



Cowboys eliminated from playoffs as Rams advance to 2019 NFC Championship Game

Dallas lost their 2019 Divisional Round game to the Rams in Los Angeles on Saturday evening, 30 to 22. The Cowboys exceeded expectations in 2018 but ultimately came up short once again. The limitations of Jason Garret and Dak Prescott continue to hold Dallas back. Despite this, they'll likely receive contract extensions this offseason. Excellent news.

If the Eagles upset the Saints in New Orleans on Sunday, they'll have advanced further in the 2019 NFL Playoffs than the Cowboys did. At that point I think we very much need to put quotes around the Cowboys being "2018 NFC East champions."

The Rams' win means Los Angeles is headed to the 2019 NFC Championship Game. If the Eagles win in the Superdome, the reigning Super Bowl champions will be headed back to LA for a rematch with the Rams. If the Saints win, they'll be hosting the Rams next Sunday.

CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES SUNDAY, JANUARY 20

NFC: 3:05 PM ET - Los Angeles Rams vs. [winner of Philadelphia Eagles at New Orleans Saints] (FOX)

AFC: 6:40 PM ET - Kansas City Chiefs vs. [winner of Los Angeles Chargers at New England Patriots] (CBS)

SUPER BOWL LIII SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3 AFC champion v. NFC champion (CBS)

The 2019 NFL Pro Bowl will take place on Sunday, January 27.

CREDIT: Brandon Lee Gowton

https://www.bleedinggreennation.com/2019/1/12/18180541/cowboys-eliminated-playoffs-rams-advance-2019-nfc-championship-game-eagles-saints-dak-prescott-nfl





Sarah Thomas will make history as first woman to officiate an NFL playoff game

Sarah Thomas, an American football official, has seen a litany of football firsts.

She was the first woman to referee a major college football game, the first to officiate in a Big Ten stadium and the first to officiate a bowl game.

On Sunday, she'll become the first woman to officiate an NFL playoff game as the Patriots and Chargers face off in the AFC divisional playoff.

Line Judge Sarah Thomas in action during the game between the Houston Texans and the New Orleans Saints at the Mercedes-Benz Superdome on August 30, 2015 in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Women comprise roughly half the NFL's fan base, make up about a third of fantasy sports players and are integral to league growth. Female viewership increased by 26 percent from 2009 to 2013, while male viewership increased by 18 percent, according to data from Ebiquity.

Still, there has never been a woman head coach or general manager of any team, and women make up just a third of league employees.

"The huge story of having the first female referee at a playoff game just shows how far behind the NFL is. They're catching up, but they have got a lot of steps to make it equal," Laura Ries, Atlanta-based branding expert and cofounder of consultancy Ries & Ries, tellsCNBC Make It. "But they're also doing it for bottom line. The NFL is getting publicity as elevating women to major roles, since they know that women are watching."

The NFL has made a number of recent attempts to include more women. It launched its first women's summit in



2016, an event that has since brought together iconic female speakers from sports organizations around the world. It also started the Women's Careers in Football Forum, which educates and prepares women for positions in football operations.

But the league still struggles with representation. The Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport's NFL Racial and Gender Report Card gave the NFL a "C" in gender hiring practices for 2017.

Female representation among team vice president positions decreased to 23.5 percent and team professional staff positions to 37.2 percent, the report showed. Women held only 20 percent of the senior administrator positions during the 2017 NFL season (a 1 percent dip from 2016).

There were, however, notable improvements in other areas: Representation increased in management positions to 31.6 percent and staff positions in the NFL office to 39.6 percent.

"The NFL, like all the men's professional sports leagues, lags behind on hiring women in senior positions," Richard E. Lapchick, chair of the DeVos Sport Business Management Graduate Program at the University of Central Florida, tellsCNBC Make It. "While there have been some notable breakthroughs in the coaching ranks and with officials, more attention needs to be paid to hiring more women on teams as senior leaders."

Other notable hires in the past couple years include Katie Sowers, who in 2017 became the NFL's first openly gay and second full-time female coach, and Kathryn Smith, who during the 2016-2017 season became the first woman to hold a full-time coaching position.

CREDIT: Emma Newburger

https://www.cnbc.com/2019/01/11/sarah-thomas-is-the-first-woman-to-officiate-an-nfl-playoff-game.html

Klay Thompson torches Bulls again in Warriors 146-109 win

Stephen Curry joined some elite company on a list that he figures to top in the not-so-distant future.

Curry made five 3-pointers to move into third place all-time in NBA history behind Ray Allen and Reggie Miller, and

the Golden State Warriors rolled past the Chicago Bulls 146-109 on Friday night in their most lopsided win of the season.

Curry moved past Jason Terry with back-to-back 3s early in the third quarter and ended a 28-point night with 2,285 3-pointers in his career, trailing only Allen (2,973) and Miller (2,560). Curry saved the game ball and hopes to get it autographed by Allen and Miller, players he called trendsetters when it comes to long-range shooting.

"Obviously I want to catch them and put together many more years at this pace," Curry said. "But just knowing that those two guys are right in front of me, for sure. I respect the game and I respect what guys have done before and those two guys are guys I've looked up to."

Curry already holds the single-season record of 402 made 3s in 2015-16 and has moved into third place despite playing in more than 600 fewer games than Allen and Miller. It figures to be only a matter of time before the 30-year-old Curry surpasses those two and takes the mark to a whole new level.

"We all know he's going to break the record," teammate Kevin Durant said. "He sets such a high standard and a high bar. It is cool, but he has another season or two until he gets to the No. 1 spot and then he'll shatter that record, so I'll wait for that."

Curry wasn't even the most dangerous long-range shooter on his own team in this game as Klay Thompson picked up where he left off on his record-setting night in Chicago earlier this season by making seven more 3-pointers and scoring 30 points.

Thompson set an NBA mark in the first meeting between the teams

on Oct. 29 by hitting 14 3-pointers as part of a 52-point night while playing only the first three quarters. He made three from long range in the first 70 seconds of the rematch and the rout was on.

"That was incredible," coach Steve Kerr said. "Unbelievable start for him. It was a great first quarter, obviously set the tone."

The Warriors took a double-digit lead after just 2:19 and the Bulls never got the game back within single digits. Jonas Jerebko banked in a 3-pointer from beyond half court at the end of the first quarter to give Golden State a 43-17 lead that grew to 44 points in the third quarter.

Durant added 22 for the Warriors, his 15th straight game with at least 20 points.

Zach LaVine scored 29 points to lead the Bulls, who couldn't overcome the poor start and lost their sixth straight game.

"I don't know if we were watching them, in awe fearful," coach Jim Boylen said. "I don't know what it was. We talked about it and I thought we came out in the second quarter and played better. We did respond. But we were just following them around to start the game and that was a little bit too respectful. I am disappointed in that."

TIP-INS

Bulls: Chicago had its largest first-quarter deficit in franchise history. ... The Bulls allowed 18 3-pointers and made only nine. They have given up 103 more 3-pointers than they've made this season, the worst differential in the league. ... G Kris Dunn finished with a minus-45 rating. ... G Bobby Portis was on a 28-minute limit in his third game back from an ankle injury, but played less than 17 with the game out of hand early. He scored 16 points.

Warriors: The 26-point lead after the opening quarter was the biggest for the Warriors since they led Sacramento by 30 points on Nov. 2, 1991. ... Thompson's 21 3-pointers in two games vs. Chicago are tied for the most in one season against the Bulls with the 21 made by Antoine Walker in four games in 2001-02. ... Thompson is averaging 27.7 points over his last six games.





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