



COMMUNICATIONS

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<http://twitter.com/NFLFootballInfo>

<http://twitter.com/NFLhistory>

WEEK 17 @NFLFOOTBALLINFO AND @NFLHISTORY TWEETS OF THE WEEK

Following are the "Tweets of the Week" from the @NFLFootballInfo and @NFLhistory Twitter feeds.

- **@NFLFootballInfo: For 16th consecutive season at least 5 teams will make playoffs that did not qualify year before (SF,Hou,Det,AFCW,NFCE)**

For the 16th consecutive season, five or more teams will qualify for the playoffs that were not in the postseason the year before. Detroit, Houston and San Francisco did not make the playoffs in 2010 but have done so this season.

Three division titles are still sought after, two of which feature a pair of clubs that did not reach the postseason last year. The winner of the Dallas-NY Giants matchup on *Sunday Night Football* will earn the NFC East crown while Denver or Oakland will win the AFC West championship.

The number of new playoff participants could grow to six teams as three clubs – Cincinnati, Oakland and Tennessee – can clinch the AFC's final Wild Card berth after not qualifying for the 2010 postseason.

The teams since 1996 to make the playoffs a season after failing to qualify:

| <u>SEASON</u> | <u>PLAYOFF TEAMS NOT IN PREVIOUS SEASON'S PLAYOFFS</u> |
|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1996 | 5 (Carolina, Denver, Jacksonville, Minnesota, New England) |
| 1997 | 5 (Detroit, Kansas City, Miami, New York Giants, Tampa Bay) |
| 1998 | 5 (Arizona, Atlanta, Buffalo, Dallas, New York Jets) |
| 1999 | 7 (Detroit, Indianapolis, St. Louis, Seattle, Tampa Bay, Tennessee, Washington) |
| 2000 | 6 (Baltimore, Denver, New Orleans, New York Giants, Oakland, Philadelphia) |
| 2001 | 6 (Chicago, Green Bay, New England, New York Jets, Pittsburgh, San Francisco) |
| 2002 | 5 (Atlanta, Cleveland, Indianapolis, New York Giants, Tennessee) |
| 2003 | 8 (Baltimore, Carolina, Dallas, Denver, Kansas City, New England, St. Louis, Seattle) |
| 2004 | 5 (Atlanta, Minnesota, New York Jets, Pittsburgh, San Diego) |
| 2005 | 7 (Carolina, Chicago, Cincinnati, Jacksonville, New York Giants, Tampa Bay, Washington) |
| 2006 | 7 (Baltimore, Dallas, Kansas City, New Orleans, New York Jets, Philadelphia, San Diego) |
| 2007 | 6 (Green Bay, Jacksonville, Pittsburgh, Tampa Bay, Tennessee, Washington) |
| 2008 | 7 (Arizona, Atlanta, Baltimore, Carolina, Miami, Minnesota, Philadelphia) |
| 2009 | 6 (Cincinnati, Dallas, Green Bay, New England, New Orleans, New York Jets) |
| 2010 | 5 (Atlanta, Chicago, Kansas City, Pittsburgh, Seattle) |
| 2011 | 5* (Detroit, Houston, San Francisco, AFC West champion, NFC East champion) |

*Could increase to six pending Week 17 results

– Tweets of the Week –

- **@NFLhistory: #Packers can be 6th team in NFL history w/15+ reg-sea wins in a season. All 5 previous teams advanced to C'Ship; 2 won SB (SF '84; CHI '85)**

Last week, the Green Bay Packers earned their 14th win of the 2011 season, defeating the Chicago Bears 35-21. With a win this Sunday against the Detroit Lions, the Packers can become the sixth team in NFL history to win at least 15 regular-season games in a season.

The Packers defeated the Lions in their first meeting, 27-15 on Thanksgiving Day.

The teams with at least 15 regular-season wins in a season:

| YEAR | TEAM | FINAL RECORD | ADVANCED TO |
|-------------|--------------------------|--------------|-------------------------|
| 2007 | New England Patriots | 16-0 | Lost Super Bowl XLII |
| 2004 | Pittsburgh Steelers | 15-1 | Conference Championship |
| 1998 | Minnesota Vikings | 15-1 | Conference Championship |
| 1985 | Chicago Bears | 15-1 | Won Super Bowl XX |
| 1984 | San Francisco 49ers | 15-1 | Won Super Bowl XIX |
| | | | |
| 2011 | Green Bay Packers | 14-1* | ??? |

*Through Week 16

– Tweets of the Week –

- **@NFLFootballinfo: NE win marked 10th time this season a team trailed by at least 17 points & came back to win - most in single season all-time**

Last week, the New England Patriots erased a 17-0 deficit to defeat Miami 27-24. It marked the 10th time this season that a team trailed by at least 17 points and came back to win. That is the most in a single season in NFL history.

The teams to win after trailing by at least 17 points in a game this season:

| TEAM | OPPONENT | WEEK | DEFICIT | FINAL SCORE |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|-----------|-----------|--------------|
| Tampa Bay Buccaneers | at Minnesota Vikings | 2 | 17 | 24-20 |
| Buffalo Bills | Oakland Raiders | 2 | 18 | 38-35 |
| Buffalo Bills | New England Patriots | 3 | 21 | 34-31 |
| Detroit Lions | at Minnesota Vikings | 3 | 20 | 26-23 (OT) |
| Detroit Lions | at Dallas Cowboys | 4 | 24 | 34-30 |
| San Francisco 49ers | at Philadelphia Eagles | 4 | 20 | 24-23 |
| Kansas City Chiefs | at Indianapolis Colts | 5 | 17 | 28-24 |
| Baltimore Ravens | Arizona Cardinals | 8 | 21 | 30-27 |
| Detroit Lions | Carolina Panthers | 11 | 17 | 49-35 |
| New England Patriots | Miami Dolphins | 16 | 17 | 27-24 |

– Tweets of the Week –

- **@NFLhistory: With 7-yd TD pass, @drewbrees surpasses HOFer @DanMarino's single-season pass yds record (5084 in '84); Brees has also passed for 300+ yds in 6 consec games, tying NFL record shared by Young, Warner & Gannon. #Saints**

With 307 passing yards against Atlanta on *Monday Night Football*, New Orleans quarterback **DREW BREES** (5,087) surpassed Pro Football Hall of Famer **DAN MARINO** (5,084) for the most passing yards in a single season in NFL history.

Brees also recorded his 12th 300-yard passing games this season, already a single-season NFL record. His 307 yards passing last week marked his sixth-consecutive 300-yard passing game, tying Pro Football Hall of Famer **STEVE YOUNG** (San Francisco, 1998), **KURT WARNER** (St. Louis, 2000) and **RICH GANNON** (Oakland, 2002) for the most consecutive 300-yard passing games in NFL history.

Additionally, Brees recorded five consecutive games with at least 300-passing yards (Weeks 3-7).

The players with the most consecutive games of at least 300 yards passing:

| PLAYER | TEAM | YEAR(S) | GAMES |
|-------------------|--------------------|-------------|-----------|
| Drew Brees | New Orleans | 2011 | 6* |
| Steve Young | San Francisco | 1998 | 6 |
| Kurt Warner | St. Louis | 2000 | 6 |
| Rich Gannon | Oakland | 2002 | 6 |

*Active streak

– Tweets of the Week –

- **@NFLFootballinfo: Rookies having big impact on both sides of ball. 128 sacks by 2011 rookie class already 2nd-best (1983) season total since 1982**

In 2011, there have been 128 combined sacks by rookies through Week 16. This marks the second-most combined rookie sacks in a regular season since 1982 (130.5, 1983) with Week 17 games still to be played.

Linebackers **ALDON SMITH** (14) and **VON MILLER** (11.5) lead all rookies in sacks this season. Smith's 14 sacks are the second-most in a single-season by a rookie and with one sack against St. Louis on Sunday, Smith can surpass **JEVON KEARSE**'s rookie record of 14.5 sacks in 1999.

The most combined rookie sacks in a season and top five rookies in sacks this season:

| SEASON | MOST COMBINED ROOKIE SACKS | ROOKIE | TEAM | SACKS |
|------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|-------|
| 1983 | 130.5 | Aldon Smith | San Francisco 49ers | 14 |
| 2011 | 128* | Von Miller | Denver Broncos | 11.5 |
| 2004 | 119 | Adrain Clayborn | Tampa Bay Buccaneers | 7.5 |
| 2002 | 116.5 | Ryan Kerrigan | Washington Redskins | 7.5 |
| *Through Week 16 | | Jabaal Sheard | Cleveland Browns | 7.5 |

– Tweets of the Week –

- **@NFLFootballinfo: Today marked 1st time in NFL history in which 2 different QBs threw 90+ yard TD pass (Newton,EManning)**

Last Sunday marked the first time in NFL history that two different quarterbacks each threw a 90-yard touchdown pass. Carolina rookie quarterback **CAM NEWTON** threw a 91-yard touchdown pass to wide receiver **BRANDON LA FELL** in the second quarter against Tampa Bay. New York Giants quarterback **ELI MANNING** connected with wide receiver **VICTOR CRUZ** for the 13th 99-yard touchdown pass in NFL history.

Manning and Cruz joined New England's **TOM BRADY** and **WES WELKER** (Week 1) for the second 99-yard touchdown pass this season. This is the first season in NFL history with two 99-yard TD passes.

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