

# **NFL GAMEDAY**

## **WEEK 1**

### **NEW YORK GIANTS @ DALLAS COWBOYS**

THE COWBOYS COUGHED UP THREE COSTLY TURNOVERS THAT KEPT DALLAS TRAILING FOR MOST OF THE GAME.

BUT TONY ROMO THREW THREE SECOND HALF TOUCHDOWN PASSES TO HIS TIGHT-ENDS.

LATE IN THE 4TH QUARTER, NEW YORK HAD THE BALL WITH A THREE POINT LEAD. WITH DALLAS OUT OF TIMEOUTS, ALL THE GIANTS HAD TO DO WAS RUN OUT THE CLOCK. BUT ELI MANNING TOLD RUNNING-BACK RASHAD JENNINGS NOT TO SCORE. BRINGING UP A THIRD DOWN, WHERE NEW YORK MYSTIFYINGLY CALLED FOR A PASS.

AND RATHER THAN TAKE A SACK TO LET THE SECONDS TICK, MANNING THREW THE BALL AWAY, STOPPING THE CLOCK.

ROMO DROVE DALLAS WITHOUT HIS TOP TARGET DEZ BRYANT -- WHO WAS SIDELINED WITH A BROKEN FOOT.

### **PITTSBURGH STEELERS @ NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS**

THURSDAY NIGHT MARKED THE END OF A TUMULTUOUS OFFSEASON IN NEW ENGLAND.

WITH SUPER BOWL HEROES IN ABUNDANCE, THE 2015 SEASON KICKED OFF AT GILLETTE STADIUM.

THE DEFENDING SUPER BOWL CHAMPIONS **TOOK THE AIR OUT OF** PITTSBURGH'S SAILS, TAKING A 21-3 LEAD.

THE STEELERS SCORED 10 CONSECUTIVE POINTS, AND TRAILED BY ONE SCORE EARLY IN THE FOURTH QUARTER.

INEXPLICABLY, THE STEELERS FORGOT TO COVER ROB GRONKOWSKI; WHO LEFT PITTSBURGH DEFEATED AND DEFLATED.

### **TENNESSEE TITANS @ TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS**

JAMEIS WINSTON HAD A MOSTLY FORGETTABLE GAME.

THE TITANS LOOKED GOOD. REAL GOOD. MARCUS MARIOTA HAD AN HISTORIC DEBUT.

MARIOTA BECAME THE FIRST QUARTERBACK IN NFL HISTORY TO PASS FOR 4 TOUCHDOWNS IN THE FIRST HALF OF HIS FIRST START.

### **BALTIMORE RAVENS @ DENVER BRONCOS**

MAINTAINING A CONSISTENT RHYTHM AND TEMPO PROVED DIFFICULT FOR TWO QUARTERBACKS WHO WERE PRESSURED ALL DAY LONG.

BUT THE PROCESS ONLY CONTINUED TO HARDEN FOR PEYTON MANNING, WHO WAS OFF TARGET WHEN TRYING TO CONNECT WITH OPEN RECEIVERS BOTH NEAR -- AND FAR.

THE RAVENS' RELENTLESS DEFENSE SCORED BALTIMORE'S ONLY TOUCHDOWN.

FOR THE PAPA JOHN'S PITCHMAN, THIS GAME DELIVERED A COLD SLICE OF REALITY. BUT MANNING WAS BAILED OUT BY A BRONCOS' DEFENSE THAT ALSO DELIVERED A TOUCHDOWN.

### **CLEVELAND BROWNS @ NEW YORK JETS**

IN HIS FIRST GAME AS HEAD COACH IN THE BIG APPLE, TODD BOWLES' DEFENSE TOOK A BITE OUT OF THE BROWNS.

ENTER JOHNNY FOOTBALL.

NEW YORK'S NEWEST WIDE RECEIVER HAS SOME OF THE BEST HANDS IN THE BUSINESS.

NOT SO HARD TO BELIEVE, BRANDON MARSHALL LED THE JETS AERIAL ATTACK...WHILE CHRIS IVORY LED THEM ON THE GROUND.

FIVE BROWNS TURNOVERS DOOMED THEM. SINCE 1999, THEY ARE 1 AND 16 IN OPENING GAMES.

### **INDIANAPOLIS COLTS @ BUFFALO BILLS**

GENERATION REX BEGAN WITH A BOMB.

TYROD TAYLOR PROVED ELECTRIC IN HIS FIRST EVER START...KARLOS WILLIAMS ON HIS FIRST EVER TOUCH.

IT WAS TOUGH LUCK FOR ANDREW LUCK -- WHO TOSSED A PAIR OF PICKS.

ALL DAY, INDY GOT SHOVED AROUND.

WHEN THEY WEREN'T GETTING MANHANDLED, THE COLTS COULDN'T SEEM TO FIND THE HANDLE.

(RADIO "RAIN SOAKED HAPPY FACES HERE AT RALPH WILSON STADIUM")

AND A GAME BALL FOR THE OWNER.

### **GREEN BAY PACKERS @ CHICAGO BEARS**

NOT TO BE FLIP...BUT THE NFL'S MOST STORIED RIVALRY HASN'T BEEN MUCH OF ONE LATELY. AARON RODGERS AND HIS PACKERS HAVE WON 10 OF THE LAST 11 AGAINST THE BEARS.

THE GAME PLAN FOR CHICAGO WAS TO RUN MATT FORTE. FORTE RAN FOR 141 YARDS AND HIS TOUCHDOWN GAVE THE BEARS A 13 TO 10 LEAD.

RODGERS THREW 3 TOUCHDOWN PASSES AND GREEN BAY LED BY 8 IN THE 4<sup>TH</sup> QUARTER. JAY CUTLER TRIED TO RALLY THE BEARS BUT INSTEAD OF FINDING A WAY TO WIN, HE FOUND A WAY TO LOSE.

SURE, IT'S ONLY WEEK ONE BUT RIGHT NOW CHICAGO AND EVERY OTHER TEAM IN THE NFC NORTH ARE A GAME BEHIND THE PACK.

### **SEATTLE SEAHAWKS @ ST LOUIS RAMS**

AFTER AN OFFSEASON OF NO SACKS FOR RUSSELL WILSON, THE RAMS PENETRATION TOOK DOWN THE QUARTERBACK SIX TIMES IN WEEK 1.

SAINT LOUIS SPRINTED OUT TO AN EARLY ELEVEN POINT LEAD.

BUT SEATTLE RESPONDED WITH 18 UNANSWERED POINTS.

A FAMILIAR SITUATION FOR SEATTLE LED TO A SIMILAR OUTCOME.

### **DETROIT LIONS @ SAN DIEGO CHARGERS**

WITH SO MANY OF HIS TEAMMATES OPTING FOR THE AMISH LOOK, YOU COULDN'T HAVE BLAMED PHILLIP RIVERS FOR ASKING "ARE THEE A BUTTER FINGERS?"

THE CHARGERS FELL BEHIND BY 21 TO 3 AND LOOKED BAD DOING IT.

BY THE SECOND HALF, SAN DIEGO LOOKED LIKE THE REAL MCCOY, REELING OFF 30 STRAIGHT POINTS.

### **KANSAS CITY CHIEFS @ HOUSTON TEXANS**

WITH OR WITHOUT THE HAT, SARAH THOMAS WAS SET TO BECOME THE FIRST FULLTIME FEMALE OFFICIAL IN NFL HISTORY, JUST AS WITH OR WITHOUT HIS HELMET, JJ WATT WAS GOING TO GET THAT SACK.

WATT'S POWER ASIDE, THE DAY'S BRIGHTEST LIGHT WAS ALEX SMITH WHO THREW THREE FIRST HALF TOUCHDOWN PASSES.

### **MINNESOTA VIKINGS @ SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS**

IN HIS FIRST GAME BACK FROM SUSPENSION THE CONSENSUS WAS ADRIAN PETERSON WOULD TORCH THE DEPLETED SAN FRAN DEFENSE.

BUT WHILE AP WAS GIVING OUT A FREE RIDE, THE TOUCHDOWNS WERE ON THE HOUSE COURTESY OF CARLOS HYDE.

### **CINCINNATI BENGALS @ OAKLAND RAIDERS**

SCIENCE TELLS US THAT WHEN A NEW COACH ARRIVES, THE ONE THING THAT CAN ESCAPE A BLACK HOLE IS GIDDY OPTIMISM.

IF A GUY CAN'T HAVE FUN IN WEEK-1, WHEN CAN HE?

BUT IT WAS CINCINNATI WHO TURNED JACK DEL RIO'S RAIDERS DEBUT INTO A LAUGHER.

BENGALS RUNNING BACK JEREMY HILL AND TIGHT END TYLER EIFERT EACH SCORED TWO TOUCHDOWNS.

(Safety...) THE RAIDERS SCORED THEIR FIRST TWO TOUCHDOWNS OF THE SEASON IN THE FOURTH QUARTER.

### **PHILADELPHIA EAGLES @ ATLANTA FALCONS**

A ROSTER REGARDED AS ONE A MAD SCIENTIST HAD CONSTRUCTED, THE EAGLES WERE SUPPOSED TO BE A MONSTER WHOSE LIKES HAVE NEVER BEEN ENCOUNTERED. BUT THEIR PLAN HADN'T ACCOUNTED FOR FACING AN UNRELENTING BEAST SUCH AS JULIO JONES.

A GAME THAT LOOKED TO BE PUT TO BED PHILLY'S ATTACK FINALLY AWOKED FROM THEIR SLUMBER.

BUT ATLANTA'S NEW HEAD COACH DAN QUINN USED HIS DEFENSEIVE WIZARDRY TO CURSE PHILLY'S FATE.

### **NEW ORLEANS SAINTS @ ARIZONA CARDINALS**

THAT BIG HONKING BRACE AROUND CARSON PALMER'S LEFT KNEE MIGHT HAVE BEEN PROBLEM, IF THE SAINTS PASS RUSH HAD EVER MATERIALIZED.

IT WASN'T EXACTLY A MIRACLE, OR EVEN BIBLICAL IN PROPORTION, BUT PALMER DID PART THE SAINTS DEFENSE WITH RELATIVE EASE.

### **MIAMI DOLPHINS @ WASHINGTON REDSKINS**

FOR A WHILE NOW, GOOD FORTUNE HAS GIVEN THE REDSKINS THE KISS-OFF. BUT IN THEIR HOME OPENER, IT LOOKED LIKE MAYBE THINGS MIGHT BOUNCE THEIR WAY. //THEY DIDN'T EXACTLY HAVE CONTROL OF THE GAME// BUT THEY DID HAVE THE LEAD IN THE FOURTH QUARTER.

BUT WITH ONE SPECIAL TEAMS BREAKDOWN, WASHINGTON KISSED THE WIN GOODBYE.

NOTHIN' BEATS GIVING THE HOME TEAM THE KISS OF DEATH.

**CAROLINA PANTHERS @ JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS**

IT'S TRUE THAT EVERY WOMAN LOVES A GUY IN UNIFORM.

IT'S ALSO WELL-KNOWN CHICKS DIG THE LONG BALL.

BUT THE ONE WHO PUTS IN THE MOST EFFORT IS USUALLY WHO GETS TO SCORE.