

NFL GAMEDAY

Week 1

BALTIMORE RAVENS @ DENVER BRONCOS

FOR A MATCHUP FEATURING TWO SUPER BOWL MVP QUARTERBACKS, THE ATMOSPHERE IN DENVER WAS ELECTRIC. BUT ONLY ONE WAS ABLE TO CATCH LIGHTNING IN A BOTTLE.

Turns out Peyton Manning had one left for Julius Thomas....

...AND plenty more to go around.

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS @ NEW YORK JETS

IN A HARD HITTING GAME THAT INCLUDED THE RETURN OF REVIS Island, the Jets played better than expected.

Trailing 15-14, the Buccaneers marched 62 yards to set up a field goal with 38 seconds left.

Earlier Tampa Bay had been burned when they couldn't figure out if Geno Smith was heading out of bounds.

With time running out, they got it wrong again.

GREEN BAY PACKERS @ SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

The 49ers read option ran all over the Packers in last year's playoffs.

Clay Matthews was determined not to let that happen again.

Matthews eagerness to get to the quarterback wound up causing trouble.

Offsetting dead ball personal fouls were called when number 74 lineman Joe Staley retaliated./ It should have been fourth and 2./ Instead, they replayed the down.

THE SIDELINE FANS NEVER DID OSKILATE OR EVEN OCCILATE, BUT THE OFFENSES TOOK TURNS GOING UP AND DOWN THE FIELD./ AARON RODGERS PASSED FOR OVER 300 YARDS AND THREE TOUCHDOWNS – AND WASN'T THE GAME'S MOST PRODUCTIVE QUARTERBACK.

OKEY-DOKED? NO. HOODWINKED? YES. / COLIN KAEPERNICK DITCHED THE READ OPTION AND THREW FOR OVER 400 YARDS.

THE RETOOLED OFFENSE FEATURED NIFTY HANDIWORK FROM NEWEST ADDITION, ANQUAN BOLDIN.

AHEAD BY 3 WITH THREE MINUTES LEFT, THE 49ERS DIDN'T PLAY FOR A FIELD GOAL....THEY PLAYED FOR THE WIN.

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS @ JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS

MEET GUS BRADLEY, THE NEW HEAD MAN IN JACKSONVILLE.

THINGS STARTED GREAT. NEW COACH, NEW UNIS, NEW HOPE.

THE JAGS DID GET SOME LICKS IN, AND THEY MADE A FEW PLAYS...

BUT TRUTH IS, THEY LOOKED OVERMATCHED.

NOT EXACTLY THE START BRADLEY WAS HOPING FOR. BUT EVEN WHEN IT GOT WORSE, GUS NEVER GOT GLOOMY.

CINCINNATI BENGALS @ CHICAGO BEARS

MARC TRESTMAN'S CHICAGO DEBUT FEATURED FOUR NEW STARTERS ON THE OFFENSIVE LINE, AND NOT A SINGLE SACK BY THE BENGALS.

BUT CHICAGO DEFENDERS WILL SLEEP WITH A NIGHTLIGHT THIS WEEK, THANKS TO A.J. GREEN.

GREEN CAUGHT NINE PASSES FOR 162 YARDS. THE BENGALS CONVERTED SEVEN OF THEIR FIRST NINE THIRD DOWNS, AND OPENED A 21-10 LEAD.

THE BEARS CUT THE BENGALS' LEAD TO 21-17. BUT CINCINNATI CAUGHT A SECOND WIND.

CHICAGO HAD THE BALL FOR ELEVEN OF THE FINAL TWELVE MINUTES OF THE GAME, TAKING CONTROL OF THE CLOCK, AND THE SCOREBOARD.

OAKLAND RAIDERS @ INDIANAPOLIS COLTS

ANDREW LUCK IS A THINKING MAN'S QUARTERBACK. AGAINST THE RAIDERS HE WAS EINSTEIN, COMPLETING HIS FIRST 11 PASSES IN GUIDEING THE COLTS TO AN EARLY LEAD.

TERELLE PRYOR IS BETTER AT THINKING ON HIS FEET. HE SCHOOLED THE COLTS DEFENSE WITH 112 YARDS RUSHING, THE MOST EVER BY A RAIDER QUARTERBACK.

WHEN IT COMES TO 4TH QUARTER COMEBACKS, LUCK IS MOVING TO THE HEAD OF HIS CLASS. HE DELIVERED HIS 8TH COME FROM BEHIND WIN AFTER SETTING AN NFL RECORD WITH 7 LAST SEASON.

ALT. WHEN IT COMES TO 4TH QUARTER COMBACKS LUCK IS MOVING TO THE HEAD OF HIS CLASS. HIS 19-YARD TOUCHDOWN RUN DELIVERED THE 8TH COME FROM BEHIND WIN OF HIS YOUNG CAREER.

ATLANTA FALCONS @ NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

AS TONY GONZALEZ PREPARED TO SAY GOODBYE, SEAN PAYTON SAID HELLO AFTER A YEAR AWAY FROM THE SIDELINES.

HE SAW A DEFENSE THAT HARDLY RESEMBLED THE 2012 UNIT THATSURRENDERED THE MOST YARDS IN NFL HISTORY.

IN THE SECOND QUARTER, MARQUES COLSTON BECAME THE SAINTS' ALL-TIME LEADER IN RECEPTIONS.

WITH NEW ORLEANS LEADING 13-10 IN THE THIRD QUARTER, STEVEN JACKSON RUMBLED 50-YARDS TO SET UP A GO-AHEAD TOUCHDOWN.

THE SAINTS DROVE 80-YARDS ON THEIR NEXT POSSESSION.

NEW ORLEANS HELD A 23-17 LEAD IN THE FINAL MINUTE. THE FALCONS DROVE TO THE THREE YARD LINE.

AFTER STEVEN JACKSON'S DROP, ATLANTA FACED FOURTH AND GOAL.

NEW YORK GIANTS @ DALLAS COWBOYS

THE GIANTS COMMITTED 6 TURNOVERS BUT VICTOR CRUZ HELPED KEEP HIS TEAM WITHIN STRIKING DISTANCE.

DALLAS HAD THREE TAKEAWAYS IN EACH HALF.

THE MISTAKE-PRONE GIANTS REFUSED TO FOLD. ELI MANNING THREW THREE TOUCHDOWN PASSES TO CRUZ. NEW YORK EVENTUALLY PULLED TO WITHIN SIX POINTS.

IT WAS THE OPPORTUNISTIC COWBOYS WHO WOUND UP ON CLOUD 9 WHEN THEY CAPITALIZED ON ANOTHER BIG BLUE BLUNDER WITH 1:50 REMAINING TO PLAY.

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES @ WASHINGTON REDSKINS

WASHINGTON ALSO FACED PROBLEMS WITH ITS OWN OFFENSE. UNTIL THE FINAL QUARTER A CLEARLY RUSTY ROBERT GRIFFIN III WAS BATTERED BY EAGLES BLITZES, FORCING WASHINGTON'S DEFENSE TO LOG EXTENDED ON-FIELD DUTY.

MIAMI DOLPHINS @ CLEVELAND BROWNS

GOOD 'OL CHOMPS MAY HAVE HAD BARK... BUT THE DOLPHINS D HAD THE BITE, SACKING BRANDON WEEDEN 5 TIMES... AND INTERCEPTING HIM 3 TIMES.

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS @ CAROLINA PANTHERS

THE PANTHERS ARE EXPECTING A LOT FROM CAM NEWTON THIS YEAR.

BUT EVEN MORE IS EXPECTED FROM THE SEAHAWKS, AND IN THE FOURTH QUARTER THEY FINALLY DELIVERED.

TENNESSEE TITANS @ PITTSBURGH STEELERS

AH, THE FIRST PLAY OF OPENING DAY, WHEN A TEAM STEPS FORWARD INTO UNCHARTED POSSIBILITY – PROVIDED ITS KICK RETURNER DOES THE SAME.

FOR A WHILE IT LOOKED LIKE TWO POINTS WOULD HOLD UP – BUT PITTSBURGH’S REBUILT RUNNING GAME COULDN’T HOLD ON.

INSTEAD IT WAS TENNESSEE WHO BEAT DOWN THE STEELERS AT THEIR OWN BRUISING GAME.

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS @ BUFFALO BILLS

TO SEE THE WORLD THROUGH THE EYES OF A ROOKIE IS TO KNOW NO PAIN. A DECADE OF BILLS’ FUTILITY AGAINST THE PATRIOTS DIDN’T MEAN MUCH TO EJ MANUEL, WHO THREW HIS FIRST TWO CAREER TOUCHDOWN PASSES.

WITH MANUEL, THE BILLS ARE BEGINNING A NEW CHAPTER IN THEIR HISTORY – BUT CLINGING TO A LATE ONE-POINT LEAD, IT TOOK A FAMILIAR TURN.

THE PATRIOTS HAVE WON 19 OF 20 FROM BUFFALO – MUCH TO THE CHAGRIN OF NORM.

MINNESOTA VIKINGS @ DETROIT LIONS

THAT’S NOT THE GHOST OF JACOB MARLEY HAUNTING THE LIONS – DETROIT FACED SOMETHING FAR SCARIER.

IT’S BEEN A TALE OF THREE CITIES IN FOUR YEARS FOR REGGIE BUSH, WHO CREATED SOME GREAT EXPECTATIONS IN HIS NEW HOME BY HELPING THE LIONS PULL AWAY.

ARIZONA CARDINALS @ ST. LOUIS RAMS

WHO BUILT MIGHTY WORKS LIKE THE PYRAMIDS – ANCIENT ALIENS? MAYBE. WHAT WE DO KNOW IS THAT THE LEGEND OF LARRY FITZGERALD WILLENDURE LIKE STONEHENGE.

HIS TWO TOUCHDOWN CATCHES SUCKED LIFE FROM THE RAMS LIKE THE MYTHICAL CHUPACABRA – WHILE THE QUITE REAL “HONEY BADGER” WAS FINALLY SPOTTED IN THE NFL WILD.

IN SEARCH OF REDEMPTION FOR HIS FUMBLE, TIGHT END JARED COOK CAUGHT TWO TOUCHDOWNS – GIVING THE RAMS A CHANCE TO WIN IT LATE.

HOUSTON TEXANS @ SAN DIEGO CHARGERS

PHILIP RIVERS THREW FOUR TOUCHDOWN PASSES AND THE CHARGERS BUILT A 21-POINT LEAD.

IN HIS COMEBACK GAME, LINEBACKER BRIAN CUSHING HELPED THE TEXANS COME BACK. HIS FOURTH-QUARTER INTERCEPTION RETURN TIED IT, AND ON THE VERY LAST PLAY, RANDY BULLOCK WON IT.