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**FOUR WEEKS TO GO TO SEE WHO'LL GO;
TOP-SCORING PATS FACE FEWEST-POINT STEELERS**

With only four weeks left, "it's still a long season."

New England Patriots wide receiver **WES WELKER** is right. There are only four weeks left to the season. But a lot can happen in that time. Start a streak and it can propel you to the playoffs. Start to lose and you could be home in January.

So far, only two teams have qualified for the playoffs – the AFC East champion Patriots and the Dallas Cowboys, who this week can win the NFC East.

Of course, New England has something else going – an undefeated season. Win this week against Pittsburgh and the Patriots become one of only five teams in history to begin a season at 13-0 (1934 Bears, 1972 Dolphins, 1998 Broncos and 2005 Colts).

There is, indeed, a lot going on in the NFL. "It's all about the month of December," says New York Giants tackle **DAVID DIEHL**. "Every game in the NFL is important, but when you get to this point, every game is even more important because this is make-or-break for people."

So as make-or-break rears up, here are some of the big games in Week 14, many with playoff implications:

CHICAGO BEARS (5-7) at WASHINGTON REDSKINS (5-7) (Thursday night, NFL Network, 8:00 PM ET)

STORYLINE: Playoff hopes on the line.

Neither team can afford a loss if they hope to remain in the playoff hunt.

A win could come from a lot of areas. The Bears' Mr. Excitement, **DEVIN HESTER** (with 10 punt/kickoff return TDs in his first two years), faces the league's No. 1 and 3 units, respectively, in lowest punt/kickoff return averages allowed. And he'll do it in front of a mentor who boasts 18 career punt/kick/INT return TDs, NFL Network analyst **DEION SANDERS**.

Or the tight ends could make the difference. These teams have some of the best in the business. Washington's **CHRIS COOLEY** leads the club in receptions (53), yards (584) and TD catches (7). The Bears have the NFC rookie tight end leader in receptions (31), first-round choice **GREG OLSEN**, and another TE with 30 catches, **DESMOND CLARK** (38).

PITTSBURGH STEELERS (9-3) at NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS (12-0)

STORYLINE: Big O vs. Big D!

That's the breakdown in this matchup. It's hard to imagine a clearer division of strengths by two teams. New England leads the NFL in scoring (469 points), Pittsburgh in fewest points allowed (155). The Patriots on offense and Steelers on defense also rank first, respectively, in touchdowns, yards-per-game and passing net yards-per-game.

Pittsburgh, which blitzes perhaps more than any team in the league, will surely follow that pattern as shown by Philadelphia and Baltimore the last two weeks in New England's three-point victories.

The QB matchup will be closely watched. New England's **TOM BRADY** and Pittsburgh's **BEN ROETHLISBERGER** have won Super Bowls and rank first and third, respectively, in both touchdowns and third-down passing.

"The Patriots can beat anybody by 50," says Steelers **LB LARRY FOOTE**. "But I still like our chances when we go in

NFL FACTOID

A BROTHER FIRST: For the first time in NFL history last week, two sets of quarterback brothers started and won games on the same day – **ELI** (New York Giants) and **PEYTON** (Indianapolis) **MANNING**, and **JOSH** (Oakland) and **LUKE** (Tampa Bay) **MC COWN**.

there because there's only one Steelers defense and one Steelers team. We don't really compare with other teams."

History: Patriots head coach **BILL BELICHICK** is 4-1 against Pittsburgh in his tenure...the Steelers halted New England's NFL-record 21-game winning streak in 2004.

SAN DIEGO CHARGERS (7-5) at TENNESSEE TITANS (7-5)

STORYLINE: *"We're coming together. We're ready to rock."*

So says Chargers **C NICK HARDWICK**. He actually can be speaking for both teams. San Diego has won six of its past eight. Tennessee put an end to its three-game skid Sunday. Both clubs are 7-5 and primed for their playoff push.

Tennessee, of course, also will be primed for the league's No. 3 rusher, **LA DAINIAN TOMLINSON** (1,049 yards), who has sped for almost half his yards (522) over the past six games. The Titans, ranked 30th in the NFL in rush defense last year, are No. 7 now.

Tennessee **QB VINCE YOUNG** has to be pinpoint in his passing because laying back there will be **CB ANTONIO CROMARTIE**, the NFL leader in interceptions (8), including two against Kansas City last week.

ARIZONA CARDINALS (6-6) at SEATTLE SEAHAWKS (8-4)

STORYLINE: *A division battle where takeaways could be the key.*

"Opportunistic" is the word for these guys. Seattle had four interceptions off Philadelphia last week, with three coming from **LB LOFA TATUPU**. His first two set up touchdowns. Arizona – which topped Seattle in Week 2 (23-20) on **NEIL RACKERS'** 42-yard field goal with one second left -- turned three of its four takeaways against Cleveland into TDs.

Two players can play a key role Sunday. Seahawks **RB SHAUN ALEXANDER**, who returned last week from a three-game absence with 65 yards rushing and one TD, has excelled in his last six games against Arizona, rushing for 702 yards – a 117.0 average – and 11 TDs.

On the Cardinals' side, if **WR LARRY FITZGERALD** can't return from a groin injury and **WR ANQUAN BOLDIN** is out with a toe, **BRYANT JOHNSON** will have to pick up the slack as he did last week (six catches, 56 yards, one TD).

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS (10-2) at BALTIMORE RAVENS (4-8) (Sunday night, NBC, 8:15 PM ET)

STORYLINE: *Colts are wary.*

Didn't the Ravens almost knock off the undefeated Patriots? Didn't Baltimore's **QB KYLE BOLLER** match **TOM BRADY** in TDs (2) and its defense sack Brady three times? And doesn't Baltimore have a ferocious No. 6 NFL defense, as it showed Monday night?

Of course, that defense will confront the league's No. 4 offense, which has continued to jell without **WR MARVIN HARRISON** (knee; out seven of the past eight games). Teams have concentrated on **WR REGGIE WAYNE**, but he still posted an eight-catch, 158-yard, one-TD day against Jacksonville last Sunday. And the Colts got **LT TONY UGOH** back.

Sunday night outdoors in December? Fans may see some extra ground-pounding, with the Nos. 4 and 6 NFL rushers, respectively, **WILLIS MC GAHEE** (1,048 yards) of Baltimore and **JOSEPH ADDAI** (943) of Indianapolis.

History: Colts topped the Ravens 15-6 in last year's Divisional Playoffs with five **ADAM VINATIERI** field goals...Indy has won at least 10 games for the sixth consecutive year – the only NFL team to do so over that span.

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS (5-7) at ATLANTA FALCONS (3-9) (Monday night, ESPN, 8:30 PM ET)

STORYLINE: *Some changes for one, tunnel-vision for the other.*

That's how these NFC South teams will approach Monday night.

Atlanta may start **CHRIS REDMAN** at quarterback after his solid performance in Week 13. The five-year veteran threw touchdown passes on his first two possessions after coming on in the fourth quarter. **RB JERIOUS NORWOOD**, the Falcons' third-round pick last year, got his first NFL start on Sunday and produced 94 yards. "When you watch the video, he's the most explosive player for us," says Falcons head coach **BOBBY PETRINO**.

The Saints will not be making any major changes. Their focus is on the playoff hunt starting Monday with the Falcons. "We have four games left and we're going to have to play better football," says New Orleans head coach **SEAN PAYTON**. "It's really not about the opponent. It's about us."

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
z- New England Patriots	12	0	0	1.000	469	209	260	61	5-0	7-0	4-0	1.000	9-0	1.000	3-0	12W	5-0	
Buffalo Bills	6	6	0	.500	184	274	-90	17	3-3	3-3	3-2	.600	5-5	.500	1-1	1W	3-2	
New York Jets	3	9	0	.250	221	291	-70	22	2-4	1-5	2-3	.400	3-5	.375	0-4	1W	2-3	
Miami Dolphins	0	12	0	.000	196	317	-121	21	0-6	0-6	0-4	.000	0-8	.000	0-4	12L	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	9	3	0	.750	296	155	141	34	7-0	2-3	5-0	1.000	7-2	.778	2-1	2W	4-1	
Cleveland Browns	7	5	0	.583	336	338	-2	39	5-1	2-4	3-2	.600	5-4	.556	2-1	1L	3-2	
Baltimore Ravens	4	8	0	.333	206	270	-64	20	3-3	1-5	0-5	.000	1-8	.111	3-0	6L	0-5	
Cincinnati Bengals	4	8	0	.333	291	316	-25	32	3-3	1-5	2-3	.400	4-6	.400	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	10	2	0	.833	337	197	140	40	5-1	5-1	4-0	1.000	6-2	.750	4-0	3W	3-2	
Jacksonville Jaguars	8	4	0	.667	268	223	45	31	4-2	4-2	2-3	.400	6-3	.667	2-1	1L	3-2	
Tennessee Titans	7	5	0	.583	232	241	-9	22	4-2	3-3	3-2	.600	4-4	.500	3-1	1W	2-3	
Houston Texans	5	7	0	.417	263	291	-28	27	3-2	2-5	0-4	.000	3-6	.333	2-1	2L	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	7	5	0	.583	285	233	52	35	5-1	2-4	3-1	.750	6-3	.667	1-2	2W	3-2	
Denver Broncos	5	7	0	.417	241	329	-88	26	3-3	2-4	2-2	.500	5-4	.556	0-3	2L	2-3	
Kansas City Chiefs	4	8	0	.333	172	230	-58	17	2-5	2-3	2-3	.400	3-6	.333	1-2	5L	0-5	
Oakland Raiders	4	8	0	.333	234	260	-26	24	2-4	2-4	2-3	.400	4-5	.444	0-3	2W	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
y- Dallas Cowboys	11	1	0	.917	395	248	147	48	6-1	5-0	4-0	1.000	8-0	1.000	3-1	6W	5-0	
New York Giants	8	4	0	.667	274	257	17	32	3-3	5-1	2-2	.500	6-4	.600	2-0	1W	3-2	
Washington Redskins	5	7	0	.417	229	257	-28	23	3-3	2-4	1-3	.250	3-5	.375	2-2	4L	1-4	
Philadelphia Eagles	5	7	0	.417	258	246	12	29	2-4	3-3	1-3	.250	3-6	.333	2-1	2L	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	10	2	0	.833	323	222	101	36	5-1	5-1	3-1	.750	7-2	.778	3-0	1L	4-1	
Detroit Lions	6	6	0	.500	267	311	-44	29	4-2	2-4	3-2	.600	4-6	.400	2-0	4L	1-4	
Minnesota Vikings	6	6	0	.500	278	237	41	33	4-2	2-4	2-3	.400	4-5	.444	2-1	3W	4-1	
Chicago Bears	5	7	0	.417	237	272	-35	24	2-4	3-3	1-3	.250	2-6	.250	3-1	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	8	4	0	.667	241	187	54	26	5-1	3-3	4-0	1.000	7-2	.778	1-2	4W	4-1	
Carolina Panthers	5	7	0	.417	204	257	-53	22	1-5	4-2	2-3	.400	5-4	.556	0-3	1W	1-4	
New Orleans Saints	5	7	0	.417	266	279	-13	34	2-4	3-3	2-3	.400	4-4	.500	1-3	1L	2-3	
Atlanta Falcons	3	9	0	.250	171	272	-101	16	2-4	1-5	1-3	.250	2-6	.250	1-3	3L	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	8	4	0	.667	273	207	66	30	5-1	3-3	4-1	.800	7-2	.778	1-2	4W	4-1	
Arizona Cardinals	6	6	0	.500	281	280	1	34	4-2	2-4	2-2	.500	3-5	.375	3-1	1W	3-2	
San Francisco 49ers	3	9	0	.250	164	285	-121	17	1-4	2-5	3-3	.500	3-7	.300	0-2	1L	1-4	
St. Louis Rams	3	9	0	.250	196	297	-101	19	1-5	2-4	1-4	.200	3-7	.300	0-2	1W	3-2	

x - Clinched playoff, y - Clinched Wild Card, z - Clinched Division

* - Clinched Division and Homefield Advantage

LAST WEEK'S NFL RESULTS (NOVEMBER 29, DECEMBER 2-3)

(Home team in CAPS)

Thursday, November 29

DALLAS 37, Green Bay 27

Sunday, December 2

CAROLINA 31, San Francisco 14
INDIANAPOLIS 28, Jacksonville 25
San Diego 24, KANSAS CITY 10
N.Y. Jets 40, MIAMI 13
MINNESOTA 42, Detroit 10
Seattle 28, PHILADELPHIA 24
ST. LOUIS 28, Atlanta 16

Sunday, December 2, Cont.'d.

TENNESSEE 28, Houston 20
Buffalo 17, WASHINGTON 16
ARIZONA 27, Cleveland 21
OAKLAND 34, Denver 20
N.Y. Giants 21, CHICAGO 16
Tampa Bay 27, NEW ORLEANS 23
PITTSBURGH 24, Cincinnati 10

Monday, December 3

New England 27, BALTIMORE 24

WEEK 14 SCHEDULE – DECEMBER 6, 9-10

(All times local)

Thursday, December 6

Chicago at Washington, 8:00 PM (NFL Network)

Sunday, December 9

Miami at Buffalo, 1:00 PM
St. Louis at Cincinnati, 1:00 PM
Dallas at Detroit, 1:00 PM
Oakland at Green Bay, 12:00 PM
Tampa Bay at Houston, 12:00 PM
Carolina at Jacksonville, 1:00 PM
N.Y. Giants at Philadelphia, 1:00 PM

Sunday, December 9, Cont.'d.

San Diego at Tennessee, 12:00 PM
Minnesota at San Francisco, 1:05 PM
Arizona at Seattle, 1:05 PM
Kansas City at Denver, 2:15 PM
Pittsburgh at New England, 4:15 PM
Cleveland at N.Y. Jets, 4:15 PM
Indianapolis at Baltimore, 8:15 PM (NBC)

Monday, December 10

New Orleans at Atlanta, 8:30 PM (ESPN)