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NFL-REG-12 11/20/07

NFL HELPS AMERICA DIG IN TO TURKEY & FOOTBALL – LOTS OF IT!

What's on the menu this week? Turkey, football...and more football!

And the players can't wait. Especially those who'll be home this Thursday on Thanksgiving Day to watch an NFL tripleheader.

"That's part of America, watching football after you eat Thanksgiving dinner," says Denver Broncos quarterback **JAY CUTLER**. "I'm definitely going to catch the games."

There will be a trio of games on Thanksgiving – the traditional ones in Detroit and Dallas and the kickoff of NFL Network's eight-game package of Thursday and Saturday night games. The first Thursday nighter will feature Indianapolis at Atlanta.

A preview of the NFL Thanksgiving tripleheader:

- **GREEN BAY PACKERS at DETROIT LIONS (FOX, 12:30 PM ET):** These NFC North rivals *really* know Thanksgiving football! They played each other annually in Detroit on that day from 1951-63. It is the Lions' most-contested Thanksgiving series (17 games; Lions lead 11-5-1, .688). Fans can get ready for a pinpoint passing attack. QBs **BRETT FAVRE** of Green Bay and **JON KITNA** of Detroit rank second and third in the NFL, respectively, in completion percentage. The Packers have won six in a row on the road.
- **NEW YORK JETS at DALLAS COWBOYS (CBS, 4:15 PM ET):** Shake hands, brother! That's what **RBs THOMAS** and **JULIUS JONES** of the Jets and Cowboys, respectively (see NFL Factoid below), will do before the game and then try to ruin the other's Thanksgiving. And it will be QBs beware. While Dallas **LBs DE MARCUS WARE** (9.0) and **GREG ELLIS** (6.5) almost match the Jets' season sack total (16.), New York was gangbusters against Pittsburgh last week with seven takedowns. Jets' big task: contain **WR TERRELL OWENS** (four TDs in Week 11). The Cowboys – in their 40th Thanksgiving game – can go 10-1 for the first time in club history.
- **INDIANAPOLIS COLTS at ATLANTA FALCONS (NFL Network, 8:00 PM ET):** Two teams evenly matched in a key category – turnover differential. The Colts and Falcons ranks second (tie) and fourth in the league in the stat with a plus-9 and plus-7, respectively. Falcons **QB JOEY HARRINGTON** will start his sixth Thanksgiving game in a row (four with Detroit, one with Miami). Atlanta will look to slow down the NFL's No. 4 scrimmage-yard producer, **RB JOSEPH ADDAI** (1,087).

...And then on Sunday, the New England Patriots can achieve two honors. They can become the 12th NFL team to start the season at 11-0 and they can win the AFC East Division title. With a win Sunday night against Philadelphia, OR a Buffalo loss, OR ties by New England and Buffalo, the Patriots will become only the fourth team since the advent of the 16-game schedule in 1978 to clinch a division title by its 11th game (1985 Chicago, 1997 San Francisco and 2004 Philadelphia).

Meanwhile, there are a lot of other key games to top off the Thanksgiving weekend:

HOUSTON TEXANS (5-5) at CLEVELAND BROWNS (6-4)

STORYLINE: A "Cold-in-Cleveland" ground game, or air-it-out with all the WRs?

It could go either way with these two clubs. The Browns are one of only two teams (Cincinnati with **CHAD JOHNSON** and **T.J. HOUSHMANDZADEH**) to have two receivers in the NFL top-10 in yards in **WR BRAYLON EDWARDS** (837) and

NFL THANKSGIVING FACTOID

HEY, BRO!: They'll meet and they'll see if they can top their NFL *brother* record. When the New York Jets play at the Dallas Cowboys on Thanksgiving, it will be the second NFL meeting of running-back brothers **THOMAS** (Jets) and **JULIUS** (Cowboys) **JONES**. On Thanksgiving Day of 2004 (November 25), they set the NFL brother record for most combined rushing yards in a game with 196 (Dallas' Julius, 150; Chicago's Thomas, 46).

TE KELLEN WINSLOW (767). The Texans don't match those numbers, but through adversity, may have strengthened their receiving corps as the final month of the season approaches.

Houston's No. 1 wideout, **ANDRE JOHNSON**, missed seven games with a knee sprain, but returned impressively last week with six catches for 120 yards and a TD. In his absence, the Texans went heavily into a combination of **WRs KEVIN WALTER** and **ANDRÉ DAVIS** and **TE OWEN DANIELS**, who all have exceeded their yardage totals of last season.

Both teams can mix in that air game with a pounding ground attack. Cleveland **RB JAMAL LEWIS** is always a threat for a big game, and the Texans' **RON DAYNE** has – like his wide-receiver mates – filled in successfully for an injured starter (**AHMAN GREEN**). Dayne – newly nicknamed “The Dayne Train” by his teammates – has had 21 carries in each of the last two games (both Houston wins) for a combined 211 yards.

WASHINGTON REDSKINS (5-5) at TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS (6-4)

STORYLINE: *The reins are off Campbell but will the Bucs' "D" rein him in?*

A year ago (November 19), Redskins **QB JASON CAMPBELL** got his first NFL start in Tampa (a 20-17 Bucs win). Now he faces a defense that has allowed the second fewest points in the league (151) and ranks as the No. 3 pass defense.

So let him keep flinging it, Joe! Washington head coach **JOE GIBBS** has allowed Campbell more of a free rein in the passing game, and the team has responded by averaging 24 points in its last two games compared to 19 in its first eight.

But the 'Skins will be going against a staunch defense that is starting to remind people of the old Bucs Super Bowl unit. It sacked Atlanta quarterbacks four times last Sunday, intercepted them twice and shut down the Falcs' running game (49 yards). “Stuff's happening,” says Tampa Bay **DE GREG WHITE**. “Guys are getting in a rhythm up front.”

Meanwhile on offense for Tampa Bay, **QB JEFF GARCIA** has taken the Bucs to two more wins than they had last year and **RB EARNEST GRAHAM** (100-yards in each of the last two games) has securely spelled injured “**CADILLAC**” **WILLIAMS** and just-returned **MICHAEL PITTMAN**.

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES (5-5) at NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS (10-0) (Sunday night, NBC, 8:15 PM ET)

STORYLINE: *“Every team can be beaten.”*

Yes, even the Patriots, says Eagles **S BRIAN DAWKINS**, who played the last time the teams met, a 24-21 New England victory in Super Bowl XXXIX. “There's no team that has played the game that can't be beaten,” Dawkins says. “We as a team want to do what we can so we can get a win up there.”

Of course, if there is anybody who can devise slow-down schemes to the offensive dynamo that is the Patriots it's Eagles nine-year defensive coordinator **JIM JOHNSON**, whose unit since 2000 ranks second in the NFL in third-down efficiency (34.3) and second in red-zone TD percentage (43.4).

That said, perhaps nothing indicates how dangerous the Patriots are than their red-zone proficiency. New England has scored on 46 of its 49 penetrations from the 20, in, for 282 points – by far the most in the league.

One of the offensive weapons that Philadelphia will use to combat **TOM BRADY** (25-4 lifetime against the NFC, including playoffs), **RANDY MOSS** et al will be **RB BRIAN WESTBROOK**, who leads the league in scrimmage yards (1,367).

MIAMI DOLPHINS (0-10) at PITTSBURGH STEELERS (7-3) (Monday night, ESPN, 8:30 PM ET)

STORYLINE: *Beck vs. LeBeau.*

That's one way – a *big way* – that new Dolphins starting **QB JOHN BECK** will be looking at it. The rookie will be facing the multiple fronts and shifts thrown at him by 34-year NFL coach **DICK LE BEAU**, the Steelers' defensive coordinator.

Dolphins head coach **CAM CAMERON** thinks Beck will handle such challenges well. “His command and poise, his pocket presence, is evident,” he says. “We have to gear towards his strength, which is high-percentage throws.”

The Jets last week proved that the Steelers are not invincible. New York sacked **BEN ROETHLISBERGER** seven times and held **WILLIE PARKER** – who powers the NFL's No. 2 rush game – to 52 yards.

But as Dolphins **LB JOEY PORTER** – facing his former team for the first time – can tell his new teammates, the Steelers are tough, particularly at home. Pittsburgh has a 150-54 scoring edge in winning its five home games this year and has won its past 12 Monday night home games.

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	10	0	0	1.000	411	157	254	46	4-0	6-0	4-0	1.000	8-0	1.000	2-0	10W	5-0	
Buffalo Bills	5	5	0	.500	153	222	-69	14	3-3	2-2	3-2	.600	5-4	.556	0-1	1L	4-1	
New York Jets	2	8	0	.200	178	244	-66	17	2-4	0-4	1-3	.250	2-5	.286	0-3	1W	1-4	
Miami Dolphins	0	10	0	.000	183	274	-91	19	0-5	0-5	0-3	.000	0-6	.000	0-4	10L	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	7	3	0	.700	269	145	124	30	5-0	2-3	4-0	1.000	5-2	.714	2-1	1L	3-2	
Cleveland Browns	6	4	0	.600	288	294	-6	31	4-1	2-3	3-2	.600	4-4	.500	2-0	1W	4-1	
Baltimore Ravens	4	6	0	.400	168	211	-43	12	3-2	1-4	0-5	.000	1-6	.143	3-0	4L	1-4	
Cincinnati Bengals	3	7	0	.300	246	286	-40	23	2-3	1-4	2-2	.500	3-5	.375	0-2	1L	2-3	

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	8	2	0	.800	278	159	119	31	4-1	4-1	3-0	1.000	5-2	.714	3-0	1W	3-2	
Jacksonville Jaguars	7	3	0	.700	207	181	26	22	3-2	4-1	2-2	.500	5-2	.714	2-1	2W	3-2	
Tennessee Titans	6	4	0	.600	198	186	12	16	3-2	3-2	2-2	.500	3-3	.500	3-1	2L	3-2	
Houston Texans	5	5	0	.500	226	236	-10	21	3-2	2-3	0-3	.000	3-4	.429	2-1	2W	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	5	5	0	.500	229	209	20	27	4-1	1-4	2-1	.667	4-3	.571	1-2	1L	3-2	
Denver Broncos	5	5	0	.500	187	258	-71	16	3-3	2-2	2-1	.667	5-3	.625	0-2	2W	3-2	
Kansas City Chiefs	4	6	0	.400	145	186	-41	13	2-3	2-3	2-1	.667	3-4	.429	1-2	3L	2-3	
Oakland Raiders	2	8	0	.200	180	223	-43	17	1-4	1-4	0-3	.000	2-5	.286	0-3	6L	0-5	

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	9	1	0	.900	324	218	106	36	4-1	5-0	4-0	1.000	7-0	1.000	2-1	4W	4-1	
New York Giants	7	3	0	.700	236	200	36	26	3-2	4-1	2-2	.500	5-3	.625	2-0	1W	4-1	
Washington Redskins	5	5	0	.500	200	221	-21	19	3-2	2-3	1-3	.250	3-4	.429	2-1	2L	2-3	
Philadelphia Eagles	5	5	0	.500	206	187	19	20	2-3	3-2	1-3	.250	3-5	.375	2-0	2W	3-2	

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	9	1	0	.900	259	159	100	25	5-1	4-0	2-1	.667	6-1	.857	3-0	5W	5-0	
Detroit Lions	6	4	0	.600	231	232	-1	25	4-1	2-3	3-0	1.000	4-4	.500	2-0	2L	3-2	
Minnesota Vikings	4	6	0	.400	195	210	-15	19	3-2	1-4	1-3	.250	2-5	.286	2-1	1W	2-3	
Chicago Bears	4	6	0	.400	184	217	-33	17	1-3	3-3	1-3	.250	2-5	.286	2-1	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
Tampa Bay Buccaneers	6	4	0	.600	195	151	44	18	4-1	2-3	3-0	1.000	5-2	.714	1-2	2W	3-2	
Carolina Panthers	4	6	0	.400	167	212	-45	16	0-4	4-2	2-2	.500	4-3	.571	0-3	4L	1-4	
New Orleans Saints	4	6	0	.400	212	246	-34	26	2-3	2-3	1-2	.333	3-3	.500	1-3	2L	3-2	
Atlanta Falcons	3	7	0	.300	142	213	-71	12	2-3	1-4	1-3	.250	2-5	.286	1-2	1L	2-3	

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	6	4	0	.600	221	164	57	20	5-1	1-3	3-1	.750	5-2	.714	1-2	2W	3-2	
Arizona Cardinals	5	5	0	.500	223	222	1	22	3-1	2-4	2-1	.667	3-4	.429	2-1	2W	2-3	
San Francisco 49ers	2	8	0	.200	113	223	-110	10	1-4	1-4	2-3	.400	2-6	.250	0-2	8L	0-5	
St. Louis Rams	2	8	0	.200	149	257	-108	12	0-4	2-4	1-3	.250	2-6	.250	0-2	2W	2-3	

LAST WEEK'S NFL RESULTS (NOVEMBER 18-19)

(Home team in CAPS)

Sunday, November 18

Tampa Bay 31, ATLANTA 7
Cleveland 33, BALTIMORE 30 (OT)
Arizona 35, CINCINNATI 27
N.Y. Giants 16, DETROIT 10
GREEN BAY 31, Carolina 17
HOUSTON 23, New Orleans 10
INDIANAPOLIS 13, Kansas City 10
JACKSONVILLE 24, San Diego 17
MINNESOTA 29, Oakland 22

Sunday, November 18, Cont.'d.

PHILADELPHIA 17, Miami 7
N.Y. JETS 19, Pittsburgh 16 (OT)
DALLAS 28, Washington 23
St. Louis 13, SAN FRANCISCO 9
SEATTLE 30, Chicago 23
New England 56, BUFFALO 10

Monday, November 19

DENVER 34, Tennessee 20

2007 WEEK 12 SCHEDULE – NOVEMBER 22, 25-26

(All times local)

Thursday, November 22

Green Bay at Detroit, 12:30 PM
N.Y. Jets at Dallas, 3:15 PM
Indianapolis at Atlanta, 8:00 PM (NFL Network)

Sunday, November 25

New Orleans at Carolina, 1:00 PM
Tennessee at Cincinnati, 1:00 PM
Houston at Cleveland, 1:00 PM
Buffalo at Jacksonville, 1:00 PM
Oakland at Kansas City, 12:00 PM

Sunday, November 25, Cont.'d.

Minnesota at N.Y. Giants, 1:00 PM
Seattle at St. Louis, 12:00 PM
Washington at Tampa Bay, 1:00 PM
San Francisco at Arizona, 2:05 PM
Denver at Chicago, 3:15 PM
Baltimore at San Diego, 1:15 PM
Philadelphia at New England, 8:15 PM (NBC)

Monday, November 26

Miami at Pittsburgh, 8:30 PM (ESPN)