



Week 8 Review

Vikings (5-2) 20-30 Rams (3-4)

The Rams managed to upset the Vikings with a strong performance, boosting their record to 3-4. Key to their victory was a balanced offensive attack, having both superstar receivers Cooper Kupp and Puka Nacua back from injury played a key part. The Rams took advantage of an off day for the Vikings' defence, they weren't able to get much pressure on Stafford who in turn found Kupp, Nacua, Williams and Robinson with ease, and threw for four touchdowns. Despite Minnesota's efforts, they struggled to keep pace with the Rams' scoring, pushing the Vikings to 5-2 with back to back defeats. Justin Jefferson once again was a reliable target but there was not much else around him. There was also pressure on Darnold especially from rookie Jared Verse who landed one and half sacks.

Eagles (5-2) 37-17 Bengals (3-5)

The Eagles dominated the Bengals with a decisive 37-17 win maintaining their momentum in the season at 5-2. The game on paper looked to be a close game, and it did start that way with a 17-17 scoreline in the late third quarter but the Eagles pulled away at the end for a comprehensive win. The Eagles offence was highly efficient, with Jalen Hurts and Saquon Barkley contributing in the run game and DeVonta Smith and A.J Brown in the passing game. Their defence had a few key pass breakups with six in total. The Bengals, who dropped to 3-5 will be annoyed at the poor end to the third quarter and all the fourth. The rushing yards are not there for the Bengals who need to get their star receivers free to mount a serious challenge down the stretch.

Ravens (5-3) 24-29 Browns (2-6)

In a close contest, the Browns managed a surprise win over the Ravens with a 29-24 score. The Ravens, now 5-3, struggled to contain the Browns' offensive rhythm which was led by Jameis Winston who threw for over 300 yards, this is the first time a Browns quarterback has managed this this year. He found Cedric Tillman who seems to be breaking out for 99 yards and two touchdowns, leading to Cleveland's second win of the season. This loss was a huge shock for the Ravens who were expected to win this one with ease. Lamar Jackson played

well, with Zay Flowers contributing over 100 receiving yards, but questions will be asked why Derrick Henry only had 11 carries when he took them for 73 yards and a touchdown.

Titans (1-6) 14-52 Lions (6-1)

The Lions put on a commanding performance against the Titans, securing a huge 52-14 victory. With a 6-1 record, the Lions showcased an explosive offence that capitalised on the Titans' defensive gaps. Once again the Lions had lots of contributors with Jared Goff only needing 85 passing yards which did get him three passing touchdowns. Jahmyr Gibbs had a 70 yard rushing touchdown and Kalif Raymond landed a 90 yard punt return to the house. Not only that, the Lions forced three fumbles on defence and special teams. Tennessee's 1-6 season continued to look bleak, as they were unable to respond to the Lions' offensive firepower even with 94 rushing yards from Tony Pollard and 143 receiving yards from Calvin Ridley. Arden Key had two sacks in the blow out.

Cardinals (4-4) 28-27 Dolphins (2-5)

In a nail-biter, the Cardinals edged out the Dolphins with a 28-27 win, moving to a 4-4 record thanks to a walkoff field goal from Chad Ryland. The game was tightly contested, with both teams' offences putting on a show, With Tua back the Dolphins clicked early and were leading 20-10. Tyreek Hill was better with 72 receiving yards and De'von Achane rushed just short of 100. The Cardinals hit back thanks to 124 receiving yards from Trey McBride and 111 from Marvin Harrison Jr which also included an incredible grab in the corner of the end zone for a touchdown. The Dolphins dropped to 2-5 in a season filled with close losses, Tua being back helped but it maybe too much to do for a playoff run.

Jets (2-6) 22-25 Patriots (2-6)

The Patriots narrowly defeated the Jets in a 25-22 matchup, with both teams now at 2-6. New England's defence came through in key moments, stopping the Jets' last-minute efforts to secure their second win. On offence Drake Maye once again looked promising before taking a shot to the head which took him out of the game. Rhamondre Stevenson ran in two touchdowns and also added a two point conversion. The Jets continue to struggle, there were positives though with Breece Hall and Garrett Wilson once again contributing massively. Quinnen Williams landed one and a half sacks and looked dominant on defence. Both teams will be looking to next year as a shot at the playoffs looks too far out of reach.

Falcons (5-3) 31-26 Bucs (4-4)

The Falcons took down the Bucs in a 31-26 thriller, moving up to 5-3. Atlanta's offensive execution was critical, Kirk Cousins threw four passing touchdowns, two of which went to Kyle Pitts, although one slightly controversial, the other two to Bijan Robinson and Darnell Mooney. The Falcons offence is playing really well and the whole offensive unit is contributing. The Bucs were unable to keep up despite a strong performance. Baker Mayfield once again had over 300 passing yards and found Cade Otton for two touchdowns. Otton became Mayfield's number one target with Evans and Godwin out but that wasn't enough for Tampa Bay who fell to an even 4-4.

Packers (6-2) 30-27 Jaguars (2-6)

The Packers narrowly overcame the Jaguars, 30-27, improving their record to 6-2. Green Bay's offence stayed efficient, but the Jaguars kept it close, showing resilience in the game. Brian Thomas Jr once again caused issues for the opposition, But there was nothing

Jacksonville could do to stop Josh Jacobs who ran for 127 yards and two touchdowns, Tucker Kraft had 78 yards and a touchdown. On defence rookie Edgerrin Cooper had an excellent game for the Packers with the teams only sack and he also led the team in tackles. Jacksonville dropped to 2-6, still struggling to find a groove in their season, although this was a good display they couldn't quite get the win after returning from England with a win.

Colts (4-4) 20-23 Texans (6-2)

The Texans continued their strong season with a 23-20 victory over the Colts, moving to a 6-2 record. This win highlighted Houston's clutch play and ability to secure close games once again as they have now won 5 of their wins by one score. CJ Stroud had a better game this week and was supported once again by Joe Mixon at running back. Sadly for the Texans they lost Stefon Diggs to a season ending injury. The Colts, now 4-4, struggled to maintain offensive momentum, Anthony Richardson was 10/31 in passes and had to come off the field due to being tired. This was caused by an outstanding defensive line for the Texans which had five sacks and nine QB hits. Danielle Hunter landed two sacks and a forced fumble, which was recovered by Will Anderson Jr who also registered a sack.

Saints (2-6) 8-26 Chargers (4-3)

The Chargers comfortably beat the Saints, 26-8, improving to a 4-3 record. Their defence was instrumental in limiting New Orleans' scoring opportunities. The Chargers also landed five sacks and seven QB hits. That was not the only positive for the Chargers as rookie Ladd McConkey had an outstanding game on offence recording 111 yards and two touchdowns and looks to be Herbert's go to with the ball now. The Saints drop to a disappointing 2-6 after starting the season 2-0. Spencer Rattler started the game but Jake Haener finished it. The Saints did however have Olave back who racked up over 100 receiving yards. Carr should be back next week and this will be a big boost for the Saints. The Chargers grabbed another win which currently has them in the last playoff spot.

Bills (6-2) 31-10 Seahawks (4-4)

The Bills dominated the Seahawks with a 31-10 win, pushing to a solid 6-2 record. James Cook had a huge game with 111 rushing yards and two touchdowns as well as adding 22 yards receiving, he caused issues all day for Seattle. Buffalo's defence stifled Seattle's offensive attempts, their special teams also had some big moments with two forced fumbles. The Seahawks fell to 4-4 as they continued to struggle against well-rounded opponents, the running game once again struggled with only 32 yards rushing and Geno Smith scrambles accounting for half of them. DK Metcalf should be back this coming week which will be a big bonus for the team who are still level on games in the NFC West and a real chance to win the division if they can get going again.

Panthers (1-7) 14-28 Broncos (5-3)

The Broncos secured a 28-14 victory over the Panthers, moving to a 5-3 record. Denver's defence held the Panthers to minimal scoring, but it was impressive rookie Bo Nix who was the key to this win once again. He threw for 284 yards and three touchdowns, he also rushed for one as well. Nix is playing some really good football and it seems to improve every single week. Carolina's ongoing struggles continued as they went to 1-7. Bryce Young was ok, but the two interceptions were costly. Rookie Jalen Coker had an impressive game and gave the Panthers hope after losing Johnson to the Ravens this week. The Broncos continue to push for a playoff spot and currently sit fifth in the AFC rankings.

Chiefs (7-0) 27-20 Raiders (2-6)

The undefeated Chiefs won another close game, defeating the Raiders 27-20 and maintaining their 7-0 record. Kansas City's offence and clutch defensive plays in the final moments were essential to holding off the Raiders. Patrick Mahomes once again threw an interception but he did manage to find Travis Kelce often. Kelce finished with 90 yards and a touchdown and was mighty impressive all day long. The Chiefs defence once again stepped up when required with goal line stops. They also sacked Gardner Minchew five times. Minchew had a solid game and it helped he had rookie Brock Bowers who continues to be a huge player for the Raiders. The Chiefs are the only team without a loss this season and look likely to be heading for another deep playoff run.

Bears (4-3) 15-18 Commanders (6-2)

In a tight, low-scoring game, the Commanders beat the Bears 18-15 to reach 6-2 thanks to a hail Mary throw from Jayden Daniels which landed in the hands of Noah Brown. The play was helped by Tyrique Stevenson's antics on the play. Jayden Daniels managed over 300 passing yards and once again played some good football. The Bears defence was strong all game but couldn't hang onto the win. Washington's defence was key in limiting Chicago's offence also which made the game a really tight contest and secured the win. Jer'Zhan Newton had an impressive display with three quarterback hits. The Bears, now 4-3, missed opportunities that could have turned the game around.

Cowboys (3-4) 24-30 49ers (4-4)

The 49ers improved to 4-4 after a close 30-24 victory over the Cowboys. San Francisco's offence executed well in high-pressure situations, thanks mainly to George Kittle who was outstanding with 128 yards and a touchdown. He had rookie Isaac Guerendo for crucial run support. The 49ers withheld a late attack from Dak Prescott and Ceedee Lamb, but Dallas, now 3-4, continued to struggle in games due to almost always being too far behind to catch up. The 49ers join the Seahawks and Cardinals at 4-4 so could take control of the division if they can build some momentum, the Cowboys are now three games behind the Commanders and it looks like their playoff hopes are fading.

Giants (2-6) 18-26 Steelers (6-2)

The Steelers held off the Giants, winning 26-18 and boosting their record to 6-2. Pittsburgh's defence came through in key situations, with the amazing TJ Watt who landed two strip sacks. Alex Highsmith also landed two sacks as well as six quarterback hits. Najee Harris continued his run of form with another 100 yard rushing game. The Giants, at 2-6, were unable to overcome the Steelers' defensive consistency, although rookie Tyrone Tracy Jr rushed for 145 yards and a touchdown was a huge bright spark in the offence. On defence Azeez Ojulari recorded two sacks and also looked impressive, this was not enough to stop the Steelers who lead the AFC North and look set for a record breaking winning season record.

Play of the Week

The hail Mary from Jayden Daniels has to take the victory this week. It starts with Stevenson taunting the Commanders fans, before tipping the pass into the man whose arms he was

supposed to be going up against. Noah Brown's reactions were also quite entertaining to take the catch, before the fantastic scenes as the players run onto the pitch to celebrate.

Playoff Picture

AFC

1 Seed - Chiefs 7-0
2 Seed - Texans 6-2
3 Seed - Steelers 6-2
4 Seed - Bills 6-2
5 Seed - Broncos 5-3
6 Seed - Ravens 5-3
7 Seed - Chargers 4-3

NFC

Lions 6-1
Commanders 6-2
Falcons 5-3
Cardinals 4-4
Packers 6-2
Vikings 5-2
Eagles 5-2

In The Hunt

AFC - Colts, Bengals

NFC - Bears, Bucs, 49ers, Seahawks