The Replay Project: United States Football League Simulation

Overview:

The Replay Project is a weekly series of simulation-based reports that recreate and analyze games in the United States Football League (USFL). Each report is presented as a clickable PDF on our website, allowing fans and enthusiasts to explore game results, and standings, in a fun and engaging way.

Key Features:

- **Simulation-Based Results:** Every game is generated using a football simulation system, ensuring each matchup is unique and replayable.

- **Team Identification:** Teams are represented using their official colors and city names across uniforms. No official logos or trademarks are used on the uniforms. Team nicknames (e.g., "Breakers") appear only in captions, headlines, or tables for clarity.

- **Weekly Reports:** Each PDF contains full results for that week, including scores, latest standings, and highlight commentary.

- **Interactive and Accessible:** PDFs are designed to be easy to navigate, with clickable sections for each week.

Legal and Fair Use Notes:

- *The Replay Project* is **not affiliated with or endorsed by the USFL**.

- All use of team names, colors, and league references is for **identification and commentary purposes only**, consistent with nominative fair use.

- No official logos, trademarks, or copyrighted images are used in the reports.

Purpose:

The series aims to provide fans with an engaging, analytical, and fun way to experience USFL football in a simulation format. Whether you enjoy tracking team performance, exploring game stats, or simply watching simulated matchups unfold, *The Replay Project* offers a weekly snapshot of football excitement — all in a safe, legal, and creative format.

Simulation Mechanics: Zermelo Values and Home Field Advantage

To generate realistic game results in the USFL simulation, each team is assigned a **Zermelo value**, which represents its relative strength in the league achieved during the 1983, '84, '85 and 2022, 2023, and UFL games between USFL teams only. These values are derived from historical performance.

- **Zermelo Values:**
  Each team's Zermelo value is a number that quantifies its ability to win games. A higher value indicates a stronger team. When two teams face each other, the difference in their Zermelo values is used to calculate the probability of each team winning the matchup.

- **Home Field Advantage (HFA) Multiplier:**
  To simulate the real-world impact of playing at home, each team has an HFA multiplier. This multiplier boosts a team's Zermelo value when it is playing at home. For example, if the league has an HFA multiplier of **1.5**, the team's effective Zermelo value is multiplied by 1.5 when hosting the game. This ensures that home games are significantly more challenging for visiting teams.

Example Calculation (simplified):

1. Team A Zermelo: 1.20 | Team B Zermelo: 1.00
2. Team A HFA at home: 1.5 → Effective Zermelo: 1.20 × 1.5 = 1.80
3. Probability of Team A winning: 1.80 ÷ (1.80 + 1.00) ≈ 0.64 (64%)

This system allows every game to have a mathematically grounded outcome while still allowing for upsets, close contests, and variability throughout the season.

The Computed Zermelo Values from the 1983, '84, '85, '22, '23, '24, '25 Seasons Among the USFL Teams

	Team	Record	Zermelo
1	Birmingham Stallions	67-25	352.2390
2	Philadelphia Stars	59-24-1	309.3987
3	Tampa Bay Bandits	39-27	195.2935
4	New Jersey Generals	43-34	161.0260
5	Houston Gamblers	31-27	136.3401
6	New Orleans Breakers	38-38	133.2144
7	Oakland Invaders	31-26-1	133.1937
8	Michigan Panthers	35-35	131.7586
9	Memphis Showboats	25-31	112.4633
10	Denver Gold	27-28	110.2358
11	Chicago Blitz	17-20	96.1558
12	Jacksonville Bulls	15-21	86.1714
13	Arizona Wranglers	16-23	77.0789
14	Los Angeles Express	22-34	68.5384
15	Arizona Outlaws	14-22	63.3191
16	Orlando Renegades	5-13	50.3223
17	San Antonio Gunslingers	12-24	50.1991
18	Pittsburgh Maulers	9-31	39.1945
19	Washington Federals	7-29	26.9697

The home field advantage multiplier = 1.510062418172455

Divisional Alignment and Schedule

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01 Eastern - Atlantic Div      GP    W    L    T    Pct      PF    PA
====================================================================
New Jersey                      0    0    0    0    0.000     0     0
Philadelphia                    0    0    0    0    0.000     0     0
Pittsburgh                      0    0    0    0    0.000     0     0
Washington                      0    0    0    0    0.000     0     0


02 Eastern - Southern Div      GP    W    L    T    Pct      PF    PA
====================================================================
Birmingham                      0    0    0    0    0.000     0     0
Jacksonville                    0    0    0    0    0.000     0     0
New Orleans                     0    0    0    0    0.000     0     0
Orlando                         0    0    0    0    0.000     0     0
Tampa Bay                       0    0    0    0    0.000     0     0


03 Western - Central Div       GP    W    L    T    Pct      PF    PA
====================================================================
Chicago                         0    0    0    0    0.000     0     0
Houston                         0    0    0    0    0.000     0     0
Memphis                         0    0    0    0    0.000     0     0
Michigan                        0    0    0    0    0.000     0     0
San Antonio                     0    0    0    0    0.000     0     0


04 Western - Pacific Div       GP    W    L    T    Pct      PF    PA
====================================================================
Ariz. Outlaws                   0    0    0    0    0.000     0     0
Ariz. Wranglers                 0    0    0    0    0.000     0     0
Denver                          0    0    0    0    0.000     0     0
Los Angeles                     0    0    0    0    0.000     0     0
Oakland                         0    0    0    0    0.000     0     0
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Week 1
======
Ariz. Wranglers at Jacksonville
Los Angeles at Denver
Oakland at New Orleans
Orlando at Birmingham
Philadelphia at Memphis
Pittsburgh at New Jersey
San Antonio at Michigan
Tampa Bay at Ariz. Outlaws
Washington at Houston
bye: Chicago

Week 2
======
Ariz. Outlaws at Memphis
Chicago at Houston
Los Angeles at Philadelphia
New Jersey at Orlando
New Orleans at Michigan
Oakland at Denver
San Antonio at Jacksonville
Tampa Bay at Ariz. Wranglers
Washington at Pittsburgh
bye: Birmingham

Week 3
======
Chicago at Oakland
Denver at Los Angeles
Houston at Ariz. Outlaws
Jacksonville at New Orleans
Memphis at Tampa Bay
Michigan at Washington
New Jersey at Birmingham
Philadelphia at San Antonio
Pittsburgh at Orlando
bye: Ariz. Wranglers

Week 4
======
Ariz. Outlaws at Denver
Birmingham at Michigan
Houston at Memphis
Los Angeles at Chicago
New Orleans at Washington
Oakland at Ariz. Wranglers
Orlando at Jacksonville
San Antonio at New Jersey
Tampa Bay at Pittsburgh
bye: Philadelphia

Week 5
======
Ariz. Wranglers at Orlando
Denver at San Antonio
Jacksonville at New Jersey
Memphis at Los Angeles
Michigan at Oakland
New Orleans at Ariz. Outlaws
Philadelphia at Tampa Bay
Pittsburgh at Chicago
Washington at Birmingham
bye: Houston

Week 6
======
Ariz. Outlaws at Washington
Birmingham at New Orleans
Chicago at Michigan
Los Angeles at Oakland
Memphis at Ariz. Wranglers
New Jersey at Philadelphia
Pittsburgh at Denver
San Antonio at Houston
Tampa Bay at Orlando
bye: Jacksonville

Week 7
======
Ariz. Wranglers at Ariz. Outlaws
Birmingham at Chicago
Jacksonville at Philadelphia
Michigan at Houston
New Jersey at Memphis
New Orleans at Tampa Bay
Oakland at Pittsburgh
Orlando at Los Angeles
Washington at San Antonio
bye: Denver

Week 8
======
Ariz. Outlaws at Los Angeles
Denver at Ariz. Wranglers
Houston at Chicago
Michigan at Orlando
New Orleans at Pittsburgh
Oakland at Jacksonville
Philadelphia at Washington
San Antonio at Memphis
Tampa Bay at Birmingham
bye: New Jersey

Week 9
======
Ariz. Wranglers at Michigan
Birmingham at Philadelphia
Chicago at Ariz. Outlaws
Denver at New Jersey
Houston at New Orleans
Jacksonville at Tampa Bay
Los Angeles at San Antonio
Orlando at Oakland
Pittsburgh at Washington
bye: Memphis

Week 10
=======
Ariz. Outlaws at Pittsburgh
Birmingham at Jacksonville
Los Angeles at Ariz. Wranglers
Memphis at Denver
Michigan at San Antonio
New Jersey at New Orleans
Oakland at Houston
Philadelphia at Chicago
Washington at Tampa Bay
bye: Orlando

Week 11
=======
Ariz. Wranglers at Washington
Chicago at Orlando
Denver at Oakland
Memphis at Houston
Michigan at Philadelphia
New Jersey at Pittsburgh
New Orleans at Birmingham
San Antonio at Ariz. Outlaws
Tampa Bay at Jacksonville
bye: Los Angeles

Week 12
=======
Ariz. Outlaws at Michigan
Birmingham at Memphis
Chicago at Denver
Houston at Ariz. Wranglers
Jacksonville at Los Angeles
Orlando at New Orleans
Philadelphia at Oakland
San Antonio at Tampa Bay
Washington at New Jersey
bye: Pittsburgh

Week 13
=======
Ariz. Wranglers at Chicago
Denver at Birmingham
Houston at New Jersey
Oakland at Ariz. Outlaws
Orlando at San Antonio
Philadelphia at New Orleans
Pittsburgh at Memphis
Tampa Bay at Los Angeles
Washington at Jacksonville
bye: Michigan

Week 14
=======
Ariz. Outlaws at Ariz. Wranglers
Birmingham at Pittsburgh
Chicago at Tampa Bay
Denver at Philadelphia
Jacksonville at Orlando
Los Angeles at Houston
Memphis at Michigan
New Jersey at Washington
San Antonio at Oakland
bye: New Orleans

Week 15
=======
Ariz. Wranglers at San Antonio
Chicago at Memphis
Houston at Birmingham
Los Angeles at Ariz. Outlaws
Michigan at Denver
New Orleans at Orlando
Pittsburgh at Jacksonville
Tampa Bay at New Jersey
Washington at Philadelphia
bye: Oakland

Week 16
=======
Ariz. Outlaws at Oakland
Denver at Houston
Jacksonville at Birmingham
Memphis at New Orleans
Michigan at Los Angeles
New Jersey at Ariz. Wranglers
Orlando at Tampa Bay
Philadelphia at Pittsburgh
San Antonio at Chicago
bye: Washington

Week 17
=======
Ariz. Wranglers at Oakland
Birmingham at Tampa Bay
Denver at Ariz. Outlaws
Houston at Michigan
Los Angeles at Pittsburgh
Memphis at Chicago
New Orleans at Jacksonville
Orlando at Washington
Philadelphia at New Jersey
bye: San Antonio

Week 18
=======
Ariz. Outlaws at Birmingham
Jacksonville at Houston
Memphis at San Antonio
Michigan at Chicago
New Orleans at Denver
Oakland at New Jersey
Orlando at Philadelphia
Pittsburgh at Ariz. Wranglers
Washington at Los Angeles
bye: Tampa Bay

Week 19
=======
Ariz. Wranglers at Los Angeles
Birmingham at Orlando
Chicago at Washington
Houston at San Antonio
Jacksonville at Denver
New Jersey at Michigan
Oakland at Memphis
Pittsburgh at Philadelphia
Tampa Bay at New Orleans
bye: Ariz. Outlaws

Week 20
=======
East #4 at East #1
East #3 at East #2
West #4 at West #1
West #3 at West #2

Week 21
=======
Eastern Conf. Championship
Western Conf. Championship

Week 22
=======
Firecracker Bowl

Playoffs Structure

The simulation concludes with a **postseason playoff** to determine the league champion. The USFL is divided into **Eastern** and **Western** conferences, and playoff spots are awarded based on regular-season performance that mirrors the divisional alignment in 1984.

Seeding

- The **division winners** in each conference earn the **#1 and #2 seeds**, reflecting their top performance within their divisions.

- The **next two best teams** in each conference, based on overall records, qualify as **wildcard teams** and are seeded #3 and #4.

Home Field Advantage (HFA)

- The **HFA multiplier** is applied throughout the playoffs. The **higher-seeded team hosts the game**, increasing their effective Zermelo value and giving them a higher probability of winning the matchup.

- **Exception – Championship Game (Firecracker Bowl):**

  - The championship game is held on the evening of **July 4th**, and its **location is determined during the season**.

  - **HFA is not applied**, even if the game is at one of the participating team's stadium. This assumes that **both teams have an equal number of fans rooting for them**, removing any home-field advantage and ensuring a neutral-field simulation.

Playoff Format

- Each conference features **four teams** (two division winners + two wildcards), for a total of **eight playoff teams** league-wide.

- Matchups are arranged so that the **#1 seed plays the #4 seed** and the **#2 seed plays the #3 seed** within each conference.

- Winners of the conference semifinals advance to the **conference championship game**, and the two conference champions meet in the **Firecracker Bowl**, the league championship.

This format ensures that **regular-season success is rewarded**, higher seeds benefit from **home-field advantage** throughout the playoffs, and the championship game is simulated fairly on a neutral-field basis.