

THE SPORTIER

In The Rulebook

Did you know that in NCAA Football, all referees are required to have microphones? It is strongly recommend that the microphone is a lapel-type microphone.



What Happened?!

Yesterday was a day of madness in College Football. After the games, the College Football Playoffs have drastically changed. Prior to this weekend, the top 4 teams in the run to the playoffs were Alabama, Miami, Oklahoma, and Clemson. But after the games yesterday, things are going to change.

Let's start at the top. Alabama played Auburn in a game that Alabama was favored to win. They held the lead at 14-10 after their first possession of the half. But that's where everything started going downhill. Auburn came back and scored 16 unanswered points. This was due to some very bad play by Alabama, which included 3 failed 4th down conversions in the 2nd half alone. Alabama lost 14-26, a 1 seed losing to a 6 seed, which completely wrecked the playoffs. Now, Alabama now has an uphill battle to make the playoffs after their loss. Now that Auburn won, they will for sure secure a spot in the playoffs. We will just have to wait and see who the 1 seed for the playoffs will be.

The next games were very important to the rankings, but they did not cause as much madness as the Alabama-Auburn game did. Number 2 Miami lost to unranked Pittsburgh, which will cause Miami to drop out of the playoffs or at least become the 4 seed. Number 4 Clemson and number 3 Oklahoma both won, but they will probably stay the same because they didn't beat a ranked team. Wisconsin won, giving them a 12-0 season. That is definitely good enough to be ranked well, so they, too secured a spot. The other teams below will probably not make the playoffs because they were in a lower spot to start.

College Football Playoff Prediction

1 Wisconsin

2 Auburn



4 Clemson

3 Oklahoma



Sunday Game of the Day

Prediction



VS



Buccaneers win 27-17

This is a crucial game for the Falcons and the NFC Playoffs. Many things can happen if the Falcons lose or win.

Let's start with the lose situation, which is my prediction. If the Falcons lose, their record would become 6-5.

That would open up the window for the Seahawks to swoop in and take their spot in the NFC Wild Card race if they beat (which they most likely will) the 49ers. This would mean that the Falcons would be battling the Lions for the next open spot for the Wild Card. Let's take a look at what would happen if the Falcons do happen to win. If the Falcons win, they will maintain their spot in the Wild Card.

At this point, it is not much of a possibility for the Falcons to catch the Saints, so they are aiming to just stay in the Wild Card.

I think that the Falcons will lose because we have seen what has happened in the past to the Falcons in must-win games (Cough, cough, Super Bowl 51). I think this game won't be an exception.

Thanksgiving Football

This Thanksgiving, three games were played. The first game of the day was the Vikings-Lions game. Though the score was a close 30-23, the Vikings, in particular quarterback Case Keenum, picked apart the Lions defense. Keenum threw for 2 touchdowns which were both to tight end Kyle Rudolph, and he also ran for 1 touchdown. Rising Vikings star Adam Thielen had 8 receptions for 89 yards, which led his team. The loss for the Lions does hurt their playoff chances. A win in that game would have given them a record of 7-4 or a winning percentage of .636, which would have given them the current 6th seed and second wild card team ahead of the Falcons, which may have lasted only a few days if the Falcons beat the Buccaneers, or it may have lasted awhile if the Falcons and current 7th seed Seahawks did not perform well.

The second game of the day was the Chargers-Cowboys. The Cowboys offense is fading without Ezekiel Elliot, and now the defense is slowly disappearing. The score of the game was 28-6, and there are important factors for why the Cowboys lost so bad. On the offensive side, the Cowboys could only scratch across 6 points from a touchdown from backup running back Rod Smith. Dak Prescott threw a decent 179 yards, but he threw away 2 interceptions, which took away possessions that could have put Dallas back in the game. On the defensive side, Dallas didn't look strong. They allowed an incredible 434 passing yards to Chargers quarterback Philip Rivers, who also threw 3 touchdowns, and Chargers receiver Keenan Allen had yet another breakout game, this time reaching his personal record of 172 receiving yards in a game. All around, this Cowboys team has gone from a playoff contender to a team that is struggling to win games. It is pretty amazing how 1 player like Ezekiel Elliot can determine if a team wins or loses.

The final game of Thanksgiving day was the Giants-Redskins game. Though the Giants pulled out an impressive overtime win over the AFC West-leading Chiefs last week, that does not mean that they are good by any means. And that showed in the game this week. In a 10-20 loss for New York, the Giants offense was non-existent, Eli Manning threw for a pathetic 113 yards with an interception, and worst of all, the Giants defense scored more points than their offense. That is a pretty bad day. The Giants really need to rethink their strategy because they are worse than the Jets this year!

Sources:

[NCAA/ESPN/NFL](#)