

## Sports Opinion

### NFL...How they'll finish

By Chris Hatcher

Well, I can honestly say if nothing else, the has been one of the most surprising starts to the NFL regular season in recent memory.

The league's MVP of a year ago (Tom Brady) is gone, and teams that were projected at the top of their divisions by many so far have had a rough going. To name a few the Jaguars, Seahawks and the Vikings all started out their seasons 0-2, and the Bills, Titans, Broncos, Cardinals and Panthers have started out 2-0.

The Colts have looked terrible at times, and are lucky to be 1-1 instead of 0-2. The Redskins and Eagles have both looked good in certain moments and poor in others.

In other words, I'm glad that I had the vision to make my picks two weeks into the season instead of right away. All joking aside though, this should shape up to be an interesting playoff race in all divisions of both conferences.

#### AFC East

1. New York Jets\*
2. Buffalo Bills
3. New England Patriots
4. Miami Dolphins

#### AFC North

1. Pittsburgh Steelers\*
2. Cleveland Browns
3. Baltimore Ravens
4. Cincinnati Bengals

#### AFC South

1. Indianapolis Colts\*

2. Jacksonville Jaguars\*
3. Houston Texans
4. Tennessee Titans

#### AFC West

1. San Diego Chargers\*
2. Denver Broncos\*
3. Oakland Raiders
4. Kansas City Chiefs

#### NFC East

1. Dallas Cowboys\*
2. New York Giants\*
3. Washington Redskins
4. Philadelphia Eagles

#### NFC North

1. Green Bay Packers\*
2. Minnesota Vikings
3. Chicago Bears
4. Detroit Lions

#### NFC South

1. Carolina Panthers\*
2. New Orleans Saints
3. Tampa Bay Buccaneers
4. Atlanta Falcons

#### NFC West

1. Arizona Cardinals\*
2. Seattle Seahawks\*
3. San Francisco 49ers
4. St. Louis Rams

#### Conference Championships

##### AFC

Colts over Chargers

##### NFC

Cowboys over Packers

##### Super Bowl

Cowboys over Colts

(\*Denotes playoff team)

## Women's soccer team on a roll

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This year's E&H women's soccer team has already broken a school record seven games into the season.

What record have they broken? So far, the women's team is an undefeated 7-0 (1-0) on the season. That's impressive, but even more impressive is that the Wasps have broken the school record for most consecutive games won. Perhaps the most telling statistic for the Wasps is their goal differential, which currently is 31-2.

Freshman keeper Hayley Poland is a big reason for the Wasps' success, allowing only an average of 0.29 goals per game, while opposing keepers have averaged 4.44 goals allowed per game.

Nikki Greco leads the team with nine goals, which helped her to earn ODAC Conference Player of the Week earlier in the season.

Katelyn LePore has also fired five goals home, and Amber Ferrell has contributed three goals. Five other players on the team have all scored two goals.

In their most recent victory, a

2-0 win over Randolph at home, Loren Favale scored midway through the first half (31') to put the Wasps up 1-0. The finishing touches were put on the game when Stephanie Jones scored on a cross from Amber Ferrell (55').

Though Randolph did not play poorly, it was clear that they were outmatched by a superior Wasp team.

The Wasps will look to continue their hot streak, and extend their school record of consecutive victories on Sept. 20 at conference opponent Bridgewater at 3 p.m.



Nikki Greco scored two goals in the game against Bluefield, and leads the undefeated Wasps with nine goals. She was named the ODAC Player of the Week earlier in the season.

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## Upcoming Events

Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tues
18	19	20	21	22	23
		 Men's Football 1:00 pm Away v. N.C. Wesleyan  Men's Soccer 1:00 pm Home v. Hampden Sydney*  Women's Soccer 3:00 pm Away v. Bridgewater*			 Volleyball 6:30 pm Away v. Sweet Briar

## The story from pit road of the Sharpie 500

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It's Bristol, Baby, for 500 laps. NASCAR's biggest drivers were in Bristol, Tenn. on August 23 for NASCAR's biggest event: The Sharpie 500.

Forty-three different drivers made their way onto the world's fastest half mile for the eighth gathering of the event, and the race definitely did not disappoint the 160,000 fans that made the trip to Bristol.

Although the race got off to a slow start, the finish was something that no NASCAR fan is soon to forget.

There were no big wrecks until about lap 200, which turned into a nine car pile up that actually brought the red flag down. However, the big news from the race came with only thirty laps left.

Carl Edwards, which had been stuck in second right behind Kyle Busch for the majority of the race, used the famed "bump and run" technique to get past Busch for the win.



This caused an altercation between the two after the close of the race.

During the cool down lap, Busch rammed into the side of Edwards, and Edwards quickly reacted by spinning Busch out as he went to pit road.

The two actually ended up

being put on probation for their actions a mere five days after the race for the next six Sprint Cup Races.

Edwards defended his actions by relating to an earlier race where Busch smoked the back bumper of his car, which ended up pushing him down the

track. The two now have a relatively intense rivalry with each other, and will continue on with more.

The top five at the Sharpie 500 also included Denny Hamlin in third, Kevin Harvick in fourth and Jeff Gordon in fifth.

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## Regional Update

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**Tennessee:** After losing on the road to UCLA 27-24 in an epic battle, the Vols returned to the confines of their home stadium (Neyland Stadium) and took care of business against UAB 35-3. This weekend the Vols will be facing elite competition when the Florida Gators and reigning Heisman Trophy winner Tim Tebow come to town. Kickoff is at 3:30 p.m.



**Virginia Tech:** The Hokies squeaked out a win against ACC foe Georgia Tech last week, 20-17. This week the Hokies will face a North Carolina team on the rise after they demolished the Scarlet Knights of Piscataway (Rutgers). The Hokies play the 'Heels on the road at 3:30 p.m.