



# TENNESSEE TITANS

## PRESS RELEASE

ASCENSION SAINT THOMAS SPORTS PARK | 460 Great Circle Road | Nashville, TN 37228 | 615-565-4100 | TennesseeTitans.com | @Titans

**ROBBIE BOHREN** Vice President of Football Communications | **DWIGHT SPRADLIN** Director of Football Communications  
**JARED PUFFER** Associate Director of Football Communications | **KAYLEE CONNORS** Coordinator of Football Communications

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## TITANS-STEELERS SUPPLEMENTAL NOTES

**FIRST TWO STARTS BY FRANCHISE ROOKIE QBs:** Rookie quarterback **Will Levis** debuted last week against the Atlanta Falcons. The second-round rookie completed 19 of 29 passes for 238 yards and four touchdowns with no interceptions.

Levis, the 33rd overall draft choice, could make his second career start this Thursday in Pittsburgh. He would become the 11th rookie in franchise history with two starts at quarterback. Within the franchise’s “Titans era” (1999–present), Levis would join **Vince Young** (2006), **Zach Mettenberger** (2014), **Marcus Mariota** (2015) and **Malik Willis** (2022) as the only two-game rookie starters at quarterback.

Levis will attempt to become the team’s first rookie signal caller since **Steve McNair** to win each of his first two starts. McNair did so in the final two weeks of his rookie campaign in 1995.

**First and second starts by Oilers/Titans rookie quarterbacks:**

Rookie	Year (Draft Round)	Season Game No.	Opp	W/L/T	Att	Comp	Yards	TD	Int	Sacked	Passer Rating	
Will Levis	2023 (2nd)	1st Start:	Game 7	Atl	W	29	19	238	4	0	2	130.5
		2nd Start:										
Malik Willis	2022 (3rd)	1st Start:	Game 7	at Hou	W	10	6	55	0	1	3	35.4
		2nd Start:	Game 8	at KC	L	16	5	80	0	0	3	49.0
Marcus Mariota	2015 (1st)	1st Start:	Game 1	at TB	W	16	13	209	4	0	2	158.3
		2nd Start:	Game 2	at Cle	L	37	21	257	2	0	7	96.3
Zach Mettenberger	2014 (6th)	1st Start:	Game 8	Hou	L	41	27	299	2	1	2	93.4
		2nd Start:	Game 9	at Bal	L	27	16	179	1	1	5	76.0
Rusty Smith	2010 (6th)	1st Start:	Game 11	at Hou	L	31	17	138	0	3	1	26.7
		2nd Start:	(None)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vince Young	2006 (1st)	1st Start:	Game 4	Dal	L	29	14	155	1	2	2	47.3
		2nd Start:	Game 5	at Ind	L	21	10	63	0	1	0	34.4
Steve McNair	1995 (1st)	1st Start:	Game 15	NYJ	W	27	13	198	1	0	2	85.1
		2nd Start:	Game 16	at Buf	W	26	12	168	1	0	1	80.3
Brent Pease	1987 (11th-Min)	1st Start:	Game 3*	at Den	W	25	15	260	1	0	0	108.8
		2nd Start:	Game 4*	at Cle	W	25	13	150	1	2	1	50.4
Dan Pastorini	1971 (1st)	1st Start:	Game 5	Det	L	40	15	209	1	4	0	23.9
		2nd Start:	Game 6	at Pit	L	34	17	191	0	1	1	54.9
Lynn Dickey	1971 (3rd)	1st Start:	Game 3	NO	T	20	6	82	0	3	0	4.6
		2nd Start:	Game 9	at Oak	L	11	3	60	0	3	0	10.2
Bob Davis	1967 (2nd)	1st Start:	Game 4	Den	W	10	4	43	0	1	-	13.8
		2nd Start:	Game 5	at NYJ	T	9	5	28	0	1	-	21.8
Jacky Lee	1960 (Undrafted)	1st Start:	Game 10	Den	W	13	6	281	3	1	NA	100.2
		2nd Start:	Game 11	at Bos	W	38	21	331	1	0	-	93.2

\* Pease’s three starts in 1987 were in replacement games.

**TWO-GAME MARK FOR TD PASSES:** Will Levis became the third quarterback in NFL history to record four touchdown passes in the first game of his rookie season. The only other players to do so were Minnesota's **Fran Tarkenton** in 1961 and the Titans' **Marcus Mariota** in 2015.

With one touchdown pass this week at Pittsburgh, Levis would become the seventh player in NFL history to throw five or more touchdown passes in his first two games. With two touchdown passes, he would join Mariota as the only players to ever throw six touchdown passes in their first two games. Mariota did so in the first two games of his 2015 rookie campaign.

In addition to Mariota, the five players who have completed five touchdown passes in their first two games are **Johnny Green** (Buffalo, 1960), **Greg Cook** (Cincinnati, 1969), **Mark Rypien** (Washington, 1988), **Gus Frerotte** (Washington, 1994) and **Drew Lock** (Denver, 2019).

Green and Lock are the only players from the group with wins in both games.

**Most touchdown passes through the first two games of a quarterback's NFL career:**

Player	Year	Team	Touchdown Passes	W-L
1. Marcus Mariota	2015	Tennessee Titans	6	1-1
2. Drew Lock	2019	Denver Broncos	5	2-0
Gus Frerotte	1994	Washington Commanders	5	1-1
Mark Rypien	1988	Washington Commanders	5	0-2
Greg Cook	1969	Cincinnati Bengals	5	2-0
Johnny Green	1960	Buffalo Bills	5	1-1
3. (several tied, including Will Levis)			4	

**HENRY SHINES WHEN LIGHTS ARE BRIGHTEST:** Entering Thursday night's showdown with the Steelers, Titans running back **Derrick Henry** has appeared in 20 total primetime games in his career, including contests in the regular season and playoffs. In those opportunities, he has totaled 1,913 yards and 18 touchdowns on 382 attempts.

Henry's average of 95.7 rushing yards per primetime game, including the regular season and postseason, is the best in the NFL since the beginning of the 2000 season among those who have appeared in at least 10 primetime games. His number is more than seven yards in front of the next-closest competitor, former Colts running back and Pro Football Hall of Famer **Edgerrin James** (88.5).

**Most rushing yards per primetime game since 2000, including regular season and postseason (minimum 10 primetime games played):**

Player	Games	Attempts	Yards	Avg	TD	Yards Per Game
1. <b>Derrick Henry</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>382</b>	<b>1,913</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>95.7</b>
2. Edgerrin James	20	474	1,771	3.7	14	88.5
3. Shaun Alexander	17	325	1,468	4.5	19	86.4
4. Tiki Barber	21	353	1,724	4.9	12	82.1
5. LeSean McCoy	37	605	3,018	5.0	19	81.6
6. Le'Veon Bell	24	415	1,943	4.7	10	81.0
7. Ahman Green	20	368	1,573	4.3	12	78.7
8. Arian Foster	15	268	1,179	4.4	9	78.6
9. Jamal Lewis	22	428	1,721	4.0	8	78.2
10. Chris Johnson	19	319	1,484	4.7	8	78.1

**HENRY ENJOYING CAREER-BEST AVERAGE ON FIRST DOWN:** In last week's win against the Falcons, **Derrick Henry** rushed for 101 yards on 22 carries. He accumulated 64 of his rushing yards on first down, continuing a trend of first-down success in 2023.

Through seven games, Henry has rushed for 358 yards and a pair of touchdowns on 66 first-down attempts. His 5.42-yard rushing average on first down in 2023 is better than any previous full season of his career. He averaged a career-best 5.41 yards per carry on first down in 2018 (128 attempts for 693 yards).

Henry's 5.42-yard first-down average ranks third in the NFL this season. Only **Breece Hall** of the New York Jets (6.98) and **Raheem Mostert** of the Miami Dolphins (6.17) have fared better.

**Derrick Henry's highest rushing average on first down, by season:**

Season	Attempts	Yards	Avg	TD
1. <b>2023</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>358</b>	<b>5.42</b>	<b>2</b>
2. 2018	128	693	5.41	8
3. 2020	244	1268	5.20	8
4. 2016	48	235	4.90	3
5. 2021	131	639	4.88	7
6. 2019	195	949	4.87	9
7. 2022	226	968	4.28	5
8. 2017	93	363	3.90	1

Through 7 games

**Additionally, Henry can accomplish the following this week at Pittsburgh:**

- He can record his 40th total 100-yard rushing game, including regular season (37) and playoffs (three). He would tie **Earl Campbell** (40) for the most such games in franchise history. In only regular-season games, his 37th 100-yard rushing performance would surpass **Eddie George** (36) for the second-most in franchise history, behind only Campbell (39).
- With a franchise-best 81 career rushing touchdowns entering the week, he needs one more rushing touchdown to tie **Corey Dillon** (82) for the 18th highest total in NFL history. Two rushing touchdowns would place him in a tie with **Jim Taylor** (83) for 17th all-time.
- He can register his third consecutive game with 100 or more scrimmage yards and his 47th career game (regular season) with 100-plus scrimmage yards. In doing so, he would surpass **Chris Johnson** (46) for the second-most 100-yard scrimmage games in franchise history behind only **Eddie George** (54).
- Henry needs 139 rushing yards to become the 38th player in NFL history with 9,000 career rushing yards.

**HOPKINS THRIVING AS SEASON NEARS MIDPOINT:** Last week against the Falcons, Titans wide receiver **DeAndre Hopkins** had a memorable performance, tying the franchise record with three touchdown receptions in the game. He totaled 128 yards on four catches.

In his first season with the Titans and his 11th NFL campaign, Hopkins' totals through seven games include 31 receptions for 504 yards and three touchdowns.

Hopkins' average of 16.3 yards per reception ranks eighth in the NFL among qualifiers. It also would represent the best average of his career through a full season. In his first 10 campaigns, his 15.9-yard average with the Houston Texans in 2014 was his career high.

**DeAndre Hopkins' highest receiving average in a season:**

Season	team	Receptions	Yards	Avg
1. 2023 (7 games)	Tennessee Titans	31	504	16.3
2. 2014	Houston Texans	76	1,210	15.9
3. 2013	Houston Texans	52	802	15.4
4. 2017	Houston Texans	96	1,378	14.4
5. 2015	Houston Texans	111	1,521	13.7
6. 2018	Houston Texans	115	1,572	13.7
7. 2021	Arizona Cardinals	42	572	13.6
8. 2016	Houston Texans	78	954	12.2
9. 2020	Arizona Cardinals	115	1,407	12.2
10. 2019	Houston Texans	104	1,165	11.2
11. 2022	Arizona Cardinals	64	717	11.2

Heading into this week, Hopkins has an opportunity to do something no other player has done for the franchise in its "Titans era," which began in 1999. With 96 receiving yards Thursday night, he will become the first member of the club in the Titans era to post 600 receiving yards through the team's first eight games of a season. **Derrick Mason's** 599 receiving yards in 2004 stands as the best such total.

Hopkins' current receiving yardage total already ranks fifth on the list through eight games.

**Most receiving yards by a Titans player in the team's first eight games of a season, 1999–2023:**

Player	Season	Receptions	Yards	Avg	TD	
1. Derrick Mason	2004	52	599	11.5	2	
2. Derrick Mason	2003	44	592	13.5	4	
3. Yancey Thigpen	1999	30	551	18.4	3	
4. A.J. Brown	2021	35	509	14.5	3	
5. <b>DeAndre Hopkins</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>504</b>	<b>16.3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Through 7 games</b>
6. Kendall Wright	2013	43	502	11.7	1	
7. Derrick Mason	2002	35	496	14.2	2	
8. Delanie Walker	2014	35	475	13.6	4	
9. Rishard Matthews	2017	31	463	14.9	2	
10. Nate Washington	2011	36	461	12.8	2	

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