



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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IT'S TIME FOR TURKEY WITH ALL THE TRIMMINGS, FOOTBALL WITH ALL THE EXCITEMENT

Forget "seconds." How about "thirds"? That is the appetizer on the NFL Thanksgiving menu this week – three Turkey Day servings of football, followed by a whole lineup of games on Thanksgiving Sunday and Monday.

Even the players will be in their easy chairs.

"I remember watching Thanksgiving games as a kid," says Indianapolis Colts quarterback **PEYTON MANNING**. "Even in high school and college, and now in the NFL, you practice, you come home and you watch Thanksgiving football."

That active youth lifestyle will be an emphasis by the NFL in its three Thanksgiving games. The nationally televised contests will include PSAs on the NFL's "PLAY 60" campaign, a health and fitness effort aimed at getting kids to be active for at least 60 minutes a day. Local youth teams will lead the home clubs onto the field in "PLAY 60" jerseys.

Then it's Turkey Day NFL football, with playoff scenarios involved:

- **TENNESSEE TITANS at DETROIT LIONS (CBS, 12:30 PM ET):** Fans will see two of the top rookie rushers in the league in Tennessee's **CHRIS JOHNSON** (second among rookie RBs with 833 yards) and Detroit's **KEVIN SMITH** (fourth with 599 yards). Smith has consecutive games of 96, 112 and 86 yards. The 10-1 Titans are smarting from their first loss to the Jets last week. "It was a great run," says Tennessee head coach **JEFF FISHER**. "We've got to win our next game." With a win and an Indianapolis loss, the Titans take the AFC South.
- **SEATTLE SEAHAWKS at DALLAS COWBOYS (FOX, 4:15 PM ET):** The final Thanksgiving game in Texas Stadium, where some of the most memorable NFL games on the holiday have been played (Cowboys Thanksgiving record in the stadium: 21-14). 'Boys look like they've regained their early-season swagger. Seahawks will have to bottle up **WR TERRELL OWENS**, who comes off his second-best career yardage day – 213 yards on seven catches. "He's still got it," says Cowboys **QB TONY ROMO**.
- **ARIZONA CARDINALS at PHILADELPHIA EAGLES (NFL Network, 8:00 PM ET):** The QBs are riled! And that's not good for the DBs. The Cards' **KURT WARNER**, after Arizona lost to the Giants on Sunday, says "we can play with anybody if we eliminate the mistakes." A win and the Cards capture the NFC West. **QB DONOVAN MC NABB**, benched for the first time in his career Sunday, is still the starter. "Sometimes you have to step back to step forward in a positive way, and Donovan will do that," says Eagles coach **ANDY REID**.

The rest of the Thanksgiving weekend schedule? It's packed with key games. Some of them:

NEW YORK GIANTS (10-1) at WASHINGTON REDSKINS (7-4) (FOX, 1:00 PM ET)

STORYLINE: A lot has happened since September!

Mostly good things. In that first game of the '08 season on that steamy September 4 Thursday night, the Giants' defense pretty well handled the Redskins, limiting them to 209 total yards and only three of 13 third-down conversions in the NFL head-coaching debut of Washington's **JIM ZORN**.

Now, two months later, both teams are in good stead. The Giants tie Tennessee for the best record in the league (10-1). The Redskins are tied for second in the NFC East with Dallas.

In the late November cold of FedEx Field, the run game could play a big part. The Giants rank first in NFL rushing and

NFL FACTOID

800 POINTS!: A total of 837 points -- more than 50 points per game (52.3) – were scored in the 16 games of Week 12, the first 800-point weekend in NFL history.

hope to get the league average-per-rush leader (5.4) **BRANDON JACOBS** (knee) back. The Redskins sit third in the league in the category, thanks primarily to NFL rushing leader **CLINTON PORTIS** (1,206 yards). Thing is, these two units will go against top-10 rush defenses (Giants, No. 6; Redskins, No. 7).

NFC Feast: The Giants and Redskins play in the winningest NFL division, the NFC East, with a .670 winning percentage.

PITTSBURGH STEELERS (8-3) at NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS (7-4) (CBS, 4:15 PM ET)
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STORYLINE: *It's payback...it's protection...it's going for the record.*

This game has a *lot* of scenarios.

First off, the AFC North-leading Steelers want revenge for a 34-13 pasting by the Patriots a year ago in New England when **TOM BRADY** threw for 399 yards and **WR RANDY MOSS** posted seven catches for 135 yards.

But things, of course, have changed in a year. Now **MATT CASSEL**'s at QB for the Patriots and in each of his last two games has thrown for 400 yards (one more than Brady has in his career). Cassel can set the NFL consecutive record in the category with another 400-yarder this Sunday. Thing is, he goes against the toughest defense in the NFL that leads the league in overall, passing and rushing defense.

And he also faces marauding **LBs JAMES HARRISON** (12.0 sacks) and **LA MARR WOODLEY** (10.5), the only two players from the same team in the top five in NFL sacks. Cassel, who played mostly out of the shotgun last week against Miami, has been protected well recently by his OL, going down only six times in the last four games.

CHICAGO BEARS (6-5) at MINNESOTA VIKINGS (6-5) (Sunday night, NBC, 8:15 PM ET)

STORYLINE: *A classic NFC North battle for first?*

Well, yes, it is a fight for first place in the division, but the last time these two met (October 19), they set the series record for most points in a game (89 in a 48-41 Bears win). The teams totaled 766 yards. So much for the "black-and-blue."

Of course, with the two main running backs the teams boast, you could expect a grind-it-out game. The Vikes' second-year man, **ADRIAN PETERSON**, is second in the league in rushing with 1,180 yards. Three spots behind him is the NFL's leading rookie rusher, Chicago's **MATT FORTÉ**, with 909 yards. Forté is on pace (1,322 yards) to break the Bears' rookie rushing record of 1,183 yards set by **ANTHONY THOMAS** in 2001.

It won't be easy to add to those numbers Sunday night. Forté confronts the league's second-toughest rush unit and Peterson the fifth stingiest.

It's not a playoff-scenario game, but it will sure seem like one. "You could say this is the biggest game we've had in the division in a long time," says Bears head coach **LOVIE SMITH**. "They're a good football team. They've been playing well, especially here of late. We know them well. They know us well. Should be a heck of a game."

Nostalgia time: With a win, the Bears will register their 700th franchise victory (regular and postseason), the most in NFL history...the Vikings will wear their classic purple jerseys of the 1960-70s.

JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS (4-7) at HOUSTON TEXANS (4-7) (Monday night, ESPN, 8:30 PM ET)
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STORYLINE: *Hello, Houston!*

The Texans play their first Monday night game ever against a Jaguars team that is 7-4 lifetime on the night. "Everybody in the NFL will tell you Monday night is something they look forward to," says Houston coach **GARY KUBIAK**. "You play in front of your peers. It will be exciting for Houston. We play a team that gives us fits, so we have to be ready to go."

The AFC South-rival Jaguars certainly gave the Texans – who have won seven of their past eight at home – a fit on September 28 when they topped them 30-27 in OT on a field goal set up by two completions by **QB DAVID GARRARD**.

Monday night viewers should watch for some players who do not get national attention such as tough Texans **RB STEVE SLATON**, the NFL's No. 3 rookie rusher (774 yards) who is only 5-9 and 201 pounds ("He does a great job of staying low," says Texans **QB SAGE ROSENFELS**)...Houston **WR ANDRE JOHNSON**, who leads the league in catches (81) and receiving yards (1,071) even though he's constantly schemed against...and Jaguars second-year **LB JUSTIN DURANT**, who "is in the **DERRICK BROOKS** (Tampa Bay) mold," says FOX analyst **JOHN LYNCH**.

Start of something big: Last Monday night game in Houston was on November 21, 1994 (Giants 13, Oilers 10), the debut of Houston's interim head coach **JEFF FISHER** -- now the NFL's longest-serving head coach.

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	8	3	0	.727	323	234	89	38	4-1	4-2	3-1	.750	6-3	.667	2-0	5W	5-0
New England Patriots	7	4	0	.636	267	222	45	27	4-2	3-2	3-2	.600	5-4	.556	2-0	1W	3-2
Miami Dolphins	6	5	0	.545	237	245	-8	28	4-3	2-2	2-2	.500	5-4	.556	1-1	1L	4-1
Buffalo Bills	6	5	0	.545	273	249	24	29	3-2	3-3	0-3	.000	4-4	.500	2-1	1W	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	8	3	0	.727	236	160	76	26	4-2	4-1	4-0	1.000	7-1	.875	1-2	2W	3-2
Baltimore Ravens	7	4	0	.636	258	187	71	29	4-1	3-3	3-1	.750	6-3	.667	1-1	1W	4-1
Cleveland Browns	4	7	0	.364	207	237	-30	19	1-5	3-2	1-3	.250	3-5	.375	1-2	1L	2-3
Cincinnati Bengals	1	9	1	.136	148	276	-128	15	1-3-1	0-6	0-4	.000	1-7	.125	0-2-1	1L	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	1	0	.909	257	165	92	28	5-1	5-0	4-0	1.000	7-1	.875	3-0	1L	4-1
Indianapolis Colts	7	4	0	.636	247	244	3	29	3-2	4-2	2-2	.500	6-2	.750	1-2	4W	4-1
Jacksonville Jaguars	4	7	0	.364	224	240	-16	25	1-5	3-2	2-2	.500	3-6	.333	1-1	2L	1-4
Houston Texans	4	7	0	.364	252	293	-41	29	3-2	1-5	0-4	.000	3-6	.333	1-1	1W	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	5	0	.545	258	302	-44	29	3-3	3-2	2-2	.500	3-5	.375	3-0	1L	2-3
San Diego Chargers	4	7	0	.364	274	252	22	30	3-2	1-5	2-1	.667	4-5	.444	0-2	2L	1-4
Oakland Raiders	3	8	0	.273	159	245	-86	14	1-4	2-4	2-2	.500	3-5	.375	0-3	1W	1-4
Kansas City Chiefs	1	10	0	.091	196	327	-131	23	1-5	0-5	1-2	.333	1-6	.143	0-4	7L	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	10	1	0	.909	329	199	130	36	6-0	4-1	3-0	1.000	7-0	1.000	3-1	6W	5-0
Washington Redskins	7	4	0	.636	201	199	2	20	3-3	4-1	2-2	.500	6-3	.667	1-1	1W	3-2
Dallas Cowboys	7	4	0	.636	265	251	14	32	4-1	3-3	2-2	.500	5-4	.556	2-0	2W	3-2
Philadelphia Eagles	5	5	1	.500	271	229	42	29	3-2	2-3-1	0-3	.000	4-4	.500	1-1-1	1L	2-2-1
NFC North Team	W	L	T	▼ Pct	PF	PA	Net Pts	TD	Home	Road	Div	Pct	Conf	Pct	Non-Conf	Streak	Last 5
Chicago Bears	6	5	0	.545	267	234	33	30	3-2	3-3	3-1	.750	5-4	.556	1-1	1W	3-2
Minnesota Vikings	6	5	0	.545	253	246	7	26	4-1	2-4	2-2	.500	4-3	.571	2-2	1W	3-2
Green Bay Packers	5	6	0	.455	303	260	43	35	3-2	2-4	3-1	.750	4-5	.444	1-1	1L	2-3
Detroit Lions	0	11	0	.000	193	346	-153	21	0-5	0-6	0-4	.000	0-9	.000	0-2	11L	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	8	3	0	.727	257	180	77	26	5-0	3-3	2-1	.667	7-2	.778	1-1	3W	4-1
Carolina Panthers	8	3	0	.727	250	200	50	27	6-0	2-3	2-2	.500	5-3	.625	3-0	1L	4-1
Atlanta Falcons	7	4	0	.636	276	226	50	30	5-1	2-3	2-2	.500	5-3	.625	2-1	1W	3-2
New Orleans Saints	6	5	0	.545	317	278	39	39	5-1	1-4	1-2	.333	3-4	.429	3-1	2W	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	4	0	.636	318	265	53	37	4-1	3-3	4-0	1.000	5-3	.625	2-1	1L	3-2
San Francisco 49ers	3	8	0	.273	252	310	-58	27	2-4	1-4	2-3	.400	3-7	.300	0-1	1L	1-4
Seattle Seahawks	2	9	0	.182	207	277	-70	23	1-5	1-4	2-2	.500	2-7	.222	0-2	4L	1-4
St. Louis Rams	2	9	0	.182	147	344	-197	13	1-4	1-5	0-3	.000	2-6	.250	0-3	5L	0-5

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

LAST WEEK'S NFL RESULTS (NOVEMBER 20, 23-24)

(Home team in CAPS)

Thursday, November 20

PITTSBURGH 27, Cincinnati 10

Sunday, November 23

BALTIMORE 36, Philadelphia 7

Houston 16, CLEVELAND 6

DALLAS 35, San Francisco 22

Tampa Bay 38, DETROIT 20

Minnesota 30, JACKSONVILLE 12

Buffalo 54, KANSAS CITY 31

New England 48, MIAMI 28

Sunday, November 23, Cont.'d.

Chicago 27, ST. LOUIS 3

N.Y. Jets 34, TENNESSEE 13

Oakland 31, DENVER 10

N.Y. Giants 37, ARIZONA 29

ATLANTA 45, Carolina 28

Washington 20, SEATTLE 17

Indianapolis 23, SAN DIEGO 20

Monday, November 24

NEW ORLEANS 51, Green Bay 29

WEEK 13 SCHEDULE – NOVEMBER 27, 30- DECEMBER 1

(All times local)

Thursday, November 27

Tennessee at Detroit, 12:30 PM (CBS)

Seattle at Dallas, 3:15 PM (FOX)

Arizona at Philadelphia, 8:00 PM (NFLN)

Sunday, November 30

San Francisco at Buffalo, 1:00 PM

Baltimore at Cincinnati, 1:00 PM

Indianapolis at Cleveland, 1:00 PM

Carolina at Green Bay, 12:00 PM

Miami at St. Louis, 12:00 PM

Sunday, November 30, Cont.'d.

New Orleans at Tampa Bay, 1:00 PM

N.Y. Giants at Washington, 1:00 PM

Atlanta at San Diego, 1:05 PM

Pittsburgh at New England, 4:15 PM

Denver at N.Y. Jets, 4:15 PM

Kansas City at Oakland, 1:15 PM

Chicago at Minnesota, 7:15 PM (NBC)

Monday, December 1

Jacksonville at Houston, 7:30 PM (ESPN)