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ONE AWAY FROM ARIZONA! CHARGERS TAKE ON PATRIOTS, GIANTS CONFRONT PACKERS IN CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES

"It's a one-game season."

That is the way one of the head coaches involved in this Sunday's AFC and NFC Championship Games describes the finality of the moment.

Win and you're on your way to sunny Glendale, Arizona for Super Bowl XLII on February 3. Lose and it's the sudden beginning of a long offseason.

"Our whole season is at stake and so is theirs," says New England Patriots head coach **BILL BELICHICK** in describing his AFC Championship Game against the San Diego Chargers. The same can be said for the New York Giants and Green Bay Packers in the NFC Championship Game.

"It's a one-game season," says Belichick. "One team moves on. One team goes home."

This Sunday's "one-game season":

AFC CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

3:00 PM ET San Diego Chargers (13-5) at New England Patriots (17-0) (CBS-TV)

NFC CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

6:30 PM ET New York Giants (12-6) at Green Bay Packers (14-3) (FOX-TV)

The championship game lineup is an impressive one, indeed:

- It will be a "Times Have Changed Weekend." Both games are rematches of Week 2 meetings this season (it is the 16th time since 1970 that both championship games were rematches). But both winning coaches say that their opponents are different teams now.

"The important thing for us to focus on is what the Chargers have done in the last couple of months," says Belichick of San Diego. Green Bay coach **MIKE MC CARTHY** agrees that what happened in September means nothing in January. "We are a different football team than we were in Week 2, and definitely the New York Giants are a different football team," says McCarthy.

- The clubs combine for a .800 regular/postseason winning percentage (56-14).
- The teams are hot, no matter what streak you look at. New England is scalding, continuing on an unbeaten season at 17-0. San Diego has won eight in a row. New York is 9-1 on the road (no road team has ever played in a championship game with that road record). Green Bay has won eight of its nine home games this year.
- In action this Sunday will be the NFL's career leader in quarterback wins and touchdown passes (**BRETT FAVRE**)...the season TD-pass record-holder (**TOM BRADY**)...the season sack leader (**MICHAEL STRAHAN**)...and the running back who has led the league in rushing the past two years (**LA DAINIAN TOMLINSON**).

So, after all eight winners in the 2007 playoffs came back from a deficit -- the first time that has happened since the 12-team playoff format began in 1990 -- here is a rundown of the AFC and NFC Championship Games:

NFL CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES FACTOIDS

ANOTHER PATRIOTS RECORD: New England has set a good number of records this year. Perhaps most impressive is the 500,000 feet of 16mm film NFL Films has used to record the team's exploits. That is a record for a team in a season.....**GIANTS-PACKERS REPLAY:** NFL Network will show a half-hour replay of the New York-Green Bay 1962 NFL Championship Game this Friday at 10:00 PM ET. The teams played back-to-back NFL title games in 1961-62.

SAN DIEGO CHARGERS (13-5) at NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS (17-0) (Sunday, 3:00 PM ET, CBS)

STORYLINE: Battle of the turnovers?

Of course, the players and personalities on these teams can exert their own game-changing influence on the matchup, but the bottom line to the meeting could be turnovers. San Diego led the league in takeaways (48; with a league-leading 30 interceptions), while New England had only 15 giveaways, best in the league (and only nine interceptions, third-best).

That said, San Diego will face an offense seldom seen in the NFL. The Patriots set the season record this year for points (589) and touchdowns (75) and scored at least 24 points in 16 of their 17 games. Led by the 2007 Associated Press NFL MVP, quarterback **TOM BRADY**, New England seems capable of adjusting to anything defenses throw at it. Limit the pass (if that can be done) and they go to the run, or vice versa.

Perhaps nothing illustrates this ability more than the Patriots' Divisional Playoff game against Jacksonville. The Jaguars double- and sometimes triple-teamed **WR RANDY MOSS**, who set the NFL season TD-reception record (23) this year. What did Brady do? Complete 26 of 28 attempts (for an NFL record 92.9 completion percentage) to eight different receivers for 262 yards – *with only one pass going to Moss*.

The Chargers will come in to their rematch with the Patriots (they lost at New England 38-14 on September 16) somewhat limited. But that concerns Belichick.

RB LA DAINIAN TOMLINSON (knee), **QB PHILIP RIVERS** (knee) and **TE ANTONIO GATES** (toe) are hurting. Rivers would be replaced by veteran **BILLY VOLEK**, who led San Diego to the winning score in the Divisionals.

"They have outstanding depth," says Belichick, citing **RBs MICHAEL TURNER** and **DARREN SPROLES**, Volek and **TE BRANDON MANUMALEUNA**, who can fill in for the starters. "That's why they're in the AFC Championship. If they're on the 53-man roster, we'll prepare for them."

Championship tidbit: Patriots 38-year-old **LB JUNIOR SEAU** will be playing in his first championship game since 1994, when he was with his opponent this Sunday, San Diego.

NEW YORK GIANTS (12-6) at GREEN BAY PACKERS (14-3) (Sunday, 6:30 PM ET, FOX)

STORYLINE: At least the uniforms are the same.

If anyone exhibits how teams can change during a season, it's these two. Back in Week 2 (a 35-13 Green Bay win in New York), the Packers were worried about their running game, and even **BRETT FAVRE** (who would become the NFL's winningest QB ever in that game) was saying the Pack needed to be able to mix the run in with the pass.

The Giants? Their concern – a *big* one – was their defense, with new packages put in under new coordinator **STEVE SPAGNUOLO**. By the end of the Green Bay game, the Giants had surrendered 80 points in the season's first two games.

Going into the NFC Championship, how things have changed! It took five more games for Green Bay to find its running game – in **RYAN GRANT**, who grew up 20 miles from Giants Stadium (Ramsey, NJ), was a practice squad player/injured for the Giants for two years before Green Bay traded for him right before the season. All Grant did from Week 8, on, was run for 1,130 yards and 11 TDs, including a Packers' playoff record last Saturday with 201 rush yards.

Meanwhile, from a gritty goal-line stand against Washington in Week 3, the Giants' defense began to take form, Spagnuolo's shifting schemes and player rotation up front began to mesh, and New York has allowed only 18.9 points-per-game through the Divisionals since the Green Bay game.

So how will this all pan out Sunday in what is expected to be sub-freezing temperatures at Lambeau Field? You have to think the running game will be a big factor. The Giants can match Grant's production with their own RBs – **BRANDON JACOBS**, the 6-4, 264-pound freight train who usually needs a good two-to-three guys to bring him down, and elusive **AHMAD BRADSHAW**, one of the team's two seventh-round draft picks this year.

Giants **QB ELI MANNING** – looking to become the second consecutive Manning to win a Super Bowl after brother **PEYTON** last season – has a 100.0 passer rating in each of his last three games, along with eight TDs and one interception. He will go against one of the best corner tandems in the league in **AL HARRIS** and **CHARLES WOODSON**, who excel in man-to-man.

And Favre, who also became the career TD leader this year? Who knows what he'll pull this week, from last-ditch shovel passes that set up scores to out-and-out bombs to the Pack's "Big Five" alignment of five wide receivers and an empty backfield. Favre has a strong OL in front of him, was sacked the third fewest times in the league (19, tie), but faces a defense that led the NFL in sacks (53) this season.

Championship tidbit: Packers **S ATARI BIGBY** speaks for every player in Sunday's championship games when he says, "We're trying to win the Super Bowl. We don't want to mess it up."

2007 FINAL 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	16	0	0	1.000	589	274	315	75	8-0	8-0	6-0	1.000	12-0	1.000	4-0	16W	5-0	
Buffalo Bills	7	9	0	.438	252	354	-102	25	4-4	3-5	4-2	.667	6-6	.500	1-3	3L	2-3	
New York Jets	4	12	0	.250	268	355	-87	26	3-5	1-7	2-4	.333	4-8	.333	0-4	1W	2-3	
Miami Dolphins	1	15	0	.063	267	437	-170	29	1-7	0-8	0-6	.000	1-11	.083	0-4	2L	1-4	

AFC North

Team	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Net	Pts	TD	Home	Road	Div	Pct	Conf	Pct	Non-Conf	Streak	Last 5
z- Pittsburgh Steelers	10	6	0	.625	393	269	124	46	7-1	3-5	5-1	.833	7-5	.583	3-1	1L	2-3	
Cleveland Browns	10	6	0	.625	402	382	20	46	7-1	3-5	3-3	.500	7-5	.583	3-1	1W	3-2	
Cincinnati Bengals	7	9	0	.438	380	385	-5	41	5-3	2-6	3-3	.500	6-6	.500	1-3	2W	3-2	
Baltimore Ravens	5	11	0	.313	275	384	-109	28	4-4	1-7	1-5	.167	2-10	.167	3-1	1W	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
z- Indianapolis Colts	13	3	0	.813	450	262	188	54	6-2	7-1	5-1	.833	9-3	.750	4-0	1L	4-1	
y- Jacksonville Jaguars	11	5	0	.688	411	304	107	50	6-2	5-3	2-4	.333	8-4	.667	3-1	1L	3-2	
y- Tennessee Titans	10	6	0	.625	301	297	4	28	5-3	5-3	4-2	.667	7-5	.583	3-1	3W	4-1	
Houston Texans	8	8	0	.500	379	384	-5	43	6-2	2-6	1-5	.167	5-7	.417	3-1	1W	3-2	

AFC West

Team	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Net	Pts	TD	Home	Road	Div	Pct	Conf	Pct	Non-Conf	Streak	Last 5
z- San Diego Chargers	11	5	0	.688	412	284	128	49	7-1	4-4	5-1	.833	9-3	.750	2-2	6W	5-0	
Denver Broncos	7	9	0	.438	320	409	-89	34	5-3	2-6	3-3	.500	6-6	.500	1-3	1W	2-3	
Kansas City Chiefs	4	12	0	.250	226	335	-109	24	2-6	2-6	2-4	.333	3-9	.250	1-3	9L	0-5	
Oakland Raiders	4	12	0	.250	283	398	-115	30	2-6	2-6	2-4	.333	4-8	.333	0-4	4L	1-4	

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	13	3	0	.813	455	325	130	54	6-2	7-1	4-2	.667	10-2	.833	3-1	1L	3-2	
y- New York Giants	10	6	0	.625	373	351	22	44	3-5	7-1	3-3	.500	7-5	.583	3-1	1L	3-2	
y- Washington Redskins	9	7	0	.563	334	310	24	35	5-3	4-4	3-3	.500	7-5	.583	2-2	4W	4-1	
Philadelphia Eagles	8	8	0	.500	336	300	36	38	3-5	5-3	2-4	.333	5-7	.417	3-1	3W	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
z- Green Bay Packers	13	3	0	.813	435	291	144	49	7-1	6-2	4-2	.667	9-3	.750	4-0	1W	3-2	
Minnesota Vikings	8	8	0	.500	365	311	54	43	5-3	3-5	3-3	.500	6-6	.500	2-2	2L	3-2	
Detroit Lions	7	9	0	.438	346	444	-98	37	5-3	2-6	3-3	.500	4-8	.333	3-1	1L	1-4	
Chicago Bears	7	9	0	.438	334	348	-14	34	4-4	3-5	2-4	.333	4-8	.333	3-1	2W	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
z- Tampa Bay Buccaneers	9	7	0	.563	334	270	64	36	6-2	3-5	5-1	.833	8-4	.667	1-3	2L	2-3	
Carolina Panthers	7	9	0	.438	267	347	-80	28	2-6	5-3	3-3	.500	7-5	.583	0-4	1W	3-2	
New Orleans Saints	7	9	0	.438	379	388	-9	47	3-5	4-4	3-3	.500	6-6	.500	1-3	2L	2-3	
Atlanta Falcons	4	12	0	.250	259	414	-155	26	3-5	1-7	1-5	.167	3-9	.250	1-3	1W	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
z- Seattle Seahawks	10	6	0	.625	393	291	102	44	7-1	3-5	5-1	.833	8-4	.667	2-2	1L	3-2	
Arizona Cardinals	8	8	0	.500	404	399	5	49	6-2	2-6	3-3	.500	5-7	.417	3-1	2W	3-2	
San Francisco 49ers	5	11	0	.313	219	364	-145	24	3-5	2-6	3-3	.500	4-8	.333	1-3	1L	2-3	
St. Louis Rams	3	13	0	.188	263	438	-175	27	1-7	2-6	1-5	.167	3-9	.250	0-4	4L	1-4	

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

* - Clinched Division and Homefield Advantage

DIVISIONAL PLAYOFFS RESULTS (JANUARY 12-13)

(Home team in CAPS)

Saturday, January 12

GREEN BAY 42, Seattle 20

NEW ENGLAND 31, Jacksonville 20

Sunday, January 13

San Diego 28, INDIANAPOLIS 24

N.Y. Giants 21, DALLAS 17

AFC & NFC CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES SCHEDULE

(All times Eastern)

Sunday, January 20

San Diego at New England, 3:00 PM (CBS)

N.Y. Giants at Green Bay, 6:30 PM (FOX)

SUPER BOWL XLII: Sunday, February 3 at University of Phoenix Stadium in Glendale, Arizona, 6:30 PM ET (FOX)

PRO BOWL: Sunday, February 10 at Aloha Stadium, Honolulu, Hawaii, 6:00 PM ET (FOX)