

NFL GAMEDAY

WEEK 9

NEW YORK GIANTS @ NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

DURING A SCORELESS FIRST HALF, THE GIANTS AND PATRIOTS INHABITED A PUSH-AND-SHOVE, IN-YOUR-FACE WORLD.

TOM BRADY WAS PLAGUED BY MISFIRES AND MISTAKES.

BRADY SEEMED LIKE AN INMATE IN "GIVEAWAY PRISON". HE COMMITTED TWO TURNOVERS IN THE 3RD QUARTER THAT LED TO 10 NEW YORK POINTS.

IT WAS 10 TO 3 WHEN A GAME THAT STARTED AS "SCRAP-AND-SCUFFLE" TURNED INTO BACK-AND-FORTH -- AND **DO-OR-DIE**.

BALTIMORE RAVENS @ PITTSBURGH STEELERS

LAST SUNDAY NIGHT, SEVERAL DROPS BY ROOKIE RECEIVER TORREY SMITH HELPED KEEP BALTIMORE OUT OF THE END ZONE UNTIL THE THIRD QUARTER.

CHAMPIONSHIP FOOTBALL IS SOMETHING BEN ROETHLISBERGER IS FAMILIAR WITH. AT THE START OF THE FOURTH QUARTER, HIS SCRAMBLE SET UP A RASHARD MENDENHALL TOUCHDOWN RUN THAT CUT THE RAVENS LEAD TO THREE.

ON THE STEELERS NEXT POSSESSION, THEY TOOK THEIR FIRST LEAD.

WITH 2:24 REMAINING, THE RAVENS STOOD 92 YARDS AWAY FROM VICTORY, TRAILING BY FOUR, AND FACING THE NFL'S #1 PASS DEFENSE.

JOE FLACCO HAS ENDURED WITHERING CRITICISM THIS SEASON, BUT ON BALTIMORE'S FINAL DRIVE HE COMPLETED 7 PASSES -- DESPITE A KID RECEIVER SUFFERING THROUGH A TOUGH NIGHT.

BALTIMORE SEEMED FRESH OUT OF PLAYMAKERS -- AND NEARLY OUT OF TIME.

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS @ NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

TWO DREW BREES TOUCHDOWN PASSES LIFTED NEW ORLEANS TO AN EARLY LEAD.

THE SAINTS QUARTERBACK BAFFLED THE BUCS WITH BOTH HIS ARM AND HIS FEET.

BREES AND A TRIO OF NEW ORLEANS BACKS GASHED TAMPA BAY FOR NEARLY 200 RUSHING YARDS.

GREEN BAY PACKERS @ SAND DIEGO CHARGERS

COME ON AND SEE THE PACKERS TRAVELING ROADSHOW - GUARANTEED TO BRING A LITTLE GREEN BAY TO A STADIUM NEAR YOU. THOUSANDS OF CHEESEHEADS, SOME GREY WISCONSIN WEATHER AND TWO INTERCEPTIONS RETURNED FOR TOUCHDOWNS MADE THE VISITORS FEEL RIGHT AT HOME.

THE CHARGERS REPAID THE PACKERS IN PAIN, SACKING THE NFL'S TOP-RATED PASSER FOUR TIMES.

AARON RODGERS GOT OUT OF THE POCKET, AND BEGAN GETTING IT TO JORDY NELSON.

THE BEST WAY TO DEAL WITH THE PACKER ONSLAUGHT? SHRUG IT OFF, AND SCORE SOME POINTS OF YOUR OWN.

PHILIP RIVERS WENT **OUTSIDE** TO ANTONIO GATES, WHO TOOK IT **INSIDE** TO PULL THE CHARGERS WITHIN SEVEN HEADING INTO THE FOURTH QUARTER.

IN QUARTER FOUR, RODGERS THREW TOUCHDOWN PASSES THREE AND FOUR, AND THE PACKERS BUILT A 21-POINT LEAD.

REPORTS OF SAN DIEGO'S DEMISE WERE EXAGGERATED. A TOUCHDOWN **HERE** MADE IT A TWO SCORE GAME – A NIFTY MOVE **THERE**, AND THE CHARGERS HAD A CHANCE TO PULL EVEN CLOSER.

EVEN WHEN THE NEEDLE HITS EMPTY, THERE'S STILL A LITTLE SOMETHING LEFT IN THE TANK. IT'S TRUE IN CARS, AND IT'S TRUE IN CHAMPIONSHIP DEFENSES.

MIAMI DOLPHINS @ KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

CHIEFS HEAD COACH TODD HALEY UNDERSTANDS THE PERILS OF PLAYING A WINLESS TEAM.

CONSIDER IT KICKED. THIS IS ONE OF THOSE TIMES HALEY PROBABLY WISHES HE WASN'T ALWAYS RIGHT.

WELL... THINGS DID BORDER ON OBSCENE FOR THE CHIEFS.

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS @ WASHINGTON REDSKINS

FRANK GORE SLIPPED PAST THE REDSKINS' DEFENSE, AND BECAME THE FIRST 49ER IN HISTORY TO RUSH FOR MORE THAN 100 YARDS IN 5 STRAIGHT GAMES.

SAN FRANCISCO TOOK A 13 TO 3 HALFTIME LEAD ON DEFENSIVE-END-TURNED-FULLBACK BRUCE MILLER'S FIRST CAREER TOUCHDOWN.

THE REDSKINS' OFFENSE HAS BEEN HORRIBLE RECENTLY, BUT LATE IN THE GAME, THEY MARCHED TO THEIR FIRST TOUCHDOWN IN 7 QUARTERS.

THE 49ERS ARE SINGING A DIFFERENT TUNE, WITH THEIR 6TH STRAIGHT VICTORY...WHILE THE REDSKINS HAVE LOST 4 IN A ROW AFTER STARTING THE SEASON 3 AND 1.

NEW YORK JETS @ BUFFALO BILLS

THE JETS BECAME THE FIRST TEAM THIS SEASON TO HOLD BUFFALO UNDER 20-POINTS. THEY SHUT DOWN THE AFC'S HIGHEST SCORING OFFENSE WHILE FORCING THREE TURNOVERS.

IN THE FIRST HALF NEW YORK'S OFFENSE STRUGGLED TO GET OUT OF ITS OWN WAY.

THE JETS OFFENSE REBOUNDED IN THE SECOND HALF WITH 24-POINTS, AND ALL THE MOMENTUM BUFFALO GATHERED EARLIER THIS YEAR SEEMED TO FIZZLE. ENTERING THE SECOND HALF OF THE SEASON THERE'S NOW A THREE WAY TIE ATOP THE AFC-EAST.

CLEVELAND BROWNS @ HOUSTON TEXANS

LINEBACKER BRIAN CUSHING PUT ON A SHOW AGAINST THE BROWNS.

BUT THE BIGGEST GASH OF THE DAY CAME FROM THE TEXANS RUN GAME...WHICH RECORDED A FRANCHISE RECORD 261 YARDS.

DENVER BRONCOS @ OAKLAND RAIDERS

TIM TEWBOW ISN'T AFRAID TO BE DIFFERENT. TO DO THINGS HIS WAY; AS IF HE KNOWS SOMETHING THE REST OF US DON'T.

CARSON PALMER HAS A MORE TRADITIONAL APPROACH.

THAT PASS WAS AWFUL PRETTY; TOO BAD THE REST OF RAIDERS GAME WAS JUST PLAIN AWFUL.

WHAT'S THE SECRET TO TIM TEBOW'S 2 AND 1 RECORD AS A STARTER? MAYBE IT'S PLAYING AGAINST BAD TEAMS.

CINCINNATI BENGALS @ TENNESSEE TITANS

YOU'D THINK A RED AND ORANGE COLOR SCHEME MIGHT CLASH, BUT ANDY DALTON MAKES IT WORK -- AND MAKES DEFENSIVE SCHEMES LOOK ILL ADVISED.

IN THIS CLASH AGAINST THE TITANS, TENNESSEE TOOK A LATE LEAD.

BUT ULTIMATELY TOOK A BACK SEAT TO DALTON'S HAT TRICK,

WHIPAROUND: Seattle @ Dallas; Atlanta @ Indianapolis; St Louis @ Arizona; Chicago @ Philadelphia

PIERRE, WHY THE SMILE MON AMI? IS IT THE ABSURDITY OF LIFE? OR THE COLTS SEASON?

REMEMBER SOME RECEIVERS HAD GAMES TRES MANEFIQUE.

THAT'S BECAUSE SOME PLAYERS ARE MORE SLIPPERY THAN ESCARGOT.

DEMARCO MURRAY IS ONE OF THEM. AND WHILE THE SEAHAWKS WEREN'T A GREAT TACKLING TEAM, SOMETIMES YOU DON'T NEED TO BE.

IF YOU CAN'T TACKLE OR COVER, THEN YOU MAY HAVE PROBLEMS...

THEY SAY THE DEVIL IS IN THE DETAILS, I SAY LAST WEEK IT WAS IN ARIZONA. SURE, THE GAME WENT TO OVERTIME BUT IT WAS REALLY A BIT OF A SNOOZE, UNTIL PATRICK PETERSON HAD THE LAST Z.

SACRE BLEU. THE EAGLES ARE INCREDIBLE.. SPLENDIDE...SPORTIF... AND HAVE AN ARME OF ATHLES.

BUT AS A TEAM, THEY MAY BE LE PEW. THEY CERTAINLY WERE AGAINST THE BEARS.

THE DREAM TEAM MAYBE SAYING ADIEU TO THE PLAYOFFS. THE BEARS, SO FAR, CEST SO BON.