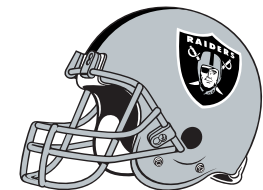




# COLTS INSIDER

## 2025

WEEK 5



This week's opponent:  
**LAS VEGAS RAIDERS**

SCHEDULE

- W

Week 1, vs. Miami  
Colts 33, Dolphins 8
- W

Week 2, vs. Denver  
Colts 29, Broncos 28
- W

Week 3, at Tennessee  
Colts 41, Rams 20
- L

Week 4, at LA Rams  
Rams 27, Colts 20
- U

Week 5, vs. Las Vegas  
Oct. 5, 1 p.m., FOX
- Week 6, vs. Arizona  
Oct. 12, 1 p.m., FOX
- Week 7, at LA Chargers  
Oct. 19, 4:05 p.m., CBS
- Week 8, vs. Tennessee  
Oct. 26, 4:25 p.m., CBS
- Week 9, at Pittsburgh  
Nov. 2, 1 p.m., CBS
- Week 10, vs. Atlanta (in Berlin)  
Nov. 9, 9:30 a.m., NFL Net.
- X

Week 11, bye
- Week 12, at Kansas City  
Nov. 23, 1 p.m., CBS
- Week 13, vs. Houston  
Nov. 30, 1 p.m., CBS
- Week 14, at Jacksonville  
Dec. 7, 1 p.m., CBS
- Week 15, at Seattle  
Dec. 14, 4:23 p.m., CBS
- Week 16, vs. San Francisco  
Dec. 22, 8:15 p.m., ESPN
- Week 17, vs. Jacksonville  
Dec. 28, 1 p.m., FOX
- Week 18, at Houston  
TBD

STANDINGS

AFC SOUTH				
	W	L	T	Pct.
Indianapolis	3	1	0	.750
Jacksonville	3	1	0	.750
Houston	1	3	0	.250
Tennessee	0	4	0	.000

BIG NUMBER

76

The yardage gained on a catch-and-run last Sunday against the Rams by Indy wide receiver Adonai Mitchell. The play, unfortunately for Colts fans, ended with Mitchell's goal line fumble that rolled out of the end zone, negating a sure touchdown and turning the ball over to L.A.



Marcio Jose Sanchez | Associated Press

Colts running back Jonathan Taylor splits two Ram defenders last Sunday in Inglewood, Calif.

# UNCANNY SIMILARITIES

Colts' Taylor, Raiders' Jeanty set for Sunday duel

MICHAEL MAROT  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

INDIANAPOLIS — Indianapolis Colts running back Jonathan Taylor uses his uncanny blend of speed, strength and shiftiness to outrun NFL defenses.

Las Vegas Raiders running back Ashton Jeanty is trying to do the same.

On Sunday, two of the league's most explosive runners — one with three 1,000-yard seasons and an NFL rushing title, the other trying to create his own niche by becoming the league's best rookie — meet in Indy.

Taylor knows exactly what he's up against.

"I thought he had a heck of a career in college, seeing Barry Sanders highlights, seeing how close he got," Taylor said of Jeanty, a former Boise State star who finished 7 yards short of Sanders' NCAA single-season record of 2,628.

"I just know the narrative of who's he's playing against kind of reminded me of, going to a small high school, they're like, 'Well, who is he playing against?'" Taylor added. "It's like, well, what do you want him to do? He's dominating his opponent across from him."

On paper and on tape, these two look quite similar.

Taylor played at a small high school in New Jersey, posted two 2,000-yard seasons at Wisconsin and heard the debate over whether his hefty workload and propensity to fumble would impact his draft stock. Indy (3-1) still took him in the second round in 2020 and six years later, Taylor is still one of the league's best.

He leads the NFL with 414 yards rushing this season, is tied for second with 77 carries and is tied for sixth in TD runs. Raiders coach Pete Carroll is, as usual, making run defense a priority if Las Vegas (1-3)



David Becker | Associated Press

Raiders quarterback Geno Smith hands off to running back Ashton Jeanty on Sept. 28 in Las Vegas.

hopes to snap a three-game losing streak.

"Our run defense has been solid. We've been pretty consistent, except for that (one) big play," he said. "It's the fundamentals, it's the line of scrimmage. It's all those things on both sides of the football that they can elevate and really, really come around."

Jeanty, meanwhile, started his football career in Italy before returning to the U.S. After getting overlooked by bigger schools, he landed at Boise State, led the Broncos to a College Football Playoff appearance and topped the 2,000-yard mark last year. Then came the questions about competition.

And, like the Colts, the Raiders took the plunge, selecting Jeanty with the No. 6 overall pick in April. He has rewarded Las Vegas by entering Week 5 with the most yards rushing by a rookie (282), three scores and is causing plenty of intrigue — and concern.

"Some rookies are physical off the bat, but he's a powerful runner, very strong," Colts coach Shane Steichen

said. "He doesn't shy away from contact, so it's going to be a physical football game on Sunday with him running the football. We're excited for the challenge. But yeah, he's just a hell of a player."

And, as Steichen would say, so is Taylor.

One thing that separates Jeanty from other backs, though, is his unconventional stance of standing straight up before the ball is snapped.

Offensive coordinator Chip Kelly worked with Jeanty on establishing a more typical stance where the running back leans forward. Jeanty tried it for the three games and rushed for a total of 144 yards. When he returned to his old stance last weekend, he rushed for 138 yards and averaged 6.6 yards a carry.

So it may be here to stay. "I just think it's different," Jeanty said. "A lot of times when something's different, it doesn't always come off to people that it could work that way. But it works, so no need to change it."

STATISTICS

THROUGH 4 GAMES

	PASSING					
	ATT	COM	PCT	YDS	TD	INT
Jones (IND)	121	87	71.9	1078	4	2
G. Smith (LVR)	127	81	63.8	948	6	7
OPP.	140	93	66.4	946	8	4

	RUSHING				
	ATT	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Taylor	77	414	5.4	68	3
Jones	18	54	3.0	17	3
Giddens	13	44	3.4	12	0
TEAM	121	545	4.5	68	7
OPP.	85	384	4.5	27	2

	RECEIVING				
	REC	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Pittman	21	234	11.1	27	3
Warren	19	263	13.8	41	0
Downs	14	121	8.6	29	0
Taylor	13	113	8.7	43	1
Pierce	9	171	19.0	44	0
TEAM	87	1078	12.4	75	4
OPP.	93	946	10.2	88	8

	INTERCEPTIONS			
	INT	YDS	TD	
Bynum	2	14	0	
Moore	1	32	1	
Latu	1	6	0	
TEAM	4	52	1	
OPP.	2	0	0	

	SACKS	
Lewis	.....	2
Cross	.....	1.5
Blackmon, Ebukam, Gallimore, Latu, Moore	.....	1
TEAM	.....	10
OPP.	.....	4

	TACKLES		
	SOLO	ASST	COMB
Cross	20	14	34
Bachie	11	12	23
Buckner	13	9	22
Franklin	10	12	22
Blackmon	14	5	19
Bynum	11	7	18

	PUNT RETURNS		
	RET	AVG	TD
Gould	4	8.8	0
TEAM	4	8.8	0
OPP.	1	0.0	0

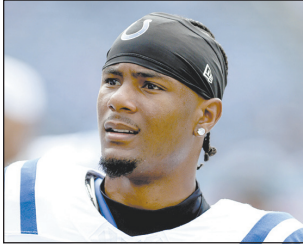
	SCORING						
	RUSH	REC	RET	TD	FG	PAT	PTS
Shrader	0	0	0	0	13	12	51
Taylor	3	1	0	4	0	0	24
D. Jones	3	0	0	3	0	0	18
Pittman	0	3	0	3	0	0	18
TEAM	7	4	0	12	13	12	123
OPP.	2	8	0	10	4	11	83

WHO'S HOT



**Tyler Warren:** The rough-and-tumble rookie tight end scored his first NFL touchdown last Sunday against the Dolphins. Warren leads the Colts in receiving yards (263) and is second on the team in receptions (19). He's also made his mark as a blocker, springing Jonathan Taylor for a 46-yard TD run against the Titans in Week 3.

WHO'S NOT



**Adonai Mitchell:** The second-year wide receiver's unforced goal-line fumble cost Indy six points and gave momentum to L.A. Almost as inexcusably, he got flagged for holding on what would have been a long touchdown run by Jonathan Taylor.