

Written by Patrick Mayo

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Below, we explore what should happen in this week's NFL games. Of course, in the NFL, only half of what should happen actually does happen, but playing the percentages gives you the best chance of winning. Remember, think twice before benching a stud based on match-ups! We list the Vegas odds spread in parentheses and the Over/Under number in brackets.

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SUNDAY LATE

New York Jets @ San Diego (-6.5) [42]

I really need the Jets to lose this week. I seriously have my doubts that my sanity will still be intact after another week of Jets propaganda. Here's the thing -- the Jets are a pretty good team. They run the ball with great success and have a guy who can shut down any receiver he wants. Against most teams, this strategy is pretty sound. But, throw out that game against the Colts "B" team, and the Jets have lost their last two games to teams with multiple receiving threats. Tony Gonzalez caught the game winning touchdown, while Revis was off covering Roddy White, and the Patriots made a mockery of their secondary when Wes Welker ended Week 11 with 195 yards receiving. San Diego provides this type of problem.

We all expect Revis to marginalize Vincent Jackson most the day, so expect a lot of Antonio Gates. The Jets don't have the personnel to match up with Gates when he starts running those seam and crossing routes, and I would expect an extra corner to come in to cover Gates. They may go under the radar, but Malcom Floyd and Kareem Osgood are both capable deep targets. If the Chargers can stretch the field vertically, they'll be able to let Darren Sproles loose out of the back field. Sproles' game changing speed will be hard to contain when San Diego starts using their four-receiver sets.

How do the Jets win this game? The same way they've won the entire second half of the season -- play a low scoring game. New York is not built to win a shootout -- their aerial attack

NFL - 2009 Fantasy Football Divisional Playoffs Week 19 Spread Pick'em Preview (NYJ @ SD)

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is the worst left in the playoffs. Their chances of moving the ball effectively through the air are slim. There's no doubt New York can win this game, but they must avoid one thing -- an early deficit. If the Chargers score on their first two drives, it's curtains for the Jets.

It comes as no surprise that I'm taking the Chargers, but it's for the most obvious reason, and one that nobody seems to be talking about -- Philip Rivers. Rivers is incredible. He throws the league's best deep ball and is on the Drew Brees level for getting his teammates fired up. This is a stage that Rivers can use to propel himself into the league's elite, and I fully expect for him to capitalize on that.

SD 33, NYJ 14 (Pick: San Diego -6.5, over 42)

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