

QB/FIRST TWO SEASONS	TOUCHDOWNS		PASSING YARDS		PASSER RATING	
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 1	Year 2	Year 1	Year 2
Terry Bradshaw, 1970-1971	6	13	1,410	2,259	30.4	59.7
John Elway, 1983-1984	7	18	1,663	2,598	54.9	76.8
Peyton Manning, 1998-1999	26	26	3,739	4,135	71.2	90.7
Dan Marino, 1983-1984	20	48	2,210	5,084	96	108.9
Johnny Unitas, 1956-1957	9	24	1,498	2,550	74.0	88.0



QUARTERBACK-CENTER CHEMISTRY

Often anonymous, the center is responsible for making sure the ball gets into the hands of the quarterback. While the task seems simple, there is a lot that goes into the unheralded skill, including establishing chemistry between the center and quarterback.

“It’s very important,” says six-time Pro Bowl center **KEVIN MAWAE** of the Tennessee Titans, who helped **VINCE YOUNG**, the 2006 Offensive Rookie of the Year, adjust to the NFL. “The quarterback needs to feel comfortable with what is happening in front of him with protection. When a center and quarterback have chemistry, the quarterback will understand what protection calls are going to come and why that call was made.

“I have watched film with quarterbacks,” continues Mawae. “We go through different scenarios and situations and work through what calls will work best for both the line and the quarterback. It helps eliminate the discrepancies that may occur during a game.”

Indianapolis’ All-Star combination of quarterback **PEYTON MANNING** and center **JEFF SATURDAY**, which helped the Colts to victory in Super Bowl XLI, has started 110 games together – the most by an active quarterback-center duo and the fourth-best in NFL history.

“The chemistry is important in that you are both trying to communicate in the same way so that all five linemen, tight ends and running backs are on the same page, and that usually starts from the center’s call,” says Saturday, who has been selected to the past two Pro Bowls.

“There are many advantages that you have by playing together for a long time. You kind of add on to what you have seen in past years as you watch tape, and you grow exponentially in what you do. It’s a great honor to have played as long as I have with Peyton Manning.”

Here is a look at the quarterback-center tandems who have started the most games together since 1970:

QUARTERBACK-CENTER TANDEMS	GAMES
Jim Kelly-Kent Hull, Buffalo	157
Brett Favre-Frank Winters, Green Bay	123
Steve Bartkowski-Jeff Van Note, Atlanta	120
<i>Peyton Manning-Jeff Saturday, Indianapolis</i>	110*
Phil Simms-Bart Oates, N.Y. Giants	106

*Active

