

MORE IS NOT NECESSARILY

By Roger Gordon

Did you ever wonder how many NFL teams have compiled successful season winning percentages despite the number of interceptions thrown by their quarterbacks far outnumbering the number of touchdown passes thrown by them. I decided a fair cutoff point would be teams that won at least 60 percent of their games whose quarterbacks threw at least 10 more interceptions than touchdown passes. It's happened eight times in the NFL since 1960. Here they are:

Year	Team	Record	INT	TD
1967	Green Bay Packers	9-4-1 .679	27	15
1969	Baltimore Colts	8-5-1 .607	27	17
1971	Baltimore Colts	10-4-0 .714	21	10
1971	Cleveland Browns	9-5-0 .643	27	14
1978	New England Patriots	11-5-0 .688	25	15
1980	Houston Oilers	11-5-0 .688	28	15
1986	Chicago Bears	14-2-0 .875	25	12
1991	Philadelphia Eagles	10-6-0 .625	22	12

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On the other end of the spectrum, maybe you wondered how many NFL teams have compiled unsuccessful season winning percentages despite the number of touchdown passes thrown by their quarterbacks far outnumbering the number of interceptions thrown by them. I decided a fair cutoff point would be teams that won 40 percent or less of their games whose quarterbacks threw at least 10 more touchdown passes than interceptions. It's happened five times in the NFL since 1960. Here they are:

Year	Team	Record	INT	TD
1962	Dallas Cowboys	5- 8-1 .393	31	17
1973	Philadelphia Eagles	5- 8-1 .393	23	13
1996	Baltimore Ravens	4-12-0 .250	34	20
1997	Oakland Raiders	4-12-0 .250	29	10
2000	San Francisco 49ers	6-10-0 .375	32	10

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That led me to wonder how many NFL teams have compiled successful season winning percentages despite yielding more points than they scored. I decided a fair cutoff point would be teams that won at least 60 percent of their games. Including the 1920 and '21 seasons when the NFL was called the APFA, fourteen times in NFL history a team has won at least 60 percent of its games yet yielded more points than it scored. Here they are:

Year	Team	Record	PA	PF
1938	Washington Redskins	6-3-2 .636	154	148
1944	Washington Redskins	6-3-1 .650	180	169
1947	Pittsburgh Steelers	8-4-0 .667	259	240
1957	San Francisco 49ers	8-4-0 .667	264	260
1962	Pittsburgh Steelers	9-5-0 .643	363	312
1966	St. Louis Cardinals	8-5-1 .607	265	264
1966	Philadelphia Eagles	9-5-0 .643	340	326
1976	Cleveland Browns	9-5-0 .643	287	267
1978	Houston Oilers	10-6-0 .625	298	283
1985	Washington Redskins	10-6-0 .625	312	297
1986	New York Jets	10-6-0 .625	386	364
1987	Houston Oilers	9-6-0 .600	349	345
1993	Los Angeles Raiders	10-6-0 .625	326	306
1995	Philadelphia Eagles	10-6-0 .625	338	318

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On the other end of the spectrum, I thought it would be interesting to research how many NFL teams have compiled an unsuccessful season winning percentage despite scoring more points than they yielded. I decided a fair cutoff point would be teams that won 40 percent or less of their games. Including the 1920 and '21 seasons when the NFL was called the APFA, 17 times in NFL history a team has won 40 percent or less of its games yet scored more points than it yielded. Here they are:

Year	Team	Record	PF	PA
1921	Cleveland Tigers	3- 5-0 .375	95	58
1921	Rochester Jeffersons	2- 3-0 .400	85	76
1922	Akron Pros	3- 5-2 .400	146	95
1923	Rock Island Independents	2- 4-2 .375	83	62
1934	Philadelphia Eagles	4- 7-0 .364	127	85
1955	Philadelphia Eagles	4- 7-1 .375	248	231
1963	Detroit Lions	5- 8-1 .393	326	265
1965	Philadelphia Eagles	5- 9-0 .357	363	359
1971	Cincinnati Bengals	4-10-0 .286	284	265
1977	Philadelphia Eagles	5- 9-0 .357	220	207
1982	San Francisco 49ers	3- 6-0 .333	209	206
1983	Kansas City Chiefs	6-10-0 .375	386	367
1987	Los Angeles Raiders	5-10-0 .333	301	289
1990	Minnesota Vikings	6-10-0 .375	351	326
1990	San Diego Chargers	6-10-0 .375	315	281
2001	Jacksonville Jaguars	6-10-0 .375	294	286
2001	San Diego Chargers	5-11-0 .313	332	321
