Looking at Arsenal's Chances of Winning the Premier League After an Impressive Win in the North London Derby

ALEX LEE

Following a decisive 2-0 win over Tottenham Hotspur, Arsenal seems to be in nearly unstoppable form. They have not lost in the league for over four months and have won seven out of their last eight Premier League matches. However, they are approaching a testing run of fixtures and have yet to play the current champions, Manchester City, who are currently in second place. So, just how good are Arsenal's chances of winning the Premier League?

Prior to the season, Arsenal were given just a 0.13 percent chance of winning the Premier League? Good are Arsenal's chances to play the current champions, Manchester City, who are currently in second place. However, they are at a disadvantage because Mikel Arteta, their manager, is still learning the ropes of managing a team in the Premier League.

The young squad, starring Martin Odegaard, Bukayo Saka, and Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang, has come a long way since the start of the season. While they have won six of their last eight matches, they have yet to win back-to-back games. However, they have shown improvement in their performances, particularly in their ability to create chances and score goals.

One of the main differences between the starting XI and their previous seasons is the added depth and quality in their attack. With the return of Eddie Nketiah to the starting lineup, and the addition of Odegaard from Real Madrid, Arsenal now has a more balanced and dangerous front line. In comparison to Manchester City, who are heavily im- pacting injuries as they have a constant battle between the starting XI and their bench, Arsenal have more depth and quality in their squad, allowing them to be more successful over the course of a 38-game season.

The first Premier League meeting of the season between the teams will be on February 15 and Arsenal can avoid defeat, they will be in a position to take advantage of their confidence. The concern for Arsenal fans will be if Manchester City manages to win and proceed to go on a long win streak in the league, which they are feared to lose any more matches. Arsenal will need to stop Manchester City's hot streak and maintain their form. In recent years, we have seen a number of teams holding the Premier League title. To hold onto their Premier League winning chances, Arsenal will need to stop Manchester City's hot streak and maintain their own form. In recent years, we have seen a number of teams holding the Premier League title. To hold onto their Premier League winning chances, Arsenal will need to stop Manchester City's hot streak and maintain their own form. In recent years, we have seen a number of teams holding the Premier League title. To hold onto their Premier League winning chances, Arsenal will need to stop Manchester City's hot streak and maintain their own form. In recent years, we have seen a number of teams holding the Premier League title. To hold onto their Premier League winning chances, Arsenal will need to stop Manchester City's hot streak and maintain their own form.
Djokovic lifts the Adelaide International trophy after his win in the final against Sebastian Korda.

Three Realistic Trades for the MLB Off-Season

As a warm-up to the 2023 Australian Open, Novak Djokovic won the Adelaide International tournament. Last year, Djokovic was not able to play at the Australian Open due to visa issues. From his success in Adelaide, however, he looks ready to dominate the competition this year in his two-round win in Adelaide, he defeated the French Comtesse de la Ferte and French Quentin Halys in straight sets. In his next round, he faced the young Canadian player Denis Shapovalov, and beat him again in straight sets, 6-3, 6-4. Next, he faced world number eight Daniil Medvedev in the finals, where he beat him in straight sets, 6-2, 6-1. In the final, he played the young American Sebastian Korda and beat him in a close three-set match, 6-3, 6-7 (6), 6-4. The first set was won by Korda in an extremely close tiebreaker, 10-8. Despite this, Djokovic dug deep and played with effective groundstrokes, ultimately winning in three sets. His win at Adelaide is his 92nd career win and demonstrates just how dominant Djokovic is. Overall, the Adelaide International Tournament has given Djokovic with a great start to the 2023 season and a warm-up for the upcoming French Open and grand slam of the year. In Melbourne, Djokovic will face first-time finalist, Brandon Horgan, for a chance at grand slam history.

The Best and Worst of 2022-2023 Fantasy Football

The Dodgers add pitch-
Buffalo Bills Safety Damar Hamlin Sees Outpour of Support Following Horrific On-Field Accident

CHARLES VEST

A horror story unfold-ed earlier this month as millions watched Damar Hamlin, a safety for the Buffalo Bills, collapse after making a tackle midway through the first quarter of the team’s Monday night game against the Bengals. According to the on-site EMS, Hamlin, 24, had suffered a cardiac arrest on the field following the hit. Fortunately, the medical personnel was able to re-store Hamlin’s heartbeat due to their timely re-sponse. CPR was adminis-tered for several minutes before Hamlin received oxygen and was placed into an ambulance bound for the University of Cincin-nati Medical Center just two minutes after he collapsed.

Following the inci-dent, he NFL announced that the game would not resume for the rest of the week, and that the deci-sion as to when the game would be finished was still up in the air. “Immediate-ly, my player hat went on,” said Troy Vincent, former corner-back and current vice president of the NFL’s football operations. “How do you resume play-ning after you’ve seen such a traumatic event occur in front of you in real time?” Vincent wasn’t the only one who held this sentiment, however. Sev-eral NFL teams, including the Bengals, the Steelers, the Cardinals, and the Seahawks, took to social media to express their concerns about Hamlin sending their thoughts and prayers via Twitter. Even Hamlin’s alma ma-ter, the University of Pittsburgh, tweeted their support for the player; stating that Hamlin “is the best of us.” Outside the professional sports set-ting, people far and wide have also expressed sol-iarity with Hamlin. Just hours after Hamlin suf-fered cardiac arrest, the fundraiser for children’s toys he had started reg-istered over eight and a half million dollars, blow-ing the 2500 dollar goal out of the water.

Amidst all this sup-port, Hamlin himself has seemed to stay in high spirits. On Saturday, Ham-lin was back at the Bills’ facility just two weeks after the life-threaten-ing incident. Hamlin ex-pressed his gratitude to all the fans who showed their overwhelming sup-port, taking to Twitter to deliver a message: “The love is felt, and extremely real. No matter race or re-ligion everybody coming together in prayer! This will make me stronger on the road to recovery, keep praying for me!”

Despite the situation seeming to have worked out in the end, the scare still raises a major ques-tion: does the violence in football go too far? The number of injuries that occur on the field every day across Ameri-ca is sobering. After the NFL came under fire for the devastating effects of head trauma, the sport saw a drop in participa-tion, with concerned par-ents pulling their kids out of youth programs and schools canceling their seasons due to too many injuries. Though some saw these as steps in the right direction, the NFL’s apparent lack of con-cern for their players left many people unsatisfied and wanting to see sev-eral changes in the orga-nization’s policies. Many people believe that Ham-lin’s injury will serve as a wake-up call to the NFL, that the sport can, in fact, kill. His near-death expe-rience poses a question not only to the NFL but to us all: at what point does a sport become too dan-gerous to justify?

The Rise of Dagestani Fighters Brings New Excitement to the MMA

RICHARD LAU

With there being so much depth in the UFC roster from top to bot-tom, across multiple weight classes, it’s hard to deny that this is the most exciting MMA has ever been. The rise of Khamzat Chimaev and Shakhat Rakhmonov in welterweight, the upcoming Jones-Gane clash in heavyweight, and the Usman-Edwards trilogy are just a few of the many events that MMA fans can look forward to. The pool of talent seems to be exponentially in-creasing, as prospects from all over the world work tirelessly on perfect-ing their craft, com-peting for a spot in the organization.

However, there is no set formula for be-coming a good fighter. While Ali’s McGregor’s striking abilities, Oliveria’s Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu, or George St-Pierre’s versatility, fighters have found success in the sport whilst being complete-ly different from each other. As athletes ar-en’t exactly sure what area they should fo-cus on, it is extremely difficult to break into this level of MMA. But not for the Dagestanis; they seem to have cracked the code.

The Republic of Dagestan is buried deep in the moun-tains of Eastern Eu- rope. With the sub-zero winters, low oxygen levels, steep moun-tains, fighting culture, and hyper-masculine traits, the area pro-duces warriors like no other. The region was first brought to light by Khabib Nur-magomedov, a retired UFC champion with an undefeated record. According to him, “Dagestan is a different level for people living a tough life,” and seeing that viral clip of him out of the water, I don’t doubt that. During MMA re-porter Alzo Slades’ visit to Dagestan, he noted that villagers put kids through wrestling camps with 150 peo-ple, and parents would let their kids wrestle with each other during family visits. Khabib’s success has also heav-ily influenced the re-gion, as kids look up to him, and train hard hoping to follow in his footsteps. With harsh training sessions in high mountains and un-paralleled discipline, Dagestani fighters de-vlop strong cardio-vascular systems along with skill sets far supe-rior to others.

Dagestan’s fighting culture has certain-ly paid off, as fighters from that region posses-sing a 73% winning chance in MMA. As Islam Makhachev be-comes the new UFC lightweight champion after beating Charles Oliveira, it’s fair to say Khabib’s legacy is in good hands. Dagestan fighters now have a new path to follow, a wake-up call to the NFL, the sport can, in fact, kill. His near-death expe-rience poses a question not only to the NFL but to us all: at what point does a sport become too dan-gerous to justify?
The New York Jets are a team competing in the National Football League (NFL). Unfortunately, this is not a team that has a reputation for good quarterbacks. Ever since franchise icon Joe Namath won a Super Bowl with the Jets in the 1968-69 season, the Jets have had failed draft picks, free agent busts, and journeyman backups at the quarterback position; this has resulted in over 50 years of quarterback failure, usually keeping the team from that elusive second championship.

However, the 2023-24 season offers a unique situation for an incoming quarterback. The Jets arguably have top-tier players at every position but quarterback. A top-5 defense in the NFL with names including Sauce Gardner, D.J. Reed, Quinnen and Quincy Williams, C.J. Moseley, and Lamarcus Joyner. A solid wide receiver corps including rookie sensation Garrett Wilson, veteran Corey Davis, dynamic playmaker Elijah Moore, and tight end Tyler Conklin. Furthermore, the offensive line, when healthy, has proven to be able to not only protect quarterbacks for the pass, but also open lanes for a running game for Breece Hall, Michael Carter, and Zonovan "Bam" Night.

But alas, Zach Wilson, Mike White, Joe Flacco, and Chris Streveler have been, to say the least, unproductive. A combined 56.9% completion rate, 15 touchdowns to 14 interceptions, and a combined 75.0 QBR are not elite by any means. Thus, it pays to take a look outside of this QB room and into the wider NFL...

An elite quarterback such as Lamar Jackson needs no introduction. The 2019 MVP can terrorize any opposing defense with his remarkable running and passing ability. He has postseason experience and is still just 25 years old. With all the pieces the Jets have, Jackson would make them immediate Super Bowl contenders. However, with a price tag likely north of 50 million dollars per season and his recent injuries, are the Jets really willing to risk it all? And would Baltimore really let Jackson walk away?

Lamar Jackson: Baltimore Ravens QB (2018-PRESENT)

On the surface, this is a good match. The Jets run an offense similar to San Francisco that Garoppolo has already mastered, so the transition would be easy. Furthermore, Garoppolo is a seasoned veteran with winning playoff experience that could definitely bring the Jets to the postseason. But with his many injuries and the likelihood that the 49ers may keep him alongside Trey Lance and Brock Purdy, the Jets might have other things to consider.

Jimmy Garoppolo: San Francisco 49ers QB (2017-PRESENT)

Derrek Carr is budget Jimmy Garoppolo, as some may say. Once again, Carr is a veteran with a steady presence that could work well given the talent the Jets have. Only, Carr has never done well in the playoffs and is not a consistent winner. This could be a potentially high-risk, low-reward situation. Not for me.

Derek Carr: Las Vegas Raiders QB (2014-PRESENT)


Picture this: Tom Brady walks out of the tunnel of Metlife Stadium to warm up...in a Jets uniform. On paper, this could work. He's the undisputed greatest quarterback of all time and brings a culture of winning wherever he goes. But in reality, this could be a potential disaster. His age of 45 is a concern, making this only a short-term solution, and I am not very sure a lot of people would want to see Tom Brady in a Jets uniform, including perhaps Tom Brady himself.

With the 13th pick in the draft, it would be unlikely a highly-rated college quarterback would fall this far. If you do consider drafting a quarterback in the first round, would you really be admitting defeat with Wilson and burning another first-round pick on a quarterback? This is the most unlikely option.

2023 DRAFT

TOM BRADY: NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS QB (2001-2019)
TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS QB (2020-PRESENT)

Picture this: Tom Brady walks out of the tunnel of Metlife Stadium to warm up... in a Jets uniform. On paper, this could work. He's the undisputed greatest quarterback of all time and brings a culture of winning wherever he goes. But in reality, this could be a potential disaster. His age of 45 is a concern, making this only a short-term solution, and I am not very sure a lot of people would want to see Tom Brady in a Jets uniform, including perhaps Tom Brady himself.

With all of this in mind, this is what I want the Jets to do: get Jackson if he is made available, and if not, sign Garoppolo. Keep Wilson and White on the roster for insurance, and see if Wilson can learn from Garoppolo. Please, Woody Johnson. Please, Joe Douglas. Give us Jets fans the winning team we deserve.

VERDICT

2023 DRAFT
Top Contenders For The 2023 Australian Open

The 111th edition of the Australian Open began on January 16th, 2023. With world number one Carlos Alcaraz recently withdrawing due to a leg injury, the draw seems wide open for both top-ranked veterans like Nadal and Djokovic and top-ranked youngsters like Fritz, Medvedev, and Ruud. Nadal’s recent performances have not been as showstopping as they were a year ago, and he does not seem to be a favorite in defending his title. On the other hand, Djokovic is coming off a very strong start to his season, having just won the Adelaide International, putting him in a prime position to win his 10th title in Australia. Despite this, the younger generation is also extremely talented—the US Open Final being between two players under 25 years of age, Casper Ruud and Carlos Alcaraz. Other strong contenders include Stefanos Tsitsipas, who is coming off a strong showing in the inaugural United Cup against fellow youngster Matteo Berrettini. With all that said, let’s jump right into the predictions.

Contenders: As it currently stands, I can only really see 4 players that have a possibility of winning the 2023 AO. These players are: Casper Ruud, Novak Djokovic, Felix Auger-Aliassime, and Daniil Medvedev. Firstly, Ruud has been playing the tennis of his life and is currently ranked 3rd in the world. Also, considering his disappointing loss at the US Open this past year, Ruud has some extra motivation to fire him up. Novak Djokovic is also playing some of the best tennis of all time. As previously mentioned, Djokovic has been unstoppable, winning 5 of his last 6 tournaments, including the ATP Finals and Wimbledon. Moving on, Canadian Felix Auger-Aliassime is also a title contender, having recently beaten Djokovic at the Laver Cup in a thrilling match. His game has only continued to improve since then, so a far run for him should be in store. Last but not least, Medvedev. While Medvedev is the only member of the original Next Gen to win a Grand Slam, Medvedev has endured a bit of a rough stretch recently. Despite this, I expect great things as the Russian opens up his 2023 season. To be quite frank, the draw this year is wide open, so be prepared for a wild, wild couple of weeks.

While not in my top group, I also expect many players to make deep runs in the coming tournament. My contenders include: Stefanos Tsitsipas, Taylor Fritz, Holger Rune, Matteo Berrettini, Jan-Kenn Sinner, and Nick Kyrgios. These players all have great games and tons of potential, which makes me confident that they can make it far. Even though Tsitsipas has not reached the final of a slam since 2021 Roland Garros, his current form is promising. Taylor Fritz will use his massive serve and forehand to open up the court and his side of the draw, but lingering questions about his movement and durability remain a concern; for now, he is a solid contender. Holger Rune is an up-and-coming name in the tennis world, having just defeated Djokovic in Paris to win his first Masters 1000 title. Rune will hope to build on an explosive end to the 2022 season with a deep run in Melbourne. The two Italians, Berrettini and Sinner, are also poised to do well, both playing well recently. Nick Kyrgios is a particularly interesting name, as he won the AO Doubles in 2022 which begs the question—what is his priorit? Will he attempt to win his maiden singles Grand Slam or focus solely on his doubles title defense? Either way, with the often raucous Australian crowd backing him, you can be sure that he will make a great run and put on a great show.

Quarter Finalists: I consider these players to be solid, and can foresee a decent performance possibly resulting in a quarter-final. This list includes: Rafael Nadal, Andrey Rublev, Hubert Hurkacz, Frances Tiafoe, Alex de Minaur, and Lorenzo Musetti. With Nadal’s current form leaving him looking older and older by the day, I am unsure of his ability to defend his 2022 title. All the other players in this category are in the top 25, but due to individual slights, I don’t see any of them advancing past the QFs.

Mid Round Exits: While these players are still top quality, I believe it is unlikely any of them will make it very far. These players are: Denis Shapovalov, Pablo Carreno Busta, Cameron Norrie, Karen Khachanov, Diego Schwartzman, Marin Cilic, Dan Evans, Tommy Paul, and Alexander Bublik.

All other players in the draw are not on my radar for a title run. All in all, this year’s Australian Open seems very promising, with a wide-open draw for the first time in many years.

Editor’s Note: Nick Kyrgios has recently withdrawn from the 2023 AO due to a knee injury.
What Big Man Should The Golden State Warriors Trade for to Compete This Year?

HARRY MURPHY

For the first time since 2011, Khabib Nurmagomedov has announced his retirement from the sport. The Russian fighter and current coach an long-time competitive participant in mainstream mixed martial arts (MMA). The former Russian fighter and current coach announced his retirement on January 5, bringing an end to more than two decades of his part in the sport. Nurmagomedov stated that he will be "taking some time off for his family," and is unsure about whether or not he will return. This announcement has come as a surprise to many of the MMA community, seeing as Nurmagomedov is the coach and cornerman of Islam Makhachev, the current UFC Lightweight Champion, who will be attempting to defend his title in a month on February 17.

However, this unexpected and jarring exit mirrors his first retirement from the UFC. Nurmagomedov stated in his first retirement that he was leaving MMA due to unspecified reasons. His reason for his first retirement, however, is related to his performance in MMA or his health; it is much more significant. In 2020, Nurmagomedov's father, Abdulmanap Nurmagomedov, became ill and passed away due to complications brought on by COVID-19. This was only a few months before his third title defense fight against Gaethje, and Nurmagomedov was understandably distraught, even more so as he would be fighting without his father in his corner. He was quoted in a post-fight interview saying, "No way am I coming here without my father." In the same interview, Nurmagomedov expressed that his mother didn't wish for him to fight any longer either: "She doesn't want me to fight without father and I said this is my last fight and I have to win on her word."

Seeing as his first retirement was caused by the loss of family, it would make sense that his retirement this month would be for a similar reason. Surely, it is difficult to stay on a busy coaching and cornering schedule for ten different fighters while also spending time with his family. With the unfortunate passing of his father, it is perfectly understandable that Nurmagomedov would want to step away from MMA and have more time for his family.

While every MMA fan will be sad to see him go, perhaps for the first time, we must remember all the incredible and wild moments he has given to us. From his 29-0 record to his harrowing victory over Dustin Poirier, he was always a joy to watch. His controversy with Conor McGregor and his ongoing feud with Khabib Nurmagomedov as the minor leagues for the UFC.

Khabib Nurmagomedov stands with the greats inside the ring, but now he has chosen to stand with his family. Although his fans will miss the sight and impact of him in the MMA community, we wish him a long and happy retirement, as well as success in whatever he might pursue in the future. If he ever comes back, he will be welcomed with open arms, but even if that never happens, he has already left a legacy that will be matched by few.