

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

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COMMUNICATIONS

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THE WEEK THAT WAS – WEEK 7

FOURTH QUARTER COMEBACKS: Three teams – **JACKSONVILLE, NEW ENGLAND** and **WASHINGTON** – won after trailing in the fourth quarter in Week 7, bringing the season total to 30 times that a team trailing in the fourth quarter has won in 2015, tied for the fifth-most ever through Week 7 in NFL history.

The most fourth-quarter comeback wins through Week 7 in NFL history:

YEAR	FOURTH QUARTER COMEBACK WINS THROUGH WEEK 7
2012	34
1989	34
2011	33
1999	32
2015	30
1987	30

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SO CLOSE: Close games have been a staple of the 2015 season as 57 games have been decided by eight points or fewer, the fourth-most such games through the first seven weeks of a season in NFL history.

Last week, 8 of 14 games were decided by eight points or fewer, including the Jaguars' 34-31 victory over the Buffalo Bills as part of the 2015 NFL International Series at London's Wembley Stadium.

The most games decided by eight points or fewer in a season's first seven weeks:

SEASON	MOST GAMES DECIDED BY EIGHT POINTS OR FEWER
2012	62
2010	60
1999	59
2015	57
2011	56

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PASSING FANCY: Quarterbacks have been historically efficient through Week 7 of the 2014 season, combining for a league-wide passer rating of 90.2 and a completion percentage of 63.9. Both are on pace to be the highest of any season in NFL history and would surpass records set in 2014 (88.9 passer rating; 62.6 completion percentage).

The league-wide yards-per-pass attempt average, currently at 7.32, is also on pace to be the highest of any season in the Super Bowl era.

The seasons with the highest league-wide yards-per-pass attempt average in the Super Bowl era (since 1966):

SEASON	YARDS/PASS ATTEMPT
2014	7.21
2011	7.20
1983	7.18

1989	7.15
1984	7.14
2015*	7.32

* Through Week 7

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SCORING HIGHS: NFL teams have combined for 4,893 points in 2015. That total equates to 46.6 points per game. If the current average stays at this pace, it would rank as the second-highest of any season in the Super Bowl era (2013, 46.8 points per game).

Teams have combined to score 553 touchdowns, the most at this point in NFL history (552 in 2014). Of the 553 touchdowns, 337 have been TD passes, the second-most through the first seven weeks of any season. The previous high was 357 last season.

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6-0 STARTS: The **CAROLINA PANTHERS** and **NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS** joined the **CINCINNATI BENGALS**, **DENVER BRONCOS** and **GREEN BAY PACKERS** as the only teams in the NFL with a 6-0 record this season. Carolina won 27-16 on *Sunday Night Football* against Philadelphia, while New England defeated the New York Jets 30-23. The Bengals, Broncos and Packers all had a bye.

With five 6-0 teams, the 2015 season surpassed 2009 (four) for the most 6-0 teams in a single season.

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WINNING GIANT: New York Giants head coach **TOM COUGHLIN** secured his 100th victory as a Giant with a 27-20 victory over the Dallas Cowboys. Coughlin is the seventh head coach with at least 100 victories and two Super Bowl wins with one franchise in NFL history. In 20 seasons as a head coach (Jacksonville Jaguars, 1995-2002; New York Giants, 2004-15), Coughlin has 180 career victories, the 11th most wins by a head coach in NFL history (including postseason).

The coaches with at least 100 victories and two Super Bowl wins with one franchise:

COACH	TEAM	SEASONS	WINS	SUPER BOWL WINS
Don Shula	Miami Dolphins	1970-95	257	2
Tom Landry	Dallas Cowboys	1960-88	250	2
Chuck Noll	Pittsburgh Steelers	1969-91	193	4
Bill Belichick*	New England Patriots	2000-present	181	4
Joe Gibbs	Washington Redskins	1981-92, 2004-07	154	3
Mike Shanahan	Denver Broncos	1995-2008	138	2
Tom Coughlin*	New York Giants	2004-present	100	2

*Active

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QB MILESTONES: Below is a sampling of the quarterback milestones that were reached in Week 7:

- Patriots quarterback **TOM BRADY** completed 34 of 54 passes for 355 yards with two touchdowns and no interceptions for a 94.3 passer rating in the win. Brady (55,312) surpassed 55,000 career passing yards and is only the fifth quarterback in NFL history to reach the mark, joining **BRETT FAVRE**, **PEYTON MANNING**, Pro Football Hall of Famer **DAN MARINO** and **DREW BREES**.

The performance marked the 17th time in his career that Brady had at least 350 passing yards, two touchdowns and no interceptions, the most such games in NFL history.

- Washington quarterback **KIRK COUSINS** completed 33 of 40 passes for 317 yards with three touchdowns for a 124.7 passer rating in the Redskins' 31-30 victory against Tampa Bay. Cousins' third touchdown pass, a six-yard completion to tight end **JORDAN REED** with 24 seconds remaining in the game, was his second game-winning score in the final 30 seconds of regulation this month. Cousins also threw a game-winning score to wide receiver **PIERRE GARÇON** with 26 seconds to play against Philadelphia in Week 4 and is the first quarterback since **DREW BLEDSOE** (2005) to throw game-winning touchdown passes in the final 30 seconds of the fourth quarter twice in the same calendar month.

- Atlanta quarterback **MATT RYAN** passed for 251 yards in the Falcons' 10-7 win at Tennessee. Ryan (30,168) surpassed 30,000 career passing yards in his 117th career game, the fifth-fastest in NFL history. The only quarterbacks to reach 30,000 passing yards in fewer games are Pro Football Hall of Famer **DAN MARINO** (114), **KURT WARNER** (114), **PEYTON MANNING** (115) and **AARON RODGERS** (116).
- Miami quarterback **RYAN TANNEHILL** completed 18 of 19 passes (94.7 percent) for 282 yards with four touchdowns, no interceptions and a 158.3 passer rating – the highest attainable mark – in the Dolphins' 44-26 win over Houston. Tannehill completed his first 18 passes of the game and, combined with his seven completions in a row to end the Dolphins' Week 6 game at Tennessee, set an NFL record with 25 consecutive completions (DONOVAN MC NABB, 24 in 2004).

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GREAT GRONK: New England tight end **ROB GRONKOWSKI** had 11 catches for 108 yards and a touchdown in the Patriots' 30-23 victory over the New York Jets. Gronkowski now has 60 touchdown receptions in 71 career games, the third-fastest player to reach the milestone and the fastest tight end to do so.

The players to reach 60 career touchdown catches in the fewest games:

PLAYER	TEAM	FEWEST GAMES TO REACH 60 RECEIVING TDS
Lance Alworth^	San Diego	64
Jerry Rice^	San Francisco	69
Rob Gronkowski	New England	71
Tommy McDonald^	Philadelphia	75
Bob Hayes^	Dallas	78
Randy Moss	Minnesota	78

^Pro Football Hall of Famer

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KEENAN'S CATCHES: San Diego wide receiver **KEENAN ALLEN** had nine catches for 89 yards against Oakland in Week 7, bringing his season total to 62 receptions, the most of any NFL player through his team's first seven games to begin a season in NFL history.

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HANGIN' WITH MR. COOPER: Oakland rookie wide receiver **AMARI COOPER** (Round 1, No. 4 overall) had five catches for 133 yards and a touchdown in the Raiders' 37-29 with at San Diego. It was Cooper's third 100-yard receiving game this season, making him the first rookie with three 100-yard receiving games in his team's first six games since Pro Football Hall of Famer MIKE DITKA in 1961.

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