



NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE
280 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10017
(212) 450-2000 * FAX (212) 681-7573
WWW.NFLMedia.com

Joe Browne, Executive Vice President-Communications
Greg Aiello, Senior Vice President-Public Relations

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**NFL GOES INTERNATIONAL! CHARGERS & SAINTS CLASH IN LONDON;
TITANS STRIVE FOR 7-0 VS. AFC SOUTH-RIVAL COLTS ON MNF**

A big game in London...and lots of them back in the homeland.

That is on the packed docket this week as the NFL features its second regular-season game in London, England in as many years...the Tennessee Titans going for the first 7-0 start in their history against a longtime division tormentor...and a matchup of almost-perfect clubs – the 5-1 New York Giants and Pittsburgh Steelers.

“It will be exciting for everyone involved,” says San Diego Chargers head coach **NORV TURNER**, speaking about his game at Wembley Stadium in London against the New Orleans Saints. But Norv could just as well be describing every game on the Week 8 schedule.

The Chargers-Saints’ meeting is the first of at least three more annual regular-season NFL games that will be played in the United Kingdom from this year through 2010. It follows a sold-out game at Wembley last October 28 between the Miami Dolphins and New York Giants that was enthusiastically received by fans, media and the participating teams. Some people – like Chargers running back **LA DAINIAN TOMLINSON** -- believe that the win (13-10) by the Giants in that game gave them a midseason boost that helped propel them through their Super Bowl XLII victory.

“I honestly think the London game was why the Giants were successful last year,” says Tomlinson, who visited Wembley this spring. “They went to London and it kind of changed their season. Hopefully, London brings us that.”

Some of the key Week 8 games:

SAN DIEGO CHARGERS (3-4) at NEW ORLEANS SAINTS (3-4) (London, England)

STORYLINE: Welcome, lads!

Aside from the international impact, this one comes packed with scenarios, not the least of which is that it could well finish in a point-and-yardage explosion.

It will be the first time Saints **QB DREW BREES** faces his former team (he signed with the Saints as a UFA in 2006). His understudy for his final two years in San Diego? His peer Sunday, Chargers **QB PHILIP RIVERS**. They rank first (Brees; 2,224) and fourth (Rivers; 1,697) in NFL passing yardage this season. “We had a good relationship,” says Rivers. “Drew taught me about following a set routine, win or lose, the whole season. That is key because it is a long year.”

London fans will see the prototypical types of football running backs, led by the elusive Tomlinson and pounder **DEUCE MC ALLISTER** of the Saints, who should see increased action with the loss of **RB REGGIE BUSH** (knee).

Breesing Around the World: This will be Brees’ third overseas trip this year. This spring, he made a USO tour to Okinawa (and saw where his grandfather landed 60 years ago during World War II), and partook in an NFL-USO trip in July with NFL Commissioner **ROGER GOODELL** and Giants **DE OSI UMENYIORA** to Kuwait, Iraq and Afghanistan.

NEW YORK GIANTS (5-1) at PITTSBURGH STEELERS (5-1)

STORYLINE: Winning again and as close to undefeated as you can get!

A good matchup of storied NFL clubs (the Steelers will wear their classic 1950-60s black jerseys with gold helmets) who,

NFL LONDON FACTOID

PAYTON’S BEEN THERE: Head coach **SEAN PAYTON** – who will lead the New Orleans Saints against the San Diego Chargers this Sunday in London -- is no stranger to football in England. Payton played semi-pro football in Leicester – about two hours north of London – for the Leicester Panthers of the Budweiser British American Football League in 1987.

with Buffalo, share the second-best records in the league. And are there captivating storylines in this one!

Take the quarterbacks – **ELI MANNING** of New York and **BEN ROETHLISBERGER** of Pittsburgh. Both are 2004 first-round draft choices who have won Super Bowls (they faced off in their rookie year, with Roethlisberger winning, 33-30). Or the wide receivers. It's the Steelers' **SANTONIO HOLMES** – who leads all NFL receivers in career yards-per-catch (17.3; minimum 100 receptions) against the man he basically replaced, **PLAXICO BURRESS**. "It's going to be fun," says Burress of his first game against his former team. "I know their defense. They are going to come from everywhere. They're going to be fired up at home."

Then it's the RBs. It'll be New York's **BRANDON JACOBS** ("He's a Mack truck coming downhill," says Giants **LB ANTONIO PIERCE**) vs. **MEWELDE MOORE**, signed in the offseason "in case," as he says, starter **WILLIE PARKER** got hurt (he did). Moore comes off a 120-yard rush game (plus five catches) with three TDs.

Eli & The Boys: Manning and his five offensive linemen have started the Giants' last 22 regular-season games together – the longest such active streak in the NFL.

ARIZONA CARDINALS (4-2) at CAROLINA PANTHERS (5-2)

STORYLINE: One's coming off a bye, the other's going into it – all the more reason to win.

The Cardinals – fresh from their bye -- are still exuberant from their Week 6 overtime win over Dallas. But they know that great feeling can be quickly dashed with a loss on Sunday. For the Panthers, the last thing they want is a loss that will last two weeks. "Sunday is huge," says Carolina **RB BRAD HOOVER**.

This could be a big air day. The Cards expect to get **WR ANQUAN BOLDIN** back from injury to pair with **LARRY FITZGERALD**, who ranks third in the league in receiving yards (546). In Boldin's absence, second-year pro **STEVE BREASTON** has proven himself with 24 catches for 301 yards. Of course, the Panthers – 4-0 at home this year after going 2-6 in 2007-- do not lack in this area, trotting out veterans **MUHSIN MUHAMMAD** and **STEVE SMITH**, who comes off a 122-yard day, including a remarkable 39-yard TD catch after hitting the turf in the midst of double-coverage.

Or the ground attack could take over. Arizona **RBs EDGERRIN JAMES** and rookie **TIM HIGHTOWER** have rushed for a combined eight touchdowns, while Carolina's **DeANGELO WILLIAMS** and rookie **JONATHAN STEWART** share seven.

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS (5-2) at DALLAS COWBOYS (4-3)

STORYLINE: Time to keep it going. Time to get it going.

The Bucs seem to be gaining momentum. Coach **JON GRUDEN** has named **QB JEFF GARCIA** (26 of 37, 310 yards last Sunday night) the starter. **EARNEST GRAHAM** has switched to fullback while leading the team in rushing (456 yards). And former Cowboys second-round pick **ANTONIO BRYANT** tops the club in catches (31) and receiving yards (406).

The Cowboys, meanwhile, have lost three of their past four after winning their first three. "It's time for us to come together, and not only find solutions, but find a cure," says Dallas **LB BRADIE JAMES**. "And the only cure is winning."

A matchup to watch Sunday will be Dallas' No. 3 pass offense against an opportunistic, speedy secondary. At QB for the Cowboys will be either former Buc **BRAD JOHNSON** (who led Tampa Bay to its Super Bowl XXXVII title; "A great Buccaneer," says Gruden) or **TONY ROMO**. Eight Bucs have at least one interception this year, the most such players on any team. Tampa Bay's defense has limited teams to 42 drives without a first down, tops in the league.

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS (3-3) at TENNESSEE TITANS (6-0) (Monday night, ESPN, 8:30 PM ET)

STORYLINE: A three-game lead -- but it's not the team you'd expect.

It's the 6-0 Titans on top in the AFC South by three games, no less, over Indianapolis. These are the same Colts who have won the division five of the six years it has existed. From 2003-05, Indy swept the season series with Tennessee, but the clubs have split the past two years, with no game being decided by more than six points.

The Titans, operating quietly but efficiently under 14-year **QB KERRY COLLINS** – who has been sacked only once this season – have won an NFL-best nine in a row going back to last year. Their defense is ferocious, allowing a league-low 11.0 points per game.

The question is, though, which Indianapolis team will they face – the **PEYTON MANNING**-to-**MARVIN HARRISON**-and-**REGGIE WAYNE** Colts who handled Baltimore 31-3 in Week 6, or the 34-14 losers to Green Bay of last Sunday? Keep this in mind: both times Indy has lost this year, they won the next week.

Battle to watch: Manning, with two interceptions returned for TDs against Green Bay, vs. **CB CORTLAND FINNEGAN** and **S MICHAEL GRIFFIN**, tied for the league lead with four pickoffs apiece.

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	5	1	0	.833	149	118	31	16	3-0	2-1	0-0	.000	3-0	1.000	2-1	1W	4-1
New England Patriots	4	2	0	.667	130	116	14	13	2-1	2-1	1-1	.500	3-2	.600	1-0	1W	3-2
New York Jets	3	3	0	.500	154	146	8	19	2-1	1-2	1-1	.500	2-3	.400	1-0	1L	2-3
Miami Dolphins	2	4	0	.333	120	130	-10	15	1-2	1-2	1-1	.500	2-3	.400	0-1	2L	2-3

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	5	1	0	.833	141	89	52	16	2-0	3-1	3-0	1.000	5-0	1.000	0-1	3W	4-1
Baltimore Ravens	3	3	0	.500	105	100	5	12	2-1	1-2	2-1	.667	3-3	.500	0-0	1W	2-3
Cleveland Browns	2	4	0	.333	92	106	-14	9	1-2	1-2	1-2	.333	1-2	.333	1-2	1L	2-3
Cincinnati Bengals	0	7	0	.000	98	182	-84	10	0-3	0-4	0-3	.000	0-5	.000	0-2	7L	0-5

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	6	0	0	1.000	149	66	83	17	3-0	3-0	2-0	1.000	5-0	1.000	1-0	6W	5-0
Jacksonville Jaguars	3	3	0	.500	124	128	-4	13	1-2	2-1	2-1	.667	3-3	.500	0-0	1W	3-2
Indianapolis Colts	3	3	0	.500	128	131	-3	16	1-2	2-1	1-1	.500	2-1	.667	1-2	1L	3-2
Houston Texans	2	4	0	.333	140	179	-39	16	2-1	0-3	0-3	.000	1-4	.200	1-0	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
Denver Broncos	4	3	0	.571	173	195	-22	19	3-1	1-2	2-1	.667	2-3	.400	2-0	2L	2-3
San Diego Chargers	3	4	0	.429	192	162	30	22	2-1	1-3	1-1	.500	3-3	.500	0-1	1L	3-2
Oakland Raiders	2	4	0	.333	97	148	-51	8	1-2	1-2	1-2	.333	2-3	.400	0-1	1W	2-3
Kansas City Chiefs	1	5	0	.167	75	165	-90	8	1-2	0-3	1-1	.500	1-3	.250	0-2	2L	1-4

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
New York Giants	5	1	0	.833	170	101	69	18	4-0	1-1	1-0	1.000	4-0	1.000	1-1	1W	4-1
Washington Redskins	5	2	0	.714	140	128	12	15	3-1	2-1	2-1	.667	4-2	.667	1-0	1W	4-1
Dallas Cowboys	4	3	0	.571	189	175	14	24	2-1	2-2	1-1	.500	2-3	.400	2-0	2L	2-3
Philadelphia Eagles	3	3	0	.500	167	123	44	18	2-1	1-2	0-2	.000	2-3	.400	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
Chicago Bears	4	3	0	.571	196	150	46	22	2-1	2-2	2-0	1.000	3-3	.500	1-0	1W	3-2
Green Bay Packers	4	3	0	.571	194	159	35	23	2-2	2-1	2-0	1.000	3-3	.500	1-0	2W	2-3
Minnesota Vikings	3	4	0	.429	154	167	-13	15	2-1	1-3	1-2	.333	3-2	.600	0-2	1L	3-2
Detroit Lions	0	6	0	.000	97	187	-90	10	0-2	0-4	0-3	.000	0-5	.000	0-1	6L	0-5

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	5	2	0	.714	161	107	54	17	4-0	1-2	2-1	.667	5-1	.833	0-1	2W	4-1
Carolina Panthers	5	2	0	.714	147	104	43	15	4-0	1-2	2-1	.667	3-2	.600	2-0	1W	3-2
Atlanta Falcons	4	2	0	.667	139	127	12	13	3-0	1-2	0-2	.000	3-2	.600	1-0	2W	3-2
New Orleans Saints	3	4	0	.429	179	163	16	22	3-1	0-3	1-1	.500	2-3	.400	1-1	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
Arizona Cardinals	4	2	0	.667	177	144	33	22	3-0	1-2	1-0	1.000	2-1	.667	2-1	2W	3-2
St. Louis Rams	2	4	0	.333	96	178	-82	9	1-2	1-2	0-1	.000	2-3	.400	0-1	2W	2-3
San Francisco 49ers	2	5	0	.286	158	196	-38	16	1-3	1-2	1-1	.500	2-4	.333	0-1	4L	1-4
Seattle Seahawks	1	5	0	.167	110	171	-61	11	1-2	0-3	1-1	.500	1-4	.200	0-1	3L	1-4

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

LAST WEEK'S NFL RESULTS (OCTOBER 19-20)

(Home team in CAPS)

Byes: Arizona, Atlanta, Jacksonville, Philadelphia

Sunday, October 19

BUFFALO 23, San Diego 14
CAROLINA 30, New Orleans 7
CHICAGO 48, Minnesota 41
Pittsburgh 38, CINCINNATI 10
Tennessee 34, KANSAS CITY 10
Baltimore 27, MIAMI 13
N.Y. GIANTS 29, San Francisco 17
ST. LOUIS 34, Dallas 14

Sunday, October 19, Cont.'d.

HOUSTON 28, Detroit 21
GREEN BAY 34, Indianapolis 14
OAKLAND 16, N.Y. Jets 13 (OT)
WASHINGTON 14, Cleveland 11
TAMPA BAY 20, Seattle 10

Monday, October 20

NEW ENGLAND 41, Denver 7

WEEK 8 SCHEDULE – OCTOBER 26-27

(All times local)

Byes: Chicago, Denver, Green Bay, Minnesota

Sunday, October 26

Oakland at Baltimore, 1:00 PM
Arizona at Carolina, 1:00 PM
Tampa Bay at Dallas, 12:00 PM
Washington at Detroit, 1:00 PM
Buffalo at Miami, 1:00 PM
St. Louis at New England, 1:00 PM
San Diego at New Orleans (London), 5:00 PM
Kansas City at N.Y. Jets, 1:00 PM

Sunday, October 26, Cont.'d.

Atlanta at Philadelphia, 1:00 PM
Cincinnati at Houston, 3:05 PM
Cleveland at Jacksonville, 4:05 PM
N.Y. Giants at Pittsburgh, 4:15 PM
Seattle at San Francisco, 1:15 PM

Monday, October 27

Indianapolis at Tennessee, 7:30 PM (ESPN)