

NFL PRESS BOX NOTES – WEEK 11

RUN & CATCH ROOKIES: Through the first nine games of the season, the 2006 NFL draft class is accounting for scrimmage yards at a record pace.

Currently, there are nine rookies within reach of 1,000 scrimmage yards (at least 400 yards rushing and receiving) for the season. The record for most rookies with 1,000 scrimmage yards in a season is five, in 1980, 1981 and 1995.

The most rookies with at least 1,000 scrimmage yards in a season:

YEAR	TOTAL ROOKIES	PLAYER
1980	5	RB Earl Cooper (SF), RB Joe Cribbs (Buf.), RB Curtis Dickey (Bal.), RB Gerry Ellis (GB), RB Billy Sims (Det.)
1981	5	RB Tony Collins (NE), WR Cris Collinsworth (Cin.), RB Joe Delaney (KC), RB Randy McMillan (Bal.), RB George Rogers (NO)
1995	5	RB Terrell Davis (Den.), WR Joey Galloway (Sea.), RB Curtis Martin (NE), RB Rashaan Salaam (Chi.), RB Rodney Thomas (Hou.)
1993	4	RB Jerome Bettis (LA Rams), RB Reggie Brooks (Was.), RB Terry Kirby (Mia.), RB Ronald Moore (Pho.)
2006*	9	<i>WR Marques Colston (NO, 869), RB Joseph Addai (Ind., 758), RB Reggie Bush (NO, 608), RB Laurence Maroney (NE, 604), RB Maurice Jones-Drew (Jac., 585), RB Leon Washington (NYJ, 509), WR Greg Jennings (GB, 485), RB Jerious Norwood (Atl., 418), RB Wali Lundy (Hou., 415)</i>

* Through nine games

SAINTLY ROOKIES: Two New Orleans rookies, wide receiver **MARQUES COLSTON** (seventh round) and running back **REGGIE BUSH** (first round) are Saints quarterback **DREW BREES'** top two receiving targets.

The threesome has enabled New Orleans to rank as the top passing unit in the NFL (283.0 yards/game). If the Saints finish as the leader in the category with Colston and Bush as their top two receivers (in either catches or yards), they will become the first club in history to do so with two rookies as their leading receivers.

Colston and Bush both rank in the top-10 in the NFL in receptions with 54 and 53, respectively. With 107 total receptions, they currently stand fifth all-time for most receptions by rookie teammates.

A look at the most combined receptions by rookie teammates:

ROOKIES	TEAM	YEAR	RECEPTIONS
Anquan Boldin/Bryant Johnson	Arizona	2003	136
Bill Groman/Charley Hennigan	Houston	1960	116
Andre Johnson/Domanick Davis	Houston	2003	113
Kevin Johnson/Darrin Chiaverini	Cleveland	1999	110
<i>Marques Colston/Reggie Bush</i>	<i>New Orleans</i>	<i>2006</i>	<i>107*</i>

* Through nine games

The most combined receiving yards by rookie teammates:

ROOKIES	TEAM	YEAR	YARDS
Bill Groman/Charley Hennigan	Houston	1960	2,195
Anquan Boldin/Bryant Johnson	Arizona	2003	1,815
Kevin Johnson/Darrin Chiaverini	Cleveland	1999	1,473
Bobby Johnson/Lionel Manuel	NY Giants	1984	1,414
Chris Burford/Johnny Robinson	Dallas Texans	1960	1,400
<i>Marques Colston/Reggie Bush</i>	<i>New Orleans</i>	<i>2006</i>	<i>1,221*</i>

* Through nine games

Colston's 869 receiving yards lead the league. With 110 yards this week against Cincinnati, the rookie from Hofstra can surpass **BILL GROMAN** (978, Houston, 1960) for the most receiving yards in the first 10 games of a career.

The most receiving yards through the first 10 games of a career:

PLAYER	TEAM	YEAR	YARDAGE
Bill Groman	Houston	1960	978
Harlon Hill	Chicago	1954	919
Anquan Boldin	Arizona	2003	876
Billy Howton	Green Bay	1952	869
Mike Ditka	Chicago	1961	869
Marques Colston	New Orleans	2006	869*

* Through nine games

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ROOKIE SACKS: Through the first 10 weeks of the season, four rookie defenders – Chicago DE **MARK ANDERSON** (7.5), Denver DE **ELVIS DUMERVIL** (6.0), Cleveland LB **KAMERION WIMBLEY** (5.5) and Houston DE **MARIO WILLIAMS** (4.5) – are on pace to register at least eight sacks for the season. If they accomplish the feat, they will become the second rookie class in history to have four players with eight or more sacks in a season.

Just off the pace are rookie LB **A.J. HAWK** of Green Bay (4.0) and DE **TAMBA HALI** of Kansas City (3.5).

Seasons with the most rookies with at least eight sacks:

SEASON	TOTAL ROOKIES	PLAYERS
2000	4	Shaun Ellis (NYJ), Darren Howard (NO), Corey Simon (Phi.), Brian Urlacher (Chi.)
1986	3	Charles Haley (SF), Tim Harris (GB), Leslie O'Neal (SD)
1990	3	James Francis (Cin.), Renaldo Turnbull (NO), Aaron Wallace (LA Raiders)
2002	3	Dwight Freeney (Ind.), Calos Hall (Ten.), Julius Peppers (Car.)
2006	4*	Mark Anderson (Chi.), Elvis Dumervil (Den.), Kamerion Wimbley (Cle.), Mario Williams (Hou.)

* On pace through nine games

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ROOKIE PROTECTION: When San Diego travels to Denver for an AFC West first-place matchup Sunday night, Chargers rookie left tackle **MARCUS MC NEILL**, selected this year in the second round, will be making his ninth consecutive start for the top-scoring offense in the NFL (33.0 points per game).

If the Chargers conclude the season by leading the league in scoring, they will become only the fourth team since 1970 to do so with a rookie tackle starting at least half their games.

Teams that have led the NFL in scoring with a rookie tackle starting at least half the games (since 1970):

TEAM	ROOKIE TACKLE	PTS./GAME
1985 San Diego Chargers	Jim Lachey (LT)	29.2
1987 San Francisco 49ers	Harris Barton (RT)	28.7
1996 Green Bay Packers	John Michels (LT)	28.5
2006 San Diego Chargers	Marcus McNeill (LT)	*33.0

*Through nine games