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PLAYOFF BERTHS POSSIBLE FOR TITANS & CARDS;
FOUR DIVISION LEADERS CLASH: GIANTS-CARDS & JETS-TITANS

Tiebreakers? It's not even Thanksgiving!

But that's what you get when you've had a great season - a possible playoff berth before that mad NFL holiday rush.

That's where the Arizona Cardinals and undefeated Tennessee Titans find themselves this week - on the cusp of clinching a postseason spot.

That's great. But the real assignment this week? Just beat the next opponent. The rest will take care of itself.

"We're in a good position, but it's not a done deal yet," says Arizona head coach KEN WHISENHUNT. "The players are only talking about playing the Jets on Sunday," says Tennessee coach JEFF FISHER. "That's the challenge right now."

The Cardinals (vs. the Giants) and Titans (vs. the Jets) play the two Week 12 games that pit division leaders against each other. Group these four teams together and you get an .825 winning percentage.

But, says Giants head coach TOM COUGHLIN, "There are many, many big games to go." Like this week:

CINCINNATI BENGALS (1-8-1) at PITTSBURGH STEELERS (7-3) (Thursday night, NFL Network, 8:00 PM ET)

STORYLINE: Throw out the records - it's "Bengals-Steelers"!

"Hey, we're a good team, regardless of the record," says Cincinnati S CHRIS CROCKER. And no better time to prove it than Thursday night in the lair of the hated AFC North-rival Steelers, who defeated the Bengals a month ago 38-10.

It won't be easy. Although they just edged San Diego 11-10 on Sunday, the Steelers seem to be solidifying things as the Thanksgiving turn approaches. QB BEN ROETHLISBERGER didn't throw an interception against the Chargers, RB WILLIE PARKER ran for 115 yards and WR HINES WARD produced 124 yards. In Ward's last three games against Cincinnati, he has had 15 catches for 238 yards and five touchdowns.

It will be a top-this showdown between Ward and the Bengals' T.J. HOUSHMANDZADEH, who leads the NFL in receptions with 73 and comes off a 12-catch, 149-yard, one-TD day against Philadelphia. Houshmandzadeh's specialty is going underneath and turning the short catch into long gains.

Congrats, Coach: Steelers defensive coordinator DICK LE BEAU, the Bengals' head coach from 2000-02, will be honored by the NFL in pregame for his 50 years of service to the league as a player and coach.

NEW YORK JETS (7-3) at TENNESSEE TITANS (10-0)

STORYLINE: Mississippi vs. Tennessee!

In other words, the Jets' BRETT FAVRE, from Kiln, Mississippi, against KERRY COLLINS and the Titans. Two of the oldest QB starters in the league (Favre, 39; Collins, 35) have shown this year that experience tops age by taking their teams to two of the three best records in the AFC (Pittsburgh, 7-3).

They will be tested. Favre, who has not thrown an interception in two games, will confront a pass defense that will

NFL FACTOID

ROOKIE RUSHERS: Ten rookie running backs have had 100-yard rushing games this year -- the most such rookies in a season ever. They are JAMAAL CHARLES (K.C.), MATT FORTÉ (Chi.), BEN JARVUS GREEN-ELLIS (N.E.), TIM HIGHTOWER (Ariz.), CHRIS JOHNSON (Tenn.), DARREN MC FADDEN (Oak.), RAY RICE (Balt.), STEVE SLATON (Hou.), KEVIN SMITH (Det.) and JONATHAN STEWART (Car.).

continuously change during the game, from man-to-man to zone coupled with mixtures of each. The Titans with 15 tie Baltimore for second in the league in interceptions to Green Bay's 16. And Favre – sacked only four times in the past four games – will face a defensive tackle that has DE/LB quickness in **ALBERT HAYNESWORTH** and his seven sacks.

The Titans lead the league in turnover differential (plus-10), with a lot of credit for that going to Collins, who has been picked off only four times this season. He gets plenty of protection, being sacked the fewest times (5) among the league's top-20 passers.

Matchup to watch: Jets marauding **DT KRIS JENKINS** has told FOX analyst **TONY SIRAGUSA** that he is definitely looking forward to going against former Jets **C KEVIN MAWAE**.

NEW YORK GIANTS (9-1) at ARIZONA CARDINALS (7-3)

STORYLINE: *Hey, Eli -- it's Kurt!*

The two starting QBs know each other well. As a matter of fact, Arizona's **KURT WARNER** played the Giants' first nine games of **ELI MANNING**'s rookie year (2004) before Eli finished the season's final seven.

Both Super Bowl-winning QBs and MVPs, the two have excelled this year. Warner leads the NFL in passer rating (105.5), has posted a club-record four consecutive 300-yard games and has taken the Cards to a four-game division lead.

Manning has led the Giants to their best start since their Super Bowl XXV season of 1990 (10-0), to 30-or-more points in their past three games, and the No. 1 rank in points scored, 292 (Arizona ties the Jets for second-most, 289).

Even with those strong arms, the real battle could come on – where else? -- the ground. The Giants, with their three-pronged rushing attack of **BRANDON JACOBS**, **DERRICK WARD** and **AHMAD BRADSHAW**, lead the league in rushing and come off their third 200-yard rush game in a row, giving them a team-record five such games in a season. They go against the NFL's No. 7 rush defense.

Home in domes: The Giants have won six consecutive games in domes, including at the site of this Sunday's game in University of Phoenix Stadium when its roof was closed for Super Bowl XLII.

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS (6-4) at SAN DIEGO CHARGERS (4-6) (Sunday night, NBC, 8:15 PM ET)

STORYLINE: *Colts getting hot, but the Chargers cooled them off last year.*

Indy, after starting 3-4, has won its last three and is starting to look like its old fireworks self. Primarily using the no-huddle, Colts **QB PEYTON MANNING** engineered three long second-half scoring drives against Houston last week while completing vintage Peyton numbers of 30-of-46 completions for 320 yards and no interceptions.

But...a year ago (November 11) at the same site, San Diego was all over Manning, picking him off a Colts' single-game record six times in a 23-21 victory. Two months later in Indianapolis, it was two more Manning INTs by the Chargers (not including a nullified 89-yard TD return by **ANTONIO CROMARTIE**) in a 28-24 San Diego Divisional Playoff win.

That all adds up to a Chargers' '07 Indy sweep. But now it's 2008 and 4-6 San Diego -- who has won 18 of its past 20 at home -- knows time is getting short. "The Colts are getting hot, so they'll be tough," says Chargers **QB PHILIP RIVERS**, who leads the league in touchdown passes (21). "But we'll be ready to go."

GREEN BAY PACKERS (5-5) at NEW ORLEANS SAINTS (5-5) (Monday night, ESPN, 8:30 PM ET)

STORYLINE: *Put-it-up against shutdown.*

That will be the special Monday night in New Orleans when the air-show-express of **QB DREW BREES** and the Saints confronts the blanket pass coverage of the interception-crazed Packers.

Brees, No. 1 in the league in attempts (398) and yards (3,251), is on pace to break **DAN MARINO**'s season passing yardage record (5,084). He has the most 300-yard passing games (7) in the league this year and throws to fleet wideouts **MARQUES COLSTON**, **DEVERY HENDERSON** and **LANCE MOORE**, and could get back **RB REGGIE BUSH** (42 catches) this week.

That all said, the Packers' secondary of **CHARLES WOODSON**, **AL HARRIS** et al can be daunting. Last Sunday, for instance, Green Bay played five DBs to limit Chicago's air game. The Pack tops the NFL with 16 interceptions (six returned for TDs) and limits opposing QBs to league lows in passer rating (59.5) and completion percentage (51.5).

Meanwhile, let's not forget that *other* QB Monday night, Green Bay's **AARON RODGERS**. In his first year as a starter, Rodgers has taken the Packers to the same record as the Saints, sits only one spot behind Brees in passer rating (No. 5, 94.5, to Brees' No. 4, 95.4) and has thrown at least two touchdowns in a game five times this season.

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
New York Jets	7	3	0	.700	289	221	68	34	4-1	3-2	3-1	.750	5-3	.625	2-0	4W	4-1
Miami Dolphins	6	4	0	.600	209	197	12	24	4-2	2-2	2-1	.667	5-3	.625	1-1	4W	4-1
New England Patriots	6	4	0	.600	219	194	25	21	4-2	2-2	2-2	.500	4-4	.500	2-0	1L	3-2
Buffalo Bills	5	5	0	.500	219	218	1	23	3-2	2-3	0-3	.000	3-4	.429	2-1	4L	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
Pittsburgh Steelers	7	3	0	.700	209	150	59	23	3-2	4-1	3-0	1.000	6-1	.857	1-2	1W	3-2
Baltimore Ravens	6	4	0	.600	222	180	42	25	3-1	3-3	3-1	.750	6-3	.667	0-1	1L	4-1
Cleveland Browns	4	6	0	.400	201	221	-20	19	1-4	3-2	1-3	.250	3-4	.429	1-2	1W	2-3
Cincinnati Bengals	1	8	1	.150	138	249	-111	14	1-3-1	0-5	0-3	.000	1-6	.143	0-2-1	1T	1-3-1
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	10	0	0	1.000	244	131	113	27	5-0	5-0	4-0	1.000	7-0	1.000	3-0	10W	5-0
Indianapolis Colts	6	4	0	.600	224	224	0	27	3-2	3-2	2-2	.500	5-2	.714	1-2	3W	3-2
Jacksonville Jaguars	4	6	0	.400	212	210	2	24	1-4	3-2	2-2	.500	3-6	.333	1-0	1L	2-3
Houston Texans	3	7	0	.300	236	287	-51	28	3-2	0-5	0-4	.000	2-6	.250	1-1	3L	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	6	4	0	.600	248	271	-23	28	3-2	3-2	2-1	.667	3-4	.429	3-0	2W	2-3
San Diego Chargers	4	6	0	.400	254	229	25	28	3-1	1-5	2-1	.667	4-4	.500	0-2	1L	2-3
Oakland Raiders	2	8	0	.200	128	235	-107	10	1-4	1-4	1-2	.333	2-5	.286	0-3	4L	1-4
Kansas City Chiefs	1	9	0	.100	165	273	-108	19	1-4	0-5	1-2	.333	1-5	.167	0-4	6L	0-5
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	9	1	0	.900	292	170	122	32	6-0	3-1	3-0	1.000	6-0	1.000	3-1	5W	5-0
Washington Redskins	6	4	0	.600	181	182	-1	18	3-3	3-1	2-2	.500	5-3	.625	1-1	2L	2-3
Dallas Cowboys	6	4	0	.600	230	229	1	29	3-1	3-3	2-2	.500	4-4	.500	2-0	1W	2-3
Philadelphia Eagles	5	4	1	.550	264	193	71	28	3-2	2-2-1	0-3	.000	4-4	.500	1-0-1	1T	3-1-1
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	5	5	0	.500	274	209	65	31	3-2	2-3	3-1	.750	4-4	.500	1-1	1W	3-2
Chicago Bears	5	5	0	.500	240	231	9	27	3-2	2-3	3-1	.750	4-4	.500	1-1	2L	2-3
Minnesota Vikings	5	5	0	.500	223	234	-11	23	4-1	1-4	2-2	.500	4-3	.571	1-2	1L	3-2
Detroit Lions	0	10	0	.000	173	308	-135	19	0-4	0-6	0-4	.000	0-8	.000	0-2	10L	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
Carolina Panthers	8	2	0	.800	222	155	67	24	6-0	2-2	2-1	.667	5-2	.714	3-0	4W	4-1
Tampa Bay Buccaneers	7	3	0	.700	219	160	59	21	5-0	2-3	2-1	.667	6-2	.750	1-1	2W	4-1
Atlanta Falcons	6	4	0	.600	231	198	33	24	4-1	2-3	1-2	.333	4-3	.571	2-1	1L	3-2
New Orleans Saints	5	5	0	.500	266	249	17	32	4-1	1-4	1-2	.333	2-4	.333	3-1	1W	3-2
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	7	3	0	.700	289	228	61	34	4-0	3-3	4-0	1.000	5-2	.714	2-1	3W	4-1
San Francisco 49ers	3	7	0	.300	230	275	-45	25	2-4	1-3	2-3	.400	3-6	.333	0-1	1W	1-4
Seattle Seahawks	2	8	0	.200	190	257	-67	21	1-4	1-4	2-2	.500	2-6	.250	0-2	3L	1-4
St. Louis Rams	2	8	0	.200	144	317	-173	13	1-3	1-5	0-3	.000	2-5	.286	0-3	4L	1-4

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

LAST WEEK'S NFL RESULTS (NOVEMBER 13, 16-17)

(Home team in CAPS)

Thursday, November 13

N.Y. Jets 34, NEW ENGLAND 31 (OT)

Sunday, November 16

Denver 24, ATLANTA 20

CAROLINA 31, Detroit 22

Philadelphia 13, CINCINNATI 13 (tie, OT)

GREEN BAY 37, Chicago 3

INDIANAPOLIS 33, Houston 27

MIAMI 17, Oakland 15

New Orleans 30, KANSAS CITY 20

Sunday, November 16, Cont.'d.

N.Y. GIANTS 30, Baltimore 10

TAMPA BAY 19, Minnesota 13

SAN FRANCISCO 35, St. Louis 16

Arizona 26, SEATTLE 20

Tennessee 24, JACKSONVILLE 14

PITTSBURGH 11, San Diego 10

Dallas 14, WASHINGTON 10

Monday, November 17

Cleveland 29, BUFFALO 27

WEEK 12 SCHEDULE – NOVEMBER 20, 23-24

(All times local)

Thursday, November 20

Cincinnati at Pittsburgh, 8:00 PM (NFLN)

Sunday, November 23

Philadelphia at Baltimore, 1:00 PM

Houston at Cleveland, 1:00 PM

San Francisco at Dallas, 12:00 PM

Tampa Bay at Detroit, 1:00 PM

Minnesota at Jacksonville, 1:00 PM

Buffalo at Kansas City, 12:00 PM

New England at Miami, 1:00 PM

Sunday, November 23, Cont.'d.

Chicago at St. Louis, 12:00 PM

N.Y. Jets at Tennessee, 12:00 PM

Oakland at Denver, 2:05 PM

N.Y. Giants at Arizona, 2:15 PM

Carolina at Atlanta, 4:15 PM

Washington at Seattle, 1:15 PM

Indianapolis at San Diego, 5:15 PM (NBC)

Monday, November 24

Green Bay at New Orleans, 7:30 PM (ESPN)