



Sunday, January 14, 2024

LOS ANGELES RAMS @ DETROIT LIONS

Game Time: 8:00pm ET

Selection: Los Angeles Rams +3 at Detroit Lions

Coach Dan Campbell made a huge mistake playing his starters in the meaningless week 18 win over the Viking. The Lions will now spend the week hoping their star rookie TE Sam LaPorta is healthy enough to help them win a second playoff victory since 1957. He wasn't the only injury as return specialist Kalif Ray was also ruled out during the game with a knee injury. Star DB Brian Branch was also banged up in the game but is expected to play.

LaPorta had 86 catches, an NFL record by a rookie tight end that surpassed Keith Jackson's 81 receptions in 1988. The second-round pick from Iowa had 889 yards receiving and 10 touchdowns. "You can't replace that chemistry," quarterback Jared Goff said in a post-game interview.

The Lions have been pretty inconsistent throughout this season despite their record. They lost games they should have won to the Bears and Packers late in the season, were blown out by the Ravens in an inexplicable performance, and lost at home to the Seahawks.

The Rams come in with the hot hand. No one expected them to be in the post season especially during this season when Matthew Stafford went down with an injury. However, since he has come back, the team has been firing on all cylinders. They have won four in a row since a thrilling OT loss to the Ravens. In fact, of the 5 NFC teams that faced the #1 Ravens this season, the Rams were the only team to give them a scare and that game was on the road in Baltimore.

Sean McVay has done an outstanding job coaching this team. He has developed a well-balanced offensive attack with RB Kyren Williams putting up over 1,100 yards on the season and sensational rookie WR Puka Nacua having a monster season with 105 receptions and an average of over 14 yards per catch. This doesn't bode well for the Lions who are ranked #26 overall in passing defense and #29 in red zone defense. Matthew Stafford would love nothing more than to light up his old team and win this road playoff game in the stadium he played in for 12 years. Take the L.A. Rams and the points.

If a single game you purchased does not win based on the point spread, you will receive the next equivalent game FREE OF CHARGE.

Any questions or comments can be sent to: wiz@wizardraceandsports.com

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