

Fly, Eagles Fly

“Fly, Eagles Fly” could be heard all around the city of Philadelphia on Sunday night after the Eagles defeated the Patriots in Super Bowl LII.

I think it is safe to say that at the beginning of this season, hardly anyone thought the Eagles would be able to pull off their first Super Bowl win. However, despite the circumstances they’ve faced, they were able to defeat Tom Brady and his crew with a final score of 41-33.

The fact that the Eagles’ [backup quarterback](#) Nick Foles had to come in and take over starting quarterback Carson Wentz’s spot and they still ended up winning the Super Bowl really speaks for the coaches and the players on that team.

The birds of Philly are on an emotional high after this game. However, on the other hand, the Patriots are facing a lot of uncertainty in this upcoming offseason. Tom Brady is not getting any younger, their defensive coordinator is leaving to be the head coach for the Detroit Lions and some players are expected to leave or are needing to agree to a contract extension in order to stay in New England. While this is a part of most offseasons, it seems especially questionable for New England this go-around.

One question that many people are debating over now is “does this loss diminish Tom Brady’s legacy and/or give Joe Montana the greatest of all-time title back”? Some say yes, some say no. Personally, I don’t believe it does one bit. Brady put up 505 yards and three touchdowns in this eight-point loss. For him to put up those kinds of numbers and yet still lose the game, that’s not his fault at all. If it’s not Brady’s fault, whose fault is it? Well, the Patriots’ defense didn’t do their job. They allowed Nick Foles, a backup quarterback, to throw for 373 yards and three touchdowns with only one interception

that was caused by the receiver, not Foles. Also, their defensive line didn't even get one sack the whole game. So, I'd say their defense needs to step it up next season or they need to find better personnel to do the job if they want to get back to the Super Bowl. However, with the expected departure of cornerback Malcolm Butler, the one who intercepted Russell Wilson in Super Bowl XLIX versus the Seattle Seahawks to save the game, New England will have to be on the grind to make some significant additions to the team.

For the Eagles, the future is looking bright. However, there are some questions that they will have to face later on such as when will Carson Wentz be healthy again? Will there be any coaching changes? Will Nick Foles be leaving to sign with another team to be the starter? All of these are questions that they will have to address in the next couple of months. Although, they aren't going to be worrying about any of that for a little while because they'll be savoring every moment of this phenomenal season that they've had as the phrase "World Champions" accompanied by "Fly, Eagles Fly" rings through the streets of Philly.

Super Bowl LII preview

The Super Bowl is finally here! After all of the waiting, after all of the anticipation, after all of the predictions, after all of the chaos in the playoffs it's finally here! Here's a little preview to get you prepared for this year's championship:

Tom Brady:

As you can tell if you've kept up with this weekly report, I'm huge on quarterbacks. I focus a whole lot, and sometimes too

much, on quarterbacks and a team's offense. Because of this, I absolutely have to mention the greatest quarterback of all-time: [Tom Brady](#).

Now, before you shut me out for saying this, you've got to hear me out. I used to be one of many of Brady's haters. I couldn't stand the mere thought of his name. Every time someone called him the G.O.A.T., I would be obliged to argue and tell them how ignorant they were. However, after witnessing the many phenomenal games in which he performed very well, after witnessing the multiple playoff and Super Bowl appearances, after witnessing all of the records he's broken, after witnessing the 28-3 comeback in Super Bowl LI versus the Atlanta Falcons and after witnessing him play at an elite level at the age of 40, the claim that Brady is, in fact, the G.O.A.T. becomes inevitably true.

In addition to all of Brady's accolades, we also have to remember that the quarterback position is not the same as it once was. Back in the old days, the running back was like quarterback is today. Back then, every kid wanted to be the next Barry Sanders, Earl Campbell, Emmitt Smith and so on. Today, every kid wants to be the next Tom Brady, Aaron Rodgers, Drew Brees or some infamous wide receiver such as Odell Beckham Jr., Antonio Brown or Julio Jones.

As the sport of football has evolved, so has the roles of each position. Football has gone from a running back-oriented offense to an offense that is mostly built around the quarterback and his receivers; this can also be seen by the evolution of the actual football itself. The actual football used to be a lot more bulky and a lot heavier which limited a quarterback's ability to actually throw the ball and also limited the receiver's ability to catch the ball. Nowadays, the football has been recreated into a lighter, more aerodynamic version of its former self which benefits the quarterback and receivers.

With this being said, there aren't many quarterbacks that have played in the NFL that really compare to Brady besides Joe Montana and even he lacks in many aspects. So with Brady, the greatest quarterback in NFL history, the Patriots definitely have an upper hand in this matchup.

Nick Foles:

[Nick Foles](#) was once a backup quarterback for the Philadelphia Eagles behind former Eagles' quarterback Michael "Mike" Vick. When Vick went down with an injury in 2013, Foles took over and took advantage of his opportunity. He had a breakout season in which he threw for 27 touchdowns and only two interceptions while passing for 2,891 yards. In this breakout season, Foles was also awarded a Pro Bowl selection in which he played and was named the Pro Bowl Offensive MVP. He was also the leader in passer rating out of all quarterbacks in the entire NFL.

After a breakout season in 2013, he continued to play with the Eagles in 2014. However, he did not perform near as well as he did in the previous season which resulted in him being traded to the Los Angeles Rams (formerly known as the Saint Louis Rams). After short stints with the St. Louis Rams and the Kansas City Chiefs, Foles returned to the Eagles in 2017.

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Will this be another David and Goliath story where the underdog pulls off the win? I guess we'll have to wait and see.”

– TJ Wall

Despite the fact that the Eagles already have an outstanding second-year quarterback in Carson Wentz, Wentz unfortunately went down with a torn ACL late in the regular season which kept him out for all of the remaining games in the regular season and will keep him out all of the remaining games this

postseason.

The loss of Wentz was thought to have been the end of any hope the Eagles had at winning the Super Bowl. However, Foles surprisingly came in and filled Wentz's spot well. The Eagles' offense isn't as strong as it was with Wentz, of course, but they haven't slacked off too much, especially considering the fact that Foles led the team through the playoffs and now to the Super Bowl where Philly will have a chance to win their first Super Bowl win since the merger of the AFL (American Football League) and the NFL (National Football League) from 1966 to 1970.

Will this be another David and Goliath story where the underdog pulls off the win? I guess we'll have to wait and see.

Eagles Advantages:

The Eagles main advantages, from my subjective opinion, is that they have a nice defense that can put pressure on the quarterback and they have a better run game than New England that features Pro Bowl running back and former Miami Dolphin Jay Ajayi.

Tom Brady has proven that he struggles when the defensive line is putting pressure on him. This can be seen in last year's Super Bowl LI when the Atlanta Falcons put an ample amount of pressure on him early on which caused him to struggle. However, the Falcons became too relaxed in believing that they had the victory secured so they weren't getting to Brady as much which gave him more time to throw. As a result, the Patriots scored a few times which then helped them gain momentum which carried them over the Falcons in overtime.

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However, to me, the thing Philadelphia needs to focus on the most is keeping Brady under pressure at all times and making

minimal mistakes. If they can do those two things, Philadelphia may be bringing home the Lombardi Trophy.”

– TJ Wall

Jay Ajayi came into the league and during his second year with Miami he shocked everyone with his breakout season by running for 1,272 yards and 8 touchdowns. However, he hasn't had a season of that caliber since then. This could be due to the fact that he was a part of a weak offensive unit in Miami that had an old and formerly retired Jay Cutler at quarterback or maybe it could just be that his one good season was a fluke. I don't believe that season was a fluke, however I believe that we won't truly know until we see him play one full season with Philadelphia next year. One thing that I am sure of is that Ajayi has been playing pretty well lately and he definitely has potential and will pose a threat to the Patriots on Sunday.

Will the Eagles' defensive line play at the elite caliber that we've seen from them this season? Will the Eagles' secondary be able to defend the pass long enough for the defensive line to get to Brady? Will the Eagles' lack of experience on both sides of the ball hurt them or have no effect at all? All of these are valid questions that the Eagles will be facing in this upcoming showdown. However, to me, the thing Philadelphia needs to focus on the most is keeping Brady under pressure at all times and making minimal mistakes. If they can do those two things, Philadelphia may be bringing home the Lombardi Trophy.

Patriots Advantages:

Despite the fact that the Eagles have a slightly better all-around team, the fact that the Patriots have Tom Brady and that explosive pass game makes up for the areas that New England lacks in.

If you can't pressure Brady for at least three quarters of the

game and maybe sack him three or four times, there's not really a chance that you will be able to stop him. That's exactly why I believe that the determining factor of this game will be the Eagles' defensive line. The Eagles offense will, in no way, be able to keep up with Brady and his crew. Therefore, if New England's offensive line can hold up and be just a little better than they have been this season, they should be able to hold off the birds of Philly.

The Patriots' defense has also been overlooked so far. Early on this season they were playing like one of the bottom tier defenses in the league. However, later on down the stretch, they started to play a lot better. So far this postseason, New England's defense has been solid so if their offensive line can't hold up, their defense better be ready to step up and prevent Philadelphia's offensive unit from doing anything.

Predictions:

Super Bowl LII:

New England Patriots vs. Philadelphia Eagles:

I pray that I am totally wrong on this one, but I believe that Tom Brady and Bill Belichick will lead the Patriots to their sixth Super Bowl win with a final score of 29-24. However, if the Eagles' defensive line can step up, the results of this game may turn out differently.

NFL conference championship

The NFL Conference Championship was exciting on one hand and pretty awful on the other. Here's a recap of what happened:

Vikings vs. Eagles:

The Philadelphia Eagles defeated the Minnesota Vikings with a score of 38-7.

Coming into this game, the odds were in favor of the Vikings to win this game. However, the final result was the complete opposite of what was expected.

Led by quarterback Nick Foles, the Eagles completely obliterated the Vikings. Foles had a monster performance in which threw for 352 yards and three touchdowns all while completing about 79 percent of his passes.

The Eagles took over this game completely. They were more efficient in pretty much every aspect. They lead in time of possession, total yards, yards per play and they had no turnovers compared to the Vikings' three.

The Vikings, on the other hand, didn't play well at all. They went from being on an emotional high after winning on the last play versus the Saints in the divisional round to an all-time low from being blown out by Philly. Their defense, which is arguably the best in the NFL, didn't play like the elite defense they're supposed to be.

Honestly, I don't even know why we're here talking about this game; it wasn't really even a game. There's just not much to say about it except the Vikings folded under pressure and the Eagles destroyed them. That's about it.

Patriots vs. Jaguars:

The New England Patriots defeated the Jacksonville Jaguars 24-20 in the only entertaining game of the week

The Jaguars won the first half with a score of 14-10. If it wasn't for the touchdown that New England got in the last few minutes of the half, the Jaguars would have completely dominated the first and second quarter.

The beginning of the second half continued the same way the

first half ended. Jacksonville seemed to be taking control even further. However, with eight minutes and 44 seconds left in the fourth quarter, Tom Brady and his squad started to regain control of the situation by scoring a touchdown, making the score 20-17.

After that, it all just went downhill. The Jaguars did not score another point and the Patriots took the lead.

Overall, it was a very exciting game that was definitely worth watching even though the team I was going for lost. Even though the Jaguars didn't make it to the promised land, they can be extremely proud in what they accomplished.

With the New England Patriots facing the Philadelphia Eagles in Super Bowl LII, I definitely have a few thoughts. However, you'll have to tune in next week to hear a few interesting points about this matchup and maybe some things to be watching for.

NFL divisional round

The Divisional Round of the playoffs was a round that favored the underdogs. Here's a recap of the mayhem that occurred:

Saints vs. Vikings:

The Minnesota Vikings defeated the New Orleans Saints 29-24 in a heartbreaking fashion.

Minnesota had a 96.1 percent chance of winning at the half due to the fact that they were up 17-0. However, at the beginning of the fourth quarter, all of that started to change as the Saints made an incredible comeback effort.

With 25 seconds left in the game, New Orleans' kicker Will Lutz made a 43 yard field goal to push the Saints ahead of the Vikings with a score of 24-23. At this moment, New Orleans had secured the victory, so they thought. Minnesota quarterback Case Keenum made a last-ditch-effort on the final play of the game with a deep pass to receiver Stefon Diggs.

All New Orleans' defense had to do was tackle Diggs in-bounds and the clock would have run out, resulting in a victory for the Saints. However, things just can't be that simple.

Diggs caught the ball in mid-air and the Saints' rookie safety Marcus Williams totally missed Diggs, leaving a wide-open path for Minnesota to score and put the final nail in the Saints' coffin as time expired.

What was Williams thinking? Who knows? Maybe he just totally missed the tackle, maybe he was trying to avoid interfering with the pass or maybe he was paid to miss the tackle (just kidding). All I know is the Saints messed up big time and the Vikings are moving on to the Conference Championship.

In my eyes, the Vikings are the strongest team left in the playoffs. I believe they have the best chance at taking home the Lombardi trophy this year. However, the playoffs hardly turn out as expected.

Falcons vs. Eagles:

The Philadelphia Eagles defeated the Atlanta Falcons 15-10 in a game that came down to the very end.

The Eagles were considered by many as the underdogs coming into this matchup. However, the Eagles fought hard and managed to take down the Super Bowl LI runner-up despite their two turnovers. Philadelphia beat Atlanta in pretty much every stat; the Eagles had more time of possession, more total yards, more yards per attempt and so on.

The Falcons, despite the fact that the Eagles' defense prevented them from doing much, still had a chance at the very end to pull out the win. Unfortunately for Atlanta, the potential game-winning pass slipped right through receiver Julio Jones' hands and with it, their season.

All in all, this game was a nail-biter. Despite my predictions last week that the Falcons would pull out the win, I believe the better team won. Now, the Eagles led by backup quarterback Nick Foles have one more game to win in order to make it to the Super Bowl. The only question that remains is will the Eagles continue playing strong, or will they collapse under pressure against a strong Minnesota team? We can only wait and see.

Titans vs. Patriots:

The New England Patriots dominated the Tennessee Titans 35-14.

At the end of the first quarter, Tennessee took an early 7-0 lead over the Patriots of New England. The Titans' confidence skyrocketed and they felt as if they actually had the ability to take down last year's champs. Then, that's when the Patriots decided to stop giving Tennessee false hope and instead show them who was really in charge.

It all went downhill from that moment on. Tennessee didn't score again until the end of the fourth quarter. The Patriots absolutely obliterated the Titans' hopes and dreams.

New England is the Super Bowl favorites once again this year. I mean, how could you not be when you have Tom Brady on your team? However, I'm a little skeptical of New England. I don't think that things will turn out how they're supposed to. In fact...well...you'll just have to read my predictions at the end.

Jaguars vs. Steelers:

The Jacksonville Jaguars came into this game as the underdogs and yet still managed to, unexpectedly, take down the Pittsburgh Steelers 45-42.

The Jaguars rookie running back from LSU, Leonard Fournette, dominated the Steelers. Fournette managed to gain 109 rushing yards and three touchdowns along with 10 receiving yards with a total of 27 touches. If Jacksonville's defense would have played like they usually do along with Fournette performing like he did, I wouldn't be surprised if the Jaguars won by two or more touchdowns.

Pittsburgh seemed to underestimate the Jaguars coming into this game; they were already thinking about the Conference Championship against the Patriots. But, if we're all being honest, who wasn't underestimating the Jaguars? Who wasn't already looking forward to the rematch between the Patriots and Steelers in the Conference Championship? Who ever thought in their wildest dreams that the Jaguars would be in the AFC Conference Championship after a season that consisted of 3 wins and 13 losses? No one did! That, folks, is what makes football great. Anyone can defy the odds and accomplish their goals, unless you're the Cleveland Browns. In that case, just stop trying.

Conference Championship Predictions:

AFC:

1. Jaguars vs. Patriots:

The Patriots have Tom Brady. The Patriots won the Super Bowl last season. The Patriots are projected to win. That is exactly why they will lose. Yes, the Patriots will lose to the Jaguars with a final score of 31-28.

NFC:

1. Vikings vs. Eagles:

While both teams have solid defenses, Minnesota's is better. While both teams have solid offenses, due to the absence of Carson Wentz, Minnesota's is better. Therefore, Minnesota will win with a final score of 23-13.

Are you in or are you out

With the playoffs inching closer each week, the hope for a spot in the playoffs is becoming non-existent for some, while for others it's becoming a very real possibility. Here's a recap of week 16 in the NFL:

Dallas' playoff hopes are no more:

The Dallas Cowboys were defeated by the Seattle Seahawks 21-12 on Sunday afternoon, ruining any chance they had of making the playoffs.

Despite the long-awaited return of running back Ezekiel Elliott, the Cowboys still couldn't pull out the much needed win. Elliott gave his best effort by totaling 118 yards of offense. Unfortunately, Dak Prescott didn't play very efficiently completing 21 of 34 passes for a measly 181 yards and two interceptions.

For the Cowboys to have made it to the playoffs, they would have had to win against Seattle this week and the Philadelphia Eagles next week. Other results were needed to fulfill their playoff hopes, but Cowboys' fans will have to once again sit on their couches in January instead of heading to Jerryworld.

Philadelphia clinches the number one seed in the NFC:

The Philadelphia Eagles secured the number one spot in the NFC on Monday with a 19-10 win over the Los Angeles Raiders.

The Eagles have had a very strong season this year. However, despite their success, I would not be surprised to see them lose out early in the playoffs due to the randomness of their success.

With quarterback Carson Wentz out for the rest of the season due to injury, the Eagles are not the same team. They barely beat the New York Giants last week and only squeaked by the Raiders this week. Now lead by Nick Foles who, in my mind, is one of the top backup quarterbacks in the league, the Eagles' offense just can't produce the same success that they could with Wentz under center. I don't think Foles will be able to keep solid numbers up in the playoffs, especially against teams with solid defenses.

Jimmy G is on a roll:

Jimmy Garoppolo, the former backup for Patriots' quarterback Tom Brady, has been on fire lately.

Ever since Garoppolo was traded to the San Francisco 49ers earlier this season, he has proven to be the quarterback that "The Bay" was looking for. So far this season, Garoppolo has put up solid numbers and proven that can win games. Considering how little Garoppolo has to work with, I'd say he's doing very well out on the West Coast.

With "Jimmy G" at the helm, the 49ers have won all four games that he's started including a 44-33 win against the Jacksonville Jaguars on Sunday. If they can make some major improvements this offseason in other areas, the 49ers may be a solid team next season and potentially make a playoff run.

Playoff Picture:

AFC:

1. New England Patriots (12-3)
2. Pittsburgh Steelers (12-3)

3. Jacksonville Jaguars (10-5)
4. Kansas City Chiefs (9-6)
5. Baltimore Ravens (9-6)
6. Tennessee Titans (8-7)

In the Hunt:

1. Los Angeles Chargers (8-7)
2. Buffalo Bills (8-7)

My Prediction:

The Tennessee Titans will lose next week versus the Jaguars and be eliminated from playoff contention. With one remaining playoff spot left in the AFC, the Buffalo Bills will find a way to sneak in after defeating the Miami Dolphins and witnessing the Los Angeles Chargers lose to the Oakland Raiders next week. However, realistically, only the Patriots, Steelers and Jaguars have a legitimate shot at making it to the Super Bowl.

Bold Prediction:

The Baltimore Ravens will find a way to make it to the AFC Conference Championship and give the opposing team a good challenge.

NFC:

1. Philadelphia Eagles (13-2)
2. Minnesota Vikings (12-3)
3. Los Angeles Rams (11-4)
4. New Orleans Saints (11-4)
5. Carolina Panthers (11-4)
6. Atlanta Falcons (9-6)

In the Hunt:

Seattle Seahawks (9-6)

My Prediction:

The Seahawks will defeat the Arizona Cardinals, and the Falcons will lose to the Carolina Panthers next week. As a result, the Seahawks will snatch the last playoff spot in the NFC. When they do, they will cause major chaos in the playoffs.

Bold Prediction:

The Saints will take down any team in their path and win the Lombardi trophy.

Every week is a new week

Some interesting stuff went down this past week in the NFL. Here's some key takeaways:

No Team Is Invincible:

Some of the top teams in the league took a big, fat L this week which only goes to show that no one in the NFL is safe.

One of these matchups, and the most surprising in my eyes, is the game between the Miami Dolphins and the New England Patriots. If anyone were to place money on this game, I can guarantee you that 99.99 percent of people would've said the Patriots would win by a margin of at least 14. However, that wasn't exactly what went down.

The Dolphins, led by quarterback Jay Cutler (yes he still plays somehow), defeated the Patriots 27-20. Cutler threw for 263 yards and three touchdowns while completing about 66 percent of his passes. The Dolphins' running back, Kenyan Drake, also had a nice showing by running for 114 yards on 25 carries combined with his 79 receiving yards on five catches.

The Patriots' quarterback, Tom Brady, however, had an awful game. He only completed a little over half of his passes for 233 yards, one touchdown and two interceptions which is not good by any means for a quarterback of his caliber.

Other elite teams that managed to find a way to lose were the New Orleans Saints who lost to the Atlanta Falcons and the Minnesota Vikings who lost to the Carolina Panthers. While both of these two losses were against above average teams, it still goes to show that no team in the league is unbeatable.

Eagles lose Wentz:

The Philadelphia Eagles' quarterback, Carson Wentz, who is arguably the MVP of the league this year went down with a torn ACL this week while playing against the Los Angeles Rams and will be out for the remainder of the season and potentially even the very beginning of next season.

While the Eagles still managed to pull out the win, trouble still looms over Philly. The Eagles were looking to make a deep run in the playoffs this year after clinching the NFC East with a win over the Rams. However, with the loss of Wentz, their playoff run is looking like it may come up short of their expectations.

With Wentz out, quarterback Nick Foles will be looking to take the reins of the team. Although last time Foles had to come in as a backup in Philly, he had a touchdown-interception ratio of 27-2 which is outstanding so the Eagles' future may be in good hands.

Shootout in Pittsburgh:

The Pittsburgh Steelers came out on top in a shootout against the Baltimore Ravens after erasing an 11 point lead in the fourth quarter. The final score was 39-38.

With their win against the Ravens, the Steelers clinched the

AFC North and are guaranteed a spot in the playoffs. Steelers' quarterback, Ben Roethlisberger, threw for 506 yards and two touchdowns while completing about 67 percent of his passes. Running back, Le'Veon Bell, ran for 48 yards and two touchdowns and additionally caught nine passes for 77 yards and one touchdown. Wide receiver, Antonio Brown, also had a stellar performance; he caught 11 passes for 213 yards.

One thing you can take away from this game is that the Steelers are a legitimate threat and should not be taken lightly by any means. My guess is that the Steelers and the Patriots will both meet up in the AFC conference championship and the Steelers will come out on top if they continue to play like they have been.

Playoff Picture:

AFC:

1. Pittsburgh Steelers (11-2)
2. New England Patriots (10-3)
3. Jacksonville Jaguars (9-4)
4. Kansas City Chiefs (7-6)
5. Tennessee Titans (8-5)
6. Buffalo Bills (7-6)

In the Hunt:

1. Baltimore Ravens (7-6)
2. Los Angeles Chargers (7-6)
3. Los Angeles Raiders (6-7)
4. Miami Dolphins (6-7)
5. New York Jets (5-7)
6. Cincinnati Bengals (5-8)
7. Houston Texans (4-9)

My Prediction:

As of now, it's looking as if the Pittsburgh Steelers and the

New England Patriots will be meeting up in the AFC conference championship. However, with the stellar defense of the Jacksonville Jaguars, I would not be surprised at all if they defeat the Patriots if they were to meet up.

Bold Prediction:

The Jacksonville Jaguars will end up being in the conference championship versus the Pittsburgh Steelers. The game will be close, but the Jaguars overcome in the end.

NFC:

1. Philadelphia Eagles (11-2)
2. Minnesota Vikings (10-3)
3. Los Angeles Rams (9-4)
4. New Orleans Saints (9-4)
5. Carolina Panthers (9-4)
6. Atlanta Falcons (8-5)

In the Hunt:

1. Seattle Seahawks (8-5)
2. Detroit Lions (7-6)
3. Green Bay Packers (7-6)
4. Dallas Cowboys (7-6)
5. Arizona Cardinals (6-7)

My Prediction:

With the injury to the Philadelphia Eagles' star quarterback, Carson Wentz, I believe they will falter and be eliminated from the playoffs earlier than they hoped for. To me, it's looking like the Minnesota Vikings will face either the Los Angeles Rams or the New Orleans Saints in the NFC conference championship and the Rams will come out on top. However, I wouldn't count the Seattle Seahawks out just yet.

Bold Prediction:

Aaron Rodgers will come back and potentially lead the Packers deep into the playoffs and totally mix up the NFC playoff picture if they're able to make the playoffs in the first place.

Highs and Lows

In week 13 of the NFL there were some good matchups between some good teams. However, on the other hand, there is still a team that is winless and looking to snatch the number one pick in this upcoming draft once again. Here's what you need to know:

Battle of the Birds:

The Seattle Seahawks defeated the Philadelphia Eagles 24-10.

The Eagles had the best record in the league at 10-1 before their loss to the Seahawks. Both teams seemed to be, and still are seen as, legitimate threats in the NFC's side of the playoffs. However, despite their current record of 8-4, I would put my money on the Seahawks to make the Super Bowl rather than the Eagles this year.

I wouldn't take the Seahawks over the Eagles just because they beat them this past week. The reason I would take the Seahawks is because for one, they've been to the Super Bowl twice in the past five years so they have more experience in the postseason which makes a huge difference. Secondly, just as I stated in my previous article ["Rock 'em, Sock 'em"](#), the Eagles have only beat one team (the Carolina Panthers) that is over the .500 mark which means that only one team they've defeated has won over half of their games.

I am still not yet sold on these Eagles of Philly and with good reason. Will they end up being the high powered team they seem to be in the playoffs? Most likely not.

Steelers Escape the Bengals' Claws:

The Pittsburgh Steelers beat the Cincinnati Bengals 23-20 on a last-second field goal as time expired.

The Steelers barely escaped Cincinnati with a win. At the first half of the third quarter, Cincinnati was winning 17-3. However, the Steelers made a comeback and won with a field goal by Chris Boswell as time expired.

The main thing that hurt the Bengals in this game was the fact that they committed 13 penalties which cost them 173 yards. If they got just a portion of those yards back, this game may have had a different outcome.

The Steelers seem to be the biggest threat to the New England Patriots in the AFC. However, no matter who you are, it will be extremely difficult to take down the Patriots who are led by the greatest quarterback of all time: Tom Brady.

Crumpling Cleveland:

The Cleveland Browns. What more do I need to say? Just hearing the name makes me cringe.

The Browns are the only team in the entire NFL who have not won a single game this season. This isn't just "a bad year" either; this has been going on for the past few years now. Here's an interesting yet depressing fact: From the year 2000 until their loss to the Los Angeles Chargers this week, the Browns have won 86 games and lost 284. That's extremely disheartening especially considering the fact that Cleveland has had a high first-round pick in most of the past 15 or so drafts.

If you are a true and loyal Browns fan, I have nothing but

respect for you. For someone to stick with a team despite their many depressing seasons, that takes true commitment. I honestly believe that Cleveland's fan base is the most loyal of any fan base in the NFL. However, you may want to watch baseball or basketball for a few years (decades) until the Browns revive their franchise.

The struggle within

Week 11 in the NFL was full of blowouts and heart-breakers. Here's a recap of what went down.

Dallas' struggles continue:

The Dallas Cowboys and the Philadelphia Eagles faced off Sunday night in a division rivalry. However, the Eagles soared past the competition without any struggle by defeating Dallas 37-9.

The Eagles, who are now 9-1, have been on a roll lately. According to their record, they are currently the best team in the NFL. The Cowboys, on the other hand, are struggling with a 5-5 record and do not appear to be the team they were last year.

Despite Dallas' struggles, they are arguably still a top five team in the league. While this may seem like an absurd statement, it's not as far-fetched as it may sound.

The Cowboys are currently playing without three of their starting players: linebacker Sean Lee, left tackle Tyron Smith and running back Ezekiel Elliott.

With the absence of Sean Lee, Dallas' defense is in shambles. Lee is basically the "quarterback of the defense"; he is the

centerpiece and without him, they fall apart. With a defense that is already weak, missing Sean Lee makes it twice as bad.

Consequently, if you don't have a defense, you can't prevent the other team from scoring. If you can't prevent the other team from scoring then you have to rely on your offense to score more than the opposing offense; that's where the other injuries come into play.

The offensive line of the Cowboys is definitely not what it was last year. With the loss of Doug Free due to retirement, Ronald Leary due to free agency and Tyron Smith due to injury, their line is not providing the high quality blocking that they once did. With a hurting offensive line, Dak Prescott doesn't have near as much time to throw the ball and Alfred Morris, the replacement for Ezekiel Elliott while he is serving his suspension, doesn't have as big of gaps to run through which results in an inefficient offense.

Will the Cowboys return to their former self with the return of their injured stars? I believe they will. I guess we'll just have to wait and see.

Steelin' the show:

Just as I predicted one of my previous article's, ["There's always a tomorrow"](#), the Pittsburgh Steelers are a threat in the AFC this year and they proved it once again by dominating the Tennessee Titans 40-17.

The Titans' loss mainly stemmed from a struggling performance by their quarterback Marcus Mariota who threw four interceptions. Even though the Steelers are a top-tier team, this game would have been a lot closer if it wasn't for the multiple Tennessee turnovers.

Antonio Brown, the star receiver for the Steelers, had a monster performance. He caught 10 passes for 144 yards and three touchdowns. Ben Roethlisberger, the Steelers

quarterback, had a nice outing as well. He completed about 67 percent of his passes for 299 yards and four touchdowns.

If the Steelers continue to have performances like this, there's no doubt in my mind that they will be the team that poses the biggest threat to the New England Patriots in the playoffs.

Last Second Heart-breaker:

The Atlanta Falcons barely made it past the Seattle Seahawks on a last-second field goal attempt in a battle of the birds.

With three minutes and 49 seconds left in the game, the Seahawks were down 34-23. With three minutes left, Russell Wilson threw a deep touchdown pass to Doug Baldwin down the middle of the field, making the score 34-31 after a successful two-point conversion.

On the next drive, Atlanta's goal was to waste the rest of the time on the clock and not to allow the Seahawks another chance to score. However, Seattle's defense held up and got the ball back with one minute and six seconds left in the game with no timeouts.

The Seahawks then march down the field and spike the ball on the 35-yard line with just seven seconds left in the game. With all the pressure on Seattle's kicker, Blair Walsh, to make a 52-yard field goal and send the game into overtime, Walsh kicks the ball right down the middle of the goalposts; however the kick came up just a few yards short which ended the game with final score of 34-31 giving the Falcons the win.

Both teams are likely to meet up once again in the playoffs. However, if this matchup does occur again, I'd put my money on the Seahawks.