

NEWS



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## **COWBOYS-FALCONS SATURDAY NIGHT GAME** **HAS NUMEROUS PLAYOFF IMPLICATIONS**

***12 Teams Alive in NFC Playoff Race***

***Three Teams in Running for NFC East Title***

***Three Teams Bidding for NFC South Crown***

Saturday night's game between the 8-5 Dallas Cowboys and 7-6 Atlanta Falcons (NFL Network, 8:00 PM ET) has numerous implications on the NFC playoff picture.

The Cowboys can clinch a playoff berth with a victory, a Minnesota loss/tie on Sunday AND either a New Orleans win/tie or a Carolina loss/tie. The Falcons can move closer to a division title or wild card playoff berth with a victory, which would improve their conference record – the second tiebreaker after head-to-head for wild card in non-division ties – to 6-4.

However, the outcome of Saturday's game will impact more than just the Cowboys and Falcons.  
Consider:

- New York Giants can move into an NFC East first place tie with a victory and a Dallas loss. The Giants would hold the tiebreaker based upon a better division record (4-1 vs. 2-3 with one game left for each).
- New Orleans can clinch a first-round bye this weekend with a victory and other results including a Dallas loss.
- New Orleans, regardless of its result on Sunday, can clinch the NFC South title this weekend with an Atlanta loss and a Carolina loss.
- Wild Card prospects for the 11 NFC teams still in the playoff chase (other than Chicago which has clinched NFC North title) improve with a Dallas loss or an Atlanta loss.

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