

NFL GAMEDAY

WEEK 18

ARIZONA CARDINALS @ CAROLINA PANTHERS

THE PANTHERS HAD A DISMAL RECORD IN THE REGULAR SEASON. A REBIRTH IN THE PLAYOFFS WOULD BE BUILT ON THEIR RUNNING GAME.

THE CARDINALS RELIED ON 3RD STRING QUARTERBACK RYAN LINDLEY.

ARIZONA CONVERTED ANTONIO CROMARTIE'S INTERCEPTION INTO A 14-10 LEAD.

ALL-PRO PATRICK PETERSON WAS A BIRD OF PRETTY...BUT A MAN NAMED FOZZY MADE A BEAR OF A PLAY.

THE PANTHERS PUT UP 386 YARDS OF OFFENSE COMPARED TO THE CARDINALS AND PUT THE GAME AWAY IN THE SECOND HALF.

CAROLINA'S DEFENSE OVERWHELMED THE UNDER-MANNED CARDINALS.

BALTIMORE RAVENS @ PITTSBURGH STEELERS

THE RAVENS HAD OVERCOME A TUMULTUOUS SEASON TO ASCEND TO THE PLAYOFFS....A RESILIENT TEAM RIDING A WAVE OF MOMENTUM.

THE STEELERS PLAYED WITHOUT INJURED STAR RUNNING BACK LE'VEON BELL.

HIS THREE REPLACEMENTS TOTALED JUST 47 YARDS AND A FUMBLE. WITHOUT A RUNNING GAME, BEN ROETHLISBERGER HAD TO WIN IT THROUGH THE AIR.

BIG BEN FIRED 6 TOUCHDOWN PASSES AGAINST THE RAVENS IN NOVEMBER. THIS TIME PITTSBURGH MANAGED JUST 3 FIRST HALF FIELD GOALS.

THE RAVENS HAD LOST THEIR PREVIOUS 3 PLAYOFF GAMES IN PITTSBURGH BUT BY HALFTIME THEY'D BUILT A 10 TO 9 LEAD.

IN THE NFL'S MOST BITTER RIVALRY, THE GAME TURNED INTO THE FIERCE BATTLE THAT EVERYONE EXPECTED.

THE RAVENS LED 13 TO 9 IN THE THIRD QUARTER. YARDS WERE PRECIOUS AND HARD EARNED. EVERY INCH HAD TO BE DEFENDED AND FOUGHT FOR.

REGULAR SEASON JOE FLACCO TRANSFORMED HIMSELF AGAIN INTO PLAYOFF JOE FLACCO. FLACCO HAS MORE PLAYOFF WINS IN THE LAST 6 YEARS THAN BRADY, MANNING, RODGERS OR BREES.

TWO TIME SUPER BOWL CHAMPION BEN ROETHLISBERGER WOULD NOT GO DOWN WITHOUT A FIGHT. (PAUSE) THE STEELERS CLOSED TO WITHIN 5 IN THE FOURTH QUARTER.

YOU'D THINK THAT THESE TWO ENEMIES HAD SEEN EVERYTHING. BUT THIS RIVALRY NEVER CEASES TO AMAZE.

ON THE VERY NEXT PLAY, FLACCO SEALED HIS 7TH ROAD PLAYOFF VICTORY THE MOST BY ANY QUARTERBACK SINCE THE 1970 MERGER.

CINCINNATI BENGALS @ INDIANAPOLIS COLTS

THE COLTS OPENED THE GAME WITH A 71 YARD TOUCHDOWN DRIVE.

THE BENGALS ANSWERED WITH A 74 YARD TOUCHDOWN DRIVE, EVEN WITH STAR WIDEOUT A.J. GREEN ON THE SIDELINE.

THE COLTS SHUT OUT ANDY DALTON AND THE BENGALS IN THE SECOND HALF.

FINISHING. IT SEPARATES GOOD FROM GREAT. NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU KNOCK HIM DOWN, OR KNOCK HIM AROUND, ANDREW LUCK NEVER SEEMS KNOCKED OUT.

PLAYING HIM IS LIKE THE MOMENT IN ROCKY IV WHEN DRAGO REALIZES BALBOA JUST WON'T STAY DOWN. HE DOESN'T SEEM HUMAN, HE'S LIKE A PIECE OF IRON.

ANDREW LUCK FINISHED CINCINNATI.

DETROIT LIONS @ DALLAS COWBOYS

A HUNGRY PACK OF LIONS CHARGED AT THE GREAT WALL OF DALLAS.// THE FORTRESS STARTED TO CRACK.

DETROIT HAD MANY OBSTACLES TO OVERCOME. / FOR 15 MINUTES, NEITHER THE SUN, NOR THE CROWD, POSED ANY PROBLEM.

IN THE HALF'S FINAL MINUTES, TONY ROMO SETTLED IN. SO DID THE COWBOYS.

(maybe, that will open the door.)

IT DID. THE COWBOYS STORMED TO WITHIN 3.

WITH 8 MINUTES LEFT, THE LIONS NEEDED ONE MORE DRIVE TO PUT THE GAME AWAY.

DUSK WAS CLOSING IN ON THE COWBOYS SEASON. TONY ROMO HAD ONE LAST CHANCE TO SHINE, AND HE DID.

ON 3rd and GOAL, HE UTILIZED EVERY SECOND HIS VAUNTED LINE COULD PROVIDE.