



NFC NOTES

FOR USE AS DESIRED

1/19/16

<http://twitter.com/nfl345>

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION,
CONTACT: RANDALL LIU

NFC CHAMPIONSHIP: ARIZONA CARDINALS AT CAROLINA PANTHERS

SUNDAY, JANUARY 24, 2016

ARIZONA CARDINALS–NFC WEST (14-3) AT CAROLINA PANTHERS–NFC SOUTH (16-1)
SERIES

	CARDINALS	PANTHERS
LEADER (REG. SEASON)		8-4
STREAKS (REG. SEASON)	Past 2	
COACHES VS. OPP. (REG. & POSTSEASON)	Bruce Arians: 1-1	Ron Rivera: 1-2
COACHES PLAYOFF RECORD	Bruce Arians: 1-1	Ron Rivera: 2-2
VS. COMMON OPP. (REG. SEASON)	Ari: 3-1 (GB 1-0; NO 1-0; Sea 1-1) Car: 4-0 (GB 1-0; NO 2-0; Sea 1-0)	
PLAYOFF RECORD	7-8	8-6
LAST WEEK	W 26-20 (OT) vs. Packers	W 31-24 vs. Seahawks
LAST GAME (REG. SEASON)	10/6/13: Panthers 6 at Cardinals 22. Arizona QB Carson Palmer passes for 175 yards & TD. Cardinals DE Calais Campbell has 2 sacks, forced fumble & safety.	
LAST GAME AT SITE (REG. SEASON)	12/19/10: Panthers 19, Cardinals 12. Carolina RB Jonathan Stewart rushes for 137 yards. Panthers QB Jimmy Clausen throws for 141 yards & TD.	
LAST PLAYOFF	1/3/15: Cardinals 16 at Panthers 27. Carolina RB Stewart rushes for 123 yards & TD. Panthers QB Cam Newton passes for 198 yards & 2 TDs.	
REFEREE	Bill Vinovich	
BROADCAST	FOX (6:15 PM ET): TBD. Westwood One: Kevin Kugler, James Lofton, Tim Ryan (Field reporter). SIRIUS: 88 (WW1), 83 (Ari), 82 (Car). XM: 88 (WW1), 226 (Ari), 82 (Car).	

REGULAR SEASON STAT LEADERS

PASSING	Palmer: 342-537-4671 (2C)-35 (T1C)-11-104.6 (3L)	Newton: 296-495-3837-35 (T1C)-10-99.4
RUSHING	D. Johnson (R): 125-581-4.6-8	Stewart: 242-989-4.1-6
RECEIVING	Fitzgerald: 109 (2C)-1215 (3C)-11.1-9	Olsen (TE): 77-1104-14.3-7
OFFENSE	408.3 (1L)	366.9
TAKE/GIVE	+9 (2C)	+20 (1L)
DEFENSE	321.7 (2C)	322.9 (3C)
SACKS	Freeney: 8	Short: 11 (T2C)
INTs	R. Johnson: 5 (T3C)	Coleman: 7 (T1C)
PR	Peterson: 8.1	Ginn: 10.3 (2C)
KR	D. Johnson (R): 27.2	Whittaker: 23.2
PUNTING	Butler: 42.9	Nortman: 45.4
KICKING	Catanzaro: 137 (3L) (53/58 PAT; 28/31 FG)	Gano: 146 (1C) (56/59 PAT; 30/36 FG)

NOTES

TEAMS MEET for 3rd time in postseason & 2nd year in row. Az won 2008 Divisional playoff meeting (33-13 on 1/10/09) & Car won 2014 WC (27-16 on 1/3/15). Car leads all-time series (incl. playoffs) 9-5.

CARDINALS: Advanced to 2nd NFC Championship Game (2008) in SB era. Won NFC West for 1st time since 2009. Set franchise record with 13 regular-season wins. Scored team-record 489 points (30.6 avg.) & led NFL in total offense (408.3 yards per game) in regular season. Club has won 10+ regular-season games in all 3 seasons under head coach **BRUCE ARIANS**. Arians has 35-15 overall record (.700) with Az (incl. playoffs). His 35 wins are most in 3-year span in franchise history. Are 20-5 (.800) in past 3 seasons at home (incl. playoffs)...Cardinals had 7 players selected to Pro Bowl: **ST JUSTIN BETHEL** (3rd), **DE CALAIS CAMPBELL** (2nd), **WR LARRY FITZGERALD** (9th), **G MIKE IUPATI** (4th), **S TYRANN MATHIEU** (1st), **QB CARSON PALMER** (3rd) & **CB PATRICK PETERSON** (5th)...**QB Palmer** has won 27 of past 32 starts (incl. playoffs). Set franchise record with 35 pass TDs, 4,671 pass yards & 104.6 passer rating in regular season. Is 1st QB in team history with 2 4,000-yard seasons. Had 100+ passer rating in 11 regular-season games, most in NFL. Passed for 349 yards & 3 TDs last week, his 1st career playoff win...**RB DAVID JOHNSON** led NFL rookies with 13 TDs in regular season – had 8 rush TDs, 4 rec. TDs & KR-TD joining HOFer **GALE SAYERS** (1965) as only rookies in NFL history to do so. In past 6 (1st 6 career starts), has 736 scrimmage yards (122.7 per game), most in NFL (incl. playoffs)...**WR Fitzgerald** had 8 catches for 176 yards & GW-TD in OT last week. In 8 postseason games, has 53 catches for 912 yards (114 per game) & 10 TDs. His 10 TD catches are tied for 3rd most in NFL postseason history & he is fastest in NFL history to reach 10 postseason rec. TDs. Has 3 playoff games with 150+ rec. yards, most in SB era. Holds NFL records for most catches (30), rec. yards (546) & rec. TDs (7) in single postseason (2008). Had 8 catches for 166 yards & TD vs. Car in 2008 Div. Had team-record 109 catches in regular season, his 3rd career 100-catch season. Had 1,215 rec. yards in regular season, his club-record 7th career 1,000-yard season. Has catch in 187 consecutive games, incl. playoffs. Since entering NFL in 2004, has 108 rec. TDs (incl. playoffs), most in NFL. **WR JOHN BROWN** had career-high 65 catches, 1,003 yards & 7 TDs in regular season. **WR MICHAEL FLOYD** had 2 TDs last week. Has 5 100-yard games in past 9 (incl. playoffs). Since 2013, averages 16.3 yards per catch (incl. playoffs), 3rd best in NFL (min. 150 catches)...Cardinals had 33 takeaways (19 INT, 14 FR) in regular season, 2nd most in NFL. **S RASHAD JOHNSON & S Mathieu** tied for team lead with 5 INTs in regular season. Johnson had INT in Div. & is only player in NFL with 15+ INTs & 3+ INT-TDs since 2012 (incl. playoffs). **CB Peterson** has recorded 2+ INTs in all 5 career NFL seasons. Is 1 of 4 in NFL history (HOFers **JIM BROWN**, **BARRY SANDERS**, **EMMITT SMITH**) to be selected to 5 Pro Bowls before age 26. **LB DEONE BUCANNON** led team with 109 tackles in regular season, his 1st career 100-tackle season. Was 1 of 2 in NFL (**THOMAS DAVIS**) with 100+ tackles, 3+ sacks, 3 FFs & INT in regular season. **LB DWIGHT FREENEY** has 9 sacks in 12 games this season (incl. playoffs). Has 10 career postseason sacks, incl. sack last week. **DE Campbell** was 2nd on club with 5 sacks in regular season, his 7th consecutive season with 5+ sacks. Has 3 sacks in past 4 meetings (incl. WC). **S TONY JEFFERSON** led team with 9 tackles last week in Div...**ST Bethel** had safety in WC meeting vs. Car.

PANTHERS: Advanced to 4th NFC Championship Game & 1st since 2005. Host NFC CG for 1st time. Clinched home-field advantage for 1st time in franchise history. Won NFC South for 3rd consecutive season & have won division 6 times. Won franchise-record 15 games in regular season. Head coach **RON RIVERA** has won division in 3 of 5 seasons with Car. Panthers had NFL-best 10 players selected to Pro Bowl: **LB THOMAS DAVIS** (1st), **C RYAN KALIL** (5th), **LB LUKE KUECHLY** (3rd), **QB CAM NEWTON** (3rd), **CB JOSH NORMAN** (1st), **TE GREG OLSEN** (2nd), **DT KAWANN SHORT** (1st), **RB JONATHAN STEWART** (1st), **FB MIKE TOLBERT** (2nd) & **G TRAI TURNER** (1st)...Led NFL with franchise-record 500 points scored in regular season...**QB Newton** is only player in NFL history with 30+ pass TDs (35) & 10+ rush TDs (10) in season. Passed for 3,837 yards & rushed for 636 yards in regular season. Is only player in NFL history with 3,000+ pass yards & 500+ rush yards in 5 seasons. Has 31 career regular-season games with pass TD & rush TD, tied for most in NFL history (HOFer **STEVE YOUNG**). Had 3 games with 5 TD passes...**RB Stewart** rushed for 106 yards & 2 TDs in Div. Had 1,088 scrimmage yards in regular season, his 3rd career season with 1,000+ scrimmage yards. Has 4

rush TDs in 3 home playoff games. Has rushed for 260 yards (130 per game) & TD in past 2 at home vs. Az (incl. playoffs). **FB Tolbert** had TD catch in WC vs. Az. **TE Olsen** had 77 catches for 1,104 yards & 7 TDs in regular season, his 2nd consecutive season with 75+ catches, 1,000+ yards & 6+ TDs. Is only NFL TE with 5+ rec. TDs in each of past 8 seasons. Had TD catch in Div. **WR TED GINN JR.** led team with career-high 10 rec. TDs. Has 6 TDs in his past 5 games, incl. 3 games with 2 TDs. Rookie **WR DEVIN FUNCHESS** ranked 3rd on team with 5 rec. TDs & has TD catch in 3 of past 5 at home...Club led NFL in regular season with 39 takeaways, 24 INTs & +20 turnover differential. Had 5 sacks & 2 INTs in Div...**LB Kuechly** led team with 118 tackles in regular season. Since entering NFL in 2012, leads league with 591 tackles. Has 13 INTs since 2012 (incl. playoffs), most by NFL LB. Had INT-TD in Div. Has INT in both career meetings vs. Az (incl. playoffs). **LB Davis** was 2nd on team with 105 tackles. Was only player in NFL with 4+ sacks (5.5) & 4+ INTs (4) in regular season. **DT Short** has career-high 12 sacks (incl. playoffs), tied for most by NFL DT. Has 4 games with 2+ sacks. Had sack in Div. Had sack vs. Az in WC. Incl. playoffs, Panthers lead NFL with 5 INT-TDs: Kuechly (2), **CB Norman** (2) & **S KURT COLEMAN** (1). Kuechly & Norman are tied for most in NFL with 2 INT-TDs (incl. playoffs). Coleman had 7 INTs in regular season, tied for most in NFC. **DE CHARLES JOHNSON** has 8 sacks in 7 games vs. Az. (incl. playoffs). Had 2 sacks vs. Az in WC. Had sack last week in Div. Since 2006, **S ROMAN HARPER** is only DB in NFL with 15+ sacks (18), 15+ FFs (15) & 10+ INTs (11). **DE MARIO ADDISON** had 6 sacks in regular season, his 2nd consecutive season with 6+ sacks...**K GRAHAM GANO** led NFC with franchise-record 146 points in regular season.

###