



PATS & EAGLES: BEST TEAMS OF THE MILLENNIUM ?

One team has won three of the millennium’s five Super Bowls while the other has won more games than any other since 2000.

The **NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS** and **PHILADELPHIA EAGLES**, the respective defending champions of the AFC and NFC, have the early lead on the NFL’s “Kings of the Millennium” moniker. Both clubs win with uncommon frequency – not just in the context of today’s competition-balanced NFL, but in an all-time scope.

With a Super Bowl XL championship in Detroit next February, the Patriots would become the first team to win three consecutive Super Bowls as well as the first to win four in five years. In the NFL’s 85 years, only the Green Bay Packers of 1929-31 and 1965-67 won three league titles in a row.

The Eagles, who tower over all NFL clubs with 59 wins since the turn of the century, are one of only five teams all-time to win at least 12 regular-season games in three consecutive years. Twelve more wins in 2005 would tie Philadelphia with the 1992-95 Cowboys for the longest such streak in league history.

A look at the NFL’s winningest teams since 2000:

TEAM	W	L	T	PCT.	PLAYOFF BERTHS SINCE '00
Philadelphia Eagles	59	21	0	.738	5
Pittsburgh Steelers	53	26	1	.669	3
Green Bay Packers	53	27	0	.663	4
New England Patriots	53	27	0	.663	3
St. Louis Rams	51	29	0	.638	4



ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF WINNING CONSISTENCY? STEELERS AIM TO BREAK PATS’ ONE-YEAR-OLD WIN STREAK

In 1933-34, NFL fans watched in awe as the **CHICAGO BEARS** achieved the seemingly impossible -- winning 17 consecutive regular-season games. It would be 70 years until the feat was topped.

Last season, the **NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS** produced a record-breaking 18-game regular-season win streak before they were defeated 34-20 by the **PITTSBURGH STEELERS** on October 31.

Forget another 70 years! This year, the Steelers can claim the title for themselves. Finishing ‘04 with 14 consecutive wins, they need victories in their first five games in 2005 to achieve a record-setting 19 straight wins.

Steelers quarterback **BEN ROETHLISBERGER**, the Associated Press 2004 Offensive Rookie of the Year, wants to make sure the streak keeps going.

“I don’t ever want to remember what it is like to lose,” he says.

The top five regular-season consecutive win streaks in NFL history:

TEAM	YEARS	CONSECUTIVE REGULAR-SEASON WINS
New England Patriots	2003-04	18
Chicago Bears	1933-34	17
Chicago Bears	1941-42	16
Miami Dolphins	1971-73	16
Miami Dolphins	1983-84	16
Pittsburgh Steelers	2004-Present	14

WHAT ELSE IS NEW? STEELERS RUSH MORE, PASS LESS THAN ANYBODY

Ol’ time Steelers football!

Last season, thanks to the resurgence of **JEROME BETTIS** – who is coming back this year – to spell **DUCE STALEY** when he was injured, Pittsburgh won more games (15) than anybody by keeping the ball on the ground. They had the most rushing attempts (618) and the fewest passing attempts (358) in the NFL in 2004.

The Steelers rushed 260 more times than they threw, double the next nearest team in the category, Atlanta (129).

But will the emergence of quarterback **BEN ROETHLISBERGER** alter the team’s strategy?

“We want to run the football, that’s our identity,” says Steelers offensive coordinator **KEN WHISENHUNT**. “But I think we’ll be able to do a few more things throwing the football this year, especially on first and second down, and I think that will even help us run the ball better.” The top five teams of 2004 who ran more than they passed, ranked by differential:

TEAM	RUSHES	PASSES	DIFFERENTIAL
Pittsburgh Steelers	618	358	260
Atlanta Falcons	524	395	129
New York Jets	527	438	89
San Diego Chargers	525	450	75
New England Patriots	524	485	30

