Combined offensive points scored by the Cardinals and Rams this season. Arizona (96) and Los Angeles (95) rank #1 and #2 in the NFL in offensive points scored in 2021. The Cardinals (7 passing; 5 rushing) are the only team in the NFL that ranks in the top-5 in both passing and rushing TDs this season.

Takeaways for the Cardinals defense in 2021. Only Dallas (8) has more. Arizona had more takeaways last week in Jacksonville (4) than it had in the first five games of the 2020 season combined (3).

Number of times the Cardinals faced QB Matthew Stafford during his time in Detroit. Stafford has faced the Cardinals more times than any team outside the NFC North. Sunday's matchup will mark the ninth time in the last 10 seasons the Cardinals have faced Stafford - the lone exception being 2016.

Receiving yards for WR Christian Kirk on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> down this season. On 3<sup>rd</sup> down: 4 targets, 4 receptions for 78 yards and 2 TDs. On 4<sup>th</sup> down: 2 targets, 2 receptions for 38 yards. All six of his 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> down receptions this season have resulted in first downs.



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2021

# WITH A WIN.

- Arizona would start a season 4-0 for the first time since 2012 and for the eighth time in franchise history (2012, 1974, 1966, 1956, 1926, 1923, 1922).
- The Cardinals would improve to 3-0 on the road in 2021. Arizona would have wins in each of its first three road games in a season for the first time since 2009.
- Arizona would snap an eight-game losing streak against the Rams and earn its first victory over Los Angeles since the 2016 season finale.

## MILESTONES WITHIN REACH...

#### <u>LB CHANDLER JONES</u>

- With a sack, Jones (67.0) would pass Freddie Joe Nunn (66.5 in 131 games) as the franchise all-time sacks leader. Jones would set the record in just 73 games
- With a sack, Jones would become the first player in franchise history with at least 6.0 sacks through the first four games of a season.
- With a sack, Jones would have 7.0 sacks in 10 career games against the Rams. He would also have 3.0 career sacks of Rams QB Matthew Stafford.

#### <u>QB KYLER MURRAY</u>

- With a rushing TD, Murray would become the first QB in NFL history to have at least one rushing TD in each of the first four games of a season. He would also become the first Cardinals player - regardless of position - to rush for a TD in each of the first four games of a season.
- With two passing TDs, Murray (9) would join Charley Johnson (11 in 1965), Jim Hardy (10 in 1950) and Carson Palmer (10 in 2015) as the only QBs in franchise history with at least nine TD passes in the first four games of a season.
- With 300+ passing yards, Murray would have three consecutive 300-yard games for the first time in his career. In franchise history, only Kurt Warner (5 straight in 2008) would have more consecutive games with 300+ passing yards.

#### <u>WR DEANDRE HOPKINS</u>

- With a reception, Hopkins would have at least one catch in all 130 games played in his career.
- With 5 receptions, Hopkins (765) would pass WR Larry Fitzgerald (764) for the most receptions in NFL history prior to a player's 30<sup>th</sup> birthday. Hopkins won't turn 30 until June 6, 2022.

#### <u>WR RONDALE MOORE</u>

With 100+ receiving yards, Moore would become the first rookie in franchise history to have multiple 100-yard receiving performances in his first four career games.

#### <u>CB BYRON MURPHY</u>

With an INT, Murphy would become the first Cardinals player with at least three INTs through the first four games of a season since S Ken Greene (3) in 1980.

#### <u>WR CHRISTIAN KIRK</u>

With 100+ receiving yards, Kirk would have 100+ yards in back-to-back games for the first time in his career.

### J.J. WATT

With a sack, Watt would have his first career sack against the Rams. That would leave the Bears, Texans, Patriots and 49ers as the only teams he does not have at least a partial sack against during the regular season. He will face San Francisco (Week 5), Houston (Week 7) and Chicago (Week 13) later this season.

With 100+ receiving yards, Green would have 100+ receiving yards in back-toback games for the first time since Games 7-8 of the 2016 season.

### THREE GAMES, THREE PLAYER OF THE WEEK AWARDS

CB Byron Murphy Jr. was named the "NFC Defensive Plaver of the Week" for his performance in last Sunday's victory over the Jaguars.

He earned the honor for the first time in his career after totaling 4 tackles, 2 INTs (1 TD) and 2 passes defensed. He scored his first NFL TD on his 29-yard INT return late in the third quarter.

It was the third consecutive week a Cardinals player earned "Player of the Week" honors. LB **Chandler Jones** took home "Defensive Player of the Week" in Week 1 and QB Kyler Murray was "Offensive Player of the Week" in Week 2.



It marked the first time since the awards began in 1984 that the Cardinals had a "Player of the Week" selected in each of the first three weeks of the season.

### **DEFENSE DOING ITS PART THIS SEASON**

The Cardinals high-scoring offense has stolen most of the headlines so far this season but the team's defense has been outstanding in its own right.

Through three games, Arizona's defense has allowed just 52 offensive points (17.3 ppg), accumulated 10 sacks, 17 passes defensed, 7 total takeaways, 3 INTs (one returned for TD), four fumble recoveries and 15 tackles for loss.

A look at where some of those numbers rank in the NFI

Cardinals Defensive Rankings Through Week 3		
<u>Statistic</u>	Total	NFL Rnk
Forced Fumbles	7	1 <sup>st</sup>
Fumble Recoveries	4	$1^{st}$
Passes Defensed	17	t-2 <sup>nd</sup>
Takeaways	7	t-2 <sup>nd</sup>
3 <sup>rd</sup> Down Percentage	25.7	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Sacks	10.0	t-4 <sup>th</sup>
Offensive Points Allowed	52	$7^{th}$
QB Hits	20	t-7 <sup>th</sup>
Interceptions	3	t-7 <sup>th</sup>
Tackles For Loss	15	t-8 <sup>th</sup>
Passing Yards/Game	202.0	8 <sup>th</sup>



### MURRAY AND STAFFORD LEAD THE WAY

Two QBs - Arizona's Kyler Murray and L.A.'s Matthew Stafford - have accounted for all three NFC "Offensive Player of the Week" awards so far this season. It has been that kind of start for the two signal-callers.

Murray has the Cardinals off to their first 3-0 start since 2015.

Stafford is off to just the second 3-0 start of his NFL career, and first since 2011 - when Kyler was a freshman in high school.



Murray has completed 78-of-102 pass attempts (76.5%) for 1,005 yards, 7 TDs and a passer rating of 113.4. He has also rushed for 70 yards and 3 TDs on 17 carries.

- <u>This season, Murray:</u>
  Is the only QB in the NFL that ranks in the top-5 in passing yards (#3), completion percentage (#3), passing yards/attempt (#3), passer rating (#5) and passing TDs (#5).
- Is the only player in the NFL that ranked in the top-5 for both passing TDs (#5) and rushing TDs (#1 tied).

Stafford has completed 66-of-94 pass attempts (70.2%) for 942 yards, 9 TDs and a 129.8 passer rating. He is tied for #2 in the NFL in passing TDs, #2 in passer rating and #2 in passing yards/attempt.

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