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NFL PRESS BOX NOTES – NFC CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

SUPER WITH A SECOND TEAM: Seattle Seahawks head coach **MIKE HOLMGREN** would join an elite group with a victory in Sunday's NFC Championship Game against the Carolina Panthers.

Holmgren, who led the 1996 and 1997 Green Bay Packers to consecutive Super Bowls (with a victory in the first, Super Bowl XXXI), would become the fifth coach to lead different teams to the Super Bowl. He would join **BILL PARCELLS**, **DAN REEVES**, **DON SHULA** and **DICK VERMEIL**.

Following are head coaches that have led more than one team to a Super Bowl:

<u>COACH</u>	<u>TEAM</u>	<u>SUPER BOWL</u>
Bill Parcells	1986 NY Giants	Won Super Bowl XXI
	1990 NY Giants	Won Super Bowl XXV
	1996 New England Patriots	Lost Super Bowl XXXI
Dan Reeves	1986 Denver Broncos	Lost Super Bowl XXI
	1987 Denver Broncos	Lost Super Bowl XXII
	1989 Denver Broncos	Lost Super Bowl XXIV
	1998 Atlanta Falcons	Lost Super Bowl XXXIII
Don Shula	1968 Baltimore Colts	Lost Super Bowl III
	1971 Miami Dolphins	Lost Super Bowl VI
	1972 Miami Dolphins	Won Super Bowl VII
	1973 Miami Dolphins	Won Super Bowl VIII
	1982 Miami Dolphins	Lost Super Bowl XVII
	1984 Miami Dolphins	Lost Super Bowl XIX
Dick Vermeil	1980 Philadelphia Eagles	Lost Super Bowl XV
	1999 St. Louis Rams	Won Super Bowl XXXIV

SIZZLING SMITH: Carolina Panthers wide receiver **STEVE SMITH** has become a big-game performer.

The 2006 Pro Bowl starter has averaged 117.7 yards in six career playoff games, the most receiving yards per game in postseason history (minimum five games). Smith's 706 receiving yards is the most for a player in his first six playoff games, and his 40 catches trail only Pittsburgh's **HINES WARD** (42) in that time span.

With two receptions this week against the Seahawks, Smith would set a record for most catches in a postseason (24), surpassing **ANTHONY CARTER**'s 23 for Minnesota in 1987. With 108 yards, Smith (302) would top **JERRY RICE**'s 409 yards in 1988 for the most in one playoff season. Also, with 10 receptions, Smith could become the first in playoff history with three consecutive 10-catch games.

Following are top five **playoff** totals in various receiving categories:

MOST RECEIVING YARDS PER PLAYOFF GAME (Minimum five games)

<u>PLAYER</u>	<u>REC. YDS PER GAME</u>
Steve Smith, Carolina	117.7
Tom Fears, L.A. Rams	97.8
Randy Moss, Minnesota	90.4
John Jefferson, San Diego	86.2
Isaac Bruce, St. Louis	84.3

MOST RECEPTIONS & YARDS IN FIRST SIX PLAYOFF GAMES

<u>PLAYER</u>	<u>RECEPTIONS</u>	<u>PLAYER</u>	<u>RECEIVING YARDS</u>
Hines Ward, Pittsburgh	42	Steve Smith, Carolina	706
Steve Smith, Carolina	40	Randy Moss, Minnesota	602
Dwight Clark, San Francisco	36	Tom Fears, L.A. Rams	587
Michael Irvin, Dallas	36	Anthony Carter, Minnesota	582
O.J. McDuffie, Miami	36	Michael Irvin, Dallas	581

MOST RECEPTIONS & YARDS IN A POSTSEASON

<u>PLAYER</u>	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>RECEPTIONS</u>	<u>PLAYER</u>	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>RECEIVING YARDS</u>
Anthony Carter, Min	1987	23	Jerry Rice, S.F.	1988	409
Steve Smith, Car	2005	22	Steve Smith, Car	2003	404
Tony Nathan, Mia	1984	22	Charlie Brown, Was	1983	401
Dan Ross, Cin	1981	22	Anthony Carter, Min	1987	391
Jerry Rice, S.F.	1988	21	Fred Biletnikoff, Oak	1968	370
Torry Holt, St. L	1999	20			
			Steve Smith, Car	2005	302

SEEKING THE CENTURY MARK: Despite missing all but six games this season with injury, Seattle wide receiver **DARRELL JACKSON** has hit his stride in the playoffs – again.

In three career playoff games, Jackson is the Seahawks' all-time receptions leader (26), bypassing Pro Football Hall of Famer **STEVE LARGENT** (23 catches in seven playoff games). Jackson, with nine catches last week in the Divisional Playoffs, can earn yet another milestone in Sunday's championship game.

Jackson has two consecutive 100-yard receiving games in the playoffs. With another, he would join **TOM FEARS**, **JERRY RICE** and **RANDY MOSS** as the only players in NFL playoff history with three consecutive such games.

The players with three consecutive 100-yard receiving games in the playoffs:

<u>PLAYER</u>	<u>TEAM</u>	<u>YEARS</u>	<u>CONSECUTIVE 100-YARD GAMES</u>
Tom Fears	Los Angeles Rams	1950-51	3
Jerry Rice	San Francisco 49ers	1988-89	3
Randy Moss	Minnesota Vikings	1999-00	3
Darrell Jackson	Seattle Seahawks	2004-05	2*
Many tied	---	---	2

* Active

-- NFC CHAMPIONSHIP GAME --

DELHOMME HONES IN: With Carolina's Divisional Playoffs victory, the Panthers' **JAKE DELHOMME** became the first quarterback in NFL playoff history to win his first four road starts. Delhomme's four playoff road wins ties the all-time mark of Pro Football Hall of Famers **LEN DAWSON** (4-1) and **ROGER STAUBACH** (4-1).

In those four road games, Delhomme has compiled a 107.8 passer rating, the highest in playoff history for a quarterback on the road with a minimum of 75 attempts. His 108.4 career playoff rating is the highest all-time (minimum 150 passing attempts).

The top five career passer ratings in playoff history:

<u>QUARTERBACK</u>	<u>PASSER RATING</u>
Jake Delhomme, Carolina	108.4
Bart Starr, Green Bay	104.8
Joe Montana, San Francisco, Kansas City	95.6
Ken Anderson, Cincinnati	93.5
Kurt Warner, St. Louis	92.3

-- NFC CHAMPIONSHIP GAME --

GEORGE HALAS TROPHY: Pro Football Hall of Fame member **MIKE MC CORMACK**, a six-time Pro Bowl tackle for the New York Yanks and Cleveland Browns with ties to both teams in the NFC Championship Game, will present the winner of the game with the **GEORGE HALAS TROPHY**. McCormack was the Seahawks' president and general manager from 1983-89. He was general manager and president of the Panthers from 1993 until he retired in 1996. McCormack was the first inductee into the team's Hall of Honor in 1997.

Halas, the late owner of the Chicago Bears and a founder of the NFL, is the second-winningest coach in NFL history (324-151-31) behind **DON SHULA** (347-173-6). He won six NFL championships with the Bears and is a charter enshrinee of the Pro Football Hall of Fame.