

# Vikings Playoff Hopes Still Alive

Greg Miller staff writer

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With a close win against the Jaguars in week 13, the Vikings find themselves sitting with the final wild-card spot with a 6 – 6 record after their 1-5 start to the season.

With only a few games left, many teams are fighting for playoff spots. If the Vikings can find a way to win three of their last four games, they have a very good shot at making the playoffs.

However, the last four weeks of the season will be crucial for the Vikings, starting off with a game versus Tampa Bay in a Monday Night Football game. Tom Brady and the Buccaneers have

lost three of their last four games, but also had a bye week to rest and prepare for this matchup against the Vikings.

**Prediction: Vikings win 20 – 6 against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.**

After a battle in Tampa Bay the Vikings return home to play their last home game of the regular season against the Bears who have lost their last 6 games. The Vikings beat them earlier in the season and I expect them to do it again here.

**Prediction: Vikings lose 35 – 17 against the New Orleans Saints.**

A week 16 clash will see the Vikings traveling to New Orleans who have been the best team in the NFC this season with a 10 – 2 record. I would guess New Orleans will still have something to play for and will be looking to beat up on the Vikings.

**Prediction: Vikings win 28 – 27 against the Detroit Lions.**

The last week of the season the Vikings will play in Detroit in what could potentially be a playoff deciding matchup. The Vikings beat Detroit by 14 earlier this season, but I expect a closer game here.

# COVID Causes NFL Postponements

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As the NFL season comes to a close, COVID-19 cases have been surging. There have been 18 games rescheduled due to positive cases according to Sports Illustrated.

The Baltimore Ravens had a massive outbreak with more than twenty players testing positive. Due to the positive tests, their Thanksgiving game against the Pittsburgh Steelers was postponed three times. Both teams had their future games postponed as a result so that players would have enough time to recover in between.

During the same weekend, the Denver Broncos were forced to play without a quarterback after one of their backups, Jeff Driskel, tested positive. Contract tracing revealed that the other quarterbacks on the roster had all been in close contact with him without masks on. The team was forced to find a quarterback last minute so Kendall Hinton, a practice squad wide receiver who had never played in an NFL game, was forced to start. Hinton predictably struggled, and many asked why the NFL had postponed the Ravens game but not the Broncos game.

While they raise a valid point, the Ravens' COVID outbreak was completely uncontained and they had positive tests every day for over a week. On the other hand, the Broncos knew that only a few players had been exposed, so the league determined that it was safe to play the game.

As the playoffs approach quickly, it is more important than ever for NFL players to make smart decisions and teams to enforce measures to prevent the spread of the virus.