

August 2020

## National Football League

*The Game you love and the Heroes you follow*

### Five Years Ago:

- NFL's one-year experiment of **kicking PATs from the 23-yard line** became permanent in 2016.  
**Deflate-gate:** 5 months after allegedly intentionally deflated footballs were used during their victory against Indianapolis in the AFC Championship, the **New England Patriots** were fined \$1M, forfeited 2 draft picks, and QB **Tom Brady** was given a 4G suspension (first overturned then later reinstated by the courts).  
**Last Season:** Charles Woodson, Jared Allen, Calvin Johnson, Charles "Peanut" Tillman, and Peyton Manning

### Ten Years Ago

- League changed the **format for OT in playoff games**.  
Following the coin toss, if the receiving team kicks a FG, that team must kick off to the opponent. However, the game **ended** if the winner of the coin toss scored a TD on the opening drive.  
Rule stemmed from the 2009 NFC Championship game when New Orleans beat Minnesota 31-28 in OT. Saints won after kicking a FG on the opening drive.
- **Last Season:** CB Al Harris, K Jeff Reed, QBs Brett Favre & Marc Bulger, OT Allan Faneca, LB Mike Vrabel, RB Fred Taylor.

### Twenty Years Ago

- RULE: Players were fined if charged for unsportsmanlike (excessive) demonstration following a score or play.  
WR **Terrell Owens** was fined \$24K for taunting Dallas Cowboys while dancing on their logo (See 9/24 game).
- **Last year:** Pittsburgh's Three Rivers Stadium and Denver's Mile High Stadium. Bengals moved into Paul Brown Stadium.
  - **Bill Belichick** began his long tenure as head coach of the New England Patriots.
  - **Last Season:** DT Reggie White, QB Troy Aikman, RB Thurman Thomas, WR Andre Reed, K Eddie Murray, & QB Warren Moon.

### Thirty Years Ago

- **Helmets** included inflatable padding.
- A **Bye week** was added to the schedule, and 2 more **wild-card teams** were added to the playoffs (1 per conference).
- **Hall of Fame:** Buck Buchanan, Bob Griese, Franco Harris, Ted Hendricks, Jack Lambert, Tom Landry, & Bob St. Clair.

### Forty Years Ago

- **Pro Bowl** moved from California to Hawaii.
- **LA Rams** moved franchise 35 miles southeast to **Anaheim**.
- **Last Season:** QB Bob Griese, G Larry Little, S Ken Houston, DB Ray Brown
- **Hall of Fame:** Herb Adderly, David "Deacon" Jones, Bob Lilly, and Jim Otto.

### Fifty Years Ago

- **AFL/NFL merger.** NFL now listed **26** teams.
  - The conditions included no 2-point conversion (a component of the AFL),
  - The NFL *football* would be used, and players were to have their names on the backs of the jerseys.
- **George Halas** was named NFC president and **Lamar Hunt** the AFC president.
- **Pre-season owner lockout.** Camps were open only to rookies. Veterans were asked not to report by Players Association. Major issue was pension plan. Both sides agreed to a 4-year pact on 8/2.

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