

NTI'S 2016 NFL REGULAR SEASON WIN REPORT



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All of the information presented in this report was uncovered using the Sports Data Query Language (SDQL). Without it, you're just guessing.

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1. The Futures Lines

Below are the consensus 2016 Regular Season Win (RSW) lines in the NFL on July 1st, 2016. These lines are what we used to perform the analysis in this report.

	New England Patriots	10.5 (Over -135)	
AFC East	Buffalo Bills 8 (even)		
	NY Jets	8 (Under -135)	
	Miami Dolphins	7 (Under -120)	

	Pittsburgh Steelers	10.5 (Over -115)	
AFC North	Cincinnati Bengals	9.5 (Over -130)	
	Baltimore Ravens	8 (Over -125)	
	Cleveland Browns	4.5 (Over -130)	

	Indianapolis Colts	9.5 (Under -130)	
AFC South	Houston Texans	8 (Over -130)	
	Jacksonville Jaguars	7.5 (Even)	
	Tennessee Titans	5.5 (Over (-145)	

AFC West	Kansas City Chiefs	9.5 (Over -125)	
	Denver Broncos	9.5 (Under -145)	
	Oakland Raiders	8.5 (Even)	
	San Diego Chargers	7 (Over -130)	



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NFC East	Dallas Cowboys	9.5 (Under -150)	
	NY Giants	8 (Over -145)	
	Washington Redskins	7.5 (Under -120)	
	Philadelphia Eagles	7 (Under -130)	

NFC North	Green Bay Packers	11 (Over -120)	
	Minnesota Vikings	9.5 (Over -125)	
	Chicago Bears	7.5 (Under -135)	
	Detroit Lions	7 (Over -130)	

NFC South	Carolina Panthers	10.5 (Under -130)	
	Atlanta Falcons	7.5 (Under -140)	
	$T_{\rm end}$ $D_{\rm e}$ $D_{\rm e}$ $D_{\rm e}$ $T_{\rm end}$ $T_{\rm end}$		
	New Orleans Saints	7 (Under -120)	

NFC West	Seattle Seahawks	10.5 (Over -135)	
	Arizona Cardinals	10 (Over -125)	
	St Louis Rams	7.5 (Under -145)	
	San Francisco 49ers	5.5 (Under -115)	

Based on projected wins, the NFC North is expected to be the toughest division in the league this season and the AFC South is expected to be the worst division the entire league for the FIFTH straight season.

Projected 2016 Wins Ranked by Division			
NFC North (35.0)			
AFC West (34.5)			
AFC East (33.5)			
NFC West (33.5)			
AFC North (32.5)			
NFC East (32.0)			
NFC South (32.0)			
AFC South (30.5)			

It is interesting to note that the AFC South is the only team that has a line fewer than the average number of wins available for each division (32). This is due to the fact that the linesmakers inflate the RSW lines a bit to account for the fact that, in general, bettors would rather play the OVER than the UNDER. This makes the UNDER, on the average, a slightly better play than the OVER. This is evident in the cumulative RSW results at the end of this document; only ten teams have a positive average RSW margin since 2011.

At this point we are going to take a look at each's team's regular season win line for 2016 and compare it with their actual number of regular season wins in 2015. The table below shows these data, with the right-most column displaying the difference between the two. The table is ranked by the difference column.

At the top we find the Cowboys, who are expected to win five-plus more games than they did last season; no doubt due to the return of Tony Romo. The Ravens, Chargers, Jaguars, and Titans are also expected to significantly improve their win total from last season, although none of these teams are expected to make the playoffs.

Team	2015 RSW	2016 RSW Line	Difference
Cowboys	4	9.5	+5.5
Ravens	5	8	+3
Chargers	4	7	+3
Jaguars	5	7.5	+2.5
Titans	3	5.5	+2.5
Giants	6	8	+2
Bears	6	7.5	+1.5
Browns	3	4.5	+1.5
Colts	8	9.5	+1.5
Raiders	7	8.5	+1.5
Packers	10	11	+1
Dolphins	6	7	+1
Buccaneers	6	7	+1
Steelers	10	10.5	+0.5
49ers	5	5.5	+0.5
Seahawks	10	10.5	+0.5
Rams	7	7.5	+0.5
Bills	8	8	0
Lions	7	7	0
Saints	7	7	0
Eagles	7	7	0
Falcons	8	7.5	-0.5
Texans	9	8	-1
Chiefs	11	9.5	-1.5
Vikings	11	9.5	-1.5
Patriots	12	10.5	-1.5
Redskins	9	7.5	-1.5
Jets	10	8	-2
Bengals	12	9.5	-2.5
Broncos	12	9.5	-2.5
Cardinals	13	10	-3
Panthers	15	10.5	-4.5

At the other end of the table, we find the Carolina Panthers, which are expected to win four-plus fewer games this regular season than in 2015, when they went 15-1. Also expected to go backwards are the Cardinals, Bengals and Browns.

2. 2016 NFL Schedule Analysis

The divisional re-alignment in 2002 made the NFL schedule much more symmetric. There are now eight divisions in the league, each with four teams. Each team's schedule consists of a home and away game with each of the three other teams in their division. That's six of each team's sixteen regular season games. Then there are the non-divisional match-ups that rotate from season to season. This season's divisional schedule assignments are given below with the total 2016 RSW lines for each division included for quick reference.

Division	Conference Opps From:	Non Conference Opps From:	Wild Card Opponents From:
AFC East	AFC North (32.5 wins)	NFC West (33.5 wins)	AFC South AFC West
AFC North	AFC East (33.5 wins)	NFC East (32.0 wins)	AFC South AFC West
AFC South	AFC West (34.5 wins)	NFC North (35.0 wins)	AFC North AFC East
AFC West	AFC South (30.5 wins)	NFC South (32.0 wins)	AFC North AFC East
NFC East	NFC North (35.0 wins)	AFC North (32.5 wins)	NFC South NFC West
NFC North	NFC East (32.0 wins)	AFC South (30.5 wins)	NFC South NFC West
NFC South	NFC West (33.5 wins)	AFC West (34.5 wins)	NFC North NFC East
NFC West NFC South (32.0 wins)		AFC East (33.5 wins)	NFC North NFC East

2016 Schedule Assignments:

For example, in 2016 every team in the AFC East is scheduled to face every team the AFC North and every team in the NFC West. These match-ups add another eight games to each team's schedule to go with their six divisional games. We can see that the AFC South draws the AFC West and NFC North in 2016, which are expected to be the toughest divisions this season. We also see that the AFC West and NFC North face weaker divisions this season.

To complete each team's schedule, there are two "wildcard" assignments. These opponents are from the two divisions in their conference that the team is not scheduled to face. The teams are matched by their position within the division from the previous season. That

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is, the first place teams match up against each other; the second place teams match up with each other *et cetera*.

To see how this works, we present the order of finish of the four NFC divisions in the 2015 regular season.

Place	NFC East	NFC South	NFC West	NFC North
1st	Redskins	Panthers	Cardinals	Vikings
2nd	Eagles	Falcons	Seahawks	Packers
3rd	Giants	Saints	Rams	Lions
4th	Cowboys	Buccaneers	49ers	Bears

Since the NFC East plays *all* the teams in the NFC North this season, they get their wildcard opponents from the NFC West and the NFC South.

So, this season, the Redskins' two wildcard opponents are the Panthers and Cardinals, the Eagles' two wildcard opponents are the Falcons and Seahawks, the Giants' two wildcard opponents are the Saints and Rams, and the Cowboys' two wildcard opponents are the Buccaneers and 49ers.

Below we present the order of finish of the four AFC divisions in 2015.

Place	AFC East	AFC South	AFC West	AFC North
1st	Patriots	Texans	Broncos	Bengals
2nd	Jets	Colts	Chiefs	Steelers
3rd	Bills	Jaguars	Raiders	Ravens
4th	Dolphins	Titans	Chargers	Browns

Since every team in the AFC East plays the every team in the AFC North this season, the AFC East gets their wild card opponents from the AFC West and AFC South.

So, the Patriots' two wild card opponents this season are the Broncos and Texans, the Jets' two wild card opponents are the Colts and Chiefs, the Bills' two wild card opponent are the Jaguars and Raiders and the Dolphins' two wild card opponents are the Titans and Chargers.

The league decides the site of the two wildcard games, assigning one at home and the other on the road.

A complete listing of each team's wildcard match-ups for the upcoming 2016 season is shown in the table to the right.

The number in parentheses is the week in which the match-up occurs. For example, we can see that the Chargers to host the Dolphins in week 10 and then visit the Browns in week 16.

There are a number of teams that have very different quality wildcard opponents this season than the last. In 2015, the Cowboys' wildcards were the Seahawks and Packers and this season, they have the Buccaneers and 49ers. The Redskins have the opposite transition. In 2015, their wildcards were the Rams and the Bears and this season they match-up with the Panthers and Cardinals. "You like that!" Kirk Cousins? Finally, the Vikings drew the Giants and Falcons as wildcards in 201, but they won the NFC North last season and this fact gets them the Cardinals and the Panthers as their wildcards this season.

Certainly, the wildcard match-ups for the 2016 season are a key part of handicapping the RSW lines, and a comparison of this season's wildcard match-ups with last season's wildcard match-ups is highly recommended.

2016 Wild Card Opponents

Team	Home Wildcard	Away Wildcard
Bears	49ers (13)	Bucs (10)
Bengals	Broncos (3)	Texans (16)
Bills	Jaguars (12)	Raiders (13)
Broncos	Patriots (15)	Bengals (3)
Browns	Chargers (16)	Titans (6)
Buccaneers	Bears (10)	Cowboys (15)
Cardinals	Redskins (13)	Vikings (11)
Chargers	Dolphins (10)	Browns (16)
Chiefs	Jets (3)	Steelers (4)
Colts	Steelers (12)	Jets (13)
Cowboys	Buccaneers (15)	49ers (4)
Dolphins	Titans (5)	Chargers (10)
Eagles	Falcons (10)	Seahawks (11)
Falcons	Packers (8)	Eagles (10)
49ers	Cowboys (4)	Bears (5)
Giants	Saints (2)	Rams (7)
Jaguars	Ravens (3)	Bills (12)
Jets	Colts (13)	Chiefs (3)
Lions	Rams (6)	Saints (13)
Packers	Seahawks (14)	Falcons (8)
Panthers	Vikings (3)	Redskins (15)
Patriots	Texans (3)	Broncos (15)
Raiders	Bills (13)	Ravens (4)
Rams	Giants (7)	Lions (6)
Ravens	Raiders (4)	Jaguars (3)
Redskins	Panthers (15)	Cardinals (13)
Saints	Lions (13)	Giants (2)
Seahawks	Eagles (11)	Packers (14)
Steelers	Chiefs (4)	Colts (12)
Texans	Bengals (16)	Patriots (3)
Titans	Browns (6)	Dolphins (5)
Vikings	Cardinals (11)	Panthers (3)

3. 2016 Special Scheduling Features

Of course, the most important factor that influences the difficulty of a team's schedule is the quality of their opponents. However, a team's opponents are known by all. It is difficult to get an *advantage* over the linesmakers with this information because the linesmakers have already factored the level of the team's opponents into the line for the Regular Season Wins. What is *not* factored into the line is the special scheduling information that is presented in the table below.

Here we present the number of times each team's opponent experiences a particular scheduling situation over the 2016 regular season. For example, the number of times a team gets an opponent off a bye week, before playing on the upcoming Thursday, off a Monday Night game the

		Opponent's Scheduling Situation								
Team	Bye Next	Off Bye	Off Thurs	Thurs Next	Off Monday	Monday Next	Div. Bef & Aft	2nd+ Away		
Bears	1	1	1	0	2	0	1	4		
Bengals	1	2	0	1	3	0	1	4		
Bills	2	0	2	1	1	0	0	3		
Broncos	1	1	0	2	1	2	0	1		
Browns	0	0	0	2	0	1	1	0		
Buccaneers	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	2		
Cardinals	0	2	3	1	0	0	3	5		
Chargers	1	0	2	0	3	2	0	1		
Chiefs	0	1	2	2	0	0	1	2		
Colts	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	2		
Cowboys	0	0	4	3	2	0	4	1		
Dolphins	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	2		
Eagles	1	3	1	0	2	3	1	3		
Falcons	0	1	2	3	1	1	2	2		
Fortyniners	0	2	2	0	2	1	0	0		
Giants	2	2	2	0	0	2	0	3		
Jaguars	0	2	1	2	0	1	0	2		
Jets	2	1	2	0	0	0	1	2		
Lions	2	1	0	2	2	0	1	0		
Packers	2	0	0	3	2	1	0	1		
Panthers	2	2	0	0	3	1	1	0		
Patriots	1	1	0	0	1	2	0	3		
Raiders	0	1	1	3	0	1	1	2		
Rams	2	0	1	1	0	1	0	4		
Ravens	0	1	0	3	1	0	1	1		
Redskins	1	0	1	1	0	3	1	4		
Saints	2	1	1	0	1	1	2	4		
Seahawks	1	1	0	0	2	1	0	3		
Steelers	2	1	1	1	1	2	0	3		
Texans	1	2	1	0	3	1	3	0		
Titans	0	1	3	1	0	0	1	2		
Vikings	2	1	2	0	0	0	3	2		

previous week and when they are facing a non-divisional opponent that is in a divisional "sandwich."

The table below gives the SDQL text for each of the eight situations presented in the table on the previous page. The SDQL text is in bold.

SDQL for the Eight Scheduling Situations				
Opp has bye next: on:week = week + 2				
Opponent off Bye: op:week+2 = week				
Opp Off Prevous Thursday: op:day = Thursday and o:NB				
Opp Plays Next Thursday: on:day = Thursday and on:NB				
Opp Off Previous Monday: op:day = Monday and o:NB				
Opp Plays Next Monday: on:day = Monday and on:NB				
Opp in Div. Sandwich: NDIV and op:DIV and on:DIV				
Opponent in 2nd away game: H and o:NB and op:A				

The teams are presented in alphabetical order by their team name in the first column. The second column gives the number of times they get an opponent that has their bye week next. Low numbers here are better because teams with a bye next can focus 100% on their current opponent. Over the 2016 season, there are ten teams with zero opponents with a bye week next and ten teams that have two opponents with a bye week next.

The third column gives the number of times a team gets an opponent that is off their bye week. It is best to have zero teams off a bye week, and there are nine teams in 2016 with this scheduling advantage. The Eagles, however, get three teams off their bye week in 2016.

Last season, the Seahawks had FOUR opponents off their bye week and they won only 10 games with their RSW line at 11.

The fourth column gives the number of times a team gets an opponent off a Thursday Night game. This column was added in 2012 because of the addition of regular Thursday Night games. Clearly, a team would like to have zero opponents off a Thursday Night game simply because of the days rest disadvantage. There are eleven teams in the league that get no opponents off a Thursday game but the Cowboys get FOUR such opponents – tops in the league.

The fifth column gives the number of times a team is

MTi Sports Forecasting's 2014 SIDE NFL Playoff Game of the YEAR!!

FIVE-Star NEW ENGLAND -6.5 over Indianapolis

-- I don't think Andrew Luck is ready to beat both Peyton Manning and Tom Brady on the road in consecutive weeks. The fact that the Patriots struggled to beat the Ravens and are one step away from the Superbowl should have them ready to roll here. There are a number of negative indicators on the Colts' side. The most glaring is that they have had trouble winning three straight road games. In fact, they are 0-6 ATS since Luck joined the team in 2012 on the road when they won their last two road games. The SDQL text is:

team=Colts and A and A and Sum(W@team and season and A,N=2)=2 and season >= 2012

Note that the Colts have been brutalized in these five contests. They lost every one by double-digits and in their two active dates this season, they lost 51-34 to the Steelers and 42-7 to the Cowboys. The average margin by which they failed to cover the spread has been a whopping 23 points. Also, the Colts have not lived up to linesmakers' expectations on the road off a come-from-behind win. Indianapolis is 0-12 ATS on the road the week after a win in which they were behind by more than a field goal at the end of the first quarter, as long as they are not laying more than two TDs. The SDQL text is: team=Colts and A and p:W and p:M1<-3 and NB and line>=-14 and season >= 1995

In Luck's career, he has been in this spot four times and the Colts have scored; 9, 9, 11 and 7 points respectively in the four games, with every game a double-digit ATS loss. New England is at their absolute best vs a team on a roll. The Patriots are a perfect 7-0 ATS when hosting a team that is on a 3+ game winning streak, covering by an average of more than 17 points per game. The SDQL text is:

team=Patriots and H and o:streak>=3 and season >= 2012 Note that the Patriots have won each of their last three in this spot by at least three TDs and they were the DOG in each of the last two. Note further that the Patriots have averaged 42 ppg in the seven games and that all seven games have gone over the total. It is also worth mentioning that the Patriots are 6-0 ATS after a game in which a receiver had more than 100 receiving yards, covering by a ridiculous 24.1 ppg. The coaching mismatch here is huge. The Colts' staff is already investing valuable time trying to figure out the Patriots' confusing substitution scheme and Belichick has more tricks up his sleeve. Lay the points as the Colts' run comes to an end.

MTi's FORECAST: NEW ENGLAND 43 Indianapolis 21

Actual Final Score: New England 45 Indianapolis 7

facing an opponent that plays on the upcoming Thursday. This is a scheduling advantage, as the team playing on Thursday will be looking ahead to the nationally televised game with short rest. In 2016, there are thirteen teams in the league that get no opponents that play on the upcoming Thursday and the Packers, Ravens, Raiders, Falcons and Cowboys are the only teams in the league with three such opponents in 2016.

The next column presents the number of times a team gets an opponent off a Monday Night game. It is an advantage to have a large number of opponents off a Monday Nighter. There are thirteen teams in the league that will not enjoy this advantage this season. The scheduling bonanza in this category goes to the Chargers, Bengals, Panthers and Texans each with three opponents who played on Monday Night the previous week.

Column seven gives the number of times a team gets an opponent that plays the next Monday Night. There are eleven teams in the league who have no such opponents and the Redskins and Eagles each get three opponents looking ahead to a Monday Nighter the following week.

Column eight presents the number of times a team is facing a non-divisional opponent that has a divisional op-

ponent both before and after. Since divisional games are more important, it is an advantage to face teams that are in a divisional sandwich. There are twelve teams in the league have NO opponents in this scheduling spot while the Cowboys face FOUR non-divisional opponents who have teams from their own division both before and after. The divisional sandwich is an important situation and could be the difference between a loss and a win. While this is not as important as a key personnel change in determining the number of wins a team will have in the regular season, it is crucial when determining the expected *difference* between the expected number of wins and the RSW line because this information is *not* already factored into the RSW line. After all this is what handicapping is all about; uncovering *differences* between the line and the expected result.

The last column gives the number of times a team is hosting an opponent that is playing in at least their second road game in as many weeks. The 49ers, Browns, Texans, Panthers and Lions are the only teams in the league that host *no* opponents that played on the road the previous week. Last season, the Giants and Seahawks were the only two teams in the league that hosted NO opponents that played on the road the previous week and both stayed UNDER their RSW line.

MTi Sports Forecasting's 2014 TOTALS NFL Playoff Game of the YEAR!!

4.5-Star Carolina at Seattle OVER 40.5 -- Ron Rivera likes to base his game plan on how his team matches up vs the opponent. If he a home favorite over a team with a weak offense, he dictates a conservative game plan. If he is on the road vs a good team, he -- as he should -- employs a more aggressive attack. He should know that he is not going to win this game with 17 points. In fact, since Rivera because their head coach in 2011, the Panthers are 11-0 OU as a dog of more than six points, flying over by an average of 13.5 ppg. See for yourself by running this SDQL text:

team=Panthers and line>6 and season>=2011

The Panthers also qualify for a couple of playoff-only systems that indicate the OVER. In the playoffs, teams are 8-0 OU (13.44 ppg) as a dog the week after a game in which they allowed at least 100 fewer yards passing last week than their season-to-date average. The SDQL is:

playoffs=1 and D and tA(po:PY) - po:PY > 100 and NB and date>=20020127

and:

Teams are 8-0 OU (12.69 ppg) in the history of the playoff database as a 7+ dog the week after a game as a home favorite in which they had at least three more minutes of possession time than their season-to-date average. The SDQL text for this one is: playoffs=1 and line>=7 and p:HF and p:TOP - tA(p:TOP) >= 3*60 and NB

Turning our attention to the Seahawks we find that they qualify for

a playoff-only system that has been perfect since 2008. It reads, "Teams that have won and covered three straight are 7-0 OU when their opponent is off a win." The SDQL text is:

playoffs=1 and F and streak>=3 and ats streak>=3 and op:W and season>=2008

These two teams are 1-2 in the entire league this season in rushing first downs. The Seahawks are first at 9.0 per game and the Panthers are second at 7.6 per game. This points to the OVER, as Seattle is 7-0 OU when hosting a team that has averaged at least 7.25 rushing first downs per game. The SDQL text is:

team=Seahawks and H and oA(RFD)>7.25 and season>=2010 Many might quote the fact that the last three times these two met, the final scores were: 16-12, 12-7 and 13-9 with the Seahawks winning every time. HOWEVER, all three games were in Carolina and the line was relatively close to pick in all three. Here, the Panthers are a big dog and they are on the road. In fact, these two have met eight times since the Panthers entered the league. All five games in Carolina went UNDER and all three games in Seattle went OVER. This is consistent with the game plan strategy discussed above.

Rivera should let Cam Newton loose here and that should lead to more possessions for both teams and more points. Take the OVER.

MTi's FORECAST: SEATTLE 38 Carolina 17

Actual Final Score: Seattle 31 Carolina 17

The one team with a big advantage in this particular scheduling spot is the Cardinals, as their opponent will be playing in their second straight road game in FIVE of their eight home games this season.

Teams with four such opponents -- half of their eight home games -- are the Rams, Bears, Bengals, Redskins and Saints.

If the reader is going to use any of this information to make an RSW play, it is a good idea to probe further into the scheduling situations presented here. After all, when playing RSWs you are looking for a situational advantage that has the potential to *change* the straight up outcome of the game.

Let's dig a bit deeper into the numbers. Earlier we mentioned that the Eagles have three opponents coming off their bye week in 2016. Checking the 2016 schedule with the SDQL reveals that they are in weeks 7, 8 and 9. That is, the Eagles face three consecutive opponents that have an extra week to prepare for them. In week 7, the

Eagles host the Vikings when the Vikings are off their bye week. In week 8, the Eagles visit the Cowboys when Dallas is off their bye week and in week 9 the Eagles visit the Giants when NY is off their bye week. That is a tough stretch of games and it is easy to imagine the fact that their opponent is off their bye changing the SU outcome of the game and this is *crucial* in a 16-game season. Finally it is worth mentioning that the Eagles bye week is in week 4 this season; too early to help them with the tough stretch in weeks 7, 8 and 9.

Previously, we mentioned that the Cowboys get four opponents off a Thursday Night game this season. In week 5 they host the Bengals when Cincinnati is off a home Thursday Nighter vs the Dolphins. In week 11 they host the Ravens when they are off a home Thursday Nighter vs Cleveland. In week 13 they play in Minnesota on Thursday when the Vikings are off a Thanksgiving Day game in Detroit and they are off a Thanksgiving Day game in Washington. Finally, in week 17 they visit the Eagles when Philadelphia is off a Thursday Nighter at home vs the

MTi Sports Forecasting's 2015 SIDE NFL Playoff Game of the YEAR!!

5-Star NFL Playoff Game of the Year

NEW ENGLAND -4.5 over Kansas City -- We had the Texans last week and when the Chiefs ran the opening kickoff back for a TD, we knew it was over. The Texans are not a come-from-behind team. Once they were forced to throw, the blowout was on. The Chiefs have exceeded their expectations and are overmatched here. We are on the Patriots.

The coaching mismatch here is just about as big as it gets in the NFL. In a battle of wits, Andy Reid is unarmed. Bill Belichick will certainly have found some weaknesses to exploit and Andy Reid is simply going to go with what has got them eleven straight wins. It will not work here. Beating Bobby Hoyer and Bill OBrien is a LOT taller order than beating Tom Brady and Bill Belichick.

New England is very tough when hosting a team on a winning streak. The Patriots are 10-0 ATS at home vs a team with three wins in the last three weeks, covering by a whopping 16.55 ppg. In their last three games, they: beat the Colts 43-22 laying 7.5, beat the Broncos 43-21 getting 3 and hammered the Colts 45-7 laying a TD. That's three straight wins by at least three TDs when facing a team that is hot.

The Patriots have averaged 3.67 yards per rush this season and this is third worst in the entire league. However, is no reason to play against the Patriots, as this just means more Tom Brady. New England. Looking at the results we see that the Patriots are 15-0 ATS on turf vs a non-divisional opponent when they are averaging less than 3.8 yards per rush, covering by an average of a staggering 21.2 ppg. This is a record for us. A 15-0 trend with an average margin of more than three touchdowns. The SDQL text is:

team = Patriots and surface = artificial and NDIV and tS(RY) / tS(rushes) < 3.8 and date >= 20011104

This one spans Brady's entire career.

Since 2006, their smallest victory was their 26-10 win over the Falcons, every other win was by at least 20 points -- and they were the dog four times!

Kansas City has completed 66.1% of their passes this season and this is among the league leaders. The Patriots are well behind at 64.2%. Again, this just serves to get the Patriots full attention. New England is 14-0 ATS when hosting a non-divisional opponent that has completed at least 65% of their passes and averaged fewer than five yards per carry season-to-date. The SDQL text is: team = Patriots and H and NDIV and oS(100*completions) / oS(passes) >= 65 and oA(YPRA) < 5 and date >= 20061200 Note that New England has exceeded the linesmakers expectations by an average of 14.6 ppg. Since the start of the 2014 season, the Pats have had four games in this spot and they won by 26, 28, 22 and 17 points and they were the dog in two of the four. Kansas City is a fake, an imposter. They do not belong in the AFC Championship game -- New England does. Of course is it easy to quote good stats on the Chiefs because their last eight wins have come against the: Chargers, Bills, Raiders, Chargers, Raiders, Browns, Ravens and Texans. The Patriots are in another league that these opponents. Kansas City is in for a huge letdown. Finally, we'll cite the fact that Chiefs are 0-10 ATS as a dog off a TD+ win as a favorite in which they were up by a TD at the half, as long as they did not commit three-plus turnovers. FORECAST: New England 45 Kansas City 10

Actual Final Score: New England 27 Kansas City 20

Giants. The only game in which the scheduling might affect the SU result here is vs the Bengals in week 5. The game is lined at pick as we write this and the extra time to prepare might swing the advantage to the Bengals.

When a team has an upcoming Thursday Nighter, there is a strong tendency to look ahead because they will only have three days to rest before playing again. Let's examine the Atlanta Falcons, who get three opponents looking ahead to a Thursday Nighter in 2016. In week 5 the Falcons play in Denver when the Broncos visit the Chargers on the upcoming Thursday. In week 13, the Falcons host the Chiefs with Kansas City looking ahead to a game vs the Raiders on the upcoming Thursday. Finally, in week 14, the Falcons visit the Rams with St Louis looking "forward" to a game in Seattle on Thursday. So, all three of the Falcons' opponents that play on the upcoming Thursday Night will be looking ahead to a *divisional* match-up.

Now let's focus on Monday Nighters. The advantage a team gets when facing a team off a Monday Night game is inversely proportional to the strength of the team that played on Monday Night. If team coming off the Monday Nighter is strong, it is likely that they went all-in on Monday Night without much thought of their upcoming weaker opponent. To see what we mean, consider the Houston Texans who get three teams coming off a Monday Nighter this season. In week 5 they visit the Vikings when Minnesota is off a Monday Nighter vs the Giants. In week 13, they visit the Packers when Green Bay is off a Monday Nighter in Philadelphia and in week 14 the Texans visit the Colts when Indianapolis is off a road Monday Nighter vs the Jets. So, in three of the Texans eight road games this season, they get a team off a Monday Nighter the previous week. At this writing the Texans are underdogs of more than a FG in each of the three games. They should go at least 1-2 with a good possibility of 2-1 in these three games -- especially when we see that the Texans are 6-0 straight up their last six when facing a team off a Monday Nighter the previous week.

A couple of pages earlier we revealed that the Cowboys get four opponents in a divisional sandwich. Let's take a deeper dive into these match-ups. In week 4, the Cowboys visit the 49ers when San Francisco is off a game vs the Seahawks and have the Cardinals next. In week 10, the Cowboys play in Pittsburgh with the Steelers between road games vs Baltimore and Cleveland. In week 11, the Cowboys host the Ravens with Baltimore between games vs the Browns and Bengals and in week 15 the Cowboys host the Bucs when Tampa Bay is between games vs the Saints. Will the fact that the Steelers are between two divisional games be the advantage the Cowboys need to get the upset? We'll see.

Finally, we'll investigate the Cardinals' five home games this season when their opponent played on the road the previous week. In week 2 the Cardinals host the Bucs when Tampa was in Atlanta for week 1. In week 4, the Cardinals host the Rams when the Rams played in Tampa in week 3. In week 6, the Cardinals host the Jets when NY played in Pittsburgh in week 5. In week 13, the Cardinals host the Redskins when Washington is off a Thanksgiving Day game in Dallas and in week 15, the Cardinals host the Saints with New Orleans off a game in Tampa Bay. At this writing, the Cardinals are a significant favorite in each of these five games. While this is a scheduling advantage for the Cardinals, it is not likely to make a significant difference in their regular season win total because these are games they were likely to win without the scheduling advantage.

Finally we are going to remark on some scheduling data that does not appear in the large table on page five. It is certainly worth mentioning that the Bengals, Chargers and Texans each get five games this season in which they have more rest than their opponent -- tops in the league. In addition, the Browns and Dolphins are the only teams in the league that play *no* games in which their opponent has more rest than they do.

It is also worthwhile to comment on grass vs turf games in 2016 because there are some unusual scheduling situations of which any serious regular season win handicapper should be aware.

In 2016, the Buffalo Bills play fourteen of their sixteen games on turf. Their only two games on grass are on the road vs the Dolphins and Oakland. Also, the Lions, Bengals, Rams and Ravens only play three of their sixteen games on grass this season.

It is also interesting to note that the Dolphins, who have a grass field at home, play on turf in SEVEN of the eight road games this season. Similarly, the Vikings, who have an artificial surface at home, play only ONE road game this season on plastic.

A thorough analysis of these scheduling spots is certain to provide an edge over the linesmakers when playing Regular Season Win totals and this is just what the SDQL is designed to allow you to do. The SDQL provides "Agile Access to Sports Data."

Now let's take a look at the RSW results over the past five seasons.

4. Regular Season Win Results 2011-15

As usual, we like to look at RSW results from previous seasons. The tables in this section gives the 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015 NFL RSW results. The tables are ranked by RSW margin. That is, they are ranked by the difference between their RSW line and their actual regular season wins.

2011 NFL Regular Season Win Results

Team	RSW Line	RSW	Diff
San Francisco	8	13	+5
Green Bay	11.5	15	+3.5
New Orleans	10	13	+3
Detroit	7.5	10	+2.5
Tennessee	6.5	9	+2.5
Denver	6	8	+2
Houston	8	10	+2
Carolina	4.5	6	+1.5
Cincinnati	7.5	9	+1.5
New England	11.5	13	+1.5
Arizona	7	8	+1
Baltimore	11	12	+1
Buffalo	5	6	+1
Oakland	7	8	+1
Pittsburgh	11	12	+1
Seattle	7	7	0
Atlanta	10.5	10	-0.5
N.Y. Giants	9.5	9	-0.5
Dallas	9	8	-1
Jacksonville	6	5	-1
Kansas City	8	7	-1
Chicago	9.5	8	-1.5
Washington	6.5	5	-1.5
Miami	8	6	-2
N.Y. Jets	10	8	-2
Philadelphia	10	8	-2
San Diego	10	8	-2
Cleveland	6.5	4	-2.5
Minnesota	6.5	3	-3.5
Tampa Bay	8.5	4	-4.5
St. Louis	7	2	-5
Indianapolis	10	2	-8

In 2011, San Francisco bested all expectations by going 13-3 when they were expected to finish 500 for the season. The biggest disappointment of 2011 was the Colts, but this line was before Manning was declared out for the season.

The team that was best on the positive end in 2012 was the Colts, who finished 11-5 in Andrew Luck's rookie season.

Team	RSW Line	RSW	Diff
Indianapolis	5.5	11	+5.5
Denver	8.5	13	+4.5
Atlanta	9	13	+4.5
Minnesota	6	10	+4
Seattle	7	10	+4
Washington	6.5	10	+3.5
Cincinnati	8	10	+2
Houston	10	12	+2
San Francisco	10	11	+1
St. Louis	6	7	+1
Tampa Bay	6	7	+1
Chicago	9.5	10	+0.5
Baltimore	10	10	0
New England	12	12	0
Carolina	7.5	7	-0.5
Cleveland	5.5	5	-0.5
Dallas	8.5	8	-0.5
Miami	7.5	7	-0.5
N.Y. Giants	9.5	9	-0.5
Green Bay	12	11	-1
Tennessee	7	6	-1
Arizona	7	5	-2
Buffalo	8	6	-2
Pittsburgh	10	8	-2
San Diego	9	7	-2
N.Y. Jets	8.5	6	-2.5
New Orleans	10	7	-3
Oakland	7	4	-3
Jacksonville	5.5	2	-3.5
Detroit	9.5	4	-5.5
Kansas City	8	2	-6
Philadelphia	10	4	-6

In 2012, the biggest disappointment was the Eagles, which only won four games while projected to win ten. We are proud to say that our 2012 NFL Futures Play of the Year was Philadelphia UNDER 10 wins. The write-up is given below:

MTi's 2012 NFL Futures Play of the Year

Philadelphia UNDER 10 wins - The Eagles are more smoke and mirrors than substance. They did win four in a row to close out the season, but they beat only the Dolphins, Jets, Cowboys and Redskins. None of these four teams finished the season over 500 and Stephen McGee was the QB for the Cowboys when the Eagles beat them. Philadelphia was a huge disappointment last season and they should be again this season. One reason is the "quirks" in their schedule.

For example, in both games vs Dallas this season, the Eagles are off a Monday Night game. Dallas was swept by the Eagles last season and will have an enhanced opportunity for revenge because of the favorable scheduling situation.

Even more importantly, the Eagles get FOUR teams off their bye week this season. In weeks 5, 6, 8 and 11, the Eagles get a team that has had two weeks to prepare for them. In week 5 they get the Steelers off of their bye, in week 6 they get the Lions off of their bye, in week 8 they get the Falcons off of their bye and in week 11 they visit the Redskins when they are off of their bye (Philadelphia has their bye in week 7). Certainly, the Eagles' quality opponents in these four games will benefit from the extra time - perhaps enough for their opponent to get the straight up win. It is also worth mentioning that the Eagles also have two opponents that are off a Thursday game this season, making two more games vs a team with extra rest. In all, the Eagles have NINE opponents with more than the normal six days rest this season - by far the most in the league (most other teams have three or fewer).

Andy Reid was a great coach earlier in his career, but it is evident in his press conferences that he is wearing down and will be frustrated by any dissention among the players - which is very likely to occur when they lose a game they should have won. Reid was VERY close to retirement last season and it was evident that the Fans were disappointed when he decided to return for one more year. We don't think he'll last the entire season. Michael Vick is injury prone and is not the even close to player he once was. He committed 24 turnovers last season and there's no reason why this number should improve this season. That fact that the Eagles aggressively went after Peyton Manning is compelling evidence that the Eagles don't have that much confidence in Vick. We have them third in the division.

MTI's FORECAST: PHILADELPHIA 8-8

Actual Result: Philadelphia 4-12

In 2013, both the Cardinals and Panthers performed much better than expectations. The Cardinals won ten games in the tough NFC West when they were only expected to win 5.5 and the Panthers were 12-4 when they were expected to be a tick below 500.

Team	RSW Line	RSW	Diff
Arizona	5.5	10	+4.5
Carolina	7.5	12	+4.5
Kansas City	7.5	11	+3.5
Cincinnati	8.5	11	+2.5
Indianapolis	8.5	11	+2.5
Philadelphia	7.5	10	+2.5
Seattle	10.5	13	+2.5
Denver	11.5	13	+1.5
N.Y. Jets	6.5	8	+1.5
New England	10.5	12	+1.5
New Orleans	9.5	11	+1.5
San Diego	7.5	9	+1.5
Miami	7.5	8	+0.5
San Francisco	11.5	12	+0.5
Tennessee	6.5	7	+0.5
Baltimore	8.5	8	-0.5
Chicago	8.5	8	-0.5
Dallas	8.5	8	-0.5
Detroit	7.5	7	-0.5
St. Louis	7.5	7	-0.5
Jacksonville	5	4	-1
Buffalo	7.5	6	-1.5
Oakland	5.5	4	-1.5
Pittsburgh	9.5	8	-1.5
N.Y. Giants	9	7	-2
Cleveland	6.5	4	-2.5
Green Bay	10.5	8	-2.5
Minnesota	7.5	5	-2.5
Tampa Bay	7.5	4	-3.5
Atlanta	9	4	-5
Washington	8.5	3	-5.5
Houston	10.5	2	-8.5

2013 NFL Regular Season Win Results

On the negative end in 2013, we find the Texans, who were a brutal 2-14 with a RSW line of 10.5 -- and they had no obvious excuse. The Falcons and Redskins also had seasons significantly below expectations.

Team	RSW Line	RSW	Diff
Dallas	7.5	12	+4.5
Arizona	7.5	11	+3.5
Buffalo	6.5	9	+2.5
Detroit	8.5	11	+2.5
Pittsburgh	8.5	11	+2.5
Philadelphia	8	10	+2
Baltimore	8.5	10	+1.5
Green Bay	10.5	12	+1.5
Houston	7.5	9	+1.5
Indianapolis	9.5	11	+1.5
New England	10.5	12	+1.5
Cincinnati	9	10	+1
Minnesota	6	7	+1
San Diego	8	9	+1
Seattle	11	12	+1
Cleveland	6.5	7	+0.5
Denver	11.5	12	+0.5
Kansas City	8.5	9	+0.5
Miami	8	8	0
Carolina	8.5	7	-1.5
Jacksonville	4.5	3	-1.5
Oakland	4.5	3	-1.5
St. Louis	7.5	6	-1.5
N.Y. Giants	8	6	-2
Atlanta	8.5	6	-2.5
New Orleans	9.5	7	-2.5
San Francisco	10.5	8	-2.5
N.Y. Jets	7	4	-3
Chicago	8.5	5	-3.5
Washington	7.5	4	-3.5
Tampa Bay	7	2	-5
Tennessee	7	2	-5

2014 NFL Regular Season Win Results

Looking at the 2014 results we see the Dallas Cowboys at the top of the heap with a regular season record of 12-4 with an RSW line of 7.5 plus JUICE. We are proud to claim that Dallas OVER 7.5 wins was our 2014 NFL Futures Play of the Year. The complete write-up is reproduced below:

MTi's 2014 NFL Futures Play of the Year!

4.5-Star Dallas OVER 7.5 +165 – Everyone is down on Dallas. Their regular season win line has plummeted since it was released. This is reminiscent of what happened last season with Philadelphia. The Eagles RSW line dropped like a rock as all the "experts" were sure that they would be terrible in 2013 – with one outspoken NFL handicapper predicting 4-12. However, the Eagles not only went 10-6, they won the division when they were expected to finish last. This is what we call the lemming effect. Everyone thinks that Vegas is giving away money and want to get in on the action. With the line moving, everyone mindlessly jumps on board not wanting to miss the opportunity. However, they are not betting their own opinion, they are simply blindly following the crowd – like lemmings.

Dallas has terrific offensive weapons. Despite the fact that their defense had very disappointing season in 2013, they won eight games with a regular season win line of 8.5. Jason Witten recently stated "This is the best offensive line we have had in a long time." We think their defense and their offense will be better this season and they have a season win total of 7.5 at PLUS 165.

When the early season game lines were released, Dallas was favored in eight games and this did not include their week three game vs the Rams in St Louis, who will now be missing Sam Bradford. The fact that Bradford was lost for the season affected the Rams' season win line, but not that of the Cowboys, who face St Louis early in the season.

Yes, Dallas has a tough schedule, but this is no secret. This, in fact, is a contributing factor to their low RSW line, but they had the Saints as one of their wild card opponents last season as well.

Also, Dallas lost THREE games by a single point last season – 17-16 in Kansas City and 30-31 in Detroit and 37-36 at home vs Green Bay. The Cowboys also lost a 51-48 barnburner to the Broncos and the lost 24-22 to the Eagles on the final week of the season with Kyle Orton at QB.

With a healthy Romo and the offensive weapons at his disposal, we would not be surprised if this team won the NFC East and we already invested in Dez Bryant to have the most receiving yards in the league at plus 600.

MTi's FORECAST: Dallas 9-7 in 2014

Actual Result 12-4

Last season, the Panthers were the best OVER play, as they were 15-1 during the regular season with an RSW line of 8.5 wins. The Cardinals and Vikings also were overachievers in 2015. At the other end of the table we find the Chargers, Ravens and Cowboys, each of which had very disappointing seasons.

Team	RSW Line	RSW	Diff
Panthers	8.5	15	6.5
Cardinals	8.5	13	4.5
Vikings	7	11	4
Bengals	8.5	12	3.5
Chiefs	8.5	11	2.5
Redskins	6.5	9	2.5
Jets	8	10	2
Broncos	10.5	12	1.5
Patriots	10.5	12	1.5
Raiders	5.5	7	1.5
Steelers	8.5	10	1.5
Texans	8.5	9	0.5
Buccaneers	6	6	0
Bills	8.5	8	-0.5
Falcons	8.5	8	-0.5
Jaguars	5.5	5	-0.5
Bears	7	6	-1
Packers	11	10	-1
Rams	8	7	-1
Seahawks	11	10	-1
Lions	8.5	7	-1.5
Saints	8.5	7	-1.5
Eagles	9.5	7	-2.5
49ers	7.5	5	-2.5
Giants	8.5	6	-2.5
Titans	5.5	3	-2.5
Colts	11	8	-3
Dolphins	9	6	-3
Browns	6.5	3	-3.5
Chargers	8	4	-4
Ravens	9	5	-4
Cowboys	9.5	4	-5.5

2015 NFL Regular Season Win Results

MTi's NFL Futures were perfect in 2015 with their 5-Star Futures Play of the Year on the Jets over 7.5, a 4.5-Star on Dallas UNDER 9.5 wins and a 4-Star on Atlanta under 8.5 wins. The write-up on the Jets OVER 7.5 wins is given below.

MTI'S 2015 NFL FUTURES PLAY OF THE YEAR

5-Star NY JETS OVER 7.5 wins +100 -- Everyone is down on Geno Smith -- especially former teammate IK Enemkpali. He has been called the worst quarterback in the league. Indeed, he has made some bad plays on national TV. However, he is talented and it is much easier to coach decision-making skills than it is to coach athleticism. He should get the coaching he needs this season. The Jets certainly have the talent to make some noise in the AFC East. We like the Jets OVER 7.5 wins.

Last season, the Jets had six games in which they outgained their opponent but lost the game. This was tops in the league. These losses were, for the most part, due to mistakes. Often they were early mistakes that got the Jets in a hole and forced them to play from behind. In fact, they outgained the Super Bowl Champion New England Patriots in both meetings in 2014 and lost only 27-25 and 17-16. Both games were legit.

In addition, New York had only two games last season in which they had a positive takeaway margin, fewest in the entire league. In the NFL is very hard to win games without a positive takeaway margin.

Geno Smith was a very young 21 when he came to the Jets. Right now he is 24 (turns 25 on October 10th). For comparison, Tom Brady was 24 years and one month in his first season as the starter for the Patriots (2001).

Recently Geno Smith gave the New York press an analogy, "The hardest steel was created in the hottest of fires, and so I've been in the hottest of fires, and I think it's made me a better person and a better player." We like it -- it makes sense.

There are two possibilities. 1. Fitzpatrick is terrific and keeps the job. 2. Fitzpatrick is not terrific and Geno Smith is welcomed by the players -- and perhaps even the fans -- with open arms.

The Jets' first seven home games this season are all winnable. They are against the: Browns, Eagles, Redskins, Jaguars, Bills, Dolphins and Titans. Their last home game of the regular season is vs the Patriots and this could a good spot for the Jets, as the Patriots may have already wrapped up the AFC East and will rest their key players.

The Jets have a lot of talent on defense and at wide receiver. The only thing keeping this line under 8 wins is their lack of a quality QB. If Fitzpatrick/Smith can avoid making key mistakes, the Jets should be able to challenge for a wild card spot.

FORECAST: NY JETS 10-6 in 2015

Actual Result: NY Jets 10-6

At this point is seems natural to look at the combined results over the past five seasons to see what we can conclude. There are two teams that have gone over their RSW line for five straight seasons; the Broncos and the Bengals. As a result of their five-season OVER streak the Bengals have an RSW line that is higher than in any of the past five seasons. On the other hand, the Broncos RSW line has dropped considerably from last season due to their unknown quarterback situation.

The Cardinals have gone over their RSW line by more than three games in each of the past three regular seasons, going 10-6, 11-5 and 13-3, respectively. Can they do it again?

Each season, the Patriots start with high expectations and they have not disappointed, with an RSW record of 4-0-1 over the past five regular seasons.

The Chiefs have gone OVER their RSW line for three straight seasons and the Falcons have stayed UNDER their RSW in each of the past three seasons.

The Dolphins have gone over their RSW once in the past five seasons and that was only by a half game. As a result, their RSW has dropped to 7, lowest it has been over the past five NFL seasons. The Bears have a similar result. Chicago has gone over only once over the past five seasons and that was by a half-game. Their RSW this season is only 7.5 wins.

The Rams have stayed under for three straight seasons and the NY Football Giants have continually had disappointing seasons and this has resulted in a charge at the head coaching position. Their RSW line this season is an optimistic 8 leaning heavily toward the OVER with Ben McAdoo taking over for the player-favorite Tom Coughlin.

The Jacksonville Jaguars are yet another team that has disappointed their fans for five straight seasons. This season, however, there is more optimism than ever, as their RSW line is at 7.5 wins, which is the first time that is has been above 6 in any of the past five seasons.

The Tampa Bay Buccaneers have the lowest average RSW result over the past five seasons, averaging 2.4 games fewer than their RSW line. Jameis Winston has the Bucs optimistic about 2016, with an RSW line this is currently sitting at a flat 7.

To be successful handicapping the NFL RSW lines all of the match-up and scheduling information must be combined with all the personnel and coaching changes to develop a comprehensive picture of a team's realistic expectations in 2016. Further, a thorough examination of each team's results over the past couple of seasons is mandatory. Did the team have lucky wins, unlucky losses, key injuries? Did the team have an unusually high turnover margin or an unusually high takeaway margin?

2011-15 NFL RSW Summary

Team	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	11-15
Cardinals	+1	-2	+4.5	+3.5	+4.5	+11.5
Bengals	+1.5	+2	+2.5	+1	+3.5	+10.5
Panthers	+1.5	-0.5	+4.5	-1.5	+6.5	+10.5
Broncos	+2	+4.5	+1.5	+0.5	+1.5	+10
Seahawks	0	+4	+2.5	+1	-1	+6.5
Patriots	+1.5	0	+1.5	+1.5	+1.5	+6
Vikings	-3.5	+4	-2.5	+1	+4	+3
49ers	+5	+1	+0.5	-2.5	-2.5	+1.5
Steelers	+1	-2	-1.5	+2.5	+1.5	+1.5
Packers	+3.5	-1	-2.5	+1.5	-1	+0.5
Bills	+1	-2	-1.5	+2.5	-0.5	-0.5
Chiefs	-1	-6	+3.5	+0.5	+2.5	-0.5
Colts	-8	+5.5	+2.5	+1.5	-3	-1.5
Ravens	+1	0	-0.5	+1.5	-4	-2
Lions	+2.5	-5.5	-0.5	+2.5	-1.5	-2.5
Saints	+3	-3	+1.5	-2.5	-1.5	-2.5
Texans	+2	+2	-8.5	+1.5	+0.5	-2.5
Cowboys	-1	-0.5	-0.5	+4.5	-5.5	-3
Raiders	+1	-3	-1.5	-1.5	+1.5	-3.5
Jets	-2	-2.5	+1.5	-3	+2	-4
Falcons	-0.5	+4	-5	-2.5	-0.5	-4.5
Redskins	-1.5	+3.5	-5.5	-3.5	+2.5	-4.5
Dolphins	-2	-0.5	+0.5	0	-3	-5
Chargers	-2	-2	+1.5	+1	-4	-5.5
Titans	+2.5	-1	+0.5	-5	-2.5	-5.5
Bears	-1.5	+0.5	-0.5	-3.5	-1	-6
Eagles	-2	-6	+2.5	+2	-2.5	-6
Rams	-5	+1	-0.5	-1.5	-1	-7
Giants	-0.5	-0.5	-2	-2	-2.5	-7.5
Jaguars	-1	-3.5	-1	-1.5	-0.5	-7.5
Browns	+-2.5	-0.5	-2.5	+0.5	-3.5	-8.5
Buccaneers	-4.5	+1	-3.5	-5	0	-12

This is what the handicapping team will be working on from now until about a week before the season starts when MTi Sports Forecasting's 2016 NFL RSW Plays are released at 6:00 pm EST September 3rd only at KillerCappers.com.

Get in early, the lines move quickly!