

NFL PRESS BOX NOTES – WEEK 3

DOWN BUT NOT OUT: History shows that 0-2 teams advance to the playoffs more often than people might think. Since 1990, 17 teams have begun 0-2 and still qualified for the postseason. The 0-2 Dallas Cowboys in 1993 won Super Bowl XXVIII, the 0-2 New England Patriots of 1996 played in Super Bowl XXXI, and in 2001, the 0-2 Patriots won Super Bowl XXXVI.

Following are the 0-2 teams since 1990 to qualify for the playoffs:

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>TEAM (WINLESS START)</u>	<u>ADVANCED TO:</u>
1990	Houston Oilers (0-2)	Wild Card Playoffs
	Philadelphia Eagles (0-2)	Wild Card Playoffs
	New Orleans Saints (0-2)	Wild Card Playoffs
1991	Atlanta Falcons (0-2)	Wild Card Playoffs
1992	San Diego Chargers (0-4)	Divisional Playoffs
1993	Pittsburgh Steelers (0-2)	Wild Card Playoffs
	Dallas Cowboys (0-2)	Won Super Bowl XXVIII
1994	New England Patriots (0-2)	Wild Card Playoffs
1995	Detroit Lions (0-3)	Wild Card Playoffs
1996	New England Patriots (0-2)	Lost Super Bowl XXXI
1998	Arizona Cardinals (0-2)	Divisional Playoffs
	Buffalo Bills (0-3)	Wild Card Playoffs
	New York Jets (0-2)	Championship Game
2001	New England Patriots (0-2)	Won Super Bowl XXXVI
2002	Atlanta Falcons (0-2)	Divisional Playoffs
	Pittsburgh Steelers (0-2)	Divisional Playoffs
2003	Philadelphia Eagles (0-2)	Championship Game

RUSH HOUR: When the Seattle Seahawks host the New York Giants this Sunday, the NFL's top two rushers from last season – Seattle's **SHAUN ALEXANDER** (1,880) and New York's **TIKI BARBER** (1,860) – will be in the spotlight.

The contest will be the first in NFL history to feature opposing running backs who each rushed for 1,800 yards in the previous season. Alexander and Barber combined for 3,740 yards last year, which is the highest combined yardage total from the previous season by opposing running backs for any NFL game in history.

Following are the games with the most combined rushing yardage totals from the previous season by opposing RBs:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TEAMS</u>	<u>OPPOSING RUNNING BACKS (YARDS)</u>	<u>YARDS</u>
Sept. 24, 2006	NY Giants at Seattle	Shaun Alexander, Sea. (1,880) & Tiki Barber, NYG (1,860)	3,740
Nov. 26, 1998	Pittsburgh at Detroit	Barry Sanders, Det. (2,053) & Jerome Bettis, Pit. (1,665)	3,718
Oct. 10, 2004	Baltimore at Washington	Jamal Lewis, Bal. (2,066) & Clinton Portis, Was. (1,591)	3,657
Oct. 13, 1985	LA Rams at Tampa Bay	Eric Dickerson, LA (2,105) & James Wilder, TB (1,544)	3,649
Sept. 29, 1985	Atlanta at LA Rams	Eric Dickerson, LA (2,105) & Gerald Riggs, Atl. (1,486)	3,591
Nov. 17, 1985	LA Rams at Atlanta	Eric Dickerson, LA (2,105) & Gerald Riggs, Atl. (1,486)	3,591

The Alexander-Barber matchup is also just the 11th meeting since 1970 to showcase the league's top two rushers from the previous season.

Following are the games that featured the NFL's top two rushers from the previous season (since 1970):

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TEAMS</u>	<u>OPPOSING RUNNING BACKS (YARDS)</u>
Oct. 6, 1974	Buffalo at Green Bay	O.J. Simpson, Buf. (2,003) & John Brockington, GB (1,144)
Oct. 1, 1978	Oakland at Chicago	Walter Payton, Chi. (1,852) & Mark van Eeghen, Oak. (1,273)
Nov. 16, 1980	Houston at Chicago	Earl Campbell, Hou. (1,934) & Walter Payton, Chi. (1,460)
Dec. 19, 1982	New Orleans at Dallas	George Rogers, NO (1,674) & Tony Dorsett, Dal. (1,646)
Oct. 14, 1990	Detroit at Kansas City	Christian Okoye, KC (1,480) & Barry Sanders, Det. (1,470)
Nov. 11, 1992	Dallas at Detroit	Emmitt Smith, Dal. (1,563) & Barry Sanders, Det. (1,548)
Nov. 12, 2000	NY Jets at Indianapolis	Edgerrin James, Ind. (1,553) & Curtis Martin, NYJ (1,464)
Dec. 3, 2000	Indianapolis at NY Jets	Edgerrin James, Ind. (1,553) & Curtis Martin, NYJ (1,464)
Oct. 6, 2002	Kansas City at NY Jets	Priest Holmes, KC (1,555) & Curtis Martin, NYJ (1,513)
Oct. 27, 2003	Miami at San Diego	Ricky Williams, Mia. (1,853) & LaDainian Tomlinson, SD (1,683)
Sept. 24, 2006	NY Giants at Seattle	Shaun Alexander, Sea. (1,880) & Tiki Barber, NYG (1,860)

MC NIFICENT: Philadelphia Eagles quarterback **DONOVAN MC NABB** has thrown 139 touchdown passes against 67 interceptions in his eight-year career. McNabb's 2.07 TD-INT ratio is the second best mark in history among quarterbacks with at least 100 touchdowns.

This Sunday, when the Eagles travel to San Francisco to face the 49ers, McNabb will take the field where the No. 1 and No. 3 players on the TD-to-INT list became Hall of Fame quarterbacks – **STEVE YOUNG** (2.17) and **JOE MONTANA** (1.96).

Following are the quarterbacks with the best TD-INT ratio in history (minimum 100 TDs):

<u>QUARTERBACK</u>	<u>TEAM(S)</u>	<u>TDs</u>	<u>INTs</u>	<u>TD-INT RATIO</u>
Steve Young	Tampa Bay, San Francisco	232	107	2.17
Donovan McNabb	Philadelphia	139	67	2.07*
Joe Montana	San Francisco, Kansas City	273	139	1.96
Peyton Manning	Indianapolis	248	131	1.89*
Tom Brady	New England	126	68	1.85*
*Active				

FALCONS FLYING HIGH: The Atlanta Falcons rushed for 306 yards last week against Tampa Bay, one week after rushing for 252 yards against Carolina. The Falcons are only the third team in history to open a season with consecutive 250-yard rushing games. They can join the 1975 Buffalo Bills as the only clubs to rush for 250 yards in the first three games of a season. Atlanta travels to New Orleans on Monday night to face the Saints as the Louisiana Superdome reopens. Teams with 250-yard rushing games in the first three games of a season:

<u>TEAM</u>	<u>SEASON</u>	<u>CONSECUTIVE 250-YARD GAMES</u>
Buffalo Bills	1975	3
Kansas City Chiefs	1978	2
Atlanta Falcons	2006	2*
*Active		

In the Falcons' Week 2 victory, running back **WARRICK DUNN** (134 yards) and quarterback **MICHAEL VICK** (127) became the third starting quarterback and running back duo to each rush for 100 yards in the same game and the first in history to both reach 125 yards:

<u>TEAM</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>STARTING QB (YARDS)</u>	<u>RB (YARDS)</u>	<u>RESULT, OPPONENT</u>
Philadelphia	11/4/90	Randall Cunningham (124)	Heath Sherman (113)	W, 48-20 vs. New England
Philadelphia	10/28/02	Donovan McNabb (107)	Duce Staley (126)	W, 17-3 vs. NY Giants
Atlanta	9/17/06	Michael Vick (127)	Warrick Dunn (134)	W, 14-3 vs. Tampa Bay

KURT'S SO GOOD: Arizona Cardinals quarterback **KURT WARNER** has a 98.4 passer rating in two career games against the St. Louis Rams, a team he played six seasons for (1998-2003) and the Cardinals' opponent this week. Warner helped lead the Rams to victory in Super Bowl XXXIV, earning game MVP honors, and is one of only three Super Bowl MVP quarterbacks to play against the team he guided to a Super Bowl win.

Following are the Super Bowl MVP quarterbacks who played against their former team:

<u>SB MVP</u>	<u>FORMER TEAM</u>	<u>GAMES</u>	<u>COMP</u>	<u>ATT</u>	<u>YARDS</u>	<u>TD</u>	<u>INT</u>	<u>RATING</u>
Joe Montana	San Francisco	1	19	31	203	2	0	101.9
Kurt Warner	St. Louis	2	56	81	612	3	1	98.4
Mark Rypien	Washington	1	34	50	347	1	1	86.0

Warner has thrown for 19,746 yards in 75 career games and needs 254 yards this week to reach 20,000 passing yards in the second fewest games in NFL history (76).

Following are the quarterbacks to reach 20,000 passing yards in the fewest games:

<u>QUARTERBACK</u>	<u>TEAM(S)</u>	<u>GAMES TO 20,000</u>
Dan Marino	Miami	74
Peyton Manning	Indianapolis	78
Daunte Culpepper	Minnesota	80
Drew Bledsoe	New England	83
Trent Green	Washington, St. Louis, Kansas City	83

Kurt Warner **St. Louis, NY Giants, Arizona**

75*

*Needs 254 yards to reach 20,000