



# PossessionPoints<sup>SM</sup>

## Points Of The Week

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## Week in Review

### Notable Games and Moments

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PossessionPoints.com goes 10-5 AND 1 ATS: 8-8

Green Selections go 1-1 this week; Preseason Preview Issue Goes 9-6 AND 1

For the first time since 2002, a game ended in a tie. While we will go into that historical event later on, we are going to do something a bit different this week and detail the game between the Jets and Patriots. This game was not only one of the better games this week, but it held important ramifications for both winner and loser. Since it was a Thursday night game, many of you may have missed it since it was only available on the NFL network. If you did miss it, you will be frustrated to hear that it was indeed one of the best games of the week.

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## Fantasy Land

In recent weeks, we have talked about some of the rookie Running Backs, but we would like to go back to the Preseason when we wrote an article “Sizing up Rookie Running Backs”. In this article, our goal was to identify sleeper Running Backs. Fantasy managers could take these Running Backs low in their drafts and still have a productive player on their team.

We discounted Darren McFadden in this article because he was well known and already considered to be a potential star. Thus, he was no sleeper. Instead, we focused on the Running Back for the Titans, Chris Johnson, who has turned out to be a fabulous Fantasy Back this season even though in the last two weeks, he has struggled. The Titans continue to roll on the back of their QB Kerry Collins.

Another sleeper who has turned into a tremendous Fantasy Back this season is Matt Forte of the Chicago Bears. He has been extremely productive on both running and receiving, and even in the Bears’ horrible loss to the Packers this week, he achieved decent numbers.

The man we identified as our “Super Sleeper” was Steve Slaton of the Houston Texans. Slaton has handsomely rewarded Fantasy managers who picked him since he got the chance to start due to a teammate’s injury in Week 3. Slaton ran for 156 yards this week and one touchdown. What was missing from his stats this week was a lack of receptions. Slaton usually is a shoe in for some points on the receiving end, but this week he earned none. The lesson here: pay attention to the pre-season games as you may be able to steal a star in the later rounds with some of the “unknown rookies”.

## Dogs of the Week

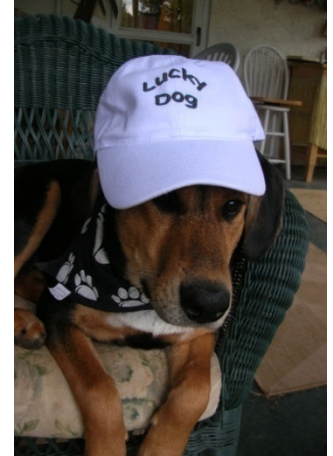
### Lucky Dog of the Week

Team that Wins with the Fewest Offensive PossessionPoints

*This week's winner: The Tennessee Titans*

For the second time in the last three weeks, the Titans have earned the Lucky Dog of the Week Title. This is not too surprising. In this game, we can credit the Titans' defense for the Lucky Dog moniker. Even though the Titans only totaled 68 PossessionPoints, the Jaguars were only able to post a Red 57 and that is due to the Titans' Defense.

**Final Score: Titans 24 Jaguars 14**



Defense! Defense! We love the Titans' Defense!

### Unlucky Dog of the Week

Most PossessionPoints for a losing team for the week

*And the winner is: The Detroit Lions*

How does a team become the Unlucky Dog and 0-10? Well, it is easy if they can find a way to lose despite earning 171 very Green offensive PossessionPoints and 72 Green Net PossessionPoints. As we have said so many times, a Green Net wins games more than 90 percent of the time unless you are the Detroit Lions who just cannot get a break.

On the other side of this unlucky Lions' performance are the 8-2 Panthers. The Panthers seem destined for the Playoffs and perhaps a first round bye as only the Giants have more wins in the NFC at 9-1.

**Final Score: Panthers 31 Lions 22**



What do you mean we were in the rare 10 percent who lost with a Green Net! When will the Lions' luck change?

## Dogs of the Week

### Top Dog

**Most PossessionPoints for the week**

***And the winner is: The Green Bay Packers***

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*The Packers had a Green Sweep and posted 247 PossessionPoints which made them the undisputed Top Dog of the Week.*

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Green Bay crushed the Chicago Bears before a home crowd. The Packers had a Green Sweep and posted 247 PossessionPoints which made them the undisputed Top Dog for the week. The Bears a paltry Red 21 PossessionPoints which is not too surprising considered they scored only a field goal. To the Bears' credit, 21 PossessionPoints on one lousy field goal is not too shabby. It won't games, but it's not an embarrassment. What is an embarrassment is the -226 Net PossessionPoints that were in the Bears' column.

**Final Score: Packers 37 Bears 3**

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The Jets took the opening kickoff. On the fourth play of the game which was a Jets' 3<sup>rd</sup> and six play, the officials ruled that Laveranues Coles was out of bounds on a reception that would have given the Jets a first down. Laveranues felt quite strongly that he was inbounds and convinced Eric Mangini to challenge. While it may have seemed silly to use a challenge so early in the game, the gamble worked out well for the Jets. They won the challenge and continued their drive. The Jets scored a touchdown on this drive which consumed 5:34 seconds of the clock and yielded 39 PossessionPoints.

The Patriots answered back with a scoring drive that yielded 3 points. This drive also consumed 5:01 of the clock and produced 15 PossessionPoints. With all these successful and time-consuming drives, it seemed as if the punters would see no time in this game as the Jets' countered with a field goal in their next possession as well. This field goal moved the Jets' PossessionPoints up to 51. This number was still considered in the "Red", but it was a pretty impressive total at this time considering that the game was still in the first quarter and this was only the Jets' second drive!

Not to be outdone, the Patriots came back with their own field goal drive which extended into the second quarter. Immediately following that score, the Jets put up some cheap points and took a kickoff 92 yards for a touchdown. As we all know, kickoff returns for touchdowns yield no PossessionPoints. So, the score was 17-6, but on a percentage basis, the PossessionPoints were closer at 51 to 36.

The Jets' Defense finally made an appearance halfway through the second quarter and forced the Patriots to punt. The Jets took over and completed a 2:25 second touchdown drive which now pushed them to 71 Yellow PossessionPoints. While starting to look good, they still had

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not reached the magic “100 PossessionPoints” which turns a team “Green” and represents a 75 percent chance of victory.

On New England’s next drive, the Patriots stalled out at the Jets’ 23 and were faced with a 4<sup>th</sup> and three with 2:40 remaining in the half. Bill Belichick decided that he was tired of scoring only three points at a time and was going to go for the touchdown. Unfortunately for New England, this attempt failed, but this snafu would not dissuade Belichick who made the exact same decision to go for it again with 33 seconds left in the half on 4<sup>th</sup> and one at the Jets’ 21. This time, the gamble paid off and the Patriots converted to a first down. The Patriots scored, and the half ended with the Jets ahead 24-13 and PossessionPoints totaling for the Jets 71 and the Patriots 48.

Defense for both teams came to play in the second half and the scoring excitement ceased until the end of the third quarter when the Patriots scored a touchdown. The excitement over the score inspired Belichick to once again take a risk and go for a two-point conversion which to his credit, his team achieved bringing them to within three points of the Jets. On this score, New England overtook the Jets in PossessionPoints 72 to 71.

New England’s next drive yielded a Field Goal which gave them a tie score and a bump in their PossessionPoints to 86. The Jets answered with an incredible 7-minute touchdown drive which brought their PossessionPoints to a solid Green 142 which is well within the 75 percent chance of victory range which put the Patriots’ backs against the proverbial wall. The Patriots took over for the final time with one minute remaining in the game. They drove to the Jets’ 16 and faced a 4<sup>th</sup> and one with eight seconds remaining. An amazing pass from Cassel to an extremely balanced Moss, who somehow kept his feet in the end zone, scored the tying points. While incredible to watch, this drive still only put the Patriots at 96 Yellow PossessionPoints still giving the winning edge to the Jets.

In Overtime, the Jets won the coin toss, drove for seven minutes and scored the winning field goal. The Jets’ win made them sole owners of first place in the AFC East.

**Final Score: Jets 34 Patriots 31**

### **Tampa Bay Soundly Defeats Minnesota**

The Bucs and the Vikings fought back and forth scoring mostly field goals throughout this game. Eventually, the Bucs won by two field goals, but they had accumulated double the PossessionPoints of the Vikings. Tampa Bay earned 150 solid Green PossessionPoints to the Vikings’ Yellow 72

**Final Score: Bucs 19 Vikings 13**

### **Giants Shut Down Baltimore**

Despite Ray Lewis’ promise to stop the Giants’ running attack, NY rushed for more than 200 yards – many on the back of Brandon Jacobs until he got hurt. The Giants scored early on very efficient touchdown drives. They built a formidable scoreboard lead, but not as impressive a PossessionPoints lead. NY totaled a Green 118 PossessionPoints to the Ravens’ Yellow 79.

**Final Score: Giants 30 Ravens 10**

### **Miami Slips past Raiders**

A final-second field goal provided the two-point margin of victory for the Dolphins. Neither the Dolphins nor the Raiders seemed sharp offensively. Almost half of the Raiders’ points came on a punt return for a touchdown, and the Dolphins relied on field goals and quick-scoring drives

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of their own to win this game. The Dolphins posted an almost Green 99 PossessionPoints while the Raiders posted a Yellow 88.

**Final Score: Dolphins 17 Raiders 15**

### **New Orleans and Kansas City have a Green-Green Shootout**

The Chiefs lost again, but they looked better than they in past weeks - especially offensively. The Chiefs actually totaled more PossessionPoints than their rival Saints. If they could have finished this game as strongly as they started, they might have walked away with a victory. Kansas City earned a very Green 140 PossessionPoints to the Saints 137

**Final Score: Saints 30 Chiefs 20**

### **Colts Make a Stand at Home**

In another Green-Green Shootout, the Colts proved that this is a team that does not give up no matter what their record says. Quite frankly, no one at PossessionPoints is surprised that this game turned into such a shootout as both Offenses are formidable. The Colts may have gotten a late start this year, but they have finally hit their stride. In this game, they posted a very Green 199 PossessionPoints to the Texans 139.

**Final Score: Colts 33 Texans 27**

### **A True Rarity Comes to Cincinnati**

As we said before, not since 2002 has there been a tie game in the NFL. We could say that this game was about amazing Defense or astounding Offense, but what it was really about was two teams who couldn't trip into the end zone. This was a PossessionPoints fiasco as both teams remained mired in Red. The Eagles posted more with 56 while the Bengals totaled 25. **Final**

**Score: Eagles 13 Bengals 13 (Hmm. Not a great lucky number on which to end!)**

### **Denver and Atlanta participate in another Green-Green Shootout**

Either of these teams could teach the Eagles and Bengals some offense. In this contest, the Broncos and Falcons fought a very close match. The Falcons led early, but the Broncos took control in the second half. The Broncos earned a Green 152 PossessionPoints to the Falcons' 105. This produced a Green 47 Net for the Broncos which means that Denver had a better than 90 percent chance of winning this game once they achieved a Green Net.

**Final Score: Broncos 24 Falcons 20**

### **Cardinals Green Sweep Seahawks**

This game was one of the few Green Sweeps this week. The Cardinals built an early and wide lead over Seattle only to watch the Seahawks whittle it away in the second half of this game with a couple of quick scores – one of which came off a Kurt Warner fumble deep in Arizona territory. This accounts for why the Seahawks had so few PossessionPoints relative to the Cardinals. The Cardinals totaled 130 Green PossessionPoints while the Seahawks managed only a Red 52.

**Final Score: Cardinals 26 Seahawks 20**

### **San Francisco Destroys the Rams**

Again, we cannot help feel badly for the Rams, but in this matchup of the mid-season

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replacement coaches, we must give kudos to Mike Singletary and the 49ers. The 49ers scored most of their points in the first half and built a significant lead that the Rams could not overcome. Coasting in the second half, San Francisco posted a Yellow 87 PossessionPoints. The Rams did score some late “so what” points which skewed their PossessionPoints totals up to an unworthy 82

**Final Score: 49ers 35 Rams 16**

### **Pittsburgh Nips San Diego**

This game resembled more a baseball score than a football score. When all was said and done, the score officially was Steelers 11 Chargers 10, but that may not be accurate as an official’s error nullified a last-second Steelers’ touchdown which occurred on a turnover in the last play of the game. The officials’ mistake did not have an impact on the game, but it did have an impact on the spread and those who follow that spread. In PossessionPoints, this game was a Yellow mess that no one deserved to win. The Steelers earned 75 PossessionPoints to the Chargers’ 69.

**Final Score: Steelers 11 Chargers 10**

### **Dallas Defeats Washington**

If you were looking for Offense in Washington on Sunday night, you were in the wrong place. Neither the Cowboys nor the Redskins got to the Green in PossessionPoints Land. The Cowboys managed a Yellow 71 to the Redskins’ Red 39. Maybe, you might be tempted to label this game as a defensive contest especially with Tony Romo back in as the Cowboys’ QB, but this was a game where some more points should have been put on the board.

**Final Score: Cowboys 14 Redskins 10**

### **Cleveland Sneaks Past Buffalo**

Because of the Browns’ inability to cover kicks or punts, Buffalo came close to taking this game. Were it not for four first half turnovers, this game would have belonged to the Bills. As it was, this game qualified as a Green-Green shootout with the Browns totaling 107 PossessionPoints to the Bills 105.

**Final Score: Browns 29 Bills 27**

## Season PossessionPoints Standings – Week 11

Season Totals (Rank By Offense)						
Place	Team	W	L	Offense		Defense
				Effect / game	Net / game	Effect / game
1	Cardinals	7	3	133.04	50.72	82.32
2	Giants	9	1	130.26	56.90	73.36
3	Eagles	5	4	124.53	38.97	85.56
4	Texans	3	7	124.15	3.26	120.89
5	Jets	7	3	121.96	38.18	83.78
6	Chargers	4	6	117.13	17.61	99.51
7	Packers	5	5	117.06	27.67	89.39
8	Patriots	6	4	112.56	13.66	98.90
9	Broncos	6	4	112.13	-7.86	119.99
10	Saints	5	5	111.93	8.36	103.57
11	Jaguars	4	6	107.69	5.02	102.67
12	Dolphins	6	4	106.99	25.48	81.51
13	Cowboys	6	4	104.00	0.66	103.34
14	Vikings	5	5	102.79	27.29	75.50
15	Steelers	7	3	101.13	26.97	74.16
16	Falcons	6	4	98.94	5.17	93.77
17	Titans	10	0	97.90	38.03	59.87
18	Bucs	7	3	97.39	23.01	74.38
19	Browns	4	6	96.59	-0.66	97.25
20	Ravens	6	4	93.48	28.94	64.54
21	Colts	6	4	91.71	-35.02	126.73
22	Bills	5	5	89.72	-16.45	106.17
23	49ers	3	7	88.90	-31.73	120.63
24	Bears	5	5	85.88	-20.74	106.62
25	Panthers	8	2	83.56	9.35	74.21
26	Redskins	6	4	78.78	-3.32	82.10
27	Lions	0	10	78.31	-49.34	127.64
28	Chiefs	1	9	76.57	-47.93	124.50
29	Seahawks	2	8	72.41	-59.41	131.82
30	Bengals	1	8	68.51	-59.34	127.85
31	Rams	2	8	61.11	-65.45	126.56
32	Raiders	2	8	55.31	-50.08	105.39

**Top Five** – The Cardinals put on another fine offensive performance and maintained their top spot. We will see how they fair next week as they take on the #2 offense of the Giants. But the Giants have an excellent defense and are the #1 RPM team. We expect that to be a heck of a game that really tells us what the Cardinals are made of. Are they an elite team or just a good one? Rounding out the top 5 are the Eagles, Texans and Jets. The Eagles and Texans are having difficulty winning games this season. The Eagles still have more wins than losses but their trends do not look so good.

**Big Movers** – The Colts are starting to show their form and have moved up to 21 from 26. A couple more weeks like these last three, and they will be in the top half as many expected they would be all season.

**Bottom Five** – The bottom 5 teams have 1 new occupant as the Seahawks replace the Lions. The Lions were our Unlucky Dog this week as they had an excellent offensive PossessionPoints performance and still lost. They moved out of the bottom 5 to number 27. Rounding out the bottom 5 are the familiar names, the Raiders, Rams, Bengals, and Chiefs.

**Note:** The tie column is not shown, both the Eagles and Bengals have 1 tie along with their wins and losses which are shown.

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.