



SAINTS ON THE WAY BACK: **MEET COWBOYS IN SHREVEPORT ON NATIONAL TV;** **FIVE GAMES NATIONALLY TELEVISED**

Next Monday -- Shreveport. A month later -- New Orleans!

After an arduous, emotional journey, the New Orleans Saints this week take a significant step in returning to their home city.

Sporting a new jersey patch that outlines their home state, the Saints on Monday will play in Shreveport, Louisiana – 337 miles northwest of New Orleans. On Monday, September 25, also a Monday night, they will finally return home to the Louisiana Superdome for the first time since last August when they take on the Atlanta Falcons in Week 3 of the NFL season.

Both games will be televised by ESPN. This Monday (8:00 PM ET), the Saints -- with notable additions such as quarterback **DREW BREES** and running back **REGGIE BUSH** (59 yards on six rushes last Saturday night) – will host the Dallas Cowboys at Shreveport's Independence Stadium.

"We are excited to return to Shreveport because of the passion of the area's fans for NFL football," says Saints owner **TOM BENSON**. "It's part of our ongoing effort to make the Saints an important part of every community in the region."

The Saints-Cowboys' meeting is one of five nationally televised Week 2 preseason games:

- **KANSAS CITY at NEW YORK GIANTS (Thursday, FOX, 8:00 PM ET):** Herm's back!

New Kansas City head coach **HERM EDWARDS** – who, in the 25th year of the NFL Minority Coaching Fellowship Program, becomes the first man to coach the team where he interned – returns to Giants Stadium.

Native New Jersean Edwards coached the Jets for five years (2001-05) at the Meadowlands, leading them to the playoffs in three seasons.

Two of the top three running backs in the NFL last season will be on display – New York's **TIKI BARBER** (No. 2 with 1,860 rush yards) and Kansas City's **LARRY JOHNSON** (1,750). Giants' 10-year NFL quarterback **ROB JOHNSON** is scheduled to see his first NFL action in three seasons.

- **SAN DIEGO at CHICAGO (Friday, CBS, 8:00 PM ET):** One first-round quarterback has a lock on the job. The other may.

San Diego's **PHILIP RIVERS** – the No. 4 overall selection in the 2004 draft -- backed up Drew Brees for two seasons, but now takes over as the starter. Last Saturday night, he completed 15 of 21 attempts for 169 yards with two scoring drives in the first half against Green Bay. "He was standing in the pocket, stepping into his passes like he's been doing his whole life," said Chargers wide receiver **KEENAN MC CARDELL**.

Chicago's **REX GROSSMAN** -- No. 22 overall in 2003 -- is penciled in as the Bears' starter after returning last season from injury to help Chicago to the playoffs. But after last Friday night, he might

have competition. The team signed nine-year veteran **BRIAN GRIESE** as QB insurance in the offseason, and he proceeded to take the Bears to their lone scores in a 28-14 loss to San Francisco. "I want to show the team this preseason that I can lead them down the field and score," said Griese.

- **ARIZONA at NEW ENGLAND (Saturday, NFL Network, 8:00 PM ET):** You look familiar!

The Patriots host the Cardinals and a player they know well – new Arizona running back **EDGERRIN JAMES**. New England faced James in the old AFC Eastern Division and in 2003-04 playoff games as he became Indianapolis' all-time rushing yards (9,226) and rush-TD (64) leader.

"It's a great situation," says James of his new team. "It's the Cardinals' time right now to turn the program around."

This will be the first time that the Super Bowl XXXVI quarterbacks – the Pats' **TOM BRADY** and Cards' **KURT WARNER** – have met in preseason or regular season since that game (a 20-17 New England win over St. Louis).

The matchup is part of 349 hours of preseason-game coverage this summer by NFL Network, up 30 percent from the 268 hours it aired in 2005.

- **SEATTLE at INDIANAPOLIS (Sunday, NBC, 8:00 PM ET):** The history-makers meet again.

Last December 24, these teams met in Seattle with the most combined wins (25: Indy, 13; Seattle, 12) of any two opponents in a regular-season game in history.

What happened? The Seahawks, in a 28-13 victory, scored on three of their first five possessions and NFL MVP **SHAUN ALEXANDER** totaled three scores overall on the way to his NFL record-setting TD season (28).

The quarterbacks Sunday – each of their teams held homefield advantage throughout the playoffs – ranked No. 1 in their conference in passer rating (Colts' **PEYTON MANNING**, 104.1; Seahawks' **MATT HASSELBECK**, 98.2).

- **OTHER INTERESTING GAMES THIS WEEK: JAGUARS & PANTHERS** ('95 expansion brethren) renew their preseason rivalry (they played in six of their first seven seasons; Jags lead, 4-2). Each club wants to improve on their '05 playoff seasons and top-10 defensive rankings of last year (Saturday in Jacksonville).....**A QUARTERBACK DUO** will be featured when the Dolphins travel upstate to Tampa. New Miami QB **DAUNTE CULPEPPER** (who has not missed a training camp practice) saw game action Saturday in testing his repaired knee. Tampa Bay's **CHRIS SIMMS** will keep prepping for his first season as a starter (Saturday in Tampa Bay).....**TWO '06 FIRST-ROUND QBs MEET** when the Titans' **VINCE YOUNG** (No. 3) faces the Broncos' **JAY CUTLER** (No. 11; 16-for-22, 192 yards, 1 TD last Friday night at Detroit) (Saturday in Denver).....**IN THEIR FIRST MEETING** since they were traded for each other in March of '05, wideouts **LAVERANUES COLES** of the Jets matches up with **SANTANA MOSS** of the Redskins (Saturday in Washington).....and the **ANNUAL PRESEASON BATTLE OF THE BAY** takes place when the Raiders clash with the 49ers. Niners have won four of the past six preseason bay matchups (Sunday in Oakland).

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LAST WEEK'S NFL RESULTS

(Home team in CAPS)

Thursday, August 10

ST. LOUIS 19, Indianapolis 17
PHILADELPHIA 20, Cleveland 7

Friday, August 11

ATLANTA 26, New England 23
DETROIT 20, Denver 13
TAMPA BAY 16, N.Y. Jets 3
N.Y. Giants 17, BALTIMORE 16
SAN FRANCISCO 28, Chicago 14

Saturday, August 12

ARIZONA 21, Pittsburgh 13
CAROLINA 14, Buffalo 13

Saturday, August 12 cont'd.

Jacksonville 31, MIAMI 26
HOUSTON 24, Kansas City 14
New Orleans 19, TENNESSEE 16
Dallas 13, SEATTLE 3
SAN DIEGO 17, Green Bay 3

Sunday, August 13

CINCINNATI 19, Washington 3

Monday, August 14

Oakland 16, MINNESOTA 13

<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	1	0	.000	13	14	Dallas	1	0	0	1.000	13	3
Miami	0	1	0	.000	26	31	N.Y. Giants	1	0	0	1.000	17	16
New England	0	1	0	.000	23	26	Philadelphia	1	1	0	.500	30	23
N.Y. Jets	0	1	0	.000	3	16	Washington	0	1	0	.000	3	19
<u>North Division</u>							<u>North Division</u>						
	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP		W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
Cincinnati	1	0	0	1.000	19	3	Detroit	1	0	0	1.000	20	13
Baltimore	0	1	0	.000	16	17	Chicago	0	1	0	.000	14	28
Cleveland	0	1	0	.000	7	20	Green Bay	0	1	0	.000	3	17
Pittsburgh	0	1	0	.000	13	21	Minnesota	0	1	0	.000	13	16
<u>South Division</u>							<u>South Division</u>						
	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP		W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
Houston	1	0	0	1.000	24	14	Atlanta	1	0	0	1.000	26	23
Jacksonville	1	0	0	1.000	31	26	Carolina	1	0	0	1.000	14	13
Indianapolis	0	1	0	.000	17	19	New Orleans	1	0	0	1.000	19	16
Tennessee	0	1	0	.000	16	19	Tampa Bay	1	0	0	1.000	16	3
<u>West Division</u>							<u>West Division</u>						
	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP		W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
Oakland	2	0	0	1.000	32	23	Arizona	1	0	0	1.000	21	13
San Diego	1	0	0	1.000	17	3	St. Louis	1	0	0	1.000	19	17
Denver	0	1	0	.000	13	20	San Francisco	1	0	0	1.000	28	14
Kansas City	0	1	0	.000	14	24	Seattle	0	1	0	.000	3	13

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
Detroit at Cleveland, 7:30

Saturday, August 19

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 (at Shreveport), 7:00 (ESPN)

