

NFL GAMEDAY

WEEK 13

BALTIMORE RAVENS @ PITTSBURGH STEELERS

THE RAVENS CHanneled their animosity toward the Steelers and attacked Ben Roethlisberger.

Ravens quarterback Joe Flacco tried to break the Steelers secondary by teaming up with receiver Anquan Boldin.

Yards and points were hard to come by. The Steelers could not score a touchdown following a first and goal from the 2, and with less than 4 minutes left, trailed 10 to 6.

Slowed by an injured foot, Roethlisberger was easy to get to, but as hard as ever to bring down.

NEW YORK JETS @ NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

The buildup to the latest game of the century seemed endless.

It was over in a matter of minutes.

New England delivered a timeless performance and completely dominated New York, building a huge lead by halftime.

Mark Sanchez threw three interceptions. Tom Brady passed for four touchdowns.

BUFFALO BILLS @ MINNESOTA VIKINGS

IF SURVIVAL WERE MEANT ONLY FOR THE FITTEST, LESLIE FRAZIER'S VIKINGS WOULDN'T HAVE STOOD A CHANCE. BRETT FAVRE LEFT AFTER SUSTAINING A SHOULDER INJURY ON THE THIRD PLAY OF THE GAME. / AND HIS BACKUP'S FIRST TOUCHDOWN PASS WAS DELIVERED TO THE WRONG TEAM.

TARVARIS JACKSON EMBRACED FRAZIER'S CHALLENGE... WITH SOME SPECTACULAR ASSISTANCE FROM SIDNEY RICE.

ATLANTA FALCONS @ TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

DOWN BY SEVEN, TAMPA BAY'S DEFENSE WAS HUGE, FORCING TWO INTERCEPTIONS THAT THE BUCS CONVERTED INTO TWO TOUCHDOWNS.

AFTER SURRENDERING SEVENTEEN STRAIGHT POINTS, THE FALCONS FINALLY RESPONDED WITH ERIC WEEMS...

...HIS 102-YARD TOUCHDOWN IN THE FOURTH QUARTER WAS THE LONGEST IN ATLANTA HISTORY.

MATT RYAN'S PASS TO MICHAEL JENKINS PUT THE FALCONS UP BY FOUR.

BUT THE BUCS WERE DRIVING TO RETAKE THE LEAD IN THE FINAL MINUTES.

CHICAGO BEARS @ DETROIT LIONS

THIRD-STRING QUARTERBACKS AREN'T USED TO THE LIMELIGHT, SO THEY TEND TO LINGER.

AFTER THE INTROS, DREW STANTON GOT MOVING.

STANTON ALSO PERFORMED WELL IN THE END ZONE; BUT LAST SUNDAY, THE BEARS GOT THERE MORE OFTEN.

THE NFC NORTH WAS ONCE KNOWN FOR HARD-NOSED FOOTBALL // THE BEARS STAYED ATOP THE DIVISION THANKS IN PART TO WHAT LION FANS CONSIDERED A PAT ON THE BACK.

CAROLINA PANTHERS @ SEATTLE SEAHAWKS

SEATTLE WAS HURTING EARLY. CAROLINA RUSHED FOR TWO TOUCHDOWNS IN THE FIRST HALF TO TAKE A 14-3 LEAD.

THE SEAHAWKS SCORED 31 UNANSWERED POINTS TO PULL AWAY.

OAKLAND RAIDERS @ SAN DIEGO CHARGERS

OAKLAND RAN OVER THE LEAGUE'S #1 DEFENSE, HANDING THE CHARGERS THEIR FIRST DECEMBER DEFEAT SINCE 2005.

THE RAIDERS SWEEPED THEIR SEASON SERIES WITH SAN DIEGO FOR THE FIRST TIME IN NEARLY A DECADE.

DALLAS COWBOYS @ INDIANAPOLIS COLTS

FOR MONTHS THE COWBOYS WERE AWFUL QUIET. LATELY THOUGH THEY'VE BEEN SOMETHING TO SHOUT ABOUT.

APPARENTLY THE COLTS DIDN'T WANT TO COVER EITHER.

BUT THEIR BIGGEST PROBLEM WAS THEIR BIGGEST STAR.

PEYTON MANNING PLAYED THE PIKER WITH HIS SECOND STRAIGHT FOUR INTERCEPTION GAME.

BUT EVEN WHEN HE' S NOT AT HIS BEST, MANNING'S BETTER THAN MOST.

IN THE FOURTH QUARTER, THE COLTS FINALLY TIED THE GAME.
BUT IN OVERTIME, MANNING MISFIRED ONE LAST TIME.

HOUSTON TEXANS @ PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

SURE EVERYONE WANTS TO BE THE CENTER OF ATTENTION, BUT SOMETIMES JUST DOING YOUR JOB IS DOING ENOUGH.

HOUSTON DID HANG TOUGH.

BUT IN THE END HOUSTON HAD A PROBLEM.

AND EVERY EAGLE JUST KEPT DOING HIS PART.

DENVER BRONCOS @ KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

SOMETIMES THINGS ARE JUST AN AWKWARD FIT. LIKE JOSH MCDANIELS AND THE BRONCOS.

THE WUNDERKIND WAS SUPPOSED TO WORK WONDERS FOR DENVER'S OFFENSE. INSTEAD THE BRONCOS HAVE BEEN A BUST.

THE CHIEFS WEREN'T THAT MUCH BETTER LAST SUNDAY. BUT THEY DID MANAGE TO HANG ON TO ONE THING---TOP SPOT IN THE AFC WEST.

THE LOSS WAS MCDANIELS LAST AS DENVER'S HEAD COACH, WHERE IT WAS LESS HAPPY TRAILS AND MORE LIKE/HIT THE HIGHWAY.

WHIPAROUND:

San Francisco @ Green Bay; Washington @ NY Giants; Jacksonville @ Tennessee; St Louis @ Arizona; Cleveland @ Miami; New Orleans @ Cincinnati

SEEING THE PACKERS' 1929 THROWBACK UNI'S INSPIRED THE WHIP TO THINK OF ONE OF THOSE MIND-BENDING TIME TRAVEL TALES. IT GOES LIKE THIS: AARON RODGERS IS TRANSPORTED BACK TO '29, WHERE HIS SCARY MODERN PASSING SKILLS DEVASTATE THE DEFENSES OF THE RED GRANGE ERA.

OR, THE STORY COULD JUST HAVE RODGERS FACE THE MODERN DAY 49ERS AND ACCOMPLISH THE SAME THING.

IN 1929, PROHIBITION WAS THE LAW OF THE LAND, AND ON THIS PLAY, IT SEEMED LIKE THE 49ERS WERE PROHIBITED FROM TACKLING.

IN THE MEADOWLANDS, IT WAS THE REDSKINS WHO WERE GUILTY OF "ATROCIOUS TACKLING."

NOT THAT "NOVEL" REALLY. LAST SUNDAY, THE JAGUARS AND THE RAMS WERE TWO OTHER TEAMS THAT SCORED THEIR ONLY TOUCHDOWNS ON THE GROUND.

"FOOTBALL AS WAR" IS AN OUTDATED METAPHOR, AND BESIDES, LAST SUNDAY'S BROWNS-DOLPHINS GAME WAS MORE LIKE A SLAP FIGHT IN A JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL BATHROOM. IN THIS "BATTLE", PHIL DAWSON'S SHORT FIELD GOAL WAS THE DIFFERENCE-MAKER FOR CLEVELAND.

IN CINCINNATI, THINGS WERE REMINISCENT OF THE "MAD MEN" 1960'S, WHEN ANY CAD WHO GLANCED AT AN ATTRACTIVE WOMAN BELIEVED HE HAD THE LICENSE TO BEHAVE LIKE AN ANIMAL.

UNFORTUNATELY FOR THE BENGALS, DREW BREES BEHAVED LIKE DREW BREES. HE THREW TWO FOURTH QUARTER TOUCHDOWNS, INCLUDING ONE THAT ERASED A 30-27 DEFICIT WITH LESS THAN A MINUTE TO PLAY.

THE WHIP THINKS AN UPSET WIN BY THE BENGALS WOULD HAVE BEEN THE MOST MIND-BOGGLING OCCURRENCE ON A THROWBACK-INSPIRED, TIME-TWISTING SUNDAY AFTERNOON IN THE NFL.