
A Passing Fantasy Issue 162

NFLBP Player Newsletter 2006 Week Six
ed Robert Crowther

Thanks to Peter for his contributions this time.
The address for contributions is:

35a Dukes Avenue
Finchley
London
N3 2DE

Or email at '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

New England put themselves right back in playoff contention with a thrashing of the Dolphins. The Miami offense was completely thwarted, with only two second half field goals to show for their efforts. The Jets got their first win of the year with a surprisingly good defensive display in Buffalo. Baltimore handed the Bengals their second consecutive defeat thanks to some explosive offense in the second quarter. Cincy moved the ball well on the ground but were unable to get in the end-zone regularly. Tennessee's recent run of form came to an end as the Browns came into town with a plan to put the brakes on their long passing game. Oakland won a battle of the defenses in Kansas City, scoring two touchdowns to the Chiefs' two field goals. Seattle stayed in contention at the top of the AFC West thanks to a comfortable win over the lowly Broncos.

Philadelphia mounted a big comeback in Washington – trailing by two touchdowns going into the fourth quarter they managed to tie the game and then kick the winning field goal deep into overtime. The Giants ran all over the Cowboys – over three hundred yards rushing at nearly six yards per carry, I'm surprised the Cowboys kept it as close as they did. In Green Bay the scoring was all in the first half, the Pack entered half-time with a two point advantage over the Bucs and then clung to it for the entire second half. Despite dominating possession they couldn't add to

their advantage. The Bears defense had a good day, containing the Detroit offense long enough for their own to get some big plays in. In the big game in the NFC West the Rams balanced offense turned out comfortable winners – Carolina only really looked threatening when they were trying to come from behind in the fourth quarter. New Orleans were another team relying on their ground game on the road, gradually pounding the 49ers into submission with 46 carries.

PERFORMANCES OF THE WEEK

Offensive performance of the week goes to the Rams, who's offense once again came big in a big game. Defensive performance of the week goes, once again, to the Packers for defending a two point lead for the entire second half. Special teams performance of the week goes to the Bears, good kick returns and excellent place kicking was a deciding factor in their win.

RAVENOUS (The view from Baltimore) Peter Kneil

A great win for us last time defeating the Bengals 31-23. Tied at 7 after the first quarter we then had 24 unanswered points to go up 31-7. The Bengals rallied well to get within 8 points but couldn't recover the late onside kick and we safely ran out the clock. We ran alot more than usual this time and the change in strategy seemed to work pretty well. Despite this win I'm still not top of the Division as the Browns eased past the Titans. It's not inconceivable that the Bengals could prop up the Division after the next game as the Titans have a very winable game against the 49ers and the Bengals have a small matter of the Rams away. We've also got a very tough game against the Panthers. They're on a two game losing streak but when you consider that those two games were against the Rams & Packers then it doesn't look nearly so bad. It's interesting to note that in both those defeats the opposition ran the ball twice as much as passing. We usually favour the pass so ! have had to adapt our tactics accordingly. The AFC

Central is now rivalling the NFC West for best Division record. This week's games will tell us alot about the strength of the two Conferences.

Other big games this week see the Dolphins host the Packers. This looks set to be a slugfest with home advantage maybe tipping the balance in favour of the Dolphins. Two teams doing surprisingly well meet in New Orleans with both the Saints and Browns at 4-1 so far. The Saints, despite being coachless, are on a 3 game winning streak and the Browns have turned things around since their disappointing defence of their title last season. They still have 3 games to come v the Bengals & Ravens though so things might look very different later on. The other big game this week is the Raiders at the Eagles. The Raiders have woken up after their shock loss to the Titans and have responded by beating two Playoff teams in their last two games. They should be far too strong for Philadelphia.

Can't choose between my own Ravens & the Rams for team of the week so in best BCS fashion it's heads for the Ravens and tails for the Rams. Damn it's tails, congratulations Martyn!

WEEK SIX PREDICTIONS

Peter Kneil - Pats by 3, Dolphins by 3, Lions by 7, Bills by 3, Rams by 14, Ravens by 3, Saints by 3, Titans by 3, Raiders by 6, Chiefs by 10, Giants by 17, Seahawks by 14

Rob Crowther - Patriots by 3, Packers by 10, Jets by 3, Bears by 3, Rams by 7, Panthers by 3, Browns by 7, 49ers by 7, Chiefs by 3, Giants by 21, Seahawks by 7