WEEK 7 THURSDAY NIGHT - NO @ AZ

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Alvin Kamara finished with the lowest rushing attempts since Week 1 and accounted for 50% of the team's rushing attempts and 57% of the team's rushing yards. However, he did finish second on the team in targets (9).

Chris Olave remains the lead WR with a 28% target share (the next two WRs had 12% each), and his second 100+ yard game of the season after getting 38% of his yards from one play.

Andy Dalton put good volume numbers, but it was a result of negative gamescript (three turnovers). He averaged 7.7 yards per attempt and completed 63% of his passes,

NO's offense was moving the ball against the AZ defense, converting 3rd downs (6/13) and nearly 500 yards of offense, despite the three turnovers that changed the game's momentum.

NO's defense was inconsistent, struggling in the first half, and started to get stops from the beginning of the third quarter, despite being down by double-digits.



FINAL SCORE: NO 34 - AZ 42

Eno Benjamin accounted for 67% of the team's rushing yards, with 41% of the team's rush attempts, and got nearly 50% of his yards on one big play. He was also second on the team in targets (5).

Deandre Hopkins returned to a 48% target share and accounted for more than 50% of the team's receiving yards, with no other player surpassing five targets or 40 yards.

Kyler Murray played well despite his season-low 29 pass attempts. He averaged seven yards per attempt completing 69% of his passes. He had zero turnovers but only scored one touchdown in three consecutive games.

AZ's offense started strong, scoring on every 1st half drive (Two FGs and one TD). However, they practically went three and out on three of their first four drives to start the 3rd quarter.

AZ's defense looked terrible, giving up nearly 500 yards of offense (494), seven yards per play, and they were fortunate to force three turnovers, which ultimately was a 17-21 point swing in the game (One of Dalton's INT was in AZ's redzone).

WEEK 7 TAKEAWAYS

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NO

Alvin Kamara remains a high-end RB2 with RB1 upside being one of the focal points of the offense as a rusher/receiver

Chris Olave is a mid-tier WR2 with WR1 upside every week regardless of the injuries to Jarvis Landry and Michael Thomas, as he's become the primary receiving threat.

Andy Dalton is not worth starting unless as a desparation streaming QB2 option in superflex leagues.

Taysom Hill was effective despite being less involved in the offense. He's become one of the secondary rushers splitting carries with Mark Ingram, and Hill is a volatile TE streaming option.

NO's defense showed some life but was not impressive enough to be a streaming candidate against most matchups and should be avoided for now.



AZ

Eno Benjamin is a RB3/high-end flex option in PPR leagues despite being a committee with Keaontay Ingram as he out-touched Ingram (16-9).

Deandre Hopkins is a high-end WR2, as this target distribution was likely an anomaly and may regress in the next couple of weeks. However, showing chemistry with Kyler Murray gives me hope he can reach WR1 status.

Kyler Murray remains a low-end QB1 and is starting to lose the top-five QB upside with how inconsistent the offense looks. However, his rushing ability provides a floor against most matchups.

Zach Ertz remains a low-end TE-1 and will likely bounce back and become more involved in the offense next week.

Rondale Moore had an awful game, and it'll be essential to monitor how he bounces back the following week and if the WR2 role has value with Deandre Hopkins's return.