



NFL SEASON HEADS INTO SECOND HALF WITH PLENTY OF EXCITING FOOTBALL AHEAD

November has arrived and the NFL season enters its second half.

At the midpoint, there are nine teams with a .600 or better winning percentage, including two teams with just one loss – New England (7-1) and Dallas (6-1). The AFC West boasts three teams with a .700+ winning percentage – Denver (6-2, .750), Oakland (6-2, .750) and Kansas City (5-2, .714) – and the NFC East is the only division with all four teams holding a winning record – Dallas (6-1), the New York Giants (4-3), Philadelphia (4-3) and Washington (4-3-1).

On the field, the games have been close, including three overtime games in Week 8. Through the first eight weeks, 88 games have been within one score in the fourth quarter, the most such games in a season's first eight weeks in NFL history.

The first half of the season has been packed with thrilling comebacks and close finishes, but the excitement will only intensify as the playoff push begins. And there's still plenty of football to be played so don't count teams out yet.

Since 2000, 40 teams have reached the halfway point of their season with a .500 or below winning percentage and advanced to the playoffs, including at least one in each season. Last year, there were five such teams: Houston (3-5), Kansas City (3-5), Washington (3-5), Seattle (4-4) and Pittsburgh (4-4).

Of those 40 clubs, five have advanced to the Conference Championship Game, including the 2001 New England Patriots, who won Super Bowl XXXVI.

Week 9 begins on Thursday night with an NFC South matchup as the Tampa Bay Buccaneers host the Atlanta Falcons (8:25 PM ET, NFLN). The Falcons, who defeated Green Bay 33-32 last week, sit atop the division with the Buccaneers and New Orleans Saints tied for second. Tampa Bay defeated Atlanta 31-24 in Week 1.

The week concludes with a pair of primetime contests. On Sunday night, the Oakland Raiders host the Denver Broncos in a first-place showdown for the AFC West lead (8:30 PM ET, NBC). On Monday night, the Buffalo Bills visit the Seattle Seahawks (8:30 PM ET, ESPN) in an interconference contest featuring two teams in the thick of the playoff chase.

ATLANTA FALCONS (5-3) at TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS (3-4) (Thursday, NFLN, 8:25 PM ET)

- Falcons quarterback **MATT RYAN** passed for 288 yards and three touchdowns, including the game-winning 11-yard TD to wide receiver **MOHAMED SANU** with 31 seconds remaining in the Falcons' 33-32 win over Green Bay last week. It marked Ryan's 32nd career game-winning drive in the fourth quarter or overtime, the most in the NFL since he entered the league in 2008.
- Ryan leads the NFL with 2,636 passing yards and 19 touchdown passes. Atlanta wide receiver **JULIO JONES** ranks second in the league with 859 receiving yards and is averaging 20.0 yards per catch (43 receptions).
- Tampa Bay quarterback **JAMEIS WINSTON** has won all three career starts against Atlanta. In the Week 1 meeting between the clubs, Winston passed for 281 yards, four touchdowns and a 125.1 passer rating in a 31-24 victory.
- Buccaneers wide receiver **MIKE EVANS** is tied for the NFL lead with six receiving touchdowns and has hauled in a touchdown catch in five of the team's seven games this season.

NEW YORK JETS (3-5) at MIAMI DOLPHINS (3-4) (Sunday, CBS, 1:00 PM ET)

- Jets running back **MATT FORTÉ** rushed for two touchdowns in the team's 31-28 win at Cleveland last week. Forté is one of four players in NFL history with at least 50 rushing touchdowns (51), 500 receptions (507) and 20 receiving touchdowns (20), joining Pro Football Hall of Famers **MARCUS ALLEN** and **MARSHALL FAULK** and **HERSCHEL WALKER**.
- New York wide receiver **QUINCY ENUNWA**, who had four catches for 93 yards and a touchdown against the Browns, leads the Jets with a career-high 36 catches (502 yards) and three touchdown receptions.
- The Dolphins, who had a bye in Week 8, have won two in a row. Miami has amassed more than 450 total yards of offense in each of the team's past two victories.

- Miami running back **JAY AJAYI** has rushed for 200+ yards in each of the team's past two games and is one of four players in NFL history with back-to-back 200-yard rushing performances – Pro Football Hall of Famers **O.J. SIMPSON** (twice) and **EARL CAMPBELL** and **RICKY WILLIAMS**. Ajayi is the only player since at least 1970 to rush for 200+ yards in two of his first three career starts.

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES (4-3) at NEW YORK GIANTS (4-3) (Sunday, FOX, 1:00 PM ET)

- The Eagles are tied with the Giants for second place in the NFC East, two games behind the 6-1 Dallas Cowboys. Philadelphia dropped a 29-23 overtime decision at Dallas last week and seeks the team's first division win.
- Philadelphia rookie quarterback **CARSON WENTZ** has thrown nine touchdown passes and only three interceptions this season and has a 92.5 passer rating.
- The Giants, who had a bye in Week 8, are seeking their third consecutive win. In Week 7, New York defeated Los Angeles 17-10 in the first-ever NFL game played at London's Twickenham Stadium.
- Giants safety **LONDON COLLINS** had two interceptions, including a 44-yard touchdown return, in the victory over the Rams and was named the NFC Defensive Player of the Week. According to Next Gen Stats, Collins recorded the most total distance traveled (111.7 yards) on an interception-return touchdown this season.

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS (3-5) at GREEN BAY PACKERS (4-3) (Sunday, CBS, 4:25 PM ET)

- Colts quarterback **ANDREW LUCK** won his only career start against Green Bay (October 7, 2012) and threw the game-winning touchdown pass to **REGGIE WAYNE** with 35 seconds remaining.
- Indianapolis kicker **ADAM VINATIERI** has converted 43 consecutive field-goal attempts, the longest streak in NFL history.
- Green Bay quarterback **AARON RODGERS** threw four touchdown passes in last week's loss at Atlanta. Rodgers has 18 career games with at least four touchdown passes and surpassed Pro Football Hall of Famer **JOHNNY UNITAS** (17) for the sixth-most such games in NFL history.
- Packers wide receiver **DAVANTE ADAMS** has 25 receptions in the past two weeks. In Week 7, Adams had 13 catches for 132 yards with two touchdowns and was named the NFC Offensive Player of the Week.

DENVER BRONCOS (6-2) at OAKLAND RAIDERS (6-2) (Sunday, NBC, 8:30 PM ET)

- First place in the AFC West is at stake as both the Broncos and Raiders enter the contest with 6-2 records. The game pits Denver's No. 1 ranked pass defense (183.9 yards per game) against Oakland's high-powered pass offense, which leads the AFC (285.1 per game).
- Broncos cornerback **BRADLEY ROBY** had a 49-yard interception-return touchdown in last week's 27-19 win over San Diego, Denver's third defensive TD this season (**SHANE RAY**, 15-yard FR-TD & **AQIB TALIB**, 46-yard INT-TD).
- Denver linebacker **VON MILLER** ranks second in the NFL with 8.5 sacks and aims for his fourth game in a row against Oakland with a sack.
- Oakland quarterback **DEREK CARR** passed for 513 yards, four touchdowns and no interceptions in the Raiders' 30-24 overtime win at Tampa Bay last week. Carr completed a 41-yard touchdown pass to wide receiver **SETH ROBERTS** with 1:45 remaining in overtime for the game-winning score. Carr is the third quarterback in NFL history to pass for at least 500 yards and four touchdowns without an interception in a single game, joining Pro Football Hall of Famer **Y.A. TITTLE** (October 28, 1962) and **BEN ROETHLISBERGER** (October 26, 2014).
- Raiders wide receiver **AMARI COOPER** ranks third in the NFL in both receptions (52) and receiving yards (787). Cooper, who had 12 catches for 173 yards with a TD last week, has seven career games with at least 120 receiving yards, tied for the fourth-most in a player's first two seasons in NFL history.

BUFFALO BILLS (4-4) at SEATTLE SEAHAWKS (4-2-1) (Monday, ESPN, 8:30 PM ET)

- Buffalo linebacker **LORENZO ALEXANDER** leads the NFL with a career-high nine sacks. Entering this season, Alexander had nine total sacks in 127 career games.
- Over the past two seasons, Bills quarterback **TYROD TAYLOR** is one of two quarterbacks (**CAM NEWTON**) with a 90+ passer rating (94.8) and 800+ rushing yards (887).
- Seattle has won seven consecutive Monday-night games at home. This season, the Seahawks are 3-0 at CenturyLink Field. Since 2012, Seattle has posted a 34-5 (.872) record at home (including the playoffs).
- In the last meeting between the teams (December 16, 2012 in Toronto), Seahawks quarterback **RUSSELL WILSON** became the first player in NFL history to have three rushing touchdowns and a touchdown pass in the first half of a game.

2016 NFL STANDINGS

American Football Conference

East Division

Team	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Home	Away	Conf	Div	Streak
New England Patriots	7	1	0	.875	217	132	3-1-0	4-0-0	6-1-0	2-1-0	4W
Buffalo Bills	4	4	0	.500	212	172	2-2-0	2-2-0	1-4-0	1-3-0	2L
Miami Dolphins	3	4	0	.429	146	159	3-1-0	0-3-0	3-3-0	1-1-0	2W
New York Jets	3	5	0	.375	150	208	1-2-0	2-3-0	3-3-0	1-0-0	2W

North Division

Team	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Home	Away	Conf	Div	Streak
Pittsburgh Steelers	4	3	0	.571	170	150	3-1-0	1-2-0	3-2-0	1-0-0	2L
Cincinnati Bengals	3	4	1	.438	167	189	2-1-1	1-3-0	3-3-0	1-1-0	1T
Baltimore Ravens	3	4	0	.429	133	139	1-2-0	2-2-0	3-2-0	1-0-0	4L
Cleveland Browns	0	8	0	.000	158	238	0-3-0	0-5-0	0-6-0	0-2-0	8L

South Division

Team	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Home	Away	Conf	Div	Streak
Houston Texans	5	3	0	.625	137	167	5-0-0	0-3-0	3-2-0	2-0-0	1W
Tennessee Titans	4	4	0	.500	182	183	2-3-0	2-1-0	3-3-0	1-2-0	1W
Indianapolis Colts	3	5	0	.375	208	230	2-2-0	1-3-0	2-4-0	1-2-0	1L
Jacksonville Jaguars	2	5	0	.286	139	196	1-3-0	1-2-0	1-4-0	1-1-0	2L

West Division

Team	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Home	Away	Conf	Div	Streak
Oakland Raiders	6	2	0	.750	215	203	1-2-0	5-0-0	4-1-0	1-1-0	2W
Denver Broncos	6	2	0	.750	194	136	4-1-0	2-1-0	4-1-0	1-1-0	2W
Kansas City Chiefs	5	2	0	.714	166	137	3-0-0	2-2-0	4-2-0	2-0-0	3W
San Diego Chargers	3	5	0	.375	225	212	2-1-0	1-4-0	2-4-0	1-3-0	1L

National Football Conference**East Division**

Team	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Home	Away	Conf	Div	Streak
Dallas Cowboys	6	1	0	.857	188	130	3-1-0	3-0-0	5-1-0	2-1-0	6W
New York Giants	4	3	0	.571	133	141	2-1-0	2-2-0	3-3-0	1-1-0	2W
Philadelphia Eagles	4	3	0	.571	179	117	3-0-0	1-3-0	2-3-0	0-2-0	1L
Washington Redskins	4	3	1	.563	186	189	2-2-0	2-1-1	2-2-0	2-1-0	T1

North Division

Team	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Home	Away	Conf	Div	Streak
Minnesota Vikings	5	2	0	.714	139	104	3-0-0	2-2-0	3-2-0	1-1-0	2L
Green Bay Packers	4	3	0	.571	172	156	3-1-0	1-2-0	3-3-0	2-1-0	1L
Detroit Lions	4	4	0	.500	183	190	3-1-0	1-3-0	3-2-0	0-2-0	1L
Chicago Bears	2	6	0	.250	131	179	2-2-0	0-4-0	2-3-0	2-1-0	1W

South Division

Team	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Home	Away	Conf	Div	Streak
Atlanta Falcons	5	3	0	.625	262	231	2-2-0	3-1-0	3-2-0	2-1-0	1W
Tampa Bay Buccaneers	3	4	0	.429	152	189	0-3-0	3-1-0	3-2-0	2-0-0	1L
New Orleans Saints	3	4	0	.429	201	215	2-2-0	1-2-0	2-2-0	1-1-0	1W
Carolina Panthers	2	5	0	.286	191	196	2-2-0	0-3-0	2-4-0	0-3-0	1W

West Division

Team	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Home	Away	Conf	Div	Streak
Seattle Seahawks	4	2	1	.643	131	109	3-0-0	1-2-1	2-2-1	1-1-1	1L
Arizona Cardinals	3	4	1	.438	179	140	2-2-1	1-2-0	2-2-1	1-1-1	1L
Los Angeles Rams	3	4	0	.429	120	154	1-2-0	2-2-0	3-3-0	2-1-0	3L
San Francisco 49ers	1	6	0	.143	144	219	1-3-0	0-3-0	1-5-0	1-2-0	6L

NFL WEEK 9 SCHEDULE
THURSDAY, SUNDAY & MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 6-7

(All times local)

Byes: Arizona, Chicago, Cincinnati, Houston, New England, Washington

Thursday, November 3

Atlanta at Tampa Bay, 8:25 PM (NFLN)

Sunday, November 6

Pittsburgh at Baltimore, 1:00 PM

Dallas at Cleveland, 1:00 PM

Jacksonville at Kansas City, 12:00 PM

New York Jets at Miami, 1:00 PM

Detroit at Minnesota, 12:00 PM

Philadelphia at New York Giants, 1:00 PM

Sunday, November 6 (cont'd)

Carolina at Los Angeles, 1:05 PM

New Orleans at San Francisco, 1:05 PM

Indianapolis at Green Bay, 3:25 PM

Tennessee at San Diego, 1:25 PM

Denver at Oakland, 5:30 PM (NBC)

Monday, November 7

Buffalo at Seattle, 5:30 PM (ESPN)