

Packers -14 hosting Rams (1 unit)

The good stay good. The bad stay bad. That's the way it is in this the year of the lockout in the NFL.

Green Bay is averaging an NFL-best 34.6 points a game. The Rams are averaging a league-worst 11.5 points per contest.

That's a gap of 23 points. Now factor in home-field, the Rams being on an off-surface and the Packers' wide receiving depth compared to the Rams' depleted secondary and lack of quality wideouts and the margin between this have and have not is even larger.

Still think laying more than two touchdowns is huge? Don't be because it's not in this game.

The Packers are 5-0 and 4-1 ATS despite having yet to produce an all-around "A" game. The Packers beat Denver by 26 points at home two weeks ago putting 49 points on the Broncos. They are more than capable of hanging that number on the Rams.

This is the 13th time the Packers have been a double-digit favorite under Mike McCarthy. They are 11-1 in those games, including 10-0 at Lambeau Field. They are 9-3 (75 percent) ATS.

The Rams' secondary is in shambles. Their three best cornerbacks - Ron Bartell, Jerome Murphy and Bradley Fletcher - are all out for the season. They are reduced to starting one-time Packer cornerback Al Harris. He's 36 and has a bad knee. He never could run even when he was healthy and in his prime.

Green Bay has the deepest set of wideouts in the NFL. Donald Driver is now the Packers' No. 5 wide receiver behind Greg Jennings, Jordy Nelson, James Jones and Randall Cobb. He would be the Rams' most reliable wide receiver if he played for them. Aaron Rodgers knows how to use all of them along with superb receiving tight end Jermichael Finley.

The Rams, by contrast, have the worst set of receivers in the NFL after slot man Danny Amendola went down for the season. St. Louis' offensive line has played terrible giving up 18 sacks and allowing numerous hits on Sam Bradford. All of this has contributed to Bradford's passer rating and accuracy percentage being way down from his rookie season.

It's true that this isn't a great situational spot for Green Bay. The Rams were idle last week. The Packers just beat Atlanta on Sunday night and have Minnesota up next, a division rival they have hated even more than Chicago and Detroit during the last few years.

But this doesn't matter to a hot Rodgers and his high-powered, explosive passing attack. There's no way the Rams can corral Green Bay given their personnel.

Jaguars +13 at Steelers 2 UNITS

It's going to prove too difficult for the Steelers to cover this large number coming off a super, strong effort this past Sunday against Tennessee. The task is made too hard by the cluster injury problems the Steelers have in their offensive line and defensive front seven not to mention Ben Roethlisberger being far less mobile due to foot injuries.

Pittsburgh's run defense is down from past dominant seasons. The Steelers not only have plenty of age, but injuries, too, with Aaron Smith and James Harrison out and maybe Casey Hampton again, too. The Steelers' defense has produced just two takeaways.

The Jaguars' lone strength is their ground attack spearheaded by Maurice Jones-Drew, who remains one of the best backs in the league.

Thanks to Jones-Drew, the Jaguars can control the ball and take the pressure off improving rookie Blaine Gabbert. This will be Gabbert's fourth start. He's improving with each start gaining experience. He provides the Jaguars with a downfield throwing threat they lacked under David Garrard and Luke McCown.

Jacksonville is a desperate team with four consecutive losses. The Jaguars will be going all out.

This play is based far more, though, as a fade on the Steelers. They aren't nearly strong enough to cover this many points if they don't produce an "A" game. They played extremely well last week. It's very difficult to produce back-to-back emotional and physical games like that especially when it's easy to take this opponent lightly.

Pittsburgh is 2-6 ATS the past eight times it has won by two touchdowns or more during the previous week.

Roethlisberger has two bad feet. His mobility is severely limited. He can't extend plays like before. Pittsburgh's battered offensive line can't dominate the line of scrimmage even against a pass rush as weak as Jacksonville's.

Browns + 6 at Raiders 2 UNITS

The Raiders are rarely reliable as chalk and this matchup won't be any different.

Oakland has failed to cover 13 of the past 15 times it has been favored, including going 2-12 ATS as home chalk.

The Raiders are in a letdown spot after an emotional upset road victory against Houston last Sunday. The Raiders achieved that win after finding out about the death of their long-time owner and face of the franchise Al Davis the day before.

The Raiders not only face a letdown, but have to deal with a myriad of distractions and rumors following Davis' death. This includes pending funeral arrangements, rumors of the franchise moving back to Los Angeles and if head coach Hue Jackson takes on additional responsibilities.

The Raiders truly are in uncharted waters following the death of micro-manager Davis. This is a bad week for them to play a game, especially in a favorite's role.

The Browns, on the other hand, enter this matchup well-rested and prepared after being idle last week. They are 2-2, their best mark since 2007.

Cleveland doesn't have a strong or sophisticated offense. The Browns do match up well to Oakland, however. The Browns learned a valuable lesson in that they can not win if Colt McCoy throws a ridiculous 60 times.

Look for the Browns to pound away at the Raiders' perennial weak run defense with Peyton Hillis and Montario Hardesty. The Raiders rank second-to-last in total defense. The Browns have two underrated tight ends that weak-armed McCoy utilizes well. The Browns finally, too, are putting Greg Little in their starting lineup. He's their most talented wide receiver.

Oakland is improved. But the Raiders still commit way too many penalties and don't make enough first downs to give their overworked defense rest.

It's a plus if cornerback Joe Haden can play for Cleveland. Oakland has wide receiver speed, but it's negated by inexperience and Jason Campbell's inaccuracies.

Philadelphia (-1) AT WASHINGTON 1 Unit

16-Oct-2011 10:00AM Pacific

Everyone is still waiting for the Eagles to play at a level close to their talent, but Philly has lost 4 straight games as favorites and are favored again. Philadelphia is moving the ball very well on offense (6.8 yards per play against teams that would allow 5.8 yppl to an average team), but the Eagles haven't gelled defensively yet and have given up 6.0 yppl (to teams that would average 5.3 yppl against an average team) while forcing just 1 turnover per game. Overall the Eagles are playing well from the line of scrimmage and they should get better defensively, as they did last week in limiting Buffalo's good offense to just 5.5 yppl, but being -2.0 in turnover margin per game would make it tough on any team to win. Michael Vick has never been a turnover prone quarterback, so his interception totals aren't likely to

be high going forward and being -0.8 in fumbles lost margin isn't going to continue either. They had closed door meeting with only players and have a bye next week. THIS IS A MUST WIN GAME FOR THEM

Minnesota AT CHICAGO (+3) 1 UNIT

The Vikings got their first win of the season last week but their 1-4 record is still very misleading given that the Vikes have out-gained their opponents 5.5 yppl to 5.3 yppl and actually out-scored their opponents by an average of 1 point per game. There is no doubt that the Vikings are a better team than Chicago, as Minnesota has been only 0.1 yppl worse than average from the line of scrimmage this season (-0.4 yppl on offense and +0.3 yppl on defense) while the Bears have been out-gained 5.4 yppl to 6.6 yppl and rate at 0.4 yppl worse than average offensively and 0.7 yppl worse than average defensively after accounting for opponents faced. Minnesota is not only much better from the line of scrimmage but Donovan McNabb is much less likely to throw interceptions (his career interception rate is among the NFL's all time best) than Jay Cutler is. Chicago's only advantage is in special teams but that's not enough to make up for everything else

Cowboys plus 7 at Patriots (1 unit)

The Cowboys can trade points with New England's high-powered offense. They also have the better defense and best pass rusher, DeMarcus Ware.

Dallas also is off a bye, while the Patriots just beat their most hated rival, the Jets. That was a huge revenge victory for New England.

The Cowboys are as healthy as they've ever been. The extra week has allowed Miles Austin and Dez Bryant to get fully healthy and done wonders for Tony Romo. Romo is in for a big day against the Patriots' last-ranked defense.

New England also ranks last in pass defense. The Patriots' defense was bad - and that was before losing their best defensive player, linebacker Jerod Mayo. The scary thing about how bad the Patriots' defense has been is that they faced only one elite quarterback, Philip Rivers.

The other quarterbacks the Patriots have faced are Chad Henne, Ryan Fitzpatrick, Jason Campbell and Mark Sanchez. Romo is far better than all of those QB's and has far better receiving weapons with Austin, Bryant and Jason Witten.

Dallas is not good as a favorite. But the Cowboys are 6-0 ATS the past six times they've received points.