

NFL GameDay

WEEK 19

New York Giants @ Green Bay Packers

THE PACKERS DID SPEND SOME TIME THROWING ELI MANNING TO THE GROUND.

BUT MOST OF WHAT AARON RODGERS TOSSED UP FELL TO THE TURF AS WELL.

IT WASN'T JUST THE DROPPED PASSES. RODGERS SEEMED UNCHARACTERISTICALLY INACCURATE.

GREEN BAYS MISTAKES CONTINUED IN THE SECOND HALF.

MIDWAY THROUGH THE FOURTH QUARTER, RODGERS DROVE THE PACKERS 76 YARDS IN JUST UNDER TWO MINUTES TO MAKE IT A TWO SCORE GAME.

THE GIANTS NEEDED A TOUCHDOWN TO FINISH OFF GREEN BAY.

Houston Texans @ Baltimore Ravens

IN THEIR SECOND PLAYOFF GAME IN FRANCHISE HISTORY, THE HOUSTON TEXANS WOULD HAVE TO DEFEAT A TEAM THEY HAD NEVER BEATEN BEFORE, THE BALTIMORE RAVENS.

HOUSTON SEEMED NOT READY FOR PLAYOFF INTENSITY AND MADE A BONEHEAD PLAY THAT USUALLY RELEGATES TEAMS TO THE BONEYARD.

TRAILING 17-6 IN THE SECOND QUARTER, THE TEXANS TURNED TO THEIR WORK HORSE, ARIAN FOSTER, WHO RUSHED FOR 132 YARDS.

IN THE LAST 45 MINUTES, BALTIMORE ONLY MANAGED THREE POINTS AS HOUSTON HELD RAY RICE TO JUST 60 YARDS AND SACKED JOE FLACCO FIVE TIMES.

EVEN WHEN THE RAVENS CAUGHT A SPARK // THE TEXANS SNUFFED OUT THE FLAMES.

ALTHOUGH HOUSTON DOMINATED THE GAME, ROOKIE QUARTERBACK T.J. YATES IN ONLY HIS SEVENTH START WAS NO MATCH FOR THE SEASONED RAVENS DEFENSE.

Denver Broncos @ New England Patriots

TEBOW-MANIA HAS OVERSHADOWED EVERYTHING. // EVEN TOM BRADY SEEMED LIKE A FORGOTTEN MAN. // BUT IN PLAYOFF GAMES LIKE THIS, PRAYERS CAN GO UNANSWERED AND DREAMS CAN FALL HARD.

THE PATRIOTS HAD FALLEN IN THEIR LAST THREE POST SEASON GAMES ARE WERE DETERMINED TO START FAST. THEY SURPRISED THE BRONCOS WITH A NO-HUDDLE OFFENSE THAT FEATURED TIGHTEND AARON HERNANDEZ AS A RUNNING BACK.

BRADY CONFUSED THE BRONCOS. // WHEN THEY FOCUSED ON HERNANDEZ, BRADY FOUND ROB GRONKOWSKI. WHEN DENVER FOCUSED ON THE TIGHT ENDS, HE WENT DEEP.

IN THE FIRST HALF, TIM TEBOW COMPLETED JUST THREE PASSES. BRADY THREW FIVE TOUCHDOWNS. NUMBER 12 WAS RARELY TOUCHED BUT TEBOW WAS SACKED 5 TIMES.

TIME WILL TELL IF THIS IS THE END OF TEBOW-MANIA OR JUST THE BEGINNING. BUT DENVER WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN HERE WITHOUT HIM.

AS FOR TOM BRADY, HE'S THE ONE WHO'S STILL STANDING.

HE TIED THE NFL POST-SEASON RECORD WITH 6 TOUCHDOWN PASSES. HE REMINDED THE FOOTBALL WORLD THAT A PHENOMENON IS NO MATCH FOR A PHENOMENAL PLAYER.

New Orleans Saint. @ San Francisco 49ers

EVERY GREAT MIGRATION NEEDS A LEADER // TO PROVIDE DIRECTION
AND KEEP EVERYONE ON THE STICK.

BEFORE JIM HARBAUGH BECAME THEIR FACE, THE 49ERS HAD GONE
A FOUL OF THEIR OWN WINNING TRADITION.

BUT IN JUST ONE SEASON HE'S GOTTEN SAN FRANCISCO BACK IN LINE //
BY FEARLESSLY FOLLOWING A PLAN THAT HANDED ALEX SMITH THE BALL, AND
INFUSED THE FRANCHISE WITH A NEW BELIEF.

AFTER A FIRST ROUND BYE, HARBAUGH'S TEAM FLEW INTO THE

DIVISIONAL PLAYOFF TRYING TO MAKE NEW ORLEANS DUCK.

ON THE GAME'S OPENING DRIVE, THE SAINTS **DIDN'T** GO LOW ENOUGH.

THREE OF THE SAINTS **FIVE** TURNOVERS CAME IN THE FIRST QUARTER,
HELPING SAN FRANCISCO QUICKLY BUILD A 17-0 LEAD.

DREW BREES HAND STAYED HOT ENOUGH TO THROW FOR 469 YARDS.
HE'D NEED EVERY ONE OF THEM TO KEEP NEW ORLEANS IN THE GAME.

BREES' PASS TO MARQUES COLSTON MADE THE SCORE 17-14 AT
HALFTIME.

WHEN #91 RAY MCDONALD OCCUPIED TWO BLOCKERS, #94 JUSTIN SMITH
HAD A PATH TO ONE OF THREE 49ER SACKS.

SAN FRANCISCO LED 23-17 WHEN THE GAME ENTERED ITS DRAMATIC
FINAL ACT: THE LAST EIGHT MINUTES OF THE FOURTH QUARTER.

THE TIME HAD COME FOR A HISTORIC SEQUENCE OF HEROIC PLAYS.

WITH 4:11 REMAINING, SAN FRANCISCO TRAILED FOR THE FIRST TIME, 24
TO 23.

FOLLOWING SMITH'S TOUCHDOWN THE 49ERS FAILED ON A TWO POINT ATTEMPT. THOUGH
THAT DIDN'T KILL CANDLESTICK'S BUZZ // THE SAINTS DELIVERED A SOBERING REPOSE WITH
LESS THAN 2 MINUTES TO PLAY.

AFTER BREES FOUND SPROLES FOR A TWO POINT CONVERSION, NEW

ORLEANS LED 32-29.

EVERY COACH KNOWS EVEN THE BEST PLAN CAN ONLY GO SO FAR –
THEN, GREAT PLAYERS MUST TAKE THE LEAD BEFORE TIME RUNS OUT.

CALL IT FOLLOW THE LEADER. BEFORE THIS SEASON, THE 49ERS HADN'T
BEEN TO THE PLAYOFFS IN 9 YEARS. **LAST** YEAR THEY WERE 6-10. NOW, THEY'RE ONE GAME
AWAY FROM RETURNING TO A PLACE THEY ONCE CONSIDERED HOME – THE SUPER BOWL.