
A Passing Fantasy Issue 148

NFLBP Player Newsletter 2005 Week Thirteen

ed Robert Crowther

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

WEEK TWELVE REVIEW

Darren Birtchnell

The big game of the week ended up being a bit one-sided, as the Rams ran the ball more than New England were expecting. The Rams also won the turnover battle 5-3 to help them keep pace with the division-leading Panthers. San Francisco pulled off one of the week's two big shocks by beating the Jets. Looking at the stats it's hard to see how they did it, as other than a punt return TD they did nothing at all, they were comfortably outgained and only managed 6 first downs. This one could come back to haunt New York at the end of the season. Carolina needed 10 points in the 4th quarter to get past the Dolphins and keep their winning streak going. Both these teams have big games this week that will go a long way to deciding their fate come week 16. The Saints got a strong passing performance to hold off Buffalo, despite rumours surrounding the status of Coach Briggs. The situation is still unclear but hopefully he will be able to resolve his differences and continue the improvement the team has shown. Cleveland got ahead of Washington early on and were able to cruise to victory. They've still got a glimmer of hope of making the playoffs, but they'll have to keep winning. Baltimore had few problems in Philadelphia, taking a big halftime lead and keeping the Eagles at arm's length the rest of the way. Their defense looked pretty good, holding Philly under 50% completions and racking up 5 sacks. Cincinnati were another team to hold their opponents below

50% completions, the third straight week they've done it. The Bengals offense wasn't spectacular, but they got some big plays and also returned a kick and an interception for TD's. Dallas won the 'Wooden Spoon Bowl' by handing Tennessee their 30th straight loss. Dallas looked pretty good, which shows how bad the Titans are. Tennessee now look certain to have top pick in the draft for the 3rd consecutive season - which high-priced offensive player will they use the top pick on this time?! Oakland had a bit of trouble with the Lions but their class came through in the end. Detroit got a 94yd TD pass, but they were always chasing the game and couldn't quite get back on level terms. The Chiefs and Bears blew up for 36 points in the 4th quarter, having only scored 15 between them in the previous 3 periods. KC managed 3 TD's to Chicago's 2 and kept themselves in the thick of the AFC playoff race. Shock of the day came in Seattle, as the Seahawks edged the Buccs. It looks to have been an even game statistically, although Tampa couldn't capitalise on their 3 picks while Seattle returned a fumble for a TD. The Buccs also missed a FG which ultimately cost them the game. I also note Apple predicted a 27-point win for himself, did he pay for his overconfidence?! :o) And finally, Green Bay continued their good recent run by easily beating the Broncos. The Pack got 23 hurries as they blitzed Denver into submission, but they might be a bit concerned they only picked up 3 sacks.

PERFORMANCES OF THE WEEK

Offensive performance of the week goes to Carolina for their all round play. Defensive performance of the week goes to St Louis for limiting what was the league's top scoring offense to just ten points. Special teams performance of the week goes to Cincinnati for a kick return touchdown and five of five on field goals.

PREDICTIONS COMPETITION

Darren Birtchnell

One good score & five average scores last

week. Unfortunately for those of us chasing the top 3, that good score was by Apple & so the turn credits look pretty certain to be heading to Chris, Dave & Apple in one order or another. But only if they all remember to predict at least 8 weeks worth of games...!

OK, last week's scores looked like this:

Apple 39
 Darren Birtchnell 29
 Martyn Williams 29
 Peter Kneil 27
 Chris Stones 27
 Rob Crowther 26

And so with only 4 weeks to go, the current standings are:

Chris Stones	34.6 ave	(7 wks)
Dave Pinder	32.6	(5)
Apple	32.4	(5)
Martyn Williams	30	(8)
Darren Birtchnell	29.9	(12)
Peter Kneil	28.3	(12)
Rob Crowther	26.5	(10)

WEEK ELEVEN PREVIEW

Patriots at Chiefs - KC have been a bit patchy recently and are unlikely to significantly trouble New England. Patriots by 10

Jets at Raiders - Oakland have been going through a dodgy patch, but New York are also on a two game losing streak. Probably whichever team gets of to the best start will be able to hold on for the win.

Dolphins at Ravens - Miami are always a dangerous team, they led the 11-1 Panthers through three quarters, but Baltimore are more consistent and should win if they avoid mistakes. Ravens by 7

Bills at Browns - Cleveland still have a very slight shot at the playoffs, playing the Bills at this time can only be good for them. Browns by 14

Titans at Seahawks - Seattle get themselves on a roll by beating the league's worst team, though it would be entirely typical of them to lose this week following last week's great win. Seahawks by 21

Bengals at Broncos - Denver shouldn't trouble high flying Cincinnati. Bengals by 17

Redskins at 49ers - San Francisco broke out of their slump last week but this represents an excellent opportunity for Washington to get back on top in the East. Redskins by 7

Eagles at Rams - In days past this was the premier matchup in the NFC, this time round only one of them is even leading their division, and that's not the team who's going to win... Rams by 14

Giants at Bears - A bit of an also ran contest, New York are on a shorter losing streak so I'll go with them. Giants by 7

Cowboys at Lions - Dallas did win last week, Detroit perhaps should have, this week the roles will reverse. Lions by 7

Packers at Panthers - A fascinating matchup between two of the new faces in NFLBP, Green Bay are starting to come into form but it's doubtful whether they're ready to challenge high flying Carolina. Panthers by 7

Bucs at Saints - Tampa Bay slipped up last week, I expect that to mean their coaching team devote full attention to New Orleans this week. Bucs by 10

PREDICTIONS

Peter Kneil: Patriots by 14, Raiders by 17, Ravens by 13, Browns by 14, Seahawks by 21, Bengals by 28, 49ers by 10, Rams by 24, Giants by 7, Lions by 10, Panthers by 7, Buccs by 10

Darren Birtchnell: Patriots by 13, Raiders by 16, Ravens by 6, Browns by 21, Seahawks by 14, Bengals by 21, 49ers by 3, Rams by 17, Giants by 6, Lions by 12, Panthers by 6, Buccs by 13

Martyn Williams: Patriots by 13, Raiders by 17, Ravens by 8, Browns by 17, Seahawks by 10, Bengals by 31, Redskins by 7, Rams by 16, Giants by 5, Lions by 7, Panthers by 6, Buccs by 10