



2018 KICKOFF GUIDE



NFL KICKOFF 2018

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NFL KICKOFF





NFL KICKOFF 2018

EAGLES AND FALCONS KICK OFF SEASON ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

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

The 2018 season begins with the NFL's annual primetime kickoff game. The opener on Thursday, September 6 on NBC (8:20 PM ET) will feature the Super Bowl champion Philadelphia Eagles hosting the Atlanta Falcons at Lincoln Financial Field in a battle of the NFC's past two Super Bowl representatives.



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 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.





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DATE	SITE	RESULT (HOME TEAM IN CAPS)	RECAP
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.
Sept. 8, 2016	Sports Authority Field at Mile High	DENVER 21, Carolina 20	Denver running back C.J. Anderson scores two touchdowns as the Broncos defeat the Panthers in a rematch of Super Bowl 50.
Sept. 7, 2017	Gillette Stadium	Kansas City 42, NEW ENGLAND 27	Kansas City quarterback Alex Smith throws four touchdowns while rookie running back Kareem Hunt totals 246 yards from scrimmage and three scores as the Chiefs defeat the defending Super Bowl champion Patriots.

Falcons RB DEVONTA FREEMAN



Eagles S MALCOLM JENKINS





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2018 KICKOFF WEEKEND NOTES

Kickoff Weekend begins on Thursday, September 6 in primetime on NBC when the defending Super Bowl champion Philadelphia Eagles host the Atlanta Falcons. Below is a sampling of notable active NFL Kickoff streaks:

- The Super Bowl LII champion **PHILADELPHIA EAGLES**, who open the season at home against the **ATLANTA FALCONS**, have won their past two Kickoff Weekend games and six of their past seven.
- The defending AFC champion **NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS** open the 2018 season at home against the **HOUSTON TEXANS**. The Patriots have won eight of their past nine home openers on Kickoff Weekend.
- The **DENVER BRONCOS**, who start the season at home against the **SEATTLE SEAHAWKS**, have posted a 38-19-1 (.575) record on Kickoff Weekend, the top mark in the AFC. Denver has won its past six Kickoff Weekend games, the longest active streak in the NFL.
- The defending NFC North champion **MINNESOTA VIKINGS**, who open the season hosting **SAN FRANCISCO**, have won their past three home games on Kickoff Weekend.
- The **GREEN BAY PACKERS** host the **CHICAGO BEARS** in a division showdown on Kickoff Weekend. With a win percentage of .592, the Packers (55-39-3) and Bears (54-39-5) are tied for the best Kickoff Weekend winning percentage in the NFL. The Packers have won their past three Kickoff Weekend games, the longest streak in the NFC.
- The **TENNESSEE TITANS**, who made the playoffs last season for the first time since 2008, face the **MIAMI DOLPHINS** on the road to start 2018. The Titans have won their past four road openers, the longest active streak in the NFL.

HOME SWEET HOME: The **SEATTLE SEAHAWKS**, who host Dallas in Week 3, have won nine consecutive home openers, the longest active streak in the league... the **PITTSBURGH STEELERS**, who open at home in Week 2 against Kansas City, have the most wins (50) among AFC teams in home openers.

HEAD COACHES: New England's **BILL BELICHICK** is 15-8 (.652) on Kickoff Weekend and his 15 wins are the most among active head coaches...Belichick and Kansas City's **ANDY REID** (11-8; .579) are the only active head coaches who have won at least 10 Kickoff Weekend games...Green Bay's **MIKE MC CARTHY** and Reid have won three consecutive games on Kickoff Weekend, the longest current streak among active head coaches... **VANCE JOSEPH** (1-0) of the Broncos, **DIRK KOETTER** (1-0) of the Buccaneers, **SEAN MC DERMOTT** (1-0) of the Bills, **SEAN MC VAY** (1-0) of the Rams and **DOUG PEDERSON** (2-0) of the Eagles are the only active head coaches with perfect records on Kickoff Weekend...and five head coaches – Chicago's **MATT NAGY**, the Lions' **MATT PATRICIA**, the Colts' **FRANK REICH**, the Titans' **MIKE VRABEL** and the Cardinals' **STEVE WILKS** – make their Kickoff Weekend debuts in 2018.



Broncos Head Coach VANCE JOSEPH



Buccaneers Head Coach DIRK KOETTER



Bills Head Coach SEAN McDERMOTT



NFL KICKOFF 2018

HOPE SPRINGS ETERNAL

New teams making the playoffs and winning divisions, consistent teams excelling once again, records falling and young players making their mark all helped shape the story of the 2017 season.

Week 17 came right down to the wire as three playoff spots and one division title – the NFC South – were decided on the last day of the season. The excitement of Week 17 was due in part to having 16 divisional games played on the season's final day, a tradition instituted in 2010.

Every team enters the 2018 season with a trip to Atlanta for Super Bowl LIII in mind and below are a few reasons why.

- Five of the eight divisions in 2017 were won by a team that finished in third or fourth place in the division the previous season – Jacksonville (AFC South), the Los Angeles Rams (NFC West), Minnesota (NFC North), New Orleans (NFC South) and Philadelphia (NFC East).
- 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. Eight teams that missed the postseason in 2016 – Buffalo (9-7), Carolina (11-5), Jacksonville (10-6), Los Angeles Rams (11-5), Minnesota (13-3), New Orleans (11-5), Philadelphia (13-3) and Tennessee (9-7) – accomplished the feat in 2017, tied with the 2003 season for the most such teams since 1990.
- The Eagles, who finished last in the NFC East with a 7-9 record in 2016, became the second team since 2003 to go from “worst-to-first” en route to a Super Bowl victory, joining the 2009 New Orleans Saints.
- The Jaguars, who finished in last place in the AFC South in 2016, won their first division title since realignment in 2002 last season and advanced to the AFC Championship Game.

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)



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SEASON	PLAYOFF TEAMS NOT IN PREVIOUS SEASON'S PLAYOFFS
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)
2016	6 (Atlanta, Dallas, Detroit, Miami, New York Giants, Oakland)
2017	8 (Buffalo, Carolina, Jacksonville, Los Angeles Rams, Minnesota, New Orleans, Philadelphia, Tennessee)

- Fresh off its first Super Bowl in franchise history, the **PHILADELPHIA EAGLES** begin their quest to repeat as champions as the race to Atlanta's Mercedes-Benz Stadium for Super Bowl LIII kicks off. Only eight teams have repeated as champions since the first Super Bowl in 1967, with the 2004 **NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS** (Super Bowls XXXVIII and XXXIX) being the last team to accomplish the feat.
 - Seven teams enter the 2018 season with a new head coach – **STEVE WILKS** in Arizona, **MATT NAGY** in Chicago, **MATT PATRICIA** in Detroit, **FRANK REICH** in Indianapolis, **PAT SHURMUR** with the New York Giants, **JON GRUDEN** in Oakland and **MIKE VRABEL** in Tennessee.
 - Five quarterbacks - Oklahoma's **BAKER MAYFIELD** (No. 1 overall, Cleveland), USC's **SAM DARNOLD** (No. 3, New York Jets), Wyoming's **JOSH ALLEN** (No. 7, Buffalo), UCLA's **JOSH ROSEN** (No. 10, Arizona) and Louisville's **LAMAR JACKSON** (No. 32, Baltimore) - were selected in the first round of the 2018 NFL Draft, marking the third time that at least five quarterbacks have been selected in the Draft's opening round since the inception of the common draft in 1967
- At least one rookie quarterback has started Week 1 in 10 consecutive seasons, the longest streak in the NFL since at least 1950.
- Several notable players were on the move during the offseason, including quarterbacks **KIRK COUSINS** (Minnesota), **ALEX SMITH** (Washington) and **TYROD TAYLOR** (Cleveland); wide receivers **JARVIS LANDRY** (Cleveland), **JORDY NELSON** (Oakland), **MICHAEL CRABTREE** (Baltimore) and **BRANDIN COOKS** (Los Angeles Rams); tight end **JIMMY GRAHAM** (Green Bay); guard **ANDREW NORWELL** (Jacksonville); tackle **NATE SOLDER** (New York Giants); defensive end **ROBERT QUINN** (Miami); defensive tackles **DONTARI POE** (Carolina), **SHELDON RICHARDSON** (Minnesota), **NDAMUKONG SUH** (Los Angeles Rams) and **MUHAMMAD WILKERSON** (Green Bay); cornerbacks **MALCOLM BUTLER** (Tennessee), **MARCUS PETERS** (Los Angeles Rams), **RICHARD SHERMAN** (San Francisco) and **AQIB TALIB** (Los Angeles Rams); and safety **TYRANN MATHIEU** (Houston).
 - In each of the past two seasons, a rookie running back has led the NFL in rushing yards – Dallas' **EZEKIEL ELLIOTT** (1,631) in 2016 and Kansas City's **KAREEM HUNT** (1,327) in 2017. Three running backs – **SAQUON BARKLEY** (No. 2 overall, New York Giants, right), **RASHAAD PENNY** (No. 27, Seattle) and **SONY MICHEL** (No. 31, New England) – were selected in the first round of the 2018 NFL Draft.





NFL KICKOFF 2018

FROM WORST TO FIRST

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

For the 14th time in the past 15 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 46 teams in league history to go from “worst-to-first,” 23 of them have done so in the past 15 years (2003-17), including an NFL-record three such teams in 2005 and 2006.

After finishing in last place in their divisions in 2016, the **JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS** (AFC South) and **PHILADELPHIA EAGLES** (NFC East) each turned it around to win their respective divisions last season. The Eagles won 13 games to claim the NFC East crown en route to their Super Bowl LII victory. The Jaguars won 10 games in 2017 to capture the AFC South title, rebounding from a 3-13 season in 2016 to win their division for the first time since 1999.

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
2016	Dallas	4-12	13-3
2017	Jacksonville	10-6	3-13
2017	Philadelphia**	13-3	7-9

*Tied for last place

**Won Super Bowl



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Since 2003, the NFL's 23 teams to go from "worst-to-first" in their division are the most among the four major professional sports leagues in the United States.

In the NBA, only two teams since the 2003-04 season have finished first in their division after placing in last or tied for last the previous season. There have been seven such teams to accomplish the feat in the past 15 seasons in both MLB and the NHL.

NUMBER OF TEAMS TO FINISH FIRST IN ITS DIVISION THE SEASON AFTER FINISHING IN LAST OR TIED FOR LAST PLACE IN PAST 15 SEASONS

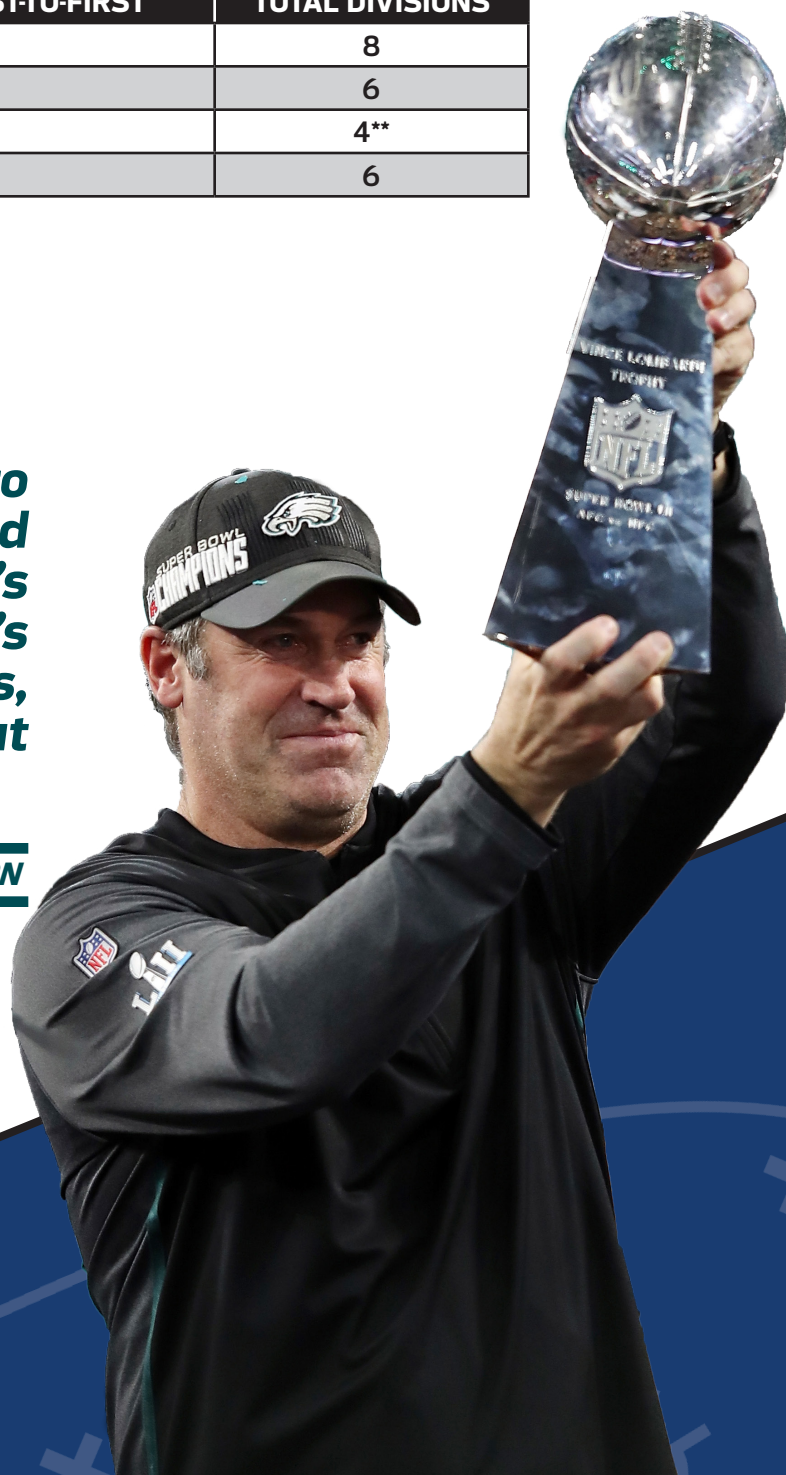
LEAGUE	NO. OF TEAMS TO GO FROM "WORST-TO-FIRST"	TOTAL DIVISIONS
NFL	23	8
MLB	7	6
NHL	7*	4**
NBA	2	6

*2004-05 season was cancelled due to lockout

**Realigned from six divisions in 2012-13

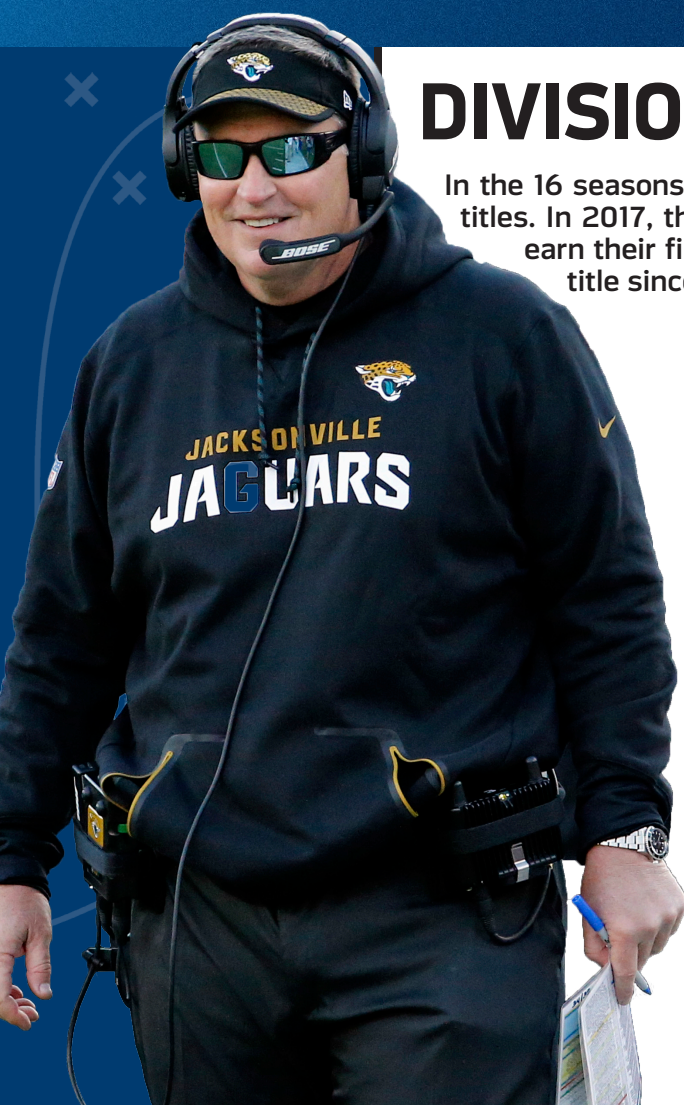
"Obviously it's one of our goals to win the NFC East. You've checked the box for your first goal, it's great, love it. We're proud. It's obviously a tribute to our players, but there's something bigger out there that we strive for."

Eagles head coach DOUG PEDERSON





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DIVISION TITLES? UP FOR GRABS

In the 16 seasons since realignment in 2002, 29 different teams have won division titles. In 2017, the Jacksonville Jaguars completed a “worst-to-first” turnaround to earn their first playoff berth since 2007 and win their first AFC South division title since joining the division in 2002.

THE MOST DIVISION TITLES AND PLAYOFF BERTHS SINCE REALIGNMENT IN 2002

TEAM	DIVISION TITLES	PLAYOFF BERTHS
New England	14	14
Indianapolis	9	12
Green Bay	9	12
Seattle	8	11
Pittsburgh	8	11
Philadelphia	7	9
Denver	6	8
Carolina	5	7
LA Chargers	5	6
Atlanta	4	8
Baltimore	4	8
Cincinnati	4	7
Kansas City	4	7
Dallas	4	6
New Orleans	4	6
Minnesota	4	6
Houston	4	4
NY Giants	3	7
Arizona	3	4
San Francisco	3	4
Chicago	3	3
Tampa Bay	3	3
Tennessee	2	5
Washington	2	4
LA Rams	2	3
NY Jets	1	5
Jacksonville	1	3
Miami	1	2
Oakland	1	2
Detroit	0	3
Buffalo	0	1
Cleveland	0	1

“For our fans, their loyalty and resiliency throughout difficult times here, not having been to the playoffs since 2007 and not having a home playoff game since 1999, I’m excited for our team and our fans.”

- Jaguars head coach DOUG MARRONE after clinching the 2017 AFC South division title



NFL KICKOFF 2018

HEADLINE GAMES

With only 16 games per team, every game is important. Below is a sampling of some of this year's top matchups.

Week 1	ATL at PHI	Thursday night Kickoff Weekend opener features matchup of the past two NFC representatives in the Super Bowl.
Week 2	NE at JAX	Jacksonville opens their home slate with rematch of the 2017 AFC Champ. Game.
Week 3	LAC at LAR	Cross-city foes square off in the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum.
Week 4	MIN at LAR	FOX kicks off their Thursday Night Football package with battle of NFC playoff teams.
Week 5	MIN at PHI	NFC Championship Game rematch in Philadelphia.
Week 6	SEA at OAK (London)	Raiders host Seahawks in first game of 2018 London Series.
Week 7	NYG at ATL	Monday Night Football matchup at Atlanta's Mercedes-Benz Stadium, site of SB LIII.
Week 8	PHI at JAX (London)	Showdown at Wembley Stadium is last of three games played in UK in 2018.
Week 9	OAK at SF	Battle of the Bay Area on TNF featuring rising stars Derek Carr and Jimmy Garoppolo.
Week 10	NE at TEN	Tennessee first-year head coach Mike Vrabel, who played for the Patriots from 2001-08, takes on former team in battle of AFC playoff teams.
Week 11	KC at LAR (Mexico City)	Rams host Chiefs in Monday night matchup at historic Estadio Azteca.
Week 12	CHI at DET/WAS at DAL/ ATL at NO	Thanksgiving triple-header marks only second time since 1970 (2014) that the holiday has featured exclusively divisional matchups.
Week 13	LAC at PIT	Chargers' QB Philip Rivers and Steelers' QB Ben Roethlisberger, both selected in the 2004 NFL Draft, square off in key AFC showdown.
Week 14	ATL at GB	Former MVPs Matt Ryan (2016) and Aaron Rodgers (2011, 2014) face off at Lambeau.
Week 15	HOU at NYJ/CLE at DEN	NFL Network airs a late season Saturday double-header in the AFC.
Week 16	DEN at OAK	Raiders host Broncos in AFC West rivalry game on Christmas Eve.
Week 17	16 Division Matchups	Final weekend features all division games with playoff berths on the line.





NFL KICKOFF 2018

KICKOFF WEEKEND RECORDS OF NFL TEAMS

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

					LONGEST STREAKS								LONGEST STREAKS		
AFC	W	L	T	PCT.	WIN	LOSS	CURRENT	NFC	W	L	T	PCT.	WIN	LOSS	CURRENT
Denver	38	19	1	.575	6	4	W-6	Chicago	54	39	5	.592	9	6	L-4
Houston	9	7	0	.563	5	3	L-1	Green Bay	55	39	3	.592	5	6	W-3
Pittsburgh	43	36	4	.556	8	3	W-2	NY Giants	50	38	5	.580	4	5	L-1
LA Chargers	32	26	0	.552	6	6	L-2	Dallas	38	19	1	.575	17	5	W-1
New England	32	26	0	.552	10	3	L-1	Minnesota	32	24	1	.575	5	3	W-2
Miami	27	23	1	.545	11	5	L-1	Detroit	48	38	2	.563	10	4	W-2
Kansas City	31	27	0	.535	7	4	W-3	San Francisco	37	30	1	.556	6	3	L-1
Jacksonville	12	11	0	.522	6	5	W-1	Atlanta	28	24	0	.539	5	3	W-1
Tennessee	30	28	0	.517	4	3	L-2	LA Rams	41	39	0	.513	5	6	W-1
Indianapolis	33	32	0	.508	8	8	L-4	Washington	40	42	4	.500	6	5	L-5
Baltimore	11	11	0	.500	5	4	W-2	Philadelphia	37	46	1	.449	5	9	W-2
NY Jets	27	31	0	.466	5	5	L-2	Arizona	40	55	2	.427	6	7	L-2
Oakland	27	31	0	.466	5	8	W-2	Carolina	9	14	0	.391	3	5	W-1
Cincinnati	23	27	0	.460	4	4	L-1	Tampa Bay	16	25	0	.390	3	5	W-1
Cleveland	27	38	0	.415	5	13	L-13	Seattle	16	26	0	.381	3	8	L-1
Buffalo	24	34	0	.414	6	5	W-1	New Orleans	17	34	0	.333	3	6	L-4

KICKOFF WEEKEND RECORDS OF NFL HEAD COACHES

COACH	TEAM	W-L	PCT.	COACH	TEAM	W-L	PCT.
Doug Pederson	Philadelphia	2-0	1.000	Marvin Lewis	Cincinnati	7-8	.467
Vance Joseph	Denver	1-0	1.000	Sean Payton	New Orleans	5-6	.455
Dirk Koetter*	Tampa Bay	1-0	1.000	Ron Rivera	Carolina	3-4	.429
Sean McDermott	Buffalo	1-0	1.000	Jon Gruden	Oakland	4-7	.364
Sean McVay	LA Rams	1-0	1.000	Todd Bowles	NY Jets	1-2	.333
Mike Zimmer	Minnesota	3-1	.750	Hue Jackson	Cleveland	1-2	.333
John Harbaugh	Baltimore	7-3	.700	Adam Gase*	Miami	0-1	.000
Mike McCarthy	Green Bay	8-4	.667	Jay Gruden	Washington	0-4	.000
Doug Marrone	Jacksonville	2-1	.667	Anthony Lynn	LA Chargers	0-1	.000
Dan Quinn	Atlanta	2-1	.667	Kyle Shanahan	San Francisco	0-1	.000
Bill Belichick	New England	15-8	.652	Pat Shurmur	NY Giants	0-2	.000
Mike Tomlin	Pittsburgh	7-4	.636	Matt Nagy	Chicago	0-0	--
Andy Reid	Kansas City	11-8	.579	Matt Patricia	Detroit	0-0	--
Pete Carroll	Seattle	7-5	.583	Frank Reich	Indianapolis	0-0	--
Jason Garrett	Dallas	4-3	.571	Mike Vrabel	Tennessee	0-0	--
Bill O'Brien	Houston	2-2	.500	Steve Wilks	Arizona	0-0	--

*Did not play in Week 1 in 2017 due to Hurricane Irma



NFL KICKOFF 2018

BEST OPENING GAME PERFORMANCES, 1933-2017

MOST YARDS RUSHING

PLAYER	YARDS	ATT	LG	TD
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

PLAYER	YARDS	ATT	COMP	TD	INT
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
Drew Brees, New Orleans vs. Oakland, 9/11/16	423	42	28	4	0
Cam Newton, Carolina vs. Arizona, 9/11/11	422	37	24	2	1

MOST YARDS RECEIVING

PLAYER	YARDS	REC	LG	TD
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



NFL KICKOFF 2018

BEST OPENING GAME PERFORMANCES, PAST 10 YEARS

(2017 Performances in Bold & Italics)

MOST YARDS RUSHING

PLAYER	YARDS	ATT	LG	TD
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
C.J. Spiller, Buffalo vs. N.Y. Jets, 9/9/12	169	14	56t	1
Carlos Hyde, San Francisco vs. Minnesota, 9/14/15	168	26	18	2
Darren McFadden, Oakland vs. Denver, 9/12/11	150	22	47	0
<i>Kareem Hunt, Kansas City at New England, 9/17/17</i>	148	17	58	1
DeAngelo Williams, Pittsburgh vs. Washington, 9/12/16	143	26	17	2
Mike Bell, New Orleans vs. Detroit, 9/13/09	143	28	22	0

MOST YARDS PASSING

PLAYER	YARDS	ATT	COMP	TD	INT
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
Drew Brees, New Orleans vs. Oakland, 9/11/16	423	42	28	4	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

MOST YARDS RECEIVING

PLAYER	YARDS	REC	LG	TD
Anquan Boldin, San Francisco vs. Green Bay, 9/8/13	208	13	43	1
<i>Antonio Brown, Pittsburgh at Cleveland, 9/10/17</i>	182	11	50	0
A.J. Green, Cincinnati vs. New York Jets, 9/11/16	180	12	54	1
Steve Smith, Carolina vs. Arizona, 9/11/11	178	8	77t	2
Willie Snead, New Orleans vs. Oakland, 9/11/16	172	9	49	1
Keenan Allen, San Diego vs. Detroit, 9/13/15	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



NFL KICKOFF 2018

BEST OPENING MONTH RECORDS, PAST 10 YEARS

Getting off to a strong start is important.

Over the past 10 years, six teams – **DENVER, NEW ENGLAND, BALTIMORE, ATLANTA, GREEN BAY** and **DALLAS** – have a winning percentage of at least .600 through the season's first month. Those six clubs have combined for 37 playoff berths and nine Super Bowl appearances – including five Super Bowl championships – during that span.

TEAMS WITH BEST OPENING MONTH RECORDS OVER PAST 10 YEARS (2008-17)

TEAM	W	L	T	PCT.	PLAYOFF BERTHS	SUPER BOWL BERTHS	SUPER BOWL WINS
Denver	24	9	0	.727	5	2	1
New England	24	9	0	.727	9	4	2
Baltimore	22	11	0	.667	6	1	1
Atlanta	22	12	0	.647	6	1	0
Green Bay	22	12	0	.647	8	1	1
Dallas	21	13	0	.618	3	0	0

Broncos WR DEMARYIUS THOMAS

Patriots DB DEVIN McCOURTY

Ravens LB TERRELL SUGGS





NFL KICKOFF 2018

OVERTIME EXCITEMENT

With so many close games in the NFL, it's no surprise that 14 contests in the regular season were ultimately decided in overtime.

The Green Bay Packers and Indianapolis Colts tied for the league lead with three overtime games each, while Arizona, Chicago, Cleveland, Jacksonville and San Francisco all went to overtime twice in 2017.

Green Bay won overtime games in both Week 13 and Week 14, marking the first time in franchise history that the Packers won back-to-back games in overtime. In their Week 14 win at Cleveland, Packers wide receiver **DAVANTE ADAMS** scored a touchdown in both the final minute of the fourth quarter and in overtime and became the fourth player in NFL history (including the postseason) – and the first since New England's **JAMES WHITE** in Super Bowl LI – to score a touchdown in both the final minute of the fourth quarter and in overtime.

Indianapolis kicker **ADAM VINATIERI** (below) converted a game-winning 51-yard field goal with 1:43 remaining in overtime in the Colts' Week 5 victory over San Francisco. Vinatieri has 10 career game-winning field goals in overtime, the most in NFL history.

See page 513 of the *2018 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.
Arizona	26-16-3	.611
Washington	25-16-2	.605
Denver	28-18-2	.604
Buffalo	21-15	.583
New York Jets	24-18-2	.568
New York Giants	20-15-2	.568





NFL KICKOFF 2018

A SAMPLING OF INDIVIDUAL REGULAR-SEASON OVERTIME RECORDS

LONGEST TOUCHDOWN PASSES

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	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 RUNS

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)

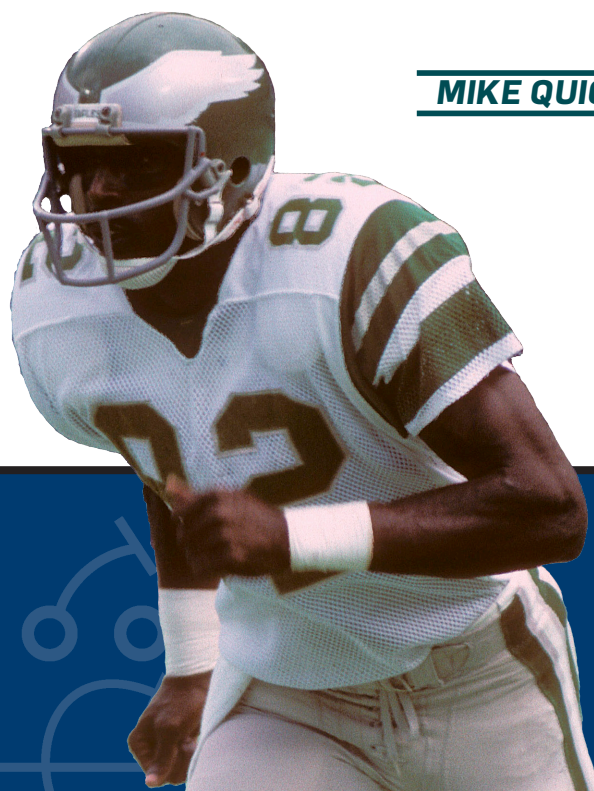
LONGEST FIELD GOALS

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)

GARRISON HEARST



MIKE QUICK





NFL KICKOFF 2018

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:

PRESEASON AND REGULAR SEASON

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.

- Following a three-minute intermission after the end of the regulation game, there shall be a maximum of one 10-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 10-minute overtime period, the game shall result in a tie.
- Instant Replay: No challenges. Reviews to be initiated by the replay official.

POSTSEASON

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.

- 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.

KEY DEFINITIONS

- **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 KICKOFF 2018

ANNIVERSARY ANNALS

A SAMPLING OF 2018 NFL ANNIVERSARIES

ANNIVERSARY	CELEBRATION
125th	Grant Dibert signs the first known professional football contract (1893).
120th	The Morgan Athletic Club forms in Chicago (1898) and later becomes known as the Normals, then the Racine Cardinals, the Chicago Cardinals, the St. Louis Cardinals, the Phoenix Cardinals, and, in 1994, the Arizona Cardinals. The team remains the oldest continuing operation in professional football.
85th	The forward pass becomes legalized from anywhere behind the line of scrimmage (1933).
85th	The Pittsburgh Steelers and the Philadelphia Eagles join the NFL (1933).
75th	The league approves the mandatory use of helmets for all players (1943).
75th	Pittsburgh and Philadelphia merge for one season and are known as the Steagles (1943).
60th	On December 28, 1958, Baltimore defeats the New York Giants in the first ever sudden-death overtime in an NFL Championship Game in a game known today as "The Greatest Game Ever Played."
55th	The NFL awards NBC with exclusive network broadcasting rights for the 1963 NFL Championship Game for \$926,000 (1963).
55th	The Pro Football Hall of Fame is established in Canton, OH (1963).
40th	On September 10, 1978, Oakland defeats San Diego 21-20 on a play known as the "Holy Roller."
35th season	The Colts franchise relocates to Indianapolis (1984).
30th	The NFL approves the Cardinals franchise relocation to Phoenix, AZ (1988).
25th	Don Shula becomes the winningest coach in NFL history when Miami beats Philadelphia to give Shula his 325th victory on November 14, 1993.
25th	The NFL allows fans to vote for Pro Bowl participants for the first time (1993).
20th season	The Tennessee Oilers' name is retired by the NFL and the team becomes the Tennessee Titans (1998).
15th	NFL Network launches on DirecTV on November 4, 2003.
10th	An NFL game is broadcast on NBC and also streamed live in its entirety to fans on the Internet via NFL.com and NBCSports.com (2008).



Raiders tight end **DAVE CASPER** recovers a fumble for a game-winning touchdown as time expires on September 10, 1978 in a play known as the "Holy Roller."



NFL KICKOFF 2018

OWNER MILESTONES

Many NFL owners will be celebrating notable milestones in 2018, including Pittsburgh's **ART ROONEY II**, whose family has reached the 85th anniversary of when **ART ROONEY** purchased the team when the franchise was known as the Pirates. Miami's **STEPHEN M. ROSS** will be celebrating his 10th anniversary as an NFL owner.

NOTABLE OWNER MILESTONES FOR 2018

FRANCHISE	OWNER	YEAR ACQUIRED	MILESTONE
Pittsburgh Steelers	Arthur J. Rooney II (Grandson of Art)	1933	85th Anniversary
Kansas City Chiefs	Clark Hunt (Son of Lamar and Norma)	1959	60th Season
Tennessee Titans	KSA Industries (Children & Grandchildren of "Bud" Adams)	1959	60th Season
Detroit Lions	Martha Ford	1964	55th Season
Denver Broncos	Bowlan Family	1984	35th Season
Los Angeles Chargers	Alex G. Spanos	1984	35th Season
Dallas Cowboys	Jerry Jones	1989	30th Season
New England Patriots	Robert K. Kraft	1994	25th Season
Philadelphia Eagles	Jeffrey Lurie	1994	25th Season
Washington Redskins	Daniel M. Snyder	1999	20th Season
Baltimore Ravens	Steve Bisciotti	2004	15th Season
Miami Dolphins	Stephen M. Ross	2008	10th Anniversary
Buffalo Bills	Terry & Kim Pegula	2014	5th Season





NFL KICKOFF 2018

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

Los Angeles Rams quarterback **NORM "THE DUTCHMAN" VAN BROCKLIN** 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 67 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.

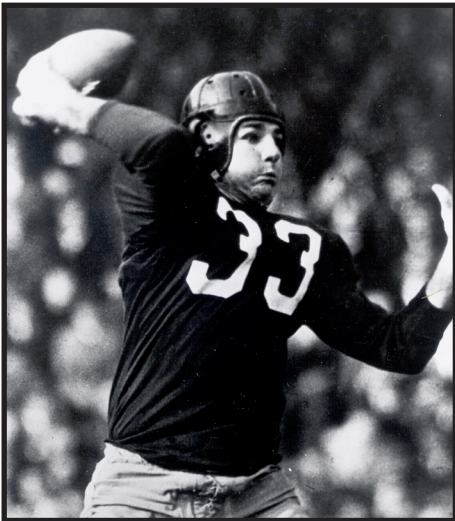
THE TOP PASSING PERFORMANCES IN VARIOUS LEVELS OF FOOTBALL

LEAGUE	QUARTERBACK	DATE	PERFORMANCE
High School	Will Grier, Davidson Day (NC)	Nov. 9, 2012	837 yards vs. Harrells Christian (NC)
NCAA Division III	Sam Durley, Eureka	Sept. 1, 2012	736 yards vs. Knox
NCAA Division I-A (FBS)	Connor Halliday, Washington St.	Oct. 4, 2014	734 yards vs. California
NCAA Division I-A (FBS)	Patrick Mahomes, Texas Tech	Oct. 22, 2016	734 yards vs. Oklahoma
NCAA Division I-AA (FCS)	Taylor Heinicke, Old Dominion	Sept. 22, 2012	730 yards vs. New Hampshire
Canadian Football League	Matt Dunigan, Winnipeg	July 14, 1994	713 yards vs. Edmonton
NCAA Division II	J.J. Harp, Eastern New Mexico	Sept. 12, 2009	695 yards vs. Southeastern OK.
NFL	Norm Van Brocklin, LA Rams	Sept. 28, 1951	554 yards vs. NY Yanks



NFL KICKOFF 2018

71 YEARS AGO ON KICKOFF WEEKEND: A RECORD 87 POINTS!



Seventy-one 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)



NFL KICKOFF 2018

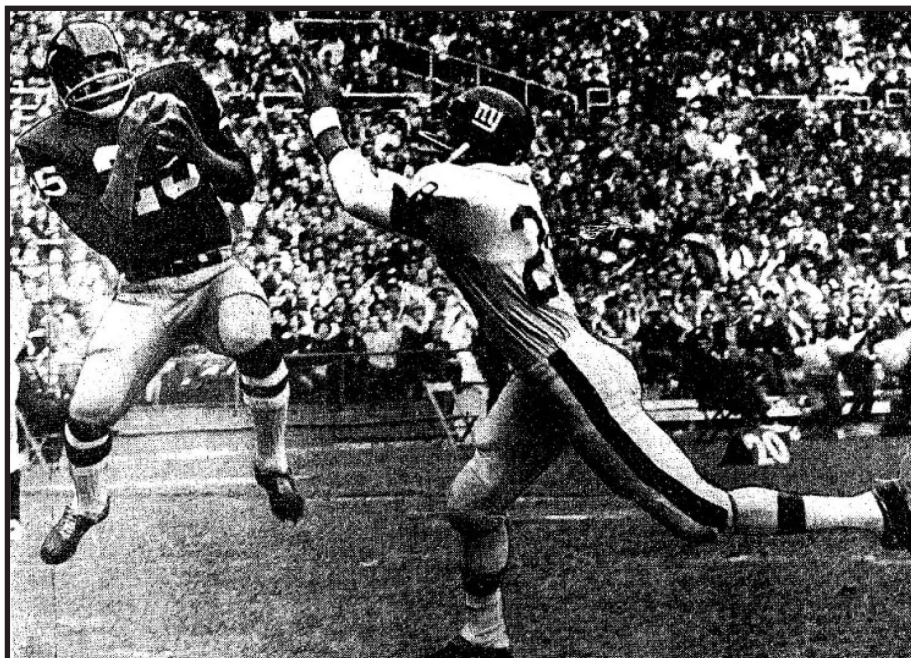
THE HIGHEST SCORING GAMES ON KICKOFF WEEKEND IN NFL HISTORY

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



Redskins running back **A.D. WHITFIELD** scores one of his three TDs on November 27, 1966 against the New York Giants



NFL KICKOFF 2018

NEW NFL RULES FOR 2018

The following are rules changes for the 2018 season:

- **STANDARD FOR A CATCH:** Changes the standard for a catch for a forward pass or interception in the field of play, at the sideline, or in the end zone if a player, who is in bounds:
 - a) secures control of the ball in his hands or arms, prior to the ball touching the ground; and
 - b) touches the ground inbounds with both feet or with any part of his body other than his hands; and
 - c) after (a) and (b) have been fulfilled, performs any football act (e.g., tuck the ball away, extend it towards or over the goal line or the line to gain, take an additional step, turn upfield, or avoid or ward off an opponent), or he maintains control of the ball long enough to do so.

Note 1: Movement of the ball does not automatically result in loss of control.

Note 2: If a player, who satisfied (a) and (b), but has not satisfied (c), contacts the ground and loses control of the ball, it is an incomplete pass if the ball hits the ground before he regains control, or if he regains control out of bounds.

Note 3: A receiver is considered a player in a defenseless posture (See Rule 12, Section 2, Article 7) throughout the entire process of the catch and until the player is capable of avoiding or warding off the impending contact of an opponent.

Note 4: If a pass is caught simultaneously by two eligible opponents, and both players retain it, the ball belongs to the passers. It is not a simultaneous catch if a player gains control first and an opponent subsequently gains joint control.

Note 5: If a player, who is in possession of the ball, is held up and carried out of bounds by an opponent before both feet or any part of his body other than his hands touches the ground inbounds, it is a completed or intercepted pass.
- **HELMET RULE:** Makes lowering the head and initiating contact with the helmet a foul.
- **DISQUALIFICATIONS:** Authorizes the Senior Vice President of Officiating to instruct on-field game officials to disqualify a player for a flagrant non-football act when a foul for that act is called on the field.
- **SCORING AT THE END OF REGULATION:** Eliminates the requirement that a team who scores a touchdown at the end of regulation of a game to kick the extra point or go for a two-point conversion if it would not affect the outcome of the game.



- **KICKOFF FORMATION:** Modifies rules for a free kick formation and for blocking on a free kick.
- **TOUCHBACKS:** The playing rule that changes the spot of the next snap after a touchback resulting from a free kick to the 25-yard line is now permanent.
- **ILLEGAL BATTING AND KICKING:** Makes the penalties for Illegal Batting and Kicking the same (loss of 10 yards).
- **OVERTIME:** Provides that in overtime, if the team that possesses the ball first scores a field goal in its initial possession and the second team loses possession by an interception or a fumble, the down will be permitted to run to its conclusion, including awarding the points scored by either team during the down.



NFL KICKOFF 2018

WOMEN'S CAREERS IN FOOTBALL FORUM

Diversity and inclusion is a priority across the NFL and all 32 clubs. As part of its ongoing commitment, the NFL offers innovative career development programs aimed to inspire, engage, and connect women with careers in football. Hosting these events is part of the League's overall efforts to develop a pipeline of qualified women for Football Operations positions and provides women with critical knowledge, tools and resources to pursue careers in football.

As part of these efforts, the NFL created the **NFL WOMEN'S CAREERS IN FOOTBALL FORUM**. In its first year, the Forum brought in NFL team owners, coaches, and general managers to speak to 220 female tackle football players about the different areas that exist within football operations. As a result of the inaugural event, 18 women went on to work in football operations across the professional, collegiate, and high school levels, nine of whom secured positions for coaching and scouting in NFL training camps.

This year, 50 qualified women were selected to participate in the Forum from a pool of more than 420 applicants. The graphic below depicts the participants from the 2018 program who have received opportunities at the high school, collegiate and professional levels and most notably within the realms of coaching, scouting, and operations. In addition to the results listed, several NFL clubs have hired women in coaching and/or personnel roles this year including the **ATLANTA FALCONS**, **MINNESOTA VIKINGS** and **OAKLAND RAIDERS**. Since the Forum, the NFL has also worked with a number of NCAA programs and head coaches, including Dartmouth University head coach Buddy Teevens, who have learned about these efforts and have committed to interviewing more women for openings on their staffs.

While the NFL is encouraged by the progress, it is dedicated to further advancement and the normalization of women on the sidelines.

2018 NFL WOMEN'S CAREERS IN FOOTBALL FORUM CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Category	Participant	Team/Institution	Position
SCOUTING	STEPHANIE BALOCHKO	Pittsburgh Steelers	Scouting Intern
	SALLI CLAVELLE	San Francisco 49ers	Scouting Assistant
	ABBY DESAI	Stanford University	Stanford Recruiting Intern
	STEPHANIE JACKSON	San Francisco 49ers	Scouting Intern
	DARCY LESLIE	San Francisco 49ers	Scouting Intern
	HEATHER MARINI	San Francisco 49ers	Scouting Intern
COACHING	CALLIE BROWNSON	Dartmouth College	Coaching Intern
	ELENA GRIGEVICH	Bethune-Cookman College	Coaching Intern
	JENNIFER KING	Wide Receivers	Coaching Intern
	SUE LIZOTTE	Bryant University	Defensive Graduate Assistant
	LO LOCUST	Defensive Line	Coaching Intern
	PHOEBE SCHECTER	Stanford University	Stanford Coaching Intern
	BECKY WORSHAM	West Springfield HS	Offensive Line Coach
	RACHEL WORSHAM	George C Marshall HS	Offensive Line Coach
FOOTBALL OPERATIONS	ANDIE DJAMAL	Team Operations Intern	Team Operations Intern
	JESSICA GLADDEN	Equipment Manager Intern	Equipment Manager Intern
	MICKY GRACE	Training Camp Assistant	Training Camp Assistant
	KASIA OMILIAN	Training Camp & Operations Intern	Training Camp & Operations Intern
	LAURENCE PONTBRIAND	Football Operations Coordinator	Football Operations Coordinator
BUSINESS OPERATIONS	CHANDLER COLEY	Social Media & Digital Marketing Intern	Social Media & Digital Marketing Intern
	KENNEDY HARVEY	Communications Summer Intern	Communications Summer Intern
	MARIA DEL PILAR LANGMAN	Project Coordinator	Project Coordinator
	CHANELLE MANUS	Gameday Ticket Seller	Gameday Ticket Seller
	NEHA VVAS	Legal Intern	Legal Intern

24 women secured positions
32 participants received first round interviews



NFL KICKOFF 2018

2018 SPECIAL PATCHES & LOGOS

NFL teams will adorn a handful of special patches during the 2018 season to highlight league initiatives and commemorate special moments and teams in franchise history.

The NFL will celebrate **A CRUCIAL CATCH** and **BREAST CANCER AWARENESS** with a 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 2018. The **GREEN BAY PACKERS** will celebrate their 100th season, while the **INDIANAPOLIS COLTS** will commemorate their 35th season in Indianapolis and the **TENNESSEE TITANS** will memorialize their 20th season.

2018 SPECIAL PATCHES & LOGOS

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.
Green Bay Packers	100th season patch.
Indianapolis Colts	35th season patch.
New York Jets	50th anniversary patch of Super Bowl III during Week 6.
Tennessee Titans	20th season patch.





NFL KICKOFF 2018

NFL ON TV IN 2018

Includes Thursday Night Football “Tri-Cast” distribution model of broadcast (FOX), cable (NFL Network, FOX Deportes) & digital (Amazon Prime)

NFL fans continue to tune in to the sport they love. Here’s a look at what’s in store on TV in 2018.

The regular-season schedule – spanning 17 weeks and 256 games – kicks off on Thursday night, September 6 in Philadelphia and concludes on Sunday, December 30 with 16 division games.

The season begins with the NFL’s annual primetime kickoff game, as the defending Super Bowl champion Philadelphia Eagles host the Atlanta Falcons at Lincoln Financial Field on September 6 (8:20 PM ET, NBC).

Week 1 is a **FOX** national weekend with key games on Sunday, September 9 featuring the Dallas Cowboys at the Carolina Panthers (4:25 PM ET) and the Seattle Seahawks visiting the Denver Broncos (4:25 PM ET). Week 1 matchups on **CBS** include the Houston Texans at the New England Patriots (1:00 PM ET) and the Los Angeles Chargers hosting the Kansas City Chiefs (4:05 PM ET). Week 2 represents the first CBS national weekend with doubleheader games showcasing the Oakland Raiders at the Denver Broncos (4:25 PM ET) and the Patriots visiting the Jacksonville Jaguars (4:25 PM ET).

NBC’s Sunday Night Football gets underway on September 9 when the Green Bay Packers host the Chicago Bears (8:20 PM ET) at Lambeau Field in the 195th regular-season meeting between the storied franchises.

Kickoff Weekend concludes on Monday, September 10 with an **ESPN Monday Night Football** doubleheader. The Detroit Lions will host the New York Jets (7:10 PM ET) in the first game followed by the Los Angeles Rams visiting the Raiders 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.

Primetime games will all kick off earlier this season – Thursday night at 8:20 PM ET (from 8:25 PM ET), Sunday night at 8:20 PM ET (8:30 PM) and Monday night at 8:15 PM ET (8:30 PM) – and all 32 clubs are scheduled for at least one Thursday, Sunday or Monday night game.

FOX will kick off their Thursday Night Football package in Week 4 with a showdown of NFC playoff teams, as the Minnesota Vikings visit the Rams at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum (8:20 PM ET, FOX/NFLN). FOX will broadcast 11 Thursday Night Football games between Weeks 4-15 (excluding Thanksgiving night), with those games also being simulcast via NFL Network and distributed in Spanish on FOX Deportes. In addition, NFL Network will exclusively televise seven games this season, with FOX producing the full slate of 18 games.

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 were announced this spring and other “cross-flexed” games will be decided during the season.

The regular season will conclude with Week 17 on Sunday, December 30. For the ninth consecutive year, all 16 games scheduled for Week 17 are division contests, enhancing the potential for more games with playoff ramifications.





NFL KICKOFF 2018

Other highlights of the schedule include:

Nine games in the 2018 regular season will feature a rematch from the 2017 postseason. In Week 2, Jacksonville will host New England at EverBank Field in a rematch of last season's AFC Championship Game (4:25 PM ET, CBS). Minnesota travels to Philadelphia in Week 5 in a rematch of the 2017 NFC Championship Game (4:25 PM ET, FOX).

Thanksgiving will feature a trio of divisional matchups on Thursday, November 22. 2018 marks only the second time since 1970 (2014) that the holiday has featured exclusively divisional matchups. The first game will send the Bears 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 Thanksgiving Day festivities conclude with an NFC South showdown as the Falcons travel to New Orleans to face the Saints on NBC (8:20 PM ET).

The NFL's international slate includes three games in London – occurring in three consecutive weeks (Week 6-8) – and one in Mexico City. The first game of the 2018 London Series takes place at Wembley Stadium in Week 6 as the Oakland Raiders host the Seattle Seahawks on Sunday, October 14 (1:00 PM ET, FOX). The following week, action returns to Wembley as the Los Angeles Chargers host the Tennessee Titans on Sunday, October 21 (9:30 AM ET, CBS). The 2018 London Series concludes in Week 8 with the Jaguars hosting the Eagles on Sunday, October 28 (9:30 AM ET, NFLN).

For the third consecutive season, the NFL will return to Mexico City's Estadio Azteca. On Monday, November 19, the Los Angeles Rams host the Kansas City Chiefs in the historic venue on Monday Night Football (8:15 PM ET, ESPN).

The NFL's 32 teams will each play 16 games over 17 weeks. Byes will begin in Week 4 and end in Week 12.

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 5-6. 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 12-13. The AFC and NFC Championship Games will be played on Sunday, January 20. The winners meet two weeks later on Sunday, February 3 in Super Bowl LIII at Atlanta's Mercedes-Benz Stadium (CBS).

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.

Westwood One will broadcast on radio all NFL primetime games, the three Thanksgiving Day games and the entire NFL playoffs.





NFL KICKOFF 2018

FLEXIBLE SCHEDULING

“Flexible scheduling” will be used in Weeks 11-17. Additionally, in Weeks 5-10, flexible scheduling may be used in no more than two weeks. In Weeks 5-16, 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. A flexible scheduling move would be announced at least 12 days before the game.

Flexibility for Saturday games in Weeks 15 and 16 is also part of the 2018 schedule. In Week 15, there will be two games played on Saturday on NFL Network: Houston at the New York Jets and Cleveland at Denver, with the game times of 4:30 PM ET and 8:20 PM ET to be determined. In Week 16, two of four possible matchups will be scheduled for Saturday: Baltimore at Los Angeles Chargers, Jacksonville at Miami, the New York Giants at Indianapolis or Washington at Tennessee. Start times and Saturday games for Week 15 and 16 will be announced no later than following Week 8, with the non-Saturday games to be played on Sunday.

For Week 17, the Sunday night game will be announced no later than six days prior to December 30. 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 primetime.

Flexible scheduling will not be applied to games airing on Thursday or Monday nights.





NFL KICKOFF 2018

NFL RADIO 2018: WESTWOOD ONE & SIRIUSXM COVER THE NFL

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

WESTWOOD ONE remains the official network radio partner of the NFL, its 32nd consecutive season with that distinction.

The Westwood One NFL schedule features 70 national games, including the Thursday night Kickoff game, Monday Night Football, Sunday Night Football, Thursday Night Football, the London Games, the Thanksgiving Day tripleheader and the entire postseason, culminating with Super Bowl LIII in Atlanta. Westwood One also produces weekly specialty programs, including The NFL Today, NFL Preview, NFL Insider, NFL Sunday and NFL Fantasy Football Forecast.

KEVIN HARLAN and Hall of Famer **KURT WARNER** will be the lead broadcast crew, calling Monday Night Football and Super Bowl LIII for the network. **JIM GRAY** anchors the pregame and halftime shows. **IAN EAGLE** and **TONY BOSELLI** will once again be the broadcast crew for Thursday Night Football, while **KEVIN KUGLER** and Hall of Famer **JASON TAYLOR** return as the main crew for Sunday Night Football. **SCOTT GRAHAM** serves as the studio host for those broadcasts.

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, via the TuneIn Radio app, and through NFL Game Pass, which is available on NFL.com and the NFL mobile app. 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 15th season on **SiriusXM**. SiriusXM creates and offers commercial-free music, premier sports talk and live events, comedy, news, exclusive talk and entertainment programming.

SiriusXM provides live play-by-play of every NFL game from the preseason through Super Bowl LIII 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. Subscribers can also get SiriusXM NFL Radio programming on demand, allowing them to listen to their favorite shows when they want them, and giving them more chances to hear exclusive programming like the recent Town Hall broadcast with Super Bowl LII MVP QB Nick Foles, training camp tour broadcasts and more. For more information visit siriusxm.com/nflnfxm.





NFL KICKOFF 2018

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, Solomon Wilcotts, Torry Holt, Charlie Weis
"The SiriusXM Blitz"	11:00 AM-3:00 PM	Bruce Murray, James Lofton, Brady Quinn, Mark Dominik
"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	Alex Marvez, 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

SUNDAY PROGRAMMING	TIME (All times ET)	HOSTS
"The Stadium Tailgate Show"	9:00 AM-Noon	Alex Marvez, Gil Brandt
"The Sunday Drive"	Noon-8:00 PM	Steve Torre, Bill Lekan
"NFL Rewind"	Midnight-2:00 AM	Zig Fracassi, Brad Hopkins



NFL CALENDAR

September 6, 9-10	Kickoff 2018	January 12-13	Divisional Playoffs
October 31	Trading deadline	January 20	Conference Championships
December 30	Regular season ends	January 27	Pro Bowl, Orlando, Florida (ESPN)
January 5-6	Wild Card Playoffs	February 3	Super Bowl LIII, Atlanta (CBS)





NFL KICKOFF 2018

SEVEN COLLEGES TO ADD FOOTBALL PROGRAMS IN 2018

As the anticipation for football season continues to build, fans can look forward to more action on college campuses this fall. Seven colleges will add football programs in 2018 – **ALLEN UNIVERSITY, ALVERNIA UNIVERSITY, INDIANA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY, KEISER UNIVERSITY, LAWRENCE TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY, OTTAWA UNIVERSITY ARIZONA** and **UNIVERSITY OF NEW ENGLAND**.

Since 2008, a total of 69 NCAA and NAIA schools have added football teams and five additional schools plan to add football programs by 2020.

According to the National Football Foundation, a record 778 colleges/universities have football programs in 2018.

Football is returning to Allen University after a 15-year hiatus.

“The ember for football never dimmed in a group of alumni that ultimately set ablaze the current decision and process to relaunch football,” said Allen University President **DR. ERNEST MC NEALEY**.

Keiser University in Fort Lauderdale, Florida is adding football to their athletic program and is bringing former Buffalo Bills Offensive Assistant **DOUG SOCHA** on as the team’s head coach.

“I am excited to get started, and I will start right here in Palm Beach County,” said Socha. “The Keiser football program creates an opportunity for local student athletes to get a quality education and to compete at a high level in their own back yard. We will be a program that embeds ourselves in the community, and competes for championships while representing Keiser University in a first-class manner.”

Five schools plan to add football programs in 2019 or 2020, including **CLARKE UNIVERSITY, FRANKLIN PIERCE UNIVERSITY, WHEELING JESUIT UNIVERSITY, BARTON COLLEGE** and **KEYSTONE COLLEGE**.



Allen



Alvernia



Indiana Wesleyan



New England

A LIST OF COLLEGES THAT PLAN TO ADD FOOTBALL PROGRAMS BY 2020

COLLEGE	LOCATION	START DATE/LEVEL
Allen University	Columbia, SC	2018-NAIA
Alvernia University	Reading, PA	2018-NCAA, Div. II
Indiana Wesleyan University	Marion, IN	2018-NAIA
Keiser University	West Palm Beach, FL	2018-NAIA
Lawrence Technological University	Southfield, MI	2018-NAIA
Ottawa University Arizona	Surprise, AZ	2018-NAIA
University of New England	Biddeford, ME	2018-NCAA, Div. III
Clarke University	Dubuque, IA	2019-NAIA
Franklin Pierce University	Rindge, NH	2019-NCAA, Div. II
Wheeling Jesuit University	Wheeling, WV	2019-NCAA, Div. II
Barton College	Wilson, NC	2020-NCAA, Div. II
Keystone College	La Plume, PA	2020-NCAA, Div. III



Keiser



Lawrence Technological



Ottawa University Arizona



NFL KICKOFF 2018

CELEBRITIES LOVE THE NFL

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

CELEBRITIES AND THEIR FAVORITE NFL TEAMS

NAME	FAV. TEAM
Ben Affleck, Actor	Patriots
Carmelo Anthony, Houston Rockets	Ravens
Chris Berman, ESPN	Bills
Beyonce, Singer	Texans
Jessica Biel, Actress	Broncos
Simone Biles, Olympic Gymnast	Texans
Wolf Blitzer, CNN	Bills
Bon Jovi, Singer	Giants
Ty Burrell, Actor	Rams
Nick Carter, Singer	Buccaneers
Kenny Chesney, Singer	Saints
Terry Crews, Actor	Rams
Stephen Curry, Golden State Warriors	Panthers
Josh Duhamel, Actor	Vikings
Kevin Durant, Golden State Warriors	Redskins
Eminem, Rapper	Lions
Will Ferrell, Actor	Packers
Guy Fieri, Celebrity Chef	Raiders
Rickie Fowler, Professional Golfer	Chargers
Gene Hackman, Actor	Jaguars
Woody Harrelson, Actor	Bengals
Steve Harvey, Actor	Browns
Kevin Harvick, NASCAR Driver	49ers
Faith Hill, Singer	Titans
Kate Hudson, Actress	Broncos
Samuel L. Jackson, Actor	Falcons
LeBron James, Los Angeles Lakers	Cowboys
Kevin James, Actor	Jets
Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson, Actor	Raiders
Michael Keaton, Actor	Steelers
Gladys Knight, Singer	Panthers
Nick Lachey, Singer	Bengals

NAME	FAV. TEAM
Queen Latifah, Actress	Giants
David Letterman, Comedian	Colts
Adriana Lima, Supermodel	Dolphins
Rob Lowe, Actor	Colts
Macklemore, Rapper	Seahawks
Joe Maddon, Chicago Cubs	Cardinals
Matthew McConaughey, Actor	Redskins
Tim McGraw, Singer	Titans
Joel McHale, Comedian	Seahawks
Seth Meyers, Comedian	Steelers
Phil Mickelson, Professional Golfer	Chargers
Bill Murray, Actor	Jaguars
Barack Obama, Former President	Bears
Hayden Panettiere, Actress	49ers
Michael Phelps, Olympic Swimmer	Ravens
Brad Pitt, Actor	Saints
Condoleezza Rice, Former Secretary of State	Browns
Kid Rock, Singer	Lions
Ray Romano, Actor	Jets
Paul Rudd, Actor	Chiefs
Blake Shelton, Singer	Cardinals
Jason Sudeikis, Actor	Chiefs
Taylor Swift, Singer	Eagles
Mike Trout, Los Angeles Angels	Eagles
Carrie Underwood, Singer	Cowboys
Usher, Singer	Falcons
Dick Vitale, ESPN Commentator	Buccaneers
Dwyane Wade, NBA Player	Bears
Mark Wahlberg, Actor	Patriots
Lil Wayne, Rapper	Packers
Lindsey Whalen, Minnesota Lynx	Vikings
Serena Williams, Tennis Player	Dolphins



NFL KICKOFF 2018

ATLANTA TO HOST SUPER BOWL LIII

Mercedes-Benz Stadium, home of the Atlanta Falcons, will host Super Bowl LIII on February 3, 2019.

“It’s a wonderful day for our city and franchise and I know the people of Atlanta and all of Georgia will deliver a spectacular Super Bowl celebration in 2019,” said Falcons owner **ARTHUR M. BLANK**. “Mercedes-Benz Stadium will be an outstanding venue for the game and with all of the attractions and hotel rooms within a mile of the stadium this is going to be the most walkable Super Bowl ever. Atlanta has truly transformed since it last hosted the Super Bowl in 2000 and I’m grateful to the NFL and team owners for this very special opportunity.”



Super Bowl LIII marks the third Super Bowl hosted by Atlanta and first since 2000. The Dallas Cowboys defeated the Buffalo Bills, 30-24, in Super Bowl XXVIII at the Georgia Dome on January 30, 1994, and the St. Louis Rams edged the Tennessee Titans, 23-16, in Super Bowl XXXIV on January 30, 2000, also at the Georgia Dome.

In an effort to create a lasting impact on the city and its surrounding communities, the Atlanta Super Bowl Host Committee announced details of its community engagement initiative, Legacy 53. The focus of the initiative is on celebrating and elevating Atlanta communities through a variety of activities and the program is built on five pillars: Business Connect, Capital Improvement project, Civil Rights and Social Justice, Sustainability and Youth Engagement. Each of these pillars is guided by committees of influential leaders and experts and includes programs with partners in the community.

“All of us at the Atlanta Super Bowl Host Committee are proud of Legacy 53 and our mission to leave a positive impact on our community,” said **BRETT DANIELS**, chief operating officer of the Atlanta Super Bowl Host Committee. “Addressing important issues, Legacy 53 is evidence that Super Bowl LIII is more than just a game for Atlanta.”

The Super Bowl Experience, the NFL’s interactive theme park, will take place at the Georgia World Congress Center, and will feature participatory games, displays, entertainment attractions, youth football clinics and free autograph sessions with both former and current NFL players.

SUPER BOWL HOST CITIES (I-LIII)

CITY	SUPER BOWLS
New Orleans	10
South Florida	10
Los Angeles	7
Tampa Bay	4
Houston	3
Arizona	3
Atlanta	3*
San Diego	3

CITY	SUPER BOWLS
Detroit	2
Minnesota	2
San Francisco Bay Area	2
Indianapolis	1
Jacksonville	1
North Texas	1
New York/New Jersey	1

*Includes Super Bowl LIII

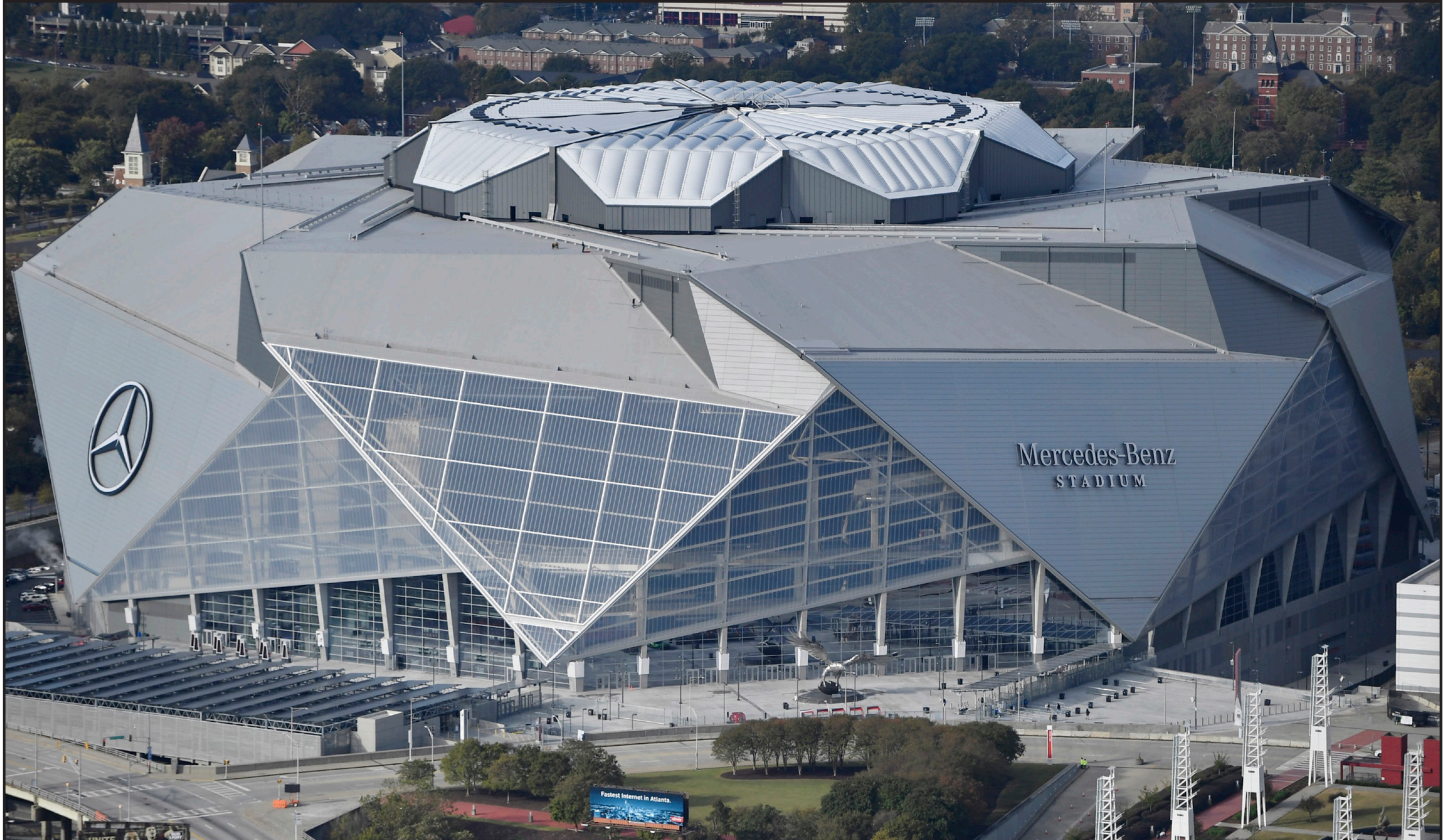


NFL KICKOFF 2018

FUTURE SUPER BOWL SITES

SUPER BOWL	DATE	SITE
LIII	February 3, 2019	Mercedes-Benz Stadium, Atlanta (below)
LIV	February 2, 2020*	Hard Rock Stadium, South Florida
LV	February 7, 2021*	Raymond James Stadium, Tampa
LVI	February 6, 2022*	New Los Angeles Stadium, Los Angeles
LVII	February 5, 2023*	University of Phoenix Stadium, Arizona
LVIII	February 4, 2024*	Mercedes-Benz Superdome, New Orleans

*Tentative date





NFL KICKOFF 2018

2018 NFL STRENGTH OF SCHEDULE

TEAM	OPPONENTS' 2017 PCT. & RECORD				GAMES VS. TEAMS .500 OR BETTER	GAMES VS. 2017 PLAYOFF TEAMS
	WIN PCT.	W	L	T		
Green Bay Packers	0.539	138	118	0	10	6
Detroit Lions	0.535	137	119	0	9	6
New Orleans Saints	0.535	137	119	0	10	8
Tampa Bay Buccaneers	0.531	136	120	0	10	8
Cleveland Browns	0.523	134	122	0	9	6
Los Angeles Rams	0.523	134	122	0	10	4
Seattle Seahawks	0.523	134	122	0	10	5
Chicago Bears	0.520	133	123	0	9	5
Arizona Cardinals	0.520	133	123	0	9	5
New York Giants	0.520	133	123	0	9	7
Minnesota Vikings	0.520	133	123	0	9	5
Carolina Panthers	0.512	131	125	0	10	6
Atlanta Falcons	0.508	130	126	0	9	6
Washington Redskins	0.504	129	127	0	10	7
San Francisco 49ers	0.500	128	128	0	10	4
Dallas Cowboys	0.500	128	128	0	9	7
Miami Dolphins	0.500	128	128	0	8	7
Buffalo Bills	0.496	127	129	0	8	5
Kansas City Chiefs	0.492	126	130	0	9	4
Philadelphia Eagles	0.492	126	130	0	9	7
Baltimore Ravens	0.488	125	131	0	9	8
Indianapolis Colts	0.484	124	132	0	8	7
New England Patriots	0.484	124	132	0	8	7
Los Angeles Chargers	0.480	123	133	0	9	6
Denver Broncos	0.477	122	134	0	9	4
Jacksonville Jaguars	0.477	122	134	0	8	7
New York Jets	0.477	122	134	0	8	7
Pittsburgh Steelers	0.477	122	134	0	9	6
Cincinnati Bengals	0.473	121	135	0	9	6
Oakland Raiders	0.473	121	135	0	9	4
Tennessee Titans	0.465	119	137	0	8	5
Houston Texans	0.453	116	140	0	8	7



NFL KICKOFF 2018

BEST NFL RECORDS, PAST 10 YEARS

Over the past 10 years, three NFL teams – **NEW ENGLAND** (123-37, .769), **PITTSBURGH** (106-54, .663), and **GREEN BAY** (100-59-1, .628) – have posted a winning percentage over .600. Those three clubs have combined for 24 playoff berths, seven 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 Bowls XLIX and LI.

“We’ve been doing this a long time, so you get to know each other over the years and you respect each other’s work,” Kansas City Chiefs head coach **ANDY REID** said about Belichick. “Nobody does it better than him. We’ve just gotten to know each other over the years and I appreciate his friendship and I appreciate what he’s done for the National Football League too.”

TEAMS WITH BEST REGULAR-SEASON RECORDS OVER PAST 10 YEARS (2008-17)

TEAM	W	L	T	PCT.	PLAYOFF BERTHS	SUPER BOWL BERTHS	SUPER BOWL WINS
New England	123	37	0	.769	9	4	2
Pittsburgh	106	54	0	.663	7	2	1
Green Bay	100	59	1	.628	8	1	1

Patriots Head Coach BILL BELICHICK

Steelers Head Coach MIKE TOMLIN

Packers Head Coach MIKE McCARTHY





NFL KICKOFF 2018

TOTAL MILES TRAVELED & NOTES ON 2018 TRAVEL

The total distance traveled by all teams during the regular season will be 499,028 miles.

The teams of the AFC West (96,328) have the highest combined mileage total of all divisions.

The remaining division totals ranking from highest to lowest are the NFC West (79,808), AFC South (67,130), NFC East (65,106), NFC North (54,658), AFC East (50,146), AFC North (46,892) and NFC South (38,960).

Three teams – the **OAKLAND RAIDERS** (31,384), **LOS ANGELES CHARGERS** (30,756) and **SEATTLE SEAHAWKS** (28,660), – will “travel around the world” at least once. A trip around the globe is 25,000 miles.

	TEAM	MILES
1	Oakland	31,384
2	LA Chargers	30,756
3	Seattle	28,660
4	Jacksonville	20,296
5	Philadelphia	20,290
6	LA Rams	19,414
7	Miami	18,656
8	San Francisco	18,334
9	Kansas City	17,980
10	Houston	17,454
11	Tennessee	16,812
12	Dallas	16,396
13	Denver	16,208
14	NY Giants	15,334
15	Detroit	14,420
16	Minnesota	14,360

	TEAM	MILES
17	Cleveland	13,856
18	Arizona	13,400
19	Pittsburgh	13,180
20	Washington	13,086
21	Chicago	12,946
22	Green Bay	12,932
23	Indianapolis	12,568
24	Tampa Bay	11,924
25	New Orleans	11,864
26	New England	11,576
27	Baltimore	11,550
28	Buffalo	10,224
29	NY Jets	9,690
30	Cincinnati	8,306
31	Atlanta	8,252
32	Carolina	6,920



The Eagles (left) and Patriots (right) each depart their respective planes



NFL KICKOFF 2018

FOOTBALL REMAINS MOST POPULAR HIGH SCHOOL SPORT

Football continues to lead the high school sports landscape with more than one million participants for the 19th consecutive year.

The number of boys playing high school football – totaling 11, nine, eight and six-player teams – led all sports with 1,086,723 participants, according to the most recently published National Federation of State High School Associations participation survey (2016-17 school year).

The 1,086,723 boys involved in the sport account for almost 25 percent of the 4,563,238 boys that participate in athletics and is significantly larger than the next most-played sport, outdoor track and field, in which 600,136 boys participated.

MOST POPULAR BOYS HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

SPORT	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS
Football	1,086,723
Outdoor Track and Field	600,136
Basketball	550,305
Baseball	491,790
Soccer	450,234

Texas is home to the most high school student-athletes playing 11-player football with 163,922 participants. The state of Texas also had the second-most players selected in the 2018 NFL Draft with 27.

STATES WITH DOUBLE-DIGIT PLAYERS SELECTED IN THE 2018 NFL DRAFT

STATE	PLAYERS DRAFTED	STATE	PLAYERS DRAFTED
Florida	35	Georgia	12
California	27	Pennsylvania	12
Texas	27	Louisiana	11
Virginia	15	Alabama	10
North Carolina	14		

A total of 242 high schools contributed to the 256 players selected in the seven rounds of the 2018 NFL Draft.

HIGH SCHOOLS WITH MULTIPLE PLAYERS DRAFTED BY NFL CLUBS IN 2018

HIGH SCHOOL	TOTAL	PLAYERS (NFL TEAM/ROUND)
Lakewood (Saint Petersburg, FL)	3	Isaiah Wynn (New England/1); Shaquem Griffin (Seattle/5); Marquez Valdes-Scantling (Green Bay/5)
Serra (San Diego, CA)	3	Dante Pettis (San Francisco/2); Rasheem Green (Seattle/3); Jordan Lasley (Baltimore/5)
Callaway (Callaway, MS)	2	Breeland Speaks (Kansas City/2); Rod Taylor (Cincinnati/7)
Dan River (Ringgold, VA)	2	Tremaine Edmunds (Buffalo/1); Terrell Edmunds (Pittsburgh/1)
Imhotep (Philadelphia, PA)	2	D.J. Moore (Carolina/1); David Williams (Denver/7)
Narbonne (Harbor City, CA)	2	Uchenna Nwosu (LA Chargers/2); Keishawn Bierria (Denver/6)
Norcross (Norcross, GA)	2	Lorenzo Carter (NY Giants/3); Christopher Herndon (NY Jets/4)
Oscar Frommel Smith (Chesapeake, VA)	2	Josh Sweat (Philadelphia/4); Andrew Brown (Cincinnati/5)
Stonewall Jackson (Manassas, VA)	2	Tim Settle (Washington/5); Greg Stroman (Washington/7)
Taylor (Houston, TX)	2	Ogbonnia Okoronkwo (LA Rams/5); Duke Ejiofor (Houston/6)
Trinity Christian (Jacksonville, FL)	2	Kendrick Norton (Carolina/7); Andre Smith (Carolina/7)
Washington (Pensacola, FL)	2	Antonio Callaway (Cleveland/4); Mark Walton (Cincinnati/4)



NFL KICKOFF 2018

THE LAST TIME

(2017 games in bold and italic)

PASSING

500 YARDS, GAME	<i>506, Ben Roethlisberger, Pittsburgh vs. Baltimore, 12/10/2017</i>
7 TD PASSES, GAME	Drew Brees, New Orleans vs. New York Giants, 11/1/2015
60 ATTEMPTS, GAME	<i>66, Ben Roethlisberger, Pittsburgh vs. Baltimore, 12/10/2017</i>
20 CONSECUTIVE COMP., GAME	<i>20, Matthew Stafford, Detroit at Baltimore, 12/3/2017</i>
99-YARD TD PASS	Tom Brady to Wes Welker, New England vs. Miami, 9/12/2011 Eli Manning to Victor Cruz, New York Giants vs. New York Jets, 12/24/2011

RECEIVING

3 100-YARD GAMES, SAME TEAM	Dallas vs. Denver, 10/6/2013 Jason Witten, 7-121-1; Dez Bryant, 6-141-2; Terrance Williams, 4-151-1
300 YARDS, GAME	300, Julio Jones, Atlanta vs. Carolina, 10/2/2016
15 RECEPTIONS, GAME	16, Antonio Brown, Pittsburgh vs. Denver, 12/20/2015 17, Antonio Brown, Pittsburgh vs. Oakland, 11/8/2015 15, Keenan Allen, San Diego vs. Denver, 9/13/2015
4 TDs, GAME	Jamaal Charles, Kansas City vs. Oakland, 12/15/2013 Eric Decker, Denver vs. Kansas City, 12/1/2013 Marvin Jones, Cincinnati vs. New York Jets, 10/27/2013

RUSHING

5 TDs, GAME	Clinton Portis, Denver vs. Kansas City, 12/7/2003
4 TDs, GAME	Jonas Gray, New England vs. Indianapolis, 11/16/2014 Marshawn Lynch, Seattle vs. New York Giants, 11/9/2014
40 ATTEMPTS, GAME	40, Shaun Alexander, Seattle vs. Green Bay, 11/27/2006
250 YARDS, GAME	251, Doug Martin, Tampa Bay vs. Oakland, 11/4/2012

Steelers QB BEN ROETHLISBERGER





NFL KICKOFF 2018

INTERCEPTIONS

4, GAME	DeAngelo Hall, Washington vs. Chicago, 10/24/2010
3, GAME	<i>Kevin Byard, Tennessee at Cleveland, 10/22/2017</i>
2 TDs, GAME	Janoris Jenkins, St. Louis vs. Tennessee, 11/25/2012 Zach Brown, Tennessee vs. Jacksonville, 12/30/2012
100-YARD TD RETURN	<i>103, Aqib Talib, Denver vs. Dallas, 9/17/2017</i>

SCORING

8 PATs, GAME	8, Matt Bryant, Atlanta vs. Tampa Bay, 9/18/2014
3 FGs, 50 YARDS OR MORE, GAME	Justin Tucker, Baltimore vs. Cincinnati, 11/27/2016
60 OR MORE POINTS, GAME, TEAM	New Orleans (62) vs. Indianapolis (7), 10/23/2011
100 OR MORE POINTS, GAME, BOTH TEAMS	101, New Orleans (52) vs. New York Giants (49), 11/1/2015
SCORELESS TIE	New York Giants vs. Detroit, 11/7/1943

KICKOFF RETURNS

2 TDs, GAME	Leon Washington, Seattle vs. San Diego, 9/26/2010
2 CONSECUTIVE TDs, BOTH TEAMS, GAME	New England vs. Oakland, 12/14/2008

PUNT RETURNS

2 TDs, GAME	Darius Reynaud, Tennessee vs. Jacksonville, 12/30/2012
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Titans S KEVIN BYARD

PLAYER HEALTH & SAFETY



PLAYER HEALTH & SAFETY

**PLAY SMART
PLAY SAFE**



ENGINEERING ROADMAP



As part of the NFL's *Play Smart. Play Safe.* initiative, the NFL allocated \$60 million toward the creation and funding of the [Engineering Roadmap](#). It's a comprehensive effort—funded by the NFL and managed by Football Research, Inc. (FRI)—to improve the understanding of the biomechanics of head injuries in professional football and to create incentives for helmet manufacturers, small businesses, entrepreneurs, universities and others to develop and commercialize new and improved protective equipment, including helmets.



DRIVEN BY EXPERTS: BIOMECHANICAL ENGINEERS

Football Research, Inc. (FRI), a nonprofit corporation formed and financially supported by the NFL, manages the Engineering Roadmap. The Board of Directors includes leading engineers and experts who advise FRI on how best to achieve the goal of advancing the understanding of biomechanics in football and creating an environment where new and improved protective equipment will be developed. Jeff Crandall, Ph.D., chairman of the NFL Engineering Committee, serves a leading role in managing the Engineering Roadmap. Dr. Crandall is the Nancy and Neal Wade Professor of Engineering and Applied Sciences at the University of Virginia and Principal Scientist and Consultant at Biocore, LLC. The Board also works closely with Dr. Kristy Arbogast and Dr. Barry Myers, consultants to the NFL Players Association, who are co-leads on essential elements of the Engineering Roadmap.



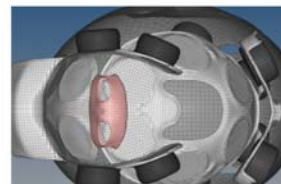
RESEARCH: MEASURING THE ON-FIELD ENVIRONMENT AND SHARING TOOLS

As part of the Engineering Roadmap, biomechanical engineers completed a comprehensive video review of all reported concussions sustained in NFL games over the past three seasons to better understand concussion-causing impacts. The data is shared widely with helmet manufacturers, designers, innovators, entrepreneurs, universities and others to stimulate new ideas and designs for protective equipment. FRI has also collaborated with university partners to develop new tools to encourage innovation and advance equipment design, including finite element models of modern football helmets, impact test dummy components and test conditions simulating on-field impacts.



EDUCATION: EXPERTS AND INNOVATORS LEARNING FROM EACH OTHER

Experts share the latest knowledge regarding the causes of concussion in professional football, including the best tools available for assessing and optimizing the design and manufacturing of protective equipment. These discussions are an important step to educating and creating incentives for those in the marketplace to design and manufacture protective equipment that performs better than current models. Periodic symposia, webinars and other educational efforts allow experts to share the most up-to-date biomechanical and biomedical information.





**CROWDSOURCING: HeadHealthTECH CHALLENGES
OFFER INCENTIVES FOR INNOVATORS AND
ENTREPRENEURS**

The NFL and FRI created the HeadHealthTECH Challenges, which are attracting innovative grant proposals from institutions, individuals and corporations that are interested in designing the next generation of protective equipment. The TECH Challenges are structured to stimulate research and innovation, as well as encourage connections with mentors and/or venture capitalists, with the goal of spurring developments in engineering, biomechanics, advanced sensors and material science. The TECH Challenges are operated and managed by Duke University's Clinical and Translational Science Institute (Duke CTSI), which provides constructive feedback for all applicants.

Thus far, the NFL and FRI have awarded grants totaling more than \$1,340,000 to 11 winners to support product development for innovative protective equipment concepts.



ENERGY ABSORBING MODULES



SOFT SHELL COVER



PROTECTIVE SKULL CAP



HELMET TECH PADDING SYSTEM



HELMET LINERS/PADS



AES: HELMET TECH



SPORTS SURFACE



FEAM MATERIAL FACEGUARD TECH

TECH CHALLENGE I WINNERS

Winners included VyaTek Sports for its highly efficient energy-absorbing Zorbz technology and Guardian Innovations for its Guardian Cap technology—a soft helmet cover designed to reduce the severity of impacts.

TECH CHALLENGE II WINNERS

Winners included 2ND Skull, to research the effectiveness of its 2nd Skull® skull cap in reducing impact forces and developing a second-generation version; Baytech Products, for its prototype HitGard® multi-component helmet system concept; and Windpact, for its Crash Cloud™, an impact liner system using restricted air flow and foam in helmets and protective gear.

TECH CHALLENGE III WINNERS

Winners included Impressio, Inc. to support development and testing of its ultra-dissipative padding made from liquid-crystal elastomers; HRL Laboratories, LLC to support development and testing of its novel impact-attenuating pads for football helmets; and AES Research & Design for testing of its anti-rotational kinematic helmet prototype.

TECH CHALLENGE IV WINNERS

Winners included FieldTurf Inc. to develop technology for an all-new sports surface designed to reduce impact; Corsair Innovations, Inc. to continue to test its FEAM material, an impact attenuation system for helmets; and Yobel Technologies, LLC to support testing of its energy-absorbent prototyped faceguard.




















BETTER LABORATORY PERFORMANCE

TOP-PERFORMING GROUP

VICIS ZERO1 (2018) ¹	
VICIS ZERO1 (2017)	
Riddell Speedflex Precision (R41156) ²	
Schutt Air XP Pro VTD II (789902)	
Schutt Air XP Pro VTD (789901)	
Xenith Epic+ (EPIC+)	
Schutt F7 (208000)	
Xenith X2E+ (X2E+)	
Xenith Epic (EPIC)	
Riddell Speed (R41190)	
Schutt DNA Pro+ (202201)	
Schutt Vengeance DCT (204001)	
Xenith X2E (X2E)	
Riddell Speed Icon (R41197)	
Riddell Foundation/Revolution Speed Classic (R41179)	
Schutt Vengeance VTD (204800)	
Riddell Speed Classic Icon (R41198)	

PROHIBITED HELMETS³

Riddell SpeedFlex (R41195)	
Schutt Vengeance Z10 (204101)	
Schutt Vengeance VTD II (204801)	
Schutt Air XP Pro Q10 (788900)	
Schutt Vengeance Pro (204301)	
Riddell Revolution (R41139)	
Schutt Vengeance Pro (204300)	
SG Varsity	
Rawlings Quantum	
Schutt Vengeance Z10 (204100)	
Rawlings Impulse +	
Rawlings Tachyon	
Schutt Air XP Pro (789102)	
Riddell VSR-4 (R41133)	
SG 2.0	
Rawlings Impulse	
Schutt Air XP (789002)	

¹New models not previously worn by NFL players

²Results shown are for the Speedflex Precision with interior padding customized for the testing headform. Actual performance and ranking may vary since these helmets are customized for each player's head shape

³These helmets have been prohibited for new players and players who did not wear them during the 2017 NFL season. Rawlings helmets are not supported by an active manufacturer and are prohibited for all players



2018 HELMET LABORATORY TESTING PERFORMANCE RESULTS

THE NFL, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE NFLPA, THROUGH THEIR RESPECTIVE APPOINTED BIOMECHANICAL EXPERTS, COORDINATED EXTENSIVE LABORATORY RESEARCH TO EVALUATE WHICH HELMETS BEST REDUCE HEAD IMPACT SEVERITY. THE RESULTS OF THOSE TESTS, WHICH ARE SUPPORTED BY ON-FIELD PERFORMANCE, ARE SET FORTH ON THIS POSTER.

The helmet models are listed in order of their performance in the laboratory testing, with a shorter bar representing better performance. The rankings are based exclusively on the ability of the helmet to reduce head impact severity measures in laboratory testing. Issues with helmet fit, retention, and long-term durability are not addressed in these rankings. The Top-Performing Group consists of helmets whose performance was not statistically different from the two top-ranked helmets. The information presented here is based solely upon the results of this research and the expert opinions of the scientists involved.

The laboratory test conditions were intended to represent potentially concussive head impacts in the NFL. The results of this study should not be extrapolated to collegiate, high school, or youth football.

NO HELMET SYSTEM CAN COMPLETELY PROTECT AGAINST SERIOUS BRAIN AND/OR NECK INJURIES A PLAYER MIGHT SUSTAIN WHILE PARTICIPATING IN FOOTBALL.



2018 CLEAT PATTERN LABORATORY TESTING PERFORMANCE RESULTS FROM SYNTHETIC TURF

THE NFL MUSCULOSKELETAL COMMITTEE HAS COORDINATED EXTENSIVE RESEARCH ON ATHLETIC SHOE SAFETY AND PERFORMANCE. THE COMMITTEE HAS DEVELOPED LABORATORY TESTS THAT EVALUATE WHICH CLEATS BEST PERMIT RELEASE FROM SYNTHETIC TURF DURING POTENTIALLY INJURIOUS LOADING. THE RESULTS OF THOSE TESTS ARE SET FORTH ON THIS POSTER.

A subset of cleat patterns from current manufacturers available to NFL players are listed in order based on their performance in the laboratory testing. The performance of each cleat pattern is illustrated on the bar graph, with a longer bar representing better performance. The rankings are based exclusively on the ability of the cleat pattern to allow release from a synthetic surface in laboratory testing. Issues with shoe fit, shoe structure, and long-term durability are not addressed in these rankings. The information presented here is based solely upon the results of this research and the expert opinions of the scientists involved.

The laboratory test conditions were intended to represent potentially injurious lower extremity loading in the NFL. The results of this study should not be extrapolated to collegiate, high school, or youth football.

BETTER LABORATORY PERFORMANCE

Under Armour Nitro Wide

Under Armour Nitro

Adidas Turf Hog

Under Armour Charged

Adidas Torsion

Under Armour Spine

Adidas Fly Wide

Adidas Razorframe Wide

Nike Vapor Wide

Adidas Sprintframe 2.0

Nike Vapor Jet

Nike Shark Wide

Adidas Razorframe

Nike Menace Wide

Nike Vapor

UA Highlight 2

Nike Menace

UA Spotlight 2

Nike Savage

NO SHOE OR CLEAT PATTERN CAN COMPLETELY PROTECT AGAINST LOWER EXTREMITY INJURIES A PLAYER MIGHT SUSTAIN WHILE PARTICIPATING IN FOOTBALL.

CONCUSSION GAME DAY CHECKLIST



Player receives impact to the head

AND

Player exhibits or reports symptoms or signs suggestive of a concussion or stinger

OR

ATC, booth ATC Spotter, team physician, NFL official, coach, teammate, booth UNC or sideline UNC initiates protocol

Player is immediately removed to sideline or stabilized on field, as needed.

SIDELINE SURVEY

Remove helmet. Team Physician and Sideline UNC perform **sideline survey in medical tent**:

- No-Go
- History of Event
- Concussion Signs/Symptoms
- Maddock's Questions
- Video Review
- Focused Neurological Exam:
 - Cervical Spine Exam (including range of motion-pain)
 - Evaluation of Speech
 - Observation of Gait
 - Eye Movements and Pupillary Exam

If normal sideline survey and "benign" video, player may **RETURN TO PLAY.**

No-Go

- LOC (including Impact Seizure and/or "fencing posture")
- Gross Motor Instability*
- Confusion
- Amnesia

If observed at any point,

NO RETURN TO PLAY

If any elements are positive, inconclusive or suspicious of concussion, player is escorted to locker room.

LOCKER ROOM EXAM

Team Physician/ UNC/ ATC **OR** Team Physician/ UNC perform **locker room exam**:

- Complete NFL SCAT
- Complete Neurological Exam

If normal assessment, player may **RETURN TO PLAY.**

If abnormal, **NO RETURN TO PLAY:**

- Player stays in locker room
- Periodic evaluation by medical team
- Follow-up neurological exam

During above checklist, if player demonstrates progressive/ worsening concussion symptoms -> **No Return to Play**

* Determined by team physician, in consultation with the UNC, to be neurologically caused

Revised June 2018

RETURN-TO-PARTICIPATION PROTOCOL



STEP 1

REST AND RECOVERY

The player is prescribed rest until his signs and symptoms and neurologic examination, including cognitive and balance tests, return to baseline status.

LIGHT AEROBIC EXERCISE

Under direct oversight of the team's medical staff, the player should begin graduated cardiovascular exercise and may also engage in dynamic stretching and balance training.

STEP 2

STEP 3

CONTINUED AEROBIC EXERCISE & INTRODUCTION OF STRENGTH TRAINING

The player continues with supervised cardiovascular exercises that are increased and may mimic sport-specific activities, and supervised strength training is introduced.

FOOTBALL SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

The player continues cardiovascular, strength and balance training and participates in non-contact football activities (e.g. throwing, catching, running, and other position-specific activities).

STEP 4

STEP 5

FULL FOOTBALL ACTIVITY / CLEARANCE

Upon clearance by the Team Physician for full football activity involving contact, the player must be examined by the Independent Neurological Consultant (INC) assigned to his Club. If the INC concurs with the team physician that the player's concussion has resolved, he may participate in his Club's next practice or game.

BREAKING DOWN SIDELINE MEDICAL CARE—A TEAM BEHIND THE TEAM

There is a specialized squad of medical professionals, including team physicians, unaffiliated medical staff, and physicians from the local area, that watches the field for potential injuries and is available to provide immediate care to players at every NFL game. In 2012, in conjunction with the NFLPA, the NFL added two certified athletic trainers (booth ATC spotters) who provide an “eye in the sky” from a stadium box—they monitor the field and television replays to help identify players with potential injuries for team medical staffs.

The NFL added unaffiliated medical professionals in 2014—each sideline is staffed with an Unaffiliated Neurological Consultant (UNC), who supports the team medical staffs in the identification, screening and diagnosis of in-game concussions. In 2015, the NFL also authorized booth ATC spotters 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. Game officials also have the authority to send a player off the field for medical evaluation. For the 2018 season, a third UNC will monitor the broadcast video and audio feeds of each game, and notify on-field UNCs of possible head, neck or spine injuries.

Visiting Team Medical Liaisons (VTML)—board-certified physicians licensed to practice medicine in the state in which the stadium is located—work with the visiting team to provide medical care for its players, including access to leading medical centers for emergency care. Additionally, every club is required to design and implement an Emergency Action Plan to follow in instances of severe trauma. All NFL team physicians work under these plans, which are reviewed by the NFL and NFLPA and approved by third-party experts each season.

The National Football League Physicians Society (NFLPS)—a professional organization made up of world-class team doctors focused on the prevention and treatment of injuries for their patients, NFL players—compiled a list of all these professionals, illustrated in this chart:



NFL MEDICAL COMMITTEES OVERVIEW

The NFL is advised by many of the world's preeminent experts in medicine and science. Specialists in a wide variety of disciplines relevant to player health and safety volunteer their time to explore groundbreaking research and make recommendations for how the League can continually improve the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of injuries as well as invest in scientific research to promote player health and safety.

The NFL medical committees meet throughout the year to review player health and injury data and determine what policies, programs and protocols should be adopted by the League.

The diligent work of the committees normally begins in the spring at the NFL Combine in Indianapolis before the NFL draft introduces a new class of eligible players to the League. Members take this opportunity to gather for the first of several meetings throughout the year to analyze injury data from the previous season. The committees discuss statistical trends, identify outliers in the data, debate reasons for the numbers and ask important questions that need further analysis and reporting.

They also form judgments that are shared with the competition committee and the NFL about potential changes that need to be made to the rules or to medical protocols or practices.

These discussions last long after the initial annual meetings in Indianapolis and lead to a year-long effort to make the game safer. The men and women on these committees comprise a wide range of perspectives and expertise on some of our players' most challenging health issues. They are not employed by the NFL and most receive no compensation for their involvement other than a small honorarium (less than \$1500), typical in the medical field for volunteer efforts like serving on a medical committee or advisory board, and reimbursement of travel expenses for attending committee meetings.

An overarching Health and Safety Committee—including chairs of the General Medical Committee, the Head, Neck and Spine Committee and the Musculoskeletal Committee—oversees committee efforts and facilitates cross-specialization and discussion among subject matter experts, team physicians and athletic trainers.

An ad hoc committee of equipment and field managers focuses on keeping game day surfaces safe—bolstering the league's commitment to injury protection on the field. In the league's ongoing mission to make the game safer for those who play it, each and every medical committee includes participation by representatives from the NFL Players Association (NFLPA), including its long-time Medical Director, Dr. Thom Mayer.

Below is an overview of how the NFL's medical committees are organized.

NFL Medical Committee Structure

NFL Chief Medical Officer

Dr. Allen Sills

Health and Safety Committee

Dr. Elliott Hershman
(Chairman)

Dr. Andrew Tucker
(General Medical Committee)

Dr. Nicholas Theodore
(Head, Neck and Spine Committee)

Dr. Robert Anderson
(Musculoskeletal Committee)

Dr. Ed Wojtys
(Musculoskeletal Committee)

Dr. John York
(Owners' Health and Safety Advisory Committee)

Dr. Leigh Ann Curl
(NFL Physicians Society President)

James Collins
(Professional Football Athletic Trainers Society President)

Dr. Thom Mayer
(NFL Players Association)

Dr. Allen Sills
(NFL CMO)

CONSULTANTS TO THE HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

Dr. Jeff Crandall
(Engineering Consultant)

Dr. Richard Kent
(Engineering Consultant)

Dr. Nancy Dreyer
(Epidemiologist, IQVIA)

Dr. Christina Mack
(Epidemiologist, IQVIA)

Dr. Lawrence Brown
(Drug Policy Advisor)

Dr. John Lombardo
(Drug Policy Advisor)

General Medical Committee

Dr. Andrew Tucker
(Chairman)

Dr. Deverick Anderson
(Infectious Disease)

Dr. Doug Casa
(Environmental Medicine)

Dr. Tony Casolaro
(NFL Physicians Society)

Dwight Hollier
(Mental Health)

Dr. Patrick Strollo
(Sleep Medicine)

Dr. Robert Vogel
(Cardiovascular)

Jim Whalen
(Athletic Trainer)

Dr. Thom Mayer
(NFL Players Association)

James Collins
(Professional Football Athletic Trainers Society President)

Head, Neck and Spine Committee

Dr. Nicholas Theodore
(Chairman)

Dr. Julian Bailes

Ronnie Barnes

Dr. Mitch Berger

Dr. Javier Cárdenas

Dr. Tony Casolaro
(NFL Physicians Society)

James Collins
(Professional Football Athletic Trainers Society President)

Dr. Wellington Hsu

Dr. Russell Lonser

Dr. Elizabeth Pieroth

Dr. Margot Putukian

Dr. Thom Mayer
(NFL Players Association)

CONSULTANTS TO THE HEAD, NECK AND SPINE COMMITTEE:

Dr. Robert Cantu
(Consultant)

Dr. Joseph Maroon
(Consultant)

Dr. Hank Feuer
(Consultant)

Musculoskeletal Committee

Dr. Robert Anderson
(Co-Chairman)

Dr. Ed Wojtys
(Co-Chairman)

Dr. Asheesh Bedi
(Hip)

Dr. Robert Brophy
(Knee)

James Collins
(Professional Football Athletic Trainers Society President)

Dr. Mike Coughlin
(Foot and Ankle)

Dr. Leigh Ann Curl
(NFL Physicians Society President)

Dr. Thomas Hunt
(Hand and Wrist)

Dr. William Levine
(Shoulder)

Jim Maurer
(Athletic Trainer)

Dr. Kurt Spindler
(Research Methodology)

Dr. Thom Mayer
(NFL Players Association)

HEALTH AND SAFETY RELATED CHANGES FOR THE 2018 SEASON

Advancing Player Health and Safety on the Field

NFL clubs gathered this spring to vote on significant rules changes that aim to improve player safety.

The NFL [Competition Committee](#) proposes rules changes to try to improve the game. The committee consults with players, coaches, physicians and safety experts—including the NFL's [medical committees](#) and the NFL Players Association.

The New Rules

Three new health and safety related playing rules were approved:

- Makes permanent the playing rule that changes the spot of the next snap after a touchback resulting from a free kick to the 25-yard line.
- Playing Rule Proposal #11, Article 8—Use of Helmet—It is a foul if a player lowers his head to initiate and make contact with his helmet against an opponent. It is a penalty that will result in the loss of 15 yards. If the foul is by the defense, it is also an automatic first down. The player may be disqualified.
- Modifies the kickoff play for one year only.

Throughout the offseason, the league is working with players, coaches, officials, medical personnel, media and fans to communicate and educate about the new helmet and kickoff rules.

Driving Significant Change Through Data

A comprehensive review of data and video led by the NFL's medical and engineering advisors demonstrated the increased risk associated with lowering the head to align the neck and spine before initiating contact. This behavior put both the player making the contact and the player struck at greater risk of injury.

"We do a video review of each and every concussion," said Dr. Jeff Crandall, Director of the Center for Applied Biomechanics at The University of Virginia and Chairman of the NFL Engineering Committee. "We've been doing it the last three years, and we started to notice when we looked at the video that a large number of players were leading with their helmet, initiating contact that caused concussions."

The league's medical and engineering experts presented to the Competition Committee and the NFL Owners Health & Safety Committee an analysis of the [latest injury data](#).

"We had examples on field of concussions occurring under leading with the helmet, and we had the biomechanical explanation of why it was risky," said Dr. Crandall. "So when you put these two together, it makes a pretty compelling case that we need to get this behavior out of the game."

The clubs unanimously agreed that a rule change could help to eliminate certain techniques that put players at risk.

"There are so many hits that we saw where a player lowered his head, delivered the hit, and either injured himself or the person he was contacting," said Rich McKay, President and CEO of the Atlanta Falcons and Chairman of the NFL Competition Committee. "So, we felt it was time for a change of this magnitude."

"This new rule is a huge component [of our injury reduction strategy], and it came based on our review of all the data and biomechanics to figure out what changes we can make immediately that could really impact the incidence of concussion," said Dr. Allen Sills, NFL Chief Medical Officer.

The ejection standards to go along with the use of helmet rule are:

- Player lowers his helmet to establish a linear impact body posture prior to initiating and making contact with the helmet;
- Player delivering the blow had an unobstructed path to his opponent;
- Contact was clearly avoidable; Player delivering the blow had other options.

Watch [this video](#) to learn more about the helmet rule and enforcement specifics.

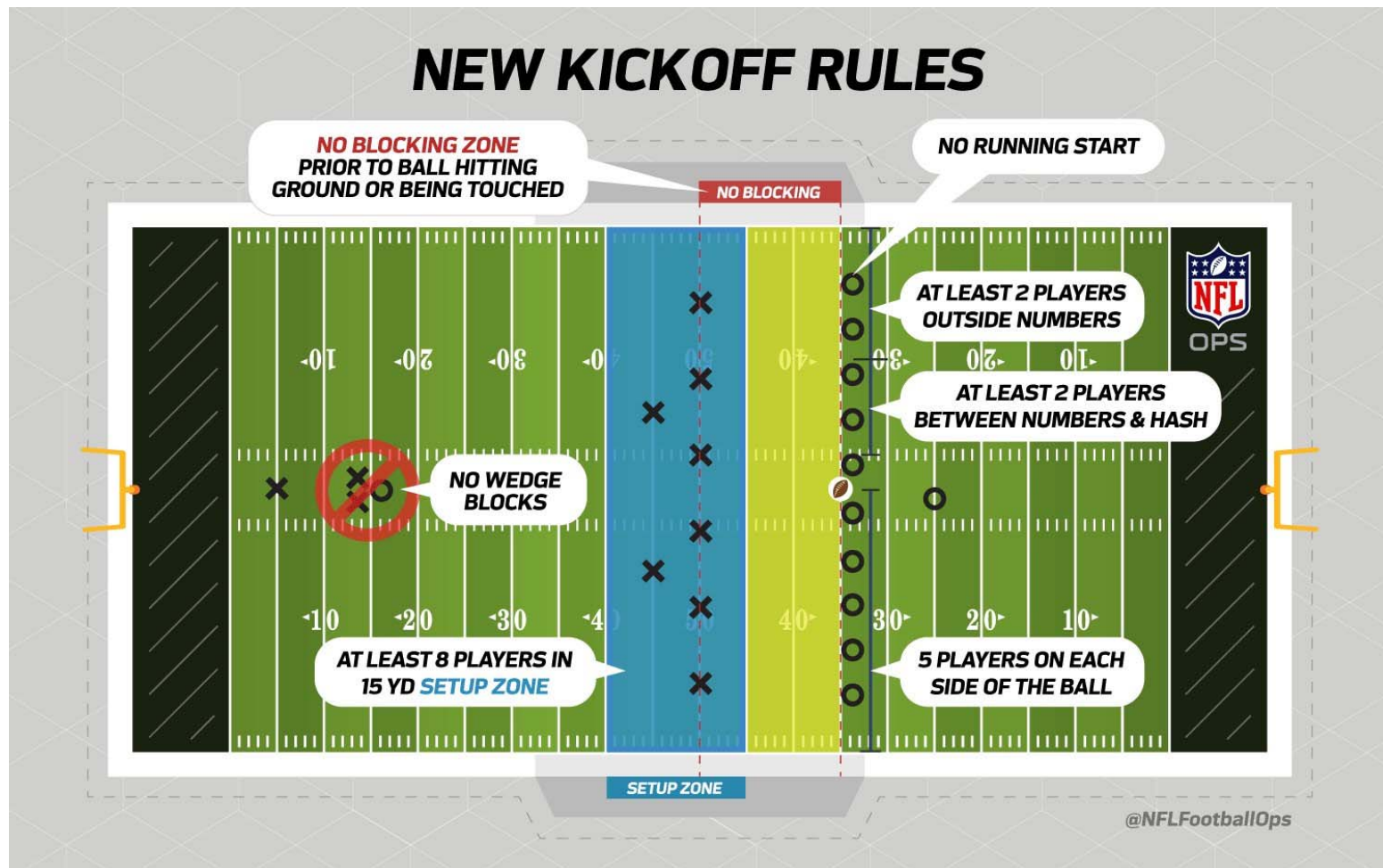
Changes to the Kickoff

The Competition Committee worked with special teams coaches and NFL medical and engineering advisors to consider changes to the kickoff play during an owners and coaches session in early May. NFL clubs approved the Competition Committee's proposal during the Spring League Meeting.

The comprehensive review of injury data and video showed that over the course of all games during the 2015-2017 seasons, the kickoff represented only six percent of plays but 12 percent of concussions. Players had approximately four times the risk of concussion on the kickoff compared to running or passing plays. The changes to the kickoff rule addressed the components that posed the most risk, like the use of a two-man wedge, while maintaining the play.

"We want to continue to try to improve the safety of [the kickoff] and preserve the play," said Atlanta Falcons President Rich McKay, the chairman of the competition committee. "And I think we've taken a big step toward that."

See the new kickoff changes here:





NEW KICKOFF RULES

CONDENSED SUMMARY OF CHANGES

@NFLFootballOps

2018 CHANGES	FORMER RULE
Kickoff Team must have 5 players on each side of the ball (5x5 alignment).	Kickoff team must have at least 4 players on each side of the ball.
Kickoff team cannot line up more than 1 yard from restraining line (34-yard line for kickoff at 35).	Kickoff team cannot line up more than 5 yards from restraining line (30-yard line for kickoff at 35).
Effect: Players will not have a running start to run downfield after kick.	
At least 2 players must be lined up outside the yard-line number and 2 players between the inbounds line and the yard-line number.	At least 3 players on kickoff team must be lined up outside each inbounds line, one of whom must be outside the yard-line number.
At least 8 players must be in 15-yard "setup zone" prior to the kickoff; only 3 players can remain outside of the setup zone.	All kickoff return team players must be behind their restraining line.
Effect: Moves more players on kickoff return closer to where ball is kicked to reduce speed and space on the play.	
No wedge blocks are permitted. Only players who were initially lined up in the setup zone may come together in a double-team block.	Only 2-man wedge blocks permitted; can take place anywhere on the field.
Effect: Limits the blocking schemes permitted by personnel on the kickoff return team.	
Until the ball is touched or the ball hits the ground, no player on the receiving team may cross its restraining line, or initiate a block against the kicking team in the 15-yard area from the kicking team's restraining line.	Players on the receiving team can move beyond their restraining line and block players on the kicking team after the ball is kicked.
Effect: Eliminates the "jump-set/attack" block.	
The ball is dead if it is not touched by the receiving team and touches the ground in the end zone (touchback).	The ball is dead if it is downed in the end zone by the receiving team.
Effect: No requirement for kickoff returner to "down" the ball in end zone.	

Coordinating Across Disciplines to Try to Improve Player Safety

NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell emphasized the teamwork behind the new rules. “I don’t think in my 37 years, I’ve seen quite the coordination between various disciplines—whether it’s the football people, the officiating, our Competition Committee, various other people that have a stake in it, including our medical teams,” said Goodell. “Everyone is enthusiastically behind this and supportive of this.”

As the NFL continuously learns more about player health and safety, the [league evaluates and changes rules](#) to improve the game and try to enhance protections for players.

#

50 HEALTH AND SAFETY RELATED RULES CHANGES SINCE 2002

As the NFL learns more about player health and safety, the league evaluates and changes rules to evolve the game and try to improve protections for players. Since 2002 alone, the NFL has made 50 rules changes intended to eliminate potentially dangerous tactics and reduce the risk of injuries.

2018

- Makes permanent the playing rule that changes the spot of the next snap after a touchback resulting from a free kick to the 25-yard line.
- It is a foul if a player lowers his head to initiate and make contact with his helmet against an opponent. It is a penalty that will result in the loss of 15 yards. If the foul is by the defense, it is also an automatic first down. The player may be disqualified.
- Modifies the kickoff play for one year only.

2017

- Prohibits the “leaper” block attempt on field goal and extra point plays.
- Extends the rule changing the spot of the next snap after a touchback resulting from a free kick to the 25-yard line for another year.
- Gives a receiver running a pass route defenseless player protection.
- Prohibits crackback blocks by a backfield player who is in motion, even if he is not more than two yards outside the tackle when the ball is snapped.
- Reduces the length of overtime in the preseason and regular season to 10 minutes.

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.

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.

2014

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

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 (point after touchdowns).
- 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.

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.

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- to 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.

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.

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. 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.
 - B. 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.

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).

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.

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.

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.

NFL & SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY





MISSION

Inspire and unify fans and communities and leave a meaningful impact.

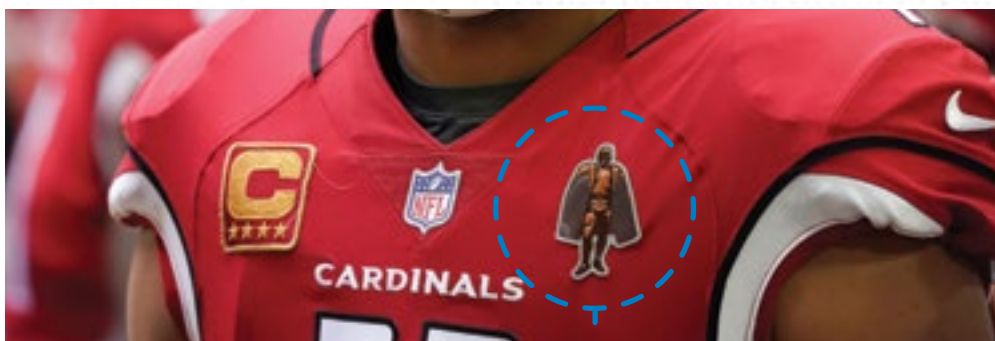
WALTER PAYTON NFL MAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

Considered the league's most prestigious honor, the **WALTER PAYTON NFL MAN OF THE YEAR AWARD PRESENTED BY NATIONWIDE** recognizes players for their excellence on and off the field. Established in 1970, it was renamed in 1999 after the late Hall of Fame Chicago Bears running back Walter Payton.

Representing the best of the NFL's commitment to philanthropy and community impact, 32 players are selected as their team's Man of the Year and become eligible to win the national award.

Each year, the NFL and United Way honor players of high character by giving back to charitable organizations and communities important to them. Winners of the Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year Award receive \$500,000—half of which is donated to a charity of their choice, and half of which is used to expand Character Playbook. The NFL and United Way developed Character Playbook as an effective digital education platform that educates middle school students on how to cultivate and maintain healthy relationships.

- For more information, visit [NFL.com manoftheyear](https://www.nfl.com/manoftheyear)



Starting this season, the Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year trophy silhouette began appearing in uniform elements to further recognize past award winners and nominees. The six current players who have won the award—**DREW BREES, THOMAS DAVIS, LARRY FITZGERALD, ELI MANNING, J.J. WATT** and **JASON WITTEN**—will wear a Man of the Year patch on their jerseys in perpetuity to recognize their outstanding contributions to the game and to their communities. All future nominees will wear a Man of the Year helmet decal for the season, in recognition of their accomplishments on and off the field. This tradition will continue for future nominees and winners of the award.

50
40
30
20
10





WALTER PAYTON
MAN OF THE YEAR



Nationwide®

WINNER

\$500,000

\$250,000
TO THEIR CHOSEN CAUSE

\$250,000
TO CHARACTER PLAYBOOK

FINALISTS

\$200,000

\$100,000
TO THEIR CHOSEN CAUSE

\$100,000
TO CHARACTER PLAYBOOK

TEAM NOMINEES

\$100,000

\$50,000
TO THEIR CHOSEN CAUSE

\$50,000
TO CHARACTER PLAYBOOK

IN TOTAL



Nationwide®

United
Way



HAVE DONATED

\$1.9 MILLION

TO CHARACTER PLAYBOOK AND 32 CHARITIES
THROUGH THE 2017 MAN OF THE YEAR AWARD



MS

J.J. WATT

2017 WALTER PAYTON NFL MAN OF THE YEAR

Houston Texans defensive end J.J. Watt was named the **2017 Man of the Year** for his incredible humanitarianism during the aftereffects of Hurricane Harvey. In the wake of the devastating natural disaster, Watt rallied around his home team city and created a viral social media fund-raising campaign as he watched news coverage of the destruction from the safety of his hotel room in Dallas.

His initial goal was \$200,000, pledging to match the first \$100,000. In only 19 days, Watt was able to raise more than \$37 million for the city and people of Houston.

During that time, he dedicated every free waking moment to identifying organizations that would help put the donations to good use and fulfill his promise of ensuring that the funds went directly to the victims of Harvey.



AUG. 26



AUG. 27



SEPT. 15

What started from the feelings of helplessness and heartbreak in that Dallas hotel room turned into a massive recovery effort that helped to salvage homes, feed and clothe families, and rebuild lives.

This wasn't Watt's first foray into charitable causes. In fact, his dedication to serving others is something that was instilled in him at a young age. In 2010, Watt started the Justin J. Watt Foundation in Wisconsin to help support underserved kids in the community. In total, the organization has raised over \$3.4 million for middle schools to help fund after-school athletic programs for kids created around his motto of "Dream Big, Work Hard." He also regularly works with foundations—including Make-A-Wish—and frequently visits local hospitals to raise the spirits of children receiving treatment.

Watt's commitment to bettering the world serves as an example for all of those around him—his coaches, teammates, competitors and fans—and the effects of his efforts are felt all across the nation.





SALUTE TO SERVICE

Military appreciation is part of the fabric of the NFL. For decades, the NFL's **Salute to Service** has remained committed to honoring and supporting veterans, active duty service members and their families. Through the unifying lens of football and strategic partnerships with impact-driven organizations, the NFL's Salute to Service works to **honor, empower and connect with** military members and their families.

Year-round, the league works with its military nonprofit partners—including the Pat Tillman Foundation, USO, TAPS and Wounded Warrior Project—to fund programs and provide resources that positively impact veterans and active duty military members and their families.

SINCE 2011,
THE NFL HAS RAISED MORE THAN

• **\$26,000,000**

FOR ITS MILITARY NONPROFIT PARTNERS



PAT TILLMAN FOUNDATION

The NFL partners with the **Pat Tillman Foundation** to honor leaders who exemplify Pat's enduring legacy of service. The NFL's contributions support the Tillman Scholar program, which provides active duty service members, veterans and military spouses with academic scholarships and professional development opportunities.

WITH THE NFL'S SUPPORT,

• **500 TILLMAN SCHOLARS**

ARE NOW PURSUING CAREERS IN

- MEDICINE
- BUSINESS
- LAW
- SCIENCE
- EDUCATION
- THE ARTS

USO

The NFL has partnered with the **USO** for over 50 years. Through the lens of football, the NFL and USO strive to keep our service members connected to the things they hold dear: family, home and country. Many programs, including USO Tours, Flag Football and USO2GO deliveries, are a part of this longstanding partnership.

SINCE 1966, MORE THAN

• **250 NFL PLAYERS, COACHES AND EXECUTIVES**

HAVE VISITED SERVICE MEMBERS OVERSEAS ON A USO TOUR

WOUNDED WARRIOR PROJECT

The NFL teams with **Wounded Warrior Project** (WWP) to connect wounded veterans with free programs and resources that empower them to live their lives to the fullest. The NFL's support has enabled WWP to fund the expansion of combat stress recovery programs, as well as numerous Physical Health and Wellness expos across the country. More than 700 warriors and their families have benefited from the NFL's support this past year.

TRAGEDY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR SURVIVORS (TAPS)

The NFL and **TAPS** teamed to create a new team4taps program at the NFL Pro Bowl, supporting families of the fallen and military mentors. In addition, TAPS families were invited to the NFL's Vikings-Browns game in London to reconcile with military families of the fallen abroad. NFL funding also supported youth mentoring and counseling programs, including Good Grief Camps.



NFL SALUTE TO SERVICE AWARD

The NFL and USAA, the NFL's Official Military Appreciation Sponsor, annually recognize NFL players, coaches, personnel and alumni who demonstrate an exemplary commitment to honoring and supporting the military community with the **Salute to Service Award**. Atlanta Falcons wide receiver **ANDRE ROBERTS** was the 2017 recipient.



SALUTE TO SERVICE

Roberts, whose parents served in the U.S. Army, has been widely engaged in military appreciation events throughout his NFL career. In his short time with the Atlanta Falcons, Andre has expressed extreme gratitude to the military with multiple visits to local VA hospitals, spending a day fishing with veterans at 'Fishing with the Falcons' and selecting the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) as his organization for My Cause My Cleats. His coach, Dan Quinn, was the 2016 recipient of the Salute to Service Award.

USAA, a leading provider of insurance and other services to U.S. military members, veterans and their families, donated \$25,000 in Roberts' honor to the official aid societies representing all five military branches.

Roberts' reach goes beyond team-based military community service and well into a deeply diversified off-season travel schedule to military bases across the nation. He also volunteers his time to camps offered to youth in grades 1-8.

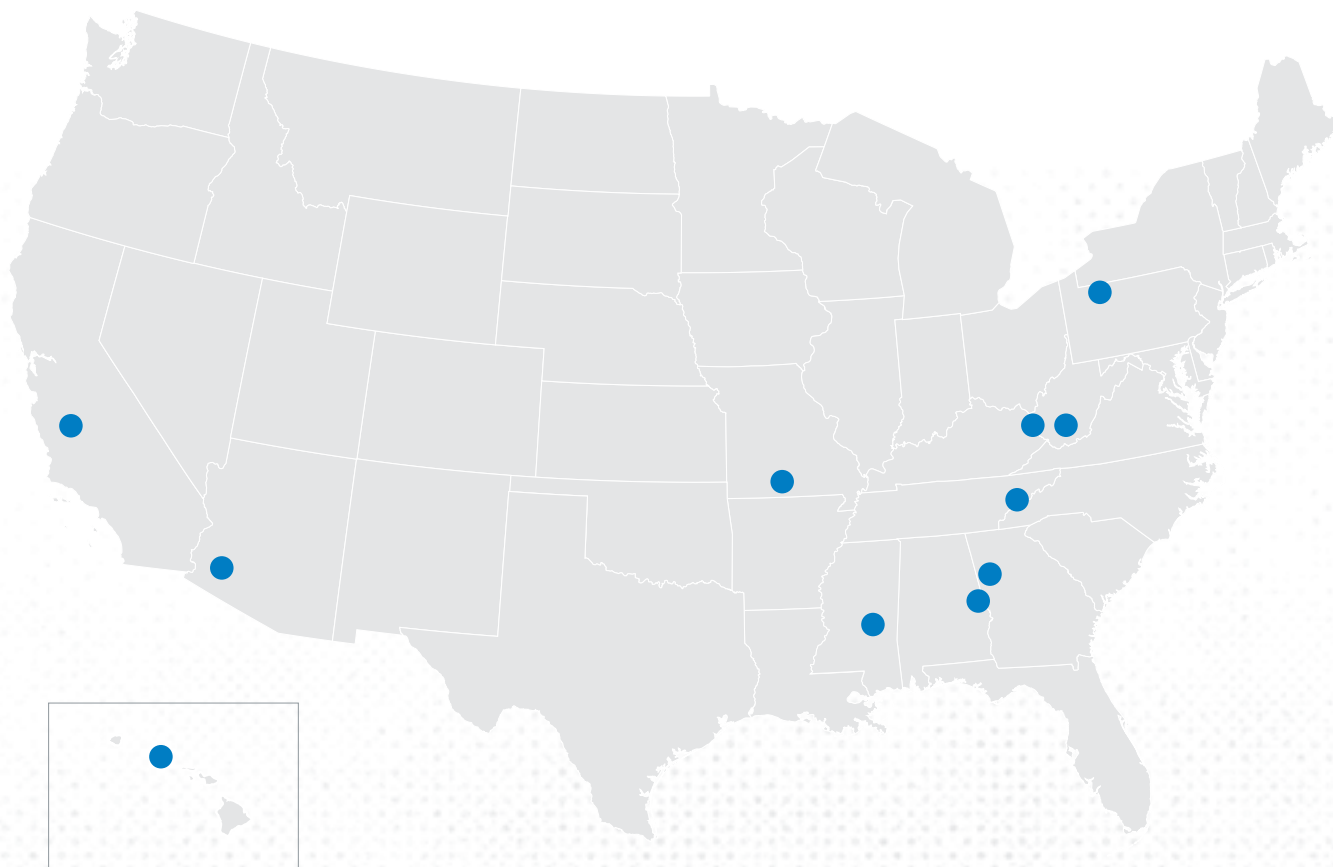
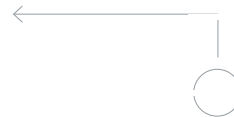
- For additional information, visit nfl.com/salute

“

Andre's support of the military community is authentic, genuine and greatly appreciated. Having grown up the son of two Army members, he knows the sacrifices military members and their families make. Giving back to those who are willing to give all makes Andre a well-deserving recipient of this award.”

Vice Admiral (Ret.) John Bird

USAA Senior Vice President of Military Affairs.



Roberts has hosted camps at:

- Nellis Air Force Base (Nevada)
- Luke Air Force Base (Arizona)
- Naval Air Station Oceana (VA Beach)
- Fort Lee II (Richmond)
- Fort Bragg (North Carolina)
- Joint Base (South Carolina)
- Schofield Barracks (Hawaii)
- Yankee Stadium (New York)
- Fort Jackson (South Carolina)
- Fort Benning (Georgia)
- Fort Campbell (Kentucky)





MY CAUSE MY CLEATS

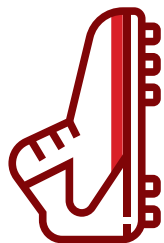
My Cause My Cleats was launched during the 2016 season to provide NFL players the chance to share the causes most important to them. The initiative was a culmination of 18 months of collaborative work between the NFL and players across the league. In its inaugural year, more than 500 players showcased their causes on-field during games, and many worked directly with Nike, Under Armour and Adidas to design their cleats.

This year, more than 800 players participated and took the field in customized cleats with special meanings during Week 13 of the 2017 NFL season. Players again had the opportunity to raise funds for the cause of their choosing by auctioning their cleats off at the NFL Auction. The NFL donates all funds to charities selected by players. Cleats from the 2017 My Cause My Cleats campaign have raised nearly \$200,000 for players' causes, with more cleats being auctioned every week.

— 50
— 40
— 30
— 20
— 10

THIS YEAR, MORE THAN

• **800** **PLAYERS** PARTICIPATED •



CLEATS FROM THE 2017 SEASON
HAVE RAISED NEARLY

• **\$200,000** **FOR PLAYERS' CAUSES** •



MAKING AN IMPACT ON SOCIAL ISSUES

During the last year, the NFL has engaged owners, teams, players, public officials, law enforcement, members of the military, veterans, academic institutions and a host of other individuals and organizations to identify meaningful ways to strengthen our communities on issues pertaining specifically to social justice. This unprecedented dialogue has enabled listening and learning on a variety of complex issues.

LET'S LISTEN TOGETHER

In December 2017, the NFL announced a new and expanded program of community improvement aimed at featuring and supporting the positive efforts of our players making a difference in communities relative to social justice issues, particularly in three key areas: Education and Economic Advancement, Community-Police Relations and Criminal Justice Reform.

The campaign, **Let's Listen Together**, includes featured content highlighting the player-led work on social and racial equality. The campaign also includes social media support, as well as individual letters from players and owners sharing their stories and personal reasons for making social justice a priority.

MORE THAN

• 100

TEAM AND PLAYER-LED
SOCIAL JUSTICE
EVENTS DURING THE
2017 SEASON



The league also announced a working group committee, comprised of owners and players. The group includes Arizona Cardinals Owner and President **MICHAEL BIDWILL**, Atlanta Falcons Owner and Chairman **ARTHUR BLANK**, Cleveland Browns Owner **JIMMY HASLAM**, Jacksonville Jaguars Owner **SHAHID KHAN** and Miami Dolphins Owner **STEPHEN ROSS**.

The player representatives are offensive tackle **KELVIN BEACHUM**, NFL Legend **ANQUAN BOLDIN**, quarterback **JOSH MCCOWN**, cornerback **JOSH NORMAN** and NFL Legend **AENEAS WILLIAMS**.

The group will focus on supporting programs and initiatives that reduce barriers to opportunity, with a priority on supporting improvements in education and economic development, community and police relations, and the criminal justice system.

As part of the leaguewide social justice efforts, The NFL Foundation also launched a new grant for active and retired players who develop social justice programming or partner with local nonprofit organizations committed to this work, as well as a similar grant for team foundations.

Many teams and owners are engaged in ongoing social justice work. During the 2017 season alone, NFL teams, together with ownership and hundreds of players, have hosted or taken part in more than 100 events pertaining to social justice. This ongoing work is built upon the constructive dialogue that has been taking place for the past year among owners, players and NFL teams.

For more information, visit nfl.com/letslistentogether



▲ Youth leaders march in Washington, D.C., as part of the Raliance youth summit.

RALIANCE

The NFL also continues to support **Raliance**, a national collaborative comprised of three leading organizations committed to ending sexual violence in one generation. Raliance is making sexual violence prevention possible through awarding grants for innovative programming, advancing research, informing policy and supporting services for victims and survivors. Since its inception in 2016, the Raliance Impact Grant program has supported 52 projects totaling over \$2.3M to further sexual violence prevention initiatives.

Recently, Raliance launched a new, first-of-its-kind interactive resource center designed to engage the sport community as a partner in ending sexual and domestic violence. The Sport + Prevention Center includes more than 100 resources, best practices and key action steps to adopting sexual and domestic violence prevention strategies in communities across the country. In addition, as part of Raliance and NFL's shared commitment to youth empowerment, Raliance hosted two youth summits aimed at positively influencing high school students to engage as leaders in sexual violence prevention in their communities.

- For more information on Raliance, visit www.raliance.org

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

NFL CAREERS IN FOOTBALL FORUM

During Pro Bowl Week, the NFL hosted the **NFL Women's CAREERS IN FOOTBALL FORUM**. The program served to educate, inspire and connect qualified female candidates for positions in coaching, scouting and football administration at the NFL, CFL, collegiate and high school levels. Fifty women were selected to participate in the career development program from a pool of more than 400 applicants. Following the 2017 Women's Careers in Football Forum, ten females secured internships with NFL training camps in coaching and scouting, and twelve others secured football operations positions in collegiate and high school football.

10 FEMALES

SECURED INTERNSHIPS

WITH 2017 NFL TRAINING CAMPS IN COACHING AND SCOUTING



All 32 NFL clubs continue to work in their communities with local domestic violence and sexual assault organizations on activities ranging from abuse intervention programs, crisis center fundraisers, high school healthy relationship assemblies and local public service campaigns.

6,000
NFL EMPLOYEES
AND PERSONNEL

PARTICIPATED IN 2017
SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY
EDUCATION

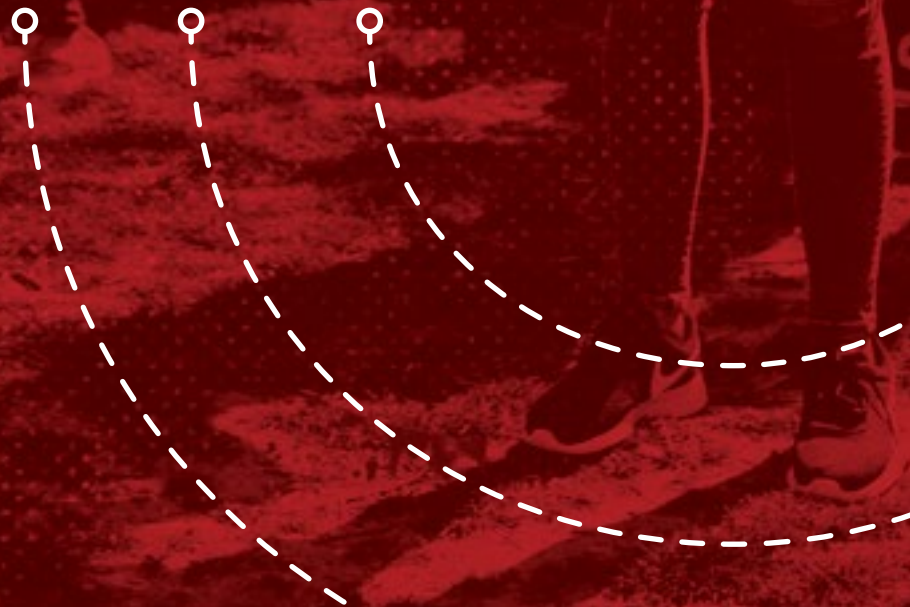


Local domestic violence and sexual assault prevention organizations meet with Commissioner Goodell and NFL players as part of the league's annual "Unsung Heroes" luncheon during Super Bowl week.

Together with experts and advisors, the league continues to educate its staff, teams, players and the public about domestic violence and sexual assault prevention, as well as identifying steps that can prevent them before they occur. To view previous years of NFL Social Responsibility Education, visit www.nfl.com/community and look under the Social Responsibility Resources tab.

The NFL also continued the practice of meeting with employees of local domestic violence and sexual assault (DV/SA) organizations in conjunction with major NFL events, such as meeting with local DV/SA groups in Philadelphia during Draft Week and in Boston during Kickoff Week. The goal of these meetings is to update the groups on the league's social responsibility work and listen to them on issues facing the field and ways the NFL and its clubs can help.

During Super Bowl Week, the league hosted a private "Unsung Heroes" luncheon to celebrate the often unnoticed efforts of the hundreds of employees and volunteers working behind the scenes at domestic violence shelters, sexual assault prevention organizations and similar institutions. This year's event featured a panel discussion from NFL Commissioner **ROGER GOODELL**, One Love CEO **KATIE HOOD**, and NFL players **ANTHONY HARRIS**, **BENJAMIN WATSON** and **STEPHEN WEATHERLY**, all of whom are engaged in domestic violence and human trafficking prevention efforts. In addition, the NFL works annually with Super Bowl host communities on funding and deploying human trafficking prevention initiatives.





NFL PLAY 60

This year marked the 10th anniversary of NFL PLAY 60, the league's youth health and wellness campaign to get kids active and healthy. In celebration, the NFL, all 32 teams and players hosted youth football clinics and built playgrounds and fitness zones all around the country to encourage physical activity and help remove access barriers for kids to play.

MORE THAN

• **350** MILLION DOLLARS

COMMITTED TO YOUTH HEALTH AND FITNESS THROUGH PLAY 60 PROGRAMMING AND MEDIA

• **2,000+**

PLAY60 EVENTS

HELD ANNUALLY

• **250+** NFL YOUTH FITNESS ZONES

CONSTRUCTED NATIONWIDE



FUEL UP TO PLAY 60

In partnership with the **USDA**, the NFL and National Dairy Council have successfully implemented an in-school nutrition and physical activity program in schools nationwide.

• **13** MILLION STUDENTS MAKING HEALTHIER FOOD CHOICES

• **16** MILLION STUDENTS GETTING MORE ACTIVE

• **73,000** SCHOOLS



PLAY 60 CHALLENGE

The NFL and **American Heart Association** started the NFL PLAY 60 Challenge as an in-school curriculum designed to motivate students to achieve 60 minutes or more of physical activity each day. Funded by the NFL Foundation, teachers have access to digital lesson plans and additional resources—including the NFL PLAY 60 Challenge Virtual Field Trip, made possible by Discovery Education—to help integrate health and fitness into their daily classroom routines.

• **120,000** CLASSROOMS • **4.5 MILLION** STUDENTS IMPACTED



NFL PLAY 60 APP

This year, the NFL and **American Heart Association** released updates to the free app for iOS and Android devices that gets young users active by allowing them to control their digital avatar in games by running, jumping and twisting. Kids can now play a physical activity-based augmented reality game and challenge their friends through the app, encouraging even more youth to move throughout the day.

• **1,500,000** DOWNLOADS

• To download, visit NFL.com/PLAY60



NFL PLAY 60 SUPER KID

Rochester, Minnesota native **MANASA YERRIBOYINA**, 12, is this year's NFL PLAY 60 Super Kid. As the winner of the 2017 NFL PLAY 60 Super Bowl Contest presented by Danimals, Manasa was the official NFL PLAY 60 Ambassador during Super Bowl Week and delivered the game ball to the official on the field moments before the kickoff of Super Bowl LII at U.S. Bank Stadium in Minneapolis. The NFL PLAY 60 Super Bowl Contest Presented by Danimals is part of NFL PLAY 60, the league's youth health and wellness initiative encouraging kids to get active for 60 minutes a day. This year the NFL is celebrating a decade of getting kids active and healthy through NFL PLAY 60.

◀ NFL PLAY 60 Super Kid Manasa Yerriboyina.



NFL PLAY 60 CHARACTER CAMPS

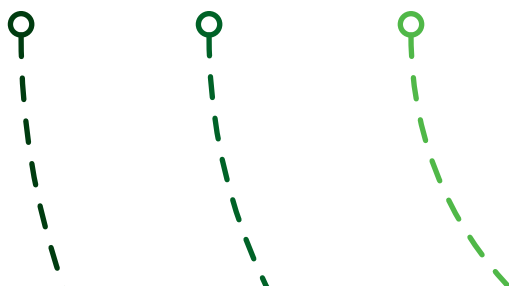
In partnership with the **Muñoz Agency**, the NFL hosts character camps to make a positive impact on youth through teaching football skills, emphasizing exercise and reinforcing the importance of character in athletics and life. The camps are part of the NFL's year-round Hispanic outreach initiative, focused on offering youth opportunities to play and experience the game of football.

<p>• MORE THAN 65 CHARACTER CAMPS HELD SINCE 2012</p>	<p>• IMPACTED NEARLY 20,000 YOUTH ACROSS THE COUNTRY</p>
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SHRINERS HOSPITALS FOR CHILDREN

In 2015, the NFL teamed with **Shriners Hospitals** to create a free NFL PLAY 60 All-Ability Guide that provides adaptive activities for children with different physical abilities. Today, through NFL PLAY 60 All-Ability clinics, the NFL and Shriners Hospitals continue to positively impact children of all abilities nationwide and ensure that no child is left on the sidelines.



SPECIAL OLYMPICS

The NFL and Special Olympics kicked off their national partnership last year at Pro Bowl. With contributions from the NFL Foundation, Special Olympics provided grants to local Special Olympics Programs in 11 NFL team markets. This year, the NFL and Special Olympics will expand those efforts to five new markets that will receive NFL Foundation funding. The grants will be used to help enhance Unified Sports programming and increase participation of athletes, Unified partners and coaches across the country. Over 100 new Unified Flag Football teams have been formed across the country through this partnership in the last 10 months.



MORE THAN
100 UNIFIED FLAG FOOTBALL TEAMS
HAVE BEEN FORMED ACROSS THE COUNTRY
THROUGH THIS PARTNERSHIP IN THE LAST 10 MONTHS



ST. JUDE CHILDREN'S RESEARCH HOSPITAL

NFL PLAY 60 is the "Official Champion of Play" at St. Jude, giving patients and their families unique experiences at various NFL events and raising support and awareness for their lifesaving mission: Finding cures. Saving children.®

SINCE 2012, THE NFL HAS
RAISED MORE THAN
\$1 MILLION
FOR ST. JUDE THROUGH DONATIONS AND
THE SALE OF ITEMS ON NFL AUCTION

Each year NFL Network's Rich Eisen runs the 40 at the Combine...in his suit. Rich's run benefits St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. ▶



CONTINUING THE FIGHT AGAINST CANCER

Through a longstanding partnership with the **American Cancer Society (ACS)**, the NFL has been a key supporter in the fight against cancer. Together, they have been committed to saving lives from breast cancer and addressing the unequal burden of cancer in underserved communities.

In 2017, the NFL and the ACS expanded this life-saving partnership—in conjunction with all 32 NFL teams—to have a broader focus on cancer prevention and early detection across multiple cancers.

The expanded Crucial Catch: Intercept Cancer campaign works to promote early detection and risk reduction for screenable cancers, including breast, colorectal and cervical. In addition, money raised continues to support the American Cancer Society's Community Health Advocates implementing Nationwide Grants for Empowerment and Equity (CHANGE) program, which provides outreach and cancer screenings to individuals in underserved communities.



MORE THAN
• **\$18,000,000**
RAISED FOR ACS GRANTS SINCE 2009

•  **102,500**
MAMMOGRAMS

• **500,000**
WOMEN REACHED

THE DEFENDER

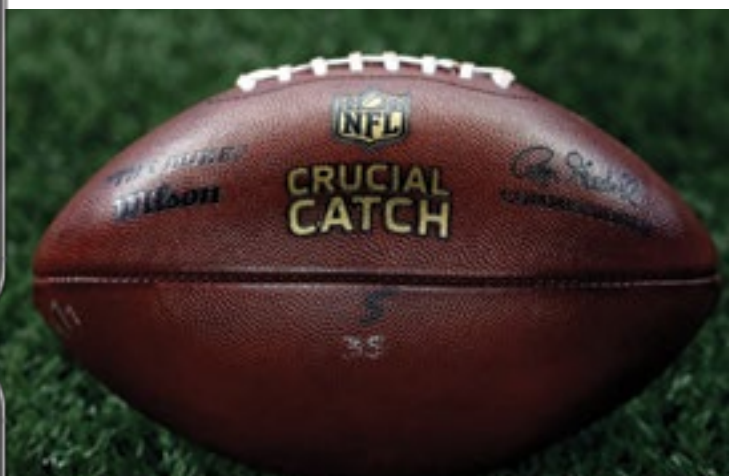
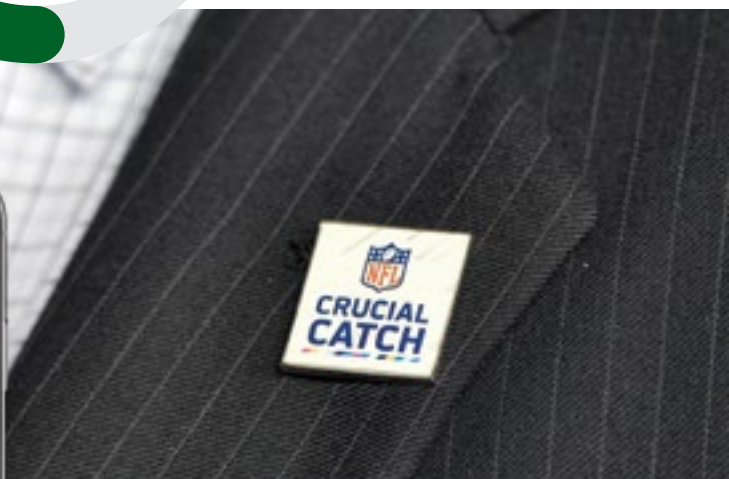
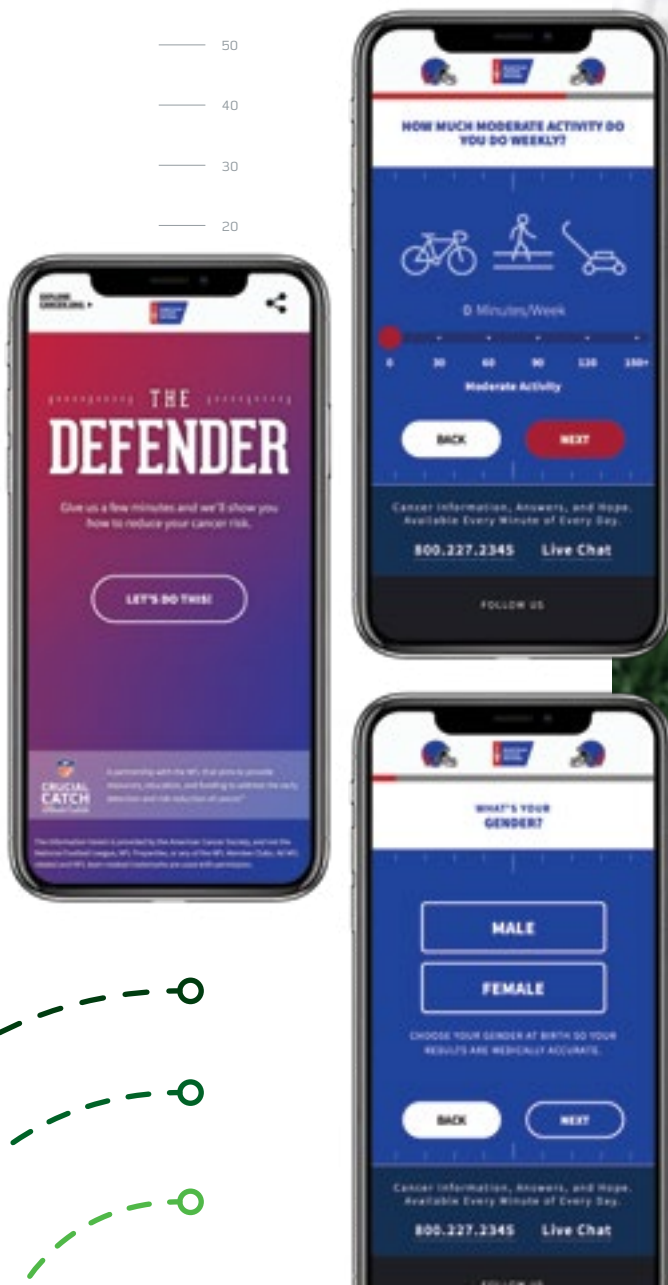
This year, the NFL and ACS debuted a new digital tool—**The Defender**—to provide consumers with personalized tips to reduce their cancer risk. The Defender analyzes user-input health information to provide individuals with quick, informative and tailored recommendations to reduce the risk of cancer. Using this free, user-friendly tool, fans are empowered to take control of their health.

- TheDefender.cancer.org

MORE THAN
50%

OF ALL CANCERS CAN BE PREVENTED THROUGH SIMPLE LIFESTYLE MODIFICATIONS

- AVOIDING TOBACCO
- LIMITING SUN EXPOSURE
- STAYING FIT AND HEALTHY





NFL FOUNDATION

The National Football League Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the lives of those touched by the game of football. The NFL Foundation—in conjunction with the NFL's 32 clubs—supports the health, safety and wellness of athletes across all levels, including youth football and the communities that support the game.

BUILDING CHARACTER

The NFL Foundation is committed to helping individual boys and girls—young athletes and non-athletes alike—and entire school communities learn about the importance of developing character and healthy relationships. By investing in initiatives that are interactive, engaging and provide tangible results, the NFL Foundation works to ensure that middle and high school students have the education and tools necessary to build moral character, navigate complex decision-making and improve conflict resolution.

MORE THAN

• **\$4.5 MILLION**
USED FOR
CHARACTER & SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL
LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

INSIDEOUT INITIATIVE

The InSideOut Initiative, co-founded by NFL legend **JOE EHRMANN** and Minnesota High School League associate director **JODY REDMAN**, is helping to transform the “win-at-all-costs” sports culture in high school communities into one that defines and promotes the life-sustaining development of the athlete’s inner life.

Powered by the NFL Foundation and piloted in Colorado and Texas in 2015, the InSideOut Initiative builds partnerships with educational leaders, state athletic associations and NFL clubs to redefine the role of interscholastic sports and help develop the educational, social and emotional wellbeing of each student athlete.



“The response to the launch of the InSideOut Initiative in California could not be more positive. Our member schools are excited about implementing the Initiative and the opportunity to make education-based athletics a transformational experience for all involved.”

Roger Blake

Executive Director, California Interscholastic Federation



210,350

HIGH SCHOOL COACHES REACHED



Researchers from the University of North Carolina-Greensboro have been formally evaluating the InSideOut Initiative since its inception, with data showing that creating a space for character growth opportunities for students through their sports experiences has a massive positive impact.

The NFL Foundation is funding statewide implementation of the InSideOut Initiative with NFL clubs in California, Colorado, Georgia, Indiana, Louisiana, Ohio, Tennessee and Texas, with plans for further expansion to additional states and NFL communities.

For more information, visit
www.insideoutinitiative.org





CHARACTER PLAYBOOK

The NFL/United Way **Character Playbook** is a digital education program that helps middle school students learn how to cultivate and maintain healthy relationships. The NFL, United Way Worldwide and digital learning innovator **EVERFI, Inc.** created the evidence-based program that has rolled out in all 32 NFL market communities.

Character Playbook consists of six interactive modules that support positive character development, social-emotional learning and healthy relationships for students in grades 7-9. In its first year alone, the program saw an incredible effect.



Students participate in Character Playbook Live.

MORE THAN
120,000
STUDENTS

CHARACTER PLAYBOOK LIVE

Building off this success, Character Playbook has expanded to 360 more schools and included the 2017 NFL season launch of **Character Playbook LIVE**, part of a league-wide initiative to engage more students in the important conversation about why character matters. This new virtual classroom experience, hosted by NFL clubs and local United Ways, allows NFL players to virtually join multiple classrooms and connect lessons taught in Character Playbook modules to life both inside and outside of football.

Visit www.characterplaybook.com for more information.

1,283
SCHOOLS

6,500
STUDENTS

170
SCHOOLS
IN 20 STATES

40 NFL
PLAYERS
FROM 27 CLUBS





NFL GRANTS

The NFL Foundation is a strong supporter of youth and high school football, and through a multi-year grant has helped USA Football—the sport’s national governing body and a member of the U.S. Olympic Committee—support the development, participation, safety and values of football. In 2017, USA Football’s Heads Up Football program eclipsed 10,000 youth league and high school enrollments for the first time.

The Foundation also encourages active and healthy living by providing grants to the American Heart Association and The Cooper Institute. These grants power the NFL PLAY 60 campaigns. NFL clubs also receive grants from the Foundation to provide the NFL PLAY 60 programs in their areas.

Expanding student athletes’ access to athletic trainers is another priority area for the NFL Foundation. In 2014, the NFL Foundation established a grant program designed to work with NFL clubs to increase access to athletic trainers in their communities. To date, 22 NFL clubs have utilized this grant to support local schools and leagues. In 2017, the NFL Foundation, in collaboration with Gatorade, the National Athletic Trainers’ Association, the Korey Stringer Institute

and the Professional Football Athletic Trainers Society, launched a pilot program to award grants to public high schools in four states—Arizona, Illinois, Oklahoma and Oregon. Each grant is in the amount of \$35,000, awarded over a three-year period, to fund an athletic training program. Seventy-five schools received this grant to enhance sports health and safety for student athletes this year.

The Foundation is also deeply committed to supporting NFL players’ philanthropic and community efforts and provides multiple grant opportunities to current and former players and clubs that help grow our game, support our communities and empower our youth.

For more information, visit www.nflfoundation.org

• **\$60,442,990**

IN NFL FOUNDATION GRANTS TO
SUPPORT THE REFURBISHMENT OF

510 ATHLETIC
FIELDS

NATIONWIDE SINCE 1998

• MORE THAN

\$950,000

AWARDED TO 90
CURRENT AND FORMER

NFL PLAYER NONPROFITS
AND FOUNDATIONS

• **\$1** MILLION FOR **450** YOUTH
CAMPS

DON SHULA NFL HIGH SCHOOL COACH OF THE YEAR

Every year, each of the NFL's 32 clubs nominates an exceptional high school coach to be considered for the Don Shula NFL High School Coach of the Year Award, named for the winningest coach in NFL history. The coaches are selected by each team for their character and integrity, leadership and dedication to the community, commitment to player health and safety, and on-field success.

During the 2018 Pro Bowl on ESPN, head football coach **ROBERT GARRETT** of Crenshaw High School in Los Angeles was named the 2017 Don Shula NFL High School Coach of the Year. Coach Garrett received **\$25,000 from the NFL Foundation**, \$15,000 of which is donated to his high school's football program.

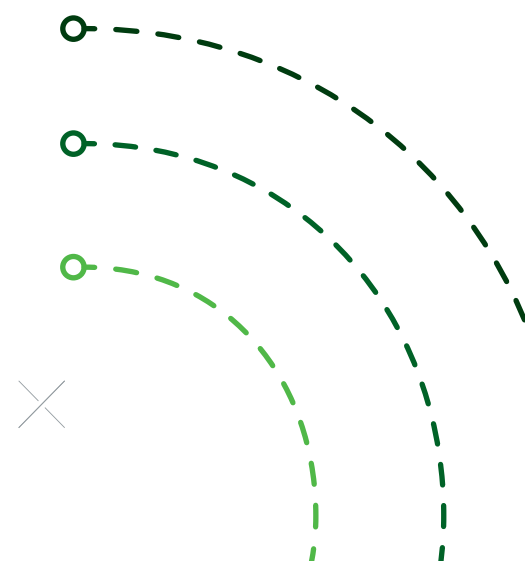
Coach Garrett was nominated for the award by the Los Angeles Chargers. He led the Crenshaw Cougars to an impressive 12-3 record this season, and the team was crowned the 2017 CIF Division 4-AA State Champions.

Coach Garrett's success on the field is matched by his outstanding leadership and role as a mentor to young student-athletes. He is also the former coach of two current Los Angeles Chargers players, linebacker Hayes Pullard and defensive tackle Brandon Mebane.

“

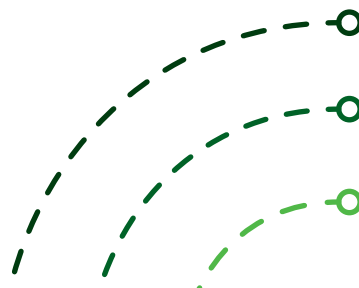
He's a coach to many, to some he's a mentor, and to others maybe even a father. To us, he's all of the above. He's done many great things through the years at Crenshaw High that seem like they've almost gone unnoticed, until now. It's an honor to say, 'That's my Coach!' ”

Hayes Pullard
Chargers Linebacker



DISASTER RELIEF

DISASTER	NFL FOUNDATION ACTIVITY	CONTRIBUTION
Hurricane Harvey	Matched Houston Texans' \$1M contribution to the United Way Relief Fund.	\$1,000,000
Hurricane Irma	Contributed to the One America Appeal Fund to support relief efforts in Florida and the Florida Keys.	\$500,000
	Contributed to the American Red Cross to support relief efforts in the Caribbean.	\$500,000
Hurricane Maria	Matched contributions from the Miami Dolphins, NY Giants and NY Jets to the American Red Cross for a total \$200K contribution.	\$50,000
	Matched donations up to \$50K to the Miami Dolphins Foundation to support Dolphins LB Kiko Alonso's relief efforts in Puerto Rico.	\$50,000
Mexico City Earthquake	Matched contributions from the New England Patriots, Oakland Raiders and Pittsburgh Steelers to Foundation Banorte for relief efforts in Mexico City for a total \$200K contribution.	\$50,000
Las Vegas Mass Shooting	Contributed \$50K to the National Compassion Fund, Las Vegas to support victims and their families.	\$50,000
	Contributed \$50K to the American Red Cross to assist with blood drives and other immediate relief efforts in Las Vegas.	\$50,000
Northern California Wildfires	Matched contributions from the Oakland Raiders and San Francisco 49ers to the American Red Cross.	\$100,000
TOTAL		\$2,350,000



THE NFL FOUNDATION
CONTRIBUTED
\$2.35M
TOWARD DISASTER RELIEF
EFFORTS IN 2017



HIGHEST BIDDERS HELP OUT



▲ Antonio Brown signs NFL footballs to be auctioned off to benefit player charities and nonprofits.

There's only one place to bid on exclusive Super Bowl Packages and authentic signed and game-used items from teams and players: [NFL.com/auction](https://www.nfl.com/auction). Over the past five years, NFL Auction has donated more than \$5 million to NFL, team and player charities and nonprofits. The NFL does not retain any profits generated by the sale of products on the NFL Auction platform.

NFL Auction plays a key role in the NFL's Crucial Catch and Salute to Service campaigns. Game-used and game-issued items are featured on the site so that money can be raised for the league's charitable partners. NFL Auction also helps players support the causes they care about. Through the auction of game-worn cleats from the My Cause My Cleats initiative and unique signed memorabilia, NFL Auction raised more than \$200,000 for player's charities and foundations in 2017.

OVER THE PAST 5 YEARS,
NFL AUCTION HAS DONATED MORE THAN

• **\$5,000,000**

TO NFL, TEAM AND PLAYER CHARITIES
AND NONPROFITS





INTERNATIONAL NFL



INTERNATIONAL



NFL CONTINUES INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT WITH FOUR GAMES IN 2018

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

The NFL's schedule of London Games for 2018 features three games at iconic Wembley Stadium, including three teams playing a regular-season game in London for the first time.

"We continue to be very excited by the growth of the NFL in the UK," said NFL commissioner **ROGER GOODELL**. "The fans have demonstrated outstanding support and passion for the NFL over the past 11 seasons and we look forward to some great games in London this year."

The 2018 London Series kicks off in Week 6 on Sunday, October 14 (1:00 PM ET), as the Oakland Raiders host the Seattle Seahawks. The Raiders, the home team in London for a second time, welcome the Seahawks to Wembley for their first game in London.

This game will mark the third straight season and the fourth time in five years that the Raiders have hosted a regular season game internationally, having played games at Mexico City's Estadio Azteca in each of the last two seasons, as well as making the team's debut in London against the Miami Dolphins in 2014.

"The Seahawks are excited to be playing in London on October 14 against the Raiders," said Seahawks Owner **PAUL ALLEN**. "We have a strong international following and are eager to celebrate the passion of the 12s in a city known for its enthusiastic support for sports."

Over the following two weeks, two additional teams will make their London debuts as visiting teams.

The Tennessee Titans will be hosted by the Los Angeles Chargers on October 21 (9:30 AM ET).

"We are excited as a franchise to be playing in London," said Titans controlling owner **AMY ADAMS STRUNK**. "There is a great relationship developing between Nashville and London with music being the common thread. We are looking forward to showcasing our team to the NFL fans in London and throughout Europe."

"Since we last visited London in 2008, the NFL's popularity has continued to grow in the UK," said Chargers president of business operations **A.G. SPANOS**. "It was an honor to be part of the early wave of regular season games played abroad back then, and it is every bit the honor to represent the league in London this time around. We're excited to introduce the Los Angeles Chargers brand, in person, to football fans in the UK this year."

The Super Bowl champion Philadelphia Eagles will face the Jacksonville Jaguars in a matchup of 2017 playoff teams on October 28 (9:30 AM ET). The Jaguars are playing a home game in London for the sixth straight season.

"I'm very much looking forward to it," said Eagles owner **JEFFREY LURIE**. "It's the first time we've really had a chance to go over there and it's nice to go over as Super Bowl champs. It's going to be a big game. We're playing an outstanding football team in the Jaguars. But I'm very much looking forward to it. I think London has a chance to be a franchise someday in the NFL."

INTERNATIONAL



“It’s hard to believe we’re about to play our sixth regular season game in London,” said Jaguars owner **SHAD KHAN**, “but not hard to believe at all the positive impact our annual game continues to make, year after year, for the Jacksonville Jaguars and the growth of American football throughout the United Kingdom. The Jaguars and the NFL overall are building something special and, as important, something that is lasting. This season we welcome the Super Bowl champion Philadelphia Eagles to face us at Wembley Stadium, our home away from home. It doesn’t get much bigger or better for the thousands of Jaguars fans throughout Europe who’ve grown to love and support our team since our first visit in 2013. The Eagles vs. Jaguars would be a highly anticipated game anywhere this season, but playing it at Wembley in the capital of the UK is going to be epic.”

By the end of the 2018 season, the NFL will have played 24 regular-season games in London, with 29 of 32 teams having participated.

The NFL kicked off its series of regular-season games in London in 2007, when the New York Giants beat the Miami Dolphins at Wembley Stadium on their way to winning the Super Bowl. The home of English football has now hosted 18 NFL games, with almost 1.5 million fans attending those games.

“The NFL holds huge value and importance to Wembley Stadium. We are proud to have hosted games under the arch for the past decade and to have played a key role in the growth of the sport,” said **MARTIN GLENN**, chief executive of the Football Association. “NFL games bring people to the stadium from all over the world, provide a boost to the local economy, and are among the highlights of the Wembley events calendar. Working closely together, we have been able to share knowledge and expertise with the NFL, and continue to learn a great deal from their events and the activation of their games. We are very excited to be welcoming some outstanding playoff teams to the stadium in 2018 and hope our strong partnership will continue for years to come.”



WEMBLEY STADIUM

INTERNATIONAL



PLAYERS AND COACHES DISCUSS PLAYING IN LONDON THROUGHOUT THE YEARS

PLAYER/COACH, TEAM	COMMENT
Blake Bortles Jacksonville Jaguars	"Playing in this stadium and this atmosphere is incredible. Right before kickoff, when everybody started waving the Jaguars' flags, it's definitely something that you get chills running through the back of your spine, so it was cool to see and it's incredible to play here."
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."
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."
Steven Jackson (with St. Louis Rams in 2012 & 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."
Kirk Cousins (with Washington in 2016)	"It was a phenomenal experience. That stadium is incredible. The atmosphere is incredible. Every seat appeared to be filled. The fans were engaged. It was electric. It did feel like a normal NFL game but maybe even more electric in the sense that it felt like such a unique atmosphere."
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."
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."
Case Keenum (with Minnesota in 2017)	"As a kid growing up, I couldn't have even imagined getting to come to London to play a NFL football game. That's a dream come true as a kid. So to come over here, to see the sites, to play in front of a really cool crowd in an incredible rugby stadium, it's a blast."
Hue Jackson Cleveland Browns	"It was a good time, obviously playing Wembley Stadium, what a stadium this is. A lot of people. But this is amazing to see how far American football has come here in London. I think teams really enjoy coming here. I think it's a good opportunity -- it was a great opportunity for our football team and our organization to come and be a part of this, and hopefully we'll get a chance to do it in the future."

INTERNATIONAL



Building off the tremendous success of the Mexico Game Series, the NFL will play in Mexico for a third consecutive season.

The Los Angeles Rams will host the Kansas City Chiefs at Estadio Azteca in Mexico City on November 19 (8:15 PM ET). This will be the second Monday Night Football game at Estadio Azteca. In 2016, the Oakland Raiders hosted the Houston Texans in the first-ever Monday Night Football game played outside the US.

“Over the past two seasons, we have seen the extraordinary passion that exists for NFL football in Mexico,” said Goodell. “We are excited for another memorable event at Estadio Azteca as the Los Angeles Rams and Kansas City Chiefs head to Mexico City in 2018.”

The Rams and Chiefs will both play their first regular-season game in Mexico next season. The Chiefs played a preseason game against the Dallas Cowboys in Monterrey, Mexico on August 5, 1996, earning a 32-6 win over the Dallas Cowboys.

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

“Southern California and Mexico share strong historic and cultural ties and this game will provide an opportunity to celebrate the special connection between these two regions,” said Rams owner/chairman **STAN KROENKE**. “It is great to be participating in the NFL’s international games again and working with the league to grow the game. Mexico has one of the largest NFL fan bases in the world and we are excited to bring Rams football to the millions of fans there.”

“We are thrilled to be a part of the NFL’s international initiatives once again, and we are excited to face the Rams at historic Estadio Azteca,” said Kansas City Chiefs chairman & CEO **CLARK HUNT**. “The support for the NFL in Mexico has grown significantly since our initial trip in 1996. We look forward to returning to Mexico and connecting with a new generation of fans this season.”

In 2017, the Ministry of Tourism and the NFL announced an agreement to play three NFL regular-season games from 2019 to 2021, having achieved positive results in tourism and the presence of Mexico’s brand through the NFL’s previous games in Mexico. The previous agreement covered games from 2016 to 2018.

The Ministry of Tourism highlighted the importance of high impact sporting events for the promotion of Mexico’s tourism both nationally and internationally. This agreement is part of the strategies that are implemented within this sector to increase economic impact.

The relationship with the League has served as a platform to significantly boost the tourism industry in Mexico, with fans taking advantage of the opportunity to expand their trips and explore the country.





INTERNATIONAL

FROM LONDON TO THE SUPER BOWL

Born in London, Philadelphia Eagles running back **JAY AJAYI** (below) moved to the United States at the age of seven and has grown into one of the most popular and involved players in England. In Week 4 of the 2017 season, Ajayi, as a member of the Miami Dolphins, became the first London-born skill position player to appear in a London Series game, rushing for 46 yards on 12 carries.

“Having local heroes has always been something we see as a key part of growing the sport,” said NFL Executive Vice President, International **MARK WALLER**. “Jay’s success has given us a player who gains national media attention and can create headlines through scoring TDs in a way that a lineman, for example, can never achieve. He is someone we can use as a success story when talking to young British athletes about the potential of taking up our sport.”

Originally selected by the Dolphins in the fifth round of the 2015 NFL Draft, Ajayi was acquired by Philadelphia via trade in Week 9 of the 2017 season. After rushing for 465 yards in seven games with the Dolphins, Ajayi added 408 rush yards with the Eagles in 2017, becoming the first player in NFL history to produce at least 400 rushing yards with two different teams in the same regular season.

Ajayi led Philadelphia with 184 rushing yards in the 2017 postseason, including 57 yards in Super Bowl LII. As the Eagles celebrated on the field following their Super Bowl victory, Ajayi was seen draped in a Union Jack, the national flag of the United Kingdom.

Ajayi will return to Wembley Stadium in Week 8 as the Eagles square off against the Jacksonville Jaguars (9:30 AM ET, NFLN).

“Hopefully it will inspire some people, just from the journey, from the challenges that I’ve been through, the adversity. To be at this point, to be able to touch and kiss that Lombardi Trophy and understand I’m a Super Bowl champion, it’s the greatest feeling in the world, I’m so blessed. I pray that someone is inspired by it.”

- Eagles RB **JAY AJAYI** on the effect he hopes his Super Bowl victory will have in the United Kingdom





INTERNATIONAL

INTERNATIONAL FEEL

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

For the 12th time in the past 13 seasons, at least one player who attended high school outside of the United States was selected in the NFL Draft.

This year, the Philadelphia Eagles selected offensive lineman **JORDAN MAILATA** (top) in the seventh round of the NFL Draft. The Samoan-born Australian professional rugby league player for the South Sydney Rabbitohs converted to football full-time early in 2018. The 6-8, 350-pounder has impressed NFL scouts at various workouts with his strength, footwork and athleticism, and will now continue his football journey with the Eagles.

"I had to weigh the pros and cons before I made the decision to come to the NFL," said Mailata. "I knew that if I made the decision, it has to be all-in. And that's what I have been giving it."

The Seattle Seahawks traded up to select Australian punter **MICHAEL DICKSON** in the fifth round of the 2018 NFL Draft. Dickson called the Seahawks' decision to trade up "a massive compliment."

"I'm really just focused on winning that job and trying to leave a footprint in the organization," said Dickson.

Canadian defensive lineman **NATHAN SHEPHERD** (bottom) was selected by the New York Jets in the third round. He began his college football career at Simon Fraser University in British Columbia, the only NCAA-affiliated school in Canada. Financial issues forced him to leave school two years later but he never lost his love for the game. He worked, saved money and continued to train, eventually walking on to Fort Hays State's Division II football team.

"It says a lot about the man," said Jets head coach **TODD BOWLES** of Shepherd's long journey to the NFL. "He's determined to succeed no matter what he does. He carries himself that way. He works that way and I can appreciate that."

This season, eight teams will carry an overseas player on their practice squads during the 2018 season as part of the expanded International Player Pathway program (full details on page 95).



INTERNATIONAL



A LISTING OF SEVERAL OF THE FOREIGN-BORN PLAYERS IN THE NFL

COUNTRY	PLAYERS
ALBANIA	G Kristjan Sokoli, NYG
AMERICAN SAMOA	DE Adam Gotsis, Den; G Mike Iupati, AZ; G; DT Domata Peko, Den; DT Destiny Vaeao, Phi; CB Shalom Luani, Oak; LB Frankie Luvu, NYJ
AUSTRALIA	P Jordan Berry, Pit; P Michael Dickson, Sea; P Lachlan Edwards, NYJ; P Cameron Johnston, Phi; T Jordan Mailata, Phi
BELIZE	DE Rakeem Nunez-Roches, Ind
BRAZIL	K Cairo Santos, NYJ
CAMEROON	G Arie Kouandjio, Was; T Cyrus Kouandjio, Den; LB Steve Longa, Det
CANADA	TE Antony Auclair, TB; CB Elie Bouka, Phi; T Brett Boyko, LAC; DT Stefan Charles, KC; DT Christian Covington, Hou; DT Tyrone Crawford, Dal; G Laurent Duvernay-Tardif, KC; C Brett Jones, NYG; WR TJ Jones, Det; LS L.P. LaDouceur, Dal; P Jon Ryan, Sea; DT Nathan Shepherd, NYJ; G Dakoda Shepley, NYJ; WR Tevaun Smith, Jac; DE Brent Urban, Bal; TE Luke Willson, Det; TE Adam Zaruba, Phi
ENGLAND	RB Jay Ajayi, Phi; DE Jack Crawford, Atl; T Jermaine Eluemunor, Bal; TE Alex Gray, Atl; DE Alex Jenkins, NO; DT Josh Mauro, NYG; S Obi Melifonwu, Oak; DE Efe Obada, Car; T Menelik Watson, Den
ESTONIA	DE Margus Hunt, Ind
FRANCE	WR Anthony Mahoungou, Phi
GERMANY	WR Moritz Böhringer, Cin; LB Kasim Edebali, Chi; FB Chris Ezeala, Bal; WR Jamaal Jones, LAC; P Jeff Locke, SF; LB Eric Nzeocha, TB; LB Mark Nzeocha, SF
GHANA	DE Ezekiel Ansah, Det
HAITI	CB Pierre Desir, Ind; G Vladimir Ducasse, Buf; S Karl Joseph, Oak
ITALY	S Mykkele Thompson, NYG
JAMAICA	S Patrick Chung, NE; G Laken Tomlinson, SF
KENYA	G Rees Odhiambo, Sea
NIGERIA	WR Nelson Agholor, Phi; LB Jeremiah Attaochu, SF; G Caleb Benenoch, TB; LB Samson Ebukam, LAR; LB Obum Gwachum, NYJ; DE Ufomba Kamalu, Hou; Emmanuel Ogbah, Cle; LB Tobenna Okeke, Ten; DT David Onyemata, NO
NORWAY	P Kaare Vedvik, Bal
OMAN	WR Amba Etta-Tawo, Jax
POLAND	K Sebastian Janikowski, Sea
SCOTLAND	K Graham Gano, Car
SOUTH AFRICA	K Greg Joseph, Miami
SOUTH KOREA	DT Kyle Love, Car
TOGO	DE Moubarak Djeri, AZ
TONGA	DT Star Lotulelei, Car; LB Pita Taumoepeau, SF
TURKEY	WR Chris Conley, KC
VIRGIN ISLANDS	DT Linval Joseph, Min
ZIMBABWE	DE Stansly Maponga, NYG



INTERNATIONAL

HISPANICS MAKING THEIR MARK ON THE NFL

Hispanic players are making their mark on the NFL. Following are some examples:

- Miami Dolphins linebacker **KIKO ALONSO** (top) hosted a free football camp in San Juan, Puerto Rico this offseason, the second year in a row he has hosted the camp. The clinic included a stretch session, on-field football drills and games.

“My dad was born in Cuba and grew up in Puerto Rico,” said Alonso. “I’ve been visiting there since I was a little kid, ever since I can remember. That place is like a second home to me and my brothers.”

In the aftermath of Hurricanes Irma and Maria, Alonso started a fundraiser, posting videos encouraging people to donate to recovery efforts. Alonso pledged the first \$25,000 and the Miami Dolphins matched his pledge. The campaign raised more than \$190,000.

In addition to hurricane relief, Alonso is raising funds for an American Youth Football chapter with the Pee Wee Football League of Puerto Rico. Funds will go towards facility renovations, uniforms, equipment, training and a week-long trip to Orlando, Florida for a team from the PWFL to play the best teams in America.

- New York Giants rookie guard **WILL HERNANDEZ** (bottom) faced pressure when deciding which sport he wanted to play growing up.

Hernandez’s father, Robert Hernandez, was a professional soccer player in Mexico. His father passed down his love and passion for the sport to Will, coaching his soccer teams throughout his childhood. Eventually, Will decided he wanted to try a different sport.

“My dad was so passionate about soccer and so passionate about me being good in soccer, but he was 100 percent supportive when I told him I didn’t really like the sport anymore and I wanted to try football,” said Hernandez. “He said, ‘That’s fine, but if you’re going to switch sports, you’re going to give everything you’ve got in that sport.’”

Years later, Hernandez heard his name called as the second pick of the second round by the New York Giants in the 2018 NFL Draft.





INTERNATIONAL

- Los Angeles Rams rookie quarterback **LUIS PEREZ** had an uncommon journey to the NFL. Undrafted out of Texas A&M-Commerce, a Division-II football team, like Hernandez, Perez originally pursued a different sport.

Perez was a competitive bowler in high school, after discovering his talent going bowling for his dad's birthday. He's bowled 12 perfect games and competed across many different states.

Despite his skill as a bowler, Perez always had a love for the game of football. A love that paid off when he won the Harlon Hill trophy, the Division-II Heisman equivalent.

"I'm sitting in the stands and looking around and I'm seeing everybody come out of the tunnel and I'm like, 'Holy cow! What am I doing up here? I need to be down there,'" said Perez. "That was the moment that I decided, you know what, it's time to play football."

- Former NFL linebacker **DONNIE EDWARDS** joined NFL Legends **TONY RICHARDSON** and **AMANI TOOMER** on the first All-NFL Legends, week-long USO tour throughout Japan to visit U.S. Service members and their families at military bases.

Throughout the week, the players spent quality time with Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, and their families, met with installation commanders and participated in unit visits. The NFL Legends also took part in a military working dog demonstration, visited an air defense artillery unit, and had a close-up view of aircraft and the maintainers who keep them in the air.

The former Chief and Charger was a two-time All Pro (2002, 2004) and a Pro Bowler in 2002. Edwards ranks second all-time in total tackles for the Chargers franchise and fifth for the Chiefs.

A LOOK AT SOME OF THE 2018 HISPANIC NFL PLAYERS

PLAYER	POSITION	TEAM
Roberto Aguayo	K	LA Chargers
Kiko Alonso	LB	Miami
Thomas Duarte	TE	Miami
Gavin Escobar	TE	Miami
Jon Feliciano	G	Oakland
Will Hernandez	G	NY Giants
Ziggy Hood	DT	Washington
Bradley Marquez	WR	Detroit
Blake Martinez	LB	Green Bay

PLAYER	POSITION	TEAM
Luis Perez	QB	LA Rams
Robert Quinn	DE	Miami
Eddy Piñeiro	K	Oakland
Rakeem Nunez-Roches	DE	Indianapolis
Rigoberto Sanchez	P	Indianapolis
Zack Sanchez	CB	Carolina
Andrew Sendejo	S	Minnesota
Kenny Stills	WR	Miami
Alejandro Villanueva	T	Pittsburgh

Former NFL LB DONNIE EDWARDS





INTERNATIONAL

EIGHT INTERNATIONAL PLAYERS ADDED TO PRACTICE SQUADS FOR 2018 SEASON

Eight teams will carry an overseas player on their practice squads during the 2018 season as part of an expansion of the **INTERNATIONAL PLAYER PATHWAY** program.

The program, instituted in 2017, aims to provide international athletes the opportunity to compete at the NFL level, improve their skills, and ultimately earn a spot on an NFL roster.

ALEX GRAY (Atlanta Falcons), **ALEX JENKINS** (New Orleans Saints), **ERIC NZEOCHA** (Tampa Bay Buccaneers), and **EFE OBADA** (Carolina Panthers), participants in 2017, will return to their NFC South teams for the upcoming season.

“Last year was exciting and special. Being a part of this program is great and my experience with the Falcons has been great as well,” said Gray. “I learned so much. This game is amazing.”

“I know the system better than the new guys coming in,” said Obada at the conclusion of Panthers’ rookie camp. “I feel like I know the standard and requirements that they want and all I have to do is apply myself.”

An additional four teams – the **AFC NORTH** – will carry an overseas player on their roster until the end of the 2018 training camp. At that time, the players would be eligible for an international player practice squad exemption.

The Baltimore Ravens, Cincinnati Bengals, Cleveland Browns and Pittsburgh Steelers will each be given an exemption for an eleventh practice squad member – ineligible to be activated during the season – with two of the players selected coming from the UK and two from Germany. The AFC North was chosen to receive the international players in a random draw.

The players include **MORITZ BÖHRINGER** (Cincinnati Bengals), who was originally drafted in the sixth round by the Minnesota Vikings in 2016, German Football League player **CHRISTOPHER EZEALA** (Baltimore Ravens), former British American Football League player **TIGIE SANKOH** (Cleveland Browns) and former English professional rugby player **CHRISTIAN SCOTLAND-WILLIAMSON** (Pittsburgh Steelers).

For three months during the 2018 offseason, the players trained alongside NFL players and draft hopefuls in Florida, under the supervision of former NFL UK head of football Aden Durde, who was hired as the Atlanta Falcons defensive quality control coach after this season’s program, along with IMG Academy coaches including running back coach Earnest Byner, offensive line coach Paul Dunn, defensive back coach Donnie Henderson and wide receiver coach Larry Kirksey.

Bengals TE/WR MORITZ BOHRINGER



Ravens FB CHRISTOPHER EZEALA



INTERNATIONAL



NEW PLAYERS TAKING PART IN THE 2018 INTERNATIONAL PLAYER PATHWAY PROGRAM

Moritz Bohringer, 24 TE/WR, Cincinnati (Germany)	Selected in the sixth round of the 2016 NFL Draft by the Minnesota Vikings, becoming the first player to be drafted directly from European football. Had previously been combining his university studies with playing for the Schwäbisch Hall Unicorns in the German Football League. Spent the 2016 season on the Vikings practice squad.
Christopher Ezeala, 22 FB, Baltimore (Germany)	Played as a fullback and linebacker in the German Football League for the Ingolstadt Dukes, having begun playing the sport for the Munich Rangers and Allgäu Comets. Has focused on the fullback position, saying: "My coaches told me that while there are many linebackers like me in the NFL, there is no fullback that is so athletic and fast, so they are trying to create a new type of player with me."
Tigie Sankoh, 21 DB, Cleveland (UK)	Played amateur football throughout his teenage years and attended the American Football Academy at Filton College in Bristol, England. Went on to represent the London Warriors in the British American Football League.
Christian Scotland-Williamson, 24 TE, Pittsburgh (UK)	Converted to American football early in 2018 after a professional rugby career in England, where he played for the Worcester Warriors in the English Premiership. Playing as a second-row forward, he was known in rugby for his physicality and tackling ability and came to international prominence when a tackle in a game against London Wasps was shared widely on the Internet. He graduated from Loughborough University, one of the UK's leading sports institutions, with a degree in economics.

RETURNING PARTICIPANTS FROM THE 2017 INTERNATIONAL PLAYER PATHWAY PROGRAM

Alex Gray, 27 TE, Atlanta (UK)	Born and raised in Bishop Auckland, England, Gray captained England's rugby teams at Under-16, Under-18, Under-20 and International Sevens levels and played for Newcastle Falcons and London Irish. He was named in the original extended Great Britain Sevens squad for the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio, before suffering an injury. He signed for Yorkshire Carnegie for the 2016-17 rugby season and decided to convert to American football.
Alex Jenkins, 25 DE, New Orleans (UK)	Born and raised in Bath, England, he began playing football at the Bath City Academy and for the Bristol Aztecs, earning a spot on the Great Britain youth team. Having been selected to participate in an all-star high school camp in Virginia, he earned a scholarship to play college football at the University of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio, Texas. He was a three-year starter as defensive end at UIW, posting 3.5 sacks in his senior year.
Eric Nzeocha, 25 LB, Tampa Bay (Germany)	Nzeocha began playing football for the Franken Knights youth team in Neusitz, Germany, and was selected for the German national junior team. He played three years at the University of Wyoming, switching from tight end to linebacker before the 2015 season. His brother, Mark, is a linebacker for the Dallas Cowboys.
Efe Obada, 26 DE, Carolina (UK)	Raised in London after arriving from the Netherlands at age 10, Obada signed as a free agent for the Dallas Cowboys in 2015 after playing only five games of amateur football with the London Warriors. He played in the preseason for the Cowboys and spent part of the 2015 season on the club's practice squad. He has since had spells on the rosters of the Kansas City Chiefs and Atlanta Falcons.

Browns DB TIGIE SANKOH



Steelers TE CHRISTIAN SCOTLAND-WILLIAMSON



THE PLAYERS





THE PLAYERS

WHAT TO LOOK FOR - THE PLAYERS

TOM BRADY, New England, can join Peyton Manning (14) and Drew Brees (12) as the only players in NFL history to pass for at least 4,000 yards in 10 seasons. Brady has passed for at least 4,000 yards nine times in 18 career seasons (see Rivers note).

Brady needs 21 touchdown passes (incl. postseason) to surpass P. Manning (579) for the most touchdown passes in NFL history (incl. postseason). In 18 seasons, Brady has 559 career touchdown passes, including the postseason.

Brady needs 12 touchdown passes to join P. Manning (539) and Favre (508) as the only players to reach 500 career regular-season touchdown passes. In 18 seasons, Brady has 488 career touchdown passes in the regular season (see Brees note).

Brady needs 3,841 passing yards to become the fourth quarterback in NFL history with at least 70,000 passing yards. In 18 seasons, Brady has 66,159 career passing yards.

DREW BREES (top), New Orleans, needs 1,394 passing yards to surpass Brett Favre (71,838) for second place in NFL history in passing yards and 1,496 yards to surpass Peyton Manning (71,940) as NFL's all-time leading passer. In 17 seasons, Brees has 70,445 career passing yards.

Brees needs 79 completions to surpass Brett Favre (6,300) for the most completions in NFL history. In 17 seasons, Brees has 6,222 career completions.

Brees needs 12 touchdown passes to join P. Manning (539) and Favre (508) as the only players to reach 500 career touchdown passes. In 17 seasons, Brees has 488 career touchdown passes (see Brady note).

BEN ROETHLISBERGER, Pittsburgh, needs 411 passing yards to pass John Elway (51,475) for seventh place in NFL history in career passing yards. Roethlisberger has 51,065 career passing yards in 14 seasons (see Rivers note).

PHILIP RIVERS (bottom), Los Angeles Chargers, needs 1,128 passing yards to pass John Elway (51,475) for seventh place in NFL history in career passing yards. In 14 seasons, Rivers has 50,348 career passing yards (see Roethlisberger note).

With at least 4,000 passing yards in 2018, Rivers (nine) would join Peyton Manning (14) and Drew Brees (12) as the only players in NFL history with 10 seasons with at least 4,000 passing yards (see Brady note).

CAM NEWTON, Carolina, needs 609 rushing yards to pass Randall Cunningham (4,928) for the second-most career rushing yards by a quarterback in NFL history. In seven seasons, Newton has 4,320 career rushing yards.

Newton can become the first quarterback in NFL history to rush for at least 700 yards in four seasons.





THE PLAYERS



MATT RYAN, Atlanta, can become the second quarterback in NFL history with at least 4,000 passing yards in eight consecutive seasons, joining Drew Brees (12) (see Stafford note).

MATTHEW STAFFORD (top), Detroit, can become the second quarterback in NFL history with at least 4,000 passing yards in eight consecutive seasons, joining Drew Brees (12) (see Ryan note).

RUSSELL WILSON, Seattle, has passed for at least 3,000 yards and 20 touchdowns in each of his first six seasons and can join P. Manning as the only quarterbacks to reach 3,000 passing yards and 20 touchdowns in each of their first seven seasons.

LARRY FITZGERALD, Arizona, needs 92 receptions to pass Tony Gonzalez (1,325) for second place on the NFL's all-time receptions list. In 14 seasons, Fitzgerald has 1,234 career catches.

Fitzgerald needs 390 receiving yards to pass Terrell Owens (15,934) for second place on the NFL's all-time receiving yards list. Fitzgerald has 15,545 receiving yards in 14 career seasons.

Fitzgerald needs 48 receptions to pass Jerry Rice (1,281) for the most receptions with one team in NFL history. In 14 seasons with the Cardinals, Fitzgerald has 1,234 receptions.

With 1,000 receiving yards, Fitzgerald (nine) would tie Randy Moss (10) for the second most 1,000-yard receiving seasons in NFL history.

Fitzgerald (five) can tie Brandon Marshall (six) for the most career seasons with at least 100 catches and 1,000 receiving yards (see Brown note).

ANTONIO BROWN, Pittsburgh, needs three games with at least 10 receptions to tie Andre Johnson (22) for the most career games with at least 10 catches. Brown has 19 such games in eight seasons.

Brown (582) can surpass Wes Welker (672 from 2007-2012) for the most receptions by a player over any six-season span in NFL history. Brown (7,848) can also surpass Jerry Rice (8,759 from 1990-95) for the most receiving yards by a player over any six-season span in NFL history.

Brown (five) can tie Brandon Marshall (six) for the most career seasons with at least 100 catches and 1,000 receiving yards (see Fitzgerald note).

JARVIS LANDRY, Cleveland, needs 27 catches to surpass Larry Fitzgerald (426) for the most receptions by a player in his first five seasons in NFL history. In four seasons, Landry has 400 career receptions.

ODELL BECKHAM, JR. (bottom), New York Giants, has 313 receptions in 47 career games and needs seven receptions in his first three games to surpass Lionel Taylor (319) for the most receptions by a player through his first 50 career games.

Beckham has 4,424 receiving yards in 47 career games and needs 362 receiving yards in his first three games to surpass Lance Alworth (4,785) for the most receiving yards by a player through his first 50 career games.



THE PLAYERS

MICHAEL THOMAS, New Orleans, can join Odell Beckham, Jr. as the only players in NFL history to record at least 90 receptions in each of their first three seasons.

JULIO JONES, Atlanta, has recorded at least 1,400 receiving yards in each of the past four seasons and can become the first player in NFL history to register five consecutive seasons with at least 1,400 receiving yards.

BRANDON MARSHALL, Seattle, has 959 receptions in 12 career seasons and needs 41 catches to become the 15th player in NFL history to record 1,000 career receptions.

ROB GRONKOWSKI, New England, can surpass Tony Gonzalez (four) and Jason Witten (four) for the most 1,000-yard seasons by an NFL tight end. Gronkowski has four career seasons with at least 1,000 receiving yards.

FRANK GORE, Miami, needs 1,000 rushing yards to join Emmitt Smith (11), Curtis Martin (10), Walter Payton (10) and Barry Sanders (10) as the only players in NFL history to rush for 1,000 yards in at least 10 different seasons. In 13 seasons, Gore has rushed for 1,000 yards nine times.

MARK INGRAM, New Orleans, needs 735 rushing yards to surpass Deuce McAllister (6,096) as the franchise's all-time leading rusher. In seven seasons with the Saints, Ingram has 5,362 rushing yards.

Ingram needs six rushing touchdowns to surpass McAllister (49) as the club's all-time leader. Ingram has 44 rushing touchdowns in seven seasons.

MELVIN GORDON (top), Los Angeles Chargers, can become the third player in team history to record at least 1,200 scrimmage yards and 10 total touchdowns in three consecutive seasons, joining Lance Alworth (eight consecutive seasons) and LaDainian Tomlinson (four).

DUKE JOHNSON, JR., Cleveland, can become the first running back in NFL history with at least 500 receiving yards in each of his first four seasons.

JULIUS PEPPERS, Carolina, needs six sacks to pass Kevin Greene (160) for the third-most in the NFL since the sack became an official statistic in 1982. In 16 seasons, Peppers has 154.5 career sacks.

J.J. WATT (bottom), Houston, can become the second player to record four seasons with at least 15 sacks since the sack became an official statistic in 1982. Reggie White had five such seasons.

ADAM VINATIERI, Indianapolis, needs seven converted field goals to pass Morten Andersen (565) for the most made field goals in NFL history. In 22 seasons, Vinatieri has converted 559 career field goals.

Vinatieri needs 58 points to surpass Andersen (2,544) for the most points scored in NFL history. Vinatieri has 2,487 career points in 22 seasons.

Vinatieri has appeared in 337 career games in 22 seasons and can become the fourth player in NFL history to appear in 350 career games.





THE PLAYERS



STEPHEN GOSTKOWSKI (top), New England, has led the league in scoring five times in his career and can surpass Don Hutson (five) and Gino Cappelletti (five) as the only player to lead the league in points scored six times. Gostkowski has led the league in field goals three times in his career and can join Lou Groza (six), Ward Cuff (four), Jack Manders (four) and Mark Moseley (four) as the only player to lead the league in field goals at least four times.

With 30 made field goals, Gostkowski can become the first player in NFL history with six seasons of 30 or more field goals (see Tucker note).

JUSTIN TUCKER (bottom left), Baltimore, can become the first player in NFL history with six seasons of 30 or more made field goals (see Gostkowski note).

SHANE LECHLER (bottom right), Houston, has appeared in 286 career games in 18 seasons and can become the 11th player in NFL history to appear in 300 career games.





THE PLAYERS

QUARTERBACKS

TOM BRADY

A 13-time Pro Bowl selection and three-time NFL Most Valuable Player, New England quarterback **TOM BRADY** has led the Patriots to 15 division championships, the most by a starting quarterback in NFL history, including nine consecutive AFC East titles – the longest streak of division titles in league annals. His 223 all-time wins as a starting quarterback (including playoffs) are the most in NFL history.

MOST TOTAL WINS BY A QUARTERBACK IN NFL HISTORY

PLAYER	TEAM(S)	CAREER WINS
Tom Brady	New England	223
Peyton Manning	Indianapolis, Denver	200
Brett Favre^	Atlanta, Green Bay, NY Jets, Minnesota	199
John Elway^	Denver	162

^Pro Football Hall of Famer

Among quarterbacks with at least 75 career starts, Brady owns the highest winning percentage (including playoffs) in NFL history and is one of three quarterbacks all-time with a career winning percentage of at least .700, joined by Pro Football Hall of Famers **ROGER STAUBACH** (.733) and **JOE MONTANA** (.711).

HIGHEST WINNING PERCENTAGE IN NFL HISTORY (MIN. 75 STARTS & INCL. POSTSEASON)

PLAYER	W	L	T	PCT.
Tom Brady	223	65	0	.774
Roger Staubach^	96	35	0	.733
Joe Montana^	133	54	0	.711
Peyton Manning	200	92	0	.685
Terry Bradshaw^	121	56	0	.684

^Pro Football Hall of Famer

“The thing about Tom is he’s super clutch. He’s on time. When the game is on the line, he has no fear.”

- Seahawks quarterback **RUSSELL WILSON**

Brady is the all-time postseason leader in career completions (920), touchdown passes (71), passing yards (10,226) and wins by a starting quarterback (27). In Super Bowl LII, Brady set the single-game record for passing yards (505), breaking the mark he set the previous season in Super Bowl LI (466).

MOST PLAYOFF WINS BY STARTING QUARTERBACK

PLAYER	TEAM(S)	PLAYOFF WINS
Tom Brady	New England	27
Joe Montana^	San Francisco, Kansas City	16
Terry Bradshaw^	Pittsburgh	14
John Elway^	Denver	14
Peyton Manning	Indianapolis, Denver	14

^Pro Football Hall of Famer





THE PLAYERS

QUARTERBACKS



In 2017, Brady continued to leave his mark in the record books, becoming one of four quarterbacks in NFL history with at least 475 touchdown passes (488), joining **PEYTON MANNING** (539), Pro Football Hall of Famer **BRETT FAVRE** (508) and **DREW BREES** (488). Additionally, he joined Manning, Favre and Brees as the only quarterbacks with at least 65,000 career passing yards.

PLAYER	CAREER TD PASSES
Peyton Manning	539
Brett Favre^	508
Tom Brady	488
Drew Brees	488
Dan Marino^	420

^Pro Football Hall of Famer

PLAYER	CAREER PASS YARDS
Peyton Manning	71,940
Brett Favre^	71,838
Drew Brees	70,445
Tom Brady	66,159
Dan Marino^	61,361

^Pro Football Hall of Famer

"Any time he has weapons on the offensive side and multiple formations he's going to show you, obviously he's as good as they come in this league and one of the all-time greats, if not the greatest."

- Texans cornerback **JOHNATHAN JOSEPH**

Last season, Brady became the oldest player (40 years, 184 days) to be named Associated Press Most Valuable Player and the fourth player in league history to earn MVP honors at least three times.

MOST ASSOCIATED PRESS MVP AWARDS IN NFL HISTORY

PLAYER	TEAM(S)	CAREER MVPs
Peyton Manning	Indianapolis, Denver	5
Tom Brady	New England	3
Jim Brown^	Cleveland	3
Brett Favre^	Green Bay	3

^Pro Football Hall of Famer

After becoming the oldest player in NFL history to lead the league in passing yards (4,577) last season, Brady -- who turns 41 in August -- aims to break Favre's record (5,874) for the most passing yards after the age 40.

Brett FAVRE



5,874 YARDS
36 TOUCHDOWNS

Warren MOON



5,538 YARDS
37 TOUCHDOWNS

Vinny TESTAVERDE



5,290 YARDS
24 TOUCHDOWNS

Tom BRADY



4,577 YARDS
32 TOUCHDOWNS

EXTRA POINTS



THE PLAYERS

QUARTERBACKS

DREW BREES

An 11-time Pro Bowl selection and two-time Associated Press Offensive Player of the Year, New Orleans quarterback **DREW BREES** ranked second in the NFC with 4,334 passing yards in 2017, extending his NFL-record streak to 12 consecutive seasons with at least 4,000 passing yards.

MOST CONSECUTIVE SEASONS WITH 4,000+ PASSING YARDS

PLAYER	TEAM(S)	SEASONS
Drew Brees	New Orleans	12*
Matt Ryan	Atlanta	7*
Matthew Stafford	Detroit	7*

*Active streak

In 2017, Brees completed 386 of 536 pass attempts and his 72.0 completion percentage is the highest in a single season in NFL history. Brees now holds three of the four highest single-season completion percentages in NFL history.

HIGHEST SINGLE-SEASON COMPLETION PERCENTAGE

PLAYER	TEAM	YEAR	COMPLETION PCT.
Drew Brees	New Orleans	2017	72.0
Sam Bradford	Minnesota	2016	71.6
Drew Brees	New Orleans	2011	71.2
Drew Brees	New Orleans	2009	70.6
Ken Anderson	Cincinnati	1982	70.6

“He’s such a student of the game. He knows where he’s going with the ball which makes it incredibly difficult for defensive backs to make plays and pass rushers to get after him.”

- Packers linebacker **CLAY MATTHEWS**

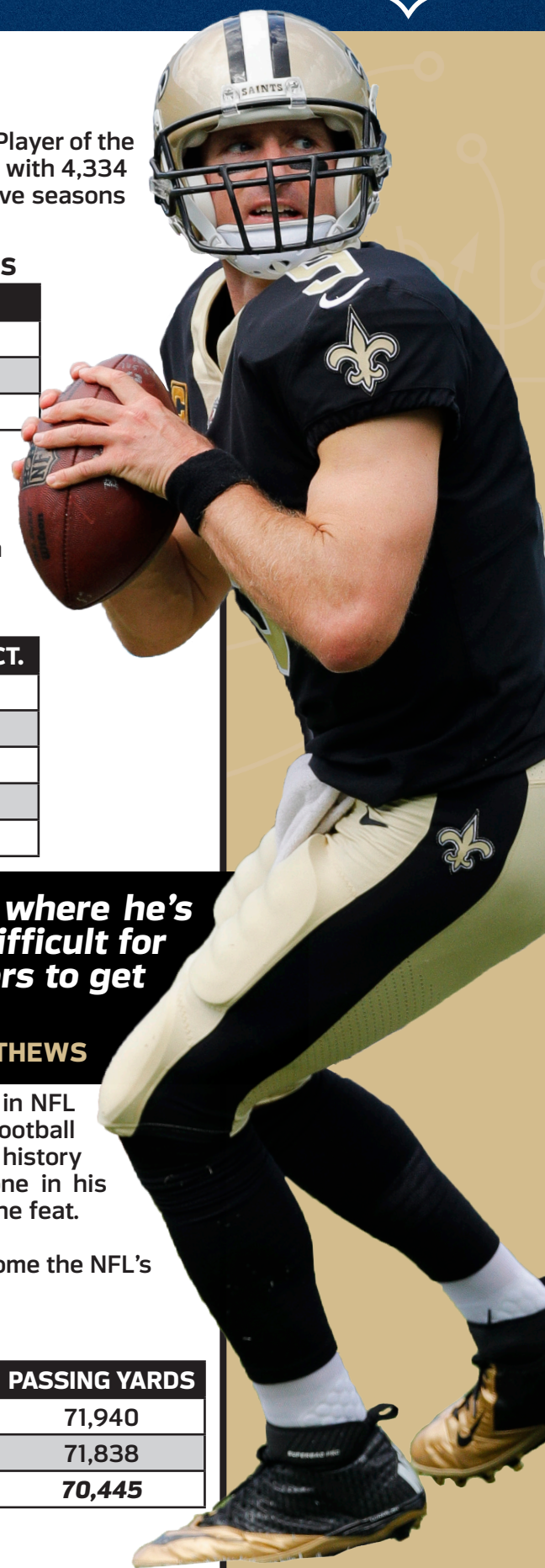
Entering 2018, Brees has 70,445 career passing yards, the third-most in NFL history. Last season, Brees joined **PEYTON MANNING** (71,940) and Pro Football Hall of Famer **BRETT FAVRE** (71,838) as the only quarterbacks in NFL history with 70,000 passing yards. Brees reached the 70,000-yard milestone in his 248th career game and is the fastest in league history to accomplish the feat.

With 1,496 passing yards in 2018, Brees will surpass Manning and become the NFL’s all-time passing yards leader.

MOST CAREER PASSING YARDS IN NFL HISTORY

PLAYER	TEAM(S)	YEARS	PASSING YARDS
Peyton Manning	Indianapolis, Denver	1998-2015	71,940
Brett Favre^	Atlanta, Green Bay, NY Jets, Minnesota	1991-2010	71,838
Drew Brees	San Diego, New Orleans	2001-17	70,445

^Pro Football Hall of Famer





THE PLAYERS

QUARTERBACKS



Brees has 517 career touchdown passes (including the postseason) and joined Manning (579), **TOM BRADY** (559) and Favre (552) as the only players in NFL history to reach 500 career touchdown passes (including the postseason).

MOST CAREER TOUCHDOWN PASSES (INCL. POSTSEASON)

PLAYER	TEAM(S)	TD PASSES
Peyton Manning	Indianapolis, Denver	579
Tom Brady	New England	559
Brett Favre^	Atlanta, Green Bay, NY Jets, Minnesota	552
Drew Brees	San Diego, New Orleans	517

^Pro Football Hall of Famer

“Drew, I don’t think he’s a guy you can stop. I just think he’s a guy that you hope that you’re able to manage what he does. You watch what he does when he’s practicing. It’s by no accident that he’s had the success he’s had to this point.”

- Bills head coach **SEAN MC DERMOTT**

Brees has nine seasons with at least 30 touchdown passes, tied with Favre and Manning for the most all-time. With 30 touchdown passes in 2018, he would become the first player in league history to record 10 seasons with at least 30 touchdown passes.

MOST SEASONS WITH 30+ PASSING TDS

PLAYER	TEAM(S)	SEASONS
Drew Brees	New Orleans	9
Brett Favre^	Green Bay, Minnesota	9
Peyton Manning	Indianapolis, Denver	9

^Pro Football Hall of Famer

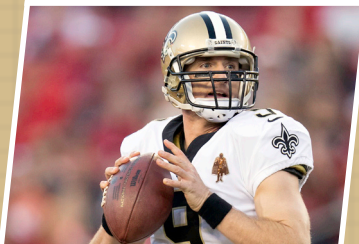
Brees has 6,222 career completions and joined Pro Football Hall of Famer **BRETT FAVRE** (6,300) and **PEYTON MANNING** (6,125) as the only quarterbacks in NFL history with at least 6,000 completions. With 79 completions in 2018, Brees will surpass Favre to become the NFL’s all-time leader in completions.

Brett FAVRE



6,300 COMPLETIONS

Drew Brees



6,222 COMPLETIONS

Peyton MANNING



6,125 COMPLETIONS

EXTRA POINTS



THE PLAYERS

QUARTERBACKS



AARON RODGERS

In 2017, Green Bay quarterback **AARON RODGERS** became the 11th quarterback in NFL history to throw 300 career touchdown passes. His 300th touchdown pass came on his 4,742nd career attempt, the fewest attempts at the time of a player's 300th touchdown pass in NFL history.

FEWEST PASS ATTEMPTS AT TIME OF 300TH CAREER TD PASS

PLAYER	ATTEMPTS
Aaron Rodgers	4,742
Peyton Manning	5,306
Tom Brady	5,321
Dan Marino [^]	5,460

[^]Pro Football Hall of Famer

"He's got all the physical tools, the ability to scramble, the ability to throw the ball but I think where he separates himself from other guys in this league is his ability to control the game with his mind."

- Panthers linebacker **LUKE KUECHLY**

Last season, Rodgers appeared in seven games and completed 154 of 238 attempts (64.7 percent) for 1,675 yards with 16 touchdowns and six interceptions for a 97.2 passer rating. In his career, Rodgers has a 103.8 passer rating and is the only player in NFL history to have a career passer rating above 100 (minimum 1,500 attempts).

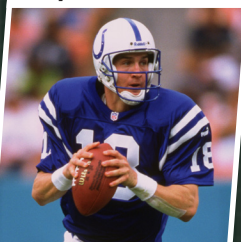
HIGHEST CAREER PASSER RATING (MIN. 1,500 ATT)

PLAYER	TEAM(S)	SEASONS	PASSER RATING
Aaron Rodgers	Green Bay	2005-2017	103.8
Russell Wilson	Seattle	2012-2017	98.8
Tom Brady	New England	2000-2017	97.6
Tony Romo	Dallas	2004-2016	97.1
Steve Young [^]	Tampa Bay, San Francisco	1985-1999	96.8

[^]Pro Football Hall of Famer

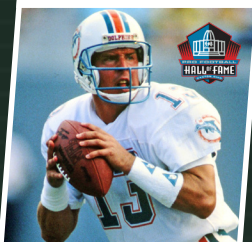
Rodgers, who has 38,502 passing yards and 313 touchdown passes in 149 career games, can become the first player in NFL history to reach 40,000 passing yards and 300 touchdown passes in fewer than 155 career games.

Peyton **MANNING**



157 GAMES

Dan **MARINO**



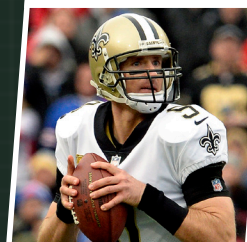
157 GAMES

Tom **BRADY**



162 GAMES

Drew **BREES**



162 GAMES

EXTRA POINTS



THE PLAYERS

QUARTERBACKS

MATT RYAN

Atlanta Pro Bowl quarterback **MATT RYAN** ranked third in the NFC with 4,095 passing yards in 2017 – his seventh consecutive season with at least 4,000 passing yards, tied for the second-longest streak in NFL history. Ryan and Detroit quarterback **MATTHEW STAFFORD** (seven) can both extend their streaks in 2018 and join **DREW BREES** (12) as the only players to accomplish the feat in at least eight consecutive seasons.

MOST CONSECUTIVE 4,000-YARD PASSING SEASONS

PLAYER	TEAM	YEARS	CONSEC. SEASONS
Drew Brees	New Orleans	2006-17	12*
Matt Ryan	Atlanta	2011-17	7*
Matthew Stafford	Detroit	2011-17	7*
Peyton Manning	Indianapolis	1999-2004	6

*Active streak

“His confidence is the biggest thing for me. His confidence in his teammates, staying in the pocket and taking that hit while throwing a dime. That’s tough to do. Not a lot of people can do that.”

- Falcons safety **KEANU NEAL**

Entering his 11th season, Ryan, who garnered Most Valuable Player and Offensive Player of the Year honors in 2016, has 41,796 career passing yards and surpassed **PEYTON MANNING** (41,626) for the most passing yards by a player in his first 10 seasons in NFL history. Ryan can continue his historic pace in 2018, as he needs 3,833 passing yards to pass Manning (45,628) for the most by a player in his first 11 seasons.

MOST PASSING YARDS IN FIRST 11 SEASONS

PLAYER	TEAM(S)	YEARS	PASSING YARDS
Peyton Manning	Indianapolis	1998-2008	45,628
Matt Ryan	Atlanta	2008-2017	41,796*
Drew Brees	San Diego, New Orleans	2001-2011	40,742
Dan Marino^	Miami	1983-1993	40,720

*Entering 11th season

^Pro Football Hall of Famer

Ryan reached 40,000 career passing yards in the fewest games in NFL history, accomplishing the feat in his 151st career game and surpassing the previous record held by **DREW BREES** (152).

FEWEST GAMES TO 40,000 CAREER PASSING YARDS

PLAYER	TEAM(S)	GAMES TO 40,000 CAREER PASSING YARDS
Matt Ryan	Atlanta	151
Drew Brees	San Diego, New Orleans	152
Dan Marino^	Miami	153
Peyton Manning	Indianapolis	154

^Pro Football Hall of Famer



THE PLAYERS

QUARTERBACKS

RUSSELL WILSON

Seattle quarterback **RUSSELL WILSON** vaulted himself into the MVP conversation in 2017, passing for 3,983 yards, 34 touchdowns and 11 interceptions for a 95.4 passer rating, while adding 586 rushing yards and three rushing touchdowns.

Wilson guided the Seahawks to a 9-7 record last season and became the first quarterback in NFL history with a winning record in each of his first six career seasons. Wilson has a career 65-30-1 (.682) regular-season record since being drafted by the Seahawks in the third round (75th overall) of the 2012 NFL Draft.

"I really look at him as an MVP-type candidate in the league. He does so many things well, not just from a standpoint of the command of the offense and directing the offense but the ability to escape, the ability to extend, the ability to make all the throws."

- Jaguars head coach **DOUG MARRONE**

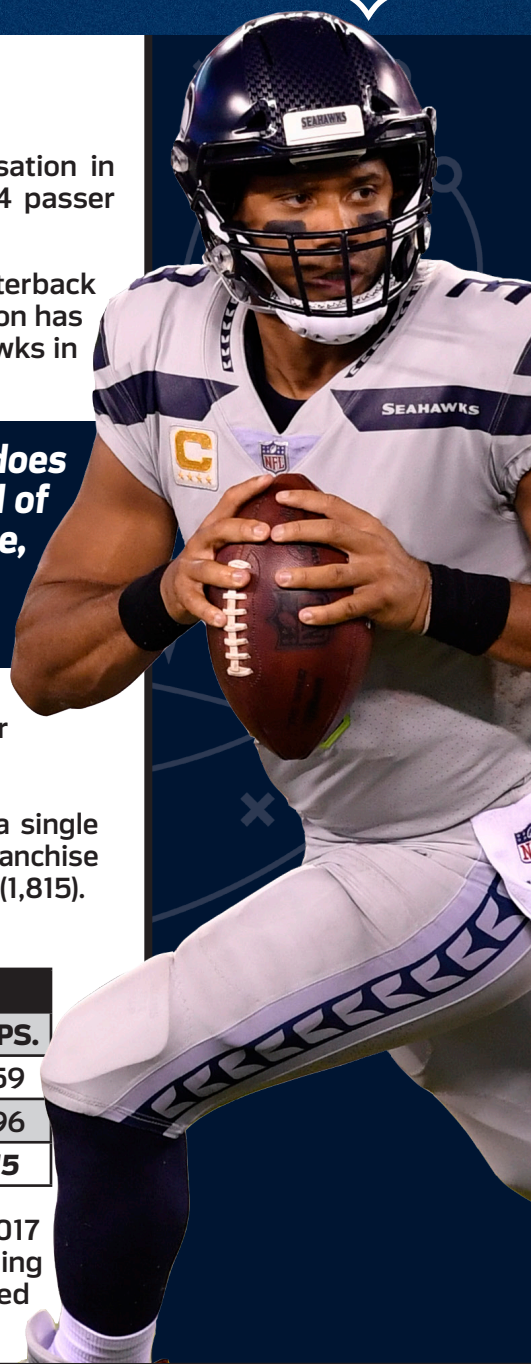
Wilson, who led the NFL with 34 touchdown passes last year, had 19 fourth-quarter touchdown passes in 2017 and surpassed **ELI MANNING** (15 in 2011) for the most in a single season in NFL history.

His 34 touchdown passes tied his own franchise record (2015) for the most in a single season. Wilson has also climbed Seattle's franchise leaderboard, ranking third in franchise history in career passing yards (22,176), touchdown passes (161) and completions (1,815).

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS FRANCHISE LEADERS

PASSING YARDS		TD PASSES		COMPLETIONS	
PLAYER	YARDS	PLAYER	TDS	PLAYER	COMPS.
Matt Hasselback	29,434	Dave Kreig	195	Matt Hasselback	2,559
Dave Kreig	26,132	Matt Hasselback	174	Dave Kreig	2,096
Russell Wilson	22,176	Russell Wilson	161	Russell Wilson	1,815

Wilson led Seattle with 586 rush yards, the second-most by a quarterback in 2017 (**CAM NEWTON**, 754). He is the first player in NFL history with at least 30 passing touchdowns and 500 rushing yards in multiple seasons, having also accomplished the feat in 2015.



EXTRA POINTS

Wilson passed for 3,983 yards in 2017 and became the fourth player in NFL history with at least 3,000 passing yards in each of his first six NFL seasons, joining **PEYTON MANNING**, **ANDY DALTON**, and **CAM NEWTON**.

Peyton **MANNING**



13 SEASONS
(1998-2010)

Andy **DALTON**



7* SEASONS
(2011-17)

Cam **NEWTON**



7* SEASONS
(2011-17)

Russell **WILSON**



6* SEASONS
(2012-17)

*Active streak



THE PLAYERS

QUARTERBACKS



CARSON WENTZ

Philadelphia Pro Bowl quarterback **CARSON WENTZ** ranked second in the NFL with 33 touchdown passes last year, despite missing the team's final three games due to injury. His 33 touchdown passes were the most in the NFL at the time of his injury and are the most in a single season in Eagles' history.

PHILADELPHIA SINGLE SEASON PASS TD LEADERS

PLAYER	SEASON	PASSING TDS
Carson Wentz	2017	33
Sonny Jurgensen^	1961	32
Donovan McNabb	2004	31
Randall Cunningham	1990	30
Norm Snead	1967	29

^Pro Football Hall of Famer

“He’s got leadership, he’s got confidence, he’s got awareness. He just has all the elements to be a great player.”

- Seahawks head coach **PETE CARROLL**

Despite missing the final three games, Wentz led the NFL with four games with at least four touchdown passes and tied Pro Football Hall of Famer **FRAN TARKENTON** (four) for the second-most games with at least four touchdown passes in a player's first two seasons in NFL history.

PLAYERS WITH THE MOST GAMES OF 4+ TD PASSES IN FIRST 2 SEASONS

PLAYER	TEAM	SEASONS	GAMES WITH 4+ TD PASSES
Dan Marino^	Miami	1983-84	6
Fran Tarkenton^	Minnesota	1961-62	4
Carson Wentz	Philadelphia	2016-17	4

^Pro Football Hall of Famer

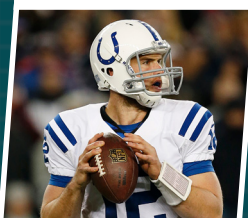
With 31 touchdown passes in 2018, Wentz can become the sixth quarterback in NFL history to throw at least 80 touchdown passes in his first three seasons.

Dan MARINO



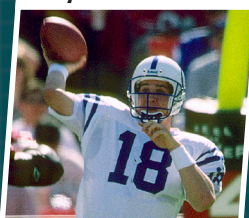
98 TD PASSES

Andrew LUCK



86 TD PASSES

Peyton MANNING



85 TD PASSES

Derek CARR



81 TD PASSES

Andy DALTON



80 TD PASSES

EXTRA POINTS



THE PLAYERS

QUARTERBACKS

CAM NEWTON

Carolina quarterback **CAM NEWTON** passed for 3,302 yards and led all NFL quarterbacks with 754 rushing yards in 2017, while leading the Panthers to an 11-5 record and a Wild Card berth. It marked the sixth season of Newton's career in which he has passed for 3,000 yards and rushed for 500 yards in the same season, the most by a quarterback in NFL history.

THE QBS WITH THE MOST SEASONS WITH 3,000 PASS YARDS AND 500 RUSH YARDS

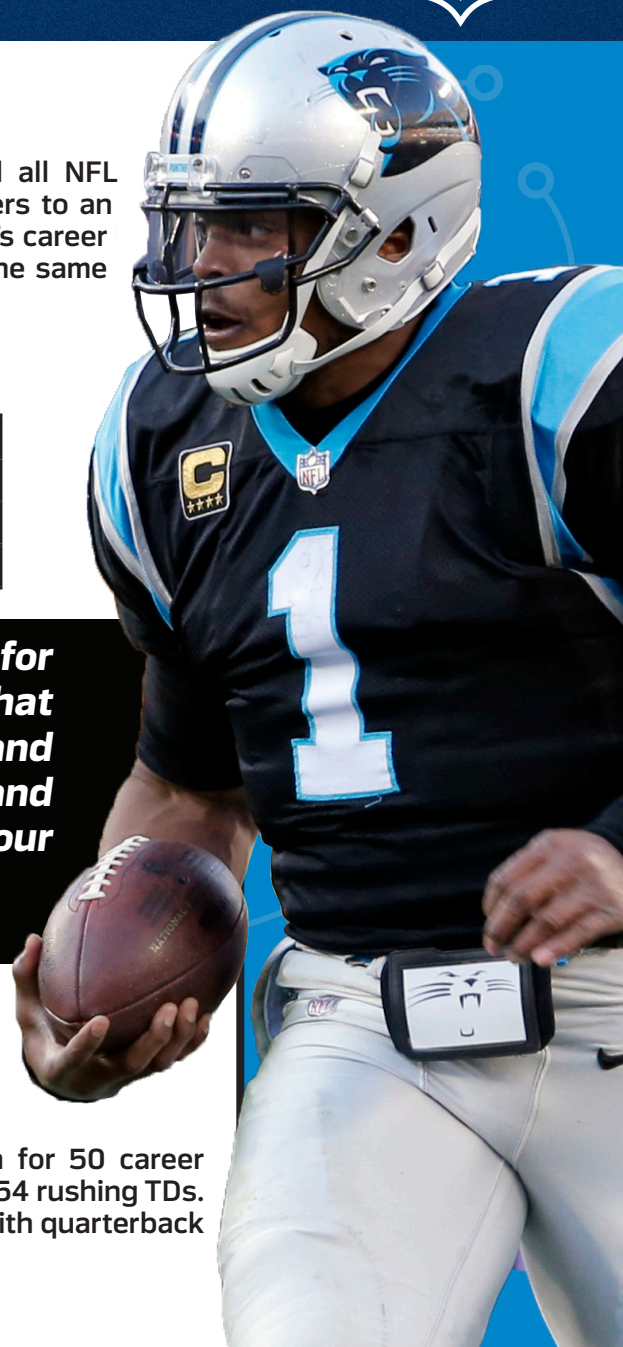
PLAYER	TEAM	SEASONS
Cam Newton	Carolina	6
Russell Wilson	Seattle	4
Randall Cunningham	Philadelphia	3

"For our quarterback to sacrifice his body like that, for the greater need of the team, I'd do anything for that quarterback. It says a lot, the characteristics of him and the competitor in him. He can go through somebody, and he can go over somebody. That's a leader. That's our quarterback."

- Former Panthers and current Seahawks tight end **ED DICKSON**

The first-overall pick by Carolina in the 2011 NFL Draft, Newton joined Cincinnati quarterback **ANDY DALTON** and **PEYTON MANNING** as the only quarterbacks in NFL history to pass for at least 3,000 yards in each of their first seven seasons.

In 2017, Newton became the first quarterback in NFL history to rush for 50 career touchdowns and is the league's all-time leader among quarterbacks with 54 rushing TDs. He has rushed for at least 700 yards three times during his career, tied with quarterback **MICHAEL VICK** (three) for the most such seasons by a quarterback.



Newton has 4,320 career rushing yards and is the fourth quarterback in NFL history to rush for at least 4,000 yards. With 680 rushing yards in 2018, Newton can join **MICHAEL VICK** (6,109) as the only quarterbacks in NFL history to rush for at least 5,000 yards.

Michael **VICK**



6,109 RUSH YDS

Randall **CUNNINGHAM**



4,928 RUSH YDS

Cam **NEWTON**



4,320 RUSH YDS

Steve **YOUNG**



4,239 RUSH YDS



THE PLAYERS

QUARTERBACKS

15 YEARS OF MANNING, RIVERS & ROETHLISBERGER

2018 marks the 15th season for players selected in the 2004 NFL Draft, which featured quarterbacks **ELI MANNING** (first overall), **PHILIP RIVERS** (fourth) and **BEN ROETHLISBERGER** (11th) all taken in the first round. Manning, who was selected first overall by the San Diego Chargers, and Rivers, who was the fourth overall selection of the New York Giants, were swapped on Draft night and both players have served as the faces of their respective franchises from that point on, while Roethlisberger has anchored two Super Bowl-winning teams in Pittsburgh.

Over the course of their careers, Manning, Rivers and Roethlisberger have all become their respective franchise leaders in passing yards and touchdown passes, and the trio represents three of only nine quarterbacks in NFL history to throw for at least 50,000 yards and 300 touchdowns in their careers.

PLAYERS WITH 50,000+ CAREER PASSING YARDS AND 300+ CAREER TOUCHDOWN PASSES

PLAYER	TEAM	YEARS	PASSING YARDS	TD PASSES
Peyton Manning	Indianapolis, Denver	1998-2015	71,940	539
Brett Favre [^]	Green Bay, New York Jets, Minnesota	1991-2010	71,838	508
Drew Brees	San Diego, New Orleans	2001-2017	70,445	488
Tom Brady	New England	2000-2017	66,159	488
Dan Marino [^]	Miami	1983-1999	61,361	420
Eli Manning	New York Giants	2004-2017	51,682	339
John Elway [^]	Denver	1983-1998	51,475	300
Ben Roethlisberger	Pittsburgh	2004-2017	51,065	329
Philip Rivers	San Diego/Los Angeles Chargers	2004-2017	50,348	342

[^]Pro Football Hall of Famer

Giants QB ELI MANNING

Chargers QB PHILIP RIVERS

Steelers QB BEN ROETHLISBERGER





THE PLAYERS

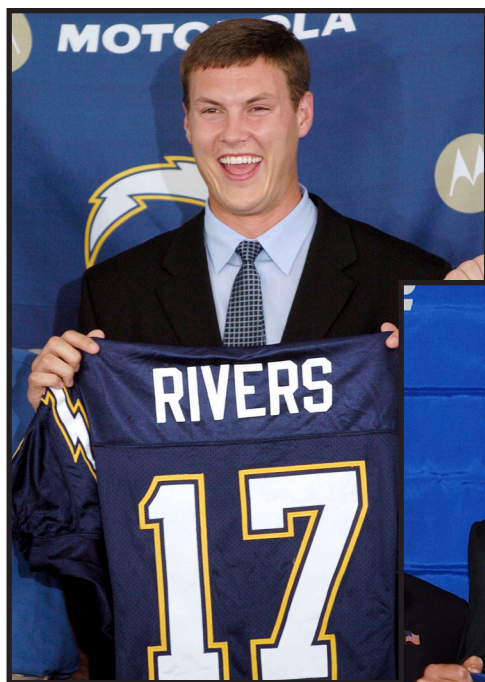
QUARTERBACKS

The trio of quarterbacks have an opportunity to climb higher on the NFL's all-time passing leaderboards in 2018. Manning, Rivers and Roethlisberger can join Pro Football Hall of Famers **BRETT FAVRE** and **DAN MARINO**, **PEYTON MANNING**, **DREW BRES** and **TOM BRADY** as the only players in NFL history to pass for at least 55,000 yards and 350 touchdowns.

PLAYERS WITH 55,000+ CAREER PASSING YARDS AND 350+ CAREER TOUCHDOWN PASSES

PLAYER	TEAM	YEARS	PASSING YARDS	TD PASSES
Peyton Manning	Indianapolis, Denver	1998-2015	71,940	539
Brett Favre [^]	Green Bay, New York Jets, Minnesota	1991-2010	71,838	508
Drew Brees	San Diego, New Orleans	2001-2017	70,445	488
Tom Brady	New England	2000-2017	66,159	488
Dan Marino [^]	Miami	1983-1999	61,361	420
<i>Eli Manning</i>	<i>New York Giants</i>	<i>2004-2017</i>	<i>51,682</i>	<i>339</i>
<i>Ben Roethlisberger</i>	<i>Pittsburgh</i>	<i>2004-2017</i>	<i>51,065</i>	<i>329</i>
<i>Philip Rivers</i>	<i>San Diego/Los Angeles Chargers</i>	<i>2004-2017</i>	<i>50,348</i>	<i>342</i>

[^]Pro Football Hall of Famer





THE PLAYERS

QUARTERBACKS

QUARTERBACK SUCCESS

NFL QBs put together a historically proficient and prolific year in 2017.

The league-wide completion percentage (62.1) and passer rating (86.9) both rank as the fourth-highest totals in league history.

New Orleans quarterback **DREW BREES** ranked first in the NFL with 386 completions in 536 attempts in 2017, leading to an NFL-record 72.0 completion percentage, surpassing **SAM BRADFORD**'s record of 71.6 percent set in 2016.

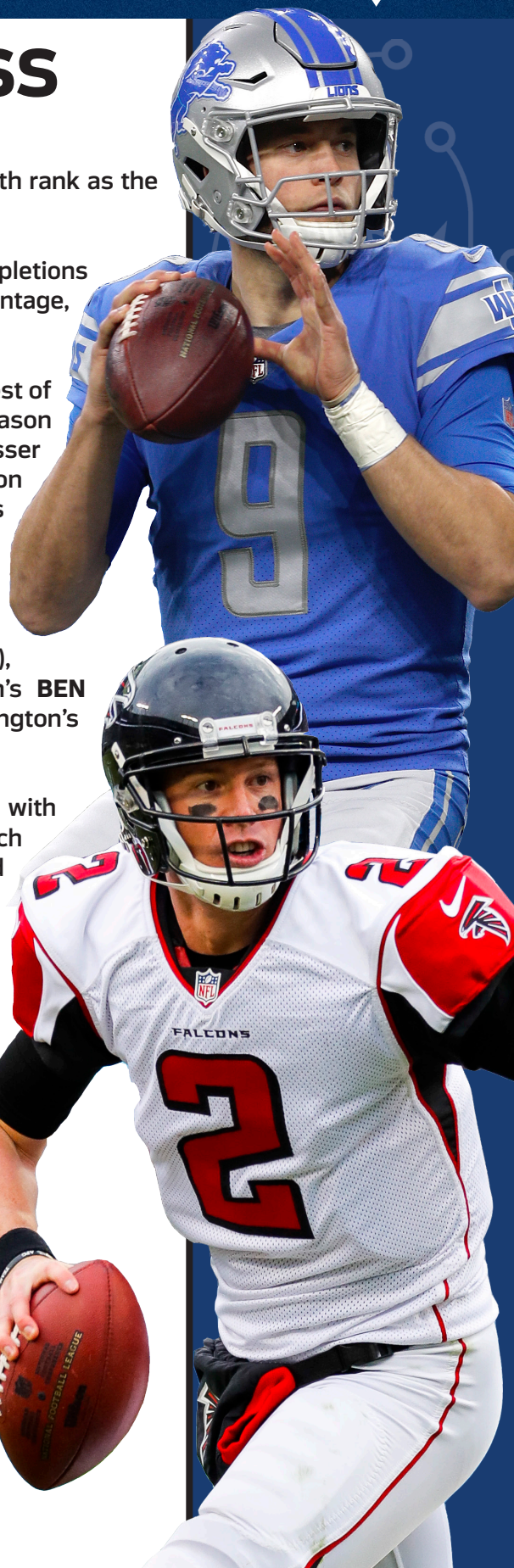
The league-wide interception percentage of 2.5 percent was the third-lowest of any season in NFL history. Quarterback **ALEX SMITH** finished the 2017 season with 4,042 passing yards, five interceptions and a league-best 104.7 passer rating for the Kansas City Chiefs. Smith, who was traded to Washington during the 2018 offseason, is the first quarterback in NFL history to pass for at least 3,000 yards and throw fewer than 10 interceptions in five consecutive seasons.

Eight quarterbacks passed for at least 4,000 yards in 2017: New England's **TOM BRADY** (4,577), Los Angeles Chargers' **PHILIP RIVERS** (4,515), Detroit's **MATTHEW STAFFORD** (4,446, top), Brees (4,334), Pittsburgh's **BEN ROETHLISBERGER** (4,251), Atlanta's **MATT RYAN** (4,095, bottom), Washington's **KIRK COUSINS** (4,093) and Smith (4,042).

Brees (4,334) extended his NFL-record streak to 12 consecutive seasons with at least 4,000 passing yards, while Stafford (4,446) and Ryan (4,095) each recorded their seventh consecutive season with 4,000+ passing yards, tied for second-longest streak in league annals.

Brady, who turned 40 years old during the 2017 season, led the NFL with 4,577 passing yards and is the oldest player in NFL history to lead the league in passing yards. The previous record was held by Pro Football Hall of Famer **FRAN TARKENTON** (38 years old), who led the NFL with 3,468 passing yards in 1978. Brady's 4,577 passing yards and 32 touchdown passes in 2017 are both the most by a quarterback in a single season at the age of 40 or older.

"It's a quarterback league. I mean, who are we kidding?" said Bills general manager **BRANDON BEANE**. "If you look at the playoff teams, the consistent guys that at least qualify for the playoffs or are close every year, most of them have QBs, most of them have a legit quarterback. If you're a GM, you have to find a franchise quarterback. It obviously helps keep you on a consistent playing field if you have one."





THE PLAYERS

QUARTERBACKS

Five quarterbacks finished the season with a passer rating of at least 100: Smith (104.7), Brees (103.9), Brady (102.8), Philadelphia's **CARSON WENTZ** (101.9) and Los Angeles Rams' **JARED GOFF** (100.5).

Wentz, who set a single-season franchise record with 33 touchdown passes, became the third quarterback in NFL history to have at least 25 touchdown passes (28) and five or fewer interceptions (five) through his team's first 11 games, joining Tom Brady (2007, 2015, 2017) and **AARON RODGERS** (2011, 2014).

Three quarterbacks threw for at least 30 touchdowns in 2017: Seattle's **RUSSELL WILSON** (34), Wentz (33) and Brady (32).

Wilson led the NFL with 34 touchdown passes and threw 19 fourth-quarter touchdowns, surpassing **ELI MANNING** (15 in 2011) for the most in a single season in NFL history.

4,000+ PASSING YARDS

PLAYER	YARDS
Tom Brady	4,577
Philip Rivers	4,515
Matthew Stafford	4,446
Drew Brees	4,334
Ben Roethlisberger	4,251
Matt Ryan	4,095
Kirk Cousins	4,093
Alex Smith	4,042

100+ PASSER RATING

PLAYER	RATING
Alex Smith	104.7
Drew Brees	103.9
Tom Brady	102.8
Carson Wentz	101.9
Jared Goff	100.5

30+ PASSING TDS

PLAYER	TDS
Russell Wilson	34
Carson Wentz	33
Tom Brady	32

Rams QB JARED GOFF





THE PLAYERS

QUARTERBACKS

CLUTCH PERFORMERS

The 2017 season featured many exciting games that came down to the wire. Some of the most iconic moments in NFL history have taken place with the game on the line.

Seattle quarterback **RUSSELL WILSON** (top) led the NFL with a 134.1 passer rating in the fourth quarter in 2017 and had 19 fourth-quarter touchdown passes, surpassing **ELI MANNING** (15 in 2011) for the most in a single season in NFL history.

THE QUARTERBACKS WITH THE HIGHEST FOURTH-QUARTER RATING IN 2017

PLAYER	TEAM	4TH QUARTER RATING
Russell Wilson	Seattle	134.1
Aaron Rodgers	Green Bay	119.5
Drew Brees	New Orleans	117.6
Ryan Fitzpatrick	Tampa Bay	103.0
Matt Ryan	Atlanta	102.4

"He's a great finishing quarterback; his numbers in the fourth quarter are tremendous. His efficiency and his touchdowns, and if you guys check out those numbers, those are really special. I think he's such a tremendously instinctive football player."

- Seahawks head coach **PETE CARROLL** on **RUSSELL WILSON**

Wilson's 134.1 fourth-quarter rating is the highest in a single season since 1991, surpassing the previous high of 130.4 by Pro Football Hall of Famer **STEVE YOUNG** for the 1994 San Francisco 49ers.

THE HIGHEST SINGLE-SEASON FOURTH-QUARTER PASSER RATINGS (SINCE 1991)

PLAYER	TEAM(S)	SEASON	4TH QUARTER RATING
Russell Wilson	Seattle	2017	134.1
Steve Young^	San Francisco	1994	130.4
Matt Flynn	Oakland, Green Bay	2013	122.2

^Pro Football Hall of Famer

Houston quarterback **DESHAUN WATSON** (bottom) quickly earned a reputation as a clutch performer during his rookie season. In Week 5 of the 2017 season, Watson became the first rookie since 1983 (Pro Football Hall of Famer **JOHN ELWAY**) to throw three touchdown passes in a fourth quarter.

Last season, Detroit quarterback **MATTHEW STAFFORD** threw three touchdown passes - including the game-winning score with 10:46 remaining in the fourth quarter - in the Lions' Week 10 victory.

The performance marked Stafford's 30th career game-winning drive in the fourth quarter or overtime. Among players who made their NFL debut since 1970, Stafford has reached 30 such game-winning drives in the fewest number of career games (118).



THE PLAYERS

QUARTERBACKS

YOUNG QBs ON THE RISE

As long-tenured veterans continue to climb the record books, young stars are emerging at quarterback around the NFL. Below is a sampling of statistical highlights from several of the league's top young passers.

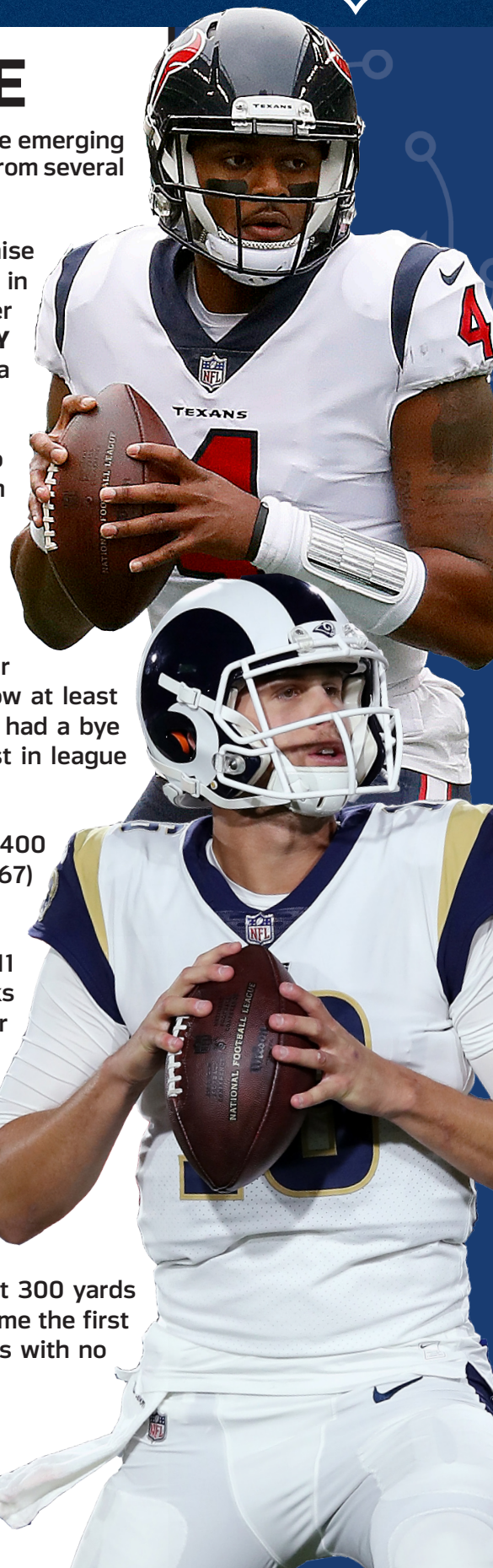
- Philadelphia quarterback **CARSON WENTZ**, who set a single-season franchise record with 33 touchdown passes in 2017, became the third quarterback in NFL history to have at least 25 touchdown passes (28) and five or fewer interceptions (five) through his team's first 11 games, joining **TOM BRADY** (2007, 2015, 2017) and **AARON RODGERS** (2011, 2014). Wentz suffered a season-ending knee injury in Week 14.
- After being acquired by the 49ers on October 30, 2017, San Francisco quarterback **JIMMY GAROPPOLO** won each of his five starts with the team and is one of five quarterbacks since 1970 to win each of his first seven NFL starts.
- Houston rookie quarterback **DESHAUN WATSON** (top) threw 19 touchdown passes in his first seven games last season, the most by a player in his first seven games in NFL history, surpassing Pro Football Hall of Famer **KURT WARNER** (18). Watson became the first rookie quarterback to throw at least three touchdown passes in four consecutive games (Weeks 4-8, Texans had a bye in Week 7) and his 16 touchdown passes from Weeks 4-8 were the most in league history by a rookie in any four-game span.

In Week 8, Watson became the first player in league annals with at least 400 passing yards (402), four touchdown passes (four) and 50 rushing yards (67) in a single game.

- Dallas quarterback **DAK PRESCOTT** had 50 touchdowns (39 passing, 11 rushing) in his first 25 career games and became one of four quarterbacks since 1970 to account for at least 50 touchdowns in his first 25 career games, joining Pro Football Hall of Famers **DAN MARINO** (62 touchdowns) and **KURT WARNER** (60) and **DAUNTE CULPEPPER** (55).

Prescott has 45 passing touchdowns and 12 rushing touchdowns in his career and joined **CAM NEWTON** as the only players in NFL history to have at least 35 passing touchdowns and 10 rushing touchdowns in their first two seasons.

- Los Angeles Rams quarterback **JARED GOFF** (bottom) passed for at least 300 yards and three touchdowns with no interceptions in Weeks 9 and 10 and became the first player in franchise history to pass for 300+ yards and three touchdowns with no interceptions in consecutive games.





THE PLAYERS

QUARTERBACKS

PRAISE FOR SOME OF THE LEAGUE'S TOP YOUNG QUARTERBACKS

Jimmy Garoppolo San Francisco (right)	"Jimmy is a great guy. He's a leader. He's natural at it. He doesn't show fear at any point of the game. When you see that in the position that he's in, it gives you extreme confidence. When you look at him in the third quarter or in the second quarter and we're down by one or up by one, you feel that sense of hope. You feel that sense of 'I'm going to get the job done.'" – 49ers wide receiver Marquise Goodwin
Jared Goff Los Angeles Rams	"I couldn't be more impressed with just the way that Jared consistently carries himself throughout the week and the way that he handles the games. He's just so even-keeled, and I think that demeanor rubs off on his teammates." – Rams head coach Sean McVay
Dak Prescott Dallas (middle)	"Dak is the guy that's surprised me when I first got here. Just being Year 3, you don't see that leadership from those guys. Yeah, he's a quarterback. He had to grow up early but he's a very vocal leader. And he's one that leads by example as well. In the weight room, on the field, during conditioning, he's wanting to be first...Dak's got it all under control, being the head man in charge." – Cowboys wide receiver Allen Hurns
Mitchell Trubisky Chicago (left)	"You can see him taking more of an authoritative approach. The way he commands the huddle, the way he talks to teammates, you can see him taking ownership. And it seems very comfortable and natural. His skill set fits this offense—his athleticism, his quick release. So we're really excited." – Bears general manager Ryan Pace
Deshaun Watson Houston	"I think leadership comes in different ways, and with him it's sometimes - it's just being at ease with people and the way he leads. You might not even realize that, if he's talking to you, that he is leading you and giving you direction because of the way he does it. He's not directing people. He's telling them, 'Hey, this is what I'm seeing and if you can do this, this is what I think is going to make this work.' You know what I mean? It's his demeanor, it's the way he comes across. You don't feel like he's telling you what to do. You feel like he's talking football with you and helping you." – Houston quarterbacks coach Sean Ryan
Carson Wentz Philadelphia	"I think you learn a lot about people when they have nothing to gain in a situation. So with Carson being out and the team still moving on and having success without him, for him to still be engaged, still be involved, still be contributing and wanting to contribute, I think says a lot about his character...I know a lot of guys gained an awful amount of respect for him for staying engaged. Because quite frankly, being in the league as long as I have, a lot of the times even the best meaning people, when they can't be involved in it, sometimes check out." – Eagles safety Malcolm Jenkins





THE PLAYERS

QUARTERBACKS

ROOKIE QBS LOOK TO MAKE THEIR MARK

Five quarterbacks - Oklahoma's **BAKER MAYFIELD** (No. 1 overall, Cleveland), USC's **SAM DARNOLD** (No. 3, New York Jets), Wyoming's **JOSH ALLEN** (No. 7, Buffalo), UCLA's **JOSH ROSEN** (No. 10, Arizona) and Louisville's **LAMAR JACKSON** (No. 32, Baltimore) - were selected in the first round of the 2018 NFL Draft.

It marked the third time that at least five quarterbacks have been selected in the Draft's opening round since the inception of the common draft in 1967. The 1983 NFL Draft holds the record with six quarterbacks selected in the first round, including Pro Football Hall of Famers **JOHN ELWAY**, **JIM KELLY** and **DAN MARINO**.

"You've got to have a franchise quarterback," says Bills general manager **BRANDON BEANE**. "That's one of the main jobs of a GM is to find a franchise quarterback. It's a quarterback league. I'll say it every single time: You have to have one."

The four quarterbacks selected in the top ten - Mayfield, Darnold, Allen and Rosen - were the most in a single draft since the inception of the common draft era in 1967.

THE NFL DRAFTS WITH THE MOST QUARTERBACKS SELECTED IN THE FIRST ROUND (SINCE 1967)

DRAFT YEAR	NO. QUARTERBACKS SELECTED (NAMES)
1983	6 (John Elway [^] , Todd Blackledge, Jim Kelly [^] , Tony Eason, Ken O'Brien, Dan Marino [^])
2018	5 (Baker Mayfield, Sam Darnold, Josh Allen, Josh Rosen, Lamar Jackson)
1999	5 (Tim Couch, Donovan McNabb, Akili Smith, Daunte Culpepper, Cade McNown)

[^]Pro Football Hall of Famer

Last season, rookie quarterback **DE SHONE KIZER**, a second-round pick (No. 52 overall) in the 2017 NFL Draft, started for the Browns on Kickoff Weekend. At least one rookie quarterback has started in Week 1 in 10 consecutive seasons, the longest streak in the NFL since at least 1950.





THE PLAYERS

QUARTERBACKS

QUARTERBACKS OF THE FUTURE

The success of a team often hinges on the production at the quarterback position.

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," said Brandt. "The increase of personal quarterback coaches can also be attributed to quarterbacks being NFL-ready at a younger age."

BRANDT'S CHOICES FOR TOP QBS IN COLLEGE TODAY (LISTED ALPHABETICALLY)

QUARTERBACK	HT/WT	BRANDT'S ANALYSIS
Ryan Finley North Carolina State	6-3/215	"He's a senior who transferred from Boise State. He had 17 touchdown passes last year and in the first seven games of the season, he didn't have an interception"
Will Grier West Virginia	6-1/215	"Will has a chance to become this year's Baker Mayfield. He stayed for his fifth year and this guy is a scrambler, a runner and a really good passer."
Justin Herbert Oregon	6-5/230	"In Week 7 of 2016, his freshman year, he put 49 points on the board against California. Last year he was hurt, but he came back the last two games of the season and Oregon scored 117 points. He's got everything you want - size, athletic ability, strong arm. You can't ask for anything more."
Drew Locke Missouri	6-3/225	"He had 44 touchdown passes in 2017. He's a guy that has the size you want for an NFL quarterback. Strong arm, athletic ability and a good runner."
Shea Patterson Michigan	6-1/205	"Shea really impressed me at the Manning Passing Academy. In a chaotic situation at Ole Miss last season, he completed 64 percent of his passes and he had 17 touchdowns. He's a really athletic guy that has a chance to be special playing for Coach Harbaugh."
Jarrett Stidham Auburn	6-2/215	"He is a transfer from Baylor. He's a four-year player, but he has two years left. Last year, he was responsible for putting 26 points on the board against Alabama."
Clayton Thorson Northwestern	6-3/220	"He's a senior. He had only 15 touchdown passes last year, but the team had ten wins, including their last seven regular-season games in which they averaged 32 points per game."

West Virginia QB WILL GRIER

Oregon QB JUSTIN HERBERT





THE PLAYERS

QUARTERBACKS

STARTING RECORDS OF ACTIVE NFL QUARTERBACKS

(Minimum 10 regular-season starts)

REGULAR SEASON					POSTSEASON			OVERALL			
QUARTERBACK	W	L	T	PCT.	W	L	PCT.	W	L	T	PCT.
Tom Brady	196	55	0	.781	27	10	.730	223	65	0	.832
Dak Prescott	22	10	0	.688	0	1	.000	22	11	0	.667
Russell Wilson	65	30	1	.682	8	4	.667	73	34	1	.681
Ben Roethlisberger	135	63	0	.682	13	8	.619	148	71	0	.676
Aaron Rodgers	94	48	0	.662	9	7	.563	103	55	0	.652
Drew Stanton	11	6	0	.647	0	0	.000	11	6	0	.647
Carson Wentz	18	11	0	.621	0	0	.000	18	11	0	.621
Andrew Luck	43	27	0	.614	3	3	.500	46	30	0	.605
Teddy Bridgewater	17	11	0	.607	0	1	.000	17	12	0	.586
Matt Ryan	95	63	0	.601	4	6	.400	99	69	0	.589
Joe Flacco	92	62	0	.597	10	5	.667	102	67	0	.604
Andy Dalton	63	44	2	.587	0	4	.000	63	48	2	.566
Alex Smith	88	62	1	.586	2	5	.286	90	67	1	.573
Cam Newton	62	45	1	.579	3	4	.429	65	49	1	.570
Drew Brees	142	106	0	.573	7	6	.538	149	112	0	.571
Nick Foles	22	17	0	.564	3	1	.750	25	18	0	.581
Philip Rivers	106	86	0	.552	4	5	.444	110	91	0	.547
Trevor Siemian	13	11	0	.542	0	0	.000	13	11	0	.542
Case Keenum	20	18	0	.526	1	1	.500	21	19	0	.525
Tyrod Taylor	22	20	0	.524	0	1	.000	22	21	0	.512
Brock Osweiler	13	12	0	.520	1	1	.000	14	13	0	.519
Eli Manning	111	103	0	.519	8	4	.667	119	107	0	.527
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
Jared Goff	11	11	0	.500	0	1	.000	11	12	0	.478
Matt Moore	15	15	0	.500	0	1	.000	15	16	0	.484

Patriots QB TOM BRADY

Cowboys QB DAK PRESCOTT

Seahawks QB RUSSELL WILSON





OVERALL			
W	L	T	PCT.
32	32	0	.500
37	40	0	.481
60	68	0	.469
21	23	0	.477
26	31	1	.457
28	34	0	.452
36	46	0	.439
16	22	0	.421
34	45	1	.431
20	27	0	.426
48	70	1	.408
18	27	0	.400
4	6	0	.400
12	19	0	.387
8	13	0	.381
23	41	0	.359
15	26	0	.366
18	35	0	.340
6	12	0	.333
4	8	0	.333
23	50	0	.315
3	7	0	.300
3	7	0	.300
5	12	0	.294
7	18	0	.280
6	16	0	.273
11	34	0	.244
6	19	0	.240
0	15	0	.000

Raiders QB DEREK CARR





THE PLAYERS

RUNNING BACKS

TODD GURLEY

Los Angeles Rams running back **TODD GURLEY** led the NFL with 2,093 scrimmage yards and 19 touchdowns (13 rushing, six receiving) in 2017, becoming the third different player in NFL history to have at least 2,000 scrimmage yards, 10 rushing touchdowns and more than five touchdown catches in a single season, joining Pro Football Hall of Famers **O.J. SIMPSON** and **MARSHALL FAULK**.

THE PLAYERS WITH AT LEAST 2,000 SCRIMMAGE YARDS, 10 RUSHING TDS AND MORE THAN 5 TD CATCHES IN A SINGLE SEASON IN NFL HISTORY

PLAYER	TEAM	SEASON	SCRIM. YARDS	RUSH TDS	REC. TDS
Todd Gurley	LA Rams	2017	2,093	13	6
Marshall Faulk^	St. Louis	2001	2,147	12	9
Marshall Faulk^	St. Louis	2000	2,189	18	8
O.J. Simpson^	Buffalo	1975	2,243	16	7

^Pro Football Hall of Famer

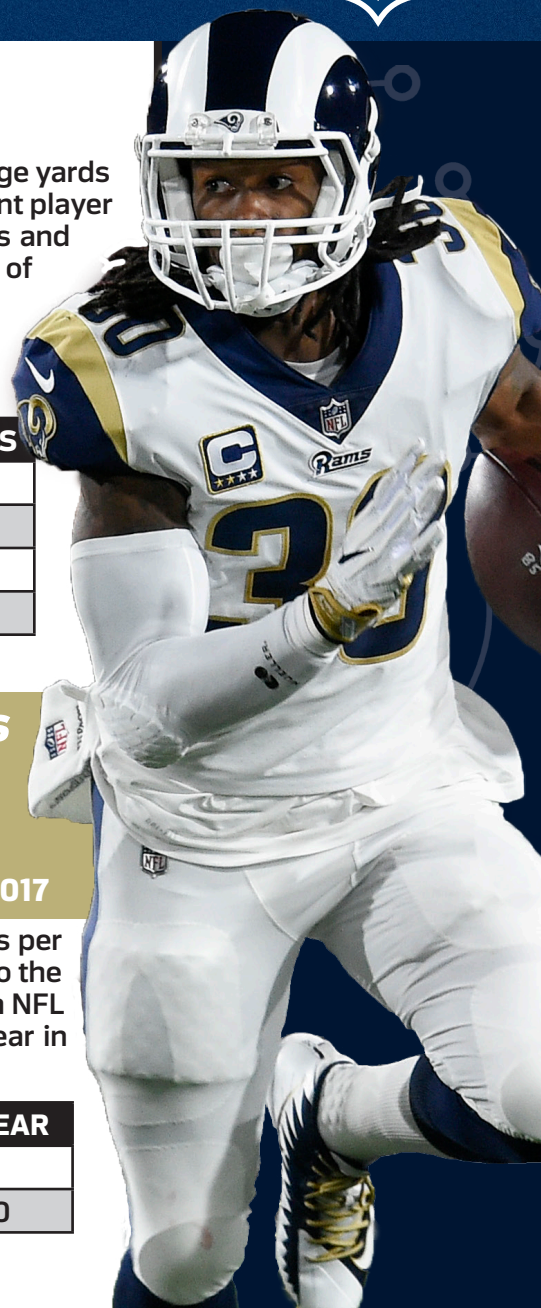
“He’s certainly a special player. With Todd’s success, that is a reflection of our offensive unit, but I think it’s a great honor for him.”

- Rams head coach **SEAN MC VAY** on Gurley’s MVP Candidacy in 2017

Gurley, who helped pace a Rams offense that led the NFL averaging 29.9 points per game, was named the 2017 AP Offensive Player of the Year. Gurley, who was also the recipient of the 2015 Offensive Rookie of the Year Award, is the second player in NFL history to win both Offensive Rookie of the Year and Offensive Player of the Year in his first three seasons, joining Pro Football Hall of Famer **EARL CAMPBELL**.

PLAYER	TEAM	OFF. ROOKIE OF YEAR	OFF. PLAYER OF YEAR
Todd Gurley	LA Rams	2015	2017
Earl Campbell^	Houston Oilers	1978	1978, 1979, 1980

^Pro Football Hall of Famer



Gurley, who has 3,296 rushing yards, 1,303 receiving yards and 35 touchdowns in his first three seasons, can become the third player in NFL history with at least 4,000 rushing yards, 2,000 receiving yards and 40 touchdowns in his first four seasons, joining Pro Football Hall of Famers **LA DAINIAN TOMLINSON** and **MARCUS ALLEN**.



5,899 RUSH YARDS
2,022 REC. YARDS
60 TOUCHDOWNS



TOMLINSON (2001-04)



4,638 RUSH YARDS
2,304 REC. YARDS
58 TOUCHDOWNS



ALLEN (1982-85)



THE PLAYERS

RUNNING BACKS

LE'VEON BELL

In 2017, Steelers running back **LE'VEON BELL** led all NFL running backs with a franchise-record 85 receptions, ranked second in the league with 1,946 scrimmage yards and was third with 1,291 rush yards. It marked his second season with at least 80 receptions (83 in 2014) and he became the fourth running back in NFL history with at least two seasons with 80+ receptions.

RUNNING BACKS WITH MULTIPLE 80+ RECEPTION SEASONS

PLAYER	SEASONS
Marshall Faulk^	5
Larry Centers	4
Le'Veon Bell	2
Roger Craig	2

^Pro Football Hall of Famer

"Bell really forces everybody to be sound in their gaps. Getting off and jumping around blocks or trying to get to the hole too quickly just opens up cutback lanes and he does a great job of finding it. Team defense is the only way to stop it. There's no one guy that can stop him."

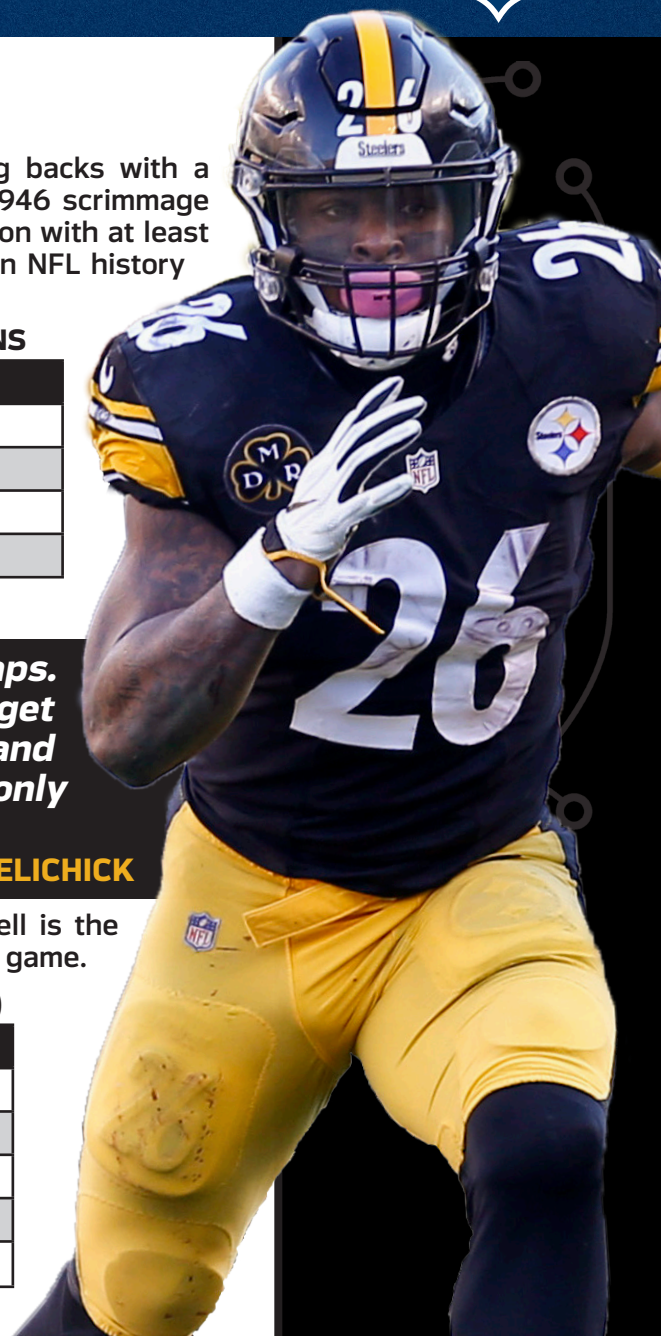
- Patriots head coach **BILL BELICHICK**

Among players who have appeared in at least 60 career games, Bell is the league's all-time leader with an average of 129.0 scrimmage yards per game.

ALL-TIME SCRIMMAGE YARDS PER GAME LEADERS (MIN. 60 GAMES)

PLAYER	SCRIMMAGE YARDS PER GAME
Le'Veon Bell	129.0
Jim Brown^	125.5
Billy Sims	119.6
Barry Sanders^	118.9
Terrell Davis^	113.9

^Pro Football Hall of Famer



In 2017, Bell tied Pro Football Hall of Famer **ERIC DICKERSON** (55 games) for the fewest games to reach 7,000 scrimmage yards in NFL history. This season, Bell -- who has 7,996 scrimmage yards in 62 career games -- can surpass Dickerson (64 games) for the fewest games to reach 8,000 scrimmage yards in NFL history.

Eric **DICKERSON**



64 GAMES

Edgerrin **JAMES**



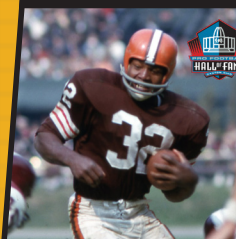
65 GAMES

LaDainian **TOMLINSON**



65 GAMES

Jim **BROWN**



67 GAMES

Marcus **ALLEN**



68 GAMES



THE PLAYERS

RUNNING BACKS

SOPHOMORE STARS

Rookie running backs burst onto the scene in 2017, making immediate impacts across the league.

New Orleans' **ALVIN KAMARA** and Kansas City's **KAREEM HUNT**, who led the NFL with 1,327 rushing yards last season, both made the Pro Bowl as rookies, while Jacksonville's **LEONARD FOURNETTE** and Carolina's **CHRISTIAN MC CAFFREY** both ran their way into the record books.

A SAMPLING OF 2017 ROOKIE RUNNING BACK HIGHLIGHTS

Leonard Fournette Jacksonville	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Led NFL rookies with nine rushing touchdowns and ranked second with 1,040 rushing yards in 2017. • Joined FRED TAYLOR (1,223 yards in 1998) as the only rookies in team history to rush for at least 1,000 yards. • Scored a touchdown in each of the first six games last season and joined ROBERT EDWARDS (1998) as the only rookies in NFL history with at least one touchdown in each of their team's first six games of a season.
Kareem Hunt Kansas City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ranked first in the NFL with 1,327 rushing yards and led all rookies with 1,782 scrimmage yards, becoming the second rookie not selected in the first round to lead his league in rushing yards in the common draft era (since 1967). Cincinnati's PAUL ROBINSON led the AFL with 1,023 rushing yards in 1968. • Had at least 100 scrimmage yards in each of his first seven games in 2017 and is the only rookie in NFL history with 100 or more scrimmage yards in each of his team's first seven games of a season.
Alvin Kamara New Orleans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • En route to being named the NFL Offensive Rookie of the Year, Kamara ranked second in the NFL with 14 touchdowns (eight rushing, five receiving, one kickoff return). He joined Pro Football Hall of Famer GALE SAYERS (1965) as the only rookies in NFL history to have at least five rushing touchdowns (eight), five receiving touchdowns (five) and a kickoff-return touchdown. • Led NFL rookies with 81 catches and ranked second with 1,554 scrimmage yards. • His 81 receptions are the third-most all time by a rookie running back.
Christian McCaffrey Carolina	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Led the Panthers 1,086 scrimmage yards last season. • Had 80 receptions and five touchdown catches and is one of two rookie running backs in NFL history (Kamara) with at least 80 catches and five touchdown receptions.





THE PLAYERS

RUNNING BACKS

DOUBLE TROUBLE RUNNING BACKS

They seem to be all over the league. Those running backs, like **TODD GURLEY** (top) and **LE'VEON BELL**, that can hurt you two ways: rushing or catching the ball.

Dual-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.

More and more offenses are relying on these dual-threat runners to keep the chains moving. Six running backs rushed for at least 1,000 yards while adding at least 50 receptions in 2017.

RUNNING BACKS WITH AT LEAST 1,000 RUSHING YARDS & 50 RECEPTIONS IN 2017

PLAYER	2017 TEAM	RUSH YARDS	RECEPTIONS
Kareem Hunt	Kansas City	1,327	53
Todd Gurley	LA Rams	1,305	64
Le'Veon Bell	Pittsburgh	1,291	85
LeSean McCoy	Buffalo	1,138	59
Mark Ingram	New Orleans	1,124	58
Melvin Gordon	LA Chargers	1,105	58

Running backs are entering the league with an improved ability to catch the football. That stood out to New Orleans quarterback **DREW BREES**, who saw Saints' rookie **ALVIN KAMARA** (bottom) lead all running backs with 826 receiving yards and rank second among running backs with 81 receptions in 2017. Kamara (826 receiving, 728 rushing) joined Pro Football Hall of Famer **CHARLEY TAYLOR** (1964) as the only rookies in NFL history to have at least 700 receiving yards and 700 rushing yards in a single season.

"Guys seem to come in even more prepared now than they ever have been," said Brees. "They can run the ball between the tackles, they can catch the ball out of the backfield, you can split them out and almost treat them as receivers sometimes."

Six NFL running backs had at least 500 receiving yards in 2017, led by Kamara's 826 receiving yards. Bell led all running backs with 85 receptions.

RUNNING BACKS WITH 500+ RECEIVING YARDS IN 2017

PLAYER	2017 TEAM	RECEPTIONS	REC. YARDS
Alvin Kamara	New Orleans	81	826
Todd Gurley	LA Rams	64	788
Duke Johnson, Jr.	Cleveland	74	693
Le'Veon Bell	Pittsburgh	85	655
Christian McCaffrey	Carolina	80	651
Chris Thompson	Washington	39	510





THE PLAYERS

WIDE RECEIVERS

ANTONIO BROWN

Pittsburgh wide receiver **ANTONIO BROWN** led the NFL with 1,533 receiving yards and ranked fifth in the league with 101 catches last season, marking his fifth consecutive season with at least 100 receptions, surpassing Pro Football Hall of Famer **MARVIN HARRISON** (1999-2002) for the most consecutive 100-catch seasons in NFL history.

MOST CONSECUTIVE 100-CATCH SEASONS, NFL HISTORY

PLAYER	SEASONS	TEAM	CONSECUTIVE SEASONS WITH 100+ CATCHES
Antonio Brown	2013-2017	Pittsburgh	5*
Marvin Harrison^	1999-2002	Indianapolis	4
Larry Fitzgerald	2015-2017	Arizona	3*
Brandon Marshall	2007-2009	Denver	3
Wes Welker	2007-2009	New England	3
Herman Moore	1995-1997	Detroit	3
Jerry Rice^	1994-1996	San Francisco	3

*Active streak

^Pro Football Hall of Famer

“A.B. is the best player that I’ve ever seen in person. The double team doesn’t matter. He’s going to beat the double team every time. He catches 200 to 300 balls after practice every day and he’s always working his feet. In the biggest moments, he’s always going to get the job done.”

- Steelers running back LE’VEON BELL

Among receivers who have appeared in 100 career games, Brown ranks first in NFL history in both receptions per game (6.4) – more than half a catch higher than the next closest player (Harrison) – and receiving yards per game (86.2).

MOST RECEPTIONS PER GAME, NFL HISTORY (MIN. 100 GAMES)

PLAYER	TEAM	RECEPTIONS PER GAME
Antonio Brown	Pittsburgh	6.4
Marvin Harrison^	Indianapolis	5.8
Larry Fitzgerald	Arizona	5.7

^Pro Football Hall of Famer

MOST RECEIVING YARDS PER GAME, NFL HISTORY (MIN. 100 GAMES)

PLAYER	TEAM	REC. YARDS PER GAME
Antonio Brown	Pittsburgh	86.2
Calvin Johnson	Detroit	86.1
A.J. Green	Cincinnati	80.5

Brown, who also led the league in receiving in 2014 with 1,698 yards, became the first player in franchise history to lead the NFL in receiving yards multiple times. It was his sixth season with at least 1,000 receiving yards, tying **HINES WARD** (six) for the most such seasons in franchise history.





THE PLAYERS

WIDE RECEIVERS



"Antonio is the best receiver in the game. The guys I've played — Antonio is the best, easily. His hands are strong. He's very smart. He's very crafty in the way he does things. His routes are crisp. He's just very good... That's somebody I love going against. He brings the best out of me."

- Jaguars cornerback **JALEN RAMSEY**

Since 2013, Brown has totaled 582 catches, the most receptions by a player over any five-year span in NFL history, surpassing Harrison (563 catches from 1999-2003). He also has 7,848 receiving yards since 2013, the most receiving yards over any five-year span, topping Harrison's previous record of 7,594 yards from 1999-2003.

Brown needs 91 catches in 2018 to pass **WES WELKER** (672 from 2007-2012) and 912 receiving yards to pass Pro Football Hall of Famer **JERRY RICE** (8,759 from 1990-95) for the most receptions and receiving yards, respectively, by a player over any six-year span in NFL history.

MOST RECEPTIONS OVER ANY SIX-YEAR SPAN

PLAYER	SEASONS	TEAM	RECEPTIONS
Wes Welker	2007-2012	New England	672
Marvin Harrison^	1999-2004	Indianapolis	649
Antonio Brown	2013-2017	Pittsburgh	582*

*Entering sixth year of span

^Pro Football Hall of Famer

MOST RECEIVING YARDS OVER ANY SIX-YEAR SPAN

PLAYER	SEASONS	TEAM	REC. YARDS
Jerry Rice^	1990-1995	San Francisco	8,759
Marvin Harrison^	1999-2004	Indianapolis	8,707
Antonio Brown	2013-2017	Pittsburgh	7,848*

*Entering sixth year of span

^Pro Football Hall of Famer

Brown, a six-time Pro Bowl selection, has 733 receptions in 115 career games and reached 700 career catches in his 111th career game, the fewest games to reach the milestone in NFL history. Entering 2018, Brown can become the fastest player to reach 800 career receptions, surpassing the previous record of 131 games set by Harrison.



131 GAMES



Marvin HARRISON



137 GAMES

Andre JOHNSON



140 GAMES

Brandon MARSHALL



THE PLAYERS

WIDE RECEIVERS

LARRY FITZGERALD

Arizona wide receiver **LARRY FITZGERALD** ranked second in the NFL with 109 catches in 2017 – his fifth career season with at least 100 receptions – and recorded his ninth career 1,000-yard season as he continued his ascent on the league's all-time receiving leaderboard. Fitzgerald was named to his 11th Pro Bowl, the second-most in NFL history among wide receivers, trailing only Pro Football Hall of Famer **JERRY RICE** (13).

Fitzgerald's 1,234 career receptions and 15,545 career receiving yards both rank third in NFL history. With 92 receptions and 390 receiving yards in 2018, Fitzgerald will surpass **TONY GONZALEZ** (1,325 receptions) and Pro Football Hall of Famer **TERRELL OWENS** (15,934 receiving yards), respectively, for second place in league history in both categories.

“To me, he’s the best to ever play the game. It’s not about how good his hands were or the spectacular catches. It’s just everything else. It’s blocking, leading, looking, showing young guys how to do it off the field and on the field. Aside from catching ‘X’ amount of balls and touchdowns and yards and all that, just the friend and the teammate, the leader. All those things stick out.”

- Former NFL quarterback **CARSON PALMER**

MOST CAREER RECEPTIONS

PLAYER	TEAM(S)	RECEPTIONS
Jerry Rice^	San Francisco, Oakland, Seattle	1,549
Tony Gonzalez	Kansas City, Atlanta	1,325
Larry Fitzgerald	Arizona	1,234

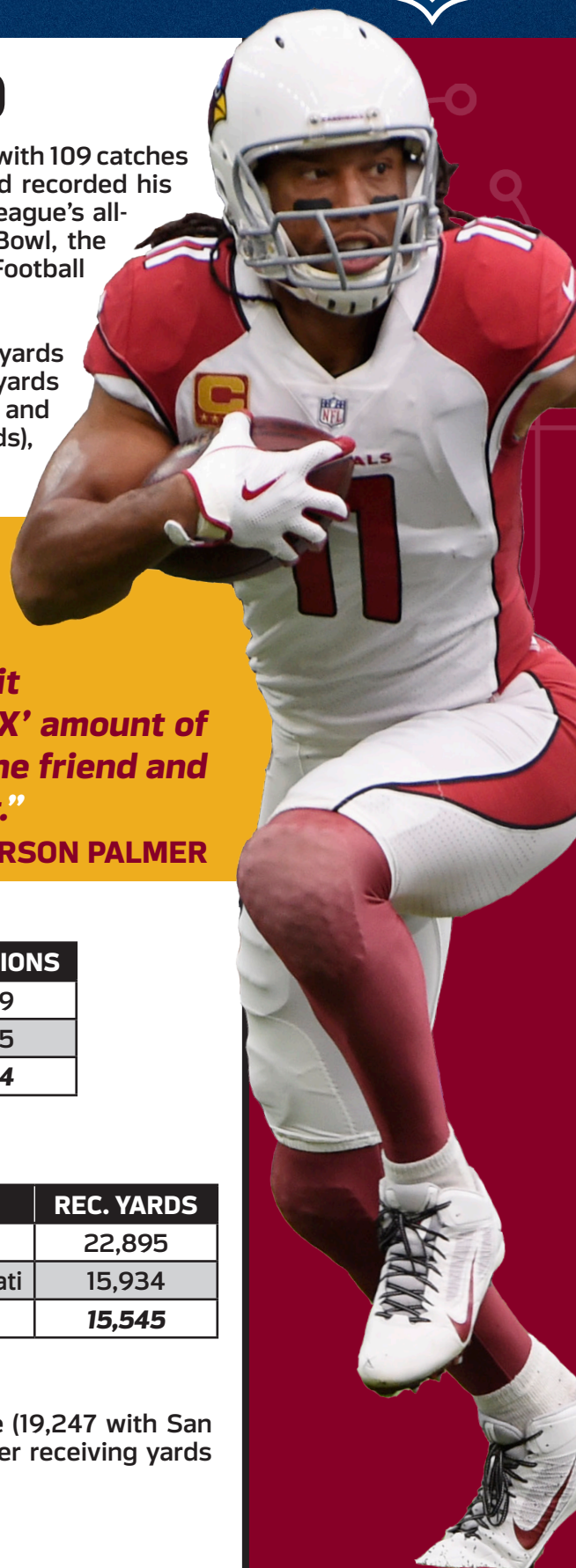
^Pro Football Hall of Famer

MOST CAREER RECEIVING YARDS

PLAYER	TEAM(S)	REC. YARDS
Jerry Rice^	San Francisco, Oakland, Seattle	22,895
Terrell Owens^	San Francisco, Philadelphia, Dallas, Buffalo, Cincinnati	15,934
Larry Fitzgerald	Arizona	15,545

^Pro Football Hall of Famer

Fitzgerald, who has played his entire career with Arizona, and Rice (19,247 with San Francisco) are the only players in NFL history to reach 15,000 career receiving yards with a single team.





THE PLAYERS

WIDE RECEIVERS



Fitzgerald can also become the first player with four seasons of at least 100 catches at the age of 30 or older, breaking a tie with Rice (three) and REGGIE WAYNE (three).

MOST SEASONS WITH 100+ CATCHES AT AGE 30 OR OLDER

PLAYER	SEASONS
Larry Fitzgerald	3
Jerry Rice^	3
Reggie Wayne	3

^Pro Football Hall of Famer

"He's one of my favorite receivers of all-time. He's fundamentally sound. He runs great routes. He catches the ball in double teams, getting hit across the middle, on the sideline, toe taps, sweet feet. He makes all of it look effortless."

- Browns wide receiver **JARVIS LANDRY**

Entering 2018, Fitzgerald has recorded a catch in 211 consecutive regular-season games, tied with Gonzalez for the second-longest streak in NFL history.

MOST CONSECUTIVE GAMES WITH CATCH

PLAYER	SEASONS	CONSECUTIVE GAMES WITH CATCH
Jerry Rice^	1985-2004	274
Larry Fitzgerald	2004-present	211*
Tony Gonzalez	2000-2013	211

*Active streak

^Pro Football Hall of Famer

Fitzgerald recorded his third consecutive season with at least 100 catches in 2017 and has five career seasons with 100 or more receptions, tied for the second-most in NFL history. With at least 100 catches this season, Fitzgerald would tie **BRANDON MARSHALL** (six) for the most 100-catch seasons in NFL history.

Brandon MARSHALL



6 SEASONS

Antonio BROWN



5 SEASONS

Larry FITZGERALD



5 SEASONS

Andre JOHNSON



5 SEASONS

Wes WELKER



5 SEASONS

EXTRA POINTS



THE PLAYERS

WIDE RECEIVERS



JULIO JONES

In 2017, Falcons wide receiver **JULIO JONES** recorded 88 receptions for an NFC-best 1,444 yards and three touchdowns. It marked his fourth-consecutive season with at least 1,300 receiving yards, tied with Pro Football Hall of Famer **MARVIN HARRISON** and **DEMARIUS THOMAS** for the second-longest streak in NFL history.

MOST CONSECUTIVE SEASONS WITH AT LEAST 1,300 RECEIVING YARDS

PLAYER	CONSECUTIVE SEASONS
Torry Holt	6
Marvin Harrison [^]	4
Julio Jones	4*
Demaryius Thomas	4

[^]Pro Football Hall of Famer

*Active streak

"Double coverage, triple coverage, the quarterback trusts him so much. He runs so strong, so powerful, he feels like a running back."

- Lions cornerback **DARIUS SLAY**

Among players who have appeared in at least 90 career games, Jones is the league's all-time leader with an average of 95.3 receiving yards per game.

ALL-TIME LEADERS IN RECEIVING YARDS PER GAME (MIN. 90 GAMES)

PLAYER	RECEIVING YARDS PER GAME
Julio Jones	95.3
Antonio Brown	86.2
Calvin Johnson	86.1

Jones, who has 9,054 receiving yards in 95 career games, became the fastest player in NFL history to reach 9,000 receiving yards (95 games) and his 9,054 yards are already the record for the most receiving yards in his first 100 games. With 15 receptions in his first five games in 2018, Jones, who has 585 career receptions, would join **ANTONIO BROWN** (622) and **ANQUAN BOLDIN** (614) as the only players in NFL history with at least 600 catches in their first 100 career games.

Antonio **BROWN**



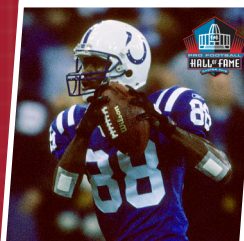
622 RECEPTIONS

Anquan **BOLDIN**



614 RECEPTIONS

Marvin **HARRISON**



591 RECEPTIONS

Julio **JONES**



585 RECEPTIONS*

*In 95 career games

EXTRA POINTS



THE PLAYERS

WIDE RECEIVERS

A.J. GREEN

Cincinnati wide receiver **A.J. GREEN** finished the 2017 season with 75 receptions for 1,078 yards and eight touchdowns, his sixth career 1,000-yard season. Green has recorded at least 950 receiving yards in each of his first seven seasons, becoming the first player in NFL history to accomplish the feat, surpassing **RANDY MOSS** who began his career with six consecutive seasons with 950 receiving yards.

MOST CONSECUTIVE SEASONS WITH AT LEAST 950 RECEIVING YARDS TO START CAREER

PLAYER	TEAM	SEASONS	CONSECUTIVE SEASONS
A.J. Green	Cincinnati	2011-17	7*
Randy Moss^	Minnesota	1998-2003	6
Mike Evans	Tampa Bay	2014-17	4*
Joey Galloway	Seattle	1995-98	4

*Active streak

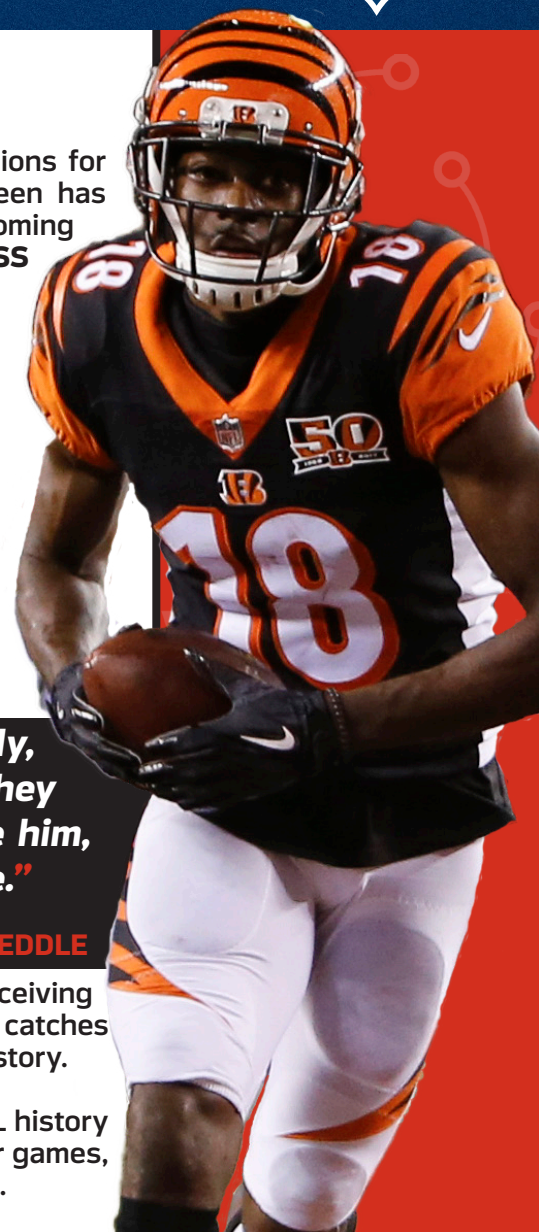
^Pro Football Hall of Famer

"I've played against him a few times in my career, and obviously, he's one of the best – if not the best. He's as talented as they come – route running ability, play-making ability. A guy like him, you have to know where he is at all times. He can ruin a game."

- Baltimore safety **ERIC WEDDLE**

Since entering the league in 2011, Green ranks fourth in the NFL with 8,213 receiving yards, fifth with 556 catches and sixth with 57 touchdown catches. With 10 TD catches in 2018, Green would surpass **CHAD JOHNSON** (66) for the most in franchise history.

In Week 3 of the 2017 season, Green (89 games) became the third player in NFL history to reach 500 career receptions and 50 touchdown catches in his first 90 career games, joining Pro Football Hall of Famer **MARVIN HARRISON** and **LARRY FITZGERALD**.



With 787 receiving yards and three receiving touchdowns in 2018, Green can become the seventh player in NFL history with 9,000 receiving yards and 60 receiving touchdowns in their first eight seasons. Three of the six to do so - **MARVIN HARRISON**, **RANDY MOSS** and **JERRY RICE** - are enshrined in the Pro Football Hall of Fame.



Larry **FITZGERALD**



Marvin **HARRISON**



Torrey **HOLT**



Calvin **JOHNSON**



Randy **MOSS**



Jerry **RICE**





THE PLAYERS

WIDE RECEIVERS



MICHAEL THOMAS

New Orleans wide receiver **MICHAEL THOMAS** ranked third in the NFL with a career-high 104 catches for 1,245 yards and five touchdowns last season, earning his first career Pro Bowl nod. Thomas is the only player in Saints' franchise history to record at least 100 catches in a single season.

SAINTS SINGLE-SEASON RECEPTION LEADERS

PLAYER	SEASON	RECEPTIONS
Michael Thomas	2017	104
Jimmy Graham	2011	99
Marques Colston	2007	98

"I think he's more polished in a lot of ways. He came in really raw, and there are certain innate traits that he has that you just don't find. He is extremely competitive. His work ethic is second to none. His focus and intensity during practice - I mean, every rep is like a game rep to him and that's really rare."

- Saints quarterback **DREW BREES**

Thomas' 196 career receptions since entering the league in 2016 are the most in NFL history by a player in his first two seasons.

PLAYERS WITH THE MOST RECEPTIONS IN THEIR FIRST 2 SEASONS IN NFL HISTORY

PLAYER	TEAM	SEASONS	RECEPTIONS
Michael Thomas	New Orleans	2016-17	196
Jarvis Landry	Miami	2014-15	194
Odell Beckham, Jr.	NY Giants	2014-15	187
Marques Colston	New Orleans	2006-07	168
A.J. Green	Cincinnati	2011-12	162

With 93 receptions in 2018, Thomas would surpass New York Giants wide receiver **ODELL BECKHAM, JR.** and Cleveland wide receiver **JARVIS LANDRY** for the most receptions through a player's first three seasons in NFL history.

Odell **BECKHAM, JR.**



288 CATCHES

Jarvis **LANDRY**



288 CATCHES

A.J. **GREEN**



260 CATCHES

Anquan **BOLDIN**



259 CATCHES

DeAndre **HOPKINS**



239 CATCHES



THE PLAYERS

WIDE RECEIVERS

CLASS OF 2014 ENTERS FIFTH YEAR

The 2014 NFL Draft saw some of the league's top wide receivers selected in the first two rounds. The New York Giants' **ODELL BECKHAM, JR.** (No. 12 overall) and Cleveland's **JARVIS LANDRY** (No. 63 overall to Miami) – who were college teammates at LSU – are both Pro Bowlers who have rewritten the record books in their first four years in the NFL.

Landry, who was traded to the Browns this offseason, led the NFL with a career-high 112 receptions in 2017, his second career 100-catch season (110 in 2015). He has 400 catches since entering the league in 2014 and surpassed **ANQUAN BOLDIN** (342) for the most catches by a player in his first four seasons in NFL history. Landry is also the only player in NFL history with at least 80 catches in each of his first four seasons.

Last season, Beckham recorded his 300th reception in his 45th career game, surpassing Boldin (47 games) as the fastest player to reach the milestone in NFL history.

BECKHAM AND LANDRY'S CAREER STATISTICS THROUGH THEIR FIRST FOUR NFL SEASONS

ODELL BECKHAM, JR.					JARVIS LANDRY				
GAMES	REC.	YARDS	AVG.	TDS	GAMES	REC.	YARDS	AVG.	TDS
47	313	4,424	14.1	38	64	400	4,038	10.1	22

Other top receivers selected in 2014 include Tampa Bay's **MIKE EVANS** (No. 7 overall), the Los Angeles Rams' **BRANDIN COOKS** (No. 20 overall to New Orleans) and Green Bay's **DAVANTE ADAMS** (No. 53 overall).

RECORDS AND MILESTONES REACHED BY WIDE RECEIVERS OF THE 2014 NFL DRAFT CLASS

Davante Adams Green Bay	Tied for second in the NFL with 10 touchdown catches in 2017 and leads NFL with 22 touchdown receptions since 2016.
Odell Beckham, Jr. New York Giants	Since entering the league in 2014, ranks 2nd in the NFL with 38 touchdown catches (ANTONIO BROWN , 44).
Brandin Cooks Los Angeles Rams	Had 1,082 receiving yards with the Patriots in 2017, his third consecutive 1,000-yard season.
Mike Evans Tampa Bay	Led the Buccaneers with 1,001 receiving yards last season and joined RANDY MOSS and A.J. GREEN as the only players in NFL history to have four consecutive 1,000-yard seasons to begin their career.
Jarvis Landry Cleveland	Led the NFL with 112 catches in 2017 and is one of three players (Brown and JULIO JONES) with at least 400 receptions since 2014.





THE PLAYERS

TIGHT ENDS

ROB GRONKOWSKI & JIMMY GRAHAM

New England Patriots tight end **ROB GRONKOWSKI** (top) led all NFL tight ends with 1,084 receiving yards in 2017 and reached 1,000 yards for the fourth time in his career, tied with **TONY GONZALEZ** (four) and **JASON WITTEN** (four) for the most seasons with at least 1,000 receiving yards among tight ends in NFL history.

MOST 1,000 YARD SEASONS BY TIGHT ENDS

PLAYER	SEASONS
Tony Gonzalez	4
Rob Gronkowski	4
Jason Witten	4

“Rob does things that wide receivers do, he does things that tight ends do and Rob does things that offensive linemen do. He is a man of many talents.”

- Arizona linebacker **CHANDLER JONES**

Green Bay Packers tight end **JIMMY GRAHAM** (bottom), who led all NFL tight ends with 10 touchdown receptions last season for Seattle, recorded his fourth career season with at least 10 touchdowns. With a double-digit touchdown season in 2018, Graham can join Gronkowski as the only tight ends in NFL history with five such seasons.

MOST 10+ TOUCHDOWN SEASONS BY TIGHT ENDS

PLAYER	10+ TD SEASONS
Rob Gronkowski	5
Antonio Gates	4
Jimmy Graham	4

Gronkowski (No. 42 overall) and Graham (No. 95 overall to New Orleans) were both selected in the 2010 NFL Draft and have ranked among the top tight ends in the league over the past eight seasons.

RECEPTIONS BY TIGHT ENDS SINCE 2010

PLAYER	RANK	RECEPTIONS
Jimmy Graham	2nd	556
Rob Gronkowski	4th	474

RECEIVING YARDS BY TIGHT ENDS SINCE 2010

PLAYER	RANK	REC. YARDS
Rob Gronkowski	1st	7,179
Jimmy Graham	2nd	6,800

TOUCHDOWNS BY TIGHT ENDS SINCE 2010

PLAYER	RANK	TD CATCHES
Rob Gronkowski	1st	76
Jimmy Graham	2nd	69





THE PLAYERS

TIGHT ENDS

TRAVIS KELCE & ZACH ERTZ

Kansas City Chiefs tight end **TRAVIS KELCE** (top) led all NFL tight ends with 83 receptions, ranked second in receiving yards (1,038) and tied for second in touchdown receptions (eight) in 2017. Since 2014, Kelce is the only tight end to record at least 300 receptions (307) and is one of three tight ends with at least 3,000 receiving yards and 20 touchdowns over the past four seasons.

TIGHT ENDS WITH 3,000+ RECEIVING YARDS & 20+ TDS SINCE 2014

PLAYER	RECEIVING YARDS	RECEIVING TDS
Rob Gronkowski	3,924	34
Travis Kelce	3,900	22
Delanie Walker	3,585	20

Kelce, who has recorded at least 1,000 receiving yards in each of the past two seasons, can join Carolina Panthers tight end **GREG OLSEN** (2014-16) as the only tight ends in NFL history to register three consecutive seasons with 1,000 receiving yards.

TIGHT ENDS WITH MOST CONSECUTIVE 1,000 YARD SEASONS

PLAYER	TEAM	SEASONS	YEARS
Greg Olsen	Carolina	3	2014-16
Many tied		2	
Travis Kelce	Kansas City	2*	2016-17

*Active streak

“He’s a technician. He takes pride in his routes and manipulating you in different ways.”

- Falcons safety **KEANU NEAL** on **ZACH ERTZ**

Kelce and Eagles tight end **ZACH ERTZ** (bottom), who have both recorded at least 70 receptions in each of the past three seasons, can become the seventh and eighth tight ends in NFL history to register at least 70 receptions in four consecutive seasons.

TIGHT ENDS WITH MOST CONSECUTIVE 70 RECEPTION SEASONS

PLAYER	TEAM(S)	SEASONS	YEARS
Tony Gonzalez	Kansas City, Atlanta	11	2003-13
Jason Witten	Dallas	7	2007-13
Todd Christensen	LA Raiders	4	1983-86
Antonio Gates	San Diego	4	2004-07
Jimmy Graham	New Orleans	4	2011-14
Greg Olsen	Carolina	4	2013-16
Zach Ertz	Philadelphia	3*	2015-17
Tony Gonzalez	Kansas City	3	1999-2001
Travis Kelce	Kansas City	3*	2015-17

*Active streak





THE PLAYERS

WIDE RECEIVERS/TIGHT ENDS

ON TARGET

Elite wide receivers gain attention from opposing defensive backs, but still earn plenty of it from their quarterbacks, too.

Last season, Houston wide receiver **DE ANDRE HOPKINS** (top) was targeted 174 times, the most in the NFL.

THE MOST TARGETED RECEIVERS IN 2017

PLAYER	2017 TEAM	TARGETS	REC.	REC. YARDS	AVG.
DeAndre Hopkins	Houston	174	96	1,378	14.4
Antonio Brown	Pittsburgh	163	101	1,533	15.2
Larry Fitzgerald	Arizona	161	109	1,156	10.6
Jarvis Landry	Miami	161	112	987	8.8
Keenan Allen	LA Chargers	159	102	1,393	13.7

“I think DeAndre’s the best receiver in the league. Big, strong, great ability on the sideline. He’s such a great competitor. He wants the ball thrown to him.”

- Texans head coach **BILL O’BRIEN**

Pittsburgh wide receiver **ANTONIO BROWN** (bottom) was targeted 163 times last season, ranking second in the NFL.

Over the past five seasons, Brown has been targeted an NFL-high 857 times. In that same span since 2013, Brown has 582 receptions and surpassed Pro Football Hall of Famer **MARVIN HARRISON** (563 from 1999-2003) for the most catches by a player over any five-year span in NFL history. Brown also has 7,848 receiving yards since 2013 and surpassed Harrison (7,594 from 1999-2003) for the most receiving yards by a player over any five-year span in NFL history.

“Antonio’s probably the best wide receiver in the game now, maybe that ever played. He’s just special.”

- Steelers quarterback **BEN ROETHLISBERGER**





THE PLAYERS

WIDE RECEIVERS/TIGHT ENDS

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.

Los Angeles Chargers Pro Bowl wide receiver **KEENAN ALLEN** led all receivers on third down with 30 first-down catches in 2017, the second-highest total within the last 10 seasons trailing only Pittsburgh wide receiver **ANTONIO BROWN**, who had 31 such catches in 2015.

Part of what makes Allen so difficult to defend on third down is his ability to move to different positions on the field.

"He's moved around to all different spots," said Chargers offensive coordinator **KEN WHISENHUNT**. "You always notice him when the ball goes to him a little bit more, but he does a really nice job. He's a fabulous player."

Minnesota wide receiver **ADAM THIELEN** (right), who ranked second in the NFL with 25 first-down receptions on third down last season, knows the importance of third down.

"Obviously, we know as an offense that third downs are huge, for every team. It's something we talked about in the offseason that we needed to get better at third-down conversions. Coaches did a really good job all season of putting us in really good positions, and our quarterback, [former Vikings quarterback] Case Keenum, did such a good job of giving the receivers a chance and letting us make a play."

- Vikings wide receiver ADAM THIELEN

THE RECEIVERS WITH THE MOST FIRST-DOWN RECEPTIONS
ON THIRD DOWN IN 2017

PLAYER	TEAM	1ST DOWN RECEPTIONS ON 3RD DOWN
Keenan Allen	Los Angeles Chargers	30
Adam Thielen	Minnesota	25
Larry Fitzgerald	Arizona	23
DeAndre Hopkins	Houston	21
Michael Thomas	New Orleans	21





THE PLAYERS

RBS/WRS/TES

YARDS AFTER THE CATCH

As versatile running backs and quick passing attacks continue to become more prevalent in today's game, additional yards after the catch have become an increasingly important part of an offense's success.

Los Angeles Rams running back **TODD GURLEY** (top) led the league with 811 yards after the catch last season, becoming one of only nine players to eclipse 800 yards after the catch since the stat was first tracked in 1992.

"What I didn't know is how good a pass-catcher he is," said Falcons head coach **DAN QUINN** on Gurley's receiving ability. "And that part of his game has really come through. He's really proved he can handle the load in a big way."

THE PLAYERS WITH AT LEAST 800 YARDS AFTER CATCH IN A SINGLE SEASON (SINCE 1992)

PLAYER	TEAM	SEASON	POS	YARDS AFTER CATCH
Marshall Faulk^	St. Louis	1999	RB	930
Larry Centers	Arizona	1995	RB	855
Le'Veon Bell	Pittsburgh	2014	RB	841
Matt Forté	Chicago	2014	RB	837
Priest Holmes	Kansas City	2003	RB	822
LaDainian Tomlinson^	San Diego	2003	RB	815
Todd Gurley	LA Rams	2017	RB	811
Marshall Faulk^	Indianapolis	1998	RB	811
Steve Smith, Sr.	Carolina	2005	WR	810
Brian Westbrook	Philadelphia	2007	RB	806

^Pro Football Hall of Famer

Detroit wide receiver **GOLDEN TATE** (bottom) led all wide receivers with 639 yards after the catch in 2017. In three of the past four seasons (2014, 2016-17), Tate's name has been atop the wide receiver leaderboard in the category.

"Golden Tate is one of the best. I mean, once the ball's in his hands, forget about it. It's a big problem."

- Lions head coach **MATT PATRICIA**

THE PLAYERS WITH THE MOST YARDS AFTER THE CATCH IN 2017

PLAYER	TEAM	POS	YAC	REC	YARDS	AVG	TD
Todd Gurley	LA Rams	RB	811	64	788	12.3	6
Alvin Kamara	New Orleans	RB	705	81	826	10.2	5
Le'Veon Bell	Pittsburgh	RB	688	85	655	7.7	2
Golden Tate	Detroit	WR	639	92	1,003	10.9	5
Duke Johnson, Jr.	Cleveland	RB	632	74	693	9.4	3



THE PLAYERS

OFFENSIVE LINE

PROTECTING THE QUARTERBACK

Protecting the quarterback is vital to NFL success.

"I have always felt that the offensive line is the heartbeat for a franchise," says FOX NFL analyst and Pro Football Hall of Fame quarterback **TROY AIKMAN**. "If you've got tough, physical offensive linemen, then your team is going to be tough and physical. That becomes what your identity is."

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. Three offensive tackles – San Francisco's **MIKE MC GLINCHEY** (9th overall), Oakland's **KOLTON MILLER** (15th) and New England's **ISAIAH WYNN** (23rd) – were selected in the first round of the 2018 NFL Draft, marking the fifth time in the past six years that at least three tackles were drafted in the first round.

"Protecting the passer is always a priority," says Cincinnati head coach **MARVIN LEWIS**. "It's never changed."

TACKLES SELECTED IN THE FIRST ROUND OF THE PAST FOUR NFL DRAFTS

PLAYER	TEAM	DRAFT YEAR (PICK)
Mike McGlinchey	San Francisco	2018 (9th overall)
Kolton Miller	Oakland	2018 (15th overall)
Isaiah Wynn	New England	2018 (23rd overall)
Garett Bolles	Denver	2017 (20th overall)
Ryan Ramczyk	New Orleans	2017 (32nd overall)
Ronnie Stanley	Baltimore	2016 (6th overall)
Jack Conklin	Tennessee	2016 (8th overall)
Laremy Tunsil	Miami	2016 (13th overall)

PLAYER	TEAM	DRAFT YEAR (PICK)
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)
Andrus Peat	New Orleans	2015 (13th overall)
Cedric Ogbuehi	Cincinnati	2015 (21st overall)
D.J. Humphries	Arizona	2015 (24th overall)

Last season, five of the six teams which allowed fewer than 25 sacks finished with winning records and of those five, four earned postseason berths.

The Oakland Raiders, with Pro Bowl linemen **RODNEY HUDSON**, **KELECHI OSEMELE** (right) and **DONALD PENN**, and the Pittsburgh Steelers, with Pro Bowl linemen **DAVID DE CASTRO** (left), **MAURKICE POUNCEY** and **ALEJANDRO VILLANUEVA**, are the only two teams to allow fewer than 25 sacks in each of the past two seasons.

TEAMS WITH THE FEWEST SACKS ALLOWED IN 2017

TEAM	2017 RECORD	SACKS ALLOWED
LA Chargers	9-7	18
New Orleans Saints*	11-5	20
Atlanta Falcons*	10-6	24
Jacksonville Jaguars*	10-6	24
Oakland Raiders	6-10	24
Pittsburgh Steelers*	13-3	24

*Advanced to playoffs





THE PLAYERS

DEFENSE



AARON DONALD

Los Angeles Rams Pro Bowl defensive tackle **AARON DONALD** earned NFL Defensive Player of the Year honors in 2017 after recording 11 sacks, five forced fumbles and 15 tackles for loss while helping the Rams to an 11-5 record and their first NFC West division title since 2003.

The 13th overall selection in the 2014 NFL Draft, Donald has excelled at creating pressure in the backfield throughout his first four seasons. His 39 sacks are the most by a defensive tackle in franchise history and lead all NFL defensive tackles since 2014, while his 72 tackles for loss are the most by any player in that span.

DEFENSIVE TACKLES WITH MOST SACKS SINCE 2014

PLAYER	TEAM	SACKS
Aaron Donald	Los Angeles Rams	39
Geno Atkins	Cincinnati	32
Gerald McCoy	Tampa Bay	30
Cameron Heyward	Pittsburgh	29.5
Kawann Short	Carolina	28

“He’s pretty special. He can do anything you want him to on the defensive side of the football. He’s always tough to play against, that’s for sure.”

- Seahawks quarterback **RUSSELL WILSON**

Donald, who was also the recipient of the 2014 Defensive Rookie of the Year Award, is the fifth player in NFL history to win both Defensive Rookie of the Year and Defensive Player of the Year honors in his first four seasons.

PLAYER	TEAM	DEF. ROOKIE OF YEAR	DEF. PLAYER OF YEAR
Aaron Donald	LA Rams	2014	2017
Luke Kuechly	Carolina	2012	2013
Lawrence Taylor^	NY Giants	1981	1981, 1982, 1986
Jack Lambert^	Pittsburgh	1974	1976, 1983
Joe Greene^	Pittsburgh	1969	1972, 1974

^Pro Football Hall of Famer

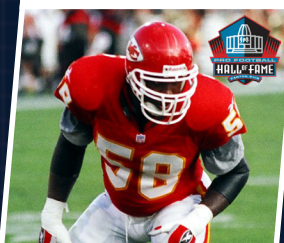
With another eight-plus sack season in 2018, Donald would join Pro Football Hall of Famers **REGGIE WHITE** (14) and **DERRICK THOMAS** (10) and **DE MARCUS WARE** (eight) as the only players since 1982 to begin their careers with five consecutive seasons with at least eight sacks.

Reggie **WHITE**



14 SEASONS

Derrick **THOMAS**



10 SEASONS

DeMarcus **WARE**



8 SEASONS



THE PLAYERS

DEFENSE

JOEY BOSA & MELVIN INGRAM

The Los Angeles Chargers tandem of defensive end **JOEY BOSA** (top) and linebacker **MELVIN INGRAM** (bottom) wreaked havoc on opposing offenses last season, becoming one of only three pairs of teammates to each record at least 10 sacks in 2017 and the first pair of Chargers teammates to accomplish the feat since 2006.

Bosa, who was selected with the No. 3 overall pick in the 2016 NFL Draft, made an immediate impact on the Chargers defensive line as a rookie, recording 10 sacks in 12 games and earning NFL Defensive Rookie of the Year honors. Bosa's play continued to elevate in 2017, as he led the team and ranked second in the AFC with 12.5 sacks. Bosa had 19 sacks in his first 20 career games, the most by a player in his first 20 games to begin a career since the individual sack became an official statistic in 1982.

THE PLAYERS WITH THE MOST SACKS IN THEIR FIRST 20 CAREER GAMES (SINCE 1982)

PLAYER	TEAM	SACKS
Joey Bosa	San Diego/LA Chargers	19
Aldon Smith	San Francisco	18.5
Clay Matthews	Green Bay	17



"Bosa, man, that guy. He hits hard, he's physical and he's relentless. He's full speed every play. We have fun though. I love competing against those guys."

- Raiders quarterback **DEREK CARR**

Bosa, who has 23 sacks in his first 28 career games, needs 12 sacks to become the sixth player to record at least 35 sacks in his first 40 career games since the sack became an official statistic in 1982.

THE PLAYERS WITH AT LEAST 35 SACKS IN THEIR FIRST 40 GAMES (SINCE 1982)

PLAYER	TEAM	SACKS
Reggie White^	Philadelphia	50
Aldon Smith	San Francisco	40
Shawne Merriman	San Diego	38.5
Derrick Thomas^	Kansas City	37.5
Von Miller	Denver	35
Joey Bosa	San Diego/LA Chargers	23*

^Pro Football Hall of Famer

*Through 28 career games

Ingram tied for third in the NFL with 17 tackles for loss in 2017 and is one of six players to record at least 8 sacks and 10 tackles for loss in each of the past three seasons, joining **GENO ATKINS**, **AARON DONALD**, **CHANDLER JONES**, **RYAN KERRIGAN** and **KHALIL MACK**.





THE PLAYERS

DEFENSE

VON MILLER

Denver Broncos linebacker **VON MILLER** registered 10 sacks in 2017 and became the third player since 1982 to register double-digit sacks in six of his first seven seasons.

THE PLAYERS WITH 10+ SACKS IN SIX OF THEIR FIRST SEVEN SEASONS (SINCE 1982)

PLAYER	TEAM	YEARS	SEASONS
Reggie White^	Philadelphia	1985-91	7
Von Miller	Denver	2011-17	6
DeMarcus Ware	Dallas	2006-11	6

^Pro Football Hall of Famer

“He’s as consistent as they come. The way he gets off the ball, I don’t think there is anybody with his first two steps.”

- Saints defensive end **CAMERON JORDAN**

Miller, who has recorded at least 10 sacks in each of the past four seasons, has the longest active streak of seasons recording double-digit sacks.

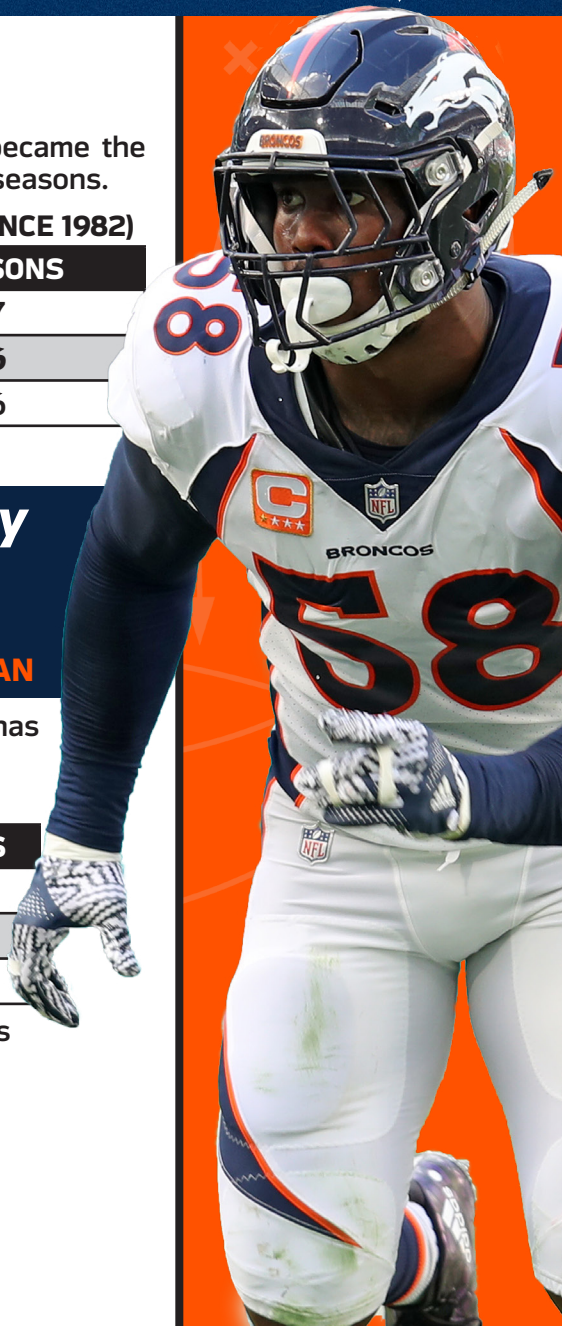
ACTIVE STREAKS WITH 10+ SACKS SEASONS

PLAYER	TEAM	CONSEC. SEASONS
Von Miller	Denver	4
Chandler Jones	Arizona, New England	3
Khalil Mack	Oakland	3

Since entering the NFL in 2011, Miller leads the league with 83.5 sacks and is the only player to record at least 80 sacks in the past seven seasons.

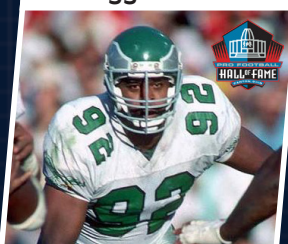
MOST SACKS SINCE 2011

PLAYER	TEAM	SACKS
Von Miller	Denver	83.5
J.J. Watt	Houston	76
Cameron Wake	Miami	72.5



Miller, who has 83.5 career sacks through his first seven seasons, can become the fifth player since 1982 with at least 95 sacks in his first eight seasons.

Reggie **WHITE**



124 SACKS

DeMarcus **WARE**



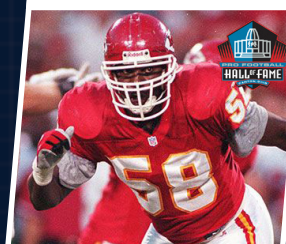
111 SACKS

Jared **ALLEN**



105 SACKS

Derrick **THOMAS**



98 SACKS



THE PLAYERS

DEFENSE

SACK ATTACK

Arizona linebacker **CHANDLER JONES** led the league with 17 sacks last season, registering at least one sack in 13 of 16 games and recording multiple sacks in four games.

"I feel like if you put the fear, or you let the opposing player across from you know that they're aware of your strength and your power, I feel like they'll think about it the whole game," said Jones. "I feel like I utilize that a lot, especially in the fourth quarter."

2017 NFL SACK LEADERS

PLAYER	TEAM	SACKS
Chandler Jones	Arizona	17
Calais Campbell	Jacksonville	14.5
Demarcus Lawrence	Dallas	14.5
Everson Griffen	Minnesota	13
Cameron Jordan	New Orleans	13
Ryan Kerrigan	Washington	13

Minnesota Pro Bowl defensive end **EVERSON GRIFFEN** (top) finished tied for fourth in the NFL with 13 sacks in 2017. Griffen recorded a sack in each of Minnesota's first eight games to become the third player to record a sack in each of his team's first eight games to start a season since the sack became an official statistic in 1982.

"He's a phenomenal pass rusher," says Green Bay quarterback **AARON RODGERS** of Griffen. "He has all the moves. He's strong, he has a great spin move. He can stab, he can power, speed-to-power, power-to-rip. He can walk a guy back into your lap. He can do it all."

Dallas Pro Bowl defensive end **DEMARCUS LAWRENCE** (bottom), who finished tied for second in the NFL with 14.5 sacks last season, recorded a sack in each of Dallas' first seven games of the 2017 season.

"The numbers are great, but it's all the other stuff," says Dallas defensive coordinator **ROD MARINELLI**. "He plays the run really well. He's a dominant player and I'm glad to see other people notice that. You guys have watched him relentlessly going sideline-to-sideline. You watch other players in the league, and they don't play like that. His effort energizes the rest of the guys. They don't want to look bad getting passed-up by him. He embodies the standard of what we want by the physical way that he plays his position."

MOST CONSECUTIVE GAMES WITH A SACK TO START A SEASON (SINCE 1982)

PLAYER	TEAM	SEASON	GAMES
Everson Griffen	Minnesota	2017	8
Dwight Freeney	Indianapolis	2009	8
Robert Mathis	Indianapolis	2005	8
Demarcus Lawrence	Dallas	2017	7
DeMarcus Ware	Dallas	2008	7
Shaun Ellis	NY Jets	2003	7
William Fuller	Philadelphia	1994	7



THE PLAYERS

DEFENSE

AT A LOSS

Arizona Cardinals linebacker **CHANDLER JONES** (top) led the NFL with 28 tackles for loss and 17 sacks in 2017. Since joining Arizona in 2016, Jones is the only player in the league with at least 25 sacks (28) and 40 tackles for loss (43). Houston's **JADEVEON CLOWNEY** (bottom) ranked second in the league with 21 tackles for loss last season.

MOST TACKLES FOR A LOSS IN 2017

PLAYER	2017 TEAM	TFL	SACKS
Chandler Jones	Arizona	28	17
Jadeveon Clowney	Houston	21	9.5
Melvin Ingram	LA Chargers	17	10.5
Cameron Jordan	New Orleans	17	13
Matt Judon	Baltimore	17	8
Von Miller	Denver	17	10

"You can tell he's a student of the game because the things he's progressing in, a lot of it is cerebral."

- Washington tackle **TRENT WILLIAMS** on **CHANDLER JONES**

Since 2008, Jones is the fourth different player to register at least 15 sacks and 25 tackles for loss in a single season, joining **VON MILLER**, **J.J. WATT** and **DE MARCUS WARE**.

THE PLAYERS WITH AT LEAST 15 SACKS & 25 TACKLES FOR LOSS IN A SINGLE SEASON SINCE 2008

PLAYER	SEASON	TEAM	SACKS	TFL
Chandler Jones	2017	Arizona	17	28
J.J. Watt	2015	Houston	17.5	29
J.J. Watt	2014	Houston	20.5	29
Von Miller	2012	Denver	18.5	28
J.J. Watt	2012	Houston	20.5	39
DeMarcus Ware	2011	Dallas	19.5	26
DeMarcus Ware	2008	Dallas	20	27

"Jadeveon Clowney, he's a relentless player. He makes a lot of plays in the backfield. He was one of the top players in tackles for loss last year and that's been consecutive years. Watching him on tape is really fun."

- Arizona linebacker **CHANDLER JONES** on **JADEVEON CLOWNEY**



THE PLAYERS

DEFENSE

STELLAR DEFENSIVE ROOKIES

The 2017 season continued a strong NFL trend of standout rookie play, especially on the defensive side of the field.

New Orleans safety **MARSHON LATTIMORE**, who led NFL rookies with five interceptions while helping the Saints to an 11-5 record and the NFC South division title, took home the league's Defensive Rookie of the Year award.

Cleveland defensive end **MYLES GARRETT**, the No. 1 overall pick in the 2017 NFL Draft, led the Browns with seven sacks in 11 games played last season, while Cincinnati linebacker **CARL LAWSON** led all rookies with 8.5 sacks.

The New York Jets' safety duo of **JAMAL ADAMS** and **MARCUS MAYE** were the only pair of defensive rookie teammates to each start all 16 games in 2017. Adams had 82 tackles, tied with Houston linebacker **ZACH CUNNINGHAM** for the second-most by a rookie last season and trailing only Detroit linebacker **JARRAD DAVIS** (96).

Buffalo cornerback **TRE'DAVIOUS WHITE** tied Lattimore for the most passes defended by a rookie with 18. White added four interceptions, becoming the third Bills rookie since 1980 with at least four interceptions in a season.

A SAMPLING OF NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS BY THE NFL'S 2017 DEFENSIVE ROOKIES

Myles Garrett Cleveland	Had two sacks in his NFL debut in Week 5 and became the only player selected first overall to record multiple sacks in his NFL debut since the sack became an official statistic in 1982.
Malik Hooker Indianapolis	Had an interception in three consecutive games (Weeks 2-4) and became the first Colts rookie to accomplish the feat since 1984.
Marshon Lattimore New Orleans	Tied the franchise rookie record and led all NFL rookies with five interceptions. Had an interception in three consecutive games (Weeks 14-16) and tied the franchise rookie record for most consecutive games with an interception (ROBERT MASSEY , 1989).
T.J. Watt Pittsburgh	Had two sacks and an interception in Pittsburgh's Kickoff Weekend win and became the first player to record at least two sacks and an interception in an NFL debut on Kickoff Weekend since sacks became an official statistic in 1982.

Jets S JAMAL ADAMS

Browns DE MYLES GARRETT

Colts S MALIK HOOKER

Saints CB MARSHON LATTIMORE





THE PLAYERS

KICKERS

CLUTCH KICKERS

Led by Buffalo's **STEPHEN HAUSCHKA** (below) and Detroit's **MATT PRATER**, 2017 was a record-setting season for placekickers. 107 field goals of at least 50 yards were converted in 2017, the most in a single season in NFL history, and both Hauschka and Prater made four field goals of at least 55 yards, tied for the most in a single season in NFL history.

"Lots of times, especially at home when it's kind of quiet, I just listen and you can hear it when it hits his foot," said Lions quarterback **MATTHEW STAFFORD** of Prater's success in 2017. "He's done a great job...He's been kicking it great."

Hauschka, who signed with Buffalo during the 2017 offseason, converted an NFL-record 13 consecutive 50+ yard field-goal attempts dating back to 2015.

MOST FIELD GOALS OF AT LEAST 50 YARDS, SINGLE SEASON

SEASON	50+ YARD FIELD GOALS
2017	107
2015	104
2013	96
2014	94
2012	92

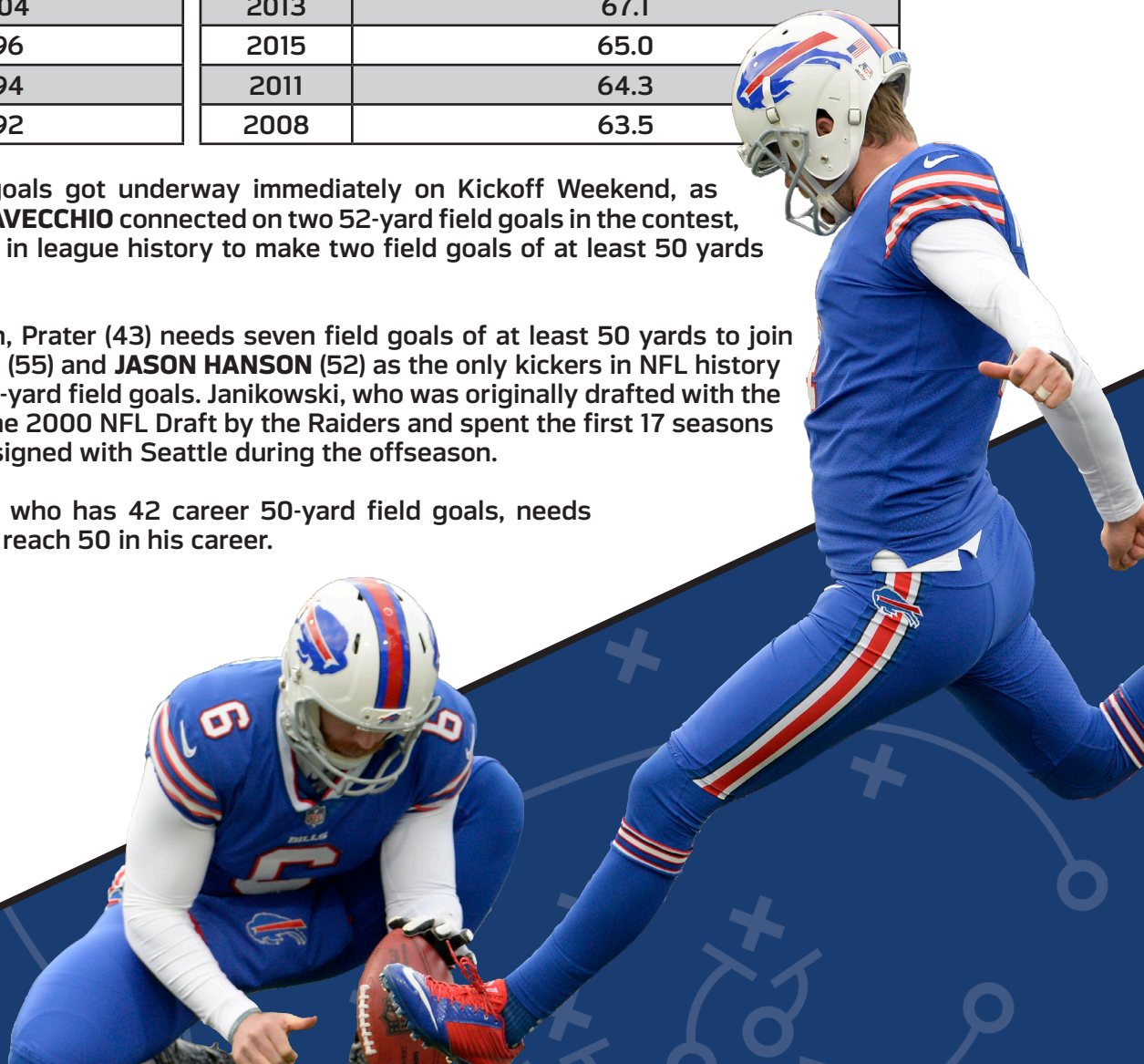
HIGHEST FIELD GOAL PERCENTAGE ON KICKS OF 50+ YARDS, SINGLE SEASON

SEASON	PCT. OF 50+ YARD FIELD GOALS MADE
2017	69.5
2013	67.1
2015	65.0
2011	64.3
2008	63.5

A season of long field goals got underway immediately on Kickoff Weekend, as Raiders kicker **GIORGIO TAVECCHIO** connected on two 52-yard field goals in the contest, becoming the first player in league history to make two field goals of at least 50 yards in his NFL debut.

Entering the 2018 season, Prater (43) needs seven field goals of at least 50 yards to join **SEBASTIAN JANIKOWSKI** (55) and **JASON HANSON** (52) as the only kickers in NFL history with at least 50 career 50-yard field goals. Janikowski, who was originally drafted with the 17th overall selection in the 2000 NFL Draft by the Raiders and spent the first 17 seasons of his career in Oakland, signed with Seattle during the offseason.

Arizona's **PHIL DAWSON**, who has 42 career 50-yard field goals, needs eight made 50 yarders to reach 50 in his career.





THE PLAYERS

BIG PLAY EXCITEMENT

Everyone in the stadium, from the field to the stands, feels the fans' excitement as they celebrate a big play for their team. Those plays can change the momentum of a game and give a team a lift.

Pittsburgh wide receiver **ANTONIO BROWN** (top left) recorded a league-best 27 receptions of 20 yards or more and led the NFL with 1,533 receiving yards in 2017.

20+ YARD RECEPTION LEADERS IN 2017

PLAYER	2017 TEAM	20+ YARD RECEPTIONS
Antonio Brown	Pittsburgh	27
DeAndre Hopkins	Houston	24
Julio Jones	Atlanta	23

Kansas City running back **KAREEM HUNT** (bottom left) led the NFL with 1,327 rushing yards and tied with Buffalo running back **LE SEAN MC COY** for the league lead with 12 rushes of 20 or more yards.

20+ YARD RUSH LEADERS IN 2017

PLAYER	2017 TEAM	20+ YARD RUSHES
Kareem Hunt	Kansas City	12
LeSean McCoy	Buffalo	12
Mark Ingram	New Orleans	11

In Week 12 of the 2017 season, Atlanta wide receiver **JULIO JONES** (below) recorded 12 receptions, including seven catches of at least 20 yards, for 253 yards and two touchdowns. It marked the fourth game since 1991 in which a player recorded seven big play receptions of at least 20 yards.

"You guys know how I feel about Julio. He's incredible. That's just the type of guy he is. He played great today...He's a phenomenal player."

-Buccaneers defensive tackle **GERALD MC COY** on **JONES'** Week 12 performance



THE PLAYERS

REMARKABLE RETURNERS

The 2017 season featured many exciting plays in the return game, as both established veterans and explosive young stars provided exhilarating action throughout the season.

Detroit rookie **JAMAL AGNEW** led the NFL with a 15.4 punt-return average and was the only player to have multiple punt return touchdowns (two) in 2017, leading to an All-Pro selection.

"It's very rare for a rookie like that to be All-Pro," said former NFL player **DEVIN HESTER**. "You really don't see that happen. To come out and set a tempo that he did as a true rookie, it's an honor. I hope he continues to make the plays he's been making. Hopefully, his future keeps moving forward."

Los Angeles Rams Pro Bowler **PHAROH COOPER** ranked second among qualified kick returners with a 27.4 yard kickoff-return average and second among qualified punt returners with a 12.5 return average. Cooper had the season's longest kickoff return, taking the opening kickoff 103 yards for a touchdown against Jacksonville in Week 6.

Chicago rookie running back **TARIK COHEN** became the first player since **TERRY METCALF** (1975) and the first rookie since Pro Football Hall of Famer **GALE SAYERS** (1965) to have a punt-return touchdown, rushing touchdown, receiving touchdown and passing touchdown in a single season.

"You see how he is around the guys, but then you see how he is in the classroom," said Bears first-year head coach **MATT NAGY**. "He is extremely focused and trying to learn the details. He's a humble kid. And when you have guys like that who respect the game and they respect their peers and they want to be great, he has the ability to be really good."

A SAMPLING OF 2017 RETURN HIGHLIGHTS

Tarik Cohen Chicago (top)	With his punt return touchdown in Week 13, Cohen became the first player since 1975 and the first rookie since 1965 to have a punt-return touchdown, rushing touchdown, receiving touchdown and passing touchdown in a single season.
Tyreek Hill Kansas City	Hill led the NFL with six TDs of at least 50 yards (five receiving, one punt return) in 2017. Since entering the league in 2016, Hill has 11 TDs of 50+ yards (five receiving, three punt return, two rushing & one kick return), tied with Sayers (11) for the second-most in a player's first two seasons in NFL history.
Alvin Kamara New Orleans	Kamara joined Sayers (1965) as the only rookies in NFL history to have at least five rushing touchdowns (eight), five receiving touchdowns (five) and a kickoff-return touchdown.
JuJu Smith-Schuster Pittsburgh (bottom)	Smith-Schuster finished the season with 1,157 all-purpose yards (917 receiving, 240 kickoff-return) and became the youngest player in NFL history to record 1,000 all-purpose yards in a season.



THE PLAYERS

PRAISE FROM THEIR PEERS

In the NFL, there are great athletes all over the field. There are certain guys, however, that are so mesmerizing to watch that opposing players can't help but admire their toughest competition.

For the second consecutive season, New England quarterback **TOM BRADY** (top) was voted as the NFL's top player by his peers as compiled in NFL Network's "Top 100 Players of 2018."

"The thing about Tom Brady is he's super clutch. When the game is on the line, he has no fear. I've got a lot of respect for Tom. How could you not? He's the greatest of all-time."

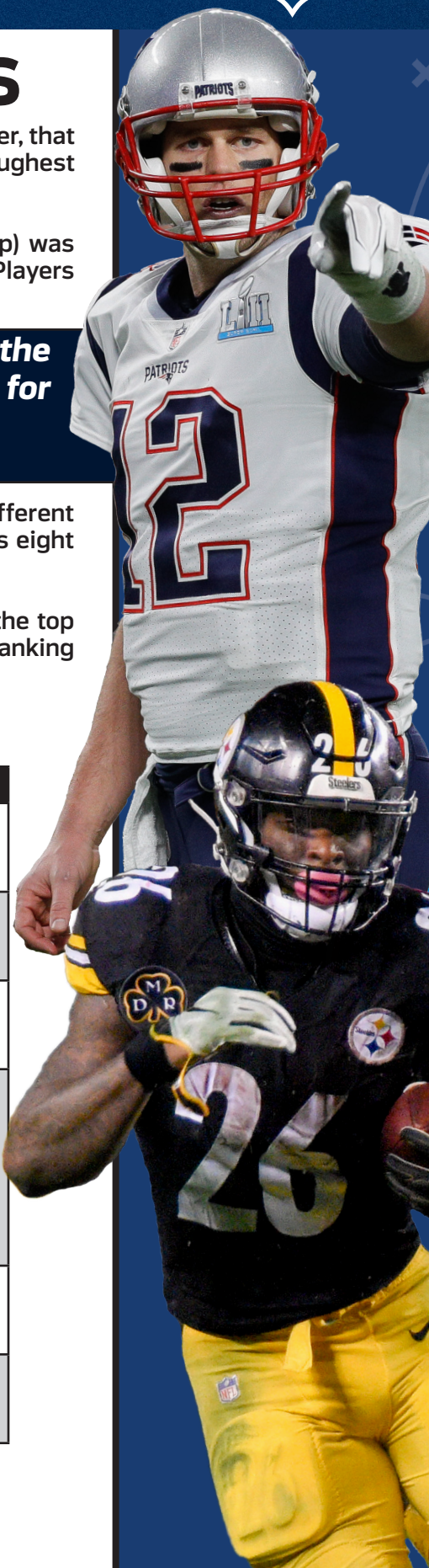
- Seahawks quarterback **RUSSELL WILSON**

Brady is the first player in the history of the countdown to be voted No. 1 in three different seasons and he has finished in the top five of the countdown in each of the poll's eight years.

Pittsburgh's **ANTONIO BROWN** and Philadelphia's **CARSON WENTZ** rounded out the top three, while Los Angeles Rams defensive tackle **AARON DONALD** was the highest ranking defensive player, checking in at No. 7.

THE TOP 10 PLAYERS FROM NFL NETWORK'S "TOP 100 PLAYERS OF 2018"

RANK	PLAYER, TEAM	QUOTE
1	Tom Brady New England	"The best player in the National Football League is Tom Brady...Tom Brady is great and has been for a long a time." - Broncos LB VON MILLER
2	Antonio Brown Pittsburgh	"Antonio Brown's the best player I've ever seen in person. The double-team doesn't matter. A.B.'s going to beat the double-team every time." - Steelers RB LE'VEON BELL
3	Carson Wentz Philadelphia	"Carson Wentz is kind of like a five-tool player in baseball. A guy that can do it all. He's that at the quarterback position." - Redskins DE RYAN KERRIGAN
4	Julio Jones Atlanta	"Top three wide receivers? Julio Jones. I would always put Julio at number one. He is a man amongst men. He has the full gamut of abilities and can run every route in the route tree...He gets to the top of his route and you don't know that he's about to change direction, you don't know that he's about to change speeds. You talk about artwork in motion, that's artwork for me." - Seahawks WR DOUG BALDWIN
5	Le'Veon Bell Pittsburgh (bottom)	"The best attribute of any running back is his vision. His vision is, bar none, the best." - Dolphins RB KENYAN DRAKE
6	Todd Gurley LA Rams	"Todd Gurley is a do-it-all back. He can catch the ball out of the backfield, run between the tackles. Not only can he do that, he can run away from you too." - Steelers LB JON BOSTIC





THE PLAYERS

RANK	PLAYER, TEAM	QUOTE
7	Aaron Donald LA Rams	"What Aaron Donald is doing in L.A. right now is second to none. That dude is so impressive. The best guys have it all. He is one of those guys that has every aspect. He's smart, he's explosive, he's competitive. He's giving effort every single play and he's powerful. The guy has no weaknesses and that's a tough thing for an offensive lineman to go up against." – Eagles C JASON KELCE
8	Drew Brees New Orleans	"Obviously, he's going to go down as one of the best to ever play this position. Any little things I can learn from him, decision-making to mechanics to just operation, how he plays the game at quarterback. I try to model as much as I can after him." – Broncos QB CASE KEENUM
9	Von Miller Denver	"He is one of the few guys that you really say that he can wreck the whole entire game if we don't make sure that we have him blocked on every play." – T ERIC WINSTON
10	Aaron Rodgers Green Bay	"Aaron Rodgers, the dynamic he brings, he really can single-handedly carry a team. He's so athletic, makes so many plays off-schedule, has as much arm talent as anybody in the world." – Vikings QB KIRK COUSINS

Rams DT AARON DONALD

Broncos LB VON MILLER





THE PLAYERS



SAME FACES, NEW PLACES

Whether through free agency or trades, this offseason contained big-name moves that may alter the landscape of the 2018 NFL season.

The Los Angeles Rams acquired wide receiver **BRANDIN COOKS** from New England, cornerback **MARCUS PETERS** from Kansas City, cornerback **AQIB TALIB** from Denver and signed defensive tackle **NDAMUKONG SUH** in free agency while the defending Super Bowl champion Philadelphia Eagles acquired defensive end **MICHAEL BENNETT** from Seattle via trade. In Minnesota, the Vikings lured quarterback **KIRK COUSINS** – one of two quarterbacks with at least 4,000 passing yards and 25 touchdown passes in each of the past three seasons – from Washington, while the Redskins acquired Pro Bowl QB **ALEX SMITH** (top) from Kansas City via trade.

“Alex’s experience is well-noted. It’s not one thing, it’s everything. It’s the entire body of work...Coaching him for the first time will be exciting because I don’t think there’s a limit on what he can do. He does all the things you want a quarterback to be able to do.”

- Redskins head coach **JAY GRUDEN** on **ALEX SMITH**

Several notable wide receivers were on the move during the offseason, headlined by **JARVIS LANDRY** (Cleveland, middle), **JORDY NELSON** (Oakland), **MICHAEL CRABTREE** (Baltimore), **SAMMY WATKINS** (Kansas City), **ALLEN ROBINSON** (Chicago) and **TORREY SMITH** (Carolina).

*“The numbers speak for themselves,” Browns general manager **JOHN DORSEY** said of acquiring Landry. “One-hundred plus catches two years, three-time Pro Bowler. Loves the game of football, ultra-competitor. You’re lucky to get a guy like that on your team. He is a professional. he’s got deep passion for the game. I think that will carry over here moving forward.”*

A number of former Pro Bowlers will don a new uniform this season, including quarterback **TYROD TAYLOR** (Cleveland), tight end **JIMMY GRAHAM** (Green Bay), guard **ANDREW NORWELL** (Jacksonville), tackle **NATE SOLDER** (New York Giants), cornerbacks **MALCOLM BUTLER** (Tennessee), **VONTAE DAVIS** (Buffalo) and **RICHARD SHERMAN** (San Francisco, bottom), defensive end **ROBERT QUINN** (Miami), defensive tackles **DONTARI POE** (Carolina), **SHELDON RICHARDSON** (Minnesota) and **MUHAMMAD WILKERSON** (Green Bay) and safety **TYRANN MATHIEU** (Houston).

“We all know what he brings. He brings a championship pedigree and is an absolutely wonderful competitor that we wanted to surround his presence around our guys with. We’re thrilled to have him here.”

- 49ers general manager **JOHN LYNCH** on **RICHARD SHERMAN**



THE PLAYERS

BELOW ARE SOME NOTABLE PLAYERS TO CHANGE TEAMS THIS OFFSEASON

PLAYER	NEW TEAM	2017 TEAM
WR Danny Amendola	MIA	NE
WR Tavon Austin	DAL	LAR
DE Michael Bennett	PHI	SEA
RB LeGarrette Blount	DET	PHI
QB Sam Bradford	AZ	MIN
QB Teddy Bridgewater	NYJ	MIN
TE Trey Burton	CHI	PHI
CB Malcolm Butler	TEN	NE
DE Adrian Clayborn	NE	ATL
WR Brandin Cooks	LAR	NE
QB Kirk Cousins	MIN	WAS
WR Michael Crabtree	BAL	OAK
LB Demario Davis	NO	NYJ
CB Vontae Davis	BUF	IND
TE Eric Ebron	IND	DET
CB Kendall Fuller	KC	WAS
T Cordy Glenn	CIN	BUF
TE Jimmy Graham	GB	SEA
LB Anthony Hitchens	KC	DAL
RB Carlos Hyde	CLE	SF
CB Trumaine Johnson	NYJ	LAR
QB Case Keenum	DEN	MIN
QB DeShone Kizer	GB	CLE
WR Jarvis Landry	CLE	MIA
RB Dion Lewis	TEN	NE
S Tyrann Mathieu	HOU	AZ
CB Jason McCourty	NE	CLE

PLAYER	NEW TEAM	2017 TEAM
RB Jerick McKinnon	SF	MIN
LB Pernell McPhee	WAS	CHI
WR Cameron Meredith	NO	CHI
LB Trent Murphy	BUF	WAS
WR Jordy Nelson	OAK	GB
G Andrew Norwell	JAX	CAR
LB Alec Ogletree	NYG	LAR
CB Marcus Peters	LAR	KC
DT Dontari Poe	CAR	ATL
C Mike Pouncey	LAC	MIA
WR Terrelle Pryor Sr.	NYJ	WAS
DE Robert Quinn	MIA	LAR
S Damarious Randall	CLE	GB
WR Paul Richardson	WAS	SEA
DT Sheldon Richardson	MIN	SEA
G/C Weston Richburg	SF	NYG
WR Allen Robinson	CHI	JAX
CB Patrick Robinson	NO	PHI
CB Richard Sherman	SF	SEA
QB Alex Smith	WAS	KC
WR Torrey Smith	CAR	PHI
T Nate Solder	NYG	NE
DT Ndamukong Suh	LAR	MIA
CB Aqib Talib	LAR	DEN
QB Tyrod Taylor	CLE	BUF
WR Sammy Watkins	KC	LAR
DT Muhammad Wilkerson	GB	NYJ

Broncos QB CASE KEENUM

Bears WR ALLEN ROBINSON

Rams DT NDAMUKONG SUH





THE PLAYERS

BROTHERLY LOVE

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.

During the 2018 NFL Draft, safety **TERRELL EDMUNDS** (No. 28, Pittsburgh, below left) and linebacker **TREMAINE EDMUNDS** (No. 16, Buffalo, below right) became the first pair of brothers to be drafted in the first round of the same NFL draft. Tremaine and Terrell's brother, **TREY EDMUNDS**, is a running back for the New Orleans Saints. Their father, **FERRELL EDMUNDS**, was a two-time Pro Bowl selection at tight end during his seven-year NFL career with the Miami Dolphins and Seattle Seahawks.

"Man, it was great," said Tremaine of the draft process. "Definitely to see my other brother get drafted tonight, it was a big time relief for my whole family. I know everybody's excited and I'm excited. It's a long time coming, but we can finally say that we made it."

The **WATTS** – Los Angeles Chargers fullback **DEREK**, Houston defensive end **J.J.** and Pittsburgh linebacker **T.J.** – and the **FULLERS** – Detroit wide receiver **COREY**, Kansas City cornerback **KENDALL** and Chicago cornerback **KYLE** – are the only other sets of three brothers currently in the league.

New England is the only team in the NFL which has two sets of brothers sharing a locker room – safety **DEVIN** and cornerback **JASON MC COURT**, along with **CODY** and **JACOB HOLLISTER**. Brothers **SHAQUEM** and **SHAQUIL GRIFFIN** in Seattle, **MATT** and **RYAN KALIL** in Carolina and **NATE** and **NICK HOLLEY** with the Los Angeles Rams are the only other teammate brothers in the NFL this season.





THE PLAYERS

SOME NOTABLE 2018 NFL BROTHERS, INCLUDING WHEN THEY PLAY EACH OTHER IN THE REGULAR SEASON

COLQUITT	P Britton, Cle P Dustin, KC	KC @ CLE 11/4	KELCE	C Jason, Phi TE Travis, KC	
DAVIS	TE Vernon, Was CB Vontae, Buf		LONG	DE Chris, Phi G Kyle, Chi	
FULLER	WR Corey, Det CB Kendall, KC CB Kyle, Chi	DET @ CHI 11/11 CHI @ DET 11/22	MARTIN	C Nick, Hou G Zack, Dal	DAL @ HOU 10/7
EDMUNDS	S Terrell, Pit LB Tremaine, Buf RB Trey, NO	PIT @ NO 12/23	MATTHEWS	T Jake, Atl C Mike, Mia	
GRIFFIN	LB Shaquem, Sea CB Shaquill, Sea		MC COURTNEY	S Devin, NE CB Jason, NE	
HOLLISTER	WR Cody, NE TE Jacob, NE		POUNCEY	C Maurkice, Pit C Mike, LAC	LAC @ PIT 12/2
KALIL	T Matt, Car C Ryan, Car		WATKINS	CB Jaylen, LAC WR Sammy, KC	KC @ LAC 9/9 LAC @ KC 12/13
KENDRICKS	LB Eric, Min LB Mychal, Cle		WATT	FB Derek, LAC DE J.J., Hou LB T.J., Pit	LAC @ PIT 12/2

“It was really like a dream. It was like I was dreaming. Magical stuff started happening. It’s unexplainable, the emotions, everything that was going through my mind. It was crazy. I had a feeling, but the chances are really low, so just to be able to be there. I couldn’t ask for anything in the world to have an opportunity to be back with my brother.”

- Seahawks linebacker
SHAQUEM GRIFFIN (left) on
reuniting with his brother,
SHAQUIL GRIFFIN (right), in
Seattle





THE PLAYERS

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."

"I tell all these guys when I talk to them, whether they are playing for some big school or some small school, I don't care where you came from," said Tennessee general manager **JON ROBINSON**. "If you can play football, if you can buy into our philosophy, our style of football, then you can play for the Tennessee Titans."

Kansas City running back **KAREEM HUNT** – who led the NFL with 1,327 rushing yards as a rookie last season – was drafted by the Chiefs in the third round of the 2017 NFL Draft out of Toledo, which plays in the Mid-American Conference.

"It's football," said Hunt of his transition from Toledo to the NFL. "The MAC has great competition and we get discredited a lot. It's kind of tough, a lot of people sleep on the MAC. We have Antonio Brown, Big Ben (Roethlisberger), Khalil Mack, some big names from the MAC in the NFL. The game speed is different but that's any college to the pros – you're going to see bigger, faster, stronger. In the NFL it's the best of the best."

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** out of North Dakota State.

"The jump is a big jump no matter where you are coming from – Division III, FCS, FBS, SEC – it doesn't matter," said Wentz. "Everyone is bigger, faster, stronger in the NFL. Obviously, we believe at the FCS level that there is a lot of good talent, and you are playing a lot of good competition."

A SAMPLING OF THE NFL'S SMALL-SCHOOL STARS

PLAYER, TEAM	COLLEGE	CAREER HIGHLIGHT
S Mike Adams, Car.	Delaware	Named to 2 Pro Bowls; tied for team lead with 10 PD in 2017
DE Mario Addison, Car.	Troy	Set career-high with 11.5 sacks in 2017
S Antoine Bethea, Az.	Howard	Three-time Pro Bowler; had career-high 5 INTs last season
CB Justin Bethel, Atl.	Presbyterian	Three-time Pro Bowler
CB Malcolm Butler, Ten.	West Alabama	Named to 2016 Pro Bowl; had game-sealing INT in SB XLIX
S Kevin Byard, Ten.	Middle Tennessee St.	Tied for NFL lead with 8 INTs in 2017
QB Joe Flacco, Bal.	Delaware	Super Bowl XLVII MVP; club-record 200 career TD passes
WR Pierre Garçon, SF	Mount Union	NFL-best 113 rec. in 2013; 500+ rec. yards in 9 of 10 seasons

Cardinals S ANTOINE BETHEA

Titans S KEVIN BYARD

49ers WR PIERRE GARÇON





THE PLAYERS

PLAYER, TEAM	COLLEGE	CAREER HIGHLIGHT
CB Brent Grimes, TB	Shippensburg	Four-time Pro Bowler; has 3+ INTs in each of past 5 seasons
DE William Hayes, Mia.	Winston-Salem State	Has 35.5 career sacks and 7 forced fumbles
WR/RS Tyreek Hill, KC	West Alabama	Leads NFL with 4 return TDs (3 PR, 1 KR) over past 2 seasons
RB Kareem Hunt, KC	Toledo	Led NFL with 1,327 rush yards as rookie last season
RB Chris Ivory, Buf.	Tiffin	Ranked 5th in NFL with 1,070 rush yards in 2015 for Jets
CB Janoris Jenkins, NYG	North Alabama	Named to 2017 Pro Bowl; has 16 career INTs
RB David Johnson, Az.	Northern Iowa	Led NFL in TDs (20) & scrimmage yards (2,118) in 2016
FB Kyle Juszczyk, SF	Harvard	Two-time Pro Bowler; has 7 career TDs
P Marquette King, Den.	Fort Valley State	Ranked 2nd in AFC last season with 42.7 yard punt avg.
DE Khalil Mack, Oak.	Buffalo	Three-time Pro Bowler. Leads NFL with 36.5 sacks since 2015
CB Josh Norman, Was.	Coastal Carolina	Is 1 of 3 with 225+ tackles (234) & 50+ PD (58) since 2014
CB Darius Slay, Det.	Portland State	Tied for NFL lead with 8 INTs and led league with 26 PDs in 2017
WR Adam Thielen, Min.	Minn. State-Mankato	2018 Pro Bowler; Ranked 2nd in NFC with 1,276 rec. yards in 2017
K Adam Vinatieri, Ind.	South Dakota State	Three-time Pro Bowler; has 4 Super Bowl victories
TE Delanie Walker, Ten.	Central Missouri	Three-time Pro Bowler; has 800+ rec. yards in each of past 4 seasons
QB Carson Wentz, Phi.	North Dakota State	Named to 2018 Pro Bowl; Ranked 2nd in NFL with 33 TD passes in 2017
RB Charcandrick West, KC	Abilene Christian	Has 12 TDs (7 rush, 5 rec.) in past 3 seasons

Cardinals RB DAVID JOHNSON

Raiders DE KHALIL MACK

Redskins CB JOSH NORMAN





THE PLAYERS

NOT DRAFTED? NOT A PROBLEM

How does an undrafted player develop into an NFL star? Jaguars Pro Bowl cornerback **A.J. BOUYE** (top) sees being overlooked in the Draft process as a means for motivation.

"I keep that chip on my shoulder," said Bouye. "It keeps motivating you. At the end of the day, this game is about respect. I've been looking for that for a long time."

Minnesota Pro Bowl wide receiver **ADAM THIELEN** had a long and tumultuous journey to the NFL. From not being invited to the Combine and having to pay his way to regional combines, to being cut from the practice squad, Thielen has continued to work hard and, in 2017, led the NFC with 1,276 receiving yards while earning his first-career Pro Bowl selection.

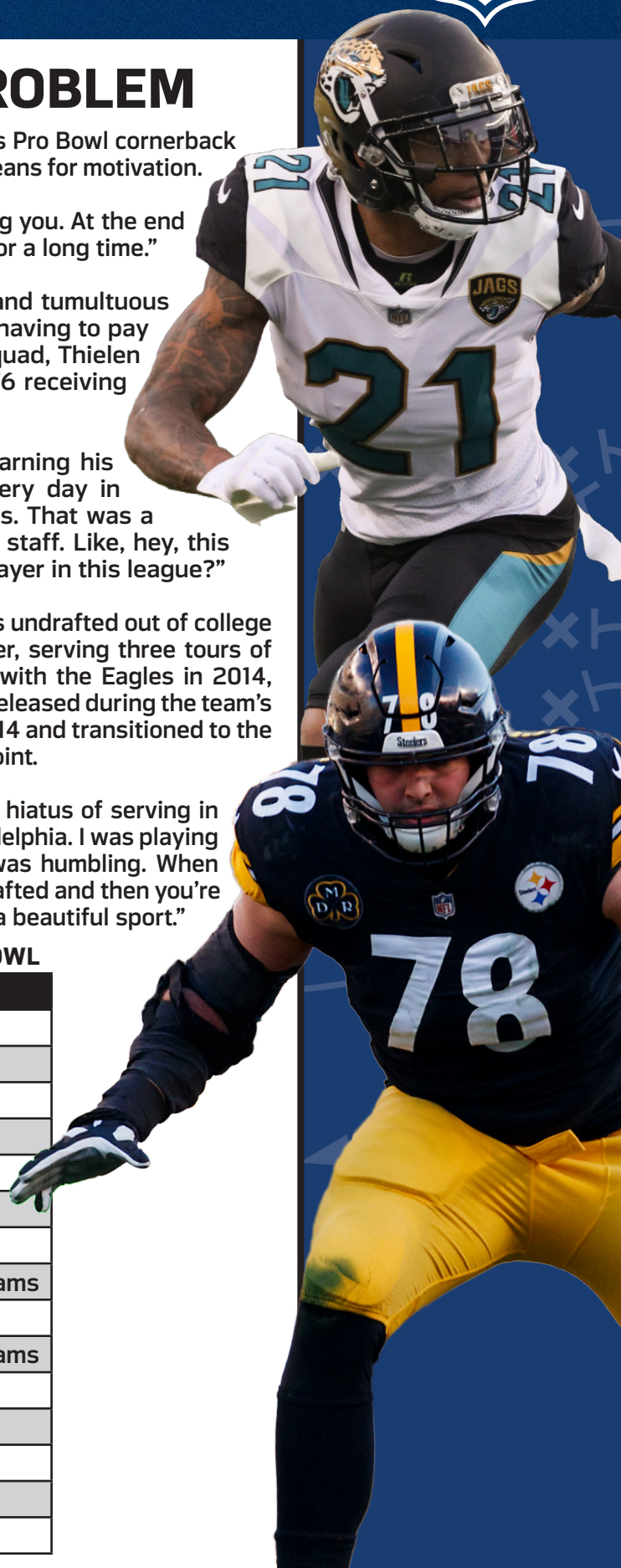
"I was trying to compete every single day," said Thielen on earning his position on an NFL roster. "I tried to beat those starters every day in practice to prove that I belong, that I can play with the starters. That was a great opportunity for me to gain confidence from the coaching staff. Like, hey, this guy is consistently beating our starters, so why can't he be a player in this league?"

Pittsburgh Pro Bowl tackle **ALEJANDRO VILLANUEVA** (bottom) was undrafted out of college and spent the following four years as an active U.S. Army Ranger, serving three tours of duty in Afghanistan. After returning, Villanueva landed a tryout with the Eagles in 2014, where he was originally tried as a defensive lineman before being released during the team's roster cuts. Villanueva signed to the Steelers' practice squad in 2014 and transitioned to the offensive line, a position he had played sparingly while at West Point.

"I started playing defensive line and had no idea after a five-year hiatus of serving in the Army," said Villanueva. "I was the first player to get cut in Philadelphia. I was playing something like eight plays in the fourth preseason game. That was humbling. When you're that beat down, by the coaches, by the fact that you're undrafted and then you're able to overcome that, then you can see football for what it is. It's a beautiful sport."

UNDRAFTED PLAYERS NAMED TO THE 2018 PRO BOWL

POSITION	PLAYER	2017 TEAM
WR	Doug Baldwin	Seattle
DE	Michael Bennett	Seattle
K	Chris Boswell	Pittsburgh
CB	A.J. Bouye	Jacksonville
FB	James Develin	New England
TE	Jack Doyle	Indianapolis
K	Graham Gano	Carolina
P	Johnny Hekker	Los Angeles Rams
P	Brett Kern	Tennessee
LS	Jake McQuaide	Los Angeles Rams
FB	Roosevelt Nix	Pittsburgh
T	Donald Penn	Oakland
WR	Adam Thielen	Minnesota
ST	Brynden Trawick	Tennessee
T	Alejandro Villanueva	Pittsburgh





THE PLAYERS

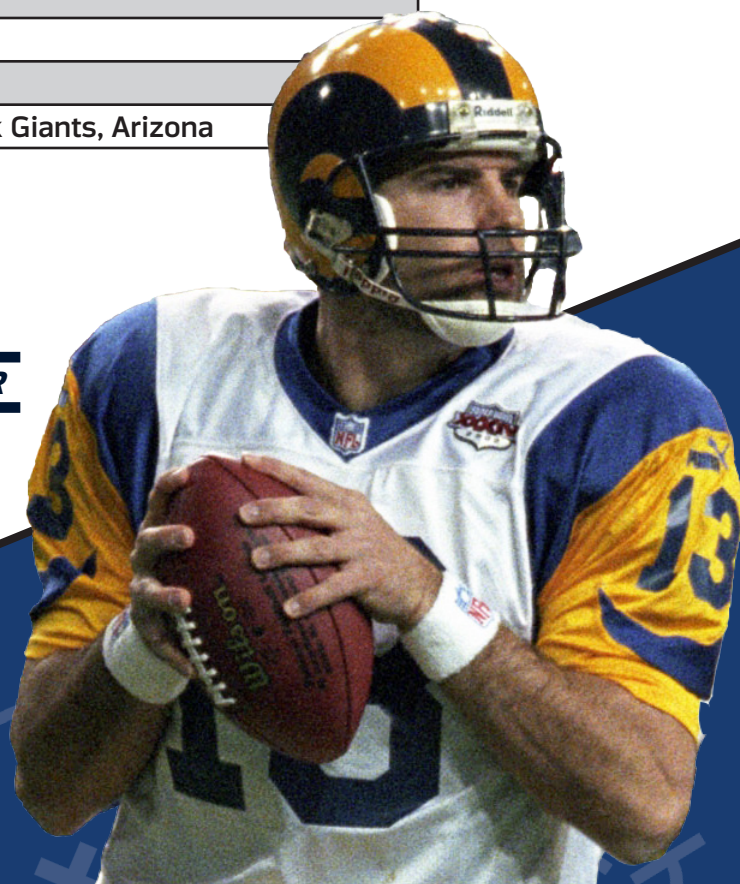
There have been 17 undrafted players enshrined in the Pro Football Hall of Fame. Most recently, **KURT WARNER** (below) was part of the 2017 induction class. Warner credits a large part of his success to those that surround him.

“For a long time, I convinced myself that I could will my way to my dream,” said Warner. “As long as I wanted it bad enough, I could make it happen. But if there’s one great truth that I’ve learned from this great game, it’s that no great accomplishment is ever achieved by yourself. To be successful is contingent on others, and it always starts with someone taking a chance on you.”

UNDRAFTED PLAYERS IN THE HALL OF FAME

HOF CLASS	PLAYER	TEAM(S)
1967	Emlen Tunnell	New York Giants, Green Bay
1968	Marion Motley	Cleveland, Pittsburgh
1969	Joe Perry	San Francisco, Baltimore Colts
1974	Lou Groza	Cleveland
1974	Dick “Night Train” Lane	Los Angeles Rams, Chicago Cardinals, Detroit
1977	Bill Willis	Cleveland
1984	Willie Brown	Denver, Oakland
1985	Frank Gatski	Cleveland, Detroit
1987	Jim Langer	Miami, Minnesota
1989	Willie Wood	Green Bay
1993	Larry Little	San Diego, Miami
2006	Warren Moon	Houston Oilers, Minnesota, Seattle, Kansas City
2008	Emmitt Thomas	Kansas City
2010	John Randle	Minnesota, Seattle
2012	Jack Butler	Pittsburgh
2015	Mick Tingelhoff	Minnesota
2017	Kurt Warner	St. Louis, New York Giants, Arizona

Hall of Fame QB KURT WARNER



THE PLAYERS



ACTIVE STAT LEADERS

TOP 10 ACTIVE PASSERS (1,000 OR MORE ATTEMPTS)

PLAYER	Att.	Comp.	Comp. %	Yards	TD	INT	Passer Rating
1. Aaron Rodgers	4,895	3,188	65.1	38,502	313	78	103.8
2. Russell Wilson	2,834	1,815	64.0	22,176	161	56	98.8
3. Tom Brady	8,805	5,629	63.9	66,159	488	160	97.6
4. Drew Brees	9,294	6,222	66.9	70,445	488	228	96.7
5. Philip Rivers	6,492	4,171	64.2	50,348	342	166	94.8
6. Ben Roethlisberger	6,493	4,164	64.1	51,065	329	174	94.0
7. Kirk Cousins	2,096	1,372	65.5	16,206	99	55	93.7
8. Matt Ryan	5,593	3,630	64.9	41,796	260	126	93.4
9. Tyrod Taylor	1,271	793	62.4	9,056	51	18	91.2
10. Matt Schaub	3,274	2,093	63.9	24,867	133	90	89.1

TOP 10 ACTIVE RUSHERS

PLAYER	Att.	Yards	TD
1. Frank Gore	3,226	14,026	77
2. Adrian Peterson	2,574	12,276	99
3. LeSean McCoy	2,185	10,092	66
4. Marshawn Lynch	2,351	10,003	81
5. Jamaal Charles	1,401	7,556	44
6. Jonathan Stewart	1,699	7,318	51
7. LeGarrette Blount	1,341	5,888	51
8. Alfred Morris	1,262	5,503	32
9. Mark Ingram	1,183	5,362	44
10. Le'Veon Bell	1,229	5,336	35

TOP 10 ACTIVE PASS RECEIVERS

PLAYER	NO.	YARDS	TD
1. Larry Fitzgerald	1,234	15,545	110
2. Brandon Marshall	959	12,215	82
3. Antonio Gates	927	11,508	114
4. Antonio Brown	733	9,910	59
5. Greg Olsen	639	7,556	53
6. Demaryius Thomas	629	8,653	57
7. Pierre Garçon	604	7,568	37
8. Julio Jones	585	9,054	43
9. Michael Crabtree	579	6,870	51
10. Jimmy Graham	556	6,800	69
A.J. Green	556	8,213	57

Packers QB AARON RODGERS

Dolphins RB FRANK GORE

Cardinals WR LARRY FITZGERALD



THE PLAYERS



ACTIVE STAT LEADERS

TOP 10 ACTIVE SCORERS

PLAYER	TD	FG	PAT	TP
1. Adam Vinatieri	0	559	808(1#)	2,487
2. Phil Dawson	1	436	503	1,817
3. Sebastian Janikowski	0	414	557	1,799
4. Matt Bryant	0	368	520	1,624
5. Stephen Gostkowski	0	340	593	1,613
6. Robbie Gould	0	325	427	1,402
7. Mason Crosby	0	277	514	1,345
8. Matt Prater	0	246	388	1,126
9. Mike Nugent	0	247	359	1,100
10. Nick Folk	0	245	342	1,077

#Two-point conversion

TOP 10 ACTIVE INTERCEPTORS

PLAYER	NO.	YARDS	TD
1. Terence Newman	42	363	3
2. Reggie Nelson	36	486	1
3. Aqib Talib	34	722	10
4. Brent Grimes	33	461	3
5. Richard Sherman	32	395	2
Tramon Williams	32	437	1
7. D. Rodgers-Cromartie	30	535	6
8. Eric Weddle	29	467	4
9. Johnathan Joseph	28	592	6
10. Mike Adams	27	326	2
Leon Hall	27	290	3

TOP 10 ACTIVE SACKERS

PLAYER	SACKS
1. Julius Peppers	154.5
2. Terrell Suggs	125.5
3. Elvis Dumervil	105.5
4. Cameron Wake	92.0
5. Tamba Hali	89.5
6. Von Miller	83.5
7. Clay Matthews	80.0
8. J.J. Watt	76.0
9. Ryan Kerrigan	71.5
10. Calais Campbell	71.0

TOP 10 ACTIVE PUNTERS (50 PUNTS OR MORE)

PLAYER	PUNTS	AVG.	LG.
1. Shane Lechler	1,444	47.6	80
2. Drew Kaser	133	47.3	69
3. Johnny Hekker	499	47.1	78
4. Thomas Morstead	527	47.0	70
5. Marquette King	426	46.8	72
6. Sam Martin	323	46.5	72
7. Andy Lee	1,135	46.4	82
8. Bryan Anger	495	46.3	73
9. Tress Way	279	46.2	77
10. Matt Bosher	420	45.8	69

TOP 5 ACTIVE KICKOFF RETURNERS (40 OR MORE RETURNS)

PLAYER	NO.	YDS.	AVG.	TD
1. Cordarrelle Patterson	153	4,613	30.2	5
2. Ameer Abdullah	45	1,256	27.9	0
3. Benny Cunningham	102	2,722	26.7	0
4. Quintin Demps	110	2,931	26.6	2
5. Jarvis Landry	48	1,270	26.5	0

TOP 5 ACTIVE PUNT RETURNERS (40 OR MORE RETURNS)

PLAYER	NO.	YDS.	AVG.	TD
1. Tyreek Hill	64	796	12.4	3
2. Julian Edelman	157	1,832	11.7	4
3. Travis Benjamin	104	1,173	11.3	4
4. Eric Weems	123	1,324	10.8	1
5. Golden Tate	90	959	10.7	0



THE PLAYERS

LUKE KUECHLY WINS ART ROONEY SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD

LUKE KUECHLY of the Carolina Panthers was voted the winner of the **2017 ART ROONEY SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD**, which is given to the NFL player who best demonstrates the qualities of outstanding sportsmanship on the playing field, including fair play, respect for opponents and integrity in competition.

"I want to thank the Rooney family for this award," said Kuechly. "When I got to Carolina, I didn't know what to expect. But when I got there, we had a bunch of older guys that really taught me how to play, how to respect the game and how to go about it. Two of them are right here with Greg Olsen and Thomas Davis. I think this game provides so much for us and brings people together from all walks of life. It gives you the opportunity to learn, to have fun and compete, to work hard. It teaches you a lot. I think we have a great opportunity to go out there and do a lot of great things."

The award was founded in 2014 in honor of the late founding owner of the Pittsburgh Steelers and Pro Football Hall of Famer **ART ROONEY, SR.** Past recipients of the Art Rooney Sportsmanship Award are **FRANK GORE** of the Indianapolis Colts (2016), **CHARLES WOODSON** of the Oakland Raiders (2015) and **LARRY FITZGERALD** of the Arizona Cardinals (2014).

"He plays really hard. He pushes his teammates to the max. Anytime you can take care of guys while still imposing your will on them, I feel like that's when you become deserving of awards like this. He plays the game the right way."

- Packers wide receiver **DAVANTE ADAMS**

Kuechly received a \$25,000 donation from the NFL Foundation which was distributed to three groups - the **PROJECT LIFE MOVEMENT**, **RECEPTIONS FOR RESEARCH - THE GREG OLSEN FOUNDATION** and the **THOMAS DAVIS DEFENDING DREAMS FOUNDATION**.

A six-year NFL veteran, Kuechly led Carolina with 125 tackles in 2017 and is the only player in franchise history with at least 100 tackles in each of his first six seasons as a Panther. Since entering the league in 2012, Kuechly leads all NFL linebackers with 15 interceptions and is the only player in the league with at least 15 interceptions (15) and 10 sacks (10.5) over that span. A five-time AP All-Pro selection, five-time Pro Bowler and the 2013 AP Defensive Player of the Year, he was a first-round draft choice by the Panthers in 2012.

Each NFL team nominated one of its players for the award, which recognizes players who exemplify outstanding sportsmanship on the field. A panel of former players from the NFL Legends Community selected eight finalists (four in the AFC; four in the NFC) from the 32 nominees. The panel of Legends Coordinators was comprised of **WARRICK DUNN**, **CURTIS MARTIN**, **KARL MECKLENBURG** and **LEONARD WHEELER**.



THE PLAYERS



The eight finalists were listed on the Pro Bowl ballot under the Art Rooney Sportsmanship Award. From the finalists, each team's players submitted a consensus vote of their choice for the winner. As in Pro Bowl voting, a team could not vote for its own player.

To commemorate the honor, Kuechly was presented on-stage with "The Art Rooney Trophy," which represents the important role that sportsmanship plays in the game and how NFL players that demonstrate integrity and honor on the field serve as role models for other players at all levels. The award design was inspired by the upward arc of a football in motion and contains a gold line embedded in glass that represents the path of sportsmanship throughout a career. Etched into the award are the words "integrity," "honor," "respect," and "fairness," the values that define excellent sportsmanship.

The finalists, featuring four players from each conference, were tight end **ANTONIO GATES** (Los Angeles Chargers), quarterback **JOSH MC COWN** (New York Jets), quarterback **ALEX SMITH** (Kansas City) and tackle **JOE THOMAS** (Cleveland) in the AFC, and tight end **VERNON DAVIS** (Washington), Kuechly, defensive tackle **HALOTI NGATA** (Detroit) and tackle **JOE STALEY** (San Francisco) in the NFC.

THE 32 PLAYER NOMINEES FOR THE 2017 ART ROONEY SPONSORSHIP AWARD (FINALISTS LISTED IN BOLD)

TEAM	NOMINEE
Arizona Cardinals	CB Patrick Peterson
Atlanta Falcons	S Ricardo Allen
Baltimore Ravens	QB Joe Flacco
Buffalo Bills	LB Lorenzo Alexander
Carolina Panthers	LB Luke Kuechly
Chicago Bears	RB Benny Cunningham
Cincinnati Bengals	DE Carlos Dunlap
Cleveland Browns	T Joe Thomas
Dallas Cowboys	C Travis Frederick
Denver Broncos	LB Von Miller
Detroit Lions	DT Haloti Ngata
Green Bay Packers	S Morgan Burnett
Houston Texans	P Shane Lechler
Indianapolis Colts	WR T.Y. Hilton
Jacksonville Jaguars	LB Paul Posluszny
Kansas City Chiefs	QB Alex Smith

TEAM	NOMINEE
Los Angeles Chargers	TE Antonio Gates
Los Angeles Rams	G Rodger Saffold
Miami Dolphins	G Jermon Bushrod
Minnesota Vikings	DE Brian Robison
New England Patriots	WR Matthew Slater
New Orleans Saints	QB Drew Brees
New York Giants	T Justin Pugh
New York Jets	QB Josh McCown
Oakland Raiders	QB Derek Carr
Philadelphia Eagles	TE Brent Celek
Pittsburgh Steelers	DE Cameron Heyward
San Francisco 49ers	T Joe Staley
Seattle Seahawks	DE Cliff Avril
Tampa Bay Buccaneers	DT Gerald McCoy
Tennessee Titans	QB Marcus Mariota
Washington Redskins	TE Vernon Davis

"I want to thank the Rooney family for this award. When I got to Carolina, I didn't know what to expect. But when I got there, we had a bunch of older guys that really taught me how to play, how to respect the game and how to go about it. Two of them are right here with Greg Olsen and Thomas Davis. I think this game provides so much for us and brings people together from all walks of life."

- Panthers linebacker LUKE KUECHLY

THE PLAYERS



NFL PLAYER ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMS

NFL Player Engagement influences and impacts the culture and values within the NFL and its community while assisting in the personal and professional growth of the players and their families during and beyond their NFL experience.

“Player Engagement accomplishes its mission through direct player and 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,” says NFL Senior Vice President of Player Engagement **ARTHUR MC AFEE**.

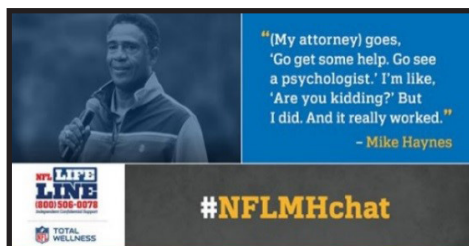
The Player Engagement department has four focal points: **Continuing Education, Financial Education, Career Development** and **Total Wellness**.

The National Football League Continuing Education Program assists current and former NFL players in completing their undergraduate degree, pursuing graduate studies and utilizing other educational opportunities to prepare for life after football.

The Financial Education Program provides players with engaging and unbiased education through programs and seminars that will improve the financial decision-making ability of players. The program is primarily made up of three components: The Rookie Experience, Financial Education Seminars and The Personal Finance Boot Camp.

The Career Development Program provides players with professional development training (brand assessment, presentation skills, training, business etiquette, resumé writing, and interview skills) to facilitate their growth as public figures and their transition out of professional football and into a desired second career. These include:

- Corporate job shadows and internships both domestically and internationally
- Boot Camps as introductions to post-playing experience career opportunities
 - Development opportunities within football
 - Individual career mentoring
- Bridge to Success Program (right) to help the post-playing transition



Total Wellness (left) assists players with programs and resources centered around health and safety, leadership, performance, personal, psychological and physical wellness. These resources include:

- Player assistance and counseling services through Cigna
- Independent confidential support through NFL Life Line
 - NFL Legend Transition Coaches
 - NFL Fatherhood Initiative

Additionally, Player Engagement offers current players and legends internship opportunities at NFL offices in Canada, China, Mexico, the United Kingdom and the United States. Among many benefits, these internships allow players to gain professional experience and a better understanding of the NFL's business functions.

NFL Player Engagement reaches more than 2,000 NFL players and spouses each year through these various programs and services.

For more information on NFL Player Engagement, www.nflplayerengagement.com.



THE PLAYERS



SUMMARY OF NFL PROGRAMS & BENEFITS FOR NFL LEGENDS

The National Football League recognizes the enormous contributions former players – NFL Legends – have had in the development and success of the league. The league has many resources that are available for NFL Legends in their post-playing years. These include opportunities to network and engage with the League, transition assistance and continuing education programs, as well as dozens of collectively-bargained benefits.

Below is a sampling of NFL resources available for our Legends:



NFL LEGENDS COMMUNITY

The NFL Legends Community was launched in October 2013, with the objective of celebrating, embracing and connecting former players with each other, their former teams and the NFL. The NFL Legends Community provides unique opportunities for Legends to engage year-round and includes:

- **Club Events** – From Homecoming celebrations to Legends golf tournaments, more than 3,300 Legends participated in events hosted by their former teams in 2017.
- **League Events** – The Legends Community hosts recently retired players at the NFL office in New York as part of continuous efforts to connect them with each other, their teams and the NFL. While there, Legends will hear from league and team executives, participate in networking opportunities and learn about the initiatives and programs specifically designed for them.
- **Legends Development Program** – Provides NFL Legends the opportunity to grow their careers by gaining business experience and exposure in the NFL office. It also exposes players to opportunities in football that are not in front of the camera or in a coaching capacity.
- **Legends Community Directors and Coordinators** – Twenty-four Legends are working on behalf of the league in different regions throughout the country – Pacific West, Central North, Central South, Southeast and Northeast. These Legends are stationed in different markets around the country and serve as another resource for clubs and former players.

- o **Co-Executive Directors:** Chad Pennington and Leonard Wheeler
- o **Directors and Coordinators (listed below)**

PACIFIC WEST	CENTRAL NORTH	CENTRAL SOUTH	SOUTHEAST	NORTHEAST
Donnie Edwards	James Laurinaitis	JB Brown	Rocket Ismail	Mark Brunell
Steven Jackson	Marty Moore	Garry Cobb	Chester Pitts	Donovin Darius
Kwamie Lassiter	Orlando Pace	Ed Reynolds	Will Shields	Warrick Dunn
Mack Strong	John Randle	Tony Richardson	Scott Turner	Mike Rucker
	Frank Winters	Darryl Talley		

- **Legends Lounge** – The Legends Lounge is a free and private hospitality space open exclusively to current and former NFL players. Available at major NFL calendar events, it is a place for the game's greats to relax and reengage with other former players.
- **Legends Newsletter** – A monthly newsletter designed to keep the Legends Community informed on upcoming offers, events and opportunities available for them.
- **Legends Podcast** – The NFL Legends Podcast is an unscripted podcast where NFL players and Legends engage in honest, candid conversation about the challenges and benefits of life off-the-field and after their football career. These private, player-facing conversations provide the intimacy of an NFL locker room, the comfort of a backyard barbeque and the inspiration of the NFL brotherhood.

THE PLAYERS



- **Lunch & Learns** – The Legends Lunch and Learn series consists of an interactive hour-long lunch where you can learn more about the Legends Community.
- **Website** – The NFL Legends Community website serves as the central location for updates on the Legends Community and resources available. For more information, visit www.nfllegendscommunity.com or email NFLLegends@nfl.com.

To date, more than 7,300 Legends are registered in the Legends Community.

PRO FOOTBALL RETIRED PLAYERS ASSOCIATION (below left)

The Pro Football Retired Players Association (PFRPA) and its business arm, the Football Greats Alliance (FGA) have been working to vet health and welfare benefits that are of interest to its members, as well as creating revenue generating partnerships with leading brands including Fanatics, VISA, Nike, DirecTV and others which will help drive future member benefits. In April, the PFRPA began notifying and enrolling members in the first ever-dental insurance program (administered by Metlife). This program offers unprecedented coverage for its members; retired players that effectively retired by July 2013. For those players that retired after August 2013, they are eligible to opt into PFRPA membership and will be eligible for the PFRPA Dental Plan after their NFL-offered dental plan expires.

NFL PLAYER CARE FOUNDATION (below right)

The Player Care Foundation (PCF) is an independent organization dedicated to helping retired players improve their quality of life. The PCF addresses all aspects of life by providing programs and assistance with medical, emotional, financial, social and community issues. Since its inception in 2007, the PCF has helped more than 950 former players with over \$12 million in financial grants.

OTHER PROGRAMS

Other groups affiliated with the NFL also offer 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.





THE PLAYERS

RETIRED PLAYER BENEFITS

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.

CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAM (CEP)

The NFL Continuing Education Program (CEP) assists current and former NFL players with completing their undergraduate degree, pursuing graduate studies and utilizing other educational opportunities to prepare for life after football. 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.

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.

JOINT REPLACEMENT PROGRAMS

The NFL Joint Replacement Program provides medical and financial resources to retired players who are uninsured or lack the financing to have joint replacement surgery.

NEUROLOGICAL CARE

The NFL Neurological Care Program has neurological specialists available at five medical centers to evaluate and treat possible neurological conditions among retired players. The program will assist players with coordinated care at excellent healthcare facilities nationwide.

NFL LIFE LINE

The NFL Life Line (800-506-0078) is a free, independent and confidential phone consultation service available to all NFL Legends, 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 their post-NFL life. NFL Life Line is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. All calls are strictly confidential and not shared with the league office, teams, or any related entity.

NFL PLAYER BENEFITS WEBSITE

NFL Legends now have a one-stop shop for player benefits. Introducing NFLPlayerBenefits.com, the new website that replaces MyGoalLine.com. Here, you'll find all the pension, 401(k) and other benefit plan information you're used to seeing, but with key improvements you've asked for, including the ability to apply for benefits online and an easy-to-read view of your current benefit eligibility.

SPINE TREATMENT BENEFIT

The Spine Treatment Program provides facilitated access to five premier medical centers specializing in spine care to ensure that retired players seeking evaluation and possible treatment of their spine receive top flight care.



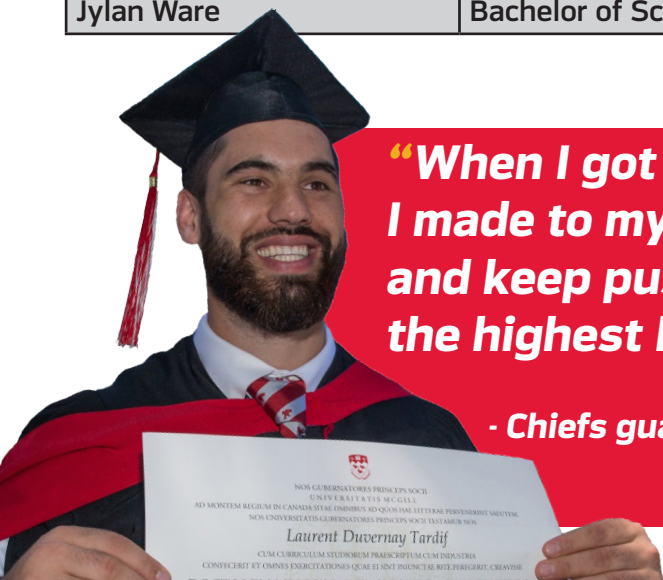
THE PLAYERS

CONTINUING EDUCATION

The NFL encourages active players and NFL Legends to continue their education. In conjunction with the NFLPA, the NFL offers the Continuing Education Program, which assists players with completing their undergraduate degree, pursuing graduate studies and utilizing other educational opportunities to prepare for life after football.

Several NFL players earn their degrees, both in-season and during the offseason. From Master of Arts in Teaching to Doctor of Medicine, below are the NFL players who obtained their degrees this year.

NAME	DEGREE OBTAINED	SCHOOL	CURRENT TEAM
Keion Adams	Bachelor of Arts	Western Michigan	Pittsburgh
Taveze Calhoun	Master of Arts in Teaching	Mississippi State	Miami
Amari Cooper	Bachelor of Arts	Alabama	Oakland
James Cowser	Master of Arts	Southern Utah	Oakland
Carl Davis	Bachelor of Science	Iowa	Baltimore
Dr. Laurent Duvernay-Tardif	Doctor of Medicine	McGill	Kansas City
Austin Ekeler	Bachelor of Arts	Western State Colorado	LA Chargers
Robert Golden	Bachelor of General Studies	Arizona	Kansas City
Damon Harrison	Bachelor of Arts	William Penn	NY Giants
Derrick Henry	Bachelor of Arts Communication	Alabama	Tennessee
Ramon Humber	Bachelor of University Studies	North Dakota State	Buffalo
Bruce Irvin	Regents Bachelor of Arts	West Virginia	Oakland
Kaleb Johnson	Bachelor of Arts	Rutgers	Free Agent
Chris Landrum	Master of Science	Jacksonville State	LA Chargers
Ronald Martin	Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies	Louisiana State	Indianapolis
Doug Middleton	Master of Public Administration	Appalachian State	NY Jets
Malik Reaves	Bachelor of Arts	Villanova	Free Agent
Rigoberto Sanchez	Bachelor of Arts	Hawaii	Indianapolis
Cordrea Tankersley	Bachelor of Science	Clemson	Miami
Jylan Ware	Bachelor of Science	Alabama State	Oakland



"When I got drafted in 2014, it was a promise that I made to myself that I was going to keep grinding and keep pushing to combine my two passions at the highest level and show people it was possible."

- Chiefs guard **LAURENT DUVERNAY-TARDIF upon graduating with a Doctor of Medicine degree from McGill University**

THE TEAMS





THE TEAMS

WHAT TO LOOK FOR - THE TEAMS

The **NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS** are tied with Dallas and San Francisco with five Super Bowl wins and need one Super Bowl win to tie the Pittsburgh Steelers (six) for the most in NFL history.

The Patriots have made the playoffs in nine consecutive seasons (2009-17) and can surpass Dallas (nine from 1975-83) and Indianapolis (nine from 2002-10) for the most consecutive seasons in NFL history with a playoff berth.

With at least 10 wins in 2018, the Patriots (15 from 2003-2017) can tie San Francisco (16 from 1983-98) for the most consecutive seasons with at least 10 victories in NFL history.

The **WASHINGTON REDSKINS** need seven regular season wins to become the fifth team in NFL history to reach 600 regular-season wins. The Redskins have a 593-581-28 all-time record.

The **CAROLINA PANTHERS** need eight wins to reach 200 wins in franchise history, including the postseason. The Panthers have a 192-192-1 all-time record including the postseason.

The **PITTSBURGH STEELERS** need one regular season win at Heinz Field to reach 100 wins at the stadium since its opening in 2001. The Steelers have a 99-36-1 record at Heinz Field.

Panthers LB LUKE KUECHLY

Redskins LB RYAN KERRIGAN





THE TEAMS

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

EAGLES WIN SUPER BOWL LII

The Philadelphia Eagles won their first Super Bowl title last season, defeating the New England Patriots 41-33 in Super Bowl LII in Minnesota. Philadelphia quarterback **NICK FOLES** (right) threw the game-winning 11-yard touchdown pass to tight end **ZACH ERTZ** with 2:21 remaining in the fourth quarter.

Foles was named Super Bowl MVP after completing 28 of 43 pass attempts for 373 yards with three touchdowns and one interception for a 106.1 passer rating. He also added a one-yard touchdown reception and became the first player in NFL history with a touchdown pass and a touchdown catch in a Super Bowl.

Foles, who stepped in for injured quarterback **CARSON WENTZ** in Week 14, joined **DOUG WILLIAMS** (Washington, Super Bowl XXII) and **JEFF HOSTETLER** (New York Giants, Super Bowl XXV) as the only quarterbacks to start and win the Super Bowl after starting three or fewer games in the regular season.

“That locker room is a special locker room, and you can see it throughout the course of this game. No matter what happened, we just kept sticking together, kept leaning on each other. We have an amazing coaching staff, and amazing personnel staff. Just to be in this moment, unbelievable.”

- Eagles quarterback **NICK FOLES** after the team's Super Bowl LII victory

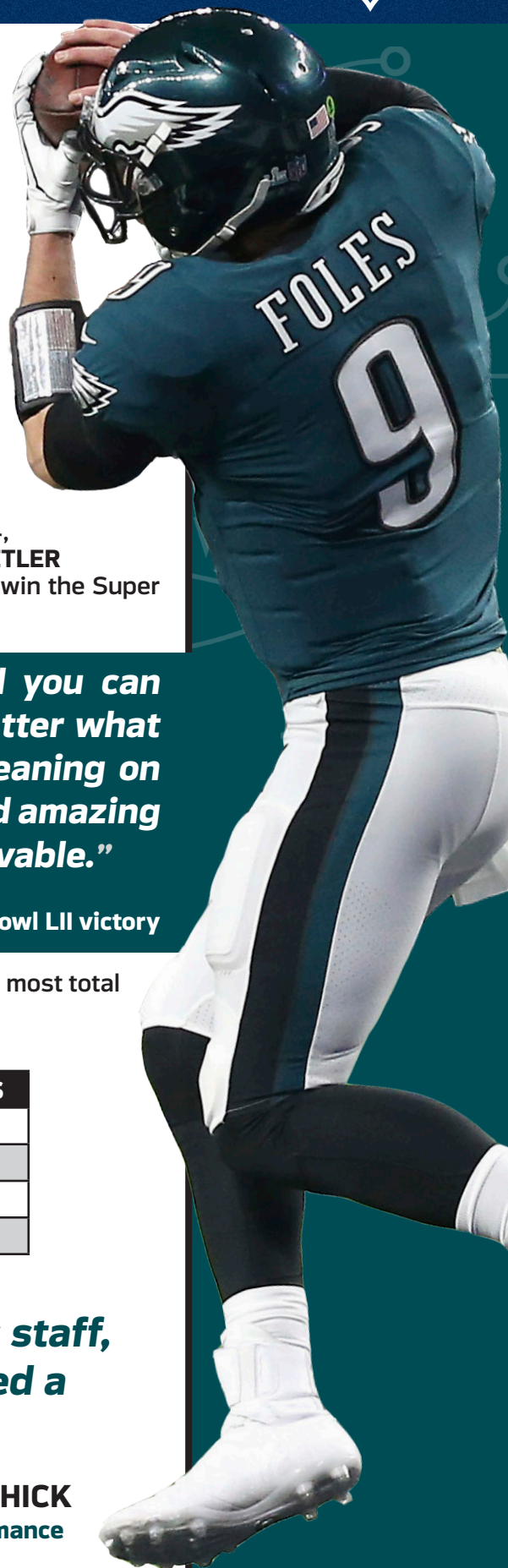
The Eagles and Patriots combined for 1,151 total yards in Super Bowl LII, the most total yards in a Super Bowl in NFL history.

THE SUPER BOWLS WITH THE MOST TOTAL YARDS

TEAMS	SUPER BOWL	TOTAL YARDS
Philadelphia vs. New England	LII	1,151
Washington vs. Denver	XXII	929
New England vs. Atlanta (OT)	LI	890
New England vs. Carolina	XXXVIII	868

“Give them credit. Doug Pederson and his staff, they did an outstanding job. They played a competitive game.”

- Patriots head coach **BILL BELICHICK**
on the Eagles' Super Bowl LII performance





THE TEAMS

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

On the path to Super Bowl LII, the Eagles finished the regular season with a 13-3 record and earned the No. 1 seed in the NFC. Philadelphia won the NFC East a season after finishing in last place with a 7-9 record in 2016, joining **JACKSONVILLE** (AFC South) as teams to complete a “worst-to-first” turnaround in 2017. At least one team has won its division the season after finishing in or tied for last place in 14 of the past 15 seasons.

“I’m so excited for that locker room. For Mr. Lurie to give me the opportunity to coach this team, and then everything that we’ve been through this season, to get to this point – a lot of people counted us out – but that locker room believed, believed in each other, believed in me. I have a great staff and great players, and we found a way to get it done.”

- Eagles head coach DOUG PEDERSON

Philadelphia’s success as a team can be attributed to a high-level of play from the team’s core group of talent.

Six Eagles earned Pro Bowl accolades in 2017, including guard **BRANDON BROOKS** (1st), defensive tackle **FLETCHER COX** (3rd), Ertz (1st), safety **MALCOLM JENKINS** (2nd), tackle **LANE JOHNSON** (1st) and Wentz (1st).

Philadelphia ranked third in the NFL in points per game (28.6) and fourth in points allowed per game (18.4). The Eagles were the only team in the NFL last with three players with at least eight touchdown receptions each – **NELSON AGHOLOR** (eight), Ertz (eight) and **ALSHON JEFFERY** (nine).





THE TEAMS

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 five 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



THE TEAMS

SEASON	SUPER BOWL	WINNER	NEXT SEASON
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	Missed playoffs
2016	LI	New England	Lost Super Bowl
2017	LII	Philadelphia	????





THE TEAMS

RINGING IN THE NEW YEAR

The **PHILADELPHIA EAGLES** unveiled their Super Bowl LII Championship ring at a private event held for team and club personnel in June. The ring commemorates the organization's historic 2017 season, which culminated in the team's victory over the New England Patriots and their first Super Bowl Championship title.

Made of 10-karat white gold, the ring features 219 diamonds and 17 genuine green sapphires with a total weight of 9.15 carats. The rare rough green sapphires were secured to match the official team color. The ring top features the Eagle head logo, set atop the Vince Lombardi Trophy and custom-cut, genuine green baguette sapphires surrounded by intricate, pavé-set diamonds. Fifty-two pavé-set diamonds are set within the Eagle head, signifying Super Bowl LII. The bottom portion of the base of the trophy features 13 pavé-set diamonds representing the 13 regular-season victories that tied the franchise record. The top of the trophy is adorned with three diamonds, representing not only the number of times the Eagles were deemed underdogs, but also the number of postseason victories it took to be crowned World Champions. A large marquise-cut diamond is featured at the top of the Vince Lombardi Trophy to represent the first Super Bowl Championship in franchise history. To round out the ring top, the words **"WORLD CHAMPIONS"** adorn the top and bottom edges.



The bezel of the ring features a waterfall of 127 diamonds, paying tribute to one of the most memorable moments in franchise history – **"THE PHILLY SPECIAL"** – the trick play that resulted in a touchdown on fourth-and-goal from the 1-yard line in Super Bowl LII. The 127 diamonds represent the combined jersey numbers of three key players involved in the play – **TREY BURTON (88)**, **COREY CLEMENT (30)** and **NICK FOLES (9)**. Four round, genuine green sapphires adorn the corners of the base of the ring and symbolize the team's four NFL Championships – three World Championships (1948, 1949, 1960) and one Super Bowl Championship (2017).

The left side of the ring features the player's name set above an end zone view silhouette of Lincoln Financial Field, the home of the Philadelphia Eagles. The inclusion of the stadium is a symbolic tribute to the passionate and dedicated fan base that has supported the team since its formation in 1933. The player's number is studded with pavé-set diamonds and set in the middle of the football field.



Eagles head coach **DOUG PEDERSON** (left) and chairman and CEO **JEFFREY LURIE** (right)

The right side of the ring features the score from Super Bowl LII (**PHI 41 – NE 33**) and one of the team's messages of unity throughout the season, **"WE ALL WE GOT, WE ALL WE NEED"** is set above the Super Bowl LII logo. The word **"FAMILY"** sits below the logo and serves as a reminder of the team's commitment and dedication to each other.

In honor of Eagles fans across the region, country and world, the words from the team's fight song, **"FLY EAGLES FLY"**, are written on the bottom of the outer band. The top of the inside arbor of the ring is inscribed with the scores from the team's three postseason victories and an image of an underdog mask, an acknowledgement of how the Eagles embraced and overcame their underdog role to galvanize the team, the fans and the entire city of Philadelphia. The bottom of the inside arbor is inscribed with each player's signature – marking the first-time championship rings have ever featured engraved signatures.



THE TEAMS

LOMBARDI 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.



7 LBs in weight

22 inches tall

72 Man-hours to complete

FUN FACTS ABOUT THE LOMBARDI TROPHY

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

***Including nuts and bolts.**

****Former Tiffany VP of design.**



THE TEAMS

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

SUSTAINED SUCCESS

Under the direction of head coach **BILL BELICHICK**, the **NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS** won the AFC East division title for the ninth consecutive season, the longest streak in NFL history, and advanced to Super Bowl LII, the team's third Super Bowl appearance in the past four seasons.

The Patriots, led by the stellar play of quarterback **TOM BRADY** (top) who captured his third career Most Valuable Player award, recorded their 17th consecutive season with a winning record, the longest streak since 1970, surpassing the previous record of 16 held by the 1970-1985 Dallas Cowboys and 1983-1998 San Francisco 49ers. New England finished the season 13-3 and registered their seventh season with at least 13 victories, the second-most 13-win seasons in NFL history (San Francisco, nine).

"One hundred percent. You've always got two sides of an argument when people talk about greatness. 'How good are you? What are your stats? What do you look like on the field?' Then there's people who always want to validate it by wins and championships. He's got both. I don't know who you can compare him to to say that he's not the best of all-time."

- Eagles safety **MALCOLM JENKINS** on whether Brady should be considered the greatest quarterback in NFL history

New England led the NFL in total offense (394.2 yards per game) and ranked first in the AFC averaging 28.6 points per game. Brady, in his age 40 season, led the NFL with 4,577 passing yards, becoming the oldest player to lead the league in passing yards in NFL history. Brady paced the AFC with 32 touchdown passes, the most by a quarterback in a single season at the age of 40 or older in NFL history.

For the second-consecutive season, Brady set a single-game Super Bowl record for passing yards, throwing for 505 yards against the Eagles after passing for 466 yards in the Patriots' Super Bowl LI victory over Atlanta. He also owns Super Bowl career records in passing attempts (357), completions (235), yards (2,576) and touchdown passes (18) in eight career games.

Brady's top target, tight end **ROB GRONKOWSKI** (bottom), led all tight ends with 1,084 receiving yards and reached 1,000 yards for the fourth time in his career, tying **TONY GONZALEZ** (four) and **JASON WITTEN** (four) for the most seasons with at least 1,000 receiving yards among tight ends in NFL history. Brady and Gronkowski connected on eight touchdowns in 2017 and have teamed up for 75 career touchdown passes, the second most from a quarterback to a tight end in league history trailing only **PHILIP RIVERS** and **ANTONIO GATES** (87).





THE TEAMS

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS



In 2017, Belichick continued his ascent into the upper echelon of coaching greats, surpassing Pro Football Hall of Famer **TOM LANDRY** (270 wins) for the third-most wins (including the postseason) by a head coach in NFL history. Belichick's 278 career victories (including the postseason) trails only Pro Football Hall of Famers **DON SHULA** (347) and **GEORGE HALAS** (324) for the most victories in league annals. With wins over Tennessee and Jacksonville in the postseason, Belichick extended his NFL record to 28 career postseason victories as a head coach.

The Patriots had six players selected to the 2018 Pro Bowl: Brady (13th), fullback **JAMES DEVELIN** (1st), Gronkowski (5th), safety **DEVIN MC COURT** (4th), special teamer **MATTHEW SLATER** (7th) & tackle **NATE SOLDER** (1st).

As the calendar turns to the 2018 season, the Patriots look to continue their run of success after reloading in both free agency and the Draft. New England signed cornerback **JASON MC COURT**, the twin brother of Devin, wide receiver **ERIC DECKER** and defensive end **ADRIAN CLAYBORN** in free agency, while using their two first-round picks on running back **SONY MICHEL** (below right) and tackle **ISAIAH WYNN** (below left).

"The new young players we have here, the free agents, I'm excited about this team. I think we're going to have a lot of fun this year."

- Patriots Chairman and CEO **ROBERT KRAFT**





THE TEAMS

MINNESOTA VIKINGS

MARVELOUS MINNESOTA

Led by a dominant defense and an efficient passing game, the **MINNESOTA VIKINGS** won the NFC North with a 13-3 record, capturing the No. 2 overall seed in the conference after winning their second division title in three seasons. However, the Vikings magical run to the NFC Championship Game almost ended in heartbreaking fashion only a week prior on their home turf at U.S. Bank Stadium.

Trailing 24-23 to the visiting New Orleans Saints with 10 seconds remaining in overtime, Vikings quarterback **CASE KEENUM** found wide receiver **STEFON DIGGS** (top) near the left sideline with hopes of setting up a long field-goal attempt. What happened next will forever be remembered as the “Minnesota Miracle.”

Diggs hauled in the pass on the New Orleans 35 yard-line, evaded a would-be tackler, stayed inbounds and rushed into the endzone as time expired for a 61-yard touchdown, punctuating the first postseason game in NFL history that ended with a winning touchdown on the final play of the fourth quarter. Diggs’ 61-yard score was the second-longest winning touchdown in the final 10 seconds of the fourth quarter of a playoff game in NFL history.

“You’re just fighting at that point. You’re fighting for your life. You’d do anything to get the ball forward. I don’t know if you think about anything. You just react. I’m going to want to go back and remember everything I can from this. ... But right now, it’s all a blur.”

- Former Vikings quarterback **CASE KEENUM** following the “Minnesota Miracle”

Despite losing to Philadelphia in the NFC Championship Game, the Vikings’ core of young stars on offense and defense made their mark in 2017 and have the team poised to replicate its success in 2018. Minnesota ranked first in the NFL in both total defense (275.9 yards per game) and scoring defense (15.8 points per game), and held opponents to a 25.2 percent third-down conversion rate, the best mark in the NFL since the stat began being tracked in 1991.

Defensive end **EVERSON GRIFFEN** tied for third in the NFC with 13 sacks and become only the third player since the sack became an official statistic in 1982 to record at least one sack in each of his team’s first eight games of a season. Safety **HARRISON SMITH** (bottom) was the only player in NFC with 70+ tackles (78), 5+ INTs (5) & a sack (1.5) in 2017 and earned first-team All-Pro honors.





THE TEAMS

MINNESOTA VIKINGS

Pro Bowl wide receiver **ADAM THEILEN** ranked second in the NFC with 1,276 receiving yards and finished fourth in the conference with 91 receptions, joining **ROD SMITH** and **WES WELKER** as the only undrafted players in the common draft era (since 1967) to record at least 90 catches and 1,200 receiving yards in a single season.

Keenum, who was signed during the 2017 offseason and inserted into the starting lineup after an injury to starter **SAM BRADFORD**, set career highs in completions (325), completion percentage (67.6), passing yards (3,547), touchdown passes (22) and passer rating (98.3). Keenum posted a passer rating of at least 100 in four consecutive games (Weeks 10-13) and tied Pro Football Hall of Famer **BRETT FAVRE** (2009) and **DAUNTE CULPEPPER** (2000 and 2004) for the longest streak in franchise history. The Denver Broncos signed Keenum to a two-year contract during the 2018 offseason.

Newly-signed quarterback **KIRK COUSINS**, who became the first quarterback in NFL history to have at least 4,000 passing yards and four or more rushing touchdowns in three consecutive seasons, will lead the Vikings offense in 2018.

“I’ve had calls from coaches that have coached with him, coached him, coached against him, and everyone has given tremendous recommendations,” Vikings head coach **MIKE ZIMMER** said of adding Cousins. “One of the other things I like about him is that he was a guy that always had to prove himself. He’s like a lot of our football team – guys who

Vikings QB KIRK COUSINS

*Vikings general manager
RICK SPIELMAN*

Vikings head coach MIKE ZIMMER

*Vikings co-owner & president
MARK WILF*





THE TEAMS

JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS

SACKSONVILLE

Last season, the **JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS** earned their first AFC South division title since 1999 behind one of the league's top defenses. The Jaguars defensive unit ranked first in the NFL in defensive touchdowns (seven), tied for first in forced fumbles (17) and second in total defense (286.1 yards per game), points allowed per game (16.8), sacks (55) and takeaways (33).

MOST SACKS IN 2017

TEAM	SACKS
Pittsburgh*	56
Jacksonville*	55
Carolina*	50

*Advanced to playoffs

MOST FORCED FUMBLES IN 2017

TEAM	FORCED FUMBLES
Jacksonville*	17
LA Rams*	17
Arizona	16

*Advanced to playoffs

Defensive end **YANNICK NGAKEUE** (top) led the NFL with six forced fumbles and was one of five players last season to record at least 10 sacks and four forced fumbles.

PLAYERS WITH 10+ SACKS AND 4+ FORCED FUMBLES IN 2017

PLAYER	2017 TEAM	SACKS	FORCED FUMBLES
Yannick Ngakoue	Jacksonville	12	6
Aaron Donald	LA Rams	11	5
Joey Bosa	LA Chargers	12.5	4
Demarcus Lawrence	Dallas	14.5	4
Terrell Suggs	Baltimore	11	4

"Just playing him over at Arizona, he was always an inside player. Now to have him over the tight end a lot wasn't totally what I was expecting and then you turn on the tape and you see why. He's been a very good player there and they can move him around and put him wherever they need be in nickel."

- 49ers head coach **KYLE SHANAHAN** on **CALAIS CAMPBELL**

Defensive end **CALAIS CAMPBELL** (bottom) led the AFC with a career-high and franchise-record 14.5 sacks and is one of four players in the NFL with at least five sacks in each of the past nine seasons (**CLAY MATTHEWS**, **JULIUS PEPPERS** and **CAMERON WAKE**).

2017 SACK LEADERS

PLAYER	2017 TEAM	SACKS
Chandler Jones	Arizona	17
Calais Campbell	Jacksonville	14.5
Demarcus Lawrence	Dallas	14.5

Six Jaguars earned Pro Bowl accolades in 2017, including Campbell (third) and first-time honorees cornerback **A.J. BOUYE**, defensive tackle **MALIK JACKSON**, Ngakoue, cornerback **JALEN RAMSEY** and linebacker **TELVIN SMITH**.



THE TEAMS

JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS

The Jaguars complimented their elite defense with a potent offensive attack in 2017, leading the league with a 141.4 rushing yards per game average and ranking second in the AFC averaging 26.1 points per game. Jacksonville finished the season as one of four teams, along with **NEW ENGLAND**, **PHILADELPHIA** and **PITTSBURGH**, to score at least 25 points per game and allow fewer than 20 points per game. The Jaguars (+149) tied for third in the NFL in point differential, trailing only the Eagles (+162) and Patriots (+162).

THE TEAMS WITH THE HIGHEST POINT DIFFERENTIALS IN 2017

TEAM	POINTS SCORED	POINTS ALLOWED	DIFFERENTIAL
New England	458	296	+162
Philadelphia	457	295	+162
Jacksonville	417	268	+149
LA Rams	478	329	+149
Minnesota	382	252	+130

Running back **LEONARD FOURNETTE** (right), selected with the fourth overall pick in the 2017 NFL Draft, made an immediate impact on the Jacksonville offense. Fournette led the team with 1,040 rushing yards and joined **FRED TAYLOR** (1,223 yards in 1998) as the only rookies in team history to rush for at least 1,000 yards. Fournette appeared in 13 games in 2017 and recorded 1,342 scrimmage yards and 10 touchdowns (nine rushing, one receiving), both the third-most by a rookie in franchise history.

Fournette led all NFL rookies with nine rushing touchdowns, was one of two rookie running backs (**KAREEM HUNT**) with at least 1,000 rushing yards and ranked third among rookie running backs with 1,342 yards from scrimmage. Including the playoffs, Fournette totaled six games with at least 100 rushing yards in 2017, tied for the second most in the NFL and trailing only the Rams' **TODD GURLEY**, who had seven 100-yard rushing performances last season.

“He really did everything that we thought he’d be able to do from the standpoint of being a power runner. I think the one thing that probably surprised us more that we weren’t able to see on the tape was his pass catching ability.”

- Jaguars head coach DOUG MARRONE on LEONARD FOURNETTE

Entering 2018, the Jaguars look to earn back-to-back playoff berths for the first time since 1998-99. Quarterback **BLAKE BORTLES**, who completed a career-high 60.2 percent (315 of 523) of his pass attempts for 3,687 yards and rushed 322 yards in 2017, is one of three quarterbacks in NFL history to begin his career with four consecutive seasons with at least 2,500 passing yards and 300 rushing yards. Bortles can join Carolina's **CAM NEWTON** as the only quarterbacks to accomplish the feat in each of their first five seasons.

In Week 8, Jacksonville will host the Eagles at Wembley Stadium on Sunday, October 28 (9:30 AM ET), marking the sixth consecutive season in which the team will play a game in London. Jacksonville has won their past three London Series games, scoring at least 30 points in each of those victories.





THE TEAMS

BEST INDICATOR OF SUCCESS? RUNNING 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 2017, NFL teams with a 100-yard rusher posted a 68-17 record for an .800 winning percentage. That rated higher than clubs with a 100-yard receiver (77-52, .597) or a 300-yard passer (58-39, .598).

Kansas City running back **KAREEM HUNT** (right) led the NFL with 1,327 rushing yards last season, becoming the second rookie not selected in the first round to lead his league in rushing yards in the common draft era (since 1967). Cincinnati's **PAUL ROBINSON** led the AFL with 1,023 rushing yards in 1968. The Chiefs were 6-0 in games in which Hunt rushed for at least 100 yards. Hunt's six games with at least 100 rushing yards are the most by a rookie in franchise history.

"He's a load, he's talented and he's a smart kid, which helps at that position because that's a tough one. You have a lot of things to learn as a rookie coming in - I haven't had a lot of rookies start for me over the years. He can think on his feet and that's very important when we're asking you to run the football."

- Chiefs head coach **ANDY REID** on **KAREEM HUNT**

Over the past five years, teams have compiled a 343-123-5 record (.734) when a player has eclipsed the 100-yard rushing mark. By comparison, clubs with a 100-yard receiver have a .566 winning percentage (483-370-3), while offenses with a 300-yard passer have won 53.5 percent of their games (313-272-3).

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-T	WIN PCT.
2013	60-33-2	.642
2014	75-23-2	.760
2015	72-23	.758
2016	68-27-1	.714
2017	68-17	.800
TOTAL	343-123-5	.734

100-YARD RECEIVERS

YEAR	W-L-T	WIN PCT.
2013	98-82	.544
2014	105-74-1	.586
2015	109-89	.551
2016	94-73-2	.562
2017	77-52	.597
TOTAL	483-370-3	.566

300-YARD PASSERS

YEAR	W-L-T	WIN PCT.
2013	60-58	.508
2014	70-52-1	.573
2015	69-63	.522
2016	56-60-2	.483
2017	58-39	.598
TOTAL	313-272-3	.535





THE TEAMS

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.

"You hear us talk about turnovers all the time," said Rams head coach **SEAN MC VAY**. "For us to win the turnover battle is big. I can't say enough about what that does for our team, to be able to give us a lead in the game."

Last season, three of the top six teams in net turnover differential – **KANSAS CITY (+15)**, **PHILADELPHIA (+11)** and **JACKSONVILLE (+10)** – made the playoffs and combined for a 33-15 record (.688).

BALTIMORE, led by safety **ERIC WEDDLE** (right), paced the NFL with a +17 turnover differential and recorded the most takeaways in the league with 34.

BEST NET TURNOVER DIFFERENTIAL IN 2017

TEAM	TOTAL TAKEAWAYS	TOTAL GIVEAWAYS	NET DIFFERENTIAL	RECORD
Baltimore	34	17	+17	9-7
Kansas City*	26	11	+15	10-6
LA Chargers	27	15	+12	9-7
Philadelphia*	31	20	+11	13-3
Detroit	32	22	+10	9-7
Jacksonville*	33	23	+10	10-6

*Qualified for playoffs

"It's been an emphasis and our coaches have done a good job. Turnovers happen because you play hard and you're in the right spot and you do things well. They throw them to you and you catch them."

- Ravens head coach **JOHN HARBAUGH**

The Ravens recorded four interceptions in each of their first two games in 2017, becoming the third team since 1970 (1992 **PITTSBURGH** and 1971 **CLEVELAND**) to have at least four interceptions in each of its first two games of a season.

TEAMS TO RECORD FOUR OR MORE INTERCEPTIONS IN EACH OF THEIR FIRST TWO GAMES OF A SEASON

TEAM	YEAR	TOTAL INTERCEPTIONS IN FIRST TWO GAMES
Cleveland	1971	10
Pittsburgh	1992	9
Baltimore	2018	8





THE TEAMS

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, eight of the 12 teams to convert at least 40 percent of third-down attempts - **ATLANTA** (44.7 percent), **PITTSBURGH** (44.0), **MINNESOTA** (43.5), **BUFFALO** (41.9), **CAROLINA** (41.9), **PHILADELPHIA** (41.7), **LOS ANGELES RAMS** (41.1) and **NEW ENGLAND** (40.6) - advanced to the playoffs.

2017 PLAYOFF TEAMS THAT CONVERTED 40+ PERCENT OF 3RD DOWNS

TEAM	3RD DOWN CONV.	3RD DOWN ATT.	3RD DOWN PCT.
Atlanta	88	197	44.7
Pittsburgh	92	209	44.0
Minnesota	94	216	43.5
Buffalo	101	241	41.9
Carolina	93	222	41.9
Philadelphia	96	230	41.7
LA Rams	88	214	41.1
New England	82	202	40.6

"We've emphasized situational football since the spring. That's what separates good teams. To be effective on third down and stay on the field, that helps time of possession. That helps the defense. It's a big part of the game."

- Philadelphia quarterback **CARSON WENTZ**

Last season, six of the seven teams to score 40 or more offensive touchdowns converted at least 40 percent of third downs.

New England and Philadelphia, who met in Super Bowl LII, both converted over 40 percent of third downs and finished at the top of the league in offensive touchdowns scored.

TEAMS TO SCORE 40+ OFFENSIVE TOUCHDOWNS IN 2017

TEAM	OFFENSIVE TOUCHDOWNS	3RD DOWN PCT.
New England*	48	40.6
Philadelphia*	47	41.7
New Orleans*	46	37.6
LA Rams*	45	41.1
Pittsburgh*	41	44.0
Dallas	40	42.9
Minnesota*	40	43.5

*Qualified for playoffs



THE TEAMS

GOING FOR TWO



The two-point conversion has become an increasingly popular and important play in the NFL over the past few years.

Last season, the Super Bowl LII champion **PHILADELPHIA EAGLES** (left) converted six two-point conversions, tied for the second-most in a single season since 1994. All four of the teams which converted at least six two-point conversions in a single season qualified for the playoffs that year.

THE TEAMS WITH THE MOST SUCCESSFUL TWO-POINT CONVERSIONS IN A SINGLE SEASON SINCE 1994

TEAM	SEASON	TWO-POINT CONVERSIONS	RECORD
Pittsburgh	2015	8	10-6
Philadelphia	2017	6	13-3
Minnesota	1997	6	9-7
Miami	1994	6	10-3

In 2017, 11 teams converted multiple two-point conversions throughout the regular season. Seven of those 11 teams (64 pct.) had a winning record, while five of them advanced to the playoffs, including all four Conference Championship Game participants.

THE TEAMS WITH MULTIPLE SUCCESSFUL TWO-POINT CONVERSIONS IN 2017

TEAM	CONVERSIONS	ATTEMPTS	PCT.	RECORD
Philadelphia*	6	9	66.7	13-3
Jacksonville*	3	6	50.0	10-6
Denver	2	4	50.0	5-11
Detroit	2	5	40.0	9-7
Houston	2	5	40.0	4-12
Minnesota*	2	2	100.0	13-3
New England*	2	2	100.0	13-3
Oakland	2	2	100.0	6-10
Pittsburgh*	2	4	50.0	13-3
Seattle	2	5	40.0	9-7
Tampa Bay	2	7	28.6	5-11

*Qualified for playoffs

THE COACHES





THE COACHES

WHAT TO LOOK FOR - THE COACHES

BILL BELICHICK, New England, needs one championship to join George Halas and Curly Lambeau as the only coaches in NFL history with six championships since the league began postseason play in 1933. Belichick has five Super Bowl titles as a head coach.

RON RIVERA (left), Carolina, needs 10 regular-season wins to pass John Fox (73) for the most regular-season coaching wins in franchise history. In eight seasons with Carolina, Rivera has a 64-47-1 record.

ANDY REID (right), Kansas City, needs six wins to reach 200 career victories (incl. postseason). In 19 career seasons, Reid has a 194-133-1 record, including the postseason.

PETE CARROLL, Seattle, needs three victories to surpass Mike Holmgren (90) for the most victories by a head coach in franchise history (incl. postseason). In eight seasons with Seattle, Carroll has a 88-53-1 record (incl. postseason).





THE COACHES



BILL BELICHICK

Under the guidance of head coach **BILL BELICHICK**, the New England Patriots have won nine consecutive division titles, the longest streak in NFL history, and appeared in their NFL-record 10th Super Bowl last season. Belichick has won five Super Bowl championships, the most by a head coach in league history.

THE HEAD COACHES WITH THE MOST SUPER BOWL VICTORIES

HEAD COACH	TEAM(S)	SUPER BOWL TITLES
Bill Belichick	New England Patriots	5 (XXXVI, XXXVIII, XXXIX, XLIX, LI)
Chuck Noll^	Pittsburgh Steelers	4 (IX, X, XIII, XIV)
Joe Gibbs^	Washington Redskins	3 (XVII, XXII, XXVI)
Bill Walsh^	San Francisco 49ers	3 (XVI, XIX, XXIII)

^Pro Football Hall of Famer

"I think we're lucky enough to have the finest coach in the history of the modern game. I think he has done an outstanding job."

- Patriots owner **ROBERT KRAFT**

Belichick has 28 career postseason wins, the most by a head coach in NFL history, and has led the Patriots to eight conference championships, the most by a head coach in the Super Bowl era (since 1966).

THE HEAD COACHES WITH THE MOST CAREER PLAYOFF VICTORIES

HEAD COACH	TEAM(S)	PLAYOFF WINS
Bill Belichick	Cleveland Browns, New England Patriots	28
Tom Landry^	Dallas Cowboys	20
Don Shula^	Baltimore Colts, Miami Dolphins	19
Joe Gibbs^	Washington Redskins	17
Chuck Noll^	Pittsburgh Steelers	16

^Pro Football Hall of Famer

Entering his 24th season as an NFL head coach, Belichick has amassed 278 wins (including the playoffs), the third-most total victories by a head coach in league history. He needs one win to pass Pro Football Hall of Famer **TOM LANDRY** for the third-most regular-season victories by a head coach in NFL history.

THE HEAD COACHES WITH THE MOST TOTAL WINS IN NFL HISTORY

HEAD COACH	TEAM(S)	REG. SEASON WINS	PLAYOFF WINS	TOTAL WINS
Don Shula^	Baltimore Colts, Miami	328	19	347
George Halas^	Chicago	318	6	324
Bill Belichick	Cleveland, New England	250	28	278
Tom Landry^	Dallas	250	20	270
Curly Lambeau^	Green Bay, Chi. Cardinals, Washington	226	3	229

^Pro Football Hall of Famer



THE COACHES

NEW IN 2018

CARDINALS HEAD COACH STEVE WILKS

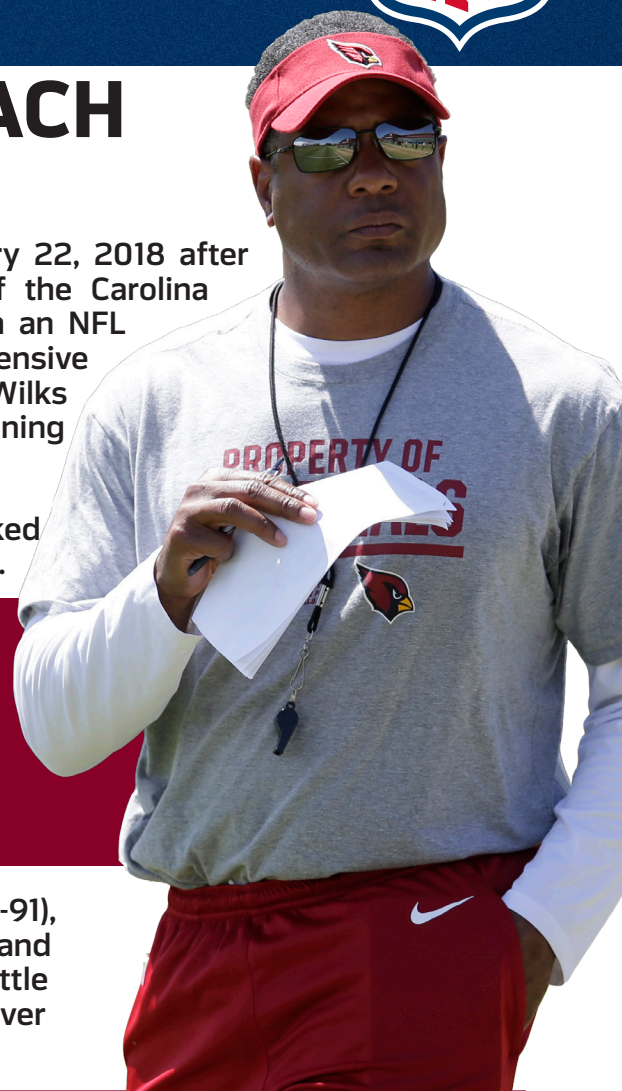
Wilks was named the head coach of the Cardinals on January 22, 2018 after spending the 2017 season as the defensive coordinator of the Carolina Panthers. Wilks has been coaching since 1995 and has been an NFL assistant since 2006. The Panthers hired Wilks in 2012 as defensive backs coach, adding assistant head coach to his title in 2014. Wilks was promoted to defensive coordinator in 2017, while maintaining his assistant head coach role.

Under Wilks' leadership, the 2017 Panthers defense ranked seventh in total defense, third in rush defense and third in sacks.

“In our research, they talked about what a passionate coach he is on the field and what a terrific leader he is. Players love playing for him.”

- Cardinals President **MICHAEL BIDWILL**

Wilks played defensive back at Appalachian State (1987-91), finishing his career with 103 tackles, four interceptions and four blocked kicks. He attended training camp with the Seattle Seahawks in 1992 and played defensive back and wide receiver for the Charlotte Rage of the Arena Football League in 1993.



GET TO KNOW COACH WILKS

One place I would like to travel to, but haven't yet, is: France

My favorite food is: Pasta

My favorite sports uniform, other than my own, is: The New York Yankees

My favorite college town is: Clemson - Death Valley

My favorite stadium, other than my own, is: Arrowhead Stadium; being in the AFC West for three years, the fans are extremely loud. It's a hard place to play.

My favorite athlete as a child was: Tony Dorsett

A player, former or current, who would make a great head coach is: Roman Harper

If I wasn't coaching, I would be: A motivational speaker

What is your most memorable football moment? My first Super Bowl (SB XLI)

A few hobbies of mine are: Traveling and going to the movies

One thing that should never change about NFL Football is: Our responsibility and duty with continued support in our communities, through initiatives such as Play 60, Crucial Catch and Salute to Service.





THE COACHES

NEW IN 2018

BEARS HEAD COACH MATT NAGY

Nagy was named the 16th head coach in Bears history on January 8, 2018. He spent the past five seasons with the Chiefs, first working as the team's quarterbacks coach from 2013-15 before serving as the offensive coordinator for the past two seasons.

Under Nagy's guidance, Kansas City ranked fifth in the NFL in total offense (375.4 yards per game) and sixth in points per game (25.9) last season. Chiefs quarterback **ALEX SMITH** led the NFL in quarterback rating (104.7) in 2017 and completed more than 65 percent of his passes in each of the past four seasons.

"I'm proud of Matt. He has a creative football mind and feel for the game. I know he'll show up every day ready to lead his team with the right attitude and give Chicago everything he's got."

- Kansas City head coach **ANDY REID**

Nagy played quarterback in the Arena Football League from 2002-08 prior to coaching at the professional level. He played collegiately at the University of Delaware, where he graduated with a degree in health and physical education in 2001, and set more than 20 school passing records at the time.

GET TO KNOW COACH NAGY

One place I would like to travel to, but haven't yet, is: The British Open

My favorite food is: GG's stuffing on Thanksgiving and quesadillas from The Cats Meow (Manheim, PA).

The best football nickname is: Swaggy Nagy

My favorite college town is: Newark, DE

My favorite stadium, other than my own, is: Arrowhead Stadium. The fans are loud and passionate.

My favorite athlete as a child was: Isiah Thomas (I wore #11 because of him)

The person who has influenced me the most is: In NFL speak, hands down Coach Andy Reid.

If I wasn't coaching, I would be: In real estate

What is your most memorable football moment? In high school, losing to Berwick after I threw an interception and it really motivated me. Professionally, beating the Georgia Force (my former team) to make it to the Arena Bowl in 2007.

A hobby of mine is: Golf





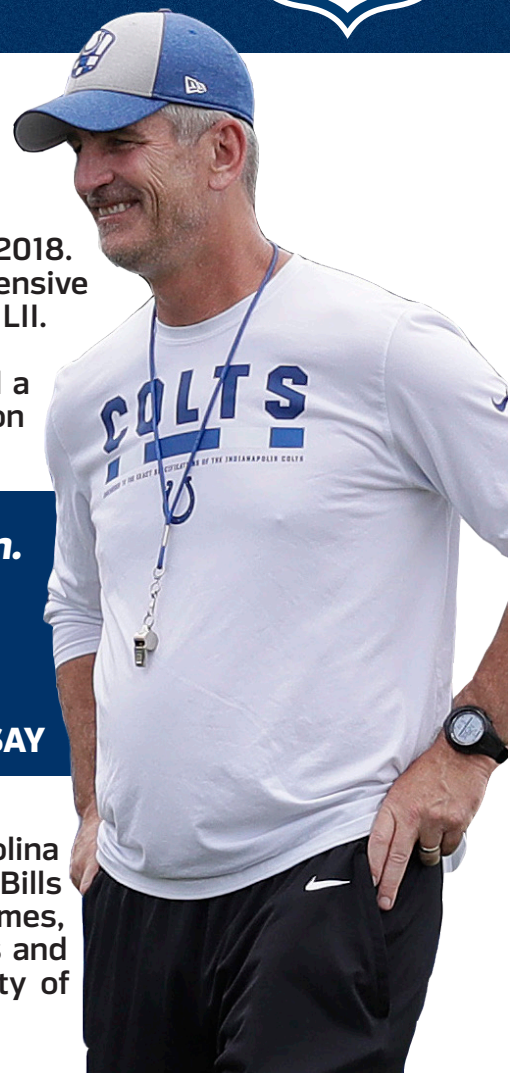
THE COACHES

NEW IN 2018

COLTS HEAD COACH FRANK REICH

Reich was named the 20th head coach in Colts history on February 11, 2018. He has spent the past two seasons as the Philadelphia Eagles offensive coordinator, where he helped lead the team to a victory in Super Bowl LII.

Reich has 26 years of NFL experience as both a player (1985-98) and a coach (2006-present). He rejoins the Colts after spending six seasons on the team's coaching staff from 2006-11.



“Frank has all the ingredients of a successful head coach. He also has a stellar reputation, and his myriad of life experiences and the people he has worked with make him the perfect fit for us and our fans.”

- Colts owner & CEO JIM IRSAY

As a player, Reich enjoyed a 14-year career with the Buffalo Bills, Carolina Panthers, New York Jets and Detroit Lions after being selected by the Bills in the third round (57th overall) of the 1985 NFL Draft. In 129 career games, with 22 starts, Reich completed 575 of 1,036 passes for 6,858 yards and 47 touchdowns. A Freeport, NY native, Reich attended the University of Maryland and graduated with a business degree.

GET TO KNOW COACH REICH

The person who has influenced me the most is: My Dad

My most memorable football memory is: Obviously the comeback game playing for the Bills (January 3, 1993 in AFC Wild Card Game). It was a very special moment to share with your teammates and an entire city. Recently, winning a world championship. In this business, that's the ultimate prize and that will always be a cherished memory.

What impresses me is: Integrity

Growing up, what I wanted to be was: I always wanted to be a football player and a coach. I grew up in a sports family. My mom and dad were high school teachers and coaches and my brother is a coach. That's just the way we roll in the Reich family.

My goals are: The goals are all about the team. Energy in this new transition. To get a chance to know players, reach out in the community and build relationships with a clear vision of where we are going to go.

My favorite book is: The Bible

What is most important to me is: Family





THE COACHES

NEW IN 2018

GIANTS HEAD COACH PAT SHURMUR

Shurmur was named the 18th head coach in Giants history on January 22, 2018. A 20-year NFL coaching veteran, Shurmur joins the Giants after a two-year stint with the Minnesota Vikings, including serving the last 27 games as offensive coordinator. In 2017, he was named the NFL Assistant Coach of the Year by the Pro Football Writers Association. This is the second head coaching assignment for Shurmur, who led the Cleveland Browns from 2011-12.

In 2017, the Vikings were one of four teams with an NFL-best 13-3 record and won the NFC North division title. Minnesota finished 10th in the NFL in scoring (23.9 points per game), 11th in total yardage (356.9 yards per game), and seventh in rushing yardage (122.3 yards per average) under Shurmur's tutelage.

"Pat has an outstanding track record in developing young players, and it is clear his players respond to his guidance and direction. We feel like Pat, with his vision and experience, is the right person to lead our team."

- Giants co-owners **JOHN MARA** and **STEVE TISCH**

A native of Dearborn Heights, MI, Shurmur was a four-year letterman at Michigan State as a center, earning All-Big Ten conference honors and All-America honorable mention accolades as a senior in 1987. He earned a master's degree in financial administration and was the first-ever graduate student football player at Michigan State.

GET TO KNOW COACH SHURMUR

My favorite sports uniform, other than my own, is: Detroit Tigers

My most memorable football moment is: Seven Heaven!

My favorite college town is: East Lansing, MI (Michigan State)

As a child, the NFL team I followed was: Detroit Lions

The person who has influenced me the most is: My father, Dr. Joseph Shurmer (who passed away in 1996 at the age of 54)

If I wasn't coaching, I would be: Fishing

My favorite athlete as a child was: Hank Aaron





THE COACHES

NEW IN 2018

RAIDERS HEAD COACH JON GRUDEN

Gruden returns as head coach of the Oakland Raiders after serving four seasons in the position from 1998-2001. The hiring of Gruden marks his return to coaching after spending nearly a decade in broadcasting, including color analyst duties on *Monday Night Football* from 2009-17.

He compiled a 95-81 (.540) regular season mark in 11 seasons as a head coach with the Raiders and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers (2002-08). Gruden has a 5-4 record (.556) in postseason contests, which includes a victory in Super Bowl XXXVII with the Buccaneers.

Gruden joined ESPN in 2009 as an analyst for *Monday Night Football* and contributed analysis year-round on ESPN's platforms, earning six Sports Emmy nominations.

“To have him here is the biggest day of my life. To have him be the leader of this organization is going to be phenomenal and I’m excited.” - Raiders owner **MARK DAVIS**

His brother, Jay, is entering his fifth season as the head coach of the Washington Redskins and his father, Jim, is a long-time veteran of professional, collegiate and high school football coaching and scouting.

A native of Sandusky, Ohio, Gruden attended South Bend (Ind.) Clay High School and was a three-year letterman at quarterback at the University of Dayton, graduating in 1985 with a degree in communications.



GET TO KNOW COACH GRUDEN

The last book I read was: *The Lonesome Dove* by Larry McMurtry

One place I would like to travel to, but haven't yet, is: Italy

My favorite food is: Homemade lasagna

My favorite college town is: Knoxville, TN (University of Tennessee)

As a child, the NFL team I followed was: Cleveland Browns

A player, former or current, who would make a great head coach is: Derek Carr

If I wasn't coaching, I would be: Television sports anchor

My favorite athlete as a child was: Leroy Kelly





THE COACHES

NEW IN 2018

TITANS HEAD COACH MIKE VRABEL

Vrabel was named the 19th head coach in franchise history on January 20, 2018, bringing 18 years of NFL experience - four as an NFL coach and 14 as a player.

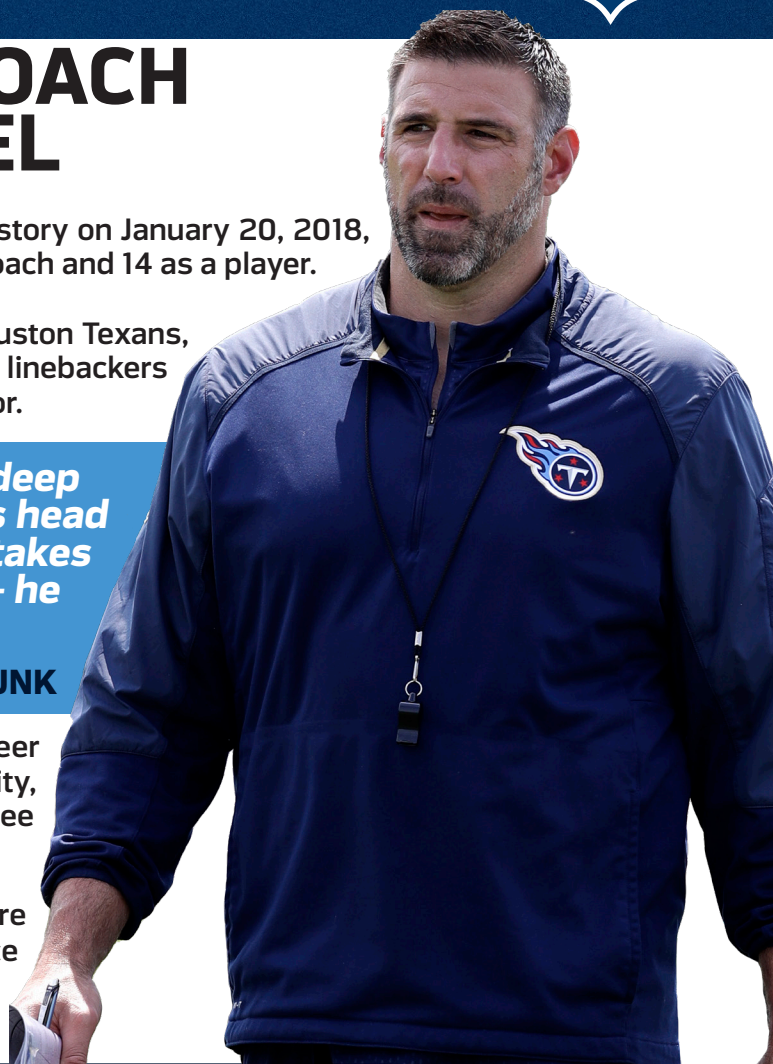
Vrabel joins the Titans after four seasons with the Houston Texans, spending the first three seasons (2014-16) coaching linebackers and one year (2017) as the team's defensive coordinator.

“Mike has a commanding presence and a deep understanding for how he will attack this head coaching opportunity. He knows what it takes to reach that level of sustained success – he has seen it first-hand.”

- Titans Controlling Owner **AMY ADAMS STRUNK**

As a Pro Bowl linebacker, Vrabel played in 206 career games with Pittsburgh, New England and Kansas City, totaling 57 sacks and 496 tackles while winning three Super Bowls with the Patriots.

A native of Akron, OH, Vrabel attended Ohio State, where he earned All-America honors and Big Ten Conference Defensive Lineman of the Year in both 1995 and 1996.



GET TO KNOW COACH VRABEL

One place I would like to travel to, but haven't yet, is: Italy

My favorite food is: Happy Joe's Taco Pizza in Dubuque, Iowa.

The best football nickname is: The Fridge (William Perry)

My favorite college town is: Columbus, OH (Ohio State University)

As a child, the NFL team I followed was: Cleveland Browns

My favorite stadium, other than my own, is: Three Rivers in Pittsburgh. I played my first NFL game there.

My favorite sports uniform, other than my own, is: Scarlet and Gray Buckeye Uniforms

A player, former or current, who would make a great head coach is: Drew Brees

My favorite athlete as a child was: Bernie Kosar

The people who have influenced me the most is: My parents – Chuck and Elaine Vrabel

If I wasn't coaching, I would be: Driving my wife crazy





THE COACHES

NEW IN 2018

LIONS HEAD COACH MATT PATRICIA



Patricia was named the 27th head coach in Detroit history on February 5, 2018. Patricia brings to Detroit 20 years of coaching experience in the college and professional ranks, including the past 14 seasons with the New England Patriots.

During his time in New England, Patricia helped lead the organization to three Super Bowl Championships (XXXIX, XLIX, LI), six AFC Championships and 13 AFC East Division Championships. In all 14 of his seasons with the Patriots, New England finished with 10 or more wins, including 11 seasons with 12 or more wins.

“ Matt is driven to succeed, has extreme passion for the game and excels in preparation. He embodies the same hard-working, blue-collar attributes that represent our organization and the great city of Detroit. ”

- Lions general manager **BOB QUINN**

A native of Sherrill, NY, Patricia played both center and guard at R.P.I., helping the Engineers to a 31-8 record and three ECAC Championships during his collegiate career. He graduated from R.P.I. with a bachelor's degree in aeronautical engineering and went on to earn a master's degree in education from the University of Massachusetts.

GET TO KNOW COACH PATRICIA

My favorite sports uniform, other than my own, is: New York Yankees pinstripes

My favorite food is: Italian/Pizza

If I wasn't coaching, I would be: Designing planes/submarines

My most memorable football memory is: Winning Super Bowl XLIX with New England



THE COACHES

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** – exposes talented coaches from other levels of football and NFL Legends 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.

In 2017, 144 minority coaches took part in the Bill Walsh NFL Diversity Fellowship, including 43 NFL Legends and a record five female coaches.

Steelers head coach **MIKE TOMLIN**, 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 four current NFL head coaches – joining **HUE JACKSON** (Cleveland), **MARVIN LEWIS** (Cincinnati) and **ANTHONY LYNN** (Los Angeles Chargers) – who is a graduate of the program.

"I had the opportunity to work in this program when Coach Walsh initiated it with the 49ers, and it's great to see it continue as strong as it is," said Lewis. "We are happy to bring coaches in to benefit our staff as well as aid in their development as a coach."

The program has tutored more than 2,000 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 Los Angeles Rams
		1992 with Arizona
		1995 with Washington
Marvin Lewis	Cincinnati	1988 with San Francisco
		1991 with Kansas City
Anthony Lynn	Los Angeles Chargers	2000 with Denver
Mike Tomlin	Pittsburgh	2000 with Cleveland

*Chargers head coach **ANTHONY LYNN***

*Steelers head coach **MIKE TOMLIN***





THE COACHES

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,” said 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.”

2018 NFL MINORITY HEAD COACHES, ASSISTANT HEAD COACHES & COORDINATORS

Keith Armstrong, Atlanta, Special Teams	Marquand Manuel, Atlanta, Defense
Teryl Austin, Cincinnati, Defense	Thomas McGaughey, New York Giants, Special Teams
Eric Bieniemy, Kansas City, Offense	John Mitchell, Pittsburgh, Asst. Head Coach
Todd Bowles, New York Jets, Head Coach	Raheem Morris, Atlanta, Asst. Head Coach
Frank Bush, Miami, Asst. Head Coach	Winston Moss, Green Bay, Asst. Head Coach
Mike Caldwell, New York Jets, Asst. Head Coach	Ken Norton, Seattle, Defense
Romeo Crennel, Houston, Asst. Head Coach/Defense	Kris Richard, Dallas, Defense
George Edwards, Minnesota, Defense	Ron Rivera, Carolina, Head Coach
Jon Embree, San Francisco, Asst. Head Coach	Kacy Rodgers, New York Jets, Defense
Leslie Frazier, Buffalo, Defense	Robert Saleh, San Francisco, Defense
Richard Hightower, San Francisco, Special Teams	Duce Staley, Philadelphia, Asst. Head Coach
Al Holcomb, Cardinals, Defense	George Stewart, Los Angeles Chargers, Asst. Head Coach
Hue Jackson, Cleveland, Head Coach	Mike Tomlin, Pittsburgh, Head Coach
Shawn Jefferson, Miami, Asst. Head Coach	Eric Washington, Carolina, Defense
Vance Joseph, Denver, Head Coach	Steve Wilks, Arizona, Head Coach
Marvin Lewis, Cincinnati, Head Coach	Joe Woods, Denver, Defense
Anthony Lynn, Los Angeles Chargers, Head Coach	



Browns head coach HUE JACKSON



Bengals head coach MARVIN LEWIS



THE COACHES

NFL CONTINUES PARTNERSHIP WITH EAST-WEST SHRINE GAME

The NFL has continued its partnership with the historic East-West Shrine Game to increase development opportunities for coaches and draft-eligible players.

The NFL will supply the coaching staffs for the two teams from among current league assistant coaches whose teams do not advance to the playoffs. The NFL will also provide the game officials for the contest, which features some of college football's best prospects.

"The East-West Shrine Game is not only a showcase for tremendous athletes who have a dream of playing at the next level, it is also a venue for upwardly mobile coaches in the NFL," said NFL Executive Vice President of Football Operations **TROY VINCENT**. "This is an opportunity to further develop, evaluate and showcase our assistant coaches who may be our next generation of head coaches."

At the conclusion of the NFL regular season, teams nominated deserving assistant coaches who were reviewed by a panel that included NFL Football Operations staff, East-West Shrine Game leadership and two members of the NFL's General Managers Advisory Committee. Once the head coaches were selected, each head coach filled his staff from among other NFL assistant coaches nominated by the clubs, a key job requirement for head coaches at every level of the sport.

Coaches nominated by NFL clubs must be active assistant coaches who display extraordinary teaching and communications skills, and are recognized for their integrity and commitment to excellence in the coaching profession. The coaches must be accomplished at developing and preparing players to compete in the NFL.

"Our partnership with the NFL has once again given us two excellent head coaches," said **HAROLD RICHARDSON**, executive director of the East-West Shrine Game. "Jonathan Hayes and Bobby Johnson are both outstanding coaches and certainly up-and-coming NFL head coaching prospects. It is not only a great opportunity for them, but it is also a great learning experience for our players as they prepare for their NFL careers."

The 93rd annual East-West Shrine Game took place on January 20, 2018 at Tropicana Field in St. Petersburg, Florida.

East head coach JONATHAN HAYES

West head coach BOBBY JOHNSON





THE COACHES

93RD ANNUAL EAST-WEST SHRINE GAME COACHING STAFF

EAST TEAM HEAD COACH	WEST TEAM HEAD COACH
Jonathan Hayes, Cincinnati Bengals	Bobby Johnson, Oakland Raiders
EAST TEAM ASSISTANT COACHES	WEST TEAM ASSISTANT COACHES
Richard Angulo, Baltimore Ravens	Danny Breyer, Tampa Bay Buccaneers
Dave Borghonzi, Tampa Bay Buccaneers	Robert Couch, Cincinnati Bengals
Bobby Engram, Baltimore Ravens	Will Harriger, Seattle Seahawks
Skyler Fulton, Tampa Bay Buccaneers	Chris Harris, Los Angeles Chargers
Zack Grossi, Tampa Bay Buccaneers	Marcus Lewis, Cincinnati Bengals
Cannon Matthews, Washington Redskins	D'Anton Lynn, Los Angeles Chargers
Dan Pitcher, Cincinnati Bengals	David Raih, Green Bay Packers
James Rowe III, Washington Redskins	Mark Ridgley, Los Angeles Chargers
Chad Wade, Tampa Bay Buccaneers	Pat Ruel, Seattle Seahawks
Andrew Weidinger, Tampa Bay Buccaneers	Dan Shamash, Los Angeles Chargers
Drew Wilkins, Baltimore Ravens	Joe Vaughn, Tampa Bay Buccaneers
Omar Young, Green Bay Packers	Marquice Williams, Los Angeles Chargers





THE COACHES

INSPIRATIONAL QUOTES

Inspirational quotes, messages or team goals are displayed throughout many NFL facilities to provide players with added motivation.

A SAMPLING OF MOTIVATIONAL MESSAGES SEEN AROUND THE NFL

TEAM	MOTIVATIONAL MESSAGE
Arizona Cardinals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trust. Accountability. Commitment. • Together We Can Do More • Many Parts...One Body of Work
Baltimore Ravens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • W.I.N. (What's Important Now). • TEAM, TEAM, TEAM.
Carolina Panthers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep Pounding (below left)
Chicago Bears	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be you • The Most Powerful Weapon on Earth is the Human Soul on Fire • Bear Down
Cincinnati Bengals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One player can impact a game. One team wins championships. • "Winning makes believers of us all." – Paul Brown
Houston Texans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We. Us. Team. • Earn the Rights to Win
Los Angeles Rams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We not Me. • John Wooden's pyramid of success (below right)
New York Jets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One Team, One Goal
Oakland Raiders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Just Win Baby. • Pride and Poise
Philadelphia Eagles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrity • Respect
San Francisco 49ers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It won't be easy, but it will be worth it. • 49ers team rules: 1. Protect the team 2. No complaining, no excuses 3. Be on time.
Tennessee Titans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individuals play the game, teams win championships. • One Team, One Goal

