



PossessionPointsSM

Points Of The Week

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Week in Review

Notable Games and Moments

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What a week! What a season! This week it was touch-and-go for the top ranked teams on our Performance Chart. Going into the games this week, we thought that a few of our top teams might miss the playoffs. But these teams surprised us and got the job done reinforcing their positions on our Chart. As a result, 7 of our top 10 teams and all of our top 5 teams are going into the postseason. Our number 6 team, the Patriots (11-5), were eliminated. Too bad, we thought Matt Cassel deserved a spot in the playoffs, but that is the NFL. On to the recaps.

New England Blows Away Bills in Green Sweep

If you saw the twisted goal posts and the field goals that went awry in this game, you might be surprised that New England managed to score two field goals and a touchdown in these very blustery conditions. However, they did and with those scores, they took the win. Buffalo could not counter the Patriots' with any points. In PossessionPoints, New England managed a Green Sweep posting 114 PossessionPoints to the Bills' 0. Although the Patriots will not be in the playoffs, Matt Cassel may be busy sorting through offers from other teams who were impressed by his performance this season.

Final Score: Patriots 13 Bills 0

Tampa Bay Eliminated Themselves from Playoffs

Tampa Bay was a team that was touted for its strong Defense earlier in the season. However, that Defense fell apart as soon as their Defensive Coordinator, Monty Kiffin, announced he was leaving to go to University of Tennessee to coach with his son. That announcement shot a hole through the Tampa Bay Defense from which they never recovered. The result: the Bucs could not hold on to their season and are now joining the Patriots on the living room sofa as spectators in the playoffs. In this game against the Raiders, the PossessionPoints were all Yellow. The Raiders posted 95 to the Bucs' 96. From our viewpoint it was anyone's game; the Raiders just were lucky to come out on top.

Final Score: Raiders 31 Bucs 24

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Dogs of the Week

Lucky Dog of the Week

Team that Wins with the Fewest Offensive PossessionPoints

This week's winner: The Minnesota Vikings

The Vikings won the NFC North with a last-second field goal against the Giants which in the end, they did not need since the Bears lost to the Texans. However, that last minute drama may be the momentum push the Vikings need to win in the playoffs. The Vikings got a gift in the fact that the Giants pulled their starters in the second half as this game was in the "who cares" category for them. In PossessionPoints, the Vikings compiled, a Yellow 65 to the Giants' Green 115 making Minnesota the true Lucky Dog this week.

Final Score: Vikings 20 Giants 19



Last second field goals make me sweat!

Unlucky Dog of the Week

Most PossessionPoints for a losing team for the week

And the winner is: The Washington Redskins

In a microcosm of their season, The Redskins played well and lost. With an 8-8 season, they did not earn a playoff spot, and in fact, they were last in the NFC East. It's a bit ironic that they could have won the Division in the AFC West but that's another story. As far as PossessionPoints go, this game was a Green-Green shootout in that the Redskins posted 157 to the 49ers 125. The 49ers are another team to watch out for next year as Coach Mike Singletary has seemed to make a real difference in the 49ers' performance and morale.

Final Score: 49ers 27 Redskins 24



We want to move to the AFC West. We could win there.

Dogs of the Week

Top Dog

Most PossessionPoints for the week

And the winner is: The San Diego Chargers

Let's face it: The Chargers are the cream of a very curdled crop! It is ludicrous that a team with an 8-8 record is sailing into the playoffs with a home game while a team with an 11-5 record is sitting home. However, the Chargers have a challenge ahead of them in that they are hosting the 12-4 Colts who have to bring Peyton Manning with them. Well, we will let them enjoy their success for the moment. In their game against the equally mediocre Broncos who also ended up 8-8, the Chargers totaled a very Green 255 to the Broncos' Yellow 75. The final score was just as lopsided as the Broncos were never in this game. Okay, the Chargers are a team that seems to come alive in December which is why they are in the playoffs. They are the only team to ever come back from a 4-8 start and make the playoffs.

Final Score: Chargers 52 Broncos 21

Let's face it: The Chargers are the cream of a much curdled crop!

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Colts Green Sweep Titans

Peyton Manning played only one series in this game, but it was more than enough to win this game. Both Tony Dungy and Jeff Fisher went the conservative route and rested most of their starters in this "who cares" game. While some coaches believe all starters should be on the field no matter what the game, these coaches did not want to risk injury. The upside is that mostly everyone will be healthy for the playoffs and the backups got work and experience. The downside is teams like the Titans who have continued to decelerate in their performances in recent weeks, might not awaken in the playoff environment. Can the Titans turn the winning switch back on? In past years, this has not been an easy feat for teams taking the "rest" approach. As for PossessionPoints, the Colts totaled a Green 144 to the Titans' 0. We hate to see zeros in PossessionPoints. Even the 0-16 Lions did not have a zero PossessionPoints performance all season.

Final Score: Colts 23 Titans 0

Pittsburgh Destroys Cleveland In Green Sweep

The Browns quit on this season weeks ago, and it was more than apparent in yesterday's contest against the playoff-bound Steelers. This game did provide the counter argument to coaches like Tony Dungy and Jeff Fisher who rested their starting players in their games. With nothing to gain, the Steelers watched their QB, Ben Roethlisberger, go down with a concussion. It is safe to say, Big Ben would not have suffered that head injury on the sidelines unless of course there was a lot of raucous behavior taking place on the bench. It is hard to decide which philosophy is better. Is it better to play starters which often gives teams the momentum they need to go into the playoffs or

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is it better to rest starters so injuries like Roethlisberger's concussion do not occur? Tough choice. Anyway, in this game, the Steelers posted a Green 111 PossessionPoints to the Browns 0.

Final Score: Steelers 31 Browns 0

Carolina Secures Division Championship

While their spot in the playoffs was not in question, winning the Division and a first-round bye was. So, this game was not a "who cares" game for Carolina. They came out with a full-steam-ahead attitude to steal the win from the Saints who had managed once again to take a late-game lead. Carolina would have nothing of the Saints' last quarter antics and took the win with a last second field goal. In PossessionPoints, this was a Green-Green shootout. The Panthers earned 111 PossessionPoints to the Saints' 127.

Final Score: Panthers 33 Saints 31

Texans Eliminate Bears

The Texans are proving to be a tough opponent despite the fact that they will be a team that will watch the playoffs instead of competing in them. Houston managed to undo the Bears. The PossessionPoints told the story in that the Texans posted a very Green 206 PossessionPoints to the Bears Yellow 89. This young Texans' team might be a force to be reckoned with next season.

Final Score: Texans 31 Bears 24

Green Bay Keeps Lions Winless

To the rest of the world, this was a true "who cares" game between two teams who had no playoff aspirations. But Green Bay did not want to be the only team to lose to Detroit, and Detroit wanted their final shot at a win. In the end, Green Bay's pride is intact, and Detroit has only next year to redeem themselves. In PossessionPoints, the Packers posted 103 to the Lions Yellow 63. We have to say, that although Detroit has remained winless, they rarely went down without a good fight even though they sat at the bottom of our Performance Chart all year. If the Lions are looking to adopt a mantra next year, maybe they should consider: Remember the Dolphins or the Falcons or the Ravens! The interesting fact about these three teams: they all have new coaches.

Final Score: Dolphins 38 Chiefs 31

Bengals Beat Chiefs in the True "Who Cares" Game

In this game, the Bengals moved to 4-11-1 and put the Chiefs record down to 2-14. Don't worry, guys, we hear there are quite a few fired coaches who are ready and maybe willing to take on a new challenge next year. In PossessionPoints, the Bengals totaled a Yellow 89 PossessionPoints to the Chiefs Red 40..

Final Score: Bengals 16 Chiefs 7

Atlanta Struggles in Win over Rams

Again, in a battle for pride, the St Louis Rams made sure they did not go down easily in their game against the play-off bound Falcons. While Atlanta took home the win using all their starters, the Rams outperformed them in PossessionPoints but not on the score board. The Rams earned a total Green 130 PossessionPoints to the Falcons Yellow 83.

Final Score: Falcons 31 Rams 27

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Seahawks and Cardinals in Green-Green Shootout

The Cardinals took the win on cruise control. The Seahawks ended a difficult season with one final loss. Kurt Warner did play most of the game which was surprising and earned 263 yards with four touchdowns. In PossessionPoints, the Cardinals posted a Green 143 to the Seahawks' Green 110. The Seahawks are a team that seemed to implode when their coach announced his retirement at the beginning of the season. That one announcement appeared to put the team in total disarray from which they could not recover. Maybe next year, with a new coaching staff in place, the Seahawks can return to their winning ways

Final Score: Cardinals 34 Seahawks 21

Eagles Soar into Playoffs on a Wing and a Prayer

For much of this season, we had a tough time understanding how the Eagles managed to be on the top of our Performance Rankings while their playoff hopes looked dismal. But in the end, their talent won out, and the Eagles proved that they could make a playoff berth happen. The Eagles' Defense dominated the Cowboys and turned Cowboy Red Zone appearances into Eagles' scores. As a result, the Eagles' Offensive PossessionPoints were a strong Yellow 94 while the Cowboys totaled a Red 51. Another note: In our Preseason Preview issue, we picked the Eagles to go into the playoffs. They proved they have the ability to beat anybody as long as their focus and their QB's focus is there.

Final Score: Eagles 44 Cowboys 6

Jets' Loss Puts Coach on Unemployment Line

Black Monday fell hard on Eric Mangini who now finds himself unemployed. The Jets' loss to the Dolphins was the final straw for Jets' management who watched their team go from an 8-3 record in midseason to a final record of 9-7. Perhaps, Dallas' coaches should take note that winning in December is really important to job security. What made this loss hurt even more was that it clinched the Division for the Dolphins and Chad Pennington, the Jets' former QB who was so unceremoniously cast off to make room for Brett Favre. In the last five games of the season, Favre managed only 2 touchdown passes and 9 interceptions. Is the Jets' management feeling a little bit of buyers' remorse? In PossessionPoints, the Dolphins posted a Yellow 67 to the Jets' Red 55.

Final Score: Dolphins 24 Jets 17

Ravens Green Sweep Jaguars

The Ravens cemented their playoff appearance with this win over Jacksonville. This was not a "who cares" game for If the Ravens lost, they could have easily lost their post-season spot to the Patriots. In this game, the Ravens totaled a Green 120 PossessionPoints to the Jaguars' Red 15. The Jaguars had a lot of promise going into this season after making the playoffs last year, but injuries and off-field losses derailed their hopes. They are a talented team with a good coaching staff, so we think they will be back in the thick of things next season.

Final Score: Ravens 27 Jaguars 7

Season PossessionPoints Standings – Week 17

Season Totals (Rank By Offense)						
Place	Team	W	L	Offense		Defense
				Effect / game	Net / game	Effect / game
1	Chargers	8	8	123.29	29.71	93.59
2	Giants	12	4	123.15	40.49	82.66
3	Packers	6	10	121.52	26.05	95.47
4	Patriots	11	5	121.12	32.43	88.69
5	Saints	8	8	118.45	12.63	105.83
6	Texans	8	8	116.98	15.72	101.26
7	Cardinals	9	7	114.48	9.57	104.91
8	Eagles	9	6	108.30	41.58	66.72
9	Vikings	10	6	107.27	36.46	70.80
10	Jets	9	7	107.06	19.24	87.82
11	Broncos	8	8	106.43	-17.70	124.14
12	Falcons	11	5	106.15	12.66	93.49
13	Dolphins	11	5	103.65	15.66	87.99
14	Colts	12	4	103.21	-6.32	109.53
15	Steelers	12	4	101.09	36.51	64.58
16	Cowboys	9	7	100.63	11.85	88.78
17	Panthers	12	4	97.78	-4.72	102.51
18	Jaguars	5	11	97.22	-5.77	102.99
19	Ravens	11	5	93.29	39.22	54.07
20	Bucs	9	7	92.37	5.42	86.95
21	49ers	7	9	90.53	-14.59	105.12
22	Titans	13	3	89.83	17.58	72.25
23	Bills	7	9	83.72	-17.76	101.49
24	Chiefs	2	14	83.59	-39.24	122.83
25	Seahawks	4	12	79.17	-48.49	127.66
26	Bears	9	7	78.19	-24.12	102.31
27	Redskins	8	8	77.73	-9.19	86.92
28	Lions	0	16	73.94	-60.94	134.88
29	Rams	2	14	69.60	-46.06	115.67
30	Browns	4	12	68.43	-23.48	91.92
31	Raiders	5	11	64.52	-42.77	107.29
32	Bengals	4	11	61.09	-41.61	102.70

Playoff Team

Top Five – The Chargers with their 51-21 route of the Broncos finished the season in our top offensive position just a couple of decimal points above the Giants who had been at or near the top all season. Five of the top 10 offensive teams made the playoffs while all but 3 of the playoff teams averaged “Green” 100+ offensive performances. Two of the three teams (Ravens and Titans) can thank their defenses for their playoff births. When we are looking to see which teams make the best playoff teams, we look at our “Performance Rankings” which we include on the final page of this newsletter. Our performance rankings take into account Defensive and Offensive PossessionPoints which we believe is an overall better view of the teams.

Big Movers – The biggest move this week was also by the Chargers who moved from number 5 last week up to number 1 this week. At this point in the season with 16 games completed, this is a very big move. A 255 PossessionPoints performance will move anyone up.

Bottom Five – The Lions fell back into the bottom 5 and finished their record-setting year with their 16th loss. The season-ending bottom 5 is comprised of the Lions, Rams, Browns, Raiders 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.

Season Ending PossessionPoints Performance Rankings

Rank	Team	W	L	T	Relative Performance measure	Rank Last Week
1	Eagles	9	6	1	41.58	2
2	Giants	12	4	0	40.49	3
3	Ravens	11	5	0	39.22	4
4	Steelers	12	4	0	36.51	5
5	Vikings	10	6	0	36.46	1
6	Patriots	11	5	0	32.43	7
7	Chargers	8	8	0	29.71	10
8	Packers	6	10	0	26.05	8
9	Jets	9	7	0	19.24	9
10	Titans	13	3	0	17.58	6
11	Texans	8	8	0	15.72	15
12	Dolphins	11	5	0	15.66	12
13	Falcons	11	5	0	12.66	11
14	Saints	8	8	0	12.63	14
15	Cowboys	9	7	0	11.85	13
16	Cardinals	9	7	0	9.57	16
17	Bucs	9	7	0	5.42	17
18	Panthers	12	4	0	-4.72	19
19	Jaguars	5	11	0	-5.77	18
20	Colts	12	4	0	-6.32	24
21	Redskins	8	8	0	-9.19	22
22	49ers	7	9	0	-14.59	23
23	Broncos	8	8	0	-17.70	20
24	Bills	7	9	0	-17.76	21
25	Browns	4	12	0	-23.48	25
26	Bears	9	7	0	-24.12	26
27	Chiefs	2	14	0	-39.24	27
28	Bengals	4	11	1	-41.61	29
29	Raiders	5	11	0	-42.77	28
30	Rams	2	14	0	-46.06	31
31	Seahawks	4	12	0	-48.49	30
32	Lions	0	16	0	-60.94	32
	Playoff Team					