



KICKOFF

2016



**INFORMATION
GUIDE**

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KICKOFF 2016

- BRONCOS & PANTHERS KICK OFF SEASON.....
- KICKOFF WEEKEND SCHEDULE
- KICKOFF WEEKEND RECORDS OF NFL TEAMS
- RECORDS OF NFL HEAD COACHES ON KICKOFF WEEKEND.....
- NFL STADIUMS ON GAME DAY – AN EXPERIENCE UNLIKE ANY OTHER
- 2016 KICKOFF WEEKEND NOTES
- HEADLINE GAMES.....
- NFL RATCHETS UP THE EXCITEMENT...HOPE IS ALIVE
- UNPREDICTABLE NFL.....
- BEST NFL RECORDS, PAST 10 YEARS
- DIVISION TITLES? UP FOR GRABS
- FROM WORST TO FIRST
- NFL CALENDAR
- 2016 SCHEDULE OF FINES
- SCORING REACHED RECORD HIGHS IN 2015
- HOUSTON TO HOST SUPER BOWL LI.....
- FUTURE SUPER BOWLS.....
- 2016 NFL TRAVEL MILES
- NFL RE-IMAGINES PRO BOWL WEEK TO CELEBRATE FOOTBALL AT ALL LEVELS.....
- SURVEY SAYS
- BEST KICKOFF WEEKEND PERFORMANCES, 1933-2015.....
- BEST KICKOFF WEEKEND PERFORMANCES, PAST 10 YEARS
- THE LAST TIME
- 2016 NFL SPECIAL PATCHES & LOGOS
- STARTING RECORDS OF ACTIVE NFL QUARTERBACKS.....
- NFL ON TV IN 2015
- FLEXIBLE SCHEDULING
- 2016 NFL STRENGTH OF SCHEDULE
- NFL RADIO 2016.....
- WOMEN’S IMPACT ON NFL KEEPS GROWING
- HARRIS POLL: PRO FOOTBALL IS AMERICA’S FAVORITE SPORT BY FAR
- NFL HOSTS FIRST WOMEN’S CAREER DEVELOPMENT SYMPOSIUM
- OVERTIME EXCITEMENT.....
- MODIFIED SUDDEN DEATH OVERTIME.....
- NFL CONTINUES EXPERIMENT WITH EIGHTH OFFICIAL
- NFL TO TEST DATA CHIPS IN FOOTBALLS IN 2016 PRESEASON
- NFL-CFL OFFICIATING DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
- NFL FOOTBALL OFFICIATING ACADEMY
- FIVE COLLEGES TO ADD FOOTBALL PROGRAMS IN 2016.....
- NFL PARTNERS WITH THE MEAC & SWAC
- THE FAMOUS LOVE THE NFL
- 69 YEARS AGO ON KICKOFF WEEKEND: A RECORD 87 POINTS!

65 YEARS AGO ON KICKOFF WEEKEND: THE DUTCHMAN GOES WILD!.....
BEST OPENING MONTH RECORDS, PAST 10 YEARS.....

PLAYER HEALTH & SAFETY

HOW THE NFL IS PROMOTING HEALTH AND SAFETY IN SPORTS.....
NFL GAME DAY MEDICAL STAFF
NFL & NFLPA ANNOUNCE NEW POLICY TO ENFORCE CONCUSSION PROTOCOL.....
NEW NFL RULES FOR 2016.....
NFL RULES EVOLUTION.....

NFL & SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

A COMMITMENT BEYOND THE PLAYING FIELD: THE NFL & SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY
COMMUNITY MINDED
NFL PLAY 60.....
A CRUCIAL CATCH: NFL SUPPORTS BREAST CANCER AWARENESS
NFL SALUTES THE MILITARY IN MANY WAYS.....
WALTER PAYTON NFL MAN OF THE YEAR AWARD
NFL'S CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION: THE NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE FOUNDATION.....

INTERNATIONAL NFL

NFL CONTINUES INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
INTERNATIONAL FEEL.....
HISPANICS MAKING THEIR MARK (HACIENDO SU MARCA) ON THE NFL.....
HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH CELEBRATIONS.....

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

ANNIVERSARY ANNALS.....
OWNER MILESTONES.....
110 YEARS AGO: THE FORWARD PASS IS LEGALIZED.....
75 YEARS AGO: NFL PUBLISHES FIRST RECORD MANUAL.....
NFL MARKS 70-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF HISTORIC AFRICAN-AMERICAN SIGNINGS.....
60TH ANNIVERSARY OF '56 CHAMPIONSHIP – “THE GAME THAT MADE THE NFL”.....
45TH ANNIVERSARY OF “LONGEST GAME”.....

THE TEAMS

WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN 2016.....
BRONCOS WIN SUPER BOWL.....
RINGING IN THE NEW YEAR.....
SUPER FOLLOW-UPS.....
CAROLINA PANTHERS: KEEP POUNDING.....
THE PATRIOT WAY.....
SEATTLE SEAHAWKS: LEGION OF BOOM.....
TURNOVERS ARE KEY TO VICTORY.....
TIGHT ENDS ON THE RISE.....
GOOD THINGS COME IN PAIRS.....
TOP SUPERLATIVE? RUN THE BALL.....
FOURTH-AND-ONE.....
THIRD-DOWN CONVERSIONS.....
SUPER BOWL TROPHY BY THE NUMBERS.....

THE PLAYERS

WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN 2016.....
CAM NEWTON: SUPER CAM.....
TOM BRADY: IN RARE COMPANY.....

DREW BREES: COOL BREES	
RUSSELL WILSON; IN RUSS WE TRUST	
YOUNG QUARTERBACKS ON THE RISE	
ADRIAN PETERSON: RUSHING INTO THE RECORD BOOKS	
TODD GURLEY: ON A RAM-PAGE	
ANTONIO BROWN: BROWN ON THE MOVE	
JULIO JONES: RISING UP	
LARRY FITZGERALD: LARRY LEGEND	
ODELL BECKHAM, JR.: CATCH IT LIKE BECKHAM	
RECEIVERS MAKING A SPLASH	
REACHING 1,000	
J.J. WATT: TURN DOWN FOR WATT	
EXCITING RETURNS	
TYLER LOCKETT: ROCKETING INTO ELITE COMPANY	
CLUTCH PERFORMERS	
ROOKIES EXCELLED IN 2015	
DOUBLE TROUBLE RUNNING BACKS	
ON TARGET	
MOVING THE CHAINS	
YARDS AFTER THE CATCH	
BIG PLAY EXCITEMENT	
SAME FACES, NEW PLACES	
NOT DRAFTED? NOT A PROBLEM	
SMALL SCHOOL SUCCESS	
PROTECTING THE QUARTERBACK	
AT A LOSS	
COWBOYS' ROOKIE ELLIOTT TOPS NFL IN JERSEY SALES	
HEY BROTHER: NFL BROTHERS	
WHO'S YOUR FAVORITE PLAYER TO WATCH?	
WHY I CHOSE MY NUMBER	
VISITOR'S PASS: FAVORITE NFL STADIUM	
NFL PLAYER ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMS	
FOOTBALL REMAINS MOST POPULAR HIGH SCHOOL SPORT	
YOUTH FOOTBALL SCORES WITH KIDS	
QUARTERBACKS OF THE FUTURE	
SUMMARY OF NFL PROGRAMS & BENEFITS FOR FORMER PLAYERS	
NFL LEGENDS BUSY & SUCCESSFUL IN POST-PLAYING CAREERS	
ACTIVE STATISTICAL LEADERS	
MR. IRRELEVANT GOES TO NEWPORT BEACH	

THE COACHES

WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN 2016	
BILL WALSH NFL DIVERSITY COACHING FELLOWSHIP	
2016 NEW COACHES QUESTIONNAIRES	
ADAM GASE	
HUE JACKSON	
CHIP KELLY	
DIRK KOETTER	
BEN MC ADOO	
MIKE MULARKEY	
DOUG PEDERSON	
EXCITEMENT ABOUND AS NEW COACHES TAKE OVER	
CLEVELAND BROWNS HEAD COACH HUE JACKSON	
MIAMI DOLPHINS HEAD COACH ADAM GASE	
NEW YORK GIANTS HEAD COACH BEN MC ADOO	
PHILADELPHIA EAGLES HEAD COACH DOUG PEDERSON	
SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS HEAD COACH CHIP KELLY	
TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS HEAD COACH DIRK KOETTER	
TENNESSEE TITANS HEAD COACH MIKE MULARKEY	
TOP BILLING: BILL BELICHICK AMONG NFL COACHING LEADERS	
MOTIVATIONAL QUOTES IN NFL FACILITIES	

NFL KICKOFF 2016





BRONCOS & PANTHERS KICK OFF SEASON ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

It's time to get "Back to Football!"

The 2016 season begins with the NFL's annual primetime kickoff game. The opener on Thursday, September 8 on NBC (8:30 PM ET) will feature the Super Bowl champion Denver Broncos hosting the Carolina Panthers in a rematch of Super Bowl 50. The game marks the first Super Bowl rematch played on Kickoff Weekend since 1970 (Kansas City vs. Minnesota).

A rundown of the NFL primetime kickoff games since 2002:

DATE	SITE	RESULT (HOME TEAM IN CAPS)	RECAP
Sept. 5, 2002	Giants Stadium	San Francisco 16, NY GIANTS 13	San Francisco's Jose Cortez kicks a 36-yard field goal with six seconds remaining to lead the 49ers to victory in the NFL's first Thursday-night opener since 1949.
Sept. 4, 2003	FedExField	WASHINGTON 16, NY Jets 13	Washington kicker John Hall converts a game-winning 50-yard field goal with five seconds remaining to lift the Redskins.
Sept. 9, 2004	Gillette Stadium	NEW ENGLAND 27, Indianapolis 24	New England quarterback Tom Brady passes for 335 yards and three TDs as the defending Super Bowl champions defeat the Colts.
Sept. 8, 2005	Gillette Stadium	NEW ENGLAND 30, Oakland 20	New England quarterback Tom Brady throws for 306 yards and two TDs while running back Corey Dillon adds two scores for the defending Super Bowl champions.
Sept. 7, 2006	Heinz Field	PITTSBURGH 28, Miami 17	Pittsburgh quarterback Charlie Batch passes for three TDs and running back Willie Parker adds 115 rushing yards as the defending Super Bowl champions defeat Miami.
Sept. 6, 2007	RCA Dome	INDIANAPOLIS 41, New Orleans 10	The Super Bowl champion Colts rack up 452 yards of offense as quarterback Peyton Manning passes for 288 yards and three TDs.
Sept. 4, 2008	Giants Stadium	NY GIANTS 16, Washington 7	Quarterback Eli Manning scores a TD and the Giants' defense allows just 209 total yards as the defending Super Bowl champions defeat division-rival Washington.
Sept. 10, 2009	Heinz Field	PITTSBURGH 13, Tennessee 10 (OT)	Pittsburgh's Jeff Reed kicks a 33-yard game-winning field goal in overtime as the defending Super Bowl champions defeat Tennessee.
Sept. 9, 2010	Louisiana Superdome	NEW ORLEANS 14, Minnesota 9	New Orleans quarterback Drew Brees throws for 237 yards and a TD to lead the Saints past the Vikings in a rematch of the 2009 NFC Championship Game.
Sept. 8, 2011	Lambeau Field	GREEN BAY 42, New Orleans 34	Green Bay quarterback Aaron Rodgers passes for 312 yards and three TDs and the Packers' defense makes a goal-line stand on the game's final play as the defending Super Bowl champions defeat the Saints.
Sept. 5, 2012	MetLife Stadium	Dallas 24, NY GIANTS 17	Dallas quarterback Tony Romo throws for 307 yards and three TDs, including two to Kevin Ogletree, as the Cowboys defeat the defending Super Bowl champion Giants.
Sept. 5, 2013	Sports Authority Field at Mile High	DENVER 49, Baltimore 27	Denver quarterback Peyton Manning ties an NFL single-game record with seven TD passes as the Broncos knock off the defending Super Bowl champion Ravens.
Sept. 4, 2014	CenturyLink Field	SEATTLE 36, Green Bay 16	Seattle quarterback Russell Wilson throws two TDs while running back Marshawn Lynch rushes for 110 yards and two scores as the defending champion Seahawks win at home.
Sept. 10, 2015	Gillette Stadium	NEW ENGLAND 28, Pittsburgh 21	New England quarterback Tom Brady throws four touchdown passes as the defending champion Patriots defeat the Steelers.

NFL KICKOFF 2016 SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, SUNDAY & MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 11-12

(All times local)

Carolina at Denver, 6:30 PM (Thurs., NBC)
 Tampa Bay at Atlanta, 1:00 PM
 Buffalo at Baltimore, 1:00 PM
 Chicago at Houston, 12:00 PM
 Green Bay at Jacksonville, 1:00 PM
 San Diego at Kansas City, 12:00 PM
 Oakland at New Orleans, 12:00 PM
 Cincinnati at New York Jets, 1:00 PM

Cleveland at Philadelphia, 1:00 PM
 Minnesota at Tennessee, 12:00 PM
 Miami at Seattle, 1:05 PM
 New York Giants at Dallas, 3:25 PM
 Detroit at Indianapolis, 4:25 PM
 New England at Arizona, 5:30 PM (NBC)
 Pittsburgh at Washington, 7:10 PM (Mon., ESPN)
 Los Angeles at San Francisco, 7:20 PM (Mon., ESPN)

SEASON OPENERS

Since 1978 when the NFL went to the 16-game schedule, and excluding the abbreviated season of 1982, teams that are victorious in their season openers are more than twice as likely to reach the playoffs than losers of an opening game:

Of the 554 teams which won openers...288 went to the playoffs (173 won division titles).

Of the 555 teams which lost openers...134 went to the playoffs (77 won division titles).

Note: There are a different number of winning and losing teams in season opening games due to the fact the NFL had 31 teams in each season from 1999 to 2001, which creates an odd number for the total number of results.

In 2015, seven of the 12 playoff teams – Arizona, Carolina, Cincinnati, Denver, Green Bay, Kansas City and New England – were victorious on Kickoff Weekend.

KICKOFF WEEKEND RECORDS OF NFL TEAMS

(Note: Ties prior to 1972 do not count in winning percentage)

AFC	W	L	T	Pct.	Longest Streaks			NFC	W	L	T	Pct.	Longest Streaks		
					Win	Loss	Current						Win	Loss	Current
Denver	36	19	1	.655	4	4	W-4	Dallas	37	18	1	.673	17	5	W-1
Houston	8	6	0	.571	5	3	L-1	Chicago	54	37	5	.593	9	6	L-2
San Diego	32	24	0	.571	6	6	W-1	Green Bay	53	39	3	.576	5	6	W-1
New England	31	25	0	.554	10	3	W-1	N.Y. Giants	49	37	5	.570	4	5	L-5
Miami	27	22	1	.551	11	5	W-3	Minnesota	30	24	1	.556	5	3	L-1
Tennessee	30	26	0	.536	4	3	W-3	San Francisco	36	29	1	.554	5	3	W-5
Pittsburgh	41	36	4	.532	8	3	L-1	Detroit	46	38	2	.548	10	4	L-1
Indianapolis	33	30	0	.524	8	8	L-2	Atlanta	27	23	0	.540	5	3	W-2
Jacksonville	11	10	0	.524	6	4	L-4	Los Angeles	40	38	0	.513	5	6	W-1
Kansas City	29	27	0	.518	7	4	W-1	Washington	40	40	4	.500	6	5	L-3
N.Y. Jets	27	29	0	.482	5	5	W-5	Philadelphia	35	46	1	.432	5	9	L-1
Cincinnati	22	26	0	.458	4	4	W-2	Arizona	40	53	2	.430	6	7	W-2
Baltimore	9	11	0	.450	5	4	L-3	Carolina	8	13	0	.381	3	5	W-2
Oakland	25	31	0	.446	5	8	L-4	Seattle	15	25	0	.375	3	8	L-1
Cleveland	27	36	0	.429	5	11	L-11	Tampa Bay	15	25	0	.375	3	5	L-3
Buffalo	23	33	0	.411	6	5	W-2	New Orleans	17	32	0	.347	3	6	L-2

KICKOFF WEEKEND RECORDS OF NFL HEAD COACHES

COACH	TEAM	W-L	PCT	COACH	TEAM	W-L	PCT
Todd Bowles	N.Y. Jets	1-0	1.000	Jack Del Rio	Oakland	5-5	.500
Hue Jackson	Cleveland	1-0	1.000	John Fox	Chicago	7-7	.500
Dan Quinn	Atlanta	1-0	1.000	Bill O'Brien	Houston	1-1	.500
Rex Ryan	Buffalo	6-1	.857	Mike Zimmer	Minnesota	1-1	.500
Bruce Arians	Arizona	2-1	.667	Marvin Lewis	Cincinnati	6-7	.462
Bill Belichick	New England	14-7	.667	Jim Caldwell	Detroit	2-3	.400
Chip Kelly	San Francisco	2-1	.667	Ron Rivera	Carolina	2-3	.400
Gary Kubiak	Denver	6-3	.667	Mike McCoy	San Diego	1-2	.333
John Harbaugh	Baltimore	5-3	.625	Mike Mularkey	Tennessee	1-2	.333
Pete Carroll	Seattle	6-4	.600	Chuck Pagano	Indianapolis	1-3	.250
Jeff Fisher	Los Angeles	12-8	.600	Gus Bradley	Jacksonville	0-3	.000
Mike McCarthy	Green Bay	6-4	.600	Jay Gruden	Washington	0-2	.000
Jason Garrett	Dallas	3-2	.600	Adam Gase	Miami	0-0	--
Sean Payton	New Orleans	5-4	.556	Dirk Koetter	Tampa Bay	0-0	--
Mike Tomlin	Pittsburgh	5-4	.556	Ben McAdoo	N.Y. Giants	0-0	--
Andy Reid	Kansas City	9-8	.529	Doug Pederson	Philadelphia	0-0	--

NFL STADIUMS ON GAME DAY – AN EXPERIENCE UNLIKE ANY OTHER

The quiet anticipation as a deep pass spirals through the air...the roar of the crowd...and watching the replay on a larger-than-life video board.

As great as the in-home NFL viewing experience has become, there is nothing like being at an NFL stadium on game day. Delivering the best possible stadium experience to fans continues to be a league-wide priority.

“We are committed to improving the fan experience in every way we can, from the time fans arrive in the parking lot to when they depart the stadium,” says NFL Commissioner **ROGER GOODELL**.



Fans at Arrowhead Stadium in Kansas City (left) are rewarded with points through the Chiefs Kingdom Rewards platform, which is a personalized experience for all Chiefs fans, giving them the ability to earn and redeem points for unique prizes.

“Engaging and rewarding our fan base continues to be an emphasis for the entire organization,” says Chiefs president **MARK DONOVAN**. “The Chiefs Kingdom Rewards platform was introduced to benefit our Season Ticket Members, and we saw tremendous growth and success. Our goal was always to open this rewards program to all fans, and we are happy we were able to do that.”

The NFL also continues to embrace new technologies. In addition to featuring [RedZone on NFL Mobile](#) using Verizon mobile devices, [virtual reality \(VR\)](#) is a staple on gameday at many NFL stadiums. At MetLife Stadium, the New York Jets are looking to bring their fans closer to players and the game. The Jets first used VR to help players train and now they are hoping to give the fans something new to cheer about. Fans get 360-degree views and sounds that are vivid, making them feel as though they are in the middle of the action. Jets fans will be able to reach out and – virtually – touch their favorite players.

Here are some of the other ways the NFL is working to enhance the in-stadium experience for fans:










- NFL clubs provide unique and memorable experiences for season ticket members and loyal fans on gameday through their own **REWARDS PROGRAMS**, or through a partnership with **EXPERIENCE**, a technology company that helps fans at live events. Fans can redeem many gameday benefits like seat upgrades, leading the team onto the field during player introductions and even watching a game from the owner’s suite.
- High-definition video boards have been installed at venues across the league in recent years, with stadium improvement projects totaling an **INVESTMENT OF OVER \$1 BILLION BY TEAMS**. Gamedays also feature many other fan-friendly enhancements like interactive fan hospitality areas, improved entrances and more efficient concessions.
- **NFL RED ZONE** channel highlights are available on stadium video boards before and after Sunday afternoon games. NFL RedZone, which whips around every NFL game on Sunday afternoons to deliver the touchdowns and most exciting moments as they happen, launched in the cable television universe to critical acclaim in 2009 and was integrated into NFL in-stadium entertainment the following season.
- The NFL is committed to providing a [safe, secure and enjoyable atmosphere](#) for fans at all stadiums. The league’s **FAN CODE OF CONDUCT**, which was instituted in 2008, continues to help accomplish that goal, along with other successful programs at NFL venues that range from stadium security text messaging to responsible drinking campaigns and initiatives.
- Providing **WIRELESS SERVICE** to fans in NFL stadiums is a league priority with many stadiums completing installations or upgrades.
- To provide a [safer environment](#) for the public and to [significantly expedite fan entry](#), limits were put into in place for the 2013 season to the size and type of bags that fans may bring into stadiums.



2016 KICKOFF WEEKEND NOTES

Kickoff Weekend begins on Thursday, September 8 in primetime on NBC when the defending-champion Denver Broncos host the Carolina Panthers in a Super Bowl 50 rematch. It marks the first Super Bowl rematch played on Kickoff Weekend since 1970 (Kansas City-Minnesota). It's when things start to count.

Some clubs have excelled in openers. Here is a sampling of notable active NFL Kickoff streaks:

-  • The Super Bowl 50 champion **DENVER BRONCOS**, who start the season at home against Carolina, have posted a 42-13-1 (.764) record in home openers, the top mark in the NFL. Denver has won 22 of its past 25 home openers.
- The NFC champion **CAROLINA PANTHERS** start the season on the road at Denver on Thursday night of Kickoff Weekend having won their past two openers on the road, tied for the second-longest active streak in the league. 
-  • The AFC East champion **NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS**, who travel to Arizona on *Sunday Night Football*, have a 16-4 record on the road against NFC teams over the past 10 seasons. The Patriots have the fifth-most Kickoff Weekend wins among AFC teams (31).
- The AFC South champion **HOUSTON TEXANS**, who open the season hosting Chicago, have won five of their past six home openers. 
-  • The NFC West champion **ARIZONA CARDINALS**, who host New England on Kickoff Weekend, have the third-longest current winning streak among NFC teams in home openers (six).
-  • The NFC East champion **WASHINGTON REDSKINS** and **SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS** start the season at home against Pittsburgh and Los Angeles, respectively, during a *Monday Night Football* doubleheader. Washington has 48 wins in home openers – the fifth-most amongst NFC teams – while San Francisco has won 14 of its past 20 home openers. 
- The **GREEN BAY PACKERS**, who travel to Jacksonville on Kickoff Weekend, hold the record for the most wins in road openers (54) and the second-best winning percentage in openers on the road (.581, 54-39-2). 
-  • The **PITTSBURGH STEELERS**, who travel to Washington on Monday night of Kickoff Weekend, have the most wins (41) among AFC teams on Kickoff Weekend.

HOME SWEET HOME: The **ATLANTA FALCONS**, who host Tampa Bay to open the 2016 campaign, have won eight consecutive home openers, the longest active streak in the NFL...the **SEATTLE SEAHAWKS**, who host Miami on Kickoff Weekend, have won seven consecutive home openers, the second-longest streak in the league...the **NEW YORK JETS** host Cincinnati on Kickoff Weekend having won five consecutive home openers, the longest active streak among AFC teams...the **CHICAGO BEARS** (65-27-4), who host Philadelphia in Week 2 on *Monday Night Football*, have a .707 winning percentage in home openers, the second-best mark in the NFL...and the **DALLAS COWBOYS** begin the year by hosting the New York Giants with a 38-17-1 (.691) record in openers at home, the fourth-best winning percentage in NFL history.



HEAD COACHES: New England's **BILL BELICHICK** is 14-7 (.667) on Kickoff Weekend and his 14 wins are the most among active head coaches...Belichick and Los Angeles' **JEFF FISHER** (12-8; .600) are the only active head coaches who have won at least 10 Kickoff Weekend games and own an opening weekend winning percentage above .500...Denver's **GARY KUBIAK** (6-3) and Buffalo's **REX RYAN** (6-1) have each won five consecutive games on Kickoff Weekend, the longest current streak among active head coaches...**TODD BOWLES** (1-0) of the Jets, **HUE JACKSON** (1-0) of Cleveland and **DAN QUINN** (1-0) of the Falcons are the only active head coaches with perfect records on Kickoff Weekend...and four head coaches – Miami's **ADAM GASE**, Tampa Bay's **DIRK KOETTER**, the Giants' **BEN MC ADOO** and Philadelphia's **DOUG PEDERSON** – make their Kickoff Weekend debuts in 2016.

HEADLINE GAMES

“This is the NFL,” says defensive end **MARIO WILLIAMS** of the Miami Dolphins, “and new teams win every year. In this league, any team can win on any given Sunday.”

With only 16 games per team, every game is important. It’s just that, some weeks, some games seem to be even *more* important!

Following is a 2016 Weeks 1-17 list of “Headline Games,” but far from the only ones:

Week 1	Carolina at Denver	Thursday-night opener features first Super Bowl rematch in Week 1 since 1970.
Week 2	Sea at LA/GB at Min	NFL returns to LA and Vikings open new stadium (U.S. Bank Stadium).
Week 3	Houston at New England	Thursday-night meeting of 2015 playoff clubs will be tri-cast on CBS, NFLN and Twitter.
Week 4	Indianapolis at Jacksonville (London)	2016 International Series kicks off at London’s Wembley Stadium.
Week 5	Tampa Bay at Carolina	NFC South rivals face off on ESPN’s <i>Monday Night Football</i> .
Week 6	Denver at San Diego	Chargers host defending Super Bowl champs on <i>Thursday Night Football</i> tri-cast.
Week 7	NY Giants at Los Angeles (London)	UK series resumes with first-ever game at Twickenham Stadium in London.
Week 8	Arizona at Carolina	Panthers host Cardinals in NFC Championship Game rematch.
Week 9	Indianapolis at Green Bay	Andrew Luck vs. Aaron Rodgers in key interconference match-up.
Week 10	Seattle at New England	Super Bowl XLIX rematch on NBC’s <i>Sunday Night Football</i> .
Week 11	Houston at Oakland (Mexico City)	Oakland hosts Houston as the NFL returns to Mexico for the first time since 2005.
Week 12	Min at Det/Was at Dal/Pit at Ind	Thanksgiving triple-header! Food, family and football!
Week 13	Washington at Arizona	Cardinals host Redskins in Sunday-afternoon meeting of 2015 NFC playoff teams.
Week 14	Dallas at NY Giants	Giants host Cowboys as NFC East rivals meet on Sunday night.
Week 15	New England at Denver	AFC Championship Game rematch featuring Patriots and Broncos.
Week 16	Bal at Pit/Den at KC	Christmas Day doubleheader showcases two AFC division battles.
Week 17	16 Division Matchups	Final weekend features all division games with playoff berths on the line!



On Kickoff Weekend, Denver will host Carolina in a rematch of Super Bowl 50

NFL RATCHETS UP THE EXCITEMENT...HOPE IS ALIVE

The 2015 season was full of excitement, but that should be no surprise. Unpredictability is the norm in today's NFL.

Many close games and great comeback victories...new teams making the playoffs and winning divisions...records falling...and so much more.



"What people love about the NFL," says New Orleans Saints Pro Bowl quarterback **DREW BREES**, "is that every game, every week, no matter who is playing, anything can happen. So many games come down to that last possession."

The NFL is never short on surprises and the 2015 season was no different.

The 2015 season featured many exciting games with close finishes, as nearly 55 percent were decided by one score – 140 of 256 games were decided by eight or fewer points, the most of any season since the NFL adopted the two-point conversion in 1994.

Comeback victories were also a trend. In 2015, there were 67 games in which the winning team trailed at some point in the fourth quarter, tied for the third-most such games in a single season in NFL history.

The 2016 season promises more of the same. Every team enters the new year with hope.

Four teams that missed the postseason in 2014 – Kansas City (11-5), Minnesota (10-5), Houston (9-7) and Washington (9-7) – advanced to the 2015 playoffs. Since the 12-team playoff format was adopted in 1990, at least four teams have qualified for the playoffs in every season that were not in the postseason the year before.

The Redskins rebounded to win the NFC East division title after finishing in last place in 2014, which marked the 12th time in the past 13 seasons that one or more teams went from last or tied for last place to a division championship the following year.

The teams since 1990 to make the playoffs a season after failing to qualify:

SEASON	PLAYOFF TEAMS NOT IN PREVIOUS SEASON'S PLAYOFFS
1990	7 (Cincinnati, Chicago, Kansas City, Los Angeles Raiders, Miami, New Orleans, Washington)
1991	5 (Atlanta, Dallas, Denver, Detroit, New York Jets)
1992	6 (Miami, Minnesota, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, San Diego, San Francisco)
1993	5 (Denver, Detroit, Green Bay, Los Angeles Raiders, New York Giants)
1994	5 (Chicago, Cleveland, Miami, New England, San Diego)
1995	4 (Atlanta, Buffalo, Indianapolis, Philadelphia)
1996	5 (Carolina, Denver, Jacksonville, Minnesota, New England)
1997	5 (Detroit, Kansas City, Miami, New York Giants, Tampa Bay)
1998	5 (Arizona, Atlanta, Buffalo, Dallas, New York Jets)
1999	7 (Detroit, Indianapolis, St. Louis, Seattle, Tampa Bay, Tennessee, Washington)
2000	6 (Baltimore, Denver, New Orleans, New York Giants, Oakland, Philadelphia)
2001	6 (Chicago, Green Bay, New England, New York Jets, Pittsburgh, San Francisco)
2002	5 (Atlanta, Cleveland, Indianapolis, New York Giants, Tennessee)
2003	8 (Baltimore, Carolina, Dallas, Denver, Kansas City, New England, St. Louis, Seattle)
2004	5 (Atlanta, Minnesota, New York Jets, Pittsburgh, San Diego)
2005	7 (Carolina, Chicago, Cincinnati, Jacksonville, New York Giants, Tampa Bay, Washington)
2006	7 (Baltimore, Dallas, Kansas City, New Orleans, New York Jets, Philadelphia, San Diego)
2007	6 (Green Bay, Jacksonville, Pittsburgh, Tampa Bay, Tennessee, Washington)
2008	7 (Arizona, Atlanta, Baltimore, Carolina, Miami, Minnesota, Philadelphia)
2009	6 (Cincinnati, Dallas, Green Bay, New England, New Orleans, New York Jets)
2010	5 (Atlanta, Chicago, Kansas City, Pittsburgh, Seattle)
2011	6 (Cincinnati, Denver, Detroit, Houston, New York Giants, San Francisco)
2012	4 (Indianapolis, Minnesota, Seattle, Washington)
2013	5 (Carolina, Kansas City, New Orleans, Philadelphia, San Diego)
2014	5 (Arizona, Baltimore, Dallas, Detroit, Pittsburgh)
2015	4 (Houston, Kansas City, Minnesota, Washington)



THE NFL IS SO UNPREDICTABLE THAT IN 2015...

Nothing exhibits the unpredictability of the NFL more than close games:

- Games continued to be ***thisclose***. In 2015, 131 of 256 games (51.2 percent) were decided by seven points or fewer, the most of any season in NFL history.

SEASON	MOST GAMES DECIDED BY SEVEN OR FEWER POINTS
2015	131
2002	126
2011	125
2003	124
2013	123

Last season, 140 of 256 games (54.7 percent) were decided by eight points or fewer, the most since the NFL adopted the two-point conversion in 1994.

GAMES DECIDED BY ONE SCORE IN 2015

POINTS	GAMES	PCT.
8 or Fewer	140 of 256	54.7%
7 or Fewer	131 of 256	51.2%
3 or Fewer	59 of 256	23.0%

Sixty-eight percent of games (174 of 256) in 2015 were within one score in the fourth quarter. The 174 such games are tied for the third-most of any season in NFL history.

SEASON	MOST GAMES WITHIN ONE SCORE IN FOURTH QUARTER
2002	177
2004	175
2015	174
2013	174
2007	173



BEST NFL RECORDS, PAST 10 YEARS

Over the past 10 years, four NFL teams – New England (124-36, .775), Green Bay (104-55-1, .653), Indianapolis (104-56, .650) and Pittsburgh (100-60, .625) – have posted a winning percentage of .600 or better. Those four clubs have combined for 31 playoff berths, eight Super Bowl appearances and four Super Bowl championships during that span.

The New England Patriots, under the guidance of head coach **BILL BELICHICK**, have the best regular-season record over the past 10 years, qualifying for the postseason nine times and winning Super Bowl XLIX.

“At the end of the day, they find ways to win,” says Buffalo Bills head coach **REX RYAN** (right, with Belichick) about the Patriots. “That’s what championship teams do.”



The teams with the best regular-season records over the past 10 seasons (2006-15):

TEAM	W	L	T	PCT.	PLAYOFF BERTHS	SUPER BOWL BERTHS	SUPER BOWL WINS
New England	124	36	0	.775	9	3	1
Green Bay	104	55	1	.653	8	1	1
Indianapolis	104	56	0	.650	8	2	1
Pittsburgh	100	60	0	.625	6	2	1



DIVISION TITLES? UP FOR GRABS

Unpredictable NFL? It sure seems that way!

In the 14 seasons since realignment in 2002, 28 different teams have won division titles.

"It's great to win the division," said Houston defensive end **J.J. WATT**, who helped lead the Texans to the AFC South title last season. "It's great for our team, great for our fans, it's great for our city. This is what we expect. We expect to win the division, we expect to be in the playoffs."

Last year, Minnesota head coach **MIKE ZIMMER** guided the Vikings to their first division title since 2009.

"I'm proud of this football team," said Zimmer. "We started out two years ago trying to build something special. I told them it's not a surprise that we are where we're at and now we've made the playoffs."

The teams that have won their divisions in the 14 seasons since realignment in 2002:

<u>TEAM</u>	<u>DIVISION TITLES</u>	<u>PLAYOFF BERTHS</u>
New England	12	12
Indianapolis	9	12
Green Bay	8	11
Seattle	7	10
Pittsburgh	6	9
Denver	6	8
Philadelphia	6	8
Carolina	5	6
San Diego	5	6
Baltimore	4	8
Cincinnati	4	7
Atlanta	3	6
New York Giants	3	6
New Orleans	3	5
Dallas	3	5
Minnesota	3	5
Arizona	3	4
San Francisco	3	4
Chicago	3	3
Houston	3	3
Tampa Bay	3	3
Kansas City	2	5
Tennessee	2	4
Washington	2	4
New York Jets	1	5
Los Angeles	1	2
Miami	1	1
Oakland	1	1



FROM WORST TO FIRST

Competitive balance, one of the hallmarks of the NFL, gives fans hope entering each season.



For the 12th time in the past 13 seasons, at least one team finished in first place in its division the season after finishing in last or tied for last place. In fact, of the 43 teams in league history to go from “worst-to-first,” 20 of them have done so in the past 13 years (2003-15), including an NFL-record three such teams in 2005 and 2006.

After finishing in last place in the division in 2014, the Washington Redskins won their final four games to close the 2015 campaign and claim the NFC East crown. After starting the season 2-4, the Redskins qualified for postseason play for the first time since 2012.

“I’m very satisfied to see how the tables turned,” says Washington quarterback **KIRK COUSINS** (left) about the team’s turnaround last season. “Now we look forward and say: ‘Where can we go from here?’ and ‘How high can we take it?’”

The teams to go from “worst-to-first” in their division since 2003:

SEASON	TEAM	RECORD	PRIOR SEASON RECORD
2003	Carolina	11-5	7-9
2003	Kansas City	13-3	8-8*
2004	Atlanta	11-5	5-11
2004	San Diego	12-4	4-12*
2005	Chicago	11-5	5-11
2005	New York Giants	11-5	6-10*
2005	Tampa Bay	11-5	5-11
2006	Baltimore	13-3	6-10*
2006	New Orleans	10-6	3-13
2006	Philadelphia	10-6	6-10
2007	Tampa Bay	9-7	4-12
2008	Miami	11-5	1-15
2009	New Orleans**	13-3	8-8
2010	Kansas City	10-6	4-12
2011	Denver	8-8	4-12
2011	Houston	10-6	6-10*
2012	Washington	10-6	5-11
2013	Carolina	12-4	7-9*
2013	Philadelphia	10-6	4-12
2015	Washington	9-7	4-12

* Tied for last place

** Won Super Bowl



NFL CALENDAR

September 8, 11-12	Kickoff 2016	January 14-15	Divisional Playoffs
November 1	Trading deadline	January 22	Conference Championships
January 1	Regular season ends	January 29	Pro Bowl, Orlando, Florida (ESPN)
January 7-8	Wild Card Playoffs	February 5	Super Bowl LI, Houston (FOX)

2016 Schedule of Fines

Violation	First Offense	Second Offense
Offense Against Game Official		
Physical Contact with Official	\$30,387	\$60,775
Verbal or other Non-Physical Offense Against Official	\$24,309	\$48,620
Player Safety Rules and/or Flagrant Personal Foul (including, without limitation):	<i>Suspension or fine; severity to be determined by degree of violation</i> (FINES LISTED ARE MINIMUMS).	
Striking/Kicking/Kneeing	\$9,115	\$18,231
Horse Collar Tackle	\$18,231	\$36,464
Face Mask	\$9,115	\$18,231
Leg Whip	\$18,231	\$36,464
Late Hit	\$9,115	\$18,231
Spearing	\$24,309	\$48,620
Impermissible Use of the Helmet (including illegal launching)	\$24,309	\$48,620
Hit on Defenseless Player	\$24,309	\$48,620
Blindside Block	\$24,309	\$48,620
Roughing the Passer	\$18,231	\$36,464
Low Block	\$9,115	\$18,231
Chop Block	\$9,115	\$18,231
Fighting		
Fighting	\$30,387	\$60,775
Unnecessarily Entering Fight Area (active involvement)	\$6,076	\$12,154
Unnecessarily Entering Fight Area (no active involvement)	\$3,037	\$9,115
Sportsmanship		
Excessive Profanity; other Unsportsmanlike Conduct (e.g., toward opponent(s), game personnel, fans, etc.)	\$12,154	\$24,309
Taunting	\$9,115	\$12,154
Football Into Stands	\$6,076	\$12,154
Uniform		
Foreign Substances on Body/Uniform	\$9,115	\$18,231
Chin Straps	\$9,115	\$12,154
Personal Messages	\$6,076	\$12,154
<i>(Additional fines may be imposed on team management and coaching staffs for condoning, permitting, etc., violations in this area)</i>		
Other Uniform/Equipment Violations	\$6,076	\$12,154
On Field Commercial Logo Violation	<i>Considered violation of official League licensing agreements; suspension or fine; severity to be determined by degree of violation.</i>	
Gang Signing	<i>Considered conduct detrimental to the League; suspension or fine; severity to be determined in accordance with provisions of the Personal Conduct Policy.</i>	

SCORING REACHED RECORD HIGHS IN 2015

A total of 11,680 points were scored in 2015, the second-highest total all-time (11,985 in 2013). And there were 1,318 total touchdowns scored, the second-most ever (1,338 in 2013).

YEAR	TOTAL POINTS SCORED
2013	11,985
2015	11,680
2012	11,651
2014	11,565
2011	11,356
2010	12,283

YEAR	TOTAL TOUCHDOWNS
2013	1,338
2015	1,318
2012	1,297
2014	1,293
2002	1,270
2010	1,270



Nine teams scored at least 400 points in 2015 – Carolina (500), Arizona (489), New England (465), Pittsburgh (423), Seattle (423), New York Giants (420), Cincinnati (419), New Orleans (408) and Kansas City (405) – tying the 2009, 2012 and 2014 seasons for the second-most all-time. Those nine teams combined for a .667 winning percentage and seven of those clubs qualified for the playoffs.

Led by the NFC South champion Carolina Panthers, who finished 15-1 and scored an NFL-high 500 points on their way to an appearance in Super Bowl 50, many of the NFL's top-scoring offenses translated those points into wins.

"To see how explosive we are and the points we've scored is special," says Panthers head coach **RON RIVERA**. "You don't know if you are going to be a high-scoring team when you start, but that had a lot to do with our success. When teams have been together a while, it allows them to have continuity to develop offenses and have it morph into fitting around each other's skill sets, then good things happen."

The teams that scored at least 400 points in 2015:

TEAM	POINTS	W-L-T	WIN PCT.
Carolina Panthers*	500	15-1	.938
Arizona Cardinals*	489	13-3	.813
New England Patriots*	465	12-4	.750
Pittsburgh Steelers*	423	10-6	.625
Seattle Seahawks*	423	10-6	.625
New York Giants	420	6-10	.375
Cincinnati Bengals*	419	12-4	.750
New Orleans Saints	408	7-9	.438
Kansas City Chiefs*	405	11-5	.688

*Playoff team





HOUSTON TO HOST SUPER BOWL LI

NRG Stadium, home of the Houston Texans, will host Super Bowl LI on February 5, 2017.



“It’s very hard to get a Super Bowl because there are a lot of cities that want to have it and there’s a lot of competition,” says Texans Chairman and CEO **ROBERT MC NAIR** (left). “I felt fortunate that we were able to get the votes to win. There are limited opportunities to get a Super Bowl, so for us to do this and to have it for a second time is really important and speaks well of our city.”

The game will be the first in Houston since Super Bowl XXXVIII when the New England Patriots defeated the Carolina Panthers 32-29 on February 1, 2004.

The NFL will return to branding the Super Bowl with Roman numerals after using the Arabic numeral “50” for last year’s game.

Before the Super Bowl, fans can attend “Super Bowl LIVE,” a free 10-day festival featuring food, games and attraction in the scenic Discovery Green Park in downtown Houston. The event will be roughly twice the size of San Francisco’s Super Bowl City.

“Super Bowl LIVE is an opportunity for everyone in Houston, as well as from around the state, to enjoy a great Super Bowl experience and be a part of the excitement,” says Host Committee President and CEO **SALLIE SARGENT**.

Super Bowl LIVE will open on January 27, giving local residents the opportunity to experience the festival before out-of-town guests arrive.

Aiming to impact the community long after Super Bowl LI, the Houston Super Bowl Host Committee has partnered with the Greater Houston Community Foundation to form Touchdown Houston, a charitable giving program that will donate \$4 million in grants to nonprofit organizations in the Houston area with a focus on three life-changing avenues of giving: Education, Health & Wellness, and Community Enhancement.

The NFL Experience will return to the George R. Brown Convention Center, where the event was held during Houston’s last Super Bowl. NFL Experience, pro football’s interactive theme park, will feature participatory games, displays, entertainment attractions, youth football clinics and free autograph sessions with NFL players.



SUPER BOWL HOST CITIES (I-LI)

	<u>SUPER BOWLS</u>		<u>SUPER BOWLS</u>
New Orleans	10	Detroit	2
South Florida	10	San Francisco Bay Area	2
Los Angeles	7	Indianapolis	1
Tampa Bay	4	Jacksonville	1
Houston	3*	Minneapolis	1
Arizona	3	North Texas	1
San Diego	3	New York/New Jersey	1
Atlanta	2		

*Includes Super Bowl LI



FUTURE SUPER BOWLS

<u>SUPER BOWL</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>SITE</u>
LI	February 5, 2017	NRG Stadium, Houston
LII	February 4, 2018	U.S. Bank Stadium, Minnesota
LIII	February 3, 2019*	Mercedes-Benz Stadium, Atlanta
LIV	February 2, 2020*	New Miami Stadium, South Florida
LV	February 7, 2021*	New Los Angeles Stadium, Los Angeles

* Tentative date

TOTAL MILES TRAVELED & NOTES ON 2016 TRAVEL

(2016 regular season)

1. Los Angeles	35,952	17. Cincinnati	16,868
2. Oakland	31,622	18. New Orleans	16,460
3. Seattle	27,766	19. Washington	16,382
4. San Francisco	25,668	20. New York Jets	16,158
5. Miami	25,548	21. Houston	15,318
6. Jacksonville	23,676	22. New York Giants	15,196
7. San Diego	23,410	23. Kansas City	13,440
8. Arizona	21,288	24. Minnesota	11,652
9. Carolina	19,476	25. Philadelphia	11,202
10. New England	19,336	26. Tennessee	10,614
11. Tampa Bay	19,288	27. Detroit	9,518
12. Indianapolis	18,960	28. Green Bay	9,050
13. Dallas	18,406	29. Chicago	8,766
14. Buffalo	18,370	30. Baltimore	7,084
15. Atlanta	18,352	31. Cleveland	6,074
16. Denver	16,874	32. Pittsburgh	5,142

- The total distance traveled by all teams during the regular season will be 552,916 miles.
- The teams of the NFC West (100,674) have the highest combined mileage total of all divisions.
- The remaining division totals ranking from highest to lowest are the AFC West (85,346), AFC East (79,412), NFC South (73,576), AFC South (68,568), NFC East (61,186), NFC North (38,986) and AFC North (35,168).
- Five teams – the **LOS ANGELES RAMS** (35,952), **OAKLAND RAIDERS** (31,622), **SEATTLE SEAHAWKS** (27,766), **SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS** (25,668) and **MIAMI DOLPHINS** (25,548) – will “travel around the world” at least once. A trip around the globe is 25,000 miles.



NFL RE-IMAGINES PRO BOWL WEEK TO CELEBRATE FOOTBALL AT ALL LEVELS

The NFL will celebrate its brightest stars of today and tomorrow with new **PRO BOWL WEEK** festivities in 2017 in Orlando. The announcement was made at ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex at Walt Disney World Resort (below, with Edgewater High School football players, former NFL player **CHARLES WOODSON**, Orange County Mayor **TERESA JACOBS**, NFL Senior Vice President of Events **PETER O'REILLY** and Florida Citrus Sports CEO **STEVE HOGAN**), site of the AFC-NFC team practices and host to unprecedented new youth-focused football activities.

Culminating with the 2017 Pro Bowl at Camping World Stadium in Orlando on Sunday, January 29 and televised live at 8:00 PM ET on ESPN and ESPN Deportes, Pro Bowl Week will celebrate all levels of football – from youth to high school to the NFL's best.

"We are excited to re-imagine the Pro Bowl experience for both fans and players and to celebrate the game of football at all levels," says NFL Commissioner **ROGER GOODELL**. "Collaborating with Disney and ESPN brings us closer to the best in youth and family-focused entertainment. We look forward to working with the city of Orlando and Florida Citrus Sports to create a week-long celebration for football and our fans."

Among the highlights of Pro Bowl Week:

- **Pro Bowl AFC and NFC practices** will be held alongside youth football competitions, activities and fan events at ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex at Walt Disney World Resort, which annually hosts more than 100 youth sports events, such as the Pop Warner Super Bowl.
- The 2017 Pro Bowl players will also be able to invite their former youth or high school coach to be a part of the celebrations during the week. Players on the winning Pro Bowl team will receive a grant from the NFL Foundation to support their youth or high school football program.
- The annual **USA Football National Conference** will take place during the week leading up to the Pro Bowl. USA Football, the sport's national governing body and a member of the U.S. Olympic Committee, leads the largest annual conference of high school and youth football administrators and high school coaches in the United States. More than 650 participants from all 50 states attended USA Football's 2016 National Conference in Indianapolis, addressing coach education, player safety and key trends through inspiring speakers representing youth, high school, collegiate and pro levels.
- The **Don Shula NFL High School Coach of the Year Award** winner will be announced during the Pro Bowl as part of a year-long recognition of high school coaches on ESPN. The award honors high school football coaches that display the integrity, achievement and leadership exemplified by Pro Football Hall of Famer **DON SHULA**, the winningest coach in NFL history.
- **Pro Bowl festivities for youth and their families will take place throughout the week across Orlando**, including a Pro Bowl-themed 5k run and a parade of Pro Bowl players in the Magic Kingdom.

The 2017 Pro Bowl will **feature a return to the traditional AFC vs. NFC game format** following three years using a revised, "unconferenced" format. The NFL's best will once again be in the spotlight as 88 players – 44 from the AFC and 44 from the NFC – are determined by the consensus votes of fans, players and coaches.

"Hosting the NFL Pro Bowl is exactly the type of opportunity we had in mind when our community pulled together to invest in the reconstruction of Camping World Stadium," says Hogan. "Orlando is the top tourist destination in the country and we look forward to providing players, staff, families and fans from all levels of football an unforgettable week."



Beginning in the fall of 2016, first priority access to Pro Bowl game tickets will go to Season Ticket Members of the Jacksonville Jaguars, Miami Dolphins, Tampa Bay Buccaneers, the other 29 NFL clubs and Florida Citrus Sports.

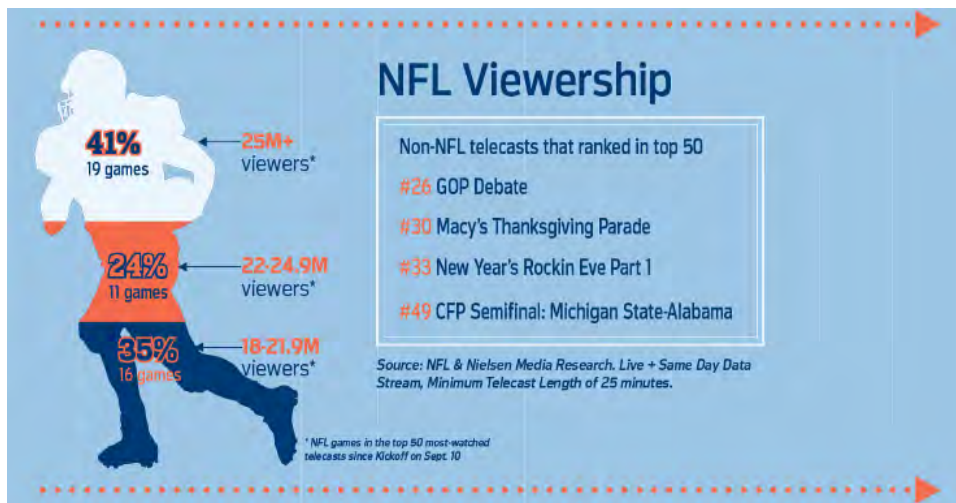
Remaining inventory of Pro Bowl game tickets will be available for purchase by the public in November. Fans may register on ProBowl.com for exclusive presale opportunities and additional information on Pro Bowl Week fan events in Orlando.

SURVEY SAYS

The NFL has been recognized as America's most popular sport for the past 30 years, rated No. 1 by fans in The Harris Poll since 1985. In fact, more people name professional football (33 percent) as their favorite sport than the combined total of the next three professional sports – baseball (15), auto racing (six) and men's pro basketball (five). NFL popularity can be measured in other ways as well. For instance:

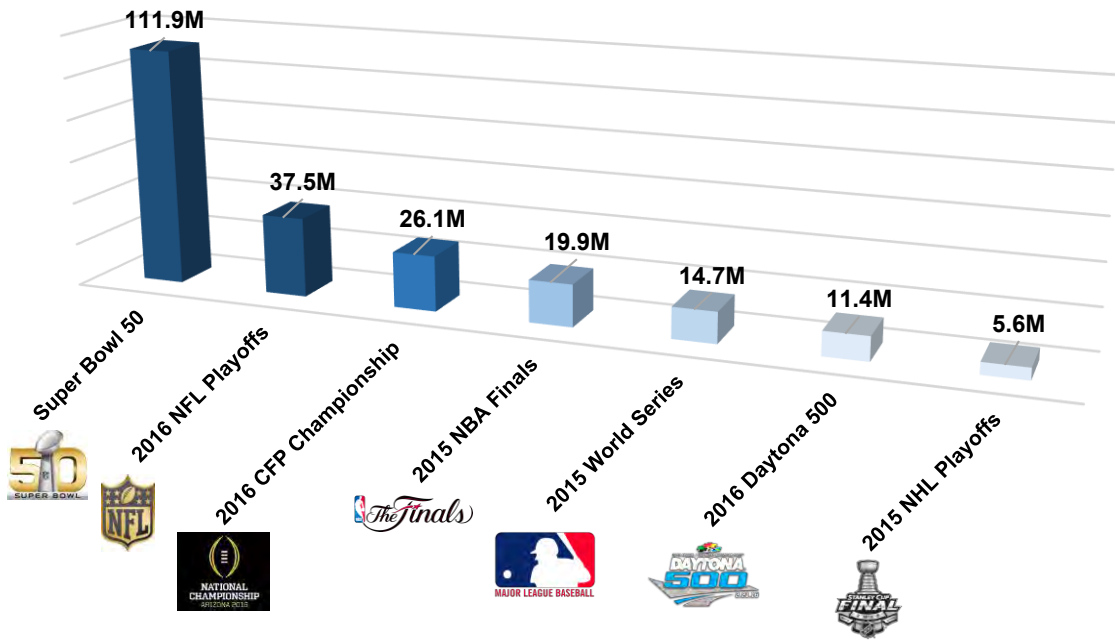
- The 2015 NFL regular season averaged 18.11 million viewers, the second-most watched season ever behind the 2010 campaign (18.13 million).
- 199 million people tuned in to the 2015 NFL regular season representing 78 percent of all television homes and 67 percent of potential viewers in the U.S.
- Super Bowl 50 averaged 110.9 million viewers, more than the combined average viewership of all major awards shows (Emmy Awards, 11.9 million; Golden Globes, 18.5 million; Grammy Awards, 24.9 million; and Academy Awards, 34.5 million).
- Over two times as many women identify the NFL as their favorite sport (22.7 percent) compared to second place MLB (11.2 percent). The gap between the NFL and MLB has never been bigger.
- *Madden* was the top-selling sports game on console in North America with more than 100 million copies sold and over 35 million players worldwide. *Madden NFL Mobile* was the No. 1 most installed sports game app in North America with more than 30 million installations worldwide.

Following is a broader look at the NFL's popularity:



Television

NFL Outshines Competing Major Sports Events



Super Bowl 50's viewership is more than the combined average viewership of all major awards shows



Source: Nielsen. Live + SD Data Stream. Averages of the Award Shows summed.



BEST KICKOFF WEEKEND PERFORMANCES, 1933-2015

MOST YARDS RUSHING

	<u>YARDS</u>	<u>ATT</u>	<u>LG</u>	<u>TD</u>
O.J. Simpson, Buffalo vs. New England, 9/16/73	250	29	80t	2
Arian Foster, Houston vs. Indianapolis, 9/12/10	231	33	42	3
Michael Turner, Atlanta vs. Detroit, 9/7/08	220	22	66t	2
Eddie George, Tennessee vs. Oakland, 8/31/97	216	35	29t	1
George Rogers, New Orleans vs. St. Louis, 9/4/83	206	24	76t	2
Gerald Riggs, Atlanta vs. New Orleans, 9/2/84	202	35	57	2
Duce Staley, Philadelphia vs. Dallas, 9/3/00	201	26	60	1
Norm Bulaich, Baltimore vs. N.Y. Jets, 9/19/71	198	22	67t	1
Curtis Martin, N.Y. Jets vs. Cincinnati, 9/12/04	196	29	24t	1
Alan Ameche, Baltimore vs. Chicago, 9/25/55	194	21	79t	1

MOST YARDS PASSING

	<u>YARDS</u>	<u>ATT</u>	<u>COMP</u>	<u>TD</u>	<u>INT</u>
Norm Van Brocklin, L.A. Rams vs. N.Y. Yanks, 9/28/51	554	41	27	5	2
Tom Brady, New England vs. Miami, 9/12/11	517	48	32	4	1
Dan Marino, Miami vs. New England, 9/4/94	473	42	23	5	1
Peyton Manning, Denver vs. Baltimore, 9/5/13	462	42	27	7	0
Eli Manning, N.Y. Giants vs. Dallas, 9/8/13	450	42	27	4	3
Matt Ryan, Atlanta vs. New Orleans, 9/7/14	448	43	31	3	0
Kurt Warner, St. Louis vs. Denver, 9/4/00	441	35	25	3	3
Peyton Manning, Indianapolis vs. Houston, 9/12/10	433	57	40	3	0
Cam Newton, Carolina vs. Arizona, 9/11/11	422	37	24	2	1
Drew Bledsoe, New England vs. Miami, 9/4/94	421	51	32	4	2

MOST YARDS RECEIVING

	<u>YARDS</u>	<u>REC</u>	<u>LG</u>	<u>TD</u>
Frank Clarke, Dallas vs. Washington, 9/16/62	241	10	58t	3
Anquan Boldin, Arizona vs. Detroit, 9/7/03	217	10	71t	2
Hugh Taylor, Washington vs. Philadelphia, 9/28/47	212	8	62t	3
Lance Alworth, San Diego vs. Denver, 9/11/65	211	7	48	1
Irving Fryar, Miami vs. New England, 9/4/94	211	5	54t	3
Anquan Boldin, San Francisco vs. Green Bay, 9/8/13	208	13	43	1
Wes Chandler, New Orleans vs. Atlanta, 9/2/79	205	6	42	1
Don Maynard, N.Y. Jets vs. Kansas City, 9/15/68	203	8	57t	2
Marty Booker, Chicago vs. Minnesota, 9/8/02	198	8	54	1
Tim Smith, Houston vs. Green Bay, 9/4/83	197	8	47t	1



Dan Marino



Lance Alworth



Curtis Martin



BEST KICKOFF WEEKEND PERFORMANCES, PAST 10 YEARS

(2015 Performances in Bold & Italics)

MOST YARDS RUSHING

	<u>YARDS</u>	<u>ATT</u>	<u>LG</u>	<u>TD</u>
Arian Foster, Houston vs. Indianapolis, 9/12/10	231	33	42	3
Michael Turner, Atlanta vs. Detroit, 9/7/08	220	22	66t	2
LeSean McCoy, Philadelphia vs. Washington, 9/9/13	184	31	34t	1
Adrian Peterson, Minnesota vs. Cleveland, 9/13/09	180	25	64t	3
Chris Brown, Tennessee vs. Jacksonville, 9/9/07	175	19	42	0
C.J. Spiller, Buffalo vs. N.Y. Jets, 9/9/12	169	14	56t	1
<i>Carlos Hyde, San Francisco vs. Minnesota, 9/14/15</i>	168	26	18	2
Darren McFadden, Oakland vs. Denver, 9/12/11	150	22	47	0
Mike Bell, New Orleans vs. Detroit, 9/13/09	143	28	22	0
<i>Matt Forté, Chicago vs. Green Bay, 9/13/15</i>	141	24	23	1

MOST YARDS PASSING

	<u>YARDS</u>	<u>ATT</u>	<u>COMP</u>	<u>TD</u>	<u>INT</u>
Tom Brady, New England vs. Miami, 9/12/11	517	48	32	4	1
Peyton Manning, Denver vs. Baltimore, 9/5/13	462	42	27	7	0
Eli Manning, N.Y. Giants vs. Dallas, 9/8/13	450	42	27	4	3
Matt Ryan, Atlanta vs. New Orleans, 9/7/14	448	43	31	3	0
Peyton Manning, Indianapolis vs. Houston, 9/12/10	433	57	40	3	0
Cam Newton, Carolina vs. Arizona, 9/11/11	422	37	24	2	1
Drew Brees, New Orleans vs. Green Bay, 9/8/11	419	49	32	3	0
Chad Henne, Miami vs. New England, 9/12/11	416	49	30	2	1
Colin Kaepernick, San Francisco vs. Green Bay, 9/8/13	412	39	27	3	0
<i>Philip Rivers, San Diego vs. Detroit, 9/13/15</i>	403	41	34	2	2

MOST YARDS RECEIVING

	<u>YARDS</u>	<u>REC</u>	<u>LG</u>	<u>TD</u>
Anquan Boldin, San Francisco vs. Green Bay, 9/8/13	208	13	43	1
Randy Moss, New England vs. N.Y. Jets, 9/9/07	183	9	51t	1
Steve Smith, Carolina vs. Arizona, 9/11/11	178	8	77t	2
<i>Keenan Allen, San Diego vs. Detroit, 9/13/15</i>	166	15	21	0
Calvin Johnson, Detroit vs. N.Y. Giants, 9/8/14	164	7	67t	2
Austin Collie, Indianapolis vs. Houston, 9/12/10	163	11	73t	1
A.J. Green, Cincinnati vs. Chicago, 9/8/13	162	9	45t	2
Reggie Wayne, Indianapolis vs. Jacksonville, 9/13/09	162	10	39	1
Antwaan Randle El, Washington vs. Miami, 9/9/07	162	5	54	0
Demaryius Thomas, Denver vs. Baltimore, 9/5/13	161	5	78t	2



Philip Rivers



Carlos Hyde



Keenan Allen



THE LAST TIME... **(2015 games in red)**

PASSING



- 500 YARDS, GAME:** 505, Drew Brees, New Orleans vs. New York Giants, November 1, 2015
503, Philip Rivers (left), San Diego vs. Green Bay, October 18, 2015
- 7 TD PASSES, GAME:** Drew Brees, New Orleans vs. New York Giants, November 1, 2015
- 60 ATTEMPTS, GAME:** 61, Aaron Rodgers, Green Bay vs. Detroit, November 15, 2015
65, Philip Rivers, San Diego vs. Green Bay, October 18, 2015
- 20 CONSECUTIVE COMPLETIONS, GAME:** 24, Matt Schaub, Houston vs. Jacksonville, November 18, 2012 (OT)
- 99-YARD TD PASS:** Tom Brady to Wes Welker, New England vs. Miami, September 12, 2011
Eli Manning to Victor Cruz, New York Giants vs. New York Jets, December 24, 2011

RECEIVING

- 3 100-YARD GAMES, SAME TEAM:** Dallas vs. Denver, October 6, 2013
Jason Witten, 7-121-1; Dez Bryant, 6-141-2; Terrance Williams, 4-151-1
- 300 YARDS, GAME:** 329, Calvin Johnson, Detroit vs. Dallas, October 27, 2013
- 15 RECEPTIONS, GAME:** 16, Antonio Brown, Pittsburgh vs. Denver, December 20, 2015
17, Antonio Brown, Pittsburgh vs. Oakland, November 8, 2015
15, Keenan Allen, San Diego vs. Denver, September 13, 2015
- 4 TDs, GAME:** Jamaal Charles, Kansas City vs. Oakland, December 15, 2013
Eric Decker, Denver vs. Kansas City, December 1, 2013
Marvin Jones, Cincinnati vs. New York Jets, October 27, 2013

RUSHING

- 5 TDs, GAME:** Clinton Portis, Denver vs. Kansas City, December 7, 2003
- 4 TDs, GAME:** Jonas Gray, New England vs. Indianapolis, November 16, 2014
Marshawn Lynch, Seattle vs. New York Giants, November 9, 2014
- 40 ATTEMPTS, GAME:** 40, Shaun Alexander, Seattle vs. Green Bay, November 27, 2006
- 250 YARDS, GAME:** 251, Doug Martin, Tampa Bay vs. Oakland, November 4, 2012

INTERCEPTIONS

- 4, GAME:** DeAngelo Hall, Washington vs. Chicago, October 24, 2010
- 3, GAME:** Kurt Coleman, Philadelphia vs. Washington, October 16, 2011
- 2 TDs, GAME:** Janoris Jenkins, St. Louis vs. Tennessee, November 25, 2012
Zach Brown, Tennessee vs. Jacksonville, December 30, 2012
- 100-YARD TD RETURN:** 100, Sean Smith, Kansas City vs. Buffalo, November 13, 2013

SCORING

- 8 PATs, GAME:** 8, Matt Bryant, Atlanta vs. Tampa Bay, September 18, 2014
- 3 FGs, 50 YARDS OR MORE, GAME:** Phil Dawson, Cleveland vs. Baltimore, September 27, 2012
Blair Walsh, Minnesota vs. St. Louis, December 16, 2012
- 60 OR MORE POINTS, GAME, TEAM:** New Orleans (62) vs. Indianapolis (7), October 23, 2011
- 100 OR MORE POINTS, GAME, BOTH TEAMS:** 101, New Orleans (52) vs. New York Giants (49), November 1, 2015
- LAST SCORELESS TIE:** New York Giants vs. Detroit, November 7, 1943

KICKOFF RETURNS

- 2 TDs, GAME:** Leon Washington, Seattle vs. San Diego, September 26, 2010
- 2 CONSECUTIVE TDs, BOTH TEAMS, GAME:** New England vs. Oakland, December 14, 2008

PUNT RETURNS

- 2 TDs, GAME:** Darius Reynaud, Tennessee vs. Jacksonville, December 30, 2012



2016 NFL SPECIAL PATCHES & LOGOS

The NFL will celebrate A Crucial Catch and Breast Cancer Awareness with a pink ribbon decal in Weeks 5, 6 and 7. In Weeks 9, 10 and 11, all teams will wear a camouflage ribbon decal on their helmets to celebrate Salute to Service games.

Additionally, several NFL franchises will be wearing special patches in 2016. The **SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS** will celebrate their 70th anniversary, while the **NEW ORLEANS SAINTS** will commemorate their 50th season.

Below are some of the patches and logos to honor team history or celebrate events this season:

TEAM/EVENT	PATCH/DECAL
National Football League	All teams will wear a pink ribbon decal on their helmets to celebrate A Crucial Catch and Breast Cancer Awareness Month in Weeks 5, 6 and 7.
National Football League	All teams will wear a camouflage ribbon decal on their helmets to celebrate Salute to Service games during Weeks 9, 10 and 11.
San Francisco 49ers	70th anniversary patch.
New Orleans Saints	50th season patch.



All teams will wear a pink ribbon decal on their helmets to celebrate A Crucial Catch and Breast Cancer Awareness Month in Weeks 5, 6 and 7.



All teams will wear a camouflage ribbon decal on their helmets to celebrate Salute to Service games in Weeks 9, 10 and 11.



The San Francisco 49ers will celebrate their 70th anniversary.



The New Orleans Saints will celebrate their 50th season.

STARTING RECORDS OF ACTIVE NFL QUARTERBACKS

(Minimum 10 regular-season starts)

QUARTERBACK	REGULAR SEASON				POSTSEASON			OVERALL			
	W	L	T	PCT.	W	L	PCT.	W	L	T	PCT.
Tom Brady	172	51	0	.771	22	9	.710	194	60	0	.764
Russell Wilson	46	18	0	.719	7	3	.700	53	21	0	.716
Aaron Rodgers	80	39	0	.672	7	6	.538	87	45	0	.659
Ben Roethlisberger	113	56	0	.669	11	6	.647	124	62	0	.667
Andy Dalton	50	26	1	.656	0	4	.000	50	30	1	.623
Andrew Luck	35	20	0	.636	3	3	.500	38	23	0	.622
Joe Flacco	75	47	0	.615	10	5	.667	85	52	0	.620
Tony Romo	78	49	0	.614	2	4	.333	80	53	0	.602
Teddy Bridgewater	17	11	0	.607	0	1	.000	17	12	0	.586
Matt Ryan	74	52	0	.587	1	4	.200	75	56	0	.572
Cam Newton	45	32	1	.583	3	3	.500	48	35	1	.571
Drew Stanton	7	5	0	.583	0	0	.000	7	5	0	.583
Brian Hoyer	15	11	0	.577	0	1	.000	15	12	0	.556
Philip Rivers	92	68	0	.575	4	5	.444	96	73	0	.568
Colin Kaepernick	27	20	0	.574	4	2	.667	31	22	0	.585
Drew Brees	124	92	0	.574	6	5	.545	130	97	0	.572
Alex Smith	68	52	1	.566	2	3	.400	70	55	1	.560
Michael Vick	61	51	1	.544	2	4	.333	63	55	1	.534
Nick Foles	19	16	0	.543	0	1	.000	19	17	0	.528
Tyrod Taylor	7	6	0	.538	0	0	.000	7	6	0	.538
Eli Manning	97	86	0	.530	8	3	.727	105	89	0	.541
Carson Palmer	83	76	0	.522	1	3	.250	84	79	0	.515
Matt Moore	13	12	0	.520	0	0	.000	13	12	0	.520
Mark Sanchez	37	35	0	.514	4	2	.667	41	37	0	.526
Matt Schaub	47	45	0	.511	1	1	.500	48	46	0	.511
Jay Cutler	67	67	0	.500	1	1	.500	68	68	0	.500
Tarvaris Jackson	17	17	0	.500	0	1	.000	17	18	0	.486
Shaun Hill	16	18	0	.471	0	0	.000	16	18	0	.471
Ryan Tannehill	29	35	0	.453	0	0	.000	29	35	0	.453
Matthew Stafford	42	51	0	.452	0	2	.000	42	53	0	.442
Derek Anderson	20	25	0	.444	0	0	.000	20	25	0	.444
Matt Cassel	35	44	0	.443	0	1	.000	35	45	0	.438
Kirk Cousins	11	14	0	.440	0	1	.000	11	15	0	.423
Ryan Fitzpatrick	43	61	1	.414	0	0	.000	43	61	1	.410
Josh Freeman	25	36	0	.410	0	0	.000	25	36	0	.410
Sam Bradford	25	37	1	.405	0	0	.000	25	37	1	.405
Robert Griffin III	14	21	0	.400	0	1	.000	14	22	0	.389
Kellen Clemens	8	13	0	.381	0	0	.000	8	13	0	.381
Geno Smith	11	18	0	.379	0	0	.000	11	18	0	.379
EJ Manuel	6	10	0	.375	0	0	.000	6	10	0	.375
Jameis Winston	6	10	0	.375	0	0	.000	6	10	0	.375
Chad Henne	18	35	0	.340	0	0	.000	18	35	0	.340
Case Keenum	5	10	0	.333	0	0	.000	5	10	0	.333
Josh McCown	18	39	0	.316	0	0	.000	18	39	0	.316
Derek Carr	10	22	0	.313	0	0	.000	10	22	0	.313
Austin Davis	3	7	0	.300	0	0	.000	3	7	0	.300
Bruce Gradkowski	6	14	0	.300	0	0	.000	6	14	0	.300
Terrelle Pryor	3	7	0	.300	0	0	.000	3	7	0	.300
Colt McCoy	7	18	0	.280	0	0	.000	7	18	0	.280
Mike Glennon	5	13	0	.278	0	0	.000	5	13	0	.278
Blake Bortles	8	21	0	.276	0	0	.000	8	21	0	.276
Marcus Mariota	3	9	0	.250	0	0	.000	3	9	0	.250
Brandon Weeden	6	19	0	.240	0	0	.000	6	19	0	.240
Blaine Gabbert	8	27	0	.229	0	0	.000	8	27	0	.229
Luke McCown	2	8	0	.200	0	0	.000	2	8	0	.200
Dan Orlovsky	2	10	0	.167	0	0	.000	2	10	0	.167
Jimmy Clausen	1	13	0	.071	0	0	.000	1	13	0	.071
Zach Mettenberger	0	10	0	.000	0	0	.000	0	10	0	.000



NFL ON TV IN 2016

Includes Thursday Night Football “Tri-Cast” distribution model of broadcast (CBS/NBC), cable (NFL Network) & digital (Twitter)

NFL fans continue to tune in to the sport they love.

Last season, the NFL regular season averaged 18.11 million viewers, the second-most watched season ever behind the 2010 campaign (18.13 million). Nearly 200 million people tuned in to the 2015 NFL regular season, representing 78 percent of all television homes and 67 percent of potential viewers in the United States. NFL games accounted for the top 25 and 46 of the top 50 most-watched television shows during the regular season.

Super Bowl 50 averaged 110.9 million viewers, more than the combined average viewership of all major awards shows.

The 2016 regular-season schedule – spanning 17 weeks and 256 games – will kick off on Thursday night, September 8 in Denver and conclude on Sunday, January 1 with 16 division games.

The season begins with the NFL’s annual primetime kickoff game. The opener on September 8 on **NBC** (8:30 PM ET) will spotlight the defending champion Denver Broncos hosting the Carolina Panthers in a Super Bowl 50 rematch. It marks the first Super Bowl rematch played on Kickoff Weekend since 1970 (Kansas City-Minnesota).

Week 1 is a **FOX** national weekend with the key doubleheader game on Sunday, September 11 (4:25 PM ET) featuring the New York Giants at the Dallas Cowboys in a clash between NFC East rivals. Among the highlights in the 1:00 PM ET window on Kickoff Weekend is the New York Jets at home on September 11 hosting the Cincinnati Bengals on **CBS**.

NBC’s Sunday Night Football gets underway on September 11 when the Arizona Cardinals host the New England Patriots (8:30 PM ET) at University of Phoenix Stadium. Both clubs advanced to the Conference Championship Game last season.

Kickoff Weekend concludes on Monday, September 12 with an **ESPN Monday Night Football** doubleheader. The Washington Redskins will host the Pittsburgh Steelers (7:10 PM ET) in the first game followed by the return of the Los Angeles Rams, who visit the San Francisco 49ers in the nightcap (10:20 PM ET).

ESPN will televise one game each Monday night in Weeks 2-16. There will be no Monday night game on the final regular-season weekend (Week 17) to provide more flexibility for the scheduling of the opening weekend of the NFL playoffs. ESPN will also broadcast the Pro Bowl on Sunday, January 29 (8:00 PM ET) which will be played at Orlando’s Camping World Stadium.

A select number of games will be “cross-flexed,” moving between **CBS** and **FOX** to bring potentially under-distributed games to wider audiences. Some of those contests have already been announced, including the Minnesota Vikings at Detroit Lions (12:30 PM ET, CBS) on Thanksgiving Day and the Philadelphia Eagles at Seattle Seahawks (4:25 PM ET, CBS) in Week 11 (Sunday, November 20). Other “cross-flexed” games will be decided during the season.

The regular season will conclude with Week 17 on Sunday, January 1. For the seventh consecutive year, all 16 games scheduled for Week 17 are division contests, enhancing the potential for more games with playoff ramifications. Additionally, over the final three weeks there are 33 division games, tied for the most in NFL history.

Other highlights of the schedule include:

In Week 2, the Rams will return home to Los Angeles when they host the Seattle Seahawks at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum on Sunday afternoon (4:05 PM ET, FOX). That night in primetime (8:30 PM ET, NBC), the Minnesota Vikings will open their new home – U.S. Bank Stadium – when they host the rival Green Bay Packers.

On Monday night, September 26, the New Orleans Saints will host the Atlanta Falcons at the Mercedes-Benz Superdome. The game will commemorate the 10th anniversary of the reopening of the Superdome after Hurricane Katrina when the Saints defeated the Falcons 23-3 on Monday night, September 25, 2006.

Thanksgiving will feature a tripleheader on Thursday, November 24. The first game will send the Minnesota Vikings to Detroit to face the Lions (12:30 PM ET, CBS). The late afternoon game will feature the Washington Redskins visiting the Dallas Cowboys (4:30 PM ET, FOX). The holiday concludes with the Indianapolis Colts hosting the Pittsburgh Steelers on NBC (8:30 PM ET).

In Week 16, the majority of games will be played on Saturday, December 24 due to the Christmas holiday, highlighted by a primetime matchup on **NFL Network** between the Cincinnati Bengals and the Houston Texans (8:25 PM ET). There will be two games played on Christmas – the Pittsburgh Steelers hosting the Baltimore Ravens on NFL Network (4:30 PM ET) followed by the Denver Broncos visiting the Kansas City Chiefs on NBC (8:30 PM ET).

The NFL will continue its International Series of regular-season games with three games being played in London and the league's return to Mexico City. On Sunday, October 2, the Jacksonville Jaguars will host the Indianapolis Colts at London's Wembley Stadium (9:30 AM ET, CBS). In the first-ever NFL game at Twickenham Stadium, the Los Angeles Rams will host the New York Giants on Sunday, October 23 (9:30 AM ET, NFLN). The following week, the Cincinnati Bengals will host the Washington Redskins at Wembley (9:30 AM ET, FOX). The NFL will return to Mexico City on Monday, November 21 (8:30 PM ET, ESPN) when the Oakland Raiders host the Houston Texans in the first-ever *Monday Night Football* game to be played outside the United States.

This season, the NFL will use a “**Tri-Cast**” distribution model of broadcast (**CBS/NBC**), cable (**NFL Network**) and digital (**Twitter**) for 10 **Thursday Night Football** games. CBS and NBC will each broadcast five *Thursday Night Football* games which will be simulcast on NFL Network and streamed to a global audience across devices for free on Twitter. CBS will start in Week 2 (Thursday, September 15) with the Buffalo Bills hosting the New York Jets (8:25 PM ET) and NBC's package begins in Week 11 (Thursday, November 17) with the New Orleans Saints visiting the Carolina Panthers (8:25 PM ET). Additionally, **NFL Network** will also exclusively televise an eight-game schedule comprised of four *Thursday Night Football* games, two late-season Saturday contests, a Sunday morning London matchup and a Christmas Day game.

The NFL's 32 teams will each play 16 games over 17 weeks. Byes will begin in Week 4 and end in Week 13.

“Flexible scheduling” will be used in Weeks 10-15 and 17. Additionally, in Weeks 5-9, flexible scheduling may be used in no more than two weeks. In Weeks 5-15, the schedule lists the games tentatively set for *Sunday Night Football* on NBC. Only Sunday afternoon games are eligible to be moved to Sunday night, in which case the tentatively scheduled Sunday night game would be moved to an afternoon start time. Flexible scheduling will not be applied to games airing on Thursday, Saturday or Monday nights. A flexible scheduling move would be announced at least 12 days before the game. For Week 17, the Sunday night game will be announced no later than six days prior to January 1. The schedule does not list a Sunday night game in Week 17, but an afternoon game with playoff implications will be moved to that time slot. Flexible scheduling ensures quality matchups in all Sunday time slots in those weeks and gives “surprise” teams a chance to play their way into prime time.

The playoffs will include four division winners and two wild cards from each conference. The playoffs begin with Wild Card Weekend on Saturday and Sunday, January 7-8. The two division winners with the best records in each conference will earn first-round byes.

Wild Card Weekend winners join the top two division champions in each conference in the Divisional Playoffs on Saturday and Sunday, January 14-15. The AFC and NFC Championship Games will be played on Sunday, January 22. The winners meet two weeks later on Sunday, February 5 in Super Bowl LI at Houston's NRG Stadium (FOX).

The Pro Bowl will be played on Sunday, January 29 (8:00 PM ET, ESPN) at Orlando's Camping World Stadium.

The NFL is the only sports league that presents all regular-season and postseason games on free, over-the-air television in local markets. All postseason games are televised nationally.

FLEXIBLE SCHEDULING

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2016 NFL STRENGTH OF SCHEDULE

<u>Team</u>	<u>Opponents' 2015</u>				<u>Games vs. teams</u>	<u>Games vs. 2015</u>
	<u>Pct.</u>	<u>& Record</u>			<u>.500 or better</u>	<u>playoff teams</u>
Atlanta Falcons	.555	142	114	0	7	7
San Francisco 49ers	.555	142	114	0	9	6
Los Angeles Rams	.551	141	115	0	9	6
New Orleans Saints	.547	140	116	0	8	6
Seattle Seahawks	.543	139	117	0	8	5
Tampa Bay Buccaneers	.543	139	117	0	8	6
Arizona Cardinals	.531	136	120	0	9	6
New York Jets	.531	136	120	0	10	7
New England Patriots	.523	134	122	0	10	6
Buffalo Bills	.520	133	123	0	8	6
Miami Dolphins	.516	132	124	0	10	6
Carolina Panthers	.512	131	125	0	8	6
San Diego Chargers	.508	130	126	0	8	6
Denver Broncos	.504	129	127	0	8	6
Oakland Raiders	.500	128	128	0	9	6
Kansas City Chiefs	.496	127	129	0	8	5
Washington Redskins	.492	126	130	0	6	6
Minnesota Vikings	.488	125	131	0	7	6
Baltimore Ravens	.484	124	132	0	8	6
Houston Texans	.484	124	132	0	8	6
Cleveland Browns	.480	123	133	0	8	6
Indianapolis Colts	.477	122	134	0	8	7
Jacksonville Jaguars	.473	121	135	0	9	6
Pittsburgh Steelers	.473	121	135	0	8	5
Tennessee Titans	.473	121	135	0	8	6
Philadelphia Eagles	.469	120	136	0	8	7
Cincinnati Bengals	.465	119	137	0	8	6
Dallas Cowboys	.465	119	137	0	66	6
Detroit Lions	.465	119	137	0	7	6
Chicago Bears	.461	118	138	0	7	6
New York Giants	.461	118	138	0	6	6
Green Bay Packers	.457	117	139	0	7	5



NFL RADIO 2016: WESTWOOD ONE & SIRIUS XM COVER THE NFL

NFL fans can listen to games on the radio in a number of ways – on Westwood One and SiriusXM NFL Radio.

WESTWOOD ONE remains the official network radio partner of the NFL, its 30th consecutive season with that distinction.

The Westwood One NFL schedule features more than 60 national games, including the Thursday night Kickoff game, *Monday Night Football*, *Sunday Night Football*, *Thursday Night Football*, the Thanksgiving Day tripleheader and the entire postseason, culminating with Super Bowl LI at NRG Stadium. Westwood One also broadcasts a Sunday afternoon NFL doubleheader each week during the regular season, and produces weekly specialty programs, including The NFL Today, NFL Preview, NFL Insider, NFL Sunday and NFL Fantasy Football Forecast.

KEVIN HARLAN and **BOOMER ESIASON** return as the lead broadcast crew, calling *Monday Night Football* and Super Bowl LI for the network. This will mark the 30th consecutive year and 44th time overall that Westwood One will be the exclusive network radio home of football's biggest game.

In addition to being heard on more than 500 radio stations across the United States, all of Westwood One's primetime NFL broadcasts can also be heard on SiriusXM Satellite Radio, as well as online and on mobile devices. For complete information regarding Westwood One's NFL coverage, including schedules, announcers, highlights, features, interviews and more, log on to westwoodonesports.com.

This year will mark the NFL's 13th season on **SiriusXM**. SiriusXM creates and offers commercial-free music, premier sports talk and live events, comedy, news, exclusive talk and entertainment, and a wide range of Latin music, sports and talk programming.

SiriusXM provides live play-by-play of every NFL game from the preseason through Super Bowl LI on satellite radios, as well as on the SiriusXM app and online at SiriusXM.com for its satellite radio subscribers.

SiriusXM NFL RADIO (channel 88 on satellite radios and on the SiriusXM app) offers in-depth radio coverage of the NFL 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. SiriusXM NFL Radio offers a daily lineup of exclusive talk programming hosted by former NFL stars and radio personalities. For more information visit siriusxm.com/nfl.

SIRIUSXM NFL RADIO SCHEDULE

WEEKDAY PROGRAMMING	TIME (All times ET)	HOSTS
"The Morning Kickoff"	6:00-7:00 AM	Ross Tucker
"The Opening Drive"	7:00-11:00 AM	Bob Papa, Ross Tucker, Booger McFarland, Solomon Wilcotts
"The SiriusXM Blitz"	11:00 AM-3:00 PM	Bruce Murray, James Lofton, Maurice Jones-Drew, Brady Quinn
"Movin' the Chains"	3:00-7:00 PM	Jim Miller, Pat Kirwan
"Late Hits"	7:00-11:00 PM	Alex Marvez, Gil Brandt, Bill Polian

SATURDAY PROGRAMMING	TIME (All times ET)	HOSTS
"The Weekend Kickoff"	8:00-11:00 AM	Howard David & Tim Brown
"Press Coverage"	11:00 AM-2:00 PM	Vic Carucci, Dan Leberfeld
"Pro Football Hall of Fame Radio"	2:00-4:00 PM	Howard Balzer, Joe Horrigan & Gold Jacket Guest Hosts
"The End Zone"	4:00-7:00 PM	Jim Miller & Pat Kirwan
"Late Hits"	7:00-11:00 PM	Zig Fracassi & Mike Nolan

SUNDAY PROGRAMMING	TIME (All times ET)	HOSTS
"The Stadium Tailgate Show"	9:00 AM-12:00 PM	Casey Stern, Gil Brandt
"The Sunday Drive"	12:00-8:00 PM	Steve Torre, Bill Lekas
"NFL Rewind"	Midnight-2:00 AM	Zig Fracassi & Mark Dominik



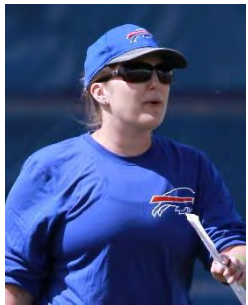
WOMEN'S IMPACT ON NFL KEEPS GROWING

Super Bowl 50 averaged 52.6 million female viewers, making it the most-watched show among women of all time behind Super Bowl XLIX. Since 2010, Super Bowls represent the seven most-watched shows ever among women.

Additionally, more women watched Super Bowl 50 than the combined male and female audience for both the 2016 Academy Awards (34.4 million) and the 2016 Grammy Awards (24.9 million).

According to ESPN Sportspoll, women sports fans choose the NFL over any other sport. More than twice as many women identify the NFL as their favorite sport (22.7 percent) ahead of second place MLB (11.2 percent). The gap between the NFL and MLB has never been bigger in the history of this measurement.

Women are not just watching and following the NFL. They're making a difference both on and off the field in various roles.



KATHRYN SMITH (left) of the Buffalo Bills was named the team's special teams quality control coach in January, making history as the first female full-time assistant coach in NFL history.

"The reaction has been pretty extraordinary and I realize that it's groundbreaking," says Smith. "I might be the first but I think very quickly there are going to be many other women in the league. So I may be the first but I don't think I'll be the only one for very long."

"There are so many other females in very important roles in football organizations. So many other departments have women. So I might be the first female coach but I'm not the only woman in the building dealing with the coaches or players on a daily basis."

At the league office, **JOCELYN MOORE** (right) – former Deputy Staff Director of the Senate Finance Committee and, most recently, Managing Director in The Glover Park Group's Government Affairs Division – was recently named the NFL's Senior Vice President of Public Policy and Government Affairs.



Moore will lead the league's public policy and legislative agenda and coordinate closely with NFL clubs on local and salient legislative and regulatory issues.

"The NFL's platform has the ability to drive progress on a number of critical and complex issues," says Moore. "I look forward to working with Members of Congress to help shape policy in a number of important areas facing not only sports, but our country more broadly."

Among the other accomplished women with key roles around the league are those using sports as a vehicle for change and making a positive impact in the community. Examples of some women changing the sports philanthropy game include **ROSIE BONE, JENNIFER DAVENPORT, GRETCHEN GEITTER, CINDY KELLOGG, JOANNE PASTERNAK** and **ALLISON STANGEBY**.



ROSIE BONE: Rosie Bone (left) is in her 15th season with the Oakland Raiders and her second as Senior Vice President – Community Relations and Public Affairs. She oversees alumni relations, community relations, event operations, public affairs and the Raiders Foundation.

In her role, Bone supervises the administration and support of a variety of programs and events which primarily focus on education, health and fitness, youth football, volunteerism and civic involvement. She works with current and former players, and other members of the organization, to manage their participation in community outreach efforts throughout the year. Bone also serves on the Board of Directors for the Raiders Foundation.

Prior to her most recent position, Bone served as the Director of Community and Youth Initiatives for the Raiders. She was also an associate producer for the team's Emmy Award-winning Silver and Black Productions after beginning her career in athletics at Saint Mary's College of California in Moraga, California. Originally from Ukiah, California, Bone earned a bachelor's degree in Communications from Saint Mary's.



JENNIFER DAVENPORT: As the Vice President of Marketing and Community Development at the Houston Texans, Jennifer Davenport (left) oversees community development, gameday entertainment, youth football initiatives and targeted fan development. Additionally, she runs the Houston Texans Foundation and spearheads merchandise sales and regional brand growth, including broadcast partnerships. Davenport started with the Texans in December 2010 and is involved in many Houston organizations, including being a founding board member of Women in Sports & Events (WISE), a lead executive for the Super Bowl LI Host Committee and YMCA of Greater Houston Board of Directors.

“Through the Houston Texans’ relationships with the Boys and Girls Club, Houston Texans YMCA, the Houston Food Bank and other non-profits, we are able to make a tremendous impact in the community on a daily basis,” says Davenport. “I cannot thank the McNair family and the entire Texans organization enough for allowing me to be a part of it.”

Since Davenport joined the Texans, the organization has received a number of honors, including the 2016 AMA Crystal Award for Best Special Event Marketing, 2015 AMA Crystal Award for Best Social Responsibility Campaign and 2014 AMA Houston Marketer of the Year. A native of Crosby, Texas, Davenport resides in Houston with her husband, John Dabkowski.

GRETCHEN GEITTER: With more than 20 season with the Buffalo Bills, Gretchen Geitter (right) is Vice President of Community Relations and President of the Buffalo Bills Foundation. She oversees all aspects of community outreach, including community programs and events, charitable giving, donations and team involvement in the community. Geitter spearheads programming for Bills initiatives, including PLAY 60, Billieive/A Crucial Catch and Salute to Service in addition to serving on the Roswell Park Alliance Community Advisory Board, the United Way of Buffalo & Erie County Board and the National Federation for Just Communities Board.



“There’s a special bond between the Western New York community and the Buffalo Bills organization that has been forged for decades by the players, coaches and staff who commit their time, energy and resources to give back to the fans that support our team,” says Geitter. “It is a privilege to work for my hometown team and our community relations department is excited to continue to foster the on-going relationship between the Western New York community and the Bills organization.”

She is the recipient of numerous awards including the Ralph C. Wilson Distinguished Service Award, Buffalo Alliance for Education/Business First Pathfinders Award, Big Brothers Big Sisters Service Award, MS Community Partner Award and 40 Under Forty. Geitter has completed the Harvard Business School in Buffalo Non-Profit course and the Stanford Business School for NFL Executives program and is a co-founder of the Buffalo Belles Running Club. She joined the Bills in 1994 as a suite sales associate and worked in various roles and departments including special events, marketing and community relations. She has an undergraduate degree from Fredonia State College and a masters degree from Boston University.

MOLLY HIGGINS: Molly Higgins (below left) is the Vice President of Community Affairs and Engagement for the Los Angeles Rams. In her role, Higgins oversees the team’s community outreach efforts to bring together the players, cheerleaders, coaches and staff to help positively impact the lives of children and families in the Los Angeles region and create lasting memories.

The team commits substantial resources to engage youth in efforts that promote health, fitness and character development. The team also participates in a variety of special events to raise awareness and funds for numerous non-profits.



“Our entire organization truly believes in the amazing platform that we have as a professional sports organization to make a difference in this community,” says Higgins. “We often say that we are a civic entity and we don’t just say it, everyone believes and lives it. We exist because of our community and our fans – and we want to pay back their support by being supportive of the needs of our community.”

During the 2015 season, Rams players made 343 community appearances and assisted 100 local non-profits and schools while Rams staff members contributed more than 1,200 hours of community service and supported 18 non-profits through the team’s monthly Staff Days of Service, a program where Rams front office staff members take time out of the office each month to volunteer with local non-profits.

CINDY KELLOGG: Responsible for all aspects of charitable giving, community relations programming, player community participation and strategic stewardship planning, Cindy Kellogg serves as the Denver Broncos VP of Community Development.

Growing up in Denver, Colorado, Kellogg received a Bachelor’s of Science in Communications from Northwestern University where she was a captain on the women’s tennis team. She joined the Broncos in 2001 after overseeing community relations for Bonfils Blood Center for seven years.



Kellogg (left) was hired by the Broncos to head their first formalized community development office, designing the organization’s inaugural stewardship platform. She has launched initiatives such as Drive For Life (the largest single day community blood drive in Colorado over the past 19 years), the Denver Broncos Boys & Girls Club (doors opened in August 2003), the Darrent Williams Memorial Teen Center (2008), Futures Football in Denver Public Schools, the Broncos Youth Center at the Denver Rescue Mission, participation in the first-ever family justice center in Colorado (Rose Andom Center for domestic violence), and the Be A Champion in the Community campaign through which 10 flagship community partnerships for the Broncos have been identified.

“I am extremely grateful to be in a role where the strength of our industry platform enables me and my colleagues to contribute to the community in such meaningful and tangible ways,” says Kellogg. “It is truly exhilarating to be part of such positive impact and change.”

JOANNE PASTERNAK: As the Vice President and Executive Director of Community Relations and the 49ers Foundation for the San Francisco 49ers, Joanne Pasternack (right) oversees all community relations functions for the team, creating and managing high-visibility programs based on the organization’s objectives and areas of focus, leveraging the power of community involvement to share the importance of respect and its central role in helping young people become outstanding community citizens.

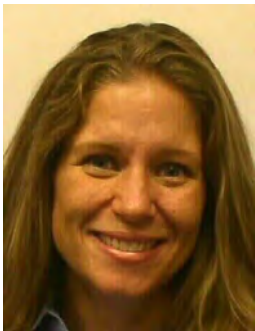
Last year, under Pasternack’s guidance, the 49ers continued to focus on underserved families, organizations and individuals throughout the Bay Area community – including more than 700 hours of service between players, alumni players and ownership, along with \$4 million in charitable grants to Bay Area non-profits.

“Heading into my ninth season with the team, I’m excited to grow our efforts in keeping kids ‘Safe, On Track, and In School,’” says Pasternack. “We have some exciting program expansions happening next season, and our community efforts would not be possible without the unwavering support and involvement from the entire 49ers organization – starting with the York family.”



In recognition of their tremendous commitment to philanthropy, the 49ers were named the 2015 Sport Team of the Year by Beyond Sport for the club’s community relations impact. In 2013, the club received the prestigious Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Steve Patterson Award for Sports Philanthropy. Pasternack’s comprehensive efforts additionally positioned the 49ers as finalists for the ESPN Sports Humanitarian Team of the Year Award in 2015 and 2016.

ALLISON STANGEBY: Allison Stangeby is the Vice President of Community and Corporate Relations at the New York Giants, as well as the Director for The Giants Foundation. Stangeby serves as the liaison between the team and the surrounding community. She is responsible for utilizing the resources of the team, including the time and talents of the team’s current and alumni players, to benefit organizations and individuals in the tri-state area.



Stangeby (left) not only oversees all of the team’s community initiatives including player appearances, charitable donations, gameday initiatives and alumni organization but also creates numerous opportunities for the players and team to reach fans. Among the programs that Stangeby has created over the last two decades are: Jingle Jam, an annual event providing holiday joy for 500 of New Jersey’s foster children; Football 101 and 201, which benefitted My Sister’s Place, a domestic violence shelter for women and children; “A Night with the New York Giants,” created to benefit The Ronald McDonald House of NYC; and the Giants 5K fun run.

In her role with The Giants Foundation, Stangeby is responsible for handling the day-to-day responsibilities as well as events for the Foundation, such as the Giants Annual Golf Classic. She also works with the board of directors annually to award financial grants to deserving local non-profits.

Stangeby also assists the players in setting up their own foundations and guides them with ideas to help facilitate their individual charitable initiatives. Outside of the office, she currently serves on the board of Rock and Wrap it Up!, a non-profit organization whose mission is to end hunger and is an advisory board member of Tom Coughlin’s Jay Fund.

The impact of women permeates the NFL at all levels, with some key women at the helm of NFL teams and in important positions at the league. Below is a list of female executives in the NFL at the vice president level and above:

NAME	TITLE	ORGANIZATION
Theresa Abato	VP of Suite Sales & Service	Baltimore Ravens
Jody Allen	President & CEO, Vulcan Inc.	Seattle Seahawks
Charlotte Jones Anderson	Executive Vice President/Chief Brand Officer	Dallas Cowboys
Renie Anderson	SVP of Sponsorship and Partnership Management	National Football League
Michelle Andres	SVP of Digital Media and Broadcasting	Baltimore Ravens
Dawn Aponte	EVP of Football Administration	Miami Dolphins

Mary Pat Augenthaler	VP, Events	National Football League
Karen Spencer	CFO & VP of Finance	Seattle Seahawks
Gayle Benson	Executive Officer	New Orleans Saints
Nicole Bienert	VP, Partnership Activation & Retention	Miami Dolphins
Katie Blackburn	Executive VP	Cincinnati Bengals
Rosie Bone	SVP, Community Relations and Public Affairs	Oakland Raiders
Jeanne Bonk	EVP & Chief Operating Officer	San Diego Chargers
Robin Boudreau	VP of Human Resources	New England Patriots
Lisa Chang	Senior Vice President of Human Resources	Atlanta Falcons
Pat Curley	VP of Information Technology	New England Patriots
Aileen Dagrosa	SVP, General Counsel	Philadelphia Eagles
Anastasia Danias	SVP/ Chief Litigation Officer	National Football League
Jennifer Davenport	VP, Marketing and Community Development	Houston Texans
Laini DeLawter	VP of Ticket and Fan Services	Philadelphia Eagles
Tanya Dreesen	VP, Partnerships Activation & Special Projects	Minnesota Vikings
Tina D'Orazio	VP, Office of the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer	Philadelphia Eagles
Gabrielle Valdez Dow	VP of Marketing and Fan Engagement	Green Bay Packers
Brooke Ellenberger	VP of Ticketing	Tennessee Titans
Jen Ferron	SVP of Marketing and Brand Development	New England Patriots
Kimberly Fields	SVP, Football Operations Strategy	National Football League
Kelly Flanagan	SVP/Chief Financial Officer	Jacksonville Jaguars
Martha Firestone Ford	Owner and Chairman	Detroit Lions
Casey Foyt	Vice Chair/Owner	Indianapolis Colts
Lisa Friel	SVP and Special Counsel for Investigations	National Football League
Gretchen Geitter	VP of Community Relations	Buffalo Bills
Jessica Gelman	CEO of KAGR LLC	New England Patriots
Robyn Glaser	VP, The Kraft Group and Club Counsel, New England Patriots	New England Patriots
Anne Gordon	SVP of Media and Communications	Philadelphia Eagles
Hannah Gordon	General Counsel	San Francisco 49ers
Emily Griffin	VP of Marketing	Detroit Lions
Nicole Gustafson	VP of Public Policy and Government Affairs	National Football League
Sheila Ford Hamp	Vice Chair	Detroit Lions
Qiava Harper	VP, Premium Seating and Service	Oakland Raiders
Renee Harvey	VP of Cleveland Browns Foundation	Cleveland Browns
Dee Haslam	Owner	Cleveland Browns
Molly Higgins	VP of Corporate Communications & Civic Affairs	Los Angeles Rams
Natara Holloway	VP, Strategic Planning Junior Athlete Development	National Football League
Tery Howard	SVP - Chief Technology Officer	Miami Dolphins
Nancy Hubacher	VP of Sales & Marketing	Washington Redskins
Dawn Hudson	CMO	National Football League
Patty Inglis	Executive Vice President	San Francisco 49ers
Kalen Irsay	Vice Chair/Owner	Indianapolis Colts
Carlisle Irsay-Gordon	Vice Chair/Owner	Indianapolis Colts
Anna Isaacson	SVP, Social Responsibility	National Football League
Elizabeth Jackson	VP of Human Resources	Baltimore Ravens
Stacy Johns	VP, Finance and Human Resources	Indianapolis Colts
Darcie Glazer Kassewitz	Co-President, Glazer Family Foundation	Tampa Bay Buccaneers
Jenneen Kaufman	SVP/CFO	Tennessee Titans
Cindy Kelley	SVP of Human Resources & Administration	Seattle Seahawks
Cindy Kellogg	VP of Community Development	Denver Broncos
Elizabeth Ford Kontulis	Vice Chair	Detroit Lions
Kirsten Krug	VP of Human Resources & Administration	Kansas City Chiefs
Jennifer Langton	VP, Health and Safety Policy	National Football League
Ronit Larone	VP, Senior Coordinating Producer	NFL Network
Nicole Ledvina	VP of Human Resources	Green Bay Packers
Belinda Lerner	VP Alumni Affairs and Retired Player Programs	National Football League
Susan Lewis	Owner	Tennessee Titans
Marilan Logan	VP and Chief Accounting Officer	Houston Texans
Jennifer Love	VP, Production	NFL Network
Christina Weiss Lurie	President Eagles Youth Partnership, Eagles Social Responsibility	Philadelphia Eagles
Allison Maki	SVP of Administration, CFO	Detroit Lions
Jessica Mandler	VP, Human Resources	New York Jets
Lisa Manning	VP, Marketing	Arizona Cardinals
Virginia McCaskey	Owner	Chicago Bears
Susan McGalla	VP, Business Strategy and Creative Development	Pittsburgh Steelers
Kim McFadden	VP of Human Resources	National Football League

Michelle McKenna-Doyle	SVP, Chief Information Officer	National Football League
Penny McPhee	President, Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation	Atlanta Falcons
Julie Moeller	VP of Media	National Football League
Jocelyn Moore	SVP, Public Policy & Government Affairs	National Football League
Martha Ford Morse	Vice Chair	Detroit Lions
Erica Muhlman	VP of Business Development	Buffalo Bills
Karen Murphy	SVP Business Strategy & CFO	Chicago Bears
Cheryl Nichols	SVP, Administration, Facilities and Ownership	Oakland Raiders
Karin Nelsen	VP, Legal & Human Resources	Minnesota Vikings
Vicky Neumeyer	SVP/General Counsel	New Orleans Saints
Kim Pegula	Owner	Buffalo Bills
Kristie Pappal	VP of Human Resources	Philadelphia Eagles
Megha Parekh	SVP/Chief Legal Officer	Jacksonville Jaguars
Joanne Pasternack	VP & Executive Director, Community Relations & 49ers Foundation	San Francisco 49ers
Julie Perlish	VP, Research and Consumer Insights	National Football League
Tracy Perlman	VP of Entertainment Marketing & Promotions	National Football League
Christine Procops	SVP & CFO	New York Giants
Rosemary Roser	VP, Controller	National Football League
Morgan Shaw	VP of Football Communications	Atlanta Falcons
Kate Shibilski	VP of Finance and Controller	Minnesota Vikings
Kennie Smith	Executive in Charge of Project Management	NFL Films
Susie Adams Smith	Co-Chairman/Owner	Tennessee Titans
Amy Sprangers	VP, Corporate partnerships & Suites	Seattle Seahawks
Allison Stangeby	VP of Community and Corporate Relations	New York Giants
Amy Adams Strunk	Co-Chairman/Controlling Owner	Tennessee Titans
Nancy Svoboda	Senior VP of Human Resources	Denver Broncos
Sarah Swanson	VP, Marketing & Promotions	NFL International
Karla Tai	VP, Human Resources and Operations	Oakland Raiders
Suzie Thomas	EVP, General Counsel and Chief Administrative Officer	Houston Texans
Linda Tong	VP, Digital Media Product and Innovation	National Football League
Kelly Kozole	Senior Vice President of Business Development	Detroit Lions
Christine Vicari	VP of Labor Finance	National Football League
Courtnee Westendorf	Chief Marketing Officer	Oakland Raiders
Jaime Weston	SVP of Marketing, Creative and Branding	National Football League
Cathy Yancy	VP of Rights, Policies & Compliance – NFL Media	National Football League
Denise DeBartolo York	Co-Chairman	San Francisco 49ers



HARRIS POLL: PRO FOOTBALL IS AMERICA'S FAVORITE SPORT BY FAR

America's favorite sport? Once again, professional football claims the top spot.

For more than four decades, according to The Harris Poll, the NFL has been the most popular sport in America.

In its most recent survey, Harris reveals that pro football is the favorite sport for one-third of people (33 percent), doubling the next sport (baseball, 15 percent). In fact, more people name professional football as their favorite sport than the combined total of the next three professional sports – baseball (15), auto racing (six) and men's pro basketball (five).

The third sport in the survey is college football at 10 percent, meaning that football is the favorite sport of nearly half of America's sports fans (43 percent).

The five most popular sports according to The Harris Poll 2015 (released January 2016):

RANK	SPORT	PERCENT
1	<i>Pro Football</i>	33
2	Baseball	15
3	College Football	10
4	Auto Racing	6
5	Men's Pro Basketball	5

NFL HOSTS FIRST WOMEN'S CAREER DEVELOPMENT SYMPOSIUM

In March, 41 women from across the NFL took part in the inaugural **WOMEN'S CAREER DEVELOPMENT SYMPOSIUM** at the Boca Raton Resort & Club in Boca Raton, Florida. This program marked the latest iteration of the annual **NFL CAREER DEVELOPMENT SYMPOSIUM** that engages aspiring executives through presentations, panel discussions, breakout sessions and networking opportunities with club and league executives and industry experts.

Among the speakers and presenters were Miami Dolphins Executive Vice President of Football Administration **DAWN APONTE**, Cincinnati Bengals Executive Vice President **KATIE BLACKBURN**, San Diego Chargers Executive Vice President/Chief Financial Officer **JEANNE BONK** and Detroit Lions SVP of Administration and CFO **ALLISON MAKI**.

"There's no question the NFL is looking to lead and diversity is an important issue across the board," says San Francisco 49ers general counsel **HANNAH GORDON**, who was one of the 41 participants. "At the 49ers, diversity is something we are very aware of and proud of. But we're always looking to improve on it. Having active discussions about what more we can do to go attract the talent and develop that talent is very important and helpful."

In addition, faculty from both The Wharton School and Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth, as well as executives from the CIA, financial services and entertainment industries spoke to the participants.

Program sessions included "Meeting the Ever-Changing Challenges of the NFL," "League Perspective," "What the NFL and National Security Have in Common," "How to be Impactful in Your Professional Development," "Negotiation and Persuasion," "Keys to Navigating Tough Environments," and "Leading with Impact: How to Think, Communicate, and Lead Strategically."

"The main message is that there are opportunities out there," says Blackburn. "Anyone interested in pursuing these opportunities should feel empowered to do so. A symposium like this is an opportunity to encourage these women and see if there are areas where they feel we can assist them."

The Steering Committee for this year's Symposium included Aponte, Blackburn and Bonk, along with NFL Director of Football Operations **MATT BIRK**, Chief Strategy Officer of NFL Football Operations **KIMBERLY FIELDS**, NFL Director of Human Resources **SARA SCHULTZ** and NFL Vice President of Labor Finance **CHRISTINE VICARI**. The program is directed by NFL Executive Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer **ROBERT GULLIVER** and NFL Executive Vice President of Football Operations **TROY VINCENT**.

Career Development Symposium participants were selected by the NFL office after reviewing the nominations submitted by the clubs. There was one participant from each club as well as attendees from the league office and partner organizations.

"Everybody saw that it was a really impressive group of people and a successful overall event," says Birk. "A lot of our clubs said that they wish they could have sent more than just one attendee. That's great. That means there are a lot of women in the NFL who have high ceilings and high potential. I look forward to working with all of them in the future. It's just going to make our league better."

The Career Development Symposium previously ran from 1998-2008 and returned in 2013. The past Symposiums focused on engaging aspiring head coach and general manager candidates.

Earlier this year, the NFL hosted the first-ever NFL Women's Summit: "In the Huddle to Advance Women in Sport" in San Francisco leading up to Super Bowl 50 where NFL Commissioner **ROGER GOODELL** announced the expansion of The Rooney Rule to include interviewing women for all open executive positions at the league office. Additionally, the NFL recently launched its Diverse Talent community – an invite-only online recruitment platform that encourages quality, dynamic candidates with diverse backgrounds to join its ranks through a shared talent acquisition database for Human Resources across the NFL and its 32 clubs.



OVERTIME EXCITEMENT

In 2015, an impressive 68 percent of all regular-season games (174 of 256) were within one score in the fourth quarter. The 174 such games tied for the third-most of any season in NFL history.

With so many close games, it's no surprise that 21 contests in the regular season were ultimately decided in overtime, tied for the fourth-most in a regular season since overtime was instituted in 1974.

The overtime action started early with the Rams' 34-31 OT win against Seattle (bottom left) on Kickoff Weekend and extended all the way into the postseason with Arizona's thrilling 26-20 overtime victory against Green Bay (bottom right) in the Divisional Playoffs.

Overtime games also had playoff implications in 2015 as four games in the regular season's final two weeks needed extra time, including Denver's OT win over Cincinnati in Week 16 on *Monday Night Football*, which helped the Broncos secure home-field advantage throughout the postseason.

See page 515 of the *2016 NFL Record & Fact Book* for all of last season's overtime game summaries.

The NFL teams with the best regular-season overtime records since overtime was instituted in 1974:

TEAM	RECORD	WIN PCT.
Washington	25-15-1	.622
Denver	28-17-2	.617
Arizona	24-16-2	.595
Buffalo	20-14-0	.588
San Francisco	22-16-2	.575

A sampling of individual overtime records:

LONGEST TOUCHDOWN PASS

99 Yards	Ron Jaworski to Mike Quick, Philadelphia 23, Atlanta 17 (11/10/85)
87 Yards	Teddy Bridgewater to Jarius Wright, Minnesota 30, New York Jets 24 (12/7/14)
82 Yards	Tom Brady to Troy Brown, New England 19, Miami 13 (10/19/03)
	Brett Favre to Greg Jennings, Green Bay 19, Denver 13 (10/29/07)

LONGEST TOUCHDOWN PLAYS

99 Yards	(Pass) Ron Jaworski to Mike Quick, Philadelphia 23, Atlanta 17 (11/10/85)
	(Punt return) Patrick Peterson, Arizona 19, St. Louis 13 (11/6/11)
96 Yards	(Run) Garrison Hearst, San Francisco 36, New York Jets 30 (9/6/98)
	(Kickoff return) Chad Morton, New York Jets 37, Buffalo 31 (9/8/02)

LONGEST TOUCHDOWN RUN

96 Yards	Garrison Hearst, San Francisco 36, New York Jets 30 (9/6/98)
60 Yards	Herschel Walker, Dallas 23, New England 17 (11/15/87)
50 Yards	Rashard Mendenhall, Pittsburgh 15, Atlanta 9 (9/12/10)

LONGEST FIELD GOAL

57 Yards	Sebastian Janikowski, Oakland 16, New York Jets 13 (10/19/08)
54 Yards	Greg Zuerlein, St. Louis 16, San Francisco 13 (12/2/12)
53 Yards	Chris Jacke, Green Bay 23, San Francisco 20 (10/4/96)



MODIFIED SUDDEN DEATH OVERTIME

For the 2010 postseason, the NFL installed a modified sudden death overtime system to determine the winner when the score is tied at the end of regulation. In 2012, the system was expanded to cover all NFL games.

Teams have the opportunity to possess the ball at least once in the extra period unless the team that receives the overtime kickoff scores a touchdown on its first possession.

A look at the NFL's overtime procedures:

<u>PRESEASON AND REGULAR SEASON</u>	<u>POSTSEASON</u>
<p>At the end of regulation time, the referee will immediately toss a coin at the center of the field in accordance with rules pertaining to the usual pregame toss. The captain of the visiting team will call the toss prior to the coin being flipped.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Following a three-minute intermission after the end of the regulation game, there shall be a maximum of one 15-minute period. Each team must possess or have the opportunity to possess the ball unless the team that has the ball first scores a touchdown on its initial possession.• Play continues in sudden death until a winner is determined, and the game automatically ends upon any score (by safety, field goal, or touchdown) or when a score is awarded by the referee for a palpably unfair act. Each team shall be entitled to two timeouts, and if there is an excess timeout, the usual rules shall apply. The try is not attempted if a touchdown is scored. Disqualified players are not allowed to return.• If the score is tied at the end of the 15-minute overtime period, the game shall result in a tie.• Instant Replay: No challenges. Reviews to be initiated by the replay official.	<p>At the end of regulation time, the referee will immediately toss a coin at the center of the field in accordance with rules pertaining to the usual pregame toss. The captain of the visiting team will call the toss prior to the coin being flipped.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Following a three-minute intermission after the end of the regulation game, play will be continued in 15-minute periods until a winner is declared. Each team must possess or have the opportunity to possess the ball unless the team that has the ball first scores a touchdown on its initial possession.• Play continues in sudden death until a winner is determined, and the game automatically ends upon any score (by safety, field goal, or touchdown) or when a score is awarded by the referee for a palpably unfair act. Each team has three time outs per half and all general timing provisions apply as during a regular game. The try is not attempted if a touchdown is scored. Disqualified players are not allowed to return.• Instant Replay: No challenges. Reviews to be initiated by the replay official.
<p><u>Key Definitions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Possession: Actual possession of the ball with complete control. The defense gains possession when it catches, intercepts, or recovers a loose ball.• Opportunity to possess: The opportunity to possess occurs only during kicking plays. A kickoff is an opportunity to possess for the receiving team. If the kicking team legally recovers the kick, the receiving team is considered to have had its opportunity. A punt or a field goal that crosses the line of scrimmage and is muffed by the receiving team is considered to be an opportunity to possess for the receivers. Normal touching rules by the kicking team apply.	

NFL CONTINUES EXPERIMENT WITH EIGHTH OFFICIAL

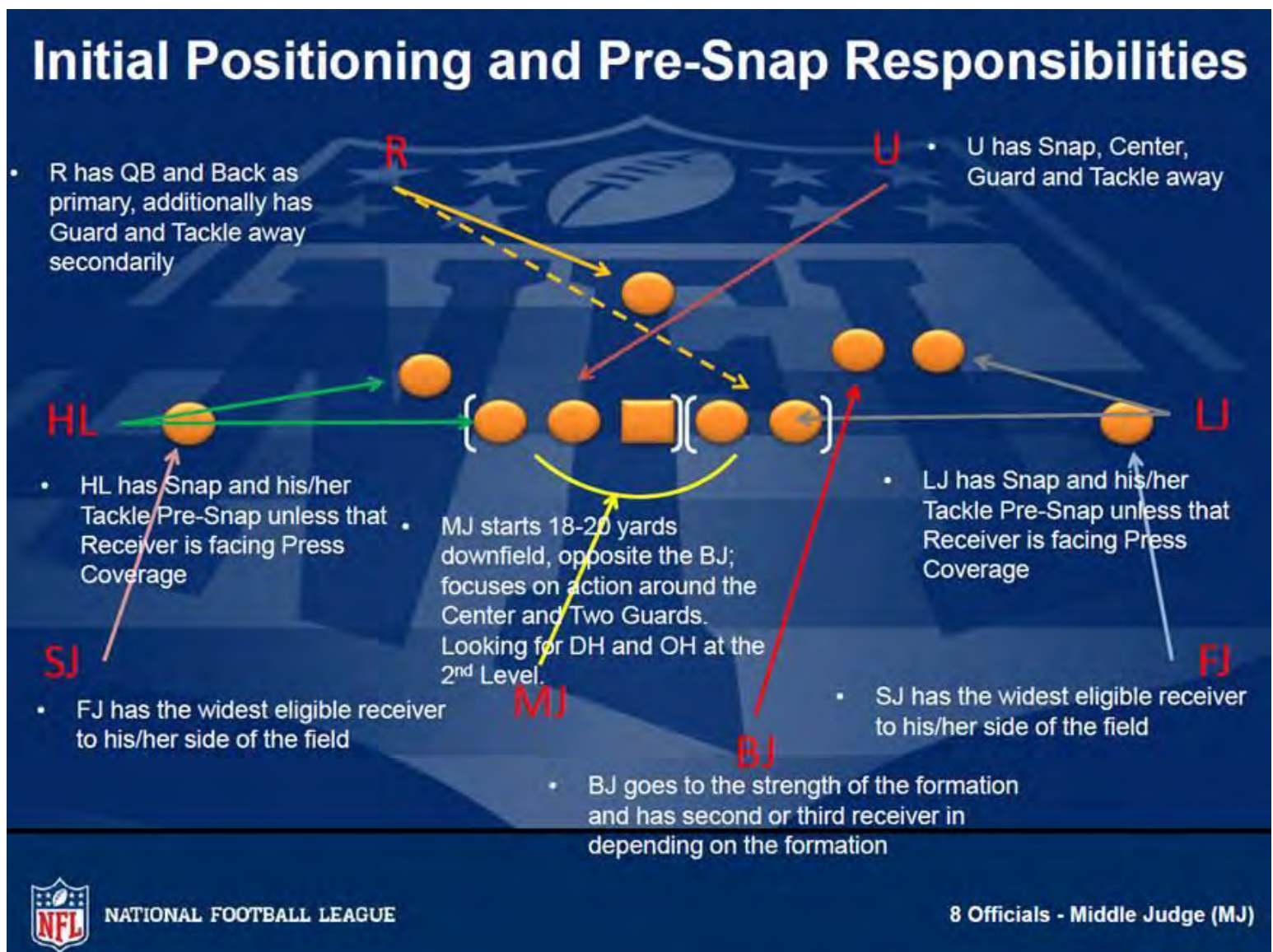
During Week 2 of the 2016 preseason, the NFL will again experiment with eight officials on the field of play. The league tested the use of an eighth official during Week 2 of last year's preseason.

The league has utilized seven-person officiating crews since 1978 when the side judge was added to the crew.

During the preseason experiment, the eighth official – called the “MJ” or “middle judge” – will help further the goal of trying to reduce the amount of times an official is responsible for multiple areas of the field that may not be in proximity to each other.

“We want to see if we can further improve our coverage of the field and take advantage of having another set of eyes out there,” says NFL Senior Vice President of Officiating **DEAN BLANDINO**. “So we'll use this experiment to gather more information and continue to study it.”

The eighth official will line up approximately 20 yards downfield from the line of scrimmage. From there, the middle judge will focus on the center and two guards, with a particular emphasis on spotting defensive holding penalties.



NFL TO TEST DATA CHIPS IN FOOTBALLS IN 2016 PRESEASON

The NFL will place data chips into game footballs during the 2016 preseason as the league continues to use technology to find ways to improve the game.

The chip-equipped footballs are part of the next phase of the league's Next Gen Stats tracking project. Included among the data that will be collected are the distance the ball travels on a given play, the football's proximity to the goal posts on a field goal or PAT attempt and the location of defenders relative to the ball when it is thrown or caught.

Every football used during the preseason will have a chip.

At the conclusion of the preseason, the league's Competition Committee will review the results to determine how the footballs performed along with potential uses for the data collected. There is the potential for the information to be used in the future on media platforms such as NFL.com and in-game telecasts, including 2016 *Thursday Night Football* regular-season games.



NFL & CFL FORM OFFICIATING DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The National Football League and Canadian Football League have formed the NFL-CFL Officiating Development Program.

Beginning this season, a group of NFL officials have had the opportunity to work as part of CFL crews during preseason and regular-season games in June and July, prior to starting their NFL season at the league's annual officiating clinic in late July.

Several CFL officials will then join the NFL's Officiating Development Program, which is designed to train top officials in all aspects of NFL officiating. Elements of the program include attending NFL minicamps and training camps, officiating preseason games, studying position-specific film with veteran NFL officials, reviewing mechanics and analyzing rules differences between the NFL and other leagues, including the CFL and college football.

"Any time our newer officials can get more reps on the field, during practices or games, that will make them better officials," says NFL Senior Vice President of Officiating **DEAN BLANDINO**. "The collaboration with the CFL will certainly benefit us as we prepare for the 2016 season and we look forward to welcoming our CFL officiating counterparts to our development program."

The NFL officials working in the CFL will be primarily deep wing officials – side judges and field judges – to minimize the impact of some of the rules differences between the two leagues.

"This historic partnership gives officials in both leagues an opportunity to hone their craft and get better through shared development activities and more snaps at the pro level," says CFL Senior Vice President, Football **GLEN JOHNSON**. "We're excited that a group of our officials will actively participate in the NFL Development Program and now have a formal path forward to be considered as prospects in their league."



NFL FOOTBALL OFFICIATING ACADEMY

Every NFL game has a third team on the field: the officiating crew. For every snap, this seven-person unit makes calls with precision and split-second decisions at full speed without hesitation. Without the benefit of multiple camera angles on high-definition TV, this team rules on about 160 plays each and every game. Correctly officiating an NFL game takes years of experience, training, and development.

NFL officials are the best of the best – only 124 officials currently have the privilege of calling football games at the highest level. No one officiates forever, so the NFL's Officiating Department continuously strives to develop a robust talent pool to ensure that the next generation of officials is ready to step up when needed.

The NFL Officiating Department works closely with local, state and collegiate officiating associations to develop this pipeline of high school and college football officials across the country. The league also hosts grass-roots clinics and programs designed to introduce young men and women to football officiating.



FINDING THE BEST

The NFL has developed a regional network of more than 65 scouts to canvass the country in search of officials with the potential to advance to higher levels of football. All of these candidates will learn important personal and professional skills that will help them both on and off the field. A select few will demonstrate the skills, athleticism and strength of character necessary to officiate in the NFL.

This process has resulted in a pool of nearly 4,000 officials at all levels that have been observed and evaluated by an NFL officiating scout. Once in the officiating database, the scouts track their progress, and those who stand out can earn opportunities to move up to higher levels of football.

OFFICIATING DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

High-performing prospects can earn their way into one of these programs:

- **NFL Officiating Development Program (ODP):** Select college officials that have shown potential to be able to officiate at the NFL level. This select group – typically officials for major college conferences – is evaluated and mentored by the NFL's Officiating Department to prepare them for the potential next step into the NFL.
- **Legends Officiating Development Program (LODP):** Former players get the opportunity to use their unique knowledge of football and world-class athleticism to stay involved in the game they love.

BROADENING THE POOL

These grass-roots initiatives are designed to expand the public's interest, participation and skills in officiating at every level:

- **Football Officiating Academy (FOA):** FOA broadens the talent pool by introducing officiating to people across the country who are interested in learning more about it. These academies teach officiating mechanics and football fundamentals, along with professional and personal skills.
- **Women Officiating Now (WON):** WON introduces women to the possibility of officiating football and helps them get involved in football at all levels.
- **Canadian Football League (CFL) Partnership:** A group of NFL officials will have the opportunity to work as part of CFL crews during preseason and regular-season games, prior to starting their NFL season at the league's annual officiating clinic. Several CFL officials will then join the NFL's Officiating Development Program, which is designed to train top officials in all aspects of NFL officiating. Elements of the program include attending NFL minicamps and training camps, officiating preseason games, studying position-specific film with veteran NFL officials, reviewing mechanics and analyzing rules differences between the NFL and other leagues, including the CFL and college football.

For more information on the NFL's FOA, visit nffofficiating.com.



Cincinnati Christian



Davenport



Morthland



UTPB



West Florida

FIVE COLLEGES TO ADD FOOTBALL PROGRAMS IN 2016

As the anticipation for football season continues to build, fans can look forward to more action on college campuses this fall. Five colleges will add football programs in 2016 – **CINCINNATI CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY, DAVENPORT UNIVERSITY, MORTHLAND COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS OF THE PERMIAN BASIN** and **UNIVERSITY OF WEST FLORIDA**.

Since 2008, a total of 60 NCAA and NAIA schools have added football teams and six additional schools plan to add football programs by 2018.

According to the National Football Foundation, a record 780 colleges/universities will have football programs by 2018.

“Following our study with the consulting firm, they came back and recommended that we consider adding intercollegiate football,” said Indiana Wesleyan athletics director **MARK DE MICHAEL** after the school announced they plan to add football in 2018. “We are here to make Indiana Wesleyan stronger and more sustainable. Adding 105-130 more students who will excel in the classroom is a great thing.”

Two of the new schools that will begin play this fall, Cincinnati Christian University in Ohio and Davenport University in Grand Rapids, Michigan, have started plans to construct new multi-sport stadiums and other on-campus facilities.

“A football program will help us to create an outstanding experience for our students and will support the continued growth of Davenport,” said **DR. RICHARD J. PAPPAS**, President of Davenport University. “We look forward to creating a high-quality program in which all of our stakeholders can take great pride.”

A total of three schools plan to add football programs in 2017 – including the University of Alabama at Birmingham, which reinstated its football program – and three more plan to add football in 2018.

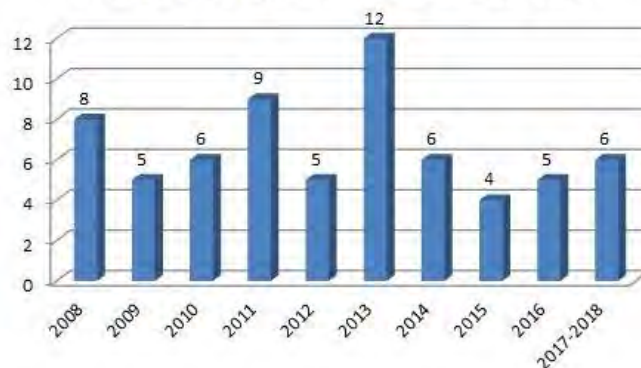
“This is truly an historic occasion for Texas Wesleyan,” said Texas Wesleyan University president **FREDERICK G. SLABACH** after the school’s announcement to add football in 2017. “Football will bring a new team of student-athletes who will thrive at our Texas Wesleyan campus.”

A list of colleges that plan to add football programs by 2018:

<u>COLLEGE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>START DATE/LEVEL</u>
Cincinnati Christian	Cincinnati, OH	2016-NAIA
Davenport	Grand Rapids, MI	2016-NAIA
Morthland	West Frankfort, IL	2016-TBD
Texas of the Permian Basin	Odessa, TX	2016-NCAA, Div. II
West Florida	Pensacola, FL	2016-NCAA, Div. II
St. Andrews	Laurinburg, NC	2017-NAIA
Texas Wesleyan	Fort Worth, TX	2017-NAIA
Alabama at Birmingham	Birmingham, AL	2017-NCAA, Div. I-FBS
Clarke	Dubuque, IA	2018-NAIA
Indiana Wesleyan	Marion, IN	2018-NAIA
New England	Biddeford, ME	2018-NCAA, Div. III

A look at football’s growth at the collegiate level:

Football Programs Added Each Year





NFL PARTNERS WITH MID-EASTERN & SOUTHWESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCES TO INCREASE OFF-FIELD OPPORTUNITIES FOR ETHNIC MINORITIES

The NFL has partnered with two preeminent Historically Black College & Universities (HBCU) athletic conferences – the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) and Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) – to increase opportunities for ethnic minorities – both professionals and students – interested in pursuing careers in football administration.

The goal is to provide qualified individuals with the preparation and skills needed to secure employment in professional football administration.

“Our partnership with the MEAC and SWAC is not only important for our pipeline of qualified individuals at all levels of football, but also to improve the NFL’s goals for diversity and inclusion,” says NFL Executive Vice President of Football Operations **TROY VINCENT**. “With this partnership, we are making steady progress in developing future coaches, officials, scouts, managers, front office personnel and others through effective football resources, educational programs and internships.”

In addition to the NFL providing much-needed support to academic and athletic endeavors, MEAC and SWAC personnel will benefit from programs that include internships at the club and league level, integration of their football operations staff – including athletic trainers, video directors and equipment managers – into existing NFL platforms such as the Regional Combines, and networking and mentorship opportunities.

“We are elated to continue our partnership with the National Football League, which includes our current officiating involvement, to advancing the NFL’s diversity and inclusion initiatives with a strategic plan to increase diversity in all areas of employment at the league office and the clubs,” says Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference Commissioner **DENNIS THOMAS**. “The MEAC is pleased to work collaboratively with the NFL to achieve its diversity and inclusion goals.”

A summit at the Air Force Reserve Celebration Bowl – the annual game between the champions of the MEAC and SWAC, won by North Carolina A&T last season – will feature panel discussions for student athletes competing in the game featuring NFL and club personnel who have played college football introducing the players to non-playing opportunities in pro football.

Top sports management students from the competing universities along with entry-level athletic department administrators will attend a separate NFL-themed panel.

“The Southwestern Athletic Conference is excited to partner with the NFL and MEAC to ensure that our student-athletes and students have exposure to superior professional development and the different career contingencies that the NFL and professional sports have to offer,” says SWAC Commissioner **DUER SHARP**. “This partnership is cutting edge and will allow our stakeholders and respective organizations the opportunity to foster long term relationships that will ultimately increase our visibility from campuses to corner offices. We are grateful that the NFL has taken such a profound stance in recognizing the potential of our student athletes, administrators, coaches and officials.”

The NFL has a long association with MEAC and SWAC institutions, which have developed some of the greats of the game, including Pro Football Hall of Famers **WALTER PAYTON** (Jackson State), **JERRY RICE** (Mississippi Valley State), **BOB HAYES** (Florida A&M), **SHANNON SHARPE** (Savannah State), **HARRY CARSON** (South Carolina State) and **AENEAS WILLIAMS** (Southern).

“The partnership between the NFL and these conferences is outstanding,” says Williams. “Many students, executives and other talented individuals, who may not have known about all of the avenues available to them in the NFL off the field, will have more of a chance to engage in activities and opportunities that will prepare them for a rewarding career in the game that we all love.”

Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference

School	Location
Bethune-Cookman	Daytona Beach, FL
Coppin State	Baltimore, MD
Delaware State	Dover, DE
Florida A&M	Tallahassee, FL
Hampton	Hampton, VA
Howard	Washington, DC
Maryland Eastern Shore	Princess Anne, MD
Morgan State	Baltimore, MD
North Carolina A&T	Greensboro, NC
North Carolina Central	Durham, NC
Norfolk State	Norfolk, VA
Savannah State	Savannah, GA
South Carolina State	Orangeburg, SC

Southwestern Athletic Conference

School	Location
Alabama A&M	Huntsville, AL
Alabama State	Montgomery, AL
Alcorn State	Lorman, MS
Arkansas-Pine Bluff	Pine Bluff, AR
Grambling State	Grambling, LA
Jackson State	Jackson, MS
Mississippi Valley State	Itta Bena, MS
Prairie View A&M	Prairie View, TX
Southern	Baton Rouge, LA
Texas Southern	Houston, TX

THE FAMOUS LOVE THE NFL

If you take your eyes off the stars on the field, you can't help but notice the stars in the stands. Famous NFL fans are everywhere – even in other sports! From athletes and politicians to actors and singers, celebrities of all varieties love the NFL and proudly show their allegiances with gear, gameday attendance and even ownership.

Fans in the stands aren't the only ones who represent their teams. Rappers **KENDRICK LAMAR** (San Francisco 49ers) and **ICE CUBE** (Oakland Raiders) represent the same hometown but battle over their Bay Area teams, singers **TOBY KEITH** (Pittsburgh Steelers) and **DARIUS RUCKER** (Miami Dolphins) sing their team's praises and, no joke, comedians **ELLEN DEGENERES** (New Orleans Saints) and **DAVID LETTERMAN** (Indianapolis Colts) also enjoy NFL football.

Iconic figures from other sports also spend their down time watching the NFL on Sundays, including NBA MVPs **STEPHEN CURRY** (Carolina Panthers) (right), **LE BRON JAMES** (Dallas Cowboys) and **KEVIN DURANT** (Washington Redskins). Golfers **JIM FURYK** and **ARNOLD PALMER** enjoy hitting the links as much as they enjoy watching the Steelers. And, when they aren't playing around the world, tennis superstar **SERENA WILLIAMS** and U.S. soccer player **ALEJANDRO BEDOYA** cheer on their Dolphins.

On the set or at home, Hollywood's stars enjoy watching and supporting their teams. **SAMUEL L. JACKSON** encourages fans to "Rise Up" for his Atlanta Falcons, while **ZAC EFRON**, **BRAD PITT** and **DENNIS QUAID** chant "Who Dat" for their Saints. **ASHTON KUTCHER** (Chicago Bears), **WILL FERRELL** (Green Bay Packers) and **JOSH DUHAMEL** (Minnesota Vikings) all root for NFC North teams. And sports broadcasters **KEVIN NEGANDI** (Philadelphia Eagles), **CHRIS BERMAN** (Buffalo Bills) and **DICK VITALE** (Tampa Bay Buccaneers) pay close attention to their team's highlights.



Some celebrities and their favorite NFL teams:

NAME	FAVORITE TEAM
Carmelo Anthony, New York Knicks	Baltimore Ravens
Kevin Bacon, Actor	Philadelphia Eagles
Roseanne Barr, Comedian	Denver Broncos
Alejandro Bedoya, US Men's Soccer	Miami Dolphins
Chris Berman, ESPN Broadcaster	Buffalo Bills
Halle Berry, Actress	Cleveland Browns
Wolf Blitzer, CNN Broadcaster	Buffalo Bills
George W. Bush, Former President	Houston Texans
Bobby Cannavale, Actor	New York Jets
Swin Cash, New York Liberty	Pittsburgh Steelers
Kenny Chesney, Musician	New Orleans Saints
Bradley Cooper, Actor	Philadelphia Eagles
Stephen Curry, Golden State Warriors	Carolina Panthers
Brooklyn Decker, Model	Carolina Panthers
Ellen DeGeneres, Comedian	New Orleans Saints
Josh Duhamel, Actor	Minnesota Vikings
Kevin Durant, Golden State Warriors	Washington Redskins
Dale Earnhardt Jr., NASCAR Driver	Washington Redskins
Zac Efron, Actor	New Orleans Saints
Eminem, Rapper	Detroit Lions
Jerry Ferrara, Actor	New York Giants
Will Ferrell, Actor	Green Bay Packers
Guy Fieri, Restaurateur	Oakland Raiders
Jim Furyk, PGA Golfer	Pittsburgh Steelers
Gene Hackman, Actor/Novelist	Jacksonville Jaguars
Colin Hanks, Actor	San Francisco 49ers
Faith Hill, Singer	Tennessee Titans
Bonnie Hunt, Actress	Chicago Bears
Ice Cube, Rapper/Actor	Oakland Raiders
Samuel L. Jackson, Actor	Atlanta Falcons
LeBron James, Cleveland Cavaliers	Dallas Cowboys
Magic Johnson, NBA Hall of Famer	Los Angeles Rams
Jon Bon Jovi, Musician	New York Giants
Michael Keaton, Actor	Pittsburgh Steelers
Stacy Keibler, Model	Baltimore Ravens
Toby Keith, Singer	Pittsburgh Steelers
Ashton Kutcher, Actor	Chicago Bears
Nick Lachey, Singer	Cincinnati Bengals
Kendrick Lamar, Rapper	San Francisco 49ers

NAME	FAVORITE TEAM
Spike Lee, Director	New York Giants
David Letterman, Comedian	Indianapolis Colts
Lil Wayne, Rapper	Green Bay Packers
Adriana Lima, Supermodel	Miami Dolphins
LL Cool J, Rapper/Actor	New York Giants
Mario Lopez, Actor/Entertainer	San Diego Chargers
Lupe Fiasco, Rapper	Chicago Bears
Anthony Mackie, Actor	New Orleans Saints
Macklemore, Rapper	Seattle Seahawks
John McCain, U.S. Senator	Arizona Cardinals
Phil Mickelson, Professional Golfer	San Diego Chargers
Bill Murray, Actor	Jacksonville Jaguars
Kevin Negandi, ESPN Broadcaster	Philadelphia Eagles
Jerry O'Connell, Actor	San Diego Chargers
Nick Offerman, Actor	Chicago Bears
David Ortiz, Boston Red Sox	Green Bay Packers
Arnold Palmer, Retired Golfer	Pittsburgh Steelers
Jabari Parker, Milwaukee Bucks	Green Bay Packers
Michael Phelps, Olympic Swimmer	Baltimore Ravens
Brad Pitt, Actor	New Orleans Saints
Jeremy Piven, Actor	Chicago Bears
Dennis Quaid, Actor	New Orleans Saints
Queen Latifah, Actress	New York Giants
Condoleezza Rice, Stanford professor	Cleveland Browns
Rick Ross, Rapper	Miami Dolphins
Robin Roberts, TV Anchor	New Orleans Saints
Alex Rodriguez, New York Yankees	Miami Dolphins
Derrick Rose, New York Knicks	Chicago Bears
Darius Rucker, Musician	Miami Dolphins
Adam Sandler, Actor	New York Jets
Britney Spears, Singer	New Orleans Saints
Harry Styles, Singer	Green Bay Packers
Eric Stonestreet, Actor	Kansas City Chiefs
Jason Sudeikis, Actor	Kansas City Chiefs
Dick Vitale, ESPN Broadcaster	Tampa Bay Buccaneers
Lindsey Vonn, Olympic Skier	Minnesota Vikings
Dwyane Wade, Chicago Bulls	Chicago Bears
Mark Wahlberg, Actor	New England Patriots
Serena Williams, Tennis Player	Miami Dolphins

69 YEARS AGO ON OPENING DAY: A RECORD 87 POINTS!



Sixty-nine years ago, the **WASHINGTON REDSKINS** and **PHILADELPHIA EAGLES** opened the 1947 season with a record-breaking bang. The Eagles outscored the Redskins 45-42 on September 28 before a crowd of 35,406 in Philadelphia's Municipal Stadium. The 87-point total was an NFL record and continues to stand as the most points scored in a game on Kickoff Weekend. (The record for most combined points in any NFL game is 113 by Washington (72) and the New York Giants (41) on November 27, 1966.)

The 12-touchdown scoring blitz, an NFL record at the time, was highlighted by the play of two future Pro Football Hall of Famers – Washington quarterback **SAMMY BAUGH** (left) and Philadelphia halfback **STEVE VAN BUREN**.

Baugh, whose 1947 totals in completions (210), attempts (354) and yards passing (2,938) were NFL records, threw for 364 yards and five touchdowns, including three to rookie end **HUGH TAYLOR**. Van Buren, whose 1,008 rushing yards for the year were also a league record, returned a kickoff 95 yards for a touchdown and rushed for another while totaling 98 yards on the ground.

September 28, 1947, Municipal Stadium, Philadelphia, PA

Washington	0	14	14	14	--	42
Philadelphia	10	14	14	7	--	45

Phi -	FG Muha 40
Phi -	Pihos 19 pass from Thompson (Patton kick)
Was -	Nussbaumer 25 pass from Baugh (Poillon kick)
Was -	Taylor 62 pass from Baugh (Poillon kick)
Phi -	Van Buren 95 kickoff return (Patton kick)
Phi -	Sherman 1 run (Patton kick)
Was -	Saenz 94 kickoff return (Poillon kick)
Phi -	Van Buren 1 run (Patton kick)
Phi -	Pihos 21 pass from Thompson (Patton kick)
Was -	Poillon 4 pass from Baugh (Poillon kick)
Phi -	Armstrong 29 pass from Thompson (Patton kick)
Was -	Taylor 36 pass from Baugh (Poillon kick)
Was -	Taylor 18 pass from Baugh (Poillon kick)

The highest scoring games on Kickoff Weekend in NFL history:

DATE	GAME	COMBINED POINTS
September 28, 1947	Philadelphia (45) vs. Washington (42)	87
September 19, 1971	Dallas (49) vs. Buffalo (37)	86
September 19, 1971	New York Giants (42) vs. Green Bay (40)	82
September 9, 2007	Dallas (45) vs. New York Giants (35)	80
September 4, 1983	Green Bay (41) vs. Houston (38) (OT)	79
September 8, 2002	Kansas City (40) vs. Cleveland (39)	79

The record for most combined points in any NFL game is 113 by Washington (72) and the New York Giants (41) on November 27, 1966.

The highest scoring games in NFL history:

DATE	GAME	COMBINED POINTS
November 27, 1966	Washington (72) vs. New York Giants (41)	113
November 28, 2004	Cincinnati (58) vs. Cleveland (48)	106
November 1, 2015	New Orleans (52) vs. New York Giants (49)	101
December 22, 1963	Oakland (52) vs. Houston (49)	101
October 6, 2013	Denver (51) vs. Dallas (48)	99
November 27, 1983	Seattle (51) vs. Kansas City (48) (OT)	99
October 17, 1948	Chicago Cardinals (63) vs. New York Giants (35)	98
December 8, 1985	San Diego (54) vs. Pittsburgh (44)	98

65 YEARS AGO ON KICKOFF WEEKEND: THE DUTCHMAN GOES WILD!



Los Angeles Rams quarterback **NORM “THE DUTCHMAN” VAN BROCKLIN** (left) entered the 1951 season entrenched in a duel for the starting position with veteran **BOB WATERFIELD**. A Waterfield injury sidelined the incumbent quarterback prior to the season opener against the New York Yanks on September 28, and opened the door for Van Brocklin to show his worth. He took advantage of the opportunity by producing the most prolific passing performance in NFL history. Van Brocklin threw for an NFL-record 554 yards in a 54-14 rout of the Yanks at the Los Angeles Coliseum. The Pro Football Hall of Fame quarterback tossed five touchdowns and completed 27 of 41 passes.

“It’s the finest exhibition of passing I’ve ever seen,” said Rams coach **JIMMY PHELAN** after the game. “Van Brocklin was hitting them in the eye practically every time he threw the ball.”

Van Brocklin, who passed away in 1983, remained subdued about the performance. “Everything I threw seemed to be caught and run for a long gain,” he said.

The Rams’ **TOM FEARS** averaged 23.1 yards on his seven catches and **ELROY “CRAZYLEGS” HIRSCH** averaged 19.2 yards on nine receptions. Los Angeles amassed an NFL-record 735 total yards and 34 first downs.

“They don’t need me out here anymore,” said Waterfield after the game. The two quarterbacks would split time for the rest of the season as the Rams captured the 1951 NFL Championship.

Van Brocklin’s record has stood for the past 65 years. Quarterbacks **MATT SCHAUB** and **WARREN MOON** have come the closest to breaking Van Brocklin’s mark. In 2012, Schaub, then with the Houston Texans, passed for 527 yards against Jacksonville on November 18, while Moon had a 527-yard day for the Houston Oilers against Kansas City on December 16, 1990.

The top passing performances in various levels of football:

LEAGUE	QUARTERBACK	DATE	PERFORMANCE
High School	Will Grier, Davidson Day (NC)	November 9, 2012	837 yards vs. Harrells Christian (NC)
NCAA Division III	Sam Durley, Eureka	September 1, 2012	736 yards vs. Knox
NCAA Division I-AA (FCS)	Taylor Heinicke, Old Dominion	September 22, 2012	730 yards vs. New Hampshire
NCAA Division I-A (FBS)	Connor Halliday, Washington State	October 4, 2014	734 yards vs. California
Canadian Football League	Matt Dunigan, Winnipeg	July 14, 1994	713 yards vs. Edmonton
NCAA Division II	J.J. Harp, Eastern New Mexico	September 12, 2009	695 yards vs. Southeastern OK.
NFL	<i>Norm Van Brocklin, LA Rams</i>	<i>September 28, 1951</i>	<i>554 yards vs. NY Yanks</i>



BEST OPENING MONTH RECORDS, PAST 10 YEARS

Getting off to a strong start is important.

Over the past 10 years, nine teams have a winning percentage of at least .600 through the season’s first month. Those nine clubs have combined for 58 playoff berths and 12 Super Bowl appearances – including four Super Bowl championships – during that span.

The nine teams with a .600+ winning percentage in the opening month over the past 10 seasons (2006-15):

TEAM	RECORD	PCT.
New England	24-9-0	.727
Denver	23-11-0	.676
Dallas	22-11-0	.667
Baltimore	22-12-0	.647
Green Bay	22-12-0	.647
Arizona	21-13-0	.618
Cincinnati	20-13-0	.606
Indianapolis	20-13-0	.606
Seattle	20-13-0	.606

PLAYER HEALTH & SAFETY





HOW THE NFL IS PROMOTING HEALTH AND SAFETY IN SPORTS



THE NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE IS INCREASING SAFETY FOR FOOTBALL PLAYERS AND OTHER ATHLETES AT ALL LEVELS OF SPORT. THE LEAGUE HAS AND WILL CONTINUE TO IMPROVE HOW WE PLAY THE GAME, HOW WE TEACH THE GAME, AND HOW WE USE RESEARCH TO IMPROVE THE GAME.

HOW WE PLAY THE GAME

The NFL uses injury data collected and reviewed by Quintiles—an independent third-party organization—and input from medical advisors, Quintiles, clubs, players, coaches, the NFL Players Association, and the Competition Committee to constantly evaluate how we can change the rules of the game and use technology to improve safety.

RULES ON THE FIELD

Since 2002, the league has made 42 rules changes to eliminate dangerous tactics and reduce the risk of injuries, especially to the head and neck. To highlight just a few:

- » In 2009, the NFL prohibited a defender from using his helmet, forearm, or shoulder to make contact with the head or neck area of a “defenseless” receiver.
- » In 2010, the NFL expanded that rule to protect all “defenseless players” from contact to the head by an opponent’s helmet, forearm, or shoulder. The rule was expanded again in 2012 to include certain defensive players.
- » In 2011, the NFL moved the restraining line for the kicking team from the 30- to the 35-yard line to reduce the risk of injury on kickoffs. Further, in 2016, the NFL moved the spot of the next snap after a touchback resulting from a kickoff from the 20- to the 25-yard line.
- » In 2013, the league prohibited a runner or tackler from initiating contact against an opponent with the top or crown of the helmet.
- » In 2016, the NFL expanded the horse collar rule to include when a defender grabs the jersey at the name plate or above and pulls a runner toward the ground.

SIDELINE MEDICAL SUPPORT

- » **A Team Behind the Team:** As of the 2016 season, there are at least 29 medical staff at a stadium on game day. This specialized squad of medical professionals, including team physicians and athletic trainers, patrols the sidelines at every NFL game. In conjunction with the NFLPA, the league added independent medical personnel and adopted new technology to assist in the identification and review of injuries, with a specific focus on concussions. It is required that each sideline is staffed with an unaffiliated neurological consultant (UNC), who collaborates with team physicians to make in-game neurological assessments and who must independently approve a player returning to play following a suspected head injury.
- » **ATC Spotters/Medical Timeout:** The medical staff also includes an expert “eye in the sky”—a certified athletic trainer (ATC) positioned in a stadium box who scans the field and television replays to help identify players with a potential injury who may require attention. Starting in the 2016 season, a second certified athletic trainer will be added to the box to help identify potential injuries. The ATC spotters are authorized to stop the game and call a medical timeout—which does not count against either team—if needed to provide a player with immediate medical assistance.




- » **Concussion Protocol:** The NFL and NFLPA, in conjunction with their medical advisory committees, implemented the NFL Game Day Concussion Protocol in 2011 to address the diagnosis and management of concussions. The parties consistently review the mandatory Concussion Protocols and make necessary changes to ensure that players are receiving care that reflects the most up-to-date medical consensus.
- » **Video Monitors:** Team medical staff—including the UNC—also have access to sideline video monitors, which allow them to watch video of any play. As a result, medical staff can review the mechanism of an injury to better understand what happened and design the best care for a player. The video cannot be accessed by anyone other than the medical team.
- » **Electronic Tablets:** Since 2013, the NFL has required clubs to use electronic tablets with specially designed applications for the diagnosis of concussions. The X2 app, which includes a step-by-step checklist for assessing players suspected of head injury, as well as all players' concussion baseline tests and historical data, is now an established component of in-game concussion diagnosis and care. This record travels with a player wherever he goes in the league, so that his medical history is close at hand from game to game and team to team.

MANDATORY PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT AND PRACTICE RULES

- » **Limits on Practices:** The league has worked with the NFLPA to change mandatory practice rules. NFL teams are limited to only 14 days of full-contact football practice during the 17-week season. This restriction amounts to less than one day of full-contact practices per week.
- » **Improving Helmet Safety:** Through our Head, Neck and Spine Committee established in 2010, the NFL—in partnership with the NFLPA—assembled a team of engineers, biomechanical experts, and material scientists to undertake a comprehensive analysis of the football helmets worn by NFL players. Testing was conducted in 2015 and again in 2016, and the results were shared with players, athletic trainers and equipment managers to help players make informed decisions when selecting their helmets. A poster summarizing the results hangs in all 32 NFL club locker rooms. As part of its Head Health Initiative, the NFL has solicited and funded proposed ideas for new materials and technologies that could better protect the brain from injury. The NFL is also funding joint research projects with the National Institute on Standards and Technology (NIST) to identify materials that would better mitigate forces experienced in a wide range of settings, including sports and in the military. The combination of this research holds the promise of headgear that will provide superior protection for athletes in many different sports.
- » **Protective Equipment:** Since the 2013 season, the NFL has required players to wear thigh and knee pads during games to better protect them from leg injuries. As with helmets and shoulder pads, players not wearing the mandatory protective equipment are not permitted onto the playing field and may be assessed financial penalties.
- » **Improving Field Surfaces:** The Musculoskeletal Committee oversees and analyzes biomechanical research and injury data and shares this information with shoemakers and artificial turf manufacturers. With the committee's recommendations, turf manufacturers have taken steps to standardize the characteristics of turf—such as surface hardness and the depth of sand below the turf—in order to decrease injuries. In 2016, the NFL and NFLPA established the Field Surface & Performance Committee, a joint committee to provide advice and guidance regarding the safety, performance, and testing of game day and practice surfaces. This new joint committee will perform research and advise the parties on injury prevention, improved testing methods, and the adoption of tools and techniques to evaluate and improve field surface performance and playability.

HOW WE TEACH THE GAME

The NFL is committed to helping young athletes learn how to participate in all sports as safely as possible. Active participation in sports benefits young people physically and builds positive leadership and teamwork skills. The NFL wants to maximize these benefits while minimizing safety risks.

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- » **Heads Up Football:** In April 2013, USA Football—with support from the NFL—launched the “Heads Up Football” (HUF) program. This educational outreach program, funded by a \$45 million grant from the NFL Foundation, strives to improve player safety for youth and high school players by training and certifying coaches on safety fundamentals; teaching proper tackling techniques; appointing Player Safety Coaches for every youth league to enforce safety protocols; ensuring proper equipment fitting; and teaching coaches, parents, and players how to recognize and treat concussions. In February 2015, USA Football adopted new youth tackle football practice guidelines, which have been endorsed by leading medical organizations. These include clear definitions of contact and time limits on player-to-player full contact. Today, more than 150,000 coaches are HUF-certified, and more than two thirds of youth leagues across the country, including all Pop Warner leagues, have implemented HUF, representing more than 1 million kids.
 - » **Promoting Sports Safety Education and Access to Athletic Trainers:** In May 2014, during the first ever Healthy Kids and Safe Sports Concussion Summit at the White House, the NFL Foundation pledged \$25 million to test and expand health and safety projects over the next three years. One such project is a \$3 million investment in partnership with National Athletic Trainers Association (NATA), Gatorade, and the Professional Football Athletic Trainers Society (PFATS) to fund athletic trainers in underserved high schools nationwide. This program has already impacted more than 160,000 youth across 670 high schools. Earlier this year, 15 schools were each awarded \$50,000 to fund athletic trainer programs for their student athletes. Other projects include field grants to provide new and refurbished places for kids to play safely, equipment grants, and funding for continuing education for clinicians.
 - » **Raising Awareness about Concussions:** A poster and related player fact sheet was developed, in partnership with the CDC and others, to educate players about the possible consequences of concussions and advise them to report any related symptoms they may experience. A similar poster, endorsed by 16 national governing bodies for sport, was developed for young athletes and made available through the CDC to display in youth team locker rooms, gymnasiums, and schools nationwide.
 - » **Helmet Replacement Program:** In 2012, the NFL partnered with the U.S. Consumer Protection Safety Commission and a number of other organizations to launch a helmet replacement program for youth leagues in underserved communities. In conjunction with USA Football, the NFL continues to provide equipment grants that furnish new or reconditioned helmets for youth leagues in underserved communities at no cost.
 - » **PLAY 60:** NFL PLAY 60 was launched by the NFL in the fall of 2007 to encourage kids to be physically active for at least 60 minutes per day. Since that time, the NFL has joined forces with partners such as the American Heart Association, KaBOOM!, National Dairy Council, and United Way to create school programs and build new places for kids to be active.
 - » **NFL FLAG Football:** Flag football is a great way for boys and girls of all ages to stay active and learn the fundamentals of the game. There are more than 1,100 NFL FLAG leagues across the U.S., consisting of more than 340,000 participants. Additionally the NFL FLAG Essentials program, which includes an in-school PE curriculum, has enabled more than three million students to get active through NFL FLAG.
 - » **Lystedt Laws:** In 2010, the NFL began advocating for youth sports concussion prevention laws in every state. These laws, known as Lystedt laws, mandate a return-to-play protocol to better protect youth athletes in all sports from the risks of preventable concussions. Lystedt laws require: 1) concussion education for parents, coaches, and players; 2) immediate removal of an athlete who has sustained a concussion; and 3) clearance by a proper medical professional before a young athlete may return to play or practice. These laws have now been adopted in all 50 states, as well as the District of Columbia.



HOW WE USE RESEARCH TO MAKE THE GAME SAFER

The NFL is investing in pioneering medical research to help scientists and doctors find breakthroughs that will benefit all athletes. These investments include:

- » **Foundation for the National Institutes of Health:** In September 2012, the NFL announced a \$30 million unrestricted grant to the Foundation for the National Institutes of Health (FNIH) to advance medical research on brain injuries, especially among athletes and veterans. This marked the single-largest donation to any organization in the league's history.
- » **Head Health Initiative:** In 2013, the NFL, along with GE and Under Armour, launched the Head Health Initiative, a four-year, \$60 million collaboration to accelerate diagnosis and improve treatment for traumatic brain injury. The initiative includes the following:
 - A four-year, \$40 million research and development program to develop next-generation brain imaging technologies that take a whole-brain approach to improving the diagnosis and treatment of patients with mild traumatic brain injury.
 - A two-year, open innovation challenge fund to invest up to \$20 million in grants to scientists, academics, experts and entrepreneurs worldwide across three innovation challenges aimed at spurring disruptive advancements to better understand, diagnose, and protect against traumatic brain injury. The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) is also supporting this effort. Results include potentially revolutionary innovations such as a simple blood test to aid in the detection of traumatic brain injury, a turf under-layer that absorbs impact and other new energy-absorbing materials designed to better withstand force and protect against concussions.
- » **Partnering with the U.S. Army:** In 2012, the NFL and the U.S. military launched a long-term initiative to improve the health of soldiers and players by sharing information and providing education on concussions and health-related issues that affect both organizations. The initiative fosters peer-to-peer conversations to reduce the stigma that may be associated with reporting brain injuries and to promote sharing of tips on how to recognize, prevent, and manage concussions.
- » **Concussion Symposium at University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC):** In October 2015, UPMC held a two-day symposium, underwritten by the NFL Foundation, that brought together 37 leading, independent concussion clinicians and researchers from around the country to propose standard guidelines on the best ways to treat concussions.
- » **Second Annual International Professional Sports Concussion Research Think Tank:** The league hosted its second annual international think tank on concussions in October 2015, convening representatives of the world's major sports leagues and concussion experts to share best practices and protocols and collaborate on ways to advance progress, such as a new study on the long-term effects of concussions in sports.

\$30 MILLION

GRANT ESTABLISHED NEW SPORTS HEALTH RESEARCH PROGRAM THAT FUNDS BRAIN RESEARCH, ESPECIALLY AMONG ATHLETES AND VETERANS



\$60 MILLION

HEAD HEALTH INITIATIVE TO IMPROVE SAFETY OF ATHLETES, MILITARY MEMBERS, AND SOCIETY OVERALL



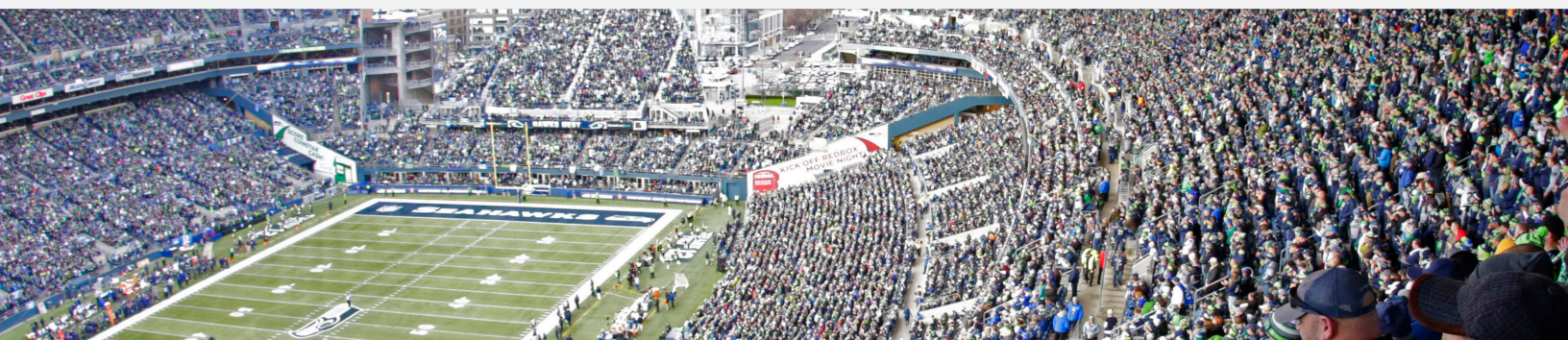
INNOVATION • ADVANCEMENT • PROGRESS

\$40 MILLION

INVESTMENT TO DEVELOP NEXT-GENERATION IMAGING TECHNOLOGIES

\$20 MILLION

OPEN INNOVATION CONTESTS FOR RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY



THE TEAM BEHIND THE TEAM

AN INSIDE LOOK AT IN-STADIUM MEDICAL STAFF ON NFL GAME DAYS. EACH SIDELINE HAS:



4 ATHLETIC TRAINERS

Assess and treat player injuries in conjunction with team doctors



2 PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIANS

Evaluate players for general medical conditions and concussions



2 ORTHOPEDISTS

Evaluate and treats players for injuries to the bones and joints



1 UNAFFILIATED NEUROTRAUMA CONSULTANT

Evaluates players for possible head injuries and concussions



1 CHIROPRACTOR

Provides back/spinal adjustments for players and treats muscular injuries

STADIUM MEDICAL TEAM:



1 DENTIST

Treats dental issues



2 INDEPENDENT ATHLETIC TRAINERS

Notify on-field medical staff of possible injuries from press box. The independent ATC spotters can call a medical timeout to stop the game to have a player receive medical attention



1 AIRWAY MANAGEMENT PHYSICIAN

Provides emergency intubation to severely injured, non-breathing players



1 RADIOLOGY TECHNICIAN

Takes x-rays of injured players at the stadium



2 EMTS/PARAMEDIC CREW

Transport players to hospital in the event of serious injuries



1 VISITING TEAM MEDICAL LIAISON

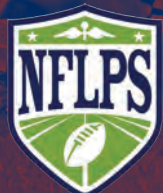
Local emergency physician certified to practice medicine in the state where the game is being played. The VTML works with the team to provide access to care, medication and first-rate medical facilities



1 OPHTHALMOLOGIST

Treats eye injuries

29 TOTAL GAME-DAY MEDICAL STAFF



Information provided by the National Football League Physicians Society (NFLPS). Numbers reflect the average number of medical staff present and should not be considered official NFL protocol.

AP Photo/David J. Phillip

NFL & NFLPA ANNOUNCE NEW POLICY TO ENFORCE CONCUSSION PROTOCOL

Furthering their commitment to protecting the health and safety of NFL players, the NFL and NFLPA announced an agreement to enforce the NFL Game Day Concussion Protocol and discipline clubs that violate it. Under the new policy, the NFL and NFLPA will follow a strict and fair process to investigate incidents and determine appropriate discipline, including club fines and possible forfeiture of draft picks.

The NFL and NFLPA, in conjunction with their medical advisory committees, implemented the NFL Game Day Concussion Protocol to address the diagnosis and management of concussions. The parties consistently review the Concussion Protocol to ensure that players are receiving care that reflects the most up to date medical consensus. The new policy sets forth disciplinary action against a club should a member of its medical staff or other employee fail to follow the Concussion Protocol.

According to the policy, the NFL and NFLPA will each designate a representative to monitor the implementation of the protocol and investigate potential violations. The investigation will not reach medical conclusions; it will only determine whether the protocol was followed. Following the investigation, the NFL and NFLPA will review the findings to determine if a violation occurred and, if so, to recommend the proper disciplinary response. If the parties are unable to agree, the matter will be brought to a third party arbitrator. After conducting a thorough review, the arbitrator will issue a report to the Commissioner, NFLPA Executive Director and the involved parties.

As jointly agreed to by the NFL and NFLPA, the Commissioner retains absolute discretion in determining penalties for violations of the concussion protocol. Potential disciplinary action includes:

- A first violation will require the club employees or medical team members involved to attend remedial education; and/or result in a maximum fine of \$150,000 against the club.
- Second and subsequent violations of the concussion protocol will result in a minimum fine of \$100,000 against the club.
- In the event the parties agree that a violation involved aggravating circumstances, the club shall be subject, in the first instance, to a fine no less than \$50,000. The Commissioner shall determine appropriate discipline for subsequent violations involving aggravating circumstances.
- In the event that the Commissioner determines that the club's medical team failed to follow the protocol due to competitive considerations, the Commissioner may require the club to forfeit draft pick(s) and impose additional fines exceeding those amounts set forth above.

The enforcement policy is one of many collaborations between the NFL and NFLPA to improve player health and safety:

- The NFL and NFLPA launched the NFL Electronic Medical Record (EMR) System across all 32 NFL clubs prior to the start of the 2014 season, resulting in more uniform and detailed injury data. The injury data is reviewed annually by the NFL, NFLPA, their medical advisory committees and the Competition Committee to make changes to the game to improve player safety.
- The NFL and NFLPA, through the Duke Infection Control Outreach Networks (DICON), implemented an infectious disease prevention and response program across all 32 NFL clubs. As part of that effort, DICON has visited every club and inspected their premises and developed a comprehensive plan to educate players and team staff about infection prevention.
- Through the Accountability & Care Committee and an independent Credentialing Verification Organization, the NFL and NFLPA implemented league-wide credentialing standards for all members of team medical staffs.
- The NFL and NFLPA, through a third-party company, surveyed all NFL players in 2015 regarding their opinions on team medical care and other player health and safety issues. The survey, agreed to in the 2011 CBA, was confidential, and the results will be used by the NFL and NFLPA to identify potential areas of improvement in player medical care.
- This offseason the NFL and NFLPA established the Field Surface & Performance Committee, a joint committee to provide advice and guidance regarding the safety, performance and testing of non-NFL game day and practice surfaces. The new committee will perform research and advise the parties on injury prevention, improved testing methods, and the adoption of tools and techniques to evaluate and improve field surface performance and playability.
- The NFL, in collaboration with NFLPA-appointed experts, sponsored a study to assess the performance of football helmets worn by NFL players. A poster summarizing the results of the study hangs in all 32 NFL club locker rooms.
- The NFL and NFLPA jointly sponsored a study to assess the performance of football turf shoes worn by NFL players and determined that certain models presented an enhanced risk of injury. The parties created a poster summarizing the results of the study and advising players against wearing certain models of footwear which hangs in all 32 NFL club locker rooms.
- The NFL and NFLPA implemented the Unaffiliated Neurotrauma Consultant (UNC) Program and the Independent Athletic Trainer (ATC) Spotter Program to improve sideline medical care on game day. UNCs, who are independent of either club, are involved in all in-game neurological assessments. Independent ATC spotters in the press box are empowered to call a medical timeout to stop the game and have a player receive medical attention should he show signs of distress or disorientation.

NEW NFL RULES FOR 2016

Rule changes are made each season to improve the game and make it safer. Recent rules changes and points of emphasis focused on player safety have resulted in defenders adjusting their target zone and using the proper tackling technique.

In 2015, there were 10 players fined for hits on defenseless players, compared to 40 for the same offense in 2012.

FINES FOR HITS ON DEFENSELESS PLAYERS

SEASON	FINES
2012	40
2013	25
2014	11
2015	10

With player health and safety remaining a priority, here are the 2016 rules changes and points of emphasis:

- **CHOP BLOCK:** All chop blocks are now illegal. A chop block is a two-man high-low block in which a defensive player is engaged above the waist by one offensive player and blocked at the thigh or below by a second offensive player. A chop block is a foul whether it occurs on a running play, a pass play or a kicking play.

If it is clear that the defensive player is initiating the contact above the waist, or that the offensive player is trying to slip or escape, then the block is legal.

- **UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT FOULS:** A player that is penalized twice in the same game for certain types of unsportsmanlike conduct fouls will be automatically disqualified. These types of fouls include:
 - Throwing a punch or kick without making contact
 - Use of abusive or threatening language toward an opponent
 - Any act that constitutes taunting
- **HORSE COLLAR:** The horse collar rule has been expanded for this season. Prior to this change, it was illegal to grab the inside collar of the back or the side of the shoulder pad or jersey and pull the runner toward the ground. Now it will also be illegal to grab the back or side of the jersey at the name plate or above and pull the runner toward the ground. The runner does not have to be pulled all the way to the ground. If his knees are buckled by the action, it is a foul.

This rule does not apply to the quarterback in the pocket or a runner in the tackle box, but once the runner leaves the tackle box or the quarterback leaves the pocket the rule is back in effect.

- **TOUCHBACKS:** For the 2016 season, after a touchback resulting from a kickoff or safety kick, the ball will be placed at the receiving team's 25-yard line.

There will also be **points of emphasis** on several existing rules this season (although the rules themselves have not changed):

- 2015 saw an increase in both fouls and fines for **low hits on passers**. The quarterback in the pocket in a passing posture is protected from forcible contact to the knee area or below. Low hits on passers will result in a 15-yard penalty for roughing the passer as well as potential discipline. Once the quarterback tucks the ball and takes a running posture or moves outside the pocket and throws on the run, he no longer receives protection from hits to the knee area or below.
- Rules regarding **sliding runners** will be emphasized in 2016. A runner gains maximum protection when he slides feet first and before defensive contact is imminent. A runner that slides in this manner is treated like a player on the ground and may not be unnecessarily contacted to any part of his body. If a runner begins his slide after defensive contact is imminent then he loses protection from hits to the body, but the defender must still avoid forcible contact to the head or neck area. If a runner slides sideways or dives head first, he receives no special protection and may be hit anywhere until he is on the ground.
- The rule regarding **crown of the helmet hits** on runners has been clarified for 2016. A defender may not lower his head and make forcible contact with the crown of his helmet to any part of a runner's body. This rule applies outside the tackle box and a foul will be called regardless of the path the defender takes toward the runner.
- **Pre-snap movement on the offensive line** will be a point of emphasis for the upcoming season as game officials will pay particular attention to movement of the football prior to the snap. Adjusting the football as the center gets into his stance is legal, but once the line is set, any abrupt or significant movement of the ball will result in a five-yard penalty for a false start. In addition, any quick or abrupt movement that is not part of the snap will also result in a false start. However, if the movement is smooth and deliberate, it will be deemed legal. Game officials will work with centers and long snappers during training camp and before each game to establish acceptable standards.
- The last point of emphasis will involve **blindside blocks on kickoff and punt returns**. Any time a blocker is moving in the direction of his own end line, he cannot block his opponent in the head or neck area. These blocks are dangerous and will lead to a 15-yard penalty and potential discipline.

NFL RULES – A CONSTANT EVOLUTION

Rule changes in the NFL have been made throughout the history of the league to improve the game, make it more exciting and reduce the risk of injury. Safety rules are one of the most important and effective ways in which the NFL and its clubs can help protect the health of players. By helping to identify, promote and enforce safe on-field conduct (in concert with off-the-field education and policies), the league seeks to preserve both the health of players and the integrity of the game.

The NFL has established a strong set of rules through the years focused on player safety, designed to promote fair competition while attempting to minimize risk of harm to the player. While many of these rules have focused on reducing contact to the head and neck of players, other changes have protected players from orthopedic and other injuries.

The development of a thoughtful and comprehensive set of appropriately protective rules and policies has always been, and continues to be, an evolving process. The NFL continually evaluates how rules can best be integrated into the game to address safety and health issues.

Each year the NFL Competition Committee conducts a complete review of player injuries and discusses means by which the NFL can reduce them through the implementation of new rules, or by clarifying or strengthening enforcement of existing rules.

Rules the league has established or changed for the protection of players have not only had a positive impact in the NFL, but have subsequently been incorporated at other levels of play, including collegiate, high school and youth programs. Through the NFL's ongoing partnerships and educational initiatives, the awareness of the importance of rules related to on-field conduct and return-to-play, at all levels and ages, is broadened.

To view an interactive timeline of the evolution of rules of the sport, visit <http://operations.nfl.com/>.

A brief overview of NFL rule changes focused on protecting player health and safety over the past 30 years:

1986

Blocking below the waist on punts is prohibited during the entire down.

The "lure" technique is prohibited. When a tackle shows pass set, a teammate lined up outside him cannot chop a defender who is lined up over the tackle, even if the tackle and defender are not engaged (a "lure").

1987

An offensive lineman may not clip a defender who, at the snap, is aligned on the line of scrimmage opposite another offensive lineman who is more than one position away, when the defender is responding to the flow of the ball away from the blocker. Example: A tackle cannot clip the nose tackle on a sweep to the opposite side.

It is illegal for the kicking team to block below the waist after a free kick or punt has been made. (Low blocks by the receiving team became illegal in 1979).

Both teams are prohibited from blocking below the waist after a change of possession.

1989

A defender (approaching from any direction) who has an unrestricted path to the quarterback is prohibited from flagrantly hitting him in the area of the knee(s).

1990

A player who butts, spears, or rams an opponent may be disqualified if the action is flagrant or vicious.

1991

Officials will whistle the play dead whenever a defensive lineman clearly penetrates beyond the neutral zone before the ball is snapped and continues unabated toward the quarterback.

1992

For the first time, the chop block is illegal on some running plays: It is illegal on a running play for an offensive player who is lined up in the backfield at the snap to deliberately block a defensive player in the thigh or lower (chop) if the defensive player is engaged by an offensive player who was on the line of scrimmage at the snap. This action is prohibited whether on or behind the line of scrimmage in an area that extends laterally to the position originally occupied by the tight end on either side.

When a defensive player runs forward and leaps in an attempt to block an extra point or field goal, it is a foul only if the leaping player lands on other players.

1993

It is not intentional grounding when a passer, while out of the pocket and facing an imminent loss of yardage, throws a pass that lands beyond the line of scrimmage, even if no offensive player has a realistic chance to catch the ball (including if the ball lands out of bounds over the sideline or end line).

1994

Defensive players are prohibited from blocking low during a punt, field goal, or extra point attempt (kick), except those defensive players at the snap that are lined up on or inside the normal tight end position. Previously, all players on the defensive team could block low during the field goal or extra point attempt.

1995

Protection for defenseless players is clarified and expanded. Since 1982, a defensive player was prohibited from using the crown or top of his helmet against a passer, a receiver in the act of catching a pass, or a runner who is in the grasp of a tackler. The clarification provided that:

- Defenseless players included a kickoff or punt returner attempting to field a kick in the air, and a player on the ground at the end of a play.
- Defensive players are prohibited from lowering their heads to make forcible contact with the facemask, or with the “hairline” or forehead part of the helmet, against an opponent, instead of only with the top/crown.
- Defensive players are prohibited from forcibly hitting the defenseless player’s head, neck, or face with the helmet or facemask.
- Defensive players are prohibited from launching into a defenseless player in a way that causes the defensive player’s helmet or facemask to forcibly strike the defenseless player’s head, neck, or face, even if the initial contact of the defender’s helmet or facemask is lower than the defenseless player’s neck.

When tackling a passer during or just after throwing a pass, a defensive player is prohibited from unnecessarily and violently throwing him down and landing on top of him with all or most of the defender’s weight.

1996

On running plays, a chop block is prohibited by an offensive player who is aligned more than one position away from the engaged defender when the block occurs away from the flow of the play.

A defender cannot be chopped even after he has disengaged from an offensive opponent, if he is still confronting the offensive player.

Prohibition of the “lure” technique is applicable all along the offensive line, instead of only to a player outside a tackle.

1998

All face shields must be transparent.

1999

Blocking from behind, at, or below the knees in the clipping zone is prohibited.

After a blocking attempt in close line play, a blocker is prohibited from rolling up on the back of a defender’s legs (Unnecessary Roughness).

2002

The chop block technique is illegal on all kicking plays.

It is illegal to hit a quarterback helmet-to-helmet any time after a change of possession.

2005

It is illegal to grab the inside collar of the shoulder pads to tackle a runner (“horse-collar tackle”).

Unnecessarily running, diving into, or throwing the body against a player who should not have reasonably anticipated such contact by an opponent is unnecessary roughness. Previously, the rule only protected a player who is out of the play.

A kicker/punter must not be unnecessarily contacted by the receiving team through the end of the play or until he assumes a distinctly defensive position. An opponent may not unnecessarily initiate helmet-to-helmet contact to the kicker/punter during the kick or during the return.

An offensive player who is aligned in the tackle box at the snap and moves to a position outside the box is prohibited from initiating contact on the side or below the waist of an opponent if the blocker is moving toward his own end line and approaches the opponent from behind or from the side (“peel back block”). The near shoulder of the blocker must be in front of his opponent’s body.

2006

Low hits on the quarterback are prohibited when a rushing defender has an opportunity to avoid such contact.

Blocks in the back above the waist by the kicking team while the ball is in flight during a scrimmage kick are illegal.

The definition of a “horse collar tackle” is expanded to include grabbing the inside collar of the jersey.

During a field-goal attempt or a try, a defensive player who is within one yard of the line of scrimmage at the snap must have his helmet outside the snapper’s shoulder pad.

Personal or unsportsmanlike conduct fouls that occur during halftime or during intermission between the fourth period and an overtime period will be penalized on the ensuing kickoff.

During a free kick, at least four kicking team players must be on each side of the kicker when the ball is kicked.

2007

A block below the waist against an eligible receiver while the quarterback is in the pocket is a 15-yard penalty instead of a 5-yard penalty (an illegal cut block).

2009

Teams are not permitted to intentionally form a wedge of more than two players on a kickoff return in an attempt to block for the runner.

The “bunch” formation on kickoffs is eliminated. The kickoff team must have at least three players outside each hash mark, one of whom must be outside the yard-line number.

It is an illegal “blindside” block if the blocker is moving toward his own endline and approaches the opponent from behind or from the side, and the initial force of the contact by the blocker’s helmet, forearm, or shoulder is to the head or neck area of an opponent.

It is an illegal hit on a defenseless receiver if the initial force of the contact by the defender’s helmet, forearm, or shoulder is to the head or neck area of the receiver.

The rule regarding low hits on passers is clarified:

- A defender cannot initiate a roll or lunge and forcibly hit the passer in the knee area or below, even if he is being contacted by another player.
- It is not a foul if the defender swipes, wraps, or grabs a passer in the knee area or below in an attempt to tackle him.

2010

During a field-goal attempt, punt, or try-kick, a defensive team player, who is within one yard of the line of scrimmage at the snap, must have his entire body outside the snapper’s shoulder pads.

After a half has expired, dead ball personal fouls by either team will be enforced on the succeeding kickoff.

A player who has just completed a catch is protected from blows to the head or neck by an opponent who launches.

All “defenseless players” are protected from blows to the head delivered by an opponent’s helmet, forearm, or shoulder.

Kickers and punters during the kick and return, and quarterbacks after a change of possession, are protected from blows to the head delivered by an opponent’s helmet, forearm, or shoulder, instead of just helmet-to-helmet contact.

The ball is declared dead at the spot if a runner’s helmet comes completely off.

2011

The restraining line for the kicking team is moved from the 30- to the 35-yard line in an effort to increase touchbacks.

All kicking team players other than the kicker must be lined up no more than five yards behind their restraining line, eliminating the 15-20 yard running "head start" that had become customary for many players.

The list of "defenseless players" is expanded to include a kicker/punter during the kick or during the return, a quarterback at any time after a change of possession, and a player who receives a "blindside" block when the blocker is moving toward his own endline and approaches the opponent from behind or from the side. Previously, these players were protected against blows to the head, but not against blows delivered by an opponent with the top/crown or forehead/"hairline" parts of the helmet against other parts of the body.

A receiver who has completed a catch is a "defenseless player" until he has had time to protect himself or has clearly become a runner. A receiver/runner is no longer defenseless if he is able to avoid or ward off the impending contact of an opponent. Previously, the receiver who had completed a catch was protected against an opponent who launched and delivered a blow to the receiver's head.

2012

The list of "defenseless players" is expanded to include defensive players on crackback blocks, making it illegal to hit them in the head or neck area.

2013

Players are required to wear protective knee and thigh pads.

It is illegal for a runner or tackler to initiate forcible contact by delivering a blow with the top or crown of his helmet against an opponent when both players are clearly outside the tackle box.

"Peel back" blocks below the waist are illegal inside the tackle box.

The list of "defenseless players" is expanded to include long snappers on field goals and PATs.

The "bunch" formation is eliminated on field goals and PATs. No more than six defenders may be on the line of scrimmage on either side of the snapper at the snap for these plays.

2014

Clipping and unnecessary roughness penalties are expanded to prohibit blockers from rolling up on the side of a defender's leg.

2015

Rules prohibiting illegal "peel back" blocks are extended to cover all offensive players.

Offensive backs are prohibited from chopping a defensive player engaged above the waist by another offensive player outside the tackle box.

Defenseless player protections are expanded to cover the intended receiver of a pass in the immediate continuing action following an interception.

When a team presents a punt, field-goal or try kick formation, defenders are prohibited from pushing teammates on the line of scrimmage.

2016

All chop blocks are prohibited.

The horse collar tackle rule is expanded to include when a defender grabs the jersey at the name plate or above and pulls a runner toward the ground.

In an effort to increase touchbacks, the spot of the next snap after a touchback resulting from a kickoff is moved from the 20- to the 25-yard line.

NFL & SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY



A COMMITMENT BEYOND THE PLAYING FIELD: THE NFL AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Fostering Lasting Social Change

When it comes to social issues, the NFL takes its leadership position seriously. Among its players and personnel, the league strives to reflect the changes it wishes to see across society as a whole. This work includes educational programs focused on character education, and on domestic violence, sexual assault and DUI prevention.

In the last year, the NFL has continued its work with the National Domestic Violence Hotline. With millions of dollars in league support, The Hotline moved into a state-of-the-art facility that increases its capacity to answer more calls, chats and texts and increased its capacity to serve victims and survivors from the deaf community. The Hotline also partnered with the National Indigenous Women's Resource Center and is creating the only national hotline dedicated to serving Native American women affected by domestic violence.

In addition, the NFL's ongoing support of the National Sexual Violence Resource Center (NSVRC) funded the successful launch of *Raliance*, a collaborative initiative launched in partnership with the California Coalition Against Sexual Assault (CALCASA)-PreventConnect and the National Alliance to End Sexual Violence (NAESV), dedicated to ending sexual violence in one generation. As part of Raliance's launch, the coalition announced that it will fund 27 projects totaling nearly \$1.2 million in the first round of an ongoing grant program. The program seeks to advance promising, replicable practices or policies that improve the response to victims of sexual violence; reduce the likelihood of perpetration of sexual violence; or strengthen communities' and organizations' capacity to create safe environments.

The league's work on social issues extends beyond these partnerships. During Super Bowl 50, the NFL worked with NO MORE, a unifying campaign to raise public awareness around ending domestic violence and sexual assault, to air a public service announcement about the importance of bystander intervention. The spot reached more than 110 million viewers during the game.

Additionally, the league continues its ongoing social responsibility education sessions, which will be administered at the League office and for all club personnel, front office staff and players for the third year in a row. Each year, the education reaches more than 6,000 men and women in the NFL family, and is then made available for the public to view as well.

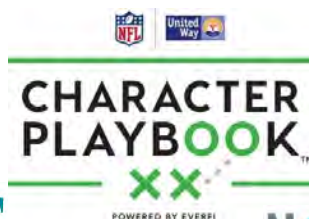
Character development starts young, long before youth players begin thinking about professional careers. So the NFL Foundation funds character education programs, summits and curricula throughout the year, most notably the new Character Playbook (right) series, which was launched in partnership with United Way Worldwide and EverFi, an education technology leader. This new national education initiative focuses on youth character development and healthy relationships. It is an interactive digital program that will be implemented directly in schools in NFL team markets, starting immediately in 14 markets and expanding to all 32 and their surrounding communities over the next three years. Designed for learners in grades 7-9, the digital learning experience enables students to engage with true-to-life scenarios that include bystander intervention strategies and positive relationship examples.



In addition, the NFL Foundation contributed more than \$1 million to implement the InSideOut Statewide Initiative to help show that victory in sports doesn't have to mean winning at all costs. This new educational initiative was created by former NFL player Joe Ehrmann and Jody Redman, associate director of the Minnesota State High School League. The goal: Get entire school communities to buy in to the intentional development of every student athlete's educational, social and emotional well-being. The InSideOut Statewide Initiative kicked off pilots in Colorado and Texas, in partnership with the Denver Broncos and Dallas Cowboys. Researchers at the Institute to Promote Athlete Health and Wellness at the University of North Carolina-Greensboro are formally evaluating the results, and the initiative will expand to additional NFL markets/states this fall.

The league and its clubs continue working closely with organizations like Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) to ensure that players, employees and the general public are educated on the dangers of drunk driving and about safe alternatives for transportation with a focus on planning ahead for a safe ride home. In addition, representatives from MADD spoke to all incoming rookies during this year's Rookie Transition Program at each of the 32 team facilities.

The NFL shield stands for the values that comprise the league, its employees, executives and players – respect, integrity, responsibility to team and resiliency. No matter what the social issue, the NFL and its clubs are always looking to improve and to do the right thing when it comes to community impact.



Making an Impact in the Community

The impact of the National Football League goes far beyond the playing field. The NFL league office and its clubs take their leadership responsibility in the community seriously, and are committed to making a difference long after game day.

The NFL focuses on three core community initiatives throughout the year:

- **NFL PLAY 60:** NFL PLAY 60 brings together the NFL's long-standing commitment to health and wellness with partner organizations. PLAY 60 is also implemented locally, as part of the NFL's in-school, after-school and team based programs. Since the program was launched in 2007, the NFL has committed more than \$325 million to youth health and fitness through programming, grants and media time for public service announcements. The NFL and its teams have built more than 200 NFL Youth Fitness Zones and integrated programs into more than 73,000 schools nationwide since the campaign launched. All 32 clubs activate PLAY 60 locally, with more than 2,000 NFL PLAY 60 events held annually. For more information, visit NFLRUSH.com.
- **A Crucial Catch:** In collaboration with the American Cancer Society, the *A Crucial Catch: Annual Screening Saves Lives* initiative reminds women 40 and older about the importance of having an annual mammogram. A Crucial Catch is now entering its eighth season. Since 2009, the program has raised more than \$13 million for the American Cancer Society, with the majority of the contribution coming from the sale of Breast Cancer Awareness-identified pink merchandise at retail and via the NFL Auction website. The NFL does not profit from the sale or auction of pink merchandise.

Money raised through A Crucial Catch supports the CHANGE initiative, the American Cancer Society's Community Health Advocates implementing National Grants for Empowerment and Equity (CHANGE) program. This program provides outreach and breast cancer screenings. In the first three full years that the NFL has funded CHANGE grants for the American Cancer Society, grant recipients have reached 200,000 women through interventions such as outreach and education and provided nearly 100,000 breast cancer screenings at no or low cost.

- **Salute to Service:** The NFL has a long history of honoring veterans and active duty members of the military – from a longstanding relationship with the USO to a collaboration with the Pat Tillman Foundation to fund Tillman Scholars each year. During the annual *Salute to Service* campaign, which began in 2011, for every point scored during the NFL's designated Salute to Service games, the league donates \$1,000 to its military non-profit partners including the Pat Tillman Foundation, USO and Wounded Warrior Project® (WWP). Since the campaign's inception, the NFL has donated more than \$9 million to its military non-profit partners. The funds have been used to build family centers on military bases, host physical health expos for injured veterans and provide scholarships for service members.

Teams host their own localized version of these initiatives in a number of creative ways.

For example, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers provided a free pre-game tailgate experience for 500 military members at their Salute to Service game. The San Diego Chargers hosted a free mobile mammography event in the parking lot at Qualcomm Stadium at their Crucial Catch game this past season, which provided free mammograms for women attending the game. And as part of the league's annual Hometown Huddle Day of Service, in partnership with the United Way, the Baltimore Ravens hosted their fourth annual Ravens TEAM Challenge, where approximately 110 local youth tested their physical endurance and ability to work as a team in order to complete various activities.

These are just a few examples of all the different ways that NFL clubs embrace and personalize these important community platforms.



COMMUNITY MINDED

A strong commitment to giving back to the community exists across the NFL not just during the football season, but year-round.



In 2016, the NFL will celebrate its 43-year partnership with United Way, continuing the longest-running partnership between a sports league and nonprofit organization.

The NFL will once again celebrate youth health and wellness during a league-wide day with United Way. This year, over the course of the 17th annual NFL United Way Hometown Huddle League, NFL coaches and players will help members of their community to “PLAY 60.” Teams will build fitness zones and conduct youth football clinics, along with other NFL PLAY 60 events. The NFL and United Way’s partnership connects NFL PLAY 60 with United Way’s goal of inspiring kids to live a healthy and active lifestyle. Working with more than 1,200 communities, the partnership is creating healthier populations by increasing access to nutritious food to families in order to be successful in living a healthier life.

“For more than 40 years, our partnership with United Way has positively impacted our youngest fans,” says NFL Senior Vice President of Social Responsibility **ANNA ISAACSON**. “We are excited to continue encouraging kids to stay active and live healthy lifestyles through our NFL PLAY 60 campaign.”

Following are some of the highlights from last year:

Cleveland Browns players and staff joined United Way of Greater Cleveland volunteers to install a new playground area and beautified the existing courtyard space at Dike School of the Arts in Cleveland as part of the Browns Hometown Huddle project (right). In support of the NFL PLAY 60 movement, they were able to provide children with a safe and fun area to play in.

The New York Jets and United Way of Northern New Jersey teamed up to contribute \$50,000 to install a PLAY 60 Fitness Zone playground at Dover Middle School in Dover, NJ. The club’s 2015 rookie class came to put the finishing touches on the PLAY 60 Fitness Zone playground and took 40 children through fitness activities on the new equipment.



The Pittsburgh Steelers teamed up with United Way of Allegheny County to exercise with students. Players, including defensive end and United Way spokesman **CAMERON HEYWARD** (left), surprised students at Pittsburgh Schiller 6-8 to celebrate their attendance. These students had a chance to exercise alongside the players, learning about the importance of health and wellness as a part of their success.

At the league level, the NFL seeks to improve the surrounding communities of the Super Bowl host city each year.

The San Francisco Bay Area Super Bowl 50 Host Committee, in partnership with the NFL Foundation, distributed more than \$2 million across the nine-county region and encouraged Bay Area youth and communities to get active by playing at least 60 minutes a day.

The NFL engaged in “Keeping the Bay Area Green” with eight different environmental projects that were developed in partnership with the Host Committee designed to address the impact of Super Bowl events and planted the seeds of an enduring positive legacy in the Bay Area.

One of the Legacy Grant programs was the Super Bowl 50 Urban Forestry Program that launched the planting of more than 28,000 trees in parks, schoolyards and along streets, as well as a significant watershed restoration project in partnership with Verizon and American Forests.

The philanthropic efforts of owners, players and coaches, club and league personnel exist across the NFL year-round and provide a powerful commitment to giving back to communities nationwide.



NFL PLAY 60



NFL PLAY 60 illustrates the league's long-standing commitment to the health of youth around the country. It includes partnerships, public service announcements, school-based programs and team involvement. NFL PLAY 60 is implemented locally, as all 32 NFL clubs drive campaign and program efforts in their respective markets.

Since the launch of the NFL PLAY 60 initiative in 2007, the NFL and its clubs have built more than 200 Youth Fitness Zones and committed more than \$325 million to youth health and fitness programming, grants and media time for public service announcements.

The NFL has two PLAY 60 in-school programs – the NFL PLAY 60 Challenge and Fuel Up to Play 60 – which are in more than 73,000 schools and reach more than 38 million kids per year. The NFL PLAY 60 Challenge is an in-school curriculum of NFL PLAY 60 in partnership with the American Heart Association and provides tools to help students be more active. Fuel Up to Play 60 is an in-school nutrition and physical activity program launched in partnership with the National Dairy Council to help encourage today's youth to lead healthier lives.

This season, Weeks 3 and 4 of the regular season will focus on NFL PLAY 60 as the initiative will be promoted in stadiums across the league. Each team will designate one game during this period as its "PLAY 60 Game" and in-stadium celebrations will showcase the positive impact of NFL PLAY 60. Many clubs will also hold team championships for NFL Punt, Pass & Kick – another PLAY 60 program – and will recognize the finalists during this game.



NFL PLAY 60 is also accessible online in an app. Created in partnership with the American Heart Association and funded by the NFL Foundation, the app has been downloaded more than 920,000 times since its launch. The app encourages kids to get active, while at the same time enjoying an interactive and fun game experience.

Over the past year, NFL PLAY 60 has collaborated with new organizations to continue to extend the campaign to youth nationwide.

NFL PLAY 60 was present at the 2015 Special Olympics World Games in Los Angeles, engaging with flag football athletes through an interactive experience and supporting all athletes participating in the games. This past April, NFL Draft prospects participated in PLAY 60 activities with pediatric patients and their families at Shriners Hospitals for Children in Chicago (left).

Additionally, NFL PLAY 60 stands as the official champion of play at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and takes part in supporting the needs of its Child Life Program, which helps children cope with the stress of their illness through therapeutic play and other activities, while promoting development, self-expression and peer interaction among other benefits. Child Life is an integral part of the medical team at St. Jude and is visible in every clinical arena.



NFL PLAY 60 is the league's primary social responsibility platform under which various youth health and fitness initiatives fall. Some of the leagues programs in this specific area are:

Fuel Up to Play 60	A school-based program in which youth teams aim at getting schools and its students healthy and fit in partnership with the National Dairy Council
Hometown Huddle	Annual league-wide day of service in October with United Way in which each team community takes part in various community service offerings
NFL FLAG Football	Youth football league for boys and girls between the ages of 5-17 in collaboration with USA Football
NFL PLAY 60 FITNESSGRAM	Health and fitness assessment tool for schools nationwide to help improve the health of students
NFL PLAY 60 Super Bowl Contest	Recognizes 34 kids across the country for their efforts and commitment to Play 60 every day with the goal of a healthy lifestyle. One grand-prize winner is awarded with an exclusive Super Bowl experience
NFL Punt, Pass & Kick	National skills competition for boys and girls between the ages of 6-15 in collaboration with USA Football
NFL PLAY 60 Challenge	An in-school curriculum of NFL PLAY 60 that is in partnership with the American Heart Association inspiring kids to get at least 60 minutes of exercise a day
Youth Fitness Zones	Playgrounds, gyms and other fun places for kids to be active that are built by the NFL and its 32 clubs



A CRUCIAL CATCH: NFL SUPPORTS BREAST CANCER AWARENESS

The NFL has supported National Breast Cancer Awareness with a large on-field presence and a national screening-reminder initiative for the past seven years as part of the **A CRUCIAL CATCH** campaign in collaboration with the American Cancer Society (ACS). Through *A Crucial Catch*, the NFL has helped raise more than \$13 million for ACS with the majority of the financial contribution coming from the sale of Breast Cancer Awareness-identified pink merchandise at retail and via the NFL Auction website. The NFL does not profit from the sale or auction of pink merchandise.



During the 2016 season, there will be a continuation of special pregame ceremonies, team community outreach events and exclusive pink items on-field and in-stadium during NFL Breast Cancer Awareness Weekend. Teams not playing at home that weekend will have the opportunity to designate the following weekend as their Breast Cancer Awareness game.

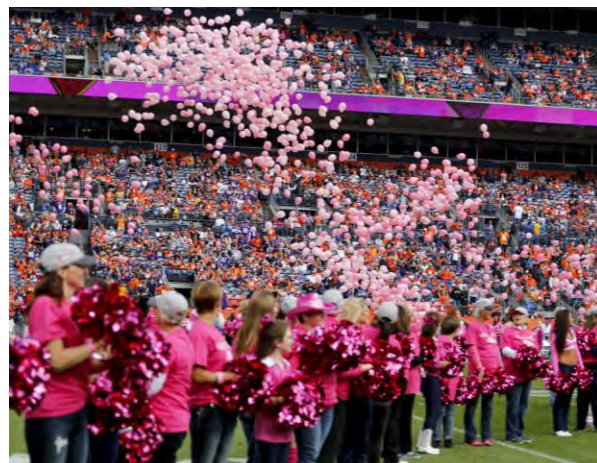
Over the years, many NFL sponsors and partners have joined the league in its fight against breast cancer, such as New Era and Nike. Special New Era hats with pink accents for players, coaches and sideline personnel are available during October, as well as exclusive Nike gloves, cleats and wristbands that are worn during games. These special hats and other pink items will be sold at all stadiums, on NFLSHOP.com and also at select retail locations to help generate awareness and funds for the American Cancer Society.

Promotion and support of *A Crucial Catch* will continue to include fields featuring pink ribbon shield stencils on both of the 25-yard lines and special balls with pink ribbon logos will be used for each game. The footballs and other pink game-worn items such as gloves and cleats will then be auctioned off via NFL Auction (nfl.com/auction), with all of the proceeds benefitting ACS. NFL Breast Cancer Awareness Weekend will also be highlighted with features on NFL.com (as well as a dedicated microsite at nfl.com/pink), NFL Network and through the NFL social media channels.

In October, the American Cancer Society and the NFL will team up and hold a nationwide breast-cancer event called *A Crucial Catch Day*. This day celebrates health and provides information and education about how to reduce the risk of breast cancer, and how to detect it early. The event is executed throughout every NFL market and provides breast cancer education and free or low-cost screenings in specific underserved communities.

Money raised through *A Crucial Catch* supports the CHANGE initiative, the American Cancer Society's Community Health Advocates, implementing National Grants for Empowerment and Equity (CHANGE) program. This program provides outreach and breast cancer screenings. In the first full three years that the NFL has funded CHANGE grants for the American Cancer Society, grant recipients have reached more than 200,000 women through programming such as outreach and education and provided nearly 100,000 breast cancer screenings at no or low cost.

Additionally, youth and high school football programs can also join the campaign. The NFL and ACS offer tips and resources to coaches and teachers to support the campaign and raise funds. Schools from around the country have joined to be a part of *A Crucial Catch* with various fundraisers. Schools can register at www.cancer.org/acrucialcatch.





SALUTE TO SERVICE

MILITARY APPRECIATION

NFL SALUTES THE MILITARY IN MANY WAYS

Supporting the military is part of the fabric of the National Football League. This support takes place both at home and abroad. NFL players and coaches travel overseas to salute the troops on USO tours, and servicemen and women are honored during designated games each season surrounding Veterans Day. The NFL is continuing its long history of honoring veterans and active duty members of the military through its annual **SALUTE TO SERVICE** campaign.



Designed to unify and elevate the extensive military appreciation work of the NFL and its clubs, the NFL's celebration and support of the military community is highlighted each year in November when all 32 clubs designate home games to focus on military appreciation. Teams honor service members and veterans with the presentation of colors, special in-game tributes, stadium flyovers and localized military-themed activations as part of their Veterans Day celebrations.

For the fifth consecutive year, the NFL will implement a fundraising initiative during Weeks 9, 10 and 11 surrounding Veterans Day. During the annual *Salute to Service* campaign, which began in 2011, for every point scored during the NFL's designated *Salute to Service* games, the league will donate \$1,000 to its military non-profit partners including the Pat Tillman Foundation, USO and Wounded Warrior Project® (WWP).

This year, the league will continue its expanded use of *Salute to Service*-branded digi-camo in-game elements, as well as sell the products at retail. Retail items will include a New Era sideline hat, Nike sweatshirt and Nike fan jersey. Last year marked the third time that these items were available for purchase at retail stores. As a result of the *Salute to Service* campaign, the NFL has donated more than \$9 million to its military non-profit partners.

MILITARY OUTREACH

As part of the *Salute to Service* campaign, the NFL is afforded the unique opportunity to showcase the league's commitment to the military through special events each year. With its strong fan base, the league joins with its military support partners to create moments of recognition throughout the season. The NFL is proud of its long-lasting ties to the military and incorporates these relationships into its main events on the NFL calendar, including the Pro Bowl, Super Bowl, NFL Draft and Kickoff.

The 2016 Pro Bowl presented by USAA was an extension of the USAA's Official Military Appreciation sponsorship of the NFL, which delivers military appreciation experiences to military, veterans and their families at NFL games, training camps and on military bases throughout the NFL season. USAA and the NFL honored the more than 50,000 military men and women in Hawaii with a number of military appreciation initiatives throughout the week of Pro Bowl and donated tickets to the game. The 2016 Pro Bowl Draft presented by USAA took place at Wheeler Army Airfield with representatives from all five military branches in attendance. NFL Community Blitz events were hosted at Schofield Barracks and Wheeler Army Airfield and Pro Bowl players interacted with service members and toured military aircraft on the base. Additionally, Pro Bowl players and NFL Legends had the chance to serve as "Marine for a Day" and hosted 50 military guests and wounded warriors at an official Pro Bowl team practice.

In the weeks preceding Super Bowl 50, more than 30 charitable activities and community outreach events took place in the San Francisco Bay Area, including numerous military outreach opportunities. The NFL, USAA and the USO joined to present the NFL Salute to Service Military Appreciation Breakfast for service members and their families the day before the Super Bowl. The event – at the USAA Military Lounge inside the NFL Experience at San Francisco's Moscone Center – featured appearances by Oakland Raiders players **JON CONDO** and **LEE SMITH**, San Francisco 49ers defensive tackle **QUINTON DIAL** and former 49er **LARRY GRANT**. The four players signed autographs, posed for photos and thanked service members for their commitment.

"It's an honor to live in such a great country where you guys go out there and sacrifice your lives to give us the freedom to do what we do," Condo told the service members in attendance.

The 2016 NFL Draft kicked off with U.S. Army Staff Sgt. **IAN BOWLING** performing the National Anthem inside the Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University with the Army's 85th Support Command Color Guard in Selection Square. Also on stage in the theatre were service members from the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard. Over the next two days of the NFL Draft, more than 90 service members were recognized, including five Tillman Scholars from the Pat Tillman Foundation.

For more information on the *Salute to Service* campaign, visit the league's military appreciation website www.NFL.com/salute.

SALUTE TO SERVICE AWARD

The NFL and USAA, the league's official Military Appreciation sponsor, teamed to present the *Salute to Service Award*, which recognizes NFL players, alumni, coaches, owners, executives and front office staff who demonstrate an exemplary commitment to honoring and supporting the military community. The award aligns with USAA's commitment to serving the military and its families, and highlights the NFL's long history of honoring the armed forces and veterans.

In February, Tampa Bay Buccaneers wide receiver **VINCENT JACKSON** (far right) was honored with the *2015 Salute to Service Award* at NFL Honors. As part of the award, USAA contributed \$25,000 in Jackson's honor to the official aid societies representing all five military branches.

"Vincent Jackson has been a longtime leader in the NFL community for his efforts to honor our nation's military and is a well-deserving recipient of this year's Salute to Service Award presented by USAA," said Vice Admiral (Ret.) **JOHN BIRD**, USAA's senior vice president of military affairs. "Coming from a military family himself, Vincent has not only made an incredible personal commitment to support military families through his foundation's contributions, but has also inspired so many others to join his worthy cause."



NAVAL ACADEMY GRADS RECEIVE OPPORTUNITY



Two U.S. Naval Academy football players and 2016 graduates will receive an opportunity to pursue their NFL dreams this year.

Record-setting quarterback **KEENAN REYNOLDS** (left) and fullback **CHRIS SWAIN** hope to make an impact as rookies this season.

Reynolds, drafted in the sixth round by the Baltimore Ravens, is the NCAA's career leader in rushing touchdowns, scoring 88 TDs during his four-year career.

Swain was signed by the San Diego Chargers as a free agent after the 2016 NFL Draft. He rushed for 2,290 yards in his career, including 1,023 yards as a senior in 2015.

Additionally, New England Patriots long snapper **JOE CARDONA** looks to build on his rookie season. Cardona, who was drafted in 2015 by the Patriots, appeared in all 16 games last year as New England won the AFC East and advanced to the AFC Championship Game.

NFL & U.S. ARMY PARTNERSHIP

On August 30, 2012, the U.S. Army and the NFL launched a long-term initiative at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point to enhance the health of soldiers and players through sharing information, providing education and engaging in discussion on concussion and health-related issues that affect both organizations.

The multi-faceted initiative, built upon the mutual respect shared by the two organizations, is designed to promote help-seeking behaviors and empower soldiers and players to maintain healthier minds on the playing field and battlefield.

In 2013, the Army, in partnership with the NFL, USO of NY and Weill Cornell Medical College, hosted a "Ready and Resilient" panel discussion focused on building and maintaining resilient soldiers, families, civilians and units.

The NFL's Total Wellness campaign is similar to the Army's Ready and Resilient campaign in that it brings together a number of longstanding efforts to support the full development and health of its players – physically, mentally, socially and psychologically. The panelists (right; photo courtesy of the U.S. Army) for the discussion were: Lt. Gen. **PATRICIA D. HOROHO**, Surgeon General of the Army; **JOANN DIFEDE**, Ph.D., Dir., Program for Anxiety & Traumatic Stress Studies, Weill Cornell Medical College NFL Commissioner **ROGER GOODELL**; and Gen. **JOHN F. CAMPBELL**, Vice Chief of Staff of the Army.



The U.S. Army teamed with the NFL on the production and release of a PSA featuring Commissioner Goodell and Lt. Gen. Horoho regarding the Army-NFL partnership in the prevention, treatment and diagnosis of traumatic brain injury. The PSA, which aired across all Department of Defense networks including the Pentagon Channel and American Forces Network, notes the cultural similarities between the military and the NFL. It also reinforces the need for both individual responsibility and concern for teammates by encouraging help-seeking behaviors.

In November 2014, the U.S. Army Research Laboratory received a \$500,000 grant from the NFL, Under Armor and GE's Head Challenge II initiative that will assist its research to protect against brain injury.

The NFL continues to work with the Army to advance its TBI partnership through the sharing of medical information. Culture change with respect to head injuries remains at the forefront of both organizations.

NFL AND USO TEAM UP

In 1966, the NFL teamed with the USO and became the first sports organization to send a group of players to Vietnam and the surrounding region, demonstrating the league's strong support for American troops. In 2008, Commissioner Goodell became the first sports commissioner to participate in a USO tour during wartime.

In 2016, the NFL celebrated 50 years of partnership with the USO with multiple overseas tours.

"We are excited to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the NFL/USO partnership," says USO CEO and President **J.D. CROUCH II**. "The NFL has been a great supporter of the USO at not just the team and player levels, but also the corporate level. They are always there to support us and join us in looking for new, innovative ways to help support our men and women in uniform. We couldn't be more pleased of what we achieved together, and we look forward to many more anniversaries to come."



To mark the longstanding relationship, the organizations deployed their first of two USO/NFL team tours in February when the Indianapolis Colts visited service members and military families stationed in Japan (left). Among the participants were USO tour veteran and head coach **CHUCK PAGANO**, safety **MIKE ADAMS**, tackle **ANTHONY CASTONZO**, punter **PAT MC AFEE** and linebacker **D'QWELL JACKSON**, another USO tour veteran.

"I'm extremely grateful for the chance to participate on my second USO tour," says Pagano. "It's always an honor to meet with our great service men and women who sacrifice so much to protect our country and our freedom. They are truly heroes and we are so thankful for their service. Just like the members of our military, we embrace the chance to serve and give back. Those core values are represented in the USO and the Indianapolis Colts organization. Our entire group was thrilled to take part in this opportunity and it was a tremendous experience."

During the group's USO/NFL tour to the Pacific, they visited eight military bases, traveled aboard a naval ship, toured the newly opened USO Camp Kinser and participated in a 75th anniversary USO celebration at USO Camp Hanson.

In April, Houston Texans linebacker **BRIAN CUSHING** and Detroit Lions wide receiver **GOLDEN TATE** visited with more than 1,000 service members and military families stationed in Germany and the Middle East.

In June, the organizations deployed their second team tour as the Atlanta Falcons sent general manager **THOMAS DIMITROFF**, head coach **DAN QUINN**, kicker **MATT BRYANT**, fullback **PATRICK DI MARCO**, defensive lineman **GRADY JARRETT** and linebacker **PAUL WORRILOW** to bases in Hawaii and Guam.

One common theme on all USO tours is the mutual appreciation and respect that the NFL visitors and troops have for each other. The service members are always excited to meet the gridiron stars, but it is usually the participants themselves who go home with a greater appreciation.

A LIST OF NFL PLAYERS AND COACHES WITH TIES TO THE MILITARY:

PLAYER/COACH	MILITARY TIE
DB Walt Aikens, Miami Dolphins	Father served in the Army
P Bryan Anger, Tampa Bay Buccaneers	Grandfather served in the military and brother is in the Air Force
Special teams coordinator Keith Armstrong, Atlanta Falcons	Two uncles served in the Army and one uncle served in the Navy; two brother-in-laws serve in the Marines and a cousin serves in the Navy
DE Cliff Avril, Seattle Seahawks	Brother served in the Coast Guard
Defensive asst. coach Chris Beake, Denver Broncos	Served in the Air Force as a civil engineer officer from 1995-1998
RB Le'Veon Bell, Pittsburgh Steelers	Aunt served in the Air Force
S Robert Blanton, Buffalo Bills	Was a First Lieutenant in JROTC; father served in the Air Force
QB Drew Brees, New Orleans Saints	Grandfather served in World War II
C Sam Brenner, Denver Broncos	Mother, father, stepmother, stepfather, uncle and grandfather all served in the Marines
G Justin Britt, Seattle Seahawks	Father served in the Army
WR Kenny Britt, Los Angeles Rams	Sister, Specialist Laura Johnson, serves in the Army
K Matt Bryant, Atlanta Falcons	Several uncles served in the Army
S Deone Bucannon, Arizona Cardinals	Father served in the Marine Corps for eight years; mother spent 23 years in the Navy as a nurse, including one tour in Iraq
CB Marcus Burley, Seattle Seahawks	Father served in the Army; uncle served in the Navy
CB Darius Butler, Indianapolis Colts	Older brother and father served in the Army
Assistant head coach/offensive line Tom Cable, Seattle Seahawks	Father served in the Air Force; uncles served in the Army; two uncles served in the Navy
K Dan Carpenter, Buffalo Bills	Brother-in-law is in the Marines and currently stationed in Darwin, Australia
CB Nolan Carroll, Philadelphia Eagles	Father, Nolan Sr., was a Senior Master Sergeant in the United States Air Force; mother, Jennifer, retired from the Navy in 1999 as a Lieutenant Commander and is currently Florida Lieutenant Governor
S Kam Chancellor, Seattle Seahawks	Brother and sister serve in the Air Force
Offensive coordinator Brad Childress, Kansas City Chiefs	Son, Andrew, served in the Marines and deployed to Afghanistan; father served in the Army
Asst. special teams coach Tony Coaxum, Denver Broncos	Graduated from West Point Academy and served in the military for four years. He was awarded the National Defense Medal and the Army Achievement Medal for his military service
LB Jaime Collins, New England Patriots	Brother served in the Army
G Jonathan Cooper, New England Patriots	Father is in the Marines
Offensive coordinator Jim Bob Cooter, Detroit Lions	Grandfathers, Ted and Bobby, both served in the Army
LS Morgan Cox, Baltimore Ravens	Great-grandfather served in the Army in World War I; grandfather served in the Army in World War II and was awarded the Bronze Star
LB Brock Coyle, Seattle Seahawks	Cousin is in the Marines; grandfather served in the Navy
DE Jared Crick, Denver Broncos	Both grandfathers served in the Army
CB Marcus Cromartie, San Francisco 49ers	Father, Julius, is a retired Marine Gunnery Sergeant; mother served 20 years in the Navy
Senior coaching assistant Gunther Cunningham, Detroit Lions	Father was a sergeant in the Air Force
S Jonathan Cyprien, Jacksonville Jaguars	Brother currently serves in the Army
DT Mike Daniels, Green Bay Packers	Sister, Jeneca, serves in the military
P Matt Darr, Miami Dolphins	Father and uncles served as pilots during Vietnam
WR Eric Decker, New York Jets	Father-in-law was a Colonel in the Air Force
LB Akeem Dent, Houston Texans	Cousin serves in the Air Force
FB James Develin, New England Patriots	Uncle served in the Army during the Korean War; grandfather served in the Marines
DE Carlos Dunlap, Cincinnati Bengals	Uncle serves in the Army; father serves in the Navy; mother is in the Army Reserves
WR Julian Edelman, New England Patriots	Grandfather served in the military
TE Tyler Eifert, Cincinnati Bengals	Cousin serves in the Air Force

FB Jerome Felton, Buffalo Bills	Brother served in the Army; sister is in the Army
TE C.J. Fiedorowicz, Houston Texans	Uncle serves in the Air Force
WR Larry Fitzgerald, Arizona Cardinals	Attended Valley Forge (PA) Military Academy after high school; grandfather was a Lieutenant in the Army who won a Purple Heart for his service in Korea; aunt and uncle are both Lieutenant Colonels in the Army
T Cameron Fleming, New England Patriots	Mother and father both served in the Army
Head coach John Fox, Chicago Bears	Father was a member of one of the original Navy SEAL teams created by President John F. Kennedy in the early 1960s
K Graham Gano, Carolina Panthers	Two brothers serve in the Navy; father was in the Marines
G Ben Garland, Atlanta Falcons	Graduate of the United States Air Force Academy; currently serves as the public affairs officer in the 140th Wing of the Colorado Air National Guard
T Laurence Gibson, Atlanta Falcons	Mother served in the Army
DB Marcus Gilchrist, New York Jets	Father is a retired Marine
DE Wallace Gilberry, Detroit Lions	Brother-in-law serves in the Army
T Garry Gilliam, Seattle Seahawks	Cousin serves in the Army
K Stephen Gostkowski, New England Patriots	Cousin serves in the Air Force
TE Jimmy Graham, Seattle Seahawks	Lived in Fort Bragg, NC and both parents served in the military; guardian, Becky Vinson, served in the Navy
TE Ledarius Green, Pittsburgh Steelers	Parents, Shannon and Walter, served in the Army and were stationed in Berlin, Germany, when Ladarius was born
TE Ryan Griffen, Houston Texans	Father served in the Air Force
S Michael Griffin, Minnesota Vikings	Mother served in the Navy and father served in the Air Force
QB Robert Griffin III, Cleveland Browns	Parents, Robert and Jacqueline, were both Sergeants in the Army
LS Josh Harris, Atlanta Falcons	Father and two uncles served in the Army
C Joe Hawley, Tampa Bay Buccaneers	Brother-in-law currently serves in the Army
Defensive line coach Jay Hayes, Tampa Bay Buccaneers	Father served in the Army
LB Adam Hayward, Washington Redskins	Brother and sister served in the Army; cousin was in the Marine Corps
TE Cooper Helfet, Seattle Seahawks	Father and cousin served in the Marine Corps
DL John Hughes, Cleveland Browns	Fiancée serves in the Marine Corps
G Mike Iupati, Arizona Cardinals	Brother-in-law served in the Army
WR DeSean Jackson, Washington Redskins	Cousin awarded two Purple Hearts and a Bronze Star for his actions in Vietnam
WR Vincent Jackson, Tampa Bay Buccaneers	Father, Terrence, was an Army medic
LB Derrick Johnson, Kansas City	Father served in Vietnam and was awarded the Navy Accommodation Medal for Acts of Heroism
DE Michael Johnson, Cincinnati Bengals	Father served in the Marine Corps and was awarded the Purple Heart
DL Abry Jones, Jacksonville Jaguars	Mother and father served in the Army
DT Chris Jones, Miami Dolphins	Three uncles served in the Army during the Vietnam War
S Don Jones, Cleveland Browns	Uncle served in Afghanistan
LB Jarvis Jones, Pittsburgh Steelers	Brother served in the Army
WR Jermaine Kearse, Seattle Seahawks	Father served in the Army
Special teams coordinator Ben Kotwica, Washington Redskins	Served in the Army as an Apache helicopter pilot in Iraq
WR Brandon LaFell, Cincinnati Bengals	Cousin and grandfather served in the Army
LB Manny Lawson, Buffalo Bills	Father, Donald, served in the Air Force
Head coach Marvin Lewis, Cincinnati Bengals	Father served in the Army
C Brandon Linder, Jacksonville Jaguars	Father served in the Marine Corps
NT Sean Lissemore, San Diego Chargers	Paternal and maternal grandfathers served in the Army and fought in World War II
DE Corey Liuget, San Diego Chargers	Sisters, Ideidre and Latronika, serve in the Army
T Phil Loadholt, Minnesota Vikings	Father served in the Army as a Sergeant First Class
P Jeff Locke, Minnesota Vikings	Father served in the Air Force
QB coach Joe Lombardi, New Orleans Saints	Served in the Air Force for four years

C Alex Mack, Atlanta Falcons	Father served in the Army
Defensive coordinator Rod Marinelli, Dallas Cowboys	Served a one-year tour of duty in Vietnam
CB Byron Maxwell, Miami Dolphins	Uncle served in the Air Force
LB Josh McNary, Indianapolis Colts	Graduated from the United States Military Academy, West Point in 2011; served two years active duty in the Army
T Andrew McDonald, Houston Texans	Father served in the Marine Corps
DT Clinton McDonald, Tampa Bay Buccaneers	Father, Larry, was an engineer in the Air Force and served in the Vietnam War; brother, Caleb, is currently serving in the Air Force
DT Brandon Mebane, San Diego Chargers	Cousin serves in the Navy
DT Roy Miller, Jacksonville Jaguars	Father and cousin served in the Army
Asst. head coach/offense Tom Moore, Arizona Cardinals	Served in the Army from 1963-64
DE Zach Moore, Minnesota Vikings	Older sister served in the Navy; younger sister served in the Army
DB Darryl Morris, New York Jets	Mother and father both served in the Air Force
LB C.J. Mosley, Baltimore Ravens	Father, Calvin, is a retired Army 1st Sergeant
DE Rob Ninkovich, New England Patriots	Father served in the Navy during the Vietnam War; cousin served in the Marines and was stationed in Afghanistan
Defensive coordinator Ken Norton, Jr, Oakland Raiders	Grandfather, father, uncle and brother served in the Army
C Drew Nowak, Kansas City Chiefs	Grandfather served in the Army
T Russell Okung, Denver Broncos	Aunt served in the Army
Asst. head coach/offensive line Joe Philbin, Indianapolis Colts	Son, Matthew, serves in the military and deployed to Kuwait
CB Jeraud Powers, Baltimore Ravens	Two cousins serve in the Navy; one cousin is in the Army
Special teams coordinator Mike Priefer, Minnesota Vikings	Served in the Navy (1991-94) as a helicopter pilot and was stationed in the Persian Gulf
Head coach Andy Reid, Kansas City Chiefs	Father served in the Navy during WWII
LB Vincent Rey, Cincinnati Bengals	Cousin and grandfather served in the Army
WR Keenan Reynolds, Baltimore Ravens	Graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy
Defensive coordinator Kris Richard, Seattle Seahawks	Two uncles served in the Marines; aunt served in the Navy
Head coach Ron Rivera, Carolina Panthers	Father served in the Army
WR Eddie Royal, Chicago Bears	Sister, Christina, served in Iraq and is a Special Agent of the Air Force's Office of Special Investigations
RB Bishop Sankey, Tennessee Titans	Father serves in the Air Force and has deployed multiple times to the Middle East
S DeShawn Shead, Seattle Seahawks	Father, aunt and uncle served in the Army
Special teams coordinator Darren Simmons, Cincinnati Bengals	Cousin is in the National Guard
WR Matthew Slater, New England Patriots	Grandfather served in the Army during World War II; uncle served in the Army
G Matt Slason, San Diego Chargers	Brother is serving in the Air Force
Asst. special teams coach Matthew Smiley, Jacksonville Jaguars	Served in the Air Force
C Evan Smith, Tampa Bay Buccaneers	Brother serves in the Army
T Nate Solder, New England Patriots	Father, two uncles and grandfather served in the Navy; another uncle served in the Army
T Joe Staley, San Francisco 49ers	Grandfather served in the Navy during the Korean War; uncle served in the Navy
C Bryan Stork, New England Patriots	Cousin served in the Army and uncle served in the Air Force
Defensive coordinator Bob Sutton, Kansas City Chiefs	Member of the Army coaching staff for 17 seasons (1983-99), including nine as head coach
Asst. special teams coach Eric Sutulovich, Atlanta Falcons	Grandfather served in the Army and father served in the National Guard
FB Chris Swain, San Diego Chargers	Graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy
T Joe Thomas, Cleveland Browns	Five cousins who serve in the Army
Offensive coordinator Norv Turner, Minnesota Vikings	Father served in the Marine Corps

RB Shane Vereen, New York Giants	Cousin serves in the Navy
T Alejandro Villanueva, Pittsburgh Steelers	Captain in the Army who served as an Army Ranger. Graduated from West Point and served a total of 18 months in Afghanistan
DE Cameron Wake, Miami Dolphins	Grandfather served in the Army
LS Greg Warren, Pittsburgh Steelers	Grandfather served in the Air Force
DE J.J. Watt, Houston Texans	Grandfather served in the Korean War
Defensive line coach Mike Waufle, Los Angeles Rams	Served in the Marine Corps (1972-75)
LB Sean Weatherspoon, Atlanta Falcons	Brother, Douglas, is currently in the Army and stationed at Fort Knox in Kentucky; another brother served in the Army; father is retired from the Army
LS Jon Weeks, Houston Texans	Father served in the Air Force
DE Mario Williams, Miami Dolphins	Brother-in-law served in the Army
QB Russell Wilson, Seattle Seahawks	Grandfather served in the Army
DB Tavon Wilson, Detroit Lions	Great-grandfather served in the Army
S Earl Wolff, Philadelphia Eagles	Mother served 31 years in the National Guard
LB K.J. Wright, Seattle Seahawks	Uncle served in the Navy
G Kevin Zeitler, Cincinnati Bengals	Grandfather served in the Navy
Asst. offensive line coach Larry Zierlein, Arizona Cardinals	Served in the Marines from 1966-68, including one year in Vietnam
K Greg Zuerlein, Los Angeles Rams	Father served as an Army Paratrooper during Vietnam





WALTER PAYTON

MAN OF THE YEAR

PRESENTED BY



WALTER PAYTON NFL MAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

The **WALTER PAYTON NFL MAN OF THE YEAR AWARD** was established in 1970 and renamed in 1999 after Payton, the late Pro Football Hall of Fame running back. The award recognizes excellence both on and off the field.



Each NFL team nominates one player for his positive impact on the community. Wide receiver **ANQUAN BOLDIN** (left), who was nominated by the San Francisco 49ers, was the recipient of the 2015 Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year Award presented by Nationwide.

Boldin founded the Anquan Boldin Q81 Foundation in 2004 to expand educational and life opportunities for underprivileged youth. In early 2015, Anquan and his wife, Dionne, personally donated \$1 million to the foundation. This endowment has since been utilized to continue an annual distribution of scholarships to high school graduates. Since its inception, the foundation has awarded 13 four-year college scholarships.

“I’m beyond humbled to be selected as the Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year,” said Boldin, who was named the winner at NFL Honors. “I used to dream that I could play like Walter Payton when I was growing up, but he became even more of an inspiration to me as I learned about his legacy as a humanitarian. I commend the other 31 finalists throughout the National Football League who continue to use this platform to influence the lives of others in a positive way. May we continue to open our hearts and make an impact in our communities and throughout this world.”

As the winner of the award, Boldin received a \$50,000 donation towards his Q81 Foundation. The two other finalists – New York Giants quarterback **ELI MANNING** and New Orleans Saints tight end **BENJAMIN WATSON** – received \$11,000 donations to charities of their choice. Donations are courtesy of the NFL Foundation and Nationwide.

The Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year Award winners:

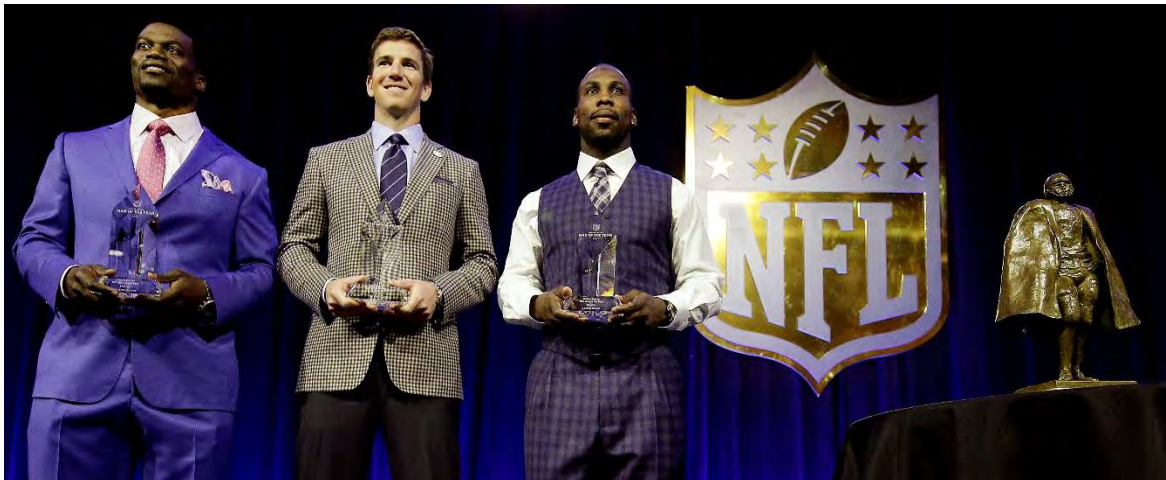
YEAR	WINNER	TEAM
2015	Anquan Boldin	San Francisco 49ers
2014	Thomas Davis	Carolina Panthers
2013	Charles Tillman	Chicago Bears
2012	Jason Witten	Dallas Cowboys
2011	Matt Birk	Baltimore Ravens
2010	Madieu Williams	Minnesota Vikings
2009	Brian Waters	Kansas City Chiefs
2008	Kurt Warner	Arizona Cardinals
2007	Jason Taylor	Miami Dolphins
2006	LaDainian Tomlinson Drew Brees	San Diego Chargers New Orleans Saints
2005	Peyton Manning	Indianapolis Colts
2004	Warrick Dunn	Atlanta Falcons
2003	Will Shields	Kansas City Chiefs
2002	Troy Vincent	Philadelphia Eagles
2001	Jerome Bettis	Pittsburgh Steelers
2000	Derrick Brooks Jim Flanigan	Tampa Bay Buccaneers Green Bay Packers
1999	Cris Carter	Minnesota Vikings
1998	Dan Marino	Miami Dolphins
1997	Troy Aikman	Dallas Cowboys
1996	Darrell Green	Washington Redskins
1995	Boomer Esiason	New York Jets
1994	Junior Seau	San Diego Chargers
1993	Derrick Thomas	Kansas City Chiefs
1992	John Elway	Denver Broncos

1991	Anthony Munoz	Cincinnati Bengals
1990	Mike Singletary	Chicago Bears
1989	Warren Moon	Houston Oilers
1988	Steven Largent	Seattle Seahawks
1987	Dave Duerson	Chicago Bears
1986	Reggie Williams	Cincinnati Bengals
1985	Dwight Stephenson	Miami Dolphins
1984	Marty Lyons	New York Jets
1983	Rolf Benirschke	San Diego Chargers
1982	Joe Theismann	Washington Redskins
1981	Lynn Swann	Pittsburgh Steelers
1980	Harold Carmichael	Philadelphia Eagles
1979	Joe Greene	Pittsburgh Steelers
1978	Roger Staubach	Dallas Cowboys
1977	Walter Payton	Chicago Bears
1976	Franco Harris	Pittsburgh Steelers
1975	Ken Anderson	Cincinnati Bengals
1974	George Blanda	Oakland Raiders
1973	Len Dawson	Kansas City Chiefs
1972	Willie Lanier	Kansas City Chiefs
1971	John Hadl	San Diego Chargers
1970	Johnny Unitas	Baltimore Colts

The following are the individual team winners of the 2015 Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year Award (finalists listed in bold):

TEAM	WINNER
Arizona Cardinals	Patrick Peterson
Atlanta Falcons	Patrick DiMarco
Baltimore Ravens	Steve Smith Sr.
Buffalo Bills	Eric Wood
Carolina Panthers	Greg Olsen
Chicago Bears	Matt Forté
Cincinnati Bengals	Carlos Dunlap
Cleveland Browns	Gary Barnidge
Dallas Cowboys	Brandon Carr
Denver Broncos	David Bruton Jr.
Detroit Lions	Stephen Tulloch
Green Bay Packers	Sam Barrington
Houston Texans	J.J. Watt
Indianapolis Colts	Dwayne Allen
Jacksonville Jaguars	Zane Beadles
Kansas City Chiefs	Eric Berry

TEAM	WINNER
Miami Dolphins	Ryan Tannehill
Minnesota Vikings	Chad Greenway
New England Patriots	Devin McCourty
New Orleans Saints	Benjamin Watson
New York Giants	Eli Manning
New York Jets	Eric Decker
Oakland Raiders	Justin Tuck
Philadelphia Eagles	Connor Barwin
Pittsburgh Steelers	Cameron Heyward
San Diego Chargers	Darrell Stuckey
San Francisco 49ers	Anquan Boldin
Seattle Seahawks	Richard Sherman
St. Louis Rams	Chris Long
Tampa Bay Buccaneers	Vincent Jackson
Tennessee Titans	Delanie Walker
Washington Redskins	Ryan Kerrigan



2015 Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year Finalists: Benjamin Watson, Eli Manning, Anquan Boldin



NFL'S CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION: THE NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE FOUNDATION

The **NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE FOUNDATION** is a non-profit organization representing the 32 NFL clubs. It supports the health, safety and wellness of athletes, youth football and the communities which support the game.

THE NFL FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CHARLOTTE JONES ANDERSON	Chairman, NFL Foundation; Executive Vice President and Chief Brand Officer, Dallas Cowboys
MICHAEL BIDWILL	President, Arizona Cardinals
SHAD KHAN	Owner, Jacksonville Jaguars
KIM PEGULA	Owner, Buffalo Bills
ARTHUR J. ROONEY II	President, Pittsburgh Steelers
JASON TAYLOR	Former NFL Player, Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year Award Recipient
LEONARD WILF	Owner, Minnesota Vikings

"We are proud of the NFL's long-standing history of giving back to communities," says NFL Commissioner **ROGER GOODELL**. "The board of our foundation is a passionate group of individuals who will help ensure that the NFL continues to be a leader in philanthropy."

The NFL Foundation is a strong supporter of youth football and efforts to help players learn proper fundamentals, be active, have fun and stay safe.

The NFL Foundation's five-year, \$45 million commitment to USA Football, the sport's national governing body and a member of the U.S. Olympic Committee, supports the development, participation, safety and values of football through several programs that continue to expand and flourish. Two education components were added to the program in 2015: Heads Up Blocking and all-sport-relevant protocols for sudden cardiac arrest. Nearly 70 percent of all U.S. youth football leagues and more than 1,100 high schools enrolled in USA Football's Heads Up Football program in 2015, representing 150,000 coaches and more than one million players.



"The NFL Foundation is proud to support the important work that will help keep athletes of all levels safer as they play the sports they love," says NFL Foundation Chairman **CHARLOTTE JONES ANDERSON** (above right). "We are pleased to work with a diverse group of leaders in their respective fields to help advance the important cause of sports safety."

In 2015, under a new \$2.5 million donation from the NFL and the NFL Foundation, University of Washington Medicine launched the first-of-its-kind Sports Health and Safety Institute to advance research, education and advocacy for the prevention and treatment of sports-related concussion. Additionally, the NFL Foundation partnered with The American Academy of Family Physicians, The Emergency Medicine Foundation and members of the American College of Emergency Physicians to advance the understanding and outcomes in important areas such as concussion management by providing free education courses and materials. The NFL Foundation is also continuing work with the Korey Stringer Institute under a three-year, \$300,000 grant to promote and execute the NFL's health and safety priorities and initiatives within youth sports.

The NFL Foundation continues to support local communities through the Grassroots Field Grant Program. In partnership with Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC), the nation's leading community development support corporation, the NFL Foundation has provided grants for 306 projects in more than 120 cities nationwide totaling nearly \$40 million since 1998. The program provides non-profit, neighborhood-based organizations with financial and technical assistance to improve the quality, safety and accessibility of local football fields.

The NFL Foundation also provides grants to the American Heart Association and the Cooper Institute to power NFL PLAY 60 programs, including the NFL PLAY 60 Challenge and FITNESSGRAM programs to help children in communities across the country get active and fit.

The NFL Foundation also provides funding to support youth football, health and safety efforts and community initiatives through the following grant, recognition and education programs:

- Don Shula NFL High School Coach of the Year
- Grassroots Field Grants
- Club Community Grants
- Club Matching Youth Football Grants
- Continuing Medical Education Grants
- NFL Youth Education Town (YET) Program Grants
- Player Foundation Grants
- Player Matching Youth Football Grants
- Pro Bowl Community Grants
- USA Football Equipment Grants
- Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year
- Youth Football Camp Grants

INTERNATIONAL NFL





NFL CONTINUES INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT WITH FOUR GAMES IN 2016

– LEAGUE WILL PLAY THREE GAMES IN THE UK AND ONE IN MEXICO –

In response to outstanding and growing fan support of football in the United Kingdom, the NFL will once again play three regular-season games in the UK, including one game at a new venue, Twickenham Stadium. Additionally, the league extended its agreement to play games at London's Wembley Stadium through the 2020 season.

"The passion our UK fans have shown for the NFL is overwhelming," says NFL Commissioner **ROGER GOODELL**. "We are very appreciative of the strong and growing fan support, not only for the games, but for all of the related NFL events we host in the UK throughout the year. We look forward to welcoming new fans to their first NFL game in 2016 and welcoming back thousands of others that are helping our sport grow to new levels of popularity in London and beyond."

The Cincinnati Bengals, Indianapolis Colts and Washington Redskins will all play their first regular-season game in the UK this season – which marks a total of 23 different teams to play in the International Series in London since it began in 2007.

Each game will kick off at 9:30 AM ET.



In the first of three 2016 London games, the Jacksonville Jaguars will host the Colts in an AFC South division contest on October 2 at Wembley.

The Jaguars have committed to playing a home game in the UK through 2020, all at Wembley, and will return to the UK for the fourth consecutive year. The Colts will make their first trip to London and play in the franchise's first international game since a 2010 preseason contest against the Buffalo Bills in Toronto, Canada.

"Our four-year London initiative has been every bit as rewarding as we anticipated, certainly due in large part to the league's commitment to the UK and the world class experience that Wembley Stadium has provided the Jaguars, our fans and our partners," says Jaguars owner **SHAD KHAN**. "Our interest in extending our agreement to play a home game each season in London is nothing new."

"It's good for our brand and it's good for the league," says **PETE WARD**, the Colts' Chief Operating Officer.

In the second 2016 London game, the Los Angeles Rams will host the New York Giants on October 23 in the first-ever NFL game at Twickenham Stadium.

The Rams, who faced the New England Patriots at Wembley in 2012, will play their second regular season game in London.

"I think there's an opportunity to grow the Rams' brand internationally," says Rams Chief Operating Officer **KEVIN DEMOFF**. "And I think the league wants to grow their brand in that market too."

The Giants will make their first trip to London since defeating the Miami Dolphins in the inaugural International Series game in 2007, a season that ended with New York winning Super Bowl XLII.

"It's good for the league, and it's good for the Giants and the Rams to play overseas," says Giants head coach **BEN MC ADOO**.

The final 2016 London game will take place in Week 8 on October 30 when the Bengals host the Redskins at Wembley.

Washington will play its first game in London and the club's first international game since a 2011 regular-season contest against the Bills in Toronto. The Bengals will play their first-ever international game.

"We are proud to be a part of the NFL's initiative to grow our game abroad, and we believe this game will be a source of pride for Cincinnati as well," says Bengals president **MIKE BROWN**. "It will provide a strong platform for our region's culture and recent progress."

"It's an historic event for the Washington Redskins, and it's historic for the National Football League," says Redskins President **BRUCE ALLEN**. "There's going to be a lot of burgundy and gold in that stadium."

The International Series began on October 28, 2007 when the Giants defeated the Dolphins 13-10 at Wembley. Since its inception, participation in amateur football in the UK has risen by approximately 15 percent per year. The International Series to

date has contributed to increasing NFL fan interest in the UK, with a current fan base of more than 13 million people, including more than three million avid fans, a 50 percent increase in the past three years.

A look at what some of the players and coaches thought about playing in London through the years:

PLAYER/COACH, TEAM	COMMENT
Head coach Gus Bradley, Jacksonville Jaguars	"I just want to thank the fans. It was an outstanding environment for our team. Our team felt it, and we greatly appreciate the fan base and how active they were throughout."
QB Drew Brees, New Orleans Saints	"There are 32 teams in the NFL. The Saints and Chargers were the third and fourth teams to represent the NFL in London. That speaks volumes and I am honored to have been there."
Head coach Jason Garrett, Dallas Cowboys	"I can't tell you how great of a week we had as a football team. Everybody was fantastic. They were so welcoming and accommodating to us. I think the spirit of the NFL is catching fire over here and in a real positive way. I think we have benefited a lot from it."
RB Steven Jackson (with St. Louis Rams in 2012 and Atlanta Falcons in 2014)	"The UK crowd is very knowledgeable of the game. They were into it. You can tell over the years from 2007 to now, they understand third down, punts, when to make noise for the home team. So the knowledge base of the UK has grown tremendously, and I think that happens because now you have more and more teams coming and showing the game and playing it the right way, where you have the stars playing and the interest in the game is there for four quarters."
QB Tony Romo, Dallas Cowboys	"The people have been fantastic. Everyone's just been very genuine. And obviously being able to play at Wembley on the pitch was special. Something you'll always talk about and tell your kids. So, to come over here, I thought it was really as outstanding a week as I could have ever hoped for. I was really happy to see the fans and just everyone have the passion that they had."
QB Ryan Tannehill, Miami Dolphins	"The stadium is awesome. It was really cool coming here for the first time just seeing the stadium. It's a really nice stadium and the crowd was great."
WR Golden Tate, Detroit Lions	"You know what, I really enjoyed this entire week. I can't say enough great things about everyone who welcomed us into this country. Everyone was extremely nice. We really appreciate that. And we're happy that we were able to come over here and try to expand our game."
WR Brandon Marshall, New York Jets	"The crowd was rowdy, they were loud and it was a fun environment. It was one of the best games as far as the environment goes that I ever played in."
Head coach Andy Reid, Kansas City Chiefs	"We appreciate the hospitality that the people in London gave us. It's been phenomenal all the way around. They were all tremendous. Most of all, our players had a good result from all of this. It's a long trip. It's a long way to go for a home game, but it was enjoyable."

Building off the tremendous success of the NFL International Series in the UK, the NFL will also return to Mexico for a regular-season game for the first time since the Arizona Cardinals hosted the San Francisco 49ers in 2005 (below).



The Oakland Raiders will host the Houston Texans at Estadio Azteca in Mexico City on Monday night, November 21, marking the first-ever Monday Night Football game to be played outside the United States.

"Expanding our International Series of regular-season games to Mexico marks an important step in our continued international growth," says Commissioner Goodell. "We have a tremendous, passionate fan base in Mexico and we know the atmosphere on game day will be outstanding."

Both clubs are looking forward to the opportunity to play in primetime in Mexico City.

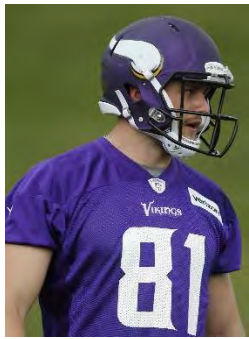
"The Raiders are honored to once again represent the National Football League in its International Series," says Raiders owner **MARK DAVIS**. "The Raiders are truly a global brand and we look forward to visiting the loyal and passionate members of the Raider Nation in Mexico."

"We are excited the Houston Texans can represent the NFL on an international stage for the first time on *Monday Night Football* this fall," says Texans Chairman and CEO **ROBERT MC NAIR**. "This is a great opportunity to grow our brand on a global scale and we are looking forward to playing in front of a passionate crowd at historic Azteca Stadium."

The passion of the Mexican fans is consistent with the burgeoning U.S. Hispanic fan base. According to the Nielsen Company, average viewership for regular-season NFL games among Hispanics has risen 28 percent in the past five years and the addition of a regular-season game in Mexico will help to unite this extraordinary audience of NFL fans.

INTERNATIONAL FEEL

While the NFL continues to grow in popularity across the globe, international players are making an impact on the field.



For the 10th time in the past 11 seasons, at least one player who attended high school outside of the United States was selected in the 2016 NFL Draft.

This year, the Minnesota Vikings made NFL history by selecting German wide receiver **MORITZ BÖHRINGER** (left) in the sixth round of the NFL Draft, making him the first player drafted out of a European league without playing college football in the United States.

Minnesota is a fitting destination for the German Football League product, as his first exposure to the game was watching Vikings running back Adrian Peterson's highlights on YouTube. Böhringer's first season of competitive football was in 2013 with the Crailsheim Titans. The receiver joined the top-level German Football League last season, quickly becoming a star player for the Schwabish Hall Unicorns on his way to winning the Rookie of the Year Award.

"I searched for a team in Germany and found one in my hometown, but we only had seven players," Böhringer recalls. "We just practiced a bit, and after half a year, we found a full team about 25 miles from my hometown and I played there."

Discussing the popularity of football in Germany, Böhringer says, "Over the last few years, the sport has definitely gotten bigger. Last year, there were games shown on free TV in Germany. That has a big part. There are more people playing."

A look at some foreign-born players in the NFL:

ALBANIA	G Kristjan Sokoli, Sea
AMERICAN SAMOA	FB Joey Iosefa, NE; G Mike Iupati, AZ; G, Nila Kasitati, Was; G Lene Maiava, Sea; DT Domata Peko, Cin; DE Ropati Pitoitua, Ten; DT Paul Soliai, Car; Vi Teofilo, SD; DT Destiny Vaeao, Phi
AUSTRALIA	P Jordan Berry, Pit; G Blake Muir, SF; P Brad Wing, NYG; G David Yankey, Car; P Lachlan Edwards, NYJ
BAHAMAS	G Alex Cooper, Cin
BELIZE	DE Rakeem Nunez-Roches, KC
BRAZIL	K Cairo Santos, KC
CAMEROON	G Arie Kouandjio, Was; T Cyrus Kouandjio, Buf; T Stephane Nembot, Bal
CANADA	DE Medi Abdesmad, Ten; T Brett Boyko, SD; DT Stefan Charles, Det; DT Christian Covington, Hou.; DT Tyrone Crawford, Dal; G Laurent Duvernay-Tardif, KC; T David Foucault, Car; C Brett Jones, NYG; WR TJ Jones, Det; LS L.P. LaDouceur, Dal; DE Cleyon Lang, Mia; T Austin Pasztor, Cle; P Jon Ryan, Sea; WR Rashaun Simonise, Cin; WR Tevaun Smith, Ind; DE Brent Urban, Bal; G/C John Urschel, Bal; RB Tyler Varga, Ind; TE Luke Willson, Sea
CONGO	LB Andy Mulumba, KC
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	G Josue Matias, Ten
ENGLAND	RB Jay Ajayi, Mia; DE Jack Crawford, Dal; DT Josh Mauro, AZ; T Menelik Watson, Oak
ESTONIA	DE Margus Hunt, Cin
FRANCE	WR Anthony Dablé, NYG
GERMANY	WR Moritz Böhringer, Min; LB Kasim Edebali, NO; FB Jerome Felton, Buf; TE Ladarius Green, Pitt; WR R.J. Harris, NO; CB Mike Jenkins, TB; WR Jamaal Jones, SD; DT Marcus Kuhn, NE; P Jeff Locke, Min; LB Mark Nzeocha, Dal; T Tyrus Thompson, NO; T Sebastian Vollmer, NE; LB Bjoern Werner, Jax; S Andrew Williamson, Ind
GHANA	DE Ezekiel Ansah, Det
HAITI	T Gosder Cherilus, TB; CB Pierre Desir, Cle; G Vladimir Ducasse, Bal; S Karl Joseph, Oak; LB Dadi Nicolas, KC
ITALY	K Giorgio Tavecchio, Oak; S Mykkele Thompson, NYG
JAMAICA	S Patrick Chung, NE; DT Kenrick Ellis, Min; G Orlando Franklin, SD; G Laken Tomlinson, Det
JAPAN	QB Robert Griffin III, Cle; TE Jack Tabb, NO
KENYA	G Rees Odhiambo, Sea; DE Helva Mantungulu, NYJ
LIBERIA	LB Tamba Hali, KC; LB Jonathan Massaquoi, KC; LB Sio Moore, Ind
NEW ZEALAND	RB Paul Lasike, Chi; DT Stephen Paea, Was
NIGERIA	WR Nelson Agholor, Phi; LB Jerry Attaochu, SD; LB Obum Gwachum, NO; DE Efe Obada, KC; DT David Onyemata, NO
POLAND	K Sebastian Janikowski, Oak
SCOTLAND	K Graham Gano, Car
SOUTH KOREA	DT Kyle Love, Car
TONGA	DT Star Lotulelei, Car
TRINIDAD	LB Yannick Cudjoe-Virgil, Ten
TURKEY	WR Chris Conley, KC
VIRGIN ISLANDS	DT Linval Joseph, Min
ZIMBABWE	DE Stansly Maponga, NYG

HISPANICS MAKING THEIR MARK ON NFL

Every year, Hispanic players are playing a role in the NFL. Following are some examples:

- Pittsburgh Steelers tackle **ALEJANDRO VILLANUEVA** (right) entered the NFL as an undrafted free agent and spent the 2014 season on the practice squad. Last year, he earned a starting job, starting 12 games at left tackle for the Steelers.

Prior to joining the NFL, Villanueva served four years in the United States Army, reaching the rank of Captain before leaving the military to pursue his dream of playing professional football. Throughout his time in the service, he earned numerous honors, including the Bronze Star Medal for Valor, Ranger Tab, Parachutist Badge, Bronze Star Medal for overseas service, National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal with Campaign Star, Global War on Terrorism Service Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, NATO Medal, Combat Infantryman's Badge and Expert Infantryman's Badge.



"I love challenges," says Villanueva, who started 24 of 28 games at West Point playing wide receiver, defensive line and left tackle. "I love competing, finding new things to do that challenge me as a person, and I think this has been another great experience that has definitely challenged me. It hasn't been easy, but I didn't want it to be easy either."

Villanueva's parents are both natives of Spain, and his father, Ignacio, served in the United States as part of the Spanish Navy.

- San Francisco 49ers linebacker **SHAYNE SKOV** moved to Mexico when he was nine years old and his time in Guadalajara, Mexico has played a pivotal role in his life. Every year, Skov returns to where he learned to play football to give back to the community that means so much to him.

This past offseason, Skov recruited fellow 49ers linebacker **COREY LEMONIER** to go to Mexico City and help lead a youth football clinic.

"It is difficult to get to the NFL, but we have seen in recent years several Latin players who have had a chance," says Skov. "I believe that with the growth of the sport, we will see more."

- During the offseason, Houston Texans linebacker **WHITNEY MERCILUS** (below) hosted a PLAY 60 youth football camp at the National Polytechnic Institute Zacatenco in Mexico City, Mexico. Mercilus led 250 children, ages 6-14, through various drills to highlight the importance of staying active and teaching them skills they could take back to *Tochito*, the NFL's Flag Football program in Mexico.



"I am very happy to have met some of our Mexican fans, but I'm even happier after seeing the enthusiasm of the children who participated in the clinic," says Mercilus. "As the game nears, I'm sure the Texans' fan base in Mexico will increase, and I am excited to know that my team has a following in Mexico."

Mercilus was visiting Mexico in advance of the NFL's return to the country when the Oakland Raiders host the Texans at Estadio Azteca on November 21 in the first-ever *Monday Night Football* game played outside of the United States.

"It's an international stage and we will not miss the opportunity to attract new fans," says Mercilus. "We will give a good show that day and it will be a great game."

- The NFL is continuing its partnership with Pro Football Hall of Fame tackle **ANTHONY MUÑOZ** to host NFL PLAY 60 Character Camps. The non-contact football camps will take place in several NFL markets during the summer. Each site will welcome 300 predominantly-Hispanic boys and girls ages 9-13 with little or no football experience from local youth organizations. The program will also work in collaboration with USA Football and its NFL FLAG curriculum, which introduces participants to be physically active through non-contact, continuous action while learning the fundamentals of football, lessons in teamwork and sportsmanship.

In addition, the camps will teach character values as well as promote NFL PLAY 60's health and fitness message. Since the inception of NFL PLAY 60 Character Camps in 2012, 50 camps have been held impacting nearly 20,000 youth across the country.

This season, the NFL will celebrate **HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH** through digital, social and broadcasting channels. The Week 3 *Monday Night Football* matchup, featuring the Chicago Bears hosting the Philadelphia Eagles, will serve as the designated Hispanic Heritage Month game, showcased on ESPN and ESPN Deportes.

The NFL's celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month dates back to 2002 when then-Commissioner **PAUL TAGLIABUE** made it a league priority to serve the Hispanic market, forming an internal task force of league and club executives to analyze the NFL's activities, consult with leaders in the Hispanic-American community, and recommend a comprehensive approach toward the future. The initiative has continued to grow annually since then.

A list of some of the 2016 Hispanic NFL players:

<u>PLAYER</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>TEAM</u>	<u>PLAYER</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>TEAM</u>
Roberto Aguayo	K	Tampa Bay	Robert Quinn	DE	Los Angeles
Kiko Alonso	LB	Miami	Rakeem Nunez-Roches	DE	Kansas City
Jonathan Casillas	LB	New York Giants	Kendall Reyes	DE	Washington
Victor Cruz	WR	New York Giants	Mychal Rivera	TE	Oakland
Thomas Duarte	TE	Miami	Tony Romo	QB	Dallas
Gavin Escobar	TE	Dallas	Greg Salas	WR	Buffalo
Jon Feliciano	G	Oakland	Mark Sanchez	QB	Denver
Ziggy Hood	DT	Washington	Zack Sanchez	CB	Carolina
Rob Housler	TE	Chicago	Andrew Sendejo	S	Minnesota
Bradley Marquez	WR	Los Angeles	Sean Smith	CB	Oakland
Blake Martinez	LB	Green Bay	Kenny Stills	WR	Miami
Matt Moore	QB	Miami	Alejandro Villanueva	T	Pittsburgh



Roberto Aguayo



Jonathan Casillas



Rob Housler



Robert Quinn



Mychal Rivera



Tony Romo



Greg Salas



Kenny Stills

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS



ANNIVERSARY ANNALS

A sampling of 2016 NFL anniversaries:

Anniversary	Celebration
120th	The Allegheny Athletic Association fields the first completely professional team (1896).
110th	The first authenticated forward pass completion is recorded as George (Peggy) Parratt of Massillon throws a completion to Dan (Bullet) Riley (10/25/1906).
95th	A.E. Staley turns the Decatur Staleys over to player-coach George Halas, who moves the team to Cubs Park in Chicago (1921).
95th	Fritz Pollard of the Akron Pros becomes the first black head coach (1921).
80th	The Eagles make University of Chicago HB and Heisman Trophy winner Jay Berwanger the first player ever selected in the NFL Draft (2/8/1936).
75th	The official <i>NFL Record Manual</i> is published for the first time by the league (1941).
70th	The Cleveland Rams move to Los Angeles (1946).
70th	Kenny Washington (March 21) and Woody Strode (May 7) sign with the Los Angeles Rams to become the first African-Americans to play in the NFL in the modern era (1946).
70th	Bill Willis (August 6) and Marion Motley (August 9) join the Cleveland Browns, becoming the first African-Americans to play in the All-America Football Conference (1946).
70th	The Cleveland Browns, coached by Paul Brown, win the All-America Football Conference's first championship (1946).
65th	The NFL Championship Game is televised coast-to-coast for the first time on the DuMont Network. The Los Angeles Rams defeat the Cleveland Browns 24-17 (12/23/1951).
60th	CBS becomes the first network to broadcast NFL regular-season games to selected television markets across the nation (1956).
50th	A series of meetings regarding a possible AFL-NFL merger takes place in the spring between Lamar Hunt of Kansas City and Tex Schramm of Dallas. On June 8, Commissioner Pete Rozelle announces the merger of the AFL and NFL (1966).
50th	New Orleans is awarded an NFL franchise to begin play in 1967 (11/1/1966).
45th	The Miami Dolphins defeat the Kansas City Chiefs 27-24 in sudden-death overtime in an AFC Divisional Playoff Game. The contest lasts 82 minutes, 40 seconds, making it the longest game in NFL history (12/25/1971).
40th	The first NFL game outside of North America is played before 38,000 fans at Korakuen Stadium in Tokyo, Japan as St. Louis defeats San Diego 20-10 in a preseason contest (8/16/1976).
25th	The NFL launches the World League of American Football, the first sports league to operate on a weekly basis on two separate continents (3/23/1991).
15th	NFL owners unanimously approve a realignment plan and new scheduling format for the league starting in 2002. Seven clubs change divisions and the Seattle Seahawks switch conferences (5/22/2001).
10th	Roger Goodell becomes the eighth chief executive of the NFL when he is chosen to succeed Paul Tagliabue as commissioner by a unanimous vote of the clubs at a three-day meeting in Chicago (8/8/2006).
10th	The NFL Network broadcasts its first-ever regular-season game as the Kansas City Chiefs defeat the Denver Broncos 19-10 at Arrowhead Stadium on Thanksgiving night (11/23/2006).
5th	The NFL Head, Neck and Spine Committee announced a new standardized sideline concussion assessment protocol for team medical personnel. The new protocol includes a symptom checklist, limited neurologic examination and balance assessment (2/25/2011).



Tex Schramm, Pete Rozelle and Lamar Hunt announcing the merger of the AFL and NFL in 1966

OWNER MILESTONES

Many NFL owners will be celebrating notable milestones in 2016, including Chicago's **VIRGINIA H. MC CASKEY**, whose family has reached the 95th anniversary of when her father, **GEORGE HALAS**, purchased the team when they were known as the Decatur Staleys.

Here are the major owner milestones for 2016:

FRANCHISE	OWNER	YEAR ACQUIRED	MILESTONE
Chicago Bears	Virginia H. McCaskey (Daughter of George Halas)	1921	95th Anniversary
Arizona Cardinals	William V. Bidwill (Son of Charles W. Bidwill)	1932	85th Season
Cincinnati Bengals	Mike Brown (Son of Paul Brown)	1967	50th Season
Indianapolis Colts	James Irsay (Son of Robert Irsay)	1972	45th Season
San Francisco 49ers	Denise DeBartolo York (Daughter of Edward J. DeBartolo, Sr.)	1977	40th Season
New York Giants	Steve and Jonathan Tisch (Sons of Preston Robert Tisch)	1991	25th Anniversary
Seattle Seahawks	Paul Allen	1997	20th Season
Atlanta Falcons	Arthur M. Blank	2002	15th Season
Jacksonville Jaguars	Shahid Khan	2011	5th Anniversary
Cleveland Browns	Jimmy Haslam	2012	5th Season



110 YEARS AGO: THE FORWARD PASS IS LEGALIZED

One hundred and ten years ago the forward pass was legalized and football has never been the same. But all the aerial activity that has captivated fans for decades had a very modest beginning.

On Thursday, October 25, 1906, the first authenticated pass completion in a professional game occurred when quarterback **GEORGE “PEGGY” PARRATT** of the Massillon Tigers completed a pass to end **DAN “BULLET” RILEY** in a victory over a combined Benwood-Moundsville, West Virginia team in a 61-0 decision. The pass was a mere footnote in newspaper accounts of the game, as Parratt’s 65-yard run from scrimmage and 100-yard kickoff return seized the headlines.

Earlier that year, on January 12, rules were passed that forever changed the nature of the sport – the forward pass was legalized, the length of the game was reduced from 70 to 60 minutes, the neutral zone separating the offense from the defense by the length of the ball was established, the distance required for a first down was increased to 10 yards, and six men were required to be on the line of scrimmage. Because the pros still followed collegiate rules, these changes were just as important to them as to college football.

An early believer in the possibilities of the passing game was Pro Football Hall of Famer **CURLY LAMBEAU** (right), who teamed with **GEORGE CALHOUN** in 1919 to form what is now the Green Bay Packers. Lambeau – one of eight coaches in NFL history to amass 200 total wins (229-134-22) – enjoyed an NFL playing career with Green Bay that stretched from 1921-29 and included 24 touchdown passes.



“I always loved to pass,” Lambeau said. “I used to practice passing in the spring. The ball was harder to throw then – it was bigger around. They changed the ball in the early ’30s, which made it easier to throw. Our offense those days was 75 percent passing. Other teams passed in desperation – we threw on first down. I’d rather pass. I figured it was the easiest way to pick up yards.”

A look at passing yards by decade in the NFL:

DECADE	PASSING YARDS	DECADE	PASSING YARDS
1920s	Unavailable	1970-79	677,888
1933-39	69,444	1980-89	951,087
1940-49	159,117	1990-99	1,025,543
1950-59	269,009	2000-09	1,135,331
1960-69	660,967		

75 YEARS AGO: NFL PUBLISHES FIRST RECORD MANUAL

The NFL has come a long way in the past 75 years – and so has how we read about it.

Back in 1941, the league published its first official guide, the *Official National Football League Roster and Record Manual*. It contained information about all-time records, rosters for the upcoming season and statistics from the previous year.

But the familiarity ends there.



For one thing, the NFL has gained 75 more years of history since the first book was published.

That’s a lot more pages. Today, if you want to find out what team allowed the fewest yards in a season, you’d turn to – or click to, if you’re accessing the digital version – page 581 of the nearly 700-page *2016 NFL Record and Fact Book*. If you wanted to find the same thing 75 years ago, you’d only have to go to page 8 of the 80-page manual to find your answer. And don’t bother looking for “rushing stats” in the 1941 edition: the book refers to it as “ground gaining.”

But beyond the relative weight of the books, the differences go much further into the cultural changes the NFL and the nation have experienced in the last seven decades.

Much of the bulk of the manual is composed of the familiar roster listings for each team. But the 1941 manual goes beyond the usual position, height, weight and college listings. For every player, their *ethnicity* is listed (between their residence and their marriage status). For example, Pro Football Hall of Famer **ALEX WOJCIECHOWICZ** (above) is listed on the Detroit Lions roster as:

C 5’11½” 205 Fordham Detroit, Mich. Polish Married Sales representative

That last entry shows another huge change: for each player, their offseason occupation was listed. Back in the days before the NFL’s popularity became what it is today, all players had other jobs. The manual features players with day jobs ranging from “laborer” and “rancher” to “oil company executive” and “railroad detective.”

NFL MARKS 70-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF HISTORIC AFRICAN-AMERICAN SIGNINGS

In 1946, the Cleveland Rams relocated to Los Angeles, becoming the first top-level sports team on the West Coast. But the move turned out to have far greater historic implications.



The organization turned its attention to a recently graduated player at nearby UCLA: halfback **KENNY WASHINGTON** (left). In 1939, Washington was the nation's leader in total offense, and was the first UCLA player to be named an All-American. After college, he began a successful minor league career, playing for the Hollywood Bears of the Pacific Coast Pro Football League and the San Francisco Clippers of the American Football League. He was consistently one of the most popular football players on the West Coast.

The Rams signed Washington, along with end **WOODY STRODE** – his UCLA teammate – making them the first African-Americans to play in a major sports league in the modern era (post-World War II).

The Rams' signings helped jumpstart the integration of American sports. Later in 1946, the Cleveland Browns (then of the fledgling All-America Football Conference) signed fullback **MARION MOTLEY** and guard **BILL WILLIS** – both of whom are now in the Pro Football Hall of Fame. The next year, Major League Baseball's Brooklyn Dodgers signed **JACKIE ROBINSON**, Washington's roommate and teammate at UCLA.

Football's four African-American pioneers enjoyed careers of varying success. Washington played three seasons with Los Angeles before being hampered by knee injuries.

Strode played one season with Los Angeles, but ended up with a successful career as a character actor in Hollywood. He appeared in nearly 100 television shows and films alongside actors ranging from **LEE MARVIN** and **BERT LANCASTER** to **RUSSELL CROWE** and **LEONARDO DI CAPRIO**. One of his most visible, albeit minor, roles was in *Spartacus*, in which he fought **KIRK DOUGLAS** to the death.

Motley and Willis – whose Browns joined the NFL in 1950 – had longer careers. Motley, who was the AAFC's career rushing leader when it disbanded, played with Cleveland until 1953 (being selected to the 1951 Pro Bowl), then spent the 1955 season with the Pittsburgh Steelers. Willis also stayed with the Browns until 1953, making the Pro Bowl from 1950-53.

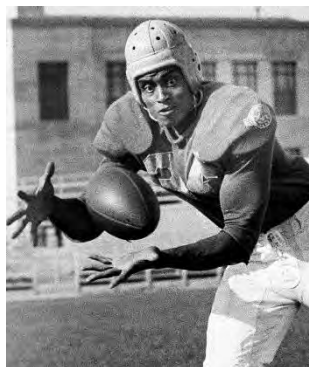
Both on and off the field, the impact of Washington, Strode, Motley and Willis paved the way for the current generation of players, coaches and executives.

MODERN PRO LEAGUES' FIRST AFRICAN-AMERICAN PLAYERS

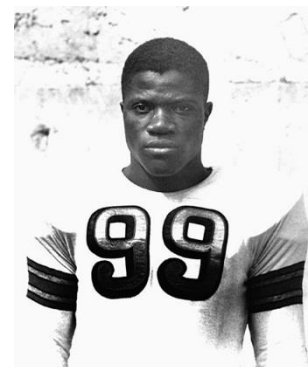
LEAGUE	YEAR	TEAM	PLAYER(S)
NFL	1946	Los Angeles Rams Los Angeles Rams	Kenny Washington Woody Strode
AAFC	1946	Cleveland Browns Cleveland Browns	Marion Motley Bill Willis
MLB	1947	Brooklyn Dodgers	Jackie Robinson
NBA	1950	Boston Celtics New York Knicks Washington Capitals	Chuck Cooper Nat Clifton Earl Lloyd
NHL	1958	Boston Bruins	Willie O'Ree



Marion Motley



Woody Strode



Bill Willis



60TH ANNIVERSARY OF '56 CHAMPIONSHIP – “THE GAME THAT MADE THE NFL”

Sixty years ago, the NFL staged its 1956 “World Professional Football Championship Game” between the Giants and Chicago Bears at Yankee Stadium. Many, including those who played in it, say it was among the most significant in NFL history – perhaps even more so than the fabled 1958 “sudden-death” NFL title game.

The NFL, 36 years old at the time, was not what it is today. The game was not sold out. Pro football on television was still in its infancy. T-shirts and umbrellas didn't contain NFL team logos. But the 1956 Championship Game – won handily by the Giants, 47-7 in 18-degree weather – seemed to change all that.

The excitement and glamour of professional football, epitomized by the Giants, captivated New York's marketing and advertising community for the first time. The TV networks, still developing, suddenly had a new sports vehicle that could help them grow.

“I'll always believe that that game and how it opened everyone's eyes to the excitement of pro football was the key to the development of the NFL, more so than the 1958 title game that gets more attention,” recalled Pro Football Hall of Famer **FRANK GIFFORD** 50 years after the game. Gifford was a halfback for the Giants and thereafter the longtime play-by-play voice of *NFL Monday Night Football*.

“People forget what the NFL was like in those days. It was not America's No. 1 sport. The game wasn't even a sellout. But once we played the game, we became heroes in New York. The thing just grew from there.”

So did many of the people involved.

The Giants had two assistant coaches named Lombardi and Landry. **VINCE LOMBARDI** ran the offense and **TOM LANDRY** the defense. “All I have to do with these guys around is check curfews and pump up footballs,” said head coach **JIM LEE HOWELL**. “Vince and Tom take care of the rest.”

Fifteen players/coaches in the game went on to the Pro Football Hall of Fame: the Giants' Gifford, Landry, Lombardi, tackle **ROOSEVELT BROWN**, linebacker **SAM HUFF**, defensive end **ANDY ROBUSTELLI** and safety **EMLLEN TUNNELL**; Bears defensive end **DOUG ATKINS**, quarterback-kicker **GEORGE BLANDA**, assistant coach **GEORGE CONNER**, head coach **PADDY DRISCOLL**, linebacker **BILL GEORGE**, guard **STAN JONES**, quarterback coach **SID LUCKMAN**, and center coach **CLYDE “BULLDOG” TURNER**.

Robustelli, who now owns a successful sports marketing/travel agency in Stamford, Connecticut, helped the team with his playing – and entrepreneurial skills. He had ordered 48 pairs of sneakers from U.S. Keds the week before the game for extra traction on the frozen Yankee Stadium field.

“They made all the difference,” said Robustelli.

The Giants wore their new sneakers from the beginning of the game. Twenty-two years earlier, they donned sneakers at halftime of their 1934 NFL Championship Game victory over the Bears.

In the 1956 game, the Giants' **GENE FILIPSKI** ran back the opening kickoff from the Bears' Blanda 53 yards to the Chicago 39. Four plays later, Giants fullback **MEL TRIPLETT** bulled his way into the end zone on a 17-yard run, knocking over Bears as well as umpire **SAM WILSON**.

That was three minutes into the game. Almost three minutes into the second quarter, the Giants were up 20-0. By the half, it was 34-7. Before it was over, Giants third-string quarterback **BOBBY CLATTERBUCK**, who had thrown only seven passes for 54 yards that year, was at the helm.

“When you run up against some fellows playing like that,” said Bears head coach Driscoll, “there's just nothing you can do.”

People were impressed.

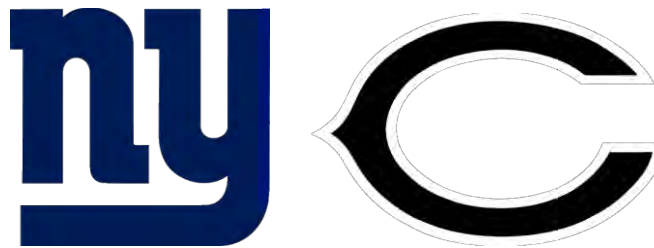
“The stands (were) packed with a crowd of 56,836 fans, bundled up against the cold, but warmed out of their usual big-city sophistication by an afternoon of great football,” said *Sports Illustrated* in its report on the game. “For this was a day of excitement and vindication – a sporting thrill to match the drama of the perfect game Don Larsen pitched against the Brooklyn Dodgers on the same field only a few months ago.”

It was a significant turning point in NFL history – a championship in the nation’s media capital at the dawn of the television age.

SCORING

New York Giants	13	21	6	7	47
Chicago Bears	0	7	0	0	7

NYG: Triplett 17 run (Agajanian kick), 2:40 1st
NYG: FG, Agajanian 17, 4:59 1st
NYG: FG, Agajanian 43, 12:21 1st
NYG: Webster 3 run (Agajanian kick), 2:34 2nd
CHI: Casares 9 run (Blanda kick), 6:52 2nd
NYG: Webster 1 run (Agajanian kick), 9:54 2nd
NYG: H. Moore recovered blocked kick (Agajanian kick), 11:32 2nd
NYG: Rote 9 pass from Conerly (kick failed), 10:10 3rd
NYG: Gifford 14 pass from Conerly (Agajanian kick), 6:23 4th



NOTES, QUOTES & ANECDOTES ON THE 1956 NFL CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

* **ED MC CASKEY** remembered the weather.

“It was the coldest I’d been in my life,” said the Bears’ longtime chairman of the board. “We attended ‘My Fair Lady’ the night before the game, and when we left the theatre, an ice storm set in. It was a miserable night and the next day the field was a mess.

“We were sitting with **GEORGE HALAS** in the upper deck and the cold and the wind were unbelievable. After the Giants scored the first touchdown, Halas left the stands and went down to the sidelines. He couldn’t save us, and we got beat soundly.”

* **WELLINGTON MARA** remembered the attitude of his players. “It was the culmination of a team of overachievers,” said Mara, the Giants’ owner. “We had some lickings during the year.”

* **THE WINNING** player’s share was \$3,779.19, a record. The loser’s share was \$2,485.16, also a record.

* **IT WAS** the second “Sneakers Game” between the Bears and Giants. In 1934, the Giants won their first NFL Championship 30-13 over the Bears on a frozen field at New York’s Polo Grounds when they switched from cleats to sneakers at halftime and overcame a 13-3 deficit.

* **GIANTS HEAD COACH JIM LEE HOWELL** thought his team showed “too much levity” in the locker room before the game. “I always thought players should be pretty quiet and alone before the big game,” said Howell after the win. “At least that’s the way we always were when I played.”

* **BEFORE THE GAME**, Howell sent out two of his players to test the frozen field. Defensive back **ED HUGHES** wore regulation cleats, running back **GENE FILIPSKI** the team’s new sneakers. A few yards into his sprint, Hughes took a hard spill when he lost traction. Filipski had no trouble with footing. “Everyone wears sneakers,” Howell announced.

“I don’t know where they got theirs,” said Bears head coach **PADDY DRISCOLL**. “But those sneakers were better than ours. The soles were thicker than the soles of our shoes. I think this helped their footing greatly.”

* **HOW COLD WAS IT?** It was so cold that the mimeograph machine in the press box froze.

* **SNEAKERS... AND GLOVES:** Giants quarterback **CHARLEY CONERLY** relieved **DON HEINRICH** at the end of the first quarter and wore golf gloves along with his sneakers. Fellow Mississippian **JACKIE PARKER**, who played for the CFL Edmonton Eskimos, recommended them. After fumbling, Conerly discarded the gloves – at the advice of his teammates. “The boys thought I would do better without the gloves,” said Conerly. “When I fumbled, I had to agree.”

* **ONE OF** the Giants’ defensive backs, **DICK NOLAN**, was the father of **MIKE NOLAN**, former San Francisco 49ers head coach and longtime NFL assistant coach (including the Giants’ defensive coordinator from 1993-96).

* **A LITTLE DIFFERENT** than today: 6,000 tickets were sold at the gate the morning of the game. The first Yankee Stadium bleacher fan arrived at 7:30 AM. Attendance was 56,846 out of 67,206 seats.

* **VINCE LOMBARDI**, the Giants’ offensive coach, was pleased with his team’s blocking. “We were on our way when Gene Filipski returned the opening kickoff 53 yards,” he said. “That good criss-cross blocking for the runner, who went straight up the field, showed the team was out for a 33-man effort.”

* **THERE WERE 15 DAYS** between the end of the 1956 regular season and the title game. The Giants gave their players four days off. The Bears got only Christmas Day off. “We overtrained,” said Bears quarterback **ED BROWN**.

* **MOST OF THE GIANTS** had a walking commute to the stadium. The majority of the team lived during the season at the Concourse Plaza Hotel, only two blocks from Yankee Stadium. “We all got along so well,” remembers fullback **ALEX WEBSTER**, who scored two rushing touchdowns in the game. “We spent a lot of time together off the field.”

* **GIANTS DEFENSIVE COACH TOM LANDRY**, who had just retired as a player-coach before the season, helped make stars of defensive players for the first time. He popularized the “4-3” defense while most clubs were still using five-man fronts.

Fans for the first time turned their attention to the defense, like Giants rookie linebacker **SAM HUFF**, who helped shut down Bears fullback **RICK CASARES** with 43 rushing yards. For the first time in club history, the Giants would introduce the defense’s starting lineup before games. The cheer, “Defense! Defense!” was heard for the first time.





45TH ANNIVERSARY OF “LONGEST GAME”

It was Christmas Day 1971. The first-ever NFL playoff game to be played on the holiday was an AFC Divisional Playoff between the Kansas City Chiefs and Miami Dolphins. The temperature was a balmy 61 degrees.



But the game was not in Miami...it was at Kansas City's Municipal Stadium.

“Kansas City at Christmastime can be bitterly cold,” says Chiefs Pro Football Hall of Fame quarterback **LEN DAWSON** (left). “We were hoping for that. But what we got was Miami weather. It was like no other Christmas I ever saw in Kansas City.”

And the game that was played that day was like no other...it turned out to be – and remains – the longest game in NFL history – 82 minutes and 40 seconds.

The Chiefs, who had won Super Bowl IV in January 1970, jumped out to a quick 10-0 first-quarter lead before Miami answered with 10 second-quarter points. The score was tied 10-10 at halftime.

Each team scored a touchdown in the third quarter. In the fourth, Kansas City running back **ED PODOLAK**, who would have an NFL-playoff record 350 all-purpose yards in the game, scored on a three-yard run with 6:46 remaining to give the Chiefs a 24-17 lead. Miami quarterback **BOB GRIESE** then threw a five-yard touchdown pass with 1:36 remaining to conclude a game-tying scoring drive on which he completed six of seven passes for 72 yards.

With 35 seconds remaining in the fourth quarter, Chiefs Pro Football Hall of Famer **JAN STENERUD** missed a field goal to send the game into overtime. Stenerud had a chance to win the game early in overtime, but Dolphins Pro Football Hall of Fame linebacker **NICK BUONICONTI** blocked the 42-yarder.

With 2:39 remaining in overtime, Miami had a chance to win...but **GARO YEPREMIAN**'s 52-yard field goal attempt sailed wide left. The game then went into a second overtime before Yepremian kicked a game-winning 37-yard field goal 7:40 into the period.

It was the first playoff victory in franchise history for Miami and started the club's run to three consecutive Super Bowls, two of which the Dolphins won.



“In many senses that game really launched the Dolphins into their dynasty,” says Pro Football Hall of Famer **LARRY CSONKA** (above right), who rushed for 86 yards and one touchdown in the game. “That game proved to us that we could overcome any adversity, that we could defeat anyone. It is fair to say that it was not only a great game, but also a defining moment in NFL history.”

FIVE LONGEST GAMES IN NFL HISTORY

<u>Date</u>	<u>Game (Score)</u>	<u>Length in Minutes</u>
Dec. 25, 1971	AFC Divisional (Miami 27 at Kansas City 24)	82:40
Dec. 23, 1962	AFL Championship (Dallas Texans 20 at Houston Oilers 17)	77:54
Jan. 3, 1987	AFC Divisional (Cleveland 23 vs. N.Y. Jets 20)	77:02
Jan. 12, 2013	AFC Divisional (Baltimore 38 at Denver 35)	76:42
Dec. 24, 1977	AFC Divisional (Oakland 37 at Baltimore Colts 31)	75:43

THE TEAMS



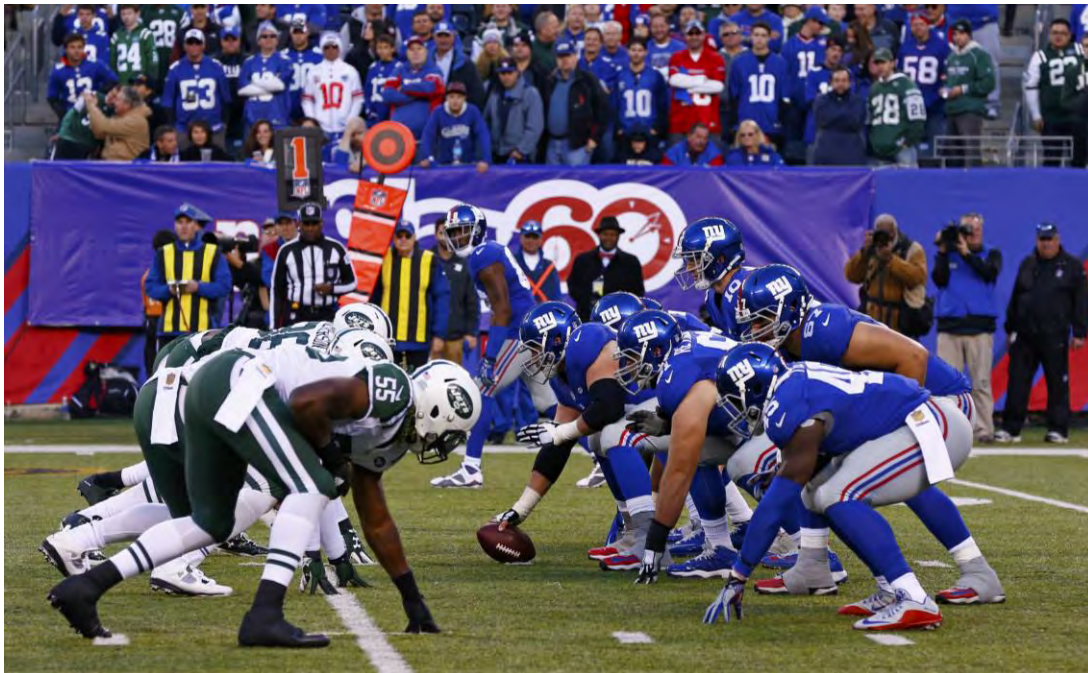


WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN 2016

The **NEW YORK GIANTS** need three victories to become the third team in NFL history with 700 total victories. The Giants (697-591-33) would join Chicago (758-573-42) and Green Bay (752-568-37) as the only teams to accomplish the feat.

The **NEW YORK JETS** need one victory to reach 400 total victories. The Jets' all-time record is 399-470-8.

The **HOUSTON TEXANS** need one victory to reach 100 total victories. Houston's all-time record is 99-129.





BRONCOS WIN SUPER BOWL

The Denver Broncos won their third Super Bowl title last season with a 24-10 victory over the Carolina Panthers in Super Bowl 50.



“Everyone knew the type of guys that we have on this team,” says Denver executive vice president of football operations and general manager **JOHN ELWAY**, who quarterbacked the franchise to its first two Super Bowl titles in 1997 and 1998. “They just kept battling. They worked hard, played hard and stayed in there every game. We won so many different ways. I think that is what this team is all about. I am so thrilled that it worked out for them because they worked their tails off.”

The Broncos finished 12-4 in 2015, earning the No. 1 seed in the AFC. Including the postseason, Denver won 11 games decided by seven points or fewer, the most of any team in NFL history.

“If you’re going to win a championship, you’re going to have to beat great players, and you’re going to have to do it over the course of a month,” says Denver’s **GARY KUBIAK**, who became the first person in NFL history to reach a Super Bowl as a player and head coach with the same team. “It’s one thing to be in the playoffs, but can you be the best team for one month at that time? That was what we preached all along: can we be the best team for one month? We found a way to do that.”

Denver relied on the strength of its defense all season long and continued to do so throughout the postseason.

Fittingly, all four of Denver’s Pro Bowl selections from the 2015 season came on the defensive side of the ball – linebackers **VON MILLER** (fourth) and **DE MARCUS WARE** (ninth) and cornerbacks **CHRIS HARRIS** (first) and **AQIB TALIB** (third).

Miller became the 10th defensive player in history to be named Super Bowl MVP as he recorded six tackles, 2.5 sacks, two forced fumbles, one pass defended and two quarterback hits against Carolina.

“I’m so proud of his path and how he’s gotten to where he’s at,” says Kubiak of Miller. “The thing that people don’t know is, you see a great player like that play on a big stage and play a tremendous game like he did, but people don’t see the work he put in to get there. His future is so bright. I know he’s a great player, but I’m very proud of him as a man.”

Miller, the second overall selection in the 2011 NFL Draft out of Texas A&M, helped force two turnovers that were instrumental in setting up both Denver touchdowns against the Panthers. His first-quarter sack forced a fumble that was recovered by defensive end **MALIK JACKSON** in the end zone for a touchdown to give the Broncos a 10-0 lead.

“It just shows what type of defense that we’ve been playing,” says Miller of his Super Bowl honor. “It’s honestly not about me. If I could cut this MVP award, I would share it with all the other guys. That’s what I would do.”



The Broncos’ Super Bowl victory also served as a perfect sendoff for quarterback **PEYTON MANNING** (above right), who announced his retirement this spring after 18 NFL seasons. Manning, who is the only quarterback to lead two different teams to Super Bowl titles, finished his career as the NFL’s all-time leader in many major statistical categories, including career passing yards (71,940) and touchdown passes (539).

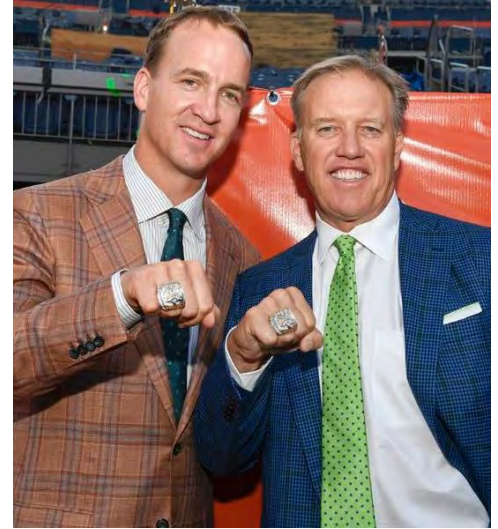
“Anybody who has been a football fan has watched what is one of the greatest Hall of Fame careers ever, racking up more wins, more MVPs, more passing yards, more touchdown passes than anybody in history,” said President **BARACK OBAMA** of Manning during a ceremony at The White House to honor the Broncos’ Super Bowl victory (left). “It is great to see somebody with a career like that, who always conducted himself on the field and off the field the way he did, to be able to go out on top.”

RINGING IN THE NEW YEAR

In June, the **DENVER BRONCOS** hosted a private event to present Super Bowl 50 championship rings to the team and club personnel.

“The Super Bowl 50 championship victory was a tremendous achievement for the entire Broncos organization,” says Broncos President and CEO **JOE ELLIS**. “We’re honored to once again partner with Jostens to recognize such an historic moment in NFL history with a spectacular, one-of-a-kind ring that symbolizes the accomplishments of this very special team.”

The Jostens designed white-and-yellow gold ring features 212 round, tapered and marquise shaped diamonds set in the 10 karat ring. Collectively, the diamonds create a ring that tops more than 5.05 carats. The top features the Super Bowl 50 logo and the team’s three Lombardi Trophies placed above the Denver Broncos logo on a field of pave-set diamonds. The trophies are created from marquise-cut stones, tapered baguettes and pave-set stones. The Bronco mane is created from diamond-cut orange sapphires while the head features pave-set diamonds and a custom-cut corundum blue stone. The words “WORLD CHAMPIONS” adorn the top and bottom edges.



“Most importantly, the ring honors the Broncos’ rich history and passionate fan base,” says Ellis. “It truly captures the excitement of our Super Bowl 50 win for the incredibly deserving members of our organization.”

The sides of the ring feature 56 stones representing the Broncos’ 56-year history and the top and bottom edges each feature 15 stones to mark the team’s 15 wins during the 2015 season and the club’s 15 division titles. One side features the player’s number and name above a crown highlighted in yellow to mark all three Super Bowl titles with eight round stones adorning the top of the crown to mark the team’s eight AFC Championships. The other side features “DENVER BRONCOS” arched above an image of the Lombardi Trophy and the year 2015. The trophy is surrounded by the words “THIS ONE’S FOR PAT” in honor of Owner **PAT BOWLEN**.





SUPER FOLLOW-UPS

How Super Bowl winners fared the following season, with teams that repeated in **bold** (eight Super Bowl winners won the title game the next year and four lost it):

Season	Super Bowl	Winner	Next Season
1966	I	Green Bay	Won Super Bowl
1967	II	Green Bay	Missed playoffs
1968	III	New York Jets	Lost in first round
1969	IV	Kansas City	Missed playoffs
1970	V	Baltimore	Lost AFC Championship Game
1971	VI	Dallas	Lost NFC Championship Game
1972	VII	Miami	Won Super Bowl
1973	VIII	Miami	Lost in first round
1974	IX	Pittsburgh	Won Super Bowl
1975	X	Pittsburgh	Lost AFC Championship Game
1976	XI	Oakland	Lost AFC Championship Game
1977	XII	Dallas	Lost Super Bowl
1978	XIII	Pittsburgh	Won Super Bowl
1979	XIV	Pittsburgh	Missed playoffs
1980	XV	Oakland	Missed playoffs
1981	XVI	San Francisco	Missed playoffs
1982	XVII	Washington	Lost Super Bowl
1983	XVIII	L.A. Raiders	Lost Wild Card Game
1984	XIX	San Francisco	Lost Wild Card Game
1985	XX	Chicago	Lost NFC Divisional Playoff Game
1986	XXI	New York Giants	Missed playoffs
1987	XXII	Washington	Missed playoffs
1988	XXIII	San Francisco	Won Super Bowl
1989	XXIV	San Francisco	Lost NFC Championship Game
1990	XXV	New York Giants	Missed playoffs
1991	XXVI	Washington	Lost NFC Divisional Playoff Game
1992	XXVII	Dallas	Won Super Bowl
1993	XXVIII	Dallas	Lost NFC Championship Game
1994	XXIX	San Francisco	Lost NFC Divisional Playoff Game
1995	XXX	Dallas	Lost NFC Divisional Playoff Game
1996	XXXI	Green Bay	Lost Super Bowl
1997	XXXII	Denver	Won Super Bowl
1998	XXXIII	Denver	Missed playoffs
1999	XXXIV	St. Louis	Lost Wild Card Game
2000	XXXV	Baltimore	Lost AFC Divisional Playoff Game
2001	XXXVI	New England	Missed playoffs
2002	XXXVII	Tampa Bay	Missed playoffs
2003	XXXVIII	New England	Won Super Bowl
2004	XXXIX	New England	Lost AFC Divisional Playoff Game
2005	XL	Pittsburgh	Missed playoffs
2006	XLI	Indianapolis	Lost AFC Divisional Playoff Game
2007	XLII	New York Giants	Lost NFC Divisional Playoff Game
2008	XLIII	Pittsburgh	Missed playoffs
2009	XLIV	New Orleans	Lost NFC Wild Card Game
2010	XLV	Green Bay	Lost NFC Divisional Playoff Game
2011	XLVI	New York Giants	Missed playoffs
2012	XLVII	Baltimore	Missed playoffs
2013	XLVIII	Seattle	Lost Super Bowl
2014	XLIX	New England	Lost AFC Championship Game
2015	50	Denver	???



CAROLINA PANTHERS: KEEP POUNDING



The Carolina Panthers won a franchise-record 15 regular-season games last year and advanced to Super Bowl 50, the team's second Super Bowl appearance in club history.

The Panthers, guided by head coach **RON RIVERA**, became the seventh team in NFL history to win at least 15 regular-season games (15-1). Of those seven clubs, Carolina was only the fourth to advance to the Super Bowl.

"We've built a good locker room here," says Rivera about his team. "The character and chemistry in the locker room is what you want it to be. We talk about building a family-type atmosphere and a lot of that has to do with these guys keeping their own personality and character and being who they are and staying true to that."

The seven teams in NFL history to win at least 15 regular-season games:

TEAM	SEASON	REGULAR-SEASON RECORD	RESULT
San Francisco 49ers	1984	15-1	Won Super Bowl XIX
Chicago Bears	1985	15-1	Won Super Bowl XX
Minnesota Vikings	1998	15-1	Advanced to NFC Championship
Pittsburgh Steelers	2004	15-1	Advanced to AFC Championship
New England Patriots	2007	16-0	Advanced to Super Bowl XLII
Green Bay Packers	2011	15-1	Advanced to Divisional Playoffs
Carolina Panthers	2015	15-1	Advanced to Super Bowl 50

Carolina finished a perfect 10-0 at home last year, winning all eight regular-season games and both playoff contests at Bank of America Stadium.

"Our fans are awesome," says Carolina linebacker **LUKE KUECHLY** (above left). "There's a sense of community in the whole Charlotte area and throughout the Carolinas. Panthers fans have been awesome to us and I'm proud and happy to be a Carolina Panther."

The Panthers topped the NFL in scoring with 500 points and 59 touchdowns during the regular season, led by quarterback **CAM NEWTON** (right), who was named the NFL's Most Valuable Player and Offensive Player of the Year. Newton led the NFL during the regular season with 45 total touchdowns (35 passing, 10 rushing) and became the first player in league history to pass for at least 30 touchdowns and rush for at least 10 touchdowns in the same season.



"It's been fun watching Cam because every year he's improved," says Carolina center **RYAN KALIL**. "We knew from the get-go when he got here and broke all those NFL rookie records that we had someone special. Watching him grow each and every year, it's been incredible. This was a big year for him."

Newton passed for 3,837 yards and rushed for 636 yards in the regular season and is the only player in NFL history with at least 3,000 passing yards and 500 rushing yards in five different seasons.

"I wouldn't be in this position without this collective group coming together to work as a team," says Newton about his success. "I don't want to take all the credit because it wasn't just me making an impact on the field. A lot of this is from the supporting cast."

The Panthers had a league-best 10 players selected to the Pro Bowl: linebacker **THOMAS DAVIS** (1st), Kalil (5th), Kuechly (3rd), Newton (3rd), cornerback **JOSH NORMAN** (1st), tight end **GREG OLSEN** (2nd), defensive tackle **KAWANN SHORT** (1st), running back **JONATHAN STEWART** (1st), fullback **MIKE TOLBERT** (2nd) & guard **TRAI TURNER** (1st).

Carolina led the NFL with 39 takeaways, 24 interceptions and a +20 turnover differential during the regular season. Including the playoffs, the Panthers recorded an NFL-best six interception-return touchdowns, including a league-high three by Kuechly. Kuechly had interception-return touchdowns against Seattle in the Divisional Playoffs and versus Arizona in the NFC Championship Game, becoming the first player in league history with an INT-TD in back-to-back games in a single postseason.

"We play together as a group and that is who we are," says Davis, who was the only player in the NFL last season with at least four sacks (5.5) and four interceptions (four) during the regular season. "This is what we're capable of and we can truly dominate football games."



THE PATRIOT WAY

The New England Patriots finished 12-4 in 2015, earning the No. 2 seed in the AFC and their seventh consecutive AFC East division title, tying the Los Angeles Rams (1973-79) for the longest such streak in NFL history.

TEAM	YEARS	CONSECUTIVE FIRST-PLACE FINISHES
Los Angeles Rams	1973-1979	7
<i>New England Patriots</i>	<i>2009-2015</i>	<i>7*</i>
Cleveland Browns	1950-1955	6
Dallas Cowboys	1966-1971	6
Minnesota Vikings	1973-1978	6
Pittsburgh Steelers	1974-1979	6

*Active

New England, which also won five consecutive division titles from 2003-07, became the first team in NFL history to win 12 division championships in a 13-year span.

“That’s what you start with, winning your division,” says New England’s **TOM BRADY**, who has led New England to 13 division titles, the most of any starting quarterback in NFL history. “We talk about that every year.”

In 2015, the Patriots advanced to the AFC Championship Game for the fifth consecutive season, joining the Oakland Raiders (1973-77) as the only teams to reach five conference championship games in a row.



New England is one of two franchises in NFL history (1970s Pittsburgh Steelers) to win four Super Bowls with the same owner (ROBERT KRAFT), head coach (BILL BELICHICK) and quarterback (Brady), as the franchise has enjoyed an incredible run of success since Kraft purchased the team in 1994.

“To be able to maintain that kind of consistent excellence is a rare thing in any field, including on the football field,” said President **BARACK OBAMA** during a ceremony at The White House to honor the Patriots’ Super Bowl XLIX victory. “There’s the ‘Patriot Way’ – a group that values teamwork and hard work above all else. They have set a standard for excellence that we may not see again for a very long time.”

The 2015 season marked the 13th consecutive year in which New England won at least 10 games, a streak that dates back to 2003 and trails only the San Francisco 49ers (16, 1983-1998) for the longest such streak in NFL annals.

The teams with the most consecutive seasons with 10+ regular-season wins in NFL history:

TEAM	YEARS	CONSECUTIVE SEASONS WITH 10+ WINS
San Francisco 49ers	1983-1998	16
<i>New England Patriots</i>	<i>2003-2015</i>	<i>13*</i>
Indianapolis Colts	2002-2010	9

*Active

The 2015 Patriots had seven players selected to the Pro Bowl: quarterback Brady (11th), tight end **ROB GRONKOWSKI** (fourth, above left), defensive end **CHANDLER JONES** (first), linebacker **JAMIE COLLINS** (first), cornerback **MALCOLM BUTLER** (first), kicker **STEPHEN GOSTKOWSKI** (fourth) and special teamer **MATTHEW SLATER** (fifth).





SEATTLE SEAHAWKS: LEGION OF BOOM

The Seattle Seahawks have advanced to the playoffs in each of the past four seasons, including two Super Bowl appearances and a win in Super Bowl XLVIII.

A big part of the team's success has been Seattle's defense, which has led the NFL in points allowed in each of those four seasons.

"To go four straight years leading the league in scoring defense, that's a remarkable accomplishment by a bunch of guys dedicated to the program," says Seahawks head coach **PETE CARROLL**. "It's hard to do things over a long period of time that well. That's a great stat and of all the stats, that's the one that demonstrates the most. That's why we're so proud of that."



YEAR	POINTS ALLOWED	POINTS ALLOWED/GAME
2012	245	15.3
2013	231	14.4
2014	254	15.9
2015	277	17.3

"Defense wins championships," says Seahawks Pro Bowl safety **KAM CHANCELLOR** (above right), one of the members of Seattle's vaunted 'Legion of Boom' secondary. "We're working our hardest to get back to the Super Bowl. We're more focused and more driven than ever. We're hungry."



Seattle's success on defense has come from a combination of talent and intelligence along with hard work and preparation.

"I'm incredibly proud," says Seahawks All-Star cornerback **RICHARD SHERMAN** (far left). "It's a big deal. That takes a tremendous amount of consistency and diligence from every position group. It's a testament to how hard guys work and how guys prepare every week."

"It's just us playing our style of football. We never stop being grinders and we never stop playing that way. We're not just All-Pro players, we're All-Pro minds."

The Seahawks are only the second team in NFL history to lead the league in points allowed in four consecutive seasons. The 1953-57 Cleveland Browns are the only other team to accomplish the feat.

"We recognize that what we're doing right now is pretty good," says Seattle Pro Bowl linebacker **BOBBY WAGNER**. "Our job is to keep that going. If we put a couple more championships up there, then people should consider us with the great defenses of all-time."

And that's the goal for the Seahawks, who will enter the 2016 season looking to shut down opposing offenses on their way to another Super Bowl appearance.

"This team is all about making history," says Seattle Pro Bowl safety **EARL THOMAS** (above left, on right).

TEAM	YEAR	POINTS ALLOWED	POINTS ALLOWED/GAME
Cleveland	1953	162	13.5
	1954	162	13.5
	1955	217	18.2
	1956	177	14.8
	1957	172	14.3
Seattle	2012	245	15.3
	2013	231	14.4
	2014	254	15.9
	2015	277	17.3

TURNOVERS ARE KEY TO VICTORY

What is one of the keys to success in the NFL? Winning the turnover battle certainly ranks high on the list.

“It’s all about the number of possessions,” says NFL Network analyst and former NFL head coach **STEVE MARIUCCI** about the importance of turnovers. “It’s about possession time, clock time and the number of chances to score points. It’s quite evident that if you lose the turnover battle, then you lose a very high percentage of those games.”

Last season, six of the top seven teams in net turnover differential – **CAROLINA (+20)**, **KANSAS CITY (+14)**, **CINCINNATI (+11)**, **ARIZONA (+9)**, **NEW ENGLAND (+7)** and **SEATTLE (+7)** – made the playoffs and combined for a 73-23 record (.760).

TEAM	TOTAL TAKEAWAYS	TOTAL GIVEAWAYS	NET DIFFERENTIAL	RECORD
Carolina*	39	19	+20	15-1
Kansas City*	29	15	+14	11-5
Cincinnati*	28	17	+11	12-4
Arizona*	33	24	+9	13-3
New England*	21	14	+7	12-4
New York Giants	28	21	+7	6-10
Seattle*	23	16	+7	10-6

*Qualified for playoffs

“Forcing a turnover is an impact play,” says Panthers head coach **RON RIVERA**, whose team led the NFL last season with a +20 turnover differential. “It gets your offense back on the field and it swings momentum.”

Last year, the NFC champion Panthers (+20) tied for the highest turnover differential of any of the previous 10 Super Bowl participating teams (Seattle, Super Bowl XLVIII). Carolina’s +20 turnover differential also tied for the fifth-best margin by any team to reach the Super Bowl in NFL history.

SEASON	TEAM	SUPER BOWL	NET DIFFERENTIAL
1983	Washington	XVIII	+43
2000	Baltimore*	XXXV	+23
1985	Chicago*	XX	+23
1981	San Francisco*	XVI	+23
2015	Carolina	50	+20
2013	Seattle*	XLVIII	+20
1998	Atlanta	XXXIII	+20
1990	New York Giants*	XXV	+20

*Won Super Bowl

The Chiefs, who ranked second in the league in 2015 with a +14 net turnover differential, won 11 consecutive games last season and posted a +20 net turnover differential during their winning streak.

“Turnovers can be demoralizing to the opposing team, especially when points are scored as a result of them,” says Kansas City head coach **ANDY REID**. “It can be a real momentum swing during the course of the game.”



TIGHT ENDS ON THE RISE

NFL tight ends have been performing at an historic level and the 2015 season was no different. Last year, tight ends recorded the most catches (2,518) and receiving yards (27,553) in a single season for the position. Tight ends also caught 211 touchdowns, the third-most in a single season.

SINGLE-SEASON TIGHT END RECORDS

YEAR	CATCHES	YEAR	REC. YARDS	YEAR	TD CATCHES
2015	2,518	2015	27,553	2013	236
2012	2,401	2013	27,284	2014	216
2013	2,384	2011	27,080	2015	211
2011	2,341	2012	26,197	2011	198
2014	2,322	2014	25,657	2012	197



"I've never seen this many tight ends this good at one particular time," says Pro Football Hall of Famer **SHANNON SHARPE**, one of eight tight ends enshrined in Canton. "We've never seen the position this dominant. This is the golden age of tight ends."

Last season, four tight ends – New England's **ROB GRONKOWSKI** (1,176), Carolina's **GREG OLSEN** (1,104), Tennessee's **DELANIE WALKER** (1,088, left) and Cleveland's **GARY BARNIDGE** (1,043) – surpassed the 1,000-yard mark, the most tight ends with 1,000+ yards in a single season in NFL history.

SEASON	MOST TIGHT ENDS WITH 1,000+ YARDS IN SINGLE SEASON
2015	4
2009	3
2007	3
1981	3
Many tied	2

Cincinnati's **TYLER EIFERT** (13), Gronkowski (11) and Washington's **JORDAN REED** (11) caught at least 10 touchdowns each in 2015, tied for the second-most tight ends with 10+ TD catches in a single season in NFL history (2014, four).

SEASON	MOST TIGHT ENDS WITH 10+ TDs IN SINGLE SEASON
2014	4
2015	3
2013	3
2010	3
2009	3
1996	3
1967	3

Eifert's 13 touchdowns were tied for the third-most in a single season by a tight end, trailing only Gronkowski's 17 in 2011 and **JIMMY GRAHAM**'s 16 in 2013.

PLAYER	TEAM	SEASON	MOST TD CATCHES BY TIGHT END IN SINGLE SEASON
Rob Gronkowski	New England	2011	17
Jimmy Graham	New Orleans	2013	16
Tyler Eifert	Cincinnati	2015	13
Vernon Davis	San Francisco	2013	13
Vernon Davis	San Francisco	2009	13
Antonio Gates	San Diego	2004	13

JASON WITTEN (1,020) of the Dallas Cowboys became the second tight end in NFL history to reach 1,000 career receptions (TONY GONZALEZ, 1,325) and the youngest tight end to reach the milestone (33 years, 215 days old).

TIGHT END	TEAMS	MOST CAREER RECEPTIONS BY TIGHT END
Tony Gonzalez	Kansas City, Atlanta	1,325
Jason Witten*	Dallas	1,020

*Active

GOOD THINGS COME IN PAIRS

What's better than having a great running back on your team? Having two.

"When you have two or three different guys involved running the football over the course of a game, I think the benefits are many," says Dallas Cowboys head coach **JASON GARRETT**. "There's a freshness that each of those guys has. Maybe they have different styles. They can attack defenses in different ways and they're just more versatile than one guy might be."

Last season, 13 clubs boasted two running backs with at least 400 rushing yards each, including eight of the 12 playoff teams – **ARIZONA, CINCINNATI, DENVER, GREEN BAY, KANSAS CITY, PITTSBURGH, SEATTLE** and **WASHINGTON**. Despite the proliferation of the passing game, teams have continued to rely on different options in the backfield to gain an advantage.



The Cardinals led the NFL in total offense in 2015 with 408.3 yards per game, including 119.8 rushing yards per game. Led by veteran running back **CHRIS JOHNSON** (814 rushing yards) (far right) and rookie running back **DAVID JOHNSON** (581) (right), Arizona (13-3) won nine of its last 10 regular-season games and reached the NFC Championship Game.

"We've been doing this for three years to form a two-back package," says Cardinals head coach **BRUCE ARIANS**. "We're going to continue with the package because they all bring such dynamic passing game stuff, and obviously they can run."

The teams that employed two running backs with at least 400 rushing yards each in 2015:

TEAM	RUNNING BACK	YARDS	RUNNING BACK	YARDS
Arizona	Chris Johnson	814	David Johnson*	581
Baltimore	Justin Forsett	641	Javorius Allen*	514
Buffalo	LeSean McCoy	895	Karlos Williams*	517
Chicago	Matt Forté	898	Jeremy Langford*	537
Cincinnati	Jeremy Hill	794	Giovani Bernard	730
Denver	Ronnie Hillman	863	C.J. Anderson	720
Green Bay	Eddie Lacy	758	James Starks	601
Kansas City	Charcandrick West	634	Spencer Ware	403
Philadelphia	DeMarco Murray	702	Ryan Mathews	539
Pittsburgh	DeAngelo Williams	907	Le'Veon Bell	556
Seattle	Thomas Rawls*	830	Marshawn Lynch	417
Tampa Bay	Doug Martin	1,402	Charles Sims	529
Washington	Alfred Morris	751	Matt Jones*	490

*Rookie



Buffalo's tandem of Pro Bowl running back **LE SEAN MC COY** (895) (left) and rookie running back **KARLOS WILLIAMS** (517) (far left) helped the Bills lead the NFL in rushing last season with 152.0 rushing yards per game.

"I think that was one of the main reasons we led the league in rushing," says Buffalo head coach **REX RYAN** about the Bills' running backs. "It was the talent that we had at running back. When you look at the positives, this is a real positive thing. We were able to lead the league in rushing and rushing average with a stable of backs we feel really good about moving forward."

Four of the top six teams – Buffalo, Seattle, Tampa Bay and Kansas City – in rushing yards per game had two running backs with at least 400 rushing yards last season.

TEAM	MOST RUSHING YARDS PER GAME LAST SEASON
Buffalo	152.0
Carolina	142.6
Seattle	141.8
Minnesota	138.2
Tampa Bay	135.1
Kansas City	127.8

TOP SUPERLATIVE? RUN THE BALL

A tough, reliable running game allows an offense to command a game's pace. In the majority of contests, it can also control the game's result.

In 2015, NFL teams with a 100-yard rusher in a game posted a 73-23 record for a .760 winning percentage. That rated higher than clubs with a 100-yard receiver (120-96, .556) or a 300-yard passer (69-63, .522).

Minnesota Vikings running back **ADRIAN PETERSON** (right) led the NFL in rushing (1,485 yards) for the third time in his career. The Vikings were 7-0 last year in games when Peterson rushed for more than 100 yards. In 2016, Peterson will look to continue to be the focal point of the Minnesota attack.



"I appreciate everything he does for us," says Vikings head coach **MIKE ZIMMER** about Peterson. "His leadership, the way he comes out to practice and the way he prepares. Everything. I'm impressed with him and the way he does things all the time."

Over the past five years, teams have compiled a 381-152-5 record (.713) when a player has eclipsed the 100-yard rushing mark. By comparison, clubs with a 100-yard receiver have a .553 winning percentage (508-410-2), while offenses with a 300-yard passer have won 52.7 percent of their games (326-293-1).

The winning percentage of teams with a 100-yard rusher, 100-yard receiver or 300-yard passer over the past five seasons:

100-YARD RUSHERS		
YEAR	W-L	WIN PCT
2011	90-38	.703
2012	83-35-1	.702
2013	60-33-2	.642
2014	75-23-2	.760
2015	73-23	.760
Total	381-152-5	.713

100-YARD RECEIVERS		
YEAR	W-L	WIN PCT
2011	93-80	.538
2012	92-78-1	.541
2013	98-82	.544
2014	105-74-1	.586
2015	120-96	.556
Total	508-410-2	.553

300-YARD PASSERS		
YEAR	W-L	WIN PCT
2011	66-55	.545
2012	61-65	.484
2013	60-58	.508
2014	70-52-1	.573
2015	69-63	.522
Total	326-293-1	.527

FOURTH-AND-ONE

In fourth-and-one situations, the offense or defense must not only overpower its opponent but also outsmart it in order to retain or gain possession. It is an art that must be studied for mastery.



"Something big is going to happen," says NFL Network analyst and former NFL head coach **BRIAN BILLICK**. "Either you're going to convert in a crucial situation that keeps a drive alive or you get stopped. It's either a huge emotional lift for your team or a huge emotional drain."

The Oakland Raiders converted all five of their fourth-and-one situations last season, finishing as the only team with a perfect mark in the category (minimum five attempts) for a second consecutive season. The Seattle Seahawks, Green Bay Packers and Atlanta Falcons all converted six of their seven fourth-and-one conversions, tying for second in the league with an 85.7 percent success rate.

The teams with the most attempts and the best efficiency rate on fourth-and-one last season:

MOST ATTEMPTS, FOURTH-AND-ONE			
TEAM	ATT	CONV	PCT
Baltimore	8	6	75.0
New England	8	5	62.5
Tampa Bay	8	4	50.0
Many Tied	7	—	—

MOST EFFICIENT, FOURTH-AND-ONE (MIN. 5 ATTEMPTS)			
TEAM	ATT	CONV	PCT
Oakland	5	5	100.0
Seattle	7	6	85.7
Green Bay	7	6	85.7
Atlanta	7	6	85.7
Philadelphia	6	5	83.3

THIRD-DOWN CONVERSIONS



Excelling on third down extends drives and keeps your opponent off the field, which can be an important factor in winning games.

Last season, six playoff teams converted at least 40 percent of their third-down attempts – Arizona (47.0 percent), Seattle (46.5), Washington (43.5), Carolina (42.4), New England (40.9) and Cincinnati (40.3).

“The ability to convert keeps us going on offense and gets us those opportunities we always talk about,” says Seahawks head coach **PETE CARROLL** (left, with Seahawks quarterback Russell Wilson). “It helps us in the red zone as well. It gets us another shot at making the touchdown play come to life, whether it’s a run or a pass.”

The six playoff teams which converted at least 40 percent of their third-down attempts in 2015:

TEAM	3RD DOWN ATT	3RD DOWN CONV	3RD DOWN PCT
Arizona	198	93	47.0
Seattle	213	99	46.5
Washington	216	94	43.5
Carolina	203	86	42.4
New England	215	88	40.9
Cincinnati	201	81	40.3

SUPER BOWL TROPHY BY THE NUMBERS

Immediately following a Super Bowl victory, the winner is presented with the **VINCE LOMBARDI TROPHY**.

“Tiffany & Co. creates many of the world’s greatest championship trophies, and the Vince Lombardi trophy is certainly one of them,” says **VICTORIA WIRTH REYNOLDS**, group director of business sales at Tiffany & Co., the trophy’s manufacturer. “Made by Tiffany artisans, who use age-old silversmithing techniques from the 1800’s, the Vince Lombardi Trophy is a lasting tribute to the athletes’ dedication and goal of greatness.”

After the trophy is presented, it is then returned to Tiffany & Co. for any repairs and the engraving of the Super Bowl team names and the final score onto the base. It then goes back to the winning team for permanent possession.

The particulars of the Vince Lombardi Trophy:



Weight	7 pounds
Height	22 inches
Man-hours To Complete	72
Made of	Sterling silver *
Year Designed	1967
First Sketched On	A napkin
Sketched By	Oscar Riedener **
Crafted by	Hand
Made In	Cumberland, RI
Made By	Tiffany
Value	Priceless per 32 NFL teams
Sought Yearly By	1,700 players ***

*Including nuts and bolts. ** Former Tiffany VP of design. ***At least.

THE PLAYERS - PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE



WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN 2016

DREW BREES (below), New Orleans, needs 459 passing yards to surpass Dan Marino (61,361) for the third-most all-time. In 15 seasons, Brees has 60,903 passing yards.

Brees can extend his NFL record streak of consecutive seasons with at least 30 touchdown passes. Brees has passed for at least 30 touchdowns in each of the past eight seasons.

Brees can become the first player to lead the league in passing yards seven times in his career. Sonny Jurgensen (5) and Dan Marino (5) are tied for the second-most such seasons in NFL history. Brees has led the NFL in passing yards six times.



Brees needs two 400-yard passing games to surpass Peyton Manning (14) for the most all-time. In 15 seasons, Brees has 13 400-yard passing games.

Brees can extend his NFL record of 300-yard passing games. In 15 seasons, Brees has 96 300-yard passing games.

Brees has led the league in touchdown passes four times in his career and can become the only player to lead the league in touchdown passes five times (see Brady note).

Brees has led the league in completions four times and can join Dan Marino (6) and Sammy Baugh (5) as the only players to lead the league in completions at least five times.

Brees has led the league in pass attempts three times in his career and can join Dan Marino (5) Sammy Baugh (4), Johnny Unitas (4) and George Blanda (4) as the only players to lead the league in attempts at least four times.

TOM BRADY, New England, needs seven wins to surpass Peyton Manning (200) and Brett Favre (199) for the most overall (regular season and postseason) wins by a quarterback in NFL history. In 16 seasons, Brady has 194 overall wins.

Brady needs 3,334 passing yards to surpass Dan Marino (61,361) for the third-most all-time. In 16 seasons, Brady has 58,028 passing yards (see Brees note).

Brady has led the league in touchdown passes four times in his career and can become the only player to lead the league in touchdown passes five times (see Brees note).

ELI MANNING (right), New York Giants, needs six touchdown passes to become the eighth player in NFL history to reach 300 career touchdown passes. In 12 seasons, Manning has 294 touchdown passes (see Palmer, Rivers, Roethlisberger and Rodgers note).

PHILIP RIVERS, San Diego, has led the league in average yards per pass three times in his career and can join Steve Young (5) and Sid Luckman (7) as the only players in NFL history to do so in at least four seasons.

Rivers needs seven 400-yard passing games to surpass Peyton Manning (14) for the most all-time. In 12 seasons, Rivers has eight 400-yard passing games (see Brees, Palmer and Roethlisberger note).

Rivers needs 19 touchdown passes to become the eighth player in NFL history to reach 300 career touchdown passes. In 12 seasons, Rivers has 281 touchdown passes (see Manning, Palmer, Roethlisberger and Rodgers note).



CARSON PALMER (left), Arizona, needs seven 400-yard passing games to surpass Peyton Manning (14) for the most all-time. In 13 seasons, Palmer has eight 400-yard passing games (see Brees, Rivers and Roethlisberger note).

Palmer needs 41 touchdown passes to become the eighth player in NFL history to reach 300 career touchdown passes. In 13 seasons, Palmer has 259 touchdown passes (see Manning, Rivers, Roethlisberger and Rodgers note).

BEN ROETHLISBERGER, Pittsburgh, needs seven 400-yard passing games to surpass Peyton Manning (14) for the most all-time. In 12 seasons, Roethlisberger has eight 400-yard passing games (see Brees, Palmer and Rivers note).

Roethlisberger needs 28 touchdown passes to become the eighth player in NFL history to reach 300 career touchdown passes. In 12 seasons, Roethlisberger has 272 touchdown passes (see Manning, Palmer, Rivers and Rodgers note).

AARON RODGERS, Green Bay, needs 43 touchdown passes to become the eighth player in NFL history to reach 300 career touchdown passes. In 11 seasons, Rodgers has 257 touchdown passes (see Manning, Palmer, Rivers and Roethlisberger note).



ADRIAN PETERSON (left), Minnesota, needs 10 rushing touchdowns to join LaDainian Tomlinson (9) as the only players in NFL history to rush for 10 touchdowns in at least nine different seasons. Peterson is currently tied with Emmitt Smith (8).

Peterson has six 200-yard rushing games, tied with O.J. Simpson (6) for the most all-time. Peterson needs one 200-yard rushing game to move into sole possession of first place in NFL history.

Peterson needs three rushing touchdowns to become the ninth player in NFL history with 100 rushing touchdowns. In nine seasons, Peterson has 97 rushing touchdowns.

Peterson needs 2,010 rushing yards to surpass LaDainian Tomlinson (13,684) for the fifth-most all-time. In nine seasons, Peterson has 11,675 rushing yards.

Peterson has led the league in rushing yards three times in his career and can become the sixth player to lead the league in rushing yards four times.

FRANK GORE (right), Indianapolis, needs 1,000 rushing yards to join Curtis Martin (10), Barry Sanders (10), Walter Payton and Emmitt Smith (11) as the only players in NFL history to rush for 1,000 yards in at least nine different seasons. In 11 seasons, Gore has rushed for 1,000 yards eight times.



LARRY FITZGERALD, Arizona, needs 85 receptions to surpass Jason Witten (1,020), Isaac Bruce (1,024), Andre Johnson (1,053), Reggie Wayne (1,070), Terrell Owens (1,078), Tim Brown (1,094), Cris Carter (1,101) and Marvin Harrison (1,102) for the third-most all-time. In 12 seasons, Fitzgerald has 1,018 receptions (see Witten note).

Fitzgerald needs two touchdown receptions to become the 10th player in NFL history with 100 touchdown catches. In 12 seasons, Fitzgerald has 98 touchdown receptions.

BRANDON MARSHALL, New York Jets, can extend his NFL record of seasons with 100 receptions to seven. Andre Johnson and Wes Welker are the only other players with at least five 100-reception seasons.



ANTONIO GATES (left), San Diego, needs eight touchdown receptions to surpass Tony Gonzalez (111) for the most career touchdown receptions by a tight end. In 13 seasons, Gates has 104 touchdown receptions.

ROB GRONKOWSKI, New England, has three seasons with at least 1,000 receiving yards and can join Tony Gonzalez (4) and Jason Witten (4) as the only tight ends with at least four seasons with 1,000 receiving yards.

Gronkowski can extend his NFL record of five seasons with at least 10 touchdown receptions by a tight end.

JASON WITTEN, Dallas, needs 83 receptions to surpass Isaac Bruce (1,024), Andre Johnson (1,053), Reggie Wayne (1,070), Terrell Owens (1,078), Tim Brown (1,094), Cris Carter (1,101) and Marvin Harrison (1,102) for the third-most all-time. In 13 seasons, Witten has 1,020 receptions (see Fitzgerald note).

JULIUS PEPPERS (right), Green Bay, needs 14 sacks to become the fourth player with 150 sacks since the sack became an official statistic in 1982. In 14 seasons, Peppers has 136 sacks.

DE MARCUS WARE, Denver, has led the league in sacks twice in his career and can become the first player to lead the league three times since the sack became an official statistic in 1982 (see Watt note).

Ware needs 7.5 sacks to surpass Jared Allen (136), Julius Peppers (136), Richard Dent (137.5), John Randle (137.5), Jason Taylor (139.5) and Michael Strahan (141.5) for the fifth-most sacks since the sack became an official statistic in 1982. In 11 seasons, Ware has 134.5 sacks.

J.J. WATT, Houston, can increase his NFL record total of 20-sack seasons. In five seasons, Watt has two seasons with 20 sacks.



Watt has led the league in sacks twice in his career and can become the first player to lead the league three times since the sack became an official statistic in 1982 (see Ware note).

AQIB TALIB, Denver, needs two interception-return touchdowns to become the fourth player with 10 all-time. In eight seasons, Talib has eight interception-return touchdowns.

ADAM VINATIERI, Indianapolis, needs 36 field goals to surpass Gary Anderson (538) for the second-most all-time. In 20 seasons, Vinatieri has 503 field goals.

Vinatieri needs 44 field goal attempts to surpass George Blanda (641) for the third-most attempted field goals all-time. In 20 seasons, Vinatieri has 598 field goal attempts.

Vinatieri needs 182 points to surpass Gary Anderson (2,434) for the second-most points scored all-time. In 20 seasons, Vinatieri has 2,253 points (742-pat, 503-fg, 1 2-pt).



STEPHEN GOSTKOWSKI, New England, has led the league in scoring five times in his career and can surpass Don Hutson (5) and Gino Cappelletti (5) as the only player to lead the league in points scored at least six times.

Gostkowski has led the league in scoring for four consecutive seasons (2012-15) and can join Don Hutson (5) as the only players to lead the league in scoring for five consecutive seasons.

Gostkowski has led the league in field goals three times in his career and can join Lou Groza (5), Ward Cuff (4), Jack Manders (4) and Mark Moseley (4) as the only players to lead the league in field goals at least four times.

SEBASTIAN JANIKOWSKI (left), Oakland, has 52 50-yard field goals, tied with Jason Hanson (52) for the most all-time. Janikowski needs one 50-yard field goal to move into sole possession of first place in NFL history.



Tom Brady



Ben Roethlisberger



Aaron Rodgers



Jason Witten



J.J. Watt



DeMarcus Ware



CAM NEWTON: SUPER CAM



Carolina Pro Bowl quarterback **CAM NEWTON** led the Panthers to a franchise-record 15 wins – one of only seven teams in NFL history to win at least 15 regular-season games – and a berth in Super Bowl 50 last season. The Panthers topped the NFL in scoring with 500 points and 59 touchdowns – both club records – and Newton led the NFL with 45 total touchdowns.

Newton became the first player in league history to pass for at least 30 touchdowns (35) and rush for at least 10 touchdowns (10) in the same season and was named the NFL's Offensive Player of the Year and the league's Most Valuable Player.

"It means so much, but not just for myself," says Newton about winning the NFL MVP award. "To be the first person in Panthers history to win it, that's what I'm most proud of. I've received a lot of awards but to be able to get it for this organization, I'm really proud. It took years of hard work and dedication and now we are reaping the benefits."

In his career, Newton has 117 touchdown passes and 43 rushing touchdowns and is the only quarterback in league history with at least 100 touchdown passes and 25 rushing touchdowns in his first five seasons.

YEAR	GAMES	PASS TD	RUSH TD	TOTAL TD
2011	16	21	14	35
2012	16	19	8	27
2013	16	24	6	30
2014	14	18	5	23
2015	16	35	10	45
TOTAL	78	117	43	160

Last season, Newton had seven games in which he recorded both a touchdown pass and a rushing touchdown. He has 31 such games in his career, tied with Pro Football Hall of Famer STEVE YOUNG for the most in NFL history.

Newton passed for 3,837 yards and rushed for 636 yards and is the only player in NFL history with at least 3,000 passing yards and 500 rushing yards in five different seasons. In his career, Newton has 21,470 combined passing (18,263) and rushing yards (3,207), the highest total in a player's first five seasons in NFL history.

YEAR	GAMES	PASS YARDS	RUSH YARDS	TOTAL YARDS
2011	16	4,051	706	4,757
2012	16	3,869	741	4,610
2013	16	3,379	585	3,964
2014	14	3,127	539	3,666
2015	16	3,837	636	4,473
TOTAL	78	18,263	3,207	21,470

Newton was named the NFC Offensive Player of the Week five times (Weeks 9, 11, 13, 15 and 17) in 2015. He joined **TOM BRADY** (2007) as the only players to be named Player of the Week five times in a single season. Newton is the only player in league history to win five Player of the Week Awards in a nine-week span within a season.

Newton passed for five touchdowns in a game three times last year, including a Week 15 performance in which he became the first player in NFL history with at least 300 passing yards (340), 100 rushing yards (100) and five touchdown passes (five) in a single game.

WEEK	DATE	OPP	ATT	COMP	PCT	YARDS	TD	INT	RATING	RESULT
11	11/22/15	Was	34	21	61.8	246	5	0	123.3	Won 44-16
13	12/6/15	at NO	41	28	68.3	331	5	1	122.1	Won 41-38
15	12/20/15	at NYG	45	25	55.6	340	5	0	116.9	Won 38-35

In the NFC Championship Game, Newton led Carolina to a 49-15 victory to earn a berth in Super Bowl 50. In that contest, he became the first player in NFL history to pass for at least 300 yards (335) and rush for multiple TDs (two) in a playoff game.

"He's the only quarterback in the league who can make some of these plays," says Panthers Pro Bowl tight end **GREG OLSEN**. "That sums him up. He's a special guy. What more can you say?"



TOM BRADY: IN RARE COMPANY



Last season, Pro Bowl quarterback **TOM BRADY** guided the New England Patriots to the AFC Championship Game for the fifth consecutive season and became the first starting quarterback in NFL history to win 13 division championships.

“Tom has meant a lot to us since he’s been here,” says Patriots head coach **BILL BELICHICK**, who has combined with Brady for the most regular-season wins (172) by a quarterback-head coach duo in NFL history. “He started winning playoff games the first year he really got a chance to participate in them. Tom is a great competitor. He’s our leader and we all follow him, we all respect him. There’s no quarterback I’d rather have than Tom Brady.”

Brady, a two-time NFL MVP, has a 172-51 (.771) career regular-season record, the best winning percentage of any NFL quarterback in the Super Bowl era with at least 100 starts. Brady’s 172 career regular-season wins are the third-most among starting quarterbacks in NFL history.



“Quarterbacking is artwork and Tom Brady is the ultimate artist,” says Pro Football Hall of Fame quarterback **STEVE YOUNG**.

Brady’s star has always shined the brightest during the playoffs. He is the all-time postseason leader in career completions (738), touchdowns (56), passing yards (7,957) and wins by a starting quarterback (22).

The starting quarterbacks with the most playoff wins in NFL history:

QUARTERBACK	TEAM(S)	PLAYOFF WINS
Tom Brady*	New England	22
Joe Montana	San Francisco, Kansas City	16
Terry Bradshaw	Pittsburgh	14
John Elway	Denver	14
Peyton Manning	Indianapolis, Denver	14

*Active

Brady, who is tied with **DREW BREES** for third in NFL history with 428 career touchdown passes, approaches his 17th season with the same determination as when he entered the league as a sixth-round selection in the 2000 NFL Draft. In 2016, Brady and Brees can join **PEYTON MANNING** (539) and **BRETT FAVRE** (508) as the only players in NFL history with 450 career touchdown passes.

MOST CAREER TD PASSES

Peyton Manning	539
Brett Favre	508
Tom Brady*	428
Drew Brees*	428
Dan Marino	420

*Active

Brady also ranks fifth in NFL history with 58,028 career passing yards and needs 1,972 to join Manning, Favre, Pro Football Hall of Famer **DAN MARINO** and Brees as the only players to reach 60,000 passing yards.

MOST CAREER PASSING YARDS

Peyton Manning	71,940
Brett Favre	71,838
Dan Marino	61,361
Drew Brees*	60,903
Tom Brady*	58,028

*Active



DREW BREES: COOL BREES

New Orleans Pro Bowl quarterback **DREW BREES** led the NFL with 4,870 passing yards in 2015 and became the first player to lead the league in passing yards six different times. Brees, who has led the NFL in passing yards in 2006, 2008, 2011-12 and 2014-15, is one of only six players all-time to lead the league in passing yards in at least four seasons – the other five quarterbacks to accomplish the feat are all members of the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

MOST SEASONS LEADING LEAGUE IN PASSING YARDS

PLAYER	TEAM(S)	SEASONS
Drew Brees	New Orleans	6*
Sonny Jurgensen	Philadelphia, Washington	5
Dan Marino	Miami	5
Sammy Baugh	Washington	4
Johnny Unitas	Baltimore	4
Dan Fouts	San Diego	4

*Active

“I love this game and I want to play it for as long as I can,” says Brees. “When all is said and done, we can look back and talk about records, but for now, it’s about winning. It’s about trying to find a way to win a championship.”

Last year, Brees recorded his seventh career 4,500-yard passing season, the most in NFL history. It also marked his sixth consecutive season with at least 4,500 passing yards, also the most in league annals.

MOST SEASONS WITH 4,500+ PASSING YARDS

PLAYER	TEAM(S)	SEASONS
Drew Brees	New Orleans	7*
Peyton Manning	Indianapolis, Denver	6
Tom Brady	New England	4*
Matt Ryan	Atlanta	4*
Philip Rivers	San Diego	3*
Matthew Stafford	Detroit	3*

*Active



Brees had 10 games with at least 300 passing yards last season and has 96 such games in his career, the most in NFL history.

MOST GAMES WITH 300+ PASSING YARDS

PLAYER	TEAM(S)	300-YARD GAMES
Drew Brees	San Diego, New Orleans	96*
Peyton Manning	Indianapolis, Denver	93
Tom Brady	New England	71*
Dan Marino	Miami	63
Brett Favre	Green Bay, Minnesota	62

*Active

Entering the 2016 season, Brees ranks fourth in NFL history with 60,903 passing yards.

PLAYER	TEAM(S)	SEASONS	PASSING YARDS
Peyton Manning	Indianapolis, Denver	1998-2015	71,940
Brett Favre	Atlanta, Green Bay, NY Jets, Minnesota	1991-2010	71,838
Dan Marino	Miami	1983-99	61,361
Drew Brees	San Diego, New Orleans	2001-15	60,903*
Tom Brady	New England	2000-15	58,028*

*Active

Brees has 428 career touchdown passes, tied with **TOM BRADY** for the third-most in NFL history and trailing only **PEYTON MANNING** (539) and **BRETT FAVRE** (508). Brees threw 32 touchdown passes last season, extending his NFL-record streak to eight consecutive seasons with at least 30 touchdown passes.



RUSSELL WILSON: IN RUSS WE TRUST

Seattle quarterback **RUSSELL WILSON** has led the Seahawks to the postseason in each of his four seasons, including two Super Bowl appearances and a victory in Super Bowl XLVIII. Wilson, who has started all 64 games since entering the league as a third-round draft selection (No. 75 overall) in 2012, has been selected to the Pro Bowl in all four seasons, including winning Offensive MVP honors at the 2016 Pro Bowl. He has compiled an overall record of 53-21 (.716) in his career (including the playoffs) and his 53 total wins and 46 regular-season wins are the most ever by a quarterback in his first four seasons to begin a career.

“He’s so special,” says Seattle head coach **PETE CARROLL** about Wilson. “He’s just a tremendous competitor.”



Last season, Wilson led the NFL with a 110.1 passer rating as he completed 329 of 483 passes (68.1 percent) for 4,024 yards with 34 touchdowns and eight interceptions. He became the only player in NFL history with at least 4,000 passing yards (4,024), 30 touchdown passes (34) and 500 rushing yards (554) in a single season.

“Russell Wilson is unbelievable and a phenomenal quarterback,” says Seahawks wide receiver **DOUG BALDWIN**, who tied for the NFL lead with 14 touchdown receptions last season. “When he’s doing what he’s doing, it’s very hard for any team to stop him because of how good he can be.”

Wilson played his best down the stretch as he guided Seattle to wins in six of their final seven games to clinch a postseason berth. In Weeks 11-17, Wilson threw 24 touchdown passes and just one interception, becoming the first player in league history to pass for at least 24 touchdowns and have one or zero interceptions in a seven-game span within a single season. Included in that streak – from Weeks 11-15 – was a period in which Wilson became the first player in NFL history to pass for at least three touchdowns and no interceptions in five consecutive games.

“It’s a good stretch, obviously, to get wins against very tough teams,” says Wilson of his play at the end of the season. “The only thing that matters each week is going 1-0. That’s just our focus and it gives us a really good chance to be successful.”

A look at Wilson’s final seven games in the 2015 regular season:

WEEK	DATE	OPP	RESULT	ATT	COMP	PCT	YARDS	TD	INT	RATING
11	11/22/15	SF	W	29	24	82.8	260	3	0	138.5
12	11/29/15	Pit	W	30	21	70.0	345	5	0	147.9
13	12/6/15	at Min	W	27	21	77.8	274	3	0	146.0
14	12/13/15	at Bal	W	32	23	71.9	292	5	0	139.6
15	12/20/15	Cle	W	30	21	70.0	249	3	0	128.3
16	12/27/15	StL	L	41	25	61.0	289	2	1	88.4
17	1/3/16	at Az	W	28	19	67.9	197	3	0	123.7
		TOTAL	6-1	217	154	71.0	1,906	24	1	132.8

“I think a great leader is consistent every day,” says Wilson. “That’s how I try to be in terms of my work ethic on and off the field and being the first one in and the last one to leave. It’s the same thing every day. My job in playing football is to help the other 10 guys in the huddle get better. If I can do that, if I can help facilitate getting the ball to the right guy at the right time, I’m doing my job.”

Wilson has 24 career games with multiple touchdown passes and no interceptions, the most such performances by a player in his first four seasons since at least the 1970 merger.

He has seven career games with a passing touchdown, a rushing touchdown and no interceptions, the second-most by a player in his first four seasons to begin a career (CAM NEWTON, 12).



“The only thing I really care about is winning,” says Wilson. “Whatever it takes to figure out a way to help our team win. That’s my ultimate goal. I keep trusting every time that I’ll have success and keep believing that it’s going to happen in the right way for me.”

YOUNG QUARTERBACKS ON THE RISE

Young quarterbacks around the NFL are establishing themselves as stars in the making.



“One of the most astounding statistics that I’ve seen in football in the last 25 years is the amount of young quarterbacks that are playing early and playing well,” says ESPN NFL analyst and former NFL head coach **JON GRUDEN**. “They are coming into the league much more accomplished in terms of throwing the football and recognizing defenses.”

JAMEIS WINSTON (left) of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and **MARCUS MARIOTA** (below right) of the Tennessee Titans have proven that young quarterbacks can play early and succeed in today’s NFL. Winston and Mariota were selected with the first and second picks, respectively, in the 2015 NFL Draft. They started against one another in Week 1 and it marked the first time in NFL history in which the top two picks in the NFL Draft started at quarterback against one another in Week 1 of that season. The NFL has now had at least one rookie quarterback start in a Week 1 game in eight consecutive seasons, the longest streak since at least 1950.

Winston (4,042) threw for the third-most yards by a rookie in NFL history (**ANDREW LUCK**, 4,374 in 2012; **CAM NEWTON**, 4,051 in 2011). His 22 touchdown passes were tied with **CHARLIE CONERLY** (1948) for the fourth-most by a rookie in NFL history. Mariota tied **PEYTON MANNING** (1998) for the most games by a rookie with at least three touchdown passes (four) and became the first rookie in NFL history to have two games with four touchdown passes and no interceptions (Week 1 and 9).

Winston and Mariota are two of the many young quarterbacks taking the NFL by storm. Third-year quarterbacks **BLAKE BORTLES** of Jacksonville, **TEDDY BRIDGEWATER** of Minnesota and **DEREK CARR** of Oakland all hope to build on their experience entering 2016.

Last season, Bortles (35) joined Pro Football Hall of Famer **DAN MARINO** and **MATTHEW STAFFORD** as the only players in NFL history with at least 35 touchdown passes in a season at age 23 or younger.

As a rookie in 2014, Bridgewater (64.43) recorded the third-highest completion percentage in any rookie season in NFL history. Last season, he became the second quarterback in NFL history to complete at least 85 percent of his passes with four touchdowns and no interceptions and rush for a touchdown in a single game (**FRANK RYAN** on December 12, 1964).

Carr has thrown for 53 touchdowns in his first two seasons, the second-most touchdown passes in a player’s first two seasons in NFL history (Marino, 68).



A few of the rising stars at quarterback who were drafted since 2013:

QUARTERBACK, TEAM	QUOTABLE
Blake Bortles , Jacksonville	<i>“We know we have the right guy. He’s a natural leader and the players really respond to him. He is very competitive and tough-minded and those aspects continue to grow. He did some really good things last season as we put a lot on his plate – 35 touchdowns and over 4,000 passing yards. He plays with no fear.” – Jacksonville Jaguars head coach Gus Bradley</i>
Teddy Bridgewater , Minnesota	<i>“Teddy is calm through the ups and downs. He’s growing as a young quarterback. His demeanor never changes and the one thing I know is he’s always the first one in the building and the last one to leave. That resonates down through that locker room and all those guys see that. And I know our team and our coaches and myself really believe this kid is going to be something special down the road here.” – Minnesota Vikings general manager Rick Spielman</i>
Derek Carr , Oakland	<i>“I think you see all the physical ability. He’s unique in what he can do with a football and what he can do with his right arm. You saw more confidence in what he can do, and more confidence in the guys around him. You’re excited about what the future can be. I hope he continues to grow year in and year out and gets better every year because with the track that he’s on now, that bodes well for a really, really good NFL career if he can continue to grow.” – NFL Network analyst and former NFL quarterback Kurt Warner</i>
Marcus Mariota , Tennessee	<i>“I think he has a tremendous upside. He performed in an offense that was completely different than the one he ran at Oregon, and I thought he did an excellent job. Underneath the center, changing plays at the line of scrimmage, moving his football team – and he did it in a lot of adverse situations. What impressed me most was the first game he played in Tampa. He proved to me, and everybody I think, ‘This guy is the real deal.’” – ESPN NFL analyst and former NFL head coach Jon Gruden</i>
Jameis Winston , Tampa Bay	<i>“Jameis is very perceptive about not only what he needs to get better but what our offense and our team needs to get better. That’s one of the things when you’re around him more, he’s mature way beyond his years. I just learned so much about Jameis during the season – what a worker he is, how much he cares about winning and cares about his teammates. I think he can take a huge step because when you have a better idea of what to expect it’s so much easier the second time around.” – Tampa Bay Buccaneers head coach Dirk Koetter</i>



ADRIAN PETERSON: RUSHING INTO THE RECORD BOOKS

Minnesota Vikings Pro Bowl running back **ADRIAN PETERSON** led the NFL with 1,485 rushing yards in 2015 and became the third player in NFL history to lead the league in rushing after his 30th birthday. Peterson joined Pro Football Hall of Famers **MARION MOTLEY** (1950) and **CURTIS MARTIN** (2004) as the only players 30+ years old to win the rushing title.

PLAYERS TO LEAD LEAGUE IN RUSHING AT 30+ YEARS OLD

PLAYER	TEAM	SEASON	RUSH YARDS
Marion Motley	Cleveland	1950	810
Curtis Martin	N.Y. Jets	2004	1,697
Adrian Peterson	Minnesota	2015	1,485

It marked the third time Peterson has led the NFL in rushing and he is one of only eight players all-time to win the rushing title at least three times – all seven of the others to accomplish the feat are enshrined in the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

MOST SEASONS LEADING LEAGUE IN RUSHING

PLAYER	TEAM(S)	SEASONS
Jim Brown	Cleveland	8
Steve Van Buren	Philadelphia	4
O.J. Simpson	Buffalo	4
Eric Dickerson	L.A. Rams, Indianapolis	4
Emmitt Smith	Dallas	4
Barry Sanders	Detroit	4
Earl Campbell	Houston	3
Adrian Peterson	Minnesota	3*

*Active

Peterson rushed for 11 touchdowns last season, tied for the league lead, and joined Pro Football Hall of Famer **EMMITT SMITH** (eight) and **LA DAINIAN TOMLINSON** (nine) as the only players in NFL history to rush for 10 touchdowns in at least eight different seasons.

“There aren’t many like him,” says Smith, the NFL’s all-time leading rusher, about Peterson. “He has the inside running ability, the outside running ability and the breakaway speed. Plus the sheer brute strength when he needs it. And he’s tough.”

MOST SEASONS WITH 10+ RUSH TDs

PLAYER	TEAM	SEASONS
LaDainian Tomlinson	San Diego	9
Emmitt Smith	Dallas	8
Adrian Peterson	Minnesota	8*

*Active



In his career, Peterson has rushed for 11,675 yards and scored 102 touchdowns (97 rushing, five receiving). In Week 14, Peterson scored his 100th career touchdown in his 117th career game and joined Pro Football Hall of Famers **JIM BROWN** and Smith and Tomlinson as the only players in NFL history with at least 10,000 rushing yards and 100 total touchdowns in the first 117 games to begin a career.

“I appreciate everything he does for us,” says Vikings head coach **MIKE ZIMMER**. “His leadership, the way he comes out to practice and the way he prepares. Everything. I’m impressed with him and the way he does things all the time.”

In Week 10, Peterson rushed for 203 yards, his sixth career 200-yard rushing game, tied with Pro Football Hall of Famer **O.J. SIMPSON** for the most 200-yard rushing games in NFL history.

Peterson has 30 career games with at least 125 rushing yards, the sixth-most in NFL history. The only players with more are all members of the Pro Football Hall of Fame: **BARRY SANDERS** (46), Brown (41), **WALTER PAYTON** (38), **ERIC DICKERSON** (36) and Smith (34). Peterson’s 18 career games with at least 150 rushing yards are tied with Dickerson and Smith for the fourth-most in NFL history.



TODD GURLEY: ON A RAM-PAGE



Los Angeles Rams running back **TODD GURLEY** entered the NFL last season and led all rookies with 1,106 rushing yards and 10 rushing touchdowns. Gurley, who was selected by the Rams in the first round (No. 10 overall) of the 2015 NFL Draft out of Georgia, was named to the Pro Bowl and earned NFL Offensive Rookie of the Year honors.

“I keep bringing up that ‘s’ word, which is ‘special,’” says Rams head coach **JEFF FISHER** about Gurley. “He has obviously gotten a lot of people’s attention. And just wait. He’s only getting better.”

Gurley rushed for 146 yards in his first career start in Week 4 and recorded at least 125 rushing yards in each of his first four starts, the first rookie in NFL history to accomplish the feat.

“Todd Gurley is truly amazing,” says NFL Network analyst and former Pro Bowl fullback **MICHAEL ROBINSON**.

A look at Gurley’s first four career starts:

DATE	WEEK	OPPONENT	ATT.	YARDS	AVG.	LONG	TD
10/4/15	4	at Arizona	19	146	7.7	52	0
10/11/15	5	at Green Bay	30	159	5.3	55	0
10/25/15	7	Cleveland	19	128	6.7	48	2
11/1/15	8	San Francisco	20	133	6.7	71t	1

Gurley’s 566 rushing yards in his first four starts are the most by any player that began his career in the Super Bowl era (since 1966).

PLAYER	YEAR	TEAM	YARDS
Todd Gurley	2015	St. Louis	566
Billy Sims	1980	Detroit	539
Thomas Rawls	2015	Seattle	530
Arian Foster	2009-10	Houston	525
Rudi Johnson	2003	Cincinnati	517
Julius Jones	2004	Dallas	517

“All those things are cool and they mean a lot,” says Gurley about his accomplishments and accolades. “But our main focus is winning and racking up wins every week.”

Despite rushing for only nine yards on six carries in his NFL debut (Week 3 versus Pittsburgh), Gurley rushed for 575 yards in his first five career games. In NFL history, only Pro Football Hall of Famer **ERIC DICKERSON** (645) and **ADRIAN PETERSON** (607) rushed for more yards in a player’s first five career games.

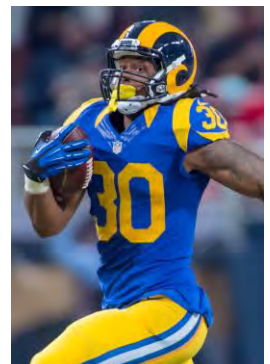
PLAYER	YEAR	TEAM	YARDS
Eric Dickerson	1983	Los Angeles Rams	645
Adrian Peterson	2007	Minnesota	607
Todd Gurley	2015	St. Louis	575

Peterson and Gurley are the only players in NFL history with at least 100 rushing yards in four of their first five career games.

“Todd Gurley is the premier player on that offense,” says NFL Network analyst and former Pro Bowl running back **LA DAINIAN TOMLINSON**. “He’s the feature guy that they lean on. As a rookie, he became the main, feature guy for that offense. That speaks to how far along he is in his development in terms of being an NFL running back. He’s made this transition seamlessly and a lot of it has to do with obviously his size and speed combination, and also his vision and how smart he is as a football player. He’s truly the next great three-down back – not just running back. He can be a three-down back.”

For the season, Gurley rushed for at least 125 yards in five games, trailing only Dickerson (seven in 1983) for the most such games by a rookie in NFL history.

“I felt like I did pretty well,” says Gurley about his rookie season. “But I feel like I have a lot of things to improve on. I can definitely get a lot better.”





ANTONIO BROWN: BROWN ON THE MOVE



Pittsburgh Steelers Pro Bowl wide receiver **ANTONIO BROWN** had 136 receptions last year, tied for the second-most in a season in NFL history.

“He is very driven to prove that he is among the elite guys at his position right now,” says Steelers offensive coordinator **TODD HALEY** about Brown, who also ranked second in the NFL with a single-season franchise-record 1,834 receiving yards in 2015. “I think from a big-picture standpoint, he is one that they will talk about for a long time.”

Brown, who had 129 receptions in 2014, has two of the top four seasons with the most receptions in league history.

The players with the most receptions in a single season:

PLAYER	TEAM	YEAR	RECEPTIONS
Marvin Harrison	Indianapolis	2002	143
Antonio Brown	Pittsburgh	2015	136
Julio Jones	Atlanta	2015	136
Antonio Brown	Pittsburgh	2014	129
Herman Moore	Detroit	1995	123

Brown has 375 catches over the past three seasons, the most in any three-season span in league history.

The players with the most receptions in a three-year span:

PLAYER	TEAM	YEARS	RECEPTIONS
Antonio Brown	Pittsburgh	2013-15	375
Marvin Harrison	Indianapolis	2000-02	354
Wes Welker	New England	2007-09	346
Marvin Harrison	Indianapolis	2001-03	346
Jerry Rice	San Francisco	1994-96	342

Brown also joined **WES WELKER** (2007-09) as the only players in NFL history with three consecutive 110-catch seasons.

“The guy is an elite receiver,” says former Steelers wide receiver **HINES WARD** about Brown. “You really can’t guard him in any way.”

Brown’s 5,031 receiving yards over the past three seasons are the second-most of any player in NFL annals in any three-year span, trailing only **CALVIN JOHNSON** (5,137 from 2011-13).

The players with the most receiving yards in a three-year span:

PLAYER	TEAM	YEARS	RECEIVING YARDS
Calvin Johnson	Detroit	2011-13	5,137
Antonio Brown	Pittsburgh	2013-15	5,031
Jerry Rice	San Francisco	1993-95	4,850
Calvin Johnson	Detroit	2010-12	4,765
Marvin Harrison	Indianapolis	2000-02	4,659



Brown, who has also returned a punt for a touchdown in each of the past three seasons, is the only player in league history with at least 100 receptions and a punt-return touchdown in multiple seasons (2013-15).

“A.B. is one of the best receivers in the league,” says Pittsburgh quarterback **BEN ROETHLISBERGER**. “He does a little bit of everything. He plays big all the time.”



JULIO JONES: RISING UP

Atlanta Falcons Pro Bowl wide receiver **JULIO JONES** recorded one of the greatest receiving seasons in NFL history last year. Jones had 136 catches for 1,871 yards with eight touchdowns and is the only player in league history with at least 125 catches and 1,850 receiving yards in a single season.

“Julio is as good as there is,” says Falcons quarterback **MATT RYAN** about his favorite target.

Jones led the league with 1,871 receiving yards, the second-most in a single season in NFL history, trailing only **CALVIN JOHNSON** (1,964 in 2012).

PLAYER	TEAM	YEAR	REC.	YARDS	AVG.	TD
Calvin Johnson	Detroit	2012	122	1,964	16.1	5
Julio Jones	Atlanta	2015	136	1,871	13.8	8
Jerry Rice	San Francisco	1995	122	1,848	15.1	15
Antonio Brown	Pittsburgh	2015	136	1,834	13.5	10
Isaac Bruce	St. Louis	1995	119	1,781	15.0	13

“Julio doesn’t back down,” says Atlanta head coach **DAN QUINN**. “Any challenge there is, he’s ready to go. It’s one of the things I respect the most about his game. He’s one of those competitors that is ready for it every time. He’s the guy that wants the ball thrown to him and wants to take the last shot. I can’t say enough about him as a competitor.”

Jones and Pittsburgh’s **ANTONIO BROWN** tied for the league lead last season with 136 receptions, the second-most in a single season in NFL history, trailing only **MARVIN HARRISON** (143 in 2002). Jones and Brown are the only players in league annals to post at least 130 receptions and 1,800 receiving yards in a single season.

PLAYER	TEAM	YEAR	REC.	YARDS	AVG.	TD
Marvin Harrison	Indianapolis	2002	143	1,722	12.0	11
Julio Jones	Atlanta	2015	136	1,871	13.8	8
Antonio Brown	Pittsburgh	2015	136	1,834	13.5	10
Herman Moore	Detroit	1995	123	1,686	13.7	14
Wes Welker	New England	2009	123	1,348	11.0	4

“Julio is an extremely hard worker,” says Houston Texans defensive end **J.J. WATT**. “The guy goes out there and works hard. He’s a physical freak for a reason and that’s because he puts in the work. Some of the things that he does on the field, both from a speed aspect and a strength aspect, he’s a pretty incredible player to watch.”





LARRY FITZGERALD: LARRY LEGEND

Arizona wide receiver **LARRY FITZGERALD** was named to his ninth Pro Bowl last season as he recorded a franchise-record 109 catches for 1,215 yards and nine touchdowns. It marked Fitzgerald's third career season with at least 100 receptions and his seventh 1,000-yard season – both club records.



“The first thing I think of is his professionalism and passion,” says Cardinals Pro Bowl quarterback **CARSON PALMER** about Fitzgerald. “He has such a commitment to his craft and working at it in every way. His football IQ is off the charts and so is his level of preparation.”

Fitzgerald enters 2016 as the only active player with at least 13,000 receiving yards (13,366) and 90 receiving touchdowns (90) and is one of only 10 players in NFL history to accomplish the feat.

“Larry has phenomenal hands,” says former Arizona quarterback **KURT WARNER**. “I’ve never seen anybody with better hands. He can catch all kinds of passes from different angles and in different positions. That’s what separates him from everybody else.”

Last season, Fitzgerald reached the 1,000-catch mark in Week 13. At 32 years, 97 days old, Fitzgerald became the youngest player in NFL history to reach 1,000 career receptions.

“It’s nice,” says Fitzgerald about reaching the milestone. “It’s nice but it’s even better to keep winning games. Coming here in 2004, it’s really special to be here that long and see a complete transformation of the organization. It makes you feel proud and special to be a part of it.”

The youngest players to reach 1,000 career receptions in NFL history:

PLAYER	AGE AT TIME OF 1000TH RECEPTION	CAREER RECEPTIONS
<i>Larry Fitzgerald</i>	<i>32 years, 97 days</i>	<i>1,018*</i>
Andre Johnson	33 years, 163 days	1,053*
Jason Witten	33 years, 215 days	1,020*
Jerry Rice	34 years, 21 days	1,594
Marvin Harrison	34 years, 107 days	1,102

*Active

Fitzgerald currently has a catch in 179 consecutive games, the longest active streak in the NFL. It is also the longest streak in franchise history.

“I still love it,” says Fitzgerald about the preparation he puts in every week. “I love coming in, seeing the game plan and seeing how we’re going to attack the opponent that week. Everything about it, I love.”

Through his first 186 career games, Fitzgerald has 1,018 catches. He has more catches than all of the receivers enshrined in the Pro Football Hall of Fame had through 186 games except for JERRY RICE (1,037). Fitzgerald has more receiving yards (13,366) than every Pro Football Hall of Fame receiver had through 186 career games except Rice (16,265).

“Special,” says Palmer when asked to describe Fitzgerald. “As simple as that word is, that describes him the best. He’s special.”



Fitzgerald has also been a dominant performer in the postseason, recording 57 catches for 942 yards (104.7 per game) and 10 touchdowns in nine career playoff games. He is the only player in NFL history to average at least 100 receiving yards and a touchdown catch per game in his postseason career.

“It’s not like my approach changes or anything,” says Fitzgerald about his postseason success. “I’m just able to be calm in the biggest moments and I’m able to focus and just rely on my technique. When you’ve done it for so long, you’re confident, you know what you’re doing and you have an idea because you’re prepared for it. So you just go out and execute.”

Fitzgerald’s 942 receiving yards are the most in a player’s first nine playoff games. He has three postseason games with at least 150 receiving yards, the most in NFL history. And he has 10 career postseason touchdown receptions, tied for the third-most in NFL history. Only Pro Football Hall of Famers Rice (22 in 29 games) and **JOHN STALLWORTH** (12 in 17 games) have more.

“Larry means the world to this team, this organization, this community and this state,” says Cardinals Pro Bowl cornerback **PATRICK PETERSON**. “He’s been doing it for a very long time. Words can’t explain what Larry means to all of us.”



ODELL BECKHAM, JR.: CATCH IT LIKE BECKHAM



New York Giants wide receiver **ODELL BECKHAM, JR.** has been selected to the Pro Bowl in each of his first two seasons, compiling 187 catches for 2,755 yards and 25 touchdowns. Since entering the league, Beckham has produced at an historic level and filled up highlight reels with acrobatic catches.

“Odell Beckham was born to be a wide receiver,” says Pro Football Hall of Fame wide receiver **CRIS CARTER**. “He is a special player and he really wants to be great.”

Beckham’s 2,755 receiving yards are the most in NFL history by a player in his first two seasons, passing the previous mark set by **RANDY MOSS** (2,726).

“To be in the company of Randy Moss, I can’t ask for much more,” says Beckham. “He’s a guy that I’ve looked up to all my life. I probably have all his jerseys. To be able to do some of the things I’ve done the past two years with this team, that’s been very special.”

The players with the most receiving yards in his first two seasons:

PLAYER	TEAM	YEARS	RECEIVING YARDS
Odell Beckham, Jr.	New York Giants	2014-15	2,755
Randy Moss	Minnesota Vikings	1998-99	2,726
Bill Groman	Houston Oilers	1960-61	2,648
Jerry Rice	San Francisco 49ers	1985-86	2,497
Charley Hennigan	Houston Oilers	1960-61	2,468

Beckham’s 187 catches are the second-most by a player in his first two seasons and his 25 touchdown receptions rank fourth all-time in a player’s first two seasons.

He is the only player in NFL history with at least 150 catches, 2,000 receiving yards and 20 touchdown receptions in a player’s first two seasons.

“I think you get better with time,” says Beckham. “You learn some new things and then you have an idea of it more and you’re able to play faster because you know more. You can see the difference.”

In 2015, Beckham had four games with at least 140 receiving yards. He has nine such games in his career, the most in NFL history by a player in his first two seasons.

The players with the most games with at least 140 receiving yards in his first two seasons:

PLAYER	TEAM	YEARS	140-YARD GAMES
Odell Beckham, Jr.	New York Giants	2014-15	9
Bill Groman	Houston Oilers	1960-61	6
Jerry Rice	San Francisco 49ers	1985-86	6
Randy Moss	Minnesota Vikings	1998-99	5

“Watching what Beckham has done in his first two seasons is tremendous,” says Carolina head coach **RON RIVERA**. “He really has an opportunity to be one of those guys you’ll talk about along with **JERRY RICE**. I had the great fortune of watching Jerry Rice and I see a lot of flashes in Odell’s game. I just think he’s a tremendous football player.”



RECEIVERS MAKING A SPLASH

Last season, four wide receivers – **JULIO JONES** (1,871) of the Atlanta Falcons, **ANTONIO BROWN** (1,834) of the Pittsburgh Steelers, **DE ANDRE HOPKINS** (1,521) of the Houston Texans, and **BRANDON MARSHALL** (1,502) of the New York Jets – recorded at least 1,500 receiving yards, tied for the most such players in a season in NFL history (1995, 2014).

A look at the three seasons which featured four players with at least 1,500 receiving yards:

2015 SEASON			2014 SEASON			1995 SEASON		
PLAYER	TEAM	YARDS	PLAYER	TEAM	YARDS	PLAYER	TEAM	YARDS
Julio Jones	Atl.	1,871	Antonio Brown	Pit.	1,698	Jerry Rice*	SF	1,848
Antonio Brown	Pit.	1,834	Demaryius Thomas	Den.	1,619	Isaac Bruce	StL	1,781
DeAndre Hopkins	Hou.	1,521	Julio Jones	Atl.	1,593	Herman Moore	Det.	1,686
Brandon Marshall	NYJ	1,502	Jordy Nelson	GB	1,519	Michael Irvin*	Dal.	1,603

*Pro Football Hall of Famer

Seven players caught at least 100 passes in 2015, the second-most players with 100+ receptions in a single season:

SEASON	MOST PLAYERS WITH 100+ RECEPTIONS IN SINGLE SEASON
1995	9
2015	7
2012	6
2009	6
2007	6
2001	6

The seven players with at least 100 catches in 2015:

PLAYER	TEAM	100+ RECEPTIONS
Antonio Brown	Pittsburgh	136
Julio Jones	Atlanta	136
DeAndre Hopkins	Houston	111
Jarvis Landry	Miami	110
Larry Fitzgerald	Arizona	109
Brandon Marshall	New York Jets	109
Demaryius Thomas	Denver	105

The 136 receptions by Antonio Brown and Julio Jones last season were the second-most in a single season in NFL history (MARVIN HARRISON, 143 in 2002).

The players with the most catches in a single season:

PLAYER	TEAM	SEASON	MOST RECEPTIONS IN SINGLE SEASON
Marvin Harrison	Indianapolis	2002	143
Antonio Brown	Pittsburgh	2015	136
Julio Jones	Atlanta	2015	136
Antonio Brown	Pittsburgh	2014	129
Wes Welker	New England	2009	123
Herman Moore	Detroit	1995	123



Antonio Brown



DeAndre Hopkins



Julio Jones



Jarvis Landry



REACHING 1,000

Last season, three players – wide receiver **ANQUAN BOLDIN** (with San Francisco), wide receiver **LARRY FITZGERALD** (Arizona) and tight end **JASON WITTEN** (Dallas) – reached the 1,000-reception mark for their careers. It marked the first time in NFL history that three players recorded their 1,000th career catch in the same season.

Boldin, Fitzgerald and Witten joined nine other players – including Pro Football Hall of Famers **JERRY RICE**, **MARVIN HARRISON**, **CRIS CARTER** and **TIM BROWN** – as the only players in NFL history to record at least 1,000 career catches.

“To me, the highest honor you can have is when people say you played the game at a high level and you played it at a high level for a long time,” says Witten, who joined **TONY GONZALEZ** as the only tight ends in NFL history to reach 1,000 career receptions. “To reach a milestone like this, that is consistency. I can’t even put into words what an honor it is.”

The players with 1,000 career receptions:

PLAYER	RECEPTIONS	YARDS	TOUCHDOWNS
Jerry Rice*	1,549	22,895	197
Tony Gonzalez	1,325	15,127	111
Marvin Harrison*	1,102	14,580	128
Cris Carter*	1,101	13,899	130
Tim Brown*	1,094	14,934	100
Terrell Owens	1,078	15,934	153
Reggie Wayne	1,070	14,345	82
Andre Johnson	1,053	14,100	68
Isaac Bruce	1,024	15,208	91
Jason Witten	1,020	11,215	60
Larry Fitzgerald	1,018	13,366	98
Anquan Boldin	1,009	13,195	74

*Pro Football Hall of Famer



Anquan Boldin



Larry Fitzgerald



Jason Witten



J.J. WATT: TURN DOWN FOR WATT



Houston Texans defensive end **J.J. WATT**, who was named the NFL Defensive Player of the Year for the second consecutive season and third time in four years (2012, 2014-15), was nothing short of dominant in 2015.

Watt joins Pro Football Hall of Famer **LAWRENCE TAYLOR** (1981-82, 1986) as the only players to be named NFL Defensive Player of the Year three times.

“When he lines up inside, he reminds me of **HOWIE LONG**,” says CBS Sports analyst and former head coach **BILL COWHER**. “When he lines up outside, he reminds me of **BRUCE SMITH**. But he’s a modern-day **REGGIE WHITE** because they put him places and make it difficult to block him.”

Watt, a four-time Pro Bowl selection, led the league with 17.5 sacks and joined Pro Football Hall of Famer Reggie White as the only players with at least 15 sacks in three of their first five seasons since the statistic became official in 1982.

Watt also led the NFL with 20.5 sacks in 2012 and is one of seven players to lead the league in sacks twice since 1982.

“I can’t compare J.J. to anybody because he’s so long and he’s so explosive,” says Texans head coach **BILL O’BRIEN**. “The thing that sets him apart is that he has a relentless way of playing. He disrupts the game in a lot of different ways.”

Since being selected in the first round by Houston in the 2011 NFL Draft, Watt leads all players with 74.5 sacks, which is the second-most of any player in his first four seasons since sacks became an official statistic in 1982, trailing only White (81).



The players with the most sacks in their first five seasons since 1982:

PLAYER	TEAM	YEARS	SACKS
Reggie White	Philadelphia	1985-88	82
J.J. Watt	Houston	2011-15	74.5
Derrick Thomas	Kansas City	1989-93	66
DeMarcus Ware	Dallas	2005-09	64.5
Dwight Freeney	Indianapolis	2002-06	61.5

Watt is the only NFL player with multiple 20-sacks seasons since 1982.

“He combines elite-level strength with elite-level quickness and an elite-level first move with elite-level counter moves,” says ESPN analyst and former NFL guard **MARK SCHLERETH**. “When you’re playing against a guy like that, he’s got so many things he can get you with that it makes it incredibly difficult to prepare and plan for. You look at it and, quite frankly, he’s like this perfect football player.”

The players with at least 20 sacks in a season since the statistic became official in 1982:

PLAYER	TEAM	YEAR	SACKS
Michael Strahan#	New York Giants	2001	22.5
Jared Allen	Minnesota	2011	22
Mark Gastineau	New York Jets	1984	22
Justin Houston	Kansas City	2014	22
Chris Doleman#	Minnesota	1989	21
Reggie White#	Philadelphia	1987	21
J.J. Watt	Houston	2014	20.5
J.J. Watt	Houston	2012	20.5
Lawrence Taylor#	New York Giants	1986	20.5
Derrick Thomas#	Kansas City	1990	20
DeMarcus Ware	Dallas	2008	20

#Pro Football Hall of Famer

EXCITING RETURNS

The 2015 season featured many exciting plays in the return game. These exhilarating plays, made by some of the game's most dynamic playmakers, started early and kept coming.



Seattle's **TYLER LOCKETT** recorded a 57-yard punt-return touchdown in Week 1 and became the first rookie to score a touchdown on his first career punt return on Kickoff Weekend since 2005. In the same game, the Rams' **TAVON AUSTIN** returned a punt 75 yards for a touchdown. The game was the first season opener in NFL history in which both teams scored on a punt-return touchdown.

"He just looks unstoppable out there," says Seahawks head coach **PETE CARROLL** about Lockett, who was selected to the Pro Bowl as a return specialist. "Those returns are just a bunch of guys working together to get it done. That's the biggest thing we talk about on special teams. Just making a difference to be able to get our offense in the best position possible."

New York Giants return specialist **DWAYNE HARRIS** (left) had both a punt-return touchdown and kickoff-return touchdown last season. His 100-yard kickoff-return touchdown in Week 7 proved to be the decisive score in a 27-20 victory against Dallas. Harris became just the third player in franchise history with both a kickoff-return touchdown and punt-return touchdown in the same season.

"It's not just about me as the returner," says Harris. "It is the guys up front who open lanes for me. I am just the guy running with the ball and making guys miss. But it starts up front. When they believe in me, it helps the whole team achieve our goal."

Arizona's **DAVID JOHNSON** (right) set a franchise-record with a 108-yard kickoff-return touchdown in Week 2, tied for the second-longest kickoff-return touchdown in NFL history. He is the only player in NFL history to score a rushing touchdown, receiving touchdown and kickoff-return touchdown in his first two games to begin a career. Johnson and Pro Football Hall of Famer GALE SAYERS (1965) are the only rookies in NFL history with at least four rushing touchdowns (eight), four receiving touchdowns (four) and a kickoff-return touchdown.



"He's just a special player," says Cardinals quarterback **CARSON PALMER** about Johnson. "He covers so much ground with each stride and it's very deceiving. It doesn't look like he's as fast as he is. He's got a long and powerful stride that it almost looks effortless. He's got so much power behind each step."

A sampling of kick-return highlights in 2015:

PLAYER	2015 TEAM	ACCOMPLISHMENT
Tavon Austin	Rams	In Week 1, became the fifth player in the past 20 years to score a touchdown on a punt return and a rush in the same game.
Antonio Brown	Steelers	Recorded his fourth career punt-return touchdown in Week 7, tied for the most in franchise history.
Dwayne Harris	Giants	Recorded a 100-yard kickoff-return touchdown in Week 7 and an 80-yard punt-return touchdown in Week 13, becoming just the third player in franchise history with a kickoff-return touchdown and punt-return touchdown in the same season.
David Johnson	Cardinals	In Week 2, recorded a 108-yard kickoff-return touchdown, tied for the second-longest in NFL history.
Tyler Lockett	Seahawks	Became the second rookie in NFL history to have both a punt-return touchdown and a kickoff-return touchdown in his team's first three games to start a season.
Cordarrelle Patterson	Vikings	In Week 13, scored on a 101-yard kickoff-return touchdown, the fourth of his career. Patterson has nine career kickoff returns of at least 50 yards, the most in Vikings history.
Darren Sproles	Eagles	Recorded an 89-yard punt-return touchdown and a rushing touchdown in Week 3, his second career performance with a punt-return touchdown and a rushing touchdown, becoming the fourth player to record multiple games with both a punt-return touchdown and a rushing touchdown in NFL history.



TYLER LOCKETT: ROCKETING INTO ELITE COMPANY

Seattle Seahawks wide receiver **TYLER LOCKETT** capped off his impressive rookie season by being selected to the Pro Bowl as a return specialist. Lockett joined Pro Football Hall of Famer **GALE SAYERS** (1965) as the only rookies in NFL history to have at least five touchdown receptions (six), a kickoff-return touchdown and a punt-return touchdown.

“Tyler is a one-of-a-kind talent and a one-of-a-kind person,” says Seattle Pro Bowl quarterback **RUSSELL WILSON**. “He’s as good as it gets. He’s so exciting with the ball in his hands.”

PLAYER	TEAM	YEAR	REC TD	KR TD	PR TD
Gale Sayers	Chicago	1965	6	1	1
Tyler Lockett	Seattle	2015	6	1	1



Lockett began his career by returning a punt 57 yards for a touchdown on Kickoff Weekend, becoming the first rookie to score a touchdown on his first career punt return on Kickoff Weekend since 2005 (San Francisco’s **OTIS AMEY**). In Week 3, Lockett recorded a 105-yard kickoff-return touchdown – the longest in franchise history – and became the second rookie in NFL history to have both a punt-return touchdown and a kickoff-return touchdown in his team’s first three games to start a season (**TONY GREEN**, 1978).

“Tyler had a fantastic season,” says Seahawks head coach **PETE CARROLL**. “He had a terrific season for us as a receiver as well as the effect he had as a returner. He’s such a great competitor and a fantastic kid on our team.”

Lockett earned NFC Special Teams Player of the Month Awards in both September and December/January, becoming the second rookie in NFL history to win multiple Player of the Month Awards (**TAMARICK VANOVER**, 1995).

“He’s special,” says Philadelphia Eagles Pro Bowl return specialist **DARREN SPROLES** about Lockett. “You can’t defend him. He’s trouble everywhere on the field. He’s a player where you’ve always got to know where he’s at.”

CLUTCH PERFORMERS

Some of the most memorable moments in NFL history have taken place with the game on the line.

Seattle Seahawks quarterback **RUSSELL WILSON** (right) embraces the opportunity to perform under pressure. Last year, Wilson posted an NFL-best 114.8 passer rating in the fourth quarter, throwing for 1,055 yards with nine touchdowns and just one interception. Wilson’s 114.8 rating is the best fourth-quarter passer rating by an NFL quarterback since **PEYTON MANNING** (116.0) in 2009.



“I try to lead in the same way, try to be clutch when I need to be and just try to put us in a great position to win,” Wilson says.

New England Patriots quarterback **TOM BRADY** also shines during crunch time. In 2015, Brady posted a passer rating of 111.3 in the fourth quarter and led the Patriots to the AFC Championship Game for the fifth consecutive year.

“Tom has been just a tremendous leader and tremendous player for our organization,” says Patriots head coach **BILL BELICHICK** about Brady. “He’s the greatest quarterback of all time.”

The quarterbacks with the highest fourth-quarter passer rating in 2015 (minimum 80 attempts):

PLAYER	TEAM	COMP	ATT	PCT	YARDS	TD	INT	4TH QUARTER RATING
Russell Wilson	Seattle	84	124	67.7	1,055	9	1	114.8
Tom Brady	New England	106	162	65.4	1,367	12	2	111.3
Carson Palmer	Arizona	75	117	64.1	978	8	1	109.6
Cam Newton	Carolina	63	102	61.8	832	7	1	106.3
Andy Dalton	Cincinnati	65	100	65.0	814	7	2	105.2

ROOKIES EXCELLED IN 2015

2015 continued a strong NFL trend of standout rookie play, with many young contributors on offense, defense and special teams.

Rams running back **TODD GURLEY** led all rookies with 1,106 rushing yards and 10 rushing touchdowns in 2015, earning the league's Offensive Rookie of the Year Award. He posted five games with at least 125 rushing yards, trailing only Pro Football Hall of Famer **ERIC DICKERSON** (seven in 1983) for the most such games by a rookie in NFL history.

Quarterbacks **JAMEIS WINSTON** of Tampa Bay and **MARCUS MARIOTA** of Tennessee, who were selected No. 1 and 2 in the 2015 NFL Draft, also enjoyed standout rookie campaigns. Winston passed for 4,042 yards, the third-most ever by a rookie, and 22 touchdowns, which tied for the fourth-most by a rookie in NFL history. Mariota set franchise rookie records for touchdown passes (19) and passer rating (91.5) and had four games with at least three touchdown passes, tying **PEYTON MANNING** (1998) for the most ever by a rookie.



On defense, Kansas City cornerback **MARCUS PETERS** (right) tied for first in the NFL and led all rookies with eight interceptions in 2015 and was named the NFL's Defensive Rookie of the Year. He topped all players with a club-record 280 interception-return yards, the most by an NFL rookie since Pro Football Hall of Famer **DICK "NIGHT TRAIN" LANE** in 1952.



Seattle wide receiver and return specialist **TYLER LOCKETT** joined Pro Football Hall of Famer **GALE SAYERS** (1965) as the only rookies in NFL history to have at least five touchdown receptions (six), a kickoff-return touchdown and a punt-return touchdown.

Lockett was among five outstanding rookies to earn a Pro Bowl selection in 2015, along with Gurley, Winston, Peters and Oakland wide receiver **AMARI COOPER** (left), who set franchise rookie records for receiving yards (1,070) and receptions (72).

Below are just a few of the notable accomplishments by the NFL's 2015 rookie class:

- Buccaneers QB **JAMEIS WINSTON** set franchise rookie records for passing yards (4,042) and touchdown passes (22).
- Titans QB **MARCUS MARIOTA** had six touchdown passes in his first two games, the most by any NFL player in his first two career games.
- Rams RB **TODD GURLEY** (right) had 566 rushing yards in his first four starts, the most through four starts by any NFL player that began his career in the Super Bowl era (since 1966).
- Cardinals RB-KR **DAVID JOHNSON** joined Pro Football Hall of Famer **GALE SAYERS** as the only rookies in NFL history with at least four rushing touchdowns (eight), four receiving touchdowns (four) and a kick-return touchdown in a season. He also became the first player in NFL history with a rushing touchdown, receiving touchdown and kickoff-return touchdown in his first two games to begin a career.
- Seahawks RB **THOMAS RAWLS** had 712 rushing yards in his first six starts, the most rushing yards by an undrafted player in his first six career starts since the 1970 merger. In Week 11, Rawls became the first rookie in NFL history with at least 250 scrimmage yards (255), a rushing touchdown and a touchdown catch in the same game.



- Raiders WR **AMARI COOPER** had three 100-yard receiving performances in the team's first six games and became the first rookie with three 100-yard receiving games in his team's first six games since Pro Football Hall of Famer **MIKE DITKA** with the Chicago Bears in 1961.
- Vikings WR **STEFON DIGGS** (left) had 52 receptions, the third most by a rookie in franchise history. He is the only rookie in franchise history to lead the team in receptions.
- Vikings LB **ERIC KENDRICKS** led the club with 105 tackles and became the second rookie in franchise history to lead the team in tackles.
- Dolphins P **MATT DARR** ranked third in the NFL and led all rookies with a 47.6 punting average, the second-highest ever by a rookie.

DOUBLE TROUBLE RUNNING BACKS

They seem to be all over the league. Guys like **DOUG MARTIN** (right), **ADRIAN PETERSON** and others. Those running backs that can hurt you two ways: rushing... or catching... the ball.

Double-threat running backs not only force defenses to be ready for anything, but they allow offenses to keep their best playmakers on the field in any situation.

“That’s what you’re looking for,” says San Francisco head coach **CHIP KELLY** about dual-threat running backs. “You’re looking for a back that can do it all. You want a guy who can be a three-down back.”

Atlanta’s **DEVONTA FREEMAN** (below) finished seventh in the NFL last season in rushing yards (1,056) and ranked third among running backs with 73 receptions and 578 receiving yards. He was the only player in 2015 with at least 1,000 rushing yards and 50 catches.



“My thing is I want to be a complete back,” says Freeman, who was selected to the 2016 Pro Bowl. “I don’t want to come off the field. That’s my mentality.”

Entering his second season as the Falcons head coach, **DAN QUINN** appreciates Freeman’s mindset and his ability to be a dual-threat running back.

“I don’t think he wants to leave the field,” says Quinn about Freeman. “It’s such a huge factor for a running back who can catch coming out of the backfield. We know that outside he can catch the ball. Whether it’s aligned outside or in motion to the outside or swinging out of the backfield, he can catch out of all three.”

More and more offenses are relying on these dual-threat runners to keep the chains moving. Six running backs gained more than 1,000 rushing yards while registering at least 30 catches in 2015.

The six NFL running backs that gained 1,000 rushing yards and caught 30 passes in 2015:

PLAYER, 2015 TEAM	RUSH YARDS	REC.	QUOTABLE
Adrian Peterson , Minnesota	1,485	30	“If you get a guy like him out in space, whether it’s a screen or a flare or an option route, defenders understand they’re covering 28, and so they’re going to give him the respect that he’s due whether it’s in the passing game or the running game. All he needs is a little bit of separation and catch the ball and then a lot of good things can happen out there.” – Minnesota head coach Mike Zimmer
Doug Martin , Tampa Bay	1,402	33	“He has a low center of gravity and he’s got great vision as far as cutback ability. He’s also a guy you have to pay attention to on the check-downs. He can sneak out of the backfield and they run screens with him. He is a dynamic football player that fits exactly what they’re looking for.” – Carolina head coach Ron Rivera
Darren McFadden , Dallas	1,089	40	“He’s a real pro. Just an unbelievably physical runner. He’s physically tough. He’s mentally tough. He’s been a very productive player for us. He’s one of those guys who gets better and better the more he carries the football.” – Dallas head coach Jason Garrett
Chris Ivory , New York Jets (Now with Jacksonville)	1,070	30	“Ivory is a really tremendous back. He runs hard, breaks tackles, has great balance, is very hard to get on the ground, and he’s made plays on check-downs and screens in the passing game, too.” – New England head coach Bill Belichick
Latavius Murray , Oakland	1,066	41	“This guy is really going to be an up-and-coming back. He has all the physical tools and he’s a three-down back. When he comes downhill, he’s a load.” – New York Jets defensive coordinator Kacy Rodgers
Devonta Freeman , Atlanta	1,056	73	“He’s just an all-around back. He can do everything you want a running back to do and he’s hard-nosed and smart. He can run downhill and stretch the field and run outside. He can run routes like a receiver and has great hands. He can pass protect. He’s willing to do everything. The guy is just great. He’s just a great player.” – Tampa Bay quarterback Jameis Winston

ON TARGET

Elite wide receivers earn plenty of attention from opposing defensive backs, but they still get plenty of it from their quarterbacks, too.

Last season, Atlanta Falcons wide receiver **JULIO JONES** (right) was targeted 203 times to lead all receivers. Only **CALVIN JOHNSON** (204 in 2012) and **MARVIN HARRISON** (205 in 2002) have had more targets in a season in the past 15 years.



Jones puts much of the credit on the shoulders of his quarterback, **MATT RYAN**.

“Matt has all the faith in the world in me and I have the same in him,” says Jones. “We’re a team. When my number is called, I’ve got to step up and make those plays. Matt is just going to keep being Matt Ryan, throwing great balls and we’ll see the outcome.”

Pittsburgh Steelers wide receiver **ANTONIO BROWN** was targeted 193 times. After setting franchise records for receptions and receiving yards in 2014, he topped both those numbers with 136 receptions and 1,834 receiving yards in 2015.

Since 2013, Brown has been targeted a league-high 540 times and leads the NFL in receptions (375) and receiving yards (5,031) over that span as well.

The most targeted receivers in 2015:

PLAYER	2015 TEAM	TARGETS	REC	YARDS	AVG
Julio Jones	Atlanta	203	136	1,871	13.8
Antonio Brown	Pittsburgh	193	136	1,834	13.5
DeAndre Hopkins	Houston	192	111	1,521	13.7
Demaryius Thomas	Denver	177	105	1,304	12.4
Brandon Marshall	New York Jets	173	109	1502	13.8

The most targeted receivers since 2013:

PLAYER	TEAM(S)	TARGETS	REC	YARDS	AVG
Antonio Brown	Pittsburgh	540	375	5,031	13.4
Demaryius Thomas	Denver	503	308	4,353	14.1
Brandon Marshall	Chicago, New York Jets	442	270	3,518	13.0
Calvin Johnson	Detroit	434	243	3,783	15.6
A.J. Green	Cincinnati	426	253	3,764	14.9
Julio Jones	Atlanta	426	281	4,044	14.4



Brandon Marshall



Demaryius Thomas



A.J. Green

MOVING THE CHAINS



A precise route can be the difference between a game-changing play and an appearance by the punt team. It's a skill for a receiver to know exactly where he needs to go in order to move the chains and keep a drive going. On third down, the best receivers carefully gauge each step to ensure their routes finish beyond the first-down marker.

Pittsburgh Steelers Pro Bowl wide receiver **ANTONIO BROWN** (left) led all receivers on third down with 31 first-down catches in 2015. Brown has 265 total receptions over the past two seasons, the most catches in any two-season span in NFL history.

"You can tell him that he doesn't have the best measurables, but his will and mentality make him special in critical situations," says Steelers head coach **MIKE TOMLIN**. "Certain things go beyond the cookie cutter of what you imagine an ideal player looks like. His mentality every day is what makes him great."

The receivers with the most first-down receptions on third down in 2015:

THIRD-DOWN RECEIVING TOTALS: MOST FIRST DOWNS

PLAYER	TEAM	FIRST DOWNS	REC	YARDS	TD
Antonio Brown	Pittsburgh	31	42	642	3
Odell Beckham, Jr.	New York Giants	28	31	455	2
DeAndre Hopkins	Houston	26	30	427	2
Julio Jones	Atlanta	25	28	392	3
Brandon Marshall	New York Jets	24	28	373	6
Emmanuel Sanders	Denver	24	26	342	4



Odell Beckham, Jr.



DeAndre Hopkins



Julio Jones



Brandon Marshall



Emmanuel Sanders

YARDS AFTER THE CATCH

Additional yards after the catch are an important part of an offense's success.

"You want yards after the catch," says Kansas City Chiefs head coach **ANDY REID**. "That's especially important in the short and intermediate game."



San Diego Chargers running back **DANNY WOODHEAD** (left) led the league with 737 yards after the catch last season and ranked first among running backs with 755 receiving yards.

"It's a two-fold thing," says former Chargers offensive coordinator and current Eagles offensive coordinator **FRANK REICH** about Woodhead's success with yards after the catch. "One is Danny's ability to create leverage, create space and create windows for **PHILIP RIVERS** to throw into. And then Philip has the ability to find him and get him an accurate throw. Because if you get a guy who's already created leverage and created space and separation, then with his athletic ability I think that's why Danny is doing so well with yards after catch."

"He knows when to get skinny and take two extra yards," echoes Rivers. "He knows when to try and make a big play."

Atlanta's **JULIO JONES** led all wide receivers with 679 yards after the catch last season and ranked first in the NFL with 1,871 receiving yards.

"Julio, he's an awesome player," says Falcons quarterback **MATT RYAN**. "He shows that basically every time he steps onto the field. He's able to catch it and get yards after contact. He's as good as there is and we're lucky to have him."

With 80 catches last season, Detroit Lions running back **THEO RIDDICK** (right) set the franchise record for the most receptions in a season by a running back and his 697 receiving yards were second in the league among running backs. Riddick's 645 yards after the catch ranked third in the league last season and were an asset for Detroit's offense.



"Theo caught the ball really well last year," says Lions offensive coordinator **JIM BOB COOTER**. "He was really successful for us in the pass game."

Pittsburgh Steelers wide receiver **ANTONIO BROWN**, who finished second (1,834) behind Jones for the most receiving yards last season, ranked fourth with 587 yards after the catch and was fifth in 2014 with 632 yards after the catch.



"He is a great competitor, extremely fast and quick," says Indianapolis Colts head coach **CHUCK PAGANO** about Brown. "It's really hard to cover this guy. He can run by anybody in this league. He has great burst, long speed, catch and run, and yards after catch. Just a dynamic guy and his numbers reveal that."

Drafted in 2014 by Miami, Dolphins wide receiver **JARVIS LANDRY** (583) (left) finished fifth in yards after the catch last season and has 194 career receptions, the most by any player in his first two seasons in NFL history.

"He's a playmaker," says Dolphins quarterback **RYAN TANNEHILL** about Landry. "Once you get the ball in his hands, it's a chance of a touchdown every single time. He runs hard and once he gets the ball in his hands, he's determined to make yards after the catch. He's one of the most fun guys to play with because every time he touches the ball he can do something with it."

The players with the most yards after the catch in 2015:

PLAYER	2015 TEAM	YAC	REC	YARDS	AVG	TD
Danny Woodhead	San Diego	737	80	755	9.4	6
Julio Jones	Atlanta	679	136	1,871	13.8	8
Theo Riddick	Detroit	645	80	697	8.7	3
Antonio Brown	Pittsburgh	587	136	1,834	13.5	10
Jarvis Landry	Miami	583	110	1,157	10.5	4

BIG PLAY EXCITEMENT

Everyone in the stadium, from the field to the stands, feels the fans' excitement as they celebrate a big play with their team. Those plays can change the momentum of a game and give a team a lift.



Jacksonville Jaguars wide receiver **ALLEN ROBINSON** (left), who tied for the most touchdowns in the NFL (14) in 2015, had a league-best 31 receptions of 20 yards or more and is regarded as one of the premier playmakers in the game today.

"He's going to be a beast for a long time," says Pro Football Hall of Famer **MICHAEL IRVIN** about Robinson. "I text him about what it takes to be great and he soaks it up with a sponge. It shows on the field."

Jaguars quarterback **BLAKE BORTLES** agrees, and looks for continued success in the 2016 season and beyond.

"Our chemistry is continuing to grow," says Bortles, "not only on the field, but off the field as well -- in the weight room and in the locker room."

The top five "big play" receivers and rushers in 2015:

MOST 20+ YARD RECEPTIONS

PLAYER	2015 TEAM	20+ YARD RECEPTIONS	LG	REC	YARDS	TD
Allen Robinson	Jaguars	31	90t	80	1,400	14
Antonio Brown	Steelers	25	59	136	1,834	10
Julio Jones	Falcons	25	70t	136	1,871	8
Rob Gronkowski	Patriots	22	76t	72	1,176	11
Mike Evans	Buccaneers	21	68	74	1,206	3



Antonio Brown



Julio Jones



Rob Gronkowski



Mike Evans

MOST 20+ YARD RUSHES

PLAYER	2015 TEAM	20+ YARD RUSHES	LG	ATT	YARDS	TD
Doug Martin	Buccaneers	14	84t	288	1,402	6
Todd Gurley	Rams	11	71t	229	1,106	10
Adrian Peterson	Vikings	10	80t	327	1,485	11
Darren McFadden	Cowboys	9	50	239	1,089	3
Chris Ivory	Jets	9	58	247	1,070	7
Latavius Murray	Raiders	9	54	266	1,066	6



Doug Martin



Todd Gurley



Darren McFadden



Latavius Murray

SAME FACES, NEW PLACES

Whether through free agency or trades, this offseason contained big-name switches that may alter the landscape of the 2016 NFL season.



Arizona and New England swapped former first-round picks, with the Cardinals acquiring linebacker **CHANDLER JONES** – whose 12.5 sacks in 2015 were the fourth-most in the AFC – in exchange for guard **JONATHAN COOPER** and a second round pick in the 2016 NFL Draft. In Houston, the Texans lured quarterback **BROCK OSWEILER** (left) away from the Super Bowl 50 champion Denver Broncos.

“Going through free agency and deciding to switch teams, it was a very difficult decision to leave Denver,” says Osweiler. “In fact, it was the most difficult decision in my life but this is truly a dream come true. This is right at the top of the mountain. I’m extremely excited to get to work here with the Houston Texans.”

Several former Pro Bowlers have joined new teams, including quarterback **ROBERT GRIFFIN III** (Cleveland), running backs **MATT FORTÉ** (New York Jets), **ARIAN FOSTER** (Miami), **ALFRED MORRIS** (Dallas) and **DE MARCO MURRAY** (Tennessee), tight end **VERNON DAVIS** (Washington), tackle **RUSSELL OKUNG** (Denver), defensive end **MARIO WILLIAMS** (Miami) and defensive backs **TASHAUN GIPSON** (Jacksonville), **JOSH NORMAN** (Washington) and **ERIC WEDDLE** (Baltimore).

Some notable players who changed teams this offseason:



Robert Griffin III



Matt Forté



Josh Norman

PLAYER

DE Robert Ayers
 WR Anquan Boldin
 G Alex Boone
 CB Brandon Browner
 RB Reggie Bush
 T Ryan Clady
 DE Chris Clemons
 G Jonathan Cooper
 QB Chase Daniel
 TE Vernon Davis
 DT Nick Fairley
 TE Coby Fleener
 RB Matt Forté
 RB Arian Foster
 DE Dwight Freeney
 S Tashaun Gipson
 S Michael Griffin
 QB Robert Griffin III
 T Ryan Harris
 LB Bruce Irvin
 RB Chris Ivory
 DE Malik Jackson
 WR Andre Johnson
 DE Chandler Jones
 WR Marvin Jones
 DT Terrance Knighton
 C Alex Mack
 CB Byron Maxwell
 CB Leodis McKelvin
 RB Alfred Morris
 RB DeMarco Murray
 CB Josh Norman
 T Russell Okung
 G Kelechi Osemele
 QB Brock Osweiler
 QB Mark Sanchez
 WR Mohamed Sanu
 T Mitchell Schwartz
 DT Paul Soliai
 LB Danny Trevathan
 DE Olivier Vernon
 WR Nate Washington
 TE Benjamin Watson
 S Eric Weddle
 DE Mario Williams

NEW TEAM

Tampa Bay
 Detroit
 Minnesota
 Seattle
 Buffalo
 New York Jets
 Seattle
 New England
 Philadelphia
 Washington
 New Orleans
 New Orleans
 New York Jets
 Miami
 Atlanta
 Jacksonville
 Minnesota
 Cleveland
 Pittsburgh
 Oakland
 Jacksonville
 Jacksonville
 Tennessee
 Arizona
 Detroit
 New England
 Atlanta
 Miami
 Philadelphia
 Dallas
 Tennessee
 Washington
 Denver
 Oakland
 Houston
 Denver
 Atlanta
 Kansas City
 Carolina
 Chicago
 New York Giants
 New England
 Baltimore
 Baltimore
 Miami

2015 TEAM

New York Giants
 San Francisco
 San Francisco
 New Orleans
 San Francisco
 Denver
 Jacksonville
 Arizona
 Kansas City
 Denver
 St. Louis
 Indianapolis
 Chicago
 Houston
 Arizona
 Cleveland
 Tennessee
 Washington
 Denver
 Seattle
 New York Jets
 Denver
 Indianapolis
 New England
 Cincinnati
 Washington
 Cleveland
 Philadelphia
 Buffalo
 Washington
 Philadelphia
 Carolina
 Seattle
 Baltimore
 Denver
 Philadelphia
 Cincinnati
 Cleveland
 Atlanta
 Denver
 Miami
 Houston
 New Orleans
 San Diego
 Buffalo



DeMarco Murray



Marvin Jones



Leodis McKelvin

NOT DRAFTED? NOT A PROBLEM

How does an undrafted player develop into an NFL star?



“Hard work, it plays a big role in whatever you do,” says New England cornerback **MALCOLM BUTLER** (left), who was undrafted out of West Alabama and was selected to his first Pro Bowl last season. “It’s all about trying to stay consistent. I’ve always been a hard worker. That’s just in my blood.”

Tackle **JASON PETERS** of the Philadelphia Eagles, who signed as an undrafted free agent with the Buffalo Bills in 2004, earned his eighth Pro Bowl selection last season. Peters has been selected to eight of the past nine Pro Bowls (2008-12 and 2014-16).

“Every year when I come to work, I really come to work,” says Peters. “I always have that mentality that I’m a free agent, and nobody is going to take my job. That’s how I work, and that’s how I’ll always work. I didn’t get drafted.”

Seattle defensive end **MICHAEL BENNETT** was signed as an undrafted free agent by the Seahawks in 2009. Bennett earned his first Pro Bowl bid after leading the Seahawks with 10 sacks last season.

“I look back all the time,” says Bennett about his journey from going undrafted to being selected to his first Pro Bowl. “I took the long way. It took a lot of hard work. With me being undrafted and having to fight for everything, I just focused on what I needed to do.”

The 14 undrafted players who were named to the Pro Bowl last season:

POS	PLAYER	2015 TEAM
S	Mike Adams	Colts
K	Dan Bailey	Cowboys
DE	Michael Bennett	Seahawks
CB	Malcolm Butler	Patriots
LS	Morgan Cox	Ravens
FB	Patrick DiMarco	Falcons
CB	Brent Grimes	Dolphins

POS	PLAYER	2015 TEAM
CB	Chris Harris, Jr.	Broncos
P	Johnny Hekker	Rams
RB	Chris Ivory	Jets
FB	John Kuhn	Packers
T	Jason Peters	Eagles
FB	Mike Tolbert	Panthers
LS	Jon Weeks	Texans



Mike Adams



Dan Bailey



Michael Bennett



Chris Harris, Jr.



Jason Peters

Defensive tackle **JOHN RANDLE** is one of 16 undrafted players enshrined in the Pro Football Hall of Fame. The former Texas A&I product was signed by the Minnesota Vikings in 1990 and recorded 137.5 career sacks, which is tied for the seventh-most in NFL history.

“If I didn’t give it a try to come into the NFL, I would regret it for the rest of my life,” says Randle. “It’s an unbelievable feeling because of where I came from and what it took to just make it in the NFL.”

The undrafted players in the Pro Football Hall of Fame:

YEAR	PLAYER	SIGNED BY
1946	Frank Gatski	Cleveland Browns
1946	Lou Groza	Cleveland Browns
1946	Marion Motley	Cleveland Browns
1946	Bill Willis	Cleveland Browns
1948	Joe Perry	San Francisco 49ers
1948	Emlen Tunnell	New York Giants
1951	Jack Butler	Pittsburgh Steelers
1952	Dick “Night Train” Lane	Los Angeles Rams

YEAR	PLAYER	SIGNED BY
1960	Willie Wood	Green Bay Packers
1963	Willie Brown	Houston Oilers
1966	Emmitt Thomas	Kansas City Chiefs
1967	Larry Little	San Diego Chargers
1970	Jim Langer	Cleveland Browns
1984	Warren Moon	Houston Oilers
1990	John Randle	Minnesota Vikings
1962	Mick Tingelhoff	Minnesota Vikings

SMALL SCHOOL SUCCESS

They may not come from big-time schools in major NCAA conferences, but their NFL contributions cannot go unnoticed. Productive players from small schools are proof-positive of the old adage, “If you can play, the NFL will find you.”



“We have plenty of guys in the league from small schools,” says Indianapolis kicker **ADAM VINATIERI**, who played at South Dakota State. “The scouts do a great job finding good talent out there. If you do a good job and you work hard enough and do your due diligence, you can make it. Somebody will find you.”

Vinatieri, who is entering his 21st NFL season, is the only player in NFL history to score at least 1,000 points with two different teams (1,095 points with Indianapolis; 1,158 with New England) and ranks third all-time with 503 career field goals.

Washington wide receiver **PIERRE GARÇON** (left) has recorded at least 600 receiving yards in seven of his eight seasons in the league. The Mount Union product knew making it to the NFL from a small school would be a challenge.

“The NFL, it seemed distant,” says Garçon, who had an NFL-best 113 receptions in 2013. “But it was always what I was working on. You want to be at the top level of what you want to do. I dreamed about being in the Super Bowl and the NFL, but I had to work toward it, and whatever path was given to me, I took it.”

NFL teams continue to scout at all levels looking to find talent. The Philadelphia Eagles traded up and used the No. 2 overall pick in the 2016 NFL Draft to select quarterback **CARSON WENTZ** (right) out of North Dakota State.



“Whether it’s an FCS or a small FBS school, it doesn’t matter where you come from,” says Wentz. “If you can play, you can play.”

A sampling of some of the most productive and high-profile small-school stars in the NFL today:

PLAYER, TEAM	COLLEGE	CAREER HIGHLIGHT
S Mike Adams, Ind.	Delaware	Named to past 2 Pro Bowls; led team with 5 INTs in 2015
S Antoine Bethea, SF	Howard	Three-time All-Star; started all 146 career games
CB Justin Bethel, Ari.	Presbyterian	Named to past three Pro Bowls
CB Tramaine Brock, SF	Belhaven College	Tied for team lead with 3 INTs in 2015
CB Malcolm Butler, NE	West Alabama	Named to 2016 Pro Bowl; had game-sealing INT in SB XLIX
CB Brandon Carr, Dal.	Grand Valley State	14 career INTs; started all 128 career games
WR Victor Cruz, NYG	Massachusetts	Set NYG season record with 1,536 receiving yards in 2011
LB Zak DeOssie, NYG	Brown	Two-time All-Star as long snapper
FB Jerome Felton, Buf.	Furman	Named to 2013 Pro Bowl
QB Joe Flacco, Bal.	Delaware	Super Bowl XLVIII MVP; club-record 162 career TD passes
LB Junior Galette, Was.	Stillman	Recorded 10+ sacks in 2013 (12) and 2014 (10)
WR Pierre Garçon, Was.	Mount Union	NFL-best 113 rec. in 2013; 600+ rec. yards in 7 of 8 seasons
CB Brent Grimes, TB	Shippensburg	Four-time All-Star; had 4 INTs for Dolphins in 2015
DE William Hayes, LA	Winston-Salem State	Second on team with 5.5 sacks last season; 29.5 career sacks
RB Chris Ivory, Jax.	Tiffin	Ranked 5th in NFL with 1,070 rush yards in 2015 for Jets
WR Vincent Jackson, TB	Northern Colorado	Three-time All-Star; 1,000+ rec. yards in 6 of past 8 seasons
CB Janoris Jenkins, NYG	North Alabama	Has 10 career INTs, including 3 last season with Rams
RB Rashad Jennings, NYG	Liberty	Led team with 893 rush yards & three rush TDs last season
RB David Johnson, Ari.	Northern Iowa	Set franchise rookie record with 13 total TDs last season
P Marquette King, Oak.	Fort Valley State	Ranked 2nd in NFL last season with 40 punts inside the 20
DE Robert Mathis, Ind.	Alabama A&M	Five-time All-Star; has 118 career sacks
CB Josh Norman, Was.	Coastal Carolina	Named to 2016 Pro Bowl & helped Panthers reach SB 50
CB Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie, NYG	Tennessee State	Named to 2010 & 2016 Pro Bowls; has 24 career INTs
QB Tony Romo, Dal.	Eastern Illinois	Four-time All-Star; has franchise record 34,154 passing yards
TE Julius Thomas, Jax.	Portland State	Two-time All-Star; posted 12 TD receptions in 2013 & 2014
FB Mike Tolbert, Car.	Coastal Carolina	Named to 2014 & 2016 Pro Bowls
K Adam Vinatieri, Ind.	South Dakota State	Three-time All-Star; has 4 Super Bowl victories
TE Delanie Walker, Ten.	Central Missouri	Set franchise TE records for catches & rec. yards in 2015
CB Lardarius Webb, Bal.	Nicholls State	Led team with 11 PD in 2015; has 12 career INTs
QB Carson Wentz, Phi.	North Dakota State	Selected No. 2 overall in 2016 NFL Draft
RB Charcandrick West, KC	Abilene Christian	Led Chiefs with 634 rush yards last season
LB Michael Wilhoite, SF	Washburn	Ranked 2nd on team with 85 tackles in 2015
RB Danny Woodhead, SD	Chadron State	Led NFL RBs in rec. yards (755) last season
LB Paul Worrilow, Atl.	Delaware	Led Falcons last season with 95 tackles & added 2 INTs

PROTECTING THE QUARTERBACK

Protecting the quarterback is vital to NFL success.



“If you watched the Super Bowl, the team that actually got to the quarterback, they won the Super Bowl,” says Tennessee Titans general manager **JON ROBINSON**. “The team that protected their quarterback, they won the Super Bowl. So it is about the lines, and protecting the quarterback and keeping him upright so he can get the ball to the guys who run and catch.”

With such a premium placed on keeping the quarterback out of harm’s way, it is no surprise that teams have made it a priority to draft offensive tackles. Five offensive tackles – **RONNIE STANLEY** (No. 6, Baltimore) (left, with Commissioner Goodell), **JACK CONKLIN** (No. 8, Tennessee), **LAREMY TUNSIL** (No. 13, Miami), **TAYLOR DECKER** (No. 16, Detroit) and **GERMAIN IFEDI** (No. 31, Seattle) – were selected in the first round of the 2016 NFL Draft.

In all, there have been 14 offensive tackles selected in the first round of the past three NFL Drafts.

“It’s important to have a good offensive line,” says Baltimore Ravens general manager and executive vice president **OZZIE NEWSOME**, who selected tackle Stanley No. 6 overall. “Left tackle is important to protect the blind side of the quarterback.”

The tackles selected in the first round of the past three NFL drafts:

PLAYER	TEAM	DRAFT YEAR (PICK)
Ronnie Stanley	Baltimore	2016 (6th overall)
Jack Conklin	Tennessee	2016 (8th overall)
Laremy Tunsil	Miami	2016 (13th overall)
Taylor Decker	Detroit	2016 (16th overall)
Germain Ifedi	Seattle	2016 (31st overall)
Brandon Scherff	Washington	2015 (5th overall)
Ereck Flowers	NY Giants	2015 (9th overall)

PLAYER	TEAM	DRAFT YEAR (PICK)
Andrus Peat	New Orleans	2015 (13th overall)
Cedric Ogbuehi	Cincinnati	2015 (21st overall)
D.J. Humphries	Arizona	2015 (24th overall)
Greg Robinson	St. Louis	2014 (2nd overall)
Jake Matthews	Atlanta	2014 (6th overall)
Taylor Lewan	Tennessee	2014 (11th overall)
Ja’Wuan James	Miami	2014 (19th overall)



Jack Conklin



Laremy Tunsil



Taylor Decker



Germain Ifedi



Brandon Scherff



Ereck Flowers



Greg Robinson



Jake Matthews

AT A LOSS



When a defense controls the line of scrimmage, the opposing team's offense is affected as timing and rhythm are disrupted.

Houston Texans Pro Bowl defensive end **J.J. WATT** (left) caused havoc in the backfield last season, leading the NFL in tackles for a loss (29) and leading the league with 17.5 sacks.

"He's hard to block," says Texans head coach **BILL O'BRIEN** about Watt, the 2014 and 2015 NFL Defensive Player of the Year. "He's just a relentless player."

Pittsburgh Steelers tackle **MARCUS GILBERT** admires Watt's game.

"You never know what he's going to do because he's so unpredictable," says Gilbert. "He has great strength, great explosion off the ball, and he is quick laterally. He is one of the toughest guys I've faced because he studies the game, so you really have to prepare for him. He's one of those rare athletes at his position. I haven't seen any weaknesses in his game."

The 2015 leaders in tackles for a loss and sacks:

MOST TACKLES FOR A LOSS

PLAYER	2015 TEAM	TFL	SACKS
J.J. Watt	Texans	29	17.5
Khalil Mack	Raiders	23	15.0
Aaron Donald	Rams	22	11.0
Michael Bennett	Seahawks	18	10.0
Olivier Vernon	Dolphins	18	7.5

MOST SACKS

PLAYER	2015 TEAM	SACKS	TFL
J.J. Watt	Texans	17.5	29
Khalil Mack	Raiders	15.0	23
Ezekiel Ansah	Lions	14.5	15
Carlos Dunlap	Bengals	13.5	16
Chandler Jones	Patriots	12.5	11



Ezekiel Ansah



Michael Bennett



Aaron Donald



Carlos Dunlap



Khalil Mack



COWBOYS' ROOKIE ELLIOTT TOPS NFL IN JERSEY SALES



The Dallas Cowboys selected running back **EZEKIEL ELLIOTT** (left) with the No. 4 overall pick in the 2016 NFL Draft and now his Cowboys No. 21 jersey finds itself atop the list of NFL player jerseys sold on NFLShop.com (April 1 through June 30).

Elliott is one of three rookies to rank in the top 25 in jersey sales, joining quarterbacks **CARSON WENTZ** of the Philadelphia Eagles and **JARED GOFF** of the Los Angeles Rams. Wentz, who was selected No. 2 overall by the Eagles, ranks seventh while Goff, the No. 1 overall selection by the Rams, is 14th.

Many of last season's award winners can be found in the top 25. Carolina Panthers quarterback **CAM NEWTON**, who was named the NFL MVP and Offensive Player of the Year, has the fifth-best selling jersey. Super Bowl 50 MVP **VON MILLER** of the Denver Broncos, who defeated Newton and the Panthers in the Super Bowl, ranks 12th on the list. Houston Texans defensive end **J.J. WATT**, who won Defensive Player of the Year honors for the second consecutive season, checks in at No. 15. And Rams running back **TODD GURLEY**, the Offensive Rookie of the Year, has the 16th-best selling jersey.

The Cowboys lead all NFL teams with three jerseys in the top 25 – Elliott (No. 1), wide receiver **DEZ BRYANT** (No. 13) and tight end **JASON WITTEN** (No. 17).

The top-selling player jerseys (from April 1 – June 30):

TOP-SELLING NFL PLAYER JERSEYS

1	Ezekiel Elliott	Dallas Cowboys
2	Tom Brady	New England Patriots
3	Odell Beckham, Jr.	New York Giants
4	Cam Newton	Carolina Panthers
5	Rob Gronkowski	New England Patriots
6	Carson Wentz	Philadelphia Eagles
7	Aaron Rodgers	Green Bay Packers
8	Khalil Mack	Oakland Raiders
9	Antonio Brown	Pittsburgh Steelers
10	Von Miller	Denver Broncos
11	Russell Wilson	Seattle Seahawks
12	Derek Carr	Oakland Raiders
13	Dez Bryant	Dallas Cowboys

14	Jared Goff	Los Angeles Rams
15	J.J. Watt	Houston Texans
16	Todd Gurley	Los Angeles Rams
17	Jason Witten	Dallas Cowboys
18	A.J. Green	Cincinnati Bengals
19	Ben Roethlisberger	Pittsburgh Steelers
20	Eli Manning	New York Giants
21	Luke Kuechly	Carolina Panthers
22	Larry Fitzgerald	Arizona Cardinals
23	Jarvis Landry	Miami Dolphins
24	Drew Brees	New Orleans Saints
25	NaVorro Bowman	San Francisco 49ers

Source: NFLShop.com



Khalil Mack



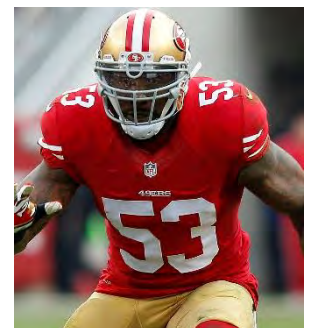
Carson Wentz



Von Miller



A.J. Green



NaVorro Bowman

HEY BROTHER

The NFL is a family game for players, coaches and fans. Not only can they all share the experience, but brothers also can share the field and sidelines.

Chicago cornerback **KYLE FULLER** will have the opportunity to line up across the field from his brother, Detroit wide receiver **COREY FULLER**, in Weeks 4 and 14. Their younger sibling, cornerback **KENDALL FULLER** – Washington’s third-round pick in the 2016 NFL Draft – will also get the chance to face his brothers, as the Redskins visit Detroit in Week 7 and Chicago in Week 16.

Other division rivalries will also have a family feel as brothers will face off against each other twice. Brothers **DUSTIN COLQUITT** (Kansas City) and **BRITTON COLQUITT** (Denver), both punters, will play against each other in AFC West clashes in Weeks 12 and 16. And in Weeks 4 and 8, New England tight end **ROB GRONKOWSKI** will meet his brother, rookie Buffalo fullback **GLENN GRONKOWSKI**.

For the second season in a row, Seattle defensive end **MICHAEL BENNETT** will face his brother, New England tight end **MARTELLUS BENNETT**, when the Seahawks visit the Patriots in Week 10. The two brothers faced off last season when Martellus was a member of the Chicago Bears.

Brothers also roam the NFL sidelines, both with and against each other. In Week 3, head coach **CHUCK PAGANO**’s Indianapolis Colts will host the San Diego Chargers and his brother, defensive coordinator **JOHN PAGANO**. Brothers **REX RYAN** and **ROB RYAN** will share a sideline this season in Buffalo, where Rex is the head coach and Rob serves as the assistant head coach/defense.

Some of the notable 2016 NFL brothers, as well as when they play each other in the regular season:

BENNETT	TE Martellus, NE DE Michael, Sea.	Sea @ NE 11/13
COLQUITT	P Britton, Den. P Dustin, KC	KC @ Den 11/27 Den @ KC 12/25
DAVIS	TE Vernon, Was. CB Vontae, Ind.	
FULLER	WR Corey, Det. CB Kendall, Was. CB Kyle, Chi.	Det @ Chi 10/2 Chi @ Det 12/11 Was @ Det 10/23 Was @ Chi 12/24
GRONKOWSKI	FB Glenn, Buf. TE Rob, NE	Buf @ NE 10/2 NE @ Buf 10/30
JONES	DT Arthur, Ind. DE Chandler, Ari.	
KALIL	T Matt, Min. C Ryan, Car.	Min @ Car 9/25
KENDRICKS	LB Eric, Min. LB Mychal, Phi.	Min @ Phi 10/23
LONG	DE Chris, NE G Kyle, Chi.	
MARTIN	C Nick, Hou. G Zack, Dal.	
MATTHEWS	T Jake, Atl. C Mike, Cle.	

MC COURTY	S Devin, NE CB Jason, Ten.	
MC COWN	QB Josh, Cle. QB Luke, NO	
NASSIB	DE Carl, Cle. QB Ryan, NYG	NYG @ Cle 11/27
PAGANO	HC Chuck, Ind. DC John, SD	SD @ Ind 9/25
POUNCEY	C Maurkice, Pit. C Mike, Mia.	Pit @ Mia 10/16
RYAN	HC Rex, Buf. Assistant HC Rob, Buf.	
SCHWARTZ	G Geoff, Det. T Mitchell, KC	
VEREEN	S Brock, NE RB Shane, NYG	
WATKINS	CB Jaylen, Phi. WR Sammy, Buf.	
WATT	FB Derek, SD DE J.J., Hou.	SD @ Hou 11/27



Britton (left) and Dustin (right) Colquitt



Corey (left) and Kyle (right) Fuller

WHO'S YOUR FAVORITE PLAYER TO WATCH?



In the NFL, there are great players all over the field. And there are certain guys who are so mesmerizing to watch that fellow players can't help but admire some of their toughest competition.

So who did NFL players select as their favorite player to watch?

Denver Broncos Pro Bowl linebacker and Super Bowl 50 MVP **VON MILLER** (left) receives extra attention while rushing passers, but his peers have been watching off the field, too.

"Von Miller is such a great athlete," says Los Angeles Rams defensive tackle **MICHAEL BROCKERS**. "It is fun to watch him rush the passer."

Green Bay Packers quarterback **AARON RODGERS**, a five-time Pro Bowl selection and two-time league MVP, is another popular choice among NFL players.

"He's just exciting to watch," says Cincinnati Bengals defensive tackle **DOMATA PEKO** about Rodgers. "Those Hail Mary's and the other plays he comes up with are pretty awesome."

Here are some of the NFL players' favorite players to watch:

PLAYER, TEAM	PLAYER HE LIKES TO WATCH
Michael Brockers, LA	" Von Miller is such a great athlete and it is fun to watch him rush the passer."
Antonio Brown, Pit.	"My favorite player to watch is Andre Johnson just because of his passion and his work ethic for the game and for how long he has been doing it. I love his excitement and the passion he brings to the game. He's definitely a marquee player that I enjoy watching."
Morgan Burnett, GB	" Malcom Jenkins because of his versatility. He has good footwork, can come down and cover like a corner and be in the box and tackle."
Victor Cruz, NYG	" Adrian Peterson because he is a complete player. He plays the game hard and plays the game the right way."
Lavonte David, TB	" Antonio Brown . He plays with a lot of heart and he makes great plays on the field."
Quinton Dial, SF	"I like watching DeMarcus Ware because of his relentless style and the way he can take over games."
Kasim Edebali, NO	" Von Miller because he is a sack artist."
William Gay, Pit.	"I think one of my favorite players, who is not on my team, who I like to watch is Aaron Rodgers because he has the swag of a defensive back, but plays quarterback."
T.Y. Hilton, Ind.	" Antonio Brown . We grew up together and I like watching him play. He's similar to me."
Chandler Jones, Ari.	" J.J. Watt . He shows up every Sunday and nobody can block him."
Pat McAfee, Ind.	"It's got to be Cam Newton . We got a chance to play down in Carolina last year and he wasn't only the quarterback, he was the maestro to the entire stadium and city. They played the Superman anthem and then directly afterwards he flew into the end zone against us and the entire city of Charlotte partied with him. It was just a show the entire time so I think he is probably the most entertaining human I have ever watched play football."
Lamar Miller, Hou.	"I would say Antonio Brown . He brings a lot of energy. He makes plays so whenever he touches the ball you know there's always excitement to see what he's going to be able to do. He's a very exciting player to watch."
C.J. Mosley, Bal.	"I'll go with one of my former teammates from Alabama – Ha Ha Clinton-Dix , safety for the Packers. Playing with him at Alabama, I always knew the kind of potential he had, and to see him grow as a player like he did last year – especially in the playoffs – I really felt great for him. I always love watching my former teammates play, but I especially try to stay in touch with Ha Ha."
Domata Peko, Cin.	" Aaron Rodgers . He's just exciting to watch. Those Hail Mary's and the other plays he comes up with are pretty awesome."
Alterraun Verner, TB	" Earl Thomas , because he plays with so much energy and passion for the game."
Eric Weddle, Bal.	" Rob Gronkowski , because he's a beast and always does awesome things when he scores. When he makes big plays, you always think something good is going to happen. I'm always looking for his highlights."

WHY I CHOSE MY NUMBER

For some NFL players, their jersey number is just a number. But for others, it carries a special significance.



Rookies **SU'A CRAVENS** of the Washington Redskins and **JARED GOFF** (left) of the Los Angeles Rams both chose their numbers to honor their favorite players.

Cravens, who was drafted in the second round (No. 53 overall) by the Redskins, chose No. 36 to honor former Washington Pro Bowl safety **SEAN TAYOR**. Taylor wore No. 36 as a rookie for the Redskins in 2004.

"Sean Taylor is one of my all-time favorite players," says Cravens. "The fact that I get to wear that number means so much to me. I'm so grateful and thankful, and I'll do my best to respect the number."

Goff, the No. 1 overall selection in the 2016 NFL Draft, selected No. 16, the same number worn by his idol, Pro Football Hall of Fame quarterback **JOE MONTANA**.

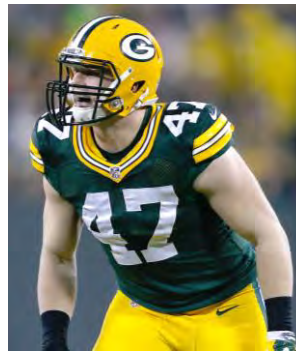
"When I was little, my dad got me a Joe Montana jersey," recalls Goff. "I didn't know who Joe was yet, but when I started playing football, we had our number choices and 16 was available so I took it. The next year, I wore 16 again and I've worn it my whole life since then."



Su'a Cravens



Mark Ingram



Jake Ryan



Sammy Watkins

The reasons behind some NFL players' numbers:

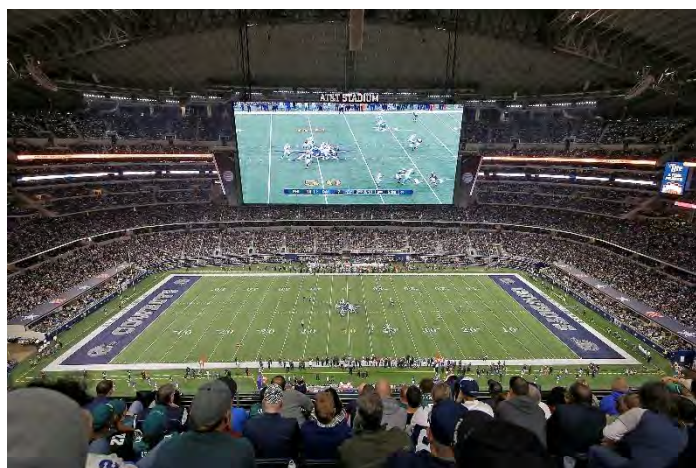
PLAYER, TEAM	POS.	NO.	EXPLANATION
NAT BERHE , New York Giants	S	29	Berhe switched from 34 to 29 to support Kansas City Chiefs Pro Bowl safety Eric Berry, who overcame Hodgkin lymphoma.
ANQUAN BOLDIN , Detroit	WR	80	Boldin wore 81 during his first 13 NFL seasons (with Arizona, Baltimore and San Francisco) but switched to 80 when he joined Detroit out of respect for former WR Calvin Johnson, who wore 81 as a Lion and retired in the offseason.
SU'A CRAVENS , Washington	S	36	Cravens always admired how safety Sean Taylor played the game, so to honor him, he selected Taylor's rookie number, 36. Cravens also has a tattoo of the number 21, which is the number Taylor wore for a majority of his career.
JARED GOFF , Los Angeles	QB	16	Growing up in the Bay Area, Goff has always wanted to wear the number 16 to honor his idol, Joe Montana.
MARK INGRAM , New Orleans	RB	22	Ingram wore 22 when he won the Heisman Trophy in 2009 while playing at Alabama.
ANDY LEE , Cleveland	P	8	After being traded and switching teams for the first time in his 12-year career, Lee decided to wear 8 in honor of his late daughter, Madelyn, who lived for eight days after her birth in early 2015.
KYLE LONG , Chicago	OL	75	Long chose the number 75 to honor his father, Howie Long, who wore that number during his Hall of Famer career with the Oakland/Los Angeles Raiders.
JAKE RYAN , Green Bay	LB	47	During his sophomore year in college, Ryan switched from 90 to 47 for the remainder of his career in honor of Michigan football legend Bennie Oosterbaan, who played and coached for the Wolverines from 1925-58.
SAMMY WATKINS , Buffalo	WR	14	Watkins wore 2 at Clemson after wearing 7 in high school at South Fort Myers in Florida. After learning that 14 has never been worn by a non-quarterback in Bills' history, he decided the equation $2 \times 7 = 14$ also made sense to select his new number.

VISITOR'S PASS: FAVORITE NFL STADIUMS

It's great to have home-field advantage, but road trips have their perks, too. Traveling to stadiums that pride themselves on unique weather conditions, loyal fans and rich traditions can present excellent opportunities for the visiting team to rise to the challenge. Plus, for some players, it means heading back to your hometown or bringing back Super Bowl-winning memories.

Here's a list of some players' favorite road stadiums:

PLAYER, TEAM	FAVORITE AWAY STADIUM AND REASON
Will Blackmon, Washington	"I like Denver's stadium because it is a real pretty stadium."
Jordan Cameron, Miami	"Heinz Field in Pittsburgh because they play 'Renegade' by Styx in the fourth quarter. They play it at key points in the game and the whole stadium goes nuts and they have this really good speaker system. Everyone's waving their towels and it's kind of a cool moment. It gives me more motivation and a little energy boost when you get out there. It's kind of an exciting moment."
Vontae Davis, Indianapolis	"Jacksonville's EverBank Field because of the weather. Every time we play there it's really nice."
Justin Forsett, Baltimore	"CenturyLink Field in Seattle. It's a loud and hostile environment and a lot of fun to be a part of."
DeAngelo Hall, Washington	"I think the best atmosphere is in Kansas City. I played there as a rookie and Arrowhead Stadium was one of the best places I've been since I've been in the league."
Arthur Jones, Indianapolis	"Pittsburgh's Heinz Field. Coming over from Baltimore, that rivalry is real. Even though I am with the Colts now, I still have that same feeling when I go in there. They hate us, I hate them. But at the end of the day, we respect each other and we play hard."
Jerick McKinnon, Minnesota	"Lambeau Field in Green Bay because of the history of the stadium."
Jordy Nelson, Green Bay	"Dallas' AT&T Stadium because that's where we won the Super Bowl (XLV)."
DeAngelo Williams, Pittsburgh	"My favorite road stadium to play in is in Oakland (O.co Coliseum) against the Raiders. The reason why I like playing against the Raiders in Oakland is because I'm a huge horror fanatic. October is my favorite month of the year because it's Halloween and I get to see the people come out in costumes. If you know anything about the Oakland Raiders, they have costumes all the time and they have Grade-A horror movie quality costumes. I like seeing the pageantry of horror characters in the stands in Oakland."
Andrew Whitworth, Cincinnati	"I'd have to say Baltimore (M&T Bank Stadium). It's a great rivalry for us, of course, but I also like the sort of college-type atmosphere there with all the flags they use and the band."
Duke Williams, Buffalo	"Cleveland (FirstEnergy Stadium) is pretty fun. We played there on a Thursday night and it was a lot of fun. Their fans know how to turn it up."



AT&T Stadium (Dallas)



CenturyLink Field (Seattle)



NFL PLAYER ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMS

The mission of **NFL PLAYER ENGAGEMENT** is to serve, educate, and assist current and former players and their families to achieve a successful, well-balanced, and healthy life during and after their playing experience.

Player Engagement accomplishes its mission through peer-to-peer engagement of the NFL player community with innovative program and service offerings that meet the dynamic needs of the athletes and their families.

Through a unique system of resource distribution, Player Engagement offers league-activated services and empowers the Directors of Player Engagement at the club level with programs and offerings that foster success both on and off the field.

To reflect the distinct phases of the NFL playing experience, the Player Engagement team focuses on two primary platforms—**NFL Life** and **NFL Next**.

NFL Life engages current NFL players with personal and professional development resources such as:

- Rookie Transition Program
- Rookie Success Program
- Veteran professional development
- Continuing education
- Corporate internships
- Financial literacy
- Career development
- Performance development
- Boot camps as introductions to post-playing experience career opportunities
- Club business development for off-field ventures
- Development opportunities within football
- Total Wellness

NFL Next assists former players in a lifetime of transition through providing information and activations regarding programs, services and benefits. These include, but are not limited to:

- Bridge to success
- Club partnerships
- Legends Community
- Ambassadors
- Career development
- Benefits – Player Care Foundation, The Trust
- Total Wellness

Players and coaches can access resources and learn more about opportunities by contacting **Player Central**, Player Engagement's resource hub that answers questions about programs and services, directs inquiries to the appropriate department, and serves as a one-stop gateway to assist with current and former player needs at the league level.

Through Player Engagement, the entire NFL family has access to **NFL Total Wellness**. Total Wellness focuses on four areas that are critical to success in life: physical, emotional, personal and financial strength. Each has a rich set of tools, resources, ideas, and inspiration supported through Player Engagement.

Total Wellness offers tools and training that the NFL player population needs to succeed in the game of life. It includes everything from stress management resources to health coaching to financial planning services. Some of the resources and assistance offered through Total Wellness include:

- Health management
- Healthy Babies Program
- Information on adoption, child care, education, and parenting
- Special needs care (children, elders, disabilities)
- Free, confidential mental health counseling
- Crisis support through NFL LifeLine (800.506.0078)
- 24/7 confidential financial support
- Financial tools
- Financial, legal and identity theft services

The NFL is committed to the care and success of its total active and former player population and the league recognizes, respects and honors its players' contributions to the game and to society.



Seattle Seahawks Rookie Transition Program



2016 Broadcast Boot Camp



2016 Personal Finance Boot Camp

FOOTBALL REMAINS MOST POPULAR HIGH SCHOOL SPORT

Football continues to lead the high school sports landscape with more than one million participants for the 17th consecutive year.

The number of boys playing high school football – totaling 11, nine, eight and six-player teams – led all sports with 1,112,555 participants, according to the most recently published National Federation of State High School Associations participation survey (2014-15 school year).

The 1,112,555 boys involved in the sport account for approximately 25 percent of the 4,519,312 boys that participate in athletics and is significantly larger than the next most-played sport, outdoor track and field, in which 578,632 boys participated.

MOST POPULAR BOYS HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

SPORT	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS
Football	1,112,555
Outdoor Track and Field	578,632
Basketball	541,479
Baseball	486,567
Soccer	432,569

Texas is home to the most high school student-athletes playing 11-man football with 163,998 participants. Texas also had the most players selected in the 2016 NFL Draft with 32.

The breakdown of states with double-digit players selected in the 2016 NFL Draft:

STATE	PLAYERS DRAFTED	STATE	PLAYERS DRAFTED
Texas	32	Georgia	15
Florida	30	Ohio	14
California	26	Illinois	10

A total of 247 high schools contributed to the 253 players selected in the 2016 draft.

Six high schools – **GLENVILLE** (Ohio), **MANSFIELD LEGACY** (Texas), **OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL** (Maryland), **SAINT THOMAS AQUINAS** (Florida), **WALSH JESUIT** (Ohio) and **WHEATLEY** (Texas) – had two players selected in the 2016 NFL Draft.

The breakdown of the six high schools that had multiple players drafted by NFL clubs in 2016:

HIGH SCHOOL	TOTAL	PLAYERS (NFL TEAM/ROUND)
Glenville (Cleveland, OH)	2	Willie Henry (Baltimore/4); Cardale Jones (Buffalo/4)
Mansfield Legacy (Mansfield, TX)	2	Josh Doctson (Washington/1); Rees Odhiambo (Seattle/3)
Our Lady of Good Counsel (Wheaton, MD)	2	Kendall Fuller (Washington/3); Blake Countess (Philadelphia/6)
Saint Thomas Aquinas (Fort Lauderdale, FL)	2	Joey Bosa (San Diego/1); Jake Rudock (Detroit/6)
Walsh Jesuit (Stow, OH)	2	Connor Cook (Oakland/4); Drew Kaser (San Diego/6)
Wheatley (Houston, TX)	2	William Jackson (Cincinnati/1); Xavien Howard (Miami/2)



Glenville



Mansfield Legacy



Our Lady of Good Counsel



Saint Thomas Aquinas



Walsh Jesuit



Wheatley



YOUTH FOOTBALL SCORES WITH KIDS

Whether they're in elementary school or high school, boys and girls of all ages have embraced the opportunity to learn football skills and get active through **PUNT, PASS & KICK** and **NFL FLAG**. Both programs are powered by USA Football, a member of U.S. Olympic Committee, which trains more high school and youth football coaches combined than any organization in the United States.



Punt, Pass & Kick is among the longest-tenured grassroots programs across all sports – and has more kids participating in the program today than ever before. More than 200,000 girls and boys ages 6-15 took part in the free national skills competition in 2015. Dozens of NFL greats, including Pro Football Hall of Famers **TROY AIKMAN** and **BRETT FAVRE**, participated in “PPK” as children. Punt, Pass & Kick consists of four levels of competition – local, sectional, team championships and nationals. National finalists are recognized on-field during an award presentation during an NFL Divisional Playoff game.

NFL FLAG powered by USA Football is a fun, dynamic non-contact football experience where kids can develop skills, enjoy the excitement of the sport and gain football's inherent values, including teamwork, dedication and discipline. The program had more than 340,000 boys and girls, ages 5-17, participate last year. In the weeks leading up to the NFL FLAG championship game, NFL clubs host regional tournaments, giving participants the chance to interact with their favorite teams. The season culminates with 32 teams competing at the annual NFL FLAG powered by USA Football National Championships.

To further expand the reach of flag football, the NFL, USA Football, GENYOUth and Fuel Up to Play 60 announced that they would be providing NFL FLAG Essentials Kits to one million students across 3,700 schools nationwide, made possible by a \$1.5 million commitment from the NFL Foundation. The kits include footballs, flag belts, posters and a P.E. curriculum designed for elementary and middle school students.

Additionally, the NFL, through the NFL-USA Football Girls Flag Program, remains committed to helping establish girls flag football as a high school sport throughout the country and aims to encourage schools to offer flag football as a varsity sport for girls.

“More girls are playing high school flag football than ever before,” says NFL director of football development **SAMANTHA RAPOPORT**. “Just as it does for boys, football – and everything it encompasses – captures girls’ imaginations when they’re playing it on the field and following it as a fan. High schools across the country put our program to work to enable more student-athletes to gain the fun, fitness and social benefits gained through the sport.”

In 2008, the NFL identified 10 cities with high levels of interest in recreational girls flag football and selected one girl in each city to advocate for the establishment of girls flag football as a high school sport. The NFL worked with each one of these representatives as she championed for the establishment of girls flag football in her school district. The NFL helped subsidize the programs for every high school that agreed to sanction girls flag programs, providing free equipment as well as coaching and officiating manuals.



“It was at the high school level, but now we are expanding to all levels of school: elementary, junior, and high schools,” says Rapoport. “In flag football, there’s really a position for every girl. However big you are, however small you are, however fast, there is a position for you on the field. So it lends itself well to attracting girls from all walks of life.”

QUARTERBACKS OF THE FUTURE

The success of a team often hinges on the production at the quarterback position.

“Everybody feeds off of what the quarterback can and cannot do,” says Pro Football Hall of Famer and ESPN NFL analyst **STEVE YOUNG**. “The foundation of the game is really built off of responding to what the quarterback presents.”

GIL BRANDT, who oversaw the Dallas Cowboys’ personnel department for 29 years and currently shares his gridiron knowledge as a senior analyst for NFL.com, sees plenty of quarterback talent coming up the pike.

“The quarterbacks we see in college now are so much more developed passers than the quarterbacks we saw 25 years ago, simply because teams are throwing the ball so much more at the high school and collegiate level,” says Brandt. “The 7-on-7 summer football camps have also really helped these young quarterbacks develop their passing skills.”

Following are Brandt’s choices for the top QBs in college today (listed alphabetically):

QUARTERBACK	HT/ WT	BRANDT’S ANALYSIS
C.J. Beathard , Iowa	6-2/209	“Last season was Beathard’s first as the starter and he threw 17 touchdowns, leading Iowa to an undefeated regular season. He is very smart with good leadership qualities and has good arm strength.”
Luke Falk , Washington State	6-4/215	“Luke threw for 38 touchdowns last season and had a 69.4 completion percentage. He had three games with at least 497 passing yards against good teams – very accurate and well coached by Mike Leach.”
Gunner Kiel , Cincinnati	6-4/215	“He is a senior, who had a 65.2 completion percentage last season, and is very athletic with excellent arm strength and accuracy. His uncle, Blair Kiel, played seven years in the NFL.”
Patrick Mahomes , Texas Tech	6-3/225	“Entering his third year as a starter, Mahomes is probably as athletic as any of the quarterbacks we’ll see this year. He has a strong arm and threw for 598 yards against Baylor. His father, Pat, pitched 11 years in Major League Baseball.”
Baker Mayfield , Oklahoma	6-1/212	“Mayfield started 2013 as a walk-on at Texas Tech and transferred to Oklahoma after the season. Last year, he threw for 36 touchdowns and completed 68 percent of his passes. He is a Fran Tarkenton-type of quarterback because he moves around well and makes things happen.”
Deshaun Watson , Clemson	6-2/210	“Watson is the real deal. He has excellent running ability with great arm strength and accuracy. He led Clemson to the National Championship game and was a Heisman finalist last season.”

BRANDT’S HONORABLE MENTIONS: **J.T. Barrett**, Ohio State; **Max Browne**, Southern California; **Brad Kaaya**, Miami (FL); **Chad Kelly**, Mississippi; **Josh Rosen**, UCLA; **Seth Russell**, Baylor. **BRANDT’S FRESHMEN TO WATCH:** **Shea Patterson**, Mississippi; **Jacob Eason**, Georgia.

The talent pool will only deepen with these five high school seniors, rated in order of talent by CBS Sports Network recruiting expert **TOM LEMMING**:

QUARTERBACK	HT/WT	HIGH SCHOOL	LEMMING’S ANALYSIS
Jake Fromm	6-3/220	Houston County (GA)	“He reminds me of Brett Favre. He’s a gun slinger and he throws a 90+ mph baseball pitch. He’s a great pocket passer and a pro-style quarterback. He’s committed to the University of Georgia.”
Dylan McCaffrey	6-5/205	Valor Christian (CO)	“Dylan was the player of the year in Colorado. He’s another pro-style quarterback who is very tall and comes from an athletic family. His brother is Stanford running back and Heisman hopeful Christian McCaffrey.”
Hunter Johnson	6-3/200	Brownsburg (IN)	“He is very talented. He had a great year and a great sophomore year. He’s got all of the tools and is committed to Clemson.”
N’Kosi Perry	6-3/175	Vanguard (FL)	“The kind of kid you’re looking for in college now, someone who can run and throw. He’s got a lot of confidence. Overall, he is a great athlete – great basketball player and track star.”
Tate Martell	5-11/190	Bishop Gorman (NV)	“He led Bishop Gorman to the National Championship the past two years. He’s a Russell Wilson-type quarterback, who can run and throw. He throws exceptionally well on the run.”

LEMMING’S HONORABLE MENTIONS: **Kellen Mond**, IMG Academy (FL); **Ryan Kelley**, Basha (AZ); **Shawn Robinson**, DeSoto (TX); **Avery Davis**, Cedar Hill (TX); **Jake Bentley**, Opelika (AL); **Davis Mills**, Greater Atlanta Christian (GA); **Myles Brennan**, St. Stanislaus (MS); **Hendon Hooker**, Dudley (NC); **Bailey Hockman**, McEachern (GA).



SUMMARY OF NFL PROGRAMS & BENEFITS FOR FORMER PLAYERS

The NFL has a large number of meaningful resources that are available to retired players – NFL Legends – in their post NFL years. These include transition assistance and continuing education programs for recently retired players as well as dozens of collectively-bargained benefits for them and for those “more experienced” retirees who were pioneers in the league.

The landmark 2011 NFL Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) included additional funding of approximately \$1 billion for retiree benefits. The largest single amount – \$620 million – is being used for the **LEGACY FUND**, which has increased pensions for pre-1993 retirees.

“Nothing the league can do can ever fully express our appreciation to the players who helped build our league,” says NFL Commissioner **ROGER GOODELL**. “However, the Legacy Fund is a significant step, especially as the benefits apply to the older players.”

Below is a summary of the many programs and benefits that former players – NFL Legends – have earned through their play in the league:

NFL PROGRAMS

- **NFL LEGENDS COMMUNITY**

The league office created the Legends Community in response to former players (NFL Legends) who wanted to remain close to – or renew – NFL relationships with former teammates, teams and the league. The Community also allows these players to meet and discuss their own post-NFL businesses with successful NFL sponsors and advertisers. More than 4,000 Legends have signed up and are enjoying the benefits of remaining part of the NFL family.

- **THE BRIDGE TO SUCCESS**

The NFL Bridge to Success is designed to empower and equip former players and their significant other through the transition from the NFL mentally, emotionally, physically, financially and equip them for the next season of life. This is accomplished by providing them with the tools and peer-to-peer support to navigate the transition into post-NFL life.

- **CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAM (CEP)**

The NFL Continuing Education Program (CEP) assists both current and former players who need to complete their undergraduate degree, pursue graduate studies or utilize other educational opportunities to prepare for life after the NFL. Former players with a minimum of one credited season also may be eligible for a tuition reimbursement benefit to help with the costs of continuing their education.

- **NFL CAREER BOOT CAMPS**

The NFL offers former players the opportunity to work with established professionals in various fields and to learn about other careers that may interest them as they move into their post-NFL years. These “Boot Camps” are offered over a series of days in areas such as coaching, business franchising and entrepreneurship, personal finance and broadcast and sports journalism/communications. These programs are held in partnership with prestigious colleges such as University of Michigan Ross School of Business as well as prominent companies such as TD Ameritrade.

- **JOB SHADOWS & INTERNSHIPS**

The Internship Program provides an opportunity for NFL players to gain work experience and industry knowledge through internships, apprenticeships, informational interviews, shadowing and structured learning opportunities with various businesses and organizations throughout the year.

- **CONCIERGE HEALTH INSURANCE ASSISTANCE**

The NFL provides free personalized assistance to former players who need to buy annual health insurance for themselves and their family.

- **PRO FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME ASSISTANCE FOUNDATION**

The Pro Football Hall of Fame Board of Trustees in Canton, Ohio established an assistance fund for those enshrined, especially pioneers from the NFL's early years, who may be facing financial or medical challenges. Grants have been made to assist these men and their families when they faced housing needs, medical difficulties or have been victims of a serious accident.

- **NFL PLAYER CARE FOUNDATION**

The NFL Player Care Foundation provides retired players assistance in two major areas: financial grants to assist players in a time of need; and the Healthy Body & Mind Screening Program, its national cardiovascular and prostate screening program that also provides mental health education. Grants have been made to players to help with expenses ranging from housing needs to family funerals.

- **OTHER PROGRAMS**

Other groups affiliated with the NFL also offer a host of programs to benefit former players. The NFL Alumni Association's mission is to "serve, assist and inform its members to enrich their post NFL lives." The Gridiron Greats Assistance Fund provides financial grants and "pro bono" medical assistance to retired players in dire need. Finally, the TRUST, powered by the NFLPA, is committed to the well-being of former players and works to meet each individual where he is in his transition off the playing field. For more information on the programs and services provided by the NFLPA for both active and former players, go to www.nflpa.com.

NFL BENEFITS

- **JOINT REPLACEMENT BENEFIT**

The NFL provides as much as \$5,250 to cover health care items or services directly related to knee, hip or shoulder replacement surgery. In addition, the NFL Player Care Foundation provides grants to assist players in need up to and including the cost of the replacement surgery.

- **DISCOUNT PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFIT**

The benefit is a Discount Drug Card which provides immediate discounts for prescription drugs at more than 57,000 retail pharmacies nationwide, including all major chains.

- **LIFE INSURANCE BENEFIT**

Each eligible former player has term life insurance until he turns 55 in an amount of \$20,000 plus \$2,000 for each credited season in the league up to a maximum of \$50,000.

- **ASSISTED LIVING BENEFIT**

Any former player is eligible for the Assisted Living Benefit which provides special discounts and preferred access in more than 500 communities around the country. There is particular care for those individuals with Alzheimer's and other memory impairment diseases.

- **MEDICARE SUPPLEMENT**

The NFL has contracted with insurers to make available a range of supplemental Medicare insurance plans to former players ages 65 and older.

- **SPINE TREATMENT BENEFIT**

All former players are eligible. The NFL has arrangements with top tier medical centers that have particular expertise to provide access, evaluation and possible treatment by top orthopedic surgeons across the country.

- **NEUROLOGICAL BENEFIT**

The NFL has contracted with top medical centers around the country that have special expertise to provide access, evaluation and possible treatment for all retired players.

- **88 PLAN**

The 88 Plan provides benefits to players with dementia, ALS and Parkinson's disease. These benefits are the reimbursement or payments of medical or custodial expenses up to \$130,000 related to these diseases.

- **NFL PLAYER RETIREMENT PLAN**

This plan provides a vested player with pension benefits and offers survivor protections for his spouse and family. A player is vested after only three-to-four credited seasons depending on when he was in the league. Normal retirement age to begin receiving pension payments is 55.

- **LEGACY PAYMENTS**

Players who were in the NFL prior to 1993 may receive an additional monthly payment along with their pension as part of the 2011 Collective Bargaining Agreement.

- **WIDOW & SURVIVOR BENEFIT**

The Retirement Plan pays survivor benefits to certain widows and other beneficiaries of deceased players. Survivors begin receiving benefits on the first month after a player's death.

- **NFL PLAYER ANNUITY PLAN**

The Annuity Plan which is funded by the clubs provides deferred compensation for recently retired players at no cost to the players.

- **NFL CAPITAL ACCUMULATION PLAN**

The Capital Accumulation Plan allows recently retired players to allocate a club-funded account into a number of investment funds.

- **DISABILITY BENEFITS**

The NFL Player Disability Plan provides three kinds of disability benefits: Total & Permanent Disability benefits, Line of Duty Disability benefits and Neurocognitive Disability benefits. A nationwide panel of expert physicians have been retained and are instructed to examine applicant players fully and fairly. The Plan's Medical Director, who is a physician, also has been hired with the authority and responsibility to oversee the panel of doctors as well as act as a voting member of the Disability Initial Claims Committee.

- **LONG TERM CARE INSURANCE**

Players 50 or older are eligible to receive long-term care coverage at no cost to them if they meet the underwriting requirements of the insurance provider and are approved. This coverage provides financial support for players if they require long-term medical assistance at home, in the community, in assisted living or in nursing homes.

- **NEURO COGNITIVE BENEFIT**

This benefit makes monthly payments to players who have a mild or moderate neurocognitive impairment, as well as provides reimbursement toward the cost of medical expenses associated with that impairment. Players receive examinations from board-certified neurologists and neuropsychologists at top medical facilities.

- **NFL LIFE LINE**

This 24/7 service is a free, independent and confidential phone consultation hotline available to former players, their wives and other family members who may need assistance with matters such as spousal and child safety, mental and physical health, lifestyle and transition in post-NFL life.

- **NFL PLAYERS ASSISTANCE & COUNSELLING SERVICES**

This Employee Assistance benefit is provided for both retired and active players plus their families. It provides individuals as many as eight free counselling sessions a year for matters ranging from family/marital concerns to depression.

- **NFL PLAYER TUITION ASSISTANCE PLAN**

The Tuition Plan encourages recently retired players to continue their education for undergraduates and/or graduate degrees. Business management programs may also be eligible for reimbursement.

- **NFL SECOND CAREER SAVINGS PLAN**

NFL clubs provide funding to supplement dollars contributed by active players for their use in retirement. Another provision of the Plan require clubs to provide funds even to those active players who do not wish to contribute dollars of their own.

- **NFL PLAYERS HEALTH REIMBURSEMENT ACCOUNT**

The Health Reimbursement Account plan was created to help recently retired players and their families pay out-of-pocket health care expenses during a period of their post-NFL years. This account is funded by the Clubs up to \$350,000.

- **NFL SEVERANCE PLAN**

This program provides that recently retired players who have as few as two years in the league will receive a lump-sum check approximately one year after their final NFL season.

- **NFL PLAYER INSURANCE PLAN**

The plan calls for health insurance to be made available free of charge to recently retired players who have played in the league more than three seasons. These players receive five years of free health coverage for themselves and their families after they leave the league. The players then have the option to continue to pay for coverage for an unlimited number of succeeding years.

NFL LEGENDS BUSY & SUCCESSFUL IN POST-PLAYING CAREERS

The NFL is proud of its thousands of elite player alumni – NFL Legends – who have moved on to successful careers in business, public service, coaching, medicine, education and the law.



CHRIS GODFREY (left), who was a starting guard on the New York Giants team that won Super Bowl XXI in 1986, does not hesitate when asked whether he was in favor of his sons following in his footsteps.

“Football is a good sport,” says Godfrey, who has one son finishing his college career as a fullback-tight end at Ball State and another child who was a sophomore lineman on his high school team last fall.

“Life can sometimes be hard and football can be a wonderful preparation for it,” he says. “There really is nothing quite like it. I hope even more young men get to experience our sport.”

Godfrey graduated law school from Notre Dame after playing his college football in the 1970’s on three Rose Bowl teams at the University of Michigan.

“When I was in law school,” he recalls, “there were students who always took the position that potentially dangerous products should be outlawed. The other end of that argument is that you have to live too. Those sorts of risks are everywhere. I am pleased that our game is being made safer. You don’t want to be reckless, but at some point you’ve got to live.”

Godfrey does a good deal of living in his adopted hometown of South Bend with his wife and six children. His law firm – Godfrey Law Offices – specializes in estate planning. He also founded a non-profit, “Life Athletes,” which is dedicated to helping young people grow in their relationships with one another. In his “spare time,” Godfrey is president of the St. Joseph’s High School Board of Education.

Meanwhile, **N.D. KALU** (right) was a fifth round draft pick of the Philadelphia Eagles in 1997 who never played in a Super Bowl or Pro Bowl.



But you can stop feeling sorry for him right now. All Kalu did was play 12 seasons in the league with the Eagles, Washington Redskins and Houston Texans. His secret to success?

“Just constantly growing by being able to watch the game and learn from some of the vets,” he explains. “When I was in Washington, I was backing up **BRUCE SMITH**. In Philly, I had a chance to back up **HUGH DOUGLAS** and **RICHARD DENT**. I was trying to learn from these guys. By the time I was able to start for the Eagles, I took a piece of all their games and tried to implement them into my own.”

While he was in the NFL, he did more than play. He took advantage of several NFL off-the-field programs, both at the Wharton Business School at Penn and the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern.

He became a licensed real estate broker and co-founded Benford-Kalu Investments in 2003 along with a college teammate from Rice University. Four years later, he founded the Kalu Group, which invests in the acquisition and sale of properties in both Texas and Pennsylvania... and *then* he retired as a player.

In addition to his companies and charitable work, Kalu does a daily two-hour sports talk show in Houston with former Green Bay Packers lineman **GREG KOCH**, who received his law degree from the University of Arkansas.

The below list is just a sampling of what some former NFL players are doing in their second (or even third) careers:

PLAYER	TEAM(S)	CURRENT CAREER POSITION (LOCATION)
RB Walter Abercrombie	Steelers, Eagles	Executive Director, "B" Association (TX) Assistant Athletic Director, Baylor University (TX)
CB Brian Allred	Seahawks	Field Manager, PG&E Wireless Operations (CA)
QB Charlie Batch	Lions, Steelers	Co-founder, Impellia (PA)
TE Greg Baty	Patriots, Dolphins, Rams	Principal, Hamilton Lane Florida Growth Fund (FL)
WR Don Beebe	Bills, Panthers, Packers	Founder, House of Speed (IL)
G Jacob Bell	Titans, Rams	Owner, SOL CAL Café (CA)
QB Kerwin Bell	Colts	Head Coach, Valdosta State (GA)
RB Michael Blair	Packers, Bengals	President, Ninety10 Sports (IL)
WR Jeremy Bloom	Eagles, Steelers	Co-Founder/CEO, Integrate (AZ)
DB Terry Brown	Cardinals, Vikings, Browns	Agent, State Farm Insurance (OK)

WR Wayne Chrebet	Jets	Director/Investments, Stifel Financial Corp (NY)
TE Greg Clark	49ers	President, Green Leaf Properties, LLC (CA)
C Randy Clark	Cardinals, Falcons	Sales Manager, ICU Medical (Ill)
DB Toi Cook	Saints, 49ers, Panthers	President, Empire Sports (CA)
K Joe Cooper	Oilers, Giants	Founding Partner, Cooper & Cooper (CA)
LB Terry Crews	Rams, Chargers, Redskins, Eagles	Actor, Fox-TV's Brooklyn Nine-Nine (CA)
T Justin Cross	Bills	Commercial Pilot, Jet Blue Airways (NH)
DT Brad Culpepper	Vikings, Buccaneers, Bears	Founder, Culpepper Kurland Law Firm (FL)
DB Jeffrey Dale	Chargers	Director of Housekeeping, University of Washington (WA)
QB Ty Detmer	Packers, Eagles, 49ers, Browns, Lions	Offensive Coordinator & Quarterbacks Coach, Brigham Young University (UT)
DB Alan Dial	Eagles	Partner, King & Spalding (DC)
WR Chuck Dicus	Chargers	President, Arkansas Game & Fish Foundation (AK)
DE Tim Edwards	Patriots	Defensive Line Coach, University at Buffalo (NY)
QB Tom Flick	Redskins, Patriots, Browns, Chargers	Founder, Tom Flick Communications (WA)
DB Tim Fox	Patriots, Chargers, Rams	Sales Director, RR Donnelley (MA)
S Scott Frost	Jets, Browns, Packers, Buccaneers	Head Coach, University of Central Florida (FL)
TE Tom Gatewood	Giants	President, Blue Atlas Productions (NY)
G Chris Godfrey	Jets, Giants, Seahawks	Attorney & Counselor at Law, Godfrey Law Offices (IN)
DE John Goodman	Steelers	Associate Partner, The Baker Group (OK)
QB Quinn Gray	Jaguars, Chiefs	Head Coach, Whitefield Academy (GA)
CB Stacey Hairston	Browns	Head Coach, Wilmington College (OH)
RB Garrison Hearst	Cardinals, Bengals, 49ers, Broncos	President, Mosaic Marketing & Design (GA)
QB Rusty Hilger	Raiders, Lions, Colts	Chairman, Hilger Ventures (TX)
S Terrance Holt	Lions, Cardinals, Saints	Co-Founder & Co-Owner, Holt Brothers, Inc. (NC)
WR Torry Holt	Rams, Jaguars	Co-Founder & Co-Owner, Holt Brothers, Inc. (NC)
DB Roger Jackson	Broncos	Executive Director, Motivating Youth Foundation (GA)
K Jeff Jaeger	Browns, Raiders, Bears	Agent, Marketplace Sotheby's International Realty (WA)
DE Clint James	Giants, Colts	Director of Security/Transportation, Gaming and Leisure Properties, Inc. (LA)
C Paul Janus	Panthers, Lions	Account Executive, American Financial Resources (WI)
S Johnnie Johnson	Rams, Seahawks	President/CEO, World Class Coaches (CA)
C Brian Johnston	Giants	Division President, Savvy Homes (NC)
CB Reggie Jones	Saints, Redskins, Vikings, Cowboys	Founder/President, Showtime For Stars (WA)
T Winston Justice	Eagles, Colts, Broncos	Financial Advisor, Wells Fargo Advisors (FL)
QB Mike Kafka	Eagles	Founder & CEO, Roo Outdoor (AZ)
DE N.D. Kalu	Eagles, Redskins, Texans	Founder, The Kalu Group (TX)
LB Jeff Kelly	Falcons	Defensive Coordinator, Ft Scott Community College (KS)
LB Clint Kriewaldt	Lions, Steelers	Head Coach, Freedom High School (WI)
DT Tim Krumrie	Bengals	Brain Injury Advocate, CereScan (CO)
DB Randy Logan	Eagles	Assistant Dean of Student Affairs, St. Gabriel's Hall (PA)
DB Omar Lowe	Dolphins, Jets, Patriots, Falcons, Jaguars	Business Development Manager, Schutt Sports (WA)
CB Todd Lyght	Rams, Lions	Defensive Backs Coach, University of Notre Dame (IN)
LB Roy Manning	Packers, Texans, Bengals	Outside Linebackers Coach, Washington State University (WA)
DE Randy Marshall	Falcons	Owner, RD Marshall Ranch (OR)
QB Tee Martin	Steelers, Raiders	Offensive Coordinator/Wide Receivers Coach, University of Southern California (CA)
RB Don McCauley	Colts	Director of Football Projects/Lettermen Relations, University of North Carolina (NC)
QB Stephen McGee	Cowboys, Texans	Financial Services Professional, Mass Mutual (TX)
G Chris McIntosh	Seahawks	Associate Athletic Director for Business Development, University of Wisconsin (WI)
G Reggie McKenzie	Bills, Seahawks	President, Reggie McKenzie Industrial Materials (MI)
DB Rod McSwain	Patriots	Human Resources Director, Carolina Container Company (NC)
DT Michael Mohring	Chargers	Health & Physical Education Teacher, Bayard-Rustin High School (PA)
WR Scottie Montgomery	Broncos	Head Coach, East Carolina University (NC)

QB Joe Montana	49ers, Chiefs	Managing Partner, Liquid 2 Ventures (CA)
LB Quincy Monk	Giants, Texans	Senior Delivery Manager, The Select Group (NC)
LB Ronald Moten	Eagles	Chief of Detectives, Camden County Prosecutor's Office (NJ)
G Chris Naeole	Saints, Jaguars	Offensive Line Coach, University of Hawaii (HI)
G Bob Newton	Bears, Seahawks	Counsellor, Betty Ford Center (CA)
QB Mike Norseth	Bengals	Owner/President, Brock Insurance Group (UT)
G Jeff Novak	Dolphins, Jaguars	Owner, Novak Brothers Development (TX)
S Willie Offord	Vikings	Head Coach, Columbia High School (SC)
QB Tyler Palko	Chiefs, Steelers, Saints	Director of Leadership Development, Solutions 21 (KS)
LB Ervin Parker	Bills	Founder/Chairman, Blue Print Leadership Academy (SC)
K Doug Pelfrey	Bengals	President/CEO, Propel Company (KY)
LB Mike Peterson	Colts, Jaguars, Falcons	Outside Linebackers Coach, University of South Carolina (SC)
QB Todd Philcox	Bengals, Browns, Chargers	Co-Founder & CMO, ConceptMine (FL)
TE Walter Rasby	Steelers, Panthers, Lions, Redskins, Saints	Director of Business Development, Vanguardia Energy (FL)
DT Tracy Rocker	Redskins	Associate Head Coach, University of Georgia (GA)
TE Troy Sadowski	Falcons, Chiefs, Jets, Bengals, Steelers, Jaguars	Executive Vice President, Cornerstone Estate Planning (CA)
DT Jerome Sally	Giants, Colts, Chiefs	Assistant Principal, David H. Hickman High School (MO)
QB Cory Sauter	Lions, Colts, Bears	Head Coach, Southwest Minnesota State (MN)
G Steve Sciuolo	Eagles	Head Football Coach, Deer Lakes High School (PA)
DE Chris Scott	Colts	Founder-Executive Director, Boys2Men, Inc. (OH)
DT John Shannon	Bears	Business Development Manager, Graycor Construction Company (IL)
LB Todd Shell	49ers	Director-Treasurer, All America Waste Services (AZ)
LB Jackie Shipp	Dolphins, Raiders	Defensive Line Coach, University of Missouri (MO)
LB Chris Slade	Patriots, Panthers	Head Coach, Pace Academy (GA)
TE Ed Smith	Falcons, Lions, Eagles	Radio Personality/Author/Motivational Speaker, EZSportsTalk.com (AZ)
RB Emmitt Smith	Cowboys, Cardinals	Partner, E. Smith Realty & E.J. Smith Construction (TX)
CB Shawn Springs	Seahawks, Redskins, Patriots	Founder/CEO, Windpact (VA)
WR Brian Stablein	Colts, Lions	Sales Manager, J.P. Morgan Chase (OH)
T Rob Taylor	Buccaneers	Pastor, Idlewild Baptist Church (FL)
WR Chris Thomas	49ers, Redskins, Rams, Chiefs	Senior Financial Advisor, Merrill Lynch (CA)
WR Lamar Thomas	Buccaneers, Dolphins	Wide Receivers Coach, University of Kentucky (KY)
DB Pat Thomas	Rams	Assistant Coach, Galveston Ball High School (TX)
DE Kenechi Udeze	Vikings	Defensive Line Coach, University of Southern California (CA)
TE Dan Upperco	Rams	Senior Vice President, Mubadala Development Company (Brazil)
QB Mark Vlasic	Chargers, Chiefs	Senior Wealth Advisor, Mariner Wealth Advisors (KS)
WR Troy Walters	Vikings, Cardinals, Lions	Offensive Coordinator/Wide Receivers Coach, University of Central Florida (FL)
TE Josh Whitman	Chargers, Seahawks, Dolphins	Athletic Director, University of Illinois (IL)
WR Eric Yarber	Redskins	Wide Receivers Coach, UCLA (CA)
LB Bill Zapalac	Jets	President, Zapalac/Reed Construction (TX)
S Michael Zordich	Jets, Cardinals, Eagles	Secondary Coach, University of Michigan (MI)



Justin Cross



Chris Slade



Josh Whitman

ACTIVE STATISTICAL LEADERS

TOP 10 ACTIVE PASSERS

(1,000 or more attempts)

	<u>Att.</u>	<u>Comp.</u>	<u>Comp. %</u>	<u>Yards</u>	<u>TD</u>	<u>INT</u>	<u>Passer Rating</u>
1. Aaron Rodgers	4,047	2,633	65.1	32,399	257	65	104.1
2. Russell Wilson	1,735	1,123	64.7	13,974	106	34	101.8
3. Tony Romo	4,331	2,826	65.3	34,154	247	117	97.1
4. Tom Brady	7,792	4,953	63.6	58,028	428	150	96.4
5. Drew Brees	8,085	5,365	66.4	60,903	428	205	95.8
6. Philip Rivers	5,339	3,462	64.8	41,477	281	135	95.5
7. Ben Roethlisberger	5,423	3,476	64.1	42,995	272	147	94.0
8. Matt Ryan	4,530	2,915	64.3	32,757	202	107	90.9
9. Robert Griffin III	1,063	679	64.0	8,097	40	23	90.6
10. Matt Schaub	3,271	2,092	59.9	24,851	133	90	89.1

TOP 10 ACTIVE RUSHERS

	<u>Att.</u>	<u>Yards</u>	<u>TD</u>
1. Frank Gore	2,702	12,040	70
2. Adrian Peterson	2,381	11,675	97
3. Steven Jackson	2,764	11,438	69
4. Chris Johnson	2,093	9,442	54
5. Matt Forte	2,035	8,602	45
6. DeAngelo Williams	1,632	7,753	57
7. LeSean McCoy	1,664	7,687	47
8. Jamaal Charles	1,320	7,220	42
9. Adrian Foster	1,454	6,472	54
10. Michael Vick	873	6,109	36

TOP 10 ACTIVE PASS RECEIVERS

	<u>No.</u>	<u>Yards</u>	<u>TD</u>
1. Andre Johnson	1,053	14,100	68
2. Jason Witten	1,020	11,215	60
3. Larry Fitzgerald	1,018	13,366	98
4. Anquan Boldin	1,009	13,195	74
5. Steve Smith	961	13,932	76
6. Wes Welker	903	9,924	50
7. Brandon Marshall	882	11,273	79
8. Antonio Gates	844	10,644	104
9. Roddy White	808	10,863	63
10. Marques Colston	711	9,759	72

TOP 10 ACTIVE SCORERS

	<u>TD</u>	<u>FG</u>	<u>PAT</u>	<u>TP</u>
1. Adam Vinatieri	0	503	742(1#)	2,253
2. Sebastian Janikowski	0	385	520	1,675
3. Phil Dawson	1	386	447	1,611
4. Josh Brown	0	308	429	1,353
5. Stephen Gostkowski	0	276	502	1,330
6. Matt Bryant	0	300	429	1,329
7. Shayne Graham	0	277	429	1,260
8. Robbie Gould	0	276	379	1,207
9. Mason Crosby	0	236	437	1,145
10. Josh Scobee	0	241	323	1,046

Two-point conversion

TOP 10 ACTIVE INTERCEPTORS

	<u>No.</u>	<u>Yards</u>	<u>TD</u>
1. DeAngelo Hall	43	838	5
2. Terence Newman	40	360	3
3. Charles Tillman	38	675	8
4. Rashean Mathis	32	553	4
5. Antonio Cromartie	31	545	3
6. Reggie Nelson	30	409	1
Aqib Talib	30	533	8
8. Tramon Williams	29	425	1
9. Darrelle Revis	28	415	3
10. Many Tied	26		

TOP 10 ACTIVE SACKERS

	<u>No.</u>
1. Julius Peppers	136.0
2. DeMarcus Ware	134.5
3. Dwight Freeney	119.5
4. Robert Mathis	118.0
5. Terrell Suggs	106.5
6. Elvis Dumervil	96.0
Mario Williams	96.0
8. Trent Cole	88.5
9. Tamba Hali	86.0
10. James Harrison	76.5

TOP 10 ACTIVE PUNTERS

(50 or more punts)

	<u>Punts</u>	<u>Avg.</u>	<u>Lg.</u>
1. Matt Darr	92	47.6	70
2. Shane Lechler	1,280	47.5	80
3. Tress Way	147	46.8	77
4. Bryan Anger	360	46.8	73
5. Thomas Morstead	410	46.8	70
6. Johnny Hekker	336	46.7	68
7. Sam Martin	220	46.4	72
8. Andy Lee	1,011	46.2	82
9. Marquette King	276	46.1	70
10. Ryan Allen	215	46.1	67

TOP 5 ACTIVE KICKOFF RETURNERS

(40 or more returns)

	<u>No.</u>	<u>Yds.</u>	<u>Avg.</u>	<u>TD</u>
1. Cordarrelle Patterson	109	3,283	30.1	4
2. Knile Davis	63	1,753	27.8	2
3. Percy Harvin	152	4,127	27.2	5
4. Jarvis Landry	47	1,275	27.1	0
5. Benny Cunningham	73	1,976	27.1	0

TOP 5 ACTIVE PUNT RETURNERS

(40 or more returns)

	<u>No.</u>	<u>Yds.</u>	<u>Avg.</u>	<u>TD</u>
1. Travis Benjamin	68	857	12.6	3
2. Devin Hester	290	3,515	12.1	14
3. Julian Edelman	142	1,697	12.0	4
4. Jeremy Ross	77	864	11.2	1
5. Ted Ginn	209	2,295	11.0	4



MR. IRRELEVANT GOES TO NEWPORT BEACH

It seems as though everybody roots for the underdog, but former San Francisco 49ers wide receiver **PAUL SALATA** actually decided to *celebrate* the underdog. In 1976, Salata founded “Irrelevant Week,” a week-long celebration centered on “Mr. Irrelevant,” the tongue-in-cheek title bestowed annually upon the last pick of the NFL Draft.

Each year in June, “Mr. Irrelevant” and his family are invited to spend a week in Newport Beach, California where they are treated to activities such as a day at Disneyland and the Lowsman Trophy Banquet (a parody of the Heisman Trophy) among other events.

This year’s “Mr. Irrelevant” is defensive back **KALAN REED** (right), who was selected with the 253rd pick by the Tennessee Titans.

“I didn’t know about it before, but they called me and told me what it was,” says Reed, who was an All-Conference USA First Team selection in 2015 while at Southern Mississippi. “It’s a cool deal. But I was just excited to be picked.”

Reed hopes to contribute to his new team and the Tennessee coaching staff plans to utilize him in a number of different areas.

“Kalan has stood out to me,” says Tennessee head coach **MIKE MULARKEY**. “He can run all day. You talk about a guy that is always around the ball, I don’t care where he was when the play started. He can run and he doesn’t even look like he’s winded. He has really great awareness.”



Several notable “Mr. Irrelevants” (active players in italics):

MR. IRRELEVANT	YEAR DRAFTED/TEAM	NOTES
<i>DB Kalan Reed, Tennessee</i>	<i>2016 Tennessee</i>	<i>41st Mr. Irrelevant. First Titans Mr. Irrelevant in club history.</i>
<i>TE Gerald Christian, Arizona</i>	<i>2015 Arizona</i>	<i>Spent 2015 on injured reserve with Cardinals.</i>
<i>S Lonnie Ballentine, Houston</i>	<i>2014 Houston</i>	<i>Appeared in two games in 2015 with Texans.</i>
<i>TE Justice Cunningham</i>	<i>2013 Indianapolis</i>	<i>Appeared in two games in 2015 with Rams.</i>
<i>K Ryan Succop, Tennessee</i>	<i>2009 Kansas City</i>	<i>Set Chiefs rookie record with 25 field goals made in 2009.</i>
LB David Vobora	2008 St. Louis	Appeared in 40 games with 16 starts in four NFL seasons with Rams and Seahawks.
S Ramzee Robinson	2007 Detroit	Appeared in 26 games in three NFL seasons for Lions, Eagles and Browns.
WR Ryan Hoag	2003 Oakland	Spent time with Giants, Redskins, Vikings and Jaguars. Appeared on ABC’s “The Bachelorette” in 2008.
S Mike Green	2000 Chicago	Started 48 games for Bears, Seahawks and Redskins in eight NFL seasons.
FB Jim Finn	1999 Chicago	Played six NFL seasons for Colts and Giants totaling 45 career starts.
LB Marty Moore	1994 New England	Played eight NFL seasons and became first “Mr. Irrelevant” to appear in the Super Bowl (XXXI with Patriots).
C Matt Elliott	1992 Washington	Started 14 games on inaugural Carolina Panthers team. Made 32 career starts.
QB Bill Kenney*	1978 Miami	Made the Pro Bowl in 1984 with the Chiefs and later became a Missouri State Senator.
WR Kelvin Kirk	1976 Pittsburgh	First annual “Mr. Irrelevant.” Played seven years in the CFL and later worked for the <i>Ottawa Citizen</i> .

*Kenney was named as a replacement for Lee Washburn who could not attend training camp due to a back injury.

THE COACHES





WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN 2016

BILL BELICHICK, New England, needs four victories to join Don Shula (347), George Halas (324) and Tom Landry (270) as the only coaches to reach 250 career wins. In 21 seasons, Belichick has 246 career victories.

MIKE TOMLIN, Pittsburgh, needs two victories to reach 100 career victories. In nine seasons, Tomlin has 98 career victories.

SEAN PAYTON, New Orleans, needs seven victories to reach 100 career victories. In 10 seasons, Payton has 93 career victories.

JOHN HARBAUGH, Baltimore, needs 13 victories to reach 100 career victories. In eight seasons, Harbaugh has 87 career victories.



Bill Belichick



Mike Tomlin

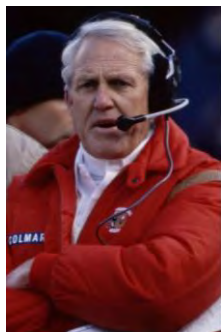


Sean Payton



John Harbaugh

BILL WALSH NFL DIVERSITY COACHING FELLOWSHIP



Established in 1987, the **BILL WALSH NFL DIVERSITY COACHING FELLOWSHIP** provides NFL coaching experience to outstanding coaches from diverse backgrounds every year. The program, which was named after the man who conceived the idea – late Pro Football Hall of Fame head coach **BILL WALSH** (left) – exposes talented coaches from other levels of football and former players to the methods and philosophies of NFL coaching staffs. Walsh introduced the concept to the league in 1987 when he brought a group of minority coaches into his San Francisco 49ers’ training camp.

Steelers head coach **MIKE TOMLIN** (right), who became the youngest head coach (36) in NFL history to win a Super Bowl when he led Pittsburgh to a victory in Super Bowl XLIII, interned with the Cleveland Browns in the summer of 2000 when he was the defensive backs coach at the University of Cincinnati.



Tomlin is one of three current NFL head coaches – **HUE JACKSON** (Cleveland, below left) and **MARVIN LEWIS** (Cincinnati, below right) are the others – who are graduates of the program.

“For a young coach, an opportunity through the fellowship is like a college student getting a great internship,” says Lewis, who has led the Bengals to a franchise-record five consecutive playoff appearances. “Suddenly you’re exposed on a daily basis to some of the best people in your field, and you have a chance to show them firsthand what you can do. The contacts you make are invaluable. And of course you also see and learn the quality and expertise that go into every aspect of NFL coaching. I hope the coaches that we’ve hosted in the fellowship are learning some of the same valuable things from our staff.”



In 2015, the program included its first-ever female participant, **DR. JEN WELTER**, who was one of seven coaching interns hired by the Arizona Cardinals for training camp.

Carolina Panthers head coach **RON RIVERA** knows the value of the program and serves on the Bill Walsh NFL Diversity Coaching Fellowship Advisory Council. The council is comprised of club presidents, general managers, head coaches and assistant coaches, who focus on developing a pipeline of diverse coaches, including former NFL players pursuing opportunities in the coaching profession.

“The Bill Walsh NFL Diversity Coaching Fellowship is essential in creating opportunities,” says Rivera. “You can see the benefits of the fellowship program on virtually every coaching staff in the league and the education provided through the program has been invaluable in the development of many young coaches who may not have received exposure to the NFL without it.”



The program has tutored more than 1,800 minority coaches through the years and has grown to the point that now every NFL team participates during offseason workout programs, minicamps and training camp.

Active NFL head coaches who are graduates of the Bill Walsh NFL Diversity Coaching Fellowship:

HEAD COACH	TEAM	INTERNSHIP
Hue Jackson	Cleveland	1990 with LA Rams
		1992 with Arizona
		1995 with Washington
Marvin Lewis	Cincinnati	1988 with San Francisco
		1991 with Kansas City
Mike Tomlin	Pittsburgh	2000 with Cleveland

2016 NFL MINORITY HEAD COACHES, ASSISTANT HEAD COACHES & COORDINATORS

Keith Armstrong, Atlanta, Special Teams	John Mitchell, Pittsburgh, Asst. Head Coach
Teryl Austin, Detroit, Defense	Curtis Modkins, San Francisco, Offense
Edgar Bennett, Green Bay, Offense	Raheem Morris, Atlanta, Asst. Head Coach
Todd Bowles, New York Jets, Head Coach	Winston Moss, Green Bay, Asst. Head Coach
Jim Caldwell, Detroit, Head Coach	Ken Norton, Oakland, Defense
Mike Caldwell, New York Jets, Asst. Head Coach	Ron Prince, Detroit, Asst. Head Coach
Romeo Crennel, Houston, Defense	Ron Rivera, Carolina, Head Coach
David Culley, Kansas City, Asst. Head Coach	Kris Richard, Seattle, Defense
George Edwards, Minnesota, Defense	Terry Robiskie, Tennessee, Offense
Harold Goodwin, Arizona, Offense	Kacy Rodgers, New York Jets, Defense
Pep Hamilton, Cleveland, Asst. Head Coach	Rocky Seto, Seattle, Asst. Head Coach
Ray Horton, Cleveland, Defense	Derius Swinton, San Francisco, Special Teams
Hue Jackson, Cleveland, Head Coach	Dennis Thurman, Buffalo, Defense
Vance Joseph, Miami, Defense	Mike Tomlin, Pittsburgh, Head Coach
Marvin Lewis, Cincinnati, Head Coach	Steve Wilks, Carolina, Asst. Head Coach
Anthony Lynn, Buffalo, Asst. Head Coach	

ADAM GASE – MIAMI DOLPHINS

HOBBIES: Guitar and golf

FAVORITE FOOD: Chipotle

FAVORITE COLLEGE TOWN: East Lansing, MI (Michigan State)

WHICH NFL TEAM DID YOU FOLLOW AS A CHILD: Chicago Bears

FAVORITE ATHLETE AS A CHILD: Walter Payton

FAVORITE STADIUM OTHER THAN YOUR OWN, AND WHY: Seattle's CenturyLink Field, because of the atmosphere

FAVORITE OTHER SPORT: Baseball

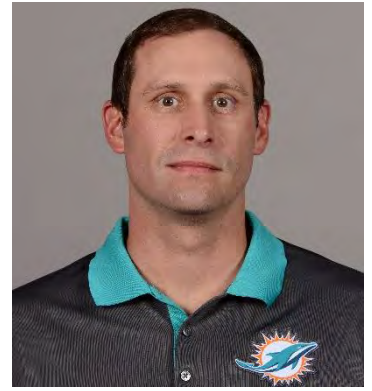
PERSON WHO INFLUENCED YOU THE MOST: Art Gase (Dad)

GREATEST TEAM YOU'VE EVER COMPETED AGAINST: 2013 Seattle Seahawks

TOUGHEST GAME YOU'VE EVER COMPETED IN, AS A COACH OR PLAYER: 2012 Divisional playoff game (January 12, 2013) against the Baltimore Ravens

LOUDEST CROWD OF YOUR FOOTBALL CAREER, HOME OR AWAY: Seattle

MOST MEMORABLE FOOTBALL MOMENT: Breaking the NFL single-season scoring record with the Denver Broncos in 2013



HUE JACKSON – CLEVELAND BROWNS

HOBBIES: Working out, basketball, fishing, boating

LAST BOOK READ (& AUTHOR): The Secret by Rhonda Byrne

FAVORITE FOOD: Chicken

FAVORITE VACATION SPOT: Saint John, US Virgin Islands

BEST FOOTBALL NICKNAME: Trojans

FAVORITE COLLEGE TOWN: Tempe, AZ (Arizona State)

WHICH NFL TEAM DID YOU FOLLOW AS A CHILD: LA Raiders & LA Rams

FAVORITE ATHLETE AS A CHILD: Muhammad Ali

FAVORITE STADIUM OTHER THAN YOUR OWN: LA Memorial Coliseum

FAVORITE SPORTS UNIFORM OTHER THAN YOUR OWN: Raiders

FAVORITE OTHER SPORT: Basketball

PERSON YOU'D MOST LIKE TO MEET: President Obama

PERSON WHO INFLUENCED YOU THE MOST: Mom and Dad

BEST ADVICE EVER RECEIVED: "Hard work pays off"

PLAYER (FORMER OR CURRENT) WHO'D MAKE A GREAT HEAD COACH: Andrew Whitworth

GREATEST OVERACHIEVER YOU'VE EVER COACHED: Rock Cartwright

BEST PURE ATHLETE YOU'VE EVER COACHED: Robert Griffin III

TOUGHEST PLAYER YOU'VE EVER COACHED: Stephen Davis

MOST INSPIRATIONAL PLAYER YOU'VE EVER COACHED: Ray Lewis

FUNNIEST PLAYER YOU'VE EVER COACHED: Chad Johnson

TOUGHEST COACH YOU'VE EVER FACED: Mike Tomlin

GREATEST TEAM YOU'VE EVER COMPETED AGAINST: Pittsburgh Steelers

TOUGHEST GAME YOU'VE EVER COMPETED IN, AS A COACH OR PLAYER: Cincinnati vs. Pittsburgh

LOUDEST CROWD OF YOUR FOOTBALL CAREER, HOME OR AWAY: Green Bay

MOST OVERRATED ASPECT OF FOOTBALL: Rules against celebrating

MOST UNDERRATED ASPECT OF FOOTBALL: Team travel

WHO HAS THE HARDEST JOB IN FOOTBALL: Quarterback

MOST EMBARRASSING FOOTBALL MOMENT: Losing to a team with 0 wins

MOST MEMORABLE FOOTBALL MOMENT: AFC Championship Game

ONE THING THAT SHOULD NEVER CHANGE ABOUT NFL FOOTBALL: The game

IF YOU WEREN'T COACHING, WHAT WOULD YOU BE DOING: FBI Agent



CHIP KELLY – SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

HOBBIES: Reading, golfing

LAST BOOK READ (& AUTHOR): The Talent Code by Dan Coyle

FAVORITE MOVIE: *The Shawshank Redemption*

FAVORITE FOOD: Sandwiches

FAVORITE VACATION SPOT: Portsmouth, NH

BEST FOOTBALL NICKNAME: Slingin' Sammy Baugh

FAVORITE COLLEGE TOWN: Eugene, OR (Oregon)

WHICH NFL TEAM DID YOU FOLLOW AS A CHILD: New England Patriots

FAVORITE ATHLETE AS A CHILD: Bobby Orr

FAVORITE STADIUM OTHER THAN YOUR OWN: Lambeau Field

FAVORITE SPORTS UNIFORM OTHER THAN YOUR OWN: Boston Celtics

FAVORITE OTHER SPORT: Women's Soccer

PERSON YOU'D MOST LIKE TO MEET: Steve Prefontaine

BEST ADVICE EVER RECEIVED: "Well done is better than well said"

PLAYER (FORMER OR CURRENT) WHO'D MAKE A GREAT HEAD COACH: DeMeco Ryans

LOUDEST CROWD OF YOUR FOOTBALL CAREER, HOME OR AWAY: Oregon home games

MOST KNOWLEDGEABLE FOOTBALL MEDIA MEMBER YOU'VE EVER MET: Tom Rinaldi, ESPN

MOST OVERRATED ASPECT OF FOOTBALL: The circus that surrounds the NFL Draft

MOST UNDERRATED ASPECT OF FOOTBALL: Preparation

WHO HAS THE HARDEST JOB IN FOOTBALL: No one, it is a game

ONE THING YOU'D CHANGE ABOUT NFL FOOTBALL: Expand the roster to 60 players

ONE THING THAT SHOULD NEVER CHANGE ABOUT NFL FOOTBALL: Games should be played on Sundays

IF YOU WEREN'T COACHING, WHAT WOULD YOU BE DOING: Fireman



DIRK KOETTER – TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

LAST BOOK READ (& AUTHOR): The Hard Thing About Hard Things by Ben Horowitz

FAVORITE MOVIE: *One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest*

FAVORITE VACATION SPOT: McCall, Idaho

FAVORITE ATHLETE AS A CHILD: Roger Staubach and Gale Sayers

PERSON WHO INFLUENCED YOU THE MOST: My father, who was a long-time football coach in Idaho

BEST PURE ATHLETE YOU'VE COACHED: Julio Jones

TOUGHEST PLAYER YOU'VE EVER COACHED: Roddy White

LOUDEST CROWD OF YOUR FOOTBALL CAREER, HOME OR AWAY: Syracuse when Donovan McNabb played there



BEN MC ADOO – NEW YORK GIANTS

LAST BOOK READ (& AUTHOR): Grit by Angela Duckworth

FAVORITE COLLEGE TOWN: Indiana, PA (Indiana University of Pennsylvania)

FAVORITE ATHLETE AS A CHILD: John Elway

MOST OVERRATED ASPECT OF FOOTBALL: Talent

MOST UNDERRATED ASPECT OF FOOTBALL: Chemistry

WHO HAS THE HARDEST JOB IN FOOTBALL: The position coach who coaches the head coach's area of expertise

MOST MEMORABLE FOOTBALL MOMENT: Winning Super Bowl XLV with the Green Bay Packers



MIKE MULARKEY – TENNESSEE TITANS



HOBBIES: Traveling

LAST BOOK READ (& AUTHOR): Unbroken by Laura Hillenbrand

FAVORITE MOVIE: *Field of Dreams*

FAVORITE FOOD: Any food grilled

FAVORITE VACATION SPOT: Turks & Caicos

BEST FOOTBALL NICKNAME: Mean Joe Greene

FAVORITE COLLEGE TOWN: Gainesville, FL (Florida)

WHICH NFL TEAM DID YOU FOLLOW AS A CHILD: Pittsburgh Steelers

FAVORITE ATHLETE AS A CHILD: Jack Lambert

FAVORITE STADIUM OTHER THAN YOUR OWN, AND WHY: Lambeau Field, because of the tradition

FAVORITE SPORTS UNIFORM OTHER THAN YOUR OWN: San Diego Chargers

FAVORITE OTHER SPORT: Hockey

PERSON YOU'D MOST LIKE TO MEET: Robert De Niro

PERSON WHO INFLUENCED YOU THE MOST: My family

BEST ADVICE EVER RECEIVED: "It's the things you do when nobody is watching that will make you successful"

PLAYER (FORMER OR CURRENT) WHO'D MAKE A GREAT HEAD COACH: Peyton Manning

GREATEST OVERACHIEVER YOU'VE EVER COACHED: Delanie Walker

BEST PURE ATHLETE YOU'VE COACHED: Kordell Stewart

TOUGHEST PLAYER YOU'VE EVER COACHED: Craig Stevens

MOST INSPIRATIONAL PLAYER YOU'VE EVER COACHED: Matt Ryan

FUNNIEST PLAYER YOU'VE EVER COACHED, AND WHY: Hines Ward, because he's the most physical blocker as a wide receiver and always had a smile on his face

TOUGHEST COACH YOU'VE EVER FACED, AND WHY: Bill Belichick, because he always has a team that is well-prepared and very disciplined

GREATEST TEAM YOU'VE EVER COMPETED AGAINST: 1985 Chicago Bears

TOUGHEST GAME YOU'VE EVER COMPETED IN, AS A COACH OR PLAYER: Against the 1985 Chicago Bears as a player

LOUDEST CROWD OF YOUR FOOTBALL CAREER, HOME OR AWAY: Seattle

MOST OVERRATED ASPECT OF FOOTBALL: Players are overpaid

MOST UNDERRATED ASPECT OF FOOTBALL: The importance of how special teams affect the outcome of games every week

WHO HAS THE HARDEST JOB IN FOOTBALL: Officials

MOST EMBARRASSING FOOTBALL MOMENT: On my first day as the head coach of the Buffalo Bills, I gave a speech to our kicker on how physical of a player I wanted him to be, thinking he played linebacker for us

ANY TRENDS YOU SEE DEVELOPING IN THE NFL IN 2016: More quarterback designed runs

IF YOU WEREN'T COACHING, WHAT WOULD YOU BE DOING: Teaching



DOUG PEDERSON – PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

HOBBIES: Family time, golf, hunting and fishing

FAVORITE MOVIE: The entire Jason Bourne series

FAVORITE FOOD: Grilled salmon

FAVORITE VACATION SPOT: Sandestin, FL

WHICH NFL TEAM DID YOU FOLLOW AS A CHILD: Seahawks

FAVORITE STADIUM OTHER THAN YOUR OWN, AND WHY: Oakland Coliseum, because of the crowd

FAVORITE OTHER SPORT: Golf

PERSON WHO INFLUENCED YOU THE MOST: My dad

BEST ADVICE EVER RECEIVED: “Be Yourself”

BEST PURE ATHLETE YOU’VE COACHED: Michael Vick

GREATEST TEAM YOU’VE EVER COMPETED AGAINST: 1995 Dallas Cowboys

TOUGHEST GAME YOU’VE EVER COMPETED IN, AS A COACH OR PLAYER: Cleveland vs. Tennessee in Cleveland. The weather was -10 wind chill and snow.

LOUDEST CROWD OF YOUR FOOTBALL CAREER, HOME OR AWAY: Arrowhead Stadium in 2014

MOST OVERRATED ASPECT OF FOOTBALL: There isn’t any

MOST UNDERRATED ASPECT OF FOOTBALL: Nothing about football is underrated

WHO HAS THE HARDEST JOB IN FOOTBALL: Center

MOST MEMORABLE FOOTBALL MOMENT: Winning Super Bowl XXXI

MOST EMBARRASSING FOOTBALL MOMENT: When I had the ball taken off my throwing hand by a defender for a TD

ONE THING YOU’D CHANGE ABOUT NFL FOOTBALL: Nothing, I love the game

ONE THING THAT SHOULD NEVER CHANGE ABOUT NFL FOOTBALL: Monday Night Football

ANY TRENDS YOU SEE DEVELOPING IN THE NFL IN 2016: Expanding the globe with games



EXCITEMENT ABOUNDS AS NEW COACHES TAKE OVER

This season, seven NFL teams – Cleveland, Miami, the New York Giants, Philadelphia, San Francisco, Tampa Bay and Tennessee – welcome new head coaches. Ranging from those who have previously been NFL head coaches – **HUE JACKSON** of the Browns, **CHIP KELLY** of the 49ers and **MIKE MULARKEY** of the Titans – to those entering their first season with the title, each has unique experiences to share with his new organization, players and fans.

CLEVELAND BROWNS HEAD COACH HUE JACKSON:



Jackson was named the 16th head coach in Browns history this offseason with 29 years of coaching experience, including the past 15 in the NFL. He was previously the head coach of the Oakland Raiders in 2011 and served as the offensive coordinator with the Washington Redskins (2003), Atlanta Falcons (2007), Raiders (2010) and Cincinnati Bengals (2014-15).

With Jackson as coordinator in 2015, Cincinnati's offense finished third in the AFC in yards per play (5.7) and points per game (26.2) while producing three Pro Bowl selections. He was voted by the Professional Football Writers of America (PFWA) as the Co-Assistant Coach of the Year.

"Hue Jackson embodies all the qualities that will provide strong leadership for our football team," says Browns owner **JIMMY HASLAM**. "He is highly experienced, deeply passionate about winning, and relentless in trying to find ways to put his players in the best position to succeed. He possesses that unique ability to reach the entire locker room in a way that demands accountability while getting the buy-in and team-first mentality that leads to positive results."

Jackson spent 14 years coaching on the college level, going from a graduate assistant at Pacific all the way to the offensive coordinator at Southern California. He gained his first full-time NFL experience with Washington, where he served as the running backs coach from 2001-02 before being promoted to offensive coordinator in 2003. Jackson, a Los Angeles, California native, was a multi-sport athlete at Pacific where he played quarterback (1985-86) and lettered in basketball.

MIAMI DOLPHINS HEAD COACH ADAM GASE:

Gase joins the Dolphins with 16 years of collegiate and professional experience, including the past three seasons as the offensive coordinator for the Chicago Bears (2015) and Denver Broncos (2013-14). With the Broncos, Gase orchestrated a record-breaking offense and helped lead the team to an appearance in Super Bowl XLVIII.

"We wanted to get the right leader," says Dolphins executive vice president of football operations **MIKE TANNENBAUM**. "Someone that could relate to young and talented players that we believe we have, and somebody that was high energy and competitive. Somebody that could build a great coaching staff, develop them and hold them accountable. Somebody that was open-minded, who had great football acumen and intelligence. And when we looked at Adam, we felt like he had all of those attributes."

During his two seasons as offensive coordinator with the Broncos, Gase's offense led the NFL in scoring offense (34.0 points per game), total offense (430.1 yards per game) and passing offense (315.8 yards per game). In 2013, Gase's offense set a number of league offensive and scoring records as quarterback **PEYTON MANNING** was named the NFL's Most Valuable Player.

Prior to joining the Broncos, Gase coached with the Detroit Lions (2003-07) and San Francisco 49ers (2008). A native of Ypsilanti, Michigan, Gase attended Michigan State University. Upon graduating, he followed head coach **NICK SABAN** from Michigan State to Louisiana State University, where he started his coaching career.



NEW YORK GIANTS HEAD COACH BEN MC ADOO:



McAdoo takes over the New York Giants with 12 years of NFL coaching experience, including the past two seasons (2014-15) with the Giants as the team's offensive coordinator. Prior to his time in New York, McAdoo spent eight seasons (2006-13) with the Green Bay Packers both as the tight ends coach and quarterback coach.

In both seasons with McAdoo calling plays, the Giants ranked in the top 10 in total offense. New York averaged 367.2 total yards per game in 2014, with 267.0 passing yards and 100.2 rushing yards per game. Last season, the Giants averaged 372.3 total yards per game with a breakdown of 271.7 passing yards and 100.6 rushing yards per game. The Giants scored 380 points in 2014 and 420 points in 2015.

"We were all impressed with Ben's energy, his enthusiasm, his vision and his desire," says Giants president and chief executive officer **JOHN K. MARA**. "Ben has been preparing for this opportunity since he started coaching, and he has earned his stripes every step of the way. Some have suggested he may not be ready, and as I said previously, we want a coach who feels like he has something to prove."

McAdoo also worked for the San Francisco 49ers (2005) and New Orleans Saints (2004) and prior to that, he coached both at the collegiate and high school levels. A native of Homer City, Pennsylvania, McAdoo earned his bachelor's degree from Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP) and a master's degree from Michigan State.

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES HEAD COACH DOUG PEDERSON:

Pederson joins the Eagles with a combined 19 years of NFL experience as both a coach and player, including the past three seasons (2013-15) as the Kansas City Chiefs' offensive coordinator. This marks his third stint with the Eagles, as he previously served as the team's quarterbacks coach (2011-12) and offensive quality control coach (2009-10), and played quarterback for the team in 1999.

As the Chiefs' offensive coordinator from 2013-15, Pederson helped guide Kansas City to a 31-17 regular-season record and playoff appearances in 2013 and 2015. During that time, the Chiefs ranked first in the NFL in rushing touchdowns (54), third in yards per carry (4.64) and seventh in total rushing yards (6,018). In 2015, Pederson helped the Chiefs rebound from a 1-5 start to win a team-record 11 consecutive games, including Kansas City's first playoff victory in 22 years.

"We are excited to have Doug Pederson as our new head coach," says Eagles chairman and chief executive officer **JEFFREY LURIE**. "Doug is a strategic thinker, a compelling leader and communicator, and someone who truly knows how to get the best out of his players. All of these factors were what initially attracted us to Doug and we believe that he is the right man to help us achieve our ultimate goal."



Pederson, a native of Bellingham, Washington, played football at Northeast Louisiana (now Louisiana-Monroe). The former quarterback played 12 seasons in the NFL with the Miami Dolphins, Green Bay Packers, Eagles and Cleveland Browns. He was a member of the Packers' Super Bowl XXXI team and was coached by three of the most successful coaches in NFL history: **DON SHULA**, **MIKE HOLMGREN** and **ANDY REID**.

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS HEAD COACH CHIP KELLY:



Kelly was named the 19th head coach of the San Francisco 49ers on January 14, 2016 after spending the previous three seasons as the head coach of the Philadelphia Eagles. He joins the 49ers with 26 seasons of coaching experience at both the NFL and collegiate levels.

Over the span of Kelly's three seasons in Philadelphia, the Eagles ranked third in the NFL in points per game (26.9) and total offense (392.8 yards per game), and fourth in rushing yards per game (131.3). The Eagles also recorded the second-most running plays of 10-or-more yards (175) and the fourth-most passing plays of 25-or-more yards (109) during that time.

"Chip possesses all the qualities we were looking for in our next head coach," says general manager **TRENT BAALKE**. "He has demonstrated the ability to be innovative everywhere he has coached and has had great success throughout his career. Chip's passion for the game and vision for the future of this team clearly stood out to us during the search process. He is an extremely driven individual that I look forward to working with."

Prior to working in the NFL, Kelly spent 22 seasons at the collegiate level. Under his direction, Oregon made an appearance in a BCS Bowl game in each of his four seasons (2009-12), including a trip to the National Championship game in 2010. Before his time at Oregon, Kelly spent 13 years at his alma mater, the University of New Hampshire. He played quarterback and defensive back at New Hampshire (1981-84) and is a native of Dover, New Hampshire.

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS HEAD COACH DIRK KOETTER:

Koetter is the 11th head coach in team history and has 33 years of coaching experience at the high school, college and professional levels since 1983. Koetter spent last season (2015) as the team's offensive coordinator and also served as the offensive coordinator for Atlanta (2012-14) and Jacksonville (2007-11).

"Dirk has established himself as one of the top offensive coaches in our game while enjoying success at every stop during his college and NFL career," Buccaneers co-chairman **JOEL GLAZER** said. "His success with our offense last season, along with his familiarity with our players and our organization, makes Dirk the right man to lead our team moving forward."

In his first season with Tampa Bay (2015), serving as the team's offensive coordinator, Koetter helped pilot one of the most successful offenses in the NFL and one of the best in team history. The team set the franchise record for total yards (6,014; 357.0 per game), while posting the second-most rushing yards (2,162; 135.1 per game) and second-most passing yards (3,852; 240.8 per game), along with the fifth-most total points (342; 21.4 per game). Tampa Bay ranked fifth in the NFL in yards per game (375.9), fifth in rushing yards per game (135.1) and second in the league in rush average (4.75). It marked the first time in franchise history that the Buccaneers have finished in the Top 5 in total offense.

Koetter, a native of Pocatello, Idaho, played football at Idaho State University (1978-81), helping lead his team to a Division I-AA national championship his senior year.

TENNESSEE TITANS HEAD COACH MIKE MULARKEY:

Mularkey joins the Titans with a combined 30 years of NFL experience with nine years as a player and 21 years as a coach, including the past two seasons (2014-15) with the Titans as the tight ends coach and interim head coach. This is Mularkey's third stint as a head coach after leading both the Buffalo Bills (2004-05) and Jacksonville Jaguars (2012).

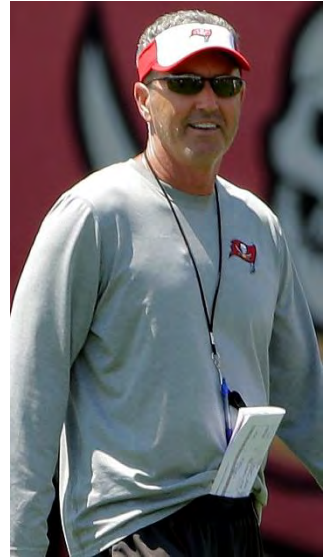


Mularkey joined the Titans after one season (2012) with the Jaguars as the franchise's fourth head coach. Before going to Jacksonville, he spent the previous four seasons (2008-11) with the Atlanta Falcons as the team's offensive coordinator. During his four seasons in Atlanta, the Falcons advanced to the postseason three times, ranked ninth in the NFL in total yards (354.8 per game), seventh in points (24.5), eighth in rushing yards (125.7), third in fewest turnovers (84), fourth in fewest sacks allowed (93), and sixth in third-down conversions (44.2).

"The vision Mike presented for our football team during this search as well as the character, integrity, and leadership skills he displayed during the last two months of the season makes him the right coach for the Tennessee Titans," says Titans controlling owner and co-chairman of the Board of Directors **AMY ADAMS STRUNK**. "Mike is a quality coach and an outstanding person who will help us build this team the right way."

In his two seasons working with the tight ends in Tennessee, Mularkey guided **DELANIE WALKER** to achieve franchise and career records. In consecutive seasons, Walker set the club mark for receiving yards by a tight end with 890 (2014) and 1,088 (2015) and totaled 157 catches over the two seasons, the second-highest total by an NFL tight end.

A Ft. Lauderdale, Florida native, Mularkey was a three-year letterman at tight end at the University of Florida (1979-82). He played nine seasons in the NFL with the Minnesota Vikings (1983-88) and the Pittsburgh Steelers (1989-91).



TOP BILLING: BILL BELICHICK AMONG NFL COACHING LEADERS



Last season, New England head coach **BILL BELICHICK** guided the Patriots to the AFC Championship Game for the 10th time, tying Pro Football Hall of Famer **TOM LANDRY** (10) for the most championship appearances of any head coach in the Super Bowl era (since 1966).

Belichick has 23 career postseason wins, the most of any head coach in NFL history, and has led the Patriots to seven consecutive division titles, the longest streak ever by an NFL head coach.

“I have the utmost respect for him,” says Baltimore head coach **JOHN HARBAUGH** of Belichick, whose four Super Bowl wins are tied with Hall of Famer **CHUCK NOLL** for the most ever. “Bill Belichick is the greatest coach of our generation, without question. I don’t think anybody would doubt that. Nothing is going to change that.”

The head coaches with the most playoff wins:

HEAD COACH	TEAM(S)	PLAYOFF WINS
Bill Belichick	Cleveland Browns, New England Patriots	23*
Tom Landry	Dallas Cowboys	20
Don Shula	Baltimore Colts, Miami Dolphins	19
Joe Gibbs	Washington Redskins	17
Chuck Noll	Pittsburgh Steelers	16

*Active

Entering his 22nd season as an NFL head coach, Belichick has amassed 246 wins (including the playoffs), the fourth-most total victories by a head coach in league history. He needs four wins to join Hall of Famers **DON SHULA** (347), **GEORGE HALAS** (324) and Landry (270) as the only coaches to reach 250 total victories.

“I think we’re lucky to have the finest coach in the history of the modern game,” says Patriots owner **ROBERT KRAFT**. “I think he has done an outstanding job.”

The head coaches with the most total wins in NFL history:

HEAD COACH	TEAM(S)	WINS	LOSSES	TIES
Don Shula	Baltimore Colts, Miami Dolphins	347	173	6
George Halas	Chicago Bears	324	151	31
Tom Landry	Dallas Cowboys	270	178	6
Bill Belichick*	Cleveland Browns, New England Patriots	246	123	0
Curly Lambeau	Green Bay Packers, Chicago Cardinals, Washington Redskins	229	134	22

*Active



“WINNING MAKES BELIEVERS OF US ALL”

“Winning makes believers of us all.”

Last year’s AFC North division champions, the Cincinnati Bengals, view this message every day as they enter the team’s facility. Head coach **MARVIN LEWIS** had this quote from legendary coach and team founder **PAUL BROWN** painted on the wall during Lewis’ first season.

Many NFL teams post messages, goals or quotations throughout their facilities to establish a customized focus on the season. The selection of inspiration can draw from the old school by quoting NFL greats or take on a voice of its own. The messages cover everything from basic work ethic to philosophical mindsets.

A sampling of quotes that are used to inspire and motivate NFL teams:

TEAM	MOTIVATIONAL MESSAGE
Baltimore Ravens	W.I.N. (What’s Important Now)
	TEAM TEAM TEAM
Buffalo Bills	Trust – Belief – Character – Discipline
Carolina Panthers	Keep Pounding
Cincinnati Bengals	“Winning makes believers of us all.” – Paul Brown One player can impact a game. One team wins championships.
Houston Texans	TEAM - Together Everyone Achieves More Do your job Championship teams are built on being prepared, playing unselfishly and being held accountable.
Kansas City Chiefs	Come in as teammates, leave as family. Fear nothing, attack everything
Miami Dolphins	“One thing I never want to be accused of is not working.” – Don Shula
Oakland Raiders	Commitment to Excellence
San Diego Chargers	Victory loves preparation Win the Day Everything Matters Compete

