



AFC Championship

Sunday January 28, 2024

Kansas City Chiefs @ Baltimore Ravens

Game Time: 3:00pm ET

Pick: Baltimore -3

The Baltimore Ravens' defense is the first D in NFL history to lead the league in sacks (60), points allowed (16.5 ppg) and takeaways (31)! The Ravens' D is anchored by a stout defensive line that excels in both stopping the run and generating pressure on opposing quarterbacks. There is no defense in the league that is better suited to putting pressure on Patrick Mahomes and stymying his potent offense.

We know both teams are led by great quarterbacks. Baltimore's ground game is an edge in this game between these two elite AFC teams. With a potent running attack anchored by running backs Justice Hill and Gus Edwards, coupled with the play-making ability of Lamar Jackson, the Ravens boast one of the most formidable rushing units in the league. The Chiefs, ranked 19th on the season for rushing offense, will have trouble running the ball and that puts all the pressure on Mahomes. Without Tyreek Hill this year (1,799 yards for the Dolphins), the Chiefs are nearly the dominant team that fans have become accustomed to seeing.

Last week Ravens came out a little 'flat' off the two-week layoff. They hosted the red-hot Houston Texans led by superstar rookie C. J. Stroud and in the first half it looked like the game would go down to the wire. However, coach John Harbaugh made adjustments at halftime to stop the unexpected pressure Lamar Jackson had received in the 2nd quarter of the game. Baltimore came out in the second half and absolutely crushed a very good team in the Texans. The Ravens held Houston scoreless for both quarters and the Texans could only manage 38 yards on the ground for the entire game. It was the type of performance you see only from Championship-caliber teams.

The Chiefs, on the other hand, are off an emotional, fortunate win at Buffalo, their first road playoff game ever with Patrick Mahomes. Now, they are on the 2nd of two road games going in to face a much more talented and consistent team in the Ravens. We feel that this is the year that a new leader takes over in the AFC. Look for the Ravens to halt the Chiefs' drives and pull away in the 2nd half. Lay the points with Baltimore.

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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