



STATS NFL Playoff Bullet Points Wild-Card Weekend – January 5-6, 2008

SATURDAY'S GAMES

Washington Redskins (9-7) at Seattle Seahawks (10-6)

* With their 27-6 win over the Cowboys last weekend, the Redskins snuck into the playoffs by winning their last four games of the regular season after beginning 2007 with a 5-7 record. The last team to begin a season with seven losses in its first 12 contests and still make the postseason was the 1996 Jaguars.

* These two teams met in the 2005 postseason with the Seahawks taking a 20-10 victory on their way to the Super Bowl. The last NFC team to enter the playoffs as the No. 6 seed and win a game was the 2005 'Skins who beat the Buccaneers, 17-10, before losing to the Seahawks in that division playoff game.

* Seattle dropped a 44-41 decision to the Falcons in its last game of the 2007 regular season. The 41 points put up by the Seahawks last Sunday tied a franchise high for most *in a loss* (also in 2003 vs. Baltimore).

* Including the postseason, Seattle is 23-4 at home since the beginning of 2005—tied with Indianapolis for best in football during that span.

* Joe Gibbs is 5-1 vs. Seattle during his career, while Mike Holmgren is just 1-4 against Washington in his career. Gibbs is 17-6 all-time in the postseason and his 17 playoff victories are currently third-most in NFL history (Landry-20, Shula-19).

* Including his 3-0 record as a starter this season, Todd Collins is now 10-10 in 20 career starts. Collins had five touchdown passes vs. zero interceptions and posted a 106.4 rating after taking over for Jason Campbell who was injured in Week 13 against the Bills. The last time Collins threw an interception was November 30, 1997 vs. the Jets.

* Matt Hasselbeck is Seattle's all-time leading passer in the postseason with 1,788 yards and his nine playoff touchdown tosses are currently tied with Dave Krieg for most in Seahawk history as well. Of all the QBs in the 2007 postseason, only Peyton Manning (3,496) and Tom Brady (3,217) have more postseason passing yards than Hasselbeck.

* It took him a few games to do it, but Shaun Alexander finally recorded his 100th career rushing touchdown last Sunday vs. the Falcons, becoming the eighth player all-time to accomplish that feat. Alexander has seven career rushing TDs in the postseason—most of any player in the league since his first NFL season in 2000.

Jacksonville Jaguars (11-5) at Pittsburgh Steelers (10-6)

* The Jaguars dropped their last game of the regular season, 42-28, to the Texans, but still finished with the franchise's fifth 10+ win season and sixth trip to the playoffs all-time.

* Jacksonville and Pittsburgh met twice every season from 1995 to 2001 as members of AFC Central and combined for six division titles during that span (Jaguars-2, Steelers-4). The Jags are currently riding a 3-game winning streak against the Steelers and this game marks the first playoff meeting between the two squads.

* With their 27-21 loss to the Ravens last Sunday, the Steelers have now dropped three of their last four games overall. Pittsburgh recorded just 46 yards on the ground against Baltimore—its fewest in any game this season.

* Pittsburgh is 28-18 all-time in the postseason and its 28 playoff victories are second-most in NFL history (Dallas-32). The Jags are 4-5 all-time with their last postseason win coming in the 1999 playoffs (62-7 vs. Miami).

* Fred Taylor (Pro Bowl replacement for Willie Parker) recorded his seventh career 1,000-yard rushing season in 2007 (fifth in his last six seasons) despite not dressing for the Jags' last contest vs. Houston. Taylor has a streak of five straight 100-yard games going, including the Heinz Field record by an opponent of 147 yards on the ground in the Week 15 game against Pittsburgh.

* David Garrard threw just three interceptions all season—the fewest in NFL history by a quarterback with 300+ attempts in any season. Garrard, who started 12 games this season, finished with a 9-3 record after not dressing for Jacksonville's last contest and will be making his first career postseason start against the Steelers this weekend.

* Ben Roethlisberger (104.1) became the first Steeler quarterback all-time to finish a season with a 100+ rating in 2007 and his 32 TD passes this season set a franchise mark as well. Big Ben is 5-1 all-time in the postseason and including the playoffs, is 25-2 when posting a rating of 100 or better.

* Hines Ward has eight touchdown receptions in his last eight playoff games and has 57 career postseason receptions overall—currently tied with John Stallworth for most in Steelers' franchise history. In his last postseason game (Super Bowl XL), Ward had 5 receptions for 123 yards (24.6 avg.) and a touchdown and was named Super Bowl MVP.

SUNDAY'S GAMES

New York Giants (10-6) at Tampa Bay Buccaneers (9-7)

- * The Giants played hard last Saturday but came up short in becoming New England's 16th victim of 2007. New York defeated just one team that finished the season with a winning record (Washington in Week 3) and was 1-5 overall vs. such teams in 2007.
- * This game marks the first postseason meeting all-time between the Giants and Buccaneers—New York defeated Tampa Bay, 17-3, the last time the teams met in 2006 and is 10-6 vs. the Bucs all-time.
- * Tampa Bay lost, 31-23, to Carolina last weekend and has now dropped three of its last four contests overall. The Bucs are just 1-4 all-time in wild-card games and lost the last time they played one (17-10 to Washington in the 2005 postseason).
- * Jon Gruden is 5-3 all-time in the postseason while Tom Coughlin has posted a 4-6 record in his 10 playoff games. Coughlin has led the Giants to three consecutive playoff appearances for the first time since 1984-86.
- * New York finished the season with a 7-1 road record, its best mark since posting a 7-1 record away from home in 2000 (the Giants' last Super Bowl season).
- * Eli Manning passed for 3,336 and 23 touchdowns in 2007 marking his third consecutive season with 3,000+ yards and 20+ touchdowns. The only other Giants' quarterback all-time with three such seasons in a row was Phil Simms (1984-86).
- * Jeff Garcia is 4-1 all-time against the Giants including 2-0 in the postseason. Garcia led the Niners to a 39-38 come-from-behind win in a 2003 wild-card game and he led the Eagles to a 23-20 victory over New York in last year's playoffs. Assuming Garcia starts against the Giants on Sunday, he will become the first QB in the Super Bowl era to start a playoff game in three different uniforms against the same team.
- * Tampa Bay is 17-0 under Jon Gruden (since 2002) when committing zero turnovers. The Buccaneers had three games in 2007 without a giveaway and their 20 total turnovers in 2007 were the fewest of any NFC squad.

Tennessee Titans (10-6) at San Diego Chargers (11-5)

- * After beginning 2007 by winning six of its first eight games, Tennessee slumped and lost four of its next five. However, the Titans righted the ship and won their last three games of the season to make the playoffs for the first time since 2003 and fifth time under head coach Jeff Fisher.
- * The Oilers/Titans have lost five straight games to the Chargers and haven't beaten San Diego since a 27-0 win way back in 1992. The only time these two franchises have played a postseason game in the Super Bowl era was 1979 (a 17-14 Oiler win).
- * San Diego beat the Raiders, 30-17, last Sunday and finished the regular season with six straight wins (including a Week 14 overtime victory in Tennessee). The Chargers outscored their opponents by a combined 183-75 in those six games.
- * The Chargers finished the 2007 regular season with a +24 turnover differential—best in the NFL. Since the beginning of 2006, San Diego is a +37 in the takeaway/giveaway department—also the best in football.
- * Vince Young was injured (right quadriceps) and forced to leave the game vs. the Colts last Sunday night. Coach Fisher is being tight-lipped about his starting QB's condition, but if he can't go on Sunday in San Diego, Kerry Collins will be the man. Collins is 3-3 all-time in the playoffs as a starter.
- * 10 of the Titans' 16 regular-season games were decided by eight points or less—Tennessee was 7-3 in those contests.
- * LaDainian Tomlinson finished the regular season with 1,474 yards on the ground and won the rushing title for the second consecutive year. LT has now gained at least 1,200 rush yards in each of his first seven seasons in the league.
- * Shawn Merriman had 12.5 sacks this season (t-6th in the NFL) and has a total of 39.5 since the beginning of 2005—most among all NFL defenders. Merriman sacked Vince Young and Kerry Collins once each in these teams' first meeting of the season.