

2022 AFC West Futures Betting Guide

This document breaks down the AFC West for 2022. I have spent countless hours studying the tape, predicting the impact of changes, and running simulations to accurately predict each team's range of outcomes in 2022. I do not use the market to value the teams; this is a completely independent exercise. To maximize its value, let me briefly explain some of the key numbers I use:

Adjusted 2021 Wins

11.15

Adjusted Wins represent how many regular season games, on average, the team should have won in 2021 based purely on Effectiveness, if facing an average schedule. It factors in strength of schedule, playoff performance, and hidden schedule factors, but does not account for the team's own injuries. In other words, I don't guess how good a team *would have been* if healthy. I just tell you how good the team really was on the year.

Projected Wins represents how many regular season games the team should win, on average, in 2022 against its actual schedule. To get this number, I used last year's Effectiveness Ratings as a baseline, then adjusted for changes in health, roster, and situation. From there, I ran simulations of the schedule using my numbers (which obviously factors in actual strength of schedule) to determine the average number of wins.

Projected 2022 Wins

10.64

Betting Cheatsheet

	Win Total (Over)
Best Odds	10 (+100) (DK)
True Odds	-139
Value	Yes (Medium)

The **Betting Cheatsheet** provides true value, based on my simulations, of every Season Win Total, Division, and Super Bowl bet. I used the best available odds (**Best odds**) from a set of five books: Draftkings (DK), FanDuel (FD), Circa, Caesar's (CZ), and BetMGM (MGM). If you find better odds, great!

True odds represents the true probability of the bet translated to odds. So, my price in the example for Over 10 Wins would be -139. That means the +100 price has value, because -159 represents 58.2% implied odds and +100 represents 50% implied odds.

But you don't need to do the math yourself, because I tell you in the **Value** row whether the bet has value. My confidence level - on the range from Very Low to Very High - factors in variance and uncertainty, as well as the anticipated true odds. Best bets for each team are highlighted in green.

Other Contents:

This PDF also contains links to my in-depth 2021 Team Studies for each team, breaking down performance after watching every snap of every game. At the end, I project out how I think the division could finish, along with any relevant playoff results. Finally, I include **every Futures bet I've placed** relevant to AFC East teams so you can see how my process has led to +EV bets already.

Los Angeles Chargers

2022 Season Preview

2021 Performance

The Numbers

Record: 9-8
(Missed Playoffs)
Rank: 11th
Offense: 5th
Defense: 25th

Context

- Faced 19th-most difficult schedule of defenses.
- Faced 14th-most difficult schedule of offenses.
- Opponents ranked 16th in relative strength due to Covid/injury absences.

Adjusted 2021 Wins

9.97

[View Full 2021 LAC Team Study](#)

2022 Projection

Key Offseason Changes

- Substantially improved the defense with EDGE Khalil Mack, CB J.C. Jackson, EDGE Kyle Van Noy, CB Bryce Callahan, and more.
- Drafted G Zion Johnson.

Projected 2022 Wins

10.81

Defining Narrative

The Chargers already had a championship-caliber offense. Justin Herbert makes clutch throws look easy and has the physical tools to be an elite NFL quarterback if he can continue to improve in the mental aspects of the game. With a smart and aggressive head coach, this team just needed a defense. Well, no team in recent memory has improved on defense more than the Chargers this season. Khalil Mack, Kyle Van Noy, J.C. Jackson, and Bryce Callahan join several former Staley defenders in what should lead to a dramatic improvement. With an aggressive and smart head coach who focused on culture-building last year, the sky is the limit for this team if they stay healthy and gel from day one.

Betting Cheatsheet

	Win Total (Over)	Win Total (Under)	Division	Super Bowl
Best Odds	10 (-130) (CZ)	10 (+115) (DK)	+250 (MGM/CZ)	+1600 (FD/CZ/MGM)
True Odds	-176	+176	+179	+1333
Value	Yes (Medium)	None	Yes (Medium)	Yes (Medium)

Kansas City Chiefs

2022 Season Preview

2021 Performance

The Numbers

Record: **14-6 (12-5)**
 (Lost AFC Champ.)
 Rank: **1st**
 Offense: **1st**
 Defense: **22nd**

Context

- Faced **most difficult** schedule of defenses.
- Faced **8th-most difficult** schedule of offenses.
- Opponents ranked **27th in relative strength** due to Covid/injury absences.

Adjusted 2021 Wins

12.97

[View Full 2021 KC Team Study](#)

2022 Projection

Key Offseason Changes

- Replaced WR Tyreek Hill with Juju Smith-Schuster, Marquez Valdes-Scantling, and rookie Skyy Moore.
- Lost S Tyrann Mathieu, CB Charvarius Ward, and LB Melvin Ingram.
- Drafted CB Trent McDuffie and DE George Karlaftis.

Projected 2022 Wins

10.42

Defining Narrative

There is no reason to believe the Chiefs offense will drop off dramatically without Tyreek Hill, because Patrick Mahomes is capable of elevating the talent around him and Andy Reid has always maximized his team's offenses. The big play was already taken away in 2021 and the Chiefs adapted. However, the combination of material losses on defense and a brutal projected schedule mean the margin for error is slim and they cannot take any regular season games lightly if they want to host their fifth consecutive AFC Championship game. This will be Mahomes' toughest test as a quarterback, but he is always a good bet. If they can overcome their gauntlet of a schedule, they have legitimate Super Bowl chops.

Betting Cheatsheet

	Win Total (Over)	Win Total (Under)	Division	Super Bowl
Best Odds	10.5 (-115) (DK/FD/MGM/CZ)	10.5 (+110) (Circa)	+175 (DK/CZ)	+1100 (CZ)
True Odds	+104	-104	+189	+800
Value	None	Yes (Very Low)	None	Yes (Medium)

Denver Broncos

2022 Season Preview

2021 Performance

The Numbers

Record: 7-10
(Missed Playoffs)
Rank: 23rd
Offense: 23rd
Defense: 19th

Context

- Faced 32nd-most difficult schedule of defenses.
- Faced 5th-most difficult schedule of offenses.
- Opponents ranked 7th in relative strength due to Covid/injury absences.

Adjusted 2021 Wins

6.99

[View Full 2021 DEN Team Study](#)

2022 Projection

Key Offseason Changes

- Replaced QBs Teddy Bridgewater and Drew Lock with Russell Wilson.
- Replaced HC Vic Fangio with Nathaniel Hackett.
- Added DE Randy Gregory and replaced CB Kyle Fuller with K'Waun Williams.

Projected 2022 Wins

9.23

Defining Narrative

In 2020, Tom Brady joined a talented Bucs squad and led them to a Super Bowl victory. In 2021, Matthew Stafford did the same with the Rams. The Broncos are hoping to make it three years in a row after obtaining Russell Wilson, a much needed high-quality quarterback. But this narrative deserves healthy skepticism. Both the Bucs and the Rams had head coaches who had established strong offensive schemes and just needed the quarterback to make it all work. Both teams had elite defenses. The Broncos are coming off a messy season and just fired their head coach. This experiment should take time to develop. But the talent is there for them to make a playoff run if they can emerge from a brutal division.

Betting Cheatsheet

	Win Total (Over)	Win Total (Under)	Division	Super Bowl
Best Odds	10 (+110) (Circa)	10 (+100) (DK)	+320 (Circa)	+2200 (Circa)
True Odds	+158	-158	+404	+2000
Value	None	Yes (Medium)	None	Yes (Very Low)

Las Vegas Raiders

2022 Season Preview

2021 Performance

The Numbers

Record: **10-8 (10-7)**
 (Lost in Wildcard)
 Rank: **13th**
 Offense: **14th**
 Defense: **11th**

Context

- Faced **25th-most difficult** schedule of defenses.
- Faced **6th-most difficult** schedule of offenses.
- Opponents ranked **29th in relative strength** due to Covid/injury absences.

Adjusted 2021 Wins

9.43

[View Full 2021 LV Team Study](#)

2022 Projection

Key Offseason Changes

- Replaced interim HC Rich Bisaccia with Josh McDaniels.
- Replaced WR Bryan Edwards with Davante Adams.
- Obtained CB Rock Ya-Sin and DE Chandler Jones, giving up DE Yannick Ngakoue.

Projected 2022 Wins

8.22

Defining Narrative

The Raiders had to make a splash to try to keep up with their division rivals, so they reunited Carr with his college wide receiver Davante Adams. It's been years since Carr has had a top receiver and he has never had a receiver of Adams' caliber. But so much of the Raiders' success last year resulted from creative scheming to offset a weak offensive line, so Josh McDaniels will need to similarly maximize the talent on this team. Defensively, the Raiders played well in 2021 but showed vulnerability in coverage, an area they failed to really address. I worry the big splash will be wasted in a highly competitive division. But week to week, the Raiders will be a tough out, just like they were last year.

Betting Cheatsheet

	Win Total (Over)	Win Total (Under)	Division	Super Bowl
Best Odds	8.5 (+100) (CZ)	8.5 (+110) (CZ)	+740 (Circa)	+4000 (FD/DK/MGM)
True Odds	+122	-122	+930	+10000
Value	None	Yes (Low)	None	None

2022 AFC West Preview and Placed Bets



Final Standings Prediction

Team	Record	Playoff Result
LAC	12-5	Loss in Div. Round
KC	11-6	Loss in AFCCG
DEN	9-8	Miss Playoffs
LV	8-9	Miss Playoffs

Official SharpClarke Futures

Bet	Odds	Units	Date Placed	CLV*
LAC to Win Super Bowl	+2500	0.2	2.26.22 (MGM)	+2.0%
LAC O 10 Wins	-110	2	5.3.22 (FD)	+4.1%
DEN to Miss Playoffs	+145	1.5	5.12.22 (CZ)	+0.9%
P. Mahomes MVP	+900	0.3	5.22.22 (DK)	+0.0%
KC to Win Super Bowl	+1000	0.2	6.22.22 (DK)	+0.0%

*CLV is measured here in terms of the change in implied win probability using the current line at the book where I placed the bet.

For access to all my NFL betting content through the 2022 season, including alerts for every bet (and much more), get the Betting package on 4for4.com, using the promo code SharpClarke for 10% off:

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