
A Passing Fantasy Issue 175

NFLBP Player Newsletter 2006 Superbowl
ed Robert Crowther

Thanks to Peter for his contribution this time.
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<http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/gameplan>

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

I said in my preview of this game that I thought the Bengals would come out rushing, and that I thought that the Raiders could have some success through the air. That was pretty accurate as the Bengals averaged 4.3 yards on 38 carries but unfortunately for them couldn't get the passing game going, completing just 48% of their throws for 181 yards. The Raiders passed for nearly 400 yards and 3 TDs but still had an impressive 70% completion rate. They were far from being one dimensional though, averaging exactly 5 yards per carry. Despite the difference in yardage there was only 5 points in it with a goalline interception for the Raiders being the difference in the end.

The second game resulted in a comprehensive win for the Rams. The Giants have had a very good year! due to their No.1 defence but they couldn't contain the Rams who passed for 222 yards and 4 TDs, they also rushed for 201 yards and a TD. The Giants were held to just over 200 yards in total and 8 first downs.

OAKLAND ORATORY

I wasn't too confident of beating the Bengals before the game. During the game we got some crucial turnovers (an interception on our own three in the first quarter and a fumble at our own 27 in the second quarter) but we also handed the Bengals a lot of good field position. In the end it was a breakout completion

in the fourth quarter that put us ahead and then the defense held up on two attempted fourth down conversion attempts to hold on to the win. A good game for the long standing Bengals/Birtchnell - Oakland/Crowther BP rivalry to finish on. I'm even less confident going on to face the Rams - head to head against Martyn my record is fairly poor, only a few wins that I can remember and they were all a few years ago now. On offense we need to keep making the big plays we've had in the last two games, on defense we need to avoid being ground into the dust while simultaneously not giving up any huge plays through the air. Something of a tall order, I think.

SUPERBOWL PREVIEW

Peter Kneil

The Raiders and the Rams didn't meet this season, so I've had a look at their matches against common opponents.

The Bengals - The Raiders beat them twice, 38-22 and 26-21. The Rams beat them 48-28.

The Eagles - The Raiders beat them 20-8. The Rams thrashed them 45-3.

The Buccs - The Raiders beat them 28-19. The Rams beat them 36-7.

The Patriots - The Raiders got walloped 42-0, although it was an experimental team, when the Division was already won. The Rams had one of their closer games, but still outdid the Raiders, winning 29-23.

Looking at these results it's very hard to make a case for the Raiders, but I remember saying the same thing about the Pats before they won the last Superbowl, so anything's possible. Any Given Thursday or something like that. I think coach Crowther is shrewd enough to make the Rams struggle for a while, but coach Williams, in his last game at the helm, will want to finish in style and I think the Rams will pull away in the second half - Rams by 14.