



MONDAY NIGHT NOTES

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SPECIAL MONDAY NIGHT DOUBLEHEADER CAPS NFL HURRICANE RELIEF WEEKEND

It will be a Monday night unlike any other.

The NFL will cap "Hurricane Relief Weekend" with an unprecedented fund-raising telethon (see below) that will be part of ABC's *NFL Monday Night Football* coverage this week. Under the theme of "Recover & Rebuild," the NFL, its clubs, network television partners and sponsors will use the September 18-19 NFL games in a special way as part of an ongoing initiative to raise funds and bring attention to the needs of the Gulf Coast region in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

In New York, the New York Giants and New Orleans Saints will meet at Giants Stadium in a game originally scheduled to be played in New Orleans on Sunday. The stadium will have a distinctly Louisiana feel, as the NFL hosts members of the New Orleans Police and Fire Departments and more than 600 residents of New Orleans displaced by the hurricane who will be guests of the league at the game.

Members of the New Orleans Police and Fire Departments will participate in the coin toss along with former President **GEORGE H.W. BUSH**, who leads, along with former president **BILL CLINTON**, the Bush-Clinton Katrina Fund. Entertainment will include performances by several artists with Gulf Coast ties, including **HARRY CONNICK, JR.** and **BRANFORD MARSALIS** performing the national anthem on piano and saxophone, respectively.

On the field – which will feature one end zone painted with the word "Saints" and the team's helmet logo – the game is a matchup between two teams that scored impressive Week 1 victories – the Saints earning a 23-20 win at Carolina while the Giants defeated the Cardinals 42-19 in New York.

"Our last four games of 2004, we played with a lot of emotion," says Saints head coach **JIM HASLETT**. "We practiced well and ended up winning all four. That was carried over to last week. We are excited about playing on Monday night in New York and hopefully we can continue to keep playing well."

Giants quarterback **ELI MANNING**, who attended New Orleans' Isidore Newman High School and is the son of Saints legend **ARCHIE MANNING**, will take the field against his hometown team. "It will be special, that's for sure," says Eli. "The Saints are the team my dad grew up playing for and I grew up rooting for."

Emotions also will be high in Dallas on Monday night where the regularly scheduled *MNF* game pits longtime rivals – the Dallas Cowboys and Washington Redskins. Adding to the excitement surrounding the game between two 1-0 clubs is the induction into the Ring of Honor at Texas Stadium of former Cowboys stars **TROY AIKMAN**, **MICHAEL IRVIN** and **EMMITT SMITH**.

"When I look back at all the people who have made this organization what it is, it is an honor to think that my name will be up there in the Ring of Honor," says Aikman, the team's three-time Super Bowl-winning quarterback. "It will allow players and fans to reflect back on some of the accomplishments that we had in our run. It was certainly a special time for us. Being inducted will be a special moment for all of us."

The game marks the 14th meeting between the teams on Monday night, with Dallas leading the series 7-6. Fourteen *MNF* meetings ties for the most-frequent matchup in the series with the Denver Broncos-Oakland Raiders.

"I don't think you can get any bigger than this," says Redskins head coach **JOE GIBBS**. "Dallas is probably one of the toughest places in the world to go and play, particularly on a Monday night. It's going to be a tough one for us."

The teams to have met on *Monday Night Football* at least 10 times:

| Teams | MNF Games | Series Record |
|-----------------------------------------------|-----------|--------------------|
| Denver Broncos vs. Oakland Raiders | 14 | Denver, 7-6-1 |
| Dallas Cowboys vs. Washington Redskins | 13 | Dallas, 7-6 |
| Buffalo Bills vs. Miami Dolphins | 10 | Tied, 5-5 |

MONDAY NIGHT MUSINGS – NEW ORLEANS SAINTS- N.Y. GIANTS (at Giants Stadium)

THE REAL SAINTS

- Like many of their neighbors and friends, the New Orleans Saints have been displaced from their homes. But that has not prevented them from reaching out to the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

Saints wide receiver **JOE HORN**, linebacker **T.J. SLAUGHTER**, kicker **JOHN CARNEY** and tackle **WAYNE GANDY** are among those who have visited local shelters. On one trip, 10 players spent more than \$10,000 at a Wal-Mart on supplies including tooth brushes, clothes and toys.

"It's heart-wrenching," says Slaughter. "I was happy that we were able to come to the shelters. It's crazy for these people. One day you have a roof over your head and the next day you don't have anything. Seeing it up close now, seeing these kids and people with no clothes, it tears you up."

"Football is nothing compared to somebody who has lost a loved one or who doesn't have a house anymore," says Horn. "We feel for them and they feel for us. We're here to represent a region that's resilient as anything."

Horn was so generous, he began handing out \$50 bills to the evacuees. The Red Cross, worried about the possible chaos this could cause, had to ask him to stop.

SIXTH STREET FOR BOURBON STREET

- While the city of New Orleans begins the process of recovery, Texans are lending a hand to their neighbors.

In the near future, a hip area of Austin, known as "Sixth Street," will host a fundraising concert entitled "Sixth Street for Bourbon Street." It will feature a host of local musicians and artists. Several Saints, including tight ends **ZACH HILTON** and **SHAD MEIER**, will participate.

MANNING THE RELIEF EFFORT

- When New York Giants quarterback **ELI MANNING** and his brother, Indianapolis Colts quarterback **PEYTON**, watched their beloved hometown of New Orleans get swallowed up by water in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, they wanted to help.

"They were calling me three or four times a day," said their father **ARCHIE**, legendary quarterback of the Saints (1971-75, 1977-82) who still lives in the city. "It was heavy on their hearts."

After contacting the Red Cross, the brothers were told that essential supplies were critically low and morale among evacuees was down. In response, Eli and Peyton filled a plane with 31,000 pounds of bottled water, blankets and diapers and headed to Baton Rouge. What they heard was heart-breaking.

"One man said that around 3:00 in the morning he heard a loud boom," said Eli. "It was a levee breaking. Within two minutes there was water running into his house. He went outside on the roof and tried to pull up his wife, who was in the water. The next thing he knows he's just holding her shirt. She's just gone."

"Imagine that happening. What would you do?" he wondered in disbelief.

It's hard to think about football when faced with a natural disaster of Katrina's magnitude, but Eli realized for many of the victims, the NFL is an important outlet of relief. "Football seems like a little thing, but to them it's important," Manning says. "It gives them something to cheer for and have fun with. And that's really special."

TIKI'S PLEDGE

- Giants running back **TIKI BARBER** will donate \$100 for each yard he gains Monday night and \$500 for any touchdowns he scores, with a minimum donation of \$10,000.

"It was actually my brother's idea," says Barber of his twin **RONDE**, a cornerback for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. "The Bucs play the Saints twice a year," Tiki explained. "Each time, Ronde is going to donate \$500 for every tackle and \$1,000 for each interception, with a minimum donation of \$5,000 per game."

"Many of the people in the Saints' organization and the citizens of New Orleans have lost everything. We really wanted to do something for the victims and this was one way we could help right now."