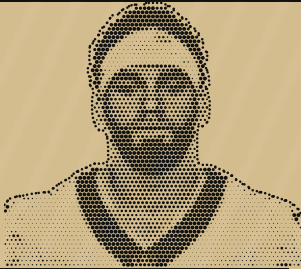




ATLANTA FALCONS
1-2



NEW ORLEANS SAINTS
1-2

VS

WEEK 4 • MONDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2026 • CAESARS SUPERDOME, NEW ORLEANS, LA

THE SERIES

ATL leads 58-56

A ATL WIN WOULD... Extend the series lead to 59-56 and stretch the streak to 3.

A NO WIN WOULD... Cut the deficit to 58-57, snapping ATL's 2-game streak.

In ATL: 30-27 • In NO: 27-29 •
Neutral / Postseason: 1-0 •
Streak: ATL won 2

DATE	WINNER	SCORE	SITE
01/04/26	ATL	19-17	ATL
11/23/25	ATL	24-10	NO
11/10/24	NO	17-20	NO
09/29/24	ATL	26-24	ATL
01/07/24	NO	17-48	NO
11/26/23	ATL	24-15	ATL

2025 SEASON BOARD

2025	ATL	NO
W-L	8-9	6-11
PPG	20.8	18.0
PAPG	23.6	22.5
Pass yds	3,703	4,027
Pass Rk	20/32	10/32
Rush yds	2,138	1,603
Rush Rk	8/32	28/32
3rd %	32.2%	32.8%
RZ TD%	62.0%	44.4%
Sacks	57.0	44.0

UNDER CENTER

- ATL: Michael Penix Jr. (2026): 18/25, 256 yds, 1 TD / 1 INT
- NO: Tyler Shough (2026): 91/132, 917 yds, 8 TD / 3 INT

COOL STATS & PROGRAM LORE

- ATL 2025 finish: 8-9 • NFC South
- NO 2025 finish: 6-11 • NFC South
- ATL 2026 entering tonight: 1-2 • NFC South
- NO 2026 entering tonight: 1-2 • NFC South
- ATL hardware: 7 division crowns.
- NO hardware: 1 Super Bowl title • 9 division crowns.

COACHING STAFFS & COORDINATORS

- ATL: HC: Kevin Stefanski (46-58)
OC: Tommy Rees • DC: Jeff Ulbrich
- NO: HC: Kellen Moore (7-13)
OC: Doug Nussmeier • DC: Brandon Staley

TONIGHT'S GAME

- Atlanta at New Orleans:** Atlanta Falcons (1-2) visits New Orleans Saints (1-2) – Monday, October 5, 2026 at Caesars Superdome, New Orleans, LA.
- The series never sleeps:** For the 115th time in the series (dating to 1967), Atlanta faces New Orleans at Caesars Superdome, New Orleans, LA. ATL leads 58-56.
- Under center:** Michael Penix Jr. (backup Tua Tagovailoa) opens opposite Tyler Shough (backup Spencer Rattler) – HC Kevin Stefanski vs Kellen Moore; OC/DC Tommy Rees/Jeff Ulbrich vs Doug Nussmeier/Brandon Staley.
- Last time out:** ATL Week 3 W 35-14 at GB (256 pass / 242 rush); NO Week 3 L 27-35 vs LV (255 pass / 148 rush) – that is the live sample walking into this kick.
- What 2025 looked like:** ATL went 8-9 with 5,841 total yards (Rk 17/32) and 3,703 through the air (Rk 20); NO finished 6-11 at 5,630 yards (Rk 22) and 4,027 pass (Rk 10) – prior-year volume that still sets the booth open.

MATCHUP NOTES

- Ground Control Is the Whole Identity:** Atlanta has run for 519 yards (No. 2 in the NFL) against only 544 through the air (No. 29) with a league-worst -31.3 pass EPA, so the 2026 offense is built to win on the ground.
- Rees Leans on Tight Ends, Not Play-Action:** First-year OC Tommy Rees runs 11 personnel on 54.0% of snaps but keeps a heavy changeup, 12 at 31.5% and 13 at 13.0%, and the 13 look is the most efficient on the menu at +0.524 EPA/play while 11 sits at -0.375.
- Staley's Zone-First Shell:** Head coach Kellen Moore's defense is coordinated by Brandon Staley, and through three 2026 games it reads zone-first: New Orleans charted zone on 90 of 102 coverage snaps (88.2%), ceding a modest +0.199 EPA per play in that.
- 11-Personnel, Pass-First Identity:** New Orleans stays in 11 personnel (1 RB, 1 TE, 3 WR) on 70.0% of snaps and goes heavy (13 or 21) just 3.1% of the time, a pass-first construction that produced 917 passing yards (No. 2 in the NFL) against 304 on the.
- Coming in hot – or cold:** ATL Week 3 W 35-14 at GB (256 pass / 242 rush); NO Week 3 L 27-35 vs LV (255 pass / 148 rush).
- Scoring DNA (2025):** ATL 20.8 PPG / 23.6 PAPG; NO 18.0 / 22.5 – takeaways ATL 16 INT / 57.0 sacks vs NO 10 INT / 44.0 sacks.

GAME KEYS

- Penix Takes the Reins:** Michael Penix Jr. (entering his 3rd NFL season) is QB1 and made his 2026 debut Week 3 at Green Bay on Sep 24, going 18-25 for 256 yds, 1 TD and 1 INT – a 101.4 passer rating, 84.9 QBR, and a 73.0 PFF pass grade with 86.4% accuracy.
- Sophomore Stride:** 27-year-old second-year QB Tyler Shough has the offense humming through three 2026 starts: 91-of-132 (68.9%), 917 yds, 8 TD, 3 INT.
- Atlanta's left side is the pressure point:** Jake Matthews owns a 47.8 offense grade (No. 267 of 272) and 51.3 pass-block mark across 146 snaps in 2026, with 2 sacks and 5 pressures allowed.
- Banks Out, Richards On The Blind Side:** Kelvin Banks Jr., who opened 2026 with 107 LT snaps across two starts, is on IR (ankle surgery).
- Bijan's 194-Yard Week 3 Statement:** Bijan Robinson gashed Green Bay on Sep 24, 2026 for 29 car, 194 rush yds (6.7 YPC) and 2 rush TD, tacking on an 84.8 run grade, a 44.3% breakaway rate and 5 missed tackles forced.
- Pocket duel:** Michael Penix Jr. put up 18/25 for 256 yards and 1 TDs through Week 3; Tyler Shough answered with 91/132, 917 yards and 8 TDs through Week 3 – early-down rhythm decides who owns the scoreboard.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

GAME NOTES COVER	1	CONTENTS & 2026 SEASON RECAPS	2
TEAM IDENTITY • INJURIES • NGS • CHURN	3	PASSING ATTACK – ATLANTA VS NEW ORLEANS	4
RUSHING ATTACK – ATLANTA VS NEW ORLEANS	5	RECEIVING CORPS – ATLANTA VS NEW ORLEANS	6
TRENCHES & SPECIAL TEAMS – ATLANTA VS NEW ORLEANS	7	SECONDARY & WR/CB – ATLANTA VS NEW ORLEANS	8
BETTING STORYLINES & NFL FANTASY	9	OFFENSE NOTES – ATLANTA VS NEW ORLEANS	10
DEFENSE NOTES – ATLANTA VS NEW ORLEANS	11	ST & COACHING NOTES – ATLANTA VS NEW ORLEANS	12
TEAM TENDENCIES (FIELD / CLOCK / 4TH DOWN)	13		

2026 SEASON RECAPS

ATL 2026 SEASON TO DATE

Last outing: Week 3 W 35-14 at GB.
1-2 • 17.0 PPG / 22.7 PAPG • H 0-1 / A 1-1

LINE		
Yds / Pass / Rush	1063 • 544 • 519	Rk 11/32
TD (P/R) • Sacks/INT	2/3 • 5.0/1	Rk 24 • Rk 21
3rd • RZ	— • —	
Michael Penix Jr.	18/25, 256 yds, 1/1	QB
Bijan Robinson	66-349, 2 TD	RB
Drake London	15-274, 0 TD	WR

0-2 START WITH A BACKUP UNDER CENTER

Atlanta opened the season **0-2** with Cooper Rush at quarterback: a **20-13** loss at Pittsburgh (Sep **13**, Acrisure Stadium) and a **34-3** home rout by Carolina (Sep **20**, Mercedes-Benz Stadium) — **16** points combined in two games. Michael Penix Jr. had not played since tearing his left ACL on Nov **16**, 2025.

PENIX RETURNS AND SPARKS A 27-0 RUN

In his 2026 debut at Lambeau Field (Sep **24**), Penix went **18/25** for **256** yards, **1** TD and **1** INT (**101.4** rating) as Atlanta erased a **7-0** deficit and ripped off **27** straight points in a **35-14** win. "I want that back," he said of an early interception.

A LAMBEAU STATEMENT: 35-14

Atlanta out-gained Green Bay **498-328** and outrushed the Packers **242-17**, with Zach Harrison blocking a **47**-yard field goal. Nick Folk hit a **44**-yarder; it was Kevin Stefanski's first win as Falcons head coach. "Proud of the overall effort. It counts as one, and we'll get back to it next week." — Kevin Stefanski • Falcons Wire • Sep **24**, 2026

BIJAN AND LONDON BREAK THE BOX

Bijan Robinson rumbled for **194** rush yards and **2** TD on **29** carries, and Drake London caught **9** balls for **194** yards. Per AP, the first teammates to each post **190+** scrimmage yards in a road game since the Rams' Lawrence McCutcheon and Ron Jessie on Oct. **3**, 1976.

A RED-ZONE DROUGHT FINALLY ENDS

Atlanta ran no red-zone plays across the first two weeks — first team since the 2008 Rams to do it — then converted **4** of **5** red-zone trips in Week **3**. "That was the weight off the shoulders — just getting back to the red zone." — Bijan Robinson • AP • Sep **24**, 2026

THE GROUND GAME IS THE IDENTITY

Through three games Atlanta owns the NFL's **No. 2** rushing offense at **519** yards; Bijan Robinson has **349** yards on **66** carries with **2** TD, and Brian Robinson Jr. has added **132** yards and **1** TD. The pass game ranks 29th (**544** yards) and the offense averages **17.0** PPG.

STINGY RUSH D, LEAKY PASS D

The Falcons have allowed just **143** rush yards all season but **820** passing yards (**273** per game) with **6** passing TD surrendered. They have logged **5** sacks and **1** interception, ranking 24th of **32** in sacks.

TAKEAWAY GAP SQUARES THE LEDGER

Atlanta has committed **8** turnovers in three games while its defense has forced just **2**, leaving the club at **22.7** points allowed per game against **17.0** scored — a minus-margin profile that has shaped the **1-2** start.

NO 2026 SEASON TO DATE

Last outing: Week 3 L 27-35 vs LV.
1-2 • 27.0 PPG / 27.7 PAPG • H 0-1 / A 1-1

LINE		
Yds / Pass / Rush	1221 • 917 • 304	Rk 7/32
TD (P/R) • Sacks/INT	8/2 • 7.0/1	Rk 10 • Rk 21
3rd • RZ	— • 81.8%	
Tyler Shough	91/132, 917 yds, 8/3	QB
Travis Etienne	30-128, 0 TD	RB
Chris Olave	27-375, 1 TD	WR

A HEARTBREAK OPENER IN DETROIT

New Orleans spotted Detroit a **21-0** third-quarter lead, stormed back to tie it, then lost **31-30** in overtime on a failed **2**-point conversion (Sep **13**, Ford Field) — setting the late-game swing theme for the season.

SHOUGH'S SIGNATURE WIN AT BALTIMORE

Down **14-3**, Shough rallied New Orleans past the Ravens **24-17** on the road (Sep **20**, M&T Bank Stadium), going **5-of-5** on a fourth-quarter TD drive and scoring the go-ahead touchdown on a fourth-and-goal sneak. "This is a signature win to get it started in his career. It's a catalyst to put the league on notice about who he is and what he can do." — Justin Reid • AP • Sep **21**, 2026

THE SUPERDOME COLLAPSE

In their home opener (Sep **27**), the Saints led Las Vegas **27-16** in the third quarter, then surrendered **19** unanswered points in a **35-27** loss — four turnovers on their final four possessions. "There was a lot of good. Ultimately, we didn't get it done." — Kellen Moore • AP • Sep **28**, 2026

SHOUGH AIRS IT OUT

Second-year QB Tyler Shough has thrown for **917** yards on **91-of-132** passing (**8** TD, **3** INT), including a career-high **4** TD passes in the Week **3** loss. On being called a "poor man's Josh Allen": "I loved it. ... it fires me up." — Tyler Shough • ESPN • Sep 2026

A PASS-FIRST PROFILE

New Orleans owns the NFL's **No. 2** passing offense at **917** yards but just **304** rushing yards (16th). The offense scores **27.0** PPG with **8** passing TD against only **2** rushing TD.

OLAVE'S RESURGENCE

Chris Olave has **27** catches for **375** yards and **1** TD through three games, with two **100**-yard outings (**9-107** in the Week **3** loss). Shough called him "one of the most talented players in the league, regardless of his position."

RED-ZONE EFFICIENCY, THIRD-DOWN PROGRESS

The Saints have turned **9** of **11** red-zone trips into touchdowns (**81.8%**) and converted **25** of **47** third downs (**53.2%**). Juwan Johnson has **15** catches for **173** yards and **3** TD, and Noah Fant caught **2** TD passes in Week **3**.

TURNOVERS ARE THE ACHILLES

New Orleans has committed **7** turnovers in three games while forcing only **3**, and the Week **3** loss turned on four giveaways in the final four possessions. "We've got to do a better job protecting the football." — Kellen Moore • AP

ATL @ NO – PASSING ATTACK

WEEK 4 • MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL

ATL PASSING ATTACK

Atlanta

QB1: Michael Penix Jr. · QB2: Tua Tagovailoa · 26-year-old · 3rd NFL season (2 completed) 75" / 220 lbs

2025 air: 3703 yds / 19 TD · Rk 20/32 · 3rd 32.2% · RZ 62.0%

MARK	VALUE
Pass yds / TD	3703 / 19 · #20/32
Rush complement	2138 / 17 TD · #8/32
3rd down	39/121 (32.2%) · #29/32
RZ TD%	31/50 (62.0%) · #9/32
Team PFF Pass / PB / Route	67.4 · 68.2 · 74.1
PFF Michael Penix grade / Acc%	59.8 · 72.1% · ATL
ADOT / TTT / YPA	8.8 · 2.82s · 7.2 · BTT 2.7% · TWP 3.2%

2025 PFF PASSERS

PLAYER	GRD	ADOT	TWP%	P2S%	EPA
Tua Tagovailoa	63.1	7.2	5.2%	21.3%	-0.1
Michael Penix	59.8	8.8	3.2%	12.4%	0.7
Kirk Cousins	67.9	7.2	1.9%	11.1%	-0.4

2025 PASSERS

PLAYER	C/A	YDS	TD/INT
Michael Penix Jr.	166/276	1982	9/3
Kirk Cousins	166/269	1721	10/5

2025 TOP TARGETS

PLAYER	REC	YDS	TD
Kyle Pitts	88	928	5
Drake London	68	919	7
Bijan Robinson	79	820	4

2025 PFF ROUTES

PLAYER	RTE	YPRR	ADOT	DROP%
Kyle Pitts	68.8	1.7	7.6	7.5%
Drake London	74.4	2.5	11.9	3.0%
Bijan Robinson	69.4	1.8	0.4	2.3%

QB CAREER

YR	TM	C/A	YDS	TD/INT
2026	ATL	18/25	256	1/1
2025	ATL	166/276	1982	9/3
2024	ATL	61/105	775	3/3

PENIX TAKES THE REINS

Michael Penix Jr. (entering his 3rd NFL season) is QB1 and made his 2026 debut Week 3 at Green Bay on Sep 24, going 18-25 for 256 yds, 1 TD and 1 INT — a 101.4 passer rating, 84.9 QBR, and a 73.0 PFF pass grade with 86.4% accuracy in 2.19s average time to throw. Cooper Rush's Weeks 1-2 fill-in (42.8 and 43.0 PFF pass grades) set up the handoff.

TUA, A STARTER'S RÉSUMÉ IN THE QB2 CHAIR

Tua Tagovailoa (28-year-old, 7th NFL season) is the No. 2 on a 1-year deal. His 2025 with Miami: 2,231 pass yds, 17 TD, 12 INT on a 63.13 PFF pass grade and 76.28% accuracy — the short-area contrast (7.23 aDOT) to Penix.

DOWNFIELD BENT VS CHECKDOWN ACCURACY

The two arms split on aggression: Penix's 2025 PFF average depth of target was 8.84 vs Tua's 7.23. Penix ran a 59.83 pass grade with a 3.18% turnover-worthy-play rate and 12.42% pressure-to-sack rate; Tua's 2025 TWP rate was 5.18% with 21.27% pressure-to-sack.

LONDON IS THE FUNNEL

Drake London owns the target tree: a 34.1% target share (15 catches on 19 targets, 274 yds in 2026) with an 80.4 PFF offense grade (10th best, No. 10 of 272) and 79.4 route grade. In 2025 he ran a 74.44 route grade at 2.45 yards per route run.

BIJAN IS THE BLITZ ANSWER

Bijan Robinson is the checkdown engine: a 29.3% 2026 target share (12 targets, 36 routes, 68 touches), coming off a 2025 PFF route grade of 69.38 and 1.82 yards per route run.

PITTS OFF TO A QUIET START

Kyle Pitts Sr. posted 88 rec, 928 yds and 5 TD in 2025 (68.76 PFF route grade), but 2026 has opened cold — 2 catches on 6 targets for 20 yds through three games. Austin Hooper (1 TD on 6 targets) is the secondary TE.

NO PASSING ATTACK

New Orleans

QB1: Tyler Shough · QB2: Spencer Rattler · 27-year-old · second-year (sophomore) 77" / 219 lbs

2025 air: 4027 yds / 19 TD · Rk 10/32 · 3rd 32.8% · RZ 44.4%

MARK	VALUE
Pass yds / TD	4027 / 19 · #10/32
Rush complement	1603 / 9 TD · #28/32
3rd down	38/116 (32.8%) · #27/32
RZ TD%	20/45 (44.4%) · #32/32
Team PFF Pass / PB / Route	71.5 · 64.9 · 72.4
PFF Tyler Shough grade / Acc%	66.4 · 70.0% · NO
ADOT / TTT / YPA	9.2 · 2.66s · 7.3 · BTT 3.7% · TWP 1.7%

2025 PFF PASSERS

PLAYER	GRD	ADOT	TWP%	P2S%	EPA
Tyler Shough	66.4	9.2	1.7%	23.2%	-0.9
Spencer Rattler	60.0	8.6	5.2%	17.3%	-3.0
Taysom Hill	65.1	17.3	0.0%	0.0%	1.0

2025 PASSERS

PLAYER	C/A	YDS	TD/INT
Tyler Shough	221/327	2384	10/6
Spencer Rattler	174/257	1586	8/5
Taysom Hill	2/6	57	1/0

2025 TOP TARGETS

PLAYER	REC	YDS	TD
Chris Olave	100	1163	9
Juwan Johnson	77	889	3
Rashid Shaheed	44	499	2

2025 PFF ROUTES

PLAYER	RTE	YPRR	ADOT	DROP%
Chris Olave	70.7	2.2	13.2	3.7%
Juwan Johnson	65.0	1.8	7.5	6.8%
Rashid Shaheed	63.2	1.4	9.9	0.0%

QB CAREER

YR	TM	C/A	YDS	TD/INT
2026	NO	91/132	917	8/3
2025	NO	221/327	2384	10/6

SOPHOMORE STRIDE

27-year-old second-year QB Tyler Shough has the offense humming through three 2026 starts: 91-of-132 (68.9%), 917 yds, 8 TD, 3 INT. His 76.1 PFF pass grade in the Week 1 opener at Detroit (56 att, 410 yds, 3 TD) is the highest of the three-game stretch.

BALL SECURITY SEPARATES THE ROOM

The 2025 PFF board frames the depth chart: Shough's turnover-worthy-play rate was 1.75% (grades_pass 66.4) versus Spencer Rattler's 5.19% on 177 attempts — 14 turnover-worthy plays and a 60.0 pass grade. Rattler, a 26-year-old in his 3rd NFL season, has not taken a 2026 snap.

OLAVE IS THE WHOLE FUNNEL

Chris Olave owns 36 targets (31.5% share) and 27 receptions for 375 yds in 2026, with a 2025 PFF resume of a 70.7 route grade, 2.167 yards per route run, 99.36 targeted QB rating and 13.24 aDOT. His 2026 PFF marks sit at 80.4 offense / 80.9 route.

TIGHT ENDS CASH IN

Juwan Johnson and Noah Fant have each turned three 2026 catches into three scores — Johnson 15 rec/173 yds, Fant 8 rec/66 yds. Johnson's 2025 PFF profile: 64.98 route grade, 62.8% contested-catch rate, 103.88 targeted QB rating.

OWNS COVER 1, FADES VS. COVER 2 AND COVER 6

New Orleans' 2026 pass offense feasts on man looks: +0.688 EPA per play vs Cover 1 (64.3% success, 14 snaps) and +0.485 vs Cover 0 (63.2%, 19). It stalls against two-high: -0.202 EPA vs Cover 2 (47.4%, 19) and -1.125 vs Cover 6 (33.3%, 9).

ATL'S SECONDARY IS BLEEDING

Atlanta's pass defense has surrendered 820 yds (273.3 per game), 6 pass TD and just 1 INT with 5 sacks across three 2026 games. Corner Mike Hughes carries a 54.1 coverage grade; safety Jessie Bates sits at 65.0.

2025 PASSING ATTACK – UNIT VS UNIT

ATL vs NO — same prior-season grain on every row

METRIC	ATL	NO
Pass yds / TD	3703 / 19 · Rk 20/32	4027 / 19 · Rk 10/32
3rd down	39/121 (32.2%) · #29/32	38/116 (32.8%) · #27/32
RZ TD%	31/50 (62.0%) · #9/32	20/45 (44.4%) · #32/32
Team PFF Pass	67.4	71.5
Team PFF PB / Route	68.2 · 74.1	64.9 · 72.4
QB1 Pass grade / Acc%	Michael Peni 59.8 · 72.1% · EPA 0.7	Tyler Shough 66.4 · 70.0% · EPA -0.9
QB1 ADOT / TWP%	8.8 · 3.2% · TTT 2.82s	9.2 · 1.7% · TTT 2.66s

ATL @ NO – RUSHING ATTACK

WEEK 4 • MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL

ATL RUSHING ATTACK

Atlanta

2026 lead: 2026 Week 1 committee — confirm live depth

2025 context: 2138 yds / 17 TD · Rk 8/32

MARK	VALUE
Rush yds / TD	2138 / 17 · #8/32
Pass complement	3703 / 19 TD · #20/32
Team PFF Run / RB	84.8 · 71.0

2025 RUSHERS

PLAYER	ATT	YDS	TD
Bijan Robinson	287	1478	7
Michael Penix Jr.	21	70	1
Tyler Allgeier	143	514	8
Nate Carter	9	60	0

2025 PFF RUN

PLAYER	GRD	ELU	YAC/A	BRK%	ZN/GAP
Bijan Robinson	67.1	122.7	3.7	22.8%	217/62
Tyler Allgeier	63.2	63.3	2.7	14.0%	106/35
Michael Penix	61.1	44.4	1.3	0.0%	0/1

2025 TEAM RUSH DIRECTION

LANE	ATT	YDS	YPC	TD
A-Gap Left	92	626	6.8	5
A-Gap Right	82	275	3.4	1
Left End / Sweep	55	234	4.3	3
Right End / Perimeter	54	197	3.6	2
Left Guard	44	169	3.8	1
Right Guard	41	176	4.3	2

BIJAN'S 194-YARD WEEK 3 STATEMENT

Bijan Robinson gashed Green Bay on Sep **24**, 2026 for **29** car, **194** rush yds (**6.7** YPC) and **2** rush TD, tacking on an **84.8** run grade, a **44.3%** breakaway rate and **5** missed tackles forced. His 2026 season line now reads **66** car, **349** yds, **2** TD.

BRIAN ROBINSON CARRIES THE COMPLEMENT

With Tyler Allgeier gone (2025 production: **143** car, **514** yds, **8** TD, now elsewhere), Brian Robinson is the clear **No. 2** at **30** car, **132** yds, **1** TD in 2026. He went **10** car, **50** yds, **1** TD at Green Bay (Sep **24**, 2026) on a **76.3** run grade, **120.0** elusive rating and **6.0** yards after contact per attempt.

SAINTS RUN D IS THE TARGET

New Orleans enters Week **4** allowing **128.7** rush ypg (**386** yds) and **4** rush TD across three 2026 games, the softest run-defending side on this board. Atlanta's ground game gets the plus matchup it has been building toward.

ATTACKING THE LEFT EDGE

Atlanta's 2026 run menu leans Left End: **17** att for **118** yds (**6.9** YPC) is both its highest volume and best efficiency on the gap board, with Middle Left adding **15** att, **78** yds (**5.2** YPC).

SAINTS BACKFIELD MINUS ETIENNE

Travis Etienne is out (hamstring), stopping his 2026 line at **30** car, **128** yds, **0** TD. Alvin Kamara (**18** car, **51** yds in **2** games), Kendre Miller (**13-44-1**) and CJ Donaldson (**4-11-0**) absorb the snaps, and QB Tyler Shough has chipped in **67** rush yds and **1** TD on **14** carries.

INTERIOR GRADES HOLD

Atlanta's 2026 interior run-blocking outpaces the edge: Chris Lindstrom (**68.8** run-block grade) and Matthew Bergeron (**70.0**) sit well ahead of Jake Matthews (**48.0**), with Bijan Robinson carrying a **73.0** offense grade on his **108** snaps.

NO RUSHING ATTACK

New Orleans

2026 lead: 2026 Week 1 committee — confirm live depth

2025 context: 1603 yds / 9 TD · Rk 28/32

MARK	VALUE
Rush yds / TD	1603 / 9 · #28/32
Pass complement	4027 / 19 TD · #10/32
Team PFF Run / RB	68.8 · 49.8

2025 RUSHERS

PLAYER	ATT	YDS	TD
Alvin Kamara	131	471	1
Kendre Miller	47	193	1
Tyler Shough	45	186	3
Spencer Rattler	31	167	0

2025 PFF RUN

PLAYER	GRD	ELU	YAC/A	BRK%	ZN/GAP
Alvin Kamara	59.5	42.0	2.6	9.0%	79/48
Devin Neal	59.0	33.0	2.2	10.4%	51/6
Audric Estime	68.4	89.0	2.8	6.8%	35/11
Kendre Miller	65.0	102.1	3.2	4.0%	31/14

2025 TEAM RUSH DIRECTION

LANE	ATT	YDS	YPC	TD
Right End / Perimeter	67	279	4.2	2
A-Gap Right	62	259	4.2	2
A-Gap Left	53	152	2.9	0
Left End / Sweep	50	248	5.0	2
Left Guard	42	137	3.3	0
Right Guard	40	95	2.4	0

ETIENNE SIDELINED, ROOM RESETS

New Orleans' 2026 rushing leader, Travis Etienne (**30** carries, **128** yards), is out with a left hamstring strain and not expected back until Oct. **11**. He logged **13** carries for **57** yards against Las Vegas in Week **3** before the injury.

KAMARA'S LIGHT 2026 LOAD

Alvin Kamara sits at **18** carries for **51** yards and no TD across two 2026 games; his Week **3** line vs Las Vegas was **9** carries, **36** yards on a **32%** offensive snap share, with a **63.1** PFF run grade in that game.

MILLER'S SCORE, THEN A DIP

Kendre Miller owns the RB room's only 2026 rushing touchdown — **9** carries, **30** yards, **1** TD at Detroit in Week **1** — but his work shrank to **4** carries for **14** yards (**19%** snaps) vs Las Vegas, grading **35.2** run.

FALCONS RUN D IS THE LEAGUE'S STINGIEST

Atlanta has allowed the fewest rush yards in the NFL this season — **143** yards, **0** TDs, **2.75** yards per carry on **52** carries (rank **1**, 2026). Green Bay managed just **17** yards on **9** carries in Week **3**. New Orleans brings a **304**-yard, **2**-TD, **-0.6**-EPA run game into that matchup.

BANKS TO IR THINS THE FRONT

New Orleans loses OT Kelvin Banks Jr. to injured reserve (ankle surgery, expected return Nov. **29**); he posted a **61.8** run-block grade over **107** snaps in 2026. The Saints' team run-block grade sits at **53.0** this season.

SHOUGH'S LEGS ADD ANOTHER LAYER

QB Tyler Shough broke off a **36**-yard scramble against Las Vegas in Week **3** (**1** carry) and graded **65.6** run in that game. In 2025 he ran **45** times for **186** yards and **3** TDs.

2025 RUSHING ATTACK – UNIT VS UNIT

ATL vs NO — same prior-season grain on every row

METRIC	ATL	NO
Rush yds / TD	2138 / 17 · Rk 8/32	1603 / 9 · Rk 28/32
Pass complement	3703 pass yds · Rk 20	4027 pass yds · Rk 10
Team PFF Run / RB	84.8 · 71.0	68.8 · 49.8
Lead rusher volume	Bijan Robinson 1478/7 · 287 att	Alvin Kamara 471/1 · 131 att
RB1 PFF / Elusive	Bijan Robins 67.1 · 122.7 · YAC/A 3.7	Alvin Kamara 59.5 · 42.0 · YAC/A 2.6
RB1 Zone / Gap att	217 / 62 · A-Gap Left	79 / 48 · Right End / Perime

ATL RECEIVING ATTACK

Atlanta

WR1 volume: Kyle Pitts

2025 air support: 3703 yds / 19 TD · route 74.1

MARK	VALUE
Pass yds / TD	3703 / 19 · #20/32
Team PFF Route / Pass	74.1 · 67.4

2025 TOP TARGETS

PLAYER	REC	YDS	TD
Kyle Pitts	88	928	5
Drake London	68	919	7
Bijan Robinson	79	820	4
Darnell Mooney	32	443	1

2025 PFF ROUTES

PLAYER	RTE	YPRR	ADOT	SLOT%	DROP%	RTS
Kyle Pitts	68.8	1.7	7.6	33.2%	7.5%	504
Drake London	74.4	2.5	11.9	36.2%	3.0%	353
Bijan Robinson	69.4	1.8	0.4	18.6%	2.3%	401
Darnell Mooney	56.8	1.0	14.7	37.7%	12.2%	459

LONDON'S 194-YARD DETONATION

Drake London exploded vs Green Bay on Sep **24** — **9** catches on **10** targets, **194** yards, a **43.5%** target share and a **118.8** passer rating when targeted. His Week **3** PFF route grade was **84.5** at **7.46** yards per route run with a **100%** contested-catch rate; season PFF offense grade sits at **80.4**, **#10** of **272**. Context: 2025 was **919** rec yds and **7** TD in **12** games.

BIJAN ROBINSON IS THE TARGET FUNNEL

Bijan Robinson opened 2026 by catching **8** of **10** targets for **90** yards and a TD vs Pittsburgh on Sep **13** — a **52.6%** target share in that game (Week **1** PFF route grade **84.1**, **4.29** YPRR). Through three games he owns **68** touches and a **29.3%** target share; 2025 backed it up with **820** rec yds on **79** catches. The backfield is a real part of the receiving plan, not a check-down afterthought.

WHERE DID KYLE PITTS GO?

The 2026 sample for Kyle Pitts is **2** catches on **6** targets for **20** yards across three games, bottoming out Week **3** vs Green Bay at a **44.6** route grade and **0.26** YPRR on **19** routes. That is a steep fall from his 2025 line of **928** rec yds, **5** TD and a **68.8** route grade. With Austin Hooper now in the room, the TE target split is the storyline to track.

DOTSON'S HANDS ARE THE PROBLEM

Jahan Dotson has **4** catches on **10** targets for **41** yards in 2026, and Week **3** vs Green Bay was ugly: a **50.0** drop rate, a **5.6** passer rating when targeted and a **45.8** route grade. He graded **60.4** in route in the Week **1** opener, so the downfield role is being run without the payoff. Atlanta's WR2 job is producing almost nothing behind London.

HOOPER IS THE NEW RED-ZONE TE

Signed this offseason, Austin Hooper has **4** catches on **6** targets for **31** yards and a TD in 2026. Week **3** vs Green Bay was efficient: **2** catches, **11** yards, a TD, an **86.9** route grade, **3.67** YPRR and a **129.2** passer rating when targeted. In a room thin on proven options, a veteran TE who converts is a real Week **4** usage question.

SLOT CHURN BEHIND THE STARTERS

New arrival Olamide Zaccheaus ran a **90.9** slot rate in Week **3** (**63.6** in Week **1**) and owns a **4**-catch, **6**-target, **17**-yard 2026 line; Zachariah Branch is **3** catches on **4** targets for **21** yards. With Darnell Mooney (**443** rec yds, **1** TD in 2025) no longer on the roster, Atlanta's WR3/slot snaps are still being sorted among Zaccheaus, Branch and Chris Blair.

THE MATCHUP: NEW ORLEANS CANNOT STOP THE PASS

The Saints have allowed **235** pass yds to Baltimore, **206** to Detroit and **248** to Las Vegas in 2026 — **689** total and **6** pass TD over three games, roughly **229.7** yds/game. They have not held an opponent under **200** through the air this season, which matters for a Falcons attack averaging just **544** pass yds and **2** pass TD in its own three games.

NO RECEIVING ATTACK

New Orleans

WR1 volume: Chris Olave

2025 air support: 4027 yds / 19 TD · route 72.4

MARK	VALUE
Pass yds / TD	4027 / 19 · #10/32
Team PFF Route / Pass	72.4 · 71.5

2025 TOP TARGETS

PLAYER	REC	YDS	TD
Chris Olave	100	1163	9
Juwan Johnson	77	889	3
Devaughn Vele	25	293	2
Alvin Kamara	33	186	0

2025 PFF ROUTES

PLAYER	RTE	YPRR	ADOT	SLOT%	DROP%	RTS
Chris Olave	70.7	2.2	13.2	41.7%	3.7%	544
Juwan Johnson	65.0	1.8	7.5	52.2%	6.8%	479
Rashid Shaheed	67.4	1.9	11.8	38.9%	0.0%	253
Devaughn Vele	68.4	1.4	11.9	41.8%	0.0%	207

OLAVE OWNS THE FUNNEL

Chris Olave has drawn **36** targets (**31.5%** of the Saints' 2026 share) across three games and turned them into **27** catches, **375** yards and **1** TD. His 2026 PFF route grade is **80.9** with **2.70** yards per route run over **105** routes; he opened the season with **10** catches for **182** yards on **13** targets.

JUWAN JOHNSON, RED-ZONE CLOSER

New Orleans' tight end has **15** catches on **19** targets for **173** yards and **3** TD through three 2026 games, capped by an **8-for-8**, **53**-yard, **2**-TD Week **3**. PFF slots him at a **75.3** route grade while aligning in the slot on **39.7%** of his routes.

FANT TURNS 12 TARGETS INTO 3 SCORES

Noah Fant has produced **8** catches for **66** yards and **3** TD on just **12** targets in 2026, matching a Week **1** score with a **4-for-4**, **33**-yard, **2**-TD Week **3**. That gives the Saints two tight ends with three touchdowns apiece.

SHOUGH SPREADS THE EIGHT

Tyler Shough is **91-of-132** (**68.9%**) for **917** yards, **8** TD and **3** INT through three 2026 starts, at **6.29** EPA per pass. All **8** of his touchdown passes have gone to four players (Johnson **3**, Fant **3**, Olave **1**, Vele **1**).

VELE WORKS THE SLOT

Devaughn Vele carries a team-high **47.3%** slot rate and has **22** targets, **15** catches and **172** yards with **1** TD in 2026, starting with a **7**-catch, **69**-yard, **1**-TD Week **1**. His 2026 mark of **1.16** yards per route run ranks **#47** of **53**.

ATLANTA'S SECONDARY YIELDS 273 A GAME

The Falcons' pass defense has allowed **820** yards and **6** TD over three 2026 games (**273.3** per game), including **28-of-53** for **312** yards and **2** TD to Green Bay in Week **3**.

BACKFIELD WITHOUT ETIENNE

Travis Etienne is Out (left hamstring strain) after catching **9** passes for **38** yards in the first two 2026 games, leaving Alvin Kamara and Kendre Miller as the depth-chart receiving backs.

2025 RECEIVING — UNIT VS UNIT

ATL vs NO — same prior-season grain on every row

METRIC	ATL		NO	
Pass yds / TD	3703 / 19 · Rk 20/32		4027 / 19 · Rk 10/32	
Team PFF Route / Pass	74.1 · 67.4		72.4 · 71.5	
WR1 volume	Kyle Pitts 88/928/5 · REC/YDS/TD		Chris Olave 100/1163/9 · REC/YDS/TD	
WR1 Route / YPRR / ADOT	Kyle Pitts 68.8 · 1.7 · 7.6 · Drop 7.5%		Chris Olave 70.7 · 2.2 · 13.2 · Drop 3.7%	
WR1 Slot% / Routes	33.2% · 504		41.7% · 544	

ATL TRENCHES + ST

Atlanta
PB 68.2 • RB 71.0 • Def 65.7

MARK	VALUE
Team PB / RB	68.2 • 71.0
OL sacks / pressures allowed	14 • 158
DL sacks / pressures	35 • 224

2025 OL PFF

PLAYER	POS	PB	RB	PR-ALL
Jake Matthews	LT	75.5	58.4	35
Kyle Hinton	LG	69.5	56.2	3
Elijah Wilkinson	RT	61.5	62.9	41
Matthew Bergeron	LG	61.2	66.6	26
Chris Lindstrom	RG	60.2	77.2	41

2025 DL PFF

PLAYER	POS	DEF	SACK	PR
James Pearce	DL	58.0	10.0	41.0
Leonard Floyd	DL	59.8	3.0	31.0
Jalon Walker	DL	64.6	5.0	28.0
Kaden Elliss	DL	63.6	4.0	27.0
Ruke Orhoro	DL	50.4	3.0	27.0

2025 SPECIAL TEAMS

MARK	VALUE
FG	Zane Gonzalez 19/22 (88.0%)
Punt net / In20	Bradley Pinion 40.5 • In20 34
KO TB	Zane Gonzalez 11/33 (33.3%)
KR / PR YPA	25.5 • 8.0 (Jamal Agnew/Jamal Agnew)

ATLANTA'S LEFT SIDE IS THE PRESSURE POINT

Jake Matthews owns a **47.8** offense grade (**No. 267** of **272**) and **51.3** pass-block mark across **146** snaps in 2026, with **2** sacks and **5** pressures allowed. He draws Chase Young, whose **3** sacks, **6** pressures and **76.5** pass-rush grade (**125** DL snaps) are the Saints' cleanest 2026 trench win.

INTERIOR PUSH IS HOW ATLANTA GETS HOME

Brandon Dorlus (**10** pressures, **72.9** pass-rush grade, **74.1** defense grade) and Cameron Thomas (**10** pressures, **66.5**) lead the 2026 Falcons front over **3** games each, with Gervon Dexter adding **9** pressures. It is interior volume, not edge star power, fueling the rush.

FUAGA'S SIDE IS THE SOFT SPOT FOR SHOUGH

Saints RT Taliese Fuaga has allowed a team-high **8** pressures on a **58.3** pass-block grade over **180** RT snaps in 2026. Atlanta's Za'Darius Smith counters with **2** sacks, **5** pressures and a **70.0** defense grade in **53** DL snaps.

NEW ORLEANS' BLIND SIDE IS A REBUILT PATCH

LT Kelvin Banks Jr. is on injured reserve after ankle surgery (exp. return **2026-11-29**). Asim Richards logged **74** LT snaps in 2026, allowing **1** sack and **6** pressures — the fill Atlanta's rushers are attacking.

FOLK HAS BEEN SHAKY FROM DISTANCE

Falcons K Nick Folk is **5-of-8** on field goals in 2026 (long **51**) and **4-of-4** on PATs, with **0** touchbacks on **12** kickoffs. Saints K Daniel Carlson is **4-of-5** (long **51**), **7-of-8** on PATs and **4** touchbacks on **15** kickoffs.

PUNT-FOR-PUNT IN THE SUPERDOME

Jake Bailey has punted **11** times for **531** yards and a **39.6** net average in 2026. New Orleans' Ryan Wright matches almost exactly: **11** punts, **487** yards, **39.8** net.

NO TRENCHES + ST

New Orleans
PB 64.9 • RB 49.8 • Def 71.1

MARK	VALUE
Team PB / RB	64.9 • 49.8
OL sacks / pressures allowed	20 • 159
DL sacks / pressures	38 • 206

2025 OL PFF

PLAYER	POS	PB	RB	PR-ALL
Erik McCoy	C	76.6	58.1	3
Luke Fortner	C	69.0	61.3	11
Kelvin Banks	LT	67.9	67.1	44
Cesar Ruiz	RG	67.8	53.9	19
Taliese Fuaga	RT	63.9	64.9	24

2025 DL PFF

PLAYER	POS	DEF	SACK	PR
Chase Young	DL	69.8	12.0	49.0
Carl Granderson	DL	61.7	5.0	36.0
Cameron Jordan	DL	66.9	9.0	32.0
Bryan Bresee	DL	55.8	3.0	29.0
Nathan Shepherd	DL	61.2	3.0	26.0

2025 SPECIAL TEAMS

MARK	VALUE
FG	Blake Grupe 16/22 (74.1%)
Punt net / In20	Kai Kroeger 38.7 • In20 14
KO TB	Charlie Smyth 16/30 (53.3%)
KR / PR YPA	24.1 • 6.3 (Kendre Miller/Dante Pettis)

BANKS OUT, RICHARDS ON THE BLIND SIDE

Kelvin Banks Jr., who opened 2026 with **107** LT snaps across two starts, is on IR (ankle surgery). The job now sits with Asim Richards, who allowed **6** pressures and **1** sack on a **50.9** pass-block grade over **74** LT snaps in his lone 2026 start.

MCCOY IS THE CLEAN NUMBER

Center Erik McCoy is New Orleans' steadiest trench figure: **181** snaps at center over three 2026 games, **0** sacks and **4** pressures allowed, a **75.9** pass-block grade.

FUAGA IS THE PRESSURE LEAK

RT Taliese Fuaga has surrendered a team-high **8** pressures (**1** sack) on a **58.3** pass-block grade across **180** RT snaps in 2026, the interior of the matchup against an Atlanta edge group featuring newcomer Za'Darius Smith. New Orleans has faced a blitz on **20.6%** of dropbacks this season (Atlanta: **14.2%**).

MATTHEWS CARRIES ATLANTA'S LINE

ATL LT Jake Matthews has played **100%** of the offense's **200** snaps and carries a **47.8** offense grade (**No. 267** of **272**) with **5** pressures and **2** sacks allowed on a **53.3** pass-block grade. He lines up across from Chase Young.

CHASE YOUNG IS THE FINISHER

Saints EDGE Chase Young owns the top pass-rush grade in this matchup at **76.5**, with **3** sacks and **6** pressures across **126** defensive snaps in 2026 (**67.7** defense grade).

ATLANTA'S COMMITTEE FRONT

The Falcons interior leads by committee: Brandon Dorlus (**74.1** defense grade, **96** snaps), LaCale London (**76.1**, **64** snaps) and newcomer Za'Darius Smith (**70.0**, **1** TFL in **53** snaps), with Samson Ebukam (hamstring) questionable.

2025 TRENCHES & ST – UNIT VS UNIT

ATL vs NO — same prior-season grain on every row

METRIC	ATL	NO
Team PB / RB	68.2 • 71.0	64.9 • 49.8
DL sacks / pressures	— • —	4.0 sacks • 16 pressures
OL1 PB / RB	Jake Matthew 75.5 • 58.4 • LT	Erik McCoy 76.6 • 58.1 • C
DL1 Def / Sacks / PR	James Pearce 58.0 • 10.0 • 41.0 • DL	Chase Young 69.8 • 12.0 • 49.0 • DL
FG%	Zane Gonzalez 19/22 (88.0%)	Blake Grupe 16/22 (74.1%)
Punt net / In20	40.5 • 34 • Bradley Pinion	38.7 • 14 • Kai Kroeger

ATL @ NO – SECONDARY & WR/CB

WEEK 4 • MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL

ATL SECONDARY

Atlanta
Def 65.7 • INT 16 • Sacks 57.0

MARK	VALUE
Team Def PFF	65.7
INT / Sacks	16 · 57.0 · #6/32
Cov grade / F1%	57.6 · 11.3%
Zone / Man	71.3% / 28.7% · EPA 0.023 / -0.027
Top shell	COVER-3 34.9% · 56.4% · EPA 0.066
PA / dropback EPA	0.096 / -0.017

2025 SHELLS RUN (DEF)

SHELL	SHARE%	CMP%	EPA
COVER-3	34.9	56.4	0.066
COVER-4	26.1	61.1	0.043
COVER-1	25.8	48.7	0.011
COVER-6	6.0	61.8	0.133

2025 SECONDARY PFF

PLAYER	POS	DEF	COV	INT/PBU
Xavier Watts	DB	64.5	62.9	4.0/4.0
Jessie Bates	DB	61.7	59.7	3.0/2.0
AJ Terrell	DB	59.8	60.1	0/10.0

2025 COVERAGE

PLAYER	COV	F1%	Y/CS	QB-RTG
Xavier Watts	63.0	16.7%	0.5	66.4
Jessie Bates	59.7	3.6%	0.6	84.4

HENDERSON TAKES OVER THE BOUNDARY

Through three 2026 games C.J. Henderson owns Atlanta's top coverage line: an **81.8** defense grade and **80.4** coverage grade with a **45.7** passer rating against on **16** targets and **3** pass break-ups. His defensive snap share climbed from **5** snaps (**7%**) in the Week 1 loss at Pittsburgh to **60 (91%)** against Carolina to **63 (95%)** in the Week 3 win at Green Bay, where he added **8** solo tackles and **3** PBU.

LONDON'S WEEK 3 BREAKOUT SETS THE WR1 TONE

Drake London caught **9** of **10** targets for **194** yards in Atlanta's **35-14** Week 3 win at Green Bay, lifting his 2026 line to **19** targets, **15** receptions and **274** yards. His **80.4** offense grade ranks **No. 10** of **272** qualified and the **79.4** route grade drives the tree; the **19** targets are a team high.

COVER 3 IS HOME, COVER 4 IS THE SOFT SHELL

Atlanta has charted **50** Cover-**3** snaps in 2026 (**39.4%** of **127** charted coverages), holding opponents to **50.0%** completions and **-0.215** EPA per play there, with **35** Cover-**1** snaps (**27.6%**) at **51.4%** and **+0.065**. The crack is Cover **4**: **28** snaps, **67.9%** completions, **+0.382** EPA, and Cover **6** worse still on **6** snaps (**83.3%**, **+1.18**).

ZONE IS WHERE THIS DEFENSE BLEEDS

Man coverage has been Atlanta's sturdier 2026 call, allowing **+0.030** EPA on **38** snaps versus **+0.106** across **89** zone snaps. A year ago the pressure point was play-action: **+0.096** EPA allowed on play-action dropbacks against **-0.017** on straight dropbacks (2025).

OLAVE'S VOLUME MEETS A HUGHES HISTORY

Chris Olave is New Orleans' 2026 target hub with **36** targets, **27** catches and **375** yards (**10** for **182** in the Week 1 loss at Detroit) and an **80.4** offense grade. Career against Atlanta's Mike Hughes he has **10** targets, **7** catches and **66** yards, with Hughes intercepting one.

NO SECONDARY

New Orleans
Def 71.1 • INT 10 • Sacks 44.0

MARK	VALUE
Team Def PFF	71.1
INT / Sacks	10 · 44.0 · #18/32
Cov grade / F1%	73.0 · 11.5%
Zone / Man	81.2% / 18.8% · EPA 0.015 / -0.115
Top shell	COVER-3 49.2% · 54.2% · EPA 0.014
PA / dropback EPA	0.038 / -0.027

2025 SHELLS RUN (DEF)

SHELL	SHARE%	CMP%	EPA
COVER-3	49.2	54.2	0.014
COVER-4	15.4	68.6	0.223
COVER-1	14.5	41.3	-0.175
COVER-6	8.7	62.5	-0.404

2025 SECONDARY PFF

PLAYER	POS	DEF	COV	INT/PBU
Kool Aid McKinstry	DB	63.6	64.0	3.0/12.0
Alontae Taylor	DB	60.6	61.8	2.0/6.0
Jonas Sanker	DB	60.1	58.3	2.0/4.0

2025 COVERAGE

PLAYER	COV	F1%	Y/CS	QB-RTG
Kool Aid McKinstry	64.0	14.4%	1.3	88.5
Alontae Taylor	62.2	7.3%	1.2	95.5

OLAVE VS A LEAGUE-WORST WR FUNNEL

NO WR Chris Olave (2026: **28** targets, **105** routes, **31.5%** target share) carries a PFF offense grade of **80.4** and route grade of **80.9** across **155** snaps. Atlanta's secondary has surrendered **201.3** WR yds/game (**#32** of **32** NFL) through three games, with CB Mike Hughes at a **54.1** coverage grade and **55.3** defensive grade over **143** snaps.

LONDON DRAWS A REWORKED CB1

ATL WR Drake London (2026: team-high **34.1%** target share, **14** targets, **57** routes) posts an **80.4** offense grade (10th of **272**) and **79.4** route grade over **140** snaps. New Orleans CB1 Justin Reid sits at a **45.9** defensive grade over **169** snaps.

COVER-3 BASE, COVER-4 THE SOFT SPOT

New Orleans is zone-first: **73.3%** zone vs **26.7%** man on 2026 charted snaps. The 2025 shell board has Cover-**3** at **49.2%** share (**54.2** cmp%, **0.014** EPA/att), Cover-**4** at **15.4%** (**68.6** cmp%, **0.223** EPA/att) as the leak, and Cover-**1** at **14.5%** (**41.3** cmp%, **-0.175** EPA/att) as the tightest look.

SAINTS' 2026 DB GRADES, BY ROLE

The 2026 Saints back end: SS Quincy Riley **65.6** defensive grade (**152** snaps), nickel Kool Aid McKinstry **60.2** with **2** PBU (**169** snaps), FS Julian Blackmon **62.1** (**169** snaps), and LB Kaden Elliss **65.2** defensive / **57.8** coverage. CB Martin Emerson Jr. is questionable with a shoulder.

ATLANTA'S SAFETIES CARRY THE BACK END

Atlanta's 2026 safeties: Xavier Watts **65.2** def / **62.5** coverage (**153** snaps), Jessie Bates **64.5** / **65.0** coverage (**152** snaps), and Divine Deablo **64.5** / **61.7** coverage (**154** snaps). Atlanta concedes just **47.7** rush yds/game (**#1** of **32** NFL), a pass-funnel profile.

2025 SECONDARY – UNIT VS UNIT

ATL vs NO – same prior-season grain on every row

METRIC	ATL	NO
Team Def PFF	65.7	71.1
INT / Sacks	16 · 57.0 · Rk 6	10 · 44.0 · Rk 18
PAPG allowed	23.6	22.5
Cov grade / F1%	57.6 · 11.3% · team · snap-wtd	73.0 · 11.5% · team · snap-wtd
CB1 Cov / F1% / QB-rtg	Xavier Watts 63.0 · 16.7% · 66.4	Kool Aid McK 64.0 · 14.4% · 88.5

DEFENSE COVERAGE DNA (SHELLS RUN)

Man/zone + top shell + play-action EPA allowed – defense grain, not shells the offense faces

TM	ZONE/MAN	Z/M EPA	TOP SHELL	PA/DROP EPA
ATL	71.3% / 28.7%	0.023 / -0.027	COVER-3 (34.9%)	0.096 / -0.017
NO	81.2% / 18.8%	0.015 / -0.115	COVER-3 (49.2%)	0.038 / -0.027

PROJECTED WR / CB MATCHUPS

ATL routes vs NO coverage · NO routes vs ATL coverage (PFF season boards)

ATL WR THREATS

WR	RTE	YPRR	ADOT
Kyle Pitts	68.8	1.7	7.6
Drake London	74.4	2.5	11.9

NO COVERAGE

CB/S	POS	COV	F1%	QB-RTG
Kool Aid McKinstry	CB	64.0	14.4%	88.5
Alontae Taylor	CB	62.2	7.3%	95.5

RECENT H2H (LAST 3 SEASONS)

WR (TM)	CB (TM)	TGT	REC	YDS	TD	INT
Bijan Robinson (ATL)	Alontae Taylor (NO)	4	4	93	1	0
Chris Olave (NO)	DeAundre Alford (ATL)	11	8	78	0	0
Drake London (ATL)	Alontae Taylor (NO)	9	6	74	1	0

NO WR THREATS

WR	RTE	YPRR	ADOT
Chris Olave	70.7	2.2	13.2
Juwan Johnson	65.0	1.8	7.5

ATL COVERAGE

CB/S	POS	COV	F1%	QB-RTG
Xavier Watts	CB	63.0	16.7%	66.4
Jessie Bates	CB	59.7	3.6%	84.4

BETTING MARKETS

Lines & Angles

Saints -2.5, Total 47.5: Etienne Out, Atlanta's Run Wall In

GAME LINES (BETTINGPROS LIVE)

MARKET	TEAM	SIDE	LINE	PRICE
Spread	NO	Home	-2.5	-117
Spread	ATL	Away	+2.5	-104
Total	Game	Over	47.5	-110
Total	Game	Under	47.5	-110
Moneyline	ATL	Away	+122	+122
Moneyline	NO	Home	-145	-145

FEATURED PLAYER PROPS VS 2026 SEASON REG AVG/GAME

PLAYER	PROP	LINE	PRICE
Drake London	Rec Yds	78.5	-114
Juwan Johnson	Rec Yds	40.5	-115
Jahan Dotson	Rec Yds	17.5	-114
Alvin Kamara	Rec Yds	16.5	-120
Austin Hooper	Rec Yds	11.5	-125
Bijan Robinson	Rec Yds	39.5	-115
Devaughn Vele	Rec Yds	44.5	-114
Chris Olave	Rec Yds	85.5	-113

Positive 'Line vs Avg' = per-game average above tonight's line. L5/L10/Season 0% = share of REG games clearing tonight's line before this game.

SAINTS LAY 2.5 AT HOME, TOTAL 47.5

New Orleans opens as a **-2.5** home favorite (**-117**) with the moneyline at **-145**; Atlanta takes **+2.5 (-104)** and sits at **+122**. The total is posted at **47.5**, priced **-110** both ways.

NEW ORLEANS BACKFIELD MINUS ETIENNE

Travis Etienne Jr. is OUT with a left hamstring strain (listed return **2026-10-11**) after leading the Saints with **30** carries for **128** yards in 2026. The workload shifts to Alvin Kamara (**18-51-0**; rush yards line **40.5**) and Kendre Miller (**13-44-1**; **20.5**).

ATLANTA'S RUN WALL MEETS A STALLED GROUND GAME

ATL allows a league-low **47.7** rush yards per game (**#1/32** NFL) while New Orleans has produced just **304** rush yards and **-0.6** rush EPA across three 2026 games. The Saints' own run defense is far leakier, ceding **128.7** rush yards per game (**#27/32**).

EVERYTHING RUNS THROUGH BIJAN ROBINSON

Bijan Robinson carries **68** touches and a **29.3%** target share into the Caesars Superdome; his rush line is **87.5 (-114)** on **19.5** attempts, with **127.5** for combined rushing and receiving yards.

SHOUGH'S ARM SETS THE HIGHER BAR

Tyler Shough is **91-of-132 (68.9%)** for **917** yards, **8** TD and **3** INT with **6.29** EPA per pass this season; his pass yards line is **254.5** and the over on **1.5** pass TD is juiced at **-148**. Michael Penix Jr.'s pass yards line sits lower at **223.5**.

OLAVE'S HEAVY TARGET DIET

Chris Olave owns **27** catches on **36** targets for **375** yards — a **31.5%** target share — with a receiving yards line of **85.5 (-113)** and anytime TD at **+117**.

FANTASY / PLAYER IMPACT

Broadcast Color

ATL @ NO Fantasy Booth: Bijan's Workload vs. a Kamara-Led Backfield

SKILL ROLES ON FILE

TM	QB1	RB1	WR1
ATL	Michael Penix Jr.	Bijan Robinson	Kyle Pitts
NO	Tyler Shough	Alvin Kamara	Chris Olave

Top fantasy options entering tonight from **2026 season** production (season per-game average plus recent form).

FANTASY PRODUCERS TO KNOW

TEAM	PLAYER	POS	PPR PTS/G	L3 AVG	L3 VS SEASON	G	20+ PPR G
ATL	Bi.Robinson	RB	25.9	25.9	+0.0	3	2
NO	C.Olave	WR	23.5	23.5	+0.0	3	2
NO	T.Shough	QB	23.1	23.1	+0.0	3	3
NO	J.Johnson	TE	16.1	16.1	+0.0	3	1
ATL	D.London	WR	14.3	14.3	+0.0	3	1
NO	D.Vele	WR	12.7	12.7	+0.0	3	0

Fantasy points use standard PPR scoring. L3 = last three games before tonight.

BIJAN ROBINSON IS THE VOLUME KING OF THIS GAME

He is averaging **25.9** PPR pts/g through three 2026 games, clearing **20+** in **2** of **3**, on a line of **66** carries for **349** rush yds and **2** rush TD. The 2025 workhorse season (**287** att, **1,478** rush yds, **7** TD, **79** rec, **820** rec yds) is the ceiling comp. BettingPros: **87.5** rush yds and **127.5** rush+rec yds.

TYLER SHOUGH HAS SCORED 20+ PPR POINTS IN ALL THREE STARTS

23.1 PPR pts/g on **91-of-132 (68.9%)** for **917** pass yds, **8** TD, **3** INT and **6.29** EPA/pass, plus **67** rush yds and a rushing score. Books post **254.5** pass yds and **1.5** pass TD (**-148**) on the New Orleans QB.

CHRIS OLAVE WALKS INTO THE NFL'S WORST WR DEFENSE

27 rec on **36** tgt for **375** yds, **1** TD, **23.5** PPR pts/g, with a **31.5%** target share. Atlanta is allowing **201.3** WR yds/gm (**#32** of **32**). Prop: **85.5** rec yds and **7.5** rec.

TRAVIS ETIENNE JR. IS OUT – THE NEW ORLEANS BACKFIELD IS KAMARA'S

Etienne (hamstring) is ruled Out, removing **30** carries, **128** yds and **10** targets. **Alvin Kamara** has **18** carries for **51** yds in **2** games; lines sit at **40.5** rush yds, **11.5** att and **60.5** rush+rec yds. **Kendre Miller** (**13** car, **44** yds, **1** TD) carries a **20.5** rush-yd line.

DRAKE LONDON DRAWS THE STINGIEST WR MATCHUP ON THE BOARD

London leads Atlanta with **15** rec, **274** yds and **14.3** PPR pts/g, but New Orleans gives up only **110.0** WR yds/gm (**#2** of **32**). Prop: **78.5** rec yds, **5.5** rec (**-145**).

KYLE PITTS GETS THE TE-FRIENDLY SIDE OF THE MATCHUP

New Orleans allows **83.3** TE yds/gm (**#30** of **32**). Pitts is coming off **88** rec, **928** yds and **5** TD in 2025, though 2026 has been quiet (**2** rec, **20** yds, **1.3** PPR pts/g). Lines: **26.5** rec yds and **2.5** rec (**-134**).

ATL OFFENSE NOTES

Atlanta

12 starters · depth: two-deep

STARTERS

- **LWR Drake London**
 - Atlanta made him the No. 8 overall pick in 2022 out of USC; he enters Week 4 with 4,235 career receiving yards and a 2024 All-Pro on the résumé.
 - He's the first link in Atlanta's run of three straight No. 8 overall picks: London (2022), Bijan Robinson (2023), Michael Penix Jr. (2024).
 - The quirky line that says gadget history: 22 career passing yards, 1 career rushing yard, and 15 catches for 274 yards through three 2026 games.
- **RWR Jahan Dotson**
 - A 2022 first-rounder (No. 16 overall, Penn State) — he and No. 8 pick Drake London are the two first-round receivers from that class now starting outside in Atlanta.
 - 1,560 career receiving yards across four-plus seasons; his 2026 line through three games is 4 catches for 41 yards on 10 targets.
 - Prior-season support: 18 catches, 262 yards and 1 TD in his first Atlanta season (2025).
- **SWR Olamide Zaccheaus**
 - Undrafted out of Virginia — a 29-year-old seventh-year pro signed by Atlanta this offseason as a new arrival.
 - Ran a season-high 90.9% slot rate in Week 3 at Green Bay (after 63.6% in Week 1); his 2026 line is 4 catches for 17 yards on 6 targets.
 - Supporting 2025 production in the slot: 39 catches, 313 yards, 2 TD with 4 carries for 25 yards.
- **C Ryan Neuzil**
 - An undrafted Appalachian State product, he's a 29-year-old in his sixth NFL season and the pivot snapping to Michael Penix Jr.
 - His 2026 game grades swing hard: 59.6 pass-block in Week 1, a 75.7 pass / 72.7 run line in Week 2, then 59.8 / 55.9 in Week 3.
 - Only center on the roster who took every Atlanta offensive snap in Week 3 (71, 100%).
- **LG Matthew Bergeron**
 - Atlanta's 2023 second-round pick (No. 38 overall, Syracuse) — a 26-year-old in his fourth NFL season.
 - Run-block grades of 68.8, 70.0 and 71.3 across the first three 2026 games; his pass-block grade spiked to 78.4 in Week 2.
 - Logged 100% of the offensive snaps (60) in the Week 1 loss at Pittsburgh.
- **LT Jake Matthews**
 - The longest-tenured Falcon: No. 6 overall pick in 2014 out of Texas A&M, 34 years old and in his 13th NFL season.
 - Kept a 100% offensive snap share in Weeks 1 (60 snaps) and 2 (69) — and his pass-block grade climbed from 40.3 to 64.5 between those two games.
 - An anchor for a unit that has been in flux, he's held the left tackle job every year since he was drafted.
- **RG Chris Lindstrom**
 - A No. 14 overall pick in 2019 (Boston College) — a 29-year-old in his eighth season and the highest-drafted of Atlanta's starting interior linemen.
 - Posted his best run-block grade of the young 2026 season Week 3 at Green Bay — 82.4 — after a 51.8 in Week 2.
 - Opened 2026 with a 72.3 run-block grade in Week 1, giving the right side a steady interior piece.
- **RT Jawaan Taylor**
 - A 2019 second-rounder (No. 35 overall, Florida), 28 years old and entering his eighth NFL season — his second in Atlanta.
 - Pass-block grades of 67.6, 77.0 and 74.5 through three 2026 games, peaking in Week 2 against Carolina.
 - He and TE Kyle Pitts give Atlanta a two-Florida-Gator pairing on the right side.
- **TE Kyle Pitts Sr.**
 - Atlanta's No. 4 overall pick in 2021 and a 2025 All-Pro; he enters Week 4 with 3,599 career receiving yards.
 - The 25-year-old (turns 26 on Oct. 6) is one of two Florida Gators among Atlanta's offensive starters, alongside RT Jawaan Taylor.
 - Listed as the No. 1 tight end on the live depth chart in his sixth NFL season, with 88 catches for 928 yards and 5 TD on his 2025 line in support.
- **TE2 Charlie Woerner**
 - A 2020 sixth-round pick by the 49ers (No. 190 overall, Georgia), now a 28-year-old in his seventh NFL season and Atlanta's blocking tight end.
 - Pass-block grades of 76.8 (Week 1) and 77.2 (Week 3) — the teeth of his value is inline, not in the route tree.
 - His entire 2026 receiving line is a single target with no catches, Week 2 vs Carolina.
- **QB Michael Penix Jr.**
 - Atlanta's No. 8 overall pick in 2024 (Indiana/Washington) — the third straight No. 8 overall Falcon after Drake London (2022) and Bijan Robinson (2023).
 - In his 2026 debut Week 3 at Green Bay (Sep 24) he wasn't sacked and averaged 2.19 seconds to throw, earning a 73.0 pass grade in his first action of the season.
 - No. 1 on the live depth chart, he's a 26-year-old in his third NFL season with 3,013 career passing yards and 13 passing TDs entering Week 4.
- **RB Bijan Robinson**
 - The reigning AP Offensive Player of the Year (2025) and a first-team All-Pro that season, with Pro Bowl nods in 2024 and 2025.
 - Career totals entering Week 4: 4,259 rushing yards and 1,856 receiving yards.
 - 2026 workload through three games: 66 carries for 349 yards and 2 rush TDs, plus 13 catches for 118 yards and 1 receiving TD.

NO OFFENSE NOTES

New Orleans

11 starters · depth: two-deep

STARTERS

- **LWR Devaughn Vele**
 - Opened 2026 with 7 catches on 9 targets for 69 yards and a TD at Detroit, leading the Saints' receiver room in snap share at 91% [3].
 - Owns a 17.7% 2026 target share (22 targets, 15 receptions, 172 yards, 1 TD) and splits alignment nearly evenly — 59 slot snaps vs 59 wide — with a 10.7-yard average depth of target.
 - A 28-year-old seventh-round pick (No. 235 overall, 2024).
- **RWR Bryce Lance**
 - Rookie fourth-round pick (No. 136 overall, 2026) whom the staff is 'getting more reps weekly' [4].
 - 2026 usage: 8 targets, 4 catches, 50 yards across three games.
- **SWR Chris Olave**
 - The 2025 AP Comeback Player of the Year (Saints) is averaging 11 targets and 125 yards per game in 2026 — tied for the league lead in targets and second in receiving yards [5].
 - Topped 100 receiving yards for the second time this season in the Week 3 loss to Las Vegas [6].
 - Owns an 80.9 PFF route grade in 2026 across 105 routes with a 12.5-yard average depth of target.
- **C Erik McCoy**
 - The 2019 second-round pick (No. 48 overall) also played 100% of the snaps in 2025.
 - His 62.5 run-block grade and 66.2 PFF offense grade lead the Saints' starting interior trio in 2026.
- **LG David Edwards**
 - Logged all 181 snaps at left guard in 2026 with a 72.4 PFF pass-block grade, 0 sacks and 3 pressures allowed.
 - His 56.0 run-block grade trails his 72.4 pass-block mark on the 2026 PFF board.
 - The 2019 fifth-round pick (No. 169 overall) holds a 61.6 PFF offense grade through three games.
- **LT Asim Richards**
 - Steps in for the injured Kelvin Banks Jr. (IR, ankle surgery): 'It comes with the job of being a swing tackle... I've been there before, so it's just another day honestly,' Richards said [9].
 - Traded from Dallas just before the 2025 season, he started four games at right tackle last year and says Year 2 in Kellen Moore's offense is 'a lot smoother — I don't have to think as much' [9].
 - 2026 in relief: 74 left-tackle snaps, allowing 6 pressures and 1 sack (50.9 PFF pass-block grade). Moore: 'Asim's done a nice job... He's prepared as if he's ready to play every single week' [9].
- **RG Cesar Ruiz**
 - Played all 181 snaps at right guard in 2026 with a 65.4 PFF pass-block grade, 2 pressures and 0 sacks allowed.
 - Former first-round pick (No. 24 overall, 2020) whose 61.9 PFF offense grade slots between Edwards (61.6) and McCoy (66.2) on the 2026 interior.
- **RT Taliесе Fuaga**
 - Shoulders the most heat on the line: a team-high 8 pressures and 1 sack allowed in 2026, with a 58.3 PFF pass-block grade and a 59.5 PFF offense grade.
 - The 2024 first-round pick (No. 14 overall) played 180 of 181 snaps at right tackle in 2026.
 - Battled multiple injuries in 2025, when Asim Richards started four games at right tackle in his place [9].
- **TE Juwan Johnson**
 - Week 3 vs Las Vegas: 8 catches, 53 yards and 2 TDs — his fourth career two-touchdown game — then lost the game's final fumble and owned it: 'I wouldn't change anything about how I'm playing but I would definitely change the way I was holding the football' [7].
 - He and Noah Fant became only the third pair of tight-end teammates in NFL history to each catch 2+ touchdown passes in the same game [8].
 - On the offense's identity: 'We're playing really aggressive, really strong, really physical, really smart, really fast' [7].
- **QB Tyler Shough**
 - Leads the NFL in pass attempts and completions through three weeks, and is the first QB since Josh Allen in 2022 to post 250+ pass yards, multiple TDs and 22+ fantasy points in each of the season's first three games [1].
 - Runs a true drop-back rate of 76.7% — the highest mark among starting quarterbacks — plus 4.7 rush attempts per game; his 36-yard scramble keyed a Week 3 touchdown drive vs Las Vegas [2].
 - Already has six touchdown passes from inside the 10-yard line, and his first career four-touchdown game came in the Week 3 home loss to the Raiders [2].
- **RB Travis Etienne Jr.**
 - OUT (left hamstring strain): Kellen Moore said Etienne will have some 'time lost,' with a current expected return of Oct. 11; his 2026 line stops at 30 carries, 128 yards and 0 TDs.
 - The 2023 AP Offensive Player of the Year (won with Jacksonville) is in his first Saints season; before the injury he graded 55.2 run on PFF with 25 attempts, 113 yards, 68 yards after contact and 3 missed tackles forced.
 - With him down, the backfield pivots to Alvin Kamara, Kendre Miller and CJ Donaldson.

ATL DEFENSE NOTES

Atlanta

11 starters · depth: two-deep

STARTERS

- **DE Cameron Thomas**
 - 2026 through three games: 1.5 sacks, 1 forced fumble and 4 solo tackles, with a 66.7 defense grade and 10 total pressures (7 hits, 2 hurries).
 - Snap share has climbed every week: 51% (Wk1) to 59% (Wk2) to 68% (Wk3) — up from a 59% campaign in 2025.
 - 2025: 28 tackles, 2.5 sacks and 1 TFL at a 59% defensive snap share.
- **DE2 Brandon Dorlus**
 - Leads Atlanta's 2026 pressure count among listed linemen with 10 total pressures (6 hits, 4 hurries) and a 72.9 pass-rush grade — still seeking his first sack.
 - 2026 overall grade of 74.1 on 65% of the defensive snaps in Week 3 after a 61%-38%-65% snap ride across the first three games.
 - 2025 context: 8.5 sacks and 11 TFL as a rotational end at a 54% snap share.
- **LILB Kendal Daniels**
 - 2026 through three games: 5 solo tackles and 1 assist.
 - Snap share sliding: 67% (Wk1) to 62% (Wk2) to 38% (Wk3).
 - Played 55% of defensive snaps in 2025 as a listed inside linebacker.
- **RILB Divine Deablo**
 - Snap iron man in 2026: 100% of defensive snaps in Weeks 1 and 3 and 82% in Week 2.
 - 2026: 5 solo tackles, 1 pass breakup and 1 tackle for loss, plus a 73.5 pass-rush grade on 3 pressures (1 hit, 2 hurries).
 - 2025 with a 94% snap share: 71 tackles, 1 sack, 5 TFL and 7 pass breakups.
- **LCB Mike Hughes**
 - 2026: 11 total tackles (10 solo, 1 assist) and 2 pass breakups across three games, with a 54.1 coverage grade.
 - Full-time corner early: 100% of defensive snaps in Weeks 1 and 2, then 85% in Week 3.
 - 2025: 49 tackles, 7 pass breakups and 1 interception at a 95% snap share.
- **NB Avieon Terrell**
 - Slot workload in 2026: 23 snaps (34%) in Week 1, 26 (39%) in Week 2, then 13 (20%) in Week 3.
 - 2026: 2 solo tackles in three games; 2025 he logged a 31% defensive snap share.
- **RCB C.J. Henderson**
 - 2026: 13 solo tackles, 5 pass breakups and 1 tackle for loss — an 81.8 defense grade and 80.4 coverage grade, both highest among the listed Atlanta defenders.
 - Snap share exploded from 7% in Week 1 to 91% in Week 2 and 95% in Week 3.
 - 2025: 13 tackles, 3 pass breakups and 1 interception across a 64% snap share.
- **FS Xavier Watts**
 - 2026: 11 solo tackles, 1 interception, 1 forced fumble and 1 pass breakup at a 65.2 defense grade / 62.5 coverage grade.
 - Near-every-down free safety: 100% (Wk1), 95% (Wk2), 100% (Wk3) of defensive snaps.
 - 2025: 94 tackles, 11 pass breakups and 5 interceptions on a 98% snap share.
- **SS Jessie Bates III**
 - 2026: 8 solo tackles and 1 pass breakup, with an 81.4 tackle grade — top of the listed secondary — and a 65.0 coverage grade.
 - Iron man centerfielder: 100% (Wk1), 94% (Wk2), 98% (Wk3) of defensive snaps.
 - Atlanta's 2026 shell leans Cover 3 (50 charted coverage snaps, 50.0% completion, -0.215 EPA/play) with Cover 1 next (35 snaps).
- **DL Maason Smith**
 - 2026: 6 total pressures (1 hit, 5 hurries) on a 72.9 pass-rush grade; the box shows just 1 pass breakup and no solo tackles.
 - Consistent interior run: 57% (Wk1), 56% (Wk2), 52% (Wk3) snap share.
 - 2025: 15 tackles and 1 pass breakup at a 55% snap share.
- **DL2 LaCale London**
 - 2026: 76.1 overall defense grade and a 71.9 run-defense grade — the best run grade among the listed Atlanta defensive linemen.
 - Usage shrinking through three games: 51% (Wk1) to 39% (Wk2) to 29% (Wk3).
 - 2025: 30 tackles, 5 sacks and 7 TFL at a 39% snap share.

NO DEFENSE NOTES

New Orleans

12 starters · depth: two-deep

STARTERS

- **LOLB Chase Young**
 - The 2026 sack column is climbing: 1.5 sacks in Week 2 at Baltimore (Sep 20) and 2.0 sacks plus a forced fumble in Week 3 vs Las Vegas (Sep 27) — 3.5 sacks across the three 2026 games.
 - His PFF pass-rush grade spiked with the production: 77.0 in Week 1, 65.3 in Week 2, then 87.1 (with an 81.1 overall grade) in Week 3 vs the Raiders.
 - Snap share is steady lead-DE work at 77% (Wk1), 67% (Wk2) and 76% (Wk3); his 2025 PFF pass-rush grade was 86.3 with 49 pressures.
- **ROLB Cameron Jordan**
 - At 37 years old, he is the only Saint defender on this list with an AP Defensive Player of the Year on the résumé — that came in 2017.
 - No Week 1 snap on the participation sheet; he logged 50% of defensive snaps in Week 2 and 56% in Week 3, recording one solo tackle at Baltimore (Sep 20).
 - The 2025 tape still graded well on early downs: 82.1 PFF run-defense grade and 36 pressures on 589 defensive snaps.
- **DT Nathan Shepherd**
 - Interior snap share is a consistent two-thirds-plus: 71% (Wk1), 67% (Wk2) and 69% (Wk3).
 - His only sack contribution of 2026 is a half-sack in Week 2 at Baltimore (Sep 20); PFF overall grade climbed 30.5 to 47.9 to 64.7 across the three games.
 - 2025 volume context: 26 pressures and a 67.4 PFF pass-rush grade over 695 defensive snaps.
- **MLB Pete Werner**
 - Flag him: listed Questionable with a neck stinger on the Week 4 injury report.
 - His Week 2 at Baltimore (Sep 20) was the loudest 2026 line — 8 solo tackles and 1.0 sack on 93% of defensive snaps — before his Week 3 share dropped to 27% (19 snaps).
 - PFF overall grade has been metronomic: 71.2, 71.0 and 71.7 across Weeks 1-3; 2025 finished with 80 tackles, 2 sacks and 5 pass breakups.
- **WLB Kaden Elliss**
 - He has not come off the field in 2026: 100% of defensive snaps in all three games (77, 58 and 70).
 - Coverage was his Week 1 calling card — a 73.2 PFF coverage grade with 3 solo tackles and a pass breakup at Detroit (Sep 13) — while Week 3 graded 78.7 against the run vs Las Vegas (Sep 27).
 - His 2025 season was a full-time stat sheet: 105 tackles, 7 tackles for loss, 6 pass breakups and an interception, plus 30 pressures.
- **LCB Kool-Aid McKinstry**
 - Birthday corner: he turns 24 today, Sep 30.
 - He has played every defensive snap in 2026 (77, 58, 70) and has 4 pass breakups through three games.
 - PFF coverage grade is volatile week to week — 60.2 (Wk1), 39.1 in Week 2 at Baltimore (Sep 20), then 70.2 in Week 3 vs Las Vegas (Sep 27); 2025 produced 3 interceptions and 17 pass breakups.
- **RCB Quincy Riley**
 - His role keeps growing within the season: 86% of defensive snaps in Week 1, 90% in Week 2, 100% in Week 3.
 - Week 2 at Baltimore (Sep 20) was his best graded game — 76.6 PFF overall and 76.4 coverage with a pass breakup.
 - 2025 supporting line: 10 pass breakups, 1 interception and 35 tackles.
- **FS Jonas Sanker**
 - He opened hot in Week 1 at Detroit (Sep 13): 7 solo tackles and a 76.0 PFF run-defense grade on 66% of snaps.
 - 2026 total is 13 solo tackles across three games on snap shares of 66%, 59% and 66%.
 - Coming off a 2025 with 79 tackles, 6 pass breakups and 2 interceptions.
- **S Julian Blackmon**
 - He has been an every-down safety in 2026 — 100% of defensive snaps in all three games.
 - His Week 2 at Baltimore (Sep 20) produced the takeaway — 1 interception and 1 pass defended.
 - Small 2025 sample (66 defensive snaps) still graded an 82.4 PFF overall with a 76.6 coverage grade.
- **SS Justin Reid**
 - Also an every-down safety in 2026 at 100% of snaps in all three games, with a team-high 11 solo tackles among defensive backs (5 in Week 1 at Detroit, Sep 13).
 - Rough Week 3 vs Las Vegas (Sep 27): a 28.2 PFF overall and 29.6 coverage grade.
 - His 2025 résumé: 72 tackles, 2 tackles for loss, 6 pass breakups, 1 interception; PFF overall 66.7.
- **DL Vernon Broughton**
 - He authored the highest single-game grade on the defense so far — a 91.7 PFF overall in Week 1 at Detroit (Sep 13), with a forced fumble.
 - Snap share in the rotation: 68% (Wk1), 57% (Wk2) and 57% (Wk3).
 - Second-year interior piece who logged just 24 defensive snaps in 2025.
- **DL2 Davon Godchaux**
 - Run-down rotational role at roughly 40% of defensive snaps: 47% (Wk1), 40% (Wk2) and 39% (Wk3).
 - His Week 3 vs Las Vegas (Sep 27) was the best-graded 2026 game — 75.4 PFF overall and 73.6 run-defense with 3 tackles.
 - 2025 base: 43 tackles with a 50.5 PFF overall grade.

ATL ST & COACHING NOTES

Atlanta

5 starters · depth: two-deep

SPECIAL TEAMS



K Nick Folk

- 41-year-old, 19th NFL season — signed a two-year, \$9 million deal in March 2026 and was named a team captain for the first time in his career this preseason.
- Has led the NFL in field-goal accuracy three straight seasons (96.7% with Tennessee in 2023, 95.5% in 2024, 96.6% on 28-of-29 with the Jets in 2025); 2026 has opened 5-of-8 on field goals and 4-of-4 on PATs, with both misses in Week 1 at Pittsburgh coming outside 50.
- Coordinator Craig Aukerman on the slow start: 'No concerns... Our biggest thing is to really focus in on a technique that he's been doing, continue to hone that in.'



P Jake Bailey

- 11 punts for 531 yards through three games — a 48.3 gross average and a long of 62 — after a career-best 2025 in Miami (47.7 gross, 42.5 net) working under current Falcons special-teams coach Craig Aukerman.
- The 28-year-old is a former Pro Bowler and first-team All-Pro (2020, career-best 48.7 yards per punt); signed a three-year, \$9 million deal and reunites with ex-Patriots teammate Nick Folk.
- On Aukerman: 'He lets the specialist operate, which I really like. He puts us in situations where we can be successful.'



LS Liam McCullough

- Entering his sixth NFL season as Atlanta's long snapper out of Ohio State; the operation's anchor for a unit that cycled through three kickers in 2025.
- Part of a remade specialist trio — snaps for new kicker Nick Folk and punter Jake Bailey, both signed in March — and drills his daily routine alongside Bailey while Folk works separately.
- Logged 1 special-teams tackle in 2025; his value lives in the battery, not the box score.



KR Zachariah Branch

- Rookie third-round pick (No. 79 overall) and a 4.35-second 40 man; the 22-year-old has 110 return yards through three games (2 kick returns for 52, 5 punt returns for 58) to go with 3 catches for 21 yards on 4 targets.
- His Week 1 debut at Pittsburgh featured a 66-yard kick return wiped out by a holding call on Josh Woods — his official line that day was 30 yards on one kick return and 33 on three punts.
- Coordinator Craig Aukerman: 'Excited for Zachariah... especially a rookie going back there to field punts, and then he was back there on kickoff return. He's just got a lot of confidence in himself.'



PR Brian Robinson

- Fourth-year back and the clear No. 2 behind Bijan Robinson: 30 carries for 132 rushing yards and 1 TD through three games, capped by 10 carries for 50 yards and a score in Week 3 at Green Bay.
- Doubles as a return option — 4 kickoff returns for 118 yards in 2026, including a 40-yarder in Week 1 at Pittsburgh (64 yards on two returns) and 54 on two at Green Bay.
- 2025 supporting line: 92 carries for 400 rushing yards and 2 TD.

COACHING / MANAGEMENT

HC Kevin Stefanski

- First-year Falcons head coach, hired Jan. 17, 2026 as the 20th in franchise history; career regular-season record 46-58 over six seasons in Cleveland.
- Two-time AP NFL Coach of the Year (2020, 2023) who guided Cleveland to an 11-win, playoff season in 2020.
- 'We will earn that toughness' — and on his foundation: 'To succeed in this league, you succeed with people... We're going to know who we are.'

OC Tommy Rees

- 33-year-old first-year Atlanta OC who followed Stefanski from Cleveland, where he called plays over the final nine games of 2025; he's expected to call plays again in Atlanta.
- On his quarterback: 'Extreme arm talent would be the first thing... all the throws, outside the numbers, down the field, can throw with anticipation and can throw with great accuracy.'
- Scheme lean: 'I think there are definite benefits to being under center... a huge part of the identity of Kevin going back throughout his career.'

DC Jeff Ulbrich

- Retained defensive coordinator on a new three-year deal — his second straight season running Atlanta's defense (also 2020); previously DC with the Jets (2021-24).
- His 2025 unit set a franchise-record 57 sacks (2nd in the NFL) and finished 6th with 16 interceptions, allowing 326.6 yards per game (15th).
- On Stefanski: 'You can't find anyone in this business that says something bad about this man. Not just the football coach.'

ST Craig Aukerman

- Hired Jan. 26, 2026 as special-teams coordinator (replacing Marquice Williams); 26 years of coaching, 16 in the NFL, after running Miami's units in 2025 and Tennessee's from 2018-23.
- His 2025 Dolphins tied for the NFL lead with 2 blocked field goals and ranked 7th in punt-return average (13.3) and 11th in kick-return average (26.4).
- Key to luring Folk: 'Craig Aukerman was a lot of it... I enjoyed playing for Craig.' On the early misses: 'No concerns... We've got to get him back in that rhythm.'

GM Ian Cunningham

- First-year general manager; his first free-agency wave rebuilt the specialist room — kicker Nick Folk (2 years, \$9M) and punter Jake Bailey (3 years, \$9M) both signed in March 2026.
- Also brought in QB Tua Tagovailoa and re-signed TE Austin Hooper on a one-year deal as part of a roster overhaul in his first offseason.

NO ST & COACHING NOTES

New Orleans

4 starters · depth: two-deep

SPECIAL TEAMS



K Daniel Carlson

- New Orleans is the first uniform change of Carlson's career: Minnesota drafted him 167th overall in 2018, and he kicked 2018-2025 for the Vikings and Raiders before signing with the Saints in 2026 (9th NFL season).
- Through three 2026 games he is 4-of-5 on field goals with a long of 51 - that 51-yarder came in Week 2 against Baltimore - and 7-of-8 on PATs, the lone miss an extra point in Week 3 vs Las Vegas.
- The leg has a track record: in 2021 with Las Vegas he hit a career-high 40 field goals on 43 attempts (40-of-43).



P Ryan Wright

- Fifth-year punter who spent his first four NFL seasons in Minnesota (2022-25, undrafted out of Tulane) before joining New Orleans in 2026.
- 2026 through three games: 11 punts for 487 yards, with a season-long 57-yarder and his best net day a 40.6 in the Week 1 trip to Detroit.
- Supporting context - he has a 65-punt, 3,184-yard season on his résumé (2025) and a 73-punt, 3,457-yard workload as a rookie (2022).



LS Cal Adomitis

- Adomitis is the Saints' third long snapper in three weeks - signed Sept. 22-23, 2026 off Miami's practice squad after Zach Wood's practice calf injury (IR, eligible Week 6) and Scott Daly's exit to Chicago's 53-man roster.
- A fifth-year pro with 58 career NFL games, his 2026 offseason was a tour: Steelers reserve/future deal (January), released in June, Packers (Aug. 1), Dolphins practice squad, now New Orleans. He logged 49 games for Cincinnati (2022-24) and nine for Philadelphia (2025).
- At Pitt he won the 2021 Patrick Mannelly Award as the nation's top long snapper and raised more than \$114,000 for Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh in his senior year.



KR Barion Brown

- Rookie return man - New Orleans drafted him No. 190 overall (sixth round) in 2026 - and he is listed Questionable with a hamstring after sitting out Week 3 vs Las Vegas.
- Before the injury he was the lead returner in both phases: 5 kickoff returns for 128 yards (25.6 average) and 6 punt returns for 34 yards, with a 53-yard kickoff return in Week 2 against Baltimore his longest.
- A two-way speed piece (LSU/Kentucky), he flashed 21- and 53-yard kick returns across his two 2026 games.

COACHING / MANAGEMENT

HC Kellen Moore

- Entering year two as Saints head coach (hired 2025 after running Philadelphia's offense to a Super Bowl title in 2024); New Orleans made no staff changes in year two and he calls his own offense - career regular-season record 7-13 in New Orleans.
- On hiring his defensive coordinator: 'Alignment on the other side of football is a big, important thing... having a guy on the other side in Brandon that certainly has an experience with, but he's had success more importantly in this league, is going to be a huge asset for us.'
- His OC is a familiar face from the Chargers/Dallas/Philly ladder - Moore and Doug Nussmeier have coached together at three prior stops.

OC Doug Nussmeier

- A former NFL quarterback whom the Saints drafted in 1994, he's back in New Orleans as offensive coordinator for a second season, following Moore from Dallas to the Chargers to Philadelphia before both landed here.
- He called the offense in the 2026 preseason opener (Moore reclaimed the duties the next week); his résumé includes QB-coach stops with the Eagles (2024), Chargers (2023) and Cowboys (2020-22).
- On his son Garrett (LSU QB, 2026 Senior Bowl MVP) and the Saints' roster work: 'I'll leave that to his coaches, but we are working to evaluate the whole roster. Here as a dad to see Garrett, but also working as a coach with the Saints to look at the offensive players.'

DC Brandon Staley

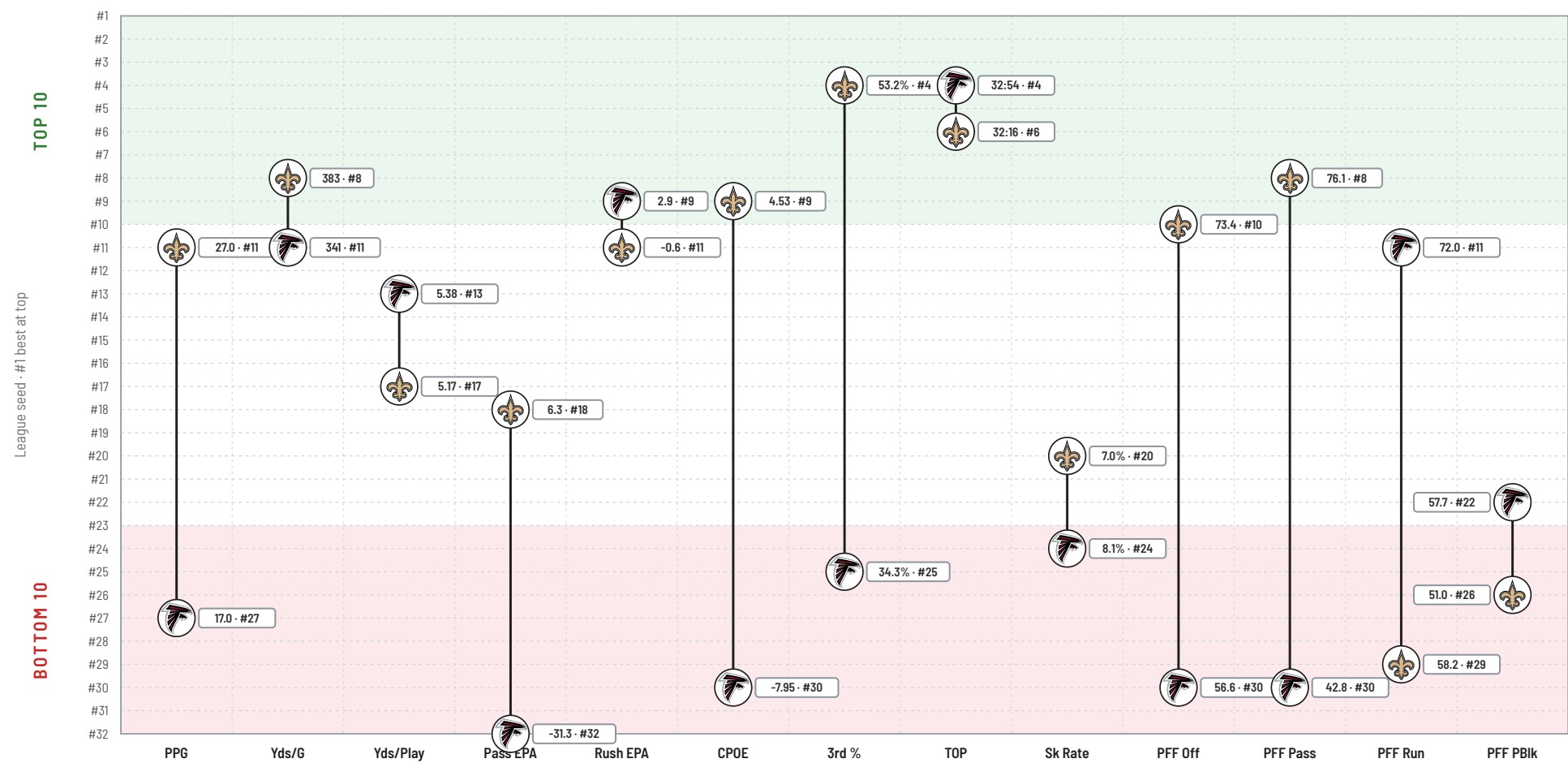
- Second season running the Saints' defense; a former Chargers head coach (24-24 from 2021-23) and the Rams' 2020 defensive coordinator (league's top defense), he flipped New Orleans from Dennis Allen's 4-3 to a 3-4 with two-high shells and heavy disguise.
- His mantra on flexibility: 'You have to create positionless players on defense, too, to match up... If I can get Chase Young to play on the Edge and inside and a little bit like a linebacker, now I've made him a tougher player to play against.'
- He leans on unorthodox rotations - vs Detroit he cycled in Martin Emerson Jr. for starter Quincy Riley and second-year LB Danny Stutsman for Pete Werner, saying 'when you think you have multiple starters at one position, that's something we've done in the past.'

ST Phil Galiano

- Second season as Saints special teams coordinator and one of the few holdovers from the previous staff - with the organization since 2019, when he arrived as Darren Rizzi's assistant before taking over the unit in 2025.
- After the Week 2 win over Baltimore: 'we had zero missed assignments, zero missed mental efforts, we had zero LOFS (lack of effort), and the guys just played complete football... I was really, really proud of them.'
- Galiano's unit is rebuilt around new specialists (K Daniel Carlson, P Ryan Wright), and he says he is 'starting to see players play fast,' noting the group 'has belief now.'

KEY METRICS - OFFENSE

ATL vs NO · 2026 REG · Offense · League seed #1 is best (lower-better metrics still map best to #1)

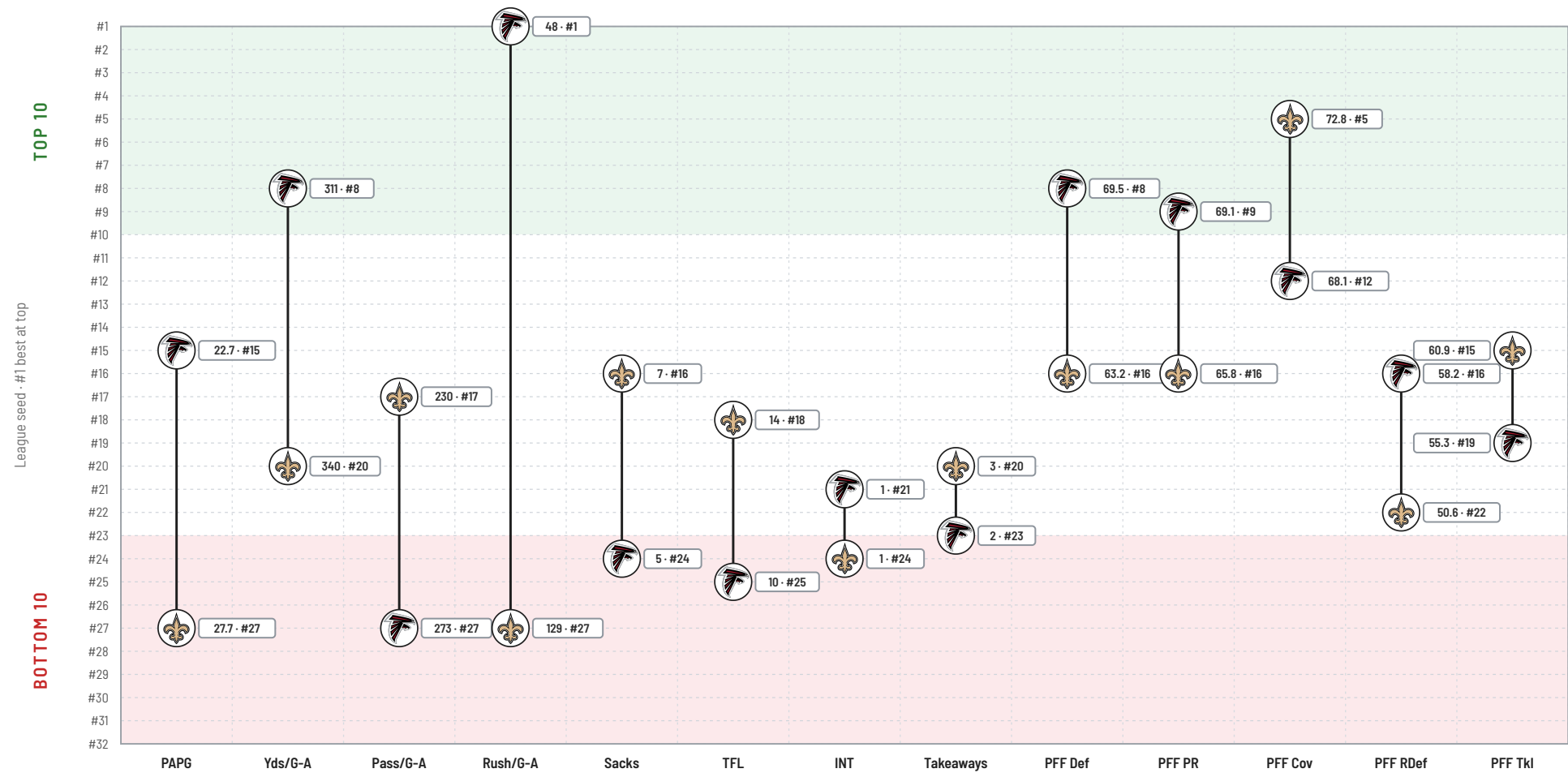


MATCHUP READ

NO PFF Pass #8 vs #30 is the clearest rank separator. Next: NO 3rd % #4 vs #25. Bottom line: ride the widest efficiency / rate edges.

KEY METRICS - DEFENSE

ATL vs NO · 2026 REG · Defense · League seed #1 is best (lower-better metrics still map best to #1)

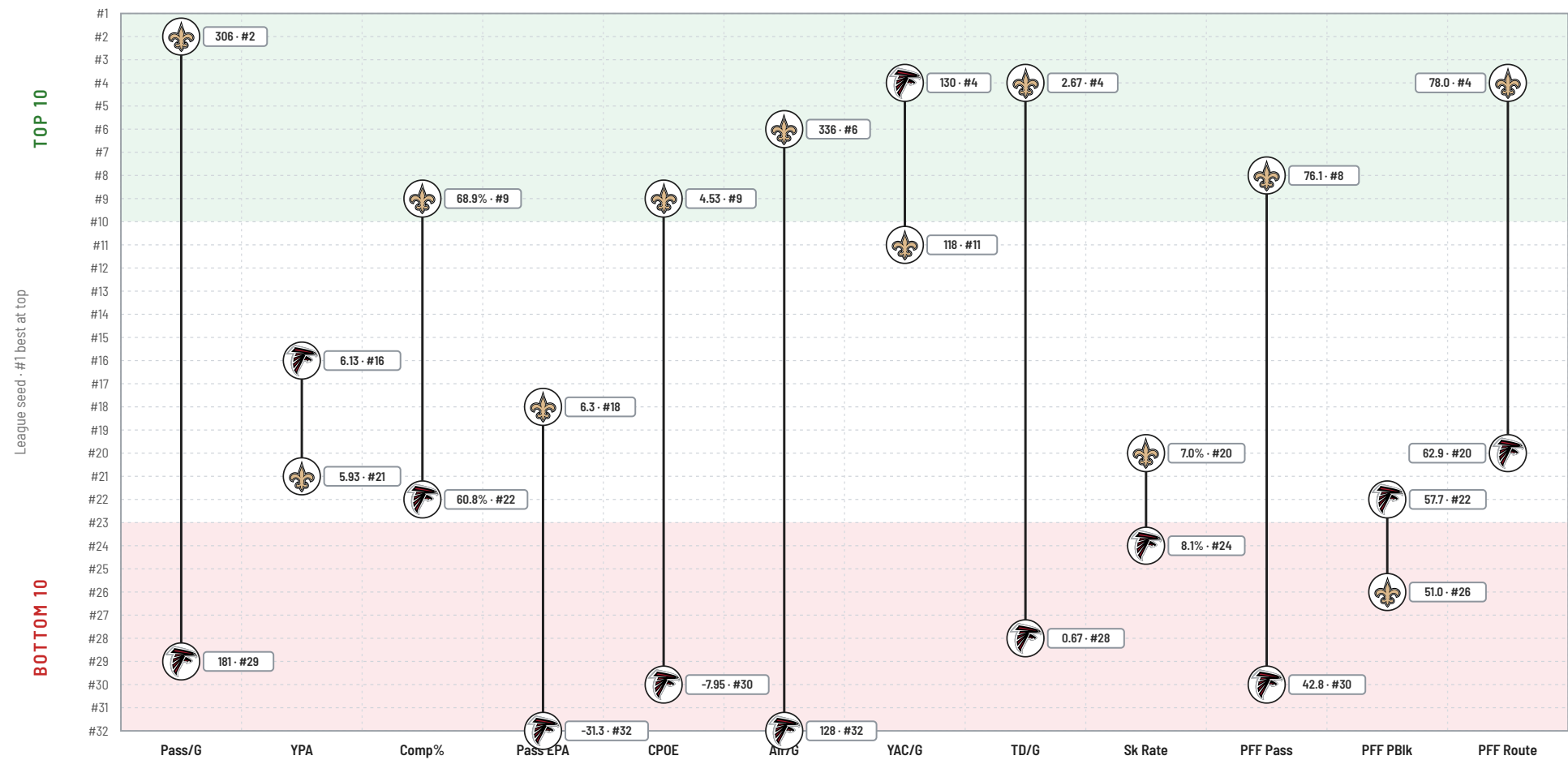


MATCHUP READ

ATL Rush/G-A #1 vs #27 is the clearest rank separator. Next: ATL PAPG #15 vs #27. Bottom line: ride the widest efficiency / rate edges.

KEY METRICS - PASSING

ATL vs NO · 2026 REG · Passing · League seed #1 is best (lower-better metrics still map best to #1)

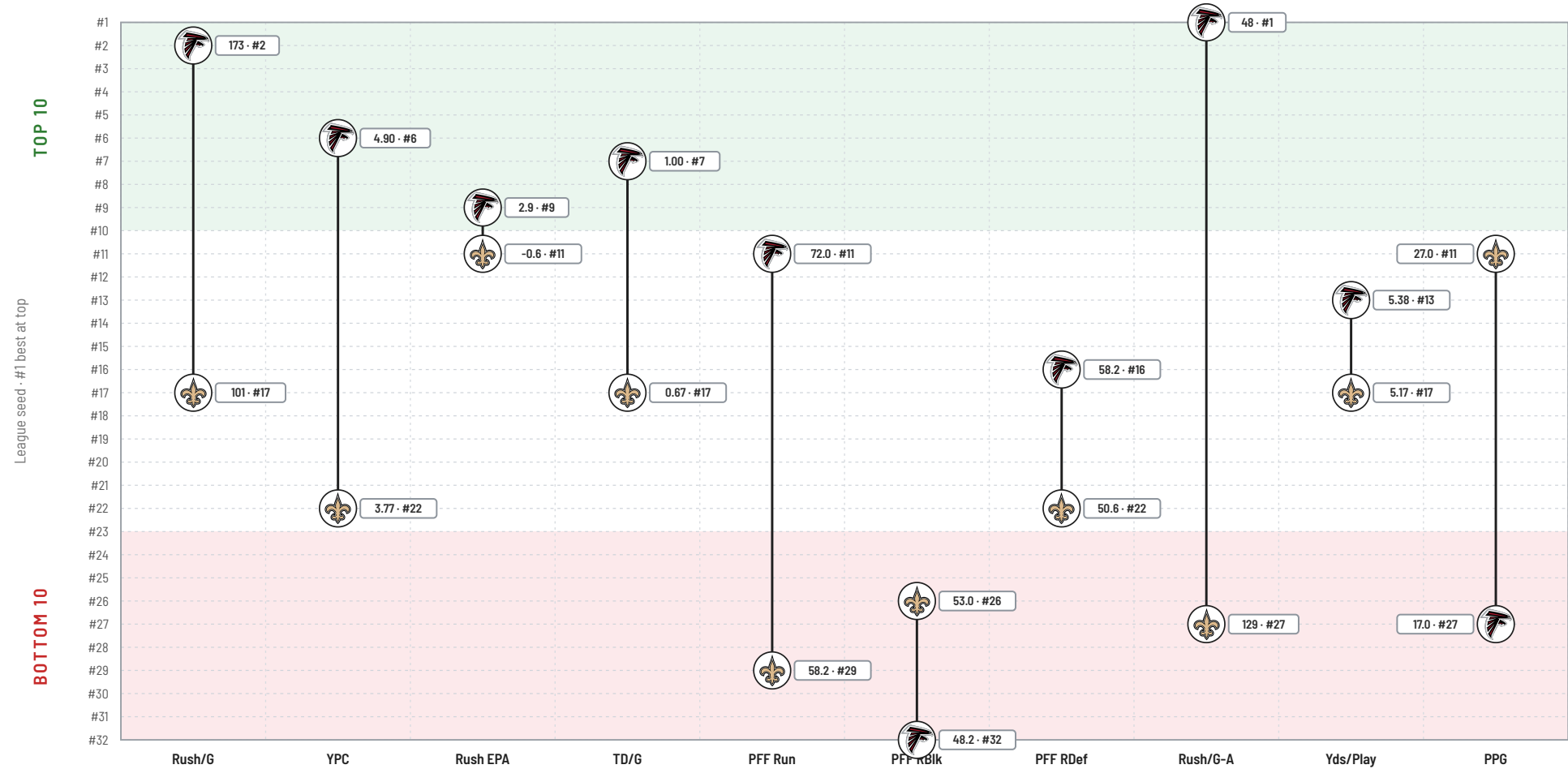


MATCHUP READ

NO Pass/G #2 vs #29 is the clearest rank separator. Next: NO Air/G #6 vs #32. Bottom line: ride the widest efficiency / rate edges.

KEY METRICS - RUSHING

ATL vs NO · 2026 REG · Rushing · League seed #1 is best (lower-better metrics still map best to #1)

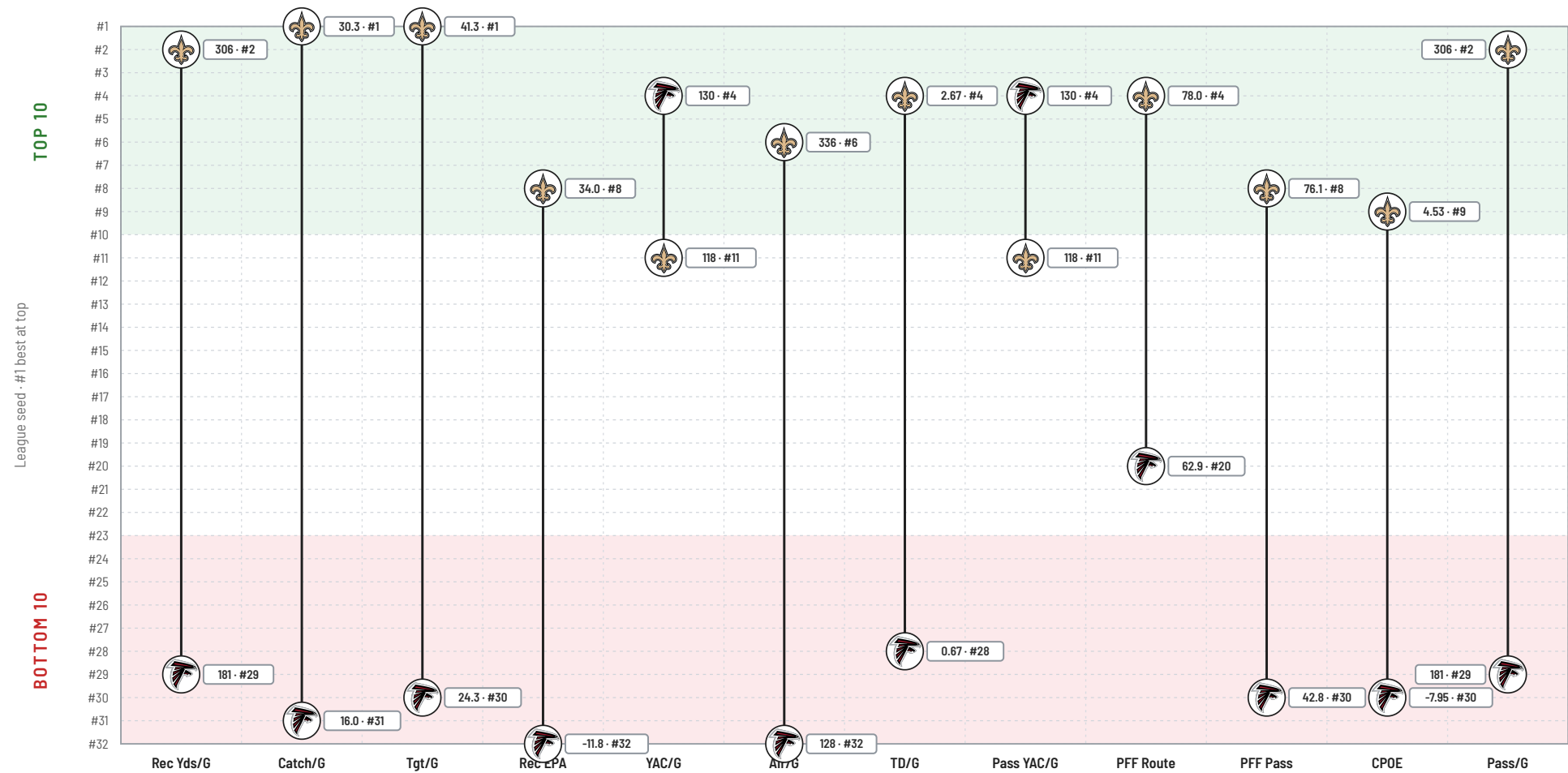


MATCHUP READ

ATL Rush/G-A #1 vs #27 is the clearest rank separator. Next: ATL PFF Run #11 vs #29. Bottom line: ride the widest efficiency / rate edges.

KEY METRICS - RECEIVING

ATL vs NO · 2026 REG · Receiving · League seed #1 is best (lower-better metrics still map best to #1)



MATCHUP READ

NO Catch/G #1 vs #31 is the clearest rank separator. Next: NO Tgt/G #1 vs #30. Bottom line: ride the widest efficiency / rate edges.

ATL @ NO – HOW THEY ATTACK · 2025 REG

Personnel bar = 11/12/13/21/22 share of offense snaps (pass % under each package). Each cell is one live call: down&distance under score, then field. HEAVY RUN / PASS is vs the NFL in that spot (black bar), not vs their season. Team-color bar = this club; black = league. Left = run, right = pass. L/C/R = located snap counts on each hash (bar width is the share). n = every snap in that cell. Trailing in clutch is Q4, down 1-8, not inside two minutes, by field. 4th down is G0 vs FG in toss-up spots only (4th & 2 / 4th & 3-4 by field).

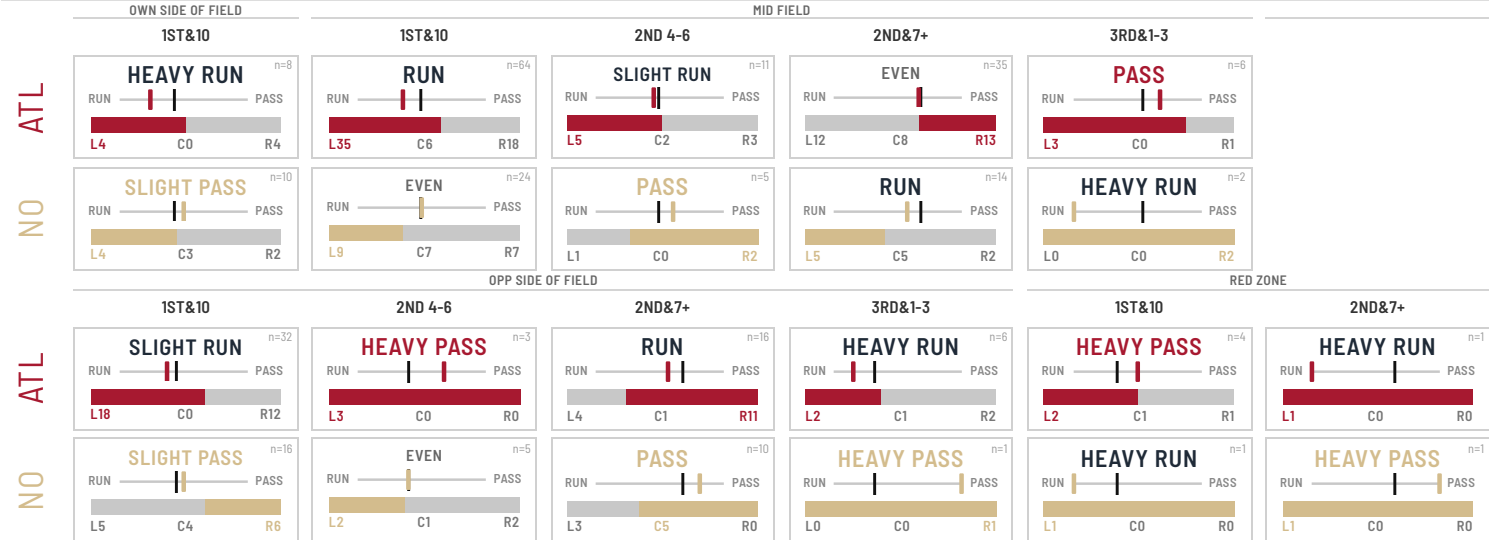
PERSONNEL – 11 / 12 / 13 / 21 / 22

Share of offense snaps · pass % inside each package

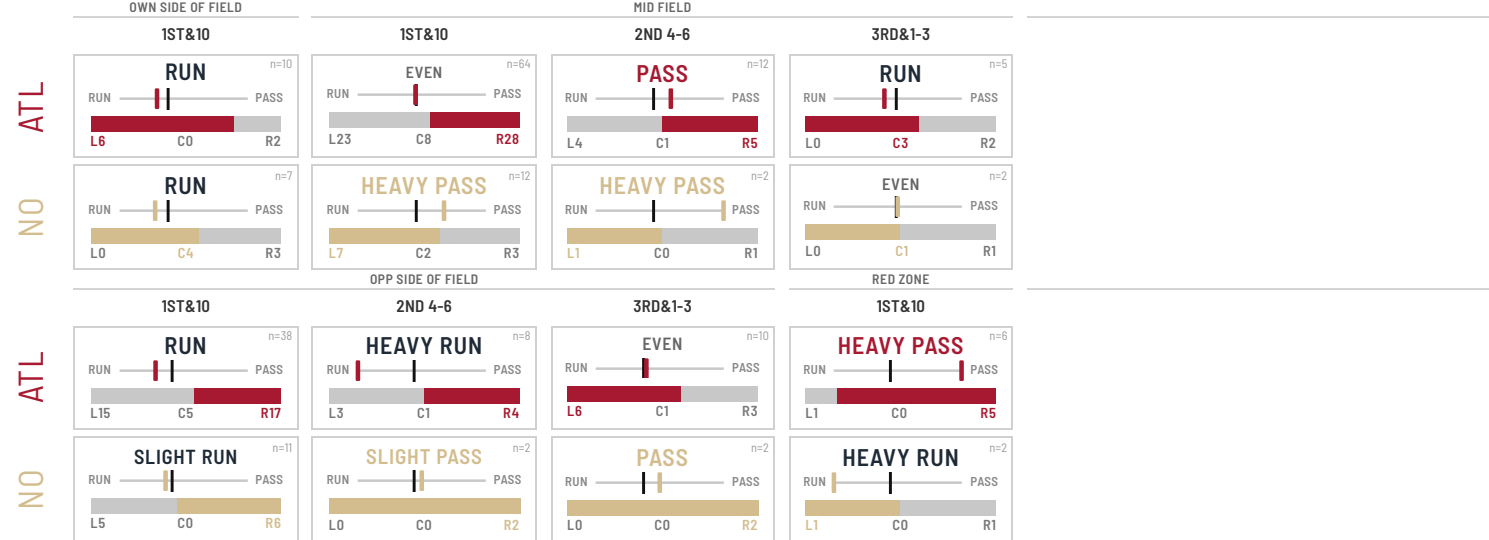


WHEN THE CALL ISN'T SCRIPTED

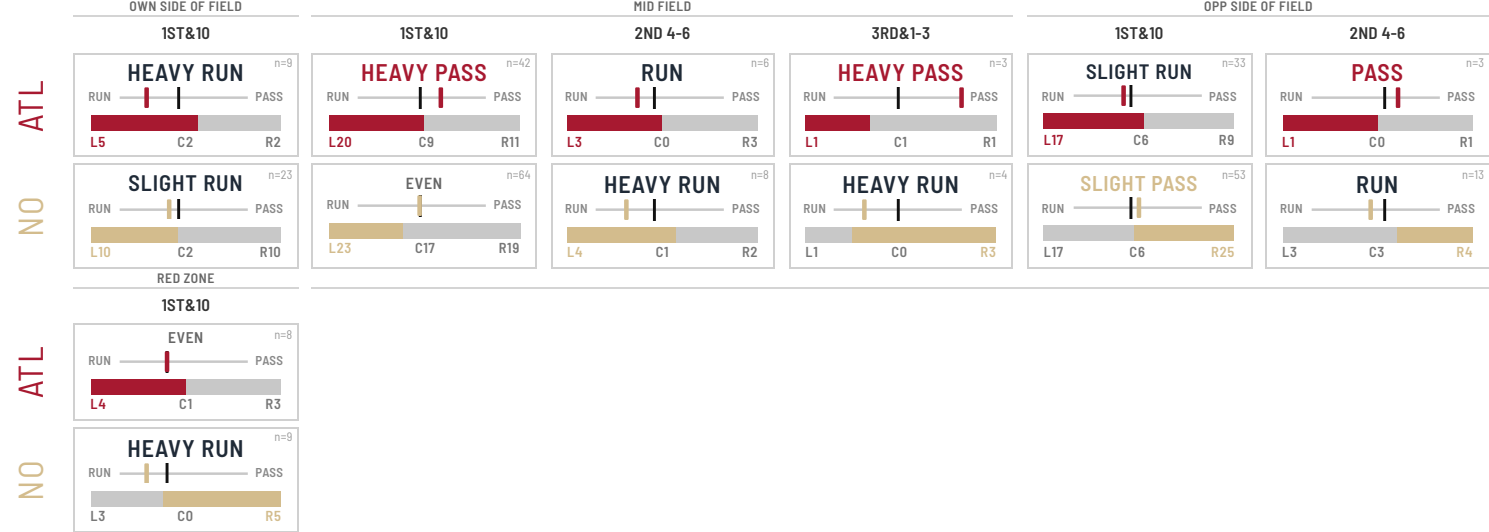
TIED



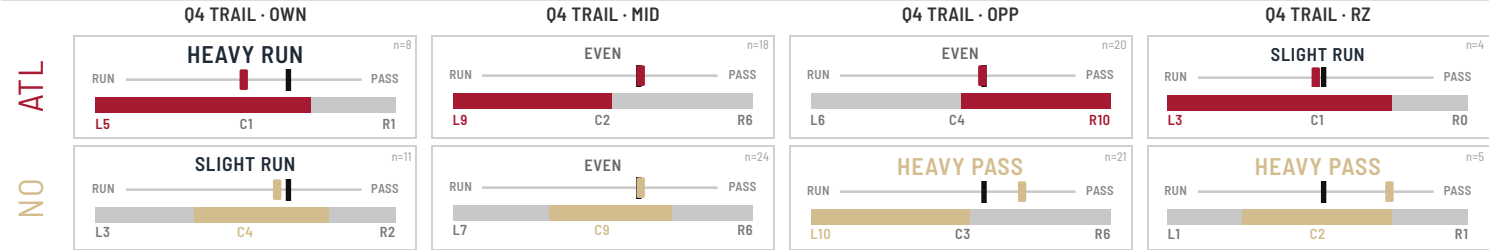
LEADING 1-8



TRAILING 1-8



TRAILING IN CLUTCH



4TH DOWN – GO OR KICK

GO FG · Toss-up 4ths only (league still mixes GO vs kick). 4th & 1 and 4th & 6+ are scripts. Inside the opponent 40. In 20 = inside the 20. 20-40 = opponent 20 to 40. Goal = inside the 10. Black tick = NFL go share.

