



Week 5 review

Teams on a Bye

Eagles, Lions, Titans, Chargers.

Buccaneers 30-36 Falcons (OT):

Despite Kirk Cousins' spectacular performance, throwing for over 500 yards and four touchdowns, the Falcons had to overcome several mistakes, including an interception, missed field goals and defensive lapses. Tampa Bay's defence, missing key players (Kancey, Winfield), struggled to contain the Falcons' air attack. Baker Mayfield had a solid showing for the Bucs, throwing for 180 yards and three touchdowns. However, Cousins' ability to exploit mismatches in coverage proved decisive. The win was critical for Atlanta to stay competitive in the NFC South.

Jets 17-23 Vikings: London game

The Vikings' passing attack and defensive resilience proved too much for the Jets, who leaned on Aaron Rodgers for much of their offensive production, however his three interceptions were costly. Minnesota capitalised on a strong start and maintained their lead despite a late push from the Jets. New York struggled to sustain drives, and the Vikings' secondary shut down key passing options in crucial moments with three perfectly timed interceptions, the final one wrapping up the win. With the Vikings offence struggling their defence stepped up to help see them to a 5-0 start.

Panthers 10-36 Bears:

Chicago's win was fueled by their ability to mix up play-calling, keeping Carolina off balance throughout. The Bears' run game provided consistent gains, continuing where it left off the week before and another huge game for DeAndre Swift. The Bears' defence, led by a resurgent front seven, forced Carolina into several third-and-long situations. Andy Dalton, the Panthers' quarterback, had a difficult outing, throwing for only 136 yards under constant pressure. Whereas Caleb Williams had his first 300+ game in another impressive display and is starting to really show signs of why he was the number one overall pick.

Ravens 41-38 Bengals (OT):

This game showcased elite quarterback play from both Lamar Jackson and Joe Burrow, as each engineered multiple scoring drives. Jackson's dual-threat capability was a major factor in keeping the Bengals' defence off balance, while Burrow's five TD passes kept Cincinnati competitive. The game was defined by explosive plays, particularly Jackson's critical rushing and illusive plays and keeping plays alive. A huge gain off the back off a missed field goal in overtime from Derrick Henry proved to be the difference and also proved Derrick Henry on the Ravens is the piece the Ravens needed in these close games. Ja'Marr Chase did not deserve to be on the losing side with a huge 193 yards and two touchdowns in an elite receiver showing.

Dolphins 15-10 Patriots:

Miami's defence was the story of the game, holding the Patriots to just 10 points. Tyler Huntley struggled against a solid New England defence, but Miami's ground game helped control the clock with rookie Jaylen Wright and Raheem Mostert carrying for over 80 yards. Meanwhile, the Patriots' offence failed to generate big plays, and a crucial late-game controversial touchdown call against rookie Ja'Lynn Polk proved vital. Polk looked to have toe-tapped before landing out of bounds but the officials called it different. With the offence struggling once again, it may not be much longer before Drake Maye gets the starting role in New England.

Browns 13-34 Commanders:

Cleveland's offensive line had no answer for Washington's pass rush, allowing seven sacks, two and a half to Frankie Luvu. Deshaun Watson faced constant pressure and was unable to find a rhythm. He was also guilty of holding onto the ball too long and was unimpressive once again. The Commanders' rookie QB Jayden Daniels shone, his efficient passes and his mobility to extend drives once again was a joy to watch. Washington's defence was relentless, forcing a fumble and multiple third-down stops which helped take pressure off the offence. The Commanders are flying high and sit second in the NFC standings.

Colts 34-37 Jaguars:

Trevor Lawrence and Joe Flacco exchanged big plays in this high-scoring contest. Lawrence's ability to exploit the Colts' secondary with deep throws was pivotal, while Flacco kept Indianapolis in the game with over 350 passing yards. Jacksonville's defence made a critical stop late in the fourth, and a game-winning field goal clinched the win and giving the Jaguars their first of the season.

Bills 20-23 Texans:

The Texans' defence, led by standout play from their secondary breaking up critical plays, with their defensive line pressuring Josh Allen all game and held Buffalo to field goals on critical drives. CJ Stroud's efficient passing, combined with a steady rushing attack, allowed Houston to control the pace of the game especially early by taking a 20-3 lead. Before an Allen led a fightback but a clutch 59-yard field goal in the final second from new Texans highest points scorer Ka'imi Fairbairn secured the upset.

Raiders 18-34 Broncos:

Denver's offence, led by rookie QB Bo Nix, found its rhythm after a slow start, thanks to efficient play-calling and strong pass protection. The Raiders' defence failed to pressure Nix on a consistent basis, and Denver's ground game wore them down in the second half. The Broncos' defence, led by Patrick Surtain II, forced two turnovers to seal the win with Surtain II having a 100 yard interception to the house.

Cardinals 24-23 49ers:

Arizona's rushing attack, which averaged over six yards per carry, powered a comeback after trailing by 13 points, Conner and Murray both rushing for over 80 yards. The 49ers' offence struggled with two costly turnovers, including a game-ending interception. Despite their defensive efforts, San Francisco couldn't overcome Arizona's strong second-half adjustments and two 70+ yard drives.

Packers 24-19 Rams:

Green Bay's defence delivered key stops in the fourth quarter, halting the Rams' attempts at a comeback. Jordan Love made critical throws in the second half, and the Packers' running game, led by Josh Jacobs, wore down the Rams' front seven. Tucker Kraft had a huge breakout game with 88 yards and two touchdowns.

Giants 29-20 Seahawks:

Daniel Jones had one of his best performances of the season, consistently finding Darius Slayton and utilising the run game effectively. Slayton had 122 receiving yards and a touchdown whilst rookie Tyrone Tracy rushed for 129 yards and controlled the game. The Giants' defence sacked Geno Smith six times, applying relentless pressure that kept Seattle's offence out of sync for much of the game, not allowing much to DK Metcalf.

Cowboys 20-19 Steelers:

This closely contested game was defined by defensive stops and field position battles. Dak Prescott led the Cowboys on a fourth-quarter drive to take the lead, while Pittsburgh's late-game efforts to retake the lead fell short, as Dallas' defence made crucial stops in the red zone. Prescott did just enough in both Sunday and Monday with 14 points in the last quarter completed the win.

Saints 13-26 Chiefs

In the Saints 13-26 Chiefs Monday night game, Kansas City showcased a dominant defense, pressuring the Saints quarterbacks with Carr leaving the game, which contributed to New Orleans' struggles. Patrick Mahomes threw for 331 yards despite key offensive injuries, connecting with JuJu Smith-Schuster, who had 130 receiving yards, his first 100-yard game in nearly two years. The Saints' defensive woes were compounded by injuries, though they did manage some red zone stops, including a highlight from DT Khalen Saunders with an interception.

Favourite Plays of the Week.

There is two this week, both have a comedy value, Seahawks' Jaxon Smith-Njigba making two defenders believe he was about to receive a pass on a run play was brilliant. The second Neville Hewitt's flying suplex tackle on a special teams play for the Texans, both clips worth finding and watching.

Surprise of the Week

There are a couple of small surprises this week, the biggest surprise was the Cardinals comeback against the 49ers. It seemed the 49ers were cruising to a win before Kyler Murray and the Cardinals really stepped up.