
A Passing Fantasy Issue 146

NFLBP Player Newsletter 2005 Week Eleven

ed Robert Crowther

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

WEEK TEN REVIEW

Darren Birtchnell

New England kept their winning streak going, although the game was far closer than anyone expected. The Pats struggled to move the ball at times, but still kept Buffalo at arms length. The Jets got back to winning ways with a hard-fought win in Miami. New York won the turnover battle 4-2, which is likely what won them the game. Cleveland continue to make hay while the sun shines, as they handed the Titans another spanking. However, the sun is about to disappear behind a big dark cloud called New England, will Cleveland be able to translate their good performances against the weaker teams to a good one against one of the league's best? Not only did Cincinnati manage to make it out of their own half against Baltimore, they also managed to score from their own half! The Bengals got 3 big plays, 2 for TD's and the other set up a score, while their secondary were absolutely outstanding, holding the Ravens to 34% completions and picking off 4 passes. Seattle pulled off another surprise win, although given their recent performances maybe it wasn't that much of a shock. KC will be grateful they face Tennessee this week as their season is in serious danger of unravelling again. Denver were shut out again, this time by Oakland. The Raiders dominated in every area and held the Broncos to only 7 first downs while forcing 5 turnovers.

Washington are starting to look good again as

they won their 4th straight game. It may only have been against the struggling Cowboys, but in the weak-looking NFC East every win is vital. Philadelphia had far too much for the Giants, another team whose season is starting to slip away. Philly were able to keep the scoreboard moving while New York just couldn't get going. Green Bay won an important one at home to the Lions. Their defense had a decent game but they need to keep winning if they're to feature in the post-season. Tampa had no trouble with the Bears as they moved to a 28-0 halftime lead on the back of a good performance by their passing game. They eased off in the second half but Chicago never threatened and only managed a 4th quarter consolation TD. Carolina made hard work of the Niners, they pretty much dominated the game but kept shooting themselves in the foot. In the end they needed overtime, but they managed to keep their winning streak going and, thanks to the Rams loss, find themselves top of the NFC West. The Saints beat the Rams again! Both teams favoured the ground game and got some big plays, but New Orleans were able to move the ball more consistently and look good value for the win. The St Louis run defense still looks a bit soft to me...!

PERFORMANCES OF THE WEEK

Offensive performance of the week goes to New Orleans, not least because you deserve some recognition for defeating the reigning champs twice in one season. Defensive performance of the week goes to Oakland, because I'm allowed to blow my own horn occasionally! Special teams performance of the week goes to Green Bay, for being the best of another mediocre bunch.

PREDICTIONS COMPETITION

Darren Birtchnell

A lot of movement on the leaderboard this week, mainly thanks to everyone sending some predictions (Dave sent his to me). It's starting to get congested from 2nd place downwards, but it looks as though Chris has cemented the top spot and those 6 credits.

Whose idea was it to donate credits for this competition?!

Anyway, here are last week's scores:

Martyn Williams 34
 Rob Crowther 32
 Peter Kneil 32
 Dave Pinder 28
 Chris Stones 23
 Apple 21
 Darren Birtchnell 18 (boo!)

And so the standings now look like this:

Chris Stones	35.8	(6)
Dave Pinder	30.8	(4)
Apple	30.7	(3)
Martyn Williams	30.1	(7)
Darren Birtchnell	29.4	(10)
Peter Kneil	28.3	(10)
Rob Crowther	26.5	(8)

WEEK ELEVEN PREVIEW

Patriots at Browns – Cleveland have played much better lately after a terrible start, it would be a major shock to me if they beat New England but I think they'll be good enough to keep it close. PATRIOTS BY 7

Jets at Ravens – The winner will be in pole position for the AFC wild card, Baltimore look to have the better all round team and should have the advantage at home. RAVENS BY 7

Dolphins at Seahawks – Seattle's slim playoff chances will evaporate with a Miami win, and I don't think they're really good enough to do anything about it. DOLPHINS BY 10

Bills at Broncos – A fairly meaningless game, neither team have been particularly impressive this year though the Buffalo defense has played well in patches. Edge to Denver at home. BRONCOS BY 3

Bengals at Raiders – The two grand old dames of the AFC, Cincy have bounced back well this year while Oakland are trying to erase memories of their last trip to the superbowl. The Raiders have slightly better looking numbers, but have also probably enjoyed an easier schedule.

Titans at Chiefs – KC have been in a nosedive recently, fortunately for them Tennessee

come along. CHIEFS BY 17

Redskins at Lions – Washington are on a four game roll, but they've played the Cowboys twice in that time. Detroit to keep the NFC Central interesting. LIONS BY 1

Eagles at Bears – Chicago have sunk without trace following a promising start, Philly will build on their recent run of good form. EAGLES BY 14

Giants at Panthers – Carolina have been the most impressive team in the NFC so far, New York will not be looking forward to this. PANTHERS BY 21

Cowboys at Saints – Despite beating the defending champs twice New Orleans are not currently in a playoff position, that could soon change as they should have no difficulty seeing off Dallas. SAINTS BY 17

Bucs at Rams – The defending champs against would be pretenders. Tampa have been putting together a good string of results lately, but are they ready for St Louis at home? RAMS BY 1

Packers at 49ers – San Francisco are drowning somewhat, I don't expect this to be a great opportunity for them to right the ship as Green Bay are improving rapidly. PACKERS BY 10

PREDICTIONS

Peter Kneil: Patriots by 17, Ravens by 7, Seahawks by 10, Bills by 3, Raiders by 7, Chiefs by 28, Redskins by 7, Eagles by 10, Panthers by 10, Saints by 21, Buccs by 3, Packers by 14

Darren Birtchnell: Patriots by 13, Ravens by 8, Dolphins by 6, Bills by 3, Raiders by 6, Chiefs by 21, Redskins by 10, Eagles by 10, Panthers by 17, Saints by 14, Buccs by 3, Packers by 13

Apple: Patriots by 17, Ravens by 10, Dolphins by 7, Bills by 3, Bengals by 7, Chiefs by 21, Redskins by 10, Eagles by 10, Panthers by 24, Saints by 14, Bucs by 10, Packers by 6

Dave Pinder: Patriots by 7, Ravens by 10, Dolphins by 3, Broncos by 7, Bengals by 2 (sorry mate), Chiefs by 17, Redskins by 3, Eagles by 10, Panthers by 10, Saints by 10, Rams by 1, Packers by 7