

# Caleb Williams & The Bears: Failed Recoveries

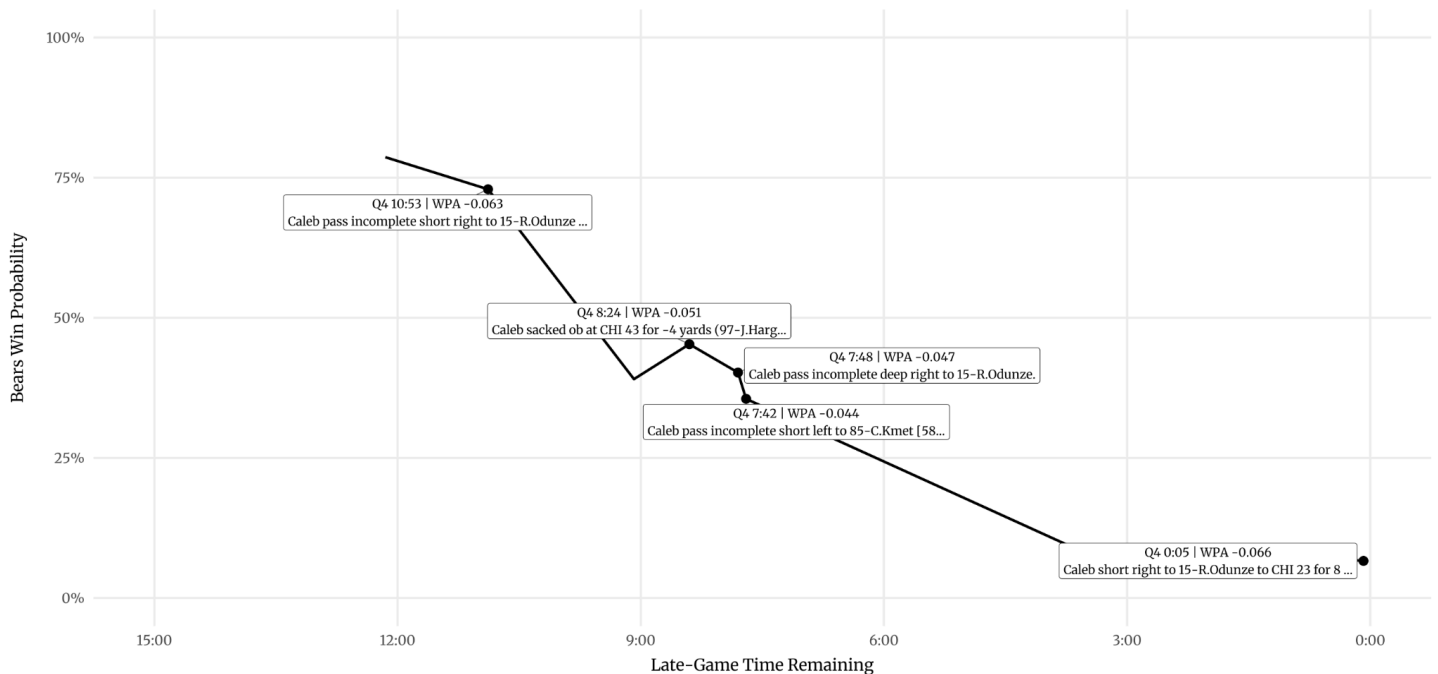
This document presents graphical evidence highlighting key trends and pivotal plays, uncovering the failure modes that shaped the Bears' 2025 season.

## Week 1 - Chicago Bears 24-27 Minnesota Vikings

The Bears led by 11 entering the fourth quarter, but key stops by the Vikings flipped the game. Early in the quarter, a stalled drive, highlighted by an incomplete pass to Rome Odunze at 10:53, set the tone. Consecutive stops in the middle of the quarter shut down a second drive, leaving the Bears with one final play they were unable to convert.

### Week 1 - Vikings: Bears Win Probability

4th Quarter and Overtime | Negative Bears offensive WPA plays highlighted



Source: nflfastR play-level data

**(10:53)** Caleb attempts a short right pass to Rome Odunze, which falls incomplete (-6.3% WP)

**(8:24)** Caleb is sacked out of bounds at the CHI 43 for a loss of 4 yards (-5.1% WP)

**(7:48)** Caleb attempts a deep right pass to Rome Odunze that falls incomplete (-4.7% WP)

**(7:42)** Caleb attempts a short left pass to Cole Kmet, which results in an incomplete pass (-4.4% WP)

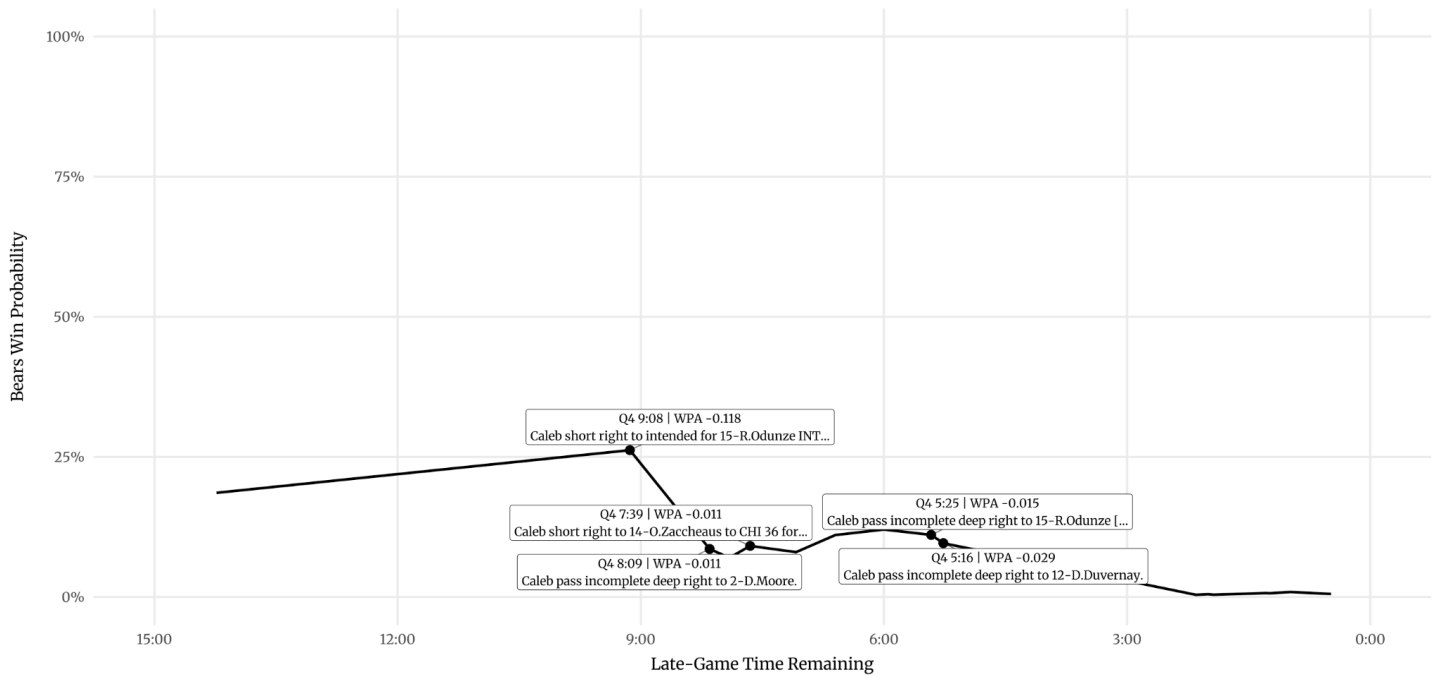
**(0:05)** Caleb completes a short right pass to Rome Odunze for 8 yards, who laterals to DJ Moore for an additional 13 yards before being stopped, ending the game (-6.6% WP)

## Week 8 - Chicago Bears 16-30 Baltimore Ravens

In Week 8 against the Ravens, the Bears trailed by 10 entering the fourth quarter. After opening with a touchdown, a turnover shifted the momentum. Caleb's interception, returned to the CHI 9, set the Ravens up in scoring position, which they capitalized on. Later, consecutive incompletions on deep right attempts to Rome Odunze (-1.5% WP) and Devin Duvernay stalled another drive, forcing a field goal. A Ravens touchdown on their next possession put the game out of reach.

### Week 8 - Ravens: Bears Win Probability

4th Quarter and Overtime | Negative Bears offensive WPA plays highlighted



Source: nflfastR play-level data

**(9:08)** Caleb attempts a short right pass to Rome Odunze that is intercepted at the CHI 18 and returned to the CHI 9 (-11.8% WP)

**(8:09)** Caleb attempts a deep right pass to DJ Moore, which falls incomplete (-1.1% WP)

**(7:39)** Caleb completes a short right pass to Olamide Zaccheaus at the CHI 36 for a gain of 4 yards (-1.1% WP)

**(5:25)** Caleb attempts a deep right pass to Rome Odunze that results in an incomplete (-1.5% WP)

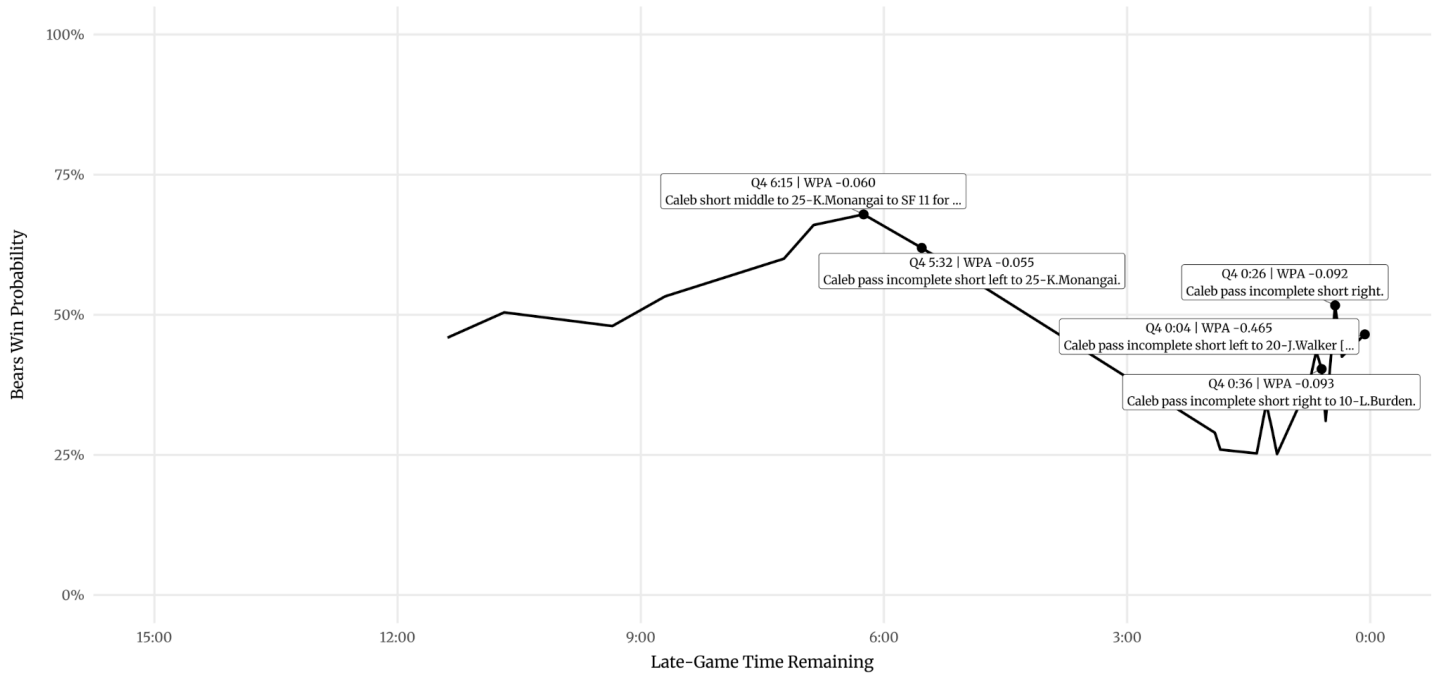
**(5:16)** Caleb attempts a deep right pass to Devin Duvernay that ends up incomplete (-2.9% WP)

## Week 17 - Chicago Bears 38-42 San Francisco 49ers

In Week 17 against the 49ers, the Bears battled through the fourth quarter to take the lead. With 5:32 remaining, Caleb attempts a short left pass to Kyle Monangai on 3rd and goal that falls incomplete, forcing a field goal (-5.5% WP). After the 49ers respond with a touchdown with 2:15 left, the Bears have one final drive to win. The game compresses to a single play, 2nd and goal. Caleb scrambles left out of the pocket under pressure and attempts a short left pass to Jahdae Walker that falls incomplete (-46.5% WP).

### Week 17 - 49ers: Bears Win Probability

4th Quarter and Overtime | Negative Bears offensive WPA plays highlighted



Source: nflfastR play-level data

**(6:15)** Caleb completes a short middle pass to Kyle Monangai for a loss of 3 yards (-6.0% WP)

**(5:32)** Caleb attempts a short left pass to Kyle Monangai that results in an incomplete pass (-5.5% WP)

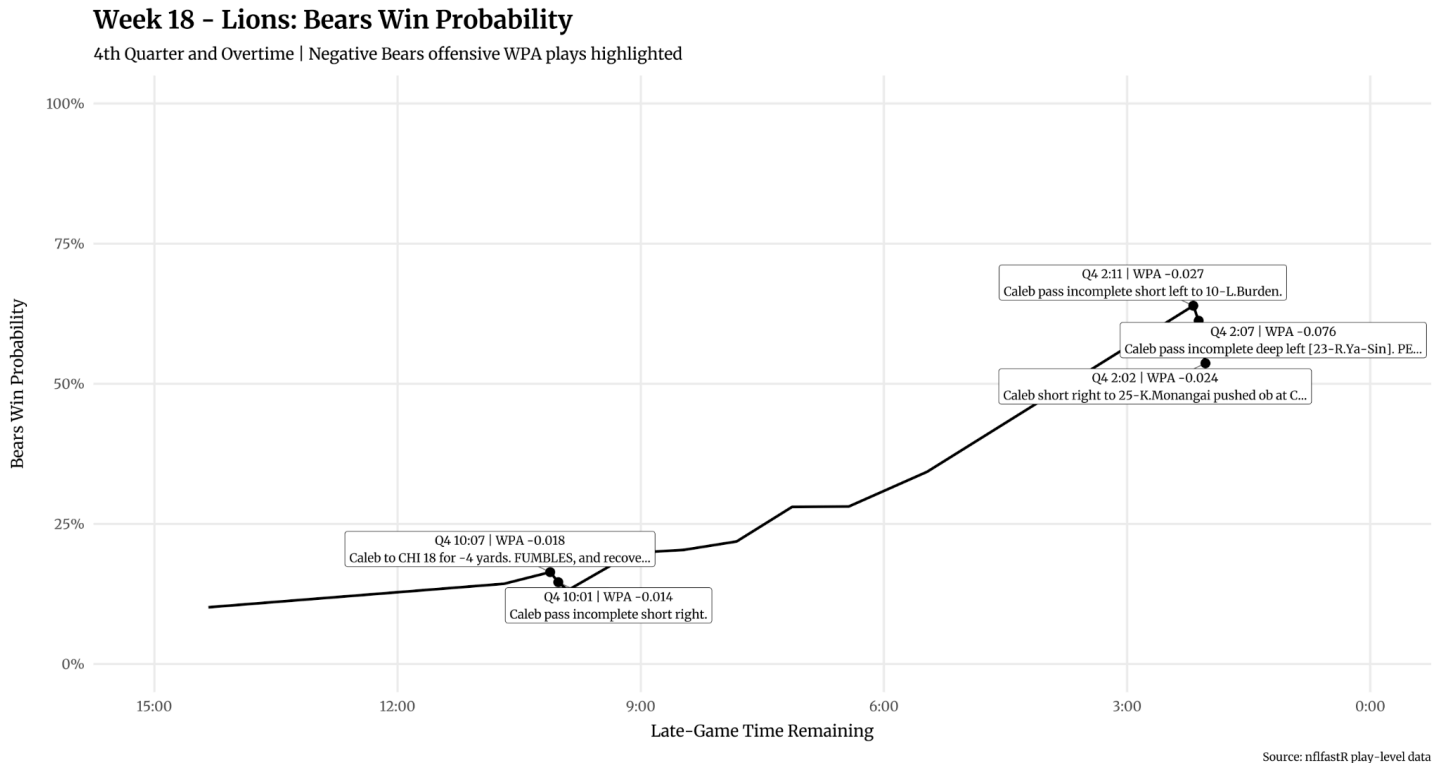
**(0:36)** Caleb attempts a short right pass to Luther Burden that ends up incomplete (-9.3% WP)

**(0:26)** Caleb throws the ball away to the right (-9.2% WP)

**(0:04)** Caleb scrambles left and attempts a short left pass to Jahdae Walker that falls incomplete, ending the game (-46.5% WP)

## Week 18 - Chicago Bears 16-19 Detroit Lions

Week 18 against the Lions represents a true failed recovery. Trailing 16-0 entering the fourth quarter, the Bears tied the game with 5:25 remaining, but their final drive stalled on three consecutive plays that swung win probability. With 2:11 left, Caleb's short left attempt to Luther Burden falls incomplete (-2.7% WP), followed by pressure forcing an intentional grounding penalty (-7.6% WP). A 15-yard completion to Kyle Monangai to the CHI 31 remains short of the first down, forcing a punt (-2.4% WP). This gives the Lions enough time to reach field goal range and win as time expires.



**(10:07)** A bad snap pushes Caleb back to the CHI 2; he recovers and throws the ball away upfield, rendering the pass incomplete (-1.8% WP)

**(10:01)** Caleb throws the ball away to the short right (-1.4% WP)

**(2:11)** Caleb attempts a short left pass to Luther Burden that falls incomplete (-2.7% WP)

**(2:07)** Caleb throws deep left under pressure, drawing a 10-yard intentional grounding penalty (-7.6% WP)

**(2:02)** Caleb completes a short right pass to Kyle Monangai for 15 yards to the CHI 31, short of the first down (-2.4% WP)

**Conclusion:** These graphs illustrate that the Bears' failed recoveries occur when pressure, turnovers, and poor execution eliminate Caleb Williams' ability to create outside of structure. Without those moments of creation, the offense cannot recover into a functional state, leaving it confined to broken plays that stall drives and prevent meaningful progress.