



NFL PRESS BOX NOTES – KICKOFF 2005 WEEKEND

MILESTONE PASSERS: Green Bay Packers quarterback **BRETT FAVRE** kicks off his 15th season on Sunday in the same place he would like it to end, Detroit's Ford Field, site of Super Bowl XL.

Favre, owner of an 18-8 (.692) career record against the Lions, enters the game with 49,734 career passing yards. With 266 more, Favre would join Pro Football Hall of Famers **DAN MARINO** (61,361) and **JOHN ELWAY** (51,475) as the only players in NFL history with 50,000 career passing yards.

Meanwhile in San Diego, quarterback **DREW BLEDSOE** makes his first start as a member of the Dallas Cowboys when they visit the Chargers. A four-time Pro Bowler, Bledsoe has passed for 39,808 yards and needs 192 to become the 10th player all-time with 40,000 passing yards.

Quarterbacks with the most passing yards in NFL history:

Quarterback	Passing Yards	Quarterback	Passing Yards
Dan Marino	61,361	Vinny Testaverde	44,475
John Elway	51,475	Dan Fouts	43,040
Brett Favre	49,734	Joe Montana	40,551
Warren Moon	49,325	Johnny Unitas	40,239
Fran Tarkenton	47,003	Drew Bledsoe	39,808

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TOUCHDOWN TOMLINSON: San Diego Chargers running back **LA DAINIAN TOMLINSON** has been no stranger to the end zone in his four NFL seasons, rushing for 54 touchdowns in 63 games.

Tomlinson enters 2005 aiming to extend a streak of 12 consecutive games with a rushing touchdown, the third longest such streak in history. With a rushing touchdown on Sunday against Dallas, Tomlinson will tie **JOHN RIGGINS** and **GEORGE ROGERS** for the NFL record.

The former TCU standout has been a frequent visitor to the end zone on his four previous Kickoff Weekend appearances, rushing for four total touchdowns.

Players with the most consecutive games with at least one rushing touchdown:

Player	Team	Consec. Games With Rush TD	Years	Career Rushing TDs
John Riggins	Washington	13	1982-83	104
George Rogers	New Orleans	13	1985-86	54
LaDainian Tomlinson	San Diego	12 *	2004-present	54
Lenny Moore	Baltimore	11	1963-64	63
Emmitt Smith	Dallas	11	1994-95	164
Emmitt Smith	Dallas	11	1995	164
Priest Holmes	Kansas City	11	2002	80

* Active streak

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SHAUN SCORES...AGAIN: Since becoming the Seattle Seahawks' starting running back in 2001, **SHAUN ALEXANDER** has established himself as one of the premier rushers in football. Over that span, the former Alabama star has scored 70 touchdowns, second-most in the NFL to Kansas City's **PRIEST HOLMES** (76).

In each of those four seasons, Alexander has totaled at least 15 touchdowns – the best such streak in history. In addition, Alexander has scored at least one touchdown rushing and receiving in two consecutive Kickoff Weekend games. If he accomplishes the feat again on Sunday against Jacksonville, he will become the first player in league annals to do so for three Kickoff games in a row.

The NFL touchdown leaders since 2001:

Player	Team(s)	TDs (2001-04)
Priest Holmes	Kansas City	76
Shaun Alexander	Seattle	70
LaDainian Tomlinson	San Diego	60
Terrell Owens	SF-Philadelphia	53
Marvin Harrison	Indianapolis	52

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SEPTEMBER STANDOUTS: When the Tampa Bay Buccaneers travel to Minnesota to face the Vikings on Sunday, both starting quarterbacks should be in excellent form. After all, it's September.

BRIAN GRIESE of the Buccaneers and **DAUNTE CULPEPPER** of the Vikings are among the league's most successful September passers.

Griese's 101.1 passer rating in the month is second highest in the league since 2000, trailing only **PEYTON MANNING's** 103.5. Culpepper ranks fourth in September since 2000 in touchdown passes (24) and passing yards (3,951).

The NFL's top September passers in the past five years:

Quarterback	Rating *	Quarterback	TD Passes	Quarterback	Yard s
Peyton Manning	103.5	Peyton Manning	39	Peyton Manning	4,517
Brian Griese	101.1	Brett Favre	33	Kurt Warner	4,476
Kurt Warner	93.8	Donovan McNabb	28	Brett Favre	4,361
Rich Gannon	90.8	Daunte Culpepper	24	Daunte Culpepper	3,951
Mark Brunell	89.6	Rich Gannon	23	Donovan McNabb	3,929

* Minimum 300 attempts

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FAMILIARITY ON THE SIDELINES: The Pittsburgh Steelers and Tennessee Titans are familiar rivals, with the franchises having played each other at least once a year in 35 of the past 36 seasons, including this Sunday's season-opening contest at Pittsburgh's Heinz Field.

The familiarity of the former division rivals, who spent 1970-2001 as members of the AFC Central Division, extends to the sidelines. Steelers head coach **BILL COWHER** begins his 14th season with the club while Titans head coach **JEFF FISHER** kicks off his 12th year with Tennessee. The pair ranks Nos. 1 and 2 among active head coaches for the longest tenures with their current teams.

Cowher has led the Steelers to a 138-86-1 (.616) record since 1992 while Fisher has guided the Titans to a 98-77 (.560) mark since 1994.

The active and all-time most-tenured coaches with one team:

Active

Coach	Team	First Year	Entering Season	Coach	Team	Years	Season s
Bill Cowher	Pittsburgh	1992	14	Curly Lambeau	Green Bay	1921-49	29
Jeff Fisher	Tennessee	1994	12	Tom Landry	Dallas	1960-	29

All-Time

						88		
Mike Shanahan	Denver	1995	11		Don Shula	Miami	1970-95	26
Brian Billick	Baltimore	1999	7		Chuck Noll	Pittsburgh	1969-91	23
Mike Holmgren	Seattle	1999	7		Steve Owen	NY Giants	1931-53	23
Andy Reid	Philadelphi a	1999	7					

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