

# Titans travel to Miami for Monday Night Football ... from sports page 1

ited Nissan Stadium and won by a final score of 31-23. The two prior Monday night games between the organizations took place in 1978 and 1979. The Oilers took both of those matchups.

This week's game will be nationally televised on ESPN. In Nashville, fans also can watch on WTVF NewsChannel 5. The game will be streamed on ESPN+ and NFL+, which offers access to local games and all primetime games on phones and tablets. More information on ways to watch NFL games can be found here. The broadcast team for Monday night includes play-by-play announcer Chris Fowler, analysts Louis Riddick and Dan Orlovsky, and reporter Laura Rutledge.

The Titans Radio Network and Nashville flagship 104.5 The Zone carry all Titans games across the Mid-South with the "Voice of the Titans" Mike Keith, analyst Dave McGinnis, sideline reporter Ramon Foster and gameday host Rhett Bryan. Streaming is available at the Titans Mobile App for listeners in the Nashville market and available everywhere for desktop users.

Additionally, Westwood One Sports will broadcast the game to a national radio audience. Play-by-play announcer Tom McCarthy and analyst Brian Baldinger have the call.

The Titans hosted the division-rival Indianapolis Colts last week and lost in overtime by a final score of 31-28. They marched down field for a go-ahead field goal in the extra period, but the Colts responded with a game-winning touchdown drive. It was the Titans' first defeat of the season at Nissan Stadium.

Running back Derrick Henry rushed for 102 yards and two touchdowns in the loss. It was his second consecutive game with a pair of rushing touchdowns. Approaching Monday night, he

ranks second in the NFL this season with 841 rushing yards and sixth in the league with eight rushing touchdowns.

Levis' touchdown pass against the Colts was a three-yarder to DeAndre Hopkins, who improved his season totals to 50 receptions for 774 yards and five touchdowns. He leads the team in all three categories. Last week he also became the fifth NFL player to record 900 receptions (903), 12,000 receiving yards (12,072) and 75 receiving touchdowns (76) within his first 11 seasons. This week he can record his 158th consecutive game with a reception, which would tie Marshall Faulk for the third-longest streak in NFL history to begin a career, trailing only Marvin Harrison (190) and Keyshawn Johnson (167).

## THE DOLPHINS

This week marks Miami's first of three consecutive home games. Last week they traveled to Washington and defeated the Commanders 45-15. Tua Tagovailoa completed two touchdown passes to Tyreek Hill, and rookie running back De'Von Achane rushed for a pair of touchdowns in the win.

Dolphins quarterback Tua Tagovailoa has started 12 games this season. The fourth-year signal caller is third in the NFL in passing yards (3,457), third in passer rating (106.0) and tied for second in touchdown passes (24) in 2023.

Head coach Mike McDaniel is in his second campaign with the Dolphins. In 2022, the former San Francisco 49ers offensive coordinator led the Dolphins to a 9-8 record and a playoff berth. His 2023 team is in command of the AFC East, three games ahead of the 6-6 Buffalo Bills, who are in second place.

The Dolphins own the NFL's top-ranked overall offense and the sixth-ranked overall defense.

# Titans force OT, but fall short to Indy from sports page 1

possession for more than 10 minutes of the quarter. The 18-play drive resulted in a 23-yard field goal for the Colts, making the score 17-16 in favor of the Titans.

Unable to score on their offensive drive, the Titans were forced to punt. Nick Cross blocked the punt from Ryan Stonehouse.

*In what seemed like deja vu, the fourth quarter started with yet another blocked punt by the Colts' special teams. Stonehouse was injured on the play and was helped off the field by the training staff.*

Grant Stuard recovered the ball and ran to the end zone for an 18-yard touchdown. The touchdown gave Indianapolis their first lead of the game.

The Colts opted for a 2-point conversion. Tennessee's Amani Hooker intercepted the ball intended and ran the length of the field, giving the Titans the 2 points. This cut the Colts' lead to 3 points.

In what seemed like deja vu, the fourth quarter started with yet another blocked punt by the Colts' special teams. Stonehouse was injured on the play and was helped off the field by the training staff. The Titans' defense stepped up and kept Indianapolis out of the end zone.

However, Gay did add 3 points to the board with yet another field goal. The 28-yarder advanced the Colts' lead to 19-25. The Tennessee offense knew it was time to step up. Henry ran the ball for a 9-yard gain. That would be his last play of the game as he would head to the locker room for concussion evaluation. Tyjae Spears entered the game in place of Henry and immediately made an impact.

He advanced the ball for a total of 20 yards on 5 carries. Nick Westbrook-Ikhine had a 28-yard play and Josh Whyle had a 16-yard catch. The drive would end with a short pass from Will Levis to DeAndre Hopkins for a 3-yard touchdown.

With Stonehouse out, Ryan Tannehill was called in to hold the ball during the point after attempt, which would give Tennessee a 1-point lead. However, Folk's kick went just wide of the upright, leaving the score tied 25-25 with roughly 5 minutes remaining in the game.

A couple scoreless drives later, the Stonehouse injury would come into play again when Folk would be tasked with punting the ball for the first time ever in his 16-year NFL career. His successful punt, coupled with the Titans' defense, kept the Colts outside of scoring range and sent the game into overtime.

The Titans received the ball to begin overtime play and were able to advance the ball 48 yards in 10 plays. An incomplete pass on 3rd and 11 set up a 46-yard field goal attempt for Folk, as well as a chance for Tannehill to prove himself as backup holder. The snap, hold, and kick went off without a hitch and the Titans were on the board and up by 3.

Unfortunately for Titans fans, the Colts only needed 5 plays to find the end zone, in large part to a huge 55-yard reception from Minshew to Pierce. Michael Pittman Jr. scored a 4-yard touchdown to end the game 31-28.

The loss dropped Tennessee to 4-8 for the season. The Titans travel to Miami to take on the red-hot Dolphins who are sitting atop the AFC East with a 9-3 record.

# NFL unveils 2023 nominees for Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year Award Presented by Nationwide

Winner Announced at NFL Honors on Thursday, Feb. 8 Before Super Bowl LVIII



NEW YORK — Dec. 5, 2023 — The NFL announced the 32 nominees for the Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year Award presented by Nationwide. The Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year Award presented by Nationwide is the league's most prestigious honor and acknowledges NFL players who excel on the field and demonstrate a passion for creating a lasting positive impact beyond the game.

"The Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year award is the league's most prestigious honor given an-

*"The Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year award is the league's most prestigious honor given annually to the player who best represents the greatness and compassion of Walter Payton on and off the field," said NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell. "These 32 outstanding men are making a valuable difference in their communities every day and we are proud to celebrate their special gifts and humanitarianism."*

nually to the player who best represents the greatness and compassion of Walter Payton on and off the field," said NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell. "These 32 outstanding men are making a valuable difference in their communities every day and we are proud to celebrate their special gifts and humanitarianism."

All 32 nominees will receive recognition for their achievements during the week leading up to Super Bowl LVIII in Las Vegas. The winner of the 2023 Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year Award will be announced during NFL Honors, a primetime awards special to air nationally on CBS on Thursday, Feb. 8.

Each nominee supports a range of initiatives off the field that are important to them and their communities, including empowering youth to lead healthy lifestyles, supporting veterans and bringing awareness to other causes close to their hearts. Each nominee will receive up to \$55,000 and the award winner will receive a \$250,000 donation to the charity of his choice. All donations are made possible by the NFL Foundation and Nationwide.

This year fans are once again encouraged to participate in Nationwide's annual Charity Challenge, a social media and online contest that allows fans to show support for their favorite Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year nominee. Fans can vote on X (formerly Twitter) by posting #WPMOYChallenge along with the last name/X handle of their chosen nominee or by voting di-

rectly on NFL.com/ManOfTheYear. In cases where multiple nominees share the same last name (i.e. Justin Jones and Jonathan Jones), all valid votes on X must include the #WPMOYChallenge hashtag and the nominee's X handle or full name.

The nominee who receives the most collective hashtag mentions and votes will win an additional \$35,000 donation from Nationwide to the charity of their choice, with the runner-up receiving \$10,000 and the third-place winner receiving \$5,000. Charity Challenge voting takes place from Dec. 5 to Jan. 8.

"The Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year Award nominees continue to impress and inspire all of us year after year," said Ramon Jones, EVP and Chief Marketing Officer for Nationwide. "It is an honor for Nationwide to play a role in showcasing and supporting the tremendous work that these community champions do in their team markets, hometowns and across the country."

Fans can further amplify their support for their favorite nominee by participating in an exciting campaign by Alltroo – an online fundraising platform started by former NFL tight end and 3-time Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year nominee, Kyle Rudolph. Through Alltroo, fans can support their favorite nominee by entering an online fundraiser customized by each player for the chance to win special prizes and experiences, such as

meet and greets, game tickets, sideline passes and more. Thanks to Nationwide's support, one hundred percent of the proceeds raised through Alltroo's campaign will directly support the nominee's non-profit/charity of choice. For more information visit Alltroo.com.

First established in 1970, the national award was renamed in 1999 after the late Hall of Fame Chicago Bears legend Walter Payton. Since then, 56 legends and players have received this esteemed award, including three current players, Dak Prescott of the Dallas Cowboys – who was last year's Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year – Russell Wilson of the Denver Broncos and Calais Campbell of the Atlanta Falcons. Each of these players wears a Man of the Year patch on their jerseys throughout the season to recognize the outstanding contributions they have made to the game and their communities.

Beginning Week 14 and continuing through the end of the season, each of this year's nominees will also wear a special Man of the Year helmet decal in recognition of their accomplishments on and off the field. Select stadiums will also display goal post wraps adorned with the NFL Man of the Year trophy silhouette.

For more information on the nominees and the award, please visit NFL.com/ManOfTheYear.

# Nominees for Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year Award Presented by Nationwide

TEAM	NOMINEE
Arizona Cardinals	Jonathan Ledbetter
Atlanta Falcons	Bradley Pinion
Baltimore Ravens	Roquan Smith
Buffalo Bills	Dion Dawkins
Carolina Panthers	Bradley Bozeman
Chicago Bears	Justin Jones
Cincinnati Bengals	Ted Karras
Cleveland Browns	Anthony Walker Jr.
Dallas Cowboys	DeMarcus Lawrence
Denver Broncos	Garett Bolles
Detroit Lions	Frank Ragnow
Green Bay Packers	De'Vondre Campbell
Houston Texans	Jon Weeks
Indianapolis Colts	Zaire Franklin
Jacksonville Jaguars	Dawuane Smoot
Kansas City Chiefs	Patrick Mahomes II
Las Vegas Raiders	Maxx Crosby
Los Angeles Chargers	Derwin James Jr.
Los Angeles Rams	Cooper Kupp
Miami Dolphins	Alec Ingold
Minnesota Vikings	Harrison Phillips
New England Patriots	Jonathan Jones
New Orleans Saints	Tyrann Mathieu
New York Giants	Saquon Barkley
New York Jets	Solomon Thomas
Philadelphia Eagles	Lane Johnson
Pittsburgh Steelers	Cameron Heyward
San Francisco 49ers	Arik Armstead
Seattle Seahawks	Bobby Wagner
Tampa Bay Buccaneers	Antoine Winfield Jr.
Tennessee Titans	Jeffery Simmons
Washington Commanders	Terry McLaurin

Watch for  
**The Mid-South Tribune's 29th Annual Black History Month Edition**  
 coming in February 2024.

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