
A Passing Fantasy Issue 165

NFLBP Player Newsletter 2006 Week Nine

ed Robert Crowther

Thanks to Peter and Martyn for their contributions this time. The address for contributions is:

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

PERFORMANCES OF THE WEEK

Offensive performance of the week goes to Cincinnati, because it's not often you crack the half century. Defensive performance of the week goes to Tampa Bay, who made up for the frustrating day their offense was having. Special teams performance of the week goes to Philadelphia, excellent returns and great place kicking masked a poor showing from the offense.

RAVENOUS (The view from Baltimore) Peter Kneil

Our winning run came to an end this week with a slightly disappointing defeat at home to the Browns. Things started well with a FG and then a TD after a fumble recovery. Three plays later it was 10-7 after a long TD pass. Our next drive lasted precisely one play and resulted in a fumble. The Browns started at our 18 yard line but could only score a FG to make it 10-10.

Our first drive in the second quarter again led to a turnover, this time an interception, which the Browns converted into 7 points. We scored a late FG to make it 17-13 to the Browns at half-time.

In the third quarter we scored a FG and a TD to go up 23-17 entering the fourth quarter.

Cleveland scored straight away following an-

other interception to go up 24-23. With about 4 minutes to go we were inside the Browns half. Blake completed a pass to the WR to move nicely into FG range only for the receiver to fumble the ball away. Cleveland then fumbled deep inside their own half but managed to recover the ball. Final score Browns 24, Ravens 23.

A bit annoyed to have lost this one but then you can't really expect to win if you turn the ball over 5 times. Very pleased with my run defence though, giving up 29 yards at 0.9 yards per carry.

In the other significant games the Pats thumped the Bills, the Bengals totally out-classed the Titans, the Raiders beat the Seahawks at their own game, averaging 6.9 yards per carry, the Giants won yet again, the Packers just squeezed past the Lions, the Panthers beat the Saints with a 4th quarter FG and the Rams won easily as expected completing an impressive 74% of their passes.

Nearly forgot to do Team Of The Week. It pains me to say it but this week I'm giving it to the Browns (grrr!) for defeating my beloved Ravens.

NFLBP HALF TERM REPORT Martyn Williams

AFC East - Coach Pinder may have left the Super Bowl Champions in the hands of his OC and DC, but Patriots fans are yet to see a significant downturn in the teams performance. They will win the division again, if not the Super Bowl. Jets, Dolphins and Bills are staring down the barrel of yet another non-playoff season.

AFC Central - BPs toughest division sees the Browns bouncing back from last seasons nightmare, the Ravens really beginning to challenge under Coach Kneil and the Bengals surprisingly in third. I've no idea who will win this division, although it is looking a big ask of the Bengals right now unless they sort that D out. No matter really as all three teams will

make the playoffs, while the Titans will be happy just to have broken that losing streak!

AFC West - The Raiders are in charge, as always, although they haven't looked quite up to their usual high standards. The Seahawks have come over all confused, starting the season with a winning streak for once, but normal service has since been resumed. If they can effect their usual late season flourish then they might just sneak into the playoffs at the expense of an AFC Central team. Chiefs are struggling after the exertions of last season and the Broncos are still looking for a D.

NFC East - The Giants are this seasons surprise team, on a 7 game win streak following a week one defeat to St Louis. At this point in time they look a shoe in for the division title and are the Rams only real challenges for HFA. The Eagles are struggling to score points but should be good enough to push for a wildcard spot, while the Redskins and Cowboys just plain suck! (I REALLY hope the Cowboys don't beat me now I've said that!!!)

NFC Central - The Packers are still a team in transition but will win this division easily, and will be a much tougher prospect come playoff time. The Buccs are struggling now The Borg is no longer in charge, the Lions successful past is just a distant memory, and the Bears have a real problem on O/

NFC West - After finally handing over that Super Bowl title to the Patriots, the Rams are on a mission and so far they have certainly played like it. Anything but a Super Bowl victory will be seen as failure by Coach Williams, and he has even hinted at wanting to do the one thing that has eluded him so far in NFLBP, finished the regular season unbeaten. Looking at the performances of his O and D, there aren't many betting against it! Behind him the Panthers haven't quite put up the stiff challenge of last season, amid rumours Coach Stone may not be quite so involved this year, and the Saints and 49ers are playing well. At least one of those 3 will finish in a wildcard spot.

WEEK NINE PREVIEW

Peter Kneil

Pats by 28 - Should be no contest.

Browns by 14 - Browns should take their winning streak to 7.

Jets by 3 - The two teams have nearly identical records but HFA should give the Jets the edge.

Raiders by 17 - Should be fairly comfortable for the Raiders.

Bengals by 17 - The Bengals need to win to keep the pressure on the Browns & Ravens but Seattle seem to be fading after a good start.

Ravens by 14 - Should be an easy win but as Han Solo might say 'I've got a bad feeling about this...'

Eagles by 10 - The Bears are only averaging about 10 points per game. They should score more than that today but still wont win.

Lions by 3 - The Lions ran Green Bay close last time and can get back to their new found winning habit.

Panthers by 7 - Despite the Giants' excellent record that haven't actually beaten a team with a winning record although they did give the Rams a good game earlier in the season.

Rams by 35 - The Rams are still unbeaten and this could get ugly.

49ers by 3 - 49ers just shade this one in a meaningless match.

Packers by 7 - Both teams had tough games last week but again HFA swings it the Packers' way.

WEEK NINE PREDICTIONS

Rob Crowther - Patriots by 10, Browns by 14, Jets by 3, Bengals by 10, Ravens by 21, Eagles by 7, Lions by 1, Panthers by 3, Rams by 21, 49ers by 3, Packers by 10

Martyn Williams - Patriots by 21, Browns by 17, Chiefs by 7, Raiders by 28, Bengals by 28, Ravens by 24, Eagles by 10, Lions by 6, Giants by 4, Rams by 21, 49ers by 6, Packers by 17