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1/5/07

“SUPER SEASON” KICKS OFF

The NFL playoffs begin on Saturday and Sunday, January 6-7, with Wild Card Weekend. On Saturday, the Kansas City Chiefs play at the Indianapolis Colts (NBC, 4:30 PM ET) and the Dallas Cowboys visit the Seattle Seahawks (NBC, 8:00 PM ET). Wild Card Weekend continues Sunday with the New York Jets at the New England Patriots (CBS, 1:00 PM ET) and the New York Giants traveling to face the Philadelphia Eagles (FOX, 4:30 PM ET).

The following week, the San Diego Chargers and Baltimore Ravens in the AFC and Chicago Bears and New Orleans Saints in the NFC host the Divisional Playoffs. The Chargers and Bears own homefield advantage for the Conference Championship Games (January 21) if they win their Divisional games. The conference champions advance to Super Bowl XLI at Dolphin Stadium in South Florida on February 4.

FRESH FACES, CONSISTENT WINNERS, RESILIENT TURNAROUNDS

Seven teams in this year's NFL playoff field – Baltimore, Dallas, Kansas City, New Orleans, New York Jets, Philadelphia and San Diego – have earned a spot among the final 12 after missing out last year. It is the 10th consecutive year that at least five clubs have accomplished such a feat. Four of the seven “fresh faces” in 2006 – Baltimore, New Orleans, the New York Jets, and Philadelphia – have rebounded from a last place finish in their respective divisions a year ago.

In addition, the field features teams that have been consistently good over the years, with winning percentages of .600 or more over the past five seasons – Indianapolis (.750), New England (.738), Philadelphia (.663) and Seattle (.600).

ALL-TIME PLAYOFFS

The Dallas Cowboys and New York Giants will participate in the playoffs for the 28th time, the most playoff appearances by a team in NFL history.

The Cowboys will play in their 55th playoff game Saturday night, the most in league history. Dallas has an NFL-best 32 postseason victories.

The Chicago Bears will make their 24th playoff appearance, tying the Cleveland Browns and Minnesota Vikings for the fourth most all-time.

Following is a list of this year's 12 playoff teams and their postseason records:

<u>TEAM</u>	<u>WINS</u>	<u>LOSSES</u>	<u>PCT.</u>
Baltimore Ravens	5	2	.714
New England Patriots	17	11	.607
Dallas Cowboys	32	22	.593
Philadelphia Eagles	16	16	.500
Chicago Bears	14	16	.467
Indianapolis Colts	13	16	.448
New York Jets	8	10	.444
New York Giants	16	22	.421
Kansas City Chiefs	8	12	.400
Seattle Seahawks	5	8	.385
San Diego Chargers	7	12	.368
New Orleans Saints	1	5	.167

WILD CARD RECORDS

<u>TEAM</u>	<u>WINS</u>	<u>LOSSES</u>	<u>PCT.</u>
New England Patriots	3	2	.600
New York Giants	4	3	.571
Dallas Cowboys	4	4	.500
Indianapolis Colts	3	3	.500
New York Jets	4	4	.500
Philadelphia Eagles	5	5	.500
Kansas City Chiefs	2	4	.333
Seattle Seahawks	2	4	.333

DIVISIONAL RECORDS

<u>TEAM</u>	<u>WINS</u>	<u>LOSSES</u>	<u>PCT.</u>
Baltimore Ravens	1	1	.500
San Diego Chargers	3	3	.500
Chicago Bears	3	7	.300
New Orleans Saints	0	1	.000

HOME SWEET HOME...MAYBE: While homefield advantage throughout the playoffs is a coveted prize, it has been no guarantee of a trip to the Super Bowl. And like so much about the NFL, an unpredictable result is seemingly the only predictable outcome.

Since the NFL adopted the 12-team playoff format in 1990, only 16 of 32 (50 percent) No. 1 seeds have advanced to the Super Bowl with eight No. 1s being crowned NFL champions (25 percent).

A look at how the No. 1 seeds have fared since 1990:

<u>Season</u>	<u>AFC No. 1 Seed</u>	<u>Season Result</u>	<u>NFC No. 1 Seed</u>	<u>Season Result</u>
1990	Buffalo	Lost Super Bowl XXV	San Francisco	Lost NFC Championship
1991	Buffalo	Lost Super Bowl XXVI	Washington	Won Super Bowl XXVI
1992	Pittsburgh	Lost Divisional	San Francisco	Lost NFC Championship
1993	Buffalo	Lost Super Bowl XXVIII	Dallas	Won Super Bowl XXVIII
1994	Pittsburgh	Lost AFC Championship	San Francisco	Won Super Bowl XXIX
1995	Kansas City	Lost Divisional	Dallas	Won Super Bowl XXX
1996	Denver	Lost Divisional	Green Bay	Won Super Bowl XXXI
1997	Kansas City	Lost Divisional	San Francisco	Lost NFC Championship
1998	Denver	Won Super Bowl XXXIII	Minnesota	Lost NFC Championship
1999	Jacksonville	Lost AFC Championship	St. Louis	Won Super Bowl XXXIV
2000	Tennessee	Lost Divisional	New York Giants	Lost Super Bowl XXXV
2001	Pittsburgh	Lost AFC Championship	St. Louis	Lost Super Bowl XXXVI
2002	Oakland	Lost Super Bowl XXXVII	Philadelphia	Lost NFC Championship
2003	New England	Won Super Bowl XXXVIII	Philadelphia	Lost NFC Championship
2004	Pittsburgh	Lost AFC Championship	Philadelphia	Lost Super Bowl XXXIX
2005	Indianapolis	Lost Divisional	Seattle	Lost Super Bowl XL

WINNING FEELING: The Chicago Bears, who posted the best record in the NFC this year (13-3), have won nine NFL championships, the most among 2006 playoff teams.

Following is a list of NFL championships won by each of the 2006 playoff teams:

<u>TEAM</u>	<u>NFL CHAMPIONSHIP(S)</u>	<u>YEAR(S)</u>
Chicago Bears	9	1921, 1932-33, 1940-41, 1943, 1946, 1963, 1985

Dallas Cowboys	5	1971, 1977, 1992-93, 1995
New York Giants	5	1934, 1938, 1956, 1986, 1990
Indianapolis Colts	3	1958-59, 1970
New England Patriots	3	2001, 2003-04
Philadelphia Eagles	3	1948-49, 1960
Baltimore Ravens	1	2000
Kansas City Chiefs	1	1969
New York Jets	1	1968
New Orleans Saints	0	--
San Diego Chargers	0	--
Seattle Seahawks	0	--

UNDEFEATED AT HOME: The San Diego Chargers and Indianapolis Colts are the only two NFL teams to finish the 2006 season with undefeated home records.

In the past 10 years (since 1995), 23 clubs have finished with 8-0 records at home. Yet only 10 of those teams have gone to the Super Bowl.

The teams (since 1995) to finish with 8-0 records at home and their final season result:

<u>SEASON</u>	<u>TEAM</u>	<u>OVERALL</u>	<u>RESULT</u>
<u>N</u>		<u>L</u>	
1995	Kansas City Chiefs	13-3	Lost Divisional Playoffs
1996	Carolina Panthers	12-4	Lost NFC Championship
1996	Denver Broncos	13-3	Lost Divisional Playoffs
1996	Green Bay Packers	13-3	Won Super Bowl XXXI
1997	Denver Broncos	12-4	Won Super Bowl XXXII
1997	Green Bay Packers	13-3	Lost Super Bowl XXXII
1997	Kansas City Chiefs	13-3	Lost Divisional Playoffs
1997	San Francisco 49ers	13-3	Lost NFC Championship
1998	Atlanta Falcons	14-2	Lost Super Bowl XXXIII
1998	Denver Broncos	14-2	Won Super Bowl XXXIII
1998	Minnesota Vikings	15-1	Lost NFC Championship
1998	San Francisco 49ers	12-4	Lost Divisional Playoffs
1999	Tennessee Titans	13-3	Lost Super Bowl XXXIV
1999	St. Louis Rams	13-3	Won Super Bowl XXXIV
2002	Green Bay Packers	12-4	Lost Wild Card Playoffs
2003	Kansas City Chiefs	13-3	Lost Divisional Playoffs
2003	New England Patriots	14-2	Won Super Bowl XXXVIII
2003	St. Louis Rams	12-4	Lost Divisional Playoffs
2003	Seattle Seahawks	10-6	Lost Wild Card Playoffs
2004	New England Patriots	14-2	Won Super Bowl XXXIX
2004	Pittsburgh Steelers	15-1	Lost AFC Championship
2005	Denver Broncos	13-3	Lost AFC Championship
2005	Seattle Seahawks	13-3	Lost Super Bowl XL

OT & PLAYOFFS – WINNING COMBINATION: Overtime games and the NFL playoffs have gone hand-in-hand for several years, with thrilling football the certain conclusion. The playoffs have featured at least one overtime game in five of the past six postseasons.

A look at NFL overtime playoff games since 2000:

Season	Round	Teams	Game-Winning Score
2000	WC	Miami 23, Indianapolis 17	RB Lamar Smith scores on 17-yard TD run.
2001	Div.	New England 16, Oakland 13	K Adam Vinatieri connects on 23-yard FG.
2002	Div.	Tennessee 34, Pittsburgh 31	K Joe Nedney wins it with 26-yard FG.
2003	WC	Green Bay 33, Seattle 27	CB Al Harris returns INT 52 yards for TD.
2003	Div.	Carolina 29, St. Louis 23 (2 OT)	QB Jake Delhomme connects with WR Steve Smith on 69-yd TD.
2003	Div.	Philadelphia 20, Green Bay 17	K David Akers wins game with 31-yard FG.
2004	WC	NY Jets 20, San Diego 17	K Doug Brien's 28-yard FG gives Jets the win.
2004	Div.	Pittsburgh 20, NY Jets 17	K Jeff Reed connects on 33-yard game-winner.

An overtime history of the 2006 playoff participants:

<u>Club</u>	<u>2006 OT Record</u>	<u>All-Time Regular-Season OT Record</u>	<u>Playoff OT Record</u>
Baltimore Ravens	0-0	6-3-1 (.650)	0-0
Chicago Bears	1-0	18-14 (.563)	0-0
Dallas Cowboys	0-0	13-11 (.542)	0-0
Indianapolis Colts	0-0	12-9-1 (.568)	1-3
Kansas City Chiefs	0-2	10-13-2 (.444)	2-1
New England Patriots	0-0	16-18 (.471)	1-0
New Orleans Saints	0-0	7-8 (.466)	0-0
New York Giants	1-0	15-14-2 (.516)	0-2
New York Jets	0-0	13-13-2 (.500)	1-2
Philadelphia Eagles	0-1	11-16-3 (.412)	1-0
San Diego Chargers	0-0	11-17 (.393)	1-1
Seattle Seahawks	0-0	8-15 (.348)	0-2

NEW YORK, NEW YORK: On Sunday, the New York Jets will visit the New England Patriots and the New York Giants will travel to Philadelphia to face the Eagles. It will mark the fifth time in history that both the Giants and Jets have appeared in the playoffs in the same season.

Following are the times the Giants and Jets both qualified for the postseason:

SEASON	TEAM	RECORD	PLAYOFF RESULT
1981	Jets	10-5-1	Lost Wild Card
	Giants	9-7	Lost Divisional
1985	Jets	11-5	Lost Wild Card
	Giants	10-6	Lost Divisional
1986	Giants	14-2	Won Super Bowl XXI
	Jets	10-6	Lost Divisional
2002	Giants	10-6	Lost Wild Card
	Jets	9-7	Lost Divisional
2006	Jets	10-6	???
	Giants	8-8	???

THE HEAD COACHES

SUPER CONNECTION: With a Super Bowl win, the Indianapolis Colts' **TONY DUNGY** will add his name to the list of head coaches who won a Super Bowl as both a coach and player, joining **MIKE DITKA** and **TOM FLORES**.

The coaches who won a Super Bowl as both a head coach and player:

	WON AS PLAYER	WON AS COACH
MIKE DITKA	Super Bowl VI (Dallas over Miami)	Super Bowl XX (Chicago over New England)
TOM FLORES	Super Bowl IV (Kansas City over Minnesota)	Super Bowl XV (Oakland over Philadelphia) Super Bowl XVIII (L.A. Raiders over Washington)
TONY DUNGY	Super Bowl XIII (Pittsburgh over Dallas)	???

- NFL PLAYOFFS -

WINS "R" US: Only Pro Football Hall of Fame coach **VINCE LOMBARDI** – the Super Bowl Trophy's namesake – has a better postseason winning percentage than New England's **BILL BELICHICK**. In his seven years at the Patriots' helm, Belichick is 10-1 in the playoffs with three Super Bowl victories, one shy of tying Hall of Fame coach **CHUCK NOLL** for the most in history (he posted a 1-1 playoff record with Cleveland, 1991-95).

Head coaches with the best playoff winning percentage (minimum five games coached):

COACH	W	L	PCT.
Vince Lombardi	9	1	.900

Bill Belichick	11	2	.846
Weeb Ewbank	4	1	.800
Don McCafferty	4	1	.800
Joe Gibbs	17	6	.739

POSTSEASON TUNA: Dallas Cowboys head coach **BILL PARCELLS** has an 11-7 (.611) career playoff record with four teams.

Parcells is one of three coaches in history to post a playoff victory with three different teams, joining **CHUCK KNOX** and **DAN REEVES**. If Parcells guides the Cowboys to a win this Saturday night against Seattle, he will become the first head coach in history to lead four different teams to a playoff victory.

Following are the coaches in NFL history with a postseason win with three different teams:

<u>HEAD COACH</u>	<u>TEAMS WITH PLAYOFF VICTORY</u>
Chuck Knox	Los Angeles Rams, Buffalo Bills, Seattle Seahawks
Dan Reeves	Denver Broncos, New York Giants, Atlanta Falcons
Bill Parcells	New York Giants, New England Patriots, New York Jets*
*Can become first head coach to lead four teams to playoff win.	

HEAD OF THE CLASS: Head coaches **BILL BELICHICK** of New England, **MIKE HOLMGREN** of Seattle and **BILL PARCELLS** of Dallas all have 11 career postseason victories, tied for the sixth-most in history.

With another victory, each coach will tie **BILL COWHER** (12) for the fifth-most playoff wins all-time.

Holmgren's Seahawks host Parcells' Cowboys this Saturday night.

A look at the coaches with the most postseason wins in history:

HEAD COACH	TEAM(S)	PLAYOFF WINS
Tom Landry	Dallas Cowboys	20
Don Shula	Baltimore Colts, Miami Dolphins	19
Joe Gibbs	Washington Redskins	17
Chuck Noll	Pittsburgh Steelers	16
Bill Cowher	Pittsburgh Steelers	12
Bill Belichick	Cleveland Browns, New England Patriots	11
Mike Holmgren	Green Bay Packers, Seattle Seahawks	11
Marv Levy	Kansas City Chiefs, Buffalo Bills	11
Bill Parcells	NY Giants, New England Patriots, NY Jets, Dallas Cowboys	11
Dan Reeves	Denver Broncos, NY Giants, Atlanta Falcons	11

- NFL PLAYOFFS -

PLAYOFF DEBUTS: Two rookie head coaches will remember 2006 as their playoff coaching debuts. Both took over teams that finished in last place in 2005 to qualify for the playoffs this year.

In New Orleans, **SEAN PAYTON** has led the Saints to a No. 2 seed in the NFC as the club makes its first playoff appearance since 2000. In the AFC, the New York Jets' **ERIC MANGINI** has guided his club to a 10-6 record for the conference's No. 5 seed.

The last five times at least two rookie head coaches took their teams to the playoffs:

SEASON	ROOKIE COACHES	PLAYOFF RESULT
1989	Bud Carson, Cleveland Browns	Advanced to AFC Championship
	George Seifert, San Francisco 49ers	Won Super Bowl XXIV
1992	Bill Cowher, Pittsburgh Steelers	Advanced to AFC Divisional
	Dennis Green, Minnesota Vikings	Advanced to NFC Wild Card
1997	Bobby Ross, San Diego Chargers	Advanced to AFC Divisional
	Jim Fassel, New York Giants	Advanced to NFC Wild Card
2000	Steve Mariucci, San Francisco 49ers	Advanced to NFC Championship
	Jim Haslett, New Orleans Saints	Advanced to NFC Divisional
	Mike Martz, St. Louis Rams	Advanced to NFC Wild Card

2006	Eric Mangini, New York Jets	???
	Sean Payton, New Orleans Saints	???

- NFL PLAYOFFS -

INSTANT WINNER: The Kansas City Chiefs' **HERM EDWARDS** is only the fifth coach in history to lead two teams to the playoffs in his first season with the club. Edwards guided the New York Jets to the postseason in 2001 and did the same in Kansas City this year.

The coaches that have reached the playoffs in their first season with two teams:

COACH	TEAMS
Sid Gillman	1955 Rams; 1960 Chargers
Chuck Knox	1973 Rams; 1983 Seahawks
Bobby Ross	1992 Chargers; 1997 Lions
Wade Phillips	1993 Broncos; 1998 Bills
Herm Edwards	2001 Jets; 2006 Chiefs

2006 PLAYOFF HEADS COACHES & THEIR PLAYOFF WINNING PERCENTAGES

<u>COACH, TEAM</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>PCT.</u>
Bill Belichick, New England	11	2	.846
Brian Billick, Baltimore	5	2	.714
Bill Parcells, Dallas	11	7	.611
Andy Reid, Philadelphia	7	5	.583
Mike Holmgren, Seattle	11	9	.550
Tom Coughlin, New York Giants	4	5	.444
Herm Edwards, Kansas City	2	3	.400
Tony Dungy, Indianapolis	5	8	.385
Marty Schottenheimer, San Diego	5	12	.294
Lovie Smith, Chicago	0	1	.000
Eric Mangini, New York Jets	0	0	.000
Sean Payton, New Orleans	0	0	.000

THE PLAYERS

ALL-STAR QUARTERBACKS: **PHILIP RIVERS** of the San Diego Chargers and **TONY ROMO** of the Dallas Cowboys are two of only seven quarterbacks to be selected to the Pro Bowl in the year they made their first career start. Four of the previous five quarterbacks to accomplish the feat guided their teams to the playoffs and two – St. Louis' **KURT WARNER** (1999) and New England's **TOM BRADY** (2001) – led their teams to a Super Bowl victory.

Following are the quarterbacks who were selected to the Pro Bowl in the year of their first start and how their teams fared:

<u>QUARTERBACK</u>	<u>TEAM</u>	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>TEAM RECORD</u>	<u>PLAYOFF RESULT</u>
Dan Marino	Miami	1983	12-4	Lost Divisional Playoff
Brett Favre	Green Bay	1992	9-7	Missed Playoffs
Kurt Warner	St. Louis	1999	13-3	Won Super Bowl XXXIV
Daunte Culpepper	Minnesota	2000	11-5	Lost NFC Championship
Tom Brady	New England	2001	11-5	Won Super Bowl XXXVI
Philip Rivers	San Diego	2006	14-2	???
Tony Romo	Dallas	2006	9-7	???

BARBER SHOP: New York Giants running back **TIKI BARBER** rushed for a franchise record 234 yards in the team's Week 17 victory over the Washington Redskins to help the Giants clinch a playoff berth.

Barber, who has announced that he will retire following this season, became the first player in history to rush for 200 yards in his final regular-season game, surpassing the rushing record for a final game of Pro Football Hall of Famer **CLIFF BATTLES** (165 yards in 1937).

Barber topped 200 yards for the fifth time in his career and moved into sole possession of second place all-time in the category behind Pro Football Hall of Famer **O.J. SIMPSON** (six games).

Two-hundred yard games have been rare in the playoffs, with only six players reaching the mark:

<u>PLAYER</u>	<u>TEAM</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>OPPONENT</u>	<u>RUSHING YARDS</u>	<u>RESULT</u>
Eric Dickerson	LA Rams	1/4/86	Dallas	248	W 20-0
Lamar Smith	Miami	12/30/00	Indianapolis	209	W 23-17 (OT)
Keith Lincoln	San Diego	1/5/64	Boston	206	W 51-10
Timmy Smith	Washington	1/31/88	Denver	204	W 42-10
Lawrence McCutcheon	LA Rams	12/27/75	St. Louis	202	W 35-23
Freeman McNeil	NY Jets	1/9/83	Cincinnati	202	W 44-17

Barber ranked second in the NFC this year with 1,662 rushing yards, the most by a player in his final season.

Following are the players with the most rushing yards in their final season:

<u>PLAYER</u>	<u>TEAM</u>	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>YARDS</u>
Tiki Barber	New York Giants	2006	1,662
Jim Brown	Cleveland Browns	1965	1,544
Robert Smith	Minnesota Vikings	2000	1,521
Barry Sanders	Detroit Lions	1998	1,491
James Stewart	Detroit Lions	2002	1,021

LT's TDs: The San Diego Chargers' **LA DAINIAN TOMLINSON** – the Associated Press 2006 NFL MVP – this year produced one of the most prolific seasons by a running back in NFL history, leading his team to a franchise-best 14-2 record and homefield advantage in the AFC playoffs.

Tomlinson, the NFL rushing champion with 1,815 yards, also set an NFL record with 31 touchdowns, surpassing **SHAUN ALEXANDER's** 28 scores with Seattle last season.

Of the players who have scored at least 24 touchdowns in a season, **EMMITT SMITH** and **JOHN RIGGINS** had the most success in continuing their scoring in the playoffs. Smith scored six touchdowns in helping the 1995 Cowboys to a win in Super Bowl XXX while Riggins' six playoff scores led the 1983 Redskins to a berth in Super Bowl XVIII.

The most prolific touchdown seasons in NFL history, along with their corresponding playoff touchdown totals:

<u>Player</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>TDs</u>	<u>Rushing TDs</u>	<u>Receiving TDs</u>	<u>Playoff TDs</u>
LaDainian Tomlinson	2006	San Diego	31	28	3	???
Shaun Alexander	2005	Seattle	28	27	1	2
Priest Holmes	2003	Kansas City	27	27	0	2
Marshall Faulk	2000	St. Louis	26	18	8	1
Emmitt Smith	1995	Dallas	25	25	0	6
Priest Holmes	2002	Kansas City	24	21	3	*
John Riggins	1983	Washington	24	24	0	6

* Team not in playoffs

CENTURY CLUB: Seattle Seahawks wide receiver **DEION BRANCH** has four career 100-yard receiving games in the postseason, tied for the fifth-most in NFL history with Pro Football Hall of Famer **FRED BILETNIKOFF**, **ISAAC BRUCE**, **DWIGHT CLARK**, **KEITH JACKSON**, **ART MONK** and **HINES WARD**. With his next 100-yard performance, Branch can move into a tie with **ANDRE REED** and Pro Football Hall of Famer **JOHN STALLWORTH** (5) for third in league annals.

The players with the most career 100-yard receiving games in the playoffs:

<u>PLAYER</u>	<u>TEAM(S)</u>	<u>GAMES</u>	<u>100-YARD GAMES</u>
Jerry Rice	SF, Oak., Sea.	29	8
Michael Irvin	Dallas	16	6
John Stallworth	Pittsburgh	18	5
Andre Reed	Buffalo	21	5
Many Tied	--	--	4

ON THE MARQUES: New Orleans Saints rookie wide receiver **MARQUES COLSTON** had 70 catches and led the team with 1,038 receiving yards, the most by a rookie this season. Colston, who was the 252nd player selected in the 2006 NFL Draft, is the first rookie drafted in the seventh round or later to post 1,000 receiving yards in his first season.

Following are the rookies with the most receptions and receiving yards in a single postseason:

<u>PLAYER</u>	<u>TEAM</u>	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>RECEPTIONS</u>
Torry Holt	St. Louis	1999	20
Chad Morton	New Orleans	2000	15
Steve Junker	Detroit	1957	13
Chuck Foreman	Minnesota	1973	12
Marcus Allen	LA Raiders	1982	12
Terry Glenn	New England	1996	12

<u>PLAYER</u>	<u>TEAM</u>	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>RECEIVING YARDS</u>
Torry Holt	St. Louis	1999	242
Steve Junker	Detroit	1957	201
Ricky Nattiel	Denver	1987	171
Terry Glenn	New England	1996	164
Cris Collinsworth	Cincinnati	1981	159

SPECIAL DELIVERY: Chicago Bears rookie cornerback and return specialist **DEVIN HESTER** set an NFL record this season with six return touchdowns, including a 106-yard return on a missed field goal to tie the longest play in league history. Hester, who will return kicks for the NFC in the Pro Bowl, had three punt-return touchdowns and two kickoff-return TDs this season.

There have been only 18 punt-return touchdowns in postseason history. No player has ever recorded more than one in a career. There have been 19 playoff kickoff-return touchdowns. **RON DIXON** of the New York Giants is the only player with two such touchdowns in a career.

SAINTLY DEBUT: New Orleans' **REGGIE BUSH** led all rookies and finished second overall among running backs with 88 receptions this season, the most by a rookie running back in history. Bush's total surpassed **EARL COOPER**'s mark of 83 catches set in 1980 with the San Francisco 49ers.

Following are the rookie running backs with the most receptions in a single postseason:

<u>PLAYER</u>	<u>TEAM</u>	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>RECEPTIONS</u>
Chad Morton	New Orleans	2000	15
Chuck Foreman	Minnesota	1973	12
Marcus Allen	LA Raiders	1982	12
Roger Craig	San Francisco	1983	10
Curt Warner	Seattle	1983	10

- NFL PLAYOFFS -

ON THE MARK: Chicago Bears rookie defensive end **MARK ANDERSON** led the NFC's No. 1 defense with 12.0 sacks, the most by a rookie in franchise history. Anderson, who was drafted by the Bears in the fifth round, set an NFL record for most sacks by a rookie drafted in the fifth round or later.

Following are the rookies with the most sacks in a playoff game and entire postseason:

MOST SACKS IN A PLAYOFF GAME, ROOKIE

<u>Player, Team</u>	<u>Sacks</u>	<u>Opponen</u>	<u>Date</u>
Garin Veris, New England	3.0	^t N.Y. Jets	December 28, 1985
Many players	2.0		

MOST SACKS IN A POSTSEASON, ROOKIE

<u>Player, Team</u>	<u>Sacks</u>	<u>Rookie Season</u>
Greg Townsend, L.A. Raiders	4.5	1983

Garin Veris, New England	4.0	1985
Eric Dorsey, N.Y. Giants	3.0	1986
Jevon Kearse, Tennessee	3.0	1999
Cornelius Griffin, N.Y. Giants	3.0	2000

- NFL PLAYOFFS -

MORE ROOKIE DEFENDERS: In Baltimore, Ravens safety **DAWAN LANDRY** (fifth round, Georgia Tech) posted five interceptions, tying for the second-most on the team and leading all 2006 rookies in the category. Indianapolis rookie safety **ANTOINE BETHEA** (sixth round, Howard) finished third on the team with 105 tackles. And in Kansas City, Chiefs rookie defensive end **TAMBA HALI** (first round, Penn State) led his club with 8.0 sacks – the third most by a rookie in club history.

These players all hope to continue to excel in the playoffs. Outstanding defensive rookie playoff performances:

MOST INTERCEPTIONS IN A PLAYOFF GAME, ROOKIE

<u>Player, Team</u>	<u>INT</u>	<u>Opponent</u>	<u>Game</u>
Vernon Perry, Houston	4	San Diego	December 29, 1979
Ricky Manning, Jr., Carolina	3	Philadelphia	January 18, 2004
Many players	2	a	

MOST INTERCEPTIONS IN A POSTSEASON, ROOKIE

<u>Player, Team</u>	<u>INT</u>	<u>Rookie Season</u>
Vernon Perry, Houston	5	1979
Ricky Manning, Jr., Carolina	4	2003
Jim Marsalis, Kansas City	3	1969
Roynell Young, Philadelphia	3	1980

Following are players who hold or are pursuing playoff records and milestones this year:

- Seattle Seahawks running back **SHAUN ALEXANDER** is the only player in the 2006 postseason to have scored three touchdowns in a playoff game, tying for second-most in a game in NFL history. Alexander rushed for three touchdowns in a 2003 Wild Card game against Green Bay. **RICKY WATTERS** holds the NFL record with five touchdowns for San Francisco in a 1993 Divisional Playoff against the Giants.
- In addition to three Super Bowl rings, New England quarterback **TOM BRADY** owns the lowest interception percentage in playoff history with a mark of 1.36 (minimum 150 attempts), which equates to five interceptions in 367 attempts. Seattle quarterback **MATT HASSELBECK**, who guided the Seahawks to Super Bowl XL, ranks third in the category with three interceptions in 191 attempts for a 1.57 percentage.
- Chicago Bears cornerback **RICKY MANNING, JR.** is one of only eight players in history to record at least three interceptions in a playoff game. Manning had three interceptions for the Carolina Panthers in the 2003 NFC Championship Game against Philadelphia.
- Seattle Seahawks wide receiver **DARRELL JACKSON** is one of only eight players in history with at least 12 catches in a postseason game. Jackson had 12 receptions in a 2004 Wild Card game against St. Louis.
- Dallas Cowboys wide receiver **TERRELL OWENS** holds the NFL record with two career two-point conversions in the postseason. Owens recorded both two-point conversions in the same game, a 2002 Wild Card contest against the New York Giants.
- New England's Brady has twice completed 32 passes in a playoff game, tying the third-greatest number of completions in a single playoff game. Brady reached his pair of "32s" in a 2001 AFC Divisional Playoff against Oakland and in Super Bowl XXXVIII against Carolina.

- Quarterback **PEYTON MANNING** of Indianapolis threw five touchdown passes in a 2003 Wild Card game against Denver, tying for the second most in a playoff game. The record of six is shared by Pro Football Hall of Famer **STEVE YOUNG** (Super Bowl XXIX vs. San Diego) and **DARYLE LAMONICA** (1969 Divisional vs. Houston).

Manning also has compiled the second- and third-best average gain per attempt figures in playoff single-game history: 14.50 in a 2003 Wild Card against Denver, and 13.88 in a 2004 Wild Card against Denver.
- Indianapolis wide receiver **REGGIE WAYNE** posted the third highest receiving-yard total in playoff single-game history with 221 against Denver in the Colts' 2004 AFC Wild Card victory.
- Kansas City cornerback **TY LAW** had the second-most interceptions in a playoff game with three against Indianapolis in the 2003 AFC Championship as a member of the Patriots. Law faces the Colts again in Wild Card action on January 6.
- New England safety **RODNEY HARRISON** has an interception in three consecutive playoff games and needs one in his next postseason game to tie **AENEAS WILLIAMS** (four) for the longest such streak in NFL playoff history.
- New England wide receiver **TROY BROWN** has 276 career playoff punt-return yards for the third most in NFL history. Ahead of Brown are **BRIAN MITCHELL** (339) and **DAVID MEGGETT** (312).
- New England's Brown also is one of 18 players to return a punt for a TD in the playoffs and aims to become the first in history to notch two such returns in the postseason.
- Kansas City wide receiver-kick returner **DANTE HALL** owns the third highest mark for kickoff-return yards in a postseason game with 208 in a 2003 AFC Divisional Playoff against Indianapolis.
- Kansas City's Hall and Baltimore wide receiver **DERRICK MASON** are two of 18 players who have returned a kickoff for a touchdown in postseason history. The career record for most kickoffs returned for a touchdown is two, set by **RON DIXON** of the New York Giants in the 2000 playoffs.
- Linebacker **TEDY BRUSCHI** of New England has recovered three opponents' fumbles in playoff action. With one more recovery, Bruschi will tie six other players for the most all-time in a postseason career.
- With at least one point in his team's Wild Card playoff against Kansas City, Indianapolis' **ADAM VINATIERI** (17) would climb to within one game of tying Pro Football Hall of Famer **GEORGE BLANDA** (19) for the most consecutive playoff games with a point scored.
- Vinatieri has made 26 postseason field goals for the second most in league annals, trailing only **GARY ANDERSON**, who made 32. And with five more playoff field-goal attempts, Vinatieri (34) will tie Blanda (39) for the second most attempts in history, trailing only Anderson (40).
- Vinatieri also is tied with six other kickers for the NFL record for most field goals in a playoff game with five. Vinatieri, then with New England, converted five kicks in the 2003 AFC Championship Game against his present team, Indianapolis.

BEST NFL PLAYOFF PERFORMANCES (Single postseason)

<u>PASSING YARDS</u>						
<u>PLAYER, TEAM</u>	<u>SEASON</u>	<u>COMP.</u>	<u>ATT.</u>	<u>YARDS</u>	<u>TD</u>	<u>INT</u>
Kurt Warner, St. Louis	1999	77	121	1,063	8	4
Dan Marino, Miami	1984	71	116	1,001	8	5
Jake Delhomme, Carolina	2003	59	102	987	6	1
Peyton Manning, Indianapolis	2003	67	103	918	9	4
Joe Montana, San Francisco	1984	67	108	873	7	5

<u>RUSHING YARDS</u>				
<u>PLAYER, TEAM</u>	<u>SEASON</u>	<u>ATT.</u>	<u>YARDS</u>	<u>TD</u>
John Riggins, Washington	1982	136	610	4
Terrell Davis, Denver	1997	112	581	8
Terrell Davis, Denver	1998	78	468	3

Marcus Allen, L.A. Raiders	1983	58	466	4
Eddie George, Tennessee	1999	108	449	3

RECEIVING YARDS

<u>PLAYER, TEAM</u>	<u>SEASON</u>	<u>REC.</u>	<u>YARDS</u>	<u>TD</u>
Jerry Rice, San Francisco	1988	21	409	6
Steve Smith, Carolina	2003	18	404	3
Charlie Brown, Washington	1983	14	401	1
Anthony Carter, Minnesota	1987	23	391	1
Fred Biletnikoff, Oakland	1968	14	370	4

RECEPTIONS

<u>PLAYER, TEAM</u>	<u>SEASON</u>	<u>REC.</u>	<u>YARDS</u>	<u>TD</u>
Steve Smith, Carolina	2005	27	335	3
Anthony Carter, Minnesota	1987	23	391	1
Tony Nathan, Miami	1984	22	217	0
Dan Ross, Cincinnati	1981	22	244	2
Jerry Rice, San Francisco	1988	21	409	6

TOUCHDOWNS

<u>PLAYER, TEAM</u>	<u>SEASON</u>	<u>TOTAL TDs</u>	<u>RUSH TD</u>	<u>REC. TD</u>
Terrell Davis, Denver	1997	8	8	0
Larry Csonka, Miami	1973	6	6	0
Franco Harris, Pittsburgh	1974	6	6	0
Jerry Rice, San Francisco	1988	6	0	6
John Riggins, Washington	1983	6	6	0
Gerald Riggs, Washington	1991	6	6	0
Emmitt Smith, Dallas	1995	6	6	0
Ricky Watters, San Francisco	1993	6	6	0

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