

NFL GameDay

WEEK 18

CINCINNATI BENGALS @ HOUSTON TEXANS

(RADIO OPEN; FOSTER HUDDLE “I’M IN

A DREAM NOW, THIS IS WONDERFUL”)

THE PLAYOFFS ARE WHERE BIG DREAMS CAN BECOME HARSH REALITY. / AFTER THE BENGALS TOOK AN EARLY 7 TO NOTHING LEAD, THEY HAD A NIGHTMARE OF A TIME WITH ARIAN FOSTER.

(RADIO – FOSTER TD RUN)

WITH UNDER A MINUTE TO PLAY IN THE FIRST HALF, THE SCORE WAS TIED AT 10.

(RADIO – WATT INT; “YATES IS GONNA THROW SOMEBODY ONE”)

IN THE THIRD QUARTER, ROOKIE T.J. YATES DID THROW ONE TO THE BENGALS.

(RADIO – CROCKER DROP; “THAT COULD’VE CHANGED THE GAME.”)

THREE PLAYS LATER, THE TEXANS EXTENDED THEIR LEAD TO 24 TO 10.

(RADIO – JOHNSON TD CATCH; FOSTER TD RUN)

FOSTER RUSHED FOR 153 YARDS, AND HIS SECOND TOUCHDOWN PUT THE CAP ON AN HISTORIC TEXANS VICTORY.

(FOSTER ASKS FOR REF'S HAT; RADIO)

DETROIT LIONS @ NEW ORLEANS SAINTS.

NOTHING SLOWED DOWN THE LIONS ON THE GAME'S OPENING DRIVE.

IN THE FIRST HALF DETROIT FORCED TWO FUMBLES AND HELD LEAGUE'S NUMBER ONE OFFENSE TO JUST 10 POINTS.

CALVIN JOHNSON'S TOUCHDOWN GAVE THE LIONS A HALFTIME LEAD.

THE SAINTS NEEDED LESS THAN 2 MINUTES IN THE THIRD QUARTER TO GET ON TOP.

DREW BREES WAS JUST WARMING UP.

THE LIONS WERE STRUGGLING TO KEEP UP.

DESPITE CONSTANT DOUBLE COVERAGE THE LIONS CONTINUED TO FEED THE BALL TO CALVIN JOHNSON, AND IN A GAME FULL OF STANDOUTS MEGATRON STOOD ALONE.

HE BECAME JUST THE THIRD PLAYER SINCE THE MERGER WITH OVER 200 YARDS RECEIVING AND TWO TOUCHDOWNS IN A PLAYOFF GAME.

MATT STAFFORD AND DREW BREES WERE STAGING A DUEL ANY GUNSLINGER WOULD ADMIRE. BUT IT WAS A TRIO OF RUNNING BACKS WHO MADE THE DIFFERENCE.

NUMBER FORTY THREE DARREN SPROLES, NUMBER TWENTY THREE PIERRE THOMAS, AND NUMBER TWENTY NINE CHRIS IVORY COMBINED FOR 164 YARDS ON 31 CARRIES.

CLINGING TO A THREE-POINT FOURTH QUARTER LEAD, THE SAINTS TURNED TO THEIR BACKFIELD.

THIS TIME THE LIONS COULD DRAW NO CLOSER.

JIM SCHWARTZ HAD ASKED FOR STOPS, BUT THE SAINTS WERE UNSTOPPABLE, SCORING TOUCHDOWNS ON 5 STRAIGHT SECOND-HALF DRIVES.

ATLANTA FALCONS @ NEW YORK GIANTS

BOTH OFFENSES WERE SLUGGISH IN THE EARLY GOING.

THE GIANTS TRAILED 2-0 WHEN THEIR RESURGENT GROUND ATTACK BEGAN TO RUN WILD IN THE WILD CARD.

ATLANTA WAS NEVER ABLE TO TAME BRANDON JACOBS AND AHMAD BRADSHAW, WHO COMBINED FOR 155 RUSHING YARDS IN THE GAME.

WITH UNDER 3 MINUTES REMAINING IN THE FIRST HALF, NEW YORK SCORED THE GAME'S FIRST TOUCHDOWN.

IN THE THIRD QUARTER, ATLANTA'S OFFENSE WAS POISED TO DENT THE GIANTS' 7-2 LEAD.

IT'S OFTEN SAID THAT FOOTBALL IS A "GAME OF INCHES." THAT TERM WAS INTERPRETED DIFFERENTLY BY THOSE ON THE MET-LIFE STADIUM FIELD.

ATLANTA'S SHORT YARDAGE FAILURE ENABLED THE GIANTS TO ACHIEVE LONG DISTANCE SUCCESS.

ELI MANNING THREW THREE TOUCHDOWN PASSES AND THE DEFENSE ALLOWED ZERO POINTS AS THE GIANTS WON THEIR FIRST HOME PLAYOFF GAME SINCE 2000.

PITTSBURGH STEELERS @ DENVER BRONCOS

IN THE FIRST QUARTER THE STEELERS GAINED 122 YARDS. THE BRONCOS GAINED 8.

BUT THEY ENDED UP SETTLING FOR TWO FIELD GOALS.

SUNDAY, TEBOW TIME WASN'T JUST FOR THE FINISH.

TIM TEBOW DIDN'T NEED MUCH ELSE TO LEAD HIS TEAM TO 20 SECOND QUARTER POINTS.

THE STEELERS LED THE NFL IN TOTAL DEFENSE IN 2011.

THEY HELD THE BRONCOS TO 3 POINTS IN THE SECOND HALF.

DOWN 20-6, PITTSBURGH FINALLY BEGAN DRIVING FOR TOUCHDOWNS.

WITH MINUTES REMAINING, BEN ROETHLISBERGER TIED THE GAME.