

# **Divisional Playoffs**

eason	Date	Winner (Share)	Loser (Share)	Score		Attendar
004	Jan. 16	New England (\$18,000)	Indianapolis (\$18,000)	20-3	Foxborough	68,7
	Jan. 15	Pittsburgh (\$18,000)	N.Y. Jets (\$18,000)	20-17*	Pittsburgh	64,9
003	Jan. 11	Indianapolis (\$18,000)	Kansas City (\$18,000)	38-31	Kansas Clty	79,
	Jan. 10	New England (\$18,000)	Tennessee (\$18,000)	17-14	Foxborough	68,
002	Jan. 12	Oakland (\$17,000)	N.Y. Jets (\$17,000)	30-10	Oakland	62,
	Jan. 11	Tennessee (\$17,000)	Pittsburgh (\$17,000)	34-31*	Nashville	68,
001	Jan. 20	Pittsburgh (\$17,000)	Baltimore (\$17,000)	27-10	Pittsburgh	63,
	Jan. 19	New England (\$17,000)	Oakland (\$17,000)	16-13*	Foxborough	60,
000	Jan. 7	Baltimore (\$16,000)	Tennessee (\$16,000)	24-10	Nashville	68,
	Jan. 6	Oakland (\$16,000)	Miami (\$16,000)	27-0	Oakland	61,
999	Jan. 16	Tennessee (\$16,000)	Indianapolis (\$16,000)	19-16	Indianapolis	57,
	Jan. 15	Jacksonville (\$16,000)	Miami (\$16,000)	62-7	Jacksonville	75,
998	Jan. 10	N.Y. Jets (\$15,000)	Jacksonville (\$15,000)	34-24	East Rutherford	78,
	Jan. 9	Denver (\$15,000)	Miami (\$15,000)	38-3	Denver	75,
997	Jan. 4	Denver (\$15,000)	Kansas City (\$15,000)	14-10	Kansas City	76,
	Jan. 3	Pittsburgh (\$15,000)	New England (\$15,000)	7-6	Pittsburgh	61,
996	Jan. 5	New England (\$14,000)	Pittsburgh (\$14,000)	28-3	Foxborough	60,
	Jan. 4	Jacksonville (\$14,000)	Denver (\$14,000)	30-27	Denver	75,
95	Jan. 7	Indianapolis (\$13,000)	Kansas City (\$13,000)	10-7	Kansas City	77,
	Jan. 6	Pittsburgh (\$13,000)	Buffalo (\$13,000)	40-21	Pittsburgh	59,
994	Jan. 8	San Diego (\$12,000)	Miami (\$12,000)	22-21	San Diego	63,
	Jan. 7	Pittsburgh (\$12,000)	Cleveland (\$12,000)	29-9	Pittsburgh	58,
993	Jan. 16	Kansas City (\$12,000)	Houston (\$12,000)	28-20	Houston	64,
	Jan. 15	Buffalo (\$12,000)	L.A. Raiders (\$12,000)	29-23	Buffalo	61,
992	Jan. 10	Miami (\$12,000)	San Diego (\$10,000)	31-0	Miami	71,
	Jan. 9	Buffalo (\$10,000)	Pittsburgh (\$10,000)	24-3	Pittsburgh	60,
991	Jan. 5	Buffalo (\$10,000)	Kansas City (\$10,000)	37-14	Buffalo	80,
771	Jan. 4	Denver (\$10,000)	Houston (\$10,000)	26-24	Denver	75,
990	Jan. 13	the state of the s	Cincinnati (\$10,000)	20-24		92,
790		L.A. Raiders (\$10,000)		44-34	Los Angeles	
000	Jan. 12	Buffalo (\$10,000)	Miami (\$10,000) Pittsburgh (\$10,000)		Buffalo	77,
989	Jan. 7	Denver (\$10,000)	9 ( , ,	24-23	Denver	75,
200	Jan. 6	Cleveland (\$10,000)	Buffalo (\$10,000)	34-30	Cleveland	78,
988	Jan. 1	Buffalo (\$10,000)	Houston (\$10,000)	17-10	Buffalo	79,
	Dec. 31	Cincinnati (\$10,000)	Seattle (\$10,000)	21-13	Cincinnati	58,
987	Jan. 10	Denver (\$10,000)	Houston (\$10,000)	34-10	Denver	75,
	Jan. 9	Cleveland (\$10,000)	Indianapolis (\$10,000)	38-21	Cleveland	79,
986	Jan. 4	Denver (\$10,000)	New England (\$10,000)	22-17	Denver	75,
	Jan. 3	Cleveland (\$10,000)	N.Y. Jets (\$10,000)	23-20*	Cleveland	79,
985	Jan. 5	New England (\$10,000)	L.A. Raiders (\$10,000)	27-20	Los Angeles	87,
	Jan. 4	Miami (\$10,000)	Cleveland (\$10,000)	24-21	Miami	74,
984	Dec. 30	Pittsburgh (\$10,000)	Denver (\$10,000)	24-17	Denver	74,
	Dec. 29	Miami (\$10,000)	Seattle (\$10,000)	31-10	Miami	73,
983	Jan. 1	L.A. Raiders (\$10,000)	Pittsburgh (\$10,000)	38-10	Los Angeles	90,
	Dec. 31	Seattle (\$10,000)	Miami (\$10,000)	27-20	Miami	74,
982	Jan. 16	Miami (\$10,000)	San Diego (\$10,000)	34-13	Miami	71,
	Jan. 15	N.Y. Jets (\$10,000)	L.A. Raiders (\$10,000)	17-14	Los Angeles	90,
981	Jan. 3	Cincinnati (\$5,000)	Buffalo (\$5,000)	28-21	Cincinnati	55,
	Jan. 2	San Diego (\$5,000)	Miami (\$5,000)	41-38*	Miami	73,
980	Jan. 4	Oakland (\$5,000)	Cleveland (\$5,000)	14-12	Cleveland	78,
	Jan. 3	San Diego (\$5,000)	Buffalo (\$5,000)	20-14	San Diego	52,
979	Dec. 30	Pittsburgh (\$5,000)	Miami (\$5,000)	34-14	Pittsburgh	50,
	Dec. 29	Houston (\$5,000)	San Diego (\$5,000)	17-14	San Diego	51,
978	Dec. 31	Houston (\$5,000)	New England (\$5,000)	31-14	Foxborough	60,
-	Dec. 30	Pittsburgh (\$5,000)	Denver (\$5,000)	33-10	Pittsburgh	50,
977	Dec. 24	Oakland (\$5,000)	Baltimore (\$5,000)	37-31*	Baltimore	59,
• •	Dec. 24	Denver (\$5,000)	Pittsburgh (\$5,000)	34-21	Denver	75,
976	Dec. 24 Dec. 19	Pittsburgh (\$)	Baltimore (\$)	40-14	Baltimore	59,
. , 5	Dec. 19	Oakland (\$)	New England (\$)	24-21	Oakland	53,
975	Dec. 18	Oakland (\$)	Cincinnati (\$)	31-28	Oakland	53,
113					Pittsburgh	53, 49,
974	Dec. 27 Dec. 22	Pittsburgh (\$)	Baltimore (\$)	28-10 32.14		49, 49,
114		Pittsburgh (\$)	Buffalo (\$)	32-14	Pittsburgh	
172	Dec. 21	Oakland (\$)	Miami (\$)	28-26	Oakland	53,
973	Dec. 23	Miami (\$)	Cincinnati (\$)	34-16	Miami	78,
170	Dec. 22	Oakland (\$)	Pittsburgh (\$)	33-14	Oakland	52,
972	Dec. 24	Miami (\$)	Cleveland (\$)	20-14	Miami	78,
	Dec. 23	Pittsburgh (\$)	Oakland (\$)	13-7	Pittsburgh	50,
971	Dec. 26	Baltimore (\$)	Cleveland (\$)	20-3	Cleveland	70,
	Dec. 25	Miami (\$)	Kansas City (\$)	27-24*	Kansas City	45,
70	Dec. 27	Oakland (\$)	Miami (\$)	21-14	Oakland	52,
	Dec. 26	Baltimore (\$)	Cincinnati (\$)	17-0	Baltimore	49,
969	Dec. 21	Oakland (\$)	Houston (\$)	56-7	Oakland	53,
	Dec. 20	Kansas City (\$)	N.Y. Jets (\$)	13-6	New York	62,
968	Dec. 22	Oakland (\$)	Kansas City (\$)	41-6	Oakland	53,
963	Dec. 28	Boston (\$)	Buffalo (\$)	26-8	Buffalo	33,
						55,

# 2004

NEW ENGLAND 20, INDIANAPOLIS 3—The Patriots' defense permitted just 276 yards and forced 3 turnovers as New England held the NFL's highest-scoring offense without a touchdown in a game played in sleet and a 16-degree wind chill. The Patriots held possession for 37:43, including 21:26 in the second half. The Colts had just 2 first downs when Adam Vinatieri's second second-quarter field goal gave the Patriots a 6-0 lead. The Colts drove 67 yards in the final 1:52 of the half. With two seconds remaining, Eugene Wilson knocked down Peyton Manning's pass in the end zone for an incompletion, forcing the Colts to settle for Mike Vanderjagt's 23-yard field goal. After an exchange of punts to begin the second half, the Patriots used 8:16 to drive 87 yards in 15 plays, 11 on the ground, and capped by David Givens' 5-yard touchdown catch for a 13-3 lead with 1:30 left in the third quarter. Five plays later, the Colts punted and the Patriots drove 94 yards in 14 plays, with 7:50 elapsing off the clock. Corey Dillon's 27-yard run to the Patriots' 1 set up Tom Brady's 1-yard sneak for a 20-3 lead with 7:10 to play. Rodney Harrison intercepted Manning's pass in the end zone with four seconds left to preserve the 17-point margin of victory. Brady was 18 of 27 for 144 yards and 1 touchdown. Dil-Ion rushed 23 times for 144 yards. Manning was 27 of 42 for 238 yards, with 1 interception.

Indianapolis 0 3 0 **New England** 0 6 7 20

— FG Vinatieri 24 NE NF FG Vinatieri 31

Ind - FG Vanderjagt 23

NE - Givens 5 pass from Brady (Vinatieri kick)

NF - Brady 1 run (Vinatieri kick)

PITTSBURGH 20, N.Y. JETS 17 (OT)—Jeff Reed kicked a 33-yard field goal in overtime as the Steelers survived two missed field goals by the Jets in regulation to advance to the fifth AFC Championship Game in Bill Cowher's 13-year tenure. Two plays after Reed's 45-yard first-quarter field goal, Troy Polamalu intercepted Chad Pennington's pass and returned it 14 yards to the Jets' 25. Jerome Bettis scored five plays later for a 10-0 lead. Trailing 10-3, Santana Moss fielded a punt and returned it 75 yards down the left sideline for a touchdown with 3:00 left in the half to tie the game. The Steelers drove to the Jets' 33 late in the third quarter when Reggie Tongue intercepted Ben Roethlisberger's pass and returned it 86 yards for a touchdown and 17-10 lead. The Steelers drove to the Jets' 22, but Bettis fumbled and Erik Coleman recovered. The Steelers forced a three-and-out, and the offense converted 3 third-down situations, including 2 passes by Roethlisberger, to set up his 4-yard touchdown pass to Hines Ward to tie the game with 6:00 left. The Jets drove to the Steelers' 28 with 1:58 left, but Doug Brien's 47-yard field goal hit the upright. On the next play, David Barrett intercepted Roethlisberger's pass at the Steelers' 37, but Brien's 43-yard field-goal attempt went wide left as time expired. In overtime, the Jets won the toss but were forced to punt. Roethlisberger completed a 17-yard pass to Ward on third-and-6, and Verron Haynes gained 8 yards on third-and-4 to keep the drive alive and set up Reed's winning kick 11:04 into overtime. Roethlisberger was 17 of 30 for 181 yards and 1 touchdown, with 2 interceptions, and became just the fourth rookie since 1970 to win his first postseason start. Bettis rushed 27 times for 101 yards, and Ward added 10 catches for 105 yards. Pennington was 21 of 33 for 182 yards, with 1 interception.

N.Y. Jets 0 0 — 17 0 10 Pittsburgh 10 0 0 7 3 — 20

- FG Reed 45 Pitt

- Bettis 3 run (Reed kick) Pitt

NY.J - FG Brien 42

 Moss 75 punt return (Brien kick) NY.J

NYJ Tongue 86 interception return (Brien kick)

— Ward 4 pass from Roethlisberger (Reed kick) Pitt

— FG Reed 33 Pitt

# 2003

INDIANAPOLIS 38. KANSAS CITY 31—Peyton Manning passed for 304 yards and 3 touchdowns, and Edgerrin James rushed for 125 yards and 2 scores, as

the Colts advanced to their first AFC Championship Game since 1995. The teams combined for 842 yards, 434 by the Colts, and it was the first postseason game in history without a punt. The Colts scored on six of their first seven possessions, with the lone non-scoring drive coming on a three-play series in their own territory as the half expired. The Colts' five touchdown drives were 70, 76, 71, 64, and 76 yards. The Chiefs attempted to keep pace, scoring on five of their first seven possessions. But Morten Andersen missed a 31-yard field goal just before halftime, allowing the Colts to maintain a 21-10 lead, and Kansas City fumbled two plays into the second half, with David Macklin recovering Priest Holmes' fumble at the Colts' 22 at the end of a 48-yard run. Holmes' 1-yard scoring run with 4:22 left cut the deficit to 38-31, but the Colts got two first downs on their ensuing possession, and by the time the Chiefs stopped the Colts on downs, Kansas City was at its own 27 with eight seconds left. Trent Green completed a screen pass to Holmes, who was tackled immediately by Gary Brackett to clinch the victory. Manning was 22 of 30 for 304 yards and 3 touchdowns. James rushed 26 times for 125 yards and 2 touchdowns. Green was 18 of 30 for 212 yards and 1 touchdown. Holmes rushed 24 times for 176 vards.

7 10 Indianapolis 14 38 Kansas City 7 3 14 7 31

Stokley 29 pass from Manning Ind (Vanderjagt kick)

KC. FG Andersen 22

Ind

— James 11 run (Vanderjagt kick) Ind

KC — Hall 9 pass from Green (Andersen kick)

Ind - Lopienski 2 pass from Manning (Vanderjagt kick)

- FG Vanderjagt 45

- Holmes 1 run (Andersen kick) KC

Ind Wayne 19 pass from Manning

(Vanderjagt kick)

KC Hall 92 kickoff return (Andersen kick)

— James 1 run (Vanderjagt kick) Ind

- Holmes 1 run (Andersen kick)

NEW ENGLAND 17, TENNESSEE 14—Adam Vinatieri's 46-yard field goal with 4:06 remaining lifted the Patriots past the Titans in four-degree weather. Tom Brady's 41-yard touchdown pass to Bethel Johnson on the Patriots' sixth offensive play staked New England to a 7-0 lead. The Titans needed just six plays to answer, as Chris Brown scored from 5 yards to tie the game. Vinatieri missed a 44-yard field goal on the Patriots' next possession, but Rodney Harrison intercepted a pass by Steve McNair on the next play to set up Antowain Smith's 1-yard touchdown run. The Titans reached the Patriots' 13 just before halftime, but Richard Seymour blocked Gary Anderson's 31-yard field-goal attempt. Tennessee had success moving the ball on its first possession of the second half, too, driving 11 plays and 70 vards, highlighted by third-down conversion passes to Tyrone Calico and Justin McCareins, to set up McNair's game-tying 11-yard scoring pass to Derrick Mason with 4:14 left in the third quarter. A 32-yard punt by Craig Hentrich and 9-yard return by Troy Brown gave New England the ball at the Titans' 40 with 6:40 remaining. Brady completed a 4-yard pass to Brown on fourthand-3 with 5:14 left and Vinatieri's 46-yard field goal three plays later gave the Patriots a 17-14 lead. Mc-Nair's fourth-and-12 desperation heave intended for Drew Bennett fell incomplete with 1:45 remaining, and New England ran out the clock. Brady was 21 of 41 for 201 yards and 1 touchdown, as he completed passes to 10 different receivers. McNair was 18 of 26 for 210 yards and 1 touchdown, with 1 interception.

7 0 7 0 — 7 7 0 3 — Tennessee **New England** 17 — B. Johnson 41 pass from Brady

(Vinatieri kick)

Brown 5 run (Anderson kick)

NF Smith 1 run (Vinatieri kick)

Tenn — Mason 11 pass from McNair (Anderson kick)

FG Vinatieri 46

# 2002

OAKLAND 30, NEW YORK JETS 10-Rich Gannon passed for 2 touchdowns and the Raiders' defense forced 4 turnovers as top-seeded Oakland advanced to the AFC Championship Game. Both teams opened with drives that resulted in field goals. Travian Smith gave the Raiders the game's first break when he sacked Chad Pennington, forced him to fumble, and recovered the ball at the Jets' 27 late in the first quarter. Zack Crockett scored six plays later to give Oakland a 10-3 lead. The Jets tied the game in the half's final minute, capping a 16-play, 81-yard drive with Pennington's 1yard touchdown pass to Jerald Sowell. The Raiders opened up the offense in the second half for Gannon, who had passed for just 94 yards in the first half. Tory James' interception midway through the third quarter was followed two plays later by Gannon's 29-yard touchdown pass to Jerry Porter. The Jets drove to the Raiders' 35 on the next possession, but Pennington's fourth-and-3 pass fell incomplete. Four plays later, Gannon found Jerry Rice for a 9-yard touchdown and a 24-10 lead with 14:15 to play. An interception and fourthdown stop led to 2 field goals by Sebastian Janikowski during the final eight minutes. Gannon was 20 of 30 for 283 yards and 2 touchdowns, with 1 interception, Porter had 6 receptions for 123 yards. Pennington was 21 of 47 for 183 yards and 1 touchdown, with 2 interceptions.

N.Y. Jets 7 0 0 — 10 7 7 13 — 30 3 3 Oakland

NYJ — FG Hall 38

 FG Janikowski 29 Oak

- Crockett 1 run (Janikowski kick) Oak

NY.J Sowell 1 pass from Pennington (Hall kick)

- Porter 29 pass from Gannon Oak

(Janikowski kick)

Oak - Rice 9 pass from Gannon (Janikowski kick)

Oak FG Janikowski 34

Oak — FG Janikowski 31

TENNESSEE 34, PITTSBURGH 31 (OT)-Joe Nedney's 26-yard field goal in overtime, after his missed 31yard attempt on the previous play was nullified by a running into the kicker penalty, lifted the Titans to victory. Tennessee dominated the first quarter to take a 14-0 lead on a pair of drives that consumed 12:22. But Eddie George's fumble at the Titans' 8 in the second quarter set up Tommy Maddox's touchdown pass to Hines Ward, and 2 field goals by Jeff Reed, including a 39yard boot as the half expired, cut the deficit to 14-13. On the first play of the third quarter George fumbled again, and Amos Zereoue raced 31 yards for a touchdown on the next play to give the Steelers the lead. Steve McNair engineered scoring drives of 63 and 58 yards on the next two possesions to give Tennessee a 28-20 lead, but Ward caught a 21-yard touchdown pass and threw a 2-point conversion pass to Plaxico Burress to tie the game with 10:09 left. Deshea Townsend's interception on the next play from scrimmage led to Reed's goahead 40-yard field goal with 8:30 left. Nedney tied the game with a 42-yard field goal with 5:40 remaining, but his 48-vard attempt with three seconds left sailed wide right. After the Titans won the overtime coin toss. Justin McCareins caught a short pass, made Dewayne Washington miss a tackle, and raced 31 yards to the Steelers' 38. On the next play, McCareins had a 22-yard catch, his only two catches of the game, to put the Titans in field-goal range. On second-and-7 from the Steelers' 13, the Steelers called time out just before the ball was snapped and Nedney booted a 31-yard field goal. With celebratory fireworks cascading over The Coliseum, Nedney tried to regroup, but he pushed the next attempt wide right. However, Washington was flagged for running into Nedney. The 5-yard penalty was marked off, and Nedney made the game-winning 26-yard field goal 2:15 into the extra session. McNair was 27 of 44 for 338 yards and 2 touchdowns, with 2 interceptions. Frank Wycheck had 10 receptions for 123 yards. Maddox was 21 of 41 for 266 yards and 2 touchdowns, with 1 interception.

13 7 11 0 Tennessee 14 0 14 3 3 — 34

Tenn — McNair 8 run (Nedney kick)

Tenn — George 1 run (Nedney kick)

Pitt — Ward 8 pass from Maddox (Reed kick)

Pitt - FG Reed 30 - FG Reed 39

Pitt Zereoue 31 run (Reed kick)

Tenn — Wycheck 7 pass from McNair (Nedney kick) Tenn — Kinney 2 pass from McNair (Nedney kick)

Pitt — Ward 21 pass from Maddox

(Burress pass from Ward)

Pitt — FG Reed 40 Tenn — FG Nedney 42 Tenn - FG Nedney 26

### 2001

PITTSBURGH 27, BALTIMORE 10-Amos Zereoue rushed for 2 touchdowns and the Steelers' defense forced 4 turnovers, recorded 3 sacks, and permitted just 150 yards and 7 first downs en route to their fourth AFC Championship Game appearance in Bill Cowher's 10year tenure. The Steelers played without Jerome Bettis, who had missed the season's final four games because of a groin injury, when he suffered complications from a pregame injection in his leg. Three plays into the game, Joey Porter hit Elvis Grbac as he attempted a pass downfield. Chad Scott intercepted the underthrown ball at the Ravens' 43 to set up Kris Brown's 21-yard field goal. After the Steelers' defense forced a three-and-out. Kordell Stewart completed 17- and 20-yard passes to Plaxico Burress and Hines Ward, respectively, to set up Zereque's first touchdown with 3:49 left in the first quarter Chris McAlister's 18-yard interception return to the Steelers' 7 late in the first guarter gave the Ravens hope, but two plays later Brent Alexander intercepted Grbac's pass in the end zone to thwart the scoring opportunity. A 27yard punt return in the second quarter set up Zereoue's second touchdown and gave the Steelers a 17-0 lead with 5:43 left in the half. Two plays later, Terry Allen fumbled and Jason Gildon recovered, setting up Brown's second field goal of the half. The Ravens recorded their initial two first downs on the ensuing possession, capped by Matt Stover's 26-yard field goal to cut the deficit to 20-3. Jermaine Lewis' 88-yard punt return in the third quarter pulled the Ravens to within 10 points, but Stewart's 32-yard touchdown pass to Burress two plays into the fourth quarter staked the Steelers to a 27-10 lead. Alexander intercepted Grbac in the end zone for the second time, with 4:18 left, to quell the Ravens' final scoring threat. Stewart was 12 of 22 for 154 yards and 1 touchdown, with 1 interception. Grbac was 18 of 37 for 153 yards, with 3 interceptions.

**Baltimore** 0 3 Pittsburgh 10 10 0

— FG Brown 21 Pitt

- Zereoue 1 run (Brown kick) Pitt

Pitt - Zereoue 1 run (Brown kick)

- FG Brown 46 Pitt

- FG Stover 26 Balt

Balt — Je. Lewis 88 punt return (Stover kick)
Pitt — Burress 32 pass from Stewart (Brown kick)

NEW ENGLAND 16, OAKLAND 13 (OT)-Adam Vinatieri's 23-yard field goal in the snow in overtime capped a 13-point rally and propelled the Patriots to victory. With the game being played in a driving snowstorm, both defenses dominated early. There was only one possession in the first half inside the opponents' 30, but the Raiders made that possession count, as James Jett caught a 13-yard touchdown pass from Rich Gannon early in the second quarter for a 7-0 lead. The clubs exchanged field goals on their first possessions of the second half, and the Raiders extended the lead to 13-3 late in the third quarter on Sebastian Janikowski's second field goal, which was set up by Gannon's 22-yard pass to Jerry Rice. With the wind at their backs for the fourth quarter, the Patriots began at their 33 with 12:29 to play. Operating without a huddle, Tom Brady completed 9 consecutive passes to begin the drive, and then scored on a 6-yard quarterback draw to cut the deficit to 13-10 with 7:52 remaining. After an exchange of punts, the Raiders were faced with third-and-1 at their 44 with 2:24 remaining, but Zack Crockett was stopped for no gain. Troy Brown returned the ensuing punt 27 yards. He fumbled at the end of his return, but Larry Izzo recovered at the Patriots' 46 with 2:06 to play and no time outs. With 1:50 remaining from the Raiders' 42, Charles Woodson blitzed and hit Brady, but after a replay review the loose ball was ruled an incomplete pass. Brady's 13-yard pass to David Patten on the next play, and a 1-yard run by Brady three plays later, set up Vinatieri's game-tying 45-

yard field goal with 27 seconds remaining in regulation to force overtime. Driving into the snowstorm in overtime, Brady completed all 8 of his pass attempts, including a 6-yard pass to Patten on fourth-and-4 to the Raiders' 22, to set up Vinatieri's winning kick 8:29 into overtime. Brady was 32 of 52 for 312 yards, with 1 interception. Jermaine Wiggins had 10 receptions for 68 yards, and Patten added 8 catches for 107 yards. Gannon was 17 of 31 for 159 yards and 1 touchdown.

7 6 0 0 — 13 0 3 10 3 — 16 0 0 New England

 Jett 13 pass from Gannon (Janikowski kick) Oak

FG Vinatieri 23 Oak

- FG Janikowski 38 Oak - FG Janikowski 45

- Brady 6 run (Vinatieri kick)

— FG Vinatieri 45

- FG Vinatieri 23 NE

BALTIMORE 24, TENNESSEE 10—Ray Lewis' 50-yard interception return for a touchdown midway through the fourth quarter iced the Rayens' comeback victory. The Titans drove 68 yards in 11 plays on the game's opening drive, capped by Eddie George's 2-yard touchdown run. It turned out to be the only touchdown allowed by the Ravens' defense in four 2000 postseason games. Trent Dilfer's 56-yard pass to Shannon Sharpe early in the second quarter led to Jamal Lewis' 1-yard scoring run to tie the game. After Al Del Greco's 45-yard field-goal attempt in the second quarter was blocked by Keith Washington, Chris Coleman blocked Kyle Richardson's punt deep in Ravens' territory. However, Del Greco missed a 31-yard attempt just before halftime. Coleman blocked another punt by Richardson two minutes into the second half, but the Titans had to settle for Del Greco's 21-yard field goal and a 10-7 lead. A 15-yard fair-catch interference penalty on Tennessee led to Matt Stover's game-tying field goal late in the third quarter. Early in the fourth quarter, Washington blocked another field-goal attempt by Del Greco. Anthony Mitchell caught the ball and scampered 90 yards down the right sideline for the goahead touchdown. Down 17-10, the Titans had the ball at their 47 with 6:55 remaining when Steve McNair's short pass bounced off George's hands to Lewis, who raced 50 yards for the game's final points. Dilfer completed 5 of 16 passes for 117 yards, and the Ravens won despite being held to 6 first downs. McNair was 24 of 46 for 176 yards, with 1 interception.

0 7 3 14 — 24 7 0 3 0 — 10 Baltimore Tennessee

Tenn — George 2 run (Del Greco kick) Balt — Ja. Lewis 1 run (Stover kick)

Tenn — FG Del Greco 21

Balt - FG Stover 38

- Mitchell 90 blocked field goal return Balt

(Stover kick)

Balt R Lewis 50 interception return (Stover kick)

OAKLAND 27, MIAMI 0-The Raiders rushed for 140 yards on offense and forced 4 turnovers on defense to hand the Dolphins their first shutout loss in postseason history. Jeff Ogden's 45-yard punt return gave Miami an excellent scoring opportunity on its first possession. However, Tory James stepped in front of Jay Fiedler's second-down pass and returned it 90 yards for a touchdown. The Raiders added field goals by Sebastian Janikowski on their next two drives to take a 13-0 lead. On the Dolphins' ensuing possession, Charles Woodson recovered Lamar Smith's fumble to set up Rich Gannon's 6-yard touchdown pass to James Jett, which gave Oakland a 20-0 lead. Tyrone Wheatley's 2-yard touchdown run capped a 12-play, 54-yard drive on the Raiders' first possession of the second half for the game's final points. Gannon completed 12 of 18 passes for 143 yards and 1 touchdown. Fiedler was 18 of 37 for 176 yards, with 3 interceptions.

0 — 0 0 — 27 0 0 0 10 10 7 Oakland

Oak — James 90 interception return

(Janikowski kick) - FG Janikowski 36

Oak Oak — FG Janikowski 33 Oak — Jett 6 pass from Gannon (Janikowski kick) - Wheatley 2 run (Janikowski kick)

# 1999

TENNESSEE 19, INDIANAPOLIS 16-Eddie George rushed for 162 yards and scored the Titans' lone touchdown as the franchise formerly known as the Houston Oilers reached its first AFC Championship Game since 1979. The Colts led 9-6 at halftime, but George's 68-yard touchdown run on the third play of the second half gave the Titans a 13-9 lead. While the Colts had to punt to conclude their first four possessions of the second half, an Al Del Greco field goal gave Tennessee a 16-6 lead, and after an instant-replay reversal ruled that Terrence Wilkins stepped out of bounds on his own 34 during an 87-yard punt return, Del Greco added a second field goal to give the Titans a 19-9 lead with 4:19 left. The Colts were stopped on downs, but George fumbled three plays later, and Mark Thomas recovered with 3:11 left. Peyton Manning scrambled 15 yards for a touchdown to cut the deficit to 19-16 with 1:51 left, but Yancey Thigpen recovered the ensuing onside kick and the Colts had no timeouts to stop the clock. Steve McNair was 13 of 24 for 112 yards. Manning was 19 of 43 for 227 yards.

0 6 7 6 — 19 3 6 0 7 — 16 Tennessee Indianapolis

Ind — FG Vanderjagt 40 Tenn — FG Del Greco 49

Ind — FG Vanderjagt 40

Tenn — FG Del Greco 37 Ind — FG Vanderjagt 34

Tenn — George 68 run (Del Greco kick)

Tenn — FG Del Greco 25 Tenn — FG Del Greco 43

Ind — Manning 15 run (Vanderjagt kick)

JACKSONVILLE 62, MIAMI 7—The Jaguars scored 38 points in the first 17 minutes, 55 seconds en route to the highest point total in AFC postseason history. Mark Brunell's 8-yard touchdown pass to Jimmy Smith capped a game-opening 9-play, 73-yard drive. Aaron Beasley intercepted Dan Marino's pass on the Dolphins' first play, setting up Mike Hollis' 45-yard field goal with 6:19 remaining in the quarter. Two plays after a Dolphins' punt, Fred Taylor scampered 90 yards down the right sideline. On the next play from scrimmage, Tony Brackens stripped Marino, recovered the ball, and, after not being touched, was pushed into the end zone by teammates to give Jacksonville a 24-0 lead with 3:21 left in the quarter. Taylor dodged three tacklers en route to the end zone on a 39-yard screen pass on the first play of the second quarter. Corey Chamblin blocked the Dolphins' punt on the ensuing possession, and James Stewart scored three plays later to give the Jaguars a 38-0 lead before Miami had a first down. The Dolphins drove 80 yards just before halftime to get on the board. but Jacksonville, with reserve Jay Fiedler, scored on its first two possessions of the second half to take a 55-7 lead. Brunell was 5 of 9 for 105 yards and 2 touchdowns. Taylor carried 18 times for 135 yards. Marino was 11 of 25 for 95 yards and 1 touchdown, with 2 interceptions before being replaced in the third guarter by Damon Huard. The Jaguars had more first downs (21-10), total yards (520-131), registered 5 sacks, and forced 7 turnovers.

0 7 0 0 — 7 24 17 14 7 — 62 Miami Jacksonville

 Smith 8 pass from Brunell (Hollis kick) Jax

— FG Hollis 45

— Taylor 90 run (Hollis kick) Jax

- Brackens 16 fumble return (Hollis kick)

- Taylor 39 pass from Brunell (Hollis kick)

- Stewart 25 run (Hollis kick) Jax

- FG Hollis 28

- Gadsden 20 pass from Marino (Mare kick)

- Smith 70 pass from Fiedler (Hollis kick)

- Whitted 38 pass from Fiedler (Hollis kick)

Jax - Howard 5 run (Hollis kick)

# 1998

N.Y. JETS 34, JACKSONVILLE 24— Keyshawn Johnson caught a touchdown pass, rushed for a touchdown, and intercepted a pass to seal the Jets' first postseason victory since 1986. The Jets needed just seven plays on

the game's opening drive to reach the end zone, courtesy of Vinny Testaverde's 21-yard pass to Johnson, to take a 7-0 lead. A 13-play drive set up John Hall's 52yard field goal to give the Jets a 10-0 lead, and Otis Smith's interception on the Jaguars' first play after the field goal gave the Jets the ball at their 40. Ten plays later, from the Jaguars' 22, Curtis Martin fumbled, and Chris Hudson recovered the ball. Hudson ran into Jets' territory and attempted a lateral, recovered by Johnson at the Jets' 35. The Jets then took 11 plays to march 65 yards, capped by Johnson's 10-yard reverse run to take a 17-0 lead with 33 seconds left in the half. The Jets had run 34 of the last 35 plays from scrimmage. The Jaguars got on the scoreboard, as Jimmy Smith caught Mark Brunell's 52-yard bomb as the half expired. Corwin Brown's interception in the opening minutes of the second half set up Martin's 1-yard touchdown run, but Reggie Barlow's 88yard kickoff return led to Brunell's 3-yard touchdown pass to Keenan McCardell to cut the deficit to 24-10. Martin scored again on the next drive, but the Jaguars used Brunell's second touchdown pass to Smith to cut the lead to 31-21, and then used Wayne Chrebet's fumble to set up Mike Hollis' 37-yard field goal with 6:38 left. Donovin Darius halted the Jets' next drive with an interception in the end zone, but he stepped out and was tackled at the Jets' 1 with 2:24 left. The Jaguars failed to get a first down, and Hall iced the game with a 30-yard field goal with 24 seconds left. In the final seconds Brunell's Hail Mary pass was picked off by Johnson, who finished with 9 receptions for 121 yards, with a touchdown, interception, and fumble recovery. Testaverde was 24 of 36 for 284 yards and 1 touchdown, with 1 interception. Martin rushed 36 times for 124 yards, while Johnson had 9 receptions for 121 yards. Brunell was 12 of 31 for 156 yards and 3 touchdowns, with 3 interceptions. Smith had 5 catches for 104 yards. Jacksonville

0 7 7 10 — 24 7 10 14 3 — 34 N.Y. Jets — K. Johnson 21 pass from Testaverde NYJ (Hall kick) NYJ — FG Hall 52 NYJ - K. Johnson 10 run (Hall kick) Jax - Smith 52 pass from Brunell (Hollis kick) - Martin 1 run (Hall kick) NYJ - McCardell 3 pass from Brunell (Hollis kick) Jax NYJ - Martin 1 run (Hall kick) - Smith 19 pass from Brunell (Hollis kick) Jax - FG Hollis 37 Jax NYJ - FG Hall 30

DENVER 38, MIAMI 3-Terrell Davis rushed for 199 vards and 2 touchdowns and the Broncos' defense limited Miami to just 14 rushing yards as Denver began its postseason bid to repeat as Super Bowl champions. The Broncos scored on their first three possessions, driving 92 and 66 yards in the first guarter and, following an Olindo Mare field goal, marching 87 yards to a third touchdown in the second quarter to take a 21-3 lead at halftime. Davis rushed for more yards (129) than the Dolphins had gained (119) at intermission. Davis scampered 62 yards on the first play of the second half to set up Jason Elam's field goal to give Denver a 24-3 lead The Dolphins drove into Broncos' territory three times in the second half, but Bill Romanowski and Darrius Johnson each recorded interceptions and Neil Smith recovered Oronde Gadsden's fumble and rumbled 79 yards for the game's final points. John Elway was 14 of 23 for 182 yards and 1 touchdown. Dan Marino was 26 of 37 for 243 yards, with 2 interceptions. O.J. McDuffie had 9 receptions for 118 yards.

0 3 0 0 — 3 14 7 3 14 — 38 0 Miami Denver Den — Davis 1 run (Elam kick) - Davis 20 run (Elam kick) Den — FG Mare 22 - Loville 11 run (Elam kick) Den Den - FG Elam 32 Den - R. Smith 28 pass from Elway (Elam kick) Den — N. Smith 79 fumble return (Elam kick)

DENVER 14, KANSAS CITY 10—Terrell Davis recovered from bruised ribs to rush for 101 yards and 2 touchdowns as the Broncos knocked the number-one seeded Chiefs out of the playoffs. The Chiefs pinned the Broncos deep in their own territory early in the second quarter when Bucky Brooks leaped over the goal line and tipped a punt back onto the field where it was downed at the 2-yard line. Tom Rouen's punt three plays later traveled just 25 yards, giving the Chiefs excellent field position at the Broncos 30. However, Pete Stoyanovich, who missed just one field goal all season, sailed his 44-yard attempt wide left. The Broncos proceeded to march 65 yards, with Davis' first touchdown with 1:56 left in the half giving Denver a 7-0 lead. Elvis Grbac threw a 34-yard pass to Andre Rison on the first play of the second half to set up Stoyanovich's 20-yard field goal. The Broncos used a 41-yard run by Davis to get deep into Chiefs territory, but John Browning forced Derek Loville to fumble and Reggie Tongue recovered at the Chiefs' 11 to thwart the drive. After an exchange of punts, Grbac connected with Joe Horn on a 50-yard pass and, three plays later, found Tony Gonzalez in the end zone for a touchdown to give the Chiefs a 10-7 lead with 10 seconds left in the third quarter. Loville returned the ensuing kickoff 20 yards, and an unnecessary roughness penalty on Danan Hughes gave the Broncos the ball at the Chiefs' 49. On third-and-5, John Elway threw a short pass to Ed McCaffrey, who tightroped his way 43 yards to the Chiefs' 1. Davis scored three plays later to give Denver a 14-10 advantage with 12:32 left. The Chiefs drove to the Broncos' 37 where they faced fourthand-6. Kansas City lined up in field-goal formation, but holder Louie Aguiar ran with the ball and was tackled by Gordon three yards shy of the first down. A couple of punts later, the Chiefs began their final drive at their own 17 with 4:04 remaining. Faced with fourth-and-9 from the 47, Grbac hit Lake Dawson with a 12-yard pass and, after getting sacked, connected on a 23-yard pass to Rison to get the Chiefs to the Broncos' 28 with 1:51 left, where they used their final timeout. Grbac netted 1-, 3-, and 4-yard passes to Kimble Anders, Gonzalez, and Ted Popson before Gordon batted down Grbac's final pass attempt in the end zone on fourth-and-2 with 19 seconds left to seal the victory. Elway was 10 of 19 for 170 yards. Grbac was 24 of 37 for 260 yards and 1 touchdown.

0 7 0 7 — 14 0 0 10 0 — 10 Denver Kansas City Den — Davis 1 run (Elam kick) - FG Stoyanovich 20 Gonzalez 12 pass from Grbac (Stoyanovich kick) - Davis 1 run (Elam kick) Den

PITTSBURGH 7, NEW ENGLAND 6-Chad Scott intercepted Drew Bledsoe's long pass intended for Terry Glenn on the game's third play, returning it 27 yards to the Steelers' 38. On second-and-10 from the Patriots' 40, Kordell Stewart ran the option left and tightroped 40 yards down the sideline for a touchdown. The Patriots strung together a 10-play, 65-yard drive that culminated with Vinatieri's 31-yard field goal in the middle of the second quarter to cut the deficit to 7-3. After a third quarter that saw neither team drive within the opponents' 40. Vinatieri's second field goal with 12:16 left made it a onepoint game. The Steelers reached the Patriots' 1 on fourth down with 3:29 left, but Stewart was stopped at the line of scrimmage. The Patriots reached their own 42yard line, but Mark Vrabel sacked Bledsoe with 1:50 left, and Jason Gildon recovered the ensuing fumble. The Steelers were forced to punt, but Bledsoe's desperation pass was intercepted by Levon Kirkland at the Steelers' 20 to end the game. Stewart was 14 of 31 for 134 yards, with 1 interception. Bledsoe was 23 of 44 for 264 yards, with 2 interceptions. Shawn Jefferson had 9 receptions for 104 yards. The Steelers had 1 more first down, and the Patriots gained 1 more yard, but the Steelers had an 11:14 edge in time of possession because of Stewart (68 yards) and Jerome Bettis (67 yards), and forced 4

New England 0 Pittsburgh Stewart 40 run (Johnson kick) Pitt

- FG Vinatieri 31

NF - FG Vinatieri 46

# 1996

NEW ENGLAND 28, PITTSBURGH 3—Curtis Martin scored three touchdowns and New England's defense stifled Pittsburgh as the Patriots routed the Steelers in the fog in Foxboro. The Patriots broke Pittsburgh's back on their first play from scrimmage as Terry Glenn beat Rod Woodson and, despite heavy fog, caught a 53-yard bomb from Drew Bledsoe. Martin scored on the next play to start the rout. The Patriots next drive lasted 1:59, finishing with Keith Byars' 34-yard touchdown off a screen pass. Martin then raced 78 yards up the right sideline to stake New England to a 21-0 second-quarter lead. The Steelers were forced to punt after each of their first seven possessions. Chad Brown's interception in Patriots' territory set up Norm Johnson's field goal. Martin capped his 166-yard rushing day by scoring on a 23-yard jaunt. Pittsburgh shuffled quarterbacks throughout the game, with Mike Tomczak completing 16 of 29 pass attempts for 110 yards and 2 interceptions, while Kordell Stewart finished a dreadful 0 for 10. Jerome Bettis, hampered by a groin injury, gained just 43 yards. Pittsburgh converted just 3 of 18 third-down opportunities.

0 0 3 0 — 3 14 7 0 7 — 28 Pittsburgh **New England**  Martin 2 run (Vinatieri kick) NF - Byars 34 pass from Bledsoe (Vinatieri kick) NF - Martin 78 run (Vinatieri kick) NF — FG N. Johnson 29 Pitt

Martin 23 run (Vinatieri kick)

NF

JACKSONVILLE 30, DENVER 27-Mark Brunell passed for 245 yards and 2 touchdowns to lead the Jaguars to their second consecutive postseason victory. The Broncos, who finished the season 8-0 at home and had home-field advantage throughout the playoffs, blew a 12-0 lead. After Vaughn Hebron's short run began the scoring, Clyde Simmons blocked the extrapoint attempt. The Broncos failed to convert the 2-point conversion following Shannon Sharpe's touchdown catch late in the first quarter. The Jaguars responded by scoring on their next six possessions. Natrone Means, who carried the ball 21 times for 140 yards, pulled the Jaguars within two points before Mike Hollis' 42-yard field goal with 10 seconds left in the half put Jacksonville ahead 13-12. Brunell, rolling to his left, lofted a perfectly placed 31-yard touchdown pass to Keenan McCardell in the left corner of the end zone to put the Jaguars ahead 20-12. Jacksonville took 8 minutes, 32 seconds off the clock with its next possession, ending with Hollis' third field goal. The 17-play drive was kept alive when Michael Dean Perry failed to hustle off the field when the Jaguars were punting in a fourth-and-5 situation. Denver got the ball back with less than 11 minutes remaining, and Terrell Davis scored and tallied a 2-point conversion, to cut the deficit to 23-20. Jacksonville calmly marched down field, and Jimmy Smith caught a 16-yard touchdown pass on third-and-5 to put Jacksonville ahead by 10 points with 3:39 remaining. John Elway quickly led the Broncos to another touchdown, with Ed McCaffrey doing the honors with 1:50 left. However Le'Shai Maston recovered the onside kick and the Jaquars ended the Broncos postseason homewinning streak at 6 games. Neither team committed a turnover.

0 13 7 10 — 30 12 0 0 15 — 27 Jacksonville Denver Den — Hebron 1 run (kick blocked)

Den

— Sharpe 18 pass from Elway (pass failed) - FG Hollis 46

Jax

- Means 8 run (Hollis kick)

- FG Hollis 42

— McCardell 31 pass from Brunell (Hollis kick) Jax Jax

- FG Hollis 22

Den - Davis 2 run (Davis run)

- Smith 16 pass from Brunell (Hollis kick)

- McCaffrey 15 pass from Elway (Elam kick) Den

# 1995

INDIANAPOLIS 10, KANSAS CITY 7—Cary Blanchard broke a 7-7 tie with a 30-yard field goal late in the third quarter, and the Colts held on to stun the Chiefs. . Kansas City, which had compiled the NFL's best record during the regular season by winning 13 of 16 games, had a chance to tie the game in the final minute, but Lin Elliott's 42-yard field-goal try with 37 seconds left was wide left. Elliott also missed a 35-yard attempt in the first

half and a 39-yard try early in the fourth quarter. Indianapolis, which won on the road for the second consecutive week, relied on a ground game that produced 147 yards and a stingy defense that forced 4 turnovers and shut out the Chiefs after the first quarter. Kansas City quarterback Steve Bono completed only 11 of 25 passes for 122 yards and was intercepted 3 times before being lifted in favor of backup Rich Gannon late in the fourth quarter. Colts quarterback Jim Harbaugh did not fare any better, completing only 12 of 27 passes for 112 yards, but tied the game with a 5-yard touchdown pass to Floyd Turner midway through the second quarter and scrambled for 48 yards. The Chiefs' Marcus Allen led all rushers with 94 yards on 21 carries.

0 7 3 0 — 10 7 0 0 0 — 7 Indianapolis **Kansas City** - Dawson 20 pass from Bono (Elliott kick) KC — Turner 5 pass from Harbaugh (Blanchard kick) Ind - FG Blanchard 30 Ind

PITTSBURGH 40, BUFFALO 21—Neil O'Donnell passed for 262 yards and Byron (Bam) Morris ran for 2 game-clinching touchdowns in the fourth guarter as the Steelers advanced to the AFC Championship Game for the second consecutive year. O'Donnell completed 19 of 35 passes, including a 10-yard touchdown to Ernie Mills to give Pittsburgh a 14-0 lead 42 seconds into the second guarter. Norm Johnson added 3 field goals before halftime and another 6:36 into the second half to increase the Steelers' advantage to 26-7. After the Bills pulled within 26-21 on Jim Kelly's 9-yard touchdown pass to running back Thurman Thomas with 11:23 left in the game, Pittsburgh answered with a 9-play, 76-yard drive capped by Morris' 13-yard touchdown run with 6:16 to go. Moments later, linebacker Levon Kirkland's interception and 4-yard return set up Morris' 2-yard touchdown run at the 1:58 mark. Morris finished with 106 yards on 25 carries, helping the Steelers' balanced offense produce 409 total yards. Buffalo, which had amassed a record 341 rushing yards and more than 500 total yards in its victory over the Dolphins a week earlier, managed only 94 rushing yards and 250 total yards in this one. Quarterback Jim Kelly completed only 14 of 29 passes for 135 yards and was intercepted 3 times. Buffalo played without defensive end Bruce Smith, who missed the game because of the flu.

7 7 7 — 21 16 3 14 — 40 Buffalo Õ 7 16 Pittsburgh Pitt — J.L. Williams 1 run (N. Johnson kick) Pitt - Mills 10 pass from O'Donnell (N. Johnson kick) Pitt - FG N. Johnson 45 - FG N. Johnson 38 Pitt - Thomas 1 run (Christie kick) Buff - FG N. Johnson 34 Pitt - FG N. Johnson 39 Pitt - Cline 2 pass from Van Pelt (Christie kick) Buff Buff — Thomas 9 pass from Kelly (Christie kick)

- Morris 13 run (N. Johnson kick)

### - Morris 2 run (N. Johnson kick) Pitt 1994

Pitt

PITTSBURGH 29, CLEVELAND 9—The Steelers scored on their first three possessions to open a 17-0 lead and went on to defeat the Browns for the third time this season. Pittsburgh dominated the first playoff meeting ever between these long-time rivals (they've played each other twice a year in the regular season since 1950), rushing for 238 yards while amassing 424 total yards and maintaining possession for 42:37 of the game's 60 minutes. Barry Foster ran for 133 yards on 24 carries, and rookie Byron (Bam) Morris added 60 yards on 22 attempts. Neil O'Donnell was efficient, completing 8 of his first 9 passes and finishing with 16 completions in 23 attempts for 186 yards. He threw a 2yard touchdown pass to tight end Eric Green early in the second quarter and put the game out of reach with a 9-yard touchdown pass to Yancey Thigpen for a 24-3 lead just 16 seconds before halftime. That touchdown was set up by Tim McKyer's interception and 21-yard return to Cleveland's 6-yard line. It was 1 of 2 interceptions (safety Darren Perry had the other) of Vinny Testaverde, who was 13 of 31 for 144 yards. Testaverde received little help from Cleveland's running game, which managed only 55 yards. Ernie Mills caught 5 passes for 117 yards for the Steelers.

Cleveland 3 Λ Q 0 2 — 29 Pittsburgh 3 21 3

Pitt - FG Anderson 39 Pitt

Green 2 pass from O'Donnell (Anderson kick) - J. Williams 26 run (Anderson kick)

Cle - FG Stover 22

- Thigpen 9 pass from O'Donnell (Anderson kick)

Pitt FG Anderson 40

Cle - McCardell 20 pass from Testaverde (pass failed)

- Safety, Lake sacked Testaverde in end zone

SAN DIEGO 22, MIAMI 21—Stan Humphries threw an 8-yard touchdown pass to Mark Seay with 35 seconds remaining, and the Chargers held on to win when Pete Stoyanovich's 48-yard field-goal try fell short and wide right with one second to play. To qualify for the AFC Championship Game for the first time since 1981, San Diego had to rally from a 21-6 halftime deficit. After having 2 drives stall inside Miami's 5yard line in the first half, the Chargers opened the third quarter by marching 71 yards to the Dolphins' 1-yard line, only to be turned away on fourth down. But on the next play, defensive tackle Reuben Davis dropped Miami running back Bernie Parmalee in the end zone for a safety. San Diego took the ensuing free kick and marched 54 yards to a touchdown, pulling within 21-15 on Natrone Means' 24-yard run with 2:42 left in the third quarter. Late in the fourth quarter, Humphries drove his team from its own 39-yard line to the goahead touchdown. The Dolphins got one more chance when Chargers safety Eric Castle was whistled for a 32-yard pass interference penalty, but the snap was high on the strong-legged Stoyanovich's errant fieldgoal attempt. Humphries completed 28 of 43 passes for 276 yards, while Means rushed for 139 yards on 24 attempts for the Chargers. Miami quarterback Dan Marino was 24 of 38 for 262 yards and 2 touchdowns. But only 56 yards came after halftime, when the Dolphins were limited to five plays in the third quarter and 11 in the fourth quarter. Miami tight end Keith Jackson caught 8 passes for 109 yards and 2 touchdowns.

**7** 14 0 0 0 6 9 Miami 0 — 21 7 — 22 San Diego

Mia - K. Jackson 8 pass from Marino (Stoyanovich kick)

SD - FG Carney 20

Mia - K. Jackson 9 pass from Marino (Stoyanovich kick)

SD FG Carney 21

- M. Williams 16 pass from Marino

Mia (Stovanovich kick)

Safety, R. Davis tackled Parmalee in end zone SD SD

- Means 24 run (Carney kick)

— Seay 8 pass from Humphries (Carney kick) SD

# 1993

BUFFALO 29, L.A. RAIDERS 23—Jim Kelly threw 2 second-half touchdown passes to Bill Brooks and the Bills overcame an 11-point deficit to advance to the AFC Championship Game for the fifth time in six years. Napoleon McCallum scored on a pair of 1-yard touchdown runs for the Raiders, the second of which gave Los Angeles a 17-6 advantage with 1:57 remaining in the first half. But Buffalo took only 67 seconds to march 76 yards and trim the deficit to 4 points at intermission. A 37-yard pass interference penalty preceded Thurman Thomas' 8-yard touchdown run with 50 seconds remaining in the second quarter. That set up a flurry of activity that saw the lead change three times in a span of 6:18 late in the third and early in the fourth quarters. Kelly gave the Bills a 19-17 edge with a 25-yard touchdown pass to Brooks with 3:23 left in the third period. Moments later, Buffalo safety Henry Jones recovered Mc-Callum's fumble on the Raiders' 30-yard line, setting up Steve Christie's 29-yard field goal 59 seconds before the end of the quarter. Two plays after that, Raiders wide receiver Tim Brown took a short pass from a scrambling Jeff Hostetler and turned it into an 86-yard touchdown that put Los Angeles back on top 23-22. But the Bills responded by driving 71 yards to Kelly's 22-yard touchdown pass to Brooks 2:55 into the fourth guarter. That held up for the winning points as Buffalo's defense shut down the Raiders. After gaining 14 first downs in the first half, Los Angeles managed only 1 in the second half, that coming on the long touchdown pass. Kelly completed 27 of 37 passes for 287 yards for the Bills, while Brooks caught 6 passes for 96 yards. Hostetler was 14 of 20 for 230 yards for the Raiders. The game was played in frigid conditions. Temperature at kickoff was zero degrees, with the wind-chill at minus-32.

17 L.A. Raiders 0 6 0 — 23 0 9 Buffalo 13

Raid — FG Jaeger 30

Buff — Davis 1 run (kick failed)

Raid - McCallum 1 run (Jaeger kick) - McCallum 1 run (Jaeger kick) Raid

Buff - Thomas 8 run (Christie kick)

- Brooks 25 pass from Kelly (kick failed)

- FG Christie 29 Buff

- Brown 86 pass from Hostetler (kick failed) Raid

Brooks 22 pass from Kelly (Christie kick)

KANSAS CITY 28, HOUSTON 20—Joe Montana threw 3 second-half touchdown passes, including 2 just 54 seconds apart in the fourth quarter, to rally the Chiefs past the Oilers. Houston, which entered the game with an 11-game winning streak, jumped out to a 10-0 lead in the opening guarter and still led 13-7 after Al Del Greco's 43-yard field goal with 9:37 remaining in the fourth guarter. But Kansas City marched 71 yards in only 59 seconds, the key play a 38-yard pass interference penalty against Oilers cornerback Cris Dishman, to take the lead for the first time on Montana's 11-yard touchdown pass to J.J. Birden. On the next play from scrimmage, Chiefs linebacker Derrick Thomas sacked Houston quarterback Warren Moon, forcing a fumble that defensive tackle Dan Saleaumua recovered at the Oilers' 12-yard line. On third down, Montana's 18-yard touchdown pass to Willie Davis put Kansas City ahead 21-13 with 7:44 left. Houston drove 80 yards to a touchdown to pull within 1 point with 3:45 to go, but Marcus Allen's 21-yard touchdown run at the 1:55 mark sealed the Oilers' fate. The key play on the Chiefs' 79-yard march came on third-and-1 from Kansas City's 30-yard line. Montana's arm was hit as he threw, but his wobbly pass was caught by tight end Keith Cash, who rumbled 41 yards to Houston's 29. Cash also had a 7-yard touchdown reception in the third quarter. Montana finished with 22 completions in 38 attempts for 299 yards. Allen rushed for 74 yards on only 14 carries. Moon completed 32 of 43 passes for 306 yards for the Oilers. But without the benefit of an effective rushing attack (Houston ran for only 39 yards), he was under pressure all afternoon and was sacked 9 times. Thomas, Joe Phillips, Albert Lewis, and Bennie Thompson each had 2 sacks for the Chiefs, who equaled the NFL record for sacks in a postseason game.

Kansas City 0 0 7 21 — 28 10 — 20 Houston 10 0 0 Hou - FG Del Greco 49

Hou - Brown 2 run (Del Greco kick)

KC. Cash 7 pass from Montana (Lowery kick)

Hou — FG Del Greco 43

KC - Birden 11 pass from Montana (Lowery kick)

KC. - Davis 18 pass from Montana (Lowery kick)

Hou — Givins 7 pass from Moon (Del Greco kick)

KC - Allen 21 run (Lowery kick)

# 1992

BUFFALO 24, PITTSBURGH 3—Frank Reich passed for 2 touchdowns to lead the Bills to a methodical victory over the Steelers. Reich, playing for injured starter Jim Kelly, completed 16 of 23 passes for 160 yards and was not intercepted, while running back Kenneth Davis added 104 yards on the ground. Pittsburgh, which led the NFL with 43 takeaways during the regular season, did not register any in this game while turning the ball over 4 times. Trailing 3-0 in second quarter, Buffalo drove 59 yards to a touchdown after defensive end Phil Hansen recovered O'Donnell's fumble at the Bills' 41yard line. Reich's 1-yard touchdown pass to tackle-eligible Mitch Frerotte capped that drive and gave Buffalo the lead for good. Reich's 17-yard touchdown pass to James Lofton 11 minutes into the second half gave the Bills all the cushion they would need. O'Donnell, who

missed the last three games of the regular season, was rusty in his return, completing 15 of 29 passes for 163 yards, with 2 interceptions. Steelers running back Barry Foster gained 104 yards on 20 carries.

0 7 7 10 — 24 3 0 0 0 — 3 Buffalo Pittsburgh — FG Anderson 38

- Frerotte 1 pass from Reich (Christie kick) Lofton 17 pass from Reich (Christie kick)

- FG Christie 43

— Gardner 1 run (Christie kick)

MIAMI 31, SAN DIEGO 0-Dan Marino threw 3 firsthalf touchdown passes, including 2 just 79 seconds apart late in the second quarter to break open a close game with the Chargers. Cornerback Troy Vincent's interception and 2-yard return to San Diego's 48-yard line set up Miami's first touchdown, a 1-yard pass from Marino to running back Tony Paige 6:30 before halftime. Minutes later, Vincent intercepted another pass, and it took Marino only two plays to put the Dolphins in the end zone again, this time on his 9-vard strike to tight end Keith Jackson with 1:46 left in the half. Chargers guarterback Stan Humphries then was intercepted for the third time in the second quarter, this time by linebacker Bryan Cox, who picked off Humphries pass and returned it seven yards to the San Diego 42. Marino's 30-yard touchdown pass to Jackson with 27 seconds to go in the half put the game out of reach. Miami controlled the ball on the ground for most of the second half, with Aaron Craver adding a 25-yard touchdown run in the fourth quarter. Craver finished with 72 rushing yards, while Bobby Humphrey had 71. San Diego managed only 10 first downs and 202 total yards, and Humphries suffered 4 interceptions. The Chargers entered the game with victories in each of their last eight games and 12 of their last 13.

0 0 0 21 San Diego Miami - Paige 1 pass from Marino (Stoyanovich kick) Mia - K. Jackson 9 pass from Marino Mia (Stoyanovich kick) K. Jackson 30 pass from Marino

(Stoyanovich kick)

Mia - FG Stoyanovich 22

- Craver 25 run (Stoyanovich kick) Mia

# 1991

Den

DENVER 26, HOUSTON 24-David Treadwell's 28yard field goal with 16 seconds remaining lifted the Broncos over the Oilers. Treadwell's winning kick capped a dramatic 87-yard drive engineered by quarterback John Elway. The key play on the drive was Elway's 44-yard pass to Vance Johnson on fourth-and-10 from the Denver 35. Houston built a 21-6 lead on 3 touchdown passes by Warren Moon. After Denver closed to 21-16, the Oilers added a field goal to up their lead to 24-16 with 13:25 left. But Elway marched the Broncos 80 yards for a touchdown that pulled them within one point and set up his last-minute heroics.

14 7 0 3 — 24 6 7 3 10 — 26 Houston Denver Hou — Jeffires 15 pass from Moon (Del Greco kick)
Hou — Hill 9 pass from Moon (Del Greco kick) Den  $\,$  – V. Johnson 10 pass from Elway (kick failed) Hou - Duncan 6 pass from Moon (Del Greco kick) Den — Lewis 1 run (Treadwell kick) Den — FG Treadwell 49 Hou — FG Del Greco 25

- Lewis 1 run (Treadwell kick)

Den - FG Treadwell 28

BUFFALO 37, KANSAS CITY 14—Jim Kelly passed for 3 touchdowns as the Bills avenged a 33-6 regular-sea son defeat to the Chiefs. Kelly, who completed 23 of 35 passes for 273 yards, teamed with Andre Reed for scoring passes of 25 and 53 yards as Buffalo built a 17-0 halftime lead. Kelly's 10-yard touchdown pass to James Lofton in the third quarter put the game out of reach at 24-0. The Bills gained 448 total yards while limiting Kansas City to 213.

0 0 7 7 — 14 7 10 7 13 — 37 Kansas City Buff — Reed 25 pass from Kelly (Norwood kick)

Buff - Reed 53 pass from Kelly (Norwood kick) Buff — FG Norwood 33 Buff

- Lofton 10 pass from Kelly (Norwood kick)

KC - Word 3 run (Lowery kick) Buff — FG Norwood 20

Buff - FG Norwood 47

- K. Davis 5 run (Norwood kick) Buff

KC — F. Jones 20 pass from Vlasic (Lowery kick)

# 1990

BUFFALO 44, MIAMI 34—Thurman Thomas ran for 2 touchdowns and Andre Reed caught 2 to lead the Bills over the Dolphins. Jim Kelly, returning to the lineup after being sidelined with an injury, passed for 339 yards and 3 touchdowns. Kelly had scoring strikes of 40 yards (to Reed) and 13 yards (to James Lofton) to help Buffalo take a 27-17 halftime lead. After Miami closed within 30-27 early in the fourth quarter, Thomas ran 5 yards for his second touchdown, and Kelly hit Reed for a 26-yard score to clinch the victory.

3 14 3 14 — 34 13 14 3 14 — 44 Miami Buffalo

- Reed 40 pass from Kelly (Norwood kick) Buff

- FG Stovanovich 49 Mia — FG Norwood 24 Ruff

Buff - FG Norwood 22 Buff Thomas 5 run (Norwood kick)

- Duper 64 pass from Marino (Stoyanovich kick) Mia

 Lofton 13 pass from Kelly (Norwood kick) Buff

— Marino 2 run (Stoyanovich kick) Mia

- FG Stoyanovich 22 Mia Buff - FG Norwood 28

Mia - Foster 2 pass from Marino (Stoyanovich kick)

— Thomas 5 run (Norwood kick) Buff

Buff - Reed 26 pass from Kelly (Norwood kick)

- Martin 8 pass from Marino (Stoyanovich kick)

LOS ANGELES RAIDERS 20, CINCINNATI 10-Jay Schroeder passed for 2 touchdowns and Marcus Allen ran for 140 yards to lead the Raiders over the Bengals. Schroeder gave Los Angeles a 7-3 halftime lead with a 13-yard scoring strike to Mervyn Fernandez. In the fourth quarter, Schroeder connected with tight end Ethan Horton on a 41-yard touchdown pass to break a 10-10 tie. The Raiders added a late field goal to clinch the victory. Defensive end Greg Townsend posted 3 sacks to lead the Raiders' defense.

Cincinnati 0 3 0 L.A. Raiders 0 3 10 — 20 - FG Breech 27

LA

- Fernandez 13 pass from Schroeder (Jaeger kick)

LA - FG Jaeger 49

— Jennings 8 pass from Esiason (Breech kick) Cin LA - Horton 41 pass from Schroeder (Jaeger kick)

ΙA

— FG Jaeger 25

# 1989

CLEVELAND 34, BUFFALO 30—Clay Matthews' interception at the 1-yard line with 3 seconds to play preserved the Browns' win over the Bills. Buffalo quarterback Jim Kelly passed for 405 yards and 4 touchdowns, while his Cleveland counterpart, Bernie Kosar, had 3 scoring strikes. After the Bills pulled within 24-21 in the third quarter, Browns rookie Eric Metcalf returned the ensuing kickoff 90 yards for a touchdown and a 31-21 lead. The teams traded field goals, and then Kelly's fourth scoring pass made it 34-30. But the Bills missed the extra point, a mistake that proved crucial on their final drive when they had to try for the end zone instead of kicking a potential tying field goal.

7 7 7 9 — 30 3 14 14 3 — 34 Buffalo

Buff — Reed 72 pass from Kelly (Norwood kick)

- FG Bahr 45

- Slaughter 52 pass from Kosar (Bahr kick) Cle

- Lofton 33 pass from Kelly (Norwood kick)

Cle - Middleton 3 pass from Kosar (Bahr kick)

Slaughter 44 pass from Kosar (Bahr kick) Buff - Thomas 6 pass from Kelly (Norwood kick)

- Metcalf 90 kickoff return (Bahr kick) Cle

Buff - FG Norwood 30

- FG Bahr 47 Cle

Buff Thomas 3 pass from Kelly (kick failed) DENVER 24. PITTSBURGH 23-Melvin Bratton's 1yard touchdown run with 2:27 remaining gave the Broncos the win over the Steelers. Pittsburgh started fast, building leads of 10-0 and 17-7. After Denver tied the game in the third quarter, the Steelers answered with 2 field goals to take a 23-17 fourth-quarter lead. But quarterback John Elway marched the Broncos 71 yards to the winning touchdown on Bratton's second scoring run of the day. Denver's defense recovered a fumble with 2:02 left to seal the victory.

3 14 Pittsburgh 0 7 Denver 10 7 — 24

— FG Anderson 32

- Hoge 7 run (Anderson kick)

 Bratton 1 run (Treadwell kick) Den

- Lipps 9 pass from Brister (Anderson kick) Den

— FG Treadwell 43

Den — Johnson 37 pass from Elway (Treadwell kick)

Pitt — FG Anderson 35

Pitt

— FG Anderson 32

Den - Bratton 1 run (Treadwell kick)

CINCINNATI 21, SEATTLE 13—The Bengals built a 21-0 halftime lead and held on to defeat the Seahawks. Rookie Ickey Woods, who ran for 126 yards on 23 carries, capped Cincinnati's scoring with a 1-yard touchdown run in the second quarter. The Bengals then turned it over to their defense, which limited Seattle to 18 rushing yards, and their running game, which collected 254 yards. Cincinnati controlled the ball for 34:51, including 20:07 in the first half.

0 0 0 7 14 0 13 — 13 0 — 21 Seattle Cincinnati

Cin — Wilson 3 run (Breech kick)

Cin - Wilson 3 run (Breech kick) - Woods 1 run (Breech kick) Cin

— Williams 7 pass from Krieg (N. Johnson kick)

- Krieg 1 run (kick failed)

BUFFALO 17, HOUSTON 10-The Bills defeated the Oilers thanks to their special teams, which blocked a punt and a field goal, and their defense, which forced 2 turnovers. Safety Leonard Smith blocked a punt to set up the game's first score, a 1-yard run by Robb Riddick. After a Houston field goal, Buffalo increased the lead to 17-3 on an 11-yard scoring run by Thurman Thomas and a 27-yard field goal by Scott Norwood. Mike Rozier's touchdown made it 17-10 in the fourth quarter, but Buffalo's defense collected an interception and a fumble recovery to insure the victory.

0 3 0 0 7 7 Houston Buffalo 3 — 17

Buff — Riddick 1 run (Norwood kick)

Hou - FG Zendeias 35

Buff — Thomas 11 run (Norwood kick)

Buff — FG Norwood 27

Hou — Rozier 1 run (Zendejas kick)

CLEVELAND 38, INDIANAPOLIS 21—Bernie Kosar passed for 229 yards and 3 touchdowns to lead the Browns over the Colts. Kosar (10 yards to Earnest Byner and 39 yards to Reggie Langhorne) and the Colts' Jack Trudeau (2 yards to Pat Beach and 19 yards to Eric Dickerson) traded scoring passes as the teams battled to a 14-14 halftime tie. In the third quarter, Byner, who finished with 122 rushing yards, ran 2 yards for a score to cap an 86-yard drive and give the Browns a lead they did not relinquish. Kosar's third scoring strike highlighted the Browns' 17-point fourth quarter.

7 7 0 7 — 21 7 7 7 17 — 38 Indianapolis

- Byner 10 pass from Kosar (Bahr kick)

- Beach 2 pass from Trudeau (Biasucci kick)

- Langhorne 39 pass from Kosar (Bahr kick) - Dickerson 19 pass from Trudeau (Biasucci

- Byner 2 run (Bahr kick)

Cle — FG Bahr 22

Cle - Brennan 2 pass from Kosar (Bahr kick)

Ind - Bentley 1 run (Biasucci kick)

- Minnifield 48 interception return (Bahr kick)

**DENVER 34, HOUSTON 10—**John Elway passed for 2 touchdowns and ran for another to lead the Broncos' rout of the Oilers. Denver capitalized on 2 Houston turnovers to take a 14-0 first-quarter lead. Elway made it 24-3 at halftime with his second scoring toss to tight end Clarence Kay. Elway, who completed 14 of 25 passes for 259 yards, closed the scoring with a 3-yard run in the fourth quarter. The Broncos' Vance Johnson caught 4 passes for 105 yards.

0 Houston 0 14 10 3 7 — 34 Denver

Den — Lang 1 run (Karlis kick)

Den — Kay 27 pass from Elway (Karlis kick)

Den — FG Karlis 43

Hou - FG Zendejas 46

Den — Kay 1 pass from Elway (Karlis kick)

Den — FG Karlis 23

Hou — Givins 19 pass from Moon (Zendejas kick)
Den — Elway 3 run (Karlis kick)

# 1986

CLEVELAND 23, NEW YORK JETS 20-Mark Moseley's 27-yard field goal 2:02 into the second overtime period gave the Browns the victory in the NFL's thirdlongest game, Cleveland's Bernie Kosar set NFL postseason records for attempts (64) and yards (489). The Browns trailed 20-10 with 4:14 remaining in regulation, but Kosar marched Cleveland 58 yards for a touchdown and 37 yards for a field goal to force overtime. The Browns' defense recorded a playoff-record 9 sacks, including 3 by defensive end Carl Hairston.

N.Y.	Jets	7	3	3	7	0	0	-20
Clev	eland	7	3	0	10	0	3	-23
NYJ	<ul><li>Walker</li></ul>	42 p	ass fr	om Ry	an (Le	ahy k	ick)	
Cle	<ul><li>Fonter</li></ul>	not 37	pass	from	Kosar	(Mose	eley	kick)
Cle	— FG Mc	seley	/ 38					
NYJ	— FG Lea	ahy 4	6					
NYJ	— FG Lea	ahy 3	7					
NYJ	— McNei	l 25 r	un (Le	ahy k	ick)			
Cla	- Mack	1 run	(Mass	alov ki	ck)			

DENVER 22, NEW ENGLAND 17—John Elway passed for 1 score and ran for another to lead the Broncos to their first postseason victory at home since 1977. Elway's 22-yard touchdown run gave Denver a 10-7 halftime lead. Tony Eason's second touchdown pass to Stanley Morgan, from 45 yards, gave New England a 17-13 third-quarter lead. But on the final play of the third quarter, Elway teamed with Vance Johnson for a 48-yard score and a 20-17 lead. The Broncos' defense added a safety in the fourth quarter.

New England	0	10	7	0	_	17
Denver	3	7	10	2	_	22
Den - FG Karlis 27						

NE — Morgan 19 pass from Eason (Franklin kick)

Den — Elway 22 run (Karlis kick) NF — FG Franklin 38

— FG Moseley 22

- FG Moseley 27

Cle

Den — FG Karlis 22

NE — Morgan 45 pass from Eason (Franklin kick) Den — Johnson 48 pass from Elway (Karlis kick)

Den — Safety, Jones tackled Eason in end zone

# 1985

MIAMI 24, CLEVELAND 21—The Dolphins rallied from a 21-3 deficit to defeat the Browns. Cleveland built its 18-point advantage on a 16-yard touchdown pass from Bernie Kosar to Ozzie Newsome and 2 touchdown runs by Earnest Byner (21 and 66 yards). After Byner's second scoring run, Dan Marino led the Dolphins on two third-quarter touchdown drives. In the fourth quarter, Ron Davenport's second touchdown run with 1:57 remaining gave Miami a 24-21 lead. Byner gained 161 yards on 16 carries in a losing effort.

Cleveland 7 0 14 Miami

Mia — FG Reveiz 51

- Newsome 16 pass from Kosar (Bahr kick)

Cle - Byner 21 run (Bahr kick)

 Byner 66 run (Bahr kick) Cle

Mia Moore 6 pass from Marino (Reveiz kick)

- Davenport 31 run (Reveiz kick) Mia Davenport 1 run (Reveiz kick) Mia

NEW ENGLAND 27. LOS ANGELES RAIDERS 20-

The Patriots turned 6 Raiders' turnovers into 20 points to defeat Los Angeles. A fumble recovery set up the game's first score on a 13-yard pass from Tony Eason to Lin Dawson. The Raiders answered with 17 points, but also turned over the ball twice to set up 2 Patriots field goals. The latter field goal tied the game 20-20, and on the ensuing kickoff, Patriots safety Jim Bowman recovered a Raiders' fumble in the end zone for what proved to be the winning touchdown.

 
 New England
 7
 10
 10

 L.A. Raiders
 3
 17
 0
 0 — 20 — Dawson 13 pass from Eason (Franklin kick) ΙA - FG Bahr 29 - Hester 16 pass from Wilson (Bahr kick) LA LA

- Allen 11 run (Bahr kick)

- C. James 2 run (Franklin kick) NF

- FG Franklin 45 NE — FG Bahr 32 LA

NE - FG Franklin 32

- Bowman fumble recovery in end zone NF (Franklin kick)

# 1984

Seattle

Mia

MIAMI 31, SEATTLE 10—Dan Marino passed for 3 touchdowns to lead the Dolphins over the Seahawks. With Miami leading only 14-10, Marino threw 2 touchdowns—3 yards to Bruce Hardy and 33 yards to Mark Clayton-in a five-minute span of the third quarter to blow the game open. Uwe von Schamann's 37-yard field goal finished the scoring. Marino finished with 21 completions in 34 attempts for 262 yards.

0 10 0 0 — 10 7 7 14 3 — 31 Miami Mia Nathan 14 run (von Schamann kick) - FG N. Johnson 27 - Cefalo 34 pass from Marino Mia (von Schamann kick) - Largent 56 pass from Krieg (N. Johnson kick) - Hardy 3 pass from Marino (von Schamann kick) Mia - Clayton 33 pass from Marino Mia (von Schamann kick)

PITTSBURGH 24, DENVER 17—Frank Pollard's second touchdown, a 2-yard run with 1:59 left, lifted the Steelers over the Broncos. Pollard's winning score was set up by Eric Williams, who returned an interception 28 yards to the Denver 2. John Elway passed for 2 scores, including a 20-yard strike to Steve Watson that gave the Broncos a 17-10 lead. But Pittsburgh answered with a 10-yard scoring pass from Mark Malone to Louis Lipps to tie the game late in the third quarter.

0 10 7 7 0 10 Pittsburgh 0 — 17 Denver Den — J. Wright 9 pass from Elway (Karlis kick)

Pitt - FG Anderson 28

Pitt - Pollard 1 run (Anderson kick)

- FG von Schamann 37

Den - FG Karlis 21

— Watson 20 pass from Elway (Karlis kick) Den

- Lipps 10 pass from Malone (Anderson kick) Pitt

- Pollard 2 run (Anderson kick) Pitt

# 1983

SEATTLE 27, MIAMI 20—The Seahawks scored 10 points in the final two minutes to defeat the Dolphins. Trailing 20-17, Seattle drove 66 yards to the go-ahead score on a 2-yard run by Curt Warner. Norm Johnson added a clinching field goal after the Seahawks recovered a fumble on the ensuing kickoff. Warner finished with 113 yards on 29 carries. Miami's Dan Marino passed for 2 touchdowns, including a 32-yard strike to Mark Duper, who had 9 catches for 117 yards.

0 7 7 13 — 27 0 13 0 7 — 20 Seattle — D. Johnson 19 pass from Marino (kick failed) - C. Bryant 6 pass from Krieg (N. Johnson kick) Mia - Duper 32 pass from Marino (von Schamann kick) Sea - Warner 1 run (N. Johnson kick)

Sea - FG N. Johnson 27

- Bennett 3 run (von Schamann kick) Mia

Sea Warner 2 run (N. Johnson kick)

- FG N. Johnson 37 Sea

LOS ANGELES RAIDERS 38, PITTSBURGH 10-The Raiders exploded for 21 points in the third quarter to run away from the Steelers. Kenny King started the outburst with a 9-yard run, followed by Marcus Allen, who ran 49 yards for his second touchdown of the day to give Los Angeles a 31-3 lead. After Pittsburgh scored, Frank Hawkins capped the scoring with a 2-yard run. Allen rushed for 121 yards on 13 carries, helping the Raiders amass 413 total yards.

3 0 7 0 — 10 7 10 21 0 — 38 L.A. Raiders

— FG Anderson 17

- Hayes 18 interception return (Bahr kick)

ΙA - Allen 4 run (Bahr kick)

LA - FG Bahr 45

- King 9 run (Bahr kick) LA

ΙA - Allen 49 run (Bahr kick)

- Stallworth 58 pass from Stoudt Pitt

(Anderson kick)

LA - Hawkins 2 run (Bahr kick)

# 1982

NEW YORK JETS 17, LOS ANGELES RAIDERS 14-Scott Dierking's 1-yard touchdown run with 3:45 remaining lifted the Jets over the Raiders. After Dierking's run, linebacker Lance Mehl preserved the win by intercepting 2 passes in the final three minutes. New York led 10-0 at halftime, but Los Angeles scored twice in the third quarter on a 3-yard run by Marcus Allen and a 57yard pass from Jim Plunkett to Malcolm Barnwell. The Raiders missed a chance to extend their 14-10 lead

7 3 0 7 — 17 0 0 14 0 — 14 N.Y. Jets L.A. Raiders NYJ — Walker 20 pass from Todd (Leahy kick)

when Allen fumbled deep in Jets territory.

NYJ — FG Leahy 30

 Allen 3 run (Bahr kick) LA

- Barnwell 57 pass from Plunkett (Bahr kick)

NYJ - Dierking 1 run (Leahy kick)

MIAMI 34, SAN DIEGO 13—The Dolphins' defense forced 7 turnovers as Miami coasted to victory. Miami built a 24-0 lead on 2 touchdown passes by David Woodley, Andra Franklin's 3-yard scoring run, and Uwe von Schamann's 24-yard field goal. After San Diego closed to 27-13, Miami clinched the win on a 7-yard touchdown run by Woodley in the fourth quarter. Woodley completed 17 of 22 passes for 195 yards. Miami held the Chargers' high-powered offense to 247 total yards.

0 13 0 0 — 13 7 20 0 7 — 34 San Diego Miami

- Moore 3 pass from Woodley Mia (von Schamann kick)

- Franklin 3 run (von Schamann kick) Mia

— Lee 6 pass from Woodley (von Schamann kick) Mia

Mia - FG von Schamann 24

SD - Joiner 28 pass from Fouts (kick failed)

Mia FG von Schamann 23

SD Muncie 1 run (Benirschke kick)

Mia Woodley 7 run (von Schamann kick)

# 1981

SAN DIEGO 41, MIAMI 38-Rolf Benirschke's 29-yard field goal 13:52 into overtime lifted the Chargers over the Dolphins in one of the greatest games ever. San Diego built a 24-0 first-quarter advantage before Miami stormed back to take a 38-31 lead behind backup quarterback Don Strock. But Dan Fouts led the Chargers to a tying touchdown late in the fourth quarter, and San Diego blocked 2 potential game-winning field goals by Miami's Uwe von Schamann to set up Benirschke's winning kick. Fouts passed for 433 yards and Strock passed for 403 yards in a record-breaking game.

24 0 7 7 3 — 41 0 17 14 7 0 — 38 San Diego Miami

— FG Benirschke 32

- Chandler 56 punt return (Benirschke kick)

- Muncie 1 run (Benirschke kick)

- Brooks 8 pass from Fouts (Benirschke kick)

- FG von Schamann 34 Mia

- Rose 1 pass from Strock (von Schamann kick) Mia

- Nathan 25 lateral from Harris after pass from Mia

Strock (von Schamann kick)

 Rose 15 pass from Strock Mia (von Schamann kick)

SD - Winslow 25 pass from Fouts (Benirschke kick)

Mia - Hardy 50 pass from Strock (von Schamann kick)

Nathan 12 run (von Schamann kick) Mia

- Brooks 9 pass from Fouts (Benirschke kick) SD

SD - FG Benirschke 29

CINCINNATI 28, BUFFALO 21—Ken Anderson fired a 16-yard touchdown pass to rookie Cris Collinsworth with 10:39 remaining to lift the Bengals over the Bills. Cincinnati raced to a 14-point first-quarter lead, but Buffalo tied the game on 2 touchdown runs by Joe Cribbs. The Bengals regained the lead on Charles Alexander's 20-yard scoring run, his second touchdown of the day. Buffalo answered early in the fourth-quarter with a 21yard scoring pass from Joe Ferguson to Jerry Butler. The Bengals countered with a 78-yard drive for the winning score.

0 7 7 7 — 21 14 0 7 7 — 28 Buffalo Cincinnati

 Alexander 4 run (Breech kick) Cin Johnson 1 run (Breech kick) Cin

 Cribbs 1 run (Mike-Mayer kick) Buff

Buff — Cribbs 44 run (Mike-Mayer kick) Cin Alexander 20 run (Breech kick)

— Butler 21 pass from Ferguson (Mike-Mayer Buff

kick)

Cin Collinsworth 16 pass from Anderson (Breech kick)

# 1980

SAN DIEGO 20, BUFFALO 14—Ron Smith's 50-yard touchdown reception with 2:08 remaining gave the Chargers the win over the Bills. Buffalo built a 14-3 halftime lead on a 1-yard run by Roosevelt Leaks and a 9yard pass from Joe Ferguson to Frank Lewis. Dan Fouts led the Chargers 70 yards to open the second half, capping the drive with a 9-yard scoring pass to Charlie Joiner. Rolf Benirschke made it 14-13 early in the fourth quarter with a 22-yard field goal. Fouts completed 22 of 37 passes for 314 yards.

Buffalo	0	14	0	0	_	14
San Diego	3	0	7	10	_	20

— FG Benirschke 22

- Leaks 1 run (Mike-Mayer kick)

Buff — Lewis 9 pass from Ferguson (Mike-Mayer kick)

SD Joiner 9 pass from Fouts (Benirschke kick)

SD — FG Benirschke 22

- Smith 50 pass from Fouts (Benirschke kick) SD

OAKLAND 14, CLEVELAND 12—Safety Mike Davis' end-zone interception with 41 seconds remaining saved the Raiders' victory over the Browns. Playing in one-degree weather. Oakland drove 64 and 80 yards for its touchdowns, both coming on 1-yard runs by Mark van Feghen. The latter score came with 9:22 remaining The conditions and Raiders' defense combined to limit Brian Sipe to a 13-of-40 day, although he did drive the Browns 73 yards in the final minutes before throwing the fateful interception.

0 7 0 7 — 14 0 6 6 0 — 12 0 Oakland Cleveland

Cle — Bolton 42 interception return (kick failed)
Oak — van Eeghen 1 run (Bahr kick)

Cle - FG Cockroft 30

Cle — FG Cockroft 30

Oak — van Eeghen 1 run (Bahr kick)

# 1979

HOUSTON 17, SAN DIEGO 14-Safety Vernon Perry intercepted a playoff-record 4 passes to lead the Oilers past the Chargers. Perry's thefts set up Houston's first 10 points, and J.C. Wilson's interception set up the winning touchdown, which came on a 47-yard pass from Gifford Nielsen to Mike Renfro. Nielsen and running back Rob Carpenter were playing in place of Dan Pastorini and Earl Campbell, who were out with injuries. San Diego's Dan Fouts passed for 333 yards.

Houston 0 10 7 0 — 17 San Diego 7 0 7 0 — 14 0 — 14 SD — C. Williams 1 run (Wood kick)

Hou - FG Fritsch 26

Hou — Clark 1 run (Fritsch kick)

- Mitchell 8 run (Wood kick)

Hou - Renfro 47 pass from Nielsen (Fritsch kick)

PITTSBURGH 34, MIAMI 14—The Steelers raced to a 20-0 first-quarter lead and coasted to victory over the Dolphins. Pittsburgh drove 62, 62, and 56 yards for touchdowns on its first three possessions. After Miami scored in the third quarter, Rocky Bleier and Franco Harris added touchdown runs to put the game away. Terry Bradshaw passed for 230 yards and 2 touchdowns for the Steelers. Pittsburgh's "Steel Curtain" defense limited Miami to 25 rushing yards.

0 0 7 20 0 7 Pittsburgh — Thornton 1 run (Bahr kick) Pitt

- Stallworth 17 pass from Bradshaw (kick blocked)

Pitt Swann 20 pass from Bradshaw (Bahr kick)

Mia - D. Harris 7 pass from Griese (von Schamann kick)

Pitt - Bleier 1 run (Bahr kick) Pitt - F. Harris 5 run (Bahr kick)

Mia Csonka 1 run (von Schamann kick)

# 1978

PITTSBURGH 33, DENVER 10—Terry Bradshaw completed 16 of 29 passes for 272 yards and 2 scores to lead the Steelers over the Broncos. Pittsburgh led only 19-10 in the fourth quarter, but Bradshaw sealed the victory by throwing touchdown passes to John Stallworth (45 yards) and Lynn Swann (38 yards). Stallworth finished with 10 receptions for 156 yards, while Franco Harris ran for 105 yards and 2 touchdowns.

3 7 0 0 — 10 13 0 14 — 33 Denver Pittsburgh

— FG Turner 37 Den - Harris 1 run (kick failed) Pitt

Pitt - Harris 18 run (Gerela kick)

- FG Gerela 24 Pitt

— Preston 3 run (Turner kick) Den

- FG Gerela 27 Pitt

— Stallworth 45 pass from Bradshaw (Gerela kick)

- Swann 38 pass from Bradshaw (Gerela kick)

HOUSTON 31, NEW ENGLAND 14-Dan Pastorini fired 3 second-quarter touchdown passes to propel the Oilers past the Patriots. Pastorini's scoring tosses (71 yards to Ken Burrough, 19 and 13 yards to Mike Barber) gave Houston a 21-0 halftime lead. After the Patriots closed to 24-14 in the fourth quarter, linebacker Gregg Bingham intercepted a pass deep in New England territory to set up Farl Campbell's clinching touchdown run. Safety Mike Reinfeldt set up 2 touchdowns with interceptions in the first half.

0 21 3 7 — 31 0 0 7 7 — 14 Houston New England Hou — Burrough 71 pass from Pastorini (Fritsch kick) Hou — Barber 19 pass from Pastorini (Fritsch kick)

Hou — Barber 13 pass from Pastorini (Fritsch kick)

Hou — FG Fritsch 30

— Jackson 24 pass from Johnson (Posey kick) NF NF

— Francis 24 pass from Owen (Posey kick)

Hou — Campbell 2 run (Fritsch kick)

# 1977

DENVER 34, PITTSBURGH 21—The Broncos used 2 fourth-quarter interceptions by linebacker Tom Jackson to stave off the Steelers. Denver, playing in its first playoff game ever, built leads of 7-0, 14-7, and 21-14, only to have Pittsburgh rally to tie each time. Jim Turner gave Denver a 24-21 lead with a 44-yard field goal in the fourth quarter, and Jackson made it stick, setting up a field goal and a touchdown (on a 34-yard pass from Craig Morton to Jack Dolbin) with his 2 thefts.

0 14 0 7 — 21 7 7 7 13 — 34 7 13 — 34

Den — Lytle 7 run (Turner kick)

Pitt — Bradshaw 1 run (Gerela kick)

Den - Armstrong 10 run (Turner kick)

Pitt — Harris 1 run (Gerela kick)

Den — Odoms 30 pass from Morton (Turner kick)

Pitt — Brown 1 pass from Bradshaw (Gerela kick)

Den - FG Turner 44

Den - FG Turner 25

Den - Dolbin 34 pass from Morton (Turner kick)

OAKLAND 37, BALTIMORE 31—Ken Stabler's 3 touchdown passes to Dave Casper, the last with 43 seconds gone in the second overtime period, gave the Raiders the victory. Baltimore led 10-7 at halftime, but in the second half, the teams traded scores in a game that featured eight lead changes. Trailing 31-28, Stabler and Casper teamed for a 42-yard completion—the "Ghost to the Post" play-to set up the tying field goal. Stabler passed for 345 yards, leading a Raiders' offense that gained 491 total yards (to 301 for the Colts).

7 0 14 10 0 10 7 14 Oakland 0 **Baltimore** 0 0 —31

Oak — Davis 30 run (Mann kick)

Balt Laird 61 interception return (Linhart kick)

— FG Linhart 36 Balt

Oak — Casper 8 pass from Stabler (Mann kick)

Balt — Johnson 87 kickoff return (Linhart kick)

Oak — Casper 8 pass from Stabler (Mann kick)

Balt — R. Lee 1 run (Linhart kick) Oak — Banaszak 1 run (Mann kick)

Balt — R. Lee 13 run (Linhart kick)

Oak - FG Mann 22

Oak — Casper 10 pass from Stabler (no kick)

### 1976

OAKLAND 24, NEW ENGLAND 21-Ken Stabler rallied the Raiders over the Patriots with 14 fourth-quarter points. Trailing 21-10, Stabler led a 70-yard, 11-play drive that culminated with a 1-yard touchdown run by Mark van Eeghen. After the Patriots missed a field goal, Stabler led Oakland 68 yards in 12 plays, capped by his 1-yard scoring run with 10 seconds remaining. Stabler passed for 233 yards, including 9 completions to Fred Biletnikoff for 137 yards and 1 score. New England outgained Oakland 331 yards to 282.

New England 7 0 14 0 — 21 Oakland 3 7 0 14 — 24

NE — A. Johnson 1 run (Smith kick) - FG Mann 40

- Biletnikoff 31 pass from Stabler (Mann kick)

NF - Francis 26 pass from Grogan (Smith kick)

- Phillips 3 run (Smith kick)

Oak - van Eeghen 1 run (Mann kick) Stabler 1 run (Mann kick)

PITTSBURGH 40, BALTIMORE 14—The Steelers set a club postseason record for points en route to their victory over the Colts. Terry Bradshaw completed 14 of 18 passes for 264 yards and 3 touchdowns, including a 76vard strike to Frank Lewis on the game's third play. Bradshaw added 29- and 11-yard scoring passes to Lynn Swann, Franco Harris ran for 132 yards as Pittsburgh amassed 526 total yards and 29 first downs,

while limiting Baltimore to 170 and 16, respectively. 9 17 0 14 — 40 7 0 0 7 — 14 Pittsburgh **Baltimore** 

- Lewis 76 pass from Bradshaw (kick failed) Pitt

- FG Gerela 45 Pitt

Carr 17 pass from Jones (Linhart kick)Harrison 1 run (Gerela kick) Balt Pitt

Pitt

- Swann 29 pass from Bradshaw (Gerela kick) Pitt - FG Gerela 25

Ditt

 Swann 11 pass from Bradshaw (Gerela kick) Balt

 Leaks 1 run (Linhart kick) Pitt

- Harrison 10 run (Gerela kick)

# 1975

PITTSBURGH 28, BALTIMORE 10—Franco Harris carried 27 times for 153 yards, and Andy Russell set an NFL postseason mark with a 93-yard fumble recovery return for a touchdown to lead the Steelers over the Colts. Baltimore, without quarterback Bert Jones for much of the game, still managed to forge a 10-7 thirdquarter lead. But the Steelers responded with touchdown runs from Rocky Bleier and Terry Bradshaw, and then clinched the victory when linebacker Jack Ham forced a fumble that Russell scooped up and carried back 93 yards.

0 7 3 0 — 10 7 0 7 14 — 28 Baltimore Pittsburgh

- Harris 8 run (Gerela kick) - Doughty 5 pass from Domres (Linhart kick) Balt - FG Linhart 21 Balt Pitt - Bleier 7 run (Gerela kick) Pitt - Bradshaw 2 run (Gerela kick) - Russell 93 fumble recovery return Pitt (Gerela kick)

OAKLAND 31, CINCINNATI 28-Ken Stabler's 3 touchdown passes led the Raiders over the Bengals. Oakland built a 31-14 lead on Stabler's scoring passes to Mike Siani (9 yards), Bob Moore (8 yards), and Dave Casper (2 yards). But 2 late touchdowns pulled the Bengals within 31-28, and Cincinnati had a chance to win or tie the game after recovering a fumble at the Raiders' 38. But Oakland's defense stopped Cincinnati on downs, and the Raiders ran out the final two minutes. Oakland finished with 358 total yards.

0 7 7 14 Cincinnati 7 Oakland 3 14 7 — 31 Oak — FG Blanda 27

 Siani 9 pass from Stabler (Blanda kick) Oak

 Fritts 1 run (Green kick) Cin

- Moore 8 pass from Stabler (Blanda kick) Oak

Oak — Banaszak 6 run (Blanda kick)

Cin — Elliott 6 run (Green kick)

Oak — Casper 2 pass from Stabler (Blanda kick)

- Joiner 25 pass from Anderson (Green kick) Cin

 Curtis 14 pass from Anderson (Green kick) Cin

#### 1974

OAKLAND 28, MIAMI 26-The Raiders' Clarence Davis outfought several Dolphins for the winning 8-yard touchdown catch with 25 seconds remaining. Miami took a 26-21 lead with 2:08 left in the game, but Ken Stabler led the Raiders down the field. Unable to find a receiver, and about to be sacked, Stabler threw into a crowd of Dolphins. Davis somehow emerged with the football and the victory. Stabler passed for 293 yards and 4 scores, including 3 in a furious second half that featured five lead changes. The Raiders' Fred Biletnikoff caught 8 passes for 122 yards.

Miami 7 3 6 10 — 26 0 7 7 14 — 28 Oakland - N. Moore 89 kickoff return (Yepremian kick) Mia - C. Smith 31 pass from Stabler (Blanda kick) Mia - FG Yepremian 33 - Biletnikoff 13 pass from Stabler (Blanda kick) Oak Mia - Warfield 16 pass from Griese (kick blocked) Mia - FG Yepremian 46 Branch 72 pass from Stabler (Blanda kick) Oak

- Malone 23 run (Yepremian kick) Mia

 Davis 8 pass from Stabler (Blanda kick) Oak

PITTSBURGH 32, BUFFALO 14—Franco Harris ran for 3 touchdowns to key a second-quarter explosion that propelled the Steelers over the Bills. Trailing 7-3, Pittsburgh took control of the game with a 27-yard scoring pass from Terry Bradshaw to Rocky Bleier and touchdown runs of 1, 4, and 1 yards by Harris, who rushed for 74 vards. The Steelers finished with 438 total vards and 29 first downs, while their defense limited Buffalo's O.J. Simpson to 49 rushing yards.

7 0 3 26 Buffalo Pittsburgh 0 3 — 32

Pitt — FG Gerela 21

— Seymour 22 pass from Ferguson Buff

(Leypoldt kick)

Pitt - Bleier 27 pass from Bradshaw (kick blocked)

Pitt - Harris 1 run (Gerela kick)

Pitt - Harris 4 run (kick blocked)

Pitt - Harris 1 run (Gerela kick)

- Simpson 3 pass from Ferguson

(Leypoldt kick)

- FG Gerela 22 Pitt

# 1973

OAKLAND 33, PITTSBURGH 14—Pinpoint passing by Ken Stabler and a 232-yard rushing effort helped the Raiders pull away from the Steelers. Stabler completed 14 of 17 passes for 142 yards and no interceptions, while Mary Hubbard ran for 91 yards and 2 touchdowns to lead Oakland's ground game. Willie Brown blew open a close game when he returned an interception 54

yards for a touchdown to give Oakland a 23-7 thirdquarter lead. George Blanda kicked 4 field goals for the Raiders.

7 0 3 13 7 — 14 10 — 33 Pittsburgh 0 Oakland

— Hubbard 1 run (Blanda kick) Oak - FG Blanda 25

Pitt

B. Pearson 4 pass from Bradshaw

(Gerela kick)

FG Blanda 31 Oak - FG Blanda 22

Oak - Brown 54 interception return (Blanda kick)

- FG Blanda 10

- Lewis 26 pass from Bradshaw (Gerela kick)

- Hubbard 1 run (Blanda kick)

MIAMI 34, CINCINNATI 16—Bob Griese threw 2 touchdown passes and then turned it over to his running backs in the Dolphins' win over the Bengals. After Cincinnati narrowed Miami's lead to 21-16, the Dolphins pulled away on Griese's 7-yard scoring pass to Jim Mandich and 2 long field goals by Garo Yepremian. Miami rushed for 241 yards, topped by Mercury Morris, who ran for 106 yards and 1 score. Miami's defense limited Cincinnati's offense to 194 total yards, 11 first downs, and no touchdowns.

Cincinnati 3 13 0 14 7 10 14 3 — 34 Miami — Warfield 13 pass from Griese (Yepremian kick) Mia

- FG Muhlmann 24 Cin

— Csonka 1 run (Yepremian kick) Mia

Mia - Morris 4 run (Yepremian kick)

Cin - Craig 45 interception return (Muhlmann kick)

Cin - FG Muhlmann 46 Cin

- FG Muhlmann 12

Mia - Mandich 7 pass from Griese (Yepremian kick)

Mia - FG Yepremian 50

Mia - FG Yepremian 46

### 1972

PITTSBURGH 13, OAKLAND 7-Franco Harris' "Immaculate Reception" provided the winning points for the Steelers in their first postseason victory ever. On fourth-and-10 from the Steelers' 40, Terry Bradshaw fired a pass over the middle intended for John (Frenchy) Fuqua. The ball and Raiders safety Jack Tatum arrived at Fuqua simultaneously. The ball ricocheted off Tatum to Harris, who carried it 42 yards down the sidelines, crossing the goal line with five seconds remaining for one of the wildest finishes ever.

Oakland 0 0 0 7 — Pittsburgh 0 0 3 10 — 13 — FG Gerela 18 Pitt

— FG Gerela 29 Pitt

- Stabler 30 run (Blanda kick) Oak

— Harris 60 pass from Bradshaw (Gerela kick)

MIAMI 20. CLEVELAND 14—The Dolphins came from behind to defeat the Browns and remain unbeaten. Trailing 14-13, Miami marched 80 yards to the winning score, led by Paul Warfield's 15- and 35-yard receptions. Miami led 10-0 until the third guarter, when Cleveland's Mike Phipps ran 5 yards for a touchdown. After a Miami field goal, Phipps gave the Browns the lead in the fourth quarter with a 27-yard scoring pass to Fair Hooker. The Dolphins intercepted 5 passes, including 1 in the closing seconds to seal the victory.

0 0 7 7 — 14 10 0 0 10 — 20 Cleveland Miami Mia - Babb 5 blocked punt return (Yepremian kick)

Mia - FG Yepremian 40

Cle - Phipps 5 run (Cockroft kick)

- FG Yepremian 46 Mia

— Hooker 27 pass from Phipps (Cockroft kick) Cle

Mia - Kiick 8 run (Yepremian kick)

# 1971

MIAMI 27, KANSAS CITY 24—The Dolphins' Garo Yepremian kicked a 37-yard field goal 7:40 into the second overtime period to end the NFL's longest game. Bob Griese rallied Miami three times, the last time on a 5-yard touchdown pass to Marv Fleming late in the fourth quarter to tie the game 24-24. Kansas City had two chances to win, but missed a field goal in regulation and had another blocked in overtime. Ed Podolak gained 350 all-purpose yards for the Chiefs.

Miami 0 10 7 7 Kansas City 10 0 7 7 0 3 — 27 0 —24 0

- FG Stenerud 24

KC - Podolak 7 pass from Dawson (Stenerud kick)

- Csonka 1 run (Yepremian kick)

- FG Yepremian 14 Mia

— Otis 1 run (Stenerud kick)

- Kiick 1 run (Yepremian kick) Mia

- Podolak 3 run (Stenerud kick)

Mia - Fleming 5 pass from Griese (Yepremian kick)

— FG Yepremian 37

BALTIMORE 20, CLEVELAND 3-Don Nottingham, playing for the injured Norm Bulaich, rushed for 92 yards and 2 touchdowns to help the Colts defeat the Browns. Cleveland missed two early opportunities when it fumbled at the Baltimore 12 and had a short field goal blocked. The Colts then drove 92 yards to Nottingham's 1-yard scoring run, followed by an interception that set up Nottingham's 7-yard touchdown run. The Colts limited the Browns to 165 total yards.

0 14 0 0 **Baltimore** Cleveland

 Nottingham 1 run (O'Brien kick) Balt

Balt Nottingham 7 run (O'Brien kick) - FG Cockroft 14

Cle - FG O'Brien 42 Balt

- FG O'Brien 15 Balt

#### 1970

BALTIMORE 17, CINCINNATI 0-Johnny Unitas passed for 2 touchdowns and the Colts' defense shut down the Bengals' offense in Baltimore's victory. On a cold and windy day, the Colts opened the scoring with a 45-yard touchdown pass from Unitas to Roy Jefferson. Jim O'Brien's 44-yard field goal made it 10-0 at halftime, and then Unitas provided the clinching score with a 53-yard touchdown pass to Ed Hinton. Norm Bulaich gained 116 yards on 25 carries for Baltimore. The Colts limited the Bengals to 139 total yards.

0 0 0 0 — 0 7 3 0 7 — 17 Cincinnati **Baltimore** 

- Jefferson 45 pass from Unitas (O'Brien kick)

- FG O'Brien 44

- Hinton 53 pass from Unitas (O'Brien kick)

OAKLAND 21, MIAMI 14-The Raiders used two big plays to defeat the Dolphins. The first was by the defense, as Willie Brown returned an interception 50 yards for a touchdown to give Oakland a 14-7 third-quarter lead. Brown's score was the turning point for a frustrated Raiders team that had lost 3 fumbles in the muddy conditions. The second big play was by the offense, which delivered an 82-yard touchdown pass from Daryle Lamonica to Rod Sherman that put the game out of reach

Miami 7 0 0 7 7 — 21 Oakland 0 7

- Warfield 16 pass from Griese (Yepremian kick) Mia

- Biletnikoff 22 pass from Lamonica Oak (Blanda kick)

Brown 50 interception return (Blanda kick) Oak Oak

- Sherman 82 pass from Lamonica (Blanda kick)

Mia - Richardson 7 pass from Griese (Yepremian kick)

# 1969

KANSAS CITY 13, NEW YORK JETS 6-The Chiefs drove 80 yards in two plays in the fourth quarter to break a 6-6 tie and defeat the Jets. Freezing weather and winds hampered the offenses all day. After a goalline stand that forced New York to kick a tying field goal, the Chiefs took the ensuing kickoff and Len Dawson hit Otis Taylor for a 61-yard gain. On the next play, Dawson and Gloster Richardson combined on a 19-yard touchdown pass. The Chiefs' defense then stopped New York twice inside the Kansas City 20.

Kansas City 0 3 3 **—** 13 3 N.Y. Jets 0 0 3 — 6

NYJ — FG J. Turner 27 - FG Stenerud 23

KC — FG Stenerud 25
 NYJ — FG J. Turner 7
 KC — Richardson 19 pass from Dawson (Stenerud kick)

OAKLAND 56, HOUSTON 7—Daryle Lamonica set a postseason record with 6 touchdown passes to lead the Raiders' romp over the Oilers. Oakland scored 3 touchdowns in a span of 1:59 in the first quarter en route to a 35-0 halftime lead. Lamonica, who threw 4 touchdowns in the first half, added 2 more scores in the third quarter to make it 49-0. He finished with 13 completions in 17 attempts for 276 yards. Rod Sherman and Fred Biletnikoff each had 2 scoring catches.

0 0 0 7 — 7 28 7 14 7 — 56 Houston Oakland Biletnikoff 13 pass from Lamonica Oak (Blanda kick) Oak Atkinson 57 interception return (Blanda kick) Oak Sherman 24 pass from Lamonica (Blanda kick) — Biletnikoff 31 pass from Lamonica Oak (Blanda kick) Oak — Smith 60 pass from Lamonica (Blanda kick) Oak — Sherman 23 pass from Lamonica (Blanda kick) Oak — Cannon 3 pass from Lamonica (Blanda kick)

Oak — Cannon 3 pass from Lamonica (Blanda kick Hou — Reed 8 pass from Beathard (Gerela kick) Oak — Hubbard 4 run (Blanda kick)

#### 1968

OAKLAND 41, KANSAS CITY 6—Daryle Lamonica fired 5 touchdown passes to lead the Raiders' rout of the Chiefs. Oakland scored on three of its first four possessions, on passes of 24, 23, and 44 yards by Lamonica. After 2 field goals by Kansas City, Lamonica resumed his barrage, hitting Fred Biletnikoff for a 54-yard score and Warren Wells for a 35-yard touchdown. Lamonica passed for 347 yards, and Biletnikoff had 7 catches for 180 yards and 3 scores. It was the first time the Chiefs had failed to score a touchdown since 1963.

# 1963

Oak - FG Blanda 40

BOSTON 26, BUFFALO 8—Running back Larry Garron turned short pass receptions into 59- and 17-yard touchdowns as the Patriots defeated the Bills in 10-degree weather. Garron took a short pass from Babe Parilli, broke two tackles, and sprinted over the icy turf for a 59-yard touchdown catch and a 10-0 lead in the first quarter. Leading 16-8 in the fourth quarter, Parilli and Garron hooked up again for a 17-yard score that sealed the victory. Parilli passed for 300 yards on only 14 completions, while Garron collected 164 yards from scrimmage.

Boston 10 6 0 10 — 26
Buffalo 0 0 8 0 — 8
Bos — FG Cappelletti 28
Bos — Garron 59 pass from Parilli (Cappelletti kick)
Bos — FG Cappelletti 12
Bos — FG Cappelletti 33
Buff — Dubenion 93 pass from Lamonica (Tracey pass from Lamonica)
Bos — Garron 17 pass from Parilli (Cappelletti kick)
Bos — FG Cappelletti 36

# **NFC DIVISIONAL PLAYOFFS**

Includes Second-Round Playoff Games (1982), NFL Conference Championship Games (1967-69), and special playoff games to break ties for NFL Division or Conference Championships (1941, 1943, 1947, 1950, 1952, 1957, 1958, 1965).

eason	Date	41, 1943, 1947, 1950, 1952, 1957, 195 Winner (Share)	Loser (Share)	Score	Site #	Attendar
004	Jan. 16	Philadelphia (\$18,000)	Minnesota (\$18,000)	27-14	Philadelphia	67,7
001	Jan. 15	Atlanta (\$18,000)	St. Louis (\$18,000)	47-17	Atlanta	70,7
003	Jan. 13	Philadelphia (\$18,000)	Green Bay (\$18,000)	20-17*	Philadelphia	67,7
503		,				
200	Jan. 10	Carolina (\$18,000)	St. Louis (\$18,000)	29-23*	St. Louis	66,1
002	Jan. 12	Tampa Bay (\$17,000)	San Francisco (\$17,000)	31-6	Tampa	65,5
	Jan. 11	Philadelphia (\$17,000)	Atlanta (\$17,000)	20-6	Philadelphia	66,
01	Jan. 20	St. Louis (\$17,000)	Green Bay (\$17,000)	45-17	St. Louis	66,
	Jan. 19	Philadelphia (\$17,000)	Chicago (\$17,000)	33-19	Chicago	66,
000	Jan. 7	N.Y. Giants (\$16,000)	Philadelphia (\$16,000)	20-10	East Rutherford	78,
	Jan. 6	Minnesota (\$16,000)	New Orleans (\$16,000)	34-16	Minneapolis	63,
199	Jan. 16			49-37	St. Louis	66,
199		St. Loius (\$16,000)	Minnesota (\$16,000)			
	Jan. 15	Tampa Bay (\$16,000)	Washington (\$16,000)	14-13	Tampa	65,
98	Jan. 10	Minnesota (\$15,000)	Arizona (\$15,000)	41-21	Minneapolis	63,
	Jan. 9	Atlanta (\$15,000)	San Francisco (\$15,000)	20-18	Atlanta	70,
97	Jan. 4	Green Bay (\$15,000)	Tampa Bay (\$15,000)	21-7	Green Bay	60,
	Jan. 3	San Francisco (\$15,000)	Minnesota (\$15,000)	38-22	San Francisco	65
96	Jan. 5	Carolina (\$14,000)	Dallas (\$14,000)	26-17	Charlotte	72
70						
	Jan. 4	Green Bay (\$14,000)	San Francisco (\$14,000)	35-14	Green Bay	60,
95	Jan. 7	Dallas (\$13,000)	Philadelphia (\$13,000)	30-11	Dallas	64
	Jan. 6	Green Bay (\$13,000)	San Francisco (\$13,000)	27-17	San Francisco	69
94	Jan. 8	Dallas (\$12,000)	Green Bay (\$12,000)	35-9	Dallas	64
	Jan. 7	San Francisco (\$12,000)	Chicago (\$12,000)	44-15	San Francisco	64
93	Jan. 16			24-17	Dallas	64
93		Dallas (\$12,000)	Green Bay (\$12,000)			
	Jan. 15	San Francisco (\$12,000)	N.Y. Giants (\$12,000)	44-3	San Francisco	67
92	Jan. 10	Dallas (\$10,000)	Philadelphia (\$10,000	34-10	Dallas	63
	Jan. 9	San Francisco (\$10,000)	Washington (\$10,000)	20-13	San Francisco	64
91	Jan. 5	Detroit (\$10,000)	Dallas (\$10,000)	38-6	Detroit	78
/ I						
.00	Jan. 4	Washington (\$10,000)	Atlanta (\$10,000)	24-7	Washington	55,
90	Jan. 13	N.Y. Giants (\$10,000)	Chicago (\$10,000)	31-3	East Rutherford	77,
	Jan. 12	San Francisco (\$10,000)	Washington (\$10,000)	28-10	San Francisco	65,
89	Jan. 7	L.A. Rams (\$10,000)	N.Y. Giants (\$10,000)	19-13*	East Rutherford	76
	Jan. 6	San Francisco (\$10,000)	Minnesota (\$10,000)	41-13	San Francisco	64
.00			** * *	34-9		
88	Jan. 1	San Francisco (\$10,000)	Minnesota (\$10,000)		San Francisco	61,
	Dec. 31	Chicago (\$10,000)	Philadelphia (\$10,000)	20-12	Chicago	65,
87	Jan. 10	Washington (\$10,000)	Chicago (\$10,000)	21-17	Chicago	65,
	Jan. 9	Minnesota (\$10,000)	San Francisco (\$10,000)	36-24	San Francisco	63
86	Jan. 4	N.Y. Giants (\$10,000)	San Francisco (\$10,000)	49-3	East Rutherford	75
00	Jan. 3	Washington (\$10,000)	Chicago (\$10,000)	27-13	Chicago	65
85	Jan. 5	Chicago (\$10,000)	N.Y. Giants (\$10,000)	21-0	Chicago	65,
	Jan. 4	L.A. Rams (\$10,000)	Dallas (\$10,000)	20-0	Anaheim	66
84	Dec. 30	Chicago (\$10,000)	Washington (\$10,000)	23-19	Washington	55
	Dec. 29	San Francisco (\$10,000)	N.Y. Giants (\$10,000)	21-10	San Francisco	60
83	Jan. 1	Washington (\$10,000)	L.A. Rams (\$10,000)	51-7	Washington	54
03						
	Dec. 31	San Francisco (\$10,000)	Detroit (\$10,000)	24-23	San Francisco	59
82	Jan. 16	Dallas (\$10,000)	Green Bay (\$10,000)	37-26	Dallas	63
	Jan. 15	Washington (\$10,000)	Minnesota (\$10,000)	21-7	Washington	54,
81	Jan. 3	San Francisco (\$5,000)	N.Y. Giants (\$5,000)	38-24	San Francisco	58
	Jan. 2	Dallas (\$5,000)	Tampa Bay (\$5,000)	38-0	Dallas	64
80						
80	Jan. 4	Dallas (\$5,000)	Atlanta (\$5,000)	30-27	Atlanta	59,
	Jan. 3	Philadelphia (\$5,000)	Minnesota (\$5,000)	31-16	Philadelphia	70
79	Dec. 30	Los Angeles (\$5,000)	Dallas (\$5,000)	21-19	Dallas	64
	Dec. 29	Tampa Bay (\$5,000)	Philadelphia (\$5,000)	24-17	Tampa	71
78	Dec. 31	Los Angeles (\$5,000)	Minnesota (\$5,000)	34-10	Los Angeles	70
				27-20	•	
	Dec. 30	Dallas (\$5,000)	Atlanta (\$5,000)		Dallas	63
77	Dec. 26	Dallas (\$5,000)	Chicago (\$5,000)	37-7	Dallas	63,
	Dec. 26	Minnesota (\$5,000)	Los Angeles (\$5,000)	14-7	Los Angeles	70
76	Dec. 19	Los Angeles (\$)	Dallas (\$)	14-12	Dallas	63
	Dec. 18	Minnesota (\$)	Washington (\$)	35-20	Minneapolis	47
75	Dec. 18	Dallas (\$)	Minnesota (\$)	17-14	Minneapolis	48
1 3		* *				
	Dec. 27	Los Angeles (\$)	St. Louis (\$)	35-23	Los Angeles	73
74	Dec. 22	Los Angeles (\$)	Washington (\$)	19-10	Los Angeles	77,
	Dec. 21	Minnesota (\$)	St. Louis (\$)	30-14	Minneapolis	48
73	Dec. 23	Dallas (\$)	Los Angeles (\$)	27-16	Dallas	63
. •	Dec. 23	Minnesota (\$)	Washington (\$)	27-10	Minneapolis	48
70						
72	Dec. 24	Washington (\$)	Green Bay (\$)	16-3	Washington	52
	Dec. 23	Dallas (\$)	San Francisco (\$)	30-28	San Francisco	59
71	Dec. 26	San Francisco (\$)	Washington (\$)	24-20	San Francisco	45
	Dec. 25	Dallas (\$)	Minnesota (\$)	20-12	Minneapolis	47
70		San Francisco (\$)	Minnesota (\$)	17-14	•	
10	Dec. 27		***		Minneapolis	45,
	Dec. 26	Dallas (\$)	Detroit (\$)	5-0	Dallas	69
69	Dec. 28	Cleveland (\$)	Dallas (\$)	38-14	Dallas	69
	Dec. 27	Minnesota (\$)	Los Angeles (\$)	23-20	Minneapolis	47
68						
68	Dec. 22	Baltimore (\$)	Minnesota (\$)	24-14	Baltimore	60,
	Dec. 21	Cleveland (\$)	Dallas (\$)	31-20	Cleveland	81,
67	Dec. 24	Dallas (\$)	Cleveland (\$)	52-14	Dallas	70
	Dec. 23	Green Bay (\$)	Los Angeles (\$)	28-7	Milwaukee	49
965	Dec. 26			13-10*		
	Dec. 26	Green Bay (\$)	Baltimore (\$)		Green Bay	50,
765 158	Dec. 21	N.Y. Giants (#)	Cleveland (#)	10-0	New York	61,

Season	Date	Winner (Share)	Loser (Share)	Score	Site	Attendance
1957	Dec. 22	Detroit (#)	San Francisco (#)	31-27	San Francisco	60,118
1952	Dec. 21	Detroit (#)	Los Angeles (#)	31-21	Detroit	47,645
1950	Dec. 17	Los Angeles (#)	Chicago Bears (#)	24-14	Los Angeles	83,501
	Dec. 17	Cleveland (#)	N.Y. Giants (#)	8-3	Cleveland	33,054
1947	Dec. 21	Philadelphia (#)	Pittsburgh (#)	21-0	Pittsburgh	35,729
1943	Dec. 19	Washington (¢)	N.Y. Giants (¢)	28-0	New York	42,800
1941	Dec. 14	Chicago Bears (¢)	Green Bay (¢)	33-14	Chicago	43,425
*C	-46 0	S . , ,	, , ,		3	

<sup>\$</sup> Players received 1/14 of annual salary for playoff appearances.

# 2004

PHILADELPHIA 27, MINNESOTA 14—Freddie Mitchell scored 2 touchdowns as the Eagles earned a berth in their fourth consecutive NFC Championship Game. The Eagles drove 53 and 92 yards for touchdowns to jump to a 14-0 lead. Following Daunte Culpepper's 7-yard scoring scramble, the Eagles drove to the Vikings' 14. Donovan McNabb completed a pass to L.J. Smith, who was hit by Antoine Winfield at the 4yard line and fumbled. The ball popped into the air and Mitchell caught it on the fly in the end zone for a touchdown and 21-7 lead with 10:08 left in the half. Both teams failed on two scoring chances. The Vikings failed fake-field-goal attempt from the Eagles' 3 ended a drive before halftime, and Ike Reese intercepted a tipped pass at the Eagles' 28 in the third quarter. Dorsey Levens was tackled at the Vikings' 5 as time expired in the first half, and, while reaching for the pylon in the third quarter, Mitchell fumbled the ball out of the end zone for a touchback. At the end of the third quarter, Culpepper's fourth-and-22 pass into the end zone, intended for Randy Moss, fell incomplete, and the Eagles made 2 fourth-quarter field goals to pull away. McNabb was 21 of 33 for 286 yards and 2 touchdowns. Culpepper was 24 of 46 for 316 yards and 1 touchdown, with 2 interceptions. Marcus Robinson had 5 receptions for 119 yards.

Minnesota 0 7 14 0 6 — 27 Philadelphia Phil — Mitchell 2 pass from McNabb (Akers kick) Phil — Westbrook 7 pass from McNabb (Akers kick) Minn — Culpepper 7 run (Andersen kick)

Phil — Mitchell fumble recovery in end zone (Akers kick)

- FG Akers 21 Phil

Phil - FG Akers 23

Minn — Robinson 32 pass from Culpepper (Andersen kick)

ATLANTA 47, ST. LOUIS 17—The Falcons rushed for 327 yards and Allen Rossum set a postseason record with 152 punt-return yards as the Falcons advanced to their second NFC Championship Game appearance. The Falcons had a 35:35-24:25 advantage in time of possession, and scored on five of their first six possessions to jump to a 38-17 lead with 5:54 left in the third quarter. On the first possession, faced with third-and-3, Michael Vick scrambled around right end and ran 47 yards to set up Alge Crumpler's 18-yard touchdown pass just three minutes into the game. The Rams tied the game five plays later with Kevin Curtis' 57-yard touchdown catch, but the Falcons needed just four plays to retake the lead on Warrick Dunn's 62-yard scoring run. Leading 21-14, Rossum returned a punt 68 vards for a touchdown with 59 seconds left in the half for a 28-14 lead, and Rossum's 39-vard return early in the third quarter led to Peerless Price's 6-vard catch for a 35-17 lead. Rossum's 45-yard punt return to the Rams' 13 moments later led to Jay Feely's 38-yard field goal for a 38-17 lead. Vick was 12 of 16 of 82 yards and 2 touchdowns, and rushed 8 times for 119 yards. Dunn rushed 17 times for 142 yards. Marc Bulger was 23 of 35 for 299 yards and 2 touchdowns, with 1 interception Curtis had 7 catches for 128 yards.

0 — 17 9 — 47 St. Louis 7 10 Ω 14 14 10 Atlanta

Atl — Crumpler 18 pass from Vick (Feely kick) StI - Curtis 57 pass from Bulger (Wilkins kick)

Atl - Dunn 62 run (Feely kick)

Atl - Dunn 19 run (Feely kick)

- Holt 28 pass from Bulger (Wilkins kick) Stl

Atl Rossum 68 punt return (Feely kick)

Stl — FG Wilkins 55

- Price 6 pass from Vick (Feely kick) Atl

- FG Feely 38 Atl

Atl - Safety, B. Smith sacked Bulger in end zone

— Duckett 4 run (Feely kick) Atl

# 2003

PHILADELPHIA 20, GREEN BAY 17 (OT)-The Eagles used an improbable 28-yard pass on fourth-and-26 to set up David Akers' game-tying field goal in the final seconds en route to an overtime victory and a berth in the NFC Championship Game for the third consecutive season. In the middle of the first quarter, Brett Favre's 40-yard touchdown pass to Robert Ferguson came one play after Mike McKenzie's cornerback blitz forced Donovan McNabb to fumble the ball away. Akers missed a 33-yard field-goal attempt on the Eagles' next possession, and Green Bay responded with an eightplay, 77-yard drive, capped by Favre's 17-yard touchdown pass to Ferguson, for a 14-0 lead with 1:22 left in the first quarter. A 45-yard pass from McNabb to Todd Pinkston set up Duce Staley's 7-yard touchdown on a shovel pass. The Packers once again drove right down field, but on fourth-and-goal from the Eagles' 1 with 2:00 left in the half, Ahman Green was stopped short of the goal line. A 24-yard scramble by McNabb set up his 12-yard touchdown pass to Pinkston on the first play of the fourth quarter to tie the score. Two possessions later, Favre's 44-yard pass to Javon Walker set up Ryan Longwell's go-ahead field goal with 10:22 left. After an exchange of punts, the Eagles started on their own 20 with 2:21 left. With 1:12 left, McNabb was sacked for a 16-yard loss by Bhawoh Jue, setting up fourth-and-26. McNabb fired a pass down the middle to Freddie Mitchell, who caught the ball beyond the marker for a 28-vard gain. Akers' 37-vard field goal with five seconds left forced overtime. The Eagles won the toss, but were forced to punt. But on the Packers' first play. Favre lofted a pass downfield which was intercepted by Brian Dawkins, who returned it 35 yards to the Packers' 34. Six plays later, Akers kicked a 31-yard field goal with 10:12 left on the clock for the victory. McNabb was 21 of 39 for 248 yards and 2 touchdowns, and rushed for 107 vards on 11 carries. Favre was 15 of 28 for 180 vards and 2 touchdowns, with 1 interception. Green rushed 25 times for 156 yards. Green Bay Ω 3 Ω - 17

14 0 3 — 20 7 0 10 0 Philadelphia — Ferguson 40 pass from Favre (Longwell kick) - Ferguson 17 pass from Favre (Longwell kick) GB Staley 7 pass from McNabb (Akers kick) — Pinkston 12 pass from McNabb (Akers kick) Phil GB - FG Longwell 21

- FG Akers 37 - FG Akers 31

CAROLINA 29, ST. LOUIS 23 (20T)—Steve Smith caught a 69-yard touchdown pass from Jake Delhomme on the first play of the second overtime as Carolina advanced to the NFC Championship Game. The Rams drove inside the Panthers' 10 on each of their three first-half possessions, but settled for a field goal each time. After struggling on its first two possessions, Carolina scored on five consecutive drives, capped by Brad Hoover's 7- vard touchdown run following Mike Minter's interception, to give Carolina a 23-12 lead with 8:50 to play. Deon Grant intercepted Marc Bulger's pass on the next play from scrimmage, giving the Panthers a chance to put the game away. But Tyoka Jackson dropped Delhomme for an 11-yard loss on thirdand-6, and John Kasay's 53-yard field-goal attempt hit the left upright with 6:29 remaining. The Rams converted four third downs and a fourth down, on a 16-vard pass from Bulger to Marshall Faulk, and scored on Faulk's 1-yard run with 2:39 left. Bulger's 2-point conversion pass to Dane Looker pulled the Rams within three points, and Jeff Wilkins recovered his own onside kick to give the Rams a chance to tie or win. St. Louis reached the Panthers' 19 with 42 seconds left, but the Rams opted to let the clock run down, and Wilkins tied the game with a 33-yard attempt as regulation expired. In overtime, the Panthers won the toss and reached the Rams' 22 to set up Kasay for an opportunity to win the game. Kasay made a 40-yard attempt, but the play was nullified by a delay of game penalty. After a few unsuccessful runs, Kasay attempted a 45-yard field goal, but pulled it wide right. The Rams responded by driving to the Panthers' 35, but Wilkins' 53-yard field-goal attempt landed short. The Rams' defense stiffened to force a punt, but Ricky Manning Jr. intercepted Bulger at the Panthers' 35 with 1:01 left in overtime. On third-and-14, Delhomme completed a pass to Smith near midfield. Smith split the seam and outran the secondary for the game-winning touchdown 10 seconds into the second overtime. Delhomme was 16 of 26 for 290 yards and 1 touchdown, with 1 interception. Smith had 6 receptions for 163 yards and 1 touchdown. Bulger was 27 of 46 for 332 yards, with 3 interceptions. Isaac Bruce had 7 receptions for 116 yards.

0 10 6 7 0 6 — 29 3 6 3 11 0 0 Carolina St. Louis

FG Wilkins 20 Stl StL - FG Wilkins 26

 Muhammad fumble recovery in end Car

zone (Kasay kick) FG Wilkins 24

FG Kasay 45FG Wilkins 51 Car Stl

- FG Kasay 52 Car — FG Kasay 34 Car

Car Stl

Hoover 7 run (Kasay kick)Faulk 1 run (Looker pass from Bulger) StL

FG Wilkins 33Smith 69 pass from Delhomme

# Car 2002

StI

TAMPA BAY 31, SAN FRANCISCO 6-The Buccaneers' defense forced 5 turnovers and registered 4 sacks as Tampa Bay handed Steve Mariucci a loss in his final game as the 49ers' coach. Quarterback Brad Johnson, who missed the last two regular-season games with a bruised back, helped the Buccaneers convert all 6 of their third-down conversions on their first two drives en route to a 14-3 lead. San Francisco countered with Jeff Chandler's second field goal, but the Buccaneers, aided by a 36-yard pass interference penalty, scored just 1:07 later on Johnson's 12-yard touchdown pass to Rickey Dudley to take a 21-6 lead. Corey Ivy downed Tom Tupa's punt at the 49ers' 3 late in the first half, and Derrick Brooks intercepted Jeff Garcia's pass at the 49ers' 26 two plays later to set up Mike Alstott's second touchdown with 50 seconds left in the half, which staked Tampa Bay to a 28-6 halftime lead. Dwight Smith intercepted Garcia on the first play of the

<sup>#</sup> Players received 1/12 of annual salary for playoff appearances.

<sup>¢</sup> Players received 1/10 of annual salary for playoff appearances.

second half to lead to a field goal and finish the scoring. The 49ers' defense, which was riddled with injuries, allowed Tampa Bay to convert 10 of 17 third-down attempts and hold on to the ball for 36:46 of the game's 60 minutes. Johnson was 15 of 31 for 196 yards and 2 touchdowns, with 1 interception. Garcia was 22 of 41 for 193 yards, with 3 interceptions.

 San Francisco
 3
 3
 0
 0
 —
 6

 Tampa Bay
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 21
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 —
 31

TB — Alstott 2 run (Gramatica kick)

SF — FG Chandler 24

TB — Jurevicius 20 pass from B. Johnson

(Gramatica kick) SF — FG Chandler 40

TB — Dudley 12 pass from B. Johnson

(Gramatica kick)

TB — Alstott 2 run (Gramatica kick)

TB - FG Gramatica 19

PHILADELPHIA 20, ATLANTA 6-Donovan McNabb returned from a broken ankle to pass for 247 yards and a fourth-quarter touchdown pass as the Eagles outlasted the Falcons. McNabb, playing his first game since November 17, proved he was healthy with a 19-yard run on the Eagles' second play from scrimmage. Midway through the first quarter, Bobby Taylor intercepted Michael Vick's pass and weaved his way down the right sideline 39 yards for a touchdown. The Eagles added field goals on their next two possessions to take a 13-0 lead. The Falcons responded with 2 field goals, and after David Akers missed a 51-yard field-goal attempt in the third quarter, Atlanta drove to the Eagles' 20. Vick scrambled out of the pocket and scored what would have been the game-tying touchdown, but the 20-yard scoring run was nullified by a holding penalty. Feely missed a 37-yard field goal a few plays later to end Atlanta's final offensive threat. The Eagles put the game away in the fourth quarter with a 75-yard drive, capped by McNabb's 35-yard touchdown pass to James Thrash on fourth-and-1 with 6:26 left. McNabb was 20 of 30 for 247 yards and 1 touchdown. Vick was 22 of 38 for 274 yards, with 2 interceptions, and was limited to just 30 rushing yards on 6 carries.

0 6 0 Atlanta 3 0 7 — 20 Philadelphia 10 — Taylor 39 interception return (Akers kick) - FG Akers 34 Phil - FG Akers 39 Atl - FG Feely 34 Atl - FG Feely 52 Phil — Thrash 35 pass from McNabb (Akers kick)

# 2001

ST. LOUIS 45, GREEN BAY 17—Aeneas Williams set a postseason record by returning 2 interceptions for touchdowns as the Rams' defense intercepted 6 passes en route to their second NFC Championship Game appearance in three seasons. On the Packers' second possession, Brett Favre and Bill Schroeder had a miscommunication, which enabled Favre's pass to go directly to Williams, who raced 29 yards untouched for a touchdown. Darren Sharper's interception set up Favre's 22yard touchdown pass to Antonio Freeman late in the first quarter, but the Rams responded with a 6-play, 66-yard drive, keyed by Marshall Faulk's 38-yard run, and capped by Kurt Warner's 4-yard touchdown pass to Torry Holt. Three plays later, Kim Herring's 45-yard interception return to the Packers' 4 led to Warner's 4-yard touchdown pass to James Hodgins and a 21-7 lead. Leading 24-10 early in the third quarter, Williams recovered a fumble and raced 69 yards for a touchdown, only to have the touchdown overturned, with Williams being ruled down by contact. Undaunted, the Rams drove 69 yards in four plays, highlighted by Holt's spectacular 50yard over-the-shoulder catch, and capped by Faulk's 7yard run. Five plays later, Favre's pass was deflected by Grant Wistrom into the hands of Tommy Polley, who returned it 34 yards for a touchdown and a 38-10 lead with 8:12 left in the third quarter. Williams capped the day with his 32-yard interception return for a touchdown midway through the final quarter. Warner was 18 of 30 for 216 yards and 2 touchdowns, with 1 interception. Favre was 26 of 44 for 281 yards and 2 touchdowns, with a postseason-tying 6 interceptions.

 Green Bay
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 St. Louis
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 45

StL — Williams 29 interception return (Wilkins kick)

GB — Freeman 22 pass from Favre (Longwell kick)

StL — Holt 4 pass from Warner (Wilkins kick)

StL — Hodgins 4 pass from Warner (Wilkins kick)

GB — FG Longwell 28 StL — FG Wilkins 27

StL — Faulk 7 run (Wilkins kick)

StL — Polley 34 interception return (Wilkins kick)

StL — Williams 32 interception return

(Wilkins kick)

GB — Freeman 8 pass from Favre (Longwell kick)

PHILADELPHIA 33, CHICAGO 19—Donovan McNabb passed for 2 touchdowns and ran for another as the Eagles advanced to the NFC Championship Game for the first time since 1980. The Eagles drove 61 and 63 yards on their first two possessions to set up field goals by David Akers, Damon Moore's interception at the Eagles' 2 thwarted a Bears' drive early in the second guarter, and also ended the day for Jim Miller, who was injured during the return. Behind Shane Matthews, the Bears took the lead later in the guarter as wide receiver Ahmad Merritt ran 47 yards on a reverse for a touchdown. The Fagles responded with an 11-play, 69-yard drive, highlighted by McNabb's 9-yard pass to Jeff Thomason on fourth-and-1, and capped by his 13-yard touchdown pass to Cecil Martin with 14 seconds left in the half to give the Eagles a 13-7 lead. Jerry Azumah's 39-yard interception return early in the second half put the Bears back in front. Later in the quarter, Brad Maynard's 15-yard punt gave the Eagles the ball at the Bears' 36. The Bears forced the Eagles into a third-and-14 situation, but McNabb completed a 30-yard pass to Thomason to set up his 6-yard scoring pass to Duce Staley and give Philadelphia a 20-14 lead. The Bears answered with Paul Edinger's 38-yard field goal 44 seconds into the fourth quarter, but the Eagles used 11 plays on the ensuing drive and took a 23-17 lead with 8:48 to play on Akers' third field goal. Quinton Caver recovered Autry Denson's fumble on the ensuing kickoff to set up Akers' fourth field goal, and Rashard Cook's 15-yard interception return to the Eagles' 20 set up McNabb's 5-yard touchdown run with 3:21 remaining to take a 33-17 lead. Sean Landeta ran out of the end zone as time expired to provide the final margin. McNabb was 26 of 40 for 262 yards and 2 touchdowns, with 1 interception. Matthews was 8 of 17 for 66 yards, with 2 interceptions, while Miller was 3 of 5 for 23 yards, with 1 interception.

 Philadelphia
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 33

 Chicago
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 19

Phil — FG Akers 34

Phil — FG Akers 23

Chi — Merritt 47 run (Edinger kick)
Phil — Martin 13 pass from McNabh

il — Martin 13 pass from McNabb (Akers kick)

Chi — Azumah 39 interception return

(Edinger kick)
Phil — Staley 6 pass from McNabb (Akers kick)

Chi — FG Edinger 38

Phil — FG Akers 40

Phil — FG Akers 46

Phil — McNabb 5 run (Akers kick)

Chi — Safety, Landeta ran out of end zone

# 2000

N.Y. GIANTS 20, PHILADELPHIA 10-Ron Dixon returned the opening kickoff 97 yards for a touchdown to spark the Giants to their first playoff victory since 1993. Dixon became the first player to begin a postseason game with a kickoff return for a touchdown since Miami's Nat Moore in 1974. The Giants' defense did not allow a first down during the Eagles' first three possessions, and on their fourth possession Torrance Small fumbled and Dave Thomas recovered to set up Brad Daluiso's 37yard field goal. Late in the first half, Jason Sehorn made a diving interception, batting the ball in midair with one hand before catching it, got to his feet, and outran the Eagles to the end zone for a 17-0 Giants' lead. The Eagles got on the board when David Akers kicked a field goal before halftime, but Akers missed from 30 yards in the third quarter. James Bostic's blocked punt in the final minutes set up Donovan McNabb's 10-yard touchdown pass to Small to close out the scoring. Kerry Collins was 12 of 19 for 125 yards. McNabb completed 20 of 41 passes for 181 yards and 1 touchdown, with 1 interception. The clubs combined for only 423 total yards, but the Giants controlled the clock for 36:09 thanks to 112 rushing yards, including 53 from Ron Dayne and 35 from Tiki Barber, despite a broken left forearm.

 Philadelphia
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 N.Y. Giants
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 20

NYG — Dixon 97 kickoff return (Daluiso kick)

NYG — FG Daluiso 37

NYG — Sehorn 32 interception return (Daluiso kick)

Phil — FG Akers 28

NYG - FG Daluiso 25

hil — Small 10 pass from McNabb (Akers kick)

MINNESOTA 34, NEW ORLEANS 16—Daunte Culpepper passed for 302 yards and 3 touchdowns as the Vikings defeated the Saints. The Vikings scored on their third play from scrimmage, when Randy Moss caught a short pass and raced untouched 53 yards for a touchdown. The Vikings led 10-3 late in the first half when Culpepper scrambled for 30 yards and, on the next play, fired a 17-vard touchdown pass to Cris Carter, Moss scored on the third play of the second half as well, again taking a guick pass and this time outrunning the Saints 68 yards for a touchdown and a 24-3 lead. Robert Tate's interception at the Saints' 29 late in the third guarter led to Robert Smith's 2-yard touchdown run to give the Vikings a 34-10 lead with 10:46 remaining. Culpepper completed 17 of 31 passes for 302 yards and 3 touchdowns. Moss had 2 catches for 121 yards, and Carter had 8 receptions for 120 yards. Aaron Brooks was 30 of 48 for 295 yards and 2 touchdowns, with 2 interceptions. Chad Morton had 13 catches for 106 yards, and Willie Jackson added 9 receptions for 125 yards.

New Orleans 3 0 7 6 — 16 Minnesota 10 7 10 7 — 34

 ${\rm Minn}\ -\!{\rm Moss}\ 53\ {\rm pass}\ {\rm from}\ {\rm Culpepper}$ 

(Anderson kick)

NO — FG Brien 33 Minn — FG Anderson 24

Minn — Carter 17 pass from Culpepper

(Anderson kick)
nn — Moss 68 pass from Culpepper

(Anderson kick)
NO — Stachelski 2 pass from Brooks (Brien kick)

Minn — FG Anderson 44

Minn - Smith 2 run (Anderson kick)

NO — Jackson 48 pass from Brooks (pass failed)

# 1999

ST. LOUIS 49, MINNESOTA 37—Kurt Warner passed for 391 yards and 5 touchdowns to put the Rams in the NEC Championship Game for the first time since 1989. Gary Anderson's 31-yard field goal capped the game's first drive, but on the Rams' first play. Warner found Isaac Bruce on a post pattern for a 77-yard touchdown. It took the Rams' four plays to score on their next possession, capped by Marshall Faulk's 41-yard scoring screen pass. The Vikings drove 96 yards to cut the deficit to 14-10, and Robert Griffith's fumble recovery near midfield set up Leroy Hoard's 4-yard scoring run to give the Vikings a 17-14 halftime lead. Trailing at halftime at home for the first time all season, Tony Horne promptly returned the second half's opening kickoff 95 yards for a touchdown. While the Vikings failed to gain a first down on their first four possessions (three punts and a fumble) of the second half, the Rams scored touchdowns on four of their first five possessions, capped by Warner's 2-yard touchdown pass to Roland Williams to give the Rams a 49-17 lead with 8:13 remaining. Jeff George engineered touchdown drives of 75, 63, and 85 yards in the final minutes. Warner was 27 of 33 for 391 yards and 5 touchdowns, with 1 interception, and completed passes to 10 different Rams. Bruce had 4 receptions for 133 yards. George was 29 of 50 for 423 yards and 4 touchdowns, with 1 interception. Randy Moss had 9 catches for 188 yards, and Cris Carter had 7 for 106 yards.

Minnesota 3 14 0 20 — 37 St. Louis 14 0 21 14 — 49

Minn — FG Anderson 31

StL — Bruce 77 pass from Warner (Wilkins kick)

- Faulk 41 pass from Warner (Wilkins kick) Minn — Carter 22 pass from George (Anderson kick)

Minn — Hoard 4 run (Anderson kick)

StL - Horne 95 kickoff return (Wilkins kick)

StI - Faulk 1 run (Wilkins kick)

- Robinson 13 pass from Warner (Wilkins kick) StL

- Tucker 1 pass from Warner (Wilkins kick) StL - Williams 2 pass from Warner (Wilkins kick) StL

Minn — Reed 4 pass from George (Hoard run)

Minn — Moss 44 pass from George (pass failed)

Minn — Moss 2 pass from George (pass failed)

TAMPA BAY 14, WASHINGTON 13—Turnovers set up both of Tampa Bay's second half touchdowns, and an errant snap squashed the Redskins' field-goal attempt in the final minutes as the Buccaneers earned their first trip to the NFC Championship Game since 1979. The Redskins' defense forced 6 first-half punts, and Brett Conway's 28-yard field goal gave the Redskins a 3-0 halftime lead. Brian Mitchell returned the second half's opening kickoff 100 yards for a touchdown, and Darrell Green's interception in Buccaneers' territory set up Conway's second field goal to give Washington a 13-0 lead. John Lynch's interception at the Redskins' 27 sparked the Buccaneers' offense, which needed just 6 plays, capped by Mike Alstott's 2-yard run, to cut the deficit to 13-7 late in the third guarter. Warren Sapp recovered Brad Johnson's fumble at the Redskins' 32 early in the fourth quarter, and Alstott converted a fourth-and-1 to set up Shaun King's 1-yard touchdown pass to John Davis with 7:29 remaining. The Redskins reached the Buccaneers' 33 with 1:08 left, but Conway never got a chance to attempt the winning kick because of a poor snap by Dan Turk, which allowed Floyd Young to sack the holder, Johnson. King was 15 of 32 for 157 yards and 1 touchdown, with 1 interception. Johnson was 20 of 32 for 149 yards, with 1 interception. Both defenses were stifling, as Tampa Bay outgained Washington 186-157.

0 3 10 0 — 13 7 — 14 Washington 0 0 Tampa Bay 7 Wash — FG Conway 28

Wash — Mitchell 100 kickoff return (Conway kick)

Wash — FG Conway 48

Alstott 2 run (Gramatica kick)

ТВ - Davis 1 pass from King (Gramatica kick)

# 1998

MINNESOTA 41, ARIZONA 21—Randall Cunningham passed for 3 touchdowns, and Leroy Hoard scored 3 times, as the Vikings reached the NFC Championship Game for the first time since 1987. The Vikings consumed nearly half of the first quarter during a 13-play, 80yard game-opening drive capped by Hoard's 1-yard plunge. After a Cardinals' punt, the Vikings were set to score again, but Aeneas Williams intercepted a pass in the end zone. However, Jake Plummer threw interceptions on consecutive plays, leading to a Vikings' touchdown and a field goal. The Vikings led 17-0 before the Cardinals recorded a first down. The clubs exchanged touchdowns, with Hoard's second coming with just 24 seconds left in the half, as Minnesota took a 24-7 lead into the locker room. The Cardinals used the first 7:35 of the third quarter to drive 80 yards, capped by Mario Bates' second touchdown run. However, David Palmer's 38-yard kickoff return set up Gary Anderson's 20-yard field goal and, after Antonio Banks recovered Plummer's fumble at the Cardinals' 10, Cunningham completed a 2yard scoring pass to Randy Moss to give Minnesota a 34-14 lead late in the third quarter. Eric Metcalf's 36-yard punt return set up Bates' third touchdown, with 11:45 left, but the Vikings went on a 12-play, 73-yard drive that consumed more than seven minutes and culminated with Hoard's third touchdown with 4:23 left. Cunningham was 17 of 27 for 236 yards and 3 touchdowns, with 1 interception. Robert Smith had 19 carries for 124 yards.

0 7 7 7 17 10 7 \_ 21 Arizona 7 7 — 41 Minnesota

Minn — Hoard 1 run (Anderson kick)

Minn Glover 15 pass from Cunningham

(Anderson kick)

- FG Anderson 34 Minn

Ariz — Bates 1 run (Jacke kick)

Minn — Hoard 16 pass from Cunningham (Anderson kick)

Ariz — Bates 1 run (Jacke kick)

Minn — FG Anderson 20

Minn - Moss 2 pass from Cunningham (Anderson kick)

Ariz — Bates 1 run (Jacke kick)

- Hoard 6 run (Anderson kick)

ATLANTA 20, SAN FRANCISCO 18-Jamal Anderson rushed for 113 yards and 2 touchdowns as the Falcons won just their third playoff game in club history. Tim Dwight's 36-yard punt return midway through the first quarter set up Anderson's first touchdown run, and Anderson carried 4 times for 52 yards on a 7-play, 82-yard second-quarter drive, capped by a 34-yard scamper, to give Atlanta a 14-0 lead. The 49ers scored twice in the final 1:10 of the half, with Steve Young's 34-yard pass to Chuck Levy on third-and-23 setting up Jerry Rice's 17yard touchdown catch, and Junior Bryant's interception leading to Wade Richey's 36-yard field goal as the half expired. Eugene Robinson stopped a 49ers' drive late in the third quarter by intercepting a pass at the Falcons' 3 and returning it 77 yards, being denied a touchdown by Terry Kirby's tackle. Atlanta settled for Morten Andersen's 29-yard field goal, and Andersen tacked three more points on the board less than six minutes later following William White's interception. The 49ers responded with a 13-play, 87-yard drive, capped by Young's 8yard run with 2:57 remaining. A high snap on the extrapoint attempt prompted holder Ty Detmer to roll out and throw a 2-point conversion pass to Greg Clark to cut the deficit to 20-18. The 49ers' onside kick hopped out of bounds, and San Francisco did not gain possession until getting the ball on their own 4-yard line with 38 seconds left. The 49ers' hopes ended when White intercepted Young at the 49ers' 35 as time expired. Chris Chandler was 13 of 19 for 169 yards, with 1 interception. Young was 23 of 37 for 289 yards and 1 touchdown, with 3 interceptions.

0 10 0 8 — 18 7 7 3 3 — 20 San Francisco Atlanta

- Anderson 2 run (Andersen kick) Atl

- Anderson 34 run (Andersen kick)

SF Rice 17 pass from Young (Richey kick)

— FG Richey 36 SF

Atl - FG Andersen 29

- FG Andersen 32 Atl

SF - Young 8 run (Clark pass from Detmer)

# 1997

GREEN BAY 21, TAMPA BAY 7—Dorsey Levens rushed for 112 yards and 1 touchdown, and the Packers' special teams set up two scores and halted three others as Green Bay advanced to the NFC Championship Game for the third consecutive season. Bob Kuberski blocked Michael Husted's 43-vard field-goal attempt midway through the first quarter to spark a 67-yard drive, capped by Brett Favre's 3-yard touchdown pass to Mark Chmura. Derrick Mayes' 14-yard catch on third-and-9 to the Buccaneers' 3 gave the Packers the impetus to reach the end zone. The Buccaneers reached the Packers' 25 early in the second quarter, but Steve Walsh's fake field-goal attempt pass on fourth-and-2 was incomplete. Warren Sapp forced Levens to fumble and recovered the ball at the Packers' 30 two plays later, but a third field-goal attempt was aborted when Dave Moore's snap sailed past Walsh and was recovered by Husted. LeRoy Butler's 12-yard sack of Trent Dilfer pinned the Buccaneers back to their own 11, and Robert Brooks returned the ensuing punt 28 yards to give the Packers the ball at the Buccaneers' 29 with 4:07 left in the half. The Packers had to settle for Ryan Longwell's 21yard field goal with 1:52 left in the half, but Tyrone Williams' interception on the next play from scrimmage set up Longwell's second field goal and gave Green Bay a 13-0 lead at halftime. The Packers took the second half's opening kickoff and drove deep into Buccaneers territory before John Lynch hit Favre's arm on a pass attempt and Donnie Abraham intercepted the pass at the 6yard line. Faced with third-and-11 from their own 5-yard line, Dilfer threw a 53-yard pass to Reidel Anthony. Dilfer then completed a 28-yard pass to Moore on third-and-3, and Mike Alstott scored two plays later to cut the deficit to 13-7. On the last play of the third quarter Favre completed a 23-yard pass to Mayes on third-and-18, and Levens scored three plays later. The Buccaneers drove into Packers territory twice but were stopped on downs, and Mike Prior's interception at the Packers' 34 with 1:49 left iced the game. Favre was 15 of 28 for 190 yards and 1 touchdown, with 2 interceptions. Dilfer was 11 of 36 for 200 yards, with 2 interceptions. With the game-time temperature at 29 degrees, Favre improved his record to 23-0 when the temperature is below 35.

0 0 7 7 6 0 0 — 7 Tampa Bay 8 — 21 Green Bay

— Chmura 3 pass from Favre

(Longwell kick)

GB - FG Longwell 21 GB

- FG Longwell 32

TB - Alstott 6 run (Husted kick)

- Levens 2 run (Favre run) GB

SAN FRANCISCO 38, MINNESOTA 22—Terry Kirby had 25 carries for 120 yards and 2 touchdowns as the 49ers defeated the Vikings. Mitch Berger's 12-yard punt to the Vikings' 26 enabled William Floyd to score four plays later to give the 49ers a 7-0 lead. Two plays later, Randall Cunningham threw a 66-vard touchdown pass to Cris Carter to tie the game. A 28-yard pass interference penalty on Torrian Gray to the Vikings' 4 set up Terry Kirby's 1yard run, and Ken Norton's 23-yard interception return 47 seconds later staked the 49ers to a 21-7 halftime edge. Gary Anderson's 34-yard field goal capped the 49ers' initial drive of the second half, but the Vikings responded with Cunningham's 53-yard pass to Jake Reed setting up Carter's 3-yard touchdown grab to pull the Vikings within 24-14. However, Steve Young threw a 15-yard touchdown pass to Terrell Owens on their next drive, and Kirby scored two possessions later to give the 49ers a 38-14 lead midway through the fourth quarter. Cunningham threw a 13-yard touchdown pass to Matthew Hatchette, and the Vikings drove to the 49ers' 16 with 2:30 to play, but Cunningham threw 4 consecutive incompletions to end the Vikings' threat. Young was 21 of 30 for 224 yards and 1 touchdown. Cunningham was 18 of 40 for 331 yards and 3 touchdowns, with 1 interception. The 49ers had more first downs (30-16) and led in time of possession (38:04-21:56).

Minnesota 7 14 10 San Francisco

Floyd 1 run (Anderson kick)

Minn — Carter 66 pass from Cunningham

(Murray kick)

- Kirby 1 run (Anderson kick) SF Norton 23 interception return (Anderson kick)

- FG Anderson 34

Minn — Carter 3 pass from Cunningham (Murray kick)

 Owens 15 pass from Young (Anderson kick)

Kirby 1 run (Anderson kick)

Minn — Hatchette 13 pass from Cunningham

(Walsh pass from Cunningham)

# 1996

CAROLINA 26. DALLAS 17—The Panthers defense intercepted 3 passes, and John Kasay booted 4 field goals, as Carolina won its first playoff game in franchise history. Dallas, which had won the Super Bowl three of the previous four years, scored on its first possession and went ahead 3-0 on Chris Boniol's field goal. However, the scoring drive was costly because Michael Irvin separated his shoulder making a 23-yard catch and missed the remainder of the game. Carolina responded with a 68-yard scoring drive, keyed by two Cowboys' penalties, and took the lead on Wesley Walls' touchdown catch. After forcing a punt, Collins threw his second touchdown pass, this one to Willie Green, to put the Panthers ahead 14-3. Dallas put its best drive of the game together, with Daryl Johnston's touchdown catch ending the 15-play, eight-minute, 21 second drive. A bad snap over Rohn Stark's head and through the end zone on the following possession pulled Dallas within three points and gave them momentum. However, Chad Cota's interception and 49-yard return set up Kasay's 24-yard field goal three seconds before halftime giving the Panthers a 17-11 lead. Four second-half field goals, 2 by each team, gave the Panthers a 23-17 lead. Dallas got the ball back on a Carolina punt, but with poor field position after Dwight Stone downed it at the 2yard line. Just as the Cowboys were mounting a possible game-winning drive. Pat Terrell intercepted Aikman and

returned the ball 49 yards to set up Kasay's final field goal. Sam Mills' interception in the final minute iced the game. Johnson totaled 104 yards, the first 100-yard rushing game by a Cowboys playoff opponent since Eric Dickerson in 1985.

Dallas	3	8	3	3	_	17	
Carolina	7	10	3	6	_	26	
Dall — FG Boniol 2	2						
Car — Walls 1 pass	s from	Collin	s (Kas	ay kid	ck)		
Car — W. Green 10	) pass	from (	Collins	(Kas	ay ki	ck)	
Dall — Johnston 2 pass from Aikman (pass failed)							
Dall — Safety, Card	Dall - Safety, Carolina bad snap on punt went out of						
end zone							
Car — FG Kasay 2	4						
Dall — FG Boniol 2	1						
Car — FG Kasay 4	0						
Car — FG Kasay 4	0						
Dall — FG Boniol 2	1						

Car - FG Kasav 32

GREEN BAY 35, SAN FRANCISCO 14-Desmond Howard had two big punt returns, one for a touchdown and one to set up another, and Edgar Bennett scored twice to lead the Packers to victory at muddy Lambeau Field. Howard's 71-vard punt return for a touchdown 2:15 into the game to gave the Packers an early lead. A 46yard punt return by Howard set up Andre Rison's touchdown catch, Bennett completed a short 15-yard drive, set up by Craig Newsome's interception, with a touchdown to give Green Bay a commanding 21-0 advantage. Two careless turnovers brought the 49ers back into the game. Chris Hayes had a 49ers punt bounce off his foot. Curtis Buckley recovered the ball and Terry Kirby scored 24 seconds before halftime. As Green Bay prepared to receive the opening kickoff to the second half, Howard still was in the locker room changing his pants. Andre Rison ran onto the field as the ball was kicked. Steve Israel beat Rison to the ball, giving the 49ers possession at the 4-yard line. Elvis Grbac's 2-yard run cut the deficit to 21-14. The Packers responded with a long drive, but chaos ensued as they were about to score. Bennett, in his effort to break the end zone plane with the ball, fumbled at the goal line, causing a pileup in the end zone. After sifting through bodies, the referees ruled Antonio Free man had recovered the ball for a touchdown. Bennett scored the game's final points after Kirby fumbled a punt return at his own 32-yard line. Brett Favre, tempered by the poor weather conditions, attempted just 15 passes, completing 11 for 79 yards. Grbac, who came in during the first quarter after Steve Young's bruised ribs inhibited his performance, completed 19 of 36 passes for 125 yards, 1 touchdown, and 3 interceptions. The teams combined for just 404 total yards and 6 turnovers.

San	rialicisco	U	/	/	U				
Gree	n Bay	14	7	7	7	_			
GB	<ul><li>Howard 7</li></ul>	1 punt re	eturn (.	Jacke I	kick)				
GB	— Rison 4 pa	ass from	Favre	(Jacke	e kick	()			
GB	- Bennett 2 run (Jacke kick)								
SF	<ul> <li>Kirby 8 pass from Grbac (Wilkins kick)</li> </ul>								
SF	— Grbac 2 rt	ın (Wilki	ns kicl	<)					
GB	— Freeman r	ecovere	d fum	ble in e	end z	one			
	(Jacke kic	k)							
GB	<ul> <li>Bennett 1<sup>r</sup></li> </ul>	1 run (Ja	icke ki	ck)					

# 1995

DALLAS 30, PHILADELPHIA 11—Emmitt Smith rushed for 99 yards and 1 touchdown to lead the Cowboys to the NFC Championship Game for the fourth consecutive year. Smith's 1-yard touchdown run 3:42 before halftime capped a 79-yard drive and helped break open the game at 17-3. Quarterback Troy Aikman accounted for most of the yards on the march with a 37-yard completion to wide receiver Kevin Williams and a 26-yard toss to fullback Daryl Johnston. A pair of field goals by Chris Boniol extended Dallas' lead to 23-3 in the third quarter, and Aikman made it 30-3 with a 9-yard touchdown pass to Michael Irvin with 5:43 left in the game. Aikman finished with 17 completions in 24 attempts for 253 yards. Williams caught 6 passes for 124 yards. The Eagles mounted little opposition after tying the game at 3-3 on Gary Anderson's 26-yard field goal on the first play of the second quarter. Starting quarterback Rodney Peete had suffered a concussion on the previous play, and backup Randall Cunningham came on to complete only 11 of 26

passes for 161 yards. — 11— 30 Philadelphia 0 3 0 8 Dallas 3 14 Dall — FG Boniol 24 Phil - FG Anderson 26 Sanders 21 run (Boniol kick) Dall - E. Smith 1 run (Boniol kick) Dall Dall - FG Boniol 18 - FG Boniol 51 Dall - Irvin 9 pass from Aikman (Boniol kick) Dall Phil - Cunningham 4 run (R. Johnson pass from Cunningham)

GREEN BAY 27, SAN FRANCISCO 17-The Packers jumped to a 21-0 lead and never were seriously threatened as they dethroned the defending Super Bowl champions. Green Bay dominated the game early, taking the opening kickoff and maintaining possession for 11 plays and 7:11 before Chris Jacke's 44-yard field-goal attempt was blocked by Tim McDonald. But on the 49ers' first play from scrimmage, fullback Adam Walker fumbled because of a hard hit by linebacker Wayne Simmons, after catching a pass from Steve Young. Packers cornerback Craig Newsome picked up the loose ball and returned it 31 yards for a touchdown. After San Francisco failed to make a first down on its ensuing possession, the Packers took only 4 plays to drive 62 yards to Brett Favre's 3-yard touchdown pass to tight end Keith Jackson. Green Bay scored again the next time it had the ball, with Favre's 13-yard touchdown pass to tight end Mark Chmura coming early in the second quarter. By halftime, Favre had completed 15 of 17 passes for 222 yards. He finished the game 21 of 28 for 299 yards, and was not intercepted. Trailing 21-3, the 49ers opened the second half with an 80-yard, 14-play touchdown drive that consumed 7:14, but Jacke kicked a pair of field goals to keep the game out of reach. San Francisco quarterback Steve Young passed for 328 yards and led all rushers with 77 yards, but was forced to attempt a postseason-record 65 passes and completed only 32. He also was intercepted twice, lost a fumble, was sacked 3 times, and consistently harassed by the Packers' pass rush.

Gree	n Bay	14	7	3	3	_	2	
San	Francisco	0	3	7	7	_	1	
GB	<ul><li>Newsome</li></ul>	31 fuml	ole retu	urn (Ja	cke k	(ick)		
GB	— Jackson 3	pass fro	om Fav	vre (Ja	cke k	ick)		
GB	<ul> <li>Chmura 13 pass from Favre (Jacke kick)</li> </ul>							
SF	— FG Wilkins	3 21						
SF	— Young 1 ru	ın (Wilki	ins kic	k)				
GB	— FG Jacke	27						
GB	— FG Jacke	26						
SF	<ul><li>Loville 2 ru</li></ul>	ın (Wilki	ins kic	k)				

14

35

DALLAS 35, GREEN BAY 9-Troy Aikman passed for 337 yards and 2 touchdowns, including a 94-yard strike to Alvin Harper, to lead the Cowboys to an easy victory over the Packers. The win set the stage for the third consecutive NFL title game between Dallas and San Francisco. Aikman, who completed 23 of 30 passes, spread his passes around to tight end Jay Novacek and wide receivers Michael Irvin and Harper, each of whom caught passes for more than 100 yards. Novacek had a club playoff-record 11 receptions for 104 yards, Irvin caught 6 passes for 111 yards, and Harper had a pair of receptions for 108 yards. His 94-yard touchdown catch gave the Cowboys a 14-3 lead late in the first quarter. It was the longest play from scrimmage in NFL postseason history. Dallas running back Emmitt Smith ran for 44 yards and a touchdown in the first quarter, but left the game after aggravating a hamstring injury. His backup, Blair Thomas, ran for 70 yards and 2 touchdowns, including a 1-yard score to help break open the game at 21-3 midway through the second quarter

Green Bay	3	6	0	0	_	9	
Dallas	14	14	0	7	_	35	
Dall — F. Smith 5 run (Bonjol kick)							

GB — FG Jacke 50

- Harper 94 pass from Aikman (Boniol kick)

Dall - B. Thomas 1 run (Boniol kick)

GB - Bennett 1 run (pass failed)

Dall - Galbraith 1 pass from Aikman (Boniol kick)

- B. Thomas 2 run (Boniol kick)

SAN FRANCISCO 44, CHICAGO 15—William Floyd ran for 3 touchdowns and Steve Young ran for 1 and passed for 1 as the 49ers tuned up for the NFC Championship Game by routing the Bears. After turning over the ball on its first possession and spotting Chicago an early field goal, San Francisco scored on six consecutive possessions to turn the game into a rout. Floyd's 2-yard run with 3:41 left in the first quarter gave the 49ers the lead for good, and his 4-yard run midway through the second quarter increased their advantage to 20-3. Young, who tossed an 8-yard touchdown pass to tight end Brent Jones early in the second quarter, ran 6 yards for a score 1:17 before halftime to make it 30-3. Floyd's third touchdown, from 1 yard, capped a 70-yard drive on San Francisco's first possession of the second half, and many of the 49ers' starters, including Young, took the rest of the afternoon off. The Bears, limited to only 95 total yards behind starting quarterback Steve Walsh in the first half, turned to Erik . Kramer in the second half. Kramer passed for 161 vards in his two quarters of play and generated 2 touchdowns in the fourth quarter, but they came long after the game had been decided. Chicago 0 12 — 15

SF - Jones 8 pass from Young (kick failed) SF Floyd 4 run (Brien kick) - FG Brien 36 - Young 6 run (Brien kick) SF SF Floyd 1 run (Brien kick) - Flanigan 2 pass from Kramer (pass failed) Chi - Walker 1 run (Brien kick)

3

7 23

- Floyd 2 run (Brien kick)

— Tillman 1 run (pass failed)

0

7

7 — 44

#### 1993

N.Y. Giants

Chi

San Francisco

Chi

SF

- FG Butler 39

SAN FRANCISCO 44, N.Y. GIANTS 3—Ricky Watters scored an NFL playoff-record 5 touchdowns to key the 49ers' victory. Watters ran for 118 yards on 24 carries, caught 5 passes for 46 yards, and scored all of his touchdowns on short runs. No player had scored more than 3 touchdowns in a postseason game. San Francisco started the rout early, with quarterback Steve Young completing all 4 of his passes for 63 yards on an 8-play, 80-yard touchdown drive following the opening kickoff, a march capped by Watters' 1-yard run 4:27 into the game. The Giants failed to make a first down on their initial possession, and the 49ers' Dexter Carter returned the ensuing punt 31 yards to set up Mike Cofer's 29-yard field goal. Safety Tim McDonald intercepted Phil Simms' pass on the next play, leading to another 1yard touchdown run by Watters, and San Francisco led 16-0 two seconds into the second quarter. It was 23-3 at halftime, and the 49ers never were threatened. Young completed 17 of 22 passes for 226 yards as San Francisco amassed 413 total yards to just 194 for the Giants, New York, which led the NFL by averaging 138 rushing yards per game during the regular season, managed only 41 yards on the ground. The 49ers' defense also recorded 4 sacks, including 2 by rookie end Dana Stubblefield.

0 3 0 9 14 14 0 — 3 7 — 44 San Francisco - Watters 1 run (kick failed) SF - FG Cofer 29 - Watters 1 run (Cofer kick) - Watters 2 run (Cofer kick) SF NYG - FG Treadwell 25 - Watters 6 run (Cofer kick) - Watters 2 run (Cofer kick)

- Logan 2 run (Cofer kick)

DALLAS 27, GREEN BAY 17—Troy Aikman passed for 302 yards and 3 touchdowns, and the Cowboys scored 10 points in a span of 18 seconds shortly before halftime to break open a close game. Aikman's 25-yard touchdown pass to Alvin Harper 5:53 into the second quarter put Dallas ahead 7-3, a lead the Cowboys would not relinquish. After Eddie Murray kicked a 41yard field goal 23 seconds before halftime to stretch the advantage to 10-3, Kenneth Gant made the key play of the game on the ensuing kickoff. Gant knocked the ball loose from Packers kick returner Corey Harris, and Dal-

las' Joe Fishback recovered at Green Bay's 14-yard line. Aikman completed an 8-yard pass to Michael Irvin, then teamed with tight end Jay Novacek on a 6-yard touchdown pass with five seconds left in the first half to make it 17-3. Aikman's 19-yard touchdown pass to Michael Irvin 9:05 into the third quarter put the game out of reach. Aikman finished with 28 completions in 37 attempts, while Irvin caught 9 passes for 126 yards. Packers quarterback Brett Favre completed 28 of 45 passes for 331 yards, but most of it came after the issue was decided. Running back Edgar Bennett caught 9 passes. Sterling Sharpe had 6 receptions for 128 yards

Green Bay	3	0	7	7 — 17
Dallas	0	17	7	3 — 27
GB - FG Jacke 30				

Dall — Harper 25 pass from Aikman (Murray kick)

Dall — FG Murray 41

 Novacek 6 pass from Aikman (Murray kick) Dall

- Irvin 19 pass from Aikman (Murray kick) Dall GB Brooks 13 pass from Favre (Jacke kick)

- FG Murray 38 Dall

GB Sharpe 29 pass from Favre (Jacke kick)

# 1992

Washington

SAN FRANCISCO 20. WASHINGTON 13-Steve Young threw 2 touchdown passes and survived 4 turnovers as the 49ers eliminated the Super Bowl XXVI champions. Young completed 20 of 30 passes for 227 yards, including scoring strikes of 5 yards to wide receiver John Taylor and 16 yards to tight end Brent Jones that helped San Francisco build a 17-3 advantage in the first half. But the 49ers' quarterback also lost 3 fumbles, the last of which the Redskins converted into a 15-yard drive capped by quarterback Mark Rypien's 1-yard sneak for a touchdown that trimmed the margin to 17-13 with 14:36 left in the game. Moments later, Washington was driving again, and reached San Francisco's 23-yard line before Rypien fumbled while trying to hand off. The 49ers took over and ate up more than seven minutes on a 59-yard, 14-play drive that culminated in Mike Cofer's 33-yard field goal with 2:22 remaining. Ricky Watters ran for 83 yards and Young added 73 yards on only 8 carries for San Francisco, which amassed 401 total yards. The Redskins had 323 total yards, but also were victimized by 4 turnovers. 49ers defensive end Pierce Holt recorded 3 of his team's 5 sacks.

3 0 7 10 3 7 — 13 0 3 — 20 San Francisco Taylor 5 pass from Young (Cofer kick) Wash — FG Lohmiller 19 — FG Cofer 23 Jones 16 pass from Young (Cofer kick) Wash — FG Lohmiller 32 Wash — Rypien 1 run (Lohmiller kick) SF — FG Cofer 33

DALLAS 34, PHILADELPHIA 10—The Cowboys converted a balanced offense and a stingy defense into an easy victory over the Eagles. Philadelphia took a 3-0 lead on Roger Ruzek's 32-yard field goal 7:15 into the game, but Dallas countered with Troy Aikman's 1-yard touchdown pass to tight end Derek Tennell for a 7-3 advantage. Aikman's second touchdown pass, a 6-yard toss to tight end Jay Novacek, gave the Cowboys a 14-3 advantage just 47 seconds before intermission. On the ensuing kickoff, Vai Sikahema fumbled, and Dallas converted the turnover into a 20-yard field goal by Lin Elliott as time ran out in the half. The Cowboys went on to build a 34-3 advantage in the fourth quarter before the Eagles got their lone touchdown in the final minute. Emmitt Smith ran for 114 yards, including a 23-yard touchdown run, as Dallas amassed 160 rushing yards. The Cowboys added 185 yards through the air as Aikman completed 15 of 25 passes. Philadelphia managed only 178 total yards. Randall Cunningham completed 17 of 30 passes, but was sacked 5 times and accumulated most of his 160 yards in the final period, long after the game had been decided.

Philadelphia	3	0	0	7	_	10
Dallas	7	10	10	7	_	34
Phil — FG Ruzek 32						

- Tennell 1 pass from Aikman (Elliott kick) Dall

Dall — Novacek 6 pass from Aikman (Elliott kick)

Dall - FG Elliott 20

Dall - E. Smith 23 run (Elliott kick)

Dall - FG Elliott 43

Dall - Gainer 1 run (Elliott kick)

Phil - C. Williams 18 pass from Cunningham (Ruzek kick)

# 1991

WASHINGTON 24, ATLANTA 7-The Redskins overcame poor weather conditions by rushing for 162 yards, while the Falcons succumbed to the wind, rain, and mud by turning the ball over 6 times. Ricky Ervins gained 104 yards on 23 carries as Washington held the ball for more than 36 minutes. In the second quarter, Ervins capped an 81-yard drive with a 17-yard touchdown run and, after the Redskins recovered a fumble on Atlanta's next possession, Gerald Riggs scored on a 2-yard run. Riggs' second touchdown run clinched the victory in the fourth quarter.

Atlanta 0 7 0 0 14 3 0 0 — 7 Washington 7 — 24 Wash — Ervins 17 run (Lohmiller kick) Wash — Riggs 2 run (Lohmiller kick) Atl — T. Johnson 1 run (N. Johnson kick) Wash — FG Lohmiller 24 Wash — Riggs 1 run (Lohmiller kick)

DETROIT 38, DALLAS 6-Erik Kramer completed 29 of 38 passes for 341 yards and 3 touchdowns as the ground-oriented Lions took to the air to beat the Cowboys. Barry Sanders, the NFL's second-leading rusher during the regular season, carried only 12 times for 69 yards, but Detroit still piled up 421 yards of total offense. Two of Kramer's scoring passes went to Willie Green, who had 8 catches for 115 yards. Leading 17-6, Detroit put the game away by scoring 2 touchdowns in a span of 1:05 during the third quarter.

3 3 0 7 10 14 Dallas 7 — 38 Detroit — Green 31 pass from Kramer (Murray kick)

— FG Willis 28 Dall

Dall

- Jenkins 41 interception return (Murray kick)

- FG Willis 28 - FG Murray 36

— Green 9 pass from Kramer (Murray kick) Det

- Moore 7 pass from Kramer (Murray kick)

Det — Sanders 47 run (Murray kick)

# 1990

SAN FRANCISCO 28, WASHINGTON 10-Joe Montana passed for 2 touchdowns to lead the 49ers. Washington took a 10-7 lead on a 36-yard field goal by Chip Lohmiller with 44 seconds remaining in the first quarter. Montana took over from there, hitting Jerry Rice and Mike Sherrard for touchdowns that gave San Francisco a 21-10 halftime lead. The Redskins outgained the 49ers 441-338, but could not score after the first quarter. The only second-half score came on a club playoffrecord 61-yard interception return by 49ers nose tackle Michael Carter.

10 0 0 0 — 10 7 14 0 7 — 28 Washington San Francisco Wash — Monk 31 pass from Rypien (Lohmiller kick) Rathman 1 run (Cofer kick)

Wash - FG Lohmiller 44

SF Rice 10 pass from Montana (Cofer kick) — Sherrard 8 pass from Montana (Cofer kick) SF

- M. Carter 61 interception return (Cofer kick)

NEW YORK GIANTS 31, CHICAGO 3—Jeff Hostetler passed for 2 touchdowns and ran for another to lead the Giants. New York took a 17-3 halftime lead on Hostetler's scoring passes to wide receiver Stephen

Baker (21 yards) and tight end Howard Cross (5 yards). Hostetler added a 3-yard touchdown run in the third quarter to extend the Giants' lead to 24-3. Hostetler completed 10 of 17 passes for 112 yards, and ran for 43 yards on 6 carries. New York rushed for 194 yards while

limiting Chicago to 27 rushing yards. Chicago 0 0 3 7 — 31 N.Y. Giants 10 7 7 NYG — FG Bahr 46 NYG — Baker 21 pass from Hostetler (Bahr kick)

Chi — FG Butler 33

NYG — Cross 5 pass from Hostetler (Bahr kick)

NYG — Hostetler 3 run (Bahr kick)

NYG — Carthon 1 run (Bahr kick)

#### 1989

SAN FRANCISCO 41, MINNESOTA 13—Joe Montana fired 4 first-half scoring passes to lead the 49ers. The Vikings scored first, on a 38-yard field goal by Rich Karlis, but they were out of the game by halftime after Montana hit Jerry Rice for a 72-yard touchdown, Brent Jones and John Taylor for 8-yard scores, and Rice again for a 13-yard touchdown. Montana completed 17 of 24 passes for 241 yards. Roger Craig ran for 125 yards, and Ronnie Lott returned an interception 58 yards for a touchdown.

0 3 7 — 13 20 0 14 — 41 Minnesota 3 San Francisco 7 Minn — FG Karlis 38

J. Rice 72 pass from Montana (Cofer kick)

— B. Jones 8 pass from Montana (Cofer kick) SF — Taylor 8 pass from Montana (kick failed)

SF J. Rice 13 pass from Montana (Cofer kick)

Minn — FG Karlis 44

SF — Lott 58 interception return (Cofer kick)
SF — Craig 4 run (Cofer kick)

Minn — Fenney 3 run (Karlis kick)

# LOS ANGELES RAMS 19, NEW YORK GIANTS 13-

Willie Anderson's second touchdown catch, a 30-yard grab 1:06 into overtime, lifted the Rams to victory. Anderson gave Los Angeles a 7-6 lead on a 20-yard catch with 17 seconds left in the first half. After New York took a 13-7 lead, the Rams tied the game on 2 field goals by Mike Lansford, the last with 3:01 left in regulation. Los Angeles won the overtime toss, then won the game by taking the kickoff and driving swiftly down the field to Anderson's winning catch.

0 7 6 0 0 6 6 — 19 7 0 0 — 13 L.A. Rams N.Y. Giants

NYG — FG Allegre 35 NYG — FG Allegre 41

LA — W. Anderson 20 pass from Everett

(Lansford kick)

NYG — O. Anderson 2 run (Allegre kick)

LA - FG Lansford 31

- FG Lansford 22

ΙA - W. Anderson 30 pass from Everett (no kick)

CHICAGO 20, PHILADELPHIA 12—The Bears stiffened when it counted to defeat the Eagles. Chicago built a 17-9 halftime lead on Mike Tomczak's 64-yard scoring pass to Dennis McKinnon, Neal Anderson's 4vard touchdown run, and Kevin Butler's 46-vard field goal. Each team mustered just a field goal in a fog-enshrouded second half. The Eagles' Randall Cunningham was 27 of 54 for 407 yards. He led the Eagles inside the Bears' 25 nine times, and inside the Bears' 11 five times, but could not produce a touchdown.

Philadelphia 3 6 3 0 — 12 7 10 0 3 — 20 Chicago

 McKinnon 64 pass from Tomczak (Butler kick) Chi

— FG Zendejas 42 Phil Phil - FG Zendejas 29

Chi Anderson 4 run (Butler kick)

- FG Butler 46 Chi Phil - FG Zendejas 30 Phil — FG Zendejas 35 - FG Butler 27 Chi

SAN FRANCISCO 34, MINNESOTA 9-Joe Montana and Jerry Rice collaborated on 3 touchdown passes as the 49ers avenged their 1987 playoff loss to the Vikings. The Montana-Rice connections gave San Francisco a 21-3 halftime lead. After Minnesota closed to 21-9, the 49ers pulled away on touchdown runs of 4 and 80 yards (the latter the longest run in NFL postseason history) by Roger Craig, who ran for 135 yards on 21 carries. The 49ers' defense was led by safety Ronnie Lott, who intercepted 2 passes.

0 — 9 Minnesota 6 14 0 13 — 34 San Francisco Minn — FG C. Nelson 47

J. Rice 2 pass from Montana (Cofer kick)

SF - J. Rice 4 pass from Montana (Cofer kick) — J. Rice 11 pass from Montana (Cofer kick) Minn — H. Jones 5 pass from W. Wilson (kick failed) SF - Craig 4 run (Cofer kick)

SF - Craig 80 run (kick failed)

### 1987

MINNESOTA 36, SAN FRANCISCO 24—Anthony Carter set an NFL postseason record with 227 receiving yards to lead the Vikings over the 49ers. Carter's 10 receptions helped Minnesota's offense produce 29 points on 2 touchdown passes by Wade Wilson and 5 field goals by Chuck Nelson. The Vikings' defense did its part, recording 4 sacks and 2 interceptions, including 1 that Reggie Rutland returned 45 yards for a touchdown. Wilson was 20 of 34 for 298 yards.

3 17 10 3 0 14 San Francisco 7 — 24 Minn — FG C. Nelson 21

SF — FG Wersching 43

Minn — Hilton 7 pass from W. Wilson (C. Nelson kick)

Minn - FG C. Nelson 23

Minn — Rutland 45 interception return (C. Nelson kick)

SF — Fuller 48 interception return (Wersching kick) Minn — H. Jones 5 pass from W. Wilson

(C. Nelson kick)

— Young 5 run (Wersching kick)

Minn — FG C. Nelson 40

Minn — FG C. Nelson 46

SF — Frank 16 pass from Young (Wersching kick)

Minn — FG C. Nelson 23

WASHINGTON 21, CHICAGO 17—The Redskins rallied from a 14-0 deficit to defeat the Bears. Chicago built a 14-0 second-quarter lead on Calvin Thomas' 2-yard run and Jim McMahon's 14-yard pass to Ron Morris. But Washington pulled even at halftime on George Rogers' 3-yard run and Doug Williams' 18-yard pass to Clint Didier. Darrell Green gave the Redskins their first lead early in the third quarter when he returned a punt 52 yards for a touchdown.

 Washington
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 Chicago
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Chi — Thomas 2 run (Butler kick)
Chi — Morris 14 pass from McMahon (Butler kick)

Wash — Rogers 3 run (Haji-Sheikh kick)

Wash — Didier 18 pass from Williams (Haji-Sheikh kick)

Wash — Green 52 punt return (Haji-Sheikh kick)

Chi - FG Butler 25

# 1986

WASHINGTON 27, CHICAGO 13-The Redskins outscored the Bears 20-0 in the second half to defeat Chicago. Jay Schroeder and Art Monk connected on 2 scoring passes, with the second one giving Washington a 14-13 lead midway through the third period. The Redskins pulled away in the fourth quarter on a 1-yard touchdown run by George Rogers and 2 field goals by Jess Atkinson. Washington's defense played a key role, intercepting 2 passes and recovering 2 fumbles.

Washington 7 0 7 13 — 27 0 13 0 0 — 13 Chicago Wash — Monk 28 pass from Schroeder (Atkinson kick)
Chi — Gault 50 pass from Flutie (Butler kick)

Chi — FG Butler 23

Chi — FG Butler 41

Wash — Monk 23 pass from Schroeder (Atkinson kick)

Wash — Rogers 1 run (Atkinson kick)

Wash — FG Atkinson 35

Wash — FG Atkinson 25

NEW YORK GIANTS 49, SAN FRANCISCO 3-The Giants dominated the 49ers en route to an easy victory. New York compiled 366 yards and 21 first downs while limiting San Francisco to 184 and 9, respectively. Phil Simms set a club playoff record with 4 scoring passes, including a 15-yard toss to Bobby Johnson 50 seconds before halftime. Twentytwo seconds later, Lawrence Taylor returned an interception 34 yards for a score that gave New York a 28-3 halftime lead. Joe Morris ran for 159 yards and 2 scores for the Giants.

 

 San Francisco
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 N.Y. Giants
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 NYG — Bavaro 24 pass from Simms (Allegre kick)

- FG Wersching 26

NYG — Morris 45 run (Allegre kick)

NYG — Johnson 15 pass from Simms (Allegre kick)

NYG — Taylor 34 interception return (Allegre kick)

NYG — McConkey 28 pass from Simms (Allegre kick) NYG — Mowatt 29 pass from Simms (Allegre kick)

NYG — Morris 2 run (Allegre kick)

#### 1985

LOS ANGELES RAMS 20, DALLAS 0-Eric Dickerson ran wild to lead the Rams over the Cowboys. Dickerson set an NFL playoff record with 248 rushing yards on 34 carries. He scored both Los Angeles touchdowns, blowing open a close game with second-half scoring runs of 55 and 40 yards. The Rams' defense was almost as spectacular, limiting Dallas to 243 total yards.

 
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- FG Lansford 33

LA - Dickerson 55 run (Lansford kick)

- FG Lansford 34 ΙA

LA Dickerson 40 run (Lansford kick)

CHICAGO 21. NEW YORK GIANTS 0-The Bears' defense stuffed the Giants in 14-degree weather. The game's first score came when the Giants' Sean Landeta whiffed on a punt attempt into swirling winds. The Bears' Shaun Gayle picked the ball out of the air and returned it 5 yards for a touchdown. In the second half, Jim McMahon hit Dennis McKinnon for 23- and 20-yard scores to put the game out of reach. The Giants were completely shut down by Chicago's defense, led by Richard Dent, who had 31/2 sacks.

0 0 0 0 — 0 7 0 14 0 — 21 N.Y. Giants Chicago

 Gayle 5 punt return (Butler kick) McKinnon 23 pass from McMahon Chi (Butler kick)

McKinnon 20 pass from McMahon Chi (Butler kick)

# 1984

SAN FRANCISCO 21, NEW YORK GIANTS 10-Joe Montana fired 3 first-half touchdown passes to lead the 49ers. Montana hit Dwight Clark (21 yards) and Russ Francis (9 yards) for a 14-0 lead. New York closed to 14-10 on a field goal and Harry Carson's 14-yard interception return. But Montana answered Carson's score with a 72-yard drive that culminated in a 29-yard scoring strike to Freddie Solomon. The 49ers' defense shut out the Giants in the second half, with help from 3 missed field-goal attempts by New York.

N.Y. Giants 0 10 0 0 — 10
San Francisco 14 7 0 0 — 21 — Clark 21 pass from Montana (Wersching kick) - Francis 9 pass from Montana (Wersching kick)

NYG — FG Haji-Sheikh 46

NYG — Carson 14 interception return

(Haji-Sheikh kick)

- Solomon 29 pass from Montana

(Wersching kick)

CHICAGO 23, WASHINGTON 19—The Bears used a big-play offense and a steady defense to defeat the Redskins. Chicago took a 10-3 halftime lead on a 19yard pass from running back Walter Payton to tight end Pat Dunsmore. Chicago increased its lead early in the third quarter on a 75-yard scoring pass from Steve Fuller to Willie Gault. After the Redskins scored on a 1-yard run by John Riggins, Fuller hit Dennis McKinnon for a 16-yard touchdown and a 23-10 lead. After that, the Redskins could do no better than make it close against the Bears' defense.

0 10 13 0 — 23 3 0 14 2 — 19 Chicago Washington Wash — FG Moseley 25

— FG B. Thomas 34

Chi - Dunsmore 19 pass from Payton (B. Thomas kick)

- Gault 75 pass from Fuller (kick failed)

Wash — Riggins 1 run (Moseley kick) Chi — McKinnon 16 pass from Fuller

(B. Thomas kick)

Wash — Riggins 1 run (Moseley kick)

Wash — Safety, Finzer stepped out of end zone

#### 1983

SAN FRANCISCO 24, DETROIT 23—Joe Montana's heroics and a missed field-goal attempt keyed the 49ers' victory. Detroit rallied from a 17-9 deficit to take a 23-17 fourth-quarter lead on 2 scoring runs by Billy Sims. Montana responded by leading San Francisco 70 yards to the winning score on his 14-yard pass to Freddie Solomon. Montana went 6 for 6 on the drive. After the kickoff, Detroit's Gary Danielson hit on 4 passes to set up a field-goal attempt. But Eddie Murray, who earlier had set a playoff record with a 54-yard field goal, was wide right from 43 yards with five seconds left.

3 6 0 14 — 23 7 7 3 7 — 24 Detroit San Francisco

Det — FG Murray 37

SF Craig 1 run (Wersching kick)

SF — Tyler 2 run (Wersching kick)

— FG Murray 21 Det — FG Murray 54 Det

- FG Wersching 19 SF

Det Sims 11 run (Murray kick)

— Sims 3 run (Murray kick) Det

SF - Solomon 14 pass from Montana

(Wersching kick)

WASHINGTON 51, LOS ANGELES RAMS 7-The Redskins exploded for 38 first-half points to set an NFL playoff record and bury the Rams. John Riggins, who finished with 119 yards on 25 carries, led the charge with 3 touchdown runs, the last of which gave Washington a 38-7 halftime lead. Joe Theismann completed 18 of 23 passes for 302 yards, including touchdown passes of 40 and 21 yards to Art Monk. Charlie Brown led the Redskins with 6 catches for 171 yards.

0 7 0 17 21 6 L.A. Rams 0 — 7 — 51 Washington

Wash — Riggins 3 run (Moseley kick)

Wash — Monk 40 pass from Theismann (Moseley kick)

Wash — FG Moseley 42

Wash — Riggins 1 run (Moseley kick)

LA — Dennard 32 pass from Ferragamo

(Lansford kick) Wash — Monk 21 pass from Theismann (Moseley kick)

Wash — Riggins 1 run (Moseley kick) Wash — FG Moseley 36

Wash — FG Moseley 41

Wash — Green 72 interception return (Moseley kick)

WASHINGTON 21, MINNESOTA 7—John Riggins rushed 37 times for a club playoff record 185 yards to lead the Redskins. Washington controlled the ball for nearly 12 minutes in the first quarter, driving 66 and 71 vards for touchdowns and a 14-0 lead. After Minnesota scored to make it 14-7, Joe Theismann answered with his second touchdown pass of the day to make it 21-7 at halftime. Behind Riggins, the Redskins played keepaway in the second half.

0 7 0 0 — 7 14 7 0 0 — 21 Minnesota Washington

Wash — Warren 3 pass from Theismann (Moseley kick) Wash — Riggins 2 run (Moseley kick)

Minn — T. Brown 18 run (Danmeier kick)

Wash — Garrett 18 pass from Theismann (Moseley kick)

DALLAS 37, GREEN BAY 26—Dennis Thurman's 3 interceptions keyed the Cowboys' victory. Thurman returned 1 of his thefts 39 yards for a score that gave Dallas a 20-7 halftime lead. His third interception sealed the victory in the fourth quarter. Green Bay's Lynn Dickey passed for 332 yards. His favorite receiver was James Lofton, who had 5 receptions for 109 yards and a 71yard touchdown run. The Cowboys' offense was led by Tony Dorsett, who ran for 99 yards, and Tony Hill, who caught 7 passes for 142 yards.

Green Bay 0 6 13 — 26 3 14 — 37 Dallas 14 6

Dall — FG Septien 50

Dall — FG Septien 34

GB - Lofton 6 pass from Dickey (Stenerud kick)

- Newsome 2 run (Septien kick)

Dall — Thurman 39 interception return (Septien kick)

GB - FG Stenerud 30

GB - FG Stenerud 33

Dall - FG Septien 24

- Lofton 71 run (kick failed) GB

- Cosbie 7 pass from D. White (Septien kick) Dall

GB - Lee 22 interception return (Stenerud kick)

- Newhouse 1 run (Septien kick) Dall

#### 1981

DALLAS 38, TAMPA BAY 0-The Cowboys' defense pressured the Buccaneers into 4 sacks and 4 interceptions in a convincing Dallas victory. After a scoreless first quarter, Dallas' offense got moving with a 10-point second quarter. Then the Cowboys took the secondhalf kickoff and drove 80 yards to take a 17-0 lead. Interceptions set up 2 more Dallas touchdowns that put the game away late in the third quarter.

0 0 0 0 — 0 0 10 21 7 — 38 Tampa Bay Dallas

Dall — Hill 9 pass from White (Septien kick)

— FG Septien 32 Dall

Dall — Springs 1 run (Septien kick)

— Dorsett 5 run (Septien kick) Dall

 J. Jones 5 run (Septien kick) Dall

Dall - Newsome 1 run (Septien kick)

SAN FRANCISCO 38, NEW YORK GIANTS 24-Joe Montana passed for 304 yards to lead the 49ers over the Giants. Montana passed for 2 touchdowns to help San Francisco take a 24-10 halftime lead. After the Giants closed to 24-17, the 49ers embarked on a long drive, capped by Bill Ring's 3-yard scoring run. Ronnie Lott then intercepted his second pass of the game and returned it 20 yards for the 49ers' clinching score. Freddie Solomon caught 6 passes for 107 yards and a score, and Dwight Clark had 5 for 104 for the 49ers.

7 3 7 7 — 24 7 17 0 14 — 38 N.Y. Giants San Francisco

— Young 8 pass from Montana (Wersching kick) NYG — Gray 72 pass from Brunner (Danelo kick)

— FG Wersching 22

- Solomon 58 pass from Montana SF

(Wersching kick)

Patton 25 run (Wersching kick)

NYG - FG Danelo 48

NYG — Perkins 59 pass from Brunner (Danelo kick)

Ring 3 run (Wersching kick)

Lott 20 interception return (Wersching kick)

NYG — Perkins 17 pass from Brunner (Danelo kick)

PHILADELPHIA 31, MINNESOTA 16—The Eagles rallied from a 14-0 deficit to defeat the Vikings. Philadelphia claimed its first lead at 21-16 midway through the third quarter. Then the Vikings fell apart. After losing just 3 fumbles all season. Minnesota lost 3 during the final 22 minutes. Moreover, the Vikings' Tommy Kramer also threw 5 interceptions to give Minnesota 8 turnovers in the final quarter and a half. The Eagles took advantage, scoring 10 fourth-guarter points to pull away from the Vikings.

0 — 16 Minnesota 0 7 14 10 — 31 Philadelphia

Minn — S. White 30 pass from Kramer (Danmeier kick)

Minn — Brown 1 run (Danmeier kick)

Phil Carmichael 9 pass from Jaworski

(Franklin kick)

Phil Montgomery 8 run (Franklin kick)

Minn — Safety, Martin and Blair tackled Jaworski in

end zone

- Montgomery 5 run (Franklin kick) Phil

— FG Franklin 33 Phil

Phil — Harrington 2 run (Franklin kick)

DALLAS 30, ATLANTA 27—Danny White evoked memories of Roger Staubach by rallying the Cowboys over the Falcons. Trailing 27-17, White drove the Cowboys 62 yards, capped by his 14-yard touchdown pass to Drew Pearson with 3:04 remaining to pull Dallas within 27-24. After a Falcons' punt, White drove the Cowboys 70 yards, finding Pearson again, this time for 23 vards and the winning score in the final minute. White. who was 8 of 11 on the final two drives, completed 25 of 39 passes for 322 yards and 3 scores.

Dallas 3 7 0 20 — 30 10 7 7 3 — 27 3 — 27 Atlanta 7

Atl - FG Mazzetti 38

- Jenkins 60 pass from Bartkowski Atl (Mazzetti kick)

Dall - FG Septien 38

- DuPree 5 pass from D. White (Septien kick) Dall

- Cain 1 run (Mazzetti kick) Atl

— Andrews 12 pass from Bartkowski (Mazzetti kick)

- Newhouse 1 run (Septien kick) Atl

— FG Mazzetti 34

Dall - D. Pearson 14 pass from D. White

(Septien kick)

Dall - D. Pearson 23 pass from D. White (kick failed)

# 1979

TAMPA BAY 24, PHILADELPHIA 17—The Buccaneers made their first playoff game a success behind the running of Ricky Bell and a stingy defense. Bell rushed for 142 yards on 38 carries, including 2 touchdowns that propelled Tampa Bay to a 17-0 first-half lead. After Philadelphia narrowed it to 17-10, Doug Williams passed to Jimmie Giles for a 9-yard touchdown to make it 24-10. The Eagles scored a late touchdown to make it close, but on the day managed only 227 total yards, including just 43 in the first half.

0 7 3 7 10 0 Philadelphia

**Tampa Bay** 7 10 0 TB — Bell 4 run (O'Donoghue kick) TB

— FG O'Donoghue 40 TR Bell 1 run (O'Donoghue kick)

Phil - Smith 11 pass from Jaworski (Franklin kick)

Phil - FG Franklin 42

TB - Giles 9 pass from Williams (O'Donoghue kick)

— Carmichael 37 pass from Jaworski Phil (Franklin kick)

LOS ANGELES 21, DALLAS 19—Billy Waddy turned a tipped pass into a 50-yard touchdown with 2:06 remaining to lift the Rams over the Cowboys. Waddy's reception was the second big one by a Rams' receiver. Ron Smith had given Los Angeles a 14-5 lead with an acrobatic 43-yard scoring catch just before halftime. Dallas rallied to take a 19-14 lead, but the Rams forced the Cowboys to punt late in the game. On the next play, Vince Ferragamo threw a pass over the middle that was tipped by the Cowboys' Mike Hegman but still caught by Waddy.

0 14 0 7 — 21 2 3 7 7 — 19 Los Angeles Dallas

— Safety, R. White tackled Ferragamo in end Dall zone

Tyler 32 pass from Ferragamo (Corral kick)

Dall — FG Septien 33

— R. Smith 43 pass from Ferragamo (Corral kick) ΙA

Dall Springs 1 run (Septien kick)

Dall - Saldi 2 pass from Staubach (Septien kick)

— Waddy 50 pass from Ferragamo (Corral kick) ΙA

# 1978

DALLAS 27, ATLANTA 20—Backup quarterback Danny White rallied the Cowboys over the Falcons. White relieved starter Roger Staubach in the second half after Staubach suffered a concussion. Trailing 20-13, White led the Cowboys on a 54-yard drive, tying the game on a 2-yard scoring pass to Jackie Smith. The winning touchdown came on Scott Laidlaw's 1-yard run in the fourth quarter. Dallas finished with 369 total yards, 242 in the second half, while limiting Atlanta to 216 total yards, including just 85 in the second half.

7 13 0 0 — 20 10 3 7 7 — 27 Atlanta

Dall — FG Septien 34 Bean 14 run (Mazzetti kick)

- Laidlaw 13 run (Septien kick) Dall

- FG Mazzetti 42

Dall - FG Septien 48

Atl

- Francis 17 pass from Bartkowski

(Mazzetti kick)

— FG Mazzetti 22

Dall — Smith 2 pass from D. White (Septien kick)
Dall — Laidlaw 1 run (Septien kick)

LOS ANGELES 34, MINNESOTA 10—The Rams outscored the Vikings 24-0 in the second half to break a four-game playoff losing streak against Minnesota. The Rams were tied 10-10 at halftime thanks to safety Bill Simpson, who intercepted 2 passes deep in Rams territory. Los Angeles took the lead midway through the third quarter on Cullen Bryant's 3-yard scoring run, followed by Pat Haden's second touchdown pass of the day, a 27-yard hookup with Ron Jessie. The Rams' defense limited the Vikings to 58 second-half yards.

 Minnesota
 3
 7
 0
 0
 —
 10

 Los Angeles
 0
 10
 14
 10
 —
 34

Minn — FG Danmeier 42

LA — Miller 9 pass from Haden (Corral kick)

- FG Corral 43 ΙA

Minn — Rashad 1 pass from Tarkenton (Danmeier kick)

Bryant 3 run (Corral kick)

LA - Jessie 27 pass from Haden (Corral kick)

— FG Corral 28 ΙA

ΙA Jodat 3 run (Corral kick)

# 1977

DALLAS 37, CHICAGO 7—The Cowboys used a methodical offense and a dominating defense to defeat the Bears. Dallas amassed 375 total yards, 279 of them in the first half when the Cowboys built a 17-0 lead. Tony Dorsett ran for 2 second-half touchdowns to help Dallas take a 37-0 lead. The Cowboys rushed for 233 yards, led by Dorsett with 85 and Robert Newhouse with 80. Charlie Waters' 3 interceptions led the Dallas defense, which limited Chicago to 224 total yards.

Chicago 0 0 0 7 — 7 7 10 17 3 — 37 Dallas

Dall — Dennison 2 run (Herrera kick) - DuPree 28 pass from Staubach (Herrera kick) Dall

- FG Herrera 21

- Dorsett 23 run (Herrera kick) Dall

- FG Herrera 31

 Dorsett 7 run (Herrera kick) Dall

- FG Herrera 27

- Schubert 34 pass from Avellini (Thomas kick)

MINNESOTA 14, LOS ANGELES 7—Chuck Foreman ran for 101 yards to lead the Vikings. After losing three playoff games in frigid Minnesota, the Rams thought a home game would provide them with good weather. But the game was played in a torrential downpour that turned the field into a quagmire. After stopping the Rams' opening drive on downs, the Vikings drove 70 vards for a touchdown on Foreman's 5-yard run. Sammy Johnson provided the winning score with a 1-yard run early in the fourth quarter.

, 0 0 0 7 — 14 0 7 — 7 Minnesota Los Angeles Ω

Minn — Foreman 5 run (Cox kick) Minn — S. Johnson 1 run (Cox kick)

LA — H. Jackson 1 pass from Haden (Septien kick)

# 1976

MINNESOTA 35, WASHINGTON 20—Chuck Foreman and Brent McClanahan each ran for more than 100 yards to lead the Vikings. McClanahan, who gained 101 yards, set the tone by racing 41 yards on the game's first play. Foreman gained 105 yards, scoring on runs of 2 and 30 yards. Fran Tarkenton passed for 3 touchdowns, including 2 to Sammy White. Tarkenton's second scoring pass to White gave Minnesota a commanding 35-6 lead.

3 0 3 14 — 20 14 7 14 0 — 35 Washington Minnesota

Minn — Voigt 18 pass from Tarkenton (Cox kick)

Wash — FG Moseley 47

Minn — S. White 27 pass from Tarkenton (Cox kick)

Minn — Foreman 2 run (Cox kick)

Minn — Foreman 30 run (Cox kick)

Wash — FG Moseley 35

Minn — S. White 9 pass from Tarkenton (Cox kick)

Wash — Grant 12 pass from Kilmer (Moseley kick)

Wash — Jefferson 3 pass from Kilmer (Moseley kick)

LOS ANGELES 14. DALLAS 12-The Rams won thanks to two defensive stands in the final five minutes. Leading 14-10, Los Angeles stopped Dallas on downs at the Rams' 32 with three minutes left. But the Cowboys blocked a punt and took over at the Rams' 17 with 1:59 left. Roger Staubach's first-down pass to Butch Johnson was ruled incomplete when Johnson could only get one foot down in the end zone. Two incompletions followed, and Staubach's fourth-down pass to Billy Joe DuPree was a yard short of the first down. The Rams took an intentional safety as time ex-

Los Angeles	0	7	0	7	_	14	
Dallas	3	7	0	2	_	12	
Dall — FG Herrera 44							
LA — Haden 4 rui	— Haden 4 run (Dempsey kick)						

Dall - Laidlaw 1 run (Herrera kick) LA - McCutcheon 1 run (Dempsey kick)

- Safety, Jensen tackled R. Jackson in end zone Dall

LOS ANGELES 35, ST. LOUIS 23-Lawrence Mc-Cutcheon ran for 202 yards to lead the Rams. Los Angeles built a 21-0 lead with a 79-yard touchdown drive, and interception returns for touchdowns by Jack Youngblood and Bill Simpson. St. Louis scored to make it 21-6, but Ron Jaworski answered with a 66yard scoring pass to Harold Jackson. After the Cardinals closed to 28-16, Simpson intercepted another pass to set up the Rams' final score. The Rams had 237 rushing yards.

St. L	_ouis	0	9	7	7	_	23	
Los	Angeles	14	14	0	7	_	35	
LA	LA — Jaworski 5 run (Dempsey kick)							
LA	— Jack Youngblood 47 interception return							
(Dempsey kick)								
LA	_A — Simpson 65 interception return							
	(Dempsey	kick)						
StI	— Otis 2 run /	kick fa	iled)					

LA - H. Jackson 66 pass from Jaworski (Dempsey kick)

StL - FG Bakken 29

StL - M. Gray 11 pass from Hart (Bakken kick)

— Jessie 2 fumble recovery return LA (Dempsey kick)

- Jones 3 run (Bakken kick)

DALLAS 17, MINNESOTA 14—Roger Staubach's "Hail Mary" pass to Drew Pearson lifted the Cowboys over the Vikings. Fred McNeill recovered a muffed punt at the Cowboys' 4 to set up Chuck Foreman's 1-yard touchdown run in the second quarter. After Dallas took a 10-7 lead, the Vikings responded with a 70-yard drive, capped by Brent McClanahan's 1-yard run with 5:24 left. Trailing 14-10, Staubach moved the Cowboys 85 yards in the final two minutes, covering the last 50 yards on a pass to Pearson with 24 seconds left.

Dallas	0	0	7	10	_	17
Minnesota	0	7	0	7	_	14
Minn — Foreman 1 i	run (C	ox kick	)			

Dall — Dennison 4 run (Fritsch kick)

Dall - FG Fritsch 24

Minn — McClanahan 1 run (Cox kick)

Dall — D. Pearson 50 pass from Staubach (Fritsch kick)

# 1974

MINNESOTA 30, ST. LOUIS 14—The Vikings utilized turnovers to break a 7-7 halftime tie and defeat the Cardinals. Jeff Wright intercepted a pass to set up Fred Cox's tie-breaking field goal, and one minute later, Nate Wright returned a fumble 20 yards for a touchdown and a 17-7 lead. Fran Tarkenton's second touchdown pass to John Gilliam made it 23-7, and Chuck Foreman capped the Vikings' scoring with a 4-yard run. Foreman

musnea	WILII I I 4	TUSTIITI	y yar	us.					
St. Loui	is	0	)	7	0	7	_	14	
Minnes	ota	0	)	7	16	7	_	30	

StL — Thomas 13 pass from Hart (Bakken kick) Minn — Gilliam 16 pass from Tarkenton (Cox kick)

Minn — FG Cox 37

Minn — N. Wright 20 fumble recovery return (Cox kick)

Minn — Gilliam 38 pass from Tarkenton (kick failed)

Minn — Foreman 4 run (Cox kick) - Metcalf 11 run (Bakken kick)

LOS ANGELES 19, WASHINGTON 10-Big plays by their defense and special teams rallied the Rams over the Redskins. Trailing 10-7, the Rams' defense recovered a fumble to set up David Ray's tying field goal. On the ensuing kickoff, the Rams' special teams recovered a fumble, and Ray kicked another field goal for a 13-10 lead. The Redskins were driving for a possible tying field goal or winning touchdown, but Merlin Olsen pressured Sonny Jurgensen into a bad throw that Isiah Robertson returned 59 yards for a score.

Washington 3 7 0 7 0 3 Los Angeles Klein 10 pass from Harris (Ray kick) Wash — FG Bragg 35 Wash — Denson 1 run (Bragg kick)

LA - FG Ray 37 LA — FG Ray 26

- Robertson 59 interception return (pass failed) ΙA

MINNESOTA 27, WASHINGTON 20—Fran Tarkenton led the Vikings to 24 second-half points in Minnesota's victory. After a sloppy first half, the Vikings took the second-half kickoff and drove 79 yards for a touchdown and a 10-7 lead. Washington reclaimed the lead at 13-10, but Tarkenton and John Gilliam twice hooked up for touchdown passes to give the Vikings a 24-13 lead. After a Redskins' touchdown, Fred Cox kicked a 30yard field goal to conclude the scoring.

0 7 3 10 — 20 0 3 7 17 — 27 Washington Minnesota

Minn — FG Cox 19

Wash — L. Brown 3 run (Knight kick) Minn — B. Brown 2 run (Cox kick)

Wash — FG Knight 52

Wash — FG Knight 42

Minn — Gilliam 28 pass from Tarkenton (Cox kick) Minn — Gilliam 8 pass from Tarkenton (Cox kick)

Wash — Jefferson 28 pass from Kilmer (Knight kick)

Minn - FG Cox 30

DALLAS 27, LOS ANGELES 16—The Cowboys used two scoring spurts to defeat the Rams. Dallas built a 17-0 lead thanks in part to an interception by Lee Roy Jordan and a fumble recovery by Mel Renfro. The Rams rallied, scoring 10 fourth-quarter points to pull close at 17-16. But Dallas answered with an 83-yard touchdown pass from Roger Staubach to Drew Pearson and a 12yard field goal by Toni Fritsch.

0 6 Los Angeles 0 10 — 16 0 10 — 27 Dallas 3 - Hill 3 run (Fritsch kick) Dall

— Pearson 4 pass from Staubach (Fritsch kick) Dall

- FG Fritsch 39 Dall — FG Ray 33 ΙΑ

— FG Ray 37 ΙA - FG Ray 40 ΙA

- Baker 5 run (Ray kick) ΙA

- Pearson 83 pass from Staubach (Fritsch kick) Dall

Dall - FG Fritsch 12

# 1972

DALLAS 30, SAN FRANCISCO 28—Roger Staubach led one of the greatest comebacks ever to propel the Cowboys over the 49ers. San Francisco led 28-13 when Staubach came off the bench late in the third quarter. With 10 minutes left, Staubach drove Dallas to a field goal. With two minutes left, he drove the Cowboys 55 yards, the last 20 on his scoring pass to Billy Parks. Dallas recovered the onside kick, and Staubach drove the Cowboys 50 yards, hitting Ron Sellers for the winning 10-yard score with 52 seconds remaining.

3 10 0 17 — 30 7 14 7 0 — 28 San Francisco - V. Washington 97 kickoff return (Gossett kick)

- FG Fritsch 37

- Schreiber 1 run (Gossett kick)

- Schreiber 1 run (Gossett kick)

Dall - FG Fritsch 45

Dall - Alworth 28 pass from Morton (Fritsch kick)

Schreiber 1 run (Gossett kick)

Dall — FG Fritsch 27

Dall — Parks 20 pass from Staubach (Fritsch kick)

- Sellers 10 pass from Staubach (Fritsch kick)

WASHINGTON 16, GREEN BAY 3-Larry Brown's running and a unique defensive alignment led the Redskins over the Packers. Brown, who had missed the final two regular-season games, ran for 101 yards on 25 carries. Brown's counterpart on Green Bay, 1,000-yard rusher John Brockington, was held to 9 yards on 13 carries by the Redskins' five-man front. Washington built a 10-3 halftime lead, then used Brown's running and Mike Bragg's punting to control the game.

Green Bay 0 3 Washington 0 10 0 6 — 16

GB — FG Marcol 17

Wash — Jefferson 32 pass from Kilmer (Knight kick)

Wash — FG Knight 42 Wash — FG Knight 35

Wash — FG Knight 46

# 1971

DALLAS 20, MINNESOTA 12—The Cowboys forced 5 turnovers to defeat the Vikings. Jethro Pugh set up a Dallas field goal by recovering a fumble, and Chuck Howley's interception led to a second kick and a 6-3 halftime lead. Cliff Harris' interception set up the game's first touchdown, a 13-yard run by Duane Thomas. Charlie Waters' 24-yard punt return set up Roger Staubach's 9-yard touchdown pass to Bob Hayes that gave Dallas a commanding 20-3 lead.

3 14 0 — 20 Dallas 3 9 — 12 Minnesota 0 3 0

Dall — FG Clark 26 Minn — FG Cox 27

Dall - FG Clark 44

Dall — Thomas 13 run (Clark kick)

Dall — Hayes 9 pass from Staubach (Clark kick)

Minn — Safety, Page tackled Staubach in end zone Minn — Voigt 6 pass from Cuozzo (Cox kick)

SAN FRANCISCO 24, WASHINGTON 20-The 49ers made several big plays to defeat the Redskins. Washington led 10-3 when it took the second-half kickoff and marched to the 49ers' 11. But the 49ers stopped them on fourth down, and three plays later, John Brodie threw a 78-yard scoring pass to Gene Washington to tie the game. Roosevelt Taylor's interception set up Brodie's second scoring pass for a 17-10 lead. The 49ers put the game away when Bob Hoskins recovered

an errant punt snap in the end zone. Washington 7 3 3 0 3 14 — 20 7 — 24 San Francisco

Wash — Smith 5 pass from Kilmer (Knight kick)

— FG Gossett 23

Wash — FG Knight 40

G. Washington 78 pass from Brodie

(Gossett kick)

Windsor 2 pass from Brodie (Gossett kick)

Wash — FG Knight 36

SF — Hoskins recovered fumble in end zone

(Gossett kick) Wash — Brown 16 pass from Kilmer (Knight kick)

DALLAS 5, DETROIT 0-The Cowboys came out on top in the lowest scoring playoff game in NFL history. Facing the league's top rushing defense, Dallas came out throwing. That strategy failed, though the Cowboys did manage a field goal after recovering a Lions' fumble. Dallas switched in the second half, using 15 consecutive running plays to drive 76 yards to the Detroit 1. The Lions stopped them on fourth down, only to be sacked for a safety three plays later. In the final minutes, Bill Munson drove the Lions to the Dallas 29. But Mel Renfro made a game-saving interception.

0 0 0 0 — 3 0 0 2 — 0 2 —

Dall — FG Clark 26

Dall - Safety, Andrie and Pugh tackled Landry in end

SAN FRANCISCO 17, MINNESOTA 14—The 49ers used punt returns and turnovers to defeat the Vikings.

Bruce Taylor's 30-yard punt return set up the 49ers' first score, a 24-yard pass from John Brodie to Dick Witcher. San Francisco converted a fumble recovery into a field goal and a 10-7 halftime lead. Taylor's 23-yard punt return to the Minnesota 14 set up Brodie's 1-yard touchdown, which gave San Francisco a 17-7 lead with 1:20 remaining. The 49ers forced 4 turnovers. San Francisco

7 3 0 7 — 17 7 0 0 7 — 14 Minn — Krause 22 fumble recovery return (Cox kick)

- Witcher 24 pass from Brodie (Gossett kick)

- FG Gossett 40

- Brodie 1 run (Gossett kick)

Minn — Washington 24 pass from Cuozzo (Cox kick)

### 1969

MINNESOTA 23, LOS ANGELES 20—The Vikings drove 65 yards for the winning touchdown in the fourth quarter. Roman Gabriel passed for 2 touchdowns to help Los Angeles build a 17-7 halftime lead. Joe Kapp rallied the Vikings, driving them 71 yards to a third-quarter touchdown. After the Rams made it 20-14, Kapp passed and ran for 64 of the 65 yards on the drive, including a 2-yard run for the winning score. Minnesota added a safety on the Rams' next possession.

7 10 0 3 — 20 7 0 7 9 — 23 Los Angeles Minnesota

LA — Klein 3 pass from Gabriel (Gossett kick)

Minn — Osborn 1 run (Cox kick)

FG Gossett 20Truax 2 pass from Gabriel (Gossett kick) ΙA

Minn — Osborn 1 run (Cox kick)

LA - FG Gossett 27

Minn — Kapp 2 run (Cox kick)

Minn — Safety, Eller tackled Gabriel in end zone

CLEVELAND 38, DALLAS 14—The Browns played a near-flawless game to defeat the Cowboys. Bill Nelsen, who completed 18 of 27 passes for 219 yards, threw a 6-yard touchdown pass to help Cleveland build a 17-0 halftime lead. The Browns took the second-half kickoff and drove to another touchdown to make it 24-0. The Cowboys scored and were en route to another touchdown when they were stopped by Jim Houston's interception. Cleveland then added 2 touchdowns to put the game away. The Browns' Paul Warfield had 8 catches for 99 yards despite constant double teaming

101 77 yaras despite constant double tearning.								
Cleveland	7	10	7	14	_	38		
Dallas	0	0	7	7	_	14		

Cle Scott 2 run (Cockroft kick)

 Morin 6 pass from Nelsen (Cockroft kick) Cle

- FG Cockroft 29 Cle

- Scott 2 run (Cockroft kick) Cle

Dall — Morton 2 run (Clark kick)

 Kelly 1 run (Cockroft kick) Cle

— Sumner 88 interception return (Cockroft kick) Cle

Dall — Rentzel 5 pass from Staubach (Clark kick)

# 1968

CLEVELAND 31, DALLAS 20—The Browns turned 5 Dallas turnovers into 24 points to defeat the Cowboys. An interception by Mike Howell set up a Browns' field goal, and later Cleveland drove 85 yards for a touchdown that produced a 10-10 halftime tie. In the second half, Dale Lindsey returned an interception 27 yards for a touchdown, and Ben Davis and Erich Barnes each set up a touchdown with an interception to help Cleveland pull away. Leroy Kelly had 133 total yards from scrimmage and 2 touchdowns for Cleveland.

Dallas	7	3	3	7	_	20
Cleveland	3	7	14	7	_	31
Cle _ EG Cockro	ft 38					

Dall - Howley 44 fumble recovery return (Clark kick)

Dall - FG Clark 16

- Kelly 45 pass from Nelsen (Cockroft kick) Cle

- Lindsey 27 interception return (Cockroft kick) Cle

Cle Kelly 35 run (Cockroft kick)

Dall — FG Clark 47

- Green 2 run (Cockroft kick) Cle

Dall - Garrison 2 pass from Morton (Clark kick)

BALTIMORE 24, MINNESOTA 14—The Colts scored twice in 2:01 of the third quarter to break open a defensive struggle. Neither team mustered much offense in the sleet and wind. Baltimore drove 75 yards for a touchdown just before halftime, mostly on the strength of 2 long passes by Earl Morrall. In the third quarter, John Mackey turned a pass from Morrall into a 49-yard touchdown. Moments later, the Vikings were at the Colts' 30, but Bubba Smith forced a fumble that Mike Curtis returned 60 yards to give the Colts a 21-0 lead.

0 0 0 14 — 14 0 7 14 3 — 24 Minnesota Baltimore - Mitchell 3 pass from Morrall (Michaels kick)

- Mackey 49 pass from Morrall (Michaels kick)

Balt - Curtis 60 fumble recovery return (Michaels kick)

Minn — Martin 1 pass from Kapp (Cox kick)

Balt — FG Michaels 33

Minn — Brown 7 pass from Kapp (Cox kick)

GREEN BAY 28, LOS ANGELES 7-The Packers' offense, defense, and special teams all played superbly in Green Bay's victory. Los Angeles scored first and was threatening again, but Dave Robinson blocked a 24vard field-goal attempt and the momentum forever shifted. Long returns by the special teams set up 2 Packers touchdowns, while the Packers' defense limited the league's top offense to 217 total yards.

Los Angeles 7 0 0 0 14 7 0 — 7 7 — 28 Green Bay — Casey 29 pass from Gabriel (Gossett kick) IΑ - Williams 46 run (Chandler kick) GB

- Dale 17 pass from Starr (Chandler kick) GB

GR - Mercein 6 run (Chandler kick)

GB - Williams 2 run (Chandler kick)

DALLAS 52, CLEVELAND 14—Several players got in the act as the Cowboys routed the Browns. Bob Hayes caught 5 passes for 144 yards, including an 86-yard touchdown, and also set up 2 more scores with punt returns of 68 and 64 yards. Rookie Craig Baynham, subbing for the injured Dan Reeves, scored 3 touchdowns. Don Perkins ran for 74 yards and 2 touchdowns, and Don Meredith completed 10 of 12 passes for 212 yards and 2 scores. Cornell Green contributed a 60-vard interception return for a touchdown.

0 7 0 7 — 14 14 10 21 7 — 52 Cleveland Dall — Baynham 3 pass from Meredith (Villanueva kick)

Dall — Perkins 4 run (Villanueva kick)

Dall — Hayes 86 pass from Meredith (Villanueva kick)

Dall — FG Villanueva 10

Cle — Morin 13 pass from Ryan (Groza kick)

Dall — Baynham 1 run (Villanueva kick)

Dall — Perkins 1 run (Villanueva kick)

Dall — Green 60 interception return (Villanueva kick)

Dall — Baynham 1 run (Villanueva kick)

Cle — Warfield 75 pass from Ryan (Groza kick)

GREEN BAY 13, BALTIMORE 10-Don Chandler's 25yard field goal 13:39 into overtime lifted the Packers over the Colts. With Johnny Unitas and Gary Cuozzo injured, Baltimore used halfback Tom Matte at guarterback for the entire game. Still, the Colts forged a 10-0 halftime lead and their chances looked good after they knocked Packers quarterback Bart Starr out of the game. But Zeke Bratkowski rallied Green Bay, and the Packers tied the game on a controversial field goal (the Colts claimed the kick was just outside the right upright) with 1:58 left in regulation.

7 3 0 0 0 — 10 0 0 7 3 3 — 13 Baltimore Green Bay

— Shinnick 25 fumble recovery return

(Michaels kick)

- FG Michaels 15 Balt

- Hornung 1 run (Chandler kick) GB

- FG Chandler 22 GB

- FG Chandler 25

# 1958

NEW YORK GIANTS 10, CLEVELAND 0-The Giants limited Cleveland to just 86 total yards to defeat the Browns. New York forced this playoff game with a lastminute victory over Cleveland the week before. The teams traded turnovers until the Giants drove 84 yards for the game's only touchdown on a trick play. Frank Gifford ran 8 yards on a reverse, then pitched to Charlie Conerly, who ran 10 yards for a touchdown. The Giants added a field goal, then concentrated on stopping the Browns. Jim Brown, who had 1,527 rushing yards during the regular season, had just 8 yards on 7 carries.

0 0 0 0 — 0 7 3 0 0 — 10 Cleveland N.Y. Giants - Conerly 10 run after lateral from Gifford

(Summerall kick)

— FG Summerall 26

# 1957

DETROIT 31, SAN FRANCISCO 27-The Lions mounted the greatest comeback in NFL playoff history to defeat the 49ers. Trailing 24-7, the Lions found their motivation when they heard the 49ers celebrating at halftime. Detroit guickly fell behind 27-7, then drove 73 and 58 yards to touchdowns, both by Tom Tracy, to narrow the gap to 27-21. The Lions took the lead early in the fourth quarter on a 2-yard run by Gene Gedman. Their defense took over from there, forcing 4 turnovers in the final 14 minutes to insure victory.

0 7 14 10 — 31 14 10 3 0 — 27 Detroit San Francisco

 Owens 34 pass from Tittle (Soltau kick) SF

SF - McElhenny 47 pass from Tittle (Soltau kick) - Junker 4 pass from Rote (Martin kick) Det

SF Wilson 12 pass from Tittle (Soltau kick)

SF — FG Soltau 25

— FG Soltau 10 SF

Det — Tracy 1 run (Martin kick)

Det - Tracy 58 run (Martin kick) Det Gedman 2 run (Martin kick)

- FG Martin 13 Det

# 1952

DETROIT 31, LOS ANGELES 21—Fullback Pat Harder scored 19 points to lead the Lions over the Rams. Harder, who rushed for 72 yards on the day, scored on runs of 12 and 4 yards to give Detroit a 14-0 lead. In the third quarter, halfback Doak Walker threw a 24-yard touchdown pass, and Harder kicked a field goal to increase Detroit's lead to 24-7. The Rams scored twice to make it 24-21, and were threatening to take the lead until Detroit linebacker LaVern Torgeson made a game-saving interception inside the Lions' 10.

Los Angeles 0 7 0
Detroit 7 7 10

Det — Harder 12 run (Harder kick)

- Harder 4 run (Harder kick) Det

— Fears 14 pass from Van Brocklin LA (Waterfield kick)

 Hart 24 pass from Walker (Harder kick) Det

Det — FG Harder 43

 Towler 5 run (Waterfield kick) ΙA

- Smith 56 punt return (Waterfield kick) IΑ

 Hoernschemeyer 9 run (Harder kick) Det

LOS ANGELES 24, CHICAGO BEARS 14—Bob Waterfield came off the bench to throw 3 touchdowns to lead the Rams over the Bears. Waterfield had been unable to practice all week because of the flu. But he showed no ill effects, hitting Tom Fears for 43-, 68-, and 27-yard scores to turn a 7-3 deficit into a 24-7 lead. Waterfield completed 14 of 21 passes for 280 yards. Fears caught 7 passes for 198 yards. The Bears had 422 total yards, but were stymied by 5 turnovers.

7 — 14 0 — 24 Chi. Bears 0 7 0 Los Angeles 3 14 7

LA — FG Waterfield 43 ChiB — Campana 23 run (Lujack kick)

LA — Fears 43 pass from Waterfield (Waterfield kick)

— Fears 68 pass from Waterfield (Waterfield kick)

- Fears 27 pass from Waterfield (Waterfield kick)

ChiB — Morrison 4 run (Lujack kick)

CLEVELAND 8, NEW YORK GIANTS 3—Lou Groza's 28-yard field goal with 58 seconds left gave the Browns the victory after they had lost to the Giants in both regular-season meetings. The offenses were thwarted by 10-degree weather and a numbing wind. The Giants had a chance for a touchdown, but after a bizarre series

of plays inside the Browns' 10, they had to accept a tying field goal. Then Otto Graham used the quarterback draw to move Cleveland down the field to Groza's winning kick. Moments later, the Browns added a safety. Graham ran for 70 yards on 8 carries.

N.Y. Giants 0 0 0 Cleveland 3 0 0 0 5 — 8 Cle — FG Groza 11

NYG — FG Clay 20 Cle — FG Groza 28

Cle - Safety, Willis tackled Conerly in end zone

# 1947

PHILADELPHIA 21, PITTSBURGH 0—The Eagles' special teams scored a touchdown and set up another to help Philadelphia defeat the Steelers. Pete Pihos blocked a Steelers' punt, and the Eagles recovered at the Pittsburgh 14. Two plays later, Tommy Thompson passed 15 yards for a touchdown to Steve Van Buren. Thompson's 28-yard scoring pass to Jack Ferrante made it 14-0. In the third guarter, Bosh Pritchard returned a punt 79 yards for the game's final score. The Steelers' Single-Wing offense—the last of its kind in NFL history—managed only 154 total yards.

Philadelphia 7 7 7 0 — 21 0 0 0 0 0 — 0 Pittsburgh Phil — Van Buren 15 pass from Thompson (Patton kick) Phil Ferrante 28 pass from Thompson (Patton kick)

Phil — Pritchard 79 punt return (Patton kick)

### 1943

WASHINGTON 28, NEW YORK GIANTS 0-Sammy Baugh's passing, punting, and intercepting led the Redskins over the Giants. Baugh, who led the NFL in all three categories during the regular season, completed 16 of 21 passes for 199 yards and 1 touchdown, intercepted 2 passes, and averaged more than 40 yards per punt. Baugh's passing set up 2 touchdown runs by Andy Farkas that gave Washington a 14-0 halftime lead. In the fourth quarter, Baugh's interception set up another Farkas touchdown. Baugh later added a scoring

0 14 0 0 0 Washington 0 14 — 28 0 N.Y. Giants 0 — 0 Wash — Farkas 2 run (Masterson kick)

Wash — Farkas 2 run (Masterson kick)

Wash — Farkas 1 run (Masterson kick)

Wash — Lapka 11 pass from Baugh (Masterson kick)

CHICAGO BEARS 33, GREEN BAY 14-The Bears exploded for 30 first-half points to win the first non-championship playoff game in NFL history. Green Bay took a 7-0 lead, then was run off the field. Hugh Gallarneau started the onslaught with an 81-yard punt return. In the second quarter, the Bears scored 24 points on a 24yard field goal, 2 touchdown runs by Norm Standlee, and a 9-yard scoring run by Bob Swisher. Chicago finished with 277 rushing yards.

Green Bay Chi. Bears

GB — Hinkle 1 run (Hutson kick)

ChiB — Gallarneau 81 punt return (kick blocked)

ChiB — FG Snyder 24

ChiB — Standlee 3 run (Stydahar kick)

ChiB — Standlee 2 run (Stydahar kick)

ChiB — Swisher 9 run (Stydahar kick)

GB — Van Every 10 pass from Isbell (Hutson kick)
ChiB — FG Snyder 26