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## Former Cardinal WR Anquan Boldin returns to NFL playoffs with Ravens

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Former Arizona Cardinals WR Anquan Boldin led the Ravens in receiving in 2010.

Photo: Getty Images

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The Arizona Cardinals loss is the Baltimore Ravens' gain. Last spring, the Cardinals traded popular wide receiver Anquan Boldin to the Baltimore for draft picks. The move gave the Ravens a legitimate number one receiver and Boldin was seen as the "missing" piece to an offense that ran the ball well (with Ray Rice) but couldn't move it through the air.

As the Ravens face the Kansas City Chiefs in the AFC Wild Card round this weekend, Boldin will be called upon to fill that roll if the Ravens are to advance.

Boldin, who made it to the Super Bowl two seasons ago against the Steelers, led the Ravens with 64 catches for 637 yards and seven touchdowns. The eight-year veteran out of Florida State started the season strong with 27 grabs for 355 yards and three touchdowns in his first four games as a Raven. Boldin cooled off and ended the season with just eight catches for 67 yards and no scores in the last four games of the season.

But the playoffs are a time for redemption and Boldin is looking forward to making his third post-season appearance Sunday in Kansas City. Boldin told USA TODAY that he feels the Ravens will compete well in the playoffs. "I think we have exactly what it takes to win a championship," he said. "And that's not me just saying that because I'm here. I've been to the Super Bowl I don't think we had half the talent that we have here."

Known for making tough catches, the playoffs are where Boldin can really shine. A fan-favorite in Arizona because of his toughness and ability to make the big catch when necessary, this is exactly why the Ravens traded for Boldin. Together with journeyman Derrick Mason, the pair are the perfect complement to running back Ray Rice, who has been on a hot streak the last three games with 402 all-purpose yards and three touchdowns.

Boldin's first-ever playoff game with the Cardinals was a memorable one (it included a 71-yards touchdown catch and run against the Falcons). Baltimore fans are hoping his first playoff game as a Raven is just as memorable.