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COLTS ARE BACK! SEEK RECORD-TYING THIRD 6-0 START IN ROW ON MONDAY NIGHT; PATS GO FOR FIRST 7-0 MARK IN CLUB HISTORY

Keep perfect and set records while doing so?

Sounds like a good deal – one the Indianapolis Colts and New England Patriots want to attain this weekend.

The Patriots can up the best record in the NFL to 7-0 when they play in Miami. With a win, they will set a franchise record for most victories to start a season (they began 6-0 in 2004).

Their quarterback, who set a record himself last week (most three-or-more TD games to start a season, six) – looks at things in a simple way. “Any time you win,” says **TOM BRADY**, “you’re doing just fine.”

Brady’s quarterbacking cohort, **PEYTON MANNING** of the Colts, would certainly agree with that assessment. This Monday night (ESPN, 8:30 PM ET), he’ll be “fine” with a simple win in Jacksonville. But, as so often happens in the NFL, there could be some historical perspective attached to such a win.

With a victory, the Colts (coming off their bye) would go to 6-0 – and join only two other teams in history to begin three consecutive seasons with 6-0-or-better records. One of those teams -- the Green Bay Packers -- accomplished the feat 76 years ago. The 6-0-for-3 rundown:

THE TRIO TRIO

TEAM	YEAR/SEASON START	YEAR/SEASON START	YEAR/SEASON START
Green Bay Packers	1929 (10-0)	1930 (8-0)	1931 (9-0)
St. Louis Rams	1999 (6-0)	2000 (6-0)	2001 (6-0)
Indianapolis Colts	2005 (13-0)	2006 (9-0)	2007 (???)

Meanwhile, here are only some of the interesting games in Week 7:

MINNESOTA VIKINGS (2-3) at DALLAS COWBOYS (5-1)

STORYLINE: He’s coming home – for at least a day.

Vikings rookie **RB ADRIAN PETERSON** is from Palestine, Texas, about 99 miles southeast of Dallas. Named as the consensus national player of the year as a senior at Palestine High, it was assumed by every fan in the state that he would become a Texas Longhorn. But Adrian chose arch-rival Oklahoma, which plays Texas in the Cotton Bowl in Dallas every year. In his first game against Texas, he rushed for 225 yards and OU won its fifth in a row in the series.

This Sunday, Peterson returns to Dallas as the NFL’s leading rusher (607 yards) and No. 2 in scrimmage yards (782) after a memorable 224 rush-yard, three-TD game against Chicago, the most ground yards against the Bears in history.

That all said, the Vikes will be going against a Dallas club smarting from its Week 6 loss to New England, but one that has not lost its confidence. “One game is not going to define you,” says Cowboys **LB BRADIE JAMES**.

Dallas is strong on offense (it has scored the league’s second-most points, 203), defense (it has not allowed a 100-yard rushing game and leads the league in interceptions with 10), and keeps the pressure on (it has 132 second-half points, most in the league in those two quarters).

NFL FACTOID

HIGH-SCORING PATS: The New England Patriots are averaging 38.3 points per game this season (230 total). If they reach that level this week, they would become the third-highest-scoring NFL team in history over a season’s first seven games. The top three in the category: 2000 St. Louis (296), 1950 Los Angeles (285) and 1966 Dallas (266).

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS (4-2) at DETROIT LIONS (3-2)

STORYLINE: First game back for two key cogs.

Greet them, then beat them. That will be the philosophy of Detroit head coach **ROD MARINELLI** and Tampa Bay **QB JEFF GARCIA** in their first game against their former team (Marinelli, 1996-05; Garcia, 2005). "It's just another game," insists Marinelli.

Each club has already matched its win total of last year, and is looking for a lot more. And each has a top-10-rated quarterback who is the exuberant leader of its offense. Detroit's **JON KITNA** directs the league's fifth-ranked passing offense. Garcia has yet to throw an interception this year and led the game-winning drive last week against Tennessee with four consecutive completions in the final minute that led to the deciding field goal.

And something's got to give on first down. The Lions average 6.32 yards on the down, tied for the second-best mark in the league. The Bucs allow an average 4.25 on the down – first in the league.

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS (3-3) at OAKLAND RAIDERS (2-3)

STORYLINE: Is L.J. back?

Off last week, it sure looks like he is. Chiefs **RB LARRY JOHNSON**, the No. 2 rusher in the league last year, looked like the old L.J. by pounding for 152 yards on 31 carries. That's not what Oakland wants to hear. Johnson has 634 rushing yards in six games against the Raiders and nine TDs, his highest such totals against any opponent.

Of course, Oakland has nothing to be ashamed about on the ground. Under its new zone-blocking scheme installed by OL coach **TOM CABLE**, the Raiders (with a **LA MONT JORDAN-JUSTIN FARGAS** tandem) sit third in the league in rushing offense in spite of being limited to 53 yards last week.

A key player to watch in this AFC West battle is Chiefs first-round draft choice **DWAYNE BOWE** from LSU, who leads all rookies in catches (26), receiving yards (415) and receiving TDs (3).

PITTSBURGH STEELERS (4-1) at DENVER BRONCOS (2-3) (Sunday night, NBC, 8:15 PM ET)

STORYLINE: Get ready, Ben and Jay – these guys are tough!

Quarterbacks **BEN ROETHLISBERGER** of Pittsburgh and **JAY CUTLER** of Denver will confront the two stingiest pass defenses in the league Sunday night. The Broncos are ranked first, the Steelers second.

In fact, last year in a 31-20 win in Pittsburgh, the Broncos intercepted Roethlisberger three times, forcing six turnovers in all while adding four sacks. "Denver is a tough place to play," says Roethlisberger. "Tough team, good defense."

Steelers defensive coordinator **DICK LE BEAU** this year has added to the effectiveness of his unit -- ranked first in the league overall -- by showing even more pre-snap movement to confuse quarterbacks, with **DE BRAD KEISEL** joining **S TROY POLAMALU** in all the scheming.

Big difference: The Steelers rank second only to New England in largest point differential this season with a plus-85 (132-47). The Patriots have a plus-138 mark (230-92).

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS (5-0) at JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS (4-1) (Monday night, ESPN, 8:30 PM ET)

STORYLINE: 375!

That's the number that sticks in the Colts' mind. But they think they have the remedy.

Last December 10 in a 44-17 win, the AFC South-rival Jaguars rushed for 375 yards against visiting Indianapolis – tying the second-best ground yardage total in the NFL since 1970 – and averaged 8.9 yards per carry. **RB MAURICE JONES-DREW** totaled 166 yards on the ground and **FRED TAYLOR** added 131.

But – and it's a *big* but – the Colts were ranked 32nd in the league against the rush at the time. They enter Monday night at 13th in rushing defense. And they have allowed only one 100-yard rushing game this season.

The Jags – who have won four in a row -- are ready. "The Colts are playing great," says the effervescent Jones-Drew, who comes off a 260-yard all-purpose game in Week 6. "They still didn't pick me in the draft, so I'm still upset about that. It's going to be a fun game. We'll give everybody a great show."

Bright on Monday night: Colts **QB PEYTON MANNING** is 8-2 all-time on *Monday Night Football*.

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	6	0	0	1.000	230	92	138	29	3-0	3-0	2-0	1.000	5-0	1.000	1-0	6W	5-0
Buffalo Bills	1	4	0	.200	65	118	-53	8	1-2	0-2	1-1	.500	1-3	.250	0-1	1L	1-4
New York Jets	1	5	0	.167	105	154	-49	12	1-2	0-3	1-2	.333	1-3	.250	0-2	3L	1-4
Miami Dolphins	0	6	0	.000	128	182	-54	13	0-2	0-4	0-1	.000	0-4	.000	0-2	6L	0-5

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	4	1	0	.800	132	47	85	15	3-0	1-1	1-0	1.000	2-0	1.000	2-1	1W	4-1
Baltimore Ravens	4	2	0	.667	110	100	10	8	3-0	1-2	0-2	.000	1-2	.333	3-0	2W	4-1
Cleveland Browns	3	3	0	.500	167	183	-16	20	3-1	0-2	2-1	.667	3-3	.500	0-0	1W	3-2
Cincinnati Bengals	1	4	0	.200	126	156	-30	14	1-1	0-3	1-1	.500	1-3	.250	0-1	4L	1-4

AFC South

Team	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Net Pts	TD	Home	Road	Div	Pct	Conf	Pct	Non-Conf	Streak	Last 5
Indianapolis Colts	5	0	0	1.000	164	88	76	19	3-0	2-0	2-0	1.000	3-0	1.000	2-0	5W	5-0
Jacksonville Jaguars	4	1	0	.800	100	58	42	11	2-1	2-0	1-1	.500	3-1	.750	1-0	4W	4-1
Tennessee Titans	3	2	0	.600	94	72	22	10	1-1	2-1	1-1	.500	1-1	.500	2-1	1L	3-2
Houston Texans	3	3	0	.500	133	136	-3	12	2-1	1-2	0-2	.000	2-2	.500	1-1	1L	2-3

AFC West

Team	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Net Pts	TD	Home	Road	Div	Pct	Conf	Pct	Non-Conf	Streak	Last 5
San Diego Chargers	3	3	0	.500	137	119	18	17	2-1	1-2	2-1	.667	2-2	.500	1-1	2W	2-3
Kansas City Chiefs	3	3	0	.500	90	103	-13	9	2-1	1-2	1-0	1.000	2-2	.500	1-1	1W	3-2
Denver Broncos	2	3	0	.400	75	136	-61	7	1-2	1-1	1-1	.500	2-3	.400	0-0	3L	2-3
Oakland Raiders	2	3	0	.400	116	128	-12	14	1-1	1-2	0-2	.000	2-2	.500	0-1	1L	2-3

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	5	1	0	.833	203	144	59	24	2-1	3-0	1-0	1.000	3-0	1.000	2-1	1L	4-1
New York Giants	4	2	0	.667	154	134	20	19	2-1	2-1	2-1	.667	3-2	.600	1-0	4W	4-1
Washington Redskins	3	2	0	.600	101	69	32	11	2-1	1-1	1-1	.500	2-2	.500	1-0	1L	3-2
Philadelphia Eagles	2	3	0	.400	100	82	18	10	1-1	1-2	0-2	.000	1-3	.250	1-0	1W	2-3

NFC North

Team	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Net Pts	TD	Home	Road	Div	Pct	Conf	Pct	Non-Conf	Streak	Last 5
Green Bay Packers	5	1	0	.833	142	107	35	16	3-1	2-0	1-1	.500	4-1	.800	1-0	1W	4-1
Detroit Lions	3	2	0	.600	117	155	-38	14	2-0	1-2	2-0	1.000	2-2	.500	1-0	1L	3-2
Minnesota Vikings	2	3	0	.400	101	90	11	11	1-1	1-2	1-2	.333	2-2	.500	0-1	1W	2-3
Chicago Bears	2	4	0	.333	118	149	-31	13	1-2	1-2	1-2	.333	1-3	.250	1-1	1L	2-3

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	4	2	0	.667	123	110	13	13	0-2	4-0	2-1	.667	4-1	.800	0-1	2W	3-2
Tampa Bay Buccaneers	4	2	0	.667	108	87	21	12	3-0	1-2	2-0	1.000	3-1	.750	1-1	1W	4-1
New Orleans Saints	1	4	0	.200	79	136	-57	10	0-2	1-2	0-2	.000	1-2	.333	0-2	1W	1-4
Atlanta Falcons	1	5	0	.167	79	131	-52	7	1-2	0-3	0-1	.000	0-3	.000	1-2	2L	1-4

NFC West

Team	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Net Pts	TD	Home	Road	Div	Pct	Conf	Pct	Non-Conf	Streak	Last 5
Seattle Seahawks	3	3	0	.500	104	102	2	11	2-1	1-2	1-1	.500	2-2	.500	1-1	2L	2-3
Arizona Cardinals	3	3	0	.500	128	136	-8	14	2-1	1-2	2-1	.667	2-2	.500	1-1	1L	3-2
San Francisco 49ers	2	3	0	.400	63	102	-39	6	1-2	1-1	2-1	.667	2-1	.667	0-2	3L	2-3
St. Louis Rams	0	6	0	.000	73	159	-86	6	0-3	0-3	0-2	.000	0-5	.000	0-1	6L	0-5

LAST WEEK'S NFL RESULTS (OCTOBER 14-15)

(Home team in CAPS)

Sunday, October 14

BALTIMORE 22, St. Louis 3
Minnesota 34, CHICAGO 31
CLEVELAND 41, Miami 31
GREEN BAY 17, Washington 14
JACKSONVILLE 37, Houston 17
KANSAS CITY 27, Cincinnati 20
Philadelphia 16, N.Y. JETS 9
TAMPA BAY 13, Tennessee 10

Sunday, October 14, Cont.'d.

Carolina 25, ARIZONA 10
New England 48, DALLAS 27
SAN DIEGO 28, Oakland 14
New Orleans 28, SEATTLE 17

Monday, October 15

N.Y. Giants 31, ATLANTA 10

2007 WEEK 7 SCHEDULE – OCTOBER 21-22

Byes: Carolina, Cleveland, Green Bay, San Diego

(All times local)

Sunday, October 21

Baltimore at Buffalo, 1:00 PM
Tampa Bay at Detroit, 1:00 PM
Tennessee at Houston, 12:00 PM
New England at Miami, 1:00 PM
San Francisco at N.Y. Giants, 1:00 PM
Atlanta at New Orleans, 12:00 PM
Arizona at Washington, 1:00 PM
N.Y. Jets at Cincinnati, 4:05 PM

Sunday, October 21, Cont.'d.

Kansas City at Oakland, 1:05 PM
Minnesota at Dallas, 3:15 PM
Chicago at Philadelphia, 4:15 PM
St. Louis at Seattle, 1:15 PM
Pittsburgh at Denver, 6:15 PM (NBC)

Monday, October 22

Indianapolis at Jacksonville, 8:30 PM (ESPN)