

Week 12 Review

Steelers (8-3) 19-24 (3-8) Browns

There were a few shock results, this one being one of them. The snow came down heavy and Nick Chubb shone with two touchdowns on his 20 carries. Chubb is slowly starting to get back to his old ways which is great to see after a horrific injury last season. For the Steelers Calvin Austin III impressed with 78 yards and a touchdown, but the Steelers could not get the hail mary attempt with the final play. The Steelers still lead the division ATM 8-3 but are now under pressure from the Ravens. The Browns stay bottom of the division at 3-8, and now hold the 8th draft pick next year as it stands.

Vikings (9-2) 30-27 (4-7) Bears OT

The Vikings needed overtime to beat the Bears. The Bears forced overtime thanks to their special teams recovering the on-side kick, and setting up a field goal. The Vikings got a stop in overtime before setting up the field goal thanks to Sam Darnald and Aaron Jones. Darnald had 330 passing yards and 2 touchdowns in the game with 162 yards and a touchdown going to Jordan Addison. Aaron Jones had 106 yards and a touchdown. On defense Jonathon Greenard managed two sacks in a dominant display. The Vikings move to 9-2 and keep the pressure on the Lions. The Bears fall to 4-7 despite 340 passing yards and 2 touchdowns from Caleb Williams. Willaims also led the team in rushing with 33 yards.

Lions (10-1) 24-6 (5-7) Colts

The Lions won this potential tricky matchup despite not looking at their fluent best. Jahmyr Gibbs led the way with 90 rushing yards and 2 touchdowns, but it was the defensive display that caught the eye. They forced the Colt to just 2 field goals, with some crucial stops to force punts rather than potential field goal attempts or touchdowns. Jack Campbell and Malcolm Rodriguez were at the heart of this with 14 and 15 tackles each. The Lions are one step closer to confirming the NFC top seed. The Colts slip to 5-7, Richardson's throwing wasn't great with 11/28 completions, but did show dual threat ability once again. The Colts are still in playoff contention and are keeping pace with the Texans.

Patriots (3-9) 15-34 (5-6) Dolphins

Tua is cooking for the Dolphins. The Dolphins are completely transformed with him back under centre and have now played themselves just into playoff contention. Tua threw for 314 yards and 4 touchdowns in this one, he had Jalen Waddle open throughout who had 144 yards receiving. The Dolphins look to have found a star in the making on defence with Chop Robinson making some huge strides the last few weeks and landing 1.5 sacks in this one. The Dolphins could be the late team to make a push for the playoffs at 5-7. The Patriots fall to 3-9. Drake Maye showed some good plays especially late on, his touchdown to Austin Hooper a highlight in itself. But he wouldn't keep pace with the Dolphins.

Bucs (5-6) 30-7 (2-9) Giants

A change in quarterback, an even worse display by the Giants. Dan Jones being released has caused even more controversy. The Giants offence look poor all game and could not move it, no wonder this team is 2-9, it has been a shambles. The Bucs however had a great game thanks to Baker Mayfield and the hugely impressive Bucky Irving who 151 scrimmage yards and a touchdown on a monster day. Another couple of monsters live in the Bucs interior defensive line with both Vita Vea and Calijah Kancey both recording a sack and a tackle for loss in a dominant display, moving the Bucs to 5-6 and keeping them well in the hunt for the playoffs.

Cowboys (4-7) 34-26 (7-5) Commanders

The Commanders took a huge hit to their playoff hopes after a shock result losing to the Cowboys. With the score 10-9 heading into the 4th this game exploded out of nowhere. The Cowboys managed to escape the mayhem with a win thanks to an onside kick being recovered and returned for a touchdown by Juanyeh Thomas. The Cowboys managed to move the ball with Rico Dowdle rushing for 86 yards and Cooper Rush passing for 247 and two touchdowns. The Cowboys move to 4-7 but it maybe too little too late for them to make a playoff push. The Commanders Will need to bounce back, Daniels impressed with 275 yards passing with two touchdowns, and also having 74 rushing yards and a touchdown. But the two interceptions were costly. The Commanders move to 7-5 and still control their playoff fate.

Chiefs (10-1) 30-27 (3-8) Panthers

The Chiefs bounce back from their first loss with a win against the Panthers but were pushed all the way by Bryce Young. Young's stats do not jump out but watching this game showed the Panthers have something with Young. He had 263 passing yards and a touchdown. He moved the ball well all game and kept it safe. With 1.46 left in the 4th the Panthers were heading to overtime, However the Chiefs and Patrick Mahomes had other ideas, setting up a walk off field goal which Spencer Shrader converted, moving the Chiefs to 10-1 and keeping the AFC top seed safely in their hands. Mahomes was excellent in this game with 269 yards and 3 touchdowns, 2 of those going to Noah Gray. The Chiefs also hope to welcome Pacheco back next week which gives them a uge boost for the final run in.

Titans (3-8) 32-27 (7-5) Texans

The Titans stun the Texans in this clash thanks to Will Levis' 278 yards and 2 touchdown day, complemented superbly by Tony Pollard's 129 scrimmage yards. The win moves the Titans to 3-8 and also hurts the Texans playoff chances. The Texans offence was poor for most of the game, and could not run the ball. This was caused by the big two in the middle,

Jeffery Simmons and T'Vondre Sweat had a field day with the Texans offensive line and stopped runs all day. The Texans on defence However showed good fight despite conceding 32 points, with 8 sacks, 13 tackles for loss and 9 QB hits. Danielle Hunter and Will Andersn Jr entered the DPOY contest with 3 sacks and 5 tackles for loss and 2 sacks and 2 tackles for loss respectively However, they gave up too many big plays and it cost them dearly. The Team's still control their playoff fate and the AFC South title, However this display showed more weaknesses than positives.

Broncos (7-5) 29-19 (2-9) Raiders

Bo Nix once again led the Broncos to victory with 273 passing yards and 2 touchdowns. Courtland Sutton being the recipient of those touchdowns and 97 receiving yards. The Broncos defence played well with 5 sacks, four tackles for loss, 1 interception and one recovered forced fumble. The Broncos win moves them two games clear of the Colts and Dolphins. The Raiders season could not go any worse, another poor display, with only Jakobi Meyers putting up good numbers with 121 yards. They struggled pressuring Nix, but did stop the run with 8 tackles for loss. The Raiders have the 3rd overall pick and it is highly likely they will draft a quarterback in next year's draft.

49ers (5-6) 10-38 (8-3) Packers

The Packers ran riot over the 49ers thanks to Josh Jacobs 106 yards and 3 touchdowns game. The 49ers could not stop the run and Green Bay punished them all game. Jordan Love threw for 163 yards and two touchdowns in the one sided affair. On defence Quay Walker had a good game with 13 tackles and 2 of those being for a loss. The Packers are third in their division but still are comfortably in the playoff spots. For San Fran they missed Brock Purdy greatly. Brandon Allen threw for 199 yards and a touchdown, with one interception, 2 fumbles with 1 of those a loss. The run game did not help him though which made it difficult against a tough opposition. They fall to 5-6 but still can make the playoffs as they are only one game back from top spot in their division.

Cardinals (6-5) 6-16 (6-5) Seahawks

Talking of that division there was a defensive master class by both the Seahawks and the Cardinals in the NFC West battle. The Seahawks snatched the victory thanks to Coby Bryant's 69 yard interception return for a touchdown on defence, and yet again Jaxon Smith-Njigba stepping up on offence with 77 yards and a touchdown. Leonard Williams also had a big day with 2.5 sacks, 3 tackles for loss, one pass breakup and 4 qbs hits. The Seahawks move to the number 1 Seed in the NFC West, and will look to keep hold of the playoff spot. The Cardinals fall out of the playoff spots with the loss. They know however they can move the ball with Trey McBride gaining 133 yards on the day. Their defence was also strong with 5 sacks and 8 tackles for loss but it was just not quite enough to keep the division in their own hands.

Eagles (9-2) 37-20 (5-6) Rams

Saquon Barkley's historic game was more than enough for the Rams. Saquon rushed for a colossal 255 yards and 2 touchdowns, he also added a further 48 yards receiving. He was outstanding once again and the Eagles look like serious contenders for the Lions to be wary of come playoff time. The Eagles also moved two games clear in the NFC East and are just one game back on the Lions for the top seed in the NFC. The Rams stay one game back in the NFC West and still stand a good chance of the playoffs. With Puka Nacua and Cooper

Kupp they are likely to be there at the end of the season as well as the two combined for 177 of Matt Staffords 243 yards. Kyren Williams also contributed with 72 rushing yards but it wasn't enough to beat Saquon and the dominant Eagles side.

Ravens (8-4) 23-30 (7-4) Chargers

The final game of the week was the Harbaugh bowl in John Vs Jim. John and the Ravens won the game, Derrick Henry had a fantastic game with 140 yards rushing. Lamar Jackson was very tidy with 16/22 for 177 yards and 2 touchdowns. The Ravens were strong on defence as well Nate Wiggins the rookie, being one of the standouts with two pass breakups. The Ravens move to 8-4 and are just one game back from the Steelers. The Chargers stay in the playoff spots and have a 2 game advantage as well. Herbert will be looking at his receivers in this one with some huge drops from them that cost the Chargers dearly. Ladd McConkey however continued his fine form with 6/6 for 83 yards and is quickly becoming Herbert's go to. The Chargers will want a few more wins in the coming weeks to get a run in the playoffs confirmed.

Teams on a Bye

Falcons, Bills, Bengals, Saints, Jets, Jaguars.

Game of the Week

It is more a quarter of the week, the Cowboys Vs Commanders last quarter of football had to be one of the best quarters for a long time. The score heading into the final quarter was 10-9 and finished 24-26. An amazing finish to the game.

Play of the Week

The most impressive play this week for me was Drake Maye's 38 yards touchdown to Austin Hooper. Maye has shown that he is ready for the NFL and this throw shows he has the ability to make some huge plays. Running from defenders and making a perfect long throw to get the Pats on the board.

Playoff Picture

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

In The Hunt

AFC - Colts 5-6, Dolphins 5-6 however another loss and it is likely these are completely out. NFC - Cardinals 6-5, Rams 5-6, 49ers 5-6, Bucs 5-6, Saints 4-7. These are still in the hunt due to potentially being able to still win the division.

Playoff games if the season finished today

AFC NFC

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