



Wildcard Weekend Predictions

With the wildcard games I am going to look at a couple of key players and the battles they face for their sides. There will be three key players for each side, one defence, one offence and one flex. No quarterbacks will be mentioned though.

Chargers @ Texans

Key Players - Chargers

Derwin James - he has been outstanding in recent games. He could be huge when leading the defence. His safety blitz are something the Texans will need to be careful of.

Joe Alt - he faces a tough task against both Anderson jr who normally lines up on the right side. He will have to stay strong and continue his strong season.

Ladd McConkey- Ladd has been growing into his role and looks to be key for this fixture, if McConkey can get going the Texans could be in trouble.

Key Players - Texans

Danielle Hunter - Another strong season for Hunter, he will want to apply pressure to Herbert and disrupt the quarterback.

Joe Mixon - When the Texans had been good offensively this year the run game has been key. Mixon will be key for the Texans moving the chains.

Azeez Al-Shaair - The Texans linebacker will be fresh off his suspension, he's been a key player to the defence and could be key to stopping the Chargers run game and forcing longer passes from Herbert.

Predictions - Chargers 27-21 Texans

Steelers @ Ravens

Key Players - Steelers

Patrick Queen - Queen has to contain not only Derrick Henry but also Lamar Jackson to as many small plays as possible.

Pat Friermuth - The reason for Friermuth is Wilson could be under a lot of pressure and may have to go to his check downs. Friermuth could be the recipient of these.

Minkah Fitzpatrick- Another key part of the defence that will have to slow down Lamar. He has the responsibility of both the run and passing game however.

Key Players - Ravens

Roquon Smith - Smith leads the side in tackles and will be tasked with stopping Harris and Warren. If he can slow down the run, he could help feed the tie into the Ravens hands.

Rashod Bateman - Bateman becomes the number one receiver with Flowers being ruled out. He has to get some tough yards and create separation.

Mark Andrews - Similar To Bateman, with Flowers not going Andrews will want to roll back the years to when he was the go to for the Ravens.

Score Predictions - Steelers 20-27 Ravens

Broncos @ Bills

Key Players - Broncos

Nik Bonitto - Bonitto has had a great season, and leads the side in sacks, he will be tasked with keeping Allen in the pocket and applying pressure.

Jaleel McLaughlin - It is likely McLaughlin will take the most snaps at running back once again. He has to establish the run and take some pressure off Nix.

Marvin Mims - Mims has become a big play player in recent weeks. This game feels like a game when big plays could be key.

Key Players - Bills

Matt Milano - I have gone for Milano for a few reasons. Firstly he's coming off a long injury break but is the heart of this defence and gets them going. Secondly Nix is good at scrambling when needed, Milano will have to stop him gaining the big plays.

James Cook - Cook is a critical piece to the Bills offence in both the run and passing game. He often pops up with touchdowns and big plays.

Amari Cooper - We have not seen the best of Cooper in a Bills jersey. There is no better time to show your best than the playoffs. Hopefully the rest and also some extra work with Allen will get the best out of him.

Score Predictions - Broncos 21-24 Bills

Packers @ Eagles

Key Players - Packers

Edgerrin Cooper - One of my favourite players this year, but Cooper has to stop Saquon and his huge plays. He is a linebacker that can cover a lot of ground so even when he isn't on Saquon he could be the one to stop him.

Romeo Doubs - With Watson's injury one of the other receivers will need to step up and take some pressure off Reed. I see Doubs as the one to have the required big game.

Xavier McKinney - McKinney will be tasked with marshaling The defence, he also has to show his big game presence as one of the key parts to the team. McKinney will also want some turnovers.

Score Predictions - Packers 24-33 Eagles

Commanders @ Bucs

Key Players - Commanders

Marshon Lattimore - I can't not do this one. He goes up against his biggest enemy on a football pitch and Bucs number 1 target Mike Evans. He needs to keep his cool and lock up Evans.

Zach Ertz - Ertz has had a surprisingly good season after a few years of not much productivity. Ertz is a big red zone target and could get a few crucial grabs off his rookie qb.

Francie Luvu - Another of my favourite players. Luvu will have to be at his best to stop the Bucs rush attack that not only is the running backs but Baker Mayfield as well.

Key Players - Bucs

Vita Vea - Vea is the big monster in the middle. He will constantly look to disrupt the Commanders offensive line and put pressure on Jayden Daniels.

Bucky Irving - The young running back has become key for the Bucs. He could give explosive plays both rushing and through the air. The Commanders need to watch him.

Jalen McMillan - Another Rookie, but another that has become a big part of the side in recent times. McMillan has 8 touchdowns on the year with 7 coming in the last 5 games of the season.

Score Predictions - Commanders 30-33 Bucs

Vikings @ Rams

Key Players - Vikings

Blake Cashman - Ashman will be in the heart of the Vikings defence tasked with stopping Kyren Williams for his explosive plays. When the Rams run the ball well it normally means their pass game gets going as well.

Aaron Jones - Jones could be vital for the Vikings success in the same way mentioned for Williams. If Jones can move the ball it could easily open the field for Jefferson and Addison.

Camryn Bynum - Bynum the king of the dance moves will have a tough job on his hands with Kupp and Nacua running routes in front of him. His positions could be key for stopping the receiving duo moving the chains.

Key Players - Rams

Bradon Friske - this violent Rookie has been causing mayhem in recent weeks. The Rams will be hoping for another disruptive performance from him again, especially getting to Darnold as quickly as possible.

Kyren Williams - The same as Jones, the run game has to get going to take pressure off the stud receivers. Williams Vs Jones is the key battle in this one. Williams opens the door for Nacua and Kupp to get going.

Tyler Higbee - Higbee is back from his ACL injury and has become a red zone target later in the season. This could be a huge vital weapon in this contest.

Score Predictions - Vikings 24-30 Rams

Best Game to Watch

In all honesty all of them are playoff games and therefore are great games to watch. I really like the matchup of the Packers Vs Eagles. There is also a great battle between the Vikings

and Rams. All 4 teams have had really impressive seasons in a variety of different ways and carried some form momentum into the playoffs.

Biggest Points Scoring Game

I think the Commanders at the Bucs have all the makings of a shootout based on the way the two sides have played offence all season long, it makes for a scintillating contest.