

COUNTDOWN TO KICKOFF (6 DAYS)



FROM WORST TO FIRST

Competitive balance, one of the hallmarks of the NFL, gives fans hope entering each season.

For an NFL-record ninth consecutive season, at least one team has finished in first place in its division the season after finishing in last place. In fact, of the 39 teams in league history to go from “worst-to-first,” 18 of them have done so in the past 11 years (2001-11), including an NFL-record three such teams in 2005 and 2006.

With two teams – the Houston Texans and Denver Broncos – accomplishing the feat last season, 2011 marked the fifth time in the past nine years that multiple teams captured a division crown after finishing in last place the year before.

The teams to go from “worst-to-first” in their division since 2001:

SEASON	TEAM	RECORD	PRIOR SEASON RECORD
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	New York Giants	11-5	6-10*
2005	Tampa Bay	11-5	5-11
2006	Baltimore	13-3	6-10*
2006	New Orleans	10-6	3-13
2006	Philadelphia	10-6	6-10
2007	Tampa Bay	9-7	4-12
2008	Miami	11-5	1-15
2009	New Orleans**	13-3	8-8
2010	Kansas City	10-6	4-12
2011	Denver	8-8	4-12
2011	Houston	10-6	6-10*

* Tied for last place

** Won Super Bowl



KICKOFF WEEKEND RECORDS OF NFL HEAD COACHES

<u>COACH</u>	<u>TEAM</u>	<u>W-L</u>	<u>PCT</u>	<u>COACH</u>	<u>TEAM</u>	<u>W-L</u>	<u>PCT</u>
John Harbaugh	Baltimore	4-0	1.000	Andy Reid	Philadelphia	6-7	.462
Jim Harbaugh	San Francisco	1-0	1.000	Marvin Lewis	Cincinnati	4-5	.444
Mike McCarthy	Green Bay	5-1	.833	Norv Turner	San Diego	6-8	.429
Mike Tomlin	Pittsburgh	4-1	.800	John Fox	Denver	4-6	.400
Mike Shanahan	Washington	14-4	.778	Jim Schwartz	Detroit	1-2	.333
Chan Gailey	Buffalo	3-1	.750	Leslie Frazier	Minnesota	0-1	.000
Pete Carroll	Seattle	4-2	.667	Jason Garrett	Dallas	0-1	.000
Rex Ryan	N.Y. Jets	2-1	.667	Mike Munchak	Tennessee	0-1	.000
Bill Belichick	New England	11-6	.647	Ron Rivera	Carolina	0-1	.000
Tom Coughlin	N.Y. Giants	10-6	.625	Pat Shurmur	Cleveland	0-1	.000
Jeff Fisher	St. Louis	10-6	.625	Romeo Crennel	Kansas City	0-4	.000
Ken Whisenhunt	Arizona	3-2	.600	Dennis Allen	Oakland	0-0	--
Lovie Smith	Chicago	4-4	.500	Aaron Kromer	New Orleans	0-0	--
Gary Kubiak	Houston	3-3	.500	Chuck Pagano	Indianapolis	0-0	--
Mike Smith	Atlanta	2-2	.500	Joe Philbin	Miami	0-0	--
Mike Mularkey	Jacksonville	1-1	.500	Greg Schiano	Tampa Bay	0-0	--