



## PRESEASON COUNTS!

Winning preseason games is important. As a barometer of regular-season success, preseason records are a remarkably accurate gauge.

The past 10 Super Bowl champions, for instance, were a combined 30-12 (.714) in the preseason. Nine of those 10 teams posted .500 or better preseason records. Last summer, the eventual Super Bowl teams – New England and Carolina – were unbeaten (8-0) in the preseason.

In the free agency/salary cap era, developing veteran cohesiveness and team depth in preseason is more important than ever.

“There are certain things you can do in preseason to establish the foundation of your football team,” says Houston Texans head coach **DOM CAPERS**. “We place great value on the development of our team through the use of preseason games.” Preseason records of the past 10 Super Bowl champions:

YEAR	TEAM	PRESEASON RECORD	YEAR	TEAM	PRESEASON RECORD
2003	New England	4-0	1998	Denver	3-1
2002	Tampa Bay	3-1	1997	Denver	3-2
2001	New England	3-1	1996	Green Bay	3-1
2000	Baltimore	4-0	1995	Dallas	2-3
1999	St. Louis	2-2	1994	San Francisco	3-1
<b>TOTAL: 30-12 (.714)</b>					

Preseason success has translated to Super Bowl victories throughout NFL history. Of the 38 Super Bowl champions, 30 (78.9%) posted a preseason winning percentage of .500 or higher. Overall, the 38 Super Bowl winners have combined to post a 115-65-2 (.637) preseason record.

Since 1995, the final four playoff teams (AFC and NFC Championship Game participants) have combined for a preseason record of 95-53 (.642).

“My approach to the preseason is we try to win every game we play,” says new New York Giants head coach **TOM COUGHLIN**, whose Jacksonville team played in two of those Championship Games. “It’s much easier to teach and to learn when you’ve been in a winning situation.” AFC and NFC Championship Game preseason records (1995-03):

YEAR	RECORD	PCT.	TEAMS
2003	13-3	.813	Carolina, Indianapolis, New England, Philadelphia
2002	8-8	.500	Oakland, Philadelphia, Tampa Bay, Tennessee
2001	11-5	.688	New England, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, St. Louis
2000	8-8	.500	Baltimore, Minnesota, New York Giants, Oakland
1999	10-6	.625	Jacksonville, St. Louis, Tampa Bay, Tennessee
1998	12-4	.750	Atlanta, Denver, Minnesota, New York Jets
1997	14-5	.737	Denver, Green Bay, Pittsburgh, San Francisco
1996	10-6	.625	Carolina, Green Bay, Jacksonville, New England
1995	9-8	.529	Dallas, Green Bay, Indianapolis, Pittsburgh
<b>TOTAL: 95-53 (.642)</b>			

Over the past 10 seasons, 81 of the 120 teams (67.5%) that made the playoffs were .500 or better during the preseason. Division winners combined for a 153-119 (.563) preseason record in that span, while all playoff teams posted a 282-224 (.557) preseason record.

“Preseason success gives the players and coaches something to build on,” says Dallas Cowboys head coach **BILL PARCELLS**. “It’s something positive to think about.” Following are the number of playoff teams that were .500 or better during the past 10 preseasons:

YEAR	TEAMS	YEAR	TEAMS
2003	9	1998	9
2002	10	1997	7
2001	7	1996	8
2000	8	1995	7
1999	8	1994	8
<b>TOTAL: 81 of 120 (67.5%)</b>			

### PRESEASON RECORDS OF ALL SUPER BOWL WINNERS

YEAR	TEAM	PRESEASON RECORD	YEAR	TEAM	PRESEASON RECORD
2003	New England	4-0	1984	San Francisco	2-2
2002	Tampa Bay	3-1	1983	LA Raiders	1-3
2001	New England	3-1	1982	Washington	0-4
2000	Baltimore	4-0	1981	San Francisco	2-2
1999	St. Louis	2-2	1980	Oakland	2-2
1998	Denver	3-1	1979	Pittsburgh	3-1
1997	Denver	3-2	1978	Pittsburgh	2-2
1996	Green Bay	3-1	1977	Dallas	3-3
1995	Dallas	2-3	1976	Oakland	5-1
1994	San Francisco	3-1	1975	Pittsburgh	3-4
1993	Dallas	1-3-1	1974	Pittsburgh	6-0
1992	Dallas	2-3	1973	Miami	4-2-1
1991	Washington	1-3	1972	Miami	3-3
1990	New York Giants	4-0	1971	Dallas	6-0
1989	San Francisco	3-2	1970	Baltimore	4-2
1988	San Francisco	3-2	1969	Kansas City	6-0
1987	Washington	3-1	1968	New York Jets	3-2
1986	New York Giants	3-1	1967	Green Bay	6-0
1985	Chicago	1-3	1966	Green Bay	3-2
<b>TOTAL: 115-65-2 (.637)</b>					