



Week 16 Review

So many playoff spots are now confirmed and a few changes in the draft order, this week had a lot to talk about. Let's get into the review as normal.

Broncos (9-6) 27-34 (9-6) Chargers

Both teams played like it was already a playoff game, a fantastic battle. Both quarterbacks played well with over 260 passing yards and two touchdowns. Gus Edwards had two rushing touchdowns for the Chargers, and once again Ladd McConkey led the receivers. Both teams continue to battle for higher seeding for the playoffs but look set to be there.

Texans (9-6) 19-27 (14-1) Chiefs

Another win for the Chiefs, as they nearly land the top seed in the AFC. Patrick Mahomes threw for 260 yards and a touchdown and also rushed in another touchdown and showed no signs of the ankle sprain. Jayden Hicks and Trent McDuffie landed interceptions to help cement the win. The Texans will not enjoy this game as it landed season ending injuries for some big players, especially with Tank Dell having his best game of the season. The Texans really need to step it up if they are going to make a superbowl run as the last few weeks have not been a good watch.

Steelers (10-5) 17-34 (10-5) Ravens

The Ravens open the door to snatch the AFC North title with this win. Lamar Jackson was hugely impressive as he pushes for another MVP title with 207 passing yards and 3 touchdowns, but it was Derrick Henry who set things up with 162 rushing yards on the day. Kyle Van Noy had himself a day with 1.5 sacks and a fumble recovery for the Ravens. Russell Wilson will be wanting George Pickins back quickly to help the final push for the AFC North title and home field advantage in the playoffs.

Giants (2-13) 7-34 (8-7) Falcons

The Giants have the first overall pick completely in their hands with this result and others going their way. They did take the lead with a Tyrone Tracy touchdown but that's all they

could manage. Michael Penix had his first career start and played well, the interception he threw wasn't on him and he found Darnell Mooney and Drake London often. Bijan Robinson had two rushing touchdowns but the Falcons defence stepped up with two picks, one from Jessie Bates and the other from Matthew Judon. It also lifts the Falcons back into the playoffs.

Lions (13-2) 34-17 (4-11) Bears

The Lions once again looked impressive and were able to manage without David Montgomery thanks to hugely impressive games from Jahmyr Gibbs and Jameson Williams. Both had over 150 scrimmage yards and a touchdown each. Sam La Porta and Amon Ra St Brown both had touchdowns as well. The Bears fought but Caleb Williams 334 yards passing wasn't enough and shows how good the Lions were, Keenan Allen had 141 receiving yards and was the standout for them. The Lions have nearly secured the top seed in the NFC and the all important bye week.

Browns (3-12) 6-24 (7-8) Bengals

The Bengals kept very faint hopes of a playoff run alive, I still don't see them making it however thanks to another Joe Burrow and Ja'Marr Chase masterclass. Joe Burrow is having an MVP calibre season but has been let down massively to be in the conversation. He threw for 252 yards and 3 touchdowns. He found Chase with ease, including another touchdown. They are still two games back but a battle against the Broncos next week could apply huge pressure. The Browns looked terrible and only had Jerome Ford's 92 rushing yards and a touchdown to shout about, they currently hold the 5th overall pick in next years draft.

Titans (3-12) 30-38 (7-8) Colts

The Colts also keep their faint playoff hopes alive thanks to Jonathan Taylor. Taylor could not be stopped, he had a massive 218 rushing yards and 3 touchdowns. When he had the ball in his hands the Titans could do nothing to stop him. The Colts similar to the Bengals need results to go their way to have any hopes of the playoffs and seem too much as well. The Titans kept things interesting but couldn't do enough, they jump the Raiders with the 4th overall pick and could lead them to getting their quarterback of the future in the draft.

Rams (9-6) 19-9 (4-11) Jets

The Rams take a huge step towards a division title and a run at the playoffs, when fully fit this squad has proven they aren't to be messed with. In a tough low scoring game they came through with a win thanks to Tyler Higbee's touchdown, this is significant as many thought Higbee couldn't see the field this year after his injury at the end of last season. Kyren Williams had a big day as well with 122 rushing yards and a touchdown. The Jets however have more questions than answers as many of the squad voiced their displeasure at the end of the game, another rebuild may happen this offseason.

Eagles (12-3) 33-36 (10-5) Commanders

This was a fantastic game, the Eagles fell just short, but had some hugely impressive displays, Saquon Barkley had 150 yards and 2 touchdowns, AJ Brown had 97 yards and touchdown. The defence forced 5 turnovers with forcing 3 fumbles, 2 interceptions and a turnover on downs. It was amazing those stats alone wouldn't win it, but Jayden Daniels is a special talent and has a never say die attitude. He had 2258 passing yards and 5

touchdowns as well as leading the rushing stats with 81 on the day. He put the side on his back and landed when it mattered and nearly clinched the playoff run.

Cardinals (7-8) 30-36 (4-11) Panthers OT

One side who's playoff hopes ended was the Cardinals who couldn't get over the line against the Panthers. Both sides led by their running backs with James Conner (Cardinals) rushing for 117 yards, a touchdown and led the team in receiving yards with 49 but was matched by Chuba Hubbard (Panthers) who rushed for 152 yards and 2 touchdowns. It was Hubbard's rushing touchdown in overtime that won it for the Panthers. Both sides look to the draft but have good pieces they can move forward with in 2025.

Vikings (13-2) 27-24 (8-7) Seahawks

The Vikings once again impressed, Sam Darnold has been outstanding for them all season long and continued that fine form with another 3 touchdowns game. He found Justin Jefferson for 144 yards and 2 touchdowns. The Vikings defence also landed another two interceptions one a game seeling one, and Andrew Van Ginkel had two sacks on the day. The Seahawks lost ground on the Rams despite another impressive display from someone who gets mentioned here a lot, Jaxon Smith-Njigba. It was 95 yards and a touchdown for him. The Seahawks need results to go their way to land a playoff run, and the Vikings need a Lions loss to jump from 5th seed to 1st in the NFC and could come down to the week 18 game between the two.

Patriots (3-12) 21-24 (14-3) Bills

The Patriots push the Bills all the way in this one. The Patriots will head into the 2025 season knowing they have a quarterback off the future. Drake Maye continues to impress and the Patriots need to add weapons to support him. The second overall pick could do that, however the Patriots look like a side that could move down and grab more picks to build their future around Maye. The Bills have James Cook to thank for this win, he led the team in rushing and receiving yards as well as landing 2 touchdowns. The Bills keep some pressure on the Chiefs for the top seed in the AFC title but look set to be the number 2 Seed.

Jaguars (3-12) 14-19 (3-12) Raiders

The Raiders win and go from the 2nd overall pick in the draft to 6 and may now need to trade up for their preferred quarterback. It was the two standout rookies that impressed in this one with Brock Bowers (Raiders) and Brian Thomas Jr (Jaguars) that led the way. Bowers had 99 receiving yards and was available all game long for Aidan O'Connell. Brian Thomas Jr finished with 132 receiving yards and a touchdown, this could of been even better if not for flags as well. The Raiders now sit behind the Jaguars in the NFL draft as the Jags moved to the 3rd pick.

49ers (6-9) 17-29 (7-8) Dolphins

The Dolphins keep their slim playoff hopes alive as they eliminate the 49ers in the process. This game was won mainly down to De'Von Achane who led the Dolphins in rushing with 120 yards and a touchdown and in receiving with a further 70 yards. His touchdown late in the fourth quarter was enough to stop any late comeback for the 49ers. The 49ers head into next season with the loss and will be looking to get some missing pieces in the draft, injuries have not been kind this year but there was so much off the pitch antics that also did not help.

Buccaneers (8-7) 24-26 (7-8) Cowboys

The Bucs move out of the playoff spots and hand the division lead back to the Falcons after this game, a final drive fumble was one of the costly errors alongside an interception in the 4th from Baker Mayfield. Baker Mayfield had 303 passing yards with two touchdowns but that wasn't enough to get the Bucs over the line. The Cowboys once again led by Ceedee Lamb's 105 yards receiving yards game was one of the highlights, but the boot of Brandon Aubrey once again boosted the side as he landed 3 50+ and 1 49 yard field goals. The Cowboys were eliminated before the game but that did not stop them from getting the win.

Saints (5-10) 0-34 (11-4) Packers

The Packers dominated the Saints from minute one. Jordan Love did not have to do too much and also did not need to rely on Josh Jacobs all game long. This was thanks to the dominant Packers defence. They held the Saints to less than 250 offensive yards thanks to one interception, 3 sacks, 5 tackles for loss and 4 pass break-ups. Rookie Edgerrin Cooper had a huge 18 tackles in the game, one being for a tackle for loss. The Packers cement their playoff spot and look set for the 6th seed and potentially a trip to LA against the Rams.

Game of the Week

The Eagles and Commanders had it all, turnovers, huge comeback with a last minute touchdown, it was a great battle. It was also the highest points scoring game.

Play of the Week

Although it was in another losing cause, I can not help but keep loving Drake Maye and his plays. His 28 yard pass for the first score against the Bills was an elite throw. It landed probably the only place his receiver could get the catch. Since taking the reins he has been hugely impressive.

Playoff Picture

<u>AFC</u>	<u>NFC</u>
1 Seed - Chiefs 14-1	Lions 13-2
2 Seed - Bills 12-3	Eagles 12-3
3 Seed - Steelers 10-5	Rams 9-6
4 Seed - Texans 9-6	Falcons 8-7
5 Seed - Ravens 10-5	Vikings 13-2
6 Seed - Chargers 9-6	Packers 11-4
7 Seed - Broncos 9-6	Commanders 10-5

In The Hunt

AFC - I can not see another making it.

NFC - Seahawks 8-7, Falcons 8-7.

Playoff games if the season finished today

<u>AFC</u>	<u>NFC</u>
Chiefs - Bye Week	Lions - Bye week
Broncos @ Bills	Commanders @ Eagles
Chargers @ Steelers	Packers @ Rams
Ravens @ Texans	Vikings @ Falcons

