

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE
 345 Park Avenue
 New York, NY 10154
 p. (212) 450-2000

NFLCommunications.com
 @NFL345



Jocelyn.Moore@nfl.com
 Executive Vice President, Communications and Public Affairs

Jon.Schwartz@nfl.com
 Senior Vice President, Communications and Public Affairs

Traci.Blunt@nfl.com
 Senior Vice President, Corporate Communications

Michael.Signora@nfl.com
 Senior Vice President, Football and International Communications

Brian.McCarthy@nfl.com
 Vice President, Communications

COMMUNICATIONS

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<http://twitter.com/nfl345>

NFC WEST BATTLE ON MONDAY NIGHT HIGHLIGHTS WEEK 10

To help celebrate the NFL's 100th season, each week will feature an NFL 100 Game of the Week. Each game is a nod to a momentous game played, a fierce rivalry that spans decades, a matchup of original teams and/or a game in which history was made. The NFL has designated Sunday's **ATLANTA FALCONS-NEW ORLEANS SAINTS** matchup as the NFL100 Game of the Week because the contest is a nod to the momentous 2006 Saints home-opener, when the team sparked the resurgence of a community devastated by Hurricane Katrina. In an electrifying moment at the Superdome on September 25, 2006, **STEVE GLEASON** blocked a first-quarter punt and **CURTIS DELOATCH** recovered the ball in the end zone, an uplifting initial score in the city's first regular-season game since December 26, 2004. Buoyed by the win, the 3-0 Saints advanced to the NFC Championship game, and three years later won the Super Bowl. The game also marked the first home contest in the New Orleans career of the NFL's all-time passing-yards leader, **DREW BREES**.



HOPE SPRINGS ETERNAL: Through the first nine weeks of the 2019 season, four teams – the **BUFFALO BILLS** (6-2), **GREEN BAY PACKERS** (7-2), **MINNESOTA VIKINGS** (6-3) and **SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS** (8-0) – are in playoff position after missing the postseason a year ago. From 1990-2018 – a streak of 29 consecutive years – at least four teams have qualified for the playoffs in every season that were not in the postseason the year before. In 2018, seven of the 12 playoff teams missed the postseason the year before.

DIVISION-WINNING REBOUNDS: The NFL in 2002 expanded to 32 teams and realigned into eight divisions. Since that time, at least two teams have won their divisions the season after missing the playoffs in 15 of the past 16 years. Heading into Week 10, two teams – **GREEN BAY** in the NFC North and **SAN FRANCISCO** in the NFC West – lead their respective divisions after missing the postseason in 2018.

Teams to win their divisions a season after missing the playoffs over the last 16 seasons:

SEASON	NEW DIVISION WINNERS AFTER MISSING POSTSEASON THE PRIOR SEASON
2018	Baltimore, Chicago*, Dallas, Houston*
2017	Jacksonville*, Los Angeles Rams, New Orleans, Minnesota, Philadelphia*
2016	Atlanta, Dallas*
2015	Houston, Minnesota, Washington*
2014	Dallas, Pittsburgh
2013	Carolina*, Philadelphia*
2012	Washington*
2011	Denver*, Houston*, New York Giants, San Francisco
2010	Atlanta, Chicago, Kansas City*, Pittsburgh, Seattle
2009	Cincinnati, Dallas, New England, New Orleans*
2008	Arizona, Carolina, Miami*, Minnesota
2007	Green Bay, Pittsburgh, Tampa Bay*
2006	Baltimore*, New Orleans*, Philadelphia*, San Diego Chargers
2005	Chicago*, Cincinnati, New York Giants, Tampa Bay*
2004	Atlanta*, Pittsburgh, San Diego*
2003	Baltimore, Carolina*, Kansas City*, New England, St. Louis Rams

*Worst to first

SEVEN-WIN SUPERLATIVES: Entering Week 10, five teams – the **GREEN BAY PACKERS** (7-2), **NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS** (8-1), **NEW ORLEANS SAINTS** (7-1), **SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS** (8-0) and **SEATTLE SEAHAWKS** (7-2) – have at least seven wins, the most through the first nine weeks since the 1990 season (five teams). In total, 10 teams have at least six victories, the most through the first nine weeks of a season since 1986 (11 teams).

NINERS REMAIN UNBLEMISHED, SEAHAWKS UP NEXT: For the first time in NFL history, the **SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS** (8-0) are the league's last remaining undefeated team at least eight games into a season. San Francisco, which finished last season 4-12 and selected DL **NICK BOSA** with the second-overall pick in the 2019 NFL Draft, is off to its best start since opening 10-0 in 1990. This week, the 49ers host a divisional contest with key playoff implications against the **SEATTLE SEAHAWKS** (7-2) on *Monday Night Football* (8:15 PM ET, ESPN).

- The Seahawks-49ers matchup is the first meeting between divisional opponents that have combined for two or fewer losses in Week 10 or later since November 17, 2013, when Denver (8-1) hosted Kansas City (9-0) in an AFC West showdown.
- San Francisco is the second team in NFL history to finish with a winning percentage of .250 or below and rebound to win its first eight games of the following season. In 2013, the **KANSAS CITY CHIEFS** opened 9-0 after going 2-14 (.125) in the 2012 season.
- Last week in the Seahawks' 40-34 overtime victory against Tampa Bay, Seattle quarterback **RUSSELL WILSON** notched his 90th win as a starter, including the postseason. On Monday night, he can surpass **BEN ROEHLISBERGER** (90) for second-most quarterback wins over his first eight seasons in the Super Bowl era. Only **TOM BRADY** (100) had more.
- Including the 49ers' berth in Super Bowl XLVII after the 2012 season, the NFC West has produced four of the last seven NFC Super Bowl representatives. Seattle and San Francisco accounted for three of those appearances, while the **LOS ANGELES RAMS** were the latest division entry in Super Bowl LIII last season. Since the beginning of that 2012 season, no other division has a better overall winning percentage.

The divisions with the best overall winning percentages since 2012:

DIVISION	W	L	T	PCT
NFC West	258	219	5	.540
NFC North	247	230	5	.518
AFC West	249	234	0	.516
AFC East	247	234	0	.514

AFTER THE BYE: A season-high six NFL teams are on byes during Week 10, and every club will have taken its week off by the end of Week 12. On Sunday, two teams coming off their byes meet in an NFC South clash when the **ATLANTA FALCONS** travel to play the **NEW ORLEANS SAINTS** (1:00 PM ET, FOX). Since the beginning of the 2011 season, only the **BALTIMORE RAVENS**, fresh off a post-bye win over the Patriots in Week 9, have a better record after the bye.

The NFL teams with the best winning percentages in the game following the bye since 2011:

TEAM	W	L	T	PCT
Baltimore Ravens	7	2	0	.778
Atlanta Falcons	6	2	0	.750
Denver Broncos	6	2	0	.750
Houston Texans	6	2	0	.750
New Orleans Saints	6	2	0	.750
Buffalo Bills	6	3	0	.667
Detroit Lions	6	3	0	.667
Indianapolis Colts	6	3	0	.667
Pittsburgh Steelers	6	3	0	.667

ANOTHER ROOKIE QUARTERBACK MAKES STARTING DEBUT: On Sunday when the **BALTIMORE RAVENS** meet the **CINCINNATI BENGALS** (1:00 PM ET, CBS), the Ravens (6-2) have an opportunity to match their best start in franchise history (7-2 in both 2006 and 2012). On the other sideline, quarterback **RYAN FINLEY** will make his first NFL start. Finley will become the sixth rookie to make his starting debut this season, joining Arizona's **KYLER MURRAY**, Jacksonville's **GARDNER MINSHEW**, Pittsburgh's **DEVLIN HODGES**, the New York Giants' **DANIEL JONES** and Washington's **DWAYNE HASKINS**.

Through the first nine weeks, 110 of 135 overall games (81.5 percent) have featured at least one quarterback under the age of 27, the most at this point in a season in league history. In total, quarterbacks under age 27 have started 146 games and recorded 76 wins (52.1 percent), both the most starts and wins by quarterbacks under the age of 27 through the first nine weeks of a season since at least 1970.

MOST GAMES STARTED BY QBS UNDER AGE 27, THROUGH WEEK 9	
SEASON	GAMES
2019	146
1987	126
2013	126

MOST WINS BY STARTING QBS UNDER AGE 27, THROUGH WEEK 9	
SEASON	WINS
2019	76
1984	64
2013	63

NFL SCHEDULE, NOVEMBER 7, 10-11

(All times Eastern)

Thursday

Los Angeles Chargers at Oakland Raiders 8:20 PM FOX/NFLN
AMAZON

Sunday

Detroit Lions at Chicago Bears 1:00 PM CBS
 Baltimore Ravens at Cincinnati Bengals 1:00 PM CBS
 Buffalo Bills at Cleveland Browns 1:00 PM CBS
 Atlanta Falcons at New Orleans Saints 1:00 PM FOX
 New York Giants at New York Jets 1:00 PM FOX
 Arizona Cardinals at Tampa Bay Buccaneers 1:00 PM FOX

Sunday (cont.)

Kansas City Chiefs at Tennessee Titans 1:00 PM CBS
 Miami Dolphins at Indianapolis Colts 4:05 PM CBS
 Carolina Panthers at Green Bay Packers 4:25 PM FOX
 Los Angeles Rams at Pittsburgh Steelers 4:25 PM FOX
 Minnesota Vikings at Dallas Cowboys 8:20 PM NBC

Monday

Seattle Seahawks at San Francisco 49ers 8:15 PM ESPN

Byes: Denver, Houston, Jacksonville, New England,
Philadelphia, Washington