

THE SPORTIER

Super Bowl LIV

Tom Brady will not be featured in this year's Super Bowl. Instead, he will be watching the Kansas City Chiefs, with the number one offense in the NFL, face off against the San Francisco 49ers, with one of the most fierce defenses in the NFL. The Chief's potent offense is led by former MVP quarterback Patrick Mahomes. In his two postseason games this season, he has thrown 46 for 70, with 615 yards, 8 touchdowns, and no interceptions, earning him an excellent passer rating of 131.6. He has led his team to average 43 points over that two-game span, including a season-high 51 against the Houston Texans in the Conference Semi-finals, after trailing by 24. As of late, the Kansas City Defense has also shown signs of excellence. Holding Tennessee Titans running back machine Derrick Henry to only 69 yards, his lowest since a 63-yard performance back in Week 9 in a loss to the Carolina Panthers. The Chiefs carry loads of momentum on the defensive end after that performance against the best running back in the NFL, and their offense is notorious for putting up big numbers. Led by Andy Reid, one of the best coaches in NFL history that has yet to win a ring, the Chiefs look to win big tonight. Then, there comes the NFC Champion 49ers. Sporting the number one defense in the playoffs, only allowing 15 points per game, and one of the best in the regular season with 19 points per game during the regular season, the 49ers defense is scary. Defensive Rookie of the Year Nick Bosa recorded 9 sacks in the regular season and a 2nd-best 3 in the postseason. Allowing the least amount of yards per game win the regular season with 252.5, the 49ers defense its a force in itself. Turning to the offense, they are led by quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo. He may be remembered as Tom Brady's back up quarterback while he won two Super Bowls, but Garoppolo was traded to San Francisco in 2017 to take charge of this offense. In reality, the 49ers offense is not based around Garoppolo. Instead, the 49ers rushing offense is the primary focus for this team. In the regular season, the 49ers erased 144.1 rushing yards per game, second-best in the league. In the playoffs, they have been even better, recording 235.5 rushing yards per game over their two postseason victories. Their last game, the Conference Championship against the Green Bay Packers, showcased how deep their running back position is. Raheem Mostert, who mainly played the role of 3rd string running back for the team, recorded 220 rushing yards, carrying the team with 4 touchdowns as well. The Chiefs may have a tough time stopping this stacked core, as in the regular season, they allowed an average of 4.9 yards per carry (4th worst in the league) and a total of 128.2 rushing yards per game (26th in the league). With Kyle Shanahan, former Falcons offensive coordinator during their Super Bowl run, leading the team as head coach, the 49ers have a well-rounded team. Historically, Super Bowl matchups do not favor the high powered offenses. In the 1990 season, the Buffalo Bills, who averaged 47.5 points over two postseason games, were held to a mere 19 points in a Super Bowl loss. The Carolina Panthers of 2015 averaged a league-best 31.3 points per game in the regular season but were held to a low 10 points in a Super Bowl loss to the Denver Broncos, who had one of the most excellent defensive performances the Super Bowl has ever witnessed. Even going back to last year's Super Bowl, the New England Patriots and Los Angeles Rams only combined for a total of 16 points, with the Rams being held to a weak 3 points. Regardless of who wins, this Super Bowl is bound to be an exciting one.

Prediction: 49ers defeat the Chiefs, 26-21

The Mamba Mentality

People across the globe were shocked and devastated by the loss of 9 passengers aboard a helicopter that crashed in Calabasas, California. Kobe Bryant, and his daughter Gianna, were among the 9 killed. Kobe Bryant was one of the greatest athletes ever to grace this planet. His accolades include 5 NBA Titles, 18-time All-Star, 10 First Team All-NBA, 2 Finals MVPs, and 1 MVP award, all through a lengthy 20 season career all played with the Los Angeles Lakers. But the most significant attribute of Kobe Bryant had nothing to do with his career accomplishments. It was his mindset, that he was never to be outworked, and that nothing could ever stop him from being his best version. The "Mamba Mentality" is the phrase synonymous with intensity and grit, and it is named after Kobe Bryant for his impossible work ethic. Whether it be getting in the gym first and leaving last, or playing through injuries that would stop everybody else, Kobe always pushed himself to be better than every other person. His daughter, Gianna, had a promising future in the WNBA, as she emulated Kobe's style and intensity. Kobe was fully invested in paying his knowledge forward and creating opportunities for the future of basketball. Though his accomplishments may be staggering, the best part of Kobe was that he would never be outworked by anybody else and that whatever goal he tried to accomplish, he made sure that he made his best effort possible.

LeBron James on Kobe Bryant



Sources:

NFL

ESPN

CBS Sports