

2022 NFC North Futures Betting Guide

This document breaks down the NFC 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)
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.

Green Bay Packers

2022 Season Preview

2021 Performance

The Numbers

Record: **13-5 (13-4)**
 (Lost in Div. Round)
 Rank: **4th**
 Offense: **2nd**
 Defense: **12th**

Context

- Faced **14th-most difficult** schedule of defenses.
- Faced **25th-most difficult** schedule of offenses.
- Opponents ranked **26th in relative strength** due to Covid/injury absences.

Adjusted 2021 Wins

11.81

[View Full 2021 GB Team Study](#)

2022 Projection

Key Offseason Changes

- Lost WRs Davante Adams and Marquez Valdes-Scantling.
- Lost OC Nathaniel Hackett but promoted Adam Stenavich from within.
- Drafted 11 players, including LB Quay Walker, DE Devonte Wyatt, and WR Christian Watson.

Projected 2022 Wins

11.15

Defining Narrative

Despite three straight 13-win seasons, the Packers have not been to the Super Bowl since 2011. In recent years, Rodgers' regular-season dominance has ended with routine heartbreak in the playoffs. With several NFC teams taking a step back, the window is open for the 2022 Packers to change that. However, they will need to do so without Davante Adams. Fortunately, Rodgers has never relied on any specific receiver and is actually 7-0 without Adams in the last few years. With a healthier offensive line and defense and a strong draft, I would argue this Packers team is even better situated to win the NFC than last year. I expect the targets will be matchup-based and that Rodgers and LaFleur will find a way to make it work.

Betting Cheatsheet

	Win Total (Over)	Win Total (Under)	Division	Super Bowl
Best Odds	11 (-110) (DK/CZ/Circa)	11.5 (-140) (MGM)	-155 (FD/MGM)	+1200 (FD/CZ/MGM)
True Odds	-121	-125	-210	+800
Value	Yes (Low)	None	Yes (Medium)	Yes (High)

Minnesota Vikings

2022 Season Preview

2021 Performance

The Numbers

Record: 8-9
(Missed Playoffs)
Rank: 18th
Offense: 18th
Defense: 16th

Context

- Faced 15th-most difficult schedule of defenses.
- Faced 12th-most difficult schedule of offenses.
- Opponents ranked 2th in relative strength due to Covid/injury absences.

Adjusted 2021 Wins

8.52

[View Full 2021 MIN Team Study](#)

2022 Projection

Key Offseason Changes

- Replaced HC Mike Zimmer with Kevin O'Connell.
- Replaced DT Michael Pierce with Harrison Phillips and added LB Za'Darius Smith.
- Drafted S Lewis Cine and CB Andrew Booth, Jr.

Projected 2022 Wins

9.14

Defining Narrative

This is probably Kirk Cousins' last chance to prove he is worth the money Minnesota pays him. He has talent around him, but soon they'll need to pay Justin Jefferson and both Adam Thielen and Dalvin Cook are nearing the age where players at their positions typically drop off. Kevin O'Connell helped orchestrate the Rams aggressive downfield passing attack last year, so I'm interested to see if Cousins tries to play like Stafford, which might impact his stats, or if he stubbornly insists on checking down and protecting his precious touchdown-to-interception ratio. If he does open things up, a playoff run is on the table. But I remain skeptical that Cousins has the mental game to orchestrate this offense as effectively as Stafford.

Betting Cheatsheet

	Win Total (Over)	Win Total (Under)	Division	Super Bowl
Best Odds	9 (-130) (DK)	9.5 (-110) (FD/MGM)	+260 (DK)	+4000 (FD/CZ/MGM)
True Odds	-117	-131	+332	+10000
Value	Yes (Very Low)	Yes (Very Low)	None	None

Detroit Lions

2022 Season Preview

2021 Performance

The Numbers

Record: 3-13-1
(Missed Playoffs)
Rank: 32nd
Offense: 26th
Defense: 32nd

Context

- Faced 13th-most difficult schedule of defenses.
- Faced 16th-most difficult schedule of offenses.
- Opponents ranked 10th in relative strength due to Covid/injury absences.

Adjusted 2021 Wins

3.53

[View Full 2021 DET Team Study](#)

2022 Projection

Key Offseason Changes

- Added WR D.J. Chark.
- Drafted EDGE Aidan Hutchinson and WR Jameson Williams.

Projected 2022 Wins

6.25

Defining Narrative

Hope abounds in Detroit under Dan Campbell. The Lions' narrative essentially boils down to the players being healthier and playing better. They didn't make any big splash free agent signings or trades. They did draft some elite prospects, but both Hutchinson and Williams project for more long term upside than immediate impact. The Lions hope that a healthy offensive line can allow Jared Goff to get the ball in his playmakers' hands. But this team was really bad in 2021, particularly on defense. It's great to be optimistic with young talent, but I expect another hard fought but ultimately tough year for the Lions. This season will be an interesting picture of how far culture-building can go in rebuilding a franchise.

Betting Cheatsheet

	Win Total (Over)	Win Total (Under)	Division	Super Bowl
Best Odds	6.5 (-125) (DK/FD/MGM)	7 (-120) (Circa)	+1000 (DK/Circa)	+15000 (DK)
True Odds	+118	-167	+1600	+50000
Value	None	Yes (Medium)	None	None

Chicago Bears

2022 Season Preview

2021 Performance

The Numbers

Record: **6-11**
(Missed Playoffs)
Rank: **24th**
Offense: **24th**
Defense: **21st**

Context

- Faced **21st-most difficult** schedule of defenses.
- Faced **11th-most difficult** schedule of offenses.
- Opponents ranked **15th in relative strength** due to Covid/injury absences.

Adjusted 2021 Wins

6.64

[View Full 2021 CHI Team Study](#)

2022 Projection

Key Offseason Changes

- Replaced HC Matt Nagy with Matt Eberflus.
- Experienced significant turnover on defense, including losing EDGE Khalil Mack, DT Akiem Hicks, and DT Eddie Goldman.
- Lost WR Allen Robinson.

Projected 2022 Wins

6.42

Defining Narrative

Ideally when you draft a raw talent at quarterback like Justin Fields, you surround him with the pieces to facilitate growth. You want a stable system, preferably a good offensive line, and receivers that can make plays. Unfortunately the Bears have done the exact opposite. They have gutted the team of talent, installed a new head coach with a new system in Fields' second year, and things frankly look bleak in the short term. Fields himself was bad as a rookie, processing too slowly and throwing inaccurately. But quarterbacks with mobility can have a positive impact on offensive line play by making their job easier, and an impact on receiver play by creating time for them to get open, if the scheme is built correctly.

Betting Cheatsheet

	Win Total (Over)	Win Total (Under)	Division	Super Bowl
Best Odds	6 (+110) (Circa)	6 (-125) (CZ)	+1850 (Circa)	+25500 (Circa)
True Odds	-122	+122	+3000	+100000
Value	Yes (Low)	None	None	None

2022 NFC North Preview and Placed Bets



Final Standings Prediction

Team	Record	Playoff Result
GB	13-4	Loss in Super Bowl
MIN	10-7	Loss in Wildcard
DET	6-11	Miss Playoffs
CHI	5-12	Miss Playoffs

Official SharpClarke Futures

Bet	Odds	Units	Date Placed	CLV*
GB to win NFC	+500	0.5	4.12.22 (FD)	+0.0%
GB to win NFC North	-170	1.7	6.13.22 (FD)	-2.2%
DET Under 6.5 Wins	+115	2	7.30.22 (Circa)	-1.1%

*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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