



## MONDAY NIGHT NOTES

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FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION,  
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### STEEL MEETS SURF IN MNF SHOWDOWN OF AFC POWERS

For generations, countless experiments in grade school science labs have proven that electricity flows through steel. Before a national television audience on ABC Monday night, America will learn if the San Diego Chargers' offense – outfitted in its classic 1960s uniform – can move through the Pittsburgh Steelers in a matchup of 2004 division champions.

San Diego (2-2) has won back-to-back games in impressive fashion. In the past two weeks, running back **LA DAINIAN TOMLINSON** has darted for 326 yards and five touchdowns while throwing a TD pass and adding 62 receiving yards for good measure. Quarterback **DREW BREES** has completed a whopping 38 of 46 passes (82.6 percent) with four touchdowns and no interceptions in those two wins.

Pittsburgh (2-1), rested after a bye week, counters with a pass rush averaging one sack every 7.7 pass plays – best in the NFL. A defensive front seven with four All-Stars will challenge the hot Chargers. Offensively, despite his last name, running back **WILLIE PARKER** is anything but stationary, standing fifth in the AFC with 327 yards despite the bye. And oh, by the way, quarterback **BEN ROETHLISBERGER** wears a shiny 131.8 passer rating – the league's highest.

"Monday Night Football has that magic to it that everyone's going to be watching," says Steelers head coach **BILL COWHER** (16-6, .727 on MNF), whose team aims for a franchise-record-tying ninth consecutive road win Monday. "And you're playing a good football team that has won last year and this. There's always a lot of excitement that goes with Monday night."

Adding to the 2005 season's excitement is Tomlinson, who Cowher calls "the best back in the game." The fifth-year pro from TCU owns a 17-game streak with at least one TD – second longest in NFL history to Pro Football Hall of Famer **LENNY MOORE**'s 19-game streak from 1963-65. Tomlinson can reach 70 career TDs in his 68th NFL game with two touchdowns on Monday night, which would equal the fewest games played in NFL history to score 70 TDs:

PLAYER	FEWEST GAMES TO REACH 70 TDs
Steve Van Buren*	68
Jim Brown*	69
Lenny Moore*	71
Chuck Foreman	74
Emmitt Smith	74
<b>LA DAINIAN TOMLINSON **</b>	<b>???</b>

\* Pro Football Hall of Famer

\*\* 68 TDs through 67 career games

When head coaches Cowher and **MARTY SCHOTTENHEIMER** meet during pregame warm-ups, their handshake will unify 26 years of friendship and mutual respect shared by the two Pittsburgh natives. From 1980-82, Cowher played linebacker for the Browns while former NFL linebacker Schottenheimer was his defensive coordinator. Schottenheimer became Cleveland's full-time head coach in 1985 and offered Cowher his first NFL coaching job. Cowher worked on Schottenheimer's staffs until 1992 when he signed on for his present position with the Steelers.

"He is a great competitor," says Schottenheimer of Cowher. "I have great regard for him. He's a great friend. When we get the opportunity to compete against each other, there is something special in it."

Including one playoff victory against the Steelers, Schottenheimer is a win shy of 10 career victories against his hometown team. A look at the three coaches who have beaten Pittsburgh at least 10 times since 1970:

HEAD COACH	WINS VS. STEELERS SINCE 1970
Jeff Fisher	11
Don Shula	10
Sam Wyche	10
<b>MARTY SCHOTTENHEIMER</b>	<b>9</b>

## **MONDAY NIGHT MUSINGS – PITTSBURGH STEELERS AT SAN DIEGO CHARGERS**

### **ANCHORS AWAY**

- San Diego Chargers guard **KRIS DIELMAN**, linebacker **BEN LEBER** and tight end **JUSTIN PEELE** had the opportunity to enjoy a unique experience with the Navy earlier this year.

The three players spent a night aboard the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson as part of the Navy's Distinguished Visitor program. The trip was arranged by Peelle, whose grandfather, Captain Morgan "Moe" Peelle is a retired Navy captain.

Aboard the ship, the players toured the entire carrier and observed flight operations as F/A-18F Super Hornets and other Navy and Marine aircraft catapulted off the deck.

"We got the privilege of going up to the navigation bridge," recalled Dielman. "And here were all these young sailors running this gigantic ship. That's quite a responsibility for these young guys."

While signing autographs for the crew on the mess decks, the Chargers players said they'd never forget such an experience.

"To see what these young men and women are doing is truly remarkable," said Dielman.

Added Leber, "It was an overwhelming experience and we're very thankful for everything those guys do out there."

### **SIMMONS HOPES TO HELP THOSE WITH DIABETES**

- Pittsburgh Steelers guard **KENDALL SIMMONS** has teamed up with Utrecht Art Supplies to produce a limited edition poster featuring the Steelers' first-round pick of 2002. Proceeds from the 18" x 27" print, commissioned by artist Ben Gersch, will benefit the Western Pennsylvania Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

Simmons was diagnosed with hyperglycemia, a diabetic condition that caused him to lose 30 pounds and significant strength before training camp in 2003.

"At first, it was a blow to me," says Simmons. "But I've learned that the disease is what I make it. I'm not going to let diabetes ruin my life. No one would know I have diabetes unless I tell them. And right now, I feel like the perfect person to educate people about the disease."

### **THE LEGEND OF "FAST" WILLIE**

- How does one earn the nickname "Fast?" Ask Pittsburgh Steelers running back **WILLIE PARKER**.

"I was 12 or 13 when I started practicing on my speed and I used to beat everybody in the neighborhood in races," says Parker.

The 5-10, 209-pound back has been clocked at 4.23 seconds in the 40-yard dash and has not lost a foot race to a human being since his freshman year in college. Growing up, on the side streets of Clinton, North Carolina, Parker used to sprint by his father's car to see if he could beat dad home. And for a real challenge, he'd race against pit bulls.

"You should have seen it," says Willie Parker, Sr. "They'd have a guy on the far end calling for the dog when the race started. You'd see the two at full gallop, running to the finish line. It was amazing to see so much speed."

### **MEMORABLE TRIP**

- San Diego Chargers linebacker **DONNIE EDWARDS** and his wife Kathryn visited the Italian countryside this past spring.

The two happened to be visiting the Vatican when the white smoke was released from the Sistine Chapel's chimney announcing to the world that Pope Benedict XVI had been chosen to succeed Pope John Paul II.