



PossessionPointsSM

Points Of The Week

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Week in Review

Notable Games and Moments

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

1 Week In Review

Pick up most sports pages and you would definitely think that this year was the “year of the upsets” in the NFL. However, if you followed the Performance Rankings or RPM of PossessionPoints.com, you would have seen a completely opposite view. Why the big difference?

First of all, the Performance Rankings of PossessionPoints.com are based solely on our proprietary in-game statistic which on a game-for-game basis indicates winners at a staggering percentage (over 90%). No opinion or personal viewpoints go into these rankings. By season end, there are enough games played that the average Performance Rankings are a great indicator of teams that can win in the playoffs. Thus, our company mantra: if you have a good PossessionPoints team, you have a good team!

So, we are not the least bit surprised that in our week 17 rankings, the No. 1, 3 and 4 teams are among the four teams still alive. If anybody knows of a traditional “opinion-based” Power Ranking that can say that, please let us know.

We said at the beginning of this article that there have been no upsets, and we guess if you just go by our ranking chart, we could force ourselves to find possibly one. The no. 16 Cardinals beat the no. 13 Falcons in the first week of the playoffs. That outcome could have been seen as an upset as that was the only time that a lower RPM team beat a higher RPM. However, if you look at an RPM of 12.66 vs. an RPM of 9.57, the upset is minimal at best. (See chart on last page)

As for the rest of the games, we saw nothing earth shattering at all: the no. 1 Eagles beat the no. 5 Vikings and the no. 2 Giants. The no. 3 Ravens beat the no. 12 Dolphins and the no. 10 Titans. The no. 16 Cardinals followed up their “upset” victory over the Falcons with a win over the no. 18 Panthers. The no. 7 Chargers beat the no. 20 Colts, but then they lost to the no. 4

Please see *Week in Review* on page 2

Week in Review from page 1

Steelers. So, other than a mild upset by the Cardinals we think the Playoffs have been pretty true to form.

On the last page of this newsletter, you will see the PossessionPoints.com regular season-ending Performance Rankings. We took a lot of heat having a team that just squeaked into the playoffs at no.1 and another no.6 seed wild card team at no.3, but guess what? We are smiling a bit now.

The current rankings on our site include the two rounds of playoffs, and the Eagles remain at no.1, but the Giants dropped to no.4 with the Ravens and Steelers at no. 2 and 3. They are less than a single RPM point apart; however, by our measure that game is a real toss up. The Cardinals have had a post season RPM over 30 and have moved up to no.14 from their season ending no.16. If the Cardinals have another +30 or better PossessionPoints performance they could earn the first “real” upset of the postseason.

Now, on to the game recaps!

Eagles Green Sweep Giants

Well, the dream of repeating the Super Bowl is over for New York fans. This game was our only minor imperfection from our matchup page which had the Giants with a narrow straight-up edge, but we did tell our readers to take the Eagles with the points. Most of this game was a close and hard-fought contest that resulted in multiple lead changes. The Eagles took control in the fourth quarter and never looked back. In PossessionPoints, the Eagles posted a barely Green 100 while holding the Giants to a Red 32.

Final Score: Eagles 23 Giants 11

Steelers Storm Past Chargers

The snow was falling in Pittsburgh when the game started, but the Chargers did not let the weather slow them down, and they posted the first score. The Steelers answered the Chargers' first touchdown with a touchdown of their own on a punt return. In the second half, the Steelers took control and won the game rather easily. In PossessionPoints, the Steelers totaled a Green 139 to the Chargers' Yellow 74. This gave the Steelers a Green Net of 65.

Final Score: Steelers 35 Chargers 24

Cardinals Green Sweep Panthers

Turnovers by the Panthers killed any chance they had of a win. Jake Delhomme threw five interceptions and fumbled once to basically hand a win to the Cardinals. The Cardinals scored early and often on their way to a victory over the Panthers. We have to admit, we got tired of hearing all the experts say how improbable and shocking this win was. Perhaps, the only thing shocking about this game was the magnitude of the Cardinals' win as we expected the Cardinals to pull this game out. In PossessionPoints, the Cardinals totaled a Green 139 to the Panthers' Red 42.

Final Score: Cardinals 33 Panthers 13

Ravens Defense Dominate Titans

This game was a Red-Red PossessionPoints contest and featured very little scoring. In the end, it was the Ravens Defense that out-dueled the Titans' Defense. In PossessionPoints, the Ravens posted an almost Yellow 59 PossessionPoints while holding the Titans to a Red 42.

Final Score: Ravens 13 Titans 10

End Of Regular Season Performance Rankings

Performance Rankings after 2 weeks of Playoffs

Rank	Team	W	L	T	Relative Performance measure	Rank Last Week	
1	Eagles	9	6	1	41.58	2	
2	Giants	12	4	0	40.49	3	
3	Ravens	11	5	0	39.22	4	
4	Steelers	12	4	0	36.51	5	
5	Vikings	10	6	0	36.46	1	
6	Patriots	11	5	0	32.43	7	
7	Chargers	8	8	0	29.71	10	
8	Packers	6	10	0	26.05	8	
9	Jets	9	7	0	19.24	9	
10	Titans	13	3	0	17.58	6	
11	Texans	8	8	0	15.72	15	
12	Dolphins	11	5	0	15.66	12	
13	Falcons	11	5	0	12.66	11	
14	Saints	8	8	0	12.63	14	
15	Cowboys	9	7	0	11.85	13	
16	Cardinals	9	7	0	9.57	16	
17	Bucs	9	7	0	5.42	17	
18	Panthers	12	4	0	-4.72	19	
19	Jaguars	5	11	0	-5.77	18	
20	Colts	12	4	0	-6.32	24	
21	Redskins	8	8	0	-9.19	22	
22	49ers	7	9	0	-14.59	23	
23	Broncos	8	8	0	-17.70	20	
24	Bills	7	9	0	-17.76	21	
25	Browns	4	12	0	-23.48	25	
26	Bears	9	7	0	-24.12	26	
27	Chiefs	2	14	0	-39.24	27	
28	Bengals	4	11	1	-41.61	29	
29	Raiders	5	11	0	-42.77	28	
30	Rams	2	14	0	-46.06	31	
31	Seahawks	4	12	0	-48.49	30	
32	Lions	0	16	0	-60.94	32	
Playoff Team		One And Done					
In Conference Championship Game							

Rank	Team	W	L	T	Relative Performance measure	
1	Eagles	11	6	1	38.83	
2	Ravens	13	5	0	38.54	
3	Steelers	13	4	0	38.19	
4	Vikings	10	7	0	36.31	
5	Giants	12	5	0	34.15	
6	Patriots	11	5	0	32.43	
7	Packers	6	10	0	26.05	
8	Chargers	9	9	0	24.94	
9	Jets	9	7	0	19.24	
10	Texans	8	8	0	15.72	
11	Titans	13	4	0	15.54	
12	Falcons	11	6	0	14.02	
13	Saints	8	8	0	12.63	
14	Cardinals	11	7	0	11.89	
15	Cowboys	9	7	0	11.85	
16	Dolphins	11	6	0	11.84	
17	Bucs	9	7	0	5.42	
18	Jaguars	5	11	0	-5.77	
19	Colts	12	5	0	-8.22	
20	Redskins	8	8	0	-9.19	
21	Panthers	12	5	0	-10.12	
22	49ers	7	9	0	-14.59	
23	Broncos	8	8	0	-17.70	
24	Bills	7	9	0	-17.76	
25	Browns	4	12	0	-23.48	
26	Bears	9	7	0	-24.12	
27	Chiefs	2	14	0	-39.24	
28	Bengals	4	11	0	-41.61	
29	Raiders	5	11	1	-42.77	
30	Rams	2	14	0	-46.06	
31	Seahawks	4	12	0	-48.49	
32	Lions	0	16	0	-60.94	
Playoff Team		One And Done				
In Conference Championship Game						