



PRESEASON'S IN FULL TILT AS ALL CLUBS SEE ACTION; CARDINALS OPEN NEW STADIUM VS. SUPER BOWL CHAMP STEELERS

Everybody's playing!

All 32 NFL clubs will hit the field this week as the first full slate of NFL preseason action takes place.

New coaches will debut. So will players with new teams. And so will "One of the World's 10 Most Impressive Sports Structures."

That structure is Cardinals Stadium in Glendale, Arizona, the new 63,400-seat home of the Arizona Cardinals. The ultra-modern facility, equipped with a retractable dome and field, was recently termed "One of the World's 10 Most Impressive Sports Structures" by *BusinessWeek*.

It will debut with an impressive game – the hometown Cards, featuring one of the offseason's most notable player acquisitions in running back **EDGERRIN JAMES**, against the Pittsburgh Steelers, who are prepping to launch the defense of their Super Bowl XL crown.

Kickoff will come at an unusual summer time for the Cardinals in the desert – 1:00 PM MT. "With the air conditioning at Cardinals Stadium, we are able to do a lot of things that we couldn't do previously," says Cardinals Vice President and General Counsel **MICHAEL BIDWILL**. "We couldn't think of a better team to open against in our new home."

Four of the week's games will be on national television:

- **INDIANAPOLIS at ST. LOUIS (Thursday, FOX, 8:00 PM ET)**: Two dome teams known for high-powered offense clash.

A new face on the Colts who can add to their scoring production will be quite familiar to the Rams. New Indy kicker **ADAM VINATIERI** boomed a 48-yard field goal on the final play of the game to lift the New England Patriots over the Rams in Super Bowl XXXVI (20-17). The Colts will start to see if **DOMINIC RHODES** can be their main back to replace the Cards' James.

For St. Louis, **SCOTT LINEHAN** will make his NFL head-coaching debut after helping the Miami Dolphins last season jump from 29th to 14th place in NFL offense in his lone year there as offensive coordinator as the team won its final six games.

- **NEW ENGLAND at ATLANTA (Friday, CBS, 8:00 PM ET)**: Two of the NFL's top QBs square off.

TOM BRADY leads the AFC East champion Patriots into Atlanta to face the Falcons and **QB MICHAEL VICK**. Atlanta spent a good part of its offseason upgrading its defense by acquiring such players as former Jets end **JOHN ABRAHAM** and ex-Patriots and Bills safety **LAWYER MILLOY**.

The Pats will get to see their first-round draft choice in game action for the first time – **LAURENCE MARONEY**, who some draft experts compare to Seattle's **SHAUN ALEXANDER** for his quickness and running style.

- **WASHINGTON at CINCINNATI (NBC, Sunday, 8:00 PM ET)**: Let's go back *this* year!

Two 2005 playoff teams meet. It will be the debut of a host of new Redskins, highlighted by the man who threw that surprising touchdown pass in Super Bowl XL, wide receiver **ANTWAAN RANDLE EL**. Joining him in D.C. is **ANDRE CARTER** from San Francisco, who will move from outside linebacker this year to his desired position of defensive end.

Division-winner Cincinnati is coming off its best season (11-5) in 18 years (12-4, 1988) and is watching closely the recuperation of the man who played a big role in that finish – quarterback **CARSON PALMER** (knee), who threw a TD pass in a scrimmage last Friday. Seeing their first action for Cincy are two veteran stalwarts who the club hopes can solidify its defense – tackle **SAM ADAMS** and safety **DEXTER JACKSON**.

- **OAKLAND at MINNESOTA (ESPN, 8:00 PM ET):** It's the debut of *Monday Night Football* on ESPN.

Calling the game for the first time as a broadcast team will be **MIKE TIRICO**, **JOE THEISMANN** and **TONY KORNHEISER**.

Oakland, under new quarterback **AARON BROOKS**, comes off a 16-10 victory over Philadelphia on Sunday night in the Pro Football Hall of Fame Game. The Raiders forced five turnovers. "We are reacting to the ball," said **ART SHELL**, who returns as the team's head coach after a 12-year span. "Getting a win is huge, because everybody wants to win."

Making their first appearance for the Vikings will be new head coach **BRAD CHILDRESS** and Pro Bowl guard **STEVE HUTCHINSON**. Metrodome fans will see a familiar face. The second-leading receiver in Vikings history (574 catches), the Raiders' **RANDY MOSS**, will make his debut against his former team. Minnesota will introduce its new uniforms.

- **OTHER INTERESTING GAMES THIS WEEK: TWO OF THE YOUNGEST COACHES** in the NFL meet when new New York Jets head coach **ERIC MANGINI** (at 35, the youngest coach in the league) meets "oldtimer" **JON GRUDEN** (42) and his Buccaneers (Friday in Tampa Bay).....**NO. 2 2006 OVERALL DRAFT CHOICE REGGIE BUSH** sees his first action at RB for New Orleans as the No. 3 pick, **QB VINCE YOUNG**, debuts for Tennessee (Saturday at Tennessee).....**THE '05 NFC CHAMPION SEAHAWKS**, with newcomers on offense (**WR NATE BURLESON**) and defense (**LB JULIAN PETERSON**) face the Cowboys with Washington-state product **DREW BLEDSOE** at QB (Saturday at Seattle).....and **BRETT FAVRE AND THE PACKERS** begin the **MIKE MC CARTHY** West Coast era against the Chargers, with **PHILIP RIVERS** taking over at QB (Saturday at San Diego).

As part of all this action, NFL Network this Saturday will offer six live "whip-around" games on its *No Huddle* show at 7:00 PM ET. Fans will be able to see key action live as the network whips-around from game to game.

The whip-around games: Buffalo at Carolina; Jacksonville at Miami; Kansas City at Houston; New Orleans at Tennessee; Dallas at Seattle; and Green Bay at San Diego.

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LAST WEEK'S NFL RESULT

Sunday, August 6

Oakland 16, Philadelphia 10 – Canton, Ohio

<u>AMERICAN FOOTBALL CONFERENCE</u>							<u>NATIONAL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE</u>						
<u>East Division</u>							<u>East Division</u>						
	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP		W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
Buffalo	0	0	0	.000	0	0	Dallas	0	0	0	.000	0	0
New England	0	0	0	.000	0	0	N.Y. Giants	0	0	0	.000	0	0
N.Y. Jets	0	0	0	.000	0	0	Philadelphia	0	1	0	.000	10	16
Miami	0	0	0	.000	0	0	Washington	0	0	0	.000	0	0
<u>North Division</u>							<u>North Division</u>						
	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP		W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
Baltimore	0	0	0	.000	0	0	Chicago	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Cincinnati	0	0	0	.000	0	0	Detroit	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Cleveland	0	0	0	.000	0	0	Green Bay	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Pittsburgh	0	0	0	.000	0	0	Minnesota	0	0	0	.000	0	0
<u>South Division</u>							<u>South Division</u>						
	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP		W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
Houston	0	0	0	.000	0	0	Atlanta	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Indianapolis	0	0	0	.000	0	0	Carolina	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Jacksonville	0	0	0	.000	0	0	New Orleans	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Tennessee	0	0	0	.000	0	0	Tampa Bay	0	0	0	.000	0	0
<u>West Division</u>							<u>West Division</u>						
	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP		W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
Oakland	1	0	0	1.000	16	10	Arizona	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Denver	0	0	0	.000	0	0	St. Louis	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Kansas City	0	0	0	.000	0	0	San Francisco	0	0	0	.000	0	0
San Diego	0	0	0	.000	0	0	Seattle	0	0	0	.000	0	0

THIS WEEK'S NFL SCHEDULE (AUGUST 17-21)

(All times local)

Thursday, August 17

Kansas City at N.Y. Giants, 8:00 (FOX)

Philadelphia at Baltimore, 8:00

Friday, August 18

San Diego at Chicago, 7:00 (CBS)

Cincinnati at Buffalo, 7:00

Saturday, August 19

Detroit at Cleveland, 7:30

Arizona at New England, 8:00 (NFLN)

Carolina at Jacksonville, 7:30

Miami at Tampa Bay, 7:30

Atlanta at Green Bay, 7:00

Saturday, August 19, Cont'd.

Houston at St. Louis, 7:00

Minnesota at Pittsburgh, 8:00

N.Y. Jets at Washington, 8:00

Tennessee at Denver, 7:00

Sunday, August 20

Seattle at Indianapolis, 8:00 (NBC)

San Francisco at Oakland, 5:00

Monday, August 21

Dallas at New Orleans (Shreveport), 7:00 (ESPN)