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THE PRESSURE'S ALREADY ON AS BIG DIVISION MATCHUPS, OLD RIVALRIES HIGHLIGHT WEEK 4 ACTION

"It's a long way to go"... "We're living on the edge"... "It's going to be crazy all year"... "They don't give out prizes for the first month of the season."

And these are quotes from the guys who are *winning* – (in order) Tennessee's **JEVON KEARSE**, Denver's **JAY CUTLER**, San Francisco's **FRANK GORE**, and Baltimore's **BART SCOTT**.

In the NFL, whether it's Week 4, like this week, or Week 14, the pressure is always on.

Sure, you'd rather be undefeated – as six clubs are – or at least have a winning record as the last weekend of September looms. But all those teams on the downside of the won-loss ledger should remind themselves of the 2007 San Diego Chargers, who began last season at 1-3, won their final six and took an 11-5 record into the playoffs, advancing all the way to the AFC Championship Game.

"It doesn't matter whether you're the favorite now or the least favorite," says quarterback **TONY ROMO** of the 3-0 Dallas Cowboys. "The reality of it is you've got to keep playing games. You're not trying to be the favorite now, you're trying to be the favorite at the end of the year."

You're right on that, Tony. And as far as "playing games," you've got a big one this week -- a divisional game, one of seven on the Week 4 schedule that are intermixed with "rivalry" games packed with history. A rundown of some of these "the-pressure's-already-on" games:

WASHINGTON REDSKINS (2-1) at DALLAS COWBOYS (3-0)

STORYLINE: *Could be the QBs...or the RBs...or the WRs.*

Who knows who will break open this game of NFC East rivals?

The young quarterbacks, Dallas' **TONY ROMO** and Washington's **JASON CAMPBELL**, look like they may have a healthy rivalry that will grow through the years. Romo loves the long ball and has thrown for the third-most yards in the league this season (892). Campbell has been more conservative in new Redskins head coach **JIM ZORN**'s West Coast offense, has yet to throw an interception, and completed 16 passes in a row at one point over Weeks 2-3.

Then there are the pounders – Washington's **CLINTON PORTIS**, who led the league in carries last year, and Dallas' **MARION BARBER**, who has 33 TDs in his last 35 games.

Finally, there are the wide receivers. Dallas' **TERRELL OWENS** had four TD catches in the teams' first meeting a year ago – and a pass knockdown on defense to end the game. And Washington's **SANTANA MOSS**, always tacking on multiple yards after the catch, ties for the second-most '08 TD receptions with three.

Rookie rockin': Rookie **FELIX JONES** is the first Cowboys RB to score TDs in each of his first three career games.

ATLANTA FALCONS (2-1) at CAROLINA PANTHERS (2-1)

STORYLINE: *An early-season I-85 battle!*

NFL HIGH SCHOOL FACTOID

NFL HIGH SCHOOLS: USA Football has announced its annual list of high schools with the most NFL players. Two schools have the most players with six each – Dillard HS in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and Tustin HS in Tustin, California. Four of those players will face each other this week – Dillard **CB CHRIS GAMBLE** (Carolina) vs. Tustin **T SAM BAKER** (Atlanta), and Dillard **DT PAT SIMS** (Cincinnati) vs. Tustin **LB BEAU BELL** (Cleveland).

These two NFC South rivals always seem to play each other close. They have split the past two seasons with the last three being decided by seven points apiece.

There are a lot of new faces to add to the drama. The Falcons' first-round draft choice, **QB MATT RYAN**, has won two of his first three games and is developing a relationship with **WR RODDY WHITE**. The two teamed up for 119 yards in Week 3, including a 70-yard TD after which White did his patented backflip.

And Atlanta now has **MICHAEL TURNER** igniting its running game. The former Charger leads the league in rushing with 366 yards and ties Miami's **RONNIE BROWN** for the rush TD lead with five. The Falcons lead the league in rushing. "We have stressed since Day 1 that we want to be a physical team," says new head coach **MIKE SMITH**.

The Panthers will look to negate Atlanta's rush with **RBs JONATHAN STEWART**, one of the club's 2008 first-round selections (three rush TDs so far), and veteran **DE ANGELO WILLIAMS**. This will be a necessity in preventing the league's No. 1 sacker (6.0), **DE JOHN ABRAHAM**, from teeing off on Carolina **QB JAKE DELHOMME**.

GREEN BAY PACKERS (2-1) at TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS (2-1)

STORYLINE: Favre vs. Sapp?

Nope, that was in the old NFC Central, when these two were hot rivals, so there will be plenty of excitement Sunday.

The Pack will have to figure out how to tone down rejuvenated veteran **QB BRIAN GRIESE**, who threw an amazing 67 times (and completed 38) for 407 yards in a 27-24 overtime victory in Week 3 over Chicago -- *without a sack!* "Sixty-seven passes and no sacks?" says Bucs **DE KEVIN CARTER**. "That's an incredible statement for our offensive line."

That it is, but that OL performance will definitely be taken as a challenge by Green Bay ends **AARON KAMPMAN** (tied for the second-most sacks in the league with 4.0) and **CULLEN JENKINS** (2.5).

Meanwhile, new Packers **QB AARON RODGERS** – who did not at all have a bad game in the team's 27-16 loss to Dallas Sunday night (22 of 39 for 290 yards) – is aiming to rebound from his first NFL defeat.

"You'd like to win them all," says Rodgers. "We're going to have to watch film, be critical of ourselves and get better."

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES (2-1) at CHICAGO BEARS (1-2) (Sunday night, NBC, 8:15 PM ET)

STORYLINE: Welcome home, Donovan – now go home!

It's not that the Bears have anything against the Eagles' Chicago-born quarterback **DONOVAN MC NABB** – it's just that the hometown hero has basically dominated the hometown team. McNabb has lost to the Bears only once in six meetings, with one of the wins coming in the playoffs. And he is 4-0 in Chicago.

With that as the backdrop Sunday night, it's the *defenses* of these two teams that could prove to be the telling point. The Eagles – No. 1 in the NFL against the rush – come off a blitz-happy attack on Pittsburgh that resulted in nine sacks, three takeaways and 180 total yards allowed. Meanwhile, in a loss to Tampa Bay, the Bears' rush "D" (No. 4 in the league) was tough, limiting the Bucs to 47 yards on the ground.

Prime-time Forté: Bears rookie **RB MATT FORTÉ** rushed for 123 yards in his first Sunday night game (Week 1 vs. Indianapolis). Already a Soldier Field favorite, a fan held up the following sign last week: "Running the Ball is his Forté."

BALTIMORE RAVENS (2-0) at PITTSBURGH STEELERS (2-1) (Monday night, ESPN, 8:30 PM ET)

STORYLINE: Ben and Joe better be ready!

The game's quarterbacks in this AFC North matchup -- Pittsburgh's **BEN ROETHLISBERGER** and Baltimore's **JOE FLACCO** – face the league's top two defenses, respectively.

"Baltimore, without a doubt, is the most confusing defense there is in the NFL," says Cincinnati's **G ANDREW WHITWORTH**. Coordinator **REX RYAN** sends people from every angle.

That kind of pressure is a big part of the Ravens not allowing a 100-yard rusher in 21 consecutive games, the best such mark in the league. They will test the Steelers' first-round draft choice of this year, **RB RASHARD MENDENHALL**, who will get his first start in place of the injured **WILLIE PARKER**.

The Ravens know that shutting down the rush game is not all that is needed against Pittsburgh. Roethlisberger threw a franchise-record five touchdowns against Baltimore last November 5.

Steel-tough: Pittsburgh – this year is the 250th anniversary of the city -- has won a record 13 consecutive MNF games.

2008 NFL STANDINGS

American Football Conference - 2008 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
Buffalo Bills	3	0	0	1.000	78	49	29	9	2-0	1-0	0-0	.000	2-0	1.000	1-0	3W	3-0
New England Patriots	2	1	0	.667	49	58	-9	4	1-1	1-0	1-1	.500	2-1	.667	0-0	1L	2-1
New York Jets	1	2	0	.333	59	81	-22	8	0-1	1-1	1-1	.500	1-2	.333	0-0	2L	1-2
Miami Dolphins	1	2	0	.333	62	64	-2	8	0-1	1-1	1-1	.500	1-1	.500	0-1	1W	1-2
AFC North Team	W	L	T	▼ Pct	PF	PA	Net Pts	TD	Home	Road	Div	Pct	Conf	Pct	Non-Conf	Streak	Last 5
Baltimore Ravens	2	0	0	1.000	45	20	25	6	2-0	0-0	2-0	1.000	2-0	1.000	0-0	2W	2-0
Pittsburgh Steelers	2	1	0	.667	54	38	16	6	1-0	1-1	1-0	1.000	2-0	1.000	0-1	1L	2-1
Cincinnati Bengals	0	3	0	.000	40	67	-27	4	0-1	0-2	0-1	.000	0-2	.000	0-1	3L	0-3
Cleveland Browns	0	3	0	.000	26	66	-40	2	0-2	0-1	0-2	.000	0-2	.000	0-1	3L	0-3
AFC South Team	W	L	T	▼ Pct	PF	PA	Net Pts	TD	Home	Road	Div	Pct	Conf	Pct	Non-Conf	Streak	Last 5
Tennessee Titans	3	0	0	1.000	72	29	43	9	2-0	1-0	2-0	1.000	3-0	1.000	0-0	3W	3-0
Jacksonville Jaguars	1	2	0	.333	49	58	-9	4	0-1	1-1	1-1	.500	1-2	.333	0-0	1W	1-2
Indianapolis Colts	1	2	0	.333	52	67	-15	6	0-2	1-0	0-1	.000	0-1	.000	1-1	1L	1-2
Houston Texans	0	2	0	.000	29	69	-40	3	0-0	0-2	0-1	.000	0-2	.000	0-0	2L	0-2
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	3	0	0	1.000	114	84	30	14	2-0	1-0	2-0	1.000	2-0	1.000	1-0	3W	3-0
Oakland Raiders	1	2	0	.333	60	73	-13	6	0-1	1-1	1-1	.500	1-2	.333	0-0	1L	1-2
San Diego Chargers	1	2	0	.333	110	94	16	13	1-1	0-1	0-1	.000	1-1	.500	0-1	1W	1-2
Kansas City Chiefs	0	3	0	.000	32	78	-46	4	0-1	0-2	0-1	.000	0-2	.000	0-1	3L	0-3
National Football Conference - 2008 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	3	0	0	1.000	96	63	33	12	1-0	2-0	1-0	1.000	2-0	1.000	1-0	3W	3-0
New York Giants	3	0	0	1.000	83	43	40	8	2-0	1-0	1-0	1.000	2-0	1.000	1-0	3W	3-0
Washington Redskins	2	1	0	.667	60	57	3	7	2-0	0-1	0-1	.000	2-1	.667	0-0	2W	2-1
Philadelphia Eagles	2	1	0	.667	90	50	40	10	2-0	0-1	0-1	.000	1-1	.500	1-0	1W	2-1
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	2	1	0	.667	88	71	17	10	1-1	1-0	2-0	1.000	2-1	.667	0-0	1L	2-1
Minnesota Vikings	1	2	0	.333	54	52	2	4	1-1	0-1	0-1	.000	1-1	.500	0-1	1W	1-2
Chicago Bears	1	2	0	.333	70	60	10	7	0-1	1-1	0-0	.000	0-2	.000	1-0	2L	1-2
Detroit Lions	0	3	0	.000	59	113	-54	6	0-1	0-2	0-1	.000	0-3	.000	0-0	3L	0-3
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	2	1	0	.667	71	57	14	8	1-0	1-1	1-1	.500	2-1	.667	0-0	2W	2-1
Carolina Panthers	2	1	0	.667	56	61	-5	5	1-0	1-1	0-0	.000	1-1	.500	1-0	1L	2-1
Atlanta Falcons	2	1	0	.667	81	59	22	9	2-0	0-1	0-1	.000	1-1	.500	1-0	1W	2-1
New Orleans Saints	1	2	0	.333	80	83	-3	10	1-0	0-2	1-0	1.000	1-1	.500	0-1	2L	1-2
NFC West Team	W	L	T	▼ Pct	PF	PA	Net Pts	TD	Home	Road	Div	Pct	Conf	Pct	Non-Conf	Streak	Last 5
Arizona Cardinals	2	1	0	.667	71	47	24	8	1-0	1-1	1-0	1.000	1-1	.500	1-0	1L	2-1
San Francisco 49ers	2	1	0	.667	77	66	11	8	1-1	1-0	1-1	.500	2-1	.667	0-0	2W	2-1
Seattle Seahawks	1	2	0	.333	77	80	-3	8	1-1	0-1	1-1	.500	1-1	.500	0-1	1W	1-2
St. Louis Rams	0	3	0	.000	29	116	-87	2	0-1	0-2	0-1	.000	0-3	.000	0-0	3L	0-3

x - Clinched playoff
 y - Clinched Wild Card
 z - Clinched Division
 * - Clinched Division and Homefield Advantage

LAST WEEK'S NFL RESULTS (SEPTEMBER 21-22)

(Home team in CAPS)

Sunday, September 21

ATLANTA 38, Kansas City 14
BUFFALO 24, Oakland 23
Tampa Bay 27, CHICAGO 24 (OT)
MINNESOTA 20, Carolina 10
Miami 38, NEW ENGLAND 13
N.Y. GIANTS 26, Cincinnati 23 (OT)
TENNESSEE 31, Houston 12
WASHINGTON 24, Arizona 17
DENVER 34, New Orleans 32

Sunday, September 21, Cont.'d.

SAN FRANCISCO 31, Detroit 13
SEATTLE 37, St. Louis 13
BALTIMORE 28, Cleveland 10
Jacksonville 23, INDIANAPOLIS 21
PHILADELPHIA 15, Pittsburgh 6
Dallas 27, GREEN BAY 16

Monday, September 22

SAN DIEGO 48, N.Y. Jets 29

WEEK 4 SCHEDULE – SEPTEMBER 28-29

(All times local)

Byes: Detroit, Indianapolis, Miami, New England, N.Y. Giants, Seattle

Sunday, September 28

Atlanta at Carolina, 1:00 PM
Cleveland at Cincinnati, 1:00 PM
Houston at Jacksonville, 1:00 PM
Denver at Kansas City, 12:00 PM
San Francisco at New Orleans, 12:00 PM
Arizona at N.Y. Jets, 1:00 PM
Green Bay at Tampa Bay, 1:00 PM
Minnesota at Tennessee, 12:00 PM

Sunday, September 28, Cont.'d.

San Diego at Oakland, 1:05 PM
Buffalo at St. Louis, 3:05 PM
Washington at Dallas, 3:15 PM
Philadelphia at Chicago, 7:15 PM (NBC)

Monday, September 29

Baltimore at Pittsburgh, 8:30 PM (ESPN)