

2021

KICKOFF GUIDE



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KICKOFF 2021

FIRST-EVER**17-GAME REGULAR-SEASON****NFL SEASON TO FEATURE 17 REGULAR-SEASON GAMES PER TEAM****ENHANCED SCHEDULE INCLUDES ADDITIONAL INTERCONFERENCE MATCHUP,
THREE PRESEASON GAMES****ALL 32 TEAMS TO PLAY INTERNATIONALLY AT LEAST ONCE IN EIGHT-YEAR PERIOD
BEGINNING IN 2022**

This past offseason, NFL clubs approved an enhanced season structure that beginning in 2021 will feature each team playing 17 regular-season games and three preseason games for the first time.

The NFL-NFLPA Collective Bargaining Agreement signed in March of 2020 enabled the league, with the approval of the union and its players, to enhance the regular season with a move to 17 games, providing fans an extra week of regular-season NFL action.

That decision was confirmed in March, marking the first change to the season structure since the 1978 campaign ushered in an era of 16 regular-season and four preseason games.

"This is a monumental moment in NFL history," said NFL Commissioner **ROGER GOODELL**. "The CBA with the players and the recently completed media agreements provide the foundation for us to enhance the quality of the NFL experience for our fans. And one of the benefits of each team playing 17 regular-season games is the ability for us to continue to grow our game around the world."

The 17th game will feature teams from opposing conferences that finished in the same place within their division the previous season. The AFC was determined to be the home conference for the 17th game in 2021:

AWAY TEAM	HOME TEAM
NFC East	AFC East
1. Washington Football Team	1. Buffalo Bills
2. New York Giants	2. Miami Dolphins
3. Dallas Cowboys	3. New England Patriots
4. Philadelphia Eagles	4. New York Jets

AWAY TEAM	HOME TEAM
NFC West	AFC North
1. Seattle Seahawks	1. Pittsburgh Steelers
2. Los Angeles Rams	2. Baltimore Ravens
3. Arizona Cardinals	3. Cleveland Browns
4. San Francisco 49ers	4. Cincinnati Bengals

AWAY TEAM	HOME TEAM
NFC South	AFC South
1. New Orleans Saints	1. Tennessee Titans
2. Tampa Bay Buccaneers	2. Indianapolis Colts
3. Carolina Panthers	3. Houston Texans
4. Atlanta Falcons	4. Jacksonville Jaguars

AWAY TEAM	HOME TEAM
NFC North	AFC West
1. Green Bay Packers	1. Kansas City Chiefs
2. Chicago Bears	2. Las Vegas Raiders
3. Minnesota Vikings	3. Los Angeles Chargers
4. Detroit Lions	4. Denver Broncos

FIRST-EVER

17-GAME REGULAR-SEASON

Under the scheduling formula below, every team plays 17 regular-season games with one bye week. Clubs will host 10 games overall – either nine regular-season games and one preseason game or eight regular-season games and two preseason games.

- Home and away against its three division opponents (six games).
- The four teams from another division within its conference on a rotating three-year cycle (four games).
- The four teams from a division in the other conference on a rotating four-year cycle (four games).
- Two intraconference games based on the prior year's standings (two games). These games match a first-place team against the first-place teams in the two same-conference divisions the team is not scheduled to play that season. The second-place, third-place and fourth-place teams in a conference are matched in the same way each year.
- One interconference game based on the prior year's standings on a rotating four-year cycle (one game). These games match a first-place team from one division against a first-place team from one division against a first-place team in an opposite conference division that the team is not scheduled to play that season. The second-place, third-place and fourth-place teams in each division are matched in the same way each year. The home conference for this game will rotate each season.

NFL Kickoff Weekend will begin Thursday night, September 9, and the regular season will end Sunday, January 9, 2022. The 2022 Pro Bowl will be played on Sunday, February 6 at Allegiant Stadium in Las Vegas and the season will conclude with Super Bowl LVI at SoFi Stadium in Los Angeles on Sunday, February 13, 2022.

The enhanced season will ensure that beginning in 2022, all 32 clubs will play internationally at least once every eight years. The scheduling of up to four neutral-site games per year in a country outside the United States will focus initially on Canada, Europe, Mexico, South America and the United Kingdom. In addition, interested clubs can continue to volunteer to play home games internationally, as is currently the case.



BUCCANEERS-COWBOYS

KICK OFF SEASON

It's time to get "Back to Football!"

The 2021 season begins with the NFL's annual primetime kickoff game. The opener on Thursday, September 9 on NBC (8:20 PM ET) will feature the Super Bowl Champion Tampa Bay Buccaneers hosting the Dallas Cowboys at Raymond James Stadium.

The NFL primetime kickoff games since 2002:

DATE	SITE	RESULT (HOME TEAM IN CAPS)	RECAP
Sept. 5, 2002	Giants Stadium	San Francisco 16, NY GIANTS 13	San Francisco's Jose Cortez kicks a 36-yard field goal with six seconds remaining in the NFL's first Thursday-night opener since 1949.
Sept. 4, 2003	FedExField	WASHINGTON 16, NY Jets 13	Washington kicker John Hall converts a game-winning 50-yard field goal with five seconds remaining to lift the Redskins.
Sept. 9, 2004	Gillette Stadium	NEW ENGLAND 27, Indianapolis 24	New England quarterback Tom Brady passes for 335 yards and three TDs as the defending Super Bowl champions defeat the Colts.
Sept. 8, 2005	Gillette Stadium	NEW ENGLAND 30, Oakland 20	New England quarterback Tom Brady throws for 306 yards and two TDs while running back Corey Dillon adds two scores for the defending Super Bowl champions.
Sept. 7, 2006	Heinz Field	PITTSBURGH 28, Miami 17	Pittsburgh quarterback Charlie Batch passes for three TDs and running back Willie Parker adds 115 rushing yards as the defending Super Bowl champions defeat Miami.
Sept. 6, 2007	RCA Dome	INDIANAPOLIS 41, New Orleans 10	The Super Bowl champion Colts rack up 452 yards of offense as quarterback Peyton Manning passes for 288 yards and three TDs.
Sept. 4, 2008	Giants Stadium	NY GIANTS 16, Washington 7	Quarterback Eli Manning scores a TD and the Giants' defense allows just 209 total yards as the defending Super Bowl champions defeat division-rival Washington.
Sept. 9, 2010	Louisiana Superdome	NEW ORLEANS 14, Minnesota 9	New Orleans quarterback Drew Brees throws for 237 yards and a TD to lead the Saints past the Vikings in a rematch of the 2009 NFC Championship Game.
Sept. 8, 2011	Lambeau Field	GREEN BAY 42, New Orleans 34	Green Bay quarterback Aaron Rodgers passes for 312 yards and three TDs and the Packers' defense makes a goal-line stand on the game's final play as the defending Super Bowl champions defeat the Saints.

BUCCANEERS-COWBOYS**KICK OFF SEASON**

DATE	SITE	RESULT (HOME TEAM IN CAPS)	RECAP
Sept. 5, 2012	MetLife Stadium	Dallas 24, NY GIANTS 17	Dallas quarterback Tony Romo throws for 307 yards and three TDs, including two to Kevin Ogletree, as the Cowboys defeat the defending Super Bowl champion Giants.
Sept. 5, 2013	Sports Authority Field at Mile High	DENVER 49, Baltimore 27	Denver quarterback Peyton Manning ties an NFL single-game record with seven TD passes as the Broncos knock off the defending Super Bowl champion Ravens.
Sept. 4, 2014	CenturyLink Field	SEATTLE 36, Green Bay 16	Seattle quarterback Russell Wilson throws two TDs while running back Marshawn Lynch rushes for 110 yards and two scores as the defending champion Seahawks win at home.
Sept. 10, 2015	Gillette Stadium	NEW ENGLAND 28, Pittsburgh 21	New England quarterback Tom Brady throws four touchdown passes as the defending champion Patriots defeat the Steelers.
Sept. 8, 2016	Sports Authority Field at Mile High	DENVER 21, Carolina 20	Denver running back C.J. Anderson scores two touchdowns as the Broncos defeat the Panthers in a rematch of Super Bowl 50.
Sept. 7, 2017	Gillette Stadium	Kansas City 42, NEW ENGLAND 27	Kansas City quarterback Alex Smith throws four touchdowns while rookie running back Kareem Hunt totals 246 yards from scrimmage and three scores as the Chiefs defeat the defending Super Bowl champion Patriots.
Sept. 6, 2018	Lincoln Financial Field	PHILADELPHIA 18, Atlanta 12	Philadelphia running back Jay Ajayi rushes for two touchdowns as the defending champion Eagles defeat the Falcons.
Sept. 5, 2019	Soldier Field	Green Bay 10, CHICAGO 3	Kicking off the league's 100th season with its oldest rivalry, Green Bay quarterback Aaron Rodgers throws for the game's only touchdown, while safety Adrian Amos records a late interception in his own end zone as the Packers defeat the Bears.
Sept. 10, 2020	Arrowhead Stadium	CHIEFS 34, Texans 20	Kansas City quarterback Patrick Mahomes throws three touchdown passes with a 123.3 passer rating and rookie running back Clyde Edwards-Helaire rushes for 138 yards and one touchdown in his NFL debut as the defending champion Chiefs defeat the Texans.

2021 KICKOFF WEEKEND NOTES

Kickoff Weekend begins on Thursday, September 9 in primetime on NBC as the defending Super Bowl champion Tampa Bay Buccaneers welcome Dallas to Raymond James Stadium.

Below is a sampling of notable active NFL Kickoff streaks:

- The **KANSAS CITY CHIEFS** host the **CLEVELAND BROWNS** on Kickoff Weekend. The Chiefs have won their past six Kickoff Weekend games, the longest active streak in the AFC and tied for the longest active streak in the NFL.



Reed Hoffmann / AP

- The **BALTIMORE RAVENS**, who visit the **LAS VEGAS RAIDERS** on Monday Night Football in Week 1, have won their last five Kickoff Weekend games, the AFC's second-longest active streak. Since 2016, Baltimore has outscored their opponents 177-26 on Kickoff Weekend and haven't allowed more than 10 points in any of their previous five Week 1 games.
- The reigning NFC North division champion **GREEN BAY PACKERS** open their season on the road against the reigning NFC South division champion **NEW ORLEANS SAINTS**. The Packers have won 58 games on Kickoff

Weekend, the most in the NFL. Green Bay has won their past six Kickoff Weekend games, tied with Kansas City for the longest active streak in the NFL.

- The **CHICAGO BEARS** visit the **LOS ANGELES RAMS** on Sunday Night Football in Week 1. Chicago has 55 wins on Kickoff Weekend, the second-most in the NFL, while the Rams have won four consecutive Week 1 games, the second-longest active streak in the NFC.

HEAD COACHES: New England's **BILL BELICHICK** is 18-8 (.692) on Kickoff Weekend and his 18 wins are the most among active head coaches...Belichick, Baltimore's **JOHN HARBAUGH** (10-3; .769) and Kansas City's **ANDY REID** (14-8; .636) are the only active head coaches who have won at least 10 Kickoff Weekend games...Reid has won six consecutive games on Kickoff Weekend, the longest current streak among active head coaches... Los Angeles Rams' **SEAN MCVAY** (4-0) and Green Bay's **MATT LAFLEUR** (2-0) are the only active head coaches with perfect records on Kickoff Weekend...Seven head coaches – Detroit's **DAN CAMPBELL**, Houston's **DAVID CULLEY**, Jacksonville's **URBAN MEYER**, New York Jets' **ROBERT SALEH**, Philadelphia's **NICK SIRIANNI**, Atlanta's **ARTHUR SMITH** and the Los Angeles Chargers' **BRANDON STALEY** – make their Kickoff Weekend debuts.



Mark J. Terrill / AP

14-TEAM PLAYOFF FORMAT

Introduced last year and continuing in 2021, a total of 14 teams – seven each in the American and National Football Conferences – will make the postseason.

Three Wild Card teams from each conference will qualify for the postseason, with the No. 1 seed in each conference receiving a bye in the Wild Card round.

The remaining division champions in each conference with the best records will be seeded 2, 3, and 4, followed by the next three teams per conference with the best records seeded 5, 6, and 7.

AFC and NFC Wild Card games will feature the 2 seed hosting the 7 seed, the 3 seed hosting the 6 seed and the 4 seed hosting the 5 seed.

Super Wild Card Weekend for the 2021 season will feature six games, starting on Saturday, January 15.

Super Wild Card Weekend winners join the top seeds in each conference in the Divisional Playoffs on Saturday and Sunday, January 22-23. The AFC and NFC Championship Games, presented by Intuit TurboTax Live, will be played on Sunday, January 30. The winners meet two weeks later on Sunday, February 13, in Super Bowl LVI at Los Angeles' SoFi Stadium (NBC), marking the first time the league's final game is played in the Los Angeles area since Super Bowl XXVII in 1993.

Before last season's change, the NFL last expanded the playoffs for the 1990 season, increasing from 10 to 12 the number of teams to qualify for the postseason.

Since 1990 – a streak of 31 consecutive seasons – at least four new teams have qualified for the playoffs that missed the postseason the year before, including seven of the 14 playoff teams in 2020.



2021 HEADLINE GAMES

With only 17 games per team, every game is important. Below is a sampling of some of the other most notable matchups this year:

WEEK	GAME(S)	PREVIEW
Week 1	Cleveland at Kansas City	Kansas City hosts Cleveland in a rematch of their memorable 2020 Divisional Playoff game.
Week 2	Minnesota at Arizona	Patrick Peterson returns to Arizona for the first time while J.J. Watt and A.J. Green make their Cardinals' home debuts.
Week 3	Green Bay at San Francisco	A Sunday Night Football rematch of the 2019 NFC Championship game.
Week 4	Jacksonville at Cincinnati Tampa Bay at New England	The last two No. 1 overall picks in the NFL Draft -- Trevor Lawrence and Joe Burrow -- meet for the first time on Thursday Night Football while Tom Brady returns to Foxborough for the first time on Sunday Night Football.
Week 5	Buffalo at Kansas City	Kansas City hosts Buffalo on Sunday Night Football in a rematch of the AFC Championship game.
Week 6	NFL International Series	The NFL's International Series returns in 2021 with two games at London's Tottenham Stadium, as Atlanta hosts the New York Jets in Week 5 and Jacksonville hosts Miami in Week 6.
Week 7	Kansas City at Tennessee	A rematch of the 2019 AFC Championship game that featured four total touchdowns (three passing, one rushing) from Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes.
Week 8	Dallas at Minnesota	On Sunday Night Football, a notable rematch of Week 11 from the 2020 season, in which the two teams combined for 29 fourth quarter points as Dallas defeated Minnesota, 31-28.
Week 9	Green Bay at Kansas City	Featuring the two team with the best record in their respective conferences last season, Aaron Rodgers and Patrick Mahomes meet for the first time in their careers.
Week 10	Atlanta at Dallas	A rematch of a memorable Week 2 meeting from the 2020 season, where Dallas overcame a 15-point fourth-quarter deficit to win, 40-39.
Week 11	New England at Atlanta	On Thursday Night Football, a rematch of Super Bowl LI, in which New England overcame a 25-point second-half deficit to win, 34-28, in overtime.
Week 12	Thanksgiving Tripleheader	Thanksgiving will feature a tripleheader on Thursday, November 25 with Chicago at Detroit (12:30 PM ET), Las Vegas at Dallas (4:30 PM ET) and Buffalo at New Orleans (8:20 PM ET).
Week 13	L.A. Chargers at Cincinnati	Joe Burrow, the No. 1 overall selection in the 2019 NFL Draft, and Justin Herbert, No. 6 overall in 2019, meet for the first time in their careers as starters.
Week 14	Baltimore at Cleveland	A divisional rematch of one of the most memorable 2020 regular-season games, as Baltimore defeated Cleveland, 47-42, on Monday Night Football in Week 14 last season.
Week 15	Green Bay at Baltimore	Aaron Rodgers, the 2020 NFL MVP, and Lamar Jackson, the 2019 NFL MVP, are scheduled to meet for the first time in their careers.
Week 16	Jacksonville at New York Jets	The top two picks in the 2021 NFL Draft, Trevor Lawrence and Zach Wilson, are scheduled to meet for the first time. If both players start, it will mark the fourth game in NFL history between rookie starting quarterbacks selected first and second overall.
Week 17	Cleveland at Pittsburgh	A Monday Night Football rematch of the 2020 AFC Wild Card Round, where Cleveland scored 28 first-quarter points to defeat Pittsburgh.
Week 18	16 Division Matchups	For the 12th consecutive season, the final weekend of the regular season features all division matchups with playoff berths on the line.

HOPE SPRINGS ETERNAL

New teams making the playoffs and winning divisions, consistent teams excelling once again, records falling and young players making their mark all combined to help shape the story of the 2020 season.

Week 17 once again came right down to the wire as seven playoff spots and two division titles – the AFC South and NFC East – were decided on the last day of the season. The excitement of Week 17 was due in part to having 16 divisional games played on the season's final day, a tradition instituted in 2010.

Every team enters the 2021 season with a trip to Los Angeles and Super Bowl LVI in mind, and below are a few reasons why.

- Both the **PITTSBURGH STEELERS** (AFC North) and **WASHINGTON FOOTBALL TEAM** (NFC East) won their division after missing the postseason in 2019 and at least two teams have won their divisions the season after missing the playoffs in 17 of the past 18 years.



Teams to win their division a season after missing the postseason since 2003:

SEASON	NEW DIVISION WINNERS AFTER MISSING POSTSEASON THE PREVIOUS SEASON
2020	Pittsburgh, Washington*
2019	Green Bay, San Francisco
2018	Baltimore, Chicago*, Dallas, Houston*
2017	Jacksonville*, L.A. Rams, New Orleans, Minnesota, Philadelphia*
2016	Atlanta, Dallas*
2015	Houston, Minnesota, Washington*
2014	Dallas, Pittsburgh
2013	Carolina*, Philadelphia*
2012	Washington*
2011	Denver*, Houston*, New York Giants, San Francisco
2010	Atlanta, Chicago, Kansas City*, Pittsburgh, Seattle
2009	Cincinnati, Dallas, New England, New Orleans*
2008	Arizona, Carolina, Miami*, Minnesota
2007	Green Bay, Pittsburgh, Tampa Bay*
2006	Baltimore*, New Orleans*, Philadelphia*, San Diego
2005	Chicago*, Cincinnati, New York Giants, Tampa Bay*
2004	Atlanta*, Pittsburgh, San Diego*
2003	Baltimore, Carolina*, Kansas City*, New England, St. Louis Rams

*worst to first

HOPE SPRINGS ETERNAL

- Since 1990 – a streak of 31 consecutive seasons – at least four teams every season have qualified for the playoffs after failing to make the postseason the year before. Seven teams that missed the postseason in 2019 – **CHICAGO, CLEVELAND, INDIANAPOLIS, LOS ANGELES RAMS, PITTSBURGH, TAMPA BAY** and **WASHINGTON** – accomplished the feat in 2020.

The teams since 1990 to make the playoffs a season after failing to qualify:

SEASON	PLAYOFF TEAMS NOT IN PREVIOUS SEASON'S PLAYOFFS
1990	7 (Cincinnati, Chicago, Kansas City, Los Angeles Raiders, Miami, New Orleans, Washington)
1991	5 (Atlanta, Dallas, Denver, Detroit, New York Jets)
1992	6 (Miami, Minnesota, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, San Diego, San Francisco)
1993	5 (Denver, Detroit, Green Bay, Los Angeles Raiders, New York Giants)
1994	5 (Chicago, Cleveland, Miami, New England, San Diego)
1995	4 (Atlanta, Buffalo, Indianapolis, Philadelphia)
1996	5 (Carolina, Denver, Jacksonville, Minnesota, New England)
1997	5 (Detroit, Kansas City, Miami, New York Giants, Tampa Bay)
1998	5 (Arizona, Atlanta, Buffalo, Dallas, New York Jets)
1999	7 (Detroit, Indianapolis, St. Louis, Seattle, Tampa Bay, Tennessee, Washington)
2000	6 (Baltimore, Denver, New Orleans, New York Giants, Oakland, Philadelphia)
2001	6 (Chicago, Green Bay, New England, New York Jets, Pittsburgh, San Francisco)
2002	5 (Atlanta, Cleveland, Indianapolis, New York Giants, Tennessee)
2003	8 (Baltimore, Carolina, Dallas, Denver, Kansas City, New England, St. Louis, Seattle)
2004	5 (Atlanta, Minnesota, New York Jets, Pittsburgh, San Diego)
2005	7 (Carolina, Chicago, Cincinnati, Jacksonville, New York Giants, Tampa Bay, Washington)
2006	7 (Baltimore, Dallas, Kansas City, New Orleans, New York Jets, Philadelphia, San Diego)
2007	6 (Green Bay, Jacksonville, Pittsburgh, Tampa Bay, Tennessee, Washington)
2008	7 (Arizona, Atlanta, Baltimore, Carolina, Miami, Minnesota, Philadelphia)
2009	6 (Cincinnati, Dallas, Green Bay, New England, New Orleans, New York Jets)
2010	5 (Atlanta, Chicago, Kansas City, Pittsburgh, Seattle)
2011	6 (Cincinnati, Denver, Detroit, Houston, New York Giants, San Francisco)
2012	4 (Indianapolis, Minnesota, Seattle, Washington)
2013	5 (Carolina, Kansas City, New Orleans, Philadelphia, San Diego)
2014	5 (Arizona, Baltimore, Dallas, Detroit, Pittsburgh)
2015	4 (Houston, Kansas City, Minnesota, Washington)
2016	6 (Atlanta, Dallas, Detroit, Miami, New York Giants, Oakland)
2017	8 (Buffalo, Carolina, Jacksonville, Los Angeles Rams, Minnesota, New Orleans, Philadelphia, Tennessee)
2018	7 (Baltimore, Chicago, Dallas, Houston, Indianapolis, Los Angeles Chargers, Seattle)
2019	5 (Buffalo, Green Bay, Minnesota, San Francisco, Tennessee)
2020	7 (Chicago, Cleveland, Indianapolis, Los Angeles Rams, Pittsburgh, Tampa Bay, Washington)

HOPE SPRINGS ETERNAL

- The **TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS** won their second Super Bowl title in 2020 and begin their quest to repeat as champions as the race to Los Angeles' SoFi Stadium for Super Bowl LVI kicks off. Only eight teams have repeated as champions since the first Super Bowl in 1967, with the 2004 Patriots (Super Bowls XXXVIII and XXXIX) being the last team to accomplish the feat.
- Seven teams enter the 2020 season with a new head coach – **DAN CAMPBELL** in Detroit, **DAVID CULLEY** in Houston, **URBAN MEYER** in Jacksonville, **ROBERT SALEH** with the New York Jets, **NICK SIRIANNI** with Philadelphia, **ARTHUR SMITH** with Atlanta and **BRANDON STALEY** with the Los Angeles Chargers.

Seven head coaches in their first year with a new club have led their teams to the playoffs over the last four seasons: **RON RIVERA** (Washington) and **KEVIN STEFANSKI** (Cleveland) in 2020, **MATT LAFLEUR** (Green Bay) in 2019, **MATT NAGY** (Chicago) and **FRANK REICH** (Indianapolis) in 2018, and **SEAN MCVAY** (L.A. Rams) and **SEAN MCDERMOTT** (Buffalo) in 2017.

- Five quarterbacks – Clemson's **TREVOR LAWRENCE** (No. 1 overall, Jacksonville), BYU's **ZACH WILSON** (No. 2, New York Jets), North Dakota State's **TREY LANCE** (No. 3, San Francisco), Ohio State's **JUSTIN FIELDS** (No. 11, Chicago) and Alabama's **MAC JONES** (No. 15, New England) – were selected in the first round of the 2021 NFL Draft.

At least one rookie quarterback has started in Week 1 in 13 consecutive seasons, the longest streak in the NFL since at least 1950.

- Several notable players were on the move during the offseason, including quarterbacks **JARED GOFF** (Detroit) and **MATTHEW STAFFORD** (Los Angeles Rams); running backs **JAMES CONNER** (Arizona) and **KENYAN DRAKE** (Las Vegas); wide receivers **COREY DAVIS** (New York Jets) and **KENNY GOLLADAY** (New York Giants); tight ends **HUNTER HENRY** (New England) and **JONNU SMITH** (New England); offensive linemen **ORLANDO BROWN** (Kansas City), **TRENT BROWN** (New England), **COREY LINSLEY** (L.A. Chargers) and **JOE THUNEY** (Kansas City); defensive linemen **TREY HENDRICKSON** (Cincinnati), **YANNICK NGAKOUE** (Las Vegas) and **J.J. WATT** (Arizona); linebackers **BUD DUPREE** (Tennessee) and **HAASON REDDICK** (Carolina); and defensive backs **MALCOLM BUTLER** (Arizona), **KYLE FULLER** (Denver), **MIKE HILTON** (Cincinnati) and **JOHN JOHNSON** (Cleveland).



FROM WORST TO FIRST

Competitive balance, one of the hallmarks of the NFL, gives fans hope entering each season.

In 16 of the past 18 seasons, at least one team finished in first place in its division the season after finishing in last or tied for last place. In fact, of the 49 teams in league history to go from "worst-to-first," 26 of them have done so in the past 18 years (2003-20), including an NFL-record three such teams in 2005 and 2006.

Two teams during that span, the 2009 New Orleans Saints and the 2017 Philadelphia Eagles, won the Super Bowl after finishing in last place in their division the season before.

The teams to go from "worst-to-first" in their division since 2003:

SEASON	TEAM	RECORD	PRIOR SEASON RECORD
2003	Carolina	11-5	7-9
2003	Kansas City	13-3	8-8*
2004	Atlanta	11-5	5-11
2004	San Diego	12-4	4-12*
2005	Chicago	11-5	5-11
2005	New York Giants	11-5	6-10*
2005	Tampa Bay	11-5	5-11
2006	Baltimore	13-3	6-10*
2006	New Orleans	10-6	3-13
2006	Philadelphia	10-6	6-10
2007	Tampa Bay	9-7	4-12
2008	Miami	11-5	1-15
2009	New Orleans**	13-3	8-8
2010	Kansas City	10-6	4-12
2011	Denver	8-8	4-12
2011	Houston	10-6	6-10*
2012	Washington	10-6	5-11
2013	Carolina	12-4	7-9*
2013	Philadelphia	10-6	4-12
2015	Washington	9-7	4-12
2016	Dallas	4-12	13-3
2017	Jacksonville	10-6	3-13
2017	Philadelphia**	13-3	7-9
2018	Chicago	13-3	5-11
2018	Houston	11-5	4-12*
2020	Washington	7-9	3-13

*Tied for last place

**Won Super Bowl

FROM WORST TO FIRST

Since 2003, the NFL's 26 teams to go from "worst-to-first" in their division are the most among the four major professional sports leagues in the United States.

In the NBA, only four teams since the 2003-04 season have finished first in their division after placing in last or tied for last the previous season. There have been seven such teams to accomplish the feat in the past 18 seasons in both the MLB and the NHL.

LEAGUE	NO. OF TEAMS TO GO FROM "WORST-TO-FIRST"	TOTAL DIVISIONS
NFL	26	8
MLB	7	6
NHL	7**	4***
NBA	4	6

*2004-05 season was cancelled due to lockout

**Realigned from six divisions in 2012-13

#Realigned divisions during 2020-21 season due to COVID-19



The 2009 New Orleans Saints and 2017 Philadelphia Eagles exemplified the feeling of hope that every team enters an NFL season with, both winning the Super Bowl the season after finishing in last place in their divisions.

DIVISION TITLES - UP FOR GRABS

In the 19 seasons since realignment in 2002, 30 different teams have won division titles. In 2020, five divisions – AFC East (Buffalo), AFC North (Pittsburgh), AFC South (Tennessee), NFC East (Washington) and NFC West (Seattle) – saw a new team finish in first place.

Both the Pittsburgh Steelers (AFC North) and Washington Football Team (NFC East) won their division after missing the postseason in 2019 and at least two teams have won their divisions the season after missing the playoffs in 17 of the past 18 years.

Washington completed the “worst-to-first” turnaround, winning the NFC East the season after finishing in last place in the division. At least one team has won its division the season after finishing in or tied for last place in 16 of the past 18 seasons.



The most division titles and playoff berths since realignment in 2002:

TEAM	DIVISION TITLES	PLAYOFF BERTHS
New England	16	16
Green Bay	11	14
Indianapolis	9	14
Seattle	9	14
Pittsburgh	8	11
Philadelphia	8	11
Kansas City	7	10
New Orleans	7	9
Baltimore	6	11
Denver	6	8
Houston	6	6
Carolina	5	7
Dallas	5	7
L.A. Chargers	5	7
Atlanta	4	8
Cincinnati	4	7

TEAM	DIVISION TITLES	PLAYOFF BERTHS
Minnesota	4	7
Chicago	4	5
San Francisco	4	5
N.Y. Giants	3	7
Tennessee	3	7
L.A. Rams	3	5
Washington	3	5
Arizona	3	4
Tampa Bay	3	4
N.Y. Jets	1	5
Houston	1	3
Jacksonville	1	3
Las Vegas	1	2
Miami	1	2
Detroit	0	3
Cleveland	0	2

BEST OPENING GAME PERFORMANCES (1933-2020)

MOST YARDS RUSHING	YARDS	ATT	LG	TD
O.J. Simpson, Buffalo vs. New England, 9/16/73	250	29	80t	2
Arian Foster, Houston vs. Indianapolis, 9/12/10	231	33	42	3
Michael Turner, Atlanta vs. Detroit, 9/7/08	220	22	66t	2
Eddie George, Tennessee vs. Oakland, 8/31/97	216	35	29t	1
George Rogers, New Orleans vs. St. Louis, 9/4/83	206	24	76t	2
Gerald Riggs, Atlanta vs. New Orleans, 9/2/84	202	35	57	2
Duce Staley, Philadelphia vs. Dallas, 9/3/00	201	26	60	1
Norm Bulaich, Baltimore vs. N.Y. Jets, 9/19/71	198	22	67t	1
Curtis Martin, N.Y. Jets vs. Cincinnati, 9/12/04	196	29	24t	1
Alan Ameche, Baltimore vs. Chicago, 9/25/55	194	21	79t	1

MOST YARDS PASSING	YARDS	ATT	COMP	TD	INT
Norm Van Brocklin, L.A. Rams vs. N.Y. Yanks, 9/28/51	554	41	27	5	2
Tom Brady, New England vs. Miami, 9/12/11	517	48	32	4	1
Dan Marino, Miami vs. New England, 9/4/94	473	42	23	5	1
Peyton Manning, Denver vs. Baltimore, 9/5/13	462	42	27	7	0
Eli Manning, N.Y. Giants vs. Dallas, 9/8/13	450	42	27	4	3
Matt Ryan, Atlanta vs. Seattle, 9/13/20	450	54	37	2	1
Matt Ryan, Atlanta vs. New Orleans, 9/7/14	448	43	31	3	0
Kurt Warner, St. Louis vs. Denver, 9/4/00	441	35	25	3	3
Drew Brees, New Orleans vs. Tampa Bay, 9/9/18	439	45	37	3	0
Peyton Manning, Indianapolis vs. Houston, 9/12/10	433	57	40	3	0

MOST YARDS RECEIVING	YARDS	REC	LG	TD
Frank Clarke, Dallas vs. Washington, 9/16/62	241	10	58t	3
Anquan Boldin, Arizona vs. Detroit, 9/7/03	217	10	71t	2
Hugh Taylor, Washington vs. Philadelphia, 9/28/47	212	8	62t	3
Lance Alworth, San Diego vs. Denver, 9/11/65	211	7	48	1
Irving Fryar, Miami vs. New England, 9/4/94	211	5	54t	3
Anquan Boldin, San Francisco vs. Green Bay, 9/8/13	208	13	43	1
Wes Chandler, New Orleans vs. Atlanta, 9/2/79	205	6	42	1
Don Maynard, N.Y. Jets vs. Kansas City, 9/15/68	203	8	57t	2
Marty Booker, Chicago vs. Minnesota, 9/8/02	198	8	54	1
Sammy Watkins, Kansas City vs. Jacksonville, 9/8/19	198	9	68t	3

2020 Performances in Bold

BEST OPENING GAME PERFORMANCES (2011-20)

MOST YARDS RUSHING	YARDS	ATT	LG	TD
LeSean McCoy, Philadelphia vs. Washington, 9/9/13	184	31	34t	1
Marlon Mack, Indianapolis vs. L.A. Chargers, 9/8/19	174	25	63t	1
C.J. Spiller, Buffalo vs. N.Y. Jets, 9/9/12	169	14	56t	1
Carlos Hyde, San Francisco vs. Minnesota, 9/14/15	168	26	18	2
Darren McFadden, Oakland vs. Denver, 9/12/11	150	22	47	0
Kareem Hunt, Kansas City vs. New England, 9/17/17	148	17	58	1
DeAngelo Williams, Pittsburgh vs. Washington, 9/12/16	143	26	17	2
Matt Forte, Chicago vs. Green Bay, 9/13/15	141	24	23	1
Clyde Edwards-Helaire, Kansas City vs. Houston, 9/10/20	138	25	27t	1
James Conner, Pittsburgh vs. Cleveland, 9/9/18	135	31	22t	2

MOST YARDS PASSING	YARDS	ATT	COMP	TD	INT
Tom Brady, New England vs. Miami, 9/12/11	517	48	32	4	1
Peyton Manning, Denver vs. Baltimore, 9/5/13	462	42	27	7	0
Eli Manning, N.Y. Giants vs. Dallas, 9/8/13	450	42	27	4	3
Matt Ryan, Atlanta vs. Seattle, 9/13/20	450	54	37	2	1
Matt Ryan, Atlanta vs. New Orleans, 9/7/14	448	43	31	3	0
Drew Brees, New Orleans vs. Tampa Bay, 9/9/18	439	45	37	3	0
Philip Rivers, L.A. Chargers vs. Kansas City, 9/9/18	424	51	34	3	1
Drew Brees, New Orleans vs. Oakland, 9/11/16	423	42	28	4	0
Cam Newton, Carolina vs. Arizona, 9/11/11	422	37	24	2	1
Drew Brees, New Orleans vs. Green Bay, 9/8/11	419	49	32	3	0

MOST YARDS RECEIVING	YARDS	REC	LG	TD
Anquan Boldin, San Francisco vs. Green Bay, 9/8/13	208	13	43	1
Sammy Watkins, Kansas City vs. Jacksonville, 9/8/19	198	9	68t	3
Antonio Brown, Pittsburgh vs. Cleveland, 9/10/17	182	11	50	0
Jared Cook, Oakland vs. L.A. Rams, 9/10/18	180	9	45	0
A.J. Green, Cincinnati vs. New York Jets, 9/11/16	180	12	54	1
Michael Thomas, New Orleans vs. Tampa Bay, 9/9/18	180	16	35	1
Steve Smith, Carolina vs. Arizona, 9/11/11	178	8	77t	2
Willie Snead, New Orleans vs. Oakland, 9/11/16	172	8	57t	2
Tyreek Hill, Kansas City vs. L.A. Chargers, 9/9/18	169	8	54	1
Julio Jones, Atlanta vs. Philadelphia, 9/6/18	169	9	68t	3

BEST OPENING MONTH RECORDS IN PAST 10 YEARS

Getting off to a strong start is important.

Over the past 10 years, seven teams – **NEW ENGLAND, GREEN BAY, KANSAS CITY, BALTIMORE, DALLAS, SEATTLE** and **BUFFALO** – have a winning percentage of at least .600 through the season's first month. Those seven clubs have combined for 44 playoff berths and 10 Super Bowl appearances – including six Super Bowl championships – during that span.

Teams with the best opening month records over the past 10 years (2011-20):

TEAM	W	L	T	PCT.	PLAYOFF BERTHS	SUPER BOWL BERTHS	SUPER BOWL WINS
New England	26	9	0	.743	9	5	3
Green Bay	24	10	1	.700	8	0	0
Kansas City	23	11	0	.676	7	2	1
Baltimore	22	13	0	.629	6	1	1
Dallas	21	13	0	.618	3	0	0
Seattle	21	13	0	.618	8	2	1
Buffalo	21	14	0	.600	3	0	0

In 2020, the four teams to appear on Championship Weekend – **BUFFALO, GREEN BAY, KANSAS CITY** and **TAMPA BAY** – began with a combined 11-1 record during the first month of the season.



BEST NFL RECORDS IN PAST 10 YEARS

Over the past 10 years, six NFL teams – **NEW ENGLAND** (118-42, .738), **GREEN BAY** (105-53-2, .663), **SEATTLE** (105-54-1, .659), **PITTSBURGH** (102-57-1, .641), **NEW ORLEANS** (101-59, .631) and **KANSAS CITY** (100-60, .625) – have won at least 100 regular-season games. Those six clubs have combined for 44 playoff berths, nine Super Bowl appearances and five Super Bowl championships in that span.

The New England Patriots, under the guidance of head coach **BILL BELICHICK**, have the best regular season record over the past 10 years, qualifying for the postseason nine times and winning Super Bowls XLIX, LI and LIII.

"When you look at these guys and what they've done in terms of consistency, that really is the truest measure of performance," Los Angeles Rams head coach **SEAN MCVAY** said about the Patriots. "Nobody has done it better than they have over the last handful of years and that's why you have so much respect and appreciation for them."



Stephen Brashear / AP

The teams with the best regular-season records over past 10 years (2011-20):

TEAM	W	L	T	PCT.	PLAYOFF BERTHS	SUPER BOWL BERTHS	SUPER BOWL WINS
New England	118	42	0	.738	9	5	3
Green Bay	105	53	2	.663	8	0	0
Seattle	105	54	1	.659	8	2	1
Pittsburgh	102	57	1	.641	6	0	0
New Orleans	101	59	0	.631	6	0	0
Kansas City	100	60	0	.625	7	2	1



Mike Roemer / AP



Ted Warren / AP



Gene Puskar / AP

OVERTIME EXCITEMENT

With so many close games in the NFL, it's no surprise that 10 contests in the regular season went to overtime.

The **LOS ANGELES CHARGERS** played three overtime games in 2020 while the **NEW ORLEANS SAINTS** and **TENNESSEE TITANS** each played extra time twice last year.

Titans running back **DERRICK HENRY** recorded game-winning touchdown runs in Week 6 and Week 11, becoming the first player with multiple overtime rushing touchdowns in a single season in NFL history.

The NFL teams with the best regular-season overtime records since overtime was instituted in 1974:

TEAM	W	L	T	WIN PCT.
Arizona	27	16	4	.617
Denver	28	18	2	.604
Washington	25	17	2	.591
Buffalo	21	15	0	.583
N.Y. Giants	22	16	2	.575



A sampling of individual regular-season overtime records (2020 performances are bold):

LONGEST TOUCHDOWN PASS	
99 Yards	Ron Jaworski to Mike Quick Philadelphia 23, Atlanta 17 (11/10/85)
87 Yards	Teddy Bridgewater to Jarius Wright Minnesota 30, N.Y. Jets 24 (12/7/14)
82 Yards	Tom Brady to Troy Brown New England 19, Miami 13 (10/19/03)
	Brett Favre to Greg Jennings Green Bay 19, Denver 13 (10/29/07)

LONGEST TOUCHDOWN RUN	
96 Yards	Garrison Hearst San Francisco 36, N.Y. Jets 30 (9/6/98)
60 Yards	Herschel Walker Dallas 23, New England 17 (11/15/87)
50 Yards	Rashard Mendenhall Pittsburgh 15, Atlanta 9 (9/12/10)

LONGEST TOUCHDOWN PLAYS	
99 Yards	(Pass) Ron Jaworski to Mike Quick Philadelphia 23, Atlanta 17 (11/10/85)
	(Punt return) Patrick Peterson, Arizona 19, St. Louis Rams 13 (11/6/11)
96 Yards	(Run) Garrison Hearst San Francisco 36, N.Y. Jets 30 (9/6/98)
	(Kickoff return) Chad Morton N.Y. Jets 37, Buffalo 31 (9/8/02)

LONGEST FIELD GOAL	
59 Yards	Chandler Catanzaro, Tampa Bay 26, Cleveland 23 (10/21/18)
58 Yards	Harrison Butker Kansas City 23, L.A. Chargers 20 (9/20/20)
57 Yards	Sebastian Janikowski Oakland Raiders 16, N.Y. Jets 13 (10/19/08)

MODIFIED SUDDEN DEATH OVERTIME

For the 2010 postseason, the NFL installed a modified sudden death overtime system to determine the winner when the score is tied at the end of regulation. In 2012, the system was expanded to cover all NFL games.

Teams have the opportunity to possess the ball at least once in the extra period unless the team that receives the overtime kickoff scores a touchdown on its first possession.

REGULAR SEASON

At the end of regulation time, the referee will immediately toss a coin at the center of the field in accordance with rules pertaining to the usual pregame toss. The captain of the visiting team will call the toss prior to the coin being flipped.

- Following a three-minute intermission after the end of the regulation game, there shall be a maximum of one 10-minute period. Each team must possess or have the opportunity to possess the ball unless the team that has the ball first scores a touchdown on its initial possession.
- Play continues in sudden death until a winner is determined, and the game automatically ends upon any score (by safety, field goal or touchdown) or when a score is awarded by the referee for a palpably unfair act. Each team shall be entitled to two timeouts, and if there is an excess timeout, the usual rules shall apply. The try is not attempted if a touchdown is scored. Disqualified players are not allowed to return.
- If the score is tied at the end of the 10-minute overtime period, the game shall result in a tie.
- Instant Replay: No challenges. Reviews to be initiated by the replay official.

POSTSEASON

At the end of regulation time, the referee will immediately toss a coin at the center of the field in accordance with rules pertaining to the usual pregame toss. The captain of the visiting team will call the toss prior to the coin being flipped.

- Following a three-minute intermission after the end of the regulation game, play will be continued in 15-minute periods until a winner is declared. Each team must possess or have the opportunity to possess the ball unless the team that has the ball first scores a touchdown on its initial possession.
- Play continues in sudden death until a winner is determined, and the game automatically ends upon any score (by safety, field goal or touchdown) or when a score is awarded by the referee for a palpably unfair act. Each team has three timeouts per half and all general timing provisions apply as during a regular game. The try is not attempted if a touchdown is scored. Disqualified players are not allowed to return.
- Instant Replay: No challenges. Reviews to be initiated by the replay official.

KEY DEFINITIONS

- **POSSESSION:** Actual possession of the ball with complete control. The defense gains possession when it catches, intercepts or recovers a loose ball.
- **OPPORTUNITY TO POSSESS:** The opportunity to possess occurs only during kicking plays. A kickoff is an opportunity to possess for the receiving team. If the kicking team legally recovers the kick, the receiving team is considered to have had its opportunity. A punt or a field goal that crosses the line of scrimmage and is muffed by the receiving team is considered to be an opportunity to possess for the receivers. Normal touching rules by the kicking team apply.

2021 STRENGTH OF SCHEDULE

TEAM	PCT.	W	L	T	GAMES VS. TEAMS .500 OR BETTER	GAMES VS. 2020 PLAYOFF TEAMS
Pittsburgh	.574	155	115	2	11	9
Baltimore	.563	152	118	2	12	9
Chicago	.550	149	122	1	10	8
Green Bay	.542	147	124	1	10	10
Minnesota	.531	144	127	1	10	9
Cincinnati	.529	144	128	0	10	9
Detroit	.529	143	127	2	10	9
Las Vegas	.526	142	128	2	8	8
Cleveland	.518	140	130	2	9	7
L.A. Rams	.515	140	132	0	10	8
Kansas City	.511	138	132	2	8	7
Seattle	.511	139	133	0	10	9
Tennessee	.507	138	134	0	10	7
Arizona	.507	138	134	0	9	9
Washington	.504	136	134	2	7	6
Houston	.504	137	135	0	10	8
L.A. Chargers	.493	133	137	2	7	6
Jacksonville	.491	133	138	1	9	7
San Francisco	.489	132	138	2	10	8
N.Y. Jets	.489	132	138	2	8	6
New England	.489	133	139	0	9	7
New Orleans	.483	131	140	1	7	7
Buffalo	.478	130	142	0	8	7
Indianapolis	.478	130	142	0	10	7
N.Y. Giants	.474	128	142	2	7	7
Carolina	.472	128	143	1	7	6
Denver	.471	127	143	2	7	6
Miami	.471	128	144	0	8	7
Tampa Bay	.465	126	145	1	7	7
Atlanta	.454	123	148	1	6	6
Dallas	.452	122	148	2	5	5
Philadelphia	.430	117	155	0	4	5

ANNIVERSARY ANNALS

A sampling of 2021 NFL anniversaries:

ANNIVERSARY	CELEBRATION
125th	The Allegheny Athletic Association fields the first completely professional team (1896).
115th	The first authenticated forward pass completion is recorded as George (Peggy) Parratt of Massillon throws a completion to Dan (Bullet) Riley (10/25/1906).
100th	A.E. Staley turns the Decatur Staleys over to player-coach George Halas, who moves the team to Cubs Park in Chicago (1921).
100th	Fritz Pollard of the Akron Pros becomes the first black head coach (1921).
85th	The Eagles make University of Chicago HB and Heisman Trophy winner Jay Berwanger the first player ever selected in the NFL Draft (2/8/1936).
80th	The official NFL Record Manual is published for the first time by the league (1941).
75th	The Cleveland Rams move to Los Angeles (1946).
75th	Kenny Washington (March 21) and Woody Strode (May 7) sign with the Los Angeles Rams to become the first African-Americans to play in the NFL in the modern era (1946).
75th	Bill Willis (August 6) and Marion Motley (August 9) join the Cleveland Browns, becoming the first African-Americans to play in the All-America Football Conference (1946).
75th	The Cleveland Browns, coached by Paul Brown, win the All-America Football Conference's first championship (1946).
70th	The NFL Championship Game is televised coast-to-coast for the first time on the DuMont Network. The Los Angeles Rams defeat the Cleveland Browns 24-17 (12/23/1951).
65th	CBS becomes the first network to broadcast NFL regular-season games to selected television markets across the nation (1956).
55th	A series of meetings regarding a possible AFL-NFL merger takes place in the spring between Lamar Hunt of Kansas City and Tex Schramm of Dallas. On June 8, Commissioner Pete Rozelle announces the merger of the AFL and NFL (1966).
55th	New Orleans is awarded an NFL franchise to begin play in 1967 (11/1/1966).
50th	The Miami Dolphins defeat the Kansas City Chiefs 27-24 in sudden-death overtime in an AFC Divisional Playoff Game. The contest lasts 82 minutes, 40 seconds, making it the longest game in NFL history (12/25/1971).
45th	The first NFL game outside of North America is played before 38,000 fans at Korakuen Stadium in Tokyo, Japan as St. Louis defeats San Diego 20-10 in a preseason contest (8/16/1976).
30th	The NFL launches the World League of American Football, the first sports league to operate on a weekly basis on two separate continents (3/23/1991).
20th	NFL owners unanimously approve a realignment plan and new scheduling format for the league starting in 2002. Seven clubs change divisions and the Seattle Seahawks switch conferences (5/22/2001).
15th	Roger Goodell becomes the eighth chief executive of the NFL when he is chosen to succeed Paul Tagliabue as commissioner by a unanimous vote of the clubs at a three-day meeting in Chicago (8/8/2006).
15th	The NFL Network broadcasts its first-ever regular-season game as the Kansas City Chiefs defeat the Denver Broncos 19-10 at Arrowhead Stadium on Thanksgiving night (11/23/2006).
10th	The NFL Head, Neck and Spine Committee announced a new standardized sideline concussion assessment protocol for team medical personnel. The new protocol includes a symptom checklist, limited neurologic examination and balance assessment (2/25/2011).

115 YEARS AGO: THE FORWARD PASS IS LEGALIZED

One hundred and fifteen years ago the forward pass was legalized and football has never been the same. But all the aerial activity that has captivated fans for decades had a very modest beginning.

On Thursday, October 25, 1906, the first authenticated pass completion in a professional game occurred when quarterback **GEORGE "PEGGY" PARRATT** of the Massillon Tigers completed a pass to end **DAN "BULLET" RILEY** in a victory over a combined Benwood-Moundsville, West Virginia team in a 61-0 decision. The pass was a mere footnote in newspaper accounts of the game, as Parratt's 65-yard run from scrimmage and 100-yard kickoff return seized the headlines.

Earlier that year, on January 12, rules were passed that forever changed the nature of the sport – the forward pass was legalized, the length of the game was reduced from 70 to 60 minutes, the neutral zone separating the offense from the defense by the length of the ball was established, the distance required for a first down was increased to 10 yards, and six men were required to be on the line of scrimmage. Because the pros still followed collegiate rules, these changes were just as important to them as to college football.

An early believer in the possibilities of the passing game was Pro Football Hall of Famer **CURLY LAMBEAU**, who teamed with **GEORGE CALHOUN** in 1919 to form what is now the Green Bay Packers. Lambeau – one of nine coaches in NFL history to amass 200 total wins (229-134-22) – enjoyed an NFL playing career with Green Bay that stretched from 1921-29 and included 24 touchdown passes.

"I always loved to pass," Lambeau said. "I used to practice passing in the spring. The ball was harder to throw then – it was bigger around. They changed the ball in the early '30s, which made it easier to throw. Our offense those days was 75 percent passing. Other teams passed in desperation – we threw on first down. I'd rather pass. I figured it was the easiest way to pick up yards."

A look at passing yards by decade in the NFL:

DECADE	PASSING YARDS
1920s	Unavailable
1933-39	69,444
1940-49	159,117
1950-59	269,009
1960-69	660,967

DECADE	PASSING YARDS
1970-79	677,888
1980-89	951,087
1990-99	1,025,543
2000-09	1,135,331
2010-19	1,275,713

75-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF HISTORIC AFRICAN-AMERICAN SIGNINGS

In 1946, the Cleveland Rams relocated to Los Angeles, becoming the first top-level sports team on the West Coast. But the move turned out to have far greater historic implications.

The organization turned its attention to a recently graduated player at nearby UCLA: halfback **KENNY WASHINGTON**. In 1939, Washington was the nation's leader in total offense, and was the first UCLA player to be named an All-American. After college, he began a successful minor league career, playing for the Hollywood Bears of the Pacific Coast Pro Football League and the San Francisco Clippers of the American Football League. He was consistently one of the most popular football players on the West Coast.



The Rams signed Washington, along with end **WOODY STRODE** – his UCLA teammate – making them the first African-Americans to play in a major sports league in the modern era (post-World War II).

The Rams' signings helped jumpstart the integration of American sports. Later in 1946, the Cleveland Browns (then of the fledgling All-America Football Conference) signed fullback **MARION MOTLEY** and guard **BILL WILLIS** – both of whom are now in the Pro Football Hall of Fame. The next year, Major League Baseball's Brooklyn Dodgers signed **JACKIE ROBINSON**, Washington's roommate and teammate at UCLA.

Football's four African-American pioneers enjoyed careers of varying success. Washington played three seasons with Los Angeles before being hampered by knee injuries.

Strode played one season with Los Angeles, but ended up with a successful career as a character actor in Hollywood. He appeared in nearly 100 television shows and films alongside actors ranging from **LEE MARVIN** and **BERT LANCASTER** to **RUSSELL CROWE** and **LEONARDO DI CAPRIO**. One of his most visible, albeit minor, roles was in *Spartacus*, in which he fought **KIRK DOUGLAS** to the death.

Motley and Willis – whose Browns joined the NFL in 1950 – had longer careers. Motley, who was the AAFC's career rushing leader when it disbanded, played with Cleveland until 1953 (being selected to the 1951 Pro Bowl), then spent the 1955 season with the Pittsburgh Steelers. Willis also stayed with the Browns until 1953, making the Pro Bowl from 1950-53.

75-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF HISTORIC AFRICAN-AMERICAN SIGNINGS

Both on and off the field, the impact of Washington, Strobe, Motley and Willis paved the way for the current generation of players, coaches and executives.

Modern Pro Leagues' First African-American Players:

LEAGUE	YEAR	TEAM	PLAYER(S)
NFL	1946	Los Angeles Rams Los Angeles Rams	Kenny Washington Woody Strobe
AAFC	1946	Cleveland Browns Cleveland Browns	Marion Motley Bill Willis
MLB	1947	Brooklyn Dodgers	Jackie Robinson
NBA	1950	Boston Celtics New York Knicks Washington Capitals	Chuck Cooper Nat Clifton Earl Lloyd
NHL	1958	Boston Bruins	Willie O'Ree



MARION MOTLEY



WOODY STROBE



BILL WILLIS

65TH ANNIVERSARY OF 1956 CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

Sixty-five years ago, the NFL staged its 1956 "World Professional Football Championship Game" between the Giants and Chicago Bears at Yankee Stadium. Many, including those who played in it, say it was among the most significant in NFL history – perhaps even more so than the fabled 1958 "sudden-death" NFL title game.



The NFL, 36 years old at the time, was not what it is today. The game was not sold out. Pro football on television was still in its infancy. T-shirts and umbrellas didn't contain NFL team logos. But the 1956 Championship Game – won handily by the Giants, 47-7 in 18-degree weather – seemed to change all that.

The excitement and glamour of professional football, epitomized by the Giants, captivated New York's marketing and advertising community for the first time. The TV networks, still developing, suddenly had a new sports vehicle that could help them grow.

"I'll always believe that that game and how it opened everyone's eyes to the excitement of pro football was the key to the development of the NFL, more so than the 1958 title game that gets more attention," recalled Pro Football Hall of Famer **FRANK GIFFORD** 50 years after the game. Gifford was a halfback for the Giants and thereafter the longtime play-by-play voice of NFL Monday Night Football.

"People forget what the NFL was like in those days. It was not America's No. 1 sport. The game wasn't even a sellout. But once we played the game, we became heroes in New York. The thing just grew from there."

So did many of the people involved.

The Giants had two assistant coaches named Lombardi and Landry. **VINCE LOMBARDI** ran the offense and **TOM LANDRY** the defense. "All I have to do with these guys around is check curfews and pump up footballs," said head coach **JIM LEE HOWELL**. "Vince and Tom take care of the rest."

Fifteen players/coaches in the game went on to the Pro Football Hall of Fame: the Giants' Gifford, Landry, Lombardi, tackle **ROOSEVELT BROWN**, linebacker **SAM HUFF**, defensive end **ANDY ROBUSTELLI** and safety **EMLEN TUNNELL**; Bears defensive end **DOUG ATKINS**, quarterback-kicker **GEORGE BLANDA**, assistant coach **GEORGE CONNER**, head coach **PADDY DRISCOLL**, linebacker **BILL GEORGE**, guard **STAN JONES**, quarterback coach **SID LUCKMAN**, and center coach **CLYDE "BULLDOG" TURNER**.

Robustelli, who now owns a successful sports marketing/travel agency in Stamford, Connecticut, helped the team with his playing – and entrepreneurial skills. He had ordered 48 pairs of sneakers from U.S. Keds the week before the game for extra traction on the frozen Yankee Stadium field.

"They made all the difference," said Robustelli.

65TH ANNIVERSARY OF 1956 CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

The Giants wore their new sneakers from the beginning of the game. Twenty-two years earlier, they donned sneakers at halftime of their 1934 NFL Championship Game victory over the Bears.

In the 1956 game, the Giants' **GENE FILIPSKI** ran back the opening kickoff from the Bears' Blanda 53 yards to the Chicago 39. Four plays later, Giants fullback **MEL TRIPLETT** bulled his way into the end zone on a 17-yard run, knocking over Bears as well as umpire **SAM WILSON**.

That was three minutes into the game. Almost three minutes into the second quarter, the Giants were up 20-0. By the half, it was 34-7. Before it was over, Giants third-string quarterback **BOBBY CLATTERBUCK**, who had thrown only seven passes for 54 yards that year, was at the helm.

"When you run up against some fellows playing like that," said Bears head coach Driscoll, "there's just nothing you can do."

People were impressed.

"The stands (were) packed with a crowd of 56,836 fans, bundled up against the cold, but warmed out of their usual big-city sophistication by an afternoon of great football," said Sports Illustrated in its report on the game. "For this was a day of excitement and vindication – a sporting thrill to match the drama of the perfect game Don Larsen pitched against the Brooklyn Dodgers on the same field only a few months ago."

It was a significant turning point in NFL history – a championship in the nation's media capital at the dawn of the television age.

SCORING

TEAM	1	2	3	4	T
New York Giants	13	21	6	7	47
Chicago Bears	0	7	0	0	7

SCORING PLAYS

NYG: Triplett 17 run (Agajanian kick), 2:40 1st
NYG: FG, Agajanian 17, 4:59 1st
NYG: FG, Agajanian 43, 12:21 1st
NYG: Webster 3 run (Agajanian kick), 2:34 2nd
CHI: Casares 9 run (Blanda kick), 6:52 2nd
NYG: Webster 1 run (Agajanian kick), 9:54 2nd
NYG: H. Moore recovered blocked kick (Agajanian kick), 11:32 2nd
NYG: Rote 9 pass from Conerly (kick failed), 10:10 3rd
NYG: Gifford 14 pass from Conerly (Agajanian kick), 6:23 4th



50TH ANNIVERSARY OF "LONGEST GAME"

It was Christmas Day 1971. The first-ever NFL playoff game to be played on the holiday was an AFC Divisional Playoff between the Kansas City Chiefs and Miami Dolphins. The temperature was a balmy 61 degrees.

But the game was not in Miami...it was at Kansas City's Municipal Stadium.

"Kansas City at Christmastime can be bitterly cold," says Chiefs Pro Football Hall of Fame quarterback **LEN DAWSON**. "We were hoping for that. But what we got was Miami weather. It was like no other Christmas I ever saw in Kansas City."

And the game that was played that day was like no other...it turned out to be – and remains – the longest game in NFL history – 82 minutes and 40 seconds.

The Chiefs, who had won Super Bowl IV in January 1970, jumped out to a quick 10-0 first-quarter lead before Miami answered with 10 second-quarter points. The score was tied 10-10 at halftime.

Each team scored a touchdown in the third quarter. In the fourth, Kansas City running back **ED PODOLAK**, who would have an NFL-playoff record 350 all-purpose yards in the game, scored on a three-yard run with 6:46 remaining to give the Chiefs a 24-17 lead. Miami quarterback **BOB GRIESE** then threw a five-yard touchdown pass with 1:36 remaining to conclude a game-tying scoring drive on which he completed six of seven passes for 72 yards.

With 35 seconds remaining in the fourth quarter, Chiefs Pro Football Hall of Famer **JAN STENERUD** missed a field goal to send the

game into overtime. Stenerud had a chance to win the game early in overtime, but Dolphins Pro Football Hall of Fame linebacker **NICK BUONICONTI** blocked the 42-yarder.

With 2:39 remaining in overtime, Miami had a chance to win...but **GARO YEPREMIAN**'s 52-yard field goal attempt sailed wide left. The game then went into a second overtime before Yepremian kicked a game-winning 37-yard field goal 7:40 into the period.

It was the first playoff victory in franchise history for Miami and started the club's run to three consecutive Super Bowls, two of which the Dolphins won.

"In many senses that game really launched the Dolphins into their dynasty," says Pro Football Hall of Famer **LARRY CSONKA**, who rushed for 86 yards and one touchdown in the game. "That game proved to us that we could overcome any adversity, that we could defeat anyone. It is fair to say that it was not only a great game, but also a defining moment in NFL history."

FIVE LONGEST GAMES IN NFL HISTORY

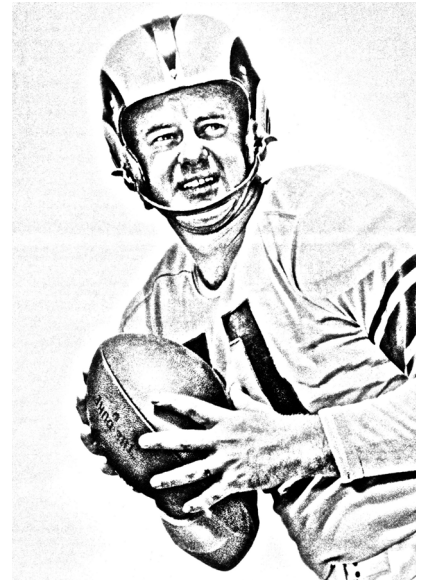
DATE	GAME (SCORE)	LENGTH
Dec. 25, 1971	AFC Divisional (MIA 27 at KC 24)	82:40
Dec. 23, 1962	AFL Championship (DAL Texans 20 at HOU Oilers 17)	77:54
Jan. 3, 1987	AFC Divisional (CLE 23 vs. NYJ 20)	77:02
Jan. 12, 2013	AFC Divisional (BAL 38 at DEN 35)	76:42
Dec. 24, 1977	AFC Divisional (OAK Raiders 37 at BAL Colts 31)	75:43

70 YEARS AGO ON KICKOFF WEEKEND: THE DUTCHMAN GOES WILD!

Los Angeles Rams quarterback **NORM "THE DUTCHMAN" VAN BROCKLIN** entered the 1951 season entrenched in a duel for the starting position with veteran **BOB WATERFIELD**. A Waterfield injury sidelined the incumbent quarterback prior to the season opener against the New York Yanks on September 28 and opened the door for Van Brocklin to show his worth.

He took advantage of the opportunity by producing the most prolific passing performance in NFL history. Van Brocklin threw for an NFL-record 554 yards in a 54-14 rout of the Yanks at the Los Angeles Coliseum. The Pro Football Hall of Fame quarterback tossed five touchdowns and completed 27 of 41 passes.

"It's the finest exhibition of passing I've ever seen," said Rams coach **JIMMY PHELAN** after the game. "Van Brocklin was hitting them in the eye practically every time he threw the ball."



Van Brocklin, who passed away in 1983, remained subdued about the performance. "Everything I threw seemed to be caught and run for a long gain," he said.

The Rams' **TOM FEARS** averaged 23.1 yards on his seven catches and **ELROY "CRAZYLEGS" HIRSCH** averaged 19.2 yards on nine receptions. Los Angeles amassed an NFL-record 735 total yards and 34 first downs.

"They don't need me out here anymore," said Waterfield after the game. The two quarterbacks would split time for the rest of the season as the Rams captured the 1951 NFL Championship.

Van Brocklin's record has stood for the past 70 years. Quarterbacks **MATT SCHAUB** and **WARREN MOON** have come the closest to breaking Van Brocklin's mark. In 2012, Schaub, then with the Houston Texans, passed for 527 yards against Jacksonville on November 18, while Moon had a 527-yard day for the Houston Oilers against Kansas City on December 16, 1990.

The top passing performances in various levels of football:

LEAGUE	QUARTERBACK	DATE	PERFORMANCE
High School	Will Grier, Davidson Day (NC)	November 9, 2012	837 yards vs. Harrels Christian (NC)
NCAA Division III	Sam Durley, Eureka	September 1, 2012	736 yards vs. Knox
NCAA Division I-A (FBS)	Connor Halliday, Washington State	October 4, 2014	734 yards vs. California
NCAA Division I-A (FBS)	Patrick Mahomes, Texas Tech	October 22, 2016	734 yards vs. Oklahoma
NCAA Division I-AA (FCS)	Taylor Heinicke, Old Dominion	September 22, 2012	730 yards vs. New Hampshire
Canadian Football League	Matt Dunigan, Winnipeg	July 14, 1994	713 yards vs. Edmonton
NCAA Division II	J.J. Harp, Eastern New Mexico	September 12, 2009	695 yards vs. Southeastern OK.
NFL	Norm Van Brocklin, L.A. Rams	September 28, 1951	554 yards vs. NY Yanks

KICKOFF WEEKEND 2020

A look at seven statistical highlights from games played during the 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. ET windows on Sunday, September 13, the first week of the 2020 season.

- Six teams came back to win after trailing in the fourth quarter on Kickoff Weekend – Arizona, Chicago, Jacksonville, Las Vegas, the Los Angeles Chargers and Washington – the most fourth-quarter comeback victories on Kickoff Weekend since 2016 (nine teams).



- Cincinnati quarterback **JOE BURROW**, the No. 1 overall selection in the 2020 NFL Draft, made his first career start against the Los Angeles Chargers on Kickoff Weekend. At least one rookie quarterback has started in Week 1 in 13 consecutive seasons, the longest streak in the NFL since at least 1950.

Tampa Bay quarterback **TOM BRADY** (43 years old) and New Orleans quarterback **DREW BREES** (41) faced off on Kickoff Weekend, marking the first game in NFL history in which both starting quarterbacks were age 40 or older. It also marked the first matchup since at least 1950 to feature the top-two all-time leaders in passing touchdowns.

- Baltimore quarterback **LAMAR JACKSON** passed for 275 yards with three touchdowns and zero interceptions for a 152.1 rating in the Ravens' 38-6 win over the Browns on Kickoff Weekend.

Jackson has three career games with at least three touchdown passes and a passer rating of 150 or higher (minimum 10 attempts), the most by a quarterback in his first three seasons in NFL history.

- Seattle quarterback **RUSSELL WILSON** completed 31 of 35 attempts (88.6 percent) for 322 yards and four touchdowns for a 143.1 rating in the Seahawks' 38-25 win at Atlanta. His completion percentage of 88.6 is tied for the third-highest single game completion percentage (minimum 35 attempts) in NFL history.

Wilson, who has 30,056 passing yards and 4,022 rushing yards during his nine-year NFL career, joins Pro Football Hall of Famer **STEVE YOUNG** as the only players in NFL history with at least 30,000 career passing yards and 4,000 career rushing yards.



KICKOFF WEEKEND 2020

Atlanta quarterback **MATT RYAN** passed for 450 yards with two touchdowns in Week 1. Ryan has 51,636 career passing yards and surpassed Pro Football Hall of Famer **JOHN ELWAY** (51,475) for the ninth-most passing yards in NFL history.

Atlanta wide receiver **JULIO JONES** recorded nine receptions for 157 yards against Seattle. He has 807 career receptions in 127 games and became the second-fastest player to reach 800 catches in NFL history, trailing only **ANTONIO BROWN** (126 games).

Jones has 16 career games with at least 150 receiving yards, surpassing Pro Football Hall of Famer **DON MAYNARD** (15) and **CALVIN JOHNSON** (15) for the fourth-most in NFL history. Only Pro Football Hall of Famers **JERRY RICE** (30), **LANCE ALWORTH** (17) and **TERRELL OWENS** (17) have more.

Rodgers has 16 career games with at least 300 passing yards and four touchdown passes, tied with Pro Football Hall of Famer **DAN MARINO** (16) for the fourth-most such games in league annals.

Rodgers has 47,310 career passing yards and surpassed Pro Football Hall of Famer **FRAN TARKENTON** (47,003) for the 12th-most passing yards in NFL history. He also has 368 career passing touchdowns, surpassing **ELI MANNING** (366) for the seventh-most passing touchdowns in league annals.

Packers cornerback **JAIRE ALEXANDER** registered a sack, interception and a safety against Minnesota. He is the fifth player to record a sack, interception and a safety in a single game since 2000, joining **ROCKY BOIMAN** (Week 4, 2003), **CALAIS CAMPBELL** (Week 5, 2016), **JAMES HARRISON** (Week 11, 2008) and **ADALIUS THOMAS** (Week 2, 2006).

- Jacksonville quarterback **GARDNER MINSHEW** completed 19 of 20 pass attempts (95 percent) for 173 yards with three touchdowns and zero interceptions for a 142.3 rating in the Jaguars' 27-20 win over Indianapolis.

Minszew is the fourth quarterback in NFL history with a completion percentage of 95 or higher (minimum 20 attempts) in a single game, joining **DREW BREES** [29 of 30 (96.7 percent) on December 16, 2019], **PHILIP RIVERS** [28 of 29 (96.6 percent) on November 25, 2018] and **MARCUS MARIOTA** [22 of 23 (95.7 percent) on November 26, 2018].



- Green Bay quarterback **AARON RODGERS** passed for 364 yards with four touchdowns and zero interceptions for a 127.5 rating in the Packers' 43-34 win at Minnesota on Kickoff Weekend.

KICKOFF WEEKEND 2020

- New England quarterback **CAM NEWTON** rushed for 75 yards and two touchdowns in the Patriots' 21-11 win against Miami on Kickoff Weekend.

Newton has 60 career rushing touchdowns, the most by a quarterback in NFL history. He has seven career games with at least two rushing touchdowns, tied with Pro Football Hall of Famers **OTTO GRAHAM** and **STEVE YOUNG**, along with **JACK KEMP** and **STEVE MCNAIR** for the most by a quarterback in NFL history.

Other notable performances from Sunday include:

- Buffalo quarterback **JOSH ALLEN** passed for 312 yards and two touchdowns and added a rushing touchdown in the Bills' 27-17 victory over the New York Jets in Week 1.

Allen has 18 career rushing touchdowns, tied with **DAK PRESCOTT** (18) for the second-most by a quarterback in his first three seasons in league history. Only **CAM NEWTON** (28 rushing touchdowns) has more.

Week 1 marked Allen's 11th career game with both a passing and rushing touchdown, tied with **STEVE GROGAN** (11 games) for the third-most by a quarterback in his first three seasons in NFL history. Only **CAM NEWTON** (20 games) and **DAK PRESCOTT** (13) have more.

- Las Vegas running back **JOSH JACOBS** recorded 139 scrimmage yards (93 rushing, 46 receiving) and three rushing touchdowns in the Raiders' 34-30 win at Carolina on Kickoff Weekend.

Jacobs, who had two rushing touchdowns as a rookie in Week 1 of the 2019 season, joins **LAWRENCE PHILLIPS** (1996-97) as the only players in NFL history with at least two rushing touchdowns in Week 1 of both their rookie and second seasons.

- Carolina running back **CHRISTIAN MCCAFFREY** totaled 134 scrimmage yards (96 rushing, 38 receiving) and two rushing touchdowns against Las Vegas.

McCaffrey has 26 rushing touchdowns and 15 receiving touchdowns in 49 career games and joined **CHUCK FOREMAN** (37 rushing touchdowns, 18 receiving touchdowns) as the only players with at least 25 rushing touchdowns and 15 receiving touchdowns in their first 50 games in NFL history.

- Baltimore wide receiver **MARQUISE BROWN** registered five receptions for 101 yards in the team's Week 1 win.

Brown, who had 147 receiving yards as a rookie in Week 1 of the 2019 season, is the fifth player in NFL history and first since **LOUIS LIPPS** (1984-85) with at least 100 receiving yards on Kickoff Weekend during both his rookie and second season.

NEW NFL RULES FOR 2021

The following are the playing rules changes for the 2021 season:

- **PRESEASON OVERTIME ELIMINATED:** If the score is tied at the end of regulation playing time of a preseason game, the game will now end as a tie.
- **MAXIMUM NUMBER OF PLAYERS IN SETUP ZONE:** For one year only, no more than nine players must be positioned between their restraining line and a spot 15 yards behind their restraining line (the "setup zone") on a free kick formation.

- **EXPANDED PROHIBITION AGAINST BLOCKING BELOW THE WAIST:** Expands the prohibition against blocking below the waist by offensive and defensive players on scrimmage downs when contact occurs beyond five yards on either side of the line of scrimmage and more than two yards outside of either offensive tackle.



- **EXPANDED CONSULTATION OF REPLAY REVIEWS:** Permits the Replay Official and designated members of the officiating department to communicate to the referee certain objective and administrative aspects of the game.
- **PENALTIES ON SUCCESSIVE TRY ATTEMPTS:** Ensures the enforcement of all accepted penalties committed by either team during successive try attempts.
- **SECOND FORWARD PASSES:** Modifies penalty to add a loss of down for a second forward pass from behind the line and for a pass thrown after the ball returns behind the line.
- **EXPANDED JERSEY NUMBER OPTIONS:** Expands jersey number options for certain positions. Beginning in 2021, the below positions may use the following jersey numbers:

- Quarterbacks, Punters, Placekickers: 1-19
- Defensive Backs: 1-49
- Running Backs, Full Backs, Tight Ends, H-Backs, Wide Receivers: 1-49 and 80-89
- Offensive Linemen: 50-79
- Defensive Linemen: 50-79 and 90-99
- Linebackers: 1-59 and 90-99

NEW NFL RULES FOR 2021

A number of players that were selected in the 2021 NFL Draft chose to take advantage of the league's new jersey number options, electing to go with numbers that were not associated with their position in previous years.

See below for some of the rookies that will be wearing single digit numbers this season:

PLAYER	TEAM	JERSEY NUMBER
DB Zayne Anderson	Kansas City	#6
WR Tarik Black	Indianapolis	#7
DB Dicaprio Bootle	Kansas City	#2
WR Ja'marr Chase (right, top)	Cincinnati	#1
WR Jaelon Darden	Tampa Bay	#1
RB Travis Etienne	Jacksonville	#1
CB Jaycee Horn (bottom)	Carolina	#8
WR Elijah Moore	N.Y. Jets	#8
WR Josh Palmer	L.A. Chargers	#5
TE Kyle Pitts (right, bottom)	Atlanta	#8
WR Devonta Smith	Philadelphia	#6
LB Joe Tryon-Shoyinka	Tampa Bay	#9
WR Austin Watkins	San Francisco	#7



THE BEST ABILITY IS AVAILABILITY

In 2020, quarterbacks missed a total of 78 games due to injury, a 10-percent decline from the 2019 season (87).

Quarterback games missed due to injury by season since 2016:

SEASON	GAMES MISSED
2020	78
2019	87
2018	59
2017	58
2016	84



Mark Tenally / AP

Quarterback **RUSSELL WILSON**, who has started 144 consecutive regular-season games for the Seahawks, has the longest active streak in the league and the sixth-longest streak in NFL history. In 2021, he can surpass **MATT RYAN** (154 consecutive starts) for the fifth-longest streak in league annals. Tampa Bay quarterback **TOM BRADY** has the second-longest active streak with 76 consecutive starts.

The quarterbacks with the most consecutive games started in NFL history:

PLAYER	TEAM(S)	CONSECUTIVE STARTS	SEASONS
Brett Favre ^{HOF}	Green Bay, N.Y. Jets, Minnesota	297	1992-2010
Philip Rivers	San Diego/L.A. Chargers, Indianapolis	240	2006-2020
Eli Manning	N.Y. Giants	210	2004-2017
Peyton Manning ^{HOF}	Indianapolis	208	1998-2011
Matt Ryan	Atlanta	154	2009-2019
Russell Wilson	Seattle	144	2012-present

12 quarterbacks started all 16 games for their respective clubs during the 2020 season.

TEAM	QUARTERBACK
Arizona	Kyler Murray
Atlanta	Matt Ryan
Buffalo	Josh Allen
Cleveland	Baker Mayfield
Detroit	Matthew Stafford
Houston	Deshaun Watson

TEAM	QUARTERBACK
Indianapolis	Philip Rivers
Las Vegas	Derek Carr
Minnesota	Kirk Cousins
Seattle	Russell Wilson
Tampa Bay	Tom Brady
Tennessee	Ryan Tannehill

NFL ON TV IN 2021

The NFL announced today its first-ever 18-week, 272-game regular-season schedule for 2021, which kicks off on Thursday night, September 9, in Tampa Bay and concludes with 16 division games in Week 18 – two on Saturday, January 8, and 14 on Sunday, January 9.

The 2021 NFL schedule, Powered by AWS, will feature each team playing 17 regular-season games and three preseason games for the first time, providing fans an extra week of regular-season action. It marks the first change to the season structure since the 1978 campaign ushered in an era of 16 regular-season and four preseason games.

The 17th game will feature teams from opposing conferences that finished in the same standing within their respective divisions the previous season. The AFC was determined to be the home conference for the 17th game in 2021.

The NFL's 102nd season begins with the league's annual primetime kickoff game, as the defending Super Bowl Champion Tampa Bay Buccaneers host the Dallas Cowboys at Raymond James Stadium on Thursday, September 9 (8:20 PM ET, NBC).

Week 1 continues Sunday, September 12, with a double-doubleheader featuring four Sunday afternoon games in every market and intriguing matchups in both conferences. On CBS, the defending AFC Champion Kansas City Chiefs host the Cleveland Browns (4:25 PM ET) in a rematch of their memorable 2020 Divisional Playoff game. On FOX, the Green Bay Packers travel to face the New Orleans Saints (4:25 PM ET) in a meeting of the NFC's top two seeds from last year's postseason.



Later that day, NBC's Sunday Night Football begins with the Los Angeles Rams hosting the Chicago Bears (8:20 PM ET) at SoFi Stadium.



Kickoff Weekend concludes on Monday, September 13, with ESPN/ABC's Monday Night Football, featuring the Las Vegas Raiders hosting the Baltimore Ravens (8:15 PM ET) at Allegiant Stadium.

A year after opening, both SoFi Stadium and Allegiant Stadium are expected to welcome fans for the first time in their Week 1 primetime slates, as well as the Los Angeles Chargers' home opener against the Dallas Cowboys (4:25 PM ET, CBS) in Week 2. Additionally, each stadium will take center stage in February, as Allegiant Stadium will host the 2022 Pro Bowl on Sunday, February 6, and SoFi Stadium will host Super Bowl LVI on Sunday, February 13.



NFL ON TV IN 2021

ESPN will televise one game each Monday night in Weeks 1-17. There will be no Monday night game on the final regular-season weekend (Week 18) to provide more flexibility for the scheduling of the opening weekend of the NFL playoffs.



Additionally, ESPN/ABC will air two games with playoff implications on the Saturday of Week 18, January 8. These games will be selected following the conclusion of Week 17.

Thursday Night Football will air exclusively on NFL Network in Weeks 2-4 and in Week 16, while FOX kicks off its Thursday night slate in Week 5. FOX will broadcast 10 Thursday Night Football games between Weeks 5-15 (excluding Thanksgiving night) as well as the Saturday, December 25, game between the Cleveland Browns and Green Bay Packers (4:30 PM ET). Those FOX games are slated to be simulcast via NFL Network, distributed in Spanish on FOX Deportes, and streamed on Amazon Prime Video, beginning with the Los Angeles Rams at Seattle Seahawks game on October 7.

In total, NFL Network will exclusively televise eight games (four on Thursday night, one game in London, both games in Week 15 on Saturday, December 18 and one of the December 25 games, the Indianapolis Colts visiting the Arizona Cardinals [8:15 PM ET]).



Kickoff times for primetime games will remain unchanged this season. Monday and Saturday night games will kick off at 8:15 ET. Sunday and Thursday night games will kick at 8:20 ET. Once again this season, all 32 clubs will have at least one nationally televised game.

A select number of games will be "cross-flexed," moving between CBS and FOX to bring potentially under-distributed games to wider audiences. Some of those contests were announced today and other "cross-flexed" games will be decided during the season.

The NFL's International Series will return in 2021, as the schedule features two games from London's Tottenham Hotspur Stadium. The Atlanta Falcons will play host to the New York Jets in Week 5, airing exclusively on NFL Network (9:30 AM ET), while the Jacksonville Jaguars will play host to the Miami Dolphins in Week 6 (9:30 AM ET, CBS).

Thanksgiving will feature a tripleheader on Thursday, November 25. The first game will match two NFC North division rivals, as the Chicago Bears travel to Detroit to face the Lions (12:30 PM ET, FOX). The late afternoon game will feature the Las Vegas Raiders visiting the Dallas Cowboys (4:30 PM ET, CBS). The Thanksgiving Day festivities conclude with an interconference matchup between two 2020 playoff teams, as the Bills travel to New Orleans to face the Saints on NBC (8:20 PM ET).

NFL ON TV IN 2021

The regular season will conclude with Week 18 on Saturday, January 8, and Sunday, January 9. For the 12th consecutive year, all 16 games scheduled for the final week of the season are division contests, enhancing the potential for more games with playoff ramifications.

For the first time ever, the NFL's 32 teams will each play 17 games over 18 weeks. Byes will begin in Week 6 and end in Week 14.

Eleven 2021 games are rematches of the 2020 playoffs, including the Kansas City Chiefs hosting the Buffalo Bills on Sunday Night Football in Week 5 (8:20 PM ET, NBC), a rematch of the AFC Championship Game.

"Flexible scheduling" will be used in Weeks 11-18. Additionally, in Weeks 5-10, flexible scheduling may be used in no more than two weeks. In Weeks 5-17, the schedule lists the games tentatively set for Sunday Night Football on NBC. Only Sunday afternoon games are eligible to be moved to Sunday night, in which case the tentatively scheduled Sunday night game would be moved to an afternoon start time.

Flexible scheduling will not be applied to games airing on Thursday or Monday nights.

In Week 15, two of the five matchups designated as TBD will be played on Saturday with the remainder to be played on Sunday. Specific dates and start times for such designated Week 15 matchups will be determined and announced no later than four weeks prior to game day.

For Week 18, two Saturday games and the Sunday night game will be announced no later than six days prior to January 9. The schedule does not list Saturday games or a Sunday night game in Week 18, but games with playoff implications will be moved to those time slots. Flexible scheduling ensures quality matchups in all Sunday time slots in those weeks and give "surprise" teams a chance to play their way into primetime. In Week 18, two games will be played on Saturday, one at 4:30 PM ET and one at 8:15 PM ET with the remainder to be played on Sunday afternoon at 1:00 PM ET and 4:25 PM ET, and one matchup to be played on Sunday night at 8:20 PM ET. Specific dates and start times for Week 18 matchups will be determined and announced following the conclusion of Week 17.

NFL ON THE RADIO IN 2021

NFL fans can listen to games on the radio in a number of ways – on Westwood One and SiriusXM NFL Radio.

WESTWOOD ONE remains the official network radio partner of the NFL, its 35th consecutive season with that distinction.

The Westwood One NFL schedule features 73 national games, including the Thursday night Kickoff game, Monday Night Football, Sunday Night Football, Thursday Night Football, the Thanksgiving Day tripleheader, late-season Saturday doubleheaders, and the entire postseason, culminating with Super Bowl LVI in Los Angeles. Westwood One also produces weekly specialty programs, including NFL Preview, NFL Insider, NFL Sunday and NFL Fantasy Football Forecast.



KEVIN HARLAN and Hall of Famer **KURT WARNER** will once again be the lead broadcast crew, calling opening night, Monday Night Football and Super Bowl LVI for the network. NFL Network's **RICH EISEN** joins Westwood One this season to anchor the pregame and halftime shows of Monday Night Football. **IAN EAGLE** and **TONY BOSELLI** will once again be the main broadcast crew for Thursday Night Football, while **RYAN RADTKE** serves as the lead play-by-play announcer for Sunday Night Football. Sunday night analysts will rotate throughout the season and include Hall of Famers **ROD WOODSON** and **TERRELL DAVIS**, former NFL linemen **MIKE GOLIC** and **ROSS TUCKER**, and Super Bowl winning Head Coach **MIKE HOLMGREN**. **SCOTT GRAHAM** serves as the studio host for those broadcasts.

In addition to being heard on more than 500 radio stations across the United States, all of Westwood One's primetime NFL broadcasts can also be heard on SiriusXM, via the TuneIn app, and through NFL Game Pass, which is available on [NFL.com](https://www.nfl.com) and the NFL mobile app. For complete information regarding Westwood One's NFL coverage, including schedules, announcers, highlights, features, interviews and more, log on to [westwoodonesports.com](https://www.westwoodonesports.com).

This year will mark the NFL's 18th season on **SiriusXM**. SiriusXM creates and offers ad-free music, premier sports talk and live events, comedy, news, exclusive talk and entertainment programming.

SiriusXM provides live play-by-play of every NFL game from the preseason through the Super Bowl on SiriusXM radios, as well as on the SXM App and online at [SiriusXM.com](https://www.SiriusXM.com) for its subscribers.

NFL ON THE RADIO IN 2021

SiriusXM NFL Radio (channel 88 on SiriusXM radios and on the SXM App) offers in-depth radio coverage of the NFL 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. SiriusXM NFL Radio offers a daily lineup of exclusive talk programming hosted by former NFL stars and radio personalities. Subscribers can also get SiriusXM NFL Radio programming on demand, allowing them to listen to their favorite shows when they want them, and giving them more chances to hear SiriusXM's exclusive programming, team preview shows, interviews with coaches, players and executives and more. For more information visit siriusxm.com/nflonsxm.



WEEKDAY PROGRAMMING	TIME (All times ET)	HOSTS
"The Opening Drive"	7:00-10:00 AM	Solomon Wilcotts, David Diehl, Ed McCaffrey, Torrey Smith, Torry Holt
"Airing It Out"	10:00 AM-Noon	Bob Papa & Charlie Weis
"The SiriusXM Blitz"	Noon-3:00 PM	Bruce Murray, Rich Gannon. Mark Dominik, Bruce Gradkowski
"The SiriusXM Blitz with Brett Favre"	11:00 AM - Noon Tuesdays	Brett Favre and Bruce Murray
"Movin' the Chains"	3:00-7:00 PM	Jim Miller, Pat Kirwan
"Late Hits"	7:00-11:00 PM	Alex Marvez, Gil Brandt, Bill Polian
"Let's Go!" (Monday replay)	6:30 - 7:30 PM Mondays	Tom Brady, Larry Fitzgerald, Jim Gray

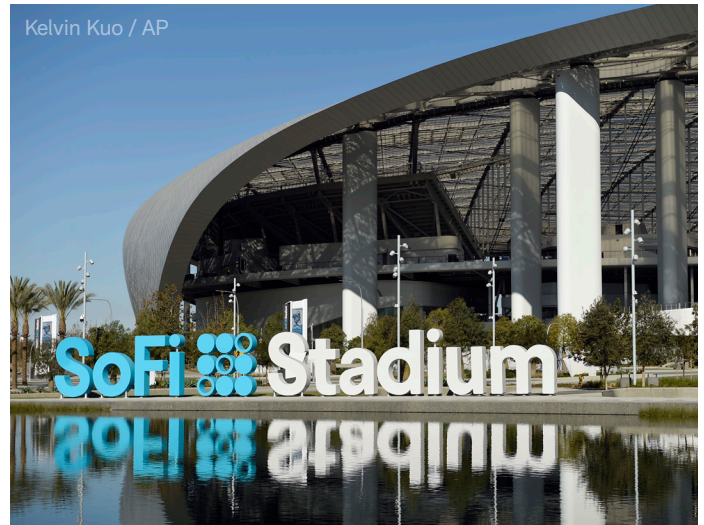
SATURDAY PROGRAMMING	TIME (All times ET)	HOSTS
"The Weekend Kickoff"	9:00-11:00 AM	Alex Marvez & Tim Brown
"Press Coverage"	11:00 AM-2:00 PM	Vic Carucci, Dan Leberfeld
"Movin' the Chains"	2:00 - 5:00 PM	Jim Miller & Pat Kirwan
"The End Zone"	5:00-8:00 PM	Zig Fracassi
"Football Diehards"	8:00-11:00 PM	Mike Dempsey & Bob Harris

SUNDAY PROGRAMMING	TIME (All times ET)	HOSTS
"The Stadium Tailgate Show"	9:00 AM-Noon	Alex Marvez, Gil Brandt
"The Sunday Drive"	Noon-8:00 PM	Steve Torre, Bill Lexas
"NFL Rewind"	Midnight-2:00 AM	Zig Fracassi and Brad Hopkins

LOS ANGELES TO HOST SUPER BOWL LVI

SoFi Stadium, which opened last year and is the home of the Los Angeles Chargers and Los Angeles Rams, will host its first-ever Super Bowl when Super Bowl LVI is played on February 13, 2022.

"We are proud to host Super Bowl LVI and will work with all our partners to deliver an extraordinary and unparalleled experience next February," Los Angeles Rams Owner/Chairman **STAN KROENKE** said. "Aside from the great competition and entertainment that are hallmarks of Super Bowl, we look forward to celebrating the many frontline workers who are already making this event possible through their amazing sacrifices and commitment."



Los Angeles will welcome the Super Bowl back to the region for the first time in nearly three decades, when Super Bowl XXVII was played at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena in 1993. Overall, the area has hosted the game seven times, including the first Super Bowl in 1967 at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum.

"Since Los Angeles hosted the first Super Bowl back in 1967, the Super Bowl has become a spectacle larger than the league could have ever imagined," said NFL Commissioner **ROGER GOODELL**. "The return of the Super Bowl to this region is in large part thanks to Stan Kroenke's commitment to delivering this game-changing project at Hollywood Park. We are thrilled to be partnering with the Los Angeles Sports & Entertainment Commission, SoFi Stadium and Hollywood Park, the Los Angeles Rams and the Los Angeles Chargers to bring the nation's biggest sporting event to Los Angeles and Inglewood for Super Bowl LVI."

In its young history, SoFi Stadium has already proven to be one of the most state-of-the-art stadiums in the world. Located on the site of the former Hollywood Park racetrack, the stadium is the centerpiece of a 298-acre mixed-use development featuring retail, commercial office space, a hotel, residential units, and outdoor park spaces. It is the world's first indoor-outdoor stadium to be constructed and re-imagines the fan experience. In addition to Super Bowl LVI, the stadium is scheduled to host the College Football Championship Game in 2023, the Opening and Closing Ceremonies of the 2028 Olympic Games and many more marquee events in the coming years. In partnership with the LA84 Foundation, the Play Equity Fund and the National Football League Foundation, the Super Bowl LVI Legacy Program – Champions Live Here – shines a spotlight on the achievements of local community organizations who often go unrecognized and provides grants to help these nonprofits continue fulfilling their missions.

LOS ANGELES TO HOST SUPER BOWL LVI

The Los Angeles Super Bowl Host Committee has recognized 56 "unsung hero" grassroots organizations and nonprofits who are making a transformative impact in underserved communities across the Los Angeles region. The legacy program honors each of the "Champion organizations" with a \$10,000 grant award, a professionally produced marketing video spotlighting their organization, and public recognition of their work in the lead up to the Super Bowl. Additionally, six of these 56 organizations will be selected to each receive a total grant award of \$50,000, to make an even bigger impact in their community.



This will be the eighth Super Bowl in the Los Angeles area, trailing only Miami/South Florida (11) and New Orleans (10) for the most in the game's history.

Super Bowl Host Cities (I-LVI):

CITY/REGION	SUPER BOWLS
Miami/South Florida	11
New Orleans	10
Los Angeles	8* (incl. Super Bowl LVI)
Tampa Bay	5
Arizona	3
Atlanta	3
Houston	3
San Diego	3

CITY/REGION	SUPER BOWLS
Detroit	2
Minneapolis	2
San Francisco/Bay Area	2
Indianapolis	1
Jacksonville	1
New York/New Jersey	1
North Texas	1

FUTURE SUPER BOWL SITES

SUPER BOWL	DATE	SITE
LVI	February 13, 2022	SoFi Stadium, Los Angeles
LVII	February 12, 2023	State Farm Stadium, Arizona
LVIII	February 11, 2024*	TBD
LIX	February 9, 2025*	Caesars Superdome, New Orleans

*Tentative date



TOTAL MILES TRAVELED IN 2021

Below is a list of the estimated round-trip distance for every regular-season road game, including International Games, for each team in 2021.

TEAM	MILES TO TRAVEL
1. San Francisco	28,260
2. Seattle	28,050
3. Jacksonville	26,707
4. Los Angeles Rams	25,760
5. Los Angeles Chargers	25,467
6. Miami	23,459
7. Arizona	22,186
8. Las Vegas	21,224
9. Atlanta	20,306
10. Dallas	18,779
11. New York Jets	18,428
12. New York Giants	18,350
13. New Orleans	17,367
14. Houston	16,749
15. New England	16,746
16. Denver	16,538

TEAM	MILES TO TRAVEL
17. Minnesota	16,032
18. Tampa Bay	16,010
19. Chicago	14,999
20. Tennessee	14,651
21. Indianapolis	14,416
22. Detroit	14,073
23. Kansas City	14,012
24. Washington	13,934
25. Philadelphia	13,810
26. Carolina	13,509
27. Green Bay	13,333
28. Baltimore	12,963
29. Buffalo	12,631
30. Cleveland	9,880
31. Pittsburgh	9,776
32. Cincinnati	9,462

- The total distance traveled by all teams during the regular season will be 558,287 miles.
- The teams of the NFC West (104,676) have the highest combined mileage total of all divisions.
- The remaining division totals ranking from highest to lowest are the AFC West (83,648), AFC South (72,523), AFC East (71,264), NFC South (67,192), NFC East (64,873), NFC North (58,437) and AFC North (42,081).
- Five teams - the **SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS** (28,680), **SEATTLE SEAHAWKS** (28,050), **JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS** (26,707), **LOS ANGELES RAMS** (25,760) and **LOS ANGELES CHARGERS** (25,467) - will "travel around the world" at least once. A trip around the globe is 25,000 miles.



Elise Amendola / AP

THE LAST TIME ...

THE LAST TIME IN THE REGULAR SEASON ... (2020 GAMES ARE IN BOLD)

PASSING (SINGLE GAME)	
500 YARDS	502, Dak Prescott, Dallas vs. Cleveland, October 4, 2020
7 TD PASSES	Drew Brees, New Orleans vs. New York Giants, November 1, 2015
60 ATTEMPTS	61, Jared Goff, L.A. Rams vs. Miami, November 1, 2020
20 CONSECUTIVE COMPLETIONS	21, Baker Mayfield, Cleveland vs. Cincinnati, October 25, 2020
99-YARD TD PASS	Eli Manning to Victor Cruz, New York Giants vs. New York Jets, December 24, 2011

RECEIVING (SINGLE GAME)	
3 100-YARD GAMES, SAME TEAM	Atlanta vs. Seattle, September 13, 2020 Julio Jones, 9-157-0; Calvin Ridley 9-130-2; Russell Gage 9-114-0
300 YARDS	300, Julio Jones, Atlanta vs. Carolina, October 2, 2016
15 RECEPTIONS	16, Keenan Allen, Los Angeles Chargers vs. New York Jets, November 22, 2020
4 TOUCHDOWNS	Marvin Jones, Detroit vs. Minnesota, October 20, 2019

RUSHING (SINGLE GAME)	
5 TOUCHDOWNS	6, Alvin Kamara, New Orleans vs. Minnesota, December 25, 2020
4 TOUCHDOWNS	6, Alvin Kamara, New Orleans vs. Minnesota, December 25, 2020
40 ATTEMPTS	40, Shaun Alexander, Seattle vs. Green Bay, November 27, 2006
250 YARDS	253, Jonathan Taylor, Indianapolis vs. Jacksonville, January 3, 2021 250, Derrick Henry, Tennessee vs. Houston, January 3, 2021
99-YARD TD RUN	Derrick Henry, Tennessee vs. Jacksonville, December 6, 2018

INTERCEPTIONS (SINGLE GAME)	
4 INTERCEPTIONS	DeAngelo Hall, Washington vs. Chicago, October 24, 2010
3 INTERCEPTIONS	Andrew Adams, Tampa Bay vs. Carolina, December 2, 2018
2 TOUCHDOWNS	Zach Brown, Tennessee vs. Jacksonville, December 30, 2012
100-YARD TD RETURN	101, Justin Reid, Houston vs. Washington, November 18, 2018

SCORING (SINGLE GAME)	
8 PATS	8, Tyler Bass, Buffalo vs. Miami, January 3, 2021
3 FGS, 50 YARDS OR MORE	Tyler Bass, Buffalo vs. Arizona, November 15, 2020
60 OR MORE POINTS, TEAM	New Orleans (62) vs. Indianapolis (7), October 23, 2011
100 OR MORE POINTS, BOTH TEAMS	105, Los Angeles Rams (54) vs. Kansas City (51), November 19, 2018
SCORELESS TIE	New York Giants vs. Detroit, November 7, 1943

RETURNS (SINGLE GAME)	
2 TOUCHDOWNS	Leon Washington, Seattle vs. San Diego, September 26, 2010
2 CONSECUTIVE KICKOFF RETURN TOUCHDOWNS, BOTH TEAMS	New England vs. Oakland, December 14, 2008
2 PUNT RETURN TOUCHDOWNS	Nyheim Hines, Indianapolis vs. Carolina, December 22, 2019

ART ROONEY

SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD

Quarterback **TEDDY BRIDGEWATER**, who spent the 2020 season with the Carolina Panthers, was voted the winner of the 2020 **ART ROONEY SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD**, which recognizes the NFL player who best demonstrates the qualities of outstanding sportsmanship on the playing field, including fair play, respect for opponents and integrity in competition.

"I am extremely humbled knowing that my peers around the league have selected me for such a prestigious award," Bridgewater said. "It speaks highly of some of the things that we (the team) are able to do and some of the goals that I've set in my career as far as being a teammate and the way I conduct myself when I play this game."



The award was founded in 2014 in honor of the late founding owner of the Pittsburgh Steelers and Pro Football Hall of Famer **ART ROONEY SR.** Past recipients of the Art Rooney Sportsmanship Award are **ADRIAN PETERSON** of the Washington Football Team (2019), **DREW BREES** of the New Orleans Saints (2018), **LUKE KUECHLY** of the Carolina Panthers (2017), **FRANK GORE** of the Indianapolis Colts (2016), **CHARLES WOODSON** of the Oakland Raiders (2015) and **LARRY FITZGERALD** of the Arizona Cardinals (2014).

In 2020 with the Panthers, Bridgewater set career highs in passing yards (3,733), touchdown passes (15) and completion percentage (69.1 percent). An eight-year NFL veteran and 2015 Pro Bowl selection, he has 11,385 passing yards and 53 touchdown passes in 59 career games.

Each NFL team nominated one of its players for the award, which recognizes players who exemplify outstanding sportsmanship on the field. A panel of former players from the NFL Legends Community selected eight finalists (four in the AFC; four in the NFC) from the 32 nominees. The panel was comprised of Pro Football Hall of Famer **CURTIS MARTIN**, and NFL Legends **WARRICK DUNN**, **KARL MECKLENBURG** and **LEONARD WHEELER**.

The eight finalists were listed on the Pro Bowl ballot under the Art Rooney Sportsmanship Award. From the finalists, each team's players submitted a consensus vote of their choice for the winner. As in Pro Bowl voting, a team could not vote for its own player.

ART ROONEY**SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD**

The Art Rooney Trophy represents the important role that sportsmanship plays in the game and how NFL players that demonstrate integrity and honor on the field serve as role models for other players at all levels. The award design was inspired by the upward arc of a football in motion and contains a gold line embedded in glass that represents the path of sportsmanship throughout a career. Etched into the award are the words "integrity," "honor," "respect," and "fairness," the values that define excellent sportsmanship.

The finalists, featuring four players from each conference, were defensive end **CALAIS CAMPBELL** (Baltimore), defensive tackle **CAMERON HEYWARD** (Pittsburgh), defensive end **JUSTIN HOUSTON** (Indianapolis) and wide receiver **MATTHEW SLATER** (New England) in the AFC, and quarterback **TEDDY BRIDGEWATER** (Carolina), linebacker **LAVONTE DAVID** (Tampa Bay), center **JASON KELCE** (Philadelphia) and fullback **KYLE JUSZCZYK** (San Francisco) in the NFC.

The 32 player nominees for the 2020 Art Rooney Sportsmanship Award (finalists listed in bold):

TEAM	PLAYER
Arizona	S Budda Baker
Atlanta	C Alex Mack
Baltimore	DE Calais Campbell
Buffalo	CB Tre'Davious White
Carolina	QB Teddy Bridgewater
Chicago	LB Khalil Mack
Cincinnati	LB Josh Bynes
Cleveland	RB Nick Chubb
Dallas	RB Ezekiel Elliott
Denver	CB Bryce Callahan
Detroit	C Frank Ragnow
Green Bay	QB Aaron Rodgers
Houston	DT Brandon Dunn
Indianapolis	DE Justin Houston
Jacksonville	DE/LB Josh Allen
Kansas City	QB Patrick Mahomes

TEAM	PLAYER
Las Vegas	QB Derek Carr
L.A. Chargers	DE Joey Bosa
L.A. Rams	S John Johnson
Miami	LB Kyle Van Noy
Minnesota	TE Kyle Rudolph
New England	WR Matthew Slater
New Orleans	T Ryan Ramczyk
N.Y. Giants	DB Logan Ryan
N.Y. Jets	DL Folorunso Fatukasi
Philadelphia	C Jason Kelce
Pittsburgh	DT Cameron Heyward
San Francisco	FB Kyle Juszczyk
Seattle	LB K.J. Wright
Tampa Bay	LB Lavonte David
Tennessee	QB Ryan Tannehill
Washington	WR Terry McLaurin

WAY TO PLAY INITIATIVE

NFL CONTINUES WAY TO PLAY INITIATIVE FOR CURRENT PLAYERS AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETES

The NFL announced the continuation of the Way to Play initiative, helping highlight proper playing technique to protect players from unnecessary risk and to foster culture change across all levels of the sport.

For the fourth year, the **NFL WAY TO PLAY AWARD** will recognize the excellence demonstrated by NFL players who exemplify proper technique to make impactful plays. Each recipient of the Way to Play Award will receive a \$2,500 equipment grant through USA Football to be awarded to the local youth or high school football program of the player's choosing.



"The Way to Play Award is about excellence in football through using proper technique that protects players from unnecessary risk," said **TROY VINCENT**, NFL Executive Vice President of Football Operations. "This award incentivizes strong fundamental playing technique, demonstrates best practices, and at the same time, benefits youth and high school football."

The NFL Football Operation department will select the top nominees for the award recognizing current NFL players. The 2020-21 expert panel consisted of **MERRIL HOGE, RONNIE LOTT, WILLIE MCGINEST, ORLANDO PACE** and **MICHAEL ROBINSON**. The panel for this upcoming season has yet to be determined. The recipient will be announced on NFL Network's Good Morning Football every Thursday morning.

In partnership with Hudl and in its third year, the **NFL WAY TO PLAY HIGH SCHOOL AWARD** will honor one high school football player weekly for demonstrating exceptional in-game playing technique. The high school award recipient will be announced on NFL Network each Saturday morning, and the school of each honoree will receive a \$1,500 equipment grant through USA Football.

"With no fans this year and no fundraising, that'll go a long way toward getting us our helmets," **MIKE NEIDHOLD**, Richland High School Head Varsity Coach, said when discussing the money that Deacon Boyce, one of the weekly recipients of the 2020-21 Way to Play High School Award, was awarded for his high school.

Several NFL head coaches, current players and NFL Legends have created videos to assist in educating coaches and players. The videos provide coaching points of emphasis to execute proper technique and are to be used as educational tools.

NFL PLAYER

ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMS

NFL Player Engagement aims to serve, equip, empower, and support the player and his entire ecosystem through the pillars of **Continuing Education, Financial Literacy, Professional Development, and Personal Development.**

The **Continuing Education Pillar** provides players with the tools to reach their educational goals. In partnership with colleges and universities across the country, the CEP offers individualized education plans for degree completion with undergraduate, graduate or certification programs.

The **Financial Education Pillar** provides engaging and unbiased education through programs and seminars that seek to improve the financial decision-making ability of players. The NFL's Professional Development Pillar creates meaningful development opportunities for players and Legends, including football relevant onboarding and future career skills.

The **Personal Development Pillar** assists players, Legends and their families as they live healthy and fulfilling lives mentally, physically and holistically before, during, and after their playing experiences.

The Player Engagement department is also responsible for administering the rookie readiness program and mandatory player programming. This is a collaborative effort between Player Engagement, the NFL Management Council, the NFLPA, and other departments at the league office. The purpose is to ensure compliance with the CBA and policy manual, streamline programming to eliminate duplicative sessions and create the most effective engaging and impactful educational sessions.

Heads of Player Engagement at the club level serve as a key resource in assisting players with their off-field professional development during and beyond their NFL experiences. With a relationship predicated on trust, Player Engagement directors can be critical to the team's success in managing players and providing support to their families.

For more information on NFL Player Engagement, visit <https://operations.nfl.com/the-players/nfl-player-engagement/>.

NFL LEGENDS COMMUNITY



The National Football League recognizes the enormous contributions former players – NFL Legends – have had in the development and success of the league. Launched in 2013, the NFL Legends Community celebrates, embraces and connects players with each other, their teams and the league. To date, more than 13,000 players are registered in the NFL Legends Community.

In addition to communicating available benefits and opportunities, the NFL Legends Community provides unique offerings for Legends to engage year-round, including:

- **Legends Business Network** – The NFL Legends Business Network is a resource for NFL Legends who own a business. The directory provides elevated visibility for business opportunities within the NFL, its member clubs, partners, and the broader NFL Legends Community.
- **Legends Coaches Network** – The NFL Legends Community Coaches Network provides Legends coaching with resources, development opportunities, and a support system for the Legend and their programs. Legends registered in the network will receive exclusive offers to virtual coaching tools and platforms. Legends can directly contribute to the NFL Way to Play platform and provide feedback to the Legends Youth Advisory Committee. The network will hold events such as information sessions, coaching clinics, and coach connection events.
- **Legends Community Directors and Coordinators** – Legends Community Directors and Coordinators lead the efforts across the country. They streamline communication and serve as a central resource for players to learn about programs and benefits available to them. They played in different eras, for multiple teams and at various positions, but they are passionate about helping their fellow Legends.

NFL LEGEND	TITLE	NFL LEGEND	TITLE
Chad Pennington	Legends Executive Director	Luke McCown	Central South Coordinator
Leonard Wheeler	Legends Executive Director	Marty Moore	Central North Coordinator
Anthony Becht	Pacific West Coordinator	Orlando Pace ^{HOF}	Central North Coordinator
JB Brown	Northeast Coordinator	Chester Pitts	Central South Coordinator
Garry Cobb	Northeast Coordinator	John Randle ^{HOF}	Central North Director
Thomas Davis	Player Relations Coordinator	Ed Reynolds	Northeast Director
Warrick Dunn	Southeast Coordinator	Tony Richardson	Northeast Coordinator
Donnie Edwards	Pacific West Coordinator	Mike Rucker	Southeast Director
Torry Holt	Southeast Coordinator	Will Shields ^{HOF}	Central South Director
T.J. Houshmandzadeh	Pacific West Coordinator	Mack Strong	Pacific West Director
Rocket Ismail	Central South Coordinator	Darryl Talley	Northeast Coordinator
Steven Jackson	Pacific West Coordinator	Frank Winters	Central North Coordinator

NFL LEGENDS COMMUNITY

- **Legends Development Program** – Provides NFL Legends the opportunity to explore careers in football by gaining business experience and exposure in the New York League Office. It exposes players to opportunities in football that are not in front of the camera or in a coaching capacity.
- **Legends Brotherhood Events** – The Legends Lounge is a free and private hospitality space open exclusively to current players and NFL Legends. Available at major NFL calendar events, it is a place for the game's greats to relax and reengage with other former players.
- **Legends Newsletter** – A monthly newsletter designed to keep the Legends Community informed on all upcoming offers, events, and opportunities available for them.
- **Players Podcast** – Tune into the [Players Podcast](#), an unscripted series that discusses the challenges and personal anecdotes of NFL players. Hosted by Pro Football Hall of Famer Aeneas Williams, guests have included current players, NFL Legends, and club personnel. Topics include parenting, coaching, social justice, wellness and overcoming adversity. The podcasts are released each Wednesday and are available on Apple Podcasts, Spotify and iHeartRadio.
- **Legends Portal** – The Legends Portal provides trustworthy information in a safe and personalized environment, while connecting all players and Legends with the benefits, programs, and resources available to them.
- **Lunch & Learns** – The Legends Lunch and Learn series consists of an interactive hour-long event where Legends learn more about the Legends Community and all that is offered to them through partners and collectively bargained benefits.
- **The Legends Welcome** – The Legends Community hosts recently transitioned players as part of continuous efforts to inform them of all that is available to them. During the Welcome, Legends will hear from NFL league and team executives, participate in networking opportunities and learn about the initiatives and programs specifically designed for them.

For more information, visit <https://operations.nfl.com/the-players/nfl-legends-community> and follow [@NFLLegends](#) to join the social conversation.



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STRENGTHENING THE PIPELINE

WOMEN'S CAREERS IN FOOTBALL FORUM

As part of its ongoing commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion, the NFL offers innovative career development programs aimed to inspire, engage, and connect women with careers in football. Hosting these events is part of the League's overall effort to develop a pipeline of qualified women for football operations positions and provides women with critical knowledge, tools and resources to pursue careers in football.

As part of this outreach, the NFL created the NFL Women's Careers in Football Forum. The Forum educates and connects female candidates working in football operations. Participants interact with NFL club owners, general managers, head coaches and club executives in the NFL and college football programs.

Prior to the Forum's inception in 2017, there had been one full-time female coach and one female coaching internship. In its first five years, the Forum has resulted in 186 opportunities for women to work in football operations across the professional, collegiate, and high school levels.

Among the participants of the program, there were many "firsts" including the NFL's first Black full-time female coach (Jennifer King – Washington Football Team) and scout (Salli Clavelle – San Francisco 49ers), as well as NCAA college football's first Division 1 football coach (Callie Brownson – Dartmouth College, now Chief of Staff to head coach Kevin Stefanski for the Cleveland Browns since the 2020 season) and positional coach (Heather Marini – Brown University). This past season, Lo Locust (right) and Maral Javadifar were both members of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers' Super Bowl LV champion coaching staff.

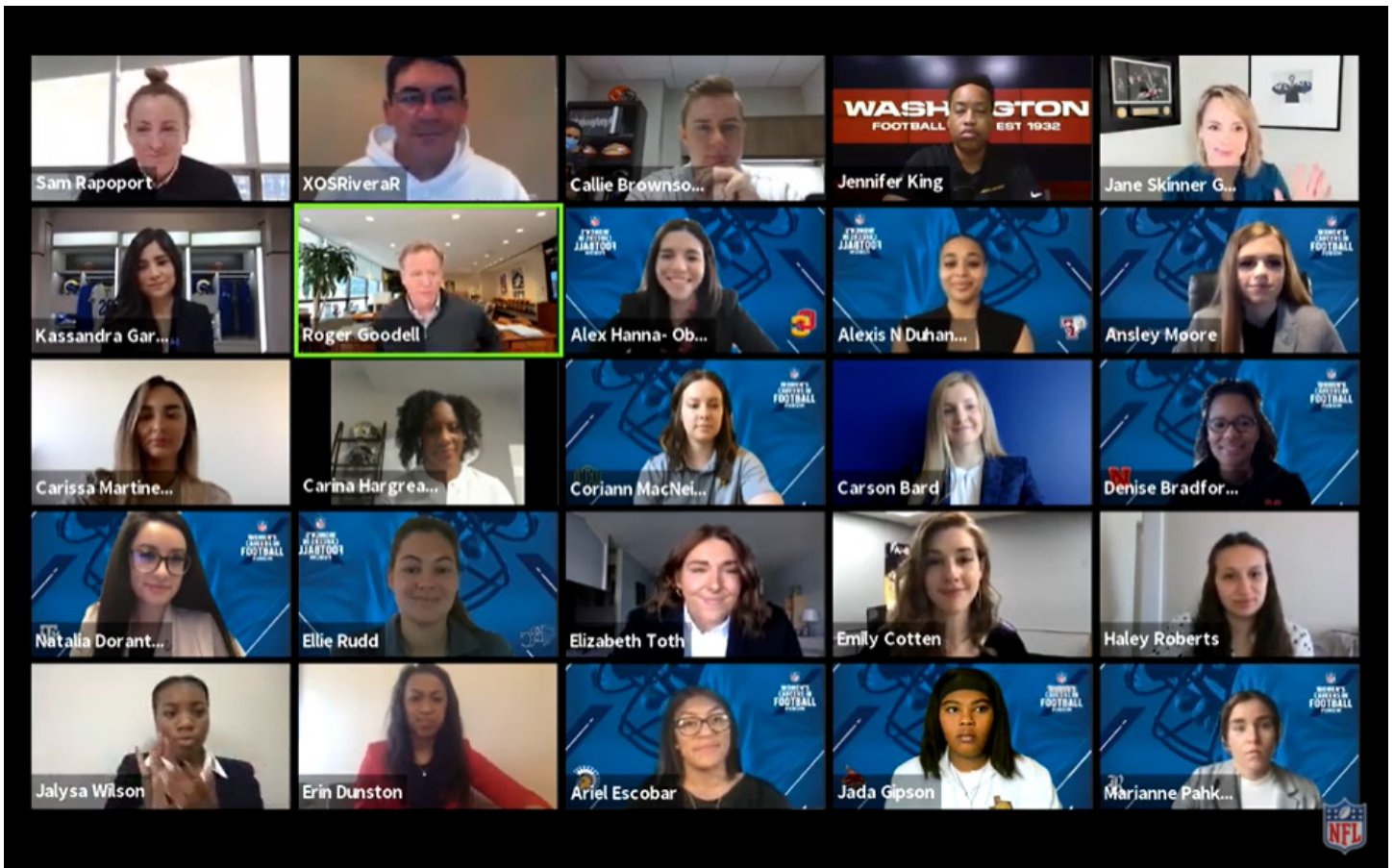
During the 2021 offseason, Washington Football Team hired forum participant Natalia Dorantes as their Coordinator of Football programs, a chief of staff-like role directly reporting to head coach Ron Rivera. Dorantes is the first Latina to serve in this sort of role within the NFL.



WOMEN'S CAREERS IN FOOTBALL FORUM

The 2021 Women's Careers in Football Forum took place virtually for the first time ever. This year, 40 women who hold roles in college and high school football programs were selected to participate in the Forum. In addition to placements across the NFL in previous years, several NFL clubs have hired women in coaching and/or personnel roles. The NFL has also worked with several NCAA programs and head coaches who have learned about these efforts and have committed to interviewing more women for openings on their staffs.

While the NFL is encouraged by the progress, it is dedicated to further advancement and the normalization of women on the sidelines.



Commissioner Roger Goodell and Jane Skinner Goodell helped to kick off the opening virtual panel of the 2021 Women's Careers in Football Forum.

HISTORY OF FEMALE COACHES IN THE NFL

In 2015, Jen Welter became the first female coaching intern in the NFL, working with the Arizona Cardinals' linebackers during training camp and preseason. The next year, Kathryn Smith became the first female to be hired full-time by an NFL club, joining the Buffalo Bills as a quality control coach. In 2019, Lori Locust became the first ever female to be hired full-time as a position coach.

Since 2017 and the launch of the NFL Women's Careers in Football Forum, women have earned 30 coaching opportunities with NFL clubs.

History of female coaches in the NFL:

YEAR	NAME	CLUB	POSITION
2015	Jen Welter	ARZ	Bill Walsh Fellow
2016	Kathryn Smith	BUF	Quality Control Coach
	Katie Sowers	ATL	Bill Walsh Fellow
2017	Katie Sowers	SF	Offensive Assistant
	Phoebe Schechter	BUF	Bill Walsh Fellow
	Odessa Jenkins	ATL	Bill Walsh Fellow
	Collette Smith	NYJ	Bill Walsh Fellow
	Stephanie Balachko	PIT	Bill Walsh Fellow
2018	Kelsey Martinez	OAK	Strength & Conditioning Coach
	Katie Sowers	SF	WR Assistant
	Phoebe Schechter	BUF	Coaching Intern
	Elena Grigevich	BLT	Bill Walsh Fellow - Analytics
	Lo Locust	BLT	Bill Walsh Fellow
	Jennifer King	CAR	Bill Walsh Fellow
	Stephanie Sharpe	ATL/WAS	Bill Walsh Fellow
	Erica Vinson-Ondecko	BLT	Intern
	Shaakira Hassell	CAR	Bill Walsh Fellow
	Mickey Grace	TB	Intern
	Elizabeth Gore	CIN	Bill Walsh Fellow - Strength & Conditioning
	2019	Lo Locust	TB
Maral Javadifar		TB	Strength & Conditioning Coach
Katie Sowers		SF	WR Assistant
Callie Brownson		BUF/ATL	Bill Walsh Fellow
Sam Mullet		BLT	Bill Walsh Fellow
Jennifer King		CAR	Bill Walsh Fellow
Autumn Lockwood		ATL	Strength & Conditioning Intern
Chelsea Romero		LAR	Strength & Conditioning Intern
Tracy Zimmer		ATL	Bill Walsh Fellow - Strength & Conditioning

HISTORY OF FEMALE COACHES IN THE NFL

YEAR	NAME	CLUB	POSITION
2020	Katie Sowers	SF	WR Assistant
	Jennifer King	WAS	Offensive Asst Coach
	Callie Brownson	CLV	Chief of Staff
	Lo Locust	TB	DL Assistant
	Maral Javadifar	TB	Strength & Conditioning Coach
	Emily Zaler	DEN	Strength & Conditioning Coach
	Cristi Bartlett	TEN	Bill Walsh Fellow
	Chelsea Romero	LAR	Intern
	Melissa Tomlinson	NYG/CHI	Bill Walsh Fellow - Virtual
	Mickey Grace	MIA	Bill Walsh Fellow - Virtual
	Elena Grigevich	CLE	Bill Walsh Fellow - Virtual
	Angela Baker	CLE	Bill Walsh Fellow - Virtual
	Sophia Lewin	BUF	Bill Walsh Fellow - Virtual
	2021	Katie Sowers	KC
Jennifer King		WAS	Asst. RB Coach
Callie Brownson		CLV	Chief of Staff
Lo Locust		TB	DL Assistant
Maral Javadifar (below)		TB	Strength & Conditioning Coach
Emily Zaler		DEN	Strength & Conditioning Coach
Jada Gipson		CLV	Coaching Intern
Alex Hanna		CLV	Coaching Intern
Sophia Lewin		BUF	Offensive Assistant
Tessa Grossman		ATL/CIN	Bill Walsh Fellow
Heather Marini		TB	Bill Walsh Fellow
Angellica Grayson	WAS	Bill Walsh Fellow	



Buccaneers Strength & Conditioning Coach Maral Javadifar (right) with Head Strength & Conditioning Coach Anthony Piroli (center) and Assistant Strength & Conditioning Coach Cory Bichey (left) after the 2020 NFC Championship Game.

WOMEN'S FLAG

FOOTBALL INITIATIVES

NJCAA, NFL and RCX Sports Announce Women's Flag Football Grant Recipients

The National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA), in a joint effort with the National Football League (NFL) and RCX Sports, announced in July the 10 colleges that will be recipients of \$10,000 grants, distributed by the NJCAA Foundation, to support each school's commitment to add women's flag football as an intercollegiate varsity sport.

"The NJCAA Foundation is passionate about the value women's flag football brings to institutions' overall growth, the student-athlete experience, and equality across playing fields," stated **BRIAN LUCKETT**, NJCAA Foundation Executive Director. "This is an opportunity for women of the association to compete at the highest level and we are fortunate to work hand in hand with NFL FLAG and RCX Sports during this exciting time."

In March of 2021, the NJCAA announced the \$150,000 grant provided by the NFL and the application process to support the initiative of expanding women's flag football towards garnering full NJCAA championship sport status.

"The NJCAA expanding NFL FLAG opportunities for female student athletes at member institutions demonstrates clearly that football is for all," said Executive Vice President of NFL Football Operations **TROY VINCENT, SR.** "The values, fun and competitive environment of football can be enjoyed by anyone and everyone who wishes to participate. It is exciting to see junior colleges offer NFL FLAG as a varsity sport to female athletes."

As the official operating partner of NFL FLAG, RCX Sports is a compelling leader in growing women's flag football participation and awareness across the nation. With the grant, NJCAA women's flag football programs have exclusivity to various invitational events managed by RCX.

"RCX is dedicated to creating opportunities for all athletes to play and so that every child can gain important life skills only learned through sports," said RCX Sports CEO and NFL FLAG Executive Director **IZELL REESE.** "Through NJCAA women's flag football, young women will not only be able to compete, they'll earn a valuable education that will set them up for success after college."

NFL FLAG, the official flag football league of the NFL and the largest flag football organization in the U.S., continues to pave the way for female student-athletes and youth one league at a time.

WOMEN'S FLAG

FOOTBALL INITIATIVES

NJCAA women's flag football competition will commence at institutions as soon as spring 2022. NFL FLAG and RCX will continue to assist the NJCAA women's flag football committee as it works with participating NJCAA institutions, providing resources and rulings as they relate to the sport's success.

More news and information regarding women's flag football national championship opportunities will be announced as it further develops. See the list of recipient institutions below.

MEMBER COLLEGE	LOCATION
Kennedy King College	Chicago, IL
Bryant & Stratton College - Wisconsin	Wauwatosa, WI
Hesston College	Hesston, KS
Pratt Community College	Pratt, KS
Fort Scott Community College	Fort Scott, KS
Florida Gateway College	Lake City, FL
Dabney S. Lancaster Community College	Clifton Forge, VA
Hocking College	Nelsonville, OH
Nassau Community College	Garden City, NY
Union County College	Cranford, NJ

GM FORUM & QB COACHING SUMMIT

NFL and Black College Football Hall of Fame Host Inaugural General Manager Forum and Fourth Annual Quarterback Coaching Summit

In partnership with the Black College Football Hall of Fame, the NFL held the inaugural **OZZIE NEWSOME GENERAL MANAGER FORUM** and the fourth annual **QUARTERBACK COACHING SUMMIT**. From June 21-23, front office personnel and coaches from the NFL and NCAA took part in the virtual programs to experience professional development and networking opportunities with NFL club executives.

"The Ozzie Newsome General Manager Forum and Quarterback Coaching Summit are part of our ongoing efforts to break mobility barriers, establish a cultural norm of opportunity for all, and a steadfast commitment to developing a diverse and inclusive workforce," said NFL Executive Vice President of Football Operations **TROY VINCENT, SR.** "Participants will be exposed to best practices used by the brightest and most creative minds in football as well as networking opportunities to build relationships and gain personal insights."

This year, participants learned best practices used by quarterback coaches, offensive coordinators, head coaches and general managers. The Forum provided a platform to help prepare, educate, and identify quality minority candidates. The Summit featured various topics including how to build a coaching staff and winning culture, the qualities of a head coach, as well as provide networking opportunities for career advancement.

"There is an immense amount of diverse talent in the front office and on the offensive side of the ball around the country," said Black College Football Hall of Fame Co-Founder **DOUG WILLIAMS.** "It is important to allow these bright individuals the opportunity to showcase their skills to NFL executives and media. We hope the exposure the participants receive from this event results in advancement opportunities."

The June 21 Ozzie Newsome General Manager Forum featured sessions and panels led by NFL owners and front office personnel including, but not limited to:

- Baltimore Ravens Owner **STEVE BISIOTTI**
- Black College Football Hall of Fame co-founder **JAMES "SHACK" HARRIS**
- New York Giants Owner **JOHN MARA**
- Miami Dolphins Senior Personnel Executive **REGGIE MCKENZIE**
- Baltimore Ravens Executive Vice President **OZZIE NEWSOME**
- Buffalo Bills Owner and President **KIM PEGULA**

The June 22-23 Quarterback Coaching Summit featured sessions and panels led by NFL owners, current and former coaches, and front office personnel including, but not limited to:

- Cleveland Browns Vice President of Football Operations **KWESI ADOFO-MENSAH**
- Tampa Bay Buccaneers Head Coach **BRUCE ARIANS**
- New England Patriots Head Coach **BILL BELICHICK**
- Atlanta Falcons Owner and Chairman **ARTHUR M. BLANK**
- Kansas City Chiefs Head Coach **ANDY REID**
- Pittsburgh Steelers President and NFL Workplace Diversity Committee Chair **ART ROONEY II**

STRENGTHENING THE PIPELINE

BILL WALSH DIVERSITY COACHING FELLOWSHIP

Established in 1987, the Bill Walsh NFL Diversity Coaching Fellowship provides annual NFL coaching experience to outstanding coaches from diverse backgrounds. The program, which was named after the man who conceived the idea – late Pro Football Hall of Fame head coach Bill Walsh – exposes talented coaches from other levels of football and NFL Legends to the methods and philosophies of NFL coaching staffs. Walsh introduced the concept to the league in 1987 when he brought a group of minority coaches into his San Francisco 49ers' training camp.

In 2020, 110 coaches participated in the fellowship. Of the total, 42 Bill Walsh fellows were NFL Legends and six were women. Due to COVID-19 related restrictions, some clubs opting to conduct the program virtually.

NUNN-WOOTEN SCOUTING FELLOWSHIP

The Bill Walsh NFL Diversity Coaching Fellowship is just one NFL program aimed at developing a diverse pipeline for club personnel. The Nunn-Wooten Scouting Fellowship has served to expose former NFL players, former football student-athletes, and college recruiting and personnel staff to careers in professional football scouting since 2015. The fellowship provides participants rare access to NFL club business, giving them an on-the-job, inside look at the skills needed for a career in NFL scouting.



BILL WALSH DIVERSITY COACHING FELLOWSHIP



NUNN-WOOTEN SCOUTING FELLOWSHIP

STRENGTHENING THE PIPELINE

To help continue to bolster educational and networking opportunities for aspiring minority coaches and professional scouts, in the past two years the NFL has hosted a series of sessions for current and former Bill Walsh and Nunn-Wooten fellows in June and July.

Since the inception of the program, all 32 NFL clubs have helped tutor more than 2,000 minority coaches through the years and now participate during offseason workout programs, minicamps and training camp.

Steelers head coach Mike Tomlin, who became the youngest head coach (36) in NFL history to win a Super Bowl when he led Pittsburgh to a victory in Super Bowl XLIII, interned with the Cleveland Browns in the summer of 2000 while the defensive backs coach at the University of Cincinnati.

Washington head coach Ron Rivera understands the value of the program and serves on the Bill Walsh NFL Diversity Coaching Fellowship Advisory Council. The council is comprised of club presidents, general managers, head coaches and assistant coaches, who focus on developing a pipeline of diverse coaches, including former NFL players pursuing opportunities in the coaching profession.

"The Bill Walsh NFL Diversity Coaching Fellowship is essential in creating opportunities," said Rivera. "You can see the benefits of the fellowship program on virtually every coaching staff in the league and the education provided through the program has been invaluable in the development of many young coaches who may not have received exposure to the NFL without it."

BILL WALSH NFL DIVERSITY COACHING FELLOWSHIP ALUMNI SUCCESS STORIES

NAME	TEAM	TITLE	FELLOWSHIP
Mike Tomlin	Pittsburgh Steelers	Head Coach	2000 with Cleveland Browns
Byron Leftwich	Tampa Bay Buccaneers	Offensive Coordinator	2016 with Arizona Cardinals
Ronald Curry	New Orleans Saints	Quarterbacks Coach	2011 with San Diego Chargers
Maurice Drayton	Green Bay Packers	Special Teams Coordinator	2013 with Indianapolis Colts
Duce Staley	Detroit Lions	Assistant Head Coach, Running Backs Coach	2010 with Philadelphia Eagles
Anthony Lynn	Detroit Lions	Offensive Coordinator	2000 with Denver Broncos
Charles London	Atlanta Falcons	Quarterbacks Coach	2005 with New England Patriots
Marquice Williams	Atlanta Falcons	Special Teams Coordinator	2015 with Detroit Lions
Chris Horton	Baltimore Ravens	Special Teams Coordinator	2013 with Seattle Seahawks
Derius Swinton	Los Angeles Chargers	Special Teams Coordinator	2019 with Arizona Cardinals

HBCU COMBINE

THE REESE'S SENIOR BOWL AND NFL TO HOST HBCU COMBINE

The Reese's Senior Bowl, in collaboration with the National Football League, will hold the HBCU (Historically Black Colleges & Universities) Combine in Mobile, Alabama. Select players from four HBCU conferences – CIAA, MEAC, SIAC and SWAC – and other HBCU institutions will be invited to participate in the event.

Held at the University of South Alabama and patterned after the NFL Combine, the HBCU Combine included the gathering of comprehensive medical information, interviews, and on-field evaluations of football skills and acumen. Last year's event, announced in February 2020, was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



"The Reese's Senior Bowl is honored to be collaborating with the National Football League to host the inaugural HBCU Combine in Mobile, Alabama," said Reese's Senior Bowl Executive Director **JIM NAGY**. "Over the years, the Senior Bowl has served as a showcase for some of the top Black college football players in America, including seven of our game's 56 future members of the Pro Football Hall of Fame, and this event will help many more HBCU players secure further attention and exposure from all 32 teams."

An HBCU Scouting Committee, comprised of current and former league executives, will evaluate and select this year's participants. The Senior Bowl will provide medical and football personnel to capture important pre-Draft information and deliver a world-class experience for HBCU prospects.

"Throughout NFL history, HBCU athletes have exemplified a standard of excellence both on and off the field," said **TROY VINCENT**, NFL Executive Vice President of Football Operations. "The HBCU Combine is part of honoring that legacy and making every effort to accelerate exposure of HBCU draft prospects to all NFL clubs. The game is better when all have the opportunity to compete."

With representatives from all 32 NFL clubs traveling for Senior Bowl week in the past, hosting this event in Mobile ensures maximum visibility for HBCU players – one of the event's key objectives.

The 73rd Annual Reese's Senior Bowl will kick off on Saturday, February 5, 2022 at 1:30 p.m. CT at Hancock Whitney Stadium.

HBCU CAREERS IN FOOTBALL FORUM

Career development program for Historically Black Colleges and Universities hosted virtually

More than 150 students from Historically Black Colleges and Universities were selected to attend the 2020 NFL HBCU Careers in Football Forum. The annual forum, held virtually last year, took place on December 10 and 11.

Since 2016, the Forum has introduced more than 300 students and entry-level athletic department administrators to career opportunities in professional football. Each year, the Forum invites participants to hear from sports industry professionals and creates networking opportunities for students to learn more about their desired career path. This year, attendees represented 39 institutions.

"An important aspect of strengthening diversity and inclusion within our league is continued development of the talent pipeline," said NFL Vice President of Football Strategy and Business Development, **NATARA HOLLOWAY**. "One of several key programs that help introduce us to the next generation of industry leaders, the Careers in Football Forum also provides attendees an inside look at the sports industry. We look forward to our continued efforts and ever-evolving relationships with HBCUs across the country."

The event opened with a panel discussion entitled "Commissioners Corner" featuring Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Commissioner **GREGORY MOORE**, Southwestern Athletic Conference Commissioner **DR. CHARLES MCCLELLAND**, Mid-eastern Athletic Conference Associate Commissioner **SONJA STILLS**, and Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association Commissioner **JACQIE MCWILLIAMS**. The panelists shared insights on the roles and responsibilities of an athletic conference commissioner.

On day two, attendees engaged with NFL league office and club human resources representatives, followed by a conversation with club executives including Washington Football Team President **JASON WRIGHT**, Carolina Panthers President **TOM GLICK**, Atlanta Falcons President and CEO **RICH MCKAY**, and Baltimore Ravens Executive Vice President and Former General Manager **OZZIE NEWSOME**.

Covering football administration and careers found across the sports industry, other event panelists included representatives from Nike, the Fritz Pollard Alliance, Roc Nation, the NCAA, and other collegiate athletic offices. The forum concluded with breakout sessions where attendees spoke with professionals in their discipline of choice in areas ranging from football operations to marketing.

Since the program's inception, 11 students from the Forum have gone on to secure internships or full-time opportunities with the NFL, NFL clubs, colleges and universities, and other sports entities.

This year, the league established an online talent community to serve as a source of diverse talent for current and future career opportunities accessible by the league office and NFL clubs. Through the platform, HBCU students can submit an expression of interest which outlines their professional experience, career goals and specific interest in working in professional football. Individuals can also interact with an NFL Talent Specialist to learn about league news, careers, networking opportunities and recruitment events after the Forum.

The Careers in Football Forum is just one component of a larger initiative to increase career development opportunities for students and athletic administrators from HBCUs. To learn more about the NFL's collaboration with HBCUs please visit: <https://operations.nfl.com/football-ops/the-nfl-and-hbcus/>.

EAST-WEST SHRINE BOWL

EAST-WEST SHRINE BOWL COLLEGE FOOTBALL ALL-STAR GAME HEADS TO LAS VEGAS IN 2022

The East-West Shrine Bowl™, America's longest-running college football all-star game, which supports Shriners Hospitals for Children®, will be played on February 3, 2022, at the home of the Las Vegas Raiders as part of NFL Pro Bowl week.

Televised nationally during primetime on NFL Network, the East-West Shrine Bowl will kick off from Allegiant Stadium, one of the nation's premier professional stadiums. The Thursday evening event will bring approximately 125 of the nation's top college seniors to be coached by NFL staffs for a week of preparation in front of hundreds of NFL scouts, professional agents and media, all leading up to the 2022 NFL Draft, which will also be held in Las Vegas.

"The East-West Shrine Bowl is exemplary of the values of football, as all involved have the opportunity to inspire and encourage the children and families at Shriners Hospitals," said Troy Vincent, NFL executive vice president of football operations. "In addition to community service and engagement, student athletes get an early start on the evaluation of their skills and coaches also showcase their talent, develop professionally, and network with colleagues, which is invaluable to the future of football."

Throughout the 97-year storied history of the East-West Shrine Bowl, the legendary game has produced more than 500 NFL Pro Bowl appearances. The 2022 game will mark the first time that both the Shrine Bowl and Pro Bowl align during the same week to strengthen the relationship between the two events. The move to Las Vegas this February comes after the Shrine Bowl was played in St. Petersburg, Florida, for the past 10 years.



More than just a game

"This is a historic day for the East-West Shrine Bowl and Shriners Hospitals for Children," said Bob Roller, director of national sports management for Shriners Hospitals. "Our goal was to expand the reach and mission of our healthcare system and to hold a world-class sporting event, and this partnership with the NFL and Pro Bowl Week greatly enhances our on-going mission that has helped more than 1.5 million children since opening in 1922."

Thousands of East-West Shrine Bowl all-stars have gone to the NFL in the past century, including 78 who went on to be enshrined in the Pro Football Hall of Fame. Some of the many legendary names in past games include Tom Brady, Gale Sayers, John Elway, Lawrence Taylor, Pat Tillman, Brett Favre, Dick Butkus, Mike Ditka, Frank Gifford and Roger Staubach.

"We're thrilled that the East-West Shrine Bowl will be coming to Las Vegas as part of NFL Pro Bowl Week, and to welcome such a prestigious event for the student-athletes and their fans," said Steve Hill, CEO/president of the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority. "Las Vegas has become the Sports Capital of the World and adding this bowl game showcasing college football's elite certainly enhances that standing."

The East-West Shrine Bowl benefits Shriners Hospitals for Children and its mission to provide excellent care for children with orthopaedic conditions, burns, spinal cord injuries, and cleft lip and palate, regardless of the families' ability to pay.



PRESENTED BY  MADDEN  22

PLAYER HEALTH & SAFETY



HOW THE NFL IS ADVANCING PLAYER HEALTH AND SAFETY



The National Football League is committed to advancing progress in the diagnosis, prevention and treatment of sports-related injuries, enhancing medical protocols, improving how the game is taught and played, and protecting players' overall health, safety and wellbeing.

PLAYER HEALTH AND WELLNESS

The NFL is making changes on and off the field to protect the health and safety of every player.

PREVENTING THE SPREAD OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Before the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, the NFL was working with epidemiologists and infectious disease experts to prevent the spread of infection in the NFL team environment and to prepare for potential viral outbreaks. When the COVID-19 pandemic emerged ahead of the 2020 season, the NFL, together with the National Football League Players Association (NFLPA), established a COVID Medical Advisory Task Force made up of a variety of medical experts and clinicians to develop COVID-related player safety protocols and was able to play a complete 2020 season on schedule. In addition, the NFL has worked closely with the NFLPA and club medical staffs to educate and encourage players to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

NFL MEDICAL COMMITTEES

The NFL is advised by many of the world's preeminent experts in medicine and science. NFL medical committees frequently review player health and injury data and recommend policies, programs and protocols for the League. An overarching Health and Safety Committee—including chairs of the General Medical Committee, the Head, Neck and Spine Committee and the Musculoskeletal Committee—oversees committee efforts and facilitates collaboration among subject matter experts, team physicians and athletic trainers. The NFL also works closely with the NFLPA and its medical advisors on player health and safety issues.

CARING FOR PLAYERS ON GAME DAY

On average, there are 30 healthcare providers at a stadium on game day to provide immediate care to players, including:

- » **Unaffiliated Neurotrauma Consultant:** Three credentialed neurotrauma consultants, who are unaffiliated with either team, staff the sidelines, monitor the broadcast of the game, and work with the team medical staffs to identify, screen for and diagnose concussions.

- » **Visiting Team Medical Liaisons:** When traveling across state lines, every visiting team is required to retain a local board-certified and locally licensed emergency physician, who is typically affiliated with the trauma center nearest the NFL stadium.
- » **Booth ATC Spotters and the Medical Timeout:** For all NFL games, two certified athletic trainers – retained by the league and unaffiliated with any NFL teams – observe the game from a booth above the field and monitor the broadcast to identify potential injuries, especially concussions and other head and neck injuries. The booth ATC spotter has the authority to call a medical timeout to permit the medical evaluation of a player who may have suffered a concussion or head injury.

NFL CONCUSSION PROTOCOL

NFL medical professionals follow the NFL Concussion Protocol when identifying, diagnosing and treating player concussions. The Concussion Protocol, developed in 2011, is reviewed and revised each year to ensure that care reflects the most up-to-date medical information.

To ensure consistent implementation of the protocol, the NFL and NFLPA developed an enforcement policy, which includes a process to investigate clubs that fail to follow the protocol and determine appropriate discipline – including fines and possible forfeiture of draft picks.

NFL RETURN-TO-PARTICIPATION PROTOCOL

The NFL and NFLPA established a five-step process that every NFL player diagnosed with a concussion must follow before being cleared to fully practice or participate in an NFL game. After a player goes through the process and is cleared for full participation by his club physician, he must also be cleared by an Independent Neurological Consultant, who is jointly approved by the NFL and NFLPA and who is not affiliated with any NFL club. Until a player is cleared by this independent physician, he may not return to contact practice or play in an NFL game.

MEDICAL RESEARCH

The NFL supports preeminent experts and institutions in their research on the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of sports-related injuries and other issues affecting NFL players' health, safety and wellbeing.

- » **NFL Scientific Advisory Board:** In 2016, the NFL allotted \$40 million for medical research primarily dedicated to neuroscience. The NFL assembled a Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) – chaired by Peter Chiarelli, U.S. Army General (Retired) – comprising leading independent researchers, experts, doctors, scientists and clinicians to identify and support research proposals on the diagnosis, treatment and natural history of concussion and associated comorbid conditions.
- » In 2018, the SAB granted \$35 million in total funding to five projects for research being conducted by investigative teams related to the diagnosis, treatment, and natural history of concussion (mild traumatic brain injury) and associated comorbid conditions.
- » In July 2021, the SAB announced a four-year, \$4 million award to a team of medical researchers led by the University of Wisconsin who are investigating the prevention and treatment of hamstring injuries in elite football players.
- » The remaining \$1 million in SAB funding will be awarded through a request for proposals for research on alternatives to opioids for pain management.



ADDITIONAL RESEARCH

The NFL has also allotted more than \$30 million to support brain injury research conducted by the Foundation for the National Institutes of Health (FNIH), Department of Defense, and Department of Veterans Affairs.

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS

In collaboration with the NFLPA, the NFL is building a positive culture around mental health by providing players and the NFL family with resources and tools to succeed, on and off the field, over the course of their lives.

JOINT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AGREEMENT

The Comprehensive Mental Health and Wellness Committee, which develops mental health and wellness programs and resources for players and the wider NFL family, requires each club to retain a Behavioral Health Team Clinician to support players' emotional and mental health and wellbeing.

MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES

The league provides mental wellness benefits and resources to current and former players, including:

- » **NFL Total Wellness**, which provides wellness resources to all members of the NFL family, including education at every stage of a player's career.
- » **The NFL Player Care Foundation**, which staffs licensed clinical social workers who provide expert consultation and help facilitate specialized treatment services for former players.
- » **NFL Life Line**, a free, confidential, and independently operated resource that connects current and former players with trained counselors who can help individuals work through personal or emotional crises 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year.

PAIN MANAGEMENT

The NFL-NFLPA Pain Management Committee educates players and personnel on best clinical practices in pain management, awards grant funding for research to advance understanding of alternative treatments, and sets standards for club policies regarding pain management and the use of prescription medications by NFL players.

The Pain Management Committee also focuses on finding alternatives to opioids for pain management. The Committee conducts informational forums on the state of cannabidiol science and manufacturing, and recently issued a request for information to identify researchers studying pain management alternatives. The Committee also opened a \$1 million funding opportunity to support additional research on the effect of pain management alternatives, including cannabinoids, on player performance.

EQUIPMENT, DATA AND INNOVATION

The NFL is championing new developments in engineering, biomechanics and material science to better protect against injuries. The league collaborates with the NFLPA and the world's foremost engineers and scientists as advisors.



LEVERAGING DATA

Data is at the heart of the NFL's decisions about player health and safety.

Injury Data: Throughout the year, comprehensive NFL player injury data is compiled and analyzed by IQVIA, an independent, third-party company that provides results to the league, the NFLPA and medical and football committees. The NFL then shares this data publicly each year. Guided by the experts at IQVIA, NFL medical committee members identify trends in how, where and when injuries happen, and assess how protocols and rules changes affect player safety.

Electronic Medical Records: Every club's medical staff has access to its players' complete medical records via the Electronic Medical Record (EMR) system. Players can access their records at any time using a secure online portal, which remains active after the player retires. The EMR system helps the league make data-driven decisions on rules changes and permissible techniques used in play.

Comprehensive Video Review: Each season, biomechanical engineers complete a comprehensive video review of all reported concussions sustained in NFL games. The league shares the data with helmet manufacturers, designers, innovators, entrepreneurs, universities and others to stimulate new designs for protective equipment.

Taking Data to the Next Level: In 2019, the NFL partnered with Amazon Web Services to transform player health and safety using cloud computing, machine learning and artificial intelligence. The NFL and AWS are developing tools to generate better insights into injuries, specifically the impact of game rules, equipment, and rehabilitation and recovery strategies. One of the partnership's primary goals is building the capacity to predict injuries before they occur.

USING DATA TO DRIVE RULES CHANGES

The NFL improves player safety by taking a data-driven approach to eliminating potentially dangerous tactics and reducing the risk of injuries. Over the past decade, these include changes that protect "defenseless" players and penalize dangerous tackles and other plays, such as "leaper" block attempts on field goal and extra point plays and using the helmet as part of a bull rush.

SEASON STRUCTURE

The new season structure allows more time for player acclimation and for clubs to practice proper tackling techniques to reduce the risk of injury. These adjustments to the training camp schedule aim to better prepare players for the start of the preseason and regular season.

THE ENGINEERING ROADMAP

In 2016, the NFL allocated \$60 million toward the Engineering Roadmap, a comprehensive effort managed by Football Research, Inc. (FRI) to better understand the biomechanics of head injuries in professional football and incentivize helmet manufacturers, small businesses, entrepreneurs, universities and others to create more effective protective equipment through innovation challenges.



- » **HeadHealthTECH Challenges:** For five years, HeadHealthTECH Challenges have attracted innovative grant proposals from institutions, individuals and corporations interested in designing the next generation of protective equipment. The Challenges are operated and managed by Duke University's Clinical and Translational Science Institute, which provides constructive feedback for all applicants. Thus far, the NFL and FRI have awarded grants totaling nearly \$3 million to help advance the development of 17 new technologies.
- » **The NFL Helmet Challenge:** In 2019, the league launched the NFL Helmet Challenge to stimulate the development of a new helmet that outperforms all helmet models currently worn by NFL players. In 2020, the NFL and FRI awarded \$1.37 million to help four teams create their helmet prototypes to be submitted as part of the challenge. The challenge will culminate in 2021 as teams submit helmet prototypes for laboratory testing for the chance to win \$1 million.
- » **1st and Future:** Since 2016, the NFL has hosted a start-up competition at the Super Bowl to drive innovation in athlete safety and performance. Innovators and entrepreneurs share technologies to improve player health and safety, including protective equipment, medical devices, sensors and training devices. 1st and Future includes an Analytics Competition that enables data scientists to analyze NFL game data and propose new ideas for reducing injuries.

EQUIPMENT TESTING AND EVALUATION

The NFL and NFLPA work together to evaluate the performance of protective equipment and to ensure players are informed about the latest advances in equipment technology when making decisions about their helmets, cleats and other equipment.

This includes helmet laboratory testing in collaboration with the NFLPA, cleat evaluations conducted by the NFL Musculoskeletal Committee, and playing field assessments by the Field Surface Safety & Performance Committee.

SHARING PROGRESS

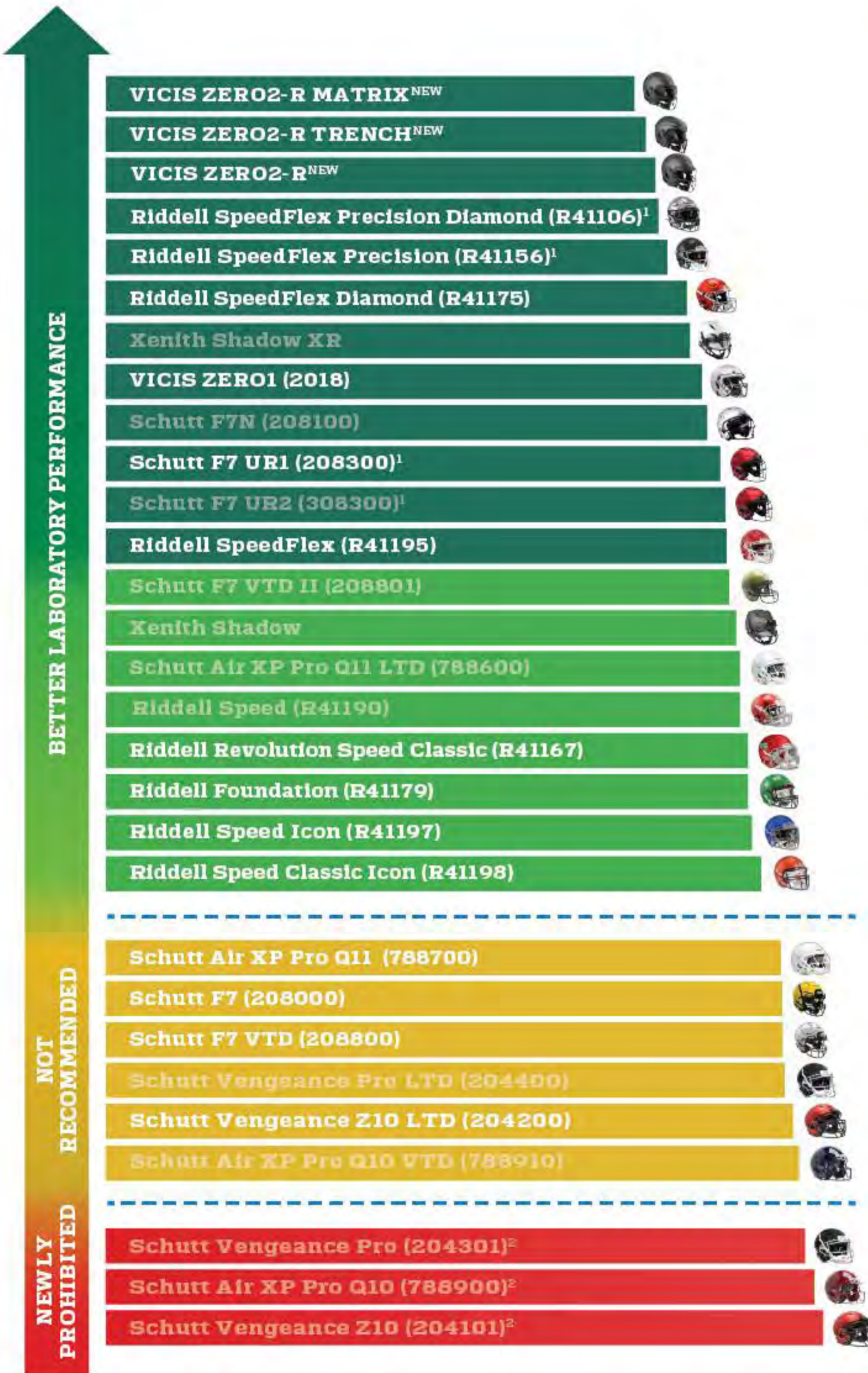
The NFL is committed to sharing its progress in health and safety across all levels of football, with other sports around the world and for the benefit of society at large. This includes publishing peer-reviewed research, convening leaders in sports medicine for important conversations, sharing data and crowdsourcing new ideas.





2021 HELMET LABORATORY TESTING PERFORMANCE RESULTS

THE NFL, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE NFLPA, THROUGH THEIR RESPECTIVE APPOINTED BIOMECHANICAL EXPERTS, ANNUALLY COORDINATE EXTENSIVE LABORATORY RESEARCH TO EVALUATE WHICH HELMETS BEST REDUCE HEAD IMPACT SEVERITY. THE RESULTS OF THOSE TESTS, WHICH ARE GENERALLY SUPPORTED BY ON-FIELD PERFORMANCE, ARE SET FORTH ON THIS POSTER.



The helmet models are listed in order of their performance, with a shorter bar representing better performance. The rankings are based exclusively on the ability of the helmet to reduce head impact severity measures in laboratory testing. Performance variation related to helmet fit, retention, temperature-dependence, and long-term durability are not addressed in these rankings.

All helmets in green are recommended for use by NFL players. Based on a statistical grouping analysis, helmets in the Top-Performing group have been further distinguished into two green categories. The dark green group represents those that performed similarly to the top-ranked helmets from the 2021 testing, while the light green group performed better or similar to the lowest ranked dark green helmet from the 2020 poster. Helmets with poorer laboratory performance were placed in the yellow (not recommended) or red (prohibited) groups. Players may wear helmets that are: (1) certified based on the standards established by NOCSAE (National Operating Committee for Athletic Equipment); (2) less than 10 years old; and (3) not prohibited pursuant to the NFL and NFLPA's joint Helmet Laboratory Testing program.

The laboratory test conditions represent potentially concussive head impacts in the NFL. The results of this study should not be extrapolated to collegiate, high school, or youth football.

¹ Results shown are for a helmet with interior padding customized for the testing headform. Actual performance and ranking may vary since these helmets are customized for each player's head shape.

² These helmets join a list of 13 previously prohibited helmets according to the NFL and NFLPA's Joint Helmet Laboratory Testing program.

Note: Models worn by less than 1% of NFL players in the 2020 season are grayed out.



Use this QR code to view an additional list of approved legacy helmets and the full list of prohibited helmets.

ENGINEERING ROADMAP



In 2016, the NFL allocated \$60 million toward the creation and funding of the Engineering Roadmap. It's a comprehensive effort—funded by the NFL and managed by Football Research, Inc. (FRI)—to improve the understanding of the biomechanics of head injuries in professional football and to create incentives for helmet manufacturers, small businesses, entrepreneurs, universities and others to develop and commercialize new and improved protective equipment, including helmets.

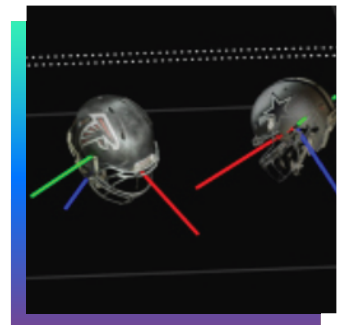
DRIVEN BY EXPERTS : BIOMECHANICAL ENGINEERS

FRI, a nonprofit corporation formed and financially supported by the NFL, manages the Engineering Roadmap. The Board of Directors includes leading engineers and experts who advise FRI on how best to advance the understanding of biomechanics in football and create an environment where new and improved protective equipment will be developed. Jeff Crandall, Ph.D., chairman of the NFL Engineering Committee, serves a leading role in managing the Engineering Roadmap. Dr. Crandall is the Nancy and Neal Wade Professor of Engineering and Applied Sciences at the University of Virginia and Principal Scientist and Consultant at Biocore. The Board also works closely with Dr. Kristy Arbogast and Dr. Barry Myers, consultants to the NFL Players Association, who each serve as co-leads on essential elements of the Engineering Roadmap.



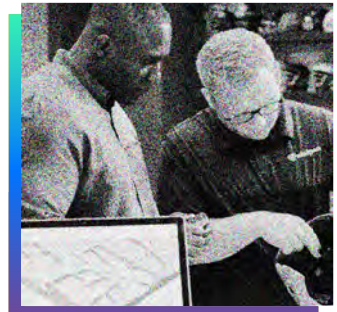
RESEARCH : MEASURING THE ON-FIELD ENVIRONMENT AND SHARING TOOLS

The NFL is advised by many of the world's preeminent experts in medicine and football. As part of the Engineering Roadmap, biomechanical engineers completed a comprehensive video review of all reported concussions sustained in NFL games since the 2015 season to better understand concussion-causing impacts. The data is shared widely with helmet manufacturers, designers, innovators, entrepreneurs, universities and others to stimulate new ideas and designs for protective equipment. FRI has also collaborated with university partners to develop new tools to encourage innovation and advance equipment design, including finite element models of modern football helmets, impact test dummy components and test conditions simulating on-field impacts.



EDUCATION : EXPERTS AND INNOVATORS LEARNING FROM EACH OTHER

Experts share the latest knowledge regarding the causes of concussion in professional football, including the best tools available for assessing and optimizing the design and manufacturing of protective equipment. These discussions are an important step in educating and creating incentives for those in the marketplace to design and manufacture protective equipment that performs better than current models. Periodic symposia, webinars and other educational efforts allow experts to share the most up-to-date biomechanical and biomedical information.



CROWD SOURCED CHALLENGES OFFER INCENTIVES FOR ENTREPRENEURS AND SMALL BUSINESSES TO ACCELERATE INNOVATION

The NFL engages experts to stimulate new developments in engineering, biomechanics and materials science designed to better protect against injuries.



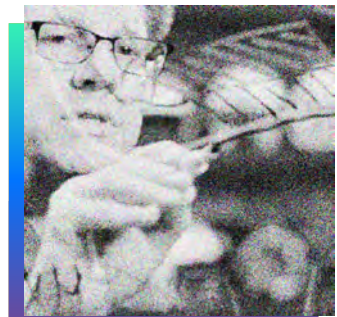
» The NFL Helmet Challenge

In 2019, the league launched the two-year NFL Helmet Challenge, an innovation challenge that aims to stimulate the development by experts, innovators and helmet manufacturers of a new helmet that outperforms all helmet models currently worn by NFL players. The challenge will culminate in July 2021 with teams submitting helmet prototypes for laboratory testing for the chance to win the \$1 million prize.



» HeadHealthTECH Challenges

The NFL and FRI created the HeadHealthTECH Challenges, which are attracting innovative grant proposals from institutions, individuals and corporations that are interested in designing the next generation of protective equipment. These proposals range from concepts to commercially-ready products for use by athletes, including most recently support for Helmet Challenge applicants to develop their helmet prototypes. The TECH Challenges are structured to stimulate research and innovation, as well as encourage connections with mentors and/or venture capitalists, with the goal of spurring developments in engineering, biomechanics, advanced sensors and materials science. The TECH Challenges are operated and managed by Duke University's Clinical and Translational Science Institute, which provides constructive feedback for all applicants. Thus far, the NFL and FRI have awarded grants totaling nearly \$3 million to help advance the development of 17 new technologies.



CONCUSSION GAME DAY CHECKLIST



PLAYER HEALTH & SAFETY



NFLPA

Player receives impact to the head

and

Player exhibits or reports symptoms or signs suggestive of a concussion or stinger

or

ATC, booth ATC, team physician, NFL official, coach, teammate or UNC initiates protocol

Player is immediately removed to sideline or stabilized on field, as needed.

SIDELINE SURVEY

Remove helmet. Team Physician and UNC perform sideline survey:

- » No-Go
- » History of Event
- » Concussion Signs/Symptoms
- » Maddock's Questions
- » Video Review
- » **Focused Neurological Exam:**
 - Cervical Spine Exam (including range of motion- pain)
 - Evaluation of Speech
 - Observation of Gait
 - Eye Movements and Pupillary Exam

If any elements are positive, inconclusive or suspicious of concussion, player is escorted to locker room.

LOCKER ROOM EXAM

Team Physician/ UNC/ ATC OR

Team Physician/ UNC perform locker room exam:

- » Complete NFL SCAT
- » Complete Neurological Exam

If abnormal, NO RETURN TO PLAY:

- » Player stays in locker room
- » Periodic evaluation by medical team
- » Follow-up neurological exam

If normal sideline survey and "benign" video, player may **RETURN TO PLAY.**

No-Go

- » LOC
- » Gross Motor Instability*
- » Confusion
- » Amnesia

If observed at any point, **NO RETURN TO PLAY**

*Determined by team physician, in consultation with the UNC, to be neurologically caused.

If normal assessment, player may **RETURN TO PLAY.**

During above checklist, if player demonstrates progressive/worsening concussion symptoms, **NO RETURN TO PLAY**

RETURN-TO-PARTICIPATION PROTOCOL



PHASE

1

SYMPTOM LIMITED ACTIVITY

The player is prescribed rest, limiting or, if necessary, avoiding activities (both physical and cognitive) which increase or aggravate symptoms. Under athletic training staff supervision, limited stretching and balance training can be introduced, progressing to light aerobic exercise, all as tolerated.

AEROBIC EXERCISE

Under direct oversight of the team's medical staff, the player should begin graduated cardiovascular exercise and may also engage in dynamic stretching and balance training. Neurocognitive and balance testing can be administered after completion of Phase Two and the results should be interpreted as back to baseline.

PHASE

2

PHASE

3

FOOTBALL-SPECIFIC EXERCISE

The player continues with supervised cardiovascular exercises that are increased and may mimic sport-specific activities, and supervised strength training is introduced. The player is allowed to practice with the team in sport-specific exercise for 30 minutes or less with ongoing and careful monitoring.

CLUB-BASED NON-CONTACT TRAINING DRILLS

The player continues cardiovascular, strength and balance training, team-based sports-specific exercise, and participates in non-contact football activities (e.g. throwing, catching, running, and other position-specific activities). Neurocognitive and balance testing should be completed no later than the end of Phase Four with the results interpreted as back to baseline.

PHASE

4

PHASE

5

FULL FOOTBALL ACTIVITY / CLEARANCE

Upon clearance by the Club physician for full football activity involving contact, the player must be examined by the Independent Neurological Consultant (INC) assigned to his Club. If the INC concurs with the Club physician that the player's concussion has resolved, he may participate in his Club's next practice or game.

BREAKING DOWN

SIDELINE MEDICAL CARE

BREAKING DOWN SIDELINE MEDICAL CARE—A TEAM BEHIND THE TEAM

There is a specialized squad of medical professionals, including team physicians, unaffiliated medical staff, and physicians from the local area, that watches the field for potential injuries and is available to provide immediate care to players at every NFL game.

In 2012, in conjunction with the NFLPA, the NFL added two certified athletic trainers (booth ATC spotters) who provide an “eye in the sky” from a stadium box—they monitor the field and television replays to help identify players with potential injuries for team medical staffs.

The NFL added unaffiliated medical professionals in 2014—each sideline is staffed with an Unaffiliated Neurological Consultant (UNC), who supports the team medical staffs in the identification, screening and diagnosis of in-game concussions. In 2015, the NFL also authorized booth ATC spotters to stop the game and call a medical timeout—which does not count against either team—if needed to provide a player with immediate medical assistance. Game officials also have the authority to send a player off the field for medical evaluation. In 2018, a third UNC was added to monitor the broadcast video and audio feeds of each game, and notify on-field UNCs of possible head, neck or spine injuries.

Visiting Team Medical Liaisons (VTML)—board-certified physicians licensed to practice medicine in the state in which the stadium is located—work with the visiting team to provide medical care for its players, including access to leading medical centers for emergency care. Additionally, every club is required to design and implement an Emergency Action Plan to follow in instances of severe trauma. All NFL team physicians work under these plans, which are reviewed by the NFL and NFLPA and approved by third-party experts each season.

The National Football League Physicians Society (NFLPS)—a professional organization made up of world-class team doctors focused on the prevention and treatment of injuries for their patients, NFL players—compiled a list of all these professionals, illustrated in the chart on the following page.

THE TEAM BEHIND THE TEAM

30 GAME DAY MEDICAL STAFF

ON AVERAGE, EACH TEAM HAS:



4 ATHLETIC TRAINERS

Assess and treat player injuries in conjunction with team doctors



2 PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIANS

Evaluate players for general medical conditions and concussions



2 ORTHOPEDISTS

Evaluate and treat players for injuries to the bones and joints



1 UNAFFILIATED NEUROTRAUMA CONSULTANT

Evaluates players for possible head injuries and concussions



1 CHIROPRACTOR

Provides back/spinal adjustments for players and treats muscular injuries

STADIUM MEDICAL TEAM:



2 INDEPENDENT ATHLETIC TRAINERS

Notify on-field medical staff of possible injuries from press box. The independent AT spotters can call a medical timeout to stop the game to have a player receive medical attention



1 VISITING TEAM MEDICAL LIAISON

Local emergency physician certified to practice medicine in the state where the game is being played. The VTML works with the team to provide access to care, medication and first-rate medical facilities



1 AIRWAY MANAGEMENT PHYSICIAN

Provides emergency intubation to severely injured, non-breathing players



1 RADIOLOGY TECHNICIAN

Takes x-rays of injured players at the stadium



2 EMTS/PARAMEDIC CREW

Transport players to hospital in the event of serious injuries



1 UNAFFILIATED NEUROTRAUMA CONSULTANT

Monitors broadcast video/audio and notifies on-field UNC's of possible head, neck or spine injuries



1 DENTIST

Treats dental issues



1 OPHTHALMOLOGIST

Treats eye injuries

AP PHOTO | AARON M. SPRECHER



PLAYER
HEALTH
& SAFETY

Information provided by the National Football League Physicians Society (NFLPS). Numbers reflect the average number of medical staff present and should not be considered official NFL protocol.



NFL CONCUSSION PROTOCOL

THE PROTOCOL MAY BE TRIGGERED BY:

Teammate

Game Official

Coach

ATC Spotters or Booth UNC

Team or Unaffiliated Medical Personnel



NFL CONCUSSION PROTOCOL

PLAYER IS REMOVED TO:

Locker Room

Sideline Medical Tent

If any element of Sideline Medical Survey is positive, inconclusive, or suspicious of concussion, then the player is escorted to the locker room for further evaluation.



NFL MEDICAL

COMMITTEES OVERVIEW

The NFL is advised by many of the world's preeminent experts in medicine and science. Specialists in a wide variety of disciplines relevant to player health and safety volunteer their time to explore groundbreaking research and make recommendations for how the League can continually improve the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of injuries as well as invest in scientific research to promote player health and safety.

The NFL medical committees meet throughout the year to review player health and injury data and determine what policies, programs and protocols should be adopted by the League.

The diligent work of the committees normally begins in the spring at the NFL Combine in Indianapolis before the NFL draft introduces a new class of eligible players to the League. Members take this opportunity to gather for the first of several meetings throughout the year to analyze injury data from the previous season. The committees discuss statistical trends, identify outliers in the data, debate reasons for the numbers and ask important questions that need further analysis and reporting.

They also form judgments that are shared with the competition committee and the NFL about potential changes that need to be made to the rules or to medical protocols or practices.

These discussions last long after the initial annual meetings in Indianapolis and lead to a year-long effort to make the game safer.

The men and women on these committees comprise a wide range of perspectives and expertise on some of our players' most challenging health issues. They are not employed by the NFL and most receive no compensation for their involvement other than a small honorarium (less than \$1500), typical in the medical field for volunteer efforts like serving on a medical committee or advisory board, and reimbursement of travel expenses for attending committee meetings.

An overarching Health and Safety Committee—including chairs of the General Medical Committee, the Head, Neck and Spine Committee and the Musculoskeletal Committee—oversees committee efforts and facilitates cross-specialization and discussion among subject matter experts, team physicians and athletic trainers.

NFL MEDICAL

COMMITTEES OVERVIEW

Two new committees were formed by the NFL and NFLPA in 2019. A joint NFL-NFLPA Pain Management Committee works to establish uniform standards for club practices and policies regarding pain management and the use of prescription medications by NFL players. A joint NFL-NFLPA Comprehensive Mental Health and Wellness Committee is charged with developing mental health educational programs for players and their families, coaches, and club personnel, as well as collaborating with local and national mental health organizations to promote mental health related stigma reduction.

In 2020, the NFL created the Research and Innovation Committee charged with overseeing research projects spearheaded by the NFL, identifying and critically examining bodies of medical research that impact the health and safety of active NFL players, analyzing injury data and proposing interventions, and advise the NFL on new technology germane to the health and safety of NFL players.

An ad hoc committee of equipment and field managers focuses on keeping game day surfaces safe—bolstering the league's commitment to injury protection on the field. In the league's ongoing mission to make the game safer for those who play it, each and every medical committee includes participation by representatives from the NFL Players Association (NFLPA), including its long-time Medical Director, Dr. Thom Mayer.

On the following page is an overview of how the NFL's medical committees are organized.



NFL MEDICAL COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

NFL CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER

Dr. Allen Sills

HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

Dr. Robert Anderson
(Co-Chairman, Musculoskeletal Committee)

Dr. Tony Casolaro
(NFL Physicians Society President)

Dr. Damion Martins
(Vice-Chairman, General Medical Committee)

Reggie Scott
(Professional Football Athletic Trainers Society President)

Dr. Nicholas Theodore
(Chairman, Head, Neck and Spine Committee)

Dr. Ed Wojtys
(Co-Chairman, Musculoskeletal Committee)

Dr. Robert Brophy
(Vice Chairman, Musculoskeletal Committee)

Dr. Elliott Hershman
(Chairman Emeritus)

Dr. Matt Matava
(Chairman, Research and Innovation Committee)

Dr. Allen Sills
(NFL CMD, Chairman, Health and Safety Committee)

Dr. Andrew Tucker
(Chairman, General Medical Committee)

Dr. John York
(Owners' Health and Safety Advisory Committee)

Dr. Javier Cárdenas
(Vice Chairman, Head, Neck and Spine Committee)

Dr. Richard Hinton
(Vice Chairman, Research and Innovation Committee)

Dr. Thom Mayer
(NFL Players Association)

CONSULTANTS TO THE HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

Dr. Lawrence Brown
(Drug Policy Advisor)

Dr. Jeff Crandall
(Engineering Consultant)

Dr. Richard Kent
(Engineering Consultant)

Dr. John Lombardo
(Drug Policy Advisor)

Dr. Christina Mack
(Epidemiologist, IQVIA)

GENERAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE

Dr. Andrew Tucker
(Chairman)

Dr. Damion Martins
(Vice Chairman)

Dr. Deverick Anderson

Dr. Doug Casa

Dr. Tony Casolaro
(NFL Physicians Society President)

Dr. Jon Drezner

Dr. Nancy Gritter

Kyle Johnston

Dr. Jim Kinderknecht

Dr. Jimmie Mancell

Dr. Thom Mayer
(NFL Players Association)

Dr. Nyaka NiiLampti

Dr. Francis O'Connor

Reggie Scott
(Professional Football Athletic Trainers Society President)

Dr. Patrick Strollo

SENIOR ADVISORS TO THE GENERAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE

Dr. Robert Heyer

Dr. Robert Vogel

Jim Whalen

CONSULTANT TO THE GENERAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE

Dr. Matthew Martinez

HEAD, NECK AND SPINE COMMITTEE

Dr. Nicholas Theodore
(Chairman)

Dr. Javier Cárdenas
(Vice Chairman)

Dr. Julian Bailes

Dr. Tony Casolaro
(NFL Physicians Society President)

Dr. Eanna Falvey

Dr. Kimberly Harmon

Dr. Odette Harris

Dr. Wellington Hsu

Dr. Thom Mayer
(NFL Players Association)

Dr. Brandon Mines

Dr. Elizabeth Pieroth

Reggie Scott
(Professional Football Athletic Trainers Society President)

Dr. Bert Vargas

SENIOR ADVISORS TO THE HEAD, NECK AND SPINE COMMITTEE:

Ronnie Barnes

Dr. Robert Cantu

Dr. Hank Feuer

Dr. Robert Heyer

Dr. Joseph Maroon

Dr. Margot Putukian

MUSCULOSKELETAL COMMITTEE

Dr. Ed Wojtys
(Co-Chairman)

Dr. Robert Anderson
(Co-Chairman)

Dr. Robert Brophy
(Vice Chairman)

Dr. Asheesh Bedi

Joe Cimino

Dr. Mike Coughlin

Dr. Brett Owens

Dr. Cecilia Pascual-Garrido

Dr. Thom Mayer
(NFL Players Association)

Dr. Timothy McAdams
(NFL Physicians Society)

Reggie Scott
(Professional Football Athletic Trainers Society President)

Dr. James Voos

CONSULTANTS TO THE MUSCULOSKELETAL COMMITTEE

Dr. Jon Baker

Dr. Bruce Beynon

Dr. Jana Crain

Dr. Thomas Hunt

Dr. Jim Jastifer

Dr. Rich Kent

Dr. William Levine

Dr. Kirk McCullough

Dr. Shane McGonegle

Ben Stolberg

Nate Weir

Leigh Weiss

SENIOR ADVISORS TO THE MUSCULOSKELETAL COMMITTEE

Ronnie Barnes

Dr. Kurt Spindler

JOINT PAIN MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Dr. Kevin Hill
(Co-Chairman, NFL)

Dr. Geoff Ling
(Co-Chairman, NFLPA)

Dr. Thom Mayer

Dr. Allen Sills

SENIOR ADVISORS TO THE JOINT PAIN MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Dr. Chester C. Buckenmaier III

Dr. Steven Cohen

Dr. Kevin Kaplan

Dr. Kurt Kroenke

Graeme Lauriston

Dr. Dan Lonergan

Dr. Michael Swartzon

COMPREHENSIVE MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS COMMITTEE

Dr. Amber Cargill
(NFL Players Association)

Dr. Sidney Hankerson

Dr. Thom Mayer
(NFL Players Association)

Dr. Nyaka NiiLampti

Dr. Allen Sills

George Wrihster

ADVISORS TO THE COMPREHENSIVE MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS COMMITTEE

Dr. David Baron

Joe Briggs, Esq
(NFL Players Association)

Meghan Carroll, Esq

Ernie Conwell
(NFL Players Association)

Dr. Sean Cupp

Don Davis, EdD
(NFL Players Association)

Dr. David Driver

Dr. Kensa Gunter

Dr. LaKeitha Poole

Dr. Claudia Reardon

Dr. Anthony Saglimbeni

Sean Sansiveri, Esq
(NFL Players Association)

Dr. Gary Solomon

David Thornton

Dr. John York

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION COMMITTEE

Dr. Matt Matava
(Chairman)

Dr. Richard Hinton
(Vice Chairman)

Dr. Geoff Baer

Dr. Rebecca Breslow

Dr. Michael Chicoine

Ron Courson

Dr. James DuBois

Dr. Dallas Hack

Dr. Kurt Spindler

PLAYER HEALTH AND SAFETY CONSULTANT

Dr. Gary Solomon

NFL MENTAL HEALTH & WELLNESS

In collaboration with the NFL Players Association (NFLPA), the NFL is committed to helping build a positive culture around mental health by providing players and the NFL family with comprehensive mental health and wellness resources and equipping them with the tools to succeed, on and off the field, over the course of their lives.



**TOTAL
WELLNESS**

In service of the NFL's commitment to players' long-term health and well-being, the league provides collectively bargained mental wellness benefits and resources to current and former players, including:

[NFL Total Wellness](#)

NFL Total Wellness provides wellness resources to all members of the NFL family, including education at every stage of the player life cycle through programs like the Rookie Success Program, team mental health trainings, and Legends Ambassadors trainings.

[NFL Player Care Foundation](#)

The NFL Player Care Foundation staffs licensed clinical social workers who provide expert consultation and serve as liaisons between former players and service providers, referring individuals to treatment services through partners and benefits.

[NFL Life Line](#)

The NFL Life Line is a free, anonymous and confidential independently operated resource that connects all members of the NFL family with trained counselors who can help individuals work through any personal problem or emotional crisis 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year.

Former Player Life Improvement Plan

As part of the 2020 Collective Bargaining Agreement, the Former Player Life Improvement Plan was expanded to include free counseling sessions with licensed clinicians, psychologists and psychiatrists.

NFL MENTAL HEALTH & WELLNESS

NFL-NFLPA BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AGREEMENT

In addition, in 2019, the NFL and NFLPA implemented the Behavioral Health Agreement to standardize robust behavioral health resources across all 32 NFL Clubs. The agreement establishes a variety of resources and avenues for players, coaches, staff, and player families to strive for positive mental health.

TEAM CLINICIANS

Per the Behavioral Health Agreement, every NFL team has a licensed mental health clinician on staff.

PROVIDING ON-SITE CONSULTATIONS

- Clinicians spend 8-12 hours per week providing consultations and support to players and staff.

DELIVERING MENTAL HEALTH EDUCATION

- Clinicians facilitate organization-wide education

CREATING A REFERRAL NETWORK

- Clinicians create a local referral network where players can access specialized care outside of the team clinician.

SPEARHEADING CLUB MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS TEAMS

- Clinicians collaborate with other team staff including Team Physicians, Directors of Player Engagement, Athletic Trainers, and the Team Chaplain to promote mental health services and combat stigma.

PROACTIVELY SUPPORTING VULNERABLE PLAYER GROUPS

- Clinicians actively support vulnerable player groups.

OFFERING TRANSITION SUPPORT

- Clinicians guide and support players during their transition process.

RESPECTING CONFIDENTIALITY

- Clinicians maintain strict confidentiality, ensuring that players' information is protected.

NFL MENTAL HEALTH & WELLNESS

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

The Behavioral Health Agreement also requires that every NFL Club have a Mental Health Emergency Action Plan outlining resources and procedures to be utilized in the event of any mental or behavioral health emergency. This includes suicidal or homicidal ideation or intent, agitated or threatening behavior, player or family member death, or other major event that could cause extreme mental stress. The plans outline the primary point of contact, appropriate referral facilities, and procedures to be followed for a range of possible scenarios.

COMPREHENSIVE MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS COMMITTEE

The agreement established a Comprehensive Mental Health and Wellness Committee that is charged with developing mental health educational programs for players and their families, coaches, and club personnel, as well as collaborating with local and national mental health organizations to promote mental health related stigma reduction.

The committee members include:



AMBER CARGILL, PSY.D
NFLPA DIRECTOR OF PLAYER WELLNESS



SIDNEY HANKERSON, MD, MBA
ASST. PROFESSOR OF CLINICAL PSYCHIATRY, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY



THOM MAYER, MD
NFLPA MEDICAL DIRECTOR



NYAKA NIILAMPTI, PH.D
NFL VICE PRESIDENT OF WELLNESS AND CLINICAL SERVICES



ALLEN SILLS, MD
NFL CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER



GEORGE WRIGHSTER
ENTREPRENEUR, WRITER, SPEAKER

NFL MENTAL HEALTH & WELLNESS

Advisors to the committee include:

- David Baron, MD
- Joe Briggs, Esq (NFLPA)
- Meghan Carroll, Esq (NFL)
- Ernie Conwell (NFLPA)
- Sean Cupp, MD
- David Driver, MD
- Don Davis, EdD (NFLPA)
- Kensa Gunter, PsyD
- John York, MD
- LaKeitha Poole, PhD
- Anthony Saglimbeni, MD
- Gary Solomon, PhD
- Sean Sansiveri, Esq (NFLPA)
- David Thornton
- Claudia Reardon, MD

PLAYER PERSPECTIVES

In recognition of Mental Health Awareness Month in May of 2021, the NFL utilized its substantial platform to communicate with fans, players and employees about the paramount importance of mental health and wellness. In a new NFL video series, nine current and former players from around the league shared the ways in which they prioritize their mental health and emotional wellbeing, which for some, included sharing their own stories and experiences with mental health concerns. These players shared their obstacles and triumphs in the hope that their deeply personal experiences might help others – players and fans alike – who might hesitate to seek help or feel alone in their struggles.



NFL Mental Health & Wellness Series | Michael Robinson



NFL Mental Health & Wellness Series | Solomon Thomas



NFL Mental Health & Wellness Series | Joey Bosa



NFL Mental Health & Wellness Series | Hayden Hurst



NFL Mental Health & Wellness Series | Carlos Dunlap



NFL Mental Health & Wellness Series | D.J. Chark



NFL Mental Health & Wellness Series | Jacoby Brissett



NFL Mental Health & Wellness Series | Ali Marpet



NFL Mental Health & Wellness Series | Isaac Rochell



PRESENTED BY  MADDEN  22

NFL & SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

BEYOND THE GAME

NFL SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY ANNUAL REPORT

2020

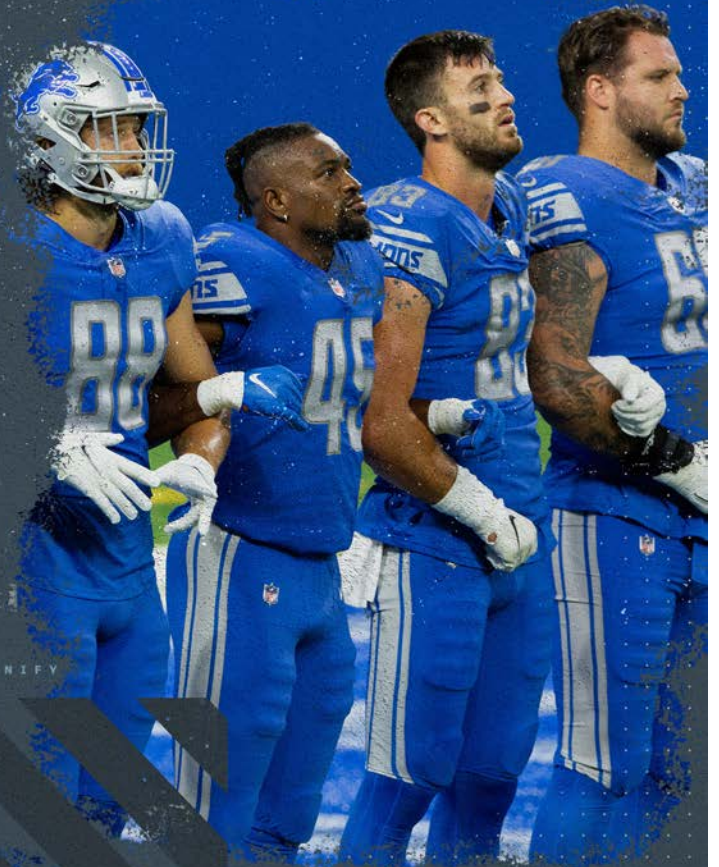
IT TAKES ALL OF US



OUR MISSION

INSPIRE AND UNIFY PLAYERS,
FANS AND COMMUNITIES TO LEAVE
A POSITIVE, MEANINGFUL IMPACT.

INSPIRE — UNIFY



OUR VISION

THE NFL EMBRACES ITS ROLE IN UNIFYING OUR COMMUNITIES, ADDRESSING KEY SOCIAL ISSUES AND SERVING AS A FORCE FOR POSITIVE CHANGE.



ROGER GOODELL

LETTER FROM THE COMMISSIONER

The past year was extraordinary on many levels. The collective effort of everyone to complete the 2020 season was inspiring.

Efforts to recognize the historic social justice movement, to elevate community engagement and advocacy from players and clubs, and the heroic efforts of frontline workers across the country in the fight against COVID-19 will never be forgotten.

We learned to operate in a uniquely challenging environment, and we found solutions that will serve us well into the future. The NFL community came together early through the first-ever Draft-A-Thon, an engaging and impactful companion experience to the NFL Draft that helped raise more than \$100 million for Covid-19 relief.

The events of the past year also dramatically underscore that much work remains to be done as we strive for equality in our country and League. Our players have been at the forefront of bringing attention to social justice issues and working to make a difference, and I'm proud of the work we are doing together. In 2018, we launched Inspire Change to showcase the collaborative efforts of players, clubs and the League to create positive change in communities across the country. In 2020, NFL owners committed \$250 million over 10 years to fund social justice programming across the country through grants and partnerships with

players, nonprofits, our clubs and local communities. Last season we also put the power of our platform behind NFL Votes, a league-wide, non-partisan initiative built to support and encourage civic engagement among NFL players (both past and present), club and League personnel, and fans. Borne out of ongoing conversations with the player and Legend communities, NFL Votes focused on voter education, registration and activation with strong results.

The more we do, the more we realize that there is much more work to do. The national tragedies we witnessed over the past year will help direct the NFL's commitment and ongoing efforts.

We recognize the power of our platform in our communities and embrace our responsibility to help address these systemic issues as we begin the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. We will always elevate causes important to players and fans as we look ahead to our 102nd season and thank our partners, players, teams and fans for their commitment and assistance.

ROGER GOODELL
NFL COMMISSIONER

GOODELL
GOODELL
GOODELL
GOODELL



COVID-19 RELIEF



100% OF CONTRIBUTIONS DONATED DIRECTLY TO NONPROFIT PARTNERS

DRAFT-A-THON

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the NFL hosted the first-ever NFL Draft-A-Thon throughout the 2020 NFL Draft to help provide relief to those impacted most by the COVID-19 pandemic. The three-day virtual fundraiser enabled individuals, corporations, foundations and other organizations around the world to directly support COVID-19 relief efforts through the following nonprofit partners: **American Red Cross, CDC Foundation, Feeding America, Meals on Wheels, The Salvation Army and United Way.** In total, the Draft-A-Thon raised \$7,041,251.53.

Hosted by the NFL Network's **RICH EISEN** and **DEION SANDERS**, an average of over 5.4 million daily viewers watched in excess of 46.7 million total minutes of "Draft-A-Thon LIVE." The three-day live stream, which helped support the fundraising effort, featured a wide variety of athletes, celebrities and personalities, including actor and comedian **KEVIN HART**, music artists **QUAVO** and **KANE BROWN**, football player **TONI HARRIS**, gaming icon **NINJA**, NFL stars **TYRANN MATHIEU**, **DEVIN MCCOURTY**, **TORREY SMITH**, **ROD WOODSON** and many others.

COLLECTIVELY, THE NFL FAMILY HAS DONATED MORE THAN
\$100,000,000
 FOR COVID-19 RELIEF

As part of the Draft-A-Thon, all 32 NFL clubs selected one or more of the organizations' local branches to receive a portion of the funding. The remaining funds were then distributed across the country and internationally to communities where the needs were greatest.

In addition to raising funds, the Draft-A-Thon paid tribute to health care workers, first responders and others on the front lines of the battle with COVID-19.

Fans can continue to donate and learn more at [NFL.COM/RELIEF](https://www.nfl.com/relief)

5.4M DAILY VIEWERS
\$7,000,000 OVER RAISED OVER 3 DAYS



2020 NFL DRAFT COMMUNITY PICKS

As customary during the Draft, the NFL invited members of the community and special guests to virtually announce several of the clubs' Draft selections. Some of the chosen presenters were community and service members who have made a positive impact during the COVID-19 pandemic. Some of the community participants included:

- Members of the **104th Military Battalion of the New York National Guard**, who were stationed in NYC as a part of the **Unified Command at the Javits Center New York Station**, introduced the Giants' 36th pick.
- Fuel Up to Play 60 Student, SAMARTH**, from Yardley, PA, introduced the Eagles' 145th pick. In response to homeschooling during COVID-19, Samarth created an interactive virtual classroom for his fellow students so they could continue to lead healthy and active lives at home.

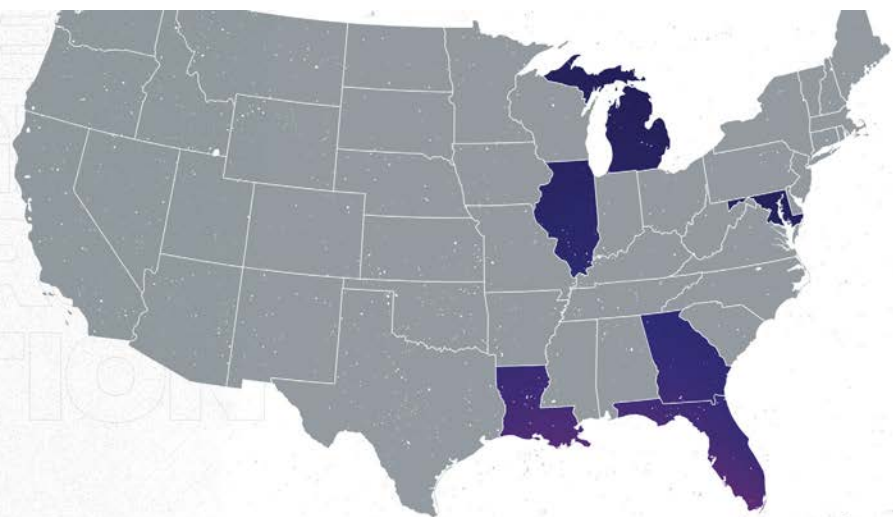
COVID-19 RELIEF

COVID RELIEF IN UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES

While the COVID-19 pandemic has affected communities nationwide, reports have shown that communities of color, specifically African American communities, have seen disproportionately high rates of devastating impacts. Through its Inspire Change platform and the Players Coalition, the NFL donated \$3,050,000 in April to seven markets that have been significantly impacted by COVID-19.

As part of the multi-year, ongoing collaboration of NFL players, clubs and owners to address racial inequality and social injustice, the Players Coalition recommended organizations around the country to receive emergency donations from the NFL's dedicated social justice investment. Beneficiaries were selected based on rates of impact and community needs, and were approved by the broader **Player-Owner Social Justice Working Group**.

MORE THAN
\$3 MILLION DONATED



ATLANTA, GA

Grady Hospital
 The YMCA of Metro Atlanta
 The Atlanta Community Food Bank
 The Giving Kitchen
 Love Beyond Walls

BALTIMORE, MD

Lifebridge Health
 (Sinai Hospital of Baltimore, Northwest Hospital, Carroll Hospital and Levindale)
 Franciscan Center
 Maryland Food Bank
 Baltimore Community Foundation

CHICAGO, IL

Advocate Christ Medical Center
 John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital
 Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center
 Mount Sinai Hospital
 Enlace Chicago
 Breakthrough Urban Ministries
 Accivus Inc

DETROIT, MI

Henry Ford Hospital
 Detroit Medical Center (DMC)
 We The People of Detroit
 Capuchin Soup Kitchen
 Neighborhood Services Organization
 City of Detroit Rapid Response Fund

FLORIDA

Feeding South Florida COVID-19 Response Fund
 Guardian of the Glades
 Florida Community Health Centers

LOUISIANA

University Medical Center
 Community Foundation of North Louisiana
 Krewes of Red Beans
 Second Harvest Food Bank
 Fueling the Fight Fund

WASHINGTON, D.C.

United Medical Center
 DC Dream Center
 Capital Area Food Bank
 Manna Food Center

"During this difficult and uncertain time across our nation—including for millions of parents like me with young kids at home, looking to keep them active and educated—we want students, teachers and parents to know there are options for them at home." **ANNA ISAACSON**, Senior Vice President of Social Responsibility, NFL. "Alongside our partners, we've made a number of digital education resources available for anyone who may need them immediately, when learning and teaching is extremely critical."



NFL PLAY 60

The NFL and several of its charitable partners have made digital education and wellness resources available for free for teachers, parents and students across the country to utilize during this unprecedented time when alternate forms of learning are needed.

These resources provide additional opportunities to learn outside of school as millions of students across the country are displaced from their classrooms.

AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION

The American Heart Association and the NFL have provided a free, digital game that delivers physical activity programming to students when they return to the classroom—wherever and however that may be. Rooted in science, the program prioritizes physical and mental wellness to help children have a better chance of a healthy adulthood and getting their recommended 60 minutes of daily activity.

DISCOVERY EDUCATION

Discovery Education offers a series of free and dynamic virtual PLAY 60-inspired experiences that offer an exclusive behind-the-scenes pass to exciting state-of-the-art locations and bring critical topics to life, captivating students like never before. Standards-aligned companion activities encourage deeper exploration into key themes for wherever students are learning.

To learn more, visit [NFL.COM/PLAY60](https://www.nfl.com/play60)

FUEL UP TO PLAY 60

The National Dairy Council through the **Fuel Up to Play 60** program, the leading in-school health and wellness program, empowers students and educators to work together to build healthier schools and create healthy, high-achieving students. This year, due to COVID-19, the Fuel Up to Play 60 Homeroom was introduced, a digital resource full of fun videos and learning activities to help kids discover more about things that matter to them—like staying healthy, being mindful and pitching in to make the planet a greener place. Starring NFL players, dairy farmers and kids just like them, new and exciting content is featured for students each week.

To learn more, visit [FUELUPTOPLAY60.COM](https://www.fueluptoplay60.com)

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF AMERICA

MyFuture

MyFuture is BGCA's mobile-friendly social platform with access to over 185 Boys & Girls Club program activities in areas such as STEM, leadership and the arts. With MyFuture, kids and teens can learn new skills, connect with their friends, and earn recognition and rewards in a safe and fun online environment.

To learn more, visit [MYFUTURE.NET](https://www.myfuture.net)

YD Toolbox

The **YD Toolbox** mobile app helps youth development professionals, educators and caregivers provide quick and engaging learning experiences focused on supporting young people's social and emotional development. These tools help caring adults to build communities with youth, spark meaningful conversations and maximize learning.

To learn more, visit [YDTOOLBOX.GOODBARBER](https://www.ydtoolbox.goodbarber.com)

COVID-19 RELIEF



SPECIAL OLYMPICS

The NFL and **Special Olympics** have continued to team up to provide athletes of all abilities opportunities to PLAY 60 through virtual exercise videos with a focus on Unified Flag Football. Despite delays of reopening in-person sporting events across the country, the NFL, Special Olympics and individual NFL clubs have found innovative ways to continue to provide PLAY 60-inspired resources to Special Olympics athletes.



THE COOPER INSTITUTE

For teachers who were delivering online instruction, **The Cooper Institute** offered videos explaining aerobic capacity, muscular fitness and body composition that are always available on the [FitnessGram](https://www.fitnessgram.com) site.

The Cooper Institute also compiled a playlist of videos from NFL's library of Fit Tips to give students, parents and teachers fitness activities they can do at home. [Visit the YouTube playlist here.](#)



USA FOOTBALL

USA Football's [Football Development Model 60 Ways to Play Guide](#) is an interactive resource that uses basic exercises and programs to develop physical literacy. The exercises and games teach fundamental movement skills in an engaging manner, creating a fun experience for participants.



INSIDEOUT INITIATIVE

To provide a sense of ongoing community and connection with high school student-athletes, the **InSideOut Initiative** pushed out bi-weekly messages to high school administrators and coaches that contained ideas, best practices and curriculum to stay connected and engaged with students.



306: AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY

EVERFI and the NFL provided **306: African-American History**, a digital education program that shares stories of African-American accomplishments in the arts, science, academia and sports with high school students. For more on the 306 program, see page 12.

CHARACTER PLAYBOOK - UNITED WAY AND EVERFI

The NFL, in partnership with **United Way Worldwide**, provided access to **Character Playbook: Healthy Relationships & Mental Wellness Basics**, two innovative digital learning experiences for middle and high school students to support remote learning.

Powered by digital education leader **EVERFI**, **Healthy Relationships** uses evidence-based strategies to educate students on how to cultivate and maintain healthy relationships during these critical years.

Mental Wellness Basics is a digital program designed to help educators foster mental wellness in their classrooms and equip students with lifelong mental wellness skills.

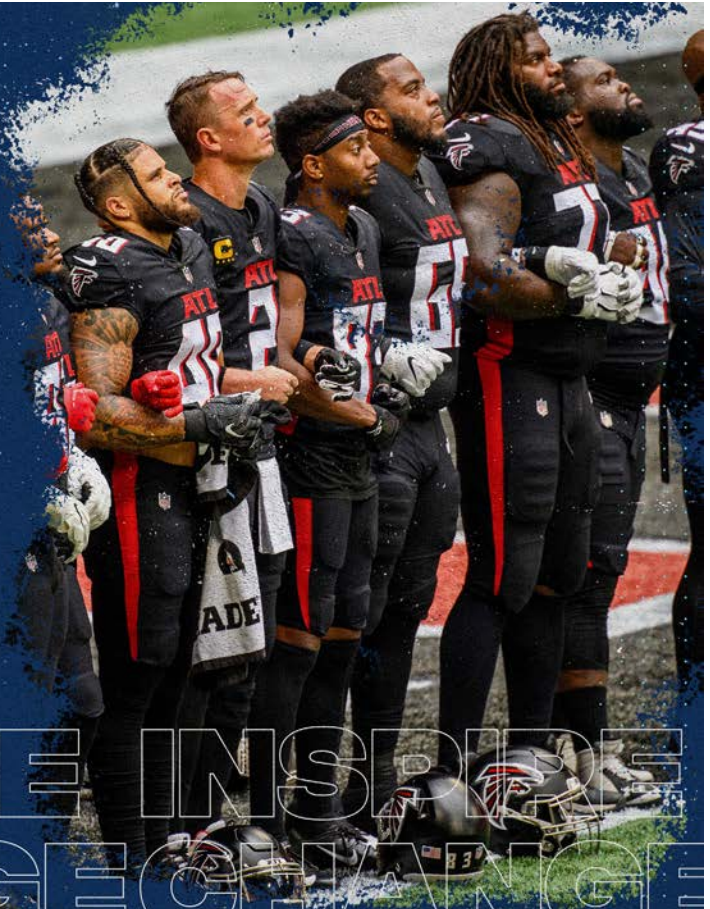
INSPIRE CHANGE



The NFL's **Inspire Change** initiative represents the collaborative efforts of players, teams and the League to create positive changes in a growing number of underserved communities across the country. Since 2017, more than \$95 million has been awarded in support of programs focused on education, economic advancement, police and community relations, and criminal justice reform. These efforts contribute to the [ten-year \\$250 million commitment by the NFL and its clubs to social justice](#).

Together with the Players Coalition, the NFL recognized the importance of getting support to hospitals and health care systems in the country's underserved communities as soon as COVID-19 hit. In April 2020, they worked together to [identify and allocate \\$3 million](#) of the NFL's social justice fund to provide grants to health systems, individual hospitals and nonprofit organizations significantly impacted by the pandemic. Beneficiaries were selected based on rates of impact and community needs.

For more on this effort, see page 7.



INSPIRE CHANGE



SOCIAL JUSTICE

As the year continued, the **Player-Owner Social Justice Working Group** continued to identify ways to address new challenges brought to light by COVID, including a commitment to address the "digital divide," a longstanding barrier to internet and technology access in the U.S., particularly in communities of color. This year, these disparities were exacerbated due to the COVID-19 pandemic when students and families were forced to learn and work from home. As such, the Working Group voted to dedicate \$1 million to NFL markets so that teams can work with local nonprofits to help alleviate the "digital divide" in areas that need the most support.

In January 2021, the Player-Owner Working Group approved 13 new grants to 13 different organizations—totaling nearly \$4.3 million—in addition to the 22 organizations that have been awarded funding over the last three years. A full list of all organizations receiving NFL funding, totaling \$30 million since 2017, is below:

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| Alabama Appleseed Center for Law and Justice | King Center |
| Alliance for Safety and Justice* | Ladies of Hope Ministries |
| Anti-Recidivism Coalition | MENTOR |
| Association for Enterprise Opportunity | Metro Family Services |
| Big Brothers Big Sisters of America | NAF |
| Boys & Girls Clubs of America | National Urban League |
| Breakthrough Miami | Operation HOPE |
| CBMA* | Oregon Justice Resource Center |
| Center for Policing Equity | Per Scholas |
| City Year | Success for All Foundation |
| Civil Rights Corps* | Texas Appleseed |
| Community Justice Exchange | United Negro College Fund |
| Council on Legal Education Opportunity | United Way Worldwide |
| Covenant House | US Dream Academy |
| Dream Corps | Vera Institute of Justice |
| Gideon's Promise | VOTE |
| Just City - Memphis | |

BOLD = new partner | * = past recipient



\$95 MILLION+

CONTRIBUTED SINCE 2017 FROM SOURCES INCLUDING:

- SOCIAL JUSTICE GRANTS APPROVED BY THE NFL PLAYER-OWNER SOCIAL JUSTICE WORKING GROUP
- CLUB CONTRIBUTIONS TO SOCIAL JUSTICE ORGANIZATIONS AND PLAYER-CLUB SOCIAL JUSTICE MATCHING FUND COMMITMENTS
- NFL FOUNDATION SOCIAL JUSTICE MATCHING GRANTS
- AN ONGOING FINANCIAL COMMITMENT TO THE PLAYERS COALITION

In addition, the **NFL Foundation** has now provided more than 1,400 player-matching social justice grants—totaling to more than \$5,000,000—to current players and Legends for nonprofits of their choice to help reduce barriers to opportunity. These grants have supported more than 500 nonprofit organizations in areas ranging from education to racial equality.

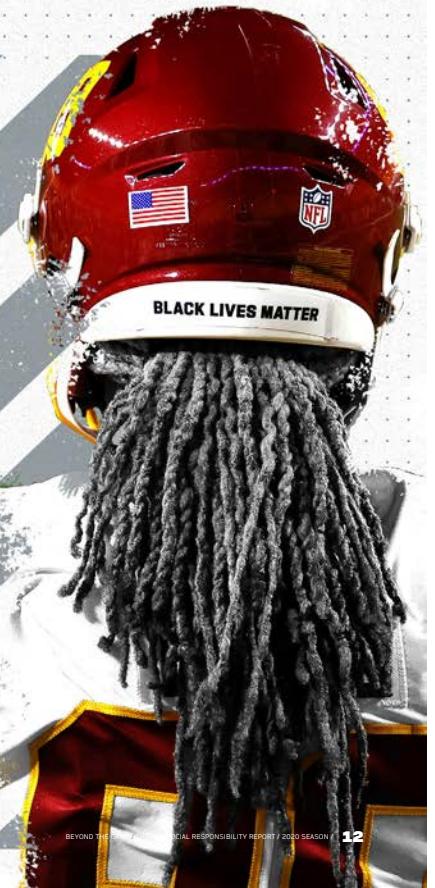
Players and clubs continue to be involved in the social justice space, working tirelessly to assist their local communities as it relates to inequities.

- In 2020, the Seattle Seahawks launched the **Digital Equity Initiative** to address the “digital divide” for students across the state of Washington. The **Seattle Seahawks Charitable Foundation** was the founding donor for this new fund, making a \$120,000 donation. Since the campaign launch, the Digital Equity Initiative has raised more than \$2.1 million.
- The **Miami Dolphins Social Impact Committee** joined the **Lenner Foundation** in January 2021 to fund **Florida Memorial University’s Certificate Program in Construction Trades**. This program targets economic empowerment by providing employment opportunities in construction—the first of its kind at a Historically Black College in Florida.
- The Las Vegas Raiders, in partnership with **Raiders Foundation**, established **The All For You Crew**—a charitable platform designed to address social injustices through support of Southern Nevada charities dedicated to education, youth programming and first responders.

The commitment to social justice comes to life in the classroom as well. Funded by the NFL in schools nationwide, **EVERFI’s 306** program provides high school students with a digital African-American history curriculum, covering topics related to slavery, emancipation and reconstruction, Jim Crow and civil rights. During Super Bowl Week, students from **Jefferson High School** discussed one of EVERFI’s new modules, **306: Continuing the Story—Black Business Titans**, a program that highlighted Black trailblazers in business. The event featured a panel of thought leaders including New Orleans Saints LB **DEMARIO DAVIS** and Legend **RYAN NECE**. As part of the event, the NFL made a \$50,000 contribution to the **Hillsborough Education Foundation** to address the “digital divide” for students throughout Tampa, and \$10,000 of that donation was designated specifically to address “digital divide” needs at Jefferson High School.



In addition to monetary support and relationship building, the League’s commitment to social justice came to life through the launch of the **Say Their Stories** campaign, alongside a helmet decal program honoring victims of systematic racism or social justice heroes. And the message of Inspire Change came to life throughout the season and culminated during the Playoffs, with end-zone stencils reminding fans that “It Takes All of Us” to “Advance Social Justice.”



SOCIAL JUSTICE INITIATIVE

WORK ENCOMPASSES PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES IN FOUR KEY AREAS:

- EDUCATION**
- ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT**
- POLICE-COMMUNITY RELATIONS**
- CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM**

THIS COMMITMENT INCLUDES:

- Dedicated financial resources from the League, clubs, and players to nonprofit organizations.
- League-wide amplification of inspiring stories of players making differences in their communities and society.
- Deployment of public policy and government affairs resources at the local, state and national levels.

GRANT PARTNER SUCCESS BY THE NUMBERS:

ALABAMA APPELSEED

As part of its advocacy efforts, **Alabama Applesseed** won release for a 58-year-old man who served 37 years in prison for a convenience store robbery under Alabama’s “three strikes” law. During his incarceration he became an artist and is pursuing higher education and a career in art.

NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE

Chicago Urban League aided in the release of a grandfather who spent 18 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections. The NFL’s grant provided vocational training and support towards full-time employment for him and others after release.

OPERATION HOPE

In 2020, **Operation HOPE’s** financial wellbeing coaches provided 231,383 financial empowerment services to adults nationwide through its credit, small business, homeownership and disaster recovery programs; and educated 3,531 youth through its **Banking on Our Future** program.

METRO FAMILY SERVICES

The **Metropolitan Peace Academy** graduated 35 outreach workers and case managers who specialize in strategies and best practices used to de-escalate violence and rebuild individuals, families and communities in Chicago.





NFL VOTES

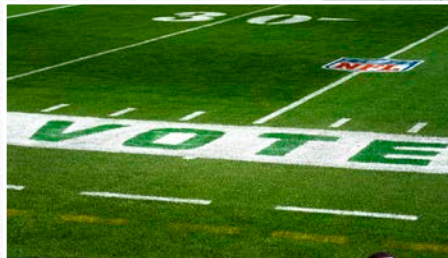
As part of Inspire Change, the NFL launched NFL Votes, a League-wide, nonpartisan initiative that supports and encourages the civic engagement and voting of NFL players, Legends, club and League personnel, and NFL fans up until Election Day. NFL Votes is intended to ensure that the entire NFL Family is educated on the importance of exercising the fundamental right to vote and can make informed decisions on whether to engage in local, state and presidential elections.

NFL VOTES FOCUSED ON THREE KEY COMPONENTS OF THE ELECTORAL PROCESS:

- 🗳️ VOTER EDUCATION
- 🗳️ VOTER REGISTRATION
- 🗳️ VOTER ACTIVATION

The NFL partnered with three nonprofit, nonpartisan organizations on this initiative: [I am a voter](#), [RISE to Vote](#) and [Rock the Vote](#). These organizations were selected based on their individual mission, capacity, experience to engage communities and success in expanding voter participation and turnout. In the voter education phase, these organizations provided educational seminars for players and club personnel during the first few weeks of training camp, followed by sessions for League employees and NFL Legends.

In addition, at least half of NFL clubs utilized their facilities for election-related activities, including voter registration, ballot drop-off and polling.



I am a voter.®

RISE TO VOTE

ROCK THE VOTE

WALTER PAYTON NFL

MAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

PRESENTED BY NATIONWIDE

Considered the League's most prestigious honor, the **Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year Award Presented by Nationwide** recognizes an NFL player for outstanding community service activities off the field, as well as excellence on the field. First established in 1970, the national award was renamed in 1999 after the late Hall of Fame Chicago Bears running back **WALTER PAYTON**.

Particularly during a year of significant challenges due to the ongoing global pandemic, players continued to raise awareness and use their voices and platforms to positively impact their communities.

To learn more about the award and all 32 team nominees, visit

[NFL.COM/HONORS/MAN-OF-THE-YEAR](https://www.nfl.com/honors/man-of-the-year)





For the third year in a row, team winners were highlighted as nominees and recognized for their important work during the week leading up to Super Bowl LV. Each of the 31 runner-up nominees received a \$40,000 donation in their name to their charity of choice, with the winner of the 2020 Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year Award receiving a \$250,000 donation to the charity of their choice. All donations were courtesy of the NFL Foundation and Nationwide.

EACH NOMINEE RECEIVES A
\$40,000 DONATION
TO THE CHARITY OF THEIR CHOICE

WINNER RECEIVES
\$250,000 DONATION
TO THE CHARITY OF THEIR CHOICE

\$1.49 MILLION
DONATED TO PLAYER-SUPPORTED CHARITIES

Beginning in 2017, the Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year trophy silhouette came to life in uniform elements to further recognize past award winners and current nominees. The six current players who have won the award—LARRY FITZGERALD, JASON WITTEN, J.J. WATT, CALAIS CAMPBELL and RUSSELL WILSON—continue to wear a Man of the Year patch on their jerseys to recognize their outstanding contributions to the game and to their communities. All 2020 nominees wore a Man of the Year helmet decal beginning in Week 14 through the end of the season in recognition of their accomplishments both on and off the field.

MAN OF THE YEAR CHARITY CHALLENGE

The League encouraged fans to participate in Nationwide's sixth annual **Charity Challenge**, a social media campaign designed to support and promote team nominees. Fans voted on Twitter by using #WPMOYChallenge followed by their favorite nominee's last name, and the player whose unique hashtag was used the most between December 10th and January 17th received a \$25,000 contribution to their charity of choice, while the second and third place finishers received \$10,000 and \$5,000 donations, all courtesy of Nationwide.



TRAVIS KELCE
PRIZE: \$25,000



ISAAC ROCHELL
PRIZE: \$10,000



JUSTIN SIMMONS
PRIZE: \$5,000

New this year, fans could also win NFL Shop gift cards and additional money for their favorite nominee's charity. Each Monday during the #WPMOYChallenge, Nationwide asked fans to respond on Twitter with their favorite nominee and one randomly selected fan each week won a \$100 NFL Shop gift card plus \$2,500 for their favorite nominee's charity.

WALTER PAYTON NFL MAN OF THE YEAR NOMINEES





JOSH LAMBO



TRAVIS KELCE



ALEC INGOLD



ISAAC ROCHELL



ANDREW WHITWORTH



BYRON JONES



ERIC KENDRICKS



DEVIN MCCOURTY



DEMARIO DAVIS



DALVIN TOMLINSON



PIERRE DESIR



RODNEY MCLEOD



VANCE McDONALD



ARIK ARMSTEAD



RUSSELL WILSON



MIKE EVANS



KEVIN BYARD



JONATHAN ALLEN

WALTER PAYTON NFL MAN OF THE YEAR



RUSSELL WILSON

WALTER PAYTON NFL MAN OF THE YEAR

Seattle Seahawks quarterback **RUSSELL WILSON** was named the 2020 Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year Presented by Nationwide for his tremendous leadership, compassion and commitment through his tireless efforts to help the underserved, creating positive change in his community and beyond during his nine seasons in the NFL.

This marked the second time Wilson was nominated by the Seahawks for the prestigious award, the first time being 2014. Most recently, Wilson was the recipient of the Vince Lombardi Cancer Foundation Award of Excellence for his efforts to fund cancer research. On the field, Wilson has led the Seahawks to consecutive Super Bowl appearances in 2013 and 2014, including the franchise's only title in 2013. He is an eight-time Pro Bowler, has been named NFC Offensive Player of the Week a franchise-record 11 times, and holds 26 major franchise records.

He has been voted team captain eight consecutive seasons and has won the team's Steve Largent Award three times (2014, 2018, 2019), given to the player who best exemplifies the spirit, dedication and integrity of being a Seahawk.



← CHECK OUT WILSON'S ACCEPTANCE SPEECH

Wilson started his [Why Not You Foundation](#) in 2014, which is a nonprofit dedicated to education, children's health and fighting poverty, empowering today's youth to lead with a 'why not you' attitude. He has also participated in numerous community projects over the years with **Seattle Children's Hospital and Friends of the Children**, and created the **Why Not You Scholars** program.

During the ongoing global pandemic, Wilson continued to work on his long-standing community projects and newer initiatives, but focused his efforts around food insecurity. He and his wife **CIARA** pledged a personal donation of 1 million meals to **Feeding America**, the largest hunger-relief organization in the United States. He also partnered with **Wheels Up** in March to launch the **Meals Up** initiative to address the growing levels of food insecurity during the COVID-19 crisis. The ongoing effort has already raised more than 60 million meals for Feeding America.

Wilson's Why Not You Foundation partnered with **Ride United Last Mile** delivery program to bring food and supplies to vulnerable populations in 175 communities in the United States. Due in large part to Wilson's involvement and innovation, the Seattle area will soon become the region that distributes the highest number of food boxes. In October, Wilson and Ciara also launched the first ever **Why Not You Academy** in Seattle. Scheduled to open in Fall 2021, the entirely new charter school will be a tuition-free public school offering a unique, personalized approach and high-quality education option for the low-income and racially segregated neighborhoods in the Seattle area.



PERSONALLY PLEDGED
1 MILLION MEALS
TO FEEDING AMERICA

HELPED LAUNCH MEALS UP,
WHICH HAS RAISED MORE THAN
60 MILLION MEALS
FOR FEEDING AMERICA

WILSON'S WHY NOT YOU FOUNDATION PARTNERED WITH RIDE UNITED LAST MILE TO DELIVER FOOD & SUPPLIES TO 175 VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES IN THE U.S.

Simultaneously, as the isolation caused by the pandemic exposed the inequities and injustices people of color experience in our country at levels never seen before, Wilson chose to use his platform to encourage change. He was motivated to bring awareness to racial injustices and secured billboards and digital message boards in communities across the country reading, "Black Lives Matter. Love Russell & Ciara."

Wilson also used his platform during the season to focus on the importance of voting, especially among young people and communities of color. He and Ciara partnered with the campaign **I am a voter**, to encourage NFL fans to register to vote. He was personally instrumental in bringing the campaign to NFL players, coaches and staff across the League, and secured 100% participation by the Seahawks organization.

As the 2020 Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year, Wilson received a donation of \$250,000 to the charity of his choice courtesy of Nationwide.

MY CAUSE MY CLEATS

For the fifth-consecutive season, **My Cause My Cleats** gave NFL players the opportunity to bring attention to—and raise awareness and funds for—the charitable causes closest to their hearts. A record number of more than 1,000 players participated this year, showcasing their causes on-field throughout My Cause My Cleats games during Week 13.

The campaign began in 2016 and has since provided players a platform to bring causes they are most passionate about to the forefront on gameday. This year's causes included topics such as tackling social injustice, supporting families in the wake of COVID-19 and bridging the "digital divide". Players worked with artists and cleat manufacturers to create their custom-designed cleats.

Each year, players have the option to raise funds for their cause of choice by auctioning their cleats through **NFL Auction**, where 100% of funds raised are donated to the charities they select.

To learn more about each player's cause, visit [NFL.COM/MYCAUSEMYCLEATS](https://www.nfl.com/mycausemycleats)

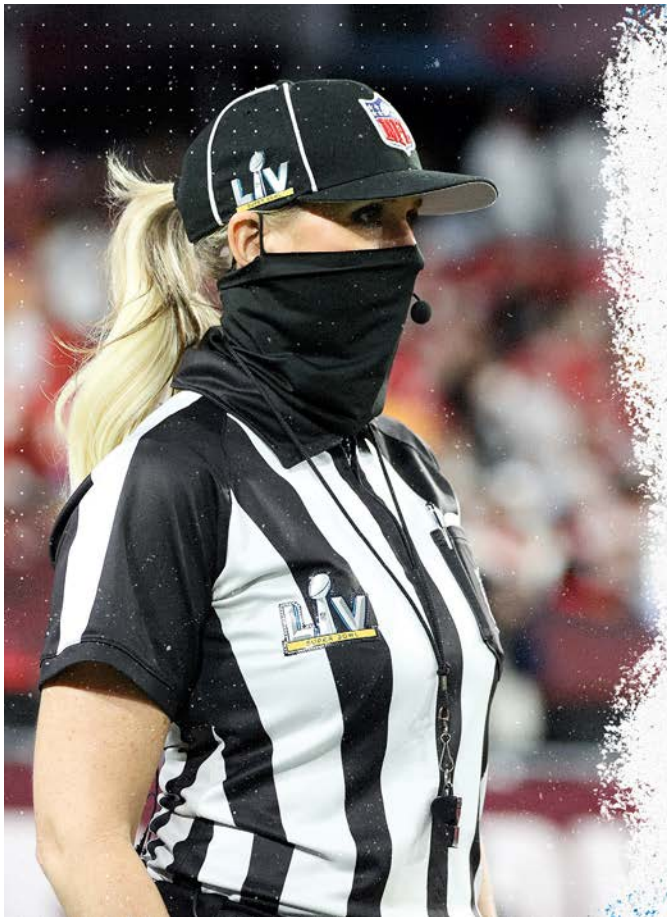


↑ PATRICK MAHOMES, AARON DONALD & MARK ANDREWS ON WHO THEY PLAY FOR

PLAYER CAUSES



MY CAUSE
MY CLEATS



SUPER BOWL LV

Though Super Bowl LV may have looked different than previous years due to changes brought forth by COVID-19 safety protocols, the NFL continued to positively impact the Tampa Bay community in coordination with CDC guidelines. In the weeks preceding the game, more than 20 charitable activities and community outreach events—both in-person and virtual—enriched the community and provided lasting legacies.

20+ CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES & COMMUNITY OUTREACH EVENTS

SBLV



HONORING HEALTH CARE HEROES

The NFL invited approximately 7,500 vaccinated health care workers to Super Bowl LV as guests of the NFL to thank and honor them for their continued extraordinary service during the pandemic. The majority of these health care workers—all of whom had received both doses of the vaccine—came from hospitals and health care systems in the Tampa and Central Florida area. The health care workers received free Super Bowl tickets and gameday experiences directly from the NFL.

In addition, three heroes who served as leaders in their respective communities during the global pandemic were honored at the game. The three Honorary Captains—educator **TRIMAINÉ DAVIS**, nurse manager **SUZIE DORNER** and veteran **JAMES MARTIN**—participated in

the official on-field Coin Toss ceremony. All three were selected because of their dedication and selfless commitment to helping others. These heroes were symbolic of the thousands of health care professionals, educators and veterans throughout our country who continue to care for, heal and support those in need during this pandemic. Together, they embody the NFL's season-long message of **It Takes All of Us**.

Before the Honorary Captains were recognized on-field, presidential inaugural poet **AMANDA GORMAN** recited an original poem about these three individuals in recognition of their tremendous impact during an unprecedented year.

7,500 HEALTH CARE WORKERS INVITED TO ATTEND

HUDDLE TO TACKLE HUNGER

The NFL and **Feeding Tampa Bay** partnered to create **Huddle to Tackle Hunger**, a Super Bowl LV initiative to combat food insecurity in the region, an issue that had been exacerbated by the pandemic. As a part of this program, the NFL Foundation made a \$250,000 donation to Feeding Tampa Bay to both assist in supporting local restaurants that have been significantly affected by COVID-19 and provide meals to those that need it most.

As part of the initiative, the NFL hosted two meal distribution events that supported community members and local restaurants hit hardest by the pandemic. These meals that were distributed were catered by local restaurants and funded by the NFL Foundation. NFL friends and family, including the Tampa Bay Buccaneers cheerleaders and mascot, assisted Feeding Tampa Bay by handing out the meals to community members. The two food distribution events during Super Bowl Week acted as a launching pad for a 44-week, long-term impact program aimed at continuing the fight against hunger and those impacted by COVID.

The Official Soup Sponsor of the NFL, **Campbell's Chunky**, also contributed to both events and provided each visitor with cans of soup—in addition to the meal they received—adding on to the brand's long history of fighting hunger and giving back to the community.

\$250,000 DONATION TO FEEDING TAMPA BAY



SUPER BOWL LEGACY GRANT PROGRAM

Each year, the NFL seeks to improve the surrounding communities of the Super Bowl host city with the **Super Bowl Legacy Grant Program**, made possible by a \$1 million annual contribution from the NFL Foundation and matched by the Super Bowl Host Committee. This year, the NFL and Tampa Bay Super Bowl Host Committee's grants supported **Forever 55**, the Host Committee's primary social legacy initiative representing the everlasting impression that Super Bowl LV will have on the Tampa community via the First 1,000 Days (Early Childhood Education); Fuel (Food Insecurity); Families (At-Risk, Unsheltered and Veterans); Fitness (Health & Wellness); Future (Sustainability); and Further (Systemic Justice).

The NFL Foundation's contribution will support several Forever 55 initiatives, including programs and resources for at-risk, underprivileged families; a three-year youth mentorship and leadership program in East Tampa spearheaded by the Tampa Bay Buccaneers; the **resolve** action initiative that aims to help eliminate systemic injustice and structural racism through the support of local community organizations focused on community policing and financial literacy; and the **Forever 55 Legacy Grant** program designed to help fund a variety of community projects in underserved communities directly related to Forever 55's pillars.

\$2 MILLION DONATED TO FOREVER 55

NFL GAVE \$1 MILLION, MATCHED BY THE TAMPA BAY SUPER BOWL HOST COMMITTEE



PLAY FOOTBALL HIGH SCHOOL DAY

In recognition of **National Girls and Women in Sports Day**, the NFL, in collaboration with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and Nike, celebrated female flag football student-athletes and coaches from Hillsborough County (Tampa) at this year's **Play Football High School Day** at the **Super Bowl Experience Presented by Lowe's**. The student-athletes heard from sport industry professionals, discussed the values learned from the game and had the opportunity to showcase their skills.



CHARACTER PLAYBOOK VIRTUAL "ANGST" FILM SCREENING & PANEL

The NFL hosted three virtual screenings of the IndieFlix film "Angst," followed by a star-studded virtual panel discussion of the film for **NFL/United Way Worldwide Character Playbook** students and teachers. "Angst" is a film-based education program designed to raise awareness around anxiety and break down the stigma associated with mental health. The film is a natural extension of the **Mental Wellness Basics** digital course component of the Character Playbook program. Panelists included Jacksonville Jaguars WR DJ CHARK, Baltimore Ravens DT CALAIS CAMPBELL, NFL VP of Clinical and Wellness Services DR. NYAKA NILAMPTI, and United Way Worldwide Chief Experience Officer STAN LITTLE.



NFL INSPIRE CHANGE DIGITAL DIVIDE PROGRAM

Jefferson High School students took part in the EVERFI 306 African-American history program. During the event, students discussed one of EVERFI's new modules focused on Black trailblazers in business, with a panel of thought leaders including NFL players. Funded by the NFL nationwide, the EVERFI 306 program provides schools with a digital African-American history curriculum. As part of the event, the NFL made a \$50,000 contribution to the Hillsborough Education Foundation to address the "digital divide" for students throughout Tampa Bay.

REBUILDING TOGETHER TAMPA BAY

Kickoff to Rebuild is an annual Super Bowl-sanctioned event hosted by **Rebuilding Together**, a leading national housing nonprofit with a mission to repair the homes of people in need and revitalize communities. This year's event was led by local nonprofit affiliate, **Rebuilding Together Tampa Bay**, which has served the Tampa Bay area for 20 years. While following CDC guidelines to prevent the spread of COVID-19, volunteers from **Lowe's**, **Rebuilding Together**, local contractors and community members performed critical repairs for 30 homes across the Tampa Bay area.

PERFORMED CRITICAL REPAIRS FOR 30 AREA HOMES

COMMUNITY GARDEN BUILD

The NFL teamed up with **Keep Tampa Bay Beautiful** to build a community garden at **Wellswood Park Community Center**. Volunteers installed hydroponic gardens, garden boxes, pollinator gardens, fruit trees, a shed and more. Children who attended learned about healthy eating and how to grow vegetables, and built their own garden boxes to take home to continue to grow their own food.



NFL PLAY 60 KIDS DAY

The NFL and the **American Heart Association** hosted a virtual one-hour **NFL PLAY 60 Kids Day** event for youth across the country, featuring an interactive segment powered by **GoNoodle** and focused on encouraging youth to stay active and healthy. The event included appearances by NFL players, cheerleaders and mascots participating in **PLAY 60**-related physical activity exercises that encourage youth to get moving for 60 minutes a day. The event was a fun and engaging way for teachers and parents to bring **PLAY 60** into their classrooms or homes.

For more information, visit [▶ NFL.COM/PLAY60](https://nfl.com/play60)

OUTREACH TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE/ SEXUAL ASSAULT RESOURCES

The NFL lead a supply drop-off at the Crisis Center of Tampa Bay, in order to provide support and resources to the Tampa-area DV/SA field. In addition, the league hosted a volunteer event at The Spring of Tampa Bay, where approximately 10-15 volunteers from the NFL, the Tampa Bay Super Bowl LV Host Committee and the **Junior League of Tampa** participated in a general refurbishment of the center.





SALUTE TO SERVICE

The NFL teamed up with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers to surprise and thank service members and their families at **MacDill Air Force Base**. The Tampa Bay Buccaneers mascot, cheerleaders and NFL Legends made multiple stops across the base, including a tour of a B1 Bomber and KC-135 Tanker, and thanked each group for their service. Through **Salute to Service** and events such as this one, the League is able to honor and connect with service members and their families, continuing the NFL's long-standing commitment to the military.



RISE

The sixth annual **RISE Super Bowl Critical Conversation** featured NFL players addressing the question, "What comes next?" after our nation experienced a reckoning on race and an unprecedented wave of athlete activism in 2020. Discussions explored how athletes can best tackle the issues of systemic racism, civic engagement and racial and social inequities that have been further exposed by the global pandemic, such as in education and the "digital divide."

The event featured a conversation with Kansas City Chiefs' **PATRICK MAHOMES** and **TYRANN MATHIEU**, and a panel of 2020 Walter Payton Man of the Year nominees, including **TREY FLOWERS** (Detroit Lions), **JUSTIN SIMMONS** (Denver Broncos) and **ANDREW WHITWORTH** (Los Angeles Rams), CBS Sports Lead NFL Reporter **TRACY WOLFSON** moderated the discussions, which also featured RISE CEO **DAHANN BILLINGS-BURFORD**.

In addition, RISE partnered with **Pepsi** to launch its new virtual **Champions of Change** fan experience, bringing what is typically only available in-person at **Super Bowl Experience** to fans across the country. Champions of Change took fans on a multi-sensory journey designed to educate, evoke empathy and inspire action, all while highlighting the impact sports have on inspiring social change. Fans heard firsthand stories from NFL players about their experiences with race, discrimination and activism, explored the **RISE Road to Progress**, an interactive timeline that chronicles the historic intersection of sports and social justice, and were encouraged to take the **RISE Pledge to End Racism**.

Finally, the **RISE Super Bowl Leadership Program** culminated as students from across the country gathered virtually with NFL players and executives to present their months-long projects that offered solutions to addressing racial inequities in education.

To learn more, visit [▶ RISE.TOWIN.ORG/SBLV](https://RISETOWIN.ORG/SBLV)

NFL VOTES

RISE completed a total of 22 voter education and registration sessions with players, coaches and staff of 11 NFL teams as part of the **NFL Votes** initiative. RISE worked in close collaboration with the Kansas City Chiefs on a series of PSAs to promote voter registration. In addition, RISE collaborated with the Denver Broncos, Detroit Lions and New York Giants on public-facing town hall events for fans, community members and local youth that focused on voter registration as well as broader themes of the importance of civic engagement. RISE also facilitated a voter education and registration town hall as part of the NFL-sponsored **HBCU Battle of the Brains**. The panel featured RISE CEO **DAHANN BILLINGS-BURFORD**, former NFL Commissioner and RISE Board Co-Chair **PAUL TAGLIABUE** and Morehouse College professor **DR. DAVID RICE**.

NFL GREEN

The NFL, Tampa Bay Super Bowl LV Host Committee and Tampa Bay Buccaneers teamed up to develop a series of initiatives to reduce the environmental impact of Super Bowl LV and create a "green" legacy in the Tampa Bay area. The focus was on beautifying and revitalizing coastal areas and public spaces around Tampa Bay.

NFL HAS INCORPORATED ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS INTO THE SUPER BOWL FOR MORE THAN 25 YEARS

COMMUNITY GREENING

A dozen community greening projects were developed in partnership with **Keep Tampa Bay Beautiful**, NFL partners **Verizon**, **Oikos Triple Zero**, and **Castrol**, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and the Tampa Bay Super Bowl LV Host Committee Sustainability Program Presented by Tampa Electric under its Forever 55 social legacy initiative.

FORCE BLUE / DIVE 55

NFL Green teamed up with **Force Blue** retired special operations military veterans, **Pepsi Stronger Together** and the Tampa Bay Super Bowl LV Host Committee to tackle ocean debris, bringing together 55 divers to retrieve marine debris and discarded fishing gear from the waters near **Spanish Rocks Reef** in Anna Maria, Florida. In addition, NFL Green worked with Force Blue special operations military veterans, the **University of Miami Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science** and **The Florida Aquarium** to continue restoring a section of Florida's endangered coral reef by planting corals that are resilient in the face of a changing climate.

55 DIVERS RETRIEVED MARINE DEBRIS AND DISCARDED FISHING GEAR

SUPER KIDS-SUPER SHARING

In December, community partners teamed up with the NFL, Tampa Bay Super Bowl LV Host Committee and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers for a Super Bowl project that put 4,500 books, pieces of sports equipment, school supplies and games in the hands of local children. The project, called **Super Kids-Super Sharing**, has been implemented in every Super Bowl host community for the past 22 years.

IN ITS 22ND YEAR, PROVIDED 4,500 BOOKS, SPORTS EQUIPMENT, SCHOOL SUPPLIES & GAMES TO LOCAL KIDS

GREEN AND WIN

A fan engagement project created this year, **Green and Win**, gave fans the chance to win a unique Super Bowl hat by posting a photo on social media showing themselves involved in an environmental activity such as recycling, tree planting, a beach clean-up or gardening. One hundred lucky fans were awarded Super Bowl LV hats and a chance to be recognized on NFL social media.

ADDITIONAL NFL GREEN PROJECTS INCLUDED:

Green Energy: "Green" energy was used to power major Super Bowl event venues, including **Raymond James Stadium**, the AFC and NFC team hotels, and the NFL headquarters hotel. Renewable energy certificates (RECs) equivalent to the electricity usage at these facilities helped to mitigate the climate impact of energy emissions.

Food Recovery: Excess food from Super Bowl events were recovered in partnership with **Feeding Tampa Bay** to provide meals for shelters, missions, soup kitchens and other community programs.

Material Recovery: Recovery of event materials began immediately after most Super Bowl events. During the week following the game, there was an intensive drive to collect and donate leftover items, including building materials, décor, fabric, carpeting and sign materials. In partnership with **The Salvation Army**, these items were donated to local organizations that can reuse, repurpose or remanufacture the materials.





Since 2007, NFL PLAY 60 has been the League's national youth health and wellness initiative to encourage kids across the country to get physically active for at least 60 minutes a day and fuel the body with nutritious foods. With more than \$352 million committed to youth health and fitness through PLAY 60 programming, grants and awareness campaigns, the NFL, its 32 clubs and its PLAY 60 partners have provided more than 38 million children the resources they need to boost their activity levels by supporting programs in over 73,000 schools and constructing more than 265 youth fitness zones nationwide.

With this school year unlike any other due to the impact of COVID-19, the NFL, alongside its PLAY 60 partners including the American Heart Association (AHA), Discovery Education, Fuel Up to Play 60, GoNoodle and Special Olympics, have teamed up to provide parents, teachers and students across the country with free digital resources to stay physically active and healthy. These online resources can be accessed at NFL.com/PLAY60 and help students to lead healthy lifestyles no matter where they are learning.

NFL HAS COMMITTED MORE THAN
\$352 MILLION
 TO YOUTH HEALTH AND FITNESS

NFL AND ITS CLUBS HAVE:

SUPPORTED PROGRAMS IN MORE THAN 73,000 SCHOOLS

CONSTRUCTED MORE THAN 265 YOUTH FITNESS ZONES

GIVEN MORE THAN 38 MILLION CHILDREN AN OPPORTUNITY TO BOOST PHYSICAL ACTIVITY



FUEL UP TO PLAY 60

Fuel Up to Play 60, the leading in-school health and wellness program launched by the NFL and the National Dairy Council (NDC), which was founded by America's dairy farmers, in collaboration with the USDA, has empowered students and educators to work together to build healthier schools and create healthy, high-achieving students for the past 10+ years. In quick reaction to the changing school circumstances caused by the pandemic, the program introduced the Fuel Up to Play 60 Homeroom—a digital resource that includes an assortment of fun videos featuring NFL players and valuable learning activities to help kids stay healthy, particularly while learning from home or via hybrid schooling. The Fuel Up to Play 60 program also pivoted to reach students and schools virtually with player visits, farm tours and other experiential educational opportunities. Notably, since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic Fuel Up to Play 60's 501c3, GENYOUth has raised \$20 million in support of 10,000 schools through the COVID-19 Emergency School Meal Delivery Fund and is continuing fundraising efforts to help 10,000 additional schools who have asked for help.

To learn more, visit ▶ FUELUPTOPLAY60.COM

NFL FLAG IN-SCHOOL KITS

Since the beginning of the program in 2014, over 24,000 school communities have been awarded NFL FLAG-In-Schools kits with over 13 million students participating nationwide. In addition, through NFL FLAG-In-Schools trainings, over 3,500 P.E. teachers have been trained in the curriculum. With the approved funding from the NFL Foundation for the 2021-22 school year, the NFL will award an additional 4,200 kits to school communities with potential to reach an additional 2.3 million students.

AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION

The American Heart Association and the NFL have provided a free, digital game plan to deliver physical activity programming to students—wherever they are learning from. Go Noodle, Discovery Education and the NFL, have created PLAY 60 inspired video content, classroom curriculum, family challenges and an interactive app that keeps youth physically active regardless of what format they are experiencing school this year. Rooted in science, the program prioritizes physical and mental wellness to help children have a better chance of a healthy adulthood.

NFL PLAY 60 APP

Additionally, the NFL and American Heart Association have enhanced the NFL PLAY 60 app, which inspires young fans to get moving through fun, interactive games.

To learn more and download the app, visit ▶ NFL.COM/PLAY60



SUPER KID

GO NOODLE'S PLAY WITH PURPOSE

GoNoodle and the NFL have teamed up through the PLAY 60 initiative to develop **Play With Purpose**. Playing with Purpose means being a team player, practicing inclusivity, staying positive and playing 60. Through custom video content and the Play With Purpose playbook, kids learn to lead an active lifestyle and build lasting friendships through movement and sportsmanship. New activities within the playbook were introduced that both teachers and parents could use to get kids moving in a fun and interactive ways, such as creating an obstacle course at home, learning new exercises and even a scavenger hunt. The purpose is to help kids improve their physical activity, confidence and social skills while developing lifelong values, morals and mental agility.

To learn more, visit NFL.COM/PLAY60



SPECIAL OLYMPICS

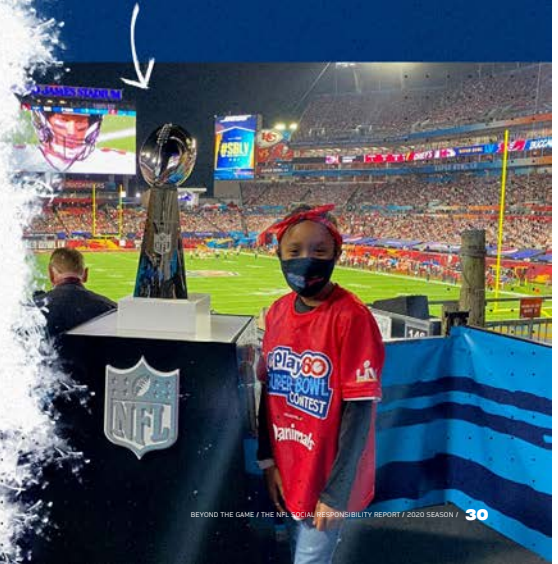
The NFL and **Special Olympics** are committed to building inclusive communities and providing opportunities for athletes of all abilities to participate in sports through the expansion of **Special Olympics Unified Flag Football**, where individuals with and without intellectual disabilities play on the same team.

Since kicking off its national partnership with Special Olympics in 2017, the NFL has amplified this relationship through community programs at marquee events such as the Super Bowl, NFL Draft Week, and NFL Kickoff Week. With contributions from the NFL Foundation, Special Olympics provided grants to local Special Olympics Programs in 15 states to help enhance Unified Sports programming and increase participation of athletes, Unified partners, and coaches across the country.

NFL FOUNDATION + SPECIAL OLYMPICS HAVE PROVIDED GRANTS TO LOCAL PROGRAMS IN 15 STATES

NFL PLAY 60 SUPER KID

Auburndale, Florida native **AMAYA BRANNON**, 10, was this year's **NFL PLAY 60 Super Kid**. As the winner of the 2020 NFL PLAY 60 Super Bowl Contest presented by **Danimals**, Brannon was the official NFL PLAY 60 Ambassador during Super Bowl Week and was recognized at the second half of Super Bowl LV in Tampa.



THE COOPER INSTITUTE

Research conducted by **The Cooper Institute** through its **NFL PLAY 60 FitnessGram® Project** revealed annual improvements in aerobic capacity and body mass index for students participating in PLAY 60 programming when compared to schools not utilizing PLAY 60 programs.

HEALTHY LIVING GRANTS

The NFL Foundation encourages active and healthy living by providing grants to the American Heart Association and The Cooper Institute. These grants power the PLAY 60 initiative. NFL clubs also receive grants from the NFL Foundation to fund PLAY 60 programs in their areas.



ST. JUDE CHILDREN'S RESEARCH HOSPITAL®

PLAY 60 is the "Official Champion of Play" at **St. Jude Children's Research Hospital**, which is leading the way the world understands, treats, and defeats childhood cancer and other life-threatening diseases.

Since 2015, NFL Network and DIRECTV AUDIENCE Network personality **RICH EISEN** has capped off the NFL Scouting Combine Presented by Verizon with his signature 40-yard dash in a suit for the "Run Rich Run" charitable campaign in support of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Though he couldn't do his traditional dash at the event this year, the campaign invited fans to run a "40" in any way they wanted—whether that be a 40-yard dash, 40 steps, 40 minutes or even running 40 errands for a neighbor in need. Additionally, fans were encouraged to submit their "40" videos on social media using the hashtag #RunYour40.

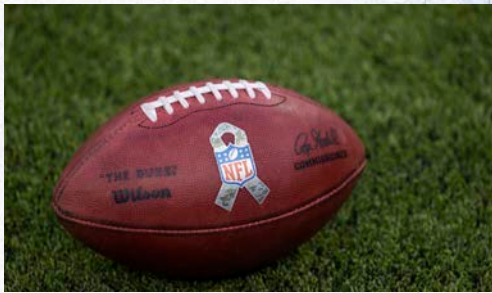
RUN RICH RUN HAS RAISED APPROXIMATELY \$2.5 MILLION TO BENEFIT ST. JUDE

THE NFL AND ITS PARTNERS ARE COMMITTED TO CONTINUING THE PLAY 60 MOVEMENT FOR AN ACTIVE AND HEALTHIER GENERATION FOR YEARS TO COME.



SALUTE TO SERVICE

Military appreciation is part of the fabric of the NFL. For decades, the League's **Salute to Service** has remained committed to honoring and supporting veterans, active duty service members and their families. This past year, COVID-19 brought exceptional challenges to the military community that underscored the importance of supporting service members and veterans more than ever. The NFL is proud to have expanded its initiatives to honor, empower and connect with our nation's service members, veterans and their families.



During NFL Weeks 9-11, all 32 clubs honored and showed their gratitude for the military community throughout with a series of events and virtual activations. On-field, Salute to Service came to life with a mix of stencils, camouflage-themed game balls, helmet decals and gear from **Gatorade**, **New Era** and **Nike**—some of which were auctioned at [NFL.com/Auction](https://www.nfl.com/auction).

Additionally, virtual experiences and 'surprise and delight' moments—from active player and Legend video calls, to jersey giveaways, to secret Madden matchups—came to life in November. Official NFL partners joined the NFL in recognizing and supporting our nation's service members through a series of projects and compelling ways for fans to get involved.

USAA created the **USAA Salute to Service Sweepstakes** for a chance to win the Ultimate Fan Cave, as well as the **USAA Salute to Service Virtual Lounge**, which featured a series of interactive chalk-talks with NFL players from around the League.

Rocket Mortgage donated \$1,000 toward the fight to end veteran homelessness for every touchdown scored during the month of November. With 384 touchdowns scored that month, Rocket Mortgage gave a total of \$384,000 toward the cause.

SINCE 2011, SALUTE TO SERVICE HAS RAISED MORE THAN
\$55 MILLION
 FOR MILITARY AND VETERAN NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS



TRAGEDY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR SURVIVORS (TAPS)

The NFL partners with **TAPS** to fund programs that support the families of fallen military service members. Thousands of survivors can access youth and mentor programs and services to support all those grieving the loss of a military loved one. Through the partnership, more than 5,000 survivors who are part of TAPS have been able to participate in NFL events and honor their fallen loved one(s).

5,000+ SURVIVORS
 HAVE PARTICIPATED IN NFL EVENTS

PAT TILLMAN FOUNDATION (PTF)

To help honor leaders who exemplify **PAT TILLMAN's** enduring legacy of scholarship, service, leadership and impact, the NFL partners with the **Pat Tillman Foundation**, providing more than \$20 million in academic scholarships and lifelong leadership development for nearly 700 Tillman Scholars.

MORE THAN \$20 MILLION
 IN ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS AND
 LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT FOR NEARLY
700 TILLMAN SCHOLARS

WOUNDED WARRIOR PROJECT® (WWP)

Wounded Warrior Project® (WWP) is transforming the way America's veterans are empowered, employed and engaged in their communities. Their direct service programs focused on connection, independence, and mental, physical and financial wellness create a 360-degree model of care and support. This holistic approach empowers warriors to create a life worth living and helps them build resilience, coping skills and peer connection, which are known to reduce the risk of veteran suicide.

BOB WOODRUFF FOUNDATION (BWF)

In 2019, the NFL and Bob Woodruff Foundation established an \$8 million, three-year partnership designed to optimize the positive impact that the NFL and its 32 clubs have on the veteran community by leveraging BWF's. To date, BWF has invested over \$5.5 million in 50 grants to best-in-class organizations supporting post-9/11 veterans and their families through NFL-BWF Healthy Lifestyles and Creating Communities grants. Merging Vets and Players (MVP), which received its second NFL-BWF grant in May, matches combat veterans with former professional athletes—after the uniform comes off—to give them a new team to tackle the transition together.

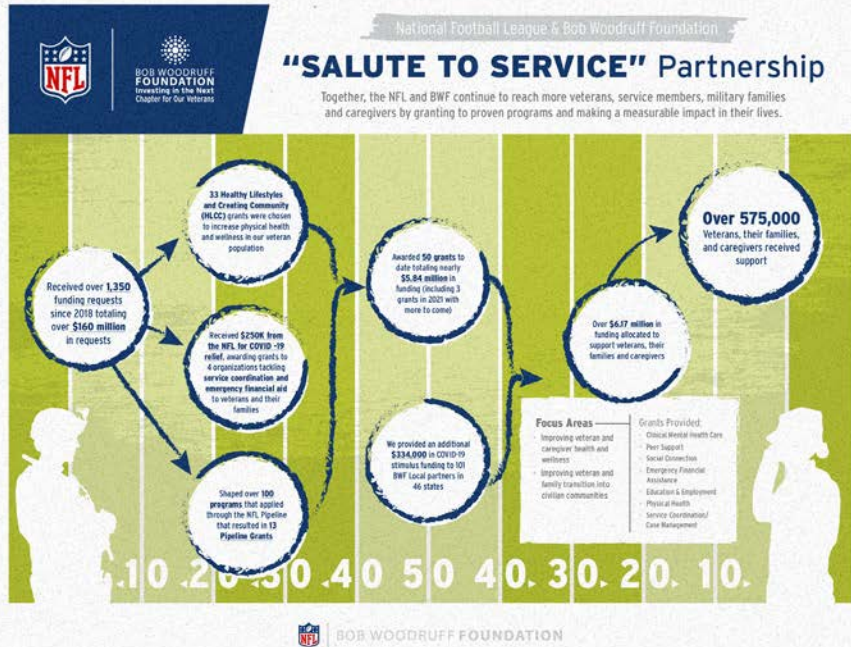
IN 2019, NFL AND BWF ESTABLISHED AN \$8 MILLION, 3-YEAR PARTNERSHIP

BWF HAS INVESTED MORE THAN \$5.5 MILLION IN 50 POST-9/11 SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS

UNITED SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS (USO)

For more than 50 years, the NFL has supported the USO in its mission to strengthen service members by keeping them connected to family, home and country. Through support of USO center expansions, the NFL helps to deliver sports and entertainment to troops located in some of the most remote areas of the world. The NFL also bolstered the Mobile USO fleet by adding a state-of-the-art Mobile Gaming Center to meet the growing demands of esports within the military community and to enhance the USO's mission of delivering capabilities beyond its brick-and-mortar locations.

MORE THAN 50-YEAR PARTNERSHIP



2020

SALUTE TO SERVICE AWARD

PRESENTED BY USAA

For 10 years, the NFL and USAA—an Official NFL Salute to Service Partner—have recognized inspiring leaders within the NFL community who are committed to honoring and serving our military members, veterans and their families. The 2020 recipient of the Salute to Service Award Presented by USAA was STEVE CANNON, CEO of AMB Sports and Entertainment, the parent company of the Atlanta Falcons.

Cannon's dedication to the military and related causes began with his own personal commitment. He graduated with honors from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1986, was Airborne Ranger qualified and served as a 1st Lieutenant in West Germany during the fall of the Iron Curtain. During his time in the Army, he also served five years as an artillery officer.

Upon joining the Atlanta Falcons organization, he realized the impact of the NFL platform and challenged the club to be "best in class" and to "become the benchmark franchise in all of professional sports" in terms of its military outreach and appreciation. With that challenge, he began to set up major trips each spring following the conclusion of football season that would allow him and the team to get up close and personal with those serving to protect our freedom. And with that, the Atlanta Falcons became the first-ever NFL team to conduct their own USO Tour.

Through Cannon's countless hours of service to multiple military nonprofits over the years, his constant "military first" mindset and utilization of the NFL's platform has provided active duty service members, veterans and military families with first-class experiences and support. In addition to empowering and giving back to the military community, Cannon has played a large role in bringing awareness to the general population around the importance of honoring and recognizing our nation's heroes.

As the presenting sponsor of the Salute to Service Award, USAA, a leading provider of insurance and other financial services to U.S. military members, veterans and their families, contributed \$25,000 in Cannon's name to the official aid societies representing all five military branches. In addition, the NFL matched USAA's contribution of \$25,000, which was donated to the Cannon's military charity of choice.



USAA CONTRIBUTED \$25,000 IN CANNON'S NAME TO THE OFFICIAL AID SOCIETIES REPRESENTING ALL 5 MILITARY BRANCHES

NFL MATCHED \$25,000 DONATED TO CANNON'S MILITARY CHARITY OF CHOICE



CRUCIAL CATCH



For 12 years, the NFL and American Cancer Society (ACS) have worked together to support the fight against cancer through **Crucial Catch: Intercept Cancer**. The initiative addresses early detection, screenings and risk reduction efforts for multiple types of cancers. This year's Crucial Catch was part of the League's **It Takes All of Us** brand campaign, which highlights the importance of everyone joining together to make a difference in the lives of others.

The COVID-19 pandemic had a devastating impact on screening. Since March 2020, routine cancer screenings have plummeted, resulting in a screening rate drop between 86% and 94% for some cancers. Through Crucial Catch, the NFL and ACS have allocated resources dedicated to safely restarting cancer screenings in communities with the most need. For many forms of cancer (breast, cervical, colorectal and prostate), the five-year survival rate is above 90% when detected early before it has a chance to spread.

All 32 NFL teams had the option of supporting early detection and risk-reduction efforts for one or multiple cancers in-stadium and in their communities.

NFL-issued Crucial Catch gameday apparel featured a multi-colored logo representing all cancers. New this year, **New Era** and **Nike** designed Crucial Catch gear, highlighting the NFL's commitment to drawing awareness to and supporting multiple cancer prevention efforts. Fans could purchase NFL-licensed Crucial Catch apparel on NFLShop.com and game-worn merchandise was auctioned on NFL.com/Auction.



CRUCIAL CATCH
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CHANGE

Since 2012, the NFL has funded ACS' **Community Health Advocates Implementation Nationwide Grants for Empowerment and Equity (CHANGE)** grants, which have contributed to 543,000 screenings in underserved communities and reached more than 1.1 million individuals with education, screening reminders and patient navigation, bringing these life-saving messages and screening services to those who need them most.

543,000 CANCER SCREENINGS SINCE 2012
1.1 MILLION WOMEN AND MEN REACHED SINCE 2009
\$23 MILLION DOLLARS RAISED SINCE 2009

IT TAKES ALL OF US TO FIGHT CANCER

This season, the League gave players, coaches and fans who've battled cancer an opportunity to pay tribute to someone who helped them along the way.

This year's Crucial Catch TV spot, which brought to life the **It Takes All of Us** brand platform, included cancer survivors and advocates with NFL ties, including: **JAMES CONNER**, **KYLE RUDOLPH**, **JOHNATHAN JOSEPH**, **CHUCK PAGANO**, and **LEAH STILL**, daughter of **DEVON STILL**. Videos on social and digital platforms featured these five individuals, as well as two fans who fought and overcame cancer.

In addition to these NFL representatives, ACS had a total of 35 NFL player ambassadors who lent their voices and made virtual appearances with cancer patients, survivors and caretakers throughout the month of October and year-round.

YOUTH CRUCIAL CATCH

Each season, youth football teams from across the country participate in **Youth Crucial Catch** to host their own Crucial Catch football games to raise both awareness for multiple cancers and money for ACS. This season, Youth Crucial Catch was virtual on **TikTok**, featuring NFL Legends, current players, fans, player families and cancer survivors of all ages and ethnicities. Fans were encouraged to participate in the TikTok challenge by posting a video showing their "Crucial Catch" dance, with all funds raised on the platform donated to ACS.



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE / SEXUAL ASSAULT

The NFL is committed to addressing and preventing domestic violence and sexual assault. Through national and local partnerships, the NFL works year-round to provide resources to educate communities and support survivors. The NFL also works annually with the Super Bowl host community to recognize and assist local domestic violence shelters and sexual assault prevention. All 32 NFL clubs continue to work in their communities on efforts ranging from abuse intervention programs, crisis center fundraisers, high school healthy relationship assemblies and local public service campaigns.

ADDRESSING & PREVENTING RELATIONSHIP VIOLENCE

Since 2014, the NFL has provided financial support to the **National Domestic Violence Hotline (The Hotline)** in its mission to shift power back to people affected by relationship abuse. The Hotline remains the only national, 24-hour, year-round resource for survivors offering services via call, chat and text.

In addition to intervention services, the organization is leading the way on preventing relationship abuse with **love is respect**, an initiative that engages, educates and empowers young people to prevent and end abusive relationships. It is the first 24-hour national resource for teens and is a safe, inclusive space where young people can access information and get help in an environment designed specifically for them.

In 2020, supporting survivors took on a completely new meaning because of COVID-19. Any external factors that add stress, isolation and financial strain can create circumstances where a survivor's safety is further

compromised, and the pandemic had elements of all three. The Hotline's entire team, more than 190 people, made the transition to remote work to ensure critical, life-saving services continued—no matter what.

Support from the NFL continued to make a positive impact at The Hotline. The Hotline answered 363,185 calls, online chats and text messages from people across the country. The Hotline also advocates for strong survivor-centered policies and legislation. Financial support provided by the NFL helped The Hotline further its policy work in Washington, D.C., helping to shape the way government, communities and providers approach this issue and best serve survivors.

Finally, support from the NFL helped advocates offer 132,898 referrals to shelter and domestic violence service providers and 140,562 referrals to additional resources across the nation.

To learn more about The Hotline's work, please visit [THEHOTLINE.ORG](https://www.thehotline.org)

NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOTLINE

2020 BY THE NUMBERS

363,185 CALLS, ONLINE CHATS AND TEXT MESSAGES ANSWERED

132,898 REFERRALS TO SHELTERS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICE PROVIDERS

140,562 REFERRALS TO ADDITIONAL RESOURCES ACROSS THE NATION

BEYOND THE GAME / THE NFL SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY REPORT / 2020 SEASON / 38

RALIANCE

RALIANCE

The NFL continues to support **RALIANCE**, a Washington, D.C.-based national partnership dedicated to ending sexual violence in one generation. RALIANCE offers unparalleled expertise and is a trusted resource for organizations committed to creating safer and more equitable workplaces and communities.

The organization recently launched **RALIANCE Business**, an innovative resource center providing companies with strategies and solutions to help prevent and respond to all forms of sexual misconduct in the workplace and across business operations. As part of this effort, RALIANCE and its partners developed a comprehensive taxonomy system that can be used and adopted by institutions, across every industry, in their own efforts to address sexual violence and misconduct within their platforms. RALIANCE also funds grant programs working to identify best practices for creating safe and respectful workplaces.

RALIANCE continued to engage the sport community as a partner in ending sexual violence, including publishing a new Athletics Trainer Manual. RALIANCE also funded two new projects addressing safety and resiliency in sport settings.

In addition, RALIANCE provided guidance on improving the response to sexual assault survivors to presidential and congressional candidates running for office in 2020; provided leadership for Sexual Assault Awareness Month activities in April; and published a blog series called "Voices at the Front Line" focused on the impact of COVID-19 on sexual assault survivors and prevention advocates.

With the NFL's support since 2016, RALIANCE has invested more than \$2.9 million in one-year grants to 71 prevention programs and projects that advance policy and practices that support survivors and make communities safer.

For more information, visit [RALIANCE.ORG](https://www.raliance.org)



WITH THE SUPPORT OF NFL FUNDING, RALIANCE HAS INVESTED MORE THAN **\$2.9 MILLION** IN ONE-YEAR GRANTS SINCE 2016

"SPORT IS A POWERFUL INFLUENCER IN MANY YOUNG PEOPLE'S LIVES, AND PROVIDES A RICH OPPORTUNITY FOR CHARACTER-BUILDING AND ROLE MODELING RESPECTFUL BEHAVIORS."

KAREN BAKER
RALIANCE MANAGING PARTNER

TRAFFICKING PREVENTION

Human and sex trafficking are issues that the NFL works to address, particularly as it relates to Super Bowl host cities. Each year, the Super Bowl Host Committee selects a local organization to head up trafficking awareness and prevention work in advance of Super Bowl. The NFL provides financial support to the selected organization, who then coordinates all ongoing efforts between nonprofits, law enforcement, and the hospitality and transportation industries, among others. The Tampa Bay Super Bowl LV Host Committee selected the **Hillsborough County Commission on Human Trafficking** to head up this season's trafficking prevention and awareness work.

With NFL support, the Commission was able to:

- Develop a local human trafficking hotline and full-time care coordination dedicated to victims of human trafficking with the **Crisis Center of Tampa Bay**
- Launch a full-scale media campaign, "Don't Buy It, Tampa Bay," which addressed both labor and sex trafficking, and showcased a broad diversity of potential victims
- Work to display materials from the "It's a Penalty" campaign in ride-sharing vehicles and at local airports

TRAFFICKING PREVENTION

BEYOND THE GAME / THE NFL SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY REPORT / 2020 SEASON / 39

DUI PREVENTION

The NFL was proud to team up with **Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD)** for the 11th season. Together, the organizations are working to educate players and fans that the most valuable position is the designated driver.

Drunk driving is the biggest killer on America's roads, causing 10,000 deaths and 300,000 injuries every year. Countless more lives are changed forever. All these tragedies are 100% preventable. That is why MADD popularized the concept of the designated driver in 1986 that has become part of our culture. It's simple: If you drink, don't drive.

With partners like the NFL, MADD has changed attitudes toward drunk driving. Volunteers and staff are invited to stadiums on game day to provide outreach and education to fans. At the start of each season, victims and survivors meet with team staff and players to share their impactful stories, just as they do at schools, in communities and at state legislatures across the country.

The stories of the nearly one million victims MADD has served hold the power to eliminate drunk driving forever. They inspire MADD to keep fighting. MADD and the NFL won't stop until drunk driving does—because one empty seat at the table, one missing fan on game day, is one too many. Together, the NFL and MADD will see the dream come true of No More Victims'.



IMPACT SINCE OUR FOUNDING IN 1980:

DRUNK DRIVING DEATHS CUT BY **50%**

400K+ LIVES SAVED, AND COUNTING

880K+ VICTIMS SERVED

THE REASON TO HELP

- **2 OUT OF 3** PEOPLE WILL BE IMPACTED BY DRUNK DRIVING IN THEIR LIFETIME
- EVERY DAY **28 PEOPLE** ARE KILLED BY DRUNK DRIVING
- EVERY **52 MINUTES** SOMEONE IS KILLED IN A DRUNK DRIVING CRASH

THE REASON TO HOPE

- A VICTIM SERVICE IS PROVIDED EVERY **3 MINUTES**
- **34 STATES AND DC** HAVE PASSED ALL-OFFENDER IGNITION INTERLOCK LAWS
- A PARENT OR TEEN IS EDUCATED EVERY **2 MINUTES**

BEYOND THE GAME / THE NFL SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY REPORT / 2020 SEASON / 40

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

ANTI-RACISM AND UNCONSCIOUS BIAS TRAININGS

RISE was selected as the NFL's recommended training provider for League-mandated Anti-Racism and Unconscious Bias trainings for team staff, players and coaches. A total of 19 teams participated in RISE-led trainings. The Anti-Racism curriculum explores the concept of race, teaches participants to identify racism in a variety of contexts, and helps them to identify anti-racism strategies. In the Unconscious Bias sessions, participants explore what biases are and where they come from, and explore the role biases play in influencing our actions.

NFL EMPLOYEE RESOURCE GROUPS

NFL DIVERSITY COUNCIL

Established in 2002, the **NFL Diversity Council** seeks to collaborate with the Commissioner and NFL executive team to design and implement policies and programs to build diversity awareness and foster an inclusive work environment.

WOMEN'S INTERACTIVE NETWORK (WIN)

The mission of **WIN** is to help accelerate the career advancement of women at the NFL while deepening the engagement of all employees at the League. **WIN** provides an opportunity for male and female employees in all office locations to educate each other on gender and diversity issues in the workplace, supports a peer network for participants, and helps foster the hiring, retention, career development and promotional opportunities of female employees.

NFL PRIDE NETWORK

In 2017, the Diversity Council and Human Resources team, along with an Executive Sponsorship team, launched the **NFL Pride Network**. The **NFL Pride Network** is an internal resource open to all employees to engage the LGBTQ community and its allies. In the summer of 2018, the NFL also participated in its first ever **New York City Pride Parade** by sponsoring a float hosted by NFL Pride leaders, League employees and former NFL players.

BLACK ENGAGEMENT NETWORK (BEN)

In 2016, the Diversity Council and Human Resources team launched the **Black Engagement Network**, an employee resource group open to all NFL employees and designed to strengthen employee engagement. **BEN** operates as a vehicle for executive management to engage in topics concerning diversity, serve as an Employee Resource Group (ERG) to solve business challenges, and identify opportunities to expand diversity and inclusion in the organization.

ASIAN PROFESSIONAL EXCHANGE (APEX)

APEX aims to serve as a bridge between the Asian community, Asian employees and allies, adjacent NFL employee resource groups, and the NFL's corporate culture and brand. It examines the NFL's corporate culture and leads discussions on diversity and inclusion in the workplace, as well as explores new and innovative methods to advance and grow football in traditionally Asian communities and create dialogue and opportunities for the recruitment, training, retention and advancement of diverse candidates.

BEYOND THE GAME / THE NFL SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY REPORT / 2020 SEASON / 41

NFL COMMUNITY TEAMMATES

NFL Community Teammates is a cross-departmental employee resource group dedicated to volunteering together in the community. The group's mission is to build a culture of community service and volunteerism at the NFL League Office in order to enhance meaningful team building, company morale and impact.

Giving back to the communities that mean so much to this game and the NFL is a priority. Through the lens of NFL Community Teammates, NFL employees are encouraged to not only give back to their community, but to also play an active "teammate" role.

PARENTS INITIATIVE NETWORK (PIN)

The Parents Initiative Network is a parenthood community dedicated to fostering support for NFL working parents and those employees involved in or who may become involved in raising children. Adopting from a past NFL campaign, "Football is Family," PIN's goal is to support parents and caretakers to have the foundation, information and community to help achieve a healthy balance and navigate the day-to-day challenges of modern family life.

LIGA

LIGA is a coalition of employees focused on supporting the engagement and professional development of Latinx employees at the NFL while also bringing a greater understanding and appreciation of the Latinx community to NFL employees of all walks of life. By facilitating discussions around cultural inclusivity and important diversity issues, LIGA hopes to identify opportunities that expand on the NFL's positive work environment while celebrating the richness of Latinx cultural diversity and driving cultural engagement.

NFL GREEN TEAM

Open to all NFL employees, NFL Green Team leads the charge in environmental stewardship, creating a strong culture of sustainability and awareness in the workplace. Through education about our environmental impact and opportunities to efficiently reduce, reuse and recycle, the group aims to cultivate an environmentally conscious campus while also encouraging employees to follow through both at home and in their community.

WOMEN'S CAREERS IN FOOTBALL FORUM

▶ This year, the NFL hosted its fifth annual Women's Careers in Football Forum virtually as part of its ongoing commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion. The objective of this program is to connect women in entry-level college football roles with NFL leaders who can help them pursue football operations positions at League clubs. The Forum connected 40 women, 75% of whom are women of color, with leaders in professional football to help them network and build relationships in the areas of coaching, scouting and football operations.

▶ Since 2017, the Forum has served to help develop a more diverse talent pipeline by connecting high-potential women to career opportunities in football. Over the past four years, 118 opportunities have emerged for women in football. Past participants of the forum include: Brown University Quarterbacks Coach **HEATHER MARINI**, the first female positional coach in the history of the sport; Cleveland Browns Chief of Staff **CALLIE BROWNSON**; Tampa Bay Buccaneers Assistant Defensive Line Coach **LORI LOCUST**, the first female positional coach in the NFL; San Francisco 49ers Pro Personnel Analyst **SALLI CLAVELLE**, the NFL's first Black female scout; and Washington Football Team Assistant Running Backs Coach **JENNIFER KING**, the League's first Black female coach.

▶ Featured speakers included NFL Commissioner **ROGER GOODELL**, **JANE SKINNER GOODELL** and NFL Chief Football Administrative Officer **DAWN APONTE**, as well as three club owners, seven head coaches and seven general managers (listed below).

NFL CLUB OWNERS

DEE HASLAM, Cleveland Browns Manager and Principal Partner
SHEILA FORD HAMP, Detroit Lions Owner and Chairman
DARCIE GLAZER KASSEWITZ, Tampa Bay Buccaneers Co-Owner & President of Glazer Vision Foundation

NFL HEAD COACHES

SEAN McDERMOTT, Buffalo Bills
BRIAN FLORES, Miami Dolphins
BILL BELICHICK, New England Patriots
ROBERT SALEH, New York Jets
BRUCE ARIANS, Tampa Bay Buccaneers
MIKE VRABEL, Tennessee Titans
RON RIVERA, Washington Football Team

NFL GENERAL MANAGERS

TERRY FONTENOT, Atlanta Falcons
BRANDON BEANE, Buffalo Bills
ANDREW BERRY, Cleveland Browns
BRAD HOLMES, Detroit Lions
NICK CASERIO, Houston Texans
JON ROBINSON, Tennessee Titans
JASON LICHT, Tampa Bay Buccaneers

CONNECTED 40 WOMEN, 75% OF WHOM ARE WOMEN OF COLOR, WITH LEADERS IN PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL.

SINCE 2017, 118 OPPORTUNITIES HAVE EMERGED FOR WOMEN IN FOOTBALL.

NFL FOUNDATION

THE NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE FOUNDATION IS A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO IMPROVING THE LIVES OF THOSE TOUCHED BY THE GAME OF FOOTBALL. THE NFL FOUNDATION—IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE 32 NFL CLUBS—SUPPORTS THE HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELLNESS OF ATHLETES ACROSS ALL LEVELS, INCLUDING YOUTH FOOTBALL AND THE COMMUNITIES THAT SUPPORT THE GAME.



The NFL Foundation operates 49 grant and recognition programs, including youth and high school football support grants, national partnerships focused on player health and safety, and efforts to support players' philanthropic efforts. The NFL Foundation is central to the League's ongoing efforts to make a positive impact in communities—not just in club markets, but across the nation as well.

The NFL Foundation also funds and supports evidence-based youth character, social and emotional learning (SEL) initiatives, social justice grants and programming at the grassroots and national level, and year-round support of the League's on-field cause campaigns like **Crucial Catch** and **Salute to Service**. In addition, the Foundation ensures that the NFL leaves a lasting impact by providing Legacy Grants to support the communities hosting events, such as the Super Bowl and NFL Draft.

To learn more, visit [NFLFOUNDATION.ORG](https://www.nflfoundation.org)



PLAYER MATCHING SOCIAL JUSTICE GRANTS 2020

707 GRANTS AWARDED → **\$2,514,685**

501 CURRENT PLAYER GRANTS **\$1,533,040**

205 LEGEND GRANTS **\$981,645**

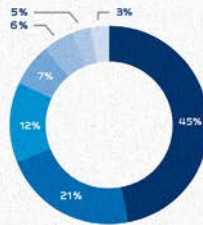
MORE THAN 700 PLAYER MATCHING GRANTS WERE AWARDED TOTALING OVER **\$2.5 MILLION** IN FISCAL 2020

THE NFL FOUNDATION HAS AWARDED OVER 1,400 PLAYER MATCHING SOCIAL JUSTICE GRANTS TOTALING OVER **\$5 MILLION** DOLLARS FROM 2017-2020

PLAYER MATCHING SOCIAL JUSTICE GRANTS 2017-2020

67% CURRENT NFL PLAYERS **33%** LEGENDS

TOTAL GRANTS AWARDED
1400+



PLAYER/LEGEND MATCHING SOCIAL JUSTICE GRANTS:

- EDUCATION
- POVERTY
- CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM
- COMMUNITY-POLICE RELATIONS
- RACIAL EQUALITY
- OTHER (MOSTLY COVID RELIEF)
- WORKFORCE/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

DISASTER RELIEF

The NFL Foundation continues to play a key role in recovery and relief efforts following major disasters around the country. In 2020, the Foundation focused heavily on COVID-19 relief and was also able to respond to other natural disasters that have impacted our communities.

2020 NFL/NFL FOUNDATION COVID-19 DISASTER RELIEF

NONPROFIT	NONPROFIT BENEFICIARY	CONTRIBUTION
AMERICAN RED CROSS	Facilitate blood donations across the country.	\$500,000
BOB WOODRUFF FOUNDATION	Financial support and mental health services for impacted veterans.	\$250,000
BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF AMERICA	Distribute food and bottled waters for youngsters and families; daycare for first responders.	\$250,000
CDC FOUNDATION	Resources and medical equipment for healthcare facilities and hospitals; assistance for those with underlying health conditions, individuals quarantined and those in the prison system.	\$500,000
GENYOUTH FOUNDATION	Food supplies and food distribution for school-aged children.	\$250,000
MEALS ON WHEELS	Food for the elderly to help combat hunger and senior isolation.	\$250,000
SALVATION ARMY	Emergency financial assistance for the poor; food and hygiene for the homeless.	\$500,000
TEAM RUBICON	Veterans serving on the front lines to help deliver food, water and help run testing locations across the country.	\$250,000
UNITED WAY	Childcare for families and emergency workers; food bank support; emergency financial assistance.	\$500,000
WOUNDED WARRIOR PROJECT	Virtual physical health and wellness assistance, peer mentoring services and livestream engagement platform for veterans nationwide.	\$250,000
TOTALS:		\$3,500,000

2020 NFL FOUNDATION DISASTER RELIEF (NON-COVID)

DISASTER	ACTIVITY	CONTRIBUTION
HURRICANE LAURA	Contributed a total of \$250,000 to help support those impacted by Hurricane Laura including Feeding Louisiana, Community Foundation of Southwest Louisiana and the American Red Cross of Louisiana.	\$250,000
TEXAS WINTER STORMS	Contributed a total of \$200,000 to help support relief efforts following the winter storms that devastated areas of Texas. Contributions included \$100,000 to the Houston Texans Foundation to help support the Greater Houston/Harris County 2021 Winter Storm Relief Fund, and \$100,000 to the Gene & Jerry Jones Family Charities to provide relief funds to the Arlington Independent School District and Salvation Army Texas.	\$200,000
NASHVILLE TORNADES	Contributed to the Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee to provide relief efforts following the spring 2020 tornadoes that devastated Nashville and its surrounding areas.	\$250,000
TOTALS:		\$700,000

NEW GRANTS

PRO BOWL CHAMPION GRANT

To help support the return of youth and high school football in club markets, the NFL Foundation offered each player named to the 2021 Pro Bowl roster a \$5,000 grant to help support the return of youth and high school football in the player's club market.

\$5,000 GRANT
FOR EACH PRO BOWL PLAYER TO SUPPORT YOUTH & HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

NIKE YOUTH FOOTBALL GRANT

Through an expanded partnership with Nike, the NFL and NFL Foundation provided up to \$10,000 per club specifically for youth and high school football support.

\$10,000
FOR EACH CLUB TO SUPPORT YOUTH & HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

DIGITAL DIVIDE GRANT

The ability to access computers and the Internet has become increasingly important to completely immerse oneself in the economic, political and social aspects of the country and the world. However, not everyone has access to this technology. The NFL Foundation provided up to \$30,000 per NFL club to earmark for work with local nonprofits to help bridge the "digital divide" in their communities.

\$30,000
FOR EACH CLUB TO HELP BRIDGE THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

FUNDING PARTNERS SUMMIT

The NFL Foundation, with support from Boost Social Sector Consulting, hosted a virtual **Funding Partners Summit** with its 10 nonprofit organizational partners in youth health and wellness. The Summit spanned two days in mid-September and included a range of speakers and topics. The overall objective was to develop a shared roadmap for achieving greater, holistic impact through more intentional collaboration and alignment across the NFL Foundation's youth funding partners.

Discussion topics included holistic approaches to youth health and wellness, collaboration opportunities with other funding partners, performance measurement and extending reach and impact beyond NFL markets. Partners also shared insights on their respective social justice and racial equality initiatives. Guest speakers from the NFL and NFL clubs provided insights on social justice work, promotion strategies and club engagement.

The Summit was very well received and momentum has continued into 2021 with a series of working sessions on aligning performance measurement strategies across partners to develop a common set of metrics that can showcase the impact of the NFL Foundation's work on youth health and wellness.

CHARACTER PLAYBOOK

POWERED BY EVERFI



Character Playbook is a digital education program that helps middle school students learn how to cultivate and maintain healthy relationships. The NFL, **United Way**, and digital learning innovator **EVERFI, Inc.**, created this scalable and evidenced-based program, which has been rolled out in all 32 NFL market communities over the past five years.

With the COVID-19 pandemic resulting in an unprecedented level of school closures nationwide during 2020—more than 55 million students across 124,000 schools were impacted—as well as the reignited conversations about social justice in the wake of the protests after George Floyd's murder, Character Playbook continued to provide critical social-emotional and mental wellness resources to middle and high school students. Over 240,000 students took at least one module of the Healthy Relationships and/or Mental Wellness Basics courses within Character Playbook, and teams and local United Ways engaged with students virtually with over 20 virtual events between April 2020 and March 2021.

Character Playbook introduced several new events during this time-frame, including cultural heritage celebrations, an exploration of off-the-field careers in sports, and even a special virtual visit from astronauts on the International Space Station.

CHARACTER PLAYBOOK EVENTS INCLUDED:

- **Hispanic Heritage Month** (October 2020) with Anthony Munoz Foundation, which featured Arizona Cardinals reporter **LISA MATTHEWS**, NFL Hall of Famer **ANTHONY MUNOZ** and others as they celebrated their Hispanic heritage.
- **Black History Month Speaker Series** (February 2021) with NFL, United Way Worldwide and EVERFI, which was a three-part Character Playbook LIVE event series that examined the past, present and future of voting and civic engagement in America. The series was aimed at digging deeper into the role of sports as a vehicle for change through civic engagement.
- **Women's History Month: Breaking Barriers** (March 2021) virtual panel with EVERFI, which had female participants share stories and challenges that they faced while succeeding in sports, including Dallas Cowboys Executive Vice President and NFL Foundation Chair **CHARLOTTE JONES**. The panel was intended for any and all interested parties, but specifically aimed at middle and high school students and teachers.

CHARACTER
PLAYBOOK
CHARACTER
PLAYBOOK
CHARACTER
PLAYBOOK



MORE THAN 240,000 STUDENTS
TOOK AT LEAST ONE MODULE OF THE HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS
AND/OR MENTAL WELLNESS BASIC COURSES

MORE THAN 20 VIRTUAL EVENTS



INSIDEOUT INITIATIVE



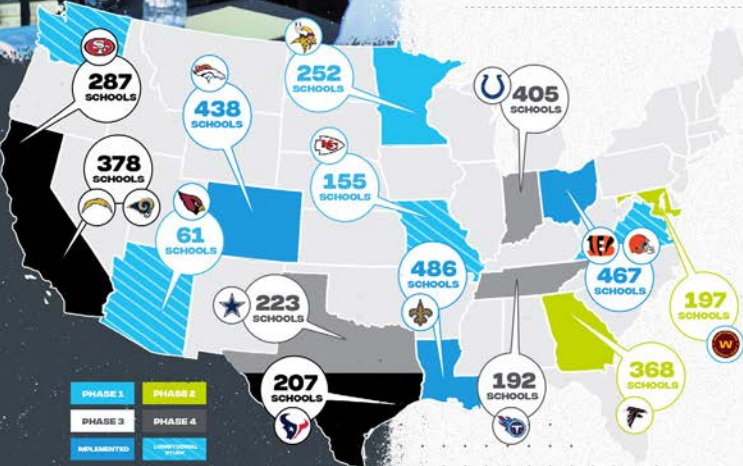
The InSideOut Initiative (ISOI) is a national movement that connects student-athletes to transformational coaches, in a culture of belonging, for their social-emotional and character development. Empowered by the NFL Foundation, InSideOut aims to reclaim sports as an educational experience.

Despite the 2020 pandemic, InSideOut Initiative continued to serve and support its partners through multimedia campaigns that included Zoom, website updates, and email and social media strategies. Entering its fifth year, ISOI has trained thousands of educational leaders, athletic administrators and coaches to create a culture of purpose-based athletics within school communities that care and support student-athletes.

When the pandemic hit in early 2020, student-athletes began to feel the impact almost immediately. Many of the rites of passage traditionally

afforded to young people were canceled—from prom to tournaments to graduation parties—leaving them without a sense of closure or finality to meaningful high school experiences. At the same time, coaches and athletics and activities directors alike were left wondering how to maintain a sense of connection and community with student-athletes, despite COVID-19.

The InSideOut Initiative jumped into action, planning and executing a series of initiatives that welcomed InSideOut schools—and, in some cases, even the general public—into a series of practices and ideas to encourage connection amidst isolation. This new programming not only encouraged connection between adult leaders and student-athletes, but also leaders to one another—helping to foster a sense of community and encourage idea-sharing between like-minded leaders across the country.



LONGITUDINAL STUDY

The InSideOut Initiative has embarked upon a longitudinal study to evaluate the impact of its four-phase initiative, and 2021 marks the kickoff of student-athlete data collection.

The largest systems-level study ever conducted in interscholastic athletics to measure student-athletes' social emotional and character development, the data collected will tell a story of how InSideOut's impact on athletic administrators and coaches is reflected in the lives of the student-athletes they support.

This study will emphasize the impact of InSideOut Initiative on high school football coaches and their players. Four NFL teams and state athletic and educational associations have been selected to participate:

1. Washington Football Team and Virginia High School League
2. Arizona Cardinals and Arizona Interscholastic Athletic Association
3. Kansas City Chiefs and Missouri High School Athletic Association
4. Seattle Seahawks and Washington Interscholastic Athletic Association

InSideOut is collaborating with the **Institute to Promote Athlete Health and Wellness at the University of North Carolina Greensboro** to complete this study.



For You. For the Game.

The NFL Foundation has been a strong supporter of USA Football since its formation as the sport's national governing body. USA Football helps make the game smarter, safer and more fun for the kids who play it. Through training, education and events, USA Football gets everyone on the same page—from parents and players to coaches and commissioners. The organization was endowed in 2002 by the National Football League and the NFL Players' Association.

You coach, you organize, you play—you give your time to football. USA Football is here to help you make the most of it.

To learn more, visit USAFOOTBALL.COM

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THE FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT MODEL

Football For All™

USA Football's Football Development Model is a new approach to youth football. It's designed to help coaches teach athletes based on their age, the skill they are learning and game type. This approach assists with the development of young athletes and allows them to learn the game and related skills in a progression that best suits them, as well as offers young athletes more opportunities to play the game and choose the type of football they want to play. Like many sports, football has changed and evolved over time. Regardless of challenges it has faced, the sport remains "America's game," with millions of young athletes participating nationwide.

Learn more at FDM.USAFOOTBALL.COM

FIRST DOWN

Learn to Play Football

First Down is a fun and free introduction to football for kids and their parents. No contact, no cost, all fun. Young athletes get active and learn the basics like running, jumping, passing and catching. Through hundreds of events, tens of thousands of kids experience football for the first time. All skills and drills selected are based on the **Football Development Model**.

First Down curriculum is able to fit your camp's needs based on length of time, space, age and number of kids attending. Join the hundreds of current and former NFL players that bring First Down to their community each summer.

For more, visit USAFOOTBALL.COM/FIRSTDOWN

COACH CERTIFICATION

Become a Better Coach

The USA Football Coach Certification program is a way for coaches to "step up to the standard" and be the best leaders for their athletes. Through certification, coaches pledge to make athletes their top priority and are given access to new and useful videos, resources and tools to enhance the game.

In the program, coaches learn about:

- The Football Development Model: How to develop and teach athletes
- Health & Safety: Head, heart and heat, plus so much more
- Anti-Abuse & Coach 101: Protecting the well-being of athletes

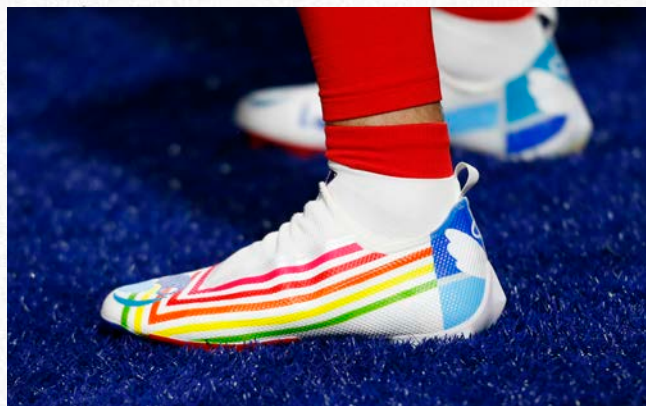
NFL AUCTION

The NFL is the only professional sports league in America that does not retain any profits generated by the sale of products on their auction platform. **NFL Auction** plays a key role in the NFL's **Crucial Catch** and **Salute to Service** campaigns. Game-used and game-issued items are featured on the site so that money can be raised for the League's charitable partners.

NFL Auction also helps players support the causes they care about. Through the auction of game-worn cleats from the **My Cause My Cleats** initiative and unique signed memorabilia and experiences, NFL Auction has raised more than \$1 million for player-supported causes and charities since 2016.

NFL Auction has also played a key fundraising role in COVID-19 relief, raising money to support food and education causes, as well as fundraising for the CDC Foundation.

Find out more about the causes and partners we support by visiting [▶ NFL.COM/AUCTION](https://nfl.com/auction)



SINCE 2016, NFL AUCTION HAS RAISED MORE THAN \$1 MILLION FOR PLAYER-SUPPORTED CAUSES AND CHARITIES

NFL AUCTION

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT

NFL.COM/COMMUNITY

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IT TAKES ALL OF US



PRESENTED BY  MADDEN  22

INTERNATIONAL NFL

NFL CONTINUES

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

LEAGUE WILL PLAY TWO GAMES IN THE UK

In 2021, four NFL teams will make their return to international play at London's Tottenham Hotspur Stadium. The NFL's London Games series has consisted of 28 games in 13 seasons from 2007-2019. This season's games will represent the continuation of this important international initiative after the coronavirus pandemic forced all games in 2020 to be played in the United States.



The Atlanta Falcons will host the New York Jets on Sunday, October 10 and the Jacksonville Jaguars will be at home against the Miami Dolphins on Sunday, October 17, with both games kicking off at 2.30 p.m. UK time (9.30 a.m. ET) at Tottenham.

"We are excited to be returning to London and welcoming back our fans for two great matchups," said NFL Executive Vice-President -- Chief Strategy & Growth Officer **CHRISTOPHER HALPIN**.

"We expect these games to be a celebration of our sport and our robust UK fan base."

UK fans can expect two highly competitive matchups between some of the League's most exciting quarterbacks. Four-time Pro Bowler **MATT RYAN** and the Falcons will face on the second overall pick from the 2021 NFL Draft, **ZACH WILSON**, and the New York Jets.

The excitement doesn't stop there as the next week, the Jacksonville Jaguars and the first overall pick from the 2021 NFL Draft, **TREVOR LAWRENCE**, will match up against second-year quarterback **TUA TAGOVAILOA** and the Dolphins.

"The Jaguars are honored to return to London, our home away from home, and continue in our mission to grow the NFL and promote Jacksonville in the UK and beyond," said Jaguars team owner **SHAD KHAN**. "With Urban Meyer as our head coach, we'll be arriving with an entirely new look and attitude that I'm confident will meet the approval of our Union Jax supporters. I'm also hoping that many of our loyal fans in Jacksonville can join us in London for a great experience."



NFL CONTINUES

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

PLAYERS, COACHES & EXECUTIVES DISCUSS PLAYING IN LONDON THROUGHOUT THE YEARS

PLAYER/COACH/ EXECUTIVE, TEAM	COMMENT
Rich McKay Atlanta Falcons	"We're honored to return to London for the first time since 2014 as part of the NFL International Series and look forward to the world-class experience at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium. Our league receives great support from passionate NFL fans in the UK and we're looking to gain more Falcons fans with the trip."
Russell Wilson Seattle Seahawks	"When I was a young kid growing up, I never thought I'd be playing football in London. But now the fact that it's real and the fact that the NFL is growing worldwide, and how much that means to the sport and everything else, and how the fans can really get into it around the world- - the more they get to see the better it's going to be."
Ben Roethlisberger Pittsburgh Steelers	"It was eye opening to me to see so many fans and that the sport is growing over here."
Ron Rivera Washington Football Team (with the Carolina Panthers in 2019)	"I've had the chance to play and coach in London before and those were unbelievable experiences. The fans are outstanding, and they have such fervor for the game."
Efe Obada Buffalo Bills (with the Carolina Panthers in 2019)	"Honestly, just the full circle of, you know, starting from over there and then going back and having the opportunity to play in front of local Brits and people that are inspiring to be who I am, as well just in front of my family."
Sean McVay Los Angeles Rams	"It does offer a great opportunity to compete in a different place."
Odell Beckham Jr. (with the New York Giants in 2016)	"It's an amazing place. I was thankful for the opportunity. The fans were great, it was an amazing atmosphere."



Tim Ireland / AP

NFL CONTINUES

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

NFL ENHANCED SEASON SCHEDULE WILL ALLOW FOR EXPANDED INTERNATIONAL PLAY

With the approval of the enhanced season structure by NFL clubs, fans can look forward to their favorite team playing 17 regular season games in 2021. The enhanced season structure will also allow for more international play as each team will play internationally at least once every eight years.

"This is a monumental moment in NFL history," said NFL Commissioner **ROGER GOODELL**. "The CBA with the players and the recently completed media agreements provide the foundation for us to enhance the quality of the NFL experience for our fans. And one of the benefits of each team playing 17 regular-season games is the ability for us to continue to grow our game around the world."

The scheduling of up to four neutral-site games per year in a country outside the United States will focus initially on Canada, Europe, Mexico, South America and the United Kingdom. Interested clubs can continue to volunteer to play home games internationally.

NFL REQUESTS PROPOSALS FOR FUTURE REGULAR-SEASON GAMES IN GERMANY

Heading into the 2021 season, the NFL announced the launch of a process to identify a partner city for regular-season games in Germany. As international fandom is growing rapidly, the NFL is looking to potentially expand their International Series into Mainland Europe.

The NFL has held 28 total regular-season games in London since 2007, in addition to games in Canada and Mexico. The International Series provides cities across the world a platform to showcase their city to a wide audience of NFL fans, domestically and abroad.

"The International Series has become a highlight of the sporting calendar in the UK, with many fans travelling from Germany to attend," said NFL Head of UK and Europe **BRETT GOSPER**. "We are very excited about the development of our German fan base, and the time is right to identify a partner who can execute a game at NFL standards as part of our international growth strategy."

"This process is designed to explore potential local partnerships, stadium suitability and game logistics. We need engaged and motivated host partners that span the public sector, venue, sport, community and major event spheres and can help us deliver a high-impact event and a long-term partnership. Identifying a preferred host city is a key step in bringing regular-season NFL games to our millions of German fans."

The process follows a number of strong years of fan growth in Germany. Weekly NFL television viewership on partners ProSieben and DAZN has grown by more than 20 percent annually since 2017, and millions of fans tuned in for Super Bowl LV, making it the third consecutive season of record German Super Bowl viewership. Germany is a leading market outside North America for NFL Shop sales, fantasy football participation and sales of the Madden NFL video game.

INTERNATIONAL FEEL

As NFL popularity continues to grow around the world, more international players are earning the opportunity to showcase their talent.

It was a record-tying year as four Canadian players heard their name called during the 2021 NFL Draft.

Coquitlam, British Columbia native **JEVON HOLLAND** led the way after the Miami Dolphins selected the Oregon safety in the second round (36th overall). "I think in college it's a completely different beast than the NFL," said Holland. "I'm going to absorb all the knowledge possible."

The next Canadian to come off the board was Montreal, Quebec native **BENJAMIN ST-JUSTE**, who was selected by Washington in the third round (74th overall). "Obviously being from Canada, everybody plays hockey, including myself," said St-Juste. "Playing football was the uncommon route and I wanted to be that kid that makes it out of Canada playing football instead of hockey. That's what drew me to the sport."

Following very shortly after St. Juste was Tennessee wide receiver **JOSH PALMER**. A native of Brampton, Ontario, Palmer was chosen by the Los Angeles Chargers with the 77th overall selection.

Rounding out the 2021 Draft Canadian selections was Oklahoma State running back **CHUBA HUBBARD**. Hubbard went off the board in the fourth round (126th overall) to the Carolina Panthers.



Alex Brandon / AP



Alex Gallardo / AP



Nell Redmond / AP

INTERNATIONAL FEEL

A SAMPLE OF ACTIVE FOREIGN-BORN PLAYERS IN THE NFL

*Includes players on rosters as of August 26, 2021

COUNTRY	PLAYERS
American Samoa	DT Daniel Ekuale, JAX; G Jeremiah Kolono, LAR; LB Frankie Luvu, CAR; T Penei Sewell, DET
Australia	P Jordan Berry, PIT; P Michael Dickson, SEA; DE Adam Gotsis, JAX; P Cameron Johnston, HOU; DE Matt Leo, PHI; T Jordan Mailata, PHI; P Arryn Siposs, PHI; P Mitch Wishnowsky, SF
Austria	RB Sandro Platzgummer, NYG; TE Bernhard Seikovits, AZ
Bahamas	WR Mich Strachan, IND
Belize	K Rodrigo Blankenship, IND; DT Rakeem Nuñez-Roches, TB
Brazil	DT Durval Queiroz Neto, MIA; K Cairo Santos, CHI
Canada	DT Eli Ankou, ATL; TE Antony Auclair, HOU; CB Tevaughn Campbell, LAC; WR Chase Claypool, PIT; LB Christian Covington, LAC; DT Jack Crawford, AZ; G Laurent Duvernay-Tardif, KC; DL Neville Gallimore, DAL; WR N'Keal Harry, NE; DL Mike Hoecht, LAR; S Jevon Holland, MIA; RB Chuba Hubbard, CAR; T Ryan Hunter, LAC; T Alaric Jackson, LAR; G Pier-Olivier Lestage, SEA; TE Rysen John, NYG; C Brett Jones, DEN; K JJ Molson, GB; OL Carter O'Donnell, IND; WR Josh Palmer, LAC; DT Nathan Shepherd, NYJ; G Dakoda Shepley, SF; CB Benjamin St-Juste, WAS; DE Brent Urban, DAL
Chile	TE Sammis Reyes, WAS
Denmark	G Hjalte Froholdt, HOU
England	G Jermaine Eluemunor, MIA; DE Josh Mauro, AZ; S Obi Melifonwu, PHI; DE Julian Okwara, DET; RB Christian Wade, BUF
Estonia	DT Margus Hunt, AZ
Germany	DE David Bada, WAS; CB Deante Burton, DAL; LB Aaron Donkor, SEA; K Dominik Eberle, CAR; T Devery Hamilton, LV; C Rodney Hudson, AZ; CB Michael Jackson Sr., NE; FB Jakob Johnson, NE; CB Ryan Smith, LAC; WR Vyncint Smith, NYJ
Grenada	DT Bobby Brown, LAR
Guinea	DE Kwity Paye, IND; DE Kemoko Turay, IND
Italy	OL Max Pircher, LAR
Ivory Coast	LB Azur Kamara, DAL

INTERNATIONAL FEEL

A SAMPLE OF ACTIVE FOREIGN-BORN PLAYERS IN THE NFL (cont.)

*Includes players on rosters as of August 26, 2021

COUNTRY	PLAYERS
Jamaica	DE Danielle Hunter, MIN; CB Nevin Lawson, LV; T Matt Peart, NYG; T Kamaal Seymour, LV; OL Laken Tomlinson, SF
Japan	LB Jacob Bobenmoyer, DEN; WR DaeSean Hamilton, DEN; Patrick Jones, MIN
Liberia	RB Gus Edwards, BAL;
Mexico	OT Isaac Alarcon, DAL; OL Alfredo Gutierrez, SF
New Zealand	DT Marlon Tuipulotu, PHI
Nigeria	LB Ola Adeniyi, TEN; WR Nelson Agholor, NE; LB Jeremiah Attaochu, CHI; LB Ben Banogu, IND; Caleb Benenoch, NO; G Sam Cooper, BAL; LB Victor Dimukeje, AZ; LB Samson Ebukam, SF; DE Efe Obada, BUF; DE Emmanuel Ogbah, MIA; LB Amen Ogbongbemiga, LAC; OL Chukwuma Okorafor, PIT; DE Romeo Okwara, DET; DT David Onyemata, NO; DE Joseph Ossai, CIN; T Prince Tega Wanogho, KC
Scotland	K Graham Gano, NYG; P Jamie Gillan, CLE
South Africa	OL Dieter Eiselen, CHI; K Greg Joseph, MIN
South Korea	K Younghoe Koo, ATL
Spain	WR J.J. Arcega-Whiteside, PHI
Tonga	DT Star Lotulelei, BUF; DT David Moea, NYG; OL Netane Muti, DEN
Turkey	WR Chris Conley, HOU
Uruguay	TE Josiah Deguara, GB
U.S. Virgin Islands	DT Linval Joseph, LAC
Venezuela	K Jose Borregales, TB
West Africa	DE Kemoko Turay, IND
Zambia	OLB John Daka, LAR; CB Emmanuel Rugamba, CLE

INTERNATIONAL PLAYER PATHWAY PROGRAM

The International Player Pathway Program was instituted in 2017 and aims to provide international athletes the chance to compete at the NFL level, improve their skills and ultimately compete for a spot on an NFL roster. This season, the program was expanded to the NFC West through a random draw.

"The International Player Pathway Program provides athletes with a viable route to the NFL and an opportunity to further develop their skills," said **DAMANI LEECH**, NFL Chief Operating Officer of International. "We are excited to welcome the 2021 class to the NFL and continue growing the game globally."



The 2021 players are: **AARON DONKOR** (Seattle Seahawks), a German linebacker who played for the German Football league before transferring to Arkansas State for his remaining eligibility; **ALFREDO GUTIERREZ** (San Francisco 49ers), a Mexican offensive lineman who won the 2019 national championship while at Tec de Monterrey; **MAX PIRCHER** (Los Angeles Rams), a former member of the Italian National Team; and **BERNHARD SEIKOVITS** (Arizona Cardinals).

SAMMIS REYES, a former Tulane University basketball player who was also competing for a position in this year's International Player Pathway Program, was signed by the Washington Football Team in April.



"I fell in love with the sport of football actually because of my best friend who played," said **SEIKOVITS** (above). "After my first practice I fell in love."

New this year, clubs will have the opportunity to elevate their International Player ("IP") to the active roster, subject to the following rules. Beginning with the 2021 season, clubs will be permitted to add their IP to the Active/Inactive List so long as the club has removed the international exemption and counted a player on the Practice Squad for a minimum of three consecutive games (a bye week will count as a game). For the first time, program participants wore a decal of their home country's flag on their helmets during the 2021 NFL preseason.

Additionally, four players from the 2020 program will rejoin their NFC East teams for the 2021 season: Dallas Cowboys offensive tackle **ISAAC ALARCON** from Mexico, Washington Football Team defensive end **DAVID BADA** from Germany, Philadelphia Eagles defensive end **MATT LEO** from Australia, and New York Giants running back **SANDRO PLATZGUMMER** from Austria.

"I'm excited to be back with Washington, and I'm looking forward competing to make the roster this year" said Bada.

INTERNATIONAL PLAYER PATHWAY PROGRAM

NEW PLAYERS IN 2021

PLAYER	BIO
AARON DONKOR LB, Seattle Seahawks (Germany)	A native of Germany, played with the German Football League's Dusseldorf Panthers in 2016. In 2017, joined the New Mexico Military Institute. Saw action in 12 games over two seasons and accumulated 32 tackles, 12.5 sacks, 4.5 tackles for loss, two fumble recoveries and one forced fumble. Transferred to Arkansas State for his remaining eligibility and posted 25 tackles during the 2019 season.
ALFREDO GUTIERREZ OL, San Francisco 49ers (Mexico)	Grew up playing youth football in Mexico before moving to the U.S. Upon graduating high school, Gutierrez enrolled in junior college before returning home to Mexico and joining Tec de Monterrey on a full athletic scholarship. Graduated from Tec de Monterrey, where he won a National Championship in 2019.
MAX PRICHER OL, Los Angeles Rams (Italy)	After attending a Swarco Raiders football game in Austria, Pircher tried out for the very same team that introduced him to the game. He tested out positions such as tight end and defensive end before settling on offensive line. During the 2019 season, Pircher was named the starting right tackle for the Swarco Raiders and also played on the Italian National Team (Blue Team). Pircher has since moved on to play for the Hildesheim Invaders in Germany, where he balanced playing football and attending school.
BERNHARD SEIKOVITS TE, Arizona Cardinals (Austria)	Seikovits was first introduced to football when he started playing flag football at age 10. After his two-year introduction to the sport and its style of play, he transitioned to tackle football with the Vienna Vikings youth team at the age of 12. Seikovits was selected as a quarterback for the Austrian U19 national team when he was 16-years old. During his time in the program, he competed in two world championships and won a European championship. Following discussions with his coaches, Seikovits began transitioning to the wide receiver position. The position change did not slow him down, as he was selected to the men's national team at the age of 21, which he was a captain of.



INTERNATIONAL PLAYER PATHWAY PROGRAM

RETURNING PARTICIPANTS FROM 2020

PLAYER	BIO
<p>ISAAC ALARCORN OT, Dallas Cowboys (Mexico)</p>	<p>Represented Mexico at the U19 World Championships facing Team USA, Canada and Japan. Attended ITESM Monterrey, where he saw action at both right and left tackle. While at the university, he won the 2019 national championship and was selected to the CONADEIP all-star team. Spent the 2020 season on the Dallas Cowboys' practice squad.</p>
<p>DAVID BADA DE, Washington Football Team (Germany)</p>	<p>Competed in the German Football League's top division for the Schwabisch Hall Unicorns. Had previously played for the Ingolstadt Dukes, where he developed as a pass rusher. Spent the 2020 season on the Washington Football Team's practice squad.</p>
<p>MATT LEO DE, Philadelphia Eagles (Australia)</p>	<p>Played rugby while growing up in Australia. Earned a scholarship to Arizona Western College, then transferred to Iowa State. Was redshirted for one year and finished his eligibility by playing for two years as a defensive end. In 2019, Leo played in all 13 game, posting 14 tackles, 5.5 tackles for loss and one sack. A liberal studies major, he was First-Team Academic All-Big 12 Conference in 2019. Spent the 2020 season on the Philadelphia Eagles' practice squad.</p>
<p>SANDRO PLATZGUMMER RB, New York Giants (Austria)</p>	<p>Participated in youth football leagues while growing up in Austria. Represented Austria on their U19 team and competed on the senior team in the 2018 European Championships. In 2019, Platzgummer played running back for the Swarco Raiders Tirol of the Austrian Football League with nearly 1000 total yards and 15 total touchdowns. Spent the 2020 season on the New York Giants' practice squad.</p>



NFL ACADEMY IN LONDON

It's been two years since the NFL Academy opened its doors in London. The Academy, the first of its kind outside of the US, is based at Barnet and Southgate College in North London and gives student athletes aged 16-18 the opportunity to experience a high school-type program, combining education and life skills with intensive training in the sport under full-time professional coaches.

During the first year, 90 students were selected as the inaugural intake, since then a total 175 players have been part of the Academy. The program has seen its popularity soar in the UK – with more than 4,000 registering their interest in the Academy and more than 1,300 people having applied to join from the UK, Europe and around the world.

Here's a look at some of the key highlights from the first two years:

Scholarship Offers

So far there have been 39 NCAA Division 1 scholarship offers to NFL Academy students, including offers from Alabama, Auburn, Arkansas State, Akron, Brown, Ole Miss, Michigan State, Florida State, Notre Dame and West Kentucky, with students committing to Arkansas State, University of Ottawa in Canada and Tecnológico de Monterrey in Mexico. There were also successes on home soil with offers from UK universities such as Nottingham, where five students currently have offers.

A great example of the success so far is **SEYDOU TRAORE** who started with the NFL Academy in 2019 and this autumn will attend Arkansas State on a football scholarship:

"The game of football has completely changed my life," said Traore. "From BAFA (British American Football Association) to the NFL Academy in London, high school football in Florida and now to Division 1 FBS football. This sport has given me a career plan and something I loved and had a real passion for. It all started playing American football in south London as a youth having been given the opportunity to watch live NFL games in London, which was a great experience. I have had the opportunity to reach this stage because of the growth of football in the UK, with great coaches and mentors to help me along my path."



NFL ACADEMY IN LONDON

Roger Goodell Visits the NFL Academy



During the 2019 NFL London Games in October, NFL Academy students were able to spend time learning from the legends of the game, taking part in practice sessions with the Los Angeles Rams and Jacksonville Jaguars.

The students even had a special training session with NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell.

NFL Legend Jerry Rice Sprinkles His Stardust

In November 2019, the NFL Academy opened a new state of the art facility where an old drama hall was changed into a fully functioning NFL gym.

And when it came to its opening ceremony, only an NFL legend would do. Pro Football Hall of Fame wide receiver and NFL Academy ambassador Jerry Rice travelled from the US to give the Academy team a training session they would never forget.

"This an amazing Academy, just being here feels amazing," said **JERRY RICE**. "The NFL is doing a fantastic job of growing the game. We didn't have these kinds of facilities when I was learning the game. The students here have everything they need to be successful in life. The NFL Academy is about the sport, the education and the character and those things are very important. It's important to get your education first and everything that follows is the icing on the cake."



NFL ACADEMY IN LONDON

UK NFL stars give their backing

Rice wasn't the only NFL player to take an interest in the NFL Academy. Current UK NFL players **EFE OBADA**, **CHRISTIAN WADE** and **JAMIE GILLAN** all took time out of their busy schedules to train with the players and have spoken of their excitement for the future of the Academy.

"As someone that wishes they had the opportunity to take part in the NFL Academy, it's amazing," said Obaba. "It's an amazing experience that's going to put you in touch with great coaches and people who can help you succeed. You'll watch your life change the way the game has changed mine. I really want everyone to follow these guys and follow their stories because they are the future. I want to increase the awareness of the sport in the UK because it's changed my life and I just want it to change lives for everyone else."



NFL Academy Tackles ProBowl 2020

In January 2020, the NFL Academy students experienced a once-in-a-lifetime trip to the NFL Pro Bowl, where the students got to take part in a Skills Showcase and met up with the NFL all-stars.



Training in a Pandemic

As with every sport, in 2020 the NFL Academy was disrupted by the on-going challenges of the pandemic, but it didn't stop the hard work. The academy launched its first ever virtual tryouts to find the next generation of talent. The students were also able to keep up with their training at home and returned to on the field training later in the year.

This year the NFL Academy was able to host its first scrimmages as the students battled against each other with many more scrimmages and formal games planned throughout 2021 and beyond.

To keep up to date with everything going on at the NFL Academy, head over to [@nflacademy](https://www.instagram.com/nflacademy) on Instagram.

FLAG FOOTBALL TO JOIN 2022 WORLD GAMES

The World Games 2022 will look a little different with the addition of flag football to the existing lineup of 32 unique, multi-disciplinary sports. In partnership with the International World Games Association (IWGA) and International Federation of American Football (IFAF), the National Football League (NFL) will be the presenting sponsor of flag football at The World Games 2022.

"Being a part of the sports program in The World Games 2022 formalizes flag football as an international sport, which promotes the values and benefits of the game to fans around the world," said NFL Executive Vice President of Football Operations **TROY VINCENT**. "Flag football affords men and women, boys and girls, of all ages, body type, and athletic skill the opportunity to enjoy the values, fun and competitive environment that only football offers."

Flag Football @TWG2022 Presented by the NFL will feature eight men's and women's teams who will compete from around the world at Birmingham, Alabama's historic Legion Field to capture first place and a gold medal. United States men's and women's teams pre-qualified for The World Games 2022, as both groups are current reigning world champions. The remaining seven international teams will be selected through the IFAF qualifying process.

"We are excited for flag football to join the official lineup of The World Games in 2022, a competitive stage for football players from around the globe to showcase their skills," said NFL Chief Operating Officer of International **DAMANI LEECH**. "The NFL is committed to opportunities for athletes from around the world to participate in all levels of football and has been supportive of IFAF's work to bring flag football to The World Games, a great step forward in their long-term Olympic pursuits. We will be closely following the qualifying events which determine the top men's and women's flag football teams to compete in Birmingham."

The World Games 2022 will be an extraordinary Olympic-style sports experience where elite athletes from all over the world compete for gold. The World Games was established by the International World Games Association, an organization recognized by the International Olympic Committee and features 3,600 athletes from more than 100 countries, competing in 33 sports over 11 days in 25 venues. The games will take place July 7-17, 2022 in Birmingham, Alabama.



The World Games
2022 BIRMINGHAM, USA



PRESENTED BY  MADDEN  22

THE TEAMS

BUFFALO BILLS

AFC EAST

In 2020, the Buffalo Bills (13-3) earned their first AFC East division title since 1995 and advanced to the AFC Championship Game for the first time since 1993. Buffalo has advanced to the postseason in three of their first four seasons under head coach **SEAN MCDERMOTT**, who looks to lead the Bills to their third consecutive season with at least 10 wins for the first time since 1990-93 (four consecutive seasons).



Led by quarterback **JOSH ALLEN**, Buffalo's offense ranked second in the league with 31.3 points per game, the most in franchise history. Allen set franchise marks in passing yards (4,544) and touchdown passes (37) and added eight rushing touchdowns, becoming the first player with at least 4,500 passing yards, 35 touchdown passes and five rushing touchdowns in a single season in NFL history.

After rushing for eight touchdowns as a rookie in 2018 and a career-high nine touchdowns in 2019, Allen is the first quarterback with at least eight rushing touchdowns in each of his first three seasons in league annals. His 25 career rushing touchdowns are the second-most by a quarterback through his first three seasons in NFL history.

The QBs with the most rushing touchdowns in their first three seasons in NFL history:

PLAYER	TEAM	RUSHING TDs
Cam Newton	Carolina	28
Josh Allen	Buffalo	25
Lamar Jackson	Baltimore	19

Allen's 2020 success was due in part to the addition of wide receiver **STEFON DIGGS**, who led the NFL with 127 receptions – the sixth-highest single-season total in league annals – and 1,535 receiving yards in his first year in Buffalo, both single-season franchise records. Each of those marks are also the most-ever by a player in his first season with a team.

The players with the most receptions in a single season in NFL history:

PLAYER	TEAM	SEASON	REC.
Michael Thomas	New Orleans	2019	149
Marvin Harrison ^{HOF}	Indianapolis	2002	143
Antonio Brown	Pittsburgh	2015	136
Julio Jones	Atlanta	2015	136
Antonio Brown	Pittsburgh	2014	129
Stefon Diggs	Buffalo	2020	127



Diggs' historic year continued in the postseason, as he totaled 311 receiving yards (103.7 per game) in the Bills' three playoff games, eclipsing the 75-yard mark in each contest. Overall, Diggs recorded at least 75 receiving yards in 15 games last season, including the postseason, tied for the second-most such games in a single season in NFL history.

The players with the most games with at least 75 rec. yards, incl. the postseason, in NFL history:

PLAYER	TEAM	SEASON	GAMES
Michael Irvin ^{HOF}	Dallas	1995	16
Antonio Brown	Pittsburgh	2014	15
Stefon Diggs	Buffalo	2020	15

BUFFALO BILLS

AFC EAST

Diggs is joined by wide receiver **COLE BEASLEY**, who set career-highs in receptions (82) and receiving yards (967) in 2020. This offseason, Buffalo acquired wide receiver **EMMANUEL SANDERS**, who has 662 receptions for 8,619 yards and 47 touchdowns during his 11-year career.

Buffalo's defense tied for third in the league last season with 26 takeaways, led by cornerback **TRE'DAVIOUS WHITE**, who had a team-high three interceptions and added a forced fumble. Since entering the NFL in 2017, White is the only player in the NFL with at least 50 passes defended (54) and 15 interceptions (15).



White is joined in Buffalo's secondary by **JORDAN POYER**, who tied for the lead among all defensive backs with a career-high 118 tackles last season. Since joining the Bills in 2017, Poyer is one of three defensive backs with at least 300 tackles (414), 10 interceptions (13) and five sacks (seven).

The players with at least 300 tackles, 10 interceptions and five sacks since 2017:

PLAYER	TEAM	TKLs	INTs	SACKS
Tyrann Mathieu	Kansas City	300	14	6
Jordan Poyer	Buffalo	414	13	7
Harrison Smith	Minnesota	336	16	6

Another key member of the Bills secondary is cornerback **TARON JOHNSON**, who set career-bests in tackles (93) and passes defended (seven) last season. In Buffalo's AFC Divisional playoff win against Baltimore, Johnson recorded a 101-yard interception return for a touchdown, tied with **GEORGE TEAGUE** (1/8/94; 101-yard interception return for a touchdown) for the longest interception return in postseason history.

The middle of the defense is paced by linebacker **TREMAINE EDMUNDS**, who led the team with 119 tackles in 2020 and is one of four linebackers with at least 350 tackles (355) and 20 passes defended (24) since he entered the league in 2018.

The linebackers with at least 350 tackles and 20 passes defended since 2018:

PLAYER	TEAM	TKLs	PD
Tremaine Edmunds	Buffalo	355	24
Darius Leonard	Indianapolis	416	22
Bobby Wagner	Seattle	435	25
Fred Warner	San Francisco	366	21



In the 2021 NFL Draft, Buffalo used each of their first two picks on the defense line, selecting Miami's (FL) **GREGORY ROUSSEAU** (30th overall) in the first round and Wake Forest's **BOOGIE BASHAM** (61st overall) in the second. The franchise rookie sack record belongs to **CORNELIUS BENNETT**, who totaled 8.5 sacks in 1987.

MIAMI DOLPHINS

AFC EAST

Last season, the Miami Dolphins finished 10-6, their first 10-win season since 2016.

Quarterback **TUA TAGOVAILOA**, selected No. 5 overall in the 2020 NFL Draft, started nine of the team's final 10 games of the season, compiling a 6-3 record as a starter. He joined **CARSON WENTZ** (2016) as the only rookie quarterbacks to win their first three starts and throw zero interceptions in the Super Bowl era, and became the second quarterback in the Super Bowl era with at least one touchdown pass and zero interceptions in each of his first five career starts, joining **JEFF KEMP**.



Wide receiver **DEVANTE PARKER** led the team with 63 receptions and 793 receiving yards, while tight end **MIKE GESICKI** had a career-high 53 receptions and ranked third among AFC tight ends with a career-best 703 receiving yards.

The AFC tight ends with the most receiving yards in 2020:

PLAYER	TEAM	RECEIVING YARDS
Travis Kelce	Kansas City	1,416
Darren Waller	Las Vegas	1,196
Mike Gesicki	Miami	703



The Dolphins looked to bolster their receiving corps during the offseason, signing five-year NFL veteran **WILL FULLER V** and selecting Alabama wide receiver **JAYLEN WADDLE** with the sixth overall pick in the 2021 NFL Draft. Fuller set career highs in receptions (53), receiving yards (879) and receiving touchdowns (eight) during the 2020 season with Houston and his 16.6 yards per reception average ranked second in the NFL (minimum 50 receptions).

The players with the highest yards per reception average (minimum 50 receptions) in 2020:

PLAYER	2020 TEAM	YARDS/RECEPTION
DJ Moore	Carolina	18.1
Will Fuller V	Houston	16.6
Jerry Jeudy	Denver	16.5



MIAMI DOLPHINS

AFC EAST

Defensively last season, Miami led the league with 29 takeaways, tied for first in interceptions (18) and ranked tied for fifth in scoring defense (21.1 points per game allowed).



Cornerback **XAVIEN HOWARD** led the NFL in both interceptions (career-high 10) and passes defended (career-best 20) and became the first player with at least 10 interceptions in a single season since **ANTONIO CROMARTIE** (10 interceptions) in 2007. Since entering the NFL in 2016, Howard is one of two players (**MARCUS PETERS**) with at least 20 interceptions (22) and 50 passes defended (55).

The players with at least 10 interceptions in a single season in the past 15 years:

PLAYER	TEAM	YEAR	INTs
Xavien Howard	Miami	2020	10
Antonio Cromartie	San Diego Chargers	2007	10
Champ Bailey ^{HOF}	Denver	2006	10
Asante Samuel	New England	2006	10

Defensive end **EMMANUEL OGBAH** led the team with a career-high nine sacks, while linebacker **JEROME BAKER** was one of two players (**DEVIN WHITE**) with at least 100 tackles (111) and seven sacks (seven) during the 2020 season. During the offseason, the Dolphins acquired linebacker **BENARDRICK MCKINNEY**, who has at least 90 tackles in four of the past five seasons, and 12-year NFL veteran defensive back **JASON MCCOURTY**.



Kicker **JASON SANDERS** tied for the NFL lead with 144 points in 2020 while his eight field goals of at least 50 yards tied for second-most in the league. In Week 9, he became the first player in franchise history to make multiple 50-yard field goals in the same game and accomplished the feat again in Week 12.

Returner **JAKEEM GRANT** was one of eight players to record a punt return for a touchdown last season, and his five career return touchdowns (three punt return, two kickoff return) are tied with **JAMAL AGNEW** (five) and **TYREEK HILL** (five) for the most in the NFL since 2016.

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

AFC EAST

Under the guidance of head coach **BILL BELICHICK**, the New England Patriots have won their division in 11 of the 12 past seasons. Belichick has won six Super Bowl championships, the most by a head coach in league history.

The head coaches with the most Super Bowl victories:

HEAD COACH	TEAM	SUPER BOWL TITLES
Bill Belichick	New England	6 (XXXVI, XXXVIII, XXXIX, XLIX, LI, LIII)
Chuck Noll ^{HOF}	Pittsburgh	4 (IX, X, XIII, XIV)
Joe Gibbs ^{HOF}	Washington	3 (XVII, XXII, XXVI)
Bill Walsh ^{HOF}	San Francisco	3 (XVI, XIX, XXIII)

Belichick enters the 2021 season ranked third all-time in regular season wins (280) and total wins, including the postseason (311), trailing Pro Football Hall of Famers **DON SHULA** (328 regular-season wins, 347 total wins) and **GEORGE HALAS** (318 regular-season wins, 324 total wins).

He has 31 career postseason wins, the most by a head coach in NFL history, and has led the Patriots to nine conference championships, the most by a head coach in the Super Bowl era (since 1966).

The head coaches with the most career playoff victories:

HEAD COACH	TEAM(S)	PLAYOFF WINS
Bill Belichick	Cleveland, New England	31
Tom Landry ^{HOF}	Dallas	20
Don Shula ^{HOF}	Baltimore Colts, Miami	19



Last season, quarterback **CAM NEWTON** led all quarterbacks with 12 rushing touchdowns and became the first quarterback with three career seasons of at least 10 rushing touchdowns in NFL history. He registered four games with at least two rushing touchdowns, the most by a quarterback in a single season in league annals, and his 10 career games with at least two rushing touchdowns are the most by a quarterback in NFL history. Newton's 70 career rushing touchdowns are the most by a quarterback in league annals and are the most by any player since he entered the league in 2011.

The players with the most rushing touchdowns since 2011:

PLAYER	RUSHING TDs
Cam Newton	70
Todd Gurley	67
Adrian Peterson	66



NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

AFC EAST

This offseason, the Patriots looked to bolster their offense with the additions of wide receivers **NELSON AGHOLOR** and **KENDRICK BOURNE**, tight ends **HUNTER HENRY** and **JONNU SMITH**, and tackle **TRENT BROWN**.



In 2020 with Las Vegas, Agholor had a career-high 896 receiving yards and tied a career-high with eight touchdown receptions. Among players with at least 40 receptions last season, he led the NFL with an average of 18.7 yards per catch (48 receptions).

Bourne is also coming off a career season in 2020, posting career-bests in receptions (49) and receiving yards (667) with San Francisco.

Last season, Henry was one of four AFC tight ends to record at least 60 receptions (career-high 60 catches with the Los Angeles Chargers), while Smith ranked third among AFC tight ends with a career-high eight touchdown receptions with Tennessee in 2020.

Defensively in 2020, the Patriots tied for the league-lead with 18 interceptions, including a career-high nine interceptions from defensive back **J.C. JACKSON**. Cornerback **STEPHON GILMORE**, the Associated Press 2019 Defensive Player of the Year, is one of six players with at least 10 interceptions (11) and 50 passes defended (52) since joining New England in 2017.



The offseason marked the return of linebacker **KYLE VAN NOY**, who had six sacks with Miami in 2020, and the addition of linebacker **MATT JUDON**, who has 34.5 career sacks and 54 tackles for loss during his five-year NFL career.

In the 2021 NFL Draft, New England used each of their first two selections on players from Alabama, choosing quarterback **MAC JONES** (No. 15 overall) and defensive tackle **CHRISTIAN BARMORE** (No. 38 overall).

NEW YORK JETS

AFC EAST

The New York Jets enter the 2021 season with a new head coach, a rookie quarterback and several other exciting additions to the roster.

In January, the team hired **ROBERT SALEH** as its new head coach. Prior to coming to New York, Saleh spent the last four seasons as the San Francisco 49ers defensive coordinator.



During his tenure, the San Francisco defense ranked third in the league in passing yards allowed (211.4), while producing Pro Bowl players on every level of the defense. As part of the 49ers run to Super Bowl LIV in 2019, Saleh's defense finished first in passing defense, second in total defense and third in third-down defense.

Prior to San Francisco, Saleh was an assistant coach with Jacksonville (2014-16), Seattle (2011-13) and Houston (2005-10) in the NFL, as well as Georgia (2005), Central Michigan (2004) and Michigan State (2002-03) at the collegiate level. He played tight end at Northern Michigan from 1997-2001.

Saleh inherits a Jets defense that ranked fifth in the AFC against the run last season (112 yards allowed per game), while recording 31 sacks and 19 takeaways.

Defensive lineman **QUINNEN WILLIAMS** led the team with seven sacks in his second NFL season and safety **MARCUS MAYE** had a career-high 11 passes defensed, adding two interceptions, two forced fumbles and two sacks. Maye was one of three defensive backs in the league last season with at least two interceptions, two forced fumbles and two sacks.

The defensive backs with at least two interceptions, two forced fumbles and two sacks in 2020:

PLAYER	TEAM	INTs	FFs	SACKS
Marcus Maye	N.Y. Jets	2	2	2
Jordan Poyer	Buffalo	2	2	2
Donovan Wilson	Dallas	2	2	3.5



Among the new additions to the Jets defense in 2021 will be defensive tackle **SHELDON RANKINS** (17.5 career sacks), linebacker **JARRAD DAVIS** (199 tackles since 2017) and safety **LAMARCUS JOYNER** (33 career passes defensed).

Linebacker **C.J. MOSLEY** returns to the field after opting out of the 2020 season.

NEW YORK JETS

AFC EAST

With the second pick in the 2021 NFL Draft, the Jets made BYU's **ZACH WILSON** the highest-selected quarterback in franchise history. In 2020, Wilson finished third in the nation in passing yards (3,692) and passing touchdowns (33), while adding 10 rushing touchdowns.



Kathy Willens / AP

The Jets bolstered their receiving corps with wide receiver **COREY DAVIS**, who comes to New York after four seasons with the Titans. In 2020, Davis recorded 65 receptions for a career-high 984 yards and five touchdowns. He was one of four AFC wide receivers with at least five 100-yard receiving games last season.

The AFC wide receivers with the most games 100-yard receiving games in 2020:

PLAYER	2020 TEAM	GAMES
Stefon Diggs	Buffalo	7
Cole Beasley	Buffalo	5
Corey Davis	Tennessee	5
Will Fuller	Houston	5

Wide receiver **KEELAN COLE** also joined the Jets this offseason after four seasons in Jacksonville. Last season, he registered career-bests in receptions (55) and receiving touchdowns (five) along with 642 receiving yards.

Cole and Davis join wide receiver **JAMISON CROWDER**, who led the Jets in receptions (59), receiving yards (699) and touchdown receptions (six) last season and has recorded at least 50 receptions and 600 receiving yards in five of his first six career seasons.



John Minchillo / AP

With the 14th overall selection in the 2021 NFL Draft, the Jets selected USC offensive lineman **ALIJAH VERA-TUCKER**, who joins 2020 first-round pick **MEKHI BECTON** as young pieces on the Jets offensive line.

New York continued adding to the offensive side of the ball early in the 2021 NFL Draft, choosing Mississippi wide receiver **ELIJAH MOORE** (34th overall) in the second round and North Carolina running back **MICHAEL CARTER** (107th overall) in the fourth round.

BALTIMORE RAVENS

AFC NORTH

In 2020, the Baltimore Ravens finished 11-5 and made the postseason for the third consecutive season, while winning their first playoff game since 2014. Since head coach **JOHN HARBAUGH** took over in 2008, the Ravens have made the postseason in nine of 13 seasons, trailing only New England (11) and Green Bay (10) for the most playoff appearances in that span. In 2021, Baltimore aims for their fourth-consecutive season with at least 10 wins and a playoff berth.

The team's offensive success can again be attributed to their rushing attack, leading the NFL with 3,071 rushing yards (191.9 rushing yards per game) last year and becoming the first team in league history to rush for at least 3,000 yards in consecutive seasons. In Week 17, Baltimore rushed for a franchise-record 404 yards, the fourth-highest single-game total in the league since 1950.

Baltimore enters 2021 having rushed for at least 100 yards in 39 consecutive regular-season games, the second-longest such streak in NFL history. Only the 1974-77 Pittsburgh Steelers (43 games) have a longer streak. The Ravens can surpass that record in their Week 5 Monday Night Football meeting with the Indianapolis Colts.

The teams with at least 100 rushing yards in the most consecutive regular-season games in NFL history:

TEAM	SEASONS	GAMES
Pittsburgh Steelers	1974-77	43
Baltimore Ravens	2018-20	39*
Detroit Lions	1935-39	38

*Active streak

The Raven offense is engineered by quarterback **LAMAR JACKSON**, who led all quarterbacks with 1,005 rushing yards last season. After rushing for 1,206 yards during his 2019 MVP campaign, he is the first quarterback in NFL history to rush for at least 1,000 yards in multiple seasons.

The quarterbacks with the most rushing yards in a single season in NFL history:

PLAYER	TEAM	SEASON	RUSHING YARDS
Lamar Jackson	Baltimore	2019	1,206
Michael Vick	Atlanta	2006	1,039
Lamar Jackson	Baltimore	2020	1,005

Through three seasons, Jackson's 2,906 career rushing yards are already the most by a quarterback through his first four seasons in league history and with 1,094 rushing yards in 2020, can become the sixth quarterback in league annals with at least 4,000 career rushing yards.



Gail Burton / AP

BALTIMORE RAVENS

AFC NORTH

Jackson rushed for at least 95 yards in four games last season, while eclipsing the 100-yard rushing mark twice. If he rushes for at least 100 yards in at least three games in 2021, he will surpass **MICHAEL VICK** (10 games) for the most such career games by a quarterback since 1970.

The quarterbacks with the most career games with at least 100 rushing yards since 1970:

PLAYER	TEAM(S)	GAMES
Michael Vick	Atlanta, Philadelphia	10
Lamar Jackson	Baltimore	8
Russell Wilson	Seattle	4

Jackson, who recorded 43 touchdowns (36 passing, seven rushing) in 2019, totaled 33 touchdowns (26 passing, seven rushing) last season and joined **DESHAUN WATSON** (2018-19) as the only quarterbacks with at least 25 touchdown passes and five rushing touchdowns in consecutive seasons in NFL history.

He enters this season with 19 career rushing touchdowns and can join **CAM NEWTON** (33 rushing touchdowns) and **JOSH ALLEN** (25) as the only quarterbacks with at least 25 rushing touchdowns through their first four seasons in NFL history.



Aaron Doster / AP

Last season, running back **J.K. DOBBINS**, ranked third among rookies with 805 rushing yards and nine rushing touchdowns, the most rushing touchdowns by a rookie in franchise history. From Weeks 11-17, Dobbins recorded a rushing touchdown in six consecutive games, tied for the third-longest such streak by a rookie running back in the Super Bowl era.



Nick Wass / AP

Returning in 2021 is **GUS EDWARDS** (above), who is one of four running backs to average at least five yards per rush attempt (5.2) since 2018 (minimum 400 attempts), along with **NICK CHUBB** (5.23 yards per rush), **DERRICK HENRY** (5.16) and **AARON JONES** (5.12).

Wide receiver **MARQUISE BROWN** led the team with 769 receiving yards and eight touchdown receptions last season, both career highs. He is one of three players from the 2019 NFL Draft class with at least 15 career receiving touchdowns.

Tight end **MARK ANDREWS** ranked fifth among tight ends with 701 receiving yards in 2020 and leads all tight ends with 17 touchdown receptions since 2019.

BALTIMORE RAVENS

AFC NORTH

Among the new additions to the Baltimore offense in 2021 are wide receivers **SAMMY WATKINS** (below), a seven-year veteran who spent the last three seasons with the Chiefs, and rookie **RASHOD BATEMAN**, who the team selected out of Minnesota with the 27th overall pick in the 2021 NFL Draft.



Baltimore's defense is led by cornerbacks **MARLON HUMPHREY** and **MARCUS PETERS**, who combined for 20 passes defended, 12 forced fumbles and five interceptions last season. Humphrey led the league with a career-high eight forced fumbles, becoming the third defensive back since 1994 with at least eight forced fumbles in a single season.

The defensive backs with the most forced fumbles in a single season since 1994:

PLAYER	TEAM	SEASON	FFs
Charles Tillman	Chicago	2012	10
Chris Harris	Carolina	2007	8
Marlon Humphrey	Baltimore	2020	8



Peters led the team with four interceptions and was the only player in the NFL last season with four interceptions and four forced fumbles (four). His 31 interceptions since entering the NFL in 2015 are the most in the league during that span.

The players with the most interceptions since 2015:

PLAYER	TEAM(S)	INTs
Marcus Peters	Kansas City, L.A. Rams, Baltimore	31
Xavien Howard	Miami	22
Tyrann Mathieu	Arizona, Houston, Kansas City	20

Linebacker **PATRICK QUEEN** enters his second season after leading the team with 105 tackles in 2020 and was the only rookie in the NFL with at least 100 tackles and three sacks (three). He also added nine tackles for loss, two forced fumbles and an interception.

Defensive end **CALAIS CAMPBELL** recorded four sacks in his first season in Baltimore last year and is one of six active players with at least 90 career sacks (92). Queen and Campbell will be joined by rookie linebacker **ODAFE OWEH**, who the team selected out of Penn State with the 31st overall pick in the 2021 NFL Draft.

Kicker **JUSTIN TUCKER** enters 2021 after proving to be one of the most consistent kickers over the past nine seasons. Since entering the league in 2012, Tucker leads the NFL in points (1,223), field goals made (291), field goal percentage (90.7) and point after attempt percentage (98.9).

Last season, he converted 26 of 29 fields goals (89.7 pct.), while connecting on 52 of 53 extra points.

CINCINNATI BENGALS

AFC NORTH

Quarterback **JOE BURROW**, the No. 1 overall selection in the 2020 NFL Draft, totaled 2,688 passing yards and 13 touchdown passes in 10 starts last season, both second-most among rookies. He recorded five games with at least 300 passing yards, tied with **DANIEL JONES** (2019) and **KYLER MURRAY** (2019) for the third-most 300-yard passing games by a rookie quarterback in NFL history. In Weeks 2-4, Burrow became the first rookie quarterback in NFL history to pass for at least 300 yards in three consecutive games.



Burrow totaled 221 completions in his first eight games, the most completions by a player in his first eight career games in league annals. He recorded at least 25 completions in six games last season, tied with Murray (six games in 2019) for the third-most such games by a rookie quarterback in NFL history.

Fellow 2020 NFL Draft selection wide receiver **TEE HIGGINS** ranked third among rookies with 67 receptions last season, tying **CRIS COLLINSWORTH** (67 in 1981) for the most receptions by a rookie in franchise history, while also leading the team in receiving yards (908) and receiving touchdowns (six).

In the 2021 NFL Draft, Cincinnati used their first-round selection on wide receiver **JA'MARR CHASE** (No. 6 overall), a former college teammate of Burrow's at LSU. Prior to opting out of the 2020 college football season, he earned the Biletnikoff Award, presented annually to the most outstanding receiving in college football, after setting single-season SEC records for receiving yards (1,780) and receiving touchdowns (20) during the 2019 season.

Wide receiver **TYLER BOYD** registered 79 receptions for 841 yards and four touchdowns during 2020. He is one of six wide receivers, and eight players overall, with at least 75 receptions in each of the past three seasons.

The wide receivers with at least 75 receptions in each of the past three seasons:

PLAYER	TEAM(S)
Davante Adams	Green Bay
Keenan Allen	L.A. Chargers
Tyler Boyd	Cincinnati
Amari Cooper	Dallas
DeAndre Hopkins	Houston, Arizona
Robert Woods	L.A. Rams



CINCINNATI BENGALS

AFC NORTH

Running back **JOE MIXON** is one of three AFC running backs to register at least 3,000 rushing yards (3,359) and 1,000 receiving yards (1,008) since he entered the NFL in 2017.

The AFC running backs with at least 3,000 rushing yards and 1,000 receiving yards since 2017:

PLAYER	TEAM(S)	RUSH YARDS	REC. YARDS
Melvin Gordon	LAC, DEN	3,588	1,420
Kareem Hunt	KC, CLE	3,171	1,422
Joe Mixon	CIN	3,359	1,008

Safeties **VONN BELL** (career-high 114 tackles) and **JESSIE BATES** (107) were one of two pairs of defensive back teammates to each record at least 100 tackles during the 2020 season. Since 2018, Bates (third) and Bell (fourth) each rank in the top-five among defensive backs in total tackles.

Bates is one of three defensive backs (**BUDDA BAKER** and **JORDAN POYER**) with at least 100 tackles in each of the past three seasons.

The defensive backs with the most tackles since 2018:

PLAYER	TEAM(S)	TACKLES
Budda Baker	AZ	365
Jordan Poyer	BUF	319
Jessie Bates	CIN	318
Von Bell	NO, CIN	287
Justin Simmons	DEN	286



During the offseason, the Bengals acquired defensive end **TREY HENDRICKSON**, who tied for second in the NFL with a career-high 13.5 sacks last season with New Orleans.

The players with the most sacks in 2020:

PLAYER	2020 TEAM	SACKS
T.J. Watt	PIT	15
Aaron Donald	LAR	13.5
Trey Hendrickson	NO	13.5
Haason Reddick	AZ	12.5
Za'Darius Smith	GB	12.5

Cincinnati also made some key additions in their secondary, adding defensive backs **ELI APPLE**, **CHIDOBE AWUZIE**, **MIKE HILTON** and **TRAE WAYNES** during the offseason. With Pittsburgh in 2020, Hilton totaled a career-high three interceptions and three sacks, adding two fumble recoveries.

CLEVELAND BROWNS

AFC NORTH

Last season, the Cleveland Browns won 11 games for the first time since 1994 and qualified for the postseason for the first time since 2002, ending the league's longest playoff drought.

Head coach **KEVIN STEFANSKI**, in his first season with the club, was named Associated Press NFL Coach of the Year, becoming the second Browns coach to earn the honor, joining **FORREST GREGG** (1976). This season, Stefanski will attempt to bring the franchise to the playoffs in consecutive seasons for the first time since they made five straight postseasons from 1985-89.



Ron Schwane / AP

Quarterback **BAKER MAYFIELD** enters his fourth NFL season after passing for 3,563 yards and 26 touchdowns with a career-high 95.9 passer rating in 2020. He joined **ANDREW LUCK** and Pro Football Hall of Famer **PEYTON MANNING** as the only players in league history with at least 3,500 passing yards and 20 touchdown passes in each of their first three seasons.

Mayfield can join Manning as the only players to accomplish the feat in each of their first four seasons.



Terrance Williams / AP

The first overall pick in the 2018 NFL Draft, Mayfield has 11,115 passing yards and 75 touchdown passes through his first three seasons. With at least 3,885 passing yards in 2021, Mayfield will become the fifth player with at least 15,000 passing yards through their first four seasons in NFL history.

Of the four players with at least 15,000 passing yards in their first four seasons, Pro Football Hall of Famers **PEYTON MANNING** and **DAN MARINO** are the only two with at least 100 touchdown passes in their first four career seasons.

The Browns boasted the third-ranked rushing attack in the league last season, averaging 148.4 rushing yards per game. Running backs **NICK CHUBB** (1,067 rushing yards) and **KAREEM HUNT** (841) became the first pair of running back teammates to each rush for at least 800 yards in a season since 2013.

The running back teammates each with at least 800 rushing yards in a single season since 2010:

TEAMMATES	TEAM	SEASON
Nick Chubb (1,067) & Kareem Hunt (841)	CLE	2020
C.J. Spiller (933) & Fred Jackson (890)	BUF	2013
Arian Foster (1,224) & Ben Tate (942)	HOU	2011
Jamaal Charles (1,467) & Thomas Jones (896)	KC	2010
Ahmad Bradshaw (1,235) & Brandon Jacobs (823)	NYG	2010

CLEVELAND BROWNS

AFC NORTH

Chubb totaled 1,217 scrimmage yards and 12 rushing touchdowns in 2020 and became the first player in franchise history with at least 1,000 scrimmage yards in each of his first three seasons.

If he records at least 950 rushing yards and eight rushing touchdowns this season, he will become the sixth player to reach those marks each of his first four seasons in NFL history.

The players with at least 950 rushing yards and eight rushing touchdowns in each of their first four seasons in NFL history:

PLAYER	TEAM	SEASONS
Earl Campbell ^{HOF}	Houston Oilers	1978-81
Eric Dickerson ^{HOF}	L.A. Rams	1983-86
Adrian Peterson	Minnesota	2007-10
Barry Sanders ^{HOF}	Detroit	1989-92
LaDainian Tomlinson ^{HOF}	San Diego Chargers	2001-04

Hunt has 23 rushing touchdowns and 16 receiving touchdowns in his career and is the sixth running back with at least 20 rushing touchdowns and 15 receiving touchdowns in his first four seasons in NFL history.



Wide receiver **JARVIS LANDRY** led the team with 72 receptions and 840 receiving yards last season and became the first player in league history with at least 70 receptions in each of his first seven seasons.



His 636 career receptions are the second most by player in his first seven seasons in NFL history, trailing only Pro Football Hall of Famer **MARVIN HARRISON** (665 receptions).

The players with the most receptions through their first seven seasons in NFL history:

PLAYER	TEAM(S)	RECEPTIONS
Marvin Harrison ^{HOF}	Indianapolis	665
Jarvis Landry	Miami, Cleveland	636
Antonio Brown	Pittsburgh	632
DeAndre Hopkins	Houston	632

Wide receiver **ODELL BECKHAM JR.** returns to the field in 2021 after appearing in seven games last season. Beckham has totaled 487 receptions for 6,830 yards and 51 touchdowns in 82 career games and has recorded the third-most receiving yards (6,805) and third-most receptions (485) by a player in his first 80 career games in NFL history.

CLEVELAND BROWNS

AFC NORTH

Defensive end **MYLES GARRETT** ranked sixth in the NFL with 12 sacks in 2020 and is one of three players in the NFL (**AARON DONALD** and **T.J. WATT**) with at least 10 sacks in each of the past three seasons. His 42.5 career sacks are the most by a player in his first four seasons in franchise history.



Kirk Irwin / AP

If Garrett records at least 7.5 sacks in his first nine games of the 2021 season, he will become the fourth player to record at least 50 sacks through his first 60 career games since 1982, when the individual sack became an official statistic.

The players with the most sacks in their first 60 career games since 1982:

PLAYER	TEAM	SACKS
Reggie White ^{HOF}	Philadelphia	72.5
Derrick Thomas ^{HOF}	Kansas City	55
Von Miller	Denver	51
Myles Garrett	Cleveland	42.5*

*Through 51 career games

Joining Garrett on the Cleveland defensive line this year will be **JADEVEON CLOWNEY**, who spent the 2020 season with Tennessee and has 75 tackles for loss, 32 sacks and 10 forced fumbles in his seven-year career.

Cornerback **DENZEL WARD** patrols the secondary, tying for second in the league with a career-high 18 passes defended last season, while adding two interceptions.

This offseason, the Browns acquired cornerback **TROY HILL**, who had a career-high three interceptions, including two returned for touchdowns, last season with the Rams.

In the 2021 NFL Draft, Cleveland used each of their first two selections on the defensive side of the ball, choosing cornerback **GREG NEWSOME** (No. 26 overall, below) in the first round and linebacker **JEREMIAH OWUSU-KORAMOAH** (No. 52) in the second round.



Tony Dejak / AP

The Browns secondary is also expected to see the debut of 2020 second-round pick safety **GRANT DELPIT** and the return of cornerback **GREEDY WILLIAMS**, a second-round selection in 2019, who missed all of last season.

PITTSBURGH STEELERS

AFC NORTH

Under the guidance of head coach **MIKE TOMLIN**, the Pittsburgh Steelers (12-4) won the AFC North for the first time since 2017. Since Tomlin became the team's head coach in 2007, Pittsburgh is tied with Green Bay for the second-most regular-season wins (145) over that span, trailing only the New England Patriots (169 regular-season wins).



Gene J. Puskar / AP

Tomlin's 145 career regular-season victories are the most by a head coach in his first 14 career seasons, surpassing Pro Football Hall of Famer **DON SHULA** (144 regular-season victories from 1963-76), and are tied for the third-most among active NFL head coaches.

The active head coaches with the most regular-season victories:

HEAD COACH	TEAM(S)	REGULAR-SEASON WINS
Bill Belichick	CLE, NE	280
Andy Reid	PHI, KC	221
Pete Carroll	NYJ, NE, SEA	145
Mike Tomlin	PIT	145

Quarterback **BEN ROETHLISBERGER** returns for his 18th season after passing for 3,803 yards with 33 touchdown passes in 2020. He ranks seventh in NFL history with 60,348 career passing yards and can surpass **PHILIP RIVERS** (63,440) for fifth-most in 2021. Roethlisberger has 396 career touchdown passes and needs four touchdown passes to become the eighth quarterback with 400 career touchdown passes.

The players with the most career passing yards in NFL history:

PLAYER	TEAM(S)	PASSING YARDS
Drew Brees	San Diego Chargers, New Orleans	80,358
Tom Brady	New England, Tampa Bay	79,204
Peyton Manning ^{HOF}	Indianapolis, Denver	71,940
Brett Favre ^{HOF}	Green Bay, N.Y. Jets, Minnesota	71,838
Philip Rivers	San Diego Chargers, Indianapolis	63,440
Dan Marino ^{HOF}	Miami	61,361
Ben Roethlisberger	Pittsburgh	60,348



Don Wright / AP

PITTSBURGH STEELERS

AFC NORTH

The 2020 season saw the emergence of wide receiver **CHASE CLAYPOOL**, a second-round selection (No. 49 overall) in the 2020 NFL Draft. He led all rookies and tied a rookie franchise record with nine touchdown receptions, and became the first wide receiver in the Super Bowl era and fourth in league history with at least 10 touchdowns in his first 10 career games, joining **BILLY HOWTON** (11 touchdowns in 1952), **BILL GROMAN** (10 in 1960) and **HARLON HILL** (10 in 1954).



Claypool, a native of Abbotsford, British Columbia, Canada, registered an 84-yard touchdown reception in Week 2 last year, the longest touchdown from scrimmage by a Canadian-born player in NFL history. In Week 5, he became the third rookie wide receiver ever to record four touchdowns in a single game, joining **JERRY BUTLER** (September 23, 1979) and **HARLON HILL** (October 31, 1954).

Wide receiver **JUJU SMITH-SCHUSTER** had a bounce-back season in 2020, leading the team with 97 receptions, his second-career season with at least 95 receptions (111 catches in 2018), and setting a career-high with nine receiving touchdowns. In Week 3, he became the fourth-youngest player (23 years, 310 days old) in NFL history to reach 3,000 career receiving yards and 20 career receiving touchdowns.

The youngest players to reach 3,000 career receiving yards and 20 career receiving touchdowns in NFL history:

PLAYER	TEAM	AGE
Mike Evans	TB	23 years, 74 days
Larry Fitzgerald	AZ	23 years, 108 days
Randy Moss ^{HOF}	MIN	23 years, 231 days
JuJu Smith-Schuster	PIT	23 years, 310 days

Offensively in 2020, Pittsburgh was the only team to have five players record at least five receiving touchdowns each [Claypool (nine), Smith-Schuster (nine), wide receivers **DIONTAE JOHNSON** (seven) and **JAMES WASHINGTON** (five), and tight end **ERIC EBRON** (five)] and the only AFC team with three players each registering at least 800 receiving yards [Johnson (923), Claypool (873) and Smith-Schuster (831)].

With their first two selections in the 2021 NFL Draft, the Steelers added Alabama running back **NAJEE HARRIS** (No. 24 overall) and Penn State tight end **PAT FREIERMUTH** (No. 55 overall) to their list of offensive playmakers.

PITTSBURGH STEELERS

AFC NORTH

Defensively last season, Pittsburgh led the NFL with 56 sacks, becoming the first team since the **NEW YORK GIANTS** (1985-88) to register at least 50 sacks in four consecutive seasons. They also became the first team in history to lead the league in sacks for four consecutive seasons (2017-20).

SEASON	SACKS
2017	56
2018	52
2019	54
2020	56

The Steelers were one of two teams, along with the Los Angeles Rams, to have two players record at least 10 sacks in 2020: linebacker **T.J. WATT**, who led the league with a career-high 15 sacks, and defensive end **STEPHON TUITT**, who had a career-high 11 sacks.

Watt became the sixth player since 1990 with at least 13 sacks in three consecutive seasons. This season, he can join Pro Football Hall of Famer **REGGIE WHITE** (1985-88; 1990-93) as the only players since 1982, when the individual sack became an official statistic, to register at least 13 sacks in four consecutive seasons. Since entering the NFL in 2017, Watt ranks third with 49.5 sacks, and needs 15.5 sacks in 2021 to become the fourth player with at least 65 sacks in his first five seasons since 1982.

The players with at least 60 sacks in their first five seasons since 1982:

PLAYER	TEAM	SACKS
Reggie White ^{HOF}	Philadelphia	81
J.J. Watt	Houston	74.5
Derrick Thomas ^{HOF}	Kansas City	66
DeMarcus Ware	Dallas	64.5
Richard Dent ^{HOF}	Chicago	61.5
Von Miller	Denver	60



Defensive tackle **CAMERON HEYWARD**, who has at least eight sacks in three of the past four seasons, is one of four defensive tackles with at least 50 sacks since 2013.

The defensive tackles with the most sacks since 2013:

PLAYER	TEAM(S)	SACKS
Aaron Donald	St. Louis/L.A. Rams	86.5
Cameron Heyward	Pittsburgh	55.5
Geno Atkins	Cincinnati	52.5
Gerald McCoy	Tampa Bay, Carolina	50.5

The Steelers acquired linebacker **JOE SCHOBERT**, who ranked fourth in the NFL with 141 tackles last season with Jacksonville, and was one of five linebackers to register at least 100 tackles, multiple sacks and multiple interceptions last season.

The linebackers with at least 100 tackles, two sacks and two interceptions in 2020:

PLAYER	TACKLES	SACKS	INT
Joe Schobert	141	2.5	3
Roquan Smith	139	4	2
Eric Wilson	121	3	3
Foyesade Oluokun	117	3	2
Deion Jones	106	4.5	2

PITTSBURGH STEELERS

AFC NORTH

Pittsburgh signed linebacker **MELVIN INGRAM**, who had 49 sacks and 70 tackles for loss in nine seasons with the Chargers. Linebacker **DEVIN BUSH**, selected 10th overall in the 2019 NFL Draft, is also expected to return after appearing in only five games last season. As a rookie, he totaled 109 tackles, four fumble recoveries and two interceptions.

Pittsburgh ranked second in the NFL with 27 takeaways last season, including 18 interceptions, tied for the most in the league.

Safety **MINKAH FITZPATRICK** led the team with four interceptions and is one of two players (**DEION JONES**) to record an interception return for a touchdown in each of the past three seasons. Entering his fourth career season, Fitzpatrick can join **NATE CLEMENTS** (2001-04) as the only players with an interception return for a touchdown in each of his first four seasons in league annals.

Since entering the NFL in 2010, cornerback **JOE HADEN**, who led the team with 12 passes defended last season, leads the league with 149 career passes defended and ranks fifth with 29 interceptions over that span.

Gary McCullough / AP



Phelan M. Ebenhack / AP



HOUSTON TEXANS

AFC SOUTH

This past offseason, the Houston Texans hired **DAVID CULLEY** as the team's fourth head coach in franchise history.

Culley spent the past two seasons (2019-20) as the assistant head coach/pass coordinator/wide receivers coach for the Baltimore Ravens, where he played an integral role in the team's seventh-ranked offense last season (29.3 point per game), after boasting the top offense in the league (33.2 points per game) during quarterback **LAMAR JACKSON**'s 2019 MVP campaign.

Prior to joining the Ravens, Culley spent two seasons (2017-18) as the quarterbacks coach for the Buffalo Bills, where he helped develop quarterback **JOSH ALLEN**, who posted the franchise record for most total touchdowns (18) by a rookie quarterback in 2018.

Throughout his 27-year NFL coaching career, Culley also has made stops in Kansas City (2013-16), Philadelphia (1999-2012), Pittsburgh (1996-98) and Tampa Bay (1994-95). Before entering the NFL, Culley had multiple coaching stops in college over a 16-year span, including Texas A&M (1991-93).

Culley inherits a Houston offense that averaged 375.3 yards per game last season, including 283.6 yards through the air, the fourth-most in the NFL.

Quarterback **DESHAUN WATSON** led the league with a career-high 4,823 passing yards, the most in a single season in franchise history. He became the second Texan to lead the league in passing yards, joining **MATT SCHAUB** (league-high 4,770 passing yards in 2009).



Joining Watson in the quarterback room this season will be **TYROD TAYLOR**, a 10-year NFL veteran who spent the last two seasons with the Chargers, and rookie **DAVIS MILLS**, who the team chose out of Stanford in the third round (No. 67 overall) of the 2021 NFL Draft.

Wide receiver **BRANDIN COOKS** returns to the Texans for his second season with the team after leading the team in receptions (81) and receiving yards (1,150), while adding six touchdown receptions in 2020.

After also recording 1,000-yard receiving seasons for the Saints (2015-16), Patriots (2017) and Rams (2018), Cooks joined **BRANDON MARSHALL** as the only players in NFL history to record at least 1,000 receiving yards with four-or-more different teams. Since 2015, Cooks ranks sixth among all players with 6,330 receiving yards.



HOUSTON TEXANS

AFC SOUTH

Via free agent signings and trades, Houston brought in wide receivers **CHRIS CONLEY**, **ANTHONY MILLER** and **ANDRE ROBERTS** this offseason to contribute to the passing game, while also selecting Michigan wide receiver **NICO COLLINS** in the third round (No. 89 overall) in the 2021 NFL Draft.

KEKE COUTEE returns for his fourth season in Houston after registering 33 receptions for 400 receiving yards and three touchdown receptions in eight games in 2020.

Roberts is also expected to help in the return game, after leading all qualified players in kickoff-return average (30.0 yards) last season with Buffalo. Among all qualified active players, Roberts, who entered the league in 2010, ranks third with a 25.8 kickoff-return average in his career.

The active players with the highest kickoff-return average:

PLAYER	TEAM(S)	KR AVG.
Cordarrelle Patterson	MIN, OAK, NE, CHI	29.8
Ameer Abdullah	DET, MIN	26.4
Andre Roberts	AZ, WAS, DET, ATL, NYJ, BUF	25.8

*Includes players on rosters as of August 5, 2021

Running back **DAVID JOHNSON** totaled 1,005 scrimmage yards during his first season in Houston, including a team-high 691 rushing yards and six rushing touchdowns. It marked his fourth-career season with at least 1,000 scrimmage yards.

He'll be joined in the backfield this season by **REX BURKHEAD**, **MARK INGRAM** and **PHILLIP LINDSAY**, who all signed as free agents during the offseason.

Burkhead spent the past four seasons with the Patriots, totaling at least 450 scrimmage yards in each of the past two seasons.



Ingram enters his 11th NFL season after spending the past two with the Ravens. His 9,219 scrimmage yards and 7,324 rushing yards are the most among all running backs currently on an active roster (as of August 1, 2021). Lindsay comes to Houston after a three-year career in Denver, where he totaled 3,015 scrimmage yards and 18 touchdowns (17 rushing, one receiving).

The active players with the most career rushing yards:

PLAYER	TEAM(S)	RUSHING YARDS
Mark Ingram	NO, BAL	7,324
Ezekiel Elliott	DAL	6,384
Alfred Morris	WAS, DAL, SF, AZ, NYG	6,173

*Includes players on rosters as of August 5, 2021

HOUSTON TEXANS

AFC SOUTH

Linebacker **ZACH CUNNINGHAM** returns in 2021 after leading the NFL with a career-high 163 tackles last season, the second-most by a player in a single season in franchise history. Since 2018, Cunningham is one of five players with at least 400 tackles (405).

The players with the most tackles since 2018:

PLAYER	TEAM(S)	TACKLES
Blake Martinez	Green Bay, N.Y. Giants	450
Bobby Wagner	Seattle	435
Jaylon Smith	Dallas	417
Darius Leonard	Indianapolis	416
Zach Cunningham	Houston	405

In the secondary, safety **JUSTIN REID**, who has 19 passes defensed and five interceptions over his first three seasons, is paired with safety **ERIC MURRAY**, who totaled 71 tackles and two sacks in his first season with Houston last year.

Cornerback **TERRANCE MITCHELL** signed in the offseason after spending the past three seasons with Cleveland and was one of two players (**MARLON HUMPHREY**) in 2020 with at least 10 passes defensed (13) and three forced fumbles (three). **BRADLEY ROBY** enters his third season with Houston after totaling 15 passes defensed and three interceptions over the past two years.



INDIANAPOLIS COLTS

AFC SOUTH

Indianapolis (11-5) won at least 10 games and advanced to the postseason for the second time in the past three seasons.

With the retirement of quarterback Philip Rivers, the Colts acquired former No. 2 overall selection quarterback **CARSON WENTZ** from Philadelphia during the 2021 offseason. In 68 career starts, Wentz has 16,811 passing yards with 113 touchdown passes, while passing for at least 3,000 yards in four of his first five career seasons. He joins an Indianapolis offense that tied for the second-fewest sacks allowed (21) last season, led by three-time Pro Bowl selection guard **QUENTON NELSON**.

2020 saw the emergence of running back **JONATHAN TAYLOR**, a second-round selection (No. 41 overall) in the 2020 NFL Draft, who led all rookies in scrimmage yards (1,468) and rushing yards (1,169), and tied for the lead among rookies with 11 rushing touchdowns last season. He became one of three rookie running backs [**EZEKIEL ELLIOTT** (2016) & **KAREEM HUNT** (2017)] in the past five seasons to record multiple games with at least 150 rushing yards, including a 253-yard performance in Week 17, tied for the second-most rushing yards by a rookie in a single game in NFL history.

The rookie running backs with the most rushing yards in a single game in NFL history:

PLAYER	TEAM	DATE	RUSHING YARDS
Adrian Peterson	MIN	Nov. 4, 2007	296
Demarco Murray	DAL	Oct. 23, 2011	253
Jonathan Taylor	IND	Jan. 3, 2021	253

Taylor and running back **NYHEIM HINES** proved to be a dynamic pair out of the Indianapolis backfield last season, with Hines setting career highs in receiving yards (482) and rushing yards (380) while leading all AFC running backs with 63 receptions. Since entering the NFL in 2018, he ranks sixth among running backs with 170 receptions.



In 2020, wide receiver **T.Y. HILTON** led the team with 762 receiving yards, tied for the team-lead with five touchdown receptions and had his eighth-career season with at least 50 receptions (56). Since entering the NFL in 2012, Hilton is one of four wide receivers with at least 600 receptions (608), 9,000 receiving yards (9,360) and 50 receiving touchdowns (50).

The players with at least 600 receptions, 9,000 receiving yards and 50 receiving touchdowns since 2012:

PLAYER	REC	REC. YARDS	REC. TDs
Antonio Brown	801	10,471	77
T.Y. Hilton	608	9,360	50
DeAndre Hopkins	747	10,009	60
Julio Jones	794	11,937	52

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS

AFC SOUTH

Last year, Indianapolis' defense ranked second in fewest rushing yards allowed per game (90.5), led by defensive tackle **DEFORREST BUCKNER**. In his first season as a Colt, he led the team in both sacks (9.5) and tackles for loss (10). Buckner is one of two defensive tackles, along with **AARON DONALD**, to register at least seven sacks in each of the past three seasons.



In the middle of the Colts defense is linebacker **DARIUS LEONARD**, who led the team with 132 tackles in 2020 and is one of four players with at least 120 tackles in each of the past three seasons. He is the only player with at least 400 tackles (416) and 15 sacks (15) since he entered the NFL in 2018.

The players with at least 300 tackles and 10 sacks since 2018:

PLAYER	TACKLES	SACKS
Blake Martinez	450	11
Darius Leonard	416	15
Roquan Smith	360	11
Demario Davis	340	13
Jerome Baker	315	11.5



In the secondary, cornerback **KENNY MOORE** led the club with career-bests in interceptions (four) and passes defended (13) last season, while cornerback **XAVIER RHODES** registered 12 passes defended in his first season with Indianapolis.

In the 2021 NFL Draft, the Colts used each of their first two selections on the defensive side of the ball, selecting Michigan defensive end **KWITY PAYE** in the first round (No. 21 overall) and Vanderbilt defensive end **DAYO ODEYINGBO** (No. 54 overall) in the second round.



JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS

AFC SOUTH

During the offseason, Jacksonville announced the hiring of head coach **URBAN MEYER**, one of the most successful coaches in college football history. He accumulated a 187-32 record and a .854 winning percentage, the third-best ever in college football, during head coaching stints at Ohio State (2012-18), Florida (2005-10), Utah (2003-04) and Bowling Green (2001-02). Meyer also posted a 12-3 record in postseason play and is the only modern-day coach to win national championships in two different conferences (SEC in 2006 and 2008 at Florida and Big Ten in 2014 at Ohio State).



With the No. 1 overall selection in the 2021 NFL Draft, the Jaguars selected Clemson quarterback **TREVOR LAWRENCE**, who went 34-2 in three seasons as a starter and led the Tigers to appearances in the National Championship game following his freshman and sophomore seasons. During his college career, he completed 758 of 1,138 pass attempts (66.6%) for 90 touchdowns against just 17 interceptions, while adding 943 rushing yards and 18 rushing touchdowns.



Additionally, in the first round of this year's draft, Jacksonville selected Clemson running back **TRAVIS ETIENNE** with the 25th overall selection. In four seasons as a Tiger, he totaled 4,952 rushing yards and 70 rushing touchdowns while adding 102 receptions for 1,155 yards and eight receiving touchdowns.

With both Lawrence and Etienne being selected by Jacksonville, it marked the first time that a quarterback and running back duo from the same college were each selected in the first round of the same NFL Draft by the same team in the common draft era.



JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS

AFC SOUTH

Lawrence and Etienne are added to a Jaguars offense that included running back **JAMES ROBINSON**, who burst onto the scene as an undrafted rookie in 2020. He ranked second among rookies with 1,414 scrimmage yards, the most scrimmage yards by an undrafted rookie in the common draft era, and became the fourth undrafted rookie to record at least 1,000 rushing yards (1,070) in the common-draft era.

The undrafted rookies with at least 1,000 rushing yards since 1967:

PLAYER	TEAM	SEASON	RUSHING YARDS
Dominic Rhodes	IND	2001	1,104
James Robinson	JAX	2020	1,070
Phillip Lindsay	DEN	2018	1,037
LeGarrette Blount	TB	2010	1,007

Robinson totaled 10 touchdowns (seven rushing, three receiving) in 2020 and became the third undrafted rookie with 10 touchdowns in the common-draft era, joining **PHILLIP LINDSAY** (2018) and **DOMINIC RHODES** (2001). He also had seven games with at least 100 scrimmage yards this season, tied with **CLARK GAINES** (seven games in 1976) for the most such games by an undrafted rookie in the common draft era.

Fellow 2020 rookie wide receiver **LAVISKA SHENAULT** led the Jaguars with 58 receptions last season, while wide receiver **DJ CHARK** had a team-high 706 receiving yards and his second-straight season with at least 50 receptions (53).

During the offseason, Jacksonville acquired wide receiver **MARVIN JONES JR.**, who registered 76 receptions for 978 yards and nine touchdowns last season. Jones is one of two wide receivers (**DAVANTE ADAMS**) with at least nine touchdown receptions in three of the past four seasons.



This offseason, Jacksonville added defensive end **ROY ROBERTSON-HARRIS**, defensive tackle **MALCOM BROWN**, linebacker **DAMIEN WILSON**, cornerback **SHAQUILL GRIFFIN** and safety **RAYSHAWN JENKINS** to their defensive corps.

In four seasons with Seattle (2017-20), Griffin totaled 48 passes defended and six interceptions.

Linebacker **MYLES JACK** enters his sixth NFL season after recording a career-high 118 tackles last season.

After appearing in eight games last season, defensive end **JOSH ALLEN** enters his third year with the team. In 2019, he had 10.5 sacks and 11 tackles for loss.



TENNESSEE TITANS

AFC SOUTH

The Tennessee Titans, who finished 11-5 last year and advanced to the postseason for the third time in the past four seasons, enter the 2021 season coming off of their first AFC South division title since 2008. The Titans will look to repeat as AFC South division champions for the first time since the division's inception in 2002. Head coach **MIKE VRABEL** looks to begin his head coaching career with four consecutive winning seasons.

The Tennessee offense ranked tied for second in the league in total offense (396.4 yards per game) in 2020, the second-highest total in franchise history.

Led by running back **DERRICK HENRY**, the rushing offense ranked second in the NFL with 168.1 yards per game. Henry led the league in rushing yards (2,027) for a second-consecutive season, becoming the eighth player in league annals to rush for at least 2,000 yards in a season.



Henry, who had 1,540 rushing yards and 16 rushing touchdowns in 2019, added a career-high 17 rushing touchdowns in 2020 and joined **SHAUN ALEXANDER** (2004-05), Pro Football Hall of Famer **TERRELL DAVIS** (1997-98) and **LARRY JOHNSON** (2005-06) as the only players in NFL history with at least 1,500 rushing yards and 15 rushing touchdowns in consecutive seasons. No player has ever accomplished the feat in three consecutive seasons.

Henry recorded at least 200 rushing yards and two rushing touchdowns in three games (Weeks 6, 14 and 17) last season and his five such career games are the most in NFL history.

The players with at least 200 rushing yards and two rushing touchdowns in the most career games in NFL history:

PLAYER	TEAM	GAMES
Derrick Henry	Tennessee	5
Jim Brown ^{HOF}	Cleveland	3
Barry Sanders ^{HOF}	Detroit	3
LaDainian Tomlinson ^{HOF}	San Diego Chargers	3

Henry enters 2021 looking to become the fifth player to lead the league in rushing in three straight seasons and the first since Pro Football Hall of Famer **EMMITT SMITH** (three consecutive seasons from 1991-93).

The players to lead the league in rushing in three consecutive seasons in NFL history:

PLAYER	TEAM	SEASONS
Emmitt Smith ^{HOF}	Dallas	1991-93
Earl Campbell ^{HOF}	Houston Oilers	1978-80
Jim Brown ^{HOF}	Cleveland	1957-61 1963-65
Steve Van Buren ^{HOF}	Philadelphia	1947-49
Derrick Henry	Tennessee	2019-20*

*Active streak



TENNESSEE TITANS

AFC SOUTH

Quarterback **RYAN TANNEHILL** recorded 3,819 passing yards and a career-high 33 touchdown passes in 2020, tied for the second-most in a single season in franchise history. He also rushed for a career-high seven touchdowns.

Since joining the Titans in 2019, Tannehill ranks second among qualified passers with a 110.6 rating and has 19 games with a passer rating of 100-or-higher, tied with **DESHAUN WATSON** (19 games) for the most in the NFL during that span. The eight-year veteran enters this season with 26,995 career passing yards and 178 touchdown passes.



Wade Payne / AP

During the offseason, Tennessee acquired wide receiver **JULIO JONES**, who comes to the Titans after a 10-year career with the Atlanta Falcons where he was a seven-time Pro Bowl selection and two-time All-Pro.

In 135 career games, he has totaled 848 receptions for 12,896 receiving yards, both Atlanta franchise records, while adding 60 receiving touchdowns. His 95.5 receiving yards per game are the most in NFL history (minimum 100 games) and his 58 career games with at least 100 receiving yards rank fourth all-time.



George Walker IV / AP

If Jones records at least 802 receiving yards in his first season as a Titan, he will surpass Pro Football Hall of Famer **MARVIN HARRISON** (13,697 receiving yards) for the second-most receiving yards by a player in his first 11 seasons in NFL history.

The players with the most receiving yards in their first 11 seasons in NFL history:

PLAYER	TEAM(S)	REC. YARDS
Jerry Rice ^{HOF}	SF	15,123
Marvin Harrison ^{HOF}	IND	13,697
Torry Holt	STL, JAX	13,382
Randy Moss ^{HOF}	MIN, OAK, NE	13,201
Julio Jones	ATL	12,896*

*Entering 11th season

With at least 95 receptions, Jones will surpass Pro Football Hall of Famer **JERRY RICE** (942 receptions) for the second-most receptions through a player's first 11 seasons in NFL history.

The players with the most receptions in their first 11 seasons in NFL history:

PLAYER	TEAM(S)	RECEPTIONS
Marvin Harrison ^{HOF}	IND	1,022
Jerry Rice ^{HOF}	SF	942
Brandon Marshall	DEN, MIA, CHI, NYJ	941
Julio Jones	ATL	848*

*Entering 11th season

TENNESSEE TITANS

AFC SOUTH

Second-year wide receiver **A.J. BROWN** led the team with career highs in receiving yards (1,075) and touchdown receptions (11) last year, joining **BILL GROMAN** (1960-61) as the only players in franchise history with at least 1,000 receiving yards in each of their first two seasons.



If Brown records at least 1,000 receiving yards and eight receiving touchdowns in 2021, he will become the fourth player to accomplish the feat in each of his first three seasons in NFL history, joining Pro Football Hall of Famer **RANDY MOSS**, **ODELL BECKHAM JR.** and **JOHN JEFFERSON**.

The players with at least 1,000 receiving yards and eight receiving touchdowns in each of their first three seasons in NFL history:

PLAYER	TEAM	SEASONS
Odell Beckham Jr.	N.Y. Giants	2014-16
Randy Moss ^{HOF}	Minnesota	1998-2000
John Jefferson	San Diego Chargers	1978-80

On the defensive side of the ball, **KEVIN BYARD** led the team with a career-high 111 tackles last season, the fifth-most among all safeties in the league. Since 2017, he ranks second among all players with 18 interceptions.

The players with the most interceptions since 2017:

PLAYER	TEAM(S)	INTERCEPTIONS
Xavien Howard	Miami	22
Kevin Byard	Tennessee	18
J.C. Jackson	New England	17
Marcus Peters	Kansas City, L.A. Rams, Baltimore	17

Second-year safety **AMANI HOOKER** tied for the team lead with a career-high four interceptions.

Tennessee used its first-round pick in the 2021 NFL Draft (22nd overall) on Virginia Tech cornerback **CALEB FARLEY**, who totaled 19 passes defensed and six interceptions over two seasons in college.

Other new additions to the Titans defense this season are linebacker **BUD DUPREE**, who comes to Tennessee after totaling 39.5 sacks and 53 tackles for loss over six seasons in Pittsburgh, and cornerback **JANORIS JENKINS** (below), who ranks sixth among all active players with 26 career interceptions and is the only player with multiple interceptions in each of the past seven seasons.



DENVER BRONCOS

AFC WEST

This season, the Broncos are expected to see the return of star players on each side of the ball, with wide receiver **COURTLAND SUTTON** and linebacker **VON MILLER** both recovering from injuries that cost them the 2020 season.

In 2019, Sutton set career-highs in receptions (72), receiving yards (1,112) and receiving touchdowns (six). In the receiving corps, he is joined by wide receiver **JERRY JEUDY**, the No. 15 pick in the 2020 NFL Draft, who had 52 receptions and ranked fifth among rookies last season in receiving yards (856), and tight end **NOAH FANT**, who was one of four AFC tight ends with at least 60 receptions (career-high 62) last year.



At the quarterback position, third-year quarterback **DREW LOCK**, who passed for 2,933 yards and 16 touchdowns last season, is joined by offseason acquisition **TEDDY BRIDGEWATER**, who set career-highs in passing yards (3,733) and passing touchdowns (15) last season with Carolina.



Running back **MELVIN GORDON** returns for his second season in Denver, after posting 986 rushing yards and nine rushing touchdowns last season. Gordon is one of two running backs (**TODD GURLEY**) with at least 800 scrimmage yards in each of the past six seasons and is the only running back with at least eight rushing touchdowns in each of the past five seasons. Since 2016, he is one of four running backs with at least 45 rushing touchdowns.

The running backs with the most rushing touchdowns since 2016:

PLAYER	TEAM(S)	RUSHING TDs
Todd Gurley	L.A. Rams, Atlanta	57
Derrick Henry	Tennessee	55
Ezekiel Elliott	Dallas	46
Melvin Gordon	L.A. Chargers, Denver	45

DENVER BRONCOS

AFC WEST

VON MILLER, who returns to the field after posting eight sacks in 2019, leads all players with 106 sacks since entering the NFL as the second overall selection in the 2011 NFL Draft.

Entering his 11th NFL season, Miller, who has recorded at least one sack in 77 of his first 135 career games, needs a sack in at least eight different games this season to become the fourth player since 1982, when the individual sack became an official statistic, to register at least one sack in 85 different games during his first 11 seasons.

The players with the most games with at least one sack in their first 11 seasons since 1982:

PLAYER	TEAM(S)	GAMES WITH A SACK
Reggie White ^{HOF}	Philadelphia, Green Bay	95
DeMarcus Ware	Dallas, Denver	93
Jared Allen	Kansas City, Minnesota, Chicago	85
Jason Taylor ^{HOF}	Miami	82

With 14 sacks in 2021, Miller can become the fifth player since 1982 to register at least 120 sacks in his first 150 career games.

The players with the most sacks in their first 150 career games since 1982:

PLAYER	TEAM(S)	SACKS
Reggie White ^{HOF}	Philadelphia, Green Bay	145
DeMarcus Ware	Dallas, Denver	125
Jared Allen	Minnesota, Kansas City, Chicago	122
Bruce Smith ^{HOF}	Buffalo	121



Up front, Miller is joined by linebackers **BRADLEY CHUBB** and **MALIK REED**, as well as defensive end **DRE'MONT JONES**. With Reed (eight sacks in 2020), Chubb (7.5) and Jones (6.5), Denver was one of four AFC teams with three players each recording at least six sacks last season.

TEAM	PLAYER	SACKS
Denver	Malik Reed	8
	Bradley Chubb	7.5
	Dre'Mont Jones	6.5
Indianapolis	DeForest Buckner	9.5
	Justin Houston	8
	Denico Autry	7.5
Miami	Emmanuel Ogbah	9
	Jerome Baker	7
	Kyle Van Noy	6
Pittsburgh	T.J. Watt	15
	Stephon Tuitt	11
	Bud Dupree	8

DENVER BRONCOS

AFC WEST

The Denver secondary is led by safety **JUSTIN SIMMONS**, who recorded his third-consecutive season with at least 90 tackles (96) and ranked tied for fourth in the NFL with a career-high five interceptions. He is the only safety to record multiple interceptions in each of the past five seasons and is one of four safeties with at least 15 interceptions since 2016.

The safeties with the most interceptions since 2016:

PLAYER	TEAM(S)	INTERCEPTIONS
Kevin Byard	Tennessee	18
Justin Simmons	Denver	16
Harrison Smith	Minnesota	16
Tyrann Mathieu	Arizona, Houston, Kansas City	15



This offseason, the Broncos bolstered their secondary with the signings of cornerbacks **RONALD DARBY** and **KYLE FULLER**, as well as using the ninth overall selection in the 2021 NFL Draft on Alabama cornerback **PAT SURTAIN II**. Darby joins the Broncos after recording 16 passes defended with Washington last season, and his 81 passes defended since 2015 are the fifth-most in the NFL over that span. Fuller, who leads the NFL with 63 passes defended since 2017, comes to Denver after seven years in Chicago, where he was a two-time Pro Bowl selection.

Returning for his eighth season as a Bronco is kicker **BRANDON MCMANUS**, who made 10 field goals of at least 50 yards in 2020, tied with **JUSTIN TUCKER** (10 in 2016) and **BLAIR WALSH** (10 in 2012) for the most in a single season in NFL history. He has seven career games with multiple 50-yard field goals, tied with **MATT PRATER** for the most in NFL history.

Peter Joneleit / AP



KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

AFC WEST

Last season, the Kansas City Chiefs finished with the best regular-season record (14-2) in the NFL, earning their fifth-consecutive AFC West division title and becoming the second team in NFL history to host three consecutive Championship games. They advanced to the Super Bowl for the second-consecutive season after leading the NFL in total offense (415.8 yards per game) during the regular season.

Head coach **ANDY REID** led the Chiefs to a franchise-record 14 wins last season and in Week 9, surpassed Pro Football Hall of Famer **CURLY LAMBEAU** (229 wins) for the fifth-most wins by a head coach in NFL history.

The head coaches with the most career victories:

HEAD COACH	TEAM(S)	TOTAL WINS
Don Shula ^{HOF}	BAL Colts, MIA	347
George Halas ^{HOF}	CHI	324
Bill Belichick	CLE, NE	311
Tom Landry ^{HOF}	DAL	270
Andy Reid	PHI, KC	238

Charité Riedel / AP



Ben Liebenberg / AP

Kansas City's offense is led by quarterback **PATRICK MAHOMES**, who became the youngest quarterback in NFL history (25 years and 143 days old on date of Super Bowl LV) to start two Super Bowls, surpassing **RUSSELL WILSON**, who was 26 years and 64 days old at the time of his second Super Bowl start (SB XLIX).

He enters the 2021 season as the league's all-time leader in regular-season passer rating (108.7) among qualified passers and is one of five quarterbacks in league annals with a passer rating of 100-or-higher (100.4) during the postseason.

The qualified players with the highest career passer ratings in NFL history:

PLAYER	TEAM	PASSER RATING
Patrick Mahomes	Kansas City	108.7
Deshaun Watson	Houston	104.5
Aaron Rodgers	Green Bay	103.9

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

AFC WEST

Mahomes ranked second in the NFL with 4,740 passing yards and fourth with 38 touchdown passes last season, became the third player with at least 4,000 passing yards in three of his first four seasons in NFL history, joining Pro Football Hall of Famers **PEYTON MANNING** and **DAN MARINO**. He enters the 2021 season with 14,152 passing yards in 46 career games and can become the first quarterback in league annals to reach 15,000 passing yards in 50-or-fewer games.

Mahomes has 26 career games with at least 300 passing yards, tied with Pro Football Hall of Famer **KURT WARNER** (26 games) for the most by a player in his first four seasons. With four such games in 2021, he would surpass Warner (29 games) for the most by a player in first five seasons in league annals. Mahomes has 14 career games with at least 350 passing yards, the most by a player in his first four seasons in NFL history.

In 2020, he threw his 100th career touchdown pass in his 40th career game, surpassing Marino (44 games) as the fastest player to reach 100 career touchdown passes in league annals. In his first four seasons, Mahomes has 11 career games with at least four touchdown passes, joining Marino (12 games) as the only quarterbacks with at least 10 such games in their first four seasons in NFL history, and 21 career games with at least three touchdown passes, tied with Warner (21 games) for the second-most such games by a quarterback in his first four seasons in league annals.



Kysung Gong / AP

One of Mahomes' favorite targets is tight end **TRAVIS KELCE**, who ranked second in the NFL with 1,416 receiving yards in 2020 and surpassed **GEORGE KITTLE** (1,377 receiving yards in 2018) for the most receiving yards by a tight end in a single season in NFL history. Kelce, who had 1,336 receiving yards in 2018 and 1,229 receiving yards in 2019, became the first tight end in league annals to record at least 1,200 receiving yards in three different seasons. Kelce also ranked second among tight ends with a career-high 105 receptions and became the first tight end in NFL history with at least 100 receptions in two different seasons (103 receptions in 2018).



Ben Liebenberg / AP

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

AFC WEST

In the playoffs, Kelce joined **LARRY FITZGERALD** (2008) and **HAKEEM NICKS** (2011) as the only players with at least 100 receiving yards in three games within a single postseason. In the AFC Championship game, he recorded 13 receptions -- the most in a single Championship Game in league history -- for 118 yards and two touchdowns and tied with Pro Football Hall of Famers **SHANNON SHARPE** (13 receptions on Jan. 9, 1994) and **KELLEN WINSLOW SR.** (13 receptions on Jan. 2, 1982) for the most receptions by a tight end in a single postseason game in NFL history. Kelce has six career postseason games with at least 100 receiving yards, the most by a tight end in postseason history.

Kelce has 7,881 career receiving yards in 111 career games and became the second-fastest tight end (104 games) to reach 7,000 career receiving yards in NFL history, trailing only **ROB GRONKOWSKI** (100 games). With 119 receiving yards in his first eight games, he can surpass Gronkowski (120 games) as the fastest tight end to 8,000 receiving yards.

Kelce, who has 612 career receptions, needs 85 receptions and 29 receiving yards to surpass **JASON WITTEN** (696 receptions, 7,909 receiving yards) for the most receptions and most receiving yards by a tight end in his first nine seasons in NFL history.

In Week 14, Kelce registered his 25th career game with at least 100 receiving yards and surpassed Pro Football Hall of Famer **KELLEN WINSLOW SR.** (24 games) for the third-most by a tight end in NFL history. Only Pro Football Hall of Famer **TONY GONZALEZ** (31 games) and **ROB GRONKOWSKI** (29) have more.



Another one of Mahomes' go-to guys is wide receiver **TYREEK HILL**, who ranked second among wide receivers with a career-high 17 scrimmage touchdowns (15 receiving, two rushing). During his career, he has 47 receiving touchdowns with six rushing touchdowns and joined Pro Football Hall of Famer **JERRY RICE** (197 receiving touchdowns, 10 rushing touchdowns) as the only players with at least 35 receiving touchdowns and five rushing touchdowns since 1970.

In Week 12, Hill had 203 receiving yards in the first quarter and became the third player since 1980 with at least 200 receiving yards in a single quarter, joining **QADRY ISMAIL** (210 receiving yards in third quarter on December 12, 1999) and **LEE EVANS** (205 in first quarter on November 19, 2006). He also became the sixth player with two career games of at least 10 receptions, 200 receiving yards and two receiving touchdowns in NFL history, joining Pro Football Hall of Famers **DON HUTSON** and **JERRY RICE**, as well as **AMARI COOPER**, **CHAD JOHNSON** and **ART POWELL**.

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

AFC WEST

Since 2018, Hill and Kelce have combined for 8,976 receiving yards, including the postseason, surpassing the Pro Football Hall of Fame duo of **CRIS CARTER** and **RANDY MOSS** (8,695 combined receiving yards from 1998-2000) for the most receiving yards by a pair of teammates over a three-season span, including the playoffs, in NFL history.

With the final pick of the first round (32nd overall) in the 2020 NFL Draft, Kansas City selected running back **CLYDE EDWARDS-HELAIRE**, who burst onto the scene with 138 rushing yards and one touchdown during his NFL debut in the league's annual Kickoff game. He finished 2020 ranking fourth among rookies with 1,100 scrimmage yards (803 rushing, 297 receiving), the third-most by a rookie in franchise history.

During the offseason, Kansas City revamped their offensive line, signing **KYLE LONG** and **JOE THUNEY**, trading for **ORLANDO BROWN JR.** and drafting **CREED HUMPHREY** in the second round (63rd overall) of the 2021 NFL Draft, along with the expected return of guard **LAURENT DUVERNAY-TARDIFF**, who opted out of the 2020 season.



Defensively, the Chiefs are led by safety **TYRANN MATHIEU**, who led the team and all NFL safeties with a career-high six interceptions last season. Since joining Kansas City in 2019, he is the only safety and one of three defensive backs overall (**XAVIEN HOWARD** & **J.C. JACKSON**) with at least 10 interceptions (10).

Up front, Kansas City is bolstered by defensive tackle **CHRIS JONES** and defensive end **FRANK CLARK**. Jones led the club with 7.5 sacks, and his 38.5 sacks since 2017 rank fourth among all NFL defensive linemen.

The defensive linemen with the most sacks since 2017:

PLAYER	TEAM	SACKS
Aaron Donald	L.A. Rams	57.5
Cameron Jordan	New Orleans	48
Myles Garrett	Cleveland	42.5
Chris Jones	Kansas City	38.5

Clark recorded six sacks in 2020 and is one of seven players with at least six sacks in each of the past five seasons. He has also proved to be one of the top performers during postseason play, recording 11 sacks in 11 career playoff games, tied for the fifth-most sacks in the postseason since 1982, when the individual sack became an official statistic.

Defensive back **L'JARIUS SNEED**, a fourth-round pick (138th overall) in the 2020 NFL Draft, also made an instant impact during his rookie year, recording interceptions in each of his first two career games, and recording sacks in each of his first two career postseason games. In the 2021 NFL Draft, Kansas City used its first selection (second round, No. 58 overall) on Missouri linebacker **NICK BOLTON**.

LAS VEGAS RAIDERS

AFC WEST

The Raiders registered an 8-8 record in their first season in Las Vegas last year, the first time they've finished with a .500-or-better record since 2016. **JON GRUDEN** enters his 15th season as an NFL head coach and is one of eight active coaches with at least 100 career regular-season victories (114).

Quarterback **DEREK CARR** set career highs in passing yards (4,103) and passer rating (101.4), while adding 27 touchdown passes in 2020. It marked the third-consecutive season with at least 4,000 passing yards and his 26,896 career passing yards are the fourth-most by a player in his first seven seasons in NFL history.

The players with the most passing yards through their first seven seasons in NFL history:

PLAYER	TEAM	PASSING YARDS
Peyton Manning ^{HOF}	Indianapolis	29,442
Matt Ryan	Atlanta	28,166
Dan Marino ^{HOF}	Miami	27,853
Derek Carr	Oakland/Las Vegas	26,896

If Carr records at least 3,000 passing yards this season, he will become the fourth player with at least 3,000 passing yards in each of his first eight seasons in league annals.

The players with at least 3,000 passing yards in the most consecutive seasons to begin their careers in NFL history:

PLAYER	TEAM	SEASONS
Peyton Manning ^{HOF}	Indianapolis	13
Russell Wilson	Seattle	9*
Cam Newton	Carolina	8
Derek Carr	Oakland/Las Vegas	7*

*Active streak



Jeff Bottari / AP

Carr's top target last season was tight end **DARREN WALLER**, who led all tight ends with a career-high 107 receptions in 2020, the third-most receptions by a tight end in a single season in NFL history. He became the third tight end in league annals with at least 100 catches, 1,000 receiving yards (1,196) and nine touchdown receptions (nine) in a single season, joining **DALLAS CLARK** (2009) and **TRAVIS KELCE** (2018 and 2020).

Over the past two seasons, Waller has 197 receptions and 2,341 receiving yards, trailing only Kelce for the most among tight ends in each category. If he records at least 90 receptions in 2021, he will join Kelce as the only tight ends to accomplish the feat in three consecutive seasons in league history.

The tight ends with the most receptions since 2019:

PLAYER	TEAM	RECEPTIONS
Travis Kelce	Kansas City	202
Darren Waller	Oakland/Las Vegas	197

The tight ends with the most receiving yards since 2019:

PLAYER	TEAM	REC. YARDS
Travis Kelce	Kansas City	2,645
Darren Waller	Oakland/Las Vegas	2,341

LAS VEGAS RAIDERS

AFC WEST

Running back **JOSH JACOBS** rushed for 1,065 yards and a career-high 12 touchdowns last season, becoming the first player in franchise history to eclipse 1,000-yards rushing in each of his first two seasons.

If he reaches the milestone again in 2021, he will become the first player to record at least 1,000 rushing yards in each of his first three seasons since **ALFRED MORRIS** (2012-14).



Joining Jacobs in the Las Vegas backfield this season is running back **KENYAN DRAKE**, who recorded career highs with 955 rushing yards and 10 rushing touchdowns last season with Arizona.

It marked his third-consecutive season with at least 1,000 scrimmage yards. Additionally, he is one of five players with at least 800 rushing yards and eight rushing touchdowns in each of the past two seasons.

The players with at least 800 rushing yards and eight rushing TDs in each of the past two seasons:

PLAYER	TEAM(S)
Nick Chubb	Cleveland
Dalvin Cook	Minnesota
Kenyan Drake	Miami, Arizona
Derrick Henry	Tennessee
Aaron Jones	Green Bay

The Raiders also bolstered their offense with the addition of wide receiver **JOHN BROWN**. The seven-year veteran comes to Las Vegas after totaling 1,518 receiving yards and nine touchdowns over the past two seasons with Buffalo.

He joins wide receivers **HUNTER RENFROW**, who registered career highs in receptions (56) and receiving yards (656) in 2020 and **HENRY RUGGS**, who recorded 452 receiving yards as a rookie last season.

Las Vegas used their first pick in the 2021 NFL Draft to bolster their offensive line, selecting Alabama tackle **ALEX LEATHERWOOD** with the 17th overall pick.



LAS VEGAS RAIDERS

AFC WEST


Defensive end **YANNICK NGAKOUE** (below) joins the Raiders this season and enters 2021 with 45.5 career sacks in five seasons, including eight last season with Minnesota and Baltimore.

He is one of three players to record at least eight sacks in each of the past five seasons, joining **AARON DONALD** and **KHALIL MACK**. He is also the fifth player to record at least eight sacks in each of his first five seasons since 1982, when the individual sack became an official statistic.

The players with at least eight sacks in the most consecutive seasons to begin their careers since 1982:

PLAYER	TEAM(S)	SEASONS
Reggie White ^{HOF}	Philadelphia, Green Bay	14
Derrick Thomas ^{HOF}	Kansas City	10
DeMarcus Ware	Dallas	8
Aaron Donald	St. Louis/L.A. Rams	7*
Yannick Ngakoue	Jacksonville, Minnesota, Baltimore	5*

*Active streak

Also new to the Raiders this season is two-time Pro Bowl cornerback **CASEY HAYWARD**, who had 100 career passes defensed and 23 interceptions during his 9-year NFL career.



On the defensive side of the ball, defensive end **MAXX CROSBY** has led the team in sacks in each of the past two seasons, registering 10 as a rookie in 2019 and seven last season. Of all players selected in the 2019 NFL Draft, Crosby, a fourth-round selection, currently has the most career sacks, with 17.

The players selected in the 2019 NFL Draft with the most career sacks:

PLAYER	TEAM	ROUND (OVERALL)	SACKS
Maxx Crosby	Oakland/Las Vegas	4 (106)	17
Brian Burns	Carolina	1 (16)	16.5
Montez Sweat	Washington	1 (26)	16

LOS ANGELES CHARGERS

AFC WEST

The Los Angeles Chargers finished with a 7-9 record in 2020 but won their last four games and feature the reigning Associated Press Offensive Rookie of the Year **JUSTIN HERBERT** under center as they enter 2021.

The Chargers will be led by first-time head coach **BRANDON STALEY** this season, who was hired to become the 17th head coach in franchise history on January 17, 2021.



Kyusung Gong / AP

Staley comes to the team after serving as the defensive coordinator for the Los Angeles Rams last season, where under his leadership the unit led the league in total defense, passing defense and scoring defense, while finishing third in rushing defense. Before his time with the Rams, Staley served as the outside linebackers coach for Denver in 2019 and Chicago in 2018 and 2017.

Prior to coaching in the NFL, Staley spent three seasons (2013, 2015-16) at John Carroll as defensive coordinator/secondary coach and the 2014 season as defensive coordinator/linebackers at James Madison. He also spent time at Tennessee (2012), Hutchinson (Kan.) Community College (2010-11), St. Thomas (2009) and Northern Illinois (2006-08). He played quarterback at the University of Dayton, where he was a team captain and two-year starter.



Ben Liebenberg / AP

Herbert rewrote the rookie record book in his 15 starts last season, recording the most touchdown passes (31), most completions (396) and second-most passing yards (4,336) by a rookie quarterback in NFL history.

He is the first rookie to record both 25 touchdown passes and 4,000 passing yards. Herbert also had six games with at least three touchdown passes and eight games with at least 300 passing yards, both the most by a rookie in league annals.

The rookie quarterbacks with the most touchdown passes in NFL history:

PLAYER	TEAM	SEASON	TD PASSES
Justin Herbert	L.A. Chargers	2020	31
Baker Mayfield	Cleveland	2018	27
Peyton Manning ^{HOF}	Indianapolis	1998	26
Russell Wilson	Seattle	2012	26

The rookie quarterbacks with the most passing yards in NFL history:

PLAYER	TEAM	SEASON	PASSING YARDS
Andrew Luck	Indianapolis	2012	4,374
Justin Herbert	L.A. Chargers	2020	4,336
Cam Newton	Carolina	2011	4,051

LOS ANGELES CHARGERS

AFC WEST

Herbert can become the first player in league history to throw at least 30 touchdown passes in each of his first two seasons and needs 38 touchdown passes to surpass Pro Football Hall of Famer **DAN MARINO** (68 touchdown passes) for the most by a player through his first two seasons in NFL history.

He can also join **JAMEIS WINSTON** as the only players in league annals to record at least 4,000 passing yards in each of their first two seasons.



Alex Gallardo / AP

Wide receiver **KEENAN ALLEN** led the team in receptions (100), receiving yards (992) and receiving touchdowns (eight) last season and is one of two players in the NFL (**DEANDRE HOPKINS**) with at least 95 receptions in each of the past four seasons. **ANTONIO BROWN** (six consecutive seasons, 2013-18) is the only player in league history to record at least 95 receptions in at least five consecutive seasons.

Allen's 624 receptions in 100 career games are the most by any player in his first 100 career games in NFL history.

The players with the most receptions in their first 100 career games in NFL history:

PLAYER	TEAM	RECEPTIONS
Keenan Allen	San Diego/L.A. Chargers	624
Antonio Brown	Pittsburgh	622

In addition to Allen, Herbert will again be throwing to wide receiver **MIKE WILLIAMS** in 2021, who has recorded at least 750 receiving yards in each of the past two seasons. Since 2018, he ranks second among all players (minimum 100 receptions) in average yards per reception (17.3), trailing only **A.J. BROWN** (17.4).

In free agency, the Chargers acquired tight end **JARED COOK**, who joins the team after two seasons with the Saints. Since 2018, he is the only tight end with at least six touchdown receptions in each of the past three seasons and his 22 touchdown receptions are the second-most among all tight ends, trailing only **TRAVIS KELCE** (26).

Running back **AUSTIN EKELER** totaled 933 scrimmage yards (530 rushing, 403 receiving) last season, his third-consecutive season with at least 900 scrimmage yards. His 16 touchdown receptions since entering the league in 2017 are tied for the most among running backs, while his 212 receptions and 2,079 receiving yards both rank fourth at the position.

With at least six touchdown receptions in 2021, Ekeler will surpass **CHUCK FOREMAN** (21 touchdown receptions) for the most by a running back in his first five seasons in the Super Bowl era.



Ben Liebenberg / AP

LOS ANGELES CHARGERS

AFC WEST

The Chargers used the 13th overall pick in the 2021 NFL Draft on Northwestern offensive lineman **RASHAWN SLATER**, who played in 38 games at the collegiate level. Los Angeles also bolstered their offensive line group by signing 2020 All-Pro center **COREY LINSLEY** in free agency.

Defensive end **JOEY BOSA** led the team with 7.5 sacks last season and tied for third in the league with 15 tackles for loss. He is the only player in the NFL with at least 15 tackles for loss in each of the past two seasons. Since entering the league in 2016, Bosa is one of four players with at least 60 tackles for loss (68) and 40 sacks (47.5).

The players with at least 60 tackles for loss and 40 sacks since 2016:

PLAYER	TEAM	TFL	SACKS
Joey Bosa	San Diego/ L.A. Chargers	68	47.5
Calais Campbell	Arizona, Jacksonville, Baltimore	61	43.5
Aaron Donald	L.A. Rams	91	65.5
Chandler Jones	Arizona	68	61
Cameron Jordan	New Orleans	78	55.5



Emilee Chinn / AP

Rookie linebacker **KENNETH MURRAY** led the team with 107 tackles last season, the second-most among all rookies, and added five tackles for loss and a sack.

The rookies with the most tackles in 2020:

PLAYER	TEAM	TACKLES
Jeremy Chinn	Carolina	116
Kenneth Murray	L.A. Chargers	107
Patrick Queen	Baltimore	105

Safety **DERWIN JAMES** is expected to return to the field in 2021 after missing last season due to injury. As a rookie in 2018, James totaled 13 passes defended, 3.5 sacks and three interceptions.

In the second round of the 2021 NFL Draft, the Chargers selected Florida State cornerback **ASANTE SAMUEL JR.**, who joins 10-year NFL veteran **CHRIS HARRIS JR.** in the secondary.



Mark LoMoglio / AP

DALLAS COWBOYS

NFC EAST

Before suffering a season-ending injury in Week 5 of last season, quarterback **DAK PRESCOTT** had 1,690 passing yards through four games and surpassed Pro Football Hall of Famer **KURT WARNER** (1,557 passing yards in 2000) for the most passing yards by a player in his team's first four games of a season in NFL history.



From Weeks 2-4, Prescott became the first player with at least 450 passing yards in three consecutive games in NFL history. In Week 2, he became the first player with at least 400 passing yards and three rushing touchdowns in a single game in NFL history.

Prescott enters 2021 with 106 touchdown passes and 24 rushing touchdowns in his career and is the third quarterback with at least 100 touchdown passes and 20 rushing touchdowns in his first five seasons in NFL history, joining **JEFF GARCIA** and **CAM NEWTON**.

With at least six rushing touchdowns this season, he will join Newton as the only quarterbacks with at least 30 rushing touchdowns through their first six seasons in the Super Bowl era.

The QBs with the most rushing touchdowns in their first six seasons in the Super Bowl era:

PLAYER	TEAM(S)	RUSH TDs
Cam Newton	Carolina	48
Jack Kemp	L.A./S.D. Chargers, Buffalo	29
Dak Prescott	Dallas	24*

*Entering sixth season

Running back **EZEKIEL ELLIOTT** totaled 1,317 scrimmage yards (979 rushing, 338 receiving) and eight touchdowns (six rushing, two receiving) last season, becoming the third player with at least 1,250 scrimmage yards and eight touchdowns in each of his first five seasons in NFL history, joining Pro Football Hall of Famer **LADAINIAN TOMLINSON** and **RICKY WATTERS**. Elliott can join Tomlinson as the only players to do so in each of their first six seasons.

In his career, Elliott has 46 rushing touchdowns and 10 receiving touchdowns and became the fifth player with at least 45 rushing touchdowns and 10 receiving touchdowns in his first five seasons in league history, joining **SHAUN ALEXANDER**, Pro Football Hall of Famer **MARCUS ALLEN**, **CHUCK FOREMAN** and **TODD GURLEY**.

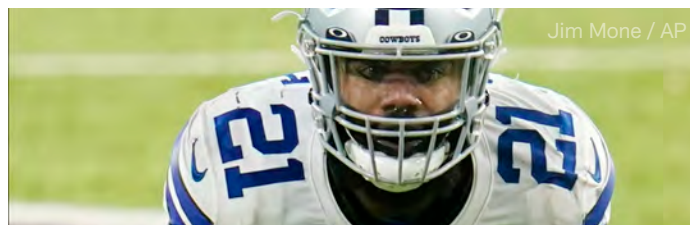
Since entering the NFL in 2016, Elliott's 8,341 scrimmage yards and 6,384 rushing yards are both the most in the league.

The players with the most scrimmage yards since 2016:

PLAYER	TEAM(S)	SCRIMMAGE YARDS
Ezekiel Elliott	Dallas	8,341
Todd Gurley	L.A. Rams, Atlanta	7,042

The players with the most rushing yards since 2016:

PLAYER	TEAM	RUSHING YARDS
Ezekiel Elliott	Dallas	6,384
Derrick Henry	Tennessee	5,860



DALLAS COWBOYS

NFC EAST

Wide receiver **AMARI COOPER** led the team with 1,114 receiving yards and a career-high 92 receptions in 2020, becoming the fourth different player in franchise history with at least 90 receptions in a single season.

Cooper added five receiving touchdowns last season and if he does so again in 2021, he will become the eighth player with at least five receiving touchdowns in each of his first seven seasons in NFL history.



2020 first-round pick **CEEDEE LAMB** ranked second among rookies with 74 receptions and 935 receiving yards last season, both the most by a rookie in franchise history. He also became the first player in NFL history with at least five receptions in each of his first six career games.

The rookies with the most receptions in 2020:

PLAYER	TEAM	RECEPTIONS
Justin Jefferson	Minnesota	88
CeeDee Lamb	Dallas	74

The rookies with the most receiving yards in 2020:

PLAYER	TEAM	REC. YARDS
Justin Jefferson	Minnesota	1,400
CeeDee Lamb	Dallas	935

On the defensive side of the ball, linebacker **JAYLON SMITH** ranked second in the NFL with a career-high 154 tackles last season. Since 2018, his 417 total tackles rank third in the league.

The players with the most tackles since 2018:

PLAYER	TEAM(S)	TACKLES
Blake Martinez	Green Bay, N.Y. Giants	450
Bobby Wagner	Seattle	435
Jaylon Smith	Dallas	417

Smith will be joined by rookie linebacker **MICAH PARSONS** this season, who the team selected out of Penn State in the first round (No. 12 overall) in the 2021 NFL Draft. It marked the second time the Cowboys selected a linebacker with a top-15 pick in the common draft era, joining **DEMARCUS WARE** (11th overall in 2005).

Cornerback **TREVON DIGGS** ranked second among rookies with 14 passes defended in 2020 and was one of four rookies to record three interceptions last season, along with **KAMREN CURL**, **JORDAN FULLER** and **L'JARIUS SNEED**.

Head coach **MIKE MCCARTHY** enters his second season in Dallas and his 131 career regular-season wins are the sixth-most among active head coaches. He's looking to bring the Cowboys their first division title since 2018.



NEW YORK GIANTS

NFC EAST

In their first season under head coach **JOE JUDGE**, the New York Giants allowed the fifth-fewest points per game in the NFC (22.3) and were one of five teams overall to allow 20-or-fewer points in more than half of their games last season.

The teams with the most games allowing 20-or-fewer points in 2020:

TEAM	GAMES
Baltimore	10
Washington	10
Kansas City	9
N.Y. Giants	9
L.A. Rams	9

Up front, the Giants defense is led by defensive lineman **LEONARD WILLIAMS**, who ranked seventh in the NFL with a career-high 11.5 sacks last season. In 2020, he twice earned Player of the Week honors, with 2.5 sacks in Week 13 at Seattle and a career-high three sacks in Week 17 against Dallas.

In his first season with New York last year, linebacker **BLAKE MARTINEZ** ranked third in the NFL with 151 tackles and is the only player in the league with at least 140 tackles in each of the past four seasons.

The players with the most tackles since 2017:

PLAYER	TEAM(S)	TACKLES
Blake Martinez	Green Bay, N.Y. Giants	592
Bobby Wagner	Seattle	568
Joe Schobert	Cleveland, Jacksonville	519



In the secondary, defensive back **LOGAN RYAN** joined the Giants in 2020 and ranked second on the team with 92 tackles. He is one of three active defensive backs (**MALCOLM JENKINS** and **HARRISON SMITH**) with at least 15 career interceptions (18) and 10 career sacks (12).

Cornerback **JAMES BRADBERRY** tied for second in the league with a career-high 18 passes defended last season and is the only player in the NFL with at least 10 passes defended in each of the past five seasons. In 2020, safety **JABRILL PEPPERS** set career highs in tackles (89), passes defended (11), tackles for loss (eight) and sacks (2.5).

This offseason, the Giants bolstered their secondary with the acquisition of defensive back **ADOREE' JACKSON**, who has 33 passes defended in 46 career games over four seasons with Tennessee.

NEW YORK GIANTS

NFC EAST

Offensively, quarterback **DANIEL JONES**, who passed for 2,943 yards and rushed for a career-high 423 yards last season, is rejoined by running back **SAQUON BARKLEY**, who returns to the field after missing all but two games last season. Prior to 2020, Barkley recorded at least 1,000 rushing yards, 1,400 scrimmage yards and 50-or-more receptions in each of his first two seasons after being chosen with the second overall pick in the 2018 NFL Draft.

During the offseason, New York bolstered their receiving corps with the additions of wide receiver **KENNY GOLLADAY** and tight end **KYLE RUDOLPH**. The team also used their first-round selection (No. 20 overall) in the 2021 NFL Draft on Florida wide receiver **KADARIUS TONEY**.

Golladay had recorded consecutive 1,000-yard receiving seasons (2018-19) prior to appearing in only five games last season with Detroit. Golladay joins wide receiver **STERLING SHEPARD**, who led the team with 66 receptions last season, and wide receiver **DARIUS SLAYTON**, who had a team-high 751 receiving yards in 2020. Shepard is one of seven wide receivers with at least 55 receptions in each of the past five seasons.

The wide receivers with at least 55 receptions in each of the past five seasons:

PLAYER	TEAM(S)
Davante Adams	Green Bay
Stefon Diggs	Minnesota, Buffalo
Mike Evans	Tampa Bay
Tyreek Hill	Kansas City
DeAndre Hopkins	Houston, Arizona
Jarvis Landry	Miami, Cleveland
Sterling Shepard	N.Y. Giants



Adam Hunger / AP

Rudolph comes to the Giants after a 10-year career in Minnesota that saw him record 453 receptions for 4,488 yards and 48 touchdowns. In 2021, he can become the 10th tight end in league annals with at least 500 receptions, 5,000 receiving yards and 50 touchdowns during their career. Rudolph joins tight end **EVAN ENGRAM**, who earned his first Pro Bowl selection in 2020 after totaling 63 receptions for 654 yards and one touchdown.



Brandon Wade / AP

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

NFC EAST

On January 24, 2021, the Philadelphia Eagles hired **NICK SIRIANNI** to be the 21st full-time head coach in franchise history. The 39-year-old Sirianni most recently served as the offensive coordinator for the Indianapolis Colts for the past three seasons, helping guide the team to the postseason in 2018 and 2020 and finishing with a top-ten offense last year.

Prior to Indianapolis, Sirianni served various roles on the coaching staffs of the Chargers (2013-17) and Chiefs (2009-12). A native of Jamestown, New York, Sirianni started in the coaching ranks at his alma mater Mount Union as a defensive backs coach from 2004-05, before moving to Indiana University of Pennsylvania where he coached wide receivers from 2006-08

Sirianni inherits an offense that will be led by second-year quarterback **JALEN HURTS**, who started the last four games of the 2020 season and led all rookie quarterbacks with 354 rushing yards. In his first start in Week 14, he rushed for 106 yards and joined **LAMAR JACKSON** (119 rushing yards in Week 11, 2018) as the only quarterbacks with at least 100 rushing yards in their first career starts in NFL history.

The next game, in Week 15, Hurts joined **JOE BURROW** (Week 7, 2020) and **JUSTIN HERBERT** (Week 7, 2020) as the only rookie quarterbacks with at least 300 passing yards, three touchdown passes and a rushing touchdown in a single game since 1970.

From Week 15-16, Hurts joined **MICHAEL VICK** (Weeks 4-5, 2011) as the only quarterbacks with at least 300 passing yards and 50 rushing yards in consecutive games in NFL history.



One of Hurts' top targets this season is expected to be rookie wide receiver **DEVONTA SMITH**, who the team selected out of Alabama with the 10th overall pick in the 2021 NFL Draft. Smith totaled 3,965 receiving yards and 46 touchdown receptions in college and in 2020 became the fourth wide receiver to win the Heisman Trophy.

Where Heisman-winning wide receivers were selected in the NFL Draft:

PLAYER	YEAR	SCHOOL	PICK
DeVonta Smith	2021	Alabama	10
Desmond Howard	1992	Michigan	4
Tim Brown	1988	Notre Dame	6
Johnny Rodgers	1973	Nebraska	25

2021 marked the second-consecutive year the Eagles selected a wide receiver in the first round, after selecting **JALEN REAGOR** with the 21st overall pick in 2020. Philadelphia is the first team to select a wide receiver in the first round in consecutive Drafts since 2005 (Atlanta, Detroit and Jacksonville).

Reagor recorded 31 receptions for 396 yards and a touchdown in 11 games as a rookie last season.

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

NFC EAST

Tight end **ZACH ERTZ** returns to Philadelphia this season, ranking fourth among active tight ends in career receptions (561) and fifth in receiving yards (6,078).

Last season, wide receiver **GREG WARD** led the team with a career-high 53 receptions while wide receiver **TRAVIS FULGHAM** led the Eagles with a career-best 539 receiving yards.



Running back **MILES SANDERS** led the team with 1,064 scrimmage yards last season, including a career-high 867 rushing yards while adding six rushing touchdowns.

He joined **DESEAN JACKSON** as the only players in franchise history to begin their career with two consecutive seasons with at least 1,000 scrimmage yards.

The Philadelphia defense is led by veteran defensive linemen **FLETCHER COX** and **BRANDON GRAHAM**. Graham has led the team in sacks in each of the past two seasons, including eight in 2020. He enters his 12th NFL season, all with the Eagles, with 104 tackles for loss, 59 sacks and 20 forced fumbles in his career. Since entering the league in 2012, Cox has totaled 71 tackles for loss, 54.5 tackles for loss and 12 forced fumbles.

Joining Cox and Graham along the defensive line this season is **RYAN KERRIGAN**, who comes to Philadelphia after a 10-year career with Washington where he recorded 116 tackles for loss and 95.5 sacks, the most in franchise history and the fourth-most among all active players. He is also the only player in the league to record at least five sacks in each of the past 10 seasons.

Cox, Graham and Kerrigan are the only trio of teammates in the league each with at least 50 career sacks.

The Eagles secondary is patrolled by cornerback **DARIUS SLAY**, who enters his ninth NFL season (second with Philadelphia) with 110 career passes defensed, the fourth-most among all active players.



WASHINGTON FOOTBALL TEAM

NFC EAST

Under the guidance of head coach **RON RIVERA**, Washington enters the 2021 season after winning their first NFC East title and making their first postseason appearance since 2015.

With the retirement of 2020 NFL Comeback Player of the Year **ALEX SMITH**, Washington signed quarterback **RYAN FITZPATRICK** in free agency. Fitzpatrick totaled 2,091 passing yards with 13 touchdown passes and a 95.6 rating in nine games with Miami last season. He is joined in the quarterback room by **KYLE ALLEN**, who had a 99.3 rating in four starts with Washington last season, and **TAYLOR HEINICKE**, who passed for 306 yards in the NFC Wild Card round last season.



Dean Hoffmeyer / AP

Joining Gibson in the Washington backfield is running back **J.D. MCKISSIC**, who ranked second among running backs with a career-high 80 receptions, the second-most by a running back in franchise history (**LARRY CENTERS** – 81 receptions in 2000). In 2020, he was one of two running backs (**ALVIN KAMARA**) with at least 500 receiving yards (589) and 350 rushing yards (365).

In the receiving corps, Washington is led by third-year wide receiver **TERRY MCLAURIN**, who posted career highs in receptions (87) and receiving yards (1,118) last season, and tight end **LOGAN THOMAS**. Thomas ranked third among all tight ends with a career-high 72 receptions and ranked second among NFC tight ends with 670 receiving yards last season. In Week 13, he registered a career-high 13 receptions, the most in a single game by a tight end in franchise history.



Daniel Kucin Jr. / AP

The 2020 season saw the emergence of running back **ANTONIO GIBSON**, a third-round selection (No. 66 overall) in the 2020 NFL Draft. He led all NFC rookie running backs with 795 rushing yards, while his 11 rushing touchdowns were tied with **JONATHAN TAYLOR** for the most among all rookies last year. In Week 12, Gibson rushed for 115 yards and three touchdowns on Thanksgiving, becoming the first rookie since at least 1948 with three rushing touchdowns on the holiday and the first rookie with three total touchdowns on Thanksgiving since Pro Football Hall of Famer **RANDY MOSS** (1998).



Amanda Bowen / AP

WASHINGTON FOOTBALL TEAM

NFC EAST

This offseason, Washington added wide receiver **CURTIS SAMUEL**, who spent the first four years of his career with Carolina. Last season, he set career-bests in receptions (77), receiving yards (851) and scrimmage yards (1,051). Samuel is one of three wide receivers with at least three career games with both a rushing and receiving touchdown in the Super Bowl era, joining Pro Football Hall of Famer **JERRY RICE** (five games) and **TYREEK HILL** (three).

Defensively in 2020, Washington ranked second in fewest yards allowed per game (304.6), fourth in points against per game (20.6) and sixth in total sacks (47).

Named Associated Press Defensive Rookie of the Year and a Pro Bowl selection in his first season, defensive end **CHASE YOUNG**, the No. 2 overall selection in the 2020 NFL Draft, led all rookies with 7.5 sacks and 10 tackles for loss and tied for the lead with four forced fumbles. He is joined by fellow defensive end **MONTEZ SWEAT**, who had a team-best and career-high nine sacks last season. Since entering the NFL in 2019, Sweat is one of three NFC defensive ends with at least 20 tackles for loss and 15 sacks.

The NFC defensive ends with at least 20 tackles for loss and 15 sacks since 2019:

PLAYER	TEAM	SACKS	TFL
Cameron Jordan	New Orleans	23	26
Brandon Graham	Philadelphia	16.5	28
Montez Sweat	Washington	16	20



Daniel Kucin Jr. / AP

Linebacker **JON BOSTIC** led Washington with a career-high 118 tackles while cornerback **KENDALL FULLER**, who returned to Washington after two seasons in Kansas City, led the team with four interceptions in 2020 and has recorded at least 10 passes defensed in three of the past four years.

The 2020 season also saw the arrival of rookie safety **KAMREN CURL**, who tied for the lead among rookies with three interceptions and ranked fifth with 88 tackles. In Week 14, Young and Curl each recorded defensive touchdowns, marking the fifth time since 1970 that a team has had two rookies record a defensive touchdown in the same game and the first since the **BALTIMORE RAVENS** in Week 8, 2006.

In the 2021 NFL Draft, Washington selected Kentucky linebacker **JAMIN DAVIS** with the No. 19 overall selection.

CHICAGO BEARS

NFC NORTH

Last season, Chicago earned a playoff berth for the second time in the past three years and have posted a .500-or-better record in each of their three seasons under head coach **MATT NAGY**.

During the offseason, the Bears acquired quarterback **ANDY DALTON** in free agency and selected Ohio State quarterback **JUSTIN FIELDS** with the 11th overall pick in the 2021 NFL Draft.

Dalton comes to Chicago after passing for 2,170 yards and 14 touchdowns with an 87.3 rating in 11 games with Dallas last season. Since entering the NFL in 2011, he ranks in the top-10 among quarterbacks in completions (2,973 – eighth), passing touchdowns (218 – ninth) and passing yards (33,764 – tenth) over the past 10 seasons.

Fields enters the NFL after spending his final two college seasons at Ohio State, where he compiled a 20-2 record as a starter while completing 396 of 579 pass attempts (68.4 percent) for 5,373 yards with 63 touchdowns. He earned Big Ten Offensive Player of the Year honors after both of his seasons as a Buckeye while leading Ohio State to two Big Ten Championships and two College Football Playoff appearances.



Nam Huh / AP



Nam Huh / AP

Running back **DAVID MONTGOMERY** led the team and ranked fifth in the NFL with a career-high 1,508 scrimmage yards (1,070 rushing, 438 receiving) in 2020, becoming the sixth running back in franchise history with at least 1,500 scrimmage yards in a single season. He was one of four running backs last season to record at least eight games with 100-or-more scrimmage yards.

The running backs with the most games with at least 100 scrimmage yards in 2020:

PLAYER	TEAM	GAMES
Derrick Henry	Tennessee	10
Dalvin Cook	Minnesota	9
Nick Chubb	Cleveland	8
David Montgomery	Chicago	8



Gary McCullough / AP

CHICAGO BEARS

NFC NORTH

Wide receiver **ALLEN ROBINSON** registered a career-high 102 receptions and recorded his third-career 1,000-yard season (1,250) in 2020, the most receiving yards by a Bears player since 2013. Since 2019, he ranks fourth in receiving yards (2,397) and is one of four players with at least 200 receptions over the past two seasons.

The players with the most receptions since 2019:

PLAYER	TEAM(S)	RECEPTIONS
DeAndre Hopkins	Houston, Arizona	219
Keenan Allen	L.A. Chargers	204
Travis Kelce	Kansas City	202
Allen Robinson	Chicago	200



Last season, wide receiver **DARNELL MOONEY**, a fifth-round pick (No. 173 overall) in the 2020 NFL Draft, ranked fifth in receptions (61), seventh in receiving yards (631) and eighth in receiving touchdowns (four) among all rookies.

Tight end **JIMMY GRAHAM** had a team-high eight touchdown receptions in his first year in Chicago, tied for the second-most by a tight end in franchise history. He has 17 career games with at least two touchdown receptions, tied with **ROB GRONKOWSKI** (17) for the third-most such games by a tight end in NFL history. Only **ANTONIO GATES** (21) and Pro Football Hall of Famer **TONY GONZALEZ** (18) have more.

All-time among tight ends, Graham ranks fourth in touchdown receptions (82), sixth in receptions (699) and seventh in receiving yards (8,339).

Defensively, linebacker **KHALIL MACK** had a team-high nine sacks in 2020 and is one of two players in the NFL (**AARON DONALD**) with at least eight sacks in each of the last six seasons. Since entering the NFL in 2014, he is one of seven players with at least 70 sacks (70.5) and is tied with **CHANDLER JONES** for the league-lead with 23 forced fumbles during that span.



In his first season with the Bears, linebacker **ROBERT QUINN** registered three forced fumbles, and his 27 career forced fumbles are tied with Jones (27) for the most among active players. He is the only player in the NFL with multiple forced fumbles in each of the past eight seasons.

Linebacker **ROQUAN SMITH** led the team with 139 tackles last season, his third-consecutive season with at least 100 tackles, and ranked second in the NFL with a career-high 18 tackles for loss. Since entering the league in 2018, he is one of five players with at least 300 tackles (360), 20 tackles for loss (31) and 10 sacks (11).

Smith, along with linebacker **DANNY TREVATHAN** (113 tackles), were one of two pairs of NFC linebacker teammates to each record at least 110 tackles in 2020, joining Tampa Bay's **LAVONTE DAVID** (117 tackles) and **DEVIN WHITE** (140).

Cornerback **JAYLON JOHNSON**, a second-round pick (No. 50 overall) in the 2020 NFL Draft, led all rookies and tied for sixth in the NFL with 15 passes defended in 2020.

DETROIT LIONS

NFC NORTH

The Detroit Lions hired **DAN CAMPBELL** to become the 28th head coach in franchise history on January 20, 2021.



Prior to arriving in Detroit, Campbell spent the past five seasons serving as the assistant head coach/tight ends coach for the Saints, where he helped the club capture four division titles, while the offense ranked first in the NFL in points scored (2,361), touchdowns (277) and net yardage (31,147) over that span.

In 2015, Campbell became the Dolphins' interim head coach after serving on Miami's coaching staff since 2010. Campbell took over a 1-3 team in 2015 that had lost three consecutive contests and immediately helped the team win its first two games under his leadership.

Campbell entered the NFL coaching ranks following an 11-year playing career with the New York Giants (1999-2002), Dallas Cowboys (2003-05), Detroit Lions (2006-08) and New Orleans Saints (2009).

A third-round selection by the Giants in the 1999 NFL Draft, the former tight end appeared in 114 total career games (76 starts) and caught 91 passes for 934 yards and 11 touchdowns. He is the fifth former Lions player to be named full-time head coach.

Also new to Detroit this season is quarterback **JARED GOFF**, who comes to the Lions after a five-year career with the Rams where he started 69 games and led the team to a Super Bowl LIII appearance in 2018. Last season, he recorded 3,952 passing yards and 20 touchdown passes, while eclipsing 350 yards passing in three games.

Goff has 14 career games with at least 350 passing yards, tied for the second-most by a quarterback in his first five seasons in NFL history.

The players with the most games with at least 350 passing yards in their first five seasons in NFL history:

PLAYER	TEAM	GAMES
Matthew Stafford	Detroit	15
Jared Goff	L.A. Rams	14
Patrick Mahomes	Kansas City	14

Goff enters this season with 18,171 passing yards and 107 touchdown passes in his career. If he averages 304.8 passing yards over his first six games, he will become the fourth player with at least 20,000 passing yards through his first 75 career games in NFL history.

The players with the most passing yards through their first 75 career games in NFL history:

PLAYER	TEAM	PASSING YARDS
Matthew Stafford	Detroit	21,254
Andrew Luck	Indianapolis	20,569
Dan Marino ^{HOF}	Miami	20,293
Jared Goff	L.A. Rams	18,171*

*Through 69 games

DETROIT LIONS

NFC NORTH

Joining Goff in the Detroit offense in 2021 will be wide receiver **TYRELL WILLIAMS**, who was signed this offseason. Before missing last season due to injury, Williams recorded at least 650 receiving yards and four touchdown receptions in each season from 2016-19 with the Raiders (2019) and Chargers (2016-18).

In the 2021 NFL Draft, Detroit selected USC wide receiver **AMON-RA ST. BROWN** in the fourth round.

Tight end **T.J. HOCKENSON** enters his third NFL season after recording a career-high 723 receiving yards in 2020, the second-most by a tight end in franchise history.



Running back **D'ANDRE SWIFT** returns this season after recording 878 scrimmage yards (521 rushing, 357 receiving) and 10 touchdowns (eight rushing, two receiving) as a rookie in 2020, joining Pro Football Hall of Famer **BARRY SANDERS** (1989) and **BILLY SIMS** (1980) as the only rookies with at least 10 touchdowns in franchise history.

The Lions bolstered their offensive line in the 2021 NFL Draft, selecting Oregon tackle **PENEI SEWELL** with the seventh overall pick. Sewell is the highest-selected offensive lineman by the franchise since **LOMAS BROWN** was chosen with the sixth overall pick in 1985.



On defense, defensive end **ROMEO OKWARA** (above) led the team with a career-high 10 sacks, the first Lion to register double-digit sacks since 2017. He also added a career-high three forced fumbles and was one of five players in the league last season with at least 10 sacks and three forced fumbles.

The players with at least 10 sacks and three forced fumbles in 2020:

PLAYER	2020 TEAM	SACKS	FFs
Aaron Donald	L.A. Rams	13.5	4
Myles Garrett	Cleveland	12	4
Romeo Okwara	Detroit	10	3
Haason Reddick	Arizona	12.5	6
Za'Darius Smith	Green Bay	12.5	4

Linebacker **JAMIE COLLINS** returns to the Lions this season after leading the team with 101 tackles in his first season in Detroit. Joining Okwara and Collins this season will be defensive end **MICHAEL BROCKERS**, who comes to Detroit after totaling 28 sacks and 48 tackles for loss in nine years with the Rams.

GREEN BAY PACKERS

NFC NORTH

Led by head coach **MATT LAFLEUR** and 2020 Associated Press Most Valuable Player quarterback **AARON RODGERS**, Green Bay (13-3) posted the best record in the NFC, won their second-consecutive NFC North Division title, and advanced to their second-consecutive NFC Championship Game.

LaFleur, who directed the Packers to a 13-3 record as a rookie head coach in 2019, is the second head coach since 1967 to win at least 13 games and a division title in each of his first two seasons, joining **GEORGE SEIFERT** (1989-90 with San Francisco). With 26 wins as a head coach, he has recorded the second-most wins by a coach in his first two seasons in NFL History, trailing only Seifert (28 in 1989-90).

In guiding the league's top scoring offense (31.8 points per game) last season, Rodgers – who was also named Associated Press Most Valuable Player in 2011 and 2014 – became the sixth player to earn the award three times since its inception in 1957.

The players to win Associated Press Most Valuable Player at least three times:

PLAYER	TEAM(S)	MVP SEASONS
Peyton Manning ^{HOF}	Indianapolis, Denver	5 (2003*, 2004, 2008, 2009, 2013)
Tom Brady	New England	3 (2007, 2010, 2017)
Jim Brown ^{HOF}	Cleveland	3 (1957, 1958, 1965)
Brett Favre ^{HOF}	Green Bay	3 (1995, 1996, 1997*)
Aaron Rodgers	Green Bay	3 (2011, 2014, 2020)
Johnny Unitas ^{HOF}	Baltimore Colts	3 (1959, 1964, 1967)

*Award was shared in 1997 and 2003



Rodgers led all qualified NFL passers with a 121.5 passer rating, the second-highest single-season mark by quarterback in NFL history, trailing only his 122.5 rating in 2011. He became the first quarterback in NFL history with a passer rating of 100-or-higher in at least 14 games in a single season in NFL history.

Rodgers led the NFL with a career-high 48 touchdown passes, tied with Pro Football Hall of Famer **DAN MARINO** (48 touchdown passes in 1984) for the fifth-most touchdown passes in a single season in NFL history.

The players with the most touchdown passes in a single season in NFL history:

PLAYER	TEAM	SEASON	PASS TDs
Peyton Manning ^{HOF}	Denver	2013	55
Tom Brady	New England	2007	50
Patrick Mahomes	Kansas City	2018	50
Peyton Manning ^{HOF}	Indianapolis	2004	49
Dan Marino ^{HOF}	Miami	1984	48
Aaron Rodgers	Green Bay	2020	48

GREEN BAY PACKERS

NFC NORTH

Rodgers, who also recorded 45 touchdown passes in 2011 and 40 touchdown passes in 2016, joined Pro Football Hall of Famer **PEYTON MANNING** (2004, 2013) as the only players in league annals with at least 45 touchdown passes in multiple seasons and became the first player in NFL history with three career seasons of at least 40 touchdown passes.

In his 16-year career, he has 412 career touchdown passes, the seventh player in NFL history with at least 400 career touchdown passes, and reached 400 in his 193rd game, surpassing **DREW BREES** (205 games) as the fastest player to reach 400 career touchdown passes. With 10 touchdown passes in 2020, he would move into fifth all-time, surpassing Pro Football Hall of Famer **DAN MARINO** (420) and **PHILIP RIVERS** (421).

Rodgers has 51,245 career passing yards and can surpass Pro Football Hall of Famer **JOHN ELWAY** (51,475) for the 10th-most passing yards in NFL history this year. He recorded his ninth-career season with at least 4,000 passing yards (4,299) last season and can become the sixth quarterback in league annals to register 10 career 4,000-yard seasons in 2021.

The players with the most career seasons of at least 4,000 passing yards in NFL history:

PLAYER	TEAM(S)	4,000-YARD SEASONS
Peyton Manning ^{HOF}	IND, DEN	14
Tom Brady	NE, TB	12
Drew Brees	NO	12
Philip Rivers	SD/LAC, IND	12
Matt Ryan	ATL	10
Aaron Rodgers	GB	9



Jeffrey Phelps / AP

Wide receiver **DAVANTE ADAMS** led the NFL with 18 touchdown receptions in 2020, tied for the third-most touchdowns by a wide receiver in a single season in NFL history. Only Pro Football Hall of Famers **RANDY MOSS** (23 touchdowns in 2007) and **JERRY RICE** (22 touchdowns in 1987) had more. A dynamic threat since entering the NFL in 2014, he is one of three players with at least 60 touchdown receptions over the past seven seasons.

The players with the most receiving touchdowns since 2014:

PLAYER	TEAM(S)	REC. TDs
Antonio Brown	Pittsburgh, New England, Tampa Bay	64
Davante Adams	Green Bay	62
Mike Evans	Tampa Bay	61



Adam Hunger / AP

GREEN BAY PACKERS

NFC NORTH

Adams, who tied for second in receptions (franchise record and career-high 115) and tied for fifth in receiving yards (1,374) last season, has 546 receptions for 6,568 receiving yards and 62 touchdowns in 100 career games and is one of five players since 1970 with at least 500 receptions and 60 receiving touchdowns in their first 100 games.

The players with at least 500 receptions and 60 receiving touchdowns in their first 100 career games since 1970:

PLAYER	TEAM	REC.	REC. TDs
Davante Adams	Green Bay	546	62
Larry Fitzgerald	Arizona	565	63
Marvin Harrison ^{HOF}	Indianapolis	591	66
Calvin Johnson ^{HOF}	Detroit	541	63
Randy Moss ^{HOF}	Minnesota	549	84



Rick Osentoski / AP



Matt Ludtke / AP

Along with Adams, running back **AARON JONES** (11 scrimmage touchdowns) and tight end **ROBERT TONYAN** (11) were the only trio of teammates each to record at least 10 scrimmage touchdowns last season.

Jones registered 1,459 scrimmage yards (career-high 1,104 rushing, 355 receiving) in 2020 and is one of only of three running backs (**DALVIN COOK** and **DERRICK HENRY**) with at least 1,400 scrimmage yards in each of the past two seasons. Since 2018, he has recorded the fourth-most scrimmage touchdowns (39) in the NFL.

The players with the most scrimmage touchdowns since 2018:

PLAYER	TEAM(S)	SCRIMMAGE TDs
Derrick Henry	Tennessee	47
Alvin Kamara	New Orleans	45
Todd Gurley	L.A. Rams, Atlanta	44
Aaron Jones	Green Bay	39

GREEN BAY PACKERS

NFC NORTH

In addition to tying for league-lead among tight ends in receiving touchdowns, Tonyan set career-highs in receptions (52) and receiving yards (586) last season. He became the first tight end in team history to register a touchdown reception in five straight games (Weeks 11-15) and the first NFL tight end to accomplish the feat in a single season since **JULIUS THOMAS** (2014).

At the start of training camp, the Packers acquired wide receiver **RANDALL COBB** from Houston, who had previously spent eight seasons (2011-2018) with Green Bay. In 130 career games, he has 563 receptions for 6,793 yards and 47 touchdowns.

Defensively, linebacker **ZA'DARIUS SMITH** led the team and tied for fourth in the league with 12.5 sacks. Since joining Green Bay in 2019, his 26 sacks are tied for the third-most in the NFL over that span.

The players with the most sacks since 2019:

PLAYER	TEAM	SACKS
T.J. Watt	Pittsburgh	29.5
Shaquil Barrett	Tampa Bay	27.5
Aaron Donald	L.A. Rams	26
Za'Darius Smith	Green Bay	26



Paul Sancya / AP

Cornerback **JAIRE ALEXANDER** registered his third-consecutive season with at least 10 passes defended (13) and his 41 passes defended are tied for fourth-most in the NFL since he entered the league in 2018. He is joined in the secondary by safety **DARNELL SAVAGE**, who set career-highs in interceptions (four) and passes defended (12) last season.

In the 2021 NFL Draft, the Packers chose Georgia cornerback **ERIC STOKES** with their first round (No. 29 overall) selection.



Rick Osentoski / AP

MINNESOTA VIKINGS

NFC NORTH

The Vikings finished with a top-five offense in 2020 (393.3 yards per game, fourth), led by a 4,000-yard passer, one of the league's most dynamic running backs and an elite wide receiver duo.

Head coach **MIKE ZIMMER** enters his eighth season leading the Vikings, hoping to bring Minnesota to the postseason for the fourth time during his tenure.



Bruce Kluckhohn / AP

Quarterback **KIRK COUSINS** recorded 4,265 passing yards and a career-high 35 touchdown passes last season and is the only player with at least 25 touchdown passes in each of the past six seasons. If he accomplishes the feat again in 2021, he will become the fifth player to accomplish the feat in at least seven consecutive seasons in NFL history. Since 2015, Cousins ranks fourth in the league in passing yards (25,342) and fifth in touchdown passes (172).

The players with at least 25 touchdown passes in the most consecutive seasons in NFL history:

PLAYER	TEAM(S)	SEASONS
Peyton Manning ^{HOF}	Indianapolis	13 (1998-2010)
Drew Brees	New Orleans	11 (2006-16)
Philip Rivers	San Diego/ L.A.Chargers	11 (2008-18)
Tom Brady	New England	10 (2009-18)
Kirk Cousins	Washington, Minnesota	6* (2015-20)

*Active streak

Cousins' eight games with at least three touchdown passes last season were the second-most in the league and he enters 2021 with 190 career touchdown passes in 109 career games. If he records at least 10 touchdown passes in his first four games of this season, he will become the fifth-fastest player to reach 200 career touchdown passes in NFL history.

The players to reach 200 career touchdown passes in the fewest games in NFL history:

PLAYER	TEAM(S)	GAMES
Dan Marino ^{HOF}	Miami	89
Aaron Rodgers	Green Bay	99
Peyton Manning ^{HOF}	Indianapolis	106
Brett Favre ^{HOF}	Green Bay	107
Russell Wilson	Seattle	114
Kirk Cousins	Washington, Minnesota	109*

*Has 190 career touchdown passes

In the ground game, running back **DALVIN COOK** ranked second in the NFL with 1,918 scrimmage yards and 1,557 rushing yards, and tied for second with 16 rushing touchdowns, all career highs.

He also became the sixth-ever player and the first since Pro Football Hall of Famer **EMMITT SMITH** (1994) with a rushing touchdown in each of his first seven games of a season.



Mark LoMoglio / AP

MINNESOTA VIKINGS

NFC NORTH

From Weeks 8-9 of last season, Cook became the third player in league annals with at least 225 scrimmage yards and two touchdowns in consecutive games, joining Pro Football Hall of Famer **JIM BROWN** (1963) and **DEUCE MCALLISTER** (2003).

Since entering the NFL in 2017, Cook is one of four running backs with at least 15 games of 100-or-more rushing yards.

The players with the most games of at least 100 rushing yards since 2017:

PLAYER	TEAM	GAMES
Ezekiel Elliott	Dallas	21
Derrick Henry	Tennessee	20
Nick Chubb	Cleveland	17
Dalvin Cook	Minnesota	15

Rookie wide receiver **JUSTIN JEFFERSON** quickly emerged as one of Cousins' top targets, recording 1,400 receiving yards and surpassing **ANQUAN BOLDIN** (1,377 receiving yards in 2003) for the most receiving yards by a rookie in the Super Bowl era.

The rookies with the most receiving yards in the Super Bowl era:

PLAYER	TEAM	SEASON	REC. YARDS
Justin Jefferson	Minnesota	2020	1,400
Anquan Boldin	Arizona	2003	1,377
Randy Moss ^{HOF}	Minnesota	1998	1,313



Jefferson, the 22nd pick in the 2020 NFL Draft, also became the fourth rookie ever with at least seven games of 100-or-more receiving yards, joining **BILL GROMAN** (nine games in 1960), **ODELL BECKHAM JR.** (seven games in 2014) and **HARLON HILL** (seven games in 1954).

With at least 1,356 receiving yards this season, Jefferson will surpass Beckham (2,755 receiving yards) for the most receiving yards by a player through his first two seasons in league history. Beckham and Pro Football Hall of Famer **RANDY MOSS** are the only players to eclipse the 1,250-yard receiving mark in each of their first two seasons.

Wide receiver **ADAM THIELEN** also had an impressive season in 2020, as his career-high 14 touchdown receptions ranked third in the league and tied **DOUG BALDWIN** (14 in 2015) for the second-most in a single season by an undrafted player in the common draft era [Pro Football Hall of Famer **CRIS CARTER** (1987 supplemental draft) had 17 touchdown receptions in 1995].

Thielen enters his eighth NFL season with 397 career receptions for 5,240 yards and 39 touchdowns.

MINNESOTA VIKINGS

NFC NORTH


Jim Mone / AP

On defense, linebacker **ERIC KENDRICKS** recorded 107 tackles last year, his fifth consecutive season with at least 100 tackles. He is one of two players in the league (**BOBBY WAGNER**) with at least 100 tackles in each of the past five seasons.

Kendricks is expected to be paired with linebacker **ANTHONY BARR** in 2021, after he missed all but two games last season due to injury. Barr enters his eighth NFL season with 36 career tackles for loss and 15 sacks.

Also returning from injury this season is defensive end **DANIELLE HUNTER**, who recorded 14.5 sacks in both 2018 and 2019 before missing the 2020 season. He enters this year with 54.5 career sacks and in 2019 became the youngest player (25 years and 40 days) to reach 50 career sacks since 1982, when the individual sack became an official statistic.

The youngest players to reach 50 career sacks since 1982:

PLAYER	TEAM	AGE
Danielle Hunter	Minnesota	25 years, 40 days
Robert Quinn	St. Louis Rams	25 years, 167 days
J.J. Watt	Houston	25 years, 260 days

Safety **HARRISON SMITH** led the team with five interceptions last season, tied for the second-most among all safeties. He is one of three players (**QUANDRE DIGGS** and **MARCUS PETERS**) with at least three interceptions in each of the past four seasons.

Since entering the NFL in 2012, Smith is the only player with at least 20 interceptions (28) and 10 sacks (13.5).

Smith will be joined in the secondary by cornerback **PATRICK PETERSON** (below), who comes to Minnesota after a 10-year career with Arizona, where he totaled 91 passes defended and 28 interceptions, tied with Smith and **DEVIN MCCOURTY** for the third-most interceptions among all active players.

The active players with the most career interceptions:

PLAYER	TEAM(S)	INTs
Marcus Peters	Kansas City, L.A. Rams, Baltimore	31
Joe Haden	Cleveland, Pittsburgh	29
Devin McCourty	New England	28
Patrick Peterson	Arizona	28
Harrison Smith	Minnesota	28

*Includes players on rosters as of August 1, 2021



Bruce Kluckhohn / AP

ATLANTA FALCONS

NFC SOUTH

On January 16, 2021, the Atlanta Falcons hired **ARTHUR SMITH** as the 18th head coach in franchise history. Smith comes to Atlanta after spending the past decade with the Tennessee Titans, including the past two as the team's offensive coordinator.

Under Smith's leadership, the Tennessee offense led the league in red zone touchdown percentage (75.2) since 2019, ranked fifth in points per game (27.9) and fifth in total offense (379.6), while helping the Titans make the postseason each of the past two years. Last season, the Titans offense finished the regular season ranked No. 3 in the league in total yards per game (396.4) and No. 2 overall in rushing yards per game (168.1).

Prior to joining the Titans, Smith spent time as a defensive assistant at Ole Miss (2010) and Washington (2007-08). In 2006, he served as a graduate assistant at his alma mater North Carolina, where he played on the offensive line.



Smith inherits an Atlanta offense that ranked fifth in the league in passing (272.7 yards per game) last year, led by quarterback **MATT RYAN**. Entering his 14th NFL season, Ryan has 55,767 career passing yards, the ninth-most in league history and the most by a player in his first 13 seasons and needs 267 passing yards in 2021 to surpass **DREW BREES** (56,033) for the most passing yards by a player in his first 14 seasons in league annals.

The players with the most passing yards in their first 13 seasons in NFL history:

PLAYER	TEAM(S)	PASSING YARDS
Matt Ryan	Atlanta	55,767
Peyton Manning ^{HOF}	Indianapolis	54,828
Drew Brees	San Diego, New Orleans	51,081

Last season, Ryan ranked fourth in the league with 4,581 passing yards, his seventh season with at least 4,500 passing yards, the second-most in NFL history, trailing only Brees (eight seasons).

It also marked his 10th consecutive season with at least 4,000 passing yards, joining Brees (12 seasons) as the only players in NFL history to accomplish the feat in at least 10 straight seasons.



ATLANTA FALCONS

NFC SOUTH

Ryan enters 2021 with 347 career touchdown passes, the 10th-most in NFL history. He surpassed Pro Football Hall of Famer **BRETT FAVRE** (346 touchdown passes) for the fourth-most touchdown passes by a player in his first 13 seasons in league annals.

The players with the most touchdown passes in their first 13 seasons in NFL history:

PLAYER	TEAM(S)	TD PASSES
Peyton Manning ^{HOF}	Indianapolis	399
Drew Brees	San Diego, New Orleans	363
Dan Marino ^{HOF}	Miami	352
Matt Ryan	Atlanta	347
Brett Favre ^{HOF}	Green Bay	346



Ben Liebenberg / AP

Atlanta's leading receiver from last year returns in 2021, as **CALVIN RIDLEY** tied for fifth in the league with a career-high 1,374 receiving yards, while adding 90 receptions and nine touchdowns.

He also became the first player since Pro Football Hall of Famer **MARVIN HARRISON** (1999) to record at least 100 receiving yards and two touchdowns in each of his team's first two games of a season.

Since entering the league in 2018, Ridley has 26 touchdown receptions and is the only player with at least seven touchdown receptions in each of the past three seasons. In 2021, he can become the fourth player in NFL history with at least seven touchdown receptions in each of his first four career seasons.

The players with the most consecutive seasons with at least seven touchdown receptions to begin their careers in NFL history:

PLAYER	TEAM(S)	SEASONS
Randy Moss ^{HOF}	Minnesota, Oakland	8
Joey Galloway	Seattle	4
Bob Hayes ^{HOF}	Dallas	4
Calvin Ridley	Atlanta	3*

*Active streak

Also returning to the Atlanta offense is wide receiver **RUSSELL GAGE**, who set career highs in receptions (72), receiving yards (786) and touchdown receptions (4) last season, and tight end **HAYDEN HURST**, who also set career highs in every major receiving category, totaling 56 receptions for 571 yards and six touchdown receptions in his first season with the Falcons.



Kevin Sabitus / AP

ATLANTA FALCONS

NFC SOUTH

With the fourth pick in the 2021 NFL Draft, Atlanta selected **KYLE PITTS**, making him the highest-selected tight end in the common draft era. In three years at Florida, Pitts totaled 100 receptions for 1,492 yards and 18 touchdowns.



Among the other offseason additions to the Atlanta offense are running back **MIKE DAVIS**, who set career highs in scrimmage yards (1,015), scrimmage touchdowns (eight) and receptions (59) last season with Carolina, and wide receiver/kick returner **CORDARRELLE PETERSON**.

Patterson enters his ninth NFL season with eight career kick-return touchdowns, tied with **JOSH CRIBBS** (eight) and **LEON WASHINGTON** (eight) for the most in league history.

The players with the most kickoff return touchdowns in NFL history:

PLAYER	TEAM(S)	KICK-RETURN TDs
Josh Cribbs	CLE	8
Cordarrelle Patterson	MIN, NE, CHI	8
Leon Washington	NYJ, SEA	8

Linebackers **FOYESADE OLUOKUN** and **DEION JONES** led the team with 117 and 106 tackles, respectively, last season. Jones also posted a team-high 4.5 sacks and added two interceptions, including a 67-yard return for a touchdown in Week 12.

Jones is one of two players in the league (**MINKAH FITZPATRICK**) with an interception return for a touchdown in each of the past three seasons.

Along the defensive line, **DANTE FOWLER JR.** enters his sixth NFL season (second with Atlanta) with 38 tackles for loss and 30.5 career sacks, while **GRADY JARRETT** has totaled 51 tackles for loss and 25.5 sacks throughout his six seasons with the Falcons.



CAROLINA PANTHERS

NFC SOUTH

Entering their second season under head coach **MATT RHULE**, the Carolina Panthers look to bolster their offense with the acquisition of quarterback **SAM DARNOLD** and the return of running back **CHRISTIAN MCCAFFREY**, who was limited to three games last season. Darnold, the No. 3 overall selection in the 2018 NFL Draft, has 8,097 passing yards and 45 touchdowns in 38 career starts.

Since entering the NFL in 2017, McCaffrey has 5,817 scrimmage yards (3,145 rushing, 2,672 receiving) and 45 touchdowns (29 rushing, 16 receiving), and joined **CHUCK FOREMAN** (37 rushing touchdowns, 18 receiving touchdowns) as the only players with at least 25 rushing touchdowns and 15 receiving touchdowns in their first 50 games in NFL history.

McCaffrey, who had 1,965 scrimmage yards in 2018 and 2,392 scrimmage yards – the third-highest single-season scrimmage yard total in NFL history – in 2019, can become the third player in league annals with at least 1,900 scrimmage yards in three of his first five career seasons, joining Pro Football Hall of Famers **ERIC DICKERSON** and **THURMAN THOMAS**.



Nell Redmond / AP

McCaffrey, who's 320 career receptions are the second-most ever by a running back in his first four seasons, had 116 receptions in 2019, the most catches in a single season by a running back in NFL history, and is the only running back in league annals with multiple career seasons of at least 100 receptions. He has 10 career games with at least 10 receptions, the most by a running back in NFL history.

With 39 receptions in 2021, McCaffrey would surpass **ROGER CRAIG** (358 receptions) for the most receptions by a running back in his first five seasons in NFL history and with 80 receptions, would join Pro Football Hall of Famer **MARSHALL FAULK** (five seasons), **LARRY CENTERS** (four seasons) and **ALVIN KAMARA** (four) as the only running backs with at least 80 receptions in four career seasons in league annals.

The running backs with the most receptions in their first five seasons in NFL history:

PLAYER	TEAM	REC.
Roger Craig	San Francisco	358
LaDainian Tomlinson ^{HOF}	San Diego Chargers	342
Alvin Kamara	New Orleans	326*
Christian McCaffrey	Carolina	320*

*Entering fifth season

CAROLINA PANTHERS

NFC SOUTH

Wide receiver **ROBBY ANDERSON** set career highs in receptions (95) and receiving yards (1,096) in his first season with Carolina last year while wide receiver **DJ MOORE** totaled 66 receptions for a career-high 1,193 receiving yards, his second-consecutive 1,000-yard season. Anderson and Moore were one of three sets of teammates to each record at least 1,000 receiving yards last season.

The teammates each with at least 1,000 receiving yards in 2020:

TEAM	PLAYER (YDS)	PLAYER (YDS)
Carolina	DJ Moore (1,193)	Robby Anderson (1,096)
Kansas City	Travis Kelce (1,416)	Tyreek Hill (1,276)
Seattle	D.K. Metcalf (1,303)	Tyler Lockett (1,054)

This offseason, Carolina supplemented their receiving corps with the signing of tight end **DAN ARNOLD** and the selection of LSU wide receiver **TERRACE MARSHALL** (No. 59 overall) in the 2021 NFL Draft. Arnold set career-bests in receptions (31), receiving yards (438) and receiving touchdowns (four) with Arizona last season.



Defensively, the Panthers acquired linebacker **HAASON REDDICK**, who ranked tied for fourth in the NFL with a career-high 12.5 sacks last season. In Week 14 with Arizona last year, he became the first player with at least five sacks and three forced fumbles in a single game since **VONNIE HOLLIDAY** (five sacks and three forced fumbles) in Week 16 of the 2002 season.

Carolina has used three consecutive first-round picks on the defensive side of the ball, with cornerback **JAYCEE HORN** (No. 8 overall in 2021) joining defensive tackle **DERRICK BROWN** (No. 7 in 2020) and linebacker **BRIAN BURNS** (No. 16 in 2019).

Burns led the team with a career-best nine sacks last season and aims for this third consecutive season with at least seven sacks, while Brown ranked third among rookies last season with nine tackles for loss.

Burns and Reddick are joined in the linebacker's room by **SHAQ THOMPSON**, who had a career-high 114 tackles in 2020, his second-consecutive season with at least 100 tackles.

Safety **JEREMY CHINN**, a second-round selection (No. 64 overall) in the 2020 NFL Draft, led all rookies with 116 tackles last season. He recorded two fumble-return touchdowns in Week 12 and became the third player in NFL history with multiple fumble-return touchdowns in a single game, joining **AL NESSER** (three on October 3, 1920) and **FRED EVANS** (two on November 28, 1948).

Cornerback **DONTE JACKSON** led the Panthers with three interceptions in 2020 and had a career-high 11 passes defended. During the offseason, Carolina acquired cornerback **A.J. BOUYE**, who has 72 passes defended and 14 interceptions since 2014.

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

NFC SOUTH

The New Orleans Saints (12-4) and head coach **SEAN PAYTON** won their fourth-consecutive NFC South division title in 2020 and have won at least 10 games in each of the past four seasons. The team's 49 regular-season wins since 2017 are the most in the NFL.

The teams with the most regular-season wins since 2017:

TEAM	REGULAR-SEASON WINS
New Orleans	49
Kansas City	48
Baltimore	44

With the retirement of the league's all-time leading passer in **DREW BREES**, the Saints will have a new quarterback under center on Kickoff Weekend for the first time since 2005.

Quarterback **JAMEIS WINSTON**, who threw a 56-yard touchdown pass in the Wild Card round last season for New Orleans, has 19,812 passing yards and 121 touchdowns since being selected first overall by Tampa Bay in the 2015 NFL Draft. In 2019 with the Buccaneers, Winston led the NFL with 5,109 passing yards and had his first-career season with at least 30 touchdown passes (33).



Derick Hingle / AP



Derick Hingle / AP

Last season, quarterback **TAYSOM HILL** completed 88 of 121 attempts (72.7 percent) for 928 yards and four touchdowns under center, rushed for 457 yards and eight touchdowns and recorded eight receptions for 98 yards and one touchdown. In his four starts at quarterback in 2020, he was responsible for eight total touchdowns (four passing, four rushing) and he became the second player with at least two rushing touchdowns in each of his first two career starts at quarterback in the Super Bowl era, joining **ERIC HIPPLE** (1981).

Winston and Hill are set to be protected by a trio of the top linemen in the sport – tackle **TERRON ARMSTEAD** (three-time Pro Bowler), guard **ANDRUS PEAT** (three-time Pro Bowler) and tackle **RYAN RAMCZYK** (2019 All-Pro).



Tyler Kaufman / AP

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

NFC SOUTH

Running back **ALVIN KAMARA** led the NFL with a franchise-record 21 scrimmage touchdowns (16 rushing, five receiving) last season, including six rushing touchdowns in Week 16, becoming the second player in league history with six rushing touchdowns in a single game (Pro Football Hall of Famer **ERNIE NEVERS**, November 28, 1929). Since entering the NFL in 2017, he ranks second with 59 total touchdowns (43 rushing, 15 receiving, one return), trailing only **TODD GURLEY** (63 touchdowns) in that span. Kamara's 59 touchdowns are the third-most by a player in his first four seasons in NFL history.

The players with the most touchdowns in their first four seasons in NFL history:

PLAYER	TEAM	TDs
Terrell Davis ^{HOF}	Denver	61
LaDainian Tomlinson ^{HOF}	San Diego Chargers	60
Alvin Kamara	New Orleans	59
Marcus Allen ^{HOF}	L.A. Raiders	58

Kamara ranked third in the league with a career-high 1,688 scrimmage yards (932 rushing, 756 receiving) and became the first player with at least 500 rushing yards and 500 receiving yards in each of his first four seasons in NFL history. He has 2,824 career receiving yards, the most by a running back in his first four seasons in NFL history, and needs 611 receiving yards in 2021 to surpass Pro Football Hall of Famer **LENNY MOORE** (3,434 receiving yards) for the most receiving yards by a running back in his first five seasons in league annals.



In 2020, Kamara led all running backs with a career-high 83 receptions and joined **MATT FORTE** (2008-11) and Pro Football Hall of Famer **LADAINIAN TOMLINSON** (2001-04) as the only running backs with at least 50 receptions in each of their first four seasons in league annals. With at least 80 receptions in 2021, he would join Pro Football Hall of Famer **MARSHALL FAULK** (five seasons from 1998-2002) as the only running backs with at least five consecutive and five total seasons with at least 80 receptions in NFL history.

In the backfield, Kamara is complemented by running back **LATAVIUS MURRAY**, who totaled 832 scrimmage yards (656 rushing, 176 receiving) and five touchdowns (four rushing, one receiving) last season. Murray is one of two players, along with **TODD GURLEY**, to record at least 700 scrimmage yards and five scrimmage touchdowns in each of the past six seasons.

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

NFC SOUTH

Since entering the NFL in 2016, wide receiver **MICHAEL THOMAS** leads the league with 510 receptions and surpassed **JARVIS LANDRY** (481) for the most receptions by a player in his first five seasons in NFL history. This season, he can surpass Landry (564) for the most receptions by a player in his first six seasons in league annals.

Thomas, who has at least 90 receptions and 1,100 receiving yards in four of his first five seasons, can become the fourth player in NFL history with at least 1,100 receiving yards in five of his first six career seasons.

The players with at least 1,100 receiving yards in at least five of their five six career seasons in NFL history:

PLAYER	TEAM	SEASONS
Randy Moss ^{HOF}	Minnesota	6
Torry Holt	St. Louis Rams	5
Chad Johnson	Cincinnati	5



Ben Lieberman / AP



Brian Westerholt / AP

Defensively in 2020, the Saints ranked tied for first in interceptions (18), fourth in rushing defense (93.9 yards per game allowed) and tied-fifth in scoring defense (21.1 points per game against).

Six-time Pro Bowl selection defensive end **CAMERON JORDAN**, who ranks fifth among active players with 94.5 career sacks, had 7.5 sacks last season and is the only player in the NFL with at least seven sacks in each of the past nine seasons. Since 2012, he ranks fourth in the league in sacks (93.5) and tackles for loss (122).

The active players with the most career sacks:

PLAYER	TEAM(S)	SACKS
Von Miller	Denver	106
J.J. Watt	Houston	101
Chandler Jones	New England, Arizona	97
Ryan Kerrigan	Washington	95.5
Cameron Jordan	New Orleans	94.5

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

NFC SOUTH

Linebacker **DEMARIO DAVIS** was one of five players with at least 100 tackles (team-high 119) and four sacks (four) in 2020. Since 2017, he is the only player in the NFL with at least 100 tackles and four sacks in each of the past four seasons and since 2013, he is one of two linebackers (**BOBBY WAGNER**) with at least 90 tackles in each of the past eight seasons.

Returning to the team that drafted him after six years in Philadelphia, safety **MALCOLM JENKINS** was one of three safeties (**JESSIE BATES** and **ERIC ROWE**) to register at least 90 tackles (91) and 10 passes defended (10) last season. He leads all active defensive backs in tackles (929), forced fumbles (16) and ranks sixth in passes defended (105).



Chris Szagola / AP



Tyler Kaufman / AP

Cornerback **MARSHON LATTIMORE** has recorded at least 10 passes defended in each of his first four career seasons and is one of three players with at least 55 passes defended (55) and 10 interceptions (10) over the past four seasons.

The players with at least 55 passes defended and 10 interceptions since 2017:

PLAYER	TEAM(S)	PD	INT
Kyle Fuller	Chicago	63	13
Marshon Lattimore	New Orleans	55	10
Darius Slay	Detroit, Philadelphia	62	14

In the 2021 NFL Draft, New Orleans used each of their first three selections on the defensive side of the ball, picking Houston defensive end **PAYTON TURNER** (No. 28 overall) in the first round, Ohio State linebacker **PETE WERNER** (No. 60) in the second round and Stanford cornerback **PAULSON ADEBO** (No. 76 overall) in the third round.

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

NFC SOUTH

The Tampa Bay Buccaneers won their second Super Bowl title in franchise history last season when they defeated the Kansas City Chiefs, 31-9, in Super Bowl LV at Raymond James Stadium, becoming the first team in NFL history to play in and win a Super Bowl in their home stadium.

Led by head coach **BRUCE ARIANS**, who at 68 years old became the oldest head coach to ever win a Super Bowl, Tampa Bay finished with an 11-5 record in the regular season and became the seventh club to win the Super Bowl as a Wild Card team.



Before returning to Tampa to face the Chiefs, the Buccaneers earned road postseason victories over Washington (31-23), New Orleans (30-20) and Green Bay (31-26) and became the first team in NFL history to score 30 points in four consecutive playoff games within a single postseason.

Tampa Bay's 2020 postseason results:

ROUND	OPPONENT	RESULT
Wild Card	at Washington	W 31-23
Divisional	at New Orleans	W 30-20
NFC Championship	at Green Bay	W 31-26
Super Bowl LV	vs. Kansas City (Tampa, FL)	W 31-9



Quarterback **TOM BRADY**'s first season in Tampa culminated with being named Super Bowl Most Valuable Player after completing 21 of 29 attempts (72.4 percent) for 201 yards and three touchdowns with no interceptions for a 125.8 rating.

It marked the fifth time Brady has won the award, the most by a player in NFL history. Overall, Brady has now won seven Super Bowls, the most all-time, and joined Pro Football Hall of Famer **PEYTON MANNING** as the only starting quarterbacks to win Super Bowls with multiple franchises.

The players with the most Super Bowl wins in NFL history:

PLAYER	TEAMS	SUPER BOWL WINS
Tom Brady	New England, Tampa Bay	7
Charles Haley	San Francisco, Dallas	5
Many tied	-	4

In addition to winning more Super Bowls than any other player, Brady is also the league's all-time postseason leader in career completions (1,106), touchdown passes (83), passing yards (12,449) and wins (34).

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

NFC SOUTH

During the regular season, Brady tied for second in the league with 40 touchdown passes, becoming the fifth quarterback with at least 40 touchdown passes in multiple seasons in NFL history, having also accomplished the feat in 2007. He also ranked third in the league with 4,633 passing yards, his 12th career season with at least 4,000 passing yards, tied for the second-most in NFL history.

The players with at least 4,000 passing yards in the most seasons in NFL history:

PLAYER	TEAM(S)	SEASONS
Peyton Manning ^{HOF}	IND, DEN	14
Tom Brady	NE, TB	12
Drew Brees	NO	12
Philip Rivers	SD/LAC, IND	12

Brady enters his 21st NFL season as the league's all-time leader in regular season starts (299) and touchdown passes (581). He also has 79,204 passing yards and 6,778 completions and can surpass **DREW BREES** as the all-time leader in each category this season.

The players with the most TD passes in NFL history:

PLAYER	TEAMS	TOUCHDOWN PASSES
Tom Brady	NE, TB	581
Drew Brees	SD, NO	571

The players with the most passing yards in NFL history:

PLAYER	TEAMS	PASSING YARDS
Drew Brees	SD, NO	80,358
Tom Brady	NE, TB	79,204

The players with the most completions in NFL history:

PLAYER	TEAMS	COMPLETIONS
Drew Brees	SD, NO	7,142
Tom Brady	NE, TB	6,778

In the Super Bowl, Brady connected with tight end and longtime teammate **ROB GRONKOWSKI** for two touchdowns.

Including the postseason, Brady and Gronkowski have now connected for 14 postseason touchdowns, including five Super Bowl touchdowns, both the most by a quarterback-receiver pairing in NFL history. Including the postseason, the pair have connected for a total of 98 touchdowns, the second-most by a quarterback-receiver duo in league history.

The quarterback-receiver pairings with the most touchdowns in NFL history, including the postseason:

QUARTERBACK	RECEIVER	TOUCHDOWNS
Peyton Manning ^{HOF}	Marvin Harrison ^{HOF}	114
Tom Brady	Rob Gronkowski	98
Steve Young ^{HOF}	Jerry Rice ^{HOF}	92

Including the postseason, Gronkowski enters 2021 with 100 career touchdown receptions, the third-most among tight ends in NFL history, and 9,757 receiving yards, the fifth-most all-time at the position. He is already the all-time postseason leader in receptions (89), receiving yards (1,273) and touchdowns (14) among tight ends.



Steve Luciano / AP

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

NFC SOUTH

Wide receiver **MIKE EVANS** led the team with 70 receptions, 1,006 receiving yards and a career-high 13 touchdown receptions in 2020. He became the first player in NFL history with at least 1,000 receiving yards in each of his first seven seasons. He enters this season with 532 receptions, 8,266 receiving yards and 61 touchdowns in his career.



Also returning to the Tampa Bay offense this season are wide receivers **CHRIS GODWIN**, who has totaled at least 800 receiving yards and seven touchdown receptions in each of the past three seasons and led the team with 232 receiving yards in the 2020 postseason, and **ANTONIO BROWN**, who recorded 45 catches for 483 yards and four touchdowns in eight regular season games with the Buccaneers last season.



Brown has appeared in 139 games since entering the league in 2010 and leads all active players in career receptions (886), ranks second in receiving yards (11,746) and third in receiving touchdowns (79).

If he records at least 22 receptions in his first 11 games this season, he will surpass Pro Football Hall of Famer **MARVIN HARRISON** (907 receptions) for the most by a player through his first 150 career games in NFL history.

The players with the most receptions through their first 150 career games in NFL history:

PLAYER	TEAM(S)	RECEPTIONS
Marvin Harrison	IND	907
Andre Johnson	HOU	900
Antonio Brown	PIT, NE, TB	886*

*Through 139 games

Running back **RONALD JONES** led the team with career highs in rushing yards (978) and rushing touchdowns (seven) last season, including a 98-yard touchdown run in Week 10, becoming the fourth player in NFL history to record a rushing touchdown of at least 98 yards.

He'll be rejoined in the backfield by **LEONARD FOURNETTE** (left), who led the team with 448 scrimmage yards (112 per game) during the postseason, including a season-high 135 yards (89 rushing, 46 receiving) in the Super Bowl, and joined Pro Football Hall of Famer **TERRELL DAVIS** (1997) and **LARRY FITZGERALD** (2008) as the only players with a touchdown in four consecutive playoff games within a single postseason in NFL history.

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

NFC SOUTH


Tampa Bay boasted the top rush defense in the league last season (80.6 yards per game) and were led by linebackers **DEVIN WHITE** (140 tackles) and **LAVONTE DAVID** (117), who were the only pair of linebacker teammates in the NFC each with at least 115 tackles. White also set career highs in sacks (nine) and tackles for loss (15), tied for the third-most tackles for loss among all linebackers. He had the game-sealing interception in the fourth quarter of Super Bowl LV, his second interception of the playoffs.

Since entering the NFL in 2012, David ranks second in the league with 1,123 tackles, while his 128 tackles for loss rank third. He also ranks tied for second among linebackers in that span with 12 interceptions and third with 24 forced fumbles.

The players with the most tackles since 2012:

PLAYER	TEAM	TACKLES
Bobby Wagner	Seattle	1,211
Lavonte David	Tampa Bay	1,123

The players with the most tackles for loss since 2012:

PLAYER	TEAM	TFL
J.J. Watt	Houston	159
Aaron Donald	St. Louis/L.A. Rams	131
Lavonte David	Tampa Bay	128

Linebacker **JASON PIERRE-PAUL** led the team with 9.5 sacks and a career-high four forced fumbles last season, while linebacker **SHAQUIL BARRETT** totaled eight sacks.

Barrett, who's 27.5 sacks rank second in the NFL since he joined the Buccaneers in 2019, registered three sacks in the NFC Championship game and joined Pro Football Hall of Famer **WARREN SAPP** (Jan. 4, 1998) as the only Buccaneers with three sacks in a single postseason game since 1982.

The secondary is led by cornerback **CARLTON DAVIS**, who led the team with a career-high four interceptions and tied for second in the league with 18 passes defended.

Cornerback **SEAN MURPHY-BUNTING** has recorded an interception in Tampa Bay's first three postseason games last season, becoming the fourth player to record an interception in each of his first three career postseason games in the Super Bowl era, joining Pro Football Hall of Famers **AENEAS WILLIAMS** (first four postseason games) and **ED REED** (three), as well as **JASON SEHORN** (three).

Rookie safety **ANTOINE WINFIELD JR.** made an immediate impact last season as one of two NFL rookies (**PATRICK QUEEN**) to record at least 90 tackles (91), three sacks (three) and two forced fumbles (two). He registered his first career postseason interception in Super Bowl LV.

Tampa Bay will attempt to become the first team to repeat as Super Bowl champions since the 2003-04 New England Patriots, who were also quarterbacked by Tom Brady. The Buccaneers enter 2021 as the first defending Super Bowl Champions to return all of their starters from the Super Bowl since the 1979 Pittsburgh Steelers, who would go on to repeat as champions that year.

ARIZONA CARDINALS

NFC WEST

Last season, the Cardinals had their third-most efficient offense in franchise history, averaging 384.6 yards per game, the sixth-most in the league, on their way to an 8-8 record. **KLIFF KINGSBURY** enters his third season as head coach in Arizona and looks to bring the Cardinals to the postseason for the first time since 2015.



Led by dual-threat quarterback **KYLER MURRAY**, Arizona's 139.8 rushing yards per game were also the third-most in the NFC last season.

Murray ranked second among all quarterbacks with 819 rushing yards and he joined **JOSH ALLEN** (2018-19), **LAMAR JACKSON** (2018-19) and **CAM NEWTON** (2011-12) as the only quarterbacks with at least 500 rushing yards in each of their first two seasons in NFL history.

The top pick in the 2019 NFL Draft, Murray also recorded 26 touchdown passes and 11 rushing touchdowns in 2020, joining Newton (2015) as the only quarterbacks with at least 25 touchdown passes and 10 rushing touchdowns in a single season in NFL history.

His nine games in 2020 with both a passing touchdown and rushing touchdown were the most by a quarterback in a single season in league annals.

The players with the most games with at least one passing touchdown and one rushing touchdown in a single season in NFL history:

PLAYER	TEAM	SEASON	GAMES
Kyler Murray	Arizona	2020	9
Daunte Culpepper	Minnesota	2002	8
Steve Grogan	New England	1976	8
Cam Newton	Carolina	2011	8

Last season, Murray became the first quarterback in the Super Bowl era and fourth quarterback in NFL history to rush for a touchdown in five consecutive games (Weeks 5-7, 9-10) joining **JOHNNY LUJACK** (six consecutive games in 1950), **TOBIN ROTE** (five in 1956) and Pro Football Hall of Famer **DUTCH CLARK** (five in 1936).

Entering 2021, Murray – behind an offensive line that features new addition and three-time Pro Bowl center **RODNEY HUDSON** – can become the fourth quarterback in NFL history with at least 3,500 passing yards and 20 touchdown passes in each of his first three seasons, joining **ANDREW LUCK**, Pro Football Hall of Famer **PEYTON MANNING** and **BAKER MAYFIELD**.

He also enters this season with 1,363 career rushing yards and can become the third quarterback since 1970 to rush for at least 2,000 yards in his first three seasons.

The quarterbacks with the most rushing yards in their first three seasons since 1970:

PLAYER	TEAM	RUSHING YARDS
Lamar Jackson	Baltimore	2,906
Cam Newton	Carolina	2,032
Kyler Murray	Arizona	1,363*

*Entering third season

ARIZONA CARDINALS

NFC WEST

In his first season in Arizona, wide receiver **DEANDRE HOPKINS** tied for second in the league with 115 receptions in 2020, the most in a single season in franchise history.

It marked Hopkins' third-consecutive season with at least 100 receptions, tied for the third-longest streak in NFL history. If he reaches the milestone again in 2021, he will become the third player in league history to do so in four consecutive seasons.

The players with at least 100 receptions in the most consecutive seasons in NFL history:

PLAYER	TEAM	SEASONS
Antonio Brown	Pittsburgh	6
Marvin Harrison ^{HOF}	Indianapolis	4
DeAndre Hopkins	Houston, Arizona	3*

*Active streak

Hopkins enters this season with 10,009 career receiving yards and became the youngest player (28 years and 211 days) to reach 10,000 career receiving yards in NFL history. His 747 career receptions are the most in the league since he was drafted in 2013.

The players with the most receptions since 2013:

PLAYER	TEAM(S)	RECEPTIONS
DeAndre Hopkins	Houston, Arizona	747
Antonio Brown	Pittsburgh, New England, Tampa Bay	735
Julio Jones	Atlanta	715



Jennifer Stewart / AP

Joining Hopkins this year is wide receiver **A.J. GREEN**, who comes to Arizona after a 10-year career in Cincinnati where he totaled 649 catches (sixth-most among active players) for 9,430 receiving yards (fifth-most) and 65 touchdown receptions (fourth-most).

Other than the 2019 season, which he missed due to injury, Green has recorded at least 500 receiving yards in every season since being drafted with the fourth overall pick in 2011.

Also new to the Cardinals offense this year is running back **JAMES CONNER**, who comes to the desert after spending the first four years of his career in Pittsburgh, where he registered at least 700 scrimmage yards and six touchdowns in each of the past three seasons.

He joins **CHASE EDMONDS** in the Arizona backfield, who totaled a career-high 850 scrimmage yards (448 rushing, 402 receiving) last year while adding five touchdowns (four receiving, one rushing).

ARIZONA CARDINALS

NFC WEST

Linebacker **CHANDLER JONES**, who missed all but five games in 2020 due to injury, returns for Arizona's defense. Since entering the NFL in 2012, he leads all players with 97 sacks, including a franchise-record 19 in 2019. Jones is one of two active players (**VON MILLER**) with at least six career seasons with at least 10 sacks.



Defensive end **J.J. WATT** joined the Cardinals this offseason and comes to Arizona after a 10-year career in Houston, where he became the franchise all-time leader in tackles for loss (172), sacks (101) and forced fumbles (25). Watt ranks second among all active players in sacks, while Jones ranks fourth.

The active players with the most career sacks:

PLAYER	TEAM(S)	SACKS
Von Miller	Denver	106
J.J. Watt	Houston	101
Justin Houston	Kansas City, Indianapolis	97.5
Chandler Jones	New England, Arizona	97

*Includes players on rosters as of August 5, 2021

Linebacker **JORDAN HICKS** returns for his third season with Arizona after two consecutive 100-tackle seasons (150 tackles in 2019 and 118 tackles in 2020).

In the 2021 NFL Draft, the Cardinals selected Tulsa linebacker **ZAVEN COLLINS** (No. 16 overall) to pair with 2020 first-round selection linebacker **ISAIAH SIMMONS**, who had two sacks, one interception and one forced fumble during his rookie season.

Patrolling the Arizona secondary is safety **BUDDA BAKER**, who made the Pro Bowl for the second consecutive season after recording a team-high 118 tackles in 2020, tied for the most among all safeties. He also added two sacks and a career-high two interceptions.

The safeties with the most tackles in 2020:

PLAYER	TEAM	TACKLES
Budda Baker	Arizona	118
Jordan Poyer	Buffalo	118
Jeremy Chinn	Carolina	116



LOS ANGELES RAMS

NFC WEST

The Los Angeles Rams won at least 10 games (10-6) and advanced to the postseason for the third time in the past four seasons under head coach **SEAN MCVAY**. Since McVay took over as head coach in 2017, the Rams' 43 regular-season wins are tied with New England (43) for the fourth-most in the NFL.

In 2020, the Rams defense, led by reigning Associated Press Defensive Player of the Year **AARON DONALD**, allowed the fewest points per game (18.5) and yards per game (281.9) in the league, ranked second in sacks (53) and third in fewest rushing yards allowed per game (91.3). Donald, who was also named Associated Press Defensive Player of the Year in 2017 and 2018, became the third player to win the award three times, joining Pro Football Hall of Famer **LAWRENCE TAYLOR** and **J.J. WATT**.

Donald tied for second in the league with 13.5 sacks last season and became the fourth player since 1982 with at least eight sacks in each of his first seven seasons, joining Pro Football Hall of Famer **DERRICK THOMAS** and **REGGIE WHITE**, as well as **DEMARCUS WARE**. He is one of two players (**CHANDLER JONES**) with at least four sacks in multiple games since 2014 and can join **LESLIE O'NEAL** (four games), Thomas (four) and White (three) as the only players since 1982 with at least four sacks in three career games.



Mark J. Terrill / AP

Last year, Donald – who has 85.5 sacks since entering the NFL in 2014 – surpassed Thomas (85) for the most sacks by a player in his first seven seasons since 1982. With 14.5 sacks in 2021, he can become the fourth player since 1982 to record at least 100 sacks in his first eight career seasons.

The players with the most sacks in their first eight seasons since 1982:

PLAYER	TEAM(S)	SACKS
Reggie White ^{HOF}	Philadelphia	124
DeMarcus Ware	Dallas	111
Jared Allen	Kansas City, Minnesota	105
Von Miller	Denver	98
Derrick Thomas ^{HOF}	Kansas City	98

Since 2014, Donald leads the NFL in sacks (85.5), tackles for loss (131) and ranks tied for fourth with 19 forced fumbles. He is the only player in the league with at least 11 sacks in each of the past four seasons and can become the fifth player since 2000 to record at least 11 sacks in five consecutive seasons, joining **JARED ALLEN** (seven consecutive seasons, 2007-13), **DEMARCUS WARE** (seven, 2006-12), **CHANDLER JONES** (five, 2015-19) and **SIMEON RICE** (five, 20001-05).



Ben Liebenberg / AP

LOS ANGELES RAMS

NFC WEST

Donald, along with linebacker **LEONARD FLOYD** (career-high 10-5 sacks) were one of two sets of teammates (Pittsburgh's **STEPHON TUITT** and **T.J. WATT**) to each record at least 10 sacks in 2020.

Since joining the Rams in 2019, cornerback **JALEN RAMSEY** has been selected to consecutive Pro Bowls and was named to the Associated Press All-Pro team last season after recording nine passes defended and one interception. Opposite of Ramsey, cornerback **DARIOUS WILLIAMS** set career highs in passes defended (14) and interceptions (four) during the 2020 season.

This offseason, Los Angeles completed a blockbuster trade, acquiring quarterback **MATTHEW STAFFORD** from Detroit. Last season, he registered his eighth-career season with at least 4,000 passing yards (4,084) and had 26 touchdown passes with a 96.3 rating.



The No. 1 overall selection in the 2009 NFL Draft, Stafford has 45,109 passing yards and 282 touchdown passes in his first 12 seasons and can become the fourth quarterback with at least 50,000 passing yards in his first 13 seasons in NFL history. With 18 touchdown passes in 2021, he can become the 13th quarterback in league annals to reach 300 career touchdown passes.

The players with the most passing yards in their first 13 seasons in NFL history:

PLAYER	TEAM(S)	PASSING YARDS
Matt Ryan	Atlanta	55,767
Peyton Manning ^{HOF}	Indianapolis	54,828
Drew Brees	San Diego Chargers, New Orleans	51,081



LOS ANGELES RAMS

NFC WEST

Stafford has 10 career games with at least 400 passing yards and is the seventh quarterback with at least 10 career games with 400-or-more passing yards in NFL history, joining **DREW BREES** (16 games), Pro Football Hall of Famers **PEYTON MANNING** (14) and **DAN MARINO** (13), **BEN ROETHLISBERGER** (12), **PHILIP RIVERS** (11) and **TOM BRADY** (10). He has 49 career games with at least 300 passing yards and can become the 14th quarterback in league annals with 50 such games this season.

In 2020, the wide receiver duo of **COOPER KUPP** and **ROBERT WOODS** continued to excel in the Los Angeles offense. In Week 11, Kupp (11 receptions for 145 yards) and Woods (12 receptions for 130 yards and a touchdown) became the fourth pair of wide-receiver teammates each with at least 11 receptions and 130 receiving yards in the same game since 1970.

Last season, Kupp totaled 92 receptions for 974 yards and three touchdowns while Woods recorded 90 receptions for 936 yards and eight total touchdowns (six receiving, two rushing). The pair are the only set of teammates each with at least 90 receptions in each of the past two seasons.

Since 2018, Woods ranks sixth in receptions (266) and scrimmage yards (3,716) among wide receivers and is one of four players with at least 85 receptions and 900 receiving yards in each of the past three seasons, along with **KEENAN ALLEN**, **DEANDRE HOPKINS** and **TRAVIS KELCE**.

This offseason, the Rams selected Louisville wide receiver **TUTU ATWELL** in the second round (No. 57 overall) of the 2021 NFL Draft and signed wide receiver **DESEAN JACKSON**, who has 612 receptions for 10,656 yards and 56 touchdowns during his 13-year NFL career.



SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

NFC WEST

After facing many challenges during a 2020 season that saw injuries at key positions and a relocation due to the pandemic, the San Francisco 49ers look to bounce back in 2021, two seasons after appearing in the Super Bowl.

Quarterback **JIMMY GAROPPOLO**, limited to six games last season, has a 22-8 (.733) record in 30 starts since joining San Francisco in 2017, one of five quarterbacks with a winning percent of .700-or-better in the past four seasons (minimum 20 starts). During that span, he has completed 67.5 percent of his attempts (596 of 883) for 7,352 yards with 46 touchdowns and a passer rating of 98.1.

The quarterbacks with the highest winning percentage since 2017 (minimum 20 starts):

PLAYER	TEAM(S)	W	L	PCT.
Patrick Mahomes	Kansas City	38	8	.826
Lamar Jackson	Baltimore	30	7	.811
Drew Brees	New Orleans	41	13	.759
Tom Brady	New England, Tampa Bay	47	17	.734
Jimmy Garoppolo	San Francisco	22	8	.733



Jeff Chiu / AP



Winslow Townson / AP

The 49ers moved up to select North Dakota State quarterback **TREY LANCE** with the No. 3 overall selection in the 2021 NFL Draft. During his three years (2018-20) at NDSU, Lance appeared in 19 games (17 starts) and completed 208 of 318 attempts (65.4 percent) for 2,947 yards and 30 touchdowns with one interception to go along with 1,325 rushing yards and 18 rushing touchdowns.

Up front, San Francisco bolstered their offensive line by re-signing eight-time Pro Bowl tackle **TRENT WILLIAMS**, adding six-time Pro Bowl center **ALEX MACK** in free agency and selecting Notre Dame guard **AARON BANKS** in the second round (No. 48 overall) in the 2021 NFL Draft.



Brandon Wade / AP

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

NFC WEST

Running back **RAHEEM MOSTERT** registered 677 scrimmage yards (521 rushing, 156 receiving) and three touchdowns (two rushing, one receiving) in eight games last season. He was the only player in the NFL last season with two offensive touchdowns of at least 75 yards, recording a 76-yard touchdown catch in Week 1 and an 80-yard touchdown run in Week 2. Since 2018, Mostert has the highest average yards per rush attempt (5.65) among running backs, minimum 250 attempts.

The running backs with highest average yards per rush attempt since 2018 (minimum 250 attempts):

PLAYER	TEAM	ATT.	YARDS	AVG.
Raheem Mostert	SF	275	1,554	5.65
Nick Chubb	CLE	680	3,557	5.23
Gus Edwards	BAL	414	2,152	5.20
Derrick Henry	TEN	896	4,626	5.16
Aaron Jones	GB	570	2,916	5.12

Mostert is paired in the backfield with fullback **KYLE JUSZCZYK**, who was selected to his fifth consecutive Pro Bowl last season after recording a career-high six touchdowns (four receiving, two rushing). This offseason, San Francisco signed running back **WAYNE GALLMAN** and selected Ohio State running back **TREY SERMON** in the third round (No. 88 overall) in the 2021 NFL Draft. Gallman set career highs in rushing yards (682) and rushing touchdowns (six) last season with the New York Giants.



In eight games last season, tight end **GEORGE KITTLE** registered 48 receptions for 634 yards and two touchdowns. In Week 4, he became the first tight end in NFL history with at least 15 receptions (15) and 175 receiving yards (183) in a single game. Kittle has 264 receptions for 3,579 receiving yards and 14 touchdowns in 53 career games and joined **JORDAN REED** (266 receptions) and Pro Football Hall of Famer **KELLEN WINSLOW SR.** (262) as the only tight ends in NFL history with at least 250 receptions in their first 50 career games.

Kittle, who recorded at least 85 receptions and 1,000 receiving yards in 2018 and 2019, can become the fifth tight end in league annals with at least three such seasons during their career, joining **TRAVIS KELCE** (four seasons) and **JASON WITTEN** (four) as well as Pro Football Hall of Famers **TONY GONZALEZ** (four) and **KELLEN WINSLOW SR.** (three).

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

NFC WEST

With at least 86 receptions in 2021, Kittle can join **JIMMY GRAHAM** (386) as the only tight ends with at least 350 receptions in their first five seasons in NFL history. With at least at least 1,173 receiving yards, he would surpass Graham (4,752 receiving yards) for the most receiving yards by a tight end in his first five seasons in league annals.

The tight ends with the most receiving yards in their first five seasons in NFL history:

PLAYER	TEAM	REC. YARDS
Jimmy Graham	New Orleans	4,752
Kellen Winslow ^{HOF}	San Diego Chargers	4,513
Rob Gronkowski	New England	4,379
Antonio Gates	San Diego Chargers	4,362
Mike Ditka ^{HOF}	Chicago	4,125



A first-round selection (No. 25 overall) in the 2020 NFL Draft, wide receiver **BRANDON AIYUK** made an immediate impact during his rookie season, leading the 49ers in receptions (60), receiving yards (748) and receiving touchdowns (five). He also had two rushing touchdowns and was one of four wide receivers with at least five receiving touchdowns and two rushing touchdowns last season, joining **CHASE CLAYPOOL**, **TYREEK HILL** and **ROBERT WOODS**.

Aiyuk is joined by wide receiver **DEEBO SAMUEL**, who has 90 receptions and 1,378 scrimmage yards (1,193 receiving, 185 rushing) along with seven touchdowns (four receiving, three rushing) in 22 career games since entering the NFL as a second-round selection (No. 36 overall) in the 2019 NFL Draft.



SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

NFC WEST

Defensively, the 49ers are led by All-Pro linebacker **FRED WARNER**, who had a career-high 125 tackles and added five tackles for loss, two interceptions and one sack last season. Since entering the NFL in 2018, he is one of three linebackers with at least 360 tackles (366) and five forced fumbles (five), along with **DARIUS LEONARD** and **JOE SCHOBERT**. In that span, he is one of four linebackers with at least 100 tackles and five passes defended in each of the past three seasons.

The linebackers with at least 100 tackles and five passes defended in each of the past three seasons:

PLAYER	TEAM
Eric Kendricks	Minnesota
Darius Leonard	Indianapolis
Bobby Wagner	Seattle
Fred Warner	San Francisco

Defensive lineman **ARIK ARMSTEAD** has 16.5 sacks and 23 tackles for loss over the past three seasons and is joined by defensive linemen **NICK BOSA** and **DEE FORD**, each looking to return to the field in 2021.

Bosa, who appeared in two games last season, totaled nine sacks as a rookie during the 2019 regular season and became the third rookie since 1982 to record at least four sacks (four) in the postseason. Ford, who saw action in one game last year, totaled 7.5 sacks (regular and postseason combined) during his first season with San Francisco in 2019.



In addition to former first-round selection **JAVON KINLAW** (No. 14 overall in 2020), the 49ers signed defensive linemen **MAURICE HURST**, **ZACH KERR** and **ARDEN KEY** to bolster their pass rush this season.

In the secondary, San Francisco retained cornerbacks **JASON VERRETT** and **K'WAUN WILLIAMS** this offseason. Verrett had a career-high 60 tackles and added seven passes defended with two interceptions last season. Since 2015, Williams is one of three defensive backs with at least 15 tackles for loss (15) and 10 forced fumbles (10), joining **VONN BELL** and **MALCOLM JENKINS**.

The 49ers also resigned the safety duo of **JIMMIE WARD** and **JAQUISKI TARTT** during the offseason, and selected Michigan cornerback **AMBRY THOMAS** in the third round (No. 102 overall) in the 2021 NFL Draft.

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS

NFC WEST

Last season, the Seahawks made the postseason for the third consecutive year and the eighth time in the past nine years, finishing 12-4 and winning the NFC West division for the first time since 2016.

Head coach **PETE CARROLL** enters his 12th season in Seattle and his 156 career wins, including postseason, are the third-most among all active head coaches. He looks to lead the Seahawks to consecutive division titles for the first time since 2013-14.

Since quarterback **RUSSELL WILSON** was drafted in 2012, Seattle is the only team in the league with a winning record each season and their 98 wins in that span are the most in the NFC and second-most in the NFL.

The NFL teams with the most wins since 2012:

TEAM	WINS	WINNING SEASONS
New England Patriots	105	8
Seattle Seahawks	98	9
Kansas City Chiefs	93	8

Wilson's 98 regular-season wins are the most by a starting quarterback in his first nine seasons in NFL history, while his 107 career wins, including the postseason, are also the most in league annals by a starting quarterback through nine seasons.

In 2020, Wilson recorded 4,212 passing yards and tied for second in the league with a career-high 40 touchdown passes. He joined Pro Football Hall of Famer **PEYTON MANNING** (nine seasons) as the only players ever with at least 25 touchdown passes in seven of their first nine seasons.



Elaine Thompson / AP

Last season, Wilson became the first player with at least four touchdown passes in each of his team's first three games of a season in NFL history and in Weeks 2-3, became the fifth quarterback in league annals to record at least five touchdown passes in consecutive games.

In total, he recorded five games with at least four touchdown passes last season, the second-most in the league. Wilson's 15 career games with at least four touchdown passes are tied with Manning (15 game) for the second-most by a quarterback in his first nine seasons in NFL history, trailing only Pro Football Hall of Famer **DAN MARINO** (16 games).

Wilson enters 2021 with 267 career touchdown passes, the second-most by a player though his first nine season in league annals. In 2021, he can surpass Manning (306 touchdown passes) for the most touchdown passes by a player in his first 10 seasons in NFL history.

The players with the most touchdown passes in their first nine seasons in NFL history:

PLAYER	TEAM	TD PASSES
Peyton Manning ^{HOF}	Indianapolis	275
Russell Wilson	Seattle	267
Dan Marino ^{HOF}	Miami	266

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS

NFC WEST

Wilson's strong start to the season culminated in being named the NFC's September Player of the Month and his 16 touchdown passes through the first four games of the season tied Manning (16 touchdown passes in 2013) for the most by a player in his team's first four games of a season in NFL history.



Ted Warren / AP

If Wilson records at least 30 touchdown passes this season, he will become the third player in league history to accomplish the feat in five consecutive seasons. Additionally, he can become the first-ever player to record a passer rating of 105-or-higher in four consecutive seasons (minimum 250 attempts).

The players with the most consecutive seasons with at least 30 touchdown passes in NFL history:

PLAYER	TEAM	SEASONS
Drew Brees	New Orleans	9
Brett Favre ^{HOF}	Green Bay	5
Russell Wilson	Seattle	4*

The players with the most consecutive seasons with a passer rating of 105-or-higher in NFL history (minimum 250 attempts):

PLAYER	TEAM	SEASONS
Patrick Mahomes	Kansas City	3*
Russell Wilson	Seattle	3*
Drew Brees	New Orleans	3

*Active streak



Stephen Brashear / AP

Wilson's top two targets last season, **TYLER LOCKETT** and **DK METCALF**, were the only pair of wide receiver teammates each with at least 75 receptions and 1,000 receiving yards in 2020. Lockett recorded 100 receptions, the most receptions by a player in a single season in franchise history.

Metcalf recorded 1,303 receiving yards, the most receiving yards by a player in a single season in franchise history.

If Metcalf totals at least 1,250 receiving yards and 10 touchdown receptions this season, he will become the fourth player to accomplish the feat in at least two of his first three seasons in NFL history, joining **ODELL BECKHAM JR.**, (three seasons), Pro Football Hall of Famer **RANDY MOSS** (three) and **A.J. GREEN** (two).

Running back **CHRIS CARSON** recorded 968 scrimmage yards (681 rushing, 287 receiving) and nine touchdowns (five rushing, four receiving) last season and is one of four players in the league with at least 900 scrimmage yards and nine touchdowns in each of the past three seasons, joining **MELVIN GORDON**, **DERRICK HENRY** and **AARON JONES**.

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS

NFC WEST



Ben Liebenberg / AP

Safety **JAMAL ADAMS** led the team with a career-high 9.5 sacks in his first season in Seattle, surpassing **ADRIAN WILSON** (eight sacks in 2005) for the most sacks by a defensive back in a single season since 1982, when the individual sack became an official statistic.

The safeties with the most sacks in a single season since 1982:

PLAYER	TEAM	SEASON	SACKS
Jamal Adams	Seattle	2020	9.5
Adrian Wilson	Arizona	2005	8
Roman Harper	New Orleans	2011	7.5

Seattle's defense ranked fifth in the league against the run last season (95.6 yards allowed per game), as linebacker **BOBBY WAGNER** led the way with 138 tackles.

He joined **LONDON FLETCHER** (14 seasons) and **KEITH BROOKING** (nine) as the only players since 2000 with at least 100 tackles in nine consecutive seasons.

Since entering the league in 2012, Wagner leads all active players with 1,211 tackles.

The active players with the most tackles since 2012:

PLAYER	TEAM(S)	TACKLES
Bobby Wagner	Seattle	1,211
Lavonte David	Tampa Bay	1,123
Demario Davis	N.Y. Jets, Cleveland, New Orleans	906



Rich Schultz / AP

Defensive end **CARLOS DUNLAP**, who had five sacks in eight games as a Seahawk in 202, returns to Seattle for his second season after being acquired in a midseason trade from Cincinnati last year. He is one of two players (**CAMERON JORDAN**) with at least six sacks in each of the past nine seasons and ranks eighth among active players with 87.5 career sacks.



PRESENTED BY  MADDEN  22

BY THE NUMBERS

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

DAVANTE ADAMS, Green Bay, can become the fourth player since 1970 to lead the league or tie for the lead in touchdown receptions in consecutive seasons, joining Jerry Rice (1986-87; 1989-91), Terrell Owens (2001-02) and Larry Fitzgerald (2008-09). Adams led the NFL with 18 touchdown receptions in 2020. Adams also:

Needs at least 12 touchdown receptions to become the fifth player in NFL history with at least 12 touchdown receptions in four of his first eight seasons, joining Jerry Rice (five seasons), Calvin Johnson (four), Randy Moss (four) and Terrell Owens (four).

Needs at least 110 receptions and 1,300 receiving yards to become the fourth player in NFL history with 110 receptions and 1,300 receiving yards in three different seasons, joining Antonio Brown (three seasons), DeAndre Hopkins (three) and Wes Welker (three).

JOSH ALLEN, Buffalo, needs nine rushing touchdowns to surpass Cam Newton (33 rushing touchdowns) for the most rushing touchdowns by a quarterback in his first four seasons in NFL history. Allen has 25 career rushing touchdowns. Allen also:

Needs eight rushing touchdowns to become the first quarterback in NFL history to rush for at least eight touchdowns in four consecutive seasons.

Needs four games with both a passing touchdown and rushing touchdown to join Cam Newton (24 games) as the only quarterbacks with at least 20 such games through his first four seasons in NFL history. Allen has 16 career games with both a passing and rushing touchdown.

KEENAN ALLEN, Los Angeles Chargers, needs 95 receptions to join Antonio Brown (six seasons, 2013-18) as the only players with at least 95 receptions in at least five consecutive seasons in NFL history.

BILL BELICHICK, New England, ranks third all-time with 311 total victories (regular season and playoffs combined) and needs 14 wins to surpass George Halas (324 combined wins) for the second-most total victories by a head coach in NFL history. Belichick also:

Can tie Don Shula (19) for the most postseason berths as a head coach. Belichick is currently tied with Tom Landry (18) for the second-most in NFL history.

TOM BRADY, Tampa Bay, needs 1,155 passing yards to surpass Drew Brees (80,358 passing yards) for the most career passing yards in NFL history. Brady ranks second all-time with 79,204 passing yards. Brady also:

Needs 4,000 passing yards to join Peyton Manning (14 seasons) as the only players with at least 4,000 passing yards in 13 different seasons in NFL history.

Needs 25 touchdown passes to tie Peyton Manning (16 seasons) for the most seasons with at least 25 touchdown passes in NFL history. Brady ranks second all-time with 15 such seasons.



WHAT TO LOOK FOR

Needs 40 touchdown passes to join Aaron Rodgers (three seasons) as the only players with at least 40 touchdown passes in three different seasons in NFL history. Brady can also join Drew Brees (2011-12) as the only players in NFL history to record 40 touchdown passes in consecutive seasons.

Needs 365 completions to surpass Drew Brees (7,142 completions) for the most completions in NFL history. Brady ranks second all-time with 6,778 career completions.

Needs one game with at least 300 passing yards to join Drew Brees (123 games) as the only players with at least 100 career games of 300-or-more passing yards in NFL history.

Needs five games with at least three touchdown passes to surpass Drew Brees (97 games) for the most such games in NFL history.

Needs five games with at least four touchdown passes to surpass Drew Brees (37 games) for the most such games in NFL history.

ANTONIO BROWN, Tampa Bay, needs 22 receptions in his first 11 games to surpass Marvin Harrison (907 receptions) for the most receptions by a player through his first 150 career games in NFL history. Brown has 886 career receptions in 139 career games.

JOE BURROW, Cincinnati, needs five games with at least 300 passing yards to become the third quarterback in NFL history with 300 passing yards in at least 10 games during their first two seasons, joining Patrick Mahomes (10 games) and Dan Marino (10). Burrow had five games with at least 300 passing yards as a rookie in 2020.

DEREK CARR, Las Vegas, needs 3,104 passing yards to become the fifth player with at least 30,000 passing yards through his first eight seasons in NFL history. Carr has 26,896 career passing yards. Carr also:

Needs 3,000 passing yards to become the fourth player with at least 3,000 passing yards in each of his first eight seasons in NFL history.

NICK CHUBB, Cleveland, needs at least 950 rushing yards and eight rushing touchdowns to become the sixth player to do so in each of his first four seasons in NFL history.

DALVIN COOK, Minnesota, needs at least 1,500 rushing yards and 15 rushing touchdowns to become the fifth player to accomplish the feat in consecutive seasons in NFL history. Cook also:

Needs at least 13 rushing touchdowns to become the seventh player to accomplish the feat in three consecutive seasons in league history.



AMARI COOPER, Dallas, needs at least five receiving touchdowns to become the eighth player with at least five receiving touchdowns in each of his first seven seasons in NFL history.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

KIRK COUSINS, Minnesota, needs at least 25 touchdown passes to become the fifth player to accomplish the feat in at least seven consecutive seasons in NFL history, joining Peyton Manning (13 seasons), Drew Brees (11), Philip Rivers (11) and Tom Brady (10). Cousins also:

Needs 10 touchdown passes in his first four games of the 2021 season to become the fifth-fastest player (113 games) to reach 200 career touchdown passes in NFL history. Cousins has 190 touchdown passes in 109 career games.

STEFON DIGGS, Buffalo, needs at least 125 receptions and 1,500 receiving yards to join Antonio Brown (2014-15) as the only players to accomplish the feat in consecutive seasons in NFL history.

AARON DONALD, L.A. Rams, needs 14.5 sacks to become the fourth player since 1982, when the individual sack became an official statistic, with at least 100 sacks in his first eight seasons, joining Reggie White (124 sacks), DeMarcus Ware (111) and Jared Allen (105). Donald has 85.5 sacks in his first seven seasons. Donald also:

Needs eight sacks to become the fourth player since 1982 with at least eight sacks in each of his first eight seasons, joining Derrick Thomas (10 seasons), DeMarcus Ware (eight) and Reggie White (14).



AUSTIN EKELER, L.A. Chargers, needs two touchdown receptions to surpass Danny Woodhead (17 touchdown receptions) for the most career touchdown receptions by an undrafted running back in the common draft era. Ekeler has 16 career touchdown receptions. Ekeler also:

Needs six touchdown receptions to surpass Chuck Foreman (21 touchdown receptions) for the most touchdown receptions by a running back in his first five seasons in NFL history.

Needs 884 receiving yards to surpass Priest Holmes (2,962 receiving yards) for the most receiving yards by an undrafted running back in the common draft era. Ekeler has 2,079 career receiving yards.

EZEKIEL ELLIOTT, Dallas, needs at least 1,250 scrimmage yards and eight touchdowns to join LaDainian Tomlinson as the only players to accomplish the feat in each of their first six seasons in NFL history.

ZACH ERTZ, Philadelphia, needs 39 receptions to become the ninth tight end with at least 600 career receptions in NFL history.

MIKE EVANS, Tampa Bay, needs 1,000 receiving yards to become the first player with at least 1,000 receiving yards in each of his first eight seasons in NFL history.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

MINKAH FITZPATRICK, Pittsburgh, needs one interception return for a touchdown to become the fourth player since 2000 with an interception return for a touchdown in four consecutive seasons, joining Charles Woodson (six seasons), Nate Clements (four) and Aqib Talib (four).

MELVIN GORDON, Denver, needs eight rushing touchdowns to become the fifth running back in NFL history with at least eight rushing touchdowns in six consecutive seasons, joining LaDainian Tomlinson (nine seasons), Jim Brown (seven), Adrian Peterson (seven) and Emmitt Smith (seven).

JIMMY GRAHAM, Chicago, has 8,339 career receiving yards and needs 661 receiving yards to become the fifth tight end in NFL history with at least 9,000 career receiving yards. Graham also:

Has 699 career receptions and needs 44 receptions to surpass Greg Olsen (742 receptions) for the fifth-most by a tight end in NFL history.

ROB GRONKOWSKI, Tampa Bay, needs 516 receiving yards to become the fifth tight end with at least 9,000 receiving yards in NFL history. Gronkowski has 8,484 career receiving yards. Gronkowski also:

Needs 1,000 receiving yards to join Travis Kelce (five seasons) as the only tight ends in NFL history with five career 1,000-yard seasons.

Needs three games with at least 100 receiving yards to surpass Tony Gonzalez (31 games) for the most such games by a tight end in NFL history. Gronkowski ranks second all-time by a tight end with 29 career 100-yard games.

DERRICK HENRY, Tennessee, needs 1,500 rushing yards and 15 rushing touchdowns to become the first player to accomplish the feat in three consecutive seasons in NFL history. Henry also:

Needs 15 rushing touchdowns to join LaDainian Tomlinson (four seasons, 2004-07) as the only players to accomplish the feat in at least three consecutive seasons in NFL history.

Needs 2,000 rushing yards to become the first player to accomplish the feat in consecutive seasons in NFL history. Henry led the NFL with 2,027 rushing yards in 2020.

Needs two games with at least 200 rushing yards to surpass Adrian Peterson (six games) and O.J. Simpson (six) for the most such games in NFL history.

Can join Steve Van Buren (1947-49), Jim Brown (1957-61, 1963-65), Earl Campbell (1978-80) and Emmitt Smith (1991-93) as the only players in NFL history to lead the league in rushing yards in three consecutive seasons.

Can join Steve Van Buren (1947-49) as the only players in NFL history to lead the NFL in rushing yards, rushing attempts and rushing touchdowns for three consecutive seasons.



Mark Zaleski / AP

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

JUSTIN HERBERT, L.A. Chargers, needs 38 touchdown passes to surpass Dan Marino (68 touchdown passes) for the most by a player through his first two seasons in NFL history. Herbert had an NFL-rookie record 31 touchdown passes in 2020. Herbert also:

- Needs 30 touchdown passes to become the first player in league history to accomplish the feat in each of his first two seasons.

- Needs 3,861 passing yards to surpass Andrew Luck (8,196 passing yards) for the most by a player through his first two seasons in NFL history.

- Needs 4,000 passing yards to join Jameis Winston as the only players to do so in each of their first two seasons in NFL history.

- Needs three games with at least 300 passing yards to surpass Patrick Mahomes (10 games) and Dan Marino (10) for the most such games by a player in his first two seasons in NFL history.

- Needs 10 games with at least two touchdown passes to join Dan Marino (22 games) as the only players with 20 such games in their first two seasons in NFL history.



Reed Hoffmann / AP

TYREEK HILL, Kansas City, needs three games with at least two touchdowns to surpass Bob Hayes (16 games) for the third-most such games by a wide receiver in his first six seasons in NFL history. Hill has 14 games with at least two touchdowns in his first five seasons.

T.Y. HILTON, Indianapolis, needs 640 receiving yards to reach 10,000 career receiving yards. He would become the third player in franchise history to reach the mark, joining Marvin Harrison (14,580 receiving yards) and Reggie Wayne (14,345). The Colts would become the first NFL team to have three players reach 10,000 career receiving yards.

DEANDRE HOPKINS, Arizona, needs 99 receptions to surpass Marvin Harrison (845 receptions) for the most receptions by a player through his first nine seasons in NFL history. Hopkins has 747 career receptions. Hopkins also:

- Needs 100 receptions to become the third player in NFL history with at least 100 receptions in four consecutive seasons.

- Needs 991 receiving yards to become the seventh player in NFL history with at least 11,000 receiving yards through his first nine seasons. Hopkins has 10,009 receiving yards through his first eight seasons.

- Needs 800 receiving yards to become the third player in NFL history with at least 800 receiving yards in each of his first nine seasons, joining Jerry Rice (12 seasons) and Gary Clark (nine).

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

XAVIEN HOWARD, Miami, can become the third player since 1970 to lead or tie for the league-lead in interceptions in three different seasons, joining Ed Reed (2004, 2008 and 2010) and Everson Walls (1981-82, 1985). Howard tied for the league-lead with seven interceptions in 2018 and led the NFL with 10 interceptions in 2020. Howard also:

Needs seven interceptions to join Ed Reed (three seasons) as the only players with at least seven interceptions in three of their first six seasons since 1990.

JALEN HURTS, Philadelphia, needs one game with at least 100 rushing yards to join Lamar Jackson (2018-19) as the only quarterbacks to record a 100-yard rushing game in each of their first two seasons in NFL history.

LAMAR JACKSON, Baltimore, needs 25 passing touchdowns and five rushing touchdowns to become the first quarterback in NFL history to reach those marks in three consecutive seasons. Jackson also:

Needs three games with at least 100 rushing yards to surpass Michael Vick (10 games) for the most such games by a quarterback in NFL history. Jackson ranks second all-time among quarterbacks with eight career games with at least 100 rushing yards.

Needs 2,915 passing yards and 594 rushing yards to become the first quarterback in NFL history to throw for 10,000 yards and rush for 3,500 yards in his first four seasons. In fact, no quarterback has even reached those marks in their first five NFL seasons.

JUSTIN JEFFERSON, Minnesota, needs 1,356 receiving yards to surpass Odell Beckham Jr. (2,755) for the most receiving yards by a player through his first two seasons in NFL history. Jefferson also:

Needs 1,250 receiving yards to join Beckham and Randy Moss as the only players to accomplish the feat in each of their first two seasons in NFL history.

CHANDLER JONES, Arizona, needs 17 sacks to become the third player since 1982 with three career seasons of at least 17 sacks. Jones had 17 sacks in 2017 and 19 sacks in 2019.

DEION JONES, Atlanta, needs one interception return for a touchdown to become the fourth player since 2000 with an interception return for a touchdown in four consecutive seasons, joining Charles Woodson (six seasons), Nate Clements (four) and Aqib Talib (four).



WHAT TO LOOK FOR

JULIO JONES, Tennessee, needs 802 receiving yards to surpass Marvin Harrison (13,697 yards) for the second-most receiving yards through a player's first 11 seasons in NFL history. Jones has 12,896 career receiving yards. Jones also:

Needs 95 receptions to surpass Jerry Rice (942 receptions) for the second-most receptions through a player's first 11 seasons in NFL history. Jones has 848 career receptions.

Needs two games with at least 100 receiving yards to become the third player in NFL history with 60 career 100-yard receiving games, joining Jerry Rice (76 games) and Randy Moss (64).

ALVIN KAMARA, New Orleans, needs 33 receptions to surpass Roger Craig (358 receptions) for the most receptions by a running back in his first five seasons in NFL history. Kamara has 326 career receptions. Kamara also:

Needs 80 receptions to join Marshall Faulk (five seasons) as the only running backs with at least 80 receptions in five consecutive seasons in NFL history.

Needs 500 rushing yards and 500 receiving yards to become the third player in NFL history with at least 500 rushing yards and 500 receiving yards in five consecutive seasons, joining Marshall Faulk (five seasons) and Lydell Mitchell (five).

Needs 176 receiving yards to become the third running back with at least 3,000 receiving yards in their first five seasons in NFL history, joining Lenny Moore (3,509 receiving yards) and Roger Craig (3,234). Kamara has 2,824 career receiving yards.

Needs 18 touchdowns to become the fifth player with three career seasons of at least 18 touchdowns in NFL history.

TRAVIS KELCE, Kansas City, needs 85 receptions and 29 receiving yards to surpass Jason Witten (696 receptions, 7,909 receiving yards) for the most receptions and most receiving yards by a tight end in his first nine seasons in NFL history. Kelce has 612 receptions for 7,881 receiving yards in his first eight seasons. Kelce also:

Needs seven touchdown receptions to become the sixth tight end with at least 55 touchdown receptions in their first nine seasons in NFL history. Kelce has 48 career touchdown receptions.

Needs 1,000 receiving yards to become the first tight end in NFL history with six career seasons of at least 1,000 receiving yards. Kelce has at least 1,000 receiving yards in each of the past five seasons.

Needs 80 receptions to become the first tight end in NFL history to record at least 80 receptions in six consecutive seasons. Kelce has at least 80 receptions in each of the past five seasons.

Needs six games with at least 100 receiving yards to tie Tony Gonzalez (31 games) for the most such games by a tight end in NFL history. Kelce ranks third all-time among tight ends with 25 career 100-yard games.



WHAT TO LOOK FOR

GEORGE KITTLE, San Francisco, needs 85 receptions to surpass Jason Witten (348 receptions) for the second-most by a tight end in his first five seasons in NFL history. Kittle has 264 career receptions. Kittle also:

Needs 921 receiving yards to become the third tight end with at least 4,500 receiving yards in his first five seasons in NFL history, joining Jimmy Graham (4,752 receiving yards) and Kellen Winslow Sr. (4,513). Kittle has 3,579 career receiving yards.

JARVIS LANDRY, Cleveland, needs at least 70 receptions to become the first player in NFL history to record at least 70 receptions in each of his first eight seasons. Landry also:

Needs 64 receptions to become the sixth player with at least 700 receptions through his first eight seasons in NFL history. Landry has 636 career receptions.

DARIUS LEONARD, Indianapolis, needs three interceptions to become the fourth linebacker since 2000 with at least 10 interceptions in his first four seasons, joining Luke Kuechly (11 interceptions), Sean Lee (11) and Cato June (10). Leonard has seven interceptions in his first three seasons.

PATRICK MAHOMES, Kansas City, needs 4,000 passing yards to join Peyton Manning (four seasons) as the only quarterbacks in NFL history with at least 4,000 passing yards in four of their first five seasons. Mahomes has at least 4,000 passing yards in each of the past three seasons. Mahomes also:

Can become the first quarterback in NFL history to reach 15,000 career passing yards in 50-or-fewer games. Mahomes enters 2021 with 14,152 passing yards in 46 career games.

Needs four games with at least 300 passing yards to surpass Kurt Warner (29 games) for the most such games by a quarterback in his first five career seasons in NFL history. Mahomes has 26 career games with at least 300 passing yards.

Needs 35 touchdown passes to become the first quarterback with at least 35 touchdown passes in three of his first five seasons in NFL history. Mahomes had 50 touchdown passes in 2018 and 38 touchdown passes in 2020.

Needs 25 touchdown passes to surpass Peyton Manning (138 touchdown passes) for the second-most touchdown passes by a quarterback in his first five seasons in NFL history. Mahomes has 114 career touchdown passes.

Needs one game with at least three touchdown passes to surpass Kurt Warner (21 games) for the second-most such games by a quarterback in his first five career seasons in NFL history. Mahomes has 21 career games with at least three touchdown passes.

Needs 10 games with a passer rating of 100-or-higher to surpass Russell Wilson (38 games) for the most such games by a quarterback in his first five career seasons in NFL history. Mahomes has 29 career games with a passer rating of 100-or-higher.



WHAT TO LOOK FOR

BAKER MAYFIELD, Cleveland, needs at least 3,500 passing yards to join Peyton Manning (1998-2001) as the only players with at least 3,500 passing yards in each of their first four seasons in NFL history. Mayfield also:

With at least 3,885 passing yards and 25 touchdown passes, can would join Dan Marino and Peyton Manning as the only players with at least 15,000 passing yards and 100 touchdown passes through their first four seasons in NFL history. Mayfield has 11,115 career passing yards and 75 career touchdown passes.

CHRISTIAN MCCAFFREY, Carolina, needs 39 receptions to surpass Roger Craig (358 receptions) for the most receptions by a running back in his first five seasons in NFL history. McCaffrey has 320 career receptions in his first four seasons. McCaffrey also:

Needs 80 receptions to become the fourth running back with at least 80 receptions in four different seasons in NFL history, joining Marshall Faulk (five seasons), Larry Centers (four) and Alvin Kamara (four).

Needs 328 receiving yards to become the third running back with at least 3,000 receiving yards in their first five seasons in NFL history, joining Lenny Moore (3,509 receiving yards) and Roger Craig (3,234).

Needs one game with both a rushing and receiving touchdown to surpass Chuck Foreman (nine games) for the most such games through a players first five seasons in NFL history.

DK METCALF, Seattle, needs at least 1,250 receiving yards and 10 receiving touchdowns to become the fourth player to accomplish the feat in at least two of his first three seasons in NFL history, joining Odell Beckham Jr. (three seasons), Randy Moss (three) and A.J. Green (two).

VON MILLER, Denver, can become the fifth player since 1982 with at least 120 sacks in their first 150 career games, joining Reggie White (145 sacks), DeMarcus Ware (125), Jared Allen (122) and Bruce Smith (121). Miller has 106 sacks in 135 career games.

KYLER MURRAY, Arizona, can become the fourth quarterback in NFL history with at least 3,500 passing yards and 20 touchdown passes in each of his first three seasons. Murray also:

Needs 500 rushing yards to become the third quarterback since 1970 to rush for at least 500 rushing yards in each of his first three seasons.

Needs 637 rushing yards to become the third quarterback since 1970 to rush for at least 2,000 yards through his first three seasons. Murray has 1,363 career rushing yards.

Needs five rushing touchdowns to become the third quarterback since 1970 to rush for at least 20 touchdowns through his first three seasons. Murray has 15 career rushing touchdowns.

Needs 10 rushing touchdowns to become the first quarterback since 1970 to rush for at least 10 touchdowns in consecutive seasons.

CORDARRELLE PATTERSON, Atlanta, needs one kickoff return touchdown to surpass Josh Cribbs (eight) and Leon Washington (eight) for the most in NFL history.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

DAK PRESCOTT, Dallas, needs three rushing touchdowns to join Cam Newton as the only quarterbacks with at least three rushing touchdowns in each of their first six seasons in NFL history. Prescott also:

Needs six rushing touchdowns to join Cam Newton (48 rushing touchdowns) as the only quarterbacks with at least 30 rushing touchdowns through their first six seasons in the Super Bowl era. Prescott has 24 career rushing touchdowns.

ANDY REID, Kansas City, ranks sixth all-time with 221 regular season wins and needs six wins to surpass Curly Lambeau (226 regular season wins) for the fifth-most regular season wins by a head coach in NFL history.

CALVIN RIDLEY, Atlanta, needs seven receiving touchdowns to become the fourth player in NFL history with at least seven receiving touchdowns in each of his first four seasons.

JAMES ROBINSON, Jacksonville, needs 1,000 scrimmage yards to become the fourth undrafted player since 1967 with at least 1,000 scrimmage yards in each of his first two seasons in the common-draft era. Robinson had 1,414 scrimmage yards as a rookie in 2020. Robinson also:

Needs 1,000 rushing yards to join Phillip Lindsay (2018-19) as the only undrafted players to rush for at least 1,000 yards in each of their first two seasons since 1967. Robinson had 1,070 rushing yards in 2020.

Needs 10 touchdowns to become the first undrafted player since 1967 with at least 10 touchdowns in each of his first two seasons. Robinson had 10 touchdowns (seven rushing, three receiving) in 2020.

AARON RODGERS, Green Bay, needs 10 touchdown passes to surpass Philip Rivers (421 touchdown passes) for the fifth-most in NFL history. Rodgers ranks seventh all-time with 412 touchdown passes. Rodgers also:

Needs 40 touchdown passes to join Drew Brees (2011-2012) as the only players with at least 40 touchdown passes in consecutive seasons in NFL history. Rodgers led the NFL with 48 touchdown passes in 2020 and his three seasons with at least 40 touchdown passes (2011, 2016, 2020) are the most in NFL history.

Needs 30 touchdown passes to become the fifth quarterback in league annals with at least 30 touchdown passes in eight different seasons.

Needs 4,000 passing yards to become the sixth quarterback in NFL history to reach 4,000 passing yards in 10 different seasons.

Needs 755 passing yards in his first three games of the 2021 season to become the fourth quarterback with at least 52,000 passing yards in his first 200 career games. Rodgers has 51,245 passing yards in 197 games.

Needs seven games with a passer rating of 100-or-higher to surpass Peyton Manning (112 games) for the third-most such games in NFL history. Rodgers ranks sixth all-time with 106 career games with a passer rating of 100-or-higher.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

BEN ROETHLISBERGER, Pittsburgh, needs 3,093 passing yards to surpass Philip Rivers (63,440) for the fifth-most passing yards in NFL history. Roethlisberger ranks seventh all-time with 60,348 passing yards. Roethlisberger also:

Needs four games with at least 300 passing yards to become the fifth quarterback in NFL history with 70 career 300-yard games. Roethlisberger ranks sixth all-time with 66 games with at least 300 passing yards.

Needs four touchdown passes to become the eighth quarterback with 400 career touchdown passes in NFL history. Roethlisberger ranks eighth all-time with 396 touchdown passes.

MATT RYAN, Atlanta, needs at least 4,000 passing yards to join Drew Brees (12 seasons from 2006-17) as the only players with at least 4,000 passing yards in 11 consecutive seasons in NFL history. Ryan also:

Needs at least 4,500 passing yards to tie Drew Brees (eight seasons) for the most seasons with at least 4,500 passing yards in NFL history. Ryan ranks second all-time with seven seasons of at least 4,500 passing yards.

Needs 4,233 passing yards to become the eighth player in NFL history with 60,000 career passing yards. Ryan ranks ninth all-time with 55,767 career passing yards.

Needs 3,721 passing yards to surpass Peyton Manning (59,487 yards) for the most passing yards through a player's first 14 seasons in NFL history.



MATTHEW STAFFORD, L.A. Rams, can become the eighth quarterback in NFL history to reach 300 career touchdown passes in 175-or-fewer games. Stafford has 282 touchdown passes in 165 career games. Stafford also:

Needs 3,733 passing yards to surpass Dan Marino (48,841 passing yards) for the fourth-most passing yards by a quarterback in his first 13 career seasons in NFL history. Stafford has 45,109 career passing yards.

MICHAEL THOMAS, New Orleans, needs 55 receptions to surpass Jarvis Landry (564 receptions) for the most receptions by a player in his first six seasons in NFL history. Thomas has 510 receptions in 70 career games. Thomas also:

Can become the fastest player to reach 600 career receptions in NFL history, surpassing Keenan Allen (96 games) and Antonio Brown (96)

Needs two games with at least 10 receptions to become the third player in NFL history with 20 such games, joining Antonio Brown (22) and Andre Johnson (22). Thomas has 18 career games with at least 10 receptions.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

JUSTIN TUCKER, Baltimore, needs 108 points to surpass Stephen Gostkowski (1,330 points) for the most points scored through a player's first 10 seasons in NFL history. Tucker also:

Needs six games with multiple field goals made to surpass Stephen Gostkowski (95 games) for the most such performances through a player's first 10 seasons in NFL history.

DARREN WALLER, Las Vegas, needs 90 receptions to join Travis Kelce as the only tight ends with at least 90 receptions in three consecutive seasons in NFL history. Waller also:

Needs 100 receptions to become the first tight end in league history to accomplish the feat in consecutive seasons. Waller had 107 receptions in 2020.

Needs 1,100 receiving yards to join Travis Kelce as the only tight ends with at least 1,100 receiving yards in three consecutive seasons in NFL history.



DESHAUN WATSON, Houston, needs 4,461 passing yards to become the fifth player with at least 19,000 passing yards through his first five seasons in NFL history. Watson has 14,539 career passing yards. Watson also:

Needs 35 touchdown passes to surpass Peyton Manning (138 touchdown passes) for the second-most by a player through his first five seasons in NFL history. Watson has 104 career touchdown passes.

Needs 3,500 passing yards and 25 touchdown passes to join Peyton Manning (five seasons) as the only players to accomplish the feat in at least four of their first five seasons in NFL history.

J.J. WATT, Arizona, needs nine sacks to become the eighth player since 1982 to reach 110 career sacks in 145 games-or-fewer. Watt has 101 sacks in 128 career games.

T.J. WATT, Pittsburgh, needs 13 sacks to become the second player since 1982, when the individual sack became an official statistic, to record at least 13 sacks in four consecutive seasons, joining Reggie White (1985-88; 1990-93). Watt led the NFL with 15 sacks in 2020. Watt also:

Needs 15.5 sacks to become the fourth player since 1982 to recorded at least 65 sacks in his first five seasons, joining Reggie White (81 sacks), J.J. Watt (74.5) and Derrick Thomas. Watt has 49.5 sacks in 62 career games.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

RUSSELL WILSON, Seattle, needs eight wins to surpass Peyton Manning (105) for the most wins by a quarterback in his first ten seasons in NFL history. Wilson has won 98 games in his first nine seasons. Wilson also:

Needs six wins to surpass Peyton Manning (112) for the most wins, including the postseason, by a quarterback in his first ten seasons in NFL history. Wilson has won 107 games, including the postseason, since entering the NFL in 2012.

Needs 3,000 passing yards and 20 passing touchdowns to join Peyton Manning as the only quarterbacks in NFL history to reach those marks in each of their first ten seasons.

Needs 40 touchdown passes to surpass Peyton Manning (306 touchdown passes) for the most touchdown passes by a player through his first ten seasons in NFL history. Wilson has 267 career touchdown passes.

Needs 30 touchdown passes to become the third player in NFL history with at least 30 touchdown passes in at least five consecutive seasons, joining Drew Brees (nine seasons) and Brett Favre (five).

Needs 1,835 passing yards to surpass Joe Flacco (35,780 passing yards) for the fifth-most passing yards by a player through his first ten seasons in NFL history. Wilson has 33,946 career passing yards.

Needs a passer rating of at least 105 to become the first player to accomplish the feat in four consecutive seasons in NFL history (min. 250 attempts).

Needs 11 games with at least three touchdown passes to surpass Dan Marino (48 games) and Peyton Manning (48) for the most such games by a player through his first ten seasons in NFL history.

Needs three games with at least four touchdown passes to surpass Dan Marino (17 games) and Peyton Manning (17) for the most such games by a player through his first ten seasons in NFL history.



SUPER BOWL FOLLOW-UPS

How Super Bowl winners fared the following season, with teams that repeated in bold (eight Super Bowl winners won the title game the next year and six lost it):

SEASON	SUPER BOWL	WINNER	NEXT SEASON
1966	I	Green Bay	Won Super Bowl
1967	II	Green Bay	Missed playoffs
1968	III	New York Jets	Lost in first round
1969	IV	Kansas City	Missed playoffs
1970	V	Baltimore	Lost AFC Championship Game
1971	VI	Dallas	Lost NFC Championship Game
1972	VII	Miami	Won Super Bowl
1973	VIII	Miami	Lost in first round
1974	IX	Pittsburgh	Won Super Bowl
1975	X	Pittsburgh	Lost AFC Championship Game
1976	XI	Oakland	Lost AFC Championship Game
1977	XII	Dallas	Lost Super Bowl
1978	XIII	Pittsburgh	Won Super Bowl
1979	XIV	Pittsburgh	Missed playoffs
1980	XV	Oakland	Missed playoffs
1981	XVI	San Francisco	Missed playoffs
1982	XVII	Washington	Lost Super Bowl
1983	XVIII	L.A. Raiders	Lost Wild Card Game
1984	XIX	San Francisco	Lost Wild Card Game
1985	XX	Chicago	Lost NFC Divisional Playoff Game
1986	XXI	New York Giants	Missed playoffs
1987	XXII	Washington	Missed playoffs
1988	XXIII	San Francisco	Won Super Bowl
1989	XXIV	San Francisco	Lost NFC Championship Game
1990	XXV	New York Giants	Missed playoffs
1991	XXVI	Washington	Lost NFC Divisional Playoff Game
1992	XXVII	Dallas	Won Super Bowl
1993	XXVIII	Dallas	Lost NFC Championship Game
1994	XXIX	San Francisco	Lost NFC Divisional Playoff Game
1995	XXX	Dallas	Lost NFC Divisional Playoff Game
1996	XXXI	Green Bay	Lost Super Bowl

SUPER BOWL FOLLOW-UPS

SEASON	SUPER BOWL	WINNER	NEXT SEASON
1997	XXXII	Denver	Won Super Bowl
1998	XXXIII	Denver	Missed playoffs
1999	XXXIV	St. Louis	Lost Wild Card Game
2000	XXXV	Baltimore	Lost AFC Divisional Playoff Game
2001	XXXVI	New England	Missed playoffs
2002	XXXVII	Tampa Bay	Missed playoffs
2003	XXXVIII	New England	Won Super Bowl
2004	XXXIX	New England	Lost AFC Divisional Playoff Game
2005	XL	Pittsburgh	Missed playoffs
2006	XLI	Indianapolis	Lost AFC Divisional Playoff Game
2007	XLII	New York Giants	Lost NFC Divisional Playoff Game
2008	XLIII	Pittsburgh	Missed playoffs
2009	XLIV	New Orleans	Lost NFC Wild Card Game
2010	XLV	Green Bay	Lost NFC Divisional Playoff Game
2011	XLVI	New York Giants	Missed playoffs
2012	XLVII	Baltimore	Missed playoffs
2013	XLVIII	Seattle	Lost Super Bowl
2014	XLIX	New England	Lost AFC Championship Game
2015	50	Denver	Missed playoffs
2016	LI	New England	Lost Super Bowl
2017	LII	Philadelphia	Lost NFC Divisional Playoff Game
2018	LIII	New England	Lost Wild Card Game
2019	LIV	Kansas City	Lost Super Bowl
2020	LV	Tampa Bay	???



Doug Mills / AP



Dave Martin / AP

LOMBARDI TROPHY

BY THE NUMBERS



Immediately following a Super Bowl victory, the winner is presented with the **VINCE LOMBARDI TROPHY**.

"Tiffany & Co. creates many of the world's greatest championship trophies, and the Vince Lombardi trophy is certainly one of them," says **VICTORIA WIRTH REYNOLDS**, Chief Gemologist Vice President of Global Merchandising, High Jewelry at Tiffany & Co., the trophy's manufacturer. "Made by Tiffany artisans, who use age-old silversmithing techniques from the 1800's, the Vince Lombardi Trophy is a lasting tribute to the athletes' dedication and goal of greatness."

After the trophy is presented, it is then returned to Tiffany & Co. for any repairs and the engraving of the Super Bowl team names and the final score onto the base. It then goes back to the winning team for permanent possession.

LOMBARDI TROPHY FACTS & FIGURES

7 pounds heavy
22 inches tall
72 hours to make
Made of Sterling Silver*
Designed in 1967
Sketched by Oscar Riedener**
Crafted by hand
Made in Cumberland, RI
Made by Tiffany & Co.

*Including nuts and bolts

**Former Tiffany & Co. VP of Design

BEST INDICATOR? RUN THE BALL

A tough, reliable running game allows an offense to command a game's pace. In the majority of contests, it can also control the game's result.

In 2020, NFL teams with a 100-yard rusher posted a 64-23 record for a .736 winning percentage. That rated higher than clubs with a 100-yard receiver (103-84-1, .554) or a 300-yard passer (71-60-1, .542).

Tennessee running back **DERRICK HENRY** led the NFL with 2,027 rushing yards and had 10 games in which he rushed for at least 100 yards, the most in the league. The Titans were 8-2 in those games, accounting for all but three of their wins last season. Since 2017, including the postseason, Henry leads the NFL with 23 games of at least 100 rushing yards while Tennessee has a record of 21-2 in those games.

Over the past five years, teams have compiled a 358-121-2 record (.746) when a player has eclipsed the 100-yard rushing mark. By comparison, clubs with a 100-yard receiver have a .554 winning percentage (465-374-8), while offenses with a 300-yard passer have a .529 winning percentage (319-285-7).

The winning percentage of teams with a 100-yard rusher, 100-yard receiver or 300-yard passer over the past five seasons:

100-YARD RUSHERS				
YEAR	W	L	T	WIN PCT.
2016	68	27	1	.714
2017	68	17	0	.800
2018	80	26	1	.752
2019	78	28	0	.736
2020	64	23	0	.736
Total	358	121	2	.746

100-YARD RECEIVERS				
YEAR	W	L	T	WIN PCT.
2016	94	73	2	.562
2017	77	52	0	.597
2018	95	81	3	.539
2019	96	84	2	.533
2020	103	84	1	.551
Total	465	374	8	.554

300-YARD PASSERS				
YEAR	W	L	T	WIN PCT.
2016	56	60	2	.483
2017	58	39	0	.598
2018	65	65	2	.500
2019	69	61	2	.530
2020	71	60	1	.542
Total	319	285	7	.529



TURNOVERS ARE KEY TO VICTORY

What is one of the most important keys to success in the NFL? Winning the turnover battle certainly ranks high on the list.

Last season, five of the top nine teams in net turnover differential won their division: the **TENNESSEE TITANS** (+11, AFC South), **NEW ORLEANS SAINTS** (+9, NFC South), **PITTSBURGH STEELERS** (+9, AFC North), **GREEN BAY PACKERS** (+7, NFC North) and **KANSAS CITY CHIEFS** (+6, AFC West), with eight of the nine qualifying for the postseason. Each of the top 12 teams in turnover differential last season won at least 10 games, including seven division winners.

The **MIAMI DOLPHINS** paced the NFL with 29 takeaways last season, including a league-leading 10 interceptions from cornerback **XAVIEN HOWARD**. The Packers recorded a league-low 11 giveaways in 2020, after registering the second fewest giveaways in both 2019 (13) and 2018 (15).

The teams with the best net turnover differential in 2020:

TEAM	TAKEAWAYS	GIVEAWAYS	NET DIFFERENTIAL	RECORD
Tennessee [^]	23	12	+11	11-5
Indianapolis [#]	25	15	+10	11-5
New Orleans [^]	26	17	+9	12-4
Miami	29	20	+9	10-6
Pittsburgh [^]	27	18	+9	12-4
Tampa Bay [#]	25	17	+8	11-5
Green Bay [^]	18	11	+7	13-3
Kansas City [^]	22	16	+6	14-2
Cleveland [#]	21	16	+5	11-5
Baltimore [#]	22	18	+4	11-5
Seattle [^]	22	18	+4	12-4
Buffalo [^]	26	22	+4	13-3

[^]Won Division

[#]Qualified for postseason

THIRD-DOWN CONVERSIONS

Excelling on third down extends drives and keeps your opponent off the field, which can be an important factor in winning games.

Last season, each of the top five teams in third-down conversion percentage won their division – **BUFFALO** (49.7 percent), **GREEN BAY** (49.4), **KANSAS CITY** (49.0), **BALTIMORE** (48.8) and **TENNESSEE** (46.2). Additionally, each of the top three teams in third-down percentage advanced to their respective Conference Championship game in 2020.

How the division winners fared on third-down in 2020:

TEAM	3RD DOWN CONVERSIONS	3RD DOWN ATTEMPTS	3RD DOWN PCT.
Buffalo	93	187	49.7
Green Bay	89	180	49.4
Kansas City	95	194	49.0
Baltimore	101	207	48.8
Tennessee	84	182	46.2
New Orleans	93	208	44.7
Pittsburgh	97	230	42.2
Washington	88	225	39.1

Converting on third down extends drives ultimately leading toward the end zone. Last season, eight of the nine teams to score at least 50 offensive touchdowns and convert at least 40 percent of third downs made the playoffs.

Green Bay led the league with 64 offensive touchdowns scored, while converting on 49.4 percent of their third downs.

The teams to score at least 50 offensive touchdowns in 2020:

TEAM	OFFENSIVE TDs	3RD DOWN PCT.
Green Bay*	64	49.4
Tennessee*	60	46.2
New Orleans*	58	44.7
Tampa Bay*	58	43.5
Buffalo*	56	49.7
Minnesota	55	40.9
Seattle*	55	40.2
Kansas City*	53	49.0
Baltimore*	51	48.8

*Qualified for playoffs



Matt Becker / AP

GOING FOR TWO

The two-point conversion is as popular as ever and has proven to be an increasingly important play in the NFL over the past few years.

Last season, the **MINNESOTA VIKINGS** led the league with eight two-point conversions, tied with the 2015 Pittsburgh Steelers (eight) for the most successful two-point conversions by a team in a single season since 1994, when the two-point conversion was instituted. The **PHILADELPHIA EAGLES** converted seven two-point conversion attempts, the third-highest single-season total since 1994.



In total, 63 two-point conversions were successful in 2020, the second-most in a single season since 1994. Four of the top five totals occurred in the last five seasons, including 66 conversions in 2018, the most since 1994.

Teams attempted a total of 131 two-point conversions in 2020, the most in a single season since 1994. Philadelphia (16 attempts) and Minnesota (12) had the most two-point conversion attempts by any team in a single season since 1994.

The seasons with the most attempted two-point conversions since 1994:

SEASON	TWO-POINT CONVERSIONS
2018	66
2020	63
1994	59
2019	54
2016	51



In 2020, over half of the league (17 teams) converted multiple two-point conversions throughout the regular season and eight teams were successful on at least three conversions. The **KANSAS CITY CHIEFS** were the only team to convert 100 percent of their two-point attempts (min. three attempts).

The teams with at least three successful two-point conversions in 2020:

TEAM	CONVERSIONS	ATTEMPTS	PCT.
Minnesota	8	12	66.7
Philadelphia	7	16	43.8
Dallas	4	6	66.7
Miami	4	6	66.7
Tennessee	4	7	57.1
Indianapolis	3	5	60.0
Jacksonville	3	9	33.3
Kansas City	3	3	100.

ROOKIE SUCCESS IN 2020

The 2020 class of rookie quarterbacks proved to be one of the best in league history, as they combined for an 88.2 passer rating, the highest mark in the common draft era.

The rookie quarterback classes with the highest combined passer rating since 1967:

SEASON	PASSER RATING
2020	88.2
2015	87.2
2016	85.2
2008	83.6
2019	82.1

- Los Angeles Chargers quarterback **JUSTIN HERBERT**, the No. 6 overall selection in the 2020 NFL Draft, was named Associated Press Offensive Rookie of the Year after recording the most touchdown passes (31), most completions (396) and second-most passing yards (4,336) by a rookie quarterback in NFL history. He totaled six games with at least three touchdown passes and eight games with at least 300 passing yards last season, both the most by a rookie quarterback in league annals. At 22 years and 299 days old, Herbert surpassed **LAMAR JACKSON** (22 years, 356 days in 2019) as the youngest quarterback with 30 touchdown passes in a single season in NFL history.



- Cincinnati quarterback **JOE BURROW**, the No. 1 overall selection in the 2020 NFL Draft, totaled 2,688 passing yards and 13 touchdown passes in 10 starts, both the second-most among rookies in 2020. He recorded five games with at least 300 passing yards, tied with **DANIEL JONES** (2019) and **KYLER MURRAY** (2019) for the third-most 300-yard passing games by a rookie quarterback in league annals. In Weeks 2-4, Burrow became the first rookie quarterback in NFL history to pass for at least 300 yards in three consecutive games.
- Miami quarterback **TUA TAGOVAILOA**, the No. 5 overall selection in the 2020 NFL Draft, went 6-3 as a starter last season and totaled 1,814 passing yards with 11 touchdown passes. He joined **CARSON WENTZ** (2016) as the only rookie quarterbacks to win their first three starts and throw zero interceptions in the Super Bowl era. Tagovailoa became the second quarterback in the Super Bowl era with at least one touchdown pass and zero interceptions in each of his first five career starts, joining **JEFF KEMP**.
- Philadelphia quarterback **JALEN HURTS**, selected 53rd overall in the 2020 NFL Draft, led all rookie quarterbacks with 354 rushing yards in 2020 and joined **LAMAR JACKSON** (119 rushing yards in Week 11, 2018) as the only quarterbacks with at least 100 rushing yards in their first career starts in NFL history. In Weeks 15-16, he joined **MICHAEL VICK** (Weeks 4-5, 2011) as the only quarterbacks with at least 300 passing yards and 50 rushing yards in consecutive games in NFL history.

ROOKIE SUCCESS IN 2020

In 2020, rookies combined for the most scrimmage touchdowns (190) and second-most scrimmage yards (26,613) in a single season since 1970.

- Pittsburgh wide receiver **CHASE CLAYPOOL** led rookies with nine receiving touchdowns, tied for the most by a rookie in franchise history. He became the first wide receiver in the Super Bowl era and the fourth in league history with at least 10 touchdowns in his first 10 career games (eight receiving, two rushing), joining **BILLY HOWTON** (11 touchdowns in 1952), **BILL GROMAN** (10 in 1960) and **HARLON HILL** (10 in 1954).
- Baltimore running back **J.K. DOBBINS** ranked third among rookies with 805 rushing yards and nine rushing touchdowns, the most rushing touchdowns by a rookie in franchise history. From Weeks 11-17, he recorded a rushing touchdown in six consecutive games, tied for the third-longest such streak by a rookie running back in the Super Bowl era.
- Washington running back **ANTONIO GIBSON** became the first rookie to rush for a touchdown in five consecutive games (Weeks 7, 9-12) in franchise history and joined **J.K. DOBBINS** (six games in 2020), **NICK CHUBB** (five games in 2018), **TODD GURLEY** (five games in 2015) and **MAURICE JONES-DREW** (eight games in 2006) as the only rookies with such a streak since 2000. He rushed for 115 yards and three touchdowns on Thanksgiving (Week 12), becoming the first rookie since at least 1948 with three total rushing touchdowns on the holiday and the first rookie with three touchdowns on Thanksgiving since Pro Football Hall of Famer **RANDY MOSS** (1998).
- Minnesota wide receiver **JUSTIN JEFFERSON** had 1,400 receiving yards in 2020 and surpassed **ANQUAN BOLDIN** (1,377 receiving yards in 2003) for the most receiving yards by a rookie in the Super Bowl era. He became the fourth rookie with at least seven games of 100-or-more receiving yards in history, joining **BILL GROMAN** (nine games in 1960), **ODELL BECKHAM JR.** (seven games in 2014) and **HARLON HILL** (seven games in 1954). Jefferson became the fifth rookie with at least 1,000 receiving yards in his first 12 career games in the Super Bowl era, joining Beckham Jr. (2014), Boldin (2003), **MARQUES COLSTON** (2006) and Pro Football Hall of Famer **RANDY MOSS** (1998).
- Dallas wide receiver **CEEDEE LAMB** ranked second among rookies with 74 receptions and 935 receiving yards in 2020, both the most by a rookie in franchise history. He became the first player in NFL history with at least five receptions in each of his first six career games.



Charles Rex Arbogast / AP

ROOKIE SUCCESS IN 2020

- Jacksonville running back **JAMES ROBINSON** ranked second among rookies with 1,414 scrimmage yards and 1,070 rushing yards this season, the most scrimmage yards by an undrafted rookie in the common draft era. He became the fourth undrafted rookie to record 1,000 rushing yards in the common-draft era, joining **DOMINIC RHODES** (1,104 rushing yards in 2001), **PHILLIP LINDSAY** (1,037 in 2018) and **LEGARRETTE BLOUNT** (1,007 in 2010). Robinson totaled 10 touchdowns (seven rushing, three receiving) and became the third undrafted rookie with 10 touchdowns in the common-draft era, joining Lindsay (2018) and Rhodes (2001). He had seven games with at least 100 scrimmage yards last season, tied with **CLARK GAINES** (seven games in 1976) for the most such games by an undrafted rookie in the common-draft era.
- Indianapolis running back **JONATHAN TAYLOR** led rookies with 1,468 scrimmage yards and 1,169 rushing yards and tied for the lead with 11 rushing touchdowns last season. In Week 17, he rushed for 253 yards and two touchdowns, tied with **DEMARCO MURRAY** (253 rushing yards on October 23, 2011) for the second-most rushing yards by a rookie in a single game in NFL history. Only **ADRIAN PETERSON** (296 rushing yards on November 4, 2007) had more.

Five rookies each recorded at least 10 touchdowns in 2020: Indianapolis' **JONATHAN TAYLOR** (12), Pittsburgh's **CHASE CLAYPOOL** (11 touchdowns), Washington's **ANTONIO GIBSON** (11), Jacksonville's **JAMES ROBINSON** (10) and Detroit's **D'ANDRE SWIFT** (10). This season was the second in the Super Bowl era with at least five rookies each recording at least 10 touchdowns, joining 2008 (five rookies).

Three rookies each registered at least 1,400 scrimmage yards in 2020: Indianapolis' **JONATHAN TAYLOR** (1,468), Jacksonville's **JAMES ROBINSON** (1,414) and Minnesota's **JUSTIN JEFFERSON** (1,402). The 2020 season joined 2008 (**MATT FORTE**, **CHRIS JOHNSON** and **STEVE SLATON**) as the only seasons since 1970 with three-or-more rookies recording at least 1,400 scrimmage yards.

Defensive rookies, including Pro Bowl defensive end **CHASE YOUNG**, shined throughout the 2020 season.

- Young, the No. 2 overall selection in the 2020 NFL Draft, led all rookies with 7.5 sacks, 10 tackles for loss and three fumbles recoveries.

In Week 14, Young (47-yard fumble return for a touchdown) and fellow Washington rookie safety **KAMREN CURL** (76-yard interception return for a touchdown) each recorded defensive touchdowns. It marked the fifth time since 1970 that a team has had two different rookies record a defensive touchdown in the same game and the first since the **BALTIMORE RAVENS** in Week 8, 2006.

- Carolina safety **JEREMY CHINN** led all rookies with 116 tackles in 2020. In Week 12, he recorded two fumble-return touchdowns and became the third player in NFL history with multiple fumble-return touchdowns in a single game, joining **AL NESSER** (three on October 3, 1920) and **FRED EVANS** (two on November 28, 1948).

ROOKIE QUARTERBACKS IN 2021

Five quarterbacks – Clemson's **TREVOR LAWRENCE** (No. 1 overall, Jacksonville), BYU's **ZACH WILSON** (No. 2, N.Y. Jets), North Dakota State's **TREY LANCE** (No. 3, San Francisco), Ohio State's **JUSTIN FIELDS** (No. 11, Chicago) and Alabama's **MAC JONES** (No. 15, New England) – were selected in the first round of the 2021 NFL Draft.

With five quarterbacks chosen in the first round, 2021 marked the fourth time that at least five quarterbacks have been selected in the Draft's opening round since 1967. The 1983 NFL Draft holds the record with six quarterbacks selected in the first round, including Pro Football Hall of Famers **JOHN ELWAY**, **JIM KELLY** and **DAN MARINO**.

Last season, the Cincinnati Bengals started **JOE BURROW**, the No. 1 overall selection in the 2020 Draft, on Kickoff Weekend. At least one rookie quarterback has started in Week 1 in 13 consecutive seasons, the longest streak in the NFL since at least 1950.

The rookie quarterbacks to start in Week 1 since 2008:

SEASON	QUARTERBACK	TEAM	STARTING RECORD AS ROOKIE
2008	Joe Flacco	Baltimore	11-5
2008	Matt Ryan	Atlanta	11-5
2009	Mark Sanchez	N.Y. Jets	8-7
2009	Matthew Stafford*	Detroit	2-8
2010	Sam Bradford*	St. Louis Rams	7-9
2011	Andy Dalton	Cincinnati	9-7
2011	Cam Newton*	Carolina	6-10
2012	Robert Griffin III	Washington	9-6
2012	Andrew Luck*	Indianapolis	11-5
2012	Ryan Tannehill	Miami	7-9
2012	Brandon Weeden	Cleveland	5-10
2012	Russell Wilson	Seattle	11-5
2013	EJ Manuel	Buffalo	4-6
2013	Geno Smith	N.Y. Jets	8-8
2014	Derek Carr	Oakland Raiders	3-13
2015	Marcus Mariota	Tennessee	3-13
2015	Jameis Winston*	Tampa Bay	6-10
2016	Dak Prescott	Dallas	13-3
2016	Carson Wentz	Philadelphia	7-9
2017	DeShone Kizer	Cleveland	0-15
2018	Sam Darnold	N.Y. Jets	4-9
2019	Kyler Murray*	Arizona	5-10-1
2020	Joe Burrow*	Cincinnati	2-7-1

*No. 1 overall pick

FIRST LOOK AT 2022 NFL DRAFT

It is never too early for NFL front offices to look ahead at the next crop of top college prospects that could potentially be the future faces of their franchise.

NFL Network analyst **DANIEL JEREMIAH** has taken a "first look" at some of college football's top players that are expected to be the future stars of the league in the coming years.

Jeremiah's top players to watch in college football this season, listed alphabetical by position:

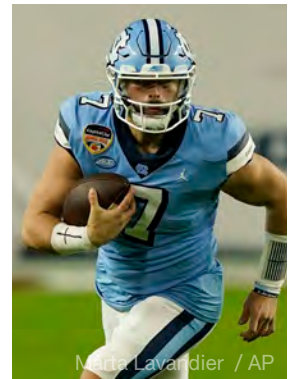
- QB **MATT CORRAL**, Ole Miss (6-1/205, junior): "I've been asked which college QB could emerge this fall, similar to the way Jets first-round pick Zach Wilson popped on the scene last year at BYU. Corral would be my answer. He doesn't quite have the same arm talent as Wilson, but he has similar instincts, creativity and playmaking ability. He's an excellent athlete and a versatile thrower. He's capable of driving the ball into small windows, layering the ball over linebackers/under safeties and dropping the deep ball into the bucket. His overall touch is outstanding."

He reminds me of: Las Vegas Raiders QB **DEREK CARR**



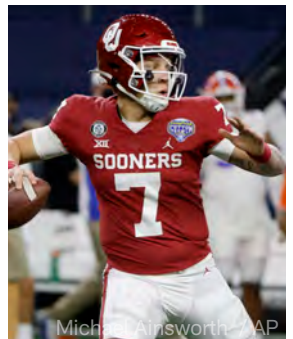
- QB **SAM HOWELL**, North Carolina (6-1/225, junior): "There's a lot to like about Howell's game. He has very quick hands and a live arm. The ball jumps out of his hand and he throws a firm, catchable ball. His placement is outstanding on the deep ball. He also excels on the seam ball in the middle of the field, showing the ability to get the ball over linebackers and underneath safeties. He isn't a dynamic athlete, but he displays the agility to escape and extend plays. I believe a lot of what Howell does well will translate to the NFL. He can make every type of throw, and he isn't a stationary player. He can move around and create plays."

He reminds me of: Cleveland Browns QB **BAKER MAYFIELD**



- QB **SPENCER RATTLER**, Oklahoma (6-1/210, sophomore): "Rattler has a very quick release and he plays with energy and urgency. He flashes the ability to stick the ball into tight windows down the seam. The OU signal-caller is at his best throwing on the move. He is accurate rolling to both his right and left, and he has a good feel for applying the proper pace and trajectory on the ball. He threw some beautiful deep balls in the three games I watched, showing the touch to drop the ball in the bucket. He isn't an overly explosive athlete, but is elusive when he gets into the open field."

He reminds me of: Former NFL QB **JEFF GARCIA**



FIRST LOOK AT 2022 NFL DRAFT

- QB **MALIK WILLIS**, Liberty (6-3/225, senior): "Willis has a long way to go in his development, but his arm strength, athleticism and competitiveness create a unique foundation to build on. He needs time to clean up the areas mentioned above, but his impact as a runner will be felt as soon as he steps foot on the field. He is borderline unstoppable on designed QB runs in the red zone. He can pick up those tough yards on QB draws, sweeps or zone reads. He can use his speed to capture the edge or use his strength to run through tackles or carry defenders for several yards."

He reminds me of: Philadelphia Eagles QB **JALEN HURTS**



- WR **TREYLON BURKS**, Arkansas (6-3/225, junior): "Burks is a smooth athlete with outstanding size and strength. His role in this offense places him primarily in the slot, with a few backfield reps mixed into each game I viewed. He hauls in a lot of quick-hitters (swings, bubbles and slants), which highlight his best attribute: run after catch. He powers through tacklers consistently and is sneaky-elusive, as well. He has the ability to get vertical from the slot and tracks the ball very well over the shoulder."

He reminds me of: Tennessee Titans WR **A.J. BROWN**



- WR **CHRIS OLAVE**, Ohio State (6-1/189, senior): "Olave's best attribute is his ability to make plays over the top of the defense. His presence is felt in every game I studied, and he opens up the field for his teammates. That being said, he isn't a one-trick pony. He is just as effective running comebacks and curls as he is on posts and go routes. He's a home run hitter who's also capable of winning on third down in the middle of the field. That's a special combination."

He reminds me of: Miami Dolphins WR **WILL FULLER**



- T **EVAN NEAL**, Alabama (6-7/360, junior): "Neal is a massive right tackle, yet he has surprisingly nimble feet and quickness. He varies his pass sets, occasionally jumping/attacking edge rushers and eliminating their runway. When Neal takes a traditional set, he can bend and redirect before landing his punch. Once he locks on, the play is usually over. In the run game, he can collapse defenders on down-blocks, and he moves well as a puller. He has the skill set of a 10-year starting right tackle."

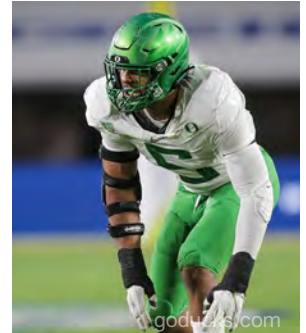
He reminds me of: Former NFL T **MARCUS MCNEILL**



FIRST LOOK AT 2022 NFL DRAFT

- DL **KAYVON THIBODEAUX**, Oregon (6-5/250, junior): "Thibodeaux is an explosive edge rusher, winning with a combination of speed, length and power. He has a dynamic get-off and can generate knock-back against offensive tackles without needing much runway or space. He also flashes a nifty up/under move to counter opponents when they jump out aggressively to take away his speed advantage. He's firm at the point of attack against the run and uses his speed/effort to make plays on the back side."

He reminds me of: Former NFL LB **DEMARCUS WARE**



- S **KYLE HAMILTON**, Notre Dame (6-4/219, junior): "The height/weight/speed combination is impressive, but it's Hamilton's instincts that make him a special talent. You can tell he studies tape. He is always aware of down/distance and he sniffs out screens in a hurry. He has excellent anticipation and takes ideal angles to the ball versus the run and the pass. He is an outstanding open-field tackler, too. NFL defensive coordinators are going to love this guy!"

He reminds me of: Denver Broncos S **JUSTIN SIMMONS**



- CB **DEREK STINGLEY**, LSU (6-1/195, junior): "I love Stingley's combination of size, speed and fluidity. He is a very easy mover without any hint of stiffness in his ankles or hips. He has the speed to mirror vertical routes -- and on the rare occasion he is out of position, he has enough juice to recover. He is at his best in press coverage. He isn't ultra-physical, but he does get his hands on opponents, which helps him feel and anticipate break points down the field. He will be highly coveted whenever he decides to enter the league."

He reminds me of: New Orleans Saints CB **MARSHON LATTIMORE**



QUARTERBACK SUCCESS

Passing figures league-wide trended at a historic rate in 2020, as the marks for passer rating (93.6), touchdown passes (871), completion percentage (65.2 percent) and completions (11,756) all ranked as the most in a single season in NFL history.

NFL PASSING STATISTICS (PER GAME AVERAGES)

	1966-2019	2003-2019	2020
Net Passing Yards Per Game	401.7	447.1	480.3
Passer Rating	78.7	85.4	93.6
Passing Attempts Per Game	62.9	67.6	70.4
Completions Per Game	36.4	41.5	45.9
Completion Percentage	57.9	61.4	65.2
Touchdown Passes Per Game	2.7	2.9	3.4
Yards Per Attempt	6.9	7.0	7.2

SEASON	RATING
<i>2020</i>	<i>93.6</i>
2018	93.9

SEASON	TD PASSES
<i>2020</i>	<i>871</i>
2018	847

SEASON	COMP. PCT.
<i>2020</i>	<i>65.2</i>
2018	64.9

SEASON	COMPLETIONS
<i>2020</i>	<i>11,756</i>
2015	11,527

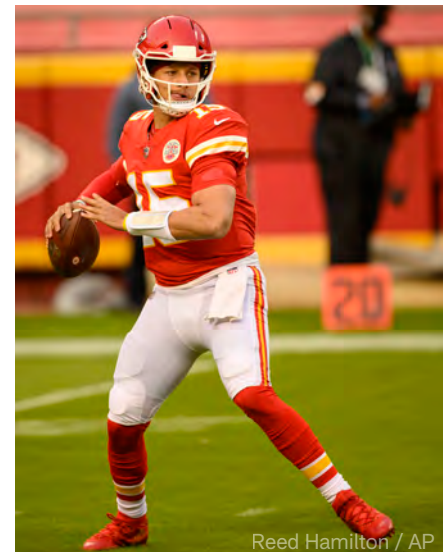
From 1966-2019, there was an individual 300-yard passing performance an average of once every 2.7 games (3,208 300-yard passers in 11,959 games).

In 2020, there was an individual 300-yard passing performance an average of once every 1.9 games (132 300-yard passers in 256 games).

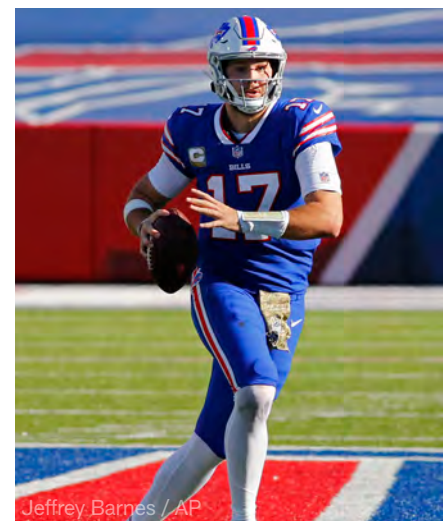
The quarterbacks with the most 300-yard passing games in 2020:

PLAYER	TEAM	GAMES	AGE*
Deshawn Watson	Houston	10	25
Patrick Mahomes	Kansas City	9	25
Josh Allen	Buffalo	8	24
Justin Herbert	L.A. Chargers	8	22
Tom Brady	Tampa Bay	7	43

*Age at conclusion of 2020 regular season



Reed Hamilton / AP



Jeffrey Barnes / AP

QUARTERBACK SUCCESS

With Kansas City's **PATRICK MAHOMES** (38 touchdown passes, age 25), Buffalo's **JOSH ALLEN** (37 touchdown passes, age 24), Houston's **DESHAUN WATSON** (33 touchdown passes, age 25) and Los Angeles Chargers' **JUSTIN HERBERT** (31 touchdown passes, age 22), 2020 became the first season in league history with four quarterbacks under the age of 26 to each throw at least 30 touchdown passes in the same season.

10 quarterbacks had a passer rating of 100 or higher (among qualified passers) last season, the most in a single season in NFL history.

The quarterbacks with a 100+ passer rating in 2020:

PLAYER	TEAM	PASSER RATING	AGE
Aaron Rodgers	Green Bay	121.5	37
Deshaun Watson	Houston	112.5	25
Patrick Mahomes	Kansas City	108.2	25
Josh Allen	Buffalo	107.2	24
Ryan Tannehill	Tennessee	106.5	32
Drew Brees	New Orleans	106.4	41
Russell Wilson	Seattle	105.1	32
Kirk Cousins	Minnesota	105.0	32
Tom Brady	Tampa Bay	102.2	43
Derek Carr	Las Vegas	101.4	29

*Age at conclusion of 2020 regular season



Twelve quarterbacks passed for at least 4,000 yards in 2020, including five with at least 4,500 passing yards: Houston's **DESHAUN WATSON** (4,823), Kansas City's **PATRICK MAHOMES** (4,740), Tampa Bay's **TOM BRADY** (4,633), Atlanta's **MATT RYAN** (4,581) and Buffalo's **JOSH ALLEN** (4,544).

Ten quarterbacks threw at least 30 touchdown passes last season, including three with at least 40 touchdown passes: Green Bay's **AARON RODGERS** (48), Tampa Bay's **TOM BRADY** (40) and Seattle's **RUSSELL WILSON** (40). 2020 joined 2011 as the only seasons in NFL history in which three players passed for at least 40 touchdowns.

STARTING RECORDS OF ACTIVE NFL QUARTERBACKS

QUARTERBACK	W	L	T	PCT.
Patrick Mahomes	38	8	0	.826
Lamar Jackson	30	7	0	.811
Tom Brady	230	69	0	.769
Jimmy Garoppolo	24	8	0	.750
Russell Wilson	98	45	1	.684
Ben Roethlisberger	156	74	1	.677
Aaron Rodgers	126	63	1	.666
Josh Allen	28	15	0	.651
Drew Stanton	11	6	0	.647
Jared Goff	42	27	0	.609
Dak Prescott	42	27	0	.609
Mitchell Trubisky	29	21	0	.580
Joe Flacco	98	77	0	.560
Matt Ryan	113	92	0	.551
Cam Newton	75	63	1	.543
Tyrod Taylor	24	21	1	.533
Teddy Bridgewater	26	23	0	.531
Deshaun Watson	28	25	0	.528
Andy Dalton	74	66	2	.528
Ryan Tannehill	60	54	0	.526
Carson Wentz	35	32	1	.522
Baker Mayfield	23	22	0	.511
Nick Foles	28	27	0	.509
Kirk Cousins	51	51	2	.500
Marcus Mariota	29	32	0	.475

QUARTERBACK	W	L	T	PCT.
Matthew Stafford	74	90	1	.452
Drew Lock	8	10	0	.444
Case Keenum	27	35	0	.435
Derek Carr	47	63	0	.427
Kyler Murray	13	18	1	.422
Kyle Allen	7	10	0	.412
Brian Hoyer	16	23	0	.410
Ryan Fitzpatrick	59	86	1	.408
Justin Herbert	6	9	0	.400
Jameis Winston	28	42	0	.400
Geno Smith	12	19	0	.387
Jacoby Brissett	12	20	0	.375
Gardner Minshew	7	13	0	.350
Sam Darnold	13	25	0	.342
Chad Henne	18	36	0	.333
Blake Bortles	24	49	0	.329
Nick Mullens	5	11	0	.313
Daniel Jones	8	18	0	.308
Blaine Gabbert	13	35	0	.271
Colt McCoy	8	22	0	.267
Joe Burrow	2	7	1	.250
Dwayne Haskins	3	10	0	.231
Mike Glennon	6	21	0	.222
Josh Rosen	3	13	0	.188
C.J. Beathard	2	10	0	.167

On active roster as of July 15, 2021
(Min. 10 regular-season starts)

1,000-YARD RUNNING BACKS

Eight running backs rushed for at least 1,000 yards in 2020, including two – **DERRICK HENRY** (2,027 rushing yards) and **DALVIN COOK** (1,557) – that rushed for at least 1,500 yards. It marked the first season since 2012 in which multiple players rushed for at least 1,500 yards.

The running backs with at least 1,000 rushing yards in 2020:

PLAYER	TEAM	RUSHING YARDS
Derrick Henry	Tennessee	2,027
Dalvin Cook	Minnesota	1,557
Jonathan Taylor	Indianapolis	1,169
Aaron Jones	Green Bay	1,104
David Montgomery	Chicago	1,070
James Robinson	Jacksonville	1,070
Nick Chubb	Cleveland	1,067
Josh Jacobs	Las Vegas	1,065



Of those eight players, three reached the milestone for the first time in their career. See below for more notes on last season's 1,000-yard running backs:

- Tennessee's **DERRICK HENRY** became the eighth player in NFL history to rush for at least 2,000 yards in a season and became the first player to lead the league in rushing in consecutive seasons since Pro Football Hall of Famer **LADAINIAN TOMLINSON** (2006-07).
- Minnesota's **DALVIN COOK** became the third player in franchise history to rush for at least 1,500 yards, joining **ADRIAN PETERSON** (2008, 2012) and **ROBERT SMITH** (2000).
- Jacksonville's **JAMES ROBINSON** and Indianapolis' **JONATHAN TAYLOR** both surpassing 1,000 rushing yards last season, marking the fourth season in the past five years in which multiple rookies reached the milestone. Every season since 2012 (nine consecutive seasons) has featured at least one rookie rushing for at least 1,000 yards.
- Green Bay's **AARON JONES** became the fourth Packer since 2000 to rush for at least 1,000 yards in consecutive seasons and set a franchise record (minimum 200 attempts) with a 5.49 yards per rush attempt average.
- Cleveland's **NICK CHUBB** joined **JAMAL LEWIS** (2007-08) as the only Browns players to record at least 1,000 rushing yards in consecutive seasons since 2000.
- Chicago's **DAVID MONTGOMERY** ranked fifth in the NFL with a career-high 1,508 scrimmage yards (1,070 rushing, 438 receiving), becoming the sixth running back in franchise history with at least 1,500 scrimmage yards in a single season.
- Las Vegas' **JOSH JACOBS** is the first player in franchise history to rush for at least 1,000 yards in each of his first two seasons.

YARDS AFTER THE CATCH

As versatile running backs and quick passing attacks continue to become more prevalent in today's game, additional yards after the catch have become an increasingly important part of an offense's success.

New Orleans running back **ALVIN KAMARA** led the league with 742 yards after the catch last season, while Las Vegas tight end **DARREN WALLER** finished second with 576.

The players with the most yards after catch in 2020:

PLAYER	TEAM	POS	REC.	YARDS	AVG.	TD	YAC
Alvin Kamara	New Orleans	RB	83	756	9.1	5	742
Darren Waller	Las Vegas	TE	107	1,196	11.2	9	576
Travis Kelce	Kansas City	TE	105	1,416	13.5	11	574
Davante Adams	Green Bay	WR	115	1,374	11.9	18	561
Cooper Kupp	L.A. Rams	WR	92	974	10.6	3	533

2020 marked the seventh time in the last eight seasons that a running back has led the league in yards after the catch. The last wide receiver to lead in the category was **DEMARIUS THOMAS** in 2013, while **GEORGE KITTLE** (2018) was the last tight end to lead the league in yards after catch.



ON TARGET

Elite wide receivers capture the attention of opposing defensive backs, but still earn plenty of it from their quarterbacks, too.

In 2020, two wide receivers in their first season with a new club ranked first and second in the league in targets. Buffalo wide receiver **STEFON DIGGS** was targeted 166 times, the most in the NFL and the most by a Bills wide receiver since 2002 (Eric Moulds - 180 targets). Arizona's **DEANDRE HOPKINS** ranked second in the league with 160 targets and is the only player with at least 150 targets in each of the past six seasons. If he accomplishes the feat again this season, he will become the first player since 1991 with at least 150 targets in seven consecutive seasons.

The players with at least 150 targets in the most consecutive seasons since 1991:

PLAYER	TEAM(S)	SEASONS
Antonio Brown	PIT	6 (2013-18)
Larry Fitzgerald	AZ	6 (2007-12)
DeAndre Hopkins	HOU, AZ	6* (2015-20)

*Active streak



Isaac Brekken / AP



Jennifer Stewart / AP

Four players were targeted at least 10 times per game in 2020: Green Bay's **DAVANTE ADAMS** (10.6 targets per game), Los Angeles Chargers' **KEENAN ALLEN** (10.5), Diggs (10.4) and Hopkins (10).

Hopkins has been one of the top-five most targeted receivers in football in each of the past four seasons, and since he entered the NFL in 2013, leads all players with 1,208 targets.

The players with the most targets in 2020:

PLAYER	2020 TEAM	TARGETS	RECEPTIONS	YARDS	AVG
Stefon Diggs	Buffalo	166	127	1,535	12.1
DeAndre Hopkins	Arizona	160	115	1,407	12.2
Allen Robinson	Chicago	151	102	1,250	12.3
Davante Adams	Green Bay	149	115	1,374	11.9
Keenan Allen	L.A. Chargers	147	100	992	9.9

MOVING THE CHAINS

A precise route can be the difference between a game-changing play and an appearance by the punt team. It's a skill for a receiver to know exactly where he needs to go in order to move the chains and keep a drive going.

As part of his record-breaking season in 2020, Kansas City tight end **TRAVIS KELCE** led the NFL with 79 first-down receptions, the most by a tight end in a single season since 1991. Arizona wide receiver **DEANDRE HOPKINS** ranked second in 2020 with 75 first-down receptions, while Green Bay's **DAVANTE ADAMS** (73 first-down receptions) and Buffalo's **STEFON DIGGS** (73) tied for third.

The tight ends with the most first-down receptions in a single season since 1994:

PLAYER	TEAM	SEASON	FIRST DOWNS
Travis Kelce	KC	2020	79
Jimmy Graham	NO	2011	74
Tony Gonzalez ^{HOF}	KC	2004	69
Rob Gronkowski	NE	2011	69
Darren Waller	LV	2020	69



Charlie Riedel / AP

Los Angeles Chargers wide receiver **KEENAN ALLEN** led the NFL with 28 first-down receptions on third down last season, the second time in his career he has led the NFL in first downs receptions on third down (30 in 2017).

The players with the most first-down receptions on third down in 2020:

PLAYER	TEAM	FIRST DOWNS ON THIRD DOWN
Keenan Allen	LAC	28
Davante Adams	GB	24
JuJu Smith-Schuster	PIT	24
DeAndre Hopkins	AZ	22
Travis Kelce	KC	22
Darren Waller	LV	22



Peter Joneleit / AP

BIG PLAY EXCITEMENT

In 2020, eight players recorded at least 20 receptions of 20-or-more yards, led by Minnesota's **JUSTIN JEFFERSON** (23), Kansas City's **TRAVIS KELCE** (23) and Atlanta's **CALVIN RIDLEY** (23).

Jefferson's 23 receptions of at least 20 yards are the most by a rookie since at least 2000, surpassing **ANQUAN BOLDIN** (20 in 2003) and **MIKE EVANS** (20 in 2014).

Kelce's 23 receptions of 20-or-more yards are the most by a tight end since at least 2000, surpassing **ROB GRONKOWSKI** (22 in 2011 and 2015).

The players with the most receptions of at least 20 yards in 2020:

PLAYER	TEAM	20+ YARD RECEPTIONS
Justin Jefferson	Minnesota	23
Travis Kelce	Kansas City	23
Calvin Ridley	Atlanta	23
Allen Robinson	Chicago	22
Brandin Cooks	Houston	20
Stefon Diggs	Buffalo	20
Mike Evans	Tampa Bay	20
Tyreek Hill	Kansas City	20



Last season, Cleveland's **NICK CHUBB**, Tennessee's **DERRICK HENRY** and Baltimore's **LAMAR JACKSON** were the only players in the NFL to have at least 10 rushes of 20-or-more yards.

Chubb has recorded at least 10 rushes of 20-or-more yards in each of his first three career seasons, joining **TIKI BARBER** (2004-06), **CHRIS JOHNSON** (2009-11) and **ADRIAN PETERSON** (2007-09) as the only players to accomplish the feat in three consecutive seasons since 2000.

Henry's 16 rushes of 20-or-more yards last season are tied for the third-most in a single season since 2010, trailing only **ADRIAN PETERSON** (27 in 2012) and **JUSTIN FORSETT** (17 in 2014).

The Ravens had three players – Jackson (10), **J.K. DOBBINS** (eight) and **GUS EDWARDS** (eight) – each with at least eight rushes of 20-or-more yards last season. They are the first team since 2000 to have three players each with at least eight such runs in a single season.

The players with the most rushes of at least 20 yards in 2020:

PLAYER	TEAM	20+ YARD RUSHES
Derrick Henry	Tennessee	16
Nick Chubb	Cleveland	12
Lamar Jackson	Baltimore	10
J.K. Dobbins	Baltimore	8
Gus Edwards	Baltimore	8

SACK ATTACK

Throughout the NFL, pass rushers reached the quarterback at a record-setting pace in 2020. Ten players recorded at least 10 sacks last season, including six with at least 12 sacks: **T.J. WATT** (15), **AARON DONALD** (13.5), **TREY HENDRICKSON** (13.5), **HASSON REDDICK** (12.5), **Za'DARIUS SMITH** (12.5) and Cleveland's **MYLES GARRETT** (12).

The players with at least 10 sacks in 2020:

PLAYER	2020 TEAM	SACKS
T.J. Watt	Pittsburgh	15
Aaron Donald	L.A. Rams	13.5
Trey Hendrickson	New Orleans	13.5
Haason Reddick	Arizona	12.5
Za'Darius Smith	Green Bay	12.5
Myles Garrett	Cleveland	12
Leonard Williams	N.Y. Giants	11.5
Stephon Tuitt	Pittsburgh	11
Leonard Floyd	L.A. Rams	10.5
Romeo Okwara	Detroit	10



Donald (four consecutive seasons), Garrett (three) and Watt (three) are the only players to record at least 10 sacks in each of the past three seasons. In total, Donald has five career seasons with double digit sacks, trailing only **VON MILLER** (seven seasons) and **CHANDLER JONES** (six) for the most among active players.

In Week 5 of last season, Donald and teammate **TROY REEDER** became the first pair of teammates to each record at least three sacks in the same game since Week 17 of the 2015 season [Houston's **WHITNEY MERCILUS** (3.5 sacks) and **J.J. WATT** (three sacks) on January 3, 2016].

In Week 14 of 2020, Reddick became the first player with at least five sacks and three forced fumbles in a single game since **VONNIE HOLLIDAY** (five sacks and three forced fumbles) in Week 16 of the 2002 season.

AT A LOSS

Pittsburgh linebacker **T.J. WATT** led the NFL with 23 tackles for loss in 2020, followed by Chicago linebacker **ROQUAN SMITH** (18), Los Angeles Chargers defensive end **JOEY BOSA** (15), former Arizona and current Carolina linebacker **HAASON REDDICK** and Tampa Bay linebacker **DEVIN WHITE** (15).

The players with the most tackles for loss in 2020:

PLAYER	2020 TEAM	TFL
T.J. Watt	Pittsburgh	23
Roquan Smith	Chicago	18
Joey Bosa	L.A. Chargers	15
Haason Reddick	Arizona	15
Devin White	Tampa Bay	15
Maxx Crosby	Las Vegas	14
Aaron Donald	L.A. Rams	14
J.J. Watt	Houston	14
Leonard Williams	N.Y. Giants	14
Vince Williams	Pittsburgh	14



After registering 18 tackles for loss in 2019, Bosa is the only player to record at least 15 tackles for loss in each of the past two seasons. Over the past five seasons, Bosa's 68 tackles for loss rank tied for third in the NFL, while Los Angeles Rams defensive tackle **AARON DONALD** leads with 91.

Donald has 131 tackles for loss since entering the NFL in 2014, the second-most by a player through his first seven seasons since 1999, trailing only **J.J. WATT** (136 tackles for loss).

The players with the most tackles for loss in their first seven seasons since 1999:

PLAYER	TEAM	TFL
J.J. Watt	Houston	136
Aaron Donald	L.A. Rams	131
DeMarcus Ware	Dallas	127

Watt enters his first season in Arizona with 172 career tackles for loss, the most by any player since 1999.

The players with the most tackles for loss since 1999:

PLAYER	TEAM(S)	TFL
J.J. Watt	Houston	172
Calais Campbell	Arizona, Jacksonville, Baltimore	131
Terrell Suggs	Baltimore, Arizona, Kansas City	127

USE THE FORCE

In 2020, two players registered at least five forced fumbles – Baltimore's **MARLON HUMPHREY** (eight) and Arizona's **HAASON REDDICK** (six) – while 11 other played recorded four forced fumbles. Humphrey's eight forced fumbles are tied with **CHRIS HARRIS** (eight in 2007) for the second-most by a defensive back since 1994, trailing only **CHARLES TILLMAN** (10 in 2012).

This marks a trend of defensive backs becoming more adept at knocking the ball loose. In addition to Humphrey, three more defensive backs – New York Jets rookie **JAVELIN GUIDRY**, Denver rookie **MICHAEL OJEMUDIA** and Baltimore's **MARCUS PETERS** – each recorded four forced fumbles last season, marking the first time since 2012 (five) that at least four defensive backs each recorded at least four forced fumbles in the same season.

Arizona's **CHANDLER JONES** and Chicago's **ROBERT QUINN** lead all active players with 27 career forced fumbles each.

The active players with the most career forced fumbles:



PLAYER	TEAM(S)	FORCED FUMBLES
Chandler Jones	New England, Arizona	27
Robert Quinn	St. Louis/L.A. Rams, Miami, Dallas, Chicago	27
Ryan Kerrigan	Washington	26
Von Miller	Denver	25
J.J. Watt	Houston	25

*Active player on rosters as of August 1, 2021

PROTECTING THE QUARTERBACK

Protecting the quarterback is vital to NFL success.

With such a premium placed on keeping the quarterback out of harm's way, it is no surprise that teams have made it a priority to draft offensive linemen. Five offensive linemen – **PENEI SEWELL** (Detroit, No. 7 overall), **RASHAWN SLATER** (Los Angeles Chargers, No. 13), **ALIJAH VERA-TUCKER** (New York Jets, No. 14), **ALEX LEATHERWOOD** (Las Vegas, No. 17) and **CHRISTIAN DARRISAW** (Minnesota, No. 23) – were chosen among the top-25 selections of the 2021 NFL Draft, marking the fourth consecutive Draft in which at least five offensive linemen were selected in the top-25 picks.

Last season, each of the 12 teams that allowed fewer than 30 sacks in 2020 finished with at least a .500 record and of those 12, 10 earned postseason berths.

The **PITTSBURGH STEELERS** allowed the fewest sacks in the league (14) in 2020, the fewest sacks allowed by a single team since 2009 (Indianapolis – 13 sacks allowed) and did not allow more than two sacks in a single game all season.

The **NEW ORLEANS SAINTS** are the only team to allow 30-or-fewer sacks in each of the past five seasons, while the **KANSAS CITY CHIEFS** have allowed 30-or-fewer sacks in each of the past three years.



Paul Sancya / AP

The teams with the fewest sacks allowed in 2020:

TEAM	2020 RECORD	SACKS ALLOWED
Pittsburgh*	12-4	14
Green Bay*	13-3	21
Indianapolis*	11-5	21
Tampa Bay*	11-5	22
Kansas City*	14-2	24
L.A. Rams*	10-6	25
Tennessee*	11-5	25
Cleveland*	11-5	26
Buffalo*	13-3	27
Las Vegas	8-8	28
Arizona	8-8	29
New Orleans*	12-4	29

*Advanced to playoffs

MANY HAPPY RETURNS

The 2020 season featured many exciting plays in the return game, as players from around the league provided exhilarating action throughout the season.

Among qualified players, New England's **GUNNER OLSZEWSKI** led the NFL in punt-return average (17.3 yards), the third-highest single-season average in the Super Bowl era, trailing only **LEMAR PARRISH** (18.8) in 1974 and **LEODIS MCKELVIN** (18.7) in 2012.

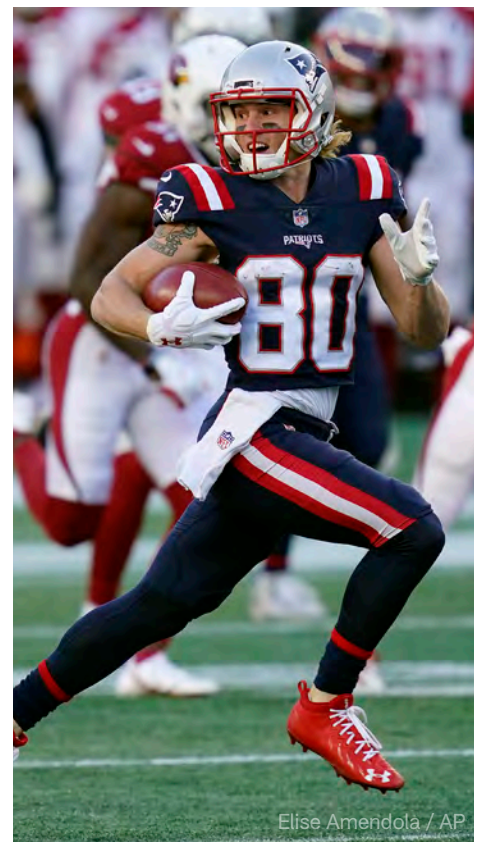
The qualified players with the highest punt-return average in 2020:

PLAYER	2020 TEAM	PUNT-RETURN AVG.
Gunner Olszewski	New England	17.3
Hunter Renfrow	Las Vegas	11.5
Jakeem Grant	Miami	11.4
Ray-Ray McCloud	Pittsburgh	10.3
Alex Erickson	Cincinnati	10.1

The qualified players with the highest single-season punt-return average since 1966:

PLAYER	TEAM	SEASON	PUNT-RETURN AVG.
Lemar Parrish	Cincinnati	1974	18.8
Leodis McKelvin	Buffalo	2012	18.7
Gunner Olszewski	New England	2020	17.3

Eight different players recorded a punt-return for a touchdown in 2020, including **JAMAL AGNEW**, who signed in Jacksonville after spending the first four years of his career in Detroit, and Miami's **JAKEEM GRANT**. Since 2016, Agnew, Grant and Kansas City's **TYREEK HILL** are tied for the NFL-lead with five total return touchdowns each.



MANY HAPPY RETURNS

ANDRE ROBERTS, who signed with Houston during the offseason after spending the past two seasons with Buffalo, led all qualified players in kick-return average (30.0 yards) last season, while **CORDARRELLE PATTERSON**, who spent the past two years in Chicago before signing with Atlanta this offseason, ranked second (29.1).

Roberts and Patterson are the only players to finish among the top-five in the category in each of the past three seasons.

The qualified players with the highest kickoff-return average in 2020:



PLAYER	2020 TEAM	KICKOFF-RETURN AVG.
Andre Roberts	Buffalo	30.0
Cordarrelle Patterson	Chicago	29.1
Isaiah Rodgers	Indianapolis	28.8
Jamal Agnew	Detroit	28.0
Devin Duvernay	Baltimore	27.5

In Week 10 of last year, Patterson – one of seven players to record a kickoff return for a touchdown in 2020 – recorded his eighth-career kick-return touchdown, tied with **JOSH CRIBBS** (eight) and **LEON WASHINGTON** (eight) for the most in NFL history.

If he returns a kickoff return for a touchdown in Atlanta this season, he will hold the league record for the most all-time.

The players with the most kickoff return touchdowns in NFL history:



PLAYER	TEAM(S)	KICK-RETURN TOUCHDOWNS
Josh Cribbs	Cleveland	8
Cordarrelle Patterson	Minnesota, New England, Chicago	8
Leon Washington	N.Y. Jets, Seattle	8

CLUTCH KICKERS

Having a productive, reliable kicker is as important as ever in the NFL, as close games are a fixture, when a missed or made field goal is the difference between a win or a loss. Across the league, kickers made 84.6 percent (812 of 960) of their field goal attempts last season, the third-highest single-season percentage in league history.

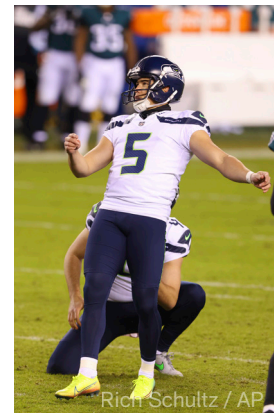
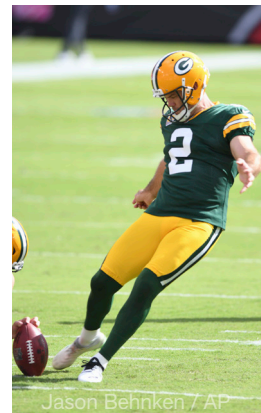
The seasons with the highest field goal percentage in NFL history:

SEASON	FIELD GOALS MADE	FIELD GOAL ATTEMPTS	FIELD GOAL PERCENTAGE
2013	863	998	86.5
2018	802	947	84.7
2020	812	960	84.6

Two kickers – Green Bay's **MASON CROSBY** and Seattle's **JASON MYERS** – converted 100 percent of their field goals in 2020, becoming the sixth and seventh kickers to convert all of their field goals (minimum 15 attempts) in a single season in NFL history.

2020 became the first season in league history in which two kickers accomplished the feat in the same year.

The kickers to convert 100 percent of their field goals (min. 15 attempts) in a single regular season in NFL history:



PLAYER	TEAM	SEASON	FGM	FGA	PCT.
Mason Crosby	Green Bay	2020	16	16	100
Jason Myers	Seattle	2020	24	24	100
Kai Forbath	Minnesota	2016	15	15	100
Mike Vanderjagt	Indianapolis	2003	37	37	100
Jeff Wilkins	St. Louis Rams	2000	17	17	100
Gary Anderson	Minnesota	1998	35	35	100
Tony Zendejas	L.a. Rams	1991	17	17	100

In addition to kickers being historically efficient last season, they were also productive from long range. A total of 106 field goals were converted from at least 50 yards, the second-most in a single season in NFL history, trailing only the 2017 season (107 field goals).

Denver's **BRANDON MCMANUS** led the league with 10 made field goals of at least 50 yards in 2020, tied with **JUSTIN TUCKER** (10 in 2016) and **BLAIR WALSH** (10 in 2012) for the most in a single season in NFL history. McManus has seven career games with multiple 50-yard field goals, tied with Arizona's **MATT PRATER** for the most in league annals.

Prater, who spent the last seven seasons with Detroit, enters his first season with the Cardinals with 59 career made field goals of at least 50 yards, the most in NFL history.

FOOTBALL IS FAMILY

The NFL is a family game for players, coaches and fans. Not only can they all share the experience, but brothers also can share the field and sidelines.

The 2021 NFL Draft saw the continuation of NFL family legacies, with the selections of **JAYCEE HORN** (No. 8 overall, son of 12-year NFL veteran Joe Horn), **PAT SURTAIN II** (Below, No. 9, son of 11-year NFL veteran Patrick Surtain) and **ASANTE SAMUEL JR.** (No. 47, son of 11-year NFL veteran Asante Samuel) in the first two rounds.



David Zalubowski / AP

In 2020, Day 2 of the NFL Draft saw three players join their brothers in the NFL: Dallas cornerback **TREVON DIGGS** (No. 51 overall, brother of Buffalo wide receiver **STEFON DIGGS**), Detroit defensive end **JULIAN OKWARA** (No. 67, brother of Detroit defensive end **ROMEO OKWARA**) and Atlanta center **MATT HENNESSY** (No. 78, brother of N.Y. Jets long snapper **THOMAS HENNESSY**).

During the 2019 NFL Draft, the San Francisco 49ers selected defensive end **NICK BOSA** with the second overall pick, joining his brother, Los Angeles Chargers defensive end **JOEY BOSA**, the No. 3 overall selection in 2016, in the NFL. Along with their father, **JOHN BOSA**, who was a first-round pick of the Dolphins in 1987, the Bosa family became the second family in NFL history to have a father and two sons chosen in the first round of the NFL Draft, joining **ARCHIE MANNING** and sons **ELI** and **PEYTON**.

The 2018 NFL Draft featured the first pair of brothers to be drafted in the first round of the same draft, as Pittsburgh safety **TERRELL EDMUNDS** was selected 28th overall and Buffalo linebacker **TREMAINE EDMUNDS** was selected 16th overall. Terrell and Tremaine's brother, running back **TREY EDMUNDS**, spent the last three seasons (2018-20) as Terrell's teammate in Pittsburgh. Their father, **FERRELL EDMUNDS**, was a two-time Pro Bowl selection at tight end during his seven-year NFL career with Miami and Seattle.



Gene J. Puskar / AP

FOOTBALL IS FAMILY

The **QUESSENBERRYs** – Tennessee guard **DAVID**, Houston tight end **PAUL** and L.A. Chargers center **SCOTT** – and the **WATTs** – Arizona defensive end **J.J.** and Pittsburgh's fullback **DEREK** and linebacker **T.J.** – are the only other sets of three brothers currently in the league.

Detroit, with defensive ends **JULIAN** and **ROMEO OKWARA**, joins Pittsburgh as the only two teams to feature teammate brothers this season.

The Watt brothers enter this season with 150.5 combined sacks (J.J. – 101, T.J. – 49.5), which ranks as the third-most combined sacks among brothers or father-son duos since 1982, where each player recorded at least one sack.

PLAYERS	COMBINED SACKS
Clay/Clay Matthews	161
Howie ^{HOF} /Chris Long	154
J.J./T.J. Watt	150.5
John ^{HOF} /Ervin Randle	145.5
Arthur/Chandler Jones	107



Notable 2021 NFL brothers, including when they play each other in the regular season (on rosters as of 8/1):

FAMILY	BROTHERS	DATE OF GAME
Bosa	DE Joey, LAC DE Nick, SF	
Diggs	WR Stefon, BUF CB Trevon, DAL	
Edmunds	S Terrell, PIT LB Tremaine, BUF RB Trey, PIT	PIT at BUF, 9/12
Fuller	CB Kendall, WAS CB Kyle, DEN	WAS at DEN, 10/31
Griffin	LB Shaquem, MIA CB Shaquill, JAX	MIA at JAX, 10/17 (London)
Hennessy	C Matt, ATL LS Thomas, NYJ	NYJ at ATL, 10/10
Hollister	WR Cody, TEN TE Jacob, BUF	BUF at TEN, 10/18
Kelce	C Jason, PHI TE Travis, KC	KC at PHI, 10/3
Martin	C Nick, LV G Zack, DAL	LV at DAL, 11/25
McCourty	S Devin, NE CB Jason, MIA	MIA at NE, 9/12 NE at MIA, 1/9
Niemann	LB Ben, KC LB Nick, LAC	LAC at KC, 9/26 KC at LAC, 12/16
Okwara	DE Julian, DET DE Romeo, DET	
Quessenberry	G David, TEN TE Scott, HOU C Scott, LAC	HOU at TEN, 11/21 LAC at HOU, 12/26 TEN at HOU, 1/9
St. Brown	WR Amon-Ra, DET WR Equanimeous, GB	DET at GB, 9/20 GB at DET, 1/9
Watt	FB Derek, PIT DE J.J., AZ LB T.J., PIT	
Williams	CB Rodarius, NYG CB Greedy, CLE	

SAME FACES, NEW PLACES

Whether through free agency or trades, this offseason contained big-name moves that may alter the landscape of the 2021 NFL season.

The Los Angeles Rams and Detroit Lions began the offseason by swapping starting quarterbacks and former top picks, with **MATTHEW STAFFORD** (right, No. 1 overall, 2009 NFL Draft) finding his way to Los Angeles and **JARED GOFF** (No. 1, 2016) heading to Detroit. Two other quarterbacks and former top-three selections were on the move as well, with **CARSON WENTZ** (No. 2, 2016) heading to Indianapolis and **SAM DARNOLD** (No. 3, 2018) finding a new home in Carolina.

In June, the Tennessee Titans acquired future Hall of Fame wide receiver **JULIO JONES**, highlighting movement on the offensive side of the ball that included wide receiver **KENNY GOLLADAY** (New York Giants), running backs **MIKE DAVIS** (Atlanta) and **KENYAN DRAKE** (Las Vegas), and offensive linemen **ORLANDO BROWN** (Kansas City), **CHARLES LENO** (Washington), **COREY LINSLEY** (Los Angeles Chargers) and **JOE THUNEY** (Kansas City)

The Arizona Cardinals also had an active offseason, bringing in defensive end and three-time Defensive Player of the Year **J.J. WATT**, seven-time Pro Bowl wide receiver **A.J. GREEN** and three-time Pro Bowl center **RODNEY HUDSON**, while the New England Patriots supplemented their offense with the acquisitions of tackle **TRENT BROWN**, wide receivers **NELSON AGHOLOR** and **KENDRICK BOURNE**, and tight ends **HUNTER HENRY** and **JONNU SMITH**.



In the secondary, eight-year NFL veteran **A.J. BOUYE** (Carolina), 12-year NFL veteran **JASON MCCOURTY** (Miami) and 10-year NFL veteran **PATRICK PETERSON** (Minnesota) each joined new teams.

A number of other former Pro Bowlers will wear new uniforms this season, including running backs **MARK INGRAM** (Houston) and **PHILLIP LINDSAY** (Houston); wide receivers **DESEAN JACKSON** (L.A. Rams) and **EMMANUEL SANDERS** (Buffalo); tight end **KYLE RUDOLPH** (N.Y. Giants); offensive linemen **KYLE LONG** (Kansas City) and **ALEJANDRO VILLANUEVA** (Baltimore); defensive tackle **SHELDON RICHARDSON** (Minnesota); defensive ends **JADEVEON CLOWNEY** (Cleveland) and **YANNICK NGAKOUE** (Las Vegas); linebackers **MATTHEW JUDON** (New England) and **BENARDRICK MCKINNEY** (Miami); and cornerbacks **CASEY HAYWARD** (Las Vegas) and **DESMOND TRUFANT** (Chicago).

SAME FACES, NEW PLACES

Notable players to change teams this offseason:

PLAYER	NEW TEAM	2020 TEAM
WR Nelson Agholor	NE	LV
WR Jamal Agnew	JAX	DET
DL Henry Anderson	NE	NYJ
CB Eli Apple	CIN	NO
TE Dan Arnold	CAR	AZ
DT Denico Autry	TEN	IND
CB Chidobe Awuzie	CIN	DAL
RB Giovanni Bernard	TB	CIN
WR Kendrick Bourne	NE	SF
CB A.J. Bouye	CAR	DEN
CB Bashaud Breeland	MIN	KC
QB Teddy Bridgewater	DEN	CAR
QB Jacoby Brissett	MIA	IND
DT Michael Brockers	DET	LAR
T Orlando Brown	KC	BAL
T Trent Brown	NE	LV
WR John Brown	LV	BUF
RB Rex Burkhead	HOU	NE
CB Malcolm Butler	AZ	TEN
T Marcus Cannon	HOU	NE
DE Jadeveon Clowney	CLE	TEN
RB James Conner	AZ	PIT
DE Vinny Curry	NYJ	PHI
QB Andy Dalton	CHI	DAL
CB Ronald Darby	DEN	WAS
QB Sam Darnold	CAR	NYJ
LB Jarrad Davis	NYJ	DET
RB Mike Davis	ATL	CAR
WR Corey Davis	NYJ	TEN
RB Kenyan Drake	LV	AZ
LB Bud Dupree	TEN	PIT
LB Samson Ebukam	SF	LAR
T Eric Fisher	IND	KC

PLAYER	NEW TEAM	2020 TEAM
QB Ryan Fitzpatrick	WAS	MIA
CB Kyle Fuller	DEN	CHI
QB Jared Goff	DET	LAR
WR Kenny Golladay	NYG	DET
K Zane Gonzalez	DET	AZ
WR A.J. Green	AZ	CIN
CB Shaquill Griffin	JAX	SEA
S Anthony Harris	PHI	MIN
CB Casey Hayward	LV	LAC
DE Trey Hendrickson	CIN	NO
TE Hunter Henry	NE	LAC
CB Troy Hill	CLE	LAR
CB Mike Hilton	CIN	PIT
C Rodney Hudson	AZ	LV
DE Kerry Hyder	SEA	SF
RB Mark Ingram	HOU	BAL
LB Melvin Ingram	PIT	LAC
CB Adoree' Jackson	NYG	TEN
G Gabe Jackson	SEA	LV
WR DeSean Jackson	LAR	PHI
S John Johnson	CLE	LAR
WR Marvin Jones	JAX	DET
WR Julio Jones	TEN	ATL
LB Matthew Judon	NE	BAL
S Damontae Kazee	DAL	ATL
DE Ryan Kerrigan	PHI	WAS
CB Desmond King	HOU	TEN
LB Christian Kirksey	HOU	GB
DE Carl Lawson	NYJ	CIN
LB Shaq Lawson	NYJ	HOU
T Charles Leno	WAS	CHI
RB Phillip Lindsay	HOU	DEN

SAME FACES, NEW PLACES

Notable players to change teams this offseason:

PLAYER	NEW TEAM	2020 TEAM
C Corey Linsley (top)	LAC	GB
G Kyle Long	KC	CHI
C Nick Martin	LV	HOU
CB Jason McCourty	MIA	NE
LB Benardrick McKinney	MIA	HOU
QB Gardner Minshew	PHI	JAX
LB Keanu Neal	DAL	ATL
DE Yannick Ngakoue	LV	BAL
DE Efe Obada	BUF	CAR
WR Cordarrelle Patterson	ATL	CHI
CB Patrick Peterson	MIN	AZ
LB Haason Reddick (center)	CAR	AZ
DT Jarran Reed	KC	SEA
T Riley Reiff	CIN	MIN
DT Sheldon Richardson	MIN	CLE
WR Andre Roberts	HOU	BUF
TE Kyle Rudolph	NYG	MIN
WR Curtis Samuel	WAS	CAR
WR Emmanuel Sanders	BUF	NO
TE Jonnu Smith	NE	TEN
QB Matthew Stafford	LAR	DET
QB Tyrod Taylor	HOU	LAC
G Joe Thuney	KC	NE
DT Dalvin Tomlinson	MIN	NYG
CB Desmond Trufant	CHI	DET
LB Kyle Van Noy	NE	MIA
T Alejandro Villanueva	BAL	PIT
WR Sammy Watkins	BAL	KC
DE J.J. Watt (bottom)	AZ	HOU
QB Carson Wentz	IND	PHI
LB Eric Wilson	PHI	MIN
G Kevin Zeitler	BAL	NYG



NOT DRAFTED? NOT A PROBLEM

A total of 18 running backs were selected in the 2020 NFL Draft, but few of them had as big of an impact on the field during their rookie season than Jacksonville's **JAMES ROBINSON**, who went undrafted out of Illinois State. Robinson ranked second among all rookies with 1,414 scrimmage yards and 1,070 rushing yards last season, the most scrimmage yards by an undrafted rookie in the common draft era.



Phelan Ebenhack / AP

The undrafted rookies with the most scrimmage yards since 1967:

PLAYER	TEAM	SEASON	SCRIMMAGE YARDS
James Robinson	Jacksonville	2020	1,414
Dominic Rhodes	Indianapolis	2001	1,328
Phillip Lindsay	Denver	2018	1,278

The undrafted rookies with the most rushing yards since 1967:

PLAYER	TEAM	SEASON	RUSHING YARDS
Dominic Rhodes	Indianapolis	2001	1,104
James Robinson	Jacksonville	2020	1,070
Phillip Lindsay	Denver	2018	1,037

Robinson added 10 touchdowns last season (seven rushing, three receiving), becoming the third undrafted rookie with 10 touchdowns in the common-draft era, joining **PHILLIP LINDSAY** (2018) and **DOMINIC RHODES** (2001). If Robinson accomplishes the feat again in 2021, he will become the first undrafted player since 1967 with at least 10 touchdowns in each of his first two seasons.

Running back **PHILLIP LINDSAY** went undrafted in 2018 and has since recorded 3,015 scrimmage yards in three seasons with Denver. Lindsay, who signed with Houston this offseason, is the fifth undrafted player since 1967 with at least 3,000 scrimmage yards in his first three seasons.

Los Angeles Chargers running back **AUSTIN EKELER** went undrafted in 2017 and enters his fifth season with 25 touchdowns (16 receiving, nine rushing) and 3,980 scrimmage yards (2,079 receiving, 1,901 rushing).

With at least two touchdown receptions in 2021, Ekeler will surpass **DANNY WOODHEAD** (17 touchdown receptions) for the most career touchdown receptions by an undrafted running back in the common draft era. With at least 884 receiving yards this season, he will surpass **PRIEST HOLMES** (2,962 receiving yards) for the most receiving yards by an undrafted running back in the common draft era.

NOT DRAFTED? NOT A PROBLEM

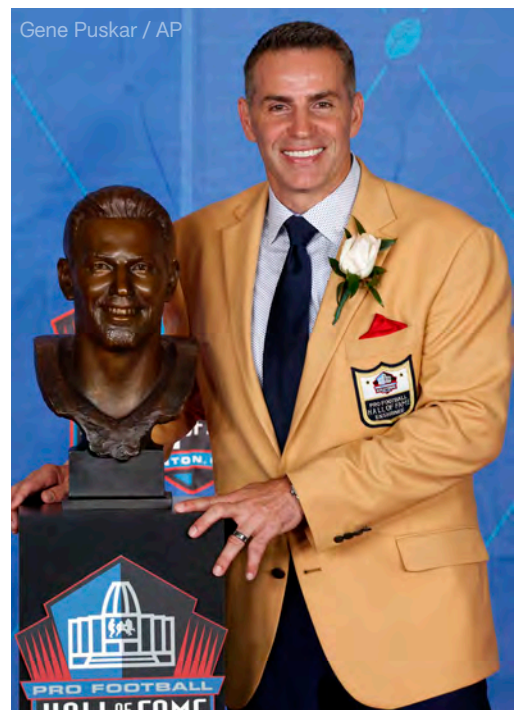
There are 21 members of the Pro Football Hall of Fame who began their careers as undrafted free agents, with **DREW PEARSON** being the most recent inductee as part of the Class of 2021.

The undrafted players in the Pro Football Hall of Fame:

HOF CLASS	PLAYER	TEAM
1967	Emlen Tunnell	N.Y. Giants
1968	Marion Motley	Cleveland
1969	Joe Perry	San Francisco
1974	Lou Groza	Cleveland
1974	Dick "Night Train" Lane	L.A. Rams
1977	Bill Willis	Cleveland
1984	Willie Brown	Houston Oilers
1985	Frank Gatski	Cleveland
1987	Jim Langer	Cleveland
1989	Willie Wood	Green Bay
1993	Larry Little	San Diego
2006	Warren Moon (right, top)	Houston Oilers
2008	Emmitt Thomas	Kansas City
2010	John Randle	Minnesota
2012	Jack Butler	Pittsburgh
2015	Mick Tingelhoff	Minnesota
2017	Kurt Warner (right, bottom)	St. Louis Rams
2020	Cliff Harris	Dallas
2020	Donnie Shell	Pittsburgh
2020	Ed Sprinkle	Chicago
2021	Drew Pearson	Dallas



Mark Duncan / AP



Gene Puskar / AP

SMALL SCHOOL SUCCESS

They may not come from big-time schools in major NCAA conferences, but their NFL contributions cannot go unnoticed. Productive players from small schools are proof-positive of the old adage, "If you can play, the NFL will find you."

"I tell all these guys when I talk to them, whether they are playing for some big school or some small school, I don't care where you came from," says Tennessee general manager **JON ROBINSON**. "If you can play football, if you can buy into our philosophy, our style of football, then you can play for the Tennessee Titans."

Possibly no player shows the potential worth of small-school players more than Indianapolis linebacker **DARIUS LEONARD**. A product of South Carolina State, a member of the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference, Leonard has recorded 416 tackles since entering the NFL in 2018, the fourth-most by any player during that span. A Pro Bowl selection each of the past two years, Leonard is also the only player with at least 400 tackles and 15 sacks (15) since 2018.



NFL teams continue to scout at all levels looking to find talent. The San Francisco 49ers made North Dakota State quarterback **TREY LANCE** the sixth non-FBS quarterback chosen in the first round since 1979 and the third to be taken in the top-three.

The undrafted rookies with the most scrimmage yards since 1967:

PLAYER	YEAR	SCHOOL	OVERALL	TEAM
Carson Wentz	2016	North Dakota State	2	Philadelphia
Trey Lance	2021	North Dakota State	3	San Francisco
Steve McNair	1995	Alcorn State	3	Houston Oilers



SMALL SCHOOL SUCCESS

A sampling of some of the most productive and high-profile small-school stars in the NFL today:

PLAYER, TEAM	COLLEGE	CAREER HIGHLIGHT
DE Mario Addison, Buf.	Troy	One of six players in the NFL with at least 5 sacks in each of the last seven seasons
QB Josh Allen, Buf.	Wyoming	2021 Pro Bowler after setting franchise records in passing yards (4,544) and TD passes (37)
T Terron Armstead, NO	Arkansas-Pine Bluff	Pro Bowler in each of the past three seasons
CB Justin Bethel, NE	Presbyterian	Three-time Pro Bowler
CB James Bradberry, NYG	Samford	Named to 2021 Pro Bowl
CB Malcolm Butler, Ari.	West Alabama	Two-time Pro Bowler; Had game-sealing INT in SB XLIX
S Kevin Byard, Ten.	Middle Tennessee St.	Has 18 interceptions since 2017, the second-most in the NFL
RB/KR Tarik Cohen, Chi.	North Carolina AT&T	Named Pro Bowler and All-Pro in 2018
RB Austin Ekeler, LAC	Western St. Colorado	Has 16 career TD receptions, tied for the most among RBs since 2017
QB Joe Flacco, Phi.	Delaware	Super Bowl XLVII MVP; Ravens franchise-record 212 career TD passes
QB Jimmy Garoppolo, SF	Eastern Illinois	Is 24-8 (.750) as a starter and led 49ers to SB LIV appearance
FB C.J. Ham, Min.	Augustana	Named to 2020 Pro Bowl
RS Deonte Harris, NO	Assumption	Named to 2020 Pro Bowl
DT Akiem Hicks, Chi.	Regina (Canada)	Named to 2019 Pro Bowl; Has 37 career sacks
WR Tyreek Hill, KC	West Alabama	Named to Pro Bowl in each of first five seasons; Ranked second in NFL with 15 receiving TDs in 2020
CB Janoris Jenkins, NO	North Alabama	Named to 2017 Pro Bowl; Has 26 career interceptions
RB David Johnson, Hou.	Northern Iowa	Led NFL in TDs (20) & scrimmage yards (2,118) in 2016
LB Matt Judon, NE	Grand Valley State	Pro Bowler in each of the past two seasons; Has 34.5 career sacks
FB Kyle Juszczyk, SF	Harvard	Pro Bowler in each of the last five seasons; Had career-high 6 TDs in 2020
K Younghoe Koo, Atl.	Georgia Southern	Named to 2021 Pro Bowl
LB Darius Leonard, Ind.	South Carolina St.	2018 AP Defensive Rookie of the Year; Has 416 tackles, fourth-most in the league since entering NFL in 2018
LB Khalil Mack, Chi.	Buffalo	Pro Bowler in each of the past six seasons and three-time All-Pro; Has 70.5 career sacks
K Jason Myers, Sea.	Marist	Named to 2019 Pro Bowl; Converted 24 of 24 field goals in 2020
WR/KR Andre Roberts, Hou.	The Citadel	Pro Bowler in each of the past three seasons as returner
WR Adam Thielen, Min.	Minn. State-Mankato	Two-time Pro Bowler; Is 1 of 3 undrafted players with 100+ receptions & 1,300+ receiving yards in a season
QB Carson Wentz, Ind.	North Dakota State	Named to Pro Bowl after '17 season; four 3,000-yard passing seasons to begin career

ACTIVE STAT LEADERS

Top 10 Active Passers (min. 1,000 attempts):

PLAYER	Att.	Comp.	Comp. %	Yards	TD	INT	Passer Rating
Patrick Mahomes	1,687	1,114	66.0	14,152	114	24	108.7
Deshawn Watson	1,748	1,186	67.8	14,539	104	36	104.5
Aaron Rodgers	6,587	4,285	65.0	51,245	412	89	103.9
Russell Wilson	4,335	2,820	65.0	33,946	267	81	101.7
Kirk Cousins	3,662	2,453	66.9	28,372	190	84	97.9
Dak Prescott	2,293	1,514	66.0	17,634	106	40	97.3
Tom Brady	10,598	6,778	63.9	79,204	581	191	97.3
Matt Ryan	7,443	4,867	65.3	55,767	347	158	94.5
Ben Roethlisberger	7,838	5,050	64.4	60,348	396	201	94.0
Derek Carr	3,830	2,468	64.4	26,896	170	71	92.1

Top 10 Active Rushers:

PLAYER	Att.	Yards	TD
Frank Gore	3,735	16,000	81
Adrian Peterson	3,192	14,820	118
LeSean McCoy	2,457	11,102	73
Mark Ingram	1,595	7,324	62
Le'Veon Bell	1,556	6,453	40
Ezekiel Elliott	1,413	6,384	46
Alfred Morris	1,429	6,173	35
Todd Gurley	1,460	6,082	67
Lamar Miller	1,354	5,864	32
Derrick Henry	1,182	5,860	55



Top 10 Active Pass Receivers:

PLAYER	No.	Yards	TD
Larry Fitzgerald	1,432	17,492	121
Antonio Brown	886	11,746	79
Julio Jones	848	12,896	60
DeAndre Hopkins	747	10,009	60
Jimmy Graham	699	8,339	82
Golden Tate	695	8,278	46
Emmanuel Sanders	662	8,619	47
A.J. Green	649	9,430	65
Jarvis Landry	636	7,028	35
Keenan Allen	624	7,397	42



ACTIVE STAT LEADERS

Top 10 Active Scorers:

PLAYER	TD	FG	PAT	Points
Stephen Gostkowski	0	392	699	1,875
Robbie Gould	0	400	531	1,731
Mason Crosby	0	345	647	1,682
Matt Prater	0	321	491	1,454
Nick Folk	0	285	384	1,239
Justin Tucker	0	291	350	1,223
Ryan Succop	0	264	390	1,182
Mike Nugent	0	265	385	1,180
Dan Bailey	0	249	383	1,130
Graham Gano	0	255	327	1,092

Top 10 Active Punters:

PLAYER	No.	Yards	TD
Jack Fox	59	49.1	67
Michael Dickson	213	47.5	69
Cameron Johnston	203	47.0	68
Ty Long	105	46.9	63
Johnny Hekker	676	46.9	78
Tress Way	510	46.8	79
Andy Lee	134	46.5	82
Thomas Morstead	692	46.5	70
Jake Bailey	136	46.4	71
Logan Cooke	217	46.3	72

Top 10 Active Interceptors:

PLAYER	No.	Yards	TD
Richard Sherman	36	478	3
Marcus Peters	31	814	6
Joe Haden	29	290	2
Devin McCourty	28	493	2
Patrick Peterson	28	251	1
Harrison Smith	28	430	4
Janoris Jenkins	26	584	8
Stephon Gilmore	25	452	2
Tashaun Gipson	25	560	3
Casey Hayward	23	349	2
Tyrann Mathieu	23	279	2

Top 10 Active Sackers:

PLAYER	Sacks
Von Miller	106
J.J. Watt	101
Justin Houston	97.5
Chandler Jones	97
Ryan Kerrigan	95.5
Cameron Jordan	94.5
Calais Campbell	92
Jason Pierre-Paul	89
Carlos Dunlap	87.5
Aaron Donald	85.5

Top 5 Active Kickoff Returners (min. 40 returns):

PLAYER	No.	Yards	Avg.	TD
Cordarrelle Patterson	239	7,118	29.8	8
Brandon Wilson	45	1,251	27.8	2
Deonte Harris	40	1,080	27.0	0
Ameer Abdullah	87	2,298	26.4	0
Jarvis Landry	50	1,292	25.8	0

Top 5 Active Punt Returners (min. 40 returns):

PLAYER	No.	Yards	Avg.	TD
Gunner Olszewski	40	525	13.1	1
Tyreek Hill	86	1,009	11.7	4
Jamal Agnew	74	857	11.6	4
Diontae Spencer	42	461	11.0	1
Deonte Harris	53	545	10.3	1