
A Passing Fantasy Issue 170

NFLBP Player Newsletter 2006 Week Fifteen

ed Robert Crowther

Thanks to Peter, once again, for his contributions this time. The (new) address for contributions is:

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

PERFORMANCES OF WEEK FOURTEEN

Offensive performance of the week goes to the St Louis Rams for winning a real shootout with last week's winner, the Saints. Defensive performance of the week goes to the Cincinnati Bengals once again, they weren't so effective in the middle of the field but their red zone defense completely shut down the Browns and puts the Bengals in good position to claim yet another AFC Central title. Special teams performance of the week goes to the Tampa Bay Buccaneers for a kick return touchdown and a perfect day place kicking.

RAVENOUS (The view from Baltimore) **Peter Kneil**

No disasters this time against the Titans with a comfortable win.

2 TDs in the first quarter after an interception and a fumble recovery saw us lead 16-3.

In the second quarter a sack and fumble gave the Titans the ball at our 6 which they turned into 7 points but an excellent 58 yard KO return saw us score again almost immediately to lead 23-10 at the half.

We scored the only points of the third quarter after an interception was returned to their one yard line. Two plays later it was 30-10.

A further FG to us made it 33-10 with seven

minutes remaining. The Titans then went on a long drive of 80 yards that led to the game's final score but ran out of time. Final score 33-17 Ravens.

Quite pleased to have scored 33 points, albeit against the League's worst defence. Not so happy to have given up 17 points though as only Buffalo have scored less.

In the other games:

The Pats battered the Jets, the Bengals won the big clash of the AFC Central against the Browns, the Broncos got surprisingly close to Oakland, the Giants kept their good run going, the Packers just pipped the Bears, the Rams once again needed a strong 4th quarter to see off New Orleans and San Francisco held Carolina to TWO yards rushing on 18 carries.

The Team Of The Week award goes to the Chiefs for their win in Seattle. I had them down to lose by 7 points but they won 34-10.

RAIDER RHETORIC

With the early collapse of the Chiefs and the more recent collapse of the Seahawks, it has been yet another comfortable season in Oakland. We've qualified for the playoffs without too much difficulty and, in spite of one or two upsets along the way (Buffalo – aargh!) can also claim homefield advantage if we manage to outwin the Bengals by 46 points in the last two weeks. I feel this is unlikely, however, and we have been focussed more on picking up some form gains in weaker areas in the last few weeks. This has led to some closer than necessary games (we were very lucky to sneak past the Broncos last week – they were first and goal at our ten yard line with 23 seconds left, and completed a pass!) I'm hoping we'll benefit from it in the playoffs by having fewer glaring weaknesses. A bit of a risky approach to be taking in a game against the defending champions, but we'll see how it goes :)

WEEK SIXTEEN PREVIEW**Peter Kneil**

Raiders by 3 - The winners of this game could have HFA should they meet again in the Playoffs. It's very tight but I think the Raiders are slightly stronger.

Chiefs by 10 - The Chiefs had a good win last time and the Dolphins are on a 4 game losing streak.

Bengals by 24 - A win here would almost certainly clinch the Division for the Bengals although a 50 point defeat in Week 16 is not out of the question!

Ravens by 10 - We're peaking at just the right time and shouldn't have too much trouble with Buffalo who as previously mentioned have the worst offence in the league.

Browns by 21 - The Browns will be looking to score as many points as possible to grab HFA for their Wild Card match up with us in a couple of weeks.

Seahawks by 14 - The Seahawks should be the latest team to batter the hapless Titans.

Rams by 10 - The Rams continue to live dangerously but should make it 15 out of 15 against the Eagles.

Redskins by 10 - The Redskins could be a team to watch next season while Carolina have been struggling lately.

Giants by 10 - The Giants have conceded less points than anyone else and held the Eagles to 79 passing yards last week.

Packers by 17 - The Packers can clinch the Division with a win and should beat a Cowboys team that only managed 37 rushing yards last time.

Saints by 14 - The Saints can get back into a Wild Card place with a win against the Lions combined with a Buccs loss.

49ers by 7 - If they were in any other Division the 49ers would probably be in line for a Wild Card spot but as it is they're last

despite having a better points difference than the NFC Central leaders Green Bay. Chicago have improved recently but San Francisco just get the nod.