



# PossessionPoints<sup>SM</sup>

## Points Of The Week

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## Week in Review

### Notable Games and Moments

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When will NFL coaches learn that the ice-the-kicker time out is not a good thing? Not only is calling time out immediately before the snap a mean-spirited move, it rarely works. The latest example occurred in the Raiders-Jets game this week. While it is true, the Raiders finally won in OT, they wouldn't have had to advance to OT had their coach let Jets' kicker Jay Feely complete his first failed field goal attempt. Oh well, we have to admit we experience a moral chuckle when teams who take the ice-the-kicker time out fail at this strategy.

Another note of interest: there have been 102 games played this season. When the Offensive Effect has turned Green, a team has won

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## Fantasy Land

People who do not play Fantasy Football wonder what makes Fantasy Football so hard and so intriguing. What is the big deal? You pick who is going to do the best, and you win right? Everybody knows who the stars are, so you get as many of these big players as you can on your team and your good - or are you? Sure, once in a while you will have the disastrous injury like the one that sidelined Tom Brady this year, but for the most part the stars make it through the season without much trouble - or do they? Those who think injuries are a rare nuisance in Fantasy tout as proof the record of Brett Favre who has started over 200 consecutive games. But let's look at the top QBs this season in terms of yards this week: Garcia, Frerotte, Pennington, Orton and Schaub. Where are the Mannings, Favre, Rivers, Brees and Cutler - the "royalty" of QBs this year? Well Eli's team won, and he threw for 161 yards and a touchdown, but the other 4 QBs all lost and their stats were in the tank. Peyton threw for 229 yards, but he also had two interceptions and no TDs. Favre had 197 yards, also two interceptions and no TDs. Rivers was a little better with 208 yards two TDs and one interception, while Brees had 231 yards, no TDs and one interception.

On Monday night, everybody knew that in the matchup between QBs Cutler and Cassel, one would have modest stats and perform so-so while the other one would light up the scoreboard. That is what happened in the game between the Pats and Broncos, but few people expected it would be Matt Cassel who would throw for three TDs and no interceptions while Cutler would have just one TD and two interceptions.

## Dogs of the Week

### Lucky Dog of the Week

Team that Wins with the Fewest Offensive PossessionPoints

**This week's winner: Washington Redskins**

The Redskins won this punt fest by virtue of their two, second half touchdowns. In the first two quarters, neither Washington nor Cleveland could put a point on the board. When all was said and done, the Redskins took home the win. In PossessionPoints, Washington posted a Red 38 to the Browns' Yellow 55. The low number of PossessionPoints for the Redskins was due to their very quick scoring drives in the second half.

**Final Score: Redskins 14 Browns 11**



Punt and Punt! That's all these teams did. It was a boring game!

## Dogs of the Week

### Top Dog

**Most PossessionPoints for the week**

***And the winner is: The Minnesota Vikings***

*Perhaps, we should call Minnesota the Most Charitable Dog of the Week since it was turnovers that cost them the game.*

For the second time this season and for as long as we have been keeping track, one team has earned the Top Dog Title as well as the Unlucky Dog Title. The Minnesota Vikings not only earned the Most PossessionPoints of the Week, but they also lost their game which makes them the Unlucky Dog of the Week as well. Perhaps we should call Minnesota the Most Charitable Dog of the Week since it was turnovers that cost them the game. Gus Frerotte threw four interceptions plus the Vikings lost a fumble which resulted in a Bear touchdown. The Vikings had a punt blocked as well which the Bears took back for a touchdown. In spite of all this, the Vikings still found enough time to put 41 Offensive points on the scoreboard. Yes, this is one crazy season!,

**Final Score: Bears 48 Vikings 41**

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77 percent of the time and that has happened 89 times this season. The Defensive Effect has stayed Green for teams 66 times and 92 percent of the time, the team with the Green Defensive Effect has gone on to victory. There have been 63 Green Net Effects and that has resulted in victory 93 percent of the time. There have been 28 Green Sweeps and 100 percent of the time, these Green Sweeps belong to winning teams. Now, on to the recaps!

#### **St. Louis Hands Dallas Surprising Loss**

Who saw this game coming? Certainly not Dallas. And here are words Rams' fans thought they wouldn't hear this year: The Rams are 2-0 since Jim Haslett has taken over as Head Coach. This game was not even a close contest. The Rams literally upended the Cowboys. In PossessionPoints, the Rams earned 85 Yellow PossessionPoints to the Cowboys' Yellow 64. Some of these Cowboy PossessionPoints were in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter after all hope was gone. Dallas must find a way to regroup if they have any hope of getting anywhere in the NFC East.

**Final Score: Rams 34 Cowboys 14**

#### **Giants Green Sweep 49ers**

While it is true the Giants did not look as sharp as they have in past weeks, their performance was enough to Green Sweep the 49ers. The Giants posted 110 PossessionPoints to the 49ers' very Red 38. This game was one of the 26 Green Sweeps this season – all of which resulted in wins for those who earned the Green Sweeps.

**Final Score: Giants 29 49ers 17**

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### **Tennessee Stays Perfect and Notches another Green Sweep to Win over Chiefs**

The Titans dominated this game from start to finish. The Chiefs never even threatened. Tennessee compiled 112 PossessionPoints while the Chiefs totaled a Red 30. The Titans are still the only undefeated team in the league. Could they be knocking at the door of a perfect season as New England was last year? Uhh, we say don't hold your breath. There are many weeks left

**Final Score: Titans 34 Chiefs 10**

### **Pittsburgh Mauls Bengals**

The Bengals were without Carson Palmer again, and it showed. Pittsburgh easily defeated Cincinnati and in the process earned a very Green 141 PossessionPoints to the Bengals' 67 which on a positive note is a lot more than the 14 PossessionPoints they earned last week.

**Final Score: Steelers 38 Bengals 10**

### **Ravens Outdo Dolphins**

The Dolphins could not keep their good times rolling this week as the Ravens' Offense and Defense proved too much for them. The Ravens controlled the game as evidenced by their Green 131 PossessionPoints. Miami still had spark and managed to total a Yellow 69 PossessionPoints, which believe it or not, was better than seven other teams this week.

**Final Score: Ravens 27 Dolphins 13**

### **Carolina Green Sweeps New Orleans**

New Orleans seems to be a team lacking a heart. As soon as the going gets tough, this team folds. They have not had a real comeback this season. The only games they have managed to win are those where they exerted an effort at the beginning of the game (which this season is rare). The media keeps talking about how great Drew Brees is doing, but it seems as if it is only his stats that are going up. On the other hand, Carolina made this game their own from the very beginning and deservedly earned a Green Sweep. The Panthers compiled an impressive 140 PossessionPoints to the Saints' Red 34.

**Final Score: Panthers 30 Saints 7**

### **Buffalo Soars while Chargers Plummet**

Much like the Saints, the Chargers repeatedly show no effort in the first half of their games. And like the Saints, they have difficulty digging out of the hole they put themselves in with their lack of urgency. The Bills capitalized on the Chargers' lack of commitment and made this game their own. Buffalo earned 133 PossessionPoints to the Chargers' 101. The Chargers got their 101 PossessionPoints because of their late scores that in this case did not bring them victory.

**Final Score: Bills 23 Chargers 14**

### **Texans Allow Detroit to Pose a Threat**

This was another game where Houston took a huge lead by the second quarter, and it was another game where Houston almost watched their lead disappear. Detroit came within one touchdown of ripping this victory from the hands of the Texans. As for PossessionPoints, the Texans posted a whopping 189 PossessionPoints to the Lions Red 59. Here is a case where PossessionPoints really tells the story. The Texans dominated the entire game, but let their guard down to allow the Lions a few big plays that got them back into contention with a close score.

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**Final Score: Texans 28 Lions 21**

**Raiders Defeat Jets in A Yellow PossessionPoints Mess**

We spoke about this game at the beginning of the newsletter. The Raiders won this game in an unnecessary OT. Had their new Head Coach not called for a ice-the-kicker time out, Jay Feely would have missed the game-ending field goal and delivered the win to the Raiders at the end of regulation time. In PossessionPoints, the Raiders totaled 98 while the Jets' pulled out 72.

**Final Score: Raiders 16 Jets 13**

**Green Bay Destroys Indianapolis**

What in the world is wrong with the Colts? Is it injuries or the age of the team that has caught up with them? Whatever, we miss the Colts of seasons past. Green Bay methodically undermined the Colts in Offense and Defense. Green Bay turned two interceptions into TD's and on Offense they did their job as well as evidenced by their Green 146 PossessionPoints to the Colts' 55. This game will probably put the Colts back into the bottom five of our Performance Rankings.

**Final Score: Packers 34 Colts 14**

**Bucs Green Sweep Seahawks**

We have been saying for weeks that Mike Holmgren should focus on retirement. We knew as soon as he announced his departure before the season began, that this could be a bad omen of things to come. Coaching transitions should happen in the offseason. In this game, Tampa Bay ruled the field from beginning to end except for some Seattle "Who cares" points in the last quarter of the game. Tampa Bay earned a Green 117 PossessionPoints while Seattle posted a Red 37 which resulted in a Bucs Green Sweep – the 27<sup>th</sup> Green Sweep of the Season.

**Final Score: Bucs 20 Seattle 10**

**Patriots Green Sweep Broncos**

Oh where, oh where did the Broncos go? They seem to have disappeared. In the game against the Patriots, the Broncos fate became clear early on. The first bad omen was the injury to Jay Cutler's finger on the very first play. Nothing went much better after that. The Broncos could only find the endzone one time in the fourth quarter. While the Patriots put numbers on the scoreboard, they also left their QB Matt Cassel exposed for six sacks. The sacks didn't matter because New England easily walked away with this game. In PossessionPoints, the Patriots compiled a Green 116 to the Broncos' Red 40. Our guess is that the Broncos wished they never flew to Boston. On a bright note: Perhaps the future is not so bleak for the Chargers. Who is their competition? Our Performance will show that the Broncos will not enjoy a top spot on our chart.

**Final Score: Patriots 41 Broncos 7**

## Season PossessionPoints Standings – Week 7

Season Totals (Rank By Offense)						
Place	Team	W	L	Offense		Defense
				Effect / game	Net / game	Effect / game
1	Cardinals	4	2	144.15	42.43	101.72
2	Texans	2	4	131.35	13.63	117.72
3	Giants	5	1	123.38	47.25	76.13
4	Cowboys	4	3	118.34	2.18	116.16
5	Chargers	3	4	113.92	19.70	94.22
6	Eagles	3	3	113.63	32.08	81.55
7	Packers	4	3	111.55	17.89	93.67
8	Steelers	5	1	108.25	28.30	79.95
9	Bills	5	1	107.23	12.22	95.01
10	Jaguars	3	3	104.79	-7.55	112.34
11	Jets	3	3	104.63	0.21	104.43
12	Broncos	4	3	104.62	-12.11	116.73
13	Saints	3	4	104.35	16.48	87.87
14	Vikings	3	4	102.35	34.13	68.22
15	Patriots	4	2	99.43	4.59	94.84
16	Bucs	5	2	97.85	29.27	68.58
17	Bears	4	3	95.25	5.45	89.81
18	Falcons	4	2	93.86	-1.92	95.78
19	Browns	2	4	92.71	19.09	73.62
20	Dolphins	2	4	91.73	-1.23	92.97
21	Panthers	5	2	91.23	26.22	65.01
22	Titans	6	0	90.46	40.88	49.58
23	Redskins	5	2	90.11	11.64	78.48
24	49ers	2	5	89.35	-38.02	127.38
25	Seahawks	1	5	78.91	-46.97	125.89
26	Ravens	3	3	78.23	11.07	67.16
27	Colts	3	3	75.96	-30.99	106.96
28	Raiders	2	4	70.04	-44.43	114.48
29	Rams	2	4	67.75	-58.91	126.66
30	Bengals	0	7	66.45	-50.33	116.78
31	Lions	0	6	58.38	-68.52	126.90
32	Chiefs	1	5	56.22	-64.09	120.31

**Top Five** – The Texas teams traded places. The Cowboys fell to 4 while the Texans rose to 2. Other than that change, the top 5 remained exactly the same as last week. The Cardinals and Eagles had byes so their totals didn't change. The Giants number dropped a little but they are still one of 3 teams averaging a "green" net. That will keep them first in our Performance Rankings followed by the Cardinals and Titans (see the full Performance rankings on our blog on Wednesday).

**Big Movers** – For the second week in a row the Saints made this list. This time they took the elevator down as they moved from 6<sup>th</sup> back to 13<sup>th</sup> where they were 2 weeks ago. The Broncos also headed south as they fell to number 12 from 7 last week.

**Bottom Five** – The bottom 5 teams are also the same 5 from last week, and this group did manage to pick up 2 wins amongst them (the Rams and Raiders), so their positions changed a little but nobody moved in or out of the bottom 5. The teams include the winless Bengals and Lions along with the one-win Chiefs and now two-win Raiders and Rams.

Make sure that you check [PossessionPoints.com](http://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.