

---

# A Passing Fantasy Issue 141

## NFLBP Player Newsletter 2005 Week Six

ed Robert Crowther

---

Bit late this week, thanks to Darren and Martyn for making it possible at all to get a newsletter out. The address for contributions is:

35a Dukes Avenue  
Finchley  
London  
N3 2DE

Or email at '[gameplan@crowther.info](mailto:gameplan@crowther.info)'. If you want to discuss Gameplan with other coaches have a look at the Yahoo! Group:

<http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/gameplan>

### **WEEK FIVE REVIEW**

#### **Darren Birtchnell**

There were a number of surprise results last week, at least if the predictions are anything to go by. Seeing as the NFC had the most shocks, I'll start there this time.

Philly were strong favourites to win at home, but Washington rebounded well from last week's defeat to post a mild upset. I get the feeling the NFC East will go down to the wire. Dallas broke their losing streak in fine style, spanking the previously impressive Giants. Was this a blip for either team or did they both show their true colours? Detroit won a snore-fest in Chicago, the fans must have stiff necks from watching all those punts! I don't think I've ever seen a 3-0 game, and here's hoping I don't see another... Green Bay continue to struggle, although it was against the division-leading Buccs. Things are already looking ominous for the rest of the division. St Louis beat the Niners easily enough, although it took them longer than Martyn would've wanted. That run defense still looks soft to me :o) Carolina won a hard-fought game in New Orleans, the Saints are heading in the right direction and the signs are very promising for the future.

The Patriots defense was in top form in New York, holding the Jets to 174 total yards. After an awkward start they're starting to look very

impressive. Miami mounted another 4th quarter comeback, and this time they pulled it off, scoring 13 in the final quarter. They'll need to score earlier in games if they're to be a serious contender. Baltimore handed Cleveland another defeat, as the Browns season continues to spiral out of control. Who's next for them? St Louis. On the road. Oh dear. Cincinnati had their game won inside 7 minutes, taking a 21-0 lead courtesy of some big plays. But the big plays just kept on coming, including 2 interception return TD's, as Tennessee were put to the sword. Another surprise result was KC handing Oakland their first defeat of the season. However, the Chiefs have been playing very well this season and this win will make people take them more seriously. Denver probably should have wrapped the game up in regulation, but the Seahawks pushed them to overtime before finally succumbing. I wouldn't back either team to win this week though.

### **PERFORMANCES OF THE WEEK**

Offensive performance of the week goes to the Bengals for their half century display, though no-one put up eye-popping yardage numbers this week as defenses come to the fore. Defensive performance of the week goes to the Bucs for holding Green Bay without a touchdown, though an honourable mention might go to the Lions and Bears even I wasn't in some doubt as to what was due to great defense and what was due to inept offense. Special teams performance of the week was a bit difficult, with no outstanding performances, but I've decided to give it to the Bears, because 11 punt returns in one game should count for something :)

### **PREDICTIONS COMPETITION**

#### **Darren Birtchnell**

A bad week for all the predictors last week, except Chris & Dave who didn't make any picks! Due to the number of surprise results, those that took part have slipped back a bit. But remember if you don't take part, you can't win any credits...

We've now decided how to award the credits at the end of the regular season. The winner will get six credits, 2nd place will get three credits and 3rd place will get one. Just think of that, six turn credits for free. Come on, it's got to be worth a try hasn't it?!

Right then, last week's (rather poor) results are as follows:

Martyn Williams 24  
Darren Birtchnell 20  
Peter Kneil 17  
Rob Crowther 16

And so the current standings are:

Chris Stones 37.3 avg (3 wks)  
Dave Pinder 33 (2)  
Darren Birtchnell 31 (5)  
Martyn Williams 29.3 (3)  
Rob Crowther 24.8 (4)  
Peter Kneil 23.6 (5)

## WEEK SIX PREVIEW

### Martyn Williams

Patriots @ Lions - The Patriots would appear to be picking up speed now, and shouldn't have any trouble against a Lions team that seems to lack consistency: Pats by 17

Bears @ Jets - Two teams looking to make a step up to the leagues elite. Both teams looked poor last week, I've a feeling the Jets are the better team: Jets by 7

Dolphins @ Bucs - The Fins are better than 2-3, but aren't good enough to match the Borg: Tampa by 14

Packers @ Bills - The Packers are struggling more than I expected, it seems Goz took over a week or two too late to hit the ground running this season. The Packers O is the key, if they perform Green Bay get to .500: Pack by 7

Browns @ Rams - Cleveland's tough start continues. They are far better than 1-4, but winning in St Louis is one of the toughest asks in BP. Close, but form is against Cleveland: Rams by 10

49ers @ Ravens - The Ravens could go some way to finishing the 49ers season, while keeping theirs on track. Ravens should win quite comfortably: Ravens by 13

Bengals @ Panthers - Game of the Week, and who do I want to win?! Well, it's always enjoyable watching the Bengals lose, but I think I'd rather see them end up with the W this week. Whoever wins, both teams will be involved come the play-offs: Bengals by 6

Saints @ Titans - Briggsey will never get a better opportunity to grab his first win for the 'Aints: Saints by 12

Raiders @ Redskins - The Redskins O will struggle almost as much as their D, Oakland to stay atop the West: Raiders by 17

Eagles @ Chiefs - KC fired a warning shot to the rest of the league last week, while the Eagles did no more than show they aren't the force of 2 or 3 seasons back: Chiefs by 20

Seahawks @ Giants: Just what the Giants need, as we all know that Seattle don't start playing until week 9...: Giants by 8

Cowboys @ Broncos: If the Cowboys can beat NYG, surely they must be able to beat the directionless Broncos...?: Cowboys by 3

## PREDICTIONS

Peter Kneil: Patriots by 17, Jets by 7, Buccs by 24, Packers by 10, Rams by 24, Ravens by 14, Bengals by 7, Saints by 21, Raiders by 17, Chiefs by 13, Giants by 17, Cowboys by 10

Darren Birtchnell: Patriots by 17, Jets by 6, Buccs by 8, Packers by 13, Rams by 17, Ravens by 14, Bengals by 3 (I hope!), Saints by 13, Raiders by 14, Chiefs by 10, Giants by 9, Cowboys by 4

Dave Pinder: Pats by 10, Jets by 3, Buccs by 10, Packers by 7, Rams by 10, Panthers by 3, Saints by 7, Raiders by 10, Chiefs by 6, Giants by 3, Broncos by 3