



THE WEEK THAT WAS – KICKOFF WEEKEND 2013

SO CLOSE: Kickoff Weekend featured many exciting finishes and close games. Twelve of the 16 games in Week 1 were decided by seven points or fewer, tied for the most of any weekend in NFL history.

The most games decided by seven points or fewer in NFL history:

SEASON	WEEK	GAMES DECIDED BY SEVEN POINTS OR FEWER
2013	1	12
2011	3	12
2003	12	12
1993	15	12

-- **BACK TO FOOTBALL** --

PASSING FRENZY: In Week 1, six quarterbacks – Denver’s **PEYTON MANNING** (462), New York Giants’ **ELI MANNING** (450), San Francisco’s **COLIN KAEPERNICK** (412), Baltimore’s **JOE FLACCO** (362), New Orleans’ **DREW BREES** (357) and Detroit’s **MATTHEW STAFFORD** (357) – passed for at least 350 yards, the most ever on Kickoff Weekend. Manning and Flacco combined for 824 passing yards, the third most in a season opening game.

A look at the six 350-yard passing performances on Kickoff Weekend:

PLAYER	TEAM	ATTEMPTS	COMPLETIONS	YARDS	TDS	INTS	RATING
Peyton Manning	Denver	42	27	462	7	0	141.4
Eli Manning	New York Giants	42	27	450	4	3	102.3
Colin Kaepernick	San Francisco	39	27	412	3	0	129.4
Joe Flacco	Baltimore	62	34	362	2	2	69.4
Drew Brees	New Orleans	35	26	357	2	1	113.6
Matthew Stafford	Detroit	43	28	357	2	1	96.8

Week 1 also featured 12 individual 300-yard passing games, the second most in Week 1 in NFL history (14 in 2011).

NFL quarterbacks threw 63 touchdown passes on Kickoff Weekend, the most combined TD passes in any week in NFL history. The previous high was 58 (Week 13 in 2004; Week 17 in 2007).

SEASON	WEEK	MOST COMBINED PASSING TOUCHDOWNS IN SINGLE WEEK
2013	1	63
2007	17	58
2004	13	58
1995	12	57
2010	10	56
1998	13	56

-- **BACK TO FOOTBALL** --

100+ CLUB: Eleven quarterbacks recorded a passer rating of at least 100 (min. 20 attempts) on Kickoff Weekend, tied for second-most ever on the opening weekend of a season since 1970.

The quarterbacks with a 100+ passer rating (min. 20 attempts) on Kickoff Weekend 2013:

PLAYER	PASSER RTG.	PLAYER	PASSER RTG.
Peyton Manning, Den.	141.1	Matt Schaub, Hou.	110.0

Colin Kaepernick, SF	129.4		EJ Manuel, Buf	105.5
Andrew Luck, Ind.	127.9		Aaron Rodgers, GB	102.6
Russell Wilson, Sea.	115.7		Eli Manning, NYG	102.3
Drew Brees, NO	113.6		Sam Bradford, StL	100.7
Michael Vick, Phi.	112.6			

The most quarterbacks with a 100+ passer rating (min. 20 attempts) in season openers since 1970:

SEASON	QBs WITH 100+ PASSER RTG.
2012	12
2013	11
2011	11
2007	11
2002	10
1999	10

-- **BACK TO FOOTBALL** --

YOUNG QBS: Since 2011, teams have started nine rookie quarterbacks in Week 1, the most during a three-year span since at least 1950.

New York Jets rookie quarterback **GENO SMITH** threw for 256 yards and a touchdown in the Jets' 18-17 win over Tampa Bay. Smith, who led the team on a 50-yard drive to set up the game-winning field goal with two seconds remaining, is the first rookie quarterback drafted in the second round or later to pass for at least 250 yards and win on Kickoff Weekend since the 1970 merger.

Buffalo Bills rookie quarterback **EJ MANUEL** completed 18 of 27 passes for 150 yards and two touchdowns versus zero interceptions for a 105.5 passer rating in the Bills' 23-21 loss to the New England Patriots.

The nine rookie quarterbacks to start their team's first game of the season since 2011:

ROOKIE YEAR	QUARTERBACKS	TEAM	OPPONENT	RESULT
2011	Andy Dalton	Cincinnati	Cleveland	Won, 27-17
2011	Cam Newton	Carolina	Arizona	Lost, 28-21
2012	Robert Griffin III	Washington	New Orleans	Won, 40-32
2012	Andrew Luck	Indianapolis	Chicago	Lost, 41-21
2012	Ryan Tannehill	Miami	Houston	Lost, 30-10
2012	Brandon Weeden	Cleveland	Philadelphia	Lost, 17-16
2012	Russell Wilson	Seattle	Arizona	Lost, 20-16
2013	<i>EJ Manuel</i>	<i>Buffalo</i>	<i>New England</i>	<i>Lost, 23-21</i>
2013	<i>Geno Smith</i>	<i>New York Jets</i>	<i>Tampa Bay</i>	<i>Won, 18-17</i>

-- **BACK TO FOOTBALL** --

KICKOFF NOTES: A look at some team notes from across the league on Kickoff Weekend 2013:

- The **CHICAGO BEARS**, who defeated the Cincinnati Bengals 24-21 on Kickoff Weekend, have won 54 season openers, the most wins all-time on Kickoff Weekend.
- The **DALLAS COWBOYS**, who defeated the New York Giants 36-31 on *Sunday Night Football*, improved their NFL-best winning percentage in season openers to 36-17-1 (.679).
- The **DENVER BRONCOS** defeated the reigning Super Bowl champion Baltimore Ravens 49-27 in the NFL's annual primetime kickoff game last Thursday night. Denver owns the top winning percentage in home openers (.750, 40-13-1) and currently has the second-best winning percentage in season openers (.639, 34-19-1) in the NFL. The win marked the Broncos 12th consecutive regular-season win, the longest active streak in the NFL.

Note: Ties prior to 1972 did not count in winning percentage.

- On the *Monday Night Football* doubleheader, the **PHILADELPHIA EAGLES** defeated the Washington Redskins 33-27 at FedExField, while the **HOUSTON TEXANS** won 31-28 against the San Diego Chargers at Qualcomm Stadium. Both teams have now won five consecutive road openers, sharing the longest active such streak in the league.

- The **DETROIT LIONS** defeated the Minnesota Vikings 34-24 on Kickoff Weekend at Ford Field. The Lions now have 51 wins in home openers, the second-most in NFL history.

-- BACK TO FOOTBALL --

SAFETY FIRST: Week 1 featured four safeties league-wide, the most ever on Kickoff Weekend. The Jacksonville Jaguars, New York Jets, Philadelphia Eagles and Pittsburgh Steelers each recorded a safety in Week 1, which all occurred in the first quarter.

The previous record on Kickoff Weekend was three in 1970, 1993 and 1999, while the single-week record since the 1970 merger is five, set in Week 14, 2011.

The Steelers took a 2-0 lead with a safety on the opening kickoff in their game against Tennessee. It marked the first safety on an opening kickoff since the New York Giants recorded one against Dallas on September 18, 1988. It also was the fastest score – three seconds into the game – to begin a game since **RANDAL WILLIAMS** had a 37-yard onside-kick return touchdown at 0:03 for Dallas against Philadelphia (October 12, 2003).

-- BACK TO FOOTBALL --

MANNING THE OFFENSE: With the victory against the Baltimore Ravens on Thursday, Denver quarterback **PEYTON MANNING** became the first quarterback in the Super Bowl era to win at least 12 consecutive regular-season games three separate times in a career. Manning's win streaks of at least 12 regular-season games:

TEAM	STREAK DATE	STREAK
Indianapolis Colts	9/11/2005-12/11/2005	13
Indianapolis Colts	11/2/2008-12/17/2009	23
<i>Denver Broncos</i>	<i>10/15/2012-present</i>	<i>12</i>

Manning completed 27 of 42 passes for 462 yards and seven touchdowns versus zero interceptions for a 141.1 passer rating in Thursday night's win. His seven touchdown passes ties the single-game NFL record (**SID LUCKMAN**, 1943; **ADRIAN BURK**, 1954; **GEORGE BLANDA**, 1961; **Y.A. TITTLE**, 1962; **JOE KAPP**, 1969). Manning and Tittle are the only quarterbacks in NFL history to have at least seven touchdowns passes without an interception in a single game.

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