COUNTDOWN TO 2019 HALL OF FAME GAME

HALL OF FAME GAME

The National Football League’s 100th season kicks off in 100 days when the Atlanta Falcons face the Denver Broncos in the 2019 Hall of Fame Game on Thursday, Aug. 1, 2019. This marks the fourth appearance in Canton for both clubs. Here are how the teams have fared when playing in the preseason classic.

ATLANTA FALCONS (1-2)

Aug. 1, 1981 – vs. Cleveland Browns (L, 10-24)
The Falcons did not muster much offense with their lone touchdown coming on a 3-yard run by Mickey Fitzgerald in the third quarter. Atlanta’s secondary racked up three picks on the day and the special teams blocked a Browns field goal attempt. Cornerback Bobby Butler was the standout of the game with five tackles, one assist, an interception of a Brian Sipe pass which he returned 20 yards, and one pass defensed.

July 30, 1994 – vs. San Diego Chargers (W, 21-17)
Fourth round draft pick Perry Klein led a second-half comeback by connecting on a 41-yard TD pass to Bert Emanuel in the third quarter and then the game-winning score on a 5-yard TD run with 37 seconds remaining in the game. The winning drive was set up by linebacker Charles Washington's interception at the Chargers 31. Klein completed 8 of 16 passes for 112 yards along with two carries for 13 yards.

Great seats are still available for the kickoff of the NFL’s 100th season in Canton, Ohio. Tickets and Packages for the main events of the 2019 Pro Football Hall of Fame Enshrinement Week Powered by Johnson Controls are on sale now.

ProFootballHOF.com/Tickets
DENVER BRONCOS (1-2)

**July 24, 1976 – vs. Detroit Lions (W, 10-7)**
The Broncos scored all their points in the first half on a 1-yard run by running back Jon Keyworth and a 47-yard field goal by veteran kicker Jim Turner. The preseason tune-up featured a number of players seeing action. In all, nine different Broncos carried the football and seven players recorded a catch in the game. Free safety John Rowser intercepted a pass and returned it to the Detroit 17-yard line to set up the Broncos touchdown.

**July 27, 1991 – vs. Detroit Lions (L, 3-14)**
The only points of the day for the Broncos came when David Treadwell connected on an 18-yard field goal to cap the game’s opening drive. Future Hall of Famers John Elway and Shannon Sharpe saw brief action that day. Elway completed 3 of 5 passes for 26 yards and rushed once for 5 in one quarter of play. Sharpe caught one pass for 12 yards. Mike Young registered a game-high four catches for 69 yards.

**Aug. 9, 2004 – vs. Washington Redskins (L, 17-20)**
Eight years after being enshrined into the Hall of Fame, Joe Gibbs returned to the sidelines for the first game back as Washington’s head coach.

Kicker Jason Elam connected on three first-half field goals (39, 40, 47) to help Denver take a 9-3 lead into halftime. The game came down to a thrilling finish when Jeb Putzier caught a 2-yard pass from Mike Quinn with 1:26 to play in the fourth quarter. Quinn then connected with Charlie Adams on the two-point conversion to tie the game at 17-17.

The effort ended up not being enough as Washington won the game on a 39-yard field goal by Swedish kicker Ola Kimrin as time expired.

**THE VENUE**

Tom Benson Hall of Fame Stadium (Capacity: 23,000) is a world-class sports and entertainment sports complex that includes a permanent stage built into the stands at the 50-yard line.

The stadium is designed by HKS, a world-renowned architectural firm that developed numerous NFL stadiums including AT&T Stadium for the Dallas Cowboys and U.S. Bank Stadium for the Minnesota Vikings.

FORBES INCLUDED TOM BENSON HALL OF FAME STADIUM AMONG ITS “13 GAME-CHANGING NFL STADIUMS.”

“While the stadium and the statue are truly an honor that we cherish, what makes this gift and this day most important is recognizing the greats of the game who have built the game into what it is today ... we need to continue to honor and assist them.”


The stadium was originally known as Fawcett Stadium and renamed Tom Benson Hall of Fame Stadium in 2014. A complete makeover resulted in a premier sports stadium and entertainment complex that is a key component of Johnson Controls Hall of Fame Village, a mixed-use development project under way around the Hall’s campus.

The original stadium was built from 1937-39 through the WPA federal government program in the form of manpower. The stadium originally seated 15,000 and was the largest high school stadium in the country at that time.

Who is Fawcett?
The original stadium was named after John A. Fawcett, a community leader, member of the Canton City school board, and a gifted athlete.
Beginning in 1971, following the AFL-NFL merger, an AFC vs. NFC format was adopted for the Hall of Fame Game series. Predetermined schedules were created that called for each team to make a visit to Canton over 14- and 15-year periods through 1994. The game then became a showcase of teams most often tied to the Enshrinement class.

The preseason classic, played in the NFL’s birthplace, has also hosted historic debuts of NFL teams.

### OVER THE YEARS

- **1962**: The inaugural game
- **1967-1997**: Played on Saturday afternoons
- **1963-1965**: Played on Sunday afternoons
- **1998**: Moved to primetime with kickoff on a Saturday evening
- **1999**: Swapped to Monday night
- **2006-2016**: Played on Sunday night
- **2017**: Shifted to Thursday night

The Hall of Fame Game has been televised nationally since 1971. ABC televised the Hall of Fame Game from 1971 to 2005, followed by NBC from 2006 to present, except for in 2007 and 2012 when NFL Network broadcast the Hall of Fame Game. ESPN was scheduled to cover the 2016 Hall of Fame Game.

**1995**

The Hall of Fame Game showcased the first game of the league's newest expansion teams, the Carolina Panthers and Jacksonville Jaguars.

**1999**

The Cleveland Browns returned to the NFL and played their first game after a three-year hiatus in the 1999 Hall of Fame Game.

**2002**

The Houston Texans inaugural game was played in Canton on Aug. 5, 2002.

The Sunday Night Football crew of Al Michaels, Cris Collinsworth and Michele Tafoya will return to Tom Benson Hall of Fame Stadium on Aug. 1 to broadcast the 2019 Hall of Fame Game featuring the Atlanta Falcons and Denver Broncos. The game is broadcast nationally on radio by Westwood One.

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**NFL SEASON KICKS OFF IN CANTON**

The National Football League season kicks off each year in Canton with a spectacular celebration, unlike any other, centered around the Enshrinement of the newest class of enshrinees for the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

The annual Pro Football Hall of Fame Enshrinement Festival including Enshrinement Week Powered by Johnson Controls features 18 diverse events that attracts 700,000 fans from across the country and the world.

For full details, schedules, and tickets to all of the events, visit: [ProFootballHOFEF.com](http://ProFootballHOFEF.com) or [ProFootballHOF.com](http://ProFootballHOF.com).

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