



FOR USE AS DESIRED
NFL-POST-2 1/9/07

ON TO THE DIVISIONALS! **TOP FOUR TEAMS IN EACH CONFERENCE SQUARE OFF**

Four games played by the top eight.

That is the quick rundown as the NFL takes the next step towards Super Bowl XLI with its Divisional Playoffs this weekend that feature the top four seeds in the AFC and NFC conferences.

"The intensity rises," says Baltimore Ravens quarterback **STEVE MC NAIR**, who has traveled this route before on the way to a Super Bowl. "In the regular season, you can make up games. In the playoffs, you lose and you go home."

In addition to the drama of the weekend due to its sudden-elimination import, there are numerous additional storylines:

- Three games are between teams now either tied in wins (Indianapolis-Baltimore) or separated by only one win (Philadelphia-New Orleans and New England-San Diego).
- There are two 2006 regular-season rematches (Philadelphia-New Orleans and Seattle-Chicago).
- One game features the NFC's top seeds of the past two seasons (Seattle, 2005; Chicago, 2006).
- Another game – New England-San Diego – pits a three-time Super-Bowl-winning quarterback – **TOM BRADY** – against a QB making his first postseason start – **PHILIP RIVERS**.

The lineup for all this excitement:

NFL DIVISIONAL PLAYOFF WEEKEND

Saturday, January 13

AFC: 4:30 PM ET Indianapolis (13-4) at Baltimore (13-3) (CBS-TV)

NFC: 8:00 PM ET Philadelphia (11-6) at New Orleans (10-6) (FOX-TV)

Sunday, January 14

NFC: 1:00 PM ET Seattle (10-7) at Chicago (13-3) (FOX-TV)

AFC: 4:30 PM ET New England (13-4) at San Diego (14-2) (CBS-TV)

Breakdowns of the four Divisional Playoff games:

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS (13-4) at BALTIMORE RAVENS (13-3) (Saturday, CBS, 4:30 PM ET)

STORYLINE: ***Battle of tenacious defenses?***

A week ago, there was no way this would be asked. About Baltimore, the top-rated defense in the league this year, of course. The Colts? They were rated 21st overall and 32nd against the run. Then last Saturday in their Wild Card game, they basically shut down the league's No. 2 rusher of '06, Kansas City's **LARRY JOHNSON**, limiting him to 32 yards. They tacked on four sacks, two by **DE DWIGHT FREENEY**, and two interceptions.

Now things are ratcheted up. The Colts face a QB – **STEVE MC NAIR** -- who led the Ravens to the AFC's second-best

NFL PLAYOFF FACTOID

THE GATOR-PATRIOTS: It has been/will be a big week for Patriots **WR RECHE CALDWELL**. He returns to play his

former team, the San Diego Chargers, on Sunday, and, along with three other Patriots WRs, is from the Univ. of Florida, winners of Monday's Tostitos BCS Championship Game: **JABAR GAFFNEY, CHAD JACKSON** and **KELVIN KIGHT**.

record this year (13-3) with nine wins in their last 10 games. They also confront a RB, **JAMAL LEWIS**, who is fresh off his fifth 1,000-yard season in six years – and a defense that allowed the fewest points in the NFL this year (201).

“It will be a big challenge,” says Colts **QB PEYTON MANNING**, director of the league's No. 3 offense, who may attempt to use the same checkdowns to his RBs and **TE DALLAS CLARK** if Baltimore limits the Colts' long passing game as Kansas City did. “Playing the Ravens is tough enough, and they've been off a week and are fresh.”

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES (11-6) at NEW ORLEANS SAINTS (10-6) (Saturday, FOX, 8:00 PM ET)
--

STORYLINE: ***This one has as many themes as a Mardi Gras costume party.***

Right up front, it's a matchup between the top two offenses in the league (New Orleans, No. 1; Philadelphia, No. 2). And two hot teams: the Eagles have won six in a row, including their 23-20 Wild Card victory over the Giants; the Saints more than tripled their win total of last season (3-13).

And it's a rematch. On October 15 in New Orleans, the Saints drove 72 yards on 16 plays before **JOHN CARNEY** kicked the winning (27-24) field goal as time expired. That was the first of five losses in six games for the Eagles, including **QB JEFF GARCIA**'s first start (11/26) in place of the injured **DONOVAN MC NABB**.

Garcia has not lost since (6-1), and Philly has rediscovered its rushing game in **BRIAN WESTBROOK**, who has averaged almost 100 yards (95.3) over his past nine outings, including a franchise playoff third-best 141 yards in the Wild Card.

The Saints will be playing the first second-round home playoff game in their history and they're ready to ignite the fireworks. **QB DREW BREES** led the NFL in passing yardage this year (4,418 yards)...**RB DEUCE MC ALLISTER**, despite sharing time with rookie **REGGIE BUSH** (1,307 scrimmage yards), rushed for 1,000 yards...and rookie **WR MARQUES COLSTON** (1,038 yards) and **DEVERY HENDERSON** have handled the receiving game in place of **JOE HORN**, who is questionable this week with a groin injury.

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS (10-7) at CHICAGO BEARS (13-3) (Sunday, FOX, 1:00 PM ET)
--

STORYLINE: ***Can they do it again?***

That's what the Bears are wondering. On October 1 at home, Chicago handled the Seahawks 37-6, with **QB REX GROSSMAN** throwing for two TDs, **RB THOMAS JONES** running for two, and rookie **DE MARK ANDERSON** besting Pro Bowl **LT WALTER JONES** for two sacks

But these are the “Cardiac 'Hawks,” remember, who have played six games decided by three or fewer points and won five of them, including their Wild Card victory over Dallas.

“They are a different team offensively now,” says Bears Pro Bowl **LB LANCE BRIGGS**. “They didn't have the 2005 MVP (**RB SHAUN ALEXANDER**) last time. It's hard to beat a good team once. It's even harder to do it twice.”

Chicago will aim to attack Seattle's injury-weakened secondary with its long passing game to **MUHSIN MUHAMMAD** and **BERNARD BERRIAN**. But even with new DB signees **PETE HUNTER** and **RICH GARDNER** plugged in and **S JORDAN BABINEAUX** moving to CB, Seattle held the No. 5 NFL passing game of Dallas to 168 yards in the Wild Card.

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS (13-4) at SAN DIEGO CHARGERS (14-2) (Sunday, CBS, 4:30 PM ET)

STORYLINE: ***Can BB shut down LT?***

Patriots head coach **BILL BELICHICK** is known for concocting surprise game plans (such as coming out in the no-huddle against the Jets in the Wild Card). This week he will attempt to slow down league MVP **LA DAINIAN TOMLINSON**, who this year set the NFL season record for TDs (31). New England didn't have much luck doing so the last time the teams met in 2005 (October 2). The Chargers broke the Patriots' 21-game home winning steak with a 41-17 victory, with Tomlinson rushing for 134 yards and two TDs.

“He's a back who can do it all,” says Patriots Pro Bowl **DT RICHARD SEYMOUR**. “He can make all the runs, all the cuts. He's an inside-outside runner.”

Of course, the Patriots have their own ace in **QB TOM BRADY**, who can adapt as dictated (he engineered a superb short passing game against the Jets' blitz). With an 11-1 playoff record, he has three Super Bowl wins and two Super Bowl MVP awards on his resume.

Facing him will be **QB PHILIP RIVERS**, who took San Diego to the NFL's best record (14-2) in his first NFL action. "I'm expecting Philip to come out and have one of the best games of his career," says Chargers Pro Bowl **TE ANTONIO GATES**. "Everybody in the locker room believes that. This is our guy."

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE 2006 PLAYOFFS

(Home team in CAPS)

WILD CARD WEEKEND

AFC: INDIANAPOLIS 23, Kansas City 8, January 6

NFC: SEATTLE 21, Dallas 20, January 6

AFC: NEW ENGLAND 37, N.Y. Jets 16, January 7

NFC: PHILADELPHIA 23, N.Y. Giants 20, January 7

DIVISIONAL PLAYOFFS

Saturday, January 13:

AFC: Indianapolis Colts (13-4) at Baltimore Ravens, 4:30 P.M. ET (CBS)

NFC: Philadelphia Eagles (11-6) at New Orleans Saints (10-6), 8:00 P.M. ET (FOX)

Sunday, January 14:

NFC: Seattle Seahawks (10-7) at Chicago Bears (13-3), 1:00 P.M. ET (FOX)

AFC: New England Patriots (13-4) at San Diego Chargers (14-2), 4:30 P.M. ET (CBS)

NFC CHAMPIONSHIP GAME: Sunday, January 21, 3:00 P.M. ET (FOX)

AFC CHAMPIONSHIP GAME: Sunday, January 21, 6:30 P.M. ET (CBS)

SUPER BOWL XLI: Sunday, February 4 at Dolphin Stadium in South Florida, 6:30 P.M. ET (CBS)

PRO BOWL: Saturday, February 10 at Aloha Stadium, Honolulu, Hawaii, 6:00 PM ET (CBS)

2006 AFC Division Standings

AFC East												
Team	Overall Record	Head to Head	Division Record	Common Games Record	Conf Record	Strength of Victory (Wins)	Strength of Schedule (Wins)	Conf PF + PA Rank	Overall PF + PA Rank	Common Game Net Pts	Overall Net Pts	TD
y-New England	12-4-0		4-2-0	0-0-0	8-4-0	.469 (90)	.496 (127)	5	9	0	148	22
x-New York Jets	10-6-0		4-2-0	0-0-0	7-5-0	.400 (64)	.469 (120)	16	24	0	21	1
Buffalo	7-9-0		3-3-0	0-0-0	5-7-0	.446 (50)	.574 (147)	20	33	0	-11	-2
Miami	6-10-0		1-5-0	0-0-0	3-9-0	.531 (51)	.543 (139)	18	34	0	-23	-5
AFC North												
Team	Overall Record	Head to Head	Division Record	Common Games Record	Conf Record	Strength of Victory (Wins)	Strength of Schedule (Wins)	Conf PF + PA Rank	Overall PF + PA Rank	Common Game Net Pts	Overall Net Pts	TD
yz-Baltimore	13-3-0		5-1-0	0-0-0	10-2-0	.447 (93)	.461 (118)	7	13	0	152	17
Cincinnati	8-8-0	1	4-2-0	0-0-0	6-6-0	.453 (58)	.535 (137)	15	25	0	42	3
Pittsburgh	8-8-0	1	3-3-0	0-0-0	5-7-0	.414 (53)	.496 (127)	15	23	0	38	6
Cleveland	4-12-0		0-6-0	0-0-0	3-9-0	.438 (28)	.535 (137)	28	52	0	-118	15
AFC South												
Team	Overall Record	Head to Head	Division Record	Common Games Record	Conf Record	Strength of Victory (Wins)	Strength of Schedule (Wins)	Conf PF + PA Rank	Overall PF + PA Rank	Common Game Net Pts	Overall Net Pts	TD
y-Indianapolis	12-4-0		3-3-0	0-0-0	9-3-0	.505 (97)	.500 (128)	16	25	0	67	9
Tennessee	8-8-0	1	4-2-0	0-0-0	5-7-0	.484 (62)	.570 (146)	25	47	0	-76	10
Jacksonville	8-8-0	1	2-4-0	0-0-0	5-7-0	.555 (71)	.531	8	13	0	97	10

							(136)						
Houston	6-10-0		3-3-0	0-0-0	6-6-0	.417 (40)	.504 (129)	28	53	0	-99	-	12
AFC West													
Team	Overall Record	Head to Head	Division Record	Common Games Record	Conf Record	Strength of Victory (Wins)	Strength of Schedule (Wins)	Conf PF + PA Rank	Overall PF + PA Rank	Common Game Net Pts	Overall Net Pts		TD
*yz-San Diego	14-2-0		5-1-0	0-0-0	10-2-0	.424 (95)	.457 (117)	7	8	0	189		26
x-Kansas City	9-7-0	1	4-2-0	0-0-0	5-7-0	.444 (64)	.492 (126)	17	26	0	16		3
Denver	9-7-0	1	3-3-0	0-0-0	8-4-0	.438 (63)	.531 (136)	17	25	0	14		5
Oakland	2-14-0		0-6-0	0-0-0	1-11-0	.406 (13)	.555 (142)	28	50	0	-164		18

2006 NFC Division Standings

NFC East													
Team	Overall Record	Head to Head	Division Record	Common Games Record	Conf Record	Strength of Victory (Wins)	Strength of Schedule (Wins)	Conf PF + PA Rank	Overall PF + PA Rank	Common Game Net Pts	Overall Net Pts		TD
y-Philadelphia	10-6-0		5-1-0	0-0-0	9-3-0	.450 (72)	.477 (122)	9	21	0	70		13
x-Dallas	9-7-0		2-4-0	0-0-0	6-6-0	.438 (63)	.457 (117)	10	24	0	75		12
x-New York Giants	8-8-0		4-2-0	0-0-0	7-5-0	.422 (54)	.520 (133)	16	35	0	-7		-1
Washington	5-11-0		1-5-0	0-0-0	3-9-0	.513 (41)	.512 (131)	21	47	0	-69		-7
NFC North													
Team	Overall Record	Head to Head	Division Record	Common Games Record	Conf Record	Strength of Victory (Wins)	Strength of Schedule (Wins)	Conf PF + PA Rank	Overall PF + PA Rank	Common Game Net Pts	Overall Net Pts		TD
*yz-Chicago	13-3-0		5-1-0	0-0-0	11-1-0	.404 (84)	.430 (110)	2	5	0	172		18
Green Bay	8-8-0		5-1-0	0-0-0	7-5-0	.383 (49)	.500 (128)	22	47	0	-65		-9
Minnesota	6-10-0		2-4-0	0-0-0	6-6-0	.344 (33)	.488 (125)	18	40	0	-45		0
Detroit	3-13-0		0-6-0	0-0-0	2-10-0	.479 (23)	.523 (134)	25	51	0	-93		-13
NFC South													
Team	Overall Record	Head to Head	Division Record	Common Games Record	Conf Record	Strength of Victory (Wins)	Strength of Schedule (Wins)	Conf PF + PA Rank	Overall PF + PA Rank	Common Game Net Pts	Overall Net Pts		TD
yz-New Orleans	10-6-0		4-2-0	0-0-0	9-3-0	.425 (68)	.461 (118)	6	18	0	91		9
Carolina	8-8-0		5-1-0	0-0-0	6-6-0	.469 (60)	.473 (121)	17	35	0	-35		-5
Atlanta	7-9-0		3-3-0	0-0-0	5-7-0	.375 (42)	.457 (117)	18	40	0	-36		-5
Tampa Bay	4-12-0		0-6-0	0-0-0	2-10-0	.422 (27)	.535 (137)	25	52	0	-142		18

NFC West												
Team	Overall Record	Head to Head	Division Record	Common Games Record	Conf Record	Strength of Victory (Wins)	Strength of Schedule (Wins)	Conf PF + PA Rank	Overall PF + PA Rank	Common Game Net Pts	Overall Net Pts	TD
y-Seattle	9-7-0		3-3-0	0-0-0	7-5-0	.382 (55)	.453 (116)	14	33	0	-6	-2
St. Louis	8-8-0		2-4-0	0-0-0	6-6-0	.352 (45)	.465 (119)	18	38	0	-14	-7
San Francisco	7-9-0		3-3-0	0-0-0	5-7-0	.411 (46)	.500 (128)	28	56	0	-114	16
Arizona	5-11-0		4-2-0	0-0-0	5-7-0	.425 (34)	.500 (128)	22	48	0	-75	-9

x-clinched playoff berth
 y-clinched division title
 z-clinched first-round bye
 *-clinched home-field advantage



AFC NEWS 'N' NOTES

FOR USE AS DESIRED
AFC-N-21 1/9/07

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
CONTACT: STEVE ALIC (212/450-2066)

INDIANAPOLIS AT BALTIMORE SATURDAY, NEW ENGLAND AT SAN DIEGO SUNDAY IN AFC DIVISIONAL PLAYOFFS

SATURDAY, JANUARY 13

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS–AFC SOUTH (13-4) AT BALTIMORE RAVENS–AFC NORTH (13-3)

SERIES

	COLTS	RAVENS
LEADER	4-2	
STREAKS	Past 3	
COACHES VS. OPP.	Dungy: 3-0	Billick: 1-3
COACHES PLAYOFF RECORD	6-8	5-2
VS. COMMON OPP.	Ind.: 4-1 (Buf. 1-0, Cin. 1-0, Den. 1-0, Ten. 1-1) Bal.: 3-2 (Buf. 1-0, Cin. 1-1, Den. 0-1, Ten. 1-0)	
PLAYOFF RECORD	14-16	5-2
LAST WEEK	W 23-8 vs. Chiefs	Bye (Wk. 17: 19-7 vs. Bills)
LAST GAME	9/11/05: Colts 24 at Ravens 7. Indianapolis QB Peyton Manning throws for 254 yards & 2 TDs. Colts LB Cato June has 30-yard INT-TD.	
LAST GAME AT SITE	9/11/05	
LAST PLAYOFF	--	
BROADCAST	CBS (4:30 PM ET): Greg Gumbel, Dan Dierdorf. Westwood One Radio: Marv Albert, Sam Wyche, John Dockery (Field reporter). SIRIUS: 124 (Westwood); 125 (Ind.); 123 (Bal.); 181 (Spanish).	

STAT LEADERS

PASSING	Manning: 362-557-4,397 (1C)-31 (1L)-9-101.0 (1L)	McNair: 295-468-3,050-16-12-82.5
RUSHING	Addai (R): 226-1,081-4.8-7	J. Lewis: 314-1,132-3.6-9
RECEIVING	Harrison: 95 (2C)-1,366 (2L)-14.4-12 (1C)	Heap (TE): 73-765-10.5-6
OFFENSE	379.4 (1C)	317.0
TAKE/GIVE	+7	+17 (1L)
DEFENSE	332.3	264.1 (1L)
SACKS	Mathis: 9.5	Pryce: 13.0
INTs	Harper, June: 3	McAlister: 6
PR	Wilkins: 9.2	Sams: 10.6
KOR	Wilkins: 24.5	Sams: 25.7
PUNTING	Smith: 44.4 (3C)	Koch (R): 43.0
KICKING	Vinatieri: 113 (38/38 PAT; 25/28 FG)	Stover: 121 (2C) (37/37 PAT; 28/30 FG)

NOTES

TEAMS MEET in playoffs for first time...Head coaches **TONY DUNGY** of Indianapolis & **BRIAN BILLICK** of Baltimore worked together as Minnesota Vikings coordinators. Dungy was team's defensive coordinator from 1992-95 & Billick was club's offensive coordinator from 1993-98.

COLTS: Team advances to Divisional Playoffs for 4th consecutive season. Club (12-4, 2006; 14-2, 2005; 12-4, 2004)

joins Dallas (1992-95) as only NFL teams to win 12+ games in 4 consecutive seasons...Head coach Dungy aims to join **HOFer MIKE DITKA & TOM FLORES** as 3rd person to win Super Bowl as player & head coach. Dungy has led his teams to playoffs in 8 consecutive seasons...In 5 career games vs. Bal, **QB PEYTON MANNING** has completed 125 of 199 (62.8 pct) for 1,454 yds w/ 9 TDs vs. 3 INTs for 93.7 passer rating. Manning has posted passer rating of 90.0+ in 3 consecutive meetings (all Colts wins). Manning completed 30 passes last week (30 of 38) for his single-game career-high playoff completions...In 1st playoff game last week, rookie **RB JOSEPH ADDAI** made 1st career start & rushed for 122 yds, 6th most by rookie rusher in 1st career playoff. Addai led team & all rookie rushers w/ 1,081 yds, averaging 4.8 yds per carry w/ 7 rush TDs...**WR MARVIN HARRISON** has 10+ TD catches in NFL-record 8 consecutive seasons. Harrison has 31 receptions in 6 career games vs. Ravens w/ TD catch in 3 of past 4 meetings. Manning & Harrison have combined for 106 TD receptions – most in NFL history by any tandem. **WR REGGIE WAYNE** has 16 catches in past 3 vs. Ravens. Wayne has 5 TD receptions in past 7 playoff games. **TE DALLAS CLARK** led Colts in rec. yds (103) & receptions (9) last week. Six of Clark's 9 catches last week resulted in 1st downs...Defense limited KC to 16 1st half total yds last week, fewest in playoff game since Chicago limited NE to -19 total yds in 1st half of SB XX. Last wk vs. KC, **DE DWIGHT FREENEY** notched 2.0 sacks & rookie **S ANTOINE BETHEA** recorded INT in 1st playoff game...**K ADAM VINATIERI** has made 29 playoff FGs, 2nd most in NFL postseason history (**GARY ANDERSON**, 32).

RAVENS: Team earned AFC North title with NFL's 2nd best record (13-3) after finishing 4th in division in '05. Ravens finished season winners of 9 of 10 games. Since 2000, Ravens are NFL-best 42-14 (.750) at home...Head coach Billick is 5-2 (.714) in playoffs. Team is 55-7 (.887) under Billick when leading at half...**QB STEVE MC NAIR** owns 92.9 passer rating in past 10 games with 11 TDs vs. 5 INTs. McNair has TD pass in 4 consecutive playoff games. McNair has 85.0+ passer rating in 6 of 7 career games vs. Colts. One of 4 QBs in NFL history w/ at least 3,500 rush yds (3,558) & 30,000 pass yds (30,191). McNair leads active QBs w/ 37 career rushing TDs...Team is 3-0 in playoffs when **RB JAMAL LEWIS** rushes for TD. Including playoffs, Ravens are 20-3 (.870) at home when Lewis has rushing TD...**TE TODD HEAP** (73), **WR DERRICK MASON** (68) & **WR MARK CLAYTON** (67) comprise 1 of 2 trios in 2006 to post 65+ catches apiece (StL)...Club topped NFL in turnover differential (+17)...In final 7 games, team allowed average of 9.1 points. In regular season, defense ranked No. 1 in NFL yds allowed (264.1), interceptions (28), 3rd down conversion attempts (28.8 pct; 60 of 208), and points allowed (12.6 per game). Club recorded NFL-best 6 defensive TDs in '06 & team was 5-0 in games which defense scored...**LB RAY LEWIS** led team in tackles (164) for 9th time in career. **S ED REED** has franchise-record 27 INTs in 5 seasons. Defense boasts 4 players w/ 9.5+ sacks: **DE TREVOR PRYCE** (13.0), **LB ADALUIS THOMAS** (11.0), **LB BART SCOTT** (9.5), & **LB TERRELL SUGGS** (9.5). Rookie **S DAWAN LANDRY** led all rookies w/ 5 INTs...**K MATT STOVER** is 17 of 18 (94.4 pct.) in FG tries at home on season. Rookie **P SAM KOCH** (12) tied for 2nd in NFL in punts inside 10-yd line.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 14

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS–AFC EAST (13-4) AT SAN DIEGO CHARGERS–AFC WEST (14-2)

SERIES

	PATRIOTS	CHARGERS
LEADER	17-13-2	
STREAKS	10 of past 12	
COACHES VS. OPP.	Belichick: 2-4	Schottenheimer: 7-1
COACHES PLAYOFF RECORD	12-2	5-12
VS. COMMON OPP.	NE: 4-1 (Buf. 2-0, Cin. 1-0, Den. 0-1, Ten. 1-0) SD: 5-0 (Buf. 1-0, Cin. 1-0, Den. 2-0, Ten. 1-0)	
PLAYOFF RECORD	18-11	7-12
LAST WEEK	W 37-16 vs. Jets	Bye (Wk. 17: W 27-20 vs. Cardinals)
LAST GAME	10/2/05: Chargers 41 at Patriots 17. San Diego snaps New England's 21-game home win streak. Chargers RB LaDainian Tomlinson rushes for 2 TDs.	
LAST GAME AT SITE	9/29/02: Chargers 21, Patriots 14. San Diego RB LaDainian Tomlinson has 217 rushing yards & 2 TDs, including decisive 58-yard TD in 3rd quarter.	
LAST PLAYOFF	1/5/63: Boston Patriots 10 at Chargers 51. San Diego totals 610 yards of offense en route to franchise's first AFL Championship.	
BROADCAST	CBS (1:30 PM PT): Jim Nantz, Phil Simms. Westwood One Radio: Dick Enberg, Bob Trumpy, Bonnie Bernstein (Field reporter). SIRIUS: 124 (Westwood); 125 (NE); 123 (SD); 181 (Spanish).	

STAT LEADERS

PASSING	Brady: 319-516-3,529 (3C)-24 (3C)-12-87.9	Rivers: 284-460-3,388-22-9-92.0
RUSHING	Dillon: 199-812-4.1-13 (T3C)	Tomlinson: 348-1,815 (1L)-5.2-28 (1L)
RECEIVING	Caldwell: 61-760-12.5-4	Gates (TE): 71-924-13.0-9
OFFENSE	335.6	365.0 (2C)
TAKE/GIVE	+8 (3C)	+13 (2C)
DEFENSE	294.4	301.6

SACKS	Colvin: 8.5	Merriman: 17.0 (1L)
INTs	Samuel: 10 (T1L)	Jammer: 4
PR	Faulk: 10.6	Parker: 8.9
KOR	Maroney @: 28.0 (2L)	Turner: 26.5
PUNTING	Sauerbrun: 40.8	Scifres: 41.9
KICKING	Gostkowski @: 103 (43/44 PAT; 20/26 FG)	Kaeding: 136 (1C) (58/58 PAT; 26/29 FG)

NOTES

PATRIOTS: Among NFL teams w/ at least 10 playoff games played, Patriots have 2nd best winning pct. Of .621 (18-11). Club is 15-0 all-time in playoffs with halftime lead...Head coach **BILL BELICHICK** is 12-2 (.857) in career playoff games, 2nd-best winning pct. All-time behind HOF coach **VINCE LOMBARDI** (9-1, .900). SB victory would tie Belichick w/ HOF coach **CHUCK NOLL** (4) for most in career...**QB TOM BRADY** is 11-1 (.917) in career playoff starts, including 3-0 in SB. Brady owns 1.25 playoff INT pct. (401-5) for lowest in NFL postseason history, min. 150 attempts. Including last wk vs. NYJ, Brady has 100+ passer rating in 5 of past 7 playoffs – all wins. Brady has TD pass in 10 consecutive playoff games, tied for 3rd-longest such streak in NFL history (**BRETT FAVRE**, 16; **HOFer DAN MARINO** 13; **HOFer JOE MONTANA** 10; **KEN STABLER** 10)...Since **RB COREY DILLON** joined NE in 2004, team is 35-8 (.814) in games he's played & 1-4 (.200) in games he's missed. Including 1 last wk vs. NYJ, Dillon has 3 postseason rushing TDs for NE, career franchise record is 5 (**CURTIS MARTIN**). **RB KEVIN FAULK** to play in 13th playoff game for most by Patriots RB in history. Rookie **RB-KR LAURENCE MARONEY** led team with 69 yards on 18 carries last wk...**WR RECHE CALDWELL** paced club w/ career-best 65 receptions. Caldwell was Charger from 2002-05. In 1st career playoff game, **WR JABAR GAFFNEY** caught 8 passes for 104 yds. Gaffney's regular-season highs were 3 catches & 65 yds... **LB TULLY BANTA-CAIN** posted 2.0 sacks last wk. **S RODNEY HARRISON** is only player in NFL history w/ 25+ sacks (28.5) & 30+ INTs. Harrison was Charger from 1994-2002 & twice an AFC All-Star ('98, '01). **CB ASANTE SAMUEL** (10) tied for NFL lead in INTs & has INT in 3 consecutive playoff games, 2 resulting in INT-TDs. Including playoffs, team is 14-1 (.933) when Samuel posts INT...In 1st career playoff last wk, rookie **K STEPHEN GOSTKOWSKI** was 3 of 3 in FG tries.

CHARGERS: Team is AFC's No. 1 seed for 3rd time (1979-80) & has won 10 games in row entering playoffs. Chargers are perfect 8-0 at home on season. Club posted NFL's best record (14-2), including 5-0 mark vs. 2005 playoff clubs...Head coach **MARTY SCHOTTENHEIMER** (205) is 1 of 5 coaches in NFL history w/ 200+ regular season wins. Schottenheimer has led his teams to playoffs 13 times, 3rd most in NFL history (**HOFer DON SHULA** 19; **HOFer TOM LANDRY** 18)...**QB PHILIP RIVERS** to make 1st postseason start. Rivers has posted 90+ passer rating in 6 of 8 home starts & led NFL in 4th qtr passer rating (116.6), completing 58 of 88 (65.9 pct.) for 798 yds w. 7 TDs vs. 1 INT...**RB LA DAINIAN TOMLINSON** established NFL record w/ 31 TDs in '06 & became 1st Charger to lead NFL in rushing for season (1,815) en route to NFL MVP Award. In last 10 games of season, Tomlinson scored 23 TDs (2 receiving). In those games, he notched 1,342 rush yds on 223 carries for 6.0-yd avg. Tomlinson scored at least 2 TDs in 8 of those 10 games...**RB LORENZO NEAL** (8 for 8), QB Rivers (5 for 5) & **RB MICHAEL TURNER** (4 for 4), were combined 17 for 17 on 3rd & 1 rush attempts for 1st downs...**WR KEENAN MC CARDELL** (152 w/ Jax) posted 3rd-most rec. yds vs. NE on 12/7/97 w/ 11 catches. **TE ANTONIO GATES** led NFL Tes in TD catches (9) & 25+ yd catches (10). Gates recorded 9+ TD catches in each of past 3 seasons...**G SCOTT MRUCZKOWSKI** is younger brother of Patriots **G GENE MRUCZKOWSKI**...**LB SHAWNE MERRIMAN** led NFL w/ 17.0 sacks & Chargers led league with 61 as team. Merriman has 11.5 sacks in past 6 games. **LB DONNIE EDWARDS** has INT in 3 of past 4 vs. NE, including 2 in row. Bolstered by **DT JAMAL WILLIAMS**, defense allowed 100.8 rush yds/game on season for 7th lowest figure on season.

#



NFC NEWS 'N' NOTES

FOR USE AS DESIRED
NFC-N-21 1/9/07

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
CONTACT: RANDALL LIU (212/450-2382)

PHILADELPHIA AT NEW ORLEANS SATURDAY, SEATTLE AT CHICAGO SUNDAY IN NFC DIVISIONAL PLAYOFFS

SATURDAY, JANUARY 13

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES–NFC EAST (11-6) AT NEW ORLEANS SAINTS–NFC SOUTH (10-6)

SERIES

	EAGLES	SAINTS
LEADER	14-9	
STREAKS	5 of past 6	
COACHES VS. OPP.	Reid: 2-1	Payton: 1-0
COACHES PLAYOFF RECORD	8-5	0-0
VS. COMMON OPP.	Phi.: 9-2 (Atl. 1-0, Car. 1-0, Dal. 2-0, GB 1-0, NYG 1-1, SF 1-0, TB 0-1, Was. 2-0) NO: 8-3 (Atl. 2-0, Car. 0-2, Dal. 1-0, GB 1-0, NYG 1-0, SF 1-0, TB 2-0, Was. 0-1)	
PLAYOFF RECORD	17-16	1-5
LAST WEEK	W 23-20 vs. Giants	Bye (Wk 17: L 21-31 vs. Panthers)
LAST GAME	10/15/06: Eagles 24 at Saints 27. New Orleans WR Joe Horn hauls in 6 passes for 110 yards, including 2 TDs. Saints K John Carney connects from 31 yards as time expires.	
LAST GAME AT SITE	10/15/06	
LAST PLAYOFF	1/3/93: Eagles 36 at Saints 20. Philadelphia scores 26 points in 4th quarter to rally past New Orleans for first playoff victory since 1980 NFC Championship game.	
BROADCAST	FOX (7:00 PM CT): Dick Stockton, Daryl Johnston, Tony Siragusa (Field reporter). Westwood One Radio: Dave Sims, Dan Reeves, Jeff Bostic (Field reporter). SIRIUS: 124 (Westwood); 125 (Phi.); 123 (NO); 181 (Spanish).	

STAT LEADERS

PASSING	Garcia: 116-188-1,309-10-2-95.8	Brees: 356-554-4,418 (1L)-26 (1C)-11-96.2 (1C)
RUSHING	Westbrook: 240-1,217-5.1-7	McAllister: 244-1,057-4.3-10 (3C)
RECEIVING	Westbrook (RB): 77-699-9.1-4	Bush (R) (RB): 88-742-8.4-2
OFFENSE	381.4 (2L)	391.5 (1L)
TAKE/GIVE	+5	-4
DEFENSE	328.1	307.3
SACKS	T. Cole: 8.0	W. Smith: 10.5
INTs	Dawkins: 4	4 tied: 2
PR	Mahe: 9.4	Bush (R): 7.7
KOR	Mahe: 22.2	Lewis: 24.7
PUNTING	D. Johnson: 42.6	Weatherford (R): 43.8
KICKING	Akers: 102 (48/48 PAT; 18/23 FG)	Carney: 115 (46/47 PAT; 23/25 FG)

NOTES

GAME FEATURES teams that went from worst to 1st. Both clubs finished last in division in 2005 & each won its division this season...Teams led NFL with most 20+ yard TDs (18) & 20+ yard passing TDs (16). Saints ranked 1st in NFL with 65 20+ yard passing plays & Eagles were 2nd with 63. Philadelphia had NFL-best 74 plays of 20+ yards & New Orleans tied for 2nd with 71.

EAGLES: Head coach **ANDY REID** has guided Eagles to postseason in 6 of 8 seasons, including 5 division titles. Has franchise-best 8 career playoff victories. Club has won past 4 Divisional Playoff games under Reid. Team has won 6 in row & finished regular season with 5-game winning streak, longest since 1949 when team won NFL Championship... Offense gained 6,103 yards this season, most in franchise history...Including playoffs, **QB JEFF GARCIA** has won 6 of 7 starts this year with 10 TDs vs. 2 INTs for 100.4 passer rating...**RB BRIAN WESTRBOOK** rushed for career-best 141 yards in WC game vs. NYG last week, 3rd-highest rushing total in Eagles playoff history. Had 49-yard TD run, longest TD run by Eagle in postseason. Ranked 4th in NFC with 1,916 scrimmage yards (1,217 rush, 699 rec.). Westbrook has 100+ scrimmage yards in past 4 playoff games (127.3 per game). Is 1st Eagle to post 1,000+ rush yards & 600+ receiving yards in season...**G SHAWN ANDREWS** selected to start in 1st Pro Bowl...**WR REGGIE BROWN** had 6 catches for 121 yards, including 60-yard TD in last game vs. NO. **WR DONTÉ STALLWORTH** was Saint from 2002-05 & had 195 receptions for 2,791 yards with 23 TDs in NO career. Averaged 19.1 yards per catch, 2nd-most in NFL (min. 25 catches). Had 28-yard TD catch last week. **WR HANK BASKETT** is only 2nd rookie in NFL history with 2 85+ yard TD catches in season (**BILLY HOWTON**, 1952)...Pro Bowl **S BRIAN DAWKINS** has 32 INTs with Eagles, most by active player with current team. Including playoffs, Eagles are 19-3 (.864) in past 22 when Dawkins has INT. Team was 5-0 this season when defense scored. Club had 4 INT-TDs – Pro Bowl **CB LITO SHEPPARD** (102 yards), **S MICHAEL LEWIS** (84), **CB SHELDON BROWN** (70) & **DE TRENT COLE** (19). **DE DARREN HOWARD** played 1st 6 seasons in NO (2000-05) & had 44.5 sacks as Saint...**K DAVID AKERS** had 38-yard game-winning FG as time expired last week, 3rd walk-off FG in 4th quarter in NFL postseason history.

SAINTS: Head coach **SEAN PAYTON** was named AP Coach of Year, guiding Saints to NFC South title & No. 2 seed in 1st season. Payton was Eagles QB coach from 1997-98. Club posted 9-3 (.750) mark in conference...All-Star **QB DREW BREES** set team record with 4,418 yards & 96.2 passer rating. Had 8 300-yard games, including 510-yard performance. In only postseason start (1/8/05 with SD), Brees completed 31 of 42 passes (73.8 pct.) for 319 yards with 2 TDs vs. 1 INT for 101.2 passer rating. In Week 6 meeting vs. Phi., Brees had 3 TDs & 275 passing yards...**RB DEUCE MC ALLISTER** led club with 1,057 yards, his 4th 1,000-yard season in past 5 years. In 2 career games vs. Eagles, McAllister has 248 rush yards & 2 TDs, including career-long 76-yard run. Rookie **RB REGGIE BUSH** had team-best 88 receptions, most in NFL history for rookie RB. Former Saint **CHAD MORTON** holds NFL record for most catches in postseason by rookie RB with 15. Bush recorded 2 100-yard receiving games & 100-yard rushing game in season's final month. **T JAMMAL BROWN** was selected to start in his 1st Pro Bowl...**WR MARQUES COLSTON** led team with 1,038 yards & is 1st player drafted in 7th round or later to record 1,000 yards in rookie season. Had team-best 8 TDs, including TD reception vs. Eagles in Week 6. **WR DEVERY HENDERSON** led NFL with 23.3 yards-per-catch avg. (32-745). **WR JOE HORN** had 6 catches for 110 yards & 2 TDs in last meeting...Pro Bowl **DE WILL SMITH** led team with career-best 10.5 sacks & had 0.5 sack in last game vs. Phi. **DE CHARLES GRANT** had 1.0 sack in last game vs. Eagles. Grant has recorded sack in 6 games this year & Saints have posted 6-0 mark. **CB MIKE MC KENZIE** had 6 passes defended, 1.0 sack & 2 FFs in last playoff game (1/11/04 with GB vs. Phi). **LB SCOTT FUJITA** had 1 INT & 0.5 sack in Week 6. His teams are 3-0 in career vs. Eagles. **DT BRIAN YOUNG** had 2.0 sacks in last postseason game (1/10/04 with StL)...**K JOHN CARNEY** kicked 31-yard game-winning FG vs. Phi. in Week 6 meeting.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 14

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS–NFC WEST (10-7) AT CHICAGO BEARS–NFC NORTH (13-3)

SERIES

	SEAHAWKS	BEARS
LEADER	6-3	
STREAKS	2 of past 3	
COACHES VS. OPP.	Holmgren: 14-3	Smith: 1-0
COACHES PLAYOFF RECORD	12-9	0-1
VS. COMMON OPP.	Sea.: 7-4 (Arz. 1-1, Det. 1-0, GB 1-0, Min. 0-1, NYG 1-0, StL. 2-0, SF 0-2, TB 1-0) Chi.: 10-1 (Arz. 1-0, Det. 2-0, GB 1-1, Min. 2-0, NYG 1-0, StL. 1-0, SF 1-0, TB 1-0)	
PLAYOFF RECORD	6-8	14-16
LAST WEEK	W 21-20 vs. Cowboys	Bye: (Wk. 17: L 26-7 vs. Packers)
LAST GAME	10/1/06: Seahawks 6 at Bears 37. Chicago QB Rex Grossman throws for 232 yards & 2 TDs. Bears CB Ricky Manning intercepts 2 Seattle passes.	
LAST GAME AT SITE	10/1/06	
LAST PLAYOFF	--	
BROADCAST	FOX (12:00 PM CT): Joe Buck, Troy Aikman, Pam Oliver (Field reporter). Westwood One Radio: Don Criqui, Kevin Kiley, Hub Arkush (Field reporter). SIRIUS: 124 (Westwood); 125 (Sea.); 123 (Chi.); 181 (Spanish).	

STAT LEADERS

PASSING	Hasselbeck: 210-371-2,442-18-15-76.0	Grossman: 262-480-3,193-23-20-73.9
RUSHING	Alexander: 252-896-3.6-7	Jones: 296-1,210-4.1-6

RECEIVING	Jackson: 63-956-15.2-10 (T2C)	Muhammad: 60-863-14.4-5
OFFENSE	311.1	324.9
TAKE/GIVE	-8	+8 (2C)
DEFENSE	330.3	294.1 (1C)
SACKS	Peterson: 10.0	Anderson (R): 12.0
INTs	Hamlin: 3	R. Manning, Tillman: 5
PR	Burleson: 9.5	Hester (R): 12.8 (1C)
KOR	Burleson: 24.7	Hester (R): 26.4 (1C)
PUNTING	Plackemeier (R): 45.0 (3C)	Maynard: 44.2
KICKING	Brown: 111 (36/36 PAT; 25/31 FG)	Gould: 143 (1L) (47/47 PAT; 32/36 FG)

NOTES

TEAMS MEET for 1st time in postseason...Game features NFC's top 2 teams in wins over past 2 seasons (including playoffs). Seahawks have won 25 games & Bears have 24 victories.

SEAHAWKS: Head coach **MIKE HOLMGREN** has 12 postseason wins, tied for 5th-most in NFL annals. Has guided his teams to 7 division titles, including 3 in row with Seattle. In career, Holmgren has 14-3 (.824) record vs. Bears...Team's 21-20 WC win last week over Dal. was only 15th postseason game in NFL history decided by 1 point...**QB MATT HASSELBECK** has 8 TDs in 5 career playoff starts, including 2 300-yard games. Owns 2.20 INT pct. (5 INTs in 227 attempts) in postseason...**RB SHAUN ALEXANDER** has 296 rush yards (98.7 per game) & 2 TDs in past 3 playoff games. Has scored 107 TDs in 106 career regular-season games & is 1 of 4 players in NFL history to average 1.0+ TDs per game. In only game vs. Bears, Alexander rushed for 101 yards & 2 TDs...**T WALTER JONES** earned 7th Pro Bowl selection & has been named to past 6...**WR DARRELL JACKSON** has TD catch in 3 of past 5 postseason games. Including playoffs, **WR DEION BRANCH**'s teams are 16-3 (.842) when he has TD reception. Branch has 4 100-yard receiving games in postseason career & can tie HOFer **JOHN STALLWORTH & ANDRE REED** (5) for 3rd in NFL history. **TE JERRAMY STEVENS** had 5 catches for 77 yards & 2 TDs in last week's WC win over Dallas. Aims for 4th consecutive playoff game with TD. **WR BOBBY ENGRAM** led club with 88 receiving yards on 4 catches last week. Was Bear from 1996-2000 & recorded 246 catches for 2,831 yards with 17 TDs...**LBs JULIAN PETERSON** (3rd) & **LOFA TATUPU** (2nd) were selected to represent Seattle in Pro Bowl. Peterson led club with career-best 10.0 sacks. **CB KELLY HERNDON** has 2 career postseason INTs, including Super Bowl record 76-yard INT return (SB XL). **S MICHAEL BOULWARE** has INT in 2 of past 3 playoff games. **DE GRANT WISTROM** has 5.0 career postseason sacks. **DE BRYCE FISHER** had 2.0 sacks last week. Including postseason, Seahawks have won 10 of past 11 when Fisher has 1.0+ sack.

BEARS: Team has won 9 NFL championships, most among 2006 playoff participants. Club makes 24th postseason appearance, tied for 4th-most in NFL history. Head coach **LOVIE SMITH** has guided team to wins in 23 of past 28 games. Smith is 1st head coach to lead Bears to consecutive division titles since **MIKE DITKA**. Club posted 11-1 (.916) conference record this season...Team placed NFC-best 7 players on Pro Bowl team, most by franchise since club had 7 All-Stars in 1986: **ST BRENDON AYANBADEJO** (1st), **LB LANCE BRIGGS** (2nd), **K ROBBIE GOULD** (1st), **DT TOMMIE HARRIS** (2nd), rookie **CB-KR-PR DEVIN HESTER** (1st), **C OLIN KREUTZ** (6th) & **LB BRIAN URLACHER** (6th)...**QB REX GROSSMAN** has won 17 of 1st 23 career starts & is 14-3 (.824) in past 17...**RB THOMAS JONES** led club with 1,210 yards, his 2nd consecutive 1,200-yard season. Is 1st Bear since HOFer **WALTER PAYTON** to post back-to-back 1,200-yard seasons. In past 15 when Jones has more than 20 attempts, club is 14-1 (.933). Jones had 24 carries for 98 yards & 2 TDs in last meeting. Rushed for career-high 173 yards vs. Sea. (9/15/02 with Ari.)...**WR BERNARD BERRIAN** averages 33.6 yards per TD catch in his career (8 TDs, 269 yards), incl. 4 for 40+ yards. Had 40-yard TD & 108 yards in Week 4 meeting. **WR MUHSIN MUHAMMAD** has 2 100-yard games in postseason career. Has 3 TDs in past 2 vs. Seahawks. LB Urlacher aims for 3rd consecutive playoff game with sack or INT. Is 1st Bear LB since HOFer **MIKE SINGLETARY** (10) to be named to 6 Pro Bowls. **DE MARK ANDERSON** led rookies with 12.0 sacks & set club rookie record. Had 2.0 sacks in last meeting. CB-KR-PR Hester set NFL record with 6 return TDs in season, including 106-yard return of missed field goal to tie longest play in NFL history. **CB RICKY MANNING JR.** had 3 INTs in 2003 NFC Championship Game (with Car.) & is 1 of only 8 players in NFL history to record 3+ INTs in playoff game. Had 2 INTs in last meeting. K Gould set team record with 32 FGs, converting 88.9 pct. & leading NFL with 143 points.

#