

FANTASY INDEX WEEKLY™

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Arizona (at Phil.):

Marcel Shipp might start at tailback this week. Thomas Jones looks like Arizona's version of William Green. In his last five starts, Jones is averaging only 36 yards per game and 2.4 yards per carry, and fans boo him every time he steps on the field. Shipp is a better receiver and runs more decisively. He's averaging 4.8 yards per carry. If Shipp hadn't lost two fumbles in the red zone against Seattle, the job certainly would be his. Dave McGinnis admits he's considering a change. "We will discuss that," the coach says. "I think Marcel will get some more shots." We feel McGinnis will make Shipp the starter. The young back could make a fantasy impact in week 14 when the Cardinals host the Lions. But don't look for Shipp or Jones to do anything this week. The Eagles have one of the league's best defenses, and they'll be focused after overlooking the Colts last week. Arizona's running backs have had essentially no success against Philadelphia in any of these teams' six meetings the last three years. ... Jake Plummer has been better than you might think against Philadelphia's traditionally rugged defense. He's won three of his last four starts at the Vet, and he's thrown at least 1 TD (11 total) in his 10 games against them — that's seven games with 1 TD, two with 2 TDs, and he was shut out when he was hurt early in the game at Philadelphia two years ago. Plummer, however, faces an uphill battle here. Not only is he facing one of the league's best defenses, but he's playing with half a deck. The Cards are without three of the starters from their offensive line and three of their top four wide receivers. ... Frank Sanders averaged 81 receptions during the last three seasons of the '90s. Since then, he's been a lousy receiver. With David Boston and others out for the year, however, Sanders will get more looks down the stretch. The veteran has had over 60 yards three weeks in a row. The Cardinals tend to be much better at home, so Sanders could be worth plugging into a fantasy lineup in weeks 12 and 14 against the Raiders and Lions. It's hard to get excited about him against Philadelphia's swarming secondary. Sanders averages only 30 receiving yards, with no TDs, in his last 10 starts against the Eagles. ... Youngster Jason McAddley — who's starting in Boston's spot — might be as productive as Sanders down the stretch. He had a nice debut on Sunday, catching a 42-yard pass on a flea flicker on the first play, then four more balls for 71 more yards. ... The Cardinals talked in the preseason about how tight end Freddie Jones was going to catch 60 balls and go to the Pro Bowl. Either he's lost something or they're not using him correctly. Maybe both. He's scored only 1 TD and has only 24 receptions for 190 yards all year.

Atlanta (vs. N.O.):

The Saints are scoring a league-high 32 points per game, but they've also allowed at least 20 points in every game. Their defense is horrible — above average against the run and lousy against the pass. The Falcons scored 37 points against them three weeks ago and should have another

good outing here, putting up at least 3 TDs. The Falcons' game plan, however, should be different this time around. Last time they surprisingly rolled up 260 yards and 4 TDs (all of their touchdowns) on the ground. This time they should be far more balanced, with Michael Vick finding holes in a secondary that's allowed more passing yards than all but four teams. So while Vick has thrown for more than 200 yards only once in his last seven starts, we're looking for about 250 yards from him this week. He threw for 195 in the last meeting. And while 16 of Atlanta's 22 offensive touchdowns have come on runs (the league's most-skewed ratio), we expect half or more of their scores this week to come on passes. Who will catch all these passes and touchdowns? How about Brian Finneran? With Shawn Jefferson (sprained foot, questionable) not even certain to play, Finneran is the clear No. 1 receiver. He caught 4-for-62 in the previous meeting, when the team used a lot of one-receiver sets. And Atlanta's part-time tight end, Alge Crumpler, could be worth a flyer. The best two games of his career have both come in New Orleans, where he's caught 9-for-140 and a TD the last two years. ... Dan Reeves says T.J. Duckett (questionable) is ready to return from a foot injury. Duckett and Warrick Dunn should split the work fairly evenly. Dunn played well and scored in the two games Duckett missed, rushing for 142 and 129 yards at New Orleans and at Pittsburgh — both teams with top 10 run defenses at the time. Dunn hasn't been effective when sharing time with Duckett.

Baltimore (at Mia.):

Travis Taylor has been terrific ever since Jeff Blake took over at quarterback, catching 18 passes for 261 yards and 2 TDs in three games. He might be a top 20 receiver the rest of the year. It's probably a good idea, however, to sit him down here. The Dolphins have one of the league's best defenses, and they play better at home than they play in road games. Since the start of last year, the Dolphins have given up only 14 points per game at Pro Player Stadium. And the strength of their defense is their pair of aggressive cornerbacks, Patrick Surtain and Sam Madison, who could smother Taylor. Taylor caught only 2 passes (though one went for a short TD) when these teams met last year. ... The Ravens almost certainly will emphasize the run. Baltimore surprisingly won 20-3 at Miami in a first-round playoff game last year, rolling up 226 rushing yards. That was without Jamal Lewis (Terry Allen led the way with 109 yards). Running against Miami, however, is easier said than done. Travis Henry ran effectively against them four weeks ago, but nobody else has had much success against them in their last seven games, including Priest Holmes, Clinton Portis and Curtis Martin (twice). So unless Brian Billick sees some way to attack this defense that other coaches don't Lewis probably will be held to about 50 yards. ... Billick says he expects Jeff Blake to start at least three more games as Chris Redman continues to fight a back injury. If Blake continues to play well and puts Baltimore in a

position to challenge for a playoff spot, he'll likely keep the job. ... The Dolphins couldn't handle Tony Gonzalez (140 yards, 3 TDs) in week 4, and the Ravens have a Gonzalez-type tight end in Todd Heap. Heap is certain to see a lot of balls because Blake won't want to throw toward Madison and Surtain too often. ... Brandon Stokley (sprained foot) will miss at least one game. Javin Hunter replaces him in the lineup. ... One other note on Taylor: Baltimore's remaining seven games are against teams that have allowed a league-high 67 TD passes to wide receivers.

Buffalo (at K.C.):

A couple of weeks ago, this projected to be an AFL-style shootout, with both teams scoring at least 4 TDs. Now, it's not certain that either team will score even 30 points. Both teams' defenses are playing better. Kansas City allowed more points and yards than anyone during the first seven weeks of the season, but now their defense is showing signs that maybe it will be an above-average unit the rest of the way. In its last two games, Kansas City has held two of the league's best offenses, Oakland and San Francisco, to 10 and 17 points. That's why you see Drew Bledsoe, Travis Henry, Eric Moulds and Peerless Price slotted as "good" fantasy players this week rather than great ones. Certainly the Bills have the potential to put up around 38 points here, but this game might instead turn into something like a 24-20 duel. ... Henry could be Buffalo's key offensive player here. Kansas City, while trying to plug the holes in its league-worst pass defense, may be more willing to give away rushing yards. In four of their last five games, they've given up at least 139 rushing yards, and four of the last six teams they've played have scored at least 2 rushing TDs. The conditions — colder weather and a choppy field — also make running more appealing. ... Jay Riemersma has gone 16 consecutive games without scoring, but it will be tough for that streak to last much longer. Kansas City has allowed plenty of big games to tight ends, and Buffalo's remaining opponents have allowed more touchdowns to tight ends (29) than anyone in the league — that's 50 percent over the league average. Riemersma (questionable) is at less than full health.

Carolina (at T.B.):

The Panthers have only a 50-50 shot to score even one touchdown in this game. Almost nothing they did worked when they played the Bucs three weeks ago. They put up only 130 total yards and three field goals in a 12-9 loss. They don't play as well on the road and Tampa Bay plays much better at home, so this game shouldn't be nearly as close. The Buccaneers defense has allowed a league-low 9 TDs; they haven't allowed any TDs in five of their nine games. ... We don't expect Lamar Smith to do much here, but we can't write him off entirely. He managed to bang out 82 yards on 22 carries in the earlier meeting against Tampa Bay, even though the Bucs knew he was essentially Carolina's only offensive weapon (with Rodney Peete and Chris Weinke hurt, Randy

Fasani made his first NFL start in that game). The Bucs have fallen off against the run during the last month. They ranked No. 2 against the run after the first six weeks of the season (at 78 yards per game), but they've given up 159, 110 and 173 rushing yards, plus 4 rushing TDs, in their last three. Apparently the loss of defensive tackle Booger McFarland has hurt the defense, or perhaps opponents have found a weakness in their scheme. Smith ran for 80 yards on 17 carries Sunday against a good New Orleans defense, but 59 of those yards came on one carry. ... Peete won't do much against Tampa Bay's secondary. The Bucs rank No. 1 against the pass and have allowed only 3 TD passes. Every other team has allowed at least 7. Peete passed for 310 yards and 2 TDs against New Orleans, but the Saints have one of the league's worst pass defenses.

Chicago (at St.L.):

Chris Chandler starts in place of Jim Miller (elbow tendinitis), and that's bad news for the Bears. Their offense went nowhere with Chandler at the controls in games against the hopeless Lions and Vikings (who're both in the bottom 4 in scoring defense). Now Chandler has to take on one of the league's better defenses. The Rams have allowed only 4 offensive touchdowns in their last four games. ... Anthony Thomas ran for 99 yards against New England, his 2nd-best total of the season. He probably won't have much room here, though. The Rams are allowing only 76 rushing yards per game in the last five weeks, 2nd-best in the league. ... If you can trade away Marty Booker for anything of value, do so. The Bears had some success passing early in the year (Miller tossed 10 TDs in his first five games) but that run appears to be over. Booker certainly isn't the same guy with Chandler at quarterback. And Chicago's remaining schedule is tough; their remaining seven opponents have allowed only 68 TD passes, 3rd-fewest in the league. ... Dez White hasn't been effective this year. He's averaging only 40 yards per game and has caught only 2 of the team's 14 TD passes. We're assigning him a higher grade than usual this week because he had a big game at St. Louis in the preseason. The Bears wanted to gauge whether he could be a starter, so they featured him in that game. White caught 5 passes for 69 yards and a touchdown, with all of that production coming with the first unit in the first half. ... The Bears placed David Terrell (foot) on IR, so Marcus Robinson is the clear No. 3 receiver at this point. Robinson may replace White at some point. ... The Bears released Fred Baxter, clearing the way for John Davis to start the rest of the year. Davis is a better receiver than Baxter; he scored in the first two of his five starts.

Cincinnati (vs. Clev.):

Corey Dillon is never shut down in a close game. He's at his best when the Bengals are competitive. He posts poor numbers only when the team falls way behind and is forced to abandon the run. Look at what he's done in the last four years. In 15 wins, he averages 139 rushing yards and has scored 17 TDs. In 39 losses, he's averaged only 66 rushing yards, with only 13 TDs. Big difference. The Bengals should be competitive in this game, so we're penciling in Dillon for a big day. Cleveland ranks

only 28th in rushing defense, and Dillon rushed for 108 yards against them in week 2. Dillon has a history of huge games against the Browns, going over 135 yards four times since the expansion Browns joined the league in 1999. He went for 140 and a touchdown to league Cincinnati to a 24-14 win in Cleveland's last visit to Paul Brown Stadium. ... Jon Kitna has pumped life into an offense that scored only 1 TD in September. In Kitna's five starts, the Bengals have scored at least 2 TDs in all but one game. And he's thrown at least 2 TDs in three straight starts. He could be worth a fill-in start here; the Browns have allowed at least 2 TD passes in four of their last five games and they'll probably use a lot of single coverage while they try to stuff Dillon. ... Chad Johnson is emerging as a pretty good receiver. Since Kitna moved into the starting lineup, Johnson averages 76 receiving yards per game, 16th-best in the league. He's also scored in back-to-back games. He's pretty big and has the speed to get downfield. Peter Warrick also has scored two games in a row, but Warrick is being used only as a slot receiver in formations with three or more receivers. Johnson and Michael Westbrook played a lot more than Warrick at Baltimore; they were on the field for all of the two-receiver sets.

Cleveland (at Cin.):

Somebody wake up Kevin Johnson. The Browns are playing the Bengals. He's gone over 100 yards four times against them in the past three years. He's gone over 100 yards in only one of his other 52 starts as a pro. Johnson also has scored in three straight games against Cincinnati, including once in a 20-7 win in week 2 — his only touchdown this season. Johnson is having an off year because in the Browns' new system, the quarterbacks are sending more passes to talented backups like Dennis Northcutt and Andre Davis. Johnson and Tim Couch, however, know they can carve up this secondary (Johnson went for 266 yards and 2 TDs against them last year), so perhaps he'll be a bigger part of the game plan this week. Cincinnati's secondary, as usual, is lousy. Only four teams have allowed more TD passes. ... Jamel White (separated shoulder) will miss a week or two. That gives William Green a chance to work his way back into a prominent role. Butch Davis identified fixing the team's league-worst running game as his No. 1 goal during the team's bye week and says Green will be more involved during the final seven weeks of the season. So far Green is averaging only 18 yards per game and 2.3 yards per carry. "I believe William Green will start for this team in the playoffs," Davis says. "He's too big, too smart and too fast. We've got to give the kid a chance." We're not buying; we think Green will go down as another Ron Dayne or Thomas Jones: a first-round bust. Even against a Cincinnati defense ranked 29th against the run, we're not confident Green will exceed 40 yards. He carried 17 times for 36 yards against the Bengals in week 2. The Browns haven't run in any of their four meetings against Cincinnati the last two years. ... Davis appears to have his heart set on trying to establish a running game. That could translate into poor numbers for Tim Couch. Couch has thrown 5 TDs in three starts against the Bengals the last two years.

Dallas (at Ind.):

The Colts have a below-average defense, but it's risky banking on the Cowboys having much offensive success against anyone. Dallas is averaging a league-low 12.8 points per game. Chad Hutchinson, after playing baseball for five years, isn't ready to start, and the Cowboys' running game is only average. ... Bruce Coslet will call lots of runs this week. The Colts rank next-to-last in rushing defense, and the Cowboys are better at running (17th) than passing (29th). We're not counting on a good game from Emmitt Smith, however. Dave Campo says he wants to increase Troy Hambrick's workload during the second half of the season, and the Cowboys inserted Hambrick for all of their short-yardage plays in their last game — including a TD run at the goal-line. Also, Indianapolis' beleaguered defense comes off its best game of the season; it shut down the Eagles Sunday at the Vet. ... Joey Galloway is on pace to finish with 80 catches and 1,110 yards, but he was far more effective when Quincy Carter was at quarterback. Carter averaged 209 passing yards per game, with 8 TDs in seven starts. Hutchinson is averaging 33 fewer yards per game, with only 1 TD in his two games. The Colts rank 3rd in pass defense and have allowed 11 TD passes in 9 games. ... Dallas' remaining seven opponents have allowed a league-low 65 TD passes.

Denver (at Sea.):

Clinton Portis will run for at least 100 yards and a touchdown. The question is whether he can go for about 170 yards and 2-3 TDs. The Seahawks rank last in rushing defense and have lost two more linebackers in the last two weeks — they'll be without all three of their opening day starters, including their best two defensive players (Chad Brown and Anthony Simmons). Even when at full strength, the Seattle defense always has struggled against the scheme of their former AFC West rivals. The Broncos have had a 100-yard rusher in eight of the last 10 games in their series. In five of the last eight, they've had a rusher go over 130 yards. Denver was embarrassed on Monday night by the Raiders. That may be a good thing. Mike Shanahan has been effective in recent years at getting his team to bounce back after disappointing losses. The Broncos blew away San Diego in week 5, for example, after getting upset in a Monday night game at Baltimore. ... The Broncos say Shannon Sharpe (dislocated elbow) will miss 2-4 weeks. That will mean more catches for Rod Smith and Ed McCaffrey and an expanded role for first-rounder Ashley Lelie. Lelie caught a season-high 8 passes against Oakland. And fill-in tight end Dwayne Carswell could be a top 5 guy at that position until Sharpe returns. He'll probably average about 40 receiving yards per game, and he's a good play-action target in the red zone because he's a much better blocker than Sharpe. The Broncos have thrown 7 TDs to tight ends in their last eight games against the Seahawks. ... Brian Griese was more responsible than anyone for the blowout loss to the Raiders. With the team on the verge of taking a 7-3 lead late in the first quarter, he threw a dumb interception that was returned for a touchdown. If Griese has a bad game, Shanahan could start thinking about replacing him with Steve Beuerlein. ... The Broncos traditionally blow away the Seahawks at Mile High but struggle at Seattle. In their last four

trips there, the Broncos have lost twice (including last year) and won two close games. In the Broncos' last six games against Seattle, they've finished with 2 TD passes five times and 1 TD pass once. ... Rod Smith and Ed McCaffrey historically have posted slightly better than average numbers against the Seahawks. Smith has scored in five of his last eight starts against them, including three of his last four starts in Seattle.

Detroit (vs. NYJ):

James Stewart ran for 122 yards last week and gets a shot at a New York defense that ranks 3rd-worst against the run. And the Lions are a lot better at home, where they've had a chance to win in the fourth quarter of all but one of their last 11 games. But hold on. The Jets are a lot better now than they were earlier in the season, when they allowed four runners to go over 140 yards in the first five weeks of the season. The Jets revised their scheme during their bye week, and the changes seem to be working. In their last four games, the Jets have allowed a league-low 71 rushing yards per game. So let's call this only an average game for Stewart, who's averaging 84 rushing and 26 receiving yards in his eight starts, with 4 TDs. Instead, the Lions may unleash Joey Harrington against a below-average secondary. Harrington has thrown 8 TDs in his seven starts. ... Bill Schroeder will be on the bench Sunday. He dropped all three passes thrown his way against Green Bay, including one that wound up being returned for a touchdown. Germane Crowell will take his place. Working his way back from double knee surgery, Crowell isn't in top condition. ... Az-Zahir Hakim has been up-and-down this season. In his last six games, he's been held under 33 receiving yards three times. He's finished with 98, 70 and 143 yards in his other three games. Including a punt return, Hakim has scored 4 touchdowns in the seven games Harrington has started. ... Tight end Mikhael Ricks is playing only part-time — he's not a good enough blocker to play full-time. ... The Lions also added Jacquez Green Wednesday; he's a poor man's version of Hakim — a fast, little guy with suspect hands and toughness.

Green Bay (at Minn.):

Terry Glenn has been a disappointment this year. He'll probably have a good game here, though. He gets a shot at one of the league's worst secondaries, and Glenn, because of his speed and style of play, has always been more effective on artificial turf. In six games on grass, Glenn has caught only 13 passes for 217 yards. In his three games on turf, he's caught 21 passes for 290 yards and his only touchdown. Last week Glenn played his best grass game of the season, catching 3-for-82 and coming within inches of scoring a touchdown. ... Brett Favre doesn't play nearly as well in domes. He's 9-18 all-time indoors, with only 1.5 TD passes per game. On grass he's 101-37 and throws 1.9 TD passes per game. He's also only 2-8 lifetime in the Metrodome, including a shocking 35-13 loss last year to a Minnesota team that was almost as bad as this year's. We're ignoring those trends this time, however. The Vikings have a crummy pass defense, and Favre is in a zone right now. He's thrown at least 2 TDs in all but one of his complete games. And Favre has started to reverse that dome trend in recent

years, throwing at least 2 TDs in his last seven dome games. ... Ahman Green left Sunday's game with a mild concussion, but he's practicing and is fine. Green, like Glenn, has breakout speed that's enhanced on turf. In his two starts at Minnesota, he's gone 25-for-161 and a TD and 11-for-73. This Minnesota defense is much better against the run (10th) than pass (31st), so Green might not play a huge role in this one. We're leaving him near his usual spot, however, because three backs (Lamar Smith, Shaun Alexander and Tiki Barber) have huge games against the Vikings.

Houston (vs. Jac.):

Corey Bradford got everyone's attention when he had a bunch of long catches in September. He's being double-teamed now, so David Carr is looking in other directions. During the first six games of the season, Bradford caught 20 passes and 5 TDs, averaging 71 yards per game. In his last three games, he's caught 9 passes for only 91 yards, with no touchdowns. Bradford accounted for 61 percent of the Texans' receiving yards in their first five games. In the last three weeks, he's accounted for only 18 percent of the receiving yards. Bradford faces a team here that gave him extensive attention in week 8, limiting him to 1 catch for only 16 yards. ... When these teams met three weeks ago, Houston won 21-19 at Alltel Stadium. The Texans, however, didn't have much offensive success in that game. Jonathan Wells ran for only 27 yards on 17 carries, so he was benched for most of the second half. James Allen — who's smaller and quicker — was more effective, gaining 40 yards on 10 carries. Carr passed for 184 yards, including a fourth quarter touchdown to tight end Billy Miller, who was the leading receiver with 3 catches for 78 yards.

Indianapolis (vs. Dall.):

Reggie Wayne appears to be ready to pass Qadry Ismail and become the No. 2 target in the passing attack. Two weeks ago, he caught 5 passes for a career-high 93 yards against Tennessee. Then last week, he caught 6 passes for 121 yards and a touchdown against the Eagles. He's been lining up in the slot in three receiver formations — the team believes that with his size and toughness (and below-average speed), Wayne is best suited to work the middle of the field. Tony Dungy says Ismail (questionable) will probably miss at least a week after spraining a knee at Philadelphia. Ismail hasn't scored since week 3 and hasn't had more than 30 receiving yards in any of his last four games. ... Edgerrin James (hamstring/ribs) practiced Wednesday and should return to his usual role Sunday. The Colts now have option, however, of either holding him out an additional week or having him play only part time. Officially, he's listed as questionable. They liked the way James Mungro ran through a good Philadelphia defense for 114 yards and 2 TDs. GM Bill Polian concedes his original plan was to use James — who underwent major knee surgery last year — only part-time until the second half of this season. Then Dominic Rhodes got hurt, forcing the Colts to use James more than they wanted. Now they seem to have found an adequate insurance policy in Mungro. The team also has free agent rookie Ricky Williams, who was ahead of Mungro on the depth chart until straining a hamstring prior to week 9's games. Mungro

didn't practice Thursday, but Dungy says he's fine. ... The Colts are at their worst when they're playing good teams — particularly on the road. They can fall behind, and then none of Peyton Manning's play-action stuff works and he starts forcing things and throwing interceptions. None of that applies here. The Cowboys have an above-average defense (11th against the run, 12th against the pass) but their offense ranks last in scoring. And Dallas doesn't have any cornerbacks who can handle Marvin Harrison.

Jacksonville (at Hou.):

Fred Taylor is in a funk. He hasn't played well in five of his last six games. In the first three weeks of the season, Taylor averaged 5.2 yards per carry and 113 yards per game. But other than one big game at Baltimore — 151 yards — Taylor since then is averaging only 56 yards per game and 2.8 yards per carry. Considering he's running behind a below-average line, Taylor might be freelancing too much. By simply hitting holes hard and taking what's there, Stacey Mack has outplayed Taylor three weeks in a row, picking up 148 yards on 22 carries — that's 6.7 yards per attempt. Tom Coughlin says he'll consider using Mack a little more but likes the team's current arrangement. Mack is a better inside banger than Taylor, so he'll continue to carry in goal-line situations. Normally you lick your chops at the chance to start a running back against an expansion defense, but the Texans are an exception. Only one running back — Travis Henry — has had a big game against them. Three weeks ago, Taylor gained only 84 yards on 25 carries against them, with Mack stepping in to score the team's only rushing touchdown. ... Jimmy Smith doesn't look like the same Jimmy Smith this year. He's lost some speed and isn't beating double teams as easily. He still could finish the season strong, however. Jacksonville's remaining opponents have allowed 65 TD passes to wide receivers, 2nd-most in the league. Smith caught 4 passes for 80 yards and a touchdown when these teams met three weeks ago. Mark Brunell wasn't sharp in that game, hitting on only 16 of 34 passes. ... Bobby Shaw (toe) didn't practice Wednesday but is expected to return to practice today.

Kansas City (vs. Buff.):

Kansas City is averaging 30 points per game. Buffalo is allowing a league-high 30 points per game. You do the math. We'll toss out only one caveat: Kansas City has played two of its worst offensive games the last two weeks, putting up only 20 and 13 points against the Raiders and 49ers, while the Bills defense have played two of its best games recently, shutting down the Dolphins (10 points) and Lions (17). Neither of those teams, however, have offenses as good as Kansas City's. ... Tony Gonzalez has been in a slump recently. In his last five games, he's scored only once and has been held under 25 receiving yards three times. The crystal ball, however, sees a bounce-back game here. The Bills have allowed a touchdown pass to a tight end in two thirds of their games. ... Priest Holmes keeps scoring every week, but he's definitely getting the star treatment from opposing defenses — they're targeting him. He's been held under 4 yards per carry in four of his last six games, and he had particularly tough games against the Dolphins (52 yards), Chargers (63) and 49ers (51). Holmes is

beginning a soft portion of the schedule, with games against the Bills, Cardinals and Seahawks, but then he faces a murderer's row of run defenses down the stretch — St. Louis, Denver, San Diego and Oakland. ... The Bills have allowed 19 TD passes — more than everyone except the Titans — but we're still not excited about Johnnie Morton or Eddie Kennison. Morton is probably one of the league's top 30 receivers, but he's just not getting it done. He hasn't even caught a pass in three of his last four games. Kennison caught 8 passes for 134 yards at San Francisco, but he's not a reliable receiver. Kennison didn't have more than 45 yards in any of his previous four games. The team replaces these guys with Marc Boerigter in one-receiver formations. That's part of the problem. They also involve Gonzalez and Holmes in the passing attack, and they're more of a running team any way.

Miami (vs. Balt.):

Ray Lewis and Chris McAlister might return this week. That's bad news for Miami's struggling offense. The Dolphins have scored only 10 points in each of Ray Lucas' three starts, and they're unlikely to put up more than 17 here if Baltimore's defense is at full strength. Before the injuries started to take their toll, the Ravens played extremely tough defense in each of their first five games. They shut down the Panthers, Bucs, Broncos, Browns and Colts. And the Ravens held Miami to 3 points in a playoff game last year — the Dolphins had no success either running or passing. ... Ricky Williams has been held under 55 yards in three of his last four starts, and he could go under 70 yards here in what projects to be a low-scoring duel. The Ravens have an active front seven and will try to force Lucas to beat them. ... Jay Fiedler (thumb) is expected to return in week 14. Miami's remaining seven games are against defenses that have allowed a league-high 111 TD passes, so Fiedler could give a nice push to fantasy teams in the final weeks of the season. ... Cris Carter (kidney) will miss at least one more game and could miss the rest of the season. James McKnight takes his spot. ... Randy McMichael is a talented tight end, but it's probably best to mothball him until Fiedler returns. McMichael averaged 49 yards per game, with 3 TDs, in Fiedler's six starts. With Lucas at quarterback, McMichael has caught only 4 passes for 30 yards the last two weeks.

Minnesota (vs. G.B.):

If you've got Randy Moss on your team, your best hope is that Mike Tice benches Daunte Culpepper again — and the sooner the better. Todd Bouman replaced Culpepper in the fourth quarter against the Giants, and Moss immediately came to life. He caught only 1 pass for 5 yards with Culpepper at quarterback. After Bouman took over, Moss almost immediately got downfield for 48- and 32-yard receptions. Moss has been working hard and keeping his mouth shut ever since that parking lot incident that caused him to spend a night in jail. He still might be the best receiver in the league. It's clearly Culpepper's fault that Moss isn't producing. And when Bouman takes over — which should happen any time now — Moss will start cranking out touchdowns and 100-yard games. When Bouman took over for three games last year, Moss had at least 7 catches,

144 yards and a touchdown in every game. Culpepper has tremendous skills, but he apparently needs an offseason to sort out his problems. His contract runs through 2003; at this point it looks the team will allow him to play out that deal without offering an extension. Moss had at least 130 receiving yards in five of his first six games against Green Bay, with 7 TDs, but he didn't do anything against them last year, finishing with 10 catches for 83 yards and no TDs in two games. ... On paper, this will be a Packers blowout. Top to bottom, they're a lot better than the Vikings. Green Bay, however, has a history of playing poorly in domes, while the Vikings are significantly better at home. Minnesota is 0-12 on the road the last two years (only three of those games were even close) but they're 7-6 at home during the same span, and they were competitive in all but one of those games. The Vikings played arguably their best game of last season when they blew away a 4-1 Packers team 35-13. ... The Vikings will emphasize the run. They rank 2nd in the league in rushing at 152 yards per game (Michael Bennett has gone over 100 yards three weeks in a row), while Green Bay ranks only 23rd in rushing defense has a banged up defensive line. In addition, using the run will keep the pressure off Culpepper. Bennett, who's from Milwaukee, ran for 104 yards in his only start against Green Bay last year. ... Goal-line specialist Moe Williams has scored in six straight games. ... Byron Chamberlain has only 74 receiving yards in his last four games.

New England (at Oak.):

The Patriots want to bring more balance to their offense, but this definitely projects to be a passing game. New England ranks 4th in passing and only 22nd in rushing; they've scored 21 of their 26 TDs through the air. The Raiders, meanwhile, are much better against the run (9th) than pass (27th). So look for Tom Brady to let it rip. He went 32 of 52 for 312 in a snowstorm when the Patriots beat Oakland 16-13 in the playoffs last year. ... The Patriots could use their tight ends a whole bunch in this game. Jermaine Wiggins led the team with 10 catches when these teams met in the playoffs last year. Against Chicago, Christian Fauria and Cam Cleeland played a lot more than Daniel Graham. Graham has terrific ability but is still learning about blocking and route adjustments. The first-rounder probably will be used only in spots this season — throw him a few passes and see if he can make some big plays. Fauria looks far more likely to catch a touchdown because the team uses him on play-action flips around the goal-line (he's caught 4 TDs). ... Troy Brown has been quiet since injuring his knee in week 3, but now he's clearly back to full strength. He caught 11 passes for 90 yards against the Bears. Brown caught only 4 passes for 33 yards in the playoff win over Oakland last year, so perhaps the Raiders will shut him down by assigning Charles Woodson to watch him full-time. David Patten was New England's top wide receiver in the previous meeting, catching 8 for 107. ... Deion Branch has the speed and moves to score from anywhere on the field, but he's not getting the looks he got earlier in the year. He's caught only 1 pass for 9 yards in the last three games. He's playing a lot. He's just not getting the ball. ... Kevin Faulk has caught 3 TDs in the

last two games, and maybe we haven't seen the last of him. New England's remaining opponents have allowed a league-high 25 TD passes to running backs.

New Orleans (at Atl.):

The Falcons might have a good feel for how to play Aaron Brooks. He had a lousy game against them last year, when Atlanta won 20-13 at the Superdome. And he had his worst game of the season against them in week 8, throwing 2 TDs but completing only 16 of 35, with 2 interceptions, in a 37-35 loss. Atlanta threw a lot of blitzes at him and likely will do the same here. New Orleans managed to score four touchdowns anyway because Deuce McAllister had a huge game, rushing for 115 yards and scoring 3 TDs. It's difficult, however, to move Brooks too far down any list because he keeps producing. Brooks played poorly for most of Sunday's game at Carolina but still finished with 257 yards and a touchdown. And he has several weapons at his disposal; Joe Horn is a potential Pro Bowler, and emerging first-rounder Donte Stallworth is a threat to score every time he touches the football. And Atlanta's defense — while it's shown flashes of potential this year — has played three above-average offenses this year and allowed four touchdowns every time. Brooks has thrown 0, 1, 1 and 2 TDs in his four starts against the Falcons. ... Horn has played pretty well in Brooks' four starts against Atlanta, putting up (in order) 116, 74, 138 and 61 yards, plus 2 TDs and a 52-yard catch down to the 2. ... The Saints probably will build their game plan around McAllister this week. They don't want to put Brooks under too much pressure against this defense. The Falcons rank 26th against the run and have allowed at least 150 rushing yards three weeks in a row, but a lot of those yards have come on reverses and big plays. Jamal Lewis (12 for 36) and Amos Zereoue (37 for 123 in five quarters) had to work hard for every yard against them the last two weeks. The Falcons did a reasonable job against McAllister in week 8, but he broke a few longer runs and finished with 115 yards on 17 carries. Longer runs, of course, are part of the game — McAllister has had a 20-plus yard run in six straight games. ... Stallworth is as fast as anyone in the league. He's scored in all 5 of the games he's seen significant action in. In the next week or two, he'll probably move ahead of Jerome Pathon into the starting lineup. It doesn't really matter; the team uses three receivers most of the time anyway.

N.Y. Giants (vs. Wash.):

The Giants are running out of receivers. Ron Dixon could miss two games, and Ike Hilliard and Tim Carter are for the year. So free agents Herman Moore and Tony Simmons, signed Wednesday, will play a lot immediately. Regardless of who lines up at wide receiver, the three principals of the passing attack will be Jeremy Shockey (hobbled by a turf toe injury), Amani Toomer and Tiki Barber. With essentially no other reliable targets, each of those guys should catch at least 5 passes in every game. ... Washington won the last meeting between these two NFC East rivals 35-21. In the previous four games, however, these two teams' offenses combined to score only 7 TDs. That's the kind of low-scoring struggle we could see on Sunday. Both teams have good defenses and struggling

offenses. ... Washington's defense ranks 16th against the run and 10th against the pass, and it's been much better in the last month as its players adjust to coordinator Marvin Lewis' scheme. Washington shut down Edgerrin James and Shaun Alexander, and they did a terrific job against Fred Taylor for most of last week's game. So don't look for a big game from Tiki Barber against this bunch. As both a runner and involved receiver, however, Barber should finish with around 100 total yards. In three starts against Washington the last two years, Barber hasn't scored but has put up 106, 108 and 88 combined yards. ... Ron Dayne has been playing more since Jim Fassel took over the play calling but definitely won't be a factor against this defensive front. Against a lesser Washington defense, Dayne gained only 58 yards on 24 carries last year. ... Washington has some of the league's top cornerbacks, but they also use a lot of man coverage, giving Toomer the chance to make some plays. He was good against them last year, catching 16 passes for 206 yards and a touchdown in the two games. ... Injuries have hurt Shockey's effectiveness. He's been held under 25 receiving yards in three of his last four games. It probably won't be until next year that he starts putting up the big numbers he's capable of. ... Kerry Collins has thrown 1, 0, 1 and 3 TDs in his four starts against Washington the last two years. ... The Giants had all kinds of problems with their snaps and holds on kicks last week. Presumably, they'll iron out those problems before Sunday and Matt Bryant will be fine.

N.Y. Jets (at Det.):

We were off the Chad Pennington bandwagon a few weeks back, now we're hopping back on. The Jets are going to face a lot of good teams down the stretch — Raiders, Broncos, Bills, Patriots, Packers — but none of them have good pass defenses. New York's remaining seven opponents have allowed 111 TD passes, most in the league. So perhaps this Pennington guy, who's completing 70 percent of his passes, can be a top 5 quarterback the rest of the way. Certainly he'll have a good game here. The Lions have a Swiss cheese secondary. They've given up at least 269 passing yards (and an average of 2 TDs) to each of the five good quarterbacks they've faced. ... Santana Moss is the best punt returner in the league right now, and quick guys like him often are harder to tackle on artificial turf. So he's a candidate to score a long touchdown. Ditto for wide receiver Laveranues Coles, who might be even faster. ... Curtis Martin is struggling. He's averaging only 51 yards per game and 3.7 yards per carry. Even when the team has played well in its last four games under Pennington, Martin has averaged only 62 yards per game. He could break out of his slump, however, at any time. New York's remaining opponents have allowed a league-high 68 rushing TDs — that's a good indicator, isn't it? And Pennington is playing well, so Martin shouldn't see many eight-man fronts. This week Martin faces a Lions defense that surprisingly ranks 6th-best in rushing defense over the last nine weeks at 97 yards per game. That's either a statistical aberration, or defensive coordinator Kurt Schottenheimer is doing a hell of a job with a hodgepodge collection of mediocre players. We're not sure which.

Oakland (vs. N.E.):

Let's put Charlie Garner down as the bounceback player of the week. He carried 5 times for only 2 yards against Denver's top-ranked run defense as the Raiders emphasized the pass. Oakland could do the opposite this week — the Patriots rank 2nd against the pass but 27th against the run. Garner could run for about 120 yards. In six of their past seven games, the Patriots have allowed a running back to run for 99-plus yards. Priest Holmes (180 yards, 3 TDs), LaDainian Tomlinson (217, 2), Ricky Williams (105), Ahman Green (136, 2), Clinton Portis (111, 2) and Anthony Thomas (99, 1). Garner should be that guy this week. And Zack Crockett could get in on the fun as well. Crockett has scored only 1 TD all season, but he's the guy the Raiders use in short-yardage situations. If the ball winds up on the 1-yard line, chances are Crockett will punch it in. ... Ty Law has shut down a lot of good receivers this year — Plaxico Burress, Eric Moulds and Marty Booker. Opposing No. 2 receivers, in fact, have been more productive this year against New England than their go-to guys. Jerry Rice is clearly Rich Gannon's favorite receiver — Rice has outperformed Tim Brown in six of the last seven games — so perhaps the Patriots will try to take him out of the game with Law. Brown, in a more favorable matchup (against Otis Smith) may be the lead receiver this week. And Jerry Porter can't be ignored. In his last eight games, Porter averages 63 receiving yards and has scored a team-high 6 TDs. Rice has 5 TDs and Brown 2. Porter's best game of the season (7-for-117) came against a team (Buffalo) with a pair of good cornerbacks, making the matchup of Porter against a nickel back more favorable. ... The Raiders are using rookie tight end Doug Jolley more and more. He's a better receiver than Roland Williams.

Philadelphia (vs. Ariz.):

The Eagles have scored only five touchdowns in their last four games. That's quite a slump for a team that ranked No. 2 in scoring after week 6 at 33 points per game. Maybe they can get back on track here. They're looking to re-establish themselves after showing up flat against the Colts, and Arizona's defense is one of the lesser units in the league. The Eagles should be able to both run and pass effectively, and chances are they'll coast to something like a 30-10 win. They've buried Arizona in three of four meetings the last two years. ... The Eagles might run the ball more than usual here. In 2000, they had two of their best running games of the season against Arizona. And Correll Buckhalter ran for 134 yards in one of the two games against the Cardinals last year. This season, the Eagles rank 1st in rushing at 153 yards per game (their running backs are actually only average, but Donovan McNabb is averaging 51 yards per game). ... McNabb has put up exactly 2 combined TDs in each of his five career starts against Arizona. ... James Thrash has caught only 12 passes for 114 yards, with no TDs, in his last four starts. He's not a big-time receiver. The Eagles might look to add a receiver in the offseason and move Thrash into a complementary role. Thrash at this point looks only nominally better than the team's other two mediocre receivers, Todd Pinkston and backup Antonio Freeman. One of these guys should step

up here against one of the league's lesser secondaries. Both Pinkston and Thrash had one 2-TD game and one dud game against Arizona last year. ... Chad Lewis has caught at least 4 passes in all four games against Arizona the last two years. He scored in only one of those games, however. ... McNabb (probable) is a little gimpy after having his ankle and knee twisted late in the Colts game. He may look to run less this week.

Pittsburgh (at Tenn.):

All six of the touchdowns the Steelers have scored the last two weeks have come through the air. Look for that streak to continue here. The Titans are much better against the run than pass. They've allowed a league-high 20 passing but only 4 rushing TDs. And they have a history of success against the Steelers. In these teams' 10 meetings the last five years, Jerome Bettis has been held under 100 yards every time, averaging only 55 yards per game and 3.4 yards per carry. He's gone over 100 yards in almost half (31 of 66) of his games against all other teams during the same span. With Bettis (questionable) still rehabbing a sprained knee, the Steelers will start Zereoue again and probably use Bettis only part time. When Bettis returns to 100 percent, he'll likely start, with Zereoue moving back into a part-time role. Zereoue has run for over 110 yards in back-to-back games, but he hasn't played all that well. He's getting stopped at the line of scrimmage far too often. Against an Atlanta defense ranked just 22nd against the run, Zereoue averaged only 3.3 yards per carry. The long-term prognosis for either of these backs isn't good; they'll share time and the Steelers have a tough closing schedule. Pittsburgh's remaining opponents have allowed a total of 47 rushing TDs, 3rd-fewest in the league. ... So instead, look for the Steelers to go after the league's 23rd-ranked pass defense. Tommy Maddox has thrown at least 2 TDs in five of his six starts and comes off a career-high 473 yards and 4 TDs. He faces a secondary that's allowed at least 2 TDs in all but two games — when it faced rookie quarterbacks David Garrard and David Carr. ... Plaxico Burress comes off a career-best 9 catches for 253 yards and 2 TDs, and he killed the Titans last year, catching 14 passes for 265 yards and a TD in 34-7 and 34-24 Pittsburgh wins. ... Hines Ward has scored in six of nine games (8 TDs) and also comes off a huge game — 11-for-139 against the Falcons. Ward caught 9 passes for 119 yards and 1 TD in the two games against Tennessee last year.

St. Louis (vs. Chi.):

There's probably a 60 percent chance Marshall Faulk (questionable) will play. Mike Martz isn't ruling him out, and Faulk has been a quick healer in the past. He returned two weeks after an arthroscopic knee surgery two years ago. This time Faulk has a sprained right ankle and a strained plantar fascia muscle in his left foot. Faulk showed surprising improvement Wednesday, and Martz says he'll let Faulk decide whether he'll play. "I have complete trust in his judgment," Martz says. Martz says if Faulk can't play, Lamar Gordon will replace him, with Trung Canidate perhaps also seeing some action. Gordon has been the backup tailback in five of the last six games and ran hard against the Chargers. ... Martz says Kurt Warner (pinkie)

will return to the starting lineup in week 12. Warner projects to face tough defenses in his first two weeks back (Washington and Philadelphia), but then would get a shot at three creampuffs in a row (Kansas City, Arizona and Seattle). ... Marc Bulger put up huge numbers last week — 453 yards and 4 TDs — primarily because the Rams couldn't run against San Diego's tough defensive front. That probably won't happen this week. Chicago ranks only 20th in rushing defense and should have problems with the Rams' running game, even if Faulk is out. ... Isaac Bruce caught 3 TDs last week, but that's probably not the beginning of a hot streak. Bruce doesn't look like the same player he was earlier in his career. He scored in only 5 of 19 games last year.

San Diego (vs. S.F.):

LaDainian Tomlinson is at his worst when the Chargers fall behind and are forced to abandon the run. That's a concern here against the 7-2 49ers. San Francisco has an above-average defense and an offense that can score points in a hurry. Tomlinson's three worst games of the year have come in the losses to the Broncos (48 yards) and Jets (60 yards), and the game against Kansas City (78 yards), when the Chargers were behind for most of the game. He averages 130 yards in the other six games, including the fall-from-ahead loss to the Rams Sunday. Tomlinson has run for at least 84 yards in each of those games. ... Curtis Conway is San Diego's undisputed go-to receiver, but we're cool on him this week. What defense has allowed fewer TD passes to wide receivers than the 49ers? Only the Bucs. ... Tim Dwight is now both playing wide receiver and returning punts (the team released Tamarick Vanover). Dwight scores a couple of long touchdowns every season, and it could still happen for him this year. ... Drew Brees has put up his best numbers when the Chargers have fallen behind and played catch-up. That's a possibility this week. The Chargers won't win this game by simply handing off to Tomlinson and letting him run for about 100 yards and 2 TDs. ... Tight end Stephen Alexander has essentially no fantasy value. He hasn't scored in any of his seven games, and he's gone over 12 receiving yards only twice.

San Francisco (at S.D.):

This is a game for Jeff Garcia and Terrell Owens. The Chargers have a terrific run defense and a lousy secondary. They'll likely shut down Garrison Hearst and Kevan Barlow — then watch Garcia throw for about 300 yards and 3 TDs. Only one team has allowed fewer rushing yards than the Chargers, but only two teams have allowed more yards through the air. They've allowed 17 passing versus only 4 rushing touchdowns. In a similar matchup two years ago, Garcia threw for 323 yards and 2 TDs to direct a 45-17 blowout of the Chargers. Owens played but didn't start that game because of a turf toe injury. ... Steve Mariucci says he expects Tai Streets to remain in the starting lineup all year. Mariucci says he'd like to get J.J. Stokes more playing time, but only in three-receiver sets. ... Eric Johnson (back) is expected to miss a fourth straight game. ... Hearst keeps suffering minor injuries — a shoulder stinger last week, and hamstring strains in the previous two weeks. He'll alternate series with Barlow.

Seattle (vs. Den.):

Shaun Alexander is much better at home. In his last 12 games in Seattle, he averages 113 rushing yards and 5.1 yards per carry, with 16 TDs. He cooked Denver for 142 yards and 2 TDs at Husky Stadium last year. But maybe this is a week to sit him down. Alexander hasn't been as effective at home this season — he's been shut down by Arizona and Washington — and Denver ranks No. 1 against the run. Even last year, Denver had some success against him. He scored a 60-yard TD on the first series; otherwise, he gained only 82 yards on 32 carries — that's just 2.6 yards per carry. Then, when the teams met later in the year at Denver, Alexander alternated series with Ricky Watters and gained only 28 yards on 12 carries. Again, fewer than 3 yards per carry. Like Fred Taylor, Alexander is a patient runner who'll ad lib, and that isn't a good match with the team's poor offensive line. Maurice Morris has had carries in three of the last four games, and in each of those games he's averaged at least a yard more per attempt by decisively hitting holes and taking what's there. Morris replaced Alexander for most of the second half at Arizona and banged out 72 yards on 15 carries. Alexander sat out a lot of that game because of a minor shoulder injury. If he doesn't start running more effectively, Alexander might slip into a time-share situation with Morris. ... Koren Robinson has played well in three of his last four starts. He's showing the speed and after-the-catch skills that enticed the Seahawks to select him in the first round. Since Darrell Jackson got hurt, Robinson has caught 15 passes for 196 yards in two games. Jackson, recovering from a serious concussion, is practicing and says he's fine, but the team might hold him out one more week. Jackson was the go-to receiver prior to his injury, but now Robinson may have snatched that role — for good. ... Matt Hasselbeck has played surprisingly well in his three starts. He's completing 69 percent of his passes, with 3 TDs and no interceptions, and averaging 226 yards per game. Both the coaching staff and Hasselbeck, however, are playing it safe — trying to avoid mistakes rather than make plays. He's averaging only 9.1 yards per completion, for example, which is over 2 yards fewer than the league average. Hasselbeck hasn't been effective — either last year or this year — in the red zone or on third downs, so we don't see him making a big fantasy impact this year. The Broncos almost certainly will try to force Hasselbeck to beat them by putting the clamps on Alexander. Hasselbeck completed only 17 of 37, with 2 interceptions and 1 TD, in Seattle's 20-7 loss at Mile High last year. ... Jerramy Stevens returned from an ankle sprain and saw spot duty against Arizona. Within a week or two (maybe this week), Stevens should move ahead of Itula Mili and start at tight end. Mili has filled a security blanket role in Hasselbeck's starts, posting his best three days of the season — 23, 71 and 55 yards, with 1 TD.

Tampa Bay (vs. Car.):

When these teams met three weeks ago, the Bucs won a 12-9 streetfight. Neither offense could do anything. This one won't be as close. The Bucs are much better at home, and the Panthers aren't nearly as good on the road. Tampa Bay's offense has scored 11 touchdowns

in four home games, versus only 5 TDs in five games on the road. Carolina, meanwhile, has allowed only one team (the powerful Saints) to score more than 1 TD at Ericsson Stadium, but they've allowed at least 2 TDs in each of their five games away from home. The Bucs weren't healthy for the earlier game either; they were missing Brad Johnson, Keenan McCardell and two offensive linemen. All of those guys are healthy now, so pencil this one in as something like a 24-6 Tampa Bay win. ... Jon Gruden says he wants to go with more of a committee approach at running back. Aaron Stecker, who's been playing more on passing downs in recent weeks, broke a 59-yard gain on his only carry in the last game. And Gruden says he wants to see what rookie Travis Stephens can do. It seems like Michael Pittman, who's running for only 46 yards per game and 3.5 yards per carry, isn't going to play any more than half time the rest of the way. Mike Alstott will be featured in goal-line situations. Alstott has scored 48 TDs in the 58 games the Bucs have won during his tenure, but we're slightly down on him this week because this game doesn't project to be a walk in the park — Carolina has a good defense.

Tennessee (vs. Pitt.):

There will be 256 regular season games played this year. This one has the most extensive track record. Bill Cowher (1992) and Jeff Fisher (1994) have been with their teams longer than anybody, they use the same systems year after year, and these former AFC Central rivals have been meeting twice a year. The principals of the Tennessee offense — Steve McNair and Eddie George — also have been in place since 1996. The Titans are 7-3 against Pittsburgh the last five years (0-2 last season), but they generally haven't put up good numbers. In 12 starts against the Steelers, George has gone over 100 yards only once and scored only 3 TDs. Not counting his 153-yard game, George averages only 55 yards per game and 2.9 yards per carry against them. McNair averages only 196 passing yards in nine starts against the Steelers, with 10 TD passes, 10 interceptions and 3 TD runs. ... McNair has passed for only 82 and 109 yards the last two weeks. He'll pass for at least 200 here, however. The Steelers are much better against the run (4th) than pass (26th), and they'll keep George under control. McNair has had some success against much better Pittsburgh secondaries in his last two home games against them, throwing for 227 and 334 yards, with 2 TDs. Derrick Mason caught 15 passes for 206 yards and 1 TD in those two games. McNair is officially listed as questionable, but there's no doubt he'll play; numerous times in recent years, he's started despite not practicing all week. ... Frank Wycheck has a history of big games against the Steelers. In six meetings the last three years, he's caught 27 passes and 4 TDs (including one touchdown in each of the games last year). In 51 games against any other team since 1999, Wycheck has scored only 6 TDs. Wycheck left last week's game with a concussion and is listed as questionable, but keep in mind that Fisher doesn't categorize players as probable. Wycheck has been termed questionable many times in the last seven years, and he's never missed a start.

Washington (at NYG):

Other than working over a poor Indianapolis team that couldn't stop the run, Washington's offense has played poorly over the last four weeks. And Washington has faced three good defenses this year and has scored a total of one touchdown in those three games. So matched up here against one of the league's top half dozen defenses, Washington is likely to struggle. ... Stephen Davis (questionable) is practicing and will return after missing two games with a sprained knee. Steve Spurrier says Davis might play only part-time, spelled by Kenny Watson. The team could run more in this game. Spurrier has second-guessed himself for trying to pass too much in the last two weeks, and the Giants have had some problems against the run since losing Keith Hamilton a month ago. In their last three games, the Giants have allowed 295, 126 and 224 rushing yards. Davis ran for 107 yards on 29 carries in his last game against the Giants, but they usually play him tough. In his previous three starts against them, he totaled only 157 yards on 54 carries — that's 2.9 yards per carry. And Davis hasn't scored against them since he had two big games (126 and 183

yards, with 4 TDs) back in 1999. Davis' long-term prognosis isn't good; the team may replace him with Watson in passing situations, and their remaining seven opponents have allowed a league-low 40 rushing TDs. ... Rod Gardner has scored in back-to-back games, but he could be bottled up here. Gardner is a slower, less talented version of Terrell Owens or David Boston, and the Giants shut down both of those guys earlier this year. New York's young cornerbacks, Will Allen and Will Peterson, are doing a terrific job. They shut down Randy Moss for most of last week's game. ... Shane Matthews has played poorly the last two weeks. He could be benched if he doesn't get some points on the scoreboard in the first half. ... Derrius Thompson has a sprained wrist but says he'll play.

ADDITIONAL INJURY INFORMATION:

ARIZONA: WR David Boston (knee, IR) is out for the year. OT John Fina (ankle) is out until week 12-13. WR MarTay Jenkins (broken shoulder, IR) is out for the year. C Mike Gruttadauria (knee) hasn't played since week 9 and is doubtful to return this week. ATLANTA: RB Travis Jervey

(knee, IR) is out for the year. BALTIMORE: Brian Billick says QB Chris Redman (back) is out until at least week 13. BUFFALO: RB Shawn Bryson (knee, IR) is out for the year. CAROLINA: RB DeShaun Foster (knee, IR) is out for the year. KR Michael Bates (ankle, IR) is out for the year. PK John Kasay (sports hernia, IR) is out for the year. CHICAGO: G Rex Tucker (ankle, IR) is out for the year. WR David Terrell (broken foot, IR) is out for the year. C Olin Kreutz (appendectomy) likely is out until week 12. CINCINNATI: OT Richmond Webb (chest, IR) is out for the year. TE Sean Brewer (knee, IR) is out for the year. DALLAS: WR Rocket Ismail (neck, IR) is out for the season. TE Jeff Robinson (knee, IR) is out for the year. OT Larry Allen (bone spurs in ankle) should return in week 11-12; the injury, however, is expected to plague him all year. OT Javier Collins (knee) is likely out for the year. DENVER: C Tom Nalen (knee, IR) is out for the year. DETROIT: OT Kerlin Blaise (knee, IR) is out for the year. RB Lamont Warren (shoulder, IR) is out for the year. KR Desmond Howard (neck, IR) is out for the year. GREEN BAY: RT Mark Tauscher (knee, IR) is out for the year. HOUSTON: LT Tony Boselli (shoulder, IR) is out for the year. G Ryan Schau (foot) is out for the year. OT Ryan Young (groin) did not play in week 10 but should return this week. JACKSONVILLE: OT Maurice Williams (broken leg, IR) is out for the year. OT Zach Wiegert (knee, IR) is out for the year. WR Patrick Johnson (abdomen) should return in week 13-15. KANSAS CITY: WR Sylvester Morris (knee, IR) is out for the year. MIAMI: OT Brent Smith (knee, IR) is out for the year. WR-KR Albert Johnson (knee, IR) is out for the year. QB Jay Fiedler (fractured thumb) should return in week 14. WR Oronde Gadsden (wrist, IR) is out for the year. WR Cris Carter (kidney) is out indefinitely. MINNESOTA: RB Doug Chapman (internal injuries, IR) is out for the year. WR Derrick Alexander (knee, IR) is out for the year. NEW ORLEANS: G Wally Williams (league suspension) is out until week 14. N.Y. GIANTS: OT Jeff Hatch (back, IR) is out for the year. PK Owen Pochman (knee, IR) is out for the year. WR Ike Hilliard (shoulder, IR) is out for the year. WR Tim Carter (Achilles, IR) is out for the year. WR Ron Dixon (knee) is out until at least week 13. C Dusty Zeigler (knee, IR) is out for the year. N.Y. JETS: OG Dave Szott (knee, PUP) hasn't been active all year. OAKLAND: TE Jeremy Brigham (knee, IR) is out for the year. RB Terry Kirby (broken leg, IR) is out for the year. PHILADELPHIA: RB Correll Buckhalter (knee, PUP list) will likely miss the entire season. PITTSBURGH: RB Chris Fuamatu-Ma'afala (torn pectoral muscle) will return in week 11-12. SAN DIEGO: C Cory Raymer (Achilles, IR) is out for the year. OT Vaughn Parker (triceps) is out until at least week 12. SAN FRANCISCO: OT Dave Fiore (knee, IR) is out for the year. RB Terry Jackson (knee, IR) is out for the year. TE Eric Johnson (back) did not play in weeks 8-10 and likely is out until at least week 12. SEATTLE: ROT Chris McIntosh (neck, IR) is out for the year. G Steve Hutchinson (broken leg, IR) is out for the year. QB Trent Dilfer (Achilles, IR) is out for the year. TAMPA BAY: WR Marquise Walker (thumb, IR) is out for the year. TENNESSEE: RB Robert Holcombe (hip) should return in week 11. FB Greg Comella (shoulder) should return in week 11. WASHINGTON: OL Rod Jones (ankle, IR) is out for the year. TE Robert Royal (ankle, IR) is out for the year.

WEEK 11 PREDICTIONS

QUARTERBACKS

Y	B	QB
1	1	GB Favre
2	2	SF Garcia
3	4	BUF Bledsoe
4	5	IND Manning
5	3	PHI McNabb
6	6	STL Bulger
7	7	PIT Maddox
8	8	NE Brady
9	9	OAK Gannon
10	10	NYJ Pennington
11	11	ATL Vick
12	12	NO Brooks
13	13	DEN Griese
14	18	MIN Culpepper
15	14	CLE Couch
16	15	TEN McNair
17	17	KC Green
18	16	CIN Kitna
19	19	TB B.Johnson
20	20	NYG Collins
21	21	JAC Brunell
22	22	BAL Blake
23	23	DET Harrington
24	24	HOU Carr
25	25	WAS Matthews

RUNNING BACKS

Y	B	RB
1	1	KC Holmes
2	2	DEN Portis
3	3	NO McAllister
4	4	GB A.Green
5	5	SD Tomlinson
6	6	STL starter
7	7	CIN Dillon
8	8	BUF Henry
9	9	MIA R.Williams
10	10	NYJ Martin
11	11	SEA Alexander
12	16	OAK Garner
13	12	JAC Taylor
14	18	MIN Bennett
15	15	DET Stewart
16	20	TEN George
17	22	NYG Barber
18	21	PHI Staley
19	13	STL Faulk
20	24	NE A.Smith
21	25	BAL J.Lewis
22	19	TB Alstott
23	14	MIN M.Williams
24	17	JAC Mack
25	26	IND James
26	27	ATL Duckett
27	28	DAL E.Smith
28	29	SF Hearst
29	31	CHI A.Thomas
30	32	WAS S.Davis
31	30	SF Barlow
32	33	CLE W.Green
33	35	CAR L.Smith
34	34	ATL Dunn
35	36	PIT Zereoue
36	37	ARI Shipp
37	38	HOU Wells
38	39	DEN M.Anderson
39	40	PIT Bettis
40	23	OAK Crockett
41	46	WAS Watson
42	44	NE Faulk
43	47	HOU Allen
44	48	ARI T.Jones
45	49	TB Pittman
46	42	DAL Hambrick
47	41	STL Gordon
48	52	PHI Levens
49	53	TB Stecker
50	43	IND Mungro

WIDE RECEIVERS

Y	B	WR
1	1	SF Owens
2	2	IND Harrison
3	3	PIT Burress
4	4	BUF Moulds
5	5	SD Driver
6	6	NO Horn
7	7	BUF Price
8	8	JAC J.Smith
9	10	TEN Mason
10	9	PIT Ward
11	11	MIN Moss
12	12	DEN R.Smith
13	13	GB Glenn
14	14	OAK Rice
15	15	SD Conway
16	16	DEN McCaffrey
17	17	SF Streets
18	19	NYJ Coles
19	20	NE Brown
20	18	NO Stallworth
21	21	NYG Toomer
22	23	STL Holt
23	24	MIA Chambers
24	25	STL Bruce
25	26	NE Patten
26	27	ATL Finneran
27	28	CHI Booker
28	29	TB K.Johnson
29	35	OAK Brown
30	30	IND Wayne
31	22	PHI Thrash
32	31	HOU Bradford
33	36	CIN C.Johnson
34	37	SEA K.Robinson
35	39	BAL T.Taylor
36	32	CLE K.Johnson
37	34	PHI Pinkston
38	38	DET Hakim
39	33	OAK Porter
40	40	CLE Morgan
41	41	NYJ Chrebet
42	42	KC Kennison
43	43	DAL Galloway
44	44	WAS Gardner
45	46	TB McCardell
46	47	TEN Dyson
47	48	JAC Shaw
48	51	ARI F.Sanders
49	52	MIA McKnight
50	49	PHI Freeman

TIGHT ENDS

Y	B	TE
1	1	KC Gonzalez
2	3	BAL Heap
3	2	GB Franks
4	4	IND Pollard
5	6	DEN Carswell
6	5	NYJ Becht
7	7	MIA McMichael
8	9	HOU Miller
9	10	NYG Shockey
10	8	PHI Lewis
11	12	TEN Wychek
12	16	SEA Mili
13	17	ATL Crumpler
14	11	STL Conwell
15	13	JAC Brady
16	15	DET Ricks
17	14	NE Fauria
18	18	NO B.Williams
19	19	BUF Riemersma
20	20	MIN Chamberlain
21	27	ARI F.Jones
22	21	TB Dudley
23	22	NE Graham
24	23	CLE M.Campbell

PLACEKICKERS

Y	B	PK
1	1	PHI Akers
2	2	TB Gramatica
3	3	DEN Elam
4	4	ATL Feely
5	6	GB Longwell
6	KC	Andersen
7	STL	Wilkins
8	IND	Vanderjagt
9	OAK	Janikowski
10	NO	Carney
11	NE	Vinatieri
12	SF	Cortez
13	NYJ	Hall
14	BUF	Hollis
15	TEN	Nedney
16	PIT	Peterson
17	JAC	Seder
18	MIA	Mare
19	MIN	Anderson
20	DET	Hanson
21	CIN	Rackers
22	HOU	Brown
23	CLE	Dawson
24	NYG	Bryant

DEF. & SPEC. TEAMS

Y	B	Def. Team
1	1	Buccaneers
2	2	Eagles
3	3	Dolphins
4	4	Packers
5	6	Rams
6	14	Panthers
7	7	Giants
8	5	Jets
9	8	Steelers
10	9	Washington
11	10	Falcons
12	16	Jaguars

SCORING SYSTEMS

B indicates a players' rating in Basic leagues (6 pts for TD run/catch, 4 for TD throw). **Y** indicates a players' value in Yardage leagues, with an additional point for every 15 combined run/catch yards and 30 yards passing.