

**“ARE YOU READY FOR SOME FOOTBALL?” VOTED NO. 2 MOMENT IN COUNTRY MUSIC HISTORY**

*It has become as much a part of Monday Night Football as touchdowns.*

*It is the **HANK WILLIAMS, JR.**’s rollicking “Are You Ready For Some Football?” song/question that opens every Monday night telecast with accompanying vignettes and guest star appearances.*

*Williams’ song was voted this year the No. 2 moment in country music history in a poll by Country Music Television.*

*No. 1 was **ALAN JACKSON**’s “Where Were You When The World Stopped Turning?,” a tribute to the 9/11 victims.*

**MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL CELEBRATES 35TH SEASON**

*ABC’s NFL Monday Night Football* kicks off its 35th season on September 9 in a rematch of the 2003 AFC Championship Game when the Indianapolis Colts visit the Super Bowl XXXVIII Champion New England Patriots.

This year ABC will continue its tradition of using innovative techniques with its *Monday Night Football* broadcasts as it celebrates its anniversary, including the use of sky cams and “mic-ing up” an individual player during 10 different games this season.

“The show is going to be broadcast for the second straight year in high definition,” says *MNF* producer **FRED GAUDELLI**. “We will also continue with our celebrity openings to distinguish ourselves from everyone else.”

**JOHN MADDEN** begins his third season as *MNF* analyst alongside 18-year veteran play-by-play man **AL MICHAELS**. The duo will be joined this season by a new sideline reporter, **MICHELE TAFOYA**, formerly a sideline reporter for ESPN’s college football telecasts.

“Every sideline reporter is different and brings something different to the table,” says Tafoya. “I’m excited we’re going to do this.”

The Patriots are one of six teams with three appearances on Monday night in 2004. The others are the Dallas Cowboys, Green Bay Packers, Kansas City Chiefs, Philadelphia Eagles and St. Louis Rams.

“Everybody gets excited about playing on Monday nights,” said Rams head coach **MIKE MARTZ**. “It’s always a treat for all of us.”

*Monday Night Football* was created in 1970, when NFL Commissioner **PETE ROZELLE** proposed a weekly prime-time game to the networks. ABC Sports President **ROONE ARLEDGE** convinced the network to televise the series and went about creating a weekly event.

The longest-running prime-time entertainment series of all-time, *ABC’s NFL Monday Night Football* has made a lasting impression since its first broadcast (New York Jets at Cleveland Browns) on September 21, 1970. Since 1990, *MNF* is the only prime-time entertainment program to be ranked among the top 15 programs each year.

**TV’s LONGEST CONTINUOUSLY-RUNNING PRIME TIME ENTERTAINMENT SERIES**

<u>Program</u>	<u>Years</u>
<b>NFL MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL (ABC)</b>	<b>35 (1970-current)</b>
Walt Disney (ABC, CBS, NBC)	29 (1954-82)
Ed Sullivan (CBS)	24 (1948-71)
Red Skelton (NBC, CBS)	20 (1951-71)
Gunsmoke (CBS)	20 (1955-75)

Source: The Complete Directory to Prime Time Network TV Shows 1946-present

**ALL-TIME MNF ANNOUNCERS TEAMS**

1970	Keith Jackson, Howard Cosell, Don Meredith
1971-73	Frank Gifford, Howard Cosell, Don Meredith
1974	Frank Gifford, Howard Cosell, Alex Karras, Fred Williamson (Preseason)
1975-76	Frank Gifford, Howard Cosell, Alex Karras
1977-78	Frank Gifford, Howard Cosell, Don Meredith
1979-82	Frank Gifford, Howard Cosell, Don Meredith, Fran Tarkenton
1983	Frank Gifford, Howard Cosell, Don Meredith, O.J. Simpson
1984	Frank Gifford, Don Meredith, O.J. Simpson
1985	Frank Gifford, O.J. Simpson, Joe Namath
1986	Al Michaels, Frank Gifford
1987-97	Al Michaels, Frank Gifford, Dan Dierdorf
1998	Al Michaels, Dan Dierdorf, Boomer Esiason
1999	Al Michaels, Boomer Esiason
2000-01	Al Michaels, Dan Fouts, Dennis Miller
2002-Present	Al Michaels, John Madden

**MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL – CAREER RECORDS**

<u>MOST TOUCHDOWNS</u>		<u>MOST TD PASSES</u>		<u>MOST RECEPTIONS</u>	
Jerry Rice	35	Dan Marino	74	Jerry Rice	246
Emmitt Smith	24	Brett Favre	42	Andre Reed	124
Marcus Allen	19	Steve Young	42	Cris Carter	123
Mark Clayton	15	Joe Montana	36	Tim Brown	119
Eric Dickerson	14	Jim Kelly	31	Art Monk	114
John Riggins	14				
<u>MOST RUSHING YARDS/CAREER</u>		<u>MOST RUSHING YARDS/GAME</u>			
Emmitt Smith	2,434	Bo Jackson	221		
Tony Dorsett	1,897	Ricky Williams	216		
Thurman Thomas	1,769	Thurman Thomas	214		
Marcus Allen	1,486	Earl Campbell	199		
Franco Harris	1,435	Garrison Hearst	198		