



THE TEAMS

WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN 2005

- The **NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS** have won two consecutive Super Bowls and can become the first team in NFL history to win three Super Bowls in a row.
- The Patriots need one playoff victory to pass the Green Bay Packers (9, 1961-62, 1965-67) for the most consecutive postseason victories in NFL history. New England has won nine playoff games in a row.
- The **PHILADELPHIA EAGLES** have played in four consecutive Championship Games and can become the second team (Oakland, 1973-77) in NFL history to appear in five Championship Games in a row.
- The **PITTSBURGH STEELERS** have won 14 consecutive regular season games and need five wins in a row for the longest regular-season winning streak in NFL history (New England Patriots, 18).
- The **CHICAGO BEARS** need four regular season victories to become the first team with 650 regular season victories.
- The **NEW YORK GIANTS** need seven victories to become the third team (Chicago Bears, 660 and Green Bay Packers, 636) with 600 total victories.
- The **OAKLAND RAIDERS** need 10 regular season victories to reach 400 regular season victories.

NFL: A CONSISTENCY OF WINNING

Sure, every year in the NFL there are surprise teams. That’s the appeal of the league to fans – their team has a chance! But when looking at tendencies, there is a surprising consistency of teams that go to the playoffs and win Super Bowls.

Of the 12 teams that made the 2004 playoffs, seven were winners of the past 10 Super Bowls. In that time, one of those teams (New England) has played in four Super Bowls, and three (Denver, Green Bay and St. Louis) in two Super Bowls, while Atlanta played in Super Bowl XXXIII and Pittsburgh in XXX. During that span, the Patriots have won three championships and the Broncos have won two. The other winners include Tampa Bay, Baltimore, St. Louis, Green Bay and Dallas.

A rundown of the past 10 Super Bowls:

SUPER BOWL	DATE	WINNING TEAM	LOSING TEAM	SCORE	SITE
XXXIX	Feb. 6, 2005	New England	Philadelphia	24-21	Jacksonville
XXXVIII	Feb. 1, 2004	New England	Carolina	32-29	Houston
XXXVII	Jan. 26, 2003	Tampa Bay	Oakland	48-21	San Diego
XXXVI	Feb. 3, 2002	New England	St. Louis	20-17	New Orleans
XXXV	Jan. 28, 2001	Baltimore	New York Giants	34-7	Tampa Bay
XXXIV	Jan. 30, 2000	St. Louis	Tennessee	23-16	Atlanta
XXXIII	Jan. 31, 1999	Denver	Atlanta	34-19	Miami
XXXII	Jan. 25, 1998	Denver	Green Bay	31-24	San Diego
XXXI	Jan. 26, 1997	Green Bay	New England	35-21	New Orleans
XXX	Jan. 28, 1996	Dallas	Pittsburgh	27-17	Tempe

Put differently, seven of last year’s 12 playoff teams have had 13 of the 20 Super Bowl appearances of the past 10 seasons. Most of last season’s playoff teams have had consistently strong cumulative won-loss records in recent seasons, headed by Philadelphia with a 59-21 (.738) regular-season record over the past five years. In fact, the top five teams with the best regular-season records since 2000 qualified for the postseason last year.

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

TEAM	W	L	T	PCT.	DIVISION TITLES	PLAYOFF BERTHS
Philadelphia	59	21	0	.738	4	5
Pittsburgh	53	26	1	.669	3	3
Green Bay	53	27	0	.663	3	4
New England	53	27	0	.663	3	3
St. Louis	51	29	0	.638	2	4

