



Week 15 Review

Some huge results happened this weekend and lots of playoff places now settled. Let's take a quickfire look at this one.

Rams (8-6) 12-6 (6-8) 49ers

I could not believe this result, I thought it could be a shoot out of sorts but the only points came from field goals with Joshua Karty landing 4 to win it for the Rams which also landed them at the top heading into the final weeks of the season at 8-6, the 49ers hopes seems to have gone after this loss and more distress came from De'Vondre Campbell refusing to enter the field.

Chiefs (13-1) 21-7 (3-11) Browns

Another unconvincing win for the Chiefs, but they continue to get the job done. It is normally this time of year the offence starts to cook but the chefs don't quite seem ready yet, on top of that injury to Patrick Mahomes could be critical at this stage however the likely bye in a few weeks could be vital for them. They move to 13-1 and look set to land the top seed in the AFC. The Browns have a lot of needs moving forward into next year, but with a few games left this year a fight for their roster spot appears to be already ongoing.

Bengals (6-8) 37-27 (3-11) Titans

The Bengals defence finally showed up with 4 interceptions but in all honesty the defence has been the issue this season. Joe Burrow has played at an MVP standard all season long and still couldn't get them over the line in games. The game was another example of Burrow's excellence as he threw for 271 yards and 3 touchdowns, he once again found Ja'Marr Chase with ease, Chase Brown was excellent as well, a huge disappointment for this Bengals side who seem to have left it too late at 6-8. The Titans have major issues heading into the new season. They currently hold 6th overall pick in the draft.

Commanders (9-5) 20-19 (5-9) Saints

The Commanders survive a late fight back from the Saints who went for two to win it with the final play of the game but could not convert. The Commanders had Terry McClaurin and Jayden Daniels partnership to thank as they combined for 73 yards and 2 touchdowns, scoring early in the contest and put the Saints on the backfoot. They move to 9-5 and hang on to the 7th seed in the NFC, where the Saints fall to 5-9, they need to sort some cap issues out in the new year and do a bit of a rebuild before the draft and new season comes around.

Ravens (9-5) 35-14 (2-12) Giants

The Ravens finished this one early, with Lamar Jackson leading the way with 290 yards and 5 touchdowns, another incredible performance as he pushes for the MVP title with Josh Allen. Rashod Bateman led the receiving yards with 80 and 2 touchdowns. The win gets the Ravens closer to guaranteeing a playoff spot. The Giants know they have a few nice pieces to build around, especially Malik Nabers who continues to impress in the new season, they still hold the number 2 overall pick, expect to see Ward or Sanders taken here.

Cowboys (6-8) 30-14 (3-11) Panthers

The Panthers heading into this one as favourites, however the defensive display by the Cowboys stopped all momentum. Bryce Young was picked off twice, as well as being sacked 6 times in a truly dominant Cowboys defensive display. Rico Dowdle looked good with 149 rushing yards and once again Ceedee Lamb leading the receivers with 116 yards and a touchdown. Both sides were playing for pride more than anything and will be looking at draft positions to build on their side.

Jets (4-10) 32-25 (3-11) Jaguars

In another battle for draft positions the Jets won mainly thanks to a vintage Aaron Rodgers to Davante Adams display, the two combined for 198 yards and 2 touchdowns on the day. This completely took away from the excellent performance from rookie Brian Thomas Jr for the Jags who was excellent with 105 yards and 2 touchdowns. Both teams head to the draft with question marks about who they will look to select, the big question for the Jets is around who comes to take control and if Rodgers stays.

Dolphins (6-8) 12-20 (9-5) Texans

Three interceptions from Tua Tagovailoa was the difference in this one where both offences struggled. Rookie Calen Bullock got the first before another impressive display from Derek Stingley Jr took over. Stingley is finally getting the recognition his performances deserve as his play this year has been outstanding. The win also included a strip sack and recovery from Will Anderson Jr and 1.5 sacks from Danielle Hunter who keep pushing for the DPOY honours. The Texans confirmed their playoff spot and AFC South title with the win, whereas the Dolphins will now be turning attention to the draft as the likelihood of a playoff spot seems to be out of reach.

Colts (6-8) 13-31 (9-5) Broncos

The early part of the game was completely controlled by the Colts and they looked set to move to a 20-7 lead when Jonathan Taylor became the second player of the week to drop the ball before crossing the line for a touchdown in a catastrophic error. This led to the Broncos fighting back and becoming rampant in a hugely impressive second half display.

The win for the Broncos moves them out of touching distance of the Colts, and has made the Colts chances of the playoffs likely impossible with them 2 games back with 3 to play.

Bills (11-3) 48-42 (12-2) Lions

What a game this was, and if ever you doubted Josh Allen as MVP for the season take a look at this tape. What an incredible performance 362 passing yards and 2 touchdowns, add in 68 rushing yards and 2 touchdowns it was another electric performance. James Cook also takes a lot of credit with 105 yards and 2 touchdowns where a hair pull wouldn't stop him. The Bills keep pressure on the Chiefs for the AFC top seed. The Lions were also hugely impressive, Jared Goff threw for 494 yards and 5 touchdowns and it still wasn't enough to stop the Bills winning this one. Amon-Ra St Brown was his go to with 193 receiving yards. The Lions open the door for a NFC top seed challenge but still have it in their possession heading into the final few weeks.

Steelers (10-4) 13-27 (12-2) Eagles

Jalen Hurts and AJ Brown have issues??? What issues? The pair were dominant against an excellent Steelers defence. Brown received 110 yards and a touchdown of Hurts 290 yards. He also threw 109 yards and a touchdown to DeVonta Smith proving it is not all on Saquon Barkley. The Eagles are closing in on the NFC top seed and will hope the Lions slip up once more. The Steelers kept the Ravens too close for comfort with this loss despite another DPOY performance from TJ Watt who landed 2 sacks and another forced fumble. The Steelers have a tough few games including a huge game against the Ravens next to try and secure the AFC North title.

Patriots (3-11) 17-30 (7-7) Cardinals

A rampant Cardinals run display once again set up this win, James Conner rushed for 110 yards and 2 touchdowns on the day. Conner and the run game set the Cardinals up as Kyler Murray was consistent without overly impressing. He also came off the field for a few snaps but luckily the damage was done. The Cardinals stay one game back from the Rams and Seahawks and keep their playoff hopes alive. The Patriots however need to seriously address their wide receiver issues, there were so many ke drops in this one where Drake Maye had been fighting to keep the play alive. They should select a receiver with the third overall pick in the draft.

Bucs (8-6) 40-17 (8-6) Chargers

What a performance from the Bucs and Baker Mayfield to win this one. Baker threw for 288 yards and 4 touchdowns on the day, finding Mike Evans for 159 yards and 2 touchdowns. Mike Evans still needs 251 yards to break the most consecutive 1000 yards seasons so expect to see him getting hit a few more times this season from Baker. The Bucs still sit top of the NFC South and move to the 3 Seed. The Chargers, thanks to other results, look set for a playoff run even with this loss, they currently hold the 7th seed but 2 games clear of the Colts.

Packers (10-4) 30-13 (8-6) Seahawks

The Seahawks couldn't get much going on offence as Geno Smith threw for just 149 yards on the day, with 83 going to Jaxson Smith-Njigba once again. The loss moves the Seahawks out of the top spot in the NFC West and also kicks them out of the playoff spots. The Packers however look set for a playoff run. Jordan Love and Josh Jacobs carried on their

fine form in this one to make the game look in complete control early as they jumped to a 20-3 lead at halftime. The Packers look to have found real form once again heading into the playoffs.

Bears (4-10) @ (12-2) Vikings

The Vikings dominated the Bears and dedicated the victory to hall of famer Randy Moss after his recent diagnosis. The Vikings put on a superb display with Justin Jefferson leading the way with 73 yards and a touchdown. The Vikings secured their playoff spot and just the third side in the NFC but still sit as the 5th seed. The Bears once again didn't look great and Caleb Williams did some quite alarming plays he would get away with in college but the NFL is a different beast. The Bears have some good pieces to use in the future but do need some key pieces also to make the jump.

Falcons (7-7) 15-9 (2-12) Raiders

The final game of the week was another not so good one to watch, the key moment being a 30 yards touchdown pass from Kirk Cousins to Drake London in the first quarter. The Falcons offence was the run game as Bijan Robinson rushed for more than Cousin threw for, 125 yards rushing for Bijan. The Falcons keep the pace with the Bucs and hope they can slip up to snatch their playoff spot back. For the Raiders they look set for the first overall pick and likely a quarterback as once again another bitterly disappointing game for the side.

Game of the Week

Bills Vs Lions - another week and another Bills game, (and Lions) added to the game of the week. Both quarterbacks were excellent in the game, both offences were playing really well and it could be an early preview of the superbowl.

Play of the Week

There were quite a few to choose from this week but I went with the game sealing interception from Derek Stingley Jr who ripped the ball from Tyreek Hill's hands to land a Texans win, playoff spot and the AFC South title. As mentioned earlier Stingley is finally getting the correct recognition and could have landed himself an all pro status at the end of the season as he has been outstanding all season long.

Playoff Picture

<u>AFC</u>	<u>NFC</u>
1 Seed - Chiefs 13-1	Lions 12-2
2 Seed - Bills 11-3	Eagles 12-2
3 Seed - Steelers 10-4	Buccaneers 8-6
4 Seed - Texans 9-5	Rams 8-6
5 Seed - Ravens 9-5	Vikings 12-2
6 Seed - Broncos 9-5	Packers 10-4
7 Seed - Chargers 8-6	Commanders 9-5

In The Hunt

AFC - I don't see any other team making it now.

NFC - Seahawks 8-6, Falcons 7-7, Cardinals 7-7.

Playoff games if the season finished today

AFC

Chiefs - Bye Week

Chargers @ Bills

Broncos @ Steelers

Ravens @ Texans

NFC

Lions - Bye week

Commanders @ Eagles

Packers @ Bucs

Vikings @ Rams