

<u>Week 13 Review</u> Bears (4-8) 20-23 (11-1) Lions

The Bears tried their best to upset the Lions but it was a little too late. A disastrous last play where the Bears could have taken a time out but let the clock run was a strange choice and a learning curve for Caleb Williams, who did have a good day with 256 passing yards and 3 touchdowns. The loss has led to Matt Eberflus to be sacked and the Bears new head coach search to start as the Bears slip to 4-8 and their playoff chances seem to be gone. The Lions looked comfortable when leading 23-7 heading into the 4th with Sam LaPorta getting two touchdowns. The Lions head to 11-1 and are still yet to clinch a playoff spot but it looks inevitable with just one win required.

Giants (2-10) 20-27 (5-7) Cowboys

Cooper Rush won the battle in this one, he threw for 195 and a touchdown, whilst Rico Dowdle rushed for 112 yards and a touchdown to keep the Cowboys slim playoff chances alive still with a 5-7 record. Micah Parsons looked back to his best with 1.5 sacks and a tackle for loss. He looked disruptive, also landing 4 QB hits on Drew Lock in his first start. Lock played ok, he threw for 178 yards and had one interception, he did rush for 57 yards and a touchdown as well. There was not enough on defence for the Giants and they couldn't come away with a win and fall to 2-10 who now hold the number 1 pick and are likely going to take a quarterback of their future.

Dolphins (5–7) 17-30 (9-3) Packers

Jordan Love led the Packers to victory with a quality display at quarterback. 274 passing yards and 2 touchdowns was his statline but his accuracy was key with 21/28 passes going to the receiver for yards. On defence Quay Walker was the standout for the Packers with 16 tackles, one sack, and two tackles for loss. The Packers go to 9-3 and have a 3 game lead on the Bucs and are likely to return to the playoffs baring disaster. For the Dolphins it is a tough loss, they are 3 games back on the Broncos and are not likely to make the playoffs after falling to 5-7. Tua was excellent once again with 365 yards and 113 of those went to

Jonnu Smith who has been outstanding for the Dolphins in recent weeks but the loss is a tough one to take with the playoffs seemingly out of the question now.

Raiders (2-10) 17-19 (11-1) Chiefs

A horror last snap by the Raiders cost them an attempt of potentially a field goal attempt or a hail Mary attempt. In a game where the Raiders were thought to have no chance of winning, they took the superbowl champions all the way to the last snap. Aidan O'Connell had a great game with 340 yards and 2 touchdowns. Brock Bowers the main beneficiary with 140 yards and a touchdown and really putting his name forward for rookie of the year. Patrick Mahomes and the Chiefs just did enough. The Chiefs welcomed Isaiah Pacheco back who could be vital down the stretch after also confirming their playoff spot after moving to 11-1 and becoming the first side to guarantee playoff football.

Chargers (8-4) 17-13 (6-6) Falcons

The Chargers picked off Cousins 4 times to win this one. Costly errors from the veteran Cousins in crucial drives killed offensive momentum. Tarheeb Stills picked Cousins off twice in the game, returning one for a game winning 61 yards touchdown. Justin Herbert once again played well but only threw for 147 yards with 117 going to rookie Ladd McConkey who truly is the number 1 receiver there now. The Chargers move to 8-4 and now hold the 5th seed in the AFC, whereas the Falcons maintain 4th but have the Bucs breathing down their necks looking to take control of the NFC South.

Steelers (9-3) 44-38 (4-8) Bengals

An end to end game finishes with Russell Wilson prevailing over Joe Burrow. Wilson threw for 414 yards, 3 touchdowns as well as throwing a pick 6 to Cam Taylor-Britt. This was only one of two stops the Bengals managed as well as a blocked field goal. TJ Watt was the standout on defence with 2 sacks, 3 tackles for loss, 5 QB hits, and a forced fumble in a hugely dominant display. The Steelers march to 9-3 and get the record for non losing seasons they are also closer to winning the division with the Ravens losing. The Bengals seemed to not put anything together on defence and it cost them once again, they fall to 4-8 despite another fantastic quarterback display by Joe Burrow. He threw for over 300 yards again and3 touchdowns but couldn't keep pace with the Steelers.

Cardinals (6-6) 22-23 (10-2) Vikings

Aaron Jones 5 yard go ahead receiving touchdown with 1.13 left on the clock was just enough for the Vikings to seal the victory after coming back from 19-6 down. The two standouts were Trey McBride and Justin Jefferson who both had 90+ receiving yards for their sides in a tight affair. The win pushes the Vikings to 10-2 and almost certainly gives them a playoff spot, the Cardinals fall to 6-6 a game back from the Seahawks at 7-5 with a big matchup next week for the lead in the NFC West.

Colts (6-7) 25-24 (3-10) Patriots

The Colts went for a 2 point conversion with just 12 seconds left on the clock in a do or die move that turned out to be key. Leaving the ball in Richardson's hands for the play who bulldozed his way in for the conversion meaning a win for the Colts was a bold but wise call by HC Shane Steichen. Richardson had a steady game, without inspiring too much completing 50% of his passes for 109 yards, but had two touchdowns and rushed for 48 yards and a couple of those were to keep the drive alive and rushed for a touchdown. The

win kept the Colts playoff hopes alive as they moved to 6-7 and kept pressure on the Texans. The Patriots moved to 3-10 despite another good performance, this currently lands them the 4th overall pick in next year's draft as it stands now.

Seahawks (7-5) 26-21 (3-9) Jets

The Seahawks also left it late to get the win over the Jets. With 5.31 left on the clock and 19 unanswered points the Seahawks take the win and move to 7-5 and have the division in their hands. Leonard Williams 92 yard pick six was the highlight of the game. Jaxon Smith-Njigba continues to impress for the Seahawks as well with 74 receiving yards. For the Jets they look to next year. There weren't many positives on the day other than Rodgers and Adams seem to have found a bit of rhythm together but it is too little too late for the Jets as they slip to 3-9.

Titans (3-10) 19-42 (8-5) Commanders

The Commanders offence dazzled once again to romp to victory over the Titans. Jayden Daniels was outstanding in this one with 206 yards, 3 touchdowns passing as well as a rushing touchdown. Brian Robinson Jr rushed for over 100 and a touchdown and another impressive Terry McClaurin game landed him 73 yards and 2 touchdowns. They move to 8-5 and head into their much needed bye week knowing they have a two game lead over the Bucs with the last playoff spot. The Titans only had two touchdowns from Nick Westbrook-Ikhine to cheer in a bitterly disappointing game. They fall to 3-9 and have the 9th overall pick in next year's draft.

Texans (8-5) 23-20 (2-10) Jaguars

The Texans got the win in a tough divisional Match-up but this game will be spoken about for a bad hit by Azeez Al-Shaair who knocked Trevor Lawrence out. Hopefully Trevor is ok. The Texans got the win mainly down to Joe Mixon who once again impressed with another 100 yard game and another touchdown. Nico Collins got himself 119 receiving yards as well. They still control the AFC South and still maintain the two game and two wins over the Colts as they head to the bye week. Mac Jones played well in Lawrence's place with 235 yards and two touchdowns but it wasn't enough and the Jags fell to 2-10 and currently own 3rd overall pick in next year's draft.

Rams (6-6) 21-14 (4-8) Saints

The Rams defence stayed strong to deny the Saints points. With just 6 points on the board heading into the 4th the Rams gave up one touchdown late on in what was a fantastic defensive display despite them having no sacks. They had 6 pass breakups and Jared Verse had 3 QB hits. Christian Rozeboom landed 19 tackles. On offence Puka Nacua led them with 56 yards and a touchdown but both offences struggled to get momentum. The win keeps the Rams well in the playoff hunt just one game back in the NFC West. The Saints slim chances of making the playoffs are over however. They fall to 4-8 2 games back in the NFC South.

Bucs (6-6) 26-23 (3-9) Panthers OT

The Bucs needed overtime to see off the Panther. Bryce Young has looked like a different quarterback since returning to the team and impressed once again despite not getting the result. Young went for 296 yards and a touchdown, he also rushed for one as well. Sadly it wasn't enough for the win as Chase McLaughlin's overtime field goal was just enough for

the Bucs. Bucky Irving had a monster day for the Bucs with 152 rushing yards and a touchdown also adding 33 receiving yards as well. The Bucs move up to 6-6 are now on the same record as division leaders Falcons and could to sneak into the playoffs at this late stage and potentially win the division as well.

Eagles (10-2) 24-19 (8-5) Ravens

The Eagles win the battle of two contenders thanks mainly to the Ravens Justin Tucker having another poor display with the boot. This season is one to forget for Tucker who has now uncharacteristically 8 field goals on the year including 2 in this game. Saquon Barkley did carry on his strong season and push for offensive player of the year in the battle of the best running backs. Derrick Henry replied to Barkley's 107 yards with 84 of his own but it was the Eagles who came out on top meaning the Ravens fall to 8-5 and fall to the 6th seed in the AFC. The Eagles however move to 10-2 and hold the number 2 Seed in the NFC.

49ers (5-7) 10-35 (10-2) Bills

The Bills are the second team to secure a playoff spot winning and going to 10-2 on the year. Josh Allen dazzled in the snow including a hook and ladder touchdown as well as another rushing touchdown on the day. James Cook also rushed for 107 yards with 65 of them coming from his rushing touchdown. The 49ers however had a horror show, not only the loss but injuries to Christian McCaffrey and Jordan Mason crushed their hopes of any playoff run with the loss. They are two games back in the division but it seems an uphill struggle to make the playoffs this time around as they fall to 5-7.

Browns (3-9) 32-41 (8-5) Broncos

The final game of the week was a fun one. Jameis Winston being the main culprit of the fun throwing for a monstrous 497 yards and four touchdowns. He did however throw 3 costly interceptions, including two that went to the house for pick 6s. Jerry Jeudy had a huge game with 235 yards receiving and a touchdown. All of this however wasn't enough for the Browns to win and they fell to 3-9. The Broncos were led well once again by Nix despite his 2 interceptions. He threw for 294 yards and took the Broncos to 8-5 on the season keeping them in the last playoff spot and two games clear of the Colts.

Game of the Week

The Steelers Vs Bengals was an absolute shootout, not much on defence but on offence it was a fascinating game to watch, end to end game. Lots of touchdowns and scores. Great for any neutral fans.

Play of the Week

Nobody loves a big man touchdown move than me! Leonard Williams got this week's best play with a 92 yard interception for a touchdown. With about 20 meters to go it seemed like Williams legs couldn't take him but some good blocking meant there was enough time for him to walk it in. Great play by the big man!!!!!

Playoff Picture

AFC 1 Seed - Chiefs 11-1 2 Seed - Bills 10-2 3 Seed - Steelers 9-3 NFC Lions 11-1 Eagles 10-2 Seahawks 7-5 4 Seed - Texans 8-5 5 Seed - Chargers 8-4 6 Seed - Ravens 8-5 7 Seed - Broncos 8-5

In The Hunt

AFC - Colts 6-7.

NFC - Bucs 6-6, Cardinals 6-6, Rams 6-6, 49ers 5-6,. These are still in the hunt due to potentially being able to still win the division.

Playoff games if the season finished today

AFC Chiefs - Bye Week Broncos @ Bills Ravens @ Steelers Chargers @ Texans NFC Lions - Bye week Commanders @ Eagles Packers @ Seahawks Vikings @ Falcons

Falcons 6-6 Vikings 10-2 Packers 9-3 Commanders 8-5