

NFL: INSIDE THE NUMBERS



week16report

BALL INSECURITY

Barring an epic explosion of ill-advised passes, Bears quarterback Jay Cutler won't repeat as the NFL leader in interceptions. With two regular-season games left, he has thrown 13, which is tied for 22nd in the league.

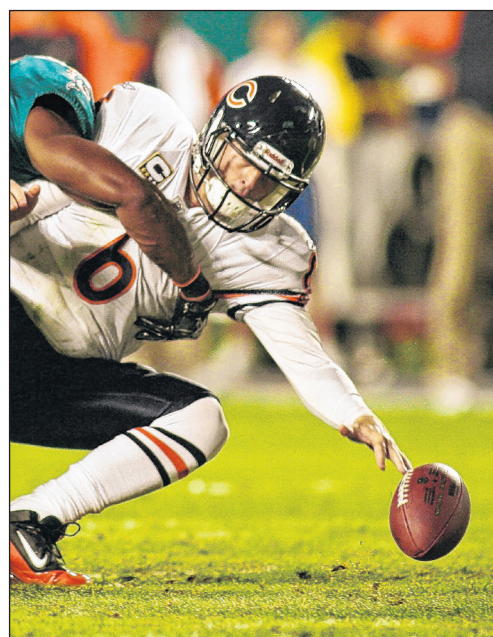
But Cutler is leading the NFL in another dubious category: fumbles. He's tied for the league lead with 10 fumbles, and he has lost an NFL-

leading six of them.

Given the travails of the Bears' pass protection, Cutler alone can't be blamed for the problem. But the Bears surely will need him to curb the turnovers if they are going to make a Super Bowl run. Here's a closer look at the fumble issue: — Sean Jensen

MOST FUMBLES

Rank/Player	Team	Fumbles
1t JAY CUTLER	BEARS	10
1t Donovan McNabb	Redskins	10
3t David Garrard	Jaguars	9
3t Mark Sanchez	Jets	9
3t Michael Vick	Eagles	9
3t Jason Campbell	Raiders	9
7t Matt Schaub	Texans	8
7t Drew Brees	Saints	8
7t Joe Flacco	Ravens	8
7t Peyton Hillis	Browns	8
7t Jimmy Clausen	Panthers	8
12t Jon Kitna	Cowboys	7
12t Joshua Cribbs	Browns	7
12t Eli Manning	Giants	7
12t Brett Favre	Vikings	7
12t Philip Rivers	Chargers	7
12t Matt Hasselbeck	Seahawks	7



Jay Cutler is tied for the NFL lead with 10 fumbles and has lost a league-high six. | GETTY IMAGES

MOST FUMBLES LOST

Rank/Player	Team	Fumbles lost
1 JAY CUTLER	BEARS	6
2t Matt Hasselbeck	Seahawks	5
2t Brett Favre	Vikings	5
2t Eli Manning	Giants	5
2t Ahmad Bradshaw	Giants	5
2t Peyton Hillis	Browns	5
7t Kyle Orton	Broncos	4
7t Vince Young	Titans	4
7t Jonathan Stewart	Panthers	4
7t Joe Flacco	Ravens	4
7t Cedric Benson	Bengals	4
7t David Garrard	Jaguars	4
7t Philip Rivers	Chargers	4
7t Tim Hightower	Cardinals	4

Note: Statistics don't include data from the Panthers-Steelers game Thursday.

THE HEAT IS ON

The Bears have done a solid job this season of pressuring opposing quarterbacks, primarily by counting on their defensive line. That's good because their secondary has looked vulnerable at times. Given the Bears' stout run defense, it's clear opposing offenses are trying to throw the ball against them. Only five NFL defenses have faced more pass plays than the Bears. Here's how they stack up:

HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF PASS PLAYS WITH PRESSURE ON OPPOSING QUARTERBACKS *Sacks + Knockdowns + Hurries = Total*

Rank	Team	Sacks	Knockdowns	Hurries	Total	Pass plays	Pct.
1	Giants	42	52	34	128	500	25.6
2	Raiders	40	37	35	112	444	25.2
3	Lions	39	45	36	120	481	24.9
4	Eagles	35	44	47	126	518	24.3
5	Packers	40	36	36	112	495	22.6
6t	Rams	39	44	33	116	539	21.5
6t	49ers	29	33	43	105	489	21.5
6t	Colts	26	34	43	103	480	21.5
9	Titans	38	54	33	125	586	21.3
10	Browns	26	41	35	102	484	21.1
11t	Seahawks	32	33	49	114	553	20.6
11t	Texans	27	49	31	107	520	20.6
13t	BEARS	32	40	40	112	548	20.4
13t	Chiefs	32	42	38	112	550	20.4
15	Chargers	44	22	30	96	475	20.2
16	Ravens	27	41	42	110	548	20.1

Rank	Team	Sacks	Knockdowns	Hurries	Total	Pass plays	Pct.
17t	Dolphins	37	39	21	97	484	20.0
17t	Vikings	24	37	33	94	471	20.0
19t	Steelers	40	29	44	113	567	19.9
19t	Saints	29	37	27	93	467	19.9
21	Panthers	27	41	27	95	483	19.7
22	Jets	35	35	30	100	515	19.4
23	Cowboys	29	32	36	97	508	19.1
24	Broncos	18	35	31	84	450	18.7
25	Redskins	25	38	36	99	536	18.5
26	Bengals	22	43	23	88	477	18.4
27	Cardinals	26	35	29	90	493	18.3
28	Falcons	27	34	30	91	504	18.1
29	Bills	25	27	28	80	456	17.5
30	Jaguars	25	35	21	81	470	17.2
31	Patriots	28	27	38	93	565	16.5
32	Buccaneers	20	34	23	77	478	16.1
NFL totals		985	1,205	1,082	3,272	16,134	20.3

NFC

NORTH	W	L	T	Pct.
y-BEARS	10	4	0	.714
Green Bay	8	6	0	.571
Minnesota	5	9	0	.357
Detroit	4	10	0	.286

EAST	W	L	T	Pct.
Philadelphia	10	4	0	.714
N.Y. Giants	9	5	0	.643
Washington	5	9	0	.357
Dallas	5	10	0	.333

SOUTH	W	L	T	Pct.
x-Atlanta	12	2	0	.857
New Orleans	10	4	0	.714
Tampa Bay	8	6	0	.571
Carolina	2	13	0	.133

WEST	W	L	T	Pct.
St. Louis	6	8	0	.429
Seattle	6	8	0	.429
San Francisco	5	9	0	.357
Arizona	5	10	0	.333

AFC

EAST	W	L	T	Pct.
x-New England	12	2	0	.857
N.Y. Jets	10	4	0	.714
Miami	7	7	0	.500
Buffalo	4	10	0	.286

SOUTH	W	L	T	Pct.
Indianapolis	8	6	0	.571
Jacksonville	8	6	0	.571
Tennessee	6	8	0	.429
Houston	5	9	0	.357

NORTH	W	L	T	Pct.
x-Pittsburgh	11	4	0	.733
Baltimore	10	4	0	.714
Cleveland	5	9	0	.357
Cincinnati	3	11	0	.214

WEST	W	L	T	Pct.
Kansas City	9	5	0	.643
San Diego	8	6	0	.571
Oakland	7	7	0	.500
Denver	3	11	0	.214

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division

SATURDAY'S RESULT

Arizona 27, Dallas 26

TODAY'S GAMES

N.Y. Jets at BEARS, Noon
Tennessee at Kansas City, Noon
San Francisco at St. Louis, Noon
Baltimore at Cleveland, Noon
New England at Buffalo, Noon
Detroit at Miami, Noon
Washington at Jacksonville, Noon
Indianapolis at Oakland, 3:05 p.m.
Houston at Denver, 3:05 p.m.
San Diego at Cincinnati, 3:05 p.m.
N.Y. Giants at Green Bay, 3:15 p.m.
Seattle at Tampa Bay, 3:15 p.m.
Minnesota at Philadelphia, 7:20 p.m.

MONDAY'S GAME

New Orleans at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.