

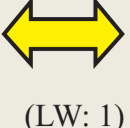






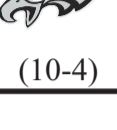

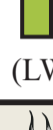
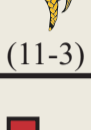


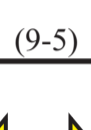





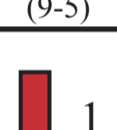











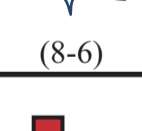


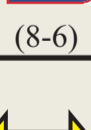


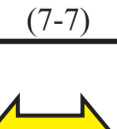




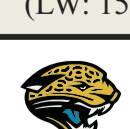





In the Red Zone

Slot	Team	Three easy steps/slides to get there
1	 (14-0)	1) Peyton Manning , Reggie Wayne , and Dallas Clark played the whole game. Sure they're going to get some rest...in the offseason. 2) Colts' head coach Jim Caldwell said that he wouldn't be surprised if the NFL weighed in on Chad Simpson's post-touchdown celebration after his 93-yard kickoff return. I'd argue that he hesitated before running up the tunnel behind the end zone, and that hesitation would eliminate premeditation. I would've made a good lawyer. 3) PRAISING ZONE . "We're built for 60 minutes" Colts' WR Reggie Wayne said. And if you want to overtake them, you better go all the way. BEHIND: @JAGUARS (35-31, W) AHEAD: JETS
  (LW: 1)		
2	 (11-3)	1) Nate Kaeding's 52-yard field goal lifted the Chargers to win their 17 straight December game... 2) And in the process, they clinched their fourth straight AFC West title. 3) PRAISING ZONE . Nevertheless, they were deserving of recognition only for giving their all to the Bengals. That was the best possible homage to Chris Henry that San Diego could've offered. BEHIND: BENGALS (27-24, W) AHEAD: @TITANS
  1 (LW: 3)		
3	 (13-1)	1) The talk of an undefeated season is over. Why? After giving up 1,286 yards in the last 3 games (428.7 per outing), silence was bound to happen. 2) And being held to a season-low 336 yards of total offense contributed to the quietness. 3) PRAISING ZONE . With only 12 seconds remaining in the contest, the NFL Network's Matt Millen said: "They have time for 3 plays...three quick plays". With no timeouts left, I don't think that there was enough time to execute 3 plays, but the fact that Millen thought about that possibility tells you how explosive that offense remains. BEHIND: COWBOYS (24-17, L) AHEAD: BUCS
  1 (LW: 2)		
4	 (10-4)	1) A good coach (Andy Reid) always knows when to switch from the velvet glove (last week: a chest bump to DeSean Jackson) to the iron fist (this week: lashing out at RB Leonard Weaver). Having said that... 2) "We're a classy crew here in Philadelphia. Are there no classy people in parking lots?" Eagles' head coach Andy Reid said. Are there no classy people in parking lots? Or...Are there no parking lots in Philly? I'm confused. 3) PRAISING ZONE . DeSean Jackson finally scored a TD that didn't cover at least 50 yards (on a 19 yard reception). That got more ink than Philly clinching a playoff berth. I know...we're spoiled. BEHIND: 49ers (27-13, W) AHEAD: BRONCOS
  1 (LW: 5)		
5	 (11-3)	1) In Week 6, the Vikings snapped the Ravens' 39-game streak of not allowing a runner to surpass the 100-yard rushing barrier. The Panthers' Jonathan Stewart (109) stopped theirs at 36. One more time, say it with me: What goes around, comes around. 2) Minnesota has lost both Sunday games that they've played on primetime. That doesn't help their Super Bowl-winning aspirations. 3) If Vikings' head coach Brad Childress wanted to "protect" Brett Favre , he should've ordered more runs, draws, screens, hitches, you name it...but trying to pull him out of a 7-6 game? Now, THAT was a bad call. BEHIND: @PANTHERS (26-7, L) AHEAD: @BEARS
  1 (LW: 4)		
6	 (9-5)	1) Nobody can put in proper words what they've been through. Therefore, they stay right where they belong. 2) Chad Ochocinco didn't earn the Game Ball or a Special Mention in this chart. Instead, he earned the utmost respect; which to me is the most important thing. 3) "The main thing we want people to realize is that Chris (Henry) is a guy who turned his life around and this football team had done the same thing"... He signifies what we are. " Bengals' T Andre Whitworth said. And so far, they've done a great job. BEHIND: @CHARGERS (27-24, L) AHEAD: CHIEFS
  (LW: 6)		
7	 (9-5)	1) LB Anthony Spencer had a monster game on Saturday night. His 6 tackles, 2 sacks and 3 QB hits were part of an inspired effort that kept the Saints offense out of rhythm all evening... 2) But the Game Ball goes to DeMarcus Ware . Less than a week after being carried off the field on a stretcher, the pass-rushing superstar returned in time to help the Cowboys (with 2 sacks and 2 forced fumbles) snap out of their December funk in emphatic fashion. 3) First in K.C., then in New Orleans... If you want to attach the nickname Rasputin to Wade Phillips , you have my blessing. BEHIND: @SAINTS (24-17, W) AHEAD: @REDSKINS
  2 (LW: 9)		
8	 (9-5)	1) Up by six points, with the game down to the last play, and after the opposing QB already passed for 484 yards...why would you rush only three linemen against Ben Roethlisberger ? I would've thrown the kitchen sink at him and live with the results. At least it would've been more difficult for him to execute. 2) "You have these types of games in the playoffs and you go home," Packers' CB Charles Woodson said. You have these types of games in the regular season and you don't get to the playoffs. 3) PACKERS' MAGIC NUMBER UPDATE : 1-0. BEHIND: @STEELERS (37-36, L) AHEAD: SEAHAWKS
  1 (LW: 7)		

Inside Enemy Territory

Slot	Team	Three easy steps/slides to get there
9	 (9-5)	1) For the first time since 1974-75 the Cardinals won back-to-back division titles. Why? 2) Because they have the youth: rookie RB Beanie Wells ran for a career high 110 yards with 1 TD... 3) And the experience: WR Anquan Boldin led the team in receiving yards (67) and scored the game-winning TD. BEHIND: @LIONS (31-24, W) AHEAD: RAMS
  1 (LW: 10)		
10	 (9-5)	1) With Sunday's triumph, New England has now won 13 straight games against Buffalo; the Pats are the ones that have done a better job of getting it together...er, circling the wagons. 2) Could 6 sacks (3 by Tully Banta-Cain), 6 QB hits (another 3 by Banta-Cain), and 7 tackles-for-loss compensate for the absences of Vince Wilfork and Ty Warren ? Yes. And then some. 3) "And these shoulders that I have on my body, you can put the earth on it." Patriots' WR Randy Moss (5 catches, 70 yards, 1 TD) said. That's exactly why he's always been considered a freak of nature. BEHIND: @BILLS (17-10, W) AHEAD: JAGUARS
  1 (LW: 11)		
11	 (8-6)	Economical day for the Ravens: 1) Joe Flacco threw for a career-best four TD's. He was on the money. 2) By defeating Chicago, Baltimore improved to 6-0 against teams with losing records. The team continued to amass riches at the expense of inferior competition. 3) The Ravens scored 24 points off 6 Bears' turnovers. They did a nice job of cashing in. BEHIND: BEARS (31-7, W) AHEAD: @STEELERS
  1 (LW: 12)		
12	 (8-6)	1) A 7-yard punt by Denver P Mitch Berger set up the Raiders' first touchdown. Bad. 2) Against the fourth-worst rushing defense in the league, the Broncos gained just 80 yards in the ground. Worse. 3) They've lost to the Redskins and the Raiders. Worst. BEHIND: RAIDERS (20-19, L) AHEAD: @EAGLES
  4 (LW: 8)		
13	 (8-6)	1) The only moment of trepidation versus Washington came in the opening coin toss. 2) No, really. 3) "We were the team that had more at stake, obviously -- and played that way," Giants' head coach Tom Coughlin said. I agree. It would've been disastrous to lose to the Redskins team that showed up on Monday. BEHIND: @REDSKINS (45-12, W) AHEAD: PANTHERS
  (LW: 13)		
14	 (7-7)	1) Good thing that CB Michael Griffin learned the lesson: You catch the ball with your hands (the clean INT in OT), rather than trap it with your body (letting the potential game-clinching pick in the 4th quarter bounce off his chest). 2) Chris Johnson was held to 104 yards on the ground. At 1,730 yards he needs 270 to reach 2,000. My money says he will get there. 3) "I need a job Deion (Sanders) ... Rich (Eisen) ...somebody" Titans' RB LenDale White said after he "interviewed" Vince Young . I wouldn't make those jokes if I were in his shoes. BEHIND: DOLPHINS (27-24, W-OT) AHEAD: CHARGERS
  (LW: 14)		
15	 (7-7)	1) 4 turnovers? On the road? With the season on the line?... "Overall, we just hurt ourselves," Dolphins' QB Chad Henne said. That sums it up. 2) Miami got inside the 35-yard line of Tennessee eight times. They only got 3 FG's. Did I mention that the theme for their game was Blown Opportunities? Ok, let's move on. 3) Ricky Williams broke the 1,000-yard rushing mark after gaining 80 yards (on 19 carries). At age 32, he now holds the record for the longest span between thousand-yard seasons (6 years). That doesn't surprise me... I know he has arthritis-free joints. BEHIND: @TITANS (27-24, L-OT) AHEAD: TEXANS
  (LW: 15)		
16	 (7-7)	1) Physically, they can compete against anybody. But if you watched how they finished their game against the Colts, you'll agree that mentally, they're far from the elite. 2) David Garrard , brace yourself for the Tim Tebow rumors. 'Cause they'll be there. Often. 3) REVIEW TIME – PART ONE : Last week I wrote: "They're at their best when no one's watching. Sad but true.". After losing their only home game not blacked out on local television this season, I can only stand by my previous statement. BEHIND: COLTS (35-31, L) AHEAD: @PATRIOTS
  (LW: 16)		