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# A Passing Fantasy Issue 112

## NFLBP Player Newsletter 2002 Season Week Six

ed Robert Crowther

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### WEEK FIVE REVIEW

The Dolphins proved they're for real with a dominating performance against the reigning AFC East champs. The Patriots never looked in it after giving up 17 first quarter points. The new coach in New York was unable to get his offense in the endzone in Buffalo and a fourth quarter touchdown gave the Bills another victory in a close defensive game. The Bengals made up somewhat for a couple of disappointing weeks with a thorough beating of Cleveland. In Tennessee the Titans broke with their recent trend of losing games they deserved to win by winning one they deserved to lose. The Ravens were the unlucky opponents, racking up over 500 yards of offense only to lose in overtime. A fourth quarter comeback from Denver put a scare into the champions, but Oakland's kicker held his nerve to kick the two field goals which accounted for the winning margin. The Chiefs had to go into overtime to beat the Seahawks, who racked up some big passing numbers but couldn't get a decisive score in the fourth.

The Eagles maintained their perfect record with a sound beating of the Cowboys. Dallas couldn't get any sort of running game going and their QB spent all day under pressure. The Arizona kicker missed one field goal, but made four to deny the new Giants coach a win on his debut. New York dominated in terms of yardage but four fumbles proved very costly. Tampa Bay continued their good form, despite giving up yardage and first downs to Green Bay they managed to keep them out of the endzone in the second half. The Detroit offense sprang to life in the fourth quarter in Chicago, 20 points and a safety demolished

the Bears first half lead. In the big game of the week in the West the Rams were conclusive victors in San Francisco. The 49ers are already looking like they'll have to settle for second place but may be hoping they can repeat the Rams late comeback last season. The former champions Panthers dragged themselves out of last place with a narrow win over the Saints. Defenses dominated in the second half after after the two teams had combined for five touchdowns in the second quarter.

Offensive performance of the week goes to Tampa Bay, 400 yards, 9 of 12 on third down and they only had to punt twice. Defensive performance of the week goes to Miami for completely shutting down a previously potent Patriots offense. Special teams performance of the week goes to Tennessee, loads of return yards and perfect on the place kicking.

### WEEK FIVE TOP PERFORMANCES

#### Martyn Williams

#### RUSHING OFFENCE

Team	Att	Yards	AvgR	TD	Fm	Rating
Bengals	22	131	5.95	1	0	95.45
Saints	45	196	4.36	2	0	87.06
Eagles	44	157	3.57	2	0	83.52

#### PASSING OFFENCE

Team	Cmp	Att	Pct	Yds	TD	Int	Sk	Rating
Ravens	21	32	65.63	353	3	0	2	133.98
Saints	16	23	69.57	215	2	0	1	127.99
Raiders	19	30	63.33	335	4	1	1	127.08

#### RUSHING DEFENCE

Team	Att	Yards	AvgR	TD	Fm	Rating
Eagles	18	30	1.67	0	1	28.06
Cardinals	29	122	4.21	1	4	34.83
Jets	26	87	3.35	0	1	45.00

#### PASSING DEFENCE

Team	Cmp	Att	Pct	Yds	TD	Int	Sk	Rating
Bills	23	54	42.59	189	0	4	6	21.30

Rams	12	28	42.86	139	0	1	1	43.60
Jets	15	33	45.45	116	1	1	4	52.08

### ST LOUIS POST-DESPATCH: MID-WEEK PRESS CONFERENCE AT RAMS PARK

**Martyn Williams**

Coach Williams started by responding to questions regarding the Rams 20-7 victory in San Francisco the previous Sunday:

"Well that was one hell of an important win for this franchise, and proves that after 3 years we have finally come out of the shadows of the 49er and Panther organisations. What is most gratifying is the manner of the victory, it wasn't by a lucky score or bounce of the ball - the game was closely fought but the team always looked in control, and in effect that game epitomised what the Rams have been about so far this season. On offence we have protected the ball well, and have been happier to move the chains consistently as opposed to the all or nothing approach that defined the Rams before I came here. On defence we play tough and rush to the ball, the aim is to not only restrict the other teams yardage but also to go for the turnovers. So far this style is serving us well, and I'm very impressed with the maturity of what is essentially a very young team we have here."

So what about this weeks match up against the Bengals?

"In the past you have to say we haven't really performed up to scratch on the few opportunities we've had to play the AFC's best. We lost to the Dolphins badly two years back, and of course lost a squeaker to the Raiders in last season's Super Bowl. But I'm sure Coach Crowther would be the first to admit that we were more than a match for his team. I fully expect that to be the case again this week when we line up against the Bengals. Sure, Coach Birtchnell hasn't had the best of starts to the season but then you look at the two teams the Bengals have lost to and they are both unbeaten, so make no mistake this will be a real test for us - they aren't many better coaches in this game than Darren. The good news is that having beaten the 49ers last week the pressure is off slightly, thanks to that two game cushion we now have. That allows us to try a few different

things this week and maybe gamble a little more than normal on both sides of the ball, so it will be interesting to see what the final result is. Either way I'm not too concerned, even if we get blown out - we could certainly do with the LP's. But of course keeping that 16-0 dream alive would perhaps be nicer!"

### STATS CORNER

**Martyn Williams**

#### RUSHING OFFENCE

Team	Att	Yards	AvgR	TD	Fm	Rating
Patriots	151	679	4.50	7	2	81.90
Bucs	156	617	3.96	8	3	78.17
Raiders	141	736	5.22	3	2	75.02
Saints	238	908	3.82	6	1	74.56
Rams	159	596	3.75	3	0	73.79
Eagles	206	769	3.73	4	2	69.08
Titans	145	674	4.65	4	4	67.98
Dolphins	139	518	3.73	3	2	67.57
Packers	189	639	3.38	3	2	65.46
Chiefs	138	482	3.49	4	4	62.07
Ravens	156	584	3.74	4	5	60.45
Bengals	132	553	4.19	1	3	60.11

#### PASSING OFFENCE

Team	Cmp	Att	Pct	Yds	TD	Int	Sk	Rating
Patriots	102	162	62.96	1134	12	1	11	105.84
Broncos	62	109	56.88	1098	8	3	15	104.45
Bucs	90	148	60.81	1231	10	2	12	104.31
Dolphins	106	183	57.92	1389	12	2	13	99.28
Rams	87	148	58.78	1116	9	2	11	97.13
Saints	83	132	62.88	1121	6	3	9	95.55
Raiders	82	143	57.34	1080	12	6	12	91.83
Titans	108	188	57.45	1294	12	4	14	91.05
Chiefs	93	167	55.69	1258	8	3	10	88.36
Cardinals	67	115	58.26	743	4	1	6	85.53
Bengals	102	173	58.96	1179	13	9	16	82.98
Giants	87	155	56.13	1101	8	5	15	82.22

#### RUSHING DEFENCE

Team	Att	Yards	AvgR	TD	Fm	Rating
Chiefs	107	250	2.34	0	5	35.82
Cardinals	162	560	3.46	2	10	38.86
Eagles	117	188	1.61	2	4	45.28
Raiders	150	544	3.63	0	5	48.97

Patriots	108	289	2.68	2	4	49.77
Giants	169	472	2.79	3	6	50.81
Seahawks	132	459	3.48	2	5	52.01
Lions	170	424	2.49	3	5	52.32
Broncos	144	468	3.25	1	3	56.11
Titans	130	511	3.93	3	5	57.15
Bears	180	631	3.51	3	4	60.58
Bengals	135	516	3.82	3	4	60.69

**PASSING DEFENCE**

Team	Cmp	Att	Pct	Yds	TD	Int	Sk	Rating
Rams	86	171	50.29	931	2	7	12	53.52
Bills	93	188	49.47	1008	5	8	26	56.78
49ers	96	161	59.63	1014	3	6	11	68.70
Dolphins	95	178	53.37	1203	6	6	9	71.91
Jets	93	170	54.71	932	6	4	17	72.48
Raiders	109	190	57.37	1385	7	9	15	72.81
Patriots	114	196	58.16	1410	7	6	16	79.68
Cowboys	97	164	59.15	1115	5	4	10	79.70
Giants	69	125	55.20	922	6	4	15	81.48
Bengals	105	181	58.01	1413	8	7	18	81.57
Cardinals	77	141	54.61	1141	6	4	15	83.67
Packers	82	147	55.78	1045	5	2	17	83.86

**TURNOVERS**

Team	T/O +/-
Arizona Cardinals	9
St Louis Rams	7
New England Patriots	7
Oakland Raiders	6
Tampa Bay Buccaneers	5
Miami Dolphins	3
New Orleans Saints	3
Kansas City Chiefs	2
Buffalo Bills	1
Tennessee Titans	0
Cincinnati Bengals	-1
Denver Broncos	-1

**WEEK SIX PREVIEW**

Predictions and commentary from myself, other predictions from Martyn Williams.

Patriots at Packers – New England should have no trouble with a Green Bay team

who look to have slipped back from last year. The Patriots offense will rediscover it's strong early season form. PATRIOTS BY 10

Bucs at Dolphins – Tampa are doing it with offense this season, but I can see them having trouble moving the ball on the Miami defense. I doubt the Bucs' defense will be able to do a similar job on the Dolphins' O. DOLPHINS BY 10

Jets at Lions – New coach in New York, but same old story. Strong on D but inconsistent on offense. The Detroit defense is not among the league's best, however, so the Jets may pick up enough points to survive the seemingly inevitable fourth quarter onslaught. JETS BY 3

Bears at Bills – Buffalo have been great defensively so far, but seem to struggle if they ever give up more than a couple of touchdowns. Chicago's offense has been a big disappointment so far, though, so the Bills may snatch another close one. BILLS BY 1

Bengals at Rams – A big game for both teams, St Louis need to prove, to themselves as much as anyone, that they can live with the AFC big boys while Cincinnati have had an indifferent start to the season and need a win to stay in the race for homefield advantage. The Rams have played better football this season, so they start as favourites, but we all know what the Bengals are capable of. RAMS BY 3

49ers at Browns – San Francisco should be more than capable, even on their current poor form, of seeing off the winless Browns. 49ERS BY 10

Ravens at Panthers – Carolina are either an unstoppable offensive force or nowhere to be seen. Baltimore are perhaps better than their record suggests. RAVENS BY 7

Saints at Titans – Tennessee seem to be getting the hang of winning games, New Orleans have some rather obvious

weaknesses but are capable of putting points past anybody. Titans to come out on top in a high scorer. TITANS BY 7

Raiders at Eagles – Two unbeaten teams, Philly have been dominating teams while Oakland have been doing just enough to win. If the Raiders can get some running game going on the Eagles' very tough run defense then they may snatch another win. Philly will be looking to avoid the turnovers that most teams have suffered against Oakland.

Cowboys at Broncos – Despite getting spanked by the Eagles last week I think Dallas are the better team. Denver will need a couple of big plays in the fourth quarter if they hope to snatch victory. COWBOYS BY 3

Seahawks at Cardinals – The long bomb offense against one of the league's better defenses. If Seattle get their passing game going like they did last week I don't think the Arizona offense will keep up. SEAHAWKS BY 3

Giants at Chiefs – Kansas City have been showing some offense this season, but New York looked good last week apart from the turnovers. The Chiefs have a better defense than Washington, however, so the Giants may find it tougher going. CHIEFS BY 3

Lock – Dolphins, Blowout – Patriots, Shock – Seahawks, Shootout – Saints at Titans, Slugfest – Bears at Bills

MW – Patriots by 21, Dolphins by 10, Jets by 3, Bills by 1, 49ers by 14, Panthers by 5, Titans by 6, Raiders by 7, Cowboys by 6, Cardinals by 7, Chiefs by 8

Lock, Blowout – Patriots, Shock – Browns, Shootout – Bengals at Rams, Slugfest – Bears at Bills