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FOOTBALL



Steelers take another lap on QB carousel
Veteran Aaron Rodgers headlines an
all-new QB room in Pittsburgh

a special section of The Derrick. / The News-Herald

PITTSBURGH STEELERS

How will offseason moves affect Steelers in 2025?



Pittsburgh wide receiver D.K. Metcalf runs a route while being defended by cornerback Jalen Ramsey during a recent training camp practice.

By **JOE HENDERSON**
Staff writer

For the second straight year, the Pittsburgh Steelers have overhauled the quarterback room.

One year removed from having former All-Pro Russell Wilson and former first-round draft pick Justin Fields as their top two QBs, the Steelers have a whole new look at the position once again this season as the team let both QBs leave via free agency. Will Allen, who served as the No. 3 QB, is no longer with the team as well.

Enter another former All-Pro in Aaron Rodgers, previously of the Green Bay Packers and New York Jets, as the team’s newest starting QB after he signed a one-year contract. The team also brought back former backup Mason Rudolph, drafted Will Howard from national champion Ohio State and signed Skylar Thompson in free agency.

Such a dramatic turn of events at the most important position in the game was a surprise, especially for a franchise that was known to be fairly conservative in its approach.

But, Wilson’s poor play down the stretch led to a four-game losing streak to close the regular season and another first-round departure from the playoffs for the Steelers.

Combine that with the fact the Steelers were paying Wilson next to nothing and he was surely going to want a lot more money on the open market, and his tenure with the team was over.

The loss of Fields, however, was most definitely a shock as he went 4-2 as a starter while Wilson was hurt to begin the season. He was also younger than Wilson and wasn’t expected to fetch as big a contract in free agency.

But, as the days went by and the Steelers didn’t appear to be that interested in bringing Fields back, he eventually signed a deal to play for the New York Jets.

With the Steelers coming off another lukewarm season at 10-7 and failing to win a playoff game again since 2016, one might think head coach Mike Tomlin’s job might finally be in jeopardy.

Whether that’s true or not remains to be seen, but he definitely must be feeling some pressure as the Steelers didn’t stop at blowing up the QB position. They also made changes to several other positions as well in an effort to get past that first-round playoff hump.

Here’s a look at some of the positions that the team has tried to improve in the offseason:

WIDE RECEIVER

Heading into last season, George Pickens

was clearly the team’s No. 1 receiver after the trading of Diontae Johnson to Carolina. Unfortunately, he was the only true receiver on the roster capable of being a consistent starter in the NFL, and it showed.

Despite being the center of opposing defense’s attention, Pickens finished second on the team with 59 grabs for 900 yards and three touchdowns. Calvin Austin III finished a distant second in catches by a wide receiver with 36.

With that in mind, the Steelers traded for D.K Metcalf from Seattle in what appeared to be a move to pair him with Pickens, giving them a solid 1-2 punch to throw the ball to. But less than two months later, the team dealt Pickens to Dallas, leaving more question marks about who is going to step up and fill that No. 2 role.

Metcalf is an upgrade over Pickens as he is a true pro with a new lucrative contract while Pickens often got bogged down by childish antics and a poor attitude whenever things didn’t go his way.

The team must be counting on the continued growth of players like Austin and Roman Wilson, who missed all of his rookie season with an injury after being selected in the third round out of Michigan. The teams also signed veteran Robert Woods to help out as well.

DEFENSIVE BACK

In the Tomlin era, the play of cornerbacks and safeties has been a mixed bag to say the least as the team has struggled to find and develop talent in the secondary.

That appeared to change with the drafting of Joey Porter Jr. out of Penn State as he looked to have the right cornerback spot on lock for the foreseeable future with a stellar rookie year. But, he suffered a sophomore slump in his second season, leading the league in penalties while also struggling in coverage.

In an effort to improve in the secondary, the team traded former All-Pro safety Minkah Fitzpatrick to Miami for another former All-Pro in cornerback Jalen Ramsey while getting tight end Jonnu Smith in the deal as well.

The team also signed veteran cornerback Darius Slay from Super Bowl champion Philadelphia and safety Juan Thornhill from Cleveland. The two are frontrunners to start at their positions, but Slay is getting long in the tooth and Thornhill is injury prone.

But maybe the biggest question is how much of an impact can Ramsey have at age 30? He was once considered to be a elite coverage corner, but how much does he have left in the tank and can he have more impact than Fitzpatrick.

See **STEELERS**, Page 3

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PITTSBURGH STEELERS

Steelers

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RUNNING BACK

With offensive coordinator Arthur Smith showing a tendency to lean heavily on the run game in his first year in the position, it will be interesting to see how the changes the team has made in the off-season play out during the season.

After being drafted in the first round in 2021, Najee Harris appeared to be next great runner for the Steelers. Despite running for over 1,000 yards in all four years of his tenure with the team, Harris lacked breakaway speed and big-play potential, averaging only 3.9 yards per carry in his career.

With Harris leaving for the Los Angeles Chargers via free agency, backup Jaylen Warren looks to finally get his chance to be the lead runner after accumulating 1,674 yards and six TDs in his three seasons with the team. He's shown a little more burst and speed than Harris and averaged 4.8 yards per carry.

He has some competition, though, with the drafting of Kaleb Johnson in the third round out of Iowa. In his career with the Hawkeyes, Johnson racked up 2,779 yards on the ground and scored 30

touchdowns, with 1,537 of those yards and 23 TDs coming last year.

The team also signed Kenneth Gainwell from Philadelphia to possibly serve as a third-down back. In four years with the Eagles, Gainwell ran for 1,185 yards (4.2 ypc) and scored 12 TDs while catching 102 passes for 721 yards and a score.

DEFENSIVE LINE

After rival Baltimre carved up the Steelers' defense for 220 yards late in the regular season and for 299 yards in the wild card playoff game, an upgrade to the defensive line seemed to be in order.

Pittsburgh then used its first-round pick in the draft to select Oregon's Derrick Harmon to help out on the line. Harmon, 6-4 and 313 pounds, was considered one of the best defensive linemen in college last year. He is expected to start right away alongside veteran Cameron Heyward and Keanu Benton. Although, Heyward is threatening to sit out the season if he doesn't get a new contract even though he just signed a new deal before last season.

But, the Steelers didn't stop there as they doubled down on the position by also picking Yahya Black out of Iowa in the fifth round of the draft. He is now the team's biggest lineman at 6-5 and 336 pounds.



Pittsburgh rookie running back Kaleb Johnson carries the ball in a preseason game against Tampa Bay on Saturday night.

2025 Pittsburgh Steelers Schedule

Sept. 7 — at New York Jets (1 p.m.)	Nov. 16 — CINCINNATI (1 p.m.)
Sept. 14 — SEATTLE (1 p.m.)	Nov. 23 — at Chicago (1 p.m.)
Sept. 21 — at New England (1 p.m.)	Nov. 30 — BUFFALO (4:25 p.m.)
Sept. 28 — MINNESOTA* (9:30 a.m.)	Dec. 7 — at Baltimore (1 p.m.)
Oct. 5 — Bye week	Dec. 15 — MIAMI (8:15 p.m.)
Oct. 12 — CLEVELAND (1 p.m.)	Dec. 21 — at Detroit (4:25 p.m.)
Oct. 16 — at Cincinnati (8:15 p.m.)	Dec. 28 — at Cleveland (1 p.m.)
Oct. 26 — GREEN BAY (8:20 p.m.)	TBA — BALTIMORE
Nov. 2 — INDIANAPOLIS (1 p.m.)	
Nov. 9 — at L.A. Chargers (8:20 p.m.)	

*at Dublin, Ireland

2024 Pittsburgh Steelers Results

Sept. 8 — at Atlanta, 18-10 W	Nov. 17 — Baltimore 18-16 W
Sept. 15 — at Denver, 13-6 W	Nov. 21 — at Cleveland 24-19 L
Sept. 22 — L.A. Chargers, 20-10 W	Dec. 1 — at Cincinnati 44-38 W
Sept. 29 — at Indianapolis 27-24 L	Dec. 8 — Cleveland 27-14 W
Oct. 6 — Dallas, 20-17 L	Dec. 15 — at Philadelphia 27-13 L
Oct. 13 — at Las Vegas 32-13 W	Dec. 21 — at Baltimore 34-17 L
Oct. 20 — N.Y. Jets, 37-15 W	Dec. 25 — Kansas City 29-10 L
Oct. 28 — N.Y. Giants, 26-18 W	Jan. 4 — Cincinnati 19-17 L
Nov. 10 — at Washington 28-27 W	Jan. 11 — at Baltimore 28-14 L

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Knox gaining traction at Mercyhurst University

By **JOE SAGER**
Correspondent

ERIE — The learning process continues for Ethen Knox.

The Oil City graduate started off his collegiate career well, both in the classroom and on the football field at Mercyhurst University.

Now, he's ready to take another step this fall.

Knox, a redshirt freshman, has been perfecting his game to have a bigger impact with the Lakers this season.

"Camp has been going pretty well," he said. "I've been working hard."

Last year was a whirlwind of sorts for Knox and Mercyhurst. After committing to the Lakers early in 2024, the program surprised many when it announced it'd take the leap from NCAA Division II to D-I. It was an adjustment for all as the team finished 4-7. Mercyhurst goes through its second provisional season this year before it can compete for a Northeast Conference championship in 2026.

"Last year, it was a big transition year for us," he said. "We had a lot of smaller schools we played. This year, we're making a jump and playing some pretty big teams. It's a lot of work that comes with it and a lot of preparation and knowing what to expect now. We want to continue taking positive steps. Expectations are a lot higher for how we're going to do."

They are high for Knox, too.

"I have been through my first year, so now I kind of know what to expect with everything," he said. "It's a lot of work and a lot of mental preparation, in terms of knowing your job, how you need to compete every day and to come out here and do your thing."



Photo courtesy of Mercyhurst University

Lakers' running back and Oil City graduate Ethen Knox carries the ball during a recent Mercyhurst University practice.

It was quite a transition from high school football, where Knox dominated with the Oilers and wound up as District 10's all-time leading rusher with 7,870 yards. He became known on a bigger scale during his junior season when he surpassed 400 yards rushing in six games to break the national record held

by 2015 Heisman Award winner and four-time Pro Bowler Derrick Henry.

Last year, Knox appeared in one game with the Lakers. The running back rushed for a team-high 76 yards and a touchdown in a 66-0 win over Lincoln University.

"That was definitely huge," he said. "It was great getting to come out here and play and score a touchdown and everything. It was a big moment for me and my family. It was awesome."

Though last season offered limited playing time, it provided immeasurable lessons for Knox to prepare for this year. He added close to 15 pounds of muscle to his athletic 6-foot, 210-pound frame.

But, his most intense work didn't involve any weights.

"I focused on just the basic stuff — getting stronger and faster and mainly just getting smarter as well. I know the playbook much better," he said. "You definitely have to keep on that throughout the summer. You don't want to come out in camp not knowing what you're doing."

"I definitely feel more grounded this year," Knox continued. "I've been in this offense for a year already. I had the spring to learn the playbook better, too."

So this time, I definitely feel a lot better about things."

Knox's knowledge of his role in the team's offense is one area of growth head coach Ryan Riemedio noticed.

"I think he has been a phenomenal player for us. When we recruited him, we knew what we were getting with him and his parents. Everything that he embodies with who he is as a person, we see that," he said. "The biggest steps we've see him take — he continues to grow with the playbook."

With Coach Sydeski going into Year 2 as the offensive coordinator, Ethen sees what needs to get done.

"He plays in a position where you need to recruit multiple guys in that area because you never know what is going to happen week to week. He's done a really, really good job in the weight room, just continuing to grow. He is a different bodied athlete that we continue to recruit for. Technically, he can play some multiple positions for us, if needed. Watching him this spring and seeing how well he has learned the playbook from where he was last year, he is a lot more comfortable being in the position he is in and what it takes to be a college athlete, especially a Division-I athlete."

The Lakers used a pass-heavy offense last year and may again this fall. However, they feature plenty of talent in the backfield, with senior Brian Trobel, who was named to the preseason All-NEC first team at running back. He led Mercyhurst with 445 yards rushing last year.

"It's definitely great to have a lot of talented guys," Knox said. "There are a lot of older guys on the team that mentor us and help us out with stuff. But, there's definitely a lot of competition that comes with that. It's always great to come out here and compete with my guys and make each other better."

The Lakers expect Knox to impact winning games this fall.

"He's earned looks at the running back position. The competition right now is at an all-time high," Riemedio said. "There are a lot of guys that are very good players, very talented players. Now, I am looking for the consistency — which guys can do it for multiple plays, multiple series and making sure they can do their job when things aren't easy, when their legs aren't fresh or it's later in the fourth quarter. He has earned the right. He is going to get some reps and he's going to continue building. We may use him in special teams, too. He's the type of athlete you can't not have on the field, at times. So, we'll find where it fits him this year and continue building off that process."

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PENN STATE NITTANY LIONS

Nittany Lions thinking of national title run

STATE COLLEGE (AP) — The longer Penn State quarterback Drew Allar weighed his options, the more he thought how sweet it would be to bring a national championship to Happy Valley.

After No. 2 Penn State's down-to-the-wire loss to Notre Dame in the College Football Playoff semifinal last season, the allure of unfinished business outweighed professional prospects for the rocket-armed senior who'll lead one of college football's deepest and most experienced teams.

"I know how much better I want to be as a player and leave my mark on Penn State and obviously accomplish the thing that we came close to last year but came up short in," Allar said.

He'll be joined by 15 returning starters who won a program-best 13 games last season. Star running backs Nicholas Singleton and Kaytron Allen, and standout defensive linemen Dani Dennis-Sutton and Zane Durant also opted to delay their NFL careers to chase the program's first NCAA championship since 1986.

Now in his 12th season, coach James Franklin understands the expectations of a fanbase weary of playing second-fiddle to Ohio State or Michigan year after year.

"We were a few points and a few drives away from playing for the National Championship and people were pissed," Franklin said. "That's what you sign up for when you come to Penn State, and so those expectations are always really high."

That's why Franklin signed Jim Knowles away from Ohio State after the veteran defensive coordinator helped lead the Buckeyes to last season's championship over Oregon, the team that edged Penn State in the Big Ten finale.

"When you look at all of our personnel, not just the players, but the staff and players, it's the best combination that we've had in my 12 years here," Franklin said. "The depth, the experience, the talent is impressive."

In the trenches

The Nittany Lions are big and deep along the offensive and defensive lines.

Sixth-year center Nick Dawkins will be flanked by guards Olaivavega Ioane and Drew Shelton while Anthony Donkoh and Nolan Rucci bookend as tackles. The group combined for 60 starts,

helped generate 202 rushing yards per game and mostly kept Allar upright last season.

Meanwhile, Dennis-Sutton and Durant combined for 24 of the defense's 119 tackles for loss and 11 1/2 of its 44 sacks.

Through the air

Second-year offensive coordinator Andy Kotelnicki wants to get more receivers involved.

Penn State's leading wideout caught just 46 passes a year ago while star tight end Tyler Warren accounted for 106 catches. With Warren playing on Sundays now, Kotelnicki is looking for transfers Kyron Hudson (USC), Devonte Ross (Troy) and Trebor Peña (Syracuse) to help veteran Liam Clifford on the outside.

Ross caught 129 balls for 1,618 yards and 14 touchdowns in three years for the Trojans. Peña had 84 of his 109 career catches for the Orange last fall and led the team with nine touchdowns.

"It's going to be really important coming out of the first three games that we feel like we really know what we have with those three guys and how we can use them," Franklin said.

Linebacker U

With star linebacker Abdul Carter now a New York Giant, all eyes will be on junior Tony Rojas to lead Linebacker U's linebacker corps early.

Knowles can't wait to watch him, especially considering Rojas sat out spring practice after having shoulder surgery. Yes, he was banged up for most of his coming out season where he tied for the team lead with three interceptions, was fifth in total tackles and added a sack.

"Very impressed," Knowles said. "He seems to have developed physically in the offseason. He's picked things up quickly which is tough to do when you don't get the reps on field."

PENN STATE SCHEDULE

Aug. 30 — NEVADA
Sept. 6 — FIU
Sept. 13 — VILLANOVA
Sept. 27 — OREGON
Oct. 4 — at UCLA
Oct. 11 — NORTHWESTERN
Oct. 18 — at Iowa
Nov. 1 — at Ohio State
Nov. 8 — INDIANA
Nov. 15 — at Michigan State
Nov. 22 — NEBRASKA
Nov. 29 — at Rutgers



JAMES FRANKLIN



Penn State quarterback Drew Allar returns for his senior season in hopes of leading the Nittany Lions to a national title after losing to Notre Dame in the College Football Playoff semifinals last year.

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CLARION GOLDEN EAGLES

Golden Eagles focused on finishing strong

In 2024 the Golden Eagles football team made strides from previous seasons, even if the final record did not necessarily indicate it. Clarion went 3-8 during last year’s campaign but found themselves in one close game after another, with the Golden Eagles losing seven games where they trailed by just a single score in the final two minutes.

“We’re looking forward to the season and trying to find a way to finish games,” said head coach Raymond Monica, who enters his fourth season. “The guys have worked extremely hard to correct that.”

Clarion returns 13 total starters from last year’s team that went 1-5 in the PSAC West division. Eight of those starters are on the offensive side of the ball, including all five starters along the offensive line for the second consecutive season. Among them will be junior guard Devin Webb, who last year was a second team All-PSAC West selection. Webb was the first Golden Eagle sophomore offensive lineman to earn all-conference honors since Zack Morris in 2016. Throw in players like Jon Smith, Jonathan Wiczen and Christian Flaherty -- freshmen in 2024 who were pressed into duty due to injury -- and the Golden Eagles boast a lot of experience and continuity in the offensive trenches.

“There’s been some growing pains with playing a bunch of young guys early on,” Monica said. “When we had some injuries in the last few years, some of those guys got thrown in the fire, but it greatly helped their development. These guys have played a lot of football, and there’s no question the fact that they’ve played together so long has helped them.”

Also back on the offense is quarterback Anthony Guercio. The redshirt senior exploded as perhaps the top dual-threat quarterback in the PSAC West last year,



Photo by Kirkland Photography/ Courtesy of Clarion Football

Golden Eagles’ quarterback Anthony Guercio points out blocking assignments against Lincoln last year.

throwing for 2,001 yards and 11 touchdowns while also ranking second in the PSAC with 12 total touchdowns, all rushing. That was the highest single season rushing touchdown total for a Clarion player since Alfonso Hoggard’s record 17 scores in 2009.

According to Monica, Guercio’s improvement between the ears has fueled his surge.

“You can look at his stats and everything he did last year, but maybe the biggest thing is his decision making has

gotten better,” Monica said. “The ball is coming out quicker, which helps the offensive line tremendously. And it all goes hand in hand with the other skill positions on offense.”

On defense, Clarion returns a pair of senior all-conference players. Defensive tackle Owen Kling and linebacker Griffin Buzzell were both second team All-PSAC West picks a year ago, with the latter earning his second straight all-conference honor.

Buzzell is one of five Golden Eagle linebackers to earn back-to-back all-conference honors since 2000, while Kling anchored a defensive line that held opponents to a 3.9 yards per carry average in 2025. Kling will be flanked by Jack Capotosto, Mathew McGregor and others to provide the push on the defensive line. Rejoining Buzzell in the linebacking corps will be Dillon Tingle, a senior and team leader returning for another year after losing nearly the entire 2024 campaign to injury.

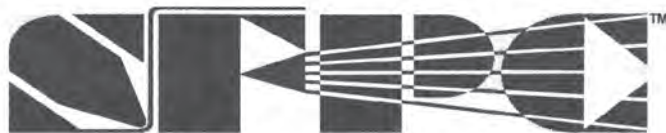
For the second straight season the Golden Eagles will play a Week 0 game to open the season, hosting Wheeling on Thursday, Aug. 28, at 6 p.m. Clarion will dedicate the playing surface at Memorial Stadium to former head coach Al Jacks, renaming it Al Jacks Field in a pregame ceremony. The Golden Eagles will play

their second straight midweek game seven days later when they take on West Virginia Wesleyan on Sept. 4. The team returns home for two straight PSAC East cross-over games against Shippensburg (Sept. 13) and Shepherd (Sept. 20) but then follows with three straight on the road: at Edinboro (Sept. 27), at Gannon (Oct. 11) and at California (PA) (Oct. 18). That will push the annual Homecoming game and Autumn Leaf Festival back to the end of the month, with Clarion hosting Seton Hill on Oct. 25. The final home game of the season will be against IUP on Nov. 8, sandwiched between road games against Slippery Rock (Nov. 1) and East Stroudsburg (Nov. 15).

GOLDEN EAGLES SCHEDULE

- Aug. 28 — WHEELING (6 p.m.)
- Sept. 4 — at West Virginia Wesleyan (6 p.m.)
- Sept. 13 — SHIPPENSBURG (1 p.m.)
- Sept. 20 — SHEPHERD (1 p.m.)
- Sept. 27 — at Edinboro (noon)
- Oct. 11 — at Gannon (noon)
- Oct. 18 — at California (3 p.m.)
- Oct. 25 — SETON HILL (2 p.m.)
- Nov. 1 — at Slippery Rock (1 p.m.)
- Nov. 8 — IUP (noon)
- Nov. 15 — at East Stroudsburg (1 p.m.)

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Big Ten packs plenty of punch, beginning with PSU

The stage is set for Penn State, and now the question is whether the second-ranked Nittany Lions will capitalize.

While defending national champion Ohio State, defending Big Ten champ Oregon and heavyweight Michigan are breaking in new quarterbacks, Penn State goes into the season with a three-year starter in Drew Allar, a pair of 1,000-yard rushers and a top-10 defense with first-year coordinator Jim Knowles.

"I think when you look at all of our personnel, not just the players, but the staff and players, it's the best combination that we've had in my 12 years here," coach James Franklin said. "The depth, the experience, the talent is impressive."

The Nittany Lions have won at least 10 games three straight years, and last season they made the College Football Playoff for the first time and beat overmatched opponents SMU and Boise State before a 27-24 loss to Notre Dame in the semifinal at the Orange Bowl.

The knock against Franklin and the Lions is that they win the games they are supposed to but not the ones when the lights are the brightest.

"We were a drive away from playing for the national championship last year, and 99% of the programs in the country would be jacked about that season and how it went, and I don't know if that was necessarily the case here, right?" Franklin said.

Except for a Sept. 27 home game against No. 7 Oregon, the Nittany Lions probably won't be tested until the back end of their schedule. They'll be trying for their first conference championship since 2016 and the automatic CFP bid that goes with it.

If not Penn State, who?

No. 3 Ohio State and No. 7 Oregon are poised to return to the playoff if their new quarterbacks keep the offenses on the rails.

Buckeyes coach Ryan Day is still deciding between Julian Sayin and Lincoln Kienholz. Ohio State is going for its first Big Ten title since 2020 along with a repeat national championship. With so many elite players spread across the field, both are possible.

Former UCLA five-star QB Dante Moore takes over for Dillon Gabriel at Oregon, which went 13-0 with a win over Penn State in the conference championship game to earn the CFP top seed before losing to Ohio State in the quarterfinals. Much is expected of Dakorien Moore, the top-rated receiver in the 2025 recruiting class.

No. 14 Michigan landed the nation's No. 1 recruit in quarterback Bryce Underwood. The Wolverines didn't win the Big Ten last year, but they did beat

Ohio State a fourth straight time. Underwood and a new group of receivers should improve the Big Ten's worst passing game.

Team on the rise

There's chatter about No. 12 Illinois being a CFP contender. It's not crazy talk. The Illini bring back QB Luke Altmyer and 15 other starters from their 10-win team, and the schedule is manageable. The Illini last season knocked off a program record-tying four Top 25 opponents, and their six Big Ten wins were their most since 2007.

And the rest

No. 20 Indiana was the nation's surprise team last season. Can Curt Cignetti keep it going? Cal transfer Fernando Mendoza, who threw for over 3,000 yards, is the new QB. ... Iowa's hopes ride the arm of Mark Gronowski, who put up monster numbers at South Dakota State and could have just as easily entered the NFL draft. ... Minnesota needs to get its offense going. Four of the Gophers' five losses a year ago were one-score games. ... Rutgers went to the portal to improve a defense that tied for second-most touchdowns allowed in the Big Ten.

Jayden Maiava enters his first full season as starting QB for Southern California, whose five one-score losses tied for the most in the FBS. ... Washington's de-

fense will be coordinated by Ryan Walters, an ace DC at Illinois before a failed run as Purdue's head coach. ... Michigan State needs more from QB Aidan Chiles, who has yet to find his rhythm. ... Matt Rhule's teams at Temple and Baylor made big jumps in Year 3. The same should happen at Nebraska with QB Dylan Raiola back and a manageable schedule.

UCLA can build on a strong finish with Tennessee transfer QB Nico Iamaleava. ... Wisconsin, in its first eight games, faces three top-10 opponents and another in the top 15. ... SMU transfer QB Preston Stone is next in line to spark a Northwestern offense that has struggled for going on seven years. ... Freshman QB Malik Washington is a bright spot for a Maryland team that incurred huge losses in the portal. ... Barry Odom takes over a Purdue team whose only win was against FCS member Indiana State.

Mark your calendars

No. 1 Texas at No. 3 Ohio State, Aug. 30; No. 14 Michigan at No. 18 Oklahoma, Sept. 6; No. 7 Oregon at No. 2 Penn State, Sept. 27; No. 3 Ohio State at No. 12 Illinois, Oct. 11; No. 2 Penn State at No. 3 Ohio State, Nov. 1; No. 20 Indiana at No. 2 Penn State, Nov. 8; Nebraska at No. 2 Penn State, Nov. 22; No. 3 Ohio State at No. 14 Michigan, Nov. 29.



AP

Penn State University head coach James Franklin walks the sideline during the Nittany Lions' loss to Notre Dame in the College Football Playoffs semifinal last season.



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PITTSBURGH PANTHERS

Narduzzi, Panthers look to rebound in 2025

By **JOE SAGER**
Correspondent

PITTSBURGH — One thing was certain for Pitt last season — its football team was in the headlines a lot.

The Panthers gained plenty of positive ink with their first 7-0 start since 1982.

However, No. 18 Pitt's 48-25 thrashing at SMU was all over the papers, too. That was just the tip of the iceberg as the Panthers bottomed out and dropped their next five games — and got a lot of negative press along the way — en route to a 7-6 finish.

"We had a little luck early in the season. We didn't get lucky near the end of the season," Pitt coach Pat Narduzzi said. "I felt like there was two games I was disappointed in, that Louisville game and that SMU game. Other than that, if I'm a fan, I'm going, 'shoot, every game is going down to the fourth quarter.' It's a game of inches, and you've got to win those inches, and sometimes you do and sometimes you don't."

The squad was disappointed with its slump, capped off with a wild 48-46 loss to Toledo in six overtimes at the Game-Above Sports Bowl. However, the players believe the adversity galvanized the returning veterans.

"We're just more locked in now. Everybody knows what they're doing out there," Pitt senior running back Desmond Reid said. "We have a lot of players that can go out and play right now; we have depth. I am just ready for this year to see what everybody can do."

Pitt is counting on Reid to have another productive season. The diminutive back totaled 966 rushing yards, 579 receiving yards, 159 punt return yards and scored touchdowns three different ways last fall in a Darren Sproles-like role. He is set up to join a long list of elite Panthers running backs.

"I think if he just does what he did last year, plus whatever," Narduzzi said. "It's not about his stats. He's as selfless as you get. When he gets an opportunity to touch the ball, whether it's catching it, running it, returning it, just be who you are, and that's what I know we'll get out of that guy. He's

consistent. He's not going to have a big head coming into '25, saying 'I want All-American and I don't need to practice.' That's not him at all. He's ready to roll and he'll be on that list of great backs here at tailback."

Pitt returns an impact player at quarterback, too, in redshirt sophomore Eli Holstein. Last year, he passed for 2,228 yards and 17 touchdowns, which tied the Pitt freshman record set by Alex Van Pelt (1989), and he was also Pitt's second-leading rusher with 328 yards and three scores on 81 carries.

However, injuries limited him and forced him to miss three contests, which coincided with Pitt's losing skid.

"There's nothing better than going into the season knowing what Eli has done, what kind of football player he is," Narduzzi said. "We're not sitting there wondering what's going to happen on game day. I think we all have a pretty good idea. We're fired up to have him for Year 2."

Holstein has pretty experienced targets in Kenny Johnson, Raphael Williams, Jr., Censere Lee and Reid.

"I just want to win. I don't care who is out there doing what," Reid said. "Everybody in this offense is going to make plays, whether it's me or the other receivers."

On the line, the team welcomes back starting tackle Ryan Baer, starting guard B.J. Williams and starting center Lyndon Cooper.

"So let's talk tackles first. Really happy with Ryan Baer, really happy with (Jeff) Persi and (Kendall) Stanley's done a nice job. I feel really good there, and then Javani Cooley is really good," Narduzzi said. "I mean, you feel like you've got four tackles that we can win a championship with."

He likes the battle for time on the interior line as well.

"There hasn't been that gel up there like you'd like, but when Keith (Gouveia) and B.J. are in there, we feel really good," he said. "I'm really happy with that first group when they're all in, they're healthy and, really, probably three or four guys behind them. So we're much deeper at that position than we've been."



All-purpose back Desmond Reid accounted for 1,704 yards last season for the Pittsburgh Panthers after transferring from Western Carolina.

Jimmy Scott returns as a starter on the defensive line, while tackles Sean FitzSimmons and Nick James are back, too. Nate Temple, Francis Brewu and Isaiah Neal all return experience.

"We've got some dog d-tackles," Cooper said. "Francis (Brewu) is going to be a very dominant d-lineman for us. Fitz (Sean FitzSimmons) will be really good, Isaiah Neal's a high-tempo player, and Nick James and all of our d-ends have been powerful. The whole d-line is making us better."

Kyle Louis returns to lead the defense at linebacker. The redshirt junior enters the season as one of the most decorated defenders in the nation. A 2024 First Team All-American, he posted 101 tackles, along with team highs of 15.5 tackles for loss, seven sacks and four interceptions, one of which he returned for a touchdown. He also delivered a rare defensive two-point conversion by returning a blocked extra point.

"I think he's done a nice job. You watch him in the weight room, you watch what he's doing there, he's done everything he needs to do. I don't think he's got a fat head. He's a worker," Narduzzi said. "Anybody can get a fat head. Coaches can get fat heads. Players can get fat heads. But Kyle, he wants to win. All those accolades are great. He wants to win an ACC championship, though. That's what we strive for."

Rasheem Biles returns at linebacker, along with Nick Lapi, Braylan Lovelace, Luke DelGaudio and Jeremiah Marcelin. Javon McIntyre and Rashad Battle are returning starters in the secondary. Jesse

Anderson, Cruce Brookins, Shadarian Harrison and Tamon Lynam all lettered last year.

"We've got a talented football team. We've got to stay healthy," Narduzzi said. "We've got to play complementary football, offensively and defensively, which I think we will even better than we did a year ago."

Despite all the experience back, the Panthers were picked ninth in the ACC preseason poll. They sure hope to earn a better finish this year.

"I never questioned our kids' effort a year ago. Our kids played their tails off and gave it all they did based on the health that we had on our football team," Narduzzi said. "It's hard when your starting quarterback is not out there. Eli was 7-1 as a starter and then you're bouncing around and it's just different. I think we've got a talented football team. They're fired up. They're energetic. They're locked in."

PITT PANTHERS SCHEDULE

Aug. 30 — DUQUESNE
Sept. 6 — CENTRAL MICHIGAN
Sept. 13 — at West Virginia
Sept. 27 — LOUISVILLE
Oct. 4 — BOSTON COLLEGE
Oct. 11 — at Florida State
Oct. 18 — at Syracuse
Oct. 25 — N.C. STATE
Nov. 1 — at Stanford
Nov. 8 — NOTRE DAME
Nov. 15 — at Georgia Tech
Nov. 22 — MIAMI, FLA.



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Clemson aims to keep control over ACC

No. 4 Clemson won so much over more than a decade that it felt like a step back when the Tigers didn't reach 10 wins two years ago in the first of back-to-back four-loss seasons.

Still, the Tigers are the reigning Atlantic Coast Conference champions and coming off a trip to the College Football Playoff. Experience from that run is part of why the Tigers are the runaway preseason pick to finish atop the ACC again.

"Experience, as they say, doesn't come at a discount," coach Dabo Swinney said.

Clemson won at least 10 games from 2011-2022, including two national championships and eight ACC titles, before a nine-win year in 2023. The Tigers (10-4) beat SMU for last year's title.

"I think our mentality is, man, we're keeping our head down, just kind of keeping it low," said quarterback Cade Klubnik, the preseason ACC player of the year.

Clemson returns four Associated Press All-ACC picks from last year, including first-team offensive lineman Blake Miller and two defensive linemen (Peter Woods and T.J. Parker) ranked in the top three among returners at their position nationally by Pro Football Focus.

Overall, Clemson held 11 of 27 spots on the preseason all-ACC team. No other team held more than three.

If not Clemson, then who?

The ACC has two other teams ranked in the preseason AP Top 25 with No. 10 Miami and No. 16 SMU.

The Hurricanes were the league's highest-ranked team much of last year, though they missed the ACC title game after losing at Syracuse. They brought in Georgia transfer quarterback Carson Beck as the successor to No. 1 overall NFL draft pick Cam Ward.

The Mustangs have back-to-back 11-win seasons under Rhett Lashlee, who led SMU to an 8-0 record in its first league season. SMU returns quarterback Kevin Jennings (28 total touchdowns last year), and AP all-ACC picks in offensive lineman Logan Parr, safety Isaiah Nwokobia and kicker Collin Rogers.

Seminole's response

Florida State entered last season as the reigning ACC champion and preseason favorite, then went 2-10. Coach Mike Norvell's offseason included hiring two coordinators, notably former Auburn and UCF head coach Gus Malzahn for the offense.

"When you come to Florida State, you'd better embrace the highest of expectations, because it's what I have, it's what our program has," Norvell said.

New faces

Three new coaches arrive in North Carolina's Bill Belichick, Wake Forest's Jake Dickert and Stanford's Frank Reich.

Belichick led the New England Patriots to six Super Bowl titles but this is his first college season, while the school is betting on the 73-year-old to elevate its football profile after moving on from Mack Brown.

Dickert left Washington State for Wake Forest after Dave Clawson unexpectedly stepped down after the season.

Reich, who joins Belichick and Boston College's Bill O'Brien as the ACC's national-high three former NFL head coaches, is an interim coach after the spring firing of Troy Taylor due to off-field concerns.

Irish factor

Sixth-ranked Notre Dame has six games against ACC teams as part of its annual scheduling partnership with the league, with the football independent being a member of all other ACC sports. Those don't count in the league standings but certainly have CFP implications for last year's national runner-up.

The biggest comes with an opening-game trip to Miami (Aug. 31), along with trips to Boston College (Nov. 1), Pittsburgh (Nov. 15) and Stanford (Nov. 29). The Irish's home games come against N.C. State (Oct. 11) and Syracuse (Nov. 22).

Heading west

Boston College, Duke, FSU, UNC, Pittsburgh and Virginia are this year's teams to touch all four U.S. continental time zones for a league road trip in Year 2 of westward expansion.

California hosts the Blue Devils (Oct. 4), Tar Heels (Oct. 17) and Cavaliers (Nov. 1). Stanford hosts the Eagles (Sept. 13), Seminoles (Oct. 18) and Panthers (Nov. 1).

Marquee matchups

The league gets immediate measuring-stick matchups.

Week 1 features LSU visiting Clemson, Alabama visiting Florida State, TCU visiting UNC and Georgia Tech visiting Colorado. There are also Atlanta games with Syracuse meeting Tennessee and Virginia Tech facing South Carolina.

Key conference games include Clemson visiting Georgia Tech (Sept. 13), hosting SMU (Oct. 18) and traveling to Louisville (Nov. 14). Miami hosts Louisville (Oct. 17) and visits SMU (Nov. 1), while SMU hosts Louisville (Nov. 22).

The ACC title game is Dec. 6 in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Knox

Continued from Page 4

Like most programs, Mercyhurst was very active in the NCAA transfer portal in order to solidify its lineup. A total of 56 new players are on the roster this fall. Still, though, that doesn't mean the transfer portal will replace the traditional recruiting and developmental process.

"Sure, you can find great transfer players that will buy into what your culture is and what you want to get done. A lot of our guys came in over the summer and are brand new to the team, even though they've played two, three, four or five years already. They've truly bought into everything," Riemedio said. "But, it's important that you recruit your freshmen because, at the end of the day, when a guy has been in a program for four or five years, it's very much a difference maker when it comes to not having to police the guys like you have to when they're freshmen or new. We have to continue doing that to be successful at any level. They get to learn and there's not that pressure to produce immediately.

"Every kid wants to come in and play right away. The first meeting I have with our freshmen goes something like me telling them they were

the big fish in the little pond in high school. Now, they are here and they are the little fish in the big pond, so take all the positives they can take from the team, the players, the guys in their positions and talk to them about how they go about their day-to-day routine and their process and all those things. I can say the freshman class that came in last year really understood that aspect," he continued. "They got some playing time, too. We were able to get them in some games, so they got a feel for that. Now, we're looking for all these guys to step up in big-time roles, whether that's special teams, offense or defense."

MERCYHURST SCHEDULE

Aug. 28 — at Youngstown State (6 p.m.)
 Sept. 6 — NEW HAVEN (noon)
 Sept. 13 — at Sacramento State (9:05 p.m.)
 Sept. 20 — at Montana State (11 a.m.)
 Sept. 27 — at South Dakota State (3 p.m.)
 Oct. 4 — LIU (1 p.m.)
 Oct. 11 — at Wagner (noon)
 Oct. 18 — DUQUESNE (7 p.m.)
 Oct. 25 — STONEHILL (noon)
 Nov. 8 — at St. Francis (noon)
 Nov. 15 — ROBERT MORRIS (noon)
 Nov. 22 — at Central Connecticut State (noon)

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2025 NFL WEEK-BY-WEEK SCHEDULE

WEEK 1 Thursday, Sept. 4 Dallas at Philadelphia, 8:20 p.m. (NBC) Friday, Sept. 5 Kansas City vs. LA Chargers at Sao Paulo, Brazil, 8 p.m. (YouTube) Sunday, Sept. 7 Las Vegas at New England, 1 p.m. (CBS) Pittsburgh at NY Jets, 1 p.m. (CBS) Miami at Indianapolis, 1 p.m. (CBS) Arizona at New Orleans, 1 p.m. (CBS) NY Giants at Washington, 1 p.m. (FOX) Carolina at Jacksonville, 1 p.m. (FOX) Cincinnati at Cleveland, 1 p.m. (FOX) Tampa Bay at Atlanta, 1 p.m. (FOX) Tennessee at Denver, 4:05 p.m. (FOX) San Francisco at Seattle, 4:05 p.m. (FOX) Detroit at Green Bay, 4:25 p.m. (CBS) Houston at LA Rams, 4:25 p.m. (CBS) Baltimore at Buffalo, 8:20 p.m. (NBC) Monday, Sept. 8 Minnesota at Chicago, 8:15 p.m. (ESPN/ABC) WEEK 2 Thursday, Sept. 11 Washington at Green Bay, 8:15 p.m. (Prime Video) Sunday, Sept. 14 Jacksonville at Cincinnati, 1 p.m. (CBS) Buffalo at NY Jets, 1 p.m. (CBS) New England at Miami, 1 p.m. (CBS) LA Rams at Tennessee Cleveland at Baltimore, 1 p.m. (CBS) San Francisco at New Orleans, 1 p.m. (FOX) NY Giants at Dallas, 1 p.m. (FOX) Seattle at Pittsburgh, 1 p.m. (FOX) Chicago at Detroit, 1 p.m. (FOX) Denver at Indianapolis, 4:05 p.m. (CBS) Carolina at Arizona, 4:05 p.m. (CBS) Philadelphia at Kansas City, 4:25 p.m.	(FOX) Atlanta at Minnesota, 8:20 p.m. (NBC) Monday, Sept. 15 Tampa Bay at Houston, 7 p.m. (ESPN/ABC) LA Chargers at Las Vegas, 10 p.m. (ESPN) WEEK 3 Thursday, Sept. 18 Miami at Buffalo, 8:15 p.m. (Prime Video) Sunday, Sept. 21 Pittsburgh at New England, 1 p.m. (CBS) Houston at Jacksonville, 1 p.m. (CBS) Indianapolis at Tennessee Cincinnati at Minnesota, 1 p.m. (CBS) NY Jets at Tampa Bay, 1 p.m. (FOX) Green Bay at Cleveland, 1 p.m. (FOX) Las Vegas at Washington, 1 p.m. (FOX) Atlanta at Carolina, 1 p.m. (FOX) LA Rams at Philadelphia, 1 p.m. (FOX) New Orleans at Seattle, 4:05 p.m. (CBS) Denver at LA Chargers, 4:05 p.m. (CBS) Dallas at Chicago, 4:25 p.m. (FOX) Arizona at San Francisco, 4:25 p.m. (FOX) Kansas City at NY Giants, 8:20 p.m. (NBC) Monday, Sept. 22 Detroit at Baltimore, 8:15 p.m. (ESPN/ABC) Thursday, Sept. 25 WEEK 4 Seattle at Arizona, 8:15 p.m. (Prime Video) Sunday, Sept. 28 Minnesota vs. Pittsburgh at Dublin, Ireland, 9:30 a.m. (NFLN) New Orleans at Buffalo, 1 p.m. (CBS) Washington at Atlanta, 1 p.m. (CBS) LA Chargers at NY Giants, 1 p.m. (CBS) Tennessee at Houston, 1 p.m. (CBS)	Cleveland at Detroit, 1 p.m. (FOX) Carolina at New England, 1 p.m. (FOX) Philadelphia at Tampa Bay, 1 p.m. (FOX) Jacksonville at San Francisco, 4:05 p.m. (FOX) Indianapolis at LA Rams, 4:05 p.m. (FOX) Chicago at Las Vegas, 4:25 p.m. (CBS) Baltimore at Kansas City, 4:25 p.m. (CBS) Green Bay at Dallas, 8:20 p.m. (NBC) Monday, Sept. 29 NY Jets at Miami, 7:15 p.m. (ESPN) Cincinnati at Denver, 8:15 p.m. (ABC) WEEK 5 Thursday, Oct. 2 San Francisco at LA Rams, 8:15 p.m. (Prime Video) Sunday, Oct. 5 Minnesota vs. Cleveland at London, 9:30 a.m. (NFLN) NY Giants at New Orleans, 1 p.m. (CBS) Denver at Philadelphia Houston at Baltimore, 1 p.m. (CBS) Dallas at NY Jets, 1 p.m. (FOX) Las Vegas at Indianapolis, 1 p.m. (FOX) Miami at Carolina, 1 p.m. (FOX) Tennessee at Arizona, 4:05 p.m. (CBS) Tampa Bay at Seattle, 4:05 p.m. (CBS) Washington at LA Chargers, 4:25 p.m. (FOX) Detroit at Cincinnati, 4:25 p.m. (FOX) New England at Buffalo, 8:20 p.m. (NBC) Monday, Oct. 6 Kansas City at Jacksonville, 8:15 p.m. (ESPN/ABC) BYES: Atlanta, Chicago, Green Bay, Pittsburgh WEEK 6 Thursday, Oct. 9 Philadelphia at NY Giants, 8:15 p.m. (Prime Video) Sunday, Oct. 12 Denver vs. NY Giants at London, 9:30 a.m. (NFLN) Cleveland at Pittsburgh, 1 p.m. (CBS) LA Chargers at Miami, 1 p.m. (CBS) San Francisco at Tampa Bay, 1 p.m. (CBS) Seattle at Jacksonville, 1 p.m. (FOX) Dallas at Carolina, 1 p.m. (FOX) LA Rams at Baltimore, 1 p.m. (FOX) Arizona at Indianapolis, 1 p.m. (FOX) Tennessee at Las Vegas, 4:05 p.m. (FOX) New England at New Orleans, 4:25 p.m. (CBS) Cincinnati at Green Bay, 4:25 p.m. (CBS) Detroit at Kansas City, 8:20 p.m. (NBC) Monday, Oct. 13 Buffalo at Atlanta, 7:15 p.m. (ESPN) Chicago at Washington, 8:15 p.m. (ABC)	BYES: Houston, Minnesota WEEK 7 Thursday, Oct. 16 Pittsburgh at Cincinnati, 8:15 p.m. (Prime Video) Sunday, Oct. 19 LA Rams vs. Jacksonville at London, 9:30 a.m. (NFLN) New England at Tennessee, 1 p.m. (CBS) Miami at Cleveland, 1 p.m. (CBS) Las Vegas at Kansas City, 1 p.m. (CBS) Carolina at NY Jets, 1 p.m. (FOX) New Orleans at Chicago, 1 p.m. (FOX) Philadelphia at Minnesota, 1 p.m. (FOX) NY Giants at Denver, 4:05 p.m. (CBS) Indianapolis at LA Chargers, 4:05 p.m. (CBS) Washington at Dallas, 4:25 p.m. (FOX) Green Bay at Arizona, 4:25 p.m. (FOX) Atlanta at San Francisco, 8:20 p.m. (NBC) Monday, Oct. 20 Tampa Bay at Detroit, 7 p.m. (ESPN/ABC) Houston at Seattle, 10 p.m. (ESPN+) BYES: Baltimore, Buffalo WEEK 8 Thursday, Oct. 23 Minnesota at LA Chargers, 8:15 p.m. (Prime Video) Sunday, Oct. 26 NY Jets at Cincinnati, 1 p.m. (CBS) Chicago at Baltimore Miami at Atlanta, 1 p.m. (CBS) Cleveland at New England, 1 p.m. (FOX) NY Giants at Philadelphia, 1 p.m. (FOX) Buffalo at Carolina, 1 p.m. (FOX) San Francisco at Houston, 1 p.m. (FOX) Tampa Bay at New Orleans, 4:05 p.m. (FOX) Tennessee at Indianapolis, 4:25 p.m. (CBS) Dallas at Denver, 4:25 p.m. (CBS) Green Bay at Pittsburgh, 8:20 p.m. (NBC) Monday, Oct. 27 Washington at Kansas City, 8:15 p.m. (ESPN/ABC) BYES: Arizona, Detroit, Jacksonville, LA Rams, Las Vegas, Seattle
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NFL Schedule

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WEEK 9

Thursday, Oct. 30

Baltimore at Miami, 8:15 p.m. (Prime Video)

Sunday, Nov. 2

Indianapolis at Pittsburgh, 1 p.m. (CBS)

Atlanta at New England, 1 p.m. (CBS)
Chicago at Cincinnati, 1 p.m. (CBS)
LA Chargers at Tennessee, 1 p.m. (CBS)
San Francisco at NY Giants, 1 p.m. (CBS)
Carolina at Green Bay, 1 p.m. (FOX)
Denver at Houston, 1 p.m. (FOX)
Minnesota at Detroit, 1 p.m. (FOX)
Jacksonville at Las Vegas, 4:05 p.m. (FOX)

New Orleans at LA Rams, 4:05 p.m. (FOX)

Kansas City at Buffalo, 4:25 p.m. (CBS)
Seattle at Washington, 8:20 p.m. (NBC)

Monday, Nov. 3

Arizona at Dallas, 8:15 p.m. (ESPN/ABC)
BYES: Cleveland, NY Jets, Philadelphia, Tampa Bay

WEEK 10

Thursday, Nov. 6

Las Vegas at Denver (Prime Video)
Sunday, Nov. 9
Atlanta vs. Indianapolis at Berlin, 9:30 a.m. (NFLN)

Jacksonville at Houston, 1 p.m. (CBS)
Buffalo at Miami, 1 p.m. (CBS)
New England at Tampa Bay
Cleveland at NY Jets, 1 p.m. (CBS)
NY Giants at Chicago, 1 p.m. (FOX)
New Orleans at Carolina, 1 p.m. (FOX)
Baltimore at Minnesota, 1 p.m. (FOX)
Arizona at Seattle, 4:05 p.m. (CBS)
LA Rams at San Francisco, 4:25 p.m. (FOX)

Detroit at Washington, 4:25 p.m. (FOX)
Pittsburgh at LA Chargers, 8:20 p.m. (NBC)

Monday, Nov. 10

Philadelphia at Green Bay, 8:15 p.m. (ESPN/ABC)
BYES: Cincinnati, Dallas, Kansas City, Tennessee

WEEK 11

Thursday, Nov. 13

NY Jets at New England, 8:15 p.m. (Prime Video)

Sunday, Nov. 16

Washington vs. Miami at Madrid, 9:30 a.m.

Tampa Bay at Buffalo, 1 p.m. (CBS)
LA Chargers at Jacksonville
Cincinnati at **Pittsburgh, 1 p.m. (CBS)**

Carolina at Atlanta, 1 p.m. (FOX)
Green Bay at NY Giants, 1 p.m. (FOX)
Chicago at Minnesota, 1 p.m. (FOX)
Houston at Tennessee, 1 p.m. (FOX)
San Francisco at Arizona, 4:05 p.m. (FOX)

Seattle at LA Rams, 4:05 p.m. (FOX)
Kansas City at Denver, 4:25 p.m. (CBS)
Baltimore at Cleveland, 4:25 p.m. (CBS)
Detroit at Philadelphia, 8:20 p.m. (NBC)

Monday, Nov. 17

Dallas at Las Vegas, 8:15 p.m. (ESPN/ABC)
BYES: Indianapolis, New Orleans

WEEK 12

Thursday, Nov. 20

Buffalo at Houston, 8:15 p.m. (Prime Video)

Sunday, Nov. 23

New England at Cincinnati, 1 p.m. (CBS)
Pittsburgh at Chicago, 1 p.m. (CBS)
Indianapolis at Kansas City
NY Jets at Baltimore, 1 p.m. (CBS)

NY Giants at Detroit, 1 p.m. (FOX)
Seattle at Tennessee, 1 p.m. (FOX)
Minnesota at Green Bay, 1 p.m. (FOX)
Cleveland at Las Vegas, 4:05 p.m. (CBS)
Jacksonville at Arizona, 4:05 p.m. (CBS)
Atlanta at New Orleans, 4:25 p.m. (FOX)
Philadelphia at Dallas, 4:25 p.m. (FOX)
Tampa Bay at LA Rams, 8:20 p.m. (NBC)

Monday, Nov. 24

Carolina at San Francisco, 8:15 p.m. (ESPN)
BYES: Denver, LA Chargers, Miami, Washington

WEEK 13

Thursday, Nov. 27

Green Bay at Detroit, 1 p.m. (FOX Thanksgiving)
Kansas City at Dallas, 4:30 p.m. (CBS Thanksgiving)
Cincinnati at Baltimore, 8:20 p.m. (NBC Thanksgiving)

Friday, Nov. 28

Chicago at Philadelphia, 3 p.m. (Prime Video Black Friday)

Sunday, Nov. 30

San Francisco at Cleveland, 1 p.m. (CBS)
Jacksonville at Tennessee
Houston at Indianapolis, 1 p.m. (CBS)
Arizona at Tampa Bay, 1 p.m. (FOX)
New Orleans at Miami, 1 p.m. (FOX)
Atlanta at NY Jets, 1 p.m. (FOX)
LA Rams at Carolina, 1 p.m. (FOX)
Minnesota at Seattle, 4:05 p.m. (FOX)
Las Vegas at LA Chargers, 4:25 p.m. (CBS)

Buffalo at Pittsburgh, 4:25 p.m. (CBS)
Denver at Washington, 8:20 p.m. (NBC)

Monday, Dec. 1

NY Giants at New England, 8:15 p.m. (ESPN)

WEEK 14

Thursday, Dec. 4

Dallas at Detroit, 8:15 p.m. (Prime Video)

Sunday, Dec. 7

Indianapolis at Jacksonville, 1 p.m. (CBS)
New Orleans at Tampa Bay, 1 p.m. (CBS)
Miami at NY Jets, 1 p.m. (CBS)
Pittsburgh at Baltimore, 1 p.m. (CBS)
Seattle at Atlanta, 1 p.m. (FOX)
Tennessee at Cleveland, 1 p.m. (FOX)
Washington at Minnesota, 1 p.m. (FOX)
Chicago at Green Bay, 1 p.m. (FOX)
Denver at Las Vegas, 4:05 p.m. (CBS)
LA Rams at Arizona, 4:25 p.m. (FOX)
Cincinnati at Buffalo, 4:25 p.m. (FOX)
Houston at Kansas City, 8:20 p.m. (NBC)

Monday, Dec. 8

Philadelphia at LA Chargers, 8:15 p.m. (ESPN/ABC)

BYES: Carolina, New England, NY Giants, San Francisco

WEEK 15

Thursday, Dec. 11

Atlanta at Tampa Bay, 8:15 p.m. (Prime Video)

Sunday, Dec. 14

LA Chargers at Kansas City, 1 p.m. (CBS)

Buffalo at New England, 1 p.m. (CBS)
NY Jets at Jacksonville, 1 p.m. (CBS)
Baltimore at Cincinnati, 1 p.m. (CBS)
Las Vegas at Philadelphia, 1 p.m. (FOX)
Arizona at Houston, 1 p.m. (FOX)
Washington at NY Giants, 1 p.m. (FOX)
Cleveland at Chicago, 1 p.m. (FOX)
Green Bay at Denver, 4:25 p.m. (CBS)
Indianapolis at Seattle, 4:25 p.m. (CBS)
Detroit at LA Rams, 4:25 p.m. (FOX)
Tennessee at San Francisco, 4:25 p.m. (FOX)
Carolina at New Orleans, 4:25 p.m. (FOX)
Minnesota at Dallas, 8:20 p.m. (NBC)

Monday, Dec. 15

Miami at Pittsburgh, 8:15 p.m. (ESPN)

WEEK 16

Thursday, Dec. 18

LA Rams at Seattle, 8:15 p.m. (Prime Video)

Saturday, Dec. 20

Green Bay at Chicago, 4:30 p.m. or 8 p.m. (FOX)
Philadelphia at Washington, 4:30 p.m. or 8 p.m. (FOX)

Sunday, Dec. 21

Kansas City at Tennessee, 1 p.m. (CBS)
NY Jets at New Orleans, 1 p.m. (CBS)
New England at Baltimore
Buffalo at Cleveland, 1 p.m. (CBS)
Tampa Bay at Carolina, 1 p.m. (FOX)
Minnesota at NY Giants, 1 p.m. (FOX)
LA Chargers at Dallas, 1 p.m. (FOX)
Atlanta at Arizona, 4:05 p.m. (FOX)
Jacksonville at Denver, 4:05 p.m. (FOX)
Pittsburgh at Detroit, 4:25 p.m. (CBS)
Las Vegas at Houston, 4:25 p.m. (CBS)
Cincinnati at Miami, 8:20 p.m. (NBC)

Monday, Dec. 22

San Francisco at Indianapolis, 8:15 p.m. (ESPN)

WEEK 17

Thursday, Dec. 25

Dallas at Washington, 1 p.m. (NETFLIX)
Detroit at Minnesota, 4:30 p.m. (NETFLIX)
Denver at Kansas City, 8:15 p.m. (Prime Video)

NY Giants at Las Vegas, TBD
Houston at LA Chargers, TBD
Arizona at Cincinnati, TBD
Baltimore at Green Bay, TBD
Seattle at Carolina, TBD
Saturday, Dec. 27
TBD, 4:30 p.m. (NFLN)
TBD, 8 p.m. (Peacock)

Sunday, Dec. 28

New Orleans at Tennessee, 1 p.m. (CBS)
Pittsburgh at Cleveland, 1 p.m. (CBS)
New England at NY Jets, 1 p.m. (CBS)
Jacksonville at Indianapolis, 1 p.m. (FOX)
Tampa Bay at Miami, 1 p.m. (FOX)
TBD, 4:05 p.m. (CBS)
Philadelphia at Buffalo, 4:25 p.m. (FOX)
Chicago at San Francisco, 8:20 p.m. (NBC)

Monday, Dec. 29

LA Rams at Atlanta, 8:15 p.m. (ESPN)

WEEK 18

NY Jets at Buffalo, TBD
Kansas City at Las Vegas, TBD
Baltimore at Pittsburgh, TBD
Cleveland at Cincinnati, TBD
Miami at New England, TBD
Tennessee at Jacksonville, TBD
LA Chargers at Denver, TBD
Indianapolis at Houston, TBD
Detroit at Chicago, TBD
Green Bay at Minnesota, TBD
New Orleans at Atlanta, TBD
Seattle at San Francisco, TBD
Washington at Philadelphia, TBD
Dallas at NY Giants, TBD
Carolina at Tampa Bay, TBD
Arizona at LA Rams, TBD

Saturday, Jan. 3

TBD, 4:30 p.m. (ESPN/ABC)
TBD, 8 p.m. (ESPN/ABC)

Sunday, Jan. 4

TBD, 1 p.m. (FOX)
TBD, 1 p.m. (CBS)
TBD, 4:25 p.m. (FOX)
TBD, 4:25 p.m. (CBS)
TBD, 8:20 p.m. (NBC)

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