



AFC NEWS 'N' NOTES

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AFC-N-18 12/13/05

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
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AFC PLAYOFF PICTURE DEVELOPS FURTHER THIS WEEK

Nine teams in the AFC remain in playoff contention as three short weeks and a list of big games await to be played.

The Indianapolis Colts (13-0), who have scored in 31 consecutive quarters, continue to push their perfect record skyward and have clinched the AFC South title as well as the conference's No. 1 playoff seed.

The Denver Broncos (10-3), Cincinnati Bengals (10-3) and New England Patriots (8-5) all can earn division titles this weekend with victories. In nationally televised Saturday action this week, New England hosts Tampa Bay at 1:30 PM ET (FOX) while Denver travels to Buffalo for an 8:30 PM ET kickoff (ESPN). Cincinnati ventures to Detroit on Sunday in Ford Field – a place that the Bengals hope to visit again on February 5 for Super Bowl XL.

Jacksonville, Kansas City, Miami, Pittsburgh, and San Diego stand in the thick of the AFC playoff chase.

"We live to fight another day," said Pittsburgh head coach **BILL COWHER** following his team's 21-9 win against Chicago last Sunday to boost the Steelers to 8-5. Pittsburgh aims to qualify for postseason play for the fourth time in the past five years.

"It's a one-game season every week for us," adds Steelers wide receiver **HINES WARD**. "We've got to play like it's the playoffs, because we don't have a lot of room for error."

Following are the records of AFC playoff contenders, their remaining games and their wins and losses against other AFC playoff hopefuls:

AFC EAST

<u>TEAM/GAMES VS. CONTENDERS</u>	<u>OVERALL</u>	<u>DIV.</u>	<u>CONF.</u>	<u>WK. 15</u>	<u>WK. 16</u>	<u>WK. 17</u>
NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS	8-5	4-0	6-4	TB	At NYJ	Mia
Wins: Pit, Mia; Losses: SD, Den, Ind, KC						
MIAMI DOLPHINS	6-7	1-3	4-5	NYJ	Tenn	At NE
Wins: Den, SD; Losses: KC, NE						

AFC NORTH

<u>TEAM/GAMES VS. CONTENDERS</u>	<u>OVERALL</u>	<u>DIV.</u>	<u>CONF.</u>	<u>WK. 15</u>	<u>WK. 16</u>	<u>WK. 17</u>
CINCINNATI BENGALS	10-3	5-1	7-3	AT Det	Buf	At KC
Wins: Pit; Losses: Jac, Pit, Ind						
PITTSBURGH STEELERS	8-5	3-2	6-5	At Min	At Cle	Det
Wins: SD, Cin; Losses: NE, Jac, Ind, Cin						

AFC SOUTH

<u>TEAM/GAMES VS. CONTENDERS</u>	<u>OVERALL</u>	<u>DIV.</u>	<u>CONF.</u>	<u>WK. 15</u>	<u>WK. 16</u>	<u>WK. 17</u>
INDIANAPOLIS COLTS *	13-0	6-0	11-0	SD	At Sea	Arz
Wins: Jac (2), NE, Cin, Pit						
JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS	9-4	2-2	7-3	SF	At Hou	Tenn
Wins: Cin, Pit; Losses: Ind (2), Den						

AFC WEST

TEAM/GAMES VS. CONTENDERS

DENVER BRONCOS

Wins: SD, KC, Jac, NE; **Losses:** Mia, KC

SAN DIEGO CHARGERS

Wins: NE, KC; **Losses:** Den, Pit, Mia

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

Wins: Mia, NE, Den; **Losses:** Den, SD

OVERALL

10-3

DIV.

3-1

CONF.

7-2

WK. 15

At Buf

WK. 16

Oak

WK. 17

At SD

8-5

3-1

6-3

At Ind

At KC

Den

8-5

3-2

7-3

At NYG

SD

Cin

* Clinched homefield advantage.