

# Phil Steele has Predicted 37 of 72 NFL First Place Division Winners

## Will the same teams repeat this year?

# PROBABLY NOT!

By Phil Steele

In the inaugural *Phil Steele's Pro Football Preview*, I made a forecast for each division and I am very pleased to announce that I correctly forecasted 7 of the 8! Mine was also the ONLY major magazine to pick the eventual Super Bowl Champion New Orleans Saints to win the NFC South. We followed that performance up 8 of the last 9 years (no projections made in '17) by picking 37 of 72 division winners (51%).

The NFL is certainly a league of parity. In fact, going back to 1998, only 31% of the time had a team repeated as a division winner through 2013. In 2002 the NFL went to 4 divisions of 4 teams each, making it much easier to repeat. From 2003-2013, only 34 of the 88 division winners (39%) repeated. In 2014 it went against that mold as 7 of the 8 teams repeated. In 2015 two teams repeated. This past year New England, Kansas City, New Orleans and the LA Rams repeated.

Since 2002 there has been 136 division winners but only 18 teams have been consistent enough to bag back-to-back division titles with New Orleans and the LA Rams joining that group in 2018. New England has repeated 13 times, including 9 straight, while Indianapolis has done it 6 times and Green Bay 5 times. Denver and Seattle have done it 4 times.

Last year the Chiefs won their third consecutive division title, the Bears won their first division title since 2010, the Texans won their third division title in four years and the Ravens earned their first AFC North title since their Super Bowl-winning season of 2012. The NFC East now has the longest streak with 14 seasons without a repeat.

The charts below also show that no division winner from the NFC North has won a Super Bowl since the 2002 realignment. In 2013, Seattle became the 1st NFC West division winner to accomplish that feat. You will also see that 14 of the last 17 Super Bowl winners have been division winners and all 17 Super Bowl losers won their division.

Make sure to check out my forecasts in a later blog and see below for the division winners since 2004 as well as how they did in the postseason.

AFC EAST			AFC NORTH			AFC SOUTH			AFC WEST		
2018	New England	WON SB	2018	Baltimore	Lost WC	2018	Houston	Lost WC	2018	Kansas City	Lost CF
2017	New England	Lost SB	2017	Pittsburgh	Lost CSF	2017	Jacksonville	Lost CF	2017	Kansas City	Lost WC
2016	New England	WON SB	2016	Pittsburgh	Lost CF	2016	Houston	Lost CSF	2016	Kansas City	Lost CSF
2015	New England	Lost CF	2015	Cincinnati	Lost WC	2015	Houston	Lost WC	2015	Denver	WON SB
2014	New England	WON SB	2014	Cincinnati	Lost WC	2014	Indianapolis	Lost CF	2014	Denver	Lost CSF
2013	New England	Lost CF	2013	Cincinnati	Lost WC	2013	Indianapolis	Lost CSF	2013	Denver	Lost SB
2012	New England	Lost CF	2012	Baltimore	WON SB	2012	Houston	Lost CSF	2012	Denver	Lost CSF
2011	New England	Lost SB	2011	Baltimore	Lost CF	2011	Houston	Lost CSF	2011	Denver	Lost CSF
2010	New England	Lost CSF	2010	Pittsburgh	Lost SB	2010	Indianapolis	Lost WC	2010	Kansas City	Lost WC
2009	New England	Lost WC	2009	Cincinnati	Lost WC	2009	Indianapolis	Lost SB	2009	San Diego	Lost CSF
2008	Miami	Lost WC	2008	Pittsburgh	WON SB	2008	Tennessee	Lost CSF	2008	San Diego	Lost CSF
2007	New England	Lost SB	2007	Pittsburgh	Lost WC	2007	Indianapolis	Lost CSF	2007	San Diego	Lost CF
2006	New England	Lost CF	2006	Baltimore	Lost CSF	2006	Indianapolis	WON SB	2006	San Diego	Lost CSF
2005	New England	Lost CSF	2005	Cincinnati	Lost WC	2005	Indianapolis	Lost CSF	2005	Denver	Lost CF
2004	New England	WON SB	2004	Pittsburgh	Lost CF	2004	Indianapolis	Lost CSF	2004	San Diego	Lost WC

  

NFC EAST			NFC NORTH			NFC SOUTH			NFC WEST		
2018	Dallas	Lost CSF	2018	Chicago	Lost WC	2018	New Orleans	Lost CF	2018	Los Angeles	Lost SB
2017	Philadelphia	WON SB	2017	Minnesota	Lost CF	2017	New Orleans	Lost CSF	2017	Los Angeles	Lost WC
2016	Dallas	Lost CSF	2016	Green Bay	Lost CF	2016	Atlanta	Lost SB	2016	Seattle	Lost CSF
2015	Washington	Lost WC	2015	Minnesota	Lost WC	2015	Carolina	Lost SB	2015	Arizona	Lost CF
2014	Dallas	Lost CSF	2014	Green Bay	Lost CF	2014	Carolina	Lost WC	2014	Seattle	Lost SB
2013	Philadelphia	Lost WC	2013	Green Bay	Lost WC	2013	Carolina	Lost CSF	2013	Seattle	WON SB
2012	Washington	Lost WC	2012	Green Bay	Lost CSF	2012	Atlanta	Lost CF	2012	San Francisco	Lost SB
2011	NY Giants	WON SB	2011	Green Bay	Lost CSF	2011	New Orleans	Lost CSF	2011	San Francisco	Lost CF
2010	Philadelphia	Lost WC	2010	Chicago	Lost CF	2010	Atlanta	Lost CSF	2010	Seattle	Lost CSF
2009	Dallas	Lost CSF	2009	Minnesota	Lost CF	2009	New Orleans	WON SB	2009	Arizona	Lost CSF
2008	NY Giants	Lost CSF	2008	Minnesota	Lost WC	2008	Carolina	Lost CSF	2008	Arizona	Lost SB
2007	Dallas	Lost CSF	2007	Green Bay	Lost CF	2007	Tampa Bay	Lost WC	2007	Seattle	Lost CSF
2006	Philadelphia	Lost CSF	2006	Chicago	Lost SB	2006	New Orleans	Lost CF	2006	Seattle	Lost CSF
2005	NY Giants	Lost WC	2005	Chicago	Lost CSF	2005	Tampa Bay	Lost WC	2005	Seattle	Lost SB
2004	Philadelphia	Lost SB	2004	Green Bay	Lost WC	2004	Atlanta	Lost CF	2004	Seattle	Lost WC



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