



PossessionPointsSM

Points Of The Week

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Week in Review

Notable Games and Moments

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If you watched the season openers, you probably felt some thrills, some chills and some - well – some nausea. Some teams looked as if they came to play in the Super Bowl while others looked as if they couldn't beat a Pop Warner squad. Yes, we know it is only the first week, and as we say every year, we will learn the true value of a team as the season progresses.

This week turned out to be a typical season opening week in the world of PossessionPoints. As our projections are based on real season data, we don't expect to light up the projection charts until about week 3 when we have sufficient data to fill up our stats. This said, our projections according to our Preseason Preview Issue which are based on last year's stats proved pretty accurate. Our picks according to the Preseason Preview issue were 10-6. Our matchups according to

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Fantasy Land

Welcome to Fantasy Land, our newest feature in the Points-of-the-Week newsletter. Since we added the Fantasy Football PossessionPoints stat this season, we want to share with you our progress each week in Fantasy Football as well as highlight some of the top performers. Just a reminder: if you are a member, you can find all the Fantasy projections on the Fantasy Page in our Members area.

Injuries are the bane of every Fantasy team manager, and this week the injuries proved disastrous especially for those who thought they were lucky enough to land Tom Brady on their team. If this is you, be prepared to scramble to pick up a replacement because reports of a season-ending injury are indeed true. Some of the top performances this weekend were:

Pos	Name	Points	Pos	Name	Points	Pos	Name	Points
WR	Hines Ward	19.6	QB	Donovan McNabb	29.1	RB	Michael Turner	34.6
WR	Randy Moss	15.6	QB	Drew Brees	25.1	RB	Willie Parker	31.8
WR	Terrell Owens	14.7	QB	Philip Rivers	24.4	RB	Reggie Bush	22.3
Pos	Name	Points	Pos	Name	Points	Pos	Name	Points
TE	Dante Rosario	15.6	K	John Kasay	17.3	DEF	Titans	18
TE	Anthony Fasano	14.4	K	Jason Elam	12	DEF	Bears	15.5
TE	David Martin	11.3	K	Neil Rackers	11	DEF	Eagles	14.5

Dogs of the Week

Lucky Dog of the Week

Team that Wins with the Fewest Offensive PossessionPoints

This week's winner: Baltimore Ravens

There seems to be a chance that the Baltimore Defense of old has made a comeback. Remember, that it was only two years ago, that the formidable Raven Defense led the team to a 13-3 season. This week, it seemed that the Defense completely curtailed any effort that Cincinnati Bengals made to score. The Bengals totaled a pitiful, deep Red 6.5 PossessionPoints. In all fairness, the Ravens Offense didn't set anyone on fire either as they only managed to post a Red 48.1 PossessionPoints. Baltimore's Defense showed great signs of life, but their Offense has to step it up if they plan to become playoff contenders – unless they can manage to become The Lucky Dog every week.

Final Score: Ravens 17 Bengals 10



We may have Defense, but we have to learn to score too!!

Unlucky Dog of the Week

Most PossessionPoints for a losing team for the week

And the winner is: The Minnesota Vikings

The only thing more annoying than watching Travaris Jackson try to throw a football was listening to the ESPN announcers talking nonstop about Brett Favre during this game. Let's say it now: Aaron Rodgers can now say he deserves to be the Quarterback of the Packers. He did his job with poise and efficiency and the Packers' scoring drives were mostly quick strikes which accounts for their Yellow 69 PossessionPoints. Also helping to keep their PossessionPoints low was a punt return for a touchdown.

The Vikings on the other hand could not seem to complete a pass over 10 yards so their scoring drives were long but not good enough to overcome the special teams points by the Packers. The Vikings totaled a very green 133 PossessionPoints. They also have the distinction of becoming the first member this season of the rare 10 percent club who earn a Green Net and still lose the game.

Final Score: Packers 24 Vikings 19



How does it get so cold so fast in Green Bay?

Dogs of the Week

Top Dog

Most PossessionPoints for the week

And the winner is: The Pittsburgh Steelers

We know it is early, but we have to ask this especially with Tom Brady now gone for the year and the Colts looking very shaky: Is this the year that the Steelers could head back to the Super Bowl?

The Steelers put on quite a strong performance on Sunday from the opening whistle until the fourth quarter at which time they let Houston score either out of fatigue or mercy. These fourth quarter points of the Texans were the only factor that kept Pittsburgh from earning a Green Sweep in PossessionPoints. Even without a Green Sweep, the Steelers' PossessionPoints were the best of the week at 194. The Texans earned a solid Yellow 93 which gave the Steelers a very Green Net Effect of 101. We know it is early, but we have to ask this especially with Tom Brady now gone for the year and the Colts looking very shaky: Is this the year the Steelers could head back to the Super Bowl?

Final Score: Steelers 38 Texans 17

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preseason stats were less illustrious at 6-10 (no, the picks were not exact opposites of each other). Let's get down to the games and see whose star rose and whose star smashed to the ground with a loud thud.

Giants Try to Recapture Super Bowl Thrills

The Giants came out of the tunnel looking like World Champions, but that image soon faded. New York did score on their opening drive. In fact, Eli Manning ran the ball in for the points, but that was where the excitement ended. This game could have ended after the first half as nothing happened in the second half. All scores, including three Giant field goals after their first TD and one Redskin touchdown occurred in the first half. What did this mean in PossessionPoints Land? The Giants earned a very average 92 yellow PossessionPoints while the Redskins bled red with 14.3. We didn't expect the Giants to light the world on fire. In fact, they did what we anticipated, but we had higher hopes for the Redskins. Last year, they were a good 8-8 team, but in this opening contest, their Offense looked downright hideous.

Final Score: Giants 16 Redskins 7

Eagles Green Sweep the Saint Louis Rams

Donovan McNabb is back! He is confident, happy and oh -- so effective. When McNabb is at the top of his game, so are the Eagles, and they proved this in their plundering of the Rams. In this rag tag first week, the Eagles posted the season's first green sweep, which if you don't remember from last season, means all positive numbers in Offense, Defense and the Net Effect. Teams who manage a Green Sweep win 90 percent of the time. The Eagles posted 156

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PossessionPoints while the Rams managed a very red 18.6

Final Score: Eagles 38 Rams 3

Jacksonville Falls to the Tennessee

Neither the Jaguars nor the Titans showed up to play offensively. Both teams couldn't climb out of the Red in PossessionPoints. The Jaguars posted a miserable 19.9 PossessionPoints. The Titans earned a red 58.3 PossessionPoints. It's true they did win, but it was not a pretty win.

Final Score: Tennessee 17 Jacksonville 10

New Orleans Squeaks Tampa Bay

While it may be true that many experts have hopes for New Orleans, the Saints have got to play a bit better to make their Super Bowl dreams come true. Both teams were all yellow in PossessionPoints for this game. The Saints managed just 84.9 PossessionPoints while the Bucs earned a paltry 62.8. This was another game that seemed to go down to the wire and by PossessionPoints standards, it could have gone either way. If only these teams could maintain sustained offensive drives!

Final Score: New Orleans 24 Tampa Bay 20

Patriots Lose Brady but Get a Win over the Chiefs

The Patriots scored fewer points on the board than either the Bucs or the Saints, but in their game today, they posted 124 PossessionPoints which put them solidly in the Green offensively. It is no surprise they beat the Chiefs who tallied only 72 Yellow PossessionPoints giving the Patriots a solid Green Net of 52. All this was done without their star, Tom Brady. Now, granted, they beat the Chiefs this week, who many thought would not be that great a challenge. But who knows how the Patriots can perform without Brady who led his team last year to many weeks of more than 200 PossessionPoints. We hope Tom Brady returns healthy, but PossessionPoints will let us know how strong the Patriots truly are if they are forced to play without him.

Final Score: New England 17 Kansas City 10

Falcons Fly Past Lions in Easy Victory

Perhaps, the Lions were lying on Defense, but the Falcons took advantage of their non-aggressive behavior and gladly accepted the quick easy scores. The Falcons were so quick that they didn't tally that many PossessionPoints. Atlanta managed a barely Green 116 PossessionPoints which is fewer than what the Patriots posted in their 17-10 win against the Chiefs. On a more positive note, kudos to rookie Matt Ryan, whose very first pass in the NFL was completed for a touchdown! Nice way to start a career. We also have to say that Atlanta showed that they may not be the doormat they were last year.

Final Score: Atlanta 34 Detroit 21

Jets Beat Dolphins by a Nose

The Dolphins were knocking at the door in the final minute only to have their upset hopes dashed by a final interception by the Jets in the end zone. Were it not for this interception, the Jets could have found themselves crying with Chargers who lost on this exact play in their game against Carolina. With that said, PossessionPoints in this game were all Yellow for everyone.

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good as everyone thinks they are or the Dolphins are not as bad as everyone thinks they are. We guess we shall find out soon.

Final Score: Jets 20 Dolphins 14

Buffalo Bounces by Seattle

We didn't hear any news reports that Seattle missed their plane to Buffalo, but based upon how the Seahawks played, we have to wonder if that was the real Seahawks team who played in upstate New York. If you think we were critical of the Falcons who posted 116 PossessionPoints on their 34 scoreboard points, you won't believe what we think about the Bills who earned only 67 PossessionPoints with their 34 scoreboard points. This was a clear indication of how teams can post a win without the efforts of a solid offense. The Bills do get Green PossessionPoints for Defense and Net Effect which is probably the real reason why they took home this win.

Final Score: Buffalo 34 Seattle 10

Arizona Shows Clout in their Win over San Francisco

This game proved to be a close contest in scoreboard points but not in PossessionPoints. Arizona totaled a whopping 163 PossessionPoints to the 49ers 78 which yielded a solid Green Net of 85 for the Cardinals. A Green Net means victory 90 percent of the time. A good chunk of the Cardinals' PossessionPoints came in their 10-minute, 4th quarter, field goal drive which became the proverbial nail in the coffin for San Francisco. The theory behind PossessionPoints is based upon drives like this one. In an otherwise close game, the ability to take 10 minutes of valuable 4th quarter clock time and turn that time into a score is the hallmark of teams that win.

Final Score: Arizona 23 San Francisco 13

Dallas Struts their Way to Victory

The Cowboys had little trouble devouring the Cleveland Defense. Dallas posted 149 PossessionPoints. The Browns, by virtue of two quality scoring drives, amassed 104 of their own PossessionPoints. Cleveland's defeat lay in their defense's tired performance which could not stop Tony Romo and his offense. Many statistical measures would have the game more one-sided than PossessionPoints, but PossessionPoints give the Browns reason for some hope going forward. They were slow starting, but they did show signs of Offensive ability.

Final Score: Cowboys 28 Browns 10

Carolina Wins Shootout in San Diego Corral

By PossessionPoints.com standards, this was one game we would consider a shootout. Both teams were in the Green offensively with the Chargers slightly ahead of the Panthers. San Diego posted 118 PossessionPoints to the Panthers 103. The Chargers were all set to ring that victory bell, but Jake Delhomme had other plans for the two seconds that remained in the game. With a laser-like throw, Delhomme found a rookie tight end in the back of the end zone and literally stole victory out of the Chargers' mouths. Is the first half of 2008 going to be a repeat of 2007 or will San Diego rebound next week?

Final Score: Panthers 26 Chargers 24

Chicago Mauls Indianapolis in the Colts' New Dome

Peyton Manning, where are you? Even the best Quarterbacks can't get the cobwebs out if they don't play at all in the preseason. The Chicago Bears dominated this game in particular on

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defense. The Colts managed to post a barely Yellow 65 PossessionPoints while the Bears stayed in the Yellow as well earning 89 PossessionPoints. To add insult to literally injury, Dallas Clark who is one of Manning's favorite targets left the game with a knee injury. As of this writing, we do not know the results of the MRI he was scheduled for today.

Final Score: Bears 29 Colts 13

Denver Pummels Oakland in Raiders Backyard

It's safe to say that Oakland will probably not be a Super Bowl contender if tonight is any indication of their play this season. On the other hand, the Broncos looked quite sharp with a much healthier Jay Cutler at the helm. In fact, the Broncos were almost the second team to earn a Green Sweep had not Oakland scored a touchdown in the last minutes of the game. In this lopsided contest, Denver totaled 171 PossessionPoints which placed them squarely in the Green while the Raiders earned a solid Yellow 81 PossessionPoints. For as bad as this game result was for Oakland, they scored more PossessionPoints than some of the other teams around the league. Maybe there is some hope for them after all.

Final Score: Denver 41 Raiders 14

Season PossessionPoints Standings – Week 1

Season Totals (Rank By Offense)						
Place	Team	W	L	Offense		Defense
				Effect / game	Net / game	Effect / game
1	Steelers	1	0	194.03	101.63	92.40
2	Broncos	1	0	171.13	89.47	81.67
3	Cardinals	1	0	163.43	85.35	78.08
4	Eagles	1	0	156.37	137.77	18.60
5	Cowboys	1	0	149.23	45.13	104.10
6	Vikings	0	1	132.92	63.02	69.90
7	Patriots	1	0	124.40	52.37	72.03
8	Chargers	0	1	118.80	15.37	103.43
9	Falcons	1	0	116.27	17.05	99.22
10	Browns	0	1	104.10	-45.13	149.23
11	Panthers	1	0	103.43	-15.37	118.80
12	Lions	0	1	99.22	-17.05	116.27
13	Jets	1	0	94.53	14.37	80.17
14	Texans	0	1	92.40	-101.63	194.03
15	Giants	1	0	92.13	77.87	14.27
16	Bears	1	0	89.45	23.88	65.57
17	Saints	1	0	84.85	22.02	62.83
18	Raiders	0	1	81.67	-89.47	171.13
19	Dolphins	0	1	80.17	-14.37	94.53
20	49ers	0	1	78.08	-85.35	163.43
21	Chiefs	0	1	72.03	-52.37	124.40
22	Packers	1	0	69.90	-63.02	132.92
23	Bills	1	0	66.95	49.62	17.33
24	Colts	0	1	65.57	-23.88	89.45
25	Bucs	0	1	62.83	-22.02	84.85
26	Titans	1	0	58.30	38.37	19.93
27	Ravens	1	0	48.10	41.57	6.53
28	Jaguars	0	1	19.93	-38.37	58.30
29	Rams	0	1	18.60	-137.77	156.37
30	Seahawks	0	1	17.33	-49.62	66.95
31	Redskins	0	1	14.27	-77.87	92.13
32	Bengals	0	1	6.53	-41.57	48.10

Top Five – It has been over a year since we have had a top five offensive PossessionPoints list without the Patriots, who as you know lost Tom Brady to a knee injury in the 1st quarter of their game this week. So the initial top 5 for 2008 are: the Steelers, Broncos, Cardinals, Eagles and Cowboys. One other thing to remember, the early season top 5 can change considerably since it is only based on one game now.

Big Movers – This is the initial ranking of the season so there are no “movers” this week.

Bottom Five – Well, nobody was shut out this week so everyone at least has some PossessionPoints. But these bottom 5 teams really need to get their offenses in gear because they all have PossessionPoints offensive numbers below 20 which is as low as we have ever seen the bottom 5. The bottom 5 contains 3 playoff teams from last year, the Jaguars, Seahawks and Redskins. These teams, in particular, need to get their offensive ships righted quickly or they could be in for a disappointing season. We noted last year when the Saints started out poorly that it wasn't that they lost but how they lost - with very few PossessionPoints - that alarmed us. The same is true of these 3 playoff hopefuls. The bottom five is filled out with two teams most people don't expect much from, the Rams 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.