



FOR USE AS DESIRED  
NFL-POST-2 1/10/06

## DIVISIONALS PACK 11 WINS AGAIN AS FINAL EIGHT SQUARE OFF THIS WEEKEND

Some decade!

For the fourth time since 2000, all eight teams in this weekend's NFL Divisional Playoffs will boast at least 11 wins, including three teams that had losing records last season.

"That's how close this league is," says quarterback **JAKE DELHOMME** of the Carolina Panthers, one of last year's losing teams that is now one win away from the NFC Championship Game. "This is what it's all about. You just can't beat it."

The schedule for the Divisional "Rematch Weekend" -- all rematches of meetings this season (see NFL Factoid below):

### NFL DIVISIONAL PLAYOFF WEEKEND

#### Saturday, January 14

**NFC:** 4:30 PM ET Washington Redskins (11-6) at Seattle Seahawks (13-3) (FOX-TV)

**AFC:** 8:15 PM ET New England Patriots (11-6) at Denver Broncos (13-3) (CBS-TV)

#### Sunday, January 15

**AFC:** 1:00 PM ET Pittsburgh Steelers (12-5) at Indianapolis Colts (14-2) (CBS-TV)

**NFC:** 4:30 PM ET Carolina Panthers (12-5) at Chicago Bears (11-5) (FOX-TV)

Think you can predict what will happen? Just look at last week's Wild Card round:

- Sixth-seeds: It was the first time since the 12-team playoff format began in 1990 that the sixth seeds in the AFC (Pittsburgh) and NFC (Washington) won to proceed to the Divisionals.
- Road teams I: The past four NFC Wild Card games have been won by the road team (Carolina and Washington this year, Minnesota and St. Louis in 2004).
- Road teams II: For the first time in history, two road teams – Carolina and Pittsburgh – won playoff games by at least 10 points on the same day.
- Road teams III: Carolina (23-0 win over the Giants) became the first road team to win a playoff game by a shutout since 1979 (NFC Championship Game: LA Rams 9, Tampa Bay 0).
- Road teams IV: It was the second year in a row that three out of four Wild Card road teams won.

So, it's on to the Divisional Playoffs:

**WASHINGTON REDSKINS (11-6) at SEATTLE SEAHAWKS (13-3) (Saturday, 4:30 PM ET, FOX)**

**STORYLINE: What's a running back to do?**

The game features two of the best RBs in the business – Seattle's **SHAUN ALEXANDER**, the Associated Press NFL MVP who led the NFL in rushing (1,880 yards) and set the season record for total touchdowns (28), and Washington's **CLINTON PORTIS**, No. 4 in rushing (1,516). They combined for 20 100-yard rushing games on the season, the most

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### NFL PLAYOFF FACTOID

**REMATCH WEEKEND REDUX:** This will be the second year in a row that all four Divisional Playoff games are regular-season rematches. Last year, the teams that won the regular-season games won the rematches.

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individual 100-yard rush games in any of this weekend's Divisional matchups.

But something has to give. They go up against teams that surrendered a combined four 100-yarders (Washington, 3; Seattle, 1). None of them came the last time they met, on October 2 in a Redskins 20-17 overtime win at home.

Washington will try to duplicate the formula they followed in that game. They converted 13 of 18 third-down situations, with former University of Washington **QB MARK BRUNELL** clicking on three-for-three for 61 yards in the winning OT drive.

The Seahawks, with the top NFC playoff seed for the first time in their history, set a club win record (13) this year and were undefeated at home for the second time in three years. The Redskins won five of their road games (including the Wild Card), losing three by a total of 10 points.

**NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS (11-6) at DENVER BRONCOS (13-3) (Saturday, 8:15 PM ET, CBS)**

***STORYLINE: Red-zone alert!***

Two top-10 offenses (Broncos, No. 5; Patriots, No. 7) go at it again after totaling 820 yards on October 16 in a Denver-big-lead, Patriots-comeback affair. The teams are two of only six clubs to score at least 35 red-zone TDs this year.

In their first home playoff game since 1999, the Broncos will have eerie flashbacks of the last time the Super Bowl champs visited. There they were flying along with a 25-point lead in the third quarter before New England scored 17 unanswered points to pull to within the final 28-20. Denver won eight of its final 10 and the Patriots seven of their final 10.

"We are even with everybody else," says New England **QB TOM BRADY**, owner of a 10-0 postseason record, one better all-time than Hall of Famer **BART STARR**'s 9-1. "So we are even with the best teams in the AFC, Indy and Denver."

And if it snows in the Rockies? It might not favor anybody. Denver is 10-0 in home December-January games this decade, and Brady is 14-1 in games played in 35 degrees or below.

**PITTSBURGH STEELERS (12-5) at INDIANAPOLIS COLTS (14-2) (Sunday, 1:00 PM ET, CBS)**

***STORYLINE: One team has gone back to its strength, the other never left it.***

The last time these two met – a 26-7 Colts home Monday night win on November 28 – the Steelers, very un-Pittsburgh-like, managed only 86 yards on the ground, with only 35 yards through three quarters. They posted 95 the next week.

But since then, they have won five in a row, including last Sunday's Wild Card, while averaging 176.8 yards per game on the ground. Colts head coach **TONY DUNGY** thinks that teams at this point in the season concentrate on what their strength is. For the Steelers, that comes in the RB package of **WILLIE PARKER** and **JEROME BETTIS**.

"The best thing you can do is say, 'Hey, this is what we do well,'" says Dungy. "This is what we've got to do to win."

Of course with the Colts, that means just about *everything*. In that November game, **QB PEYTON MANNING** threw for 245 yards and two TDs, **RB EDGERRIN JAMES** rushed for 124 yards, and **WR MARVIN HARRISON** had 128 receiving yards and one TD (an 80-yarder on the Colts' first scrimmage play). Indy finished with the NFL's third-ranked offense.

Tables turned: Pittsburgh has out-averaged Indianapolis in points over the past six games, 29.5 to 22.3.

**CAROLINA PANTHERS (12-5) at CHICAGO BEARS (11-5) (Sunday, 4:30 PM ET, FOX)**

***STORYLINE: Can two of the top three defenses stop the game-breakers?***

Chicago ranked No. 2 in defense this season, Carolina No. 3. And the Bears allowed the fewest home points (61) in a season since the 16-game schedule began in 1978.

The teams' top two rushers did not do much on November 20 when the Bears beat visiting Carolina 13-3 – and sacked **QB JAKE DELHOMME** eight times. But since then? Chicago's **THOMAS JONES** finished with the most franchise yards (1,335) since **WALTER PAYTON** (1,551) in 1985. And in the past two weeks, Carolina's **DE SHAUN FOSTER** has rushed for 316 yards.

The key to the game could be the Bears' ability to stop the NFL's 2005 receiving-yards leader, **STEVE SMITH** (1,563). In the November game, Smith had 14 catches for 169 yards but no touchdowns. He tied Indianapolis' Harrison for the most TD receptions in the NFL this season (12). Smith also led the league in most 60-yard catches (4).

"I'll take 14 catches and no touchdowns anytime," says Bears **CB NATHAN VASHER** of Smith's first game. "I would hate to have a game where he catches three balls for three TDs. The times he does catch it, you just have to tackle him."

## NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE 2005 PLAYOFFS

(Home team in CAPS)

### WILD CARD WEEKEND

**NFC:** Washington 17, TAMPA BAY 10, January 7

**AFC:** NEW ENGLAND 28, Jacksonville 3, January 7

**NFC:** Carolina 23, NEW YORK GIANTS 0, January 8

**AFC:** Pittsburgh 31, CINCINNATI 17, January 8

### DIVISIONAL PLAYOFFS

#### Saturday, January 14:

**NFC:** Washington Redskins (11-6) at Seattle Seahawks (13-3), 4:30 P.M. ET (FOX)

**AFC:** New England Patriots (11-6) at Denver Broncos (13-3), 8:15 P.M. ET (CBS)

#### Sunday, January 15:

**AFC:** Pittsburgh Steelers (12-5) at Indianapolis Colts (14-2), 1:00 P.M. ET (CBS)

**NFC:** Carolina Panthers (12-5) at Chicago Bears (11-5), 4:30 P.M. ET (FOX)

**AFC CHAMPIONSHIP GAME:** Sunday, January 22, 3:00 P.M. ET (CBS)

**NFC CHAMPIONSHIP GAME:** Sunday, January 22, 6:30 P.M. ET (FOX)

**SUPER BOWL XL:** Sunday, February 5 at Ford Field in Detroit, Michigan, 6:30 P.M. ET (ABC)

**AFC-NFC PRO BOWL:** Sunday, February 12 at Aloha Stadium in Honolulu, Hawaii, 6:00 P.M. ET (ESPN)

### 2005 FINAL NFL STANDINGS

AFC East												
Team	Overall Record	Head to Head	Division Record	Common Games Record	Conf Record	Strength of Victory	Strength of Schedule	Conf PF + PA Rank	Overall PF + PA Rank	Common Game Net Pts	Overall Net Pts	TD
y-New England	10-6-0		5-1-0	0-0-0	7-5-0	.400	.508	17	27	0	41	46
Miami	9-7-0		3-3-0	0-0-0	7-5-0	.438	.457	17	31	0	1	34
Buffalo	5-11-0		2-4-0	0-0-0	5-7-0	.450	.500	25	48	0	-96	26
New York Jets	4-12-0		2-4-0	0-0-0	3-9-0	.453	.527	27	52	0	-115	25
AFC North												
Team	Overall Record	Head to Head	Division Record	Common Games Record	Conf Record	Strength of Victory	Strength of Schedule	Conf PF + PA Rank	Overall PF + PA Rank	Common Game Net Pts	Overall Net Pts	TD
y-Cincinnati	11-5-0	1	5-1-0	0-0-0	7-5-0	.398	.477	13	26	0	71	48
x-Pittsburgh	11-5-0	1	4-2-0	0-0-0	7-5-0	.415	.492	8	12	0	131	45
Baltimore	6-10-0	1	2-4-0	0-0-0	4-8-0	.375	.523	18	35	0	-34	25
Cleveland	6-10-0	1	1-5-0	0-0-0	4-8-0	.396	.508	22	43	0	-69	22
AFC South												
Team	Overall Record	Head to Head	Division Record	Common Games Record	Conf Record	Strength of Victory	Strength of Schedule	Conf PF + PA Rank	Overall PF + PA Rank	Common Game Net Pts	Overall Net Pts	TD
*-Indianapolis	14-2-0		6-0-0	0-0-0	11-1-0	.424	.457	2	4	0	192	53
x-Jacksonville	12-4-0		4-2-0	0-0-0	9-3-0	.375	.465	12	18	0	92	42
Tennessee	4-12-0		2-4-0	0-0-0	3-9-0	.219	.512	25	50	0	-122	33
Houston	2-14-0		0-6-0	0-0-0	1-11-0	.344	.535	30	58	0	-171	26
AFC West												
Team	Overall Record	Head to Head	Division Record	Common Games Record	Conf Record	Strength of Victory	Strength of Schedule	Conf PF + PA Rank	Overall PF + PA Rank	Common Game Net Pts	Overall Net Pts	TD
z-Denver	13-3-0		5-1-0	0-0-0	10-2-0	.471	.500	7	10	0	137	46
Kansas City	10-6-0		4-2-0	0-0-0	9-3-0	.475	.504	13	22	0	78	46

San Diego	9-7-0		3-3-0	0-0-0	7-5-0	.500	.559	10	18	0	106	51
Oakland	4-12-0		0-6-0	0-0-0	2-10-0	.438	.539	25	48	0	-93	33
NFC East												
Team	Overall Record	Head to Head	Division Record	Common Games Record	Conf Record	Strength of Victory	Strength of Schedule	Conf PF + PA Rank	Overall PF + PA Rank	Common Game Net Pts	Overall Net Pts	TD
y-New York Giants	11-5-0		4-2-0	0-0-0	8-4-0	.432	.492	9	17	0	108	45
x-Washington	10-6-0		5-1-0	0-0-0	10-2-0	.500	.539	10	22	0	66	44
Dallas	9-7-0		3-3-0	0-0-0	7-5-0	.465	.523	13	27	0	17	38
Philadelphia	6-10-0		0-6-0	0-0-0	3-9-0	.385	.531	22	45	0	-78	35
NFC North												
Team	Overall Record	Head to Head	Division Record	Common Games Record	Conf Record	Strength of Victory	Strength of Schedule	Conf PF + PA Rank	Overall PF + PA Rank	Common Game Net Pts	Overall Net Pts	TD
z-Chicago	11-5-0		5-1-0	0-0-0	10-2-0	.398	.457	14	27	0	58	28
Minnesota	9-7-0		5-1-0	0-0-0	8-4-0	.382	.484	19	38	0	-38	33
Detroit	5-11-0		1-5-0	0-0-0	3-9-0	.300	.504	25	49	0	-91	28
Green Bay	4-12-0		1-5-0	0-0-0	4-8-0	.453	.531	21	41	0	-46	34
NFC South												
Team	Overall Record	Head to Head	Division Record	Common Games Record	Conf Record	Strength of Victory	Strength of Schedule	Conf PF + PA Rank	Overall PF + PA Rank	Common Game Net Pts	Overall Net Pts	TD
y-Tampa Bay	11-5-0	1	5-1-0	0-0-0	9-3-0	.426	.449	15	28	0	26	33
x-Carolina	11-5-0	1	4-2-0	0-0-0	8-4-0	.409	.449	5	13	0	132	45
Atlanta	8-8-0		2-4-0	0-0-0	5-7-0	.344	.492	14	32	0	10	39
New Orleans	3-13-0		1-5-0	0-0-0	1-11-0	.417	.523	30	59	0	-163	23
NFC West												
Team	Overall Record	Head to Head	Division Record	Common Games Record	Conf Record	Strength of Victory	Strength of Schedule	Conf PF + PA Rank	Overall PF + PA Rank	Common Game Net Pts	Overall Net Pts	TD
*-Seattle	13-3-0		6-0-0	0-0-0	10-2-0	.404	.430	4	8	0	181	57
St. Louis	6-10-0		1-5-0	0-0-0	3-9-0	.365	.484	20	42	0	-66	40
Arizona	5-11-0		3-3-0	0-0-0	4-8-0	.300	.508	20	43	0	-76	26
San Francisco	4-12-0		2-4-0	0-0-0	3-9-0	.391	.539	30	60	0	-189	23

x-clinched playoff berth  
y-clinched division title  
z-clinched first-round bye  
\*-clinched home-field advantage



**★ DIVISIONAL ★  
PLAYOFFS**

**AFC NEWS 'N' NOTES**

FOR USE AS DESIRED  
AFC-N-22 1/10/06

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION  
CONTACT: STEVE ALIC (212/450-2066)

**NEW ENGLAND AT DENVER SATURDAY,  
PITTSBURGH AT INDIANAPOLIS SUNDAY  
IN AFC DIVISIONAL PLAYOFFS**

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 14**

**NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS–AFC EAST (11-6) AT DENVER BRONCOS–AFC WEST (13-3)**

**SERIES**

	<b>PATRIOTS</b>	<b>BRONCOS</b>
<b>LEADER</b>		24-15
<b>STREAKS</b>		3 of past 4
<b>COACHES VS. OPP.</b>	Belichick: 3-7	Shanahan: 7-3
<b>VS. COMMON OPP.</b>	DEN: 7-2 (Buf 1-0, KC 1-1, Mia 0-1, NYJ 1-0, Oak 2-0, SD 2-0) NE: 6-3 (Buf 2-0, KC 0-1, Mia 1-1, NYJ 2-0, Oak 1-0, SD 0-1)	
<b>PLAYOFF RECORD</b>	17-10	16-14
<b>LAST WEEK</b>	W 28-3 vs. Jaguars	Bye (Wk. 17: W 23-7 at Chargers)
<b>LAST GAME</b>	10/16/05: Patriots 20 at Broncos 28. Denver QB Jake Plummer passes for 262 yards & 2 TDs while Broncos RB Tatum Bell finishes with 114 yards, including 68-yard TD.	
<b>LAST GAME AT SITE</b>	10/16/05	
<b>LAST PLAYOFF</b>	1/4/87: Patriots 17 at Broncos 22. Denver QB John Elway passes for 1 TD & throws for another as Broncos win 1st playoff game at Mile High Stadium since 1977.	
<b>BROADCAST</b>	CBS (6:15 PM MT): Jim Nantz, Phil Simms, Bonnie Bernstein (Field reporter). CBS Radio: Bob Papa, Rick Walker, Jeff Bostic (Field reporter)	

**STAT LEADERS**

<b>PASSING</b>	Brady: 334-530-4,110 (1L)-26 (3L)-14-92.3	Plummer: 277-456-3,366-18-7-90.2
<b>RUSHING</b>	Dillon: 209-733-3.5-12	Mi. Anderson: 239-1,014-4.2-12
<b>RECEIVING</b>	Branch: 78-998-12.8-5	Smith: 85-1,105-13.0-6
<b>OFFENSE</b>	352.0	360.4 (3C)
<b>TAKE/GIVE</b>	-6	+20 (2L)
<b>DEFENSE</b>	330.2	312.9
<b>SACKS</b>	Colvin: 7.0	Ekuban, Lynch, Pryce: 4.0
<b>INTs</b>	Hobbs (R), Samuel: 3	Bailey: 8 (3C)
<b>PR</b>	Dwight: 8.5	Da. Williams (R): 8.7
<b>KOR</b>	Johnson: 22.4	Da. Williams (R): 23.9
<b>PUNTING</b>	Miller: 45.1 (3C)	Sauerbrun: 43.8
<b>KICKING</b>	Vinatieri: 100 (40/41 PAT; 20/25 FG)	Elam: 114 (42/43 PAT; 24/32 FG)

**NOTES**

**CLUBS TO MEET** for 40th time, including playoffs (Denver, 1-0, 1986 AFC Divisional). Teams combine to have won 5 of past 8 Super Bowls.

**PATRIOTS:** Team owns NFL's all-time longest playoff winning streak of 10 games, surpassing Green Bay Packers last Saturday (9; 1961-62, 1965-67). Since 2001, club is 18-3 (.857) when facing opponent for 2nd time in season.....Head coach **BILL BELICHICK** has won 10 consecutive playoff games – longest such streak in NFL history. Belichick owns all-time best playoff record of 11-1 (.917) & is 16-1 (.941) in games after Christmas Day since joining Pats in 2000.....In past 5 playoffs, Pro Bowl **QB TOM BRADY** has 11 TDs vs. 1 INT for cumulative passer rating of 107.9 in that span. Brady has 4 100+ passer rating games in those 5. Brady – 9-0 in playoffs – owns lowest postseason INT ratio in league history: 331

atts., 3 INTs for 0.91 pct.....**RB COREY DILLON** is 2nd Patriot to score 13 or more TDs in consecutive seasons (**CURTIS MARTIN**, 1995-96). **RB PATRICK PASS** had career-high 153 scrimmage yds vs. DEN in Week 6.....**WR TROY BROWN** caught career-high 2 TDs vs. DEN (10/1/00). **WR DEION BRANCH** caught career-long 66-yd TD pass vs. DEN on 11/3/03. **WR DAVID GIVENS** has TD catch in 6 consecutive playoff games for 2nd-longest streak in NFL playoff history (HOF **JOHN STALLWORTH**, 8). **TE DANIEL GRAHAM** is Denver native; father **TOM GRAHAM** was Broncos LB from 1972-74.....O-line includes 2 rookie starters: **T NICK KACZUR** & **G LOGAN MANKINS**.....**LB WILLIE MC GINEST** established NFL playoff record last week for most sacks in career (16.0) & in single game (4.5). **LB MIKE VRABEL** led club w/ 10 tackles last wk. Including playoffs, Vrabel has 8 offensive receptions – all TDs.....**LB DON DAVIS** led ST w/ 25 tackles on season. **K ADAM VINATIERI** (24) stands No. 2 on all-time playoff FG-made list (**GARY ANDERSON**, 32).

**BRONCOS:** Team hosts 1st playoff game at Invesco Field at Mile High & has won past 8 Saturday games. Club is 16-8 (.667) at home all-time vs. Patriots & 11-2 (.846) all-time at home in playoffs. Team was unbeaten at home (8-0) for 5th time this season.....Head coach **MIKE SHANAHAN** is 7-3 (.700) in career vs. New England. With victory, Shanahan would surpass **DAN REEVES** (7) for most postseason wins by coach in team history.....Since Wk. 6, Pro Bowl **QB JAKE PLUMMER** has reached 3rd-best passer rating in league (97.7). In 1st halves during 2005, Plummer has thrown 13 TDs vs. 3 INTs.....**RB MIKE ANDERSON** tied longest time span in NFL history between 1,000-yd seasons (4 yrs), done by 5 players. **RB TATUM BELL** rushed for game-high 114 yds on 13 carries (8.8 avg.) in Wk 6 mtg, including long of 68 yds. **FB KYLE JOHNSON** notched 5 TD catches, 2nd most by NFL RB on season.....All-Star **WR ROD SMITH** (703) needs 17 receiving yds to surpass **VANCE JOHNSON** (719) for most by Bronco in playoff history. WR Smith (39) needs 1 catch to be 3rd Bronco w/ 40+ postseason catches (**SHANNON SHARPE**, 47; V. Johnson, 42) **WR ASHLIE LELIE** has at least 1 catch of 30+ yds in 7 of past 11 games.....Team has +29 improvement in turnover ratio this season vs. 2004 – greatest improvement in NFL in 2005.....Broncos are is 3-1 (.750) vs. NE QB Brady, 1 of 2 teams Brady has losing record against with more than 1 career meeting (SD, 2-1 vs. Brady). Team allowed only 37 points in final four games (9.3-point avg.). **LB IAN GOLD** was 4-year teammate of NE QB Brady at Michigan. **S NICK FERGUSON** stands 3rd among NFL safeties in INTs.....**K JASON ELAM** (70) needs 5 points to surpass **TERRELL DAVIS** (74) for most in team postseason history.

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 15

### PITTSBURGH STEELERS–AFC NORTH (12-5) AT INDIANAPOLIS COLTS–AFC SOUTH (14-2)

#### SERIES

	<u>STEELERS</u>	<u>COLTS</u>
<b>LEADER</b>	18-4	
<b>STREAKS</b>	9 of past 10	
<b>COACHES VS. OPP.</b>	Cowher: 6-1	Dungy: 2-2
<b>VS. COMMON OPP.</b>	PIT: 7-4 (Bal 1-1, Cin 1-1, Cle 2-0, Hou 1-0, Jax 0-1, NE 0-1, SD 1-0, Ten 1-0) IND: 10-1 (Bal 1-0, Cin 1-0, Cle 1-0, Hou 2-0, Jax 2-0, NE 1-0, SD 0-1, Ten 2-0)	
<b>PLAYOFF RECORD</b>	25-18	13-15
<b>LAST WEEK</b>	W 31-17 at Bengals	Bye (Wk. 17: W 17-13 vs. Cardinals)
<b>LAST GAME</b>	11/28/05: Steelers 7 at Colts 26. Indianapolis improves to 11-0 as Colts QB Peyton Manning throws 2 TDs, including 80-yarder to WR Marvin Harrison on team's 1st offensive play.	
<b>LAST GAME AT SITE</b>	11/28/05	
<b>LAST PLAYOFF</b>	12/29/96: Colts 14 at Steelers 42. Pittsburgh RB Jerome Bettis rushes for 2 TDs while Steelers' defense allows 8 1st downs, 146 yards & records 4 sacks.	
<b>BROADCAST</b>	CBS (1:00 PM ET): Dick Enberg, Dan Dierdorf, Armen Keteyian (Field reporter). CBS Radio: Dave Sims, Bob Trumpy, John Dockery (Field reporter).	

#### STAT LEADERS

<b>PASSING</b>	Roethlisberger: 168-268-2,385-17-9-98.6 (3L)	Manning: 305-453-3,747-28 (2L)-10-104.1 (1L)
<b>RUSHING</b>	Parker: 255-1,202-4.7-4	James: 360-1,506 (2C)-4.2-13 (3C)
<b>RECEIVING</b>	Ward: 69-975-14.1-11 (T2C)	Wayne: 83-1,055-12.7-5
<b>OFFENSE</b>	321.8	362.4 (2C)
<b>TAKE/GIVE</b>	+7	+12 (3C)
<b>DEFENSE</b>	284.0 (1C)	307.1
<b>SACKS</b>	Porter: 10.5	Mathis: 11.5
<b>INTs</b>	Hope: 3	June: 5
<b>PR</b>	Randle El: 10.2 (3C)	Walters: 8.2
<b>KOR</b>	Morgan: 25.3	Rhodes: 20.9
<b>PUNTING</b>	Gardocki: 41.8	Smith: 44.3
<b>KICKING</b>	Reed: 117 (45/45 PAT; 24/29 FG)	Vanderjagt: 121 (3C) (52/52 PAT; 23/25 FG)

## NOTES

**TEAMS MEET IN POSTSEASON** for 5th time, 1st time in Indianapolis. AFC Playoffs have featured 1 or both of these teams in 13 of past 14 seasons.

**STEELERS:** Team is 4-0 vs. Colts in playoffs; has more playoff wins vs. Colts than any other opponent. Steelers have outscored Colts 130-54 in those games. PIT is 7-1 (.875) in playoffs vs. AFC South teams.....Including win last week at CIN, team is 12-0 on season when out-rushing opponent.....Head coach **BILL COWHER** is 5-1 (.833) all-time vs. Colts. In 7 road starts this season (including AFC WC) **QB BEN ROETHLISBERGER** has 10 TDs vs. 3 INTs, completing 94 of 141 passes (66.7 pct.) for 110.5 passer rating.....**RB WILLIE PARKER** caught TD pass last wk; last Steelers RB with postseason TD catch was **ROCKY BLEIER** (SB XIII). **RB JEROME BETTIS** has rush TD in 3 consecutive playoffs. Offense has rushed for at least 140 yds in 3 consecutive playoff games.....**WR HINES WARD** has TD catch in 5 consecutive playoffs – tied for 3rd-longest such streak in NFL history. Ward has 3 TD catches in 2 career games vs. Colts. **WR CEDRICK WILSON** reached 104 receiving yards last Sunday on three receptions, 2 of which were 40+ yards.....Club allowed only 8 TDs on road during regular season – fewest in NFL. Pro Bowl **LB JOEY PORTER** led NFL LBs with 10.5 sacks in 2005, tying career-high. **LB LARRY FOOTE** paced club with 123 regular season tackles, 12 for losses. All-Star **S TROY POLAMALU** posted team-best 9 tackles & INT in Week 12 meeting. **S TYRONE CARTER** tied for team-high 7 tackles last week. **CB IKE TAYLOR** led club with 25 pass break-ups in 2005 & compiled most tackles by Steelers DB (96) since **ROD WOODSON** (100) in 1992.....**WR-PR ANTWAAN RANDLE EL** has 10+ yd PR avg. in consecutive playoffs & needs 1 more PR-TD to become 1st player in NFL postseason history to post 2 PR-TDs in career.

**COLTS:** Only team to qualify for playoffs 6 times in past 7 seasons.....Head coach **TONY DUNGY** has led his teams to 7 consecutive playoff berths – tied for 3rd-longest streak in NFL history. Dungy played CB for Steelers (1977-78), helping team win SB XIII. Dungy was Steelers' assistant from 1981-88 under HOFer **CHUCK NOLL** & was promoted to club's defensive coordinator in 1984 at age 28.....All-Star **QB PEYTON MANNING** enters postseason with 6th-best career postseason passer rating of 89.1, minimum 150 attempts. In past 2 home playoffs, Manning has passed for 9 TDs vs. 1 INT. Manning's 9 TDs are 1 less than his incompleteness total (10) for those 2 games.....Pro Bowl **RB EDGERRIN JAMES** (1,506) was No. 2 rusher in AFC in 2005. James averages 125.7 scrimmage yds/game in career. In regular season play, Colts are 70-26 (.729) in games James plays & 7-9 (.438) without him.....All-Star **WR MARVIN HARRISON** (53) stands 2nd all-time in 100-yd receiving games (**JERRY RICE**, 76) & is only player in NFL with 10+ TD catches in past 7 consecutive seasons. **WR REGGIE WAYNE** led club with 83 catches (Harrison 82). In last home playoff (vs. DEN, 2004 WC), Wayne recorded 10 receptions for 221 yards & 2 TDs. Wayne's 221 yds are 3rd-most in playoff history. For 2nd consecutive season, Colts scored more TDs (53) than club had punts (52).....Team stands No. 2 in NFL in scoring defense (15.4). Pro Bowl **DE DWIGHT FREENEY** (51.0) has 3rd-most sacks in NFL history among players in their 1st 4 seasons. **DE ROBERT MATHIS** had at least 1.0 sack in 10 of 13 games played in 2005. AFC All-Star **LB CATO JUNE** posted 5 INTs on season – tied for most in league by LB. Defense allowed fewest 1st downs (16.8/game) in AFC.

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## NFC NEWS 'N' NOTES

FOR USE AS DESIRED  
NFC-N-22 1/10/06

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION  
CONTACT: MICHAEL SIGNORA (212/450-2076)

# WASHINGTON AT SEATTLE SATURDAY, CAROLINA AT CHICAGO SUNDAY IN NFC DIVISIONAL PLAYOFFS

SATURDAY, JANUARY 14

WASHINGTON REDSKINS–NFC EAST (11-6) AT SEATTLE SEAHAWKS–NFC WEST (13-3)

### SERIES

	REDSKINS	SEAHAWKS
<b>LEADER</b>	9-4	
<b>STREAKS</b>	Past 4	
<b>COACHES VS. OPP.</b>	Gibbs: 5-0	Holmgren: 0-4
<b>VS. COMMON OPP.</b>	Sea: 9-0 (Arz 2-0, Dal 1-0, NYG 1-0, Phi 1-0, StL 2-0, SF 2-0) Was: 8-1 (Arz 1-0, Dal 2-0, NYG 1-1, Phi 2-0, StL 1-0, SF 1-0)	
<b>PLAYOFF RECORD</b>	23-15	3-7
<b>LAST WEEK</b>	W 17-10 at Buccaneers	Bye (Wk 17: L 23-17 at Packers)
<b>LAST GAME</b>	10/2/05: Seahawks 17 at Redskins 20 (OT). Washington QB Mark Brunell passes for 226 yards & 2 TDs & K Nick Novak connects on 2 FGs, including game-winning 39-yarder in OT.	
<b>LAST GAME AT SITE</b>	11/3/02: Redskins 14, Seahawks 3. Washington QB Shane Matthews passes for 2 1st half TDs in Redskins victory.	
<b>LAST PLAYOFF</b>	--	
<b>BROADCAST</b>	FOX (1:30 PM PT): Dick Stockton, Daryl Johnston, Tony Siragusa (Field reporter) CBS Radio: Marv Albert, John Riggins, Kevin Kiley (Field reporter)	

### STAT LEADERS

<b>QBs</b>	Brunell: 262-454-3,050-23-10-85.9	Hasselbeck: 294-449-3,459-24 (T1C)-9-98.2 (1C)
<b>RBs</b>	Portis: 352-1,516 (3C)-4.3-11 (3C)	Alexander: 370-1,880 (1L)-5.1-27 (1L)
<b>WRs</b>	Moss: 84-1,483 (2L)-17.7-9	Engram: 67-778-11.6-3
<b>OFFENSE</b>	330.6	369.7 (2L)
<b>TAKE/GIVE</b>	+1	+10 (3L)
<b>DEFENSE</b>	297.9	316.8
<b>SACKS</b>	Daniels: 8.0	Fisher: 9.0
<b>INTs</b>	Marshall: 4	Boulware: 4
<b>PR</b>	Brown: 4.8	Williams: 5.8
<b>KOR</b>	Betts: 25.9 (2C)	Scobey: 22.5
<b>PUNTING</b>	Frost: 40.4	Rouen: 41.6
<b>KICKING</b>	Hall: 63 (27/27 PAT; 12/14 FG)	J. Brown: 110 (56/57 PAT; 18/25 FG)

### NOTES

**NFC NO. 1 SEED IS 15-0 IN DIVISIONAL ROUND SINCE CURRENT PLAYOFF FORMAT INSTITUTED IN '90.....**

Wash seeks to become 1st No. 6 seed ever to advance to NFC Championship Game.

**REDSKINS:** Seek 1st trip to NFC Championship Game since '91 season..... Aim for 5th consecutive win vs. Seahawks & own 4-1 record all time in Seattle..... Head coach **JOE GIBBS** has 17 career playoff wins & needs 1 to join **TOM LANDRY** (20) & **DON SHULA** (19) as only coaches ever with 18-or-more. Is 5-3 on road in postseason..... In 5 career games vs. Sea, **QB MARK BRUNELL** has 95.5 passer rating with 7 TD passes vs. 2 INTs, 63.0 comp. pct. (97 of 154) & 2 rushing TDs. Had career-high 23 TD passes in reg-season..... **RB CLINTON PORTIS** rushed for franchise single-season record 1,516 yards. Joined **EARL CAMPBELL** ('78-'81) & **BARRY SANDERS** ('89-'92) as only players in NFL

history with 1,300 yards rushing in each of 1st 4 seasons.....**WR SANTANA MOSS** earned 1st trip to Pro Bowl, passing Pro Football HOFer **BOBBY MITCHELL** (1,436, '63) for club single-season receiving record. Led NFL with 10 catches of 40+ yards. Among players with 40+ catches, ranked 3rd with 17.7-yard per catch avg..... **CHRIS COOLEY** tied for 2nd among NFL TEs with 7 TD catches. Finished 4th among TEs with 71 receptions (774 yards). **MIKE SELLERS** has 12 receptions in '05, 7 for TDs.....In 6-game winning streak, have +13 takeaway/giveaway ratio..... **DE PHILLIP DANIELS** has 7 sacks in past 4 games.....In 1st career playoff game last week, **LB LA VAR ARRINGTON** had INT to set up TD & forced fumble. College teammate of Seahawks TD catch leader Joe Jurevicius at Penn State. **LEMAR MARSHALL** led club with 4 INTs, most by Redskins LB since **ANDRE COLLINS'** 4 in '94.....**S SEAN TAYLOR** seeks defensive TD in 3rd consecutive game. **CB SHAWN SPRINGS** spent '97-03 with Sea, starting 88 of 93 games with Sea, posting 20 INT, tied for 5th most in franchise history.

**SEAHAWKS:** Seek 1st playoff win since 13-7 Wild Card triumph vs. Raiders on 12/22/84 & 2nd trip to Championship Game.....Finished 8-0 at home for 2nd time in past 3 seasons, helping club to franchise-best 13-3 record.....**MIKE HOLMGREN** leads club to playoffs for 10th time in his 14 seasons as NFL head coach.....Including playoffs, **QB MATT HASSELBECK** has won 20 of past 24 home starts, with 64.7 comp. pct. (482 of 745), 39 TDs vs. 16 INTs & 96.1 passer rating in that span. Needs 300-yard passing game to join **DAN FOUTS** (4), **JIM KELLY** (3) & **WARREN MOON** (3) as only players ever with 3 consecutive 300-yard games in playoffs..... **RB SHAUN ALEXANDER** set NFL single-season record with 28 TDs & led league with 1,880 rushing yards, 9th-highest total in NFL history. Club owns 28-5 mark (.848) when Alexander rushes for 100 yards & seeks 1st 100-yard game vs. Redskins.....**WR JOE JUREVICIUS** had career best 10 TD catches in '05 tied for 5th in NFL. Aves. 21.2 yards per catch (10-212) in 5 career playoff games with 2 TD catches. In 2 career playoff games, **WR DARRELL JACKSON** has 17 catches for 186 yards & 1 TD. **WR BOBBY ENGRAM** had 106 receiving yards (9 catches) in last meeting.....**JERRAMY STEVENS** set club record for TEs with 554 receiving yards (45 catches).....Defense ranks 5th in NFL allowing 94.4 rushing yards per game & 7th surrendering 16.9 points per game.....**DE BRYCE FISHER** had team leading & career high 9.0 sacks in '05. **ROCKY BERNARD** ranked 2nd among NFL DTs with 8.5 sacks.....Rookie 2nd-rnd **LB LOFA TATUPU** was club's leading tackler & 1 of 4 NFL LBs with 3-or-more sacks (4) & 3-or-more INT (3). Third-rnd **LB LE ROY HILL** ranked 3rd among NFL rookies with 7.5 sacks.

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 15

### CAROLINA PANTHERS–NFC SOUTH (12-5) AT CHICAGO BEARS–NFC NORTH (11-5)

#### SERIES

	PANTHERS	BEARS
<b>LEADER</b>		2-1
<b>STREAKS</b>		Past 2 at home
<b>COACHES VS. OPP.</b>	Fox: 1-1	Smith: 1-0
<b>VS. COMMON OPP.</b>	Car: 7-2 (Atl 2-0, Det 1-0, GB 1-0, Min 1-0, NO 1-1, TB 1-1) Chi: 8-1 (Atl 1-0, Det 2-0, GB 2-0, Min 1-1, NO 1-0, TB 1-0)	
<b>PLAYOFF RECORD</b>	5-2	14-15
<b>LAST WEEK</b>	W 23-0 at Giants	Bye (Wk 17: L 34-10 at Vikings)
<b>LAST GAME</b>	11/20/05: Panthers 3 at Bears 13. Chicago WR Muhsin Muhammad catches 3-yard TD pass from rookie QB Kyle Orton & rookie K Robbie Gould connects on 2 FGs.	
<b>LAST GAME AT SITE</b>	11/20/05	
<b>LAST PLAYOFF</b>	--	
<b>BROADCAST</b>	FOX (3:30 PM CT): Joe Buck, Troy Aikman, Pam Oliver (Field reporter), Chris Myers (Field reporter). CBS Radio: Joel Meyers, Jam Ham, Allen Pinkett (Field reporter)	

#### STAT LEADERS

<b>QBs</b>	Delhomme: 262-435-3,421-24 (T1C)-16-88.1	Grossman: 20-39-259-1-2-59.7
<b>RBs</b>	Foster: 205-879-4.3-2	Jones: 314-1,335-4.3-9
<b>WRs</b>	S. Smith: 103 (T1L)-1,563 (1L)-15.2-12 (T1L)	Muhammad: 64-750-11.7-4
<b>OFFENSE</b>	309.4	256.3
<b>TAKE/GIVE</b>	+16 (3L)	+6
<b>DEFENSE</b>	282.6 (3L)	281.8 (2L)
<b>SACKS</b>	Peppers: 10.5	Ogunleye: 10.0
<b>INTs</b>	Gamble: 7 (3C)	Vasher: 8 (2C)
<b>PR</b>	Gamble: 11.3	Berrian: 8.6
<b>KOR</b>	Robertson: 21.4	Azumah: 22.0
<b>PUNTING</b>	Baker: 43.3	Maynard: 41.0
<b>KICKING</b>	Kasay: 121 (43/44 PAT; 26/34 FG)	Gould (R): 82 (19/20 PAT; 21/27 FG)

#### NOTES

**TEAMS MEET FOR 1ST TIME IN PLAYOFFS**.....Bears own 9-6 (.600) record in home playoff games while Panthers are 3-1 (.750) in road playoff games.

**PANTHERS:** Head coach **JOHN FOX** has 4-1 career playoff record. In 2 of 4 seasons with Panthers, has led club to at least 1 win in postseason.....In 5 career playoff games, **QB JAKE DELHOMME** has 105.1 passer rating, 7 TDs vs. 1 INT & 1,127 passing yards, winning 4 of 5 starts. Has 100.0+ passer rating in 4 of 5 postseason games & TD pass in 5 consecutive games to start playoff career.....**RB DE SHAUN FOSTER** avgs. 5.0 yards per carry in 5 career playoff games (69-347) vs. 4.1 yards per carry in reg-season (377-1,563). Rushed for club playoff record 151 yards last week. Had career high 1,251 yards from scrimmage (879 rushing, 372 receiving) in '05. **RB NICK GOINGS** rushed for 63 yards on 12 carries vs. Giants.....In 5 career playoff games, **WR STEVE SMITH** has 2 100-yard efforts & 5 TDs (4 rec, 1 rush), avging 17.4 yards per catch (28-488). Set franchise records with '05 NFL-best 1,563 receiving yards & 103 receptions, tied for most in league. Tied for NFL-best with 12 TD receptions. With 9 100-yard receiving games, tied for 6th-best single-season total all-time. **WR RICKY PROEHL** avgd. career-best 17.6 yards per catch in reg-season (25-441) & avgs. 16.6 yards per catch (19-316) in 12 career playoff games.....Panthers are 1st road team since '79 Rams to win playoff game by shutout (NFC Champ, 9-0 at TB).....Defense ranked 3rd allowing 41.0 red zone TD pct. (16 TDs, 39 trips) & did not allow red zone possession vs. Giants.....Club's +16 takeaway/giveaway ratio was 3rd in NFL & team was +4 vs. NY. **DE JULIUS PEPPERS** posted 3rd 10-sack (10.5) season of 4-year career, joining **MIKE RUCKER** (47.5) & **KEVIN GREENE** (41.5) as only Panthers with 40. Among players who entered NFL in '04, **CB CHRIS GAMBLE** ties for lead with 13 INTs (Nathan Vasher). **CB RICKY MANNING** is 1 of 8 players all time with 3 INT in playoff game ('03 NFC Champ).

**BEARS:** Seek 1st trip to Championship Game since '88.....**LOVIE SMITH** makes playoff head coaching debut. Earned AP Coach of Year honors.....**QB REX GROSSMAN** makes 1st career playoff start & has led team to 5 wins in 8 career games.....**RB THOMAS JONES** rushed for 1,335 yards & joined **WALTER PAYTON** as only players in team history with 1,300-yard season. Fourth-year **RB ADRIAN PETERSON** rushed for career-best 391 yards, avging 5.1 yards per carry.....**WR MUHSIN MUHAMMAD** is Panthers all-time leader with 578 receptions & 7,751 yards, spending '96-04 with Car. In 4 career playoff starts, has 2 100-yard receiving games & avgs. 23.5 yards per catch on 15 receptions for 352 yards & 2 TDs.....Club allowed 61 points at home in '05, fewest by any club in single season at home since 16-game schedule instituted in '78.....Defense ranked 2nd overall (281.8) & 5th vs. pass (179.5).....Unit led league allowing 32.5 red zone TD pct. (40 possessions, 13 TDs) & tied for 2nd with 24 INTs.....Five Bears' defenders named to NFC Pro Bowl team – **DT TOMMIE HARRIS**, **LBs LANCE BRIGGS** & **BRIAN URLACHER**, **CB NATHAN VASHER** & **S MIKE BROWN**..... **DE ADEWALE OGUNLEYE** has 2nd-career 10-sack season.....Urlacher was named AP NFL Defensive Player of Year & is 1st Bear to win honor since **MIKE SINGLETARY** in '88. Briggs has INT return for TD in 3 consecutive seasons..... Since '04 rookie season, Vasher's 13 INTs tie for 2nd-most in NFL with Panthers' **CB CHRIS GAMBLE**..... Rookie **K ROBBIE GOULD** connected on 21 of 27 FGs & his 82 points rank 4th among rookies in franchise history.

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