
A Passing Fantasy Issue 115

NFLBP Player Newsletter 2002 Week Nine

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WEEK EIGHT REVIEW

Buffalo's playoff pretensions were dealt a blow in New England where the Patriots proved to be far too good for them. The Bills defense played a tough game but got almost no help from the offense and crumbled in the fourth quarter. Miami continued their perfect start to the season with a sound thrashing of the Jets, after building a ten point first quarter lead they never looked like being threatened. Cincinnati made hard work of beating the Titans but the defense played well enough to preserve the first half lead. Baltimore looked in control for most of the game in Cleveland, racking up yardage but unfortunately not many points, when the Browns came to life in the fourth quarter they had no answers. Seattle came from behind with two fourth quarter touchdowns to overcome a Denver first half lead built on the back of turnovers. Oakland had an explosive first half before the offense went to sleep in the second half, the defense played well enough to limit the Chiefs' scoring opportunities.

Philadelphia got some great performances from defense and special teams that meant the offense didn't have to go very far to rack up over 50 points. The Giants passed the ball well but couldn't get anything going on the ground and paid dearly for each of their four turnovers. Dallas and Arizona entered the fourth quarter tied, the Cards could only manage a field goal, the Cowboys responded with the decisive touchdown. Green Bay looked fairly comfortable seeing off Chicago, though they may be slightly concerned that a very impressive offensive showing was only translated into 20 points. Detroit's one game

advantage at the top of the Central was lost to a fourth quarter field goal in Tampa. The 49ers seemed more like themselves this week, seeing off the Panthers with little difficulty. The Rams impressive season continued as they handed a thrashing to the visiting Saints.

Offensive performance of the week goes to St Louis, not quite as many points as the Eagles but they looked a lot more balanced getting them. Defensive performance of the week goes to Cincinnati for keeping a competent Tennessee offense out of the endzone. Special teams performance of the week goes to Philadelphia, a kick return touchdown, a punt return touchdown and four field goals making up for the slightly embarrassing missed extra point.

WEEK 8 TOP PERFORMANCES

Martyn Williams

RUSHING OFFENCE

Team	Att	Yards	AvgR	TD	Fm	Rating
Patriots	18	95	5.28	1	0	96.11
Eagles	28	158	5.64	2	1	86.43
Lions	36	96	2.67	2	0	83.06

PASSING OFFENCE

Team	Cmp	Att	Pct	Yds	TD	Int	Sk	Rating
Raiders	13	22	59.09	276	4	0	3	142.99
Rams	21	34	61.76	260	4	0	2	124.63
Packers	15	22	68.18	203	1	0	4	112.50

RUSHING DEFENCE

Team	Att	Yards	AvgR	TD	Fm	Rating
Eagles	17	-4	-0.24	0	2	0.00
Broncos	18	38	2.11	0	2	10.56
49ers	30	90	3.00	0	3	15.00

PASSING DEFENCE

Team	Cmp	Att	Pct	Yds	TD	Int	Sk	Rating
Rams	13	24	54.17	124	0	2	4	34.03
49ers	15	33	45.45	156	0	2	3	34.41
Dolphins	11	22	50.00	157	1	2	2	50.76

STATS CORNER
Martyn Williams

RUSHING OFFENCE

Team	Att	Yards	AvgR	TD	Fm	Rating
Patriots	221	947	4.29	9	2	80.69
Rams	249	968	3.89	8	0	79.79
Raiders	251	1141	4.55	7	4	73.42
Buccaneers	270	1009	3.74	11	5	73.22
Saints	342	1228	3.59	8	2	71.89
Eagles	301	1204	4.00	6	3	70.49
Dolphins	235	858	3.65	9	5	70.44
Bengals	188	820	4.36	5	5	66.65
Packers	315	1133	3.60	5	5	63.90
Lions	283	796	2.81	12	9	62.62
Chiefs	275	910	3.31	5	5	62.23
Cardinals	318	774	2.43	8	5	61.87

PASSING OFFENCE

Team	Cmp	Att	Pct	Yds	TD	Int	Sk	Rating
Dolphins	161	278	57.91	2132	18	4	21	97.89
Patriots	168	272	61.76	1883	17	4	23	97.10
Raiders	119	206	57.77	1691	19	9	17	96.97
Rams	144	245	58.78	1831	16	5	18	95.47
Bucs	142	230	61.74	1794	13	6	24	94.00
Bengals	166	279	59.50	1999	22	13	30	88.39
Broncos	109	197	55.33	1604	11	6	26	88.04
Cards	107	176	60.80	1183	6	2	9	87.38
Titans	164	292	56.16	1837	15	5	22	85.09
Chiefs	131	239	54.81	1777	11	7	17	81.88
Saints	127	211	60.19	1683	7	8	17	80.74
Packers	133	226	58.85	1745	7	9	19	77.03

TURNOVERS

Team	T/O +/-
Arizona Cardinals	14
St Louis Rams	12
New England Patriots	9
Miami Dolphins	9
Buffalo Bills	5
Oakland Raiders	5
Philadelphia Eagles	5
Kansas City Chiefs	4
Tampa Bay Buccaneers	2
San Francisco 49ers	2

Detroit Lions	1
Tennessee Titans	1

RUSHING DEFENCE

Team	Att	Yards	AvgR	TD	Fm	Rating
Chiefs	163	347	2.13	2	8	38.51
Cardinals	255	830	3.25	4	14	42.60
Eagles	211	457	2.17	3	8	45.06
Broncos	206	652	3.17	2	7	50.22
Patriots	215	635	2.95	2	6	52.03
Raiders	243	915	3.77	0	6	53.98
Lions	241	633	2.63	5	7	54.41
Seahawks	245	804	3.28	4	7	56.15
Dolphins	212	763	3.60	4	7	56.53
Ravens	215	677	3.15	6	7	58.13
Bills	200	649	3.25	6	7	58.23
Cowboys	322	988	3.07	6	7	59.43

PASSING DEFENCE

Team	Cmp	Att	Pct	Yds	TD	Int	Sk	Rating
Rams	142	263	53.99	1645	5	14	24	57.30
Bills	152	308	49.35	1544	8	11	40	57.87
49ers	141	251	56.18	1545	4	10	22	63.26
Dolphins	140	258	54.26	1706	8	11	16	67.43
Raiders	154	277	55.60	1857	8	12	28	67.92
Bengals	167	295	56.61	2012	9	11	29	72.31
Patriots	151	269	56.13	1888	7	9	23	72.84
Lions	140	249	56.22	1750	11	11	34	74.54
Jets	134	246	54.47	1418	10	6	26	74.88
Giants	98	182	53.85	1274	10	8	24	76.12
Cards	130	242	53.72	1788	9	7	25	77.98
Cowboys	140	232	60.34	1669	10	9	14	80.55

WEEK NINE PREVIEW

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

Titans at Patriots – Tennessee have played the other top AFC teams very hard without getting a win. New England might not be quite as free scoring as usual but should tough out the victory. **PATRIOTS BY 7**

Ravens at Dolphins – Miami look to be finally

fulfilling their promise. Baltimore are better than their record suggests but are no match for the in form Dolphins. DOLPHINS BY 10

Broncos at Jets – Neither team has been particularly impressive thus far, New York have yet to find their offensive rhythm while Denver has yet to find any rhythm at all. JETS BY 3

Raiders at Bills – Buffalo have won more games than many expected so far, but it would be a major upset if they were to trouble the champions.

Chiefs at Bengals – KC's lack of offensive imagination will hurt them in Cincinnati, who can pile up yards on any defense. BENGALS BY 7

Seahawks at Browns – Both teams showed signs of life last week but not until the fourth quarter. Seattle have the more direct offensive approach but have been hurt by turnovers. BROWNS BY 3

Bears at Eagles – Chicago have struggled to score against the poor defenses, expect them to make very little impact in Philadelphia. Eagles by 14

Lions at Cowboys – Two teams with the same record, but it looks like Detroit have got their by beating up on weak divisional opponents. COWBOYS BY 7

49ers at Cardinals – San Francisco have yet to hit top form and may well struggle with the Arizona defense, but they are good enough to win on the road. 49ERS BY 7

Rams at Giants – Already looking like favourites for another NFC title, St Louis should despatch a New York team that is struggling to put points on the board. RAMS BY 14

Saints at Packers – Green Bay looked a lot better last week and should be able to find their way through New Orleans' obvious weaknesses. PACKERS BY 10

Panthers at Bucs – Tampa proved last week why they should be considered

favourites for the Central title. Carolina have been inconsistent all season, they are capable of winning if they play their best game, but that seems unlikely. BUCS BY 7

RC – Lock - Eagles, Shock - Jets, Blowout - Rams, Shootout - Lions @ Cowboys, Slugfest - Broncos @ Jets

DB – Patriots by 10, Dolphins by 17, Broncos by 6, Raiders by 10, Seahawks by 3 (shock), Eagles by 14, Lions by 3 (slugfest), 49ers by 7, Rams by 17 (lock, blowout), Packers by 3, Bucs by 4 (shootout)

MW – Pats by 21 (lock), Fins by 20, Broncos by 7, Raiders by 17, Bengals by 24 (blowout, shock - Chiefs), Browns by 6 (shootout), Eagles by 21, Cowboys by 3, 49ers by 10 (slugfest), Packers by 7, Buccs by 10.