



NFL KICKOFF 2004 SCHEDULE
THURSDAY, SUNDAY & MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 12-13
(All times local PM)

AMERICAN FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

Indianapolis at New England (Thurs., 9:00)
Jacksonville at Buffalo (1:00)
Baltimore at Cleveland (1:00)
San Diego at Houston (12:00)
Tennessee at Miami (1:00)
Cincinnati at N.Y. Jets (1:00)
Oakland at Pittsburgh (1:00)
Kansas City at Denver (6:30)

NATIONAL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

Detroit at Chicago (12:00)
Seattle at New Orleans (12:00)
Arizona at St. Louis (12:00)
Tampa Bay at Washington (1:00)
Dallas at Minnesota (3:15)
N.Y. Giants at Philadelphia (4:15)
Atlanta at San Francisco (1:15)
Green Bay at Carolina (Mon., 9:00)

THE NFL? UNPREDICTABLE!

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

“Every Sunday you get great games,” says Atlanta Falcons head coach **JIM MORA**. “Everything is so close. It’s crazy to be involved in this.”

Three of the past four Super Bowl champions had never won the game before, and three of them weren’t even in the playoffs the year before.

“You never know in this league,” says Green Bay Packers quarterback **BRETT FAVRE**.

BREAKDOWN OF PAST FOUR SUPER BOWLS

SUPER BOWL	SUPER BOWL TEAMS	PREVIOUS SEASON’S RECORD
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
XXXVIII	New England defeats Carolina	New England 9-7*; Carolina 7-9*

*Missed playoffs the year before

THE NFL IS SO UNPREDICTABLE THAT IN 2003 ...

- Thirteen teams won at least 10 games, the most ever to do so in a season in NFL history.
- Eight teams made the playoffs that were not in the playoffs the year before, the seventh consecutive season in which at least five teams (out of 12) accomplished the feat.
- One division – the NFC West – had its eighth new division champion (St. Louis) in the past eight seasons.
- There were 23 games that went into overtime (second-most all-time), a year after the record of 25 overtime games was set in 2002.
- Almost half the games (48 percent) were decided by seven points or less, and almost a quarter (23 percent) were decided by three points or less.
- Twenty-two percent of NFL games were decided in the last two minutes or in overtime.

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 362 teams which won openers...188 went to the playoffs (103 won division titles).

Of the 362 teams which lost openers...88 went to the playoffs (50 won division titles).

In 2003, six of the 12 playoff teams – Carolina, Denver, Indianapolis, Kansas City, Seattle and Tennessee -- were victorious on Kickoff Weekend.

OPENING GAME RECORDS OF NFL TEAMS

					<u>Longest Streaks</u>								<u>Longest Streaks</u>		
<u>AFC</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>Pct.</u>	<u>Win</u>	<u>Loss</u>	<u>Current</u>	<u>NFC</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>Pct.</u>	<u>Win</u>	<u>Loss</u>	<u>Current</u>
Houston	2	0	0	1.00	2	0	W-2	Dallas	30	13	1	.698	17	4	L-4
Jacksonville	6	3	0	.667	6	2	L-2	N.Y. Giants	40	27	4	.597	5	3	W-1
Denver	28	15	1	.651	5	4	W-3	Chicago	40	30	1	.571	9	7	L-1
Miami	22	15	1	.595	11	6	L-1	Minnesota	24	18	1	.571	6	3	W-1
San Diego	25	19	0	.568	6	7	L-1	St. Louis	36	30	0	.545	5	7	L-2
Kansas City	25	19	0	.568	8	4	W-2	Green Bay	37	31	3	.544	5	7	L-1
Oakland	24	20	0	.545	5	6	L-3	San Fran.	28	25	1	.528	6	3	W-3
Cleveland	26	25	0	.510	5	6	L-6	Detroit	36	33	2	.522	8	4	W-1
Tennessee	23	21	0	.523	5	3	W-2	Washington	34	33	4	.507	7	5	W-2
Indianapolis	30	29	1	.508	9	8	W-5	Atlanta	19	19	0	.500	6	3	W-1
Pittsburgh	33	32	4	.500	5	3	L-4	Tampa Bay	12	16	0	.429	4	5	W-1
New England	20	24	0	.508	6	4	L-1	Arizona	27	42	1	.391	6	8	L-4
Cincinnati	16	20	0	.444	4	5	L-2	Philadelphia	27	42	1	.391	5	10	L-3
Baltimore	3	5	0	.375	2	4	L-2	Carolina	4	5	0	.444	3	4	W-3
N.Y. Jets	18	26	0	.409	3	6	L-1	New Orleans	11	26	0	.297	2	7	L-1
Buffalo	18	26	0	.409	7	5	W-1	Seattle	8	20	0	.286	4	8	W-1