Brock Purdy's chance to complete the NFL's biggest underdog story

By MAXWELL ADAMS
Staff Writer

Never in the history of the league has the NFL's "Mr. Irrelevant," the last pick in the draft, done more with their career than San Francisco 49ers quarterback Brock Purdy.

Statistically, Purdy has outplayed the average seventh-round pick based on games played alone, let alone his actual season and career stats. By seventh-round and "Mr. Irrelevant" standards, Purdy should be backing up a former first-round pick while constantly fighting for a spot on a team's 53-man roster. From his first game, when he took down Tampa Bay Buccaneers quarterback Tom Brady with ease, with the whole crowd chanting his name, it was apparent that this 262nd pick wasn't the typical last pick of the draft.

Let's start with what he has already accomplished: a Super Bowl appearance, a Pro Bowl selection, the current all-time lead in Quarterback Passer Rating, a division title and a fourth-place MVP finish, all in just 55 career starts. In a way, based on his stats, Purdy has already beaten the odds. However, Purdy has a chance to complete the biggest underdog story since Brady or former Los Angeles Rams and Arizona Cardinals quarterback Kurt Warner this season.

Purdy entered Week 7 as the DraftKings betting favorite to win MVP at +190, narrowly ahead of former MVP, Buffalo Bills quarterback Josh Allen, who sits at +200 to win the award again. DraftKings also listed the 49ers as Super Bowl favorites, with odds at +540 heading into Week 7.

The rarity of Purdy's story is what truly makes it remarkable. Even the career he has already had is cause for appreciation.

Only 35 seventh-round quarterbacks have appeared in an NFL game since the draft expanded to seven rounds in 1994. Only two quarterbacks have gone undrafted and started a Super Bowl: Warner and former Carolina Panthers Quarterback Jake Delhomme.

Purdy's odds of making a Super Bowl based on his draft position, at the time he was selected, were estimated by CBS at one in 24 million. According to its calculations, this is rarer than winning an Olympic medal, finding a four-leaf clover, getting dealt a royal flush or getting struck by lightning. With the 49ers entering Week 7 as the Super Bowl favorites, combined with that championship probability of one in 24 million, the odds of reaching a Super Bowl would put the improbability of his journey at roughly one in 154 million. While the figures measure different outcomes and cannot be treated as a precise probability, they illustrate just how unlikely it was for the final pick in the 2022 NFL Draft to reach this position.



ILLUSTRATION BY AVA STANGO

Essentially, Purdy winning a Super Bowl is closer to the probability of winning the Powerball than it is to finding a four-leaf clover. Those numbers become even more staggering when you factor in the MVP award.

In other words, Purdy's story has the potential to reach blockbuster movie heights because of the improbability of his play getting him to the point where he is both the Super Bowl and MVP favorite. Now, all that's left is for him to complete that mission, and all signs are pointing toward him being on the cusp.

The only playoff games Purdy has lost were for a few reasons. One being he had been in a Super Bowl in which his head coach forgot the overtime rules. An NFC Championship in which he suffered a significant arm injury in the opening quarter and then tried to come back and play left-handed. And last year's loss on a team with 14 players ruled out before the game, including defensive lineman Nick Bosa, tight end George Kittle and linebacker Fred Warner. Each of the teams that beat him reached the Super Bowl. Through six games this season, Purdy had thrown for 1,460 yards and 14 touchdowns with just two interceptions. At that pace, he was tracking toward roughly 4,200 passing yards and 28 touchdowns, putting him on course for one of the most productive seasons of his career.

Factoring in the 49ers' position, Purdy has put himself in line to compete for the league's two most prestigious honors by season's end. In the last eight seasons, only one MVP winner wasn't a top-two seed in his respective conference, and that was last year's award winner, Los Angeles Rams quarterback Matthew Stafford. Right now, the 49ers find themselves first in the NFC, sitting at 6-1.

All this may be a surprise to some, as Purdy is constantly one of the more disrespected players in the NFL. Whether it's because he was drafted as "Mr. Irrelevant" or because of the perceived overreliance on his supporting cast, Purdy constantly finds himself outside the top-five and even top-10 discussions.

There were even discussions as recently as last year about whether this was 49ers quarterback Mac Jones' team or Purdy's, and whether Purdy could even be "the guy." This season, all those questions and debates have turned into praise, including from some of the same people who didn't believe in him. Looking at you, TV personality Nick Wright and media personality Colin Cowherd.

At the rate he's going this season, we could quickly see those narratives continue to evolve. Purdy could find himself going from comparisons to Cincinnati Bengals quarterback Joe Burrow and Los Angeles Chargers quarterback Justin Herbert to Warner and Brady, two of the greatest quarterbacks of all time. He has already defied the odds, but the blockbuster movie is not that far out of reach.

The supernatural in horror movies is not what we think

By NICOLE GEMMANI
Staff Writer

When we think of horror movies involving something that isn't what it seems, we often think of the typical monster under the bed. However, like most movies, there's an underlying emotional message, often disguised, in the form of a supernatural entity.

Elevated horror merges traditional horror elements with thematic depth, with the supernatural elements serving as a way for audiences to understand the internal turmoil the main characters are facing.

Director Fede Álvarez's "Evil Dead" is the fourth installment in the horror franchise — with the first movie being released in the midst of the Satanic Panic. Starring actress Jane Levy, a horror movie icon and frequent collaborator with Álvarez. "Evil Dead" follows recovering addict Mia Allen (Levy) as she goes through withdrawal symptoms at her family's cabin in the woods.

Upon being urged by demonic spirits in the woods, Allen's friend Eric, played by actor Lou Taylor Pucci, summons an ancient spirit, who quickly possesses the weakest member of the group — whose first initials coincidentally spell out the word "Demon."

Allen's addiction serves two purposes. Her withdrawals give the group a reason to force her to stay at the cabin, while her demonic outbursts and worries are written off by others. The characters are quick to come up with explanations that are grounded in reality — a realistic reaction given that the characters themselves don't know they're in a horror movie, and demons are treated as a myth.

The movie's plot is an allegory for an addict's journey of recovery. Though Allen's friends give her multiple chances to prove that she is trustworthy, they disappear one by one on account of her own actions. At the end of the movie, Allen is met with blood rain and open wounds, opening up the possibility of HIV, a threat that had been previously available to her due to her use of needles. Additionally, Allen loses her arm, a common repercussion for heroin addicts as a result of gangrene.

Allen fits multiple horror movie stereotypes. She is the demon inflicting violence, the damsel in distress and the final girl all in one. On top of this, Allen's character serves as an outlet for those who have suffered or are currently suffering from addiction.

Allegories within horror movies continue to be a present force, with the 2026 blockbuster "Obsession" following suit.

Serving as a form of magical realism, the main character, Bear Bailey, played by actor Michael Johnston, makes a wish that his crush, Nikki Freeman, played by actress Inde Navarrette, will love him more than anyone else in the world. Upon coming true to the fullest extent, the wish has more detrimental effects than one would think. Freeman, now taken over by a supernatural entity, becomes obsessed with Bailey, ensuring that he is all hers.

Like those in "Evil Dead," the characters' names are intentional. Bailey (who chooses to go by his nickname Bear rather than his full name, Baron) is a nod to the common would you rather question, which asks women if they'd rather be trapped in a room with a bear or a man. Freeman is an ironic last name, considering that her mind is trapped, and she is forced to act as the girlfriend to a guy that she had previously seen as a brother.

"Obsession" serves as an allegory for abuse, with Freeman being trapped in a relationship that she has no way to get out of, with a once trusted friend whom she is fully dependent on. Freeman even displays characteristics of a rape victim, fawning during a scene that has left many viewers divided on how they believe it to be portrayed.

Director Curry Barker's film has served as a way for couples to re-evaluate power dynamics within their own relationships.

Horror movies, while many believe them to be for a more mature, adult audience, often find younger viewers in the form of a PG-13 rating.

Nickelodeon's "The Boy Who Cried Werewolf" was a foray for many into the horror genre, revolving around a teenage girl coming into herself, who has werewolf blood integrated into her own bloodstream.

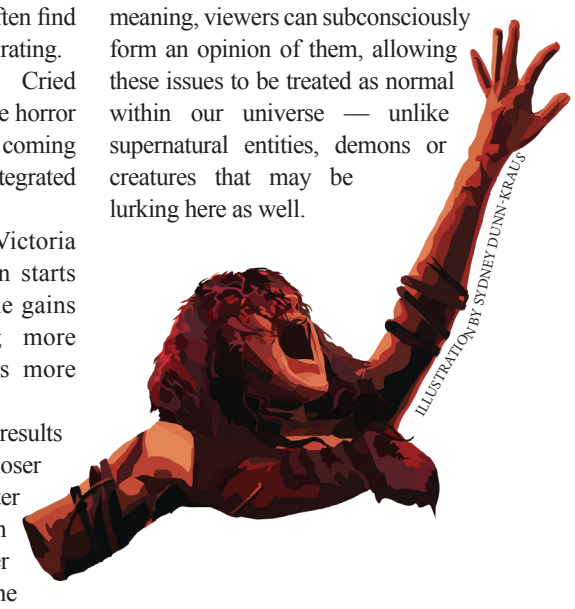
Jordan Sands, played by actress Victoria Justice, once shy and awkward, soon starts to experience behavioral changes. She gains a playful temperament, becoming more active and hyper. She also becomes more extroverted and violent.

While these changes are written to be results of her newfound lycanthrope status, a closer inspection may paint Sands as a character suffering from bipolar disorder. Though not explicitly stated how, Sands' mother passed away prior to the events of the movie, and with some investigating, Sands and her brother Hunter Sands, played by Chase Ellison, learn that being a werewolf runs in the family.

Hunter is also turned into a werewolf near the end of the movie, with both him and Jordan finding a way to control their powers. Jordan, now more secure in herself, has kept the newfound confidence that came with discovering more about herself and her lineage.

These supernatural aspects — and in turn, the real-life issues they represent — are portrayed as something out of the ordinary, similar to how they are often portrayed in real life. When directors care deeply about a topic, they do their part to ensure their viewers care about it as well.

By not explicitly stating the underlying meaning, viewers can subconsciously form an opinion of them, allowing these issues to be treated as normal within our universe — unlike supernatural entities, demons or creatures that may be lurking here as well.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