

# SUPER WILD CARD WEEKEND

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## WHAT TO LOOK FOR – SUPER WILD CARD WEEKEND

**MORE TEAMS, MORE GAMES, MORE WILD:** The addition of a third Wild Card team in each conference and the subsequent expansion of the playoffs last year has resulted in a Super Wild Card Weekend of NFL action. For the second consecutive season, there will be six games, with two on Saturday, January 15, three on Sunday, January 16, and for the first time since 1988, an NFL postseason game will be played on a Monday (January 17).

Seven of the 12 teams in action this weekend are new to the postseason in 2021, having missed the playoffs a year ago: **ARIZONA, CINCINNATI, DALLAS, LAS VEGAS, NEW ENGLAND, PHILADELPHIA** and **SAN FRANCISCO**. Two of those teams – Cincinnati (AFC North) and Dallas (NFC East) – won their divisions.

Since 1990, at least four teams every season have qualified for the playoffs after failing to make the postseason the year before. Additionally, at least two teams have won their divisions the season after missing the playoffs in 18 of the past 19 years, including 2021.

Each of the 12 teams playing this weekend hope to earn their first of four wins needed to capture the Lombardi Trophy. Winners in the Wild Card round have won the Super Bowl 10 times, including the **TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS** last season.

The Wild Card round participants to win the Super Bowl:

SEASON	TEAM	SUPER BOWL RESULT
1980	Oakland Raiders	Defeated Philadelphia in Super Bowl XV, 27-10
1997	Denver Broncos	Defeated Green Bay in Super Bowl XXXII, 31-24
2000	Baltimore Ravens	Defeated New York Giants in Super Bowl XXXV, 34-7
2005	Pittsburgh Steelers	Defeated Seattle in Super Bowl XL, 21-10
2006	Indianapolis Colts*	Defeated Chicago in Super Bowl XLI, 29-17
2007	New York Giants	Defeated New England in Super Bowl XLII, 17-14
2010	Green Bay Packers	Defeated Pittsburgh in Super Bowl XLV, 31-25
2011	New York Giants*	Defeated New England in Super Bowl XLVI, 21-17
2012	Baltimore Ravens*	Defeated San Francisco in Super Bowl XLVII, 34-31
2020	Tampa Bay	Defeated Kansas City in Super Bowl LV, 31-9

\*Won division

### **-- SUPER WILD CARD WEEKEND --**

**POSTSEASON ALL-TIME LEADING PASSERS:** Three of the top seven most prolific postseason quarterbacks are a part of the 2021 playoff field vying for the Super Bowl LVI title.

Tampa Bay quarterback **TOM BRADY** enters the 2021 postseason as the league's all-time playoff leader in games started by a quarterback (45), wins by a starting quarterback (34), passing yards (12,449), touchdown passes (83), Super Bowl titles (seven) and Super Bowl MVPs (five). He led the Buccaneers to the Super Bowl LV title last season and joined Pro Football Hall of Famer **PEYTON MANNING** as the only starting quarterbacks to win Super Bowls with multiple franchises.

Green Bay quarterback **AARON RODGERS**, who will make his 2021 playoff debut in the NFC Divisional playoffs, ranks tied for second in postseason touchdown passes (45), sixth in postseason passing yards (5,669) and seventh in postseason games started (20) among quarterbacks all-time.

Pittsburgh quarterback **BEN ROETHLISBERGER** enters the 2021 postseason ranking fifth all-time in passing yards (5,757), fifth in quarterback starts (22) and seventh in touchdown passes (34) in playoff history.

This postseason, both Rodgers and Roethlisberger can surpass Pro Football Hall of Famers **BRETT FAVRE** (5,855 passing yards, third-most) and **JOE MONTANA** (5,772, fourth-most) on the all-time postseason passing yards list.

With a Pittsburgh victory against Kansas City on Sunday night (8:15 PM ET, NBC/Peacock/Telemundo), Roethlisberger would tie Pro Football Hall of Famers **TERRY BRADSHAW** (14 wins), **JOHN ELWAY** (14) and **PEYTON MANNING** (14) for the third-most playoff wins by a starting quarterback in NFL history.

The quarterbacks with the most career postseason passing yards in NFL history:

PLAYER	TEAM(S)	PASSING YARDS
<b>Tom Brady*</b>	<b>New England, Tampa Bay</b>	<b>12,449</b>
Peyton Manning <sup>HOF</sup>	Indianapolis, Denver	7,339
Brett Favre <sup>HOF</sup>	Green Bay, Minnesota	5,855
Joe Montana <sup>HOF</sup>	San Francisco, Kansas City	5,772
<b>Ben Roethlisberger*</b>	<b>Pittsburgh</b>	<b>5,757</b>
<b>Aaron Rodgers*</b>	<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>5,669</b>

\*Active in 2021 postseason

The quarterbacks with the most career postseason passing touchdowns in NFL history:

PLAYER	TEAM(S)	PASSING TOUCHDOWNS
<b>Tom Brady*</b>	<b>New England, Tampa Bay</b>	<b>83</b>
Joe Montana <sup>HOF</sup>	San Francisco, Kansas City	45
<b>Aaron Rodgers*</b>	<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>45</b>
Brett Favre <sup>HOF</sup>	Green Bay, Minnesota	44
Peyton Manning <sup>HOF</sup>	Indianapolis, Denver	40
Drew Brees	San Diego Chargers, New Orleans	37
<b>Ben Roethlisberger*</b>	<b>Pittsburgh</b>	<b>34</b>

\*Active in 2021 postseason

The quarterbacks with the most career postseason starts in NFL history:

PLAYER	TEAM(S)	POSTSEASON STARTS
<b>Tom Brady*</b>	<b>New England, Tampa Bay</b>	<b>45</b>
Peyton Manning <sup>HOF</sup>	Indianapolis, Denver	27
Brett Favre <sup>HOF</sup>	Green Bay, Minnesota	24
Joe Montana <sup>HOF</sup>	San Francisco, Kansas City	23
<b>Ben Roethlisberger*</b>	<b>Pittsburgh</b>	<b>22</b>
John Elway <sup>HOF</sup>	Denver	21
<b>Aaron Rodgers*</b>	<b>Green Bay</b>	<b>20</b>

\*Active in 2021 postseason

-- **SUPER WILD CARD WEEKEND** --

**CHAMPS ARE HERE:** The **TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS** enter the 2021 postseason aiming to become the first team to repeat as Super Bowl champions since New England in 2004. Last year, they became the first team in NFL history to score at least 30 points in four consecutive playoff games within a single postseason in route to a Super Bowl LV championship.

If Tampa Bay scores at least 30 points against Philadelphia on Sunday (1:05 PM ET, FOX/FOX Deportes), it will become the third team ever to score at least 30 points in five-or-more consecutive postseason games.

The teams to score at least 30 points in the most consecutive postseason games in NFL history:

TEAM	GAMES (DATES)
New Orleans Saints	6 (Jan. 16, 2010 – Jan. 14, 2012)
Kansas City Chiefs	5 (Jan. 12, 2019 – Feb. 2, 2020)
<b>Tampa Bay Buccaneers</b>	<b>4* (Jan. 9, 2021 – Feb. 7, 2021)</b>

\*Active streak

Tampa Bay running back **LEONARD FOURNETTE** totaled 448 scrimmage yards (112 per game) in the Buccaneers' four playoff games last year and scored a touchdown in each contest. Going back to his 2017 postseason with Jacksonville, Fournette has scored a touchdown in six consecutive playoff games.

With a touchdown against Philadelphia, Fournette would become the sixth running back all-time to score a touchdown in seven-or-more consecutive postseason games.

The running backs with the most consecutive postseason games with a touchdown in NFL history:

PLAYER	TEAM(S)	GAMES (DATES)
Thurman Thomas <sup>HOF</sup>	Buffalo	9 (Jan. 17, 1993 – Jan. 2, 1999)
Emmitt Smith <sup>HOF</sup>	Dallas	8 (Jan. 23, 1994 – Dec. 28, 1996)
Marcus Allen <sup>HOF</sup>	L.A. Raiders	7 (Jan. 8, 1983 – Jan. 5, 1986)
Terrell Davis <sup>HOF</sup>	Denver	7 (Jan. 4, 1997 – Jan. 17, 1999)
John Riggins <sup>HOF</sup>	Washington	7 (Jan. 15, 1983 – Dec. 30, 1984)
<b>Leonard Fournette</b>	<b>Jacksonville, Tampa Bay</b>	<b>6* (Jan. 14, 2018 – Feb. 7, 2021)</b>

\*Active streak

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**KANSAS CITY STARS:** The **KANSAS CITY CHIEFS** enter the 2021 postseason aiming to become the fourth team ever to advance to three consecutive Super Bowls, joining Miami (1971-73), Buffalo (1990-93) and New England (2016-18).

Quarterback **PATRICK MAHOMES** is expected to make his ninth-career postseason start, having surpassed 250 passing yards in each of his previous eight playoff starts. With at least 250 passing yards against Pittsburgh on Sunday night (8:15 PM ET, NBC/Telemundo/Peacock), Mahomes will tie **DREW BREES** (nine consecutive games from Feb. 7, 2010 to Jan. 13, 2019) for the second-most consecutive postseason games with at least 250 passing yards NFL history. Only **TOM BRADY** (12 from Feb. 1, 2015 to Feb. 3, 2019) has more.

The players with at least 250 passing yards in the most consecutive postseason games in NFL history:

PLAYER	TEAM	CONSECUTIVE GAMES
Tom Brady	New England	12 (Feb. 1, 2015 – Feb. 3, 2019)
Drew Brees	New Orleans	9 (Feb. 7, 2010 – Jan. 13, 2019)
<b>Patrick Mahomes</b>	<b>Kansas City</b>	<b>8* (Jan. 12, 2019 – Feb. 7, 2021)</b>

\*Active streak

Mahomes has guided the Chiefs to a playoff win each of the past three years and with a victory on Sunday night will become the fourth quarterback ever to win at least one postseason game in four of his first five seasons, joining **JOE FLACCO**, **DONOVAN MCNABB** and **RUSSELL WILSON**.

Mahomes could also become the sixth quarterback with at least one victory in each of his first four postseason appearances.

Tight end **TRAVIS KELCE** surpassed 100 receiving yards in each of Kansas City's three playoff games last season and can join **ANTONIO BROWN** (four consecutive games from Jan. 3, 2015 to Jan. 15, 2017) and **LARRY FITZGERALD** (four consecutive games from Jan. 3, 2009 to Feb. 1, 2009) as the only players ever to record at least 100 receiving yards in four consecutive postseason games.

In his career, Kelce has recorded at least 100 receiving yards in six postseason games, tied for the second-most ever. Only Pro Football Hall of Famer **JERRY RICE** (eight games) has more.

The players with the most 100-yard receiving games in NFL postseason history:

PLAYER	TEAM(S)	GAMES WITH 100+ REC. YARDS
Jerry Rice <sup>HOF</sup>	San Francisco, Oakland Raiders	8
Julian Edelman	New England	6
Michael Irvin <sup>HOF</sup>	Dallas	6
<b>Travis Kelce</b>	<b>Kansas City</b>	<b>6</b>

Kelce also recorded at least 10 receptions in both the AFC Championship Game and Super Bowl LV last year and can become the first player ever to register at least 10 catches in three consecutive postseason games and the first player in postseason history to record four games with at least 10 receptions.

Kelce has 992 receiving yards in 12 career postseason games and can join **ROB GRONKOWSKI** (1,273 receiving yards) as the only tight ends with at least 1,000 receiving yards in postseason history.

-- **SUPER WILD CARD WEEKEND** --

**TOP OF THE CHARTS:** The **BUFFALO BILLS** finished the regular season with the top-ranked scoring defense (17.0 points per game allowed), while the **NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS** ranked second (17.8 points per game allowed).

After splitting their regular-season series, the teams will meet for a third time on Saturday night in Buffalo (8:15 PM ET, CBS/Paramount+). Since 2000, this will mark the sixth postseason matchup to feature the top-two scoring defenses.

The playoff games to feature the top-two scoring defenses since 2000:

NO. 1 DEFENSE	NO. 2 DEFENSE	SEASON	ROUND	RESULT
<b>Buffalo</b>	<b>New England</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>AFC Wild Card</b>	<b>???</b>
Pittsburgh	Green Bay	2010	Super Bowl XLV	GB 31, PIT 25
Pittsburgh	New England	2004	AFC Championship	NE 41, PIT 27
Tampa Bay	Philadelphia	2002	NFC Championship	TB 27, PHI 10
Chicago	Philadelphia	2001	NFC Divisional	PHI 33, CHI 19
Baltimore	Tennessee	2000	AFC Divisional	BAL 24, TEN 10

If New England rookie quarterback **MAC JONES** makes the start on Saturday, he would become the third rookie quarterback to start a playoff game against the top-ranked scoring defense in the Super Bowl era, joining **JOE FLACCO** (2008 AFC Championship Game) and **ROBERT GRIFFIN III** (2012 NFC Wild Card round).

The rookie quarterbacks to start a postseason game against the top-ranked scoring defense in the Super Bowl era:

ROOKIE QB	TEAM	SEASON	ROUND	OPPONENT	RESULT
<b>Mac Jones*</b>	<b>New England</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>AFC Wild Card</b>	<b>at Buffalo</b>	<b>???</b>
Robert Griffin III	Washington	2012	NFC Wild Card	Seattle	SEA 24, WAS 14
Joe Flacco	Baltimore	2008	AFC Championship	at Pittsburgh	PIT 23, BAL 14

\*Expected to start

The Bills led the league in point differential (+194) while the Patriots ranked third (+159). The meeting between Buffalo and New England marks the first Wild Card game since 1978 and third postseason game since 1970 to occur in the first round of the playoffs to feature two teams that each had a +150-point differential.

The first-round playoff meetings between clubs each with a +150-point differential since 1970:

HOME TEAM	AWAY TEAM	SEASON	ROUND	RESULT
<b>Buffalo (+194)</b>	<b>New England (+159)</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>AFC Wild Card</b>	<b>???</b>
Baltimore Colts (+171)	Pittsburgh (+204)	1976	AFC Divisional	PIT 40, BAL 14
Dallas (+179)	L.A. Rams (+210)	1973	NFC Divisional	DAL 27, LAR 16

**-- SUPER WILD CARD WEEKEND --**

**MONDAY NIGHT HISTORY:** When the **LOS ANGELES RAMS** host the **ARIZONA CARDINALS** on Monday night, (8:15 PM ET, (ESPN/ABC/ESPN2/ESPN+/ESPN Deportes), it will mark the fifth postseason game played on a Monday in the Super Bowl era and first since the 1988 season. Each of the previous three games have also featured the Rams.

The Monday playoff games in the Super Bowl era:

ROUND	DATE	GAME	RESULT
<b>2021 NFC Wild Card</b>	<b>Jan. 17, 2022</b>	<b>Arizona at L.A. Rams</b>	<b>???</b>
1988 NFC Wild Card	Dec. 26, 1988	L.A. Rams at Minnesota	MIN 28, LAR 17
1983 NFC Wild Card	Dec. 26, 1983	L.A. Rams at Dallas	LAR 24, DAL 17
1977 NFC Divisional	Dec. 26, 1977	Minnesota at L.A. Rams	MIN 14, LAR 7
1977 NFC Divisional	Dec. 26, 1977	Chicago at Dallas	DAL 37, CHI 7

Each team enters the game with a starting quarterback that was selected No. 1 overall in the NFL Draft. Arizona's **KYLER MURRAY** was selected first overall in 2019 and Los Angeles' **MATTHEW STAFFORD** was chosen with the first pick by Detroit in 2009. Monday's meeting will mark the fourth-ever first-round playoff game featuring two starting quarterbacks each selected No. 1 overall in the NFL Draft.

The first-round postseason games featuring two starting quarterbacks each selected No. 1 overall in the NFL Draft:

DATE	GAME	QUARTERBACKS (DRAFT YEARS)	RESULT
<b>Jan. 17, 2022</b>	<b>Arizona at L.A. Rams</b>	<b>Kyler Murray (2019) &amp; Matthew Stafford (2009)</b>	<b>???</b>

Jan. 4, 2014	Kansas City at Indianapolis	Alex Smith (2005) & Andrew Luck (2012)	IND 45, KC 44
Jan. 9, 2000	Dallas at Minnesota	Troy Aikman <sup>HOF</sup> (1989) & Jeff George (1990)	MIN 27, DAL 10
Jan. 1, 1995	New England at Cleveland	Drew Bledsoe (1993) & Vinny Testaverde (1987)	CLE 20, NE 13

Stafford will be making his fourth-career postseason start (first with Los Angeles), while Murray will be making his postseason debut. With a victory, Murray would become the fourth quarterback that was selected No. 1 overall in the NFL Draft to win his first career postseason start since 2000.

The quarterbacks selected No. 1 overall in the NFL Draft to win their first career postseason start since 2000:

PLAYER (DRAFT YEAR)	TEAM	FIRST POSTSEASON START
Baker Mayfield (2018)	Cleveland	2020 AFC Wild Card at Pittsburgh
Alex Smith (2005)	San Francisco	2011 NFC Divisional vs. New Orleans
Michael Vick (2000)	Atlanta	2002 NFC Wild Card at Green Bay

With Arizona's **KLIFF KINGSBURY** (42 years old) and Los Angeles' **SEAN MCVAY** (35), Monday's game will also feature the fourth-youngest combined age between two opposing head coaches in a postseason game since 1970.

The youngest combined age of head coaches in postseason games since 1970:

ROUND	GAME	COACHES	COMBINED AGE
1970 Divisional	Miami at Oakland Raiders	Don Shula <sup>HOF</sup> & John Madden <sup>HOF</sup>	75 years, 253 days
2020 Divisional	L.A. Rams at Green Bay	Sean McVay & Matt LaFleur	76 years, 67 days
1972 Divisional	Oakland Raiders at Pittsburgh	John Madden <sup>HOF</sup> & Chuck Noll <sup>HOF</sup>	77 years, 245 days
<b>2021 Wild Card</b>	<b>Arizona at L.A. Rams</b>	<b>Kliff Kingsbury &amp; Sean McVay</b>	<b>78 years, 154 days</b>

Arizona running back **JAMES CONNER** rushed for two touchdowns in each of the two meetings against the Rams this season. With two rushing touchdowns on Monday, he would become the first player ever to record two rushing touchdowns against one team, three times in a single season.

### -- SUPER WILD CARD WEEKEND --

**HEY, ROOKIE:** Several top rookies from the 2021 season are expected to make their postseason debuts this weekend.

New England quarterback **MAC JONES** led all rookies in completion percentage (67.6), passing yards (3,801), touchdown passes (22) and passer rating (92.5). He is bidding to become just the fourth rookie quarterback since 2000 and first since **RUSSELL WILSON** in 2012 to go on the road and win his first NFL postseason start.

Jones became the third rookie quarterback to ever win six regular-season road games, joining **DAK PRESCOTT** (2016) and **BEN ROETHLISBERGER** (2004). With a victory at Buffalo on Saturday night (8:15 PM ET, CBS, Paramount+), Jones would join **JOE FLACCO** (seven road wins in 2008) as the only rookie quarterbacks ever to win seven road games, including the postseason.

Jones surpassed 250 passing yards in seven games this season, the most among all rookies.

The rookies with the most passing yards ever in their first career postseason start:

PLAYER	TEAM	ROUND	PASSING YARDS
Dak Prescott	Dallas	2016 NFC Divisional vs. Green Bay	302
Andrew Luck	Indianapolis	2012 AFC Wild Card at Baltimore	288
Andy Dalton	Cincinnati	2011 AFC Wild Card at Houston	257

Cincinnati wide receiver **JA'MARR CHASE** is making his postseason debut against Las Vegas on Saturday afternoon (4:35 PM ET, NBC/Peacock/Universo). Chase ranked fourth in the NFL with 1,455 receiving yards this season, the most ever by a rookie in the Super Bowl era.

He surpassed 100 receiving yards in five games and became the first rookie ever and the fifth player in the Super Bowl era to record multiple games with at least 200 receiving yards in a single season. Philadelphia's **DEVONTA SMITH** (935 receiving yards this season) is also expected to make his postseason debut this weekend at Tampa Bay.

The rookies with the most receiving yards ever in their first career postseason game:

PLAYER	TEAM	ROUND	RECEIVING YARDS
DK Metcalf	Seattle	2019 NFC Wild Card at Philadelphia	160

Jeremy Maclin	Philadelphia	2009 NFC Wild Card at Dallas	146
Keith Jackson	Philadelphia	1988 NFC Divisional at Chicago	142

Pittsburgh running back **NAJEE HARRIS** is making his postseason debut on Sunday night at Kansas City (8:15 PM ET, NBC/Telemundo/Peacock). During the regular season, Harris led all rookies and ranked fourth in the league with 1,667 scrimmage yards (1,200 rushing, 467 receiving). He surpassed 100 scrimmage yards in nine games, including in Week 16 against the Chiefs (110 scrimmage yards).

The rookies with the most scrimmage yards ever in their first career postseason game:

PLAYER	TEAM	ROUND	SCRIMMAGE YARDS
Billy Cannon	Houston Oilers	1960 AFL Championship	178
Cam Akers	L.A. Rams	2020 NFC Wild Card at Seattle	176
Paul Lowe	L.A. Chargers	1960 AFL Championship	170

San Francisco rookie running back **ELIJAH MITCHELL** (963 rushing yards this season) and New England rookie running back **RHAMONDRE STEVENSON** (606) are also each expected to make their postseason debuts this weekend. In last year's postseason, Los Angeles Rams running back **CAM AKERS** (131 rushing yards against Seattle in the Wild Card round) was the only rookie to surpass 100 rushing yards in a game.

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