



PossessionPointsSM

Points Of The Week

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Week in Review

Notable Games and Moments

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We have to admit, that until last week, PossessionPoints had no provision for a game that ended in a tie (Eagles-Bengals) and its implication on forecast data. Because of this, our data pointed ever so narrowly to the Eagles winning the Eagles-Ravens matchup on Sunday. Since the tie, we have adjusted our calculations and in going back, our adjusted data would have selected the Ravens. While we apologize for that miscalculation, we did note in our matchup page that the Eagles-Ravens game was a game that was almost too close to call from a PossessionPoints stat point of view. However, our numbers were not that far off in that the tie made no difference with our selection of the Steelers over the Bengals. So, for the future, we have made the necessary corrections and should there be any close calls with the Eagles and/or Bengals, our data will accurately reflect all their 2008

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Fantasy Land – The old and the new

As the season wears on, the familiar names start really making their mark. Of note is Clinton Portis of the Redskins who led the running backs this week with 143 rushing yards. But what goes along with the prowess of veterans at crunch time is the question of whether they can play as effectively with injury. The answer for Portis may come next week as the Redskins report that he strained a rib cage muscle in the week 12 win. In week 13, Portis gets the pleasure of facing the Giants' defense.

The top receiver this week was Terrell Owens who has really missed Tony Romo who missed several weeks with an injured pinky. Owens gained 213 yards and 1 touchdown. By far, this was his biggest fantasy performance of the season. Fantasy owners of Owens were finally rewarded for their patience.

Meanwhile at QB, a newcomer, Matt Cassel, was the top yardage performer but the old vets of Warner, Pennington, Romo and Brees were right behind. Cassel threw for 415 yards and 3 TD's. While he is no Tom Brady, Cassel has been a respectable fantasy QB for the season and an outstanding one the last two weeks.

Dogs of the Week

Lucky Dog of the Week

Team that Wins with the Fewest Offensive PossessionPoints

This week's winner: Chicago Bears

The Bears won this game against the pitiful Rams with Defense. With this win, Chicago managed to maintain their share of the NFC North Division and move to a record of 6-5. While offensively the Bears managed only a Yellow 71 PossessionPoints, which is why they are the Lucky Dog, they held the Rams to a mere 17 PossessionPoints. This gave the Bears a Green mark in Defense and a Green Net of 54. We remind you that a Green Net wins more than 90 percent of the time.

Final Score: Bears 27 Rams 3



The Bears did not have to claw their way to this victory!.

Unlucky Dog of the Week

Most PossessionPoints for a losing team for the week

And the winner is: Green Bay Packers

You would never know that this was such an important game for the Packers, but it was. Because of this loss, the Packers no longer have a winning record, a share of the lead in their Division, or sure path to a wildcard spot as they are now behind many other teams in that quest. As for how they became the Unlucky Dog this week, we have one word: turnovers. Their Defense did not stop the Saints, but it was the Packers' Offense that put their team in dire straits by giving the Saints the ball in favorable field positions. The Saints took advantage of these field positions and scored quickly and easily. These scores do not exactly run about PossessionPoints totals, but they are quite effective on the scoreboard. This game did equate to a PossessionPoints Green-Green shootout as the Packers totaled 180 PossessionPoints to the Saints very respectable 169 PossessionPoints.

Final Score: Saints 51 Packers 28



Is it me or do losing teams look like they give up in games a lot more this season?

Dogs of the Week

Top Dog

Most PossessionPoints for the week

And the winner is: The New York Jets

What if the New York Giants and the New York Jets have to play in the Super Bowl? It would not be exactly a subway series since the game is in Florida, but there would be a lot of retired New Yorkers, so it might seem like home. While that prospect is still a bit far off, it is safe to say that the New York teams are at least heading for the playoffs. This week the Jets stopped the perfect season of the Titans with an amazing Offensive performance against what is considered one of the best Defenses in the League. The Jets totaled a whopping 232 PossessionPoints. This game was no Green-Green shootout as the Jets' Defense shut down the Titans' Offense holding them to a Red 57 PossessionPoints. This gave the Jets a Green Sweep and a very impressive win.

What if the New York Giants and the New York Jets have to play in the Super Bowl?

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performances. The bottom line is this: not counting how we should have picked the Ravens-Eagles game, PossessionPoints still went 8-8. Our Preseason Preview issue was 4-12, and we are not surprised at this time in the season that our current weekly matchup page is outperforming our picks made way back in August. With that said, let's recap this week's games.

Pittsburgh Beats up Bengals

Pittsburgh crushed their Division foe, the Bengals, in a manner in which their cross-state Rivals, the Eagles, could not. The Steelers piled on 170 Green PossessionPoints and coasted to an easy win while the Bengals tallied a Yellow 74 PossessionPoints. The solid Green 96 PossessionPoints Net will certainly move the Steelers up in our PossessionPoints Performance Rankings

Final Score: Steelers 27 Bengals 10

New England and Miami Fight in Green-Green Shootout

This game was a lot closer than the final scoreboard count and closer than even our PossessionPoints would make it seem. The Patriots' late scores boosted their PossessionPoints to a near Top Dog 228. The Dolphins totaled an also Green 120 PossessionPoints – a total that was greater than some teams who won this week.

Final Score: Patriots 48 Dolphins 28

Bills Destroy Chiefs

The Bills scored early and often and the Chiefs had no answer. Buffalo built a big first half lead, and the Chiefs could never get close. In PossessionPoints, the Bills totaled a very Green 163

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PossessionPoints to the Chiefs' Yellow 97.

Final Score: Bills 54 Chiefs 31

Vikings Green Sweep Jaguars

The Vikings are in a tough contest for the Division with the Bears and Packers, and ever win is vital to their survival. This win in Jacksonville was particularly useful in their quest for a playoff spot as they defeated a team that in the preseason, many experts thought would be a top contender for the tough AFC South crown. The Vikings posted a Green 123 PossessionPoints while holding the Jaguars to a very Red 47. This game produced one of the few Green Sweeps this week as well.

Final Score: Vikings 30 Jaguars 12

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

Tampa Bay Puts Detroit on the Losing Side Again

Detroit took the lead early in this game, but veteran QB Jeff Garcia was not going to let the Bucs be the first team to lose to the Lions. More importantly, this victory coupled with the Falcons win over the Panthers, puts the Bucs with an 8-3 record into a tie with the Panthers atop the surprisingly tough NFC South. The Bucs also managed to total a Green 101 PossessionPoints to the Lions Yellow 69

Final Score: Bucs 38 Lions 20

Cowboys hand 49ers Another Loss

Tony Romo and his pinky are back. While the Division Crown may be out of reach for Dallas who are three games behind the Giants, this win was nonetheless important as it kept the Cowboys tied with the Redskins with a 7-4 record. The NFC wildcard race promises to be a wild ride for many of the teams right down to the end of the season. Could it be that as the regular season winds down, there might be teams still playing their starters and looking like they care if they win games? In this game, the Cowboys racked up 121 Green PossessionPoints while the 49ers were held to a Yellow 64.

Final Score: Cowboys 35 49ers 22

The Quarter Back-Go-Round Hurts Browns

There is an old saying in the NFL: If you have two starting QBs, you have no starting QBs. The Browns are struggling to prove that this year. Last week, they made the decision to make Quinn their starter and the lack of a perfect performance forced him back on the bench. Back for another shot at the QB position was Derek Andersen who started the first non-eventful nine games. Quinn was 1-1 in his starts, so it seems like a quick hook because of a few errors. This switch appeared to be another desperation move by Romeo Crennel who will start Quinn again this week against the Colts. Anyway, in PossessionPoints, the Texans totaled an almost Green 99 to the Browns' Red 27. To the Texans' credit, they are starting to show some strength

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although it is most likely too late for them to get into any kind of playoff spot.

Final Score: Texans 16 Browns 6

Another Team Rides the QB Carousel

Well, if you ask Philly fans, this QB move was too late in coming. The last weeks' performances of McNabb made Eagles' fans anxious to see what kind of QB sat on the bench behind him. Unfortunately, Kevin Kolb proved to not to be the spark Andy Reid desired when he made the switch at halftime when the Eagles were trailing just 10-7. The Ravens took advantage of the inexperience Kolb and put 26 second-half points on the board including an NFL- record, 108-yard interception return. In PossessionPoints, the Ravens totaled an unimpressive Yellow 73 but that was more than enough to beat the Eagles who totaled ZERO PossessionPoints. The only points put on the board by the Birds were the result of a kickoff return.

Final Score: Ravens 36 Eagles 7

Broncos Embarrass Themselves in Denver

What happens when a two-win floundering franchise visits a six-win Division leading foe? One would expect the leader to bring home the win for the home crowd. But that just isn't the Broncos have played this year. Inconsistency has become their team theme. Amazingly, despite the loss, they maintain a two-game lead over the woeful and weak AFC West. While only one game over .500, they are the only team over .500. In PossessionPoints, the Broncos posted a mediocre Yellow 71 while the winning Raiders earned a season-high and very Green 154.

Final Score: Raiders 31 Broncos 10

Redskins Maintain Pace with Cowboys

Although the Redskins escaped with a narrow win, it was enough for them to keep pace with the Cowboys and move their record to 7-4. Like the Cowboys, the Skins are three games behind the Giants in the Division and most likely looking for a wildcard spot. The Seahawks with just two wins this year, gave the Redskins all they could handle. In PossessionPoints, the Redskins totaled a Green 114 to the Seahawks' Yellow 86.

Final Score: Redskins 20 Seahawks 17

Giants Outshine Cardinals in Arizona

This game promised to be a quality football game, and it did not disappoint. Two very good teams took the field and played incredibly hard. The Giants were simply the better team in this Green-Green shootout. The Giants were perhaps a little more Green with their 176 PossessionPoints to the Cardinals 132. Although the Cardinals lost, their explosive play should silence the critics who say they are not as strong a team as the other Conference leaders. This could be a preview of the NFC Conference Championship game, but next time it will be in New York.

Final Score: Giants 37 Cardinals 29

Falcons Tighten Up NFC South Race

The Division-leading Panthers went to Atlanta and left with a loss. After the clock ran out, the Panthers found themselves in a tie with the Bucs and just one-game ahead of the Falcons. The Falcons posted a very Green 193 PossessionPoints while the Panthers totaled an also Green 139.

Final Score: Falcons 45 Panthers 28

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Colts Kick Last Minute Winning Field Goal

The people of San Diego must be wondering, “Who called the time out in the last minutes of the game against the Colts?” Anyone who has ever seen Peyton Manning play knows that you do not give that man time to re-think strategy in tight situations. Had that time not been called, we might be saying the Chargers were the winners, but clock management has never been Norv Turner’s forte. So, the Chargers find themselves bemoaning another frustrating loss. When this season ends in San Diego, the fans will surely wonder “What could have been?” As for PossessionPoints, the Colts earned 120 Green PossessionPoints to the Chargers’ 119.

Final Score: Colts 23 Chargers 20

Season PossessionPoints Standings – Week 12

Season Totals (Rank By Offense)						
Place	Team	W	L	Offense		Defense
				Effect / game	Net / game	Effect / game
1	Giants	10	1	134.49	55.77	78.72
2	Cardinals	7	4	132.98	42.07	90.90
3	Jets	8	3	132.02	50.61	81.41
4	Patriots	7	4	123.10	22.27	100.83
5	Packers	5	6	122.80	26.13	96.66
6	Texans	4	7	121.94	9.54	112.40
7	Chargers	4	7	117.30	15.88	101.43
8	Saints	6	5	117.15	6.63	110.53
9	Broncos	6	5	108.44	-14.67	123.11
10	Dolphins	6	5	108.19	13.31	94.87
11	Falcons	7	4	107.51	9.62	97.88
12	Steelers	8	3	107.42	33.26	74.16
13	Cowboys	7	4	105.60	5.80	99.81
14	Vikings	6	5	104.71	31.79	72.92
15	Jaguars	4	7	102.18	-2.42	104.60
16	Eagles	5	5	101.89	25.23	76.66
17	Bucs	8	3	97.71	23.76	73.95
18	Bills	6	5	96.43	-8.95	105.38
19	Colts	7	4	94.33	-31.70	126.03
20	Titans	10	1	94.25	18.67	75.58
21	Ravens	7	4	91.63	32.97	58.67
22	Browns	4	7	90.30	-7.18	97.48
23	Panthers	8	3	88.60	3.58	85.03
24	49ers	3	8	86.68	-34.04	120.72
25	Bears	6	5	84.57	-13.93	98.51
26	Redskins	7	4	81.99	-0.51	82.50
27	Chiefs	1	10	78.48	-49.57	128.05
28	Lions	0	11	77.52	-47.69	125.21
29	Seahawks	2	9	73.70	-56.52	130.22
30	Raiders	3	8	64.31	-38.00	102.31
31	Bengals	1	9	62.79	-57.30	120.09
32	Rams	2	9	57.14	-64.41	121.55

Top Five – The Giants by virtue of their win over the Cardinals moved back to the number 1 offensive performer. The Cardinals didn't do too badly and moved down only to number 2. The Jets with their "top dog" performance moved from number 5 up to number 3. Rounding out the top 5 are the Patriots and Packers. The Patriots were number 1 all through 2007, but this year without Tom Brady they have been on a slow climb, and they are now once again among the top offensive teams in the league.

Big Movers – The Eagles have really hit the skids as their 0 PossessionPoints performance dropped them from number 3 all the way down to number 16. For this time of year, that is a huge drop. If they don't put on a good offensive performance against the Cardinals on Thanksgiving, they will be out of the "green" zone for the first time this season. The Eagles started out strong but have been getting progressively worse through the season. Look at their team trend lines on their team page and see for yourself.

Bottom Five – The bottom 5 teams have 1 new occupant as the winless Lions have once again moved into that non-descript group. They replace the Chiefs who at 1-10 are not setting the world on fire. Rounding out the bottom 5 are the familiar names: the Raiders, Rams, Bengals, and Seahawks.

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.