

NFL PRESS BOX NOTES – WEEK 17

SUPER BOWL HOPEFULS: Entering the final week of the season, 20 clubs remain in contention for Super Bowl XLI – the most at this point in a season since the advent of the 16-game schedule in 1978. The previous high in the category was 19 teams in 2002.

The greatest number of teams in Super Bowl contention with one week to play (since 1978):

SEASON	TEAMS IN SB CONTENTION
2006	20
2002	19
1995	18
1989	17
2004	17

I LOVE THE 80s: Three clubs boast a pair of players with at least 80 receptions apiece. An all-time high of five such teams is within reach in Week 17. If Detroit's **ROY WILLIAMS** (76) catches four passes this week and the New York Jets' **JERRICHO COTCHERY** (75) notches five, the record-setting four clubs of 2001 will be surpassed.

The most 80-catch teammate duos in a season:

YEAR	80-CATCH DUOS	TEAMS
2001	4	Jacksonville (Jimmy Smith, 112; Keenan McCardell, 94) New Orleans (Joe Horn, 83; Willie Jackson, 81) Oakland (Tim Brown, 91; Jerry Rice, 83) St. Louis (Marshall Faulk, 83; Torry Holt, 81)
1999	3	Chicago (Bobby Engram, 88; Marcus Robinson, 84) Detroit (Germane Crowell, 81; Johnnie Morton, 80) Minnesota (Cris Carter, 90; Randy Moss, 80)
2000	3	Denver (Ed McCafferty, 101; Rod Smith, 100) Jacksonville (Keenan McCardell, 94; Jimmy Smith, 91) St. Louis (Isaac Bruce, 87; Torry Holt, 82; Marshall Faulk, 81)
2002	3	Buffalo (Eric Moulds, 100; Peerless Price, 94) Oakland (Jerry Rice, 92; Charlie Garner, 91) St. Louis (Torry Holt, 91; Marshall Faulk, 80)
2004	3	Green Bay (Javon Walker, 89; Donald Driver, 84) St. Louis (Torry Holt, 94; Isaac Bruce, 89) Tennessee (Derrick Mason, 96; Drew Bennett, 80)
2006*	3	Cincinnati (T.J. Houshmandzadeh, 86; Chad Johnson, 84) Indianapolis (Marvin Harrison, 90; Reggie Wayne, 80) St. Louis (Steven Jackson, 88; Torry Holt, 84)

*Through 15 games

Other teammates closing in on an 80-catch tandem season:

Detroit Lions	Mike Furrey (87) & Roy Williams (76)
New York Jets	Laveranues Coles (89) & Jerricho Cotchery (75)

LEADER OF THE PACK: Quarterback **BRETT FAVRE** and the Green Bay Packers hope to secure a playoff berth Sunday night against the Chicago Bears in the NFL's most-played rivalry (171 games; Bears lead series 87-78-6).

A victory for Favre and the Packers would be the 147th of his career, tying for the second most in history. The five quarterbacks with the most career wins:

QUARTERBACK	WINS	CAREER
John Elway	148	1983-99
Dan Marino	147	1983-98
Brett Favre	146	1991-Present
Fran Tarkenton	125	1961-78
Johnny Unitas	119	1956-73

RUSHING TO A RECORD?: An all-time league-wide season rushing record can be set this week.

Nineteen running backs have rushed for 1,000 yards. If the five backs who are within striking distance of 1,000 achieve that total this weekend, the NFL record of 23 such rushers in 2000 will be broken with a total of 24.

Running backs close to 1,000 yards: **AHMAN GREEN** (Green Bay, 988), **TATUM BELL** (Denver, 977), **WILLIS MC GAHEE** (Buffalo, 967), **MAURICE JONES-DREW** (Jacksonville, 895) and **RONNIE BROWN** (Miami, 893).

YOUNG LEADERS: Three rookies currently lead or are tied for their team's lead in sacks and two others are within reach of their team lead entering Week 17.

The most rookies to top their team in sacks in a season are four (2002). Only two other times (1982, 1986) have as many as three rookies achieved the feat.

The most rookies to lead or co-lead their clubs in sacks:

YEAR	ROOKIE CLUB SACK LEADERS	ROOKIES
2002	4	Dwight Freeney, Ind. (13.0); Julius Peppers, Car. (12.0); Kalimba Edwards, Det. (6.5); John Henderson, Jac., (6.5)
1982	3	Chip Banks, Cle. (5.5); Jeff Bryant, Sea. (3.0); Leo Wisniewski, Bal. (2.5)
1986	3	Charles Haley, S.F. (12.0); Tim Harris, G.B. (8.0); Jon Hand, Ind. (5.0)
2006*	3	<i>Mark Anderson, Chi. (12.0); Kamerion Wimbley, Cle. (10.0); Elvis Dumervil, Den. (7.0)</i>

Rookies within 1.5 sacks of leading their clubs in the category:

TEAM	SACK LEADER	ROOKIE
Kansas City Chiefs	Jared Allen (7.5)	Tamba Hali (6.0)
Houston Texans	Jason Babin (5.0)	Mario Williams (4.5); DeMeco Ryans (3.5)

TWO-YEAR TERM: Already the NFL's single-season rushing TD record-holder with 28, San Diego Chargers running back **LA DAINIAN TOMLINSON** now eyes the rush-TD high-water mark for a two-year span. Tomlinson has rushed for 46 scores since the start of 2005. He trails only Kansas City's **PRIEST HOLMES** -- 48 rushing TDs in 2002-03 -- in the two-year category.

Most rushing touchdowns in a two-year span:

PLAYER	SEASONS	RUSHING TDs
Priest Holmes, Kansas City	2002-03	48
<i>LaDainian Tomlinson, San Diego</i>	<i>2005-06</i>	<i>46*</i>
Emmitt Smith, Dallas	1994-95	46
Shaun Alexander, Seattle	2004-05	43
Priest Holmes, Kansas City	2003-04	41

*One game remaining in 2006

FULL DAY'S WORK: With four catches Sunday against Atlanta, Philadelphia running back **BRIAN WESTBROOK** (76 receptions; 1,214 rushing yards) will join St. Louis running back **STEVEN JACKSON** (88; 1,386) as the first pair of players to attain 1,200 rushing yards and 80 receptions in the same season. Only five players in history have reached both milestones in the same year, including **MARSHALL FAULK**, who did it in four consecutive seasons (1998-2001).

The players with 1,200 rushing yards and 80 receptions in a season:

SEASON	PLAYER	TEAM	RUSH YDS	RECEPTIONS
1981	William Andrews	Atlanta	1,301	81
1984	James Wilder	Tampa Bay	1,544	85
1998	Marshall Faulk	Indianapolis	1,319	86
1999	Marshall Faulk	St. Louis	1,381	87
2000	Marshall Faulk	St. Louis	1,359	81
2001	Marshall Faulk	St. Louis	1,382	83
2003	LaDainian Tomlinson	San Diego	1,645	100
2006	<i>Steven Jackson</i>	<i>St. Louis</i>	<i>1,386</i>	<i>88</i>
2006	<i>Brian Westbrook</i>	<i>Philadelphia</i>	<i>1,214</i>	<i>76</i>

