

NFL PRESS BOX NOTES – WEEK 17

MOST 10-WIN TEAMS EVER?: By one measure of excellence, the NFL may never have been better than in 2005.

With one week to go in the regular season, 11 teams have reached the coveted 10-win mark – Carolina, Chicago, Cincinnati, Denver, Indianapolis, Jacksonville, New England, New York Giants, Pittsburgh, Seattle and Tampa Bay.

On Sunday, Dallas, Kansas City, San Diego and Washington can join the group of 10-game winners. If all four win, the 15 teams with at least 10 wins apiece would be the most 10-win teams in a season since the 16-game schedule was instituted in 1978.

A look at the seasons with the most 10-game winners since 1978:

Season	10-Win Teams
2003	13
1986	12
1991	12
2000	12
1985	11
1988	11
1992	11
2001	11
2005	11*

* Through Week 16

– NFL –

TOUGH FIELD TO ENTER: Coaches have long known it – qualifying for the NFL playoffs is challenging. And perhaps it has never been more difficult than in 2005.

Since the NFL instituted the 12-team playoff format in 1990, three teams have finished a season with a 10-6 record and failed to make the playoffs. In 2005 alone, that number can be equaled, as three clubs have the possibility of missing the NFL playoffs with at least 10 wins.

The three 10-win teams to miss the playoffs since 1990:

Year	Team	Record	Finish	Following Season	Result
1991	Philadelphia Eagles	10-6	3rd, NFC East	11-5	Advanced to Divisional Playoffs
1991	San Francisco 49ers	10-6	3rd, NFC West	14-2	Advanced to NFC Championship
2003	Miami Dolphins	10-6	2nd, AFC East	4-12	Missed playoffs

– NFL –

SHAUN THE TD SCORER: In a record-setting season for Seattle Seahawks running back **SHAUN ALEXANDER**, an additional milestone of major significance can be attained in Week 17 against Green Bay.

Alexander, who set the franchise season rushing record (1,807 yards) this season and became the fifth player all-time to rush for 1,600 yards in consecutive seasons, needs one touchdown for the most in a single season in NFL history.

The former Alabama star has scored 27 touchdowns, equaling **PRIEST HOLMES'** record set with the 2003 Chiefs.

The most prolific touchdown seasons in NFL history:

Player	Year	Team	TDs	Rushing TDs	Receiving TDs
Shuan Alexander	2005	Seattle	27*	26	1
Priest Holmes	2003	Kansas City	27	27	0
Marshall Faulk	2000	St. Louis	26	18	8
Emmitt Smith	1995	Dallas	25	25	0
Priest Holmes	2002	Kansas City	24	21	3
John Riggins	1983	Washington	24	24	0

* Through 15 games

TEAMMATE RECORD-SETTERS: Entering the 2005 season, only two pairs of teammates – **EMMITT SMITH** and **MICHAEL IRVIN** of the 1995 Dallas Cowboys and **DOMANICK DAVIS** and **ANDRE JOHNSON** of the 2004 Houston Texans – set their franchise records for single-season rushing and receiving yards in the same year.

Smith rushed for an NFL-best 1,773 yards while Irvin added 1,603 receiving yards in 1995. Davis rushed for 1,188 yards in '04 while Johnson added 1,142 receiving yards that season.

This week, two sets of teammates could accomplish the unique feat. And not surprisingly, both teams – the Cincinnati Bengals and Washington Redskins – are either already in or in the hunt for the playoffs.

A look at the teammates who could join Smith/Irvin and Davis/Johnson to achieve franchise single-season rushing and receiving yardage records in the same season:

Team	Player	Rush./Rec. Yards	Yards For Record	Record-Holder	Season	Rush./Rec. Yards
Cincinnati	Rudi Johnson	1,440	15	Rudi Johnson	2004	1,454
	Chad Johnson	1,377	--	Chad Johnson	2005	1,377
Washington	Clinton Portis	1,404	29	Stephen Davis	2001	1,432
	Santana Moss	1,400	37	Bobby Mitchell	1963	1,436

– NFL –

DAUNTING “D”: The Chicago Bears’ defense has been a major reason for the club’s 11-4 record and NFC North Division championship, resulting in the No. 2 playoff seed in the NFC.

The club’s defense, ranked first in the NFL overall (274.2) and in yards per play (4.2), third against the pass (175.0) and eighth against the run (99.2), has allowed a league-low 168 points.

With one game remaining (against Minnesota), the Bears likely will finish in the top five all-time for the fewest points allowed in a season since the NFL instituted the 16-game schedule in 1978. They also can best the team record for fewest points allowed – 187 in 1986.

Chicago has held foes to 10 points or less in nine games and surrenders an average of 11.2 points per game.

A look at the top five teams with the fewest points allowed since 1978:

Team	Year	Points Allowed	Record	Result
Baltimore Ravens	2000	165	12-4	Won SB XXXV
Chicago Bears	1986	187	14-2	Advanced to Divisional playoffs
Tennessee Titans	2000	191	13-3	Advanced to Divisional playoffs
Pittsburgh Steelers	1978	195	14-2	Won SB XIII
Tampa Bay Buccaneers	2002	196	12-4	Won SB XXXVII
Chicago Bears	2005	168*	11-4	???

* Through 15 games

– NFL –

CHAMPIONSHIP GAME/PRO BOWL CREDENTIAL NOTICE: The NFL is now accepting media credential applications for the 2005 AFC and NFC Championship Games and the 2006 AFC-NFC Pro Bowl.

The Championship Games will be held on Sunday, January 22, while the Pro Bowl is set for Sunday, February 12 in Honolulu, Hawaii.

For media covering the Championship Games **regardless of the competing teams**, the deadline to submit a credential application is Tuesday, January 10. Media that will staff the games dependent upon the participating teams do not need to apply at this time. The competing team public relations departments will submit a list of their local media to the NFL once they have qualified for the game.

The deadline to submit a credential application for the Pro Bowl is **FRIDAY, JANUARY 13**. All applications are available on www.nflmedia.com, under “NFL Event Credentialing.”

2005 POSTSEASON MEDIA GUIDE: The 2005 NFL Postseason Media Guide, which includes Super Bowl “Notes, Quotes and Anecdotes,” will be available online at <http://www.nflmedia.com> at the conclusion of the regular season.