



NFL KICKOFF 2005 SCHEDULE
THURSDAY, SUNDAY & MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 11-12
(All times local PM)

Oakland at New England (Thurs., 9:00)	Tennessee at Pittsburgh (1:00)
Houston at Buffalo (1:00)	Chicago at Washington (1:00)
New Orleans at Carolina (1:00)	Green Bay at Detroit (4:15)
Cincinnati at Cleveland (1:00)	Arizona at New York Giants (4:15)
Seattle at Jacksonville (1:00)	Dallas at San Diego (1:15)
New York Jets at Kansas City (12:00)	St. Louis at San Francisco (1:15)
Denver at Miami (1:00)	Indianapolis at Baltimore (8:30)
Tampa Bay at Minnesota (12:00)	Philadelphia at Atlanta (Mon., 9:00)

THE NFL? UNPREDICTABLE!

When it comes to predicting playoff teams in the National Football League, the proposition can be downright impossible.

“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 five 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 FIVE SUPER BOWLS

<u>SUPER BOWL</u>	<u>SUPER BOWL TEAMS</u>	<u>PREVIOUS SEASON’S RECORD</u>
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*
XXXIX	New England defeats Philadelphia	New England 14-2, Philadelphia 12-4

*Missed playoffs the year before

THE NFL IS SO UNPREDICTABLE THAT IN 2004...

- Two teams – Atlanta and San Diego – went from “worst to first” in their divisions, finishing last in 2003 and first in 2004.
- Five teams made the playoffs that were not in the playoffs the year before, the eighth consecutive season in which at least five teams (out of 12) accomplished the feat.
- One division – the NFC West – had its ninth new division champion (Seattle) in the past nine seasons.
- Almost half the games (47 percent) were decided by one score (eight points or less), and almost a quarter (24 percent) were decided by three points or less.

KICKOFF WEEKEND

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 378 teams which won openers...199 went to the playoffs (110 won division titles).

Of the 378 teams which lost openers...89 went to the playoffs (51 won division titles).

In 2004, 11 of the 12 playoff teams – Atlanta, Denver, Green Bay, Minnesota, New England, New York Jets, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, St. Louis, San Diego and Seattle – were victorious on Kickoff Weekend.

OPENING GAME RECORDS OF NFL TEAMS

	Longest Streaks								Longest Streaks						
AFC	W	L	T	Pct.	Win	Loss	Current	NFC	W	L	T	Pct.	Win	Loss	Current
Jacksonville	7	3	0	.700	6	2	W-1	Dallas	30	14	1	.682	17	5	L-5
Houston	2	1	0	.667	2	1	L-1	NY Giants	40	28	4	.588	4	3	L-1
Denver	29	15	1	.659	4	4	W-4	Minnesota	25	18	1	.581	5	3	W-2
Miami	22	16	1	.579	11	5	L-2	Chicago	40	31	1	.563	9	6	L-2
San Diego	26	19	0	.578	6	6	W-1	St. Louis	37	30	0	.552	5	6	W-1
Kansas City	25	20	0	.556	7	4	L-1	Green Bay	38	31	3	.551	5	6	W-1
Oakland	24	21	0	.533	5	5	L-2	Detroit	37	33	2	.529	7	4	W-2
Tennessee	24	21	0	.533	4	3	W-3	San Francisco	28	26	1	.519	5	3	L-1
Cleveland	27	25	0	.519	5	6	W-1	Washington	35	33	4	.515	6	5	W-3
Pittsburgh	34	32	4	.515	4	3	W-2	Atlanta	20	19	0	.513	5	3	W-2
Indianapolis	30	30	1	.500	8	8	L-1	Tampa Bay	12	17	0	.414	3	5	L-1
New England	21	24	0	.467	6	3	W-1	Carolina	4	6	0	.400	3	4	L-1
Cincinnati	16	21	0	.432	4	4	L-3	Philadelphia	28	42	1	.400	5	9	W-1
NY Jets	19	26	0	.422	3	5	W-1	Arizona	27	43	1	.386	6	7	L-5
Buffalo	18	27	0	.400	6	5	L-1	Seattle	9	20	0	.310	3	8	W-2
Baltimore	3	6	0	.333	2	3	L-3	New Orleans	11	27	0	.289	2	6	L-2

