

# Phil Steele has Predicted 35 of 64 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 last year) by picking 35 of 64 division winners (55%).

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, Pittsburgh, and Kansas City repeated.

Since 2002 there has been 128 division winners but only 17 teams have been consistent enough to bag back-to-back division titles with Kansas City joining that group in 2017. New England has repeated 12 times, including 8 straight, while Indianapolis has done it 6 times and Green Bay 5 times. Denver and Seattle have done it 4 times.

Last year the Steelers won their third division title in four years, the Jaguars won their first division title since 1999, the Vikings won their second division title in three years, the Saints won their first division title since 2011 and the Rams won their first division title since 2010 while the NFC East now has the longest streak with 13 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 13 of the last 16 Super Bowl winners have been division winners and all 16 Super Bowl losers won their division.

Make sure to check out my forecasts in the 2018 Phil Steele Pro Preview on the division page and see below for the division winners since 2004 as well as how they did in the postseason.

### AFC EAST

2017	New England	Lost SB
2016	<b>New England</b>	<b>WON SB</b>
2015	New England	Lost CF
2014	<b>New England</b>	<b>WON SB</b>
2013	New England	Lost CF
2012	New England	Lost CF
2011	New England	Lost SB
2010	New England	Lost CSF
2009	New England	Lost WC
2008	Miami	Lost WC
2007	New England	Lost SB
2006	New England	Lost CF
2005	New England	Lost CSF
2004	<b>New England</b>	<b>WON SB</b>

### AFC NORTH

2017	Pittsburgh	Lost CSF
2016	Pittsburgh	Lost CF
2015	Cincinnati	Lost WC
2014	Cincinnati	Lost WC
2013	Cincinnati	Lost WC
2012	<b>Baltimore</b>	<b>WON SB</b>
2011	Baltimore	Lost CF
2010	Pittsburgh	Lost SB
2009	Cincinnati	Lost WC
2008	<b>Pittsburgh</b>	<b>WON SB</b>
2007	Pittsburgh	Lost WC
2006	Baltimore	Lost CSF
2005	Cincinnati	Lost WC
2004	Pittsburgh	Lost CF

### AFC SOUTH

2017	Jacksonville	Lost CF
2016	Houston	Lost CSF
2015	Houston	Lost WC
2014	Indianapolis	Lost CF
2013	Indianapolis	Lost CSF
2012	Houston	Lost CSF
2011	Houston	Lost CSF
2010	Indianapolis	Lost WC
2009	Indianapolis	Lost SB
2008	Tennessee	Lost CSF
2007	Indianapolis	Lost CSF
2006	<b>Indianapolis</b>	<b>WON SB</b>
2005	Indianapolis	Lost CSF
2004	Indianapolis	Lost CSF

### AFC WEST

2017	Kansas City	Lost WC
2016	Kansas City	Lost CSF
2015	<b>Denver</b>	<b>WON SB</b>
2014	Denver	Lost CSF
2013	Denver	Lost SB
2012	Denver	Lost CSF
2011	Denver	Lost CSF
2010	Kansas City	Lost WC
2009	San Diego	Lost CSF
2008	San Diego	Lost CSF
2007	San Diego	Lost CF
2006	San Diego	Lost CSF
2005	Denver	Lost CF
2004	San Diego	Lost WC

### NFC EAST

2017	<b>Philadelphia</b>	<b>WON SB</b>
2016	Dallas	Lost CSF
2015	Washington	Lost WC
2014	Dallas	Lost CSF
2013	Philadelphia	Lost WC
2012	Washington	Lost WC
2011	<b>NY Giants</b>	<b>WON SB</b>
2010	Philadelphia	Lost WC
2009	Dallas	Lost CSF
2008	NY Giants	Lost CSF
2007	Dallas	Lost CSF
2006	Philadelphia	Lost CSF
2005	NY Giants	Lost WC
2004	Philadelphia	Lost SB

### NFC NORTH

2017	Minnesota	Lost CF
2016	Green Bay	Lost CF
2015	Minnesota	Lost WC
2014	Green Bay	Lost CF
2013	Green Bay	Lost WC
2012	Green Bay	Lost CSF
2011	Green Bay	Lost CSF
2010	Chicago	Lost CF
2009	Minnesota	Lost CF
2008	Minnesota	Lost WC
2007	Green Bay	Lost CF
2006	Chicago	Lost SB
2005	Chicago	Lost CSF
2004	Green Bay	Lost WC

### NFC SOUTH

2017	New Orleans	Lost CSF
2016	Atlanta	Lost SB
2015	Carolina	Lost SB
2014	Carolina	Lost WC
2013	Carolina	Lost CSF
2012	Atlanta	Lost CF
2011	New Orleans	Lost CSF
2010	Atlanta	Lost CSF
2009	<b>New Orleans</b>	<b>WON SB</b>
2008	Carolina	Lost CSF
2007	Tampa Bay	Lost WC
2006	New Orleans	Lost CF
2005	Tampa Bay	Lost WC
2004	Atlanta	Lost CF

### NFC WEST

2017	Los Angeles	Lost WC
2016	Seattle	Lost CSF
2015	Arizona	Lost CF
2014	Seattle	Lost SB
2013	<b>Seattle</b>	<b>WON SB</b>
2012	San Francisco	Lost SB
2011	San Francisco	Lost CF
2010	Seattle	Lost CSF
2009	Arizona	Lost CSF
2008	Arizona	Lost SB
2007	Seattle	Lost CSF
2006	Seattle	Lost CSF
2005	Seattle	Lost SB
2004	Seattle	Lost WC



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