

SEASON RESULTS: INDIANAPOLIS COLTS AFC CHAMPIONS REGULAR-SEASON RECORD: 12-4

Sept. 10 Colts 26 Giants 21 EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Peyton Manning made fewer mistakes than brother Eli in the season-opener to win the much-hyped Manning Bowl. The two-time MVP was 25 of 41 for 276 yards with one touchdown and one interception. Eli Manning was 20 of 34 for 247 yards with two TDs but threw an interception and lost a fumble that led to Colts scores. The Giants' last gasp ended when Eli threw an interception one play after a questionable offensive pass interference call against Tim Carter. Indy won its opener for the seventh time in eight years.	Sept. 17 Colts 43 Texans 24 INDIANAPOLIS — Manning threw three touchdown passes, broke John Unitas' franchise record for completions and led the Colts to scores on six of their first seven possessions in a game that wasn't that close. Indy had 515 yards in offense, converted eight of its first 10 third-down chances and didn't punt until early in the fourth quarter as it beat Houston for the ninth straight time.	Sept. 24 Colts 21 Jaguars 14 INDIANAPOLIS — Manning threw for one touchdown and ran for another in the second half, and Terrence Wilkins returned a punt 82 yards for a TD to help the Colts maintain their dominance in the AFC South. The victory against the Jaguars, whom many considered the Colts' toughest division pursuer, gave Indy the early inside track to a fourth straight division crown.	Oct. 1 Colts 31 Jets 28 EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Indianapolis returned to The Meadowlands for the second time in four weeks, and it took rallies from Manning to finally produce a win. Justin Miller's 103-yard kickoff return for a TD gave New York a 28-24 lead with 2:20 left, but Manning, who had just given Indy the lead with a TD drive, responded with another efficient drive. He scored the winning TD on a 1-yard run. New York's last chance on the ensuing kickoff included a series of laterals before the Colts finally made a tackle.	Oct. 8 Colts 14 Titans 13 INDIANAPOLIS — Manning again led the Colts on a late touchdown drive, this time throwing a 2-yard touchdown pass to Reggie Wayne with 5:10 left to give Indy the victory. It was the third straight week Manning rallied Indianapolis for a win. Tennessee blew a 10-point lead behind eventual offensive rookie of the year Vince Young, who made his second career start.	Oct. 22 Colts 36 Redskins 22 INDIANAPOLIS — Manning was bent over awkwardly twice in the first half, lost his helmet and once appeared hurt before knocking out the Redskins with three third-quarter TD passes to give Indy its seventh consecutive win. Starting defensive tackle Montae Reagor was injured in a traffic accident before the game, but it didn't slow the Colts. Manning finished with a quarterback rating of 140.4.	Oct. 29 Colts 34 Broncos 31 DENVER — Skewering a Denver defense that was designed specifically to stop him, Manning led the Indianapolis Colts over, around and through the Broncos by throwing for 345 yards and three TDs to Reggie Wayne. Denver's defense had allowed the fewest points in the league coming into the game but struggled against the high-powered Colts. Manning's final drive set up Adam Vinatieri for a winning 37-yard field goal with 2 seconds left.	Nov. 5 Colts 27 Patriots 20 FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — The maligned Indy defense picked off Tom Brady four times, and Marvin Harrison made a spectacular one-handed catch on the side of the end zone as Indy defeated New England for the second straight year. Bob Sanders made a surprise return for the game, sparking a defense that was ranked last in the NFL against the run. The victory gave Indianapolis the distinction of being the NFL's final unbeaten team for the second straight year.	Nov. 12 Colts 17 Bills 16 INDIANAPOLIS — Relying on short throws, an effective ground game and a time-consuming final drive, the Colts became the first team in league history to go 9-0 in consecutive seasons. But the Colts still needed some help from Rian Lindell, who pushed a 41-yard field-goal attempt wide right with 6:22 remaining, a play that would have given Buffalo the lead.	Nov. 19 Cowboys 21 Colts 14 DALLAS — The Colts turned the ball over on four of their first six possessions and came up empty on their final two drives as they lost for the first time in 2006. Indy had one touchdown erased when tight end Ben Utecht was called for offensive pass interference in the end zone, and linebacker Kevin Burnett picked off a pass deflected by Harrison and returned it 39 yards for the tying score in the third quarter.	Nov. 26 Colts 45 Eagles 21 INDIANAPOLIS — Rookie Joseph Addai had a career-high 171 yards rushing and set a franchise rookie record by running for four touchdowns as the defense finally tightened up. Addai finished with 208 total yards, relegating Manning primarily to a spectator's role. In their first game without injured quarterback Donovan McNabb, the Eagles struggled to keep pace with Indy's offense.	Dec. 3 Titans 20 Colts 17 NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Rob Bironas needed every gust of wind behind him to make a 60-yard field goal, the franchise's longest ever, with 7 seconds left as the Titans beat Indianapolis for the first time since December 2002. The Colts scored touchdowns on their first two drives but blew the lead and a chance to wrap up the AFC South title. The loss also ended Indy's 12-game winning streak against division foes.	Dec. 10 Jaguars 44 Colts 17 JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Jacksonville rushed for 375 yards, the second-highest single-game total since the 1970 merger. Maurice Drew had a career-high 166 yards rushing and two touchdowns, while Fred Taylor added 131 yards and a TD. Harrison joined the exclusive 1,000-reception club early in the fourth quarter when he caught a 13-yard pass. Jerry Rice, Tim Brown and Cris Carter are the only other members. It was the second straight week Indy couldn't clinch the division title and knocked the Colts out of the No. 1 seed in the AFC.	Dec. 18 Colts 34 Bengals 16 INDIANAPOLIS — A day after clinching their fourth straight AFC South title, courtesy a Jacksonville loss, the Colts rebounded from a rare two-game losing streak with a meticulous and obvious strategy. Manning and Harrison, the NFL's most prolific passing duo, combined for eight completions, 86 yards and three touchdowns in a rout. Indy's defense also played well, limiting Carson Palmer and the Bengals to 278 total yards.	Dec. 24 Texans 27 Colts 24 HOUSTON — Former Heisman Trophy winner Ron Dayne had his best game as a pro, running for 153 yards and two TDs, and Kris Brown kicked a 48-yard field goal as time expired. The victory ended Houston's nine-game losing streak to the Colts and marked the second time in four games that Indy lost on a last-second field goal. The loss knocked Indy out of AFC's second seed.	Dec. 31 Colts 27 Dolphins 22 INDIANAPOLIS — In its final play-off tuneup, Indy's defense limited Miami to five field goals, and Manning ran through defenders as the Colts earned the No. 3 seed with a win. Manning threw two touchdown passes — one to defensive tackle Dan Klecko who was playing fullback — and he bulled into the end zone on an 11-yard touchdown run. The TD pass to Klecko was No. 274 of Manning's career, moving him past Joe Montana for seventh all-time.	Jan. 6 Colts 23 Chiefs 8 INDIANAPOLIS — Bob Sanders' return again made a difference, and Indy's defense proved it was playoff ready by overcoming three Manning interceptions to win. The Colts limited Larry Johnson to 32 yards rushing on 13 carries, a stark contrast to the league-worst 173 yards rushing per game they surrendered during the regular season. For offense, the Colts relied on the steady foot of Adam Vinatieri to take a 9-0 lead before Manning broke it open in the second half.	Jan. 13 Colts 15 Ravens 6 BALTIMORE — Vinatieri, the Colts' biggest offseason acquisition, paid dividends in the Colts' former hometown. He made all five of his field goal tries, including a 51-yarder that hit the crossbar and bounced across as Indy advanced to the AFC Championship Game for the first time in three years. The defense again was solid, limiting the Ravens to just two field goals and forcing four turnovers. Manning threw two interceptions, and Vinatieri broke Gary Anderson's career record for post-season field goals (32). Vinatieri ended the game with 34.	Jan. 21 Colts 38 Patriots 34 INDIANAPOLIS — Manning led the Colts back from the largest deficit in championship game history against an old nemesis. After trailing 21-3, Manning led the Colts on three scoring drives, running for one TD and throwing another to backup defensive tackle Klecko. A Manning-to-Harrison 2-point conversion tied the game at 21, and center Jeff Saturday recovered a fumble in the end zone to tie it. Addai gave the Colts the lead on a 3-yard TD run with 1 minute left, and Marlin Jackson intercepted Tom Brady to end the Patriots' last chance.
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SEASON RESULTS: CHICAGO BEARS NFC CHAMPIONS REGULAR-SEASON RECORD: 13-3

Sept. 10 Bears 26 Packers 0 GREEN BAY, Wis. — Quarterback Rex Grossman found wide receiver Bernard Berrian for a 49-yard touchdown pass on the Bears' opening drive in a shutout of the Packers, the first ever shutout of Brett Favre's career. Chicago scored its second touchdown on an 84-yard punt return by Devin Hester, giving the Bears a 26-0 lead early in the fourth quarter. Kicker Robbie Gould added four field goals. Favre threw two fourth-quarter interceptions and was sacked three times.	Sept. 17 Bears 34 Lions 7 CHICAGO — Grossman had one of the best games of his career, and the Bears' defense silenced the Lions. Grossman set career highs with 289 yards and four touchdowns passes. It was his second-straight week of career highs after throwing for 262 yards at Green Bay in the season opener. Chicago's defense recovered three fumbles, had six sacks and held Detroit to 245 total offensive yards.	Sept. 24 Bears 19 Vikings 16 MINNEAPOLIS — For most of the game, Minnesota beat Chicago at its own defensive game. By the end, though, it was the Bears who pulled a switcheroo on the Vikings. After a rough afternoon against a blitzing Minnesota defense, Grossman threw a 24-yard touchdown to Rashied David right after the 2-minute warning to rally the Bears to a victory. Grossman threw a pair of interceptions, one of which was returned for a touchdown, and Gould had four field goals.	Oct. 1 Bears 37 Seahawks 6 CHICAGO — Grossman threw for 232 yards, and Ricky Manning Jr. intercepted two of Matt Hasselbeck's passes to lead Chicago to a dominating win against the defending NFC champs. Grossman had another solid day, completing 17 of 31 passes with two touchdowns and no interceptions. Berrian had three receptions for a career-high 108 yards and a touchdown. The Bears had five sacks, including two each by Tommie Harris and Mark Anderson.	Oct. 8 Bears 40 Bills 7 CHICAGO — Getting a huge boost from their gritty defense, the Bears scored the first five times they had the ball. Grossman threw two touchdowns, Cedric Benson scored his first two NFL touchdowns, and the Bears capitalized on five Buffalo turnovers as they piled up their biggest points total since 1993. Gould aided the cause with four field goals.	Oct. 16 Bears 24 Cardinals 23 GLENDALE, Ariz. — Six turnovers, 3 points on offense, but somehow the Bears remained undefeated, pulling out a win against the lowly Cardinals. Chicago rallied from 20 points down at halftime, leaving the shell-shocked Cardinals to ponder another late-game collapse. Down 20-0 at the half, the Bears returned two fumbles for touchdowns in the second half, and Hester returned a punt 83 yards for a score to take the lead. Grossman threw four interceptions and fumbled the ball away twice, struggling to hit receivers. He finished with only 148 passing yards.	Oct. 29 Bears 41 49ers 10 CHICAGO — The Bears overwhelmed the 49ers from the outset, jumping to a 24-0 first-quarter lead and a 41-0 halftime cushion. Grossman rebounded from his poorest performance of the season the week before to throw three touchdown passes. Chicago generated four turnovers in the second half and turned all of them into touchdowns. Grossman finished with 252 yards on 23-of-29 passing. The 24 first-quarter points set a franchise record for the opening period, and the 41 in the first half tied a mark set in 1948.	Nov. 5 Dolphins 31 Bears 13 CHICAGO — The Dolphins spoiled the Bears' quest for a perfect season. The 7-0 start was the Bears' best since the 1985 championship team won its first 12. The only loss that year, incidentally, was to Miami. Chicago lost Berrian, the Bears' main deep threat, to a rib injury on the first possession. Chicago committed four fumbles and lost three to go with Grossman's three picks. Grossman was under pressure all day, going just 18 of 42 for 210 yards and a touchdown.	Nov. 12 Bears 38 Giants 20 EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Eight yards deep in the end zone, Hester couldn't believe the Giants were walking off the field. Hester had just gathered Jay Feely's field goal attempt, a kick that fell short. But the Bears' return specialist wasn't going to go sprinting off just yet. He gave the Giants a few extra seconds, and with that, Hester was off to the races. His record-tying 108-yard romp gave the Bears a 31-20 lead. Grossman threw three TDs, and Thomas Jones scored on a run as the Bears rallied from a 10-point first-half deficit.	Nov. 19 Bears 10 Jets 0 EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Playing their second week in a row against a New York team, the Bears notched their second shutout of the season. Jones had 121 yards on 23 carries, and Grossman overcame an unproductive first half to finish 11 for 22 with 119 yards and a touchdown. The Jets saw two long drives end with interceptions.	Nov. 26 Patriots 17 Bears 13 FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — Tom Brady's decision to run on two key plays was a surprise. That he didn't fumble may have been more of a shock. Cutting on new artificial turf instead of the mud that was there two weeks ago, Brady set up New England's decisive touchdown in a turnover-filled game, and the Patriots won by four. The Pats persevered despite five turnovers. Chicago committed four turnovers, three on interceptions by Asante Samuel.	Dec. 3 Bears 23 Vikings 13 CHICAGO — Hester ran into the record books again, Manning returned an interception for a touchdown, and the Bears claimed their second straight NFC North title. Hester tied an NFL record with his fourth touchdown return. With some fans calling for backup Brian Griese, Grossman was 6 of 19 for 34 yards and threw three interceptions for the second straight week. Hester broke through early in the second quarter and gave the Bears a 7-0 lead on a 45-yard punt return.	Dec. 11 Bears 42 Rams 27 ST. LOUIS — Hester got the Rams' home dome rocking with chants of "Let's go Bears!" as he set an NFL record with his fifth and sixth touchdown returns this season. He had a 94-yard kickoff run-back in the second quarter and a 96-yarder in the fourth to spark the win and secure a first-round playoff bye. After a pair of shaky outings, Grossman was 13 for 23 for 200 yards and two scores. Gould missed twice on field-goal attempts, only his second and third misses of the season.	Dec. 17 Bears 34 Buccaneers 31 CHICAGO — Despite squandering a 24-3 third-quarter lead, the Bears got an overtime win against Tampa Bay to secure home-field advantage throughout the playoffs. Gould, who had missed earlier in overtime, connected on a 25-yarder with 3:37 left to give the Bears the win. Trailing by three TDs, the Bucs stunned the Bears with three fourth-quarter scores, tying the game with 3:44 left. Grossman finished 29 of 44 for 339 yards, all career highs. Hester fumbled three kick returns, losing one.	Dec. 24 Bears 26 Lions 21 DETROIT — Griese replaced Grossman in the fourth quarter and led two drives that set up field goals, helping the Bears beat the Lions. After the game, coach Lovie Smith said the QB switch was planned. Grossman was 20 of 36 for 197 yards and a touchdown, and Griese was 6 of 9 for 51 yards.	Dec. 31 Packers 26 Bears 7 CHICAGO — Favre had his way with the Bears' defense, Grossman looked lost, and Chicago bore little resemblance to a No. 1 playoff seed. Favre showed he still has plenty left, passing for 285 yards. While the veteran was in vintage form, the inconsistent Grossman showed his bad side. He was 2 of 12 with three interceptions, two of which were returned for TDs. Griese started the third quarter and was 5 for 15 with 124 yards and two interceptions. He also threw a 75-yard touchdown pass with 34 seconds left in the third.	Jan. 14 Bears 27 Seahawks 24 CHICAGO — Two swings of the foot by Gould were all the Bears needed to offset any shortcomings in Grossman's arm, and the Bears got their first playoff win since 1995 in the divisional round. Grossman set up the game-winning overtime kick with a clutch pass to Davis. He completed 21 of 28 passes with an interception and a fumble. Hester, who set an NFL record with six kick returns for TDs this season, almost had another in the fourth quarter, but his return was called back for a penalty.	Jan. 21 Bears 39 Saints 14 CHICAGO — With big plays on defense and a steady running game in the sleet and snow, the Bears ended New Orleans' uplifting saga and secured themselves a ticket to the Super Bowl. But for a moment in the third quarter, it appeared the Bears were in trouble. Reggie Bush's 88-yard touchdown catch and run pulled the Saints to within two at 16-14. But the Bears' defense took over from there. The Bears, league leaders with 44 takeaways, forced four turnovers. Grossman was 11 for 26 for 144 yards but made no mistakes.
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