

NFL PRESS BOX NOTES – WEEK 14

CHARGED UP: San Diego Chargers running back **LA DAINIAN TOMLINSON** leads the NFL with 26 total touchdowns. Tomlinson ties **MARSHALL FAULK** (26, 2000) for the third most in a season, and needs three touchdowns in his final four games to pass **SHAUN ALEXANDER** (28, 2005) for the most in history.

With 308 touches on scrimmage plays through 12 games, Tomlinson is scoring once every 11.85 touches. If he continues at this pace, he will have the fewest touches per score among players with the most touchdowns in a season.

Following are the touches per score among players with the most touchdowns in a season:

PLAYER	TEAM	YEAR	TOUCHDOWNS	TOUCHES	TOUCH/TD
Marshall Faulk	St. Louis	2000	26	334	12.85
Shaun Alexander	Seattle	2005	28	385	13.75
Priest Holmes	Kansas City	2003	27	394	14.59
John Riggins	Washington	1983	24	380	15.83
Priest Holmes	Kansas City	2002	24	383	15.96
Emmitt Smith	Dallas	1995	25	439	17.56
LaDainian Tomlinson	San Diego	2006	26	308	11.85*

* Through 12 games

TIMELY TURNAROUNDS: With four weeks left to play in the season, there are four teams -- the Baltimore Ravens (9-3), New Orleans Saints (8-4), New York Jets (7-5) and Philadelphia Eagles (6-6) – in first place or within two games of first in their divisions after finishing in (or tying for) last place last season.

Twenty-six teams in history have won their divisions after finishing last the year before. Two teams have accomplished the feat in each of the past three seasons -- the NFL's longest such streak. If three or four teams this year achieve this "worst-to-first" turnaround, it will mark the first time there has been more than two such teams in any one season.

Seasons in which more than one team earned a division title after finishing last the previous year:

SEASON	TEAM	RECORD	PRIOR SEASON
1970	Cincinnati	8-6	4-9-1
1970	San Francisco	10-3-1	4-8-2
1999	Indianapolis	13-3	3-13
1999	St. Louis	13-3	4-12
2001	Chicago	13-3	5-11
2001	New England	11-5	5-11
2003	Carolina	11-5	7-9
2003	Kansas City	13-3	8-8*
2004	Atlanta	11-5	5-11
2004	San Diego	12-4	4-12*
2005	Chicago	11-5	5-11
2005	Tampa Bay	11-5	5-11
2006	Baltimore	9-3**	6-10*
2006	New Orleans	8-4**	3-13
2006	New York Jets	7-5**	4-12
2006	Philadelphia	6-6**	6-10

* Tied for last place

** After 12 games

RUSH HOUR: Atlanta Falcons quarterback **MICHAEL VICK** has rushed for 929 yards this season, the third most by a quarterback in history. He needs 40 more yards to top **BOBBY DOUGLASS'** NFL record of 968 set in 1972. Vick is on pace to rush for 1,238 yards this year, and would become the first quarterback to rush for 1,000 yards in a season.

The most rushing yards by a quarterback in a season:

QUARTERBACK	TEAM	SEASON	ATTEMPTS	YARDS (AVG.)
Bobby Douglass	Chicago	1972	141	968 (6.8)
Randall Cunningham	Philadelphia	1990	118	942 (8.0)
Michael Vick	Atlanta	2006	105	929 (8.8)*
Michael Vick	Atlanta	2004	120	902 (7.5)
Michael Vick	Atlanta	2002	113	777 (6.9)
Steve McNair	Tennessee	1997	101	674 (6.7)

* Through 12 games

CHAD'S THE LAD: Cincinnati Bengals wide receiver **CHAD JOHNSON** is in the midst of one of the most prolific receiving stretches in history. In his last four games, Johnson has 32 receptions for 664 yards (20.8 avg.), the fourth highest total by a receiver in a four-game span in a single season.

Johnson began the stretch with a 260-yard outing against San Diego on November 12, and added 190-, 123-, and 91-yard games in the weeks that followed.

This Sunday, the Bengals host Oakland. Johnson needs 159 yards to pass **CHARLEY HENNINGAN's** NFL record of 822 receiving yards in five games in 1961.

Players with the most receiving yards over a five-game span:

PLAYERS	TEAM	YEARS	YARDS
Charley Hennigan	Houston	1961	822
Raymond Berry	Baltimore	1960	803
Charley Hennigan	Houston	1961	799
Isaac Bruce	St. Louis	1995	785
Lance Alworth	San Diego	1963	751
Chad Johnson	Cincinnati	2006	664*

* Four-game span

TIGHT ENDS FOR 300: Two of the NFL's top receiving tight ends – the Baltimore Ravens' **TODD HEAP** and New York Giants' **JEREMY SHOCKEY** -- can reach a milestone for their position this week. With 298 receptions each, Heap and Shockey need two catches to reach 300 in their careers.

Shockey, who has played in 66 games, can reach 300 catches in the second fewest games in history for a tight end, behind Pro Football Hall of Famer **KELLEN WINSOW** (57). Heap, who will play in his 79th game, has a chance to pass **OZZIE NEWSOME** for fifth place for least amount of games to 300 receptions.

If Shockey and Heap each have two-or-more receptions this week, it will mark the first time in history that two tight ends have reached the 300-catch milestone on the same day.

The tight ends to reach 300 career receptions in the fewest games:

TIGHT END	GAMES TO 300
Kellen Winslow	57
Tony Gonzalez	71
Mike Ditka	78
Keith Jackson	78

Ozzie Newsome	80
<i>*Jeremy Shockey</i>	66
<i>*Todd Heap</i>	78

* 298 receptions

ROZELLE REMEMBERED: December 6 is the 10th anniversary of the passing of former NFL Commissioner **PETE ROZELLE**. His life and the instrumental role he played in the success of the NFL are remembered in John A. Fortunato's new book entitled "Commissioner: The Legacy of Pete Rozelle," available in bookstores and online.

"In my opinion, Pete Rozelle was the most compelling sports executive of the 20th century," says New York Giants general manager **ERNIE ACCORSI**. "His life and career needed to be written about."