

NFL Week 1 Predictions

KEY

SK = Sawyer Klein a 7th grader at Skinner Middle School: FAVORITE TEAM NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

MR = Mason Ramirez a 7th grader at Skinner Middle School: FAVORITE TEAM DENVER BRONCOS

THURSDAY NIGHT 6:30 MST

CHIEFS_{AT}PATRIOTS

SK: Prediction: Patriots 34-13. The Pats owe the Chiefs one from an early season 41-14 loss a couple years ago at Arrowhead Stadium. The season ending injury of Super Bowl savior Julian Edelman will hurt, but Brady will find a way to own the Chiefs defense with Chris Hogan and his new receiver Brandin Cooks. Alex Smith and rookie running back Kareem Hunt simply aren't good enough to outscore Brady.

MR: Patriots 28-24. Both teams played extremely well last season and they both have excellent quarterbacks, receivers and defense. But the Patriots just have too much momentum on their side to lose at home, especially with their Super Bowl Victory last year.

SUNDAY 11:00 AM MST

JETS_{AT}BILLS

SK: Bills 30-9. The Jets have no offense, a half decent defense at best, and more importantly no quarterback. The Bills will take a week 1 victory due to their defenses presence, as well as a somewhat experienced quarterback in Tyrod Taylor.

MR: Bills 10-6. God, the Jets suck! They have no quarterback, no offense and no defense. Do I really need to say anymore?

EAGLES_{AT}REDSKINS

SK: Redskins 27-19. Yes, the Eagle's defense is capable, but Kirk Cousins' new threat Terrelle Pryor SR., is too much for the Eagles secondary to handle. Carson Wentz and Zach Ertz will both have good offensive games, but it won't be enough to outscore Washington.

MR: Eagles 28-26. Yes, I know that Kirk Cousins has a lethal “new threat”, but there is one important factor that wins games and that is defense. The Eagles have that and will hold off Cousins and his pals and the Eagles will win.

RAIDERS_{AT}TITANS

SK: Raiders 25-24. Tennessee has Demarco Murray; he’s a beast. Khalil Mack won’t be able to do enough to stop him from having a great game; however, Amari Cooper and Michael Crabtree are too much for Tennessee to handle. The game will be close due to the fact that it's in Nashville and the Titans are actually decent this year, but the Raiders are too much for Mariota and company to handle.

MR: Raiders 36-35. It’s going to be a very close game and both teams have great players and respectable defenses to keep the game close, but I think that the Raiders will just have that last minute touchdown to win and will emerge victorious.

This game may be cancelled and postponed to a later date due to Hurricane Irma.

BUCCANEERS_{AT}DOLPHINS

SK: Buccaneers 34-13. Honestly, I thought the Dolphins were going to be a playoff contender this year, until... Ryan Tannehill decided to get hurt in training camp. With Jameis Winston, Mike Evans, and new target Desean Jackson in town looking to shred apart the Dolphins defense, and Jay Cutler throwing the ball for the Dolphins, well good luck Miami!

MR: Buccaneers 35-20. Sorry, I just have to be honest here. The Dolphins are good, but with Tannehill out they just don’t look to be a threatening team. The Buccaneers just have enough guys to make them have the upperhand in this matchup.

JAGUARS_{AT}TEXANS

SK: Texans 16-14. Rookie Deshaun Watson will fair ok against a good Jaguars’ defense. DeAndre Hopkins and tight end CJ Fiedorowicz will help Watson immensely. With quarterback troubles shown in Jacksonville’s preseason, as well as an overrated rookie running back (in my opinion), a low scoring affair will favor the Texans.

MR: Texans 18-10. Like SK said there's not enough good things on the Jaguars side with a "Meh" rookie running back in Leonard Fournette and a lot of qb confusion as well. Plus, the Texans have Deandre Hopkins on their side. That already decides the game.

CARDINALS_{AT}LIONS

SK: Cardinals 23-17. With a growing Lions' offense this game will be competitive. Stafford should be able to connect with Marvin Jones a lot, as Golden Tate will be covered tight; this will give them life. Running backs Ameer Abdullah and Theo Riddick can be used wisely to make an impact on the game as well. But David Johnson will run all over the Lion's subpar defense; mix a decent passing game in there, and the Cardinals will be happy to have a week 1 victory in Detroit.

MR: Lions 36-28. The Lions have improved tremendously throughout last season and I say are serious playoff contenders with a great offense and an improving defense. The Cardinals are good, but I think they just don't have enough players to stop the Lions.

FALCONS_{AT}BEARS

SK: Falcons 31-12. Let's be real. The Chicago Bears have Jordan Howard... a new quarterback with a rough receiving core, a defense that is very inconsistent and... Jordan Howard. Matt Ryan will throw all over the Bears and Devonta Freeman will have 100 plus yards. The Bears only advantage is that the game is being played at Soldier Field in Chicago, Illinois.

MR: Falcons 38-14. Like SK said, the Bears have a very, very weak team with a struggling defense and not a very good offense. The Falcons on the other hand have Matt Ryan. Nuff' said.

RAVENS_{AT}BENGALS

SK: Bengals 21-12. A sloppy matchup will be decided by a few big plays down the field by AJ Green. Both defenses are decent, and for the Ravens, a questionable Joe Flacco, ok receivers, and two decent, at best, running backs will ultimately decide the game. Rookie RB Joe Mixon will also have a good game for Cincinnati, and Giovani Bernard will catch a lot of balls from the backfield.

MR: Ravens: 23-21. Both teams are a mystery with players that are unpredictable. Sometimes they are great and sometimes they are just plain bad. For this game it is just a

game to see which team can come through and it will be close, but at the end it will be a Raven standing tall over a Bengal.

STEELERS_{AT}BROWNS

SK: Steelers 33-13. Despite a rookie quarterback in Deshone Kizer looking to save the Browns this year, they're still in the rebuilding process. Their defense will have to stop Big Ben, AB, and Le'veon Bell, and even if their offense sparks, which it won't, can they compete with one of the deadliest trios in the game?

MR: Steelers 41-16. Even though the Browns have a good running back in Isaiah Crowell, it will be a huge task to try to stop the Steelers with the defense they have right now. It will be made more difficult because a strong Steelers' line AND because of Big Ben, Antonio Brown and Le'veon Bell who are more dangerous than ever.

SUNDAY 2:05 PM MST

COLTS_{AT}RAMS

SK: Rams 20-13. No Andrew Luck, yeesh. A tall task will present itself as the Colts head to LA to face the Rams. A great receiving core for the Colts will put up points. However, it's hard to see Scott Tolzien lead them to victory. Not to mention the Colts "old," beaten down defense that Todd Gurley will be looking to have a great game against in his "bounce back season."

MR: Colts 26-20. Unlike my anti-positive partner, I believe the Colts still have a good chance to win even without Andrew Luck. They got Ty Hilton, some good running backs, some more good receivers and they don't have an "old beaten down defense" but a very decent defense. They will have a good chance to take down the decent Rams.

SUNDAY 2:25 PM MST

SEAHAWKS_{AT}PACKERS

SK: Packers 29-20. The Seahawks amazing defense will keep Seattle in the game, but their very eh, offense won't cut it as they visit Lambeau Field. Eddie Lacy will be looking for revenge on his old team, but that will not be an easy task considering the

Packers talented linebackers. Jordy Nelson, being keyed on by Sherman, will also open up a great game for Davante Adams, allowing scoring opportunities for Green Bay.

MR: Packers 34-29. The Seahawks, like my partner noted, have a awesome defense to help back them up and have a decent offense with RW and DB as the leading forces on the offense. But the Packers have A-Rod and countless forces on both offense and defense to back him up and will ultimately take down the Seahawks.

PANTHERS_{AT}49ERS

SK: Panthers 24-6. Opposing a very solid defense with an unbelievable line backing core in Luke Kuechly and Thomas Davis, the 49ers subpar offense will struggle. Cam Newton and fellow targets will look good against a terrible 49ers defense. It's a game where Carolina will dominate.

MR: Panthers 28-3. The Panthers have a defense that will CRUSH the very weak 49ers offense and make them look very, very feeble. Cam Newton and his receiving targets will make the 49ers defense look weaker than they already are.

SUNDAY 6:30 PM MST

GIANTS_{AT}COWBOYS

SK: Giants 27-23. Despite Ezekiel Elliott being allowed to play week 1 for the Cowboys, the Giants are too well-rounded for the Cowboys to handle. Brandon Marshall is a huge addition to the Giants already amazing receiving core. He and Odell will both be able to break through the Cowboys good, but not great defense. The Giants defense is in that "great" category, giving them enough to take down the mighty Cowboys.

MR: Giants 31-26. The Giants have an offense which has gotten better with the addition of Brandon Marshall and veterans Odell Beckham Jr and Victor Cruz to back up the man Eli Manning and will be serious Super Bowl contenders this year. The Cowboys, on the other hand, with Ezekiel Elliott not fully concentrated on football will be at a disadvantage and will not get the job done against the awesome Giants.

MONDAY 5:10 PM MST

SAINTS_{AT}VIKINGS

SK: Vikings 30-13. Unfortunately for Drew Brees, the Saints defense stinks. Minnesota's offense will explode on them. Dalvin Cook will look to have a great first game in the NFL, and Thielen and Diggs will both catch a touchdown. The Vikings defense will do enough to handle Brees and company, as Brandin Cooks is no longer present as a vertical threat, leaving the Vikings with 1 on 1 matchups they will win.

MR: Vikings 31-14. Drew Brees won't really have any help from his offense and especially not from his defense. Minnesota, on the other hand, has an offense that will destroy and crumble the weak Saints defense. The Vikings defense will hold off and give Brees some major punishment from their linebackers.

MONDAY 8:20 PM MST

CHARGERS_{AT}BRONCOS

SK: Chargers 22-14. With a quarterback mess in Denver, there are going to be boos raining through Mile High Stadium on Monday Night as the Broncos offense doesn't cut it. Both defenses will hold strong, but the Chargers will be good this year- really good - and a week 1 win will be a great start.

MR: Broncos 14-10. Both teams do not really have anything going for them and it is not going to be a good game. They don't have any players to talk about and the Broncos have injured players. Their not very good offense, however, will ultimately triumph over a "meh" Chargers team.