

NEWS



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TWO 2-0 MATCHUPS HIGHLIGHT WEEK AS FAVRE GOES FOR TD RECORD, BUSH & YOUNG MEET FOR FIRST TIME SINCE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

Look who's 2-0...but "you've got to play like you're 0-2."

It's only two weeks old, but already the NFL season is packed with surprises. But this being the NFL, "surprises" are really nothing unusual.

Detroit won three games last year, Washington five, Houston six, San Francisco seven and Green Bay and Pittsburgh eight. They're all 2-0 going into Week 3. And three of them this week will confront other undefeated teams.

"You've got to play like you're 0-2," says Green Bay quarterback **BRETT FAVRE**, in his 17th NFL season. Meaning you can never let up, never assume anything. "As young as we are [the Packers were the youngest team in the NFL on Kickoff Weekend, 25.72 years old], there may not be an understanding of what's ahead. But I know what's ahead of us."

A long season, with 14 anything-can-happen games left.

But in his *next* game, Favre can make history just as he did in his *last* game.

In Week 2, the oldest starting quarterback in the NFL (37) became the winningest quarterback in history when he won his 149th game. This week, with four touchdown passes – a feat he has accomplished 19 times in his career – he will become the all-time leader in the category. Favre has 417 TD passes, three behind **DAN MARINO** (420).

Meanwhile, "down the road" a bit from Green Bay, the NFL will celebrate "Hispanic Heritage Month" (September 15-October 15) Sunday night in Chicago when the Bears host Dallas. Five-time Grammy Award-winner **GLORIA ESTEFAN** will sing the national anthem live on NBC and the Grammy-winning group **OZOMATLI** will perform at halftime with portions of the show televised on NBC. Many NFL teams will designate their games in honor of the month with festivities.

So as fall begins on Sunday, here is just some of the NFL excitement on tap in Week 3:

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS (2-0) at HOUSTON TEXANS (2-0)

STORYLINE: First-place battle in the AFC South!

...And the 2-0 Texans want to make it two in a row! Last season, after losing nine consecutive games to Indianapolis, the Texans rushed for 191 yards on December 24 – with **RB RON DAYNE** providing the bulk of the production (153 yards) – in a 27-24 victory. The Colts did not lose another game, winning all the way through Super Bowl XLI.

The Texans had a sizeable advantage in time-of-possession that day (35:59 to 24:01) and they will strive to emphasize that ball-control approach on Sunday. "You're trying to keep **PEYTON MANNING** off the field, but that's easier said than done," says Texans head coach **GARY KUBIAK**. "They've been playing tremendous defense. Everybody goes into a game hoping to keep them off the field. That's part of the process when you play Indianapolis."

Key players to watch: Colts **RB JOSEPH ADDAI** returns to his hometown looking to replicate his 100-yard performance of last year.....and Texans **WRs KEVIN WALTER** and rookie **JACOBY JONES** will have to help pick up the slack if **ANDRE JOHNSON** (knee) cannot go.

NFL FACTOID

MOSS GOES FOR HISTORY: New Patriots wide receiver **RANDY MOSS** can make history this Sunday when New England hosts Buffalo. With a 100-yard receiving game, Moss can become the first receiver in history to post three 100-yard games in his first three games with a new team. He had 183 yards in Week 1 and 105 last week.

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS (2-0) at PITTSBURGH STEELERS (2-0)

STORYLINE: One does it through domination, the other by determination, but they're both 2-0.

And that's all that matters.

The 49ers, with a rebuilt defense, have won games on grit -- a comeback with three minutes left in Week 1 and a late-fourth-quarter 40-yard field goal last Sunday. "To be 2-0 right now is huge," says **QB ALEX SMITH**. "We're 2-0, but we have a long way to go. It's huge to pull out wins in these types of games the last two weeks."

The Niners sacked St. Louis' **MARC BULGER** six times last week, with one coming from newcomer **CB NATE CLEMENTS**. But they will have to protect their own house against the Steelers, who tie Minnesota for the league lead in sacks (10) thanks to a somewhat-hybrid defense that is mostly a 3-4 but can morph into a 4-3. Pittsburgh has allowed 10 points this season, the fewest in the NFL.

Strong against NFC: The Steelers have won 11 of their past 12 games against NFC teams.

SAN DIEGO CHARGERS (1-1) at GREEN BAY PACKERS (2-0)

STORYLINE: A different Packers, a quixotic Chargers.

The old days of **BRETT FAVRE** rearing back and firing the ball to the likes of **ANTONIO FREEMAN** and **STERLING SHARPE** are somewhat over. Not that they can't or won't go long, but the Packers are now more into a short passing-game offense and it has helped them to their first 2-0 start since 2001. Hey, if it works!

"We can be effective throwing the ball underneath to a lot of different guys," says Favre. "Our offense is designed to spread it out and I think it's more effective doing it that way." Favre hit eight different receivers on Sunday against the Giants and connected on his first 14 attempts in the second half. New Chargers defensive coordinator **TED COTTRELL** faced Favre twice a year in the same position with Minnesota in 2004-05, so he knows the QB's tendencies.

The Chargers began the season in a we're-on-our-way win over NFC Champion Chicago but then were slapped with a 38-14 defeat by New England Sunday night, so they are smarting. As is their 2006 NFL MVP **RB LA DAINIAN TOMLINSON**, who has been limited to 25- and 43-yard rushing outputs this season. Last year, he broke the 46-year NFL record of Packers icon **PAUL HORNUNG** (176) for most points in a season (186).

DALLAS COWBOYS (2-0) at CHICAGO BEARS (1-1) (Sunday night, NBC, 8:15 PM ET)

STORYLINE: "Big D" against Chicago's big "D."

No one has outscored Dallas this year (82 points, the most in their first two games since 1971), under the direction of the league's second-ranked passer **TONY ROMO** (119.3). But the Bears -- what else? -- are tough on defense, and tie for the fourth-fewest points surrendered (24).

"We're 2-0 this year, and now we're going up to Chicago like we should have last year," says Cowboys **RB JULIUS JONES**, referring to the 2006 NFC Championship Game in Chicago. "We need to take care of business."

New Dallas head coach **WADE PHILLIPS** brought a more attacking style to the team's 3-4 defense and it showed last week against Miami. The 'Boys had five takeaways, with four interceptions. Meanwhile, they committed no turnovers.

Interesting matchup to watch: Chicago weakside **LB LANCE BRIGGS** (a sack and fumble recovery last week) against Cowboys **FB OLIVER HOYTE**, a former linebacker himself who excels as a blocker.

TENNESSEE TITANS (1-1) at NEW ORLEANS SAINTS (0-2) (Monday night, ESPN, 8:30 PM ET)

STORYLINE: Rose Bowl redux!

Two of the stars of one of the most memorable college football games ever -- the 2005 BCS national championship at Pasadena's Rose Bowl -- Titans **QB VINCE YOUNG** and Saints **RB REGGIE BUSH** -- will meet as NFLers for the first time in the regular season on Monday night.

Young's Texas team broke the 34-game winning streak of Bush's USC squad that night (January 4, 2006) with a 41-38 victory with Young scrambling untouched for the winning eight-yard touchdown with 19 seconds left.

Now Bush has other worries. His team -- NFC Championship Game participants last season -- is 0-2 and Young is again coming to town. Time to get it going in the '07 home opener!

"By no means are we out of it," says Saints **QB DREW BREES**, who played for the Chargers in 2005 when they started 0-2, then narrowly missed the playoffs with a 9-7 record. "It sets you back, but it's nothing we can't overcome."

The Saints will have to overcome the league's No. 1 rushing attack (211.5 yards per game), led by **CHRIS BROWN** and **LEN DALE WHITE**, a teammate of Bush in that national championship game.

2007 NFL STANDINGS

AFC - 2007 Regular Season

AFC East

Team	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Net Pts	TD	Home	Road	Div	Pct	Conf	Pct	Non-Conf	Streak	Last 5
New England Patriots	2	0	0	1.000	76	28	48	10	1-0	1-0	1-0	1.000	2-0	1.000	0-0	2W	2-0
New York Jets	0	2	0	.000	27	58	-31	3	0-1	0-1	0-1	.000	0-2	.000	0-0	2L	0-2
Buffalo Bills	0	2	0	.000	17	41	-24	2	0-1	0-1	0-0	.000	0-2	.000	0-0	2L	0-2
Miami Dolphins	0	2	0	.000	33	53	-20	3	0-1	0-1	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-2	2L	0-2

AFC North

Team	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Net Pts	TD	Home	Road	Div	Pct	Conf	Pct	Non-Conf	Streak	Last 5
Pittsburgh Steelers	2	0	0	1.000	60	10	50	6	1-0	1-0	1-0	1.000	2-0	1.000	0-0	2W	2-0
Cleveland Browns	1	1	0	.500	58	79	-21	7	1-1	0-0	1-1	.500	1-1	.500	0-0	1W	1-1
Baltimore Ravens	1	1	0	.500	40	40	0	4	1-0	0-1	0-1	.000	1-1	.500	0-0	1W	1-1
Cincinnati Bengals	1	1	0	.500	72	71	1	9	1-0	0-1	1-1	.500	1-1	.500	0-0	1L	1-1

AFC South

Team	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Net Pts	TD	Home	Road	Div	Pct	Conf	Pct	Non-Conf	Streak	Last 5
Houston Texans	2	0	0	1.000	54	24	30	6	1-0	1-0	0-0	.000	1-0	1.000	1-0	2W	2-0
Indianapolis Colts	2	0	0	1.000	63	30	33	7	1-0	1-0	1-0	1.000	1-0	1.000	1-0	2W	2-0
Jacksonville Jaguars	1	1	0	.500	23	20	3	2	1-1	0-0	0-1	.000	0-1	.000	1-0	1W	1-1
Tennessee Titans	1	1	0	.500	33	32	1	3	0-1	1-0	1-1	.500	1-1	.500	0-0	1L	1-1

AFC West

Team	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Net Pts	TD	Home	Road	Div	Pct	Conf	Pct	Non-Conf	Streak	Last 5
Denver Broncos	2	0	0	1.000	38	34	4	3	1-0	1-0	1-0	1.000	2-0	1.000	0-0	2W	2-0
San Diego Chargers	1	1	0	.500	28	41	-13	4	1-0	0-1	0-0	.000	0-1	.000	1-0	1L	1-1
Oakland Raiders	0	2	0	.000	41	59	-18	5	0-1	0-1	0-1	.000	0-1	.000	0-1	2L	0-2
Kansas City Chiefs	0	2	0	.000	13	40	-27	1	0-0	0-2	0-0	.000	0-1	.000	0-1	2L	0-2

NFC - 2007 Regular Season

NFC East

Team	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Net Pts	TD	Home	Road	Div	Pct	Conf	Pct	Non-Conf	Streak	Last 5
Dallas Cowboys	2	0	0	1.000	82	55	27	10	1-0	1-0	1-0	1.000	1-0	1.000	1-0	2W	2-0
Washington Redskins	2	0	0	1.000	36	25	11	3	1-0	1-0	1-0	1.000	1-0	1.000	1-0	2W	2-0
Philadelphia Eagles	0	2	0	.000	25	36	-11	1	0-1	0-1	0-1	.000	0-2	.000	0-0	2L	0-2
New York Giants	0	2	0	.000	48	80	-32	5	0-1	0-1	0-1	.000	0-2	.000	0-0	2L	0-2

NFC North

Team	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Net Pts	TD	Home	Road	Div	Pct	Conf	Pct	Non-Conf	Streak	Last 5
Detroit Lions	2	0	0	1.000	56	38	18	6	1-0	1-0	1-0	1.000	1-0	1.000	1-0	2W	2-0
Green Bay Packers	2	0	0	1.000	51	26	25	6	1-0	1-0	0-0	.000	2-0	1.000	0-0	2W	2-0
Minnesota Vikings	1	1	0	.500	41	23	18	5	1-0	0-1	0-1	.000	1-1	.500	0-0	1L	1-1
Chicago Bears	1	1	0	.500	23	24	-1	2	1-0	0-1	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	1-1	1W	1-1

NFC South

Team	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Net Pts	TD	Home	Road	Div	Pct	Conf	Pct	Non-Conf	Streak	Last 5
Carolina Panthers	1	1	0	.500	48	47	1	6	0-1	1-0	0-0	.000	1-0	1.000	0-1	1L	1-1
Tampa Bay Buccaneers	1	1	0	.500	37	34	3	4	1-0	0-1	1-0	1.000	1-1	.500	0-0	1W	1-1
New Orleans Saints	0	2	0	.000	24	72	-48	3	0-0	0-2	0-1	.000	0-1	.000	0-1	2L	0-2
Atlanta Falcons	0	2	0	.000	10	37	-27	1	0-0	0-2	0-0	.000	0-1	.000	0-1	2L	0-2

NFC West

Team	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Net Pts	TD	Home	Road	Div	Pct	Conf	Pct	Non-Conf	Streak	Last 5
San Francisco 49ers	2	0	0	1.000	37	33	4	4	1-0	1-0	2-0	1.000	2-0	1.000	0-0	2W	2-0
Seattle Seahawks	1	1	0	.500	40	29	11	4	1-0	0-1	0-1	.000	1-1	.500	0-0	1L	1-1
Arizona Cardinals	1	1	0	.500	40	40	0	4	1-0	0-1	1-1	.500	1-1	.500	0-0	1W	1-1
St. Louis Rams	0	2	0	.000	29	44	-15	2	0-2	0-0	0-1	.000	0-2	.000	0-0	2L	0-2

LAST WEEK'S NFL RESULTS (SEPTEMBER 16-17)

(Home team in CAPS)

Sunday, September 16

Houston 34, CAROLINA 21
CLEVELAND 51, Cincinnati 45
Indianapolis 22, TENNESSEE 20
TAMPA BAY 31, New Orleans 14
San Francisco 17, ST. LOUIS 16
PITTSBURGH 26, Buffalo 3
Green Bay 35, N.Y. GIANTS 13
JACKSONVILLE 13, Atlanta 7
ARIZONA 23, Seattle 20

Sunday, September 16, Cont.'d.

Dallas 37, MIAMI 20
DETROIT 20, Minnesota 17 (OT)
DENVER 23, Oakland 20 (OT)
CHICAGO 20, Kansas City 10
BALTIMORE 20, N.Y. Jets 13
NEW ENGLAND 38, San Diego 14

Monday, September 17

Washington 20, PHILADELPHIA 12

2007 WEEK 3 SCHEDULE – SEPTEMBER 23-24

(All times local)

Sunday, September 23

Arizona at Baltimore, 1:00 PM
San Diego at Green Bay, 12:00 PM
Indianapolis at Houston, 12:00 PM
Minnesota at Kansas City, 12:00 PM
Buffalo at New England, 1:00 PM
Miami at N.Y. Jets, 1:00 PM
Detroit at Philadelphia, 1:00 PM
San Francisco at Pittsburgh, 1:00 PM
St. Louis at Tampa Bay, 1:00 PM

Sunday, September 23, Cont.'d.

Jacksonville at Denver, 2:05 PM
Cleveland at Oakland, 1:05 PM
Cincinnati at Seattle, 1:05 PM
Carolina at Atlanta, 4:15 PM
N.Y. Giants at Washington, 4:15 PM
Dallas at Chicago, 7:15 PM (NBC)

Monday, September 24

Tennessee at New Orleans, 7:30 PM (ESPN)