
A Passing Fantasy Issue 174

NFLBP Player Newsletter 2006 Championship Games

ed Robert Crowther

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

95 Wentworth Avenue
Finchley
London
N3 1YN

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>

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

Well, that's it for another year! The Raiders were too strong on the day. We had 200 yards more offence and 11 more first downs, but threw 3 INTs and had a fumble which led to a TD. The Raiders moved the ball efficiently all day and the game was over by half-time.

We actually took the lead on our second possession with a short pass to our TE, which turned into 7 points. The lead lasted about one and a half minutes before a lo! ng run made the scores 7-7. Two plays later, Blake overthrew a deep pass which was intercepted and returned for a TD.

In the second quarter, the Raiders scored 3 more times, all off turnovers. A TD pass followed a Blake fumble, an interception led to another 7 points and yet another interception led to a FG with the last play of the half. Half-time score 31-7 Raiders.

There was no scoring in the third quarter, so we entered the fourth looking to make up 24 points.

We scored on a short pass to make it 31-15, but after stopping the Raiders, couldn't complete on 4th and 1, on our own 41. Two passes later it was 38-15. We again responded with a TD to make it 38-22, but instead of going for the onside kick with 5 minutes left,

kicked the ball away and gave up valuable time. We got the ball again, but stalled at their one as the clock ran out. Final score, 38-22, Oakland.

In the other games, the Bengals had nearly 500 yards of offence, including 200 on the ground, when ending the Patriots' reign as Champions; the Giants kept up their pattern of adequate offence and brilliant defence, when disposing of the Saints; and the Rams, unusually for them, came out rushing against the Packers. It worked though, as they won easily, 39-15.

PERFORMANCES OF THE WEEK

Offensive performance of the week goes to the Cincinnati Bengals, who were simply awesome in sweeping away the challenge of the defending champions. Defensive performance of the week goes to the New York Giants, who had to rely on defense to win the game and the defense managed it. Special teams performance of the week goes to the Miami Dolphins for their big day on kick returns.

ST LOUIS RAMBLINGS **Martyn Williams**

The St Louis media was in shock earlier today as Martyn Williams, the most successful coach in Rams and NFLBP history, announced his decision to retire from the league at the end of the current season. Coach Williams cited needing "a new challenge" as the predominant reason for his decision. "What more is there left for me to achieve?" he asked the assembled journos and hacks. "I've taken the Rams to the last five Super Bowls, winning three, and have just completed an unbeaten 16-0 regular season, equalling the feat of that great Raiders team from so many years ago. There really is nothing else I feel I can do in St Louis, and I just wouldn't take over a coaching position at another team in BP even if the league commissioner would let me." On being asked for his reasons for making this announcement on the eve of his teams appearance in their sixth consecutive NFC Champion-

ship game, he stated that "I didn't want people thinking this was going to be a knee-jerk reaction should we lose to the Giants, or in the Super Bowl. Sure, people may now say that if we lose my heart wasn't really in it, but people who know me realise that isn't so, I hate to lose, and I love the Rams, and there is nothing I'd like more than to retire with that fourth Super Bowl ring. This won't affect my team's focus or preparation one iota, I can guarantee that." Coach Williams was then asked if the rumours he had plans to coach elsewhere were true. "Indeed they are, as I've stated I need a new challenge and I have agreed to take over the head coaching position of the NFLGB St Louis Rams at the end of their current season. They are in desperate shape, currently 3-12 and staring that 1st draft pick in the eye. That is the sort of challenge I want again, turning a bunch of no-hopers into World Champions, just as I did when I took the BP Rams over at 1-5-1 seven and a half seasons ago. It is a promising league with some new coaches from Australia that I haven't played before, plus one or two familiar faces so I'm looking forward to it. I'll be taking over from the draft onwards." With that Coach Williams left to continue preparations for the NFC Championship Game, no doubt scout the talent that will be available in the NFLGB draft!

DIVISIONAL GAME PREVIEW

Peter Kneil

Bengals by 7 - Although the Raiders beat the Bengals 38-22 in Week 4, (why does that score ring a bell?), the Bengals were in a bad spell, losing 3 in a row, albeit to the mighty Rams, Raiders and, er, Ravens. They recovered well, however, and went on a 9 game winning run before losing to us, yet again, when resting their starters in Week 16. Darren will surely focus on the ground game, after rushing for an average of 8.5 yards last time, while Rob will look to expose ! the secondary after passing for over 300 yards. It promises to be a great game, and the Raiders might not live to regret their Week 3 loss to the Titans, which gives the Bengals HFA.

Rams by 13 - These two teams met in Week 1, with the Rams winning 30-14. The Giants gave an early sigh of how good

their defence was going to be, holding the Rams to 162 passing yards and a completion % of just 48. This figure usually ranges from 70-75%. The Rams did rush for 196 yards, at an average of 6.3, and this will not have gone unnoticed by Martyn. The Giants have had a great season, they were 6 & 10 last season, but will have to wait until next season to challenge for the Superbowl.