



NFL Week 1

Green Bay Packers	Minnesota Vikings	<p><u>Game of the Week</u></p> <p>Green Bay Packers + 2.5 vs. Minnesota Vikings Game Time: 10 AM PST 12 NOON CST 1 PM EST</p> <p>Our top selection in week # 1 to kick off the 2020 NFL season takes us to Minneapolis, MN to U. S. Bank Stadium, and we are backing the division road underdog Green Bay Packers!</p> <p>The Packers come off a stellar 13-3 2019 regular season winning the NFC North, defeating the Seahawks in the NFC divisional round, before losing to the 49ers in the NFC Championship 37-20 in a game that was not even as close as the final score! It really was a humiliating end to an otherwise stellar season, a season in which the Packers far exceeded expectations under rookie head coach Matt LaFleur. The Vikings finished the 2019 regular season with a 10-6 record, good enough for a wild card playoff berth; they defeated the Saints in New Orleans as a 7 point road dog in a dramatic OT finish! Vikings QB Capt. Kirk, after a subpar 1st season with the Vikings in 2018, played much better last season had a good year. The Packers won both matchups between the two teams last year.</p> <p>In this game today, I have identified many edges/advantages in the Packers favor, both fundamental and psychological. This is a QB driven league, so lets start there. Packers QB Aaron Rodgers has a career record of 123-68 vs. Kirk Cousins career record of 45-44. I know Aaron Rodgers has obviously started a lot more games than Capt. Kirk, but here we have a QB in Aaron Rodgers with a solid career winning record vs. a QB thats basically a 50 - 50 coin flip in every game he starts behind center. Lets look at the last two years in terms of turnovers between our two signal-callers. Aaron Rodgers has coughed up the ball 15 times, 8 picks and 7 lost fumbles vs. Capt. Kirk, who has coughed up the ball 27 times, 17 picks and 10 lost fumbles.</p> <p>Besides these stats, which are clearly in Aaron Rodgers favor, there is a Dr. Alan psychological reason to think Aaron Rodgers as a QB and the Packers as a team will want to come out motivated and fired up and win this game. First Aaron Rodgers In the 2020 NFL draft, the Packers, instead of using their 1st round pick on a</p>
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	<p>WR , shocked everyone, including their franchise QB, and used their 1st round draft pick and drafted QB Jordan Love, Aaron Rodgers heir apparent. Ouch! And the Packers traded up to do it! Double Ouch! Aaron Rodgers was insulted, even if he did not come right out and say it, and you know he is going to want to go out and play well in week # 1 to throw up a big STOP sign to the talk of Jordan Love taking over!</p> <p>The Packers as a team have been hearing non - stop all offseason about how they were not as good as their 13-3 record that they were a phony team, and when you combine that with wanting to make amends for their blowout humiliating NFC Championship game loss to the 49ers, I think we are going to see a fired-up and motivated Packers squad take the field in Minnesota!</p> <p>The Vikings have enjoyed a tremendous home-field advantage, but that advantage will be considerably weakened for this game because there will be no fans in attendance. Also, I think the Vikings are much weaker on both sides of the ball, as they will take the field without two huge contributors when they lost WR Stephon Diggs, who is now with the Bills, and the Vikings key sack leader DE Danielle Hunter who made the pro bowl the last two years and registered 14.5 sacks each year is injured and wont play in this game. Vikings RB Dalvin Cook just signed a monster contract; hes now fat and happy. He may be out late celebrating his big payday Saturday night instead of getting the proper rest and concentrating on the Packers. Also, Vikings OC Kevin Stefanski left to coach the Browns, so the Vikings offense has to learn a new system under new OC Gary Kubiak.</p> <p>Lastly, if the game is close in the 4th quarter and a big play needs to be made, who do you trust more to make a big play, Aaron Rodgers or Capt. Kirk.?! </p> <p>Add in all up, and Dr. Alan sees a fired up and motivated Aaron Rodgers playing well, and a fired-up and motivated Packers squad pulling off the upset and winning this game outright!</p> <p>NOTE: If you want to but a little insurance and lay a little more juice for insurance, you can buy the 1/2 point to take the line to 3</p>
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Las Vegas Raiders	Carolina Panthers	<p><u>Crystal Ball Bet</u></p> <p>The pick: Las Vegas Raiders - 3 vs. Carolina Panthers Game Time: 10 AM PST 12 NOON CST 1 PM EST</p> <p>The Raiders have several edges and advantages, which I will detail. First, I want to acknowledge that I am well aware that this line has moved in the Panthers favor, and that the general public is heavily betting on the Raiders, and that the Raiders and Jon Gruden have a horrible history playing on the road in the Eastern Time Zone which are three factors that I usually try to avoid when making a selection. However, I see several advantages in the Raiders favor that makes this a strong selection worth and a strong Dr. Alan psychological advantage.</p> <p>I want to start with what should be the most considerable advantage in the Raiders favor today, and that would be coaching. First, the Raiders head coach Jon Gruden, a Super Bowl winner with 14 years of head coaching experience, offensive coordinator Greg Olsen 19 years NFL coaching experience, defensive coordinator Paul Guenther 18 years NFL coaching experience. All were with the Raiders last season; the same systems and schemes are familiar to the Raiders players on both sides of the ball.</p> <p>Now lets look at the Panthers, new head coach Matt Ruhle from Baylor, zero years of NFL coaching experience, OC Joe Brady, who coached LSU QB Joe Burrow has two years of coaching experience as an assistant with the Saints, and DC Phil Snow who was Matt Ruhles DC at Baylor has three years of NFL coaching experience as the Lions defensive assistant and LB coach form 2005 thru 2008</p> <p>In the three most important coaching positions, the Raiders have a combined 51 years worth of NFL coaching experience vs. the Panthers 5 years. If Chuckie and his experienced Raiders staff can not out game plan the Panthers inexperienced staff and their rookie head coach, they all need to find another work line!</p>



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		<p>With that being said, there are also fundamental reasons to side with the Raiders. Yes, Panthers QB Teddy Bridgewater is solid and later in the year, I would give the advantage to him over Raiders QB Derek Carr, but not in week # 1 with no OTAs, mini-camps, preseason games, and learning a brand new system with new coaches and playing with new teammates. The Raiders have continuity on their side on both sides of the ball. On the other side of the ball, the Panthers defense was horrible last year, they have several new starters, as can be expected, and they lost their best player Luke Kuechly to retirement.</p> <p>Lets look at pressure and the schedule. The Panthers, with their new rookie head coach, new coached, and many new players, are under no pressure to win. However, the Raiders head honcho Jon Gruden has had two disappointing years; he is under some pressure to win and start winning now! The Raiders schedule is a winnable game for the Raiders, and they know their schedule after this game is brutal; they face four playoff teams in a row - the Saints, Patriots, Bills, and Chiefs. Thus, even in week # 1, this game becomes a must-win for the Raiders!</p> <p>Heres a last golden nugget of information that stood out to me, new head coaches in the NFL the last two years have been money burners going a collective 4-11-1 ATS</p> <p>Over the course of a 60-minute game, Dr. Alan thinks the Raiders coaching advantage, continuity of the players, and the schedule and the pressure to win will result in a Raiders win and cover!</p>
Tampa Bay Buccaneers	New Orleans Saints	<p>The pick: Tampa Bay Buccaneers + 3.5 vs. New Orleans Saints Game Time: 1:25 PST, 3:25 CST 4:25 EST</p> <p>I will get right to the point that this is a no brainer; anytime you can back GOAT QB Tom Brady as an underdog, I am taking! The Dr. Alan psychological advantage goes to the Bucs and GOAT QB Tom Brady - this is Tom Bradys first game with new coaches and players, and you know that he will be super fired up and motivated to prove to himself and everyone else that he can win without GOAT HC Bill Belichick (and you know Tom Terrific will get his teammates extra fired up and motived as well!)</p>



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		<p>The Bucs have better weapons on offense than Tom Terrific had in New England last year. On defense, the Bucs were outstanding against the run last year, and they have Shaq Barrett, the NFL's sack leader from last year with 19.5 sacks.</p> <p>Of course, the Saints are a formidable team, especially at home, but their home field will be diminished severely because there will be no fans in the stands. Like Vikings RB Dalvin Cook, Saints RB Alvin Kamara just signed a big contract; that was definitely a distraction to both himself and the team leading up to it. Like Dalvin Cook, he might be out a little late celebrating on a Saturday night! The Saints have been a slow starting under head coach Sean Payton and QB Drew Brees in week # 1 team, as before their last-second win in week # 1 last year, they had lost six straight week # 1 games</p> <p>Dr. Alan expects a hard-fought close game that could come down to an FG one way or the other, so taking the points with the Bucs and GOAT QB Tom Brady is the way to go!</p>
Los Angeles Rams	Dallas Cowboys	<p><u>Crystal Ball Best Bet</u></p> <p>The pick: Los Angeles Rams + 2 vs. Dallas Cowboys Game time: Primetime Sunday night football</p> <p>All the offseason hype has been on the Cowboys and their new head coach Mike McCarthy. I will be contrarian here and side with the Rams in this spot for some fundamental and coaching reasons, and several Dr. Alan psychological reasons!</p> <p>First, the coaches, yes Cowboys new sideline boss Mike McCarthy is a Super Bowl winner, but whiz kid Sean Mcvay is pretty good in his won right, taking his team to the Super Bowl 2 years ago, and is considered by many in the NFL as having one of the best offensive minds in the game. It takes time for NFL players to learn new systems and scheme; the Cowboys are still learning Mike McCarthys system and schemes, the Rams are familiar with Sean McVays systems and schemes. In terms of QBs, in this one, Id gives the nod to Jared Goff at home as an underdog vs. Cowboys QB Dak Prescott as a road favorite. The Rams on defense have many</p>



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		<p>consider one of the best defensive players in the game - DT Aaron Donald, who can take over games by himself when he gets going!</p> <p>Dr. Alan thinks the Rams should be fired up and highly motivated to win this game, as they are being disrespected by the Las Vegas oddsmakers, as they have been installed as a 3 point underdog on their home field, and the hype is with the Cowboys and none with them. Additionally, the Rams are opening up their new Billion dollar stadium - SoFi Stadium, and even thou there will be no fans in attendance, that should provide the Rams with some extra motivation to open up their new home with a win! Last year the Rams went down to Big D and were blown out by the Cowpokes 44-21 in a game that was not even as close as the final score indicated. Do not think the Rams players and coaches have forgotten about that beat down at the hands of the Cowpokes; they should be motivated to get their revenge tonight!</p> <p>Here is a last golden nugget of information that stood out to me, new head coaches in the NFL the last two years have been money burners going a collective 4-11-1 ATS</p> <p>Dr. Alan is predicting a Rams win this game outright!</p>
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