

NFL Playoff Bracket Features Four Divisional Round Games This Weekend

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Eight teams remain in the NFL playoff picture and four divisional round games are on tap this weekend. Football fans everywhere look forward to this weekend as much as any other during the season, and Printablebrackets.net says this is where the fun in the NFL playoff bracket really begins.

“Some of the biggest stars in the game will be on the field this weekend,” said Printable Brackets spokesman Zaniel Worth. “These eight teams have proven that they were the best in the league this year and they all know how much is on the line.”

The divisional weekend kicks off with the Broncos hosting the Baltimore Ravens in Denver. The Ravens secured a trip to Denver with a 24-9 victory over the Colts in the Wild Card round. A loss would mean the end of the career of star Ravens linebacker Ray Lewis, who announced he would retire at the end of the season.

The contest marks the first playoff game for quarterback Peyton Manning as a member of the Broncos. Manning guided Denver to 11 straight wins and the top-seed in the AFC, but he is just 9-10 in playoff games.

“Denver’s 34-17 win over the Ravens during the regular season is one of the reasons they are a big favorite,” said Worth. “However, Manning has turned in some playoff clunkers and is 0-3 in playoff games when the temperature is below 40 degrees, which it will be well below on Saturday.”

The other NFL playoff bracket game on Saturday pits the Green Bay Packers against the 49ers in San Francisco. Green Bay hammered Minnesota, 24-10, during Wild Card Weekend, but suffered a 30-22 loss to the Niners in Week One. Colin Kapernick was not under center for San Fran in that game but he will be making his first playoff appearance on Saturday.

“Tough to decide who the favorite in this one should be,” said Worth. “It’s worth noting, however, that Green Bay is 4-1 all-time against San Fran in the playoffs and has won six of the last seven meetings overall.”

Sunday’s NFL playoff bracket games start with the Atlanta Falcons hosting the Seattle Seahawks. Seattle erased a 14-0 deficit in a 24-14 victory over the Redskins last week. The ‘Hawks have reeled off six straight wins. The Falcons had a bye after locking up the top seed in the NFC, but are slim favorites on Sunday.

“No team in the NFL playoff picture is under more pressure than the Falcons,” said Worth. “Matt Ryan is desperate for his first playoff win, but the ‘Hawks are as hot as any team in the league.”

The weekend wraps up with the Texans taking on the Patriots in New England. The Texans beat the Bengals last week, but the Pats pummeled Houston 42-14 on December 10th.

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