

NFL Week 5 2026

Full Schedule, Key Matchups and Score Projections

15 GAMES. EVERY WINDOW.

October 8-12 | All times Eastern

Early-week edition | October 5, 2026

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FULL WEEK 5 SCHEDULE

ALL TIMES EASTERN (ET)

Buccaneers at Cowboys	THU OCT 8 / 8:15 PM ET / PRIME VIDEO
Eagles at Jaguars	SUN OCT 11 / 9:30 AM ET / NFL NETWORK
Bengals at Dolphins	SUN OCT 11 / 1:00 PM ET / FOX
Raiders at Patriots	SUN OCT 11 / 1:00 PM ET / CBS
Vikings at Saints	SUN OCT 11 / 1:00 PM ET / FOX
Browns at Jets	SUN OCT 11 / 1:00 PM ET / CBS
Colts at Steelers	SUN OCT 11 / 1:00 PM ET / CBS
Texans at Titans	SUN OCT 11 / 1:00 PM ET / CBS
Giants at Commanders	SUN OCT 11 / 1:00 PM ET / FOX
Bears at Packers	SUN OCT 11 / 1:00 PM ET / FOX
Broncos at Chargers	SUN OCT 11 / 4:05 PM ET / CBS
Lions at Cardinals	SUN OCT 11 / 4:25 PM ET / FOX
49ers at Seahawks	SUN OCT 11 / 4:25 PM ET / FOX
Ravens at Falcons	SUN OCT 11 / 8:20 PM ET / NBC
Bills at Rams	MON OCT 12 / 8:15 PM ET / ESPN / ABC

15 GAMES | NO SATURDAY GAMES

Source: NFL schedule; NFL-Schedule.com



BUCCANEERS AT COWBOYS

THU OCT 8 | 8:15 PM ET | PRIME VIDEO

THE SETUP

Dallas rallied past Houston 34-30; Tampa Bay lost 17-14 to Green Bay.

EDITORIAL MATCHUP READ

Dallas gets the editorial edge because its latest outing showed more scoring upside. On a short week, quick throws and protection adjustments could matter more than an expanded playbook. Tampa Bay can narrow the gap by extending possessions and keeping Dallas out of rhythm.

WHAT TO WATCH

Watch whether Tampa Bay can force field goals after allowing completions underneath. A turnover that produces a short field is the clearest route to an upset.

PROJECTED SCORE

Cowboys 30 - Buccaneers 23

Lean: **MODERATE**

Estimate, not a result. Early-week opinion.



EAGLES AT JAGUARS

SUN OCT 11 | 9:30 AM ET | NFL NETWORK

THE SETUP

Jacksonville beat Cincinnati 22-17; Philadelphia lost 24-20 to the Rams.

EDITORIAL MATCHUP READ

London makes this a designated Jacksonville home game rather than a normal home-field setting, I lean narrowly toward the Jaguars, but the projection assumes a tight fourth quarter. Philadelphia can reverse it by controlling early downs and avoiding obvious passing situations.

WHAT TO WATCH

Track red-zone execution and the first possessions after halftime. In a one-point projection, a missed kick or failed fourth-down attempt can outweigh any broader matchup edge.

PROJECTED SCORE

Jaguars 24 - Eagles 23

Lean: LOW

Estimate, not a result. Early-week opinion.

Sources: schedule [1,2]; context [3,4,5] where applicable.

BENGALS AT DOLPHINS

SUN OCT 11 | 1:00 PM ET | FOX

THE SETUP

This is a road test for Cincinnati and a home opportunity for Miami.

EDITORIAL MATCHUP READ

My lean is Cincinnati in a game where explosive gains could change the pace quickly. The Bengals should prioritize manageable third downs instead of relying on difficult late-down throws. Miami can flip the script by turning short completions into long gains and sustaining its opening drives.

WHAT TO WATCH

Watch tackling in space and pressure without extra rushers. If Miami protects the middle of the field and prevents cheap yardage after catches, the projected gap should shrink.

PROJECTED SCORE

Bengals 27 - Dolphins 20

Lean: MODERATE

Estimate, not a result. Early-week opinion.

Sources: schedule [1,2]; context [3,4,5] where applicable.



RAIDERS AT PATRIOTS

SUN OCT 11 | 1:00 PM ET | CBS

THE SETUP

New England edged Buffalo 29-26 in Week 4.

EDITORIAL MATCHUP READ

The home setting provides a small editorial tiebreaker in a matchup I expect to remain close. New England needs efficient possessions rather than assuming another dramatic finish. Las Vegas can seize control by creating negative plays and making the Patriots repeatedly convert long third downs.

WHAT TO WATCH

Watch the turnover margin and punt exchanges before halftime. A conservative game can swing on one aggressive fourth-down call, so the one-point estimate signals uncertainty rather than precision.

PROJECTED SCORE

Patriots 24 - Raiders 23

Lean: LOW

Estimate, not a result. Early-week opinion.

Sources: schedule [1,2]; context [3,4,5] where applicable.



VIKINGS AT SAINTS

SUN OCT 11 | 1:00 PM ET | FOX

THE SETUP

New Orleans still has its Week 4 Monday game to play at this edition cutoff.

EDITORIAL MATCHUP READ

Minnesota is the early lean, with the Saints facing a shorter turnaround after Monday night. That rest difference is a planning factor, not proof of an outcome. New Orleans can reduce its impact through sustained drives, reliable protection and avoiding possessions that end after three plays.

WHAT TO WATCH

Recheck the Saints injury report after Monday. If New Orleans emerges healthy and can keep its offense on schedule, a one-score finish is more plausible than a comfortable Minnesota win.

PROJECTED SCORE

Vikings 23 - Saints 17

Lean: **PROVISIONAL**

Estimate, not a result. Early-week opinion.

Sources: schedule [1,2]; context [3,4,5] where applicable.

BROWNS AT JETS

SUN OCT 11 | 1:00 PM ET | CBS

THE SETUP

Cleveland visits the Jets in an AFC matchup at MetLife Stadium.

EDITORIAL MATCHUP READ

I expect field position to carry unusual weight in this projection. Cleveland gets a modest edge in a lower-scoring script, but that depends on avoiding giveaways near its own goal line. The Jets can take control if their first-down offense consistently creates short conversion opportunities.

WHAT TO WATCH

Watch sacks that knock a team out of field-goal range. Hidden yardage from punts, returns and penalties could be more decisive than raw passing totals in the proposed four-point margin.

PROJECTED SCORE

Browns 20 - Jets 16

Lean: LOW

Estimate, not a result. Early-week opinion.

*Sources: schedule [1,2]; context [3,4,5]
where applicable.*

COLTS AT STEELERS

SUN OCT 11 | 1:00 PM ET | CBS

THE SETUP

Indianapolis travels to Pittsburgh for this early Sunday matchup.

EDITORIAL MATCHUP READ

Pittsburgh receives a narrow home-field lean, not a claim of a clear talent advantage. The Colts can challenge it by protecting the passer and converting steady gains into long drives. The Steelers need to avoid a start that lets Indianapolis dictate tempo and play from ahead.

WHAT TO WATCH

Watch the pocket on third down and the result of the first red-zone trips. If Indianapolis finishes drives with touchdowns while Pittsburgh settles for kicks, the proposed result can reverse quickly.

PROJECTED SCORE

Steelers 23 - Colts 20

Lean: LOW

Estimate, not a result. Early-week opinion.

Sources: schedule [1,2]; context [3,4,5] where applicable.

TEXANS AT TITANS

SUN OCT 11 | 1:00 PM ET | CBS

THE SETUP

Houston fell 34-30 to Dallas in Week 4.

EDITORIAL MATCHUP READ

Houston gets my lean in a divisional game that should reward the team that limits self-inflicted setbacks. The Texans need their possessions to end in points rather than wasted scoring chances. Tennessee can turn the game into a tighter contest through long drives and disciplined coverage.

WHAT TO WATCH

Watch the first turnover and how each offense responds. Divisional familiarity can punish repeated looks, making protection changes and play sequencing more useful signals than the opening score alone.

PROJECTED SCORE

Texans 27 - Titans 21

Lean: MODERATE

Estimate, not a result. Early-week opinion.

Sources: schedule [1,2]; context [3,4,5] where applicable.

GIANTS AT COMMANDERS

SUN OCT 11 | 1:00 PM ET | FOX

THE SETUP

An NFC East road game gives New York a direct divisional test.

EDITORIAL MATCHUP READ

I lean toward the Giants by one possession, with limited conviction. Washington can invalidate that call by controlling the ball and forcing New York into a pass-heavy chase. The Giants need to turn favorable field position into touchdowns before the game becomes a late-clock decision contest.

WHAT TO WATCH

Watch explosive plays allowed after missed tackles. In a close divisional game, one coverage error can outweigh several successful defensive series and change both tempo and fourth-down choices.

PROJECTED SCORE

Giants 24 - Commanders 21

Lean: LOW

Estimate, not a result. Early-week opinion.

Sources: schedule [1,2]; context [3,4,5] where applicable.

BEARS AT PACKERS

SUN OCT 11 | 1:00 PM ET | FOX

THE SETUP

Chicago visits Green Bay in the early Sunday window.

EDITORIAL MATCHUP READ

Lambeau gives Green Bay the smallest of editorial edges in a rivalry that deserves a close-game projection. Chicago can disrupt that script through patient early-down offense and keeping the crowd out of decisive third downs. Neither side needs a spectacular passing total if it consistently wins field position.

WHAT TO WATCH

Watch protection on obvious passing downs and execution inside the 20. This one-point lean should be reconsidered if late-week injuries materially alter either offensive line.

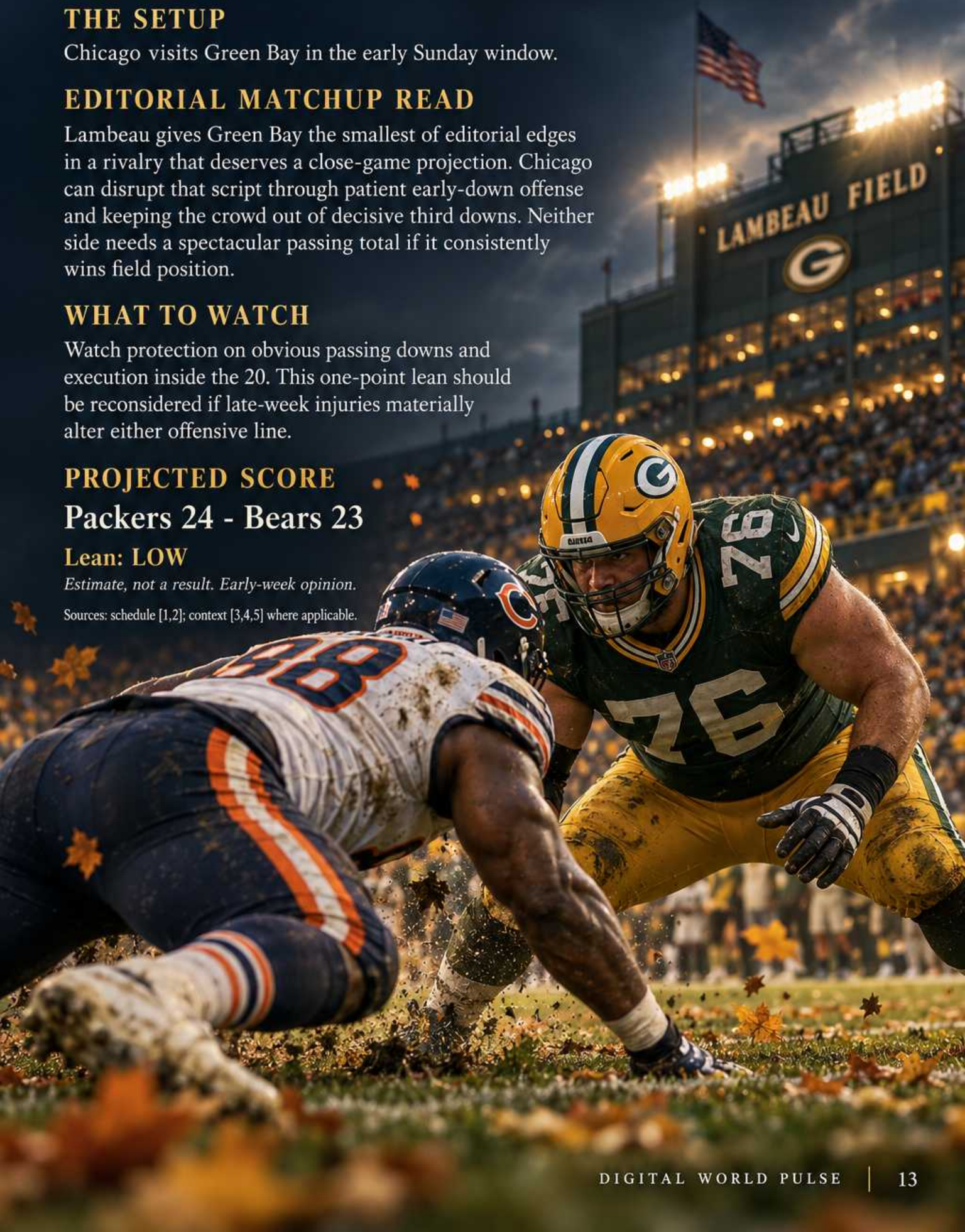
PROJECTED SCORE

Packers 24 - Bears 23

Lean: LOW

Estimate, not a result. Early-week opinion.

Sources: schedule [1,2]; context [3,4,5] where applicable.



BRONCOS AT CHARGERS

SUN OCT 11 | 4:05 PM ET | CBS

THE SETUP

Denver travels to Los Angeles for an AFC West meeting.

EDITORIAL MATCHUP READ

The early lean is Denver in a possession-by-possession game. A three-point forecast leaves room for the Chargers to take control if they convert drives instead of repeatedly settling for field goals. Denver needs to avoid penalties that turn manageable downs into low-percentage passing situations.

WHAT TO WATCH

Watch red-zone play calls and how each side handles pressure after halftime. If the Chargers consistently create clean throwing lanes, the projected Denver edge becomes much less convincing.

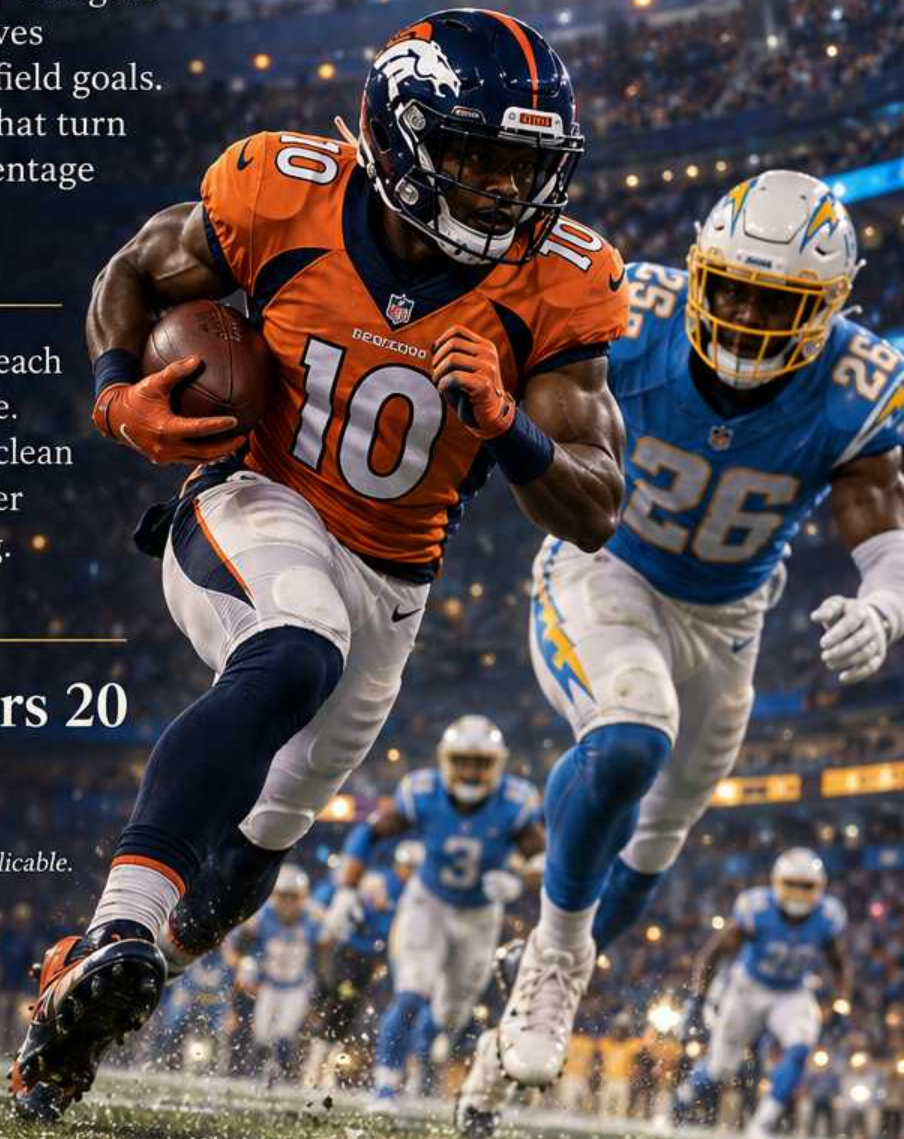
PROJECTED SCORE

Broncos 23 - Chargers 20

Lean: LOW

Estimate, not a result. Early-week opinion.

Sources: schedule [1,2]; context [3,4,5] where applicable.



LIONS AT CARDINALS

SUN OCT 11 | 4:25 PM ET | FOX

THE SETUP

Detroit heads to Arizona in the late Sunday window.

EDITORIAL MATCHUP READ

Detroit is my choice in a projection built around multiple scoring drives rather than a defensive stalemate. Arizona can keep pace by extending possessions and making Detroit defend the full width of the field. The Lions need to protect the football when a promising drive reaches scoring range.

WHAT TO WATCH

Watch whether Arizona creates explosive gains without needing long third-down conversions. If the Cardinals control possession and reduce the total number of drives, the six-point margin becomes harder to sustain.

PROJECTED SCORE

Lions 30 - Cardinals 24

Lean: MODERATE

Estimate, not a result. Early-week opinion.

Sources: schedule [1,2]; context [3,4,5] where applicable.

49ERS AT SEAHAWKS

SUN OCT 11 | 4:25 PM ET | FOX

THE SETUP

Both teams won their Week 4 games.

EDITORIAL MATCHUP READ

This is the leading afternoon watch on my list: a divisional road test with a narrow San Francisco lean. Seattle can flip the result by disrupting the visitors before routes develop. San Francisco needs disciplined communication and sustained drives to limit the effect of the home atmosphere.

WHAT TO WATCH

Watch pre-snap penalties, pressure with four rushers and first-down efficiency. A clean San Francisco opening supports the projection; repeated negative plays would make Seattle the stronger live read.

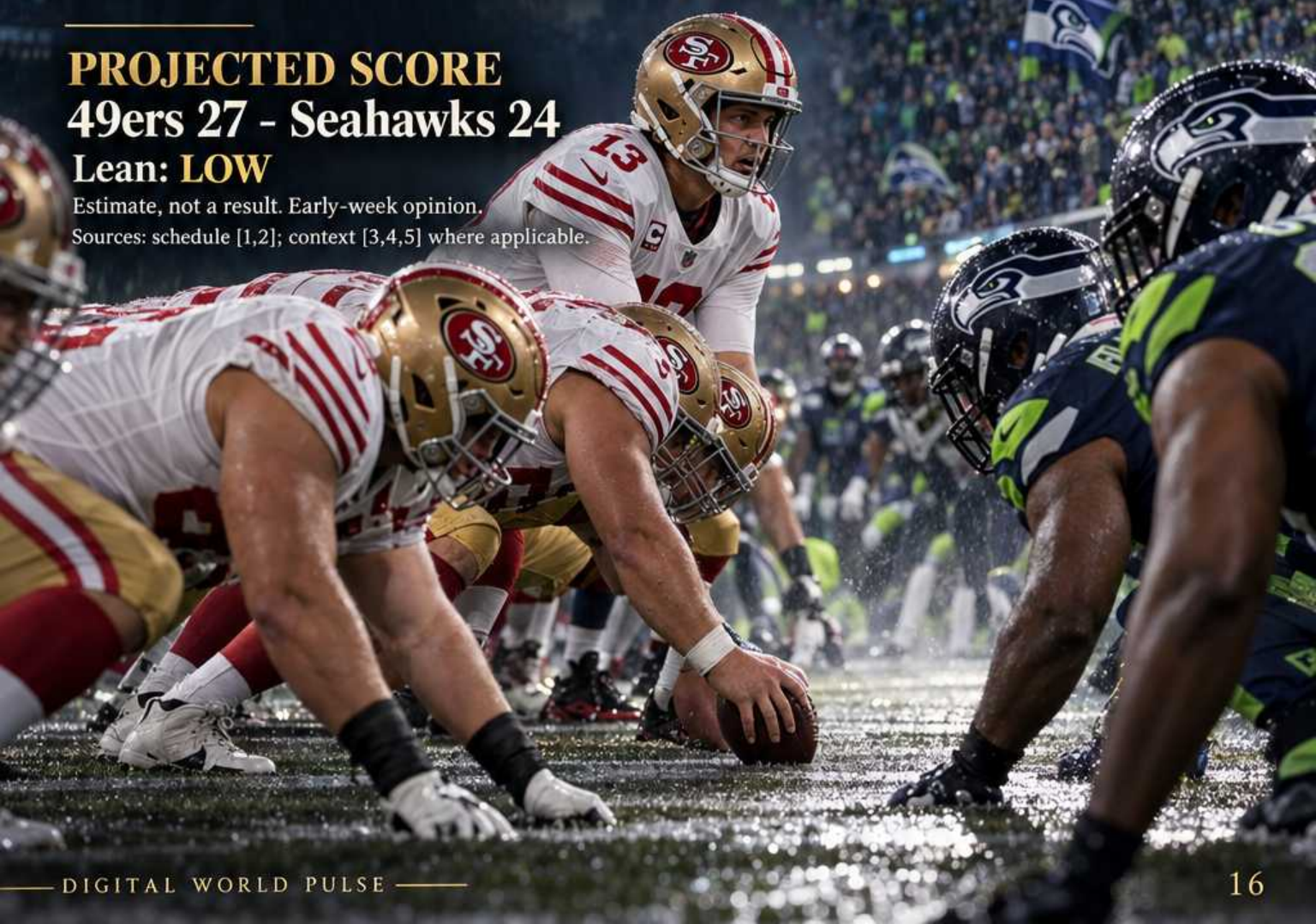
PROJECTED SCORE

49ers 27 - Seahawks 24

Lean: LOW

Estimate, not a result. Early-week opinion.

Sources: schedule [1,2]; context [3,4,5] where applicable.



RAVENS AT FALCONS

SUN OCT 11 | 8:20 PM ET | NBC

THE SETUP

Lamar Jackson injured his ankle in Week 4; his Week 5 availability is unconfirmed.

EDITORIAL MATCHUP READ

This projection assumes Jackson can play effectively. Without that assumption, the pick needs a fresh assessment rather than an automatic downgrade by a fixed number of points. Atlanta also has a Monday game still pending at this cutoff, leaving its recovery and availability picture incomplete.

WHAT TO WATCH

Watch practice participation, the final game status and Atlanta recovery after Monday. Treat this as the least settled selection in the guide, not a firm call before those updates arrive.

PROJECTED SCORE

Ravens 24 - Falcons 20

***Lean:* PROVISIONAL**

Estimate, not a result. Early-week opinion.

Sources: schedule [1,2]; context [3,4,5] where applicable.

BILLS AT RAMS

MON OCT 12 | 8:15 PM ET | ESPN / ABC

THE SETUP

Buffalo lost 29-26 to New England;
Los Angeles beat Philadelphia 24-20.

EDITORIAL MATCHUP READ

I lean toward Buffalo in a Monday finale with little separation between the teams. The Bills need to finish drives and protect a late lead if they earn one. The Rams can win by keeping pressure off their offense and forcing Buffalo to drive the length of the field.



WHAT TO WATCH

Watch late-half clock management and red-zone efficiency. The one-point score is an illustrative close-game scenario: it should not be read as confidence in an exact total or margin.

PROJECTED SCORE

Bills 28 - Rams 27

Lean: LOW

Estimate, not a result. Early-week opinion.

Sources: schedule [1,2]; context [3,4,5] where applicable.

THE WEEK 5 WATCHLIST

FIRST CHOICE: 49ERS AT SEAHAWKS

A close divisional road test is my top afternoon viewing pick. Watch communication under crowd noise and pressure without a blitz.

RIVALRY WINDOW: BEARS AT PACKERS

The early slate has a familiar rivalry with a one-point editorial lean. Red-zone finishes could decide it.

PRIME-TIME CHECK: RAVENS AT FALCONS

Revisit quarterback availability before treating any score as a useful scenario.



HOW THESE SCORES WERE BUILT

These are qualitative editorial estimates, not outputs from a statistical model. Schedule, recent results, venue, rest and game-script reasoning inform each lean. Low means a fragile edge; moderate means a clearer lean; provisional means material information is pending. None is a calibrated win probability.

BEFORE KICKOFF

Check practice reports, official inactive lists and outdoor weather. Update the analysis if a key assumption changes.

SOURCES & EDITORIAL NOTES

RESEARCH CUTOFF: OCTOBER 5, 2026

- [1] NFL official Week 5 schedule
nfl.com/schedules/2026/by-week/week-5
- [2] NFL-Schedule.com: Week 5 listings
nfl-schedule.com/weeks/week-5
- [3] Reuters: October 4 NFL roundup
Recent game results and context.
- [4] NFL official Week 4 results
nfl.com/schedules/2026/by-week/week-4
- [5] Baltimore Ravens: October 4 injury update
Lamar Jackson ankle injury report.

SOURCE LINKS ARE CLICKABLE

Schedule and completed results are reported facts. Matchup interpretations, viewing priorities and projected scores are original editorial opinions. Atlanta-New Orleans Week 4 was still pending at cutoff.

Scores are estimates, not actual results, guarantees or betting advice. Final injury statuses and weather were not yet available. Recheck schedules before viewing.

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