

NFL GAMEDAY

Week 7

BALTIMORE RAVENS @ HOUSTON TEXANS

IN A FIGHT BETWEEN TWO 5-1 TEAMS, BOTH SIDES PUT UP THEIR DUKES. THE DIFFERENCE WAS HOW THE TEXANS USED THEIR DIGITS.

EVERYTHING'S BIGGER IN TEXAS – INCLUDING HOUSTON'S WEEK 7 TIP FOR BALTIMORE – THAT SOMETIMES THE PATH TO VICTORY CAN BE FOUND AT THE END OF A FINGER.

...THAT SOMETIMES MIGHTY WINS BLOSSOM AT THE END OF STRONG FINGERS.

PITTSBURGH STEELERS @ CINCINNATI BENGALS

IT SEEMS LIKE FOREVER SINCE THE BENGALS BEAT THE STEELERS, BUT CINCINNATI GOT OFF TO A FAST START, SCORING ON TWO OF THEIR FIRST THREE DRIVES.

THE BENGALS HAD THE MOMENTUM, AND THE STEELERS WERE SELF-DESTRUCTING WITH DROPPED PASSES.

CINCINNATI STARTED THE SECOND QUARTER BY FORCING BACK TO BACK TURNOVERS.

TRAILING 14-6 NEAR THE END OF THE FIRST HALF, PITTSBURGH GOT THINGS ROLLING.

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS @ TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

DREW BREES THREW FOR 313 YARDS AND FOUR TOUCHDOWNS IN THE FIRST HALF, AS THE SAINTS TOOK A 7 POINT LEAD INTO THE THIRD QUARTER.

THE BUCCANEERS RALLIED FOR A CHANCE TO SEND THE GAME INTO OVERTIME ON THE FINAL PLAY.

WASHINGTON REDSKINS @ NEW YORK GIANTS

ROBERT GRIFFIN III AND THE REDSKINS SHINED EARLY IN THEIR FIRST DIVISIONAL GAME OF THE SEASON.

THE TIE DIDN'T LAST LONG, AS MISFIRES BY THE REDSKINS' YOUNG GUN HELPED THE GIANTS TO A 4 POINT LEAD LATE IN THE GAME.

NEW YORK JETS @ NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

IN NEW ENGLAND, EVERYONE GOT A CHANCE TO PUT UP POINTS AGAINST THE JETS.

NEXT IT WAS TOM BRADY AND THE OFFENSE'S TURN FOR A TOUCHDOWN.

THEN THE PATRIOT DEFENSE SCORED.

BUT IN THE 4TH QUARTER THE JETS HAD NEW ENGLAND WHISTLING A DIFFERENT TUNE.

NEW YORK HIT PLENTY OF HIGH NOTES WITH A LATE RALLY, BUT WHEN THEY HAD THE CHANCE TO SEIZE CONTROL, ONE OF THEIR SOLOISTS WAS SHOCKINGLY OFF-KEY.

HILL'S MISCUE KEPT NEW YORK FROM DRAINING THE CLOCK AND SCORING A GO-AHEAD TOUCHDOWN. IT TOOK A PAIR OF FIELD GOALS BY NICK FOLK TO TIE – AND EVENTUALLY PUT THE JETS ON TOP 26-23, LATE IN REGULATION.

BUT WHEN STEPHEN GUSTKOWSKI MATCHED THOSE SCORES TO PROPEL THE PATRIOTS TO A THREE-POINT OVERTIME LEAD, NEW ENGLAND NEEDED A DEFENSIVE HERO – AND FOUND ONE IN #50 LINEBACKER ROB NINKOVICH.

DALLAS COWBOYS @ CAROLINA PANTHERS

HAVING LOST THEIR LAST TWO, THE COWBOYS WERE BLUE. BUT THE PANTHERS WERE THERE FOR A LIFT.

CAM NEWTON MISFIRED, WHILE TONY ROMO WAS WIRED, INTO MAKING HIS END ZONE PASS FIT.

ARIZONA CARDINALS @ MINNESOTA VIKINGS

WHEN ADRIAN PETERSON MOVES THE PILE, THE VIKINGS TEND TO PUT POINTS ON THE BOARD.

THAT MEANS THESE DAYS, THE VIKING DEFENSE HAS LEADS TO PROTECT.

LAST SUNDAY, MINNESOTA RECORDED A SEASON-HIGH SEVEN SACKS.

THE BELEAGUERED CARDINALS DIDN'T GO AWAY QUIETLY.

IN THE FOURTH QUARTER, ARIZONA PULLED TO WITHIN SEVEN.

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS @ SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

IN SAN FRANCISCO, THEY WERE JUMPING AND JIGGLING IN ANTICIPATION OF A FIRST PLACE DIVISIONAL SHOWDOWN.

IT STARTED WITH A BANG, BUT ENDED WITH THE SEAHAWKS JUST SHOOTING THEMSELVES IN THE FOOT.

THE 49ERS KEPT THEIR FEET, AND NOW STAND ALONE ATOP THE NFC WEST.

GREEN BAY PACKERS @ ST LOUIS RAMS

SOME PLAYERS TAKE AWHILE TO HEAT UP. OVER THE LAST TWO WEEKS, NO ONE HAS BEEN HOTTER THAN PACKERS QUARTERBACK AARON RODGERS.

TENNESSEE TITANS @ BUFFALO BILLS

IT MAY NOT BE THE LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL, BUT AFTER NOT SCORING A TOUCHDOWN FOR 11 GAMES, CHRIS JOHNSON FINALLY SHOWED SOME BRIGHTNESS WITH HIS BLINDING SPEED.

JOHNSON'S TWO TOUCHDOWN, 195 YARD DAY WASN'T ENOUGH ON ITS OWN, AS THE BILLS TOOK THE LEAD GOING INTO THE 4TH QUARTER.

AN INTERCEPTION WITH 3 MINUTES TO PLAY PUT THE TITANS IN POSITION TO WIN.

JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS @ OAKLAND RAIDERS

ROOKIE HEAD COACH DENNIS ALLEN IS LEARNING ON THE JOB.

FROM: "THERE'S A LOT OF THINGS NOT IN THE BOOK"

NOT IN THE BOOK: HOW TO REBOUND FROM A ROUGH FIRST HALF.

WITH MAURICE JONES-DREW INJURED, JACKSONVILLE'S OFFENSE WENT NOWHERE.

CARSON PALMER'S FOURTH-QUARTER TOUCHDOWN TIED THE GAME AT 23.

IN OVERTIME, THE RAIDERS KEPT ROLLING.

DETROIT LIONS @ CHICAGO BEARS

TRYING TO WIN IS NO REASON TO BEAT YOURSELF UP.

JUST DON'T TURN THE BALL OVER.

HAVE THE NUMBER 1 DEFENSE IN THE NFL.

AND HAVE A QUARTERBACK THAT CAN SHAKE OFF HARD HITS AND STILL LEAD HIS TEAM TO VICTORY.

CLEVELAND BROWNS @ INDIANAPOLIS COLTS

ANDREW LUCK AND THE COLTS HIT THE GROUND RUNNING.

FELLOW ROOKIE QUARTERBACK, BRANDON WEEDEN, MATCHED LUCK WITH TWO SCORES OF HIS OWN.

(LUCK TO ARIANS: "WHAT ARE YOU THINKING? WHATEVER'S

GOOD WITH ME. THEY PAY YOU TO MAKE THOSE DECISIONS.")

NO MATTER WHAT PLAYS WERE DIALED UP LATE IN THE GAME...NEITHER OFFENSE WAS ABLE TO FIND A CONNECTION TO THE END ZONE.