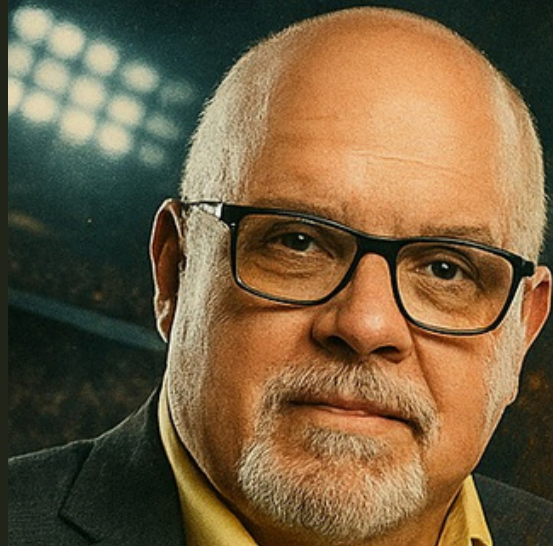


# GRIDIRON GOLD ILLUSTRATED



## PLAYOFF PUSH

4 teams vie for 3 playoff spots... who will be the odd team out?





## FOUR TEAMS, THREE TICKETS



Week 13 set the stage for a brutal final showdown as Travelers, Avengers Team, Appalachian Mud Dogs, and Fins In Low Places fight to claim the last three playoff spots.

### *A SPOILER AWAKENS. A CONTENDER STUMBLES.*



*Davante Adams helped seal the deal for The Bad Guys in Week 14.*

**The Bad Guys (153.88) def. The Wrecking Crew (120.24)**

For twelve long weeks, The Bad Guys have been the league's great enigma—dangerous enough to scare any opponent, unlucky enough to fall short again and again. Snake-bitten. Bruised. Frustratingly close.

In Week 13, all that rage finally detonated.

Facing The Wrecking Crew, a team clawing for the Shula Division title and fighting to stay in the bye-week conversation, The Bad Guys delivered their most complete performance of the year—an eruption that may have permanently altered the division race.

This wasn't just a win. This was a **statement**, the kind the league didn't see coming.

## THE BAD GUYS' TWO-HEADED ASSAULT

The momentum swing began where it always seems to for The Bad Guys—**Bijan Robinson**, who uncorked a monstrous **33.30 fantasy points** in his best performance of the season. Every run looked sharper, every touch came with more purpose. He was the engine, and The Bad Guys rode him without hesitation.

And right behind him came second year revelation **Drake Maye**, who dropped **20.48 points** with the kind of poise The Bad Guys desperately needed. His 282 yards and pair of passing touchdowns stabilized the offense and set the tone early. For a team that's dealt with more heartbreak than highlight, Maye's performance felt like overdue validation.

Together, they built the kind of cushion The Bad Guys haven't enjoyed all year. Finally, the breaks fell their way. Finally, the production matched the promise.

## THE CREW FIGHTS—BUT FALTERS

The Wrecking Crew didn't roll over. They got massive work from **Jacoby Brissett** (23.64) (starting in place of an injured Jayden Daniels) who threw for 301 yards and two touchdowns in a gritty performance that kept them afloat.

And **Kyren Williams** (13.20) once again proved to be one of the most dependable weapons in fantasy football—ripping off 72 rushing yards and a score. When Williams started heating up, it felt like the Crew were building toward another trademark comeback.

But they simply couldn't match the avalanche from The Bad Guys. Every time the Crew threatened, The Bad Guys answered louder.

## A LOSS WITH MASSIVE CONSEQUENCES

The Wrecking Crew walk away from Week 13 with more than a loss—they walk away with a potential division title slipping through their fingers.

At 9–4, they remain in the hunt, but the path is narrow. Dragon Lady's victory over Fins in Low Places puts her in full control of the Shula Division, and now the Crew enter Week 14 needing both a win **and** help.

One misstep might have cost them a banner.

## THE BAD GUYS: THE LEAGUE'S NEWEST VILLAIN?

Every year, one team with no playoff path finds new purpose as the season closes: **Become the spoiler**. Make somebody else miserable. Burn their plans to ash.

The Bad Guys have officially embraced that role.

After stunning The Wrecking Crew, they now finish the year against the Appalachian Mud Dogs—a 7–6 team fighting for its playoff life. And suddenly, the storyline writes itself:

**Can The Bad Guys destroy another dream? Can they ruin the Mud Dogs' season the same way they may have ruined The Crew's?**

This is their Super Bowl now. And after Week 13, they look more than capable.

## THE WRECKING CREW'S PATH FORWARD

The Crew aren't dead—not even close. But the pressure is suffocating.

They now head into Week 14 against Puds' Playmakers in a game they *must* win to maintain their outside shot at the Shula Division crown. And even then, their fate may rest in the hands of the Travelers, who would need to upset Dragon Lady for the Crew to reclaim the throne.

It's a stressful place to be for a team that once controlled its destiny. Week 14 isn't just another matchup. It's their final plea for redemption.

## FINAL TAKEAWAY

The Bad Guys have been knocked around all year. They've lost close games, battled injuries, and lived in the shadow of "what could've been." But in Week 13, they found their moment—shocking a high-powered contender and reshaping the Shula Division race with one devastating punch.

The Wrecking Crew now teeter on the edge. The Bad Guys? They're smiling, cigar lit, ready to ruin someone else's week next.

**Spoiler season has officially begun.**

## DRAGON'S ASCENT: THE SHULA THRONE CHANGES HANDS AGAIN



*Dragon Lady moves within striking distance of the #1 seed*

## Dragon Lady (141.86) def. Fins In Low Places (112.54)

Dragon Lady didn't just win in Week 13—she seized control of the Shula Division with the kind of authority you expect from a team eyeing the throne. Her 141.86–112.54 victory over Fins in Low Places was more than a scoreboard separation. It was a shift in the league's power structure, punctuated by explosive performances when the stakes were at their highest.

For Dragon Lady, the storyline begins with two pillars of her roster rising at the exact moment she needed it. **Nico Collins erupted for 21.50 points**, shredding Indianapolis with a mix of precision and swagger, while **De'Von Achane** unleashed one of the purest fantasy detonations of Week 13—**22.40 points** on just 11 carries, turning every touch into a highlight. Together, they set the tone: this was a team refusing to blink with the division title in reach.

Meanwhile, **Baker Mayfield** delivered a steady **14.46**, and **Jahmyr Gibbs** chipped in **11.60**, giving Dragon Lady the support she needed to press the advantage. But it was her defense—**Seattle scoring a monstrous 30.00**—that slammed the door shut and reminded the league that even her “secondary” pieces play like primary weapons.

On the other sideline, Fins in Low Places fought, but the punches didn't land hard enough. **Jared Goff** was sharp with **20.64 points**, and **Jonathan Taylor** grinded out **15.10**, but the receiving corps simply didn't match the moment. **Michael Wilson** could muster only **6.60**, **Rico Dowdle** found just **9.90**, and despite **Trey McBride's** strong **22.20**, the Fins never felt like they had the firepower to match Dragon Lady's surge.

And that's the story of the matchup—Dragon Lady ascending as Fins drift.

But the bigger picture? That's where the real drama lives.

Because the moment The Wrecking Crew collapsed against The Bad Guys, everything changed.

Dragon Lady didn't just win. She **took the Shula Division lead** outright.

Now she stands one game away from locking down:

• The **Shula Division title** • The **#1 overall seed** • And the coveted **first-round bye**

All she has to do is defeat the Travelers in Week 14. A win, and she finishes the regular season on top of the entire league.

Fins in Low Places, meanwhile, aren't in freefall—but they are officially in danger. At **8–5**, they're still atop the Lombardi division, still a strong contender, still statistically favored to make the playoffs... but the grip isn't as tight as it once was. The path is no longer guaranteed.

Week 14 hands them a matchup that looks much better for survival: **a 4–9 DEM WALLZ squad**, a team that fought admirably through injuries but has nothing left to play for but pride. It's a game the Fins *should* win. A game they *must* win.

Because if results break the wrong way? If the Mud Dogs win... If the Avengers win... If the Travelers pull the upset...

Suddenly, Fins in Low Places could be staring down a scenario nobody expected six weeks ago:

**Missing the playoffs entirely.**

Dragon Lady rises. Fins wobble but live to fight another week. And Week 14 becomes a battlefield where everything—from the #1 seed to the final playoff spot—hangs in the balance.



## DBARBER DISMANTLES 1024 BANDITS



*A.J. Brown scores his 2nd TD as DBarber dismantles the Gibbs Division champs.*

### **DBarber (135.16) def. 1024 Bandits (59.84)**

DBarber has been searching all season for a signature win—something loud enough, sharp enough, and emphatic enough to remind the league that spoilers have teeth. In Week 13, he didn't just find it. He delivered it in full, carving up the 1024 Bandits 135.16 to 59.84 in one of the most lopsided shockers of 2025.

This wasn't a lucky punch. It was a systematic dismantling.

Jordan Love (25.76) set the tone early, carving up Detroit and finally looking like the QB Daniel has been waiting on. A.J. Brown detonated for **38.20**, ripping through Chicago like it was a personal grudge match. Even the depth pieces — TreVeyon Henderson (11.60), Kayshon Boutte (13.50), and the Patriots' defense (11.00) — came alive at the exact moment DBarber needed them.

This was the team Daniel thought he drafted. This was the punch they were supposed to land in September. It just took three months to sharpen the blade.

Meanwhile, the Bandits delivered their worst performance of the season—at the worst possible time.

Justin Herbert sputtered to **13.84**. Zay Flowers barely registered (**0.60**). Khalil Shakir gave just **1.60**. And the soul-crushing blow came from Amon-Ra St. Brown, who scored zero points before exiting with an ankle injury. A commander of consistency all year, the Sun God flickered—and the entire Bandits engine collapsed around him.

Not even Bucky Irving (16.10) or George Kittle (10.70) could slow the freefall. For a team that clinched the Gibbs Division early, this was a harsh reminder of how quickly momentum can vanish when the stars go dark.

The Bandits now stumble into Week 14 against an Avengers Team fighting for postseason footing—and Mario has to hope this meltdown was an outlier, not an omen.

DBarber, meanwhile, rides into the season finale with swagger and a chance to end the season on a two-week heater against Hobbton. He can't make the playoffs. But he can absolutely make sure someone else's winter gets colder.

And right now? This version of DBarber looks more than capable of ruining one more Sunday.

## MUD DOGS KEEP THE PLAYOFF DOOR OPEN



*With playoffs on the line, the Mud Dogs answer the call while Hobbton fades into Week 14.*

### Appalachian Mud Dogs (127.74) def. Hobbton (75.22)

The Appalachian Mud Dogs stepped into Week 13 knowing exactly what was at stake: survive, win, and stay in the hunt for one of the final three playoff spots. And they did more than survive. They controlled every inch of their matchup, rolling past Hobbton 127.74 to 75.22 in a performance that looked every bit like a team refusing to let its season end quietly.

Bo Nix lit the fuse early with a strong 20.44 points, delivering the steady quarterback play Appalachian desperately needed. But the avalanche came from the wideouts. CeeDee Lamb detonated for **27.20 points**, looking unstoppable as he shredded Kansas City. Puka Nacua followed with 13.20, while Derrick Henry (17.40) bulldozed his way through Cincinnati like the late-season monster he always becomes.

James Cook added 21.70, carving up Pittsburgh with chunk plays and a receiving score that pushed the game fully out of reach. By the time Cameron Dicker and the Colts defense wrapped up their duties, the Mud Dogs had built a towering lead—one that sent a very loud message to the rest of the playoff bubble.

On the other sideline, Hobbton simply had no oxygen. Josh Allen's 17.72 was their only real spark, as the rest of the roster collapsed under tough matchups and underwhelming production. Jaxon Smith-Njigba struggled (4.30). Stefon Diggs disappeared again (5.60). Breece Hall and Chase Brown delivered modest output, but nowhere near enough to keep this one competitive.

And that's how Hobbton limps into Week 14—bruised, battered, and now staring down a DBarber team coming off the biggest upset of their season, fresh from knocking off the Gibbs Division champion 1024 Bandits. If things go south again, Hobbton may close the year riding a brutal two-game skid.

For Appalachian Mud Dogs, though? Everything is still in front of them.

At 7-6, the Mud Dogs are one of **four teams chasing three playoff spots**, and their season now funnels into a massive Week 14 collision with the Bad Guys—fresh off shocking The Wrecking Crew and playing their best football all year. If the Mud Dogs win, they likely punch their ticket. If they don't... they'll be the team left standing when the music stops.

One game left. One shot to survive. And the Mud Dogs just proved they're still very much alive.

## AVENGERS REFUSE TO FALL TO UPSET MINDED PUD'S PLAYMAKERS



**A razor-thin 99–90 escape keeps Avengers Team playoff hopes alive.**

### **Avengers Team (99.00) def. Pud's Playmakers (90.80)**

When the dust settled on Week 13, one truth echoed across the league: the Avengers aren't going quietly.

This wasn't a blowout, a cruise-control win, or a statement of dominance. It was a knife-edge scrap — a nine-point survival march that kept the Avengers firmly in the four-team race for the final three playoff spots. And for a squad that's ridden waves of inconsistency all season, *this* was the kind of gritty, late-season win that keeps hope alive.

Dak Prescott set the tone early with 24.60 points, firing the engine that carried the Avengers' offense. But the real lifeline came from Chris Olave (14.70) and Christian McCaffrey (17.40), who delivered the exact kind of "don't-let-go" performances this team needed with the season on the line.

Even so, this matchup refused to tilt one way. The Playmakers clawed back again and again. Jalen Hurts' 17.30 kept them in striking distance, and Travis Kelce (15.50) tried to drag the underdog squad toward one of the most shocking upsets of the season. But for every push Pud's made, the Avengers found just enough resistance.

The final minutes felt like a thriller — a fringe playoff team hanging by a thread, a last-place spoiler throwing haymakers — until the math finally stopped moving and the Avengers' 99.00 became a lifeline instead of a tombstone.

And now? The Avengers have one more gate to break down.



**Week 14: Avengers Team vs. 1024 Bandits** The Gibbs Division champs just got stunned by DBarber and suddenly look mortal, beatable, maybe even shaken. If the Avengers ever wanted a chance to steal their way into January football, this is the moment. Win, and pressure shifts on every side. Lose... and the playoff door slams shut.

**Meanwhile, Pud's Playmakers...** They walk into a buzzsaw — a furious Wrecking Crew squad coming off a painful, season-altering loss to the Bad Guys. Pud's will need the performance of their lives to avoid being the rebound victim from a contender looking to salvage its divisional dreams.

Week 13 gave the Avengers life. Week 14 will decide whether they can hold on to it.

## PLAYOFF ROAD STAYS OPEN FOR TRAVELERS



Travelers keep their playoff hopes alive with a decisive win, setting up a high stakes showdown with Dragon Lady in Week 14.

### Travelers (140.74) def. Dem Wallz (82.44)

The Travelers walked into Week 13 knowing exactly what was at stake: win, or risk watching the playoff door slam shut in their faces. Against a Dem Wallz squad that has struggled to find rhythm all season, Rudy's team didn't hesitate—they took control, held it, and never looked back.

Patrick Mahomes lit the fuse early with a **scorching 29.44 points**, slicing up the Dallas defense and reminding everyone why he's still a fantasy cheat code when the lights shine bright. Rome Odunze didn't do much (just **2.80 points**), but second-year wideout **Ladd McConkey delivered big** with **13.90**, giving the Travelers the steady WR production they needed. The real punch came from the backfield: **Ashton Jeanty (12.10)** ran with purpose, and **D'Andre Swift (23.80)** exploded for one of his signature "where has this been all year?" performances.

And then came Brock Bowers—**22.30 points** of pure tight end dominance. Wallz couldn't answer it, couldn't slow it, couldn't survive it.

From start to finish, the Travelers played like a team refusing to die, stacking up **140.74 points** and planting their flag firmly in the playoff race.

Dem Wallz, meanwhile, never found their footing. Lamar Jackson's **7.54** points was a backbreaker, Justin Jefferson managed only **2.40**, and outside of Wan'Dale Robinson's pedestrian **10.40**, there

were no sparks. Chanel's team showed heart, but not enough firepower, scoring only **82.44** points and sliding toward a tough Week 14 matchup with Fins In Low Places.

For the Travelers, though, everything now funnels into one final proving ground: **Week 14 vs. Dragon Lady — the Shula division leader, the #1 seed contender, and the tallest mountain left to climb.**

Win, and they likely punch their playoff ticket. Lose, and the crowded field behind them gets a whole lot louder.

Week 13 kept the dream alive. Week 14 decides everything.



# THE FINAL GAUNTLET



***Four Teams. Three Spots. One Week to Survive the Chaos.***

There's an old saying in football: *You can dominate for three months, but your season can still hinge on three hours.* Welcome to Week 14 in Gridiron Gold — a week where logic goes to die, point totals suddenly matter more than pride, and one of the league's most consistent contenders might actually be on the verge of watching the postseason from home.

This wasn't supposed to happen. Not to **Fins In Low Places** — a team that opened the year as a juggernaut, bulldozed through midseason, rattled off fireworks on offense, and looked like the kind of franchise that would sleepwalk into a first-round bye. But fantasy football is less a straight line and more an erratic electrocardiogram. A single misstep becomes an existential crisis, and now the Fins find themselves tangled in a four-team pileup for three playoff spots.

And the worst part? They're barely in control and could actually miss the playoffs.

With one week left, four franchises — each scrappier, louder, and more chaotic than the next — are clinging to postseason dreams. **Avengers Team. Travelers. Appalachian Mud Dogs. Fins In Low Places.** Three will live. One will die. And the way the standings have aligned, the wrong loss at the wrong moment could send a top-tier team spiraling.

This is the kind of chaos Gridiron Gold was built for.

## THE AVENGERS TEAM (8–5)

***A Win = Salvation. A Loss = Anxiety.***

It's fitting that Avengers Team — a franchise that has reinvented itself at least three times this season — enters Week 14 in the most appropriately superheroic position: fate rests entirely in their own hands.

Beat **1024 Bandits**, and they're in. No appeals. No tiebreaker spreadsheets. No late-night score corrections. Their 9–5 finish would slam the playoff door shut on Mud Dogs, Travelers, and even Fins in certain scenarios. It's the cleanest path any of the four contenders have.

But lose?

*Oh, boy.*

A loss drops Avengers to **8–6**, dropping them into the weakest part of the playoff riptide. They would then need at least one of these things to break their way:

- Travelers losing to Dragon Lady
- Mud Dogs losing to Hobbton
- Fins losing to DEM WALLZ
- A favorable point-total tiebreaker (which is not guaranteed)

This is how it works in Week 14 — you go from “confident playoff team” to “praying for chaos” in less than four quarters.

Avengers have controlled their own destiny all season. Now they must finish the job.

## THE TRAVELERS (8–5)

### *From 1–4 to the Brink of Glory.*

The Travelers deserve their own documentary. Start 1–4. Get written off by basically everyone. Lose heartbreakers. Win nail-biters. Survive shootouts. Become the league’s version of the zombie franchise — never dead, never gone, always crawling back toward relevance.

And now? They’re one win away from clinching a playoff berth.

The only problem: Their opponent is *Dragon Lady*, the current No. 1 seed and the league’s most complete roster.

If Travelers win:

- They’re in at **9–5**
- They could finish as high as the No. 5 seed
- They validate one of the great midseason turnarounds in league history

If they lose:

- They fall to **8–6**, joining Avengers and Mud Dogs in a mosh pit of desperation
- They could be eliminated if Avengers and Mud Dogs both win
- Their entire season becomes dependent on DEM WALLZ or Hobbton pulling off miracles

Travelers have climbed out of every grave they’ve fallen into this season.

Now they just have to escape one final coffin.

## FINS IN LOW PLACES (8–5)

### *The Juggernaut That Could Actually Miss the Dance.*

This storyline makes no sense — and that’s exactly why fantasy football is perfect.

The Fins have spent most of 2025 terrifying opponents. They’ve posted blowouts. They’ve put up signature victories. They’ve won shootouts and controlled time of possession. They’ve been, by almost every metric, a top-tier contender.



And yet... they enter Week 14 in the most precarious position of the entire playoff race.

If the Fins win against **DEM WALLZ**, they survive. Not gracefully. Not confidently. But they survive and advance to the postseason.

But if they lose?

Cue the danger klaxons.

An 8–6 Fins team becomes immensely vulnerable:

- If Avengers win → Avengers leapfrog them
- If Travelers win → Travelers leapfrog them
- If Mud Dogs win (becoming 8–6) → tiebreakers come into play
- If ALL three happen → the Fins could be the odd team out

It's the fantasy equivalent of dominating for 15 minutes in a UFC title fight and getting knocked out cold in the final 30 seconds.

The Fins are teetering — and the drop is real.

## THE APPALACHIAN MUD DOGS (7–6)

### ***Bubble Team With Bite — Facing the League's Most Unpredictable Spoiler.***

No team in the playoff hunt feels more dangerous — or more stressed — than the Appalachian Mud Dogs. The only team of the four who has won the league title in a previous year (2023).

For two straight weeks, they've surged when it mattered, clawing their way back into relevance at 7–6. But Week 14 doesn't give them the luxury of a soft landing. Instead, they draw **The Bad Guys**, the league's most volatile spoiler and fresh off the kind of seismic upset that shakes an entire division.

Just seven days ago, The Bad Guys stunned **The Wrecking Crew**, dropping 153.88 points — a season-shifting performance that may have cost the Crew the Shula Division title and altered the entire bye-week race. They didn't just win. They detonated expectations. And now they roll into Week 14 with nothing to lose and every reason to play chaos agent again.

Which makes the Mud Dogs' situation brutally simple:

If Mud Dogs win → They reach **8–6**, vault back into playoff legitimacy, and force the three other contenders to sweat out math, matchups, and margin. This is their clearest and strongest path.

If Mud Dogs lose → They're done. Full stop. No tiebreaker miracles. No scoreboard luck. Their season ends immediately.

This matchup isn't a formality — it's a landmine. The Bad Guys are exactly the type of unhinged late-season opponent that ruins dreams. They have the firepower to score 150+ on any given week, the confidence from toppling a giant, and zero pressure weighing them down.

For the Mud Dogs, Week 14 isn't just a must-win. It's a survival test against the league's most dangerous spoiler.

And if they pass it? They become a team nobody will want to face in January.

# THE CHAOS WEB

## *How Every Result Can Reshape the Entire Picture.*

This is not four isolated games. This is a living, breathing ecosystem — every touchdown, every fumble, every missed kick in Week 14 ripples outward into the standings.

Here's how quickly things can turn:

- Fins win → Fins are in. Mud Dogs likely need help
- Fins lose → the playoff floor cracks open
- Avengers lose → they become vulnerable to all three teams
- Travelers win → the mud-thick Wild Card race suddenly thins
- Mud Dogs win → they start elbowing for entry
- Mud Dogs lose → the bubble shrinks instantly
- Avengers win → pressure shifts entirely to Fins and Travelers

This is why Week 14 feels less like a schedule and more like controlled chaos.

It's not about who's "better." It's about who survives the math.

## THE FINAL WORD

Week 14 doesn't offer comfort. It offers clarity — brutal, chaotic, season-defining clarity.

Four teams walk in with a chance. Only three walk out with a ticket to the postseason.

And the cruel twist? The team that's been one of the league's best — maybe even the *second-best* team for most of 2025 — might be the one checking out early.

The last week of the season always reveals the truth. But in Gridiron Gold, the truth isn't gentle. It's earned.