



# THE TEAMS

## WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN 2004

- The **NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS** have won 15 consecutive games (including playoffs) and need four wins in a row to set the NFL record (18, held by five teams) for the most consecutive wins (regular season and playoffs).
- The **CHICAGO BEARS** need nine regular season victories to become the first team with 650 regular season victories.
- The **NEW YORK GIANTS** need 13 victories to become the third team (Chicago Bears, 655 and Green Bay Packers, 626) with 600 total victories.
- The **WASHINGTON REDSKINS** need one regular season victory to reach 500 regular season victories.
- The **ST. LOUIS RAMS** need six victories to reach 500 total victories.
- The **PITTSBURGH STEELERS** need eight victories to reach 500 total victories.
- The **NEW YORK JETS** need six regular season victories to reach 300 regular season victories.
- The **SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS** have scored in 418 consecutive games, the longest streak in NFL history.



## NFL: A CONSISTENCY OF WINNING

Every year in the NFL there are surprise teams. That’s the pull of the league to fans – the competitive balance that gives every team a chance. But when looking at figures, there is also a consistency of teams that go to the playoffs and win Super Bowls. In the current NFL system, teams still have the opportunity to enjoy a sustained period of success.

Of the 12 teams that made the 2003 playoffs, eight are winners of the past nine Super Bowls – every Super Bowl since 1995 except for Tampa Bay in 2002.

In that time, New England has played in three Super Bowls, and both the Patriots and Denver Broncos have won twice. The other winners include Baltimore, St. Louis, Green Bay and Dallas. The Rams and Packers also played in a second Super Bowl. And Tennessee played in Super Bowl XXXIV.

Put differently, seven of last year’s 12 playoff teams have had 12 of the 18 Super Bowl appearances of the past nine seasons. Most of last season’s playoff teams have had consistently strong cumulative won-loss records in recent seasons, headed up by St. Louis and Tennessee – each with a 56-24 (.700) regular-season record over the past five years. In fact, the top five teams with the best regular-season records since 1999 qualified for the postseason last year.

This kind of consistency compares to such great teams as the Packers of the ‘60s, the Steelers of the ‘70s, 49ers of the ‘80s and Cowboys of the ‘90s.

Following are the teams with the best regular-season records over the past five seasons:

TEAM	W	L	T	PCT.	DIVISION TITLES	PLAYOFF BERTHS
St. Louis	56	24	0	.700	3	4
Tennessee	56	24	0	.700	2	4
Green Bay	51	29	0	.638	2	3
Indianapolis	51	29	0	.638	2	4
Philadelphia	51	29	0	.638	3	4