



NFC NEWS 'N' NOTES

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HALFWAY HOME: NFC MIDSEASON PROJECTIONS

ARIZONA: Wide receivers **LARRY FITZGERALD** and **ANQUAN BOLDIN** are on track to become the first Cardinals teammates to post 1,200 receiving yards in the same season. With 713 yards, Fitzgerald is on track for 1,426 while Boldin is on pace for 1,232.....**K NEIL RACKERS** has connected on a franchise-record 26 consecutive field goals and is 26-of-26 on field-goal attempts this year. Rackers could set the NFL single-season record for most field goals. His projected total of 52 would break the current record of 39, held by **OLINDO MARE** (1999) and **JEFF WILKINS** (2003).

ATLANTA: The Falcons are averaging an NFL-best 184.9 rushing yards per game and are on pace for a franchise best 2,958.....**RB WARRICK DUNN** ranks fourth in the league with 820 rushing yards and is on track to become the third Falcon to rush for 1,600 yards in a season, joining **JAMAL ANDERSON** (1,846; 1998) and **GERALD RIGGS** (1,719; 1985).....**DT ROD COLEMAN** has 7.0 sacks and is on pace for a team record 14.0.

CAROLINA: If **WR STEVE SMITH** continues to produce at his current level, the fifth-year pro will have enjoyed one of the most prolific seasons in NFL history. Smith, the league leader with 55 receptions and 903 yards, is on pace for 1,806 receiving yards, which would link him with **JERRY RICE** (1,848, 1995) as the only players to post 1,800-yard receiving seasons. Smith is on track for 18 TD receptions, and would be just the fourth player in history to reach that level.

CHICAGO: **RB THOMAS JONES** leads the team with 753 rushing yards and is bidding to join Pro Football Hall of Famer **WALTER PAYTON** as the only players in franchise history to rush for 1,500 yards in a season.....Second-year **CB NATHAN VASHER** leads the team with four interceptions and is on track for eight. Vasher is bidding to top the team in interceptions for the second consecutive season.

DALLAS: The Cowboys are on pace for their second 10-win season in head coach **BILL PARCELLS'** third year with the club.....With 13 touchdown passes, **QB DREW BLEDSOE** is on track for 26, which would mark the first 25-TD pass season by a Dallas passer since **DANNY WHITE's** club record 29 in 1983.....**LB DE MARCUS WARE** ranks second among NFL rookies with 4.0 sacks and is on target for the most by a Dallas rookie since the sack statistic was officially instituted in 1982.

DETROIT: The Lions have been proficient at forcing turnovers in 2005, tying for third most in the NFL with 20 takeaways. With 13 interceptions, Detroit is on track for 26, which would be the most since the 1970 Lions picked off 28 passes en route to a 10-4 season.....**DE KALIMBA EDWARDS** leads the team with 6.0 sacks and could become the first Lion with a 12.0-sack campaign since **ROBERT PORCHER's** 15.0 in 1999.

GREEN BAY: Quarterback **BRETT FAVRE**, third in the NFL with 15 touchdown passes, is on pace for 30, which would extend his NFL record streak of consecutive seasons with 20 TD passes to 12. If Favre leads the league in the category for the fifth time, he would break a tie with Hall of Famers **LEN DAWSON**, **JOHNNY UNITAS** and **STEVE YOUNG** for the most seasons leading the league in TD passes all-time. Favre, who has 13 career 3,000-yard passing seasons, has thrown for 2,064 yards so far, and is on track to surpass **DAN MARINO** (13) for the most 3,000-yard passing seasons in a career.

MINNESOTA: **TE JERMAINE WIGGINS** has been a consistent receiving threat since joining the club in 2004. The team leader with 36 receptions, Wiggins is on track for 72 in 2005, which would mark his second consecutive 70-catch season. He would trail only **JOE SENSER** for the most catches by a tight end in franchise history. Senser posted 79 receptions in 1981.....Rookie **P CHRIS KLUWE** ranks second in the NFL with a 47.1-yard average. The former UCLA Bruin is bidding to become the first rookie to lead the NFL in punting since **BOB GRUPP** did it for Kansas City in 1979 (43.6).

NEW ORLEANS: **QB AARON BROOKS** has 114 career touchdown passes and is poised to become the franchise's all-time leader in the category in the second half of the season. Brooks needs two to eclipse Saints legend **ARCHIE MANNING**, who finished his career in New Orleans with 115.....**WR DONTÉ STALLWORTH** has 38 receptions and is on pace for a career-high 68, topping his previous best of 58 in 2004.

NEW YORK: The Giants have scored 233 points, second most in the NFL, and are on pace for 466, which would be the most in team history. The 1963 Giants posted 448 points en route to an 11-3 record.....**RB TIKI BARBER** has rushed

for 760 yards and is on target for a second consecutive 1,500-yard rushing season (1,520).....**JEREMY SHOCKEY** ranks second among NFL tight ends with 530 receiving yards and can become the first Giant at the position with a 1,000-yard season since **MARK BAVARO** in 1986 (1,001).

PHILADELPHIA: **QB DONOVAN MC NABB** leads the league with 2,338 yards passing and is track for 4,676. That total would represent the most in franchise history and McNabb's first 4,000-yard season. With 16 touchdown passes, McNabb can eclipse **SONNY JURGENSEN**'s club record for the most in a season. Jurgensen tossed 32 TDs in 1961.

ST. LOUIS: **RB STEVEN JACKSON** has emerged as a standout performer in his second season and is on pace for a 1,318-yard rushing season. He can join **JEROME BETTIS**, **ERIC DICKERSON**, **MARSHALL FAULK** and **CHARLES WHITE** as the only Rams RBs to eclipse 1,300 rushing yards in a season**WR KEVIN CURTIS** is on target for a career-high 68 receptions and 1,072 yards.....**S ADAM ARCHULETA** leads NFL defensive backs with 3.5 sacks and is on pace for a career-high 7.0.

SAN FRANCISCO: **RB FRANK GORE** ranks third among NFL rookies with 271 rushing yards and is on target for 542, which would be the most by a 49er rookie since **ROGER CRAIG** rushed for 725 yards in 1983.....**S TONY PARRISH** has two interceptions and is bidding to lead the team in the category for the fourth consecutive season. Parrish would be the first 49er to top the team outright in interceptions for four consecutive seasons since **KERMIT ALEXANDER** accomplished the feat from 1966-69.

SEATTLE: With a 6-2 record, the Seahawks are on target to equal their franchise record for wins. The 1984 team finished 12-4 en route to a playoff berth.....**RB SHAUN ALEXANDER** leads the NFL with 949 rushing yards and could possibly become only the sixth player in league history to rush for 2,000 yards. With 14 touchdowns, the former Alabama star is on pace to eclipse **PRIEST HOLMES** record for the most TDs in a single season. Holmes scored 27 times for the 2003 Chiefs.

TAMPA BAY: First-round draft choice **CARNELL "CADILLAC" WILLIAMS** ranks second among rookie rushers with 496 yards. Williams is on pace for 992 yards and may challenge **ERRICT RHETT**'s franchise rookie record of 1,011 yards set in 1994.....**WR JOEY GALLOWAY** has 731 yards receiving and is on pace for 1,462. That would represent a career high and the most ever by a Buc.

WASHINGTON: **QB MARK BRUNELL** is enjoying a solid season for the 5-3 Redskins. Brunell is hoping to lead the club to its first 10-win season since 1999. With 12 touchdown passes and three interceptions, the passer is on pace for a career-high 24 touchdowns and only six interceptions, the lowest total of his career when starting at least 10 games in a season.

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