

NFL PRESS BOX NOTES – WEEK 5

EXCITING GAMES: Games have been close through the first four weeks of the season.

Last week, two games – Indianapolis-NY Jets and Detroit-St. Louis – each saw their leads change hands six times. That was the most games in a weekend with that many changes in 20 years (1986, Week 3: Miami-NY Jets and Atlanta-Dallas).

A lot of the lead changes have taken place in the fourth quarter. There have been eight lead changes in the fourth quarter this season -- the most in the quarter through the first four weeks of a season since 2002 (10).

MARSHALL PLAN: A pair of Marshall University products – **BYRON LEFTWICH** and **CHAD PENNINGTON** – will start at quarterback, respectively, when the Jacksonville Jaguars host the New York Jets this Sunday – illustrating the proliferation of Mid-American Conference (MAC) quarterbacks in the NFL.

These former college teammates have faced each other twice in NFL play. Leftwich's Jaguars won a 26-20 decision in 2005 and Pennington's Jets earned a 13-10 victory in 2003.

Including Tampa Bay's **BRUCE GRADKOWSKI**, who will make his first NFL start this week (against New Orleans), five MAC-reared quarterbacks will start in Week 5:

QUARTERBACK	TEAM	COLLEGE
Charlie Frye	Cleveland	Akron
Bruce Gradkowski	Tampa Bay	Toledo
Byron Leftwich	Jacksonville	Marshall *
Chad Pennington	NY Jets	Marshall *
Ben Roethlisberger	Pittsburgh	Miami (Ohio)

* Marshall is now in Conference USA

STINGY DENVER 'D': The Denver Broncos' defense has allowed only one touchdown in the club's first three games. If Denver can keep Baltimore out of the end zone in Week 5, the Broncos will be the first team since the 2000 Miami Dolphins to surrender only one TD through the first four games of a season.

This Monday night's Baltimore-Denver game will feature the NFL's No. 3- (Ravens, 8.2 ppg.) and No. 4- (Broncos, 10.3 ppg.) ranked scoring defenses.

The record for fewest TDs allowed in a 16-game season is held by the 2000 Ravens (18), who went on to win Super Bowl XXXV.

Following are the fewest touchdowns allowed since the 16-game schedule was instituted in 1978:

TEAM	TD ALLOWED	PLAYOFFS
2000 Baltimore Ravens	18	Won Super Bowl XXXV
1996 Green Bay Packers	19	Won Super Bowl XXXI
1986 Chicago Bears	20	Advanced to Divisional Playoff
2000 Tennessee Titans	20	Advanced to Divisional Playoff
2001 Philadelphia Eagles	20	Advanced to NFC Championship Game
2005 Chicago Bears	20	Advanced to Divisional Playoff

The Broncos also will put an 11-game home winning streak on the line. The Seattle Seahawks own the longest active home win streak (12). With Seattle in its bye week, the Broncos will have an opportunity to tie the Seahawks for the longest active streak.

Chicago (8) and Jacksonville (4) also will put significant home win streaks on the line in Week 5. The five longest active home winning streaks:

TEAM	HOME WIN STREAK
Seattle Seahawks	12
*Denver Broncos	11
*Chicago Bears	8

Baltimore Ravens	6
* Jacksonville Jaguars	4

* Plays at home in Week 5

A SCHOTT AT HISTORY: San Diego Chargers head coach **MARTY SCHOTTENHEIMER** (193-137-1) can take sole possession of seventh place on the NFL's all-time victory list with a win over Pittsburgh on Sunday night. Schottenheimer is tied with **CHUCK KNOX** (193-158-1).

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MAKING THEM PEY: Indianapolis quarterback **PEYTON MANNING** has enjoyed success against division rival Tennessee, which the Colts host Sunday.

Manning has posted a passer rating of at least 110.0 in his last four meetings with the Titans. He has an opportunity to match his own NFL-best active streak of 110.0 games against an opponent (five games vs. Houston).

The five longest active streaks with a 110.0 passer rating vs. an opponent:

QB VS. OPPONENT	GAMES
Peyton Manning vs. Houston	5
<i>Peyton Manning vs. Tennessee</i>	4
Daunte Culpepper vs. Green Bay	3
Daunte Culpepper vs. New Orleans	3
Carson Palmer vs. Baltimore	3

The two head coaches Sunday – Indianapolis' **TONY DUNGY** and Tennessee's **JEFF FISHER** -- are among the most successful coaches in the NFL. Each is among 10 active head coaches to have won 100 regular-season and playoff games – Dungy, 111; Fisher, 102.

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IT'S HOW YOU START AND HOW YOU FINISH: Analysts often look at fourth-quarter passer rating to gauge a quarterback's effectiveness. But a fast start in the first quarter can be just as important to a QB's success.

Only three teams remain undefeated in 2006 (Baltimore, Chicago and Indianapolis). Two of those teams' quarterbacks rank in the top five in first-quarter passer rating: Chicago's **REX GROSSMAN** (127.1) and Indianapolis' **PEYTON MANNING** (117.0).

Grossman this week will oppose Buffalo's **J.P. LOSMAN**, who ranks third in first-quarter rating (117.8).

The top five quarterbacks in first-quarter passer rating for the first month of 2006 (min. 20 attempts):

QUARTERBACK	TEAM	1ST QTR. RTG.
Rex Grossman	Chicago	127.1
David Carr	Houston	123.1
J.P. Losman	Buffalo	117.8
Peyton Manning	Indianapolis	117.0
Brett Favre	Green Bay	116.0

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LJ LEAVES HIS MARK: Kansas City Chiefs running back **LARRY JOHNSON** needs 78 yards against Arizona this week to become the only player since 1970 to rush for 2,000 yards in his first 16 career starts. Johnson has 1,922 yards in his first 15 starts.

The top five rushing totals in the first 16 starts of a career (since 1970):

PLAYER	YARDS
<i>Larry Johnson, KC *</i>	1,922
Eric Dickerson, LA Rams	1,808
Mike Anderson, Denver	1,756

Clinton Portis, Denver	1,736
George Rogers, New Orleans	1,674

*15 starts