daniels PENDING define the week.

Quarterback Matchup

Daniel Jones vs Marcus Mariota (EXPECTED if Daniels not cleared). Full Index numbers appear in Section 6 when they were published. This is not a prediction that either quarterback will or will not play through an undesignated injury.

Running Game

Team-level rush EPA and success rate are N/A — NOT VERIFIED. Use the named Week 3 box-score rushing lines in Section 9 and the injury-driven workload notes in Section 11.

Passing Game

Coverage scheme rates are N/A — NOT VERIFIED. The only coverage emergency with official roster confirmation is Carolina's two starting CBs on IR (DET@CAR).

Trenches

The only trench mismatch with confirmed starter absences is Cleveland's interior (both Jenkins OUT) against Pittsburgh on Thursday. Washington is without Cosmi in London.

Key Player Matchups

Three to five names to track on the card, not projected shadows: the two starting quarterbacks above; the featured running back whose backup is OUT (Warren if Dowdle sits; Gordon/Wright if Achane sits); the featured receiver whose status is PENDING (Jefferson, Collins, Flowers, Godwin); and the interior OL replacements in Cleveland.

Important Statistical Trends

Sample size is three regular-season games unless noted. IND scoring: 72 PF / 91 PA. WAS: 75 PF / 92 PA. Do not inflate three-game rates into season-long identity.

Biggest Question

Does Jayden Daniels play, or does Washington stay with Mariota after the 3-TD relief outing vs. Seattle?

Data-Based Projection

MODEL/ANALYST PROJECTIONS — NOT CERTAINTIES. These are rounded desk estimates anchored to the verified total and spread, not a proprietary simulator.

Away score 26 • Home score 22 • Estimated total 48 • Script: Neutral-site London game. IND slight favorite. QB status for Washington is the swing variable.

What To Monitor Before Kickoff

Official inactives, starting QB confirmation, OL starters, Friday/Saturday practice reports, NRG roof (DAL@HOU only), and Sunday morning NWS for MetLife and Baltimore.

TENNESSEE TITANS @ BALTIMORE RAVENS

Kickoff: Sun Oct 4 • 1:00 PM ET • CBS

Stadium: M&T; Bank Stadium, Baltimore, MD • Grass • Outdoor

Records: TEN 0-3 (37 PF / 59 PA) • BAL 2-1 (92 PF / 78 PA)

Market snapshot: Spread BAL -11.5 • Total 42.5 • ML N/A — CURRENT MARKET NOT VERIFIED • Open N/A — CURRENT MARKET NOT VERIFIED

Weather: Rain showers possible; ~66–69°F, wind ~6 mph, rain chance ~40%. WATCH for wet ball / kicking.

Major injuries: BAL: WR Zay Flowers limited (hamstring) midweek — PENDING official Sunday status. TEN: OGs Fernando Carmona Jr. (ankle) and Jackson Slater (foot) listed OUT on public trackers.

Away Team Offense vs. Home Defense

Tennessee is 0-3 with 37 points scored. The Giants game finished 12-7. This is a low-output offense visiting a 2-1 Ravens team.

Home Team Offense vs. Away Defense

Baltimore scored 92 points and just won 34-31 over Dallas. Lamar Jackson is the EXPECTED starter. Flowers' hamstring is the only featured skill-player watch.

Quarterback Matchup

Cam Ward (EXPECTED) vs Lamar Jackson. Full Index numbers appear in Section 6 when they were published. This is not a prediction that either quarterback will or will not play through an undesignated injury.

Running Game

Team-level rush EPA and success rate are N/A — NOT VERIFIED. Use the named Week 3 box-score rushing lines in Section 9 and the injury-driven workload notes in Section 11.

Passing Game

Coverage scheme rates are N/A — NOT VERIFIED. The only coverage emergency with official roster confirmation is Carolina's two starting CBs on IR (DET@CAR).

Trenches

The only trench mismatch with confirmed starter absences is Cleveland's interior (both Jenkins OUT) against Pittsburgh on Thursday. Washington is without Cosmi in London.

Key Player Matchups

Three to five names to track on the card, not projected shadows: the two starting quarterbacks above; the featured running back whose backup is OUT (Warren if Dowdle sits; Gordon/Wright if Achane sits); the featured receiver whose status is PENDING (Jefferson, Collins, Flowers, Godwin); and the interior OL replacements in Cleveland.

Important Statistical Trends

Sample size is three regular-season games unless noted. TEN scoring: 37 PF / 59 PA. BAL: 92 PF / 78 PA. Do not inflate three-game rates into season-long identity.

Biggest Question

Is Flowers available, and can Tennessee's offensive line protect Ward?

Data-Based Projection

MODEL/ANALYST PROJECTIONS — NOT CERTAINTIES. These are rounded desk estimates anchored to the verified total and spread, not a proprietary simulator.

Away score 16 • Home score 28 • Estimated total 44 • Script: Ravens should control possession and field position. Total stays modest if rain arrives.

What To Monitor Before Kickoff

Official inactives, starting QB confirmation, OL starters, Friday/Saturday practice reports, NRG roof (DAL@HOU only), and Sunday morning NWS for MetLife and Baltimore.

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS @ BUFFALO BILLS

Kickoff: Sun Oct 4 • 1:00 PM ET • CBS

Stadium: Highmark Stadium, Orchard Park, NY • Turf • Outdoor

Records: NE 1-2 (36 PF / 51 PA) • BUF 3-0 (101 PF / 78 PA)

Market snapshot: Spread BUF -6.5 • Total 48.5 • ML N/A — CURRENT MARKET NOT VERIFIED • Open N/A — CURRENT MARKET NOT VERIFIED

Weather: Partly cloudy, ~66–68°F, wind ~6–10 mph, rain chance ~5–33% depending on model. Minor, not 15+ mph sustained.

Major injuries: NE DNP midweek: DT Christian Barmore (shoulder), CB Christian Gonzalez (shoulder), T Morgan Moses (foot). Drake Maye FULL (right shoulder). A.J. Brown on IR (high-ankle sprain). BUF DNP: CB Christian Benford (toe), WR Keon Coleman (ankle).

Away Team Offense vs. Home Defense

New England has scored 36 points in three games and just lost 35-6 at Jacksonville. A.J. Brown is on IR. Maye practiced in full (right shoulder).

Home Team Offense vs. Away Defense

Buffalo is 3-0 with 101 points. Cook's 154-yard Week 3 game is the featured run tape. Benford and Coleman were midweek DNPs.

Quarterback Matchup

Drake Maye vs Josh Allen. Full Index numbers appear in Section 6 when they were published. This is not a prediction that either quarterback will or will not play through an undesignated injury.

Running Game

Team-level rush EPA and success rate are N/A — NOT VERIFIED. Use the named Week 3 box-score rushing lines in Section 9 and the injury-driven workload notes in Section 11.

Passing Game

Coverage scheme rates are N/A — NOT VERIFIED. The only coverage emergency with official roster confirmation is Carolina's two starting CBs on IR (DET@CAR).

Trenches

The only trench mismatch with confirmed starter absences is Cleveland's interior (both Jenkins OUT) against Pittsburgh on Thursday. Washington is without Cosmi in London.

Key Player Matchups

Three to five names to track on the card, not projected shadows: the two starting quarterbacks above; the featured running back whose backup is OUT (Warren if Dowdle sits; Gordon/Wright if Achane sits); the featured receiver whose status is PENDING (Jefferson, Collins, Flowers, Godwin); and the interior OL replacements in Cleveland.

Important Statistical Trends

Sample size is three regular-season games unless noted. NE scoring: 36 PF / 51 PA. BUF: 101 PF / 78 PA. Do not inflate three-game rates into season-long identity.

Biggest Question

How limited is Maye's supporting cast with A.J. Brown on IR and Gonzalez/Moses midweek DNPs?

Data-Based Projection

MODEL/ANALYST PROJECTIONS — NOT CERTAINTIES. These are rounded desk estimates anchored to the verified total and spread, not a proprietary simulator.

Away score 20 • Home score 28 • Estimated total 48 • Script: Bills favored at home. Allen rushing remains the structural edge.

What To Monitor Before Kickoff

Official inactives, starting QB confirmation, OL starters, Friday/Saturday practice reports, NRG roof (DAL@HOU only), and Sunday morning NWS for MetLife and Baltimore.

NEW YORK JETS @ CHICAGO BEARS

Kickoff: Sun Oct 4 • 1:00 PM ET • FOX

Stadium: Soldier Field, Chicago, IL • Grass • Outdoor

Records: NYJ 1-2 (64 PF / 61 PA) • CHI 2-1 (89 PF / 53 PA)

Market snapshot: Spread CHI -3.5 • Total 43.5 • ML N/A — CURRENT MARKET NOT VERIFIED • Open N/A — CURRENT MARKET NOT VERIFIED

Weather: Mostly sunny, ~61–68°F, wind ~5–10 mph, rain ~3–4%. Clear.

Major injuries: CHI: Caleb Williams listed DOUBT on public QB boards; Case Keenum started MNF and is the EXPECTED Week 4 starter pending official confirmation. NYJ: several skill/OL names on midweek DNP lists (Adonai Mitchell finger, Dylan Parham knee).

Away Team Offense vs. Home Defense

Jets are 1-2. Geno Smith threw for 321 yards at Detroit in a 24-31 loss. The offense can move the ball; the record has not followed.

Home Team Offense vs. Away Defense

Chicago is 2-1 with +36 point differential after a 27-7 MNF win. Keenum is the EXPECTED starter. Soldier Field weather is clean.

Quarterback Matchup

Geno Smith vs Case Keenum (EXPECTED; Williams DOUBT). Full Index numbers appear in Section 6 when they were published. This is not a prediction that either quarterback will or will not play through an undesignated injury.

Running Game

Team-level rush EPA and success rate are N/A — NOT VERIFIED. Use the named Week 3 box-score rushing lines in Section 9 and the injury-driven workload notes in Section 11.

Passing Game

Coverage scheme rates are N/A — NOT VERIFIED. The only coverage emergency with official roster confirmation is Carolina's two starting CBs on IR (DET@CAR).

Trenches

The only trench mismatch with confirmed starter absences is Cleveland's interior (both Jenkins OUT) against Pittsburgh on Thursday. Washington is without Cosmi in London.

Key Player Matchups

Three to five names to track on the card, not projected shadows: the two starting quarterbacks above; the featured running back whose backup is OUT (Warren if Dowdle sits; Gordon/Wright if Achane sits); the featured receiver whose status is PENDING (Jefferson, Collins, Flowers, Godwin); and the interior OL replacements in Cleveland.

Important Statistical Trends

Sample size is three regular-season games unless noted. NYJ scoring: 64 PF / 61 PA. CHI: 89 PF / 53 PA. Do not inflate three-game rates into season-long identity.

Biggest Question

Is Caleb Williams active, or does Chicago stay with Keenum after the MNF win?

Data-Based Projection

MODEL/ANALYST PROJECTIONS — NOT CERTAINTIES. These are rounded desk estimates anchored to the verified total and spread, not a proprietary simulator.

Away score 17 • Home score 23 • Estimated total 40 • Script: Bears coming off a 27-7 MNF win over Philadelphia. Home favorite.

What To Monitor Before Kickoff

Official inactives, starting QB confirmation, OL starters, Friday/Saturday practice reports, NRG roof (DAL@HOU only), and Sunday morning NWS for MetLife and Baltimore.

JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS @ CINCINNATI BENGALS

Kickoff: Sun Oct 4 • 1:00 PM ET • CBS

Stadium: Paycor Stadium, Cincinnati, OH • Turf • Outdoor

Records: JAX 2-1 (82 PF / 36 PA) • CIN 2-1 (80 PF / 63 PA)

Market snapshot: Spread CIN -2.5 • Total 51.5 • ML N/A — CURRENT MARKET NOT VERIFIED • Open N/A — CURRENT MARKET NOT VERIFIED

Weather: ~71°F, wind ~5 mph, rain ~18%. Not flagged as material.

Major injuries: No league-wide headline OUT designations verified for either starting QB as of 8:40 PM ET Sep 30. Recheck Friday/Saturday reports.

Away Team Offense vs. Home Defense

Jacksonville is the point-differential story of the AFC at +46, including a 35-6 win at New England. Lawrence has 7 passing TDs through 3 games (NFL.com Index).

Home Team Offense vs. Away Defense

Cincinnati is 2-1 after a 27-30 loss at Pittsburgh. Burrow is the EXPECTED starter. The 51.5 total is the week's clearest shootout price in the early window.

Quarterback Matchup

Trevor Lawrence vs Joe Burrow. Full Index numbers appear in Section 6 when they were published. This is not a prediction that either quarterback will or will not play through an undesignated injury.

Running Game

Team-level rush EPA and success rate are N/A — NOT VERIFIED. Use the named Week 3 box-score rushing lines in Section 9 and the injury-driven workload notes in Section 11.

Passing Game

Coverage scheme rates are N/A — NOT VERIFIED. The only coverage emergency with official roster confirmation is Carolina's two starting CBs on IR (DET@CAR).

Trenches

The only trench mismatch with confirmed starter absences is Cleveland's interior (both Jenkins OUT) against Pittsburgh on Thursday. Washington is without Cosmi in London.

Key Player Matchups

Three to five names to track on the card, not projected shadows: the two starting quarterbacks above; the featured running back whose backup is OUT (Warren if Dowdle sits; Gordon/Wright if Achane sits); the featured receiver whose status is PENDING (Jefferson, Collins, Flowers, Godwin); and the interior OL replacements in Cleveland.

Important Statistical Trends

Sample size is three regular-season games unless noted. JAX scoring: 82 PF / 36 PA. CIN: 80 PF / 63 PA. Do not inflate three-game rates into season-long identity.

Biggest Question

Which offense flinches first in a game the market has priced near 51.5?

Data-Based Projection

MODEL/ANALYST PROJECTIONS — NOT CERTAINTIES. These are rounded desk estimates anchored to the verified total and spread, not a proprietary simulator.

Away score 26 • Home score 27 • Estimated total 53 • Script: Highest verified total on the early window. Neutral-script passing volume expected both ways.

What To Monitor Before Kickoff

Official inactives, starting QB confirmation, OL starters, Friday/Saturday practice reports, NRG roof (DAL@HOU only), and Sunday morning NWS for MetLife and Baltimore.

DALLAS COWBOYS @ HOUSTON TEXANS

Kickoff: Sun Oct 4 • 1:00 PM ET • FOX

Stadium: NRG Stadium (listed Reliant on some boards), Houston, TX • Turf • Retractable — roof status PENDING

Records: DAL 1-2 (88 PF / 82 PA) • HOU 0-3 (54 PF / 75 PA)

Market snapshot: Spread HOU -3 • Total 48.5 • ML N/A — CURRENT MARKET NOT VERIFIED • Open N/A — CURRENT MARKET NOT VERIFIED

Weather: Outdoor forecast ~78°F, rain ~47% if roof is open. Confirm roof before kickoff.

Major injuries: HOU: Nico Collins (hamstring) returned to limited practice; DeMeco Ryans hopeful Grade 1. DAL: CB Cobie Durant OUT (hamstring). Texans 25th anniversary game.

Away Team Offense vs. Home Defense

Dallas is 1-2 but has scored 88 points. Prescott's Index line: 730 yards, 7 TD / 1 INT. The Ravens game finished 34-31 the other way.

Home Team Offense vs. Away Defense

Houston is 0-3 and still a home favorite. Stroud needs Collins. 25th anniversary overlay does not change the injury math.

Quarterback Matchup

Dak Prescott vs C.J. Stroud. Full Index numbers appear in Section 6 when they were published. This is not a prediction that either quarterback will or will not play through an undesignated injury.

Running Game

Team-level rush EPA and success rate are N/A — NOT VERIFIED. Use the named Week 3 box-score rushing lines in Section 9 and the injury-driven workload notes in Section 11.

Passing Game

Coverage scheme rates are N/A — NOT VERIFIED. The only coverage emergency with official roster confirmation is Carolina's two starting CBs on IR (DET@CAR).

Trenches

The only trench mismatch with confirmed starter absences is Cleveland's interior (both Jenkins OUT) against Pittsburgh on Thursday. Washington is without Cosmi in London.

Key Player Matchups

Three to five names to track on the card, not projected shadows: the two starting quarterbacks above; the featured running back whose backup is OUT (Warren if Dowdle sits; Gordon/Wright if Achane sits); the featured receiver whose status is PENDING (Jefferson, Collins, Flowers, Godwin); and the interior OL replacements in Cleveland.

Important Statistical Trends

Sample size is three regular-season games unless noted. DAL scoring: 88 PF / 82 PA. HOU: 54 PF / 75 PA. Do not inflate three-game rates into season-long identity.

Biggest Question

Is Nico Collins active, and is the NRG roof open or closed?

Data-Based Projection

MODEL/ANALYST PROJECTIONS — NOT CERTAINTIES. These are rounded desk estimates anchored to the verified total and spread, not a proprietary simulator.

Away score 24 • Home score 25 • Estimated total 49 • Script: 0-3 Texans are home favorites. Collins availability is the usage swing.

What To Monitor Before Kickoff

Official inactives, starting QB confirmation, OL starters, Friday/Saturday practice reports, NRG roof (DAL@HOU only), and Sunday morning NWS for MetLife and Baltimore.

ARIZONA CARDINALS @ NEW YORK GIANTS

Kickoff: Sun Oct 4 • 1:00 PM ET • CBS

Stadium: MetLife Stadium, East Rutherford, NJ • Turf • Outdoor

Records: ARI 1-2 (63 PF / 81 PA) • NYG 2-1 (46 PF / 55 PA)

Market snapshot: Spread ARI -2.5 • Total 44.5 • ML N/A — CURRENT MARKET NOT VERIFIED • Open N/A — CURRENT MARKET NOT VERIFIED

Weather: WEATHER WATCH: rain showers likely at some desks (~58–60% kick window), ~65–67°F, wind ~8–9 mph. Recheck Sunday morning.

Major injuries: NYG: RB Tyrone Tracy Jr. (knee) and OT Andrew Thomas (groin) listed TBD on public boards. Jaxson Dart on IR. Jameis Winston EXPECTED starter. ARI: no injuries listed on some Wednesday boards.

Away Team Offense vs. Home Defense

Arizona is 1-2 after a 30-36 loss at San Francisco. Brissett is the EXPECTED starter. Some Wednesday boards listed no Cardinals injuries.

Home Team Offense vs. Away Defense

Giants are 2-1 after a 12-7 win over Tennessee. Winston started that game. Dart is on IR. Thomas and Tracy are TBD.

Quarterback Matchup

Jacoby Brissett vs Jameis Winston (EXPECTED). Full Index numbers appear in Section 6 when they were published. This is not a prediction that either quarterback will or will not play through an undesignated injury.

Running Game

Team-level rush EPA and success rate are N/A — NOT VERIFIED. Use the named Week 3 box-score rushing lines in Section 9 and the injury-driven workload notes in Section 11.

Passing Game

Coverage scheme rates are N/A — NOT VERIFIED. The only coverage emergency with official roster confirmation is Carolina's two starting CBs on IR (DET@CAR).

Trenches

The only trench mismatch with confirmed starter absences is Cleveland's interior (both Jenkins OUT) against Pittsburgh on Thursday. Washington is without Cosmi in London.

Key Player Matchups

Three to five names to track on the card, not projected shadows: the two starting quarterbacks above; the featured running back whose backup is OUT (Warren if Dowdle sits; Gordon/Wright if Achane sits); the featured receiver whose status is PENDING (Jefferson, Collins, Flowers, Godwin); and the interior OL replacements in Cleveland.

Important Statistical Trends

Sample size is three regular-season games unless noted. ARI scoring: 63 PF / 81 PA. NYG: 46 PF / 55 PA. Do not inflate three-game rates into season-long identity.

Biggest Question

Does the MetLife rain actually arrive, and is Andrew Thomas active?

Data-Based Projection

MODEL/ANALYST PROJECTIONS — NOT CERTAINTIES. These are rounded desk estimates anchored to the verified total and spread, not a proprietary simulator.

Away score 22 • Home score 19 • Estimated total 41 • Script: Arizona is a road favorite. Rain would favor shorter passing and kicking variance.

What To Monitor Before Kickoff

Official inactives, starting QB confirmation, OL starters, Friday/Saturday practice reports, NRG roof (DAL@HOU only), and Sunday morning NWS for MetLife and Baltimore.

LOS ANGELES RAMS @ PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

Kickoff: Sun Oct 4 • 1:00 PM ET • FOX

Stadium: Lincoln Financial Field, Philadelphia, PA • Grass • Outdoor

Records: LAR 1-2 (61 PF / 63 PA) • PHI 2-1 (55 PF / 69 PA)

Market snapshot: Spread LAR -3 • Total 43.5 • ML N/A — CURRENT MARKET NOT VERIFIED • Open N/A — CURRENT MARKET NOT VERIFIED

Weather: ~71°F, wind ~4 mph, rain ~25%. Monitor but not currently 15+ mph wind.

Major injuries: Puka Nacua availability N/A — NOT VERIFIED for Week 4 as of this stamp. PHI coming off 27-7 MNF loss at Chicago.

Away Team Offense vs. Home Defense

Rams are 1-2 after a 26-30 SNF loss at Denver. Stafford is the featured veteran. Puka Nacua Week 4 status is N/A — NOT VERIFIED here.

Home Team Offense vs. Away Defense

Eagles are 2-1 but just scored 7 in Chicago. Hurts remains the EXPECTED starter. The market still has Los Angeles as a road favorite (LAR -3).

Quarterback Matchup

Matthew Stafford vs Jalen Hurts. Full Index numbers appear in Section 6 when they were published. This is not a prediction that either quarterback will or will not play through an undesignated injury.

Running Game

Team-level rush EPA and success rate are N/A — NOT VERIFIED. Use the named Week 3 box-score rushing lines in Section 9 and the injury-driven workload notes in Section 11.

Passing Game

Coverage scheme rates are N/A — NOT VERIFIED. The only coverage emergency with official roster confirmation is Carolina's two starting CBs on IR (DET@CAR).

Trenches

The only trench mismatch with confirmed starter absences is Cleveland's interior (both Jenkins OUT) against Pittsburgh on Thursday. Washington is without Cosmi in London.

Key Player Matchups

Three to five names to track on the card, not projected shadows: the two starting quarterbacks above; the featured running back whose backup is OUT (Warren if Dowdle sits; Gordon/Wright if Achane sits); the featured receiver whose status is PENDING (Jefferson, Collins, Flowers, Godwin); and the interior OL replacements in Cleveland.

Important Statistical Trends

Sample size is three regular-season games unless noted. LAR scoring: 61 PF / 63 PA. PHI: 55 PF / 69 PA. Do not inflate three-game rates into season-long identity.

Biggest Question

How much of Philadelphia's MNF collapse was scheme vs. injury/availability?

Data-Based Projection

MODEL/ANALYST PROJECTIONS — NOT CERTAINTIES. These are rounded desk estimates anchored to the verified total and spread, not a proprietary simulator.

Away score 23 • Home score 20 • Estimated total 43 • Script: Road-favorite Rams vs. an Eagles team that just scored 7 on Monday night.

What To Monitor Before Kickoff

Official inactives, starting QB confirmation, OL starters, Friday/Saturday practice reports, NRG roof (DAL@HOU only), and Sunday morning NWS for MetLife and Baltimore.

GREEN BAY PACKERS @ TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

Kickoff: Sun Oct 4 • 1:00 PM ET • FOX

Stadium: Raymond James Stadium, Tampa, FL • Grass • Outdoor

Records: GB 1-2 (56 PF / 91 PA) • TB 0-3 (62 PF / 79 PA)

Market snapshot: Spread GB -3.5 • Total 38.5 • ML N/A — CURRENT MARKET NOT VERIFIED • Open N/A — CURRENT MARKET NOT VERIFIED

Weather: Hot and dry: ~91°F, wind ~8 mph, rain ~2%. Heat is the environmental note, not wind/rain.

Major injuries: TB CONFIRMED: Baker Mayfield OUT multiple weeks (dislocated right thumb). Jalon Daniels EXPECTED to start. Multiple Bucs DNP midweek including Chris Godwin (ankle). GB coming off 35-14 TNF loss to Atlanta.

Away Team Offense vs. Home Defense

Packers are 1-2 and were blown out 35-14 at home by Atlanta. Love threw for 312 yards in that loss. The offense was not the only problem; 91 points allowed in three games is.

Home Team Offense vs. Away Defense

Tampa is 0-3 and starting Jalon Daniels. Mayfield is OUT. Godwin DNP midweek. The 38.5 total is the market pricing a messy, low-confidence passing game.

Quarterback Matchup

Jordan Love vs Jalon Daniels (EXPECTED — Mayfield OUT). Full Index numbers appear in Section 6 when they were published. This is not a prediction that either quarterback will or will not play through an undesignated injury.

Running Game

Team-level rush EPA and success rate are N/A — NOT VERIFIED. Use the named Week 3 box-score rushing lines in Section 9 and the injury-driven workload notes in Section 11.

Passing Game

Coverage scheme rates are N/A — NOT VERIFIED. The only coverage emergency with official roster confirmation is Carolina's two starting CBs on IR (DET@CAR).

Trenches

The only trench mismatch with confirmed starter absences is Cleveland's interior (both Jenkins OUT) against Pittsburgh on Thursday. Washington is without Cosmi in London.

Key Player Matchups

Three to five names to track on the card, not projected shadows: the two starting quarterbacks above; the featured running back whose backup is OUT (Warren if Dowdle sits; Gordon/Wright if Achane sits); the featured receiver whose status is PENDING (Jefferson, Collins, Flowers, Godwin); and the interior OL replacements in Cleveland.

Important Statistical Trends

Sample size is three regular-season games unless noted. GB scoring: 56 PF / 91 PA. TB: 62 PF / 79 PA. Do not inflate three-game rates into season-long identity.

Biggest Question

How much offense can Tampa generate with Daniels making his first start?

Data-Based Projection

MODEL/ANALYST PROJECTIONS — NOT CERTAINTIES. These are rounded desk estimates anchored to the verified total and spread, not a proprietary simulator.

Away score 22 • Home score 16 • Estimated total 38 • Script: Packers are road favorites against an 0-3 club starting an undrafted rookie QB.

What To Monitor Before Kickoff

Official inactives, starting QB confirmation, OL starters, Friday/Saturday practice reports, NRG roof (DAL@HOU only), and Sunday morning NWS for MetLife and Baltimore.

MIAMI DOLPHINS @ MINNESOTA VIKINGS

Kickoff: Sun Oct 4 • 4:05 PM ET • FOX

Stadium: U.S. Bank Stadium, Minneapolis, MN • Turf • Indoor

Records: MIA 0-3 (36 PF / 86 PA) • MIN 3-0 (71 PF / 41 PA)

Market snapshot: Spread MIN -10.5 • Total 38.5 • ML N/A — CURRENT MARKET NOT VERIFIED • Open N/A — CURRENT MARKET NOT VERIFIED

Weather: INDOORS — weather is not a factor.

Major injuries: MIA CONFIRMED: RB De'Von Achane season-ending torn ACL (Week 3 vs. KC). Jaylen Wright limited (foot). MIN: Justin Jefferson DNP Wednesday (ankle sprain) — PENDING. Kyler Murray started Week 3 after concussion protocol.

Away Team Offense vs. Home Defense

Dolphins are 0-3, 36 PF, 86 PA, Achane on IR. Willis is the EXPECTED starter on public boards.

Home Team Offense vs. Away Defense

Vikings are 3-0, 41 points allowed. Jefferson's ankle is the featured PENDING. Indoor game removes weather from the script.

Quarterback Matchup

Malik Willis (EXPECTED) vs Kyler Murray. Full Index numbers appear in Section 6 when they were published. This is not a prediction that either quarterback will or will not play through an undesignated injury.

Running Game

Team-level rush EPA and success rate are N/A — NOT VERIFIED. Use the named Week 3 box-score rushing lines in Section 9 and the injury-driven workload notes in Section 11.

Passing Game

Coverage scheme rates are N/A — NOT VERIFIED. The only coverage emergency with official roster confirmation is Carolina's two starting CBs on IR (DET@CAR).

Trenches

The only trench mismatch with confirmed starter absences is Cleveland's interior (both Jenkins OUT) against Pittsburgh on Thursday. Washington is without Cosmi in London.

Key Player Matchups

Three to five names to track on the card, not projected shadows: the two starting quarterbacks above; the featured running back whose backup is OUT (Warren if Dowdle sits; Gordon/Wright if Achane sits); the featured receiver whose status is PENDING (Jefferson, Collins, Flowers,

Godwin); and the interior OL replacements in Cleveland.

Important Statistical Trends

Sample size is three regular-season games unless noted. MIA scoring: 36 PF / 86 PA. MIN: 71 PF / 41 PA. Do not inflate three-game rates into season-long identity.

Biggest Question

Is Justin Jefferson active, and how does Miami split carries without Achane?

Data-Based Projection

MODEL/ANALYST PROJECTIONS — NOT CERTAINTIES. These are rounded desk estimates anchored to the verified total and spread, not a proprietary simulator.

Away score 13 • Home score 24 • Estimated total 37 • Script: Minnesota home favorite in a low total. Miami is the league's lowest-scoring offense (36 PF).

What To Monitor Before Kickoff

Official inactives, starting QB confirmation, OL starters, Friday/Saturday practice reports, NRG roof (DAL@HOU only), and Sunday morning NWS for MetLife and Baltimore.

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS @ LAS VEGAS RAIDERS

Kickoff: Sun Oct 4 • 4:25 PM ET • CBS

Stadium: Allegiant Stadium, Las Vegas, NV • Turf • Indoor

Records: KC 3-0 (88 PF / 50 PA) • LV 3-0 (88 PF / 54 PA)

Market snapshot: Spread KC -4.5 • Total 47.5 • ML N/A — CURRENT MARKET NOT VERIFIED • Open N/A — CURRENT MARKET NOT VERIFIED

Weather: INDOORS — weather is not a factor.

Major injuries: No verified starter-level OUT designations for Mahomes or Cousins as of this stamp.

Away Team Offense vs. Home Defense

Chiefs are 3-0, +38, Mahomes 812 yards and 7 TDs through 3 games (NFL.com Index). Last week: 24-10 at Miami.

Home Team Offense vs. Away Defense

Raiders are 3-0, +34, Cousins with 9 passing TDs (The Athletic). The Athletic also notes LV opened against a combined one-win slate. This is the first real test.

Quarterback Matchup

Patrick Mahomes vs Kirk Cousins. Full Index numbers appear in Section 6 when they were published. This is not a prediction that either quarterback will or will not play through an undesignated injury.

Running Game

Team-level rush EPA and success rate are N/A — NOT VERIFIED. Use the named Week 3 box-score rushing lines in Section 9 and the injury-driven workload notes in Section 11.

Passing Game

Coverage scheme rates are N/A — NOT VERIFIED. The only coverage emergency with official roster confirmation is Carolina's two starting CBs on IR (DET@CAR).

Trenches

The only trench mismatch with confirmed starter absences is Cleveland's interior (both Jenkins OUT) against Pittsburgh on Thursday. Washington is without Cosmi in London.

Key Player Matchups

Three to five names to track on the card, not projected shadows: the two starting quarterbacks above; the featured running back whose backup is OUT (Warren if Dowdle sits; Gordon/Wright if Achane sits); the featured receiver whose status is PENDING (Jefferson, Collins, Flowers, Godwin); and the interior OL replacements in Cleveland.

Important Statistical Trends

Sample size is three regular-season games unless noted. KC scoring: 88 PF / 50 PA. LV: 88 PF / 54 PA. Do not inflate three-game rates into season-long identity.

Biggest Question

Is Las Vegas' 3-0 start scheme/sustainable, or a function of a soft opening schedule?

Data-Based Projection

MODEL/ANALYST PROJECTIONS — NOT CERTAINTIES. These are rounded desk estimates anchored to the verified total and spread, not a proprietary simulator.

Away score 26 • Home score 21 • Estimated total 47 • Script: First-place AFC West game. Both 3-0. Biggest game of the week.

What To Monitor Before Kickoff

Official inactives, starting QB confirmation, OL starters, Friday/Saturday practice reports, NRG roof (DAL@HOU only), and Sunday morning NWS for MetLife and Baltimore.

DENVER BRONCOS @ SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

Kickoff: Sun Oct 4 • 4:25 PM ET • CBS

Stadium: Levi's Stadium, Santa Clara, CA • Grass • Outdoor

Records: DEN 2-1 (60 PF / 70 PA) • SF 3-0 (98 PF / 50 PA)

Market snapshot: Spread SF -3 • Total 47.5 • ML N/A — CURRENT MARKET NOT VERIFIED • Open N/A — CURRENT MARKET NOT VERIFIED

Weather: Warm and dry: ~89°F, wind ~4 mph, rain 0%. Heat, not wind.

Major injuries: SF: Mike Evans rib strain — reporting desks say not expected to miss much time; official Sunday status PENDING. Brock Purdy has not been listed as limited.

Away Team Offense vs. Home Defense

Broncos are 2-1 after beating the Rams 30-26 on SNF. Nix is the EXPECTED starter.

Home Team Offense vs. Away Defense

49ers are 3-0, +48, 98 points scored. Purdy sits atop the NFL.com QB Index. Evans rib is PENDING but desks say short-term.

Quarterback Matchup

Bo Nix vs Brock Purdy. Full Index numbers appear in Section 6 when they were published. This is not a prediction that either quarterback will or will not play through an undesignated injury.

Running Game

Team-level rush EPA and success rate are N/A — NOT VERIFIED. Use the named Week 3 box-score rushing lines in Section 9 and the injury-driven workload notes in Section 11.

Passing Game

Coverage scheme rates are N/A — NOT VERIFIED. The only coverage emergency with official roster confirmation is Carolina's two starting CBs on IR (DET@CAR).

Trenches

The only trench mismatch with confirmed starter absences is Cleveland's interior (both Jenkins OUT) against Pittsburgh on Thursday. Washington is without Cosmi in London.

Key Player Matchups

Three to five names to track on the card, not projected shadows: the two starting quarterbacks above; the featured running back whose backup is OUT (Warren if Dowdle sits; Gordon/Wright if Achane sits); the featured receiver whose status is PENDING (Jefferson, Collins, Flowers, Godwin); and the interior OL replacements in Cleveland.

Important Statistical Trends

Sample size is three regular-season games unless noted. DEN scoring: 60 PF / 70 PA. SF: 98 PF / 50 PA. Do not inflate three-game rates into season-long identity.

Biggest Question

Can Denver's defense repeat the SNF formula that beat the Rams against Purdy at home?

Data-Based Projection

MODEL/ANALYST PROJECTIONS — NOT CERTAINTIES. These are rounded desk estimates anchored to the verified total and spread, not a proprietary simulator.

Away score 20 • Home score 24 • Estimated total 44 • Script: Rematch flavor after Denver's 30-26 Week 3 win over the Rams. 49ers remain the NFC's top point-differential club.

What To Monitor Before Kickoff

Official inactives, starting QB confirmation, OL starters, Friday/Saturday practice reports, NRG roof (DAL@HOU only), and Sunday morning NWS for MetLife and Baltimore.

LOS ANGELES CHARGERS @ SEATTLE SEAHAWKS

Kickoff: Sun Oct 4 • 4:25 PM ET • CBS

Stadium: Lumen Field, Seattle, WA • Turf • Outdoor

Records: LAC 0-3 (44 PF / 76 PA) • SEA 2-1 (75 PF / 50 PA)

Market snapshot: Spread SEA -7 • Total 42.5 • ML N/A — CURRENT MARKET NOT VERIFIED • Open N/A — CURRENT MARKET NOT VERIFIED

Weather: ~70°F, wind ~7 mph, rain 0%. Clean.

Major injuries: No verified Herbert OUT designation. Seattle coming off a 33-31 loss at Washington.

Away Team Offense vs. Home Defense

Chargers are 0-3 after 16-24 at Buffalo. Herbert threw for 226 yards in that game.

Home Team Offense vs. Away Defense

Seahawks are 2-1 after a 31-33 loss at Washington. Darnold is the EXPECTED starter. Lumen Field forecast is clean.

Quarterback Matchup

Justin Herbert vs Sam Darnold. Full Index numbers appear in Section 6 when they were published. This is not a prediction that either quarterback will or will not play through an undesignated injury.

Running Game

Team-level rush EPA and success rate are N/A — NOT VERIFIED. Use the named Week 3 box-score rushing lines in Section 9 and the injury-driven workload notes in Section 11.

Passing Game

Coverage scheme rates are N/A — NOT VERIFIED. The only coverage emergency with official roster confirmation is Carolina's two starting CBs on IR (DET@CAR).

Trenches

The only trench mismatch with confirmed starter absences is Cleveland's interior (both Jenkins OUT) against Pittsburgh on Thursday. Washington is without Cosmi in London.

Key Player Matchups

Three to five names to track on the card, not projected shadows: the two starting quarterbacks above; the featured running back whose backup is OUT (Warren if Dowdle sits; Gordon/Wright if Achane sits); the featured receiver whose status is PENDING (Jefferson, Collins, Flowers, Godwin); and the interior OL replacements in Cleveland.

Important Statistical Trends

Sample size is three regular-season games unless noted. LAC scoring: 44 PF / 76 PA. SEA: 75 PF / 50 PA. Do not inflate three-game rates into season-long identity.

Biggest Question

Can Herbert generate explosives on the road after three consecutive losses?

Data-Based Projection

MODEL/ANALYST PROJECTIONS — NOT CERTAINTIES. These are rounded desk estimates anchored to the verified total and spread, not a proprietary simulator.

Away score 17 • Home score 24 • Estimated total 41 • Script: Seattle home favorite against an 0-3 Chargers club that just lost 24-16 at Buffalo.

What To Monitor Before Kickoff

Official inactives, starting QB confirmation, OL starters, Friday/Saturday practice reports, NRG roof (DAL@HOU only), and Sunday morning NWS for MetLife and Baltimore.

DETROIT LIONS @ CAROLINA PANTHERS

Kickoff: Sun Oct 4 • 8:20 PM ET • NBC / Peacock

Stadium: Bank of America Stadium, Charlotte, NC • Grass • Outdoor

Records: DET 2-1 (93 PF / 95 PA) • CAR 1-2 (89 PF / 83 PA)

Market snapshot: Spread DET -3.5 • Total 51.5 • ML N/A — CURRENT MARKET NOT VERIFIED • Open N/A — CURRENT MARKET NOT VERIFIED

Weather: Evening forecast N/A — NOT VERIFIED at the hour level as of this stamp. Recheck Sunday.

Major injuries: CAR: CBs Jaycee Horn and Mike Jackson placed on IR. WRs Jalen Coker (quad) and Xavier Legette (knee) missed practice. Bryce Young FULL (knee). DET: CB D. Reed limited (rib) on public boards.

Away Team Offense vs. Home Defense

Lions are 2-1 with 93 points scored and 95 allowed — a pure shootout profile. Gibbs had 99 rush yards in Week 3.

Home Team Offense vs. Away Defense

Panthers are 1-2 with 89 points scored and a live Young passing game (291 yards Week 3) but two starting CBs on IR.

Quarterback Matchup

Jared Goff vs Bryce Young. Full Index numbers appear in Section 6 when they were published. This is not a prediction that either quarterback will or will not play through an undesignated injury.

Running Game

Team-level rush EPA and success rate are N/A — NOT VERIFIED. Use the named Week 3 box-score rushing lines in Section 9 and the injury-driven workload notes in Section 11.

Passing Game

Coverage scheme rates are N/A — NOT VERIFIED. The only coverage emergency with official roster confirmation is Carolina's two starting CBs on IR (DET@CAR).

Trenches

The only trench mismatch with confirmed starter absences is Cleveland's interior (both Jenkins OUT) against Pittsburgh on Thursday. Washington is without Cosmi in London.

Key Player Matchups

Three to five names to track on the card, not projected shadows: the two starting quarterbacks above; the featured running back whose backup is OUT (Warren if Dowdle sits; Gordon/Wright if Achane sits); the featured receiver whose status is PENDING (Jefferson, Collins, Flowers, Godwin); and the interior OL replacements in Cleveland.

Important Statistical Trends

Sample size is three regular-season games unless noted. DET scoring: 93 PF / 95 PA. CAR: 89 PF / 83 PA. Do not inflate three-game rates into season-long identity.

Biggest Question

How does Carolina replace Horn and Jackson on the back end against Amon-Ra / Gibbs / LaPorta looks?

Data-Based Projection

MODEL/ANALYST PROJECTIONS — NOT CERTAINTIES. These are rounded desk estimates anchored to the verified total and spread, not a proprietary simulator.

Away score 28 • Home score 24 • Estimated total 52 • Script: SNF with a 51.5 total. Carolina lost its top two CBs to IR — passing-game alert for Detroit.

What To Monitor Before Kickoff

Official inactives, starting QB confirmation, OL starters, Friday/Saturday practice reports, NRG roof (DAL@HOU only), and Sunday morning NWS for MetLife and Baltimore.

ATLANTA FALCONS @ NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

Kickoff: Mon Oct 5 • 8:15 PM ET • ESPN / ABC

Stadium: Caesars Superdome, New Orleans, LA • Turf • Indoor

Records: ATL 1-2 (51 PF / 68 PA) • NO 1-2 (81 PF / 83 PA)

Market snapshot: Spread NO -2.5 • Total 47.5 • ML N/A — CURRENT MARKET NOT VERIFIED • Open N/A — CURRENT MARKET NOT VERIFIED

Weather: INDOORS — weather is not a factor.

Major injuries: No verified Penix or Shough OUT designations. Atlanta just scored 35 at Green Bay on TNF.

Away Team Offense vs. Home Defense

Falcons are 1-2 but just posted the week's most explosive TNF: 35-14 at Green Bay, Robinson 194 rush, London 194 rec (PFR).

Home Team Offense vs. Away Defense

Saints are 1-2 after 27-35 vs Las Vegas. Shough's three-week counting-stat streak is the featured MNF passing story (NFL.com).

Quarterback Matchup

Michael Penix Jr. vs Tyler Shough. Full Index numbers appear in Section 6 when they were published. This is not a prediction that either quarterback will or will not play through an undesignated injury.

Running Game

Team-level rush EPA and success rate are N/A — NOT VERIFIED. Use the named Week 3 box-score rushing lines in Section 9 and the injury-driven workload notes in Section 11.

Passing Game

Coverage scheme rates are N/A — NOT VERIFIED. The only coverage emergency with official roster confirmation is Carolina's two starting CBs on IR (DET@CAR).

Trenches

The only trench mismatch with confirmed starter absences is Cleveland's interior (both Jenkins OUT) against Pittsburgh on Thursday. Washington is without Cosmi in London.

Key Player Matchups

Three to five names to track on the card, not projected shadows: the two starting quarterbacks above; the featured running back whose backup is OUT (Warren if Dowdle sits; Gordon/Wright if Achane sits); the featured receiver whose status is PENDING (Jefferson, Collins, Flowers, Godwin); and the interior OL replacements in Cleveland.

Important Statistical Trends

Sample size is three regular-season games unless noted. ATL scoring: 51 PF / 68 PA. NO: 81 PF / 83 PA. Do not inflate three-game rates into season-long identity.

Biggest Question

Is Shough's early-season volume sustainable against an Atlanta defense that just got torched... wait, Atlanta was the one scoring 35. Can Atlanta's defense slow a high-volume Saints passing game?

Data-Based Projection

MODEL/ANALYST PROJECTIONS — NOT CERTAINTIES. These are rounded desk estimates anchored to the verified total and spread, not a proprietary simulator.

Away score 23 • Home score 25 • Estimated total 48 • Script: Shough has posted 250+ pass yards and multiple TDs in each of the first three weeks (NFL.com). Falcons just exploded for 35 at Lambeau.

What To Monitor Before Kickoff

Official inactives, starting QB confirmation, OL starters, Friday/Saturday practice reports, NRG roof (DAL@HOU only), and Sunday morning NWS for MetLife and Baltimore.

15. Player Prop Research Board

This is a research section, not a guarantee. Available lines for individual player props were not captured from a sportsbook board at this stamp. Every 'Available Line' cell is therefore N/A — CURRENT MARKET NOT VERIFIED. Recent and season averages below use only published counting stats from NFL.com's QB Index or PFR Week 3 boxes.

Player	Opp	Market	Line	Verified context
Josh Allen	NE	Pass yds / rush yds	N/A	3-G: 786 pass, 114 rush, 6 rush TD (Index). Home vs 36-PF Patriots.
Patrick Mahomes	@LV	Pass yds / pass TD	N/A	3-G: 812 yds, 7 TD, 8.3 YPA. Indoor, 3-0 vs 3-0.
Brock Purdy	DEN	Pass yds / pass TD	N/A	3-G: 789 yds, 9 TD / 1 INT, 9.5 YPA, 72.3%.
Trevor Lawrence	@CIN	Pass yds / pass TD	N/A	3-G: 616 yds, 7 TD. Game total 51.5.
Tyler Shough	ATL	Pass yds / pass TD	N/A	NFL.com: 250+ yds and multi-TD each of first 3 weeks.
Dak Prescott	@HOU	Pass yds / pass TD	N/A	3-G: 730 yds, 7 TD / 1 INT. 48.5 total.
Jaylen Warren	@CLE	Rush yds / carries	N/A	Dowdle OUT. Usage EXPECTED up. Line N/A.
James Cook III	NE	Rush yds	N/A	Week 3: 154 rush yds (PFR). Sample = 1 game plus season form.
Bijan Robinson	@NO	Rush yds	N/A	Week 3: 194 rush yds (PFR). Dome follow-up.
Jahmyr Gibbs	@CAR	Rush + rec	N/A	Week 3: 99 rush yds. CAR CBs on IR helps the pass game more than the run.
Drake London	@NO	Rec yds	N/A	Week 3: 194 rec yds (PFR). Shough volume on the other sideline.
Justin Jefferson	MIA	Rec yds	N/A	Ankle — DNP Wednesday. Do not project until Friday report.
Nico Collins	DAL	Rec yds	N/A	Limited practice, Grade 1 hamstring REPORTED. PENDING.
Jalon Daniels	GB	Pass yds	N/A	First start. Week 3 relief: 0-for-3, 1 INT (NFL.com).

Risk factors common to all rows: three-game sample, pending inactives, and unverified sportsbook numbers.

16. Player Projection Board

These are projections, not guarantees. They are rounded analyst estimates using three-game counting stats, opponent point differentials, and the verified game total. They are not a proprietary model.

TOP QB YARDAGE PROJECTIONS

Player	Opp	Pass-yd proj	Key reason
Tyler Shough	ATL	255	Three-week 250+ streak + indoor + ATL just in a track meet
Joe Burrow	JAX	265	51.5 total, home, featured skill group
Trevor Lawrence	@CIN	250	Same 51.5 environment
Patrick Mahomes	@LV	250	Indoor unbeatens, 47.5 total
Brock Purdy	DEN	250	9.5 YPA through 3 G; home favorite
Josh Allen	NE	235	Home vs 36-PF offense; rushing is the extra path
Dak Prescott	@HOU	255	48.5 total, 7 TD through 3 G

Player	Opp	Pass-yd proj	Key reason
Bryce Young	DET	240	Leads NFL in passing yards per NFL.com desk; 51.5 total

TOP RB RUSHING PROJECTIONS

Player	Opp	Rush-yd proj	Key reason
James Cook III	NE	95	154 in Week 3; Patriots scoring drought
Bijan Robinson	@NO	90	194 in Week 3; indoor follow-up
Jahmyr Gibbs	@CAR	80	99 in Week 3; SNF script
Jaylen Warren	@CLE	70	Dowdle OUT; low-total game caps ceiling
Jonathan Taylor	@WAS	70	68 in Week 3; London favorite

TOP RECEIVING PROJECTIONS

Player	Opp	Rec-yd proj	Key reason
Drake London	@NO	95	194 in Week 3; Penix staying aggressive
Garrett Wilson	@CHI	80	107 in Week 3; Geno volume
Amon-Ra St. Brown	@CAR	90	CAR starting CBs on IR; 51.5 total
Nico Collins	DAL	N/A	PENDING hamstring — do not lock a number
Justin Jefferson	MIA	N/A	PENDING ankle — do not lock a number

TOP RECEPTION PROJECTIONS

Player	Opp	Rec proj	Key reason
Amon-Ra St. Brown	@CAR	7	Volume + injured CAR secondary
Garrett Wilson	@CHI	6	Week 3 usage held up in a loss
Josh Downs	@WAS	6	77 yds Week 3; London favorite
Harold Fannin Jr.	PIT	4	Listed starting TE; Watson short-game emphasis

17. Breakout Player Watch

5 OFFENSIVE PLAYERS TO WATCH

- **Jalon Daniels, QB, TB.** First start. The entire Bucs passing tree now runs through an undrafted rookie. Watch the first 15 dropbacks, not the pregame narrative.
- **Jaylen Warren, RB, PIT.** Dowdle OUT. Short-week feature back in a 38.5-total game.
- **Denzel Boston, WR, CLE.** Listed as a starter on the unofficial depth chart. TNF target share is the question.
- **Ollie Gordon / Jaylen Wright, RB, MIA.** Achane's season is over. One of these two will inherit early-down work if Wright's foot allows it.
- **Tyler Shough, QB, NO.** Already producing like a featured starter through three weeks. MNF vs Atlanta is the next proof point.

5 DEFENSIVE PLAYERS TO WATCH

- **Whoever starts opposite Jalen Ramsey in Pittsburgh.** Porter Jr. OUT, Ramsey QUESTIONABLE, Echols QUESTIONABLE. The Browns will test the next man up.
- **Carolina's replacement outside corners.** Horn and Jackson are on IR. Names on the next card were not confirmed as starters here.
- **Chicago's front seven vs. Geno Smith.** The same unit just held Philadelphia to 7.
- **Jacksonville's front vs. Burrow.** League-best 36 points allowed meeting a 51.5 total.
- **San Francisco's pass rush vs. Bo Nix.** 3-0 club, 50 points allowed, home favorite.

18. Rookie Watch

- **Jalon Daniels, QB, TB.** Undrafted rookie, first start, Mayfield out minimum three weeks. Role: starting quarterback. Snap percentage EXPECTED near 100% of offensive snaps if he is the inactive-list QB1. Production sample: 0-for-3, 1 INT in Week 3 relief. Matchup: Green Bay at home.
- **Denzel Boston, WR, CLE.** Listed starter on the unofficial Week 4 depth chart. TNF vs Pittsburgh. Usage still a three-game secret beyond the depth-chart label.
- **Cam Ward, QB, TEN.** EXPECTED starter at Baltimore as a double-digit underdog. Tough environment, rain possible.
- **Spencer Fano, OT, CLE.** Listed starting LT (rookie marker on the club depth chart). Short week, missing interior next to him.

Snap percentages and route participation for the broader rookie class: N/A — NOT VERIFIED as a complete table.

19. Coaching and Scheme Report

- **Chicago starting Keenum on MNF** was the week's loudest personnel decision. The Bears won 27-7. Whether that becomes a Week 4 plan is PENDING official confirmation.
- **Cleveland staying with Watson** through Thursday is a Todd Monken decision with a short week attached. Sanders remains the listed backup.
- **Tampa staying with Daniels rather than Jake Browning** is a Todd Bowles decision with season-trajectory stakes at 0-3.
- **Washington's London quarterback** is a scheme story as much as a medical one. Mariota's relief outing vs. Seattle included three touchdown passes (Sporting News).
- **Kellen Moore / Tyler Shough in New Orleans** is the early-season volume story. NFL.com notes Shough leads the league in attempts and completions.
- **Klint Kubiak's Raiders at 3-0** with Kirk Cousins is the surprise coaching start of the AFC West. The Athletic flags the upcoming schedule as the real test.

Blitz-rate and man/zone change tables week-over-week: N/A — NOT VERIFIED.

20. Key Statistical Mismatches

#	Mismatch	Supporting data
1	Lions passing vs. Panthers secondary	CAR starting CBs Horn and Jackson on IR. DET 93 PF. Total 51.5.
2	Steelers pass rush vs. Browns interior OL	Elgton Jenkins OUT, Teven Jenkins OUT. Short week. Total 38.5.
3	Jaguars defense vs. everyone — now vs Burrow	JAX 36 PA in 3 G, +46 PD, host-road at CIN with a 51.5 total.
4	Bills rushing vs. Patriots scoring drought	Cook 154 rush yds Week 3. NE 36 PF, just lost 35-6.
5	Commanders pass defense vs. Daniel Jones	NFL.com desk: WAS allowed 11 passing TDs through 3 weeks.
6	49ers offense vs. the field	SF 98 PF, +48 PD, Purdy 9.5 YPA and 9 TD / 1 INT.
7	Vikings defense vs. Dolphins offense	MIN 41 PA, 3-0. MIA 36 PF, Achane out, 0-3.
8	Packers (road favorite) vs. Bucs rookie QB	Mayfield OUT. Daniels first start. Total 38.5.
9	Chiefs vs. Raiders — first real LV test	Both 3-0, both 88 PF. Athletic: LV opened vs a 1-win combined slate.
10	Falcons explosives vs. Saints (dome)	Robinson 194 rush and London 194 rec in the same TNF game (PFR).

21. Upset and Underdog Watch

These are not picks that an upset will happen.

Underdog / interesting side: Cleveland Browns

Opponent / number: Pittsburgh -2.5

Why the matchup is interesting: Home division game, Watson 2-1 as the starter, Steelers missing Porter Jr. and possibly more of the secondary.

Statistical advantages: Home field; PIT 53 PF in 3 G is a modest offensive profile.

Major concerns: Both starting interior OL OUT. Short week. Watson 0-3 career vs PIT (TribLive).

Path to staying competitive: Win the interior with backups, keep Rodgers in a 38.5-total slog, steal a short field.

Underdog / interesting side: Las Vegas Raiders**Opponent / number:** Kansas City -4.5**Why the matchup is interesting:** 3-0 host with Cousins playing winning football. Indoor. Division race game.**Statistical advantages:** 88 PF, +34 PD, 9 passing TDs through 3 G (Athletic).**Major concerns:** Soft opening slate concern. Mahomes 3-0, +38 PD.**Path to staying competitive:** Protect Cousins, finish red-zone trips, force Kansas City into long drives.**Underdog / interesting side: Tampa Bay Buccaneers****Opponent / number:** Green Bay -3.5**Why the matchup is interesting:** Home underdog with a new starting QB. Packers just lost 35-14 at home.**Statistical advantages:** GB has allowed 91 points in 3 G. Home crowd for a first start.**Major concerns:** 0-3. Mayfield out. Daniels' only NFL pass attempt sample is 0-for-3 with a pick.**Path to staying competitive:** Run the ball, keep Daniels on schedule, hope Green Bay's defense stays leaky.**Underdog / interesting side: Houston Texans****Opponent / number:** Houston -3 (they are the favorite)**Why the matchup is interesting:** Listed here as a 'rest-of-market surprise' rather than a plus-spread dog: an 0-3 club is a home favorite vs Dallas.**Statistical advantages:** Home, anniversary game, Collins hopeful.**Major concerns:** 0-3, 54 PF, Collins still PENDING.**Path to staying competitive:** If Collins plays and the roof is closed, Houston can justify the number. If not, Dallas' 88 PF becomes the problem.**Underdog / interesting side: Washington Commanders****Opponent / number:** Indianapolis -3.5**Why the matchup is interesting:** Just beat Seattle 33-31. Mariota produced in relief.**Statistical advantages:** Explosive enough to hang 33 on a 2-1 Seattle club.**Major concerns:** Daniels PENDING, Cosmi OUT, London trip, 92 PA.**Path to staying competitive:** Stay on schedule with Mariota (or Daniels if cleared) and do not lose the trenches without Cosmi.

22. Market Movement

Opening numbers were not independently archived. Movement columns are therefore limited. Current ESPN board (Sep 30, 2026): PIT -2.5 / 38.5; IND -3.5 / 47.5; BUF -6.5 / 48.5; CHI -3.5 / 43.5; CIN -2.5 / 51.5; ARI -2.5 / 44.5; LAR -3 / 43.5; GB -3.5 / 38.5; BAL -11.5 / 42.5; HOU -3 / 48.5; MIN -10.5 / 38.5; KC -4.5 / 47.5; SF -3 / 47.5 (FOX listed SF -2.5); SEA -7 / 42.5; DET -3.5 / 51.5; NO -2.5 / 47.5.

Notable board features, not 'sharp money' claims:

- Two 51.5 totals (JAX@CIN, DET@CAR) sit well above the rest of the early/prime slate.
- Three 38.5 totals (PIT@CLE, GB@TB, MIA@MIN) cluster on short-week, rookie-QB, and Achane-out games.
- BAL -11.5 and MIN -10.5 are the only verified double-digit spreads.
- HOU -3 as an 0-3 home favorite is the most interesting number on the board.

This desk does not infer 'sharp money' from a number without a documented steam report.

23. Fantasy Football Corner

START/SIT MATCHUPS TO INVESTIGATE

- Start-range QBs with verified environments: Allen (home vs NE), Jackson (vs TEN), Mahomes (indoor vs LV), Lawrence/Burrow (51.5), Purdy (home vs DEN), Shough (MNF indoor), Young (SNF vs DET).
- Sit/stream caution: Jalon Daniels (first start), Cam Ward (at BAL -11.5), Malik Willis (at MIN -10.5), Watson (38.5 total, missing OL).
- Jefferson and Collins are research holds until Friday/Saturday reports — do not auto-start a DNP-Wednesday ankle or a Grade 1 hamstring.

INJURY REPLACEMENTS

- Miami backfield without Achane: Gordon and Wright. Wright limited (foot).
- Pittsburgh backfield without Dowdle: Warren.
- Tampa passing tree without Mayfield: entire WR/TE group drops in quality of opportunity.
- New England without A.J. Brown (IR): Maye's remaining targets, not a single named replacement with verified target share.

WAIVER-WIRE PLAYERS

- Jalon Daniels only in Superflex / 2QB leagues that must start a QB.
- Jaylen Warren in any format if Dowdle is confirmed out (already CONFIRMED).
- One of Gordon/Wright in deeper leagues, pending Sunday inactives.
- Denzel Boston only in deep leagues until TNF usage prints.

DEEP-LEAGUE WATCHLIST

Harold Fannin Jr. (CLE starting TE), KC Concepcion Jr. (CLE listed WR), Case Keenum if he starts again (stream only), Marcus Mariota if Daniels sits.

USAGE CHANGES

Confirmed role changes: Daniels to QB1 in Tampa; Achane to IR; Dowdle OUT; Porter Jr. OUT; Horn/Jackson to IR. Pending role changes: CHI QB, WAS QB, MIN WR1, HOU WR1.

24. Weekly NFL News Desk

Baker Mayfield out multiple weeks; Jalon Daniels to start

Mayfield dislocated his right thumb in Week 3 vs. Minnesota. Todd Bowles said a minimum of three weeks. MRI: no ligament/tendon damage per Ian Rapoport. Daniels starts Week 4 vs. Green Bay.

Source: *NFL.com*, *Dan Parr*, Sep 28, 2026; *FOX 13 Tampa*, Sep 30, 2026.

De'Von Achane torn ACL, out for the season

Achane suffered a torn ACL in Miami's Week 3 loss to Kansas City. Season over. Backfield becomes a committee.

Source: *CBS Sports*, Sep 30, 2026; *NBC Sports*, Sep 29, 2026.

Panthers place Jaycee Horn and Mike Jackson on IR

Carolina lost its top two cornerbacks heading into SNF against Detroit.

Source: *CBS Sports Week 4 injury report*, Sep 30, 2026.

Giants trade for J.J. McCarthy; Jaxson Dart on IR

The Athletic: New York traded for McCarthy. Dart is on IR for the rest of the regular season. Winston started the 12-7 win over Tennessee.

Source: *The Athletic power rankings*, Sep 29, 2026; *public QB boards*.

A.J. Brown to IR with a high-ankle sprain

Patriots placed Brown on IR. NBC desk: earliest return Week 6 vs. the Jets.

Source: *NBC Sports Week 4 injury report*, Sep 29, 2026.

Joey Porter Jr. ruled out a fourth straight game

Steelers list Porter Jr. OUT (NIR/conditioning/back) for TNF despite earlier full practices.

Source: *NFL.com injury report*; *CBS Sports*, Sep 30, 2026 7:08 PM ET.

Nico Collins returns to Texans practice

Hamstring. Limited. DeMeco Ryans hopeful, Grade 1 per Aaron Wilson via Sharp desk.

Source: *CBS Sports*; *Sharp Football injury report*, Sep 30, 2026.

Bears start Case Keenum, beat Eagles 27-7 on MNF

Keenum 24/34, 247 yards, 2 passing TDs and a rushing TD. Philadelphia scored 7. Caleb Williams remains DOUBT on public boards.

Source: *Pro-Football-Reference Week 3 box*, Sep 28, 2026.

NFL plays London after Rio

Week 3 featured the league's first regular-season game in Rio. Week 4 goes to Tottenham: Colts vs Commanders, 9:30 AM ET, NFL Network.

Source: *NFL.com how-to-watch*, Sep 30, 2026.

Raiders 3-0 under Klint Kubiak with Kirk Cousins

Las Vegas beat New Orleans 35-27. Cousins tied for the league lead with 9 passing TDs through three games. Chiefs visit Week 4.

Source: *The Athletic*, Sep 29, 2026.

25. Social Media Content Section

10 SHORT-FORM VIDEO IDEAS

1. Unbeaten. Vs. unbeaten.

Topic: Chiefs at Raiders

Key facts: Both 3-0. Both 88 PF. Indoor. AFC West race.

Suggested visuals: Gold-on-navy split helmet graphic, 3-0 badges.

On-screen text: 3-0 MEETS 3-0

CTA: Read the full Week 4 report — SPORTS.PICKS1024

2. The Bucs are starting an undrafted rookie.

Topic: Jalon Daniels first start

Key facts: Mayfield out min. 3 weeks. Daniels 0-for-3 in relief.

Suggested visuals: Stadium night, number graphic, no fake footage.

On-screen text: FIRST START

CTA: Follow for Sunday inactives

3. Two starting corners. Both on IR.

Topic: Panthers vs Lions SNF

Key facts: Horn and Jackson to IR. Lions 93 PF. Total 51.5.

Suggested visuals: IR stamp over CB positions.

On-screen text: COVERAGE EMERGENCY

CTA: SNF preview on the site

4. 36 points. Three games.

Topic: Dolphins scoring drought

Key facts: Miami 36 PF, Achane out for the year.

Suggested visuals: Simple PF graphic vs league.

On-screen text: ACHANE OUT. 0-3.

CTA: Week 4 research desk

5. Purdy is sitting at No. 1.

Topic: NFL.com QB Index

Key facts: 72.3%, 9.5 YPA, 9 TD / 1 INT in 3 G.

Suggested visuals: Index card mockup in brand colors.

On-screen text: QB INDEX: PURDY 1

CTA: Full QB dashboard in the report

6. London, 9:30 in the morning.

Topic: Colts vs Commanders

Key facts: Tottenham. Daniels elbow PENDING. Cosmi OUT.

Suggested visuals: Tottenham night render + clock at 9:30 ET.

On-screen text: LONDON KICKS WEEK 4

CTA: International slate guide

7. The 0-3 team is the favorite.

Topic: Texans vs Cowboys

Key facts: Houston -3 at home. Collins limited, hopeful.

Suggested visuals: Anniversary + 0-3 badge.

On-screen text: 0-3. AND FAVORED.

CTA: Cowboys-Texans capsule

8. Thursday is a trench game.

Topic: Steelers at Browns

Key facts: 38.5 total. Two Jenkins OUT. Porter Jr. OUT.

Suggested visuals: OL silhouettes with OUT stamps.

On-screen text: TNF = TRENCHES

CTA: Watch the 8:15 Prime window

9. Chicago just scored 27. Philadelphia scored 7.

Topic: MNF hangover

Key facts: Keenum started. Williams DOUBT.

Suggested visuals: 27-7 final graphic.

On-screen text: WHAT WAS THAT, PHILLY?

CTA: Jets at Bears preview

10. Jacksonville is +46.

Topic: Jags at Bengals

Key facts: 36 points allowed. 35-6 at New England. Now 51.5 total.

Suggested visuals: Differential bar chart.

On-screen text: +46. NOW THE JUNGLE.

CTA: Shootout board in the report

26. AI Video Prompts

Style lock for all five: premium sports broadcast, cinematic, dark navy and black, metallic gold highlights, stadium lighting, clean graphics, SPORTS.PICKS1024 wordmark. Do not generate footage that looks like stolen network news tape. Use stylized helmets, numbers, and stat cards.

Prompt 1

8–10s. Night aerial of a glowing indoor stadium in Las Vegas colors fading into Kansas City red-gold. Two 3-0 badges slam together. Gold type: CHIEFS AT RAIDERS. Sub: BOTH UNBEATEN. End card: SPORTS.PICKS1024 — WEEK 4.

Prompt 2

8–10s. Dark navy locker-tunnel. A generic unmarked Buccaneers-style helmet on a stool. Gold stamp: FIRST START. Cut to a stadium clock and a 38.5 TOTAL chip. End card: SPORTS.PICKS1024.

Prompt 3

8–10s. Rain-slick MetLife-style exterior, teal and blue lights, no player faces. Type: WEATHER WATCH. CARDINALS AT GIANTS. Recheck Sunday. End card: SPORTS.PICKS1024.

Prompt 4

8–10s. Cinematic London stadium lights at dawn. American football on the crest. Type: 9:30 AM ET. COLTS vs COMMANDERS. LONDON. End card: SPORTS.PICKS1024 — YOUR WINNING EDGE.

Prompt 5

8–10s. Split graphic: a CB silhouette stamped IR twice, then a Lions-style silver helmet. Type: SNF. LIONS AT PANTHERS. 51.5. End card: SPORTS.PICKS1024.

27. Website Articles

Chiefs at Raiders Is the First Real AFC West Game of 2026

SEO title: Chiefs vs Raiders Week 4: two 3-0 teams, what the numbers actually say

Meta description: Kansas City and Las Vegas are both 3-0 and both have scored 88 points. Week 4 in Allegiant is the first place game in the AFC West.

Main angle: Unbeaten vs unbeaten, Cousins' start vs Mahomes' baseline, schedule-adjusted caution.

Important statistics: Both 3-0; both 88 PF; KC +38 / LV +34 PD; Cousins 9 pass TDs (Athletic).

Suggested sections: Form check / schedule context / trench questions / what Sunday decides

Why people may click: It is the only 3-0 vs 3-0 game on the board.

Baker Mayfield Is Out. Now the Buccaneers Have a First-Start Problem.

SEO title: Jalon Daniels to start Week 4 vs Packers after Mayfield thumb injury

Meta description: Baker Mayfield will miss multiple weeks with a dislocated thumb. Undrafted rookie Jalon Daniels is expected to start against Green Bay.

Main angle: Injury facts, what Daniels actually did in relief, what a 38.5 total implies.

Important statistics: Min. 3 weeks; 0-for-3 with a pick in relief; TB 0-3; total 38.5.

Suggested sections: Injury timeline / depth-chart decision / Packers form / what to recheck

Why people may click: It is the clearest QB change of the week.

The Panthers Lost Both Starting Cornerbacks. Then They Drew the Lions on Sunday Night.

SEO title: Jaycee Horn and Mike Jackson to IR before Lions at Panthers

Meta description: Carolina placed its top two cornerbacks on injured reserve heading into a 51.5-total SNF game against Detroit.

Main angle: Roster fact first, then what it means for Goff and the Lions skill group.

Important statistics: Horn IR; Jackson IR; DET 93 PF; total 51.5.

Suggested sections: IR explainer / who might start / Lions usage / SNF environment

Why people may click: Two confirmed IR stamps plus a prime-time game.

Why Houston Can Be 0-3 and Still Be a Home Favorite

SEO title: Texans vs Cowboys Week 4: 0-3 Houston listed -3 at NRG

Meta description: The Texans are winless and still priced as a 3-point home favorite against Dallas on the franchise's 25th anniversary.

Main angle: Market number vs record, Collins return, roof status.

Important statistics: HOU 0-3; DAL 1-2 but 88 PF; HOU -3; Collins limited/hopeful.

Suggested sections: Record vs number / Collins / anniversary context / roof checklist

Why people may click: 0-3 favorites are rare enough to click.

Purdy at No. 1: What Three Weeks of 9.5 YPA Actually Means

SEO title: Brock Purdy NFL.com QB Index Week 4: 49ers host Broncos

Meta description: NFL.com's Week 4 QB Index has Brock Purdy No. 1 after 789 yards, 9 touchdowns and a 9.5 yards-per-attempt average.

Main angle: Published Index stats, Denver's SNF win over the Rams, what Week 4 tests.

Important statistics: 72.3%; 789 yds; 9.5 YPA; 9 TD / 1 INT; SF 3-0, +48.

Suggested sections: Index table / supporting cast / Broncos front / projection label

Why people may click: MVP-form headlines with sourced numbers.

28. Final Weekly Dashboard

SPORTS.PICKS1024 — NFL WEEK 4	2026
Games this week	16 (no byes)
Biggest game	Kansas City Chiefs at Las Vegas Raiders
Biggest injury story	De'Von Achane season-ending ACL; Baker Mayfield multi-week thumb
Biggest QB story	Jalon Daniels' first start; Jayden Daniels elbow PENDING
Weather game to monitor	Arizona at Giants (MetLife rain disagreement)
Offensive matchup to watch	Lions at Panthers (51.5 + CAR CBs on IR)
Defensive matchup to watch	Jaguars defense at Cincinnati (36 PA, 51.5 total)
Breakout player to monitor	Jaylen Warren (Dowdle OUT) / Jalon Daniels
Rookie to monitor	Jalon Daniels, TB
Biggest statistical mismatch	DET passing vs CAR IR-thinned secondary
Report last verified	September 30, 2026 8:40 PM ET

29. Final Pregame Checklist

- Official inactive lists for all 16 games — **PENDING — RECHECK BEFORE KICKOFF**
- Starting quarterbacks — especially WAS (Daniels), CHI (Williams/Keenum), TB (Daniels confirmation), NYG (Winston) — **PENDING — RECHECK BEFORE KICKOFF**
- Offensive-line starters — CLE interior replacements; WAS without Cosmi; NE tackle Moses — **PENDING — RECHECK BEFORE KICKOFF**
- WR/RB/TE status — Jefferson, Collins, Flowers, Godwin, White, Tracy, Wright — **PENDING — RECHECK BEFORE KICKOFF**
- Defensive starters — PIT CBs (Ramsey/Echols); CAR replacement CBs; BUF Benford — **PENDING — RECHECK BEFORE KICKOFF**
- Weather — MetLife, Baltimore, NRG roof, Sunday night Charlotte — **PENDING — RECHECK BEFORE KICKOFF**
- Roof status at NRG Stadium (DAL@HOU) — **PENDING — RECHECK BEFORE KICKOFF**
- Depth-chart changes posted Friday/Saturday — **PENDING — RECHECK BEFORE KICKOFF**
- Current market prices (open vs current still incomplete in this file) — **PENDING — RECHECK BEFORE KICKOFF**
- Player-prop lines (not verified in this stamp) — **PENDING — RECHECK BEFORE KICKOFF**

30. Sources

NFL.com Week 4 how-to-watch (Khassim Diakhate, Sep 30, 2026); NFL.com Week 4 injury report (Sep 30, 2026); NFL.com QB Index Week 4 (Nick Shook, Sep 30, 2026); NFL.com fantasy QB Start 'Em (Sep 30, 2026); NFL.com Mayfield/Daniels injury note (Dan Parr, Sep 28, 2026); ESPN NFL schedule Week 4 2026 odds board; ESPN standings 2026; AS.com standings 19:02h ET Sep 30, 2026; Pro-Football-Reference Week 3 boxes; CBS Sports Week 4 injury desk (Sep 30, 2026, 7:08 PM ET); Patriots.com practice report (Sep 30, 2026); ClevelandBrowns.com unofficial Week 4 depth chart (Sep 28, 2026); FOX Sports schedule/odds; FantasyPros Week 4 schedule and QB projections; The Athletic Week 4 power rankings (Sep 29, 2026); NBC Sports Week 4 injury report (Sep 29, 2026); Sharp Football Analysis injury and weather desks (Sep 30, 2026); Deep Metric weather and QB boards; GameDayWeather Week 4; Bleacher Report/Weather Channel snapshot; Awful Announcing Week 4 announcing schedule; Sporting News / SI fantasy QB desks.

End of report. Re-stamp after Friday practice reports and Sunday inactives.