



'05: BIG STREAKS, 11-WIN TEAMS, EXCELLING PLAYERS... AND THE LONGEST PLAY EVER

A streak that made the '72 Dolphins nervous...teams that piled up the wins...an all-time touchdown record...and one of the most memorable – *and the longest* – plays in NFL history.

Did the NFL leave anything out in 2005? Not likely.

"You never know what you're going to get from week-to-week in the NFL," says Giants center **SHAUN O'HARA**.

You got that right, Shaun!

What fans got in the NFL in 2005 was 17 weeks of drama, excitement and unpredictability.

They seemed like they were going to get 17 weeks of an undefeated season by the **INDIANAPOLIS COLTS** until the team came back to the rest of the NFL mortals with its first loss on December 18 after 13 wins in a row -- one behind the 1972 Miami Dolphins' all-time season record.

The Colts were just one of many teams to pile up 11-or-more victories, spreading excellence throughout the NFL. Right behind them was the second team to earn homefield advantage in the playoffs, the **SEATTLE SEAHAWKS**, who won 11 in a row.

A Seattle player, running back **SHAUN ALEXANDER**, set the NFL record for touchdowns in a season (28) that had been established by **PRIEST HOLMES** (27) only two years ago.

All over the league, there were similar stellar performances. **TIKI BARBER** seemed to break off 40-, 50- and 60-yard bursts at will...**STEVE SMITH** was always hauling in long passes...**TOM BRADY**, not known as a gunslinger, threw for 4,110 yards, the most in the league...the **CINCINNATI BENGALS** were a pickoff machine, the only team with at least 30 interceptions...the **MIAMI DOLPHINS** said "Hello, 2006" by winning their final six games...**DICK VERMEIL** said goodbye and **JOE GIBBS** said you're never too old by leading the Redskins to the playoffs in only his second season back.

Old? Forty-three-year-old **DOUG FLUTIE** dropped-kicked a point-after, the NFL's first in 64 years.

But to capture the pure exuberance of the NFL in 2005, you need to look no further than the Chicago Bears' **NATHAN VASHER** on November 13.

In a game at Soldier Field against San Francisco, the winds were blowing up to 47 MPH when 49ers kicker **JOE NEDNEY** attempted a 52-yard field goal on the final play of the first half. No way. The wind blew the ball far to the left of the goalpost and Vasher fielded it deep in his end zone.

He hesitated for a moment, then brought it out to the 15, saw too many 49ers there and cut to the right, picking up a convoy of orange-jerseyed Bears teammates. Block after block ensued, and suddenly a huffing Vasher was in the end zone – 108 yards away from where he had fielded the errant kick. Nathan Vasher had just engineered a record setter – *the longest play in NFL history!*

"I felt like I was running the 400 meters out there," said Vasher.

Great plays, longest plays -- the NFL was packed with them this season. An NFL review from Kickoff '05 in Foxboro to the final-decision-making Week 17 across America:

IN 2005...

- Ten clubs won at least 11 games, the most ever in one season.

- Thirteen teams won at least 10 games, tying 2003 for the most in a season in NFL history.
- The **KANSAS CITY CHIEFS** became only the fourth team since the league went to the 12-team playoff format in 1990 to win 10 games and miss the playoffs (1991 Philadelphia and San Francisco; 2003 Miami).
- The 12 teams to make the playoffs combined for 138 wins – the most victories of any playoff field ever. Their combined winning percentage (.719, 138-54) is the highest in a playoff field in 28 years (1977, .732, 82-30).
- On December 24 when the **INDIANAPOLIS COLTS** (13) played the **SEATTLE SEAHAWKS** (12), it marked the most combined wins (25) between two opponents in a regular-season game in history.
- For the fourth time since 2000, two teams – the **CHICAGO BEARS** and **TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS** -- went from “worst to first” in their divisions, finishing last a year ago and first in 2005. The Bears were 1-3 at one point in the season.
- Scoring averaged more than 40.0 points per game (41.2) for the 12th consecutive season.
- An incredible 62 points were scored in the first half of the November 20 game between Indianapolis (35) and the **CINCINNATI BENGALS** (27) – the second highest first-half total in history (70, 11/17/85, Tampa Bay at NY Jets).
- Three players – **SHAUN ALEXANDER** (28), **LARRY JOHNSON** (21) and **LA DAINIAN TOMLINSON** (20) – scored 20 touchdowns, the most such players in a season in history.
- Three players rushed for 1,750 yards – Alexander (1,880), **TIKI BARBER** (1,860) and Johnson (1,750) – also the most such players in a season.
- Games were **“thisclose.”** Nearly half of NFL games were decided by one score:

POINTS	GAMES	PCT.
8 or Less	123 of 256	48%
7 or Less	115 of 256	45%
3 or Less	61 of 256	24%

- Seventeen percent of games were decided in the final two minutes or overtime.
- “Hot teams” made the playoffs: Since Thanksgiving weekend – when the playoff race really starts to heat up – the 12 playoff teams combined for a .722 winning percentage (52-20).
- Consistently good teams: Most of this year’s playoff field has been consistently strong over the past five years, headed by New England (.725 win pct.), Pittsburgh (.694), Indianapolis (.675), Denver (.625) and Seattle (.600). Four of those five clubs have averaged at least 10.0 wins per season over that time, with Seattle at 9.6.
- For the third year in a row, the NFL set a paid attendance record. Games averaged 66,453 fans, topping the record 66,409 of 2004. Total paid attendance was 17,011,986, marking the second consecutive year that NFL teams sold more than 17 million tickets. Stadiums were filled to 90 percent of capacity.

Two of the NFL’s top three attendance weekends came in the second half of the season.

In Week 11 (November 20-21), an all-time attendance record was set – 1,112,555 fans. A month later (Week 16, December 24-26), a total of 1,102,701 fans attended games, ranking as the third highest weekend total ever – after Week 11 of this year, and the 1,106,818 of Week 17 in 2003.

- Forty years after it first identified the NFL as America’s most popular sport, the Harris Poll said the NFL is *still* America’s most popular sport, by more than double the No. 2 sport, baseball. Thirty-three percent of those polled by Harris in December chose the NFL as their favorite sport, a 19 percent margin over those who choose baseball (14 percent).

“Professional football continues to surge in popularity,” wrote Harris in summarizing its survey.

HURRICANE RELIEF

When Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast region of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama in late August, the NFL went to work.

Within days it had organized a **Hurricane Relief Weekend** that would take place on September 18-19 and would be spearheaded by a telethon to coincide with *Monday Night Football* telecasts.

By the end of the evening of the 19th, NFL fans had pledged \$5 million to the Bush-Clinton Katrina Fund during the Hurricane Relief Weekend telethon. The NFL, its owners, teams and players association also raised their collective donations to \$12 million over the weekend with major gifts.

In addition to their own contributions, NFL teams and relief organizations raised approximately \$4 million from fans at stadiums over the weekend, bringing the total generated by the NFL to **\$21 million**.

The highlight of the weekend was the 6 1/2-hour telethon on Monday night on ABC and ESPN in which 35 NFL stars -- past and present -- manned phones at ABC's Times Square studio in New York City, accepting pledges from fans during the NFL doubleheader televised by ABC and ESPN.

The NFL, its teams and players continued to support Gulf Coast relief efforts throughout the season.

In December, the NFL and NFL Players Association, through the NFL Youth Football Fund (YFF), announced that they will contribute a minimum of \$1 million toward youth and high school football program relief efforts in Louisiana, Mississippi and other affected areas of the Gulf Coast region.

The \$1 million donation will help revitalize damaged fields, replace lost equipment and uniforms, and address other needs.

Throughout these efforts, the New Orleans Saints were forced to play their games in Baton Rouge and San Antonio. It was a learning and strengthening experience for the players.

"What we went through is minute if you compare it to what people in New Orleans went through, especially close to where the levees broke. They lost everything," said Saints running back **AARON STECKER** at the end of the season. "I'm proud of everybody. I'm glad I was part of this team. This will be a memory for a lifetime."

103,476 AT FÚTBOL AMERICANO!

When **ROBERT GRIFFITH** ran out of the tunnel waving the Mexican flag, the roar of 103,467 fans was deafening.

The moment captured the excitement of a history-making NFL game on Sunday night, October 2. Griffith's Arizona Cardinals took on the San Francisco 49ers at Azteca Stadium in Mexico City in the first NFL regular-season game played outside the United States.

And 103,467 fans showed up -- many right before game-time -- to make it the **biggest regular-season crowd in NFL history**.

There was raucous cheering, singing, whistling and performing of "La Ola" -- the wave -- throughout the night as Mexico -- with the largest NFL fan contingent outside of the U.S. -- saluted "fútbol Americano."

"It was probably the best crowd I've ever been around," said Cardinals kicker **NEIL RACKERS**, who converted six field goals through the elevated 7,700-foot air in Arizona's 31-14 win.

The game could open the way to annual NFL regular-season international games. And *USA Today* thinks that could be a smart move.

"The NFL is widely seen as the best-run sports league in the USA," a *USA Today* editorial stated the morning after the game. "Perhaps the best evidence of this is its effort to go global and to spread its appeal beyond its current audience. In a world that is getting smaller and flatter each day, any sport that isn't everywhere is nowhere."

THE PLAYERS

PLAYER	ACCOMPLISHMENTS
SHAUN ALEXANDER <i>RB, Seattle Seahawks</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set a single-season record for TDs with 28 (Priest Holmes, 27, 2003). • First player with at least 15 touchdowns in five consecutive seasons. • Only player since 1970 to post nine consecutive 100-yard performances against division opponents (streak active). • Fourth player with multiple 20-TD seasons (Marshall Faulk, Priest Holmes, Emmitt Smith). • Fourth player with two TD runs of 88 yards or longer (88-yard TD against Arizona in Week 9), joining Ahman Green, Bo Jackson and O.J. Simpson. • Fifth player to rush for 1,600 yards in back-to-back seasons (Earl Campbell, Eric Dickerson, Terrell Davis, LaDainian Tomlinson). • Sixteenth player to rush for 1,800 yards in a season (1,880). • The Seahawks were undefeated in the 11 games Alexander posted at least 100 rushing yards – the highest winning percentage for any team with a 100-yard rusher in a single season (minimum 10 games). • Part of the first trio to score 20 TDs in the same season, along with Larry Johnson (21) and LaDainian Tomlinson (20).
RONDE BARBER <i>CB, Tampa Bay Buccaneers</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First cornerback to register 20 career interceptions (28) and 20 career sacks (20). • Reached 20 sacks and 25 interceptions in 126 career games – the second-fewest ever (Rodney Harrison, 114 games).
TIKI BARBER <i>RB, N.Y. Giants</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Passed LaDainian Tomlinson (2,370) for second most yards from scrimmage in a season with 2,390. Marshall Faulk holds the record (2,429). • Tied O.J. Simpson for second-most 200-yard rushing games in a season (3). Only Earl Campbell (4) has more. • Seventeenth player to rush for 1,800 yards in a season (1,860).
JEROME BETTIS <i>RB, Pittsburgh Steelers</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ran for 101 yards on 12/11, giving him 61 100-yard rushing games in his career. He now ranks fifth all-time (Emmitt Smith, 78; Water Payton, 77; Barry Sanders, 76; Eric Dickerson, 64).
DREW BLEDSOE <i>QB, Dallas Cowboys</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tenth player to record 40,000 career passing yards. His 43,477 yards now ranks seventh all-time. • Now ranks fifth in all-time completions (3,731). • Tossed 23 TD passes, moving up to No. 15 on all-time list (244).
TOM BRADY <i>QB, New England Patriots</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recorded 50th career win in his 65th start, the second-fewest amount of games by a QB needed to reach 50 victories (Ken Stabler, 62).
ISAAC BRUCE <i>WR, St. Louis Rams</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Became 11th player with 12,000 yards receiving (12,278). • Became 14th player with 800 catches (813).

JASON ELAM <i>K, Denver Broncos</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First player to score 100 points in each of his first 13 seasons.
MARSHALL FAULK <i>RB, St. Louis Rams</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Became career leader in receiving yards by a running back (6,875), passing Larry Centers (6,797).
BRETT FAVRE <i>QB, Green Bay Packers</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Threw for 3,000 yards for the 14th consecutive season – an NFL record. Extended his record streak of consecutive seasons with 20 TD passes (12). Third QB to pass for at least 50,000 yards (Dan Marino, 61,361; John Elway, 51,475). Now ranks second all-time in pass attempts with 7,611 (Dan Marino, 8,358). Threw 11 TDs at Lambeau Field this season, raising his career total to 189 at the venue – the most ever by a QB at one stadium (John Elway, 180 at Mile High Stadium).
JEFF FEAGLES <i>P, N.Y. Giants</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Surpassed Jim Marshall's NFL-record 282 consecutive games played streak. Has now played in 288 consecutive games and counting. Now ranks No. 1 all-time in career punts (1,437).
DOUG FLUTIE <i>QB, New England Patriots</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First player to convert a drop kick since 12/21/1941 (Ray McClean, Chicago Bears). Flutie drop-kicked an extra point in the Pats' 28-26 Week 17 loss to Miami.
ANTONIO GATES <i>TE, San Diego Chargers</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First TE to score 10 TDs in back-to-back seasons. Gates posted 10 touchdowns in '05 and 13 in '04.
TONY GONZALEZ <i>TE, Kansas City Chiefs</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Posted 50 catches for the eighth consecutive season, the most ever by a tight end. Now ranks third all-time among TEs in receiving TDs with 56 (Shannon Sharpe 62; Jerry Smith, 60).
BEN GRAHAM <i>P, N.Y. Jets</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oldest rookie to start an NFL season on an active roster (31 years old). Second-oldest rookie to play in a game (Washington K Ola Kimrin played in five games at 32 years old in 2004).
DANTE HALL <i>WR-KR, Kansas City Chiefs</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scored a record-tying sixth career kickoff return for a touchdown on 10/2, joining Ollie Matson, Gale Sayers, Travis Wilson and Mel Gray. Second player to post 2,000 multi-purpose yards in four consecutive seasons with 2,283 this year (Marshall Faulk).
MARVIN HARRISON <i>WR, Indianapolis Colts</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Along with teammate Peyton Manning, established records for most TDs, yards and completions by a QB-WR duo: 94 TDs; 10,542 yards; and 783 completions. The combinations of Steve Young-Jerry Rice (85 TDs) and Jim Kelly-Andre Reed (9,538 yards and 663 completions) previously held those marks. Manning-Harrison is the first QB-WR tandem to combine for 10,000 yards. Harrison and teammate Edgerrin James have now accounted for at least 100 yards apiece in a record 22 career games, surpassing the mark previously held by Emmitt Smith and Michael Irvin (20). Passed Don Maynard for the second most 100-yard receiving games ever, posting six this season to bring his career total to 53. Only Jerry Rice (76) has more. Twelfth player to surpass 12,000 receiving yards (12,331).
TORRY HOLT <i>WR, St. Louis Rams</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extended his record streak of consecutive seasons with 1,300 yards receiving (6). He now trails only Jerry Rice for most total seasons with 1,300 yards (7).

EDGERRIN JAMES <i>RB, Indianapolis Colts</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> James and teammate Marvin Harrison have now accounted for at least 100 yards apiece in a record 22 career games, surpassing the mark previously held by Emmitt Smith and Michael Irvin (20). Surpassed 9,000 career rushing yards in the third fewest games (93). Only Eric Dickerson (82) and Jim Brown (88) reached the mark quicker. Fourth player to rush for 1,500 yards in at least four seasons (Barry Sanders, 5; Eric Dickerson, 4; Walter Payton, 4). Passed Franco Harris on the all-time 100-yard rushing games list into the No. 8 spot. James has topped the 100 mark 49 times in his career. Rushed for 1,000 yards for the fifth time in his career.
LARRY JOHNSON <i>RB, Kansas City Chiefs</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Active streak of consecutive 100-yard rushing games (9) is tied for the third longest ever (Walter Payton, Fred Taylor, Deuce McAllister). Part of the first trio to score 20 TDs in the same season, along with Shaun Alexander (28) and LaDainian Tomlinson (20). Set NFL record for most rushing yards (1,351) from November 1 to end of season.
SHANE LECHLER <i>P, Oakland Raiders</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established a record for most consecutive games with a punt of at least 50 yards (33) since 1970, surpassing Rick Tuten's previous mark of 30.
ELI MANNING <i>QB, N.Y. Giants</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eli and Peyton Manning became first pair of brothers to throw for four TD passes on same day (10/2). Eli finished 19 of 35 in a 44-24 win over the Rams, while Peyton finished 20-27 in a 31-10 win over the Titans.
PEYTON MANNING <i>QB, Indianapolis Colts</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Along with teammate Marvin Harrison, established records for most TDs, yards and completions by a QB-WR duo: 94 TDs; 10,542 yards; and 783 completions. The combinations of Steve Young-Jerry Rice (85 TDs) and Jim Kelly-Andre Reed (9,538 yards and 663 completions) formerly held those marks. Manning-Harrison is the first QB-WR combo to account for 10,000 yards. Peyton and Eli Manning became first pair of brothers to throw for four TD passes on same day (10/2). Eli finished 19 of 35 in a 44-24 win over the Rams, while Peyton finished 20-27 in a 31-10 win over the Titans. Extended his record streak of consecutive seasons with at least 25 TD passes (8). Amassed 30,000 passing yards in the second fewest games ever (115). Dan Marino reached the mark in 114 games. Extended his active streak of consecutive years with 3,000 yards passing (8), which is the third longest all-time (Brett Favre, 13; Dan Marino, 9). Manning is the first QB to begin a career with eight straight 3,000-yard seasons. Has an active streak of 128 consecutive starts, passing Ron Jaworski (116) for second-most all-time. Brett Favre's active streak of 221 is the record.
CURTIS MARTIN <i>RB, N.Y. Jets</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fourth player to rush for 14,000 yards (14,101), joining Emmitt Smith, Walter Payton and Barry Sanders. Seventh player to amass 17,000 yards from scrimmage (17,430). Sixteenth player with at least 100 career touchdowns (100).
KEENAN MC CARDELL <i>WR, San Diego Chargers</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thirteenth player with 800 catches (825).

TERRENCE MC GEE <i>CB, Buffalo Bills</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First player with kickoff and interception returns for TDs in same game (12/24 at Cincinnati).
RANDY MOSS <i>WR, Oakland Raiders</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reached the 10,000-yard receiving mark in 124 games – the fourth fewest ever (Marvin Harrison, 122; Jerry Rice, 121; Lance Alworth, 120). Twenty-fourth WR with 10,000 yards (10,147).
TERRELL OWENS <i>WR, Philadelphia Eagles</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sixth WR to score 100 career touchdowns (103). Reached the 100-TD mark in 141 games, the second fewest games ever by a WR (Jerry Rice, 120). Twenty-second player with at least 10,000 receiving yards (10,535).
CARSON PALMER <i>QB, Cincinnati Bengals</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tied record for most consecutive games with a 100.0 passer rating (Peyton Manning, 9) and most games with 100.0 rating in one season (11).
CLINTON PORTIS <i>RB, Washington Redskins</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Third player to post 1,300 yards in each of his first four seasons (Earl Campbell and Barry Sanders).
NEIL RACKERS <i>K, Arizona Cardinals</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Converted a record 40 field goals this season, bettering the single-season mark shared by Olindo Mare and Jeff Wilkins (39). Established record for most consecutive games with at least two FGs (11). Established record for most consecutive games with a 50-yard FG (4).
BEN ROETHLISBERGER <i>QB, Pittsburgh Steelers</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Posted a perfect 158.3 passer rating on 9/11, becoming the first player to do so since Trent Green (12/14/03) and the 32nd QB since 1970 to do so with at least 10 attempts.
WILL SHIELDS <i>G, Kansas City Chiefs</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fourth non-kicker since 1970 to start 200 consecutive games.
JIMMY SMITH <i>WR, Jacksonville Jaguars</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Totaled 1,000 receiving yards for the ninth time in 10 seasons (1,023). He is now tied with Tim Brown for second-most such seasons (Jerry Rice, 14). Now ranks seventh amongst all-time receptions leaders (862). Twelfth player to catch 800 passes. Thirteenth player to compile 12,000 yards receiving (12,287).
ROD SMITH <i>WR, Denver Broncos</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First undrafted player to tally 10,000 yards receiving (10,877).
MATT STOVER <i>K, Baltimore Ravens</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Now ranks eighth all-time in points scored (1,593).
JASON TAYLOR <i>DE, Miami Dolphins</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tied Jessie Tuggle for most career fumbles returned for a TD (5). First player since Bruce Smith (11/20/00) to register at least 3.0 sacks and a safety in the same game (33-21 win at Oakland on 11/27).
VINNY TESTAVERDE <i>QB, N.Y. Jets</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has thrown at least one TD pass in a record 19 consecutive seasons. Third oldest QB to start and win a game at 41 years, 330 days (Doug Flutie, 42 years, 71 days; Warren Moon, 41 years, 355 days).
LA DAINIAN TOMLINSON <i>RB, San Diego Chargers</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established a record for most consecutive games with a rushing TD (18), surpassing the mark shared by George Rogers and John Riggins (13). The streak ties Lenny Moore for the most consecutive games with a rushing or receiving TD. Tomlinson's jersey from Week 2 – his record 14th consecutive game with a rushing TD – is now on display at the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First player to rush for 10 TDs in each of his first five seasons. • Seventh player to rush for 1,000 yards in each of his first five seasons. • First player since David Patten (10/21/01) to register a rushing, receiving, and passing touchdown in the same game (10/16). This has occurred five times since 1970 and 11 times in history. • Part of the first trio to score 20 TDs in the same season, along with Shaun Alexander (28) and Larry Johnson (20).
NATHAN VASHER <i>CB, Chicago Bears</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Returned a missed FG attempt 108 yards for a TD against San Francisco (11/13) – the longest play in NFL history. • Vasher's jersey worn during his record-setting play is now on display at the Pro Football Hall of Fame.
ADAM VINATIERI <i>K, New England Patriots</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Second player to score 100 points in first 10 seasons (Jason Elam, 13).
MIKE VRABEL <i>LB, New England Patriots</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First player to register one sack and two TDs in the same game (31-21 win at N.Y Jets, 12/26).
CADILLAC WILLIAMS <i>RB, Tampa Bay Buccaneers</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First player to start career with three consecutive 100-yard rushing games (148, 128, 158). • Williams' total of 454 yards in his first three games also is a record (Alan Ameche, 410). • The shoes and gloves worn by Williams when he reached 454 yards in Week 3 are now on display at the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

TEAM RECORDS

TEAM	ACCOMPLISHMENTS
ARIZONA CARDINALS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WRs ANQUAN BOLDIN (102 receptions for 1,402 yards) and LARRY FITZGERALD (103 receptions for 1,409 yards) became the third WR tandem in history to post 100 catches in the same season (Rod Smith and Ed McCaffrey, 2000; Herman Moore and Brett Perriman, 1995). • Boldin-Fitzgerald is also the third WR tandem to post 1,400 yards apiece in the same season (Isaac Bruce and Torry Holt, 2000; Moore and Perriman, 1995). • Boldin posted at least 100 yards receiving in a team-record five consecutive games. • K NEIL RACKERS converted a club record 31 consecutive field goals.
BALTIMORE RAVENS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TE TODD HEAP is now the franchise's all-time leading receiver in yards (2,893), receptions (243) and touchdowns (20). • WR DERRICK MASON set a single-season team record for receptions (83).
BUFFALO BILLS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WR LEE EVANS became the first player in Bills history to score three TDs in the same quarter (Q1, 12/4 at Miami).
CAROLINA PANTHERS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DE MIKE RUCKER surpassed Kevin Greene as the franchise's all-time sack leader with 47.5. • WR STEVE SMITH set Panthers records with 1,563 receiving yards and nine 100-yard games.

CHICAGO BEARS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Became first NFL franchise to win 650 regular-season games (657). RB THOMAS JONES rushed for 1,335 yards – more than any other player in a Bears season besides Walter Payton. Jones' total is the most by a Bears' rusher since 1985 (Payton, 1,551). QB KYLE ORTON won 10 games, the most by a rookie selected in the fourth round or below since the common draft in 1967.
CINCINNATI BENGALS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RB RUDI JOHNSON (1,458 yards) and WR CHAD JOHNSON (1,432 yards) became the third set of teammates in NFL history to set franchise rushing and receiving records in the same season. QB CARSON PALMER set single-season team records for passing TDs (32) and passer rating (101.1). CB DELTA O'NEAL intercepted a team-record 10 passes this season. He was the first Bengal to lead or share the lead in the NFL in interceptions. K SHAYNE GRAHAM broke his own Bengals record for single-season points (131).
CLEVELAND BROWNS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RB REUBEN DROUGHS set a franchise record for rushing attempts in a season (309) and is the first Browns RB to rush for 1,000 yards since 1985 (Kevin Mack and Earnest Byner). Droughns (1,232 yards rushing) and WR ANTONIO BRYANT (1,009 yards receiving) are the first Browns' teammates since 1981 to amass 1,000 yards rushing and receiving in the same season (Mike Pruitt and Ozzie Newsome).
DENVER BRONCOS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CB CHAMP BAILEY intercepted a pass in a club-record five consecutive games.
GREEN BAY PACKERS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> K RYAN LONGWELL became the first Packer to score 1,000 career points. Longwell also set a club record for consecutive games with at least one FG (15).
INDIANAPOLIS COLTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RB EDGERRIN JAMES became the Colts' all-time leader in rushing TDs with 64 (Lenny Moore, 63). QB PEYTON MANNING, WR MARVIN HARRISON and James tied the NFL record for most games with a 300-yard QB, a 100-yard RB, and a 100-yard WR after accomplishing the feat for the fourth time on 11/7. The following trios have also done it four times: Jim Kelly, Andre Reed and Thurman Thomas; Kurt Warner, Isaac Bruce and Marshall Faulk. Head coach TONY DUNGY established a franchise record for consecutive home victories (11) and won 21 of 22 consecutive games spanning two seasons. Dungy recorded his 100th career victory on 10/20 (31-17 win at Houston), becoming the 34th coach to reach the milestone.
KANSAS CITY CHIEFS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RB LARRY JOHNSON rushed for a club-record 1,750 yards despite starting only nine games. Johnson also set a single-game rushing mark with 211 against Houston (11/20). TE TONY GONZALEZ set two club receiving records: most consecutive games with a reception (84), and most career receiving yards (7,810). RB PRIEST HOLMES became the franchise leader in attempts from scrimmage (rushes and receptions), with 1,466. WR EDDIE KENNISON became second Chiefs WR to post 1,000 yards in back-to-back seasons (Carlos Carson, 1983-84).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Head coach DICK VERMEIL faced off against Joe Gibbs on 10/16 for the first time since 11/28/82. The 23-year gap between meetings was the longest ever between two head coaches.
MIAMI DOLPHINS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WR CHRIS CHAMBERS set franchise single-game records for receptions (15) and receiving yards (238) on 12/4 vs. Buffalo. Rookie RB RONNIE BROWN rushed for 907 yards – second most by a Dolphins rookie (Abdul-Karim al-Jabbar; 1,116 in 1996).
MINNESOTA VIKINGS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First team with TDs on interception, kickoff and punt returns in same game (11/13 at N.Y. Giants).
NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> K ADAM VINATIERI became the Pats' all-time leading scorer with 1,156 (Gino Cappelletti; 1,130). WR TROY BROWN became second Patriots WR to amass 500 catches (Stanley Morgan, 534).
NEW ORLEANS SAINTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> QB AARON BROOKS became the franchise leader in career TD passes with 120 (Archie Manning, 109). RB DEUCE MC ALLISTER became the Saints' all-time leading rusher with 4,529 yards (George Rogers; 4,258).
NEW YORK GIANTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Third franchise to record 600 wins, including playoffs (Chicago, 671; Green Bay, 640). RB TIKI BARBER established six franchise records: career TDs (50), season rushing yards (1,860), rushing yards in a game (220), most consecutive 100-yard games (5), longest run (95-yard TD) and career rushing attempts (1,890). Barber and WR AMANI TOOMER both registered their 500th career receptions on same day (11/20). Duo became fourth set of teammates do so in same game.
NEW YORK JETS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CB TY LAW intercepted a team-record 10 passes.
OAKLAND RAIDERS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DE DERRICK BURGESS became the first Raider to lead the NFL in sacks (16.0) while setting a season team record (Sean Jones, 15.5 in 1986).
PHILADELPHIA EAGLES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rookie DE TRENT COLE became the first Eagle to record 5.0 sacks in a month.
PITTSBURGH STEELERS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> QB BEN ROETHLISBERGER broke his own team record for single-season passer rating (98.6). WR HINES WARD became the franchise leader in career receptions (574). Ward is also the second Steelers WR to post at least 7,000 yards receiving (John Stallworth, 8,723).
ST. LOUIS RAMS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WR TORRY HOLT passed Elroy "Crazylegs" Hirsch (53) for second place on the Rams' all-time TD list with 54. Teammate Marshall Faulk holds the club record with 85. Rookie QB RYAN FITZPATRICK became the fifth player to pass for 300 yards in his NFL debut (Otto Graham, 1950; Ed Rubbert, 1987; Mark Rypien, 1988; Peyton Manning, 1998). He is also the first Harvard grad to start a game at QB in the NFL.
SAN DIEGO CHARGERS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RB LA DAINIAN TOMLINSON scored a team record 20 TDs (Chuck Muncie, 19) and is now the Chargers' all-time yards-from-scrimmage leader with 9,755 (Lance Alworth; 9,721). Head coach MARTY SCHOTTENHEIMER tied Chuck Knox for the seventh-most career wins (186).

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RB SHAUN ALEXANDER is the franchise's all-time leader in rushing yards with 7,818 (Chris Warren; 6,706). His 34 career 100-yard rush games are also a club best. • Alexander also set the following single-season club records: points (168), rushing attempts (370) and yards per rush (5.1). • QB MATT HASSELBECK's 98.2 passer rating was the highest in franchise history (Dave Krieg, 95.0). • G CHRIS GRAY has an active streak of 106 consecutive starts for the Seahawks – the most in team history (Cortez Kennedy, 101). • CB ANDRE DYSON became first Seahawk since Dave Brown (1984) to return two interceptions for TDs in the same game (12/5 at Philadelphia).
TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WR JOEY GALLOWAY set a team record for TD receptions in a season (10). • Rookie RB CADILLAC WILLIAMS rushed for 1,178 yards – a Tampa Bay rookie record. • LB SHELTON QUARLES became the first Bucs player to register a safety and TD in the same game (9/18 vs. Buffalo).
TENNESEE TITANS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • QB STEVE MC NAIR (27,141 yards) became the second player in franchise history to throw for over 25,000 yards. Warren Moon passed for 33,685 as an Oiler. • Head coach JEFF FISHER recorded his 100th career victory on 10/9 (34-20 win at Houston), becoming 17th coach to total 100 wins with one franchise.
WASHINGTON REDSKINS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Redskins played in an NFL-record six consecutive games decided by three points or less. • RB CLINTON PORTIS (1,516 yards) and WR SANTANA MOSS (1,483 yards) became the fourth set of teammates to set franchise rushing and receiving records in the same season. • Head coach JOE GIBBS faced off against Dick Vermeil on 10/16 for the first time since 11/28/82. The 23-year gap between meetings is the longest ever between two head coaches.

"...AND YOU CAN QUOTE ME!"

A sampling of lighthearted quotes from the 2005 season:

- ***"Half is not enough protection, half is my fault and half is them just doing a good job. I know that's 150 percent, but I'm a little tired right now."*** – St. Louis Rams quarterback **MARC BULGER** on what went wrong offensively in the team's loss to the Tennessee Titans.
- ***"They are both Supermanesque."*** – San Diego Chargers quarterback **DREW BREES** on teammates **LA DANIAN TOMLINSON** and **ANTONIO GATES**.
- ***"I was hoping they would call it 109½ yards, so that nobody could ever break it."*** – Chicago Bears cornerback **NATHAN VASHER** on his record-setting 108-yard touchdown return, the longest play in NFL history.
- ***"I saw the fans in the end zone going crazy. They were getting closer and closer and the people looked bigger and bigger."*** – Philadelphia Eagles cornerback **MATT WARE** describing the scene as he returned a blocked field goal 65 yards for a touchdown.
- ***"I took my helmet off. That way they couldn't throw me to the ground."*** – Seattle Seahawks kicker **JOSH BROWN** on protecting himself from larger teammates when they rushed to congratulate him on his game-winning 50-yard field goal.

- ***"It was a three-step drop. I didn't think a guy could get there that quick and obviously he did. The next thing I know I'm sitting on the bench."*** – Tennessee Titans quarterback **BILLY VOLEK** after getting sacked and fumbling the ball.
- ***"We get off the plane running."*** – Chicago Bears head coach **LOVIE SMITH** after backup running backs **ADRIAN PETERSON** and **CEDRIC BENSON** posted 137 yards rushing and a touchdown in the absence of injured starter **THOMAS JONES**.
- ***"I just figured I'm too old to wait."*** – Kansas City Chiefs head coach **DICK VERMEIL** on his decision to go for the winning touchdown instead of taking his chances in overtime.
- ***"He was doing the comeback king stuff."*** – Cincinnati Bengals cornerback **DETHA O'NEAL** on an attempted comeback by Green Bay Packers quarterback **BRETT FAVRE**.
- ***"When a game is on the cover of a major magazine before it's played, that tells you it's a pretty big game."*** – Indianapolis Colts quarterback **PEYTON MANNING** on *Sports Illustrated's* Colts-Patriots cover prior to the teams' November 7 game.
- ***"He made a couple of good throws for a guy who's been home eating potato chips."*** – Tampa Bay Buccaneers defensive back **RONDE BARBER** on New York Jets 41-year-old quarterback **VINNY TESTAVERDE's** first start since coming out of retirement.
- ***"I went to Home Depot and bought all the Rustoleum they had and sprayed it all over my body."*** – New York Jets quarterback **VINNY TESTAVERDE**, poking fun at his return to football.
- ***"He's been in the league for, like, 35 years."*** – Miami Dolphins wide receiver **MARTY BOOKER** on Dolphins quarterback **GUS FREROTTE**.
- ***"I was dying. I felt like I ran 250 yards."*** – Cleveland Browns running back **REUBEN DROUGHNS** after rushing 75 yards for a touchdown.
- ***"I can't take too many more of these. That's three in a row."*** – Dallas Cowboys running back **JULIUS JONES** after the team's third consecutive game was decided in the final minutes.
- ***"Are you kidding me?"*** – New England Patriots running back **COREY DILLON** on quarterback **TOM BRADY** after he threw two touchdowns, ran for another and set a block to open the way for a teammate on a reverse.
- ***"Even a garbage can gets a steak now and again."*** – Cincinnati Bengals tackle **WILLIE ANDERSON** on the team winning its first division title since 1990.
- ***"Flutie might have been there the last time it happened."*** – New England Patriots kicker **ADAM VINATIERI** after Flutie converted the NFL's first successful drop kick since 1941.
- ***"I feel like an 80-year-old rookie."*** -- 80-year-old new Buffalo Bills Vice President of Football Operations **MARV LEVY** at his introductory press conference.

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