

# NFL 2017

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## AFC

East		South		North		West	
New England	13- 3	Jacksonville	10- 6	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- 11

## 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

<b>Offense:</b>	<b>AFC:</b>	New England	458 points	<b>NFC:</b>	LA Rams	478 points
<b>Defense:</b>	<b>AFC:</b>	Jacksonville	268 points	<b>NFC:</b>	Minnesota	252 points

### 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.
- League hired 2<sup>nd</sup> female official: **Terri Valenti** became instant replay assistant.
- 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.
- **Miami Dolphins'** home opener on 9/10 against Tampa Bay was postponed due to **Hurricane Irma**.
- **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); Cincinnati DB **Adam "Pacman" Jones**, Minnesota S **Andrew Sendejo** (violating personal conduct policy) and Oakland RB **Marshawn Lynch** (contact with referee) were each suspended 1G; 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; Chicago LB **Danny Trevathan** (1G) for head-to-head hit on Packers WR; 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 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,

- Hall of Fame RB **OJ Simpson** given parole after spending 9 years in prison for armed robbery, assault, and kidnapping at a Las Vegas hotel on September 13, 2007.

**For violating NFL drug policy:**

RB **Karlos Williams** (1 year), Chicago LB **Jerrell Freeman**, Atlanta CB **Jalen Collins**, and Texas LB **Brian Cushing** 10G (2<sup>nd</sup> 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 (SF), 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.

After a 2+ year absence, WR **Josh Gordon** was permitted to return to the Cleveland Browns.

New England Patriots signed LB **James Harrison** shortly after the Pittsburgh Steelers waived him.

Former Niners QB **Colin Kaepernick** sued NFL claiming he was unsigned due to collusion by owners.

**Noteworthy games:**

9/10: **Jacksonville** beat Houston 29-7. Jaguars' defense sacked Texans QBs 10 times.

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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 187<sup>th</sup> 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), 1<sup>st</sup> downs (25-7), and time of possession (40:14-19:46).

11/12: **Atlanta** beat Dallas 27-7. Falcons DE **Adrian Clayborn** collected 6 of the team's 8 sacks.

**San Francisco** (0-8) beat NY Giants (1-8) 31-21.

11/19: **LA Chargers** beat Buffalo 54-24. Chargers intercepted Bills' rookie QB Nathan Peterman (6-14/66 yards) 5 times.

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.

**Philadelphia Eagles** beat Chicago Bears 31-3. Eagles out-gained Chicago 423-140 and led in 1<sup>st</sup> downs 24-8.

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 2<sup>rd</sup> 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.

- Week 7: Cleveland OG **Joe Thomas'** streak of consecutive plays (10,363) ended when he injured his left triceps.
- Empty chairs: Oakland, Indianapolis, Detroit, Arizona, and Chicago all sought new coaches after season ended.

### 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.

### NFL Leaders

<b>Passing:</b>	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
		Ben Roethlisberger	Pittsburgh	360-561/4,251	64.2	28/14	93.4
		Tyrod Taylor	Buffalo	263-420/2,799	62.6	14/4	89.2

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
	Matthew Stafford	Detroit	371-565/4,446	65.7	29/10	99.3
	Case Keenum	Minnesota	325-481/3,547	67.6	22/7	98.3
	Russell Wilson	Seattle	339-553/3,983	61.3	34/11	95.4

<b>Rushing:</b>	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
		Melvin Gordon	LA Chargers	284/1,105	3.9	8 TDs
		Leonard Fournette	Jacksonville	268/1,040	3.9	9 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
	Ezekiel Elliott	Dallas	242/983	4.1	7 TDs
	Alvin Kamara	New Orleans	120/728	6.1	8 TDs

<b>Receiving:</b>	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
		Tyreek Hill	Kansas City	75/1,183	15.8	7 TDs
		Rob Gronkowski	New England	69/1,084	15.7	8 TDs
		Jarvis Landry	Miami	112/987	8.8	9 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
	Larry Fitzgerald	Arizona	109/1,156	10.6	6 TDs
	Marvin Jones	Detroit	61/1,101	18.0	9 TDs
	Golden Tate	Detroit	92/1,003	10.9	5 TDs
Devante Adams	Green Bay	74/885	12.0	10 TDs	

<b>Scoring:</b>	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