



## INFORMATION GUIDE



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## **GIANTS & REDSKINS KICK OFF SEASON ON NBC ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4**

### ***It will be a "Giant Celebration" of Football & Music***

It all gets going at Giants Stadium and in New York City on Thursday night, September 4!

That night, the NFL will kick off its 2008 season with a "Giant Celebration" when the Super Bowl XLII champion **NEW YORK GIANTS** host the NFC East-rival **WASHINGTON REDSKINS** on NBC and Westwood One Radio Sports at 7:00 PM ET.

Each year, the previous season's Super Bowl winner hosts the NFL Thursday night season kickoff the following September.

On Thursday, September 4 fans will be able to witness a celebration in Giants Stadium preceded by a music and football celebration in New York City.

The game will begin at 7:00 PM ET rather than the usual 8:30 PM ET due to the final-night festivities of the Republican National Convention.

Both teams made the playoffs in 2007. Joined in the postseason by Dallas, the NFC East was one of only two divisions (AFC South) to each send three clubs to the playoffs.

The Giants started their NFL single-season record of 10 consecutive road victories (including the playoffs) when they topped the Redskins 24-17 last September 23. Washington took the return match at Giants Stadium on December 16, 22-10. The Kickoff game will be the NFL head-coaching debut of the Redskins' **JIM ZORN**.

America will be watching. New York will be rocking. The Giants and Redskins will be pumped.

"Season openers," says Redskins tight end **CHRIS COOLEY**, "set a real standard for your team."

A rundown of the NFL Thursday night season openers:

### **NFL KICKOFF WEEKEND THURSDAY OPENERS**

DATE	SITE	RESULT (HOME TEAM IN CAPS)	RECAP
Sept. 5, 2002	Giants Stadium	San Francisco 16, NY GIANTS 13	San Francisco kicker Jose Cortez kicks a 36-yard field goal with six seconds remaining to lead the 49ers to victory in the NFL's first Thursday-night opener since 1949.
Sept. 4, 2003	FedExField	WASHINGTON 16, NY Jets 13	Washington kicker John Hall converts a game-winning 50-yard field goal with five seconds remaining to lift the Redskins past his former team.
Sept. 9, 2004	Gillette Stadium	NEW ENGLAND 27, Indianapolis 24	New England quarterback Tom Brady passes for 335 yards and three touchdowns as the defending Super Bowl champions defeat the Colts.
Sept. 8, 2005	Gillette Stadium	NEW ENGLAND 30, Oakland 20	New England quarterback Tom Brady leads the offense by throwing for 306 yards and two touchdowns 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 touchdowns and running back Willie Parker adds 115 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 touchdowns.



## **NFL KICKOFF 2008 SCHEDULE** **THURSDAY, SUNDAY & MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 7-8**

(All times local PM)

Washington at N.Y. Giants (Thurs., 7:00, NBC)  
Detroit at Atlanta (1:00)  
Cincinnati at Baltimore (1:00)  
Seattle at Buffalo (1:00)  
N.Y. Jets at Miami (1:00)  
Kansas City at New England (1:00)  
Tampa Bay at New Orleans (12:00)  
St. Louis at Philadelphia (1:00)

Houston at Pittsburgh (1:00)  
Jacksonville at Tennessee (12:00)  
Dallas at Cleveland (4:15)  
Carolina at San Diego (1:15)  
Arizona at San Francisco (1:15)  
Chicago at Indianapolis (8:15, NBC)  
Minnesota at Green Bay (Mon., 6:00, ESPN)  
Denver at Oakland (Mon., 7:15, ESPN)

### **THE NFL? UNPREDICTABLE!**

There's just no predicting it!

"That's what's so great about the NFL," says *Sunday Night Football* analyst **JOHN MADDEN**. "You never know what will happen."

Last season, six teams – Green Bay, Jacksonville, Pittsburgh, Tampa Bay, Tennessee and Washington – made the playoffs that were not in the postseason the year before. That marked the 12th consecutive season in which at least five teams (out of 12) accomplished the feat.

#### **SEASON    PLAYOFF TEAMS NOT IN PREVIOUS SEASON'S PLAYOFFS**

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)

### **THE NFL IS SO UNPREDICTABLE THAT IN 2007...**

- Seventeen percent of games were decided by a scoring play in the final two minutes or overtime. "In the NFL, it's a full 60 minutes," says Buffalo Bills wide receiver **LEE EVANS**.
- Almost half the games (47 percent) were decided by one score (eight points or less), and almost a quarter (21.5 percent) were decided by three points or less.
- The NFC was represented by a different team in the Super Bowl for the seventh consecutive season.

### **KICKOFF WEEKEND**

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

Of the 426 teams which won openers...225 went to the playoffs (130 won division titles).

Of the 426 teams which lost openers...99 went to the playoffs (55 won division titles).

**In 2007**, nine of the 12 playoff teams – Dallas, Green Bay, Indianapolis, New England, Pittsburgh, San Diego, Seattle, Tennessee and Washington – were victorious on Kickoff Weekend.

"There are only 16 games," says Philadelphia Eagles tight end **L.J. SMITH**. "So you have to make every one count."



## NFL RATCHETS UP THE EXCITEMENT!

The players and their performances in the NFL seem to keep getting better, whether they come from veterans like **LA DAINIAN TOMLINSON** or rookies like **ADRIAN PETERSON**. And because of the high level of play, NFL action is more exciting than ever!

"This is the NFL," says Buffalo Bills wide receiver **JUSTIN JENKINS**. "There's talent everywhere. You let those guys shine."

A look at some developments in 2007 that exhibit the excitement of the NFL game:

### In 2007...

- A record 11,104 points were scored, with games averaging 43.4 points, the highest average in 25 seasons, since the 43.7 of 1983.
- The **NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS** posted a 16-0 regular season, the NFL's first unbeaten/untied season since the 1972 Miami Dolphins (and only the fourth one in history), and won the most games in a season in history. "Everybody is going to enjoy this one," said Patriots quarterback **TOM BRADY** after the 16th win against the New York Giants on December 29. "It happens once every 35 years."
- In that game, three major NFL records were set -- two on the same play. The Patriots totaled 589 points for the season, the most by a team in history. When Brady threw a 65-yard touchdown pass to wide receiver **RANDY MOSS** in the fourth quarter, it was the 50th TD pass for the quarterback in the season, topping **PEYTON MANNING's** NFL record 49 in 2004. And it was Moss' 23rd TD reception of the year, breaking **JERRY RICE's** mark of 22 in 1987.
- Seven quarterbacks – **TOM BRADY**, **DREW BREES**, **BRETT FAVRE**, **JON KITNA**, **PEYTON MANNING**, **CARSON PALMER** and **TONY ROMO** – threw for 4,000 yards, the most QBs to do so in a season.
- There were 81 300-yard passing games, tying 2004 for the most in a season since 1978 when the 16-game schedule began. Four quarterbacks – Brady (50), Romo (36), **BEN ROETHLISBERGER** (32) and Peyton Manning (31) – threw for at least 30 touchdowns, only the third time in history that many quarterbacks have done so in a season.
- Games averaged 428.6 passing yards, the highest such figure since 1995 (441.6).
- Games were "**thisclose**." Nearly half of NFL games were decided by one score:

POINTS	GAMES	PCT.
<b>8 or Less</b>	120 of 256	47%
<b>7 or Less</b>	110 of 256	43%
<b>3 or Less</b>	55 of 256	22%

At the end of the 2007 season, eight of the top 10 highest-rated passers of all-time with at least 1,500 attempts were active players. The other two are enshrined in the Pro Football Hall of Fame. The list:

### TOP-RATED PASSERS WITH AT LEAST 1,500 CAREER ATTEMPTS

QUARTERBACK	YEARS	ATT.	COMP.	YARDS	TD	INT	RATING
Steve Young	15	4,149	2,667	33,124	232	107	96.8
<b>Peyton Manning*</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>5,405</b>	<b>3,468</b>	<b>41,626</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>94.7</b>
<b>Kurt Warner*</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2,959</b>	<b>1,926</b>	<b>24,008</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>93.2</b>
<b>Tom Brady*</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3,642</b>	<b>2,294</b>	<b>26,370</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>92.9</b>
Joe Montana	15	5,391	3,409	40,551	273	139	92.3
<b>Carson Palmer*</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2,306</b>	<b>1,305</b>	<b>14,899</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>90.1</b>
<b>Daunte Culpepper*</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>2,927</b>	<b>1,867</b>	<b>22,422</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>89.9</b>
<b>Chad Pennington*</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1,919</b>	<b>1,259</b>	<b>13,738</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>88.9</b>
<b>Marc Bulger*</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2,484</b>	<b>1,578</b>	<b>18,625</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>88.1</b>
<b>Drew Brees*</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3,015</b>	<b>1,921</b>	<b>21,189</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>87.9</b>

\*Active in 2007

## **DIVISION TITLES? UP FOR GRABS!**

In the six seasons since realignment in 2002, 27 of the 32 NFL teams have qualified for the playoffs at least once. In that time, 23 different teams have won division titles.

"We feel very good about where the game is from the standpoint of competitiveness top to bottom," says **RICH MC KAY**, president of the Atlanta Falcons and co-chairman of the NFL Competition Committee.

"That's why fans love the NFL: in any given year, your team can be the surprise team in the league," says New York Jets quarterback **CHAD PENNINGTON**.

Following are the teams that have qualified for the playoffs and won their divisions since realignment in 2002:

<u><b>TEAM</b></u>	<u><b>PLAYOFF BERTHS</b></u>	<u><b>DIVISION TITLES</b></u>
Indianapolis	6	5
New England	5	5
Seattle	5	4
Philadelphia	4	4
Green Bay	4	4
Pittsburgh	4	3
New York Giants	4	1
San Diego	3	3
Tampa Bay	3	3
Dallas	3	1
Denver	3	1
New York Jets	3	1
Tennessee	3	1
Baltimore	2	2
Chicago	2	2
Atlanta	2	1
Carolina	2	1
Kansas City	2	1
St. Louis	2	1
Jacksonville	2	0
Washington	2	0
Cincinnati	1	1
New Orleans	1	1
Oakland	1	1
San Francisco	1	1
Cleveland	1	0
Minnesota	1	0



**Indianapolis and New England have won the most division titles since realignment (five).**



## OPENING GAME RECORDS OF NFL TEAMS

Longest Streaks								Longest Streaks							
AFC	W	L	T	Pct.	Win	Loss	Current	NFC	W	L	T	Pct.	Win	Loss	Current
Jacksonville	9	4	0	.692	6	2	L-1	Dallas	32	15	1	.681	17	5	W-1
Denver	30	17	1	.638	4	4	W-1	Chicago	49	34	5	.590	9	6	L-1
San Diego	28	20	0	.583	6	6	W-2	N.Y. Giants	46	32	5	.590	4	3	L-2
Miami	23	18	1	.561	11	5	L-2	Minnesota	27	19	1	.587	5	3	W-2
Kansas City	26	22	0	.542	7	4	L-2	Green Bay	48	36	3	.571	5	6	W-1
Pittsburgh	37	32	4	.536	5	3	W-5	Detroit	42	34	2	.553	10	4	W-1
Indianapolis	33	30	1	.524	8	8	W-3	St. Louis	38	32	0	.543	5	6	L-1
Tennessee	25	23	0	.521	4	3	W-1	San Francisco	30	27	1	.526	5	3	W-1
Houston	3	3	0	.500	2	3	W-1	Atlanta	22	20	0	.524	5	3	L-1
New England	24	24	0	.500	6	3	W-4	Washington	37	35	4	.514	6	5	W-1
Oakland	24	24	0	.500	5	5	L-5	Tampa Bay	13	19	0	.406	3	5	L-2
Cleveland	27	28	0	.491	5	6	L-3	Arizona	34	51	2	.400	6	7	L-1
Cincinnati	19	21	0	.475	4	4	W-3	Philadelphia	29	44	1	.397	5	9	L-1
N.Y. Jets	20	28	0	.417	3	5	L-1	Carolina	5	8	0	.385	3	4	W-1
Buffalo	19	29	0	.396	6	5	L-2	Seattle	11	21	0	.344	3	8	W-2
Baltimore	4	8	0	.333	2	4	L-1	New Orleans	13	28	0	.317	2	6	L-1

## HEADLINE GAMES

"The next game," says head coach **TOM COUGHLIN** of the Super Bowl XLII champion New York Giants, "is the most important game of your schedule."

With only 16 games per team, he's right that the next game is always important. It's just that, some weeks, some games seem to be even *more* important!

Following is a 2008 Weeks 1-17 list of "Headline Games," but far from the only ones:

<b>Week 1</b>	Washington at N.Y. Giants	Thursday-night opener features Super Bowl XLII champ hosting division foe.
<b>Week 2</b>	Oakland at Kansas City	Top-five picks McFadden (Oak.) & Dorsey (KC) get their first taste of this rivalry.
<b>Week 3</b>	Dallas at Green Bay	Teams were top two seeds in NFC last year & led conference with 13 wins each.
<b>Week 4</b>	Minnesota at Tennessee	Showcase of past two Offensive ROYs: RB Peterson (Min.) & QB Young (Ten.).
<b>Week 5</b>	Pittsburgh at Jacksonville	Teams played memorable AFC Wild Card game last year, won by Jaguars.
<b>Week 6</b>	New England at San Diego	Rematch of AFC Championship Game...but this time the game is in San Diego.
<b>Week 7</b>	Indianapolis at Green Bay	Game features two division winners from last season.
<b>Week 8</b>	SD at NO (London)	London's Wembley Stadium hosts NFL's second regular-season game overseas.
<b>Week 9</b>	New England at Indianapolis	Two of NFL's elite teams meet on Sunday night at Lucas Oil Stadium.
<b>Week 10</b>	N.Y. Giants at Philadelphia	QB's Manning (NYG) & McNabb (Phi.) take center stage in NFC East battle.
<b>Week 11</b>	Tennessee at Jacksonville	Both AFC South teams made playoffs last year & will contend for division title.
<b>Week 12</b>	Phi at Bal/Was at Sea	Rookie head coaches John Harbaugh (Bal.) & Jim Zorn (Was.) face former teams.
<b>Week 13</b>	Ten at Det/Sea at Dal/Az at Phi	Thanksgiving triple-header! Turkey and football – does it get any better?
<b>Week 14</b>	Miami at Buffalo (Toronto)	Bills host Dolphins in first regular-season game at Toronto's Rogers Centre.
<b>Week 15</b>	N.Y. Giants at Dallas	Cowboys look to avenge last year's Divisional Playoff loss to Giants.
<b>Week 16</b>	Indianapolis at Jacksonville	Jaguars hope to challenge Colts for AFC South crown in 2008.
<b>Week 17</b>	Cleveland at Pittsburgh	Final weekend features these AFC North rivals. Will division be on the line?



**The New York Giants and Washington Redskins kick off the season on September 4.**



## 2008 KICKOFF WEEKEND NOTES

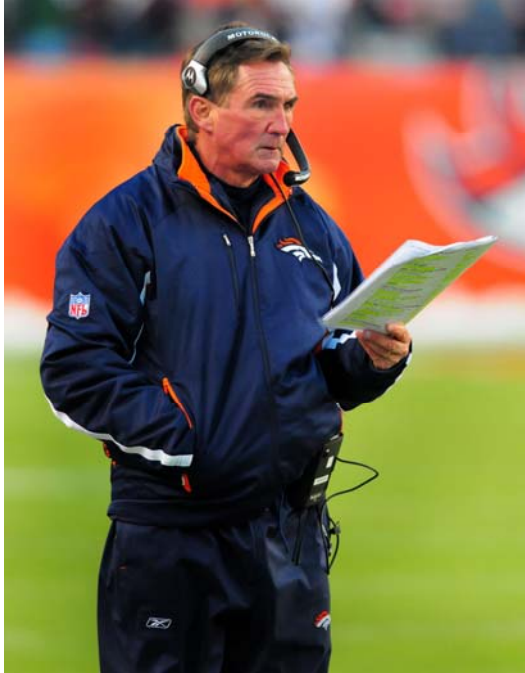
It's a special time, Kickoff Weekend, which begins on Thursday, September 4 this season in primetime on NBC when the Super Bowl champion New York Giants host the Washington Redskins. It's when things start to count.

Some clubs have excelled in openers. Some notable active NFL kickoff streaks:

- The Super Bowl champion **NEW YORK GIANTS**, who host Washington in the spotlight Kickoff 2008 game on Thursday night, have 46 wins in openers, the third-most in NFL history. The Giants have a 46-32-5 (.590) record on Kickoff Weekend. New York is tied for third in league annals with 45 wins in home openers and the team's 46 wins in road openers rank second all-time. The Giants visit St. Louis in Week 2 to face the Rams.
- The **NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS** have won 11 of their past 13 home openers, including a perfect 6-0 record at Gillette Stadium. The Patriots open the season at home versus Kansas City and aim for their seventh consecutive win in a home opener.
- The **DALLAS COWBOYS** own a 32-15-1 (.681) record in openers, the top mark in the NFC. The Cowboys open the season in Cleveland and Dallas has the NFL's best record in road openers at 30-18 (.625).
- The **INDIANAPOLIS COLTS**, who will kick off the season by opening up Lucas Oil Stadium against Chicago on Sunday night, have won eight of their past nine openers and five consecutive home openers. The Colts travel to Minnesota in Week 2 and have won three road openers in a row, the longest current such streak in the NFL.
- The **CHICAGO BEARS** open the season at Indianapolis in primetime and seek to become the first team to record 50 victories on Kickoff Weekend. The Bears return home to Soldier Field in Week 3 to face Tampa Bay and have 60 wins in home openers, the most in the league.
- The **GREEN BAY PACKERS** have 48 wins on Kickoff Weekend, the second-most in NFL history. The Packers host the Minnesota Vikings on Monday night to start the season. In Week 2, Green Bay travels to Detroit and the Packers have 49 wins in road openers, the most in NFL history.
- The **JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS**, who open the season at Tennessee, are 9-4 (.692) all-time on Kickoff Weekend, the best mark in the NFL.
- The **DENVER BRONCOS**, who open at Oakland on Monday night, have won 14 of their past 19 openers and are 30-17-1 (.638) on Kickoff Weekend. The Broncos host San Diego in Week 2 and have won eight consecutive home openers, the longest current streak in the NFL. Denver is 35-12-1 (.745) in home openers, the second-best mark in the league.
- The **MIAMI DOLPHINS**, who host the New York Jets on Kickoff Weekend, are 31-10-1 (.756) in home openers, the best mark in the NFL. Miami has won 12 of their past 16 openers.
- The **PITTSBURGH STEELERS** have won 37 openers, the most among AFC teams, and have won five consecutive openers, the longest current streak in the NFL.
- The **OAKLAND RAIDERS**, who open the season at home against Denver on Monday night, are 34-13-1 (.719) in home openers. The Raiders have won seven of their past 10 openers at home.
- The **SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS**, who open the season at home against Arizona, have won 12 of their past 15 home openers, outscoring opponents 434-281 in those games.
- The **ARIZONA CARDINALS** open the season at San Francisco, the 19th time in the past 21 years the club has started the year on the road. The **NEW YORK JETS** travel to Miami on Kickoff Weekend, marking the 36th time in the team's 49-year history the club has opened on the road.
- **HOME SWEET HOME:** The **MINNESOTA VIKINGS**, who will host Indianapolis in Week 2, have won 17 of their past 21 openers at home...the **KANSAS CITY CHIEFS**, who host Oakland in Week 2, have won 14 of their past 19 home openers...the **DETROIT LIONS**, who host Green Bay in Week 2, have won 12 of their past 17 home openers...the **ST. LOUIS RAMS**, who host the New York Giants in Week 2, have won 10 of their past 13 openers in St. Louis...the **SAN DIEGO CHARGERS**, who open the season hosting Carolina, have won 10 of their past 15 at home...and the **SEATTLE SEAHAWKS**, who host San Francisco in Week 2, have won five consecutive home openers.

## NEW NFL RULES FOR 2008

A number of 2008 playing-rules changes were adopted by NFL owners at the NFL Annual Meeting in late March.



Following are the changes, with comments from NFL head coaches and executives:

- **DEFENSIVE HELMET RADIOS:** Teams will now be permitted to have one defensive player on the field with a radio in his helmet. This gives the defense the same ability to communicate its signals as the offense. "I think it's a great thing," says Denver Broncos coach **MIKE SHANAHAN** (left). "I've always been in favor of it."
  - **INCIDENTAL FACEMASK:** The foul for incidental grasp and release of the facemask has been eliminated. Twisting, turning or pulling the facemask will remain a 15-yard personal foul.
  - **FORCEOUT RULE:** The forceout rule has been eliminated. A player who receives or intercepts a ball must land with both feet inbounds. This affords the receiver and defender equal opportunity to complete the play. "We feel that with so many levels of judgment that go into the force-out call it creates a more consistent play when either you get your feet down for a complete pass or you do not," says co-chairman of the NFL Competition Committee **RICH MC KAY**.
  - **REVIEWABLE PLAYS:** Instant replay will expand to include field-goal and extra-point attempts as well as illegal forward handoffs. This provides a mechanism for correcting an obvious onfield officiating error.
  - **SECOND HALF COIN TOSS:** Clubs will now have the option to defer the opportunity to kick or receive the kickoff to the second half. "It now gives coaches a third option," says **JEFF FISHER**, Tennessee Titans head coach and co-chairman of the NFL Competition Committee.
  - **MUFFED SNAP:** It will now be a live ball when a direct snap from center to a player who is in position to receive a hand-to-hand snap goes untouched. It was previously called a false start, but now either team may recover and advance the untouched snap.
- There will be a **point of emphasis** on a rule this season (although the rule itself has not changed):
- **Grasping the facemask** by all players, including offensive players, will continue to be strictly enforced. Specific attention is to be given to the runner who twists, turns, or pulls the facemask of the defender who is trying to make the tackle. Runners and tacklers are to be treated identically when this occurs. This action is a personal foul and a 15-yard penalty.

## NFL'S "THIRD-QUARTERBACK" RULE -- SOMETIMES MISUNDERSTOOD

Seventeen years ago (1991) the **third-quarterback rule** was instituted to enable teams to have an emergency quarterback available who was not on the 45-man game-day active roster, since many teams, for strategic purposes, only carried two quarterbacks on their game-day roster.

Everybody thinks they understand the NFL's "third-quarterback" rule. But do they?

The rule states that **if a third quarterback is inserted before the fourth quarter, a team's first two quarterbacks cannot be used in the game at any position.**

Another aspect of the rule is sometimes misunderstood. It is a **coach's decision** as to whether a third quarterback will be used. The active quarterbacks **do not have to be injured** for a team to use its third quarterback.



## NFL INSTALLS NEW COACH-TO-DEFENSE SYSTEM

NFL offensive coordinators have literally had the ear of their quarterbacks since 1994.

Beginning that year, coaches were allowed to discuss plays and strategies with their quarterbacks before the snap via a coach-to-QB communication system inside the player's helmet.



This year, for the first time, defenses will enjoy the same benefit. Like their offensive counterparts, defensive coordinators will designate a player to wear a “live” helmet equipped with a Motorola transmitter.

Two defensive players will have “live” helmets, but only one of those helmets can be on the field at a time. If a primary player's equipment malfunctions or he sustains an injury, only then can a backup player's “live” helmet be used. Offensive and defensive helmets with the communication capability will be identified with a prominently displayed green dot.

Several NFL players experimented with the new technology during OTAs and minicamps this year, including linebacker **DAVID THORNTON**, who will be the primary Titans defensive player to be equipped with the coach-to-defense technology this season. “I really enjoyed it,” says Thornton. “I think it evens things out a little bit. Hopefully it will let us communicate a little better on Sundays.”

As with the offensive transmitters, the defensive devices will go live immediately after the play clock begins and will remain active until 15 seconds are left on the play clock or the snap of the ball, whichever comes first.

“It's not a big adjustment for me,” says Houston Texans Pro Bowl linebacker **DE MECO RYANS**, who also wore a “live” helmet during minicamp. “Usually, you don't have a coach talking to you until you get to the sidelines. Now, he's in your ear on the field.”

Much like the offensive helmet transmitter, the “live” defensive helmets will employ a frequency system that has 268 million different encryption codes, making it indecipherable to anyone trying to listen in. Several other clubs, including the Bills and Packers, tinkered with the new technology during offseason workouts. Players and coaches from both teams are excited about the innovation.

“The communication will be a lot smoother because you won't have to signal,” says Buffalo head coach **DICK JAURON**. “You still need to have signals as a backup in case the device goes down. But it's better. It's better.”

One of Jauron's star defenders, linebacker **PAUL POSLUSZNY**, agrees. “To have that short communication with the coach will help us and will make everything more clear,” says Posluszny. “We won't be fighting to make sure we can get the signal or see the signal. So to have that will make things way more efficient.”

As with any new technology or rule change, there will be a period of adjustment. But Green Bay head coach **MIKE MC CARTHY** thinks it will be an easy transition for defensive coaches and players.

“We'll continue to get the players used to it, having the voice in their ear, and also the time frame that you're able to talk to the defensive player,” he says. “We've used it throughout OTAs and minicamps, and it's really gone very smooth.”

Here's a closer look at how the coach-to-defense system will be administered this season:

- Two defensive players from each team will be identified and will be authorized to have receivers in their helmets, one as the primary and the other as the backup.
- The primary player will have one “live” helmet on the field and a second “live” helmet stored in a secured trunk or container as a backup in case of a malfunction.
- The backup player will wear his regular helmet on the field and will have a “live” helmet stored in the secured trunk or container in the event of an injury to the primary player.
- At no time will two defensive players from the same team be permitted to wear “live” helmets, either on the sideline or on the field, after pregame warm-ups or during the game.
- The secured storage trunk or container will be of exact and identical specifications and will be provided by the league to all 32 clubs. The backup “live” helmet for the primary player and the single “live” helmet for the secondary player, along with two spare battery packs, will be secured in the trunk. The trunks will be positioned behind the benches near the Motorola communication centers and will be designated as off-limits areas to players, coaches, and club personnel. The trunks will be clearly marked, and access will be controlled and monitored by NFL personnel or designees throughout the game.
- The helmets will be tested in pregame, as is done with the coach-to-quarterback helmets, and the two backup helmets will be immediately secured in the trunk.
- The NFL personnel assigned to the game or their designees will maintain a written log of the usage and return of the backup helmets and spare battery packs. The form will be sent to the league office each week for review.



## HE'S WITH WHO?

Although only about eight percent of NFL players switched teams this year via free agency, it seemed that this offseason contained an unusual amount of big-name switches through free agency, trades and free-agent signings.

A significant move came in the NFC West when the NFL's third all-time leader in receiving yards, **ISAAC BRUCE** (14,109) moved from St. Louis to San Francisco.

"I like to point to a guy like Isaac and say to the other receivers 'See, this is what you do,'" says 49ers offensive coordinator **MIKE MARTZ**, Bruce's head coach in St. Louis. "Isaac works out like crazy. He keeps himself in impeccable shape throughout the year and takes excellent care of himself. He has such a terrific focus and above all a terrific passion for this game."

Some notable players who changed teams this offseason:

<u>PLAYER</u>	<u>NEW TEAM</u>	<u>2007 TEAM</u>	<u>TRANSACTION</u>
DE Jared Allen	Vikings	Chiefs	Trade
LB Boss Bailey	Broncos	Lions	Unrestricted FA
WR Bernard Berrian	Vikings	Bears	Unrestricted FA
RB Chris Brown	Texans	Titans	Unrestricted FA
K Josh Brown	Rams	Seahawks	Unrestricted FA
WR Isaac Bruce	49ers	Rams	FA
QB Mark Brunell	Saints	Redskins	Unrestricted FA
TE Alge Crumpler	Titans	Falcons	FA
G Alan Faneca	Jets	Steelers	Unrestricted FA
RB DeShaun Foster	49ers	Panthers	FA
TE Bubba Franks	Jets	Packers	Unrestricted FA
CB DeAngelo Hall	Raiders	Falcons	Trade
RB Julius Jones	Seahawks	Cowboys	Unrestricted FA
RB Kevin Jones	Bears	Lions	FA
DT Kris Jenkins	Jets	Panthers	Trade
LB Calvin Pace	Jets	Cardinals	Unrestricted FA
WR Jerry Porter	Jaguars	Raiders	Unrestricted FA
DT Shaun Rogers	Browns	Lions	Trade
CB Asante Samuel	Eagles	Patriots	Unrestricted FA
TE Jeremy Shockey	Saints	Giants	Trade
DE Justin Smith	49ers	Bengals	Trade
WR Donté Stallworth	Browns	Patriots	Unrestricted FA
DT Marcus Stroud	Bills	Jaguars	Trade
DE Jason Taylor	Redskins	Dolphins	Trade
RB Michael Turner	Falcons	Chargers	Unrestricted FA
LB Jonathan Vilma	Saints	Jets	Trade
WR Javon Walker	Raiders	Broncos	FA
DT Corey Williams	Browns	Packers	Trade
S Madieu Williams	Vikings	Bengals	Unrestricted FA

## ... AND MANY PLAYERS "GOING HOME" IN 2008

Among the players switching teams in 2008 are those who are returning to a former team, or moving to a team in proximity to their hometown. Newly signed Dallas linebacker **ZACH THOMAS** fits the latter description.

"It was a huge factor, a gigantic factor," says Thomas, a Pampa, Texas native who played at Texas Tech, of returning home to Texas to play for the Cowboys.

Some notable players who are moving to their previous team or playing for their hometown club:

<u>PLAYER</u>	<u>NEW TEAM</u>	<u>2007 TEAM</u>	<u>"GOING HOME"</u>
WR Marty Booker	Bears	Dolphins	Played for Bears from 1999-03.
RB Warrick Dunn	Buccaneers	Falcons	Played for Buccaneers from 1997-01.
K Jason Elam	Falcons	Broncos	Grew up 45 minutes from Atlanta in Snellville, GA .
CB Randall Gay	Saints	Patriots	From Brusley, LA; went to Louisiana State.
QB Trent Green	Rams	Dolphins	Grew up 20 mins. from St. Louis in Vianney, MO; Played for Rams in '00.
DE Jevon Kearse	Titans	Eagles	Played for Titans from 1999-03.
WR Justin McCareins	Titans	Jets	Played for Titans from 2001-03.
WR Muhsin Muhammad	Panthers	Bears	Played for Panthers from 1996-04.
RB Dominic Rhodes	Colts	Raiders	Played for Colts from 2001-06; rushed for 113 yards in Super Bowl XLI.
LB Zach Thomas	Cowboys	Dolphins	Native of Pampa, TX; went to Texas Tech.
S Gibril Wilson	Raiders	Giants	Grew up one hour from Oakland in San Jose, CA.

## MORE THAN JUST A NUMBER

Atlanta Falcons rookie quarterback **MATT RYAN** (below), the team's 2008 first-round draft choice, has not even played an NFL game yet, but his No. 2 jersey is already a hot item in Atlanta.

"It's pretty cool to see people wearing your jersey," says Ryan. "It's nice. I appreciate their support. Hopefully I can play well and see more No. 2 jerseys in the stands."

Ryan also wore No. 2 in high school.

Many players' numbers are not just randomly assigned. Following are the reasons behind some NFL players' numbers:

PLAYER	NUMBER	EXPLANATION
WR <b>TED GINN, JR.</b> , Miami	19	Wanted the same number his father wore in high school.
LB <b>D'QWELL JACKSON</b> , Cleveland	51	Went back to his roots by switching from No. 58 to his college number.
S <b>TANARD JACKSON</b> , Tampa Bay	36	Changed from his old No. 28 so <b>WARRICK DUNN</b> , who returned to the Buccaneers this season, could wear that number.
S <b>MICHAEL JOHNSON</b> , NY Giants	20	Merely wanted a number in the 20s. Johnson wore No. 23 in his college days at Arizona.
RB <b>MAURICE JONES-DREW</b> , Jacksonville	32	All 32 NFL clubs took a pass on this UCLA product in the first round of the 2006 draft. Jones-Drew instead went in the second round as the 60th pick overall.
WR <b>LEGEDU NAANEE</b> , San Diego	11	Entering his second season in the NFL, Naanee will strictly play wide receiver this year and so he shed his old No. 40 for a receiver's number.
QB <b>PEYTON MANNING</b> , Indianapolis	18	Sports this number in honor of his father Archie Manning, who wore those digits in his college days at Ole Miss.
LB <b>JOEY PORTER</b> , Miami	55	Growing up in California, Porter was a fan of former San Diego Chargers LB <b>JUNIOR SEAU</b> , so Porter donned the same number.
S <b>ROY WILLIAMS</b> , Dallas	38	Williams, who previously wore No. 31, took a new number this year as a way of "reinventing" himself.



## NFL JERSEY NUMBERING SYSTEM

All NFL players must wear numbers on their jerseys in accordance with the Official NFL Playing Rules, and such numerals must be by playing position, as follows:

POSITION	ALLOCATED NUMBERS
Quarterbacks, Punters and Placekickers	1 through 19
Wide Receivers	10 through 19, 80 through 89
Tight Ends	80 through 89
Running Backs and Defensive Backs	20 through 49
Centers	50 through 59 (60 through 79 if 50-59 unavailable)
Guards and Offensive Tackles	60 through 79
Defensive Lineman	60 through 79 (90 through 99 if 60-79 unavailable)
Linebackers	50 through 59 (90 through 99 if 50-59 unavailable)

## 2008 NFL SPECIAL PATCHES/LOGOS/FOOTBALLS

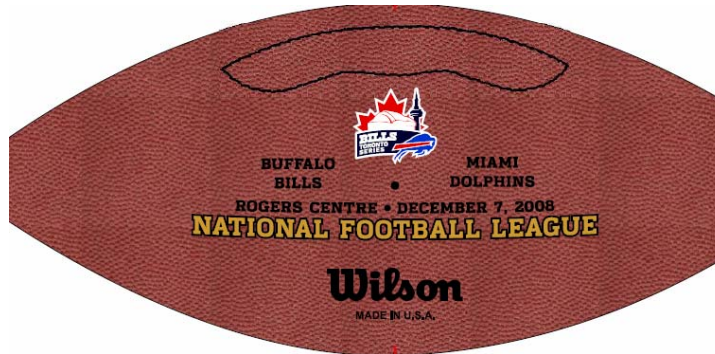
This will be a season of celebration for several NFL franchises. The season also will serve as a remembrance for individuals who have left a lasting legacy with a team.

Below are 2008 patches, logos and footballs that have been created by teams to honor their history or celebrate events this season:

TEAM	PATCH
Buffalo Bills	Bills "Toronto Series" patch and football.
Detroit Lions	Patch for 75th season.
Kansas City Chiefs	Memorial patch for Lamar Hunt.
New Orleans Saints/San Diego Chargers	NFL "International Series" patch.
New York Jets	Patch for 40th anniversary of Super Bowl III champions.
St. Louis Rams	Memorial patch for Georgia Frontiere.
Tennessee Titans	10th season as the Tennessee Titans.



The Bills will face the Dolphins in the first regular-season game to be played in Toronto.



The Bills' "Toronto Series" special football.



The Lions franchise celebrates its 75th season.



The Chiefs honor their late founder and owner Lamar Hunt.



The Saints will play host to the Chargers in London as part of the NFL's International Series.



The Jets will honor the 40th anniversary of their Super Bowl III championship team.



The Rams honor their late owner Georgia Frontiere.



The Titans celebrate their 10th season as the Tennessee Titans.

## **2008 NFL STRENGTH OF SCHEDULE**

<b>Team</b>	<b>Opponents' 2007 Pct. &amp; Record</b>			<b>Games vs. teams .500 or better</b>	<b>Games vs. playoff teams</b>
Pittsburgh Steelers	.598	153	103	12	8
Indianapolis Colts	.594	152	104	12	8
Jacksonville Jaguars	.559	143	113	10	6
Baltimore Ravens	.551	141	115	12	8
Minnesota Vikings	.551	141	115	9	7
Cincinnati Bengals	.547	140	116	12	8
Cleveland Browns	.547	140	116	10	8
Houston Texans	.547	140	116	10	8
Detroit Lions	.543	139	117	10	7
Tennessee Titans	.543	139	117	10	6
Chicago Bears	.531	136	120	10	6
Green Bay Packers	.531	136	120	9	6
Dallas Cowboys	.523	134	122	12	8
Washington Redskins	.523	134	122	10	6
New York Giants	.520	133	123	11	6
Philadelphia Eagles	.520	133	123	10	8
St. Louis Rams	.488	125	131	9	6
San Francisco 49ers	.484	124	132	9	6
Seattle Seahawks	.477	122	134	9	6
Tampa Bay Buccaneers	.469	120	136	5	4
Arizona Cardinals	.465	119	137	8	6
Carolina Panthers	.465	119	137	7	5
Miami Dolphins	.465	119	137	6	4
Atlanta Falcons	.461	118	138	6	4
New York Jets	.457	117	139	6	5
Kansas City Chiefs	.453	116	140	5	5
Buffalo Bills	.449	115	141	7	5
New Orleans Saints	.449	115	141	6	5
Denver Broncos	.445	114	142	6	5
Oakland Raiders	.438	112	144	5	4
San Diego Chargers	.422	108	148	4	4
New England Patriots	.387	99	157	5	4

### **COLTS OPEN NEW STADIUM... AND IT'S ALREADY GOT A SUPER BOWL!**

The **INDIANAPOLIS COLTS** will debut the NFL's newest stadium this year – 63,000-seat **LUCAS OIL STADIUM**. And before it opens, it already knows what it will host four years from now – Super Bowl XLVI in 2012, which NFL owners granted at the '08 NFL Spring Meeting.

Equipped to seat 63,000 fans during the regular season, Lucas Oil Stadium is expandable to 75,000 for mega events like the Super Bowl. It features an impressive array of amenities. The stadium will sport the largest fully-retractable roof in the NFL, two crystal-clear high-definition giant scoreboards, and a revolutionary "ribbon"-style HD board that wraps nearly 360 degrees around the seating bowl.

Most importantly, the new facility will be a source of pride for the Indianapolis community.

"This isn't so much about the Colts," says Colts owner **JIM IRSAY**. "The people of Indianapolis and Indiana deserve it. It sends an important message to teams and cities that if you work together and get new stadiums done and build on long-term relationships that benefit the NFL, the Super Bowl is a realistic reward for all of that."

The grand opening of Lucas Oil Stadium is just the first of three state-of-the-art NFL facilities that are scheduled to open in the next three years. The Dallas Cowboys' new stadium, which will host Super Bowl XLV in 2011, will open its doors in 2009, with the Giants-Jets' shared stadium scheduled to open in 2010.

The NFL new-stadium rundown:

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>STADIUM</b>	<b>TEAM(S)</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>CAPACITY</b>
2008	Lucas Oil Stadium	Indianapolis Colts	Indianapolis, IN	63,000-75,000
2009	Dallas Cowboys Stadium	Dallas Cowboys	Arlington, TX	80,000-100,000
2010	Giants-Jets Stadium	New York Giants New York Jets	East Rutherford, NJ	82,500



## ROAD GAMES? NO PROBLEM FOR THE GIANTS!



The Super Bowl XLII champion **NEW YORK GIANTS** won an NFL single-season record 10 consecutive road games last season, going 7-1 in a regular season in which they traveled 15,618 miles.

The Giants' unprecedented road success, which included a game in London, resulted in a level of confidence and momentum that spurred them on their Super Bowl run.

"We're all we have when we're on the road," said now-retired Giants defensive end **MICHAEL STRAHAN** (left) during the season. "And it's a long plane trip back when you don't win. Guys refuse to let that happen. For some reason, the road works for us."

How the road looks this season for all 32 teams:

### TOTAL 2008 NFL MILES TRAVELED\*

(2008 preseason and regular season)

1. Seattle	34,766	17. Green Bay	16,854
2. Oakland	34,218	18. Buffalo	16,830
3. San Diego	33,403	19. Philadelphia	16,546
4. San Francisco	31,530	20. Atlanta	16,330
5. New England	29,024	21. Washington	16,006
6. Arizona	26,073	22. Tampa Bay	15,754
7. N.Y. Jets	25,784	23. Jacksonville	14,428
8. New Orleans	23,956	24. N.Y. Giants	14,132
9. Miami	23,124	25. Baltimore	12,316
10. Denver	21,910	26. Indianapolis	12,022
11. Dallas	20,122	27. Detroit	11,860
12. Kansas City	18,868	28. Chicago	10,476
13. St. Louis	18,340	29. Cincinnati	8,564
14. Houston	17,404	30. Tennessee	8,508
15. Carolina	17,310	31. Pittsburgh	7,288
16. Minnesota	16,878	32. Cleveland	6,416

\*Air, rail and ground miles are considered in this calculation.

### NOTES ON 2008 NFL TRAVEL

- The total distance flown by all teams will be 597,040 miles. This is 43,910 more miles than were traveled last year, when teams traveled a total of 553,130 miles.
- Seven teams will "travel around the world" at least once (Seattle, Oakland, San Diego, San Francisco, New England, Arizona and the New York Jets). A trip around the globe is 25,000 miles.
- The **SEATTLE SEAHAWKS** will travel the most this season, accumulating a total of 34,766 miles. The Seahawks will travel 182 more miles than all the teams of the AFC North combined.
- In the last two years, the **SEATTLE SEAHAWKS** have traveled a total of 68,622 miles, the most of any team in that time. In comparison, the **PITTSBURGH STEELERS** have only traveled 18,636 miles in that same two-year span.
- The **CLEVELAND BROWNS** will log the fewest traveling miles this season, finishing with 6,416 miles. This is 2,770 fewer than the **NEW YORK JETS** traveled last year, when they finished with the lowest total in the NFL. Only one of Cleveland's games, at Jacksonville, will be greater than 1,000 miles total.
- The teams of the NFC West will fly the furthest distance of any division for the second year in a row. This year they will fly 114,616 miles, compared to last year's 113,620 miles. The teams of the AFC North will travel the least this year, accumulating a total of 34,584 miles.
- The **NEW YORK JETS** will see the biggest increase in their traveling miles from the previous season. They will travel 16,598 more miles this year.





## OPENING GAME RECORDS OF NFL HEAD COACHES

<u>AFC HEAD COACHES</u>			<u>NFC HEAD COACHES</u>		
<u>TEAM</u>	<u>COACH</u>	<u>W-L</u>	<u>TEAM</u>	<u>COACH</u>	<u>W-L</u>
Baltimore	John Harbaugh	0-0	Arizona	Ken Whisenhunt	0-1
Buffalo	Dick Jauron	2-5	Atlanta	Mike Smith	0-0
Cincinnati	Marvin Lewis	2-3	Carolina	John Fox	3-3
Cleveland	Romeo Crennel	0-3	Chicago	Lovie Smith	1-3
Denver	Mike Shanahan	11-4	Dallas	Wade Phillips	3-3
Houston	Gary Kubiak	1-1	Detroit	Rod Marinelli	1-1
Indianapolis	Tony Dungy	8-4	Green Bay	Mike McCarthy	1-1
Jacksonville	Jack Del Rio	3-2	Minnesota	Brad Childress	2-0
Kansas City	Herman Edwards	2-5	New Orleans	Sean Payton	1-1
Miami	Tony Sparano	0-0	N.Y. Giants	Tom Coughlin	7-5
New England	Bill Belichick	7-6	Philadelphia	Andy Reid	3-6
N.Y. Jets	Eric Mangini	1-1	St. Louis	Scott Linehan	1-1
Oakland	Lane Kiffin	0-1	San Francisco	Mike Nolan	2-1
Pittsburgh	Mike Tomlin	1-0	Seattle	Mike Holmgren	10-6
San Diego	Norv Turner	4-6	Tampa Bay	Jon Gruden	4-6
Tennessee	Jeff Fisher	8-5	Washington	Jim Zorn	0-0



## 61 YEARS AGO ON OPENING DAY -- A RECORD 87 POINTS!

Sixty-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 an opening game. 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** and Philadelphia halfback **STEVE VAN BUREN**.

Baugh, whose 1947 totals in completions (210), attempts (354) and yards passing (2,938) were NFL records at the time, 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

<b>Philadelphia</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>Washington</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>42</b>

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)



## **BEST NFL RECORDS, PAST 10 YEARS**

Having continuity in your organization at the coaching level is a key ingredient to success on the field.

In the past 10 years, five NFL teams have played at a .600 level or close to it -- led by the **NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS** at a .675 winning percentage. Those teams have combined for 31 playoff and seven Super Bowl appearances. Three of the five clubs have had the same head coach for four or more years, including 2007 Associated Press NFL Coach of the Year **BILL BELICHICK**, who will lead the Patriots for his ninth season in 2008.

"The head coach is probably the most important person in the system, and I'm not sure I felt that when I came into the league (in 1994)," says Patriots owner **ROBERT KRAFT**.

The top five regular-season records of the past 10 years (1998-07):

<b>TEAM</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>PCT.</b>	<b>PLAYOFF BERTHS</b>	<b>SUPER BOWL BERTHS</b>
New England	108	52	0	.675	7	4
Indianapolis	105	55	0	.656	8	1
Denver	97	63	0	.606	5	1
Green Bay	97	63	0	.606	6	0
Pittsburgh	95	64	1	.597	5	1



## **BEST OPENING MONTH RECORDS, PAST 10 YEARS**

Getting off to a strong start is important. In the past 10 years, 17 teams have a combined record of .500 or better through the season's first month. Those 17 clubs have combined for 81 playoff appearances in those years, and accounted for all 10 Super Bowl championships over that period.

The top opening-month records (.500 or better) of the past 10 years (1998-07):

<b>TEAM</b>	<b>RECORD</b>	<b>PCT.</b>	<b>TEAM</b>	<b>RECORD</b>	<b>PCT.</b>
Indianapolis	24-9-0	.727	N.Y. Giants	19-15-0	.559
Seattle	23-11-0	.676	Baltimore	18-15-0	.545
Denver	23-12-0	.657	Oakland	18-15-0	.545
Jacksonville	21-12-0	.647	Tampa Bay	18-15-0	.545
Green Bay	22-13-0	.629	Pittsburgh	17-15-0	.531
New England	20-12-0	.625	Kansas City	18-16-0	.529
Dallas	18-14-0	.563	New Orleans	16-15-0	.516
Miami	18-14-0	.563	St. Louis	17-17-0	.500
Minnesota	19-15-0	.559			



## BEST OPENING GAME PERFORMANCES, 1933-07

### MOST YARDS RUSHING

	<u>Yds.</u>	<u>Att.</u>	<u>LG</u>	<u>TD</u>
O.J. Simpson, Buffalo vs. New England, 9/16/73	250	29	80t	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

### MOST YARDS PASSING

	<u>Yds.</u>	<u>Att.</u>	<u>Comp.</u>	<u>TD</u>	<u>INT</u>
Norm Van Brocklin, L.A. Rams vs. N.Y. Yanks, 9/28/51	554	41	27	5	2
Dan Marino, Miami vs. New England, 9/4/94	473	42	23	5	1
Kurt Warner, St. Louis vs. Denver, 9/4/00	441	35	25	3	3
Drew Bledsoe, New England vs. Miami, 9/4/94	421	51	32	4	2
Glen Foley, N.Y. Jets vs. San Francisco, 9/6/98	415	30	58	3	1
Pete Beathard, Houston vs. Kansas City, 9/9/68	413	48	23	2	3
Phil Simms, N.Y. Giants vs. Philadelphia, 9/2/84	409	30	23	4	0
Johnny Unitas, Baltimore vs. Atlanta, 9/17/67	401	32	22	2	1

### MOST YARDS RECEIVING

	<u>Yds.</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>LG</u>	<u>TD</u>
Frank Clarke, Dallas vs. Washington, 9/16/62	241	10	58t	3
Anquan Boldin, Arizona vs. Detroit, 9/7/03	217	10	71t	2
Hugh Taylor, Washington vs. Philadelphia, 9/28/47	212	8	62t	3
Lance Alworth, San Diego vs. Denver, 9/11/65	211	7	48	1
Irving Fryar, Miami vs. New England, 9/4/94	211	5	54t	3
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

## 57 YEARS AGO ON OPENING DAY: 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 at the age of 57 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 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 57 years. Former Houston Oilers quarterback **WARREN MOON** came the closest to breaking Van Brocklin's mark with a 527-yard day against Kansas City on December 16, 1990.

Following are the top passing performances in various levels of football:

<u>LEAGUE</u>	<u>QUARTERBACK</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>PERFORMANCE</u>
<b>High School</b>	David Koral, Pacific Palisades, CA	September 22, 2000	764 yards vs. Grant, CA
<b>NCAA Division I-A (FBS)</b>	David Klingler, Houston	December 2, 1990	732 yards vs. Arizona St.
<b>NCAA Division III</b>	Zamir Amin, Menlo	October 7, 2000	723 yards vs. Cal Lutheran
<b>Canadian Football League</b>	Matt Dunigan, Winnipeg	July 14, 1994	713 yards vs. Edmonton
<b>NCAA Division I-AA (FCS)</b>	Robert Kent, Jackson St.	October 6, 2001	668 yards vs. Alabama St.
<b>NCAA Division II</b>	Andrew Webb, Fort Lewis	November 16, 2002	660 yards vs. Mesa St.
<b>NFL</b>	<b><i>Norm Van Brocklin, LA Rams</i></b>	<b><i>September 28, 1951</i></b>	<b><i>554 yards vs. NY Yanks</i></b>
<b>Arena Football League</b>	Clint Dolezel, Houston	May 14, 1999	479 yards vs. Milwaukee
<b>arenafootball2</b>	Shane Stafford, Tallahassee	June 2, 2000	459 yards vs. Birmingham



## BEST OPENING GAME PERFORMANCES, PAST 10 YEARS

*(2007 performances in bold & italics)*

### MOST RUSHING YARDS

	<u>Yds.</u>	<u>Att.</u>	<u>LG</u>	<u>TD</u>
Duce Staley, Philadelphia vs. Dallas, 9/3/00	201	26	60	1
Curtis Martin, N.Y. Jets vs. Cincinnati, 9/12/04	196	29	24t	1
Garrison Hearst, San Francisco vs. N.Y. Jets, 9/6/98	187	20	96t	2
<b><i>Chris Brown, Tennessee vs. Jacksonville, 9/9/07</i></b>	<b>175</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>0</b>
Willie Parker, Pittsburgh vs. Tennessee, 9/11/05	161	22	45	1
Ahman Green, Green Bay vs. Detroit, 9/9/01	157	17	83t	2
Quentin Griffin, Denver vs. Kansas City, 9/12/04	156	23	47t	2
Ahman Green, Green Bay vs. Atlanta, 9/8/02	155	27	38	0
Priest Holmes, Kansas City vs. Denver, 9/12/04	151	26	33t	3

### MOST YARDS PASSING

	<u>Yds.</u>	<u>Att.</u>	<u>Comp.</u>	<u>TD</u>	<u>INT</u>
Kurt Warner, St. Louis vs. Denver, 9/4/00	441	35	25	3	3
Glenn Foley, N.Y. Jets vs. San Francisco, 9/6/98	415	58	30	3	1
Brad Johnson, Washington vs. Dallas, 9/12/99	382	33	20	2	0
Steve Young, San Francisco vs. N.Y. Jets, 9/6/98	363	46	26	3	1
Troy Aikman, Dallas vs. Washington, 9/12/99	362	49	28	5	3
Marc Bulger, St. Louis vs. San Francisco, 9/11/05	362	56	34	2	1
Jeff Blake, Arizona vs. Detroit, 9/7/03	358	46	28	3	1
Vinny Testaverde, Dallas vs. Minnesota, 9/12/04	355	50	29	1	0
<b><i>Tony Romo, Dallas vs. N.Y. Giants, 9/9/07</i></b>	<b>345</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>
Kerry Collins, N.Y. Giants vs. San Francisco, 9/5/02	342	45	28	0	3
Kurt Warner, St. Louis vs. N.Y. Giants, 9/7/03	342	54	34	1	1

### MOST YARDS RECEIVING

	<u>Yds.</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>LG</u>	<u>TD</u>
Anquan Boldin, Arizona vs. Detroit, 9/7/03	217	10	71t	2
Marty Booker, Chicago vs. Minnesota, 9/8/02	198	8	54	1
Keyshawn Johnson, N.Y. Jets vs. New England, 9/12/99	194	8	65	1
<b><i>Randy Moss, New England vs. N.Y. Jets, 9/9/07</i></b>	<b>183</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>51t</b>	<b>1</b>
Kevin Dyson, Tennessee vs. Cincinnati, 9/12/99	162	9	47t	2
<b><i>Antwaan Randle El, Washington vs. Miami, 9/9/07</i></b>	<b>162</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>0</b>
Michael Westbrook, Washington vs. Dallas, 9/12/99	159	5	59	1
Larry Fitzgerald, Arizona vs. N.Y. Giants, 9/11/05	155	13	30	1
Derrick Alexander, Kansas City vs. Chicago, 9/12/99	154	6	86	1
Laveranues Coles, N.Y. Jets vs. Tennessee, 9/10/06	153	8	41	0



Anquan Boldin has the most opening-game receiving yards in the past 10 years (217).



## **STARTING RECORDS OF ACTIVE NFL QUARTERBACKS**

(Minimum 10 regular-season starts)

<b><u>QUARTERBACK, TEAM</u></b>	<b><u>W</u></b>	<b><u>L</u></b>	<b><u>T</u></b>	<b><u>PCT.</u></b>
Tom Brady, New England	86	24	0	.782
Philip Rivers, San Diego	25	7	0	.781
Tony Romo, Dallas	19	7	0	.731
Ben Roethlisberger, Pittsburgh	39	16	0	.709
Kyle Orton, Chicago	12	6	0	.667
Peyton Manning, Indianapolis	105	55	0	.656
Donovan McNabb, Philadelphia	73	39	0	.652
David Garrard, Jacksonville	19	11	0	.633
Rex Grossman, Chicago	19	11	0	.633
Vince Young, Tennessee	17	11	0	.607
Matt Hasselbeck, Seattle	57	39	0	.594
Jake Delhomme, Carolina	38	27	0	.585
Damon Huard, Kansas City	14	10	0	.583
Brad Johnson, Dallas	71	51	0	.582
Tarvaris Jackson, Minnesota	8	6	0	.571
Kurt Warner, Arizona	48	37	0	.565
Derek Anderson, Cleveland	10	8	0	.556
Eli Manning, N.Y. Giants	30	25	0	.545
Brian Griese, Tampa Bay	42	36	0	.538
Marc Bulger, St. Louis	38	34	0	.528
Carson Palmer, Cincinnati	32	29	0	.525
Chad Pennington, N.Y. Jets	32	29	0	.525
Drew Brees, New Orleans	47	43	0	.522
Mark Brunell, New Orleans	78	72	0	.520
Todd Collins, Washington	10	10	0	.500
Trent Green, St. Louis	56	56	0	.500
Jeff Garcia, Tampa Bay	52	53	0	.495
Kyle Boller, Baltimore	20	22	0	.476
A.J. Feeley, Philadelphia	7	8	0	.467
Chris Simms, Tampa Bay	7	8	0	.467
Gus Frerotte, Minnesota	37	44	1	.457
Kerry Collins, Tennessee	67	82	0	.450
Charlie Batch, Pittsburgh	22	28	0	.440
Matt Leinart, Arizona	7	9	0	.438
Jay Cutler, Denver	9	12	0	.429
Anthony Wright, N.Y. Giants	8	11	0	.421
Patrick Ramsey, Denver	10	14	0	.417
Jon Kitna, Detroit	46	65	0	.414
Jason Campbell, Washington	8	12	0	.400
Chris Redman, Atlanta	4	6	0	.400
Josh McCown, Miami	12	19	0	.387
Alex Smith, San Francisco	11	19	0	.367
Joey Harrington, Atlanta	26	50	0	.342
Kelly Holcomb, Buffalo	8	16	0	.333
J.P. Losman, Buffalo	10	21	0	.323
Charlie Frye, Seattle	6	13	0	.316
Matt Schaub, Houston	4	9	0	.308
Billy Volek, San Diego	3	7	0	.300
David Carr, N.Y. Giants	23	56	0	.291
Bruce Gradkowski, St. Louis	3	8	0	.273
Brooks Bollinger, Minnesota	2	8	0	.200
Ken Dorsey, Cleveland	2	8	0	.200



## **THE LAST TIME...** *(2007 Games in Italics)*

### **PASSING**

**500 YARDS, GAME:** 510, Drew Brees, New Orleans vs. Cincinnati, November 19, 2006

**7 TD PASSES, GAME:** Joe Kapp, Minnesota vs. Baltimore, September 28, 1969

(Tied with four others: Sid Luckman, Adrian Burk, George Blanda, Y.A. Tittle)

**60 ATTEMPTS, GAME:** 60, Drew Brees, New Orleans vs. Chicago, December 30, 2007

**20 CONSECUTIVE COMPLETIONS, GAME:** 20, Brett Favre, Green Bay vs. Detroit, November 22, 2007

**99-YARD TD PASS:** Jeff Garcia to André Davis, Cleveland vs. Cincinnati, October 17, 2004

### **RECEIVING**

**3 100-YARD GAMES, SAME TEAM:** Kansas City vs. Oakland, November 5, 2000

Derrick Alexander, 9-139-2; Tony Gonzalez, 9-134-0; Sylvester Morris, 6-102-0

**300 YARDS, GAME:** 336, Willie Anderson, L.A. Rams vs. New Orleans, November 26, 1989 (OT)

**15 RECEPTIONS, GAME:** 15, Jason Witten, Dallas vs. Detroit, December 9, 2007

**4 TDs, GAME:** Randy Moss, New England vs. Buffalo, November 18, 2007

Terrell Owens, Dallas vs. Washington, November 18, 2007

### **RUSHING**

**5 TDs, GAME:** Clinton Portis, Denver vs. Kansas City, December 7, 2003

**4 TDs, GAME:** Jamal Lewis, Cleveland vs. Seattle, November 4, 2007

LaDainian Tomlinson, San Diego vs. Oakland, October 14, 2007

**40 ATTEMPTS, GAME:** 40, Shaun Alexander, Seattle vs. G.B., November 27, 2006

**250 YARDS, GAME:** 296, Adrian Peterson, Minnesota vs. San Diego, November 4, 2008

### **INTERCEPTIONS**

**4, GAME:** Deltha O'Neil, Denver vs. Kansas City, October 7, 2001

**3, GAME:** Keith Bulluck, Tennessee vs. New Orleans, September 24, 2007

Antonio Cromartie, San Diego vs. Indianapolis, November 11, 2007

Antrel Rolle, Arizona vs. Cincinnati, November 18, 2007

Lofa Tatupu, Seattle vs. Philadelphia, December 2, 2007

**2 TDs, GAME:** Antrel Rolle, Arizona vs. Cincinnati, November 18, 2007

**4 TDs, SEASON:** Eric Allen, Philadelphia, 1993

**100-YARD TD RETURN:** 100, Brodney Pool, Cleveland vs. Baltimore, November 18, 2007

### **SCORING**

**7 PATs, GAME:** 8, David Akers, Philadelphia vs. Detroit, September 23, 2007

8, Stephen Gostkowski, New England vs. Buffalo, November 18, 2007

7, Stephen Gostkowski, New England vs. Miami, October 21, 2007

7, Stephen Gostkowski, New England vs. Washington, October 28, 2007

7, Josh Scobee, Jacksonville vs. Oakland, December 23, 2007

**3 FGs, 50 YARDS OR MORE, GAME:** Kris Brown, Houston vs. Miami, October 7, 2007

**2 FGs, 50 YARDS OR MORE, GAME:** Josh Brown, Seattle vs. Atlanta, December 30, 2007

Sebastian Janikowski, Oakland vs. Tennessee, October 28, 2007

**60 OR MORE POINTS, GAME, TEAM:** Cincinnati (61) vs. Houston (7), December 17, 1989

**100 OR MORE POINTS, GAME, BOTH TEAMS:** 106, Cincinnati (58) vs. Cleveland (48), November 28, 2004

**LAST SCORELESS TIE:** N.Y. Giants vs. Detroit, Nov. 7, 1943

### **KICKOFF RETURNS**

**2 TDs, GAME:** André Davis, Houston vs. Jacksonville, December 30, 2007

**2 CONSECUTIVE TDs, BOTH TEAMS, GAME:** Atlanta vs. St. Louis, October 15, 2000

**90 YARDS, NO TD, GAME:** 91, Antonio Cromartie, San Diego vs. Oakland, November 26, 2006

### **PUNT RETURNS**

**2 TDs, GAME:** Eddie Drummond, Detroit vs. Jacksonville, November 14, 2004

## NFL PLAYER ADVISORY COUNCIL OFFERS GOOD PERSPECTIVE

NFL Commissioner **ROGER GOODELL**, in conjunction with the NFL Players Association, has expanded the one-year old **NFL PLAYER ADVISORY COUNCIL** from six to 10 players for the 2008 season.

The 10-member council was selected by the NFLPA and will advise the commissioner on a regular basis on a wide range of issues that affect players.



The council is comprised of quarterback **DREW BREES** (left) of the New Orleans Saints, wide receiver **MIKE FURREY** of the Detroit Lions, linebacker **HUNTER HILLENMEYER** of the Chicago Bears, center **KEVIN MAWAE** of the Tennessee Titans, safety **JON MC GRAW** of the Kansas City Chiefs, guard **BRANDON MOORE** of the New York Jets, center **SHAUN O'HARA** of the New York Giants, fullback **TONY RICHARDSON** of the Jets, and linebacker **DAVID THORNTON** and defensive end **KYLE VANDEN BOSCH** of the Titans.

The Player Advisory Council will meet regularly throughout the year with Commissioner Goodell and NFLPA Executive Director **GENE UPSHAW** to discuss competition on the field, player safety, medical and health issues, player conduct, retired player issues, and other matters.

"It is important that we know the perspective of players on issues that impact our game and our league," says Goodell. "We all share the same goal of improving the NFL in every way we can. Veteran leadership is critically important for our teams in many areas. These outstanding veterans can help the entire league just as they help their teams."

Upshaw agrees.

"The players are a great resource for our game and this is a direct way of getting their input," says Upshaw. "This is a good example of how the commissioner is leading through strong communication. We appreciate what he is doing."

2008 NFL PLAYER ADVISORY COUNCIL	
PLAYER	TEAM
QB Drew Brees	New Orleans Saints
WR Mike Furrey	Detroit Lions
LB Hunter Hillenmeyer	Chicago Bears
C Kevin Mawae	Tennessee Titans
S Jon McGraw	Kansas City Chiefs
G Brandon Moore	New York Jets
C Shaun O'Hara	New York Giants
FB Tony Richardson	New York Jets
LB David Thornton	Tennessee Titans
DE Kyle Vanden Bosch	Tennessee Titans

## NFL CAPTAINS WEAR THE "C"

The idea came before last season in a meeting of NFL Commissioner **ROGER GOODELL** and the NFL's new Player Advisory Council.

The result was a renewed promotion by NFL clubs on the role of season-long NFL team captains on offense, defense and special teams through a team captain leadership program.

The selected captains wore a "C" on the upper right chest of their jerseys. The captains serve as a link between players, coaches and management to help foster cohesion within teams. Clubs appointing season-long captains qualify for up to six captains to wear the letter "C" on their jerseys.

"It's not something you take lightly," said Detroit Lions quarterback **JON KITNA** (right) of wearing the "C." "When your teammates appoint you captain, that means they want to follow you. Therefore, you can never hide -- good game or bad game, you've got to be there. At practice, you need to be the one that not always says something but just leads by example. That's my focus and the focus for us as captains."



The initiative was strongly endorsed by NFL head coaches, and the NFL Player Advisory Council that was established by Commissioner Goodell in conjunction with the NFL Players Association.

"Team captains are a key element in building team leadership and enhancing communication between players, coaches and management," says **RAY ANDERSON**, the NFL's executive vice president of football operations who oversees the program. "A perfect example of the benefit of this kind of communication is that the players themselves suggested the concept of re-emphasizing the team captains."



## IT'S AN ELECTION YEAR!



As the presidential race heats up across America, there's at least some common ground the candidates can find. It's NFL football, America's favorite sport! During their busy campaign schedules, both Democrat **SEN. BARACK OBAMA** (left) and Republican **SEN. JOHN MC CAIN** (below) have taken time out for football.

Obama will accept the Democratic Party nomination with a speech at INVESCO Field, home of the Denver Broncos, on August 28th. He also visited and tossed around a football with the Texas Longhorns squad in May before a debate with Sen. Hillary Clinton in Austin. A junior senator from Illinois, Obama appeared on a *Monday Night Football* commercial in 2006 decked out in a Bears hat.

Although Obama is more of a basketball enthusiast, his personal aide has a background in football. **REGGIE LOVE** was a scholarship football and basketball player at Duke. He also tried out with the Green Bay Packers and Dallas Cowboys before coming to Capitol Hill.

McCain was once a football player himself, playing for Episcopal High School in Alexandria, Virginia. And he went back to his roots this spring with a visit to his alma mater.

McCain, a 1954 graduate, met with the football team and encouraged its members to take advantage of every opportunity that they receive in life.

Two other former football players are also trying to make their mark in politics this fall.

**PETER BOULWARE**, who spent nine years as a linebacker for the Baltimore Ravens, is running as a Republican for a seat in the Florida Legislature.

Former Tampa Bay Buccaneers and Cincinnati Bengals head coach **SAM WYCHE** is up for a spot on the Pickens, South Carolina County Council and recently defeated the incumbent to win the Republican nomination. Wyche also spent eight seasons as a quarterback in the league (1968-1976).



It's no surprise that former football players are breaking out on the political scene. Five United States Presidents played football in college:

PRESIDENT	COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY	POSITION	YEAR(S)
Dwight D. Eisenhower	U.S. Military Academy (West Point)	Halfback	1912
Gerald Ford	University of Michigan	Center	1932-34
John F. Kennedy	Harvard University	Wide Receiver	1937
Richard Nixon	Whittier College	Running Back	1931-34
Ronald Reagan	Eureka College	Guard	1928-31

## IT'S ALL BUSINESS AS NFL PLAYERS RETURN TO SCHOOL

Pads were traded for pencils this spring!

NFL players such as **KEITH BULLUCK** (left) of the Tennessee Titans, **MATT LIGHT** and **RICHARD SEYMOUR** of the New England Patriots, and **BRADY QUINN** of the Cleveland Browns took time off from working out to hone their off-field business skills in the **NFL BUSINESS MANAGEMENT & ENTREPRENEURIAL PROGRAM**.



One-hundred and fourteen players enrolled in the program, in its fourth year, and traveled to the Harvard Business School, Kellogg School of Management (Northwestern University), Stanford Graduate School of Business and the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania for sessions on topics ranging from financial analysis to entrepreneurship to community reinvestment.

"Some players will stay up all night studying because they apply the same level of competition to school as they do to football," said **GEORGE FOSTER**, Stanford's Paul L. and Phyllis Wattis Professor of Management. "Every year I see that these players are really eager to get all the knowledge they can and apply it."

The program is part of an ongoing NFL-NFL Players Association initiative to assist players in preparing for their post-playing careers.

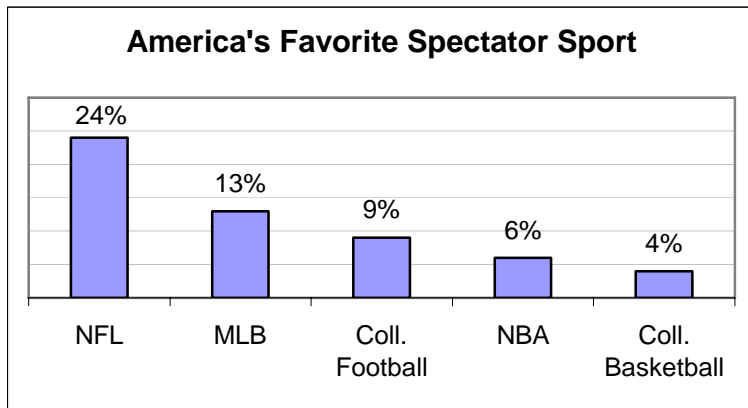
"These programs are great outlets and opportunities to broaden your horizons and expand your base of knowledge," says Bulluck. "There is also a good camaraderie built between the guys at the program that could be useful down the road."

## **SURVEY SAYS!**

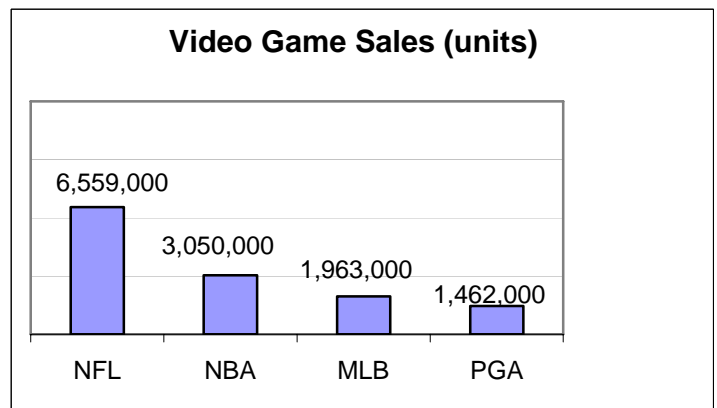
**THE NFL** has been acknowledged as America's most popular sport for the past 43 years, rated No. 1 by fans in the Harris Poll since 1965. In fact, for the fifth consecutive year, twice as many people named professional football (30 percent) as their favorite sport over baseball (15 percent). NFL popularity can be measured in other ways as well. For instance:

- Nearly 158 percent more women age 18-to-49 watched Super Bowl XLII (22.1 million) than the 2008 Academy Awards (8.5 million).
- Viewership for 35 NFL games during the 2007 season would rank among prime-time's five most-watched May 2008 season/series finales.
- The NFL is the most popular sport among teens aged 12-17, according to the ESPN Sports Poll, with 76 percent of that age group responding that they are NFL fans.

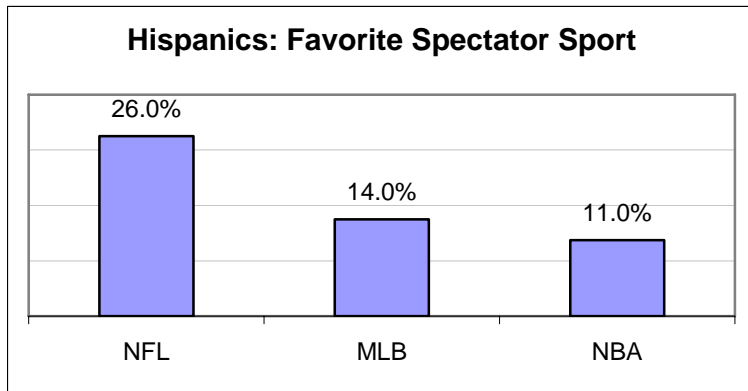
Following is a broader look at the NFL's popularity:



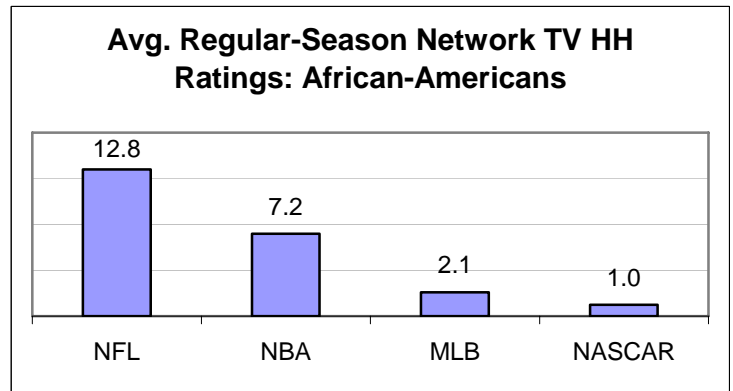
Source: 2007 ESPN Sports Poll



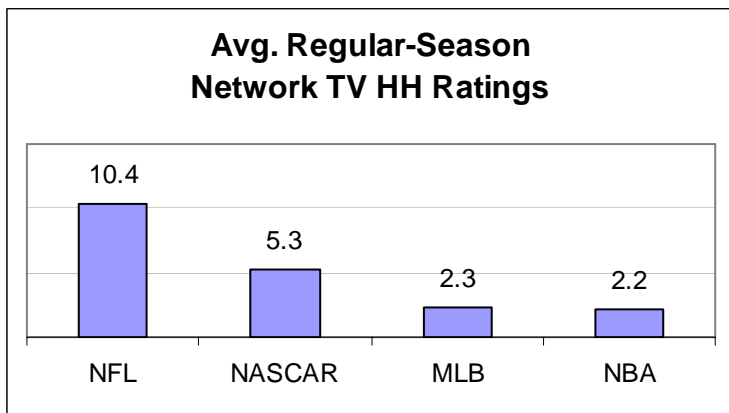
Source: The NPD Group (May 2007-April 2008)



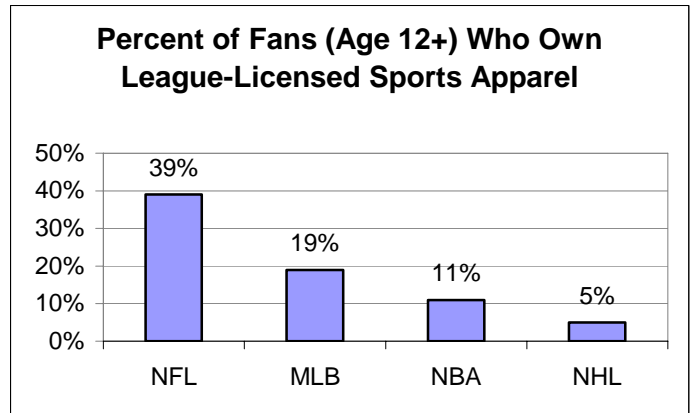
Source: 2007 ESPN Sports Poll



Source: NFL; Nielsen NPOWER 2007-08, Broadcast only



Source: NFL and Nielsen Media Research 2007-08, Broadcast only



Source: 2007 ESPN Sports Poll



## **ESPN POLL: NFL DOMINATES TEAM LOGO CLOTHING**

Ask a sports fan which team logo he or she has on their clothing and an NFL club will likely be identified loud and clear.

That's what a recent ESPN Sports Poll indicates. Seven of the top 10 spots of teams with the most popular clothing went to the NFL, led by the Dallas Cowboys in first place.

"The NFL is king of the road in licensed sports merchandise," says **MIKE MAY**, spokesman for the Sporting Goods Manufacturers Association.

The ESPN ranking of most popular team clothing among fans:

RANK	TEAM	LEAGUE	PERCENT
1.	<i><b>Dallas Cowboys</b></i>	<i><b>NFL</b></i>	<i><b>10.1</b></i>
2.	<i><b>Pittsburgh Steelers</b></i>	<i><b>NFL</b></i>	<i><b>8.1</b></i>
3.	<i><b>Green Bay Packers</b></i>	<i><b>NFL</b></i>	<i><b>7.0</b></i>
4.	New York Yankees	MLB	6.4
5.	Boston Red Sox	MLB	5.1
6.	<i><b>Chicago Bears</b></i>	<i><b>NFL</b></i>	<i><b>5.0</b></i>
7.	<i><b>Indianapolis Colts</b></i>	<i><b>NFL</b></i>	<i><b>5.0</b></i>
8.	<i><b>Philadelphia Eagles</b></i>	<i><b>NFL</b></i>	<i><b>4.5</b></i>
9.	<i><b>New England Patriots</b></i>	<i><b>NFL</b></i>	<i><b>4.5</b></i>
10.	Los Angeles Lakers	NBA	4.5



### **TOP FIVE ARE QBs!**

They get the most acclaim, and they sell the most jerseys!

Check out the top 25-selling NFL player jerseys in the latest NFLShop.com figures and you'll see that the top five sellers are all quarterbacks, headed up by **BRETT FAVRE**.

**TONY ROMO, TOM BRADY, ELI MANNING** – atop brother **PEYTON** – round out the top five.

Following are the top-selling player jerseys from April 1 – June 30, 2008:

#### **TOP-SELLING NFL PLAYER JERSEYS**

1.	Brett Favre, Green Bay Packers	14.	Michael Strahan, New York Giants
2.	Tony Romo, Dallas Cowboys	15.	Troy Polamalu, Pittsburgh Steelers
3.	Tom Brady, New England Patriots	16.	Osi Umenyiora, New York Giants
4.	Eli Manning, New York Giants	17.	Brian Westbrook, Philadelphia Eagles
5.	Peyton Manning, Indianapolis Colts	18.	Terrell Owens, Dallas Cowboys
6.	Adrian Peterson, Minnesota Vikings	19.	Jason Witten, Dallas Cowboys
7.	LaDainian Tomlinson, S.D. Chargers	20.	Reggie Bush, New Orleans Saints
8.	Darren McFadden, Oakland Raiders	21.	DeMarcus Ware, Dallas Cowboys
9.	Marion Barber, Dallas Cowboys	22.	Patrick Willis, San Francisco 49ers
10.	Ben Roethlisberger, Pittsburgh Steelers	23.	Jay Cutler, Denver Broncos
11.	Brian Urlacher, Chicago Bears	24.	JaMarcus Russell, Oakland Raiders
12.	Devin Hester, Chicago Bears	25.	Plaxico Burress, New York Giants
13.	Randy Moss, New England Patriots		

Source: NFLShop.com



## **UNITED WAY: 35 YEARS YOUNG**

The sports industry's longest-running public service campaign turns 35 years old this season.

Since 1973, the National Football League and the United Way have worked together to promote the importance of volunteering in local communities while showcasing the community service activities of NFL players. In doing so, the NFL and the United Way have changed the landscape of corporate/non-profit community partnerships.

Starting last season, United Way television spots captured players in real environments as cameras followed them in their communities spending their off-days volunteering. In 2008, the campaign will continue to document players at local community service events, but in order to tie in to the league's "Play 60" initiative that encourages youngsters to be physically active for at least 60 minutes a day, the spots will focus specifically on those who are working to get youth across the country healthy and active.

These United Way spots will creatively connect with other "Play 60" PSAs the league is producing this year, and will also fit in with United Way's new LIVE UNITED campaign which encourages the public to give, advocate or volunteer under the three general focus areas of education, income and health. The NFL/United Way commercials will promote the area of healthy youth development, a primary goal under United Way's health umbrella.

The NFL/United Way public service announcements highlight three players in 2008: Washington Redskins wide receiver **SANTANA MOSS**, Indianapolis Colts safety **BOB SANDERS** and Buffalo Bills safety **DONTE WHITNER**. Below are their community activities that were the focus of their PSA:

PLAYER/TEAM	COMMUNITY EVENT
Santana Moss, Washington	Moss led teammates and 150 youth at "1st Down for Fitness Event" at Redskins Park. Kids ran obstacle courses, tackled hurdles and raced classmates, and learned lessons in teamwork and self esteem.
Bob Sanders, Indianapolis	Sanders hosted his annual free football camp for 400 local high school students in his hometown of Erie, PA. Kids learned character development in between offensive and defensive drills.
Donte Whitner, Buffalo	Whitner hosted a "Field Day" in honor of United Way's National Day of Action where 120 middle school students participated in six activity stations including flag football, dance and punt, pass and kick.



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

The popularity of pro football is not only strong but also growing.

Once again, the Harris Poll attests to the stature of the NFL as America's No. 1 sport.

In its most recent survey, Harris – the pioneer in market research – reveals that 30 percent of those polled chose the NFL as their favorite sport. That doubles the rating of the next favorite sport, baseball (15 percent).

Since 1985, when Harris began asking people every year to name their favorite sport, pro football has annually been on top and its popularity has jumped from 24 percent of those asked to 30.

"Nothing in sports seduces Americans the way the National Football League does," says the *Washington Post*.

The third favorite sport in the survey was college football at 12 percent, meaning that football is the favorite sport of 42 percent of America's sports fans.

America's five favorite sports:

RANK	SPORT	PERCENT
1.	Pro Football	30
2.	Baseball	15
3.	College Football	12
4.	Auto Racing	10
5.	Hockey	5



## NFL TV HAS A NEW LOOK IN '08

Strahan to FOX...Dilfer to ESPN...Patrick to NBC...Papa to NFL Network...and "This Is The NFL" to Showtime.

The NFL in 2008 will see a lot of changes when it comes to its TV landscape. But one thing won't change – the passion fans have to watch America's No. 1 sport.

Terry, Shannon, both Boomers (Esiason and Berman) et al will be in their regular seats, but some new faces will also be on Sunday's NFL TV screens:

- Fifteen-year New York Giants defensive end **MICHAEL STRAHAN**, with a Super Bowl XLII ring on his hand, has retired and segued right onto the pregame set of "FOX NFL Sunday" to join the crew of **TERRY BRADSHAW**, **HOWIE LONG**, **JIMMY JOHNSON** and **CURT MENEFFEE**.

"Our ability to get someone right off the field who is a Super Bowl champion and who is current is a great asset to the show," says **ED GOREN**, president and executive producer of FOX Sports. "Michael fits the personality of the group."

- Another Super Bowl winner is moving to TV. Fourteen-year NFL quarterback **TRENT DILFER**, who led the Baltimore Ravens to the Super Bowl XXXV title, has signed on with ESPN as an NFL studio analyst. He will join former NFL quarterbacks **RON JAWORSKI**, **SHAUN KING** and **STEVE YOUNG** as analysts for multiple ESPN and ESPN Radio programs.

"Football has been a wonderful part of my life for as long as I can remember," says Dilfer. "I am just as fortunate now to continue my relationship with football on ESPN."

- They paired up in the old days on ESPN, now **KEITH OLBERMANN** will be joined by former partner **DAN PATRICK** to deliver NFL game highlights Sundays on NBC's "Football Night In America." "I'll do the highlights for the red states and Keith will do them for the blue states," kids Patrick.
- **BOB PAPA**, the man who did the radio broadcast for Strahan's final game, Super Bowl XLII, will now be the play-by-play announcer for NFL Network's "Thursday Night Football" telecasts, teaming with analyst **CRIS COLLINSWORTH**. Papa has called New York Giants games, including Super Bowls XXXV and XLII, for WFAN and the Giants' radio network since 1995.

"Being the new play-by-play voice on primetime national NFL games after announcing one of the most exciting games in NFL history, Super Bowl XLII – it doesn't get much better than that," says Papa.

- Big changes for the "granddaddy" of all highlight shows – "Inside The NFL." The program, which debuted in 1977, has switched to Showtime. The must-see, one-hour studio show will be produced by NFL Films and CBS Sports and will be aired on Wednesday nights throughout the season.

It will have a new cast, also, comprised of **JAMES BROWN**, **PHIL SIMMS** and **CRIS COLLINSWORTH**. "Their collective expertise will give the show the kind of perspective and insight that will add to the "Inside" tradition," says **MATTHEW C. BLANK**, Chairman/CEO of Showtime.

Those are just some of the changes on NFL TV '08.

### FLEXIBLE SCHEDULING RETURNS

The highly successful "flexible scheduling" format which debuted in the NFL in 2006, will again be utilized this year.

In Weeks 11-17, the schedule lists the games tentatively set for Sunday night on NBC. Only Sunday afternoon games are eligible to be moved to Sunday night, in which case the tentatively scheduled Sunday night game will be moved to an afternoon start time. Flexible scheduling will not be applied to games airing on Thursday, Saturday or Monday nights.

A flexible scheduling move will be announced at least 12 days before the game. For Week 17, the change may be announced six days before the game. Flexible scheduling will ensure quality matchups on Sunday night in those weeks and give "surprise" teams a chance to play their way onto primetime.

Following is a complete guide to the NFL television picture this year:

### CBS

CBS' "The NFL Today" will feature host **JAMES BROWN** and analysts **BILL COWHER**, **BOOMER ESIASON**, **DAN MARINO** and **SHANNON SHARPE**.

The CBS announce teams will be led by **JIM NANTZ** and **PHIL SIMMS**; **GREG GUMBEL** and **DAN DIERDORF**; and **DICK ENBERG** and **RANDY CROSS**.

### ESPN

ESPN's "Monday Night Football" returns for its third season on the network with the broadcast team of **MIKE TIRICO** (play-by-play), game analyst **RON JAWORSKI** and color commentator **TONY KORNHEISER**.

**HANK WILLIAMS, JR.** will also return to ESPN to sing the MNF theme song to kick off each week's telecast.

"Sunday NFL Countdown" will preview each week's NFL games with host **CHRIS BERMAN** and the ESPN football panel.

### FOX

Seasoned studio and game broadcaster **CURT MENEFEE** will again host FOX's "NFL Sunday" pregame, halftime and postgame coverage alongside co-host **TERRY BRADSHAW** and analysts **HOWIE LONG**, **JIMMY JOHNSON** and newcomer **MICHAEL STRAHAN** from FOX's Los Angeles studio.

The lead FOX announce team is **JOE BUCK**, **TROY AIKMAN** and **PAM OLIVER**.

### NBC

NBC's "Sunday Night Football" is preceded by the "Football Night in America" studio show, which kicks off NBC's coverage each Sunday at 7:00 PM ET. The game telecast will again be handled by **AL MICHAELS** and **JOHN MADDEN**.

**BOB COSTAS** hosts NBC's "Football Night in America" alongside co-hosts **CRIS COLLINSWORTH**, **KEITH OLBERMANN** and newcomer **DAN PATRICK**. They will be joined by analysts **TIKI BARBER** and **JEROME BETTIS**. **PETER KING** serves as the reporter for the show. NBC's "Sunday Night Football" coverage also includes sideline and feature reporter **ANDREA KREMER**.

### NFL NETWORK

NFL Network's "Thursday Night Football" returns with an outstanding late-season schedule kicking off on November 6 in primetime with the Denver Broncos at the Cleveland Browns. New play-by-play announcer **BOB PAPA** is joined in the booth by nine-time Sports Emmy winner **CRIS COLLINSWORTH**. In total, NFL Network will broadcast eight regular-season primetime games (seven Thursday nights and one Saturday night).

NFL Network's gameday coverage will kick off with its "Total Access on Location" pregame show featuring **RICH EISEN**, **STEVE MARIUCCI**, **DEION SANDERS**, **MARSHALL FAULK** and reporter **ADAM SCHEFTER**.

After NFL games every Sunday, "NFL GameDay" delivers comprehensive coverage of the day's action. Eisen hosts and is joined by Mariucci and Sanders on the 90-minute show featuring highlights, postgame press conferences, interviews and analysis.

NFL Network will replay the best games each week on "NFL Replay," just days after their live airing, on the following Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Games that are shot in high definition on Sunday also will be re-aired in HD on NFL Network.

### NFL ANNOUNCER LINEUP FOR 2008

#### CBS

**CBS's The NFL Today (Pregame):** James Brown-Bill Cowher-Boomer Esiason-Dan Marino-Shannon Sharpe-Charley Casserly ("General Manager"). **The NFL on CBS:** Jim Nantz-Phil Simms; Greg Gumbel-Dan Dierdorf; Dick Enberg-Randy Cross; other crews TBA.

#### ESPN

**Sunday NFL Countdown (Pregame):** Chris Berman-Analysts (TBA) and Ed Werder-Sal Paolantonio-Rachel Nichols-Bob Holtzman-Wendi Nix (Reporters). **NFL Monday Night Football:** Mike Tirico-Ron Jaworski-Tony Kornheiser.

#### FOX

**FOX NFL Sunday (Pregame):** Curt Menefee-Terry Bradshaw-Howie Long-Jimmy Johnson-Michael Strahan-Jay Glazer (Reporter)-Frank Caliendo. **NFL on FOX:** Joe Buck-Troy Aikman-Pam Oliver; other crews TBA.

#### NBC

**NBC's Football Night in America (Pregame):** Bob Costas-Cris Collinsworth-Keith Olbermann-Dan Patrick-Tiki Barber-Jerome Bettis-Peter King (Reporter). **Sunday Night Football:** Al Michaels-John Madden-Andrea Kremer (Reporter).

### NFL NETWORK

**Total Access on Location (Pregame):** Rich Eisen-Steve Mariucci-Deion Sanders-Marshall Faulk-Adam Schefter (Reporter). **Thursday Night Football:** Bob Papa-Cris Collinsworth.

**2008 NFL TV PROGRAMMING**

<b><u>DAY</u></b>	<b><u>PROGRAMMING</u></b>	<b><u>NETWORK</u></b>	<b><u>START TIME (ET)</u></b>
<b><u>Tuesday</u></b>	NFL PrimeTime	ESPN	1:00 PM
	NFL Live	ESPN	4:00 PM/12:20 or 12:40 AM
	Team Cam	NFL Network	4:00 PM
	NFL Total Access	NFL Network	7:00 PM
	NFL Replay	NFL Network	8:00 PM/9:30 PM
<b><u>Wednesday</u></b>	NFL Live	ESPN	4:00 PM/12:20 or 12:40 AM
	Team Cam	NFL Network	4:00 PM
	NFL Total Access	NFL Network	7:00 PM
	NFL Replay	NFL Network	8:00 PM/9:30 PM
<b><u>Thursday</u></b>	NFL Live	ESPN	4:00 PM/12:20 or 12:40 AM
	Team Cam	NFL Network	4:00 PM (Weeks 10-16 2:00 PM)
	NFL Total Access (Weeks 2-9, 17)	NFL Network	7:00 PM
	NFL Total Access (Week 1)	NFL Network	5:00 PM
	NFL Total Access on Location (Weeks 10-16)	NFL Network	6:00 PM
	NFL Thursday Night Football (Weeks 10-16)	NFL Network	8:00 PM
	Playbook (Weeks 2-9)	NFL Network	8:00 PM
	Inside The NFL	Showtime	9:00 PM
<b><u>Friday</u></b>	NFL Live	ESPN	4:00 PM/12:20 or 12:40 AM
	Team Cam	NFL Network	4:00 PM
	NFL Total Access	NFL Network	7:00 PM
	Playbook	NFL Network	8:00 PM (Week 16 9:00 PM)
<b><u>Saturday</u></b>	Playbook	NFL Network	5:00 PM
	Total Access on Location (Weeks 16)	NFL Network	6:00 PM
	NFL Total Access (Weeks 1-15, 17)	NFL Network	7:00 PM
	NFL Saturday Night Football (Week 16)	NFL Network	8:00 PM
	Playbook (Week 1, 10-15, 17)	NFL Network	8:00 PM
<b><u>Sunday</u></b>	State Farm NFL Matchup	ESPN	3:00 AM/ 7:30 AM
	Playbook	NFL Network	8:00 AM
	NFL Pregame Show	NFL Network	10:00 AM
	Sunday NFL Countdown	ESPN	11:00 AM
	Playbook	NFL Network	12:00 PM
	FOX NFL Sunday	FOX	12:00 PM
	NFL Today	CBS	12:00 PM
	NFL On CBS	CBS	1:00; 4:05/4:15 PM
	NFL On FOX	FOX	1:00; 4:05/4:15 PM
	Football Night in America	NBC	7:00 PM
	NBC NFL Sunday Night Football	NBC	8:15 PM
	NFL GameDay	NFL Network	7:30/11:30 PM
<b><u>Monday</u></b>	NFL Live	ESPN	3:30 PM
	NFL PrimeTime	ESPN	4:00 PM
	NFL Total Access	NFL Network	4:30 PM
	SportsCenter Monday Kickoff	ESPN	6:00 PM
	Monday Night Countdown	ESPN	7:00 PM
	NFL Replay	NFL Network	6:00 PM
	ESPN's Monday Night Football	ESPN	8:30 PM
	SportsCenter	ESPN	11:30 PM



## **NFL RADIO 2008: WESTWOOD ONE COVERS PRIMETIME & HOLIDAYS; SIRIUS FEATURES THE LEAGUE 24/7**

Not near a TV? No problem.

NFL fans can listen to their games on radio in a number of ways – on Westwood One on more than 7,700 stations, and on SIRIUS NFL Radio.

In 2008, the NFL will continue its multi-year agreement with **WESTWOOD ONE RADIO SPORTS**, which has been the league's exclusive network radio partner since 1987. The Westwood One NFL broadcast schedule features 57 games, including the Pro Football Hall of Fame Game, the September 4 kickoff game, all primetime games (Sunday, Monday, Thursday and Saturday games), Thanksgiving Day, and the entire postseason, including Super Bowl XLIII and the Pro Bowl. Westwood also delivers additional NFL feature programming each week over its extensive network of stations.

This year will mark the NFL's fifth season on **SIRIUS SATELLITE RADIO**, the premium satellite radio provider known for delivering quality commercial-free music and exciting sports programming to listeners across the country in digital-quality sound.

The signature **SIRIUS NFL Sunday Drive** programming will provide live play-by-play of every NFL game – from the preseason all the way to Super Bowl XLIII and the Pro Bowl. SIRIUS carries both home and visiting team broadcasts of NFL games, allowing fans around the country to hear their favorite commentators. If a Washington Redskins fan lives in North Dakota, California, Florida or anywhere else in the U.S., they can still listen to **LARRY MICHAEL**, **SAM HUFF** and **SONNY JURGENSEN** call the game.

**SIRIUS NFL Radio, channel 124**, the only radio channel dedicated to pro football 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, continues to produce the most in-depth radio coverage of the NFL.

SIRIUS NFL Radio offers a daily lineup of exclusive talk programming hosted by former NFL stars and radio personalities. Every weekday at 7:00 PM ET, SIRIUS airs a live simulcast of NFL Network's signature show, *NFL Total Access*.

### **SIRIUS NFL RADIO SCHEDULE**

<b>WEEKDAY PROGRAMMING</b>	<b>Time (All times ET)</b>	<b>Hosts</b>
"The Opening Drive"	7:00-10:00 PM	Bob Papa, Randy Cross, Peter King
"The SIRIUS Blitz"	10:00 AM-1:00 PM	Adam Schein, Solomon Wilcotts, Shannon Sharpe
"The Red Zone"	1:00-3:00 PM	Bruce Murray, Gil Brandt, Carl Banks
"Movin' the Chains"	3:00-7:00 PM	Tim Ryan, Pat Kirwan
NFL Network's "Total Access"	7:00-8:00 PM	NFL Network telecast
"Late Hits"	8:00-11:00 PM	Andy Gresh, Jim Miller, Carl Banks, Tim Hasselbeck, Dan Reeves, Bryan McGovern
"SIRIUS Fantasy Football Show"	Fri.: 8:00-11:00 PM	Adam Caplan, John Hansen
<b>SATURDAY PROGRAMMING</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Hosts</b>
"The Weekend Kickoff"	8:00-11:00 AM	Paul Allen, Dean Dalton
"Press Coverage"	11:00 AM-2:00 PM	Vic Carucci, Dan Leberfeld
"Chalk Talk"	2:00-4:00 PM	Dave Hagen
"The End Zone"	4:00-8:00 PM	Howard Balzer, Pat Kirwan
"Late Hits"	8:00-11:00 PM	Andy Gresh, Jim Miller
<b>SUNDAY PROGRAMMING</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Hosts</b>
"The Stadium Tailgate Show"	9:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Adam Schein, John Madden, Gil Brandt, Steve Cohen, John Hansen
"The Sunday Drive"	12:00-8:00 PM	Steve Torre, Bryan McGovern
"NFL Rewind"	8:00 PM-12:00 AM	Jack Arute, Jim Miller





## IT'S LONDON, YEAR 2!

The UK was A-OK!

NFL history was made in 2007 when the league played the first overseas regular-season game in its history at London's Wembley Stadium as part of the NFL International Series.

The sellout crowd of 81,176 was treated to an old-school game in the rain and mud as the New York Giants defeated the Miami Dolphins 13-10 in a matchup that featured hard-hitting defense and a strong Giants running game highlighted by running back **BRANDON JACOBS'** 131-yard effort and a 10-yard touchdown run by quarterback **ELI MANNING**.

The weather certainly did not put a damper on the crowd's spirit as they cheered, sang and stayed until the final whistle. The historic event was deemed an immediate success by the players, coaches and fans alike.

"We were proud to be a part of the NFL International Series," said Giants defensive end **JUSTIN TUCK**. "I would tell other players that if they get the chance, they should go over to London and embrace it."

The NFL has committed to playing at least one game in the United Kingdom in each of the next three years in its International Series. It will return to Wembley Stadium this October 26 for a matchup between the San Diego Chargers and New Orleans Saints – teams that have each come within one game of reaching the Super Bowl in the past two seasons.

Saints head coach **SEAN PAYTON** is no stranger to football in London. Payton played semi-pro football in Leicester – about two hours north of London – for the Leicester Panthers of the Budweiser British American Football League in 1987. He has great memories and expectations that the game will grow internationally.

"It was a great experience, a unique experience," says Payton, who received free housing, a free car and a modest signing bonus from the Panthers. "Our team consisted of about six Americans and the rest were British. They would work during the day at their normal jobs, we would practice at night and play on the weekend. The guys were passionate about playing and you could tell that American football would be accepted in England."

A look at what the Giants and Dolphins thought about playing in London in 2007:

PLAYER/COACH	COMMENT
S Will Allen, Miami	"I loved playing at Wembley. It made me feel a lot like I was a gladiator. It felt like a playoff game out there. People in England understand the game."
Head coach Tom Coughlin, New York	"We were treated very well, either in an organized fashion or by the people in the street."
G Rex Hadnot, Cleveland (with Miami in '07)	"It was like a Super Bowl at the start of the game with all the flashbulbs going off. The atmosphere was great."
QB Eli Manning, New York	"The British fans were great. I hope the NFL continues to play games here. I would recommend playing here to any team. It felt like playing a normal regular-season game, but just in a different country."
DE Michael Strahan, New York	"The atmosphere was phenomenal."



**Saints RB Reggie Bush (L) and Chargers RB LaDainian Tomlinson (R) visit Wembley this spring.**



## ... MEANWHILE, IN TORONTO

The Atlantic Ocean won't be the only mass of water the NFL will be crossing for its International Series in 2008.

On December 7, the Buffalo Bills will cross Lake Ontario to play the Miami Dolphins at the Rogers Centre in Toronto, Canada. It will mark the second NFL game in Toronto in 2008 as the Bills will also host the Pittsburgh Steelers in a preseason contest on August 14.

The Bills' initiative was approved unanimously by NFL owners this past winter. The Bills will play a regular-season game in Toronto – Canada's largest city – each year from 2008-12 and preseason games in 2008, 2010 and 2012.

"We are very pleased to be the first franchise in NFL history to split our schedule between our domestic home city of Buffalo, New York and our neighboring international city, Toronto, Ontario," says Bills owner **RALPH WILSON**. "The population growth in Toronto, the passion the Canadian fans have shown for the Buffalo Bills and the vision of Ted Rogers of Rogers Communications and Larry Tanenbaum of Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment have made this possible."

## NFL EXPANDS INTERNATIONAL PRACTICE SQUAD PROGRAM



To enhance the development of elite football talent from around the world, NFL clubs have decided to expand the league's **INTERNATIONAL PRACTICE SQUAD PROGRAM**.

The initiative, which enters its fifth year in 2008, will for the first time feature 16 players joining the practice squads of NFL teams.

The players for 2008 were assigned to teams in the AFC North, AFC West, NFC South and NFC West.



Since the program's inception in 2004, 22 players have participated, including 11 last year, with nine that have participated twice.

One player, guard **ROLANDO CANTU** of Mexico, graduated from the International Practice Squad Program to see action in the NFL the following season. Cantu spent 2004 on the Arizona Cardinals' practice squad before being elevated to the active roster by the club in 2005.

Cantu played in one game that year, the club's season finale against the Indianapolis Colts, and was on the field when kicker Neil Rackers connected on his record-setting 40th field goal of the season, the most in a season in NFL history.

Cantu is now retired from football and serves as the Cardinals' manager of international business ventures.

The 2008 NFL International Practice Squad:

PLAYER	NFL TEAM	COUNTRY
RB Jermaine Allen	New Orleans	UK
WR Marvin Allen (Above right)	Pittsburgh	UK
LB Carl-Johan Bjork	Cincinnati	Sweden
LB Jason Brisbane	San Diego	UK
LB Eduardo Castaneda (Above left)	Arizona	Mexico
LB Aden Durde	Kansas City	UK
T Samuel Gutekunst	Seattle	Germany
S Sergey Ivanov	Tampa Bay	Russia
WR Noriaki Kinoshita	Atlanta	Japan
DT Mauricio Lopez	Oakland	Mexico
DE Christian Mohr	Cleveland	Germany
LB Manuel Padilla	Denver	Mexico
T Ramiro Pruneda	San Francisco	Mexico
S Sebastian Sejean	St. Louis	France
LB Shaun Smith	Carolina	UK
DT Salomon Solano	Baltimore	Mexico

## FIVE NIGERIAN NFLers AID THEIR HOME COUNTRY

There are a good number of NFL players who were born overseas.

Five of them from Nigeria really stood out this offseason when they visited their homeland on a humanitarian mission.



When Houston Texans defensive tackle **AMObi OKOYE** emigrated from Nigeria to the United States eight years ago, he did not know when he would get the chance to return home. He did know that when that time came he would attempt to bring hope and promise to his countrymen and to help enrich their lives.

Okoye, who has said, "Living in Nigeria helped me become who I am," did just that this spring in his return trip to Nigeria. But he was not alone.

After nearly three months of organizing and planning the trip, Okoye -- who last year on Kickoff Weekend at 20 years old and 91 days became the youngest NFL player since 1967 -- was joined by fellow Nigerian NFL players **AHMAN GREEN** (Texans), **ISRAEL IDONIJE** (Bears), **ADEWALE OGUNLEYE** (Chicago Bears; left) and **OSI UMENYIORA** (New York Giants) as well as his father Augustine, brother Arinze and cousin Okey Chidume.

Among the highlights of their trip were meeting Nigerian President **UMARU YAR'ADUA** and Executive Secretary to the National Universities **JULIUS OKOJIE**...endowing 20 full scholarships to students preparing to attend Nigerian universities through the C.A.T.E (Changing Africa Through Education) endowment...funding and overseeing the completion of water wells in the village of Emure, Ekiti State...and delivering HIV test kits to a number of teaching hospitals to aid the support of the HIV initiative in the country.

"We want to give back what our country has given to us as citizens," said Ogunleye.

Relief and materials weren't the only things the group brought to Nigeria as they visited five of its states – Lagos, Enugu, Anambra, Akwa Ibom, Ekiti and the Federal Capital Territory. They also brought hope and a message.

"The message we wanted to send was, 'Everybody, hold on to your dreams,'" says Okoye. "Hold on to your dreams and keep working hard. You never know what might happen."

There is now talk about doing more next year and even more the following year. The players plan to eventually expand the focus to other African nations. "I came back on the plane thinking there is so much work that needs to be done over there," said Umenyiora.

Some of the foreign-born players in the NFL:

COUNTRY	PLAYER(S)
<b>AMERICAN SAMOA</b>	DE Jonathan Fanene, Cin; G Tonia Fonoti, Car; DE Shaun Nua, Buf; DT Domata Peko, Cin; DT Isaac Sopoaga, SF; DT Matt Toeaina, Chi
<b>ARGENTINA</b>	K Martin Gramatica, NO
<b>AUSTRALIA</b>	P Ben Graham, NYJ; P Mat McBriar, Dal; P Sav Rocca, Phi; G Cameron Stephenson, GB
<b>BAHAMAS</b>	WR Devard Darling, KC
<b>CANADA</b>	WR Jabari Arthur, KC; S Oshiomogho Atogwe, Stl; WR Nate Burleson, Sea; DT Colin Cole, GB; LS JP Darche, KC; DB Jason David, NO; RB Clifton Dawson, Ind; T Dan Federkeil, Ind; WR Sam Giguere, Ind; T Nick Kaczur, NE; C LP Ladouceur, Dal; DE Corey Mace, Buf; DE Rob Meier, Jac; C Brett Romberg, Stl; P Jon Ryan, GB; DT Keith Shologan, SD; K Shaun Suisham, Was
<b>CZECH REPUBLIC</b>	T Will Svitek, KC
<b>ENGLAND</b>	RB Jermaine Allen, NO; WR Marvin Allen, Pit; LB Jason Brisbane, SD; LB Aden Durde, KC; CB Domonique Foxworth, Den; LB Shaun Smith, Car; DE Osi Umenyiora, NYG
<b>ESTONIA</b>	T Michael Roos, Ten
<b>FRANCE</b>	S Sebastian Sejean, StL
<b>GERMANY</b>	S Lewis Baker, SF; DE John Engelberger, Den; FB Jerome Felton, Det; T Samuel Gutekunst, Sea; WR Domenik Hixon, NYG; DE Ben Ishola, Ind; C Doug Legursky, Pitt; LB D.D. Lewis, Sea; DE Christian Mohr, Cle; G Jamar Nesbit, NO; RB Tony Richardson, NYJ; TE Tony Stewart, Oak; WR Reggie Williams, Jac; DE Ulrich Winkler, Ten
<b>GHANA</b>	DE Ebenezer Ekuban, Den
<b>HAITI</b>	T Gosder Cherilus, Det
<b>JAMAICA</b>	S Atari Bigby, GB; LB Kurt Campbell, Ten; LB Morlon Greenwood, Hou; T Kwame Harris, Oak; DT Jovan Haye, TB; DE Ryan McBean, Pit; T Damion McIntosh, KC
<b>JAPAN</b>	WR Noriaki Kinoshita, Atl; DT Marcus Thomas, Den

Continued...

## Foreign-born players, continued

<b>LIBERIA</b>	DE Tamba Hali, KC; RB Thomas Tapeh, Min; CB Ashton Youboty, Buf
<b>MEXICO</b>	LB Eduardo Castaneda, Az; DT Mauricio Lopez, Oak; LB Manuel Padilla, Den; T Ramiro Pruneda, SF; DT Salomón Solano, Bal
<b>NIGERIA</b>	RB Adimchinobi Echemandu, Oak; LB Isaiah Ekejiuba, Oak; DT Israel Idonije, Chi; DE N.D. Kalu, Hou; DT Amobi Okoye, Hou
<b>PANAMA</b>	G Frank Davis, Det
<b>PHILLIPINES</b>	C Eugene Amano, Ten
<b>POLAND</b>	P Piotr Czech, Balt; K Sebastian Janikowski, Oak
<b>PUERTO RICO</b>	LB Ken Amato, Ten
<b>RUSSIA</b>	S Sergey Ivanov, TB
<b>SCOTLAND</b>	K Lawrence Tynes, NYG
<b>SIERRA LEONE</b>	S Madiou Williams, Min
<b>SOUTH KOREA</b>	WR Hines Ward, Pit
<b>ST. KITTS</b>	DE Erasmus James, Was
<b>SWEDEN</b>	LB Carl-Johan Bjork, Cin
<b>TONGA</b>	DT Ma'ake Kemoeatu, Car; G Deuce Lutui, Az
<b>TRINIDAD</b>	G Anthony Herrera, Min
<b>UKRAINE</b>	DE Igor Olshansky, SD
<b>VIRGIN ISLANDS</b>	LB Abdul Hodge, GB

## **NFL INCREASINGLY SEEN INTERNATIONALLY; HONORS MILITARY**

Important benchmarks of the growth of the NFL internationally are the TV agreements that have been reached with counties around the world.



Fans in the United Kingdom are looking forward to the second regular-season NFL contest at London's Wembley Stadium when the New Orleans Saints face the San Diego Chargers on Sunday, October 26. BBC will broadcast the action in the UK.

NFL ownership has also approved a Buffalo Bills initiative to play one regular-season home game in Toronto, Canada in each of the next five seasons and preseason games in 2008, 2010 and 2012. The first Bills regular-season game will take place at Toronto's Rogers Centre on December 7 against the Miami Dolphins. Rogers will broadcast the game in Canada.

In China this season, CCTV will broadcast a half-hour lead-in show to the NFL game of the week that will highlight the players and pageantry surrounding the match up.

For the first time ever, fans in Shanghai this year will have the opportunity to experience Sunday Night Football live on SMG's Great Sports Channel as well as the playoffs and Super Bowl XLIII.

ESPN and FOX in 2008 will continue to provide NFL programming to fans across the globe in Latin America, the Middle East and the Pacific Rim.

NFL Network continues to grow outside the U.S., reaching six million homes in Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central America.

Some interesting facts about the NFL on TV around the world:

<b><u>Countries &amp; Territories</u></b>	230	<b><u>Time zones represented</u></b>	24
<b><u>Hours of programming</u></b>	195,424	<b><u>Languages games broadcast in</u></b>	32

Members of the United States Armed Forces also will have the chance to follow their favorite teams this season from military bases around the world, as service men and women worldwide will receive NFL programming via the American Forces Network (AFN). Coverage will include game telecasts as well as pregame and postgame shows from all of the NFL's domestic broadcast partners.

"Without a doubt, every soldier looks forward to the best season of anything in the entire world – the NFL," says an Army officer in Afghanistan.







*Until Every One Comes Home.™*

## **NFL SALUTES MILITARY IN MANY WAYS**



A lot of NFL players...and the Commissioner...went to see the troops this offseason.

**LUIS CASTILLO**, **TOMMIE HARRIS** and **MIKE RUCKER** (below, right) visited Afghanistan and Kyrgyzstan this spring on an NFL-USO tour. That was followed in the summer by a USO tour of Iraq and Afghanistan by NFL Commissioner **ROGER GOODELL** (third from left) and players **DREW BREES** and **OSI UMENYIORA** (left to right with General **DAVID PETRAEUS**).

The NFL has always been a strong supporter of the military, either by joining in the fight in World War II, Korea or Vietnam or by visiting the troops on morale-boosting trips with the USO for the past 40-plus years.

The prevailing theme among the Commissioner and players on this year's USO trips was the enormous appreciation for the young men and women

who are protecting our country.

"The people made our trip," said Castillo. "Everybody we encountered, whether they were a commanding officer or only a private who had been there a couple of weeks, was so energetic and happy to see us. They're such genuine, good people."

Months later, Commissioner Goodell heartedly agreed. "The commitment of our troops is truly inspiring," he said. "Our men and women are incredibly upbeat and committed to the task at hand."

The Commissioner and the players made sure to visit as many "FOBs" as they could. Those small "Forward Operating Bases" do not often receive visitors, so the soldiers were delighted to greet their NFL guests.

"As military, they travel around the world, protecting our freedom and gaining it for other people who never had it before," said New Orleans Saints quarterback Brees. "But to them, it's just their job. They're inspiring."

While these two NFL tours were conducted under the extreme heat of the Middle East, other NFL players traveled to the cold of Alaska this spring to salute the troops at Fort Wainwright in Fairbanks.

"The discipline, lack of fear and dedication they took to their work," is what stuck with Green Bay Packers quarterback **AARON RODGERS** on his visit to Fort Wainwright.

Rodgers joined two of his Packers teammates -- **NOAH HERRON** and **RUVELL MARTIN** -- to offer encouragement to soldiers preparing for war. The players awoke to 5:00 AM wakeup calls and engaged in the same rigorous physical training as the troops.

"They know they have a job to do and they're going to do it to the best of their abilities," says Rodgers.

Back on the mainland, several members of the Tennessee Titans made a visit to Fort Campbell, Kentucky, home of the U.S. Army's 101st Airborne Division, the only Air Assault Division in the world. Linebacker **DAVID THORNTON**, fullback **CASEY CRAMER**, cornerback **REYNALDO HILL**, and safeties **CHRIS HOPE**, **VINCENT FULLER** and **CALVIN LOWRY** made the trip to the base which is situated on the border of Tennessee and Kentucky.

"For us to be here is an honor," said Thornton. "It's just a blessing to be here and encourage them, but they don't realize how much they encourage us."

**AHMARD "THE BIG MARINE" HALL**: Tennessee Titans fullback **AHMARD HALL**

spent four years in the Marines before walking on at the University of Texas in 2003. Nicknamed "The Big Marine" by Longhorns and Titans teammate **VINCE YOUNG**, Hall led the Titans out of the tunnel carrying a U.S. flag (left) as a rookie prior to a game in 2006 in celebration of Veteran's Day.



"I am glad I was in the Marines," says Hall. "It was a good experience and taught me a lot. It put a lot of discipline in my life."

Some interesting tidbits on "The Big Marine":

- Spent six months at Camp Pendleton, just north of San Diego, before heading to Camp Lejeune in North Carolina.
- Said leading his team to victory in Camp Lejeune's annual Turkey Bowl tournament was the greatest football moment of his life until his Texas Longhorns beat USC in the 2006 Rose Bowl for the BCS National Championship. "That national championship was a huge stage and a huge win," Hall says. "But the Turkey Bowl? At the time, that was important. I was just grateful for the chance it gave me to keep playing."
- Served four years in the Marines, becoming a sergeant in charge of 73 soldiers (3rd Battalion, 8th Marines out of Camp Lejeune). His service included a tour in Kosovo in 1999 and a year in Afghanistan in 2002. During the latter, he spent most of his time patrolling Kabul.
- Carried the U.S. flag to lead Texas out of the tunnel on September 11, 2004 as a junior against Arkansas.
- President George W. Bush gave him special acknowledgement when the Longhorns visited the White House in 2006 following their national championship season.
- His wife, Juana, served four years in the Marines.
- In college, helped lead the "Momma Bear Cares" drive to collect gifts for Marines serving in Iraq. He also has worked with programs to help veterans get the health services they need and visits from a friendly face.
- Helped open a new Marines recruiting office in Franklin, Tennessee on Memorial Day in 2008.

A list of NFL players and coaches with ties to the military:

PLAYER/COACH	TEAM	MILITARY TIE
C Eugene Amano	Tennessee	Father served in Navy for 25 years
T Shawn Andrews	Philadelphia	Brother is a staff sergeant first class in the Army who served in Iraq in 2003
LB Tully Banta-Cain	San Francisco	Father, Adam, played football for U.S. Naval Academy
WR Hank Baskett	Philadelphia	Father spent over 30 years in the Air Force; mother served as CFO at Air Force Base in Clovis, NM; brother served in Army for over 10
Linebackers Coach Chris Beake	Atlanta	Served Air Force as a civil engineer officer from 1995-98
WR Bernard Berrian	Minnesota	Parents, Sallie and Joseph, are retired Air Force mechanics
DT Ryan Boschetti	Washington	Grandfather served in World War II
DB Zack Bowman	Chicago	Father, Zackary, is a Master Sgt. in the Air Force
LB Derrick Brooks	Tampa Bay	Cousin is sergeant first class in Army
QB Drew Brees	New Orleans	Grandfather served in World War II
CB C.C. Brown	Houston	Currently in National Guard; unit is prepared for Afghanistan if needed
C/G Jason Brown	Baltimore	Brother, Lunsford, served in Iraq – killed in 2003
LB Danny Clark	N.Y. Giants	Marine brother served six mos. In Iraq; another brother serving Air Force
CB Nate Clements	San Francisco	Father served in the Army
Defensive Coord. Gunther Cunningham	Kansas City	Father was a sergeant in the Air Force
Head Coach Tony Dungy	Indianapolis	Father, Wilbur, was a member of the Tuskegee Airmen
RB Kyle Eckel	New England	Attended the Naval Academy and spent nearly two years in the Navy
LB Donnie Edwards	Kansas City	Grandparents served in World War II & Korean War; sister was in Navy
Head Coach Herman Edwards	Kansas City	Father was a master sergeant in the Army
FB Jerome Felton	Detroit	Brother, Simon, is in the Army and currently serving in Afghanistan
CB Cortland Finnegan	Tennessee	Mother served in the Navy
DT Bryce Fisher	Tennessee	Served in the Air Force
CB Drayton Florence	Jacksonville	Father, Drayton, Sr. is a retired Army medic; sister, Lakisha is currently serving in Army
C Hank Fraley	Cleveland	Brother was stationed with Army in Iraq; father is a Vietnam Veteran
S C.J. Gaddis	Philadelphia	Father, Cal is a retired sergeant first class (E-7) in the Army; served in Saudi Arabia and Kosovo
Offensive Coordinator Chan Gailey	Kansas City	Father, Tom, was in the Marines
K Shayne Graham	Cincinnati	Father served in Army in Vietnam

S Michael Griffin	Tennessee	Mother served in the Navy; Father in the Air Force
RB Ahmard Hall	Tennessee	Served four years in the Marines (3 <sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 8 <sup>th</sup> Marines out of Camp Lejeune, N.C.), including missions in Kosovo (1999) and Afghanistan (2002)
RB Andre Hall	Denver	Father was an Army engineer in WWII
S Erick Harris	Kansas City	Both parents served in the Air Force
FB Nate Ilaoa	Philadelphia	Father, Filipino, was in the Marines
RB Steven Jackson	St. Louis	Father served in the Marines
WR Vincent Jackson	San Diego	Father, Terrence, was an Army medic
CB Brian Kelly	Detroit	Father served in the Air Force
LB Manny Lawson	San Francisco	Father, Donald, served in the Air Force
WR Ashley Lelie	San Francisco	Father worked in aircraft maintenance for the U.S. Marine Corps.
G Chris Liwienski	Miami	Brother currently serves in Army
S Calvin Lowry	Tennessee	Father served in Army for over 20 years, participating in Operation Desert Storm
DE Josh Mallard	Denver	Attended Benedictine Military Academy
Head Coach Eric Mangini	New York Jets	Father served in Navy
QB Ingle Martin	Tennessee	Uncle, Chris, is a Lt. Cmdr. And pilot for the Navy
C Kevin Mawae	Tennessee	Father served in Army for 23 years, including two tours in Vietnam
LB Robert McCune	Washington	Served three years in Army: one year in Korea, six months in Kuwait
FB Jason McKie	Chicago	Father spent 23 years in the Air Force
T Marcus McNeill	San Diego	Mother, Leola, is a Colonel in the Air Force, stationed at Dobbins AFB in Marietta, Ga.
RB Sammy Morris	New England	Father was an Air Force staff sergeant; brother was in the Air Force
DE Melvin Oliver	San Francisco	Uncle served in the Army for 25 years
DE Igor Olshansky	San Diego	Father was in Russian Army, grandfather fought for Russian Red Army in WW II
DT Mike Patterson	Philadelphia	Uncle was a sergeant at Los Alamitos Army Base
TE Justin Peelle	Miami	Grandfather is a retired Navy captain
Asst. Special Teams Coach Mike Priefer	Kansas City	Served in Navy (1991-94), flew helicopters and was stationed in Persian Gulf
DE Melila Purcell	Cleveland	Father is an active reservist in the Army
WR Josh Reed	Buffalo	Brother (Army) and cousin (Navy) recently served in Iraq
G Tyler Reed	Chicago	Father, Gary, played football for U.S. Naval Academy from 1971-75
FB Tony Richardson	N.Y. Jets	Father was sergeant major in Army; sister, part of Desert Storm, serving in Army at Fort Bragg, N.C.
Linebackers Coach Ron Rivera	San Diego	Father was Army officer; Ron lived in three countries as a child
S Mark Roman	San Francisco	Five of his six brothers served in the Army
WR Cliff Russell	Denver	Father served in the Army
RB Musa Smith	N.Y. Jets	Brother served in Iraq – lost a leg
LB Cody Spencer	N.Y. Jets	Brother serves in the Army, currently stationed in Iraq
DT Randy Starks	Miami	Father served in Army for over 20 years, mostly in Germany
TE Tony Stewart	Oakland	Father was in Army and stationed in Germany when Tony was born
WR Coach Mike Sullivan	N.Y. Giants	Graduate of Army Airborne, Ranger and Air Assault schools
CB Charles Tillman	Chicago	Father was Army sergeant; Charles attended 11 schools in 13 years
LB Pat Thomas	Jacksonville	Father was a chief petty officer in the Navy
DE Dave Tollefson	Oakland	Brother is a Marine scheduled to go to Iraq in 2006
Head Coach Norv Turner	San Diego	Father served in the Marines
K Lawrence Tynes	N.Y. Giants	Father served Navy as a master chief
LB DeMarcus Ware	Dallas	Wife Taniqua served in Air Force
Defensive Line Coach Mike Waufle	N.Y. Giants	Served in Marine Corps from 1972-1975
TE Daniel Wilcox	Baltimore	Attended Georgia Military School before transferring to Appalachian State
DE Mario Williams	Houston	Brother-in-law served in the Army and was killed in Iraq
WR Troy Williamson	Jacksonville	Brother is a career Marine, just returned from Iraq; sister serves in Navy
LB Patrick Willis	San Francisco	Father was in the National Guard
LB Will Witherspoon	St. Louis	Father is in the Air Force
DB Dexter Wynn	Houston	Mother is a retired Air Force civil engineer who served in the Gulf War
DT Bryant Young	San Francisco	Father served in the Army; brother served four years in Desert Storm; wife was the daughter of a career military man
Offensive Line Coach Larry Zierlein	Pittsburgh	Served in the Marines for two years, including a one-year tour of duty in Vietnam

# HISPANICS MAKING THEIR MARK (HACIENDO SU MARCA) ON THE NFL!



Last season **TONY GONZALEZ** set the tight-end record for career receptions and TD catches...**TONY ROMO** finished second in the league in TD passes (36)...**JEFF GARCIA** led the NFC in lowest interception percentage (1.2) and made the Pro Bowl...and rookie **ANTHONY GONZALEZ** led the Colts in average yards per catch (15.6).

Increasingly, Hispanics are playing a major role in the NFL.

- This offseason, San Diego Chargers defensive end **LUIS CASTILLO** (left) was chosen as one of the representatives on the NFL's annual spring USO tour and filed blogs in Spanish from the road. Castillo was the cover athlete for "Madden NFL '08 en Español," Electronic Arts' Spanish-language version of its Madden NFL video game.....Kansas City Chiefs tight end **TONY GONZALEZ** was a judge on Oprah Winfrey's "Big Give" TV show .....Fellow Chief linebacker **DONNIE EDWARDS** participated in a USO tour to Japan. Edwards also visited a local school during Military Appreciation Month in May to talk about the important role our troops play.....Dallas Cowboys quarterback **TONY ROMO** and his father were guest speakers at Baylor Health Care's Every Man dinner, benefiting cancer research, technology and community outreach. Romo was featured in *People En Español's* "50 Most Beautiful" special.....And **ROBERTO GARZA** visited Prairie Point Elementary School in Oswego, Illinois as part of the NFL's "Take a Player to School" program.
- ALBERTO RIVERON** recently became the NFL's first Hispanic referee. "He was a great referee in college," says **MIKE PEREIRA**, the NFL's vice president of officiating. "We brought in Al to be a referee in this league, but we wanted him to get a lay of the NFL land, so we put him as a deep sideline person for the four years he has been in the league. He offers us that referee experience he has always had. And we are terrifically happy to have our first Hispanic referee. We think it's just great."
- Five of the best football players from Mexico will have an opportunity to play a role in the NFL this season as part of the NFL International Practice Squad Program. **EDUARDO CASTANEDA**, **MAURICIO LOPEZ**, **MANUEL PADILLA**, **RAMIRO PRUNEDA** and **SALOMON SOLANO** have earned positions on the practice squad rosters of NFL teams. See page 30 for more details on the NFL International Practice Squad Program:

PLAYER	NFL TEAM	BACKGROUND
LB Eduardo Castaneda	Arizona	Spent 2007 on Houston's practice squad. Played one year in NFL Europa.
DT Mauricio Lopez	Oakland	Spent 2007 training camp with Philadelphia. Played three seasons in NFL Europa.
LB Manuel Padilla	Denver	Named to All-Star team twice at Monterrey Tech.
T Ramiro Pruneda	San Francisco	Spent 2007 on NFL practice squads with Kansas City and Philadelphia. Played one season in NFL Europa.
DT Salomon Solano	Baltimore	Spent 2007 on Detroit's practice squad. Played one season in NFL Europa.

- The Arizona Cardinals have appointed former guard and International Practice Squad player **ROLANDO CANTU** as their manager of international business ventures. One project Cantu helped launch earlier this year was the introduction of the Cardinals' Spanish language webpage. The site features a blog by Cantu. This offseason, Cantu hosted "Campamento Rolando Cantu" in his hometown of Monterrey, Mexico. More than 550 Mexican youth participated in the youth football clinic.

A list of some of the 2008 Hispanic NFL players:

PLAYER	POSITION	TEAM	PLAYER	POSITION	TEAM
Ken Amato	LS	Tennessee	Martin Gramatica	K	New Orleans
Richard Angulo	TE	Jacksonville	Joselio Hanson	CB	Philadelphia
Jason Babin	LB	Seattle	Mauricio Lopez	DT	Oakland
Greg Camarillo	WR	Miami	J.P. Losman	QB	Buffalo
Eduardo Castaneda	LB	Arizona	Glenn Martinez	WR	Denver
Luis Castillo	DE	San Diego	Manuel Padilla	LB	Denver
Jorge Cordova	LB	Tennessee	Ramiro Pruneda	T	San Francisco
Frank Davis	G	Detroit	Manuel Ramirez	G	Detroit
Donnie Edwards	LB	Kansas City	Tony Romo	QB	Dallas
Jeff Garcia	QB	Tampa Bay	Daniel Sepulveda	P	Pittsburgh
Roberto Garza	C	Chicago	Salomon Solano	DT	Baltimore
Anthony Gonzalez	WR	Indianapolis	Joe Tafoya	DE	Arizona
Tony Gonzalez	TE	Kansas City			



			
<b>Campbell University</b>	<b>Colorado State-Pueblo</b>	<b>Dordt College</b>	<b>Grand View College</b>
			
<b>Kentucky Christian</b>	<b>Lake Erie College</b>	<b>Lincoln (PA) College</b>	<b>College of St. Scholastica</b>

## **EIGHT COLLEGES ADD FOOTBALL IN '08**

Since 2000, 26 colleges have added football to their sports lineup. That number will mushroom to 34 with eight more schools this year. This spring, two more colleges announced that they will start football programs in 2009 – Anna Maria College in Paxton, Massachusetts and Hendrix College in Conway, Arkansas.

College football has seen historic levels of growth. Sixteen schools will be either adding a varsity team, reviving a dormant varsity program, or upgrading a team to varsity level within the next three seasons.

That all comes on the heels of the success of two programs that did not exist 11 years ago. Starting football in 1997, South Florida last season was ranked for the first time in the BCS standings and was No. 2 in mid-October. Florida Atlantic, which began its program in 2001 under former Baltimore Colts head coach Howard Schnellenberger, won the first bowl (the New Orleans Bowl) it appeared in last season.

**Eight colleges will begin varsity competition in 2008.** North Carolina's **CAMPBELL UNIVERSITY** will be the lone Division I addition, competing in the Pioneer Football League, which is a member of the NCAA's Football Championship Subdivision (formerly Division I-AA).

NCAA's Division II and Division III also will add two colleges apiece, with **COLORADO STATE-PUEBLO** and **LINCOLN (PA)** joining the D-II ranks and **COLLEGE OF ST. SCHOLASTICA** and **LAKE ERIE COLLEGE** becoming D-III competitors.

A pair of Iowa schools – **DORDT COLLEGE** and **GRAND VIEW COLLEGE** – will add football programs for the first time and compete at the NAIA level, while **KENTUCKY CHRISTIAN** rounds out this year's class and will be an independent.

Other schools with football programs in the works include **OLD DOMINION** (DI-FCS in 2009), which will take the field for the first time since 1940, and **SOUTH ALABAMA** (DI-FCS in '09), which aims to compete at a BCS level by 2013.

Following is a list of colleges that have initiated/will initiate football programs since 2003:

<b><u>COLLEGE</u></b>	<b><u>START DATE/LEVEL</u></b>	<b><u>COLLEGE</u></b>	<b><u>START DATE/LEVEL</u></b>
Coastal Carolina	2003-NCAA, Div. I-AA	Marian	2007-NAIA
Southeastern Louisiana	2003-NCAA, Div. I-AA	<b>Campbell (NC)</b>	<b>2008-NCAA, Div. I-FCS*</b>
St. Paul's College (VA)	2003-NCAA, Div. III	<b>Colorado State-Pueblo</b>	<b>2008-NCAA, Div. II</b>
Huntingdon	2003-NCAA, Div. III	<b>Lincoln (PA)</b>	<b>2008-NCAA, Div. II</b>
Southern Virginia	2003-NAIA	<b>College of St. Scholastica</b>	<b>2008-NCAA, Div. III</b>
Webber International	2003-NCAA, Div. III	<b>Lake Erie</b>	<b>2008-NCAA, Div. III</b>
North Carolina Wesleyan	2004-NCAA, Div. III	<b>Dordt</b>	<b>2008-NAIA</b>
Ohio Dominican	2004-NAIA	<b>Grand View</b>	<b>2008-NAIA</b>
Seton Hill	2005-NAIA	<b>Kentucky Christian</b>	<b>2008-Independent</b>
Maritime (NY)	2005-NCAA, Div. III	<b>Old Dominion</b>	<b>2009-NCAA, Div. I-FCS*</b>
Brevard	2006-NCAA, Div. II	<b>South Alabama</b>	<b>2009-NCAA, Div. I-FCS*</b>
Dixie State	2006-NCAA, Div. II	<b>New Haven</b>	<b>2009-NCAA, Div. II</b>
LaGrange	2006-NCAA, Div. III	<b>University of the Incarnate Word</b>	<b>2009-NCAA, Div. II</b>
UNC-Pembroke	2007-NCAA, Div. II	<b>Anna Maria</b>	<b>2009-NCAA, Div. III</b>
Birmingham Southern	2007-NCAA, Div. III	<b>Hendrix</b>	<b>2009-NCAA, Div. III</b>
Gallaudet	2007-NCAA, Div. III	<b>Lamar</b>	<b>2010-NCAA, Div. I-FCS*</b>
Saint Vincent	2007-NCAA, Div. III	<b>Georgia State</b>	<b>2010-NCAA, Div. I-FCS*</b>
Faulkner	2007-NAIA	<b>* Formerly NCAA Division I-AA</b>	



## FROM THE NFL ... TO HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE



offensive line coach at the University of San Diego. But it was earlier at East Texas Baptist that Washington discovered his passion for coaching.

Cherry Creek High School in Greenwood Village, Colorado generally doesn't allow parents of the football team to coach. But when Hall of Famer and former Denver Broncos quarterback **JOHN ELWAY** offered to take the quarterbacks under his wing last year, the school just couldn't refuse. Elway served a one year stint with the squad, which included his son Jack, then a senior and now bound for Arizona State, and helped it to an 8-3 season.

Elway is one of many former NFL players who are now giving back to the game as college or high school coaches.

Former NFL center **BILL CURRY** is even building a football program from scratch. In June, Georgia State announced it was instituting football and named Curry as the team's first coach. The squad will start playing in 2010, but in the meantime, Curry will be busy attracting recruits, raising money and drawing up a playbook.

"If there's anyone who can do it, it's coach Curry," says Arizona Cardinals head coach **KEN WHISENHUNT**, who played for Curry at Georgia Tech.

Stanford head coach **JIM HARBAUGH**, a former NFL quarterback, made a splash in his first year at the helm last season. The Cardinal pulled off a marquee 24-23 victory over No. 2 USC in September (left, Harbaugh getting a Gatorade shower at the end of that game). Stanford would go on to finish with a 4-8 record; an improvement over its 1-11 mark in 2006.

Former NFL center **TODD WASHINGTON** enters his second year as an

"Due to budget constraints, we had to wear many hats there," says Washington. "Not only did I do laundry, but I helped with equipment fitting and repair, video, strength training and treatment. This was a true test for me. And I found that I love it."

Just some of the former NFL players who are currently coaching at the high school or college level:

NAME	COACHING POSITION, SCHOOL	NFL EXPERIENCE
Stan Brock	Head coach, Army	T: New Orleans-San Diego (1980-95)
Bill Curry	Head coach, Georgia State	C: Green Bay-Baltimore-Houston-Los Angeles Rams (1965-74)
Wendell Davis	Wide receivers coach/recruiting coordinator, Gannon University (PA)	TE: Chicago (1988-1993)
Jeff Dellenbach	Head coach, North Broward Prep (FL)	G: Miami-New England-Green Bay-Philadelphia (1985-99)
Scott Frost	Co-defensive coordinator/linebackers coach, Northern Iowa University	DB: New York Jets-Cleveland-Green Bay-San Francisco-Tampa Bay (1998-2004),
Jim Harbaugh	Head coach, Stanford University	QB: Chicago-Indianapolis-Baltimore-San Diego (1987-2000)
Bruce Kozerski	Head coach, Holy Cross High School (KY)	T: Cincinnati (1984-1995)
Chris Lindstrom	Head coach, Shepherd Regional High School (MA)	DT: Cincinnati-Tampa Bay-Kansas City (1983-87)
Mike Minter	Defensive coach, Northwest Middle School (SC)	S: Carolina (1997-2006)
Rod Payne	Head coach, Felix Varela High School (FL)	C: Cincinnati-Baltimore (1997-2000)
Todd Washington	Offensive line, University of San Diego	C: Tampa Bay-Houston (1998-2005)

## FOOTBALL TOP HIGH SCHOOL SPORT; PATRIOTS SALUTE POPULARITY WITH NEW EXHIBIT

Football is the sport of choice for more and more young people each year. The number of participants in 11-man football increased by more than 32,000 last year, according to statistics recently released by the National Federation of State High School Associations. This puts involvement in the sport over the one-million mark for the ninth year in a row.

With 1,104,548 participants, football dominates other high school boys sports. Basketball came in second with 556,269 boys playing.

### MOST POPULAR BOYS HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

SPORT	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS
Football (11-man)	1,104,548
Basketball	556,269
Track and Field	544,180
Baseball	477,430
Soccer	377,999

In September, the **NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS** will recognize that popularity when they honor the participants and preserve the history of New England amateur football.



A permanent exhibit will be opened at The Hall at Patriot Place in Foxborough, Massachusetts showcasing the accomplishments of New England youth teams. Displays will highlight legendary coaches, players and seasons and the jerseys of championship teams will be hung on a "Wall of Champions." The exhibit, next to Gillette Stadium, will also include a kiosk where people can access an electronic database with statistics and recaps from past seasons.

"This new site will give schools a place to share information about their teams with football fans who visit The Hall," says Patriots owner **ROBERT KRAFT**. "It is also a place where we can honor the recent state champions on an annual basis."

The Patriots have asked more than 640 high school teams to provide this information for the database.

"We want this to be the mecca of football at all levels," says **BRYAN MORRY**, executive director of The Hall at Patriot Place.

Needless to say, the exhibit is being received well by local teams.

"Anything you can do to promote high school football, I think is just great for the community," says Acton-Boxborough High School coach **BILL MAYER**.

High school football provides many young athletes with the foundation for an NFL career. In this year's NFL Draft, seven high schools had two players drafted each.

New San Diego Chargers fullback **JACOB HESTER** (LSU, 2008 national championship) and Minnesota Vikings quarterback **JOHN DAVID BOOTY** (USC, 2005 national championship) were teammates at Evangel Academy in Shreveport, Louisiana.

"We had a great time together in high school," says Hester. "I want to see him do well in the NFL and I know he wants to see me do well."

The breakdown of high schools that had multiple players drafted by NFL clubs in 2008:

### MULTIPLE PLAYERS DRAFTED

HIGH SCHOOL	TOTAL	PLAYERS (NFL TEAM/ROUND)
Evangel Academy (Shreveport, LA)	2	RB Jacob Hester (San Diego/3), QB John David Booty (Minnesota/5)
Glenville (Cleveland, OH)	2	CB-S Antwaun Molden (Houston/3), DE Angelo Craig (Cincinnati/7)
Highland (Gilbert, AZ)	2	LB Spencer Larsen (Denver/6), WR Chaz Schilens (Oakland/7)
Los Alamitos (Los Alamitos, CA)	2	CB Antoine Cason (San Diego/1), CB Orlando Scandrick (Dallas/5)
Robert E. Lee (Tyler, TX)	2	CB-S Charles Godfrey (Carolina/3), QB Matt Flynn (Green Bay/7)
Suncoast Community (West Palm Beach, FL)	2	S DaJuan Morgan (Kansas City/3), TE Mike Merritt (Kansas City/7)
Tustin (Tustin, CA)	2	T Sam Baker (Atlanta/1), LB Beau Bell (Cleveland/4)





## THE NFL WANTS KIDS TO “PLAY 60”!

NFL athletes are known for being active and healthy. Now, the NFL wants to make sure that kids are physically fit as well.

In October 2007, the NFL launched **Play 60**, a national youth health and fitness campaign focused on increasing the health and wellness of young fans by encouraging them to be active for at least 60 minutes a day.

Designed to tackle childhood obesity, NFL Play 60 brings together the league's long-standing commitment to health and fitness with an impressive roster of partner organizations -- Action for Healthy Kids, Ad Council, American Heart Association, ESPN, National Dairy Council, Nickelodeon, Nike, United Way, and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. In addition to national PSAs and online programs, Play 60 also will be implemented locally, as part of the NFL's in-school, after-school and team-based programs, from youth football to “What Moves U.”



Players involved in NFL Play 60 include: **TOM BRADY** of the New England Patriots, **STEVEN JACKSON** of the St. Louis Rams (left) and **TONY ROMO** of the Dallas Cowboys, who serve as motivators for kids as Play 60 team captains on NFLRUSH.com, the league's official website for kids. This year, three new PSAs showcasing the league's commitment to youth health and fitness will air throughout the season. **ELI MANNING** of the New York Giants, **ADRIAN PETERSON** of the Minnesota Vikings and **DREW BREES** of the New Orleans Saints will be featured in spots which will highlight their personal commitments to the cause.

In conjunction with last year's launch, more than 28 teams helped build Youth Fitness Zones in their communities, providing new places for local kids to be active. The fitness zone projects were part of the NFL's annual Hometown Huddle, a league-wide day of service in partnership with the United Way.

“We are taking a leadership role in the movement to get youngsters fit,” says NFL Commissioner **ROGER GOODELL**. “Our players know the importance of staying healthy and it's important that young fans also understand the value of exercise. Play 60 is an important tool in ensuring children get their necessary daily physical activity as recommended by health and fitness experts.”

Young fans will be able to get interactive with Play 60 by visiting NFLRUSH.com. Spurred on by online encouragement from Pro Bowl players, kids can set fitness goals, get tips from NFL stars, check out photo galleries of different physical activities and more.

Play 60 is the league's main corporate social responsibility platform under which several youth health and fitness initiatives fall. Here is a look at some NFL efforts in that area:

PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION
What Moves U	In-school curriculum of Play 60
NFL ReCharge	Fitness circuit equipment used for elementary school kids
Flag Football	Youth football league for boys and girls ages 5-17
Punt, Pass & Kick	National skills competition for boys and girls ages 8-15
Youth Fitness Zones	Playgrounds, gyms and other places for kids to be active
NFL Play Action/HOPSports	Interactive training tool allowing kids to engage in workouts
National Dairy Council/NFL Youth Teams	School-based groups aimed at getting schools healthy



## NFL'S JUNIOR & HIGH SCHOOL PLAYER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS SCORE



**RAY RICE** (left) of the Baltimore Ravens and **DERRICK HARVEY** of the Jacksonville Jaguars have more than their rookie status in common. Both players are also graduates of the NFL Junior Player Development (JPD)/High School Player Development (HSPD) programs.

Since its inception in 1998, the NFL's nationwide JPD program has provided a youth tackle football program for boys and girls ages 12-14. The effort is designed to teach each participant every position through a step-by-step progression and skill instruction package in a fun and entertaining manner. The program, which reaches 22,000 junior-high students, is an excellent high school feeder program for players seeking to succeed at the next level.

The HSPD program began in 2001 and provides participants with a curriculum that focuses on inspiring excellence in the classroom, community, and on the playing field. Participation has grown to more than 10,000 high schoolers in 17 cities nationwide. The character development portion features guest speakers, including NFL players and coaches, practical life lessons and discussions on life after high school.

This year, there are more than 250 JPD/HSPD programs across the country, each with up to 300 participants. "I give the NFL a lot of credit," says former NFL quarterback **BOOMER ESIASON**, who joined the program when it began. "A lot of these kids come from broken homes or bad neighborhoods. It gives them the opportunity to do something constructive, something fun. I've seen the program work." The following NFL players are among those who participated in NFL JPD or HSPD programs:

PLAYER	TEAM
DE Derrick Harvey	Jacksonville
T Jared Gaither	Baltimore
RB Ray Rice	Baltimore
LB Leon Williams	Cleveland

## THE GIRLS ARE OUT THERE, TOO

Football isn't just a boys' sport anymore. Girls are playing in their own leagues, and some are even joining the boys' teams.

**NATALIE FABIEN**, a junior at the Wright Tech-Stamford Academy this past year, was one of the only girls playing high school football in Connecticut last year as an offensive lineman on her school's team.

"She's one of the best technicians we have," said head football coach and athletic coordinator **TREVOR JONES**.

According to the National Federation of State High School Associations, in the 2006-07 school year, 1,035 girls participated in 11-person football team programs. In addition, three girls played in 9-person football, 34 girls in 8-person, and one girl in a 6-person football team program.

**CASSANDRA LEE**, a sophomore at New York's Stuyvesant High School in lower Manhattan, played for her school's otherwise all-male JV football team last year. Cassandra learned the basics of football playing two-hand touch in middle school. She also participated in an **NFL JUNIOR PLAYER DEVELOPMENT** clinic in Queens, NY, as the only female player in 2006 and 2007.

"I think some of the boys thought I was a trainer at first," Cassandra said. "But it didn't take them that long to figure it out. I think I'm doing something that's just fun."

The NFL Junior Player Development program, developed in 1998 as an instructional football camp for children between ages 12-14 in underserved communities, provides step-by-step instruction for every position in the game in a fun atmosphere. Along with on-field skills, JPD emphasizes life skills, such as responsibility, goal-setting, sportsmanship, and character development.

Last August, about 30 girls from nine towns in Maine and New Hampshire got together at York Middle School in York, Maine for an all-girls' football clinic run by NFL JPD. The girls were taught the basics of the game, and each girl got to play every position.

"If I want to play football, now I can just go play for fun," said **CHRISTINE NEWCOMB** of Hampton, New Hampshire, who started at safety for her high school's freshman team last year. "It's cool to see other girls play," she said. "It's more fun with the girls."

### **GIRLS PLAYING FOOTBALL ACROSS THE U.S.**

FOOTBALL	GIRLS PLAYING
11-PERSON	1,035
9-PERSON	3
8-PERSON	34
6-PERSON	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,073</b>





## **USA FOOTBALL KICKS OFF “PLAY FOOTBALL” CAMPAIGN**

To honor football and the millions of fans who love America’s favorite sport on all levels, **USA FOOTBALL** has kicked off its “Play Football...it’s more than a game” campaign. The NFL and its teams are actively involved in and support the initiative.

“Play Football...it’s more than a game” promotes everything football stands for as well as its ability to capture imaginations and instill timeless qualities such as teamwork, sacrifice and responsibility in all who have played the sport.

USA Football’s “I Played” story-sharing forum at [usafootball.com](http://usafootball.com) is part of the campaign. “I Played” invites football fans to share what the sport means to them.

Select “I Played” stories will be featured at [usafootball.com](http://usafootball.com) and in future “USA Football Magazine” issues throughout the year.

USA Football recently kicked off “Play Football...it’s more than a game” with its Commemorative Ball Tour of a patriotically designed red, white and blue football which illustrates the melding of game and country.

It also is a symbol of how, through more than 100 football development events nationwide, USA Football teaches the game’s fundamentals and enduring, value-based characteristics.

The eye-catching ball will travel to football events across the country, including NFL training camps, Pro Football Hall of Fame Weekend, college games, USA Football coaching schools, officiating schools and player academies, high school all-star games and other distinctly American locales.

“If you take a look at the work-world today, no matter what profession, they’re looking for a person who is dedicated, hard-working, loyal and who is willing to make sacrifices for the company,” says DeMatha (Md.) Catholic High School head coach **BILL MC GREGOR**. “They’re also looking for someone who exhibits good character, leadership and class,” says McGregor. “I think those are all the intangibles that a young person can get from playing football.”



## **USA FOOTBALL SHOWS NUMBER OF YOUNGSTERS PLAYING THE SPORT ON RISE**

Research conducted by **USA FOOTBALL**, the sport’s national governing body on the youth and amateur levels, shows that approximately 3.223 million American youngsters aged 6-14 played organized tackle football in 2007, up 6.1 percent from 2006 national figures (3.037 million).

USA Football’s 2007 Youth Football Participation Index Study, conducted in conjunction with independent sports marketing and research firm The Bonham Group, approximates that organized youth tackle football in the United States is comprised of the following breakdown:

CATEGORY	2006	2007
PLAYERS	3,037,000	3,223,000
COACHES	380,700	453,100
TEAMS	122,600	138,600



## **WOMEN'S IMPACT ON NFL KEEPS GROWING – IN STANDS & FRONT OFFICES**

The 34.2 million women who watched Super Bowl XLII doubled the number of women who watched the Oscars three weeks later. In fact, the number of women who watched the Super Bowl surpassed the combined number of women who watched the Oscars and Grammy Awards this year.

More than 45 million women across the country watch NFL games on television each week... 375,000 women attend NFL games each weekend... and women are buying more NFL apparel than ever before. Women's apparel is the NFL's fastest-growing apparel business, with six years of double-digit increases.

Nowhere do you find more female fans than behind the "Steel Curtain." According to a Scarborough Sports Marketing survey in 75 U.S. markets, Pittsburgh is the leader in female NFL fans, with 34 percent of the city's women identifying themselves as true-blue black-and-gold Steelers fans. As women's interest in the NFL increases, in Pittsburgh and across the country, their impact on the NFL grows.



The Minnesota Vikings, for example, appointed **KIM FIELDS** (left) as their Director of Civic & Business Affairs to help them interface with and contribute to local government and the community. Fields' start in Minneapolis came just before the Minnesota bridge collapse in August 2007, a tragedy that affected the city and surrounding areas.

"I was called in to head up our initiatives: to make our donation, what we were going to do in-stadium and make sure we were honoring the appropriate people," recalls Fields. "We donated almost 3,000 tickets to all the rescue and recovery entities in the Minneapolis area so workers could bring their families to the first Vikings home game. The league contributed \$50,000 and the team contributed \$50,000. So, it was a \$100,000 donation to 'Minnesota Helps -- Bridge Disaster Fund.' Lastly, we had an in-stadium moment of silence where we honored the victims who lost their lives."

Prior to joining the Vikings, Kim spent six years at the NFL headquarters in New York in the player development and events departments. The skills and knowledge she gained in that time and from other experiences all contribute to the diverse tasks she is responsible for at the Vikings.

"Everything I've done up until this point I am utilizing," says Fields. "My day can go from corporate relations and building strategic partnerships with corporations or with civic organizations to ownership projects such as our Heroes Day last year when the bridge fell. It runs the gamut."

A few states south, New Orleans Saints Owner and Executive Vice President **RITA BENSON LE BLANC** (right) is helping build the NFL's international footprint through her work on the upcoming International Series Game when her Saints will host the San Diego Chargers in Wembley Stadium in London this October 26. In planning the game, Benson LeBlanc works with the league staff on media coverage of the event itself as well as planning the promotional elements on behalf of New Orleans' and Louisiana's economic development partners.

"In addition to making sure our brand, the league and our sponsors are best represented, we're also trying to take an active role with business and government leaders to impact the economy here in Louisiana," says Benson LeBlanc. "It shows the lasting impact an NFL team can have."

While the Saints' presence in New Orleans has been an integral part of the rebuilding effort, the team recognizes the opportunity that accompanies playing abroad.

"Playing on an international stage also gives the league and our team a legion of new fans to develop," Benson LeBlanc explains. "They can experience the greatness of our game and share in what our fans here already know – that nothing compares to the weekly thrills that the NFL delivers and that the New Orleans Saints are a world-class example of sports representing their community."

Fields and Benson LeBlanc are just two standout examples of women making an impact on the NFL.

A list of female executives in the NFL at the vice president level and above:



NAME	TITLE	ORGANIZATION
Nancy Adams	Owner and Vice Chairman of the Board	Tennessee Titans
Charlotte Anderson	EVP/VP of Brand Management/President Charity Foundation	Dallas Cowboys
Dawn Aponte	VP of Labor Finance	National Football League
Mary Pat Augenthaler	VP of Events	National Football League
Katie Blackburn	Executive VP	Cincinnati Bengals
Tracey Bleczynski	VP of Consumer Products	National Football League
Linda Bogdan	VP/Assistant Director of College Scouting	Buffalo Bills
Jeanne Bonk	Executive VP/CFO	San Diego Chargers
Robin Boudreau	VP of Human Resources	New England Patriots
Adrian Bracy	VP of Finance	Arizona Cardinals
B.J. Corriveau	VP of Community/Redskins Charitable Foundation	Washington Redskins
Pat Curley	VP of Information Technology, Kraft Group	New England Patriots
Marlyse Fant	VP of Sales and Service	Philadelphia Eagles
Susan Darrington	VP/Facility Operations & Services	Seattle Seahawks
Gabrielle Dow	VP of Marketing	Baltimore Ravens
Jennifer Ferron	VP of Marketing Operations	New England Patriots
Tammy Fruits	VP of Sales & Marketing	Kansas City Chiefs
Martha Fuller	CFO	Seattle Seahawks
Kristen Gardner	VP of Special Events	Washington Redskins
Gretchen Geitter	VP of Community Relations	Buffalo Bills
Nancy Gill	Senior VP of Human Resources	National Football League
Robyn Glaser	Senior Advisor and Team Counsel	New England Patriots
Tery Howard	VP of Information Technology	Miami Dolphins
Nancy Hubacher	VP of Sales & Marketing	Washington Redskins
Casey Coyle Irsay	Vice President	Indianapolis Colts
Dena Kaplan	SVP of Marketing	NFL Network
Jenneen Kaufman	VP of Finance and Controller	Tennessee Titans
Cindy Kellogg	VP of Community Development	Denver Broncos
Roxanne Kosarzycki	General Counsel	Tampa Bay Buccaneers
Myra Kraft	President of the New England Patriots Charitable Foundation	New England Patriots
Lisa Lang	VP of Communications	San Francisco 49ers
Rita Benson LeBlanc	Owner/Executive VP	New Orleans Saints
Marilan Logan	VP and Controller	Houston Texans
Allison Maki	VP of Finance and Administration	Detroit Lions
Lisa Manning	VP of Marketing	Arizona Cardinals
Patricia McCabe	VP/Controller	Washington Redskins
Virginia McCaskey	Owner	Chicago Bears
Penny McPhee	President, Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation	Atlanta Falcons
Betsy Mitchell	VP of Organizational/Staff Development	Green Bay Packers
Vicky Neumeyer	VP/General Counsel	New Orleans Saints
Mary Owen	VP of Strategic Planning	Buffalo Bills
Jody Patton	President & CEO, Vulcan Inc.	Seattle Seahawks
Tracy Perlman	VP of Entertainment Marketing & Promotions	National Football League
Christine Procops	VP & CFO	New York Giants
Lucia Rodriguez	Owner/Partner	St. Louis Rams
Rosemary Roser	VP of Finance & Controller	National Football League
Susan Rothman	VP of Consumer Products	National Football League
Laura Sankey	SVP of Marketing and Sales	Green Bay Packers
Janice Schmidt	SVP of Marketing	Washington Redskins
Kim Shreckengost	EVP – Chief of Staff, AMB Group, LLC.	Atlanta Falcons
Kennie Smith	VP of Films	NFL Films
Jill Strafaci	Senior VP, Finance & Administration	Miami Dolphins
Suzie Thomas	Senior VP/General Counsel/Chief Administration Officer	Houston Texans
Amy Trask	Chief Executive	Oakland Raiders
Kelly Urquhart	VP of Events	Detroit Lions
Vicki Vannieuwenhoven	VP of Finance	Green Bay Packers
Delores Barr Weaver	Co-Owner and Chair, Jaguars Foundation	Jacksonville Jaguars
Christina Weiss-Lurie	President of Eagles Youth Partnership	Philadelphia Eagles
Kimberly Williams	COO	NFL Network
Beth Wojick	VP of Corporate Partnerships	Seattle Seahawks
Denise DeBartolo York	Owner	San Francisco 49ers

## A SUPER BOWL RING JOINED BY AN OLYMPIC GOLD?

### Many NFL Women Are Accomplished In Their Own Right



A Super Bowl ring. A potential Olympic gold medal. It could turn out to be a very good year for New York Giants cornerback **AARON ROSS** and his fiancée, track star **SANYA RICHARDS** (left and right).

Ross and the Giants made headlines this year as they toppled the undefeated New England Patriots in Super Bowl XLII. Now Richards will look to take home a prize of her own – a gold in the 400-meters at the Olympics in Beijing this summer.

Richards, who met Ross while both were athletes at the University of Texas, earned her spot on the US team by

winning the 400m at the U.S. Olympic Trials in June. It will not be her first Olympics though. Richards was part of the 4x400-meter relay that took home the gold for the U.S. in 2004 in Athens.



Ross and Richards say they often train and work out together but have never officially raced each other. "Sometimes we'll do ten 200m," says Richards. "He'll do as many as he can."

The two have dated since 2003 and will begin their wedding preparations after Richards returns from Beijing. "They were made for each other," says **CHERYL ROSS**, Aaron's mother. "They're so close. They encourage one another."

NFL players aren't the only members of their families to be in the limelight. Many of their wives, fiancées and daughters have made their own headlines in and out of the sports world.

Following is a list of accomplished women who have family ties to NFL players or coaches:

NAME	ACCOMPLISHMENT/FAMOUS FOR	RELATION TO NFL PLAYER/COACH
Danni Boatwright	Winner of the TV show <i>Survivor: Guatemala</i> .	Wife of Denver C Casey Wiegmann
Carrie Cecil	Published author of "Emily's Reasons Why Not," which was developed into a sitcom.	Wife of Tennessee DB coach Chuck Cecil
Shannon Dawson	Singer who has sung the national anthem prior to Cleveland games. Toured with Wayne Newton from 1992-94 and sang at former Texas Gov. George W. Bush's inauguration.	Wife of Cleveland K Phil Dawson
Jayme Hardwick	Four year soccer letterwinner at Purdue. Now an assistant women's soccer coach at San Diego State.	Wife of San Diego C Nick Hardwick
Linda Lynch	Competed on women's pro tennis tour for two years.	Wife of Denver S John Lynch
Jocelyn Maldonado	Host of the SNY show "Mets Weekly" and also modeled for clothing lines such as Baby Phat, Rocawear and KLS.	Wife of Giants LB Antonio Pierce
Cara Morey	Star field and ice hockey player at Brown. Rumored to be a candidate for Canada's Olympic squad in 2006, but broke her leg. Also spent time as an assistant women's ice hockey coach at Robert Morris University.	Wife of Arizona ST Sean Morey
Kameisha Martin	Standout 800-meter runner at Tennessee and fourth-place finisher at the 2004 Olympic trials. Also competed in the 2008 Olympic track trials.	Wife of Miami TE David Martin
Tracey Phillips	Actress whose most recent role was as a belly dancer in the movie "Charlie Wilson's War."	Daughter of Dallas head coach Wade Phillips
Sanya Richards	Won a gold medal at the 2004 Olympics as part of the American 4x400m relay team, will compete in her second Olympics in Beijing this summer.	Fiancée of Giants CB Aaron Ross
Lisa Surace	A psychologist who practices in Cincinnati.	Wife of Cincinnati assistant OL coach Bob Surace
Christina Taylor-Lewis	Track coach and long jumper at the University of the Redlands in California.	Wife of Detroit LB Alex Lewis
Annie Thomas	Played basketball at Wisconsin and also spent time as a women's basketball color analyst at a local Wisconsin radio station.	Wife of Cleveland OT Joe Thomas
Stephanie Turner	Actress who appeared in several network television shows including "CSI-NY" and "7 <sup>th</sup> Heaven."	Daughter of San Diego head coach Norv Turner
Karyn Utecht	Miss Minnesota 2005, played golf for the University of Minnesota, co-hosted the Minnesota Golf Tour on T.V.	Wife of Cincinnati TE Ben Utecht
Chanel Weddle	Played soccer at Utah State.	Wife of San Diego S Eric Weddle



## FROM AN NFL WIFE'S PERSPECTIVE



**CARRIE CECIL** (left), the wife of Tennessee Titans defensive backs coach **CHUCK CECIL**, writes a humorous, insightful weekly column from the NFL woman's point of view for the *Tennessean*.

A professional writer for television, film and on-line, Carrie Cecil developed her novel *Emily's Reasons Why Not* for ABC where she served as a producer on the show starring Heather Graham.

A former sports and entertainment media strategist, she founded Anachel Communications, Inc., where she advised presidents and CEOs for such companies as Fox Sports Net, ESPN and the Tennis Channel.

Carrie is married to her college sweetheart and former Pro Bowl safety Chuck, now in his eighth year as a Titans coach.

Below are excerpts from Carrie Cecil's *Tennessean* columns on a variety of subjects:

- **CARRIE ON FOOTBALL:** *"To me, the game of football and life are not so different. We live with successes and mistakes in what sometimes feels like a spotlight. There is always a learning curve and those around us hold us to the highest expectations. Like life, the game at its core is good, fair, forgiving and allows a second half to make adjustments.*  
  
*"It is our game, and by that I mean America's game. Husbands, wives, sons, daughters – we are a nation of football families all rooting for our teams."*
- **CARRIE ON "FLYOVERS":** *"There are few things better than the national anthem at (the Titans') LP Field with F16s roaring overhead. It can bring real tears of pride to your eyes. And the only thing that can break that trance is the 80,000 screaming fans during kickoff."*
- **CARRIE ON NFL WIVES:** *"I know, glamorous, right? Well contrary to the stereotypes, not all pro-athlete wives are toting their Gucci purses, splurging for hot-rock massages or hiding behind their oversized Chanel glasses. I know plenty of ladies with formula spit-up on them right at this second!*  
  
*"Seriously...the NFL wives I know have full-time careers, are making a difference, contributing to the community or raising solid families."*
- **CARRIE ON FAMILY LIFE IN THE NFL:** *"Like my preacher always tells me... 'You gotta have faith.' So tonight, as I lay my daughter down to sleep and hand her a sippy cup and animal cracker, we will say our prayers.*  
  
*"She is thankful for her health, the love around her and our life. She prays to heal friends and for her bunny and dog. But at the end of every prayer she looks up at me with those big brown eyes and says, 'And let the Titans win.' That is living a family life in the NFL."*
- **CARRIE ON "KEEPING THE FAITH":** *"The more I write about football the more I realize the parallels of the game and life. Just when it's smooth sailing, a long bomb gets thrown against you and you're lying on your back, dazed and wondering, 'What the heck happened?'*  
  
*"My friend Blythe Weber, a huge Titans fan, didn't have a chance to watch the game until Sunday night when she hit play on her TiVo. By that time she had heard the outcome. Knowing the Titans were victorious, she didn't have the same rollercoaster viewing experience that I did, which included screaming, flailing around, fretting, worrying, crying and, of course, praying in the last three seconds.*  
  
*"It got me to thinking that Titans games and each of our lives have a beginning, will have troubles and will inevitably have an end. Wouldn't it be great to have TiVo for your sleepless nights, skip all the drama, and know that you're going to come out the other end a winner?"*  
  
*"When I posed this question to my husband Sunday night, he smiled and looked up from his spaghetti bowl and said, 'You can. All you have to do is ... have and keep the faith.'"*
- **CARRIE ON THE TITANS' PROSPECTS FOR 2008:** *"We wives are just like you diehard fans, but turned up to the loudest level. So with this season we want the Lombardi Trophy and we have a shot at it. That is the beauty of the game. The beginning of the season brings an optimism to every team and family that they have a real shot."*





## THE FAMOUS ARE FANS, TOO



Most fans can't say they have endured training camp, run routes or fielded punts with their favorite NFL team, but country singer **KENNY CHESNEY** (No. 7, left and below) took his passion for the New Orleans Saints to such a level last year.

Chesney took advantage of an opportunity to work out with the Saints, catching passes from quarterback **DREW BREES** (No. 9, below, with **MARK CAMPBELL**, No. 80) and fielding punts, giving the Saints a day off from practice as part of a wager with head coach **SEAN PAYTON**.

"He was a lot faster than I thought he was going to be," Brees said after underthrowing a pass to Chesney.

"It was a great day," said Chesney. "I worked my tail off...but when you get out there with those guys, they have so much heart."

Chesney, who played football in high school, and Payton have been friends since 2002, when the coach attended a concert in Dallas. Chesney is also good friends with Indianapolis Colts quarterback **PEYTON MANNING**. Manning once appeared onstage and sung along with Chesney during a concert at the University of Tennessee, Manning's alma mater.

A lot of famous people are rabid fans when it comes to the NFL. Actor **MATTHEW MC CONAUGHEY** is another football fan, but it is the Texas Longhorns that have a special place in his heart. However, his family does have a connection to the NFL. The Green Bay Packers drafted his father, **JAMES MC CONAGHEY**, out of the University of Houston in the 27th round (319th overall) in 1953. The elder McConaghey never made it to the NFL, but passed on his love of the game to his son.



Many celebrities have remained life-long fans of their hometown teams. Actor **KEVIN COSTNER** is no exception and was attracted to the Chiefs while being raised in Kansas City.

"There wasn't a team quite like the Chiefs," says Costner. "The way they were built ... [I have] a lot of memories, when I was a kid, of this big red team."

### Twenty-five celebrities and their favorite NFL teams:

NAME	FAVORITE TEAM
Actress Jessica Alba	Oakland Raiders
Singer Jon Bon Jovi	New York Giants
Toronto Blue Jays Bench Coach Brian Butterfield	New England Patriots
Actor George Clooney	Cincinnati Bengals
Atlanta Braves Pitcher Tom Glavine	New England Patriots
Former White House Press Secretary Ari Fleischer	Miami Dolphins
Actor Josh Hartnett	Minnesota Vikings
NASCAR Driver Matt Kenseth	Green Bay Packers
Singer Nick Lachey	Cincinnati Bengals
Comedian David Letterman	Indianapolis Colts
Actress Kate Mara	New York Giants
Musician Tim McGraw	Tennessee Titans
Golfer Phil Mickelson	San Diego Chargers
Philadelphia Phillies Pitcher Jamie Moyer	Seattle Seahawks
Actor Chad Michael Murray	Buffalo Bills
Singer Nelly	St. Louis Rams
Country Music Singer Brad Paisley	Cleveland Browns
Actor and Singer Will Smith	Philadelphia Eagles
California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger	San Diego Chargers
Musician The Edge (U2)	Miami Dolphins
Actor and Screenwriter Billy Bob Thornton	Indianapolis Colts
Singer Justin Timberlake	Green Bay Packers
Actor Vince Vaughn	Chicago Bears
Basketball Broadcaster Dick Vitale	Tampa Bay Buccaneers
Actor Robin Williams	San Francisco 49ers



## **2008-09 NFL CALENDAR**

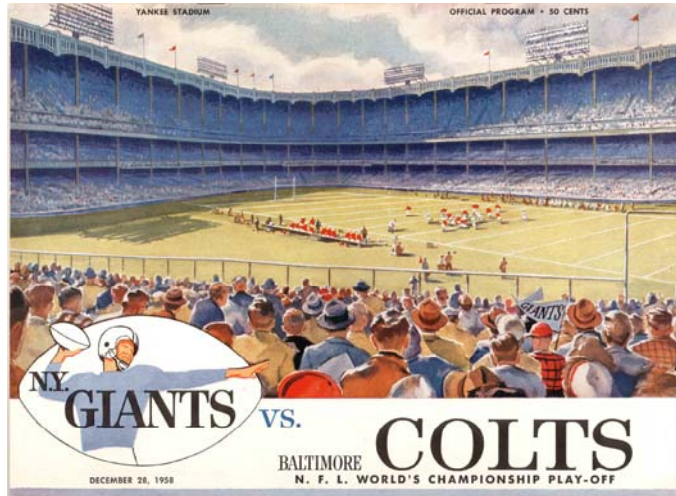
<b>September 4-8</b>	Kickoff 2008.
<b>October 13-15</b>	NFL Fall Meeting, St. Petersburg, Florida.
<b>October 14</b>	Trading deadline.
<b>December 28</b>	Regular season ends.
<b>January 3-4</b>	Wild Card Playoffs.
<b>January 10-11</b>	Divisional Playoffs.
<b>January 18</b>	Conference Championships.
<b>February 1</b>	Super Bowl XLIII, Tampa Bay, Florida (NBC).
<b>February 8</b>	AFC-NFC Pro Bowl, Honolulu, Hawaii (NBC).
<b>February 18-24</b>	NFL Scouting Combine, Indianapolis, Indiana.
<b>February 27</b>	Free agency begins.
<b>March 22-25</b>	NFL Annual Meeting, Dana Point, California.
<b>April 25-26</b>	NFL Draft, New York City.
<b>May 18-20</b>	NFL Spring Meeting, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.



## **FUTURE SUPER BOWLS**

<b><u>Super Bowl</u></b>	<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Site</u></b>
XLIII	February 1, 2009	Raymond James Stadium, Tampa Bay, Florida.
XLIV	February 7, 2010	Dolphin Stadium, South Florida.
XLV	February 6, 2011	Dallas Cowboys new stadium, North Texas.
XLVI	February 5, 2012	Lucas Oil Stadium, Indianapolis, Indiana.

# HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!



## ANNIVERSARY ANNALS

Many NFL milestones will be celebrated in 2008.

Fifty years ago, the Colts and Giants played in what many consider to be one of the greatest games in NFL history – a 23-17 Colts win in the first sudden-death overtime in an NFL Championship game (game program cover, above).

Since then, there have been a number of historic moments for the NFL ranging from on-field achievements such as the New York Jets becoming the first AFL team to win the Super Bowl 40 years ago, to off-field accomplishments such as the creation of NFL Charities.

Some of the memorable NFL anniversaries in 2008:

Celebration	Anniversary
75th	Divisional play is instituted to decide the NFL championship, the forward pass is legalized, and hash marks and goal posts on the goal line are introduced (1933).
75th	Detroit Lions play their first season (1933).
50th	The Baltimore Colts defeat the New York Giants 23-17 in the NFL Championship game. The game becomes known as “The Greatest Game Ever Played” (1958).
45th	The Pro Football Hall of Fame is dedicated at Canton, Ohio (1963).
40th	The New York Jets, in the 1968 season, defeat the Baltimore Colts 16-7 in Super Bowl III, becoming the first AFL team to win a Super Bowl (1/2/1969).
35th	NFL Charities, a non-profit organization, is founded with the mission of enabling the member clubs to make collective contributions to charitable causes on a national level (1973).
15th	The NFL becomes the only pro sports league that combines voting by fans, coaches and players in determining its all-star teams (1993).
5th	NFL Network, the first 24-hour, year-round television channel dedicated to the sport of football launches (2003).



# “THE GREATEST GAME EVER PLAYED” REMEMBERED 50 YEARS LATER

How many professional sports leagues can pinpoint the exact spot, the exact day, even the exact time they “arrived?”

The National Football League can: Yankee Stadium... December 28, 1958... 4:51 PM.



Fifty years ago this December 28 (the final day of the 2008 NFL regular season), what would become known as “The Greatest Game ever Played” took place – the 1958 NFL Championship Game between the Baltimore Colts and New York Giants at Yankee Stadium in New York City. And when Colts fullback **ALAN AMECHE** burst through a hole for a one-yard touchdown with 6:45 left in overtime (left) – at 4:51 on a foggy, drizzly day – he took the National Football League with him into a new era.

The NFL would never be the same. America had discovered it.

It may be hard for today’s young sports fan to believe, but 50 years ago, the sports scene – and the NFL – was vastly different. There was no *SportsCenter*...no internet...no radio talkies... no fantasy football. The “X-Games” didn’t exist because, for most Americans, there were no “alternative” games. Baseball was the No. 1 sport with fans.

Then came this late-winter nationally televised NFL epic between larger-than-life teams featuring picturesque names like “Huff” and “Katcavage” and “Unitas” in a game that surged back and forth into the first sudden-death overtime in NFL title game history.

“**PETE ROZELLE** (NFL commissioner from 1960-89) always told me that the reason pro football took off was because that happened just at that time, in that season, and it happened in New York,” said late New York Giants owner **WELLINGTON MARA**.

**THE PROLOGUE** – It was the fourth time the teams had played each other that year – twice in preseason (with the Colts winning both) and once in the regular season, a Giants victory. New York tied with the Browns in the Eastern Division with a 9-3 record, forcing a playoff against Cleveland. The Giants won, 10-0. Baltimore won the Western Division, also with a 9-3 record.

It was to be a classic confrontation of offense vs. defense. The Colts led the NFL in scoring with 381 points. They were led by 25-year-old quarterback **JOHNNY UNITAS** (No. 19; right), signed two years before out of the Pittsburgh sandlots where he had been making \$25 a game with the Bloomfield Rams. The Giants, glamorizing defense for the first time in NFL history, surrendered the league’s fewest points – 183.

**THE GAME** – For a matchup featuring such dominant teams, things started slowly. The Giants were the first to score, on a 36-yard field goal by **PAT SUMMERALL** with two minutes left in the first quarter. By halftime, the Colts had a 14-3 lead, and it looked like their high-powered offense would only add to that total in the second half.



It certainly seemed that way as the half began. On their second series, the Colts drove from their 41-yard line to the Giants’ three. A score here would give them a daunting lead. It was time for New York’s vaunted defense to stiffen. They did exactly that. Three rushes gained the Colts two yards. It was now fourth and goal-to-go at the one. Time for a field goal.

“I decided that another touchdown would kill them right then and there,” said Baltimore head coach **WEEB EWBANK**. “I told Johnny to go for it.”



Unitas took the snap, pitched to Ameche, who faked a pass and then took off – only to be stopped cold by **JIM KATCAVAGE**, **DICK MODZELEWSKI** and **SAM HUFF** (left). Four-yard loss. Giants ball. The momentum had swung. The Giants marched 95 yards on the next series, and 81 yards on the next, for touchdowns. Now they were ahead, 17-14, one minute into the fourth quarter. It was their turn to try to bury the opposition.

The Colts drove to the Giants’ 39. A **BERT RECHICHAR** 46-yard field-goal attempt was short. On the Colts’ next series, they were forced to punt. Time was winding down.

“At that point,” said Giants halfback **ALEX WEBSTER**, “we just had to keep the ball, run out the clock, and they’d never get another chance. We were so hot... everything was working well... it sure looked like our game.”

Then came the **GINO MARCHETTI** broken-leg controversy.

The Giants moved from the 19 to their 40, using up the clock on four running plays and a completed pass. On third and four, **FRANK GIFFORD** took a handoff from quarterback **CHARLIE CONERLY** on a power sweep. He was met at the line by Marchetti and linebacker **DON SHINNICK**, who were almost immediately joined by 288-pound tackle **GENE “BIG DADDY” LIPSCOMB**. The force and weight of Lipscomb’s arrival snapped Marchetti’s right leg above the ankle.

To this day, Gifford thinks he made the first down. "I made the first down," he says. "But Marchetti broke his leg, and he was screaming like a wounded panther. There was a lot of confusion. A lot of time passed by while they carried Marchetti off the field. When they spotted the ball, it was placed short of the first-down marker."

Go for it? Or punt? The Giants had the best punter in the business, **DON CHANDLER**. Giants head coach **JIM LEE HOWELL** waved him in. "Chandler could kick the ball all the way," Howell said. "We thought we could stop them."

**THE FINAL DRIVE** – Chandler punted 43 yards to the Colts' 14, where **CARL TASEFF** fair-caught it. There was 1:56 left, and the Colts had to go 86 yards for a touchdown.

"When we got in the huddle," said wide receiver **RAYMOND BERRY**, "I looked down the field and the goal posts looked like they were in Baltimore."

"OK, guys, here we go," said Unitas simply. His first two passes were incomplete. On third down, he connected with **LENNY MOORE** for 11 yards. On first, he missed **L.G. DUPRE** on a long route. Then Johnny U turned to Berry. Unitas to Berry for 25. Unitas to Berry for 15. Unitas to Berry for 22.

The Colts were now at the New York 13 with 19 seconds left, but no time outs available. Kicker **STEVE MYHRA** raced onto the field. "I told myself I better not miss it," he says, "or it would be a long, cold winter back on the farm in North Dakota."

Myhra's 20-yard field goal with seven seconds left created the first sudden-death overtime in NFL championship game history.

**THE WINNING DRIVE** – Unitas called tails on the coin toss. It came up heads. The Giants elected to receive, but gained only four yards before Chandler punted to Taseff again. The next 13 plays confirmed the "ice-in-his-veins" legend of Johnny Unitas.

"Johnny told us in the huddle before we began that drive that we were going to take the ball right down and score," said Ameche. "And we all believed him."

Unitas moved the Colts 80 yards in those 13 plays. He put Baltimore into position after completing a 12-yarder to Berry. First-and-goal at the Giants' eight-yard line. A fan raced onto the field. The officials called time out. Unitas went over to talk to Ewbank.

"Keep it on the ground," Ewbank said. "We don't want an interception here. We can hit the field goal if running plays don't work."

Unitas followed instructions – initially. He handed off to Ameche for a one-yard gain off right tackle. Then he stunned everybody – especially Ewbank – by fading back and floating a six-yard pass along the right sideline to wide receiver **JIM MUTSCHELLER**.

Third and goal at the Giants' one. Unitas called "16 power," a play designed to send Ameche through the right side of the line. Mutscheller and Moore leveled Giants linebacker **CLIFF LIVINGSTON** and safety **EMLEN TUNNELL**. Colts tackle **GEORGE PREAS** and guard **ALEX SANDUSKY** cleared out a mammoth hole that the 220-pound Ameche roared through, literally falling from his momentum after crossing the goal line.

It was 4:51 in the afternoon. The NFL had arrived.

## 1958 CHAMPIONSHIP GAME – STARTING LINEUPS

Colts Offense			Colts Defense		
82	Raymond Berry *	E	89	Gino Marchetti *	E
77	Jim Parker *	T	70	Art Donovan *	T
63	Art Spinney	G	76	Gene Lipscomb	T
50	Buzz Nutter	C	83	Don Joyce	E
68	Alex Sandusky	G	66	Don Shinnick	LB
60	George Preas	T	36	Bill Pellington	LB
84	Jim Mutscheller	E	55	Leo Sanford	LB
19	Johnny Unitas *	QB	20	Milt Davis	CB
45	L.G. Dupre	HB	23	Carl Taseff	CB
24	Lenny Moore *	HB	17	Ray Brown	S
35	Alan Ameche	FB	80	Andy Nelson	S

Giants Offense			Giants Defense		
44	Kyle Rote	E	75	Jim Katcavage	E
79	Roosevelt Brown *	T	76	Roosevelt Grier	T
68	Al Barry	G	77	Dick Modzelewski	T
55	Ray Wietecha	C	81	Andy Robustelli *	E
62	Bob Mischak	G	89	Cliff Livingston	LB
76	Frank Youso	T	70	Sam Huff *	LB
85	Bob Schnelker	E	84	Harland Sware	LB
11	Don Heinrich	QB	21	Carl Karilivacz	CB
16	Frank Gifford *	HB	41	Lindon Crow	CB
29	Alex Webster	HB	20	Jim Patton	S
33	Mel Triplett	FB	45	Emlen Tunnell *	S

\* Pro Football Hall of Fame selection

## SCORING SUMMARY

<b>Baltimore</b>	0	14	0	3	6	<b>23</b>
<b>N.Y. Giants</b>	3	0	7	7	0	<b>17</b>

NYG	--	FG Summerall 36
Balt	--	Ameche 2 run (Myhra kick)
Balt	--	Berry 15 pass from Unitas (Myhra kick)
NYG	--	Triplett 1 run (Summerall kick)
NYG	--	Gifford 15 pass from Conerly (Summerall kick)
Balt	--	FG Myhra 20
Balt	--	Ameche 1 run (no PAT)

## STATISTICS

**RUSHING** – NY Giants – Gifford, 12 for 60; Webster, 9 for 24; Triplett, 5 for 12, 1 TD; Conerly, 2 for 5; King, 3 for -13.

**Baltimore** – Ameche, 14 for 59, 2 TDs; Dupre, 11 for 30; Unitas, 4 for 26; Moore, 9 for 24. **PASSING** – NY Giants – Conerly, 10 of 14 for 187, 1 TD; Heinrich, 2 of 4 for 13.

**Baltimore** – Unitas, 26 of 40 for 361, 1 TD, 1 Int.

**RECEIVING** – NY Giants – Gifford, 3 for 14, 1 TD; Rote, 2 for 76; Schnelker, 2 for 63; Webster, 2 for 17; Triplett, 2 for 15; McAfee, 1 for 15. **Baltimore** – Berry, 12 for 178, 1 TD; Moore, 5 for 99; Mutscheller, 4 for 63; Ameche, 3 for 14; Dupre, 2 for 7. **ATTENDANCE** – 64,185.





## QUOTES ON THE '58 CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

### Reactions from football personalities:

- **TOM LANDRY**, head coach, Dallas Cowboys: "I'm sure there have been many games just as exciting. But there were some other forces at work for that game. The way everything blended together – the television, where the game was played, and the fact that pro football was ripe for expansion – was the key. I consider it to be the greatest game because of its impact."
- **KYLE ROTE**, running back, New York Giants: "Everything came together for the greatness of pro football. New York is the heartbeat of the media, including Madison Avenue. Those ad men were young guys – young and sharp – and suddenly they happened to tie into pro football, just when television was hitting its peak."
- **DON JOYCE**, defensive end, Baltimore Colts: "It was dusk. The lights were on. Banners were flying. We were world champions and I was in such awe. I walked off the field and stopped three different times. I didn't want to leave."

### Reactions from national media:

- **TEX MAULE**, *Sports Illustrated*: "Never has there been a game like this one."
- **ROONE ARLEDGE**, Chairman, ABC News: "All of a sudden, the networks woke up and saw that they had to have football. The game was a defining moment in the growth of pro football."
- **LOUIS EFFRAT**, *New York Times*: "(The game) was easily the most dramatic, most exciting encounter witnessed on the pro circuit in many a season."
- **JACK HAND**, Associated Press: "If they play pro football for 100 years, they never can top Baltimore's first championship snatched dramatically in a sudden-death playoff... It seems pro football has come of age."
- **MORRIS SIEGEL**, *Washington Daily News*: "One had to come away with the conclusion that the Colts-Giants' blockbuster was one of the greatest spectacles in sport's history."

### Reactions from Baltimore media:

- **JOHN STEADMAN**, *Baltimore Sun*: "It will remain a keepsake for the ages."
- **C.M. GIBBS**, *Baltimore Sun*: "That nothing like this will ever again have such a tremendous and widespread fan reaction in the Baltimore sports realm seems a safe bet."
- **N.P. CLARK**, *Baltimore News-Post*: "A great day? There was never anything like it around here. And there never will be again. The first is the ever-loving most. Anything from now on can only be anticlimax. Writing it out to the last wonderful drop."
- **STEVE O'NEILL**, *Baltimore News-Post*: "Yes, the people were crazy. Yes, they went wild. They had a right to be. They'd seen a dream game on TV... I know how they felt. Because I felt that way to."
- **JESSE LINTHICUM**, *Baltimore Sun*: "Yes, it was Baltimore's greatest thrill, and mine."

## "GREATEST GAME EVER PLAYED" TRIVIA

- *Sports Illustrated* is credited with naming the '58 Championship "The Greatest Football Game Ever Played." Actually, *SI* used the title "The Best Football Game Ever Played" in their January 5, 1959 issue, because *SI* editors in those days did not use the word "greatest" to describe events. Soon, though, "best" became "greatest."
- A 17-year-old **BILL PARCELLS**, at a skating party in Lake Hopatcong, New Jersey, sat in a car for three hours listening to the game.
- The winner's share for the championship game was \$4,718.77, the loser's \$3,111.33.
- **ALAN AMECHE** left the locker room postgame celebration early. He could earn an extra \$500 for an appearance on the "Ed Sullivan Show."
- Colts defensive tackle **ART DONOVAN** was born on the Grand Concourse, only blocks away from Yankee Stadium.
- **LENNY MOORE**, nicknamed "Spats" because he did not like the feel of adhesive tape on his bare skin and therefore had trainers tape his cleats, kept a miniature bible in his thigh pad.
- Colts center **BUZZ NUTTER** chased down a security guard after the game to retrieve the ball Ameche had carried over the goal line – and, with his teammates' approval, presented it to Marchetti as the game ball.

## **BEARS-PACKERS TO MEET FOR 175TH TIME: MOST SERIES GAMES IN NFL HISTORY**

Bears-Pack!

This November 16, the **CHICAGO BEARS** will travel to Green Bay's Lambeau Field to add another chapter to the longest rivalry in NFL history. The game will mark the 175th meeting between the Bears and the **GREEN BAY PACKERS**, the most regular-season games ever between two NFL franchises.

"There have been great rivalries in American sports," says Packers Pro Football Hall of Fame defensive end **WILLIE DAVIS**, "but none has had the fire in the belly that the Packers and Bears have had. None has had as much emotion associated with it."

The standard of excellence was set at the outset of the rivalry, as NFL pioneer **GEORGE HALAS**, the second winningest coach in NFL history, served as the first coach of the Bears. Fourth place on the all-time coaching wins list belongs to **CURLY LAMBEAU**, the founder and first coach of the Packers. Under **VINCE LOMBARDI**, the Packers' rivalry with the Bears was ignited even more.

"Halas would always greet us nicely when we were warming up, but if you were tackled on his sideline during the game, you would hear him yell something like 'Kill that son-of-a-gun!'" says Packers Hall of Fame running back **TONY CANADEO**.

Throughout the decades, the balance of power has shifted from **BART STARR**'s Packers of the 60s to "Da Bears" of **MIKE DITKA**, and back again to **BRETT FAVRE**'s teams of the 1990s and 2000s.

However, the feud that began with Halas and Lambeau has always remained constant.

The players that have fought for the Bears and Packers have become some of the most renowned figures in NFL history. Perhaps nothing illustrates the excellence of the series more than the fact that the clubs rank first and second in most selections to the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio, where, incidentally, Halas was present at a Hupmobile automobile showroom when the NFL was founded. The Bears have 26 players in the Hall of Fame and the Packers 21.

A breakdown of the series:

### **HEADING TOWARDS 175 – THE BEARS-PACKERS**

<b>TEAM</b>	<b>ALL-TIME W-L</b>	<b>DIVISION TITLES</b>	<b>NFL TITLES</b>	<b>HOFers</b>	<b>HEAD-TO-HEAD</b>
<b>Bears</b>	677-491-42	21: 1921, 1932-34, 1937, 1940-43, 1946, 1956, 1963, 1984-88, 1990, 2001, 2005-06	9: 1921, 1932-33, 1940-41, 1943, 1946, 1963, 1985	26	89-79-6
<b>Packers</b>	637-503-36	21: 1929-31, 1936, 1938-39, 1944, 1960-62, 1965-67, 1972, 1995-97, 2002-04, 2007	12: 1929-31, 1936, 1939, 1944, 1961-62, 1965-67, 1996	21	79-89-6

## **100 YEARS AGO: THE RULES HAVE CHANGED!**

Football today is not the same game it was 100 years ago. However, even in the early part of the 20th century officials were tweaking the rules as the NFL does every season (see page 7 for a list of 2008 rule changes).

One hundred years ago, "holding" became a penalty. Teams also were given the option to decline penalties (except for passing penalties or ejections from the game). The forward pass was made legal only two years earlier, so a number of changes tweaked that rule.

Following are the rule changes that were instituted for the 1908 season (As per the 1908 Spalding Football Guide. In the exact language):

- *All penalties for fouls, except forward pass penalties, may be declined by the offended side. This, however, in cases where the penalty includes disqualification, does not save the player from being ejected from the game.*
- *The penalty for batting the ball forward is made loss of ball to the offended side, and the ruling placed under jurisdiction of the umpire and field judge. The field judge is also made the time keeper.*
- *The score of a forfeited game is made 1-0, in order to distinguish it from other possible scores.*
- *When the forward pass is legally touched, only the person on the passer's side who first legally touched it is allowed to recover the ball until it has been touched by an opponent. Also if a forward pass is legally touched, fumbled and touched by another player of the passer's side before the ball has touched an opponent, the ball shall go to the opponents on the side where the ball was first illegally touched.*
- *While the ball is in the air for a forward pass, players of the defensive side may not use their hands or arms on opponents, except to push them out of the way in order to get the ball themselves. Players of the team making the pass, who are eligible to receive the pass, may use their hands and arms, as in the case of players going down the field during a kickoff. Neither side may, however, hold or tackle an opponent who does not have the ball.*

Continued...

## Rules changes, continued.

- *In the case a forward pass is illegally touched outside of the above mentioned provisions, the penalty shall be that the ball will go to the opponents at the spot from which the pass was made.*
- *Time is to be taken out during enforcement of penalty of incompleted forward pass.*
- *The ten minute intermission has been increased to fifteen, with the Referee notifying the teams three minutes before its expiration. Five minutes after this notification, if either team fails to appear, the ball shall be put in play as a first down by the offended side on the offended side's thirty-yard line.*
- *If a ball on a forward pass or a kicked ball, except a try-at-goal, strikes the uprights or cross-bars, the ball shall be considered as having crossed the goal line.*
- *In case of the ball accidentally striking an official, the play shall be played over again.*

## **DICK LE BEAU – 50 YEARS AND COUNTING!**

He holds the record for consecutive games by an NFL cornerback – 171. He just may hold the modern-day record for most consecutive years on the field as a player and coach.



Pittsburgh Steelers defensive coordinator **DICK LE BEAU**, 71 this September 9, will begin his 50th season on an NFL field this September. While there are no records for the category, it is certainly a rare feat to spend 50 consecutive years in the league as, first, a player, and then, a coach. Dick LeBeau has done that – and more.

“He’s a fountain of youth,” marvels Cincinnati Bengals head coach **MARVIN LEWIS**, who had LeBeau’s bubble-gum card as a Detroit Lion cornerback in his collection as a youngster.

Talk to anybody in the NFL and they have only praise for LeBeau’s creativity on the football field and his talents off it (he plays the guitar, is a history buff, scratch golfer and can recite “The Night Before Christmas”).

He is considered the creator of the “fire-zone” or “zone blitz” defensive scheme that is used in multiple varieties by many NFL and college teams.

In 1988, old cornerback LeBeau, while the Cincinnati Bengals’ defensive coordinator, concocted the unpredictable “whose coming?” scheme of sending safeties, cornerbacks and middle linebackers on blitzes while linemen dropped back to pass protect -- out of a 3-4 alignment – to combat the pass-potent “West Coast Offense” of **BILL WALSH** that many teams were using.

“It was new, it was revolutionary,” says **RAY HORTON**, then a Bengals cornerback, and now the Steelers’ defensive backs coach under LeBeau – the father of “Blitzburgh.”

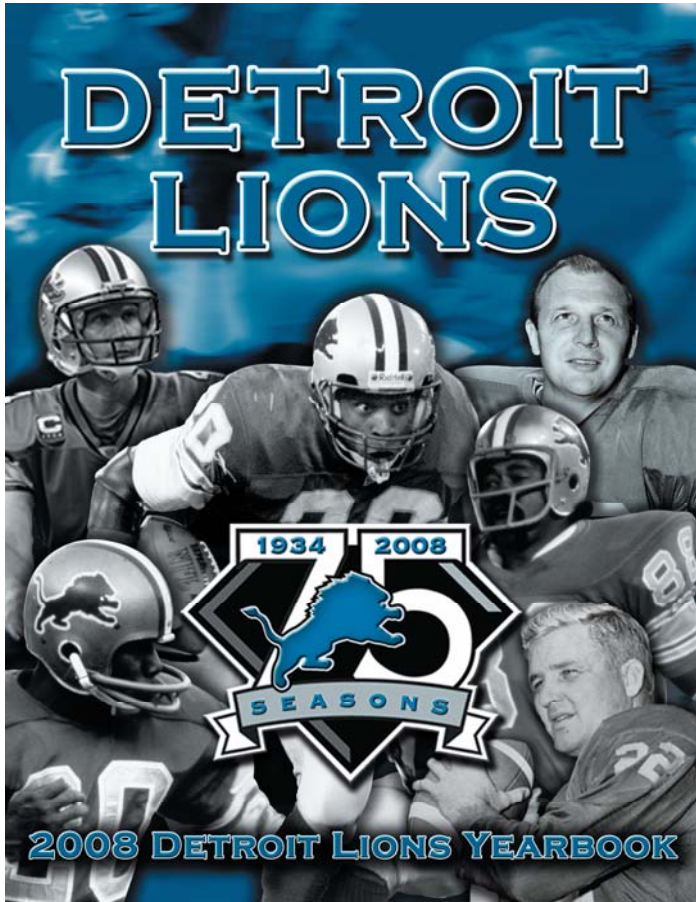
### How Dick LeBeau looks back on his 50 years on the field:

- **HOW THE GAME HAS EVOLVED:** *“I think football has evolved like everything else in the world over the last 50 years. The only way to make progress is to try to build on the past, and football is no exception.”*
- **KEY FACTORS TO SUSTAINING HIS LONGEVITY:** *“I’ve been very lucky to have such a long career in the NFL. Though there is a sense of urgency in everything we do, I always try to keep things in perspective.”*
- **MOST MEMORABLE GAMES, ACCOMPLISHMENTS OR PLAYERS:** *“I had a game where I scored two touchdowns on turnovers against the Vikings and nearly scored on a third. I have had the pleasure to build so many great friendships over the years that it’s hard to pick out just a few. That in itself is a tribute to the character of the many great people who have played in the NFL over the years.”*



## LIONS CELEBRATE 75TH SEASON

After winning the NFL Championship in only their second year (1935), the **DETROIT LIONS** have been one of the league's flagship franchises. They have won four league titles. They have developed 17 Pro Football Hall of Famers. They instituted the modern-day annual Thanksgiving Day game.



This year the club is planning a succession of festivities to commemorate those events and more in its 75th season (1934-2008).

The team will be wearing a diamond-shaped patch with the years 1934 and 2008 displayed prominently within the number 75. The patch will also have the team's leaping lion logo in the middle. At its November 9 commemoration game against Jacksonville, the team will be wearing throwback uniforms which consist of a plain silver helmet, plain blue socks and silver pants with black shoes. The highlight of the game will be the introduction of the Lions' 75th season team.

"That is going to be the overarching theme to our tribute and our celebration because our history is our players," says Lions Executive Vice President & COO **TOM LEWAND**. "They are the ones who have made the Detroit Lions over the years. They are the ones who have created that tradition and I can think of no better way to celebrate that tradition than by selecting a 75th season team."

The team will be selected through voting by the fans online and in selected locations, and by a committee comprised of longtime Lions executives, such as Pro Football Hall of Famer **CHARLIE SANDERS**, and media members.

There will be celebratory events throughout the season. The commemoration started this summer with the Detroit Lions Invitational golf outing. Lions players young and old were grouped by their jersey number to the franchise's 75th birthday party. Former offensive linemen **LOMAS BROWN**, **JIM YARBROUGH** and **JOHN GORDY** and current defensive tackle **SHAUN CODY** were honorary

chairmen of the event. The four players wore No. 75, starting with Gordy, a Lion from 1957-67. Gordy started at guard on the franchise's last championship team.

Brown felt a camaraderie among the group. "You want guys to do well that wear that number," he said. "You want to live up to that number."

Especially if it's No. 75.

Here is a look at the 17 Lions in the Pro Football Hall of Fame and a breakdown of their four NFL Championships:

### LIONS HALL OF FAMERS

<u>PLAYER</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>INDUCTION YEAR</u>
Earl "Dutch" Clark	QB	1963
Bill Dudley	HB	1966
Bobby Layne	QB	1967
Alex Wojciechowicz	C/LB	1968
Jack Christiansen	DB	1970
Hugh McElhenny	HB	1970
Ollie Matson	FB	1972
Joe Schmidt	LB	1973
Dick "Night Train" Lane	DB	1974
Yale Lary	DB/P	1979
Frank Gatski	C	1985
Doak Walker	HB	1986
John Henry Johnson	FB	1987
Lem Barney	CB	1992
Lou Creekmur	T	1996
Barry Sanders	RB	2004
Charlie Sanders	TE	2007

### LIONS FOUR NFL CHAMPIONSHIPS

<u>OPPONENT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>SCORE</u>
vs. New York Giants	12/15/35	26-7
at Cleveland	12/28/52	17-7
vs. Cleveland	12/28/53	17-16
at Cleveland	12/29/57	59-14





## 40 YEARS AGO, NAMATH GUARANTEES A SUPER BOWL WIN

In January of 1967, in the first game between NFL and AFL teams, the Green Bay Packers defeated the Kansas City Chiefs in what was then termed the AFL-NFL Championship Game. The championship game wasn't referred to as the Super Bowl until two years later, which is fitting because the Super Bowl did not become a must-watch event until **JOE NAMATH** led the New York Jets to a 16-7 upset of the Baltimore Colts in Super Bowl III after the 1968 season – 40 years ago.



Millions flocked to their television sets to watch Broadway Joe, the young Alabama quarterback whose talent was exceeded only by his swagger, bring additional flavor to the championship game. Forty years later, they still are watching the Super Bowl.

"I don't know that a day goes by that I don't get reminded of that game," says Namath. "I never get tired of talking about it. It's a memory that never gets old."

The Jets, AFL champions with an 11-3 regular-season record, were 19-point underdogs to Baltimore. The Colts, coached by **DON SHULA**, dominated the NFL with a 13-1 regular-season record and defeated Cleveland 34-0 in the NFL title game. The Colts had the top-ranked defense in the league and were considered one of the greatest teams of all-time.

At that time, most people felt the NFL was vastly superior to the AFL. Easy victories over the Chiefs and Oakland Raiders in Super Bowls I and II by the vaunted Packers only reinforced that belief. The NFL, with roots tracing back to 1920, was seen as the one true professional league. The AFL, born in 1960, was regarded as upstart newcomers.

The brash Namath was honored by the Miami Touchdown Club as its player of the year on the Thursday night before the game. As he stepped to the microphone, a voice in the crowd—belonging to a Colts' fan—began heckling him and predicting a lopsided Baltimore victory.

"I said, 'Whoa, wait a minute. You guys have been talking for two weeks now (meaning the Colts' fans and the media) and I'm tired of hearing it,'" remembers Namath. "I said, 'I've got news for you. We're gonna win the game. I guarantee it.'"

Namath's supporters happily applauded his bravado. One thing was certain: come Sunday, they all would be watching. When Namath returned to the hotel, he called cornerback **JOHNNY SAMPLE**, the Jets' defensive captain, in his room.

"Joe told me, 'I said something tonight that's gonna be all over the news tomorrow,'" said Sample. "I asked him: 'What the heck did you say?' He told me he guaranteed we'd win the game. I said, 'Man, you didn't say that.' He said yeah, he did."

Jets coach **WEEB EWBANK** knew nothing of Namath's comments until the next day when he awoke to find the "guarantee" plastered across the front page of the morning paper. Having instructed his players to generously praise the Colts and, if possible, make them even more overconfident, Ewbank was furious. Namath's outburst, he feared, jeopardized everything.

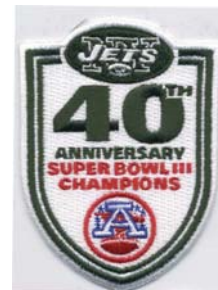
Playing before a capacity crowd at the Orange Bowl, with millions more watching on television, Namath (completing 17 of 28 passes for 206 yards) coolly picked apart the potent Colts. With his quick release, Namath beat the Colts' blitz with quick passes to split end **GEORGE SAUER** (eight receptions, 133 yards). The brash 25-year-old quarterback proved to be every bit as good as advertised -- and much better than the Colts bargained for.

Namath directed the Jets' offense with patience and precision. He mixed his passes with the powerful runs of fullback **MATT SNELL** (30 rushes, 121 yards) as the AFL upstarts took control of the game.

The Colts could not generate any points with quarterback **EARL MORRALL**. By the time Shula brought sore-armed **JOHNNY UNITAS** off the bench in the third quarter, the Colts trailed 13-0. The Jets were in such complete command, Namath did not have to throw a single pass in the fourth quarter. The Jets simply ran out the clock.

Forty years ago, the Jets brought the AFL its first Super Bowl victory and the stature needed to validate the merger of the two leagues, which was agreed upon in 1966 with the actual merger taking place in 1970. It was a watershed moment in the history of pro football, and Broadway Joe's star power put the Super Bowl at the top of the American sports marquee.

*The 41 living players of the 1968 Jets and their two surviving coaches have been invited to anniversary ceremonies that will be conducted this season on October 26 when the Jets host their old AFL rival, the Kansas City Chiefs. The night before, the players and coaches will be treated to a gala dinner in New York City.*



SUPER BOWL III					
January 12, 1969, Orange Bowl, Miami, Florida					
New York (AFL)	0	7	6	3 --	16
Baltimore (NFL)	0	0	0	7 --	7

### SCORING

NYJ -	Snell 4 rush (Turner kick)
NYJ -	FG Turner 32
NYJ -	FG Turner 30
NYJ -	FG Turner 9
Balt -	Hill 1 run (Michaels kick)

## 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF “THE HOLY ROLLER”

Thirty years ago, one of the most memorable plays in NFL history took place, one that would be called the “Holy Roller,” but was far from virtuous.

From 1968 to 1977, the Oakland Raiders did not lose to the San Diego Chargers in 18 consecutive games before the Chargers won the AFC West rivals’ second meeting in 1977. San Diego was poised for back-to-back victories over the Raiders in Week 2 of the 1978 season with a 20-14 lead. Oakland had time for one last play with the ball on the Chargers’ 14-yard line.

“(Chargers linebacker) **WOODY LOWE** beat whoever was supposed to block him and he came in pretty clean and got to me just as I had begun to set up,” says former Raiders quarterback **KEN STABLER**. “He got to me pretty quick and that’s when everything starts to take place.”

“I was about to get my hands on Kenny,” says Lowe. “Kenny was backing away and I thought he had tried to throw the ball underhanded. I thought it was an incomplete pass. I thought I was the hero of the game, to be honest.”

Raiders running back **PETE BANASZAK** called for Stabler to throw him the ball by yelling, “Snake! Snake!,” Stabler’s nickname. The quarterback was hit and fumbled the ball forward to where Banaszak, in trying to scoop the ball up, botched his attempt and propelled it forward toward the Chargers’ goal line before falling under a pile of bodies. The ball then hit the foot of Raiders Hall of Fame tight end **DAVE CASPER** on the two-yard line and caromed into the end zone before Casper fell on it to tie the game at 20-20. Raiders kicker **ERROL MANN** converted the game-winning point-after with no time left on the clock for a 21-20 victory.

The play was dubbed “The Holy Roller.”

“It was one of those things that, maybe you can’t do that, but the rules say you can do that, so you can do that, and if you don’t want to do that, then go change the rule,” says **JOHN MADDEN**, then the Raiders head coach, now the analyst for *NBC’s Sunday Night Football*. “And that’s exactly what they did – they changed the rule. Now you can’t do it anymore.”

Madden is partially correct. By the players’ own admission, Stabler intentionally fumbled forward and Banaszak deliberately fumbled the ball toward the Chargers’ goal line knowing he had no chance to advance the ball with San Diego defenders around him. Both acts violated NFL rules. However, neither was discernable to officials on the scene.

Following the 1978 season, the NFL rulebook was amended under Rule 8, Section 4, Article 2: “After the two-minute warning, any fumble that occurs during a down (including a PAT), the fumbled ball may only be advanced by the offensive player who fumbled the ball, or any member of the defensive team.”

## TENNESSEE CELEBRATES 10TH SEASON AS TITANS



The 2008 season will mark the 10th year of Tennessee’s NFL franchise being known as the “Titans.” The team changed its name from the “Oilers” after the 1998 season. The first Titans’ squad had an outstanding season as it went 13-3 and made the franchise’s first ever Super Bowl appearance in Super Bowl XXXIV.

“I still remember back to the time when we decided to start from scratch – new name, new uniforms, new stadium, new facility – what a great stretch it has been,” says Titans owner **K.S. “BUD” ADAMS, JR.**

“We are excited that we will be able to do a number of things this year to celebrate our 10th season as the Titans. We have had a great deal of success on the field and connected with our fans. It should be fun to look back at some of those moments and players that define our franchise. I would love to finish the decade as we started it, in the Super Bowl.”

This spring, the Titans kicked off their 10th year celebration with their annual caravan. It is a tour that allows fans across Tennessee and from parts of Alabama and Kentucky to greet their favorite Titans players and coaches. This year’s caravan was special as it included appearances by several members of the Titans’ 1999 AFC Championship team, including **NEIL O’DONNELL, FRANK WYCHECK** and **KEVIN DYSON**.

“I think what people here have found out is that they not only got a football team to root for, they got a team and players and coaches that were going to be highly involved in the community,” says Titans offensive line coach and Pro Football Hall of Famer **MIKE MUNCHAK**. “From our Titans Caravan every year to all of the foundations and charities that benefit from the team being here, it has been a win-win for everybody.”

The Titans are asking fans to commemorate the occasion by logging on to their website to vote for their favorite players, games and moments of the past decade. The “Music City Miracle” playoff win over the Bills, the 2003 MVP season of **STEVE MC NAIR** and the emergence of Tennessee’s young, exciting quarterback **VINCE YOUNG** are some items that are likely to be recognized by the online vote.

The team has also designed a special logo for this season. It features the Titans’ circular flaming fireball logo with a “1” in front of it, creating the number 10. The numeral rests on top of the state of Tennessee, which has the years 1999-2008 featured in between the state’s borders. The logo will be featured as a patch on the front shoulder of the team’s jerseys this season.

# THE TEAMS

## WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN 2008

**CHICAGO BEARS** (below) need seven victories to become the first team in NFL history with 700 total victories. Chicago's all-time record is 693-508-42.

**PITTSBURGH STEELERS** need nine victories to become the first AFC team to reach 550 total victories. Pittsburgh's all-time record is 541-517-21.

**PHILADELPHIA EAGLES** need four victories to reach 500 total victories. Philadelphia's all-time record is 496-541-25.

**DETROIT LIONS** need five victories to reach 500 total victories. Detroit's all-time record is 495-563-32.

**DALLAS COWBOYS** need four victories to reach 450 total victories. Dallas' all-time record is 446-326-6.

**DENVER BRONCOS** need five victories to reach 400 total victories. Denver's all-time record is 395-351-10.

**BUFFALO BILLS** need nine regular-season wins to reach 350 regular-season victories. Buffalo's all-time regular-season record is 341-375-8.

**SEATTLE SEAHAWKS** need four regular-season wins to reach 250 regular-season victories. Seattle's all-time regular-season record is 246-254-0.

**TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS** need four regular-season wins to reach 200 regular-season victories. Tampa Bay's all-time regular-season record is 196-303-1.

**CAROLINA PANTHERS** need three regular-season wins to reach 100 regular-season victories. Carolina's all-time regular-season record is 97-111-0.

**BALTIMORE RAVENS** need four regular-season wins to reach 100 regular-season victories. Baltimore's all-time regular-season record is 96-95-1.

**NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS** can become the first team in NFL history to win 20 consecutive regular-season games. New England's current 19-game regular-season win streak dates back to 2006 and is the longest in NFL history.





## GIANTS AIM TO REPEAT AFTER SUPER SEASON

"It's the greatest victory in the history of the franchise," says New York Giants president and chief executive officer **JOHN MARA** about the team's win in Super Bowl XLII. "The first Super Bowl was special, the second one was special, but I think this one tops both of them. Look at the adversity we faced this season and how far we have come."

How far did the Giants come?

After opening the season with two losses and being outscored 80-48, the Giants found themselves trailing the division rival Washington Redskins 17-3 on the road at halftime. An 0-3 start was staring the team in the face.

However, a second-half comeback and a goal-line stand by New York's defense changed the fortunes of the team.

"That was an amazing way to win a game," recalls quarterback **ELI MANNING**. "You have to give a lot of credit to our defense for hanging tough. To get a goal-line stand to win a game, you can't beat that."

That win propelled the Giants as they won six consecutive games after the 0-2 start and eventually led the team to a Super Bowl championship. New York became just the third team in NFL history to win the Super Bowl after opening the season with back-to-back losses, joining the 1993 Dallas Cowboys and 2001 New England Patriots.

SEASON	TEAM	SUPER BOWL RESULT
1993	Dallas	Won Super Bowl XXVIII
2001	New England	Won Super Bowl XXXVI
2007	New York Giants	Won Super Bowl XLII

On Kickoff Weekend, the Giants allowed 45 points to the Dallas Cowboys and lost at Texas Stadium. That would be New York's only road loss as the team bounced back and won 10 consecutive road games (including the playoffs), the longest single-season streak in NFL history.

SEASON	TEAM	CONSECUTIVE ROAD WINS IN SEASON
2007	New York Giants	10
--	Nine teams tied	8

"We played well on the road last year," says head coach **TOM COUGHLIN**. "We bonded together. We had good leadership and good character. We responded well to adversity. That record (of winning 10 consecutive road games) shows the way we went about our work. The road signified for us the coming together of a team. The only people that cared about us were the guys standing there on our sideline. So we rode that emotion all the way through."

Defensive end **JUSTIN TUCK** credits the preparation and team mentality for the team's success away from Giants Stadium last year.

"It was due to our warrior mentality," says Tuck. "It seemed like we played better when our backs were against the wall. I hope we can continue that."

The Giants, who finished the regular season with a 10-6 record and clinched a Wild Card berth, were the 10th non-division winner to reach the Super Bowl and the sixth to win the championship game.

SEASON	TEAM	SUPER BOWL RESULT
1969	Kansas City	Defeated Minnesota in Super Bowl IV, 23-7
1975	Dallas	Lost to Pittsburgh in Super Bowl X, 21-17
1980	Oakland	Defeated Philadelphia in Super Bowl XV, 27-10
1985	New England	Lost to Chicago in Super Bowl XX, 46-10
1992	Buffalo	Lost to Dallas in Super Bowl XXVII, 52-17
1997	Denver	Defeated Green Bay in Super Bowl XXXII, 31-24
1999	Tennessee	Lost to St. Louis in Super Bowl XXXIV, 23-16
2000	Baltimore	Defeated New York Giants in Super Bowl XXXV, 34-7
2005	Pittsburgh	Defeated Seattle in Super Bowl XL, 21-10
2007	New York Giants	Defeated New England in Super Bowl XLII, 17-14

"Winning the Super Bowl is an unbelievable feeling," says Manning. "We always believed and had faith in each other and our team. We found ways to win. We believed and we made it happen. Now we have to come in to the next season and get better. We need to look at the things we have not been as good at and improve."



## PATRIOTS GAMES



"I try to win every single time I take the field," says New England Patriots quarterback **TOM BRADY** (left), who was named the Associated Press NFL MVP last year after passing for a league-record 50 touchdowns. "Every time I play backgammon, I try to win. I try to win in cards. I try to win driving to the bubble when we practice in the bubble."

Brady and the Patriots have symbolized that winning attitude. The 2007 Patriots were the fourth NFL team to win all of their regular-season games since the league was founded in 1920 and became the first team to post a perfect 16-0 record in the regular season.

Despite a loss in Super Bowl XLII against the New York Giants that ended New England's bid for a 19-0 "perfect" season, the franchise has won 19 consecutive regular-season games (12/17/06 – present), the longest streak in NFL history. The previous mark of 18 was also held by the Patriots, who accomplished that winning streak from 2003-04.



"It doesn't matter how you win, it just matters if you win," says Patriots safety **RODNEY HARRISON**. "We've been able to do that and have success. It just speaks volumes about the type of people we have here."

Below are the teams with the longest regular-season winning streaks in NFL history:

TEAM	YEARS	REGULAR-SEASON WIN STREAK
<b><i>New England Patriots</i></b>	<b><i>2006-07</i></b>	<b><i>19*</i></b>
New England Patriots	2003-04	18
Chicago Bears	1933-34	17
Pittsburgh Steelers	2004-05	16
Miami Dolphins	1983-84	16
Miami Dolphins	1971-73	16
Chicago Bears	1941-42	16

\*Active streak



## WINS BY THE DOZEN

The unpredictability of NFL standings is something that has become more apparent over the past few seasons. That being said, there have always been some teams that are able to enjoy a high level of success year after year.

In the history of the league, there have only been seven teams able to string together three or more years with 12+ victories. The **INDIANAPOLIS COLTS** (**DB MARLIN JACKSON**, right) hold the record, with five consecutive winning seasons beginning in 2003. This year, they will aim to extend their streak to six.



Here's a look at the teams with the most consecutive seasons with 12 or more wins:

TEAM	STREAK	SEASONS	SUPER BOWLS	SUPER BOWL WINS
<b><i>Indianapolis Colts</i></b>	<b><i>5*</i></b>	<b><i>2003-2007</i></b>	<b><i>1</i></b>	<b><i>1</i></b>
Dallas Cowboys	4	1992-1995	3	3
Oakland Raiders	3	1967-1969	1	1
Miami Dolphins	3	1983-1985	1	0
Denver Broncos	3	1996-1998	2	2
San Francisco 49ers	3	1996-1998	0	0
Philadelphia Eagles	3	2002-2004	1	0

\*Active Streak

## LUCKY NUMBER 700

Since their inception into the league in 1920, the **CHICAGO BEARS** have won 693 games (including postseason), more than any club in NFL history.

TEAM	WINS
<b>Chicago Bears</b>	<b>693</b>
Green Bay Packers	662
New York Giants	626
Washington Redskins	552
Pittsburgh Steelers	536

With seven more wins in 2008, the “Monsters of the Midway” can become the first club to reach the 700-win plateau. Here is a brief look at some of the great moments in franchise history and a list of the team’s milestone wins:

- NFL Championship – December 17, 1933. The Bears defeated the New York Giants 23-21 using a trick play to win the first official NFL Championship Game at Wrigley Field. With the ball at the Giants’ 33 and time running out in the fourth quarter, Bears **FB BRONKO NAGURSKI** ran on a sweep, then pulled up and threw a pass to **WR BILL HEWITT** at the Giants’ 19. Hewitt lateraled to **WR BILL KARR**, who went the rest of the way for the deciding score.
- NFL Championship – December 8, 1940. The Bears defeated the Washington Redskins 73-0 on the road, posting the biggest margin of victory in NFL history. Ten different Bears scored touchdowns as Chicago amassed 519 yards of offense and the defense registered eight interceptions.
- NFL Championship – December 21, 1941. The Bears used a big second half to win their second consecutive NFL title in a 37-9 victory over the Giants in Chicago. After New York tied the game early in the third quarter, the Bears’ offense marched 71, 66 and 54 yards for touchdowns.
- NFL Championship – December 15, 1946. The Bears defeated the Giants 24-14 in New York using another fourth quarter trick play to earn their third NFL Championship versus New York. With the game tied at 14 and the Bears driving deep into Giants’ territory, **QB SID LUCKMAN** faked a handoff then drifted right while the Giants’ defense followed the Bears’ offensive line to the left. Luckman ran down the open right side, broke a tackle at the 10, and scored the decisive touchdown.
- NFL Championship – December 29, 1963. The Bears’ defense shut down the Giants’ offense and set up both Chicago touchdowns in a 14-10 victory at home. **QB BILL WADE** scored two TD runs (2, 1). One came off a 61-yard interception return by **LB LARRY MORRIS** and the other was set up by an interception by **DE ED O’BRADOVICH**.
- Super Bowl XX – January 26, 1986. Seeking their first NFL title since 1963, the Bears scored a then-Super Bowl record 46 points and limited the Patriots to a record-low seven rushing yards. Chicago **DE RICHARD DENT** became the fourth defensive player to win the game’s most valuable player award after registering 1.5 sacks.
- NFC Championship – January 21, 2007. Playing in their first NFC Championship since 1988, the Bears defeated the New Orleans Saints 39-14 at Soldier Field. Chicago’s defense limited the Saints to 56 yards rushing and forced four turnovers. Bears **RB THOMAS JONES** ran for 123 yards and two touchdowns.

NUMBER	DATE	OPPONENT & RESULT
1	10/3/20	20-0 vs. Moline Tractors
100	11/26/31	18-7 vs. Chicago Cardinals
200	10/10/43	20-0 vs. Chicago Cardinals
300	10/20/57	34-26 vs. L.A. Rams
400	10/15/72	17-0 at Cleveland
500	9/28/86	44-7 at Cincinnati
600	11/23/97	13-7 vs. Tampa Bay
<b>700</b>	<b>???</b>	<b>???</b>



**Bears confront Saints in 2006 NFL Championship Game.**



## GOOD THINGS COME IN PAIRS

The “tandem” backfield continues to grow!

Last season, 12 clubs boasted two running backs with at least 500 rushing yards apiece, including five playoff teams – Dallas, Indianapolis, Jacksonville, the New York Giants and Seattle.

Additionally, the Super Bowl XLII champion Giants became the fifth Super Bowl winning team since 2000 to feature two running backs with more than 500 rushing yards each (2006 Colts, 2003 Patriots, 2002 Buccaneers, 2000 Ravens). In the eight prior seasons, only one such team won the coveted Lombardi Trophy (1996 Packers).

The Giants had enough depth in their backfield that they had two legitimate tandems – all by themselves. Including the postseason, they had four running backs – **BRANDON JACOBS** (10 games), **DERRICK WARD** (5), **AHMAD BRADSHAW** (3) and **REUBEN DROUGHNS** (2) – lead the team in rushing on at least two occasions.

“A lot of teams would love to have one of our running backs, let alone two,” says Giants center **SHAUN O’HARA**. “We spend a lot of time on the running game.”



The Jaguars, for the second consecutive season, paired veteran **FRED TAYLOR** (left) with **MAURICE JONES-DREW** (below right) to encouraging results. The two combined for 1,970 yards, led by the first-time All-Star Taylor’s 1,202, to achieve a 12-4 record and a first-round playoff victory. Taylor was at his best at the end of the season, averaging 119.6 yards per game over his last five games and running for 7.7 yards per carry.

“He’s been a blessing in disguise,” says Taylor of Jones-Drew. “Only I guess it’s not a disguise anymore.”

Jones-Drew echoes the same sentiment regarding his backfield mate Taylor. “It’s always good to come in fresh and run on someone when they’re tired,” says the third-year back. “Right now, we’re in a great situation. We’re both refreshed for the whole game. Who wouldn’t want that?”

The Minnesota Vikings led the NFL in rushing last year, averaging 164.6 yards per game. The Vikings boast a pair of dynamic running backs in AP NFL Offensive Rookie of the Year **ADRIAN PETERSON** (1,341 yards) and **CHESTER TAYLOR** (844).



“If it’s at the end of a long run or if it’s the end of a kickoff return, even though we might like to have him the next play, you still want to keep those guys fresh,” says Vikings head coach **BRAD CHILDRESS**. “That’s where the fresh legs and the fresh looks give you a chance to have those explosions.”

And the Vikings running backs, particularly Peterson, had plenty of “those explosions” in 2007. Peterson led the league with 18.1 percent of his rushing attempts resulting in a gain of at least 10 yards.

The tandem running back trend shows no signs of slowing as four teams who are returning a 1,000-yard rusher selected a running back in the first-round of the 2008 NFL Draft: **CHRIS JOHNSON**, Tennessee; **FELIX JONES**, Dallas; **DARREN MC FADDEN**, Oakland; **RASHARD MENDENHALL**, Pittsburgh.

Following are the teams that employed two running backs with at least 500 rushing yards apiece in 2007:

Continued...



## Tandem running backs, continued:

TEAM	RUNNING BACKS WITH 500+ YARDS
Atlanta Falcons	Warrick Dunn (720) and Jerious Norwood (613)
Carolina Panthers	DeShaun Foster (876) and DeAngelo Williams (717)
Chicago Bears	Cedric Benson (674) and Adrian Peterson (510)
Dallas Cowboys	Marion Barber (975) and Julius Jones (588)
Denver Broncos	Selvin Young (729) and Travis Henry (691)
Indianapolis Colts	Joseph Addai (1,072) and Kenton Keith (533)
Jacksonville Jaguars	Fred Taylor (1,202) and Maurice Jones-Drew (768)
Miami Dolphins	Ronnie Brown (602) and Jesse Chatman (515)
Minnesota Vikings	Adrian Peterson (1,341) and Chester Taylor (844)
New York Giants	Brandon Jacobs (1,009) and Derrick Ward (602)
Oakland Raiders	Justin Fargas (1,009) and Lamont Jordan (549)
Seattle Seahawks	Shaun Alexander (716) and Maurice Morris (628)



## SPREADING THE WEALTH

Over the past three seasons, two Division I-A national champions (2006 Florida Gators, 2005 Texas Longhorns) ran a variation of the spread offense. After the New England Patriots utilized concepts from Florida's spread offense to set records in 2007, look for the spread to be used more amongst NFL offenses in 2008.

Back in the spring of 2005, Patriots head coach **BILL BELICHICK**, fresh off his third Super Bowl victory, picked up the phone and called Florida head coach **URBAN MEYER**, who had just arrived in Gainesville after his spread offense led the University of Utah to a perfect season and Fiesta Bowl victory in 2004. At the time, Meyer had some draft-eligible players Belichick wanted to check out, but he was also intrigued by Meyer's offense.

"I went down there (to Gainesville), and it was good for me," says Belichick. "The offense he runs is an open offense that has a lot of pro elements to it."

Since that first visit in 2004, the Patriots' total offense has risen from seventh in the league to being ranked first, averaging 411.3 yards per game in 2007. That figure is over 100 yards a game more than New England's first Super Bowl win in 2001.

The spread offense is lined up almost exclusively in the shotgun with either one or no running backs and four or five receivers. Players shift and go into motion prior to the snap on almost every play. The base play is a "zone read" in which, after reading the defense, the quarterback can either hand off to the tailback on a counter or keep it himself. The unique scheme mixes spread passing -- with an emphasis on short, high-percentage throws -- and old-school option football, including a modernized "triple-option" play in which the quarterback runs along the line and either pitches to the motion receiver or tosses a forward shovel pass to the tailback or another receiver.



Tennessee Titans quarterback **VINCE YOUNG** (left) ran the "zone read" all way to the national championship at the University of Texas in 2005, and Titans head coach **JEFF FISHER** is one of the many coaches intrigued by the concepts of the spread and how it utilizes the quarterback.

"There is so much creativity at the collegiate level, some great concepts," says Fisher. "What happens is, as we go through the tape to evaluate draft-eligible players, a particular concept catches your eye, and you make notes."

While the offense is catching the attention of NFL coaches, you will probably never see the complete spread option in the NFL because there is too much punishment that the quarterback takes when he's involved so much in the running game.

"You can't risk losing your quarterback because you don't have that No. 2 or No. 3 guy you can go to without a big drop-off," says 49ers head coach **MIKE NOLAN**.

Nolan says he could envision teams using a specialty player to run some option plays like 49ers wide receiver **ARNAZ BATTLE**. New San Francisco offensive coordinator **MIKE MARTZ** designed such a package last season in Detroit with **AZ-ZAHIR HAKIM**.

"We're not going to serve Vince up," says Fisher. "We want to protect him as best we can. But he can handle the reads, and if you can almost assure yourself of a big play, you try to take advantage of it."



## TOP SUPERLATIVE? RUN THE BALL!



As glamorous as those 100-yard receiving and 300-yard passing games are, nothing beats a 100-yard rushing game for ensuring a win.

In 2007, teams with a 100-yard rusher won 73.4 percent of the time, compared to 56.9 percent for teams with 100-yard receivers and 53.1 percent for 300-yard passers.

“You need a strong running game against a great defensive team,” says Indianapolis Colts offensive coordinator **TOM MOORE** (left), whose team went 4-1 in 2007 when it had a 100-yard rusher. “You try to establish the run. You don’t want to be one-dimensional.”

Over the past five seasons, teams with 100-yard rush performances posted a win percentage near or above .700, with the highest for the other two categories in the .500 range.

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

	100-YARD RUSHERS			100-YARD RECEIVERS			300-YARD PASSERS	
	W-L	WIN PCT.		W-L	WIN PCT.		W-L	WIN PCT.
<b>2003</b>	107-44	.709		79-58	.577		29-31	.483
<b>2004</b>	134-44	.753		76-88	.463		36-45	.444
<b>2005</b>	112-23	.830		79-74	.516		31-33	.484
<b>2006</b>	107-47	.695		81-68	.544		36-29	.554
<b>2007</b>	102-37	.734		87-66	.569		43-38	.531

## TURNOVERS CAN BE KEY TO VICTORY

What’s one of the secrets to success in the NFL? Winning the turnover battle certainly ranks high on the list.

Last season, the five teams with the best turnover differential – San Diego, Indianapolis, New England, Tampa Bay and Seattle – all won their division and combined for a 59-21 record (.738).

TEAM	TOTAL TAKEAWAYS	TOTAL GIVEWAYS	NET DIFFERENTIAL	RECORD
San Diego	48	24	+24	11-5
Indianapolis	37	19	+18	13-3
New England	31	15	+16	16-0
Tampa Bay	35	20	+15	9-7
Seattle	34	24	+10	10-6

San Diego Chargers defensive coordinator **TED COTTRELL** guided a defense that posted a league-best plus-24 turnover differential last season. He constantly conveys the importance of causing turnovers to his unit.

“Every time we take the ball away from someone, it’s another opportunity for our offense,” says Cottrell. “Not only does it give us a chance to score, but it also gives our offense a chance to establish better field position.”

Cottrell, Indianapolis Colts head coach **TONY DUNGY** and NFL Network analyst and former NFL safety **ROD WOODSON**, who finished his career with 71 interceptions, discuss the importance of winning the turnover battle:

COACH/ANALYST	ON THE IMPORTANCE OF WINNING THE TURNOVER BATTLE
<b>Ted Cottrell</b> , San Diego defensive coordinator	“The biggest thing about getting turnovers is it cuts down on the number of chances the opposing offense has to attack you and score on you. Plus, the morale is affected when a team turns the ball over. It can totally deflate one team and give the other a huge momentum swing. The psychological effect can really put a team in a funk, especially if it’s one that dwells on the turnovers.”
<b>Tony Dungy</b> , Indianapolis head coach	“It’s always been our feeling that when you’re playing, it’s always going to be the turnover that gives your offense one more chance to score and your defense one less that they have to defend. That’s usually the difference when teams are even. We emphasize it a lot.”
<b>Rod Woodson</b> , NFL Network analyst and former NFL safety	“The turnover battle is critical. If you look at the history of games in general, the more turnovers, the less likely that team will win. Turnovers can come in critical situations where a quarterback can either throw an interception or a defensive back can get an interception or a fumble can happen – all of those things play a huge role in a momentum swing or outcome of a game.”



## SACK ATTACK



A quarterback sack is one of the most exciting plays in football. Not only does it get the fans and the defensive team excited, but its effect on the actual outcome of a game can be enormous.

No one is more aware of that than the Super Bowl XLII champion New York Giants.

With a league-leading 53 sacks last season, the Giants' key to success was their ferocious pass-rush. The importance of a solid pass-rush was clearly evident in the Super Bowl, where the Giants stymied the seemingly unstoppable Patriots' offensive attack by constantly bringing pressure and recording five sacks.

"We never had a number on it, but all week long we said that even if Patriots quarterback Tom Brady got the ball out, even if he completed the pass, we needed to hit him to somehow disrupt him," said Giants defensive coordinator **STEVE SPAGNUOLO** (below with Michael Strahan).

Giants defensive end **JUSTIN TUCK** (left), who led the Giants with two sacks in the game, echoed his coach's sentiments.

"Everybody was getting after it," Tuck said. "It was a collective will. We knew what the focus was going to be for us to win this game and that was definitely getting a lot of heat on Brady early and often."

As Tuck alluded to, a good pass-rush can do more than just cause a loss of yards – it can ruin an offense's timing, and throw a team's game-plan off track.

Last year, the top five teams in sacks combined for a 60-20 record (.750) and all five advanced to the postseason.

Following are the teams with the most sacks in 2007:

TEAM	SACKS	RECORD	RESULT
New York Giants	53	10-6	Won Super Bowl XLII
New England Patriots	47	16-0	Advanced to Super Bowl XLII
Dallas Cowboys	46	13-3	Advanced to Divisional Round
Seattle Seahawks	45	10-6	Advanced to Divisional Round
San Diego Chargers	42	11-5	Advanced to AFC Championship



## MANY HAPPY RETURNS



With six combined kick-return touchdowns in 2007 (four punt and two kickoff), Chicago's **DEVIN HESTER** (left), an All-Star in each of his two NFL seasons, is widely considered the king of the return specialists. But there are several worthy adversaries to his throne. Though Hester's kick-return touchdown total set an NFL record, he led in neither kickoff nor punt return average. Those distinctions belong to Cleveland's **JOSH CRIBBS** (below right), a 2008 All-Star, and Buffalo's **ROSCOE PARRISH**, respectively. All three contributed to making 2007 the season with the most ever combined kick-return touchdowns with 42. Twenty-five of those scores came on kickoff returns, besting the record 18 set in 1998.

These incredible talents share more than just game-breaking speed, quick feet and keen field vision. They all have a healthy confidence in their ability to put the ball in the endzone every time they touch it.

"I feel when the ball is in my hands, it's a touchdown," says Parrish, who set the Bills single-season punt return record with 16.3 yards per return. "I don't think first down. I think touchdown."

"He's a special player," says Bills head coach **DICK JAURON** of his dangerous return man. "If I were on the other side of the field, I'd be nervous when he had the ball in his hands."



The nervousness of the kicking team is often correlated to the excitement elicited by a game-changing return by the receiving team.

"He brings an energy to our offense," Cleveland Browns quarterback **DEREK ANDERSON** says of Cribbs, who had three combined kick-return touchdowns in 2007 (two kickoff, one punt).

**HANK FRALEY** echoes similar sentiments about teammate Cribbs, a fourth-year undrafted former quarterback. "Everybody in the NFL is looking for a guy like Josh Cribbs," says Fraley. "Fortunately, we got him. We just know that when he gets it in his hands, anything can happen."

Apparently the aforementioned bravado is shared by the return man and his teammates alike.

"Whenever I get the ball in my hands, I feel like I have an opportunity to score," says New York Jets running back **LEON WASHINGTON** (left), who tied for the league lead with three kickoff-return touchdowns (**ANDRE DAVIS**, Houston).



Confidence is the companion of success indeed.

Following are the top five seasons of combined kick-return touchdowns in NFL history:

YEAR	COMBINED KICK-RETURN TOUCHDOWNS
2007	42
2002	39
1998	34
1994	32
2003	31





## FOURTH-AND-ONE

Is the risk worth the reward?

That is a choice a team must make when faced with a fourth-and-one situation.



"What happens on that play is going to change the momentum of the game," says Pittsburgh Steelers head coach **MIKE TOMLIN** (left). "It's a calculated risk to go for it on fourth-and-one."

Last season, teams that went for it on fourth-and-one converted a first-down 64.6 percent of the time (135 of 209 attempts).

"The mentality is that you can't be stopped," says NFL Network analyst and former Denver Broncos running back **TERRELL DAVIS**. "I had to do whatever was necessary to get that one yard."

Pro Football Hall of Fame running back **JOHN RIGGINS** always looked for a hole to get that one important yard.

"Find the daylight," says Riggins. "It's always about your eyes and your reflexes."

It's about seeing that crease and getting there before it closes."

For the defense, it is a chance for that unit to make a big play and shift the momentum over to their side.

"Fourth-and-one is a defensive lineman's dream," says Pro Football Hall of Famer **DEACON JONES**.

Former defensive back **ROD WOODSON**, an 11-time All-Star, remembers when teams would go against his unit on fourth-down.

"There was no way in the world a team was going to disrespect us by thinking they could go for it on fourth-down against our defense and get it," recalls Woodson, who now serves as an analyst for NFL Network. "That was the mentality we had as a defense. It was not happening on our watch."

Following are the teams from last year with the highest conversion rate on fourth-and-one and the defenses with the most success stopping opponents on fourth-and-one:

OFFENSE					DEFENSE			
TEAM	ATT.	CONV.	PCT.		TEAM	ATT.	CONV.	PCT.
New England	11	11	100.0		Philadelphia	5	1	20.0
Arizona	4	4	100.0		Seattle	9	3	33.3
San Diego	2	2	100.0		St. Louis	4	1	33.3
Houston	6	5	83.3		Baltimore	5	2	40.0
Philadelphia	6	5	83.3		Kansas City	5	2	40.0

## SUPER BOWL TROPHY BY THE NUMBERS

It is sought after and admired. Even by the people who make it.

It's the **VINCE LOMBARDI TROPHY**, manufactured by Tiffany & Co. of New York.

"It's treated like a celebrity here," says **SCOTT SHIBLEY**, Tiffany vice president. "If it goes to a different floor of the building, employees try to sneak a peak."

The particulars of the Vince Lombardi Trophy:



Weight	7 pounds
Height	22 inches
Man-hours To Complete	72
Made of	Sterling silver *
Year Designed	1966
First Sketched On	A napkin
Sketched By	Oscar Riedener **
Crafted by	Hand
Made In	Parsippany, NJ
Made By	Tiffany
Value	\$12,500
Sought Yearly By	1,700 players ***

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





## **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 three lost it):

<b>Super Bowl</b>	<b>Winner</b>	<b>Next Season</b>
<b>I</b>	<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>Won Super Bowl</b>
II	Green Bay	Missed playoffs
III	New York Jets	Lost in first round
IV	Kansas City	Missed playoffs
V	Baltimore	Lost AFC Championship Game
VI	Dallas	Lost NFC Championship Game
<b>VII</b>	<b>Miami</b>	<b>Won Super Bowl</b>
VIII	Miami	Lost in first round
<b>IX</b>	<b>Pittsburgh</b>	<b>Won Super Bowl</b>
X	Pittsburgh	Lost AFC Championship Game
XI	Oakland	Lost AFC Championship Game
XII	Dallas	Lost Super Bowl
<b>XIII</b>	<b>Pittsburgh</b>	<b>Won Super Bowl</b>
XIV	Pittsburgh	Missed playoffs
XV	Oakland	Missed playoffs
XVI	San Francisco	Missed playoffs
XVII	Washington	Lost Super Bowl
XVIII	L.A. Raiders	Lost Wild Card Game
XIX	San Francisco	Lost Wild Card Game
XX	Chicago	Lost NFC Divisional Playoff Game
XXI	New York Giants	Missed playoffs
XXII	Washington	Missed playoffs
<b>XXIII</b>	<b>San Francisco</b>	<b>Won Super Bowl</b>
XXIV	San Francisco	Lost NFC Championship Game
XXV	New York Giants	Missed playoffs
XXVI	Washington	Lost NFC Divisional Playoff Game
<b>XXVII</b>	<b>Dallas</b>	<b>Won Super Bowl</b>
XXVIII	Dallas	Lost NFC Championship Game
XXIX	San Francisco	Lost NFC Divisional Playoff Game
XXX	Dallas	Lost NFC Divisional Playoff Game
XXXI	Green Bay Packers	Lost Super Bowl
<b>XXXII</b>	<b>Denver Broncos</b>	<b>Won Super Bowl</b>
XXXIII	Denver Broncos	Missed playoffs
XXXIV	St. Louis Rams	Lost Wild Card Game
XXXV	Baltimore Ravens	Lost AFC Divisional Playoff Game
XXXVI	New England Patriots	Missed playoffs
XXXVII	Tampa Bay Buccaneers	Missed playoffs
<b>XXXVIII</b>	<b>New England Patriots</b>	<b>Won Super Bowl</b>
XXXIX	New England Patriots	Lost AFC Divisional Playoff Game
XL	Pittsburgh Steelers	Missed playoffs
XLI	Indianapolis Colts	Lost AFC Divisional Playoff Game
XLII	New York Giants	???

# ***THE PLAYERS***

## **WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN 2008**

**PEYTON MANNING**, Indianapolis, has led the league in touchdown passes three times in his 10-year career and can tie Brett Favre, Johnny Unitas, Len Dawson and Steve Young (4) for the most seasons leading the league in touchdown passes.

Manning has passed for 400 yards in a game seven times in his 10-year NFL career. Manning needs one 400-yard passing game to surpass Joe Montana and Warren Moon (7) for the second-most games with 400 yards passing in NFL history (Dan Marino, 13).

Manning needs 37 touchdown passes to surpass Fran Tarkenton (342) to move into third place all-time. In 10 seasons, Manning has thrown 306 touchdown passes.

Manning needs 2,986 passing yards to surpass Dan Fouts (43,040) and Drew Bledsoe (44,611) to move into seventh place all-time. In 10 seasons, Manning has passed for 41,626 yards.

Manning needs 32 completions to become the eighth player in NFL history with 3,500 passes completed. In 10 seasons, Manning has completed 3,468 passes.

**LA DAINIAN TOMLINSON**, San Diego, needs nine rushing touchdowns to pass Marcus Allen (123) to move into second place all-time. In seven seasons, Tomlinson has scored 115 rushing touchdowns.

Tomlinson needs 17 touchdowns to surpass Terrell Owens (131), Cris Carter (131), Marshall Faulk (136) and Marcus Allen (145) to move into third place all-time (see Owens note). In seven seasons, Tomlinson has scored 129 touchdowns.

Tomlinson has gained 2,000 scrimmage yards three times in his seven-year career. With one more 2,000-scrimmage yard season, Tomlinson will tie Eric Dickerson, Marshall Faulk and Walter Payton (4) for the most all-time (see James note).

Tomlinson has gained 2,000 combined yards three times. Tomlinson needs one more 2,000-yard season to tie Tiki Barber, Eric Dickerson, Marshall Faulk, Dante Hall, Brian Mitchell and Walter Payton (4) for the most all-time (see Hall and James notes).

Tomlinson has four 200-yard rushing games in his career. Tomlinson needs two to surpass Tiki Barber (5) and tie O.J. Simpson (6) for the most all-time.

**EDGERRIN JAMES**, Arizona, has gained 2,000 scrimmage yards three times in his nine-year career. With one more 2,000-yard season, James will tie Eric Dickerson, Marshall Faulk and Walter Payton (4) for the most all-time (see Tomlinson note).

James has gained 2,000 combined yards three times in his career. James needs one more season with 2,000 combined yards to tie Tiki Barber, Eric Dickerson, Marshall Faulk, Dante Hall, Brian Mitchell and Walter Payton (4) for the most all-time (see Hall and Tomlinson notes).

James needs 1,133 rushing yards to surpass Thurman Thomas (12,074), Franco Harris (12,120), Marcus Allen (12,243), Marshall Faulk (12,279), Jim Brown (12,312) and Tony Dorsett (12,739) to move into seventh place all-time. In nine seasons, James has 11,607 rushing yards.

James needs 133 scrimmage yards to become the 14th player in NFL history with 15,000 scrimmage yards (see Dunn and Bruce notes). In nine seasons, James has 14,867 scrimmage yards.

**WARRICK DUNN**, Tampa Bay, needs 810 scrimmage yards to become the 14th player in NFL history with 15,000 scrimmage yards (see Bruce and James notes). In 11 seasons, Dunn has 14,190 scrimmage yards.

**MARVIN HARRISON**, Indianapolis, needs 100 receptions to pass Jerry Rice (4) to become the first player in NFL history with five 100-catch seasons. In 12 seasons, Harrison has four seasons with 100 receptions.

Harrison needs 991 yards to surpass James Lofton (14,004), Isaac Bruce (14,109) and Tim Brown (14,934) to move into second place all-time (see Bruce note). In 12 seasons, Harrison has 13,944 receiving yards.

Harrison needs 60 receptions to surpass Tim Brown (1,094) and Cris Carter (1,101) to move into second place all-time. In 12 seasons, Harrison has 1,042 receptions.

Harrison needs eight receiving touchdowns to surpass Randy Moss (124), Terrell Owens (129) and Cris Carter (130) for second place all-time (see Moss and Owens notes). In 12 seasons, Harrison has 123 touchdown receptions.

Harrison has recorded 1,000 receiving yards in a season eight times in his 12-year NFL career. Moss can join Jerry Rice (14), Tim Brown (9) and Jimmy Smith (9) as the only players in NFL history with nine seasons with 1,000 receiving yards (see Bruce, Holt, Moss and Owens notes).

**ISAAC BRUCE**, San Francisco, needs 826 receiving yards to surpass Tim Brown (14,934) to move into second place all-time (see Harrison note). In 14 seasons, Bruce has 14,109 receiving yards.

Bruce needs 58 receptions to become the fifth player in NFL history with 1,000 career receptions. In 14 seasons, Bruce has 942 receptions.

Bruce needs 741 scrimmage yards to become the 14th player in NFL history with 15,000 scrimmage yards (see Dunn and James notes). In 14 seasons, Bruce has 14,259 scrimmage yards.

Bruce has recorded 1,000 receiving yards in a season eight times in his 14-year NFL career. Bruce can join Jerry Rice (14), Tim Brown (9) and Jimmy Smith (9) as the only players in NFL history with nine seasons with 1,000 receiving yards (see Harrison, Holt, Moss and Owens notes).

**TERRELL OWENS**, Dallas, needs two receiving touchdowns to surpass Cris Carter (130) for second place all-time (see Harrison and Moss notes). In 12 seasons, Owens has 129 touchdown receptions.

Owens needs 15 touchdowns to surpass Cris Carter (131), Marshall Faulk (136) and Marcus Allen (145) to move into third place all-time (see Tomlinson note). In 12 seasons, Owens has scored 131 touchdowns.

Owens has recorded 1,000 receiving yards in a season eight times in his 12-year NFL career. Owens can join Jerry Rice (14), Tim Brown (9) and Jimmy Smith (9) as the only players in NFL history with nine seasons with 1,000 receiving yards (see Bruce, Harrison, Holt and Moss notes).

**RANDY MOSS**, New England, needs seven receiving touchdowns to surpass Terrell Owens (129) and Cris Carter (130) for second place all-time (see Harrison and Owens notes). In 10 seasons, Moss has 124 touchdown receptions.

Moss has recorded 100 receptions in a season two times in his 10-year NFL career. Moss can join Marvin Harrison and Jerry Rice (4) as the only players in NFL history with three seasons with 100 receptions (see Boldin, Fitzgerald and Holt notes).

Moss has recorded 1,000 receiving yards in a season eight times in his 10-year NFL career. Moss can join Jerry Rice (14), Tim Brown (9) and Jimmy Smith (9) as the only players in NFL history with nine seasons with 1,000 receiving yards (see Bruce, Harrison, Moss and Owens notes).

**TORRY HOLT**, St. Louis, has two 100-catch seasons in his nine-year NFL career. Holt can join Marvin Harrison and Jerry Rice (4) as the only players in NFL history with three seasons with 100 receptions (see Boldin, Fitzgerald and Moss notes).

Holt has recorded 1,000 receiving yards in a season eight times in his nine-year NFL career. Holt can join Jerry Rice (14), Tim Brown (9) and Jimmy Smith (9) as the only players in NFL history with nine seasons with 1,000 receiving yards (see Bruce, Harrison, Moss and Owens notes).

**ANQUAN BOLDIN**, Arizona, has recorded 100 receptions in a season two times in his five-year NFL career. Boldin can join Marvin Harrison and Jerry Rice (4) as the only players in NFL history with three seasons with 100 receptions (see Fitzgerald, Holt and Moss notes).

**LARRY FITZGERALD**, Arizona, has recorded 100 receptions in a season two times in his four-year NFL career. Fitzgerald can join Marvin Harrison and Jerry Rice (4) as the only players in NFL history with three seasons with 100 receptions (see Boldin, Holt, and Moss notes).

**DANTE HALL**, St. Louis, has six kickoff-return touchdowns in his eight-year career, tied for the most all-time. Hall needs one kickoff-return TD to pass Mel Gray, Ollie Matson, Gale Sayers and Travis Williams (6) for sole possession of first place.

Hall has 12 combined kick-return touchdowns (six kickoff, six punt) in his eight-year career, tied for the second-most all-time. Hall needs two combined kick-return touchdowns to pass Brian Mitchell (13) for first place in NFL history (see Hester note).

Hall has gained 2,000 combined yards four times in his eight-year career, tied for the most in NFL history. Hall needs one more season with 2,000 combined yards to pass Tiki Barber, Eric Dickerson, Marshall Faulk, Brian Mitchell and Walter Payton (4) for the most all-time.

**DEVIN HESTER**, Chicago, has 11 combined kick-return touchdowns (seven punt, four kickoff) in his two-year career, the third-most all-time. Hester needs three combined kick-return touchdowns to pass Dante Hall, Eric Metcalf (12) and Brian Mitchell (13) for first place in NFL history (see Hall note).

**TONY GONZALEZ**, Kansas City, needs 179 receiving yards to pass Shannon Sharpe (10,060) to become the all-time leader in receiving yards by a tight end in NFL history. In 11 seasons, Gonzalez has 9,882 receiving yards.

Gonzalez needs 80 receptions to become the first tight end in NFL history with 900 receptions. In 11 seasons, Gonzalez has 820 receptions – the most ever by a tight end.

## STREAKING INTO 2008

**PEYTON MANNING**, Indianapolis, needs 4,000 passing yards to become the first quarterback in NFL history with nine 4,000-yard seasons. Manning is the only quarterback to accomplish the feat in eight seasons.

Manning needs 25 touchdown passes to become the first player in NFL history to throw 25 touchdown passes in 11 consecutive seasons. Manning is the only player to have 10 consecutive seasons with 25 touchdown passes.

Manning has passed for 3,000 yards in each of the past 10 seasons and owns the second-longest streak of consecutive 3,000-yard seasons (Brett Favre, 16). Manning is the only player in NFL history to start a career with 10 consecutive 3,000-yard seasons.

**LA DAINIAN TOMLINSON**, San Diego, needs 10 rushing touchdowns to extend his NFL-record streak of consecutive seasons to begin a career with 10 rushing touchdowns to eight.

Tomlinson needs 1,200 rushing yards to become the first player in NFL history to begin a career with eight consecutive 1,200-yard rushing seasons. Tomlinson and Eric Dickerson (1983-89) are the only players to begin a career with seven such seasons.

**REGGIE WAYNE**, Indianapolis, needs 105 receptions to become the first player in NFL history to increase his reception total in eight consecutive seasons. Wayne (2001-07), Raymond Berry (1955-1961), and Shawn Jefferson (1991-97) are the only players to do so in seven consecutive seasons.

**TONY GONZALEZ**, Kansas City, needs 50 receptions to become the first tight end in NFL history with 11 consecutive 50-reception seasons. Gonzalez is the only tight end in NFL history with 10 consecutive 50-reception seasons.

**JASON ELAM**, Atlanta, has scored 100 points in each of his first 15 seasons and needs 100 points to extend his NFL record streak for consecutive 100-point seasons to 16. Elam is the only player in NFL history to score 100 points in 15 seasons.

**ADAM VINATIERI**, Indianapolis, has scored 100 points in each of his first 12 seasons and needs 100 points to become the second player (Jason Elam, 15) in NFL history with 100 points in each of his first 13 seasons.

**MATT STOVER**, Baltimore, has successfully kicked 348 consecutive points after touchdowns, the third-longest streak in NFL history. Stover needs to convert 24 in a row to pass Jason Elam and Jeff Wilkins (371) for the longest streak all-time.

## FROM NO. 1 TO SUPER BOWL



In the Super Bowl era, there have been 16 quarterbacks selected with the No. 1 overall pick in the draft, the most at any position. Seven of those quarterbacks taken No. 1 overall have led their teams to the Super Bowl – including the past two Super Bowl MVPs: **ELI MANNING** (NY Giants, XLII; left) and **PEYTON MANNING** (Indianapolis, XLI) – and have combined for a 13-4 (.765) record in the championship game.

Following are the quarterbacks selected No. 1 overall who have led their teams to the Super Bowl:

<u>QUARTERBACK</u>	<u>SUPER BOWL TEAM</u>	<u>YEAR DRAFTED NO. 1</u>	<u>SUPER BOWL RECORD</u>
Terry Bradshaw	Pittsburgh	1970	4-0
Troy Aikman	Dallas	1989	3-0
Jim Plunkett	Oakland/LA Raiders	1971	2-0
Eli Manning	NY Giants	2004	1-0
Peyton Manning	Indianapolis	1998	1-0
John Elway	Denver	1983	2-3
Drew Bledsoe	New England	1993	0-1

Eli Manning became just the sixth different quarterback selected No. 1 overall to be named the MVP of the Super Bowl. Pro Football Hall of Fame quarterback **TERRY BRADSHAW** won the award twice as he led the Pittsburgh Steelers to back-to-back championships in 1978 and 1979.

Following are the quarterbacks selected No. 1 overall to be named Super Bowl MVP:

<u>QUARTERBACK</u>	<u>TEAM</u>	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>SUPER BOWL</u>
Terry Bradshaw	Pittsburgh	1978	XIII
Terry Bradshaw	Pittsburgh	1979	XIV
Jim Plunkett	Oakland	1980	XV
Troy Aikman	Dallas	1992	XXVII
John Elway	Denver	1998	XXXIII
Peyton Manning	Indianapolis	2006	XLI
Eli Manning	NY Giants	2007	XLII



## HEY, BROTHER!

Following in his older brother's footsteps, New York Giants quarterback **ELI MANNING** guided the Giants to victory and was named the MVP of Super Bowl XLII, one year after brother **PEYTON** won the award while leading the Indianapolis Colts to a championship. Eli and Peyton are the first set of brothers to be named Super Bowl MVPs and the first quarterback brothers to win a Super Bowl.

"Nobody pulls harder for Eli than I do," says Peyton. "I watch all of his games and I pull hard for him, and I've just been extremely proud of him."

The Manning brothers provided exciting bookends to the 2007 NFL calendar, with Peyton's Colts opening the regular season with a Thursday night primetime win over the Saints and Eli's Giants knocking off the previously undefeated New England Patriots for a thrilling Super Bowl victory.



While brother tandems like the Mannings maintain their family ties while competing for different teams, other sets of brothers will have the opportunity to be teammates in 2008. After five seasons with the Detroit Lions, linebacker **BOSS BAILEY** joined the Broncos as a free agent this offseason and will play alongside his Pro Bowl cornerback brother **CHAMP**.

"I'm excited to have the chance to play with my brother, and I know that Boss' speed and versatility will have a great impact on our defense," says Champ Bailey. "I can't wait to get on the field with him."



Rookie linebacker **ERIN HENDERSON** joins his brother **E.J.**, also a linebacker, with the Vikings, while **JORDAN PALMER** (right) will compete to be the backup signal-caller for the Bengals behind his brother **CARSON** (above left), a Pro Bowl quarterback and former Heisman Trophy winner.

The prevailing theme amongst most of these players is 'family first.' "We are brothers first and quarterbacks second," says Jordan Palmer. "We are best friends, and the football thing is secondary."

As the 2008 season kicks off, there will be dozens of players who share the stage with their brothers. Quite a few games will feature brothers on opposing sides of the field.

Here are some of the notable 2008 NFL brothers, as well as when they will play each other:

<b>ANDREWS</b>	T Shawn, PHI T Stacy, CIN	PHI@CIN, 11/16	<b>JENKINS</b>	DT Cullen, GB DT Kris, NYJ	
<b>BABINEAUX</b>	DT Jonathan, ATL DB Jordan, SEA		<b>JONES</b>	RB Julius, SEA RB Thomas NYJ	NYJ@SEA, 12/21
<b>BAILEY</b>	LB Boss, DEN CB Champ, DEN		<b>KEMOEATU</b>	G Chris, PIT DT Maake, CAR	
<b>BARBER</b>	RB Marion, DAL S Dominique, MIN		<b>MANNING</b>	QB Eli, NYG QB Peyton, IND	
<b>BULLOCKS</b>	S Daniel, DET S Josh, NO	NO@DET, 12/20	<b>MC COWN</b>	QB Josh, MIA QB Luke, TB	
<b>CALDWELL</b>	WR Andre, CIN WR Reche, STL		<b>MC DOUGLE</b>	DE Jerome, PHI T Stockar, JAX	
<b>CASTILLE</b>	CB Simeon, CIN FB Tim, ARZ		<b>MC KINNEY</b>	C Seth, CLE C Steve, MIA	
<b>CLEMONS</b>	LB Chris, PHI DE Nic, DEN		<b>MC QUISTAN</b>	T Pat, DAL G Paul, OAK	
<b>DENNEY</b>	DE Ryan, BUF LS John, MIA	BUF@MIA, 10/26 MIA@BUF, 12/7 (Toronto)	<b>MOSS</b>	WR Santana, WAS WR Sinorice, NYG	NYG@WAS, 9/4 WAS@NYG, 11/30
<b>GRIFFIN</b>	S Marcus, MIN S Michael, TEN	MIN@TEN, 9/28	<b>MRUCZKOWSKI</b>	C Gene, NE C Scott, SD	NE@SD, 10/12
<b>HARRIS</b>	T Kwame, OAK DT Orien, NO	OAK@NO, 10/12	<b>PALMER</b>	QB Carson, CIN QB Jordan, CIN	
<b>HENDERSON</b>	LB E.J., MIN LB Erin, MIN		<b>PETERSON</b>	RB Adrian, CHI LB Mike, JAX	JAX@CHI, 12/7
<b>HOLT</b>	CB Terrence, CAR WR Torry, STL		<b>POPPINGA</b>	LB Brady, GB LB Kelly, MIA	
<b>IRONS</b>	CB David, ATL RB Kenny, CIN		<b>SCHOBEL</b>	DE Aaron, BUF TE Matt, PHI	

## PEY DAY



Indianapolis Colts quarterback **PEYTON MANNING** (left) continues to rise to the top of the NFL's record books. In 2008, Manning can become the first QB in NFL annals to throw 25 touchdowns in 11 years in a row as well as become the first to pass for 4,000 yards in nine different seasons.

Manning's success has been attributed to his superior work ethic, preparation, focus, dedication and competitive spirit.

The quarterback position in the NFL is considered an elite fraternity and Cincinnati Bengals quarterback **CARSON PALMER** has nothing but respect and admiration for Manning.

"He is special," says Palmer, "because of his ability to focus – his ability to focus on watching film, his ability to focus on studying and his ability to focus on preparing for games.

"He took what made him productive early in his career – in training and preparation – and just never let up. When he was successful, he didn't all of a sudden say, 'Hey, I've got it...I've figured it out' and then just showed up to play. He studies as hard now as he did his rookie year."

Colts wide receiver **REGGIE WAYNE**, who posted a league-high 1,510 receiving yards last season as one of Manning's main weapons, has been a direct beneficiary of his quarterback's preparation.

"Peyton is a quarterback who prepares like no other at any position and knowing this makes all of us work harder," says Wayne. "That's what makes him special."

Younger brother **ELI**, a quarterback for the New York Giants, has followed in the footsteps of his older brother, including winning a Super Bowl title and earning Super Bowl MVP honors. Eli is paving his own road to success, but knows the quality that makes his brother extraordinary.

"Competitiveness is the quality that makes Peyton such a special quarterback," says Eli. "His competitiveness forces him to be dedicated to winning. It gives him the drive and commitment to put in the hard work it takes to be a special quarterback in this league."

Below is a look at the most consecutive seasons with 25+ touchdown passes by an NFL quarterback in league history:

PLAYER	YEARS	CONSECUTIVE SEASONS WITH 25+ TD PASSES
<b><i>Peyton Manning</i></b>	<b><i>1998-2007</i></b>	<b><i>10*</i></b>
Dan Marino	1984-1988	5
Brett Favre	1994-1998	5
Brett Favre	2001-2004	4
Many tied	--	3

\*Active streak

The most 4,000-yard passing seasons by an NFL quarterback in league history:

PLAYER	4,000-YARD PASSING SEASONS
<b><i>Peyton Manning</i></b>	<b><i>8*</i></b>
Dan Marino	6
Brett Favre	5
Warren Moon	4

\*Active



## **TOM TERRIFIC**

New England quarterback **TOM BRADY** (right) was named Associated Press NFL Most Valuable Player in 2007 after a record-shattering regular season which saw him lead the Patriots to a 16-0 record and set or tie nine NFL records, including most touchdowns passes (50) and most games with three or more touchdown passes (12).

Augmented by the addition of wide receivers **RANDY MOSS, DONTE' STALLWORTH** and **WES WELKER** last season, Brady silenced critics who didn't think he was capable of setting individual records to go along with his three Super Bowl rings and 98-26 overall record (including playoffs), the best of any starting quarterback in the Super Bowl era.

"I have thought for a long time that there is no past or present quarterback I'd rather coach than Tom Brady and I am more certain of that every year he plays," says Patriots head coach **BILL BELICHICK**.

But in typical Brady fashion, the ninth-year quarterback is looking forward to the 2008 season after failing to win Super Bowl XLII.

"There's a lot of time from February to when we start in July," says Brady. "A lot of players come and a lot of players go and we have to worry about how to get all the new guys incorporated. This team is going to take on an entire different appearance and I hope what we put out there on the field is up to the championship level that we've put up in the past."



A look at the quarterbacks with the most touchdown passes and most games with three or more touchdown passes in a season:

<b>SINGLE-SEASON TD PASSES</b>			
PLAYER	TEAM	YEAR	TDs
<b>Tom Brady</b>	<b>New England</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>50</b>
Peyton Manning	Indianapolis	2004	49
Dan Marino	Miami	1984	48
Dan Marino	Miami	1986	44
Kurt Warner	St. Louis	1999	41

<b>GAMES WITH 3+ TD PASSES</b>			
PLAYER	TEAM	YEAR	GAMES
<b>Tom Brady</b>	<b>New England</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>12</b>
Dan Marino	Miami	1984	10
George Blanda	Houston	1961	9
Dan Marino	Miami	1986	9
Kurt Warner	St. Louis	1999	9
Peyton Manning	Indianapolis	2004	9

A look at seven other NFL records Brady broke or tied in 2007:

- Highest touchdown-interception differential in a single season (+42).
- Most consecutive games with three or more touchdown passes (10).
- Most touchdown passes in a single month (20, October).
- Most consecutive games with completion pct. of 75% or higher in a single season (4 games from 9/9/07 to 10/1/07).
- Most completions in first 100 passes of a season (79).
- Most touchdown passes in a game since 1970 AFL-NFL Merger (6 on 10/21/07; tied with 11 others).
- Highest single-game passer rating (perfect 158.3 rating, 10/21/07; 17th time since 1970).





## AIR SHOW



Last season, seven quarterbacks – **TOM BRADY, DREW BREES, BRETT FAVRE, JON KITNA, PEYTON MANNING, CARSON PALMER** and **TONY ROMO** (left) – threw for 4,000 yards, the most ever in a single season.

The NFL has a long history of excellence at the quarterback position, but the recent influx of poised and accurate passers has been steady and remarkable. Coaches' schemes continue to grow more and more complex, taking advantage of the unique talents of today's QBs.

"We are spoiled because we are seeing so many great quarterbacks," says **JOE HERRIGAN**, the Pro Football Hall of Fame's vice president of communications and exhibits. "There are quarterbacks who were perceived as great 20 years ago who wouldn't even come close to making a team today. The talent level coming into pro football right now is unprecedented."

NFL quarterbacks can beat you in a variety of ways, and utilizing a variety of different receivers. In 2007, there were 81 300-yard passing games, tying 2004 for the most in a season.

"All of these guys can win throwing to a variety of people," says former Vikings wide receiver **CRIS CARTER**, a member of the Pro Football Hall of Fame Class of 2008. "And in a big game, many of them have that ability to make that one throw that can change the game in the favor of their team."

The top five seasons with the most 4,000-yard passers in NFL history:

YEAR	4,000-YARD PASSERS	QUARTERBACKS
2007	7	<i>Tom Brady, Drew Brees, Brett Favre, Jon Kitna, Peyton Manning, Carson Palmer, Tony Romo</i>
1999	5	Steve Beuerlein, Brett Favre, Brad Johnson, Peyton Manning, Kurt Warner
2004	5	Daunte Culpepper, Brett Favre, Trent Green, Peyton Manning, Jake Plummer
2006	5	Marc Bulger, Drew Brees, Jon Kitna, Peyton Manning, Carson Palmer
1995	4	Brett Favre, Jeff George, Scott Mitchell, Warren Moon
2002	4	Drew Bledsoe, Kerry Collins, Rich Gannon, Peyton Manning

## PROTECTING THE QUARTERBACK

As the two Super Bowl XLII participants, the New York Giants and New England Patriots, can attest, being able to sack the quarterback is a big key to success. The Giants and Patriots ranked first and second in the league in sacks. Conversely, protecting the QB is paramount. That has been the case since the vertical passing game became such an integral part of today's NFL.

With such a premium placed on keeping the quarterback out of harm's way, it is no surprise that an NFL-record eight offensive tackles were taken in the first round in the 2008 NFL Draft. The first overall selection was former Michigan left tackle **JAKE LONG** (right) who is expected to solidify the left side of the Miami Dolphins line for the foreseeable future.



"You have to be able to protect the passer on offense, your big people have to be able to move and play physical and you have to be able to run the ball on offense," says Dolphins head coach **TONY SPARANO**, a former offensive lineman who spent the past three seasons coaching the offensive line for the Dallas Cowboys.

With 18 total tackles being selected in the first two rounds of the NFL Draft over the last three years, more than half of the teams in the league have made significant tackle decisions since 2006.

"Left tackle is a 'must' position in this league," says Houston Texans head coach **GARY KUBIAK**, whose team selected left tackle **DUANE BROWN** in the first round of the 2008 Draft. "You've got to protect your quarterback; you've got to protect your franchise, so to speak. And those guys are hard to find. They don't fall off of trees. You don't make one. They're a special breed."

The following tackles have been selected in the first two rounds of the last three NFL drafts:

PLAYER	TEAM	DRAFT YEAR (PICK)
D'Brickashaw Ferguson	New York Jets	2006 (4th overall)
Winston Justice	Philadelphia	2006 (39th overall)
Marcus McNeill	San Diego	2006 (50th overall)
Andrew Whitworth	Cincinnati	2006 (55th overall)
Jeremy Trueblood	Tampa Bay	2006 (59th overall)
Joe Thomas	Cleveland	2007 (3rd overall)
Levi Brown	Arizona	2007 (5th overall)
Joe Staley	San Francisco	2007 (28th overall)
Tony Ugoh	Indianapolis	2007 (42nd overall)

PLAYER	TEAM	DRAFT YEAR (PICK)
Jake Long	Miami	2008 (1st overall)
Ryan Clady	Denver	2008 (12th overall)
Chris Williams	Chicago	2008 (14th overall)
Branden Albert*	Kansas City	2008 (15th overall)
Gosder Cherilus	Detroit	2008 (17th overall)
Jeff Otah	Carolina	2008 (19th overall)
Sam Baker	Atlanta	2008 (21st overall)
Duane Brown	Houston	2008 (26th overall)
Mike Pollack	Indianapolis	2008 (59th overall)

\* Played guard in college but will be used as a tackle in the NFL





## QUARTERBACKS OF THE FUTURE

The quarterback position is as strong as ever! And it's only going to get better!

So says **GIL BRANDT**, who oversaw the Dallas Cowboys' personnel department for 29 years and shares his gridiron knowledge as NFL.com's senior analyst.

"It's a quarterback driven league and we have some great quarterbacks under center in 2008," Brandt says. "**TOM BRADY**, **PEYTON** and **ELI MANNING**, **CARSON PALMER**, **BEN ROETHLISBERGER**, and **DREW BREES** will help carry this league for the next 10 years and we have young guys who are on the verge of joining that group."

Brandt, who also visits college campuses for draft analysis on NFL.com, sees plenty of quarterback talent coming up the pike.

"I felt like we hit a little lull in quarterbacking at the college level for a couple years, but being out on the road in 2007 and looking forward to the 2008 season we are back in a serious way."

Who are among the best of these young college quarterbacks? Following are Brandt's choices for the top QBs in college today (listed alphabetically):

QUARTERBACK	HT/ WT	BRANDT'S ANALYSIS
Sam Bradford, Oklahoma	6-4/212	"Athletic quarterback with good arm strength and accuracy. Set NCAA record for most TD passes (36) in a freshman season."
Hunter Cantwell, Louisville	6-4/231	"Sat behind Green Bay rookie quarterback <b>BRIAN BROHM</b> past three years. Has NFL arm to go with size and speed."
Chase Daniel, Missouri	6-0/232	"Reminds you of Hall of Fame quarterback <b>FRAN TARKENTON</b> the way he moves around. Has 61 TD passes in past two seasons. Has good arm strength and finds way to win."
Cullen Harper, Clemson	6-3/220	"Set school records in his first year as starter with 27 TD passes and 2,991 yards. Has very good arm strength."
Graham Harrell, Texas Tech	6-2/199	"Has played in spread offense since high school. Good accuracy and great understanding of the game."
Curtis Painter, Purdue	6-3/225	"Has started 32 games in past three years. Has strong arm and good touch on deep throws."
Matthew Stafford, Georgia	6-3/235	"Very athletic and has big-league arm. Had 19 TD passes in 2007."
Tim Tebow, Florida	6-2/231	"Runs spread offense the way Tiger Woods plays golf. Became first QB in NCAA history to pass and run for 20 TDs. Has good arm strength and is very accurate. Will find ways to win. Should be a very good NFL quarterback."

**BRANDT'S HONORABLE MENTIONS:** **RUDY CARPENTER**, Arizona State; **TODD BOECKMAN**, Ohio State; **COLT MC COY**, Texas; **PAT WHITE**, West Virginia; **JOHN PARKER WILSON**, Alabama.

The talent pool will only deepen with these five high school seniors, rated in order of talent by high school recruiting guru **TOM LEMMING**:

QUARTERBACK	HT/WT	HIGH SCHOOL	LEMMING'S ANALYSIS
Matt Barkley	6-3/200	Santa Ana (CA) Mater Dei	"Strong arm and precision passer. Is a ready-made quarterback."
Garrett Gilbert	6-3/185	Austin (TX) Lake Travis	"Has all the ingredients to be a great college quarterback."
Aaron Murray	6-1/200	Tampa (FL) Plant	"Best all-around quarterback in the class. Perfect for the spread offense. A smaller Tim Tebow."
Kevin Newsome	6-3/215	Chesapeake (VA) Western Branch	"Great spread offense quarterback with a great throwing arm."
Russell Sheppard	6-1/180	Houston (TX) Cypress Ridge	"One of the most exciting players in the entire senior class. Has excellent arm and has great confidence in his ability."

**LEMMING'S HONORABLE MENTIONS:** **TAJH BOYD** (Hampton, VA), Phoebus HS; **AJ MC CARRON** (Mobile, AL); St. Paul's HS; **TOM SAVAGE** (Springfield, PA), Cardinal O'Hara HS.

## TOMLINSON CLOSES IN ON MORE RECORDS



This year, San Diego Chargers running back **LA DAINIAN TOMLINSON** (left) can pass Pro Football Hall of Famer **ERIC DICKERSON** and become the only player in league history to begin a career with eight consecutive 1,200-yard rushing seasons.

Tomlinson also can extend his streak of consecutive seasons to start a career with at least 10 rushing touchdowns to eight. With nine rushing touchdowns, Tomlinson (115) will pass Pro Football Hall of Famer **MARCUS ALLEN** (123) for the second-most in NFL history.

Since entering the league in 2001, Tomlinson has garnered numerous accolades, earning AP NFL Most Valuable Player and Offensive Player of the Year honors in 2006, as well as off-the-field recognition by being named Walter Payton co-NFL Man of the Year. Tomlinson's accomplishments have been an example of consistent production and his peers have taken notice.

"I always appreciate playing against L.T.," says Baltimore Ravens All-Star linebacker **RAY LEWIS**. "He truly has a passion for the game and he makes his teammates and opponents want to be better players."

"It's not just his talent, but also his focus and drive that make him what he is. L.T. is a natural born leader, who not only leads with his words, but also with his actions. He is one of my favorite athletes, and I love competing against a man that brings out the best in other men."

Atlanta Falcons running back **MICHAEL TURNER**, who served as Tomlinson's understudy for four seasons in San Diego, observed Tomlinson's exceptional attributes firsthand.

"L.T. maximizes his talent by using his football smarts," says Turner. "His quickness and ability to cut on a dime make him special. He is the most decisive runner I have ever seen and that's what makes him special."

Following are the players with the most consecutive seasons with 1,200 rushing yards to start a career:

PLAYER	YEARS	CONSECUTIVE SEASONS
Eric Dickerson	1983-1989	7
<b><i>LaDainian Tomlinson</i></b>	<b><i>2001-2007</i></b>	<b><i>7*</i></b>
Eddie George	1996-2000	5
Earl Campbell	1978-1981	4
Barry Sanders	1989-1992	4
Clinton Portis	2002-2005	4

\*Active

A look below at the most consecutive seasons with at least 10 rushing touchdowns to start a career:

PLAYER	YEARS	CONSECUTIVE SEASONS
<b><i>LaDainian Tomlinson</i></b>	<b><i>2001-2007</i></b>	<b><i>7*</i></b>
Earl Campbell	1978-1981	4
Eric Dickerson	1983-1986	4
Barry Sanders	1989-1991	3
Emmitt Smith	1990-1992	3

\*Active



## YO, ADRIAN

"He's on the launching pad," said former Dallas Cowboys Super Bowl winning coach and current FOX analyst **BARRY SWITZER**. "He's fixin' to go into orbit here."



That praise for NFL Offensive Rookie of the Year **ADRIAN PETERSON** (left) didn't come after he broke the Minnesota Vikings single-game rushing record (**CHUCK FOREMAN**, 200 yards in 1976) by amassing 224 yards against the Chicago Bears in Week 6, the highest total the Bears have allowed in their 88-year history. It didn't come after his NFL single-game rushing record of 296 yards (**JAMAL LEWIS**, 295 yards in 2003) against the San Diego Chargers in Week 9. Nor did it come after Peterson was named MVP of the 2008 Pro Bowl.

Switzer offered up those words early in Peterson's freshman year at Oklahoma. Peterson has proven Switzer's words to be prophetic as the seventh overall pick in the 2007 NFL Draft rushed for 1,341 yards on just 238 attempts, a remarkable 5.6 yards per carry average in his first NFL season. His 95.8 yards per game average was tops in the NFL and his 1,341 yards placed him second in the league in 2007 (**LA DAINIAN TOMLINSON**, 1,474).

"I think Peterson is an exceptional young back," says Green Bay Packers head coach **MIKE MC CARTHY**. "He's impressive."

Vikings head coach **BRAD CHILDRESS** was no-doubt thrilled with his back's performance in 2007 and agrees with the consensus that his future looks bright in 2008 and beyond.

"I believe he is going to get better and better," says Childress. "The way that he competes and the innate ability, they're all there and he comes that way every day."

Peterson hopes to build on his first-year success and has set lofty goals for his sophomore campaign.

"2,000 yards, that's my goal," says a confident Peterson. "I'm just going to work hard to give myself an opportunity to reach that goal."

Below are the top five rushing totals by a running back in their second NFL season:

PLAYER	YEAR	TEAM	RUSHING TOTAL
Eric Dickerson	1984	Los Angeles Rams	2,105
Edgerrin James	2000	Indianapolis Colts	1,709
Earl Campbell	1979	Houston Oilers	1,697
Frank Gore	2006	San Francisco 49ers	1,695
LaDainian Tomlinson	2002	San Diego Chargers	1,683

## DOUBLE-TROUBLE RUNNING BACKS!

They seem to be all over the league.

Guys like **LA DAINIAN TOMLINSON**, **BRIAN WESTBROOK**, **JOSEPH ADDAI** and others. Those running backs that can hurt you two ways – rushing... or catching... the ball.

"It's tough to defense them in the running game," says Buccaneers defensive coordinator **MONTE KIFFIN**. "Now you have to defense the passing game also."

Double-threat running backs not only force defenses to be ready for anything, but they allow offenses to keep their best playmakers on the field in any situation.

"Any time your best player is capable of playing downs one through three, you want him out there, especially with all the chips on the line," says Steelers running backs coach **KIRBY WILSON**.

More and more, offenses are relying on these dual-threat runners to keep the chains moving. Six running backs gained more than 1,000 rushing yards while registering 40 catches in 2007. Four of those players were selected to play in the Pro Bowl.

The six NFL running backs that gained 1,000 rushing yards and caught 40 passes in 2007:

Continued...

## Double Trouble Running Backs, Continued

RUNNING BACK	RUSH YARDS	REC.	QUOTABLE
LaDainian Tomlinson, San Diego*	1,474	60	"He brings as much versatility as any running back ever has." – Former running back <b>EMMITT SMITH</b>
Brian Westbrook, Philadelphia*	1,333	90	"He's dynamic. He could be a No. 1 wide receiver for some people, he's that good." – Broncos linebacker <b>BOSS BAILEY</b>
Clinton Portis, Washington	1,262	47	"To watch him strain for the extra yard, it can fire you right up. We can be more elusive in what we want to do with him." – Redskins head coach <b>JIM ZORN</b>
Willis McGahee, Baltimore*	1,207	43	"He has the power and size to run inside. He's a viable receiver out of the backfield and is a good pass blocker, not something every back can do." – Ravens general manager <b>OZZIE NEWSOME</b>
Frank Gore, San Francisco	1,102	53	"The thing that's really impressive about Frank is he's also one of our leading receivers. Usually you don't see that type of yards-per-carry average with the amount he touches the ball." – 49ers vice president of player personnel <b>SCOT MC CLOUGHAN</b>
Joseph Addai, Indianapolis*	1,072	41	"When you talk about Joe, you're talking about the guy who has the full, full, <i>full</i> package." – Colts safety <b>BOB SANDERS</b>

\*2008 Pro Bowl selection

## BIG PLAY EXCITEMENT



While football is often thought of as a game of inches, there is one crucial determinant of a game's outcome that can not be measured. That critical element is momentum. Momentum can come in the form of a key third-down stop, a well-timed forced turnover, an exciting special teams return or a big play in the running or passing game.

One player who elicits that momentum-changing enthusiasm and exhilaration from his teammates and the crowd is Cleveland Browns wide receiver **BRAYLON EDWARDS** (left).

Edwards has a penchant for making fans say 'wow' and dazzling his opponents with his electrifying catches. His big play ability in college broke Big Ten and University of Michigan records, leading to the Browns selecting him with the third overall pick in the 2005 NFL Draft. He flashed his field-stretching potential as a rookie with nine 20+ yard receptions and increased that total to 13 in his second year. His third NFL season placed him among the league's elite as the All-Star ranked second in the NFL with 16 touchdowns and finished among the leaders with 21 receptions of 20+ yards.

Edwards looks to continue to develop in 2008 and challenge reigning "big play" receiver **CHAD JOHNSON**, who led the league with 27 receptions of 20+ yards last year, tied for the most in a single-season in the past five years (**LARRY FITZGERALD** in 2005 and **RANDY MOSS** in 2003).

Following is a list of the top five "big play" rushers and receivers in 2007:

PLAYER	TEAM	20+ YARD RUSHES
LaDainian Tomlinson	San Diego	13
Willie Parker	Pittsburgh	12
Ryan Grant	Green Bay	11
Adrian Peterson	Minnesota	11
Brian Westbrook	Philadelphia	11

PLAYER	TEAM	20+ YARD RECEPTIONS
Chad Johnson	Cincinnati	27
Reggie Wayne	Indianapolis	25
Terrell Owens	Dallas	22
Braylon Edwards	Cleveland	21
Larry Fitzgerald	Arizona	19
Roddy White	Atlanta	19





## THE INCREDIBLE HOLT



St. Louis Rams wide receiver **TORREY HOLT** (left) has eight consecutive 1,000-yard receiving seasons, tied for the third-longest streak in NFL history. With 1,000 yards in 2008, Holt can tie **TIM BROWN** for the second-longest 1,000-yard season streak in league annals.

"If you look back at his career, the things that he has done have been amazing," says Rams wide receivers coach **HENRY ELLARD** of Holt, who has 805 receptions for 11,864 yards with 71 touchdowns in his career. "Staying healthy all of that time and staying on the field to produce those numbers is amazing to me. He takes a lot of pride in what he does."

As Holt prepares for his 10th NFL season, he will continue to rely on his superlative athleticism, route-running and, most importantly, tireless work ethic and dedication.

"It all starts on the practice field," says Ellard of Holt's consistent excellence. "He works week in and week out to develop his craft. Then he takes what he has done on the practice field and carries it over into games. Torrey's work ethic in practice – getting himself ready against our defensive backs and getting the timing with the quarterback – carries over to game situations. It has become second nature to him."

The top five longest 1,000-yard receiving season streaks in NFL history:

WIDE RECEIVER	YEARS	CONSEC. 1,000-YARD SEASONS
Jerry Rice	1986-1996	11
Tim Brown	1993-2001	9
<b>Torrey Holt</b>	<b>2000-2007</b>	<b>8*</b>
Cris Carter	1993-2000	8
Marvin Harrison	1999-2006	8

\*Active Streak



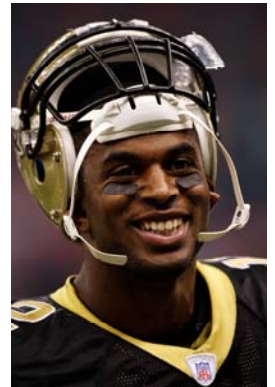
## ON THE MARQUES

Talk about a value pick!

After being selected in the seventh round with the 252nd overall pick in the 2006 NFL Draft, New Orleans Saints wide receiver **MARQUES COLSTON** (right) quickly established himself as one of the premier receivers in the NFL. During his rookie season, he played an integral role in the Saints' resurgence, and also holds the record for receptions in a player's first two years (168).

His large frame (6-4, 230) creates coverage problems for many defenders – a fact that is clearly understood by Saints quarterback **DREW BREES**.

"He's a good matchup on anybody man-to-man just because he's such a big target and he's a guy I feel very confident throwing to," says Brees. "Keep in mind that every cornerback that stands next to Colston is a small cornerback."



Here's a look at the players with the most receptions in their first three years in the league:

PLAYER	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3	TOTAL RECEPTIONS
Anquan Boldin	101	56	102	259
LaDainian Tomlinson	59	79	100	238
Larry Fitzgerald	58	103	69	230
Randy Moss	69	80	77	226
Isaac Bruce	21	119	84	224
<b>Marques Colston</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>168</b>

## THANK DEVIN!



He checks the flags atop the goal posts, surveys the coverage team in front of him and positions himself accordingly. The ball floats through the air, falls into his hands and he's off! Chicago Bears Pro Bowl return specialist **DEVIN HESTER** (left) is on his way to another electric return.

Only two years into his career, Hester is already one of the most exciting and effective returners in the history of the game. With 11 touchdowns in just 152 kick-return attempts, it's no wonder that Bears special teams coordinator **DAVE TOUB** calls it "an event" every time Hester touches the football.

And while the event puts an excited smile on the face of Bears players and their fans, the opposing team trying to tackle him is usually left only with headaches.

"He kind of has a weird, uncanny ability to almost run sideways," says **DAVID TYREE**, special teamer for the Super Bowl champion New York Giants. "When he side-steps a guy, he doesn't lose speed."

What's the secret to success for the man **DEION SANDERS** calls "the most exciting player in the league?"

"I see colors," Hester says. "When we're wearing white jerseys, I look for the darker colors. Where the darker colors are, especially in the red zone, I don't go that way. I kind of just try to read the colors and it helps me out a lot."

The ability to perceive colors quickly, combined with lightning speed and the talent to shake defenders with ease has made the often routine act of changing possession a heart-stopping proposition in the Windy City.

Hester has 11 combined kick-return touchdowns in his two-year career, already the fourth-most in NFL history.

The following is the list of players ahead of him:

PLAYER	KR-TDs	PR-TDs	COMBINED KICK TDs
Brian Mitchell	4	9	13
Eric Metcalf	2	10	12
Dante Hall*	6	6	12
<b>Devin Hester*</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>11</b>

\*Active



## THESE ROOKIES CAN EAT!

At the **NFL ROOKIE SYMPOSIUM** each summer, all draft picks learn about everything from how to deal with their new-found fame, to managing their finances, to continuing their education.

In addition, the rookies take part in panel discussions on topics including "Life As A Rookie" and "Success On & Off The Field."

All of that studying certainly makes a guy hungry! So following are the quantities of food consumed by the rookies from this June 29-July 2 at the LaCosta Conference Center in Carlsbad, California (as overseen by Executive Sous Chef **JULIAN QUINONES**):

### LET'S EAT!

ITEM	AMOUNT
Eggs	500 dozen
Bacon	500 Pounds
Chicken Wings	1,000 Pounds
Potatoes	600 Pounds
Pasta	200 Pounds
Beef	900 Pounds
Vegetables	600 Pounds
Chicken Apple Sausage	200 Pounds

## SMALL SCHOOL SUCCESS

They may not come from big-time schools in major NCAA conferences, but their NFL contributions can not go unnoticed. Productive players from small schools are proof-positive of the old adage. "If you can play, the NFL will find you."

"It doesn't matter what level they start at," says Kansas City Chiefs general manager **CARL PETERSON**. "It's like we say in the NFL, 'It's not where you begin, it's where you end up.'"

Following is a list of some of the most productive and high-profile small-school stars in the NFL today:

PLAYER	COLLEGE	CAREER HIGHLIGHT
DE Jared Allen, MIN	Idaho State	League-leading 15.5 sacks in 2007
TE Kevin Boss, NYG	Western Oregon	Starting TE for NYG in Super Bowl XLII
WR Marques Colston, NO	Hofstra	NFL record 168 receptions in first two seasons
WR Donald Driver, GB	Alcorn State	Three-time All-Star; 503 career receptions
QB Joe Flacco, BAL	Delaware	First-round pick in 2008 NFL Draft
CB Drayton Florence, JAX	Tuskegee	Ten interceptions in 43 career starts
QB Jeff Garcia, TB	San Jose State	Four-time All-Star; 22,825 career passing yards
CB Al Harris, GB	Texas A&M-Kingsville	Named to 2008 Pro Bowl
QB Tarvaris Jackson, MIN	Alabama State	Started 12 games for MIN in 2007; Second-round pick in 2006
WR Vincent Jackson, SD	Northern Colorado	NFL-leading 300 receiving yards in 2007 playoffs
CB Rashean Mathis, JAX	Bethune-Cookman	Named to 2007 Pro Bowl
CB Terrence McGee, BUF	Northwestern State (LA)	Named to 2005 Pro Bowl
P Brian Moorman, BUF	Pittsburg (KS)	Named to 2007 Pro Bowl
WR Terrell Owens, DAL	Tennessee-Chattanooga	Six-time All-Star; 13,070 career receiving yards
CB Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie, ARZ	Tennessee State	First-round pick in 2008 NFL Draft
QB Tony Romo, DAL	Eastern Illinois	Two-time All-Star; 36 TD passes in 2007
S Darren Sharper, MIN	William & Mary	Four-time All-Star; 53 career interceptions
DE Paul Spicer, JAX	Saginaw Valley	Entering 10th NFL season; 7.5 sacks in 2007
CB Charles Tillman, CHI	Louisiana-Lafayette	Has started 64 games in five NFL seasons; 17 career interceptions
K Adam Vinatieri, IND	South Dakota State	Two-time All-Star; Four Super Bowl victories
RB Derrick Ward, NYG	Ottawa (KS)	602 rushing yards in 2007 for Super Bowl XLII champion Giants
RB Brian Westbrook, PHI	Villanova	Two-time All-Star; NFL-high 2,104 yards from scrimmage in 2007

## FROM DAY JOB TO NFL



Not every NFL player had the fortune of being drafted right after college to play professional football. Many players held jobs ranging from a hot-dog vendor at Fenway Park to a financial consultant at a Minnesota-based Wealth Enhancement Group.

High-tech gadgets and electronics must be appealing to NFL players because several of them have held positions with Best Buy. Tennessee Titans kicker **ROB BIRONAS** (left) and Tampa Bay Buccaneers defensive end **GREG WHITE** were once security guards for the electronics store. Chicago Bears wide receiver **RASHIED DAVIS** was also a Best Buy employee.

Here's a rundown of jobs previously held by NFL players:

PLAYER	TEAM	JOB TITLE
K David Akers	Philadelphia Eagles	Steakhouse waiter / Substitute teacher
K Rob Bironas	Tennessee Titans	Best Buy security guard
K Matt Bryant	Tampa Bay Buccaneers	Pawn shop employee / Personal trainer
WR Rashied Davis	Chicago Bears	Best Buy employee
DE Demetric Evans	Washington Redskins	Infinity dealership intern
K Jay Feely	Miami Dolphins	Financial consultant
T Breno Giacomini	Green Bay Packers	Hot dog vendor at Fenway Park
K Robbie Gould	Chicago Bears	Construction worker
RB Fred Jackson	Buffalo Bills	Youth counselor / Day care worker
P Dirk Johnson	Arizona Cardinals	Bartender / Caddie / Valet driver
S Kevin Kaesviharn	New Orleans Saints	Substitute teacher
LB Paris Lenon	Detroit Lions	Postal worker
DT Anthony Maddox	Houston Texans	Delivered furniture
G Brandon Moore	New York Jets	Substitute teacher

Continued...

## Day Jobs, continued.

LS Don Muhlbach	Detroit Lions	Bank employee
WR David Patten	New Orleans Saints	Landscape worker / Electrician
G Chester Pitts	Houston Texans	Grocery bagger
QB Chris Redman	Atlanta Falcons	Insurance salesman
K Jeff Reed	Pittsburgh Steelers	Farm worker
C Jeff Saturday	Indianapolis Colts	Electronic store employee
DE Dave Tollefson	New York Giants	House painter
DE Greg White	Tampa Bay Buccaneers	Best Buy security guard
T Mark Wilson	Minnesota Vikings	Worker at California garlic fields
G Tony Wragge	San Francisco 49ers	Home Depot employee

## NFL NICKNAMES

The New York Giants have their quarterback “E,” while the Minnesota Vikings have “All Day.”

Giants quarterback **ELI MANNING**, the MVP of Super Bowl XLII, goes by the nickname “E” for his easy-going personality. Vikings running back **ADRIAN PETERSON**, the 2007 AP Offensive Rookie of the Year and the Pro Bowl MVP, earned the nickname “All Day” as a child because he had enough energy to run and play all day.

Those are just a few of the many nicknames that NFL players have been given.

Here are some other interesting NFL nicknames:

PLAYER, TEAM	NICKNAME	DERIVATION
Roderick Cartwright, Was.	“ <b>Rock</b> ”	His grandmother called him “Rock Baby” when he was younger.
DeMarcus Faggins, Hou.	“ <b>Petey</b> ”	Grandmother called him this after the dog in “Little Rascals” because he had circles around his eyes as a child.
Malcolm Floyd, SD	“ <b>M-80</b> ”	Floyd wears the number 80 and is explosive like a firecracker.
Letroy Guion, Min.	“ <b>Baloo</b> ”	Given by his college coaches because he reminded them of the bear Baloo in “The Jungle Book.”
John Henderson, Jax.	“ <b>Big Hen</b> ”	Because of his 6-7, 355-pound body.
Devin Hester, Chi.	“ <b>Any Time</b> ”	A tribute and play on the nickname of his friend Deion “Prime Time” Sanders.
Maurice Jones-Drew, Jax.	“ <b>Pinball</b> ”	Because of the way defenders bounce off of him.
Jevon Kearse, Ten.	“ <b>The Freak</b> ”	Due to his freakish athletic skill.
Eli Manning, NYG	“ <b>E</b> ”	“E” as in “easy” for his calm demeanor.
Laurence Maroney, NE	“ <b>Kool Aid</b> ”	When he was a child, he once tried to put out a grass fire with a pitcher of Kool Aid.
Terrence McGee, Buf.	“ <b>Game Day</b> ”	Because he’s always ready to play on game day.
Mike Patterson, Phi.	“ <b>The Grizzle</b> ”	Teammate Broderick Bunkley coined the phrase because Patterson reminds him of a grizzly bear.
Adrian Peterson, Min.	“ <b>All Day</b> ”	He had so much energy as a child that he could run and play all day.
Ryan Pickett, GB	“ <b>Big Grease</b> ”	Because his favorite foods are greasy.
Shaun Rogers, Cle.	“ <b>Big Baby</b> ”	Literally. When he was born, he weighed 10 pounds.
David Stewart, Ten.	“ <b>Big Country</b> ”	He’s a big man from a small town.
Charles Tillman, Chi.	“ <b>Peanut</b> ”	Name was given to him by his family when he was a baby.
Clevon Williams, NE	“ <b>Tank</b> ”	When he was little, he used to drink so much milk that his older brother joked that he was like a milk tank.



**Rock Cartwright**



## THEY DON'T GET THE RECOGNITION!

There are many talented players around the league on both sides of the ball, but so many of them do not receive the credit that they deserve.

Three Green Bay Packers, cornerback **AL HARRIS** and running backs **RYAN GRANT** and **VERNAND MORENCY**, all named Jacksonville Jaguars running back **FRED TAYLOR** as the most undervalued player in the NFL. Indianapolis Colts running back **JOSEPH ADDAI** and Miami Dolphins running back **RONNIE BROWN** also believe that the Jaguars' running back is often overlooked.

The following players have been selected by either their teammates or their opponents as one of the most underrated players in the league:

PLAYER	PLAYER WHO DESERVES MORE CREDIT
Joseph Addai, Ind.	"Jaguars running back <b>FRED TAYLOR</b> . He's been to just one Pro Bowl in his career and the guy is a great back. He can carry the load and I watched him before he came into the league."
Antoine Bethea, Ind.	" <b>GARY BRACKETT</b> , because just look at the overall guy. He is undersized and plays with a big heart. He has dealt with the deaths in his family and still comes to work everyday with a hard hat. You gotta love that attitude. He's a leader."
Ronnie Brown, Mia.	" <b>FRED TAYLOR</b> , because of what he's accomplished as a running back. It's hard to achieve some of the things that he has. He has over 10,000 rushing yards!"
Trent Edwards, Buf.	" <b>MELVIN FOWLER</b> . The offensive line never gets enough credit and Melvin is at the top of that list."
Larry Fitzgerald, Ari.	"The one player who deserves more credit is <b>LA DAINIAN TOMLINSON</b> . He is so durable and is the same player year in and year out."
Ben Grubbs, Bal.	"The Bengals' <b>ROBERT GEATHERS</b> is a great player. You don't hear much about him, but I think he's one of the best pass rushers I've played against. Definitely underrated."
Al Harris, GB	"There are a lot of good backs in the AFC, but <b>FRED TAYLOR</b> should be a Pro Bowler every year. He has rushed for 10,000 yards – what else can you say?"
Brad Keisel, Pitt.	"KR/PR <b>JOSHUA CRIBBS</b> of Cleveland deserves more credit because he is a beast of a return man."
Marlon McCree, Den.	"Jacksonville's <b>DAVID GARRARD</b> , because he's a leader and really took that team to another level. He took that team to the playoffs."
Carson Palmer, Cin.	" <b>BRIAN WESTBROOK</b> . He's one of the top backs in the league, a great receiver as well as a great runner, but you rarely hear him mentioned when people talk about the top handful. I think he definitely deserves to be in that group."
Darrell Reid, Ind.	" <b>ROBERT MATHIS</b> , because he never goes half way on the field. He's an undersized defensive lineman that plays big and he is a bigger force against the run than most think."
Robert Royal, Buf.	" <b>ANGELO CROWELL</b> . He has had good numbers the past few seasons. He is always among the leaders in the league among linebackers."
Chris Samuels, Was.	" <b>TRENT COLE</b> in Philadelphia. He makes the Pro Bowl now. But I always thought he was a hard-working guy up there in Philly."
Paul Spicer, Jax.	"Teammate <b>ROB MEIER</b> . He's been one of the top defensive tackles in the league. He's been a force since he's been here, but he's been overshadowed with Marcus Stroud and John Henderson being here. Every time he's in the game, he's definitely making plays. Rob's been consistent every season. I understand his personality is the reason why, but I'm hoping he will get a little bit more publicity this year."
Justin Tuck, NY Giants	" <b>ANTONIO PIERCE</b> , because he is one of the most valuable players on this defense, the defense that won the Super Bowl, and I think he doesn't get as much credit as he should. He is a very versatile player, a very smart player, and he does a lot of things on the field to get us in the right alignments and the right assignments too. I think without him we would kind of be like chickens with our heads cut off."
Madieu Williams, Min.	" <b>TJ HOUSHMANDZADEH</b> , because he's as good as any receiver in the league, but is always overshadowed by Chad Johnson."



**Fred Taylor**



## NFL SUPERSTITIONS



NFL players often strive for consistency on the field. Many also have certain rituals that they practice before each game. While some reject superstition and others do something different each time to avoid it, those who ascribe to superstitions believe they are their keys to victory.

Tampa Bay Buccaneers quarterback **JEFF GARCIA** (left) has played football for five different NFL teams, moving across the country. No matter what team colors he wears or what city he is playing in, Garcia calls home every week.

"I always talk to my father before a game," Garcia says about his father, Bob Garcia, former athletic director and football coach at Gavilan College in Gilroy, CA. Jeff was his ball boy and his quarterback in 1989. While they no longer stand together on the sidelines, Jeff always checks in with dad before he takes the field.

Here are some unique NFL superstitions:

PLAYER, TEAM	SUPERSTITION
RB Ronnie Brown, Miami	Practices the same routine on game days: puts on the same type of outfit, runs around, takes a shower, stretches out, takes another shower, loosens up and listens to music.
QB Marc Bulger, St. Louis	Does not do anything, including shake hands, with his right hand before the game.
WR Plaxico Burress, NY Giants	Eats grilled salmon and white rice every Saturday night before a game.
DE Kevin Carter, Tampa Bay	Listens to "One" by Metallica before every game.
K Mason Crosby, Green Bay	Hits at least 60 golf balls at a driving range two days before every game.
LB Channing Crowder, Miami	Through every practice and every game since college, wears a blue Gatorade rubber band around his right wrist. He has a big bag of them at his house, and when one breaks, he puts a new one on.
DE Elvis Dumervil, Denver	Before every game, he wakes up the same way, eats the same meal, puts his shoes and socks on the same way, and listens to the same songs on his iPod.
QB Trent Edwards, Buffalo	Drives by the same parking attendant at every home game.
QB Jeff Garcia, Tampa Bay	Talks to his father before every game.
CB Corey Graham, Chicago	Takes a hot bath and wears the same shoes before each game.
LS Matt Katula & K Matt Stover, Baltimore	Set up the kicking net on the defense's end of the sideline always on the edge by the benches. Before Stover kicks a field goal, they always practice two snaps only. Never less, never more.
QB Peyton Manning, Indianapolis	Reads the game program cover to cover before every game.
LB Willie McGinest, Cleveland	Takes a new pair of socks right out of the bag before he takes the field.
DT Darrell Reid, Indianapolis	Gets taped in the same exact way before every game.
DT Dewayne Robertson, Denver	Stays on the same side of the pole when he walks down the street.
S Darren Sharper, Minnesota	Never touches his hands before a game.
S Anthony Smith, Pittsburgh	Must have his uniform fitting perfectly so that he looks good to play good.
DT Matt Toeaina, Chicago	Does something different before each game to counteract superstition.
S Madiou Williams, Minnesota	Showers before each game.
RB Garrett Wolfe, Chicago	Talks to his mother the day before or day of every game.



## ON THE ROAD AGAIN

There's nothing like playing in front of your home crowd, but players also enjoy road games. Whether it's because of the fans, going back to one's hometown, the weather conditions or atmosphere, a road contest might not always seem so daunting.

Remember, last year, the Super Bowl XLII champion New York Giants set an NFL single-season record by winning 10 consecutive road games, including the playoffs.

Here's a list of some players' favorite road stadiums:

PLAYER	FAVORITE AWAY STADIUM/REASON
<b>JOSEPH ADDAI</b> , Indianapolis	"Jacksonville, because hearing the band play there is just like being back in college, and the Jaguars always play us tough."
<b>KEVIN CARTER</b> , Tampa Bay	"Arrowhead Stadium, because it is big and intimidating, almost overwhelming, plus the fans are crazy."
<b>ROCK CARTWRIGHT</b> , Washington	"Tampa Bay's my favorite. That's because of the playing surface. I really like it."
<b>CHANNING CROWDER</b> , Miami	"Chiefs fans really get cranked up. Then they do the 'Land of the free and home of the CHIEFS' with the national anthem. The whole stadium says 'Chiefs.' That's pretty cool."
<b>BRAYLON EDWARDS</b> , Cleveland	"Pittsburgh. I love the heckling from the fans and I know how important it would be for the city of Cleveland to finally get a win against Pittsburgh."
<b>LARRY FITZGERALD</b> , Arizona	"I enjoy playing in Seattle. It's very loud in there, probably the loudest in the NFL and it makes you focus on the snap count and the other details because the environment is so challenging."
<b>BEN GRUBBS</b> , Baltimore	"I enjoy playing in Miami, because I love it down south. How could you not like going to Miami and being in that weather, especially late in the season in December?"
<b>HEATH MILLER</b> , Pittsburgh	"Carolina. They have a great playing surface with top grass."
<b>CARSON PALMER</b> , Cincinnati	"Cleveland. Not sure why, but I love the orange seats. I just think it's a beautiful stadium, right there on the water, and it's a great football atmosphere with great fans."
<b>ROBERT ROYAL</b> , Buffalo	"Washington, because I used to play there and there are 90,000 fans, who know you so you hear the negative and positive."
<b>JEFF SATURDAY</b> , Indianapolis	"INVESCO Field at Mile High, because you never know what types of elements you get there. It could be hot, it could be cold and there could be a half a foot of snow in the area. We've had some great close games there."
<b>JUSTIN TUCK</b> , New York Giants	"Philadelphia, because their fans absolutely hate everybody that moves in an opponent's jersey. I kind of like being hated."
<b>BRIAN WILLIAMS</b> , Jacksonville	"Lambeau Field in Green Bay. The history and the atmosphere. Their fans are real crazy."
<b>MADIEU WILLIAMS</b> , Minnesota	"FedExField, because growing up, I was literally ten or fifteen minutes away, so I used to go there and watch games as a kid."

## FUEL FOR THE GAME

For Jacksonville Jaguars linebacker **MIKE PETERSON**, only one type of food will do before game time.

"I have to have some type of chicken, for home and away games," Peterson explains. "It can be chicken salad, chicken subs, grilled chicken, just some kind of chicken."

But not every player shares Peterson's preference. In fact, for some, eating before taking the field is a red light.

"I really don't eat too much before the game," says Baltimore Ravens tight end **TODD HEAP**. "I think because of the excitement and the nerves, it unsettles my stomach."

Here's a sampling of what some NFL players eat before games:

PLAYER	FAVORITE MEAL
<b>JOSEPH ADDAI</b> , Indianapolis	Lasagna and chicken
<b>RONNIE BROWN</b> , Miami	Pasta
<b>CHANNING CROWDER</b> , Miami	Dry spaghetti and chicken breast
<b>BEN GRUBBS</b> , Baltimore	Baked chicken and baked potato
<b>DEXTER JACKSON</b> , Cincinnati	Eggs, grits and toast
<b>RYAN LONGWELL</b> , Minnesota	Oatmeal and chicken breast
<b>KAREEM MC KENZIE</b> , New York Giants	Chicken, pasta and a couple of eggs
<b>MIKE PETERSON</b> , Jacksonville	Chicken
<b>DARREN SHARPER</b> , Minnesota	Steak with pasta
<b>ADAM VINATIERI</b> , Indianapolis	French toast, oatmeal and fruit
<b>BRIAN URLACHER</b> , Chicago	Chocolate chip cookies

## LAUGHING OUT LOUD

As Washington Redskins cornerback **FRED SMOOT** walked past the team's weight room, his teammates did a double take. It was the middle of the offseason but Smoot was decked out in his game-day attire, complete with his helmet, pads, pants and jersey. Teammates laughed and asked why he was "all dressed up."

"I just want to be ready in case a game breaks out," Smoot retorted, as his teammates howled with laughter.

Smoot was actually doing a photo shoot that day, but his charisma and wit make him one of those guys that can always be counted on to force even the most serious player to crack a smile.

Every team has one of those jokesters. And some can make teammates laugh just by virtue of their appearance, as Baltimore Ravens tight end **TODD HEAP** knows.

"**KELLY GREGG** looks like SpongeBob Square Pants, and anything that comes out of SpongeBob's mouth is funny," Heap says.

Maybe these players have potential as stand-up comedians after their playing days are over:

PLAYER	FUNNIEST PLAYER ON HIS TEAM
Ronnie Brown, Miami	" <b>CHANNING CROWDER</b> — It's just his personality. He's a fun person to be around, but at the same time whatever he feels like saying I think he's going to pretty much say it."
Channing Crowder, Miami	" <b>JOEY PORTER</b> is a situational guy. In situations where you're out to eat or just hanging out, the stuff he'll do and say is just off the wall."
Trent Edwards, Buffalo	" <b>ROBERT ROYAL</b> because he is very creative and he has good delivery."
Todd Heap, Baltimore	" <b>KELLY GREGG</b> looks like SpongeBob Square Pants, and anything that comes out of SpongeBob's mouth is funny"
Sam Koch, Baltimore	" <b>MATT KATULA</b> is a riot. Coach [Jerry] Rosburg calls him the 'town clown.'"
Ryan Longwell, Minnesota	" <b>PAT WILLIAMS</b> is always in everyone's conversations whether you want him there or not. <b>CHRIS KLUWE</b> is probably too smart for his own good and can be funny because of that. Then there's <b>CHAD GREENWAY</b> , who's just kind of a flat-line, dead-pan funny guy."
Kareem Mc Kenzie, NY Giants	"The funniest player on the team would have to be <b>RICH SEUBERT</b> because he is a comedian and when he gets upset it is funny. The things he gets upset about just make you laugh."
Mike Peterson, Jacksonville	" <b>PAUL SPICER</b> — he will say anything at any time. It doesn't matter if it's the wrong time."
Darrell Reid, Indianapolis	"It's linebacker <b>GARY BRACKETT</b> because he is known for his stories both fiction and non-fiction. Gary can paint pictures with his stories very well."
Aaron Rodgers, Green Bay	" <b>MARK TAUSCHER</b> is the funniest — from just the way he looks to everything he says."
Robert Royal, Buffalo	"Myself, by far. I am the funniest and best looking."
Justin Tuck, NY Giants	"I would say <b>BARRY COFIELD</b> because he is very witty. He is a Northwestern grad so not only is he funny, he is the type of funny that 10 seconds after he said it you are thinking, 'Oh.' You catch it 10 seconds later."



Trent Edwards and Robert Royal



Kelly Gregg



## NFL PLAYERS SCORE BIG IN THE COMMUNITY

This offseason, NFL players weren't only busy getting ready for the season, they were busy in the community, wherever that may have taken them.

Just a small sampling of how many players got involved and gave back this spring and summer:

- Atlanta Falcons defensive end **JAMAAL ANDERSON** reached out to the Atlanta Area School for the Deaf in Clarkston, Georgia. Anderson's father was deaf and Jamaal is working to start a sports camp for deaf children that may open as soon as next summer. "There are always bumps in the road to where you want to get to, and unfortunately these kids are stuck with one they can't get rid of," says Anderson. "I told them not to let that hinder what they are trying to do."
- New York Jets defensive end **KENYON COLEMAN** went on a mission trip to Africa to help two of the world's poorest countries -- Burundi and Uganda.

"Our message is to help young people discover their purpose, to give them the tools to think broader of themselves and not to allow your environment to dictate to you who you are or your potential and your future," says Coleman.

- Defensive ends **JARED DE VRIES** of the Detroit Lions and **AARON KAMPMAN** of the Green Bay Packers and centers **BRAD MEESTER** of the Jacksonville Jaguars and **CASEY WIEGMANN** of the Denver Broncos volunteered to help out their hometown in the wake of the devastating tornado in Parkersburg, Iowa this spring. The Minnesota Vikings' **CHAD GREENWAY** and Indianapolis Colts' **DALLAS CLARK** -- both from Iowa -- pitched in on the effort also.
- New York Jets guard **ALAN FANECA**, who has epilepsy, was an honorary emcee at the National Walk for Epilepsy in Washington, D.C.  
  
"Alan has become a wonderful role model and spokesperson for our cause," says former National Epilepsy Foundation Chairman **TONY COELHO**. "As a result of his openness, he has impacted others."
- NFL players **AHMAN GREEN** (Texans), **ISRAEL IDONIJE** (Bears), **ADEWALE OGUNLEYE** (Bears), **AMOBİ OKOYE** (Texans) and **OSI UMENYIORA** (Giants) traveled to Nigeria for a charity mission to set up college scholarships at 10 universities, distribute HIV testing kits to clinics, dig water wells in numerous villages, and outfit a youth soccer team (see page 31).
- Twelve-year NFL veteran and Detroit Lions quarterback **JON KITNA** received the 2007-08 Boys & Girls Clubs of Southeastern Michigan's Outstanding Volunteer Award.
- Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback **BEN ROETHLISBERGER** donated \$10,000 in grants to purchase new dogs and protective equipment for local police departments.  
  
"This is a good way to support the police and fire departments, which deserve all the appropriate resources needed to protect our cities and neighborhoods, and allow these brave men and women to arrive home safely," says Roethlisberger.
- The Tampa Bay Buccaneers hosted Chris Gonzales, a 15-year old leukemia patient, at the team's facilities with a private tour, a goody bag filled with Buccaneers memorabilia, and lunch with the players.  
  
"It feels like I don't even have this," Gonzales said of his illness after the excitement of the day.
- Six Tennessee Titans players -- **CASEY CRAMER**, **VINCENT FULLER**, **REYNALDO HILL**, **CHRIS HOPE**, **CALVIN LOWERY** and **DAVID THORNTON** -- spent an entire day at the Fort Campbell (Ky.) Army base meeting, greeting and thanking the soldiers.



**Jamaal Anderson with students from Atlanta Area School for the Deaf.**

## ACTIVE STATISTICAL LEADERS

### TOP 10 ACTIVE PASSERS

(1,000 or more attempts)

	<u>Yrs.</u>	<u>Att.</u>	<u>Comp.</u>	<u>Pct. Comp.</u>	<u>Yards</u>	<u>TD</u>	<u>INT</u>	<u>Rating</u>
Peyton Manning, Ind.	10	5,405	3,468	64.2	41,626	306	153	94.7
Kurt Warner, Ari.	10	2,959	1,926	65.1	24,008	152	100	93.2
Tom Brady, N.E.	8	3,642	2,294	63.0	26,370	197	86	92.9
Ben Roethlisberger, Pit.	4	1,436	908	63.2	11,673	84	54	92.5
Carson Palmer, Cin.	4	2,036	1,305	64.1	14,899	104	63	90.1
Chad Pennington, NYJ	8	1,919	1,259	65.6	13,738	82	55	88.9
Marc Bulger, St.L.	6	2,484	1,578	63.5	18,625	106	74	88.1
Drew Brees, N.O.	7	3,015	1,921	63.7	21,189	134	82	87.9
Jeff Garcia, T.B.	9	3,300	2,020	61.2	22,825	149	77	87.2
Trent Green, St.L.	11	3,668	2,228	60.7	27,950	162	108	86.9

### TOP 10 ACTIVE RUSHERS

	<u>Yrs.</u>	<u>Att.</u>	<u>Yards</u>	<u>TD</u>
Edgerrin James, Ari.	9	2,849	11,607	77
Fred Taylor, Jac.	10	2,285	10,715	61
LaDainian Tomlinson, S.D.	7	2,365	10,650	115
Warrick Dunn, T.B.	11	2,483	10,181	47
Jamal Lewis, Cle.	7	2,120	9,105	54
Ahman Green, Hou.	10	1,941	8,751	56
Clinton Portis, Was.	6	1,710	7,715	63
Ricky Williams, Mia.	7	1,763	7,112	47
Thomas Jones, NYJ	8	1,659	6,503	35
Rudi Johnson, Cin.	7	1,441	5,742	48

### TOP 10 ACTIVE PASS RECEIVERS

	<u>Yrs.</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Yards</u>	<u>TD</u>
Marvin Harrison, Ind.	12	1,042	13,944	123
Isaac Bruce, S.F.	14	942	14,109	84
Terrell Owens, Dal.	12	882	13,070	129
Tony Gonzalez, K.C.	11	820	9,882	66
Torry Holt, St.L.	9	805	11,864	71
Randy Moss, N.E.	10	774	12,193	124
Muhsin Muhammad, Car.	12	742	9,934	56
Hines Ward, Pit.	10	719	8,737	65
Derrick Mason, Bal.	11	710	9,024	47
Joey Galloway, TB	13	669	10,572	77

### TOP 10 ACTIVE SCORERS

	<u>Yrs.</u>	<u>TD</u>	<u>FG</u>	<u>PAT</u>	<u>TP</u>
Matt Stover, Bal.	17	0	435	517	1,822
Jason Elam, Atl.	15	0	395	601	1,786
Jason Hanson, Det.	16	0	385	504	1,659
John Kasay, Car.	17	0	358	430	1,504
Adam Vinatieri, Ind.	12	0	311	454(1)	1,389
Ryan Longwell, Min.	11	0	267	442	1,243
Olindo Mare, Sea.	11	0	255	347	1,112
David Akers, Phi.	10	0	197	308	899
Kris Brown, Hou.	10	0	202	267	873
Sebastian Janikowski, Oak.	9	0	179	271	808

### TOP 10 ACTIVE INTERCEPTORS

	<u>Yrs.</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Yards</u>	<u>TD</u>
Darren Sharper, Min.	11	53	1,024	8
Champ Bailey, Den.	9	42	428	4
Sammy Knight, NYG	11	42	664	4
Aaron Glenn, N.O.	14	41	560	6
Dre' Bly, Den.	9	38	581	5
Sam Madison, NYG	11	37	574	2
Patrick Surtain, K.C.	10	36	380	2
Ed Reed, Bal.	6	34	880	3
Ronde Barber, T.B.	11	33	584	6
Brian Dawkins, Phi.	13	33	490	2

(Number in parenthesis represents two-point conversions scored)

### TOP 10 ACTIVE SACKERS

	<u>Yrs.</u>	<u>No.</u>
Jason Taylor, Was.	11	117.0
Kevin Carter, T.B.	13	100.5
Willie McGinest, Cle.	14	85.0
La'Roi Glover, St.L.	12	83.0
Trevor Pryce, Bal.	11	79.0
Leonard Little, St.L.	10	75.0
Kabeer Gbaja-Biamila, G.B.	8	74.0
Patrick Kerney, Sea.	9	72.5
Jevon Kearse, Ten.	9	69.5
Greg Ellis, Dal.	10	69.0

### TOP 10 ACTIVE PUNTERS

	<u>Yrs.</u>	<u>Punts</u>	<u>Avg.</u>	<u>Lg.</u>
Shane Lechler, Oak.	8	592	46.5	73
Mat McBriar, Dal.	4	275	44.7	75
Jon Ryan, G.B.	2	144	44.5	72
Donnie Jones, St.L.	4	277	43.8	80
Mike Scifres, S.D.	5	290	43.8	71
Andy Lee, S.F.	4	389	43.8	81
Steven Weatherford, N.O.	2	140	43.8	61
Ben Graham, NYJ	3	212	43.7	69
Chris Kluwe, Min.	3	245	43.6	70
Dustin Colquitt, K.C.	3	231	43.4	81

### TOP 5 ACTIVE KICKOFF RETURNERS

	<u>Yrs.</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Yards</u>	<u>Avg.</u>	<u>TD</u>
Jerome Mathis, Was.	3	72	2,054	28.5	3
Ellis Hobbs, N.E.	3	60	1,632	27.2	2
Justin Miller, NYJ	3	108	2,929	27.1	3
Maurice Jones-Drew, Jac.	2	62	1,671	27.0	2
Josh Cribbs, Cle.	3	165	4,397	26.6	4

### TOP 5 ACTIVE PUNT RETURNERS

	<u>Yrs.</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Yards</u>	<u>Avg.</u>	<u>TD</u>
Devin Hester, Chi.	2	89	1,251	14.1	7
Roscoe Parrish, Buf.	3	73	990	13.6	2
Santana Moss, Was.	7	95	1,092	11.5	2
Adam Jones, Dal.	2	63	712	11.3	4
B.J. Sams, K.C.	4	121	1,320	10.9	2

# THE COACHES

## WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN 2008

**MIKE HOLMGREN**, Seattle, needs 14 victories to pass Joe Gibbs (171) and Bill Parcells (183) for tenth place all-time in career victories. In 16 seasons, Holmgren has 170 career victories.

**MIKE SHANAHAN**, Denver, needs four victories to reach 150 total victories. In 15 seasons, Shanahan has 146 career victories.

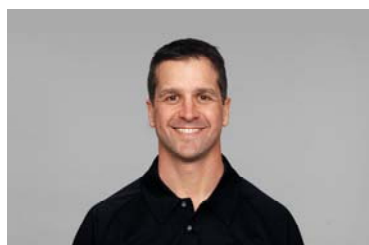
**BILL BELICHICK**, New England, needs eight victories to reach 150 total victories. In 13 seasons, Belichick has 142 career victories.

**ANDY REID**, Philadelphia, needs four victories to reach 100 total victories. In nine seasons, Reid has 96 career victories.

**JON GRUDEN**, Tampa Bay, needs nine victories to reach 100 total victories. In 10 seasons, Gruden has 91 career victories.



## 2008 NEW COACHES QUESTIONNAIRES



### JOHN HARBAUGH – BALTIMORE RAVENS

**HOBBY:** Landscaping... **LAST BOOK READ:** "Luckiest Man: The Life and Death of Lou Gehrig"

by Johathan Eig... **COLLEGE MAJOR:** Political Science... **SUPERSTITIONS/RITUALS**

**BEFORE GAMES:** None... **FAVORITE FOOD:** Spaghetti with meat sauce... **FAVORITE**

**VACATION SPOT:** East Tawas, Michigan... **BEST FOOTBALL NICKNAME:** "Full Throttle"

(Jason Short)... **FAVORITE COLLEGE TOWN:** Ann Arbor, Michigan... **WHAT NFL TEAM DID**

**YOU FOLLOW AS A CHILD:** Cleveland Browns... **FAVORITE ATHLETE AS A CHILD:** Muhammad Ali... **FAVORITE STADIUM**

**OTHER THAN YOUR OWN AND WHY:** Lincoln Financial Field because of the many games the Eagles won while I coached

there... **PERSON YOU'D MOST LIKE TO MEET:** Abraham Lincoln... **PERSON WHO INFLUENCED YOU THE MOST:** My dad...

**BEST ADVICE EVER RECEIVED:** "Don't buy green bananas" (His grandfather told him you'll never know if you'll be around when they ripen)... **PLAYER (FORMER OR CURRENT) WHO'D MAKE A GREAT HEAD COACH:** Brian Mitchell (retired)...

**GREATEST OVERACHIEVER YOU'VE EVER COACHED:** J.R. Reed... **BEST PURE ATHLETE YOU'VE EVER COACHED:**

Brian Westbrook... **FUNNIEST PLAYER YOU'VE EVER COACHED:** Donovan McNabb... **MOST INSPIRATIONAL PLAYER**

**YOU'VE EVER COACHED:** Mike Caldwell... **TOUGHEST PLAYER YOU'VE EVER COACHED:** Ike Reese... **TOUGHEST**

**COACH YOU'VE EVER FACED:** Bill Belichick... **GREATEST TEAM YOU'VE EVER COMPETED AGAINST:** Detroit Central

Catholic High School in 1979... **TOUGHEST GAME YOU'VE EVER COMPETED IN, AS A COACH OR PLAYER:** Eagles vs. Pittsburgh in 2000 (Eagles recover onside kick and make field goal to send game into overtime. Eagles win with a field goal)...

**LOUDEST CROWD OF YOUR FOOTBALL CAREER:** The 2001 NFC Championship Game in St. Louis... **MOST MEMORABLE**

**FOOTBALL MOMENT:** 2004 Super Bowl run with the Eagles... **MOST KNOWLEDGEABLE FOOTBALL WRITER YOU'VE**

**EVER MET:** Rick Gosselin of the *Dallas Morning News*... **MOST OVERRATED ASPECT OF FOOTBALL:** The pregame pep

talk... **MOST UNDERRATED ASPECT OF FOOTBALL:** The trip home after a win... **MOST EMBARRASSING FOOTBALL**

**MOMENT:** Before a game at Green Bay in 2000, the other coaches gave us grief because quarterbacks coach Brad Childress

and I were putting WarmSkin, a cream that helps protect against the cold, on each other's backs... **TRENDS DEVELOPING IN THE NFL IN 2008:** More special teams coaches will become head coaches... **ONE THING THAT SHOULD NEVER CHANGE ABOUT PRO FOOTBALL:** Blocking and tackling... **IF YOU WEREN'T COACHING, WHAT YOU WOULD BE DOING:** In politics.



**MIKE SMITH – ATLANTA FALCONS**

**HOBBIES:** Fly-fishing, golf... **LAST BOOK READ:** "Coach Wooden One on One" by John Wooden and Jay Cathy... **COLLEGE MAJOR:** Business Management...

**SUPERSTITIONS/RITUALS BEFORE GAMES:** If on a road winning streak, will wear the same suit when traveling... **FAVORITE FOOD:** Eggplant parmesan... **FAVORITE VACATION SPOT:**

Mountains of East Tennessee/West Carolina... **FAVORITE COLLEGE TOWN:** Knoxville,

Tennessee... **WHAT NFL TEAM DID YOU FOLLOW AS A CHILD:** Baltimore Colts... **FAVORITE ATHLETE AS A CHILD:**

Johnny Unitas... **FAVORITE STADIUM OTHER THAN YOUR OWN AND WHY:** Reliant Stadium in Houston because there is a great view from the press box... **PERSON WHO INFLUENCED YOU THE MOST:** My father... **BEST ADVICE EVER RECEIVED:**

"Always be yourself. Don't try to be somebody you aren't"... **PLAYER (FORMER OR CURRENT) WHO'D MAKE A GREAT**

**HEAD COACH:** Paul Spicer (Jacksonville)... **GREATEST OVERACHIEVER YOU'VE EVER COACHED:** Kelly Gregg... **BEST**

**PURE ATHLETE YOU'VE EVER COACHED:** Rashean Mathis... **FUNNIEST PLAYER YOU'VE EVER COACHED:** Michael

McCrary... **MOST INSPIRATIONAL PLAYER YOU'VE EVER COACHED:** Ray Lewis... **TOUGHEST PLAYER YOU'VE EVER**

**COACHED:** Tony Siragusa... **TOUGHEST COACH YOU'VE EVER FACED:** Bill Cowher... **TOUGHEST GAME YOU'VE EVER**

**COMPETED IN, AS A COACH OR PLAYER:** 2000 AFC Championship Game (Baltimore vs. Oakland)... **LOUDEST CROWD OF**

**YOUR FOOTBALL CAREER:** Indianapolis... **MOST MEMORABLE FOOTBALL MOMENT:** Being part of a Super Bowl team in

2000... **MOST KNOWLEDGEABLE FOOTBALL WRITER YOU'VE EVER MET:** Rick Gosselin of the *Dallas Morning News*...

**MOST OVERRATED ASPECT OF FOOTBALL:** Third-down efficiency – Good teams earn first downs on first or second down...

**MOST UNDERRATED ASPECT OF FOOTBALL:** The importance of special teams... **MOST EMBARRASSING FOOTBALL**

**MOMENT:** Pulling a calf muscle on the sideline in the second quarter of a playoff game vs. Pittsburgh in 2001. I had to limp around the entire second half... **TRENDS DEVELOPING IN THE NFL IN 2008:** More teams running the no-huddle offense... **IF YOU WEREN'T COACHING, WHAT YOU WOULD BE DOING:** Teaching in junior high.



**TONY SPARANO – MIAMI DOLPHINS**

**HOBBIES:** Running, golf... **LAST BOOK READ:** "The Best Game Ever" by Mark Bowden...

**COLLEGE MAJOR:** Criminal Justice... **SUPERSTITIONS/RITUALS BEFORE GAMES:** Early morning jog on game days... **FAVORITE FOOD:** Stone crab, wife's lasagna... **FAVORITE**

**VACATION SPOT:** Hilton Head, South Carolina... **WHAT NFL TEAM DID YOU FOLLOW AS**

**A CHILD:** New York Giants... **FAVORITE STADIUM OTHER THAN YOUR OWN AND WHY:**

Lambeau Field because of the history and tradition... **PERSON WHO INFLUENCED YOU THE MOST:** My dad and Bill Parcells...

**BEST ADVICE EVER RECEIVED:** "Just be you"... **PLAYER (FORMER OR CURRENT) WHO'D MAKE A GREAT HEAD**

**COACH:** Brad Johnson (Dallas)... **GREATEST OVERACHIEVER YOU'VE EVER COACHED:** Marc Colombo... **BEST PURE**

**ATHLETE YOU'VE EVER COACHED:** Jason Witten... **FUNNIEST PLAYER YOU'VE EVER COACHED:** Kyle Brady... **MOST**

**INSPIRATIONAL PLAYER YOU'VE EVER COACHED:** Dat Nguyen... **TOUGHEST PLAYERS YOU'VE EVER COACHED:** Larry

Allen and Shane McNeely... **TOUGHEST COACH YOU'VE EVER FACED AND WHY:** Tom Coughlin because his teams are

always physical and well-prepared... **GREATEST TEAM YOU'VE EVER COMPETED AGAINST:** 2007 Patriots... **TOUGHEST**

**GAME YOU'VE EVER COMPETED IN, AS A COACH OR PLAYER:** 2006 Wild Card game (Dallas vs. Seattle)... **LOUDEST**

**CROWD OF YOUR FOOTBALL CAREER:** Any away game at Seattle... **MOST MEMORABLE FOOTBALL MOMENT:** Watching

my two sons play for the University of Albany last year vs. Wagner College... **MOST OVERRATED ASPECT OF FOOTBALL:**



Home or away games ... ***MOST UNDERRATED ASPECT OF FOOTBALL:*** That coaching doesn't matter... ***MOST EMBARRASSING FOOTBALL MOMENT:*** When coaching at the University of New Haven, lost in a Division II National Championship game 51-0 to Northern Colorado... ***ONE THING THAT SHOULD NEVER CHANGE ABOUT PRO FOOTBALL:*** We should never compromise our standards... ***IF YOU WEREN'T COACHING, WHAT YOU WOULD BE DOING:*** Following my wife and kids around and being the best dad I can be.



**JIM ZORN – WASHINGTON REDSKINS**

***HOBBIES:*** Hiking, mountain-biking, kayaking... ***LAST BOOK READ:*** "Clapton: The Autobiography" by Eric Clapton... ***COLLEGE MAJOR:*** Physical Education...

***SUPERSTITIONS/RITUALS BEFORE GAMES:*** None... ***FAVORITE FOOD:*** Sushi, salmon...

***FAVORITE VACATION SPOT:*** Whistler, British Columbia or the Northwest part of the United States... ***BEST FOOTBALL NICKNAME:*** Shelley Russet Potatoes (Idaho high school

nickname)... ***FAVORITE COLLEGE TOWNS:*** Clemson, South Carolina; Tuscaloosa, Alabama;

College Station, Texas; Lincoln, Nebraska... ***WHAT NFL TEAM DID YOU FOLLOW AS A CHILD:*** Los Angeles Rams and New

York Jets... ***FAVORITE STADIUM OTHER THAN YOUR OWN AND WHY:*** Qwest Field because it is in a great location. It is

connected to the downtown area so you can walk to the stadium... ***FAVORITE OTHER SPORT:*** Olympic Games or downhill

mountain biking... ***BEST PURE ATHLETE YOU'VE EVER COACHED:*** Seneca Wallace... ***FUNNIEST PLAYER YOU'VE EVER***

***COACHED:*** Brock Huard... ***MOST INSPIRATIONAL PLAYER YOU'VE EVER COACHED:*** Trent Dilfer... ***TOUGHEST PLAYER***

***YOU'VE EVER COACHED:*** Matt Hasselbeck... ***GREATEST TEAM YOU'VE EVER COMPETED AGAINST:*** Chicago Bears,

1985... ***TOUGHEST GAME YOU'VE EVER COMPETED IN, AS A COACH OR PLAYER:*** Any game with division-rival Oakland

Raiders... ***LOUDEST CROWD OF YOUR FOOTBALL CAREER:*** When the Seahawks hosted the Redskins in the NFC Wild Card

playoff at Qwest Field last January... ***MOST MEMORABLE FOOTBALL MOMENT:*** Becoming the first-ever starting quarterback

for the expansion Seattle Seahawks in 1976... ***ONE THING THAT SHOULD NEVER CHANGE ABOUT PRO FOOTBALL:*** There

should always be a run for the Super Bowl. Teams should always compete for a division title, conference championship and a

Super Bowl championship. It is important to have the top teams in the playoffs to eventually see who will become Super Bowl

champions.

## **NEW HEAD COACHES MAKE JUMP**

New head coaches **JOHN HARBAUGH** (Baltimore), **TONY SPARANO** (Miami) and **JIM ZORN** (Washington) all have something in common other than being first-year head coaches in 2008. They are all making the jump from assistants to head coaches after being non-coordinators in 2007.

Last season, Harbaugh was the secondary coach in Philadelphia, Sparano was the offensive line/assistant head coach in Dallas and Zorn was the quarterbacks coach in Seattle. While the hiring of non-coordinators is not the normal practice in the NFL, all three men believe they have acquired the experience as assistants to become successful coaches in the league.

"There are a lot of ways to prepare to be a head coach," says Harbaugh. "I don't think you control your path. You just do the best job you can, do what you have to do, and you work as hard as you can and that prepares you."

There is a precedent of successful non-coordinator head coaching hires in the NFL. Back in Super Bowl XX, the two participating head coaches – **MIKE DITKA** of the Chicago Bears and **RAYMOND BERRY** of the New England Patriots – were hired by their respective clubs after serving as assistants the prior season. Ditka was an offensive assistant under **TOM LANDRY** in Dallas before being hired by the Bears in 1982 and Berry was the Patriots' receivers coach before taking over halfway through the 1984 season for **RON MEYER**.

Ditka led the Bears (1982-1992) to a 112-68 (.622) record during his tenure, including seven postseason appearances and a Super Bowl XX victory. Berry would coach the Patriots (1984-89) to a 51-41 (.554) record, including two postseason appearances. Both men proved there is no right formula.

"Before I got the job, I had always felt that I'd known what the formula was for becoming an offensive coordinator in the NFL," says Zorn. "The thing that always was perplexing is, what is the formula for becoming a head football coach? Because it just seemed to change yearly. When I became head coach for the Washington Redskins, I think it played true to that thought that there really isn't one formula."

# **TWENTY-TWO NFL MINORITY ASS'T. HEAD COACHES/COORDINATORS SET RECORD; TWO COACHING FELLOWSHIP GRADS GET COLLEGE HEAD JOBS**

A record in the NFL...two more grads in college.

The advancement of minorities in the coaching sector continues to grow with the help of the NFL.

This year a record number of NFL minority coaches -- 22 -- will be either assistant head coaches or coordinators, the most ever in a season.

One of those -- Indianapolis assistant head coach **JIM CALDWELL** -- already knows what his next job will be. He just doesn't know when he will assume it.

Caldwell, who has been an assistant to two of the most respected coaches in the business -- **JOE PATERNO** at Penn State and **TONY DUNGY** at Tampa Bay and Indianapolis -- will succeed Dungy to become the Colts' head coach when Dungy retires, a time not yet decided upon. The arrangement was announced this past January.

"As a head coach, there's probably no better example in this country than the man I work for and support, Tony Dungy," says Caldwell. "He's taught me an awful lot and I'm certainly looking forward to learning more.

Dungy is one of six African-American head coaches in the NFL in 2008, with the majority of them being graduates of the **NFL MINORITY COACHING FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM** that provides training-camp coaching positions for minority coaches at NFL teams.

**HERM EDWARDS** (Kansas City Chiefs), **MARVIN LEWIS** (Cincinnati Bengals), **LOVIE SMITH** (Chicago Bears) and **MIKE TOMLIN** (Pittsburgh Steelers) are graduates of the program, which has tutored more than 1,300 minority coaches through the years. Dungy and **ROMEO CRENNEL** (Cleveland Browns) join that foursome as NFL African-American head coaches.

There are two other graduates of the program that recently became head coaches -- in college.

The new head coach at the University of Houston is **KEVIN SUMLIN**, the first African-American to be hired to lead a Division I-Football Bowl Subdivision program in the state of Texas. Sumlin participated in the NFL Coaching Fellowship with the Philadelphia Eagles in 1995 and Tampa Bay Buccaneers in 1997.

"The fellowship helped me gain experience and personal relationships," says Sumlin. "The program puts coaches in touch with a lot of people and a lot of different resources. I was able to be around coach Dungy and coach Smith, and my relationship with those two men has done nothing but help me. Being invited to be a part of that program exposed me to many different ideas and resources from coaches who have been successful."

**JEFF BRAXTON**, a participant with the Chicago Bears in the fellowship in the summer of 2003, has been named the new head coach at Cheyney University in Pennsylvania.

"Going through the Coaching Fellowship was an extremely valuable experience," says Braxton. "It provided me with additional resources, ideas and networking opportunities to make me a better coach."

Sumlin and Braxton join three other Coaching Fellowship graduates who are now college head coaches -- **RON PRINCE** of Kansas State, **RANDY SHANNON** of Miami (FL) and **NORRIES WILSON** of Columbia.

## **2008 NFL MINORITY HEAD COACHES, ASSISTANT HEAD COACHES & COORDINATORS**

Keith Armstrong, Atlanta, Special Teams	John Mitchell, Pittsburgh, Ass't. Head Coach
Greg Blache, Washington, Defense	Stump Mitchell, Washington, Ass't. Head Coach
Todd Bowles, Miami, Ass't. Head Coach	Winston Moss, Green Bay, Ass't. Head Coach
Kippy Brown, Detroit, Ass't. Head Coach	Al Roberts, St. Louis, Special Teams
Jim Caldwell, Indianapolis, Ass't. Head Coach	Clarence Shelmon, San Diego, Offense
Ted Cottrell, San Diego, Defense	Mike Singletary, San Francisco, Ass't. Head Coach
Romeo Crennel, Cleveland, Head Coach	Jim Skipper, Carolina, Ass't. Head Coach
Tony Dungy, Indianapolis, Head Coach	Lovie Smith, Chicago, Head Coach
Herman Edwards, Kansas City, Head Coach	Sherman Smith, Washington, Offense
Perry Fewell, Buffalo, Defense	Brian Stewart, Dallas, Defense
Leslie Frazier, Minnesota, Defense	Emmitt Thomas, Ass't. Head Coach, Atlanta
Stan Kwan, Detroit, Special Teams	Mike Tomlin, Pittsburgh, Head Coach
Marvin Lewis, Cincinnati, Head Coach	Mel Tucker, Cleveland, Defense
Ron Meeks, Indianapolis, Defense	Art Valero, St. Louis, Ass't. Head Coach

## COACHING IS A HARBAUGH TRADITION



For the **HARBAUGHS**, football runs in the family. **JOHN** (left), **JIM**, and their father **JACK** all share illustrious football pasts, and for the oldest son, a promising NFL head coaching future awaits.

John was recently introduced as the Baltimore Ravens head coach. The former Philadelphia Eagles assistant is excited for the opportunity and prepared to take on the challenges associated with leading an NFL franchise.

"Up, down, sideways, from the very top, it's a very impressive place to visit," says John. "I knew the Ravens had a great organization. Now, I see why. Good people, from (executive vice president/general manager) **OZZIE NEWSOME** and (owner) **STEVE BISCIOTTI** to everybody in the organization. It's been challenging, but it has been fun."

Upon earning his political science degree at Miami University (Ohio) in 1984, John told his mother **JACKIE**, "I'm going to give coaching a chance." Although she was supportive, Jackie had other thoughts.

"He would have made a great politician," says Jackie. "He's honest and fair and he communicates well."

Those impressive traits that Jackie saw in her son might have translated to success in the political world, but they undoubtedly have led to success as a football coach. John's intelligence and passion have led him up the coaching ranks from a college assistant to a NFL head coach.

John boasts an impressive coaching résumé. In the college ranks, he coached at Miami University (Ohio), Western Michigan, Morehead State, and Cincinnati. In 1998, he was hired by the Philadelphia Eagles as a special teams coach. His work as a coach earned him the respect of his players, coaches, and family.

"The persistence he always had stood out to me," says his brother Jim, who is entering his second season as the head coach at Stanford. "He had setbacks, whether it was an injury or disappointment, but the way he went about it – staying positive and enthusiastic at every turn – was awesome to watch."

The two brothers, who were roommates through high school, used to compete in all facets of life, most notably on the playing field. In this sibling rivalry, what John lacked in strength compared to his brother, he most certainly made up for in will-power. Since their competitive high school days, the Harbaugh brothers have developed an admiration and unyielding support for one another.

"He's my role model," says Jim, who played quarterback for 14 seasons in the NFL and was recently inducted into the Indianapolis Colts Ring of Honor for his outstanding play with the team from 1994-97. "He's a better coach than I am. But I'm trying. It makes perfect sense to me. I'm just thrilled with his rising success."



John's father Jack coached football for 41 years in high school and college. He won the Division I-AA national championship at Western Kentucky in 2002. Jack's experience in the game has proved invaluable to his sons, who both have looked to their father for football advice. John has always shared football tapes and talked strategy with his brother and father. He will now continue to do so at the highest level of the coaching profession. Jack certainly has confidence in his son.

"In his 10 years in the NFL, he's seen it all, every type of personality, and he's been able to deal with it all," says Jack. "He will come to work and the players will see how hard he works, how much he wants them to get better. When players see you care, they will follow you to the end of the world."

To keep pace with the Harbaugh tradition, John has his work cut out for him. However, if his personality and coaching history is any indicator, the new Ravens leader will have no problem meeting and exceeding expectations.

"I have a lot of emotion, a lot of passion, and I've told our guys they may have to grab me and hold me back in games," Harbaugh says. "I want to live up to the expectations of my family, our players, our organization and our fans. I've got to make people right, prove Steve right. Prove Ozzie right. I want to make 'em all right."

Take a look at the number of years that the Harbaugh family has been involved in coaching:

THE HARBAUGHS	CURRENT POSITION	TOTAL YEARS AS A COACH
<b>Jack</b>	Marquette Assoc. Athletic Director	41
<b>John</b>	Baltimore Ravens head coach	25
<b>Jim</b>	Stanford University head coach	14
		<b>FAMILY TOTAL = 80 years</b>

## HARD WORK PAYS OFF FOR SMITH



In **MIKE SMITH's** nine seasons as an assistant coach in the NFL, he was afforded the opportunity to work with some of the brightest minds in pro football. On January 23, Smith was given a chance to take the next step in his NFL journey as he was named the new head coach of the Atlanta Falcons.

"What I want to accomplish most here in Atlanta is putting a team on the field that competes every play of every possession of every game," says Smith. "I want us to play a hard, tough, fast and physical brand of football that will make our fans proud and excited."

Smith began his NFL career in 1999 with the Baltimore Ravens when his brother-in-law and former Ravens head coach **BRIAN BILLICK** made him the team's defensive line coach. In just his second season, the Ravens won Super Bowl XXXV thanks in part to a defense that allowed 165 points, the fewest in NFL history in a 16-game season. As a member of that staff, Smith worked under Ravens defensive coordinator **MARVIN LEWIS** and clearly made a favorable impression during his time spent with the current head coach of the Cincinnati Bengals.

"Mike Smith might be the hardest-working, most detail-oriented and organized person I have ever had the opportunity to coach with," Lewis says. "It has not surprised me one bit to see where he is today, or the success he has had along the way. He's a fine communicator and an excellent X's and O's football coach. The Falcons are fortunate to have him."

In 2002, Smith replaced **JACK DEL RIO** as Ravens linebackers coach after Del Rio was hired to be the head coach of the Jacksonville Jaguars. Smith followed Del Rio to Jacksonville in 2003 where he would serve as his defensive coordinator for five seasons.

"Nobody works harder," says Del Rio. "He has got a great mind for football and he's prepared for this opportunity to coach the Falcons. I think he'll do a nice job with it."

During his time working on Del Rio's staff, Smith became one of the finest assistants in the NFL. The Jaguars' defense finished in the top 10 in the NFL in total yards (301.0), points allowed (16.5), and rushing defense (99.8). His defense also allowed the fewest rushing touchdowns (23) in the league from 2003-05. During his five years as an assistant, the Jaguars made the playoffs twice (2005, 2007) and racked up an impressive 46 wins. However, one of his greatest accomplishments with the Jaguars was the admiration he won from the players he coached.

"He's one of the guys that understood what players were going through," says Jaguars linebacker **MIKE PETERSON**. "When you get hurt there are only a handful of guys that call and check up on you. He was definitely one of them. He earned the respect from me as well as my wife. I don't really let too many people get inside my circle, but he was one of the guys I let inside. He's definitely the guy for the job and will be a good fit for the Falcons."

Below is a look at the NFL coaching career of Mike Smith:

YEAR	TEAM	SMITH'S POSITION	RECORD	TOTAL NFL DEFENSE RANK
1999	Baltimore Ravens	Defensive Line Coach	8-8	2nd (263.9 ypg allowed)
2000	Baltimore Ravens	Defensive Line Coach	12-4	2nd (247.9 ypg allowed)
2001	Baltimore Ravens	Defensive Line Coach	10-6	2nd (277.9 ypg allowed)
2002	Baltimore Ravens	Linebackers Coach	7-9	22nd (334.6 ypg allowed)
2003	Jacksonville Jaguars	Defensive Coordinator	5-11	6th (291.1 ypg allowed)
2004	Jacksonville Jaguars	Defensive Coordinator	9-7	11th (320.9 ypg allowed)
2005	Jacksonville Jaguars	Defensive Coordinator	12-4	6th (290.9 ypg allowed)
2006	Jacksonville Jaguars	Defensive Coordinator	8-8	2nd (283.6 ypg allowed)
2007	Jacksonville Jaguars	Defensive Coordinator	11-5	12th (313.8 ypg allowed)





## SPARANO FINDS COACHING ROOTS IN COLLEGE FOOTBALL



Miami Dolphins rookie head coach **TONY SPARANO** (left) is recalling all the lessons he learned in college. Not just those from his academic career at the University of New Haven, but also from the years he spent as the head coach of his alma mater.

As Sparano, who was hired by Miami in January, prepares for his first season as an NFL head coach, he says the administrative duties have been similar at both organizations. Sparano remembers working with a “skeleton crew” at New Haven, making him ready to help in all aspects of the Dolphins’ season.

“From start to finish at the University of New Haven, you were in charge of travel, you were in charge of budgets, you were in charge of housing, you were in charge of meals,” says Sparano. In Miami, “during my first three or four months, I’ve had to be involved in travel, be involved in meals and be involved in schedules and all those things.”

Sparano led the New Haven Chargers from 1994-98, compiling a 41-14-1 record and guiding his team to a berth in the 1997 Division II national championship game. Before joining the Dolphins, Sparano had various NFL coaching stints with the Dallas Cowboys, Cleveland Browns, Washington Redskins and Jacksonville Jaguars.

Sparano also credits his experience with a mix of players at New Haven for easing the adjustment to his new gig in Miami.

“At New Haven, we had players from all over the country,” says Sparano. “We were a private school so we had kids from New England and also kids from Florida, California as well as junior college kids. I think that’s helped

me here as well when you’re dealing with a lot of players at our level.”

New Haven’s athletic director **DEBBIE CHIN**, who gave Sparano his first head coaching job almost 15 years ago, isn’t surprised to see Sparano at the helm of an NFL team.

“I had followed his career and I knew he had the right preparation,” says Chin. “Tony has clearly earned his way in the professional football ranks. That’s through his dedication and knowledge of the sport.”

Sparano joins New York Giants coach **TOM COUGHLIN** as the only other current NFL head coach who also had experience as a college head coach. Coughlin held the top job at Rochester Institute of Technology from 1970-73 and then at Boston College from 1991-93 before taking over as the Jacksonville Jaguars head coach in 1994.

A look at Sparano’s year-by-year records as head coach at New Haven:

YEAR	RECORD
1994	7-3
1995	10-1-1*
1996	7-3
1997	12-2**
1998	5-5
Career total:	41-14-1

\*Reached Division II quarterfinals

\*\*Reached Division II national championship game



## FORMER NFL QB TO HEAD COACH

Washington Redskins rookie head coach **JIM ZORN** (right) enters his first season at the helm aided by his experiences as an NFL quarterback.

"From actually playing the game, he understands what we go through as players, and that's real big," says Redskins wide receiver **ANTWAAN RANDLE EL**. "He knows what it's like during the season, the stuff you experience and the stuff you have to fight through, because he's been there before."

Zorn began his career with the Seattle Seahawks in their inaugural season (1976) and went on to start all 14 games his rookie year. Zorn played nine seasons for the Seahawks and had stops with the Green Bay Packers (1985), the Canadian Football League's Winnipeg Blue Bombers (1986) and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers (1987).

New Redskins offensive coordinator and Zorn's former Seahawks teammate **SHERMAN SMITH** says he knew that Zorn would be a head coach in the NFL since day one.

"Jim was a good leader, a good player," says Smith. "He was detail-oriented just like he is now as a head coach. He was a competitor. He demands a lot of himself and from the people around him. That's why he was successful as a quarterback and he'll be the same way as a coach."

Zorn learned dedication, leadership and the ability to execute in pressure situations during his days as an NFL quarterback and those attributes will only aid his transition to a head coach.

"Those are some things that I am well versed in," says Zorn. "I believe that they will hold true and help me as a head football coach. It is important to understand how intense it is behind a center, at the line of scrimmage with the clock running and having to decipher a lot of information in a very short period of time."

"From there, you have to execute what you have worked on in all of the practice times like it was second nature, and do that over and over again for 70 plays until you win. I think it is really going to help me as a head football coach because it's the lasting concentration while enduring through all the emotions that go with being a successful quarterback and NFL player."

Houston Texans head coach **GARY KUBIAK**, who played quarterback for the Broncos (1983-91) and served as a backup to Pro Football Hall of Famer **JOHN ELWAY** agrees that being a former NFL quarterback can prepare you for being a head coach.

"I was a backup quarterback, so part of me playing in the league was having to prepare more mentally than physically in a lot of ways to keep my job," says Kubiak. "I was constantly studying the game so that had a lot to do with preparing me to become a coach."

Following are the best records of rookie head coaches who played quarterback in the NFL (since 1970):

COACH	TEAM	YEAR	RECORD
Ted Marchibroda	Baltimore Colts	1975	10-4
Sean Payton*	New Orleans Saints	2006	10-6
Tom Flores	Oakland Raiders	1979	9-7
Kay Stephenson	Buffalo Bills	1983	8-8
Sam Wyche	Cincinnati Bengals	1984	8-8

\*Active head coach



## THE SUCCESSORS ARE NAMED



Assistant coaches **JIM CALDWELL** (left) of the Indianapolis Colts and **JIM MORA** (below) of the Seattle Seahawks won't be surprised by their next coaching promotions. That's because each was tabbed this offseason as the successor for the top job on their respective teams.

Upon their retirements, Colts head coach **TONY DUNGY** and Seahawks head coach **MIKE HOLMGREN** will pass the reigns along to Caldwell and Mora, respectively. Caldwell, the associate head coach and former quarterbacks coach, has spent six years with the Colts, while Mora, currently the defensive backs and assistant head coach with the Seahawks, enters his second season with the organization.

This puts the pillars in place for the teams' next chapters and provides the squads a measure of stability and unity. Their offseasons won't be riddled with a long coaching search and preparation can begin right away for next season. Both the players and new coaches will benefit from their already established relationships.



Dungy pointed out it was important for the Colts to name Caldwell as his successor so other organizations wouldn't approach Caldwell with offers for a head coaching job.

"We feel like it gives us a chance to continue going in the same direction and it also assured us that we weren't going to lose him," says Dungy.

Caldwell was the head coach at Wake Forest for seven years and spent one year on the Tampa Bay Buccaneers' staff during Dungy's time at the helm there.

"I appreciate the confidence (owner and CEO) **JIM IRSAY**, (president) **BILL POLIAN** and Coach Dungy expressed in me upon granting the promotion," says Caldwell. "I have a unique opportunity to pose as an understudy and learn from some of the best men in the business."

Mora's move may come sooner than Caldwell's. Holmgren announced in February he was leaving at the end of the 2008 season, leading Seattle to name Mora as his successor. Dungy has deliberated retiring the past few seasons but has not yet named an official departure date.

"This makes a lot of sense for the organization," says Holmgren. "Jim is a talented coach who already had a measure of success in this league and has all the tools needed to succeed."

Mora's tool kit already includes one head coaching stint. He led the Atlanta Falcons to a 26-22 (.542) record from 2004-2006, including one playoff berth. Mora also has held assistant positions with the San Diego Chargers, New Orleans Saints and the San Francisco 49ers.

"I am extremely excited about the future, but completely focused on the opportunity we have in front of us this season," says Mora.

Once their careers are completed, Holmgren and Dungy will leave behind prolific legacies in the NFL. The pair has a combined 22 postseason victories and each has won a Super Bowl. Holmgren heads the list of active head coaches in career wins (157), and Dungy has also reached the century mark in victories with 127, tied for the third-most among active coaches. Mora and Caldwell will aspire to achieve the same level of success as their predecessors.

Below is a list of active NFL head coaches with at least 100 wins:

HEAD COACH	TEAM	WINS
Mike Holmgren	Seattle Seahawks	157
Mike Shanahan	Denver Broncos	138
Bill Belichick	New England Patriots	127
Tony Dungy	Indianapolis Colts	127
Jeff Fisher	Tennessee Titans	115
Tom Coughlin	New York Giants	103





## SHANAHAN CLIMBS THE RANKS



Age is just a number for Houston Texans 28-year old offensive coordinator/quarterbacks coach **KYLE SHANAHAN** (left with QB Matt Schaub, No. 8).

The 2008 season marks Shanahan's third with the Texans and fifth in the NFL. He was promoted to offensive coordinator/quarterbacks coach shortly after the 2007 season and is currently the youngest coordinator in the NFL.

"People make a big deal about it, but personally, I feel my age is my No. 1 asset," says Shanahan. "If you don't know what you're doing and players realize that, it doesn't matter how old you are, it's going to be miserable for you. The fact that I'm younger and do know what I'm doing gives me an advantage. I wouldn't trade my age for anything."

Kyle, who is the son of Denver Broncos head coach **MIKE SHANAHAN**, grew up around the game of football, playing wide receiver in college at Duke (1998-99) and Texas (2000-02).

"He's been around football his whole life. When I grew up, my dad was an electrician and my mom was a housewife," says Mike Shanahan. "He's been around me since he was a little kid. I was 38 before I had the knowledge he has right now."

Shanahan immediately began a career in coaching after his playing days were over, serving one season as a grad assistant at UCLA in 2003 and then joining Tampa Bay Buccaneers head coach **JON GRUDEN**'s staff as an offensive quality control assistant in 2004-05.

Kyle joined the Texans in 2006 after two years with Tampa Bay, as **GARY KUBIAK** took his first head coaching position after a successful tenure as offensive coordinator under Mike Shanahan in Denver.

"Kyle has the ability to become a head coach some day," says Kubiak, who led Houston to a franchise-best 8-8 record in 2007. "He's got the brains, the work ethic, and the fire. He's just like his dad from that standpoint."

Under Shanahan's guidance last year, Texans quarterbacks had the most productive year in team history. Houston's quarterbacks set club records for completions, passing yards and touchdowns and were sacked just 22 times all year.

Kyle Shanahan's football career at a glance:

POSITION	TEAM	YEAR(S)
<b><i>Offensive Coordinator/Quarterbacks</i></b>	<b><i>Houston Texans</i></b>	<b><i>2008</i></b>
Quarterbacks Coach	Houston Texans	2007
Wide Receivers Coach	Houston Texans	2006
Offensive Quality Control	Tampa Bay Buccaneers	2004-05
Graduate Assistant	UCLA	2003
Wide Receiver	University of Texas	2000-02
Wide Receiver	Duke University	1998-99

Shanahan may be the youngest coach with the responsibility of running an NFL offense or defense this year, but the list of young up-and-coming coordinators doesn't end there.

The five youngest coordinators in the NFL:

TEAM	COORDINATOR	AGE*
<b><i>Houston Texans</i></b>	<b><i>Kyle Shanahan, Offense</i></b>	<b><i>28</i></b>
New England Patriots	Josh McDaniels, Offense	32
New York Jets	Brian Schottenheimer, Offense	34
Cleveland Browns	Mel Tucker, Defense	36
Detroit Lions	Joe Barry, Defense	38

\*As of September 4, 2008





## NINE HEAD COACHES HIT THE MAGIC THREE-YEAR MARK

Heading into the 2008 season, more than one quarter of the NFL's head coaches will be entering their third season at the helm of their clubs.

The nine head coaches -- **BRAD CHILDRESS** (Minnesota), **HERM EDWARDS** (Kansas City), **DICK JAURON** (Buffalo), **GARY KUBIAK** (Houston), **SCOTT LINEHAN** (St. Louis), **ERIC MANGINI** (NY Jets), **ROD MARINELLI** (Detroit), **MIKE MC CARTHY** (Green Bay) and **SEAN PAYTON** (New Orleans) -- hope they can duplicate the "lucky third" accomplishments of a group of NFL coaches who preceded them.

There have been eight instances in the Super Bowl era (since 1966) that third-year coaches have taken their teams to the title game, with four winning it.

One of them was **DICK VERMEIL** with the St. Louis Rams in 1999.



Vermeil believes that the third year is the right time for a coach to put it all together. Generally, he says, when hired, a new coach approaches the first year as a way to evaluate his team and its talent. The second year is about making moves to improve, and the third season is when the plan should mesh.

"I believe that your third year is the year that tells you what you're doing and where you're going," says Vermeil.

Cleveland Browns head coach **ROMEO CRENNEL** (left) would certainly agree with coach Vermeil. Although he did not reach the Super Bowl in 2007, his third season as Cleveland's head man, Crennel unquestionably turned the team around, taking it to a 10-6 record after 6-10 and 4-12 marks his first two years.

"Every team faces its own challenges and unique circumstances," says Crennel. "In the Browns' case, some of the quality players we added to the team during the first two years had an opportunity to mature as people and as players and thus were productive for us in year-three. After two years on the job, the head coach knows more about what is expected of him, he knows more about all the things he has to deal with on a daily basis and is more comfortable in his job, which oftentimes leads to success in the third year."

The head coaches who have reached the Super Bowl in their third year with a team:

COACH	YEAR	TEAM	RESULT
Joe Gibbs	1983	Washington Redskins	Lost Super Bowl XVIII
Bud Grant	1969	Minnesota Vikings	Lost Super Bowl IV
Bobby Ross	1994	San Diego Chargers	Lost Super Bowl XXIX
Mike Shanahan	1997	Denver Broncos	Won Super Bowl XXXII
Don Shula	1972	Miami Dolphins	Won Super Bowl VII
Lovie Smith	2006	Chicago Bears	Lost Super Bowl XLI
Dick Vermeil	1999	St. Louis Rams	Won Super Bowl XXXIV
Bill Walsh	1981	San Francisco 49ers	Won Super Bowl XVI

## "WINNING ISN'T A SOMETIME THING, IT'S AN ALL-THE-TIME THING"

The legendary **VINCE LOMBARDI** is responsible for this inspirational quote, and the San Diego Chargers view this message every time they enter the team meeting room in Chargers Park.

Many NFL teams post messages or quotations like this in their team meeting rooms, locker rooms and weight rooms to provide their players with added motivation and inspiration. The messages cover everything from basic work ethic to philosophical mindsets.

Below is a sampling of quotes that hang on the walls of NFL locker rooms:

TEAM	MOTIVATIONAL MESSAGE
Arizona Cardinals	"Get Your Mind Right" – Cardinals strength and conditioning coach John Lott
Baltimore Ravens	"Take care of your Family, Team and Self."
Cincinnati Bengals	"Why do we dread adversity when we know that facing it is the only way to become stronger, smarter, better?" – John Wooden

Continued...

Motivational messages, continued.

Denver Broncos	"I have learned that success is measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life, as by the obstacles which one has overcome while trying to succeed." – Booker T. Washington
	"Don't envy anybody. Every person has something no other person has. Develop that one thing and make it outstanding."
Indianapolis Colts	"Expectations, Execution, No Excuses, No Explanations."
Jacksonville Jaguars	"Individual commitment to a group effort – that is what makes a team." – Vince Lombardi
Miami Dolphins	"Teamwork: The fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results."
Minnesota Vikings	"Work hard, do your best, speak the truth, assume no airs, trust in God, have no fear." – Harry Truman
New York Giants	"We are what we repeatedly do – excellence, then is not an act, but a habit."
St. Louis Rams	"Good intentions, words and promises have never won a game. Hard work, preparation and production are the keys to continued success in this business."
San Diego Chargers	"Winning isn't a sometime thing, it's an all the time thing." – Vince Lombardi
	"Attitude is everything."
	"Championships begin in the division."

