

The Matchup

San Francisco 49ers

Offence (Rank)

Record	11-4-1
Total Offence Yards p/gm	361.8 (11th)
Passing Yards	3,298 (23rd)
Rushing Yards	2,491 (4th)
Points	397 (11th)
Turnovers	16 (T-2nd)

Defence (Rank)

Total Defence Yards p/gm	294.4 (3rd)
Passing Yards Against	3,203 (4th)
Rushing Yards Against	1,507 (4th)
Points Allowed	273 (2nd)
Turnovers caused	25 (T-14th)
Sacks	41 (T-9th)

BALTIMORE RAVENS

Offence (Rank)

Record	10-6
Total Offence Yards p/gm	352.5 (16th)
Passing Yards	3,739 (15th)
Rushing Yards	1,901 (11th)
Points	398 (10th)
Turnovers	16 (T-2nd)

Defence (Rank)

Total Defence Yards p/gm	350.9 (17th)
Passing Yards Against	3,650 (17th)
Rushing Yards Against	1,965 (20th)
Points Allowed	344 (T-12th)
Turnovers caused	25 (T-14th)
Sacks	38 (13th)

Calgary Journal Predictions

<p>Matt Laurin mlaurin@journal.ca</p>	<p>It's one of the most tired clichés in sports, but this game really will be won in the trenches.</p> <p>The Baltimore Ravens offensive line has been good throughout the postseason, giving quarterback Joe Flacco time to find his receivers. In fact, he's only been tackled four times behind the line scrimmage during that whole period.</p> <p>The San Francisco 49ers protect their quarterback in a different way by using the newly introduced "pistol offence" to move Colin Kaepernick around and away from the opposing defence. So far, Kaepernick's increased mobility and decision making has caused all kinds of problems for opposing defences.</p> <p>Expect this game to stay close for three quarters, with the Niners pulling away early in the fourth. The front seven for the San Francisco team will prove too much for a Ravens offence that has overachieved in the postseason.</p> <p>Sorry Ray Lewis.</p>	 <p>27 - 20 49ers</p>
<p>Geoff Crane gcrane@journal.ca</p>	<p>Sifting through all the static, I am predicting the Baltimore Ravens to win over the much favored San Francisco 49ers. There are plenty of reasons to go the other way. Heck the Ravens weren't even supposed to make it past their first match-up. The magic has to run out at some point right? That "magic" is the exact reason why I'm picking the Ravens to win. Simply put, I have picked against them all throughout the playoffs, and they have proven me wrong each time. This time I've learned my lesson. They truly do seem like a team of destiny.</p>	 <p>27 - 23 Ravens</p>
<p>Neil Hilts nhilts@journal.ca</p>	<p>In Colin Kaepernick, the 49ers have one of the best rushing quarterbacks in the game. But he can also beat teams with his accurate throwing. He is sure to cause all kinds of matchup problems for the Ravens.</p> <p>But, hands down, Ray Lewis has to be one of the most motivating leaders in the history of sports and the heart of the Ravens. He managed to come back after suffering a torn triceps on October 14, an injury which many people predicted that he would not return from.</p> <p>49ers kicker David Akers has been unreliable over the past four games, while Ravens kicker Justin Tucker has only missed three kicks all year. I think the game will come down to a kick in overtime, with Tucker being the guy to make it.</p> <p>I believe the Ravens, under the influence of Lewis, can knock off the 49ers. And Lewis will be crying tears of joy when the game ends.</p>	 <p>27 - 24 Ravens</p>
<p>Max Shilleto mshilleto@journal.ca</p>	<p>A predictable controversy could emerge, from the much debated officiating crew. This may be in the form of a turnover (or lack thereof) or a bad penalty call.</p> <p>It is difficult to forecast which team will be on the fortunate end of the controversial decision. However, the best indicator may be each team's turnover and penalty history in the 2012 season.</p> <p>While the Ravens and 49ers both posted a +9 turnover ratio, it was the Ravens who received the more penalties (121) than San Francisco (109).</p> <p>With that being said, I predict the San Francisco 49ers win it in a close one.</p>	 <p>17 - 16 49ers</p>
<p>Brent Dufault bdufault@journal.ca</p>	<p>Personally, I'm already getting a little tired of Ray Lewis being the talk of the Super Bowl. But, even with my admitted my bias against Lewis, I am leaning towards the Ravens to upset the 49ers.</p> <p>For two straight weeks, the Ravens have won games they were supposed to lose. They are rolling into the Super Bowl like the New York Giants have done twice in the past five years and like the Green Bay Packers did in 2010.</p> <p>Finally, even though 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick has been rightfully getting a lot of praise, Joe Flacco is pretty good too.</p> <p>He led the Ravens to an overtime road win in Denver. In New England, he picked apart the Patriots defence in a 28-13 win.</p> <p>After beating those two teams, and having to hear about how great the Kaepernick is, Flacco will be ready to go.</p>	 <p>31 - 27 Ravens</p>
<p>Ian Esplen fesplen@journal.ca</p>	<p>While I consider the 49ers to be the slightly better team on paper because they have better athletes at most positions, I like the Ravens in this game for a few reasons.</p> <p>One: Ravens quarterback Joe Flacco has an insane passer rating in the playoffs of 114.7 and has thrown eight touchdowns-to-zero interceptions.</p> <p>Two: head coach, John Harbaugh has been to the big game before and he knows how to win it.</p> <p>And reason three: Ray Lewis. Since announcing his retirement at the end of this season, both he and the Ravens defence have been pretty good.</p>	 <p>30 - 19 Ravens</p>