

# THE SPORTIER

## Remember the (Tennessee) Titans

This NFL Postseason is already shaping up to be an extraordinary one, especially for the Tennessee Titans. The Titans were the 6 seed in the AFC to begin the postseason, the lowest seed. This meant that they would be playing the 3 seeded New England Patriots in Foxborough. Though it appeared to be a tough matchup and an almost sure win for the Patriots, the Titans pulled off the win last weekend, stunning the Patriots, and making what could be Tom Brady's final pass in New England a pick-six. Sure, they beat the Patriots, but could they continue on? Yesterday, the Titans faced the number 1 seeded Baltimore Ravens, with probable MVP winner Lamar Jackson at their quarterback position. Jackson posed a considerable threat to the Tennessee defense, as in the regular season, as he threw for a league-most 36 touchdowns, and also rushed for an NFL single-season record of 1,207 yards. The Ravens were ready to play in their home stadium after they had a first-week bye to rest. Though it seemed like a cakewalk for the Ravens, they got into trouble early on. The Titans took advantage of an interception and a turnover on downs, and they scored touchdowns on each of the ensuing possessions. Up 14-6 at the half, the Titans were not going to let off the gas. The defense forced another interception and a fumble from Lamar, plus they stopped the Ravens on fourth down **3** more times. In the regular season, the Ravens were 8-8 on fourth down attempts, and last night, they were 0-4. That proves how poor of a game it was from the offensive side for the Ravens, and the Titans took advantage, by winning with a final 28-12 score. The Titans are just the third 6 seeded teams in history to beat a 14 win team in the postseason (since 1990). One of those other two, the 2006 Pittsburgh Steelers, ended up winning the Super Bowl. Now, let's review how the Titans have been performing so well lately. They only started the season out 2-4, not very good if you think about a postseason-worthy team. Mariota was benched in Week 6 for former Miami Dolphins starter Ryan Tannehill, and after the Week 6 loss, the Titans were up and running again. Going 7-3 four the remainder of the season, the Tannehill-led Titans achieved a Wild Card berth. But the main headliner for the Titans all season was Derrick Henry. At 6'3," 238 pounds, he's already built like a monster. The regular season saw him lead the league with 1,540 rushing yards, and also he was tied with Aaron Jones of the Green Bay Packers with a league-high 16 rushing touchdowns. He has been the real leader of this team, as he stepped up with the team's backup quarterback playing most of the season. Yesterday, he scored 195 rushing yards, and though he had no rushing touchdowns, he did have a passing touchdown, oddly enough. Though the Titans were a 6 seed coming into the playoffs, they've been playing like they were a 1 seed that went undefeated in the regular season. It should be interesting to see how things shake-up for the Titans, and if they can win their franchise's first ring.

## In The Rulebook

Did you know: Any time the offensive team secures an offensive rebound on a shot that hits the rim, the shot clock resets to 14 seconds?

### Coaching Shuffle in NFL

Recently, there have been some changes made in a couple NFL organizations as far as coaching is concerned. Two large fanbases can finally cheer, as their coaches have been replaced. The New York Giants fired Pat Shurmur, who brought the team to two losing seasons, with a total record of 9-23. This record matches Shurmur's two-year stint as the coach of the Browns, where the team also went 9-23. Getting rid of Shurmur will let the Giants start new and have a fresh start. He is being replaced by Joe Judge, who coached the wide receivers and special team units for the Patriots. The Giants are definitely taking a chance on a coach that does not have head coaching experience, but it can prove to be a fresh start for him as well. Additionally, the Dallas Cowboys finally cut ties with Jason Garrett. After 20 years in the Cowboys organization as a player, assistant coach, and head coach, he will be replaced by former Packers head coach and Super Bowl Champion coach Mike McCarthy. Though Garrett capped off his Cowboys coaching career with an 85-67 record, the team was notably average, with four 8-8 seasons with just 3 playoff appearances. For a big market team, they should be finding much more success than they are. The introduction of Mike McCarthy may add needed playoff experience and increased leadership to the team and possibly lead to more future success.



Sources:

[NBA Rules](#)

[ESPN](#)

[Pro Football Reference](#)

[NFL](#)