

CASE NFL: Week 1 - Three Plays

1 Unit - Bills +7 at Kansas City

It can be a mistake to put too much emphasis on preseason, but the Chiefs did play worse than Buffalo in August.

This is a very winnable road game for Buffalo. The Bills nearly upset Kansas City last year at Arrowhead losing 13-10 in overtime.

Since then, the Bills have improved their defense while the Chiefs didn't increase their talent level.

The Chiefs lack speed at wide receiver and Matt Cassel is a mediocre quarterback who will be playing with sore ribs. Perhaps missing departed offensive coordinator Charlie Weis, Cassel looked terrible during preseason.

Even with Weis, the Chiefs were 30th in passing yards. It could be even worse this year.

The Bills have played in Kansas City for the last three years winning 54-31 in 2008, 16-10 in 2009 and losing in OT last year. They clearly aren't intimidated playing at noisy Arrowhead or on a grass field.

Buffalo has covered in five of its last six openers. The Bills also are 8-3-1 the past 11 times they've been a road 'dog taking between 3 1/2 and 10 points.

Consequently, Kansas City is 3-9-1 ATS as a home favorite.

1 unit - Bengals +7 at Browns

There's not much separating these two in-state division rivals except quarterback perception.

The line is way too high because Colt McCoy had a great preseason while the Bengals figure to have trouble moving the ball behind rookie QB Andy Dalton.

Fact is McCoy hasn't done anything to justify holding a huge edge on any opposing quarterback. The Browns scored four touchdowns in their last four games last year under McCoy.

Cleveland's offensive line has some key injuries and isn't very good. Cincinnati has a respectable defense.

Both teams have reliable running backs. This is going to be a ball-control field position game where few points are going to be outscored.

The Browns have a great kick returner, Joshua Cribbs. But the new kickoff rule from the 35-yard line severely limits his returns.

The Browns are learning a new system with a new head coach. They aren't going to put up many points

1 Unit - Texans -8 1/2 hosting Colts

This is a kill spot for Houston. The Texans want to make an early statement and the stars have aligned for them to do that being at home and catching Indy in its first game without Peyton Manning.

The Texans have an explosive, balanced offense. Even if Arian Foster doesn't play, the Texans will be able to successfully run on a soft Indy defense. Derrick Ward and Ben Tate are strong backups. Tate could start for some teams.

Kerry Collins is washed up. He knows it that's why he retired. The Colts were caught unprepared for Manning not being available. They do not have the ability with the immobile and inaccurate Collins to trade points with Houston. Collins has had just three weeks to try to pick up Indy's system.