

TH3MAG

October 2016

LB's Are All The Craze
In 2016!

PLUS:

Tom Brady Speaks

The Bandwagon Is
Leaving Minnesota

The Commish
Talks

Power Ranking



LB'S
Wrecking Havoc

Linebacker
Luke Kuechly



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Strongside Weakside



DAK PRESCOTT

Having assumed the role after Tony Romo's injury during the preseason, Dak Prescott has already exceeded expectations through the first month of the NFL season. And with the distinction of being the first rookie quarterback to start for the Dallas Cowboys since 2004, we ask the question... Is he any good?

Name: Rayne Dakota "Dak" Prescott

Height: 6'2"

Weight: 226 lbs.

College: Mississippi St.

Drafted: 4th Round, 135th Overall Pick in the 2016 NFL Draft

LEADING DIVISION + 12 PTS
LOWEST IN DIVISION POINTS
REC: 01 02 03 04 05 06 07
— LOWEST IN DIVISION POINTS

↗ STRONGSIDE

Not currently injured for next 6-10 weeks

Arm strength allows him to sneak ball into tight spaces between two receivers

Possesses both physical and mental toughness needed to play behind Cowboys offensive line

Exposed to pro-style legal system during college

Really embracing term "serviceable"

Should have at least one or two more chances to fill in for an injured Tony Romo after this opportunity

↖ WEAKSIDE

Less experienced than teammates, having only been arrested once

Still needs to work on establishing tension with Dez Bryant

Previously ran firejasongarrett.com

Struggling to master all of team's intricate drug terminology

Not old enough to remember Cowboys' storied legacy that he's under pressure to live up to

Earned ringing endorsement from owner Jerry Jones

QUIT YOUR JIBBER JABBER

with Tom Brady

Tom Brady: “I’m even more motivated than after the last time we got caught cheating”

Tom Brady is back from his four-game suspension and the Patriots quarterback said he has never been more motivated to silence his critics.

“I’m a competitive guy. I always have been,” he said. “But I think you all know I was playing with an extra chip on my shoulder in 2007 after all the SpyGate stuff. Well, you haven’t seen anything yet. Trust me. This time I want it even more. I think that every time you get caught cheating, you want to play even better when you get back just to try to shut people up and make them forget about the cheating because they doubt you more and more after every scandal, you know?”

Brady’s teammates say they already notice a certain look in his eyes and an energy and purpose with which he has been carrying himself since arriving back with the team early Monday morning.

“I know that look,” said receiver Julian Edelman. “It means he’s—”

“Hit on a great new cheating idea?” said tight end Rob Gronkowski, standing nearby and attempting to finish his teammate’s sentence.

“Rob! No! Not in front of a reporter, man,”

chided Edelman. “Anyway, where was I ... oh, right. Tom being really motivated to win—without cheating, of course—and shove it down everyone’s throat.”





When the Patriots were initially caught cheating in 2007, Brady and head coach Bill Belichick sought to blow out every opponent and averaged nearly 37 points per game on the way to going 18–0 ... only to get shutdown in the Super Bowl and lose to Eli Manning and the New York Giants.

“I remember watching that game and just laughing and laughing and laughing that they blew their shot at 19–0 and that their whole supposed redemption season was a complete waste and, in fact, an all-time sports punchline,” said a laughing Edelman, before catching himself and continuing. “Of course, I don’t want that to happen this year. I was still in college in 2007. Now I’m on the team and definitely don’t want us to go down as the biggest chokers in NFL history. I imagine being remembered that way still stings for the 2007 team, huh?”



Origins Conference Standings




ORIGINS - NORTH DIVISION

	W-L-T	PCT	GB	STRK	DIV W-L-T	CONF W-L-T	NON CONF W-L-T	PF	AVG PF	PA	AVG PA
CLAM DIGGERS 	4-2-0	.667	0.0	W3	1-2-0	3-2-0	1-0-0	949.62	158.3	959.26	159.9
I GOT SACKS 	3-3-0	.500	1.0	L2	2-1-0	3-2-0	0-1-0	977.4	162.9	909.22	151.5
DATAMBAATOR 	2-4-0	.333	2.0	L3	2-1-0	2-3-0	0-1-0	916.4	152.7	996.90	166.2
BARBARIC MILE JOUS 	2-4-0	.333	2.0	W1	1-2-0	2-3-0	0-1-0	920.98	153.5	875.30	145.9

ORIGINS - CENTRAL DIVISION

	W-L-T	PCT	GB	STRK	DIV W-L-T	CONF W-L-T	NON CONF W-L-T	PF	AVG PF	PA	AVG PA
GEORGIA BOY 	5-1-0	.833	0.0	L1	3-0-0	4-1-0	1-0-0	1066.16	177.7	856.70	142.8
CAROLINA HITMEN 	5-1-0	.833	0.0	W3	2-1-0	4-1-0	1-0-0	911.82	152.0	912.36	152.1
WAKEEM I SAW 	2-4-0	.333	3.0	L1	1-2-0	1-4-0	1-0-0	895.24	149.2	892.98	148.8
BREAKER TACKLE 	2-4-0	.333	3.0	L1	0-3-0	1-4-0	1-0-0	767.36	127.9	889.86	148.3

ORIGINS - SOUTH DIVISION

	W-L-T	PCT	GB	STRK	DIV W-L-T	CONF W-L-T	NON CONF W-L-T	PF	AVG PF	PA	AVG PA
I GO DEEP 	5-1-0	.833	0.0	W5	2-1-0	4-1-0	1-0-0	943.22	157.2	838.16	139.7
BUCKWASTY BOY 	3-3-0	.500	2.0	W1	2-1-0	3-2-0	0-1-0	821.36	136.9	884.42	147.4
DESEANTOORAGE 	2-4-0	.333	3.0	W1	1-2-0	2-3-0	0-1-0	904.94	150.8	1036.34	172.7
MACLIN ON DAT ASS 	2-4-0	.333	3.0	L1	1-2-0	1-4-0	1-0-0	864.7	144.1	863.44	143.9



Legends Conference Standings

LEGENDS - EAST DIVISION

	W-L-T	PCT	GB	STRK	DIV W-L-T	CONF W-L-T	NON CONF W-L-T	PF	AVG PF	PA	AVG PA
BEER, CHEESE & BRAT	5-1-0	.833	0.0	W3	2-1-0	4-1-0	1-0-0	1006.06	167.7	919.32	153.2
HYDE YO WIFE	4-2-0	.667	1.0	W2	2-1-0	3-2-0	1-0-0	1029.86	171.6	875.04	145.8
THE GNOMES	3-3-0	.500	2.0	W1	2-1-0	3-2-0	0-1-0	970.94	161.8	981.16	163.5
THE CROCIATES CUP	1-5-0	.167	4.0	L2	0-3-0	1-4-0	0-1-0	918.78	153.1	1003.00	167.2

LEGENDS - CENTRAL DIVISION

	W-L-T	PCT	GB	STRK	DIV W-L-T	CONF W-L-T	NON CONF W-L-T	PF	AVG PF	PA	AVG PA
ZERO TOLERANCE	4-2-0	.667	0.0	L2	3-0-0	4-1-0	0-1-0	913.38	152.2	822.64	137.1
NC TITANS	4-2-0	.667	0.0	L1	2-1-0	3-2-0	1-0-0	1012.92	168.8	902.06	150.3
SURPRISE SCORPIONS	2-4-0	.333	2.0	W1	1-2-0	2-3-0	0-1-0	847.86	141.3	953.00	158.8
CARNIVAL OF PAIN	1-5-0	.167	3.0	L1	0-3-0	0-5-0	1-0-0	827.74	138.0	1006.14	167.7

LEGENDS - WEST DIVISION

	W-L-T	PCT	GB	STRK	DIV W-L-T	CONF W-L-T	NON CONF W-L-T	PF	AVG PF	PA	AVG PA
MR. ROGERS NEIGHBORS	6-0-0	1.000	0.0	W6	3-0-0	5-0-0	1-0-0	1016.78	169.5	870.02	145.0
HOUSE OF CARDS	3-3-0	.500	3.0	W1	1-2-0	3-2-0	0-1-0	1041.34	173.6	1001.76	167.0
BOM SNATCHERS	1-5-0	.167	5.0	L5	1-2-0	1-4-0	0-1-0	819.08	136.5	1038.80	173.1
PAWPAW HIGH	1-5-0	.167	5.0	L3	1-2-0	1-4-0	0-1-0	887.34	147.9	943.40	157.2

JUMP ON THE! BANDWAGON!



Maybe you're new to this whole football thing. Perhaps you're a Browns fan ready for a new rodeo. Maybe you like trying new things, or maybe you're just a masochist. For some reason I'll never understand, you want to be a Minnesota Vikings fan. Okay then—there's room on the bandwagon.

Honestly the bandwagon is actually just an old Amtrak engine and it breaks down pretty often in the freezing cold, and every now and then you'll forgive it if it accidentally backs over a couple of our players too. Accidents happen.

The Vikings are this year's early "it" team, 5–0 already with a stifling defense, a shiny new stadium our grandkids will be paying for, and a new QB we are slowly talking ourselves into. This is the most excited fans have been in almost a decade—never mind the fact that we already lost our franchise QB, our stud RB, and our left tackle for the season and mortgaged the future for a QB who will probably get a paper cut reading this article on his iPhone.

But anyways, you want in!! Feel the excitement. Here are ten things you'll need to know as you jump aboard the Norse Express...

1. Team traditions: we have them!

Okay so first there's the insanely loud dome with Guns N' Roses blaring as the teams hit the field... shoot, the dome is gone now. Right, well what about our awesome real live viking Ragnar trolling the sidelines on his Harley!! Oh right, we had to let him go over a payment dispute last year. Fine, but at least you can't take the color purple from us. Oh. Yeah. Prince died.

Whatever, we have other traditions too! We yell SKOL!! We don't really know why but I assume it's a thing Norsemen used to yell before pillaging villages. Oh and we dress up like Vikings! You'll need to get yourself one of those horn hats like in the picture at the top. Technically it's a Helga hat. (Yes, like Helga from the Hagar the Horrible comic.) Then there's the giant Gjallarhorn that blares at the start of the game and every subsequent 4 seconds and sounds sort of like an army of elephants all sneezing simultaneously. It's awesome.

We also have that sweet new Viking clap thing at the start of the 4th quarter that we definitely didn't steal from Iceland's soccer team this summer.

Oh and there's the bitter cold! And all the choking. All Viking traditions.

2. Quarterbacks: we have them too!! Just not the good kind...

So the good news is you already know our quarterback, because they have been your quarterback already in another life or on another team. Cuz we don't really believe in quarterbacks. I know, I know, it's the single most important position in the entire world of sports. Don't worry; we disagree. Pretty much anyone can play quarterback.

Just look at this list of guys we've won with at QB over the last few decades!*

*Sam Bradford, Teddy Bridgewater, Christian Ponder, Donovan McNabb**, Brett Favre**, Gus Frerotte, Tarvaris Jackson, Brad Johnson**, Daunte Culpepper, Jeff George**, Randall Cunningham**, Brad Johnson again, Warren Moon**, Sean Salisbury, Jim McMahon**, Rich Gannon, Wade Wilson, and Tommy Kramer!*

** hey man, I didn't say won A LOT.
** but not when they were good or in their prime*

The thing is, you'll feel good about being a Vikings fan because our QB position is basically a rotating cast of Make-a-Wish players living out their final hopes and dreams. In the last 25 years, we've had exactly one quarterback start 10+ games for three straight years, and that guy was Daunte Culpepper and he had smaller hands than Donald Trump.

But don't worry! We'll have a new quarterback soon. You like Drew Brees right? He'll be wearing purple in a few years. Can I interest you in a year of Andy Dalton or Alex Smith in 2022? And it's a mortal lock that Tony Romo will play for the Vikes in the next year or two. Cowboy up!

3. We get one super awesome offensive skill player at all times so you'll always have to watch

It started with Anthony Carter and then transitioned to Cris Carter. Then the Carters gave way to Randy Moss, and Moss disappeared just in time for Adrian Peterson. There's always one guy on the field that can do incredible superhuman things at all times, so the Vikings will always be worth tuning in.

Here's the thing: we get exactly one.

Remember that month-long stretch when Percy Harvin was incredible a few years ago? It was right after Peterson tore his ACL. Adrian comes back healthy the next year and voila, Percy is never heard from again.

You saw my boy Stefon Diggs explode against the Packers a couple weeks ago right? Do you think it's a coincidence he did it moments after AP hobbled off through our super modern night club in front of all the catatonic fans?

I sure don't. We get one. Look at me, Diggs: You're the captain now.

4. Mike Zimmer is our third good coach in history

The first good coach was Bud Grant. We hated him.

He's okay now, cuz he's old and cute and he blew the Gjallarhorn and he wore short sleeves to the freezing playoff game against Seattle last year.

The second good coach was Denny Green. We hated him too but he died this year so now we like him. He wasn't really good, but he wasn't bad either. He was 9 wins and an immediate playoff exit every year.

I guess what I'm saying is, he is who we thought he was.

5. You're going to need to hate some teams now. You hate the Packers, Bears, Giants, Cowboys, Redskins, Seahawks, Bucs, Falcons, Saints, and Patriots.

The Packers and Bears are hated division rivals. The Giants ruined 2001. The Cowboys ruined the '90s. The Redskins ruined 1988. Seattle ruined last year. Tampa Bay ruined 16-0 in 1998, then Atlanta ruined it (much) further. The Saints ruined Brett Favre in 2010.

The Patriots just suck.

Feels like we might get to add another team to our list this year! Stay tuned.

*6. We are *not* the Chicago Cubs of football.*

The Cubs are terrible. They had decades and decades of ineptitude. They're the lovable losers, and they're my lovable losers, but they're losers nonetheless.

The Vikings have actually been winners historically (just not when it matters). Minnesota has the 6th best record in the NFL since the 1970 merger. The top ten NFL win rates in order belong to Pittsburgh, Denver, Dallas, Miami, San Francisco, us, New England, Green Bay (suck it), Oakland, and Washington. That group has won 33 of the last 46 Super Bowls—72% of them!!—just kindly ignore that every team in that group has at least 2 Lombardis except for us.

In fact, Minnesota has the third most playoff appearances of any team behind only Pittsburgh and Dallas with 24! So what if we have only 17 wins and hold the record for most playoff losses (um, 24, obviously). So what if we haven't won two playoff games in the same season in 30 years!

The Vikes are always really good and sometimes great! Just never the best. You'll get used to it. One of our most revered players of all time Jim Marshall never missed a start in 20 seasons and has the 16th most sacks in history, but he's really only remembered for recovering a fumble and running 66 yards the wrong direction and getting tackled for a safety. A very Vikings moment.

We are not the Chicago Cubs of football. The Cubs suck. We are good, and then we choke. It's different.

7. There have been some very bad Vikings moments. You may need to take notes...

I'm not going to rank them because it's just too depressing, so here are the lowlights from the last two decades...

The entire '90s—In 1989 the Vikings trade approximately 37 players and 800 first round picks to the Dallas Cowboys for RB Herschel Walker and a case of Natty Light. The Cowboys go on to build a '90s dynasty with all their picks. Walker has one good play and was never heard from again.

1999—The Vikings draft Dimitrius Underwood in the first round. He quits the team after one day of training camp that fall and is suicidal.

1999—The Vikings went 15–1 in 1998 and had the best offense in NFL history. In the NFC title game, Gary Anderson—the first human in history to kick perfectly all season—chooses this specific moment to go wide left. We don't touch the ball again and lose in OT. I don't want to talk about it.

2000—Antonio Freeman, Monday Night Football, HE DID WHAT??? game-winning OT catch and call by Al Michaels. Maybe you've seen it. If not, lucky for you, you'll get to see the replay 400 times every fall Monday night for the rest of your life.

2001—Minnesota loses 41–0 to the Giants in the NFC title game. We didn't score a single point. In an NFC championship game.

2001—Korey Stringer dies of heat exhaustion on the field in August practice. This sucked.

2003—Minnesota's draft clock runs out and two teams jump them. Never mind we got stud DT Kevin Williams; this was humiliating and we will be reminded of it at every sports and fantasy draft for all eternity.

2003—The Vikings need only a win over 3–12 Arizona on the final day of the season to make the playoffs and push the Cardinals to 4th and 24. A Josh McCown throw sails out of bounds with 0:00 on the clock to end the season, only the refs rule Minnesota pushed the receiver out and call it a touchdown. And the Vikings are eliminated from the playoffs on a catch that never happened on a play after the season ended because of a rule that doesn't exist anymore.

2005—The Love Boat sex party scandal

2005—Daunte Culpepper, second best QB in franchise history (no, seriously), blows his knee out and is never good again.

2010—Brett Favre's magical purple season ends when, already in field goal range, he Favrely (read: stupidly) throws across his body and gets intercepted to end the game. The Saints cheated and were penalized for Bountygate. I'm pretty sure they kept the trophy.

2011—Adrian Peterson blows his knee out. We don't believe in knees.

2014—Adrian Peterson is a bad man, and not the good kind of bad man. He misses the entire season. No, you still have his jersey.

2016—Blair Walsh misses a chip shot winner against Seattle in the playoffs. We hate kickers.

2016—Teddy Bridgewater blows his knee out so badly that players are dry heaving on the field and huddling in groups to pray.

2016—Minnesota trades 700 draft picks to the Eagles for a quarterback that no one wants and that has never been good for any stretch. The picks escalate if Bradford wins a Super Bowl. Good luck with that, Philly.

2016—Adrian Peterson blows his knee out. Again. But remember, this is a good year!

8. But wait! There's more!!

After all, that was just the last couple decades. I haven't even mentioned the Darrin Nelson dropped TD on 4th down with a minute left against Washington in the 1988 NFC championship.

Or the universe's first Hail Mary (no, seriously) from Cowboys' Roger F. Staubach to Drew F. Pearson who pushed off to knock the Vikings out of the 1975 playoffs and stop us from four consecutive Super Bowl berths.

Oh right! The Super Bowl berths. We lost them all. We lost Super Bowl IV and Super Bowl VIII and Super Bowl IX and Super Bowl XI. We lost IV Super Bowls in a VIII-year span. If there were Roman numerals for Super Bowl SUX I'm sure we'd make that one and lose it too.

9. But there are good moments!! Here's a complete list of every memorable Vikings win in my lifetime:



Minnesota 31, Green Bay 17. Our only playoff win over Green Bay ever. Suck it Packers.

Honestly, that's it.

I asked some friends for help. We got nothing. It's just that one. There's some great individual highlights though.

But anything good that happens always gets wiped away by something worse later. Which reminds me...

10. *It will all go horribly, horribly wrong. And soon.*

It always does. We can be 4-0 or 6-0 or 8-0 or 15-1 but the ending is always the same. It's like a Choose Your Own Adventure where you are doomed to flip through pages your entire life only every single outcome leads back to the same terrible page where you fall down an abandoned elevator shaft.

Think of the possibilities! Maybe Kyle Rudolph and Stefon Diggs run into each other on a crossing route and spontaneously combust! Or Adrian Peterson heroically returns to the 13-3 Vikings for the playoff run only to fumble the ball away nursing a 4-point lead with a minute left! Or Sam Bradford somehow survives all season healthy but throws a pick-six in the NFC title game against Philadelphia before tearing off his jersey to reveal his Eagles jersey underneath as Hollywood Hogan's music plays in the background! Honestly the Vikings screenwriters tend to get pretty creative with this stuff.

But don't worry. You'll find your way of dealing with the catastrophic loss soon enough. We all do. One of my friends just stares at the TV for hours waiting for the result to change. Another buries his face into a pillow and screams bloody murder. I like to take a long shower and then fall asleep and hope I never wake up again. I'm sure you'll think of something.

~ You might've heard, it'll be a cold day in hell before the Vikings ever actually win the Super Bowl ~

Lucky for you, we have about 150 such days in Minnesota every year, so you'll get your hopes up and believe all over again every season!!

Welcome aboard.



EA Sports Working to Fix Bizarre Madden 17 Glitch That Enables Jared Goff to Complete Passes

EA Sports has apologized for a glitch in this year's Madden NFL release that has gone viral with hundreds of players sharing videos of scenarios in which the game lets Jared Goff successfully throw a football to members of his own team.

“We pride ourselves on being real to the game,” said Madden 17 lead designer Geoff Purveaux. “But obviously we failed here. And while some glitches are fun and entertaining—players levitating and flying and that sort of thing—Jared Goff completing passes is far beyond the level of absurdity that anyone wants to accept.”

EA is taking the dramatic step of removing all of its remaining copies of the game still on store shelves while hurrying to rush out a new edition—a move that will likely lose the company millions in sales. Purveaux says the timing is not ideal, “but we have to do what’s right. We obviously can’t have a game out there in which Jared Goff is completing passes. It could destroy our brand.”

Sources close to the Rams say Goff is trying to scoop up as many of the existing Madden 17 copies with the glitch as possible.

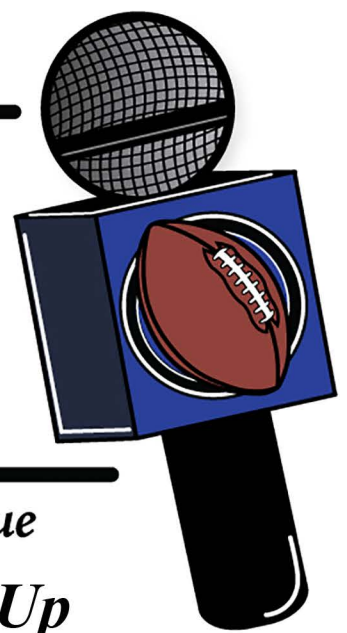
“He’s had a rough time since being taken No.1 overall,” said one Rams coach. “So after another bad day, he likes the idea of being able to kick back, turn on a video game, and go 5-for-21 for 48 yards and two interceptions. It really helps him build confidence.”

POWER RANKINGS

FRANCHISE	ORIGINS											POWER RANKINGS			
	PF	PP	EFF	BENCH POINTS	MAX PF	MIN PF	COULDA WON	WOULDA LOST	POWER RANK	ALTERNATE POWER RANK	ALL-PLAY RECORD				
	W	L	T	PCT											
GEORGIA BOY	1066.16	1106.42	96.4%	260.86	209.4	134.66	1	2	46.67	71	85	30	0	.739	
I GOT BACKS	977.4	1032.6	94.7%	196.30	180.42	140.86	1	1	38.24	51	73	42	0	.635	
CLAM DIGGERS	949.62	1019.94	93.1%	198.46	181.2	131.36	0	2	35.53	50	61	54	0	.530	
CAROLINA HITMEN	911.82	981.12	92.9%	172.50	171.1	118.46	0	2	35.09	43	55	60	0	.478	
I GO DEEP	943.22	991.32	95.1%	121.90	223.02	123.92	1	3	33.46	45	52	63	0	.452	
BARBARIC MILE JOUST	920.98	1025.92	89.8%	203.48	186.94	135.36	3	1	33.29	38	61	54	0	.530	
HAKEEM I SAW	895.24	1055.1	84.8%	317.62	160.9	132.58	2	0	33.21	24	46	68	1	.404	
DEBEANTODRAGE	904.94	1018.44	88.9%	196.50	170.44	138.26	0	1	32.88	32	61	53	1	.535	
DA TAMMATON	916.4	982.78	93.2%	179.36	183.7	108.5	0	1	32.54	36	56	59	0	.487	
BUCKNASTY BOY	821.36	913	90.0%	212.56	195.92	88.38	0	1	30.82	23	44	71	0	.383	
MACIN ON DAT ASS	864.7	1005.2	86.0%	216.24	153.22	137.52	3	0	29.11	17	42	73	0	.365	
BREAKIN TACKLES	767.36	881.5	87.1%	226.36	161.5	70.32	1	0	23.50	11	24	91	0	.209	

FRANCHISE	LEGENDS											ALL-PLAY RECORD			
	PF	PP	EFF	BENCH POINTS	MAX PF	MIN PF	COULDA WON	WOULDA LOST	POWER RANK	ALTERNATE POWER RANK	ALL-PLAY RECORD				
	W	L	T	PCT											
MR. ROGERS NEIGHBORHOOD	1016.78	1071.2	94.9%	227.78	215.9	136.52	0	2	44.47	64	77	38	0	.670	
BEER, CHEESE & BRAT	1006.06	1043.46	96.4%	223.40	189.86	144.56	0	1	43.00	61	81	34	0	.704	
HYDE YO WIFE	1029.86	1153.14	89.3%	238.02	238.32	119.26	1	0	42.13	61	78	37	0	.678	
THE GNOMIES	970.94	1075.04	90.3%	250.00	224	120.62	0	0	40.49	50	77	38	0	.670	
HOUSE OF CARDS	1041.34	1077.3	96.7%	174.32	223.56	155.7	1	1	39.87	58	85	30	0	.739	
NC TITANS	1012.92	1072.06	94.5%	233.10	208.54	131.08	0	0	38.97	54	64	51	0	.557	
ZERO TOLERANCE	913.38	1025.26	89.1%	297.30	190.42	139.8	0	0	38.27	37	53	62	0	.461	
THE CRUCIATES CUP	918.78	1018.98	90.2%	171.70	170.66	126.26	2	0	29.36	29	56	59	0	.487	
SURPRISE SCORPIANS	847.86	888.16	95.5%	138.00	179.68	103.84	0	0	27.65	18	47	68	0	.409	
PREYING MIER	887.34	947.74	93.6%	173.76	203.24	128.22	2	0	26.80	13	40	75	0	.348	
SOUL SNATCHERS	819.08	855.38	95.8%	74.10	158.16	116.7	0	1	22.44	6	37	78	0	.322	
CARNIVAL OF PAIN	827.74	948.14	87.3%	188.40	157.78	118	1	0	22.22	8	24	91	0	.209	

COMMISH TALK



Everything You Need for a Dynamic League

5 Ways to Get NFL TV Ratings Back Up

NFL ratings have experienced a major decline so far this season. But there are several steps the league can take right away to make its TV ratings higher than ever.

1. Have Colin Kaepernick start for the 49ers.

One theory for the decline in ratings is that millions of people who are VERY MAD at Colin Kaepernick for kneeling during the national anthem have stopped watching the NFL in protest. If this is the case, there's only one thing that can get these proud anthemophiles back in front of their TVs every Sunday: watching Kaepernick get destroyed behind the terrible offensive line of a 1-4 team that features Jeremy Kerley and Garrett Celek as its top receivers. Some people might hate Kaepernick, but they'll absolutely love watching him get sacked nine times while losing 38-13 every week.

2. Play up the racial divide.

There is a lot of racial tension in the nation right now. That's unfortunate ... but it can be GREAT for ratings if you play it right!

While diversity is usually good and everything, the NFL could get everyone's attention if teams were designated as all-white or all-black. Imagine the ratings for a White Patriots vs. Black Panthers matchup! Even the deplorables would tune in. And, best of all, we could finally determine if GRIT or natural athleticism is more important on the football field.

3. Torture Roger Goodell on-camera during every broadcast.

Sick of the NFL? Find it boring? Too much violence? Too many ads? And stoppages in play? And illogical rules? And annoying broadcasters? And pointless flags? Hey, all valid reasons to not watch. But realize that much of what is bad about the NFL has been championed by the NFL's \$40 Million A Year Man, Roger Goodell. America hates this man, as he is awful in every way.

So why not torture him during every NFL broadcast? Promise viewers that once during every nationally-televised game, they'll be able to see Goodell get an ear cut off or have his testicles crushed in a vice. You know, something fun but not fatal. We need to keep him alive for 17 weeks. Alive, but in excruciating pain.

The torture segment could air right after kickoff, it could air in the last few minutes of a blowout. Who knows. The only way viewers can be sure to see it is to tune in for the entire game. RATINGS GOLD.

4. Appeal to The Millennials.

If we know anything in this crazy world, it's that is something goes wrong, it's The Millennials fault. Like it or not, the NFL is going to have to appeal to The Millennials to see its ratings plunge turn around. So how do you appeal to The Millennials? I have no idea. Probably something with Snapchat. Try that.

5. Have an NFL Awareness Month.

Look, no offense, but we are all aware of breast cancer now. We know it exists. And the reason we know it exists is because Ben Roethlisberger wears a pink towel every October. Mission accomplished. It's about time the NFL turns its attention to something that is being ignored: NFL football. The league must use its platform to make more people aware of the league. Have players wear football uniforms every game—complete with logos and names of football teams on the uniforms—and use a football during play. Have broadcasters talk about football. And have many of the commercials during the games mention football, too. Before long, football awareness will skyrocket and TV ratings along with it.