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# A Passing Fantasy Issue 173

## NFLBP Player Newsletter 2006 Divisional Round

### ed Robert Crowther

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

95 Wentworth Avenue  
Finchley  
London  
N3 1YN

Or email at '[gameplan@crowther.info](mailto: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>

#### **RAVENOUS (The View From Baltimore)** **Peter Kneil**

It was third time lucky against the Browns with a narrow two point win, but we needed a late FG to win after a fourth quarter Cleveland fightback.

In a tight first quarter Cleveland took the lead with a short pass to their TE. The key play was a 16 yard gain on 3rd & 11 to keep the drive alive.

We hit back well in the second with ten points, although defences remained well on top. We had a lucky break when fumbling a punt at our 14, but fortunately recovered the ball. Half-time score 10-7 Baltimore.

The third quarter was another punt fest, we again fumbled and recovered at our 16, with 5 straight punts between the two teams. We finally scored on our last possession, going 80 yards in just 6 plays, avoiding a safety blitz to find WR Taylor in the End Zone.

Cleveland sprang to life in the fourth with a TD on their first possession. They completed on 4th & 6 before scoring on a 22 yard play action pass. They held us to a FG before scoring again, a 51 yard completion accounting for most of the 80 yards they had to cover. This left them leading by 1 point with exactly 2 minutes left. Our first play was a 43 yard gain but we could only gain another 4 yards so had to go for a 50 yard FG. My kicker has missed a

few recently but come good to seal the win.

In the other game, the Saints totally outplayed the Panthers. The Panthers could only manage 7 first downs and less than 200 yards offence while New Orleans had 22 first downs and nearly 400 yards offence.

#### **PERFORMANCES OF THE WEEK**

Offensive performance of the week goes to the Tampa Bay Bucs, though with all the yards they got I'm surprised they were held to only 22 points. Defensive performance of the week goes to the New Orleans Saints, in their biggest game of the year so far they had an excellent game. Great special teams performances were a bit thin on the ground, so I'll award it to the Detroit Lions for their four field goals.

#### **DIVISIONAL GAME PREVIEW**

##### **Peter Kneil**

Ravens by 7 - We played the Raiders in the Coliseum in week 7 and ! came away comfortable 24-7 winners. We had almost 500 yards of offence and 24 first downs to their 250 yards and 8 first downs. I fully expect the Raiders to make some adjustments to make this game a lot closer but think that our ground game will be too strong.

Bengals by 21 - The Bengals have already beaten the Pats in week 11, winning 35-11 and I expect more of the same here. The Pats could only manage 3 FGs and a safety while the Bengals scored 3 TDs in the first quarter alone. They also passed for over 300 yards and ran at an average of 4.7 yards per carry so should be much too strong for the reigning champs.

Giants by 17 - These two teams also met in week 11, with the Giants winning 27-6. As the Giants now have HFA and have the best defence for points conceded I can't see any way that the Saints can win. Both teams struggled to pass last

time with neither QB completing 50% of his passes. The Giants had a big edge on the ground though, outgaining the Saints by almost 100 yards and this will be the difference between the two sides.

Rams by 21 - These two teams last met in week 7 with the Rams winning a rushing battle 31-10. The Rams only passed 15 times (albeit for 245 yards!) and ran 39 times while the Packers passed 25 times and ran 45 times. The Packers are now uncoached while the Rams have just completed a perfect season so there can only be one winner.