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MONDAY NIGHT NOTES

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MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL RETURNS TO CAROLINA AS PANTHERS & PACKERS SEEK TO PUT SURGE IN THEIR SEASONS

It's Monday night, it's Carolina and it's a visit from the Green Bay Packers and an NFL legend – **BRETT FAVRE**.

If it's Monday night, the Carolina Panthers *must* be playing the Packers. This week marks the Panthers' third consecutive Monday night contest against Green Bay. Both teams will be seeking to rebound from slow starts with a win in front of the nation.

Each club is accustomed to righting its ship after rocky starts. Carolina concluded 2004 with a 6-2 record after a 1-7 start. The Packers rebounded from a 1-4 beginning to finish 10-6 and earn a third consecutive division championship.

"Being 0-3 is no fun," says Favre. "But I don't think I'd trade my job for anything else. It's still a one-in-a-million job."

And Favre has done that job extremely well on Monday nights. He has won 17 of his 27 *MNF* starts, throwing for 6,402 yards and 48 touchdowns against 27 interceptions for an 86.1 passer rating. With two TD passes and 98 passing yards Monday, Favre will become only the second player (**DAN MARINO**) with 50 touchdown passes and 6,500 passing yards on Monday night.

"We'll prepare and practice and get ready," says Packers head coach **MIKE SHERMAN**. "Our mission right now is to win the next ballgame. That's all we're concerned with."

The all-time *Monday Night Football* leaders in passing yards and touchdown passes:

Quarterback	Passing Yards	Quarterback	Touchdown Passes
Dan Marino	9,654	Dan Marino	74
Brett Favre	6,402	Brett Favre	48
Joe Montana	5,148	Steve Young	42
John Elway	5,012	Joe Montana	36
Troy Aikman	4,614	Jim Kelly	31

Meanwhile for the Panthers, quarterback **JAKE DELHOMME** also is close to a milestone. In his third season as the team's starter, Delhomme can reach 8,000 passing yards the fastest in team history. With 244 yards against Green Bay, the Lafayette, Louisiana native will reach 8,000 yards in his 36th game as a Panther.

"We are 1-2 and that's not good enough," says Delhomme. "You can feel sorry for yourself but you watch the film and you get over it. It's only three games so far. We're not anywhere near where we feel we should be or need to be. I don't think Green Bay is feeling sorry for us right now. Just like us, their backs are against the wall, so we're expecting a great game on Monday night."

A look at the Panthers with 8,000 career passing yards:

Quarterback	Years	Passing Yards	Games to 8,000
Steve Beuerlein	1996-00	12,690	40
Kerry Collins	1995-98	8,306	44
Jake Delhomme	2003-present	7,756	35

MONDAY NIGHT MUSINGS – CAROLINA PANTHERS AT GREEN BAY PACKERS

DELHOMME CARES ABOUT HIS HOME

- Panthers quarterback **JAKE DELHOMME**'s ties to New Orleans date much farther back than his stint as a backup quarterback for the Saints (1998-02). Delhomme has never forgotten his Louisiana roots, especially in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

"The hurricane is a tragedy, and there's no doubt that is ongoing," says Delhomme, who lives in Breaux Bridge, Louisiana and graduated from the University of Louisiana-Lafayette. "Before our last preseason game, I was in my hotel room all day long watching the reports on television. I know these areas you see on TV well. It hits you right in the heart."

Delhomme is thrilled with the league-wide efforts to provide aid for the evacuees, and is planning a long-term commitment to help in the recovery and rebuilding effort – primarily aimed at the youngest victims.

"I want to do something that will help out the kids," he says.

"HE LIKES, HE LOVES IT..."

- Country music superstar **TIM MC GRAW** is quickly becoming known by NFL fans as the performer of ABC's *NFL Monday Night Football*'s halftime segment of highlights featuring his hit song, "I Like It, I Love It." ABC features highlights of the weekend's games set to McGraw's pop music hit complete with customized lyrics that sync up with exciting plays.

Though McGraw's segment this Monday will not feature Packers quarterback **BRETT FAVRE** because his team is playing that night, the Green Bay star is no stranger to McGraw's music. Favre, who is a close friend of the singer, hopped onstage during the taping of the country star's "Here and Now" special on NBC last November in Green Bay.

But don't expect an encore appearance by Favre anytime soon.

"He waited to the last minute to get there to make sure I wasn't going to make him sing," says McGraw of Favre.

UP NEXT, A CAREER IN POLITICS?

- Panthers linebacker **BRANDON SHORT** has been a spokesman and volunteer for the NFL's voter registration initiative that reminds players and fans alike that "Every Vote Counts." Short's tireless efforts to aid the voter registration program reflects his passion for politics.

"You have to watch your facial expressions because as a politician you always have to be on," says Short, who is already accustomed to performing under pressure in the NFL.

Has Short's name appeared on a ballot? Not yet. But running for public office is not something he has ruled out.

According to Short, he would consider running for a seat in the U.S. Senate in North Carolina or Pennsylvania, where he was an All-America selection at Penn State University.

FOOD & FUN AT THE "FIVESIX" RESTAURANT

- Packers linebacker **NICK BARNETT** may be known for his versatility on the field, but he and his fiancée **AMANDA LANGSTON** are ready to show Wisconsin that adjective applies to Barnett off the field as well. The couple is in the final stages of opening the aptly-titled "FiveSix" restaurant, which reflects Barnett's No. 56 jersey.

"I've always been an entrepreneur," says Barnett. "I planned on doing this before I got into the league."

Barnett's new venture will restore the Historic West Theatre in downtown Green Bay. Patrons can expect to find a mix of music including jazz and blues seldom heard in Wisconsin.

With Barnett busy manning the middle of Green Bay's linebacking corps, he will be relying heavily upon Langston to help get the fledgling establishment off the ground.

"She plays an important role," says Barnett. "She's like my vice president."

