

Minnesota Vikings Vs New Orleans Saints Live NFC Championship NFL Football Match on January 24

NFC CHAMPIONSHIP: A painfully long drought will end for one of these tortured franchises. The Vikings went to four Super Bowls in the 1960s and 1970s and lost all four of them. They haven't been back in 33 years...

Jan. 24, 2010 - [PRLog](#) -- NFC CHAMPIONSHIP:

Minnesota Vikings Vs New Orleans Saints

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Date: Sunday, January 24, 2010.

Location: Superdome.

TV: FOX

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What happening?

The quarterbacks are as good as it gets. Minnesota's Brett Favre is remarkably having one of the best seasons of his Hall of Fame career, and he played one of his best games Sunday, throwing four touchdown passes in a 34-3 rout of the Dallas Cowboys.

But Favre didn't come out of retirement again to settle for the NFC Championship Game. It's Super Bowl or bust for the NFL's all-time leader in passing yards and passing touchdowns, who has not been back to the Super Bowl since losing to Denver 12 years ago.

New Orleans' Drew Brees, meanwhile, is trying to get to his first Super Bowl and, in the process, break into that elite stratosphere of quarterbacks. Brees, who turned 31 last week, set the NFL record for completion percentage in a season, and he became the second quarterback to throw for 4,000 yards in four consecutive seasons (joining Peyton Manning).

Last year, Brees was the second QB ever to throw for 5,000 in a season. But he knows that he'll ultimately be judged by how he performs in games like these.

As it should be, the NFC title will be decided by a showdown between the two best teams. The Saints (14-3) and Vikings (13-4) were dominant for much of the season before a couple of mini-slumps in December. And both of them reached their peak last week in the divisional round of the NFC playoffs, winning by the same margin -- 31 points.

This should be the toughest matchup to date for both teams. Each team can score points. The Saints offense, which led the league in points scored, is thrilling to watch and creates matchup nightmares for defenses because it is so deep and versatile. The Vikings offense is even more balanced, though, with Favre playing as well as ever while defenses continue to focus on stopping All-Pro tailback Adrian Peterson.

The Vikings have a fearsome defensive front, and the Saints have an aggressive, opportunistic defense. And

both teams are built to take advantage of the other's biggest weakness (for the Saints, it's their porous run defense; for the Vikings, it's their shaky play at safety). There will be no free rides into the Super Bowl.

Saints safety Darren Sharper will provide a fascinating subplot for several reasons. For one, he's dying to make his former team pay for giving up on him last offseason, where he lingered in free agency before settling on a one-year bargain deal in New Orleans.

He also has a longtime personal relationship with Favre, who was his teammate in Green Bay for eight years before they became rivals when Sharper went to Minnesota. And like Favre, Sharper is trying to get back to the Super Bowl for the first time in 12 years as he heads toward the twilight of his career.

It would be shocking if Sharper didn't have a major impact on how this game plays out. He has been an incredible playmaker for the Saints this year, helping to lead their drastic culture change on defense. He intercepted nine passes with three touchdown returns and an NFL record 376 interception return yards this season, then added a fumble recovery last week against Arizona (plus an interception that was called back by a late hit).

Sharper does like to gamble, though, and Favre knows him as well as anybody, so they'll try to pick on each other.

The Vikings, meanwhile, could really use Sharper on their side in this game. Their safeties have not stepped up consistently in Sharper's absence, and now they're going against arguably the league's most dangerous passing offense.

The Bottom Line

A painfully long drought will end for one of these tortured franchises. The Vikings went to four Super Bowls in the 1960s and 1970s and lost all four of them. They haven't been back in 33 years. But they have nothing on the Saints, who have never reached a Super Bowl in 43 years -- one of five teams left on that list. In fact, this will be the first time New Orleans has ever been host to an NFC championship game. Expect a frenzied Superdome crowd that will do all it can to will the Saints to victory.

So, How could you miss Minnesota Vikings Vs New Orleans Saints exciting NFC CHAMPIONSHIP Playoff Football Match. Watch this battle today at 6:40PM(ET) on your PC/Laptop.

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