

NFL KICKOFF 2007 SCHEDULE THURSDAY, SUNDAY & MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 9-10

(All times local PM)

New Orleans at Indianapolis (Thurs., 8:30, NBC)	Carolina at St. Louis (12:00)
Denver at Buffalo (1:00)	Miami at Washington (1:00)
Pittsburgh at Cleveland (1:00)	Detroit at Oakland (1:15)
Philadelphia at Green Bay (12:00)	Chicago at San Diego (1:15)
Kansas City at Houston (12:00)	Tampa Bay at Seattle (1:15)
Tennessee at Jacksonville (1:00)	New York Giants at Dallas Cowboys (8:15, NBC)
Atlanta at Minnesota (12:00)	Baltimore at Cincinnati (Mon., 7:00, ESPN)
New England at New York Jets (1:00)	Arizona at San Francisco (Mon., 7:15, ESPN)

THE NFL? UNPREDICTABLE!

Predict who'll make the NFL playoffs? It's almost impossible!

"The parity in this league is incredible," says New York Giants head coach **TOM COUGHLIN**.

Last season, seven teams – Baltimore, Dallas, Kansas City, New Orleans, New York Jets, Philadelphia and San Diego – made the playoffs that were not in the playoffs the year before. That marked the 11th consecutive season in which at least five teams (out of 12) accomplished the feat.

<u>SEASON</u>	<u>PLAYOFF TEAMS NOT IN PREVIOUS SEASON'S PLAYOFFS</u>
1996	5 (Carolina, Denver, Jacksonville, Minnesota, New England)
1997	5 (Detroit, Kansas City, Miami, New York Giants, Tampa Bay)
1998	5 (Arizona, Atlanta, Buffalo, Dallas, New York Jets)
1999	7 (Detroit, Indianapolis, St. Louis, Seattle, Tampa Bay, Tennessee, Washington)
2000	6 (Baltimore, Denver, New Orleans, New York Giants, Oakland, Philadelphia)
2001	6 (Chicago, Green Bay, New England, New York Jets, Pittsburgh, San Francisco)
2002	5 (Atlanta, Cleveland, Indianapolis, New York Giants, Tennessee)
2003	8 (Baltimore, Carolina, Dallas, Denver, Kansas City, New England, St. Louis, Seattle)
2004	5 (Atlanta, Minnesota, New York Jets, Pittsburgh, San Diego)
2005	7 (Carolina, Chicago, Cincinnati, Jacksonville, New York Giants, Tampa Bay, Washington)
2006	7 (Baltimore, Dallas, Kansas City, New Orleans, New York Jets, Philadelphia, San Diego)

THE NFL IS SO UNPREDICTABLE THAT IN 2006...

- For the first time in history, three teams in a season – the **BALTIMORE RAVENS**, **NEW ORLEANS SAINTS** and **PHILADELPHIA EAGLES** – went from "worst to first" in their divisions, winning their division after finishing last in 2005. It was the fifth time since 2000 that two teams performed such a turnaround.
- Sixteen percent of games were decided in the final two minutes or overtime.
- Almost half the games (49 percent) were decided by one score (eight points or less), and almost a quarter (24 percent) were decided by three points or less.

KICKOFF WEEKEND

Since 1978, when the NFL went to the 16-game schedule, and excluding the abbreviated season of 1982, teams that are victorious on Kickoff Weekend are more than twice as likely to reach the playoffs than losers of an opening game:

Of the 410 teams which won openers...216 went to the playoffs (123 won division titles).

Of the 410 teams which lost openers...96 went to the playoffs (54 won division titles).

In 2006, nine of the 12 playoff teams – Baltimore, Chicago, Indianapolis, New Orleans, New England, New York Jets, Philadelphia, San Diego and Seattle – were victorious on Kickoff Weekend.

"At the beginning of the year, there's tremendous optimism in every city, even if you've had a rough year the year before," says Seattle Seahawks head coach **MIKE HOLMGREN**.