2002 NFL SEASON
SIXTH SENSE SPORTS
WEEKS 11-15

WEEK 11

Home team in caps. All records against the spread unless otherwise noted.

League averages for comparison to the stats that will be listed below.

Yards Per Rush (YPR) 4.2
Yards Per Pass (YPS) 6.0
Yards Per Play (YPPL) 5.2

Green Bay –6.5 MINNESOTA 49.5

GB won their seventh game in a row last week over Detroit 40-14. That win improved their win to a league leading 8-1 record and now they take on the lowly Vikings, who lost their seventh game last week at home to the Giants, 20-27. As good as the Packers have been and as good as their defense has been the last few weeks, allowing 14, 10, 9, 10 points, I still feel they are vulnerable to good offenses, something they haven't faced the last four weeks. Green Bay has played below average to bottom offenses every week this year except the first two weeks when they played Atlanta and New Orleans, who both rate as above average offenses in my ratings. NO averages 0.5 yards per play more than their opponents are allowing and amazingly so do the Vikings. That 0.5 is even better than the Packers, who are averaging 0.4 yppl better than their opponents. The two good offenses that GB has played scored 34 and 35 points on them and Minnesota may score in the high twenties to low thirties here. Now, we also know Minnesota's defense is not very good, having the lowest rated defense in my books but getting nearly a touchdown at home and being able to score in the high twenties is a pretty profitable situation. This is a GREAT match up for Minnesota as the Vikings average 5.2 ypr against 4.3 ypr while GB allows 4.9 ypr against 4.1 ypr. That is all neutralized because Minnesota allows a whopping 7.9 yps against 6.0 yps and GB averages 6.6 yps against 6.0 yps. But the fact Minnesota can run the ball and GB can't stop the run sets up Minnesota very well. The Vikings also qualify as a turnover table play (33-20-1 TY) and they qualify in a subset of that which is 113-68-4. Minnesota also qualifies in a fundamental rushing situation which is 101-49-6 and another fundamental situation which is 478-364-33 and one of the subsets of that situation which is 17-11-2 this year. Past history also hasn't been too kind to GB here. The Packers have won only one game here by more than seven points in the past 10 years. And I know many people are saying Minnesota is terrible this year and this is GB's year but I offer the following to tame all that talk. In GB's SB season, they came to Minnesota, riding high, with a 3-0 record following 34-3, 39-13 and 42-10 wins and were seven point favorites and lost that game 21-30. Last year, GB had just defeated the SB Champion Baltimore Ravens at home by a score of 31-23 in a game that wasn't nearly as close as that final score. The Packers also had 28-6, 37-0, 28-7 wins and a close 10-14 loss at TB that they should have probably won. Meanwhile, Minnesota was off a 31-26 win over winless Detroit as 10.5 point favorites and had lost by scores of 13-24, 10-17 and 15-28 while beating TB 20-16 in other games prior to this game. So, there was plenty of reason to like GB last year and they promptly came here and lost 13-35 in a game they were really never in. They have played in two domes this year and lost at NO 20-35 and won at Detroit by seven points. My numbers favor GB by 3.5 and six points and the situation greatly favors Minnesota. They may win this game SU. And remember, I bleed Green & Gold and despise the Vikings but this is a bad spot for GB. **GREEN BAY 27 MINNES OTA 26**

ATLANTA –3 New Orleans 51

These two just played three weeks ago and Atlanta won a thriller 37-35. And this game should be close too but I'm not completely sold on Atlanta yet. They were badly out played here two weeks ago against Baltimore but escaped with a victory, even though they were out gained 340-241 and 5.9 yppl to 4.0 yppl. Last week they were again badly out played but somehow managed to end the game in a tie with Pittsburgh. The Steelers out gained Atlanta 645 yards to 447 yards and 7.6 yppl to 5.5 yppl. The Steelers passed at will on Atlanta, throwing for 463 yards at 10.3 yps. Atlanta does qualify in a very good fundamental situation which is 102-36-7 but Atlanta also qualifies in a negative 83-135-10 situation based on their defense allowing over 30 points last week and now laying points this week. My numbers favor Atlanta by two and three points and I have no other situations which apply to either team. This should be a very good game to watch but I think there are much better games to wager on this weekend.
NEW ORLEANS 29 ATLANTA 26

Cleveland –3 CINCINNATI 40.5

I was surprised at this line when I saw it and I thought my situations would put me on Cincinnati in this game but I only have one situation on Cincinnati and my numbers favor Cleveland by 1.5 and two points, making this line putting accurate. Cincinnati is a turnover table play (33-20-1 TY) and they fit two different subsets which are 62-25-3 and 118-58-4. Both teams offenses and defenses are pretty equal, although Cleveland does have slightly better numbers, averaging 5.0 yppl against 5.2 yppl while allowing 5.2 yppl against 5.1 yppl. Cincinnati is averaging 4.7 yppl against 5.1 yppl and allowing 5.5 yppl against 5.1 yppl. But the Bengals offense has played better since John Kitna took over and I will lean towards Cincinnati because of the turnover table situation, they are at home and I like the way Cincinnati has played in recent weeks with Kitna. **CINCINNATI 25 CLEVELAND 20**

INDIANAPOLIS –6.5 Dallas 40

I don't think many people were giving Indy much of a chance last week against Philly but they came out and took it to Philly, winning handily 35-13, out gaining Philly 446-374 at 7.7 yppl to 5.2 yppl. That was a shocker. Everyone will look for Indy to have turned the corner now but the fact remains they still have a very poor defense and will now take on a Dallas defense that is performing much better recently. The Indy defense is allowing 5.1 yppl against 5.0 yppl but they are allowing 4.7 ypr against 4.3 ypr. Dallas has been just average rushing the ball, gaining 4.2 ypr against 4.2 ypr but the poor Indy rush defense will help Dallas to do what they want to do and that is run the ball and set up the pass. Meanwhile, Indy's offense has been pretty good, gaining 5.5 yppl against 5.1 yppl but that will go against a Dallas defense that is allowing just 4.7 yppl against 5.0 yppl. In addition Dallas qualifies in a contrary situation that is now 279-196-11 (8-3 TY) and another contrary situation which is 160-102-5 (4-1 TY). Indy's win last week puts them at 5-4 and teams who go over .500 by exactly one game tend to relax when then facing a team under .500 and favored by five or more points. Indy qualifies in a negative situation based on that which is 20-50-1 (0-3 TY). Dallas also qualifies in a rushing fundamental situation which is 478-364-33 based on their ability to run the ball and stop the run and Indy's inability to run the ball and stop the run. Dallas is coming off a bye week but prior to their bye they covered in a loss at Detroit 7-9. Teams who are underdogs who covered the spread in their last game while scoring seven or less points are now 27-9-0 since 1983. My numbers favor Indy by six points and all the situations, both fundamental and technical, favor Dallas greatly making Dallas a live dog play. **INDIANAPOLIS 20 DALLAS 19**

KANSAS CITY –3.5 Buffalo 50.5

KC played pretty well last week despite losing to SF 13-17. The Chiefs were out gained 323-256 but they did average 5.6 yppl to only 4.4 for SF. The Chiefs have now allowed just 17 to SF and 10 points to Oakland in their last two games. I expect them to give up more this week and teams tend to get better when playing worse than expected for a long duration and vice versa. The Chiefs do qualify in a rushing fundamental situation which is 70-27-3 and they should have plenty of success running the ball against Buffalo. KC is averaging 5.2 ypr against 4.2 ypr and they'll face a Bills defense who is allowing 4.3 ypr against 4.1 ypr. The KC passing offense has been very good as well, gaining 6.8 yps against 6.0 yps and they'll face a Bills defense who is allowing 6.2 yps against 5.9 yps. While the KC offense is better than the Bills defense, the KC defense is worse than the Bills defense and should allow their share of points against a Bills offense that is averaging 5.7 yppl against 5.3 yppl. The Chiefs defense, despite their better play the past couple of weeks, is still allowing 6.1 yppl against 5.4 yppl. My numbers favor KC by six and 4.5 points suggesting some value with KC. I will lean towards KC based on the value and the fundamental situation on them and I also look for a higher scoring game this week between these two. **KANSAS CITY 33 BUFFALO 27**

MIAMI –4.5 Baltimore 34.5

Miami keeps losing with Ray Lucas (having now lost three in a row) and Baltimore keeps winning without Ray Lewis (having won two out of five without Lewis). All right, I guess they haven't won that many without Lewis. It just seems like they are playing better than they are. They lost at Indianapolis, beat a weak Jacksonville team, lost badly to Pittsburgh, out played but lost at Atlanta and then beat a weak Cincinnati team last week. Even though Miami lost last week and have now scored 10 points in each of their first three games with Lucas, they played pretty well last week. They out gained the Jets 279-264 but at 5.2 yppl to 4.5 yppl. Two more turnovers certainly didn't help the Dolphins and they will have to avoid that this week to win this game. Miami qualifies in a 27-8-1 bounce back situation based on their recent losses and Baltimore also qualifies in a negative 107-158-9 scheduling

and let down situation as well. My numbers favor Miami by four points and when combined with the good situations, that gives us value with Miami. The Dolphins have always played better at home and I look for them to get back on track this week against an injury depleted Baltimore team. **MIAMI 28 BALITMORE 17**

NY GIANTS –3.5 Washington 37.5

Despite missing a field goal and botching two extra point attempts, the Giants managed to win last week at Minnesota, 27-20. Everything seems to be hunky dory in Giant Land as they have now won two games in a row and the new offense led by Jim Fassel play calling seems to be clicking. But this is still a weak offense that is gaining just 3.8 ypr against 4.2 ypr and their passing game has been pretty good this year, gaining 6.9 yps against 6.2 yps. But they will take on a Washington defense that is playing pretty well, especially against the pass, where they are allowing just 5.5 yps against 6.1 yps. That may get even more difficult for the Giants who are down to just one healthy wide receiver as Jeremy Shockey is still hurting, Ike Hilliard is lost for the season, Ron Dixon may not play this week and Tim Carter was lost last week for the season. Times have gotten so desperate for the Giants that they signed Herman Moore this week. The Achilles Heel for the Giants defense has been their rush defense, allowing 5.0 ypr against 4.6 ypr and although the Redskins don't rush the ball real well, averaging 4.4 ypr against 4.4 ypr, they should be able to take advantage of a less than average Giants rush defense. The Giants just don't blow people out and their last nine wins have come by seven or less points. Now I realize seven points is enough to cover this game but the real deal here is they play competitive games, even in their wins, giving the other team a chance at the cover. Washington qualifies in a contrary situation that is 279-196-11 and doing very well this year at 8-3. Meanwhile, the Giants would qualify in a very negative situation that is 44-100-5 and just 1-3 this year if they become favored by four or more points. My numbers favor the Giants by five and 3.5 points but the situations clearly favor Washington and they are pretty strong situations. If I can get four or more points, I will make Washington a best bet or otherwise just lean with them. **WASHINGTON 20 NY GIANTS 17**

PHILADELPHIA –11 Arizona 37.5

What happened to Philadelphia last week? They not only lost at home to Indianapolis but they were destroyed 13-35 and out gained 7.7 yppl to 5.2 yppl. Most will expect Philly to bounce back this week but they are still laying a lot of points and this has become a pretty average team, statistically speaking. Philly is now averaging just 5.2 yppl against 5.0 yppl and their supposedly great defense is allowing 4.8 yppl against 5.0 yppl, which makes them just above average on both sides of the ball. They do rush the ball well, averaging 5.2 ypr against 4.2 ypr and a lot of that is because of Donovan McNaab but he still has to be accounted for. Arizona is below average on both offense and defense but they have stopped the run pretty well, allowing just 3.8 ypr against 4.2 ypr. It's their pass defense, which is allowing 6.9 yps against 6.0 yps that has been a problem but Philly is averaging just 5.3 yps against 5.6 yps so they might not be able to take advantage of that. Arizona qualifies in that same contrary situation which is 8-3 this year and is now 279-196-11 and Philadelphia, with their poor defensive performance last week, qualifies in a negative 37-79-6 situation. My numbers favor Philly only by nine points and Arizona won here last year, 21-20 as 14 point underdogs. Arizona is also coming off of two home losses but that sets them up in a 114-79-6 (4-1 TY) contrary situation which suggests teams like Philly tend to over look these teams because of their recent losses. Arizona is also a turnover table play this week which is now 33-20-1 this year but they don't qualify in any of the better subsets. Simply too many points to be laying in the NFL for what appears to be an average team right now. **PHILADELPHIA 24 ARIZONA 23**

Pittsburgh –3 TENNESSEE 44

Prior to last year's 10 point loss here, Tennessee had beaten Pittsburgh five straight times at home. The Steelers badly out played Atlanta last week but ended up in a tie game. Tennessee, meanwhile, was beating up Houston 17-10 but they only out gained Houston 4.2 yppl to 3.8 yppl. Tennessee still struggles to run the ball, averaging just 3.5 ypr against 4.1 ypr and they haven't stopped teams from passing the ball, allowing 6.4 yps against 5.7 yps. That could spell trouble against Pittsburgh who is throwing the ball very well with Tommy Maddox, averaging 6.8 yps against 6.0 yps. Having said all of that, my numbers still indicate this line should be either two or three, in favor of Pittsburgh, so the line still seems fair or value towards Tennessee. Tennessee also qualifies in a home momentum situation that is 147-99-10 and Pittsburgh qualifies in a negative scheduling situation that is 52-93-3. The situation favors Tennessee and although the match up doesn't favor Tennessee has much as I would like it to, the Titans are

playing very well right now, having won four games in a row and history tells me when I have multiple situations applying to one team, they win more than they lose. **TENNESSEE 26 PITTSBURGH 21**

San Francisco –2.5 SAN DIEGO 42.5

SF is playing very solid ball right now, having defeated Oakland and Kansas City in the last two weeks. San Diego has lost two games in a row and they need to "right" the ship pretty quickly because their schedule doesn't get any easier in the near future. SD does run for 4.8 ypr against 4.2 ypr and they now take on a 49er team who is allowing 4.6 ypr against 4.4 ypr. The 49ers have just taken on two other teams who rush the ball very well and beaten both of those teams. I think this game will be very much like the Oakland game. The Raiders don't run the ball as well as SD but they pass the ball better and both teams are stopping the rush about equally as well. But, the weaker part of the 49er defense is their rush defense so SD should be able to exploit their defense a little better than Oakland did. My numbers make SD either a one point favorite or a pick so there is some value with SD. They also qualify as a turnover table play but none of the better subsets. In addition, SF qualifies in a negative scheduling situation which is 52-93-3. All of that gets me leaning towards SD. **SAN DIEGO 22 SAN FRANCISCO 20**

TAMPA BAY –9 Carolina 34

Things might be going South even faster than Carolina thinks they are. As I write this, their first round draft choice Julius Peppers might be suspended for testing positive for a prohibited substance in his body. That would make the second defensive player in two weeks to be suspended and that is the strength of this team, their defense. Their defense is allowing just 4.6 yppl against 5.1 yppl and held a very good NO offense that is averaging 5.6 yppl to just 5.3 yppl last week. They should have no problems holding down a TB offense that is averaging just 4.9 yppl against 5.3 yppl and held TB to 3.4 yppl and 236 yards in their first meeting. Unfortunately, the Carolina offense is nothing to get excited about, averaging just 4.9 yppl against 5.2 yppl and they gained just 2.5 yppl and 130 yards of total offense against TB in their first meeting. There was no Rodney Peete in that game for Carolina and they still held TB to only 12 points, in losing 9-12 when TB scored nine points in the fourth quarter to come back and win the game. It will still be very tough for Carolina to move the ball against the league's best defense, allowing just 4.0 yppl against 5.2 yppl but hopefully Peete can put his team in better situations and force TB to have to go further with their offense to score, rather than play on a short field all day. Carolina, coming off of two home losses in a row, qualifies in a very good contrary situation which is 4-1 this year and 114-79-6 since 1983. TB, meanwhile, qualifies in a negative letdown situation that is a tremendous 44-100-5 and 1-3 this year. Carolina is also a turnover table play but they don't qualify in any of the better subsets. My numbers favor TB by nine points so the line is about fair but the situations greatly favor Carolina. This should be a low scoring game where points are once again a premium. **TAMPA BAY 17 CAROLINA 16**

Denver –4.5 SEATTLE 42

Seattle comes off a win over Arizona while Denver comes off a very disappointing home loss to the hated Raiders. We'll have to see how Denver reacts now without the services of Shannon Sharpe who was hurt in the Monday night game. The Broncos offense was already an average offense, averaging just 5.4 yppl against 5.4 yppl and I would expect some drop off without Sharpe. This is a tough game to call because Seattle does qualify in a couple of very good home momentum situations that are 147-99-10 and 40-9-1 but Denver is the fundamental play as they qualify in a very solid rushing fundamental situation which is 478-365-33. While Denver's offense has been pretty average, their rushing offense has been better than average, gaining 4.4 ypr against 4.2 ypr and they should have some success against a Seattle rush defense that is allowing 5.0 ypr against 4.5 ypr. Meanwhile, Seattle's offense has been below average, gaining just 5.0 yppl against 5.4 yppl and they should find the going pretty tough against a Broncos defense that is allowing just 4.9 yppl against 5.6 yppl. My numbers make Seattle either a pick 'em or a 1.5 point dog, suggesting value with Seattle. Denver has the better offense and defense and although the technical situations don't favor Denver nor does the value, I will side with them here because I feel they are better on both sides of the ball on the line of scrimmage. **DENVER 23 SEATTLE 17**

NY Jets –3 DETROIT 43.5

Despite the win last week, the numbers weren't that good for the Jets. They were out gained 5.2 yppl to 4.5 yppl.

Detroit was beaten pretty badly at GB but as I noted last week, there are ex-Lion coaches on the Packer staff who like nothing better than to take it to Detroit every chance they get. The Lions have played four games at home this year. They lost by seven to GB in a game that wasn't really that close. They beat NO in a game they led from start to finish. They beat Chicago and Dallas in close games. The Lions are playing very well at home and I don't see a below average Jets team coming in here and winning. The Lions offense isn't that good, gaining just 4.5 yppl against 5.2 yppl but they should get much healthier against a Jets defense that is allowing 5.8 yppl against 5.4 yppl. Meanwhile, the Jets offense has been about average, gaining 5.3 yppl against 5.4 yppl, although better as of late with Pennington and they will face an average Lion defense that is allowing 5.4 yppl against 5.3 yppl. So, we have an offense and defense that are average and an offense that is well below average against a defense that is well below average. My numbers on this game make it a pick 'em suggesting pretty good value with Detroit. The Lions also qualify in a 37-14-1 bounce back situation based on their horrible outing last week and they also qualify in another bounce back situation that is 60-30-2. They also qualify in two different fundamental rushing situations which are 101-49-6 and 478-364-33. Plenty of value and technical and fundamental situations make Detroit the obvious play here. **DETROIT 23 NY JETS 20**

Jacksonville –6 HOUSTON 37

A little revenge here and it's for Jacksonville and not Houston. The Jacksonville offense and defense are about average, gaining 5.3 yppl against 5.3 yppl and their defense is allowing 5.0 yppl to 5.1 yppl. Meanwhile, the Houston offense has been terrible, gaining just 4.1 yppl against 5.2 yppl but their defense is allowing just 4.9 yppl against 5.2 yppl. Jacksonville does qualify in a rushing fundamental situation that is 478-364-33 and a subset of that which is 405-282-28. Jacksonville, however, qualifies in a negative letdown situation which is 33-66-4. My numbers are a solid five, making Houston the play with a little value. I just can't see Jacksonville laying this many points on the road. The better play to me on the home underdog who also has the better defense. **JACKSONVILLE 20 HOUSTON 17**

OAKLAND –4 New England 47.5

New England comes in riding high after two consecutive wins, scoring 37 and 33 points in their last two games. Those high offensive performances may work against them here and it only serves to keep this line down and make sure Oakland is fully focused for this game. In fact NE qualifies in a negative 39-76-5 letdown situation that is already 0-3 this year. They don't qualify in the better subset but the situation alone is strong enough. Meanwhile, Oakland matches up very well with this NE team. The NE defense has been very good this year but that is mostly because of their pass defense. Their rush defense is still weak, allowing 4.5 ypr against 4.3 ypr. Even last week they allowed the Bears who are averaging just 3.3 ypr to run for 4.5 ypr and 125 yards. Now they face Oakland, who is averaging 4.5 ypr against 4.3 ypr. Oakland has also passed the ball very well, throwing for 7.0 yps against 6.1 yps and they will get a very tough test against the NE defense that allows just 5.5 yps against 6.3 yps. The NE offense continues to be very average, gaining just 5.4 yppl against 5.4 yppl and they will find the going tough against an Oakland defense that is allowing just 5.3 yppl against 5.5 yppl. Oakland sets up very nicely into two different fundamental rushing situations that are 102-36-7 and 478-364-33 including all the subsets down to the best subset which is 146-64-9 and 6-2-1 this year. My numbers favor Oakland by four points so the line is fair and the situations in Oakland's favor greatly favor them here. The better offense, the better defense, playing at home and their upset win over Denver last week may be the "buy" sign for this team. I like them here to get the easy win. **OAKLAND 27 NEW ENGLAND 13**

ST. LOUIS (NL) Chicago

Pretty hard to make an accurate prediction on this game not knowing what the line is or if Marshall Faulk will play. I would guess the line will be about nine points and I would lean to Chicago in this game. My numbers suggest a line of about seven points in this game and Chicago qualifies in a 114-79-6 contrary situation. The Rams are a turnover table play but they don't fit any of the better subsets. I will lean towards Chicago but again it's hard to predict without Marshall Faulk's availability known. **ST LOUIS 27 CHICAGO 20**

BEST BETS

YTD 20-23 –17.30%

3% MINNESOTA +6.5
3% DALLAS +6.5
3% MIAMI –4.5
3% ARIZONA +11
3% TENNESSEE +3
3% CAROLINA +9
3% DETROIT +3
3% OAKLAND –4

Possible Best Bet:

3% WASHINGTON +4 or more

WEEK 12

Home team in caps. All records against the spread unless otherwise noted.

League averages for comparison to the stats that will be listed below.

Yards Per Rush (YPR) 4.2
Yards Per Pass (YPS) 6.0
Yards Per Play (YPPL) 5.2

NEW ENGLAND –7.5 Minnesota 46

Vikings had a great match up last week against GB and NE had a terrible match up last week against the Raiders. And because of that, I was on Minnesota and Oakland. This week it's Mike Tice versus Bill Belichick. You would think that alone would be enough to take the Patriots. Minnesota has now lost 14 games in a row on the road. Minnesota played terrific last week, averaging 6.5 yppl and a whopping 5.9 ypr while racking up 218 yards rushing in that game. For NE, it wasn't so pretty, averaging only 3.8 yppl while allowing Oakland 5.5 yppl. I've been pretty accurate predicting the Vikings games this year and have a pretty good feel for them but this game is a little more complicated. I don't have any situations that favor either team other than Minnesota qualifying as a turnover table play (38-25-1 TY) but they don't qualify in any of the better subsets. My numbers favor NE by three and by ten points so they also disagree. The Minnesota offense is now rated as the fourth best offense in the league according to my ratings, averaging 5.7 yppl against 5.2 yppl. But their defense also continues to be the worse defense in the league, allowing 6.3 yppl against 5.0 yppl. NE is below average on offense, gaining only 5.2 yppl against 5.4 yppl but their defense has been pretty solid, allowing just 5.1 yppl against 5.5 yppl. Laying a bunch of points in the NFL is not easy to do but NE rates as the better team so I will side with what I think is the better team. I think NE can take advantage of a weak Minnesota pass defense, allowing 7.7 yps against 5.9 yps. NE has been just average passing the ball this year, averaging just 6.0 yps against 6.1 yps but they should do better this week against Minnesota. **NEW ENGLAND 31 MINNESOTA 21**

Tennessee –1.5 BALTIMORE 38

The Titans continue to roll along, having now won five games in a row. Although they won the game rather easily last week against Pittsburgh, they were out gained on average, 5.9 yppl to 5.2 yppl. Some of that may have been because they decided to run the ball 40 times with the lead while the Steelers only ran the ball 15 times and passed it 45 times, making their yardage greater than it would have been in a normal game. That was a big win for the Titans last week against a quality club because their previous four wins came against Jacksonville, Cincinnati, Indianapolis and Houston. And in many of those games they were actually out gained but managed to win someway, somehow. This is a tough match up against Baltimore this week. First, the fundamentals don't line up real well for Tennessee and second Baltimore gets a little healthier this week. Baltimore was stuffed last week at Miami and I had Miami in a game that matched up very well for Miami. Tennessee doesn't run the ball very well, averaging just 3.5 ypr against 4.1 ypr. They do throw the ball pretty well, gaining 6.2 yps against 5.8 yps. But throwing the ball will be a little tougher this week against a Baltimore team that allows 5.9 yps against 6.0 yps. The weakness to the Tennessee defense is their pass defense, which allows 6.4 yps against 5.8 yps but I don't know if Baltimore will be able to take full advantage of that, gaining just 5.0 yps against 5.6 yps. They should be able to throw the ball some, however, because Tennessee is pretty bad against the pass. Baltimore does qualify in a contrary situation that is 108-60-4 based on their blowout loss last week and Tennessee's easy cover last week. Baltimore also qualifies in a couple of very solid rushing fundamental situations that are 102-50-6 (5-3 TY) and 103-36-7 (3-2-1 TY). Those situations assume that Baltimore matches up very well with Tennessee and should be able to control the line of scrimmage. My numbers greatly favor Baltimore by three and six points. This game also qualifies in a very solid under situation that is now 319-234-18 (20-12 TY) after going 8-2 over the past three weeks. I would consider the under but my numbers indicate there might be around 46 points scored in this game so I don't think there is any value in the under. But I do think Baltimore is a solid play here. **BALTIMORE 27 TENNESSEE 19**

Atlanta –3.5 CAROLINA 37

Carolina has played Atlanta pretty tough here over the years, never losing by more than five points (only once losing by exactly five points) and thus covering this number every year, except one (six out of seven). I had Carolina

last week and they played pretty decently, holding TB to just 4.4 yppl but couldn't muster any offense against a good TB defense, just 3.8 yppl. Atlanta, meanwhile, had a very nice and easy win over NO but they were out gained in that game, 6.2 yppl to 4.6 yppl. The Atlanta offense is just average, gaining 5.2 yppl against 5.1 yppl but their defense has been below average, allowing 5.5 yppl against 5.2 yppl. Their defense should play decent against a poor Carolina offense that is gaining just 4.8 yppl against 5.1 yppl but the Carolina defense continues to play very solid ball, allowing just 4.6 yppl against 5.1 yppl. Carolina does qualify as a turnover table play (38-25-1 TY) and they do qualify in a subset of that which is 114-56-4. My numbers also favor Carolina by 1.5 points or suggest this game should be a pick 'em. I'll side with Carolina who should be able to stay within the number based on past history, value in this line according to the numbers and the contrary turnover table situation that applies to them. **CAROLINA 21 ATLANTA 20**

CHICAGO –5.5 Detroit 38

Detroit let me down last week as they just couldn't stop the Jets offense. They allowed 189 yards rushing at 4.8 ypr and 219 yards passing at 8.1 yps for a total of 408 total yards at 6.2 yppl. The Lions offense did fine on their own, gaining 279 yards at 5.6 yppl, including 108 yards rushing at 5.8 ypr. Those numbers were disappointing because the Lions defense had played pretty well this year, allowing just 5.4 yppl against 5.3 yppl. That was against a Jets offense that was about average on the year. This week they take on a Chicago offense that managed just 220 total yards last week at 3.4 yppl. For the season, Chicago is averaging just 4.6 yppl against 5.5 yppl. Put another way, Chicago has averaged just 280 yards of offense against defenses that are allowing, on average, 342 yards. So the average Detroit defense should be able to contain the Chicago offense pretty well and that is a plus when getting points. Meanwhile, the Chicago defense has been just average, allowing 5.4 yppl against 5.5 yppl and they face a similar match up as I talked about on the other side of the ball as Detroit averages just 4.6 yppl against 5.5 yppl. It appears we have two very average teams who mimic each other and 5.5 points is always worth taking in those cases. Detroit qualifies in a contrary situation that is 9-5 this year and now 280-191-11 since 1983. Meanwhile, Chicago, with their poor record should not be laying points. They qualify in a negative 47-78-2 situation that plays against poor teams laying points, including a subset that is 18-45-1. My numbers favor Chicago by six points, which suggests the line is fair but the situations favoring Detroit are very solid. I will side with Detroit who has covered this number four out of the past five seasons and seven out of the past ten season in Chicago. **DETROIT 23 CHICAGO 20**

Jacksonville –2.5 DALLAS 35

Jacksonville is starting to play much better ball, having won two games in a row and now sitting at 5-5 for the season. Their numbers are pretty average, gaining just 5.3 yppl against 5.2 yppl and allowing 4.9 yppl against 5.0 yppl. The strength of the Jacksonville offense is their ability to rush the ball, as they average 4.6 ypr against 4.3 ypr. They might find that a little more difficult against the Cowboys rush defense that is allowing just 3.5 ypr against 3.9 ypr. The Cowboys lost Darren Woodson last week and that will hurt their secondary. While the Jacksonville defense is just average, it should fair pretty well against a poor Dallas offense that is averaging just 4.7 yppl against 5.2 yppl. Having said all of that, Dallas does qualify in a couple of very solid situations this week. They qualify as a turnover table play which is 38-25-1 this year and a subset of that which is 114-56-4 since 1983. They also qualify as a fundamental rushing situation that is 103-36-7 which suggests their ability to rush the ball and stop the rush sets up very well for them this week at this current line. While the Cowboys are a little banged up right now, Vegas knows that as well and the line reflects those injuries. My numbers suggest this line should be 1.5 points or 2 points, favoring Jacksonville, so the line is about fair. This is one of those games that I don't like as much as some other games but history tells me that when I have multiple systems applying to one team, they cover at a very solid rate and I will respect past history. **DALLAS 23 JACKSONVILLE 13**

MIAMI –3 San Diego 36.5

I talked last week about how Miami and their defense plays much better at home and they did it again last week. Miami's defense shut down the Baltimore offense, limiting them to just 157 yards of total offense and 2.8 yppl. Meanwhile, SD beat SF somehow last week with an amazing comeback but they were out played in that game, allowing 6.2 yppl to 5.7 yppl for SD. The Dolphins offense has become pretty average, especially since Ray Lucas was forced to take over, now averaging just 5.2 yppl against 5.4 yppl. But their defense continues to play very

well, allowing just 4.8 yppl against 5.4 yppl, being equally as well against the run as the pass. This week they take on an average SD offense, who is averaging just 5.3 yppl against 5.4 yppl and a SD defense that isn't quite as good as advertised, allowing 5.6 yppl against 5.4 yppl. The SD rushing offense is very solid, gaining 4.7 ypr against 4.3 ypr but they will find that a little tougher this week against a Miami defense that is allowing just 3.7 ypr against 4.2 ypr. The weakness of the SD defense is their pass defense, which is allowing 6.5 yps against 6.1 yps and even though it may not seem like it, that is the strength of the Miami offense, which is averaging 6.2 yps against 6.1 yps. Miami qualifies in a very solid home momentum situation that is 99-60-10 including a subset of that which is 62-21-6. SD also qualifies in a negative scheduling situation which is 107-159-9. Miami is also a turnover table play (38-25-1 TY) although they don't qualify in any of the better subsets. My numbers favor Miami by 3.5 and 4 points so there is some value with Miami as well. SD has played only one defense on the road that is as good as Miami's this year and that was Denver. They lost that game rather handily, 9-26 and I see the same thing happening here. **MIAMI 27 SAN DIEGO 17**

NEW ORLEANS –6 Cleveland 47.5

I was a little surprised by this line as I thought it would be closer to around 8 or 9 points. Deuce McAllister may not play in this game and perhaps that is why. This is one of those classic match ups where Cleveland won last week and New Orleans lost last week but Cleveland lost in the stats game while NO won in the stats game. Cleveland was out gained 5.4 yppl to 6.6 yppl while NO out gained Atlanta 6.2 yppl to 4.6 yppl. Neither defense is very good, with Cleveland allowing 5.3 yppl against 5.1 yppl while NO allows 5.4 yppl against 5.1 yppl. The biggest difference here is the offense's where Cleveland is gaining just 5.0 yppl against 5.3 yppl while NO is gaining 5.6 yppl against 5.1 yppl. NO qualifies in a very solid late season home momentum situation that is 40-15-1 and they also qualify in a solid rushing fundamental situation which is 481-367-33 although they don't qualify in any of the better subsets. My numbers favor NO by 6 and 6.5 points so the line is fair and the situation favor NO. I will lean their way. Although we're dealing with two poor defenses and my numbers do suggest 51 points in this game, this game does qualify in a 319-234-18 under situation which is 20-12 this year. I would take the under but again my numbers suggest more points being scored so I will pass on that. **NEW ORLEANS 31 CLEVELAND 20**

NY JETS –3 Buffalo 45.5

The Jets looked pretty solid last week, gaining 408 total yards at 6.2 yppl. They controlled the clock for over 38 minutes of the game as they were never really in too much trouble to win that game. Buffalo played KC very tough before finally succumbing to the Chiefs, 16-17. The Jets defense is still trying to find it's way out of a hole, allowing 5.8 yppl against 5.3 yppl and Buffalo should have some success against them as they average 5.7 yppl against 5.4 yppl. Meanwhile, the Jets offense is average, gaining 5.4 yppl against 5.4 yppl and the Bills defense has played pretty decent, allowing just 5.4 yppl against 5.3 yppl. Those numbers alone would suggest Buffalo has a very decent chance at winning this game but the Jets do qualify in a home momentum situation that is 99-60-10. They don't qualify in the best part of that situation, however. My numbers also favor the Jets by either four points or suggest this line should be a pick 'em. This is another tough game to call but I will lean with the better defense, which is Buffalo. **BUFFALO 24 NY JETS 20**

PITTSBURGH –11 Cincinnati 43

Steelers had their train derailed a little last week at Tennessee, 23-31, in a game that wasn't nearly as close as that final score. Meanwhile, Cincinnati was losing at home to Cleveland, 20-27 as Corey Dillon failed on third and fourth and goal from the one yard line late in the game. But Cincinnati did out gain Cleveland 6.6 yppl to 5.4 yppl. The Pittsburgh offense has been above average this year, averaging 5.6 yppl against 5.3 yppl and really excelling in the passing game, averaging 6.8 yps against 6.1 yps. It will be interesting to see if that all continues with Kordell Stewart now taking over again at quarterback. They could find some success against a below average Cincinnati defense that is allowing 5.5 yppl against 5.0 yppl including allowing 6.8 yps against 5.9 yps. Meanwhile, the Pittsburgh defense has really been about average this year, allowing 5.1 yppl against 5.2 yppl. But they should do well against a Cincinnati offense that is averaging just 4.8 yppl against 5.1 yppl. Pittsburgh out gained Cincinnati by 140 yards in their first match up (408-168) and 6.6 yppl to 4.2 yppl. But again with Stewart, it may be different. Cincinnati does qualify in a very solid contrary situation which is 9-5 this year and 280-198-11 since 1983. My numbers favor Pittsburgh by 9.5 points and by 12 points. Only twice in the past eight years has Pittsburgh won by

more than today's line and that was by 15 and 17 points so it has been a pretty close series, especially in relationship to today's line. I will side with Cincinnati against a Pittsburgh team that has allowed a couple of teams back into the game this year when they have had big leads. **PITTSBURGH 28 CINCINNATI 20**

TAMPA BAY –3 Green Bay 39

I was dead on last week in going against my beloved Green & Gold but unfortunately missed in the TB game. Carolina had their shot at the backdoor in the last minute of the game but couldn't put the ball in the end zone with four chances from inside the 10 yard line. I talked last week about GB not performing well against good offenses, having allowed over 30 points to the only two good offenses they have faced prior to last week's game. That is now 3 for 3 after Minnesota scored over 30 points last week. That shouldn't be a problem this week against a much weaker TB offense. This game will be closely contested as always. Looking back to 1997 which is when TB finally started to perform like a playoff team, this is what has happened. In 1997 GB, coming off of their SB win, beat TB 17-6 in TB. In 1998, TB returned the favor, winning 24-22. Forget about 1999, when TB won 29-10. That game was played late in the year and was during the Ray Rhodes era in GB. The Packers had quit on their coach in that game. Getting back to when the Packers were a good team again in 2000, they lost at TB 15-20 and then lost again last year 10-14. Some very common themes here. Very close games and very low scoring games. The Packers offense is playing very well, averaging 5.7 yppl against 5.2 yppl and they'll now face a TB defense that is allowing just 4.0 yppl against 5.2 yppl. Meanwhile, a below average GB defense, allowing 5.2 yppl against 5.0 yppl will take on a below average TB offense, averaging just 4.9 yppl against 5.2 yppl. I'll take it even further as TB is very weak rushing the ball, averaging just 3.5 ypr against 4.1 ypr while GB can't stop the rush, allowing 5.0 ypr against 4.2 ypr. On the other side, GB is throwing the ball very well, averaging 6.7 yps against 6.2 yps but TB stops the pass by limiting their opponents to just 4.1 yps against 5.8 yps. So, if one team is strong in one area, the other team is just as strong defending it or if one team is weak defending one area, the other team is just as weak trying to execute that same offense. Combine that with the tight scores we've had before and this has the making's of a very tight game. The one thing I noticed watching the game last year is the speed of the TB defense. Favre has that habit of throwing off balance and throwing in the middle of the field. He can usually get away with that pass but against this type of defense that is as fast as it is, that can create problems for Favre. TB qualifies in a very solid home momentum situation which is 99-60-10 and the subset of that which is 62-21-6. My numbers favor TB by 5 and 4.5 points, giving some value to TB. There isn't enough for me to take TB in this game and the loss last week may have been the best thing for GB, to ensure their focus for this game. I will lean towards TB but I think there are better games to play on. Despite the low scoring affairs between these two, my numbers suggest a little higher scoring game and the GB defense is weaker this year but their offense is better this year. TB also allowed Minnesota to average 7.0 yppl a couple of weeks ago so GB may be able to move the ball some on their defense. **TAMPA BAY 25 GREEN BAY 20**

Kansas City –3 SEATTLE 43.5

Break up the KC defense. They have now allowed just 10, 17 and 16 points to good offenses like Oakland, San Francisco and Buffalo. That's quite amazing when you think about it and think about how bad their defense had played leading up to those games. Now they take on a poor Seattle offense that is averaging just 4.9 yppl against 5.3 yppl. I still rate the KC defense has the second worse defense in the league, having allowed 6.1 yppl against 5.4 yppl. Nothing wrong with the KC offense, despite it only scoring 20, 13 and 17 points during that same time span. They are still averaging 6.0 yppl against 5.2 yppl and gained 5.6 yppl against SF two weeks ago (SF allows 5.4 yppl so the exceeded their defensive average) and they gained 5.5 yppl against Buffalo who is allowing 5.4 yppl so they exceeded their defensive average as well. Now they aren't exceeding those averages by the same average that they have all year, but it isn't a total breakdown of their offense. They'll take on a Seattle defense that is allowing 5.4 yppl against 5.3 yppl. The biggest mismatch here, much like last week, is KC averages 5.0 ypr against 4.2 ypr while Seattle allows 5.1 ypr against 4.4 ypr. KC qualifies in a fundamental rushing situation which is 481-367-33 but they don't qualify in any of the better subsets. Meanwhile, Seattle qualifies as a turnover table play, which is 38-25-1 this year and they also qualify in a subset of that which is 114-56-4. My numbers favor KC by 2 and 1.5 points, suggesting some value with Seattle. The fundamental rushing situation, much like last week with Denver, is too strong so I will lean that way. I do like the over in this game as Kansas City is a top notch offense and still has a bottom of the league defense, while Seattle is below average on offense but they are also below average on defense. Seattle gets back Darrel Jackson this week which should also help their offense. The KC defense allows 4.8

ypr against 4.3 ypr and if Seattle can get their rushing game going, they should also be able to throw the ball fairly well. Two weeks ago, against a below average defense, Seattle gained 406 yards at 6.0 yppl. Last week against the leagues second best defense, Denver, they were held to just 3.6 yppl and 204 yards. Combine that low offensive performance with the very solid defensive efforts of KC the last three weeks and this number is now well below where it should be. Not only that but with the average points scored in a NFL game being 44, it is also below the league average. My numbers suggest 49 points being scored in this game so I think we have excellent value with the over. **KANSAS CITY 27 SEATLLE 22**

Oakland –8 ARIZONA 44

Pretty tough to take an Arizona team which seems to have quit for the year. Not so much that they have quit but more so because of all of their injuries. But remember the line already reflects the injuries so the real question is which team is better suited to perform better. The Oakland defense is really starting to play much better as of late, now allowing just 5.2 yppl against 5.5 yppl. Meanwhile, nothing wrong with their offense, which is averaging 6.1 yppl against 5.4 yppl. While everything is above average for Oakland, everything is below average for Arizona. They are averaging just 4.9 yppl against 5.1 yppl and they are allowing 5.6 yppl against 5.2 yppl. In addition, the strength of the Oakland offense is their passing game, which is throwing for 6.1 yps against 5.4 yps and the weakness of the Arizona defense is their pass defense, which is allowing 7.1 yps against 5.9 yps. But, again remember games are not played on paper. If they were, there would be no reason to ever play any games. Just ask the Rams about playing games on paper. Arizona qualifies in some very good situations for this week. Arizona qualifies in a 60-31-2 contrary situation as well as a turnover table play and a subset of that which is 114-56-4. Oakland also qualifies in a negative scheduling situation which is 52-95-3. My numbers also only favor Oakland by four points and also suggest this line should be a pick 'em. So, what we have here is an over inflated line for Oakland based on their most recent two wins and Arizona's recent four game slide. Arizona did beat Oakland last year in Oakland, although that was with a healthy team but I'll side with the value and the team that has the strong situations applying to them, suggesting there is a little bounce back for Arizona and a letdown for Oakland. **OAKLAND 24 ARIZONA 23**

St. Louis –4.5 WASHINGTON No Total listed

This is a very tough game for me to handicap because of all the uncertainties. First, we don't know if Marshall Faulk will play. Second, Kurt Warner comes back after missing five games. Third, it's Danny Wuerffel now at quarterback. If we knew Marshall was playing, Bulger was at quarterback and Matthews was at quarterback, this line would probably be a little higher and I would easily suggest Washington, whose defense is allowing just 4.8 yppl against 5.3 yppl. They would go against a Rams offense that I now rate as the top offense in the league, averaging 6.0 yppl against 5.1 yppl. The Rams defense is just average, allowing 5.2 yppl against 5.2 yppl but they would face a Washington offense that is averaging just 4.6 yppl against 5.2 yppl. Washington does qualify in a rushing fundamental situation which is 103-36-7. And they match up very well against the Rams passing offense, which is averaging 6.9 yps against 5.9 yps by allowing just 5.4 yps against 6.2 yps. Washington went to St. Louis two years ago and won 33-20 so they can certainly match up with this team. My numbers also favor Washington by 1 and 1.5 points, suggesting value with them. But, I don't trust Wuerffel and I don't know what I am getting out of Warner and if I will get anything out of Faulk. With so many question marks, I will just lean with the Skins. **WASHINGTON 24 ST LOUIS 23**

NY Giants –5.5 HOUSTON34

Just can't see laying points with a Giants offense that is averaging just 5.3 yppl against 5.3 yppl. While those numbers are average, they only average 3.6 ypr against 4.2 ypr and if they can't get their running game going, it will be tough to score on a consistent basis. The defense has been pretty good, allowing just 5.0 yppl against 5.2 yppl and they shouldn't have too many problems stopping a Houston offense that is averaging just 4.1 yppl against 5.2 yppl. Houston does qualify in a very strong contrary situation that is 51-19-1 and my numbers suggest this line should be around a pick 'em. I'll take a pretty good defense at home getting points. This game stands a very good chance to go under as well. **NY GIANTS 14 HOUSTON 13**

DENVER –6 Indianapolis 44

I could mention just one thing for this game and that should be enough for you to take Denver. Denver has a net ypr of 1.1 (4.6-3.5) while Indy has a net ypr of –1.1 (3.6-4.7). Those numbers alone should be enough for you to see that Denver stands an excellent chance to control the line of scrimmage in this game. Denver brings the league's second best defense, allowing just 4.8 yppl against 5.5 yppl. They are very strong against both the rush and the pass, but it's most important against the pass in this game with Indy averaging 5.5 yppl against 5.0 yppl (6.7 yps against 5.8 yps). On the other side of the ball, the Indy defense has been about average this year, allowing 5.0 yppl against 4.9 yppl but their rush defense is below average, allowing 4.7 ypr against 4.2 ypr. That bodes pretty well for Denver, whose offense averages 5.5 yppl against 5.3 yppl and their rushing offense is averaging 4.6 ypr against 4.3 ypr. I see no drop off with Steve Beuerlein now at quarterback and I think their offense might actually be even better without Griese. Denver qualifies in a number of high percentage situations. They qualify in two different rushing fundamental situations which are 70-28-3 and 481-367-33 including all of the subsets all the way down to the final subset which is 145-64-9 and 7-2-1 this year. Indy qualifies in a negative letdown situation which is 107-159-9. My numbers favor Denver by eight points and along with the value, there is plenty of technical and fundamental situations supporting them. **DENVER 27 INDIANAPOLIS 13'**

SAN FRANCISCO –7 Philadelphia 36.5

Tough game to call with Donvan McNabb now out. This line is pretty high, considering with McNabb, I would make this line about two points for SF. Now, they are favored by seven points without McNabb. Philly does qualify in a negative letdown situation which is 107-159-9. If McNabb was playing, there isn't much difference between these two teams. They both allow about the same average of yppl on defense that their opponents average. Philly is slightly better. And they both average about the same amount of yppl on offense that their opponents allow. Philly is again slightly better by 0.1 yppl. SF won here last year against Philly, 13-3 and I could see something similar happening again. They just don't allow a lot of points at home. My numbers suggest a higher scoring game but that is with McNabb playing. Tough game to call but I will lean towards the underdog, Philadelphia. **SAN FRANCISCO 20 PHILADELPHIA 19**

BEST BETS

YTD 24-27 –18.50%

3% BALTIMORE +1.5
3% DETROIT +5.5
3% DALLAS +2.5
3% MIAMI –3
3% KC/SEATTLE OVER 43.5
3% ARIZONA +8
3% DENVER –6

WEEK 13

2002 NFL SEASON
SIXTH SENSE SPORTS
WEEKS 11-15

WEEK 11

Home team in caps. All records against the spread unless otherwise noted.

League averages for comparison to the stats that will be listed below.

Yards Per Rush (YPR) 4.2
Yards Per Pass (YPS) 6.0
Yards Per Play (YPPL) 5.2

Green Bay –6.5 MINNESOTA 49.5

GB won their seventh game in a row last week over Detroit 40-14. That win improved their win to a league leading 8-1 record and now they take on the lowly Vikings, who lost their seventh game last week at home to the Giants, 20-27. As good as the Packers have been and as good as their defense has been the last few weeks, allowing 14, 10, 9, 10 points, I still feel they are vulnerable to good offenses, something they haven't faced the last four weeks. Green Bay has played below average to bottom offenses every week this year except the first two weeks when they played Atlanta and New Orleans, who both rate as above average offenses in my ratings. NO averages 0.5 yards per play more than their opponents are allowing and amazingly so do the Vikings. That 0.5 is even better than the Packers, who are averaging 0.4 yppl better than their opponents. The two good offenses that GB has played scored 34 and 35 points on them and Minnesota may score in the high twenties to low thirties here. Now, we also know Minnesota's defense is not very good, having the lowest rated defense in my books but getting nearly a touchdown at home and being able to score in the high twenties is a pretty profitable situation. This is a GREAT match up for Minnesota as the Vikings average 5.2 ypr against 4.3 ypr while GB allows 4.9 ypr against 4.1 ypr. That is all neutralized because Minnesota allows a whopping 7.9 yps against 6.0 yps and GB averages 6.6 yps against 6.0 yps. But the fact Minnesota can run the ball and GB can't stop the run sets up Minnesota very well. The Vikings also qualify as a turnover table play (33-20-1 TY) and they qualify in a subset of that which is 113-68-4. Minnesota also qualifies in a fundamental rushing situation which is 101-49-6 and another fundamental situation which is 478-364-33 and one of the subsets of that situation which is 17-11-2 this year. Past history also hasn't been too kind to GB here. The Packers have won only one game here by more than seven points in the past 10 years. And I know many people are saying Minnesota is terrible this year and this is GB's year but I offer the following to tame all that talk. In GB's SB season, they came to Minnesota, riding high, with a 3-0 record following 34-3, 39-13 and 42-10 wins and were seven point favorites and lost that game 21-30. Last year, GB had just defeated the SB Champion Baltimore Ravens at home by a score of 31-23 in a game that wasn't nearly as close as that final score. The Packers also had 28-6, 37-0, 28-7 wins and a close 10-14 loss at TB that they should have probably won. Meanwhile, Minnesota was off a 31-26 win over winless Detroit as 10.5 point favorites and had lost by scores of 13-24, 10-17 and 15-28 while beating TB 20-16 in other games prior to this game. So, there was plenty of reason to like GB last year and they promptly came here and lost 13-35 in a game they were really never in. They have played in two domes this year and lost at NO 20-35 and won at Detroit by seven points. My numbers favor GB by 3.5 and six points and the situation greatly favors Minnesota. They may win this game SU. And remember, I bleed Green & Gold and despise the Vikings but this is a bad spot for GB. **GREEN BAY 27 MINNES OTA 26**

ATLANTA –3 New Orleans 51

These two just played three weeks ago and Atlanta won a thriller 37-35. And this game should be close too but I'm not completely sold on Atlanta yet. They were badly out played here two weeks ago against Baltimore but escaped with a victory, even though they were out gained 340-241 and 5.9 yppl to 4.0 yppl. Last week they were again badly out played but somehow managed to end the game in a tie with Pittsburgh. The Steelers out gained Atlanta 645 yards to 447 yards and 7.6 yppl to 5.5 yppl. The Steelers passed at will on Atlanta, throwing for 463 yards at 10.3 yps. Atlanta does qualify in a very good fundamental situation which is 102-36-7 but Atlanta also qualifies in a negative 83-135-10 situation based on their defense allowing over 30 points last week and now laying points this week. My numbers favor Atlanta by two and three points and I have no other situations which apply to either team. This should be a very good game to watch but I think there are much better games to wager on this weekend.
NEW ORLEANS 29 ATLANTA 26

Cleveland –3 CINCINNATI 40.5

I was surprised at this line when I saw it and I thought my situations would put me on Cincinnati in this game but I only have one situation on Cincinnati and my numbers favor Cleveland by 1.5 and two points, making this line putting accurate. Cincinnati is a turnover table play (33-20-1 TY) and they fit two different subsets which are 62-25-3 and 118-58-4. Both teams offenses and defenses are pretty equal, although Cleveland does have slightly better numbers, averaging 5.0 yppl against 5.2 yppl while allowing 5.2 yppl against 5.1 yppl. Cincinnati is averaging 4.7 yppl against 5.1 yppl and allowing 5.5 yppl against 5.1 yppl. But the Bengals offense has played better since John Kitna took over and I will lean towards Cincinnati because of the turnover table situation, they are at home and I like the way Cincinnati has played in recent weeks with Kitna. **CINCINNATI 25 CLEVELAND 20**

INDIANAPOLIS –6.5 Dallas 40

I don't think many people were giving Indy much of a chance last week against Philly but they came out and took it to Philly, winning handily 35-13, out gaining Philly 446-374 at 7.7 yppl to 5.2 yppl. That was a shocker. Everyone will look for Indy to have turned the corner now but the fact remains they still have a very poor defense and will now take on a Dallas defense that is performing much better recently. The Indy defense is allowing 5.1 yppl against 5.0 yppl but they are allowing 4.7 ypr against 4.3 ypr. Dallas has been just average rushing the ball, gaining 4.2 ypr against 4.2 ypr but the poor Indy rush defense will help Dallas to do what they want to do and that is run the ball and set up the pass. Meanwhile, Indy's offense has been pretty good, gaining 5.5 yppl against 5.1 yppl but that will go against a Dallas defense that is allowing just 4.7 yppl against 5.0 yppl. In addition Dallas qualifies in a contrary situation that is now 279-196-11 (8-3 TY) and another contrary situation which is 160-102-5 (4-1 TY). Indy's win last week puts them at 5-4 and teams who go over .500 by exactly one game tend to relax when then facing a team under .500 and favored by five or more points. Indy qualifies in a negative situation based on that which is 20-50-1 (0-3 TY). Dallas also qualifies in a rushing fundamental situation which is 478-364-33 based on their ability to run the ball and stop the run and Indy's inability to run the ball and stop the run. Dallas is coming off a bye week but prior to their bye they covered in a loss at Detroit 7-9. Teams who are underdogs who covered the spread in their last game while scoring seven or less points are now 27-9-0 since 1983. My numbers favor Indy by six points and all the situations, both fundamental and technical, favor Dallas greatly making Dallas a live dog play. **INDIANAPOLIS 20 DALLAS 19**

KANSAS CITY –3.5 Buffalo 50.5

KC played pretty well last week despite losing to SF 13-17. The Chiefs were out gained 323-256 but they did average 5.6 yppl to only 4.4 for SF. The Chiefs have now allowed just 17 to SF and 10 points to Oakland in their last two games. I expect them to give up more this week and teams tend to get better when playing worse than expected for a long duration and vice versa. The Chiefs do qualify in a rushing fundamental situation which is 70-27-3 and they should have plenty of success running the ball against Buffalo. KC is averaging 5.2 ypr against 4.2 ypr and they'll face a Bills defense who is allowing 4.3 ypr against 4.1 ypr. The KC passing offense has been very good as well, gaining 6.8 yps against 6.0 yps and they'll face a Bills defense who is allowing 6.2 yps against 5.9 yps. While the KC offense is better than the Bills defense, the KC defense is worse than the Bills defense and should allow their share of points against a Bills offense that is averaging 5.7 yppl against 5.3 yppl. The Chiefs defense, despite their better play the past couple of weeks, is still allowing 6.1 yppl against 5.4 yppl. My numbers favor KC by six and 4.5 points suggesting some value with KC. I will lean towards KC based on the value and the fundamental situation on them and I also look for a higher scoring game this week between these two. **KANSAS CITY 33 BUFFALO 27**

MIAMI –4.5 Baltimore 34.5

Miami keeps losing with Ray Lucas (having now lost three in a row) and Baltimore keeps winning without Ray Lewis (having won two out of five without Lewis). All right, I guess they haven't won that many without Lewis. It just seems like they are playing better than they are. They lost at Indianapolis, beat a weak Jacksonville team, lost badly to Pittsburgh, out played but lost at Atlanta and then beat a weak Cincinnati team last week. Even though Miami lost last week and have now scored 10 points in each of their first three games with Lucas, they played pretty well last week. They out gained the Jets 279-264 but at 5.2 yppl to 4.5 yppl. Two more turnovers certainly didn't help the Dolphins and they will have to avoid that this week to win this game. Miami qualifies in a 27-8-1 bounce back situation based on their recent losses and Baltimore also qualifies in a negative 107-158-9 scheduling

and let down situation as well. My numbers favor Miami by four points and when combined with the good situations, that gives us value with Miami. The Dolphins have always played better at home and I look for them to get back on track this week against an injury depleted Baltimore team. **MIAMI 28 BALITMORE 17**

NY GIANTS –3.5 Washington 37.5

Despite missing a field goal and botching two extra point attempts, the Giants managed to win last week at Minnesota, 27-20. Everything seems to be hunky dory in Giant Land as they have now won two games in a row and the new offense led by Jim Fassel play calling seems to be clicking. But this is still a weak offense that is gaining just 3.8 ypr against 4.2 ypr and their passing game has been pretty good this year, gaining 6.9 yps against 6.2 yps. But they will take on a Washington defense that is playing pretty well, especially against the pass, where they are allowing just 5.5 yps against 6.1 yps. That may get even more difficult for the Giants who are down to just one healthy wide receiver as Jeremy Shockey is still hurting, Ike Hilliard is lost for the season, Ron Dixon may not play this week and Tim Carter was lost last week for the season. Times have gotten so desperate for the Giants that they signed Herman Moore this week. The Achilles Heel for the Giants defense has been their rush defense, allowing 5.0 ypr against 4.6 ypr and although the Redskins don't rush the ball real well, averaging 4.4 ypr against 4.4 ypr, they should be able to take advantage of a less than average Giants rush defense. The Giants just don't blow people out and their last nine wins have come by seven or less points. Now I realize seven points is enough to cover this game but the real deal here is they play competitive games, even in their wins, giving the other team a chance at the cover. Washington qualifies in a contrary situation that is 279-196-11 and doing very well this year at 8-3. Meanwhile, the Giants would qualify in a very negative situation that is 44-100-5 and just 1-3 this year if they become favored by four or more points. My numbers favor the Giants by five and 3.5 points but the situations clearly favor Washington and they are pretty strong situations. If I can get four or more points, I will make Washington a best bet or otherwise just lean with them. **WASHINGTON 20 NY GIANTS 17**

PHILADELPHIA –11 Arizona 37.5

What happened to Philadelphia last week? They not only lost at home to Indianapolis but they were destroyed 13-35 and out gained 7.7 yppl to 5.2 yppl. Most will expect Philly to bounce back this week but they are still laying a lot of points and this has become a pretty average team, statistically speaking. Philly is now averaging just 5.2 yppl against 5.0 yppl and their supposedly great defense is allowing 4.8 yppl against 5.0 yppl, which makes them just above average on both sides of the ball. They do rush the ball well, averaging 5.2 ypr against 4.2 ypr and a lot of that is because of Donovan McNaab but he still has to be accounted for. Arizona is below average on both offense and defense but they have stopped the run pretty well, allowing just 3.8 ypr against 4.2 ypr. It's their pass defense, which is allowing 6.9 yps against 6.0 yps that has been a problem but Philly is averaging just 5.3 yps against 5.6 yps so they might not be able to take advantage of that. Arizona qualifies in that same contrary situation which is 8-3 this year and is now 279-196-11 and Philadelphia, with their poor defensive performance last week, qualifies in a negative 37-79-6 situation. My numbers favor Philly only by nine points and Arizona won here last year, 21-20 as 14 point underdogs. Arizona is also coming off of two home losses but that sets them up in a 114-79-6 (4-1 TY) contrary situation which suggests teams like Philly tend to over look these teams because of their recent losses. Arizona is also a turnover table play this week which is now 33-20-1 this year but they don't qualify in any of the better subsets. Simply too many points to be laying in the NFL for what appears to be an average team right now. **PHILADELPHIA 24 ARIZONA 23**

Pittsburgh –3 TENNESSEE 44

Prior to last year's 10 point loss here, Tennessee had beaten Pittsburgh five straight times at home. The Steelers badly out played Atlanta last week but ended up in a tie game. Tennessee, meanwhile, was beating up Houston 17-10 but they only out gained Houston 4.2 yppl to 3.8 yppl. Tennessee still struggles to run the ball, averaging just 3.5 ypr against 4.1 ypr and they haven't stopped teams from passing the ball, allowing 6.4 yps against 5.7 yps. That could spell trouble against Pittsburgh who is throwing the ball very well with Tommy Maddox, averaging 6.8 yps against 6.0 yps. Having said all of that, my numbers still indicate this line should be either two or three, in favor of Pittsburgh, so the line still seems fair or value towards Tennessee. Tennessee also qualifies in a home momentum situation that is 147-99-10 and Pittsburgh qualifies in a negative scheduling situation that is 52-93-3. The situation favors Tennessee and although the match up doesn't favor Tennessee has much as I would like it to, the Titans are

playing very well right now, having won four games in a row and history tells me when I have multiple situations applying to one team, they win more than they lose. **TENNESSEE 26 PITTSBURGH 21**

San Francisco –2.5 SAN DIEGO 42.5

SF is playing very solid ball right now, having defeated Oakland and Kansas City in the last two weeks. San Diego has lost two games in a row and they need to "right" the ship pretty quickly because their schedule doesn't get any easier in the near future. SD does run for 4.8 ypr against 4.2 ypr and they now take on a 49er team who is allowing 4.6 ypr against 4.4 ypr. The 49ers have just taken on two other teams who rush the ball very well and beaten both of those teams. I think this game will be very much like the Oakland game. The Raiders don't run the ball as well as SD but they pass the ball better and both teams are stopping the rush about equally as well. But, the weaker part of the 49er defense is their rush defense so SD should be able to exploit their defense a little better than Oakland did. My numbers make SD either a one point favorite or a pick so there is some value with SD. They also qualify as a turnover table play but none of the better subsets. In addition, SF qualifies in a negative scheduling situation which is 52-93-3. All of that gets me leaning towards SD. **SAN DIEGO 22 SAN FRANCISCO 20**

TAMPA BAY –9 Carolina 34

Things might be going South even faster than Carolina thinks they are. As I write this, their first round draft choice Julius Peppers might be suspended for testing positive for a prohibited substance in his body. That would make the second defensive player in two weeks to be suspended and that is the strength of this team, their defense. Their defense is allowing just 4.6 yppl against 5.1 yppl and held a very good NO offense that is averaging 5.6 yppl to just 5.3 yppl last week. They should have no problems holding down a TB offense that is averaging just 4.9 yppl against 5.3 yppl and held TB to 3.4 yppl and 236 yards in their first meeting. Unfortunately, the Carolina offense is nothing to get excited about, averaging just 4.9 yppl against 5.2 yppl and they gained just 2.5 yppl and 130 yards of total offense against TB in their first meeting. There was no Rodney Peete in that game for Carolina and they still held TB to only 12 points, in losing 9-12 when TB scored nine points in the fourth quarter to come back and win the game. It will still be very tough for Carolina to move the ball against the league's best defense, allowing just 4.0 yppl against 5.2 yppl but hopefully Peete can put his team in better situations and force TB to have to go further with their offense to score, rather than play on a short field all day. Carolina, coming off of two home losses in a row, qualifies in a very good contrary situation which is 4-1 this year and 114-79-6 since 1983. TB, meanwhile, qualifies in a negative letdown situation that is a tremendous 44-100-5 and 1-3 this year. Carolina is also a turnover table play but they don't qualify in any of the better subsets. My numbers favor TB by nine points so the line is about fair but the situations greatly favor Carolina. This should be a low scoring game where points are once again a premium. **TAMPA BAY 17 CAROLINA 16**

Denver –4.5 SEATTLE 42

Seattle comes off a win over Arizona while Denver comes off a very disappointing home loss to the hated Raiders. We'll have to see how Denver reacts now without the services of Shannon Sharpe who was hurt in the Monday night game. The Broncos offense was already an average offense, averaging just 5.4 yppl against 5.4 yppl and I would expect some drop off without Sharpe. This is a tough game to call because Seattle does qualify in a couple of very good home momentum situations that are 147-99-10 and 40-9-1 but Denver is the fundamental play as they qualify in a very solid rushing fundamental situation which is 478-365-33. While Denver's offense has been pretty average, their rushing offense has been better than average, gaining 4.4 ypr against 4.2 ypr and they should have some success against a Seattle rush defense that is allowing 5.0 ypr against 4.5 ypr. Meanwhile, Seattle's offense has been below average, gaining just 5.0 yppl against 5.4 yppl and they should find the going pretty tough against a Broncos defense that is allowing just 4.9 yppl against 5.6 yppl. My numbers make Seattle either a pick 'em or a 1.5 point dog, suggesting value with Seattle. Denver has the better offense and defense and although the technical situations don't favor Denver nor does the value, I will side with them here because I feel they are better on both sides of the ball on the line of scrimmage. **DENVER 23 SEATTLE 17**

NY Jets –3 DETROIT 43.5

Despite the win last week, the numbers weren't that good for the Jets. They were out gained 5.2 yppl to 4.5 yppl.

Detroit was beaten pretty badly at GB but as I noted last week, there are ex-Lion coaches on the Packer staff who like nothing better than to take it to Detroit every chance they get. The Lions have played four games at home this year. They lost by seven to GB in a game that wasn't really that close. They beat NO in a game they led from start to finish. They beat Chicago and Dallas in close games. The Lions are playing very well at home and I don't see a below average Jets team coming in here and winning. The Lions offense isn't that good, gaining just 4.5 yppl against 5.2 yppl but they should get much healthier against a Jets defense that is allowing 5.8 yppl against 5.4 yppl. Meanwhile, the Jets offense has been about average, gaining 5.3 yppl against 5.4 yppl, although better as of late with Pennington and they will face an average Lion defense that is allowing 5.4 yppl against 5.3 yppl. So, we have an offense and defense that are average and an offense that is well below average against a defense that is well below average. My numbers on this game make it a pick 'em suggesting pretty good value with Detroit. The Lions also qualify in a 37-14-1 bounce back situation based on their horrible outing last week and they also qualify in another bounce back situation that is 60-30-2. They also qualify in two different fundamental rushing situations which are 101-49-6 and 478-364-33. Plenty of value and technical and fundamental situations make Detroit the obvious play here. **DETROIT 23 NY JETS 20**

Jacksonville –6 HOUSTON 37

A little revenge here and it's for Jacksonville and not Houston. The Jacksonville offense and defense are about average, gaining 5.3 yppl against 5.3 yppl and their defense is allowing 5.0 yppl to 5.1 yppl. Meanwhile, the Houston offense has been terrible, gaining just 4.1 yppl against 5.2 yppl but their defense is allowing just 4.9 yppl against 5.2 yppl. Jacksonville does qualify in a rushing fundamental situation that is 478-364-33 and a subset of that which is 405-282-28. Jacksonville, however, qualifies in a negative letdown situation which is 33-66-4. My numbers are a solid five, making Houston the play with a little value. I just can't see Jacksonville laying this many points on the road. The better play to me on the home underdog who also has the better defense. **JACKSONVILLE 20 HOUSTON 17**

OAKLAND –4 New England 47.5

New England comes in riding high after two consecutive wins, scoring 37 and 33 points in their last two games. Those high offensive performances may work against them here and it only serves to keep this line down and make sure Oakland is fully focused for this game. In fact NE qualifies in a negative 39-76-5 letdown situation that is already 0-3 this year. They don't qualify in the better subset but the situation alone is strong enough. Meanwhile, Oakland matches up very well with this NE team. The NE defense has been very good this year but that is mostly because of their pass defense. Their rush defense is still weak, allowing 4.5 ypr against 4.3 ypr. Even last week they allowed the Bears who are averaging just 3.3 ypr to run for 4.5 ypr and 125 yards. Now they face Oakland, who is averaging 4.5 ypr against 4.3 ypr. Oakland has also passed the ball very well, throwing for 7.0 yps against 6.1 yps and they will get a very tough test against the NE defense that allows just 5.5 yps against 6.3 yps. The NE offense continues to be very average, gaining just 5.4 yppl against 5.4 yppl and they will find the going tough against an Oakland defense that is allowing just 5.3 yppl against 5.5 yppl. Oakland sets up very nicely into two different fundamental rushing situations that are 102-36-7 and 478-364-33 including all the subsets down to the best subset which is 146-64-9 and 6-2-1 this year. My numbers favor Oakland by four points so the line is fair and the situations in Oakland's favor greatly favor them here. The better offense, the better defense, playing at home and their upset win over Denver last week may be the "buy" sign for this team. I like them here to get the easy win. **OAKLAND 27 NEW ENGLAND 13**

ST. LOUIS (NL) Chicago

Pretty hard to make an accurate prediction on this game not knowing what the line is or if Marshall Faulk will play. I would guess the line will be about nine points and I would lean to Chicago in this game. My numbers suggest a line of about seven points in this game and Chicago qualifies in a 114-79-6 contrary situation. The Rams are a turnover table play but they don't fit any of the better subsets. I will lean towards Chicago but again it's hard to predict without Marshall Faulk's availability known. **ST LOUIS 27 CHICAGO 20**

BEST BETS

YTD 20-23 –17.30%

3% MINNESOTA +6.5
3% DALLAS +6.5
3% MIAMI –4.5
3% ARIZONA +11
3% TENNESSEE +3
3% CAROLINA +9
3% DETROIT +3
3% OAKLAND –4

Possible Best Bet:

3% WASHINGTON +4 or more

WEEK 12

Home team in caps. All records against the spread unless otherwise noted.

League averages for comparison to the stats that will be listed below.

Yards Per Rush (YPR) 4.2
Yards Per Pass (YPS) 6.0
Yards Per Play (YPPL) 5.2

NEW ENGLAND –7.5 Minnesota 46

Vikings had a great match up last week against GB and NE had a terrible match up last week against the Raiders. And because of that, I was on Minnesota and Oakland. This week it's Mike Tice versus Bill Belichick. You would think that alone would be enough to take the Patriots. Minnesota has now lost 14 games in a row on the road. Minnesota played terrific last week, averaging 6.5 yppl and a whopping 5.9 ypr while racking up 218 yards rushing in that game. For NE, it wasn't so pretty, averaging only 3.8 yppl while allowing Oakland 5.5 yppl. I've been pretty accurate predicting the Vikings games this year and have a pretty good feel for them but this game is a little more complicated. I don't have any situations that favor either team other than Minnesota qualifying as a turnover table play (38-25-1 TY) but they don't qualify in any of the better subsets. My numbers favor NE by three and by ten points so they also disagree. The Minnesota offense is now rated as the fourth best offense in the league according to my ratings, averaging 5.7 yppl against 5.2 yppl. But their defense also continues to be the worse defense in the league, allowing 6.3 yppl against 5.0 yppl. NE is below average on offense, gaining only 5.2 yppl against 5.4 yppl but their defense has been pretty solid, allowing just 5.1 yppl against 5.5 yppl. Laying a bunch of points in the NFL is not easy to do but NE rates as the better team so I will side with what I think is the better team. I think NE can take advantage of a weak Minnesota pass defense, allowing 7.7 yps against 5.9 yps. NE has been just average passing the ball this year, averaging just 6.0 yps against 6.1 yps but they should do better this week against Minnesota. **NEW ENGLAND 31 MINNESOTA 21**

Tennessee –1.5 BALTIMORE 38

The Titans continue to roll along, having now won five games in a row. Although they won the game rather easily last week against Pittsburgh, they were out gained on average, 5.9 yppl to 5.2 yppl. Some of that may have been because they decided to run the ball 40 times with the lead while the Steelers only ran the ball 15 times and passed it 45 times, making their yardage greater than it would have been in a normal game. That was a big win for the Titans last week against a quality club because their previous four wins came against Jacksonville, Cincinnati, Indianapolis and Houston. And in many of those games they were actually out gained but managed to win someway, somehow. This is a tough match up against Baltimore this week. First, the fundamentals don't line up real well for Tennessee and second Baltimore gets a little healthier this week. Baltimore was stuffed last week at Miami and I had Miami in a game that matched up very well for Miami. Tennessee doesn't run the ball very well, averaging just 3.5 ypr against 4.1 ypr. They do throw the ball pretty well, gaining 6.2 yps against 5.8 yps. But throwing the ball will be a little tougher this week against a Baltimore team that allows 5.9 yps against 6.0 yps. The weakness to the Tennessee defense is their pass defense, which allows 6.4 yps against 5.8 yps but I don't know if Baltimore will be able to take full advantage of that, gaining just 5.0 yps against 5.6 yps. They should be able to throw the ball some, however, because Tennessee is pretty bad against the pass. Baltimore does qualify in a contrary situation that is 108-60-4 based on their blowout loss last week and Tennessee's easy cover last week. Baltimore also qualifies in a couple of very solid rushing fundamental situations that are 102-50-6 (5-3 TY) and 103-36-7 (3-2-1 TY). Those situations assume that Baltimore matches up very well with Tennessee and should be able to control the line of scrimmage. My numbers greatly favor Baltimore by three and six points. This game also qualifies in a very solid under situation that is now 319-234-18 (20-12 TY) after going 8-2 over the past three weeks. I would consider the under but my numbers indicate there might be around 46 points scored in this game so I don't think there is any value in the under. But I do think Baltimore is a solid play here. **BALTIMORE 27 TENNESSEE 19**

Atlanta –3.5 CAROLINA 37

Carolina has played Atlanta pretty tough here over the years, never losing by more than five points (only once losing by exactly five points) and thus covering this number every year, except one (six out of seven). I had Carolina

last week and they played pretty decently, holding TB to just 4.4 yppl but couldn't muster any offense against a good TB defense, just 3.8 yppl. Atlanta, meanwhile, had a very nice and easy win over NO but they were out gained in that game, 6.2 yppl to 4.6 yppl. The Atlanta offense is just average, gaining 5.2 yppl against 5.1 yppl but their defense has been below average, allowing 5.5 yppl against 5.2 yppl. Their defense should play decent against a poor Carolina offense that is gaining just 4.8 yppl against 5.1 yppl but the Carolina defense continues to play very solid ball, allowing just 4.6 yppl against 5.1 yppl. Carolina does qualify as a turnover table play (38-25-1 TY) and they do qualify in a subset of that which is 114-56-4. My numbers also favor Carolina by 1.5 points or suggest this game should be a pick 'em. I'll side with Carolina who should be able to stay within the number based on past history, value in this line according to the numbers and the contrary turnover table situation that applies to them. **CAROLINA 21 ATLANTA 20**

CHICAGO –5.5 Detroit 38

Detroit let me down last week as they just couldn't stop the Jets offense. They allowed 189 yards rushing at 4.8 ypr and 219 yards passing at 8.1 yps for a total of 408 total yards at 6.2 yppl. The Lions offense did fine on their own, gaining 279 yards at 5.6 yppl, including 108 yards rushing at 5.8 ypr. Those numbers were disappointing because the Lions defense had played pretty well this year, allowing just 5.4 yppl against 5.3 yppl. That was against a Jets offense that was about average on the year. This week they take on a Chicago offense that managed just 220 total yards last week at 3.4 yppl. For the season, Chicago is averaging just 4.6 yppl against 5.5 yppl. Put another way, Chicago has averaged just 280 yards of offense against defenses that are allowing, on average, 342 yards. So the average Detroit defense should be able to contain the Chicago offense pretty well and that is a plus when getting points. Meanwhile, the Chicago defense has been just average, allowing 5.4 yppl against 5.5 yppl and they face a similar match up as I talked about on the other side of the ball as Detroit averages just 4.6 yppl against 5.5 yppl. It appears we have two very average teams who mimic each other and 5.5 points is always worth taking in those cases. Detroit qualifies in a contrary situation that is 9-5 this year and now 280-191-11 since 1983. Meanwhile, Chicago, with their poor record should not be laying points. They qualify in a negative 47-78-2 situation that plays against poor teams laying points, including a subset that is 18-45-1. My numbers favor Chicago by six points, which suggests the line is fair but the situations favoring Detroit are very solid. I will side with Detroit who has covered this number four out of the past five seasons and seven out of the past ten season in Chicago. **DETROIT 23 CHICAGO 20**

Jacksonville –2.5 DALLAS 35

Jacksonville is starting to play much better ball, having won two games in a row and now sitting at 5-5 for the season. Their numbers are pretty average, gaining just 5.3 yppl against 5.2 yppl and allowing 4.9 yppl against 5.0 yppl. The strength of the Jacksonville offense is their ability to rush the ball, as they average 4.6 ypr against 4.3 ypr. They might find that a little more difficult against the Cowboys rush defense that is allowing just 3.5 ypr against 3.9 ypr. The Cowboys lost Darren Woodson last week and that will hurt their secondary. While the Jacksonville defense is just average, it should fair pretty well against a poor Dallas offense that is averaging just 4.7 yppl against 5.2 yppl. Having said all of that, Dallas does qualify in a couple of very solid situations this week. They qualify as a turnover table play which is 38-25-1 this year and a subset of that which is 114-56-4 since 1983. They also qualify as a fundamental rushing situation that is 103-36-7 which suggests their ability to rush the ball and stop the rush sets up very well for them this week at this current line. While the Cowboys are a little banged up right now, Vegas knows that as well and the line reflects those injuries. My numbers suggest this line should be 1.5 points or 2 points, favoring Jacksonville, so the line is about fair. This is one of those games that I don't like as much as some other games but history tells me that when I have multiple systems applying to one team, they cover at a very solid rate and I will respect past history. **DALLAS 23 JACKSONVILLE 13**

MIAMI –3 San Diego 36.5

I talked last week about how Miami and their defense plays much better at home and they did it again last week. Miami's defense shut down the Baltimore offense, limiting them to just 157 yards of total offense and 2.8 yppl. Meanwhile, SD beat SF somehow last week with an amazing comeback but they were out played in that game, allowing 6.2 yppl to 5.7 yppl for SD. The Dolphins offense has become pretty average, especially since Ray Lucas was forced to take over, now averaging just 5.2 yppl against 5.4 yppl. But their defense continues to play very

well, allowing just 4.8 yppl against 5.4 yppl, being equally as well against the run as the pass. This week they take on an average SD offense, who is averaging just 5.3 yppl against 5.4 yppl and a SD defense that isn't quite as good as advertised, allowing 5.6 yppl against 5.4 yppl. The SD rushing offense is very solid, gaining 4.7 ypr against 4.3 ypr but they will find that a little tougher this week against a Miami defense that is allowing just 3.7 ypr against 4.2 ypr. The weakness of the SD defense is their pass defense, which is allowing 6.5 yps against 6.1 yps and even though it may not seem like it, that is the strength of the Miami offense, which is averaging 6.2 yps against 6.1 yps. Miami qualifies in a very solid home momentum situation that is 99-60-10 including a subset of that which is 62-21-6. SD also qualifies in a negative scheduling situation which is 107-159-9. Miami is also a turnover table play (38-25-1 TY) although they don't qualify in any of the better subsets. My numbers favor Miami by 3.5 and 4 points so there is some value with Miami as well. SD has played only one defense on the road that is as good as Miami's this year and that was Denver. They lost that game rather handily, 9-26 and I see the same thing happening here. **MIAMI 27 SAN DIEGO 17**

NEW ORLEANS –6 Cleveland 47.5

I was a little surprised by this line as I thought it would be closer to around 8 or 9 points. Deuce McAllister may not play in this game and perhaps that is why. This is one of those classic match ups where Cleveland won last week and New Orleans lost last week but Cleveland lost in the stats game while NO won in the stats game. Cleveland was out gained 5.4 yppl to 6.6 yppl while NO out gained Atlanta 6.2 yppl to 4.6 yppl. Neither defense is very good, with Cleveland allowing 5.3 yppl against 5.1 yppl while NO allows 5.4 yppl against 5.1 yppl. The biggest difference here is the offense's where Cleveland is gaining just 5.0 yppl against 5.3 yppl while NO is gaining 5.6 yppl against 5.1 yppl. NO qualifies in a very solid late season home momentum situation that is 40-15-1 and they also qualify in a solid rushing fundamental situation which is 481-367-33 although they don't qualify in any of the better subsets. My numbers favor NO by 6 and 6.5 points so the line is fair and the situation favor NO. I will lean their way. Although we're dealing with two poor defenses and my numbers do suggest 51 points in this game, this game does qualify in a 319-234-18 under situation which is 20-12 this year. I would take the under but again my numbers suggest more points being scored so I will pass on that. **NEW ORLEANS 31 CLEVELAND 20**

NY JETS –3 Buffalo 45.5

The Jets looked pretty solid last week, gaining 408 total yards at 6.2 yppl. They controlled the clock for over 38 minutes of the game as they were never really in too much trouble to win that game. Buffalo played KC very tough before finally succumbing to the Chiefs, 16-17. The Jets defense is still trying to find it's way out of a hole, allowing 5.8 yppl against 5.3 yppl and Buffalo should have some success against them as they average 5.7 yppl against 5.4 yppl. Meanwhile, the Jets offense is average, gaining 5.4 yppl against 5.4 yppl and the Bills defense has played pretty decent, allowing just 5.4 yppl against 5.3 yppl. Those numbers alone would suggest Buffalo has a very decent chance at winning this game but the Jets do qualify in a home momentum situation that is 99-60-10. They don't qualify in the best part of that situation, however. My numbers also favor the Jets by either four points or suggest this line should be a pick 'em. This is another tough game to call but I will lean with the better defense, which is Buffalo. **BUFFALO 24 NY JETS 20**

PITTSBURGH –11 Cincinnati 43

Steelers had their train derailed a little last week at Tennessee, 23-31, in a game that wasn't nearly as close as that final score. Meanwhile, Cincinnati was losing at home to Cleveland, 20-27 as Corey Dillon failed on third and fourth and goal from the one yard line late in the game. But Cincinnati did out gain Cleveland 6.6 yppl to 5.4 yppl. The Pittsburgh offense has been above average this year, averaging 5.6 yppl against 5.3 yppl and really excelling in the passing game, averaging 6.8 yps against 6.1 yps. It will be interesting to see if that all continues with Kordell Stewart now taking over again at quarterback. They could find some success against a below average Cincinnati defense that is allowing 5.5 yppl against 5.0 yppl including allowing 6.8 yps against 5.9 yps. Meanwhile, the Pittsburgh defense has really been about average this year, allowing 5.1 yppl against 5.2 yppl. But they should do well against a Cincinnati offense that is averaging just 4.8 yppl against 5.1 yppl. Pittsburgh out gained Cincinnati by 140 yards in their first match up (408-168) and 6.6 yppl to 4.2 yppl. But again with Stewart, it may be different. Cincinnati does qualify in a very solid contrary situation which is 9-5 this year and 280-198-11 since 1983. My numbers favor Pittsburgh by 9.5 points and by 12 points. Only twice in the past eight years has Pittsburgh won by

more than today's line and that was by 15 and 17 points so it has been a pretty close series, especially in relationship to today's line. I will side with Cincinnati against a Pittsburgh team that has allowed a couple of teams back into the game this year when they have had big leads. **PITTSBURGH 28 CINCINNATI 20**

TAMPA BAY –3 Green Bay 39

I was dead on last week in going against my beloved Green & Gold but unfortunately missed in the TB game. Carolina had their shot at the backdoor in the last minute of the game but couldn't put the ball in the end zone with four chances from inside the 10 yard line. I talked last week about GB not performing well against good offenses, having allowed over 30 points to the only two good offenses they have faced prior to last week's game. That is now 3 for 3 after Minnesota scored over 30 points last week. That shouldn't be a problem this week against a much weaker TB offense. This game will be closely contested as always. Looking back to 1997 which is when TB finally started to perform like a playoff team, this is what has happened. In 1997 GB, coming off of their SB win, beat TB 17-6 in TB. In 1998, TB returned the favor, winning 24-22. Forget about 1999, when TB won 29-10. That game was played late in the year and was during the Ray Rhodes era in GB. The Packers had quit on their coach in that game. Getting back to when the Packers were a good team again in 2000, they lost at TB 15-20 and then lost again last year 10-14. Some very common themes here. Very close games and very low scoring games. The Packers offense is playing very well, averaging 5.7 yppl against 5.2 yppl and they'll now face a TB defense that is allowing just 4.0 yppl against 5.2 yppl. Meanwhile, a below average GB defense, allowing 5.2 yppl against 5.0 yppl will take on a below average TB offense, averaging just 4.9 yppl against 5.2 yppl. I'll take it even further as TB is very weak rushing the ball, averaging just 3.5 ypr against 4.1 ypr while GB can't stop the rush, allowing 5.0 ypr against 4.2 ypr. On the other side, GB is throwing the ball very well, averaging 6.7 yps against 6.2 yps but TB stops the pass by limiting their opponents to just 4.1 yps against 5.8 yps. So, if one team is strong in one area, the other team is just as strong defending it or if one team is weak defending one area, the other team is just as weak trying to execute that same offense. Combine that with the tight scores we've had before and this has the making's of a very tight game. The one thing I noticed watching the game last year is the speed of the TB defense. Favre has that habit of throwing off balance and throwing in the middle of the field. He can usually get away with that pass but against this type of defense that is as fast as it is, that can create problems for Favre. TB qualifies in a very solid home momentum situation which is 99-60-10 and the subset of that which is 62-21-6. My numbers favor TB by 5 and 4.5 points, giving some value to TB. There isn't enough for me to take TB in this game and the loss last week may have been the best thing for GB, to ensure their focus for this game. I will lean towards TB but I think there are better games to play on. Despite the low scoring affairs between these two, my numbers suggest a little higher scoring game and the GB defense is weaker this year but their offense is better this year. TB also allowed Minnesota to average 7.0 yppl a couple of weeks ago so GB may be able to move the ball some on their defense. **TAMPA BAY 25 GREEN BAY 20**

Kansas City –3 SEATTLE 43.5

Break up the KC defense. They have now allowed just 10, 17 and 16 points to good offenses like Oakland, San Francisco and Buffalo. That's quite amazing when you think about it and think about how bad their defense had played leading up to those games. Now they take on a poor Seattle offense that is averaging just 4.9 yppl against 5.3 yppl. I still rate the KC defense has the second worse defense in the league, having allowed 6.1 yppl against 5.4 yppl. Nothing wrong with the KC offense, despite it only scoring 20, 13 and 17 points during that same time span. They are still averaging 6.0 yppl against 5.2 yppl and gained 5.6 yppl against SF two weeks ago (SF allows 5.4 yppl so the exceeded their defensive average) and they gained 5.5 yppl against Buffalo who is allowing 5.4 yppl so they exceeded their defensive average as well. Now they aren't exceeding those averages by the same average that they have all year, but it isn't a total breakdown of their offense. They'll take on a Seattle defense that is allowing 5.4 yppl against 5.3 yppl. The biggest mismatch here, much like last week, is KC averages 5.0 ypr against 4.2 ypr while Seattle allows 5.1 ypr against 4.4 ypr. KC qualifies in a fundamental rushing situation which is 481-367-33 but they don't qualify in any of the better subsets. Meanwhile, Seattle qualifies as a turnover table play, which is 38-25-1 this year and they also qualify in a subset of that which is 114-56-4. My numbers favor KC by 2 and 1.5 points, suggesting some value with Seattle. The fundamental rushing situation, much like last week with Denver, is too strong so I will lean that way. I do like the over in this game as Kansas City is a top notch offense and still has a bottom of the league defense, while Seattle is below average on offense but they are also below average on defense. Seattle gets back Darrel Jackson this week which should also help their offense. The KC defense allows 4.8

ypr against 4.3 ypr and if Seattle can get their rushing game going, they should also be able to throw the ball fairly well. Two weeks ago, against a below average defense, Seattle gained 406 yards at 6.0 yppl. Last week against the leagues second best defense, Denver, they were held to just 3.6 yppl and 204 yards. Combine that low offensive performance with the very solid defensive efforts of KC the last three weeks and this number is now well below where it should be. Not only that but with the average points scored in a NFL game being 44, it is also below the league average. My numbers suggest 49 points being scored in this game so I think we have excellent value with the over. **KANSAS CITY 27 SEATLLE 22**

Oakland –8 ARIZONA 44

Pretty tough to take an Arizona team which seems to have quit for the year. Not so much that they have quit but more so because of all of their injuries. But remember the line already reflects the injuries so the real question is which team is better suited to perform better. The Oakland defense is really starting to play much better as of late, now allowing just 5.2 yppl against 5.5 yppl. Meanwhile, nothing wrong with their offense, which is averaging 6.1 yppl against 5.4 yppl. While everything is above average for Oakland, everything is below average for Arizona. They are averaging just 4.9 yppl against 5.1 yppl and they are allowing 5.6 yppl against 5.2 yppl. In addition, the strength of the Oakland offense is their passing game, which is throwing for 6.1 yps against 5.4 yps and the weakness of the Arizona defense is their pass defense, which is allowing 7.1 yps against 5.9 yps. But, again remember games are not played on paper. If they were, there would be no reason to ever play any games. Just ask the Rams about playing games on paper. Arizona qualifies in some very good situations for this week. Arizona qualifies in a 60-31-2 contrary situation as well as a turnover table play and a subset of that which is 114-56-4. Oakland also qualifies in a negative scheduling situation which is 52-95-3. My numbers also only favor Oakland by four points and also suggest this line should be a pick 'em. So, what we have here is an over inflated line for Oakland based on their most recent two wins and Arizona's recent four game slide. Arizona did beat Oakland last year in Oakland, although that was with a healthy team but I'll side with the value and the team that has the strong situations applying to them, suggesting there is a little bounce back for Arizona and a letdown for Oakland. **OAKLAND 24 ARIZONA 23**

St. Louis –4.5 WASHINGTON No Total listed

This is a very tough game for me to handicap because of all the uncertainties. First, we don't know if Marshall Faulk will play. Second, Kurt Warner comes back after missing five games. Third, it's Danny Wuerffel now at quarterback. If we knew Marshall was playing, Bulger was at quarterback and Matthews was at quarterback, this line would probably be a little higher and I would easily suggest Washington, whose defense is allowing just 4.8 yppl against 5.3 yppl. They would go against a Rams offense that I now rate as the top offense in the league, averaging 6.0 yppl against 5.1 yppl. The Rams defense is just average, allowing 5.2 yppl against 5.2 yppl but they would face a Washington offense that is averaging just 4.6 yppl against 5.2 yppl. Washington does qualify in a rushing fundamental situation which is 103-36-7. And they match up very well against the Rams passing offense, which is averaging 6.9 yps against 5.9 yps by allowing just 5.4 yps against 6.2 yps. Washington went to St. Louis two years ago and won 33-20 so they can certainly match up with this team. My numbers also favor Washington by 1 and 1.5 points, suggesting value with them. But, I don't trust Wuerffel and I don't know what I am getting out of Warner and if I will get anything out of Faulk. With so many question marks, I will just lean with the Skins. **WASHINGTON 24 ST LOUIS 23**

NY Giants –5.5 HOUSTON34

Just can't see laying points with a Giants offense that is averaging just 5.3 yppl against 5.3 yppl. While those numbers are average, they only average 3.6 ypr against 4.2 ypr and if they can't get their running game going, it will be tough to score on a consistent basis. The defense has been pretty good, allowing just 5.0 yppl against 5.2 yppl and they shouldn't have too many problems stopping a Houston offense that is averaging just 4.1 yppl against 5.2 yppl. Houston does qualify in a very strong contrary situation that is 51-19-1 and my numbers suggest this line should be around a pick 'em. I'll take a pretty good defense at home getting points. This game stands a very good chance to go under as well. **NY GIANTS 14 HOUSTON 13**

DENVER –6 Indianapolis 44

I could mention just one thing for this game and that should be enough for you to take Denver. Denver has a net ypr of 1.1 (4.6-3.5) while Indy has a net ypr of –1.1 (3.6-4.7). Those numbers alone should be enough for you to see that Denver stands an excellent chance to control the line of scrimmage in this game. Denver brings the league's second best defense, allowing just 4.8 yppl against 5.5 yppl. They are very strong against both the rush and the pass, but it's most important against the pass in this game with Indy averaging 5.5 yppl against 5.0 yppl (6.7 yps against 5.8 yps). On the other side of the ball, the Indy defense has been about average this year, allowing 5.0 yppl against 4.9 yppl but their rush defense is below average, allowing 4.7 ypr against 4.2 ypr. That bodes pretty well for Denver, whose offense averages 5.5 yppl against 5.3 yppl and their rushing offense is averaging 4.6 ypr against 4.3 ypr. I see no drop off with Steve Beuerlein now at quarterback and I think their offense might actually be even better without Griese. Denver qualifies in a number of high percentage situations. They qualify in two different rushing fundamental situations which are 70-28-3 and 481-367-33 including all of the subsets all the way down to the final subset which is 145-64-9 and 7-2-1 this year. Indy qualifies in a negative letdown situation which is 107-159-9. My numbers favor Denver by eight points and along with the value, there is plenty of technical and fundamental situations supporting them. **DENVER 27 INDIANAPOLIS 13'**

SAN FRANCISCO –7 Philadelphia 36.5

Tough game to call with Donvan McNabb now out. This line is pretty high, considering with McNabb, I would make this line about two points for SF. Now, they are favored by seven points without McNabb. Philly does qualify in a negative letdown situation which is 107-159-9. If McNabb was playing, there isn't much difference between these two teams. They both allow about the same average of yppl on defense that their opponents average. Philly is slightly better. And they both average about the same amount of yppl on offense that their opponents allow. Philly is again slightly better by 0.1 yppl. SF won here last year against Philly, 13-3 and I could see something similar happening again. They just don't allow a lot of points at home. My numbers suggest a higher scoring game but that is with McNabb playing. Tough game to call but I will lean towards the underdog, Philadelphia. **SAN FRANCISCO 20 PHILADELPHIA 19**

BEST BETS

YTD 24-27 –18.50%

3% BALTIMORE +1.5
3% DETROIT +5.5
3% DALLAS +2.5
3% MIAMI –3
3% KC/SEATTLE OVER 43.5
3% ARIZONA +8
3% DENVER –6

WEEK 13