

Chicago Bears

2017

coach: John Fox

AFC

East		South		North		West	
New England	13- 3	Jacksonville	10- 5	Pittsburgh	13- 3	Kansas City	10- 6
Buffalo	9- 7	Tennessee	9- 7	Baltimore	9- 7	LA Chargers	9- 7
Miami	6-10	Houston	4-12	Cincinnati	7- 9	Oakland	6- 10
NY Jets	5-11	Indianapolis	4-12	Cleveland	0-16	Denver	5- 10

NFC

East		South		North		West	
Philadelphia	13- 3	New Orleans	11- 5	Minnesota	13- 3	LA Rams	11- 5
Dallas	9- 7	Carolina	11- 5	Detroit	9- 7	Seattle	8- 8
Washington	7- 9	Atlanta	10- 6	Green Bay	7- 9	Arizona	9- 7
NY Giants	3-13	Tampa Bay	5-11	Chicago	5-11	San Francisco	6-10

Offense:	AFC:	New England	458 pts.	NFC:	LA Rams	478 pts.	Bears: 264 (29 th)
Defense:	AFC:	Jacksonville	268 pts.	NFC:	Minnesota	252 pts.	Bears: 320 (9 th)
							Takeaways: 22/22

Club:

4/22: RB **Eddie Macon**, Bears' 1st black player (1952-53, 5 TDs), passed away at 90.

11/6: LB **Joe Fortunato**, 3X All-Pro, 5X Pro-Bowler and assistant coach (1967-68), passed away at 87.

DB **JC Caroline** passed away 11 days later. Fortunato & Caroline were members of Bears' 1963 championship team.

- **NFL Draft:** Bears traded up (from 3 to 2) and included several picks to obtain QB Mitchell Trubisky.
- *Sports Illustrated* picked the Bears to finish 3rd in NFC North; **local writers** saw the Bears finishing last.
- Early-season (major) injuries to WR Meredith and Wright left Bears without a deep threat.
- 10/22: Rookie safety **Eddie Jackson** was 1st NFL player to return 2 TDs of 75+ yards in the same game.
- 10/30; LB **Jerrell Freeman** on I-R (concussion) suspended 10G for violating NFL drug program.
- Disappointing season: new QB Glennon benched after G3; club suffered 3 blowouts and lost when favored to win 3 others. Strange season: Despite numerous injuries, Bears beat 3 playoff-bound teams (Carolina, Pittsburgh, and Baltimore) and "ran the table" vs. the AFC North division (but 0-6 against NFC Central); 5 of the club's 11 losses were by 7 points or less. Fox's final season: 3 years, 14-34 record; 4th straight time Bears finished last in the Central Division. Club was 0-6 vs. Central.

Draft: Round 1: QB **Mitchell Trubisky** (#2; UNC).

Round 2: TE **Adam Shaheen** (Ashland).

Round 4: SS **Eddie Jackson** (Alabama).

RB **Tarik Cohen** (NC State).

Round 5: OG Jordan Morgan (Kutztown)

Add: WR Tanner Gentry

Here: QBs Mike Glennon, and Mark Sanchez, S Quentin Demps, WR Markus Wheaton, Kendall Wright, and Dontrelle Inman; TE Dion Sims; RB Benny Cunningham; CB Prince Amukamara and Marcus Cooper, OT Tom Compton; kickers Cairo Santos & Mike Nugent.

Gone: QB **Jay Cutler**: 8 years, club records: 208/146 but injuries, 51-51 overall record and huge contract. Cutler later signed with the Miami Dolphins.

WR **Alshon Jeffrey** (Phil), QB Brian Hoyer (SF), CB Tracy Porter, QB David Fales, Will Sutton, Eddie Royal, Cornelius Edinson. Paul Lasike, DE Lamarr Houston, WR Deonte Thompson. K **Connor Barth** was released after Bears' G11 loss to Detroit.

Injuries: WR Cam Meredith (knee); WR Wright (shoulder), LB Jerrell Freeman, Nick Kwiatkowski, Patrick Scales, Eric Kush, Willie Young, Quintin Demps, TE Zach Miller (dislocated kneecap), DE Leonard Floyd, Kyle Long, Mitch Unrein. Miller's injury also required emergency vascular surgery to repair a severed artery behind the knee.

Season:

9/10: **Lost to Atlanta 23-17** at home. Game tied at 10 at the half. Connor Barth booted a 54-yard FG in the 1st Q; Jordan Howard scored from the 4 just before the 1st half ended.

Second-half: After Atlanta increased the score to 20-10 (including an 88-yard TD pass from Matt Ryan to Austin Hooper, Glennon followed with a 19-yard TD pass to Tarik Cohen. Bears were in Atlanta's red zone at the end Stats were mixed: Falcons led in yards 372-301; Bears led in 1st downs (20-18). Turnovers: none

Passing: Glennon 26-40/213 1/0 4 sacks
Rushing: Tarik Cohen 5/66
Receiving: Tarik Cohen 8/47 1 TD
Defense: 0 interceptions and 2 sacks (Hicks 2)

9/17: **Lost to Tampa Bay 29-7** away. Bucks led 26-0 at the half. Bears turned the ball over 4 times in the 1st half. Tarik Cohen's fumble deep in Bears' territory led to Tampa's 1st TD. Tampa intercepted QB Mike Glennon twice: the first miscue stopped a drive at the Bucks' 22; the other went for a pick-six by Robert McClain.

Second half: After Nick Folk booted his 3rd and final FG, Bears scored on a 14-yard pass from Glennon to Deonte Thompson. Bears had no running game (16 carries, 20 yards); receivers dropped at least 6 passes. Stats: Tampa led in yards (311-310) and 1st downs (22-19). Turnovers: Bears 4, Tampa Bay 1.

Passing: Glennon 31-45/301 1/2 1 sack
Rushing: Tarik Cohen 7/13
Receiving: Kendall Wright 7/69
Defense: 0 interceptions and 2 sacks (Goldman and Willie Young)

9/24: **Beat Pittsburgh 23-17** in OT at home. Game noted for controversies before the opening kickoff (only 1 Steelers player stood for the National Anthem), at the end of the 1st half, and during the OT. Bears led 17-7 at the half on TDs by Jordan Howard (3-yard run) and Adam Shaheen (2-yard pass from Glennon) and a 24-yard FG by Connor Barth. After Sherrick McManus blocked a Steelers FG, Bears' Marcus Cooper returned the ball 75 yards but slowed down before reaching the Steelers' end zone - allowing a Pittsburgh player to swipe the ball out of the end zone. After a lengthy review, ball was placed on the 1-yard line. Following a false start, Barth followed with his FG.

Second-half: While Bears' offense stalled, Pittsburgh tied the game in the 4th Q on Chris Boswell's 32-yard FG. In OT: Following the coin toss, Bears Tarik Cohen rushed 73 yards for what appeared to be TD. After review, refs claimed Cohen stepped out on the Pittsburgh 37. Two plays later, Howard scored from the 19-yard line. Stats were mixed: Bears led in yards (304-282) and ball possession (33:59-27:34); Steelers led in 1st downs (19-18). Turnovers: Bears 2, Steelers 2.

Passing: Glennon 15-22/101 1/1 2 sacks
Rushing: **Howard 23/138 2 TDs**
Cohen 12/79
Receiving: Howard 5/26
Defense: 0 interceptions and 3 sacks (Young, McPhee, and Callahan).

9/28: **Lost to Green Bay 35-14** away. Packers led 21-7 at the half. Mike Glennon's 5-yard pass to Kendall Wright came late in 2nd Q. Three Bears turnovers (2 fumbles and 1 interception) led to 3 Green Bay TDs. Lightening outside the stadium caused a 45-minute delay. *Second-half:* Behind 35-7, Jordan Howard capped a 15-play drive scoring from the 3.

Green Bay QB **Aaron Rodgers:** 18-26/179 & 4/0. Stats: Bears led in yards (308-260) and 1st downs (20-17).

Turnovers: Bears 4, Packers 0. Bears' Danny Trevathan suspended 1G for his head-to-head hit on WR Davonte Adams.

Passing: Glennon: 21-33/218 1/2 1 sack
Rushing: Howard 8/53 1 TD
Receiving: Wright 4/51 1 TD
Defense: 0 interceptions & 2 sacks (McPhee and Floyd).

10/9: **Lost to Minnesota 20-17** at home. Vikings led 3-0 at the half. Bears took 1st Q lead on a safety when Floyd tackled Vikings QB Sam Bradford in end zone.

Second half: Bears followed each Minnesota TD with one of their own. Behind 10-2, P O'Donnell faked punt and passed 38 yards to Benny Cunningham. After the Vikings scored their 2nd and final TD, Bears answered with a 20-yard pass from Trubisky to Miller. Vikings won the game late on a 26-yard FG following a Trubisky interception deep in Bears' territory. Vikings led in yards (300-274) and 1st downs (17-16). Turnovers: Bears 2, Minnesota 0.

Passing: Mitch Trubisky 12-25/128 1/1 1 sack
Rushing: Jordan Howard 19/76
Receiving: Kendall Wright 4/46
Defense: 0 interceptions & 4 sacks (Floyd 3, Hicks 1).

10/15: **Beat Baltimore 27-24** in OT away. Bears led 10-3 at the half on a 24-yard FG by Connor Barth and a 21-yard TD pass from RB Tarik Cohen to Zach Miller. *Second-half:* Mitch Trubisky's 27-yard TD pass to Dion Sims made the score 17-3. Ravens scored the next 10 points - 7 coming on a 96-yard KO return by Bobby Rainey. After Bears' LB Adrian Amos returned an interception 90 yards for a TD, Baltimore tied game on a 50-yard FG and a 77-yard punt return by Michael Campanero.

Overtime: Connor Barth's game-winning 40-yard FG followed a 53-yard run by Jordan Howard. Bears led in yards (342-291) and 1st downs (18-16). Bears' defense finally came up with an interception. Turnovers: Bears 2, Ravens 3.

Passing: Mitch Trubisky 8-16/113 1/1 1 sack
Rushing: **Jordan Howard 36/167**
Receiving: Dion Sims 2/42 1 TD
Defense: 2 interceptions (Callahan, Amos) and 3 sacks (McPhee, Hicks, and Trevathan)

10/22: **Beat Carolina 17-3** at home. Bears led 17-3 at the half on (2) return TDs by Eddie Jackson: 75-yard fumble recovery in the 1st Q and a 76-yard interception 2nd Q. Following a long pass from Mitch Trubisky to Tarik Cohen, Connor Barth booted a 19-yard FG near the end of the half. While the offense barely made it onto the field, Bears won on solid defense: 2 turnovers and 4 sacks.

Second-half: Bears' 1st 4 possessions ended 3-and-out, but the defense held strong, sacking Panthers QB Cam Newton sacking him 2 twice more and added another interception. Panthers led in yards (293-153), 1st downs (20-5), plays from scrimmage (69-37), and ball possession (38:35-21:25). Turnovers: Bears 0, Panthers 3.

Passing: Mitch Trubisky 4-7/107 0/0 4 sacks
Rushing: Jordan Howard 21/65
Receiving: Tarik Cohen 1/70
Defense: 2 interceptions (Jackson & Trevathan), and 5 sacks (Floyd, Hicks, McPhee 1/ea; Unrein & Goldman .5/ea)

DB Eddie Jackson NFC Defensive Player of the Week

10/29: **Lost to New Orleans 22-12**, away. Saints led 14-3 at the half. Bears K Connor Barth's 27-yard FG came in the 2nd Q.

Second-half included controversy: Mitch Trubisky's 25-yard TD pass to Zach Miller was reversed despite replay video showing Miller never losing control of the ball. Not only were the Bears denied the TD, the club lost Miller for the season (dislocated kneecap). After Barth (44 yards) and Saints K Wil Lutz traded FGs, Bears' Tarik Cohen scored from the 1. The 10-play drive included a 46-yard run by Trubisky. Stats: Saints led in yards (387-307) and 1st downs (19-17). Bears did well on 3rd down conversions (8-17; Saints: 2-9). Turnovers: Bears 1, New Orleans 2.

Passing: Mitch Trubisky 14-32/164 0/1 2 sacks
Rushing: **Jordan Howard 23-102**
Receiving: Tre McBride 3/92
Defense: 0 interceptions & 2 sacks (Hicks and Floyd).

11/12: **Lost to Green Bay 23-16** at home. Packers were without All-Pro QB Aaron Rodgers (injury). Packers led 10-6 at the half. Bears' points came on (2) K Connor Barth FGs (45 & 44 yards). First half involved yet another controversy: Bears challenged a call claiming RB Benny Cunningham did not score but went out of bounds. Upon review, referees determined Cunningham had instead lost control of the ball. The touchback gave the Packers the ball at their own 20.

Second-half: Behind 16-6 in the 4th Q, QB Mitch Trubisky connected with Josh Bellamy on a 47-yard TD pass. After the Packers made the score 23-13, Barth finished all scoring with a 49-yard FG. Packers led in yards (342-323), 1st downs (18-14), ball possession (33:53-26:07) and 3rd down conversions (7-16 to 4-14). Turnovers: Bears 1, Packers 0.

Passing: Mitch Trubisky 21-35/297 1/0 5 sacks
Rushing: Jordan Howard 15/54
Receiving: Dontrelle Inman 6/88
Defense: 0 interceptions and 3 sacks (Kwiatkoski & LeBlanc 1/each, Acho & Floyd ½ each)

11/19: **Lost to Detroit 27-24** at home. Lions led 21-17 at the half. Bears took a 10-0 lead on a 23-yard FG by Connor Barth and a 1-yard TD pass from Mitch Trubisky to Adam Shaheen. A Bears miscue (Trubisky fumble) led to a Lions TD, but Bears answered with a 12-yard TD run by Jordan Howard. Detroit took the lead on 2 lengthy drives, both ending on QB Matthew Stafford TD passes.

Second-half: Behind 24-17, Bears RB Tarik Cohen scored from 15 yards out. Following a Lions FG, Bears had a chance to tie the game with 0:08 left, but Barth's 46-yard FG attempt went wide right. Bears led in yards (398-352) and 1st downs (24-20). Bears gained 222 yards on the ground; Trubisky & Cohen rushed a combined 15/97. Turnovers: Bears 1, Lions 1.

Passing: Mitch Trubisky 18-30/179 1/0 1 sack
Rushing: **Jordan Howard 15/125 1 TD**
Receiving: Dontrelle Inman 3/43
Defense: 0 interceptions & 3 sacks (Jones, Unrein, and Kwiatkoski)

11/26: **Lost to Philadelphia 31-3** away. Eagles were NFC's best (9-1) going into the game. Philadelphia dominated the 1st half, leading 24-0, out-gaining the Bears 272-33 and not allowing the Bears a 1st down.

Second-half: Bears new kicker, Cairo Santos, booted a 38-yard FG early in the 3rd Q. Philadelphia maintained their lead in yards 420-140, 1st downs (24-8) and time of possession (37:08 - 22:52). Turnovers: Bears 2, Eagles 3.

Passing: Mitch Trubisky 17-33/147 0/2 2 sacks
Rushing: Mitch Trubisky 4/12
Receiving: Dontrelle Inman 4/64
Defense: 0 interceptions & 1 sack (Bullard)

12/3: **Lost to San Francisco** 15-14 at home. Niners (1-10) featured new QB Jimmy Garoppolo and former Bears K Robbie Gould. Bears led 14-9 at the half on an 8-yard TD pass from Mitch Trubisky and a 61-yard punt return by Tarik Cohen.
Second-half: Gould booted 2 short FGs – 34-yarder in the 3rd Q and the game-winning 24-yarder with 0:04 left. San Francisco led in yards (388-147), 1st downs (23-8) time of possession (38:47-21:09) and converted on 10 of 18 3rd down conversions (Bears: 5-10). QB Garoppolo: 26-37/293 yards. Turnovers: Bears 0, Niners 1.

Passing: Mitch Trubisky 12-15/102 1/0
 Rushing: Jordan Howard 13/38
 Receiving: Tarik Cohen 4/39
 Defense: 1 interception (Fuller) & 2 sacks (Houston, Jones)

12/10: **Beat Cincinnati** 33-7 away. Bears led 12-7 at the half on a 21-yard TD run by Jordan Howard and (2) Mike Nugent FGs (34 & 27 yards). Despite the narrow lead, Bears totaled 256 yards on offense (170 passing).
Second-half: Trubisky scored on a 4-yard run in the 3rd Q, tossed a 1-yard TD pass to Adam Shaheen early in the 4th Q; Howard finished the scoring on an 8-yard run. Bears dominated in all phases: 482-234 in yards, 29-14 in 1st downs, and ball possession (38:09 – 21:51). Turnovers: Bears 0, Cincinnati 2.

Passing: Mitch Trubisky 25-32/271 1/0 2 sacks
 Rushing: **Jordan Howard 23/147 2 TDs**
 Tarik Cohen 12/80
 Receiving: **Kendall Wright 10/107**
 Defense: 1 interception (Jackson) and 3 sacks (Houston, Jones & Robertson-Harris)

12/16: **Lost to Detroit** 20-10 away. Lions led 13-3 at the half. Mike Nugent booted a 41-yard FG with 0:02 left in the half.
Second-half: Behind 20-3, Trubisky connected with Benny Cunningham on a 9-yard TD pass with 2:32 left in the game. Bears led in yards (349-293) and 1st downs (22-18), but also in penalties (13/97 to 8/58) and turnovers (Bears 3, Lions 1).

Passing: Mitch Trubisky 31-46/314 1/3 2 sacks
 Rushing: Jordan Howard 10/37
 Receiving: Kendall Wright 7/81
 Defense: 0 interceptions and 4 sacks (Houston 2; Hicks and Acho 1/each).

12/24: **Beat Cleveland** 20-3 at home. Browns were 0-14 entering the game. Bears led 6-3 at the half on Jordan Howard's 2-yard run in the 1st Q (extra point was blocked).
Second-half: Both Bears TDs in the 3rd Q came on the ground: Howard rushed in from the 16, and Trubisky scored from 4 yards out. Bears led in yards (258-250), 1st downs (16-12) and 3rd down conversions (7-16 vs. 4-12). Turnovers: Bears 0, Browns 3.

Passing: Mitch Trubisky 14-23/193 0/0 4 sacks
 Rushing: Mitch Trubisky 7/44 1 TD
 Receiving: B. Cunningham 2/66
 Defense: 2 interceptions (Fuller, Callahan) & 1 sack (Hicks/Acho)

12/31: **Lost to Minnesota** 23-10 away. Vikings led 16-7 at the half. Bears' TD came on a trick play – luring the Vikings toward Tarik Cohen on a punt return. Bryce Callahan, standing to Cohen's left, caught then returned the punt 59 yards for a TD.
Second-half: Behind 23-7, Mike Nugent booted a 55-yard FG midway in 4th Q. Facing NFC's strongest defense, Bears failed to score twice (8 plays) while inside the Vikings 7-yard line. Minnesota led in yards (327-201), 1st downs (21-12), and 3rd down conversions (5-13 to 1-12). Penalties: Bears were flagged 10 times for 116 yards; Vikings 12/103. Minnesota RB **Latavius Murray**: 20 rushes, 111 yards & 2 TDs. Turnovers: None.

Passing: Mitch Trubisky 20-36/178 0/0 1 sack
 Rushing: Tarik Cohen 3/13
 Receiving: Dontrelle Inman 5/94
 Defense: 0 interceptions & 2 sacks (Robertson-Harris & Acho).

Season stats:

Passing:

Mitch Trubisky	196-330/2193	59.4%	7/7	77.5 rating
Mike Glennon	93-140/833	66.4	4/5	76.9
Tarik Cohen	1-2/21 yards & 1/0			
Pat O'Donnell	1-1/38 yards & 1/0			

Rushing

Jordan Howard	276/1122	4.1	9 TDs
Tarik Cohen	87/370	4.3	2 TDs
Mitch Trubisky	41/278	6.0	2 TDs

Receiving:

Kendall Wright	59/614	10.4	1 TD
Tarik Cohen	53/358	6.8	1 TD
Josh Bellamy	24/376	15.7	1 TD
Dontrelle Inman	23/334	14.5	1 TD
Zach Miller	20/336	11.8	2 TDs
Benny Cunningham	20/240	12.0	2 TDs
Dion Simms	15/180	12.0	1 TD
Adam Shaheen	12/127	10.6	3 TDs
Deonte Thompson	11/125	11.4	1 TD

Did not score: (Jordan Howard: 23/125, 5.4; Daniel Brown: 13/129, 9.9; Tre McBride: 8/144, 18.0)

KR:

Tarik Cohen	26/583	22.4
Deonte Thompson	11/229	20.8

PR:

Tarik Cohen	29/272	9.4	1 TD
Bryce Callahan	1/59	59.0	1 TD

Kicking:

Connor Barth:	11-16 FG (69%)	17 PAT	50 points
Cairo Santos:	1-2 FG (50%)	2 PAT	5 points
Mike Nugent:	4-4 FG (100%)	7 PAT	19 points

Punting: Pat O'Donnell 87 47.0

Interceptions (8): Kyle Fuller, Bryce Callahan, Eddie Jackson 2/each; Danny Trevathan, Adrian Amos 1/ea.

Sacks (42): Akiem Hicks (8.5), Leonard Floyd (5.5), Pernell McPhee & LaMarr Houston (4/ea), Sam Acho (3), Danny Trevathan, Christian Jones, Nick Kwiatkoski, Roy Robertson-Harris, and Willie Young (2/ea); Eddie Goldman & Mitch Unrein (1.5/ea); Howard Jones, Cre'von LeBlanc, Bryce Callahan, and Jonathan Bullard (1/ea).

Scoring: Jordan Howard 54 points

Pro Bowl: None. Those chosen as alternates:

League:

- Prior to 2015, **Los Angeles** had no NFL team. By 2017, LA was now the home of 2 teams: The Rams and **Chargers**. **Oakland Raiders** were permitted to move to **Las Vegas**, Nevada. Club were to remain in Oakland 2 more years.
- League eased up on end-zone celebrations.
- Oakland signed QB **Derek Carr** to \$125M/5-year contract, making Carr the highest paid NFL player.
- **Houston Texans'** pre-season game vs. Dallas was cancelled due to damage caused by **Hurricane Harvey**. Texans DE **JJ Watt's** relief-fund site, youcaring.com, raised more than \$37M. Watt himself gave \$100K. Responding to riots in North Carolina, Eagles DE **Chris Long**, an NC native, donated his 2017 salary for education equality. One of Long's foundations added an additional \$750K.
- **Kneeling for the national anthem** a "Front and Center" issue for the NFL. While players on several teams chose to kneel, other squads lined up and/or locked arms. Pittsburgh Steelers decided to stay in the locker room prior to their game vs. the Chicago Bears. One Steelers player - a former Navy Seal, chose to stand, hand on heart, for the national anthem.

President Trump created a stir by stating that any athlete who kneels during the national anthem should be fired. Despite declining attendance and TV revenue, several teams (or individual players) defied the president and continued to kneel.

Fines, Suspensions/Arrests:

NY Jets DB **Darrelle Revis** was arrested following a fight in Pittsburgh. Dallas LB **Damien Wilson** arrested for assault. LA Rams' **TJ McDonald** 8G for DUI and drug-related arrest. Buffalo DT **Adolphus Washington** on weapons charge; Baltimore S **Matt Elam** arrested twice: on drug-related charges and grand theft battery; Rams TE **Tyler Higbee** and Jacksonville DE **Dante Fowler** for both arrested for assault (unrelated events); Dallas RB **Ezekiel Elliott** was suspended 6G for domestic battery but given a stay by local courts; NY Giants K **Josh Brown's** suspension was extended 6G for 2016 domestic battery.

Cincinnati LB **Vontaze Burfict** 3G for illegal hit on KC Chiefs RB; NY Giants WR **Odell Beckham, Jr.** fined for crude gesture in end zone after scoring a TD; Oakland WR **Michael Crabtree** and Denver DB **Aqib Talib** 1G following lengthy fight; New England TE **Rob Gronkowski** 1G for late hit on Buffalo DB; Pittsburgh WR **Juju Schuster-Smith** 1G for blind-side hit on LB Vontaze Burfict, and Bengals S **George Iloka** 1G for flagrant hit on WR Antonio Brown; Panthers LB **Thomas Davis** 2G for hit on a Packers WR.

League accused Dallas Cowboys owner **Jerry Jones** of “detrimental conduct” while he sought additional information on commissioner Roger Goodell’s contract extension. Goodell eventually signed a 5-year extension.

Carolina Panthers owner **Jerry Richardson** sold the team while facing allegations of inappropriate behavior at workplace,

For violating NFL drug policy: RB **Karlos Williams** (1 year), Atlanta CB **Jalen Collins**, and Texas LB **Brian Cushing** 10G (2nd offense); Detroit DT **Khyri Thornton** 6G, Detroit DE **Armonty Bryant**, Dallas DE **David Erving**, Minnesota WR **Michael Floyd** and Pitt OG **Marcus Gilbert** (4G),

- Five days after being found **not-guilty** in a 2012 double murder, former NE Patriot TE **Aaron Hernandez** committed suicide.

Trades: WR Kenny Britt (Cle), RB Jay Ajayi, WRs Alshon Jeffrey & Torrey Smith (Phil), WR DeSean Jackson and K Nick Folk (Tampa), CB Stephon Gilmore, WRs Brandin Cooks and Phillip Dorsett (New England), DB AJ Bouye and DE Calais Campbell (Jacksonville), Jonathan Cyprien (TN), Julius Peppers (Car), S Tony Jefferson (Balt), TE Martellus Bennett (Green Bay); WR Terrance Williams (Dal), K Robbie Gould, QB Jimmy Garoppolo & Elvis Dumerville (San Francisco), RB Adrian Peterson (NO & Arizona), RB Jamaal Charles (Den), QB Jacoby Brissett (Ind), and Darrelle Revis (KC).
RB **Marshawn Lynch** returned to the NFL and signed with the Oakland Raiders.
New England Patriots signed LB **James Harrison** shortly after the Pittsburgh Steelers waived him.

Noteworthy games:

- 9/17: **New England** beat New Orleans 36-20. Patriots QB **Tom Brady**: passed 30-39/447yards & 3 TDs.
9/24: **Philadelphia** beat NY Giants 27-24 on **Jake Elliott**’s 61-yard FG with no time remaining.
- 10/1: **LA Rams** beat Dallas 35-30. Rams K **Greg Zuerlein** kicked 7 FGs (longest: 49 yards).
Houston beat Tennessee 57 -14. Texas totaled 32 1st downs to Titans’ 9.
- 10/8: **Pittsburgh** lost to Jacksonville 30-9. Steelers QB **Ben Roethlisberger**: passed 33-55/312 yards, 0 TDs, 5 interceptions.
10/15: **New England** beat NY Jets 24-17. Patriots QB **Tom Brady** set NFL record by winning his 187th regular season game.
- 10/19: **Oakland** beat Kansas City 31-30 with 0:00 left on clock. Raiders QB **Derek Carr** passed 29-52 for 417 yards & 3/0.
Raiders WR **Amari Cooper** caught 11 passes for 220 yards & 2 TDs.
- 10/22: **Jacksonville** beat Indianapolis 27-0. Jaguars sacked Colts QB Jacoby Brissett 10 times.
Minnesota beat Baltimore 24-16. Vikings K **Kai Forbath** booted 6 FGs (2 longer than 50+ yards).
- 10/29: **Detroit** lost to Pittsburgh 20-15. Lions QB **Matthew Stafford**: passed 27-45 for 433 yards and 0/0.
Seattle beat Houston 41-38. Seahawks QB **Russell Wilson**: passed 26-41 for 452 yards & 4/1.
Texans QB **Deshaun Watson**: passed 19-30 for 402 yards & 4/3. WR **DeAndre Hopkins**: 8 catches, 224 yards & 1 TD.
- 11/5: **Jacksonville** beat Cincinnati 23-7. Jaguars led in yards (408-148), 1st downs (25-7), and time of possession (40:14-19:46).
11/12: **San Francisco** (0-8) beat NY Giants (1-8) 31-21.
- 11/23: **LA Chargers** beat Dallas 28-6. Chargers QB **Philip Rivers**: passed 27-33 for 434 yards & 3/0 (QB rating 149.1).
11/26: **Atlanta** beat Tampa Bay 34-20. Falcons WR **Julio Jones** caught 12 passes for 253 yards & 2 TDs.
- 12/4: **Pittsburgh** beat Cincinnati 23-20. Ugly game: Teams combined for 20 penalties totaling 239 yards (Bengals: 13/173).
Two players each received a 1G suspension and Steelers LB **Ryan Shazier** suffered a spinal injury.
- 12/10: **Arizona** beat Tennessee 12-7 on 4 Phil Dawson FGs. Titans’ defense sacked Cardinals QB Blaine Gabbert 8 times.
Pittsburgh beat Baltimore 39-38. Steelers QB **Ben Roethlisberger**: passed 44-66/506 yards & 2/0.
Pittsburgh WR **Antonio Brown** caught 11 passes for 213 yards.
- 12/31: **Buffalo** beat Miami 28-3. Bills LB **Preston Brown** returned fumble 99 yards for a TD.
- Streaks:** **Cleveland** became 2rd NFL team to go winless; **San Francisco** began 0-9 then won their next 4 games.
NY Giants started out 1-8. QB Eli Manning was benched before G12; club fired head coach & GM after the game.
Denver (8G) suffered longest their losing streak since entering the NFL.

Surprise teams: **Philadelphia Eagles** 8-1, **LA Rams** & **New Orleans Saints** 7-2.

First time since 2003 the Rams won their division (then known as the *St. Louis* Rams).

First time since 1999 **Buffalo Bills** re-entered the playoffs.

Playoffs:

1/6: **Tennessee** beat Kansas City 22-21. Chiefs led 21-3 at the half.

1/14: **Pittsburgh** lost to Jacksonville 45-42. Steelers QB **Ben Roethlisberger** (37-58) passed for 469 yards & 5 TDs/1 int.

Minnesota beat New Orleans 29-24 on a 61-yard TD pass from Case Keenum to Stefon Diggs with 0:06 left.

Super Bowl: Philadelphia beat New England 41-33. Patriots QB **Tom Brady** passed 28-48 for record 505 yards & 3/0.

Eagles' Nick Foles: 28-43/373 yards & 3/1.

Top 3 NFL Leaders

Passing:	AFC:	Alex Smith	Kansas City	341-505/4,042	67.5%	26/5	104.7 Rating
		Tom Brady	New England	385-581/4,577	66.3	32/8	102.8
		Philip Rivers	LA Chargers	360/575/4,515	62.6	28/10	96.0

NFC:	Drew Brees	New Orleans	386-536/4,334	72.0%	23/8	103.9
	Carson Wentz	Philadelphia	265-440/3,296	60.2	33/7	101.9
	Jared Goff	LA Rams	296-477/3,804	62.1	28/7	100.5

Rushing:	AFC:	Kareem Hunt	Kansas City	272/1,327	4.9	8 TDs
		Le'Veon Bell	Pittsburgh	321/1,291	4.0	9 TDs
		LeSean McCoy	Buffalo	287/1,138	4.0	6 TDs

NFC:	Todd Gurley	LA Rams	279/1,305	4.7	13 TDs
	Mark Ingram	New Orleans	230/1,124	4.9	12 TDs
	Jordan Howard	Chicago	276/1,122	4.1	9 TDs

Receiving:	AFC:	Antonio Brown	Pittsburgh	101/1,533	15.2	9 TDs
		Keenan Allen	LA Chargers	102/1,393	13.7	6 TDs
		DeAndre Hopkins	Houston	96/1,378	14.4	13 TDs

NFC:	Julio Jones	Atlanta	88/1,444	16.4	3 TDs
	Adam Thielen	Minnesota	91/1,276	14.0	4 TDs
	Michael Thomas	New Orleans	104/1,245	12.0	5 TDs

Scoring:	AFC:	Stephen Gustkowski	New England	(37 FG, 45 PAT)	156 points
	NFC:	Greg Zuerlein	LA Rams	(38 FG, 44 PAT)	158 points

Sacks

AFC	Calais Campbell	Jacksonville	14.5
	Joey Bosa	LA Chargers	12.5
NFC	Chandler Jones	Arizona	17.0
	DeMarcus Lawrence	Dallas	14.5
	Everson Griffen	Minnesota	13.0
	Cameron Jordan	New Orleans	13.0
	Ryan Kerrigan	Washington	13.0

Interceptions

Kevin Byard	Tennessee	8
Darius Slay	Detroit	8
A.J. Bouye	Jacksonville	6
Eric Weddle	Baltimore	6
Five tied with 5 interceptions/each		

Hall of Fame: RBs LaDainian Tomlinson and Terrell Davis, S Ken Easley, QB Kurt Warner, DE Jason Taylor, K Morten Andersen, and owner Jerry Jones.

Rookie Class: **RBs** Leonard Fournette, Alvin Kamara, Aaron Jones, and Kareem Hunt; **WRs** Corey Davis, John Ross, Copper Kupp, and Juju Smith-Schuster; **QBs** Mitchell Trubisky, DeShone Kizer, Deshaun Watson. and Patrick Mahomes II; **LBs** TJ Watt and Carl Lawson; **CBs** Marshon Lattimore and Jamaal Agnew

Walter Payton Award: JJ Watt, Houston

NFL #1 Pick: DE Myles Garrett, Cleveland

Last Season*: QB Carson Palmer

Comeback Player: WR Keenan Allen, LA Chargers

Rookie/Year Offense: RB Alvin Kamara (New Orleans)
Rookie/Year Defense: CB Marshon Lattimore (New Orleans)
Coach/Year: Sean McVay, LA Rams
Offensive MVP: Todd Gurley, LA Rams
Defensive MVP: DT Aaron Donald, LA Rams
MVP: QB Tom Brady, New England
AFC Championship: New England beat Jacksonville 24-20
NFC Championship: Philadelphia beat Minnesota 38-7
Super Bowl: Philadelphia beat New England 41-33.
(see Game above for details)

* as of February 10, 2018