



NFC NEWS 'N' NOTES

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FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION,
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PLAYOFF RACES INTENSIFY AS WEEK 15 SHOWDOWNS LOOM

And now things get *really* intense!

The Seattle Seahawks are division champions. Eight other teams aim to win one of five remaining NFC invites to the playoff party, as the Road to Forty, as in Super Bowl XL, heats up even more throughout the league.

The surging Minnesota Vikings (8-5), winners of six consecutive games, aim to continue their winning ways when they host the Pittsburgh Steelers on Sunday. The first-place Chicago Bears (9-4), meanwhile, look to maintain a one-game advantage over the Vikes in the NFC North race when they welcome the Atlanta Falcons (8-5) to Soldier Field (Sunday, 8:30 P.M., ESPN).

In the NFC East, the 9-4 New York Giants host Kansas City on Saturday and seek to maintain a one-game lead over Dallas (8-5) and a two-game bulge over Washington (7-6), as those two venerable rivals meet at FedEx Field. In the NFC South, Tampa Bay and Carolina each sit at 9-4, while the Falcons loom one game off the pace.

The 11-2 Seahawks can secure a first-round bye with a win on Sunday in Tennessee against the Titans, as Seattle seeks a 10th consecutive win.

"We have the opportunity to do some wonderful things," says Seahawks head coach **MIKE HOLMGREN**. "And right now we are playing for something very important – home-field advantage and a first-round bye in the playoffs."

Following are the records of NFC playoff contenders, their remaining games and their wins and losses against other NFC playoff hopefuls:

NFC EAST

TEAM/GAMES VS. CONTENDERS

NEW YORK GIANTS

Wins: Dal, Was; **Losses:** Dal, Min, Sea

OVERALL

9-4

DIV.

4-1

CONF.

8-3

WK. 15

KC

WK. 16

at Was

WK. 17

at Oak

DALLAS COWBOYS

Wins: NYG; **Losses:** NYG, Sea, Was

8-5

3-2

6-3

at Was

at Car

StL

WASHINGTON REDSKINS

Wins: Chi, Dal, Sea; **Losses:** NYG, TB

7-6

2-1

7-2

Dal

NYG

at Phi

NFC NORTH

TEAM/GAMES VS. CONTENDERS

CHICAGO BEARS

Wins: Car, Min, TB; **Losses:** Was

OVERALL

9-4

DIV.

4-0

CONF.

8-1

WK. 15

Atl

WK. 16

at GB

WK. 17

at Min

MINNESOTA VIKINGS

Wins: NYG; **Losses:** Atl, Car, Chi, TB

8-5

4-1

7-4

Pit

at Bal

Chi

NFC SOUTH

TEAM/GAMES VS. CONTENDERS

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

Wins: Atl, Car, Min, Was; **Losses:** Car, Chi

OVERALL

9-4

DIV.

3-1

CONF.

7-3

WK. 15

At NE

WK. 16

Atl

WK. 17

NO

CAROLINA PANTHERS Wins: Atl, Min, TB Losses: Chi, TB	9-4	2-2	6-3	At NO	Dal	at Atl
ATLANTA FALCONS Wins: Min; Losses: Car, Sea, TB	8-5	2-2	5-4	At Chi	at TB	Car

NFC WEST

<u>TEAM/GAMES VS. CONTENDERS</u>	<u>OVERALL</u>	<u>DIV.</u>	<u>CONF.</u>	<u>WK. 15</u>	<u>WK. 16</u>	<u>WK. 17</u>
SEATTLE SEAHAWKS * Wins: Atl, Dal, NYG; Losses: Was	11-2	6-0	10-1	at Ten	Ind	at GB

* Clinched division championship