



**COMMUNICATIONS**

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**WHAT TO LOOK FOR – WEEK 2**

**NO NEED TO PANIC:** Since realignment in 2002, 116 of the 192 playoff teams (60.4 percent) began the year at either 1-1 or 0-2, including eight teams last season and six division champions – Jacksonville (AFC South), the Los Angeles Rams (NFC West), Minnesota (NFC North), New England (AFC East), New Orleans (NFC South) and Philadelphia (NFC East).

Last season, the New Orleans Saints began the season 0-2 and advanced to the playoffs after becoming the first team in the Super Bowl era to win eight consecutive games following an 0-2 start.

A look at how playoff clubs in 2016 and 2017 began their seasons:

**2016**

Team	After 2 games	Playoff Result
<b>Atlanta</b>	<b>1-1</b>	<b>Advanced to Super Bowl LI</b>
<b>Dallas</b>	<b>1-1</b>	<b>Advanced to Divisional</b>
<b>Detroit</b>	<b>1-1</b>	<b>Advanced to Wild Card</b>
<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>1-1</b>	<b>Advanced to NFC Champ</b>
Houston	2-0	Advanced to Divisional
<b>Kansas City</b>	<b>1-1</b>	<b>Advanced to Divisional</b>
<b>Miami</b>	<b>0-2</b>	<b>Advanced to Wild Card</b>
New England	2-0	Won Super Bowl LI
New York Giants	2-0	Advanced to Wild Card
Pittsburgh	2-0	Advanced to AFC Champ
<b>Oakland</b>	<b>1-1</b>	<b>Advanced to Wild Card</b>
<b>Seattle</b>	<b>1-1</b>	<b>Advanced to Divisional</b>

**2017**

Team	After 2 games	Playoff Result
Atlanta	2-0	Advanced to Divisional
<b>Buffalo</b>	<b>1-1</b>	<b>Advanced to Wild Card</b>
Carolina	2-0	Advanced to Wild Card
<b>Jacksonville</b>	<b>1-1</b>	<b>Advanced to AFC Champ</b>
Kansas City	2-0	Advanced to Wild Card
<b>Los Angeles Rams</b>	<b>1-1</b>	<b>Advanced to Wild Card</b>
<b>Minnesota</b>	<b>1-1</b>	<b>Advanced to NFC Champ</b>
<b>New England</b>	<b>1-1</b>	<b>Advanced to Super Bowl LII</b>
<b>New Orleans</b>	<b>0-2</b>	<b>Advanced to Divisional</b>
<b>Philadelphia</b>	<b>1-1</b>	<b>Won Super Bowl LII</b>
Pittsburgh	2-0	Advanced to Divisional
<b>Tennessee</b>	<b>1-1</b>	<b>Advanced to Divisional</b>

-- NFL --

**MOVING UP THE RANKS:** Pittsburgh quarterback **BEN ROETHLISBERGER** has 51,400 career passing yards in his 15-year NFL career.

With 76 passing yards on Sunday against Kansas City (1:00 PM ET, CBS), Roethlisberger will surpass Pro Football Hall of Famer JOHN ELWAY (51,475) for the seventh-most passing yards in NFL history.

The players with the most passing yards in NFL history:

PLAYER	TEAM(S)	PASSING YARDS
Peyton Manning	Indianapolis, Denver	71,940
Brett Favre <sup>^</sup>	Green Bay, New York Jets, Minnesota	71,838
Drew Brees	San Diego, New Orleans	70,884*
Tom Brady	New England	66,436*
Dan Marino <sup>^</sup>	Miami	61,361
Eli Manning	New York Giants	51,906*
John Elway <sup>^</sup>	Denver	51,475
<b>Ben Roethlisberger</b>	<b>Pittsburgh</b>	<b>51,400*</b>

\*Active

<sup>^</sup>Pro Football Hall of Famer

-- NFL --

**PROLIFIC PASSERS:** Three quarterbacks – New Orleans' **DREW BREES** (439 passing yards), Los Angeles Chargers' **PHILIP RIVERS** (424) and Tampa Bay's **RYAN FITZPATRICK** (417) – each threw for at least 400 yards on Kickoff Weekend.

With 400 passing yard performances in Week 2, Brees, Rivers and Fitzpatrick can join **TOM BRADY** (2011) and **CAM NEWTON** (2011) as the only quarterbacks to throw for at least 400 yards in each of their team's first two games of a season in NFL history.

The players to throw for at least 400 yards in each of their team's first two games of a season in NFL history:

PLAYER	SEASON	TEAM	GAME 1 PASSING YARDS	GAME 2 PASSING YARDS
Tom Brady	2011	New England	517	423
Cam Newton	2011	Carolina	422	432
<b>Drew Brees</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>New Orleans</b>	<b>439</b>	<b>???</b>
<b>Philip Rivers</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>Los Angeles Chargers</b>	<b>424</b>	<b>???</b>
<b>Ryan Fitzpatrick</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>Tampa Bay</b>	<b>417</b>	<b>???</b>

Two quarterbacks – Fitzpatrick and Kansas City's **PATRICK MAHOMES** – each threw four touchdown passes in Week 1.

With four touchdown passes in Week 2, Fitzpatrick and Mahomes would join **DREW BLEDSOE** (1997) as the only quarterbacks to throw for at least four touchdowns in each of their team's first two games of a season in NFL history.

The players to throw for at least four touchdowns in each of their team's first two games of a season in NFL history:

PLAYER	SEASON	TEAM	GAME 1 PASSING TDS	GAME 2 PASSING TDS
Drew Bledsoe	1997	New England	4	4
<b>Ryan Fitzpatrick</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>Tampa Bay</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>???</b>
<b>Patrick Mahomes</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>Kansas City</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>???</b>

-- NFL --

**BURSTING ONTO THE SCENE:** New York Giants rookie running back **SAQUON BARKLEY** rushed for 106 yards, including a 68-yard touchdown, in his NFL debut last week.

With another 100-yard performance in Week 2 against the Cowboys (8:20 PM ET, NBC), Barkley can become the first rookie since 2005 (**CADILLAC WILLIAMS**) with at least 100 rushing yards in each of his team's first two games of the season.

The rookies with at least 100 rushing yards in each of his team's first two games of the season since 1970:

PLAYER	TEAM	SEASON
Cadillac Williams	Tampa Bay Buccaneers	2005
Edgerrin James	Indianapolis Colts	1999
Marshall Faulk^	Indianapolis Colts	1994
Billy Sims	Detroit Lions	1980
Ottis Anderson	St. Louis Cardinals	1979
William Andrews	Atlanta Falcons	1979
Earl Campbell^	Houston Oilers	1978

^Pro Football Hall of Famer

-- NFL --

**LIKE MIKE:** New Orleans wide receiver **MICHAEL THOMAS** recorded a career-high 16 receptions for 180 yards and a touchdown in Week 1, the most by a player on Kickoff Weekend in NFL history.

With 11 receptions on Sunday against Cleveland (1:00 PM ET, FOX), Thomas can surpass **ANDRE RISON** (26) for the most receptions by a player in his team's first two games to start a season in NFL history.

The players with the most receptions in his team's first two games of the season in NFL history:

<b>PLAYER</b>	<b>TEAM</b>	<b>SEASON</b>	<b>RECEPTIONS IN TEAM'S 1ST 2 GAMES</b>
Andre Rison	Atlanta	1994	26
Rod Smith	Denver	2001	23
Julian Edelman	New England	2015	22
Julio Jones	Atlanta	2015	22
<b>Michael Thomas</b>	<b>New Orleans</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>16*</b>

\*Through Week 1