

## **NFL GameDay**

### ***Week 14***

#### **OAKLAND RAIDERS @ GREEN BAY PACKERS**

ACTUALLY THE PACKERS WAITED UNTIL THEIR SECOND SNAP OF THE GAME TO POUNCE ON THE RAIDERS.

AARON RODGERS' 39<sup>TH</sup> TOUCHDOWN PASS TIED BRETT FAVRE'S SINGLE SEASON TEAM RECORD AND HELPED SET A NEW PACKER MARK FOR POINTS SCORED IN A SEASON.

IN THEIR MOST COMPLETE WIN SO FAR, THE DEFENSE FORCED A SEASON-HIGH 5 TURNOVERS AND GREEN BAY ROLLED TO 13 AND 0.

BUT THE PATH TO PERFECTION HAS ITS PRICE. IN THE THIRD QUARTER, WITH THE GAME EFFECTIVELY DECIDED, GREG JENNINGS LEFT THE GAME WITH A KNEE INJURY.

FORTUNATELY FOR GREEN BAY, HE'LL HAVE AN ADDITIONAL WEEK TO HEAL AS THE WIN GUARANTEED THE PACKERS A FIRST ROUND PLAYOFF BYE.

#### **CHICAGO BEARS @ DENVER BRONCOS**

FOR MOST OF 60 MINUTES THE BEARS BATTERED THE BRONCOS.

#### **NEW YORK GIANTS @ DALLAS COWBOYS**

IT'S FITTING THAT HIS TEAMMATE WOULD COMPARE HIM TO SHAQUILLE O'NEAL, BECAUSE ON THIS NIGHT JASON PIERRE PAUL WOULD RISE ABOVE EVERYONE ON THE FIELD.

IN A GAME WITH NEARLY A THOUSAND YARDS OF OFFENSE, J.P.P. DOMINATED WITH A SAFETY...A FORCED FUMBLE...8 TACKLES...AND 2 SACKS.

J.P.P. WAS THE DIFFERENCE MAKER BECAUSE EVERYTHING ELSE ABOUT THESE TWO TEAMS WAS STRIKINGLY SIMILAR.

EACH HAD A COACH WHO'S GOTTEN A LOT OF HEAT IN THE MEDIA.

EACH HAD A RUNNING BACK GAIN OVER 100 YARDS.

EACH HAD A QUARTERBACK PLAYING AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL, AND THEY COMBINED FOR 721 YARDS PASSING.

AND EACH DEFENSE HAD A SECONDARY THAT LET RECEIVERS RUN FAR TOO FREE.

IN A GAME WITH 8 LEAD CHANGES, TONY ROMO THREW 2 FOURTH-QUARTER TOUCHDOWNS TO GIVE DALLAS A 12-POINT LEAD WITH UNDER 6 MINUTES TO GO.

DOWN 34-22, ELI MANNING -- WHO ALREADY HAD 5 FOURTH-QUARTER COMEBACKS THIS SEASON -- HAD THE COWBOYS RIGHT WHERE HE WANTED THEM.

WITH ONE MORE COMPLETION, ROMO PROBABLY WOULD HAVE WON THE GAME AND THE NFC EAST TITLE.

ELI MANNING DIDN'T MISS MANY.

### **HOUSTON TEXANS @ CINCINNATI BENGALS**

CLOSE TO ITS FIRST PLAYOFF BERTH, HOUSTON'S DESTINY WAS IN THE HANDS OF ROOKIE QUARTERBACK TJ YATES – WHOSE ANONYMITY IS RAPIDLY VANISHING.

**ALT: CLOSE TO ITS FIRST PLAYOFF BERTH, HOUSTON'S DESTINY WAS IN THE HANDS OF ROOKIE QUARTERBACK TJ YATES – WHOSE LOW PROFILE IS RAPIDLY VANISHING.**

FADING TOO ARE CINCINNATI'S PLAYOFF HOPES. BUT, IN THE FIRST HALF, THE BENGALS PLAYED LIKE A TEAM DETERMINED TO SALVAGE THEIR SEASON.

CINCINNATI STORMED TO A 19-7 LEAD.

HOUSTON TRAILED 19-13 WITH 2 AND A HALF MINUTES LEFT. 80 YARDS STOOD BETWEEN YATES AND VICTORY.

THOUGH HOUSTON HAS STARTED A PRO BOWLER AND A HEISMAN WINNER AT QUARTERBACK IN 2011, IT WAS A ROOKIE WHO DELIVERED THE BIGGEST WIN IN FRANCHISE HISTORY.

#### **CLEVELAND BROWNS @ PITTSBURGH STEELERS**

IN PREGAME, RIGID CHOREOGRAPHY IS FINE -- BUT WHEN THE GAME STARTS, FLEXIBILITY IS KEY.

BEN ROETHLISBERGER LEFT THE GAME IN THE SECOND QUARTER, BUT RETURNED IN THE SECOND HALF AS PITTSBURGH WON FOR THE 15<sup>TH</sup> TIME IN THEIR LAST 16 GAMES AGAINST CLEVELAND.

#### **TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS @ JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS**

AT 5 FOOT 7, MAURICE JONES-DREW IS SMALLER THAN MOST PLAYERS,

BUT SIZE CERTAINLY DOESN'T MATTER WHEN YOU LEAD THE LEAGUE IN RUSHING YARDS.

### **NEW ORLEANS SAINTS @ TENNESSEE TITANS**

MAYBE NOT, BUT YOU CAN LOSE YOUR STARTING QUARTERBACK.

WITH MATT HASSELBECK OUT, ROOKIE JAKE LOCKER WAS IN, AND WITH HIM CAME A WHOLE NEW BALLGAME.

KNOWING WHAT THE SAINTS WILL DO ISN'T HARD, BUT GETTING TO QUARTERBACK DREW BREES CAN BE.

BREES THOUGH IS A BRAINY FELLOW, AND IF AN ADJUSTMENT CAN BE MADE, BE ASSURED, HE'LL MAKE IT.

FOR TENNESSEE THINGS HARDLY LOOKED JAKE...NOT THAT MR. LOCKER HIMSELF SEEMED TO MIND.

### **NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS @ WASHINGTON REDSKINS**

THE HOODIE STALKS ; THE GRONK STAMPEDES.

TIGHT END ROB GRONKOWSKI HAD A CAREER-HIGH 160 YARDS AND BROKE THE SINGLE-SEASON RECORD FOR RECEIVING TOUCHDOWNS BY A TIGHT END, WITH 15.

TRAILING BY SEVEN MIDWAY THROUGH THE 4<sup>TH</sup> QUARTER, THE REDSKINS NEEDED A TURNOVER.

WASHINGTON DROVE TO THE NEW ENGLAND 9 YARD LINE WITH :29 SECONDS LEFT IN THE GAME.

### **PHILADELPHIA EAGLES @ MIAMI DOLPHINS**

THE DOLPHINS HAVE GIVEN THEIR CHEERLEADERS PLENTY TO BE ENTHUSASTIC ABOUT IN THE LAST MONTH. / AGAINST THE EAGLES WAS LESS TO APPLAUD.

KURT COLEMAN'S SECOND QUARTER INTERCEPTION LED TO ONE OF TWO LESEAN MCCOY TOUCHDOWNS.

PHILADELPHIA'S DEFENSE HAD NINE SACKS AND CONVERTED THREE MIAMI TURNOVERS INTO 17-POINTS.

IT WAS THE FINAL LOSS OF THE SEASON FOR TONY SPARANO. HE WAS FIRED ON MONDAY.

### **SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS @ ARIZONA CARDINALS**

LARRY FITZGERALD HAS SURPASSED 1,000-YARDS RECEIVING IN FIVE STRAIGHT SEASONS.

AND EVEN WHEN HE'S OUT OF SIGHT HE'S NEVER OUT OF A PLAY.

IN ADDITION TO PAVING EARLY DOUCET'S PATH TO THE END ZONE, FITZGERALD CAUGHT SEVEN PASSES FOR 149-YARDS.

THE 49ERS HAVE LOST TWO OUT OF THEIR LAST THREE GAMES.

### **MINNESOTA VIKINGS @ DETROIT LIONS**

WHY IS THIS MAN SMILING?

BECAUSE HIS ROOKIE GROWING PAINS ARE WAY BEHIND HIM.

THE SAME CANNOT BE SAID FOR CHRISTIAN PONDER.

PONDER WAS REPLACED IN THE SECOND HALF BY JOE WEBB, WHO LED MINNESOTA TO TWO TOUCHDOWNS ON HIS FIRST TWO DRIVES.

AFTER TRAILING BY 21 POINTS, THE VIKINGS HAD A CHANCE TO WIN IN THE FINAL SECONDS.

**WHIPAROUND:**

***Indianapolis @ Baltimore; Atlanta Carolina; Buffalo @ San Diego; Kansas City @ NY Jets; St Louis @ Seattle***

IT'S TOUGH FILLING A GREAT MAN'S SHOES.

NOBODY KNOWS THAT BETTER THAN PEYTON MANNING AND THE COLTS. THEY HAVEN'T WON A GAME ALL YEAR.

JOE FLACCO AND THE RAVENS? THEY HAVEN'T LOST ONE AT HOME.

IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE THE HIGH-FLYING FALCONS WILL HAVE A BLUE CHRISTMAS.

MATT RYAN THREW TOUCHDOWN PASSES TO JUST ABOUT EVERYONE – EXCEPT RON RIVIERA – AS ATLANTA LEFT CAROLINA “ALL SHOOK UP”.

EVERYONE IN SAN DIEGO KNOWS THE ANSWER FOR PHILLIP RIVERS' WOES. LESS OF THIS – AND A LOT MORE ANTONIO GATES.

SOME FIGURES ARE NICE.

SOME FIGURES ARE REALLY NICE – LIKE MARK SANCHEZ RUNNING FOR 2 TOUCHDOWNS AND THROWING FOR 2 MORE.

SOME AREN'T SO NICE. THE CHIEFS HAVE LOST 5 GAMES BY 27 POINTS OR MORE.

ON MONDAY, TODD HALEY WAS SHOWN THE DOOR.

NOBODY SLAMS THE DOOR BETTER THAN SEATTLE'S SPECIAL TEAMS. THEY'VE BLOCKED 5 KICKS THIS SEASON.

THAT ONLY WHETTED THE APPETITE OF SEATTLE'S SKITTLES-LOVING BEAST OF A RUNNING BACK.