





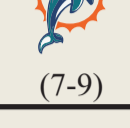


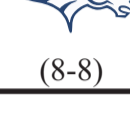





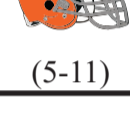


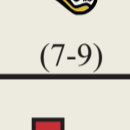

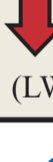
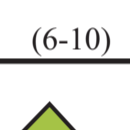


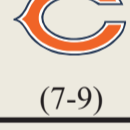








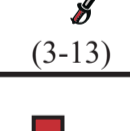





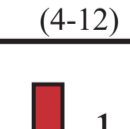


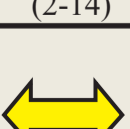


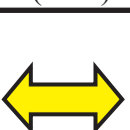

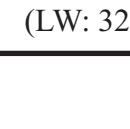


## Pinned In Their Backyard

Slot	Team	Three easy steps/slides to get there
17	 (8-8)	1) <b>Jonathan Stewart</b> (125 yards) joined <b>DeAngelo Williams</b> to become the first pair of teammates since 1970 to each rush for over 1,100 yards in the same season. The cornerstones. Simply put. 2) <b>Matt Moore</b> has the numbers (4-1 record, 98.5 QB rating); <b>Jake Delhomme</b> still has <b>John Fox's</b> trust (if he stays). Should make for a good training camp battle. 3) "Be better, because apparently I'm not good enough,". Panthers' LB <b>Jon Beason</b> said after not being selected for the Pro Bowl. Now, THAT's a winning mentality...or sheer resignation.
	  3 (LW: 20)	
<span style="color: blue; font-weight: bold;">BEHIND: SAINTS (23-10, W)</span> <span style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">AHEAD: OFF-SEASON</span>		
18	 (8-8)	1) <b>Vernon Davis</b> tied the NFL record for touchdown receptions by a tight end (13) with a 73-yard catch (the longest of his career) in the 4th quarter. He saved his best for last. 2) In breaking a six-game road losing streak, the Niners terminated a string of six consecutive losing seasons. The Midwest was the perfect scenery to draw their <b>Six-Shooters</b> . 3) S.F. held an opponent to 10 or fewer points for the 7th time on the year. Looking forward to next season, they have laid one of the most important building blocks: They have absorbed the personality of their head coach.
	  4 (LW: 22)	
<span style="color: blue; font-weight: bold;">BEHIND: @RAMS (28-6, W)</span> <span style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">AHEAD: OFF-SEASON</span>		
19	 (7-9)	1) <b>Chad Henne's</b> vision and the Dolphins' playoff hopes were synchronized. They both turned blurry at the end of the first half. 2) Three QB's, three turnovers, three hours, and three straight losses later, Miami cemented its third losing season in the last four years. Yes, these kinds of things come in threes. 3) Dolphins' FB <b>Lousaka Polite</b> converted all 16 of his third- and fourth-down conversions. It's worth repeating: Miami is the home of Perfection. Only that for the last 37 years (and counting) the Fins haven't been able to achieve it for a whole season.
	  2 (LW: 17)	
<span style="color: blue; font-weight: bold;">BEHIND: STEELERS (30-24, L)</span> <span style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">AHEAD: OFF-SEASON</span>		
20	 (8-8)	1) For the second consecutive year, in a game they had to have, they we're vanquished by a division rival in their last contest of the season. I'll leave you with four letters: SSDD. Figure them out. 2) The Broncos became the third team to start a season 6-0 and miss the playoffs (1978 Redskins, 2003 Vikings). The lesson? Being distinctive doesn't necessarily mean being great. 3) <b>Brandon Marshall</b> was nowhere near the stadium but he was featured on the Broncos' game day program. Was a cautionary tale for future takers included in his profile?
	  6 (LW: 14)	
<span style="color: blue; font-weight: bold;">BEHIND: CHIEFS (44-24, L)</span> <span style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">AHEAD: OFF-SEASON</span>		
21	 (8-8)	1) They started 5-0; they were humiliated in their last game at Giants Stadium; they were beaten by the Broncos during the regular season, and yet, none of the aforementioned provides the support to explain why they were ranked below Denver. 2) This does: You could say that two players ( <b>Brandon Marshall</b> and <b>Tony Scheffler</b> ) quit on the Broncos. How many Giants did the same thing on Sunday against the Vikings? I lost count. 3) Therefore, heads had to roll, and <b>Bill Sheridan</b> (the now former D-coordinator) was the first to go. But he won't be the last.
	  5 (LW: 16)	
<span style="color: blue; font-weight: bold;">BEHIND: @VIKINGS (44-7, L)</span> <span style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">AHEAD: OFF-SEASON</span>		
22	 (5-11)	1) In 4 of their 5 victories, the passer rating of their QB ( <b>Derek Anderson/Brady Quinn</b> ) was 49.8 or LESS...I can't even deal with that. 2) RB <b>Jerome Harrison</b> is a keeper; DIA (Do-It-All) <b>Josh Cribbs</b> is definitely another one; and after leading Cleveland to its first 4-game winning streak since 1994, I couldn't find any justifiable reason to exclude <b>Eric Mangini</b> from that group. And neither <b>Mike Holmgren</b> . 3) "I'm proud of my body of work," Browns' head coach <b>Eric Mangini</b> said. And that's the one body he should be proud of. Just kidding.
	  1 (LW: 23)	
<span style="color: blue; font-weight: bold;">BEHIND: JAGUARS (23-17, W)</span> <span style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">AHEAD: OFF-SEASON</span>		
23	 (7-9)	1) "Thanks" to their season-wrapping 4-game losing streak, they ended the year ranked lower than the Giants and the Broncos. That's saying something. 2) Between the 9:12 mark of the 2nd quarter and the 9:51 in the 4th quarter, the Browns threw one pass against them. They're officially looking for toughness along the heart of their D. 3) "I'm not pleased with not finishing with an opportunity to make the playoffs,". Jags' head coach <b>Jack Del Rio</b> said. Sorry Coach, but at 7-5, you DID have an opportunity. And a good one I might add.
	  2 (LW: 21)	
<span style="color: blue; font-weight: bold;">BEHIND: @BROWNS (23-17, L)</span> <span style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">AHEAD: OFF-SEASON</span>		
24	 (6-10)	1) Despite being placed on the injured-reserve list 2 weeks ago, <b>Jairus Byrd</b> held on to get a share of the NFL-lead in INT's (9). The issues at the secondary seem pretty resolved. 2) RB <b>Fred Jackson</b> notched a personal-best 212 yards rushing (7th-best total in franchise history), and he reached 1,000 yards for the 1st time in his career. The issues at RB seem somewhat resolved. 3) Just like he did last year with Cincinnati, <b>Ryan Fitzpatrick</b> finished his team's season with a W. The record of those teams? 4-11-1 (Cincy) and 6-10 (Buffalo). The issues at QB are far from being resolved.
	  1 (LW: 25)	
<span style="color: blue; font-weight: bold;">BEHIND: COLTS (30-7, W)</span> <span style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">AHEAD: OFF-SEASON</span>		

## At The Bottom Of The Pile

Slot	Team	Three easy steps/slides to get there
25	 (7-9)	1) <b>Jay Cutler</b> threw for 8 TD's and 1 INT in the last two weeks. Guess which stat is the encouraging one. 2) <b>Matt Forte's</b> two 100-yard rushing days of the season came against the Lions (101 yards on Sunday). Don't be fooled by his 929 yards on the ground and his 57 receptions for 471 yards. The team will bring competition to the next training camp. 3) Someday, NFL Films will make a documentary on how <b>Lovie Smith</b> managed to keep his job after the '09 season. And it will be imperative. A legend and/or an urban myth won't be enough to quench the intrigue.
	  2 (LW: 27)	
<span style="color: blue; font-weight: bold;">BEHIND: @LIONS (37-23, W)</span> <span style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">AHEAD: OFF-SEASON</span>		
26	 (5-11)	1) Once upon a time in vintage NFL History, the Raiders were the aggressors. After watching <b>Willis McGahee</b> throw (Oakland CB) <b>Hiram Eugene</b> around with a vicious stiff-arm, I can only state the obvious. These are not your father's (or grandfather's) Raiders. 2) Oakland P <b>Shane Lechler</b> set a single-season record with a 43.9-yard net punting average. And he did it just in time. His leg is about to fall off. 3) "You can't turn the ball over when you're playing a team as good as the Ravens," Raiders' QB <b>JaMarcus Russell</b> said. You can't turn it over. Period. And sadly, he might not get a chance to learn that.
	  2 (LW: 24)	
<span style="color: blue; font-weight: bold;">BEHIND: RAVENS (21-13, L)</span> <span style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">AHEAD: OFF-SEASON</span>		
27	 (4-12)	1) "[ <b>Jamaal Charles</b> ] is a good back, no doubt about it. We knew that coming in. But what did he have, 300 yards by himself?" Broncos' DE <b>Vonnie Holliday</b> said. 259 to be precise; a Kansas City franchise-record. 2) Seldom-used LB <b>Derrick Johnson</b> tied 11,000 other players with two interceptions returned for TD's. OK, OK...the actual number is 24 -- but it's still a record. 3) "Coach had the goal of 200. I didn't believe it, but I went for it,". Chiefs' RB <b>Jamaal Charles</b> said. And sometimes, all it takes is a little bit of blind faith. A lesson for their future?...
	  3 (LW: 30)	
<span style="color: blue; font-weight: bold;">BEHIND: @BRONCOS (44-24, W)</span> <span style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">AHEAD: OFF-SEASON</span>		
28	 (3-13)	1) The Bucs finished 3-13, their worst mark since 1991. However, it didn't feel like a wasted year. And for further proof... 2) "I definitely learned a lot,"... "I had my ups and my downs (and) at the end of the day, I gained valuable experience." Bucs' QB <b>Josh Freeman</b> said. As a beginner, the most difficult task is to start...and with 9 opening-appearances (3-6 record), start he did. Thus... 3) "Next year is simple," Bucs' head coach <b>Raheem Morris</b> said. And again, that's a start.
	  2 (LW: 26)	
<span style="color: blue; font-weight: bold;">BEHIND: FALCONS (20-10, L)</span> <span style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">AHEAD: OFF-SEASON</span>		
29	 (5-11)	1) In their last game, an opposing player broke the 2,000-yard rushing mark against them. They finished their dreadful season in style. 2) "If you have a season like this, you got to really take a long, hard look in the mirror, each of us," Seahawks' QB <b>Matt Hasselbeck</b> said. And they should...if they're masochists. 3) <b>EXPLANATION ZONE</b> . After being shelved the last 14 months following knee surgeries, All-Pro LT <b>Walter Jones</b> said he would still like "one last run" with the Seahawks in 2010. Even with bummed knees, he'd be one of only a few holdovers to be welcomed back. That says it all.
	  1 (LW: 28)	
<span style="color: blue; font-weight: bold;">BEHIND: TITANS (17-13, L)</span> <span style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">AHEAD: OFF-SEASON</span>		
30	 (4-12)	1) The <b>Jim Zorn-Era</b> is over. Not by Zorn's choice. 2) The <b>Jason Campbell-Era</b> is nearly over. 'Cause after being shown so little confidence, starting in March, Campbell will certainly look for another landscape; he was pretty much left without a choice. 3) <b>EXPLANATION ZONE</b> . "The team is going to be broken up in a lot of ways," Redskins' QB Jason Campbell said. And that gloomy forecast marks the beginning of the <b>Mike Shanahan-Era</b> . <b>Norv Turner</b> , <b>Marty Schottenheimer</b> , <b>Steve Spurrier</b> ... I think he could've found a better situation, but what the heck -- It's <i>his</i> choice.
	  1 (LW: 29)	
<span style="color: blue; font-weight: bold;">BEHIND: @CHARGERS (23-20, L)</span> <span style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">AHEAD: OFF-SEASON</span>		
31	 (2-14)	1) Detroit is trapped in the worst 40-game stretch since the Dayton Triangles were slightly less successful during the 1920's. What does that mean? It means that my Internet connection is working. 2) Reportedly, a fan ran onto the field, made hand gestures toward an official, and went down in the end zone before being escorted off the field. That's great news. I really thought they had run out of fans. 3) <b>EXPLANATION ZONE</b> . "I'm sick of losing," Lions' LB <b>Ernie Sims</b> said. And fortunately for him (and several others), the sickness is over...for now.
	  (LW: 31)	
<span style="color: blue; font-weight: bold;">BEHIND: BEARS (37-23, L)</span> <span style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">AHEAD: OFF-SEASON</span>		
32	 (1-15)	1) On "Fan Appreciation Day", two fans were injured when they fell out of the stands...trying to reach for a shoe (from a player, but still). For the last time in the '09 campaign, we started with the left foot. 2) The Rams completed their first winless home schedule since 1959. This, without a doubt, is getting uglier. 3) <b>EXPLANATION ZONE</b> . By finishing the season with a 1-15 mark, St. Louis has now gone 6-42 over the last 3 years. Shall I call <b>Dana Stubblefield</b> ?...Nah, just put them to sleep already...until September '10.
	  (LW: 32)	
<span style="color: blue; font-weight: bold;">BEHIND: 49ers (28-6, L)</span> <span style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">AHEAD: OFF-SEASON</span>		