
A Passing Fantasy Issue 171

NFLBP Player Newsletter 2006 Week Sixteen

ed Robert Crowther

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

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

WEEK FIFTEEN REVIEW

Peter Kneil

The Patriots absolutely hammered the Raiders 42-0 but coach Crowther had said beforehand that he would be experimenting so this result is best taken with a pinch of salt.

The Dolphins earn the Team Of The Week award by beating a Chiefs team favoured in Vegas by 10 points.

The Bengals continue to look impressive and had no trouble disposing of the Jets 44-12. They face a much tougher task this week though!

The Browns surprisingly slipped up at home to Denver which helps us as we may have HFA against them in our upcoming Wild Card match.

The Seahawks easily beat the Titans but it's too little, too late for them.

The Rams finally showed their true colours thrashing the Eagles 45-3.

The Panthers had their best result for a while, beating the improving Washington 27-14.

The Giants scored 27 points despite generating under 300 yards on offence but their league leading defence only conceded 11 points.

The Packers finally clinched the NFC Central by beating the Cowboys.

The Saints kept their Wild card hopes alive by beating the Lions.

The 49ers defeated Chicago and despite being last in their Division they can still clinch a Wild Card spot by beating the Saints coupled with a Tampa Bay loss.

PERFORMANCES OF WEEK FIFTEEN

Offensive performance of the week goes to the Cincinnati Bengals for an almost perfectly balanced offensive performance. Defensive performance of the week goes to the New England Patriots for an amazing six turnovers, most of them in their opponent's half, plus a safety and two fourth down stops (not that I'm bitter...), which makes a total of nine times they handed their offense the ball. Special teams performance of the week goes to the Miami Dolphins for a stunning display of punt returning.

RAVENOUS (The view from Baltimore)

Peter Kneil

Similar story to last week's game against the Titans, scored plenty of points on offence but gave up way too many points for my liking.

We started slowly with a couple of punts but then had an 88 yard drive to go up 7-0. Buffalo had a nice drive of their own to level the scores in the second quarter but TE John Jones restored the lead on the next drive to make it 14-7 at the half. After exchanging FGs we struck the killer blow, going 80 yards in 4 plays, scoring on a 62 yard bomb to lead 24-10. Buffalo hit back in the fourth quarter scoring 10 unanswered points before another John Jones TD made the game safe. Buffalo made the strange decision to bench Drew Bledsoe and replace him with Alex Van Pelt for their final drive. Bledsoe had led a 75 yard drive which resulted in a TD in his last series while Van Pelt went 4 & out on his only effort. We

ran out the clock and the final score was 31-21 Baltimore.

ST LOUIS RAMBLINGS

Martyn Williams

Well thank God for last weeks performance! I was beginning to get seriously worried as we'd made very hard work of the previous three games, being taken to OT by the coachless Patriots, then intercepting the Redskins on the final play of the game (with them in FG range) to win 21-20, and then week 14 scoring a TD on the final play of the game (no D DL WC luck by the way) against the Saints to win 35-34. But last week against the Eagles it was back to business for my Rams and I'm hoping that the dip in form has now been got out of the way before the play offs start.

So we are one game away from finishing 16-0, which is the only thing I haven't achieved with my BP Rams. Quite a tough game against the Panthers but winnable, and should we get that win to go through the regular season unbeaten I may well call it a day in BP after the play offs. I've been to the last 5 Super Bowls, winning 3, so with a 16-0 season as well what else is left for me to achieve? Time for a new challenge I think. Obviously in an ideal world I'll finish 16-0 and regain the Super Bowl title before leaving BP, but I've a funny feeling that won't happen. Once again, as in virtually every season I've won the NFC West, it looks like the two wildcard teams will be from the same division as me, so thanks to gameplan's outdated playoff scenario I'll end up facing the Packers in the Divisional Round instead, and playing Goz without the benefit of one less UP doesn't exactly fill me with joy! Yes, I've beaten his Packers good a few times a! I ready but I know come the playoffs his squad and training will finally be what he wants and he is very capable of pulling off a "shock" win against my uber-Rams. And then even if I get past Goz those Giants are looking dangerous this year as well. And then finally I'd be up against a strong AFC team in the big one, so the chances of me going 16-0 and winning the Super Bowl aren't as good as some people might think.

Still, I'll be giving it my best shot so let's see what happens! My tip for the SB? Head says Bengals over Packers, heart says Rams over Bengals... :o)

WEEK SIXTEEN PREVIEW

Peter Kneil

Pats by 21 - The Pats can afford to rest a few starters and still win this comfortably.

Jets by 7 - HFA just gives the Jets the nod in this meaningless game.

Ravens by 57 - Just as Rocky seems like he's on the ropes before suddenly switching to 'Southpaw' and then pulverising his opponent, the mighty Ravens will be unleashed on a shocked Bengals team to steal the Division crown!

Browns by 28 - The Browns will be looking to win big in order to claim HFA for next week's Wild Card.

Seahawks by 3 - The Seahawks looked like Division winners after 3 weeks but will have to settle for getting their record even again.

Chiefs by 10 - the Raiders have nothing to gain by winning so will probably experiment again this week.

Eagles by 3 - Despite having a far better points difference (minus 68 to the Eagles' minus 152) the Redskins are just below the Eagles in the division so the Eagles get the nod.

Giants by 17 - The Giants don't score that many on offence but their defence is top class and shouldn't have much to fear from Dallas.

Packers by 10 - This game is a week too late to matter. The Packers have finally shaken off the Buccs and can relax now they've won the division.

Lions by 10 - The Lions can win this battle for the NFC Central wooden spoon.

Saints by 7 - It's still all to play for here as the winner should get a Wild Card spot.

Rams by 21 - The Rams look to complete a perfect 16-0 season and I doubt that the Panthers will stop them. In fact, who can?