

NFL GAMEDAY

WEEK 22

SUPER BOWL – 1ST HALF: Pittsburgh Steelers vs Green Bay Packers

THE STRONG SURVIVE. IT'S A LAW OF NATURE, AND IT'S THE FOUNDATION OF FOOTBALL.

IN THE EARLY MOMENTS OF SUPER BOWL FORTY FIVE, THE GREEN BAY PACKERS DIDN'T LOOK LIKE THEY COULD STAND TOE TO TOE WITH THE AGGRESSIVE MEN OF STEEL.

THE PACKERS FINALLY FLEXED THEIR MUSCLES WITH A 9 PLAY, 80 YARD MARCH MIDWAY THROUGH THE FIRST QUARTER.

17 SECONDS AFTER THEIR DEFENSE DUG THEM A HOLE, THE STEELERS OFFENSE SHOVELED SOME DIRT ON IT.

MIKE TOMLIN MAINTAINED HIS COMPOSURE DESPITE A HARROWING START , BUT FOR THE STEELERS COACH, THERE WERE MORE SCARES IN STORE.

BIG BEN'S RUN WAS THE BIGGEST PLAY OF A DRIVE THAT CULMINATED IN SEAN SUISHAM'S 2ND QUARTER FIELD GOAL ATTEMPT.

ON PITTSBURGH'S NEXT POSSESSION, ROETHLISBERGER AND THE STEELERS OFFENSE COULDN'T BUILD ON THEIR MOMENTUM.

PITTSBURGH WOULD NEED MORE THAN PASSION TO STOP THE PACKERS FROM CAPITALIZING ON THE TURNOVER THAT SET THEM UP AT MIDFIELD.

LEADING UP TO THE GAME, MIKE TOMLIN HAD WARNED HIS TEAM ABOUT GREG JENNINGS LINING UP IN THE SLOT, THEN RUNNING DOWN THE SEAM. BUT

EVEN THOUGH THE STEELERS KNEW IT WAS COMING, THEY WERE UNABLE STOP A PLAY THAT WOULD HURT THEM REPEATEDLY IN THIS GAME.

THROUGHOUT THE SEASON, THE PACKERS HAD PERSEVERED OVER NUMEROUS INJURIES . IN SUPER BOWL 45, THEY WOULD AGAIN HAVE TO OVERCOME THE LOSS OF KEY PLAYERS.

WOODSON BROKE HIS COLLARBONE AND WAS DONE FOR THE DAY. BEN ROETHLISBERGER WASTED LITTLE TIME IN EXPLOITING THE LOSS OF GREEN BAY'S MOST VALUABLE DEFENSIVE PLAYER.

DURING A 2-MINUTE DRILL THAT WAS BIG BEN AT HIS BEST, ROETHLISBERGER CONNECTED WITH ANTWAAN RANDAL-EL FOR 37 YARDS, THEN HE COMPLETED 3 PASSES TO HINES WARD FOR 39 TOTAL YARDS AND PITTSBURGH'S FIRST TOUCHDOWN OF THE GAME.

SUPER BOWL – 2ND HALF: Pittsburgh Steelers vs Green Bay Packers

FOR AARON RODGERS, A NEAR PERFECT FIRST HALF WAS MARRED ONLY BY THE DROPPING OF SEVERAL PASSES.

ON GREEN BAY'S FIRST POSSESSION OF THE SECOND HALF, THE HARD HANDS CONTINUED.

IN PITTSBURGH, THE "FUNDAMENTALS" HAVE LONG MEANT POWER FOOTBALL.

THROUGHOUT THE HALF, THE STEELERS GOT INSIDE THE PACKERS HEADS -- BY GETTING IN THEIR HAIR.

5 CONSECUTIVE RUNS LED TO A TOUCHDOWN.

THE MOMENTUM MAY HAVE SHIFTED, BUT THE SCORE DIDN'T -- THREE TIMES PITTSBURGH HAD THE BALL DOWN 21-17. AND THREE TIMES THEY FAILED SCORE.

AT THE START OF THE FOURTH QUARTER, THE PACKERS HELD A FOUR POINT LEAD. THEIR DEFENSIVE LEADER HELD HIS ARM IN A SLING.

WHEN THEY HOLD ONTO THE BALL, THE STEELERS ARE TOUGH TO STOP. THEY'RE BUILT TO CLAW BACK INTO GAMES. DOWN 11 MIDWAY THROUGH THE FOURTH QUARTER, THEY DID JUST THAT.

THE PACKERS HAD RACED TO AN 18-POINT LEAD. NOW THEY WERE HITTING THE WALL.

IT WAS THIRD AND TEN, AND THE LEAD WAS DOWN TO THREE.

THINGS WERE COMING APART AT THE SEAMS. // TIME ONCE MORE TO GO STRAIGHT DOWN THE MIDDLE.

RODGERS' ARM GAVE THE PACKERS A LITTLE MORE ELBOW ROOM – BUT NOT A LOT.

PITTSBURGH HAD BEEN HERE BEFORE. TWO YEARS AGO THE STEELERS CAME BACK TO WIN SUPER BOWL 43. THEY SHOULD HAVE BEEN COOL – COLLECTED. BUT THE PACKERS PUSHED THEM OUT OF THEIR COMFORT ZONE – AND ONTO THE BRINK.

VICTORY HAS MANY FACES...

IN THE END, ONE THING UNITES THEM.

ONCE AGAIN, THE GREEN BAY PACKERS ARE WORLD CHAMPIONS.