

# 2022 AFC North Futures Betting Guide



This document breaks down the AFC North 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)
<b>Best Odds</b>	10 (+100) (DK)
<b>True Odds</b>	-139
<b>Value</b>	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.

# Baltimore Ravens

## 2022 Season Preview

### 2021 Performance

#### The Numbers

Record: 8-9  
(Missed Playoffs)  
Rank: 14th  
Offense: 12th  
Defense: 15th

#### Context

- Faced 7th-most difficult schedule of defenses.
- Faced 15th-most difficult schedule of offenses.
- Opponents ranked 11th in relative strength due to Covid/injury absences.

#### Adjusted 2021 Wins

9.40

[View Full 2021 BAL Team Study](#)

### 2022 Projection

#### Key Offseason Changes

- Added S Marcus Williams, DT Michael Pierce, and CB Kyle Fuller.
- Drafted S Kyle Hamilton, C Tyler Linderbaum, and LB David Ojabo.
- Traded WR Marquise Brown.
- Replaced DC Wink Martingale with Mike Macdonald.

#### Projected 2022 Wins

10.55

### Defining Narrative

Lamar Jackson continues to divide fans and analysts with ample evidence for both his truthers and detractors to make their case. His fans want the Ravens to surround him with receiving talent so he can prove his passing chops, but it's a tough sell in a run-heavy offense and Marquise Brown wanted out. With Dobbins and Edwards returning, expect the Ravens to lean heavily on the run, which will benefit from an improved defense that should help them hold leads. But you need more than a run game to make a deep playoff run, so unless Lamar Jackson takes a step forward in pure passing situations, this team will likely once again perform better in the regular season than in the playoffs.

### Betting Cheatsheet

	Win Total (Over)	Win Total (Under)	Division	Super Bowl
<b>Best Odds</b>	9.5 (-145) (CZ)	10.5 (-120) (FD)	+160 (FD)	+2200 (CZ)
<b>True Odds</b>	-182	+107	+124	+2500
<b>Value</b>	Yes (Low)	None	Yes (Medium)	None

# Cincinnati Bengals

## 2022 Season Preview

### 2021 Performance

#### The Numbers

Record: **13-8 (10-7)**  
 (Lost Super Bowl)  
 Rank: **15th**  
 Offense: **16th**  
 Defense: **10th**

#### Context

- Faced **24th-most difficult** schedule of defenses.
- Faced **7th-most difficult** schedule of offenses.
- Opponents ranked **22nd in relative strength** due to Covid/injury absences.

#### Adjusted 2021 Wins

**9.34**

[View Full 2021 CIN Team Study](#)

### 2022 Projection

#### Key Offseason Changes

- Bolstered the offensive line with C Ted Karras, G Alex Cappa, and T La'el Collins.
- Replaced TE C.J. Uzomah with Hayden Hurst.
- Lost DT Larry Ogunjobi and trying to resolve contract issues with S Jessie Bates.

#### Projected 2022 Wins

**9.70**

### Defining Narrative

The Bengals were close to an average team last year yet nearly won the Super Bowl. This high-profile playoff run caught the attention of bettors, who want nothing more than to fade the "overrated" Bengals. But they addressed their number one weakness with significant upgrades to the offensive line. They also progressively improved over the season, leaning into early down passing as Burrow got comfortable. They pass well and defend explosive plays. That's how you win in the NFL. With better protection, Burrow's accuracy and his talented receivers should shine once again. If healthy, this team should overcome a more difficult schedule and still make the playoffs even in a crowded AFC.

### Betting Cheatsheet

	Win Total (Over)	Win Total (Under)	Division	Super Bowl
<b>Best Odds</b>	9.5 (-105) (Circa)	9.5 (+115) (CZ)	+180 (DK/FD/MGM/CZ)	+2200 (Circa/DK/CZ/FD)
<b>True Odds</b>	-121	+121	+225	+2105
<b>Value</b>	Yes (Low)	None	None	Yes (Low)



# Cleveland Browns

## 2022 Season Preview

### 2021 Performance

#### The Numbers

Record: 8-9  
(Missed Playoffs)  
Rank: 17th  
Offense: 19th  
Defense: 14th

#### Context

- Faced 28th-most difficult schedule of defenses.
- Faced 18th-most difficult schedule of offenses.
- Opponents ranked 31st in relative strength due to Covid/injury absences.

#### Adjusted 2021 Wins

8.76

[View Full 2021 CLE Team Study](#)

### 2022 Projection

#### Key Offseason Changes

- Traded for QB Deshaun Watson and signed Jacoby Brissett as backup.
- Traded for WR Amari Cooper to replace Jarvis Landry.
- Lost C J.C. Tretter.

#### Projected 2022 Wins

8.78

### Defining Narrative

It's mid-August and we still lack clarity on the Deshaun Watson suspension. The Browns' narrative must start there. They will almost certainly need to navigate at least the early part of their schedule with Brissett, and the offensive line looks shakier than last year. Brissett is not going to elevate this team but can hold down the ship for a short period of time. However, there's no guarantee that what they get from Watson this year will even look that good. He holds the ball too long trying to make a play and it's been nearly two years since he played football. I also question Stefanski's leadership after last year and question whether Watson can demonstrate the leadership to pull this team together.

### Betting Cheatsheet

	Win Total (Over)	Win Total (Under)	Division	Super Bowl
Best Odds	8.5 (+125) (FD)	8.5 (-110) (Circa)	+330 (Circa)	+3600 (Circa)
True Odds	-122	+122	+440	+3000
Value	Yes (Very Low)	None	None	Yes (Very Low)



# Pittsburgh Steelers

## 2022 Season Preview

### 2021 Performance

#### The Numbers

Record: **9-8-1 (9-7-1)**  
 (Lost in Wildcard)  
 Rank: **21st**  
 Offense: **25th**  
 Defense: **6th**

#### Context

- Faced **11th-most difficult** schedule of defenses.
- Faced **most difficult** schedule of offenses.
- Opponents ranked **24th in relative strength** due to Covid/injury absences.

#### Adjusted 2021 Wins

**7.88**

[View Full 2021 PIT Team Study](#)

### 2022 Projection

#### Key Offseason Changes

- Replaced QB Ben Roethlisberger with Mitchell Trubisky and rookie Kenny Pickett.
- Replaced WR JuJu Smith-Schuster with rookie George Pickens.
- Fortified the defense with LB Myles Jack, CB Levi Wallace, and others.

#### Projected 2022 Wins

**7.15**

### Defining Narrative

After years of dominant defense, the Steelers took a step back in 2021. Injuries, Covid, and a brutal schedule of opposing offenses certainly didn't help. With a struggling offense, the team had no real chance to advance in the playoffs. Just getting there was an impressive feat for Tomlin. Despite all the criticism Roethlisberger received in his final year, I am not projecting an immediate upgrade with Trubisky or Pickett. But Trubisky has some talent, and we have seen quarterbacks like Tannehill and Cousins make it work with their second team. If the defense can return to form, it takes some pressure off the offense. And they'll need all the help they can get with one of the worst offensive lines in the league.

### Betting Cheatsheet

	Win Total (Over)	Win Total (Under)	Division	Super Bowl
<b>Best Odds</b>	7.5 (+100) (DK/Circa)	7.5 (-115) (MGM/FD)	+1050 (Circa)	+9000 (Circa/DK)
<b>True Odds</b>	+129	-129	+1550	+66667
<b>Value</b>	None	Yes (Low)	None	None

# 2022 AFC North Preview and Placed Bets



## Final Standings Prediction

Team	Record	Playoff Result
BAL	12-5	Loss in Wildcard
CIN	10-7	Loss in Div. Round
CLE	8-9	Miss Playoffs
PIT	7-10	Miss Playoffs

## Official SharpClarke Futures

Bet	Odds	Units	Date Placed	CLV*
BAL to win AFC North	+175 +210	1 1	3.8.22 (DK) 6.7.22 (DK)	+2.9% +7.0%
CIN Over 9.5 Wins	-110	2	4.1.22 (MGM)	+3.2%

\*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](https://4for4.com), using the promo code SharpClarke for 10% off:

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