



FOR USE AS DESIRED
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PRESS BOX NOTES – AFC CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

RETURN ENGAGEMENT: For the 11th time since 1990 when the NFL went to the 12-team playoff format, teams that met at least once during the regular season will meet in the AFC Championship Game when the New England Patriots face the Indianapolis Colts. If Indianapolis defeats New England, it will mark the seventh time that the team that won the regular season meeting(s) won the AFC Championship.

AFC Championship Games that were rematches of regular-season meetings:

SEASON	SEASON WINNER	SEASON LOSER	CHAMP. GAME RESULT
1990	Buffalo	L.A. Raiders	Buffalo, 51-3
1992	Buffalo/Miami *	Buffalo/Miami *	Buffalo, 29-10
1993	Kansas City	Buffalo	Buffalo, 30-13
1994	San Diego	Pittsburgh	San Diego, 17-13
1996	New England	Jacksonville	New England, 20-6
1997	Pittsburgh	Denver	Denver, 24-21
1999	Tennessee **	Jacksonville	Tennessee, 33-14
2002	Oakland	Tennessee	Oakland, 41-24
2003	New England	Indianapolis	New England, 24-14
2004	Pittsburgh	New England	New England, 41-27
2006	Indianapolis	New England	???

* Met twice during season. Teams split; ** Met twice during season. Tennessee won both games.

COLTS STRIVE TOWARDS PERFECT 10 AT HOME: The Colts are 9-0 at the RCA Dome this season, including their Wild Card victory over Kansas City. Indianapolis can become the 10th team in history to post a 10-0 home season.

Of the nine teams to accomplish the feat, seven won the Super Bowl. The nine teams that have gone 10-0 at home in a season:

TEAM	YEAR	SUPER BOWL RESULT
Pittsburgh Steelers	1979	Defeated Los Angeles Rams, 31-19
Chicago Bears	1985	Defeated New England, 46-10
New York Giants	1986	Defeated Denver, 39-20
Cincinnati Bengals	1988	Lost to San Francisco, 20-16
Buffalo Bills	1990	Lost to New York Giants, 20-19
Green Bay Packers	1996	Defeated New England, 35-21
Denver Broncos	1998	Defeated Atlanta, 34-19
St. Louis Rams	1999	Defeated Tennessee, 23-16
New England Patriots	2003	Defeated Carolina, 32-29

IT'S A TEAM SPORT: The Patriots have reached the conference championship game without a 1,000-yard rusher or receiver. They are attempting to become the first such team to advance to the Super Bowl since the 2003 Patriots.

The last six teams to reach a conference championship game without a 1,000-yard rusher or receiver:

YEAR	TEAM	FINISH
2003	New England Patriots	Won Super Bowl XXXVIII
2003	Philadelphia Eagles	Lost in the NFC Championship Game
2001	Philadelphia Eagles	Lost in the NFC Championship Game
1999	Tampa Bay Buccaneers	Lost in the NFC Championship Game
1996	Green Bay Packers	Won Super Bowl XXXI
2006	New England Patriots	???

GRAND TANDEM: The Colts are the sixth team since 1980 to advance to their conference championship game with a 4,000-yard passer, two 1,000-yard receivers and a 1,000-yard rusher. They will attempt to become the first such team to reach the Super Bowl since the 2001 St. Louis Rams.

The teams since 1980 to play in a conference championship game with a 4,000-yard passer, two 1,000-yard receivers, and a 1,000-yard rusher:

YEAR	TEAM	PLAYERS	FINISH
2001	St. Louis Rams	Warner (4,830), Holt (1,363), Bruce (1,106), Faulk (1,382)	Lost Super Bowl XXXVI
1999	St. Louis Rams	Warner (4,353), Bruce (1,165), Faulk (1,048), Faulk (1,381)	Won Super Bowl XXXIV
1989	Los Angeles Rams	Everett (4,310), Ellard (1,382), Anderson (1,146), Bell (1,137)	Lost NFC Championship Game
1986	Washington Redskins	Schroeder (4,109), Clark (1,265), Monk (1,068), Rogers (1,203)	Lost NFC Championship Game
1981	San Diego Chargers	Fouts (4,802), Joyner (1,188), Winslow (1,075), Muncie (1,144)	Lost AFC Championship Game
2006	Indianapolis Colts	Manning (4,397), Harrison (1,366), Wayne (1,310), Addai (1,081)	???

FIRST-YEAR PHENOMS: Colts running back **JOSEPH ADDAI** is the seventh rookie since 1970 to rush for 1,000 yards and help his team to the AFC Championship Game. With an Indianapolis win Sunday, Addai will become the fourth such running back to reach the Super Bowl.

The rookie running backs who rushed for 1,000 yards and helped their team to the AFC Championship Game (since 1970):

YEAR	TEAM	PLAYER	RESULT
2000	Baltimore Ravens	Jamal Lewis (1,364)	Won Super Bowl XXXV
1989	Denver Broncos	Bobby Humphrey (1,151)	Lost Super Bowl XXIV
1988	Cincinnati Bengals	Ickey Woods (1,066)	Lost Super Bowl XXIII
1983	Seattle Seahawks	Curt Warner (1,449)	Lost AFC Championship Game
1978	Houston Oilers	Earl Campbell (1,450)	Lost AFC Championship Game
1972	Pittsburgh Steelers	Franco Harris (1,055)	Lost AFC Championship Game
2006	Indianapolis Colts	Joseph Addai (1,081)	???

-- AFC CHAMPIONSHIP GAME --

TERRIFIC TOM: Patriots quarterback Tom Brady has thrown a touchdown pass in 11 consecutive playoff games dating to Super Bowl XXXVI. His streak places him third in the category in playoff history.

The top five playoff streaks of consecutive games with a touchdown pass:

PLAYERS	TEAM(S)	YEARS	GAMES
Brett Favre	Green Bay	1995-04 (Current)	16
Dan Marino	Miami	1983-95	13
Tom Brady	New England	2001-06 (Current)	11
Ken Stabler	Oakland	1973-77	10
Joe Montana	San Francisco/Kansas City	1988-93	10

PERFECT PATRIOTS: New England is undefeated in its five AFC Championship appearances. In its last three such games, it has gone on to win the Super Bowl.

The top winning percentages of teams in the AFC Championship Game (minimum five appearances):

TEAM	RECORD	WINNING PERCENTAGE
New England Patriots	5-0	1.000
Buffalo Bills	4-1	.800
Denver Broncos	6-2	.750
Miami Dolphins	5-2	.714
Pittsburgh Steelers	6-7	.462
Oakland/L.A. Raiders	4-5	.444

LAMAR HUNT TROPHY: Super Bowl XV MVP **JIM PLUNKETT** will present the **LAMAR HUNT TROPHY** to the winner of the AFC Championship Game. Plunkett won two AFC titles and two Super Bowls (XV, XVIII) with the Oakland-L.A. Raiders.

Plunkett was selected as the Super Bowl XV MVP for completing 13 of 21 attempts for 261 yards and three touchdowns with no interceptions in the Raiders' 27-10 win over Philadelphia.

The late Hunt, the founder of the Kansas City Chiefs and American Football League, helped professional football attain its stature as America's No. 1 sport. In the 10-year history of the AFL, his team posted the most wins (87) and earned berths in two of the first four Super Bowls, including a victory in Super Bowl IV. In 1972, Hunt became the first person from the AFL to be enshrined in the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

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