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ELITE WIDE RECEIVERS TO BE SHOWCASED IN CAROLINA

2,627 receptions. 37,893 yards. 227 touchdowns.

Those are the combined career receiving totals for St. Louis' **ISAAC BRUCE** and **TORRY HOLT** and Carolina's **KEYSHAWN JOHNSON** and **STEVE SMITH**. The spotlight will be shining on them at Bank of America Stadium this Sunday when the Panthers host the Rams.

The scoreboard may indeed be lit up.

Bruce, a 13-year veteran, ranks in the top 10 all-time in both receptions (855) and receiving yards (12,898).

Holt reached 10,000 receiving yards the fastest in history this year, accomplishing the feat in 116 games. For his career, Holt averages 85.6 yards per game, the highest mark in NFL annals (min. 50 games).

Johnson, the No. 1 overall draft pick by the New York Jets in 1996, has a catch in every game he's played (160). His current streak of 160 consecutive games with a catch is the second longest active stretch in the NFL.

Smith led or tied for the lead in receptions (103), yards (1,563) and touchdowns (12) last year, joining **JERRY RICE** (1990) and **STERLING SHARPE** (1992) as the only players since 1970 to lead the league in all three receiving categories in a single season. Smith leads the NFL this year with a 111.4 receiving yards per game average.

St. Louis wide receivers coach **HENRY ELLARD** knows talent at the position when he sees it. Ellard, in his sixth year as the position coach for the Rams, played 16 seasons in the NFL, amassing 13,777 receiving yards, the fifth-most in history.

Following is Ellard's take on each of the four wide receivers:

Rams WR Isaac Bruce: "Isaac is a true competitor. He's going to do whatever he can to make sure he puts himself in the best situation to win. He studies a lot of tape and he's so savvy that he knows how to create space for himself.

"He's very intense in his route-running. He's probably the quickest route-runner in the game, as far as getting in and getting out of his breaks. He doesn't mind a defender being in his hip pocket at the top of a route, because he knows he's going to create space just from the change of direction, that transition at the top of a route. Not many people can do that."

Rams WR Torry Holt: "Torry has the best hands I've seen in a while. Strong, but soft hands. It's something that you don't see very often. He's very special. It just amazes me watching him catch the ball.

"His acceleration and his speed off the line of scrimmage, without any wasted movement, is excellent. He has the incredible ability to change direction at the top of a route without giving anything away.

"But it all starts with Torry's hands. If it's anywhere near him, he's going to catch it. When I first got here, I told him he should never drop a ball. His hands are just that good. He's human, so of course it happens, but for the most part, with the tough catches, he's going to be one of the guys that comes up with it."

Panthers WR Keyshawn Johnson: "Keyshawn is a big guy who's been playing in this league for a long time.

"He has done a great job of understanding the game, knowing how to put himself in position by using his big body. He understands how to post up a defender to make a big catch, and he's done it consistently. When you have a guy that big, he makes the defensive backs work around him. He's really good at shooting guys off him and making plays."

Panthers WR Steve Smith: "I loved Steve coming out of college (Utah). He's just tough. For a little guy, he's very tough and very explosive.

"Steve is the kind of player that is going to do whatever he can. He's a little guy with a chip on his shoulder, and that's the way he plays. He plays like he's a tall receiver and doesn't back down from anything, and he's going to always find a way to make a play."