



AFC NEWS 'N' NOTES

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FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION,
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AFC PLAYOFF PICTURE A GROUP PHOTO

As the weather turns colder, NFL fans can warm themselves in front of a red-hot playoff race as the season turns toward the home stretch. In the AFC alone, 11 teams are within one game or .500 or better with five weeks left on the schedule.

Among the clubs seeking to strengthen their position in a competitive field are the AFC East-leading New England Patriots (8-3, .727). Winners of six of their past eight games, the Patriots seek their fourth consecutive division title and their fifth in the past six years under head coach **BILL BELICHICK**.

"When you come into the last third of the season roughly, which is Thanksgiving, your games at the end of November and December, those are critical games for every team," says the New England coach. "These are the games that are really going to decide who is standing at the end. There's a lot at stake. They're all big."

Following is the remaining strength of schedule for the 11 AFC teams within one game of .500 or better:

AFC EAST

<u>TEAM</u>	<u>NEW ENGLAND (8-3)</u>	<u>NEW YORK (6-5)</u>	<u>BUFFALO (5-6)</u>	<u>MIAMI (5-6)</u>
OPP. RECORD	20-35 (.364)	21-34 (.382)	33-22 (.600)	35-20 (.636)
WEEK 13	Detroit (2-9)	at Green Bay (4-7)	San Diego (9-2)	Jacks'ville (6-5)
WEEK 14	at Miami (5-6)	Buffalo (5-6)	at NY Jets (6-5)	N. E. (8-3)
WEEK 15	Houston (3-8)	at Minnesota (5-6)	Miami (5-6)	at Buffalo (5-6)
WEEK 16	at Jacksonville (6-5)	at Miami (5-6)	Tennessee (4-7)	NY Jets (6-5)
WEEK 17	at Tennessee (4-7)	Oakland (2-9)	at Baltimore (9-2)	at Ind. (10-1)

AFC NORTH

<u>TEAM</u>	<u>BALTIMORE (9-2)</u>	<u>CINCINNATI (6-5)</u>
OPP. RECORD	25-30 (.455)	32-23 (.582)
WEEK 13	at Cincinnati (6-5)	Baltimore (9-2)
WEEK 14	at Kansas City (7-4)	Oakland (2-9)
WEEK 15	Cleveland (3-8)	at Indianapolis (10-1)
WEEK 16	at Pittsburgh (4-7)	at Denver (7-4)
WEEK 17	Buffalo (5-6)	Pittsburgh (4-7)

AFC SOUTH

<u>TEAM</u>	<u>INDIANAPOLIS (10-1)</u>	<u>JACKSONVILLE (6-5)</u>
OPP. RECORD	24-31 (.436)	34-21 (.618)
WEEK 13	at Tennessee (4-7)	at Miami (5-6)
WEEK 14	at Jacksonville (6-5)	Indianapolis (10-1)
WEEK 15	Cincinnati (6-5)	at Tennessee (4-7)
WEEK 16	at Houston (3-8)	New England (8-3)
WEEK 17	Miami (5-6)	at Kansas City (7-4)

AFC WEST

<u>TEAM</u>	<u>SAN DIEGO (9-2)</u>	<u>KANSAS CITY (7-4)</u>	<u>DENVER (7-4)</u>
OPP. RECORD	28-27 (.509)	29-26 (.527)	29-26 (.527)
WEEK 13	at Buffalo (5-6)	at Cleveland (3-8)	Seattle (7-4)
WEEK 14	Denver (7-4)	Baltimore (9-2)	at San Diego (9-2)
WEEK 15	Kansas City (7-4)	at San Diego (9-2)	at Arizona (2-9)
WEEK 16	at Seattle (7-4)	at Oakland (2-9)	Cincinnati (6-5)
WEEK 17	Arizona (2-9)	Jacksonville (6-5)	San Francisco (5-6)