

THE BLITZ | YOUR QUICK-HIT GUIDE TO WEEK 15 IN THE NFL



Gardner Minshew

Eagles (13-1) at Cowboys (10-4): Philadelphia quarterback Jalen Hurts is out with a sprained right shoulder, so Gardner Minshew is set to start. He has an 8-14 record in 22 starts, all but two of those with Jacksonville. Philadelphia can clinch the No. 1 seed in the NFC with a victory. Dallas has clinched a playoff spot and is likely headed for the fifth seed. Receiver T.Y. Hilton could make his Dallas debut almost two weeks after signing as a free agent. Also, Eagles TE Dallas Goedert is expected back after missing five games with a shoulder injury.

Giants (8-5-1) at Vikings (11-3): This is a potential preview of an NFC wild-card round playoff game. The Vikings have won the NFC North, while the Giants can clinch a playoff spot with a win and losses by two of their three closest pursuers: Detroit, Seattle and Washington. Giants RB Saquon Barkley needs 138 rushing yards to beat his previous single-season best, set as a rookie in 2018, but he had just 239 yards on 71 carries over the past five games. Vikings WR Justin Jefferson the NFL leader in receptions (111) and receiving yards (1,623).

Packers (6-8) at Dolphins (8-6), Sunday: The Green Bay Packers are coming off back-to-back wins against the Bears and Rams. They pretty much need to win out and get some help to keep their playoff hopes alive. The defense has looked better in recent weeks, led by OLB Preston Smith, who has four sacks over his past four games, improving his season total to 7½. Miami is on a three-game losing streak, but still controls its playoff fate. QB Tua Tagovailoa has already surpassed his career total in yards passing with 3,238 yards, 24 TDs and just five interceptions, but the Packers have one of the best passing defenses in the league.

Buccaneers (6-8) at Cardinals (4-10), Sunday: The Buccaneers are clinging to a one-game lead in the NFC South after losing three of their past four games. The fading Cardinals are down to third-string quarterback Trace McSorley and have lost six of seven games, including four in a row. The Cardinals will be playing their fourth game on Christmas Day while the Bucs will be making their debut on Dec. 25. One of the bright spots for Arizona is the play of DL J.J. Watt, who is having his best season in several years with 9 1/2 sacks, which is his most since 2018.

Broncos (4-10) at Rams (4-10), Sunday: Two of the most disappointing teams in the NFL meet for a nationally televised Christmas Day game. QB Russell Wilson will return for the Broncos after being held out last week as a precaution after sustaining a concussion. The Broncos have the best red zone defense in the NFL, allowing TDs on 37.5% of possessions (12 of 32). The Rams are the second team to lose 10 games after winning the Super Bowl the previous season.

Falcons (5-9) at Ravens (9-5): Falcons have never beaten the Ravens on the road. Atlanta also never beat the Colts in Baltimore when that franchise played there. Both teams are struggling to pass the ball and cold weather is expected, so it certainly feels as if whoever moves the ball more effectively on the ground could have the edge. Baltimore's running game is ranked second in the NFL and Atlanta's is third.

Bills (11-3) at Bears (3-11): Josh Allen and the Bills look to clinch the AFC East title when they visit Chicago in what is expected to be one of the Bears' coldest home games. The Bills have clinched their fourth straight playoff berth, and need a win or a tie to secure their third straight division title. Chicago will try to stop a seven-game losing streak and avoid matching the worst skid in franchise history.

Bengals (10-4) at Patriots (7-7): The Bengals look to extend their winning streak to seven, while New England has lost three of its past four games and enters the week eighth in the AFC. The Patriots have won three straight meetings with the Bengals and eight of the past 10. New England is 10-2 at home all time in the series, including 4-0 at Gillette Stadium.

Lions (7-7) a Panthers (5-9): Panthers RB D'Onta Foreman had just nine yards on 10 carries against the Steelers this past Sunday, but hopes to get back on track against a suspect Lions defense that is 26th in the league against the run, although the Lions have given up just 72 yards rushing over the past two games and an average of 84 over five games.

Titans (1-12-1) at Titans (7-7): The Titans will try to stop a four-game slide Saturday in what could be the coldest home game in franchise history. They will be without veteran QB Ryan Tannehill because of an injured ankle. Rookie Malik Willis will make his third start and second this season against Houston. The Texans have lost nine straight.

Saints (5-9) at Browns (6-8): With a forecast for temperatures in single digits and wind gusts up to 50 mph, both teams will lean heavily on their running games. The Saints still have a path to the postseason, but they can't afford any more losses. The Browns have a 1% chance of making the playoffs and could be eliminated even with a win.

Seahawks (7-7) at Chiefs (11-3): Kansas City already clinched its seventh consecutive West Division title. Seattle is slipping out of playoff contention after losing four of its past five games. Chiefs QB Patrick Mahomes is riding a streak of 20 consecutive completions, just five off the NFL record, and is putting together a strong case for his second league MVP award. The Seahawks expect to be without injured wide receiver Tyler Lockett.

Commanders (7-6-1) at 49ers (10-4): The 49ers have clinched the NFC West but still have more work to do in the regular season if they want to get a better playoff seed. The Niners have won seven straight games, allowing 17 points or fewer in all of them. The Commanders are clinging to the seventh seed in the NFC, but can't afford many more slip-ups if they want to make the playoffs.

Raiders (6-8) at Steelers (6-8): The game will be held just three days after the passing of Steelers Hall of Fame running back Franco Harris. Pittsburgh will retire Harris' No. 32 in a halftime ceremony. The loser will be eliminated from playoff contention. The Raiders have won the past two meetings, four of the past five and six of eight. With temperatures expected to be near zero, it could mark the coldest home game in Steelers history.

Chargers (8-6) at Colts (4-9-1), Monday: Nick Foles will try to give the Colts a fresh start. The 33-year-old QB will make his first start with Indy, replacing the benched Matt Ryan. The move comes one week after the Colts blew a 33-point lead at Minnesota. Los Angeles has won two straight and could be in position to clinch a playoff spot if it gets some help. The Chargers have lost their past three Monday night road games.

AMERICAN CONFERENCE											
East	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Home	Away	AFC	NFC	Div
x-Buffalo	11	3	0	.786	385	250	6-1-0	5-2-0	8-2-0	3-1-0	3-2-0
Miami	8	6	0	.571	345	344	5-1-0	3-5-0	6-4-0	2-2-0	2-2-0
New England	7	7	0	.500	300	269	3-3-0	4-4-0	5-4-0	2-3-0	2-2-0
N.Y. Jets	7	8	0	.467	284	282	3-5-0	4-3-0	5-6-0	2-2-0	2-3-0
South	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Home	Away	AFC	NFC	Div
Tennessee	7	7	0	.500	255	293	3-3-0	4-4-0	5-5-0	2-2-0	3-1-0
Jacksonville	7	8	0	.467	353	331	4-3-0	3-5-0	6-4-0	1-4-0	2-2-0
e-Indianapolis	4	9	1	.321	245	337	2-4-0	2-5-1	4-5-1	0-4-0	1-3-1
e-Houston	1	12	1	.107	235	344	0-6-1	1-6-0	1-7-1	0-5-0	1-1-1
North	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Home	Away	AFC	NFC	Div
Cincinnati	10	4	0	.714	369	288	5-1-0	5-3-0	6-3-0	4-1-0	2-3-0
Baltimore	9	5	0	.643	304	263	4-2-0	5-3-0	6-4-0	3-1-0	3-1-0
Cleveland	6	8	0	.429	313	326	4-3-0	2-5-0	4-7-0	2-1-0	3-2-0
Pittsburgh	6	8	0	.429	251	309	2-4-0	4-4-0	2-7-0	4-1-0	1-3-0
West	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Home	Away	AFC	NFC	Div
y-Kansas City	11	3	0	.786	414	322	5-1-0	6-2-0	7-3-0	4-0-0	4-0-0
L.A. Chargers	8	6	0	.571	312	340	4-3-0	4-3-0	6-4-0	2-2-0	2-3-0
Las Vegas	6	8	0	.429	338	337	4-2-0	2-6-0	5-5-0	1-3-0	3-2-0
e-Denver	4	10	0	.286	218	253	3-4-0	1-6-0	2-8-0	2-2-0	0-4-0

NATIONAL CONFERENCE											
East	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Home	Away	AFC	NFC	Div
x-Philadelphia	13	1	0	.929	411	268	6-1-0	7-0-0	5-0-0	8-1-0	3-1-0
x-Dallas	10	4	0	.714	394	269	7-1-0	3-3-0	3-1-0	7-3-0	3-1-0
N.Y. Giants	8	5	1	.607	287	312	4-3-1	4-2-0	4-0-0	4-5-1	1-3-1
Washington	7	6	1	.536	265	276	3-4-0	4-2-1	3-1-0	4-5-1	1-3-1
South	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Home	Away	AFC	NFC	Div
Tampa Bay	6	8	0	.429	247	288	4-4-0	2-4-0	0-5-0	6-3-0	3-1-0
Atlanta	5	9	0	.357	306	333	4-3-0	1-6-0	1-3-0	4-6-0	1-4-0
Carolina	5	9	0	.357	276	314	4-4-0	1-5-0	1-4-0	4-5-0	3-1-0
New Orleans	5	9	0	.357	286	315	4-4-0	1-5-0	1-3-0	4-6-0	2-3-0
North	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Home	Away	AFC	NFC	Div
y-Minnesota	11	3	0	.786	351	349	7-1-0	4-2-0	5-0-0	6-3-0	3-1-0
Detroit	7	7	0	.500	369	364	4-4-0	3-3-0	2-3-0	5-4-0	3-1-0
Green Bay	6	8	0	.429	287	314	4-3-0	2-5-0	1-3-0	5-5-0	2-2-0
e-Chicago	3	11	0	.214	290	358	2-5-0	1-6-0	2-2-0	1-9-0	0-4-0
West	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Home	Away	AFC	NFC	Div
y-San Francisco	10	4	0	.714	338	210	6-1-0	4-3-0	2-2-0	8-2-0	5-0-0
Seattle	7	7	0	.500	355	355	3-4-0	4-3-0	2-1-0	5-6-0	3-2-0
e-Arizona	4	10	0	.286	292	372	1-7-0	3-3-0	1-4-0	3-6-0	1-4-0
e-L.A. Rams	4	10	0	.286	230	320	3-5-0	1-5-0	1-2-0	3-8-0	1-4-0

e-Eliminated from playoffs | x-clinched playoff spot

SCORES AND SCHEDULE

Thursday's game Jacksonville 19, N.Y. Jets 3	Seattle at Kansas City, 1 p.m.
Saturday's games Atlanta at Baltimore, 1 p.m. Buffalo at Chicago, 1 p.m. Cincinnati at New England, 1 p.m. Detroit at Carolina, 1 p.m. Houston at Tennessee, 1 p.m. N.Y. Giants at Minnesota, 1 p.m. New Orleans at Cleveland, 1 p.m.	Washington at San Francisco, 4:05 p.m. Philadelphia at Dallas, 4:25 p.m. Las Vegas at Pittsburgh, 8:15 p.m. Sunday's games Green Bay at Miami, 1 p.m. Denver at L.A. Rams, 4:30 p.m. Tampa Bay at Arizona, 8:20 p.m. Monday's game L.A. Chargers at Indianapolis, 8:15 p.m.

GAMES ON LOCAL TV

1 p.m. (Sat.)	Houston vs. Tennessee	CBS
1 p.m. (Sat.)	Seattle at Kansas City	FOX
4:30 p.m. (Sat.)	Philadelphia at Dallas	FOX
8:15 p.m. (Sat.)	Las Vegas at Pittsburgh	NFLN
1 p.m. (Sun.)	Green Bay at Miami	NFL
8:15 p.m. (Mon.)	Los Angeles Chargers at Indianapolis	NFL



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Sunday: 11am-9pm