



WE'RE BACK TO
FOOTBALL



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NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

345 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10154
p. (212) 450-2000

NFLCommunications.com



Greg.Aiello@nfl.com
Senior Vice President of Communications

Brian.McCarthy@nfl.com
Vice President of Communications

Michael.Signora@nfl.com
Vice President of Football Communications

COMMUNICATIONS

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Produced by NFL Communications Department
Statistics by Elias Sports Bureau

BACK TO FOOTBALL

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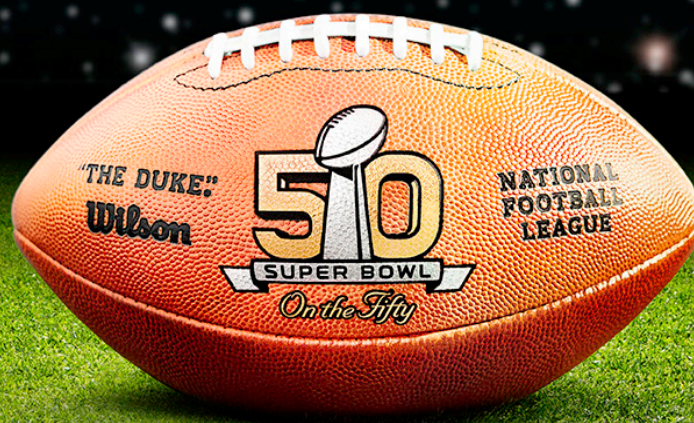
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NFL KICKOFF 2015





PATRIOTS & STEELERS KICK OFF SEASON ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

It's time to get "Back to Football!"

The 2015 season begins with the NFL's annual primetime kickoff game. The opener on Thursday, September 10 on NBC (8:30 PM ET) will feature the Super Bowl champion New England Patriots hosting the Pittsburgh Steelers at Gillette Stadium.



A rundown of the NFL primetime kickoff games since 2002:

DATE	SITE	RESULT (HOME TEAM IN CAPS)	RECAP
Sept. 5, 2002	Giants Stadium	San Francisco 16, NY GIANTS 13	San Francisco's Jose Cortez kicks a 36-yard field goal with six seconds remaining to lead the 49ers to victory in the NFL's first Thursday-night opener since 1949.
Sept. 4, 2003	FedExField	WASHINGTON 16, NY Jets 13	Washington kicker John Hall converts a game-winning 50-yard field goal with five seconds remaining to lift the Redskins.
Sept. 9, 2004	Gillette Stadium	NEW ENGLAND 27, Indianapolis 24	New England quarterback Tom Brady passes for 335 yards and three TDs as the defending Super Bowl champions defeat the Colts.
Sept. 8, 2005	Gillette Stadium	NEW ENGLAND 30, Oakland 20	New England quarterback Tom Brady throws for 306 yards and two TDs while running back Corey Dillon adds two scores for the defending Super Bowl champions.
Sept. 7, 2006	Heinz Field	PITTSBURGH 28, Miami 17	Pittsburgh quarterback Charlie Batch passes for three TDs and running back Willie Parker adds 115 rushing yards as the defending Super Bowl champions defeat Miami.
Sept. 6, 2007	RCA Dome	INDIANAPOLIS 41, New Orleans 10	The Super Bowl champion Colts rack up 452 yards of offense as quarterback Peyton Manning passes for 288 yards and three TDs.
Sept. 4, 2008	Giants Stadium	NY GIANTS 16, Washington 7	Quarterback Eli Manning scores a TD and the Giants' defense allows just 209 total yards as the defending Super Bowl champions defeat division-rival Washington.
Sept. 10, 2009	Heinz Field	PITTSBURGH 13, Tennessee 10 (OT)	Pittsburgh's Jeff Reed kicks a 33-yard game-winning field goal in overtime as the defending Super Bowl champions defeat Tennessee.
Sept. 9, 2010	Louisiana Superdome	NEW ORLEANS 14, Minnesota 9	New Orleans quarterback Drew Brees throws for 237 yards and a TD to lead the Saints past the Vikings in a rematch of the 2009 NFC Championship Game.
Sept. 8, 2011	Lambeau Field	GREEN BAY 42, New Orleans 34	Green Bay quarterback Aaron Rodgers passes for 312 yards and three TDs and the Packers' defense makes a goal-line stand on the game's final play as the defending Super Bowl champions defeat the Saints.
Sept. 5, 2012	MetLife Stadium	Dallas 24, NY GIANTS 17	Dallas quarterback Tony Romo throws for 307 yards and three TDs, including two to Kevin Ogletree, as the Cowboys defeat the defending Super Bowl champion Giants.
Sept. 5, 2013	Sports Authority Field at Mile High	DENVER 49, Baltimore 27	Denver quarterback Peyton Manning ties an NFL single-game record with seven TD passes as the Broncos knock off the defending Super Bowl champion Ravens.
Sept. 4, 2014	CenturyLink Field	SEATTLE 36, Green Bay 16	Seattle quarterback Russell Wilson throws two TDs while running back Marshawn Lynch rushes for 110 yards and two scores as the defending champion Seahawks win at home.

NFL KICKOFF 2015 SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, SUNDAY & MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 13-14

(All times local)

Pittsburgh at New England, 8:30 PM (Thurs., NBC)
 Indianapolis at Buffalo, 1:00 PM
 Green Bay at Chicago, 12:00 PM
 Kansas City at Houston, 12:00 PM
 Carolina at Jacksonville, 1:00 PM
 Cleveland at New York Jets, 1:00 PM
 Seattle at St. Louis, 12:00 PM
 Miami at Washington, 1:00 PM

New Orleans at Arizona, 1:05 PM
 Detroit at San Diego, 1:05 PM
 Baltimore at Denver, 2:25 PM
 Cincinnati at Oakland, 1:25 PM
 Tennessee at Tampa Bay, 4:25 PM
 New York Giants at Dallas, 7:30 PM (NBC)
 Philadelphia at Atlanta, 7:10 PM (Mon., ESPN)
 Minnesota at San Francisco, 7:20 PM (Mon., ESPN)

SEASON OPENERS

Since 1978 when the NFL went to the 16-game schedule, and excluding the abbreviated season of 1982, teams that are victorious in their season openers are more than twice as likely to reach the playoffs than losers of an opening game:

Of the 538 teams which won openers...281 went to the playoffs (168 won division titles).

Of the 539 teams which lost openers...129 went to the playoffs (74 won division titles).

Note: There are a different number of winning and losing teams in season opening games due to the fact the NFL had 31 teams in each season from 1999 to 2001, which creates an odd number for the total number of results.

In 2014, seven of the 12 playoff teams – Arizona, Carolina, Cincinnati, Denver, Detroit, Pittsburgh and Seattle – were victorious on Kickoff Weekend.

KICKOFF WEEKEND RECORDS OF NFL TEAMS

(Note: Ties prior to 1972 do not count in winning percentage)

<u>AFC</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>Pct.</u>	<u>Longest Streaks</u>			<u>NFC</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>Pct.</u>	<u>Longest Streaks</u>		
					<u>Win</u>	<u>Loss</u>	<u>Current</u>						<u>Win</u>	<u>Loss</u>	<u>Current</u>
Denver	35	19	1	.648	4	4	W-3	Dallas	36	18	1	.667	17	5	L-1
Houston	8	5	0	.615	5	3	W-5	Chicago	54	36	5	.600	9	6	L-1
San Diego	31	24	0	.564	6	6	L-2	N.Y. Giants	49	36	5	.576	4	4	L-4
Jacksonville	11	9	0	.550	6	3	L-3	Green Bay	52	39	3	.571	5	6	L-3
New England	30	25	0	.545	10	3	L-1	Minnesota	30	23	1	.566	5	3	W-1
Miami	26	22	1	.541	11	5	W-2	Detroit	46	37	2	.554	10	4	W-4
Pittsburgh	41	35	4	.539	8	3	W-1	San Francisco	35	29	1	.547	5	3	W-4
Tennessee	29	26	0	.527	4	3	W-2	Atlanta	26	23	0	.531	5	3	W-1
Kansas City	28	27	0	.509	7	4	L-1	St. Louis	39	38	0	.506	5	6	L-1
Indianapolis	35	35	1	.500	8	8	L-1	Washington	40	39	4	.506	6	5	L-2
Baltimore	9	10	0	.473	5	4	L-2	Philadelphia	35	45	1	.438	5	9	W-4
N.Y. Jets	26	29	0	.473	4	5	W-4	Arizona	39	53	2	.424	6	7	W-1
Oakland	25	30	0	.455	5	8	L-3	Tampa Bay	15	24	0	.385	3	5	L-2
Cincinnati	21	26	0	.447	4	4	W-1	Seattle	15	24	0	.385	3	8	W-2
Cleveland	27	35	0	.435	5	10	L-10	New Orleans	17	31	0	.354	3	6	L-1
Buffalo	22	33	0	.400	6	5	W-1	Carolina	7	13	0	.350	3	5	W-1

KICKOFF WEEKEND RECORDS OF NFL HEAD COACHES

<u>COACH</u>	<u>TEAM</u>	<u>W-L</u>	<u>PCT</u>	<u>COACH</u>	<u>TEAM</u>	<u>W-L</u>	<u>PCT</u>
Chip Kelly	Philadelphia	2-0	1.000	Tom Coughlin	N.Y. Giants	10-9	.526
Bill O'Brien	Houston	1-0	1.000	Bruce Arians	Arizona	1-1	.500
Mike Zimmer	Minnesota	1-0	1.000	Jim Caldwell	Detroit	2-2	.500
Rex Ryan	Buffalo	5-1	.833	Jason Garrett	Dallas	2-2	.500
John Harbaugh	Baltimore	5-2	.714	Andy Reid	Kansas City	8-8	.500
Ken Whisenhunt	Tennessee	5-2	.714	Lovie Smith	Tampa Bay	5-5	.500
Pete Carroll	Seattle	6-3	.667	Marvin Lewis	Cincinnati	5-7	.417
Joe Philbin	Miami	2-1	.667	Chuck Pagano	Indianapolis	1-2	.333
Bill Belichick	New England	13-7	.650	Ron Rivera	Carolina	1-3	.250
Gary Kubiak	Denver	5-3	.625	Jay Gruden	Washington	0-1	.000
Sean Payton	New Orleans	5-3	.625	Mike Pettine	Cleveland	0-1	.000
Mike Tomlin	Pittsburgh	5-3	.625	Gus Bradley	Jacksonville	0-2	.000
Jeff Fisher	St. Louis	11-8	.579	Mike McCoy	San Diego	0-2	.000
Jack Del Rio	Oakland	5-4	.556	Todd Bowles	N.Y. Jets	0-0	--
Mike McCarthy	Green Bay	5-4	.556	Dan Quinn	Atlanta	0-0	--
John Fox	Chicago	7-6	.538	Jim Tomsula	San Francisco	0-0	--



SUPER BOWL IS ON THE FIFTY

The NFL is launching a year-long celebration of the Super Bowl to commemorate **SUPER BOWL 50**, which will be played on Sunday, February 7, 2016 at Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara, California.



The 2015 season will feature a gold thematic signifying the 50th “golden” Super Bowl that will be visible on the field and throughout the season. The 50-yard line numerals and NFL shield logo (below right) at every stadium will be gold. Team logos on sideline apparel will have accents of gold and logos for NFL events, including the Draft, Kickoff and the playoffs, will turn to gold.

The NFL unveiled last year the Super Bowl 50 logo that features the number “50,” breaking for one year its unique tradition of using Roman numerals to identify that season’s championship game. To commemorate this, the NFL commissioned Tiffany & Co. to handcraft the 50. Each number is cast in bronze, plated in 18 karat gold and weighs nearly 33 pounds. The gold 50 will appear alongside the Vince Lombardi Trophy all year and will be presented to the Super Bowl champions at the MVP and head coach press conference the morning following the game.

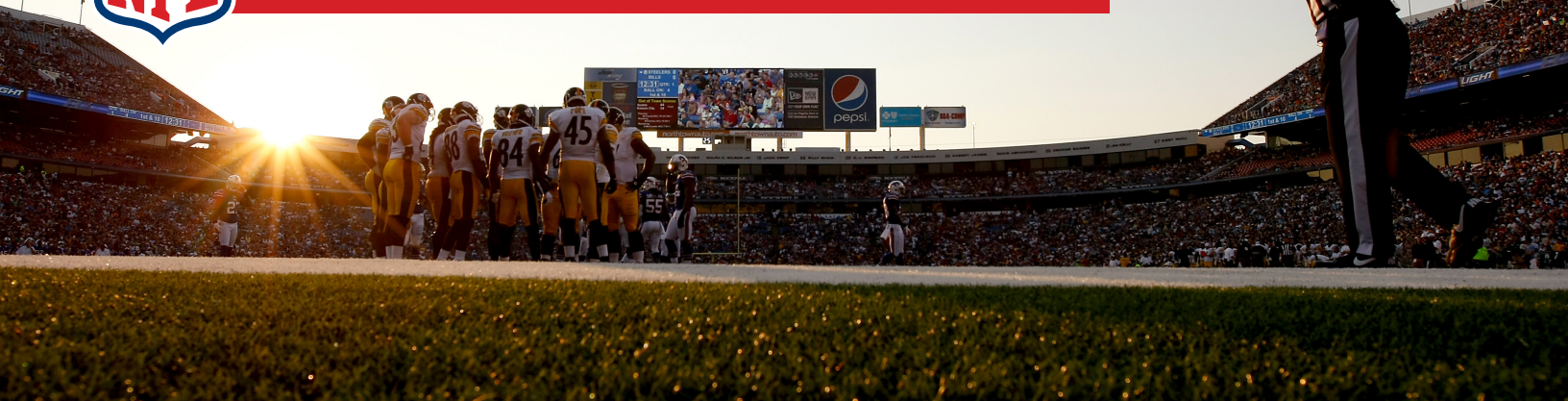
The **On The Fifty** platform is designed to link the past 49 Super Bowls with this year’s game and honor the teams, players, coaches, fans and communities that have been a part of those games. *On The Fifty* will come to life in a variety of ways throughout the year:

- The **Super Bowl High School Honor Roll** will recognize the high schools and communities that have contributed to Super Bowl history. High schools will receive a commemorative golden football (above left) produced by Wilson for every player or head coach who has appeared in a Super Bowl. Players and coaches will have the opportunity to deliver the golden footballs to their high schools. CBS, which will televise Super Bowl 50, will feature some of these visits across the various assets of the CBS Corporation. The Honor Roll will become an annual tradition. Following every Super Bowl, every high school that produces a player or head coach in the game will receive a golden football.
- The 2015 schedule will feature several **Super Bowl rematches**, including 19 in the regular season. Additionally, the NFL/Hall of Fame Game kicks off the preseason in August when the Minnesota Vikings and Pittsburgh Steelers face off in a rematch of Super Bowl IX.
- Many teams will host **Super Bowl Homecomings**, inviting their Super Bowl teams to be honored in-stadium on game day and throughout the weekend. Teams will commemorate Homecomings with Ring of Honor/Hall of Fame ceremonies, recognizing Super Bowl players as honorary captains and featuring special halftime celebrations. Historic Super Bowl marks, customized Homecoming assets and dedicated elements commemorating past Super Bowls will be included in the weekends.
- The 43 previous **Super Bowl MVPs** will be celebrated all season, culminating at Super Bowl 50 when they will be recognized on-field. MVPs will be an integral part of the Super Bowl High School Honor Roll and the Super Bowl Homecoming programs.
- Starting Week 7 of the season, **sideline apparel** from Nike and New Era will reflect the celebration. Team logos on select sideline pieces and all caps will be outlined in gold as a connection to *On The Fifty*. Merchandise that celebrates previous Super Bowls will be available and on-field merchandise will be in stores starting October 15.
- As the kickoff to Super Bowl week, the **2016 Pro Bowl**, which will be played on Sunday, January 31 in Honolulu, Hawaii, will recognize players who will play the following week in Super Bowl 50 in a variety of ways, including halftime interviews on ESPN. The uniforms worn by the Pro Bowl players will incorporate gold as a connection to the celebration.





HOW THE NFL IS PROMOTING HEALTH AND SAFETY IN SPORTS



THE NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE IS INCREASING SAFETY FOR FOOTBALL PLAYERS AND OTHER ATHLETES AT ALL LEVELS OF SPORT. THE LEAGUE HAS AND WILL CONTINUE TO IMPROVE HOW WE PLAY THE GAME, HOW WE TEACH THE GAME, AND HOW WE USE RESEARCH TO IMPROVE THE GAME.

HOW WE PLAY THE GAME

The NFL constantly evaluates how we can change the rules of the game and use technology to improve safety.

RULES ON THE FIELD

Over the last decade, the league has made more than 30 rules changes to eliminate dangerous tactics and reduce the risk of injuries, especially to the head and neck. To highlight just a few:

- » In 2009, the NFL prohibited a defender from using his helmet, forearm, or shoulder to make contact with the head or neck area of a “defenseless” receiver.
- » In 2010, the NFL expanded that rule to protect all “defenseless players” from contact to the head by an opponent’s helmet, forearm, or shoulder. The rule was expanded again in 2012 to include certain defensive players.
- » In 2011, the NFL moved the restraining line for the kicking team from the 30 to the 35 yard line—contributing to a 40% reduction in the number of concussions occurring during kickoffs when compared to the 2010 season.
- » In 2013, the league prohibited a runner or tackler from initiating contact against an opponent with the top or crown of the helmet.

As a result of such rules changes and strict enforcement, the number of concussions dropped by 36%, and concussions caused by helmet-to-helmet hits decreased by 43% from the 2012 season to the 2014 season. For the 2015 season, the NFL has again expanded the definition of a “defenseless player” to include an intended receiver of a pass immediately following an interception, so more players in more circumstances will be protected. Improving safety and reducing unreasonable risk will remain our first priority.

REAL PROGRESS

THE LEAGUE HAS MADE MORE THAN

30

RULES CHANGES TO ELIMINATE DANGEROUS TACTICS AND REDUCE THE RISK OF INJURIES

40%

REDUCTION IN THE NUMBER OF CONCUSSIONS OCCURRING DURING KICKOFFS WHEN COMPARED TO THE PREVIOUS SEASON AFTER MOVING THE KICKOFF TO THE 35

IMPROVEMENTS SINCE 2012

DOWN
36%

CONCUSSIONS IN NFL REGULAR SEASON GAMES

DOWN
68%

HITS TO DEFENSELESS PLAYERS

DOWN
43%

CONCUSSIONS CAUSED BY HELMET-TO-HELMET HITS



SIDELINE MEDICAL SUPPORT

- » **A Team Behind the Team:** A specialized squad of medical professionals, including team physicians and athletic trainers, patrols the sidelines at every NFL game. There are approximately 27 medical staff at a stadium on game day, including an unaffiliated neurological consultant (UNC), who collaborates with team physicians to make in-game neurological assessments and who must independently approve a player returning to play following a suspected head injury.
- » **Medical Timeout:** The medical staff also includes an expert “eye in the sky”—a certified athletic trainer positioned in a stadium box who scans the field and television replays to help identify players with a potential injury who may require attention. Starting in the 2015 season, the eye in the sky will be authorized to stop the game and call a medical timeout—which will not count against either team’s limit—if needed to provide a player with immediate attention.
- » **Video Monitors:** Team medical staff—including the UNC—also have access to sideline video monitors, which allow them to watch video of any play. As a result, medical staff can review the mechanism of an injury to better understand what happened and design the best care for a player. The video cannot be accessed by anyone other than the medical team.
- » **Electronic Tablets:** Since 2013, the NFL has required clubs to use electronic tablets with specially designed applications for the diagnosis of concussions. The X2 app, which includes a step-by-step checklist of protocols for assessing players suspected of head injury, as well as all players’ concussion baseline tests, is now an established component of the in-game concussion diagnosis and care. This record travels with a player wherever he goes in the league, so that his medical history is close at hand from game-to-game and team-by-team.


MANDATORY PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT AND PRACTICE RULES

- » **Improving Helmet Safety:** Through our Head, Neck, and Spine Committee, the NFL has assembled a team of engineers, biomechanical experts, and material scientists to undertake a comprehensive analysis of helmet performance, including alternatives for improved helmet design and construction. As part of its Head Health Initiative, the NFL has solicited ideas and proposals about new materials and technologies that could better protect the brain from injury. The NFL is also funding joint research projects with the National Institute on Standards and Technology (NIST) to identify materials that would better mitigate forces experienced in a wide range of settings, including sports and in the military. The combination of this research holds the promise of headgear that will provide superior protection for athletes in many different sports.
- » **Protective Equipment:** Since the 2013 season, the NFL has required players to wear thigh and knee pads during games to better protect them from leg injuries. As with helmets and shoulder pads, players not wearing the mandatory protective equipment are not permitted onto the playing field and may be assessed financial penalties.
- » **Improving Field Surfaces:** Through our Injury and Safety Panel, the NFL oversees and analyzes biomechanical research and injury data and shares this information with shoemakers and artificial turf manufacturers. Following the Panel’s recommendations, turf manufacturers have taken steps to standardize the characteristics of turf—such as surface hardness and the depth of sand below the turf—in order to decrease injuries.
- » **Limits on Practices:** NFL teams are limited to only 14 days of full-contact football practice during the 17-week season. The restrictions amount to less than one day of full-contact practices per week.



HOW WE TEACH THE GAME

The NFL is committed to helping young athletes learn how to participate in all sports as safely as possible. Active participation in sports benefits young people physically and builds positive leadership and teamwork skills. The League wants to maximize these benefits while minimizing safety risks.

- » **Heads Up Football:** In April of 2013, the NFL—along with USA Football—launched the “Heads Up Football” (HUF) program. This educational outreach program, funded by a \$45 million grant from the NFL Foundation, strives to improve player safety for youth, high school, and other amateur players by teaching proper tackling techniques, training and certifying coaches on safety fundamentals, appointing Player Safety Coaches for every youth league to enforce safety protocols, ensuring proper equipment fitting, and teaching coaches, parents, and players how to recognize and treat concussions. Today, approximately 60% of youth leagues across the country, including all of Pop Warner, have implemented HUF. More than 120,000 coaches are certified, representing 1 million kids. HUF leagues have 76% fewer injuries, 34% fewer concussions in practices, and 29% fewer concussions in games than non-HUF leagues.
 - » **Promoting Sports Safety Education and Access to Athletic Trainers:** In May 2014, during the first-ever Healthy Kids and Safe Sports Concussion Summit at the White House, the NFL Foundation pledged \$25 million to test and expand health and safety projects over the next three years. That commitment included \$1 million to fund athletic trainers in underserved high schools nationwide. The program, which is now being significantly expanded, is a collaboration with the National Athletic Trainers’ Association and the Professional Football Athletic Trainers Society. Other health and safety initiatives include field grants to provide new and refurbished places for kids to play safely, equipment grants, and funding for continuing education for clinicians.
 - » **Raising Awareness about Concussions:** A poster and related player fact sheet was developed, in partnership with the CDC and others, to educate players about the possible consequences of concussions and advise them to report any related symptoms they may experience. A similar poster, endorsed by 16 national governing bodies for sport, was developed for young athletes and made available through the CDC to display in youth team locker rooms, gymnasiums, and schools nationwide.
 - » **Helmet Replacement Program:** In 2012, the NFL partnered with the U.S. Consumer Protection Safety Commission and a number of other organizations to launch a helmet replacement program for youth leagues in underserved communities. In conjunction with USA Football, the NFL continues to provide equipment grants that furnish new or reconditioned helmets for youth leagues in underserved communities at no cost.
 - » **PLAY 60:** NFL PLAY 60 was launched by the NFL in the fall of 2007 to encourage kids to be physically active for at least 60 minutes per day. Since that time, the NFL has joined forces with partners such as the American Heart Association, KaBOOM!, National Dairy Council, and United Way to create school programs and build new places for kids to be active.
 - » **NFL FLAG FOOTBALL:** In September 2014, the NFL announced a commitment to provide local parks and recreation sites with flag football start-up kits, allowing more than 500,000 children in elementary school and after-school programs to play flag football. In April 2015, the NFL announced an expansion of the program, providing NFL Flag Essentials Kits to one million students across 2,500 schools nationwide.
 - » **Lystedt Laws:** The NFL advocated for youth sports concussion prevention laws in every state. These laws, known as Lystedt laws, mandate a gradual return-to-play protocol to better protect youth athletes in all sports from the risks of preventable concussions. Lystedt laws require: 1) concussion education for parents, coaches, and players; 2) immediate removal of an athlete who has sustained a concussion; and 3) clearance by a proper medical professional before a young athlete may return to play or practice. These laws have now been adopted in all 50 states, as well as the District of Columbia.
- 

HOW WE USE RESEARCH TO MAKE THE GAME SAFER

The NFL is investing in pioneering medical research to help scientists and doctors find breakthroughs that will benefit all athletes.

- » **Foundation for the National Institutes of Health:** In September 2012, the NFL announced a \$30 million unrestricted grant to the Foundation for the National Institutes of Health (FNIH) to advance medical research on brain injuries, especially among athletes and veterans. This marked the single-largest donation to any organization in the league's history.
- » **Head Health Initiative:** In 2013, the NFL, along with GE and Under Armour, launched the Head Health Initiative, a four-year, \$60 million collaboration to accelerate diagnosis and improve treatment for traumatic brain injury. The initiative includes the following:
 - A four-year, \$40 million research and development program to develop next generation brain imaging technologies for potential diagnosis, outcome prediction, and treatment therapy for patients with traumatic brain injury.
 - A two-year, open innovation challenge fund to invest up to \$20 million in research and technology to better understand, diagnose, and protect against traumatic brain injury. The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) is also supporting this effort.
- » **Partnering with the U.S. Army:** In 2012, the NFL and the U.S. military launched a long-term initiative to improve the health of soldiers and players by sharing information and providing education on concussion and health-related issues that affect both organizations. The initiative fosters peer-to-peer conversations to reduce the stigma that may be associated with reporting brain injuries and to promote sharing of tips on how to recognize, prevent, and manage concussions.

\$30 MILLION

GRANT ESTABLISHED NEW SPORTS HEALTH RESEARCH PROGRAM THAT FUNDS BRAIN RESEARCH, ESPECIALLY AMONG ATHLETES AND VETERANS



\$60 MILLION

HEAD HEALTH INITIATIVE TO IMPROVE SAFETY OF ATHLETES, MILITARY MEMBERS, AND SOCIETY OVERALL



INNOVATION • ADVANCEMENT • PROGRESS

\$40 MILLION

INVESTMENT TO DEVELOP NEXT-GENERATION IMAGING TECHNOLOGIES

\$20 MILLION

OPEN INNOVATION CONTESTS FOR RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY



NFL COMMITMENT TO THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF ALL ATHLETES

THE NFL IS COMMITTED TO IMPROVING THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF ATHLETES AT ALL AGES AND IN ALL SPORTS.



REACHING PLAYERS OF ALL AGES

By 2014 (Year 2)



HEADS UP FOOTBALL (HUF)
THE NEW STANDARD IN FOOTBALL

A NATIONAL MOVEMENT LAUNCHED IN 2013 TO EDUCATE COACHES AND PROMOTE PLAYER SAFETY

5,500
Youth Leagues Adopting HUF

1,000,000+
Youth Players Impacted

120,000+
Coaches Trained

950
High Schools Reached

\$45 MILLION GRANT FROM NFL FOUNDATION TO SUPPORT THE EXPANSION OF HUF TO ALL 9,300 YOUTH FOOTBALL LEAGUES, AS WELL AS HIGH SCHOOLS

28 NFL CLUBS HAVE HOSTED



TO EDUCATE AND EMPOWER MOMS TO ADVOCATE FOR THEIR CHILD'S SAFETY

REACHING 1,000,000 BOYS AND GIRLS

THE NFL IS ENCOURAGING KIDS TO BE ACTIVE THROUGH DONATION OF IN-SCHOOL FLAG FOOTBALL CURRICULUM AND EQUIPMENT KITS



THE RESULTS

HUF LEAGUES VS. NON-HUF LEAGUES

PLAYER INJURIES

▼ **76% FEWER**

CONCUSSIONS IN PRACTICES

▼ **34% FEWER**

CONCUSSIONS IN GAMES

▼ **29% FEWER**

From a 2014 independent study of more than 2,100 youth players across 10 leagues.

ADVOCATING FOR SAFETY IN ALL SPORTS



ALL 50 STATES HAVE ADOPTED LAWS advocated by the NFL to address concussions in youth sports



NFL IS INCREASING ACCESS TO ATHLETIC TRAINERS in high schools and youth sports

PROMOTING INNOVATION & INDEPENDENT RESEARCH



PARTNERSHIPS RESULTING IN POTENTIALLY REVOLUTIONARY INNOVATIONS, SUCH AS:



A new brain-imaging tool to improve brain injury diagnosis and treatment



New helmet technologies that mitigate impact to the head



New blood tests to rapidly detect brain trauma and improve treatment



Next-generation materials that mitigate impact

\$60 MILLION HEAD HEALTH INITIATIVE TO IMPROVE SAFETY
OF ATHLETES, MILITARY MEMBERS AND SOCIETY OVERALL

\$30 MILLION GRANT

ESTABLISHED NEW SPORTS HEALTH RESEARCH PROGRAM that funds brain research, especially among athletes and veterans

For more information, please visit NFLHealthPlaybook.com.

NFL COMMITMENT TO ADVANCING THE GAME

THE NFL IS COMMITTED TO MAKING THE GAME BETTER AND SAFER – WITH CHANGES TO GAME RULES, NEW TECHNOLOGY AND ENHANCED SIDELINE MEDICAL SUPPORT.



CHANGING THE RULES



THE KICKOFF RETURN PREVIOUSLY YIELDED MORE CONCUSSIONS THAN ANY OTHER PLAY. BY MOVING THE RESTRAINING LINE FORWARD FIVE YARDS IN 2011, **CONCUSSIONS DECLINED 40 PERCENT ON THAT PLAY**



RULES NOW OFFER A MORE EXPANSIVE DEFINITION OF WHAT CONSTITUTES **A DEFENSELESS PLAYER, OFFERING MORE PROTECTION IN MORE CIRCUMSTANCES**



CONSISTENT AND STRICT ENFORCEMENT OF THE RULES IS REDUCING HELMET-TO-HELMET HITS AS THE NFL WORKS TO REMOVE THOSE PRACTICES FROM THE GAME



TACKLERS AND BALL CARRIERS BANNED FROM **INITIATING CONTACT WITH THE CROWN OF THE HELMET**

THE RESULTS SINCE 2012

CONCUSSIONS IN NFL REGULAR SEASON GAMES **DOWN 36%**

HITS TO DEFENSELESS PLAYERS **DOWN 68%**

CONCUSSIONS CAUSED BY HELMET-TO-HELMET HITS **DOWN 43%**

22 x **156** x **256**
PLAYERS ON THE FIELD PLAYS PER GAME NFL REGULAR SEASON GAMES

2014 SEASON: 112 CONCUSSIONS = .43 PER GAME

ENHANCED MEDICAL SUPPORT



Unaffiliated neuro-trauma consultant at every NFL game to assess possible head injuries



Independent athletic trainer in the press box at every game serving as an “eye in the sky” to identify possible injuries and notify on-field medical staff



New medical timeout approved in 2015 will allow independent athletic trainer “eye in the sky” to stop play if a player appears to need medical help, with neither team charged for a timeout



Video on sidelines to assist medical staff in diagnosing and treating injuries



Mandated use of electronic tablets to assist team physicians in diagnosing concussions, including step-by-step checklist protocols



Mandated player use of thigh and knee protective equipment

NEW TECHNOLOGY AND EQUIPMENT

MYTH vs. FACT

Setting The Record Straight



PLAYER HEALTH & SAFETY

MYTH

Former NFL players live shorter and less healthy lives than the general population.

FACT

- NFL players **live longer** than the average American man.
- NFL players have lower rates of cancer and heart disease.¹

MYTH

NFL players have a much higher suicide rate than the general population of American men.

FACT

- The rate of suicide for former NFL players is **less than 1/2** of similarly aged men in the general population.²

MYTH

The NFL game is increasingly unsafe because NFL players are bigger, faster and stronger.

FACT

- Concussions are **down 36%** and concussions caused by helmet-to-helmet hits are **down 43%** in the last three years.³
- The game continues to evolve through **rule changes**, improved **medical protocols**, and new **technology** and **equipment**.

MYTH

The addition of Thursday night football games demonstrates that the NFL does not prioritize health and safety.

FACT

- Since 2011, the injury rate for Thursday games has been lower than the injury rates for Sunday and Monday games.⁴

MYTH

With a focus on decreasing helmet-to-helmet hits, NFL players are suffering more knee injuries.

FACT

- ACL and MCL injuries have remained consistent with the number of injuries suffered in previous years.⁵

YOUTH FOOTBALL

MYTH

Amid concerns about safety, kids are no longer playing football.

FACT

- Participation in high school football has recently **increased**.⁶
- Youth participation has decreased, but less so than almost all other youth sports.⁷

¹ [http://www.ajconline.org/article/S0002-9149\(11\)03387-X/fulltext](http://www.ajconline.org/article/S0002-9149(11)03387-X/fulltext)

² [http://www.ajconline.org/article/S0002-9149\(11\)03387-X/fulltext](http://www.ajconline.org/article/S0002-9149(11)03387-X/fulltext)

³ NFL Data (Quintiles Injury Surveillance and Analytics)

⁴ NFL Data (Quintiles Injury Surveillance and Analytics)

⁵ NFL Data (Quintiles Injury Surveillance and Analytics)

⁶ http://www.nfls.org/ParticipationStatics/PDF/2013-14_Participation_Survey_PDF.pdf

⁷ <http://www.wsj.com/articles/SB10001424052702303519404579350892629229918>

MYTH vs. FACT

Setting The Record Straight



MYTH

Little can be done to make football safe for kids to play.

FACT

- USA Football's Heads Up Football is a program that emphasizes coach education and teaching proper technique to change the culture and enhance safety at the youth level.
- Leagues that participate in the Heads Up Football program have a **76% reduction** in injuries and a **34% reduction** in concussions.⁸

PLAYER CHARACTER & VALUES

MYTH

NFL players commit more crimes than the general population.

FACT

- The average annual arrest rate per year of NFL players is **2.5%**.
- The arrest rate for the general population is 3 – 4%, and **10%** for men of the same ages.⁹

MYTH

Aggressive behavior on the field leads to aggressive behavior off the field and a high rate of domestic violence.

FACT

- The average annual rate of assault and domestic violence among NFL players is **less than half** of the general population.¹⁰

MYTH

78% of NFL players are bankrupt or financially distressed shortly after leaving the NFL.

FACT

- **1.9%** of NFL players declared bankruptcy within 2 years of leaving the NFL.¹¹

MYTH

Most NFL players are divorced.

FACT

- NFL retirees are more likely to be **currently married** than comparable men in the general population.
- Lifetime divorce rates are comparable to the general population.¹²

NFL FANS

MYTH

Women don't watch football.

FACT

- **63%** of women identify themselves as NFL fans.¹³
- Women are the single **largest growing fan population**.¹⁴

⁸ <http://usafootball.com/blogs/heads-up-football/post/9900/datalys-center-study-finds-usa-football%E2%80%99s-heads-up-football-program-reduces-injuries-by-76-percent>

⁹ <http://www.usatoday.com/sports/nfl/arrests/>; <http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-u.s/2012/crime-in-the-u.s.-2012/persons-arrested/persons-arrested>

¹⁰ http://www.realclearscience.com/blog/2014/09/domestic_violence_crime_much_lower_among_nfl_players.html

¹¹ <http://www.nber.org/papers/w21085>

¹² <http://ns.umich.edu/Releases/2009/Sep09/FinalReport.pdf>

¹³ <http://www.adweek.com/news/press/nfl-scores-touchdown-female-fans-159674>

¹⁴ <http://www.bloomberg.com/bw/articles/2014-09-26/the-nfl-is-growing-only-because-of-female-fans>



A COMMITMENT BEYOND THE PLAYING FIELD: THE NFL AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

The impact of the National Football League goes far beyond the playing field. The NFL league office and its clubs take their leadership responsibility in the community seriously, and are committed to making a difference long after game day.

The NFL focuses on three core community initiatives throughout the year:

- **NFL PLAY 60:** Designed to tackle childhood obesity, PLAY 60 (right) brings together the NFL's long-standing commitment to health and wellness with partner organizations. PLAY 60 also is implemented at the club level. Since the program was launched in 2007, the NFL has committed more than \$300 million to youth health and fitness through programming, grants and media time for public service announcements. The NFL and its teams have built more than 175 NFL Youth Fitness Zones and integrated programs into more than 73,000 schools nationwide since the campaign launched. All 32 clubs activate PLAY 60 locally, with more than 2,000 NFL PLAY 60 events held annually.



- **A Crucial Catch:** In collaboration with the American Cancer Society, the *A Crucial Catch: Annual Screening Saves Lives* initiative reminds women 40 and older about the importance of having an annual mammogram. A Crucial Catch is now entering its seventh season. Since 2009, the program has raised more than \$8 million for the American Cancer Society, with the majority of the contribution coming from the sale of Breast Cancer Awareness-identified pink merchandise at retail and via the NFL Auction website. The NFL does not profit from the sale or auction of pink merchandise.

Money raised through A Crucial Catch supports the CHANGE initiative, the American Cancer Society's Community Health Advocates implementing National Grants for Empowerment and Equity (CHANGE) program. This program provides outreach and breast cancer screenings. In the first two full years that the NFL has funded CHANGE grants for the American Cancer Society, grant recipients have reached 118,000 women through interventions such as outreach and education and provided nearly 40,000 breast cancer screenings at no or low cost.

- **Salute to Service:** The NFL has a long history of honoring veterans and active duty members of the military – from a longstanding relationship with the USO to a collaboration with the Pat Tillman Foundation to fund Tillman Scholars each year. During the annual *Salute to Service* campaign, which began in 2011, for every point scored during the NFL's 32 designated Salute to Service games, the league donates \$100 to each of its three core, military non-profit partners – the Pat Tillman Foundation, USO, and Wounded Warrior Project® – for a total of \$300 per point. Since the campaign's inception, the NFL has donated more than \$4 million to its three military non-profit partners. The funds have been used to build family centers on military bases, host physical health expos for injured veterans and provide scholarships for service members.

Teams each put their own localized spins on these initiatives in a number of creative ways. For instance, on Veteran's Day, the Cleveland Browns welcomed servicemen and women, representing all military branches, as their guests to a closed practice viewing. The San Diego Chargers hosted a free mobile mammography event in the parking lot at Qualcomm Stadium at their Crucial Catch game this past season, which provided 100 free mammograms for women attending the game. And as part of the league's annual Hometown Huddle Day of Service, in partnership with the United Way, the Houston Texans hosted a "PLAY 60 for All" field day for students with special needs at a local school, with special activities designed for students with multiple impairments. These are just a few examples of all the different ways that NFL clubs embrace and personalize these important community platforms.



The NFL shield stands for the values that comprise the league, its employees, executives and players – respect, integrity, responsibility to team and resiliency. So the NFL is committed to social responsibility in many forms. This means funding sexual assault prevention resources, in partnership with the National Sexual Violence Resource Center. It means collaborating with NO MORE (left, with Pittsburgh Steelers cornerback **WILLIAM GAY**) and the Joyful Heart Foundation on powerful anti-domestic violence and sexual assault television public service announcements, and donating the TV air time during NFL games so that these PSAs can achieve maximum impact. It means providing financial and in-kind support where it is most needed, to organizations like the National Domestic Violence Hotline so they can answer more calls and reach people when they most need it. And it means working closely with organizations like Mothers Against Drunk Driving to ensure that players, employees and the general public are educated on the dangers of drunk driving and about safe

alternatives they can use when they need a ride home.

In addition, the NFL understands that character development starts young, long before youth players begin thinking about professional careers. So the NFL Foundation funds character education programs, summits and curricula (below, with NFL Commissioner **ROGER GOODELL** and 2015 NFL Draft members **LAKEN TOMLINSON**, **ANDRUS PEAT** and **BRANDON SCHERFF**), working with groups like Coach for America, A Call to Men, Positive Coaching Alliance, One Love Foundation and others.

The list does not end there, and it changes over time. But no matter what the issue, the NFL and its clubs are always looking to improve and to do the right thing when it comes to community impact.



NFL STADIUMS ON GAME DAY – AN EXPERIENCE UNLIKE ANY OTHER



The quiet anticipation as a deep pass spirals through the air...the roar of the crowd...and watching the replay on a larger-than-life video board.

As great as the in-home NFL viewing experience has become, there is nothing like being at an NFL stadium on game day. Delivering the best possible stadium experience to fans continues to be a league-wide priority.

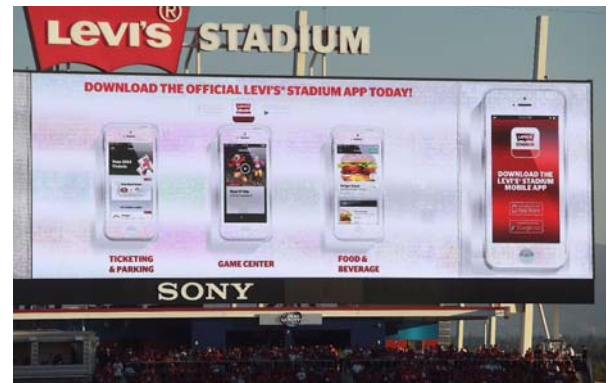
“We are committed to improving the fan experience in every way we can, from the time fans arrive in the parking lot to when they depart the stadium,” says NFL Commissioner **ROGER GOODELL**.

High-definition video boards have been installed at venues across the league in recent years, with stadium improvement projects totaling an investment of over \$1 billion by teams. Game days also feature many other fan-friendly enhancements like interactive fan hospitality areas, improved entrances and more efficient concessions.

In 2015, NFL clubs will provide unique and memorable experiences for season ticket members and loyal fans on game day through their own rewards programs, or through a partnership with Experience, a technology company that helps fans at live events. Fans can redeem many game day benefits like seat upgrades, leading the team onto the field during player introductions and even watching a game from the owner’s suite.

“There is no place better to watch an NFL game than at the stadium, with 70,000 other fans,” says **BRIAN LAFEMINA**, NFL Senior Vice President of Club Business Development. “We are pleased to work with Experience to provide technology our teams can leverage as they continue to make the game day experience at their stadiums even better for their fans.”

At Levi’s Stadium – the home of Super Bowl 50 – the 49ers developed the Levi’s Stadium Mobile App, the fan’s one-stop-shop for all things on game day. The app gives fans access to game tickets and parking passes, allows them to order food and drinks right to their seats and features a “Game Center” for exclusive high-definition video replays.



Here are some of the other ways the NFL is working to enhance the in-stadium experience for fans:

- **NFL RED ZONE** channel highlights are available on stadium video boards before and after Sunday afternoon games. NFL RedZone, which whips around every NFL game on Sunday afternoons to deliver the touchdowns and most exciting moments as they happen, launched in the cable television universe to critical acclaim in 2009 and was integrated into NFL in-stadium entertainment the following season.
- Providing **WIRELESS SERVICE** to fans in NFL stadiums is a league priority with many stadiums recently completing installations or upgrades.
- The NFL continues to embrace other new technologies, including RedZone on NFL Mobile with Verizon cell phones and the availability of in-game video devices such as YinzCam at many facilities.
- The NFL is committed to providing a safe, secure and enjoyable atmosphere for fans at all stadiums. The league’s **FAN CODE OF CONDUCT**, which was instituted in 2008, continues to help accomplish that goal, along with other successful programs at NFL venues that range from stadium security text messaging to responsible drinking campaigns and initiatives.
- To provide a safer environment for the public and to significantly expedite fan entry, limits were put into in place for the 2013 season to the size and type of bags that fans may bring into stadiums.
- The new postseason ticket policy will eliminate the need for fans to commit money early.

NEW NFL RULES FOR 2015

The 2015 rules changes and points of emphasis:

- **UNNECESSARY ROUGHNESS:** Several adjustments were made to the unnecessary roughness rule in the interests of player safety. All unnecessary roughness violations result in a 15-yard penalty and may warrant potential discipline.
 - Defenseless player protections are expanded to the intended receiver of a pass following an interception or potential interception. A receiver who is clearly tracking the football and is in a defenseless posture will receive defenseless player protections. It will be a foul to hit this player forcibly in the head or neck area, or use the crown or hairline parts of the helmet. Violations result in a 15-yard penalty that will be enforced after the change of possession.
 - Rules prohibiting illegal “peel back” blocks extend to all offensive players. The rule previously only applied to players who were in the tackle box at the snap. When approaching your opponent from the side, you must get your near shoulder across the front of his body to legally block him below the waist. It is still legal to cut a defender, provided the blocker is moving toward his opponent’s end line.
 - All chop blocks involving a back are eliminated to give defenders additional protection from low blocks. Any time a back is involved in a high/low block on a defender during a run, it is a foul for an illegal chop block. Prior to this change, on a running play, a player in the backfield could chop a defender who was engaged above the waist by another offensive player, if the contact occurred outside the normal position of the tight end. Any high/low block during a passing or kicking play has been and will continue to be illegal.
 - The prohibition against pushing teammates into the offensive formation is extended to punt plays. This rule previously applied only to field goals and extra point kick attempts.
 - The independent ATC (certified athletic trainers) spotters located in the press box are allowed to notify game officials to stop the game if a player exhibits obvious signs of disorientation or is clearly unstable, and it becomes apparent that the player will remain in the game. The game will be stopped immediately and the player will leave the game to be evaluated by the medical staff. This process will only take place if both the game officials and the medical staff fail to recognize the potential injury. Game officials have been directed to be diligent in this area and will stop the game when a player appears to be disoriented so he can get medical attention.
- **EXTRA POINT:** The extra point attempt will now be snapped from the 15-yard line. Two point-conversions will remain at the two-yard line. Additionally, the defense will be able to return a blocked kick, interception or fumble for two points.

There will also be **points of emphasis** on several existing rules this season (although the rules themselves have not changed):

- All rules that encourage **player safety** will continue to be strictly enforced. The focus is on eliminating these tactics from the game. Players must avoid hitting or blocking opponents in the head or neck area, or using the crown or hairline parts of the helmet to make forcible contact anywhere on the body.
- **Sportsmanship** is always a point of emphasis and last season the league saw a decrease of fouls in this area. The same emphasis will be applied to eliminating abusive, threatening or insulting language directed at opponents, teammates, coaches, officials or representatives of the league. This includes racial slurs, comments regarding sexual orientation or other verbal abuse. Coaches, officials and other league personnel will be held to the same high standard.
- The increase in **fighting** is unacceptable and the league policy on fighting is clear and states the following: “Don’t fight, and if a fight breaks out involving other players, stay away.” Any active participant in a fight will be penalized. Flagrant conduct will result in ejections and any player that does not immediately leave the fight area will be subject to a fine.

Another area of concern involves players pulling opponents off a pile following a loose ball. There were several situations last season where these actions led to altercations. Pulling a player off a pile in an aggressive, forcible manner will result in a 15-yard penalty. This will allow game officials to determine possession and help reduce some of the safety risks involved with the action.

- **The language pertaining to a catch** was clarified to provide a better understanding of the rule. In order to complete a catch, a receiver must clearly become a runner. He does that by gaining control of the ball, touching both feet down and then, after the second foot is down, having the ball long enough to clearly become a runner, which is defined as the ability to ward off or protect himself from impending contact. If, before becoming a runner, a receiver falls to the ground in an attempt to make a catch, he must maintain control of the ball after contacting the ground. If he loses control of the ball after contacting the ground and the ball touches the ground before he regains control, the pass is incomplete. Reaching the ball out before becoming a runner will not trump the requirement to hold onto the ball when you land. When you are attempting to complete a catch, you must put the ball away or protect the ball so it does not come loose.

NFL TO EXPERIMENT WITH EIGHTH OFFICIAL

During Week 2 of the 2015 preseason, the NFL will experiment with eight officials on the field of play.

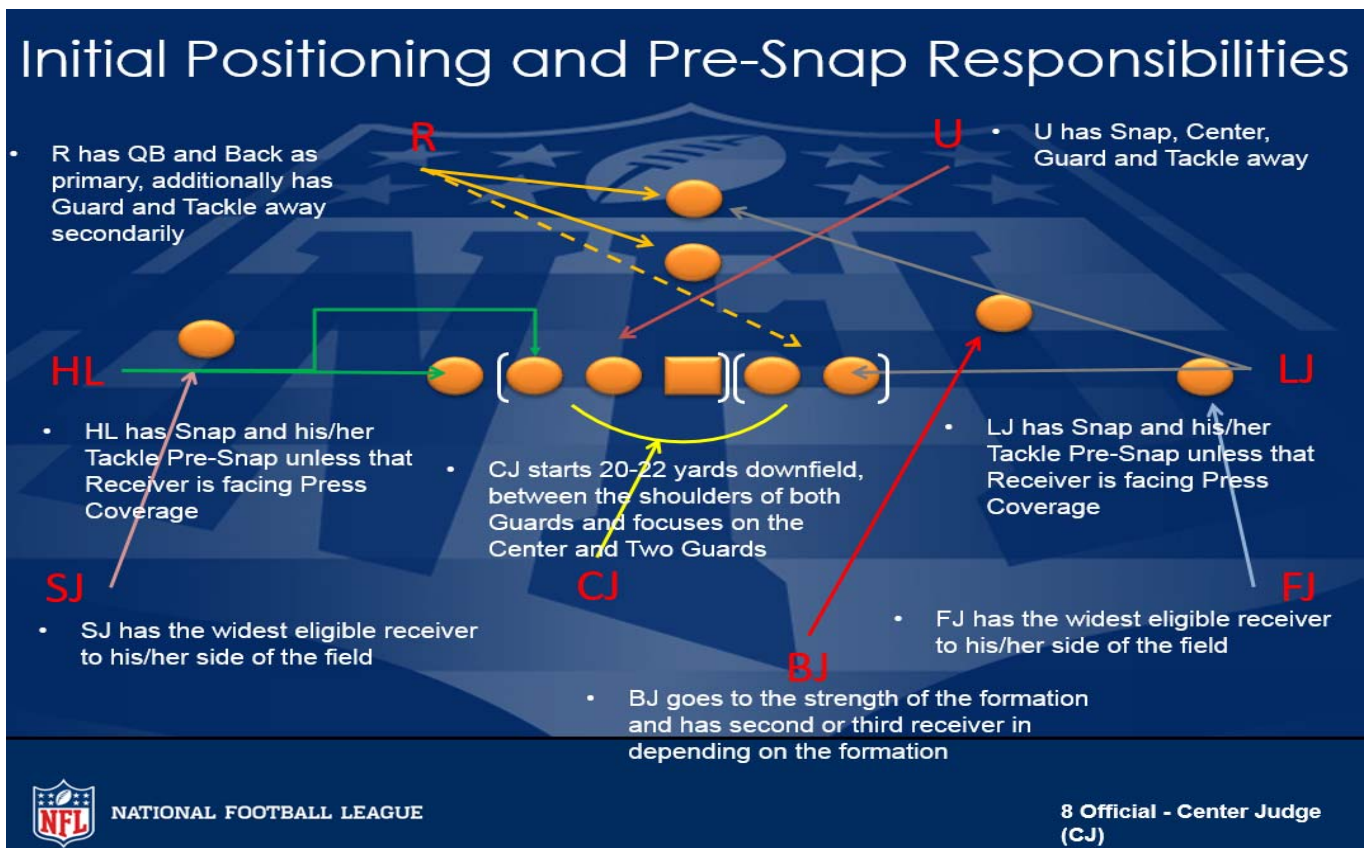
The league has utilized seven-person officiating crews since 1978 when the side judge was added to the crew.

During the preseason Week 2 experiment, the eighth official will help further the goal of trying to reduce the amount of times an official is responsible for multiple areas of the field that may not be in proximity to each other.

“We are going to look at positioning the eighth official in a couple of different areas,” says NFL Vice President of Officiating **DEAN BLANDINO**. “We want to try to fill some of the holes that may happen in specific situations over the course of a game.”

In certain games, the eighth official will take a position in the offensive backfield, joining the referee and the umpire. From this location, the “U2” will focus on the center pre-snap and the guard and tackle on the side of the formation closest to where he or she is positioned.

In other games, the eighth official will line up approximately 20 yards downfield from the line of scrimmage. From there, the “CJ” or “center judge” will focus on the center and two guards, with a particular emphasis on spotting defensive holding penalties.



UMPIRES TO LINE UP IN OFFENSIVE BACKFIELD MORE OFTEN

In its continuing efforts to protect players and officials from unnecessary risk and to better position officials to make the right call, the NFL is changing where the umpire lines up on certain plays during the 2015 season.

The umpire will now remain in the offensive backfield any time the offense snaps the ball inside the defense's five-yard line moving toward the end zone.

Until now, the umpire has lined up in the offensive backfield opposite the referee on most plays. However, during the last two minutes of the second quarter and the last five minutes of the fourth quarter, and any time the ball was snapped within the five-yard line, the umpire previously has moved to the defensive backfield.

The new placement is designed to protect the official from unnecessary risk of injury, will have no effect on the hurry-up offense, and will put the umpire in a better position to make the right call on plays near the goal line. It also specifically addresses game action when the offense gets close to the goal line — which effectively shrinks the field, giving the umpire less room to maneuver among the players and increasing the chances of the official being contacted.

2015 Schedule of Fines

Violation	First Offense	Second Offense
Offense Against Game Official		
Physical Contact with Official	\$28,940	\$57,881
Verbal or other Non-Physical Offense Against Official	\$23,152	\$46,305
Player Safety Rules and/or Flagrant Personal Foul (including, without limitation):	<i>Suspension or fine; severity to be determined by degree of violation</i> (FINES LISTED ARE MINIMUMS).	
Striking/Kicking/Kneeing	\$8,681	\$17,363
Horse Collar Tackle	\$17,363	\$34,728
Face Mask	\$8,681	\$17,363
Leg Whip	\$17,363	\$34,728
Late Hit	\$8,681	\$17,363
Spearing	\$23,152	\$46,305
Impermissible Use of the Helmet (including illegal launching)	\$23,152	\$46,305
Hit on Defenseless Player	\$23,152	\$46,305
Blindside Block	\$23,152	\$46,305
Roughing the Passer	\$17,363	\$34,728
Low Block	\$8,681	\$17,363
Chop Block	\$8,681	\$17,363
Fighting		
Fighting	\$28,940	\$57,881
Unnecessarily Entering Fight Area (active involvement)	\$5,787	\$11,576
Unnecessarily Entering Fight Area (no active involvement)	\$2,893	\$8,681
Sportsmanship		
Excessive Profanity; other Unsportsmanlike Conduct (e.g., toward opponent(s), game personnel, fans, etc.)	\$11,576	\$23,152
Taunting	\$8,681	\$11,576
Football Into Stands	\$5,787	\$11,576
Uniform		
Foreign Substances on Body/Uniform	\$8,681	\$17,363
Chin Straps	\$8,681	\$11,576
Personal Messages	\$5,787	\$11,576
<i>(Additional fines may be imposed on team management and coaching staffs for condoning, permitting, etc., violations in this area)</i>		
Other Uniform/Equipment Violations	\$5,787	\$11,576
On Field Commercial Logo Violation	<i>Considered violation of official League licensing agreements; suspension or fine; severity to be determined by degree of violation.</i>	
Gang Signing	<i>Considered conduct detrimental to the League; suspension or fine; severity to be determined in accordance with provisions of the Personal Conduct Policy.</i>	



NFL RULES – A CONSTANT EVOLUTION

Rule changes in the NFL have been made throughout the history of the league to improve the game, make it more exciting and reduce the risk of injury. Safety rules are one of the most important and effective ways in which the NFL and its clubs can help protect the health of players. By helping to identify, promote and enforce safe on-field conduct (in concert with off-the-field education and policies), the league seeks to preserve both the health of players and the integrity of the game.

The NFL has established a strong set of rules through the years focused on player safety, designed to promote fair competition while attempting to minimize risk of harm to the player. While many of these rules have focused on reducing contact to the head and neck of players, other changes have protected players from orthopedic and other injuries.

The development of a thoughtful and comprehensive set of appropriately protective rules and policies has always been, and continues to be, an evolving process. The NFL continually evaluates how rules can best be integrated into the game to address safety and health issues.

Each year the NFL Competition Committee conducts a complete review of player injuries and discusses means by which the NFL can reduce them through the implementation of new rules, or by clarifying or strengthening enforcement of existing rules.

Rules the league has established or changed for the protection of players have not only had a positive impact in the NFL, but have subsequently been incorporated at other levels of play, including collegiate, high school and youth programs. Through the NFL's ongoing partnerships and educational initiatives, the awareness of the importance of rules related to on-field conduct and return-to-play, at all levels and ages, is broadened.

To view an interactive timeline of the evolution of rules of the sport, visit <http://operations.nfl.com/>.

A brief overview of NFL rule changes focused on protecting player health and safety over the past 30 years:

1985

During the last two minutes of a half, the play ends when a quarterback kneels or simulates kneeling on the ground.

The ball is dead when any runner slides to the ground feet first, thereby declaring himself down.

1986

Blocking below the waist on punts is prohibited during the entire down.

The "lure" technique is prohibited. When a tackle shows pass set, a teammate lined up outside him cannot chop a defender who is lined up over the tackle, even if the tackle and defender are not engaged (a "lure").

1987

An offensive lineman may not clip a defender who, at the snap, is aligned on the line of scrimmage opposite another offensive lineman who is more than one position away, when the defender is responding to the flow of the ball away from the blocker.

Example: A tackle cannot clip the nose tackle on a sweep to the opposite side.

It is illegal for the kicking team to block below the waist after a free kick or punt has been made. (Low blocks by the receiving team became illegal in 1979).

Both teams are prohibited from blocking below the waist after a change of possession.

1989

A defender (approaching from any direction) who has an unrestricted path to the quarterback is prohibited from flagrantly hitting him in the area of the knee(s).

1990

A player who butts, spears, or rams an opponent may be disqualified if the action is flagrant or vicious.

1991

Officials will whistle the play dead whenever a defensive lineman clearly penetrates beyond the neutral zone before the ball is snapped and continues unabated toward the quarterback.

1992

For the first time, the chop block is illegal on some running plays: It is illegal on a running play for an offensive player who is lined up in the backfield at the snap to deliberately block a defensive player in the thigh or lower (chop) if the defensive player is engaged by an offensive player who was on the line of scrimmage at the snap. This action is prohibited whether on or behind the line of scrimmage in an area that extends laterally to the position originally occupied by the tight end on either side.

When a defensive player runs forward and leaps in an attempt to block an extra point or field goal, it is a foul only if the leaping player lands on other players.

1993

It is not intentional grounding when a passer, while out of the pocket and facing an imminent loss of yardage, throws a pass that lands beyond the line of scrimmage, even if no offensive player has a realistic chance to catch the ball (including if the ball lands out of bounds over the sideline or end line).

1994

Defensive players are prohibited from blocking low during a punt, field goal, or extra point attempt (kick), except those defensive players at the snap that are lined up on or inside the normal tight end position. Previously, all players on the defensive team could block low during the field goal or extra point attempt.

1995

Protection for defenseless players is clarified and expanded. Since 1982, a defensive player was prohibited from using the crown or top of his helmet against a passer, a receiver in the act of catching a pass, or a runner who is in the grasp of a tackler. The clarification provided that:

- Defenseless players included a kickoff or punt returner attempting to field a kick in the air, and a player on the ground at the end of a play.
- Defensive players are prohibited from lowering their heads to make forcible contact with the facemask, or with the "hairline" or forehead part of the helmet, against an opponent, instead of only with the top/crown.
- Defensive players are prohibited from forcibly hitting the defenseless player's head, neck, or face with the helmet or facemask.
- Defensive players are prohibited from launching into a defenseless player in a way that causes the defensive player's helmet or facemask to forcibly strike the defenseless player's head, neck, or face, even if the initial contact of the defender's helmet or facemask is lower than the defenseless player's neck.

When tackling a passer during or just after throwing a pass, a defensive player is prohibited from unnecessarily and violently throwing him down and landing on top of him with all or most of the defender's weight.

1996

On running plays, a chop block is prohibited by an offensive player who is aligned more than one position away from the engaged defender when the block occurs away from the flow of the play.

A defender cannot be chopped even after he has disengaged from an offensive opponent, if he is still confronting the offensive player.

Prohibition of the "lure" technique is applicable all along the offensive line, instead of only to a player outside a tackle.

1998

All face shields must be transparent.

1999

Blocking from behind, at, or below the knees in the clipping zone is prohibited.

After a blocking attempt in close line play, a blocker is prohibited from rolling up on the back of a defender's legs (Unnecessary Roughness).

2002

The chop block technique is illegal on all kicking plays.

It is illegal to hit a quarterback helmet-to-helmet any time after a change of possession.

2005

It is illegal to grab the inside collar of the shoulder pads to tackle a runner (“horse-collar tackle”).

Unnecessarily running, diving into, or throwing the body against a player who should not have reasonably anticipated such contact by an opponent is unnecessary roughness. Previously, the rule only protected a player who is out of the play.

A kicker/punter must not be unnecessarily contacted by the receiving team through the end of the play or until he assumes a distinctly defensive position. An opponent may not unnecessarily initiate helmet-to-helmet contact to the kicker/punter during the kick or during the return.

An offensive player who is aligned in the tackle box at the snap and moves to a position outside the box is prohibited from initiating contact on the side or below the waist of an opponent if the blocker is moving toward his own end line and approaches the opponent from behind or from the side (“peel back block”). The near shoulder of the blocker must be in front of his opponent's body.

2006

Low hits on the quarterback are prohibited when a rushing defender has an opportunity to avoid such contact.

Blocks in the back above the waist by the kicking team while the ball is in flight during a scrimmage kick are illegal.

The definition of a “horse collar tackle” is expanded to include grabbing the inside collar of the jersey.

During a field-goal attempt or a try, a defensive player who is within one yard of the line of scrimmage at the snap must have his helmet outside the snapper's shoulder pad.

Personal or unsportsmanlike conduct fouls that occur during halftime or during intermission between the fourth period and an overtime period will be penalized on the ensuing kickoff.

During a free kick, at least four kicking team players must be on each side of the kicker when the ball is kicked.

2007

A block below the waist against an eligible receiver while the quarterback is in the pocket is a 15-yard penalty instead of a 5-yard penalty (an illegal cut block).

2009

Teams are not permitted to intentionally form a wedge of more than two players on a kickoff return in an attempt to block for the runner.

The “bunch” formation on kickoffs is eliminated. The kickoff team must have at least three players outside each hash mark, one of whom must be outside the yard-line number.

It is an illegal “blindside” block if the blocker is moving toward his own endline and approaches the opponent from behind or from the side, and the initial force of the contact by the blocker's helmet, forearm, or shoulder is to the head or neck area of an opponent.

It is an illegal hit on a defenseless receiver if the initial force of the contact by the defender's helmet, forearm, or shoulder is to the head or neck area of the receiver.

The rule regarding low hits on passers is clarified:

- A defender cannot initiate a roll or lunge and forcibly hit the passer in the knee area or below, even if he is being contacted by another player.
- It is not a foul if the defender swipes, wraps, or grabs a passer in the knee area or below in an attempt to tackle him.

2010

During a field-goal attempt, punt, or try-kick, a defensive team player, who is within one yard of the line of scrimmage at the snap, must have his entire body outside the snapper's shoulder pads.

After a half has expired, dead ball personal fouls by either team will be enforced on the succeeding kickoff.

A player who has just completed a catch is protected from blows to the head or neck by an opponent who launches.

All “defenseless players” are protected from blows to the head delivered by an opponent’s helmet, forearm, or shoulder.

Kickers and punters during the kick and return, and quarterbacks after a change of possession, are protected from blows to the head delivered by an opponent’s helmet, forearm, or shoulder, instead of just helmet-to-helmet contact.

The ball is declared dead at the spot if a runner’s helmet comes completely off.

2011

The restraining line for the kicking team is moved from the 30- to the 35-yard line in an effort to increase touchbacks.

All kicking team players other than the kicker must be lined up no more than five yards behind their restraining line, eliminating the 15-20 yard running “head start” that had become customary for many players.

The list of “defenseless players” is expanded to include a kicker/punter during the kick or during the return, a quarterback at any time after a change of possession, and a player who receives a “blindside” block when the blocker is moving toward his own endline and approaches the opponent from behind or from the side. Previously, these players were protected against blows to the head, but not against blows delivered by an opponent with the top/crown or forehead/“hairline” parts of the helmet against other parts of the body.

A receiver who has completed a catch is a “defenseless player” until he has had time to protect himself or has clearly become a runner. A receiver/runner is no longer defenseless if he is able to avoid or ward off the impending contact of an opponent. Previously, the receiver who had completed a catch was protected against an opponent who launched and delivered a blow to the receiver’s head.

2012

The list of “defenseless players” is expanded to include defensive players on crackback blocks, making it illegal to hit them in the head or neck area.

2013

Players are required to wear protective knee and thigh pads.

It is illegal for a runner or tackler to initiate forcible contact by delivering a blow with the top or crown of his helmet against an opponent when both players are clearly outside the tackle box.

“Peel back” blocks below the waist are illegal inside the tackle box.

The list of “defenseless players” is expanded to include long snappers on field goals and PATs.

The “bunch” formation is eliminated on field goals and PATs. No more than six defenders may be on the line of scrimmage on either side of the snapper at the snap for these plays.

2014

Clipping and unnecessary roughness penalties are expanded to prohibit blockers from rolling up on the side of a defender’s leg.

2015

Rules prohibiting illegal “peel back” blocks are extended to cover all offensive players.

Offensive backs are prohibited from chopping a defensive player engaged above the waist by another offensive player outside the tackle box.

Defenseless player protections are expanded to cover the intended receiver of a pass in the immediate continuing action following an interception.

When a team presents a punt, field-goal or try kick formation, defenders are prohibited from pushing teammates on the line of scrimmage.



2015 KICKOFF WEEKEND NOTES

Kickoff Weekend begins on Thursday, September 10 in primetime on NBC when the defending-champion New England Patriots host the Pittsburgh Steelers at Gillette Stadium. It's when things start to count.

Some clubs have excelled in openers. [Here is a sampling of notable active NFL Kickoff streaks:](#)



- The Super Bowl XLIX-champion **NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS**, who host Pittsburgh in the spotlight Kickoff 2015 game on Thursday night, have a 15-1 record at Gillette Stadium over the past two seasons. The Patriots have the fifth-most Kickoff Weekend wins among AFC teams (30).

- The AFC North champion **PITTSBURGH STEELERS**, who travel to New England on Thursday night of Kickoff Weekend, have the most wins (41) among AFC teams on Kickoff Weekend.



- The NFC North champion **GREEN BAY PACKERS**, who travel to Chicago on Kickoff Weekend, hold the record for the most wins in road openers (53) in the NFL and the fourth-best winning percentage in openers on the road (.576, 53-39-2).

- The AFC West champion **DENVER BRONCOS**, who start the season at home against Baltimore, have posted a 41-13-1 (.759) record in home openers, the top mark in the NFL. Denver has won 18 of its past 20 home openers.



- The NFC East champion **DALLAS COWBOYS** begin the year by hosting the New York Giants on *Sunday Night Football* with a 37-17-1 (.685) record in openers at home, the fourth-best winning percentage in NFL history.

- The AFC South champion **INDIANAPOLIS COLTS** start the season at Buffalo with a 33-29-0 (.532) record in road openers, the second-best winning percentage in the AFC.



- The **ARIZONA CARDINALS**, who host New Orleans on Kickoff Weekend, have the third-longest current winning streak among NFC teams in home openers (five).



- The **ATLANTA FALCONS** and **SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS** start the season at home against Philadelphia and Minnesota, respectively, during a *Monday Night Football* doubleheader. Atlanta has won its past seven home openers – the longest active streak in the league – while San Francisco has won 14 of its past 20 home openers.



- The **PHILADELPHIA EAGLES**, who visit Atlanta to open the 2015 campaign, have won six consecutive road openers, the longest active streak among NFC teams.



- **HOME SWEET HOME:** The **CHICAGO BEARS** (65-26-4), who host the Green Bay Packers on Kickoff Weekend, have a .714 winning percentage in home openers, the second-best mark in the NFL...the **NEW YORK GIANTS**, who host the Falcons in Week 2, have won 49 openers at home, the fourth-most wins in home openers in the NFL...the **HOUSTON TEXANS**, who host Kansas City on Kickoff Weekend, have won their past five home openers, the longest current streak in the AFC...and the NFC champion **SEATTLE SEAHAWKS**, who host Chicago in Week 3, have won six consecutive home openers, the second-longest streak in the league.

- **HEAD COACHES:** New England's **BILL BELICHICK** is 13-7 (.650) on Kickoff Weekend and his 13 wins are the most among active head coaches...Belichick, St. Louis' **JEFF FISHER** (11-8; .579) and the New York Giants' **TOM COUGHLIN** (10-9; .526) are the only active head coaches who have won at least 10 Kickoff Weekend games and own an opening weekend winning percentage above .500...Denver's **GARY KUBIAK** (5-3), Buffalo's **REX RYAN** (5-1) and Tennessee's **KEN WHISENHUNT** (5-2) each has a four-game winning streak on Kickoff Weekend, the longest current streak among active head coaches...**CHIP KELLY** (2-0) of the Eagles, **BILL O'BRIEN** (1-0) of the Texans and **MIKE ZIMMER** (1-0) of the Vikings are the only active head coaches with perfect records on Kickoff Weekend...and three head coaches – the New York Jets' **TODD BOWLES**, Atlanta's **DAN QUINN** and San Francisco's **JIM TOMSULA** – make their Kickoff Weekend debuts in 2015.

HEADLINE GAMES

“This is the NFL,” says **MARIO WILLIAMS** of the Buffalo Bills, “and new teams win every year. In this league, any team can win on any given Sunday.”

With only 16 games per team, every game is important. It's just that, some weeks, some games seem to be even *more* important!

Following is a 2015 Weeks 1-17 list of “Headline Games.” but far from the only ones:

Week 1	Pittsburgh at New England	Thursday-night opener has Super Bowl champs hosting AFC North winners.
Week 2	Seattle at Green Bay	Packers host Seahawks on Sunday night in NFC Championship Game rematch.
Week 3	Washington at NY Giants	Thursday-night matchup on CBS highlights NFC East rivalry.
Week 4	NY Jets at Miami (London)	2015 International Series kicks off with first ever division game in UK.
Week 5	Indianapolis at Houston	J.J. Watt vs. Andrew Luck. AFC South rivals meet on Thursday night.
Week 6	New England at Indianapolis	AFC Championship Game rematch featuring Colts and Pats on Sunday Night.
Week 7	Buffalo at Jacksonville (London)	UK game will be digitally distributed worldwide by Yahoo! and broadcast locally.
Week 8	Detroit at Kansas City (London)	Chiefs host Lions at London's Wembley Stadium in third 2015 UK game.
Week 9	Denver at Indianapolis	Peyton Manning returns to Indianapolis in AFC Divisional rematch.
Week 10	Buffalo at NY Jets	Jets host Bills on Thursday night as head coach Rex Ryan returns to NY.
Week 11	Cincinnati at Arizona	Arizona hosts Cincinnati in meeting between two 2014 playoff teams.
Week 12	Phi at Det/Car at Dal/Chi at GB	Thanksgiving triple-header! Food, family and football!
Week 13	Dallas at Washington	NFC East rivals face off on ESPN's <i>Monday Night Football</i> .
Week 14	Seattle at Baltimore	Seahawks travel to Baltimore for Sunday-night game between 2014 playoff clubs.
Week 15	NY Jets at Dallas	Cowboys host Jets in primetime on NFLN as Saturday football returns.
Week 16	Pittsburgh at Baltimore	Sunday-night showdown between AFC North rivals with possible playoff implications.
Week 17	16 Division Matchups	Final weekend features all division games with playoff berths on the line!



In Week 2, Green Bay will host Seattle in a rematch of last season's NFC Championship Game

NFL RATCHETS UP THE EXCITEMENT...HOPE IS ALIVE

The 2014 season was full of excitement, but that should be no surprise. Unpredictability is the norm in today's NFL.

Many close games and great comeback victories...new teams making the playoffs and winning divisions...records falling...and so much more.



“What people love about the NFL,” says New Orleans Saints Pro Bowl quarterback **DREW BREES** (left), “is that every game, every week, no matter who is playing, anything can happen. So many games come down to that last possession.”

The NFL is never short on surprises, and the 2014 season was no different.

Games continued to have a flare for the dramatic, as comebacks were a frequent theme. Last season featured five comeback victories of 21+ points, the most in a single season in NFL history.

There were also 43 comeback wins of 10+ points, tied for the most in a season in NFL history (43 in 2013).

Five teams that missed the postseason in 2013 – Dallas (12-4), Arizona (11-5), Detroit (11-5), Pittsburgh (11-5) and Baltimore (10-6) – advanced to the 2014 playoffs. Since the 12-team playoff format was adopted in 1990, at least four teams have qualified for the playoffs in every season that were not in the postseason the year before.

The 2015 season promises more of the same. Every team enters the new year with hope.

The teams since 1990 to make the playoffs a season after failing to qualify:

SEASON	PLAYOFF TEAMS NOT IN PREVIOUS SEASON'S PLAYOFFS
1990	7 (Cincinnati, Chicago, Kansas City, Los Angeles Raiders, Miami, New Orleans, Washington)
1991	5 (Atlanta, Dallas, Denver, Detroit, New York Jets)
1992	6 (Miami, Minnesota, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, San Diego, San Francisco)
1993	5 (Denver, Detroit, Green Bay, Los Angeles Raiders, New York Giants)
1994	5 (Chicago, Cleveland, Miami, New England, San Diego)
1995	4 (Atlanta, Buffalo, Indianapolis, Philadelphia)
1996	5 (Carolina, Denver, Jacksonville, Minnesota, New England)
1997	5 (Detroit, Kansas City, Miami, New York Giants, Tampa Bay)
1998	5 (Arizona, Atlanta, Buffalo, Dallas, New York Jets)
1999	7 (Detroit, Indianapolis, St. Louis, Seattle, Tampa Bay, Tennessee, Washington)
2000	6 (Baltimore, Denver, New Orleans, New York Giants, Oakland, Philadelphia)
2001	6 (Chicago, Green Bay, New England, New York Jets, Pittsburgh, San Francisco)
2002	5 (Atlanta, Cleveland, Indianapolis, New York Giants, Tennessee)
2003	8 (Baltimore, Carolina, Dallas, Denver, Kansas City, New England, St. Louis, Seattle)
2004	5 (Atlanta, Minnesota, New York Jets, Pittsburgh, San Diego)
2005	7 (Carolina, Chicago, Cincinnati, Jacksonville, New York Giants, Tampa Bay, Washington)
2006	7 (Baltimore, Dallas, Kansas City, New Orleans, New York Jets, Philadelphia, San Diego)
2007	6 (Green Bay, Jacksonville, Pittsburgh, Tampa Bay, Tennessee, Washington)
2008	7 (Arizona, Atlanta, Baltimore, Carolina, Miami, Minnesota, Philadelphia)
2009	6 (Cincinnati, Dallas, Green Bay, New England, New Orleans, New York Jets)
2010	5 (Atlanta, Chicago, Kansas City, Pittsburgh, Seattle)
2011	6 (Cincinnati, Denver, Detroit, Houston, New York Giants, San Francisco)
2012	4 (Indianapolis, Minnesota, Seattle, Washington)
2013	5 (Carolina, Kansas City, New Orleans, Philadelphia, San Diego)
2014	5 (Arizona, Baltimore, Dallas, Detroit, Pittsburgh)



BACK TO FOOTBALL

THE NFL IS SO UNPREDICTABLE THAT IN 2014...

Nothing exhibits the unpredictability of the NFL more than the tightness of NFL games:

- Games continued to be *thisclose*, as 64.5 percent were within one score in the fourth quarter.

In 2014, 110 of 256 games (43.0 percent) were decided by eight points or fewer.

GAMES DECIDED BY ONE SCORE

POINTS	GAMES	PCT.
8 or Fewer	110 of 256	43.0%
7 or Fewer	98 of 256	38.3%
3 or Fewer	53 of 256	20.7%

GAMES WITHIN ONE SCORE AT ANY POINT IN 4TH QUARTER

POINTS	GAMES	PCT.
8 or Fewer	165 of 256	64.5%
7 or Fewer	155 of 256	60.5%
3 or Fewer	103 of 256	40.2%



BEST NFL RECORDS, PAST 10 YEARS

Over the past 10 years, six NFL teams – New England (122-38, .763), Indianapolis (110-50, .688), Pittsburgh (101-59, .631), Green Bay (98-61-1, .616), San Diego (97-63, .606) and Baltimore (96-64, .600) – have posted a winning percentage of .600 or better. Those six clubs have combined for 43 playoff berths, 10 Super Bowl appearances and six Super Bowl championships during that span.

Since being drafted by Green Bay in 2005, quarterback **AARON RODGERS** and the Packers have made seven playoff appearances, winning Super Bowl XLV.

“I’m very proud of Aaron,” says Green Bay head coach **MIKE MC CARTHY**. “He’s at the point in his career now that it seems like every week or every other week he’s breaking a record. He is just a special player.”

The reigning Super Bowl champion New England Patriots, under the guidance of head coach **BILL BELICHICK**, have the best regular-season record over the past 10 years, qualifying for the postseason nine times and winning Super Bowl XLIX.



“He’s been a great mentor, a great friend,” says Baltimore Ravens head coach **JOHN HARBAUGH** (above, with Belichick). “I have the utmost respect for him. Bill Belichick is the greatest coach of our generation, without question.”

The teams with the best regular-season records over the past 10 seasons (2005-14):

TEAM	W	L	T	PCT.	PLAYOFF BERTHS	SUPER BOWL BERTHS	SUPER BOWL WINS
New England	122	38	0	.763	9	3	1
Indianapolis	110	50	0	.688	9	2	1
Pittsburgh	101	59	0	.631	6	3	2
Green Bay	98	61	1	.616	7	1	1
San Diego	97	63	0	.606	5	0	0
Baltimore	96	64	0	.600	7	1	1

DIVISION TITLES? UP FOR GRABS

Unpredictable NFL? It sure seems that way!

In the 13 seasons since realignment in 2002, 28 different teams have won division titles.

"It felt great," said Carolina running back **JONATHAN STEWART**, who helped lead the Panthers to the team's second-consecutive division title. "I mean, it's a blessing and you just have to cherish those moments. We just believed and played our hearts out."

Last season, Dallas head coach **JASON GARRETT** guided the Cowboys to their first division title since 2009.

"In so many ways, this is such a long journey and to get to a point to achieve your first goal of winning the division title, a lot goes into that," said Garrett, after the team finished 12-4 in 2014. "I think the way you play in securing that matters, and I thought we played really, really well."

The teams that have won their divisions in the 13 seasons since realignment in 2002:

<u>TEAM</u>	<u>DIVISION TITLES</u>	<u>PLAYOFF BERTHS</u>
New England	11	11
Indianapolis	9	12
Green Bay	8	10
Seattle	7	9
Philadelphia	6	8
Pittsburgh	6	8
Denver	5	7
San Diego	5	6
Baltimore	4	8
Carolina	4	5
Atlanta	3	6
New York Giants	3	6
Cincinnati	3	6
New Orleans	3	5
Dallas	3	5
San Francisco	3	4
Chicago	3	3
Tampa Bay	3	3
Kansas City	2	4
Minnesota	2	4
Tennessee	2	4
Arizona	2	3
Houston	2	2
New York Jets	1	5
Washington	1	3
St. Louis	1	2
Miami	1	1
Oakland	1	1



NFL CALENDAR

September 10, 13-14	Kickoff 2015
October 6-7	NFL Fall Meeting, New York, NY
November 3	Trading deadline
January 3	Regular season ends
January 9-10	Wild Card Playoffs

January 16-17	Divisional Playoffs
January 24	Conference Championships
January 31	Pro Bowl, Honolulu, Hawaii (ESPN)
February 7	Super Bowl 50, San Francisco Bay Area (CBS)

SCORING REACHED RECORD HIGHS IN 2014

Nine teams scored at least 400 points in 2014 – Green Bay (486), Denver (482), Philadelphia (474), New England (468), Dallas (467), Indianapolis (458), Pittsburgh (436), Baltimore (409) and New Orleans (401) – tying the 2009 and 2012 seasons for the second-most all-time. Those nine teams combined for a .674 winning percentage, and seven qualified for the playoffs.

A record 807 touchdown passes were also recorded in 2014, surpassing the league-wide record of 804, which occurred in 2013.

YEAR	TOUCHDOWN PASSES
2014	807
2013	804
2012	757
2010	751
2011	745



Led by the NFC North champion Green Bay Packers, who finished 12-4 and scored an NFL-high 486 points in 2014, many of the NFL's top-scoring offenses translated those points into wins.

“Teams are really balanced on offense,” says Packers quarterback **AARON RODGERS**. “If it takes 38-plus points to win, then that’s what teams have to do. There are no excuses any longer with the way offense is trending today.”

The teams that scored at least 400 points in 2014:

TEAM	POINTS	W-L-T	WIN PCT.
Green Bay*	486	12-4-0	.750
Denver*	482	12-4-0	.750
Philadelphia	474	10-6-0	.625
New England*	468	12-4-0	.750
Dallas*	467	12-4-0	.750
Indianapolis*	458	11-5-0	.688
Pittsburgh*	436	11-5-0	.688
Baltimore*	409	10-6-0	.625
New Orleans	401	7-9-0	.438

*Playoff team





NFL PLAYER ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMS

As NFL players transition through the athletic life cycle, **NFL PLAYER ENGAGEMENT** provides education and resources emphasizing personal and professional development, financial knowledge and total wellness.

“My vision is to have all 32 Player Engagement Directors on the same page so we can add even more value to the organization and its players,” says **CHARLES WAY**, NFL Vice President of Player Engagement. “I want every organization to see the importance of the Player Engagement position and how it positively affects the performance of players on and off the field.”

To reflect the distinct phases of the NFL playing experience, the Player Engagement team focuses on three areas:

- **NFL Prep**, providing student athletes and future NFL players with the foundation essential to a successful life.
- **NFL Life**, engaging current NFL players with personal and professional development resources.
- **NFL Next**, offering services that foster a successful transition from the playing experience to life after football.

During the 2015 offseason, Player Engagement hosted eight professional development programs aimed at offering current and former players training in various industries for their post-NFL career. The 2015 series included the NFL-NCAA Coaches Academy, Boot Camp: Consumer Products, Finance Camp, the Business Management & Entrepreneurial Program (BM&E), Boot Camp: Franchising, Boot Camp: Sports Journalism and Communications, Boot Camp: Broadcasting, and Boot Camp: Advanced Broadcasting.

The inaugural NFL Finance Camp was the first collaboration between NFL Player Engagement and league sponsor TD Ameritrade. Hosted at the University of Miami, 18 current and former players, including New Orleans Saints cornerback **BRANDON BROWNER** and San Francisco 49ers tight end **VERNON DAVIS**, spent four days learning about the intricacies of personal financial management and smart investment decisions. Professionals from TD Ameritrade and professors from the University of Miami delivered educational sessions and resources that players can use during and after their playing experiences to manage their and their families' personal finances.

In its eighth year, the Business Management & Entrepreneurial Program (BM&E) traveled to the Wharton School of Business San Francisco campus for the program's first-ever focus on the technology and start-up industry. Thirty current and former players (right) participated in classroom sessions about business fundamentals with a focus on tech and start-up related business. Participants learned first-hand from former NFL player, past BM&E participant and founder and CEO of Integrate **JEREMY BLOOM**, who shared his experiences as a tech entrepreneur and engaged his Silicon Valley network in intimate conversations about the industry. To further enhance the learning experience, players made visits to the Facebook, Google Ventures and Luxe headquarters to fully immerse themselves in the start-up culture and learn about the day-to-day operations of these businesses.



For the second time, NFL Player Engagement hosted Boot Camp: Franchising at the University of Michigan's Ross School of Business. Nineteen current and former players and two wives, including New Orleans Saints quarterback **DREW BREES** and Atlanta Falcons wide receiver **DEVIN HESTER**, spent four days learning about franchise operations, business management and building an effective team from Ross School of Business professors and executives from Papa John's, Title Boxing, 7-Eleven and Jersey Mike's.

“Boot Camp: Franchising went above and beyond my expectations in terms of understanding the business and being prepared to get involved,” says New York Jets tight end **STEVE MANERI**. “The people we have met provided unparalleled networking opportunities to start our second career.”

Former NFL players who are now professional franchisees, including **TIM BIAKABUTUKA**, **ANGELO CROWELL** and **VAN JAKES** shared their experiences transitioning from the playing field into the franchise industry. Miami Dolphins Owner and Ross School of Business namesake **STEPHEN ROSS** opened the program by discussing his path to business success and sharing advice with the program's participants.



Player Engagement concluded this season's Boot Camp series with its longest-running program, Boot Camp: Broadcasting (left) hosted at NFL Films.

The four-day program, directed in conjunction with the NFL Broadcasting department, covered a wide range of topics with instructors from each of the NFL's broadcast partners – CBS, FOX, NBC, ESPN, NFL Network, SiriusXM and Westwood One Radio. Sessions included hands-on work in areas such as tape study, editing, show preparation, radio production, studio preparation, production meetings, field reporting and game preparation. Each player also recorded game analyst segments alongside CBS Sports commentator **JAMES BROWN**.

"You're a pro in football, not in broadcasting," says former NFL linebacker **ERIC BAKHTIARI**. "This program helps you channel your expertise in order to take the necessary steps in becoming a broadcasting professional."

Of the 188 players who took part in Broadcast Boot Camp from 2007-14, more than one-third have earned broadcasting jobs as a result of their participation in the program. Participants in 2015 included Indianapolis Colts safety **MIKE ADAMS**, New York Jets cornerback **ANTONIO CROMARTIE** and former Pittsburgh Steelers cornerback **IKE TAYLOR**.



In addition, NFL Player Engagement leads the annual Rookie Symposium, a multi-day orientation for rookies that emphasizes the sport's legacy, tradition of character and leadership, as well as social and professional responsibility.



The core teaching principles of the 2015 Rookie Symposium are centered on the NFL's values of respect, integrity, responsibility to team and resiliency. The sessions include presentations, videos and workshops focused on these principles as well as other topics, including player health and safety, decision making, maintaining positive relationships, financial strength and domestic violence and sexual assault bystander intervention.

Guest speakers and presenters at the 2015 Rookie Symposium included Oakland Raiders general manager **REGGIE MC KENZIE**, New York Giants general manager **JERRY REESE**, Arizona Cardinals wide receiver **LARRY FITZGERALD** (below, on right), New York Jets wide receiver **BRANDON MARSHALL**, Baltimore Ravens running back **JUSTIN FORSETT** and New Orleans Saints tight end **BENJAMIN WATSON**. Pro Football Hall of Famer **CRIS CARTER** (left) addressed the 2015 rookies on the final night of the program and Pro Football Hall of Famers **ANTHONY MUÑOZ** and **CURTIS MARTIN** shared experiences from their NFL playing days when the rookies visited the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio.

NFL Player Engagement also hosts several other educational programs throughout the year, all designed to reach players at various points in their development as players, businessmen and people. Together with the NCAA, they host a NFL-NCAA Life Skills and Professional Development Summit and the NFL-NCAA Coaching Academy, which provide personal and professional development resources and networking opportunities. Through group and panel discussions, as well as interactive exercises, participants learn about and share topics impacting their personal and professional growth.

With the help of NFL Player Engagement, players can stay educated during critical transition periods in their lives and utilize available resources and services designed to assist them along the way.





SUMMARY OF NFL PROGRAMS & BENEFITS FOR RETIRED PLAYERS

The NFL has a large number of meaningful resources that are available to retired players – NFL Legends – in their post NFL years. These include transition assistance and continuing education programs for recently retired players as well as dozens of collectively-bargained benefits for them and for those “more experienced” retirees who were pioneers in the league.

The landmark 2011 NFL Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) included additional funding of approximately \$1 billion for retiree benefits. The largest single amount – \$620 million – is being used for the **LEGACY FUND**, which has increased pensions for pre-1993 retirees.

“Nothing the league can do can ever fully express our appreciation to the players who helped build our league,” says NFL Commissioner **ROGER GOODELL**. “However, the Legacy Fund is a significant step, especially as the benefits apply to the older players.”

Below is a summary of the many programs and benefits that former players – NFL Legends – have earned through their play in the league:

NFL PROGRAMS

- **NFL LEGENDS COMMUNITY**

The league office created the Legends Community in response to former players (NFL Legends) who wanted to remain close to – or renew – NFL relationships with former teammates, teams and the league. The Community also allows these players to meet and discuss their own post-NFL businesses with successful NFL sponsors and advertisers. More than 2,000 Legends have signed up and are enjoying the benefits of remaining part of the NFL family.

- **TRANSITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (TAP)**

The NFL Transition Assistance Program (TAP) is designed to give recently retired players the tools and peer-to-peer support for a successful transition into a post-NFL career. At the same time, TAP also has helped older retirees adjust when they are moving from one-post football occupation to another.

- **CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAM (CEP)**

The NFL Continuing Education Program (CEP) assists recently retired players who need to complete their undergraduate degree, pursue graduate studies or utilize other educational opportunities to prepare for life after the NFL. Retired players with a minimum of one credited season also may be eligible for a tuition reimbursement benefit to help with the costs of continuing their education.

- **NFL CAREER BOOT CAMPS**

The NFL offers retired players the opportunity to work with established professionals in various fields and to learn about other careers that may interest them as they move into their post-NFL years. These “Boot Camps” are offered over a series of days in areas such as coaching, business franchising, personal finance, consumer products, entrepreneurship, broadcast and sports journalism/communications. These programs usually are held on prestigious college campuses including Notre Dame, Harvard and Michigan.

- **CONCIERGE HEALTH INSURANCE ASSISTANCE**

The NFL provides free personalized assistance to former players who need to buy annual health insurance for themselves and their family.

- **PRO FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME ASSISTANCE FOUNDATION**

The Pro Football Hall of Fame Board of Trustees in Canton, Ohio established an assistance fund for those enshrined, especially pioneers from the NFL’s early years, who may be facing financial or medical challenges. Grants have been made to assist these men and their families when they faced housing needs, medical difficulties or have been victims of a serious accident.

- **PLAYER CARE FOUNDATION**

The Player Care Foundation provides retired players assistance in two major areas: financial grants to assist players in a time of need; and the Healthy Body & Mind Screening Program, its national cardiovascular and prostate screening program that also provides mental health education. Grants have been made to players to help with expenses ranging from housing needs to family funerals.

- **OTHER PROGRAMS**

Other groups affiliated with the NFL also offer a host of programs to benefit former players. The NFL Alumni Association's mission is to "serve, assist and inform its members to enrich their post NFL lives." The Gridiron Greats Assistance Fund provides financial grants and "pro bono" medical assistance to retired players in dire need. Finally, the NFL Player Association's TRUST is committed to the well-being of former players and works to meet each individual where he is in his transition off the playing field. For more information on the programs and services provided by the NFLPA for both active and former players, go to www.nflpa.com.

NFL BENEFITS

- **JOINT REPLACEMENT BENEFIT**

The NFL provides as much as \$5,250 to cover health care items or services directly related to knee, hip or shoulder replacement surgery. In addition, the NFL Player Care Foundation provides grants to assist players in need up to and including the cost of the replacement surgery.

- **DISCOUNT PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFIT**

The benefit is a Discount Drug Card which provides immediate discounts for prescription drugs at more than 57,000 retail pharmacies nationwide, including all major chains.

- **LIFE INSURANCE BENEFIT**

Each eligible retired player has term life insurance until he turns 55 in an amount of \$20,000 plus \$2,000 for each credited season in the league up to a maximum of 15.

- **ASSISTED LIVING BENEFIT**

Any retired player is eligible for the Assisted Living Benefit which provides special discounts and preferred access in more than 500 communities around the country. There is particular care for those individuals with Alzheimer's and other memory impairment diseases.

- **MEDICARE SUPPLEMENT**

The NFL has contracted with Medicare insurers to make available a range of supplemental insurance plans to retired players 65 and older.

- **SPINE TREATMENT BENEFIT**

All retired players are eligible. The NFL has arrangements with top tier medical centers that have particular expertise to provide access, evaluation and possible treatment by top orthopedic surgeons across the country.

- **NEUROLOGICAL BENEFIT**

The NFL has contracted with top medical centers around the country that have special expertise to provide access, evaluation and possible treatment for all retired players.

- **88 PLAN**

The 88 Plan provides benefits to players with dementia, ALS and Parkinson's disease. These benefits are the reimbursement or payments of medical or custodial expenses up to \$100,000 related to these diseases.

- **NFL PLAYER RETIREMENT PLAN**

This plan provides a vested player with pension and disability benefits and offers survivor protections for his wife and family. A player is vested after only three-to-five credited seasons depending on when he was in the league. Normal retirement age to begin receiving pension payments is 55.

- **LEGACY PAYMENTS**

Players who were in the NFL prior to 1993 may receive an additional monthly payment along with their pension as part of the 2011 Collective Bargaining Agreement.

- **WIDOW & SURVIVOR BENEFIT**

The NFL pays survivor benefits to certain widows and other beneficiaries of deceased players. Survivors begin receiving benefits on the first month after a player's death.

- **NFL PLAYER ANNUITY PLAN**

The Annuity Plan which is funded by the clubs provides deferred compensation for recently retired players at no cost to the players.

- **DISABILITY BENEFITS**

The NFL provides two kinds of disability benefits: total & permanent disability benefits and line of duty disability benefits. A nationwide panel of expert physicians have been retained and are instructed to examine applicant players fully and fairly. A full-time Medical Director, who is a physician, also has been hired with the authority and responsibility to oversee the panel of doctors.

- **LONG TERM CARE INSURANCE**

Players 50 or older are eligible to receive long-term care coverage at no cost to them if they meet the underwriting requirements of the insurance provider and are approved. This coverage provides financial support for players if they require long-term medical assistance at home, in the community, in assisted living or in nursing homes.

- **NEURO COGNITIVE BENEFIT**

This benefit makes monthly payments to players who have a mild or moderate neurocognitive impairment, as well as provides reimbursement toward the cost of medical expenses associated with that impairment. Players receive examinations from board-certified neurologists and neuropsychologists at top medical facilities.

- **NFL LIFE LINE**

This 24/7 service is a free, independent and confidential phone consultation hotline available to former players, their wives and other family members who may need assistance with matters such as spousal and child safety, mental and physical health, lifestyle and transition in post-NFL life.

- **NFL PLAYERS ASSISTANCE & COUNSELLING SERVICES**

This Employee Assistance benefit is provided for both retired and active players plus their families. It provides individuals as many as eight free counselling sessions a year for matters ranging from family/marital concerns to depression.

- **NFL PLAYER TUITION ASSISTANCE PLAN**

The Tuition Plan encourages recently retired players to continue their education for undergraduates and/or graduate degrees. Business management programs may also be eligible for reimbursement.

- **NFL SECOND CAREER SAVINGS PLAN**

NFL clubs provide funding to supplement dollars contributed by active players for their use in retirement. Another provision of the Plan require clubs to provide funds even to those active players who do not wish to contribute dollars of their own.

- **NFL PLAYERS HEALTH REIMBURSEMENT ACCOUNT**

The Health Reimbursement Account plan was created to help recently retired players and their families pay out-of-pocket health care expenses during a period of their post-NFL years.

- **NFL SEVERANCE PLAN**

This program provides that recently retired players who have as few as two years in the league will receive a lump-sum check approximately one year after their final NFL season.

- **NFL PLAYER INSURANCE PLAN**

The plan calls for health insurance to be made available free of charge to recently retired players who have played in the league more than three seasons. These players receive five years of free health coverage for themselves and their families after they leave the league. The players then have the option to continue to pay for this coverage for an unlimited number of succeeding years.





NFL LEGENDS BUSY & SUCCESSFUL IN POST-PLAYING CAREERS

The NFL is proud of its thousands of elite player alumni – NFL Legends – who have moved on to successful careers in business, public service, coaching, medicine, education and the law.



Former wide receiver **KEVIN LOCKETT** (left and below) knew he would have a decision to make at the end of his seven-year (1997-2003) playing career.

“Although I thought I was prepared to make that transition from the field, I had my doubts,” says Lockett. “I think that is true for every player. I knew I had to prepare myself for a second career.”

Lockett spent the majority of his NFL career with the Kansas City Chiefs before stints with the Washington Redskins, New York Jets and Jacksonville Jaguars. While playing in Kansas City, Lockett began consulting work with the Kauffman Foundation, one of the largest private foundations in the country.

Lockett spent nearly 10 years working in various roles for the Kauffman Foundation, including as the chief operating officer of the foundation’s Urban Entrepreneur Partnership, a program designed to provide education and coaching to minority and urban entrepreneurs to more successfully scale their firms.

“I was fortunate that both my parents had business careers,” says Lockett about the things that helped propel him into business. “My mom worked at Shell Oil for 25 years, while my father was employed in the oil and gas industry. I majored in accounting and finance at Kansas State which has helped me a great deal since retiring from the NFL.”

Lockett is currently the COO/CFO at the Kansas Bioscience Authority (KBA), where he is responsible for its financial management and reporting. KBA was created by the *Kansas Economic Growth Act of 2004* to accelerate growth in the bioscience sector by making venture capital-type investments into promising bioscience companies.

Lockett and his wife, Cheryl, have four sons. In his spare time, he is involved in the Kansas City Chiefs Ambassadors Program for retired players.

“Many of us miss playing the games and the Ambassadors Program helps fill that void,” says Lockett. “I also advise the younger guys in the group to start networking in other industries outside of sports as soon as possible. I am living proof that the saying, ‘Who you know,’ goes a long way in your second career.”



The below list is just a sampling of what some former NFL players are doing in their second (or even third) careers:

PLAYER	TEAM(S)	CURRENT CAREER POSITION (LOCATION)
RB Walter Abercrombie	Steelers, Eagles	Executive Director, "B" Association (TX) Assistant Athletic Director, Baylor University (TX)
LB Bobby Abrams	Giants, Vikings, Patriots	Principal, Jefferson Davis High School (AL)
LB Trev Alberts	Colts	Athletic Director, University of Nebraska-Omaha (NE)
LB Doug Allen	Bills	Professor, School of Labor Studies & Employment Relations, Pennsylvania State University (PA)
RB Gerald Allen	Colts, Redskins	Manager, Compensation & Employee Relations, Maryknoll Fathers & Religious Brothers (NY)
LB Dick Ambrose	Browns	Judge, Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas (OH)
LB John Anderson	Packers	Science Teacher, Brookfield Academy (WI)
G Billy Ard	Giants, Packers	Senior Vice President, Morgan Stanley Smith Barney (NJ)
DE Trace Armstrong	Bears, Dolphins, Raiders	Advisor, Creative Artist Agency (FL)
DE Al (Bubba) Baker	Lions, Cardinals, Browns, Vikings	Owner, De-Boned Baby Back Rib Steak (OH)
WR Gary Barnes	Packers, Cowboys, Bears, Falcons	Chief Municipal Judge, City of Clemson (SC)

DT Bob Baumhower	Dolphins	Founder/CEO, Aloha Hospitality (AL)
P Carl Birdsong	Rams	President, Maxor National Pharmacy Services, LLC (TX)
QB Steve Bono	Vikings, Steelers, 49ers, Chiefs, Packers, Rams, Panthers	Principal, Constellation Wealth Advisors LLC (CA)
WR Brian Brennan	Browns, Chargers	Managing Director/Head of Fixed Income, KeyBanc Capital Markets (OH)
QB Jeff Brohm	49ers, Buccaneers, Broncos	Head Coach, Western Kentucky University (KY)
TE Steve Brooks	49ers, Rams, Saints, Lions, Redskins	Trauma Surgeon, Surgical Critical Care at Vanderbilt University (TN)
DT Roger Brown	Lions, Rams	Owner, Roger Brown's Restaurant and Sports Bar (VA)
C Blair Bush	Bengals, Seahawks, Packers, Rams	Financial Analyst, Nordstrom (WA)
LB Glenn Cameron	Bengals	Attorney, Cameron, Gonzalez & Marroney, P.A. (FL)
T Roger Caron	Colts	Head Coach, Pomona-Pitzer Football (CA)
DB Dr. Tommy Casanova	Bengals	Ophthalmologist, Casanova Eye Surgery (LA)
WR Wayne Chrebet	Jets	Assistant Vice President, Barclays (NY)
TE Paul Coffman	Packers, Chiefs, Vikings	Sales Director, Meyer Laboratory (MO)
P Greg Coleman	Browns, Vikings, Redskins	National Marketing Coordinator, Harris RF Communications (MN)
LB Chuck Crist	Giants, Saints, 49ers	Principal, Salamanca High School (NY)
RB Kenneth Davis	Packers, Bills	Director of Athletics, Bishop Dunne Catholic School (TX)
C Dermontti Dawson	Steelers	Vice President of Sales, Prime Time West, Inc. (CA)
QB Jake Delhomme	Saints, Panthers, Browns, Texans	Co-Owner, Set-Hut Thoroughbred Stables (LA) President, Louisiana Thoroughbred Breeders Association (LA)
T Doug Dieken	Browns	Partner, Jackson, Dieken & Associates (OH)
DB John Dockery	Jets, Steelers	President/CEO, Cambridge Corporation (NY)
QB Marty Domres	Chargers, Colts, 49ers, Jets	Executive Director/Financial Advisor, Morgan Stanley Wealth Management (MD)
RB Dan Doornink	Giants, Seahawks	Medical Doctor, Cornerstone Medical Center (WA)
S Brad Edwards	Vikings, Redskins, Falcons	Athletic Director, George Mason University (VA)
DT Joe Ehrmann	Colts, Lions	Founder/President, Coach For America (MD)
LB Riki Ellison	49ers, Raiders	Chairman & Founder, Missile Defense Advocacy Alliance (VA)
S Gary Fencik	Bears	Partner, Adams Street Partners (IL)
QB Vince Ferragamo	Rams, Bills, Packers	Owner/Broker, Touchdown Real Estate (CA)
DT Dave Gallagher	Bears, Giants, Lions	Surgeon, Southern Indiana Orthopedics (IN)
DT Moe Gardner	Falcons	Program Division Manager on African-American Culture/History, Auburn Avenue Research Library (GA)
WR Willie Green, Sr.	Lions, Buccaneers, Panthers, Broncos	Vice President of External & Government Relations, World Acceptance Corporation (SC)
QB Pat Haden	Rams	Athletic Director, University of Southern California (CA)
C Courtney Hall	Chargers	Co-founder/Managing Director, Hillcrest Venture Partners (NY)
RB Bobby Hammond	Giants, Redskins	Associate Business Professor, Camden County College (NJ)
S Terry Hoage	Saints, Eagles, Cardinals, 49ers, Oilers	Co-Founder, Terry Hoage Vineyards (CA)
FB Brad Hoover	Panthers	Head Football Coach at Union Academy (NC)
RB Mike Hull	Bears, Redskins	General Counsel, NRT LLC (CA)
RB Bobby Humphrey	Broncos, Dolphins, Bills	Vice President of Business Development, Bryant Bank (AL)
C Bob Johnson	Bengals	Owner/CEO, Choice Brands Adhesives (OH)
WR Cedric Jones	Patriots	Director of Athletics, New York Athletic Club (NY)
LB Robert Jones	Cowboys, Rams, Dolphins, Redskins	President, Get It Clean, Inc. (TX)
LB Mike Jones	Raiders, Rams, Steelers	Head Football Coach, Lincoln University (MO)
LB Dhani Jones	Giants, Eagles, Bengals	Chairman, QEY Capital Partners (OH)
LB Cato June	Colts, Buccaneers, Bears	Head Coach, C.H. Flowers High School (VA)
LB Isaiah Kacyvenski	Seahawks, Rams	Chairman-Sports Advisory Board, MC10 (MA)
QB Jeff Kemp	Rams, 49ers, Seahawks	Vice President/Home Builder Catalyst, Family Life (AR)
QB Jon Kitna	Seahawks, Bengals, Lions, Cowboys	Math Teacher and Football Coach, Lincoln High School (WA)
QB Dave Klingler	Bengals, Raiders	Assistant Professor of Biblical Studies, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (TX)
LB Dr. Jim Kovach	Saints, 49ers	CMO/Co-Founder, Beneufit, Inc. (CA)
DB Bruce Laird	Colts, Chargers	Senior Marketing Executive, Multi Specialty Healthcare (MD)

LB Willie Lanier	Chiefs	Investment Advisor, Wells Fargo Advisors (VA)
TE Chad Lewis	Eagles, Rams	Associate Athletic Director-Development, Brigham Young University (UT)
QB Chuck Long	Lions, LA Rams	Executive Director/CEO, Iowa Sports Foundation (IA)
DE Dave Long	Cardinals, Saints	Owner, The 1 Alpaca Farm (AZ)
G Tom Mack	LA Rams	Principal, Ramco Group (NV)
WR Justin McCareins	Titans, Jets	Police Officer, Coral Springs Police Department (FL)
WR Phil McConkey	Giants, Cardinals	President/Partner, Academy Securities (CA)
DE Pellom McDaniels	Chiefs, Falcons	African American Collections Curator, Emory University Archives (GA)
P Pat McInally	Bengals	Head Coach, Brethren Christian High School (CA)
LB Mike Merriweather	Steelers, Vikings, Jets	Athletic Director at Vacaville Christian School (CA)
T Matt Miller	Browns	Professor, Cornell University (NY)
QB Mike Moroski	Falcons, Oilers, 49ers	Head Coach, College of Idaho (ID)
G Gerry Mullins	Steelers	President, Industrial Metals & Minerals (PA)
K Eddie Murray	Lions, Cowboys, Eagles, Redskins, Vikings	Director of Business Development, Great Lakes Wire & Cable (MI)
G Ed Newman	Dolphins	Judge, Miami-Dade County Court (FL)
RB Timmy Newsome	Cowboys	Founder, Newtec Business Solutions (TX)
RB Tom Nowatzke	Lions, Colts	President, NRT Leasing (MI)
LB John Offerdahl	Dolphins	Owner/Operator, Offerdahl's Café Grill (FL)
DT Alan Page	Vikings, Bears	Associate Justice, Minnesota Supreme Court (MN)
QB Steve Pelluer	Cowboys, Chiefs	Owner, Pelluer Property Group (WA)
DB Eugene Profit	Patriots, Redskins	Founder, Profit Investments (D.C.)
WR Jerry Richardson	Colts	Owner/Founder, Carolina Panthers (NC)
LB Andy Russell	Steelers	Managing Partner, Laurel Mountain Partners (PA)
T Chris Samuels	Redskins	Head Coach, Osbourn High School (VA)
DB Terry Schmidt	Saints, Bears	Chief of Dental Service, Quillen VA Medical Center (TN)
S John Sciarra	Eagles	President/CEO, National Retirement Services (CA)
G Ray Schoenke	Cowboys, Redskins	Founder, Ray Schoenke & Associates (MD)
RB Rob Scribner	Rams	Senior Pastor, Lighthouse Church (CA)
LB Brandon Short	Giants, Panthers	CEO, World Business Partners (Dubai)
QB Steve Spurrier	49ers, Buccaneers	Head Coach, University of South Carolina (SC)
WR John Stallworth	Steelers	President/CEO, Genesis II Investments (AL) Part Owner, Pittsburgh Steelers (PA)
P Rohn Stark	Colts, Steelers, Panthers, Seahawks	Owner, Platinum Properties Hawaii (HI)
C Dwight Stephenson	Dolphins	CEO/Owner, D. Stephenson Construction (FL)
S Pat Terrell	Rams, Jets, Panthers, Packers	Founder/CEO, Terrell Materials (IL)
G Ross Tucker	Redskins, Bills, Patriots, Cowboys	Founder/CEO, GoBigRecruiting, LLC (PA) Broadcaster, NBC Sports/Sirius XM (PA)
CB Scott Turner	Redskins, Chargers, Broncos	Representative, Texas House of Representatives (TX)
LB Olen Underwood	Giants, Oilers, Broncos	Presiding Judge, 2nd Administrative Judicial Region (TX)
P Bryan Wagner	Bears, Browns, Patriots, Packers, Chargers	Teacher, Willetts Middle School (OH)
G Jason Whittle	Giants, Buccaneers, Vikings, Bills	Broker/Owner, Jason Whittle All Pro Realtors (MO)
CB Dwayne Woodruff	Steelers	Judge, Court of Common Pleas, Allegheny County (PA)
RB Selvin Young	Broncos	Owner, Custom Food Truck Builders (TX)



Wayne Chrebet



Dan Doornink



Willie Green, Sr.



NFL CAREER DEVELOPMENT SYMPOSIUM OFFERS NETWORKING & FEEDBACK FOR ASPIRING HEAD COACHES & GENERAL MANAGERS

A few weeks after 323 college football players participated in the ultimate job interview at the NFL Scouting Combine, 68 NFL assistant coaches and front office executives – all at different stages of their careers – took part in the annual **NFL CAREER DEVELOPMENT SYMPOSIUM** at the Arizona Biltmore Hotel in Phoenix.

The program is directed by NFL Executive Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer **ROBERT GULLIVER** and NFL Executive Vice President of Football Operations **TROY VINCENT**.

“The Career Development Symposium is one in a series of programs we offer to develop talent throughout the NFL,” says Gulliver. “We have pulled together the next generation of head coaches and general managers who will benefit from the insights of owners, current and former head coaches and general managers as they look to take that next step in their careers.”

“The NFL constantly strives to make the best better,” adds Vincent. “We have assembled the most talented individuals available to our game. Our job is to educate in order to mesh that talent with potential, bringing forward the future of our game.”



The three-day symposium featured presentations, panel discussions, breakout sessions and networking opportunities with owners, club presidents, coaches, general managers and league executives. Program sessions included: “Expectations of Ownership,” “Building a Winning Culture,” “Club Business,” “Interviewing Techniques,” “Managing Relationships,” and two breakout panels – one for aspiring head coaches and one for aspiring general managers.

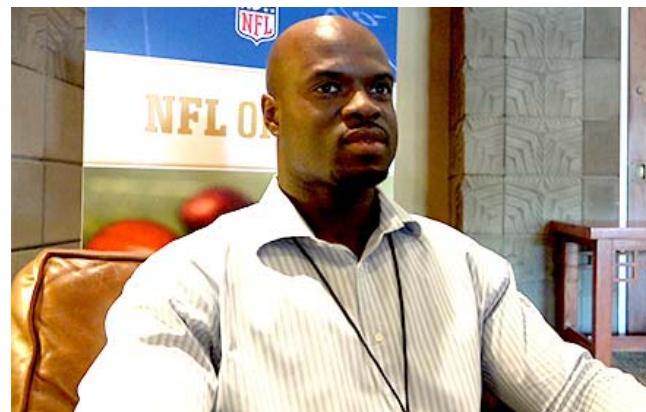
Arizona Cardinals President **MICHAEL BIDWILL**, New York Giants President & Chief Executive Officer **JOHN MARA**, Minnesota Vikings general manager **RICK SPIELMAN**, San Diego Chargers general manager **TOM TELESCO**, Cleveland Browns head coach **MIKE PETTINE**, Vikings head coach **MIKE ZIMMER**, former NFL head coach **BILL COWHER** (left) and former NFL general managers and members of the NFL’s Career Development Advisory Panel **CHARLEY CASSERLY**, **BILL POLIAN** and **RON WOLF** were among the speakers and presenters.

Cowher spoke to the attendees and touched on leadership and understanding each organization. He addressed how to manage a staff and make difficult decisions as a head coach. He stressed the importance of establishing a relationship with the owner, communicating a vision and having accountability.

Casserly, a former general manager of the Washington Redskins, gave a passionate presentation on best practices for interviewing and getting the job. In addition, he emphasized what to examine as a general manager and how to build a successful staff.

“Three top things that are needed to stand out as a coach are presence, character and communication,” Casserly told the attendees.

STEVE CARGILE (right), a team scout for the New England Patriots, New York Jets director of football administration **JACKIE DAVIDSON**, New Orleans Saints director of football administration **KHAI HARLEY** and Tampa Bay Buccaneers linebackers coach **HARDY NICKERSON** were among the 68 attendees.



“This is a great opportunity for us to network and to get to know other personnel within the NFL to help us grow,” says Cargile.

Cargile was an undrafted rookie free agent for the Dallas Cowboys in 2004 and finished his playing career with Tampa Bay in 2009. He decided to stay involved with the game and to become an NFL scout.

“I sent my information to all the teams in the NFL and the Patriots looked me up and brought me in and everything has been great,” says Cargile.

The Career Development Symposium previously ran from 1998-2008 and returned in 2013. Attendees of the 2013 symposium included new hires for the 2014 season such as head coaches **JAY GRUDEN** (Washington), Pettine (Cleveland), Zimmer (Minnesota) as well as general managers **RAY FARMER** (Cleveland), **DENNIS HICKEY** (Miami), **JASON LICHT** (Tampa Bay) and **DOUG WHALEY** (Buffalo). Attendees of the 2014 symposium included new head coaches **TODD BOWLES** (New York Jets) and **JIM TOMSULA** (San Francisco).

The NFL Career Development Symposium supplements other initiatives that include:

- **Bill Walsh NFL Minority Coaching Fellowship** (April-June 2015; July-August 2015), which provides opportunities at all 32 NFL clubs for minority coaches to observe, participate and gain coaching experience.
- **Nunn-Wooten Scouting Fellowship** (May-August 2015), which provides former players the opportunity to learn the fundamentals of scouting at the NFL level.
- **NFL-NCAA Coaches Academy** (February 2015), which offered 58 coaches/coaching prospects – including 28 current and former NFL players – the tools and networking opportunities for potential careers as football coaches.
- **NFL Video Interview Program** (February 2015), for those who have been identified as potential head coaches or general managers. The program gives clubs the ability to view an informational interview conducted by an executive search firm.
- **NFL-NCAA Champion Forum** (June 2015), for those who have been identified as potential head coaches by college administrators. This program simulates the intercollegiate interview process from researching the position to the first staff meeting after becoming a head coach.



Todd Bowles



Ray Farmer



Jay Gruden



Dennis Hickey



Jason Licht



Mike Pettine



Jim Tomsula



Doug Whaley



Mike Zimmer



NFL PLAY 60

NFL PLAY 60 illustrates the league's long-standing commitment to the health of youth around the country. It includes partnerships, public service announcements, school-based programs and team involvement. NFL Play 60 is implemented locally, as all 32 NFL clubs drive campaign and program efforts in their respective markets.



Since the launch of the NFL PLAY 60 initiative in 2007, the NFL and its clubs have built more than 200 Youth Fitness Zones and committed more than \$325 million to youth health and fitness programming, grants and media time for public service announcements.

The NFL has two PLAY 60 in-school programs – the PLAY 60 Challenge and Fuel Up to PLAY 60 – which are in more than 73,000 schools and reach more than 38 million kids per year. The PLAY 60 Challenge is an in-school curriculum of NFL PLAY 60 in partnership with the American Heart Association and provides tools to help students be more active. Fuel Up to PLAY 60 is comprised of youth teams working in partnership with the National Dairy Council and helps kids stay fit by making healthy nutrition choices.

Thanksgiving is an important time of the year when NFL PLAY 60 is celebrated in stadiums throughout the country. Holiday traditions such as food, family, football and philanthropy will come to life as the program celebrates youth and its goals for kids to live an active and healthy lifestyle. Each team will designate one game following Thanksgiving as their "PLAY 60 Game" and in-stadium celebrations will showcase the positive impact of NFL PLAY 60. Many clubs will also hold their Team Championships for NFL Punt, Pass & Kick – another PLAY 60 program – and will recognize their local finalists during this game.

In 2014, the NFL introduced a new public service announcement during the Thanksgiving games. The theme of the PSA was "Come Out to Play." It focused on the hometowns, fields and backyards where NFL icons played when they were young. Players featured included **VICTOR CRUZ, JIM KELLY, CALVIN JOHNSON, ELI MANNING, PEYTON MANNING, DAN MARINO, CAM NEWTON** (right), **JOHNNY UNITAS** and **J.J. WATT**. The PSA is also posted on www.nflrush.com/play60 along with messages from current and former NFL players about the importance of 'coming out to play.'

Last season, the NFL also introduced the NFL PLAY 60 app which had more than 650,000 downloads in the first year. The app was created in partnership with the American Heart Association and is funded by the NFL Foundation. The app encourages kids to get active, while at the same time enjoying an interactive and fun game experience.



NFL PLAY 60 has collaborated with new organizations this past year to continue to extend the campaign to youth nationwide. NFL PLAY 60 was present at the 2015 Special Olympics World Games in Los Angeles, engaging with flag football athletes through an interactive experience and supporting all athletes participating in the games. In April, NFL Draft prospects (left, Jacksonville Jaguars defensive end **DANTE FOWLER, JR.** takes a young patient through an obstacle course) spent time with pediatric patients and their families while they participated in PLAY 60 obstacle courses at Shriners Hospitals for Children in Chicago.

NFL PLAY 60 stands as the official champion of play at St. Jude and takes part in supporting the needs of its Child Life Program, which helps children cope with the stress of their illness through therapeutic play and other activities, while promoting development, self-expression and peer interaction among other benefits. Child Life is an integral part of the medical team at St. Jude and is visible in every clinical arena.

NFL PLAY 60 is the league's primary social responsibility platform under which various youth health and fitness initiatives fall. Some of the leagues programs in this specific area are:

Fuel Up to PLAY 60	A school-based program in which youth teams aim at getting schools and its students healthy and fit in partnership with the National Dairy Council
Hometown Huddle	Annual league-wide day of service in October with United Way in which each team community takes part in various community service offerings
NFL FLAG Football	Youth football league for boys and girls between the ages of 5-17 in collaboration with USA Football
NFL PLAY 60 Bus Contest	Awards a deserving community with a newly refurbished play space that allow its youth to strive to be more active and healthy
NFL PLAY 60 FITNESSGRAM	Health and fitness assessment tool for schools nationwide to help improve the health of students
NFL PLAY 60 Super Bowl Contest	Recognizes 34 kids across the country for their efforts and commitment to Play 60 every day with the goal of a healthy lifestyle. One grand-prize winner is awarded with an exclusive Super Bowl experience
NFL PLAY 60 Youth Football Festivals	Engages local youth with the game of football and healthy living messaging around certain NFL events such as the Draft, Kickoff, Pro Bowl and Super Bowl
NFL Punt, Pass & Kick	National skills competition for boys and girls between the ages of 6-15 in collaboration with USA Football
NFL PLAY 60 Challenge	An in-school curriculum of NFL PLAY 60 that is in partnership with the American Heart Association inspiring kids to get at least 60 minutes of exercise a day
NFL PLAY 60 Invention Contest	Challenges kids to be creative and come up with new and innovative ideas or product inventions that enable youth to get active and healthy
Youth Fitness Zones	Playgrounds, gyms and other fun places for kids to be active that are built by the NFL and its 32 clubs
Taste of the NFL	Raises awareness of the hungry and homeless through different events and programs





NFL'S CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION: THE NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE FOUNDATION

The **NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE FOUNDATION** is a nonprofit organization representing the 32 NFL clubs. It supports the health, safety and wellness of athletes, youth football and the communities which support our game.

THE NFL FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CHARLOTTE JONES ANDERSON	Chairman, NFL Foundation; Executive Vice President and Chief Brand Officer, Dallas Cowboys
MICHAEL BIDWILL	President, Arizona Cardinals
SHAD KHAN	Owner, Jacksonville Jaguars
KIM PEGULA	Owner, Buffalo Bills
ARTHUR J. ROONEY II	President, Pittsburgh Steelers
JASON TAYLOR	Former NFL Player, Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year Award Recipient
LEONARD WILF	Owner, Minnesota Vikings

"We are proud of the NFL's long-standing history of giving back to communities," says NFL Commissioner **ROGER GOODELL**. "The board of our foundation is a passionate group of individuals who will help ensure that the NFL continues to be a leader in philanthropy."

The NFL Foundation is a strong supporter of youth football and efforts to help players learn proper fundamentals, be active, have fun and stay safe. Last year, the NFL Foundation approved a five-year, \$45 million grant to USA Football to support the growth of youth tackle football and NFL FLAG initiatives. To date, more than 6,200 youth organizations and more than 1,000 high schools across the U.S. have registered for Heads Up Football – USA Football's initiative that provides continuity in fundamentals, terminology and health and safety protocols from the youth to the high school levels.

"We want to make sure that we are doing everything we possibly can to make the game not only safe for the players who play our game, but for young athletes," says NFL Foundation Chairman **CHARLOTTE JONES ANDERSON** (right). "We recently doubled down on our relationship with USA Football because they were doing such a good job."



An additional \$25 million from the NFL Foundation was committed to new health and safety projects over three years, including the Back to Sports Program with the American Heart Association that educates parents on the rewards of sports and importance of safety education. The NFL Foundation, National Athletic Trainers' Association, Gatorade and the Professional Football Athletic Trainers Society also announced the expansion of the athletic trainer outreach program for the 2015-16 school year, funding additional athletic trainers in underserved high schools nationwide with contributions totaling \$2 million.

Investing in youth wellness is another priority area for the NFL Foundation and that includes more than \$1 million in funding this year for the development and implementation of youth character education initiatives to help positively impact youngsters nationwide. Additionally, the NFL Foundation will support the Super Bowl 50 High School Honor Roll which celebrates the high schools of players who have played in every Super Bowl with football grant opportunities and character education curricula.

The NFL Foundation also provides grants to the American Heart Association and the Cooper Institute to power NFL PLAY 60 programs, including the NFL PLAY 60 Challenge and FITNESSGRAM programs to help children in communities across the country get active and fit.

The NFL Foundation also provides funding to support youth football, health and safety efforts and community initiatives through the following grant, recognition and education programs:

- Don Shula NFL High School Coach of the Year
- Grassroots Field Grants
- Club Community Grants
- Club Matching Youth Football Grants
- Continuing Medical Education Grants
- NFL Youth Education Town (YET) Program Grants
- Player Foundation Grants
- Player Matching Youth Football Grants
- Pro Bowl Community Grants
- USA Football Equipment Grants
- Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year
- Youth Football Camp Grants

A CRUCIAL CATCH: NFL SUPPORTS BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

The NFL has supported National Breast Cancer Awareness Month with a large on-field presence and a national screening-reminder campaign for the past six years as part of the **A CRUCIAL CATCH** campaign in collaboration with the American Cancer Society (ACS). Through *A Crucial Catch*, the NFL has helped raise more than \$8 million for ACS with the majority of the financial contribution coming from the sale of Breast Cancer Awareness-identified pink merchandise at retail and via the NFL Auction website. The NFL does not profit from the sale or auction of pink merchandise.



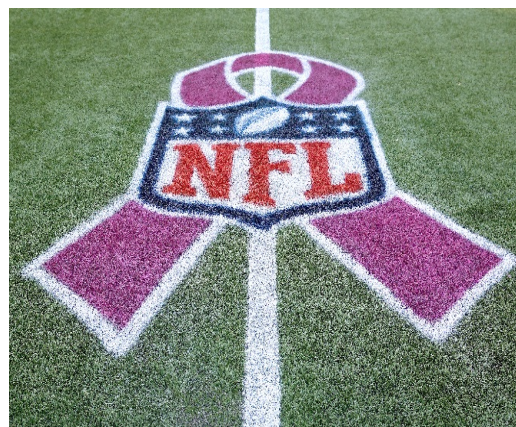
During the 2015 season, there will be a continuation of special pregame ceremonies, team community outreach events and exclusive pink items on-field and in-stadium during NFL Breast Cancer Awareness Weekend. Teams not playing at home that weekend will have the opportunity to designate the following weekend as their Breast Cancer Awareness Game.

Over the years, many NFL sponsors and partners have joined the league in its fight against breast cancer, such as New Era and Nike. Special New Era hats with pink accents for players, coaches and sideline personnel are available during October, as well as exclusive Nike gloves, cleats and wristbands that are worn during games. These special hats and other pink items will be sold at all stadiums, on NFLSHOP.com and also at select retail locations to help generate awareness and funds for the American Cancer Society.

Promotion and support of *A Crucial Catch* will continue to include fields featuring pink ribbon shield stencils on both of the 25-yard lines and special balls with pink ribbon logos will be used for each game. The footballs and other pink game-worn items such as gloves and cleats will then be auctioned off via NFL Auction (nfl.com/auction), with all of the proceeds benefitting ACS. NFL Breast Cancer Awareness Weekend will also be highlighted with features on NFL.com (as well as a dedicated microsite at nfl.com/pink), NFL Network and through the NFL social media channels.

In October, the American Cancer Society and the NFL will team up and hold a nationwide breast-cancer event called *A Crucial Catch Day*. This day celebrates health and provides information and education about how to reduce the risk of breast cancer, and how to detect it early. The event is executed throughout every NFL market and provides breast cancer education and free or low-cost screenings in specific underserved communities.

Money raised through *A Crucial Catch* supports the CHANGE initiative, the American Cancer Society's Community Health Advocates, implementing National Grants for Empowerment and Equity (CHANGE) program. This program provides outreach and breast cancer screenings. In the first full two years that the NFL has funded CHANGE grants for the American Cancer Society, grant recipients have reached 118,000 women through programming such as outreach and education and provided nearly 40,000 breast cancer screenings at no or low cost.



Additionally, youth and high school football programs can also join the campaign. The NFL and ACS offer tips and resources to coaches and teachers to support the campaign and raise funds. Schools from around the country have joined to be a part of *A Crucial Catch* with various fundraisers. Schools can register at www.cancer.org/acrucialcatch.





LIVE UNITED

The National Football League and the United Way have been teammates for more than four decades and this is their 42nd year of collaboration. Teaming up in 1973, the NFL and United Way's relationship is now the longest running partnership in history between a major sports league and a non-profit organization. The NFL-United Way collaboration marked its 40th anniversary in 2013 with celebrations across the country and a fan vote to crown the greatest NFL-United Way advertisement of all time which went to the 1999 PSA featuring Pro Football Hall of Famer **DERRICK BROOKS**.

Since 1973, the NFL and United Way have worked together to promote the importance of volunteering in local communities throughout the country, while showcasing the various community service activities of the NFL, its clubs and players. The NFL and United Way have built a strong relationship and have changed the landscape of a corporate/nonprofit community partnership

The NFL and its clubs have collaborated with United Way on many community platforms, including Hometown Huddle and NFL PLAY 60 which both strive to advance youth health and wellness. The league will also continue to support United Way's **LIVE UNITED** campaign, which invites and motivates the public to join the mission to advance the common good by focusing on the important values of education, income and health.

The Chicago Bears, Bears Care and United Way recently partnered to construct a play structure at Kress Creek Farms in west Chicago that will allow youth to stay active and healthy. Last year, the Bears' 2014 Hometown Huddle events engaged youth in physical activity with stations lead by the club's rookies. A ceremony at the Chicago Bears fitness zone kicked off the festivities and players completed the landscape work around the structure.

For the past several years, NFL players – including Arizona Cardinals defensive end **CALAIS CAMPBELL**, Miami Dolphins wide receiver **GREG JENNINGS** and Carolina Panthers safety **ROMAN HARPER** – have participated in TEAM NFL, an initiative to engage more readers, tutors and mentors to support at-risk youth. In 2014, TEAM NFL transitioned to focus more on youth health, a key priority for the NFL. Seattle Seahawks quarterback **RUSSELL WILSON** (below) recently joined forces with United Way and NFL PLAY 60, with the goal of getting kids to move for an hour a day along with maintaining healthy eating habits.

In order to fight the obesity epidemic across the country, the NFL and United Way will continue their journey and work together to increase access to nutritious foods for families. The partnership will allow more opportunities for physical exercise and increase overall knowledge of healthy food and exercise options. All 32 clubs and their players will again be featured as part of a local United Way billboard campaign, inspiring the public to lead healthier lives.

The NFL and United Way are in a unique position to make a marked improvement in healthy living by using the celebrity of NFL players to engage fans in the goal to improving the health and wellness of young people.

To learn more about TEAM NFL visit: www.unitedway.org/team-nfl.



COMMUNITY MINDED

A strong commitment to giving back to the community exists across the NFL not just during the football season, but year-round.



In 2015, the NFL will celebrate its 42-year partnership with United Way, continuing the longest-running partnership between a sports league and nonprofit organization.

The NFL celebrates youth health and wellness during a league-wide day with United Way. Over the course of the 16th annual NFL United Way Hometown Huddle League, NFL coaches and players helped members of their community to “Play 60.” Teams built fitness zones and held youth football clinics, along with other NFL PLAY 60 events. The NFL and United Way’s partnership connects NFL PLAY 60 with United Way’s goal of inspiring kids to live a healthy and active lifestyle. Working with more than 1,200 communities, the partnership is creating healthier populations by increasing access to nutritious food to families in order to be successful in living a healthier life.

“We are proud to join United Way to celebrate youth health and wellness by giving back to the community and making sure all kids have the chance to ‘Play 60,’” says NFL Senior Vice President of Social Responsibility **ANNA ISAACSON**. “Through NFL PLAY 60 and our work with United Way, we will continue to provide our youngest fans with safe places to exercise and empower students to maintain healthier lifestyles.”

The NFL and United Way invite fans to show how they lead healthy lifestyles by posting images to social media sites using the hashtag #HowIPlay60. Pictures will be featured on unitedway.org/play60.

On a local level, New York Giants players **NAT BERHE, DANIEL FELS, ERIC HERMAN, JAYRON HOSLEY, BENNETT JACKSON** and **JAMEEL MC CLAIN** worked at PS 49 in the Bronx to help renovate the school’s recess area as part of the Giants Hometown Huddle project (right). Volunteers from the United Way of New York City joined to help paint the fence and wall surrounding the play area, as well as stenciling in games for the kids to play on the blacktop. The players also hosted a mini NFL PLAY 60 event with students during their PE classes by creating fun fitness stations for the kids.



The Atlanta Falcons and the Minnesota Vikings positively impacted their communities through United Way and the NFL PLAY 60 partnership in addition to other health and wellness initiatives. The 53-man roster and practice squad of the Falcons participated alongside cheerleaders and the members of the Falcons Women’s Association to make surprise appearances to 10 different locations in metro Atlanta. Six of the stops included United Way affiliated schools where players delivered new sports equipment to promote physical fitness as part of the NFL PLAY 60 initiative. Additional stops were made to SAFE House, Ronald McDonald House and local Publix Super Markets along with the Falcons Women’s Association preparing and serving lunch to the homeless at Crossroads Community Ministries.



Members of the Vikings visited Green Central Middle School (left) in recognition of the United Way-funded ACES (Athletes Committed to Educating Students) after-school mentoring program. Players spoke to the students about NFL PLAY 60 and stressed the importance of reading. Afterwards, 50 members of ACES participated in various drills.

Every year, the NFL seeks to improve the surrounding communities of the Super Bowl host city.

The Arizona Super Bowl Host Committee, in partnership with the NFL Foundation, distributed more than \$2 million to 27 Arizona nonprofit organizations that took place in conjunction with Super Bowl XLIX. Overall an estimated 400,000 local kids will be touched by the programs being supported by the Super Bowl XLIX Legacy Grants.

“Super Bowl XLIX was one of the biggest and best events Arizona has ever hosted, with our region rallying to show the world that Arizona is a vibrant and dynamic place,” says **DAVID ROUSSEAU**, Chairman of the Arizona Super Bowl Host Committee. “Supporting local nonprofits will insure this event has a positive, long-term impact on the community.”

One of the Legacy Grant recipients was the ASU Preparatory Academy, which received a newly refurbished athletic field and scoreboard to benefit K-12 students and the local community. Additionally, Elevate Phoenix funds supported education programs that provide 4,000 mentor hours to teach, tutor and transport students at five Title I elementary and high schools.

The philanthropic efforts of owners, players and coaches, club and league personnel exist across the NFL year-round and provide a powerful commitment to giving back to communities nationwide.

PARENTS & MOMS CLINICS

Parents, especially moms, are actively involved in their children's sports activities and want the latest information on how to keep their young athletes safe. For this reason, the NFL has designed **PARENTS** and **MOMS CLINICS** – events designed specifically to educate moms and the entire family on sports health and safety.

Leading the charge is NFL Consultant on Youth Football and Heads Up Football Advisory Committee member **CHRISTINE GOLIC**. She is the wife of former NFL defensive lineman and current ESPN broadcaster **MIKE GOLIC**, as well as a mother of two former Notre Dame football players and a daughter who swims at Notre Dame.

Parents Clinics

Christine and Mike Golic participated in the NFL's first-ever NFL Draft Family Football Clinic (below right) this past May. Located in Chicago's iconic Grant Park, the NFL Draft Family Football Clinic gave parents the opportunity to listen to football-themed discussion panels and participate in USA Football Heads Up Tackling drills, all while their kids experienced a youth football clinic.

More than 250 attendees participated in the clinic. The event kicked off with the Values of Football Panel featuring the Golics, **DIANE LONG** (wife of NFL Hall of Famer Howie Long), Chicago Bears guard **KYLE LONG** (son of Diane and Howie Long) and former Bears tackle **JAMES "BIG CAT" WILLIAMS**. Former NFL players and football moms participated in a discussion on the values of playing football, including what they have gotten out of the game, why they believe football is great for kids to play and the importance of playing it safely. Parents also learned tackling fundamentals as part of USA Football's medically endorsed Heads Up Football program.



"As a mom, there's never been a better time to let your son participate in football because of the changes that are happening and will continue to change," says Christine Golic. "We're smart enough to realize that it's not perfect right now. And we're going to keep looking at it and figuring out different ways to make it a better and safer game for your kids."

Parents also attended the Health and Wellness Panel, which featured an athletic trainer, physician and nutritionist speaking about key health and safety issues relevant to youth football players and other young athletes. Speakers included USA Football Master Trainer and former NFL player **NICK GREISEN**, clinical assistant professor at NorthShore Medical Group **DR. CARRIE JAWORSKI**, athletic trainer at Athletico Physical Therapy **JOE MC DERMOTT** and nutritionist **JENNY WESTERKAMP, RD.**

Moms Clinics

Moms Clinics provide a unique opportunity for attendees to learn firsthand from experts in sports medicine, hear from NFL club and USA Football representatives, connect with Heads Up Football Advisory Board Members and hit the field for drills. Centered around USA Football's Heads Up initiative, these free clinics stress the importance of league certification and tackling techniques.

Clinics typically take place at an NFL or university football practice facility and include current and former players, coaches and front office personnel. More than 50 Moms Clinics took place in 2014.

The Tampa Bay Buccaneers hosted a Moms Clinic at One Buc Place (below) in April where more than 50 mothers attended, representing students who play for youth and high school teams around the Tampa Bay area. The clinic kicked off with Heads Up Football Master Trainer **TOD CRENETI** demonstrating how to properly fit football equipment for youth athletes, including allowing the mothers to try on helmets. All Children's Hospital Sports Medicine physician **DR. CARLOS RODRIGUEZ** educated mothers on concussions and popular misconceptions.



The Buccaneers Moms Clinic also featured a panel of moms discussing their experiences and reasons for encouraging their children to play. Christine Golic was joined by **MARY ANNE SMITH** (wife of Buccaneers head coach Lovie Smith), **AMY NICKERSON** (wife of Buccaneers legend and current linebackers coach Hardy Nickerson) and **SCHENIQUE HARRIS** (mother of Buccaneers cornerback Leonard Johnson).

Many NFL teams will host Moms Clinics this season. Through events like these, along with ongoing outreach, the NFL will continue to involve parents in the conversation about health and safety at all levels of the game and across sports.

Online Community for Football Moms

The NFL has several resources for football moms, including NFLHealthPlaybook.com, which has health and safety resources for members of the football community including information on NFL Moms Clinics and Heads Up Football, and NFL Touchdown Moms, a Facebook page and online community for football moms to connect, ask questions, share stories, post photos and more.



HEADS UP FOOTBALL

THE NEW STANDARD IN FOOTBALL

In June 2012, USA Football – with the support of the NFL – created the Heads Up Football (HUF) program. HUF is a comprehensive educational outreach program, funded in part by a \$45 million grant from the NFL Foundation, that strives to advance player safety in the game of football.

PROGRAM IMPACT:



>1 MILLION PLAYERS

representing more than 6,300 youth organizations across the country are already registered to participate in Heads Up Football for the 2015 season.



>140,000

youth coaches will complete USA Football's Level 1* coaching education courses before the 2015 season kicks off.

A recent study found youth leagues that participate in HUF have...

76% fewer injuries

34% fewer concussions in practices

29% fewer concussions in games

...than youth leagues that don't participate in HUF.

*Includes tackle certification and flag certification

**Datalyis Center, "Youth Football Safety Study" (2014): <http://www.datalyiscenter.org/youth-football-safety-study/>

AREAS OF FOCUS:



COACHING CERTIFICATION: HUF maintains the sport's only nationally accredited courses with content created from football experts and health professionals.



CONCUSSION AWARENESS: HUF has partnered with organizations such as the CDC to develop resources to help coaches and parents become educated on what to look for on the field and encourage attention to concussion symptoms.



EQUIPMENT FITTING: HUF teaches coaches, players and parents how to properly fit helmets and shoulder pads for higher levels of safety. Improperly fitted equipment can place an athlete at greater risk of injury.



HEADS UP TACKLING AND BLOCKING®: HUF employs two five-step series that teach the fundamentals to address proper tackling and blocking technique with a focus on reducing helmet contact.



PLAYER SAFETY COACH: HUF trains Player Safety Coaches to ensure compliance with core HUF health and safety protocols including coaching certification and conducting safety clinics for coaches, parents and players.



HEAT & HYDRATION: HUF deploys targeted education for coaches and parents to increase prevention, recognition and basic treatment of athletes for heat-related illnesses.



SUDDEN CARDIAC ARREST: HUF has recently included sudden cardiac arrest protocols as part of the program. Sudden cardiac arrest is the leading cause of young athlete fatalities during exercise across all sports.

HOW IT WORKS:

USA Football Master Trainers train Player Safety Coaches (PSC)

PSCs train League Coaches through Heads Up Coaches Clinics

Coaches train Parents and Players through Heads Up Football Safety Clinics

PSCs reinforce training and mentor Coaches throughout the year

SUPPORTED BY MORE THAN THREE DOZEN ORGANIZATIONS, INCLUDING:



For more information, please visit usafootball.com or nflhealthplaybook.com



STUDY FINDS USA FOOTBALL PROGRAM ADVANCES PLAYER SAFETY

Coaching education learned through USA Football's **HEADS UP FOOTBALL** program delivers positive results, say researchers whose work was published by *The Orthopedic Journal of Sports Medicine*, a global, peer-reviewed journal.

According to a 2014 study by the Datalys Center for Sports Injury Research and Prevention, Heads Up Football significantly advances youth player safety, underscoring how education effectively changes behavior. The study found that youth athletes in leagues that registered for Heads Up Football had a 76 percent reduction in injuries compared to their peers in leagues that don't take part in the program. The study took three years of data into account.

USA Football commissioned the Datalys Center to conduct the study, comparing the risk of injury and head impacts between leagues that participate in Heads Up Football to those that do not. USA Football's program has earned the support of the American College of Sports Medicine, the National Athletic Trainers' Association and the American Medical Society for Sports Medicine.

"This is compelling data," says Datalys Center President and Injury Epidemiologist **DR. THOMAS DOMPIER**. "I am actually surprised by the strength of the association but completely confident in our findings."

Along with injury reduction, other findings in the study include:

- More than 90 percent of youth players in Heads Up Football-participating leagues did not sustain an injury in games or practices during the 2014 season.
- Compared to non-Heads Up Football leagues, organizations that adopted Heads Up Football had a 34 percent reduction in concussions in practices and a 29 percent reduction of concussions in games.
- Players in Heads Up Football leagues were 57 percent less likely to sustain a time-loss injury, which is an injury keeping an athlete from returning to play for at least 24 hours.

USA FOOTBALL ADDS TO HEADS UP FOOTBALL PROGRAM FOR 2015

USA Football's Heads Up Football program, endorsed by leaders in medicine and changing for the better how the sport is taught and played in all 50 states, added two new components for the 2015 season: Heads Up Blocking and all-sport-relevant protocols for sudden cardiac arrest.

Material covering both additions were included in USA Football's Level 1 coaching course for youth coaches and its Heads Up Football High School course.



More than 5,500 youth leagues and nearly 1,000 high schools registered for USA Football's Heads Up football program in 2014.

"Coaches should be prepared to respond to a life-threatening emergency if needed," says **DR. JONATHAN DREZNER**, a former president of the American Medical Society for Sports Medicine and member of the USA Football Medical Advisory Committee.

Sudden cardiac arrest is the leading cause of athlete fatalities during exercise.

"With prompt recognition, early CPR and use of an AED (defibrillator), sudden cardiac arrest is largely a serviceable event if treated quickly," says Drezner.

USA Football's Heads Up Blocking technique teaches the fundamental to young athletes and is designed to reduce helmet contact.

"Blocking is one of football's basic skills that every player needs to be taught," says **JEFF SATURDAY**, former Indianapolis Colts All-Pro center and USA Football Advisory Committee member. "USA Football's Heads Up Blocking technique helps coaches teach this fundamental – properly engaging with a defender, driving with the legs and maintaining the correct body position for effective and safer play. This is how blocking should be taught."

USA FOOTBALL ESTABLISHES NATIONAL YOUTH PRACTICE GUIDELINES

Earlier this year, the American College of Sports Medicine, the National Athletic Trainers' Association and the American Medical Society for Sports Medicine endorsed USA Football's **NATIONAL PRACTICE GUIDELINES FOR YOUTH TACKLE FOOTBALL**. These three leading medical organizations are composed of more than 85,000 physicians, scientists, researchers, educators, sports medicine specialists and certified athletic trainers in 90 countries.

USA Football's practice guidelines place a daily 30-minute time limit on full contact, provide youth leagues with heat acclimatization procedures from the Korey Stringer Institute and recommend that the number of practices conducted per week not exceed four during the preseason or three during the regular season. Two-a-day practices are prohibited, and athletes are permitted to drink fluids at any time during a practice beyond designated breaks. USA Football's youth practice guidelines are freely accessible at <http://usafootball.com/practiceguidelines>.



USA Football's Levels of Contact define varying levels of resistance throughout practices to build players' confidence, further strengthen on-field safety and mitigate physical and mental exhaustion.

USA Football Levels of Contact:

- **Air:** Players run a drill unopposed without contact.
- **Bags:** Drill is run against a bag or another soft-contact surface.
- **Control:** Drill is run at assigned speed with predetermined "winner" assigned by the coach. Contact remains above the waist and players stay on their feet.
- **Thud:** Drill is run at competitive speed until the moment of contact. There is no pre-determined "winner." Contact remains above the waist, and players stay on their feet.
- **Live Action:** Drill is run in game-like conditions and is the only time that players are taken to the ground.

USA Football defines full contact as any drill conducted at Thud or Live Action.

"This marks a watershed moment for youth sports," says American College of Sports Medicine President **DR. CAROL EWING GARBER**. "Not only are young athletes safer by learning the fundamentals in a smarter way, but monitoring levels of contact and heat acclimatization also advances their well-being."



USA FOOTBALL TAPS BILL POLIAN AS FOOTBALL ADVISORY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN



Significant contributors across the sport have teamed with USA Football to form the independent nonprofit's **FOOTBALL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**.

Chaired by Pro Football Hall of Famer **BILL POLIAN** (left), the committee guides the continued development of USA Football's educational resources and player safety initiatives, including USA Football's Heads Up Football program. Endorsed by leading medical organizations, Heads Up Football teaches the sport's fundamentals and all-sport-relevant player safety protocols to establish important standards rooted in the best available science.

The 18 committee members include Super Bowl-winning head coach **TONY DUNGY**, former NFL All-Pro center **JEFF SATURDAY** and current University of Oklahoma coach **BOB STOOPS**.

The group will collaborate with USA Football's 10-member Medical Advisory Committee to advance high school and youth player safety.

"The vast, collective knowledge of this committee will be a tremendous resource to USA Football and the millions of young athletes who love to play this game," says Polian, a grandfather of youth football players. "USA Football is raising standards in how coaches are prepared to teach and how player safety is addressed by coaches, players and parents."



SALUTE TO SERVICE

MILITARY APPRECIATION

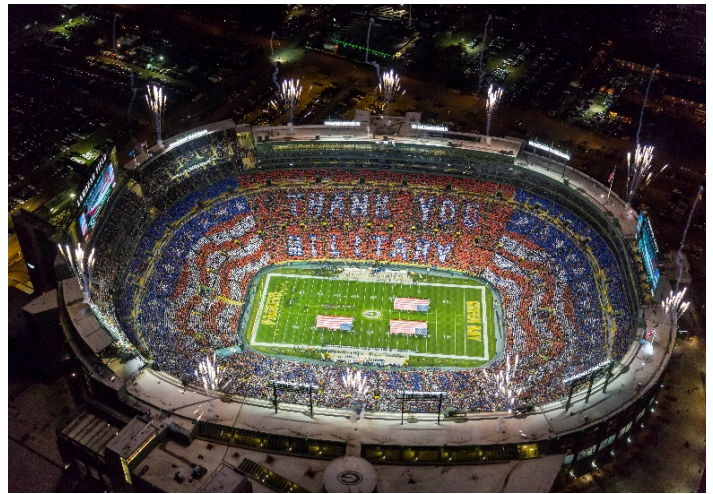
NFL SALUTES THE MILITARY IN MANY WAYS

Supporting the military is part of the fabric of the National Football League. This support takes place both at home and abroad. NFL players and coaches travel overseas to salute the troops on USO tours, and servicemen and women are honored during designated games each season surrounding Veterans Day. The NFL is continuing its long history of honoring veterans and active duty members of the military through its annual **SALUTE TO SERVICE** campaign.

Designed to unify and elevate the extensive military appreciation work of the NFL and its clubs, the NFL's celebration and support of the military community is highlighted each year in November when all 32 clubs designate home games to focus on military appreciation. Teams honor service members and veterans with the presentation of colors, special in-game tributes, stadium flyovers and localized military-themed activation as part of their Veterans Day celebrations.

For the fourth consecutive year, the NFL will implement a fundraising initiative during Weeks 9, 10 and 11 surrounding Veterans Day. Again this year, for every point scored during the NFL's 32 designated *Salute to Service* games, the league will donate \$100 to each of its three core, military non-profit partners – the Pat Tillman Foundation, USO and Wounded Warrior Project® (WWP) – for a total of \$300 per point.

This year, the league will continue its expanded use of *Salute to Service*-branded digi-camo in-game elements, as well as sell the products at retail. Retail items will include a New Era sideline hat, Nike sweatshirt and Nike fan jersey. Last year marked the second time that these items were available for purchase at retail stores. As a result of the *Salute to Service* campaign, the NFL donated more than \$4.5 million to its three charitable partners.



MILITARY OUTREACH

As part of the *Salute to Service* campaign, the NFL is afforded the unique opportunity to showcase the league's commitment to the military through special events each year. With its strong fan base, the league joins with its military support partners to create moments of recognition throughout the season. The NFL is proud of its long-lasting ties to the military and incorporates these relationships into its main events on the NFL calendar, including the Pro Bowl, Super Bowl and NFL Draft.

In celebration of the 2015 Pro Bowl, the NFL hosted the "NFL PLAY 60 Community Blitz," a series of community events hosted throughout Arizona in the days leading up to the game. During Blitz activities, NFL players had the opportunity to work as "Airman for a Day" and hosted video-chat sessions for deployed airmen and their families at Luke Air Force Base. At the Arizona National Guard Armory, Pro Bowl players worked alongside National Guard, United Way and USAA volunteers to build a fitness trail that the Guardsmen use to stay service-fit, while 150 students took part in an NFL PLAY 60 fitness clinic. The NFL together with TAPS (Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors) invited families of the fallen to be guests at the Pro Bowl and meet players at the team practices.

In the weeks preceding Super Bowl XLIX, more than 30 charitable activities and community outreach events took place around Arizona, including numerous military outreach opportunities. One such event the NFL hosted for service members was the Salute to Service: Officiating 101 Clinic. NFL Director of Football Development and former player **MATT BIRK** and former player turned college official **LONDON TRUSTY** joined NFL officials to educate veterans invited by the NFL, the Pat Tillman Foundation and the Wounded Warrior Project on basic football rules and officiating philosophies. The session featured an instant replay video presentation, on-field instruction and mechanics shadowing drills.

The 2015 NFL Draft kicked off with Air Force Technical Sergeant **KEISHA GWIN** performing the National Anthem inside the

Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University with the Army Recruiting Command Color Guard in Selection Square. Also on stage in the theatre were service members from the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard and four alumni of the Wounded Warrior Project. Over the next two days of the NFL Draft, more than 90 service members were recognized, including five Tillman Scholars from the Pat Tillman Foundation.

For more information on the *Salute to Service* campaign, visit the league's military appreciation website www.NFL.com/salute.

SALUTE TO SERVICE AWARD



The NFL and USAA, the league's official Military Appreciation sponsor, teamed to present the *Salute to Service Award*, which recognizes NFL players, alumni, coaches, owners, executives and front office staff who demonstrate an exemplary commitment to honoring and supporting the military community. The award aligns with USAA's commitment to serving the military and its families, and highlights the NFL's long history of honoring the armed forces and veterans.

In February, Chicago Bears defensive end **JARED ALLEN** (left) was honored with the *2014 Salute to Service Award* at NFL Honors. As part of the award, USAA contributed \$25,000 in Allen's honor to the official aid societies representing all five military branches.

"Jared is a true leader in the NFL community in his commitment to honoring the service and sacrifice of our nation's military through his Homes 4 Wounded Warriors foundation," says **DON CLARK**, USAA assistant vice president of media and sponsorship marketing. "Jared's display of military appreciation makes him an inspired choice as the recipient of the Salute to Service Award."

NFL & U.S. ARMY PARTNERSHIP

On August 30, 2012, the U.S. Army and the NFL launched a long-term initiative at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point to enhance the health of soldiers and players through sharing information, providing education and engaging in discussion on concussion and health-related issues that affect both organizations.

The multi-faceted initiative, built upon the mutual respect shared by the two organizations, is designed to promote help-seeking behaviors and empower soldiers and players to maintain healthier minds on the playing field and battlefield.

In 2013, the Army, in partnership with the NFL, USO of NY and Weill Cornell Medical College, hosted a "Ready and Resilient" panel discussion focused on building and maintaining resilient soldiers, families, civilians and units.

The NFL's Total Wellness campaign is similar to the Army's Ready and Resilient campaign in that it brings together a number of longstanding efforts to support the full development and health of its players – physically, mentally, socially and psychologically. The panelists (right; photo courtesy of the U.S. Army) for the discussion were: Gen. **JOHN F. CAMPBELL**, Vice Chief of Staff of the Army; Lt. Gen. **PATRICIA D. HOROHO**, Surgeon General of the Army; NFL Commissioner **ROGER GOODELL**; and **JOANN DIFEDE**, Ph.D., Dir., Program for Anxiety & Traumatic Stress Studies, Weill Cornell Medical College.



The U.S. Army teamed with the NFL on the production and release of a PSA featuring Commissioner Goodell and Lt. Gen. Horoho regarding the Army-NFL partnership in the prevention, treatment and diagnosis of traumatic brain injury. The PSA, which aired across all Department of Defense networks including the Pentagon Channel and American Forces Network, notes the cultural similarities between the military and the NFL. It also reinforces the need for both individual responsibility and concern for teammates by encouraging help-seeking behaviors.

In November 2014, the U.S. Army Research Laboratory received a \$500,000 grant from the NFL, Under Armor and GE's Head Challenge II initiative that will assist its research to protect against brain injury.

The NFL continues to work with the Army to advance its TBI partnership through the sharing of medical information. Culture change with respect to head injuries remains at the forefront of both organizations.

For more information on the NFL's partnership with the Army, visit the league's health and safety website <http://www.nflevolution.com/>.

NFL AND USO TEAM UP

In 1966, the NFL teamed with the USO and became the first sports organization to send a group of players to Vietnam and the surrounding region, demonstrating the league's strong support for American troops. In 2008, Commissioner Goodell became the first sports commissioner to participate in a USO tour during wartime.



In 2015, the NFL again partnered with the USO to bring four players to the Middle East. The tour, which took place in March, featured New Orleans Saints defensive tackle **AKIEM HICKS**, Cleveland Browns center **ALEX MACK** and free agent **WILL SVITEK** accompanied by former Atlanta Falcons linebacker **BRIAN BANKS**, now an employee in the NFL's league office. The group (left) visited military bases in Kuwait, United Arab Emirates and Djibouti throughout their week-long tour. This trip marked the first NFL-USO tour for Hicks, Svitek and Banks, while Mack took part in a 2012 USO tour.

"Everyone on every stage of our trip made it a fantastic time," says Mack. "All the troops were so nice to show us around and answer all our questions. We felt bad at times because they had to stop working to entertain us. I was told they were happy for the break, but a special thank you goes out to all the service men and women who saw us and took time out of their day to make our trip so fun. It was great to have football to talk about and build that common bond."

Early mornings and late nights gave the participants plenty of time to shake thousands of hands, snap photos, sign countless autographs and thank service members for their selfless service.

"It's a tremendous privilege to meet the men and women who defend our country," says Svitek (right, shaking hands). "I was born in the communist country of Czechoslovakia, and my family emigrated here in 1984 when I was two years old to achieve the 'American Dream.' My parents taught me the value of freedom and the opportunity we have in America, and this is all possible because of the sacrifice of the military. My family has thus become very patriotic and grateful for the military's service. I'm proud to be an American and I make sure to say 'thank you' to military personal whenever I get the opportunity. I am excited to have been a part of the USO tour."



Being a child of a military veteran, Hicks understands some of the sacrifices service members and their families go through.

"This is an awesome and life-changing opportunity for me to be able to go overseas and visit and spend time with our troops," says Hicks. "As the son of a 22-year military veteran myself, I'm excited to have the opportunity to spend time with these men and women who make these sacrifices for all of us back here in the United States."



Last May, NFL Executive Vice President of Football Operations **TROY VINCENT** (left) spent time with more than 800 service members, military families, volunteers and hospital personnel during a USO trip to Germany. Vincent delivered a keynote address at the Army Medical Enlisted Birthday Celebration and NCO Induction Ceremony at Vogelweh Air Base. He also toured the USO Warrior Center and visited the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, where he spent time with patients and staff.

"The security of our nation depends on the dedicated service of our men and women in the armed forces," says Vincent. "I was honored to be able to say 'thank you' in person on behalf of all of us at the NFL."

One common theme on all USO tours is the mutual appreciation and respect that the NFL visitors and troops have for each other. The service members are always excited to meet the gridiron stars, but it is usually the participants themselves who go home with a greater appreciation.

A LIST OF NFL PLAYERS AND COACHES WITH TIES TO THE MILITARY:

PLAYER/COACH	MILITARY TIE
CB Phillip Adams, Atlanta Falcons	Father served in the Army
DE Jared Allen, Chicago Bears	Grandfather, Ray, served in the Marines; Brother, Scot, is currently serving in the Marines
Defensive Assistant Coach Chris Beake, Denver Broncos	Served in the Air Force as a civil engineer officer from 1995-1998
RB Le'Veon Bell, Pittsburgh Steelers	Aunt served in the Air Force
S Robert Blanton, Minnesota Vikings	Father served in the Air Force; Blanton was a First Lieutenant in JROTC
CB Zack Bowman, Miami Dolphins	Father, Zackary, is a master sergeant in the Air Force
QB Drew Brees, New Orleans Saints	Grandfather served in World War II
WR Kenny Britt, St. Louis Rams	Sister, Specialist Laura Johnson, serves in the Army
Assistant head coach/offensive line Tom Cable, Seattle Seahawks	Father served in Air Force, uncles served in Army, two uncles served in Navy
CB Nolan Carroll, Philadelphia Eagles	Father, Nolan Sr., was a senior master sergeant in the United States Air Force; Mother, Jennifer, retired from the Navy in 1999 as a Lieutenant Commander and is currently Florida Lieutenant Governor
S Kam Chancellor, Seattle Seahawks	Brother and sister serve in the Air Force
Quarterbacks coach Jim Bob Cooter, Detroit Lions	Grandfathers, Ted and Bobby, both served in the Army
Head coach Tom Coughlin, N.Y. Giants	Received the Outstanding Civilian Service Award, the third-highest honor within the Department of the Army Civilian Awards scheme that the United States Department of the Army can bestow upon a private citizen
Senior coaching assistant Gunther Cunningham, Detroit Lions	Father was a sergeant in the Air Force
CB Marcus Cromartie, San Francisco 49ers	Father, Julius, is a retired Marine Gunnery Sergeant and his mom spent 20 years in the Navy
DT Mike Daniels, Green Bay Packers	Sister, Jeneca, serves in the military
WR Eric Decker, New York Jets	Father-in-law was a Colonel in the Air Force
C Evan Smith, Tampa Bay Buccaneers	Brother, Alex, is a Specialist-Team Leader in 10th Mountain Division of the Army
WR Julian Edelman, New England Patriots	Grandfather served in the military
QB Trent Edwards, Free Agent	Father, Andy, flew reconnaissance missions during Vietnam War; Maternal grandfather was awarded Navy Cross for Valor during bombing of Pearl Harbor
FB Jerome Felton, Buffalo Bills	Brother, Simon, served in the Army
WR Larry Fitzgerald, Arizona Cardinals	Attended Valley Forge (PA) Military Academy after high school; His grandfather was a Lieutenant in the Army who won a purple heart for his service in Korea; Aunt and Uncle are both Lieutenant Colonels in the Army
Head coach John Fox, Chicago Bears	Father was a member of one of the original Navy SEAL teams created by President John F. Kennedy in the early 1960s
K Graham Gano, Carolina Panthers	Has two brothers in the Navy; Father was in the Marines
G Ben Garland, Denver Broncos	Graduate of the United States Air Force Academy; Currently serves as the public affairs officer in the 140th Wing of the Colorado Air National Guard
CB Brandon Ghee, Cincinnati Bengals	Father, Wayne, was a Warrant Officer in the Army
WR Brandon Gibson, New England Patriots	Father, Broderick, served in the Army and was stationed in Germany, when Brandon was born
S Marcus Gilchrist, New York Jets	Father, Ronny, is a retired Marine
K Shayne Graham, Free Agent	Father served in the Army in Vietnam
TE Ladarius Green, San Diego Chargers	Parents, Shannon and Walter, served in Army and were stationed in Berlin, Germany, when Ladarius was born.
S Michael Griffin, Tennessee Titans	Mother served in the Navy; Father served in the Air Force
QB Robert Griffin III, Washington Redskins	Parents, Robert and Jacqueline, were both sergeants in the Army
LB Parys Haralson, New Orleans Saints	Grandfather served in the Army
LB Adam Hayward, Washington Redskins	Brother and sister served in the Army and cousin was in the Marine Corps
G Mike Iupati, Arizona Cardinals	Brother-in-law served in the Army
WR DeSean Jackson, Washington Redskins	Cousin, Jimmy, earned two purple hearts and a bronze star for his actions in Vietnam
RB Steven Jackson, Free Agent	Father served in the Marines

WR Vincent Jackson, Tampa Bay Buccaneers	Father, Terrence, was an Army medic
Special teams coordinator Ben Kotwica, Washington Redskins	Served in the Army as an Apache helicopter pilot in Iraq
LB Manny Lawson, Buffalo Bills	Father, Donald, served in the Air Force
Head coach Marvin Lewis, Cincinnati Bengals	Father served in the Army
NT Sean Lissemore, San Diego Chargers	Paternal and maternal grandfathers served in the Army and fought in World War II
DE Corey Liuget, San Diego Chargers	Sisters, Ideidre and Latronika, serve in the Army
T Phil Loadholt, Minnesota Vikings	Father served in the Army as a Sergeant First Class
P Jeff Locke, Minnesota Vikings	Father served in the Air Force
Offensive coordinator Joe Lombardi, Detroit Lions	Served as an Air Force officer for four years
Defensive coordinator Rod Marinelli, Dallas Cowboys	Served a one-year tour of duty in Vietnam
Secondary coach Wesley McGriff, New Orleans Saints	Served as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army in 1990 and was a member of the Army Reserves until 2001
DT Roy Miller, Jacksonville Jaguars	Father and cousin served in the Army
RB Collin Mooney, Atlanta Falcons	Served three years in the Army
LB C.J. Mosley, Baltimore Ravens	Father, Calvin, is a retired Army First Sergeant
DT Mike Patterson, Free Agent	Uncle was a Sergeant at Los Alamitos Army Base
Head coach Joe Philbin, Miami Dolphins	Son, Matthew, serves in the military and deployed to Kuwait
Special teams coordinator Mike Priefer, Minnesota Vikings	Served in the Navy (1991-94) as a helicopter pilot; He was stationed in the Persian Gulf
Head coach Andy Reid, Kansas City Chiefs	Father served in the Navy during WWII
S Sean Richardson, Green Bay Packers	Mother, Sandra, served in the Army and has been a nurse for more than 18 years
Head coach Ron Rivera, Carolina Panthers	Father was an Army Officer; Ron lived in three countries as a child
WR Daniel Rodriguez, St. Louis Rams	Served two tours of duty in the Army in Iraq and Afghanistan
WR Eddie Royal, Chicago Bears	Sister, Christina, served in Iraq, and is a Special Agent of the Air Force's Office of Special Investigations
RB Bishop Sankey, Tennessee Titans	Father, Christopher, is in the Air Force and has been deployed three times to the middle east
DT D'Anthony Smith, Seattle Seahawks	Smith comes from a military family and was born in Berlin, Germany
T Joe Staley, San Francisco 49ers	Grandfather was in the Navy during the Korean War; Uncle served in the Navy
DT Randy Starks, Cleveland Browns	Father served more than 20 years in the Army
CB Charles Tillman, Carolina Panthers	Father, Donald, was an Army Sergeant; Tillman attended 11 schools in 13 years
Offensive coordinator Norv Turner, Minnesota Vikings	Father served in the Marine Corps
T Alejandro Villaneuva, Pittsburgh Steelers	Captain in the US Army who served as an Army Ranger; Graduated from West Point and served a total of 18 months in Afghanistan
LB Reggie Walker, Denver Broncos	Dad was a sergeant in the Army and his mother also served in the Army
DE J.J. Watt, Houston Texans	Grandfather served in Korean War; Donates tickets to the USO through the TACT program; strong supporter of veterans and Lone Survivor Marcus Luttrell's NPO to help returning service members
Defensive line coach Mike Waufle, St. Louis Rams	Served in the Marine Corps from 1972-1975
DE Mario Williams, Buffalo Bills	Brother-in-law served in the Army and was killed in Iraq
QB Russell Wilson, Seattle Seahawks	Grandfather served in the Army
S Earl Wolff, Philadelphia Eagles	Mother, Sharon, has served in the National Guard for 29 years
FB Darrel Young, Washington Redskins	Brother, David, served in the Army
LS Christian Yount, Free Agent	Father, James, was a Captain in the Marine Corps
K Greg Zuerlein, St. Louis Rams	Father, Gene, served as an Army Paratrooper during Vietnam



SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA TO HOST SUPER BOWL 50

Levi's Stadium, home of the San Francisco 49ers, will host Super Bowl 50 on February 7, 2016.



"It's a testament to everybody in the Bay Area," says 49ers CEO **JED YORK** (left). "The city of Santa Clara came together, obviously San Francisco stepped up for the Super Bowl, San Jose has been a big part of this, and I think you're going to see everybody from Napa all the way to Monterey step up for this. Sports are supposed to bring people together; they bring communities together, and nothing emphasizes that more than the Bay Area hosting Super Bowl 50."

The first Super Bowl was played in California in 1967 at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum. The game will return to Northern California for the first time since Super Bowl XIX, which was held on January 20, 1985 at Stanford Stadium. Super Bowl XIX featured future Pro Football Hall of Fame quarterbacks Dan Marino and Joe Montana. Montana led the 49ers to victory, defeating Marino's Miami Dolphins 38-16.

To celebrate this golden moment, the NFL will break away from its traditional use of branding the Super Bowl with Roman numerals and will instead use the Arabic numeral "50." The league will return to Roman numerals for Super Bowl LI, scheduled to take place on February 5, 2017 at NRG Stadium in Houston, Texas.

Before the Super Bowl, fans can head over to Super Bowl City and the NFL Experience to partake in a week-long series of family-friendly events. Super Bowl City is a free-to-the-public fan village, centered in Justin Herman Plaza, on the Embarcadero at the foot of San Francisco's famed Market Street. Fans will have the opportunity to sample locally grown food, experience the Bay Area's cultural diversity, view performances from national and local artists and participate in football-themed activities. In addition to serving as a hub of fan, sponsor, media and NFL activities, Super Bowl City will be the broadcast home for the CBS Television Network – the exclusive broadcaster of Super Bowl 50 – as well as NFL Network.

"Super Bowl City will give every San Franciscan a chance to share in the fan experience of Super Bowl 50," says San Francisco Mayor **EDWIN M. LEE**. "As San Francisco hosts the most philanthropic Super Bowl ever, our Bay Area region's small local businesses, hotels and restaurants will share in all these events. I'm excited that the San Francisco Bay Area and all we have to offer will be once again seen on one of the world's largest stages."

The NFL Experience will be housed at Moscone Center North and South. For its first visit to the Bay Area, pro football's interactive theme park will feature participatory games, displays, entertainment attractions, youth football clinics and free autograph sessions with NFL players.



Moscone Center West will be home to the NFL Fan Viewing Gallery and the NFL Media Center. The Fan Viewing Gallery provides fans with the opportunity to get up close and personal as current players, NFL legends and celebrities are interviewed live by national radio personalities.

Both Super Bowl City and the NFL Experience will open on January 30, 2016, providing local residents the opportunity to experience the festival before out-of-town guests arrive. Additionally, 25 percent of every dollar raised by the San Francisco Bay Area Super Bowl 50 Host Committee will go toward supporting local community initiatives and high-performing nonprofits.

SUPER BOWL HOST CITIES

	<u>SUPER BOWLS</u>		<u>SUPER BOWLS</u>
New Orleans	10	Houston	2
South Florida	10	San Francisco Bay Area	2*
Los Angeles	7	Indianapolis	1
Tampa Bay	4	Jacksonville	1
San Diego	3	Minneapolis	1
Arizona	3	North Texas	1
Atlanta	2	New York/New Jersey	1
Detroit	2		

*Includes Super Bowl 50



FUTURE SUPER BOWLS

<u>SUPER BOWL</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>SITE</u>
50	February 7, 2016	Levi's Stadium, Santa Clara, CA
LI	February 5, 2017*	NRG Stadium, Houston
LII	February 4, 2018*	U.S. Bank Stadium, Minnesota

* Tentative date



HARRIS POLL: PRO FOOTBALL IS AMERICA'S FAVORITE SPORT BY FAR

America's favorite sport? Once again, professional football claims the top spot.

For more than four decades, according to The Harris Poll, the NFL has been the most popular sport in America.

In its most recent survey, Harris reveals that pro football is the favorite sport for almost one-third of people (32 percent), doubling the next sport, with 16 percent of people claiming baseball as their favorite. In fact, more people name professional football as their favorite sport than the combined total of the next three professional sports – baseball (16), auto racing (seven) and men's pro basketball (six).

The third sport in the survey is college football at 10 percent, meaning that football is the favorite sport of nearly half of America's sports fans (42 percent).

The five most popular sports according to The Harris Poll 2015 (released January 2015):

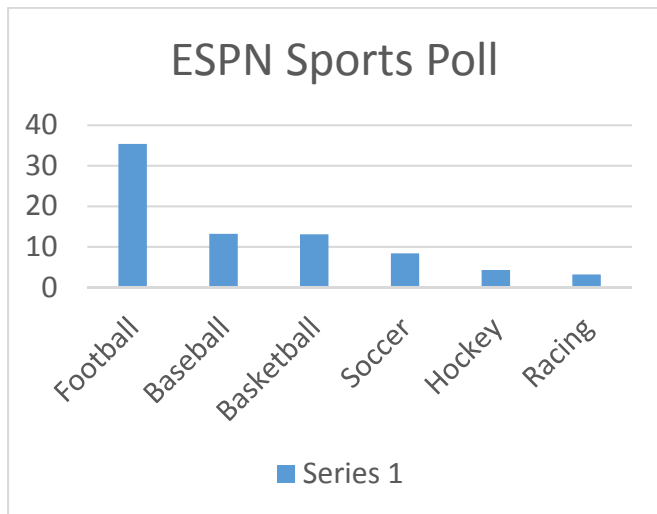
RANK	SPORT	PERCENT
1	<i>Pro Football</i>	32
2	Baseball	16
3	College Football	10
4	Auto Racing	7
5	Men's Pro Basketball	6

SURVEY SAYS

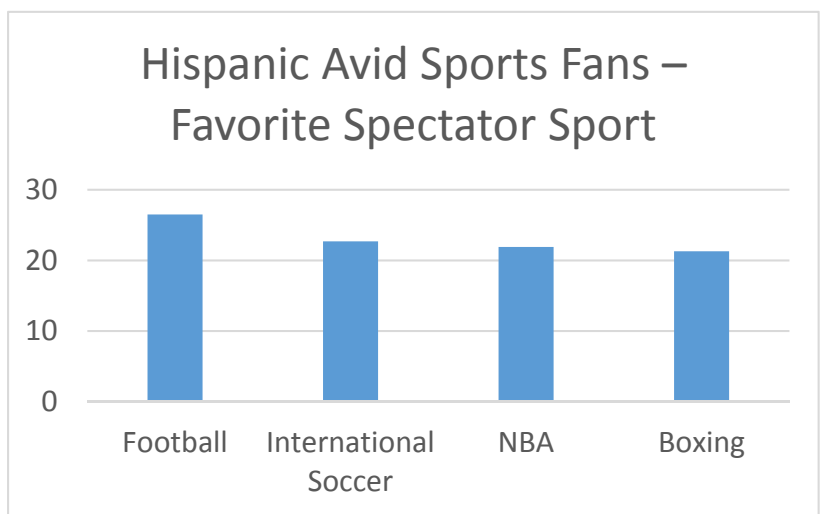
The NFL has been recognized as America’s most popular sport for the past 50 years, rated No. 1 by fans in The Harris Poll since 1965. In fact, more people name professional football (32 percent) as their favorite sport than the combined total of the next three professional sports – baseball (16), auto racing (seven) and men’s pro basketball (six). More than 202.3 million Americans watched the 2014 NFL season and viewership of NFL games continues to dominate the television landscape. NFL popularity can be measured in other ways as well. For instance:

- NFL games on CBS, FOX and NBC averaged 19.2 million viewers – 162 percent higher than the average primetime viewership among the four major over-the-air networks (7.4 million average on ABC, CBS, FOX, NBC).
- Super Bowl XLIX averaged 114.4 million viewers, making it the most-watched show in U.S. television history.
- According to the 2014 ESPN Sports Poll, the NFL is the favorite sport of 35.4 percent of respondents, more than the next three sports combined – baseball (13.2 percent), basketball (13.1 percent) and soccer (8.4 percent).
- Madden NFL '15 was the top grossing app in 2014 followed by FIFA 2015 and NBA 2K15 (according to AppAnnie). It was the No. 1 selling sports video game in North America in 2014, and No. 2 game overall, second only to Call of Duty: Advanced Warfare (according to NPD Group).

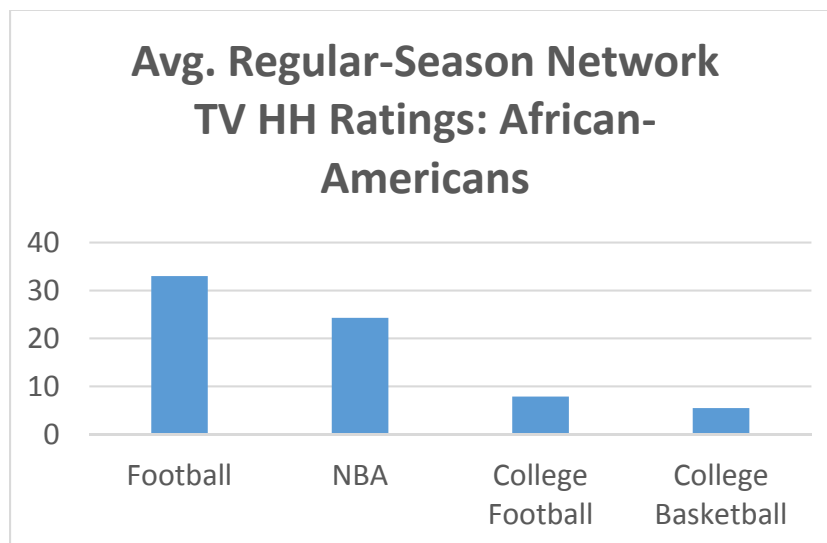
Following is a broader look at the NFL’s popularity:



Source: 2014 ESPN Sports Poll



Source: 2014 ESPN Sports Poll



Source: Nielsen/ESPN Sports Poll



NFL CONTINUES INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT WITH THREE GAMES IN 2015

In response to outstanding and growing fan support of football in the United Kingdom, the NFL will once again play three regular-season games in the United Kingdom. The 2015 slate features a first-ever division game in the UK as well as games played on consecutive Sundays, also a first for the NFL in London.



“London has done not only everything that we expected, but more than we expected,” says NFL Commissioner **ROGER GOODELL**. “They’re responding to the game better than we ever dreamed, with more enthusiasm and more passion.”

The Buffalo Bills, Kansas City Chiefs and New York Jets will all play their first regular-season game in the UK this season – which marks a total of 20 different teams to play in the International Series in London since it began in 2007.

Each game will be played at London’s Wembley Stadium and kick off at 9:30 AM ET.

In the first of three 2015 London games, the Miami Dolphins will host the Jets, a long-time division rival, on October 4.

Miami will play its third regular-season game in London and second as the home team. The Dolphins hosted the New York Giants in 2007 and defeated the Oakland Raiders 38-14 in 2014.

“We are excited to return to London this year,” says Dolphins Owner **STEPHEN ROSS**. “Our organization has passionate fan support overseas and we embrace this opportunity to showcase our organization and grow the game globally.”

“We are honored to represent New York, New Jersey and the National Football League in London, and for the opportunity to showcase this organization on a global stage,” says Jets Chairman and CEO **WOODY JOHNSON**. “Playing in Wembley Stadium gives us the chance to welcome even more fans, all over the UK, to Jets Nation.”

In the second 2015 London game, the Jacksonville Jaguars will host the Bills on October 25. This matchup will be shown worldwide on a digital platform. The NFL and Yahoo! Inc. have partnered to deliver the first-ever live stream of an NFL game to a global audience across devices for free. In keeping with the NFL’s long-standing commitment to make its games available on free, over-the-air television, this game will also be televised live in both the Buffalo (WIVB-TV) and Jacksonville (WTEV-TV) markets.



The Jaguars committed to playing a home game in the UK in 2013, 2014, 2015, and 2016, all at Wembley, and will return to the UK for the third time.

“We are doing London because we want to have a compelling proposition for our corporate partners,” says Jaguars Owner **SHAD KHAN**. “It’s been very good for us, and also for the money that’s come back to Jacksonville. I would like for us to continue to go. It’s been a great experience. It really prepares us for where we need to be in the future as a team.”

“We are excited about the opportunity to play in London against the Jacksonville Jaguars,” says Bills Owner **TERRY PEGULA**. “Wembley Stadium is such a historical venue and we are proud to be a part of the league’s long-standing tradition and commitment to playing NFL games in front of London’s strong fan base. We feel it will be a great week for our organization and Bills fans everywhere, particularly those in the UK.”

The 2015 International Series will conclude in Week 8 on November 1 when the Chiefs host the Detroit Lions.

The Chiefs will make their first trip to London and play in the franchise’s first international game since a 1998 preseason contest against the Green Bay Packers in Tokyo, Japan.

“It is an honor for Kansas City to represent the NFL on an international stage,” says Chiefs President **MARK DONOVAN**. “We are excited for the opportunity this creates for our fans, our city and the global growth of the Chiefs brand.”

The Lions, who earned a thrilling 22-21 come-from-behind win against the Atlanta Falcons at Wembley Stadium in Week 8 of the 2014 season, will travel to London for the second consecutive year.

“We were actually approached by the NFL about the possibility of coming back two years in a row, which is the first time an away team has gone over in back-to-back years,” says Lions President **TOM LEWAND**. “That’s a testament to our fans and to our players and the kind of job they did not just on the field in Wembley but also throughout the week with the community. I think it speaks volumes about our team and about our fans.”

The International Series began on October 28, 2007, when the Giants defeated the Dolphins 13-10 en route to a victory in Super Bowl XLII. Since its inception, participation in amateur football in the UK has risen by approximately 15 percent per year. The International Series to date has contributed to increased NFL fan interest in the UK, with a current fan base of 13 million, including more than three million avid fans, a 50 percent increase in the past three years.



A look at what some of the players and coaches thought about playing in London:

PLAYER/COACH, TEAM	COMMENT
Head coach Gus Bradley, Jacksonville Jaguars	“I just want to thank the fans. It was an outstanding environment for our team. Our team felt it, and we really greatly appreciate the fan base and how active they were throughout.”
QB Drew Brees, New Orleans Saints	“There are 32 teams in the NFL. The Saints and Chargers were the third and fourth teams to represent the NFL in London. That speaks volumes and I am honored to have been there.”
Head coach Jeff Fisher, St. Louis Rams	“Our experience over here, where we got to spend time together throughout the week, will carry them a long way. They got close. They had fun. They worked and we appreciate the whole experience. It was incredible. Everybody here associated with this game treated us like kings. I would strongly recommend this game to any of the other clubs in the NFL.”
Defensive coordinator Leslie Frazier, Tampa Bay Buccaneers (with Minnesota Vikings as head coach in 2013)	“I’ll always have a special place in my heart for Wembley Stadium along with London. This has been a great week for our football team, our entire organization. It’s been terrific all the way around. The fan noise, we felt at times like we were almost back at Mall of America. There was a lot of purple in those stands, so it was terrific all the way around.”
Head coach Jason Garrett, Dallas Cowboys	“I can’t tell you how great of a week we had as a football team. I could go day-by-day and tell you all the experiences we had. But along the way, we had opportunities to interact with a lot of different people and everybody was fantastic. So welcoming and so accommodating to us. I think the spirit of the NFL is catching fire over here and in a real positive way. I think we have benefited a lot from it.”
RB Steven Jackson (with St. Louis Rams in 2012 and Atlanta Falcons in 2014)	“The UK crowd is very knowledgeable of the game. They were into it. You can tell over the years from 2007 to now, they understand third down, punts, when to make noise for the home team. So the knowledge base of the UK has grown tremendously, and I think that happens because now you have more and more teams coming and showing the game and playing it the right way, where you have the stars playing and the interest in the game is there for four quarters.”
QB Tony Romo, Dallas Cowboys	“I think the people have been fantastic. I think that everyone’s just been very genuine. And obviously being able to play at Wembley on the pitch was special. Something you’ll always talk about and tell your kids. So, to come over here, I thought it was really as outstanding a week as I could have ever hoped for. I was really happy to see the fans and just everyone have the passion that they had.”
QB Ryan Tannehill, Miami Dolphins	“The stadium is awesome. It was really cool coming here for the first time just seeing the stadium. Really nice stadium, and the crowd was great.”
WR Golden Tate, Detroit Lions	“You know what, I really enjoyed this entire week. I can’t say enough great things about everyone welcomed us into this country. Everyone was extremely nice. We really appreciate that. And we’re happy that we were able to come over here and try to expand our game.”

NFL & TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR TEAM FOR 10-YEAR PARTNERSHIP

The NFL continues to expand its presence in the United Kingdom. This summer, the NFL and the English Premier League's **TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR** announced an agreement for a minimum of two games per year to be played during a 10-year partnership at the soccer club's new stadium in London.



The state-of-the-art stadium, due to open in the summer of 2018, will feature a retractable grass field with an artificial surface underneath that would be used for NFL games. This innovative field will add greater flexibility in the scheduling of games, with the NFL having its own playing surface for games held at this venue. This field will be multi-use and capable of hosting other sporting, entertainment and community events.

Both sports will have dedicated facilities ensuring that the new stadium, designed with a focus on atmosphere, will deliver the optimum experience for both teams and fans. It will be one of the most environmentally sustainable in the UK and also include a clear focus on accessibility via public transportation.

"With growing enthusiasm for the NFL in the United Kingdom, we are committed to hosting NFL games in world-class venues and are excited to partner with Tottenham Hotspur to play games at their future stadium," says NFL Commissioner **ROGER GOODELL**. "We share a vision and commitment to creating the best experience for our teams, fans and the local community."

The stadium is part of the Northumberland Development Project that spans more than 20 acres, sits at the heart and is the flagship scheme and catalyst for world-class regeneration in North Tottenham, delivering significant benefits for the local community.

In addition to the minimum of two games per year at the new Tottenham site, other NFL games may take place at different venues in the UK during the span of the 10-year agreement. The NFL has two seasons remaining on a successful arrangement with Wembley Stadium, where it has staged 11 games since 2007, and is optimistic that the relationship will be extended beyond 2016.

"We have an opportunity now to deliver one of the most unique sporting and entertainment venues in the world, bringing together the EPL and NFL for the first time," says **DANIEL LEVY**, Chairman of Tottenham Hotspur. "The socio-economic benefits this will bring to the area will be immense and demonstrates our commitment to the regeneration of this priority borough in London."

"This was an important factor for the NFL when they agreed to bring their hugely popular sport to Tottenham. I am delighted that we have succeeded in attracting them. We have a compelling and exciting partnership that will play its part as we begin transforming this area of Tottenham."

BORIS JOHNSON, Mayor of London, is excited about the agreement.

"Anyone who has seen American Football at Wembley Stadium cannot fail to have been thrilled by the spectacle, and the wise heads that run the NFL have clearly not missed the fact that Londoners are going absolutely gangbusters for Gridiron," says Johnson. "We are already working very closely with the NFL, including on plans to get more Londoners involved in the sport, and we believe that building on the success of NFL at Wembley by staging more games in an area of the city that has been earmarked for a massive program of economic regeneration and investment makes perfect sense."

"Touchdowns in Tottenham can only add to our reputation as a global sporting powerhouse, and help us take another step towards our goal of having a permanent NFL franchise here in London."



HISPANICS MAKING THEIR MARK (HACIENDO SU MARCA) ON THE NFL

Every year, Hispanic players are playing a role in the NFL. Following are some examples:

- Last season, offensive linemen **MANNY RAMIREZ** and **LOUIS VASQUEZ** (right) took part in building a new playground in the courtyard at the Garden Court Community in Denver, Colorado. The event came about through the partnership of four key organizations: Denver Broncos, CarMax Foundation, KaBOOM! and Rocky Mountain Communities. KaBOOM! began building playgrounds for communities in 1995, and has built more than 2,000 playgrounds since its inception. Complete construction of the playground took place in one day. The playground serves as a haven where members of the community can gather together to socialize as well as a place where children can fulfill the NFL's PLAY 60 health and fitness campaign, aimed at encouraging children to get 60 minutes of activity a day.



"It's just part of giving back to the community, especially with all the support they give us," says Ramirez, now a member of the Detroit Lions. "Just being able to return the favor in every possible little way that we can – it is our day off, but it is the kind of stuff we enjoy. I, for one, have kids, so I know how much this means to them. Being able to give back and be part of the future of little kids being able to come here and enjoy their time, it means a lot."

- St. Louis Rams wide receiver **DANIEL RODRIGUEZ** is a military veteran who enlisted shortly after his high school graduation and father's sudden death. He has been awarded a Purple Heart and Bronze Star Medal with Valor Device for his heroic actions. During his two tours as a member of the U.S. Army, Rodriguez spent several years stationed in Iraq and Afghanistan. On October 3, 2009, he and 52 other Americans fought in the Battle of Kamdesh – one of the bloodiest incidents in the Afghanistan War. During this battle, eight American soldiers were killed and 22 were injured, including Rodriguez. He continued to fight for 12 hours with bullet fragments lodged in his shoulder and shrapnel in his neck and legs.

"After my second deployment in Afghanistan, I made a promise to a friend that I was going to get out and try to play," says Rodriguez. "It was just one of those things where I felt that if I had any purpose in life, I needed to make sure that I kept my word to a friend, and live my life in a way that honored those who had died."

After his time in the military, Rodriguez, who stands at 5-foot-8 and 180 pounds, joined Clemson's football team as a walk-on and fulfilled his dream of playing college football. He played in 37 consecutive games, primarily on special teams, and was a two-time academic All-ACC honoree. He graduated in December 2014.

- Carolina Panthers head coach **RON RIVERA** (below) is not only known as a successful head coach and former NFL player but is also acknowledged for the time and effort he dedicates to the community. During his tenure as an NFL player, Rivera was named the Chicago Bears' Man of the Year in 1988 and was awarded the Ed Block Courage Award in 1989. As a head coach, Rivera and his wife, Stephanie, continue to devote their free time to giving back to the community.



Throughout his life, Rivera has been surrounded by the military and he proudly exemplifies the traits of someone in the Armed Forces. His father was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1952 and served 32 years, which resulted in Rivera spending most of his childhood on military bases around the world. Upon being named the Panthers head coach in 2010, Rivera immediately embraced the large military contingent in the Carolinas. Since his first visit to Fort Bragg with NFL Commissioner **ROGER GOODELL** in 2011, Rivera has made annual base visits a priority. In addition to base visits, he has hosted 45 military groups at practices, games and other team functions. Rivera and his wife serve as USO (United Service Organizations) of North Carolina ambassadors. During the 2014 season, he was selected as the Panthers' Salute to Service Award nominee.

Rivera also aids in raising funds for the USO of North Carolina and the Ronald McDonald House of Charlotte through an annual charity bowling tournament and his involvement in the Fore the Troop Golf Tournament in Charlotte. In March, Rivera delivered a leadership lessons seminar to USO members in Charlotte, and informed over 100 human resources professionals the benefits and advantages of hiring veterans.

- The NFL has partnered with Pro Football Hall of Fame tackle **ANTHONY MUÑOZ** (right) to host NFL PLAY 60 Character Camps. The non-contact football camps will be hosted in several NFL markets this summer. Each site will welcome 300 predominantly-Hispanic boys and girls ages 9-13 with little or no football experience from local youth organizations. The program will also work in collaboration with USA Football and its NFL FLAG curriculum, which introduces participants to be physically active through non-contact, continuous action while learning the fundamentals of football, lessons in teamwork and sportsmanship.



In addition, the camps will teach character values as well as promote NFL PLAY 60's health and fitness message. Since the inception of NFL PLAY 60 Character Camps in 2012, 40 camps have been held impacting more than 13,000 youth across the country.

The NFL will celebrate **HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH** during Week 3 of the 2015 season. A national spotlight will be shined on the NFL's celebration during *Thursday Night Football*, *Sunday Night Football* and *Monday Night Football*. The New York Giants will host the Washington Redskins on Thursday, September 24, the Denver Broncos will visit the Detroit Lions on Sunday, September 27, and the Green Bay Packers will take on the Kansas City Chiefs on Monday, September 28.

The NFL's celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month dates back to 2002 when then-Commissioner **PAUL TAGLIABUE** made it a league priority to serve the Hispanic market, forming an internal task force of league and club executives to analyze the NFL's activities, consult with leaders in the Hispanic-American community, and recommend a comprehensive approach toward the future. The initiative has continued to grow annually since then.

A list of some of the 2015 Hispanic NFL players:

<u>PLAYER</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>TEAM</u>	<u>PLAYER</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>TEAM</u>
Kiko Alonso	LB	Philadelphia	Kendall Reyes	DE	San Diego
McLeod Bethel-Thompson	QB	Miami	Mychal Rivera	TE	Oakland
Jonathan Casillas	LB	New York Giants	Daniel Rodriguez	WR	St. Louis
Willie Colon	G	New York Jets	Evan Rodriguez	TE	Tampa Bay
Victor Cruz	WR	New York Giants	Tony Romo	QB	Dallas
Gavin Escobar	TE	Dallas	Greg Salas	WR	Detroit
Jon Feliciano	G	Oakland	Mark Sanchez	QB	Philadelphia
Arian Foster	RB	Houston	Andrew Sendejo	S	Minnesota
Ziggy Hood	DT	Jacksonville	Sean Smith	CB	Kansas City
Rob Housler	TE	Cleveland	Kenny Stills	WR	Miami
Matt Moore	QB	Miami	Louis Vasquez	G	Denver
Rakeem Nunez-Roches	DE	Kansas City	Alejandro Villanueva	T	Pittsburgh



Willie Colon



Gavin Escobar



Ziggy Hood



Mychal Rivera



Mark Sanchez



Andrew Sendejo



Sean Smith



Eric Weddle

INTERNATIONAL FEEL

While the NFL continues to grow in popularity across the globe, international players are making an impact on the field.



For the ninth time in the past 10 seasons, at least one player who attended high school outside of the United States was selected in the 2015 NFL Draft.

The past 34 NFL Drafts have featured 25 Canadians selected by NFL teams. This year, Canadian defensive tackle **CHRISTIAN COVINGTON** (left) from Vancouver, British Columbia was selected in the sixth round by the Houston Texans.

The other drafted players in 2015 to attend high school outside of the United States were running back **JOEY IOSEFA** (Tampa Bay, Round 7) from Pago Pago, American Samoa and linebacker **MARK NZEOCHA** (below right) (Dallas, Round 7) from Neusitz, Germany.

Soccer was the most popular sport in Nzeocha's household and as a child he wanted to be a basketball player. But all that changed when he discovered football. With no football team at his high school, Nzeocha played club football for the Franken Knights youth team in Germany. He was also a member of the German National Team and participated in the 2009 Junior World Championship in Canton, Ohio, where he was named to the All-Tournament team. Nzeocha used that experience and came over to the United States to play collegiately at Wyoming.



"Within a few years, I was athletically better than most," recalls Nzeocha about learning football. "Fortunately for me, one of my good friends played at Wyoming a couple years before me. He introduced me to the coaches, showed them some of my film, and they really liked what they saw. So that's how I ended up there."

A look at some foreign-born players in the NFL:

AMERICAN SAMOA	G Mike Iupati, AZ; LB Rey Mauluga, Cin; DT Domata Peko, Cin; DE Ropati Pitoitua, Ten
ANGOLA	DE Christo Bilukidi, Bal
AUSTRALIA	P Jordan Berry, Pitt; P Brad Wing, Pitt; DT Jesse Williams, Sea; G David Yankey, Min
BELIZE	DE Rakeem Nunez-Roches, KC
BRAZIL	K Cairo Santos, KC
CAMEROON	G Arie Kouandjio, Was; T Cyrus Kouandjio, Buf
CANADA	DT Tyrone Crawford, Dal; G Laurent Duvernay-Tardif, KC; WR TJ Jones, Det; T Brett Jones, NYG; LS L.P. LaDouceur, Dal; T Austin Pasztor, Jax; P Jon Ryan, Sea; K Shaun Suisham, Pitt; DE Brent Urban, Bal; G/C John Urschel, Bal; RB Tyler Varga, Ind; TE Luke Willson, Sea
CONGO	LB Henoc Muamba, Ind; LB Andy Mulumba, GB
ENGLAND	RB Jay Ajayi, Mia; DE Jack Crawford, Dal; DE Josh Mauro, AZ; DE Efe Obada, Dal; DE Lawrence Okoye, SF; T Menelik Watson, Oak
ESTONIA	DE Margus Hunt, Cin
GERMANY	LB Kasim Edebali, NO; FB Jerome Felton, Buf; CB Brandon Ghee, Cin; WR Brandon Gibson, NE; TE Ladarius Green, SD; WR R.J. Harris, NO; CB Mike Jenkins, TB; DT Marcus Kuhn, NYG; P Jeff Locke, Min; LB Mark Nzeocha, Dal; DT D'Anthony Smith, Sea; T Tyrus Thompson, Min; T Sebastian Vollmer, NE; LB Bjoern Werner, Ind
GHANA	DE Ezekiel Ansah, Det
HAITI	T Gosder Cherilus, Ind; CB Pierre Desir, Cle; G Vlad Ducasse, Chi
ITALY	K Giorgio Tavecchio, Oak; S Mykkele Thompson, NYG; T Will Yeatman, Hou
JAMAICA	S Patrick Chung, NE; DT Kenrick Ellis, NYG; G Orlando Franklin, SD; G Laken Tomlinson, Det; LB Trevardo Williams, Was
JAPAN	QB Robert Griffin III, Was; TE Jack Tabb, NO
KENYA	LB Daniel Adongo, Ind
LIBERIA	LB Tamba Hali, KC; LB Jonathan Massaquoi, Ten; LB Sio Moore, Oak
NEW ZEALAND	DT Stephen Paea, Was
NIGERIA	LB Jerry Attaochu, SD
PHILIPPINES	QB Tim Tebow, Phi
POLAND	T Babatunde Aiyegbusi, Min; K Sebastian Janikowski, Oak
SASKATCHEWAN	G Ben Heenan, Ind
SCOTLAND	K Graham Gano, Car
SOUTH KOREA	DT Kyle Love, Car
TONGA	DT Star Lotulelei, Car
VIRGIN ISLANDS	DT Linval Joseph, Min
ZIMBABWE	DE Stansly Maponga, Atl

2015 NFL STRENGTH OF SCHEDULE

<u>Team</u>	<u>Opponents' 2014 Pct. & Record</u>				<u>Games vs. teams .500 or better</u>	<u>Games vs. 2014 playoff teams</u>
Pittsburgh Steelers	.578	147	107	2	12	9
Cincinnati Bengals	.563	144	112	0	12	7
San Francisco 49ers	.561	143	112	1	9	9
Seattle Seahawks	.559	142	112	2	10	9
Arizona Cardinals	.557	142	113	1	10	7
St. Louis Rams	.553	141	114	1	11	9
Kansas City Chiefs	.545	139	116	1	11	7
Oakland Raiders	.545	139	116	1	11	7
Cleveland Browns	.543	138	116	2	12	9
Denver Broncos	.541	138	117	1	11	7
Baltimore Ravens	.539	137	117	2	11	7
Minnesota Vikings	.539	138	118	0	10	7
Chicago Bears	.531	136	120	0	10	7
Green Bay Packers	.529	135	120	1	9	7
Detroit Lions	.527	135	121	0	9	5
San Diego Chargers	.518	132	123	1	10	7
Miami Dolphins	.492	126	130	0	10	5
New York Jets	.488	125	131	0	10	4
Buffalo Bills	.486	124	131	1	10	5
New York Giants	.479	122	133	1	8	4
Washington Redskins	.479	122	133	1	7	4
New England Patriots	.477	122	134	0	10	4
Philadelphia Eagles	.475	121	134	1	7	6
Dallas Cowboys	.467	119	136	1	7	4
Jacksonville Jaguars	.463	118	137	1	9	5
Tennessee Titans	.436	111	144	1	7	4
Carolina Panthers	.434	111	145	0	6	4
New Orleans Saints	.430	109	145	2	6	6
Tampa Bay Buccaneers	.426	108	146	2	4	4
Houston Texans	.418	106	148	2	7	5
Indianapolis Colts	.416	106	149	1	7	4
Atlanta Falcons	.410	104	150	2	5	4

TOTAL MILES TRAVELED & NOTES ON 2015 TRAVEL

(2015 regular season)

1. San Francisco	27,912	17. Buffalo	14,956
2. Miami	26,622	18. St. Louis	14,606
3. Oakland	26,268	19. Minnesota	14,284
4. Seattle	24,976	20. Houston	14,074
5. San Diego	24,328	21. Pittsburgh	13,236
6. Arizona	23,496	22. Cleveland	12,534
7. Kansas City	21,444	23. New York Giants	12,414
8. Baltimore	20,570	24. New Orleans	11,842
9. Detroit	20,114	25. Chicago	11,714
10. New York Jets	19,814	26. Carolina	11,568
11. Jacksonville	18,856	27. Tampa Bay	11,268
12. Dallas	16,976	28. Atlanta	10,312
13. Cincinnati	16,020	29. Tennessee	9,228
14. Denver	15,624	30. Indianapolis	8,890
15. New England	15,568	31. Washington	7,174
16. Green Bay	15,016	32. Philadelphia	6,890

- The total distance traveled by all teams during the regular season will be 518,594 miles.
- The teams of the NFC West (90,990) have the highest combined mileage total of all divisions.
- The remaining division totals ranking from highest to lowest are the AFC West (87,664), AFC East (76,960), AFC North (62,360), NFC North (61,128), AFC South (51,048), NFC South (44,990) and NFC East (43,454).
- Three teams – the **SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS** (27,912), **MIAMI DOLPHINS** (26,622) and **OAKLAND RAIDERS** (26,268) – will “travel around the world” at least once. A trip around the globe is 25,000 miles.

BACK TO FOOTBALL

BEST KICKOFF WEEKEND PERFORMANCES, 1933-2014 (2014 Performances in Bold & Italics)

MOST YARDS RUSHING

	<u>YARDS</u>	<u>ATT</u>	<u>LG</u>	<u>TD</u>
O.J. Simpson, Buffalo vs. New England, 9/16/73	250	29	80t	2
Arian Foster, Houston vs. Indianapolis, 9/12/10	231	33	42	3
Michael Turner, Atlanta vs. Detroit, 9/7/08	220	22	66t	2
Eddie George, Tennessee vs. Oakland, 8/31/97	216	35	29t	1
George Rogers, New Orleans vs. St. Louis, 9/4/83	206	24	76t	2
Gerald Riggs, Atlanta vs. New Orleans, 9/2/84	202	35	57	2
Duce Staley, Philadelphia vs. Dallas, 9/3/00	201	26	60	1
Norm Bulaich, Baltimore vs. N.Y. Jets, 9/19/71	198	22	67t	1
Curtis Martin, N.Y. Jets vs. Cincinnati, 9/12/04	196	29	24t	1
Alan Ameche, Baltimore vs. Chicago, 9/25/55	194	21	79t	1

MOST YARDS PASSING

	<u>YARDS</u>	<u>ATT</u>	<u>COMP</u>	<u>TD</u>	<u>INT</u>
Norm Van Brocklin, L.A. Rams vs. N.Y. Yanks, 9/28/51	554	41	27	5	2
Tom Brady, New England vs. Miami, 9/12/11	517	48	32	4	1
Dan Marino, Miami vs. New England, 9/4/94	473	42	23	5	1
Peyton Manning, Denver vs. Baltimore, 9/5/13	462	42	27	7	0
Eli Manning, N.Y. Giants vs. Dallas, 9/8/13	450	42	27	4	3
<i>Matt Ryan, Atlanta vs. New Orleans, 9/7/14</i>	448	43	31	3	0
Kurt Warner, St. Louis vs. Denver, 9/4/00	441	35	25	3	3
Peyton Manning, Indianapolis vs. Houston, 9/12/10	433	57	40	3	0
Cam Newton, Carolina vs. Arizona, 9/11/11	422	37	24	2	1
Drew Bledsoe, New England vs. Miami, 9/4/94	421	51	32	4	2

MOST YARDS RECEIVING

	<u>YARDS</u>	<u>REC</u>	<u>LG</u>	<u>TD</u>
Frank Clarke, Dallas vs. Washington, 9/16/62	241	10	58t	3
Anquan Boldin, Arizona vs. Detroit, 9/7/03	217	10	71t	2
Hugh Taylor, Washington vs. Philadelphia, 9/28/47	212	8	62t	3
Lance Alworth, San Diego vs. Denver, 9/11/65	211	7	48	1
Irving Fryar, Miami vs. New England, 9/4/94	211	5	54t	3
Anquan Boldin, San Francisco vs. Green Bay, 9/8/13	208	13	43	1
Wes Chandler, New Orleans vs. Atlanta, 9/2/79	205	6	42	1
Don Maynard, N.Y. Jets vs. Kansas City, 9/15/68	203	8	57t	2
Marty Booker, Chicago vs. Minnesota, 9/8/02	198	8	54	1
Tim Smith, Houston vs. Green Bay, 9/4/83	197	8	47t	1



Cam Newton



Anquan Boldin



Curtis Martin



BEST KICKOFF WEEKEND PERFORMANCES, PAST 10 YEARS

(2014 Performances in Bold & Italics)

MOST YARDS RUSHING

	<u>YARDS</u>	<u>ATT</u>	<u>LG</u>	<u>TD</u>
Arian Foster, Houston vs. Indianapolis, 9/12/10	231	33	42	3
Michael Turner, Atlanta vs. Detroit, 9/7/08	220	22	66t	2
LeSean McCoy, Philadelphia vs. Washington, 9/9/13	184	31	34t	1
Adrian Peterson, Minnesota vs. Cleveland, 9/13/09	180	25	64t	3
Chris Brown, Tennessee vs. Jacksonville, 9/9/07	175	19	42	0
C.J. Spiller, Buffalo vs. N.Y. Jets, 9/9/12	169	14	56t	1
Willie Parker, Pittsburgh vs. Tennessee, 9/11/05	161	22	45	1
Darren McFadden, Oakland vs. Denver, 9/12/11	150	22	47	0
Carnell Williams, Tampa Bay vs. Minnesota, 9/11/05	148	27	71t	1
Mike Bell, New Orleans vs. Detroit, 9/13/09	143	28	22	0

MOST YARDS PASSING

	<u>YARDS</u>	<u>ATT</u>	<u>COMP</u>	<u>TD</u>	<u>INT</u>
Tom Brady, New England vs. Miami, 9/12/11	517	48	32	4	1
Peyton Manning, Denver vs. Baltimore, 9/5/13	462	42	27	7	0
Eli Manning, N.Y. Giants vs. Dallas, 9/8/13	450	42	27	4	3
<i>Matt Ryan, Atlanta vs. New Orleans, 9/7/14</i>	448	43	31	3	0
Peyton Manning, Indianapolis vs. Houston, 9/12/10	433	57	40	3	0
Cam Newton, Carolina vs. Arizona, 9/11/11	422	37	24	2	1
Drew Brees, New Orleans vs. Green Bay, 9/8/11	419	49	32	3	0
Chad Henne, Miami vs. New England, 9/12/11	416	49	30	2	1
Colin Kaepernick, San Francisco vs. Green Bay, 9/8/13	412	39	27	3	0
Tom Brady, New England vs. Buffalo, 9/14/09	378	53	39	2	1

MOST YARDS RECEIVING

	<u>YARDS</u>	<u>REC</u>	<u>LG</u>	<u>TD</u>
Anquan Boldin, San Francisco vs. Green Bay, 9/8/13	208	13	43	1
Randy Moss, New England vs. N.Y. Jets, 9/9/07	183	9	51t	1
Steve Smith, Carolina vs. Arizona, 9/11/11	178	8	77t	2
<i>Calvin Johnson, Detroit vs. N.Y. Giants, 9/8/14</i>	164	7	67t	2
Austin Collie, Indianapolis vs. Houston, 9/12/10	163	11	73t	1
A.J. Green, Cincinnati vs. Chicago, 9/8/13	162	9	45t	2
Reggie Wayne, Indianapolis vs. Jacksonville, 9/13/09	162	10	39	1
Antwaan Randle El, Washington vs. Miami, 9/9/07	162	5	54	0
Demaryius Thomas, Denver vs. Baltimore, 9/5/13	161	5	78t	2
Wes Welker, New England vs. Miami, 9/12/11	160	8	99t	2



Matt Ryan



Calvin Johnson

BACK TO FOOTBALL

THE LAST TIME...

(2014 games in red)

PASSING

500 YARDS, GAME: 522, Ben Roethlisberger, Pittsburgh vs. Indianapolis, October 26, 2014
7 TD PASSES, GAME: Peyton Manning, Denver vs. Baltimore, September 5, 2013
Nick Foles, Philadelphia vs. Oakland, November 3, 2013
60 ATTEMPTS, GAME: 62, Nick Foles, Philadelphia vs. Arizona, October 26, 2014
62, Joe Flacco, Baltimore vs. Cincinnati, September 7, 2014
20 CONSECUTIVE COMPLETIONS, GAME: 24, Matt Schaub, Houston vs. Jacksonville, November 18, 2012 (OT)
99-YARD TD PASS: Tom Brady to Wes Welker, New England vs. Miami, September 12, 2011
Eli Manning to Victor Cruz, New York Giants vs. New York Jets, December 24, 2011

RECEIVING

3 100-YARD GAMES, SAME TEAM: Dallas vs. Denver, October 6, 2013
Jason Witten, 7-121-1; Dez Bryant, 6-141-2; Terrance Williams, 4-151-1
300 YARDS, GAME: 329, Calvin Johnson, Detroit vs. Dallas, October 27, 2013
15 RECEPTIONS, GAME: 15, Zach Ertz, Philadelphia vs. Washington, December 20, 2014
4 TDs, GAME: Jamaal Charles, Kansas City vs. Oakland, December 15, 2013
Eric Decker, Denver vs. Kansas City, December 1, 2013
Marvin Jones, Cincinnati vs. New York Jets, October 27, 2013

RUSHING

5 TDs, GAME: Clinton Portis, Denver vs. Kansas City, December 7, 2003
4 TDs, GAME: Jonas Gray, New England vs. Indianapolis, November 16, 2014
Marshawn Lynch, Seattle vs. New York Giants, November 9, 2014
40 ATTEMPTS, GAME: 40, Shaun Alexander, Seattle vs. Green Bay, November 27, 2006
250 YARDS, GAME: 251, Doug Martin, Tampa Bay vs. Oakland, November 4, 2012

INTERCEPTIONS

4, GAME: DeAngelo Hall, Washington vs. Chicago, October 24, 2010
3, GAME: Kurt Coleman, Philadelphia vs. Washington, October 16, 2011
2 TDs, GAME: Janoris Jenkins, St. Louis vs. Tennessee, November 25, 2012
Zach Brown, Tennessee vs. Jacksonville, December 30, 2012
100-YARD TD RETURN: 100, Sean Smith, Kansas City vs. Buffalo, November 3, 2013

SCORING

8 PATs, GAME: 8, Matt Bryant, Atlanta vs. Tampa Bay, September 18, 2014
3 FGs, 50 YARDS OR MORE, GAME: Phil Dawson, Cleveland vs. Baltimore, September 27, 2012
Blair Walsh, Minnesota vs. St. Louis, December 16, 2012
60 OR MORE POINTS, GAME, TEAM: New Orleans (62) vs. Indianapolis (7), October 23, 2011
100 OR MORE POINTS, GAME, BOTH TEAMS: 106, Cincinnati (58) vs. Cleveland (48), November 28, 2004
LAST SCORELESS TIE: New York Giants vs. Detroit, November 7, 1943

KICKOFF RETURNS

2 TDs, GAME: Leon Washington, Seattle vs. San Diego, September 26, 2010
2 CONSECUTIVE TDs, BOTH TEAMS, GAME: New England vs. Oakland, December 14, 2008

PUNT RETURNS

2 TDs, GAME: Darius Reynaud, Tennessee vs. Jacksonville, December 30, 2012



GIANTS' BECKHAM JR. CATCHES TOP SPOT IN NFL JERSEY SALES



New York Giants wide receiver **ODELL BECKHAM, JR.** (left) has reeled in yet another accolade as he now finds his jersey atop the list for NFL player jerseys sold on NFLShop.com.

With the No. 2 overall pick in the 2015 NFL Draft, the Tennessee Titans selected quarterback **MARCUS MARIOTA**. His jersey finds itself in the No. 2 spot on the list. Tampa Bay Buccaneers quarterback **JAMEIS WINSTON**, who was the first overall pick in the Draft, ranks No. 8.

Houston Texans defensive end **J.J. WATT** (No. 11), the 2014 NFL Defensive Player of the Year, is the highest defensive player on the list.

The Seattle Seahawks also dominated the charts with quarterback **RUSSELL WILSON** (No. 7), safety **KAM CHANCELLOR** (No. 18), running back **MARSHAWN LYNCH** (No. 20) and the distinctive **12TH FAN** (No. 22) all in the top 25.

The top-selling player jerseys (from June 1-30):

TOP-SELLING NFL PLAYER JERSEYS

1	Odell Beckham, Jr.	New York Giants
2	Marcus Mariota	Tennessee Titans
3	Tom Brady	New England Patriots
4	Colin Kaepernick	San Francisco 49ers
5	Aaron Rodgers	Green Bay Packers
6	Dez Bryant	Dallas Cowboys
7	Russell Wilson	Seattle Seahawks
8	Jameis Winston	Tampa Bay Buccaneers
9	DeMarco Murray	Philadelphia Eagles
10	Rob Gronkowski	New England Patriots
11	J.J. Watt	Houston Texans
12	Peyton Manning	Denver Broncos
13	Andrew Luck	Indianapolis Colts

14	Derek Carr	Oakland Raiders
15	Jason Witten	Dallas Cowboys
16	Tim Tebow	Philadelphia Eagles
17	Ndamukong Suh	Miami Dolphins
18	Kam Chancellor	Seattle Seahawks
19	Khalil Mack	Oakland Raiders
20	Marshawn Lynch	Seattle Seahawks
21	Teddy Bridgewater	Minnesota Vikings
22	12th Fan	Seattle Seahawks
23	Ryan Tannehill	Miami Dolphins
24	Tony Romo	Dallas Cowboys
25	Joe Haden	Cleveland Browns

Source: NFLShop.com



Marcus Mariota



Colin Kaepernick



Jameis Winston



Teddy Bridgewater



Joe Haden

SAME FACES, NEW PLACES



Whether through free agency or trades, this offseason contained big-name switches that may alter the landscape of the 2015 NFL season.

Buffalo and Philadelphia swapped big-name players, with the Bills acquiring running back **LE SEAN MC COY** (left) – the Eagles’ all-time leading rusher – in exchange for linebacker **KIKO ALONSO**. Miami brought in four-time Pro Bowl defensive tackle **NDAMUKONG SUH**, who spent his first five seasons in Detroit.

“I love a challenge and coming to the AFC East will be a challenge,” says Suh. “I am absolutely excited about the opportunity with the Miami Dolphins. This team has a great nucleus and I cannot wait to get to work.”

Other familiar faces have joined new teams, including quarterbacks **SAM BRADFORD** (Philadelphia), **MATT CASSEL** (Buffalo), **NICK FOLES** (St. Louis) and **RYAN FITZPATRICK** (New York Jets), wide receivers **DWAYNE BOWE** (Cleveland), **ANDRE JOHNSON** (Indianapolis), **JEREMY MACLIN** (Kansas City), **BRANDON MARSHALL** (New York Jets) and **MIKE WALLACE** (Minnesota), tight ends **JORDAN CAMERON** (Miami), **CHARLES CLAY** (Buffalo), **JIMMY GRAHAM** (Seattle) and **JULIUS THOMAS** (Jacksonville), running backs **REGGIE BUSH** (San Francisco), **FRANK GORE** (Indianapolis), **DARREN MC FADDEN** (Dallas) and **DE MARCO MURRAY** (Philadelphia), defensive backs **BRANDON BROWNER** (New Orleans), **ANTONIO CROMARTIE** (New York Jets), **DARRELLE REVIS** (New York Jets), **ANTREL ROLLE** (Chicago), **CARY WILLIAMS** (Seattle) and **TRAMON WILLIAMS** (Cleveland) and defensive tackles **HALOTI NGATA** (Detroit) and **VINCE WILFORK** (Houston).

Some notable players who changed teams this offseason:



Darrelle Revis

PLAYER

LB Kiko Alonso
WR Dwayne Bowe
QB Sam Bradford
CB Brandon Browner
RB Reggie Bush
TE Jordan Cameron
QB Matt Cassel
TE Charles Clay
DE Trent Cole
CB Antonio Cromartie
DT Darnell Dockett
QB Nick Foles
QB Ryan Fitzpatrick
RB Frank Gore
TE Jimmy Graham
G Ben Grubbs
LB A.J. Hawk
G Mike Iupati
WR Andre Johnson
DE Michael Johnson
DT Terrence Knighton
WR Jeremy Maclin
WR Brandon Marshall
CB Byron Maxwell
RB LeSean McCoy
RB Darren McFadden
S Rahim Moore
RB DeMarco Murray
DT Haloti Ngata
LB Brian Orakpo
CB Darrelle Revis
S Antrel Rolle
WR Torrey Smith
RB C.J. Spiller
WR Kenny Stills
DT Ndamukong Suh
TE Julius Thomas
C Max Unger
RB Shane Vereen
WR Mike Wallace
DT Vince Wilfork
CB Cary Williams
RB DeAngelo Williams
CB Tramon Williams

NEW TEAM

Philadelphia
Cleveland
Philadelphia
New Orleans
San Francisco
Miami
Buffalo
Buffalo
Indianapolis
New York Jets
San Francisco
St. Louis
New York Jets
Indianapolis
Seattle
Kansas City
Cincinnati
Arizona
Indianapolis
Cincinnati
Washington
Kansas City
New York Jets
Philadelphia
Buffalo
Dallas
Houston
Philadelphia
Detroit
Tennessee
New York Jets
Chicago
San Francisco
New Orleans
Miami
Miami
Jacksonville
New Orleans
New York Giants
Minnesota
Houston
Seattle
Pittsburgh
Cleveland

2014 TEAM

Buffalo
Kansas City
St. Louis
New England
Detroit
Cleveland
Minnesota
Miami
Philadelphia
Arizona
Arizona
Philadelphia
Houston
San Francisco
New Orleans
New Orleans
Green Bay
San Francisco
Houston
Tampa Bay
Denver
Philadelphia
Chicago
Seattle
Philadelphia
Oakland
Denver
Dallas
Baltimore
Washington
New England
New York Giants
Baltimore
Buffalo
New Orleans
Detroit
Denver
Seattle
New England
Miami
New England
Philadelphia
Carolina
Green Bay



Brian Orakpo



Sam Bradford



Julius Thomas



Ndamukong Suh



Andre Johnson

2015 NFL SPECIAL PATCHES & LOGOS

This season, the NFL is launching a year-long celebration of the Super Bowl to commemorate Super Bowl 50. The 2015 season will feature a gold thematic signifying the 50th “golden” Super Bowl that will be visible on the field throughout the year. The 50-yard line numerals and NFL shield logo (right) at every stadium will be gold. Team logos on sideline apparel will have accents of gold and logos for key NFL events will turn to gold.



Additionally, several NFL franchises will be wearing special patches in 2015. The season also will serve as a remembrance for individuals who have left a lasting legacy with a team.

Below are some of the patches and logos to honor team history or celebrate events this season:

TEAM/EVENT	PATCH/DECAL
National Football League	All teams will wear a Heads Up Football decal on their helmets to celebrate USA Football Month throughout the preseason
National Football League	All teams will wear a pink ribbon decal on their helmets to celebrate A Crucial Catch and Breast Cancer Awareness Month in Weeks 4, 5 and 6.
National Football League	All teams will wear a camouflage ribbon decal on their helmets to celebrate Salute to Service games during Weeks 9, 10 and 11.
Philadelphia Eagles	Memorial decal for Chuck Bednarik.
San Francisco 49ers	Memorial decal and lapel pin for Bob St. Clair.
Atlanta Falcons	50th season patch.
Miami Dolphins	50th season patch.
Tampa Bay Buccaneers	40th season patch.
Baltimore Ravens	20th season patch.



All teams will wear a Heads Up Football decal on their helmets to celebrate USA Football Month throughout the preseason.



All teams will wear a pink ribbon decal on their helmets to celebrate A Crucial Catch and Breast Cancer Awareness Month in Weeks 4, 5 and 6.



All teams will wear a camouflage ribbon decal on their helmets to celebrate Salute to Service games in Weeks 9, 10 and 11.



The Philadelphia Eagles will honor the memory of Chuck Bednarik with a memorial decal.



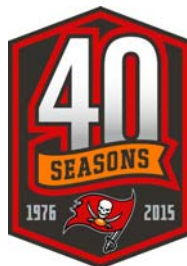
The San Francisco 49ers will honor the memory of Bob St. Clair with a memorial decal and lapel pin.



The Atlanta Falcons will celebrate their 50th season.



The Miami Dolphins will celebrate their 50th season.



The Tampa Bay Buccaneers will celebrate their 40th season.



The Baltimore Ravens will celebrate their 20th season.

STARTING RECORDS OF ACTIVE NFL QUARTERBACKS

(Minimum 10 regular-season starts)

QUARTERBACK	REGULAR SEASON				POSTSEASON			OVERALL			
	W	L	T	PCT.	W	L	PCT.	W	L	T	PCT.
Tom Brady	160	47	0	.773	21	8	.724	181	55	0	.766
Russell Wilson	36	12	0	.750	6	2	.750	42	14	0	.777
Peyton Manning	179	77	0	.699	11	13	.458	190	90	0	.678
Andrew Luck	33	15	0	.688	3	3	.500	36	18	0	.666
Aaron Rodgers	70	33	0	.680	6	5	.545	76	38	0	.667
Ben Roethlisberger	106	52	0	.671	10	5	.667	116	57	0	.670
Joe Flacco	72	40	0	.643	10	5	.667	82	45	0	.645
Colin Kaepernick	25	14	0	.641	4	2	.667	29	16	0	.527
Andy Dalton	40	23	1	.625	0	4	.000	40	27	1	.588
Nick Foles	15	9	0	.625	0	1	.000	15	10	0	.600
Philip Rivers	88	56	0	.611	4	5	.444	92	61	0	.601
Tony Romo	75	48	0	.610	2	4	.333	77	52	0	.596
Matt Ryan	66	44	0	.600	1	4	.200	67	48	0	.582
Brian Hoyer	10	7	0	.588	0	0	.000	10	7	0	.588
Drew Stanton	7	5	0	.583	0	0	.000	7	5	0	.583
Drew Brees	117	84	0	.582	6	5	.545	123	89	0	.580
Alex Smith	57	47	1	.548	1	2	.333	58	49	1	.491
Eli Manning	91	76	0	.545	8	3	.727	99	79	0	.556
Michael Vick	59	50	1	.541	2	4	.333	61	54	1	.525
Mark Sanchez	37	33	0	.529	4	2	.666	41	35	0	.539
Matt Hasselbeck	80	72	0	.526	5	6	.455	85	78	0	.521
Matt Moore	13	12	0	.520	0	0	.000	13	12	0	.520
Jay Cutler	61	58	0	.513	1	1	.500	62	59	0	.512
Matt Schaub	46	44	0	.511	1	1	.500	47	45	0	.511
Teddy Bridgewater	6	6	0	.500	0	0	.000	6	6	0	.500
Tarvaris Jackson	17	17	0	.500	0	1	.500	17	18	0	.486
Cam Newton	30	31	1	.492	1	2	.333	31	33	1	.485
Carson Palmer	70	73	0	.490	0	2	.000	70	75	0	.482
Ryan Tannehill	23	25	0	.479	0	0	.000	23	25	0	.479
Shaun Hill	16	18	0	.471	0	0	.000	16	18	0	.471
Matt Cassel	33	38	0	.465	0	1	.000	33	39	0	.458
Matthew Stafford	35	42	0	.455	0	2	.000	35	44	0	.443
Derek Anderson	20	25	0	.444	0	0	.000	20	25	0	.444
EJ Manuel	6	8	0	.429	0	0	.000	6	8	0	.429
Jason Campbell	32	47	0	.405	0	0	.000	32	47	0	.405
Christian Ponder	14	21	1	.403	0	0	.000	14	21	1	.403
Robert Griffin III	14	21	0	.400	0	1	.000	14	22	0	.388
Jake Locker	9	14	0	.391	0	0	.000	9	14	0	.391
Kellen Clemens	8	13	0	.381	0	0	.000	8	13	0	.381
Geno Smith	11	18	0	.379	0	0	.000	11	18	0	.379
Sam Bradford	18	30	1	.378	0	0	.000	18	30	1	.378
Ryan Fitzpatrick	33	55	1	.376	0	0	.000	33	55	1	.376
Josh McCown	17	32	0	.347	0	0	.000	17	32	0	.347
Chad Henne	18	35	0	.340	0	0	.000	18	35	0	.340
Bruce Gradkowski	6	14	0	.300	0	0	.000	6	14	0	.300
Colt McCoy	7	18	0	.280	0	0	.000	7	18	0	.280
Mike Glennon	5	13	0	.278	0	0	.000	5	13	0	.278
Brandon Weeden	5	16	0	.238	0	0	.000	5	16	0	.238
Blake Bortles	3	10	0	.231	0	0	.000	3	10	0	.231
Case Keenum	2	8	0	.200	0	0	.000	2	8	0	.200
Derek Carr	3	13	0	.188	0	0	.000	3	13	0	.188
Blaine Gabbert	5	22	0	.185	0	0	.000	5	22	0	.185
Dan Orlovsky	2	10	0	.167	0	0	.000	2	10	0	.167
Jimmy Clausen	1	10	0	.091	0	0	.000	1	10	0	.091
Tyler Thigpen	1	11	0	.083	0	0	.000	1	11	0	.083



NFL ON TV IN '15

The NFL is launching a year-long celebration of the Super Bowl to commemorate Super Bowl 50, which will be played on Sunday, February 7, 2016 at Levi's Stadium, home of the San Francisco 49ers.

Many teams will host Super Bowl Homecomings, inviting their Super Bowl teams to be honored in-stadium on game day and throughout the weekend. Teams will commemorate Homecomings with Ring of Honor/Hall of Fame ceremonies, recognizing Super Bowl players as honorary captains and featuring special halftime celebrations. Historic Super Bowl marks, customized Homecoming assets and dedicated elements commemorating past Super Bowls will be included in the weekends.

CBS, which will televise Super Bowl 50 – marking the most Super Bowl broadcasts by any network – will feature some of these visits across the various assets of the CBS Corporation.

"CBS Sports is proud to have made history televising Super Bowl I, and we are poised to do it again with the broadcast of Super Bowl 50," says **SEAN MC MANUS**, Chairman of CBS Sports. "This is a special season for CBS Sports with more NFL coverage than ever before, including *Thursday Night Football*, Sunday afternoon football, the AFC playoffs and culminating with the biggest event in television history, Super Bowl 50."

The 2015 schedule will feature several Super Bowl rematches. The Pro Football Hall of Fame Game kicks it off in August when the Minnesota Vikings and Pittsburgh Steelers face off in a rematch of Super Bowl IX. The regular season features 19 Super Bowl rematches (see page 76 for the list).

Among the many highlights of the 2015 NFL broadcasting schedule:

- The season begins with the NFL's annual primetime kickoff game. The opener on September 10 on NBC (8:30 PM ET) will spotlight the defending Super Bowl champion New England Patriots hosting the Pittsburgh Steelers at Gillette Stadium.
- Week 1 is a CBS national weekend with the key doubleheader game on Sunday, September 13 (4:25 PM ET) featuring the Baltimore Ravens visiting the Denver Broncos.
- NBC's *Sunday Night Football* gets underway on September 13 with an NFC East showdown when the Dallas Cowboys host the New York Giants (8:30 PM ET).
- Kickoff Weekend concludes on Monday, September 14 with an ESPN *Monday Night Football* doubleheader. The Atlanta Falcons will host the Philadelphia Eagles (7:10 PM ET) in the first game followed by the Minnesota Vikings at the San Francisco 49ers (10:20 PM ET).
- ESPN will televise one game each Monday night in Weeks 2-16. There will be no Monday night game on the final regular-season weekend (Week 17) to provide more flexibility for the scheduling of the opening weekend of the NFL playoffs.
- For the second season, a select number of games will be "cross-flexed," moving between CBS and FOX to bring potentially under-distributed games to wider audiences. Some of those contests were announced in April, including the Chicago Bears at Seattle Seahawks (4:25 PM ET, CBS) in Week 3 and the Carolina Panthers at Dallas Cowboys (4:30 PM ET, CBS) on Thanksgiving Day. Other "cross-flexed" games will be decided during the season.

- The regular season will conclude with Week 17 on Sunday, January 3. For the sixth consecutive year, all 16 games scheduled for Week 17 are division contests, enhancing the potential for more games with playoff ramifications.
- The Pro Bowl will return to Hawaii on Sunday, January 31 (ESPN) and be played at Aloha Stadium. The season concludes the following week on Sunday, February 7 with Super Bowl 50 at Levi's Stadium (CBS), capping a year-long celebration of the Super Bowl.

A look at the NFL on TV in 2015:

- The **CBS** Television Network marks its 56th year broadcasting the NFL headlined by Super Bowl 50 on February 7, 2016. Super Bowl 50 will be the 19th Super Bowl to be broadcast by CBS, the most of any network. Calling the historic game will be CBS's lead announce team of **JIM NANTZ**, **PHIL SIMMS** and **TRACY WOLFSON**, and kicking the day off on the pregame show will be **JAMES BROWN**, **BILL COWHER**, **BOOMER ESIASON**, **TONY GONZALEZ** and **BART SCOTT**, along with NFL Insider **JASON LA CANFORA**.

THE NFL ON CBS's broadcast schedule also will feature marquee games including New England at Dallas (October 11), Denver at Indianapolis (November 8), New England at the New York Giants (November 15), Pittsburgh at Seattle (November 29), the New York Jets versus the Giants (December 6) and Denver at Pittsburgh (December 20), during its 17 weeks of regular-season coverage. In addition to the AFC package, the regular-season broadcast schedule will once again feature NFC "cross-flexed" games.

CBS concludes the season with a postseason slate of AFC playoff games, including the AFC Championship Game, and Super Bowl 50 from Levi's Stadium.

- In addition, The **CBS** Television Network and **NFL NETWORK** will team again to feature a schedule of 16 *Thursday Night Football* games. This season marks the second year CBS Sports and NFL Network will partner to broadcast *Thursday Night Football*, a slate of 16 regular-season games kicking off September 17 with Denver at Kansas City. This year's schedule will again showcase marquee contests with 13 of the 16 games featuring division rivalries. The 2015 *Thursday Night Football* schedule will feature games from Weeks 2-8 and Week 13 broadcast on CBS that also will be simulcast on NFL Network. The *Thursday Night Football* schedule in Weeks 9-11 and Weeks 14-16 – including two Saturday games on December 19 and 26 – will be televised on NFL Network, and will be simulcast on over-the-air stations in the primary markets of the participating teams. All *Thursday Night Football* games will kick off at 8:25 PM ET.

The full slate of 16 regular-season *Thursday Night Football* games will be produced by CBS with its lead broadcasters and production team, including **JIM NANTZ**, **PHIL SIMMS** and **TRACY WOLFSON**, who also will announce select games on Sunday on CBS. NFL Network hosts and analysts will be featured in the pregame, halftime and postgame shows along with CBS Sports announcers.

Every Thursday at 6:00 PM ET, **RICH EISEN** will kick off the NFL week with **MICHAEL IRVIN**, **MARSHALL FAULK** and **STEVE MARIUCCI** live from outside the stadium on *NFL Total Access Kickoff*. The cast will provide news and analysis of the upcoming matchup, as well as highlight the atmosphere and festivities outside the stadium as fans arrive for every *Thursday Night Football* game on CBS and NFL Network.

At 7:30 PM ET, **JAMES BROWN**, **BILL COWHER** and **DEION SANDERS** host *NFL Thursday Night Kickoff* from inside the stadium to provide further analysis leading up to each game, joined by Wolfson.

- **FOX SPORTS'** lead NFL team of Pro Football Hall of Fame quarterback **TROY AIKMAN** and seven-time Emmy Award-winner **JOE BUCK** returns for its 14th year as broadcast partners with **ERIN ANDREWS** reporting from the sidelines.

The network kicks off its 22nd season covering the NFL on Sunday, September 13 with an NFC North showdown between the Green Bay Packers and the Chicago Bears (1:00 PM ET). On Sunday, September 20, FOX features a national doubleheader when the Philadelphia Eagles host the NFC East rival Dallas Cowboys (4:25 PM ET). Other standout contests include the Minnesota Vikings visiting the Denver Broncos (October 4, 4:25 PM ET), the Seattle Seahawks hosting the San Francisco 49ers (November 22, 4:25 PM ET) and the Cowboys visiting the Packers in Week 14 (December 13, 4:25 PM ET).

FOX Sports will broadcast the third London game of 2015, as the Kansas City Chiefs host the Detroit Lions at Wembley Stadium (November 1, 9:30 AM ET) and the first of three Thanksgiving Day games, when the Eagles visit Detroit (November 26, 12:30 PM ET).

In addition to the NFC package, the regular-season broadcast schedule will once again feature "cross-flexed" games. FOX will also broadcast NFC postseason games, including the NFC Championship Game on Sunday, January 24.

- **NBC** kicks off the 2015 NFL season with the Super Bowl champions as the network's slate of 21 games begins on Thursday, September 10 when the defending champion New England Patriots host the Pittsburgh Steelers. The opening *Sunday Night Football* game features the New York Giants visiting the division rival Dallas Cowboys on Sunday, September 13 at 8:30 PM ET. *Sunday Night Football* also showcases rematches of both Conference Championship Games (Seattle versus Green Bay on September 20 and New England versus Indianapolis on October 18), the first Thanksgiving game in Green Bay in 92 years (Chicago Bears at Packers), and Brady-Manning XVII – the 17th matchup between quarterbacks **TOM BRADY** and **PEYTON MANNING** – when the Patriots visit the Denver Broncos on November 29.

In addition, NBC will broadcast a Wild Card playoff game and a Divisional playoff game.

AL MICHAELS and **CRIS COLLINSWORTH** return for a seventh season of NBC's *Sunday Night Football*. The show averaged 21.3 million viewers in 2014 and has ranked as primetime's No. 1 show for the full September-May TV season for four consecutive years – a first for a sports series.

- **ESPN's** team of **MIKE TIRICO**, **JON GRUDEN** and sideline reporter **LISA SALTERS** returns for the 46th season of *Monday Night Football*. Opening night on MNF features a primetime doubleheader. The first game (7:10 PM ET) matches the Philadelphia Eagles at the Atlanta Falcons. The MNF nightcap (10:20 PM ET) features the San Francisco 49ers hosting the Minnesota Vikings. In Week 11, the Super Bowl champion New England Patriots host the division rival Buffalo Bills (November 23, 8:30 PM ET). Two weeks later, the Dallas Cowboys face off against the Washington Redskins in Week 13 for a record 17th time on MNF.

In addition, ESPN will televise a Wild Card playoff game, which will be simulcast on ABC for the first time. ESPN also will broadcast the 2016 Pro Bowl (January 31, 2016) at Aloha Stadium in Honolulu, Hawaii.

NFL ANNOUNCER LINEUP FOR 2015

THURSDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL (CBS + NFL NETWORK)

NFL Network Talent: Rich Eisen-Michael Irvin-Marshall Faulk-Steve Mariucci.

Thursday Night Football (Pregame): James Brown-Bill Cowher-Deion Sanders; other talent TBA.

Thursday Night Football: Jim Nantz-Phil Simms-Tracy Wolfson (reporter).

CBS SUNDAY AFTERNOON

CBS' The NFL Today (Pregame): James Brown-Bill Cowher-Boomer Esiason-Tony Gonzalez-Bart Scott-Jason LaCanfora.

The NFL on CBS: Jim Nantz-Phil Simms-Tracy Wolfson (reporter); Ian Eagle-Dan Fouts; Greg Gumbel-Trent Green; Kevin Harlan-Rich Gannon; Spero Dedes-Solomon Wilcotts; Andrew Catalon-Steve Beuerlein-Steve Tasker.

FOX

FOX NFL Sunday (Pregame): Curt Menefee-Terry Bradshaw-Howie Long-Jimmy Johnson-Michael Strahan-Jay Glazer-Mike Pereira.

NFL on FOX: Lead Broadcast Team: Joe Buck-Troy Aikman-Erin Andrews (reporter).

NBC

NBC's Football Night in America (Pregame): Bob Costas-Dan Patrick-Josh Elliott-Tony Dungy-Rodney Harrison-Hines Ward-Mike Florio-Peter King-Paul Burmeister (reporter)-Carolyn Manno (reporter)-Kathryn Tappen (reporter).

Sunday Night Football: Al Michaels-Cris Collinsworth-Michele Tafoya (reporter).

ESPN

Sunday NFL Countdown (Pregame): Chris Berman-Cris Carter-Mike Ditka-Tom Jackson-Keyshawn Johnson-Chris Mortensen-Adam Scheffer-Wendi Nix-Josina Anderson-Bob Holtzman-Britt McHenry-Sal Paolantonio-Ed Werder.

Monday Night Countdown (Pregame): Chris Berman-Suzy Kolber-Cris Carter-Trent Dilfer-Mike Ditka-Tom Jackson-Keyshawn Johnson-Ray Lewis-Chris Mortensen-Adam Scheffer-Steve Young-Lisa Salters.

NFL Monday Night Football: Mike Tirico-Jon Gruden-Lisa Salters (reporter).

FLEXIBLE SCHEDULING

For a second consecutive year, flexible scheduling may be applied in Weeks 5-10. During that period, flexible scheduling can be used in no more than two weeks by shifting a Sunday afternoon game into primetime and moving the Sunday night game to an afternoon start time.

Also, for a second time, a select number of games are being "cross-flexed," moving between CBS and FOX to bring potentially under-distributed games to wider audiences.

"Flexible scheduling," which debuted in the NFL in 2006, will be used in Weeks 11-17 as it has been in recent years. In Weeks 11-16, the schedule lists the games tentatively set for *Sunday Night Football* on NBC. Only Sunday afternoon games are eligible to be moved to Sunday night, in which case the tentatively scheduled Sunday night game would be moved to an afternoon start time. Flexible scheduling will not be applied to games airing on Thursday, Saturday or Monday nights.

A flexible scheduling move would be announced at least 12 days before the game.

For Week 17, the Sunday night game will be announced no later than six days prior to January 3. The schedule does not list a Sunday night game in Week 17, but an afternoon game with playoff implications will be moved to that time slot.

Flexible scheduling ensures quality matchups in all Sunday time slots in those weeks and gives "surprise" teams a chance to play their way into primetime.

SUPER BOWL REMATCHES IN 2015

Here are the 19 Super Bowl rematches that will be played during the 2015 NFL regular season:

<u>WEEK</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>NETWORK</u>	<u>TEAMS</u>	<u>SUPER BOWL MEETING</u>
1	Sunday, September 13	CBS	Miami at Washington	VII, XVII
2	Monday, September 21	ESPN	New York Jets at Indianapolis	III
3	Sunday, September 27	CBS	Pittsburgh at St. Louis	XIV (Pittsburgh vs. LA Rams)
3	Monday, September 28	ESPN	Kansas City at Green Bay	I
4	Sunday, October 4	FOX	New York Giants at Buffalo	XXV
6	Sunday, October 18	CBS	Baltimore at San Francisco	XLVII
6	Sunday, October 18	FOX	Arizona at Pittsburgh	XLIII
6	Sunday, October 18	CBS	Kansas City at Minnesota	IV
7	Sunday, October 25	FOX	New Orleans at Indianapolis	XLIV
8	Sunday, November 1	NBC	Green Bay at Denver	XXXII
10	Sunday, November 15	FOX	Minnesota at Oakland	XI
10	Sunday, November 15	CBS	New England at New York Giants	XLII, XLVI
11	Sunday, November 22	FOX	Dallas at Miami	VI
12	Sunday, November 29	CBS	Pittsburgh at Seattle	XL
13	Sunday, December 6	FOX	Philadelphia at New England	XXXIX
15	Sunday, December 20	CBS	Buffalo at Washington	XXVI
15	Sunday, December 20	FOX	Green Bay at Oakland	II
15	Sunday, December 20	NBC	Cincinnati at San Francisco	XVI, XXIII
16	Sunday, December 27	FOX	Dallas at Buffalo	XXVII, XXVIII



NFL RADIO 2015: WESTWOOD ONE & SIRIUS XM COVER THE NFL

Not near a TV? No problem.

NFL fans can listen to games on the radio in a number of ways – on Westwood One and SiriusXM NFL Radio.

WESTWOOD ONE remains the official network radio partner of the NFL, its 29th consecutive season with that distinction.

The Westwood One NFL schedule features 67 national games, including the NFL/Hall of Fame Game, the Thursday night Kickoff game, *Monday Night Football*, *Sunday Night Football*, *Thursday Night Football* (including the two Saturday night games), the Thanksgiving Day tripleheader and the entire postseason, culminating with Super Bowl 50 at Levi's Stadium. Westwood One also broadcasts a Sunday afternoon NFL doubleheader each week during the regular season, and produces weekly specialty programs, including *The NFL Today*, *NFL Preview*, *NFL Insider*, *NFL Sunday* and *NFL Fantasy Football Forecast*.

KEVIN HARLAN and **BOOMER ESIASON** return as the lead broadcast crew, calling *Monday Night Football* and Super Bowl 50 for the network. This will mark the 29th consecutive year and 43rd time overall that Westwood One will be the exclusive network radio home of football's biggest game.

In addition to being heard on more than 500 radio stations across the United States, all of Westwood One's primetime NFL broadcasts can also be heard on SiriusXM Satellite Radio, as well as online and on mobile devices. For complete information regarding Westwood One's NFL coverage, including schedules, announcers, highlights, features, interviews and more, log on to westwoodonesports.com.

This year will mark the NFL's 12th season on **SiriusXM**. SiriusXM creates and broadcasts commercial-free music, premier sports talk and live events, comedy, news, exclusive talk and entertainment, and the most comprehensive Latin music, sports and talk programming in radio.

SiriusXM provides live play-by-play of every NFL game from the preseason through Super Bowl 50 on satellite radios, as well as on the SiriusXM app and online at SiriusXM.com for its satellite radio subscribers.

SiriusXM NFL RADIO (channel 88 on satellite radios and on the SiriusXM app) offers the most in-depth radio coverage of the NFL as the only radio channel dedicated to pro football 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. SiriusXM NFL Radio offers a daily lineup of exclusive talk programming hosted by former NFL stars and radio personalities and airs a simulcast of NFL Network's signature show, *NFL Total Access*, every weekday at 11:00 PM ET. For more information visit siriusxm.com/nfl.

SIRIUS XM NFL RADIO SCHEDULE

WEEKDAY PROGRAMMING	TIME (All times ET)	HOSTS
"The Morning Kickoff"	6:00-7:00 AM	Ross Tucker
"The Opening Drive"	7:00-11:00 AM	Bob Papa, Ross Tucker, Amani Toomer, Booger McFarland, David Diehl, Solomon Wilcotts
"The SiriusXM Blitz"	11:00 AM-3:00 PM	Bruce Murray, Rich Gannon, James Lofton, Maurice Jones-Drew
"Movin' the Chains"	3:00-7:00 PM	Jim Miller, Pat Kirwan
"Late Hits"	7:00-11:00 PM	Alex Marvez, Bill Polian, Gil Brandt
NFL Network's "Total Access"	11:00 PM-midnight	

SATURDAY PROGRAMMING	TIME (All times ET)	HOSTS
"The Weekend Kickoff"	8:00-11:00 AM	Howard David & Tim Brown
"Press Coverage"	11:00 AM-2:00 PM	Vic Carucci, Dan Leberfeld
"Chalk Talk"	2:00-4:00 PM	Lance Medow
"The End Zone"	4:00-7:00 PM	Jim Miller & Pat Kirwan
"Late Hits"	7:00-11:00 PM	Zig Fracassi & Takeo Spikes

SUNDAY PROGRAMMING	TIME (All times ET)	HOSTS
"The Stadium Tailgate Show"	9:00 AM-12:00 PM	Casey Stern, Gil Brandt
"The Sunday Drive"	12:00-8:00 PM	Steve Torre, Bill Lekas
"NFL Rewind"	Midnight-2:00 AM	Zig Fracassi & Brad Hopkins

WOMEN'S IMPACT ON NFL KEEPS GROWING

Super Bowl XLIX averaged 54 million female viewers, making it the most-watched show among women of all time. The previous five Super Bowls (XLIV – XLVIII) round out the six most-watched shows ever among women. Prior to Super Bowl XLIV, the largest female audiences were the 40.9 million (February 23, 1994) and 38.6 million (February 25, 1994) women who watched the 1994 Winter Olympic figure skating competition featuring Nancy Kerrigan.

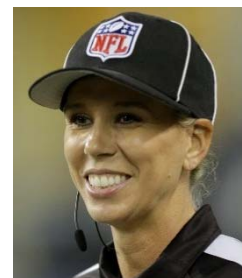
Additionally, more women watched Super Bowl XLIX than the combined male and female audience for both the 2015 Academy Awards (37.3 million) and the 2015 Grammy Awards (25.3 million).

NFL regular season games averaged more than 7.1 million female viewers each game, 43.5 percent of NFL fans are women and 62 percent of females (12 and older) consider themselves NFL fans. According to an ESPN Sports Poll, female fans are the most interested in the NFL out of all major sports 12 months out of the year with 22 percent of women selecting the NFL as their favorite sport, nearly double the 11.2 percent who chose MLB. College football and the NBA were both named by eight percent of women.

Women are not just watching and following the NFL. Some very accomplished women recently joined the NFL – or were elevated to new positions – to change the game – both on and off the field – such as **SARAH THOMAS, DAWN HUDSON, CYNTHIA HOGAN, LISA FRIEL** and **ANNA ISAACSON**.

Sarah Thomas: This season, Sarah Thomas (right) will make history as the NFL's first full-time female game official.

"I've never set out to do that, but I'm telling you, it's an honor," says Thomas. "And I'll just say, for anybody, male or female, go and do something because you love it, not because you're wanting to prove somebody wrong or you want recognition for it."



Thomas has nearly two decades of officiating experience. She comes to the NFL after working in Conference USA and spending the past two years in the top level of the NFL's developmental program, working at minicamps and appearing in preseason games. She started working games in the 1990's and, in 1996, Thomas became the first female to officiate in a Division I-A high school football game in Mississippi. She went on to become the first woman to officiate an NCAA game in 2007.

"If you look at Sarah's background and her journey to get here, this is not something that happened overnight," says NFL Vice President of Officiating **DEAN BLANDINO**. "She's been on our radar for years. It's a testament to what she's accomplished."

There are a number of women in various stages of the league's development program, including one at the advanced level from which new officials are currently selected.

"We are really dedicated to developing them and to giving them the opportunity to continue their careers," says Blandino. "We do have quite a few women officiating, and we look for that to continue."

Dawn Hudson: Veteran marketing and advertising executive Dawn Hudson (left) joined the league office in 2014 as the NFL's Chief Marketing Officer. She oversees the development, direction and implementation of all marketing activities for the NFL.



"I am excited to be a part of the NFL where I will be able to combine two of my passions – sports and marketing," says Hudson. "Sports have always played a big role in my life and in my career. There's a passion around sports that connects to people."

A distinguished brand-builder, Hudson brings to the NFL broad experience at the highest level in a variety of industries, including consumer goods, food service and communications. For the past five years, she served as the Vice Chairman of The Parthenon Group, a Boston-based strategic consulting firm. Hudson also spent 11 years at PepsiCo, where she rose to President & CEO of Pepsi-Cola North America. Prior to joining PepsiCo, Hudson gained extensive marketing, advertising and brand experience at major agencies such as DMB&B and Omnicom.

In her first season at the NFL, she led an effort to redefine the NFL's values to include responsibility to team, resiliency, integrity and respect and oversaw the launch of the year-long campaign celebrating the Super Bowl leading up to Super Bowl 50.

Cynthia Hogan: Former Deputy Assistant to the President and counsel to the Vice President of the United States, Cynthia Hogan (right) is the NFL's Senior Vice President of Public Policy and Government Affairs. In her role, she is responsible for developing and implementing the league's public policy and legislative initiatives.

"The complex and compelling issues of interest to the NFL and the opportunity to help shape policy on those issues is a unique and exciting challenge," says Hogan.

Based in the league's Washington, D.C. office, Hogan works with NFL teams on local and state issues and, as the league's top lobbyist, she is the public face of the league in the nation's capital. From broadcasting rights, health and safety issues, performance-enhancing drugs and more, Hogan shapes and communicates policy on a diverse range of issues.





Lisa Friel: The former chief of the sex crimes prosecution unit in the New York County district attorney’s office, Lisa Friel (left) is the NFL’s Senior Vice President and Special Counsel for Investigations. In her role, she oversees the league’s independent investigations in cases of off-field misconduct.

Friel previously served as Special Advisor to NFL Commissioner **ROGER GOODELL** in the fall of 2014 and was instrumental in shaping domestic violence and sexual assault education for the league while also playing a vital role in strengthening the NFL’s Player Conduct Policy. Friel joined the NFL in a full-time capacity this past spring.

Anna Isaacson: As Senior Vice President of Social Responsibility for the NFL, Anna Isaacson (right) directs the league’s social, charitable and philanthropic endeavors, including how the NFL addresses issue of domestic violence, sexual assault and other critical societal issues. She also oversees the work of the NFL Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the lives of those touched by the game of football – from players at all levels to communities across the country.

Isaacson, who joined the NFL in 2006, was named to her current role last year where she now oversees the development of a full range of education, training and support programs relating to domestic violence, sexual assault, character education and others topics to reach both members of the NFL family and the broader society.



“People want to know that the NFL is hearing them, that we are hearing our fans, and that we take this incredibly seriously,” says Isaacson of the NFL’s focus on social issues including domestic violence and sexual assault. “The good news is that we have cared about these issues for many years. We know we don’t have all the answers. We are bringing in the right people to guide us, to help us make decisions that move this issue forward and to really now take this opportunity and allow us to make a massive difference.”

The impact of women permeates the NFL at all levels, with some key women at the helm of NFL teams and in important positions at the league. Below is a list of female executives in the NFL at the vice president level and above:

NAME	TITLE	ORGANIZATION
Theresa Abato	VP of Suite Sales & Service	Baltimore Ravens
Jo Lynn Allen	President & CEO, Vulcan Inc.	Seattle Seahawks
Charlotte Jones Anderson	Executive Vice President/Chief Brand Officer	Dallas Cowboys
Airikuh Anderson	VP, Corporate Partnerships	Oakland Raiders
Renie Anderson	SVP of Sponsorship and Partnership Management	National Football League
Michelle Andres	SVP of Digital Media and Broadcasting	Baltimore Ravens
Dawn Aponte	EVP of Football Administration	Miami Dolphins
Molly Arbogast	VP, Corporate Partnerships	Philadelphia Eagles
Mary Pat Augenthaler	VP, Events	National Football League
Karen Beckman	CFO & VP of Finance	Seattle Seahawks
Nicole Bienert	VP, Partnership Activation & Retention	Miami Dolphins
Katie Blackburn	Executive VP	Cincinnati Bengals
Rosie Bone	SVP, Community Relations and Public Affairs	Oakland Raiders
Jeanne Bonk	Executive VP/CFO	San Diego Chargers
Robin Boudreau	VP of Human Resources	New England Patriots
Jennifer Cadicamo	VP of Marketing, Partnership Activation	Detroit Lions
Lisa Chang	Senior Vice President of Human Resources	Atlanta Falcons
Pat Curley	VP of Information Technology	New England Patriots
Aileen Dagrosa	SVP, General Counsel	Philadelphia Eagles
Anastasia Danias	SVP/ Chief Litigation Officer	National Football League
Jennifer Davenport	VP, Marketing and Community Development	Houston Texans
Laini DeLawter	VP of Ticket and Fan Services	Philadelphia Eagles
Tina D’Orazio	VP, Office of the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer	Philadelphia Eagles
Gabrielle Valdez Dow	VP of Marketing and Fan Engagement	Green Bay Packers
Jen Ferron	SVP of Marketing and Brand Development	New England Patriots
Kimberly Fields	VP, Football Operations	National Football League
Kelly Flanagan	SVP, CFO	Jacksonville Jaguars
Martha Firestone Ford	Owner and Chairman	Detroit Lions
Casey Foyt	Vice Chair/Owner	Indianapolis Colts
Lisa Friel	SVP and Special Counsel for Investigations	National Football League
Gretchen Geitter	VP of Community Relations	Buffalo Bills
Jessica Gelman	VP of Customer Marketing and Strategy	New England Patriots
Robyn Glaser	VP, The Kraft Group and Club Counsel, New England Patriots	New England Patriots
Anne Gordon	SVP of Media and Communications	Philadelphia Eagles
Hannah Gordon	VP of Legal and Government Affairs	San Francisco 49ers
Nicole Gustafson	VP of Public Policy and Government Affairs	National Football League
Sheila Ford Hamp	Vice Chair	Detroit Lions
Qiava Harper	VP, Premium Seating and Service	Oakland Raiders
Renee Harvey	VP of Cleveland Browns Foundation	Cleveland Browns

Dee Haslam	Owner & President of the Cleveland Browns Foundation	Cleveland Browns
Cipora Herman	CFO	San Francisco 49ers
Molly Higgins	VP of Corporate Communications & Civic Affairs	St. Louis Rams
Cynthia Hogan	SVP of Public Policy and Government Affairs	National Football League
Natarra Holloway	VP of Consumer Products - Retail Development	National Football League
Tery Howard	SVP - Chief Technology Officer	Miami Dolphins
Nancy Hubacher	VP of Sales & Marketing	Washington Redskins
Dawn Hudson	CMO	National Football League
Patty Inglis	Executive Vice President	San Francisco 49ers
Kalen Irsay	Vice Chair/Owner	Indianapolis Colts
Carlie Irsay-Gordon	Vice Chair/Owner	Indianapolis Colts
Anna Isaacson	SVP, Social Responsibility	National Football League
Elizabeth Jackson	VP of Human Resources	Baltimore Ravens
Darcie Glazer Kassewitz	Co-President, Glazer Family Foundation	Tampa Bay Buccaneers
Jenneen Kaufman	VP/CFO	Tennessee Titans
Cindy Kelley	VP of Human Resources & Administration	Seattle Seahawks
Cindy Kellogg	VP of Community Development	Denver Broncos
Elizabeth Ford Kontulis	Vice Chair	Detroit Lions
Kirsten Krug	VP of Human Resources & Administration	Kansas City Chiefs
Jennifer Langton	VP, Health and Safety Policy	National Football League
Nicole Ledvina	VP of Human Resources	Green Bay Packers
Belinda Lerner	VP Alumni Affairs and Retired Player Programs	National Football League
Susan Lewis	Owner	Tennessee Titans
Marilan Logan	VP and Controller	Houston Texans
Jennifer Love	VP, Production	NFL Network
Christina Weiss Lurie	President Eagles Youth Partnership, Eagles Social Responsibility	Philadelphia Eagles
Allison Maki	SVP, CFO & Administration	Detroit Lions
Virginia McCaskey	Owner	Chicago Bears
Kim McFadden	VP of Human Resources	National Football League
Michelle McKenna-Doyle	SVP, Chief Information Officer	National Football League
Penny McPhee	President, Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation	Atlanta Falcons
Michelle Modzeleski	VP of Special Events	Washington Redskins
Julie Moeller	VP of Media	National Football League
Martha Ford Morse	Vice Chair	Detroit Lions
Erica Muhleman	VP of Business Development	Buffalo Bills
Karen Murphy	CFO & Treasurer	Chicago Bears
Cheryl Nichols	SVP, Administration, Facilities and Ownership	Oakland Raiders
Vicky Neumeyer	SVP/General Counsel	New Orleans Saints
Kim Pegula	Owner	Buffalo Bills
Kristie Pappal	VP of Human Resources	Philadelphia Eagles
Megha Parekh	SVP/General Counsel	Jacksonville Jaguars
Elizabeth Parkinson	SVP of Marketing & Partnerships	Detroit Lions
Julie Perlish	VP, Research and Consumer Insights	National Football League
Tracy Perlman	VP of Entertainment Marketing & Promotions	National Football League
Christine Procops	SVP & CFO	New York Giants
Lucia Rodriguez	Owner/Chair of Community Outreach	St. Louis Rams
Rosemary Roser	VP, Controller	National Football League
Kim Shreckengost	EVP - Chief of Staff, AMB Group, LLC.	Atlanta Falcons
Kennie Smith	Executive in Charge of Project Management	NFL Films
Susie Adams Smith	Co-Chairman/Owner	Tennessee Titans
Amy Sprangers	VP, Corporate partnerships & Suites	Seattle Seahawks
Allison Stangeby	VP of Community and Corporate Relations	New York Giants
Amy Adams Strunk	Co-Chairman/Owner	Tennessee Titans
Nancy Svoboda	Senior VP of Human Resources	Denver Broncos
Sarah Swanson	VP, Marketing & Promotions	NFL International
Karla Tai	VP, Human Resources and Operations	Oakland Raiders
Suzie Thomas	EVP/General Counsel/Chief Administration Officer	Houston Texans
Linda Tong	VP, Digital Media Product and Innovation	National Football League
Ali Towle	VP of Marketing	San Francisco 49ers
Kelly Urquhart-Kozole	VP of Events	Detroit Lions
Christine Vicari	VP of Labor Finance	National Football League
Jaime Weston	SVP of Marketing, Creative and Branding	National Football League
Cathy Yancy	VP of Rights, Policies & Compliance – NFL Media	National Football League
Denise DeBartolo York	Co-Chairman	San Francisco 49ers

ACCOMPLISHED IN THEIR OWN RIGHT

The NFL family is filled with many women who are accomplished without ever setting a passing record or scoring a touchdown.

Some of the accomplished women who have family ties to NFL players or coaches:

NAME	ACCOMPLISHMENTS/CLAIM TO FAME	RELATION TO NFL PLAYER/COACH
Gisele Bundchen	Supermodel and actress who has appeared on more magazine covers than any model. Participates in multiple charities and humanitarian causes, including the <i>I am African</i> campaign and <i>(Product) Red</i> project, both of which raise awareness and funds to help defeat AIDS in Africa.	Wife of New England QB Tom Brady
Nikki Caldwell	Won national championships as both a player and assistant coach at the University of Tennessee. Women's basketball head coach at LSU.	Niece of Arizona LB coach Mike Caldwell
Kristin Cavallari	Fashion designer, actress and TV personality	Wife of Chicago QB Jay Cutler
Sabrina Felton-Curtis	Former professional gymnast who competed in the Olympics	Mother of Buffalo FB Jerome Felton
Shannon Dawson	Professional singer who toured as a backup singer for Wayne Newton in Las Vegas. Also sang at George W. Bush's Inauguration after he was elected Governor of Texas (1994). Is currently recording a country/contemporary Christian mix album.	Wife of San Francisco K Phil Dawson
Christy Denney	Author of both <i>The Girl Who Ate Everything</i> blog and <i>The Girl Who Ate Everything: Easy Family Recipes From a Girl Who Has Tried Them All</i> cook book	Wife of Miami LS John Denney
Mackenzie Flannigan	Boise State standout track and field sprinter. 2014 Mountain West Indoor Champion (60m)	Fiancé of Miami CB Jamar Taylor
Angela Forsett	Former Olympic volleyball player	Wife of Baltimore RB Justin Forsett
Miko Grimes	Former professional basketball player	Wife of Miami CB Brent Grimes
Elisabeth Hasselbeck	Television personality and talk show host	Sister-in-law of Indianapolis QB Matt Hasselbeck
Ashley Iupati	Nine-time BMX bicycle world champion racer as a youth	Wife of Arizona G Mike Iupati
Whitney Jones	Played basketball at the University of Oklahoma and was drafted by the WNBA's San Antonio Silver Stars in 2012. While at Oklahoma, Whitney and Carlee Roethlisberger, sister of Steelers QB Ben Roethlisberger, were teammates.	Wife of Pittsburgh QB Landry Jones
Jayme Miller	Rodeo barrel racer	Wife of Minnesota DE Brian Robison
Olivia Munn	Actress	Girlfriend of Green Bay QB Aaron Rodgers
Emily Nelson	Former Bethel College women's basketball player	Wife of Green Bay WR Jordy Nelson
Samantha Ponder	TV personality and sideline reporter for ESPN	Wife of Oakland QB Christian Ponder
Kylie Price	Former UCLA All-American long jumper on the women's track and field team	Sister of Indianapolis CB Sheldon Price
Sanya Richards-Ross	Won Gold Medals in the 2004, 2008 and 2012 Olympics as a member of the USA's 4 x 400 meter relay team	Wife of Baltimore CB Aaron Ross
Ngum Suh	Former fitness trainer, model and Cameroon national team soccer player	Sister of Miami DT Ndamukong Suh
Annie Thomas	Cleveland State women's basketball assistant coach. Played basketball for the University of Wisconsin	Wife of Cleveland T Joe Thomas
Jordan Trgovac	Plays softball at College of Charleston	Daughter of Green Bay DL coach Mike Trgovac
Marissa Van Noy	2013 Miss Utah USA	Wife of Detroit LB Kyle Van Noy
Kirsten Watson	Former University of Georgia softball player	Wife of New Orleans TE Benjamin Watson
Felicia Wootton	Former Chicago Sky WNBA player	Wife of Detroit DE Corey Wootton
Stephanie Worthy	Former basketball player at Central State University	Mother of Kansas City DE Jerel Worthy



Mackenzie Flannigan



Angela Forsett



Olivia Munn



Annie Thomas

FOOTBALL REMAINS MOST POPULAR HIGH SCHOOL SPORT

Football continues to lead the high school sports landscape with more than one million participants for the 16th consecutive year. And participation last year increased for the first time in five years.

The number of boys playing high school football – totaling 11, nine, eight and six-player teams – led all sports with 1,122,024 participants, according to the most recently published National Federation of State High School Associations participation survey (2013-14 school year).

The 1,122,024 boys involved in the sport account for approximately 25 percent of the 4,527,994 boys that participate in athletics and is significantly larger than the next most-played sport, outdoor track and field, in which 580,321 boys participated.

MOST POPULAR BOYS HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

SPORT	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS
Football	1,122,024
Outdoor Track and Field	580,321
Basketball	541,054
Baseball	482,629
Soccer	417,419

Texas is home to the most high school student-athletes playing 11-man football with 164,554 participants. Florida, however, had the most players selected in the 2015 NFL Draft with 39.

The breakdown of states with double-digit players selected in the 2015 NFL Draft:

STATE	PLAYERS DRAFTED
Florida	39
Georgia	30
Texas	27

STATE	PLAYERS DRAFTED
California	26
Alabama	14
Ohio	10

A total of 240 high schools contributed to the 256 players selected in the 2015 draft.

Saint Thomas Aquinas High School (left) in Fort Lauderdale, Florida led all high schools with three players selected – **PHILLIP DORSETT** (Indianapolis, first round), **RASHAD GREENE** (Jacksonville, fifth round) and **BOBBY HART** (New York Giants, seventh round).

The breakdown of the 15 high schools that had multiple players drafted by NFL clubs in 2015:

HIGH SCHOOL	TOTAL	PLAYERS (NFL TEAM/ROUND)
Saint Thomas Aquinas (Fort Lauderdale, FL)	3	Phillip Dorsett (Indianapolis/1); Rashad Greene (Jacksonville/5); Bobby Hart (New York Giants/7)
Billy Ryan (Denton, TX)	2	Mario Edwards, Jr. (Oakland/2); Bud Sasser (St. Louis/6)
Grant (Sacramento, CA)	2	Shaq Thompson (Carolina/1); James Sample (Jacksonville/4)
Hutchinson (Hutchinson, KS)	2	Geneo Grissom (New England/3); Ben Heeney (Oakland/5)
Jackson (Jackson, GA)	2	Lorenzo Mauldin (New York Jets/3); Neiron Ball (Oakland/5)
Lakewood (Saint Petersburg, FL)	2	Dante Fowler, Jr. (Jacksonville/1); Austin Reiter (Washington/7)
Mary D. Bradford (Kenosha, WI)	2	Trae Waynes (Minnesota/1); Melvin Gordon (San Diego/1)
Miami Central (Miami, FL)	2	John Miller (Buffalo/3); Charles Gaines (Cleveland/6)
Miami Norland (Miami, FL)	2	Ereck Flowers (New York Giants/1); Duke Johnson (Cleveland/3)
Miami Northwestern (Miami, FL)	2	Amari Cooper (Oakland/1); Tray Walker (Baltimore/4)
Norcross (Norcross, GA)	2	Max Garcia (Denver/4); Jeremy Davis (New York Giants/6)
North Gwinnett (Suwanee, GA)	2	C.J. Uzomah (Cincinnati/5); Austin Shepherd (Minnesota/7)
Oxford (Oxford, AL)	2	Kwon Alexander (Tampa Bay/4); Bobby McCain (Miami/5)
Stephenson (DeKalb County, GA)	2	Preston Smith (Washington/2); Mike Davis (San Francisco/4)
Vigor (Mobile, AL)	2	Jalston Fowler (Tennessee/4); Darius Philon (San Diego/6)





YOUTH FOOTBALL SCORES WITH KIDS

Whether they're in elementary school or high school, boys and girls of all ages have embraced the opportunity to learn football skills and get active through **PUNT, PASS & KICK**, **NFL FLAG** and the **HIGH SCHOOL PLAYER DEVELOPMENT** program.

Punt, Pass & Kick and NFL FLAG are both powered by USA Football, the sport's national governing body.

Punt, Pass & Kick is the NFL's oldest grassroots program. It reached more than 210,000 boys and girls last year. The program offers a free national skills competition for boys and girls between the ages of 6-15. Many NFL greats, including **TROY AIKMAN**, **BRETT FAVRE** and **ANDY REID**, took part in the program as children. Punt, Pass & Kick consists of four levels of competition – local, sectional, team championships and nationals. National finalists are recognized on-field during an award presentation during an NFL Divisional Playoff game.

NFL FLAG is a fun and dynamic non-contact football experience where kids can develop skills and learn lessons in teamwork, dedication and discipline. The program had more than 260,000 boys and girls, ages 5-17, participate last year. In the weeks leading up to the NFL FLAG championship game, NFL clubs host regional tournaments, giving participants the chance to interact with their favorite teams. The season culminates with 32 teams competing at the annual NFL FLAG powered by USA Football National Championships.

To further expand the reach of flag football, the NFL, USA Football, GENYOUth and Fuel Up to Play 60 announced that they would be providing NFL FLAG Essentials Kits to one million students across 2,500 schools nationwide, made possible by a \$1 million commitment from the NFL Foundation. The kits include footballs, flag belts, posters and a PE curriculum designed for elementary and middle school students.

Additionally, the NFL, through the NFL-USA Football Girls Flag Program, remains committed to helping establish girls flag football as a high school sport throughout the country and aims to encourage schools to offer flag football as a varsity sport for girls. "More girls are playing high school flag football than ever before," says **SAMANTHA RAPOPORT**, director of football development for USA Football. "The fun and excitement of this team sport captures the imagination whether you're playing it or following it as a fan. High schools across the country put our program to work to enable more student-athletes to gain significant fitness and social benefits through football."

In 2008, the NFL identified 10 cities with high levels of interest in recreational girls flag football and selected one girl in each city to advocate for the establishment of girls flag football as a high school sport. The NFL worked with each one of these representatives as she championed for the establishment of girls flag football in her school district. The NFL helped subsidize the programs for every high school that agreed to sanction girls flag programs, providing free equipment as well as coaching and officiating manuals.

"It was at the high school level, but now we are expanding to all levels of school: elementary, junior, and high schools," says Rapoport. "In flag football, there's really a position for every girl. However big you are, however small you are, however fast, there is a position for you on the field. So it lends itself well to attracting girls from all walks of life."

The breakdown of girls high school football participants during the 2012-13 and 2013-14 school years, according to the NFHS:

PROGRAM	NUMBER OF 2012-13 PARTICIPANTS	NUMBER OF 2013-14 PARTICIPANTS
Flag football	7,019	8,836
11-player (tackle)	1,531	1,715

The NFL's High School Player Development (HSPD) program focuses on skills and character development lessons for adolescent players. Since its inception in 2001, the HSPD program has provided participants with a curriculum that focuses on inspiring excellence in the classroom, community and on the playing field. The program is free for students and available in select markets during the summer.

The character development and life skills portion of the program features guest speakers and discussions on life after high school. Participants learn about the importance of time management, setting goals, sportsmanship and teamwork. Students also take part in a session about player safety, including concussion treatment and management.

NFL players who are graduates of the program include Carolina Panthers quarterback **CAM NEWTON**.



**THE NFL FOUNDATION AND LOCAL INITIATIVES SUPPORT CORPORATION
ANNOUNCE \$2.5 MILLION IN FIELD GRANTS AS PART OF
THE NFL FOUNDATION GRASSROOTS PROGRAM**

The **NFL FOUNDATION** joined with **LOCAL INITIATIVES SUPPORT CORPORATION (LISC)** this summer to announce \$2.5 million in field grants through the **NFL FOUNDATION GRASSROOTS PROGRAM** as part of the NFL’s 16-year, \$39 million commitment to enhancing low-income communities.

The program, a partnership between the NFL Foundation and LISC, the nation’s leading community development support corporation, has provided grants for 306 projects in more than 120 cities nationwide. The program’s goal is to provide nonprofit, neighborhood-based organizations with financial and technical assistance to improve the quality, safety and accessibility of local football fields. The fields are newly built or significantly renovated, with improvements such as irrigation systems, lights, bleachers, scoreboards, goal posts and turf. The Grassroots Program provides grants of up to \$200,000 per project for capital improvements.

This year’s field grants went to the following projects in NFL markets:

TEAM	RECIPIENT ORGANIZATION	FIELD	LOCATION
Arizona Cardinals	Tempe Elementary School District No. 3	Threw Elementary School – Escalante Park Field	Tempe, AZ
Buffalo Bills	Rochester City School District	Rochester City School – Franklin Campus Football Field	Rochester, NY
Carolina Panthers	Jackson County Public School District	Smoky Mountain High School Football Field	Sylva, NC
Chicago Bears	Peoria Public School District 150	Manual Academy Football Field	Peoria, IL
Denver Broncos	High Point Academy	High Point Academy Football Field	Aurora, CO
Detroit Lions	S.A.Y. Detroit	Detroit Play Center Football Field	Detroit, MI
Green Bay Packers	La Crosse School District	Logan High School – Swanson Field Football Stadium	La Crosse, WI
Jacksonville Jaguars	Metro North CDC	Scott Park Football Field	Jacksonville, FL
Kansas City Chiefs	Kansas City Public Schools	Northeast Campus Football Field	Kansas City, MO
Minnesota Vikings	Neighborhood House	El Rio Vista Field	St. Paul, MN
New York Giants	Friends of TEAM Charter Schools	Newark Collegiate Academy Field	Newark, NJ
Oakland Raiders	East Bay Asian Youth Center	Elmhurst Middle Campus Field	Oakland, CA
Pittsburgh Steelers	Windber Area School District	Windber Stadium	Windber, PA
St. Louis Rams	Mathews-Dickey Boys & Girls Club	James “Cool Papa” Bell Stadium	St. Louis, MO
Tampa Bay Buccaneers	Can-Do, Inc.	Jackson Heights NFL YET/Community Center Field	Tampa, FL

“The NFL Foundation is pleased to continue its work with LISC in improving the quality, safety and accessibility of fields in communities nationwide,” says Dallas Cowboys Executive Vice President **CHARLOTTE JONES ANDERSON** (right), Chairman of the NFL Foundation. “The revitalization of these fields will provide safe places for communities to come together, ‘Play 60’ and enjoy the many benefits of sports participation.”



LISC identifies local, nonprofit, neighborhood-based agencies with an interest in building or refurbishing football fields in schools and parks. Through the program, the local agencies are provided with the necessary financing and technical assistance to improve the quality and safety of fields in their neighborhoods. The local agencies oversee the construction, maintenance and programming of the fields.

The NFL Foundation works with LISC to improve the health and safety of the young football players who use the fields and encourages the organizations that use the fields to have their football coaches educated and certified by USA Football.

“These fields are useful in so many ways,” says **MICHAEL RUBINGER**, LISC President and CEO. “With them, local organizations can promote good physical fitness, teamwork, and community spirit – all critical elements of neighborhood health. The NFL Foundation has been a great partner in creating these essential community assets.”



NFL FOOTBALL OFFICIATING ACADEMY

Every NFL game has a third team on the field: the officiating crew. NFL officials are the best of the best – only 122 officials currently have the privilege of calling football games at the sport’s highest level. The NFL’s Officiating Department continuously develops a talent pipeline to ensure that the next generation of officials is ready to step up when needed.

The NFL’s **FOOTBALL OFFICIATING ACADEMY** (FOA) broadens the national pool of officials while educating participants about the officiating profession. The program provides men and women, ages 17–30, with a one-day officiating workshop that teaches basic skills and provides opportunities to secure entry-level positions. Participants are instructed by high school and college level officials who teach penalty enforcement, standard officiating philosophies, proper mechanics and more.



In April, the NFL announced that **SARAH THOMAS** (left) will join the NFL as a line judge, making her the first full-time female NFL official. Thomas will be the only female official working NFL games this season but others could join in the future. There are a number of women in various stages of the NFL’s development program, including one at the advanced level from which new officials are currently selected.

The FOA trains former NFL players to become officials at the **LEGENDS OFFICIATING DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM**. Former players travel to the regional combines to talk to potential players about the possibility of transitioning to officiating after they retire.

This year’s program took place in Baltimore in March. Former players and current NFL Player Engagement executives **KEITH ELIAS** and **DWIGHT HOLLIER** were among those who spoke with participants about the transition.

“The transition of our former players into officiating is a natural fit,” says NFL Director of Football Development **MATT BIRK**, who played 14 seasons in the NFL. “Not only do our players have high football intelligence, but they understand the game from multiple perspectives. We need to encourage more former players to explore officiating as a way to stay involved in football and, quite possibly, as a career.”

The clinic included classroom and on-field instruction, breakouts by position group and on-field scrimmage work. Instructors included current and former officials and officiating supervisors at all levels including Super Bowl XLVIII referee **TERRY MC AULAY** and Super Bowl XLIX field judge **BOB WAGGONER**. Former NFL official **RON BAYNES** provided the keynote address.

Several former players from the classes of 2013 and 2014 co-hosted the event, including **CHARLES ALI**, **RICK DEMULLING**, **NATE JONES**, **TERRY KILLENS**, **LANDON TRUSTY** and **WILLIAM THOMAS**, all whom have collectively worked more than 300 football games ranging from pee-wee to Division I.

“My experience with the NFL Officiating Development program has been nothing short of outstanding,” says Jones. “I’ve made tremendous strides in my first two years by taking full advantage of the resources at my disposal. I can say without a doubt this has been my best career decision since I retired from the league.”

For more information on the NFL’s FOA, visit www.nflofficiating.com.



East Tennessee State



Kennesaw State



Finlandia



Lyon College

FOUR COLLEGES TO ADD FOOTBALL PROGRAMS IN 2015

As the anticipation for football season continues to build, fans can look forward to more action on college campuses this fall. Four colleges will add football programs in 2015 – **EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY, FINLANDIA UNIVERSITY, KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY** and **LYON COLLEGE**.

Since 2008, a total of 56 NCAA and NAIA schools have added football teams and seven additional schools plan to add football programs by 2018.

According to the National Football Foundation, a record 773 colleges/universities will have football programs by 2018.

“It’s a great feeling, especially 11 years after the fact, to see football back for the first time since 2003,” says East Tennessee head coach **CARL TORBUSH**. “It’s an exciting time. I told our players they need to understand this is a great moment, not only for ETSU, but for you because you represent us and you’re going to get us to where we need to be.”

Three of the four colleges adding a football program this year will join the NCAA – East Tennessee State University (Johnson City, Tennessee), Finlandia University (Hancock, Michigan) and Kennesaw State University (Kennesaw, Georgia). Lyon College (Batesville, Arkansas) will be a member of the NAIA.

“I am convinced that growing our NCAA Division III programs reaps benefits for all our students and our entire campus community,” says Finlandia President **PHILIP JOHNSON**. “It is good for all of Finlandia. It is good for the Copper Country. It is good for the Upper Peninsula. So let’s do some good.”

Five schools plan to add football programs in 2016. Additionally, the **UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA AT BIRMINGHAM** (Birmingham, Alabama) has reinstated its football program and looks to rejoin the NCAA as a Division I-Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) program in either 2016 or 2017.

A list of colleges that plan to add football programs by 2018:

<u>COLLEGE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>START DATE/LEVEL</u>
East Tennessee State	Johnson City, TN	2015-NCAA, Div. II
Kennesaw State	Kennesaw, GA	2015-NCAA, Div. II
Finlandia	Hancock, MI	2015-NCAA, Div. III
Lyon College	Batesville, AR	2015-NAIA
Texas of the Permian Basin	Odessa, TX	2016-NCAA, Div. II
West Florida	Pensacola, FL	2016-NCAA, Div. II
Cincinnati Christian	Cincinnati, OH	2016-NAIA
Davenport	Grand Rapids, MI	2016-NAIA
Mothland College	West Frankfort, IL	2016-TBD
Alabama at Birmingham	Birmingham, AL	2016 or 2017-NCAA, Div. I-FBS
New England	Biddeford, ME	2017-NCAA, Div. III
Clarke	Dubuque, IA	2018-NAIA

OVERTIME EXCITEMENT

In 2014, an impressive 64 percent of all games were within one score in the fourth quarter.

With so many close games, it's no surprise that 11 were ultimately decided in overtime.

From Atlanta's 37-34 overtime decision against New Orleans on Kickoff Weekend to Minnesota's 30-24 overtime victory against the New York Jets in December (below right), 2014 was full of thrilling OT action. Seattle added to the excitement with two OT classics, first defeating Denver in a Super Bowl XLVIII rematch in Week 3 and then in a 28-22 victory over Green Bay in the NFC Championship Game to clinch a spot in Super Bowl XLIX (below left).

See page 515 of the *2015 NFL Record & Fact Book* for all of last season's overtime game summaries.

The NFL teams with the best overtime records since overtime was instituted in 1974:

TEAM	RECORD	WIN PCT.
Washington	25-14-1	.638
Arizona	24-16-2	.595
Denver	25-17-2	.591
Buffalo	20-14-0	.588
Pittsburgh	21-15-2	.579

A sampling of individual overtime records:

LONGEST TOUCHDOWN PASS

99 Yards	Ron Jaworski to Mike Quick, Philadelphia 23, Atlanta 17 (11/10/85)
87 Yards	Teddy Bridgewater to Jarius Wright, Minnesota 30, New York Jets 24 (12/7/14)
82 Yards	Tom Brady to Troy Brown, New England 19, Miami 13 (10/19/03)
	Brett Favre to Greg Jennings, Green Bay 19, Denver 13 (10/29/07)

LONGEST TOUCHDOWN PLAYS

99 Yards	(Pass) Ron Jaworski to Mike Quick, Philadelphia 23, Atlanta 17 (11/10/85)
	(Punt return) Patrick Peterson, Arizona 19, St. Louis 13 (11/6/11)
96 Yards	(Run) Garrison Hearst, San Francisco 36, New York Jets 30 (9/6/98)
	(Kickoff return) Chad Morton, New York Jets 37, Buffalo 31 (9/8/02)

LONGEST TOUCHDOWN RUN

96 Yards	Garrison Hearst, San Francisco 36, New York Jets 30 (9/6/98)
60 Yards	Herschel Walker, Dallas 23, New England 17 (11/15/87)
50 Yards	Rashard Mendenhall, Pittsburgh 15, Atlanta 9 (9/12/10)

LONGEST FIELD GOAL

57 Yards	Sebastian Janikowski, Oakland 16, New York Jets 13 (10/19/08)
54 Yards	Greg Zuerlein, St. Louis 16, San Francisco 13 (12/2/12)
53 Yards	Chris Jacke, Green Bay 23, San Francisco 20 (10/4/96)



MODIFIED SUDDEN DEATH OVERTIME

For the 2010 postseason, the NFL installed a modified sudden death overtime system to determine the winner when the score is tied at the end of regulation. In 2012, the system was expanded to cover all NFL games.

Teams have the opportunity to possess the ball at least once in the extra period unless the team that receives the overtime kickoff scores a touchdown on its first possession.

A look at the NFL's overtime procedures:

<u>PRESEASON AND REGULAR SEASON</u>	<u>POSTSEASON</u>
<p>At the end of regulation time, the referee will immediately toss a coin at the center of the field in accordance with rules pertaining to the usual pregame toss. The captain of the visiting team will call the toss prior to the coin being flipped.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Following a three-minute intermission after the end of the regulation game, there shall be a maximum of one 15-minute period. Each team must possess or have the opportunity to possess the ball unless the team that has the ball first scores a touchdown on its initial possession.• Play continues in sudden death until a winner is determined, and the game automatically ends upon any score (by safety, field goal, or touchdown) or when a score is awarded by the referee for a palpably unfair act. Each team shall be entitled to two timeouts, and if there is an excess timeout, the usual rules shall apply. The try is not attempted if a touchdown is scored. Disqualified players are not allowed to return.• If the score is tied at the end of the 15-minute overtime period, the game shall result in a tie.• Instant Replay: No challenges. Reviews to be initiated by the replay official.	<p>At the end of regulation time, the referee will immediately toss a coin at the center of the field in accordance with rules pertaining to the usual pregame toss. The captain of the visiting team will call the toss prior to the coin being flipped.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Following a three-minute intermission after the end of the regulation game, play will be continued in 15-minute periods until a winner is declared. Each team must possess or have the opportunity to possess the ball unless the team that has the ball first scores a touchdown on its initial possession.• Play continues in sudden death until a winner is determined, and the game automatically ends upon any score (by safety, field goal, or touchdown) or when a score is awarded by the referee for a palpably unfair act. Each team has three time outs per half and all general timing provisions apply as during a regular game. The try is not attempted if a touchdown is scored. Disqualified players are not allowed to return.• Instant Replay: No challenges. Reviews to be initiated by the replay official.
<p><u>Key Definitions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Possession: Actual possession of the ball with complete control. The defense gains possession when it catches, intercepts, or recovers a loose ball.• Opportunity to possess: The opportunity to possess occurs only during kicking plays. A kickoff is an opportunity to possess for the receiving team. If the kicking team legally recovers the kick, the receiving team is considered to have had its opportunity. A punt or a field goal that crosses the line of scrimmage and is muffed by the receiving team is considered to be an opportunity to possess for the receivers. Normal touching rules by the kicking team apply.	

THE FAMOUS LOVE THE NFL

If you take your eyes off the stars on the field, you can't help but notice the stars in the stands. Famous NFL fans are everywhere – even in other sports! From athletes and politicians to actors and singers, celebrities of all varieties love the NFL and proudly show their allegiances with gear, game day attendance and even ownership.



Fans love to cheer for their home team. Shouting for their Chicago Bears are comedians – and Illinois natives – **CECILY STRONG** and **NICK OFFERMAN**. Born in Pennsylvania, actor **MICHAEL KEATON**, retired professional golfer **ARNOLD PALMER**, and rapper **MAC MILLER** wave their Terrible Towels while cheering on the Pittsburgh Steelers. And backing up the Buffalo Bills is Chicago Blackhawks winger and Stanley Cup champion **PATRICK KANE**, who hails from New York.

Athletes from other sports take breaks from practice to catch games on Sundays, including Olympic gold medalists: skier **LINDSEY VONN** pulls for the Minnesota Vikings and the New York Liberty's **SWIN CASH** touts the Steelers. New York Yankees star and Miami native **ALEX RODRIGUEZ** pulls for his Dolphins while NBA stars **STEPHEN CURRY**'s (Carolina Panthers) **CARMELO ANTHONY**'s (Baltimore Ravens) and **DWYANE WADE**'s (Chicago Bears) (left with Bears QB Jay Cutler) rooting interests are based on their hometowns.

Whether in the stands or watching from home, NFL fans cheer for their teams from all over. Behind their desks in New York City, TV anchors **ROBIN ROBERTS** and **HODA KOTB** can be heard chanting 'Who Dat' for the New Orleans Saints. On tour, One Direction's **HARRY STYLES** (Green Bay Packers), Bon Jovi front-man **JON BON JOVI** (New York Giants) and rapper **LUPE FIASCO** (Bears) tune in and root for their favorite teams. On set, stars like rapper/actor **ICE CUBE** (Oakland Raiders), **HALLE BERRY** (Cleveland Browns) and *Modern Family*'s **ERIC STONESTREET** (Kansas City Chiefs) keep tabs on their NFL teams.

Some celebrities and their favorite NFL teams:

NAME	FAVORITE TEAM
Carmelo Anthony, New York Knicks	Baltimore Ravens
Roseanne Barr, Comedian	Denver Broncos
Halle Berry, Actress	Cleveland Browns
Wolf Blitzer, CNN Broadcaster	Buffalo Bills
George W. Bush, Former President	Houston Texans
Swin Cash, New York Liberty	Pittsburgh Steelers
Kenny Chesney, Musician	New Orleans Saints
Kevin Connors, ESPN Broadcaster	Buffalo Bills
Bradley Cooper, Actor	Philadelphia Eagles
Stephen Curry, Golden State Warriors	Carolina Panthers
Brooklyn Decker, Model	Carolina Panthers
Ellen DeGeneres, Comedian	New Orleans Saints
Josh Duhamel, Actor	Minnesota Vikings
Dale Earnhardt Jr., NASCAR Driver	Washington Redskins
Zac Efron, Actor	New Orleans Saints
Eminem, Rap Artist	Detroit Lions
Jerry Ferrara, Actor	New York Giants
Will Ferrell, Actor	Green Bay Packers
Guy Fieri, Restaurateur	Oakland Raiders
Mardy Fish, Tennis Player	Minnesota Vikings
Jim Furyk, PGA Golfer	Pittsburgh Steelers
Gene Hackman, Actor/Novelist	Jacksonville Jaguars
Colin Hanks, Actor	San Francisco 49ers
Udonis Haslem, Miami Heat	Miami Dolphins
Faith Hill, Singer	Tennessee Titans
Bonnie Hunt, Actress	Chicago Bears
Ice Cube, Rapper/ Actor	Oakland Raiders
Samuel L. Jackson, Actor	Atlanta Falcons
LeBron James, Cleveland Cavaliers	Dallas Cowboys
Jon Bon Jovi, Musician	New York Giants
Patrick Kane, Chicago Blackhawks	Buffalo Bills
Michael Keaton, Actor	Pittsburgh Steelers
Stacy Keibler, Model	Baltimore Ravens
Toby Keith, Singer	Pittsburgh Steelers
David Koehnner, Actor	Kansas City Chiefs
Hoda Kotb	New Orleans Saints
Ashton Kutcher, Actor	Chicago Bears
Nick Lachey, Singer	Cincinnati Bengals
Spike Lee, Director	New York Giants

NAME	FAVORITE TEAM
David Letterman, Comedian	Indianapolis Colts
Lil Wayne, Rapper	Green Bay Packers
Adriana Lima, Supermodel	Miami Dolphins
LL Cool J, Rapper/Actor	New York Giants
George Lopez, Actor/Comedian	Chicago Bears
Lupe Fiasco, Rapper	Chicago Bears
Anthony Mackie, Actor	Cleveland Browns
Macklemore, Rapper	Seattle Seahawks
MC Hammer, Rapper	Oakland Raiders
John McCain, Arizona Senator	Arizona Cardinals
Phil Mickelson, Professional Golfer	San Diego Chargers
Mac Miller, Rapper	Pittsburgh Steelers
Nelly, Rapper	St. Louis Rams
Jerry O'Connell, Actor	San Diego Chargers
Nick Offerman, Actor	Chicago Bears
Arnold Palmer, Retired Golfer	Pittsburgh Steelers
Jabari Parker, Milwaukee Bucks	Green Bay Packers
Brad Pitt, Actor	New Orleans Saints
Jeremy Piven, Actor	Chicago Bears
Dennis Quaid, Actor	New Orleans Saints
Queen Latifah, Actress	New York Giants
Condoleezza Rice, Politician	Cleveland Browns
Rick Ross, Rapper	Miami Dolphins
Robin Roberts, TV Anchor	New Orleans Saints
Alex Rodriguez, New York Yankees	Miami Dolphins
Derrick Rose, Chicago Bulls	Chicago Bears
Darius Rucker, Musician	Miami Dolphins
Adam Sandler, Actor	New York Jets
Britney Spears, Singer	New Orleans Saints
Harry Styles, Singer	Green Bay Packers
Eric Stonestreet, Actor	Kansas City Chiefs
Cecily Strong, Actress	Chicago Bears
Jason Sudeikis, Actor	Kansas City Chiefs
Nick Swardson, Comedian	Minnesota Vikings
James Van Der Beek, Actor	Green Bay Packers
Dick Vitale, ESPN Broadcaster	Tampa Bay Buccaneers
Lindsey Vonn, Olympic Skier	Minnesota Vikings
Dwyane Wade, Miami Heat	Chicago Bears
Mark Wahlberg, Actor	New England Patriots

68 YEARS AGO ON OPENING DAY: A RECORD 87 POINTS!



Sixty-eight years ago, the **WASHINGTON REDSKINS** and **PHILADELPHIA EAGLES** opened the 1947 season with a record-breaking bang. The Eagles outscored the Redskins 45-42 on September 28 before a crowd of 35,406 in Philadelphia's Municipal Stadium. The 87-point total was an NFL record and continues to stand as the most points scored in a game on Kickoff Weekend. (The record for most combined points in any NFL game is 113 by Washington (72) and the New York Giants (41) on November 27, 1966.)

The 12-touchdown scoring blitz, an NFL record at the time, was highlighted by the play of two future Pro Football Hall of Famers – Washington quarterback **SAMMY BAUGH** (left) and Philadelphia halfback **STEVE VAN BUREN**.

Baugh, whose 1947 totals in completions (210), attempts (354) and yards passing (2,938) were NFL records, threw for 364 yards and five touchdowns, including three to rookie end **HUGH TAYLOR**. Van Buren, whose 1,008 rushing yards for the year were also a league record, returned a kickoff 95 yards for a touchdown and rushed for another while totaling 98 yards on the ground.

September 28, 1947, Municipal Stadium, Philadelphia, PA

Washington	0	14	14	14	--	42
Philadelphia	10	14	14	7	--	45

Phi -	FG Muha 40
Phi -	Pihos 19 pass from Thompson (Patton kick)
Was -	Nussbaumer 25 pass from Baugh (Poillon kick)
Was -	Taylor 62 pass from Baugh (Poillon kick)
Phi -	Van Buren 95 kickoff return (Patton kick)
Phi -	Sherman 1 run (Patton kick)
Was -	Saenz 94 kickoff return (Poillon kick)
Phi -	Van Buren 1 run (Patton kick)
Phi -	Pihos 21 pass from Thompson (Patton kick)
Was -	Poillon 4 pass from Baugh (Poillon kick)
Phi -	Armstrong 29 pass from Thompson (Patton kick)
Was -	Taylor 36 pass from Baugh (Poillon kick)
Was -	Taylor 18 pass from Baugh (Poillon kick)

The highest scoring games on Kickoff Weekend in NFL history:

DATE	GAME	COMBINED POINTS
September 28, 1947	Philadelphia (45) vs. Washington (42)	87
September 19, 1971	Dallas (49) vs. Buffalo (37)	86
September 19, 1971	New York Giants (42) vs. Green Bay (40)	82
September 9, 2007	Dallas (45) vs. New York Giants (35)	80
September 4, 1983	Green Bay (41) vs. Houston (38) (OT)	79
September 8, 2002	Kansas City (40) vs. Cleveland (39)	79

The record for most combined points in any NFL game is 113 by Washington (72) and the New York Giants (41) on November 27, 1966.

The highest scoring games in NFL history:

DATE	GAME	COMBINED POINTS
November 27, 1966	Washington (72) vs. New York Giants (41)	113
November 28, 2004	Cincinnati (58) vs. Cleveland (48)	106
December 22, 1963	Oakland (52) vs. Houston (49)	101
October 6, 2013	Denver (51) vs. Dallas (48)	99
November 27, 1983	Seattle (51) vs. Kansas City (48) (OT)	99
October 17, 1948	Chicago Cardinals (63) vs. New York Giants (35)	98
December 8, 1985	San Diego (54) vs. Pittsburgh (44)	98

64 YEARS AGO ON KICKOFF WEEKEND: THE DUTCHMAN GOES WILD!



Los Angeles Rams quarterback **NORM “THE DUTCHMAN” VAN BROCKLIN** (left) entered the 1951 season entrenched in a duel for the starting position with veteran **BOB WATERFIELD**. A Waterfield injury sidelined the incumbent quarterback prior to the season opener against the New York Yanks on September 28, and opened the door for Van Brocklin to show his worth. He took advantage of the opportunity by producing the most prolific passing performance in NFL history. Van Brocklin threw for an NFL-record 554 yards in a 54-14 rout of the Yanks at the Los Angeles Coliseum. The Pro Football Hall of Fame quarterback tossed five touchdowns and completed 27 of 41 passes.

“It’s the finest exhibition of passing I’ve ever seen,” said Rams coach **JIMMY PHELAN** after the game. “Van Brocklin was hitting them in the eye practically every time he threw the ball.”

Van Brocklin, who passed away in 1983, remained subdued about the performance. “Everything I threw seemed to be caught and run for a long gain,” he said.

The Rams’ **TOM FEARS** averaged 23.1 yards on his seven catches and **ELROY “CRAZYLEGS” HIRSCH** averaged 19.2 yards on nine receptions. Los Angeles amassed an NFL-record 735 total yards and 34 first downs.

“They don’t need me out here anymore,” said Waterfield after the game. The two quarterbacks would split time for the rest of the season as the Rams captured the 1951 NFL Championship.

Van Brocklin’s record has stood for the past 64 years. Quarterbacks **MATT SCHAUB** and **WARREN MOON** have come the closest to breaking Van Brocklin’s mark. In 2012, Schaub, then with the Houston Texans, passed for 527 yards against Jacksonville on November 18, while Moon had a 527-yard day for the Houston Oilers against Kansas City on December 16, 1990.

The top passing performances in various levels of football:

LEAGUE	QUARTERBACK	DATE	PERFORMANCE
High School	Will Grier, Davidson Day (NC)	November 9, 2012	837 yards vs. Harrells Christian (NC)
NCAA Division III	Sam Durley, Eureka	September 1, 2012	736 yards vs. Knox
NCAA Division I-AA (FCS)	Taylor Heinicke, Old Dominion	September 22, 2012	730 yards vs. New Hampshire
NCAA Division I-A (FBS)	Connor Halliday, Washington State	October 4, 2014	734 yards vs. California
Canadian Football League	Matt Dunigan, Winnipeg	July 14, 1994	713 yards vs. Edmonton
NCAA Division II	J.J. Harp, Eastern New Mexico	September 12, 2009	695 yards vs. Southeastern OK.
NFL	<i>Norm Van Brocklin, LA Rams</i>	<i>September 28, 1951</i>	<i>554 yards vs. NY Yanks</i>



BEST OPENING MONTH RECORDS, PAST 10 YEARS

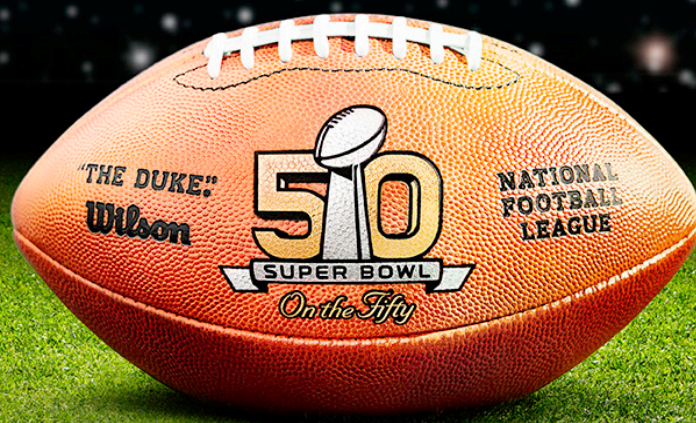
Getting off to a strong start is important.

Over the past 10 years, six teams have a winning percentage of at least .600 through the season’s first month. Those six clubs have combined for 41 playoff berths and 10 Super Bowl appearances, including four Super Bowl championships during that span.

The six teams with a .600+ winning percentage in the opening month over the past 10 seasons (2005-14):

TEAM	RECORD	PCT.
New England	23-10-0	.697
Baltimore	22-11-0	.667
Dallas	22-11-0	.667
Indianapolis	22-11-0	.667
Denver	22-12-0	.647
Seattle	21-12-0	.636

ANNIVERSARIES





ANNIVERSARY ANNALS

A sampling of 2015 NFL anniversaries:

Anniversary	Celebration
95th	The National Football League was born in Canton, Ohio on August 20, 1920.
90th	Tim Mara and Billy Gibson were awarded a new NFL franchise, the New York Giants, for \$500 (1925).
90th	All-America halfback Red Grange signed with the Chicago Bears. Team went on barnstorming tour of 19 games in 66 days (1925).
80th	The NFL adopted Bert Bell's proposal to hold an annual draft of college players, to begin in 1936, with teams selecting in an inverse order of finish, May 19 (1935).
80th	The New York Giants retired the uniform number of receiver Ray Flaherty (No. 1), thus becoming the first professional athlete to have his name and number retired (1935).
75th	Chicago defeated Washington 73-0 for the NFL championship in the most decisive victory in NFL history. The game popularized the Bears' T-formation with a man-in-motion. It was the first NFL championship carried on network radio (1940).
65th	The Los Angeles Rams became the first NFL team to have all of its games – both home and away – televised (1950).
60th	The Baltimore Colts made an 80-cent phone call to Johnny Unitas and signed him as a free agent (1955).
55th	Pete Rozelle was elected NFL Commissioner as a compromise choice on the 23rd ballot, January 26. Rozelle moved the league offices to New York City (1960).
50th	The NFL added a sixth official, the line judge, February 19. The color of the officials' penalty flags was changed from white to bright gold, April 5 (1965).
50th	Commissioner Rozelle negotiated an agreement on behalf of the NFL clubs to purchase Ed Sabol's Blair Motion Pictures, which was renamed NFL Films, April (1965).
50th	Field Judge Burl Toler became the first black official in NFL history, September 19 (1965).
50th	According to a Harris survey, sports fans chose professional football (41 percent) as their favorite sport, overtaking baseball (38 percent) for the first time, October (1965).
45th	The AFL and NFL merged into one league (1970).
45th	The Super Bowl trophy was renamed the Vince Lombardi trophy, September 10 (1970).
40th	Referees were equipped with wireless microphones for all preseason, regular-season, and playoff games (1975).
35th	Rules changes placed greater restrictions on contact in the area of the head, neck, and face. Under the heading of "personal foul," players were prohibited from directly striking, swinging, or clubbing on the head, neck, or face. Starting in 1980, a penalty could be called for such contact whether or not the initial contact was made below the neck area (1980).
35th	The NFL Draft was televised for the first time by ESPN, April 29 (1980).
30th	The 1985 Super Bowl XX champion Chicago Bears performed the Super Bowl Shuffle.
30th	The league-wide conversion to videotape from movie film for coaching study was approved (1985).
25th	The NFL revised its playoff format to include two additional Wild Card teams (one per conference), which raised the total to six Wild Card teams (1990).
25th	The bye week was introduced and the 16-game schedule was played over 17 weeks (1990).
25th	The Super Bowl Most Valuable Player trophy was renamed the Pete Rozelle trophy, October 8 (1990).
20th	The NFL became the first major sports league to establish a site on the Internet, April 10 (1995).
10th	The NFL Network began televising regular-season NFL games (2005).
5th	NFL owners voted to amend postseason overtime rules to a modified sudden death format, guaranteeing at least one possession for each club if the receiving team fails to score a touchdown on its first overtime possession, March 23 (2010).
5th	The NFL Draft debuted a new three-day format, with the first two days broadcast in primetime. A record combined total of 45.4 million viewers tuned in to watch the 75th NFL Draft on NFL Network, ESPN and ESPN2, April 22-24 (2010).

OWNER MILESTONES

Many NFL owners will be celebrating notable milestones in 2015, ranging from Chicago's **VIRGINIA H. MC CASKEY**, whose father, **GEORGE HALAS**, purchased the team 95 years ago when they were known as the Decatur Staleys, to Jacksonville's **SHAD KHAN**, who approaches his fifth season as an NFL owner.

Here are the major owner milestones for 2015:

FRANCHISE	OWNER	YEAR ACQUIRED	MILESTONE
Chicago Bears	Virginia H. McCaskey (Daughter of George Halas)	1921	95th Season
New York Giants	John K. Mara (Grandson of Tim Mara; son of Wellington Mara)	1925	90th Anniversary
New Orleans Saints	Tom Benson	1985	30th Anniversary
New York Giants	Steve and Jonathan Tisch (Sons of Preston Robert Tisch)	1991	25th Season
Tampa Bay Buccaneers	Family of Malcolm Glazer	1995	20th Anniversary
New York Jets	Robert Wood Johnson IV	2000	15th Anniversary
Minnesota Vikings	Zygi Wilf	2005	10th Anniversary
St. Louis Rams	Stan Kroenke	2010	5th Anniversary
Jacksonville Jaguars	Shad Khan	2011	5th Season



95TH ANNIVERSARY OF NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

On August 20, 1920, in the Jordan and Hupmobile auto showroom in Canton, Ohio, the National Football League was born.

Four independent professional football teams – the Akron Pros, Canton Bulldogs, Cleveland Indians, and Dayton Triangles – met to discuss the mounting problems facing the pro game, including rising salaries, the signing of college players while still in school, and players moving from team to team. The solution was to form a league. They called it the American Professional Football Conference.

On September 17, another meeting was held with more teams and the league's name was changed again to the American Professional Football Association (it was eventually changed to the **NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE** on June 24, 1922). **JIM THORPE** was also elected APFA president at the same meeting. A membership fee of \$100 per team was charged to give the appearance of respectability, but no team ever paid it. Scheduling was left up to the teams during that first season, and there were wide variations, both in the overall number of games played and in the number played against APFA member teams.

The first game featuring an APFA team was played on September 26. A crowd of 800 watched the Rock Island Independents defeat the St. Paul Ideals 48-0 at Rock Island's Douglas Park. A week later on October 3, the first game featuring two APFA teams took place between the Dayton Triangles and the Columbus Panhandles at Triangle Park in Dayton. Dayton won 14-0. The same day, Rock Island defeated the Muncie Flyers.

Since these humble beginnings, the NFL has grown into the nation's most popular sport with packed stadiums and record TV audiences.

THE EVOLUTION OF THE NFL SHIELD



1940



1940-1960



1960-1980



1980-2007



Present

90 YEARS AGO, RED GRANGE PUTS NFL ON MAP



It's hard to imagine today, but in 1925 the National Football League had difficulty attracting fans and desperately needed something to capture the public's attention. The NFL got exactly what it wished for that year when the Chicago Bears signed famed collegian **HAROLD "RED" GRANGE** (left), forever changing the league's fortunes and putting professional football on the map for good.

The "Galloping Ghost," as Grange was known, was already an iconic star from his days as an All-American halfback at the University of Illinois. When Grange made his debut with the Bears on Thanksgiving Day, 1925 against the cross-town rival Cardinals, a standing-room crowd of 36,600 – the largest in pro football history at the time – packed Cubs Park (now known as Wrigley Field) to get a glimpse of the young talent. From that 0-0 game in which Grange played offense, defense and special teams for the Bears, the club realized they had something special on their hands that fans wanted to see.

Over the next several months, the Bears toured the country barnstorming, showcasing Grange to countless fans who flocked to see him play. In the end, Grange completed a 10,000-mile, 19-game, 66-day odyssey across the U.S. (including eight games in 12 days). The journey brought the still-young National Football League its first national recognition.

The tour, arranged by promoter **C.C. (CHARLEY) PYLE** in conjunction with Bears owner **GEORGE HALAS** and **ED (DUTCH) STERNAMAN** concluded on January 31, 1926 in Seattle. In between, more than 400,000 fans saw the "Galloping Ghost." Three times, pro football attendance records were set, the last on January 16 when 75,000 people jammed the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum to see Grange face All-American halfback **GEORGE (WILDCAT) WILSON** of the University of Washington.

Undoubtedly many fans were enthralled by Grange's dazzling exploits, cultivating legions of new fans. For the first time in the league's infancy, it began to hold a place in national prominence.

In addition to the fans he brought to the stadiums, Grange's presence was also transformative because his extraordinary play was directly responsible for the decision by respected newspapers and sportswriters at the time to cover professional football. When reporters in Chicago, New York and Philadelphia began to cover Grange's games, many readers across the country were exposed to the NFL for the first time.

"No one will ever attempt anything like this again," said Grange after the tour. He was right.

Grange, who would go on to a Pro Football Hall of Fame career with the Bears, earned a staggering sum of \$75,000 for the tour. And the gratitude of a young NFL.

THE RED GRANGE-CHICAGO BEARS TOUR

<u>Date</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Opponent</u>	<u>Score*</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Opponent</u>	<u>Score*</u>
Nov. 26	Chicago	Chicago Cardinals	0-0	Dec. 25	Miami	Coral Gables Collegians	7-0
Nov. 29	Chicago	Columbus Tigers	14-13	Jan. 1	Tampa	Tampa Cardinals	17-3
Dec. 2	St. Louis	Donnelly All-Stars	39-6	Jan. 2	Jacksonville	Jacksonville All-Stars	19-6
Dec. 5	Philadelphia	Frankford Yellow Jackets	14-7	Jan. 10	New Orleans	All Southerns	14-0
Dec. 6	New York	New York Giants	19-7	Jan. 16	Los Angeles	Los Angeles Tigers	17-7
Dec. 8	Washington	Washington All-Stars	19-0	Jan. 17	San Diego	California All-Stars	14-0
Dec. 9	Boston	Providence Steam Roller	7-9	Jan. 24	San Francisco	San Francisco Tigers	9-14
Dec. 10	Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh All-Stars	0-24	Jan. 30	Portland	The Longshoremen	60-3
Dec. 12	Detroit	Detroit Panthers	0-21	Jan. 31	Seattle	Washington All-Stars	34-0
Dec. 13	Chicago	New York Giants	0-9				

*Bears score listed first



80 YEARS AGO, NFL FIRST TO RETIRE A NUMBER

Perhaps there is no greater honor in professional sports. In 1935 – 80 years ago – the New York Giants retired the uniform number of receiver **RAY FLAHERTY** (No. 1), thus becoming the first professional athlete to have his name and number recognized by his respective club. Since then, 142 players, including Seattle retiring the No. 12 recognizing Seahawks fans, have had this honor bestowed upon them.

Last season, two Pro Football Hall of Famers were added to this illustrious fraternity – Pittsburgh defensive tackle “**MEAN**” **JOE GREENE** (No. 75) and Tampa Bay linebacker **DERRICK BROOKS** (No. 55).

The following are the 143 players whose number is currently retired:

<u>TEAM</u>	<u>PLAYER</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>TEAM</u>	<u>PLAYER</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>		
Arizona	Larry Wilson	8	Kansas City	Jan Stenerud	3		
	Pat Tillman	40		Len Dawson	16		
	Steve Mauldin	77		Emmitt Thomas	18		
	J.V. Cain	88		Abner Haynes	28		
Atlanta	Marshall Goldberg	99		Stone Johnson	33		
	Steve Bartkowski	10		Mack Lee Hill	36		
	William Andrews	31		Derrick Thomas	58		
	Jeff Van Note	57		Willie Lanier	63		
Baltimore	Tommy Nobis	60		Bobby Bell	78		
	None			Buck Buchanan	86		
Buffalo	Jim Kelly	12	Miami	Bob Griese	12		
Carolina	Sam Mills	51	Minnesota	Dan Marino	13		
Chicago	Bronko Nagurski	3		Larry Csonka	39		
	George McAfee	5		Fran Tarkenton	10		
	George Halas	7		Mick Tingelhoff	53		
	Willie Galimore	28		Jim Marshall	70		
	Walter Payton	34		Korey Stringer	77		
	Gale Sayers	40		Cris Carter	80		
	Brian Piccolo	41		Alan Page	88		
	Sid Luckman	42		New England	Gino Cappelletti	20	
	Dick Butkus	51			Mike Haynes	40	
	Bill Hewitt	56			Steve Nelson	57	
Cincinnati	Bill George	61		New Orleans	John Hannah	73	
	Bulldog Turner	66			Buck Armstrong	78	
	Red Grange	77	Jim Lee Hunt		79		
	Mike Ditka	89	Bob Dee		89		
	Bob Johnson	54	Jim Taylor		31		
	Cleveland	Otto Graham	14		New York Giants	Doug Atkins	81
		Jim Brown	32			Ray Flaherty	1
Ernie Davis		45	Tuffy Leemans	4			
Don Fleming		46	Mel Hein	7			
Dallas	Lou Groza	76		Phil Simms	11		
	None			Y.A. Tittle	14		
Denver	John Elway	7		Frank Gifford	16		
	Floyd Little	44		Al Blozis	32		
Detroit	Dutch Clark	7		Joe Morrison	40		
	Bobby Layne	22		Charlie Conerly	42		
	Doak Walker	37		Ken Strong	50		
	Joe Schmidt	56		Lawrence Taylor	56		
	Chuck Hughes	85		New York Jets	Joe Namath	12	
Green Bay	Tony Canadeo	3	Don Maynard		13		
	Don Hutson	14	Curtis Martin		28		
	Bart Starr	15	Joe Klecko		73		
	Ray Nitschke	66	Dennis Byrd	90			
Houston	Reggie White	92	Oakland	None			
	None			Philadelphia	Donovan McNabb	5	
Indianapolis	Steve Van Buren	15		Brian Dawkins	20		
	Peyton Manning	18		Tom Brookshier	40		
	Johnny Unitas	19		Pete Retzlaff	44		
	Buddy Young	22		Chuck Bednarik	60		
	Lenny Moore	24		Al Wistert	70		
	Art Donovan	70		Reggie White	92		
	Jim Parker	77		Jerome Brown	99		
	Raymond Berry	82					
	Gino Marchetti	89					
Jacksonville	None						

<u>TEAM</u>	<u>PLAYER</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>TEAM</u>	<u>PLAYER</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>
Pittsburgh	Ernie Stautner	70	Seattle	"Fans/the 12th man"	12
	Joe Greene	75		Walter Jones	71
St. Louis	Bob Waterfield	7		Steve Largent	80
	Marshall Faulk	28	Tampa Bay	Cortez Kennedy	96
	Eric Dickerson	29		Derrick Brooks	55
	Merlin Olsen	74	Tennessee	Lee Roy Selmon	63
	Deacon Jones	75		Warren Sapp	99
	Jackie Slater	78		Warren Moon	1
	Isaac Bruce	80		Earl Campbell	34
	Jack Youngblood	85		Jim Norton	43
San Diego	Dan Fouts	14		Mike Munchak	63
	Lance Alworth	19		Elvin Bethea	65
	Junior Seau	55		Bruce Matthews	74
San Francisco	Steve Young	8	Washington	Sammy Baugh	33
	John Brodie	12			
	Joe Montana	16			
	Joe Perry	34			
	Jimmy Johnson	37			
	Hugh McElhenny	39			
	Ronnie Lott	42			
	Charlie Krueger	70			
	Leo Nomellini	73			
	Bob St. Clair	79			
	Jerry Rice	80			
	Dwight Clark	87			



Derrick Brooks



"Mean" Joe Greene



75 YEARS AGO: A 73-0 TITLE VICTORY!



Before 36,034 stunned fans at Washington's Griffith Stadium on December 8, 1940 at the 1940 NFL Championship Game, the Chicago Bears played near-perfect football to defeat the Washington Redskins 73-0 for the league title.

Yes, 73-0. Ten Chicago players combined to score 11 total touchdowns. The Bears rushed for 381 yards, and completed seven of 10 passes for 138 yards. On defense, the "Monsters of the Midway" played just as effectively, allowing only 22 rushing yards and intercepting eight passes, including three third-quarter touchdown returns.

The 73-point margin was, and still is, the largest margin of victory of any game in NFL history.

"That game never should have happened that way and it probably never will happen that way again," said Redskins quarterback **SAMMY BAUGH**. "You don't see but one game like that in a lifetime."

"It would be like winning the World Series with four no-hitters," said Bears quarterback **SID LUCKMAN** (above) of the Bears' flawless performance.

When asked what the score would have been had one of his teammates not dropped a sure touchdown pass early in the game, Baugh replied, "Seventy-three to seven."

The game was also the first in NFL history to be broadcast on network radio. The Mutual Broadcasting System paid \$2,500 for the rights to send the game to over 120 stations across the country. Legendary broadcaster **RED BARBER** was at the microphone.

After a November loss to the Redskins, Bears owner and coach **GEORGE HALAS** (right, in black suit with NFL Commissioner **BERT BELL**) brought in Stanford coach **CLARK SHAUGHNESSY** to help his team perfect the T-formation. It was the birth of the modern-T, and a memorable birthday it was.



"That day in football was like going from the Ford Model T to the super deluxe Rolls-Royce," said Luckman of the Bears' new offensive system. "Our biggest fear was we were over-prepared. On the train, the boys would play bridge or cards and joke and laugh. This time, you could have heard a pin drop. We were studying our playbooks."

The studying paid off. On the second play of the game, Chicago running back **BILL OSMANSKI** took a handoff from Luckman and sped around left end toward the sideline where teammate **GEORGE WILSON** threw a block, knocking down not one, but two Washington defenders. Osmanski raced to a 68-yard touchdown and gave Chicago a 7-0 lead. The perfectly executed run and block typified the day that lay ahead for both clubs.

December 8, 1940, Griffith Stadium, Washington, D.C.

Chicago Bears	21	7	26	19	-- 73
Washington Redskins	0	0	0	0	-- 0

- Chi — Osmanski 68 run (Manders kick)
- Chi — Luckman 1 run (Snyder kick)
- Chi — Maniaci 42 run (Martinovich kick)
- Chi — Kavanaugh 30 pass from Luckman (Snyder kick)
- Chi — Pool 15 interception return (Plasman kick)
- Chi — Nolting 23 run (kick failed)
- Chi — McAfee 35 interception return (Stydahar kick)
- Chi — Turner 20 interception return (kick failed)
- Chi — Clark 44 run (kick failed)
- Chi — Famiglietti 2 run (Maniaci pass from Sherman)
- Chi — Clark 1 run (pass failed)

55TH ANNIVERSARY OF ROZELLE ELECTION



The sports landscape was changed forever on January 26, 1960 when the most innovative sports executive of all time, **PETE ROZELLE** (left), was elected Commissioner of the NFL.

“He was the greatest commissioner I have ever seen in sports,” says Pittsburgh Steelers Chairman **DAN ROONEY**. “If Pete had not been commissioner, we would have gotten on as a league, but we wouldn’t be the sport we grew to be under his tenure, the top American sport.”

Rozelle guided the still-developing NFL to its position today as America’s most popular sport. He accomplished this feat by convincing rival owners to agree on a league-wide television contract; by successfully merging the NFL with the upstart American Football League; by starting NFL Properties and NFL Films; by creating a pageantry-filled championship game between the two leagues, now known as the Super Bowl; and by taking a chance with ABC-TV that the country wanted to watch primetime football on Monday nights.

And he did it all with a smile.

Pete Rozelle on:

Super Bowl I – “That first game was the only year we had double network coverage – CBS and NBC – and it was a real battle to see who could get the better rating. At that time, everybody made a big thing of it because, except for space shots and Presidential press conferences, that first game was the only event to ever attract multiple network coverage.”

Presidents – “I realized the length of time I’ve served in the job. I’ve known eight Presidents. There was Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, Ford, Reagan, Carter, Bush. My favorite, one I was close to and I liked a lot because of his interest in football and his attention to the NFL, was Nixon. My mother was a doorbell-ringing volunteer for him when he ran for Congress the first time.”

Most Thrilling Players – “Boy, there were so many, it’s difficult. At the very top it would have to be **ROGER STAUBACH** and **WALTER PAYTON**, both great players and great, outstanding public citizens.”

Best Football City – “Green Bay. A small town. People owning their own football team. Rabid supporters.”

THE ROZELLE FILE

Born	March 1, 1926 in Los Angeles, California
Elected Commissioner	January 26, 1960 on the 23rd ballot as a compromise candidate
League-wide TV Contract	NFL signed its first league-wide contract on January 10, 1962
NFL Properties Founded	1963
NFL Films Purchased	March 5, 1964
AFL-NFL Merger	A series of meetings in 1966 led to the merger
Super Bowl I	Originally called “AFL-NFL World Championship Game” between Green Bay (NFL) and Kansas City (AFL) on January 15, 1967
Monday Night Football	Cleveland defeated the New York Jets 31-21 in the first-ever <i>NFL Monday Night Football</i> game on ABC on September 21, 1970
Inducted into Hall of Fame	August 3, 1985 in Canton, Ohio
Retired	Last day as Commissioner was Saturday, November 4, 1989
Died	December 6, 1996
Sportsman of the Century	Named the most powerful man in sports during the 20th century by <i>The Sporting News</i> on December 15, 1999



NFL TO CELEBRATE 50TH SUPER BOWL

As Super Bowl 50 approaches, the NFL's championship game has never been more exciting. Eleven of the past 12 Super Bowls have been within one score at some point in the fourth quarter.

From the **DAVID TYREE** "helmet catch" (XLII, New York Giants) to **SANTONIO HOLMES'** game-winning, toe-tap touchdown (XLIII, Pittsburgh) to **MALCOLM BUTLER'S** game-clinching interception (XLIX, New England), the Super Bowl has lived up to its name.

What's in store for the Super Bowl's 50th installment, which is set to kickoff this February at Levi's Stadium, home of the San Francisco 49ers? No one knows for sure. Many players, from superstars to special teams standouts, will likely have an effect on the outcome, but only one will join the exclusive club of Super Bowl MVP winners.

A look at the Super Bowl Most Valuable Players from Super Bowl I to Super Bowl XLIX:

SUPER BOWL I: QB BART STARR, Green Bay Packers - In what was originally called the "AFL-NFL World Championship," Starr propelled the Packers to a 35-10 victory over the Chiefs. Completing 16 of 23 attempts, Starr amassed 250 yards through the air to go along with three passing touchdowns. Starr connected with reserve wide receiver Max McGee, whose one-armed first-quarter touchdown reception is one of the most memorable plays in Super Bowl history, seven times for 138 yards.



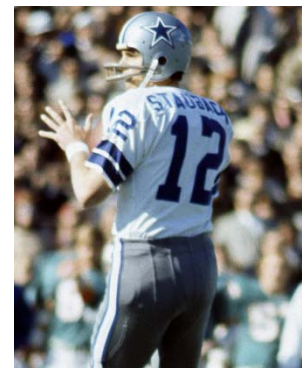
SUPER BOWL II: QB BART STARR, Green Bay Packers (left) - Guiding Green Bay to its second Super Bowl win in a row (and third consecutive NFL championship), Starr's star shone the brightest in the second half. The high-powered Green Bay offense rattled off 17 unanswered points in the third and fourth quarters to pull away from the Raiders for a 33-14 victory. Starr completed 13 of his 24 passes, including a 62-yard scoring strike to Boyd Dowler.

SUPER BOWL III: QB JOE NAMATH, New York Jets - In a game that will be forever remembered because of Namath's "guarantee" of victory, the Jets toppled the seemingly unbeatable Baltimore Colts by a score of 16-7. Even future Hall of Famer Johnny Unitas could not spark a second half comeback by Baltimore. Because of Namath's leadership (and five Baltimore turnovers), the Jets secured the first victory for the AFL in the young history of the Super Bowl. "Broadway Joe" completed 17 of 28 passes for 206 yards.

SUPER BOWL IV: QB LEN DAWSON, Kansas City Chiefs - In the last game before the AFL-NFL merger, Dawson's workmanlike performance helped Kansas City beat the Vikings, 23-7. Dawson (12 of 17, 122 passing yards) orchestrated four scoring drives in the first half alone, three of which resulted in Jan Stenerud field goals. Utilizing a running back-by-committee approach, Dawson's Chiefs outgained the Vikings on the ground (151-67). After building a 16-0 lead at the half, Dawson punctuated the victory with a 46-yard touchdown pass to Otis Taylor.

SUPER BOWL V: LB CHUCK HOWLEY, Dallas Cowboys - Howley made history twice in one day with his MVP-worthy performance in this championship. Not only did this gritty linebacker become the first defensive MVP in Super Bowl history, Howley is still the only player in NFL history to win the award for a losing team. Baltimore's Jim O'Brien nailed a 32-yard field goal with only five seconds left in the game to close out a 16-13 come-from-behind win for the Colts. Howley intercepted two passes and recovered a fumble in the losing effort.

SUPER BOWL VI: QB ROGER STAUBACH, Dallas Cowboys (right) - Bouncing back from a devastating defeat a year earlier, Dallas brought home its first of five Super Bowl titles with a 24-3 win over the Dolphins. Outdueling his Miami counterpart Bob Griese, Staubach found wide receiver Lance Alworth and tight end Mike Ditka in the end zone for touchdowns. In addition to his 119 yards through the air, Staubach led the potent Cowboys' rushing game up and down the field in the victory.



SUPER BOWL VII: S JAKE SCOTT, Miami Dolphins - An important cog in Miami's "No Name Defense," Scott picked off two of Redskins quarterback Billy Kilmer's passes in this 14-7 Miami victory. Scott's second interception came in the Dolphins' end zone, quashing Washington's best offensive drive. Mike Bass scored the Redskins' lone touchdown, corralling Miami kicker Garo Yepremian's ill-fated forward pass that slipped out of his hand after a botched field goal attempt. The 1972 Dolphins remain the only unbeaten, untied team in NFL history.

SUPER BOWL VIII: RB LARRY CSONKA, Miami Dolphins - Racking up over 100 yards rushing for two Super Bowls in a row, Csonka's 33 carries wore down the Vikings. The stalwart runner finished with 145 yards and two touchdowns in Miami's second consecutive Super Bowl victory (24-7). Miami quarterback Bob Griese attempted only seven passes. Minnesota quarterback Fran Tarkenton scrambled for a score in the fourth quarter, but the Dolphins lead was insurmountable because of its steady rushing attack.

SUPER BOWL IX: RB FRANCO HARRIS, Pittsburgh Steelers - Harris and running back Rocky Bleier combined for more than 200 yards in Pittsburgh's first of four Super Bowl wins (16-6) in the 1970s. With the Steelers clinging to a 2-0 lead in the second half, Harris helped Pittsburgh pull away with a nine-yard touchdown run. Remembered best for reeling in the "Immaculate Reception" earlier in his career, Harris' 158 rushing yards eclipsed the Super Bowl record established by Csonka only one year earlier. Pittsburgh outrushed the Vikings by more than 200 yards.



SUPER BOWL X: WR LYNN SWANN, Pittsburgh Steelers (left) - Famous for his acrobatic catches, Swann did not disappoint in the Steelers' 21-17 win over the Cowboys. Racking up 161 receiving yards, a Super Bowl record at the time, on only four catches, Swann's 64-yard touchdown reception from Terry Bradshaw made the difference in the close contest. Swann's score capped a 14-0 run for the Steelers in the fourth quarter.

SUPER BOWL XI: WR FRED BILETNIKOFF, Oakland Raiders - Biletnikoff's numbers weren't overwhelming (four catches, 79 yards), but three of those receptions set up short touchdowns for the Raiders in a 32-14 victory over Minnesota. After jumping out to a 16-0 first half lead, Oakland never looked back.

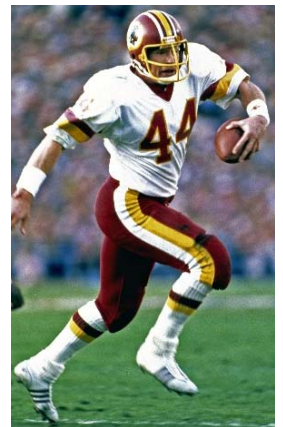
SUPER BOWL XII: DE RANDY WHITE and DT HARVEY MARTIN, Dallas Cowboys - For the first and only time in Super Bowl history, two players shared the MVP award. White and Martin were instrumental in Dallas limiting the Broncos to only 156 yards of total offense (2.7 yards per play) in a 27-10 win. Dallas' "Doomsday Defense" forced eight turnovers - four interceptions and four fumble recoveries. White's and Martin's relentless pass rushing also helped limit Denver to eight completions in 24 pass attempts.

SUPER BOWL XIII: QB TERRY BRADSHAW, Pittsburgh Steelers - Bradshaw won the first of his two consecutive Super Bowl MVP awards by passing for 318 yards and four touchdowns in a 35-31 victory. Wide receiver John Stallworth hauled in scoring strikes of 28 and 75 yards in the first half. Bradshaw carved out his place among the NFL's greatest with his sterling Super Bowl performances.

SUPER BOWL XIV: QB TERRY BRADSHAW, Pittsburgh Steelers - Becoming the first back-to-back Super Bowl MVP award winner since Bart Starr, Bradshaw helped the Steelers recover from two deficits to win their fourth NFL championship in six years, 31-19 over the Rams. Long touchdown passes to Lynn Swann and John Stallworth helped Bradshaw amass 309 yards passing as he completed 14 of 21 attempts. Bradshaw owned nearly every significant Super Bowl passing record following the win, including career yardage (932), touchdowns (nine) and passer rating (112.8). Sparked by the leadership of Bradshaw and a suffocating "Steel Curtain" defense, Pittsburgh was the first team in NFL history to hoist four Vince Lombardi Trophies.

SUPER BOWL XV: QB JIM PLUNKETT, Oakland Raiders - The strong-armed Plunkett was the model of efficiency in the Raiders' 27-10 win over the Philadelphia Eagles. Plunkett, who did not take over as a starter until Week 6 of the season, finished 13 for 21 passing for 261 yards, three touchdowns and no interceptions.

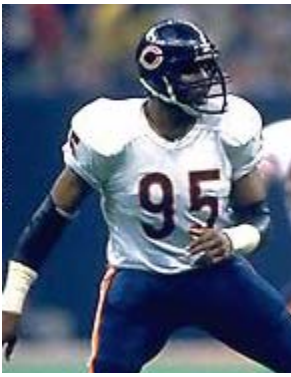
SUPER BOWL XVI: QB JOE MONTANA, San Francisco 49ers - If the 1970s belonged to the Steelers, the 1980s was certainly the decade of the 49ers. This 26-21 win over the Bengals was the start of a San Francisco dynasty, with Montana (14 of 22, 142 yards) leading the way. In addition to an 11-yard touchdown pass to Earl Cooper, Montana also ran for one score in the first quarter en route to a 20-0 halftime lead. Despite a serious comeback attempt by Ken Anderson and Cincinnati, Montana and the 49ers held on for the franchise's first Super Bowl title.



SUPER BOWL XVII: RB JOHN RIGGINS, Washington Redskins (right) - In front of a crowd of 103,667 at the Rose Bowl in the Redskins' 27-17 win, Riggins turned in one of the most memorable rushing performances in NFL championship history. Highlighted by a bruising 43-yard touchdown run on a fourth-and-one situation, Riggins carried the ball a Super Bowl record 38 times for 166 yards, which was also a record at the time. In the process of wearing down a tough Miami defense, Riggins put an exclamation point on one of the most prolific postseason performances ever; Riggins rushed for more than 100 yards in each of Washington's four playoff victories.

SUPER BOWL XVIII: RB MARCUS ALLEN, Los Angeles Raiders - Shattering John Riggins' record for rushing yards established the previous year, Allen spun and juiced his way to 191 yards rushing in Oakland's 38-9 victory over Washington. The agile Allen, who averaged nearly 10 yards per rush in this championship win, scored both of his touchdowns in the third quarter, sealing the victory.

SUPER BOWL XIX: QB JOE MONTANA, San Francisco 49ers - Montana became the third player to win multiple Super Bowl MVPs in a dominant 38-16 victory over the Dan Marino-led Dolphins. Not only did Montana pass for 331 yards and three touchdowns, but he also scrambled for 59 yards on five carries, including a six-yard score midway through the third quarter. Running back Roger Craig was Montana's favorite target, posting seven receptions for 77 yards and two touchdowns. In all, Montana accounted for 390 of the 49ers' 537 total yards.



SUPER BOWL XX: DE RICHARD DENT, Chicago Bears (left) - A team as famous for its "Super Bowl Shuffle" music video as it was for its 15-1 regular-season record, the '85 Chicago Bears rattled off 44 unanswered points in their championship win over the Patriots (46-10). Dent accounted for 1.5 of the Bears' record-breaking seven sacks and caused two fumbles. With Dent leading the charge, Chicago limited New England to seven yards rushing.

SUPER BOWL XXI: QB PHIL SIMMS, New York Giants - Simms' near-perfect 22-of-25 passing performance helped New York pull away from the Denver Broncos for a 39-20 victory. With the Giants trailing 10-9 at the half, Simms was a perfect 10-for-10 in the second half, orchestrating five scoring drives in the process. Tight end Mark Bavaro and wide receiver Phil McConkey were both on the receiving ends of touchdown tosses from Simms. No other Super Bowl quarterback has come close to matching Simms' 88.0 completion percentage.

SUPER BOWL XXII: QB DOUG WILLIAMS, Washington Redskins - Throwing four touchdown passes in an electric second quarter, Williams led Washington to its second Super Bowl victory, passing for 340 yards – a Super Bowl record at the time. Trailing 10-0 after one quarter, the Redskins' offense erupted for 35 straight points en route to a 42-10 victory. Williams sparked the offensive rally with an 80-yard touchdown pass to wide receiver Ricky Sanders less than a minute into the second quarter.

SUPER BOWL XXIII: WR JERRY RICE, San Francisco 49ers - San Francisco became the first NFC team to win three Super Bowls in this come-from-behind 20-16 win over the Bengals. Rice totaled 11 catches for a Super Bowl-record 215 yards. Though Joe Montana racked up more than 300 yards passing and directed a memorable game-winning drive (92 yards in 11 plays), Rice's dominant performance was the difference in this game. In addition to owning every significant receiving record in NFL history, Rice still holds several Super Bowl records, including most career receiving yardage and touchdowns.

SUPER BOWL XXIV: QB JOE MONTANA, San Francisco 49ers - Montana augmented an already impressive Super Bowl résumé by winning his third MVP award in the game. In the most lopsided Super Bowl win ever, San Francisco beat the Broncos, 55-10. Montana's five touchdown passes set a single-game Super Bowl standard at the time. Montana (22 of 29, 297 yards) still sits atop the Super Bowl record book in career passer rating (127.8).

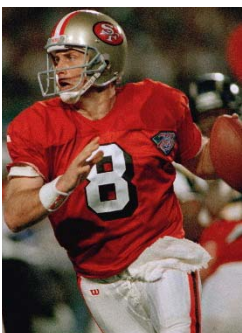
SUPER BOWL XXV: RB OTTIS ANDERSON, New York Giants - Head coach Bill Parcells secured his second Super Bowl championship in a thrilling 20-19 Giants victory, secured when Buffalo kicker Scott Norwood's potential game-winning field goal sailed wide right. Just as they had done all season, the Giants employed a ball-control strategy that was spearheaded by Anderson's gritty performance. Running primarily between the tackles, Anderson carried the ball 21 times for 102 yards. The Giants held possession for 40:33, keeping the potent Buffalo offense from finding its rhythm. Anderson scored his lone touchdown of the day to cap a 14-play drive that spanned nearly 10 minutes of the third quarter.

SUPER BOWL XXVI: QB MARK RYPIEN, Washington Redskins - Rypien and his Redskins handed the Bills their second Super Bowl loss (37-24) as Washington secured its third Super Bowl title. Passing for 292 yards and two touchdowns, Rypien's 35-yard touchdown pass to Gary Clark in the second half provided some much-needed breathing room for Washington.

SUPER BOWL XXVII: QB TROY AIKMAN, Dallas Cowboys - This 52-17 win over Buffalo marked the resurgence of Dallas' Super Bowl dominance, and turned out to be the first of three Cowboys Super Bowl wins to come in the next four years. Aikman connected with wide receiver Michael Irvin twice for touchdown passes, with wide receiver Alvin Harper and tight end Jay Novacek also on the receiving end of scoring strikes. Aikman's performance was spectacular. He completed 22 of 30 passes for 273 yards to go along with his four touchdowns.



SUPER BOWL XXVIII: RB EMMITT SMITH, Dallas Cowboys (right) - With Dallas trailing at halftime, it was Smith's two second-half scoring runs that propelled the Cowboys to victory (30-13) for the second consecutive year over the rival Bills. Smith's first score gave Dallas the lead for good, as he carried the ball seven times on an eight-play third-quarter scoring drive punctuated by a 15-yard touchdown scamper. Carrying the ball 30 times for 132 yards, Smith's steady effort helped stifle any hopes of a Buffalo comeback.



SUPER BOWL XXIX: QB STEVE YOUNG, San Francisco 49ers (left) - Stepping out of the shadow of the man he replaced (Joe Montana), Young torched San Diego's defense for 325 yards passing to go along with his Super Bowl-record six touchdown passes in a 49-26 victory. Jerry Rice caught three of the six scoring throws from the left-handed Young, who also led the 49ers in rushing with 49 yards. Young and the 49ers jumped out to an early 14-0 lead following touchdown passes to Rice and running back Ricky Watters.

SUPER BOWL XXX: CB LARRY BROWN, Dallas Cowboys - Brown intercepted two passes in the Cowboys' fifth Super Bowl win. Both interceptions stymied promising Pittsburgh drives and helped set up a pair of short rushing touchdowns by Emmitt Smith. Brown's opportunistic interceptions helped Dallas overcome a deficit of 13-7 as well as preserve a 20-17 advantage in this eventual 27-17 Cowboys victory.

SUPER BOWL XXXI: KR-PR DESMOND HOWARD, Green Bay Packers - Howard picked the grandest of stages to carve out his niche in NFL history, putting up 244 combined yards on his kickoff and punt returns in a 35-21 win over New England. The key play to his selection as MVP was a 99-yard kickoff return touchdown that dashed hopes of a comeback by the Patriots. Signed as a free agent in the offseason, the former Heisman Trophy winner from Michigan helped the Packers to their first Super Bowl title since the Lombardi era.



SUPER BOWL XXXII: RB TERRELL DAVIS, Denver Broncos (left) - After leading the AFC in rushing in only his second year, Davis' 30 carries and 157 yards proved to be the difference in this 31-24 victory over the Green Bay Packers. The fleet-footed Davis utilized his unique combination of speed and power to become the first player in Super Bowl history to rush for three touchdowns in one game.

SUPER BOWL XXXIII: QB JOHN ELWAY, Denver Broncos - After waiting so long for his first Super Bowl ring, Elway wasted no time in adding a second one to his collection. Elway amassed 336 yards in Denver's 34-19 win over a Falcons squad led by powerful halfback Jamal Anderson. A member of the famed Class of '83 quarterbacks, Elway walked away from football after winning his second Super Bowl, ending on the highest of notes.

SUPER BOWL XXXIV: QB KURT WARNER, St. Louis Rams (right) - Becoming a starter via a journey through the Arena Football League and NFL Europe, Warner's Cinderella climb from backup to superstar captured the imagination of America. Leading the Rams to their first-ever Super Bowl title, Warner's 414 passing yards are still a single-game Super Bowl best. He spread the ball around, as nine different players registered at least one catch. The speedy receiving tandem of Isaac Bruce and Torry Holt each topped 100 yards receiving and caught one touchdown apiece. In one of the most exciting finishes in Super Bowl history, the Rams held on to their 23-16 lead by just one yard, as Titans wide receiver Kevin Dyson was tackled short of the goal line by Mike Jones in the waning moments of the fourth quarter.



SUPER BOWL XXXV: LB RAY LEWIS, Baltimore Ravens - Becoming only the seventh defensive player to win a Super Bowl MVP award, Lewis inspired Baltimore to a 34-7 win over the Giants. Though his five tackles and four passes defended did not jump off the stats page, it was Lewis' tenacity and leadership that propelled the Ravens to the win.

SUPER BOWL XXXVI: QB TOM BRADY, New England Patriots - After stepping in for an injured Drew Bledsoe during the regular season, Brady eventually led the Patriots to the first Super Bowl victory in franchise history in a 20-17 win against St. Louis. After the Rams overcame a 14-point deficit to tie the game with just 1:30 left in the fourth quarter, Brady put together a drive of five completions in six attempts that set up Adam Vinatieri's game-winning 48-yard field goal as time expired. Brady completed 16 of 27 passes for 145 yards and one touchdown.

SUPER BOWL XXXVII: S DEXTER JACKSON, Tampa Bay Buccaneers - A bevy of Bucs defenders were worthy of MVP consideration, but Jackson's two first-half interceptions, one of which led to a go-ahead field goal, were the deciding factor in his selection. Cornerback Dwight Smith returned two interceptions for touchdowns in the second half, but Jackson's big plays keyed the outcome of the game.

SUPER BOWL XXXVIII: QB TOM BRADY, New England Patriots - Brady's Patriots treated the fans to another exciting finish that ended with a game-winning Adam Vinatieri field goal with four seconds remaining in the fourth quarter to edge Carolina, 32-29. Brady completed 32 of 48 passes for 354 yards and three touchdowns to become the first quarterback in Super Bowl history to start and win two title games before his 27th birthday.

SUPER BOWL XXXIX: WR DEION BRANCH, New England Patriots - Branch caught 11 passes for 133 yards and the Patriots' defense forced four turnovers en route to becoming the eighth team to post consecutive Super Bowl titles in a 24-21 win against the Philadelphia Eagles. The Patriots also matched the Dallas Cowboys (XXVII, XXVIII and XXX) as the only teams with three Super Bowl victories in a span of four seasons. At the time, Branch's 11 catches tied the Super Bowl single-game record for receptions (Dan Ross, Cincinnati, XVI; Jerry Rice, San Francisco, XXIII).

SUPER BOWL XL: WR HINES WARD, Pittsburgh Steelers - Ward came up with two big plays to help Pittsburgh win its first championship since Super Bowl XIV, earning a 21-10 win against the Seattle Seahawks. Ward made a leaping 37-yard reception late in the second quarter to set up the Steelers' first touchdown (a three-yard run by quarterback Ben Roethlisberger). Later, wide receiver Antwaan Randle El took a handoff on a reverse and threw a perfect 43-yard touchdown pass to Ward to help clinch the victory. Overall, Ward had five receptions for 123 yards and one touchdown.



SUPER BOWL XLI: QB PEYTON MANNING, Indianapolis Colts - Manning passed for 247 yards and one touchdown as the Indianapolis Colts defeated the Chicago Bears 29-17. The victory was the Colts' first Super Bowl championship in 36 years. Manning completed 25 of 38 passes, including a 53-yard scoring pass to wide receiver Reggie Wayne in the first quarter. Led by Manning and the Colts' ball-control offense, Indianapolis outgained Chicago 430-265 in total yards and maintained a 38:04-21:56 edge in time of possession.

SUPER BOWL XLII: QB ELI MANNING, New York Giants (left) - Manning followed his brother, Peyton, of the Indianapolis Colts, to become a Super Bowl MVP. His 13-yard touchdown pass to wide receiver Plaxico Burress with 35 seconds remaining gave the Giants a 17-14 come-from-behind victory over the previously unbeaten New England Patriots. During the game-winning drive, Manning made the play of the game by escaping the grasps of two Patriots' defensive linemen, spinning away and launching a deep pass downfield that wide receiver David Tyree caught in midair and cradled against his helmet as he fell to the ground for a 32-yard gain. Manning completed 19 of 34 passes for 255 yards and two touchdowns (Tyree also caught a five-yard scoring pass early in the fourth quarter to give the Giants a 10-7 lead).

SUPER BOWL XLIII: WR SANTONIO HOLMES, Pittsburgh Steelers (right) - Holmes caught a six-yard touchdown pass in the back-right corner of the end zone with 35 seconds left as the Steelers rallied to beat the Arizona Cardinals 27-23. Holmes' incredible game-winning catch (he stretched high and kept both toes on the ground, despite tight coverage by the Cardinals) helped Pittsburgh avert what would have been the largest comeback in Super Bowl history, as the Cardinals had scored 16 unanswered points in the fourth quarter. Holmes, who had nine receptions for 131 yards and a touchdown in the game, caught three passes from quarterback Ben Roethlisberger on the Steelers' game-winning drive.



SUPER BOWL XLIV: QB DREW BREES, New Orleans Saints - Brees led New Orleans to a 31-17 victory over the Indianapolis Colts and the franchise's first Super Bowl title. Spreading the ball around to eight different receivers, Brees tied a Super Bowl record at the time with 32 completions, the last a two-yard slant to tight end Jeremy Shockey for the winning points with 5:42 remaining in the fourth quarter. He also threw a 16-yard touchdown pass to running back Pierre Thomas early in the third quarter to give the Saints their first lead of the game (13-10). Brees, who also connected with wide receiver Lance Moore for a critical two-point conversion following his touchdown pass to Shockey, completed 32 of 39 passes for 288 yards and two touchdowns.

SUPER BOWL XLV: QB AARON RODGERS, Green Bay Packers - Rodgers passed for 304 yards and three touchdowns to lead the Packers to their first Super Bowl title in 14 years as Green Bay defeated the Pittsburgh Steelers, 31-25. Rodgers, who completed 24 of 39 passes, helped Green Bay jump out to a 7-0 first-quarter lead when he connected with wide receiver Jordy Nelson on a 29-yard scoring pass. Rodgers' 21-yard touchdown pass to wide receiver Greg Jennings helped Green Bay to a 21-10 halftime advantage. Rodgers and Jennings connected again early in the fourth quarter for an eight-yard touchdown to give the Packers a 28-17 lead. His favorite target on the day was Nelson, who had nine receptions for 140 yards and one score.



SUPER BOWL XLVI: QB ELI MANNING, New York Giants - Manning won his second Super Bowl MVP award in five seasons, leading the Giants to a 21-17 victory over the New England Patriots in Super Bowl XLVI in Indianapolis. Manning completed 30 of 40 passes for 296 yards and one touchdown, a two-yard scoring throw to wide receiver Victor Cruz in the first quarter. Giants wide receiver Hakeem Nicks was Manning's most popular target with 10 receptions for 109 yards in the title game.

SUPER BOWL XLVII: QB JOE FLACCO, Baltimore Ravens (left) - Flacco led the Ravens to their second Super Bowl victory, defeating the NFC-champion San Francisco 49ers 34-31 at the Mercedes-Benz Superdome in New Orleans. Flacco completed 22 of 33 passes for 287 yards and three touchdowns. All of Flacco's scoring passes came in the first half – 13 yards to Anquan Boldin, 1 yard to Dennis Pitta and 56 yards to Jacoby Jones – as the Ravens built a 21-6 halftime lead en route to victory.

SUPER BOWL XLVIII: LB MALCOLM SMITH, Seattle Seahawks - Smith became the first defensive player to win the Pete Rozelle Super Bowl Most Valuable Player Award since Tampa Bay Buccaneers safety Dexter Jackson earned the honor in Super Bowl XXXVII. Smith helped lead a Seahawks' defense that forced four turnovers as Seattle defeated the Denver Broncos 43-8 in Super Bowl XLVIII. Smith intercepted a Peyton Manning pass in the second quarter and returned it 69 yards for a touchdown to give Seattle a 22-0 advantage. Smith also recovered a fumble in the fourth quarter to stop a Broncos drive deep in Seahawks territory and finished with nine total tackles.

SUPER BOWL XLIX: QB TOM BRADY, New England Patriots (right) - Brady became the second player in NFL history to win three Super Bowl MVP Awards (XXXVI, XXXVIII and XLIX), joining Pro Football Hall of Famer Joe Montana (XVI, XIX and XXIV). Brady passed for 328 yards and four touchdowns, including the game-winning three-yard score to Julian Edelman with 2:02 remaining in the fourth quarter. He extended his own Super Bowl career passing records for attempts, completions and yards and surpassed Montana (11) and Hall of Famer Terry Bradshaw (nine) for the most touchdown passes in Super Bowl history (13).



First World
Championship
Game AFL vs NFL

SUPER BOWL II

SUPER
BOWL III

SUPER
BOWL IV

SUPER BOWL V

SUPER BOWL VI

SUPER BOWL VII

SUPER BOWL VIII

SUPER BOWL
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SUPER BOWL XI

SUPER BOWL
XII

SUPER
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50
SUPER BOWL

45TH ANNIVERSARY OF NFL-AFL MERGER

From April through June 1966, Kansas City Chiefs owner **LAMAR HUNT** exchanged correspondence with Dallas Cowboys general manager **TEX SCHRAMM**, who was acting on behalf of Commissioner **PETE ROZELLE** on a possible merger between the AFL and NFL. On June 8, 1966, the two leagues announced an agreement in which:



Schramm, Rozelle and Hunt

- The nine AFL clubs (expansion Miami was added in 1966) would pay a total of \$18 million over 20 years to join the NFL.
- Pete Rozelle would serve as Commissioner.
- The leagues would play a championship game following the 1966 season.
- Existing franchises would remain at present sites.
- A common draft would be held, beginning in 1967.
- Two new franchises, one in each league, would be added by 1968 (Cincinnati and New Orleans).
- Interleague preseason games would be played in 1967, and a common schedule would begin in 1970.

The NFL-AFL merger was approved by Congress on October 21, 1966, when an anti-trust exemption was added as a rider to an anti-inflation tax bill. President **LYNDON B. JOHNSON** signed the bill into law on November 8, 1966.

In August 1969, after spending 36 hours behind closed doors, NFL and AFL owners announced the creation of two 13-team conferences – the AFC and the NFC. Three NFL clubs – the Baltimore Colts, Cleveland Browns and Pittsburgh Steelers – joined the AFL clubs in the American Conference and the remaining NFL clubs composed the National Conference.

Following is a statistical comparison on how the AFC and NFC have fared since 1970:

COMPARING THE CONFERENCES

(Since 1970)

<u>AFC</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>NFC</u>
1,248	Interconference Games Won*	1,144
26	Annual Interconference Series Won**	11
50,969	Points in Interconference Games	49,883
23	Super Bowl Wins***	26
22	Individual Passing Titles****	22
25	Individual Rushing Titles	20

*12 ties in Interconference Games

**Eight series were tied

***Since 1966

****Conference leaders were tied in 2014





“SUPER BOWL SHUFFLE” SETS AMERICA RAPPING 30 YEARS AGO

The 1985 Super Bowl XX champion Chicago Bears not only had one of the greatest running backs and defenses of all-time in Pro Football Hall of Famer **WALTER PAYTON** and the famed “46” alignment, but also a true cast of characters.

Thirty years ago, one of the most memorable parts of that season was a rap video that a group of Bears players – known as the “Bears Shufflin’ Crew” – performed called the “Super Bowl Shuffle.”

Payton, quarterback **JIM MC MAHON**, wide receiver **WILLIE GAULT**, linebacker **MIKE SINGLETARY** and defensive tackle **WILLIAM “THE REFRIGERATOR” PERRY**, among others, taped the video for charity. It won a Grammy nomination for Best R&B Vocal Performance by a Duo or Group and reached No. 41 on the charts, ultimately going Gold on February 2, 1986.

“It gave us a sense of pride to know we accomplished something as a group, something very few people get an opportunity to do,” said Gault. “And to win the Super Bowl on top of that was really rewarding.”

Following is the song’s famed chorus:

We are the Bears Shufflin’ Crew,
Shufflin’ on down, doin’ it for you.
We’re so bad, we know we’re good,
Blowin’ your mind like we knew we would.
You know we’re just struttin’ for fun,
Struttin’ our stuff for everyone.
We’re not here to start no trouble,
We’re just here to do the “Super Bowl Shuffle.”





20 YEARS LATER, NFL.COM BIGGER & BETTER THAN EVER

Continuing its long tradition of technological innovation, the NFL on April 10, 1995 became the first sports league with an Internet site, launching “NFL Sidelines” at the web address nflhome.com. The first live chat on the site took place two weeks later on Day 1 of the 1995 NFL Draft with NFL Commissioner **PAUL TAGLIABUE**.

A fan wrote the following: “This is great. What else is the NFL going to do on the Internet?”

The NFL has always been committed to being at the forefront of media innovation. Dedicated to bringing fans closer to the game, the league is constantly evolving to keep up with the ever-changing media landscape. With innovative partnerships and new platforms, fans have an array of ways to connect with the game on an assortment of digital devices.

FREE LIVE STREAM GAME TO GLOBAL AUDIENCES

New in 2015, fans can watch the NFL’s International Series game in London between the Buffalo Bills and Jacksonville Jaguars on October 25 on Yahoo! properties globally, including Yahoo!, Yahoo! Sports, Yahoo! Screen and Tumblr, which attract more than one billion monthly users. The NFL selected Yahoo! Inc. (NASDAQ:YHOO) as its exclusive partner to deliver the first-ever live stream of an NFL game to a global audience across devices and free of charge.

With this partnership, the NFL will extend its digital presence, making some of the most valuable content in sports and entertainment available across multiple digital platforms free for all users. The NFL is leveraging Yahoo!’s global audience, digital advertising capabilities and delivery platforms, which span desktop, mobile, tablet, connected TVs and set-top boxes to ensure that the Bills-Jaguars game is accessible on every screen globally.

In keeping with the NFL’s long-standing commitment to making its games available on free, over-the-air television, the game will also be televised live in the both the Buffalo (WIVB-TV) and Jacksonville (WTEV-TV) markets.

NFL NOW

NFL Now, which launched in 2014, is the league’s next-generation video service, providing fans access to the largest digital library of NFL video anywhere, accessible through apps and browsers across an array of Internet-connected devices. Based on each viewer’s favorite teams and players, NFL Now delivers the most personalized NFL viewing experience anywhere, with access to game highlights and original content from NFL Media and the 32 clubs, live press conferences and shows and video from the NFL Films vault.

With the addition of the new platforms available today, NFL Now is currently available to fans through the following distribution channels:

- **Smartphone & Tablet Apps:** Windows, iOS, Android including Amazon Fire Phone and Kindle Fire, and within NFL Mobile from Verizon
- **Desktop:** nfl.com/now
- **Connected Devices:** Microsoft Xbox One & 360, Apple TV, Amazon Fire TV, Roku
- **Other Distributors:** Yahoo! Screen

“Adding new distribution and original content to NFL Now continues our mission to provide our fans with access to NFL video wherever and whenever they want,” says NFL Executive Vice President of Media **BRIAN ROLAPP**.

Through NFL Now, fans can select their favorite NFL teams and players and upload their NFL.com Fantasy roster. NFL Now then dynamically personalizes each fan’s viewing experience. In addition to the free version of NFL Now, fans can upgrade their experience to NFL Now Plus, which offers the deepest digital NFL highlight experience ever created. Subscribers to NFL Now Plus will have access to instant in-game highlights from each game as well as the extensive vault of NFL Films shows and documentaries ranging from *America’s Game* to *A Football Life*.

2015 NFL DRAFT

For the first time, fans experienced every Round 4-7 pick announcement from the 2015 NFL Draft on NFL Draft live platforms such as NFL.com, NFL Mobile by Verizon, NFL Now, Xbox One and Yahoo! Sports. NFL Network also featured select picks from all 32 teams live on NFL Network Draft programming. Teams announced Round 4-7 picks at stadiums, practice facilities and other unique locations. Pick announcements were broadcasted in Selection Square, the epicenter of the Draft, located outside in Grant Park across Michigan Avenue from the Auditorium Theatre in Chicago.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Social media brings fans closer to the game than ever before. Platforms such as Twitter (11.8 million followers), Facebook (12.1 million likes) and Instagram (3.4 million followers) are vital components to fan communication and engagement.

The NFL has the largest domestic following for Facebook (8.4 million) compared to all major sports competitors. The NFL is also the fastest growing league in Twitter followers (76% NFL, 45% NBA and 31% MLB).

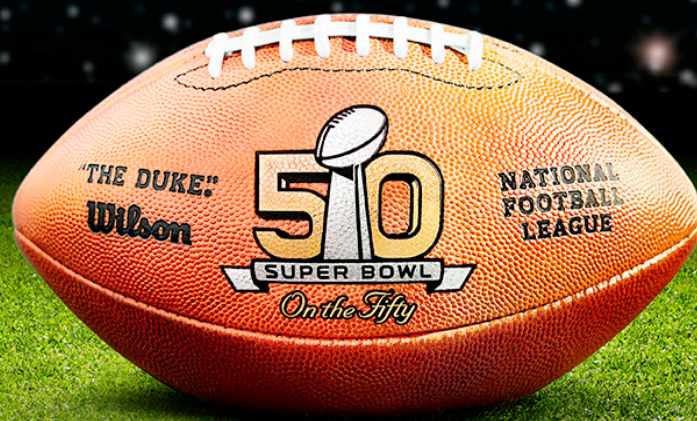
How NFL.com has grown in 20 years:

CATEGORY	1995	2015
Website Name	NFL Sidelines	NFL.com
Web Address	NFLhome.com	NFL.com
Internet Users	20 million in US	258 million in US (as of April 2015)
Device Consumption	No Broadband	During the 2014 regular season, 76 percent of visits on NFL owned and operated properties were on a mobile device. During an average month in the 2014 regular season, 62 percent of users across all NFL digital properties were exclusively mobile users.
Game Center	0	For an average month in the 2014 regular season, 28 percent of visitors visited the Game Center section on NFL.com and NFL Mobile.
Analysts	1 (Gil Brandt)	24 (Judy Battista, Brian Billick, Gil Brandt, Albert Breer, Dave Dameshek, Jeff Darlington, Michael Fabiano, Rand Getlin, Dan Hanzus, Elliot Harrison, Daniel Jeremiah, Kin Jones, Aditi Kinkhabwala, Andrea Kramer, Mark Kriegel, Kevin Patra, Adam Rank, Ian Rapoport, Gregg Rosenthal, Adam Schein, Marc Sessler, Michael Silver, Chris Wesseling, Steve Wyche)
Sponsors/Advertisers	4	More than 100 sponsors and advertisers
E-Commerce	0	More than 100,000 products available on NFLShop.com



MEDIA

THE TEAMS



BACK TO FOOTBALL

WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN 2015

The **GREEN BAY PACKERS** need nine victories to become the second team in NFL history to reach 750 total victories. The Packers (741-561-37) would join Chicago (752-563-42) as the only teams to accomplish the feat.

The **NEW YORK GIANTS** need nine victories to become the third team in NFL history to reach 700 total victories. The Giants (691-581-33) would join Chicago (752-563-42) and Green Bay (741-561-37) as the only teams to accomplish the feat.

The **WASHINGTON REDSKINS** (bottom photo) need eight victories to reach 600 total victories. Washington's all-time record is 592-576-27.

The **DENVER BRONCOS** need six victories to reach 450 regular-season victories. Denver's all-time regular-season record is 444-382-10.

The **BUFFALO BILLS** (below) need one victory to reach 400 total victories. Buffalo's all-time record is 399-458-8.

The **NEW YORK JETS** need 11 victories to reach 400 total victories. The Jets' all-time record is 389-464-8.

The **HOUSTON TEXANS** need 10 victories to reach 100 total victories. Houston's all-time record is 90-122.





PATRIOT PLACE: PATRIOTS WIN SUPER BOWL

The New England Patriots won their fourth Super Bowl title last season with a 28-24 victory over the Seattle Seahawks in Super Bowl XLIX.



“This is a great team,” says New England head coach **BILL BELICHICK**, who joined Pro Football Hall of Famer **CHUCK NOLL** as the only head coaches to win four Super Bowls. “These guys are really special – a great group of competitors who never gave in and never lost their will. Mentally and physically, this is as tough of a group as I’ve been around and I’ve been around some.”

The Patriots finished 12-4 in 2014, earning the No. 1 seed in the AFC and their sixth consecutive AFC East division title, tied for the second-longest streak in NFL history. New England, which also won five consecutive division titles from 2003-2007, became the first team in NFL history to win 11 division championships in a 12-year span.

New England is the second team (1970s Pittsburgh Steelers) in NFL history – and first in 35 years – to win four Super Bowls with the same owner (ROBERT KRAFT), head coach (Belichick) and quarterback (TOM BRADY), as the franchise has enjoyed an incredible run of success since Kraft purchased the team in 1994.

“To be able to maintain that kind of consistent excellence is a rare thing in any field, including on the football field,” said President **BARACK OBAMA** during a ceremony at The White House (above) to honor the Patriots’ Super Bowl victory. “There’s the ‘Patriot Way’ – a group that values teamwork and hard work above all else. They have set a standard for excellence that we may not see again for a very long time.”

Super Bowl XLIX came down to the final moments of the fourth quarter, as the Seahawks drove down to the Patriots’ one yard-line with 26 seconds remaining and a four-point deficit to overcome (28-24). On second down, Patriots cornerback **MALCOLM BUTLER** (right) jumped in front of a quick slant route for an unforgettable interception – the first of his NFL career – securing another New England championship and a place in Super Bowl history.



“It’s unbelievable to see him blossom, and to come out here and make such a big play in a big situation,” says Patriots wide receiver **JULIAN EDELMAN** of Butler. “Unbelievable play.”



Quarterback Brady (left) passed for 328 yards and four touchdowns, including the game-winning three-yard score to Edelman in the fourth quarter, and was named Super Bowl MVP. Brady (XXXVI, XXXVIII and XLIX) joined Pro Football Hall of Famer **JOE MONTANA** (XVI, XIX and XXIV) as the only players in NFL history to win three Super Bowl MVP Awards.

“Tom is the best,” says wide receiver **DANNY AMENDOLA** of Brady, who is the winningest starting quarterback in NFL playoff history (21 wins) and owns the career Super Bowl passing records for completions (164), yards (1,605) and touchdowns (11). “He gets everybody to play at a higher level. He’s our leader emotionally. Physically, he’s at the highest level at his position. We all love playing for him.”

The 2014 Patriots had seven players selected to the Pro Bowl: quarterback Brady (10th), wide receiver Edelman (first), tight end **ROB GRONKOWSKI** (third), cornerback **DARRELLE REVIS** (sixth), safety **DEVIN MC COURTY** (second), kicker **STEPHEN GOSTKOWSKI** (third) and special teamer **MATTHEW SLATER** (fourth).

“It was just an unbelievable team win,” says Gronkowski, who caught a 22-yard touchdown pass from Brady in the second quarter of the Super Bowl. “Everyone contributed, everyone on the team.”

RINGING IN THE NEW YEAR

In June, the **NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS** hosted a private event in Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts to present their Super Bowl XLIX championship rings to the team and club personnel.

"I have been blessed to host four Super Bowl ring ceremonies," says Patriots owner **ROBERT KRAFT** (right with cornerback Malcolm Butler), who hosted this year's ceremony at his home. "Just like the rings we present, we have tried to make each ceremony a little bigger and a little better than the one before."

The Jostens designed white gold ring, which is the largest Super Bowl ring ever made, features a Patriots logo which is outlined by 44 diamonds and flanked on each side by the words "World Champions." A field of 143 diamonds creates a sparkling effect, highlighting the four large Lombardi Trophies, cast with marquise-cut diamonds.



"Football is the consummate team sport," says Kraft. "These championship rings represent all that the team endured and overcame together. The players on this team will forever be bound by the memories this ring represents. The presentation of the rings is one of my favorite moments."

The sides of the ring tell the story of the championship season. On one side, the recipient's name sits atop the ring, along with the years of the franchise's previous Super Bowl Championships in 2001, 2003, 2004 and 2014. The player's number, encrusted in diamonds, sits just above the Gillette Stadium logo. The other side of the ring features a Super Bowl XLIX logo with the final score, 28-24, on the left and the team's overall record, 15-4, on the right. The phrase "Do Your Job" is labeled atop that side of the ring and inside the ring is a quote from Kraft, "We are all Patriots."





SUPER FOLLOW-UPS

How Super Bowl winners fared the following season, with teams that repeated in **bold** (eight Super Bowl winners won the title game the next year and four lost it):

Season	Super Bowl	Winner	Next Season
1966	I	Green Bay	Won Super Bowl
1967	II	Green Bay	Missed playoffs
1968	III	New York Jets	Lost in first round
1969	IV	Kansas City	Missed playoffs
1970	V	Baltimore	Lost AFC Championship Game
1971	VI	Dallas	Lost NFC Championship Game
1972	VII	Miami	Won Super Bowl
1973	VIII	Miami	Lost in first round
1974	IX	Pittsburgh	Won Super Bowl
1975	X	Pittsburgh	Lost AFC Championship Game
1976	XI	Oakland	Lost AFC Championship Game
1977	XII	Dallas	Lost Super Bowl
1978	XIII	Pittsburgh	Won Super Bowl
1979	XIV	Pittsburgh	Missed playoffs
1980	XV	Oakland	Missed playoffs
1981	XVI	San Francisco	Missed playoffs
1982	XVII	Washington	Lost Super Bowl
1983	XVIII	L.A. Raiders	Lost Wild Card Game
1984	XIX	San Francisco	Lost Wild Card Game
1985	XX	Chicago	Lost NFC Divisional Playoff Game
1986	XXI	New York Giants	Missed playoffs
1987	XXII	Washington	Missed playoffs
1988	XXIII	San Francisco	Won Super Bowl
1989	XXIV	San Francisco	Lost NFC Championship Game
1990	XXV	New York Giants	Missed playoffs
1991	XXVI	Washington	Lost NFC Divisional Playoff Game
1992	XXVII	Dallas	Won Super Bowl
1993	XXVIII	Dallas	Lost NFC Championship Game
1994	XXIX	San Francisco	Lost NFC Divisional Playoff Game
1995	XXX	Dallas	Lost NFC Divisional Playoff Game
1996	XXXI	Green Bay	Lost Super Bowl
1997	XXXII	Denver	Won Super Bowl
1998	XXXIII	Denver	Missed playoffs
1999	XXXIV	St. Louis	Lost Wild Card Game
2000	XXXV	Baltimore	Lost AFC Divisional Playoff Game
2001	XXXVI	New England	Missed playoffs
2002	XXXVII	Tampa Bay	Missed playoffs
2003	XXXVIII	New England	Won Super Bowl
2004	XXXIX	New England	Lost AFC Divisional Playoff Game
2005	XL	Pittsburgh	Missed playoffs
2006	XLI	Indianapolis	Lost AFC Divisional Playoff Game
2007	XLII	New York Giants	Lost NFC Divisional Playoff Game
2008	XLIII	Pittsburgh	Missed playoffs
2009	XLIV	New Orleans	Lost NFC Wild Card Game
2010	XLV	Green Bay	Lost NFC Divisional Playoff Game
2011	XLVI	New York Giants	Missed playoffs
2012	XLVII	Baltimore	Missed playoffs
2013	XLVIII	Seattle	Lost Super Bowl
2014	XLIX	New England	???



LEGION OF BOOM



The Seattle Seahawks, who won Super Bowl XLVIII, have advanced to the Super Bowl in each of the past two seasons.

A big part of the team's success has been Seattle's defense, which has led the NFL in points allowed in each of the past three seasons.

"Defense wins championships," says Seahawks Pro Bowl safety **KAM CHANCELLOR** (left), one of the members of Seattle's vaunted "Legion of Boom" secondary. "We're working our hardest to get back to the Super Bowl. We're more focused and more driven than ever. We're hungry."

YEAR	POINTS ALLOWED	POINTS ALLOWED/GAME
2012	245	15.3
2013	231	14.4
2014	254	15.9

Seattle's success on defense has come from a combination of talent and intelligence.

"We're not just All-Pro players," says Seahawks All-Star cornerback **RICHARD SHERMAN** (far right). "We're All-Pro minds."

The Seahawks are one of only three teams in NFL history to lead the league in points allowed in three consecutive seasons. Seattle joined the 1953-57 Cleveland Browns and the 1969-71 Minnesota Vikings as the only teams to accomplish the feat.

"We recognize that what we're doing right now is pretty good," says Seattle Pro Bowl linebacker **BOBBY WAGNER**. "Our job is to keep that going. If we put a couple more championships up there, then people should consider us with the great defenses of all-time."

And that's the goal for the Seahawks, who will enter the 2015 season looking to shut down opposing offenses on their way to another Super Bowl appearance.



"This team is all about making history," says Seattle Pro Bowl safety **EARL THOMAS** (above, on left).

TEAM	YEAR	POINTS ALLOWED	POINTS ALLOWED/GAME
Cleveland	1953	162	13.5
	1954	162	13.5
	1955	217	18.2
	1956	177	14.8
	1957	172	14.3
Minnesota	1969	133	9.5
	1970	143	10.2
	1971	139	9.9
Seattle	2012	245	15.3
	2013	231	14.4
	2014	254	15.9

QUARTERBACK SUCCESS

NFL QBs put together a historically proficient and prolific year in 2014.



The league-wide completion percentage (62.6), league-wide passer rating (88.9) and league-wide touchdown pass totals (807) were at historic levels, topping the previous records set in 2013 (61.2 completion percentage; 86.0 passer rating; 804 TD passes).

Games averaged 696.2 total net yards per game, the second-best mark in NFL annals (697.0 in 2013). Explosive passing offenses fueled that trend, with an average of 473.6 net passing yards per game, an all-time high (471.2 in 2013).

The league-wide interception percentage of 2.52 percent was the lowest of any season in NFL history, surpassing the previous mark of 2.63 in 2012.

As efficient as NFL QBs were in 2014, they did not shy away from throwing deep. The league-wide yards per attempt average of 7.21 was the highest in the Super Bowl era (since 1966), topping the previous high of 7.20 yards per attempt in 2011.

“It’s a quarterback’s league now,” says CBS analyst and Pro Football Hall of Fame quarterback **DAN FOUTS**. “It’s how the game has evolved. You’ve got coaches willing to throw the ball more than ever, and you’ve got receivers who are the best athletes on the field. Why wouldn’t a coach want to use them?”

As professional football has evolved, the sophistication and importance of the passing game have grown consistently. Defenders have grown stronger and faster while defensive coordinators have become more creative. Moving the ball downfield three yards at a time via the run has grown increasingly difficult.

This trend has helped allow the growing number of star NFL quarterbacks – ranging from established veterans like **DREW BREES**, **PEYTON MANNING** and **AARON RODGERS** (above) to promising youngsters like **ANDREW LUCK** and **RUSSELL WILSON** – to fully showcase their passing talents.

“Everybody feeds off of what the quarterback can and cannot do,” says ESPN analyst and Pro Football Hall of Fame quarterback **STEVE YOUNG**. “Defensively, offensively, everybody reacts to what threats or non-threats the quarterback has. Everything else is secondary.”

An NFL-record nine quarterbacks had 30+ touchdown passes in 2014, surpassing the previous high of five (2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013).

Eleven passers reached the 4,000-yard mark in 2014, tied for the most of any season in NFL history (2012).

The quarterbacks with 4,000+ passing yards, 30+ touchdown passes or a 100+ passer rating in 2014:

4,000+ PASS YARDS	
PLAYER	YARDS
Drew Brees	4,952
Ben Roethlisberger	4,952
Andrew Luck	4,761
Peyton Manning	4,727
Matt Ryan	4,694
Eli Manning	4,410
Aaron Rodgers	4,381
Philip Rivers	4,286
Matthew Stafford	4,257
Tom Brady	4,109
Ryan Tannehill	4,045

30+ PASS TDs	
PLAYER	TDs
Andrew Luck	40
Peyton Manning	39
Aaron Rodgers	38
Tony Romo	34
Tom Brady	33
Drew Brees	33
Ben Roethlisberger	32
Philip Rivers	31
Eli Manning	30

100+ PASSER RATING	
PLAYER	RATING
Tony Romo	113.2
Aaron Rodgers	112.2
Ben Roethlisberger	103.3
Peyton Manning	101.5



Ryan Tannehill



Matthew Stafford



Tony Romo

QUARTERBACK CONSISTENCY

NFL quarterbacks produced one of the most prolific and efficient seasons in NFL history in 2014, setting a number of league-wide passing records (see previous page).

A big reason for that success was the consistent performance of the starters.

In 2014, 16 of 32 teams started the same quarterback in every game, tied for the fourth-most of any season since at least 1970.

SEASON	NO. OF TEAMS TO START SAME QB ALL SEASON
2012	20
1982	18
2013	17
2014	16
2001	16
2006	16
2008	16

“What separates the teams that have success and the teams that don’t have success is having a franchise quarterback that plays every week and plays at a high level,” says New York Giants President and CEO **JOHN MARA**. “If you have a franchise quarterback, you’re always going to be competitive. You always have a chance to win.”

Over the past three seasons, 53 teams – 20 in 2012; 17 in 2013; 16 in 2014 – started the same quarterback in every game, the most ever in any three-year span.

The most teams to start the same quarterback over any three-year span:

SEASONS	MOST TEAMS TO START SAME QB OVER ANY THREE-YEAR SPAN
2012-2014	53
2011-2013	51
2010-2012	46
2006-2008	43
2001-2003	43

SUPER BOWL TROPHY BY THE NUMBERS

Immediately following a Super Bowl victory, the winner is presented with the **VINCE LOMBARDI TROPHY**.

“Tiffany & Co. creates many of the world’s greatest championship trophies, and the Vince Lombardi trophy is certainly one of them,” says **VICTORIA WIRTH REYNOLDS**, group director of business sales at Tiffany & Co., the trophy’s manufacturer. “Made by Tiffany artisans, who use age-old silversmithing techniques from the 1800’s, the Vince Lombardi Trophy is a lasting tribute to the athletes’ dedication and goal of greatness.”

After the trophy is presented, it is then returned to Tiffany & Co. for any repairs and the engraving of the Super Bowl team names and the final score onto the base. It then goes back to the winning team for permanent possession.

The particulars of the Vince Lombardi Trophy:



Weight	7 pounds
Height	22 inches
Man-hours To Complete	72
Made of	Sterling silver *
Year Designed	1967
First Sketched On	A napkin
Sketched By	Oscar Riedener **
Crafted by	Hand
Made In	Cumberland, RI
Made By	Tiffany
Value	Priceless per 32 NFL teams
Sought Yearly By	1,700 players ***

*Including nuts and bolts. ** Former Tiffany VP of design. ***At least.

GOOD THINGS COME IN PAIRS

What's better than having a great running back on your team? Having two!

Last season, 12 clubs boasted two running backs with at least 400 rushing yards each for that team, including three playoff teams – Cincinnati, Denver and Indianapolis. Despite the proliferation of the passing game, teams have continued to rely on different options in the backfield to gain an advantage.



“You need good running backs to win,” says Tampa Bay head coach **LOVIE SMITH**. “You look at the teams in the playoffs. They all had big, good running backs who could move the ball. That will always be an important part of our game.”

The Bengals would agree. Led by the versatile duo of **JEREMY HILL** and **GIOVANI BERNARD** (left), Cincinnati had the third-best rushing attack in the AFC (134.2 yards per game) and won five of its last seven games to earn a playoff berth. The Bengals were the only team to have one running back that gained at least 1,000 rushing yards and a second back who amassed at least 600 yards. Hill finished the season fourth in the AFC with 1,124 rushing yards while Bernard added 680 yards.

“They’ve done a good job,” says Bengals quarterback **ANDY DALTON** about Hill and Bernard. “It’s good that we can flip them in and out. It’s good to have different styles of guys.”

Denver’s tandem of Pro Bowl running back **C.J. ANDERSON** (849 rushing yards) and **RONNIE HILLMAN** (434) helped the Broncos win the AFC West title.

“We like that group,” says Denver head coach **GARY KUBIAK** about the Broncos’ running backs – Anderson, Hillman and **MONTEE BALL**. “That’s a lot of young guys who all want to play, who all believe they can play and that’s what you want.”

Last season, Cleveland’s running backs **TERRANCE WEST** (673) and **ISAIAH CROWELL** (607) became the first rookies in franchise history to each run for at least 500 yards in the same season.

The teams that had two running backs rush for at least 400 rushing yards each in 2014:

TEAM	RUNNING BACK	YARDS	RUNNING BACK	YARDS
Buffalo	Fred Jackson	525	Boobie Dixon	432
Cincinnati	Jeremy Hill	1,124	Giovani Bernard	680
Cleveland	Terrance West	673	Isaiah Crowell	607
Denver	C.J. Anderson	849	Ronnie Hillman	434
Houston	Arian Foster	1,246	Alfred Blue	528
Indianapolis	Trent Richardson	519	Ahmad Bradshaw	425
Kansas City	Jamaal Charles	1,033	Knile Davis	463
Minnesota	Matt Asiata	570	Jerick McKinnon	538
New York Giants	Andre Williams	721	Rashad Jennings	639
New York Jets	Chris Ivory	821	Chris Johnson	663
Oakland	Darren McFadden	534	Latavius Murray	424
Tampa Bay	Doug Martin	494	Bobby Rainey	406



Isaiah Crowell & Terrance West



Arian Foster & Alfred Blue

TIGHT ENDS ON THE RISE

In today's NFL, more teams are factoring the tight end into the offense.

"I've never seen this many tight ends this good at one particular time," says Pro Football Hall of Famer **SHANNON SHARPE**, one of eight tight ends enshrined in Canton. "We've never seen the position this dominant. This is the golden age of tight ends."



The past couple of seasons have seen NFL tight ends performing at a high level and 2014 was no different. Last season, tight ends caught 216 touchdowns, the second-most in a single season for the position (236 in 2013). Tight ends also combined for 2,322 receptions and 25,657 receiving yards, both of which rank fourth in a single season for the position.

SINGLE-SEASON TIGHT END RECORDS

YEAR	CATCHES	YEAR	REC. YARDS	YEAR	TD CATCHES
2012	2,401	2013	27,284	2013	236
2013	2,384	2011	27,080	2014	216
2011	2,341	2012	26,197	2011	198
2014	2,322	2014	25,657	2012	197

Last season, four tight ends – **ANTONIO GATES** (12) (below), **ROB GRONKOWSKI** (12) (above), **JULIUS THOMAS** (12) and **JIMMY GRAHAM** (10) – caught at least 10 touchdown passes, the most tight ends with 10+ TD catches in a single season in NFL history.

SEASON	MOST TIGHT ENDS WITH 10+ TDs IN SINGLE SEASON
2014	4
2013	3
2010	3
2009	3
1996	3
1967	3

Gates and Gronkowski became the first tight ends in NFL history with 10 or more touchdown receptions in four different seasons, surpassing **TONY GONZALEZ**, who had three such seasons. Thomas, who also had 12 TD catches in 2013, became the first tight end in NFL history with back-to-back 12-touchdown seasons.

"The importance of the tight end position has increased with the new emphasis on the passing game," says NFL Network analyst and former NFL head coach **STEVE MARIUCCI**. "You can play them in line and run some regular offense, and also stand them up and split them out in the slot or wide out and play them in a spread-out type offense."



The versatility of today's tight ends causes matchup problems for the defense, which is crucial in the NFL's never-ending chess game between offensive and defensive coordinators.

"This game has always been about matchups," says NFL Network analyst and former NFL head coach **BRIAN BILLICK**. "You hear coaches say it every week: 'Where are my best matchups?' Well, your best matchup today is likely a tight end against a linebacker or safety. To have talent that can stretch the field like a legitimate receiver but also be a point-of-attack in-line blocker, that's why everyone covets one of those guys."

Last season, **JASON WITTEN** (10,502) and Gates (10,014) became the third and fourth tight ends in NFL history to reach 10,000 career receiving yards, joining Gonzalez (15,127) and Sharpe (10,060).

The tight ends with 10,000+ career receiving yards:

TIGHT END	TEAM(S)	CAREER RECEIVING YARDS
Tony Gonzalez	Kansas City, Atlanta	15,127
Jason Witten	Dallas	10,502*
Shannon Sharpe	Denver, Baltimore	10,060
Antonio Gates	San Diego	10,014*

*Active

TOP SUPERLATIVE? RUN THE BALL

A tough, reliable running game allows an offense to command a game's pace. In the majority of contests, it can also control the game's result.

In 2014, NFL teams with a 100-yard rusher in a game posted a 75-23-2 record for a .760 winning percentage. That rated higher than clubs with a 100-yard receiver (105-74-1, .586) or a 300-yard passer (70-52-1, .573).

"It's all about winning," says Dallas Cowboys head coach **JASON GARRETT**. "It's all about what's best for our football team. Now, those two things coincide. It's good for our football team when we are running the ball well and we control the game by running the football."

Running back **DE MARCO MURRAY** set Cowboys records for rushing yards (1,845) and 100-yard games (12) in 2014 and Dallas posted a 10-2 record when he rushed for 100 yards in a game. In 2015, Murray will be running the ball for head coach **CHIP KELLY** and the Philadelphia Eagles.

"Obviously, you just look at him statistically in terms of what he did," says Kelly about Murray. "You know what kind of workhorse back he is. He has unbelievable patience and vision. There's a toughness to him. He never really takes negative yardage plays."



Over the past five years, teams have compiled a 395-163-5 record (.706) when a player has eclipsed the 100-yard rushing mark. By comparison, clubs with a 100-yard receiver have a .550 winning percentage (480-393-2), while offenses with a 300-yard passer have won 52.1 percent of games (304-279-1).

The winning percentage of teams with a 100-yard rusher, 100-yard receiver, or 300-yard passer over the past five seasons:

100-YARD RUSHERS		
YEAR	W-L	WIN PCT
2010	87-34	.719
2011	90-38	.703
2012	83-35-1	.702
2013	60-33-2	.642
2014	75-23-2	.760
Total	395-163-5	.706

100-YARD RECEIVERS		
YEAR	W-L	WIN PCT
2010	92-79	.538
2011	93-80	.538
2012	92-78-1	.541
2013	98-82	.544
2014	105-74-1	.586
Total	480-393-2	.550

300-YARD PASSERS		
YEAR	W-L	WIN PCT
2010	47-49	.490
2011	66-55	.545
2012	61-65	.484
2013	60-58	.508
2014	70-52-1	.573
Total	304-279-1	.521

FOURTH-AND-ONE

In fourth-and-one situations, the offense or defense must not only overpower its opponent but also outsmart it in order to retain or gain possession. It is an art that must be studied for mastery.



"Something big is going to happen," says NFL Network analyst and former NFL head coach **BRIAN BILLICK**. "Either you're going to convert in a crucial situation that keeps a drive alive or you get stopped. It's either a huge emotional lift for your team or a huge emotional drain."

The Oakland Raiders converted all four of their fourth-and-one situations last season, finishing as the only team with a perfect mark in the category (minimum four attempts). The Cincinnati Bengals converted five of their six fourth-down conversions, finishing second in the league with an 83.3 percent success rate.

The teams with the most attempts and the best efficiency on fourth-and-one last season:

MOST ATTEMPTS, FOURTH-AND-ONE			
TEAM	ATT	CONV	PCT
Baltimore	10	6	60.0
Indianapolis	9	5	55.6
Chicago	8	6	75.0
San Francisco	8	6	75.0
Jacksonville	8	4	50.0

MOST EFFICIENT, FOURTH-AND-ONE (MIN. 4 ATTEMPTS)			
TEAM	ATT	CONV	PCT
Oakland	4	4	100.0
Cincinnati	6	5	83.3
4 Teams Tied	5	4	80.0

TURNOVERS ARE KEY TO VICTORY

What is one of the secrets to success in the NFL? Winning the turnover battle certainly ranks high on the list.



“If you win the turnover ratio, you have a good chance of winning games,” says Green Bay Packers head coach **MIKE MC CARTHY** (left), whose team led the NFL last season with a +14 net turnover differential. “This game is about making big plays, taking care of the football and taking it away. Those are critical components.”

Last season, four of the five top teams in net turnover differential – Green Bay (+14), New England (+12), Seattle (+10) and Arizona (+8) – made the playoffs and combined for a 47-17 record (.734).

TEAM	TOTAL TAKEAWAYS	TOTAL GIVEAWAYS	NET DIFFERENTIAL	RECORD
Green Bay*	27	13	+14	12-4
Houston	34	22	+12	9-7
New England*	25	13	+12	12-4
Seattle*	24	14	+10	12-4
Arizona*	25	17	+8	11-5

*Qualified for playoffs

“Turnovers are huge,” says **BILL BELICHICK**, head coach of the Super Bowl XLIX champion New England Patriots. “There’s no statistic that correlates more to winning than turnovers.”

Last year, the Super Bowl champion Patriots and the NFC North champion Packers had only 13 giveaways, tied for the third-fewest giveaways in a 16-game season in NFL history.

SEASON	TEAM	FEWEST GIVEAWAYS IN 16-GAME SEASON
2011	San Francisco	10
2010	New England	10
2014	Green Bay	13
2014	New England	13
2008	Miami	13
2008	New York Giants	13

THIRD-DOWN CONVERSIONS

Excelling on third down extends drives and keeps your opponent off the field, making it a pivotal factor in winning games.

Last season, the New Orleans Saints led the NFL with the highest third-down conversion percentage (48.3), followed by the Dallas Cowboys (47.3) and Green Bay Packers (47.2).

Both the Cowboys and Packers tied for the NFL lead with 12 wins and each club won its division.

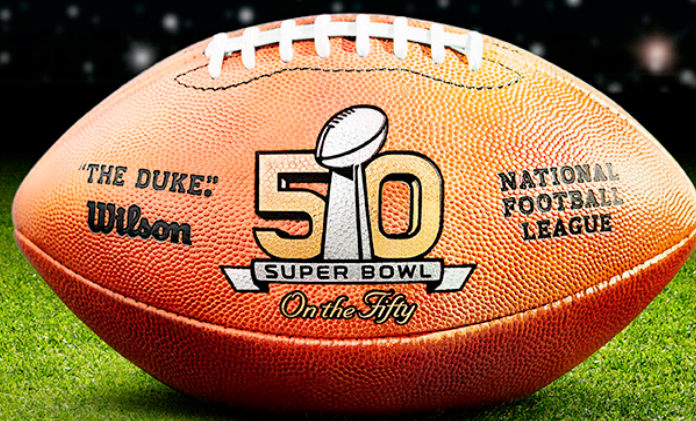
“Third downs are critical,” says Dallas head coach **JASON GARRETT** (right, with Cowboys quarterback Tony Romo). “You have to keep drives alive, you have to get off the field and you have to do it on a consistent basis. One of the best things we’ve done as a team offensively is convert on third down. It’s been a good thing for us. I think it’s helped our entire team.”



The teams with the best third-down conversion percentage in 2014:

TEAM	3RD DOWN ATT	3RD DOWN CONV	3RD DOWN PCT
New Orleans	203	98	48.3
Dallas	201	95	47.3
Green Bay	197	93	47.2
San Diego	215	97	45.1
Pittsburgh	208	93	44.7

THE PLAYERS



BACK TO FOOTBALL

WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN 2015

PEYTON MANNING (below), Denver, needs 2,148 passing yards to surpass Brett Favre (71,838) for the most all-time. In 17 seasons, Manning has 69,691 passing yards.

Manning needs 374 completions to surpass Favre (6,300) for the most all-time. In 17 seasons, Manning has 5,927 completions.



Manning can increase his NFL record total of 400-yard pass games (see Brees note). In 17 seasons, Manning has 14 400-yard passing games.

Manning can increase his NFL record total of 300-yard passing games (see Brees note). In 17 seasons, Manning has 91 total 300-yard passing games.

Manning can increase his NFL record total of four-touchdown pass games (see Brees note). In 17 seasons, Manning has 35 games with four or more touchdown passes.

Manning has led the league in completions four times and can join Dan Marino (6) and Sammy Baugh (5) as the only players to lead the league in completions at least five times (see Brees note).

Manning has led the league in pass attempts three times in his career and can join Dan Marino (5), Sammy Baugh (4), Johnny Unitas (4) and George Blanda (4) as the only players to lead the league in attempts at least four times (see Brees note).

DREW BREES (below right), New Orleans, needs 5,329 passing yards to surpass Dan Marino (61,651) for the third-most all-time. In 14 seasons, Brees has 56,033 passing yards.

Brees needs 4,000 passing yards to join Peyton Manning (14) as the only players in NFL history with at least 10 4,000-yard passing seasons. In 14 seasons, Brees has had nine 4,000-yard passing seasons.

Brees needs four touchdown passes to join Dan Marino (420), Brett Favre (508) and Peyton Manning (530) as the only players with 400 career touchdown passes. In 14 seasons, Brees has 396 touchdown passes.

Brees can extend his NFL record streak of consecutive seasons with at least 30 touchdown passes. Brees has passed for at least 30 touchdowns in each of the past seven seasons.

Brees can become the first player to lead the league in passing yards six times in his career. Brees is currently tied with Sonny Jurgensen (5) and Dan Marino (5) for the most such seasons in NFL history.

Brees needs 31 completions to surpass Dan Marino (4,967) for the third-most all-time (see Brady note). In 14 seasons, Brees has 4,937 completions.

Brees needs four 400-yard passing games to surpass Peyton Manning (14) for the most all-time (see P. Manning note). In 14 seasons, Brees has 11 400-yard passing games.

Brees needs six 300-yard passing games to surpass Peyton Manning (91) for the most all-time (see P. Manning note). In 14 seasons, Brees has 86 300-yard passing games.

Brees needs to pass for at least four touchdowns in 10 games to surpass Peyton Manning (35) for the most four-touchdown pass games in NFL history (see P. Manning note). In 14 seasons, Brees has 26 games with four or more touchdown passes.

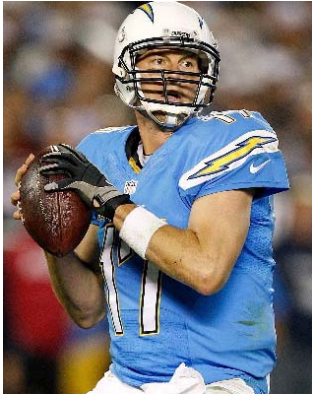
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Brees has led the league in pass attempts three times in his career and can join Dan Marino (5) Sammy Baugh (4), Johnny Unitas (4) and George Blanda (4) as the only players to lead the league in attempts at least four times (see P. Manning note).



TOM BRADY, New England, needs five touchdown passes to surpass Drew Brees (396) for the fourth-most all-time (see Brees note). In 15 seasons, Brady has 392 touchdown passes.

Brady needs eight touchdown passes to join Dan Marino (420), Brett Favre (508) and Peyton Manning (530) as the only players with 400 career touchdown passes (see Brees note). In 15 seasons, Brady has 392 touchdown passes.



Brady needs 2,776 passing yards to surpass Drew Brees (56,033) for the fourth-most all-time (see Brees note). In 15 seasons, Brady has 53,258 passing yards.

Brady needs 417 completions to surpass Dan Marino (4,697) and Drew Brees (4,937) for the third-most all-time (see Brees note). In 15 seasons, Brady has 4,551 completions.

ELI MANNING, New York Giants, needs 33 touchdown passes to surpass Dave Krieg (261), Joe Montana (273), Vinny Testaverde (275), Johnny Unitas (290) and Warren Moon (291) for the eighth-most all-time. In 11 seasons, Manning has 259 touchdown passes.

PHILIP RIVERS (left), San Diego, has led the league in average yards per pass three times in his career and can join Steve Young (5) and Sid Luckman (7) as the only players in NFL history to do so in at least four seasons.

ADRIAN PETERSON (right), Minnesota, needs 10 rushing touchdowns to join Emmitt Smith (8) and LaDainian Tomlinson (9) as the only players in NFL history to rush for 10 touchdowns in at least eight different seasons.

Peterson has five 200-yard rushing games in his career. Peterson needs two 200-yard rushing games to surpass Tiki Barber (5) and O.J. Simpson (6) for the most all-time.

Peterson needs 14 rushing touchdowns to become the ninth player in NFL history with 100 rushing touchdowns. In eight seasons, Peterson has 86 rushing touchdowns.

FRANK GORE, Indianapolis, needs 1,000 rushing yards to join Curtis Martin (10), Barry Sanders (10), Walter Payton (10) and Emmitt Smith (11) as the only players in NFL history to rush for 1,000 yards in at least nine different seasons. In 10 seasons, Gore has rushed for 1,000 yards eight times.



ARIAN FOSTER (left), Houston, needs 1,864 rushing yards to surpass Priest Holmes (8,172) for the most all-time by an undrafted player. In six seasons, Foster has 6,309 rushing yards.

ANDRE JOHNSON, Indianapolis, needs 100 receptions to become the first player in NFL history with six 100-catch seasons (see Marshall note). Johnson, Brandon Marshall and Wes Welker are the only players with five 100-reception seasons.

Johnson needs 91 receptions to surpass Isaac Bruce (1,024), Reggie Wayne (1,070), Terrell Owens (1,078), Tim Brown (1,094), Cris Carter (1,101) and Marvin Harrison (1,102) for the third-most all-time. In 12 seasons, Johnsons has 1,012 receptions.

Johnson needs 1,500 receiving yards to join Jerry Rice (4) as the only players with four 1,500-yard seasons. In 12 seasons, Johnson has three 1,500-yard receiving seasons.

Johnson needs 14 100-yard receiving games to surpass Randy Moss (64), Marvin Harrison (59) and Terrell Owens (51) for the second-most all-time. In 12 seasons, Johnson has 51 100-yard receiving games.

Johnson needs three 200-yard receiving games to surpass Lance Alworth (5) and Calvin Johnson (5) for the most all-time (see C. Johnson note). In 12 seasons, Johnson has three games with at least 200 receiving yards.

CALVIN JOHNSON, Detroit, needs one 200-yard receiving game to surpass Lance Alworth (5) for the most all-time. In eight seasons, Johnson has five 200-yard receiving games.

Johnson needs 1,500 receiving yards to join Andre Johnson (3), Marvin Harrison (3) and Jerry Rice (4) as the only players with at least three such seasons in NFL history (see A. Johnson note). In eight seasons, Johnson has two 1,500-yard receiving seasons.

BRANDON MARSHALL, New York Jets, needs 100 receptions to become the first player in NFL history with six 100-catch seasons (see A. Johnson note). Marshall, Andre Johnson and Wes Welker are the only players with five 100-reception seasons.



JASON WITTEN (left), Dallas, needs 57 receptions to join Tony Gonzalez (1,325) as the only tight ends with 1,000 career receptions. In 12 seasons, Witten has 943 receptions.

ANTONIO GATES, San Diego, needs 489 receiving yards to surpass Jason Witten (10,502) and Shannon Sharpe (10,060) for second place all-time among tight ends. In 12 seasons, Gates has 10,014 receiving yards.

Gates needs one touchdown reception to join Tony Gonzalez (111) as the only tight ends with 100 career touchdown receptions. In 12 seasons, Gates has 99 touchdown receptions.

CHARLES WOODSON (right), Oakland, needs two interception-return touchdowns to surpass Rod Woodson (12) for the most all-time. In 17 seasons, Woodson has 11 interception-return touchdowns.

Woodson needs six interceptions to surpass Dick LeBeau (62), Dave Brown (62), Darren Sharper (63), Ronnie Lott (63), Ed Reed (64) and Ken Riley (65) for the fifth-most all-time. In 17 seasons, Woodson has 60 interceptions.

JARED ALLEN (below), Chicago, needs eight sacks to surpass Richard Dent (137.5), John Randle (137.5), Jason Taylor (139.5) and Michael Strahan (141.5) for fifth place since the sack became an official statistic in 1982. In 11 seasons, Allen has 134 sacks.



Allen has led the league in sacks twice in his career and can become the first player to lead the league three times since the sack became an official statistic in 1982 (see Ware note).

Allen needs one safety to surpass Doug English (4) and Ted Hendricks (4) for the most safeties all-time. In 11 seasons, Allen has four safeties.

DE MARCUS WARE, Denver, has led the league in sacks twice in his career and can become the first player to lead the league three times since the sack became an official statistic in 1982 (see Allen note).

J.J. WATT, Houston, can increase his NFL record total of 20-sack seasons. In four seasons, Watt has two 20-sack seasons.

ADAM VINATIERI (right), Indianapolis, needs five points to surpass Jason Hanson (2,150) for third place all-time. In 19 seasons, Vinatieri has 2,146 points.

Vinatieri needs 18 field goals to surpass John Carney (478) and Jason Hanson (495) for the third-most all-time. In 19 seasons, Vinatieri has 478 field goals.

STEPHEN GOSTKOWSKI, New England, has led the league in scoring four times in his career and can join Don Hutson (5) and Gino Cappelletti (5) as the only players to lead the league in points scored at least five times.

Gostkowski has led the league in field goals three times in his career and can join Lou Groza (5), Ward Cuff (4) and Jack Manders (4) as the only players to lead the league in field goals at least four times.

SEBASTIAN JANIKOWSKI, Oakland, needs five 50-yard field goals to surpass Jason Hanson (52) for the most all-time. In 15 seasons, Janikowski has 48 50-yard field goals.





AARON RODGERS: GREEN BAY IS MR. RODGERS' NEIGHBORHOOD



Last season, Green Bay Packers quarterback **AARON RODGERS** was named the NFL's Most Valuable Player after completing 341 of 520 passes (65.6 percent) for 4,381 yards and 38 touchdowns with five interceptions for a 112.2 passer rating. It marked the second time in his career Rodgers was named the league's MVP (2011).

"I feel so fortunate to live out my dreams year after year," says Rodgers.

Rodgers has recorded a 100+ passer rating in each of the past six seasons, extending his NFL-record streak. He and Pro Football Hall of Famer **STEVE YOUNG** (1991-94) are the only quarterbacks in NFL history with a 100+ rating in at least four seasons in a row.

AARON RODGERS

YEAR	TEAM	PASSER RATING
2009	Green Bay	103.2
2010	Green Bay	101.2
2011	Green Bay	122.5
2012	Green Bay	108.0
2013	Green Bay	104.9
2014	Green Bay	112.2

STEVE YOUNG

YEAR	TEAM	PASSER RATING
1991	San Francisco	101.8
1992	San Francisco	107.0
1993	San Francisco	101.5
1994	San Francisco	112.8

"I'm driven to be the best," says Rodgers. "I put a lot of pressure on myself to achieve the goals I set every year. I enjoy trying to meet the challenge those goals bring."

In 2014, Rodgers had eight games with at least three touchdown passes and no interceptions, tied for the most in a single season in NFL history (TOM BRADY, 2007). Rodgers recorded a passer rating of at least 100 in 11 games last season and the Packers were a perfect 11-0 in those contests.

"Aaron is an excellent illustration of a Green Bay Packer," says Packers head coach **MIKE MC CARTHY** (right, with Rodgers). "It is truly a blessing to witness his continued accomplishments, both on and off the field."



Rodgers led the Packers to an 8-0 record at Lambeau Field last season, compiling a 133.2 home passer rating, the highest single-season mark in league annals. He threw 24 touchdown passes without an interception at home in 2014, the most touchdown passes without an interception at home in a single season in NFL history.

"I think he's the best maybe to ever play," says Green Bay guard **JOSH SITTON** about Rodgers. "Nothing really surprises me with him."

In 2014, Rodgers made his 100th career start and holds league records for the most passing yards (27,520), zero-interception games (58) and 100+ passer rating games (60) along with the highest passer rating (107.3) and best touchdown-interception ratio (4.11) in a quarterback's first 100 starts.

"I've never seen a quarterback or been a part of quarterback play at this level," says McCarthy about Rodgers. "The numbers speak for themselves."

Entering 2015, Rodgers ranks first in NFL history in career passer rating (minimum 1,500 attempts) with a 106.0 mark.

QUARTERBACK	TEAM(S)	YEARS	ATT	COMP	YARDS	TD	INT	PASSER RATING
Aaron Rodgers*	Green Bay	2005-2014	3,475	2,286	28,578	226	57	106.0
Tony Romo*	Dallas	2004-2014	4,210	2,743	33,270	242	110	97.6
Peyton Manning*	Indianapolis, Denver	1998-2014	9,049	5,927	69,691	530	234	97.5
Steve Young	Tampa Bay, San Francisco	1985-1999	4,149	2,667	33,124	232	107	96.8
Tom Brady*	New England	2000-2014	7,168	4,551	53,258	392	143	95.6

*Active

ALL THEY DO IS WIN: TOM BRADY & PEYTON MANNING

Quarterbacks **TOM BRADY** of the New England Patriots and **PEYTON MANNING** of the Denver Broncos are still at the top of their games. Brady and Manning, whose teams will meet in Week 12 for the 17th time of their storied careers, are the only quarterbacks in NFL history to be at least 100 regular-season games above the .500 mark.



“What’s remarkable is that these two guys have been able to keep their teams on top, almost no matter what,” says NBC Sports analyst **CRIS COLLINSWORTH**. “All they do is keep on winning. That’s how great they are.”

Last season, Brady guided the Patriots to a division title for the 12th time in his career, the most of any starting quarterback in NFL history, en route to the franchise’s fourth Super Bowl title. Manning led the Broncos to his 11th career division title, which ranks second only to Brady in NFL annals among starting QBs.

“I think the one thing that jumps out about Tom is just his consistency,” says Manning about Brady. “I feel like he’s been a better player each year than he was the year before, and that, to me speaks to his work ethic in the offseason, his refusal to be complacent or satisfied.”

Both quarterbacks are also among the all-time leaders in wins and winning percentage. Brady’s .773 winning percentage is the highest of any quarterback in the Super Bowl era (minimum 100 starts), and Manning (179) needs eight regular-season wins in 2015 to surpass BRETT FAVRE (186) for the most wins by a starting quarterback in league history.

“Peyton is a great player, a great motivator and a great leader,” says Brady about Manning. “He plays at a high level on a week-in, week-out basis.”

The quarterbacks with the best regular-season record in the Super Bowl era (minimum 100 starts) and the most regular-season wins as a starter in NFL history:

BEST WIN PCT. IN SUPER BOWL ERA

QUARTERBACK	RECORD	PCT.
Tom Brady*	160-47-0	.773
Roger Staubach	85-29-0	.746
Joe Montana	117-47-0	.713
Peyton Manning*	179-77-0	.699
Terry Bradshaw	107-51-0	.677

*Active

MOST CAREER WINS AS STARTER

QUARTERBACK	RECORD	PCT.
Brett Favre	186-112-0	.624
Peyton Manning*	179-77-0	.699
Tom Brady*	160-47-0	.773
John Elway	148-82-1	.643
Dan Marino	147-93-0	.613

*Active

“Brady and Manning play the game from the head up, they play the game with their arm, and they play the game from the pocket,” says NFL Network analyst and former head coach **STEVE MARIUCCI**. “You’re seeing quarterbacking at its best and the way quarterbacking was invented. It is old-school football, and they still excel and lead the way in the NFL in that fashion. It’s one of the classic matchups of greats at the quarterback position.”

Both players rank among the NFL’s all-time leaders in many major statistical passing categories. Last year, Manning surpassed Favre for the most touchdown passes in league history. Brady is now the NFL’s all-time playoff leader in wins, completions, touchdown passes and passing yards.

Here’s a look at the career regular-season and postseason totals of Brady and Manning and where they rank all-time:

TOM BRADY

REGULAR SEASON	TOTAL	ALL-TIME RANK
Completions	4,551	5
TD Passes	392	5
Passing Yards	53,258	5
Wins	160	3
AP NFL MVP Awards	2	T-3
POSTSEASON	TOTAL	ALL-TIME RANK
Completions	683	1
TD Passes	53	1
Passing Yards	7,345	1
Wins	21	1

PEYTON MANNING

REGULAR SEASON	TOTAL	ALL-TIME RANK
Completions	5,927	2
TD Passes	530	1
Passing Yards	69,691	2
Wins	179	2
AP NFL MVP Awards	5	1
POSTSEASON	TOTAL	ALL-TIME RANK
Completions	598	2
TD Passes	38	4
Passing Yards	6,800	2
Wins	11	T-6



PEYTON MANNING: PEY DAY



Denver Broncos quarterback **PEYTON MANNING** ranks among the league's elite and continues to etch his name in the NFL record book.

Following his prolific 2013 campaign in which he set single-season records for passing yards and touchdowns, Manning led Denver to a 12-4 record and an AFC West title in 2014, passing for 4,727 yards with 39 touchdowns. In Week 7 against San Francisco, Manning eclipsed **BRETT FAVRE** (508) for the most touchdown passes in NFL history.

"It's amazing what he's done – but then again, it's not," says Favre. "I mean that with all due respect, because of his vigilance and determination. Peyton just has the drive to excellence that has made him special. I'm not surprised by anything he does."

Manning, who is entering his 18th season, is the NFL's all-time leader in career touchdown passes (530) and ranks second in career passing yards (69,691) and completions (5,927).

"He's very smart," says New England Patriots head coach **BILL BELICHICK** about Manning. "He has a great understanding of concepts and timing, game management, clock management, situational football – third down, red zone – great utilization of the field from sideline-to-sideline and attacking the deep part of the field, very accurate, great decision-maker, quick release. I don't think there are any weaknesses in his game."



Manning needs 2,148 yards and 374 completions in 2015 to surpass Favre (71,838 yards; 6,300 completions) as the all-time leader in both categories.

MOST PASSING YARDS

Brett Favre	71,838
<i>Peyton Manning</i>	<i>69,691*</i>
Dan Marino	61,361
Drew Brees	56,033*
Tom Brady	53,258*

*Active

MOST COMPLETIONS

Brett Favre	6,300
<i>Peyton Manning</i>	<i>5,927*</i>
Dan Marino	4,967
Drew Brees	4,937*
Tom Brady	4,551*

*Active

MOST TD PASSES

<i>Peyton Manning</i>	<i>530*</i>
Brett Favre	508
Dan Marino	420
Drew Brees	396*
Tom Brady	392*

*Active

Manning (14) also owns the record for the most 4,000-yard passing seasons in NFL history.

MOST 4,000-YARD PASSING SEASONS

<i>Peyton Manning</i>	<i>14*</i>
Drew Brees	9*
Tom Brady	7*
Brett Favre	6
Dan Marino	6
Philip Rivers	6*

*Active

Manning's success has been attributed to his preparation, focus, dedication, durability and passion for the game of football. Former Colts head coach and NBC Sports analyst **TONY DUNGY** spent seven years (2002-08) with Manning in Indianapolis and has been a witness to the five-time MVP's formula for success.

"He just goes way beyond what the normal person would," says Dungy. "He's chasing perfection."

MOST ASSOCIATED PRESS NFL MVP AWARDS

<i>Peyton Manning</i>	<i>5*</i>
Brett Favre	3
Tom Brady	2*
Joe Montana	2
Aaron Rodgers	2*
Johnny Unitas	2
Kurt Warner	2
Steve Young	2

*Active



TOM BRADY: IN RARE COMPANY

Last season, Pro Bowl quarterback **TOM BRADY** guided the New England Patriots to the franchise's fourth Super Bowl title in the past 14 years and became the first starting quarterback in NFL history to win 12 division championships.



"Tom has meant a lot to us since he's been here," says Patriots head coach **BILL BELICHICK**, who has combined with Brady for the most regular-season wins (160) by a quarterback-head coach duo in NFL history. "He started winning playoff games the first year he really got a chance to participate in them. Tom is a great competitor. He's our leader and we all follow him, we all respect him. There's no quarterback I'd rather have than Tom Brady."

Brady capped off another standout season with an MVP performance in Super Bowl XLIX against the defending champion Seattle Seahawks, passing for 328 yards and four touchdowns. Brady (XXXVI, XXXVIII and XLIX) joined Pro Football Hall of Famer **JOE MONTANA** (XVI, XIX and XXIV) as the only players in NFL history to win three Super Bowl MVP Awards.

The players to win multiple Super Bowl MVP awards:

QUARTERBACK	TEAM	SUPER BOWL MVPs
Tom Brady*	New England	3 (XXXVI, XXXVIII, XLIX)
Joe Montana#	San Francisco	3 (XVI, XIX, XXIV)
Bart Starr#	Green Bay	2 (I, II)
Terry Bradshaw#	Pittsburgh	2 (XIII, XIV)
Eli Manning*	N.Y. Giants	2 (XLII, XLVI)

*Active; #Pro Football Hall of Famer

Brady, a two-time NFL MVP, has a 160-47 (.773) career regular-season record, the best winning percentage of any NFL quarterback in the Super Bowl era with at least 100 starts. Brady's 160 career regular-season wins are the third-most among starting quarterbacks in NFL history.

"Quarterbacking is artwork and Tom Brady is the ultimate artist," says Pro Football Hall of Fame quarterback **STEVE YOUNG.**

Brady's star has always shined the brightest during the playoffs. He is the all-time postseason leader in career completions (683), touchdowns (53), passing yards (7,345) and wins by a starting quarterback (21).



The starting quarterbacks with the most playoff wins in NFL history:

QUARTERBACK	TEAM(S)	PLAYOFF WINS
Tom Brady*	New England	21
Joe Montana	San Francisco, Kansas City	16
Terry Bradshaw	Pittsburgh	14
John Elway	Denver	14
Brett Favre	Green Bay, Minnesota	13

*Active

Brady, who ranks fifth in NFL history with 392 career touchdown passes, approaches his 16th season with the same determination as when he entered the league as a sixth-round selection in the 2000 NFL Draft. In 2015, Brady and **DREW BREES** (396) can join **PEYTON MANNING** (530), **BRETT FAVRE** (508) and Pro Football Hall of Famer **DAN MARINO** (420) as the only players in NFL history with 400 career touchdown passes.

MOST CAREER TD PASSES

Peyton Manning*	530
Brett Favre	508
Dan Marino	420
Drew Brees*	396
Tom Brady*	392

*Active



RUSSELL WILSON: IN RUSS WE TRUST



Seattle quarterback **RUSSELL WILSON** has led the Seahawks to two Super Bowl appearances – including a win in Super Bowl XLVIII – in his first three seasons, the only quarterback in NFL history to accomplish the feat. He also became the youngest quarterback (26 years, 64 days) to start two Super Bowls.

“He’s so special,” says Seattle head coach **PETE CARROLL** about Wilson. “He’s just a tremendous competitor. And he’s going to keep going. There are records this guy is going to continue to knock off.”

Wilson, who has been selected to the Pro Bowl in each of his first three years in the league, has 36 regular-season wins, six playoff victories and 42 total wins – all are the most by a starting quarterback in his first three NFL seasons during the Super Bowl era. He passed Pro Football Hall of Famer **DAN MARINO** and **MATT RYAN** (33) for the most regular-season wins by a starting quarterback in his first three seasons during the Super Bowl era.

“The only thing I really care about is winning,” says Wilson. “Whatever it takes to figure out a way to help our team win. That’s my ultimate goal.”

QUARTERBACK	TEAM	YEARS	REGULAR-SEASON WINS
<i>Russell Wilson</i>	<i>Seattle</i>	<i>2012-14</i>	36
Dan Marino	Miami	1983-85	33
Matt Ryan	Atlanta	2008-10	33

Wilson’s 22 regular-season home victories are the most in the Super Bowl era in a quarterback’s first three seasons as he passed Ryan (20). Wilson won 20 of his first 22 career starts at home, tied for the fewest starts needed to reach 20 regular-season wins at home by a quarterback who began his career in the Super Bowl era.

“I keep trusting every time that I’ll have success and keep believing that it’s going to happen in the right way for me,” says Wilson.

Last year, Wilson led the Seahawks to a 12-4 regular-season record and has guided the team to a double-digit win total in all three seasons. He completed 285 of 452 passes (63.1 percent) for a career-high 3,475 yards with 20 touchdowns and seven interceptions for a 95.0 passer rating. He also added 849 rushing yards and six rushing touchdowns, both career bests.



YEAR	ATT	COMP	PCT	YARDS	TDs	INTs	RATING	RECORD
2012	393	252	64.1	3,118	26	10	100.0	11-5
2013	407	257	63.1	3,357	26	9	101.2	13-3
2014	452	285	63.1	3,475	20	7	95.0	12-4
TOTAL	1,252	794	63.4	9,950	72	26	98.6	36-12

In 2014, Wilson became the first player in NFL history to have at least 300 passing yards (313) and 100 rushing yards (106) in a single game when he accomplished the feat in Week 7 against St. Louis. He also passed for 339 yards and rushed for 88 yards in a Week 16 victory over Arizona, becoming the first player in league annals to record two different games with at least 300 passing yards and 85 rushing yards in the same season.

WEEK	OPPONENT	PASS YARDS	PASS TDs	RUSH YARDS	RUSH TDs
7	at St. Louis	313	2	106	1
16	at Arizona	339	2	88	1

“I think a great leader is consistent every day,” says Wilson. “That’s how I try to be in terms of my work ethic on and off the field and being the first one in and the last one to leave. It’s the same thing every day. My job in playing football is to help the other 10 guys in the huddle get better. If I can do that, if I can help facilitate getting the ball to the right guy at the right time, I’m doing my job.”



DREW BREES: COOL BREES

New Orleans Pro Bowl quarterback **DREW BREES** tied for the NFL lead with 4,952 passing yards last year, the fifth time in his career leading the league in the category. That is tied with Pro Football Hall of Famers **SONNY JURGENSEN** and **DAN MARINO** for the most seasons leading the NFL in passing yards in league history.

PLAYER	TEAM(S)	SEASONS LEADING LEAGUE
Drew Brees	New Orleans (2006, 2008, 2011-12, 2014)	5*
Sonny Jurgensen	Philadelphia (1961-62), Washington (1966-67, 1969)	5
Dan Marino	Miami (1984-86, 1988, 1992)	5

*Active

With 56,033 career passing yards, Brees now ranks fourth on the NFL's all-time list.

PLAYER	TEAM(S)	SEASONS	PASSING YARDS
Brett Favre	Atlanta, Green Bay, NY Jets, Minnesota	1991-2010	71,838
Peyton Manning	Indianapolis, Denver	1998-2014	69,691*
Dan Marino	Miami	1983-99	61,361
Drew Brees	San Diego, New Orleans	2001-14	56,033*
Tom Brady	New England	2000-14	53,258*

*Active

Brees has passed for 43,685 yards in his nine seasons since joining New Orleans in 2006. He is one of seven quarterbacks in NFL history to pass for at least 40,000 yards with one franchise. Brees, who reached the 40,000-yard mark in his 132nd game with the Saints, is the fastest quarterback to pass for 40,000 yards with one team, surpassing Marino (153).



"I love this game and I want to play it for as long as I can," says Brees. "When all is said and done, we can look back and talk about records, but for now, it's about winning. It's about trying to find a way to win a championship. I want to be the best decision-maker I can be, the most efficient quarterback that I can be and the best leader that I can be."

In Week 13, Brees threw five touchdown passes without an interception, his seventh career game with at least five passing touchdowns and no interceptions. That is the most in NFL history.

"I obviously take a lot of pride in what I do on the football field, because that has the ability to influence a lot of people," says Brees. "That puts smiles on people's faces. That gives people a pep in their step on Monday morning when they go back to work. That does so much for the city. We have the greatest fans in the world. There's no doubt about that. Each and every day I think about what can I do to make my team and my city better. That's my mentality."

Brees threw 33 touchdown passes in 2014, extending his NFL-record streak to seven consecutive seasons with at least 30 touchdown passes. **BRETT FAVRE** (1994-98 with Green Bay) is the only other player to have five such seasons in a row.

DREW BREES

YEAR	PASS TDs
2008	34
2009	34
2010	33
2011	46
2012	43
2013	39
2014	33

BRETT FAVRE

YEAR	PASS TDs
1994	33
1995	38
1996	39
1997	35
1998	31



ANDREW LUCK: BEGINNER'S LUCK

Last season, Indianapolis Colts Pro Bowl quarterback **ANDREW LUCK** passed for 4,761 yards and now has 12,957 career passing yards, the most of any NFL player in his first three seasons.

MOST PASS YARDS IN 1ST 3 SEASONS

PLAYER	TEAM	YARDS
Andrew Luck	Indianapolis	12,957
Peyton Manning	Indianapolis	12,287
Dan Marino	Miami	11,431
Andy Dalton	Cincinnati	11,360
Cam Newton	Carolina	11,299

Luck also led the league with 40 touchdown passes in 2014 and became the eighth player in NFL history with at least 40 TD passes in a season. He now has 86 career touchdown passes, which ranks second only to Pro Football Hall of Famer **DAN MARINO** (98) for the most in a player's first three years.

MOST TD PASSES IN 1ST 3 SEASONS

PLAYER	TEAM	TDs
Dan Marino	Miami	98
Andrew Luck	Indianapolis	86
Peyton Manning	Indianapolis	85
Andy Dalton	Cincinnati	80
Jeff Garcia	San Francisco	74



"Overall, Andrew Luck is everything as advertised when he came out of Stanford," says former NFL quarterback and CBS Sports' NFL TODAY analyst **BOOMER ESIASON**. "A can't-miss player. If you ask any one of his teammates or coaches, he is the quintessential guy you want leading your franchise."

Luck, the No. 1 overall pick in the 2012 NFL Draft, is also no stranger to comebacks. He has orchestrated 11 game-winning drives in the fourth quarter or overtime in his young career. Only **MATT RYAN** (13) had more such drives in the first three seasons of an NFL career since the 1970 merger.

"He just wills this team to victory," says Colts head coach **CHUCK PAGANO** about Luck. "He's unbelievable. He's able to stick to the process. It doesn't matter what the score is, what the situation is, the guy just finds a way to make plays, finds a way to get out of the pocket, finds a way to extend. Obviously the guys believe in him. We can jump on his shoulders, jump on his back. We're very, very fortunate that we have him."

A statistical look at Luck's first three NFL seasons:

YEAR	STARTS	ATT.	COMP.	PCT.	YARDS	TD	INT	RATING
2012	16	627	339	54.1	4,374	23	18	76.5
2013	16	570	343	60.2	3,822	23	9	87.0
2014	16	616	380	61.7	4,761	40	16	96.5
TOTAL	48	1,813	1,062	58.6	12,957	86	43	86.6



YOUNG QUARTERBACKS ON THE RISE

Young quarterbacks around the NFL are making opponents take notice and are establishing themselves as stars in the making.

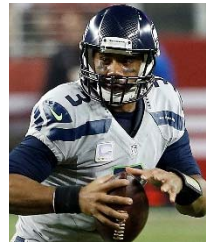


“These young quarterbacks are bringing something new to this league,” says NBC analyst **CRIS COLLINSWORTH**. “These guys can really throw the ball. These are future superstar players we’re going to be seeing for quite a long time.”

ANDREW LUCK (left) of the Indianapolis Colts and **RUSSELL WILSON** of the Seattle Seahawks have proven that young quarterbacks can succeed right away in today’s NFL. Luck (No. 1 overall) and Wilson (third round, No. 75 overall) were both selected in the 2012 NFL Draft.

Luck (12,957) has thrown for the most passing yards in a player’s first three seasons in NFL history and joined **PEYTON MANNING** and Pro Football Hall of Famer **DAN MARINO** as the only players in league annals to pass for at least 4,000 yards in two of their first three seasons. Wilson has won 36 regular-season games and has 22 home victories, the most in the Super Bowl era in a quarterback’s first three seasons. He passed Marino (33) and **MATT RYAN** (33) in wins and Ryan (20) in home victories.

Luck and Wilson are two of the many young quarterbacks taking the NFL by storm. Fourth-year quarterbacks **NICK FOLES** of St. Louis, **ROBERT GRIFFIN III** of Washington, Luck of Indianapolis, **RYAN TANNEHILL** of Miami, Wilson of Seattle and second-year quarterbacks **BLAKE BORTLES** of Jacksonville, **TEDDY BRIDGEWATER** of Minnesota and **DEREK CARR** of Oakland all hope to build on their experience going into 2015.



A few of the rising stars at quarterback who were drafted since 2012:

QUARTERBACK, TEAM	QUOTABLE
Blake Bortles , Jacksonville	<i>“He’s done a nice job. He’s been really efficient. He does a good job with our system. He’s handling himself really well, has good poise and is strongly competitive. He’s everything we hoped for as far as mentality and competitiveness. The team really gravitates toward him.”</i> – Jacksonville Jaguars head coach Gus Bradley
Teddy Bridgewater , Minnesota	<i>“It’s pretty incredible what Teddy has done. What he’s really done is make everyone around him better. The thing that excites me is he can make any throw you need him to make. He knows how to play football. He’s got the intangibles you need and he is going to continue to get better and better.”</i> – Minnesota Vikings offensive coordinator Norv Turner
Derek Carr , Oakland	<i>“I just love the way he has taken control of that football team. He looks like he is in complete control. As a leader, he doesn’t look like he is pressing at all. He has very good command. He’s much more athletic than people realize, and he has a cannon. I like the way he competes from the start to the end of the game.”</i> – ESPN analyst and former NFL head coach Jon Gruden
Nick Foles , St. Louis	<i>“Nick Foles is one of the best passers I’ve seen. He is special. He’s big and he can throw. His throwing motion, throwing on the move, reminds me of Aaron Rodgers in Green Bay. This guy is good.”</i> – Pro Football Hall of Fame quarterback Joe Namath
Robert Griffin III , Washington	<i>“I think he has the total package you look for in a quarterback. If you’re going to create a quarterback, I think it’d look like Griffin. I want a guy that can run 4.4, 4.3. I want a guy that can throw it far. I want a guy that can scramble in the pocket. I want a guy that’s smart enough to handle this, this and this. That’s what you want.”</i> – Washington Redskins head coach Jay Gruden
Andrew Luck , Indianapolis	<i>“Everything is impressive about Luck every time he plays. It starts with vision, his ability to see the whole field. He has good arm strength and accuracy at all levels of the field – short, deep and medium. He’s a strong, big, physical player. This is the best young quarterback that I’ve ever seen.”</i> – NFL Network analyst Charley Casserly
Ryan Tannehill , Miami	<i>“The biggest thing that I’ve been excited about is I’ve seen the development with Ryan over the years and I think he has great potential. This guy is a pro. Football is important to him. The game is important to him. I think he is going to get better, better and better.”</i> – Miami Dolphins head coach Joe Philbin
Russell Wilson , Seattle	<i>“He’s an incredible competitor in every way. In preparation, in game day, he’s the epitome of what you want in your competitor. He’s got tremendous work habits. He’s got extraordinary athleticism. He’s got a general all-around savvy that allows him to make great decisions under pressure. He’s extremely confident too, so no matter what is going on, he’s not going to waver in his focus and ability to handle things. He’s just been a blast to coach and been a great team member.”</i> – Seattle Seahawks head coach Pete Carroll



J.J. WATT: TURN DOWN FOR WATT



Houston Texans defensive end **J.J. WATT**, who was named the 2014 NFL Defensive Player of the Year, was nothing short of dominant in 2014.

“When he lines up inside, he reminds me of **HOWIE LONG**,” says CBS Sports analyst and former head coach **BILL COWHER**. “When he lines up outside, he reminds me of **BRUCE SMITH**. But he’s a modern-day **REGGIE WHITE** because they put him places and make it difficult to block him.”

Watt’s historic season included big plays on both offense and defense, as he ranked second in the NFL with 20.5 sacks and became the first player in NFL history with at least three offensive touchdowns, two touchdowns on takeaways and a safety in the same season.

“I can’t compare J.J. to anybody because he’s so long, he’s so explosive,” says Texans head coach **BILL O’BRIEN**. “The thing that sets him apart is that he has a relentless way of playing. He disrupts the game in a lot of different ways.”

Since being selected in the first round by Houston in the 2011 NFL Draft, Watt leads all players with 57 sacks, which is the third-most of any player in his first four seasons since sacks became an official statistic in 1982. Only Pro Football Hall of Famers Reggie White (70) and **DERRICK THOMAS** (58) posted more sacks in their first four seasons during that span.

The players with the most sacks in their first four seasons since 1982:

PLAYER	TEAM	YEARS	SACKS
Reggie White	Philadelphia	1985-88	70
Derrick Thomas	Kansas City	1989-92	58
J.J. Watt	Houston	2011-14	57
DeMarcus Ware	Dallas	2005-08	53.5
Dwight Freeney	Indianapolis	2002-05	51

Watt, who also posted 20.5 sacks in 2012, is the only NFL player with multiple 20-sacks seasons since 1982.

“He combines elite-level strength with elite-level quickness and an elite-level first move with elite-level counter moves,” says ESPN analyst and former NFL guard **MARK SCHLERETH**. “When you’re playing against a guy like that, he’s got so many things he can get you with that it makes it incredibly difficult to prepare and plan for. You look at it and, quite frankly, he’s like this perfect football player.”



The players with at least 20 sacks in a season since the statistic became official in 1982:

PLAYER	TEAM	YEAR	SACKS
Michael Strahan#	New York Giants	2001	22.5
Jared Allen	Minnesota	2011	22.0
Mark Gastineau	New York Jets	1984	22.0
Justin Houston	Kansas City	2014	22.0
Chris Doleman#	Minnesota	1989	21.0
Reggie White#	Philadelphia	1987	21.0
J.J. Watt	Houston	2014	20.5
J.J. Watt	Houston	2012	20.5
Lawrence Taylor#	New York Giants	1986	20.5
Derrick Thomas#	Kansas City	1990	20.0
DeMarcus Ware	Dallas	2008	20.0

Pro Football Hall of Famer



DE MARCO MURRAY: RUSHING INTO THE RECORD BOOKS

New Philadelphia Eagles running back **DE MARCO MURRAY** rushed for a league-best 1,845 rushing yards with the Dallas Cowboys last season. Murray, who was selected to the Pro Bowl and named the NFL Offensive Player of the Year, finished the season with 12 100-yard rushing games, the second-most 100-yard rushing games in a season in NFL history. Murray passed Pro Football Hall of Famer **EMMITT SMITH** (11 100-yard games and 1,773 rushing yards in 1995) in both categories to set single-season franchise records.

MOST 100-YARD RUSHING GAMES IN A SINGLE SEASON

PLAYER	TEAM	YEAR	100-YARD GAMES	RUSHING YARDS
Barry Sanders*	Detroit	1997	14	2,053
DeMarco Murray	Dallas	2014	12	1,845
Jamal Anderson	Atlanta	1998	12	1,846
Eric Dickerson*	Los Angeles	1984	12	2,105
Barry Foster	Pittsburgh	1992	12	1,690
Chris Johnson	Tennessee	2009	12	2,006
Jamal Lewis	Baltimore	2003	12	2,066

*Pro Football Hall of Famer

“DeMarco Murray is tough for any defense to stop,” says Pro Football Hall of Famer and current NFL Network analyst **MICHAEL IRVIN**. “He isn’t running around anybody. He is running through you. You have to put all of your guys on the line of scrimmage to stop him.”

Murray also became the first player in NFL history to rush for at least 100 yards in each of his team’s first eight games to start a season, surpassing Pro Football Hall of Famer **JIM BROWN**, who had six 100-yard rushing games to open the 1958 season.

MOST GAMES WITH 100+ RUSHING YARDS TO START SEASON

PLAYER	TEAM	YEAR	STREAK
DeMarco Murray	Dallas	2014	8
Jim Brown	Cleveland	1958	6
O.J. Simpson	Buffalo	1973	5
O.J. Simpson	Buffalo	1975	5

When Murray suits up for Philadelphia in 2015, it will mark the first time since 1965 that the league’s leading rusher started the next season on a new team. Buffalo running back **COOKIE GILCHRIST** led the AFL in rushing in 1964 with the Bills and then began the next season with the Denver Broncos.

COOKIE GILCHRIST

YEAR	TEAM	RUSHING YARDS	RANK
1964	Buffalo Bills	981	1st
1965	Denver Broncos	954	3rd

DE MARCO MURRAY

YEAR	TEAM	RUSHING YARDS	RANK
2014	Dallas Cowboys	1,845	1st
2015	Philadelphia Eagles	??	??

“I think Murray can have huge success in Philly,” says Irvin. “The Eagles are going to line DeMarco up and hand him the ball. Defenses do not understand yet what just happened when you add him to that offense.”





CALVIN JOHNSON: MEGATRON SHINES

Detroit Lions Pro Bowl wide receiver **CALVIN JOHNSON** recorded his fifth consecutive 1,000-yard season last year as he had 71 catches for 1,077 yards with eight touchdowns in 13 games.

“He’s the best in the league and he will continue to be the best until he’s done,” says New York Jets All-Star cornerback **DARRELLE REVIS**.

Johnson had five 100-yard receiving games in 2014 and has 44 such performances in his career, the second-most in a player’s first eight NFL seasons. Only **RANDY MOSS** (45) has recorded more.

“Without a doubt, he’s the best receiver in the league right now,” says Pro Football Hall of Fame wide receiver **JERRY RICE** about Johnson. “He’s a complete player.”



MOST 100-YARD REC. GAMES, 1ST 8 SEASONS

PLAYER	TEAM(S)	YEARS	GAMES PLAYED	100-YARD REC. GAMES
Randy Moss	Minnesota, Oakland	1998-2005	125	45
Calvin Johnson	Detroit	2007-14	119	44
Marvin Harrison	Indianapolis	1996-2003	123	43
Torry Holt	St. Louis	1999-2006	126	43

In his career, Johnson has 10,405 receiving yards and he became the fastest player in NFL history to reach 10,000 receiving yards (115 games). He surpassed the previous mark held by **TORRY HOLT** (116).



“To me, Calvin’s still the best in the game,” says Pro Football Hall of Fame wide receiver **CRIS CARTER**. “He works hard. He’s a great kid. He’s got it figured out.”

On Thanksgiving Day, Johnson had 11 catches for 146 yards and two touchdowns. With his two scores, Johnson passed **CLOYCE BOX** (seven) for the most career touchdown receptions on Thanksgiving with eight.

“I can’t say enough about Calvin,” says Detroit Pro Bowl quarterback **MATTHEW STAFFORD**. “The guy is unreal. I love having him as a teammate. I love throwing the ball to him. He just sets a great standard for all the guys on our team and everybody in this league.”

Johnson enters 2015 with five career 200-yard receiving games, tied with Pro Football Hall of Famer **LANCE ALWORTH** for the most in NFL history.

PLAYER	TEAM (YEARS)	200-YARD REC. GAMES
Calvin Johnson	Detroit (2007-14)	5*
Lance Alworth	San Diego (1962-70), Dallas (1971-72)	5
Don Hutson	Green Bay (1935-45)	4
Charley Hennigan	Houston (1960-66)	4
Jerry Rice	San Francisco (1985-2000), Oakland (2001-04), Seattle (2004)	4

*Active

Through his first eight seasons, Johnson has 10,405 receiving yards in 119 games for an average of 87.4 receiving yards per game. That currently is the highest mark in NFL history (minimum 100 games).

PLAYER	YEARS	GAMES	REC. YARDS	REC. YARDS/GAME
Calvin Johnson	2007-14	119	10,405	87.4*
Andre Johnson	2003-14	169	13,597	80.5*
Torry Holt	1999-2009	173	13,382	77.4
Marvin Harrison	1996-2008	190	14,580	76.7
Jerry Rice	1985-2004	303	22,895	75.6

*Active



ANTONIO BROWN: BROWN ON THE MOVE

Pittsburgh Steelers Pro Bowl wide receiver **ANTONIO BROWN** led the league with 129 receptions last year, the second-most in a season in NFL history. It marked the first time a Steeler has led the league in receptions in a season.

“He is very driven to prove that he is among the elite guys at his position right now,” says Steelers offensive coordinator **TODD HALEY** about Brown, who also led the NFL with a single-season franchise-record 1,698 receiving yards. “I think from a big-picture standpoint, he is one that they will talk about for a long time.”



The players with the most receptions in a single season:

PLAYER	TEAM	YEAR	RECEPTIONS
Marvin Harrison	Indianapolis	2002	143
Antonio Brown	Pittsburgh	2014	129
Herman Moore	Detroit	1995	123
Wes Welker	New England	2009	123
Cris Carter	Minnesota	1995	122
Cris Carter	Minnesota	1994	122
Calvin Johnson	Detroit	2012	122
Jerry Rice	San Francisco	1995	122
Wes Welker	New England	2011	122

Brown, who ranked second in the league in 2013 with 110 catches, is one of four players in NFL history with back-to-back 110-catch seasons, joining Pro Football Hall of Famers **JERRY RICE** (1994-95) and **CRIS CARTER** (1994-95) and **WES WELKER** (2007-09, 2011-12).

“A.B. is one of the best receivers in the league,” says Pittsburgh quarterback **BEN ROETHLISBERGER**. “He does a little bit of everything. He plays big all the time.”

The four players in NFL history with consecutive 110-reception seasons:

PLAYER	CONSECUTIVE 110-CATCH SEASONS
Wes Welker	2007-09, 2011-12
Jerry Rice	1994-95
Cris Carter	1994-95
Antonio Brown	2013-14*

*Active streak





ODELL BECKHAM, JR.: CATCH IT LIKE BECKHAM

New York Giants wide receiver **ODELL BECKHAM, JR.** filled highlight reels with acrobatic catches in his debut season as he was selected to the Pro Bowl and named the league's Offensive Rookie of the Year.

"It really means everything," says Beckham about being honored as the NFL's best offensive rookie. "To see my mom and dad tearing up and the smiles on their faces and knowing I made them proud, it's something that can never be taken away from me."

After missing the first four games, Beckham amassed 91 catches for 1,305 yards and 12 touchdowns in 12 games. His 91 receptions and 1,305 receiving yards are the most by a player in his first 12 games to begin a career in NFL history.

"He's an outstanding young player with a bright career and future," says Giants head coach **TOM COUGHLIN** about Beckham. "As he's learning, you can only anticipate bigger and better things."

Starting in Week 9, Beckham has recorded at least 90 receiving yards in nine consecutive games (active streak) and is tied with Pro Football Hall of Famer **MICHAEL IRVIN** (1995) for the longest such streak in NFL history.

Beckham had four games with at least 10 catches, the most such performances by a rookie in league annals.

In Week 15 against Washington, Beckham had 12 catches for 143 yards and three touchdowns, becoming the first rookie in NFL history with at least 12 catches, 140 receiving yards and three touchdown catches in a single game.



"Odell makes lots of big plays for us," says Giants quarterback **ELI MANNING**. "Any time a young guy can come in and be a threat that other teams have to game plan for, it helps our team win. He has a big impact on the whole offense and us winning games."

Beckham was named the NFL Offensive Rookie of the Month in both November and December.

"It means a lot," says Beckham about the honors. "I've been through a lot and put in a lot of hard work. I've gotten some opportunities to make some plays and I appreciate winning these awards."

In November, he led the NFL with 593 receiving yards and became the first rookie in league history with at least 90 receiving yards in five games in a calendar month.

DATE	OPPONENT	REC.	YARDS	TD
11/3/14	Indianapolis	8	156	0
11/9/14	at Seattle	7	108	0
11/16/14	San Francisco	6	93	0
11/23/14	Dallas	10	146	2
11/30/14	at Jacksonville	7	90	0

Beckham followed up that month with a December to remember as he led the league in receptions (43), receiving yards (606) and touchdown catches (seven). His 606 receiving yards are the most by a rookie in any calendar month in NFL history and, combined with his 593 yards in November, Beckham became the only rookie ever to record at least 500 receiving yards in consecutive months.

DATE	OPPONENT	REC.	YARDS	TD
12/7/14	at Tennessee	11	130	1
12/14/14	Washington	12	143	3
12/21/14	at St. Louis	8	148	2
12/28/14	Philadelphia	12	185	1

In each of the final six weeks of the season, Beckham led all players in receiving yards which is the longest such streak by a rookie in NFL history.

After one of the greatest rookie seasons in NFL history, Beckham knows what his goal is for 2015.

"I think it's the same as everyone else's which is to win a Super Bowl," he says. "That's what you come here to do, win games and win a Super Bowl."

ROOKIES EXCELLED IN 2014

2014 continued a strong NFL trend of standout rookie play, with a historically productive group of first-year wide receivers leading the way.



Last season featured an NFL-record three rookies with at least 1,000 receiving yards – **ODELL BECKHAM, JR.** (1,305) of the New York Giants, **MIKE EVANS** (1,051) (left) of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and **KELVIN BENJAMIN** (1,008) (below right) of the Carolina Panthers.

Despite playing in only 12 games, Beckham had 91 receptions for 1,305 yards, the most in a player's first 12 games to begin a career in NFL history. Beckham, the 2014 NFL Offensive Rookie of the Year, joined Pro Football Hall of Famer MICHAEL IRVIN (1995) as the only players in NFL history to have at least 90 receiving yards in nine consecutive games and posted 606 receiving yards in the month of December, the most by a rookie in any calendar month in league annals.

Evans had 12 receiving touchdowns, the most by any player in a single season in franchise history (rookies and veterans). Beckham and Evans became the first pair of rookies in NFL history with at least 10 touchdown catches in the same season.

Several other standouts also set franchise rookie records, including Carolina's Benjamin (73 receptions for 1,008 yards and nine TD catches), Buffalo's **SAMMY WATKINS** (65 catches, 982 yards) (below left) and Miami's **JARVIS LANDRY** (84 catches).

It was indeed a banner year for rookie pass catchers, but there were impressive performances by the 2014 class of NFL rookies in all phases of the game – offense, defense and special teams.



Beckham was among five outstanding rookies to earn a Pro Bowl selection in 2014, along with St. Louis defensive tackle **AARON DONALD**, Dallas guard **ZACK MARTIN**, Baltimore linebacker **C.J. MOSLEY** and Philadelphia kicker **CODY PARKEY**, who set an NFL rookie record for points (150).

Below are just a few of the notable accomplishments by the NFL's 2014 rookie class:

- Minnesota QB **TEDDY BRIDGEWATER** set a franchise rookie record with an 85.2 passer rating, surpassing Pro Football Hall of Famer **FRAN TARKENTON** (74.7).
- Oakland QB **DEREK CARR** led all NFL rookies in pass attempts (599), completions (348), passing yards (3,270) and passing touchdowns (21), setting franchise rookie records in each category.
- Cincinnati RB **JEREMY HILL** led NFL rookies in rushing yards (1,124) and rushing touchdowns (nine) and he joined Pro Football Hall of Famers **ERIC DICKERSON** (five in 1983) and **CURTIS MARTIN** (four in 1995) as the only rookies with at least four 140-yard rushing games.
- Cleveland RBs **ISAIAH CROWELL** (607) and **TERRANCE WEST** (673) became the first rookies in franchise history to run for at least 500 yards apiece in the same season.
- Baltimore LB **C.J. MOSLEY** led all NFL rookies with 129 tackles and is the first Ravens rookie to lead the team in tackles since **RAY LEWIS** in 1996.
- Oakland LB **KHALIL MACK** (right) became the third rookie linebacker in franchise history to start all 16 games (**REGGIE MC KENZIE** in 1985; **MATT MILLEN** in 1980).
- Arizona K **CHANDLER CATANZARO** scored 114 points, the most by a rookie in franchise history.



Jeremy Hill



C.J. Mosley



Zack Martin

RECEIVERS MAKING A SPLASH

Last season, four wide receivers – **ANTONIO BROWN** (1,698) of the Pittsburgh Steelers, **DEMARIUS THOMAS** (1,619) of the Denver Broncos, **JULIO JONES** (1,593) of the Atlanta Falcons and **JORDY NELSON** (1,519) of the Green Bay Packers – recorded at least 1,500 receiving yards, tied for the most in a season in NFL history (1995).

The seasons with at least four players to record 1,500+ receiving yards in NFL history:

2014 SEASON

PLAYER	TEAM	1,500+ REC. YARDS
Antonio Brown	Pittsburgh	1,698
Demaryius Thomas	Denver	1,619
Julio Jones	Atlanta	1,593
Jordy Nelson	Green Bay	1,519

1995 SEASON

PLAYER	TEAM	1,500+ REC. YARDS
Jerry Rice*	San Francisco	1,848
Isaac Bruce	St. Louis	1,781
Herman Moore	Detroit	1,686
Michael Irvin*	Dallas	1,603

*Pro Football Hall of Famer



Antonio Brown



Demaryius Thomas



Jordy Nelson

Brown (129), Thomas (111) and Jones (104) were the top three in the league in receptions last season. Brown's 129 receptions were the second-most in a season in NFL history (MARVIN HARRISON, 143 in 2002) and it marked the first time a Steeler led the NFL in receptions.

The wide receivers with at least 100 catches in 2014:

PLAYER	TEAM	100+ RECEPTIONS
Antonio Brown	Pittsburgh	129
Demaryius Thomas	Denver	111
Julio Jones	Atlanta	104
Emmanuel Sanders	Denver	101



Julio Jones



Emmanuel Sanders

BIG PLAY EXCITEMENT



Everyone in the stadium, from the field to the stands, feels the fans' excitement as they celebrate a big play with their team. Those plays can change the momentum of a game and give a team a lift.

Atlanta Falcons wide receiver **JULIO JONES** (left), who led the NFC in receptions (104) and receiving yards (1,593) last season, had a league-best 31 receptions of 20 yards or more and is regarded as one of the premier playmakers in the game today.

"Julio is as good as he's ever been, if not better," says Falcons quarterback **MATT RYAN**. "Defenses are going to have certain ways that they're going to try and stop him. But we feel like any time he gets in that one-on-one situation, that's a win for us."

The top five "big play" receivers and rushers in 2014:

MOST 20+YARD RECEPTIONS

PLAYER	2014 TEAM	20+ YARD RECEPTIONS	LG	REC	YARDS	TD
Julio Jones	Atlanta	31	79	104	1,593	6
Demaryius Thomas	Denver	25	86t	111	1,619	11
Randall Cobb	Green Bay	24	70t	91	1,287	12
Emmanuel Sanders	Denver	24	48	101	1,404	9
Dez Bryant	Dallas	22	68t	88	1,320	16



Randall Cobb



Emmanuel Sanders



Dez Bryant

MOST 20+YARD RUSHES

PLAYER	2014 TEAM	20+ YARD RUSHES	LG	ATT	YARDS	TD
Justin Forsett	Baltimore	17	52	235	1,266	8
DeMarco Murray	Dallas	15	51	392	1,845	13
Arian Foster	Houston	9	51	260	1,246	8
LeSean McCoy	Philadelphia	9	53	312	1,319	5
Lamar Miller	Miami	9	97t	216	1,099	8
Alfred Morris	Washington	9	30	265	1,074	8



Justin Forsett



Arian Foster



Lamar Miller



Alfred Morris

ON TARGET

Elite wide receivers earn plenty of attention from opposing defensive backs, but they still get plenty of it from their quarterbacks, too.

Last season, Denver Broncos wide receiver **DEMARYIUS THOMAS** (right) was targeted 184 times to lead all receivers. Thomas had 111 receptions, finishing two shy of Denver's single-season franchise record (**ROD SMITH**, 113).



"When he's doing what he can do, that's tough for any defense," says fellow Broncos wide receiver **EMMANUEL SANDERS**. "We have a lot of guys who can make plays and we've got one of the greatest quarterbacks (**PEYTON MANNING**) of all time. So when Demaryius has it going, people can't cover him with one guy. And if they do, it's going to be a long day."

Pittsburgh Steelers wide receiver **ANTONIO BROWN** was targeted 181 times and set franchise records for receptions (129) and receiving yards (1,698) in 2014.

Since 2013, Brown has been targeted a league-high 347 times and leads the NFL in receptions (239) and receiving yards (3,197) over that span as well.

The most targeted receivers in 2014:

PLAYER	2014 TEAM	TGT	REC	YARDS	AVG
Demaryius Thomas	Denver	184	111	1,619	14.6
Antonio Brown	Pittsburgh	181	129	1,698	13.2
Julio Jones	Atlanta	163	104	1,593	15.3
Jordy Nelson	Green Bay	151	98	1,519	15.5
Andre Johnson	Houston	147	85	936	11.0

In the past five seasons, Detroit Lions wide receiver **CALVIN JOHNSON**'s 784 targets are the most in the league. Johnson also leads the NFL during that span with 7,334 receiving yards and is tied with Atlanta's **RODDY WHITE** for the most receptions with 450.

The most targeted receivers over the past five seasons (since 2010):

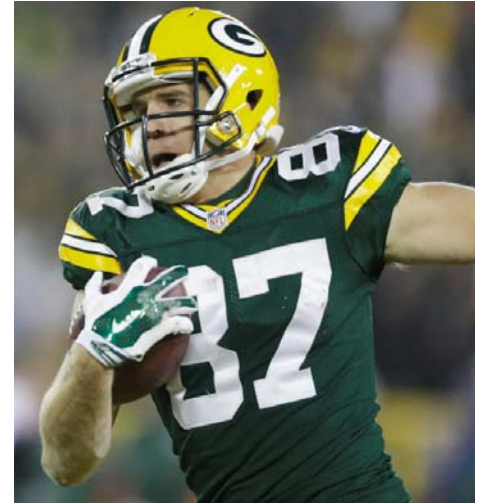
PLAYER	TEAM(S)	TGT	REC	YARDS	AVG
Calvin Johnson	Detroit	784	450	7,334	16.3
Brandon Marshall	Miami, Chicago	749	446	5,752	12.9
Roddy White	Atlanta	724	450	5,668	12.6
Larry Fitzgerald	Arizona	721	386	5,084	13.2
Andre Johnson	Houston	679	425	5,649	13.3



Larry Fitzgerald



Roddy White



Jordy Nelson



MOVING THE CHAINS



A precise route can be the difference between a game-changing play and an appearance by the punt team. It's a skill for a receiver to know exactly where he needs to go in order to move the chains and keep a drive going. On third down, the best receivers carefully gauge each step to ensure their routes finish beyond the first-down marker.

On his way to recording the second-most receptions in a single season in NFL history (129), Pittsburgh Steelers Pro Bowl wide receiver **ANTONIO BROWN** (left) led all receivers on third down with 28 first-down catches.

"The sky is the limit for him," says Pittsburgh quarterback **BEN ROETHLISBERGER** about Brown. "He has come along as a number-one guy in those crucial, game-changing situations."

The receivers with the most first-down receptions on third down in 2014:

THIRD-DOWN RECEIVING TOTALS: MOST FIRST DOWNS

PLAYER	TEAM	FIRST DOWNS	REC	YARDS	TD
Antonio Brown	Pittsburgh	28	36	549	4
Anquan Boldin	San Francisco	27	30	444	3
Randall Cobb	Green Bay	24	26	437	6
Julio Jones	Atlanta	24	28	427	1
Jordy Nelson	Green Bay	24	28	465	5
Emmanuel Sanders	Denver	24	28	429	4



Anquan Boldin



Randall Cobb



Julio Jones

YARDS AFTER THE CATCH

Additional yards after the catch are an important part of an offense's success.

"You want yards after the catch," says Kansas City Chiefs head coach **ANDY REID**. "That's especially important in the short and intermediate game."

Detroit Lions wide receiver **GOLDEN TATE** (right) led all wide receivers with 720 yards after the catch last season and ranked third in the NFC with 1,331 receiving yards.



"One thing I've always taken pride in is getting those yards after the catch and the yards after the first touch," says Tate. "I'm always trying out my jukes to see what works and what doesn't. I'm a pretty fast-twitch guy so I can read body language to figure out what I'm going to do. I don't really ever plan what I'm going to do, it just always happens."

Tate led Detroit in receptions (99) and receiving yards (1,331) in his first season with the team. Lions head coach **JIM CALDWELL** says Tate's quickness and ability to break tackles are things the club noticed.

"There's quickness," says Caldwell about Tate. "Obviously it's something that jumps out at you right away. He's quicker than the norm. He's a guy that can avoid tackles and he has a great awareness about him."

Denver Broncos wide receiver **DEMARYIUS THOMAS** was among the league's best in racking up yards after the catch for the third consecutive season. Thomas ranked fourth last year with 680 yards after the catch. In 2013, he led the NFL with 718 yards after the catch after ranking third (561) in 2012.

"My thing is yards after the catch," says Thomas. "I can say it's one of my favorite things to do on the football field."

Broncos quarterback **PEYTON MANNING** knows Thomas can pile up yards in a hurry.

"He can run by fast corners and he also catches the short pass and can turn on the jets," says Manning about Thomas. "He's an angry runner. When he has the ball in his hands, he's looking to score."

The players with the most yards after the catch in 2014:

PLAYER	TEAM	YAC	REC	YARDS	AVG	TD
Le'Veon Bell	Pittsburgh	841	83	854	10.3	3
Matt Forté	Chicago	837	102	808	7.9	4
Golden Tate	Detroit	720	99	1,331	13.4	4
Demaryius Thomas	Denver	680	111	1,619	14.6	11
Antonio Brown	Pittsburgh	632	129	1,698	13.2	13

CLUTCH PERFORMERS

Many NFL games are decided in the fourth quarter. The difference between a win and a loss can come down to a clutch performer. Some of the most memorable moments in NFL history have taken place with the game on the line.



Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback **BEN ROETHLISBERGER** (left) embraces the opportunity to respond under pressure. Last year, Roethlisberger posted an NFL-best 114.7 passer rating in the fourth quarter, throwing for 1,430 yards with 11 touchdowns and just one interception.

"I am around him every day and see the special things he does," says Steelers quarterbacks coach **RANDY FICHTNER**. "To me, he is a Hall of Famer, and you don't see those very often."

Green Bay Packers quarterback **AARON RODGERS** also shines during crunch time. In 2014, Rodgers posted a rating of 106.6 in the fourth quarter and led the Packers to the NFC Championship Game for the first time since 2010 when Green Bay went on to win Super Bowl XLV.

"I'm very proud of Aaron," says Packers head coach **MIKE MC CARTHY**. "He's at the point in his career now that it seems like every week or every other week he's breaking a record. He is just a special player."

The quarterbacks with the highest fourth-quarter passer rating in 2014 (minimum 80 attempts):

PLAYER	TEAM	COMP	ATT	PCT	YARDS	TD	INT	4TH QUARTER RATING
Ben Roethlisberger	Pittsburgh	107	161	66.5	1,430	11	1	114.7
Cam Newton	Carolina	59	96	61.5	794	9	2	110.3
Aaron Rodgers	Green Bay	64	96	66.7	769	7	2	106.6
Kyle Orton	Buffalo	79	128	61.7	1,010	8	1	104.0
Drew Brees	New Orleans	123	184	66.8	1,297	11	3	100.3

DOUBLE TROUBLE RUNNING BACKS



They seem to be all over the league. Guys like **DE MARCO MURRAY**, **EDDIE LACY**, **JAMAAL CHARLES** and others. Those running backs that can hurt you two ways: rushing... or catching... the ball.

Double-threat running backs not only force defenses to be ready for anything, but they allow offenses to keep their best playmakers on the field in any situation.

“If you get a running back that can catch the ball out of the backfield, it’s very advantageous to your offense,” says Chicago Bears running back **MATT FORTÉ** (left), who set the NFL single-season record for catches by a running back (102) in 2014. “You can hand him the ball and he’s effective between the tackles and outside the ends. Also, he can protect the quarterback on passing downs, or split out as a receiver to catch the ball.”

More and more offenses are relying on these dual-threat runners to keep the chains moving. Six running backs gained more than 1,000 rushing yards while registering at least 40 catches in 2014.

The six NFL running backs that gained 1,000 rushing yards and caught 40 passes in 2014:

PLAYER, 2014 TEAM	RUSH YARDS	REC.	QUOTABLE
DeMarco Murray , Dallas (Now with Philadelphia)	1,845	57	“He is really special. He’s got enough speed to run around you, runs through tackles and runs inside very well. He’s good on the perimeter and gets the ball in the passing game too. He’s got extraordinary running ability and sense. He’s a great running back.” – Seattle head coach Pete Carroll
Le’Veon Bell , Pittsburgh	1,361	83	“He’s exceptional. To me, he’s one of the best backs at his ability to change speeds. He can go from zero to 60 in a hurry. That’s been his style, and it’s one of the reasons that he’s as good as he is. He can make you miss. He can run you over, but he’s a true dual threat. He gets the ball on screens and even check-downs.” – Cleveland head coach Mike Pettine
Justin Forsett , Baltimore	1,266	44	“Forsett has really stepped up whether it’s catching the ball out of the backfield or just being a home run hitter. He’s really had a lot of plays over 20 yards. He’s able to take advantage of the defense.” – Pittsburgh DE Cameron Heyward
Eddie Lacy , Green Bay	1,139	42	“He’s such a talented guy. He can do so many things for us. If he’s not running, he can still show up in the pass game and get yards for us and get touchdowns. He’s got great hands. He does some good things with the ball after he catches it.” – Green Bay QB Aaron Rodgers
Matt Forté , Chicago	1,038	102	“One of the best backs in the league. He’s certainly been an impressive guy to watch, both in the passing game and in the running game. He breaks tackles, has good quickness, good balance, good vision, excellent hands, smart and aware in the passing game. He doesn’t just catch the ball well, but he knows how to get open.” – New England head coach Bill Belichick
Jamaal Charles , Kansas City	1,033	40	“He is a guy who does it all for us. You name it, he does it: run, catch, short-yardage, goal line, two-minute drill. We ask a lot of him, and he puts in a lot of time with his work ethic and takes it all on and does a great job with it.” – Kansas City QB Alex Smith



Le’Veon Bell



Eddie Lacy



Jamaal Charles

PROTECTING THE QUARTERBACK

Protecting the quarterback is vital to NFL success.



With such a premium placed on keeping the quarterback out of harm's way, it is no surprise that teams have made it a priority to draft offensive tackles. Five offensive tackles – **BRANDON SCHERFF** (No. 5, Washington) (left, with Commissioner Goodell), **ERECK FLOWERS** (No. 9, New York Giants), **ANDRUS PEAT** (No. 13, New Orleans), **CEDRIC OGBUEHI** (No. 21, Cincinnati) and **D.J. HUMPHRIES** (No. 24, Arizona) – were selected in the first round of the 2015 NFL Draft.

“You win and you lose the games in the trenches,” says Arizona Cardinals general manager **STEVE KEIM**, who selected tackle Humphries No. 24 overall. “When you put an emphasis on the players up front, it creates balance for your offense with running the football and being able to pass the ball and protect the quarterback and to be able to create more explosive plays.”

In all, there have been 14 offensive tackles selected in the first round of the past three NFL Drafts.

“We understand that there’s a premium on great offensive tackles,” says Washington Redskins head coach **JAY GRUDEN** about selecting tackle Scherff No. 5 overall. “They’re hard to find nowadays, and when you have a chance to get one of his caliber, you have to stand up and take him.”

The tackles selected in the first round of the past three NFL Drafts:

PLAYER	TEAM	DRAFT YEAR (PICK)
Brandon Scherff	Washington	2015 (5th overall)
Ereck Flowers	NY Giants	2015 (9th overall)
Andrus Peat	New Orleans	2015 (13th overall)
Cedric Ogbuehi	Cincinnati	2015 (21st overall)
D.J. Humphries	Arizona	2015 (24th overall)
Greg Robinson	St. Louis	2014 (2nd overall)
Jake Matthews	Atlanta	2014 (6th overall)

PLAYER	TEAM	DRAFT YEAR (PICK)
Taylor Lewan	Tennessee	2014 (11th overall)
Ja’Wuan James	Miami	2014 (19th overall)
Eric Fisher	Kansas City	2013 (1st overall)
Luke Joeckel	Jacksonville	2013 (2nd overall)
Lane Johnson	Philadelphia	2013 (4th overall)
D.J. Fluker	San Diego	2013 (11th overall)
Justin Pugh	NY Giants	2013 (19th overall)



Ereck Flowers



D.J. Humphries



Cedric Ogbuehi



Andrus Peat



Greg Robinson



Jake Matthews



Luke Joeckel



D.J. Fluker

MANY HAPPY RETURNS

The 2014 season featured many exciting plays in the return game. These exhilarating plays, made by some of the game's most dynamic playmakers, started early and kept coming.

DEVIN HESTER (below) recorded his 21st career return touchdown – including the postseason – in Week 3 with a 62-yard punt-return TD for the Atlanta Falcons. Hester's 21 career return touchdowns are the most by a player in NFL history.



"Hester has the perfect combination of skills for a returner," says Baltimore Ravens special teams coordinator **JERRY ROSBURG**. "He's fast, and he has incredible change-of-direction skills. He can run up and smell somebody's breath and then disappear. Every time you give him the ball, he's a threat to take it to the house."

The Eagles had a trio of kick and punt returners reach the end zone in 2014. Philadelphia's **CHRIS POLK** (102 yards, Week 3) and **JOSH HUFF** (107 yards, Week 12) both had 100+ yard kickoff-return touchdowns, making Philadelphia the first team since the 1970 Green Bay Packers to have multiple players with a 100+ yard kickoff-return touchdown in a season. **DARREN SPROLES** contributed with an 82-yard punt-return touchdown in Week 4 and a 65-yard punt-return touchdown in Week 10 on *Monday Night Football*.

"It's the great returners that can see past the first wave of defenders," says Miami wide receiver **JARVIS LANDRY**. "Sproles' ability to hit it with speed, and he doesn't hesitate at all, is unique. That's what makes him a premier returner in this league."

A sampling of kick-return highlights in 2014:

PLAYER	2014 TEAM	ACCOMPLISHMENT
Knile Davis	Kansas City	Recorded a 99-yard kickoff-return touchdown in Week 8, becoming the fifth player in history with a kickoff-return touchdown of at least 99 yards in each of his first two NFL seasons.
Devin Hester	Atlanta	Recorded his NFL-record 21st career (including postseason) return touchdown when he returned a punt 62 yards for a score in Week 3.
Josh Huff	Philadelphia	Returned the opening kickoff 107 yards for a touchdown in Week 12, the longest score in franchise history.
Micah Hyde	Green Bay	In Week 11, had a 55-yard punt-return touchdown in the Packers' win as Green Bay clinched the NFC North and secured a first-round bye.
Jacoby Jones	Baltimore	Returned a kickoff 108 yards for a touchdown in Week 9 on <i>Sunday Night Football</i> . It was his NFL-record third career regular-season touchdown of at least 105 yards.
Darren Sproles	Philadelphia	In Week 10, became the first player in NFL history to record a punt-return touchdown and a rushing touchdown in the first quarter of a game.
Leon Washington	Tennessee	Reached 7,500 career kickoff return yards (7,553) and is one of two kickoff returners in NFL history with at least 7,500 yards, a 25.0+ average (25.9) and at least five touchdowns (eight).



Knile Davis



Darren Sproles



Leon Washington

AT A LOSS



When a defense controls the line of scrimmage, the opposing team's offense is affected as timing and rhythm are disrupted.

Houston Texans Pro Bowl defensive end **J.J. WATT** (left) caused havoc in the backfield last season, leading the NFL in tackles for a loss (33) and finishing second in the league with 20.5 sacks, tying his own franchise-record.

"He's hard to block," says Texans head coach **BILL O'BRIEN** about Watt, the 2014 NFL Defensive Player of the Year. "He's just a relentless player."

Cleveland Browns Pro Bowl tackle **JOE THOMAS** admires Watt's game.

"I wouldn't say it's hyperbole when you say he's the best defensive player in the NFL because I don't think I've ever seen anybody who plays like he does, as hard as he does," says Thomas. "I've never seen anybody as disruptive as he is. He's unpredictable."

The 2014 leaders in tackles for a loss and sacks:

MOST TACKLES FOR A LOSS

PLAYER	2014 TEAM	TFL	SACKS
J.J. Watt	Houston	33	20.5
Justin Houston	Kansas City	25	22
Ndamukong Suh	Detroit	21	8.5
Aaron Donald	St. Louis	20	9
Mario Williams	Buffalo	19	14.5

MOST SACKS

PLAYER	2014 TEAM	SACKS	TFL
Justin Houston	Kansas City	22	25
J.J. Watt	Houston	20.5	33
Elvis Dumervil	Baltimore	17	15
Connor Barwin	Philadelphia	14.5	16
Mario Williams	Buffalo	14.5	19



Connor Barwin



Aaron Donald



Elvis Dumervil



Justin Houston



Ndamukong Suh



Mario Williams

NOT DRAFTED? NOT A PROBLEM

How does an undrafted player develop into an NFL star?



“A lot of hard work,” says Pro Bowl running back **ARIAN FOSTER**, who was signed as an undrafted free agent by the Houston Texans in 2009. “In life, sometimes things don’t go your way. You can take two roads: you can fold, you can quit, or you can follow your heart and do what you know how to do. That’s what I did.”

Miami defensive end **CAMERON WAKE** (left) was signed as an undrafted free agent by the Dolphins in 2009. Wake earned his fourth Pro Bowl bid after leading the Dolphins with 11.5 sacks last season.

“It’s hard to put into words from a guy like myself who – not only did I go undrafted – I got signed as a free agent and got cut, and I sat out of football for a year,” says Wake. “So to go from that to being a starter in the Pro Bowl, that took a lot of determination and a lot of discipline.”

Teammates **C.J. ANDERSON** and **CHRIS HARRIS, JR.** each signed as undrafted free agents with the Denver Broncos in 2013 and 2011, respectively. Both were selected to their first Pro Bowl last season.

“With me coming in undrafted, I had to do everything above and beyond everybody else, just to get noticed,” says Harris. “To be selected by my peers, it just means a lot. It means they notice what I’m doing out there on the field.”

The 16 undrafted players who were named to the Pro Bowl last season:

POS	PLAYER	2014 TEAM
S	Mike Adams	Indianapolis Colts
RB	C.J. Anderson	Denver Broncos
LS	Jon Dorenbos	Philadelphia Eagles
RB	Arian Foster	Houston Texans
S	Tashaun Gipson	Cleveland Browns
CB	Brent Grimes	Miami Dolphins
CB	Chris Harris, Jr.	Denver Broncos
FB	John Kuhn	Green Bay Packers

POS	PLAYER	2014 TEAM
LS	L.P. Ladouceur	Dallas Cowboys
K	Cody Parkey	Philadelphia Eagles
T	Jason Peters	Philadelphia Eagles
FB	Marcel Reece	Oakland Raiders
QB	Tony Romo	Dallas Cowboys
CB	Sam Shields	Green Bay Packers
K	Adam Vinatieri	Indianapolis Colts
DE	Cameron Wake	Miami Dolphins



Tashaun Gipson



Marcel Reece



Mike Adams



Jason Peters

Center **MICK TINGELHOFF**, a member of the 2015 Pro Football Hall of Fame class, is one of 16 Hall of Famers who was not drafted. The former Nebraska product was signed by the Minnesota Vikings in 1962 and started all 240 regular season games of his career, the most by an offensive lineman in NFL history.

“I never thought it would happen,” says Tingelhoff, “but here I am. It’s great.”

The undrafted players in the Pro Football Hall of Fame:

YEAR	PLAYER	SIGNED BY
1946	Frank Gatski	Cleveland Browns
1946	Lou Groza	Cleveland Browns
1946	Marion Motley	Cleveland Browns
1946	Bill Willis	Cleveland Browns
1948	Joe Perry	San Francisco 49ers
1948	Emlen Tunnell	New York Giants
1951	Jack Butler	Pittsburgh Steelers
1952	Dick “Night Train” Lane	Los Angeles Rams

YEAR	PLAYER	SIGNED BY
1960	Willie Wood	Green Bay Packers
1963	Willie Brown	Houston Oilers
1966	Emmitt Thomas	Kansas City Chiefs
1967	Larry Little	San Diego Chargers
1970	Jim Langer	Cleveland Browns
1984	Warren Moon	Houston Oilers
1990	John Randle	Minnesota Vikings
1962	Mick Tingelhoff	Minnesota Vikings

SMALL SCHOOL SUCCESS

They may not come from big-time schools in major NCAA conferences, but their NFL contributions cannot go unnoticed. Productive players from small schools are proof-positive of the old adage, "If you can play, the NFL will find you."

New England Patriots head coach **BILL BELICHICK** found cornerback **MALCOLM BUTLER** out of West Alabama and signed him as an undrafted free agent in 2014. Butler went on to make an interception in the final seconds of Super Bowl XLIX against Seattle to seal the victory for the Patriots.



Cornerback **JUSTIN BETHEL** (left) of the Arizona Cardinals, who was drafted by the club in the sixth round of the 2012 NFL Draft out of Presbyterian, knew he had something to prove coming from a small school.

"I definitely think that coming from a small school," says Bethel, "it just gives you that little extra edge to be willing to fight a little more."

Bethel was selected to the 2015 Pro Bowl as a special teamer for the second time in his career and Cardinals head coach **BRUCE ARIANS** believes Bethel's hard work has paid off.

"The small-school guys that I've dealt with in the past have usually come in with a chip on their shoulder," says Arians. "You have to do everything it takes to win the job. That's what got him here. I think going to the Pro Bowl added some swagger to him."

A sampling of some of the most productive and high-profile small-school stars in the NFL today:

PLAYER, TEAM	COLLEGE	CAREER HIGHLIGHT
S Mike Adams, Ind.	Delaware	Named to 2015 Pro Bowl; led team with 5 INTs in 2014
DE Jared Allen, Chi.	Idaho State	Five-time All-Star; has 134 career sacks
WR Miles Austin, Phi.	Monmouth	Two-time All-Star; had 1,000 receiving yards in 2009 and 2010
S Antoine Bethea, SF	Howard	Three-time All-Star; has 18 career INTs, including 4 in 2014
CB Justin Bethel, Ari.	Presbyterian	Two-time All-Star
CB Tramaine Brock, SF	Belhaven College	Registered team-high 5 INTs in 2013
CB Malcolm Butler, NE	West Alabama	Made INT in final seconds of Super Bowl XLIX to seal win
WR Victor Cruz, NYG	Massachusetts	Set NYG season record with 1,536 receiving yards in 2011
WR Marques Colston, NO	Hofstra	Only Saint with 6 career 1,000-yard receiving seasons
LB Zak DeOssie, NYG	Brown	Two-time All-Star as long snapper
DE Mike DeVito, KC	Maine	Has started 51 games since 2010
G Jahri Evans, NO	Bloomsburg	Six-time All-Star; has started all 142 career games
FB Jerome Felton, Buf.	Furman	Named to 2013 Pro Bowl
QB Joe Flacco, Bal.	Delaware	Super Bowl XLVII MVP; has club-record 148 career TD passes
DE Jason Hatcher, Was.	Grambling State	Named to 2014 Pro Bowl; had career-best 11 sacks in 2013
WR Pierre Garçon, Was.	Mount Union	Had NFL-best 113 catches with 1,346 receiving yards in 2013
CB Brent Grimes, Mia.	Shippensburg	Three-time All-Star; led team with 5 INTs in 2014
RB Chris Ivory, NYJ	Tiffin	Rushed for team-high 821 yards & 6 TDs in 2014
WR Vincent Jackson, TB	Northern Colorado	Three-time All-Star; has 4 consecutive 1,000-yard seasons
WR Jacoby Jones, SD	Lane	Named to 2013 Pro Bowl; had 3 105+ yard KR-TDs in 2012
FB John Kuhn, GB	Shippensburg	Two-time All-Star
DE Robert Mathis, Ind.	Alabama A&M	Five-time All-Star; has 111 career sacks
CB Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie, NYG	Tennessee State	Named to 2010 Pro Bowl; has 21 career INTs
QB Tony Romo, Dal.	Eastern Illinois	Four-time All-Star; has franchise record 33,270 passing yards
TE Julius Thomas, Jax.	Portland State	Two-time All-Star; had 12 TD receptions in both 2013 & 2014
FB Mike Tolbert, Car.	Coastal Carolina	Named to 2014 Pro Bowl
K Adam Vinatieri, Ind.	South Dakota State	Three-time All-Star; has 4 Super Bowl victories
CB Lardarius Webb, Bal.	Nicholls State	Registered team-high 5 INTs in 2011



Antoine Bethea



Jahri Evans



Chris Ivory



Vincent Jackson



Mike Tolbert

QUARTERBACKS OF THE FUTURE

The success of a team often hinges on the production of the quarterback.

“Everybody feeds off of what the quarterback can and cannot do,” says Pro Football Hall of Famer and ESPN NFL analyst **STEVE YOUNG**. “The foundation of the game is really built off of responding to what the quarterback presents.”

GIL BRANDT, who oversaw the Dallas Cowboys’ personnel department for 29 years and currently shares his gridiron knowledge as a senior analyst for NFL.com, sees plenty of quarterback talent on the horizon.

“The quarterbacks we see in college now are so much more developed passers than the quarterbacks we saw 25 years ago, simply because teams are throwing the ball so much more at the high school and collegiate level,” says Brandt.

Following are Brandt’s choices for the top QBs in college today (listed alphabetically):

QUARTERBACK	HT/ WT	BRANDT’S ANALYSIS
Trevone Boykin , Texas Christian	6-2/205	<i>“He is more of a mobile quarterback and rolls out mostly. He has a strong arm and very good speed. He compiled 4,608 total yards of offense last year and had 30 touchdown passes.”</i>
Connor Cook , Michigan State	6-3/230	<i>“He’s a good drop-back passer and has a strong arm. He threw for 3,214 yards last season, including 24 touchdowns. He led the Spartans to a come-from-behind victory over Baylor in the Cotton Bowl.”</i>
Christian Hackenberg , Penn State	6-4/235	<i>“He will be a junior this season. He has a big, strong arm. He passed for 20 touchdowns his freshman year and led Penn State to seven wins in 2013, including wins over Michigan and at Wisconsin. He threw for 2,977 yards in 2014.”</i>
Kevin Hogan , Stanford	6-4/230	<i>“He has the ability to roll out or be a good drop-back passer. He is well coached and has good running ability. He threw 20 touchdowns in 2013 and 19 touchdowns in 2014.”</i>
Cody Kessler , Southern California	6-1/210	<i>“Overall, he is a very good athlete and understands the game very well. He has very good accuracy – completed 70.7% in 2014 and 68.3% for his career. He can make any throw and passed for 36 touchdowns with only four interceptions last season.”</i>
Dak Prescott , Mississippi State	6-2/235	<i>“The first team all-SEC quarterback led Mississippi State to the No. 1 ranking during the middle of last season for the first time in school history. He threw for 3,449 yards and had 27 touchdowns in 2014. Over the past two seasons, he’s rushed for over 1,800 yards. He is a good athlete and can make things happen.”</i>

BRANDT’S HONORABLE MENTIONS: **Brandon Allen**, Arkansas; **Jacoby Brissett**, North Carolina State; **Brandon Doughty**, Western Kentucky; **Blake Frohnapfel**, Massachusetts; **Jared Goff**, California; **Cardale Jones**, Ohio State; **Nate Sudfeld**, Indiana.

The talent pool will only deepen with these five high school seniors, rated in order of talent by CBS Sports Network recruiting expert **TOM LEMMING**:

QUARTERBACK	HT/WT	HIGH SCHOOL	LEMMING’S ANALYSIS
Jacob Eason	6-5/215	Lake Stevens (WA)	<i>“He’s the No. 1 quarterback in the country. He’s got all of the tools and is a super talent. He looks like Tom Brady looked when he came out of high school.”</i>
Jawon Pass	6-5/225	Carver (GA)	<i>“He looks just like Cam Newton did coming out of high school. He looks like a power forward. He’s got great potential and skill. He’s the real deal and has great talent.”</i>
Feleipe Franks	6-6/205	Wakulla (FL)	<i>“I think he is fantastic. He’s got everything going for him. This kid can run. He can throw the ball and throws a 93 mph baseball pitch.”</i>
Malik Henry	6-2/180	IMG Academy (FL)	<i>“He’s more of the read-option type quarterback. He can run. He can throw. He does everything well.”</i>
Brandon Peters	6-4/205	Avon (IN)	<i>“I really like him. He’s the best player in Indiana. He just committed to Michigan and Jim Harbaugh. He’s a pro-style guy.”</i>

LEMMING’S HONORABLE MENTIONS: **Jarrett Guarantano**, Bergen Catholic (NJ); **Dwayne Haskins, Jr.**, Bullis School (MD); **Austin Kendall**, Cuthbertson (NC); **Tylin Oden**, Spring Hill (TN); **Shea Patterson**, Calvary (LA); **Jake Zembiec**, Aquinas (NY).

WHO'S YOUR FAVORITE PLAYER TO WATCH?

In the NFL, there are great players all over the field. And there are certain guys who are so mesmerizing to watch that fellow players can't help but admire some of their toughest competition.

So who did NFL players select as their favorite player to watch?

Pittsburgh Steelers Pro Bowl wide receiver **ANTONIO BROWN** (right) was chosen multiple times by players around the league who respect his ability to dominate, even when defenses focus on shutting him down each week.



"He brings a lot of energy," says Miami Dolphins running back **LAMAR MILLER** about Brown. "He makes plays, so whenever he touches the ball you know there's always excitement to see what he's going to be able to do. He's a very exciting player to watch."

Another popular choice was Seattle Seahawks All-Star running back **MARSHAWN LYNCH** (left), who has scored 11 or more rushing touchdowns in each of the past four seasons.

"As a running back and just watching his running style, I love the way that he plays the game," says Indianapolis Colts running back **DAN "BOOM" HERRON** about Lynch. "He's real physical and seems to be a guy that just loves to win and make big plays and I think he does that."

Here are some of the NFL players' favorite players to watch:

PLAYER, TEAM	PLAYER HE LIKES TO WATCH
Jared Allen, Chi.	" Aaron Rodgers , in my opinion, is the top quarterback we played last year. He is their offense. When you have a guy that can sit in the pocket and tear you apart when he gets in a rhythm, and you can't break his rhythm because he can tear you apart outside of the pocket, it makes for a long day at the office."
Michael Brockers, STL	" Von Miller is such a great athlete and it is fun to watch him rush the passer."
Antonio Brown, Pit.	"My favorite player to watch is Andre Johnson just because of his passion and his work ethic for the game and for how long he has been doing it. I love his excitement and the passion he brings to the game. He's definitely a marquee player that I enjoy watching."
Dez Bryant, Dal.	" Calvin Johnson sets the standard. He sets that bar high for every wide receiver in the league. It's really respect to him that he makes receivers like us go out there and try to be our best."
Derek Carr, Oak.	" Derrick Coleman because it's amazing what he has accomplished in the NFL dealing with profound hearing loss."
Lavonte David, TB	" Antonio Brown . He plays with a lot of heart and he makes great plays on the field."
Dan "Boom" Herron, Ind.	" Marshawn Lynch . As a running back and just watching his running style, I love the way that he plays the game. He's real physical and seems to be a guy that just loves to win and make big plays and I think he does that."
T.Y. Hilton, Ind.	" Antonio Brown . We grew up together and I like watching him play. He's similar to me."
Fred Jackson, Buf.	" Marshawn Lynch . I like the way he runs. He's aggressive and attacks defenses. As a running back, I think that's what we need to be good at."
Greg Jennings, Mia.	" LeSean McCoy . Simply because he's a touchdown possibility every time he touches the ball. He's just very explosive. He's very elusive."
Chandler Jones, NE	" J.J. Watt . He shows up every Sunday and nobody can block him."
Lamar Miller, Mia.	"I would say Antonio Brown . He brings a lot of energy. He makes plays so whenever he touches the ball you know there's always excitement to see what he's going to be able to do. He's a very exciting player to watch."
C.J. Mosley, Bal.	"I'll go with one of my former teammates from Alabama – Ha Ha Clinton-Dix , safety for the Packers. Playing with him at Alabama, I always knew the kind of potential he had, and to see him grow as a player like he did last year – especially in the playoffs – I really felt great for him. I always love watching my former teammates play, but I especially try to stay in touch with Ha Ha."
Torrey Smith, SF	"A tie between Aaron Rodgers, Tom Brady and Peyton Manning , because of their timing and the impressive throws they're able to make."
Tyron Smith, Dal.	" Jason Peters , because he is a technician. I watch a lot of film on him to get myself better."
Justin Tucker, Bal.	" Peyton Manning , because he runs that offense like a military general."
Alterraun Verner, TB	" Earl Thomas , because he plays with so much energy and passion for the game."

WHY I CHOSE MY NUMBER



For some NFL players, their jersey number is just a number. But for others, it carries a special significance.

After wearing No. 4 in each of his first 11 NFL seasons, Cleveland Browns punter **ANDY LEE** (left) has decided to make a change. Lee, who was traded from San Francisco to Cleveland this offseason, has chosen to wear No. 8 in 2015. The number is representative of the number of days that Lee's daughter, Madelyn, lived before she passed away from post-birth complications in early February.

"I think sometimes, not necessarily by me and my wife, her life can get overlooked," says Lee about his daughter. "She was here, she was a person but nobody got to meet her, nobody got to see her. She was really alive and really a person. It's a way to honor her and kind of just give her some glory she deserves."



Blake Bortles



Drew Brees



Landon Collins



Sammy Watkins

The reasons behind some NFL players' numbers:

PLAYER, TEAM	NO.	EXPLANATION
VICK BALLARD , Indianapolis	26	After injuries limited Ballard to just one game over the past two seasons, he decided to change his number from 33 to 26. He wore 26 at Pascagoula (MS) High School. The number change signifies a fresh start for Ballard following his battle with injuries.
NAT BERHE , New York Giants	29	Berhe switched from 34 to 29 to support Kansas City Chiefs Pro Bowl safety Eric Berry, who is battling Hodgkin lymphoma.
BLAKE BORTLES , Jacksonville	5	Bortles wore 5 during his collegiate career.
DREW BREES , New Orleans	9	Brees wears 9 in honor of former Boston Red Sox outfielder Ted Williams.
KENNY BRITT , St. Louis	18	Britt will change from 81 to 18, going back to the number he wore in college at Rutgers and during his time with the Tennessee Titans during his first five NFL seasons.
LANDON COLLINS , New York Giants	21	Growing up a Washington Redskins fan, Collins admired safety Sean Taylor, who passed away in 2007 and wore 21 during his tenure in Washington. Giants cornerback Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie, who wore 21 in 2014, agreed to give the number to Collins. Collins also wore 26 while playing at Alabama, the same number Taylor wore during his collegiate career at Miami.
MARK INGRAM , New Orleans	22	Ingram wore 22 when he won the Heisman Trophy in 2009 while playing at Alabama.
ANDY LEE , Cleveland	8	After being traded and switching teams for the first time in his 12-year career, Lee decided to wear 8 in honor of his late daughter, Madelyn, who lived for eight days after her birth in early 2015.
JAKE RYAN , Green Bay	47	During his sophomore year in college, Ryan switched from 90 to 47 for the remainder of his career in honor of Michigan football legend Bennie Oosterbaan, who played and coached for the Wolverines from 1925-58.
DEVIN TAYLOR , Detroit	98	Taylor switched from 92 to 98 to give 92 to newly-acquired defensive tackle Haloti Ngata, who wore 92 in Baltimore.
KYLE VAN NOY , Detroit	53	After wearing 95 during his rookie campaign, Van Noy decided to wear 53 in 2015. His new number incorporates the number 3 which he wore during his standout collegiate career at BYU.
SAMMY WATKINS , Buffalo	14	Watkins wore 2 at Clemson after wearing 7 in high school at South Fort Myers in Florida. After learning that 14 has never been worn by a non-quarterback in Bills' history, he decided the equation $2 \times 7 = 14$ also made sense to select his new number.

VISITOR'S PASS: FAVORITE NFL STADIUMS

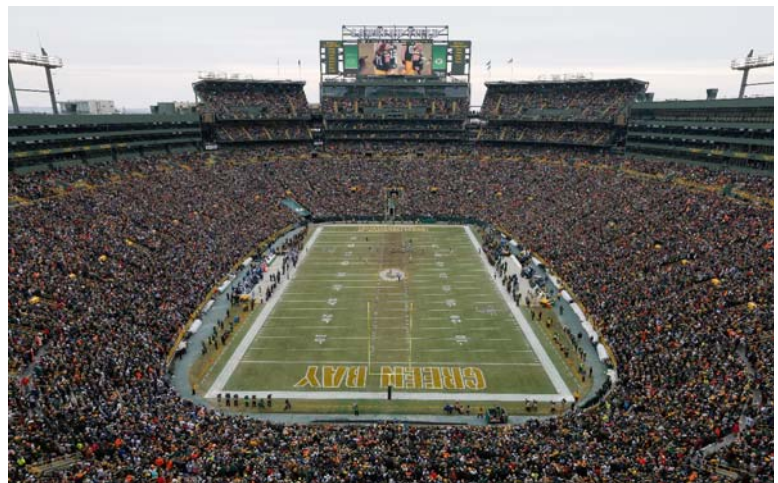
It's great to have home-field advantage, but road trips have their perks, too. Traveling to stadiums that pride themselves on unique weather conditions, loyal fans and rich traditions can present excellent opportunities for the visiting team to rise to the challenge. Plus, for some players, it means heading back to your hometown or bringing back Super Bowl-winning memories.

Here's a list of some players' favorite road stadiums:

PLAYER, TEAM	FAVORITE AWAY STADIUM AND REASON
Jordan Cameron, Miami	"Heinz Field in Pittsburgh because they play 'Renegade' by Styx in the fourth quarter. They play it at key points in the game and the whole stadium goes nuts and they have this really good speaker system. Everyone's waving their towels and it's kind of a cool moment. It gives me more motivation and a little energy boost when you get out there. It's kind of an exciting moment."
Morris Claiborne, Dallas	"CenturyLink Field in Seattle because of the atmosphere."
Vontae Davis, Indianapolis	"Jacksonville's EverBank Field because of the weather. Every time we play there it's really nice."
Joe Flacco, Baltimore	"That's easy. We play at Pittsburgh every year and Heinz Field has a great atmosphere. I like going to play there."
Justin Forsett, Baltimore	"CenturyLink Field in Seattle. It's a loud and hostile environment and a lot of fun to be a part of."
Greg Jennings, Miami	"My favorite road stadium to play in now would have to be Lambeau Field in Green Bay. Having played in it for years (as a Packer) when it was a home stadium, and now being able to go back, it's just a great venue knowing all the history, all the greats that have played there. There's a lot of history behind it and they take good care of their facilities, their grass, everything. The fans are awesome. It's just a great place to play."
Arthur Jones, Indianapolis	"Pittsburgh's Heinz Field. Coming over from Baltimore, that rivalry is real. Even though I am with the Colts now, I still have that same feeling when I go in there. They hate us, I hate them. But at the end of the day, we respect each other and we play hard."
Jerick McKinnon, Minnesota	"Lambeau Field in Green Bay because of the history of the stadium."
Heath Miller, Pittsburgh	"I like Carolina's Bank of America Stadium. We always play there in the preseason every other year. The grass is always great. It's not far from where I grew up either. I also played two bowl games there in college."
Jordy Nelson, Green Bay	"Dallas' AT&T Stadium because that's where we won the Super Bowl (XLV)."



Heinz Field (Pittsburgh)



Lambeau Field (Green Bay)

NFL FATHER-SON PAIRS

According to the Pro Football Hall of Fame, there are 217 documented sets of fathers and sons who have played in the NFL. (The full list can be viewed at the Hall of Fame's website at <http://www.profootballhof.com/history/stats/fathers.aspx>).

This spring, a number of proud NFL fathers heard their sons' names called during the 2015 NFL Draft, including two first-round selections – **ANDRUS PEAT** (No. 13 overall, New Orleans) and **BRESHAD PERRIMAN** (No. 26 overall, Baltimore). Several other NFL sons signed as undrafted free agents.

A list of some of the sons who may be following in their father's NFL footsteps for the first time this season:

SON	2015 NFL DRAFT RESULT	NFL FATHER	TEAM(S)
WR Dres Anderson	49ers, Free Agent	WR Flipper Anderson	Rams, Colts, Redskins, Broncos
WR Kenny Bell	Buccaneers, Rd. 5	RB Ken Bell	Broncos
CB Alex Carter	Lions, Rd. 3	CB Tom Carter	Redskins, Bears, Bengals
WR DaVaris Daniels	Vikings, Free Agent	DE Phillip Daniels	Seahawks, Bears, Redskins
DE Mario Edwards, Jr.	Raiders, Rd. 2	CB Mario Edwards	Cowboys, Buccaneers
LB Bryce Hager	Rams, Rd. 7	LB Britt Hager	Eagles, Broncos, Rams
WR Josh Harper	Raiders, Free Agent	LB Willie Harper	49ers
LB Mike Hull	Dolphins, Free Agent	LB Tom Hull	49ers, Packers
T Andrus Peat	Saints, Rd. 1	G Todd Peat	Cardinals, Raiders
WR Breshad Perriman	Ravens, Rd. 1	WR Brett Perriman	Saints, Lions, Chiefs, Dolphins
TE Maxx Williams	Ravens, Rd. 2	C Brian Williams	Giants



Breshad Perriman (center) with family, including father Brett (far right)



Andrus Peat (center) with family, including father Todd (third from left)

HALL OF FAME FATHERS, DRAFTED SONS

With his selection by the Atlanta Falcons in 2014, Texas A&M tackle **JAKE MATTHEWS** joined an exclusive NFL club.

Matthews became the 10th son of a Pro Football Hall of Fame player/coach to be drafted. Jake followed his father **BRUCE** (HOF, 2007), a guard who was drafted out of Southern California by the Houston Oilers in the first round (No. 9 overall) in 1982.

"It's going to be hard to equal my dad's 19 seasons and 14 straight Pro Bowls," says Jake. "Doing half the things he did is a pretty lofty goal. He's always pushed me to do things the right way – work the hardest, don't slack."

Jake Matthews is the fourth son of a Hall of Famer to be drafted in the first round, joining **CHRIS** and **KYLE LONG** and **KELLEN WINSLOW**. The Hall of Fame father/drafted son rundown:

HALL OF FAME FATHER (Year Inducted)	DRAFTED SON(S) (Team, Year)
LB Bobby Bell (1983)	LB Bobby Bell, Jr. (N.Y. Jets, 1984)
RB Tony Dorsett (1994)	CB Anthony Dorsett (Houston, 1996)
QB Bob Griese (1990)	QB Brian Griese (Denver, 1998)
G Russ Grimm (2010)	S Cody Grimm (Tampa Bay, 2010)
DT Howie Long (2000)	DE Chris Long (St. Louis, 2008) G Kyle Long (Chicago, 2013)
G Bruce Matthews (2007)	T Jake Matthews (Atlanta, 2014)
RB-DB/Coach Don Shula (1997)	QB Mike Shula (Tampa Bay, 1987)
T Jackie Slater (2001)	WR Matthew Slater (New England 2008)
TE Kellen Winslow (1995)	TE Kellen Winslow (Cleveland, 2004)

HEY BROTHER

The NFL is a family game for players, coaches and fans. Not only can they all share the experience, but brothers also can share the field and sidelines.

Chicago Bears cornerback **KYLE FULLER** will have the opportunity to line up across the field from his brother, Detroit Lions wide receiver **COREY FULLER**, in Weeks 8 and 17. Last season, the two brothers faced one another on Thanksgiving Day and again in Week 16.

Other division rivalries will also have a family feel as brothers will face off against each other twice. Green Bay Packers linebacker **CLAY MATTHEWS** will meet his brother, linebacker **CASEY MATTHEWS**, and the Minnesota Vikings in Weeks 11 and 17. And in Weeks 2 and 10, brothers **DUSTIN COLQUITT** (Kansas City) and **BRITTON COLQUITT** (Denver), both punters, will play against each other in AFC West clashes.

Last season, Tennessee Titans cornerback **JASON MC COURT** had the chance to celebrate with his brother, New England safety **DEVIN MC COURT**, after the Patriots won Super Bowl XLIX. But this year, the two will square off against one another when the Titans visit New England in Week 15.

For the second season in a row, Indianapolis Colts defensive tackle **ARTHUR JONES** will face his brother, New England Patriots defensive end **CHANDLER JONES**, when the Colts host the Patriots in Week 6. The two brothers played in last year's AFC Championship Game.

Some of the notable 2015 NFL brothers, as well as when they play each other in the regular season:

ACHO	LB Emmanuel, Phi. LB Sam, Chi.	
BENNETT	TE Martellus, Chi. DE Michael, Sea.	CHI@SEA 9/27
COLQUITT	P Britton, Den. P Dustin, KC	DEN@KC 9/17 KC@DEN 11/15
DAVIS	TE Vernon, SF CB Vontae, Ind.	
FULLER	WR Corey, Det. CB Kyle, Chi.	CHI@DET 10/18 DET@CHI 1/3
JONES	DT Arthur, Ind. DE Chandler, NE	NE@IND 10/18
KALIL	T Matt, Min. C Ryan, Car.	
KENDRICKS	LB Eric, Min. LB Mychal, Phi.	
LONG	DE Chris, StL. G Kyle, Chi.	CHI@StL 11/15
MANNING	QB Eli, NYG QB Peyton, Den.	

MATTHEWS	LB Clay, GB LB Casey, Min.	GB@MIN 11/22 MIN@GB 1/3
MC COURT	S Devin, NE CB Jason, Ten.	TEN@NE 12/20
MC COWN	QB Josh, Cle. QB Luke, NO	
PAGANO	HC Chuck, Ind. DC John, SD	
POUNCEY	C Maurkice, Pit. C Mike, Mia.	
RYAN	HC Rex, Buf. DC Rob, NO	
SCHWARTZ	G Geoff, NYG T Mitchell, Cle.	
SORENSEN	QB Brad, SD S Daniel, KC	KC@SD 11/22 SD@KC 12/13
VEREEN	S Brock, Chi. RB Shane, NYG	
WATKINS	CB Jaylen, Phi. WR Sammy, Buf.	BUF@PHI 12/13



Corey (left) and Kyle (right) Fuller



Jason (left) and Devin (right) McCourty (with family)



MR. IRRELEVANT GOES TO NEWPORT BEACH



It seems as though everybody roots for the underdog, but former San Francisco 49ers wide receiver **PAUL SALATA** actually decided to *celebrate* the underdog. In 1976, Salata founded “Irrelevant Week,” a week-long celebration centered on “Mr. Irrelevant,” the tongue-in-cheek title bestowed annually upon the last pick of the NFL Draft.

Each year in June, “Mr. Irrelevant” and his family are invited to spend a week in Newport Beach, California where they are treated to activities such as a day at Disneyland and the Lowsman Trophy Banquet (a parody of the Heisman Trophy) among other events.

This year’s “Mr. Irrelevant” is tight end **GERALD CHRISTIAN** (right), who was selected with the 256th pick by the Arizona Cardinals.

“I was the very last pick in the draft,” says Christian, who caught 60 passes for 810 yards and nine touchdowns during his junior and senior seasons at Louisville. “So at the end of the day, it makes me want to work harder. I’m ready to go play some football now and show people that ‘Mr. Irrelevant’ can be very relevant.”

Christian hopes to contribute to his new team and the Arizona coaching staff plans to utilize him in a number of different areas.

“I really love the way he plays,” says Cardinals head coach **BRUCE ARIANS** about Christian. “He’s going to be a special-teams gem with his linebacker background. He’s a very good intermediate receiver. He will fight hard for a roster spot because of his special-teams value.”



Several notable “Mr. Irrelevants” (active players in italics):

MR. IRRELEVANT	YEAR DRAFTED/TEAM	NOTES
<i>TE Gerald Christian, Arizona</i>	2015 Arizona	40th Mr. Irrelevant. First Cardinals Mr. Irrelevant since Tevita Ofahengaue in 2001.
<i>S Lonnie Ballentine, Houston</i>	2014 Houston	Spent 2014 on injured reserve with Texans.
<i>QB Chandler Harnish, Arizona</i>	2012 Indianapolis	Signed with Cardinals after spending 2014 with Vikings.
<i>K Ryan Succop, Tennessee</i>	2009 Kansas City	Set Chiefs rookie record with 25 field goals made in 2009.
LB David Vobora	2008 St. Louis	Appeared in 40 games with 16 starts in four NFL seasons with Rams and Seahawks.
S Ramzee Robinson	2007 Detroit	Appeared in 26 games in three NFL seasons for Lions, Eagles and Browns.
WR Ryan Hoag	2003 Oakland	Spent time with Giants, Redskins, Vikings and Jaguars. Appeared on ABC’s “The Bachelorette” in 2008.
S Mike Green	2000 Chicago	Started 48 games for Bears, Seahawks and Redskins in eight NFL seasons.
FB Jim Finn	1999 Chicago	Played six NFL seasons for Colts and Giants totaling 45 career starts.
LB Marty Moore	1994 New England	Played eight NFL seasons and became first “Mr. Irrelevant” to appear in the Super Bowl (XXXI with Patriots).
C Matt Elliott	1992 Washington	Started 14 games on inaugural Carolina Panthers team. Made 32 career starts.
QB Bill Kenney*	1978 Miami	Made the Pro Bowl in 1984 with the Chiefs and later became a Missouri State Senator.
WR Kelvin Kirk	1976 Pittsburgh	First annual “Mr. Irrelevant.” Played seven years in the CFL and later worked for the <i>Ottawa Citizen</i> .

*Kenney was named as a replacement for Lee Washburn who could not attend training camp due to a back injury.

ACTIVE STATISTICAL LEADERS

TOP 10 ACTIVE PASSERS

(1,000 or more attempts)

	<u>Att.</u>	<u>Comp.</u>	<u>Comp. %</u>	<u>Yards</u>	<u>TD</u>	<u>INT</u>	<u>Rating</u>
1. Aaron Rodgers	3,475	2,286	65.8	28,578	226	57	106.0
2. Russell Wilson	1,252	794	63.4	9,950	72	26	98.6
3. Tony Romo	4,210	2,743	65.2	33,270	242	110	97.6
4. Peyton Manning	9,049	5,927	65.5	69,691	530	234	97.5
5. Tom Brady	7,168	4,551	63.5	53,258	392	143	95.9
6. Philip Rivers	4,678	3,025	64.7	36,655	252	122	95.7
7. Drew Brees	7,458	4,937	66.2	56,033	396	194	95.4
8. Ben Roethlisberger	4,954	3,157	63.7	39,057	251	131	93.9
9. Matt Ryan	3,916	2,508	64.0	28,166	181	91	91.1
10. Colin Kaepernick	1,117	671	60.1	8,415	50	21	90.6

TOP 10 ACTIVE RUSHERS

	<u>Att.</u>	<u>Yards</u>	<u>TD</u>
1. Steven Jackson	2,743	11,388	68
2. Frank Gore	2,442	11,073	64
3. Adrian Peterson	2,054	10,190	86
4. Marshawn Lynch	2,033	8,695	71
5. Chris Johnson	1,897	8,628	51
6. Matt Forté	1,817	7,704	41
7. Jamaal Charles	1,249	6,856	38
8. DeAngelo Williams	1,432	6,846	46
9. LeSean McCoy	1,461	6,792	44
10. Arian Foster	1,391	6,309	53

TOP 10 ACTIVE PASS RECEIVERS

	<u>No.</u>	<u>Yards</u>	<u>TD</u>
1. Reggie Wayne	1,070	14,345	82
2. Andre Johnson	1,012	13,597	64
3. Jason Witten	943	10,502	57
4. Anquan Boldin	940	12,406	70
5. Steve Smith	915	13,262	73
6. Larry Fitzgerald	909	12,151	89
7. Wes Welker	890	9,822	50
8. Antonio Gates	788	10,014	99
9. Brandon Marshall	773	9,771	65
10. Roddy White	765	10,357	62

TOP 10 ACTIVE SCORERS

	<u>TD</u>	<u>FG</u>	<u>PAT</u>	<u>TP</u>
1. Adam Vinatieri	0	478	710(1#)	2,146
2. Sebastian Janikowski	0	364	482	1,574
3. Phil Dawson	1	362	427	1,519
4. Jay Feely	1	332	449	1,451
5. Matt Bryant	0	286	403	1,261
6. Josh Brown	0	278	385	1,219
Shane Graham	0	266	421	1,219
8. Stephen Gostkowski	0	243	450	1,179
9. Robbie Gould	0	243	351	1,080
10. Mason Crosby	0	212	401	1,037

TOP 10 ACTIVE INTERCEPTORS

	<u>No.</u>	<u>Yards</u>	<u>TD</u>
1. Charles Woodson	60	944	11
2. DeAngelo Hall	43	838	5
3. Terence Newman	37	356	3
4. Charles Tillman	36	675	8
5. Antonio Cromartie	31	545	3
Rashean Mathis	31	553	4
7. Tramon Williams	28	423	1
8. Aqib Talib	27	410	6
9. Antrel Rolle	26	565	4
10. Johnathan Joseph	25	505	5

Two-point conversion

TOP 10 ACTIVE SACKERS

	<u>No.</u>
1. Jared Allen	134
2. John Abraham	133.5
3. DeMarcus Ware	127
4. Julius Peppers	125.5
5. Dwight Freeney	111.5
6. Robert Mathis	111
7. Terrell Suggs	106.5
8. Mario Williams	91
9. Elvis Dumervil	90
10. Trent Cole	85.5

TOP 10 ACTIVE PUNTERS

(50 or more punts)

	<u>Punts</u>	<u>Avg.</u>	<u>Lg.</u>
1. Tress Way	77	47.5	77
2. Shane Lechler	1,185	47.5	80
3. Bryan Anger	280	47.0	73
4. Thomas Morstead	354	47.0	70
5. Marquette King	193	46.8	66
6. Brandon Fields	594	46.8	74
7. Sam Martin	140	46.7	72
8. Andy Lee	941	46.2	82
9. Johnny Hekker	240	46.2	68
10. Ryan Allen	142	46.1	67

TOP 5 ACTIVE KICKOFF RETURNERS

(40 or more returns)

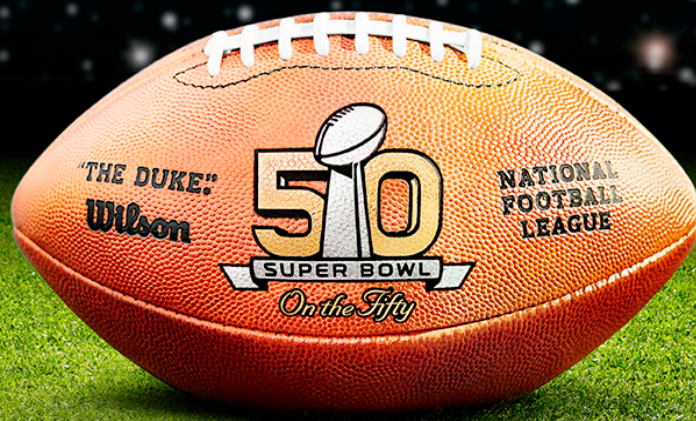
	<u>No.</u>	<u>Yds.</u>	<u>Avg.</u>	<u>TD</u>
1. Cordarrelle Patterson	77	2,264	29.4	2
2. Joe McKnight	79	2,270	28.7	2
3. Jacoby Jones	165	4,527	27.4	5
4. Percy Harvin	147	4,019	27.3	5
5. Trindon Holliday	54	1,455	26.9	2

TOP 5 ACTIVE PUNT RETURNERS

(40 or more returns)

	<u>No.</u>	<u>Yds.</u>	<u>Avg.</u>	<u>TD</u>
1. Travis Benjamin	40	533	13.3	2
2. Devin Hester	282	3,481	12.3	14
3. Jeremy Ross	53	650	12.3	1
4. Julian Edelman	132	1,616	12.2	4
5. Golden Tate	68	787	11.6	0

THE COACHES



BACK TO FOOTBALL

WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN 2015

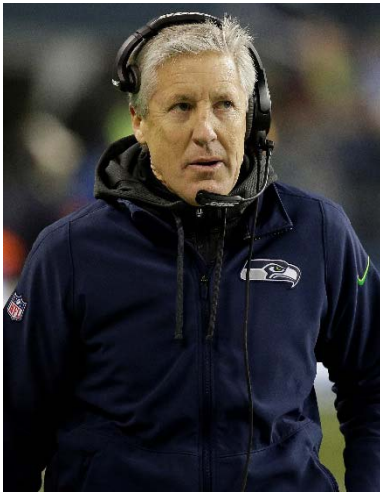
TOM COUGHLIN, New York Giants, needs eight victories to surpass Mike Shanahan (178) and Bill Parcells (183) for 10th place all-time in career victories. In 18 seasons, Coughlin has 176 career victories.

PETE CARROLL, Seattle, needs nine victories to reach 100 career victories. In nine seasons, Carroll has 91 career victories.

MIKE TOMLIN, Pittsburgh, needs 13 victories to reach 100 career victories. In eight seasons, Tomlin has 87 career victories.

SEAN PAYTON, New Orleans, needs 14 victories to reach 100 career victories. In nine seasons, Payton has 86 career victories.

LOVIE SMITH, Tampa Bay, needs 14 victories to reach 100 career victories. In 10 seasons, Smith has 86 career victories.



Pete Carroll



Tom Coughlin



Sean Payton



Mike Tomlin



Lovie Smith

TOP BILLING: BILL BELICHICK AMONG NFL COACHING LEADERS



New England head coach **BILL BELICHICK** guided the Patriots to their fourth Super Bowl title this past season, joining Pro Football Hall of Famer **CHUCK NOLL** as the only head coaches in NFL history to win four Super Bowls. Belichick, who now has 22 career postseason wins, also surpassed Pro Football Hall of Famers **TOM LANDRY** (20) and **DON SHULA** (19) for the most playoff wins in NFL history.

“Coach Belichick is the best coach that I’ve ever competed against,” says Denver Broncos quarterback **PEYTON MANNING**. “His teams are always well-coached, always well-disciplined, and you know it’s going to be a 60-minute fight. To me, that speaks to his coaching.”

The head coaches with the most playoff wins:

HEAD COACH	TEAM(S)	PLAYOFF WINS
Bill Belichick	Cleveland Browns, New England Patriots	22*
Tom Landry	Dallas Cowboys	20
Don Shula	Baltimore Colts, Miami Dolphins	19
Joe Gibbs	Washington Redskins	17
Chuck Noll	Pittsburgh Steelers	16

*Active

Entering his 21st season as an NFL head coach, Belichick has amassed 233 wins, the fourth-most total victories by a head coach in league history.

“I think we’re lucky to have the finest coach in the history of the modern game,” says Patriots owner **ROBERT KRAFT**. “I think he has done an outstanding job.”

The head coaches with the most total wins in NFL history:

HEAD COACH	TEAM(S)	WINS	LOSSES	TIES
Don Shula	Baltimore Colts, Miami Dolphins	347	173	6
George Halas	Chicago Bears	324	151	31
Tom Landry	Dallas Cowboys	270	178	6
Bill Belichick*	Cleveland Browns, New England Patriots	233	118	0
Curly Lambeau	Green Bay Packers, Chicago Cardinals, Washington Redskins	229	134	22

*Active



BILL WALSH NFL MINORITY COACHING FELLOWSHIP



Established in 1987, the **BILL WALSH NFL MINORITY COACHING FELLOWSHIP** provides NFL training camp positions to minority coaches every year. The program, which was named after the man who conceived the idea – late Pro Football Hall of Fame head coach **BILL WALSH** (left) – exposes talented minority college coaches to the methods and philosophies of summer NFL training camps. Walsh introduced the concept to the league in 1987 when he brought a group of minority coaches into his San Francisco 49ers’ training camp.

Steelers head coach **MIKE TOMLIN** (right), who became the youngest head coach (36) in NFL history to win a Super Bowl when he led Pittsburgh to a victory in Super Bowl XLIII, interned with the Cleveland Browns in the summer of 2000 when he was the defensive backs coach at the University of Cincinnati.



Tomlin is one of three current NFL head coaches – **MARVIN LEWIS** (Cincinnati, below left) and **LOVIE SMITH** (Tampa Bay, below right) are the others – who are graduates of the program.

Smith, who interned with the Arizona Cardinals in 1988, is a huge endorser of the program.



“I had a terrific experience with the Bill Walsh NFL Minority Coaching Fellowship and I am a big believer in what it can do for young college coaches who are searching for an avenue into our league,” says Smith. “As a participant in the program, I learned so much about what goes into the coaching business on the professional level. The experience and networking opportunities that I had during my time had a very big impact on my career path. Now, as a head coach, I have had the opportunity to hire some very talented coaches who participated in the program. I make it a point to ensure that our program offers those same valuable learning opportunities that meant so much to me during my fellowship.”

Carolina Panthers head coach **RON RIVERA** knows the value of the program and serves on the Bill Walsh NFL Minority Coaching Fellowship Advisory Council. The council is comprised of club presidents, general managers, head coaches and assistant coaches, who focus on developing a pipeline of minority coaches, including former NFL players pursuing opportunities in the coaching profession.



“The Bill Walsh NFL Minority Coaching Fellowship is essential in creating opportunities,” says Rivera. “You can see the benefits of the fellowship program on virtually every coaching staff in the league and the education provided through the program has been invaluable in the development of many young coaches who may not have received exposure to the NFL without it.”

The program has tutored more than 1,700 minority coaches through the years and has grown to the point that now every NFL team participates during training camp.

Active NFL head coaches who are graduates of the Bill Walsh NFL Minority Coaching Fellowship:

HEAD COACH	TEAM	INTERNSHIP
Marvin Lewis	Cincinnati	1988 with San Francisco
		1991 with Kansas City
Lovie Smith	Tampa Bay	1988 with Arizona
Mike Tomlin	Pittsburgh	2000 with Cleveland

2015 NFL MINORITY HEAD COACHES, ASSISTANT HEAD COACHES & COORDINATORS

Keith Armstrong, Atlanta, Special Teams	Thomas McGaughey, San Francisco, Special Teams
Teryl Austin, Detroit, Defense	John Mitchell, Pittsburgh, Asst. Head Coach
Todd Bowles, New York Jets, Head Coach	Raheem Morris, Atlanta, Asst. Head Coach
Jim Caldwell, Detroit, Head Coach	Winston Moss, Green Bay, Assistant Head Coach
Mike Caldwell, New York Jets, Asst. Head Coach	Ken Norton, Oakland, Defense
Romeo Crennel, Houston, Defense	Ron Prince, Detroit, Asst. Head Coach
David Culley, Kansas City, Asst. Head Coach	Ron Rivera, Carolina, Head Coach
George Edwards, Minnesota, Defense	Kris Richard, Seattle, Defense
Leslie Frazier, Tampa Bay, Defense	Kacy Rodgers, New York Jets, Defense
Harold Goodwin, Arizona, Offense	Richard Rodgers, Carolina, Special Teams
Pep Hamilton, Indianapolis, Offense	Rocky Seto, Seattle, Asst. Head Coach
Ray Horton, Tennessee, Defense	Lovie Smith, Tampa Bay, Head Coach
Hue Jackson, Cincinnati, Offense	Dennis Thurman, Buffalo, Defense
Marvin Lewis, Cincinnati, Head Coach	Mike Tomlin, Pittsburgh, Head Coach
Anthony Lynn, Buffalo, Asst. Head Coach	

TODD BOWLES — NEW YORK JETS

HOBBIES: Music, baseball

FAVORITE MOVIE: A Soldier's Story by Omar Bradley

FAVORITE FOOD: Chips Ahoy

FAVORITE VACATION SPOT: Las Vegas

BEST FOOTBALL NICKNAME: The Assassin (Jack Tatum)

FAVORITE COLLEGE TOWN: Philadelphia (Temple)

WHICH NFL TEAM DID YOU FOLLOW AS A CHILD: Minnesota Vikings

FAVORITE ATHLETE AS A CHILD: Chuck Forman

FAVORITE STADIUM OTHER THAN YOUR OWN, AND WHY: Arrowhead Stadium

FAVORITE SPORTS UNIFORM OTHER THAN YOUR OWN: New York Yankees

FAVORITE OTHER SPORT: Baseball

PERSON YOU'D MOST LIKE TO MEET: Michael Jordan

PERSON WHO INFLUENCED YOU THE MOST: Mother

BEST ADVICE EVER RECEIVED: "Keep your head down and keep working"

PLAYER (FORMER OR CURRENT) WHO'D MAKE A GREAT HEAD COACH: Doug Williams

GREATEST OVERACHIEVER YOU'VE EVER COACHED: Nate Jones

BEST PURE ATHLETE YOU'VE COACHED: Patrick Peterson

TOUGHEST PLAYER YOU'VE EVER COACHED: Jeremiah Bell

MOST INSPIRATIONAL PLAYER YOU'VE EVER COACHED: Anthony Henry

FUNNIEST PLAYER YOU'VE EVER COACHED, AND WHY: Ananais Johnson. He did a dance/exhibition called "The Grave Digger" every Friday at practice

TOUGHEST COACH YOU'VE EVER FACED, AND WHY: Bill Parcells, because he always had a well-rounded, disciplined team

GREATEST TEAM YOU'VE EVER COMPETED AGAINST: 1986 Giants

TOUGHEST GAME YOU'VE EVER COMPETED IN, AS A COACH OR PLAYER: 1986 San Diego Chargers vs. Redskins

LOUDEST CROWD OF YOUR FOOTBALL CAREER, HOME OR AWAY: Washington

MOST KNOWLEDGEABLE FOOTBALL WRITER YOU'VE EVER MET: Michael Wilbon

MOST OVERRATED ASPECT OF FOOTBALL: Bench press and 40-yard dash at combine

MOST UNDERRATED ASPECT OF FOOTBALL: Instinct

WHO HAS THE HARDEST JOB IN FOOTBALL: Refs or quality control

MOST MEMORABLE FOOTBALL MOMENT: Winning Super Bowl XXII

MOST EMBARRASSING FOOTBALL MOMENT: As a peewee tailback, I broke for a TD run but tripped and fell at the three-yard line

ONE THING YOU'D CHANGE ABOUT NFL FOOTBALL: More OTA practice days or more off-field communication with current players

IF YOU WEREN'T COACHING, WHAT WOULD YOU BE DOING: Radio programmer



JACK DEL RIO — OAKLAND RAIDERS

HOBBIES: Fishing and golf

LAST BOOK READ (& AUTHOR): Joy of the Gospel by Pope Francis

FAVORITE MOVIE: *Gladiator*

FAVORITE FOOD: My wife's Cajun cooking

FAVORITE VACATION SPOT: Maui

BEST FOOTBALL NICKNAME: The Snake (Ken Stabler)

WHICH NFL TEAM DID YOU FOLLOW AS A CHILD: Oakland Raiders

FAVORITE ATHLETE AS A CHILD: Depends on the sport

FAVORITE STADIUM OTHER THAN YOUR OWN: Old RFK Stadium

FAVORITE SPORTS UNIFORM OTHER THAN YOUR OWN: Bears

FAVORITE OTHER SPORT: Basketball

PERSON YOU'D MOST LIKE TO MEET: The Apostle Peter

PERSON WHO INFLUENCED YOU THE MOST: My father

BEST ADVICE EVER RECEIVED: From my high school counselor, Mr. De La Rosa, who advised us to get good grades in order to get to college and open doors

PLAYER (FORMER OR CURRENT) WHO'D MAKE A GREAT HEAD COACH: Tony Siragusa

GREATEST OVERACHIEVER YOU'VE EVER COACHED: Chris Harris

BEST PURE ATHLETE YOU'VE COACHED: Rashean Mathis

TOUGHEST PLAYER YOU'VE EVER COACHED: Ray Lewis

MOST INSPIRATIONAL PLAYER YOU'VE EVER COACHED: Ray Lewis

FUNNIEST PLAYER YOU'VE EVER COACHED: Tony Siragusa

TOUGHEST COACH YOU'VE EVER FACED, AND WHY: Forrest Gregg. When playing the Packers in Milwaukee, where both teams shared the same sideline, I looked at Gregg and Gregg said, "What the hell are you looking at?"

GREATEST TEAM YOU'VE EVER COMPETED AGAINST: 2003-04 New England Patriots teams

TOUGHEST GAME YOU'VE EVER COMPETED IN, AS A COACH OR PLAYER: As a player for Dallas against the Houston Oilers, I played about 140 snaps on defense and special teams in an overtime game

LOUDEST CROWD OF YOUR FOOTBALL CAREER, HOME OR AWAY: New Orleans Superdome

MOST KNOWLEDGEABLE FOOTBALL WRITER YOU'VE EVER MET: Rick Gosselin, Dallas Morning News

WHO HAS THE HARDEST JOB IN FOOTBALL: Quarterback

MOST MEMORABLE FOOTBALL MOMENT: As a player, it was returning an interception for a touchdown on *Monday Night Football*. As a team, it was going into Chicago with the Cowboys and winning a playoff game in 1991

MOST EMBARRASSING FOOTBALL MOMENT: I scored a touchdown as a rookie and spiked the ball so hard that I fell to my knees

ONE THING YOU'D CHANGE ABOUT NFL FOOTBALL: Allow the head coach to challenge any play

ONE THING THAT SHOULD NEVER CHANGE ABOUT NFL FOOTBALL: That it remains a physical contest

IF YOU WEREN'T COACHING, WHAT WOULD YOU BE DOING: I would be a financial consultant or work in real estate



JOHN FOX — CHICAGO BEARS

HOBBIES: Family, golf, fishing, diving

LAST BOOK READ (& AUTHOR): Fearless by Eric Blehm

FAVORITE MOVIE: *CaddyShack*

FAVORITE FOOD: Mexican, seafood

FAVORITE VACATION SPOT: Marco Island

FAVORITE COLLEGE TOWN: San Diego

WHICH NFL TEAM DID YOU FOLLOW AS A CHILD: Green Bay Packers

FAVORITE ATHLETE AS A CHILD: Bart Starr

FAVORITE STADIUM OTHER THAN YOUR OWN, AND WHY: Lambeau Field, because of the tradition

FAVORITE SPORTS UNIFORM OTHER THAN YOUR OWN: New York Yankees

FAVORITE OTHER SPORT: Golf

PERSON WHO INFLUENCED YOU THE MOST: Roger Meeks (former little league coach) and Chuck Noll

BEST ADVICE EVER RECEIVED: "Be yourself"

BEST PURE ATHLETE YOU'VE COACHED: Rod Woodson, Junior Seau, Julius Peppers

TOUGHEST PLAYER YOU'VE EVER COACHED: Jessie Armstead

MOST INSPIRATIONAL PLAYER YOU'VE EVER COACHED: Jake Delhomme

TOUGHEST GAME YOU'VE EVER COMPETED IN, AS A COACH OR PLAYER: Carolina at St. Louis, 2003 NFC Divisional Playoff Game (1/10/2004)

LOUDEST CROWD OF YOUR FOOTBALL CAREER, HOME OR AWAY: Astrodome and Sports Authority Field at Mile High

MOST KNOWLEDGABLE FOOTBALL WRITER: Jack Murphy (San Diego) and Myron Cope (Pittsburgh)

MOST OVERRATED ASPECT OF FOOTBALL: Overtime

MOST UNDERRATED ASPECT OF FOOTBALL: Tackling, blocking

WHO HAS THE HARDEST JOB IN FOOTBALL: Everybody

MOST MEMORABLE FOOTBALL MOMENT: Winning three Conference Championship Games

ONE THING YOU'D CHANGE ABOUT NFL FOOTBALL: Full-time officials

ONE THING THAT SHOULD NEVER CHANGE ABOUT NFL FOOTBALL: Physicality

IF YOU WEREN'T COACHING, WHAT WOULD YOU BE DOING: Teaching



GARY KUBIAK – DENVER BRONCOS

NAME: Gary Kubiak, Denver Broncos

HOBBIES: Hunting and Fishing

FAVORITE FOOD: Mexican

FAVORITE VACATION SPOT: Disney World

FAVORITE COLLEGE TOWN: College Station

WHICH NFL TEAM DID YOU FOLLOW AS A CHILD: Houston Oilers

FAVORITE ATHLETE AS A CHILD: Joe Namath

FAVORITE STADIUM OTHER THAN YOUR OWN, AND WHY: Kansas City, because of the atmosphere

FAVORITE OTHER SPORT: Basketball

PERSON YOU'D MOST LIKE TO MEET: The Pope

PERSON WHO INFLUENCED YOU THE MOST: Father

BEST ADVICE EVER RECEIVED: "Be a good person"

PLAYER (FORMER OR CURRENT) WHO'D MAKE A GREAT HEAD COACH: Rod Smith

GREATEST OVERACHIEVER YOU'VE EVER COACHED: Rod Smith

BEST PURE ATHLETE YOU'VE COACHED: John Elway

TOUGHEST PLAYER YOU'VE EVER COACHED: John Elway

MOST INSPIRATIONAL PLAYER YOU'VE EVER COACHED: Terrell Davis

TOUGHEST COACH YOU'VE EVER FACED, AND WHY: Bill Belichick, because you don't know what to expect from him

GREATEST TEAM YOU'VE EVER COMPETED AGAINST: 1986 New York Giants that beat the Broncos in the Super Bowl

TOUGHEST GAME YOU'VE EVER COMPETED IN, AS A COACH OR PLAYER: As a player, the 1991 AFC Championship Game when the Broncos lost at Buffalo 10-7 (1/12/1992)

LOUDEST CROWD OF YOUR FOOTBALL CAREER, HOME OR AWAY: Kansas City

MOST KNOWLEDGEABLE FOOTBALL WRITER YOU'VE EVER MET: Dick Conner

MOST UNDERRATED ASPECT OF FOOTBALL: The time commitment

WHO HAS THE HARDEST JOB IN FOOTBALL: The players

MOST MEMORABLE FOOTBALL MOMENT: Beating the L.A. Raiders when both teams entered the game with 10-1 records

MOST EMBARRASSING FOOTBALL MOMENT: One time I lined up under the guard in a game in an attempt to take the snap

ONE THING YOU'D CHANGE ABOUT NFL FOOTBALL: Length of the preseason

ONE THING THAT SHOULD NEVER CHANGE ABOUT NFL FOOTBALL: The fans

IF YOU WEREN'T COACHING, WHAT WOULD YOU BE DOING: Raising cattle



DAN QUINN — ATLANTA FALCONS

FAVORITE MOVIE: Forrest Gump

FAVORITE FOOD: Pizza

FAVORITE VACATION SPOT: Hawaii

WHICH NFL TEAM DID YOU FOLLOW AS A CHILD: New York Giants

FAVORITE ATHLETE AS A CHILD: Lawrence Taylor

FAVORITE OTHER SPORT: Boxing

BEST ADVICE EVER RECEIVED: “Be yourself”

TOUGHEST GAME YOU’VE EVER COMPETED IN, AS A COACH OR PLAYER: The 2014 NFC Championship Game
(1/18/2015)

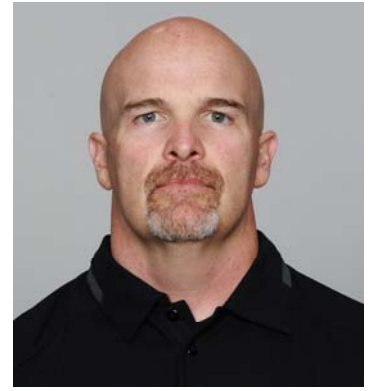
LOUDEST CROWD OF YOUR FOOTBALL CAREER, HOME OR AWAY: The 2010 Wild Card Game (Seattle vs. New Orleans, 1/8/2011) in Seattle when Marshawn Lynch had the “Beast Quake” touchdown run.

MOST KNOWLEDGEABLE FOOTBALL WRITER YOU’VE EVER MET: Peter King

MOST UNDERRATED ASPECT OF FOOTBALL: Team chemistry

MOST MEMORABLE FOOTBALL MOMENT: Being named the head coach of the Atlanta Falcons

IF YOU WEREN’T COACHING, WHAT WOULD YOU BE DOING: I would be a member of the U.S. Military



REX RYAN — BUFFALO BILLS

HOBBIES: Attending sporting events

LAST BOOK READ (& AUTHOR): Ghost Soldiers by Hampton Sides, Unbroken by Laura Hillenbrand

FAVORITE MOVIE: *Long Gone*

FAVORITE FOOD: Mexican

FAVORITE VACATION SPOT: Hawaii

BEST FOOTBALL NICKNAME: “Cookie” Gilchrist

FAVORITE COLLEGE TOWN: Clemson

WHICH NFL TEAM DID YOU FOLLOW AS A CHILD: Any team where my dad was coaching

FAVORITE ATHLETE AS A CHILD: Johnny Bench

FAVORITE STADIUM OTHER THAN YOUR OWN: Old (not the current one) Soldier Field

FAVORITE SPORTS UNIFORM OTHER THAN YOUR OWN: Yankees and Cubs (love the pinstripes)

FAVORITE OTHER SPORT: Baseball

PERSON YOU'D MOST LIKE TO MEET: Heather Locklear

PERSON WHO INFLUENCED YOU THE MOST: My dad

BEST ADVICE EVER RECEIVED: “Be yourself”

PLAYER (FORMER OR CURRENT) WHO'D MAKE A GREAT HEAD COACH: Dennis Thurman

GREATEST OVERACHIEVER YOU'VE EVER COACHED: Kelly Gregg

BEST PURE ATHLETE YOU'VE COACHED: Deion Sanders

TOUGHEST PLAYER YOU'VE EVER COACHED: Jarret Johnson

MOST INSPIRATIONAL PLAYER YOU'VE EVER COACHED: Ray Lewis

FUNNIEST PLAYER YOU'VE EVER COACHED, AND WHY: Tony Siragusa, because had funny quips every day

TOUGHEST COACH YOU'VE EVER FACED, AND WHY: Bill Belichick, because of his intelligence

GREATEST TEAM YOU'VE EVER COMPETED AGAINST: New England

TOUGHEST GAME YOU'VE EVER COMPETED IN, AS A COACH OR PLAYER: The Baltimore vs. Pittsburgh games

LOUDEST CROWD OF YOUR FOOTBALL CAREER, HOME OR AWAY: Buffalo

MOST KNOWLEDGEABLE FOOTBALL WRITER YOU'VE EVER MET: Dr. Z (Paul Zimmerman)

MOST OVERRATED ASPECT OF FOOTBALL: Coaching

MOST UNDERRATED ASPECT OF FOOTBALL: Coaching

WHO HAS THE HARDEST JOB IN FOOTBALL: The wives

MOST MEMORABLE FOOTBALL MOMENT: Super Bowl XX with my dad being carried off the field, and Super Bowl XXXV with Ray Charles singing “America The Beautiful”

MOST EMBARRASSING FOOTBALL MOMENT: I called a timeout just before the play started in a game when I was the defensive coordinator in Baltimore and we had stopped the offense. The offense was able to run another play because of my timeout, but there was a penalty against the offense and it made it 4th-and-6 and the offense converted the 4th down.

ONE THING YOU'D CHANGE ABOUT NFL FOOTBALL: The current extra point rule

ONE THING THAT SHOULD NEVER CHANGE ABOUT NFL FOOTBALL: That it is a collision sport

IF YOU WEREN'T COACHING, WHAT WOULD YOU BE DOING: Driving a truck

ANY TRENDS YOU SEE DEVELOPING IN THE NFL IN 2015: I worry about defenses not being able to play defense because of the rules



JIM TOMSULA — SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS



HOBBIES: Traveling, European football development, supporting Down Syndrome-related causes

LAST BOOK READ (& AUTHOR): Shackleton's Way: Leadership Lessons from the Great Antarctic Explorer by Margot Morrell, Stephanie Capparell and Alexandra Shackleton

FAVORITE MOVIE: *The Sound of Music*

FAVORITE FOOD: Anything my wife, Julie, or my mother, Betty Jo, make

FAVORITE VACATION SPOT: The Mediterranean

BEST FOOTBALL NICKNAME: Cowboy (Justin Smith)

FAVORITE COLLEGE TOWN: The San Francisco Bay Area

WHICH NFL TEAM DID YOU FOLLOW AS A CHILD: The Pittsburgh Steelers, but I was also a fan of the San Francisco 49ers because of Joe Montana and the DeBartolo family ties to the Pittsburgh/Youngstown, Ohio region

FAVORITE ATHLETE AS A CHILD: Jack Lambert

FAVORITE OTHER SPORT: Whatever my kids are playing at the time

PERSON YOU'D MOST LIKE TO MEET: Military veterans, because they are the real heroes

PERSON WHO INFLUENCED YOU THE MOST: Betty Jo and Jim Tomsula, Sr.

BEST ADVICE EVER RECEIVED: "Less is more"

GREATEST OVERACHIEVER YOU'VE EVER COACHED: Bill Barteld, Charleston Southern University – a 5-9, 210-pound nose guard. He overcame it all!

TOUGHEST PLAYER YOU'VE EVER COACHED: Justin Smith

MOST INSPIRATIONAL PLAYER YOU'VE EVER COACHED: Bill Barteld

FUNNIEST PLAYER YOU'VE EVER COACHED: Justin Smith

LOUDEST CROWD OF YOUR FOOTBALL CAREER, HOME OR AWAY: Amsterdam Arena where the Amsterdam Admirals of NFL Europa played. There couldn't have been more than 10,000 people there, but if I was standing next to you and screamed, you might not have been able to hear me. I don't know what they had going on there

MOST UNDERRATED ASPECT OF FOOTBALL: Mental toughness

WHO HAS THE HARDEST JOB IN FOOTBALL: The football operations staff – video operations, equipment, trainers, public relations, grounds crew and logistics

MOST MEMORABLE FOOTBALL MOMENT: Watching Devonte Peterson finally figure out the flat step with the breast plate at Catawba College. When it clicked... the look in his eyes. Those are the moments I remember

MOST EMBARRASSING FOOTBALL MOMENT: I like to jump in and demonstrate with the guys. Some say I get a little too enthusiastic while holding the bag. Every now and then the guys let me have it and I end up on my rear

ONE THING THAT SHOULD NEVER CHANGE ABOUT NFL FOOTBALL: What the game of football is truly about - the team. It's not just about collecting talent; it's about coming together as a team. The grind and how hard it is. You can live a life in one game

IF YOU WEREN'T COACHING, WHAT WOULD YOU BE DOING: I love helping kids overcome the struggles in their lives. Every spring I look forward to working with Camp For the Stars for young people with Down syndrome. Their excitement and enthusiasm is infectious



BACK TO FOOTBALL

EXCITEMENT ABOUND AS NEW COACHES TAKE OVER

This season, seven NFL teams – Atlanta, Buffalo, Chicago, Denver, the New York Jets, Oakland and San Francisco – welcome new head coaches. Ranging from those already boasting playoff appearances as NFL head coaches – **JACK DEL RIO** of the Raiders, **JOHN FOX** of the Bears, **GARY KUBIAK** of the Broncos and **REX RYAN** of the Bills – to those entering their first season with the title, each has unique experiences to share with his new organization, players and fans.

ATLANTA FALCONS HEAD COACH DAN QUINN:



Quinn joins the Falcons after spending the past two years (2013-14) as the defensive coordinator of the Seattle Seahawks, who reached the Super Bowl in both of those seasons. Last year, Quinn's defense led the NFL in scoring defense (15.9), total defense (267.1 yards per game) and passing defense (185.6), while ranking third in rushing defense (81.5). The Seahawks also boasted the league's top defensive unit in 2013, en route to a victory in Super Bowl XLVIII.

Quinn originally joined Seattle in 2009 and left in 2011 to become the defensive coordinator at the University of Florida where his defenses ranked in the top-10 in the country. Prior to joining Seattle in 2009, he spent six years coaching the defensive lines for the San Francisco 49ers (2003-04), Miami Dolphins (2005-06) and New York Jets (2007-08).

"Dan is a talented football coach who has a deep and diverse history in the game, which will serve us well," says Falcons Owner and Chairman **ARTHUR BLANK**. "It became clear that he has a definitive plan for our football team and what it will take to win on a consistent basis. He also has a proven ability to develop players by maximizing their individual strengths."

The 44-year old Morristown, New Jersey native was a four-year letter winner and two-time co-captain at Division III Salisbury State (MD) as a defensive lineman, where he recorded 139 tackles and eight tackles for loss. He also lettered in track and held the school record in the hammer throw. He was inducted into the Salisbury State Athletic Hall of Fame in 2005.

BUFFALO BILLS HEAD COACH REX RYAN:

Ryan became the 18th head coach in franchise history on January 12. The 52-year old spent the previous six seasons as the head coach for the New York Jets (2009-14). Ryan ranked third in Jets' history with 50 total wins (regular season and postseason) during his tenure in New York. Ryan led the Jets to the postseason in his first two seasons with the franchise as the team advanced to the AFC Championship Game in both years.

"He's contagious," says Bills general manager **DOUG WHALEY**. "He's got a magnetic personality. It's a breath of fresh air. He's got a personality that people gravitate to and you want to work for him and you want him to succeed."

Before joining the Jets in 2009, Ryan spent 10 seasons (1999-2008) as a member of the Baltimore Ravens defensive coaching staff. In 2000, the Ravens' defense allowed the fewest points in a 16-game season in NFL history (165) and went on to win Super Bowl XXXV. Prior to his NFL career, Ryan was a defensive coordinator in college at Oklahoma (1998) and Cincinnati (1996-97).

Rex's twin brother, Rob, is currently the defensive coordinator of the New Orleans Saints and their father, Buddy, was a defensive coordinator and head coach in the NFL from 1968-1995. Rex played football at Southwestern Oklahoma State, where he earned his bachelor's degree in physical education in 1986. He also received a master's degree in physical education at Eastern Kentucky in 1988.



CHICAGO BEARS HEAD COACH JOHN FOX:



Fox joins Chicago with 13 years of NFL head coaching experience at Denver (2011-14) and Carolina (2002-10). As an NFL head coach, Fox has a 119-89 (.572) regular-season record, six division titles, six double-digit win seasons and seven playoff appearances. He won four consecutive division titles in Denver and finished with a 46-18 (.719) regular-season record.

Fox, the 15th head coach in Bears' history, has made two trips to the Super Bowl (XXXVIII with Carolina in 2003 and XLVIII with Denver in 2013). He is one of six head coaches in NFL history to lead two different teams to the Super Bowl, joining Pro Football Hall of Famers **DON SHULA** and **BILL PARCELLS**, **MIKE HOLMGREN**, **DAN REEVES** and **DICK VERMEIL**.

"John Fox has great energy," says Bears President and CEO **TED PHILLIPS**. "He's got great passion. He's got great leadership skills. And he's a winner. How do you beat that combination?"

A native of Virginia Beach, Virginia, Fox played defensive back at Southwestern Junior College in Chula Vista, California (1974-75) before transferring to San Diego State to finish his collegiate career.

DENVER BRONCOS HEAD COACH GARY KUBIAK:

Kubiak returns to the Denver Broncos after being named the 15th head coach in club history on January 19. The 22-year coaching veteran was a backup quarterback for nine seasons (1983-91) with the Broncos and an offensive coordinator for 11 years (1995-2005) with the club. Kubiak is back in Denver after spending eight years (2006-13) as the head coach of the Houston Texans and one season as offensive coordinator with the Baltimore Ravens (2014).

"Having coached on three Super Bowl teams and 11 playoff teams, Gary knows what it will take to deliver another world championship to Denver," says Broncos Executive Vice President of Football Operations/General Manager **JOHN ELWAY**. "He knows the culture of this building. He's a perfect fit."

In his eight years as head coach with the Texans, Kubiak won 61 regular-season games and added two playoff victories. He guided the Texans to a 10-6 record in 2011 and the club's first AFC South Division title, postseason berth and playoff win. In 2012, the club won a franchise-record 12 games (12-4) and won its second consecutive division crown.

The former quarterback was drafted by the Broncos in the eighth round (No. 197 overall) of the 1983 NFL Draft out of Texas A&M, where he earned All-Southwest Conference honors as a senior in 1982 and received a degree in physical education.



NEW YORK JETS HEAD COACH TODD BOWLES:



Bowles returns to the New York Jets after beginning his NFL coaching career in 2000 as the team's defensive backs coach. Bowles previously coached in the NFL with Cleveland (2001-04), Dallas (2005-07), Miami (2008-11), Philadelphia (2012) and Arizona (2013-14). Entering his 16th year in the NFL, Bowles has learned a lot about the game from one of his mentors, Pro Football Hall of Famer **BILL PARCELLS**. He worked under Parcells in 2000 with the Jets (Parcells was general manager), Dallas in 2005-06 (Parcells was head coach) and Miami from 2008-10 (Parcells was Executive VP of Football Operations).

"Todd is a natural leader," says Jets Chairman and CEO **WOODY JOHNSON**. "The thing that really impressed me about Todd when I met him was his intelligence and his ability to articulate his game plan, putting people in the right positions and not just going in with one set formula. I was also impressed with his ability to take a 3,000-foot look at offense, defense, special teams and all those areas and how they interact to produce a winning team. I think he is going to relate to the players very well."

In 2013 and 2014, Bowles was the defensive coordinator of the Arizona Cardinals and the club allowed 19.5 points per game, the fifth-fewest in the NFL during that span. Last season, Bowles' defense allowed 18.7 points per game, the fifth-lowest total in the NFL. The Cardinals also featured the No. 1 run defense under Bowles in 2013, allowing 84.4 rushing yards per game.

The former defensive back played eight seasons in the NFL with Washington (1986-90; 1992-93) and San Francisco (1991) and was a starter for the 1987 Redskins' Super Bowl XXII championship team. A native of Elizabeth, New Jersey, Bowles attended Temple University where he was a four-year letterman (1982-85).

OAKLAND RAIDERS HEAD COACH JACK DEL RIO:

The Oakland Raiders named Jack Del Rio the 19th head coach in franchise history on January 15. Del Rio, who was raised in nearby Hayward, California, brings 19 years of coaching experience to Oakland, including nine seasons as the head coach of the Jacksonville Jaguars (2003-11).

“Jack Del Rio brings a strong leadership presence to this organization,” says Raiders general manager **REGGIE MC KENZIE**. “He has developed an excellent reputation as a coach in this league and we are happy that he is a Raider.”

His reputation has developed from being a member of coaching staffs under Pro Football Hall of Famer **MIKE DITKA**, Super Bowl-winner **BRIAN BILLICK** and current Bears head coach **JOHN FOX**. Del Rio began his coaching career with the New Orleans Saints under Ditka, serving as an assistant strength coach in 1997 before moving on to coach the linebackers in 1998. He was the linebackers coach in 2000 with the Baltimore Ravens and Billick, who went on to win Super Bowl XXXV. The past three seasons (2012-14), Del Rio served as Fox’s defensive coordinator for the Denver Broncos, where his defense ranked first in the AFC and third in the NFL in overall defense (317.3 yards per game) during that span. He also served as the Broncos interim head coach (Weeks 10-13 in 2013) while Fox underwent a heart procedure.



A veteran of 11 seasons as an NFL linebacker, Del Rio was selected in the third round (No. 68 overall) of the 1985 NFL Draft by New Orleans. He was a four-year starter at the University of Southern California, where he earned consensus All-American honors as a senior and was runner-up for the Lombardi Award, given to the nation’s best lineman or linebacker.

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS HEAD COACH JIM TOMSULA:

Tomsula is the 19th head coach in club history and has coached 31 seasons of football at the high school, college and professional levels since 1989. Tomsula has been with the 49ers for eight seasons (2007-14) after being named the club’s defensive line coach in 2007. He also served as the team’s interim head coach for the final game of the 2010 season.



“Jim Tomsula clearly is the right man to lead this team,” says 49ers CEO **JED YORK**. “Jim is a great teacher and a tremendous mentor who conducts himself with great class and integrity. He knows this team very well.”

Since 2007, the 49ers’ defense ranks second in the league in rushing average against (3.72) and fourth in rushing yards allowed per game (98.4). In 2011, San Francisco set an NFL record by not allowing a rushing touchdown in the team’s first 14 games of the season. Tomsula joined the 49ers after enjoying one of the most successful stints in NFL Europa (NFLE) history. Prior to being named the head coach of the Rhein Fire in 2006, which made him the youngest head coach in NFLE history at age 38, Tomsula served as the Berlin Thunder’s defensive coordinator for two seasons, winning World Bowl XII in his first season with a defense that ranked first in the NFLE against the run.

Between NFL Europa seasons, Tomsula spent each fall as a member of Division II Catawba College’s coaching staff, since coaching in the NFLE was not a year-round position.

Tomsula was a defensive lineman at Catawba College in Salisbury, North Carolina, after transferring from Middle Tennessee State.



“UPON THE CONDUCT OF EACH DEPENDS THE FATE OF ALL”

Miami Dolphins head coach **JOE PHILBIN** has adopted Alexander the Great’s saying, “Upon the conduct of each depends the fate of all,” as a reminder to his team that in order to be great, they must act the part.

“A lot of time has been spent on us getting into position to have a chance to compete for a championship, but we haven’t done it,” says Philbin. “Acting the right way is one piece of the equation in getting to the Super Bowl.”

Many NFL teams post messages, goals or quotations throughout their facilities to establish a customized focus on the season. The selection of inspiration can draw from the old school by quoting NFL greats or take on a voice of its own. The messages cover everything from basic work ethic to philosophical mindsets.

A sampling of quotes that are used to inspire and motivate NFL teams:

TEAM	MOTIVATIONAL MESSAGE
Buffalo Bills	“Win – Accountable – Tough – Teamwork – Excellence”
Dallas Cowboys	“It is a privilege, not a right, to play and to coach for the Dallas Cowboys”
	“The first rule to getting better is to show up”
Kansas City Chiefs	“Fear Nothing, Create Energy, Eliminate Distractions, Attack Everything”
Miami Dolphins	“Upon the conduct of each depends the fate of all” – Alexander the Great
	“Respect – earned, not given. Communicate.”
Minnesota Vikings	“You don’t rise to the level of your competition, you rise to the level of your training”
	“When you hold nothing back, nothing is out of reach”
San Diego Chargers	“Victory loves preparation”

