

## HOLT & MOSS: A CATCH COMES WITH THEM

The game-breaking wide receiver is a prized commodity in the NFL, and wideouts **TORRY HOLT** of the St. Louis Rams and **RANDY MOSS** of the Minnesota Vikings are two such performers at the top of their games.

The duo are linked in the minds of many in any discussion of the NFL's top wide receivers. In 2003, they topped the charts in receptions and receiving yards, with Holt leading the league with 117 catches for 1,696 yards, and Moss finishing a close second in both categories, totaling 111 receptions for 1,632 yards.

When the Rams defeated the Vikings 48-17 on November 30, both players stood out. Holt finished with eight catches for 102 yards while Moss posted 10 receptions for 160 yards and one touchdown.

The pair will aim to continue their ascent among the game's elite this season, which includes the pursuit of some significant milestones. Holt finished last season with 10 100-yard receiving games, becoming only the fifth player in NFL history to accomplish the feat. With 12 100-yard games this season, he will surpass **MICHAEL IRVIN**'s record 11 such games in 1995.

Holt's success is no surprise to teammate **AENEAS WILLIAMS**, who enters his 14th season in 2004. Williams, who started all 16 games for the Rams at safety a year ago, is impressed with his teammate's determination to excel.

"Torry is an extremely hard worker who's very talented," says Williams. "He had the awesome benefit, which to me is critical for young players when they initially get in the league, to get great tutoring and coaching. Torry has tremendous assets. He is an excellent route runner with excellent hands, and has the ability to adjust and make the plays on the deep ball. He also has the speed to get by people."

Moss needs 1,000 yards to become the first player in NFL history with 1,000 yards in each of his first seven seasons. He already is the only person to accomplish the feat in his first six years and aims to build upon an already impressive legacy.

Williams, who has lined up in the opposing defensive backfield from Moss, including in the Rams' win last November, knows what a challenge that is.

"Not only did Randy have the natural gifts of speed, size, hands and acrobatic ability, but he also had Cris Carter in Minnesota," Williams said. "He had a mentor that could show him how to beat defenders and run routes as a receiver. Randy also works extremely hard and has the ability to play the ball very well."

### HOLT & MOSS IN '03

RECEIVER	REC./NFL RANK	REC. YARDS/NFL RANK
Torry Holt, St. Louis	117 (1)	1,696 (1)
Randy Moss, Minnesota	111 (2)	1,632 (2)

## RICE ONLY NON-KICKER IN TOP 20?

**JERRY RICE** can have his usual milestone-reaching season in numerous categories this year, as he continues to distance himself from the competition on the all-time receiving lists. But one achievement can set the Oakland Raiders wide receiver apart more than the rest.

With nine points, Rice will become the first position (non-kicking) player to rank in the top 20 on the all-time scoring list. He enters the season with 1,236 points – nine short of passing kicker **JIM BREECH** (1,246 in 20th place) in total scoring. Of the players on the list, only **GEORGE BLANDA**, who played 26 seasons as a kicker and quarterback, has scored more than one touchdown; the rest of the top 20 is comprised of kickers only.

Set to play yet *another* season, the soon-to-be 41-year-old Rice is entering his 20th year as an NFL wide receiver. The NFL career leader in receptions, receiving yards, yards from scrimmage and touchdowns, Rice continues to defy logic and amaze his peers. How has he stayed at the top of his game for so long? His legendary work ethic is second to none.

"When you talk to people who know Jerry Rice, they constantly use him as an example of work ethic," says new Denver safety **JOHN LYNCH**, who will now see plenty of Rice in the AFC West Division this year. "Everybody can play on [talent] for five, six years. But, after that, it starts coming down to your work ethic. For him to be out here at 40 years old and still playing at the level he is, is just remarkable, and it keeps guys like me smiling."

Rice's grueling offseason conditioning program has keep him healthy since he broke into the league in 1985 with San Francisco. Other than a season lost to a knee injury in 1997, Rice has not missed a football game in his career due to injury.

"He is not a normal human being," former 49ers teammate **RANDY CROSS** once said of Rice.

In addition to the possibility of a spot on the top 20 scoring list, Rice is six touchdowns away from becoming the first player in history to amass 200 touchdown catches. Minnesota's **CRIS CARTER** is a distant second to Rice in TD receptions, trailing by 64. To put this accomplishment in perspective, only three players in the history of the NFL have racked up even 100 touchdown receptions.

Rice will continue to play as long as he is physically able. "The pedal is still to the metal," he says. "No shortcuts."

The top 21 all-time scorers in NFL history, and the top 10 in TD receptions:

RANK	PLAYER	TD	PAT	FG	POINTS	RANK	PLAYER	TD	PAT	FG	POINTS
1	Gary Anderson	0	783	521	2,346	12	*John Carney	0	404	343	1,433
2	*Morten Andersen	0	753	502	2,259	13	Matt Bahr	0	522	300	1,422
3	George Blanda	9	943	335	2,002	14	Mark Moseley	0	482	300	1,382
4	Norm Johnson	0	638	366	1,736	15	Jim Bakken	0	534	282	1,380
5	Nick Lowery	0	562	383	1,711	16	*Steve Christie	0	435	314	1,377
6	Jan Stenerud	0	580	373	1,699	17	Fred Cox	0	519	282	1,365
7	Lou Groza	1	810	264	1,608	18	*Matt Stover	0	401	321	1,364
8	Eddie Murray	0	538	352	1,594	19	*Jason Elam	0	449	288	1,313
9	Al Del Greco	0	543	347	1,584	20	Jim Breech	0	517	243	1,246
10	Pat Leahy	0	558	304	1,470	21	* <b>Jerry Rice</b>	206	0	0	1,236
11	Jim Turner	1	521	304	1,439		* <b>Active</b>				