



PossessionPointsSM

Points Of The Week

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Week in Review

Notable Games and Moments

PossessionPoints.com went 10-6 ATS and 9-7 Straight Up

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During this season, we have noticed the new trend for Coaches to go on 4th down. Instead of abiding by the conservative tenet that says, “Put the points up or punt”, Coaches are taking the risk in many situations and missing out on the almost sure thing of a field goal for the elusive chance of converting a 4th down to a first. There are studies that say that the percentages for going on 4th down might be worth the risk at times. While we obviously love stats and percentages, we have to question the common sense value of going on 4th so often. Defenses take a decision of their opponents to go on 4th as an insult and a challenge. If the Offense is successful and converts, the Coach’s decision is hailed as heroic and gutsy. If the Defense is successful at

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Fantasy Land – The old and the new

This week our PossessionPoints Rotohog Roster had one of its best teams of the season totaling more than 150 Fantasy Points which is better than 15 points per position. The one aspect that bothered us with this great result is that no fewer than five of these players were on losing teams. Our roster had Kurt Warner, Aaron Rodgers, Anquan Boldin, Greg Jennings and Matt Forte. These players accounted for more than half of our fantasy points – almost 84 to be exact.

Why can’t there be a Fantasy game where winning is a significant factor in points? In such a game, a QB like Eli Manning of the Giants would be in much more demand than the stat magnets of Warner, Brees and Rodgers who have a combined .500 record to Manning’s 11-1 record.

Dogs of the Week

Lucky Dog of the Week

Team that Wins with the Fewest Offensive PossessionPoints

This week's winner: Indianapolis Colts

The Colts must have some kind of lucky charm that guides them through games that they should lose. It's been a season of miracle finishes and freak Special Teams or Defense plays that has put them on top again and again, and this week was no exception as they won with an Offense that produced a paltry three points and a very Red 21 PossessionPoints. On the other side of the ball, the Colts held the Browns to only 54 PossessionPoints and six on the scoreboard. The Defense also accounted for seven scoring points for the Colts as well. Surprisingly, the Colts are in good position to make the playoffs although they have almost no hope of catching the Division-leading Titans.

Final Score: Colts 10 Browns 6



Do the Colts have a Lucky Charm besides Peyton Manning?

Unlucky Dog of the Week

Most PossessionPoints for a losing team for the week

And the winner is: Green Bay Packers

For the second week in a row, the Packers are the Unlucky Dog. This is how good teams do not make the playoffs, and the Packers are heading down that road pretty quickly. After last year of getting into the NFC Championship Game, this year the Packers are emulating the Eagles: losing games despite good Offensive performances.

The Packers piled up 218 PossessionPoints which should have been enough to bring home a victory. However, the Panthers had other ideas. Carolina's Offense scored on some quick strike plays and their Defense came up big with turnovers at key moments.

Final Score: Panthers 35 Packers 31



The Panthers Pounced the Packers. Say that three times fast.

Dogs of the Week

Top Dog

Most PossessionPoints for the week

And the winner is: The Philadelphia Eagles

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The Eagles are much like a group of Kindergarten students. Give them a time out, and then they start to behave. And the ring leader in this class is Donovan McNabb. The Eagles proved that they have the talent to beat any team and should be in the conversation about the Super Bowl. Instead, their erratic play which included the infamous tie to the Bengals has them virtually excluded from the playoffs. While still mathematically possible, it is highly unlikely. In this game, the Eagles decided to show the world that they do have the talent and proved it at the expense of the NFC West Division-leading Cardinals. The Eagles are our Top Dog this week earning 240 PossessionPoints while Cardinals earned only a Yellow 65

Final Score: Eagles 48 Cardinals 20

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stopping the conversion, not only does the Offense lose the ball and valuable field position, but their opposition now has an emotional spark that could change the entire momentum of the game. There were several instances over the weekend where Coaches decided to go on 4th. We will not go into all of them, but we will highlight one.

With 5:04 remaining in the second quarter, the Chicago Bears had a 7-3 lead over the Vikings and a 4th and 1 on the Vikings' one yard line. Instead of taking the 3 points and a 7-point lead, Lovie Smith opted to go on 4th in an attempt to score a touchdown. This was a strategy that back fired big time. Chicago did not score the touchdown and lost possession. On the next play, Minnesota did not do the expected run play to get out of the end zone. Instead, Gus Frerotte stepped back a couple of yards deeper into the end zone and threw a bomb of a pass that resulted in a 99-yard touchdown and a Vikings lead which they never relinquished. That one "gutsy" play call changed the entire face of this game.

Now on to the rest of the re-caps!

Giants Green Sweep Redskins

The Giants' Offense and Defense did the job again even without Plaxico Burress. This game, which was one of many played in horrible weather, was controlled by the Giants although a not a blow out. In PossessionPoints, the Giants totaled 102 Green PossessionPoints to the Redskins' Red 28. With each week, the Giants seem to be getting stronger and looking more like a favorite to repeat a Super Bowl Championship.

Final Score: Giants 23 Redskins 7

Tampa Bay Barely Squeaks by Saints

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This game was an all Yellow PossessionPoints affair. The Bucs managed to earn 92 PossessionPoints while the Saints posted a total of 88. This loss virtually eliminates the Saints, who are now 6-6, from the playoffs and sets the Bucs up very well for either winning the Division or one of the NFC wildcards with their record of 9-3.

Final Score: Bucs 23 Saints 20

Miami Survives the Rams

This is only other all Yellow mess we have to talk about this week. Miami made it through despite a very tough effort to win by the embattled Rams. In PossessionPoints, the Dolphins totaled an almost Green 97 while the Rams were not far behind with 79. This win keeps the Dolphins in the playoff race and in the thick of the Division race just one game behind the Jets.

Final Score: Dolphins 16 Rams 12

Ravens Green Sweep and Hang another Loss on the Bengals

The Ravens had no trouble containing the Bengals in this game. This was a contest that we watched with no fear that it would turn to the advantage of Cincinnati. The Bengals got the first score and kept piling them on with the help of both Offense and Defense. In PossessionPoints, the Ravens totaled a just Green 101 while holding the Bengals to a miserably Red 4.7

Final Score: Ravens 34 Bengals 3

49ers Take Down Bills in low-scoring mud fest in Buffalo

Go East Young Men! San Francisco is the only team to come East this season from the Pacific Time Zone and win a game. We don't think it's jet lag that keeps these teams down; we think they just – well, sort of stink. They don't win very often in their own time zone. But on Sunday, the 49ers ended that losing streak and probably ended any Buffalo Bills' playoff hopes as well. The Bills started out this season so promising, but have now fallen to a 6-6 record. Four teams with better records are ahead of Buffalo in the wildcard hunt, so their chances of participating in postseason play are slim. In PossessionPoints, the 49ers totaled an almost Yellow 58 while the Bills posted a very Red 10.

Final Score: 49ers 10 Bills 3

Falcons put out Chargers' Flame

The Chargers are another team that most likely have bitten the playoff dust. While not mathematically eliminated, we are pronouncing their chances DEAD. They are now three games behind the Broncos with four more to play. The Chargers have never found their groove this year and have played pitifully most weeks. In this game, the Falcons remained focused on their goal of making the playoffs and extended their record to 8-4 and appear to be in a good position to get a wildcard slot or possibly even win their Division. The Falcons earned a Green 104 PossessionPoints to the Chargers' Red 33

Final Score: Falcons 22 Chargers 16

Kansas City Green Sweeps Raiders

When two bad teams come together, someone still has to win. This game turned on a weird special teams play. With the score tied 3-3 in the first half, the Raiders lined up for a field goal but attempted a trick play. The play went awry. A blind flip which should have gone to the

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kicker went to an on rushing Chief who took the ball the other way for a touchdown. Again, we ask, “Why not take the three points especially when you are a team that has so much trouble scoring?” The Chiefs took control of the game from this point and totaled a very Green 141 PossessionPoints to the Raiders’ Red 25. We wonder if this play was Al Davis’ idea.

Final Score: Chiefs 20 Raiders 13

Steelers Demolish Patriots

The Steelers overcame rain, wind and an early lead by the Patriots to take this win in Boston. The Steelers flexed their muscle and showed themselves to be an elite team in the AFC this weekend. The Steelers improved their record to 9-3, which puts them in the driver’s seat for a playoff spot and maybe even a first-round bye. Although they lost, the Patriots are not out of the playoff hunt with a record of 7-5 as they are only one game behind the Division-leading Jets. In this game, the Steelers posted a very Green 134 PossessionPoints to the Patriots’ Red 24.

Final Score: Steelers 33 Patriots 10

Denver Squelches Jets Winning Charm

Well, the high of beating the Titans crashed on Sunday as the Jets realized they have to play each week if they want to win games. Maybe they read a little too much of their own press this week because the Jets played as if they were entitled to win. Denver, who has been inconsistent at best, came to NY to win and they did. The Broncos now have a commanding three-game lead in their Division despite having a mediocre 7-5 record. In this game, there were a lot of scoreboard points, but not a lot of PossessionPoints. The Broncos earned a Yellow 89 to the Jets Red 55.

Final Score: Broncos 34 Jets 17

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

Vikings Green Sweep Bears

We already talked about the key play in this game that swung the momentum toward the Vikings, so we will get right to the PossessionPoints. The Vikings totaled a Green 104 PossessionPoints while the Bears earned a Red 12.

Final Score: Vikings 34 Bears 14

The Turkey Games:

Titans Demolished the Hopeless Lions

We do not know what is troubling the Lions this year. We did not expect a lot out of them, but we expected a few wins. One sports commentator and NFL player said that he coaches his son’s high school football team, and he thinks they could beat the lions. Not surprisingly the Titans had no obstacles in beating Detroit. They are so bad, that ESPN conducted a poll on whether or not the Lions should retain their right to play on Thanksgiving – the most Holy of Lions’ traditions. Only one

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state, Michigan, voted YES. For the record, we are not located in Michigan, but we do not think that this tradition should be done away with. In any event, we are sure that a big shakeup is coming to Detroit, and it has nothing to do with an auto bailout. The Titans compiled a very Green 174 PossessionPoints to the Lions' Red 11.

Final Score: Titans 47 Lions 10

Cowboys Trounce Seattle

In another very uninteresting Thanksgiving game, the Cowboys dominated the Seahawks and produced the second Thanksgiving Green Sweep. The Cowboys posted 138 PossessionPoints to the Seahawks' Red 44. The Cowboys remain in the playoff race with an 8-4 record, but it is not a sure thing as they have a tough schedule ahead. We do not need to say that the Seahawks are done for the year, but we will mention that we said at the beginning of the season that the chance of Seattle playing well for a lame duck Coach were slim at best especially since another Coach was already in the hired and waiting in the locker room wings

Final Score: Cowboys 34 Seahawks 9

Texans Hold Em and Beat Jaguars

Pay no attention to the final score. The Jags scored 14 "so what" points in the 4th quarter while the Texans got two, 4th quarter touchdowns on only 7 seconds of offensive time. These touchdowns consisted of two, one-play "drives" that were run into the end zone by Rookie Steve Slaton. Altogether those 4th quarter points accounted for 28 of the 47 scoreboard points. Because the Texans' scores were so quick, their PossessionPoints were an unimpressive yellow 65. Meanwhile, the Jags totaled a red 57.

Final Score: Texans 30 Jaguars 17

Season PossessionPoints Standings – Week 13

Season Totals (Rank By Offense)						
Place	Team	W	L	Offense		Defense
				Effect / game	Net / game	Effect / game
1	Giants	11	1	131.80	57.30	74.50
2	Packers	5	7	130.80	34.98	95.82
3	Cardinals	7	5	127.32	23.93	103.39
4	Jets	8	4	125.64	43.60	82.04
5	Texans	5	7	117.25	9.42	107.83
6	Patriots	7	5	114.92	11.25	103.67
7	Saints	6	6	114.75	5.76	108.99
8	Eagles	6	5	113.46	37.77	75.69
9	Chargers	4	8	110.30	8.60	101.70
10	Steelers	9	3	109.71	39.65	70.05
11	Cowboys	8	4	108.36	13.13	95.22
12	Falcons	8	4	107.28	14.78	92.50
13	Dolphins	7	5	107.26	13.63	93.63
14	Broncos	7	5	106.82	-10.65	117.47
15	Vikings	7	5	104.66	36.82	67.85
16	Titans	11	1	100.90	30.68	70.22
17	Jaguars	4	8	98.47	-2.89	101.36
18	Bucs	9	3	97.24	22.09	75.15
19	Ravens	8	4	92.42	38.24	54.18
20	Bills	6	6	89.22	-12.26	101.48
21	Panthers	9	3	88.43	-7.75	96.18
22	Colts	8	4	88.25	-31.79	120.04
23	Browns	4	8	87.29	-3.85	91.14
24	49ers	4	8	84.34	-27.15	111.49
25	Chiefs	2	10	83.75	-35.74	119.49
26	Bears	6	6	78.53	-20.45	98.98
27	Redskins	7	5	77.49	-6.64	84.14
28	Lions	0	12	72.00	-57.28	129.28
29	Seahawks	2	10	71.29	-59.63	130.92
30	Raiders	3	9	61.06	-44.54	105.59
31	Rams	2	10	59.04	-60.47	119.51
32	Bengals	1	10	57.96	-60.55	118.50

Top Five – The Giants naturally hold on to their top spot after they recorded their 11th win of the season. The Packers had another big offensive week but lost and are most likely out of the playoffs. The likely playoff-bound Cardinals and Jets are the next two teams in our top 5. Rounding out the top 5 are the Texans, whose offensive total actually fell this week but the Patriots fell further and therefore out of the top 5.

Big Movers – The Eagles moved back up with their Top Dog performance. They are back up to number 8 after having fallen to 16 the week before. We would not be surprised to see the Eagles continue their yo-yo act and fall back again.

Bottom Five – The bottom 5 teams are the same as last week. In fact they are all in the same positions except for the bottom 2 who swapped places this week. None of the bottom 5 teams won a game this week. The teams who fill out the bottom 5 are the: the Lions, Seahawks, Raiders, Rams, and Bengals.

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.