



FOR USE AS DESIRED
 NFL-40 7/14/06

NFL TRAINING CAMPS OPEN NEXT THURSDAY; EAGLES & JETS FIRST IN

"Helmets on! Buckle 'em up!"

That coaching order is about to be heard from Cheney, Washington to Davie, Florida as the NFL returns to the field and begins the long haul to Super Bowl XLI with the opening of training camps next week.

The Philadelphia Eagles and New York Jets will be the first to open camps on Thursday, July 20, followed by Cleveland and Houston on Sunday. By July 30, all teams will be encamped.

It's *where* those camps start that is a subject of debate in the NFL.

More and more, teams are training at their regular-season headquarters. The theory is, things are familiar, surprises are minimized, you get to go home to see the family.

Numbers show the trend towards that approach. Ten years ago, only 23 percent of clubs (7 of 30) trained at home. This year, 41 percent will (13 of 32).

The numbers may prove growing home-base popularity, but, at least last year, the *titles* went to teams with the "old-time" philosophy of encamping away.

The two Super Bowl XL teams – the winning Pittsburgh Steelers and Seattle Seahawks – both left home for college training sites. The Steelers once again trained at Saint Vincent College in Latrobe, Pennsylvania (this will be their 40th year at the school). The Seahawks summered at Eastern Washington University in Cheney, Washington.

"I think there is something to be said for getting away from home and coming together as a team," says Seahawks head coach Mike Holmgren.

If *where* you train in the summer is considered important, how you *play* during that time is even more so. A look at the numbers suggests that NFL preseason games *are* important:

- Last year's four championship-game teams had a .688 preseason winning percentage (11-5).
- Five of the past six Super Bowl champions had winning preseason records, two going 4-0 and three 3-1.
- The past 10 Super Bowl champs have compiled a .707 preseason winning percentage (29-12).

Training camps are a productive, exciting time of year – especially for fans.

One fan survey (ESPN.com) shows that sports fans in July look forward to NFL training camps more than to major summer events in other sports. Another (*Columbus Dispatch*) says that fans like to watch NFL preseason games more than the preseason games of any other sport.

That interest has helped forge a change in modern-day NFL camps. More and more, teams have scheduled evening practice sessions. The players get out of the heat and more fans, with their workday over, can see those players.

The Green Bay Packers, for instance, will have eight night sessions this summer. That, says the Packer Country Visitor & Convention Bureau, will help in the economic boost that training camp brings to the area – estimated at close to \$50 million for the summer.

This summer, every NFL team will host a “Gatorade Day at Training Camp” complete with interactive events, youth football drills and family entertainment.

Two weeks after camps open, it’s “Hall of Fame Weekend” – a salute to the past, present and future – in Canton, Ohio on August 4-6.

On Saturday, August 5, the Pro Football Hall of Fame will induct its class of 2006 – **TROY AIKMAN, HARRY CARSON, JOHN MADDEN, WARREN MOON, REGGIE WHITE** and **RAYFIELD WRIGHT**.

This year, history will be made in Canton when **LESLEY VISSER**, longtime TV broadcaster, receives the Hall’s Pete Rozelle Radio-Television Award for her contributions in covering pro football. Visser will be the first woman to be recognized by the Hall of Fame.

The following night, it’s the annual Pro Football Hall of Fame Game featuring the Oakland Raiders and Philadelphia Eagles at 8:00 PM ET. The matchup will mark the return of NBC as an NFL television partner. The network televised NFL games for 28 seasons from 1970-97.

The game also marks the debut on NBC of former *Monday Night Football* broadcast partners **AL MICHAELS** and new Hall of Fame member Madden. As a tackle out of Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo, Madden was a 21st round draft choice of the Eagles in 1958 (No. 244 overall).

The future of the game also will be nurtured during Hall of Fame weekend as the annual NFL Youth Football Summit takes place. A group of 150 youth and high school football coaches and administrators from all 50 states will convene to discuss topics vital to their programs with football experts and NFL greats.

The Hall of Fame Game will be the first of 15 nationally televised contests this summer. Add to those the “wall-to-wall-ball” schedule of NFL Network – 52 games in 28 days (including two of the national TV broadcasts) – and NFL fans will be able to see first-hand the intensity of preseason competition.

FAMILIAR SURROUNDINGS

Two teams – the New Orleans Saints and Tennessee Titans -- will encamp at new training sites this year. While some clubs have changed their training sites in the past decade, others return to familiar venues where they have spent their summer months for years.

The NFL training camp longevity king? The Green Bay Packers, who return on July 28 for their 48th consecutive summer at St. Norbert College in DePere, Wisconsin.

The longest active NFL training camp tenures:

WELCOME BACK!

Team	Training Camp	City	Years
Green Bay Packers	St. Norbert College	DePere, Wisconsin	48
Minnesota Vikings	Minnesota State, Mankato	Mankato, Minnesota	40
Pittsburgh Steelers	St. Vincent College	Latrobe, Pennsylvania	40
New York Jets	Hofstra University	Hempstead, New York	38

The 2006 NFL training camp sites and reporting dates:

AFC

TEAM	SITE	LOCATION	ROOKIES	VETERANS
Baltimore	McDaniel College	Westminster, MD	7/27	7/27
Buffalo	St. John Fisher College	Pittsford, NY	7/28	7/28
Cincinnati	Georgetown College	Georgetown, KY	7/29	7/29
Cleveland	Cleveland Browns Training Facility	Berea, OH	7/23	7/26
Denver	Paul D. Bowlen Memorial Centre	Englewood, CO	7/28	7/28
Houston	Houston Texans Practice Facility	Houston, TX	7/23	7/27
Indianapolis	Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology	Terre Haute, IN	7/30	7/30
Jacksonville	ALLTEL Stadium	Jacksonville, FL	7/28	7/28
Kansas City	University of Wisconsin-River Falls	River Falls, WI	7/28	7/28
Miami	Dolphins Training Center	Davie, FL	7/28	7/28
New England	Gillette Stadium	Foxboro, MA	7/28	7/28
NY Jets	Hofstra University	Hempstead, NY	7/20	7/27
Oakland	Napa Valley Marriott	Napa Valley, CA	7/24	7/24
Pittsburgh	Saint Vincent College	Latrobe, PA	7/28	7/28
San Diego	Chargers Park	San Diego, CA	7/24	7/28
Tennessee	Austin Peay State/Baptist Sports Park	Clarksville, TN/ Nashville, TN	7/28	7/28

NFC

TEAM	SITE	LOCATION	ROOKIES	VETERANS
Arizona	Northern Arizona University	Flagstaff, AZ	7/30	7/30
Atlanta	Atlanta Falcons Training Facility	Flowery Branch, GA	7/26	7/27
Carolina	Wofford College	Spartanburg, SC	7/28	7/28
Chicago	Olivet Nazarene University	Bourbonnais, IL	7/27	7/27
Dallas	Marriott Residence Inn	Oxnard, California	7/28	7/28
Detroit	Detroit Lions Training Facility	Allen Park, MI	7/27	7/27
Green Bay	St. Norbert College	De Pere, WI	7/28	7/28
Minnesota	Minnesota State University	Mankato, MN	7/27	7/30
New Orleans	Millsaps College	Jackson, MS	7/28	7/28
N.Y. Giants	University at Albany	Albany, NY	7/27	7/27
Philadelphia	Lehigh University	Bethlehem, PA	7/20	7/23
St. Louis	Rams Park	St. Louis, MO	7/26	7/26
San Francisco	San Francisco 49ers Complex	Santa Clara, CA	7/27	7/27
Seattle	Eastern Washington University	Cheney, WA	7/26	7/28
Tampa Bay	Disney's Wide World of Sports	Lake Buena Vista, FL	7/27	7/27
Washington	Redskins Park	Ashburn, VA	7/30	7/30

2006 NFL PRESEASON NATIONAL TELEVISION SCHEDULE

(All times Eastern)

DATE	GAME	NETWORK (TIME)
Sunday, August 6	Pro Football Hall of Fame Game, Canton, OH: Oakland vs. Philadelphia	NBC (8:00 PM)
Thursday, August 10	Indianapolis at St. Louis	FOX (8:00 PM)
Friday, August 11	New England at Atlanta	CBS (8:00 PM)
Sunday, August 13	Washington at Cincinnati	NBC (8:00 PM)
Monday, August 14	Oakland at Minnesota	ESPN (8:00 PM)
Thursday, August 17	Kansas City at New York Giants	FOX (8:00 PM)
Friday, August 18	San Diego at Chicago	CBS (8:00 PM)
Saturday, August 19	Arizona at New England	NFLN (8:00 PM)
Sunday, August 20	Seattle at Indianapolis	NBC (8:00 PM)
Monday, August 21	Dallas at New Orleans, Shreveport, LA	ESPN (8:00 PM)
Thursday, August 24	Miami at Carolina	FOX (8:00 PM)
Friday, August 25	Pittsburgh at Philadelphia	ESPN (8:00 PM)
Saturday, August 26	Tampa Bay at Jacksonville	CBS (8:00 PM)
Sunday, August 27	Houston at Denver	NFLN (8:00 PM)
Monday, August 28	Green Bay at Cincinnati	ESPN (8:00 PM)

