

THE SPORTIER

Titans-Chiefs

Saturday, the first of two AFC Wild Card games were played. The first matchup Saturday was the four seed Kansas City Chiefs against the five seed Tennessee Titans. The first half was disastrous for the Titans. They scored just 3 points in the first half while their defense fell apart to let up 21 points to the Chiefs. But after the half, the Titans turned it on. They scored 21 straight unanswered points on 3 touchdowns, the first of which was an amazing play by Marcus Mariota in which he passed a ball that was deflected by cornerback Darrell Revis back to Mariota, which then resulted in Mariota running 6 yards for a touchdown. This is the first time in postseason history that this has happened and the second time ever in the NFL that this has happened, the first time being in 1997 when Vikings quarterback Brad Johnson threw a pass to himself. The Titans' three second half touchdowns were enough to go ahead of the Chiefs and shockingly beat the Chiefs by a tight score of 22-21. The Titans defense should be credited, as they held the Chiefs to zero points in the second half and only 56 yards in the second half. In the end, the game showed that no game is ever over, just like the more famous Super Bowl LI Patriots victory over the Falcons when they were down 28-3 late in the third quarter.

Next Titans Game- Titans vs. New England Patriots (Saturday, January 13th/8:15 PM)

Falcons-Rams

The Los Angeles Rams and Atlanta Falcons also squared off Saturday in an NFC Wild Card game between the three seed and the six seed. Everyone knows the Falcons' story: they were beating the Patriots in the most recent Super Bowl and then tumbled from their 28-3 lead and ended up losing in overtime. The Falcons had to bring their best game to LA if they wanted to knock off the best offense in the NFL and they did. They used two Rams turnovers to their advantage and took a 13-0 lead near the beginning of the second quarter. The Rams offense gained momentum going into the half, though, as they capitalized on big Falcon penalties. The second half was mostly Falcons. They started the quarter off by making a field goal and then continued to make another field goal and score another touchdown, all the while holding the Rams offense to a single field goal in the second half. The Falcons ended up winning 26-13. Just like in the Titans game, the Falcons defense should be credited. They were able to stop the best offense in the NFL and hold the best running back in the NFL in Todd Gurley to no touchdowns. The Falcons are now back on track for another run at the Super Bowl.

Next Falcons Game- Falcons vs. Philadelphia Eagles (Saturday, January 13th/4:35 PM)

Bills-Jaguars

Sunday afternoon, the Jacksonville Jaguars hosted the Buffalo Bills for the second of the two AFC Wild Card games. You could say that this game was boring. Aside from the two Jaguars interceptions, there wasn't much to see. There were a total of 17 punts. That's a lot of punting! There was barely any scoring in this game. In the first quarter, the Bills struck first with a 31 yard field goal, then the Jaguars came back with a field goal of their own, this one a 44 yard kick. At the half, the score was a miserable 3-3. Then, while time was running down in the third and it was a fourth and goal at the Bills one yard line, Jaguars quarterback Blake Bortles found tight end Ben Koyack for the score. The Jaguars defense was able to hold off the Bills in the fourth quarter, as the Jags came away with the victory, 10-3.

Next Jaguars Game- Jaguars vs. Pittsburgh Steelers (Sunday, January 14th/1:05 PM)

Sources

[ESPN/CBS Sports/NFL Operations](#)

Panthers-Saints

This game between the four seed New Orleans Saints and the five seed Carolina Panthers had a great comeback in the making. First, let's start at the beginning of the game. In the first half, the Saints had three touchdowns, one of which was an 80 yard pass. The Panthers kicker Graham Gano kicked three field goals in the first half, one of which was from 58 yards out, but he also missed a 25 yard field goal after Panther receiver Kaelin Clay dropped a ball in the end zone. That drop would come back to haunt the Panthers. At the half, the score was 21-9 in the Saints' favor. In the third quarter, both teams kicked field goals. In the fourth, the Panthers struck first and got a touchdown to cut the lead down from 24-12 to 24-19. The Saints then got a touchdown, but the Panthers followed. Then the madness started happening. The Saints had the ball with just under 2 minutes left on a fourth down. They threw a pass on fourth down since they were trying to convert and the ball was intercepted. But the player that caught it wasn't using his head. He intercepted the ball instead of swatting it away. If he had swatted the ball, the Panthers would have had the ball at the Saints line of scrimmage, which was 18 yards ahead of where they ended up getting the ball. But that wasn't the main issue. The Panthers marched down the field and then on second down at the Saints 21 yard line, Panthers quarterback Cam Newton threw an incomplete pass. What's the big deal, you ask? Well, it ended up being a very controversial intentional grounding. See, the rule states that intentional grounding shouldn't be called if a quarterback intends to throw to a player but physical contact affects the throw from the quarterback. The refs may have made a bad call. On top of that, 10 seconds came off the clock. This hurt the Panthers as they didn't have much time left, which ended in a turnover on downs and a game that could have been won by the Panthers, but instead was won by the Saints.

Next Saints Game- Saints vs. Minnesota Vikings (Sunday, January 14th/4:40 PM)