Does the NFL Actually Have an Even Playing Field?

By Jorden Hampton October 15, 2022No Comments4 Mins Read



Is there a true even playing field in the NFL? (Photo courtesy NFL.com)

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This season has provided something new for football fans. What has been provided? There is an even playing field in the NFL which has created multiple teams with the same record and number of wins. We are five weeks into the 2022 regular season and a lot has transpired. Some teams have started the season hot, while others are trying to find their identity. Playing in the NFL is challenging for coaches and players because teams have to find ways to win games each season.

An even playing field means any team can win on Sunday. Teams have even advantages on the gridiron because of the resources provided to them. Resources like; tape of their opponents, practice time, and meetings during the week. For example, the New York Giants beat the Packers in London because both teams were evenly matched.

The Past



This picture contains the logos of the teams I am writing about. Photo provided by the Associated Press.

It wasn't too long ago when a handful of teams dominated the NFL. Teams like the Patriots and Steelers controlled the AFC. Between 2010 and 2018 the New England Patriots won 113 games. New England also won three super bowl titles and nine consecutive AFC East titles.

Mike Tomlin's Steelers were a powerhouse in their division. Tomlin's team won 94 games between 2010 and 2018. Pittsburgh controlled the AFC North and consistently made the playoffs. Other AFC teams couldn't conquer the Steelers and the Patriots. There was no even playing field in the NFL and teams struggled to catch up.

The Present



The picture contains teams in the NFL. Photo provided by the NFL's Facebook page. September 20, 2017.

There is currently an even playing field in the NFL. The even distribution has been cooking for the last couple of seasons and the dish has finally been served to football fans. Balance is seen throughout the NFC and AFC. Heading into week six of the regular season multiple teams have the same record. Three teams have won at least three games in the AFC East and the Dolphins and Jets have the same record. The Ravens, Bengals, and Browns have won at least two games. The same is true for the AFC South where the Colts, Titans, and Jaguars have won at least two games.

An infusion of young quarterbacks and new coaches has created an even playing field in the NFL. Josh Allen, Kyler Murray, Patrick Mahomes, Justin Herbert, Joe Burrow, Lamar Jackson, and Trevor Lawrence have provided an even playing field. Teams have a good chance of winning because of these talented quarterbacks. Additionally, the quarterbacks mentioned have played well for their respective teams and put up historic numbers in the changing NFL.

How does an even playing field help the NFL?

An even playing field helps build the intensity on Sundays. Storylines are stronger because any team can win on the gridiron. With unexpected outcomes, the NFL strengthens its brand and brings more fans to the game. Last season the Green Bay Packers shocked the world when they defeated the Arizona Cardinals without star receiver Davante Adams. The game was tight and came down to the wire. Green Bay had depth at the position and the backup receivers played well.

The NFL is one of the most recognized sports franchises in America. Having an even playing field has been beneficial this season. It will continue to help the sport in the long run.