

# Jackson tries to outrun playoff demons as Ravens face Steelers

Field Level Media

Lamar Jackson has won the same number of playoff games as NFL MVP trophies: two.

The dearth of postseason victories have been an issue and the Ravens star quarterback looks to change the narrative when third-seeded Baltimore hosts the sixth-seeded Pittsburgh Steelers in the AFC wild-card round on Saturday night.

Jackson owns a 2-4 record in the playoffs, having thrown six interceptions while fumbling six times (losing three) in the postseason. He has thrown for six touchdowns and rushed for three in his playoff career.

In other words, production needs to increase and miscues need to decrease.

And the 28-year-old needs to be more relaxed.

"I'm just too excited -- that's all. Too antsy, that's all," Jackson said of his playoff troubles. "I'm seeing things before it happens like, 'Oh, I have to calm myself down.' But just being more experienced, I've found a way to balance it out."

One person who could



Baltimore Ravens quarterback Lamar Jackson (8) throws from the pocket during the first half against the Pittsburgh Steelers at M&T Bank Stadium on Dec. 21, 2024, in Baltimore, Md.

come to the rescue is star running back Derrick Henry.

In his first season with the Ravens, Henry rushed for 1,921 yards, second in the NFL, and 16 touchdowns, tied for first. He has played in seven postseason games, and he helped Tennessee reach the AFC Championship Game in the 2019 season

before the Titans lost to the Kansas City Chiefs.

Henry is aware of the team's reputation for coming up short in the playoffs. Just last season, the Ravens were the top seed but eventually lost at home to the Chiefs in the AFC title game.

"We've got to be different this time," Henry said. "I think you all know that

and we all feel that. We all know what we're capable of. Let's go get it."

This will be the fifth postseason meeting between the teams. Pittsburgh won three of the previous four, but the Ravens prevailed in the most recent playoff matchup, 30-17 in the wild-card round on Jan. 3, 2015.

This season, the Ravens (12-5) and Steelers (10-7) split their two regular-season meetings, with each team winning at home.

The Steelers captured the first game 18-16 behind six field goals from Chris Boswell on Nov. 17. In the rematch on Dec. 21, Jackson threw three touchdown passes and Henry rushed for 162 yards in Baltimore's 34-17 triumph.

Pittsburgh enters the Saturday clash on a four-game losing streak. The Steelers missed multiple chances to clinch the AFC North before eventually being overtaken by Baltimore, which won its last four contests.

"For us, it's not about being in the tournament. It's not about pouting over the last month," Steelers coach Mike Tomlin said. "It's about this week for us, we're playing someone that we're highly familiar with. They're also highly familiar with us. ... And so there's a lot of work ahead of us in preparation for performance."

Pittsburgh has been outscored 109-57 during the slide and hasn't scored more than 17 points in any of the setbacks.

The Steelers lost 19-17 to the visiting Cincinnati Bengals last week, and the refrain from Pittsburgh players is consistent: Turn the page.

"Everybody doesn't get

a chance to play in the playoffs, everybody doesn't get a chance to prolong their season week by week," Pittsburgh cornerback Donte Jackson said. "So you have to be turned up. You've got to flush everything that happened, and you got to just detail in and hone in on this. The guys don't worry about the last month."

The Steelers will be counting on veteran quarterback Russell Wilson to be steady in his approach. The 36-year-old won a Super Bowl title with the Seattle Seahawks in the 2013 season and has a 9-7 record in the postseason.

Ravens receiver Zay Flowers (knee) missed his second straight day of practice on Wednesday and remains unlikely to play Saturday. Flowers was injured during the regular-season finale against the Cleveland Browns.

Baltimore returner Deonte Harty (knee) missed practice on Wednesday after being a full participant the day before, when the team activated his 21-day window to return. Harty was injured in Week 6 and missed the rest of the regular season.

Pittsburgh star defensive tackle Cameron Heyward (illness) sat out his second straight practice on Wednesday. Boswell (illness) and tight end MyCole Pruitt (knee) also sat out.

# Task for No. 5 Texas: Stop the receivers for No. 8 Ohio State

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There are plenty of storylines heading into this year's Cotton Bowl, where two of the winningest programs in college football history will face off for a chance to play for the College Football Playoff national championship.

Still, when No. 5 Texas (13-2) and No. 8 Ohio State (12-2) meet in a semifinal matchup on Friday night in Arlington, Texas, the attention will be focused on the quarterbacks.

Ohio State's Will Howard played against Texas when he was at Kansas State, but the Wildcats went 0-4 versus the Longhorns in those years. Texas' Quinn Ewers, meanwhile, started his college career with the Buckeyes before transferring to his home state's school.

"That was the only team I didn't beat when I was in the Big 12," Howard said. "There's definitely a little extra motivation because I never got the chance to beat these guys, played them for four years. They're always a good team, but I don't think -- none of those games were unwinnable. Last year we lost in overtime. So, definitely excited to get another chance at these guys."

Ewers, who went to high school about 20 miles from AT&T Stadium at Southlake Carroll, has



Ohio State quarterback Will Howard (18) throws to wide receiver Jeremiah Smith (4) during the first half of the College Football Playoff first round game against Tennessee on Dec. 21, 2024. Smith and fellow receiver Emeka Egbuka have combined for 2,120 yards and 24 touchdown receptions this season.

never faced his former team and only had positive things to say about his one semester with the Buckeyes.

"I don't regret any decision I've made on going or anything like that, but the main reason I went was I felt like I had a great relationship with the coaching staff," Ewers said of his time at Ohio State. "And they were winning a lot of games, and I wanted to go be a part of something like that."

"The reason that I came back to Texas was, one, to be closer to where I'm from and just closer to the resources that I have and the relationships that I've built over time just being from Texas."

Despite the neutral site, this is a home game for Texas. Still, the Buckeyes

have a 3-1 record at AT&T Stadium in Arlington, including a 42-20 win over Oregon in January 2015 to win the first College Football Playoff national championship.

Ten years later, Texas will need to contain Ohio State's dynamic receiving corps led by Jeremiah Smith and Emeka Egbuka, who combined for 2,120 yards and 24 touchdown receptions. Each made 70 catches.

"Yeah, they've got an impressive group out at receiver," Texas defensive back Michael Taaffe said. "They've got four or five guys that are really dangerous. Obviously, Jeremiah is really good. Obviously, Emeka, No. 2, is elite. ... They've got guys you've got to respect out there."

throughout the coming months and this year's Ryder Cup," Bradley said. "His extensive match-play success and strong relationships make him a perfect fit. I look forward to working with him closely as we get ready for Bethpage Black."

This marks Kisner's first Ryder Cup as a vice captain or player. He was a captain's assistant for the 2024 Presidents Cup and represented the U.S. in the 2017 and 2022 Presidents Cups, compiling a 2-2-3 career record.

"I am incredibly appreciative of Keegan for this opportunity to help guide the

U.S. team at the 2025 Ryder Cup," Kisner said. "I love match play, and the Ryder Cup is one of the greatest events in sports. I cannot wait to be a part of it and look forward to doing everything I can to support Keegan, Webb, Brandt and our talented team."

Kisner is a four-time winner on the PGA Tour, most recently at the Wyndham Championship in 2021. He is known for strong match play, having won the WGC-Dell Technologies Match Play tournament in 2019 and finishing second in that event in 2018 and 2022.

way that this format is and the way the playoffs are set now, it allows us an opportunity to grow as a team and to learn and to get better and to peak late in the season."

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**NOTICE FOR BIDS**  
The Atchison School District and McCownGordon Construction will be accepting sealed bids for the Atchison Elementary School. Bids will be accepted by McCownGordon Construction 850 Main St, Kansas City, MO 64105 on January 21st, 2025, at 2:00PM or electronically through Building Connected for the Atchison Elementary School for the Atchison School District. Bids received after said time will not be opened and returned. This project is tax exempt. MBE/WBE are encouraged to participate. The Atchison Board of Education reserves the right to reject any or all bids and reserve the right to be the sole judge of what it considers the lowest responsible bid. McCownGordon Construction and the Atchison School District are Equal Opportunity Employers. IFL0211826 Jan 10 2025

**Request for Bid: Nuisance Abatement, Removal and Disposal**

The City of Grandview, Missouri, is soliciting bids from qualified contractors for the provision of nuisance abatement and disposal at 13408 Spring Street. The abatement will include the removal and proper disposal of branches, limbs, mulch and other yard waste and refuse. The Community Development Department of the City of Grandview, Missouri, will receive sealed bids for the provision of nuisance abatement 13408 Spring Street until, 10:00 A.M. on the 27th day of January, 2025, at City Hall, 1200 Main Street, Grandview, Missouri 64030, at which time all bids received will be publicly opened and read aloud. The Bid submission process begins, and bids can be submitted, Friday, January 10th at 10:00 AM. All inquiries or contacts related to this Request For Bids are required to be made exclusively through Randy Dunn, Community Development Director, by email at rdunn@grandview.org or at (816) 316-4820. IFL0211846 Jan 10 2025

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# Bradley names Kisner US Ryder Cup vice captain

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United States captain Keegan Bradley named Kevin Kisner as one of his vice captains for the 45th Ryder Cup on Wednesday.

The competition will be played from Sept. 26-28 at Bethpage Black in Far-

mingdale, N.Y.

Kisner, 40, joins Webb Simpson and Brandt Snedeker, who were previously appointed as vice captains. Additional vice captains will be announced at a later date.

"Kevin is a great addition to our leadership group and will be a trusted voice