

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

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COMMUNICATIONS

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THE WEEK THAT WAS – WEEK 8

FANTASTIC FINISHES: Three teams – **BALTIMORE, MINNESOTA** and **NEW ORLEANS** – won on game-winning scores in the fourth quarter as time expired in Week 8, the first time there have been three such game-winning scores on the same day since 1970.

The games decided on a game-winning score as time expired in the fourth quarter in Week 8:

GAME	GAME-WINNING SCORE
RAVENS 29, Chargers 26	Justin Tucker, 39-yard field goal
VIKINGS 23, Bears 20	Blair Walsh, 36-yard field goal
SAINTS 52, Giants 49	Kai Forbath, 50-yard field goal

(Home team ALL CAPS)

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OVERTIME EXCITEMENT: Week 8 continued the trend of close games, as two games were decided in overtime. Eleven games have gone to overtime this season, the fifth-most through Week 8 in NFL history.

The most overtime games through Week 8 in NFL history:

SEASON	OVERTIME GAMES THROUGH WEEK 8
1995	14
1983	13
2002	12
2003	12
2015	11

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FAST STARTERS: Four teams – **CAROLINA, CINCINNATI, DENVER** and **NEW ENGLAND** – have started the season 7-0, the most in a single season in NFL history.

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HEAD START: Denver head coach **GARY KUBIAK** has led the Broncos to a 7-0 start in his first season with the team, becoming the fourth head coach to lead his team to a 7-0 record in his first season with a new team since the AFL-NFL Merger.

The head coaches to lead their teams to a 7-0 record in their first season with a new team since 1970:

COACH	TEAM	SEASON	STARTED	FINAL RECORD	PLAYOFF RESULT
Ray Malavasi	Los Angeles Rams	1978	7-0	12-4	Advanced to Conf. Champ.
Jim Caldwell	Indianapolis Colts	2009	14-0	14-2	Advanced to Super Bowl XLIV
Andy Reid	Kansas City Chiefs	2013	9-0	11-5	Advanced to Wild Card
Gary Kubiak	Denver Broncos	2015	7-0	--	--

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SENSATIONAL SCORING: The **NEW ORLEANS SAINTS** defeated the New York Giants 52-49 in Week 8 on kicker **KAI FORBATH**'s game-winning 50-yard field goal as time expired.

The teams' combined total of 101 points tied for the third-highest single-game total ever and was the most since November 28, 2004, when the Bengals (58) and Browns (48) combined for 106 points.

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QB MILESTONES: Below is a sampling of the quarterback milestones that were reached in Week 8:

- Denver quarterback **PEYTON MANNING** completed 21 of 29 passes for 340 yards in the Broncos' 29-10 victory over Green Bay on Sunday night. The game marked Manning's 186th regular season victory, tying **BRETT FAVRE** for the most of any starting quarterback in NFL history.

The quarterbacks with the most regular season wins:

PLAYER	TEAM(S)	YEARS	REGULAR SEASON WINS
Brett Favre	Green Bay, New York Jets, Minnesota	1991-2010	186
<i>Peyton Manning</i>	<i>Indianapolis, Denver</i>	<i>1998-present</i>	<i>186*</i>
Tom Brady	New England	2000-present	167*
John Elway	Denver	1983-98	148
Dan Marino	Miami	1983-99	147

* Active

- New Orleans' **DREW BREES** passed for seven touchdowns, tying the single-game NFL record for touchdown passes, while the Giants' **ELI MANNING** posted a career-high six touchdowns. The 13 combined touchdown passes are the most in NFL history in a single game.

The performance marked Brees' 10th career game with at least five touchdown passes, eclipsing **PEYTON MANNING** (nine) for the most such games in NFL history.

- Pittsburgh quarterback **BEN ROETHLISBERGER** passed for 262 yards and a touchdown against Cincinnati in Week 8, reaching 40,000 career passing yards (40,231). Roethlisberger is the fifth active quarterback to reach 40,000 career passing yards, the most active quarterbacks ever to have 40,000+ passing yards at one time. **PEYTON MANNING** (71,555), **DREW BREES** (58,409), **TOM BRADY** (55,668) and **ELI MANNING** (41,881) are the four other active quarterbacks to reach the milestone.

Roethlisberger reached the feat in his 163rd game, surpassing Pro Football Hall of Famer **WARREN MOON** (165 games) for the fifth fewest games to reach the milestone.

The quarterbacks to reach 40,000 career passing yards in the fewest games in NFL history:

PLAYER	FEWEST GAMES TO REACH 40,000 PASS YARDS
Drew Brees	152
Dan Marino	153
Peyton Manning	154
Tom Brady	162
<i>Ben Roethlisberger</i>	<i>163</i>
Warren Moon	165

- Cincinnati quarterback **ANDY DALTON** threw for 231 yards and one touchdown in the Bengals' 16-10 win at Pittsburgh in Week 8. The victory marked Dalton's 23rd career road victory, tying Pro Football Hall of Famer **DAN MARINO**, **BEN ROETHLISBERGER** and **MATT RYAN** for the most road wins by a starting quarterback in his first five seasons during the Super Bowl era (since 1966).

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MEGATRON MILESTONE: Detroit wide receiver **CALVIN JOHNSON** had five receptions for 85 yards against Kansas City in the third and final game of the NFL's 2015 International Series in London.

Johnson surpassed 11,000 career receiving yards (11,064) in his 127th game, the fewest needed to reach the milestone in NFL history.

The players to reach 11,000 career receiving yards in the fewest games:

PLAYER	TEAM	GAMES TO REACH 11,000 CAREER RECEIVING YARDS
Calvin Johnson	Detroit	127
Torry Holt	St. Louis	131
Jerry Rice	San Francisco	133
Andre Johnson	Houston	136
Marvin Harrison	Indianapolis	137

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GREAT GURLEY: St. Louis rookie running back **TODD GURLEY** rushed for 133 yards, including a 71-yard touchdown, in the Rams' 27-6 victory against San Francisco.

Gurley has rushed for 575 yards in his first five games, the third-most yards by a player in his first five games in NFL history. Only Pro Football Hall of Famer **ERIC DICKERSON** (645) and **ADRIAN PETERSON** (607) gained more yards in their first five NFL games.

The players to rush for the most yards in their first five NFL games:

PLAYER	TEAM	YEAR	RUSHING YARDS IN FIRST FIVE NFL GAMES
Eric Dickerson	Los Angeles	1983	645
Adrian Peterson	Minnesota	2007	607
Todd Gurley	St. Louis	2015	575
Billy Sims	Detroit	1980	560
Julius Jones	Dallas	2004	533

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WONDERFUL WOODSON: Oakland safety **CHARLES WOODSON** had an interception in the Raiders' 34-20 victory against the New York Jets in Week 8.

Woodson now has 65 career interceptions, tying KEN RILEY for fifth-most in NFL history.

The players with the most career interceptions in NFL history:

PLAYER	TEAM(S)	MOST CAREER INTERCEPTIONS
Paul Krause^	Washington, Minnesota	81
Emlen Tunnell^	NY Giants, Green Bay	79
Rod Woodson^	Pittsburgh, San Francisco, Baltimore, Oakland	71
Dick 'Night Train' Lane^	LA Rams, Chicago Cardinals, Detroit	68
Charles Woodson*	Oakland, Green Bay	65
Ken Riley	New England	65

*Active

^Pro Football Hall of Famer