



SEPTEMBER 4

WASHINGTON D.C. & NFL KICK OFF SEASON
WITH “NFL KICKOFF LIVE FROM THE NATIONAL MALL
PRESENTED BY PEPSI VANILLA”
ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

Football & Music Festival to Salute America’s Heroes
With Mary J. Blige, Aretha Franklin & Britney Spears
Prior to New York Jets vs. Washington Redskins
& NFL Kickoff Weekend

Hundreds of thousands of Americans celebrate the Fourth of July by watching a fireworks display over one of America’s most beautiful parks -- The National Mall in the heart of Washington D.C. On the Fourth of September, another unique event with fireworks will take place on the Mall to help kick off the NFL’s 2003 season and salute America’s military members -- “**NFL KICKOFF LIVE FROM THE NATIONAL MALL PRESENTED BY PEPSI VANILLA.**”

The event will be televised live, from 8:00-9:00 PM ET on ABC, leading up to the NFL season opener between the Washington Redskins and the New York Jets at FedEx Field (ABC, 9:00 PM ET).

MARY J. BLIGE and **BRITNEY SPEARS**, joined by thousands of American military personnel, will perform at the show with activities beginning at 6:00 PM ET at the NFL’s second annual football and music festival. The 2002 NFL season opened with a similar Thursday night festival in New York City’s Times Square on September 5.

ARETHA FRANKLIN will sing the national anthem from The National Mall to conclude the event.

“We had a spectacular first-ever Kickoff event last year in New York City to celebrate the resilient spirit of the city and America,” says NFL Commissioner **PAUL TAGLIABUE**. “We are looking forward to this season’s opening game in the nation’s capital, which presents a unique opportunity to salute the military and other public servants.”

The event and the hour-long special on ABC will recognize the Department of Defense’s “Operation Tribute to Freedom,” an initiative that salutes troops who have returned home and those who are currently active in the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts. More than 20,000 troops and their families are expected to attend the event. More than 800,000 servicemen and women in 165 countries will be able to watch the event as it is broadcast on the American Armed Forces Radio and Television Service (AFRTS).

The NFL kickoff event will partner with the U.S. Department of the Interior’s Take Pride in America initiative to encourage volunteerism on America’s public lands.

“The NFL Kickoff is a wonderful opportunity to showcase public service by volunteers who help to protect our natural resources,” says U.S. Secretary of the Interior **GALE NORTON**. Take Pride In America, a national partnership, empowers volunteers from every corner of America to enhance the nation’s parks, refuges, recreation areas and cultural and historic sites.

Outstanding volunteer efforts are rewarded with presidential recognition. Take Pride is part of President **GEORGE W. BUSH**’s USA Freedom Corps that is dedicated to fostering a culture of service to others.

Returning to the Kickoff 2003 event as top tier sponsors are Coors Light, 989 Sports’ NFL GameDay 2004, and Reebok. The New York Stock Exchange will return to the event as an associate sponsor.

Last season, for the first time in 53 years, the NFL kicked off its season on a Thursday, as the visiting San Francisco 49ers defeated the New York Giants 16-13 on September 5.

The non-Sunday openers in the NFL since its inception in 1920:

NFL NON-SUNDAY OPENERS

<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Teams</u>
2 Season Openers	2002	San Francisco 16 at NY Giants 13
	1949	Philadelphia 7 at NY Bulldogs 0
	<u>Last Time</u>	
<u>Friday</u>		
14 Season Openers	1970	St. Louis 13 at L.A. Rams 34
<u>Saturday</u>		
15 Season Openers	1983	Philadelphia 22 at San Francisco 17



NFL KICKOFF 2003 SCHEDULE
THURSDAY, SUNDAY AND MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 7-8
(All times local PM)

AMERICAN FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

New England at Buffalo (1:00)
Denver at Cincinnati (1:00)
Indianapolis at Cleveland (1:00)
San Diego at Kansas City (12:00)
Houston at Miami (1:00)
Baltimore at Pittsburgh (1:00)
Oakland at Tennessee (7:30)

NATIONAL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

Arizona at Detroit (1:00)
Minnesota at Green Bay (12:00)
St. Louis at New York (1:00)
Atlanta at Dallas (3:15)
Chicago at San Francisco (1:15)
New Orleans at Seattle (1:15)
Tampa Bay at Philadelphia (Mon., 9:00)

INTERCONFERENCE

N.Y. Jets at Washington (Thurs., 9:00)
Jacksonville at Carolina (1:00)

THE NFL? UNPREDICTABLE!

When it comes to predicting playoff teams in the National Football League, the proposition can be downright impossible. Sixteen different teams have played in conference championships since 1997.

“In the NFL,” says Miami Dolphins safety **SAMMY KNIGHT**, “the margin of error is so small, you’ve got to come prepared to play each week.”

The past four Super Bowl champions have been new, and three of them weren’t even in the playoffs the year before.

“That’s what’s so great about the NFL,” says *Monday Night Football* analyst **JOHN MADDEN**. “You never know what will happen.”

BREAKDOWN OF PAST FOUR SUPER BOWLS

SUPER BOWL	SUPER BOWL TEAMS	PREVIOUS SEASON’S RECORD
XXXIV	St. Louis defeats Tennessee	St. Louis 4-12 *; Tennessee 8-8
XXXV	Baltimore defeats N.Y. Giants	Baltimore 8-8 *; N.Y. Giants 7-9
XXXVI	New England defeats St. Louis	New England 5-11 *; St. Louis 10-6
XXXVII	Tampa Bay defeats Oakland	Tampa Bay 9-7; Oakland 10-6

*Missed playoffs the year before

THE NFL IS SO UNPREDICTABLE THAT IN 2002 ...

- For the sixth consecutive season, at least five teams (out of 12) that were not in the playoffs the year before made the playoffs.
- One division – the NFC West – had its seventh new division champion (San Francisco) in the past seven seasons.
- A record 25 games went into overtime, breaking the mark of 21 in 1995.
- There were 31 games in which teams came back from 10-point-or-more deficits to win, and a record 17 games in which clubs overcame fourth-quarter 10-point margins to win.
- Eight of the 12 playoff teams spent at least part of the season below .500, topping the record of five teams reaching the playoffs after being below .500 in 1980 and 1982.
- Almost half the games (49 percent) were decided by seven points or less, and a quarter (25 percent) were decided by three points or less.

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

Of the 346 teams which won openers...182 went to the playoffs (100 won division titles).

Of the 346 teams which lost openers...82 went to the playoffs (45 won division titles).

In 2002, six of the 12 playoff teams -- Green Bay, Indianapolis, New York Jets, Oakland, San Francisco and Tennessee -- were victorious on Kickoff Weekend.

OPENING GAME RECORDS OF NFL TEAMS

Longest Streaks								Longest Streaks							
AFC	W	L	T	Pct.	Win	Loss	Current	NFC	W	L	T	Pct.	Win	Loss	Current
Houston	1	0	0	1.00	1	0	W-1	Dallas	30	12	1	.714	17	3	L-3
Jacksonville	6	2	0	.750	6	1	L-1	N.Y. Giants	39	27	4	.591	4	3	L-2
Denver	27	15	1	.643	4	4	W-2	Chicago	40	29	1	.580	9	6	W-1
Miami	22	14	1	.611	11	5	W-11	Minnesota	23	18	1	.561	5	3	L-2
San Diego	25	18	0	.581	6	6	W-2	St. Louis	36	29	0	.554	5	6	L-1
Kansas City	24	19	0	.558	7	4	W-1	Green Bay	37	30	3	.552	5	6	W-2
Oakland	24	19	0	.558	5	5	W-3	San Fran.	27	25	1	.519	5	3	W-2
Cleveland	26	24	0	.520	5	5	L-5	Detroit	35	33	2	.515	7	4	L-2
Tennessee	22	21	0	.512	4	3	W-1	Washington	33	33	4	.500	6	5	W-1
Indianapolis	29	29	1	.500	8	8	W-4	Atlanta	18	19	0	.486	5	3	L-2
Pittsburgh	32	32	4	.500	4	3	L-3	Tampa Bay	11	16	0	.407	3	5	L-1
New England	20	23	0	.465	6	3	W-1	Arizona	27	41	1	.397	6	7	L-3
Cincinnati	16	19	0	.457	4	4	L-1	Philadelphia	27	41	1	.397	5	9	L-2
Baltimore	3	4	0	.429	2	3	L-1	Carolina	3	5	0	.375	2	4	W-2
N.Y. Jets	18	25	0	.419	3	5	W-1	New Orleans	11	25	0	.306	2	6	W-2
Buffalo	17	26	0	.395	6	5	L-2	Seattle	7	20	0	.259	3	8	L-1



NFL TRIES TO TOP ITSELF

If **CHARLES DARWIN** had seen the NFL's first 83 seasons, he may have tossed his pencil in delight and cried, "Great Gridiron Evolution!"

That's what NFL fans are saying – although, maybe not in those exact words.

NFL football becomes better and more exciting each season. Consider a mere sampling of what transpired in 2002:

- Games averaged the most points (43.3) in 19 years.
- Teams racked-up the most yards per game in seven years (656.7).
- More punts were returned for touchdowns than ever before (22).
- Fans saw more games go into overtime than ever before (25).
- There were a record 17 games in which clubs overcame fourth-quarter 10-point margins to win.
- There were 39 combined kick-return TDs, the most ever in a season.
- NFL players scored 1,270 touchdowns, the most ever in a season.
- Quarterbacks attempted more passes than ever (17,292) and posted an all-time high in completion percentage (59.6).

Beyond this, 11 of the AFC's 16 teams had playoff aspirations entering the final week of the season for the conference's six postseason berths.

How does the league continue to churn out more thrills by the truckload every autumn? Well, some of football's brightest minds have their opinions.

"There is a constant refinement of what is going on," says former NFL head coach and Hall of Famer **MARV LEVY**, a 1950 Harvard Law School graduate. "Every single thing that's ever occurred in the history of the world has once happened for the first time. You can look at **WILBUR WRIGHT** and far beyond him.

"Rules change and that allows things to happen, techniques change and there is some innovative thinking by creative coaches. There are a lot of astute coaches in this league. Training techniques improve. Again, if you were to talk to a surgeon or someone in the medical field about examples of modern efficiencies, they would point to something new or something that had never been done before. It's a natural process of evolution and human intelligence."

The core of the NFL's continued enhancement and sophistication is the select group of men who wear pads and helmets.

"First of all, today's player is bigger and faster – it starts there," says **GIL BRANDT**, who served with the Dallas Cowboys personnel department and reached the playoffs in 18 of his 29 seasons with the club (1960-88). "Then coaches try to exploit the matchups and try to get someone like (Pittsburgh's) **AMOS ZEREOUE** on a linebacker, so you've got a 4.65 or 4.7 guy covering a 4.4 guy.

"We've come up with so many ways to improve the game. We have so many more thinking people – coaches like **BILL BELICHICK** and **MIKE SHANAHAN** – guys like that who are marvelous tacticians. You cannot do today what you did yesterday and be successful. The NFL is the greatest game going, but we're not sitting. We're changing and improving."

Ravens head coach **BRIAN BILLICK** echoes Brandt.

"One of the main reasons the NFL is the preeminent professional sports entity is the never-ending process, individually and collectively, of pushing the envelope with regards to the productivity and interest in our game," says Billick. "With every move and innovation there is a countermove to balance the competitive aspects of this game. Coaches, administrators and league personnel alike are the most competent and competitive group to be found in any industry."

"The year-round conditioning and training and the work that is done in the offseason has improved the fundamentals and techniques of the game," says Rams head coach **MIKE MARTZ**. "The skill level has gone way up. We've moved away from traditional offenses and defenses."

DAN REEVES has unique perspective as a former NFL player and current head coach of the Atlanta Falcons. He deems competitive balance as a key component as to why the NFL is America's No. 1 game.

"If I'm a fan of any football team, I know I've got a chance," says Reeves. "It seems like each year just about every team is competing for a playoff spot up until the last game of the season.

"You used to be able to tell in the first few weeks of the year how a team would do. Now you can be in the later parts of the season and still be asking who you think will be in the playoffs. Two years ago the Patriots were just 6-5, then they went on a run and won the Super Bowl. In today's NFL you always have a chance."

Offenses and defenses change their looks so often in today's NFL, a point of attack can occur at any moment.

"First down used to be a throw-away down," chuckles Brandt. "Teams would run the ball on first down and say, 'We're feeling them out.' Today, you don't want a third down situation because defenses go to special substitutions and it's harder to complete passes with five, six or seven defensive backs on the field. It's now a priority to make better first- and second-down plays."

The 2002 NFL season was a ride of thrills with twists and turns. Brandt believes even more excitement is eminent for the favorite sport of American kids and adults alike.

"This will be the most exciting year the NFL has ever seen," says Brandt. "You have more teams that have a chance to win than ever before. You'll go down to the final week of the season and you'll see more of the Miami-New England-Jets scenarios. You'll have a lot of interesting races."

When it comes to the NFL, saying that something hasn't happened must be followed by the word "yet." New Orleans Saints head coach **JIM HASLETT** reinforced this thought after his team won in overtime on a touchdown off a botched punt last season: "If you're in this league long enough, you will see everything."

OPENING GAME RECORDS OF NFL HEAD COACHES

AFC HEAD COACHES			NFC HEAD COACHES		
Team	Coach	W-L	Team	Coach	W-L
Baltimore	Brian Billick	2-2	Arizona	Dave McGinnis	0-2
Buffalo	Gregg Williams	0-2	Atlanta	Dan Reeves	12-10
Cincinnati	Marvin Lewis	0-0	Carolina	John Fox	1-0
Cleveland	Butch Davis	0-2	Chicago	Dick Jauron	2-2
Denver	Mike Shanahan	8-2	Dallas	Bill Parcells	7-8
Houston	Dom Capers	2-3	Detroit	Steve Mariucci	3-3
Indianapolis	Tony Dungy	4-3	Green Bay	Mike Sherman	2-1
Jacksonville	Jack Del Rio	0-0	Minnesota	Mike Tice	0-1
Kansas City	Dick Vermeil	7-5	New Orleans	Jim Haslett	2-1
Miami	Dave Wannstedt	6-3	N.Y. Giants	Jim Fassel	4-2
New England	Bill Belichick	3-5	Philadelphia	Andy Reid	1-3
N.Y. Jets	Herman Edwards	1-1	St. Louis	Mike Martz	2-1
Oakland	Bill Callahan	1-0	San Francisco	Dennis Erickson	1-3
Pittsburgh	Bill Cowher	4-7	Seattle	Mike Holmgren	6-5
San Diego	Marty Schottenheimer	10-6	Tampa Bay	Jon Gruden	2-3
Tennessee	Jeff Fisher	5-3	Washington	Steve Spurrier	0-1

BEST OPENING GAME PERFORMANCES, 1933-02

<u>MOST YARDS RUSHING</u>	<u>Yds.</u>	<u>Att.</u>	<u>LG</u>	<u>TD</u>
O.J. Simpson, Buffalo vs. New England, 9/16/73	250	29	80t	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
Alan Ameche, Baltimore vs. Chicago, 9/25/55	194	21	79t	1

<u>MOST YARDS PASSING</u>	<u>Yds.</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
Dan Marino, Miami vs. New England, 9/4/94	473	42	23	5	1
Kurt Warner, St. Louis vs. Denver, 9/4/00	441	35	25	3	3
Drew Bledsoe, New England vs. Miami, 9/4/94	421	51	32	4	2
Glen Foley, N.Y. Jets vs. San Francisco, 9/6/98	415	30	58	3	1
Pete Beathard, Houston vs. Kansas City, 9/9/68	413	48	23	2	3
Phil Simms, N.Y. Giants vs. Philadelphia, 9/2/84	409	30	23	4	0
Johnny Unitas, Baltimore vs. Atlanta, 9/17/67	401	32	22	2	1
Bill Kenney, Kansas City vs. New Orleans, 9/8/85	397	34	22	3	1
Warren Moon, Houston vs. Atlanta, 9/9/90	397	52	31	4	2

<u>MOST YARDS RECEIVING</u>	<u>Yds.</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>LG</u>	<u>TD</u>
Frank Clarke, Dallas vs. Washington, 9/16/62	241	10	58t	3
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
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

BEST OPENING GAME PERFORMANCES, PAST 10 YEARS
(2002 Performances In Italics)

<u>MOST YARDS RUSHING</u>	<u>Yds.</u>	<u>Att.</u>	<u>LG</u>	<u>TD</u>
Eddie George, Tennessee vs. Oakland, 8/31/97	216	35	29t	1
Duce Staley, Philadelphia vs. Dallas, 9/3/00	201	26	60	1
Garrison Hearst, San Francisco vs. N.Y. Jets, 9/6/98	187	20	96t	2
Emmitt Smith, Dallas vs. Pittsburgh, 9/4/94	171	31	46	1
Robert Smith, Minnesota vs. Buffalo, 8/31/97	169	16	78t	1
Barry Sanders, Detroit vs. Minnesota, 9/1/96	163	24	25	0
Emmitt Smith, Dallas vs. N.Y. Giants, 9/4/95	163	21	60t	4
Ahman Green, Green Bay vs. Atlanta, 9/8/02	155	27	38	0
Travis Henry, Buffalo vs. N.Y. Jets, 9/8/02	149	31	14	3
Lamar Smith, Miami vs. Seattle, 9/3/00	145	27	36	1

<u>MOST YARDS PASSING</u>	<u>Yds.</u>	<u>Att.</u>	<u>Comp.</u>	<u>TD</u>	<u>INT</u>
Dan Marino, Miami vs. New England, 9/4/94	473	42	23	5	1
Kurt Warner, St. Louis vs. Denver, 9/4/00	441	35	25	3	3
Drew Bledsoe, New England vs. Miami, 9/4/94	421	51	32	4	2
Glenn Foley, N.Y. Jets vs. San Francisco, 9/6/98	415	58	30	3	1
Brad Johnson, Washington vs. Dallas, 9/12/99	382	33	20	2	0
John Elway, Denver vs. San Diego, 9/4/94	371	46	36	3	2
Boomer Esiason, N.Y. Jets vs. Denver, 9/5/93	371	40	29	2	1
Steve Young, San Francisco vs. N.Y. Jets, 9/6/98	363	46	26	3	1
Randall Cunningham, Philadelphia vs. N.Y. Giants, 9/4/94	344	39	20	2	0
Steve McNair, Tennessee vs. Cincinnati, 9/12/99	341	32	21	3	1
Rich Gannon, Oakland vs. Kansas City, 9/9/01	341	46	31	2	1

<u>MOST YARDS RECEIVING</u>	<u>Yds.</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>LG</u>	<u>TD</u>
Irving Fryar, Miami vs. New England, 9/4/94	211	5	54t	3
Marty Booker, Chicago vs. Minnesota, 9/8/02	198	8	54	1
Keyshawn Johnson, N.Y. Jets vs. New England, 9/12/99	194	8	65	1
Andre Rison, Atlanta vs. Detroit, 9/4/94	193	14	69t	2
Shannon Sharpe, Denver vs. Buffalo, 9/3/95	180	10	49	0
Jerry Rice, San Francisco vs. L.A. Raiders, 9/5/94	169	7	69t	2
Kevin Dyson, Tennessee vs. Cincinnati, 9/12/99	162	9	47t	2
Ben Coates, New England vs. Miami, 9/4/94	161	8	62t	2
Michael Westbrook, Washington vs. Dallas, 9/12/99	159	5	59	1
Tim Brown, Oakland vs. Tennessee, 8/31/97	158	8	59t	3

BEST OPENING MONTH RECORDS, PAST 10 YEARS

Getting off to a strong start is important. In the past 10 years, 17 teams have a combined record of .500 or better through their first four games. Those 17 clubs combined for 78 playoff appearances in those years and accounted for nine of the 10 Super Bowl champions over that period.

Following is a list of the top opening month records (.500 or better) during the past 10 years (1993-02):

TEAM	RECORD	PCT.	TEAM	RECORD	PCT.
Miami	31-9	.775	San Diego	23-17	.575
Green Bay	28-12	.700	Cleveland	16-12	.571
San Francisco	28-12	.700	Jacksonville	18-14	.563
Kansas City	26-14	.650	Dallas	22-18	.550
Minnesota	25-15	.625	Pittsburgh	22-18	.550
Baltimore	17-11	.607	Oakland	22-18	.550
Denver	24-16	.600	New Orleans	20-20	.500
St. Louis	24-16	.600	Seattle	20-20	.500
Buffalo	23-17	.575			

BEST NFL RECORDS, PAST 10 YEARS

The **GREEN BAY PACKERS** are the NFL’s winningest franchise over the past 10 years. In addition to winning 107 regular-season games, Green Bay has six 10-win seasons, four NFC Central/NFC North championships, and a Super Bowl championship in the last decade.

"It is no coincidence that **BRETT FAVRE** has started and played in all 160 of those games over the last 10 years," says Packers head coach **MIKE SHERMAN**. "Also, the Packers have had a good supporting cast that contributed as well. Finally, I believe that there is a certain level of expectation here in Green Bay that demands accountability."

Following are the 10 best regular-season records for the past 10 years (1993-02):

TEAM	RECORD	PCT.	TEAM	RECORD	PCT.
Green Bay	107-53-0	.669	Kansas City	92-68-0	.575
San Francisco	103-57-0	.644	Minnesota	92-68-0	.575
Pittsburgh	98-61-1	.616	Tennessee	89-71-0	.556
Denver	97-63-0	.606	Oakland	87-73-0	.544
Miami	95-65-0	.594	N.Y. Giants	85-74-1	.534

2003 KICKOFF WEEKEND NOTES

It’s a special time, Kickoff Weekend, which begins Thursday, September 4 this season in primetime. It’s when things start to count.

“Every game is important and this is game one of a 16-game schedule,” says New England Patriots head coach **BILL BELICHICK**. “You always want to get off to a good start.”

Some clubs have excelled in openers. Some notable active NFL kickoff streaks:

- The **NEW YORK JETS**, who travel to Washington to face the Redskins in the spotlight Kickoff 2003 game on Thursday night, open the season on the road for the 32nd time in the club’s 44-year history.
- The Super Bowl champion **TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS** have won five of their past six home openers and head coach **JON GRUDEN** is 4-1 (.800) in his career in home openers.
- The AFC champion **OAKLAND RAIDERS** are 26-6-1 (.803) in home openers since 1970.
- The **PHILADELPHIA EAGLES**, who will open Lincoln Financial Field against the Super Bowl champion Buccaneers in the Kickoff 2003 Monday night game, start the season on *ABC’s NFL Monday Night Football* for the first time in franchise history.
- Since the 1970 merger, the **MIAMI DOLPHINS** are 29-4 (.879) in home openers, the best mark in the NFL during that time. The Dolphins own a 22-14-1 (.611) opening-game mark and have won an NFL-best 11 consecutive openers, the second-longest streak all-time (Dallas, 17, 1965-81). Miami has won 29 of its past 33 home openers, including eight in a row, the best mark in the NFL since the 1970 merger.
- The **JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS** have won six of their past seven openers for an NFL-best 6-2 (.750) opening-game record (minimum five games).
- **MIKE SHANAHAN**, head coach of the **DENVER BRONCOS**, is 8-2 (.800) in career openers. The Broncos have won 11 of their past 14 openers. Denver is 26-6-1 (.803) in home openers since 1970.
- **DAN REEVES**, head coach of the Atlanta Falcons, is 27-10 (.730) on opening day as an NFL player, assistant and head coach.
- **JIM FASSEL**, head coach of the New York Giants, is 4-2 (.667) in season openers. The Giants will open the season at home for only the 23rd time in the franchise’s 79-year history.
- The **ST. LOUIS RAMS** have won eight of their past 11 openers and six of their past eight openers in St. Louis.
- **NFC NORTH DIVISION STREAKS:** The **MINNESOTA VIKINGS** have won 13 of their past 16 home openers. The **CHICAGO BEARS**, who will return to a renovated Soldier Field this season, have won 15 of their last 19 home openers. The **DETROIT LIONS** have won eight of their past 12 home openers. The **GREEN BAY PACKERS**, who will open a renovated Lambeau Field this year, have won six of their past seven home openers.
- **HOME SWEET HOME:** The **KANSAS CITY CHIEFS** have won 11 of their past 14 home openers. The **SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS** have won eight of their last 10 home openers, outscoring opponents 298-198 in those games. The **DALLAS COWBOYS** have won seven of their past nine home openers, for an overall 23-8 (.742) home kickoff record and an NFC-best 31-11-1 (.738) record in openers. The **SAN DIEGO CHARGERS** have won eight of their past 10 home openers. The **NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS** have won six of their last eight home openers. The **NEW ORLEANS SAINTS** have won four of their past five home openers.
- **ROAD WARRIORS:** The **ARIZONA CARDINALS** open the season in Detroit, the 15th time in the past 16 years they have opened on the road.



2003 NFL STRENGTH OF SCHEDULE

<u>Team</u>	<u>Opponents' 2002 Pct. & Record</u>		<u>Games vs. + .500 teams</u>	<u>Games vs. playoff teams</u>
Dallas	.541	138-117-1	10	7
New York Jets	.541	138-117-1	10	6
Philadelphia	.541	138-117-1	10	7
Tampa Bay	.539	137-117-2	10	8
Jacksonville	.537	137-118-1	10	7
Washington	.537	137-118-1	10	7
Houston	.533	136-119-1	10	7
New England	.527	135-121	10	7
Atlanta	.523	134-122	8	6
Carolina	.523	133-121-2	10	8
Tennessee	.523	133-121-2	10	7
New York Giants	.521	133-122-1	8	5
New Orleans	.520	132-122-2	8	8
Indianapolis	.518	132-123-1	10	6
Miami	.516	132-124	8	6
Cincinnati	.508	129-125-2	7	6
Buffalo	.504	129-127	10	6
Denver	.494	126-129-1	7	6
San Diego	.486	124-131-1	7	5
Oakland	.482	123-132-1	7	5
Baltimore	.480	122-132-2	8	6
Chicago	.480	123-133	6	4
Cleveland	.480	122-132-2	7	5
Minnesota	.479	122-133-1	7	6
Kansas City	.475	121-134-1	7	5
Detroit	.473	121-135	5	4
Pittsburgh	.473	121-135	7	6
St. Louis	.457	116-138-2	7	7
San Francisco	.451	115-140-1	5	5
Green Bay	.449	115-141	5	4
Arizona	.443	113-142-1	5	5
Seattle	.443	113-142-1	6	5

TOTAL AIR MILES TRAVELED & NOTES ON 2003 TRAVEL

(2003 preseason and regular season)

1. Seattle	31,976	17. Chicago	17,474
2. San Francisco	30,828	18. Detroit	15,732
3. San Diego	29,734	19. Cleveland	15,598
4. Tampa Bay	29,264	20. Pittsburgh	15,526
5. Oakland	29,138	21. Cincinnati	15,272
6. NY Jets	25,784	22. Houston	15,066
7. Arizona	24,258	23. New England	14,770
8. Dallas	22,160	24. Carolina	14,458
9. Miami	20,324	25. Buffalo	13,284
10. Baltimore	19,864	26. Jacksonville	12,862
11. New Orleans	19,500	27. Indianapolis	12,070
12. St. Louis	19,410	28. Philadelphia	11,606
13. Denver	18,398	29. Atlanta	10,572
14. Green Bay	17,878	30. Tennessee	9,776
15. Minnesota	17,618	31. Washington	9,548
16. Kansas City	17,614	32. NY Giants	9,076

NOTES ON 2003 NFL TRAVEL

- The **NEW YORK GIANTS** will not fly to a game until their October 26 meeting against the Minnesota Vikings. Of their 10 road games, they will fly to only four – Minnesota, Tampa Bay, Dallas and New Orleans. They will travel by bus to New England (in their preseason matchup), NY Jets and Philadelphia, and travel by train to Washington and New England (in their regular season matchup).
- No team plays more than two consecutive regular season games on the road. The **HOUSTON TEXANS** close the preseason with a road game in Tampa and then open the regular season with two road games – one in Miami and one in New Orleans.
- The **DALLAS COWBOYS**, with their new head coach Bill Parcells, play in back-to-back road games at Giants Stadium. The Cowboys play the Giants on Monday, September 15, then have a bye and play the Jets on September 28.
- The **BUFFALO BILLS'** preseason and regular season air-mile total of 13,284 is less than their AFC East-rival **NY JETS'** preseason total of 13,460.
- The **BALTIMORE RAVENS'** 2003 air mile total of 19,864 is more than double their total of last year.
- The **WASHINGTON REDSKINS** traveled the most air miles in the NFL last season due in part to their trip to Osaka, Japan for an American Bowl. This year, the Redskins will travel 9,548 air miles, the second lowest in the league.
- The **CLEVELAND BROWNS** will take the shortest flight of the season when they fly to Pittsburgh for an October 5th meeting against the Steelers. The flight is 208 miles round-trip.
- The **TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS** traveled 14,480 miles to Tokyo, Japan for their August 2 American Bowl, which is more than the combined total air miles the team will travel during the regular season, 12,636.



HEADLINE GAMES

“In an NFL season,” says Pittsburgh Steelers Chairman **DAN ROONEY**, “every game is important.”

With only 16 per team, he’s right. It’s just that, some weeks, some games seem to be even *more* important!

Following is a 2003 Weeks 1-17 list of “Headline Games,” but far from the only ones:

Week 1	Oakland at Tennessee/ Tampa Bay at Philadelphia	First time on national TV primetime games that Championship Game rematches of previous year close out a Kickoff Weekend.
Week 2	Dallas at NY Giants	New Cowboys coach Bill Parcells faces team he took to two Super Bowl titles.
Week 3	Tampa Bay at Atlanta	The champs, with '02's top defense, face the explosive Michael Vick.
Week 4	Indianapolis at New Orleans	New Orleans-born Peyton Manning faces his father's team.
Week 5	Arizona at Dallas	NFL's all-time leading rusher Emmitt Smith takes on his old mates.
Week 6	San Francisco at Seattle	New 49ers coach Dennis Erickson meets his former team.
Week 7	New England at Miami	Replay of last year's Week 17 playoff-implication OTer won by Patriots.
Week 8	St. Louis at Pittsburgh	Steelers play 1,000th game in their hallowed history vs. high-powered Rams.
Week 9	NY Giants at NY Jets	Battle for New York bragging rights.
Week 10	NY Jets at Oakland	Again! Jets play in Oakland fourth year in row, including in last two playoffs.
Week 11	Green Bay at Tampa Bay	Old NFC Central rivals play a second year in row as non-division foes.
Week 12	Pittsburgh at Cleveland	“Rust Belt Rivalry” continues as hot as ever.
Week 13	GB at Det./Mia. at Dallas	An American tradition: turkey & football.
Week 14	Kansas City at Denver	It's December, but Chiefs and Broncos always heat things up!
Week 15	Philadelphia at Miami	Eagles' McNabb & Staley vs. Dolphins' Thomas & Taylor.
Week 16	Saturday triple-header!	Atl. at TB (1:30 PM ET), KC at Minn. (5:00 PM ET) & NE at NYJ (8:30 PM ET)
Week 17	Pittsburgh at Baltimore	Final game of year, and could be playoff-decider.

THE LAST TIME...
(2002 GAMES IN ITALICS)

PASSING

500 YARDS, GAME: 504, Elvis Grbac, Kansas City vs. Oakland, Nov. 5, 2000

7 TD PASSES, GAME: Joe Kapp, Minnesota vs. Baltimore, Sept. 28, 1969
(Tied with four others: Sid Luckman, Adrian Burk, George Blanda, Y.A. Tittle)

60 ATTEMPTS, GAME: 64, *Rich Gannon, Oakland vs. Pittsburgh, Sept. 15, 2002*

20 CONSECUTIVE COMPLETIONS, GAME: 22, *Rich Gannon, Oakland vs. Denver, Nov. 11, 2002*

99-YARD TD PASS: *Trent Green to Marc Boerigter, Kansas City vs. San Diego, Dec. 22, 2002*

RECEIVING

3 100-YARD GAMES, SAME TEAM: Kansas City vs. Oakland, Nov. 5, 2000
Derrick Alexander, 9-139-2; Tony Gonzalez, 9-134-0; Sylvester Morris, 6-102-0

300 YARDS, GAME: 336, Willie Anderson, L.A. Rams vs. New Orleans, Nov. 26, 1989 (OT)

15 RECEPTIONS, GAME: 16, *Troy Brown, New England vs. Kansas City, Sept. 22, 2002*

4 TDs, GAME: Isaac Bruce, St. Louis vs. San Francisco, Oct. 10, 1999

RUSHING

5 TDs, GAME: James Stewart, Jacksonville vs. Philadelphia, Oct. 12, 1997

4 TDs, GAME: *Shaun Alexander, Seattle vs. Minnesota, Sept. 29, 2002*

40 ATTEMPTS, GAME: 41, Ricky Williams, New Orleans vs. Cleveland, Oct. 31, 1999

250 YARDS, GAME: 266, Shaun Alexander, Seattle vs. Oakland, Nov. 11, 2001

INTERCEPTIONS

4, GAME: Deltha O’Neil, Denver vs. Kansas City, Oct. 7, 2001

3, GAME: *Ronnie Heard, San Francisco vs. Arizona, Oct. 27, 2002*

2 TDs, GAME: *Aaron Glenn, Houston vs. Pittsburgh, Dec. 8, 2002*

4 TDs, SEASON: Eric Allen, Philadelphia, 1993

100-YARD TD RETURN: 102, *Artrell Hawkins, Cincinnati vs. Houston, Nov. 3, 2002*

SCORING

7 PATs, GAME: *Morten Andersen, Kansas City vs. St. Louis, Dec. 8, 2002*

3 FGs, 50 YARDS OR MORE, GAME: Morten Andersen, Atlanta vs. New Orleans, Dec. 10, 1995

2 FGs, 50 YARDS OR MORE, GAME: *Mike Vanderjagt, Indianapolis vs. Denver, Nov. 24, 2002*

60 OR MORE POINTS, GAME, TEAM: Cincinnati (61) vs. Houston (7), Dec. 17, 1989

100 OR MORE POINTS, GAME, BOTH TEAMS: 113, Washington (72) vs. N.Y. Giants (41), Nov. 27, 1966

LAST SCORELESS TIE: N.Y. Giants vs. Detroit, Nov. 7, 1943

KICKOFF RETURNS

2 TDs, GAME: *Chad Morton, N.Y. Jets vs. Buffalo, Sept. 8, 2002*

2 CONSECUTIVE TDs, BOTH TEAMS, GAME: Atlanta vs. St. Louis, Oct. 15, 2000

90 YARDS, NO TD, GAME: 91, *Eddie Drummond, Detroit vs. Tampa Bay, Dec. 15, 2002*

PUNT RETURNS

2 TDs, GAME: *Steve Smith, Carolina vs. Cincinnati, Dec. 8, 2002*



NEW RULES FOR 2003

There are several new rules in the NFL in 2003.

The NFL Competition Committee spends the early part of the offseason examining existing rules, and suggesting possible changes to the rules. Rules changes then are voted upon by the clubs at the NFL Annual Meeting in the spring.

The rules changes this year may not seem major, but as Arizona Cardinals center-guard **FRANK GARCIA** says, “It is our jobs to know the rules.”

New rules for 2003:

- Re-kicks of short free kicks will not be allowed within five minutes of the end of the game.** Previously, a team was allowed to re-kick in that time. **Reason for the change:** The kicking team could receive an advantage by fouling inside the last five minutes of a game.
- The defense can now use one of its remaining timeouts to prevent a half from ending.** Previously, a defensive foul in the last 40 seconds of either half prevented the defense from using any of its remaining timeouts to stop the half. **Reason for the change:** Defensive teams with timeouts left were unduly penalized from using their remaining timeouts to prevent the half or game from ending.
- The offense can now use one of its remaining timeouts to prevent a 10-second runoff.** An offensive team is not permitted to conserve time in the last 60 seconds of either half by committing any of the following acts: false start, intentional grounding, an illegal forward pass thrown from beyond the line of scrimmage, throwing a backwards pass out of bounds, and any other intentional foul that causes the clock to stop. **Penalty:** The offense can now use one of its remaining timeouts to prevent a 10-second runoff and is penalized five yards, unless a larger distance is applicable. **Reason for the change:** Provides consistency in the application of the rules regarding actions to conserve time and the use of team timeouts.
- A team will not be charged with a timeout for an injury that occurs during or after any play involving a change of possession.** Previously, a timeout was charged. **Reason for the change:** Now an injury timeout will not create an advantage to either team. Now both the offense and defense can be on the sidelines preparing for the next series.
- A kicking team member who has been out of bounds can now touch or recover a kick if it has been first touched by a kicking team member who has not been out of bounds or a receiving team member.** Previously, he was prohibited from touching the ball until it had been touched by a member of the receiving team. **Reason for the change:** Makes the rule consistent with other rules regarding ineligible touching a loose ball after it was touched by an eligible offensive player or an opponent.

OVERTIME OVERDOES IT

Last year, there were a record number of overtime games (25). And again, the team which won the toss only won half the games (51.8). Overtime is exciting, and a lot of people like it just the way it is.

“I’m comfortable with it,” says San Diego Chargers head coach **MARTY SCHOTTENHEIMER**. “I think it’s fine the way it is.”

Comments on OT from around the NFL:

Redskins LB LaVar Arrington	“I don't think they need to make a change. I think it's fine right now the way it is.”		
Colts GM Bill Polian	“Overtime is dramatic and it has long-standing ramifications. It keeps people on the edge of their seats.”		
Raiders QB Rich Gannon	“The team that can get the ball and do something with it should win. That is the way it works.”		
Vikings DE Kenny Mixon	“Our overtime system makes the most sense. Whoever scores first wins. How sweet is that?”		
Redskins head coach Steve Spurrier	“Coming from college to the pros, I think the NFL has the best system.”		
Browns RB Jamel White	“Anything can happen in overtime. That’s the beauty of it.”		
Vikings DT Chuck Wiley	“Sometimes all you need is overtime to give you that second wind. It can work to your advantage.”		

TOTAL NUMBER OF OT GAMES (1974-2002)	342		OT GAMES IN 2002	25	
Both Teams Had At Least One Possession	245	(72%)	Both Teams Had At Least One Possession	15	(60%)
Team Won Toss & Won Game	177	(52%)	Team Won Toss & Won Game	15	(60%)
Team Lost Toss & Won Game	149	(44%)	Team Lost Toss & Won Game	9	(36%)
Team Won Toss & Drove For Winning Score	96	(28%)	Team Won Toss & Drove For Winning Score	9	(36%)
Ties	16	(5%)	Ties	1	(4%)



SUPER FOLLOW-UPS

How Super Bowl winners have fared the following season, with teams that repeated in **bold** (seven Super Bowl winners won the title game the next year and three lost it):

<u>Super Bowl</u>	<u>Winner</u>	<u>Next Season</u>
<i>I</i>	<i>Green Bay</i>	<i>Won Super Bowl</i>
II	Green Bay	Missed playoffs
III	NY Jets	Lost in first round
IV	Kansas City	Missed playoffs
V	Baltimore	Lost AFC Championship Game
VI	Dallas	Lost NFC Championship Game
<i>VII</i>	<i>Miami</i>	<i>Won Super Bowl</i>
VIII	Miami	Lost in first round
<i>IX</i>	<i>Pittsburgh</i>	<i>Won Super Bowl</i>
X	Pittsburgh	Lost AFC Championship Game
XI	Oakland	Lost AFC Championship Game
XII	Dallas	Lost Super Bowl
<i>XIII</i>	<i>Pittsburgh</i>	<i>Won Super Bowl</i>
XIV	Pittsburgh	Missed playoffs
XV	Oakland	Missed playoffs
XVI	San Francisco	Missed playoffs
XVII	Washington	Lost Super Bowl
XVIII	L.A. Raiders	Lost Wild Card Game
XIX	San Francisco	Lost Wild Card Game
XX	Chicago	Lost NFC Divisional Playoff Game
XXI	NY Giants	Missed playoffs
XXII	Washington	Missed playoffs
<i>XXIII</i>	<i>San Francisco</i>	<i>Won Super Bowl</i>
XXIV	San Francisco	Lost NFC Championship Game
XXV	NY Giants	Missed playoffs
XXVI	Washington	Lost NFC Divisional Playoff Game
<i>XXVII</i>	<i>Dallas</i>	<i>Won Super Bowl</i>
XXVIII	Dallas	Lost NFC Championship Game
XXIX	San Francisco	Lost NFC Divisional Playoff Game
XXX	Dallas	Lost NFC Divisional Playoff Game
XXXI	Green Bay Packers	Lost Super Bowl
<i>XXXII</i>	<i>Denver Broncos</i>	<i>Won Super Bowl</i>
XXXIII	Denver Broncos	Missed playoffs
XXXIV	St. Louis Rams	Lost Wild Card Game
XXXV	Baltimore Ravens	Lost AFC Divisional Playoff Game
XXXVI	New England Patriots	Missed playoffs
XXXVII	Tampa Bay Buccaneers	???

STARTING RECORDS OF ACTIVE NFL QUARTERBACKS
(Minimum 10 starts)

<u>QUARTERBACK, TEAM</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>PCT.</u>	<u>QUARTERBACK, TEAM</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>PCT.</u>
Kurt Warner, St. Louis	35	14	0	.714	Shane Matthews, Cincinnati	11	11	0	.500
Jay Fiedler, Miami	29	13	0	.690	Daunte Culpepper, Minnesota	21	22	0	.488
Tom Brady, New England	20	10	0	.667	Steve Beuerlein, Denver	46	54	0	.460
Chad Pennington, N.Y. Jets	8	4	0	.667	Matt Hasselbeck, Seattle	10	12	0	.455
Brett Favre, Green Bay	115	58	0	.665	Chris Chandler, Chicago	64	80	0	.444
Donovan McNabb, Philadelphia	31	17	0	.646	Vinny Testaverde, N.Y. Jets	80	101	1	.442
Brad Johnson, Tampa Bay	51	28	0	.646	Tony Banks, Houston	33	42	0	.440
Shaun King, Tampa Bay	14	8	0	.636	Ty Detmer, Detroit	11	14	0	.440
Steve McNair, Tennessee	59	36	0	.621	Jon Kitna, Cincinnati	26	34	0	.433
Kordell Stewart, Pittsburgh	46	29	0	.613	Trent Green, Kansas City	22	29	0	.431
Rich Gannon, Oakland	72	50	0	.590	Jeff Blake, Arizona	36	51	0	.414
Doug Flutie, San Diego	35	25	0	.583	Rob Johnson, Washington	12	17	0	.414
Michael Vick, Atlanta	9	7	1	.559	Charlie Batch, Pittsburgh	19	27	0	.413
Jim Miller, Tampa Bay	15	12	0	.556	Todd Collins, Kansas City	7	10	0	.412
Mark Brunell, Jacksonville	63	51	0	.553	Gus Frerotte, Minnesota	25	36	1	.411
Neil O'Donnell, Tennessee	54	45	0	.545	Quincy Carter, Dallas	6	9	0	.400
Trent Dilfer, Seattle	51	43	0	.543	Tim Couch, Cleveland	19	32	0	.373
Brian Griese, Miami	27	24	0	.529	Rick Mirer, Oakland	22	38	0	.367
Kerry Collins, New York Giants	55	49	0	.529	Jake Plummer, Denver	30	52	0	.366
Peyton Manning, Indianapolis	42	38	0	.525	Alex Van Pelt, Buffalo	3	8	0	.273
Jeff Garcia, San Francisco	30	28	0	.517	David Carr, Houston	4	12	0	.250
Aaron Brooks, New Orleans	19	18	0	.514	Joey Harrington, Detroit	3	9	0	.250
Rodney Peete, Carolina	44	42	0	.512	Doug Pederson, Green Bay	3	14	0	.176
Drew Bledsoe, Buffalo	71	68	0	.511	Akili Smith, Green Bay	3	14	0	.176
Drew Brees, San Diego	8	8	0	.500	Chris Weinke, Carolina	1	15	0	.063
Tommy Maddox, Pittsburgh	7	7	1	.500					



BEARS, EAGLES & PACKERS OPEN NEW STADIUMS

In keeping with a trend set 11 years ago, the NFL building boom continues in 2003 with a new stadium in Philadelphia and renovated stadiums in Green Bay and Chicago.

Since the Georgia Dome was opened in 1992, 26 NFL stadiums have been/will be built or substantially renovated by 2006.

Each of the new 2003 facilities features superb sight lines, and increased seating capacity and wider concourses than their previous venues.

The PHILADELPHIA EAGLES will open LINCOLN FINANCIAL FIELD in front of a national Monday-night TV audience on September 8 in a rematch of last year's NFC Championship game against the defending Super Bowl champion Tampa Bay Buccaneers. Lincoln Financial Field features seats closer to the field than Veterans Stadium, the team's former venue, two giant Eagles insignia in the upper-deck seating area, and two end-zone video boards that stand 27 feet high and 96 feet wide.

"This really is a chance for us to show off our new home and a chance for the people of the Delaware Valley to come down and see what we believe is not only the most spectacular of all the new stadiums, but an icon for the entire Philadelphia region as well," says Eagles president JOE BANNER. "I think fans are going to enter Lincoln Financial Field for the very first time and be awed by the entire facility, but perhaps most so by the proximity of their seats to the field."

After a year hiatus, the CHICAGO BEARS will return to a revamped SOLDIER FIELD. The club debuts in Soldier Field on September 29 against Green Bay. The new Soldier Field features additions such as a 47,000-square-foot banquet area overlooking the lake on the east side of the stadium. Soldier Field has also enhanced many of its traditional elements by increasing the space dedicated to military tributes on the north and south ends of the stadium. Historical spots such as the colonnades and south wall remain untouched. The new stadium design allows year-round access to the colonnades and war memorials.

A renovated LAMBEAU FIELD, home of the GREEN BAY PACKERS, will also debut this fall. Stadium seating will be increased from 66,110 to 71,500. The Packers Hall of Fame, interactive amenities, the stadium club and a food court have been added to the 366,000-square-foot Titledown Atrium located on the east side of the field.

In April, the ARIZONA CARDINALS began construction on the team's 63,000-seat stadium in Glendale that will open in 2006. Plans for the stadium include a retractable roof with America's first roll-out, natural-grass field.

A review of NFL stadium developments in the 1990s and 2000s:

RECENT & FUTURE NFL STADIUM CONSTRUCTION

1992	New 71,228-seat Georgia Dome opens in Atlanta.
1995	New 73,000-seat ALLTEL Stadium opens in Jacksonville. New 66,000-seat Dome opens in St. Louis.
1996	New 72,520-seat Ericsson Stadium opens in Charlotte. Network Associates Coliseum renovated; capacity enlarged by 9,000 seats to 63,000. Renovations on the Louisiana Superdome completed by Super Bowl XXXI.
1997	New 78,600-seat FedEx Field opens in Landover, Maryland. Qualcomm Stadium renovated; seating capacity enlarged to 71,000.
1998	New 68,400-seat PSINet Stadium opens in Baltimore. New 65,000-seat Raymond James Stadium opens in Tampa Bay. Renovations of Giants Stadium (N.Y. Giants/Jets) completed.
1999	Renovations of Ralph Wilson Stadium (Buffalo Bills) completed. New 72,000-seat Cleveland Browns Stadium opens. New 67,000-seat Adelphia Coliseum opens in Nashville. Renovations of RCA Dome (Indianapolis Colts) completed.
2000	New 65,000-seat Paul Brown Stadium opens in Cincinnati.
2001	New 76,000-seat Invesco Field opens in Denver. New 65,000-seat Heinz Field opens in Pittsburgh.
2002	New 65,000-seat Ford Field opens in Detroit. New 69,500-seat Reliant Stadium opens in Houston. New 68,000-seat Gillette Stadium opens in New England. New 67,000-seat Seahawks Stadium opens in Seattle.
2003	<i>New 68,000-seat Lincoln Financial Field opens in Philadelphia. Renovation of Lambeau Field (Green Bay Packers) completed. Renovation of Soldier Field (Chicago Bears) completed.</i>
2006	New 63,000-seat stadium to open in Arizona.

PRE TO POST

Since 1990, 16 of the 28 teams that have gone undefeated in the preseason have made it to the playoffs. The most recent clubs to do so were the Atlanta Falcons and New York Jets last season.

New Dallas Cowboys head coach BILL PARCELLS sees the preseason as a good way to evaluate his team's strengths and weaknesses. "Preseason games are not meaningless," says Parcells, winner of two Super Bowls as coach of the New York Giants. "I try to win all the games we play. I happen to believe the more good habits you create on a team, the better you'll be."

Following is a list of playoff teams who have gone undefeated in the preseason since 1990:

TEAM/PRESEASON	YEAR	HOW THEY FARED	TEAM/PRESEASON	YEAR	HOW THEY FARED
Atlanta (4-0)	2002	Lost in NFC Divisional Playoff	Jacksonville (4-0)	1997	Lost in AFC Wild Card Game
N.Y. Jets (4-0)	2002	Lost in AFC Divisional Playoff	Pittsburgh (5-0)	1997	Lost in AFC Championship Game
Baltimore (4-0)	2000	Won Super Bowl XXXV	Philadelphia (4-0)	1995	Lost in NFC Divisional Playoffs
Denver (4-0)	2000	Lost in AFC Wild Card Game	Chicago (4-0)	1994	Lost in NFC Divisional Playoffs
Tampa Bay (4-0)	1999	Lost in NFC Championship Game	Detroit (4-0)	1993	Lost in NFC Wild Card Game
Miami (4-0)	1998	Lost in AFC Divisional Playoffs	Minnesota (4-0)	1992	Lost in NFC Wild Card Game
Minnesota (4-0)	1998	Lost in NFC Championship Game	San Francisco (5-0)	1992	Lost in NFC Championship Game
Green Bay (5-0)	1997	Lost in Super Bowl XXXII	N.Y. Giants (4-0)	1990	Won Super Bowl XXV