

# Thorn: Biggest OL vs. DL Mismatches, Week 4

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The goal of a real-life NFL defense is to prevent the other team from scoring points. When we select a defense to roster, we're trying to score the most fantasy points. It's a subtle shift in thinking, but an important one.

The optimal way to select a defense in DFS is to think in terms of big events, not points allowed. Just 2.3% of games last season ended in a shutout and only 9.7% ended with one team being held to six points or fewer. In other words, targeting the "points allowed" category is a fool's errand.

The real fantasy points come from sacks, forced fumbles, interceptions, and defensive touchdowns. These events are by far most likely to happen when a quarterback is under pressure. The best possible outcome on a single play for our defense is a strip sack which results in a defensive touchdown, as we get one DraftKings point for the sack, two for the fumble recovery, and six for the touchdown.

With that in mind, below you'll find the biggest mismatches between defensive and offensive lines for Week 4. The objective is to project QB pressure through film study, injuries, scheme, coaching, and talent.

Week 4 Bye Week: None

Week 4 Matchups			
AWAY TEAM	HOME TEAM	GAME TIME	
Seattle Seahawks <small>DL RANK: 24 - DL RANK: 5</small>	Arizona Cardinals <small>DL RANK: 15 - DL RANK: 22</small>	Thursday 06:15 PM ET	
Minnesota Vikings <small>DL RANK: 5 - DL RANK: 7</small>	Pittsburgh Steelers <small>DL RANK: 12 - DL RANK: 8</small>	Sunday 09:30 AM ET	
Washington Commanders <small>DL RANK: 7 - DL RANK: 17</small>	Atlanta Falcons <small>DL RANK: 18 - DL RANK: 27</small>	Sunday 01:00 PM ET	
New Orleans Saints <small>DL RANK: 23 - DL RANK: 38</small>	Buffalo Bills <small>DL RANK: 5 - DL RANK: 25</small>	Sunday 01:00 PM ET	
Cleveland Browns <small>DL RANK: 18 - DL RANK: 9</small>	Detroit Lions <small>DL RANK: 3 - DL RANK: 13</small>	Sunday 01:00 PM ET	
Tennessee Titans <small>DL RANK: 20 - DL RANK: 18</small>	Houston Texans <b>DL &gt; OL</b> <small>DL RANK: 32 - DL RANK: 1</small>	Sunday 01:00 PM ET	
Carolina Panthers <small>DL RANK: 28 - DL RANK: 32</small>	New England Patriots <small>DL RANK: 21 - DL RANK: 14</small>	Sunday 01:00 PM ET	
Los Angeles Chargers <small>DL RANK: 22 - DL RANK: 31</small>	New York Giants <small>DL RANK: 27 - DL RANK: 9</small>	Sunday 01:00 PM ET	
Philadelphia Eagles <b>DL &gt; OL</b> <small>DL RANK: 1 - DL RANK: 11</small>	Tampa Bay Buccaneers <small>DL RANK: 23 - DL RANK: 26</small>	Sunday 01:00 PM ET	
Indianapolis Colts <small>DL RANK: 4 - DL RANK: 15</small>	Los Angeles Rams <small>DL RANK: 11 - DL RANK: 4</small>	Sunday 04:05 PM ET	
Jacksonville Jaguars <small>DL RANK: 13 - DL RANK: 16</small>	San Francisco 49ers <small>DL RANK: 14 - DL RANK: 19</small>	Sunday 04:05 PM ET	
Baltimore Ravens <small>DL RANK: 13 - DL RANK: 23</small>	Kansas City Chiefs <small>DL RANK: 8 - DL RANK: 12</small>	Sunday 04:25 PM ET	
Chicago Bears <small>DL RANK: 9 - DL RANK: 28</small>	Las Vegas Raiders <small>DL RANK: 31 - DL RANK: 24</small>	Sunday 04:25 PM ET	
Green Bay Packers <b>DL &gt; OL</b> <small>DL RANK: 17 - DL RANK: 6</small>	Dallas Cowboys <small>DL RANK: 25 - DL RANK: 29</small>	Sunday 08:20 PM ET	
New York Jets <b>OL &gt; DL</b> <small>DL RANK: -- - DL RANK: 19</small>	Miami Dolphins <small>DL RANK: 29 - DL RANK: 21</small>	Monday 07:15 PM ET	
Cincinnati Bengals <small>DL RANK: 29 - DL RANK: 29</small>	Denver Broncos <b>OL &gt; DL</b> <b>DL &gt; OL</b> <small>DL RANK: 2 - DL RANK: 2</small>	Monday 08:15 PM ET	

DL Rankings – Week 4

- Texans
- Broncos
- Giants
- Rams
- Seahawks
- Packers
- Vikings
- Steelers – Edge rusher **Alex Highsmith** remains out of practice with an ankle injury.
- Browns
- Jets
- Eagles – Edge rusher **Nolan Smith** was placed on short-term injured reserve, which will keep him out until at least Week 8.
- Chiefs
- Lions
- Patriots
- Colts
- Jaguars
- Commanders
- Titans – DT **T’Vondre Sweat** is on short-term injured reserve until at least Week 8.
- 49ers – DE **Nick Bosa** suffered a season-ending knee injury in Week 3.
- Bucs – DT **Calijah Kancey** is out for the year with a torn pec.
- Dolphins
- Cardinals
- Ravens – Edge rusher **Kyle Van Noy** and DT **Nnamdi Madubuike** both remain out of practice with a hamstring injury and are doubtful to play this week.
- Raiders
- Bills – DT **Ed Oliver** remains out of practice with a foot injury after missing Weeks 2 and 3.
- Bengals
- Falcons

- 28. Bears
- 29. Cowboys
- 30. Saints – DE **Chase Young** hasn't played yet this season and sat out practice Wednesday and Thursday with a recurring calf injury.
- 31. Chargers – DE **Khalil Mack** is on short-term injured reserve with an elbow injury until at least Week 7.
- 32. Panthers

OL Rankings – Week 4

- 1. Eagles
- 2. Broncos
- 3. Lions
- 4. Colts
- 5. Bills – RT **Spencer Brown** missed practice on Wednesday and Thursday with a calf injury.
- 6. Vikings – LG **Donovan Jackson** had wrist surgery that will keep him out until at least Week 8.
- 7. Commanders
- 8. Chiefs
- 9. Bears
- 10. Jets
- 11. Rams
- 12. Steelers
- 13. Ravens
- 14. 49ers
- 15. Cardinals
- 16. Falcons
- 17. Packers – RT **Zach Tom** is out this week with an oblique injury.
- 18. Browns – LT **Dawand Jones** suffered a season-ending knee injury in Week 3.
- 19. Jaguars
- 20. Titans – RT **JC Latham** remains out of practice with a hip injury that has kept him out since Week 1.
- 21. Patriots
- 22. Chargers
- 23. Bucs – **Luke Goedeke** suffered a foot injury that landed him on short-term injured reserve until at least Week 7. RG **Cody Mauch** suffered a season-ending knee injury in Week 2.
- 24. Seahawks
- 25. Cowboys – C **Cooper Beebe** suffered an ankle injury in Week 2 that will keep him out for 6-8 weeks. RG **Tyler Booker** suffered a high ankle sprain in Week 3 and will be out for 4-6 weeks.
- 26. Saints
- 27. Giants
- 28. Panthers – RG **Robert Hunt** went down in Week 2 with a season-ending torn biceps injury. C **Austin Corbett** is on short-term injured reserve until at least Week 7 with an MCL injury.
- 29. Dolphins – RG **James Daniels** is on short-term injured reserve with a pec injury. RT **Austin Jackson** is on short-term injured reserve until at least Week 6 with a toe injury.
- 30. Bengals
- 31. Raiders
- 32. Texans

Biggest Week 4 DL > OL Mismatches

- 1. Broncos DL (2nd) > Bengals OL (30th)
- 2. Packers DL (6th) > Cowboys (25th)
- 3. Texans DL (1st) > Titans OL (20th)
- 4. Jets DL (10th) > Dolphins OL (29th)
- 5. Eagles DL (11th) > Bucs OL (23rd)

Biggest Week 4 OL > DL Mismatches

- 1. Broncos OL (2nd) > Bengals DL (26th)

DL > OL

1. Broncos DL > Bengals OL

**Key matchups:** Edge rusher Nik Bonitto vs. LT Orlando Brown Jr., DTs Zach Allen, John Franklin-Myers and DJ. Jones vs. the Bengals' interior trio

**Notes:** *The Broncos' DL ranks fifth in pass-rush win rate, first in pressure percentage, and fourth in sacks per pass attempt. The Bengals' OL ranks 32nd in pass-block win rate, 31st in pressure percentage given up, and 26th in sacks per pass attempt given up.*

This is the easy choice for the top mismatch of the week and stems from the disparity of the matchups along the interior. With three potent rushers inside and an aggressive scheme, the Bengals' middling interior trio will be heavily outmatched anytime they are isolated against them. This is made worse with the Broncos having two highly capable edge rushers in **Nik Bonitto** and **Jonathan Cooper** with the former being a star. This will put both of the Bengals' massive tackles in a bind against their speed-oriented skill sets.

2. Packers DL > Cowboys OL

**Key matchups:** Edge rushers Micah Parsons and Rashan Gary vs. OTs Tyler Guyton and Terence Steele, DTs Karl Brooks and Devonte Wyatt vs. RG TJ Bass or Trevor Keegan

**Notes:** *The Packers' DL ranks 15th in pass-rush win rate, seventh in pressure percentage, and 11th in sacks per pass attempt. The Cowboys' OL ranks sixth in pass-block win rate and 29th in QB hurries given up. C Cooper Beebe and RG Tyler Booker are out this week.*

The Cowboys' hobbled offensive line, being down two starters on the interior with a very raw left tackle in **Tyler Guyton** and up-and-down right tackle **Terence Steele**, is set to face a dynamic Green Bay front with weapons across the lineup. Edge rusher **Micah Parsons** is a stick of dynamite who can win across the line and will have his pick of a mismatch anywhere he lines up in this game. It also will be his first time facing his old team, providing the *#RevengeGame* narrative that adds even more incentive for him to be at his best. **Rashan Gary** will face off against Steele with his own matchup advantage, but the next biggest reason for their placement this high resides on the interior. DTs **Devonte Wyatt** and **Karl Brooks** facing a backup center and right guard presents a sneaky set of mismatches that they can exploit using their quick-twitch movements and potent set of swipes and chops to create disruption inside.

3. Texans DL > Titans OL

**Key matchups:** Edge rushers Danielle Hunter and Will Anderson Jr. vs. OTs Dan Moore and John Ojukwu/Oli Udoh

**Notes:** *The Texans' DL ranks third in pass-rush win rate, 26th in pressure percentage, and 12th in sacks per pass attempt. The Titans' OL ranks 23rd in pass-block win rate, 30th in sacks per pass attempt given up, and 32nd in pressure percentage given up.*

Tennessee's right tackle spot is a black hole without **JC Latham** in the lineup, and he is set to miss another game this week. It comes at the worst time with the best edge-rushing duo in the league in **Danielle Hunter** and **Will Anderson Jr.** on the other side of the ball this week. LT **Dan Moore** is struggling as well, making this set of mismatches off the edge the catalyst for a lopsided mismatch that the Titans will struggle massively to protect against.

4. Jets DL > Dolphins OL

**Key matchups:** Edge rusher Will McDonald IV vs. LT Patrick Paul, DT Quinnen Williams vs. LG Jonah Savaiinaea

**Notes:** *The Jets' DL ranks 20th in pass-rush win rate, 31st in pressure percentage, and 19th in sacks per pass attempt. Edge rusher Jermaine Johnson II is "week-to-week" with an ankle injury, putting his status as questionable this week. The Dolphins' OL ranks 12th in pass-block win rate, 30th in pressure percentage, and 32nd in QB hurries given up.*

New York may be without starting edge rusher **Jermaine Johnson II** this week, which does weaken their ability to impact the quarterback rushing four, although the Dolphins have backup RT **Larry Borom** facing Johnson's backup to essentially cancel that concern out. This leaves two glaring mismatches on the other side, led by DT **Quinnen Williams** facing rookie LG **Jonah Savaiinaea** and also backup RG **Daniel Brunskill** whenever he rotates to his side. **Will McDonald's** speed and bend will give LT **Patrick Paul** fits whenever the Dolphins are unable to get rid of the ball on the first read as well. This isn't as glaring of a mismatch as the former three selections, but there are a couple of individual advantages that the Jets can use to create significant problems for a banged-up, marginal Dolphins line.

5. Eagles DL > Bucs OL

**Key matchups:** DT Jalen Carter vs. RG Elijah Klein, edge rushers Za'Darius Smith and Josh Uche vs. RT Charlie Heck

**Notes:** *The Eagles' DL ranks 13th in pass-rush win rate, third in QB knockdown percentage, and 15th in pressure percentage. Edge rusher Nolan Smith is out this week. The Bucs' OL ranks 30th in pass-block win rate and 15th in sacks per pass attempt given up. LT Tristan Wirfs is set to return this week, while both RG Cody Mauch and RT Luke Goedeke are out.*

The Bucs' line will receive an enormous boost this week with the return of **Tristan Wirfs** that will also bolster the center spot given **Graham Barton** being able to return to his natural position. The problem centers around the set of backups on the right side of their line facing **Jalen Carter** and some combination of **Za'Darius Smith** and **Josh Uche**. Carter against backup RG **Elijah Klein** will require constant double-teams that will open up opportunities for the rest of a solid Eagles front and shrewd pressure packages of defensive coordinator **Vic Fangio** to exploit.

OL > DL

1. Broncos OL (2nd) > Bengals DL (26th)

The Bengals always have a shot at creating notable pressure with DE **Trey Hendrickson** on the line, but the Broncos have a good enough left tackle in **Garett Bolles** to at least quiet that concern and put the burden on the rest of the pass rush to impact the game. The Bengals don't have a clear-cut second-best option to rely on against a well-rounded Broncos line, and they also lack the overall defensive infrastructure around the front to present much of a threat to the typically sound protection plan of the Broncos.

[Green Bay Packers, Micah Parsons, Brandon Thorn DL/OL Mismatches, In-Season Package](#)



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