

NFL WEEK 10 PICKS

Welcome to Caesar's Picks Everyone! This will be a weekly project where I pick every game from the NFL Schedule. I'll offer my quick thoughts, some stats, and predictions for each game. I'll give a final score for each game as well as a confidence scale. My confidence scale is based not on the winner of the game, but the point spread of the game from the Caesars Palace in Las Vegas. The scale simply ranges from low, to medium, to high confidence.

Last week was rough for me as my picks fell flat with a 6-8 win-loss record. I also missed on my locks of the week, or my high confidence picks as I would say, with a 1-3 record in those games. My overall record is now 61-57, with my high confidence picks at a 22-13 record. The holiday season is here as the weather is cooling and the games start holding even greater significance. It's a big football weekend with LSU-Alabama on Saturday (I have Alabama winning) and NFL action Sunday and Monday. It's the best time to talk about the slate of games, so let do just that!

Chargers 4-5 vs Raiders 4-4 (+1)

The Chargers have returned to their 2018 form last week in an impressive victory over a good Packers team. Melvin Gordon came alive last week good Packers team. Melvin Gordon came alive last week rushing for 80 yards as part of the teams 159 total rushing yards. The pass rush has also stepped up as Star DE Joey Bosa has mustered up 5 ½ Sacks over the last three games. The Raiders have also garnered some attention after a nail-biting win against the Lions. The rookies have been a big part of Oakland's offense as RB Josh Jacobs has 740 rushing yards and 6

touchdowns on the season, while receivers Hunter Renfrow and Tight End Foster Moreau have 2 and 3 touchdowns respectively. That combined is 11 touchdowns, most by a trio of rookies (Non-QB) in the NFL . This game is on Thursday however which might be a disadvantage for the Raiders, as Right Tackle Trent Brown's status is unknown after suffering a Knee injury last week. Center Rodney Hudson is also unlikely to play this week after suffering a sprained ankle a few weeks ago that caused him to miss last week's game. This game is pivotal in the AFC wildcard race. I'll take the Chargers to win on the road as Oakland's o-line insecurities and defensive liabilities will leave them vulnerable for the experienced Chargers to attack.

Chargers 24, Raiders 21/ Low Confidence

Bills 6-2 vs Browns 2-6 (-2.5)

It's a weird feeling to see a 2-6 dysfunctional team favored over a 6-2 team and not feel like it's a reach from Vegas, but I have to agree with the spread. Buffalo has been shaky as Josh Allen threw for 160 passing yards, marking the 3rd time this season for throwing under 170 yards. The Defense is also struggling to stop the run as they gave up 101 yards rushing to Adrian Peterson in the first half last week, and 219 rushing yards to the eagles two weeks ago. That means that this is a good matchup for the Browns as Nick Chubb is a top tier running back in the league. RB Kareem Hunt also returns this week after serving his 8-game suspension and will have a role in this week's game for Cleveland. The Browns also returning home may help them get some familiarity and good spirits into the second half of the season. With all of those reasons to pick

Cleveland this week, I can't do it. The Coaching by Freddie Kitchens has been abysmal both in scheme and in leadership, while Baker Mayfield is continually regressing under his watch. It's affected the QB and Coach, which in turn affects their stars negatively like WR Odell Beckham Jr. Buffalo on the other hand seem to be flying under the radar, and I believe they are the right team to use the apathy from media as fuel to help put themselves on teams radar. I'll take the Bills to win on the road as they will be better prepared.

Bills 26, Browns 21/ High Confidence

Cardinals 3-5-1 vs Buccaneers 2-6 (-4)

This game will be filled with big plays from both offenses as Bucs Head Coach Bruce Arians goes up against his former team in the Cardinals. The Cardinals had success running the ball with new acquisition Kenyan Drake as Drake ran for 110 yards and a touchdown, while getting 52 receiving yards in the process. He will go against the number one rush defense in the Buccaneers, but they may be number one in run defense because of how bad they are against the pass (31st). The Bucs have also given up 19 passing touchdowns, third most in the league. Expect the Cardinals to exploit the Tampa secondary as Kliff Kingsbury's offense has Murray throwing the ball quickly to protect him from the offensive line. The Bucs have the 4th highest scoring offense in football as their vertical scheme has worked wonders with receivers Mike Evans and Chris Godwin playing well. Jamies Winston actually went a whole game without an interception last week (although he did fumble) and made some big throws late in the stretch against Seattle.

This is a game that will be interesting to see on the RedZone Channel, and I have the Buccaneers winning at home this week.

Buccaneers 31, Cardinals 24/ Medium Confidence

Chiefs 6-3 vs Titans 4-5 (+5.5)

The Chiefs deserve more credit than I have given them over the last few weeks. QB Matt Moore has stepped up against two solid pass defenses in the Packers and Vikings respectively. The defense got Chris Jones back last week and made a huge difference in the run game as Dalvin Cook had 71 yards on 21 carries. This week he will have to slow down RB Derrick Henry who's having a solid season. The Titans defense is banged up however as CB Malcolm Butler is unlikely to play this week, while Jerrell Casey may be out as well. On the flip side it looks like Patrick Mahomes is coming back this week in an early arrival. Whether it's him or Matt Moore, I like the Chiefs to cover the spread and win to keep their momentum.

Chiefs 26, Titans 16/ Medium Confidence

Giants 2-7 vs Jets 1-7 (+2.5)

The Giants lack top talent on defense and are still young on offense. The Jets are disgruntled and flat out stink. That means that this is a 2019 tanking invitational match between the big apples least favorite sons at the moment (or maybe that's the knicks). For the Jets, Adam Gase is on his last leg as the Jets have been a train wreck of a team, and it is even worse on Gases' specialty,

the offense. RB Le'Veon Bell averages 3.3 yards per game rushing, while Sam Darnold has regressed and looks timid in the pocket. The Jets are also 31st in total offense. The Giants on the flip side are 29th in defensive yards per game and have a -10-turnover differential. The Giants also average less than 20 points per game. While the Giants have a lot of work to do, they have shown flashes here and there to give me a reason to pick them to win this game, while the Jets lost to the Dolphins. That says it all right there.

Giants 28, Jets 20/ High Confidence

Falcons 1-7 vs Saints 7-1 (-13)

What's usually a fun rivalry game has turned into an afterthought of an early Sunday game and the Falcons are solely to blame for that. Atlanta has been outscored by 94 points in the first half of games this season and give up an average of 31.7 points per game. They are also 31st in turnover differential. That's guaranteed to put you in a 1-7 bind. Now they play their toughest opponent in the Saints as Drew Brees played well two weeks ago in his return versus the Cardinals. The Saints have also held opponents to under 200 passing yards in three of their last four games. While QB Matt Ryan puts up yards for the Falcons, he is also 3rd in the league in interceptions thrown. The Falcons are done this season while the Saints want to send a message to teams like the 49ers, Packers, Seahawks, etc., that they are the top team in the NFC. I'll take the Saints and the points easily.

Saints 38, Falcons 21/ High Confidence

Lions 3-4-1 vs Bears 3-5 (-2.5)

The Bears offense has hit rock bottom as they have lost four straight games. QB Mitchell Trubisky has struggled mightily this season as he has shown no progression in his third year in the league. He may benefit this week however as the Lions are 30th in pass defense. The Lions have QB Matthew Stafford playing his best football but are only 3-4-1 as all but one of their games have been won or lost by one possession. The Lions will need to play better on defense in both the pass and the run. Bears RB David Montgomery has strung together a couple of good games and expect him to continue that trend this week against the 27th ranked Lions run defense. While the Bears have had it rough the last month, they play a weak defense at home in Detroit while having the urgency to win this game and save their season. I'll take the Bears at home.

Bears 24, Lions 21/ Low Confidence

Ravens 6-2 vs Bengals 0-8 (+10)

The Ravens came into Sunday Night Football swinging as they ran all over a great Patriots defense and handed Bill Belichick his first loss of the season. They will now deal with the dreaded letdown game as the Bengals are hungry for their first win of the season. They made a change that many have expected for a while now, and that is longtime starting QB Andy Dalton sitting on the bench this Sunday. Enter third round rookie from North Carolina State Ryan

Finley. He won't get AJ Green back as he has suffered a setback in his rehab process for his ankle (and a setback in his career). With a young QB at the helm, it will be important to get struggling RB Joe Mixon involved early with wearing down the Ravens defense. This will be tough as the Ravens are 2nd in time of possession in the NFL, which allows their defense to play fast. With Andy Dalton at QB, this may have been a closer affair, but with a rookie making his first start against a veteran savvy defense, I give Ryan Finley little chance to succeed on Sunday.

Ravens 31, Bengals 14/ High Confidence

Dolphins 1-7 vs Colts 5-3 (-11)

The Dolphins got their first win of the season! It's a cause for celebration as they won't be lumped in with the Lions, Browns, and Buccaneers in winless season infamy. The Dolphins have actually been playing decent football the last month (and by that, I mean they're not a glorified college team anymore). Ryan Fitzpatrick had three touchdowns last week, and WR Preston Williams caught two of them. They may be able to do some damage together as the Colts are still not sure of the status of one Jacoby Brissett at quarterback. If he can't play, Brian Hoyer showed that he can run the offense efficiently in their loss to the Steelers. RB Marlon Mack should expect a big game for himself as well (at least I hope he would) with Miami's run defense giving

up 150.8 rushing yards per game. I expect the Colts to win, but they stay in close games constantly, and I won't fall for the trap anymore. Miami will cover in a losing effort.

Colts 23, Dolphins 17/ Medium Confidence

Panthers 5-3 vs Packers 7-2 (-6)

Two NFC teams looking to stay near the top of the standings as the Panthers who had a nice bounce back win against the Titans will take on the Packers who whiffed bad last week against the Chargers. Green Bay got steamrolled on the ground , so of course it won't be any easier this week against MVP candidate Christian McCaffery. One determining factor is the weather as the temperature for this game is expected to reach 17 degrees by kickoff. QB Kyle Allen may not be able to handle the weather plus the loud fans at Lambeau. The Packers should be able to move the football more effectively than last weeks train wreck that lead to the Packers having less than 100 total yards of offense entering the 4th quarter. The Packers should improve this week as the Panthers have the 26th run defense , and RB's Aaron Jones and Jamaal Williams are a nice 1-2 punch. This was one of the toughest spreads to pick this week, but I will go with Carolina to cover. I still thinks Aaron Rodgers leads a late drive that will set up a game winner for the Packers, but with Green Bay struggling to stop the run, I see Carolina causing panic for the Packers through most of the game.

Packers 23, Panthers 20/ Medium Confidence

Rams 5-3 vs Steelers 4-4 (+3.5)

This Interconference matchup should be a fun one with the Steelers still in the mix surprisingly through 9 weeks going against the Rams returning from a bye. Steelers Head Coach Mike Tomlin deserves a lot of credit for the job he has done with the amount of injuries and off-season changes on his team with losing running back Le'Veon Bell to free agency, trading wide receiver Antonio Brown from last year, and then losing quarterback Ben Roethlisberger and running back James Conner to injury this year. This week may be where reality hits however, as the Rams have won 10 of their last 11 games against AFC opponents. They also have the sense of desperation as any loss taken puts you back significantly in the NFC. The Steelers 9th ranked pass defense will have to slow down the play-calls from Sean McVay, who had an extra week to prepare for this game. The extra week may help RB Todd Gurley as well as giving his knee a week off may help him feel rejuvenated. The Steelers will fight hard, but the Rams are always good after the bye week and have better talent, which gives me confidence to take them here.

Rams 28, Steelers 21/ Medium Confidence

Vikings 6-3 vs Cowboys 5-3 (-3)

This game will take place on Sunday Night Football, which means that the spotlight will once again be on Kirk Cousins. This spot is not one that has been kind to him over the years. Taking that out of the equation, he has played well over the last 5 games. This week will be tougher however not only because of Dallas 6th ranked defense that's filled with speed, but because of

Vikings WR Adam Thielen unlikely to play with a hamstring injury. That hurt Cousins last week as he only completed 50 percent of his passes. That means a workload for Dalvin Cook who will look to bounce back after getting held to 3.4 yards per carry against an average chiefs' defense. The Cowboys showed they can stop elite running backs as Saquon Barkley was held to 24 rushing yards on 12 carries for the Giants. Granted, they had to throw the ball later in the game but holding someone of Barkley's caliber to 2 yards per carry gives its defense confidence. The Cowboys offense will play well, while the defense makes some big plays, and I got the Cowboys winning on primetime.

Cowboys 26, Vikings 20/ Medium Confidence

Seahawks 7-2 vs 49ers 8-0 (-6.5)

It feels like ages but there is finally a good game on Monday Night Football! The Seahawks will play the 49ers on the road as they look to be the first team to hand the niners a loss on the season. Russell Wilson has made a case for league MVP as he leads QB's in touchdowns with 22 and in passer rating with 118. He will have to limit the niners pass rush if he wants success on the road. Losing his Center Justin Britt doesn't help, but we saw Wilson improvise with his legs in crucial moments against the Bucs. The 49ers had some issues with a quarterback with a similar play style to Wilson's in Kyler Murray, who had a good performance against the niners. That opened up the run game for the Cardinals, and a similar thing could happen for the Seahawks. The 49ers should still be able to effectively run their offense however as the Seahawks lack of depth on defense has been their Achilles heel, and Head Coach Kyle Shanahan has a good offensive mind

to exploit the Seahawks weaknesses. This will be a good game to focus on in the Primetime slot, and while I really like the 49ers this season, I will go with the Seahawks and their explosive offense to not only cover the spread, but win the game outright, giving the niners their first loss of the season at home.

Seahawks 30, 49ers 27/ High Confidence