



MANNINGIFICENT!

His leadership is what every team desires from its quarterback while his astounding statistics make a super computer emit smoke. He is **PEYTON MANNING** of the Indianapolis Colts.

Last season Manning’s record-setting touchdown pass total (49) surpassed the mark of 48 set in 1984 by former Miami Dolphins quarterback and 2005 Pro Football Hall of Fame enshrinee **DAN MARINO**. Marino sees some of himself in the Colts’ 29-year-old passer.

“I felt like I was able to control a game with the people we had offensively,” says Marino. “We could dictate what we wanted to do and you can see that in Peyton – that’s what he does. He goes to the line of scrimmage, he puts in a play and he does that. And he’s got the weapons to do it.

“Every quarterback, no matter if it’s (**JOHN**) **ELWAY** or (**JOE**) **MONTANA**, or (**BRETT**) **FAVRE** or myself or Peyton Manning, everybody has their own style. What you love about him is he gets it done as smooth as anybody ever has for sure.”

In only seven seasons, the charts below illustrate Manning's impact on the NFL.

Most passing yards in any four-year span in NFL history:

PLAYER	TEAM	YARDS	SEASONS
Dan Marino	Miami Dolphins	17,212	1984-87
Peyton Manning	Indianapolis Colts	17,155	2001-04
Peyton Manning	Indianapolis Colts	17,011	2000-03
Peyton Manning	Indianapolis Colts	16,879	1999-02
Dan Fouts	San Diego Chargers	16,598	1978-81

Most career 4,000+ passing yards seasons all-time:

PLAYER	TEAM	4,000-YD SEASONS	YEARS
Dan Marino	Miami Dolphins	6	1984-86, '88, '92, '94
Peyton Manning	Indianapolis Colts	6	1999-04
Warren Moon	Houston, Minnesota	4	1990-91, 1994-95
Dan Fouts	San Diego Chargers	3	1979-81
Brett Favre	Green Bay Packers	3	1995, '98-99

One of the league’s winningest coaches, Denver’s **MIKE SHANAHAN**, was San Francisco’s offensive coordinator in 1994 when 49ers quarterback and 2005 Pro Football Hall of Fame enshrinee **STEVE YOUNG** posted a single-season passer rating of 112.8 – the best in NFL history until Manning’s mark of 121.1 last year. “I thought that (112.8 passer rating) would be impossible to break,” says Shanahan. “Peyton just shattered it, so it kind of gives you an idea of what I think about him.”

“He came out of college better prepared to play pro football than any player I’ve ever seen,” says Hall of Fame coach **BILL WALSH**. “I observed him as a college player and you could see that he had so much in command and was so well coached – both on the field and at home. He had full confidence in everything that he did and his mechanics were excellent. He was much further along than any quarterback I’d seen.”

Still, winning in the NFL did not come easily for the Tennessee product and two-time league MVP. Manning and the Colts endured a 3-13 season in his rookie year (1998) before turning the corner to become a perennial NFL power.

Manning’s inner strength is illustrated by the fact that he is only one of four quarterbacks since 1970 to currently reside or retire 10 games above .500 as a starter after reaching a point of being 10 games below .500 – an impressive 20-game swing.

PLAYER	TEAM (YEARS)	MOST GAMES BELOW .500	MOST GAMES ABOVE .500	FINAL RECORD	PCT.
Steve Young	Tampa Bay (1985-86); San Francisco (1987-99)	-14 (3-17)	+45 (94-49)	94-49	.657
Peyton Manning*	Indianapolis (1998-present)	-10 (5-15)	+20 (66-46)	66-46 (current)	.589
Troy Aikman	Dallas (1989-2000)	-15 (3-18)	+29 (94-71)	94-71	.570
Trent Dilfer*	Tampa Bay (1994-99); Baltimore (2000); Seattle (2001-04); Cleveland (present)	-11 (8-19)	+10 (49-39)	49-39 (current)	.557

*Active

Every youngster who aspires to play quarterback in the NFL pretends to be a top-flight passer. Manning had his father **ARCHIE** to look up to when throwing passes to brothers in the family's backyard and also had a keen appreciation for Marino's skills.

“I've got a lot of respect for him, not only as a player and as a friend, but as a person,” says Marino. “It makes you feel good when you have quarterbacks like Peyton who say that they watched you and enjoyed your style of play. I used to watch **TERRY BRADSHAW** and I loved **JOE NAMATH**. That’s what makes the quarterback position so great. It’s something special.”

A sampling of some of Manning’s accomplishments:

- Has the longest consecutive games started streak (112) to begin a career by any quarterback in NFL history.
- In 1998, was handed a 3-13 Colts team and has helped club reach the playoffs five times in the past six years.
- Has more wins as a starter than any quarterback since 1999 (63).
- Only quarterback in league history to record six consecutive 4,000-yard passing seasons (and counting).
- Passed for NFL single-season record 49 touchdowns in 2004.
- Has only missed one of 7,068 career snaps due to injury.
- Has thrown a TD pass in 100 of 112 career games and has passed for two touchdowns in 64 of 112 games.
- No player in league history has passed for more yards in his first seven seasons (29,442).
- Has 25 or more touchdown passes in seven consecutive seasons (and counting) for longest such streak in league annals.

