**2021 NFL SEASON**

Week 1 is finally here! With so many tight Vegas lines on the board, placing your Week 1 NFL picks and bets could be a serious challenge... But I’m here to help! With a record of 167-88-1 last year I am coming into this season with confidence that I can improve on that record to above 170 correct picks and help YOU win some money. Let’s get into it and as always… Good Luck everyone!

**Week 1**

**Dallas Cowboys at Tampa Bay Buccaneers (-7.5)**

Dallas QB Dak Prescott has not played a game in 11 months, and has to take his first snap back against one of the best D-lines in football and best defenses in the league in general. Tampa Bay had a great offseason and resigned basically all of their players. Fresh off of a super bowl win, running it back with the same guys is a great way to have the best shot at repeating. It’s also looking like Dallas will be riddled with covid (yay still a problem) and could miss their starting right guard to covid in Thursday’s game. Missing an O-lineman, Dak coming off of two injuries, and against one of the best defenses in football. Yikes.

**Pick - Buccaneers**

**Jacksonville Jaguars (-2.5) at Houston Texans**

Rookie #1 overall QBs who start in their first game over the past 15 years have a record of (0-6-1). That’s not good for Jacksonville. Houston is an absolute mess. Jacksonville may have slightly more talent on their roster than Houston, it's just so hard to judge this early in the year who's going to be worse than each other with these two sh\*t shows. This is a battle for the bottom (something Deshaun Watson apparently loves getting touched) and I believe that Jacksonville somehow breaks the mold of Rookie QB woes and comes out on top.

**Pick - Jaguars**

**Los Angeles Chargers (-1) at Washington Football Team**

This should be a close game that can go either way with two young stars who should put on a show. If you know me… I like taking the better defense in any matchup. But it's hard to bet against a guy in Herbert who took the league by storm last year and threw for over 4,300 yds and 31 TDs and had one of the greatest rookie seasons ever. Washington has the better defense here with reigning DROY in Chase Young but the chargers having Bosa and Derwin James you can’t count them out. Ryan Fitspatrick, Antonio Gibson, Terry Mclaurin could provide what is needed to take this game. This one is hard to predict with no games already in the season to fall back on. I’ve flip flopped here with both teams but I think that the Chargers take this one in a close game.

**Pick - Chargers**

**Seattle Seahawks (-2.5) at Indianapolis Colts**

The Colts have a QB issue and that is usually a great reason to avoid any NFL team in a pick em scenario. Also the Seahawks have a top 5 QB in Wilson and a new offensive coordinator so defenses don't know how this revamped Seattle offense will look. This should be a win for Seattle and they should cover the spread of -2.5.

**Pick - Seahawks / Seahawks-2.5**

**New York Jets at Carolina Panthers (-5)**

Zach Wilson's first game as an NFL QB, with a 1st year head coach in Saleh, you know we like to stay away from those situations. Even though Carolina's QB situation isn't much better with Sam Darnold, we can expect Zach Wilson to make a few mistakes, and the Panthers should win the turnover battle which will decide this game. But don’t count out Sam Darnold to do Darnold things. With Christian McCaffrey back that should take enough pressure off of Darnold and make him hopefully more successful than he was in New York. Plus who doesn't like to put it to a team that gave up on you…

**Pick - Panthers**

**Minnesota Vikings (-3) at Cincinnati Bengals**

Joe Burrow is coming off a brutal leg injury that sidelined him for about half of his rookie season. Joe Burrow is the key to this game and more so his offensive line is too. They were *bad* last year, like really really bad. Their first overall selection in Ja’Marr Chase was underwhelming in preseason with one too many drops but they used 3 other picks in the draft to address their offensive line. Do I see those picks as a difference maker? Enough for Cincy to pull off the upset? Probably not. I like offseason pick up Patrick Peterson to make a difference in Minnesota’s defense during his debut, and look to Justin Jefferson, and Dalvin Cook to handle the offensive side of the ball.

**Pick - Vikings**

**Arizona Cardinals at Tennessee Titans (-3)**

This game should be a fun one. Two very talented teams, with two very talented offenses, this has the likes to be a shootout. Titans offseason addition of Julio Jones should bolster their already impressive 4th ranked scoring offense in the league last year. Third year QB Kyler Murray has continued to evolve and so has his offense around him. Adding AJ Green gives him another good target but I dont think it’s enough to surpass the Titans in week 1.

**Pick - Titans**

**San Francisco 49ers (-7.5) at Detroit Lions**

With a new head coach and new QB you would think that the Lions got better this offseason, but that is certainly not the case. Jared Goff is far too familiar with the 49ers, but has a record of 3-5 against them when he had one of the best defenses, and coaches in the league to back him up. San Francisco has one of the best defenses in the league and an improved offensive line to protect the QB (whoever it may be). The 49ers should demolish the Lions and cover the spread of -7.5.

**Pick - 49ers / 49ers -7.5**

**Pittsburgh Steelers at Buffalo Bills (-6.5)**

The Bills are coming into this season with a super bowl or bust mentality, and the Steelers would like to think they are as well. This should be a great game. The Bills high powered offense led by an MVP favorite in Josh Allen may be able to dice up the Steelers hard hitting defense. The Steelers added Najee Harris to help out their offense and running game that was desperately needed. Harris should make an instant impact while their defense got healthier and better in the offseason with Devin Bush coming back from injury. This should be a very exciting matchup and I like the Steelers +6.5 in this game but think the Bills on paper should take this game.

**Pick - Bills / Steelers +6.5**

**Miami Dolphins at New England Patriots (-3)**

Once again another rookie QB is starting in his first NFL game and once again we will be fading them. Mac Jones looked great against second stringers and guys trying to just make the team. I think he makes rookie mistakes against the starters that should cost them the game in the long run. Miami’s defense was surprisingly good last year so we will see what is to come of them this year. It's always hard to bet against the defensive god that is Mr. Bill Belichick but I dont think his rookie QB shines in his debut enough to bring them to victory. Bill should and will still find a way to keep this game close.

**Pick - Dolphins / Dolphins +3**

**Philadelphia Eagles at Atlanta Falcons (-3.5)**

If you followed my picks last year you know that I do not like betting on the Falcons. At all. But like the definition of insanity, here we are again, picking my least favorite team to bet on to win again. I'm still not sold on Jalen Hurts but he should look to help out a team that averaged a weak 20 points per game last season. This game is a coin flip and should have a fun fourth quarter. I'm leaning on Matt Ryan’s experience to help them to victory Sunday.

**Pick - Falcons**

**Green Bay Packers (-4) at New Orleans Saints**

Aaron Rogers is back with the Packers for probably his final year with the team, but don't think that he doesn't have super bowl aspirations this season. Green Bay is one of the best teams in the NFC and should handle this game respectively. New Orleans QB Jameis Winston recently had LASIK eye surgery and apparently he has put up pretty impressive numbers while not being able to see. But also has led the league in interceptions, so there's that too… This game is being played in a neutral site due to the weather conditions in New Orleans and I expect the Packers to handle their business.

**Pick - Packers**

**Baltimore Ravens (-4.5) at Las Vegas Raiders**

Playing in their first game at Allegiant Stadium in Vegas the Raiders are either going to have one of the best home field advantages or one of the worst. The Raiders made drastic changes to the defensive side of the ball and even got a new coordinator in Gus Bradley. The Raiders defense was awful last year so these improvements should help them significantly. The Ravens without J.K. Dobbins just signed Le’Veon Bell to help with their injured backfield but with Lamar Jackson you don't need to be too worried about running the ball. Baltimore should go into Vegas and win this game.

**Pick - Ravens**

**Cleveland Browns at Kansas City Chiefs (-6.5)**

Whenever you have arguably the best QB in the league you are going to be favored to win a lot of games and the Chiefs are once again favorites in this game as well. Cleveland is a team that a lot of experts are really high on this year to be a very good team altogether. This should feel like a playoff game and play out like one as well. Patrick Mahomes has never lost to an AFC North opponent, is this the first time we see him do so? I don't believe it. They will probably run this game back in the postseason.

**Pick - Chiefs**

**Denver Broncos (-2.5) at New York Giants**

This is going to be an ugly one. An extremely important year for Giants QB Daniel Jones as his future with the team could be in jeopardy following another underwhelming year. Barkley will come back and be a factor that could help him dramatically and take pressure off of Jones. I like the veteran Teddy Bridgewater in this one and Denver who is getting their star defensive player in Von Miller back. This game is going to be a first to 20 wins type of game. Another coin flip but Denver leaves New York 1-0.

**Pick - Broncos**

**Chicago Bears at Los Angeles Rams (-7.5)**

The Rams finally have a QB in Matthew Stafford and the league should be afraid. Toting one of the best defenses if not the best in the league and now a veteran gun slinger in Stafford, the Rams have the firepower to be the best team in the NFL. You cannot say the same for Chicago. The Rams Defense should handle Andy Dalton and you will hear calls for Rookie Justin Fields under the bright lights of SNF.

**Pick - Rams**