

2022 NFC West Futures Betting Guide



This document breaks down the NFC 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 Rams

2022 Season Preview

2021 Performance

The Numbers

Record: **16-5 (12-5)**
 (Won Super Bowl)
 Rank: **3rd**
 Offense: **6th**
 Defense: **3rd**

Context

- Faced **23rd-most difficult** schedule of defenses.
- Faced **17th-most difficult** schedule of offenses.
- Opponents ranked **17th in relative strength** due to Covid/injury absences.

Adjusted 2021 Wins

12.10

[View Full 2021 LAR Team Study](#)

2022 Projection

Key Offseason Changes

- Lost retired T Andrew Whitworth.
- Replaced WRs Robert Woods and Odell Beckham, Jr. with Allen Robinson.
- Lost several defensive pieces, including EDGE Von Miller, CB Darius Williams, and DT Sebastian Joseph-Day, but added LB Bobby Wagner.

Projected 2022 Wins

10.40

Defining Narrative

No team has won back-to-back Super Bowls since the Patriots won in 2005. After shelling out for Matthew Stafford - obviously the right decision - the Rams had very little draft capital and cap space. They did sign Bobby Wagner and A-Rob, but will need both players to rediscover their peak form. They have been bleeding defensive players for two straight off-seasons and lost Andrew Whitworth to retirement. Stafford's high-variance style of play paid off in 2021 and they'll need some more magic to get back to the big game. They do all the right things well on both sides of the ball, so they do have a chance. But fragility worked in their favor last year as they stayed healthy at key positions, and they face a tough schedule.

Betting Cheatsheet

	Win Total (Over)	Win Total (Under)	Division	Super Bowl
Best Odds	10.5 (+105) (DK)	10.5 (-110) (CZ/FD)	+130 (Circa/DK)	+1200 (DK/CZ/Circa)
True Odds	+103	-103	+134	+1150
Value	Yes (Very Low)	None	None	Yes (Very Low)



San Francisco 49ers

2022 Season Preview

2021 Performance

The Numbers

Record: **12-8 (10-7)**
 (Lost NFC Champ.)
 Rank: **6th**
 Offense: **9th**
 Defense: **2nd**

Context

- Faced **26th-most difficult** schedule of defenses.
- Faced **3rd-most difficult** schedule of offenses.
- Opponents ranked **19th in relative strength** due to Covid/injury absences.

Adjusted 2021 Wins

11.15

[View Full 2021 SF Team Study](#)

2022 Projection

Key Offseason Changes

- Replaced CB K'Waun Williams with Charvarius Ward.
- Replaced QB Jimmy Garoppolo with Trey Lance.
- Lost C Alex Mack to retirement.

Projected 2022 Wins

10.39

Defining Narrative

Out of the five quarterbacks drafted in the first round of last year's draft, Trey Lance entered, by far, the best situation. Kyle Shanahan implements an effective offense designed to create explosive plays. There are no guarantees, but when a talented quarterback prospect sits for a year under a great coach with great support, it creates the environment for a special player to emerge. The defense boasts strength at every level, especially now with Ward. When healthy, they are perennial contenders regardless of quarterback. The ceiling is sky-high, but even with average quarterback play they should return to the playoffs in a weak NFC. Lance was inconsistent in limited time last year, and he will determine how far this team goes.

Betting Cheatsheet

	Win Total (Over)	Win Total (Under)	Division	Super Bowl
Best Odds	10 (-105) (Circa)	10 (-110) (DK/CZ)	+180 (CZ)	+1600 (DK/MGM/CZ/FD)
True Odds	-143	+143	+144	+1680
Value	Yes (Medium)	None	Yes (High)	None

Arizona Cardinals

2022 Season Preview

2021 Performance

The Numbers

Record: **11-7 (11-6)**
 (Lost in Wildcard)
 Rank: **10th**
 Offense: **10th**
 Defense: **7th**

Context

- Faced **2nd-most difficult** schedule of defenses.
- Faced **10th-most difficult** schedule of offenses.
- Opponents ranked **13th in relative strength** due to Covid/injury absences.

Adjusted 2021 Wins

10.27

[View Full 2021 ARI Team Study](#)

2022 Projection

Key Offseason Changes

- Replaced WR Christian Kirk with Marquise Brown, who will also fill in for DeAndre Hopkins, who was suspended for 6 games.
- Lost DE Chandler Jones.

Projected 2022 Wins

8.27

Defining Narrative

The Cardinals outperformed preseason expectations last year more than any team outside of Cincinnati. But an exceptional start (involving positive variance in high-leverage situations) predictably led to a disappointing finish and a blowout loss in the playoffs. There is no question that Kyler Murray has flashed brilliance and helped the Cardinals return to form, but he lacks the pocket skills elite quarterbacks traditionally possess and his small frame and tendency to run make him a health risk. The team finally gave him his contract but even that involved drama. With Hopkins suspended and questions about both Kliff's and Murray's leadership, this team has more questions than answers heading into 2022,

Betting Cheatsheet

	Win Total (Over)	Win Total (Under)	Division	Super Bowl
Best Odds	8.5 (-105) (MGM)	8.5 (-110) (DK/FD/Circa)	+420 (Circa)	+4000 (Circa/DK)
True Odds	+118	-118	+622	+13000
Value	None	Yes (Very Low)	None	None

Seattle Seahawks

2022 Season Preview

2021 Performance

The Numbers

Record: 7-10
(Missed Playoffs)
Rank: 19th
Offense: 17th
Defense: 23rd

Context

- Faced **6th-most difficult** schedule of defenses.
- Faced **26th-most difficult** schedule of offenses.
- Opponents ranked **8th in relative strength** due to Covid/injury absences.

Adjusted 2021 Wins

7.99

[View Full 2021 SEA Team Study](#)

2022 Projection

Key Offseason Changes

- Replaced QB Russell Wilson with Geno Smith and Drew Lock.
- Added some pieces on defense as part of a scheme shift under new DC Clint Hurtt, including DT Quinton Jefferson and CB Artie Burns.
- Drafted T Charles Cross and added C Austin Blythe to the offensive line.

Projected 2022 Wins

5.20

Defining Narrative

Forced to play several games last season without Russell Wilson for the first time since 2011, we got a sneak preview of the future for the Seahawks. It wasn't pretty, outside of a comfortable (but misleading) win over the Jags. But it also wasn't great with Wilson, who finished 6-8 as the starter. The headline is Wilson's departure, but the team has flaws both in roster construction and style. I'm not sure why Pete Carroll is still coaching, and his philosophies seem outdated in today's NFL. What this team needs is a complete rebuild, but instead they appear ready to win just enough games to avoid a top draft pick. They will not go down quietly, but the upside is difficult to see with this team.

Betting Cheatsheet

	Win Total (Over)	Win Total (Under)	Division	Super Bowl
Best Odds	5.5 (-125) (DK)	5.5 (+115) (FD/MGM)	+2400 (Circa)	+25000 (Circa)
True Odds	+137	-137	+2400	+200000
Value	None	Yes (Medium)	None	None

2022 NFC West Preview and Placed Bets



Final Standings Prediction

Team	Record	Playoff Result
SF	12-5	Loss in Div. Round
LAR	10-7	Loss in NFC Champ.
ARI	8-9	Miss Playoffs
SEA	5-12	Miss Playo

Official SharpClarke Futures

Bet	Odds	Units	Date Placed	CLV*
SF to win NFC West	+190	1	6.1.22 (FD)	+1.9%

*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.

I gave all of these picks out to Members in real time. For my NFL betting content throughout the 2022 season (and more), get the Betting package on 4for4.com, using the promo code SharpClarke for 10% off:

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