



PossessionPointsSM

Points Of The Week

September 15, 2008
Volume 3 Issue 4

WWW.POSSSESSIONPOINTS.COM

Week in Review

Notable Games and Moments

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Week In Review
- 1 Hindsight Haven
- 2 Dogs Of The Week – Unlucky Dog
- 2 Dogs Of The Week –Lucky Dog
- 3 Dogs Of The Week –Top Dog
- 6 Season Rankings Week 2.

Upsets, controversy and absolute shock describe Week 2 in the NFL. Teams that many experts picked as favorites to win their divisions are 0-2. Teams that experts said should not win a game are toppling favorites. So what is going on this season?

Our Preseason Preview issue turned out to be 10-5. Our matchups were still shaky at 8-7 because they are based on one week of season play. This is expected with PossessionPoints, and that is why we say the stat gets more valuable as the season progresses. With that said, Let's get down to the games and see which teams are faltering and which teams are riding high.

Referees Blow Whistle and Game For Chargers

We have to admit we picked the Broncos to win their game
Please see *Week in Review* on page 4

Fantasy Land

Last week we talked about how injuries force “Fantasy Managers” to scramble from week to week. However, this week a different curve was thrown at Fantasy players. An unscheduled ‘bye’ week for the Texans and Ravens produced havoc in Fantasy land. Some leagues came up with special rules to deal with this while other leagues took it as a matter of course that managers had to deal with. Rotohog took the latter route and players had 2 days to sell players and pick up replacements. This also created opportunity for well positioned squads who could afford to pick up a star like Andre Johnson of the Texans cheaply and keep him on the bench.

As you make your squad adjustments, you always want to get players from high powered offensive teams. One of the ways you can spot these teams is to look at the “PossessionPoints” offensive team rankings that you will find on the last page of this newsletter and on our site. As of this week, the top PossessionPoints offenses, all of which are averaging “Green” performances so far this year, are the Cowboys, Broncos, Cardinals, Eagles, Chargers, Steelers, Giants, Patriots, Packers and Bills. These are the teams who can provide you with that hidden value. We will be posting our Fantasy charts later today, and this week the forecast will be based only on 2008 performances. So, you may be a little surprised by some players who have not come out quick this year, like LT, being rated lower than you might think. As with our stats, what matters to us is this year; so, as soon as we can drop history, we do.

Team that Wins with the Fewest Offensive PossessionPoints

Dogs of the Week

Lucky Dog of the Week

Team that Wins with the Fewest Offensive PossessionPoints

And the Winner is: The Indianapolis Colts

Field Goals do not make championship teams! We believe no one taught Minnesota this rule as the Vikings seemed complacent to just put up the three point scores. So, on their five scoring drives, they amassed a Red 59 PossessionPoints. While they outplayed the Colts for almost the entirety of the game, the Vikings left the door open for the last minute magic of Peyton Manning – a quarterback who knows that field goals do not equate to wins. The Colts took advantage of this open door, and while their quick strikes only earned them a deeper Red 45 PossessionPoints, it gave them 18 scoreboard points, which believe it or not, were enough to win the game and make Indianapolis our Lucky Dog of the Week.

Final Score: Colts 18 Vikings 15



Touch Downs Good! Field Goals Bad!

Unlucky Dog of the Week

Most PossessionPoints for a losing team for the week

And the winner is: The Seattle Seahawks

Seattle is another team we have to ask “What happened to you?” Many football experts anointed Seattle as the Division Champs during preseason. Although it is early in this season, we see no sign of them accomplishing this feat. This week, they lost to a division foe who is not expected to be in contention for the division or even a playoff bid. The Seahawks are our Unlucky Dog in that they scored 128 PossessionPoints to the 49ers 121. The Seahawks are now in a corner where they must win against the Rams next week if they want to reach the playoffs. They can't be thinking wildcard because the powerful NFC East may swallow up these spots quickly

Final Score: 49ers 33 Seahawks 30



Seattle, Get Well Soon!

Dogs of the Week

Top Dog

Most PossessionPoints for the week

And the winner is: The Dallas Cowboys

Do we think that this means Dallas will be Super Bowl bound over the Eagles? That is hard to say because the Eagles looked just as sharp.

While the Cowboys came away with the victory, it was hard to tell who was the better team. This game was not only one of the most exciting ever hosted on Monday night, but one of the highest scoring. When the clock ran out, Dallas had the most points and the most PossessionPoints earning 180 to Philadelphia's 125. Do we think that this means Dallas will be Super Bowl bound over the Eagles? That is hard to say because the Eagles looked just as sharp, and we had picked the Eagles in our Preseason Preview Issue to lose this game and still go 12-4 and take the Division. On a side note, the Eagles were getting 7 points, and as we had the Cowboys winning this contest, we also had the Eagles with the 7 points.

Week in Review from page 1

against the Chargers, but we did not expect the Broncos to win by the error of the officials. By all rights, the Broncos should have been on the losing side of this contest. The game was a scoring duel and a PossessionPoints shootout. The Chargers totaled 140 solid Green PossessionPoints while the Broncos earned 144. Do you get the picture on how close a game this was? It was more like an Arena football game in that whoever had the ball seemed to score. Unfortunately for the Chargers, who lost a last-second heartbreaking game last week, the drama of the last-second finish repeated itself and again they were on the losing end. In the final seconds of this game, the Chargers were ahead 38-31. Cutler and the Broncos were perched on the San Diego goal line. Cutler attempted a pass but he dropped the ball causing a fumble which the official called an incomplete pass and whistled the ball dead which kept possession with Denver. Had it been correctly called a fumble, San Diego would have recovered the ball and took the win. Denver took advantage of the officiating error, scored and was within an extra point of tying the game. But Denver has Mike Shanahan for a Coach who either had another commitment after the game or just enjoys watching players and fans sweat because he decided to go for a two-point conversion. Jay Cutler drilled the ball to his rookie receiver, Eddie Royal, and the Broncos came out the victors. We cannot confirm this, but we heard Roloids sold more tablets in Mile High Stadium and San Diego in one day than they sold all year throughout the world. We think the Chargers should just get a win next week for being on the wrong end of so many bad calls.

Final Score: Broncos 39 Chargers 38

New Orleans Shows Signs of Last Season's Inconsistencies

After squeaking out a win last week against the Bucs who won their division last year, the

Week in Review from page 3

Saints blew a lead late in the game and lost to the Redskins who many experts picked to finish last in the NFC East this year. This season has so far offered many surprises in terms of wins and losses so it could take some time for the good teams to truly unmask themselves. In this game, the Redskins posted a Green 118 PossessionPoints to the Saints Yellow 73. So, it's really no surprise from the PossessionPoints point of view that the Redskins were able to pull this game out.

Final Score: Redskins 29 Saints 24

Giants Struggle in Blowout Against Rams

While the score of this game seems to indicate a considerable thumping of the Giants over the Rams, that really wasn't the case - at least for the first half of this contest. The Giants totaled a good, but not outstanding Green 145 PossessionPoints while the Rams managed only 86. The score would have you believe that the Giants won easily, but until midway through the third quarter, NY had a mere one-touchdown lead, and the Rams looked ready to strike. The Rams imploded the last quarter of the game which piled the scoreboard points on for the Giants but not the PossessionPoints. This game shows once again, how PossessionPoints filters out the quick scores and the defensive scores which cannot be counted on for victories or for getting teams to playoffs.

Final Score: Giants 41 Rams 13

Oakland Green Sweeps the Chiefs

Before the start of the game, there were rumors that Oakland Owner, Al Davis, was ready to fire Head Coach Lane Kiffin. The Raiders seemed to rally around their Coach as they pummeled the Chiefs in every facet of the game. Oakland earned 114 Green PossessionPoints while the Chiefs posted a mere 31 which game from a late-game touchdown and two-point conversion. It was nice that the Raiders showed life, but we wonder if it will be enough life to save Kiffin his job. For our Fantasy Fans, Darren McFadden did present a real top-flight performance rushing for 164 yards and one touchdown.

Final Score: Raiders 23 Chiefs 8

Falcons Fall to Bucs

Atlanta thought Rookie Magic would guide them to another win; however, the Bucs had other ideas and systematically destroyed the Falcons' dream of a second consecutive win. From the PossessionPoints view, this game was not a blow out but a close game. Both teams posted Yellow PossessionPoints with the Bucs earning 88 to the Falcons 78. Both teams will end the week at 1-1, and this game won't set either of them to extremes in the PossessionPoints rankings and both will remain squarely in the middle which is not too bad a place to be this early in the season. Remember, the Giants started off 0-2 last year, and they managed to climb out of the PossessionPoints basement as the season progressed.

Final Score: Bucs 24 Falcons 9

Tennessee Delivers to Cincinnati its Second Loss

Defense was the name of this game. Led by a sack, two interceptions and a blocked punt for a touchdown, the Titans defense controlled the game which explains why they only managed to post a Yellow 92 PossessionPoints. While their offense was adequate without Vince Young, it wasn't stellar. However, it was more than good enough to beat the hapless Bengals who totaled

Week in Review from page 4

a red 37 PossessionPoints.

Final Score: Titans 24 Bengals 7

Carolina Pulls Out Another Miracle Ending

If games were only 56 minutes long, the Carolina Panthers would be 0-2, but those tricky last minutes have undone the Chargers and Bears this season. In this contest, Carolina earned a Yellow 79 PossessionPoints. However, the Bears who led most of the game should have been concerned as they earned only a miserable 49 PossessionPoints. The Bears posted points early and seemed to lose interest in scoring more until Carolina was knocking at their door. They came back to life a little to little and a little too late.

Final Score: Panthers 20 Bears 17

New England Rallies around Cassel

The rumors of New England's demise without Brady were greatly exaggerated at least when it comes to Foes like the Jets. We can't say that we were buying into all the hype coming from New York as they were basing this hype on their slim victory over the Dolphins. This week, the Jets and Brett Favre had to face a much tougher competitor and came up short. Although Cassel does not look like Tom Brady, he did a good job and did not commit one turnover. As a result, the Patriots had a Green 112 PossessionPoints which is quite good for only scoring 19 points on the scoreboard. On the other hand, the Jets posted 71 PossessionPoints on their 10 scoreboard points. While the Jets dreams of going 2-0 were dashed, the Patriots learned that they are more than just a Quarterback.

Final Score: Patriots 19 Jets 10

Arizona Walks Over Miami Easily

The Cardinals' team colors may be red, but it was the Dolphins who swam in Red in PossessionPoints. Arizona earned one of the few Green Sweeps so far this season and dominated the Dolphins from start to finish.

Final Score: Cardinals 31 Dolphins 10

Pittsburgh Swims Past Browns

It was a windy, rainy night, and the bad weather slowed both offenses as evidence by the all Yellow PossessionPoints totals and the paltry number of scoreboard points. This game's total points were less than the points scored in the first five minutes of the Eagles – Cowboys game. The Steelers managed a meager 63 PossessionPoints while the Browns put up 77 PossessionPoints. Although the Steelers earned fewer PossessionPoints, they earned the crucial ones which gave them the game.

Final Score: Steelers 10 Browns 6

Packers Green Sweep Detroit

Oh, where oh, where has Detroit's Offense been hiding? It seems that they fall hopelessly behind before their offense wakes up and says, "Oops, we have to play." In this game, the Lions' offense actually took a brief lead before their team went back into their normal funk and gave the Packers an easy win. In PossessionPoints, the Packers earned a Green Sweep with 158 while the Lions had a Red 52.

Final Score: Packers 48 Lions 25

Season PossessionPoints Standings – Week 2

Season Totals (Rank By Offense)						
Place	Team	W	L	Offense		Defense
				Effect / game	Net / game	Effect / game
1	Cowboys	2	0	164.97	50.23	114.74
2	Broncos	2	0	157.53	46.34	111.18
3	Cardinals	2	0	150.17	83.50	66.67
4	Eagles	1	1	140.88	41.23	99.65
5	Chargers	0	2	129.75	6.08	123.68
6	Steelers	2	0	128.70	43.68	85.03
7	Giants	2	0	118.87	68.58	50.28
8	Patriots	2	0	118.23	46.36	71.87
9	Packers	2	0	114.04	21.38	92.67
10	Bills	2	0	100.03	35.68	64.35
11	49ers	1	1	99.95	-46.14	146.09
12	Raiders	1	1	98.00	-3.06	101.06
13	Falcons	1	1	97.16	3.12	94.04
14	Vikings	0	2	96.12	38.72	57.40
15	Texans	0	1	92.40	-101.63	194.03
16	Panthers	2	0	91.24	7.27	83.98
17	Browns	0	2	90.88	-15.43	106.30
18	Jets	1	1	83.12	-12.99	96.11
19	Saints	1	1	79.03	-11.47	90.50
20	Bucs	1	1	75.85	-5.60	81.45
21	Lions	0	2	75.82	-61.41	137.23
22	Titans	2	0	75.28	46.71	28.57
23	Seahawks	0	2	73.04	-21.34	94.38
24	Bears	1	1	69.30	-3.01	72.31
25	Dolphins	0	2	67.71	-48.01	115.72
26	Redskins	1	1	66.22	-16.46	82.68
27	Jaguars	0	2	65.65	-30.05	95.70
28	Colts	1	1	55.23	-19.15	74.38
29	Rams	0	2	52.45	-98.53	150.98
30	Chiefs	0	2	51.51	-67.86	119.37
31	Ravens	1	0	48.10	41.57	6.53
32	Bengals	0	2	21.87	-48.31	70.18

Top Five – So, now it is two weeks in a row without the Patriots in the top 5. However, they are still a good offense rated 8th and still “green”. The Cowboys take over the top spot after their shootout with the Eagles on Monday night. New to the top 5 - believe it or not - are the 0-2 Chargers. Of course, they were an inadvertent whistle away from being 1-1, and another 2 seconds away from being 2-0. Oh well, that’s football. The top 5 is rounded out by the Broncos, Cardinals and Eagles.

Big Movers – While not a “big move”, it is worth noting that the Steelers fell to number 6 from number 1 last week after their low scoring game in the wind and rain in Cleveland. The Bills vaulted to number 10 from 23 last week.

Bottom Five – While you may not be surprised that the Patriots without Brady are not in the top 5, I’ll bet you are surprised to see another perennial offensive power, the Colts, in the bottom 5. The second half this week saw the return of the Manning magic and they pulled off a win at the Vikings, but we are still waiting to see the offensive consistency. The remainder of the bottom 5 will surprise nobody as they consist of the Rams, Chiefs, Ravens and Bengals.

Make sure that you check PossessionPoints.com website for the weekly performance rankings where we will list the teams based on the “net” effect column. We also show the teams ranked by defense.