



# NORTHEAST SPORTS' POWER PLAYS \$10

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## ★ ★ ★ NFL WILDCARD ROUND ★ ★ ★

### NEWS AND NOTES

**HAWAII BOWL S Mississippi 24 Nevada (+9) 17** - Larry Fedora had accepted the job at N Carolina but opted to still coach this one. Fedora said about QB Davis "It wasn't his best game. Davis hit 18-41-165 and was off most of the night but did lead a game winning TD drive in the 4Q. NV was without its top WR Rishard Matthews who was a late scratch and the game featured a Hawaii Bowl record 17 punts with the 41 combined points being the fewest in the bowl's history. SM got their first 10 win season since 1988. SM got a 19 yd PR to the NV31 but settled for a 50 yd FG and missed it. 2 punts. NV went 62/5pl but on 3&4 from the 13 was int'd in the EZ. 3 punts. SM blk'd a punt and rec'd it for a TD with 14:06 2Q. NV went 81/13pl and got a 5 yd TD run, 7-7. NV went 68/4pl and got a 45 yd TD run by Mark, 14-7. SM rel' the KO to the NV36 but fmb'l'd. NV was SOD on 4&1 at their own 44 but SM would settle for a 48 yd FG, 14-10 (1:21). NV fmb'l'd the KO at their own 24 and SM got a 2 yd TD pass with :12 left in the half to lead 17-14. At the half NV had a 235-109 yd edge. 3Q 2 punts. SM got 1 FD and missed a 48 yd FG. 1 punt. SM went 33/8pl but was SOD on 4&6 at the NV39. SM fmb'l'd the punt at their own 14 but NV settled for a 37 yd FG, 17-17 (2:44). Three 3&outs. NV got 2 FD's to midfield and punted. SM got 1 FD to the NV44 and punted. NV went 3&out and SM went 68/7pl and got a 4 yd TD pass with 5:48 left, 24-17. NV got 1 FD and was SOD at the 50 with 3:56 left and SM would get 3 FD's to the 16 and took a knee 3x.

**MILITARY BOWL Toledo 42 Air Force (+3) 41** - Toledo has the youngest HC in the country with 32 year old Matt Campbell who was in charge of them for the first time and delivered a 42-41 win. At the end of the game, AF appeared to tie it with a TD but lined up for the xp and ran a fake and the holder had the ball punched out while trying to run the option and UT held on for the win. AF had a 407-339 yd edge with the difference in the game being UT getting a 37 yd IR TD and also an 87 yd KR TD. Tim Jefferson was the first QB in service academy history to lead his team to 4 consecutive bowls and hit 13-22-159 yards. UT missed a 47 yd FG on the opening poss but the teams would have 5 consecutive TD's with UT recovering an onside kick and getting a 41/1pl TD and also an 87 yd KR TD and they led 21-14 after 1Q. AF on 4&gl got a 1 yard TD run but on their next drive on 4&4 were SOD at the TU25. After a fmb'l, AF went 44/4pl for a TD and it was 28-28 at the half with AF having a 255-231 yard edge. UT got a 37 yd IR TD but it was 35-35 after 3Q's. The teams punted on 5 straight poss with UT's punt pinning AF at the 3 twice. UT went 37/5pl for a TD after a 27 yard punt. The TD on 3&6 with a 33 yard pass with 5:01 left. AF went 78/12pl for a 4&3, 33 yard TD pass but the 2 point attempt failed.

**INDEPENDENCE BOWL Missouri (-4) 41 North Carolina 24** - NC had a interim HC this year in Everett Withers and he accepted the DC job at Ohio St and this would be his final game at NC with the Heels having already hired Larry Fedora. It appeared NC's coaches had been busier job hunting whereas Missouri ended the season with a 4 game win streak for the first time since 1965. James Franklin was the MVP as he rushed for 142 and passed for 132 despite the game being played in rain and cold weather. He led MO to 31 pts in the 1H as the Tigers had a 318-166 yd edge and a 31-10 lead. MO's mascot "Truman the Tiger" actually shattered the Independence Trophy prior to the game in a pregame accident and they had to use a replacement. MO finished with a 513-353 yd edge. The game was NC 7-0 and MO drove 58, 80 and 81 yds for 2 TD's and a FG, 17-7 then got a fumble and an int setting up 40 and 59 yd drives for a 31-7 lead and NC got a 21 yd FG on the final play of the half, 31-10. MO was int'd at the NC17 to open the 3Q and after 2 punts NC went 77/5pl for a TD to get back to 31-17 but MO, after a 49 yd KR, went 34/5pl for a TD, 38-17. NC was SOD at the MO31 and MO went 60/11pl for a 26 yd FG, 41-17 (6:22). NC drove 62/6pl getting a 17 yd TD pass with 4:08 left to get within 17 and MO, with bkp QB Costello got, 3 FD's ending the game at the NC16.

**LITTLE CAESARS PIZZA BOWL Purdue (-1) 37 W Michigan 32** - Tough loss for WM as they had an amazing 7 turnovers, allowed PU to recover 2 onside kicks and WM was also SOD twice on 4th down and allowed a 99 yd KR TD by Raheem Mostert. WM had 30-23 FD and 485-442 yd edges as Alex Carder hit 31-57-439 and WR Jordan White almost broke the NCAA bowl record with 13 rec's for 265 yds but on the final drive Carder fmb'l'd and PU rec'd with 1:50 which cost them a shot at it. There was a solid crowd of 46,177 on hand. PU was w/o top RB Ralph Bolden and Akeem Shavers came in ? but rushed for a career high 148 yds on 22 carries. There were some unusual plays in the game as WM twice turned it over but PU on the return turned it right back over. However, it resulted in 17 and 49 yd losses for WM as they had a 4&10 at the PU12 and fmb'l'd and PU ret'd it 21 yds to the WM39 but fmb'l'd it back. The game really turned when WM led 15-10 and allowed a 99 yd KR TD. PU then onside kicked and rec'd and drove 61/6pl for another TD and stunningly led 24-15 and after WM was SOD PU added a 19 yd FG on the last play of the half.

**BELK BOWL NC State (-2) 31 Louisville 24** - Tom O'Brien has done extremely well in bowl games moving his record to 9-2 after a win over UL. While it was a 7 pt win, NCS led 31-10 with 6:31 left in the 3Q but UL had the ball at the NCS45 with 1:07 left but on 4&23 they were int'd at the 16. David Amerson who led the NCAA in int recorded 2 more incl a key 65 yd IR TD in the 3Q and he had the int with :41 left in the game at the NCS16. Amerson finished with an ACC record 13 int's this year. Cards frosh QB Teddy Bridgewater did have a solid game hitting 24-43-274 yds but had those 3 int's. Down 21 pts, UL did benefit from a fake punt and a rec'd onside kick to get back into the game. An interesting decision came with 1:35 left 2Q when O'Brien passed up a 50 yd FG or a punt and opted to go for it on 4&2 at the UL33 but was SOD. Tied 7-7, UL got an int with 9:47 left 2Q and went 48/7pl for a 32 yd FG and the lead, 10-7 (6:56). NC went 80/5pl for a TD to lead 14-10 then UL was SOD on 4&1 at the NC32 with 2:11 left in the half. That play was huge as 2pl later NCS got a 68 yd TD pass and led 21-10 at the half with a 234-201 yd edge. Roughing the P and roughing the QB gave them a pair of FD's on a 60/14pl drive but they settled for a 34 yd FG. Amerson then got a weaving 65 yd IR TD to make it 31-10 (7:56). UL's TD with 3:55 left made it 31-24 setting up the NCS failed 4&2 try and the int. UL did finish with a 391-329 yd edge.

**ALAMO BOWL Baylor (-9) 67 Washington 56** - Heisman Trophy winner Robert Griffin only threw for 1 TD pass but it was the highest scoring bowl game in regulation in NCAA history. The two combined for 1,397 yds with BU having a 777-620 yd edge but the final was a bit misleading as BU did jump out to a 21-7 lead but actually trailed 35-21 in late 2Q and 42-24 in the 3Q. In fact, they were down 49-39 and 56-53 with 9:40 left in the game. BU took the lead with 8:15 left on a 4 yd TD run and UW went for it on 4&8 from the BU39 and were SOD with 3:20 left. BU got 1 FD and with 1 more FD they could have run out the clock but Ganaway on 2&3 ripped off a 43 yd TD run with UW having just 10 players on the field which put them ahead of the spread giving them the cover with 2:28 left. UW led 42-31 and had a FD at the BU17 when they fmb'l'd. Later UW missed a 43 yd FG with 3:38 left in the 3Q and all'd BU to take the lead on the next poss. BU used a short KO and UW's OL Shelton, while fighting for extra yards, fumbled at their own 46 and BU took a knee. Terrance Ganaway had 5 TD's and ran for 200 yds on 21 carries. Keith Price outplayed Griffin hitting 23-37-438 yds and had an amazing 7 TD's with 4 pass and 3 rush. Price is just a soph and threw for a school record 29 TD's and will draw many comparisons to RG3 in the preseason Heisman articles next year. The Alamo Bowl added 800 temporary seats to take advantage of the Heisman winner playing in their bowl and the att of 65,256 was the 5th largest in bowl history.

**ARMED FORCES BOWL BYU (+1) 24 Tulsa 21** - Riley Nelson appeared to be ready to spike the ball at the end of the game on a 2nd & gl from the 2 but then faked the spike and hit WR Hoffman in the EZ for a TD with :11 left as BYU won the Armed Forces Bowl. BYU had a 344-272 yd edge and got a 10 win ssn for the 5th time in Mendenhall's 7 yrs. A couple of key factors went in BYU's favor. Their P had an exceptional play with 6 punts pinning TU inside their 20 as TU had starting positions of 6, 7, 14, 12, 19 and 1 after punts. With :25 left in the half, BYU punted and TU fmb'l'd the punt on their own 17. BYU got a 17 yd TD pass with :12 left on the next play to take the 14-10 lead. BYU's final drive, which went 48/12pl for the TD was highlighted by a 4&9, Riley Nelson run of 14 yds which got them to the TU33 prior to the fake spike and TD.

**HOLIDAY BOWL Texas (-3) 21 California 10** - UT finished with a 255-195 yd edge with their D getting 5 takeaways and 6 sks. Cal is 0-5 vs Texas dating back to 1959. The 1H was a defensive struggle and while Cal had an 8-4 FD edge, UT had a 92-73 yd edge. Cal got a 47 yd FG on their opening drive of 40/11pl. UT recovered a fmb'l at the Cal19 late 1Q but missed a 38 yard FG. UT's TD drive in the 2Q was 48/9pl after a 24 yard punt for the 7-3 lead (6:08). Cal opened the 3Q with a 69/11pl drive for a 6 yard TD, 10-7 (9:47) but UT went 76/4pl and got a 47 yard TD pass on the next poss to lead 14-10 (8:06). Cal got a PR to the UT27 but fmb'l'd on 3&27 after a personal foul and UT recovered at the Cal44 and basically put the game away 3 plays later with a 4 yard TD run, 21-10 (14:57). Cal punted twice and then fmb'l'd on their own 29 with 3:24 left. UT got a pair of FD's to the Cal 8 and took a knee to end it.

**CHAMPS SPORTS BOWL Florida St (-3) 18 Notre Dame 14** - ND led this game 14-0 as FSU started 4 frosh on the O-line and they struggled in the first 1.5Q. The Seminoles had just 18 yds offense in the 1Q but that O-line solidified and FSU would pile up 186 yds in the 2H. ND shuffled between QB's Tommy Rees who hit 16-27-163 and Andrew Hendrix who was 3-8-24. Michael Floyd caught a juggling TD pass in the 3Q but got inj'd on the play and was limited after that. ND's Manti Te'o had 13 tkl's and a sk. The only TD in the 1H came on a ND 29 yd FR TD by Motta. ND did get a 41 yd PR to the FSU37 and on 1&gl from the 4 was int'd in the EZ 1pl before their 29 yd FR TD. ND missed a 47 yd FG with :09 left 1Q. FSU gained 3 yds on 4&4 and was SOD at the ND37 (7:00 2Q). FSU had a 104-91 yd edge at the half. ND opened the 3Q with a 62/9pl drive for a TD and a 14-0 lead (11:24). FSU got a 77 yd KR to the ND21 and got a 42 yd FG, 14-3 then went 84/10pl for an 18 yd TD pass, 14-9 (14:54). FSU got a 17 yd IR to the ND18 and 2pl later a 15 yd TD pass gave them the lead but the 2pt failed, 15-14. FSU went 71/9pl and settled for a 29 yd FG with 8:05 left, which put them ahead of the spread. ND did get a face mask on FSU on a PR and started at the FSU28 and was at the 18 when on 1st & 20 after a hold at the 28, they were int'd in the EZ with 2:48 left.

**INSIGHT BOWL Oklahoma (-14) 31 Iowa 14** It was a miracle cover for OU. At the end of the game, IU was down by 10 and faced a 4&6 from their own 30 and gained 5 yds. OU was just trying to run the clock out. On 4&1 at the IU21 where a FD would have had them run out the clock, QB Bell ripped off a 21 yd TD run for a 17 pt win. Landry Jones hit just 16-25-161 yds with 1 TD and 1 int. IU trailed 21-0 and an ESPN skycam crashed the field with minutes left, narrowly missing WR McNutt. James Vandenberg hit 23-44-216 yds and IU was playing without their starting RB Marcus Coker who was susp'd. Jordan Canzeri led with 58 yds on 22 carries. A couple of interesting stats out of the game were at half IU had a 134-89 yd edge. They had a 38 yd pass wiped out by an illegal formation and the 64/10pl drive end on a SOD at the OU9 and the Sooners had a 5 yd "drive" for a TD after an int and only 1 true offensive drive (66/13) which got them a 2Q TD and a 14-0 lead. It was 21-14 when OU got a 35 yd FG with just 2:28 left and IU was SOD on 4&6 gaining 5 yds with OU getting that 4&1, 21 yd TD run with :45 left.



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# CINCINNATI (9-7)

# AFC WILDCARD

Saturday, January 7th • 4:30 pm ET • NBC

# HOUSTON (10-6)



| POWER PLAYS PROJECTION | RUSH | PASS | POINTS | TO'S | ST  | A.O.R. |
|------------------------|------|------|--------|------|-----|--------|
| CINCINNATI             | 87   | 188  | 18     | 1.9  | #10 | 97.6   |
| HOUSTON                | 158  | 223  | 22     | 1.1  | #11 | 97.2   |

## BENGALS ATS: 8-6-2 O/U: 10-6

| RUSHING       | GP/GS | DC | ATT | YDS  | AVG | LG  | TD |
|---------------|-------|----|-----|------|-----|-----|----|
| Cedric Benson | 15/15 | 1  | 273 | 1067 | 3.9 | 42  | 6  |
| Bernard Scott | 16/16 | 6  | 112 | 380  | 3.4 | 25  | 3  |
| Andy Dalton   |       | 0  | 0   | 37   | 152 | 4.1 | 17 |
| Brian Leonard | 13/0  | 2  | 17  | 85   | 5.0 | 14  | 0  |

## TEXANS ATS: 11-5 O/U: 6-10

| RUSHING      | GP/GS | DC | ATT | YDS  | AVG | LG  | TD |
|--------------|-------|----|-----|------|-----|-----|----|
| Arian Foster | 13/13 | 0  | 278 | 1224 | 4.4 | 43  | 10 |
| Ben Tate     | 15/2  | 2  | 175 | 942  | 5.4 | 56  | 4  |
| Derrick Ward | 12/21 | 7  | 45  | 154  | 3.4 | 15  | 2  |
| TJ Yates     |       | 0  | 0   | 14   | 57  | 4.1 | 17 |

| QB | CIN | HOU | RB | WR | INT | CCH        | 1/2 | 1/2 |
|----|-----|-----|----|----|-----|------------|-----|-----|
| OL | -   | -   | -  | -  | -   | Turf/Crowd | -   | -   |
| DL | -   | -   | -  | -  | -   | MTCH       | -   | -   |
| LB | -   | ✓   | -  | -  | -   | INT        | -   | 1/2 |
| DB | -   | ✓   | -  | -  | -   | ST         | -   | -   |

The Texans defeated the Bengals 20-19 as a 2.5 pt AD just 4 wks ago to win the AFC South. CIN had a 16-3 lead at the end of the 1H being held to 3 FG's on 3 trips inside the HOU31. The Texans crushed them in the 2H with 16-6 FD and 202-81 yd edges with Yates leading an 80/13pl yd drive for the GW TD. HOU is 5-3 SU/6-2 ATS at home TY with a +103 yd margin (-2 TO's) for a 22-6 avg score. CIN finished 5-3 SU/5-1-2 ATS on the road TY for a -16 yd difference (+2 TO's) for a 24-21 avg score. The AFC North/South squared off TY with CIN going 5-4 SU/4-4-1 ATS vs common foes for a +14 ypg margin (+2 TO's) with a 23-22 avg scoring deficit. HOU was +85 ypg on avg (+5 TO's) for a 24-15 avg score going 6-3 SU/6-2-1 ATS in those.

CIN's #20 off made most of one of the easiest skeds TY with loads of help from their #7 def. Rookie QB Dalton had four 4Q comeback wins vs 10 for Palmer's 99 games. It should be noted that he's been held to under 178 ypg passing (54%) with a 4-1 ratio in the L5 gms. CIN's OL has thrived in new OC Jay Gruden's system with just 25 sks while helping Cedric Benson hit 1000 yds for the 3rd straight season. Benson hasn't had the impact in the passing game that WC OC's desire from their RB's but CIN has a very promising set of WR's. Despite missing 1.5 games due to a knee injury, Green is the 8th rookie 1st RD WR with 1000 yds and has 21% of the teams rec's. CIN lacked a quality receiving TE until they drafted Jermaine Gresham LY. While he's been solid receiver and pass blocker he's not very well equipped for the run game. Jerome Simpson has logged 3 100 yd rec efforts TY and is a quality #3 in Gruden's system but he's still fairly inconsistent. This is the 4th year of DC Mike Zimmer's system and he finally has enough healthy pieces in place to make it work. The best defender hands down is Geno Atkins who has dominated at DT vs the run and pass. Atkins has helped open the way for DE Carlos Dunlap to get quality pressure on QB's despite dealing w/a nagging hamstring injury. HC Marvin Lewis finally has a solid LB unit to work with and FA pickup Manny Lawson has thrived in this system but Rey Maulauga still has coverage issues. CIN finished 14th in pass defense LY despite being ravaged by injuries and a healthier unit came in 9th TY though they've not played a demanding set of QB's. CIN has an avg spec tms unit which is a step up after coming in 30th LY thanks to their coverage units.

The Texans have plenty of big plays with Matt Schaub on field, but the truth is the #13 offense was rather run oriented even before his injury. HOU avg'd 396 ypg with 27.3 ppg under Schaub with a 36-29 run/pass mix or 55% run. Part of this was due to Andre Johnson's injury in gm 4 but Gary Kubiak was simply making the most out of the best RB tandem in the NFL. Arian Foster and Ben Tate have combined for 11 100 yd rushing efforts and their combined rushing yds are more than 27 teams. Foster is a more complete RB and is useful in the pass gm while Tate is a superior change of pace back. This tandem has TJ Yates, who was a 4 yr starter for the Tar Heels in the same offense, to become the 10th rookie QB to start a playoff gm since the 1970 merger (along with Dalton). Those QB's are 4-5 SU/ATS avg 154 ypg (56%) w/a 9-14 ratio in their 1st postseason game. Prior to TEN, Yates' only start with Johnson was vs ATL when he hit for 188 yds (48%) with a TD in his 1st career start. HOU's OL (#11 sks allowed) has been elite with Ctr Chris Myers and RT Eric Winston being arguably the best at their positions for 2011. How important has DC Wade Phillips been? Over the 1st 13 games, the Texans improved by 102 ypg overall, 84 ypg passing, trimmed the ppg allowed by 10.7 ppg and went from a 33-13 TD/int ratio to 13-17. LY's #30 defense is now #2 for 2011. HOU didn't lose a beat after Mario Williams was lost due to rookie 1st RD DC JJ Watt stepping up and dominating. The switch to the 3-4 was a boon to the LB's as Brian Cushing's liabilities in space were removed and it eased the burden on DeMeco Ryans who returned from a torn ACL. HOU shrewdly revamped its secondary by picking up CB Johnathan Joseph and FS Danieal Manning in FA which allowed Kareem Jackson to play to his strengths. HOU has one of the better special teams in the NFL for 2011 after being 27th LY thanks to improved coverage units.

While this is HOU's 1st playoff game ever CIN doesn't have much of an edge as they haven't won a playoff game since Jan 1991. Reliant Stadium will be incredibly loud here and Dalton's only other dome game was vs STL. HOU's defensive improvement TY can't be understated & PP shows it with HOU having a 106 yd edge here. PP has this duel of rookie QB's very close to the line so this is a No Play.

## NO PLAY: TEXANS 22 BENGALS 18

# PITTSBURGH (12-4) AFC WILDCARD

Sunday, January 8th • 4:30 pm ET • CBS



| POWER PLAYS PROJECTION | RUSH | PASS | POINTS | TO'S | ST  | A.O.R. |
|------------------------|------|------|--------|------|-----|--------|
| PITTSBURGH             | 129  | 208  | 21     | 1.2  | #12 | 97.5   |
| DENVER                 | 170  | 81   | 11     | 3.3  | #15 | 99.2   |

## STEELERS ATS: 7-9 O/U: 6-10

| RUSHING            | GP/GS | DC | ATT | YDS | AVG | LG | TD |
|--------------------|-------|----|-----|-----|-----|----|----|
| Rashard Mendenhall | 15/15 | 1  | 228 | 928 | 4.1 | 68 | 9  |
| Isaac Redman       | 16/16 | 0  | 110 | 479 | 4.4 | 27 | 3  |
| Mewelde Moore      | 12/0  | 4  | 22  | 157 | 7.1 | 21 | 0  |
| Jonathan Dwyer     | 7/0   | 6  | 16  | 123 | 7.7 | 26 | 0  |
| Ben Roethlisberger |       | 0  | 0   | 31  | 7.0 | 23 | 11 |

## BRONCOS ATS: 7-8-1 O/U: 9-7

| RUSHING          | GP/GS | DC | ATT | YDS  | AVG  | LG  | TD |
|------------------|-------|----|-----|------|------|-----|----|
| Willis McGahee   | 15/14 | 1  | 249 | 1199 | 4.8  | 60  | 4  |
| Tim Tebow        |       | 0  | 0   | 122  | 66.0 | 5.4 | 32 |
| Lance Ball       | 16/0  | 0  | 96  | 402  | 4.2  | 34  | 1  |
| Knowshon Moreno  | 7/2   | 1  | 37  | 179  | 4.8  | 24  | 0  |
| Jeremiah Johnson | 8/0   | 0  | 14  | 77   | 5.5  | 25  | 0  |

| QB | PIT | DEN | RB | WR | INT | CCH        | 1/2 | 1/2 |
|----|-----|-----|----|----|-----|------------|-----|-----|
| OL | -   | -   | -  | -  | -   | Turf/Crowd | ✓   | -   |
| DL | -   | -   | -  | -  | -   | MTCH       | ✓   | -   |
| LB | ✓   | -   | -  | -  | -   | INT        | ✓   | -   |
| DB | ✓   | -   | -  | -  | -   | ST         | -   | -   |

The last meeting was in 2009 when PIT beat DEN 28-10 as a 2.5 pt AF. This is also the 1st playoff game for DEN since PIT beat them 34-17 as a 3 pt AD back in '05. The Steelers have gone 5-3 SU but 2-6 ATS on the road TY despite being +62 yds (4th best) due to a -11 TO mark. DEN has been outgained by 39 ypg at home (28th) and are -10 TO's for a 3-5 SU/1-6-1 ATS record. PIT beat Fox's Panthers 27-3 LY as 14 pt HF's. DEN has struggled vs winning teams TY going 1-4 SU/ATS being outgained by 82 ypg (29th) with -11 TO's losing 35-19. PIT has outgained their winning foes by 62 ypg (3rd best) but -12 TO's have them 4-4 SU/ATS. PIT has a massive edge in postseason experience with most of LY's team that made it to the SB still on the roster.

LY's #2 defense had to contend with a lot of questions concerning their age after losing to GB in LY's Super Bowl. PIT quietly had already taken steps to address that and while TY's unit has been helped by facing IND, STL and CLE twice the #1 defense is on par with LY's in terms of yardage. The concern for the Steelers is that they have 35 sks vs 48 LY and 15 takeaways vs 35 LY so they aren't quite as dangerous. Their 100 ypg rushing is also the most allowed since 2003's 109 ypg mark. Brent Keisel has had one of his best seasons in 2011 stepping into role that Aaron Smith used to fill. PIT has also been force feeding 3rd year DE Ziggy Hood onto the field and teams have been running right at him as he's not fully into the system. PIT may be challenged by SF as the top 3-4 LB unit in the NFL but they are still one of the most physical around. One reason for the diminished sack total is that LaMarr Woodley has been dealing with a hamstring issue and OL's haven't had to deal with pressure off both edges. PIT's #1 pass defense has only been beaten by the 2008 unit for fewest passing yds in a season in the L15Y. While PIT's 11 int are a big drop-off from previous units their 15 pass TD's allowed is 2nd best TY. PIT IS officially become a pass 1st team as Roethlisberger passed for the 2nd most yds in his career despite working behind an OL that fielded 10 different starting combos. Mike Wallace used PIT's reputation as a run 1st team to his advantage and has quietly become a true #1 WR while Antonio Brown has gone from 6th RD DC LY to the teams MVP after earning his first 1,000 yd receiving season while greatly improving PIT's return units as they finished with a middle of the pack ranking TY. Rashard Mendenhall is likely out for the year w/a knee injury and Isaac Redman who is a hybrid FB will likely see most of the carries as Mewelde Moore has an unknown knee issue. PIT is a team that excels in adapting to its roster as shown by their 4th DD win total in 5 yrs.

When John Fox's Panthers reached the SB it was by emphasizing a strong run game, physical defense and good special teams play with no TO's. While DEN has had some lucky breaks, under Tebow they have essentially followed that formula. The Broncos run-option #23 off makes the most of his size and athleticism to stretch defenses and wear them out for the 4Q. Tebow has major accuracy issues right now but the key is avoiding TO's as all 4 losses with him as the starter have a combined -11 TO mark. DEN has also been helped out by the resurgence of Willis McGahee who has an impressive 7 games with 100 yd rushing finishing 8th in rush yds TY. DEN has run the ball an amazing 62% since their bye week so its not a surprise that only 2 players have more than 20 rec's right now. Eric Decker and Demaryius Thomas have good speed the current offense hasn't maximized it. DEN's OL had started 16 straight gms together but RG Chris Kuper broke his ankle vs KC which ends the run. DEN's defense has outplayed its #20 ranking and have the likely DEF ROY in Von Miller solidifying the defense. They switched to the 4-3 with the talents of Elvis Dumervil and FA pickup Broderick Bunkley but they have given up their share of rush yds. The #17 pass defense is a bit misleading as they've given up a 24-9 ratio and have had issues at both safety spots TY. DEN's special teams were doing very well for most of the year but they dropped to an avg finish due to poor play at the end.

For all the excitement that Tebow has brought to the Bronco's he's clearly their biggest weakness. DEN has been held to under 20 pts in 8 of his starts and by keeping him in the pocket he can be controlled. He now matches up vs a PIT defense that is allowing 258 ypg and 8 ppg since its bye week. In losing Mendenhall with a beat up OL (again) the Steelers will be challenged to go downfield more in a hostile venue. PP calls for PIT to hold DEN to 251 yds in a lower scoring game and we agree with the low total for a play here.

## 2★ STEELERS/BRONCOS: UNDER



DETROIT (10-6)

NFC WILDCARD

NEW ORLEANS (13-3)

Saturday, January 7th • 8:00 pm ET • NBC

POWER PLAYS PROJECTION RUSH PASS POINTS TO'S ST A.O.R. DETROIT 57 370 23 1.3 #27 99.5 NEW ORLEANS 158 413 40 1.7 #6 97.5



LIONS ATS: 7-7-2 O/U: 10-6

Table with columns: RUSHING, PASSING, RECEIVING, PUNTING, KICKING, POS PLAYER, PUNT RETURNS, and Kick Returns. Includes player names and stats.

SAINTS ATS: 12-4 O/U: 9-7

Table with columns: RUSHING, PASSING, RECEIVING, PUNTING, KICKING, POS PLAYER, PUNT RETURNS, and Kick Returns. Includes player names and stats.

Matchup analysis table with columns: QB, RB, WR, CCH, Turf/Crowd, MTCH, INT, ST, SCH, NYG, NYG. Includes checklists and commentary.

NO beat the Lions 31-17 as an 8.5 pt HF on SNF just 5 weeks ago as Brees hit for 342 yds (72%) with 3 TD's and a 9.5 ypa vs a Lions defense short 3 starters (DT Suh, FS Delmas, CB Houston). The Saints went into the half with a 304-184 yd edge with a 2-7 lead and held DET to 0-6 on 3rd downs on in the 2H. Stafford had 408 yds passing (70%) with a 1-1 ratio but DET was still playing undisciplined ball and was hit with 11 penalties. Common foes are plentiful with the NFC North and South squaring off TY with NO being +106 ypg (-6 TO's) with a 33-22 avg score for a 7-2 SU/6-3 ATS mark. DET went 5-4 SU/3-5 ATS vs the same foes with a +37 yd difference (-2 TO's) for a 28-27 score deficit. This is DET's 3rd road game in 4 wks and 1st playoff game since 1999 for a franchise that hasn't won a postseason game since Jan 1992. DET went 5-3 SU/3-5 ATS on the road TY with a +34 yd mark (-2 TO's) and a 29-28 avg score.

Stability breeds success and for the 6th straight year Brees/Payton have a top 5 passing offense. In his L/8 gms Brees has destroyed pass defenses avg 341 ypg (72%) with a 27-4 ratio and his lowest QBRT TY at home was 96.8 vs ATL. The diff in TY's #1 off is that 56% of the rec's and 47% of the rec yds are thru the RB/TE's which allows more blockers to get into play after the catch. NO's 56.7% rate on 3rd downs is the best since IND's 56.1% back in 2006. NO's #6 ground game is very underrated as no single RB is putting up big #'s but like NE, they play the back that fits the situation. For the 3rd straight year NO put 5 players in the Pro Bowl and all 5 are on offense. Graham broke Kellen Winslow's 31 year old record of 1,290 yds for a TE and is only in his 2nd year in the league. NO has had the same OL for 8 straight gms headlined by the best OG tandem in the NFL with Carl Nicks and Jahri Evans. NO didn't have a single defender voted to the Pro Bowl TY and after being 4th in yds and 7th in pts LY they are 24th and 14th. After earning 25 takeaways LY they only have 16 TY. MLB Vilma has been playing with a sore knee and teams have gotten used to DC Gregg Williams' schemes. Williams still likes to disperse the pressure from all over as noted by the fact that SS Roman Harper has more sks than DE Will Smith. After finishing 28th and 22nd in our special teams rankings in '09-'10, NO has a top 10 unit TY thanks to Darren Sproles who has 1,000+ total yds on offense and 1,000+ KR yds TY along with a healthy 10.1 PR avg.

It's not hard to associate the health of Matt Stafford to the Lions' L win season TY. After playing in just 13 gms in his first 2 yrs for a rookie-level total of 216 ypg (55%) with a 19-21 ratio, he exploded to 314 ypg (64%) with a 4-1-16 ratio. Aside from Jahvid Best, DET has had 10 of 11 offensive str's healthy for all 16 gms TY which in turn saw their 1st 400+ pt season S/95 which was also the last time they had 6,000 yds offense. The lack of a run gm has been a thorn in the side of OC Scott Linehan TY as DET has gotten off to a slow start in most games TY (outgained in 10 gms at half). While WR Calvin Johnson (only Pro Bowler TY) dictates the opposing defenses, Titus Young has quietly surged as a slot WR in the past 5 games (19 rec 12.2 ypc 4 TD). DET was forced to bring back Kevin Smith who was released back in March to bolster their RB depth and despite a high ankle sprain at the end of the yr he's been a factor. DET's OL, which has played 15 of 16 games together, is just 16th in sks allowed it's to be expected with over 650 pass att's. It's no secret that DET has one of the deepest and most talented DL's in the NFL when they play disciplined ball but their LB unit is one of the league's most improved. Stephen Tulloch and Justin Durant have been perfect fits for the scheme and have been outstanding for the #24 run D. In Schwartz's 1st 2 yrs DET gave up a comb 58-23 ratio with ypa's of 8.1 and 7.3. TY they cut it down to a 20-20 ratio prior to GB as they had the same 4 str's for 10 of the initial 11 games but FS Delmas (MCL sprain) status is unknown after sitting out 5 straight. DET does have a bottom tier ST's as their coverage and return units haven't impressed.

Incl playoffs since 2008, NO has been lethal at home vs a non-div foe with a 19-3 SU/17-4-1 ATS mark covering 8 straight by a 37-17 avg score with a +169 yd differential. PP gives the Saints a +144 yd edge which is in line with that mark. NO also has a huge special teams edge and with DET having given up 480 yds to Matt Flynn LW facing a white hot Brees does not bode well with them. PP calls for NO to get the cover here and we agree.

4★ SAINTS 40 LIONS 23

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NY GIANTS (9-7)

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FALCONS ATS: 8-3 O/U: 7-9

Table with columns: RUSHING, PASSING, RECEIVING, PUNTING, KICKING, POS PLAYER, PUNT RETURNS, and Kick Returns. Includes player names and stats.

GIANTS ATS: 8-7-1 O/U: 8-7-1

Table with columns: RUSHING, PASSING, RECEIVING, PUNTING, KICKING, POS PLAYER, PUNT RETURNS, and Kick Returns. Includes player names and stats.

Matchup analysis table with columns: QB, RB, WR, CCH, Turf/Crowd, MTCH, INT, ST, SCH, NYG, NYG. Includes checklists and commentary.

These teams haven't met since mid-2009 w/ the Giants winning 34-31 but failing to cover as a 7 pt HF in OT. The Giants went 4-4 SU/3-4-1 ATS at home TY w/a +30 yd edge (+3 TO's) for a 23.3-23.1 avg score. ATL went 4-4 SU/3-5 ATS on the road w/a +47 ypg differential (+1 TO's) getting outscored 23-20. ATL went 2-3 SU/1-4 ATS vs the common foes of PHI, SEA, GB, and NO getting outgained by 28 ypg (+2 TO's) and outscored 31-24 on avg. The Giants earned a 1-4 SU/2-3 ATS record w/a -46 ypg margin (-1 TO's) and was outscored 31-25 on avg. Coughlin has covered 5 of his L/6 playoff games. ATL is just 1-5 ATS TY vs foes w/a winning record while the Giants went 2-2 ATS.

ATL's #19 offense is perceived as one of the NFC's most explosive units but the truth is that prior to the final week of the year they were 12th with a combined 63 plays with runs/passes of 20+ yds. They want to be a vertical passing/power run team behind Michael Turner but they've struggled to implement that. While Turner has six 100 yd rushing games TY he only avg'd 56 ypg (3.3) in the 5 games prior to 172 yds vs TB. Roddy White logged his 5th straight season of 1,150 yds receiving TY and his overall impact has dipped due to coverage and Julio Jones. Tony Gonzalez continues to impress with another top 5 TE season (80 rec's) but he's lost a step and isn't quite as dynamic in the passing game. While Jones has impressed with his deep speed TY logging five 100 yd receiving games he's also basically missed 4 games due to hamstring issues. The OL gave up 13 sks in the 1st 3 games as it adjusted to the loss of RG Harvey Dahl in FA but since then they've given up 16 sks or a fantastic 1 for every 36 att's. ATL is only #19 in sks earned for the #12 defense which is the best finish for DC Brian Van Gorder's tenure. While DE John Abraham is still the big name on the DL, Jonathan Babineaux had a solid year as well. The back 7 played at a much higher level than in 2010 with Sean Weatherspoon playing some dominant ball TY for the #6 rush defense. ATL's secondary is better than their #20 pass defense ranking but injuries to SS William Moore followed by one to up and coming CB Brent Grimes put the unit off track. Since mid-OT, ATL has only allowed two 300 yd passing games, both to Drew Brees. ATL's special teams are a bit below avg in our rankings as while Eric Weems has had a solid year, Boshers hasn't been able to boom punts due to the offense's success TY.

Statistically, Eli Manning isn't that far off from what you'd expect from him but he's had arguably his best season ever. Working behind 5 different OL combos, 2011 was another year with skill players being dinged up, yet Manning managed to throw for a career-high in passing yards. The Giants have their 1st 1,000 yd duo of receivers in Hakeem Nicks and Victor Cruz. Nicks has been a reliable but not overly splashy as the #1 WR while Cruz has been the 2nd best slot WR in the NFL TY behind Welker. Mario Manningham is now the possession WR and when healthy Jake Ballard is a solid receiving TE. Bradshaw and Jacobs each have a single 100 yd rushing game TY due to injuries to themselves and the OL. They are built to be a power rushing team and are much better than their #31 rush off ranking. The best player on the Giants #27 defense TY has been Jason Pierre-Paul whose 16.5 sks is quite impressive as he entered 2011 as the #3 pass rusher for the team. The LB's are avg even behind a strong DL, but the secondary has been a major liability TY due a lack of depth. They've given up five 300 yd passing games avg 335 ypg (58%) w/a 15-3 ratio in those. This is another unit getting healthier late in the snn though and SS Kenny Phillips has been excellent when healthy. The Giants special teams aren't much better than 2010's #29 unit as they've struggled on both sides of the ball on punts and are below avg on KR's.

Over the L4W, the Giants have the #8 and #16 units (+3 TO's) vs a good Dallas offense, a tougher than advertised Washington team and a physical Jets defense. Atlanta has the #4 and #17 units (+9 TO's) but has faced a weak Carolina def, a depleted Jacksonville team, was hammered by New Orleans and beat a Tampa Bay team that quit at Thanksgiving. PP calls for a fairly even game statistically though with the Giants having just an 11 yd edge here. The Giants went 2-5 SU down the stretch but were convincing vs DAL to get the win. PP leans with the home team for a small play.

1★ GIANTS 30 FALCONS 23

# Playoff Records vs Spread 1977 - 2010

All records are vs the spread. HF - Home Favorite, HD - Home Underdog, AF - Away Favorite, AD - Away Underdog SBF - Super Bowl Favorite, SBD - Super Bowl Underdog  
**SUPER BOWL SPREAD RECORDS INCLUDE ALL SUPER BOWLS PRIOR TO 1977**

| AFC | HF    | HD    | AF    | AD    | SBF | SBD   | TOT     | NFC | HF     | HD  | AF  | AD         | SBF   | SBD     | TOT     |
|-----|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----|-------|---------|-----|--------|-----|-----|------------|-------|---------|---------|
| BAL | 4-4   | 0-1   | 2-0   | 6-8   | 1-0 | 0-0   | 13-13   | ATL | 1-2    | 1-0 | 0-0 | 4-5        | 0-0   | 0-1     | 6-8     |
| BUF | 6-3-1 | 0-0   | 1-0   | 2-7   | 0-1 | 0-3   | 9-14-1  | ARZ | 0-0    | 2-0 | 0-0 | 2-3        | 0-0   | 1-0     | 5-3     |
| CIN | 5-2   | 0-1   | 0-0   | 0-1   | 0-1 | 1-0   | 6-5     | CHI | 6-7    | 0-1 | 0-0 | 2-5        | 1-0   | 0-1     | 9-14    |
| CLE | 0-0   | 0-0   | 0-0   | 1-0   | 0-0 | 0-0   | 1-0     | CAR | 1-1    | 1-0 | 0-0 | 4-2        | 0-0   | 1-0     | 7-3     |
| DEN | 9-5   | 1-0   | 0-0-1 | 4-6   | 1-1 | 1-3   | 16-15-1 | DAL | 8-6    | 0-0 | 1-5 | 4-4        | 2-2   | 1-1     | 18-18   |
| HOU | 0-0   | 0-0   | 0-0   | 0-0   | 0-0 | 0-0   | 0-0     | DET | 1-1    | 0-0 | 0-1 | 1-5        | 0-0   | 0-0     | 2-7     |
| IND | 6-4   | 0-1   | 0-1   | 5-5   | 1-2 | 1-0   | 13-13   | GB  | 7-4-1  | 0-0 | 2-1 | 6-4-13-1-1 | 0-0   | 16-11-3 |         |
| JAX | 2-1   | 0-0   | 0-1   | 3-4   | 0-0 | 0-0   | 5-6     | MIN | 6-3    | 0-1 | 0-1 | 6-12       | 0-1   | 0-3     | 12-21   |
| KC  | 0-5   | 0-2   | 0-0   | 2-5   | 0-0 | 1-1   | 3-13    | NO  | 1-5    | 1-0 | 0-1 | 0-3        | 0-0   | 1-0     | 4-8     |
| MIA | 6-6   | 3-3   | 0-0   | 1-8   | 1-1 | 1-2   | 12-20   | NYG | 5-4    | 2-0 | 0-0 | 8-3        | 1-0   | 2-1     | 18-8    |
| NE  | 7-5-1 | 0-0   | 0-0   | 6-6   | 0-2 | 1-2-1 | 14-15-2 | PHI | 6-7    | 3-0 | 1-3 | 5-6        | 0-1   | 1-0     | 16-17   |
| NYJ | 3-2   | 0-0   | 0-0   | 11-6  | 0-0 | 1-0   | 15-8    | SF  | 11-8-1 | 1-1 | 0-1 | 3-5        | 3-1   | 1-0     | 19-16-1 |
| OAK | 9-3   | 1-0   | 0-0   | 5-2-1 | 1-1 | 2-1   | 18-7-1  | SEA | 5-2    | 1-0 | 0-1 | 3-5        | 0-0   | 0-1     | 10-8    |
| PIT | 12-8  | 1-1-1 | 1-0   | 7-4   | 4-2 | 1-1   | 27-15-1 | STL | 4-5    | 0-1 | 1-1 | 5-7        | 0-1-1 | 0-1     | 10-16-1 |
| SD  | 5-5   | 0-0   | 1-2   | 4-2   | 0-0 | 0-1   | 10-10   | TB  | 2-3    | 1-1 | 0-1 | 2-4        | 0-0   | 1-0     | 6-9     |
| TEN | 2-7   | 1-0   | 1-1   | 7-8-1 | 0-0 | 0-0-1 | 11-16-2 | WAS | 8-2    | 1-0 | 0-0 | 6-5        | 1-2   | 2-0     | 18-9    |

# 2011 NFL POWER RATINGS

We grade each team position by position and list the 2010 Power Ratings. Each week we update these Power Ratings in our weekly Power Sweep editions. The following are the 2011 Power Ratings.



| TEAM                    | RTG   | TEAM                     | RTG   | TEAM                 | RTG  |
|-------------------------|-------|--------------------------|-------|----------------------|------|
| 1 Green Bay.....        | 104.2 | 12 San Diego.....        | 101.0 | 23 Seattle.....      | 96.8 |
| 2 New Orleans...104.0   |       | 13 Philadelphia ...100.8 |       | 24 Buffalo.....      | 96.2 |
| 3 New England..103.8    |       | 14 Cincinnati.....       | 100.6 | 25 Arizona.....      | 96.2 |
| 4 Pittsburgh.....103.2  |       | 15 NY Jets.....          | 100.6 | 26 Kansas City.....  | 95.9 |
| 5 San Francisco...102.8 |       | 16 Chicago.....          | 100.4 | 27 Minnesota.....    | 93.3 |
| 6 Baltimore.....102.6   |       | 17 Denver.....           | 99.8  | 28 Jacksonville..... | 93.1 |
| 7 NY Giants.....102.4   |       | 18 Oakland.....          | 99.2  | 29 Tampa Bay.....    | 92.9 |
| 8 Houston.....101.8     |       | 19 Carolina.....         | 98.6  | 30 Cleveland.....    | 92.4 |
| 9 Dallas.....101.3      |       | 20 Tennessee.....        | 97.7  | 31 Indianapolis..... | 91.0 |
| 10 Detroit.....101.2    |       | 21 Washington.....       | 97.6  | 32 St Louis.....     | 90.1 |
| 11 Atlanta.....101.1    |       | 22 Miami.....            | 97.2  |                      |      |

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|                      |      |
|----------------------|------|
| Green Bay Packers    | 9/5  |
| New England Patriots | 4/1  |
| New Orleans Saints   | 9/2  |
| Baltimore Ravens     | 8/1  |
| Pittsburgh Steelers  | 11/1 |
| San Francisco 49ers  | 11/1 |
| New York Giants      | 20/1 |
| Atlanta Falcons      | 35/1 |
| Detroit Lions        | 40/1 |
| Houston Texans       | 40/1 |
| Denver Broncos       | 50/1 |
| Cincinnati Bengals   | 65/1 |

### Odds to win the 2012 AFC Conference

|                      |       |
|----------------------|-------|
| New England Patriots | 11/10 |
| Baltimore Ravens     | 9/4   |
| Pittsburgh Steelers  | 7/2   |
| Houston Texans       | 16/1  |
| Cincinnati Bengals   | 25/1  |
| Denver Broncos       | 25/1  |

### Odds to win the 2012 NFC Conference

|                     |      |
|---------------------|------|
| Green Bay Packers   | 4/5  |
| New Orleans Saints  | 3/1  |
| San Francisco 49ers | 6/1  |
| New York Giants     | 10/1 |
| Atlanta Falcons     | 16/1 |
| Detroit Lions       | 22/1 |

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## BOWL STATS Thru 1/1/12

| TEAM                       | LINE | SC | FD | RA-RY   | CO-ATPY   | IF  | TEAM                      | LINE | SC | FD | RA-RY  | CO-ATPY   | IF  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|----------------------------|------|----|----|---------|-----------|-----|---------------------------|------|----|----|--------|-----------|-----|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| <b>New Mexico Bowl</b>     |      |    |    |         |           |     |                           |      |    |    |        |           |     |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Temple                     | -7   | 37 | 23 | 51-255  | 8-12-169  | 0-0 | <b>Holiday Bowl</b>       |      |    |    |        |           |     |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Wyoming                    | 50'  | 15 | 17 | 33-140  | 20-30-127 | 3-0 | California                | 48   | 10 | 15 | 36-7   | 19-33-188 | 1-4 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>Idaho Potato Bowl</b>   |      |    |    |         |           |     |                           |      |    |    |        |           |     |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Utah St                    | -2   | 23 | 18 | 50-345  | 12-19-96  | 0-1 | Texas                     | -3   | 21 | 13 | 35-109 | 15-24-146 | 0-0 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Ohio                       | 60   | 24 | 22 | 42-125  | 19-26-220 | 0-0 | <b>Champs Sports Bowl</b> |      |    |    |        |           |     |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>New Orleans Bowl</b>    |      |    |    |         |           |     |                           |      |    |    |        |           |     |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Louisiana                  | 60   | 32 | 25 | 30-76   | 25-44-492 | 1-0 | Notre Dame                | 47   | 14 | 19 | 35-93  | 19-35-187 | 3-0 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| San Diego St               | -4   | 30 | 29 | 31-68   | 28-49-413 | 0-0 | Florida St                | -3   | 18 | 13 | 29-41  | 20-31-249 | 0-1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>St Petersburg Bowl</b>  |      |    |    |         |           |     |                           |      |    |    |        |           |     |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| FIU                        | -4'  | 10 | 12 | 27-88   | 20-32-163 | 0-1 | <b>Alamo Bowl</b>         |      |    |    |        |           |     |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Marshall                   | 49   | 20 | 14 | 30-84   | 27-39-226 | 1-0 | Washington                | 79'  | 56 | 26 | 37-182 | 23-37-438 | 0-2 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>Poinsettia Bowl</b>     |      |    |    |         |           |     |                           |      |    |    |        |           |     |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Louisiana Tech             | 56   | 24 | 19 | 27-96   | 21-43-264 | 1-1 | Baylor                    | -9'  | 67 | 33 | 52-482 | 24-33-294 | 0-1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| TCU                        | -9'  | 31 | 22 | 51-190  | 15-29-206 | 1-1 | <b>Armed Forces Bowl</b>  |      |    |    |        |           |     |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>Las Vegas Bowl</b>      |      |    |    |         |           |     |                           |      |    |    |        |           |     |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Arizona St                 | 68   | 24 | 22 | 21(-11) | 30-47-395 | 1-1 | Tulsa                     | -1   | 21 | 15 | 59-272 | 18-32-235 | 0-2 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Boise St                   | -14' | 56 | 27 | 35-162  | 27-36-298 | 2-1 | BYU                       | 57   | 24 | 18 | 40-94  | 17-40-250 | 2-0 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>Hawaii Bowl</b>         |      |    |    |         |           |     |                           |      |    |    |        |           |     |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Nevada                     | 62   | 17 | 15 | 45-196  | 13-28-117 | 1-1 | <b>Bin Stripe Bowl</b>    |      |    |    |        |           |     |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Southern Miss              | -9   | 24 | 19 | 40-171  | 18-42-165 | 0-2 | Rutgers                   | 45   | 27 | 17 | 42-173 | 13-24-196 | 0-0 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>Independence Bowl</b>   |      |    |    |         |           |     |                           |      |    |    |        |           |     |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| North Carolina             | 54   | 24 | 20 | 19-36   | 27-42-317 | 1-1 | Iowa St                   | -1   | 13 | 19 | 29-91  | 17-39-220 | 2-1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Missouri                   | -4'  | 41 | 27 | 46-337  | 17-26-176 | 1-0 | <b>Music City Bowl</b>    |      |    |    |        |           |     |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>Little Caesars Bowl</b> |      |    |    |         |           |     |                           |      |    |    |        |           |     |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Western Michigan           | 62   | 32 | 30 | 23-46   | 31-58-439 | 4-3 | Mississippi St            | -6'  | 23 | 14 | 39-253 | 12-20-129 | 2-2 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Purdue                     | -1'  | 37 | 23 | 56-265  | 15-21-136 | 0-4 | Wake Forest               | 47'  | 17 | 21 | 38-63  | 26-48-224 | 0-0 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>Belk Bowl</b>           |      |    |    |         |           |     |                           |      |    |    |        |           |     |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| NC State                   | -2   | 31 | 19 | 28-65   | 21-33-264 | 1-2 | <b>Insight Bowl</b>       |      |    |    |        |           |     |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Louisville                 | 44   | 24 | 18 | 35-117  | 24-43-128 | 3-0 | Iowa                      | 58   | 14 | 21 | 37-76  | 23-45-216 | 2-0 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>Military Bowl</b>       |      |    |    |         |           |     |                           |      |    |    |        |           |     |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Toledo                     | -3   | 42 | 17 | 32-123  | 21-27-216 | 1-1 | Oklahoma                  | -13' | 31 | 16 | 37-114 | 16-25-161 | 1-0 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Air Force                  | 69'  | 41 | 20 | 55-248  | 13-22-159 | 1-1 | <b>Car Care Bowl</b>      |      |    |    |        |           |     |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

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