

## **NFL PRESS BOX NOTES – WEEK 4**

**SAINTLY SUCCESS:** With New Orleans' victory over Atlanta Monday night, the Saints' **SEAN PAYTON** became the third man in the past 75 years to become head coach of a team that won three or fewer games the previous season and guide it to three consecutive wins to begin the next season.

This Sunday the Saints will play in Carolina, where Payton will face one of the three coaches to accomplish the feat – the Panthers' **JOHN FOX**. Fox ('97-01) and Payton ('99-02) were assistants together at the New York Giants, serving as the defensive and offensive coordinators, respectively, on its Super Bowl XXXV team.

The third head coach to accomplish such a turnaround was Pro Football Hall of Famer **VINCE LOMBARDI** with the Green Bay Packers.

With a win on Sunday, Payton can become the first coach in the category to take his new team to four wins to start the season.

The most consecutive wins by a new head coach to start the season with a team with three-or-fewer wins the previous year (since 1931; records before then are incomplete):

COACH	CONSECUTIVE WINS TO START SEASON	PREVIOUS YEAR'S RECORD
Vince Lombardi	3 (Green Bay, 1959)	1958 (1-10)
John Fox	3 (Carolina, 2002)	2001 (1-15)
<b>Sean Payton</b>	<b>3 (New Orleans, 2006) *</b>	<b>2005 (3-13)</b>

\*Active

**O VS. D ON PRIMETIME:** When the Chicago Bears (3-0) host the Seattle Seahawks (3-0) this Sunday night on NBC, the game will feature the NFL's highest scoring offense from last season – the Seahawks (452 points; 28.3 per game) – against the defense that allowed the fewest points last year – the Bears (202; 12.6 per game).

The contest will mark the 18th time since 1970 that the previous season's highest-scoring offense faced the stingiest defense from the year before – and the first time such a matchup has occurred between two undefeated teams. Five of the past seven such games have been won by the No. 1 defensive team (which is 10-7 overall).

Games played between the previous season's highest-scoring offense and the defense with the fewest points allowed:

DATE	OFFENSE	DEFENSE	DATE	OFFENSE	DEFENSE
Nov. 7, 1971	San Francisco	*Minnesota	Nov. 23, 1992	*Washington	New Orleans
Oct. 30, 1977	Baltimore	*Pittsburgh	Nov. 22, 1993	San Francisco	*New Orleans
Oct. 28, 1979	*Dallas	Pittsburgh	Sept. 26, 1993	*San Francisco	New Orleans
Nov. 9, 1980	Pittsburgh	*Tampa Bay	Dec. 6, 1998	Denver	*Kansas City
Dec. 13, 1981	Dallas	*Philadelphia	Nov. 16, 1998	Denver	*Kansas City
Nov. 1, 1981	Dallas	*Philadelphia	Nov. 18, 2002	St. Louis	*Chicago
Oct. 31, 1983	*San Diego	Washington	Nov. 22, 2004	*Kansas City	New England
Sept. 2, 1984	*Washington	Miami	Nov. 28, 2005	Indianapolis	*Pittsburgh
Sept. 10, 1989	*Cincinnati	Chicago	<b>Oct. 1, 2006</b>	<b>Seattle</b>	<b>Chicago</b>

\* Winning team

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**HOMECOMING KING:** This Sunday's New England-Cincinnati game at Paul Brown Stadium will mark the first time that Patriots running back **COREY DILLON** has faced his former team in Cincinnati. Dillon rushed for 88 yards and one touchdown on 22 carries when the Bengals visited the Patriots on December 12, 2004.

Dillon holds the Bengals' career records for attempts (1,865) and rushing yards (8,061).

Only four running backs in history have rushed for 8,000 yards with a team and later played that team. Dillon seeks to join **MARCUS ALLEN** as the second such player to have multiple touchdowns and 100 rush yards against his former team.

Following are running backs who rushed for 8,000 yards with a team and then played against them:

<b>RBs AGAINST TEAM FOR WHICH THEY RUSHED FOR 8,000 YDS</b>				
<b>PLAYER</b>	<b>GAMES</b>	<b>ATTEMPT S</b>	<b>YARD S</b>	<b>TOUCHDOWN S</b>
Marcus Allen vs. Oakland	10	155	617	3
<b><i>Corey Dillon vs. Cincinnati</i></b>	<b>1</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>1</b>
Emmitt Smith vs. Dallas	1	6	-1	0
Thurman Thomas vs. Buffalo	1	7	24	0

**CHARGED UP:** San Diego Chargers running back **LA DAINIAN TOMLISON** can reach a significant career milestone this week against Baltimore.

Tomlinson has scored 87 touchdowns in 81 career games and needs three TDs this week to reach 90 in the second fewest games in history (82). He has scored three or more touchdowns five times in his career, including three times last season.

The five players to reach 90 touchdowns in the fewest games:

#### **FEWEST GAMES TO 90 TOUCHDOWNS**

<b>PLAYER</b>	<b>GAMES</b>
Jim Brown	81
Emmitt Smith	86
Shaun Alexander	90
Lenny Moore	98
Jerry Rice	98
<b><i>LaDainian Tomlinson</i></b>	<b>81 *</b>

\*87 touchdowns

**MANNING THE MARKS WITH MARVIN:** Indianapolis Colts quarterback **PEYTON MANNING** and wide receiver **MARVIN HARRISON** can continue to achieve individual and collective success when they travel to New York this Sunday to face the Jets.

With 249 touchdown passes in 131 games, Manning needs to throw one touchdown this week to reach 250 TD passes in the second fewest games in history. Manning has thrown a touchdown in 115 of his 131 career games.

The five players to reach 250 touchdown passes in the fewest games:

#### **FEWEST GAMES TO 250 TOUCHDOWN PASSES**

<b>PLAYER</b>	<b>GAMES</b>
Dan Marino	128
Brett Favre	141
Johnny Unitas	149
Joe Montana	171
Dan Fouts	174
<b><i>Peyton Manning</i></b>	<b>131 *</b>

\*249 touchdown passes

Harrison, who has 949 career receptions – most ever by a wide receiver in his first 11 seasons -- needs three catches to pass **ANDRE REED** (951) for fourth most in history.

The five receivers with the most catches in history:

#### **MOST RECEPTIONS, CAREER**

<b>PLAYER</b>	<b>RECEPTION</b>
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Jerry Rice	1,549
Cris Carter	1,101
Tim Brown	1,094
Andre Reed	951
<b>Marvin Harrison</b>	<b>949*</b>

\* Active

In addition, Manning and Harrison -- who own the NFL record for most completions (805) and receiving yards (10,866) by a duo -- need 134 yards to become the first pair with 800 completions and 11,000 yards.