



Horton's NFL Game Film Analysis

Week 2

Film room observations by Gary Horton, former college coach and NFL scout.

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Horton's NFL Film Looking Back

Week 2

Ravens 23 @ Bengals 34 (TH)

- The Bengals' passing game showed creativity and now wrinkles versus a Ravens' pass defense that is not at full strength. A.J. Green was in motion a lot to find the right matchup (three touchdown catches), and he was really effective out of the slot. We saw good misdirection, up tempo, and play action for the first half and flashes of explosive play...but in the second half the Bengals offense regressed into the frustrating up and down unit that we are used to seeing.
- Joe Flacco was a roller coaster QB like he has been for years. At times he made crisp throws, but he also made throws into windows that were not open. He never had time to read his progressions and the Cincinnati defensive line controlled the trenches (four sacks, 12 deflected passes, eight QB hits, four TFL) and in fairness he never had time to get into a flow. The Bengals' defensive front as a chance to be special.
- It looks like the AFC North is up for grabs, with nobody running away with the division. All four teams have flaws, including the Steelers, and the up and down play that we saw in this game is probably what we will see all season from the entire division...they will tease us one week and then break our hearts the next week.

Horton's NFL Game Film Look Ahead

Week 2

Panthers (0-1) @ Falcons (0-1)

- Norv Turner is letting Cam Newton use his legs and run threat to give this offense much more versatility. Atlanta will count him as an RB and that means an extra defender in the box and good outside matchups.

- Atlanta play calling, especially in red zone (1-5 versus Philadelphia) and they need a run game and play action to set up deep shots to Julio Jones, but Carolina has a strong front seven and they will mostly rush four and drop seven into coverage in more zones than man. A big challenge for Matt Ryan.
- Injuries are critical in this game. Atlanta is without MLB Deion Jones and safety Keanu Neal (the heart of their defense) and that makes them vulnerable between the hashes versus run and pass and Cam's seam route. Carolina is without ROT Daryl Williams and TE Greg Olsen and that weakens their right side and could bring some overload Atlanta blitzes and Olsen is a great seam receiver.
- Carolina must rely on offensive misdirection and motion to force a fast Atlanta defense to over pursue versus cut-back runs and they need to establish a power run game. Look for McCaffrey to line up in the backfield with a lot of outlet routes and less gimmick alignments.

Official Friday Injury List:

CAROLINA PANTHERS

--OUT: WR Damiere Byrd (knee), TE Greg Olsen (foot), WR Curtis Samuel (medical illness), G Trai Turner (concussion)

ATLANTA FALCONS

--OUT: RB Devonta Freeman (knee), WR Russell Gage (knee), G Ben Garland (calf)

--QUESTIONABLE: CB Isaiah Oliver (ankle)

Colts (0-1) @ Redskins (1-0)

- Both defenses will play fairly basic schemes that will require the QBs to be accurate and patient. We will see four man fronts with seven zone defenders in coverage and they will try to manufacture pressure without blitzes while using a lot of slants, twists, and stunts to confuse the OL. Both QBs should be able to read the coverages but they will be forced to throw the ball into tight windows.
- The Washington run game has been lousy but yet their play action success is near the top of the NFL. While that doesn't seem to make a lot of sense, Bill Callahan's OL gets a lot of credit for "selling" their run blocks and that puts a lot of pressure on the Colts' defense to not "bite" on the play and get caught out of position for deep Alex Smith shots.
- Andrew Luck is a cerebral QB but this offense has been simplified to eliminate mistakes that leads to unnecessary hits as he plays his way back into shape. We will see more three and five step drops and short passes versus Washington (Ty Hilton is their only outside deep threat), but one wrinkle that we may see in the passing game is more spread sets and empty looks to force the Redskins to go deeper into their sub packages than they want to (marginal secondary depth)...and that could give Luck good single matchups.
- Look for Smith to attack between the hashes with his passing game. While he lacks great outside targets, he has two pass catching TE's, solid slot receivers, and pass catching RBs on circle routes. This will be a challenging game for the Indianapolis LBs, and even more importantly, the safeties in coverage.

Official Friday Injury list:

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS

--OUT: DT Denico Autry (ankle), T Anthony Castonzo (hamstring), T Denzelle Good (knee, wrist), CB Chris Milton (concussion)

--QUESTIONABLE: S Clayton Geathers (knee), RB Marlon Mack (hamstring), DT Grover Stewart (shoulder)

WASHINGTON REDSKINS

--OUT: S Troy Apke (hamstring)

--QUESTIONABLE: WR Maurice Harris (concussion), T Morgan Moses (knee), WR Paul Richardson (shoulder)

Texans (0-1) @ Titans (0-1)

- Tennessee has a suspect interior OL so we see more wide East-West zone runs with RBs Derrick Henry and Dion Lewis out of mostly base looks. However, the Texans are elite edge run defenders (Watt, Mercilius, Clowney) and without good blocking TE Delanie Walker the Titans will struggle.
- Houston likes spread sets and five man routes but that requires a suspect OL to block without help versus a Tennessee defense that will bring a lot of blitzes (poor edge rushers) and that means the DeShaun Watson deep pass on seven step drops may not be available in this game.
- Marcus Mariota is outstanding on play action when his run game is going well, but he will have to pick his spots versus a pretty good Titans secondary. He will likely see zone looks on early downs and more man coverage in sure pass situations. Can he get Houston to “bite” on run fakes?
- Tom Brady negated a usually potent Texans’ pass rush in week one with ball out quick short passes. Mariota would be wise to do the same, especially with a passing game that has limited big play weapons. Look for slants and crossing routes and RB dump offs out of three and five step drops.

Official Friday Injury list:

HOUSTON TEXANS

--OUT: CB Kayvon Webster (achilles)

--QUESTIONABLE: CB Johnson Bademosi (knee), LB Jadeveon Clowney (back, elbow), WR Sammie Coates (hamstring), WR Keke Coutee (hamstring), DE Christian Covington (thigh, knee), LB Duke Ejirofor (hamstring), WR Will Fuller (hamstring), WR DeAndre Hopkins (foot)

TENNESSEE TITANS

--OUT: T Jack Conklin (knee), T Taylor Lewan (concussion), S Kendrick Lewis (foot)

--QUESTIONABLE: T Dennis Kelly (illness), LB Harold Landry (ankle), QB Marcus Mariota (right elbow), LB Derrick Morgan (knee), TE Luke Stocker (calf)

Eagles (1-0) @ Bucs (1-0)

- Can Ryan Fitzpatrick solve the Eagles’ wide and nine defense? He will see a dominating and deep defensive front that won’t rely on blitzes and will sit back with seven defenders (three safeties) in coverage. His excellent deep ball will be challenged by an OL who will struggle with one on one blocks and a secondary that defends the deep ball well.
- A key matchup looks like the versatile Philadelphia run game versus the outstanding Tampa Bay LB’s, Kwon Alexander and LaVonte David. The Eagles will load up with multi TE looks and run misdirection and Jets sweeps with a lot of pulls, traps, and wham blocks. The Bucs LBs have

excellent range outside and they are also excellent step up and fill guys, but they must recognize those blocks coming from all directions.

- The Bucs play a lot of cover two zone looks on defense and they prefer to rush four and drop seven, with more twists and stunts rather than blitzes. However, the Eagles interior OL (especially OG's) are not great versus inside pressure and it might be wise for the Bucs to bring some A gap blitzes to fluster Nick Foles.
- Doug Pederson has developed a reputation as an excellent play caller and he is not afraid to be creative and run a variety of gadget plays (ala KC and Andy Reid). He faces a Mike Smith Bucs defense that is semi-vanilla and assignment oriented and Foles won't see anything that is new. That gives Pederson a perfect chance to put together a great game plan versus defensive personnel who won't be confusing.

Official Friday Injury list:

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

--OUT: WR Alshon Jeffery (shoulder), RB Darren Sproles (hamstring), QB Carson Wentz (knee)

--QUESTIONABLE: WR Shelton Gibson (knee)

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

--OUT: CB Brent Grimes (groin), DT Vita Vea (calf)

--QUESTIONABLE: WR DeSean Jackson (shoulder, concussion), DE Jason Pierre-Paul (knee)

Chiefs (1-0) @ Steelers (0-0-1)

- Pittsburgh should have success with spread sets that force the Chiefs to go to their dime defensive personnel...and then they can come back and pound the run game with James Conner and their elite OL versus softer defensive personnel. The Steelers can run or pass out of this look and the Chiefs are vulnerable versus strong run games.
- KC wants to throw deep Mahomes passes to speed WRs, Watkins and Hill, but the Steelers often drop eight defenders into coverage with only a three man (and occasional four-man) rush. The weakness of their pass defense are their LBs and that could mean a lot of underneath slants and crossing routes designed for positive YAC.
- This looks like an inside run game for Pittsburgh for two reasons. 1.) The Chiefs play a lot of sub-packages on defense and power runners give them trouble. 2.) Their edge defenders do a nice job of stacking at the point attack and forcing a wide run to stay East and West.
- Big Ben is so good in his pre-snap reads at the line of scrimmage. He identifies good matchups, he moves his guys around and he can beat the back-end of this Chiefs' defense in coverage. After the snap he is even better, especially with Antonio Brown. Sight adjustment is a huge positive and the Chiefs defenders must be able to adjust quickly.

Official Friday Injury list:

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

--OUT: LB Ben Niemann (hamstring)

--DOUBTFUL: S Eric Berry (heel)

PITTSBURGH STEELERS

--DOUBTFUL: DE Tyson Alualu (shoulder), G David DeCastro (hand), CB Joe Haden (hamstring)

--QUESTIONABLE: CB Artie Burns (toe), DT Cameron Heyward (knee), TE Vance McDonald (foot), QB Ben Roethlisberger (right elbow)

Dolphins (1-0) @ Jets (1-0)

- The Dolphins want and need to run the football to protect Ryan Tannehill and set up the vertical passing game but their OL lacks athletic ability and that hurts their outside zone run game (range) and also their desired screen game (space). The Jets look really solid on all three levels of their defense and their front seven has too much quickness for the Miami front five.
- Sam Darnold may be a rookie but he is lucky to have a great QB room with veteran backup Josh McCown and coordinator Jeremy Bates who prepare him well. The Dolphins are not exotic on defense and Darnold should get decent pre-snap looks versus this fairly predictable wide nine scheme.
- The Jets now seem to have the players to handle Todd Bowles' press man coverages and liberal blitzes. They have players with versatile skill sets and their blitzes cover up their lack of a dynamic edge pass rusher. Because they are an aggressive penetrating front seven they are susceptible to wham blocks and reverses, but does Miami have the guys to exploit it?
- Both of these offenses like a pass catching TE but neither has a sure thing at the position (Miami may be closer with Mike Gesicki) and it hinders their underneath passing game. They are forced to use WRs on slants and crossers to attack between the seams, but quality TE production would give both coaches added flexibility.

Official Friday Injury list:

MIAMI DOLPHINS

--QUESTIONABLE: LS John Denney (shoulder), DE William Hayes (finger), WR DeVante Parker (finger)

NEW YORK JETS

--OUT: LB Josh Martin (concussion)

--DOUBTFUL: S Marcus Maye (foot)

--QUESTIONABLE: S Doug Middleton (finger)

Chargers (0-1) @ Buffalo (0-1)

- Philip Rivers can win this game at the line of scrimmage before the snap. The Bills will show him a variety of coverages before the snap, but on the snap they are pretty basic and he should be able to identify good matchups. He won't see a lot of blitzes or exotic looks and if Rivers goes to spread personnel, he can easily exploit the Bills when they are forced to go to sub packages.
- Buffalo has no chance on offense unless they can get better OL play. They are lousy one on one blockers, they lack athletic ability, and their ability to protect a rookie QB is not likely. The Chargers should load up in the box on defense to stop RB LeSean McCoy and QB Josh Allen, with the luxury of their DBs handling any Buffalo pass catcher without help. This OL has no chance versus the Bolts.
- SD Coordinator Ken Whisenhunt must be very creative versus a Buffalo Red Zone defense that has been terrible. Good QBs like Rivers feast on them between the hashes (vulnerable LB and safety

play) with slants and crossing routes, and both Chargers' backs, Melvin Gordon and Austin Ekeler, are developing into solid outlet receivers over the middle.

- Buffalo QB Allen will face a Chargers' cover three defense (ala Seattle) who will rush four and drop seven and the good news is that he won't see a lot of exotic looks. The bad news is that this unit is sound, they play fast, they close and tackle well, and they will not make many mistakes that gives him a free play. This is not the defense that he wants to play in his first start.

Official Friday Injury list:

LOS ANGELES CHARGERS

--OUT: T Joe Barksdale (knee), DE Joey Bosa (foot), CB Craig Mager (hamstring)

--QUESTIONABLE: WR Travis Benjamin (foot)

BUFFALO BILLS

--OUT: CB Taron Johnson (shoulder), DE Shaq Lawson (hamstring)

--QUESTIONABLE: WR Ray-Ray McCloud (knee)

Vikings (1-0) @ Packers (1-0)

- The health and playing status of Aaron Rodgers will likely be in doubt most of the week. However, based on his second half play last week versus Chicago, we know what to expect. Look for him to stay in the pocket (no scrambles) with three and five step "ball out quick" drops. Not only does that protect his knee but it also can negate an elite Minnesota pass rush that may be frustrated because they can't get to him. Can he beat the Vikings with just his arm?
- Minnesota loves to attack the "A" gaps with the blitz and that is the last thing that an immobile Rodgers wants to see. He will face a lot of cover 2 schemes vs. elite safeties Harrison Smith and Andrew Senejo and good man looks on the edges. Can he spread out Vikings and force dime coverages to find a good matchup? This is not the defense that he wants to see.
- A matchup to watch in this game is Minnesota RB Dalvin Cook versus the GB LB's. Cooks has speed and explosiveness and these LBs also have good range, but they are not elite. Minnesota wants to run the ball, control the clock, let their defense dominate, let Cousins manage the game as a system QB and keep Rodgers on the sidelines.
- Green Bay will play a lot of man press coverages and they are getting good coverage play on the backend of this defense. However, these Viking WR's, Adam Thielen and Stefon Diggs, are excellent route runners (perfect for a timing QB like Cousins) and they know how to set up a DB and separate. This is another key matchup.

Official Friday Injury list:

MINNESOTA VIKINGS

--OUT: C Pat Elflein (ankle, shoulder)

GREEN BAY PACKERS

--OUT: S Josh Jones (ankle)

--QUESTIONABLE: WR Davante Adams (shoulder), LB Oren Burks (shoulder), QB Aaron Rodgers (knee)

Browns (0-0-1) @ Saints (0-1)

- Drew Brees should have a lot of success this week attacking the Browns' safeties with his favorite seam route and also slants. Safeties Damarious Randall and Jabrill Peppers play really deep in a lot of cover two looks and that leaves Brees with a lot of room to work underneath and inside the hashes. This could be another huge Michael Thomas day.
- Cleveland needs a productive day from their LBs. They usually keep three of them on the field for all three downs, which helps vs. the run, but is a liability vs. the pass. Saints' RB Alvin Kamara will work all day to get a matchup vs. one of these guys, often on flexes outside as Brees goes "empty," who cannot stay with him on short passes in space.
- The Saints' secondary must bounce back vs. an underrated Cleveland passing game on all three levels. Marshon Lattimore will likely shadow Josh Gordon (if he is more than a decoy) or Jarvis Landry one on one, but he was destroyed last week by Bucs' Mike Evans. This is supposed to be a much improved unit, but what is bothersome on film is the fact that they were beaten in basic coverages last week...and a non-existent pass rush doesn't help.
- Cleveland's back defensive seven must play with better discipline versus the Saints. Brees uses his eyes to maneuver defenders better than any QB, he is a master at reading the coverage at the line of scrimmage (and finding the best matchup), and he will wear them out with the screen pass if they are out of position.

Official Friday Injury list:

CLEVELAND BROWNS

--OUT: DE Emmanuel Ogbah (ankle)

--QUESTIONABLE: LB Christian Kirksey (shoulder, ankle)

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

--OUT: DT Tyeler Davison (foot)

Lions (0-1) @ 49ers (0-1)

- Both of these QBs, Matthew Stafford and Jimmy Garoppolo, are hindered by mediocre supporting casts and that seems to be forcing them into careless play and taking chances in an effort to create some offense. Neither has a run game and that means no play action and a lot of short easy passes to resemble a run game and that makes them easy to defend. Both will get favorable passing matchups in this game, but can they convert? No flow to these offenses yet.
- Detroit may go up tempo and play a lot faster versus the 49ers than they did versus the Jets. This offense was too predictable, and the Jets' defense had plenty of time to identify personnel groupings, formations, and tendencies. Stafford likes to work at a faster pace and if he does that it should minimize San Francisco's ability to easily identify what the Lions are doing.
- The Lions' defense (which is supposed to be Matt Patricia's strength) was shredded by rookie Jets QB Sam Darnold in week one, and now the Lions face Garoppolo, who played against this Patricia defense every day in practice in his New England tenure. 49ers head coach Kyle Shanahan is an excellent play caller and he and his QB will likely put together an effective game plan that will find the soft spots in this Detroit defense.
- Both of these offenses want to run the ball to give them balance and set up play action, but neither run game showed much in week one. The 49ers have an excuse (no Jerick McKinnon), but the Lions look as bad as they did a year ago. These offensive coordinators will be challenged to

use the short passing game in place of a run game and there is real pressure on both of these QBs to have a big game while not running a one dimensional offense.

Official Friday Injury list:

DETROIT LIONS

--OUT: T Andrew Donnal (knee), G T.J. Lang (back)

--QUESTIONABLE: DE Ezekiel Ansah (shoulder), RB LeGarrette Blount (shoulder)

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

--OUT: G Joshua Garnett (toe), WR Marquise Goodwin (quadricep), C Erik Magnuson (hamstring)

--QUESTIONABLE: S Adrian Colbert (hamstring), G Mike Person (foot), LB Malcolm Smith (hamstring)

Cardinals (0-1) @ Rams (1-0)

- This is a tough matchup for Arizona QB Sam Bradford because he faces a Rams' defense that can attack him in a variety of ways. Wade Phillips can blitz and put his corners on an island in man coverage or he can rush only four (dominating DL) and drop seven into coverage...and the only receiver that Bradford can count on is Larry Fitzgerald out of the slot. The Rams defense will dominate this game.
- This could be a huge Todd Gurley day in a variety of areas. He can run right at an Arizona run defense that lacks gap discipline and that sets up play action. However, where he may also flash is as an outlet receiver, both on dump offs and also on screens. The Cardinals' LBs are not great in coverage and this Rams' OL is really athletic and good at blocking in space...and that bodes well for those screens.
- Arizona must be more creative with their play-calling. We see no explosive plays, no flow to the offense, terrible on third down, and when they get behind early they lose RB David Johnson and the run game (and also play action) as a factor. If this aggressive Rams' defense identifies early what they are running Arizona is in big trouble. They must try to keep this Wade Phillips' group off balance with some new looks.
- We know that Arizona loves to blitz from anywhere on the field (a lot of single high zones behind the blitz) but this solid Rams' OL has shown that they can pick up pressures and keep QB Goff "clean." The Cardinals struggle with backend defensive depth when they go to sub-packages and the Rams may decide to go to spread sets to test that depth and also give RB Gurley more room to run behind a very athletic front five.
- Official Friday injury report:
ARIZONA CARDINALS
 --OUT: DT Olsen Pierre (toe), T Andre Smith (elbow)
 --QUESTIONABLE: DE Markus Golden (knee), TE Jermaine Gresham (achilles), LB Haason Reddick (ankle)
LOS ANGELES RAMS
 --OUT: WR Mike Thomas (hip)
 --DOUBTFUL: LB Mark Barron (ankle)

Patriots (1-0) @ Jaguars (1-0)

- The matchup to watch here is Tom Brady versus these talented and cocky Jacksonville corners, Jalen Ramsey and A.J. Bouye. Ramsey will push his coaches to cover Gronk one on one, but that becomes a real size mismatch. If this elite Jacksonville defense has one weakness it's their interior pass coverage (especially in Nickel). Look for Gronk to push off to get separation vs. Ramsey and have production on his patented seam route, but we won't see a lot of deep shots.
- Brady can exploit this great Jags defense in a number of ways. He will throw mostly short passes off three and five step drops and that will negate the pass rush. He will also use run personnel to keep the defense in their base look and then he will motion to an empty backfield and that gives Brady five targets for his dink and dunk passes. Also, look for a liberal screen package behind an athletic OL that blocks well in space. Brady matches up better vs. this offense than you might think.
- The Jags desperately need RB Leonard Fournette in this game (hamstring) because he is the key to everything that they do. He takes the pressure off Bortles and the passing game, he gives them an underrated play action game, and he controls the clock and keeps an elite defense fresh. If he can't go the workload goes to journeyman T.J. Yeldon. The Pats will likely respond with a stacked defensive box and single coverage outside versus WR's that don't respect Bortles and will be forced to throw a lot of dump offs to backs.
- Bortles will have time to throw versus a Pat's defense that lacks a consistent edge pass rush, but New England often decides to play mostly coverage schemes because they realize their pass rush pressure is not going to be productive. That means seven or eight defenders in coverage and they will alternate between man and zone. Bortles will likely force the ball into tight windows and that leads to turnovers.

Official Friday Injury list:

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

--QUESTIONABLE: RB Rex Burkhead (concussion), T Marcus Cannon (calf), CB Keion Crossen (hamstring), RB Sony Michel (knee)

JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS

--QUESTIONABLE: RB Leonard Fournette (hamstring)

Practice Report

Raiders (0-1) @ Broncos (1-0)

- Denver should pound the ball early versus a struggling interior Raiders' defense. Their OL is not very good against inside run penetrators but that is not who Oakland is. Go with two TE sets and even a lead FB and not only will the Raiders wear down, but it will also set up good Case Keenum play action versus a marginal defensive back seven in coverage.
- Protect Derek Carr must be the mantra versus an aggressive Broncos' defense. It may not be very creative but the Raiders need to play multi TE sets and max protection schemes to neutralize Von Miller and the Denver pressures/blitzes. Carr looks uncomfortable in the pocket and he doesn't play like the same productive guy which he's dealing with a lot of pass rush pressure...almost skittish in the pocket!
- Denver has two key defensive tasks in this game to shut the Raiders' offense down...1) Press WR Amari Cooper with tight man coverages (Bradley Roby?) where he struggles to separate. Carr

needs to look to him more and he may force the ball into spaces that are not there to get their chemistry going...2) Shut down RE Jared Cook, who right now is the go to guy in this passing game. The Broncos do not cover TE's well and the Raiders know it. Use a variety of bracket, high-low coverages to take him out of the game.

- The Oakland pass rush generates minimal pass rush pressures and they do not create turnovers so defensive coordinator Paul Guenther may be forced to dial up pressure packages (he loves double A gap blitzes). Keenum is pretty good when pressured so can he exploit corners who are on an island in coverage and if he beats the A gap pressure there will be underneath inside room to work If he has time there are plays to be made versus the Oakland Back seven.

Official Friday Injury list:

OAKLAND RAIDERS

--OUT: DT P.J. Hall (ankle)

--QUESTIONABLE: WR Dwayne Harris (foot), G Gabe Jackson (pectoral), RB DeAndre Washington (knee)

DENVER BRONCOS

No Players Listed.

Giants (0-1) @ Cowboys (0-1) SNF

- The outcome of this game will likely come from which team can establish a consistent run game. Dallas is dealing with OL injury issues and they are an Ezekiel Elliott run game that is mostly between the tackles and not very creative. We may see more mis-direction, wide zone read runs, Jets' sweeps, etc. to spread out the Giants' defense. Saquon Barkly is playing behind an OL that didn't run block well in week one and most of his runs were on his own second effort and yards after contact and he now faces a good Dallas defensive line. Both of these offenses cannot be successful without run first success.
- These defenses have very contrasting styles. Dallas will dial it back and play mostly zones in a bend, but don't break philosophy, and only rush four with stunts and twists, but where they get exotic is a liberal use of changing personnel groupings which helps them in matchups. The Giants will blitz a lot and play man behind it and the success of their defense rests on the play of their corners.
- Versus man coverages the Giants like to use Odell Beckham Jr. on rub routes and pick plays to create some space for him to work. However, he will see mostly zones versus Dallas and that will require him to be disciplined in his routes to find holes in the defense...and that is not always his strength.
- Because the Giants don't respect any of the passing weapons that we see in Dallas they will load up in the box to stop the Elliott run and cover the outside guys with single man coverage. A so-so Dallas run game means limited play action and that puts all the pressure on Dak Prescott to create production...and this will be a year long problem. The Giants must be aware of Dak rollouts and bootlegs but for the most part this is an easy Dallas offense to defend.

Official Friday Injury list:

Sunday night

NEW YORK GIANTS

--OUT: DE Olivier Vernon (ankle)

--QUESTIONABLE: LB Tae Davis (hamstring)

DALLAS COWBOYS

--OUT: C Travis Frederick (illness), DT Datone Jones (knee), S Xavier Woods (hamstring)

--DOUBTFUL: DE Randy Gregory (concussion)

Seahawks (0-1) @ Bears (0-1) MNF

- Russell Wilson loves to tuck the ball and run vs. defenses that play turn and run man coverages with their backs to the ball. The Bears won't give him that option, as they will rush three or four and drop seven or eight into coverage, while facing Wilson. He will have to be accurate vs. those zones and his opportunities to improvise will be limited against this Vic Fango defense.
- Mitchell Trubisky faces an assignment oriented Seattle defense that gives him basic reads but they also play with good discipline. He will throw into a cover three zone that could be vulnerable on the edges versus so-so corners, but he faces an elite centerfield safety, Earl Thomas, and two dynamic cover LB's, KJ Wright and Bobby Wagner and he must be aware of all three on the snap.
- Both of these defenses will have to adjust to varied offensive personnel looks that they will face and they must be ready for anything. Chicago will roll out misdirection, pre-snap motion, and run pass-options out of two TE sets, and even three RB looks and "trips" with an OT lined up wide. Seattle likes to use base personnel and then they will motion RB wide and work out of an empty look. We may even see some gadget plays.
- Both QBs will use zone runs to set up bootlegs and rollouts and play action, and both offenses want to get their QB on the edge. RPOs will be a part of their game plan and both defenses must play good contain techniques on the edges and force everything inside although obviously Wilson is more of a threat to run than Trubisky.

A former coach and NFL scout, Horton offers analysis from his film room before and after games. (No Friday injury list for Monday night games)

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