



# PossessionPoints<sup>SM</sup>

## Points Of The Week

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## Week in Review

### Notable Games and Moments

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Week 1 is in the books and either the offensive coordinators still think it is preseason, or this may be the year of defensive football. This week, in eight of the 16 games played, there were 20 points or less scored.

We do not think that this year is going to be known as the “Year of the Defense”, but it seems as if many of the teams just do not have their offenses set yet. The Steelers-Falcons turned out to be a boring field goal fest until a touchdown in overtime won it for the Steelers.

This week, PossessionPoints got off to a bit of a slow start also, we went 9-7 straight up and 8-8 ATS. We said on our matchup page that in week 1, we only have preseason data to go on, so it would benefit subscribers to look at our preseason preview picks also. Well, the preseason preview did outperform the preseason data and those selections went 12-4.

Okay, off to the games!

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## Fantasy Land

It's a new season and just like the fans whose teams had sub-.500 records last year but are excited about the prospect of the new season, so are the fantasy players so filled with optimism. This first week gives us a glimpse at who might be the surprise fantasy stars of the season.

I doubt too many people drafted Arian Foster in their first round, but based on his week 1 performance he should have been a first rounder. Okay, be honest, how many people even had him on their fantasy team at all?

Foster had an outstanding opening week. He gained 231 yards and scored three touchdowns, and for good measure, he had another seven yards receiving. These stats even outpaced everyone's number one choice Chris Johnson who didn't have a bad day himself. Johnson carried the ball for 142 yards, scored two touchdowns and had eight yards receiving.

We hope you all had a great opening week, but even if you didn't there are still 16 more weeks. Re-work your roster a bite and know there may well be another surprise star next week. Hopefully, you will have him on your team.

## Dogs of the Week

### Lucky Dog of the Week

Team that Wins with the Fewest Offensive PossessionPoints

**This week's winner: The Tampa Bay Bucs**

The Bucs and the Browns: If this was not your local game, how many of you rushed to your local sports bar to watch this contest? I do not see any hands. Ok, well it was important to these teams to play anyway as neither is expected to win many games this year; so this was their best shot at an easy victory.

In this game, both teams played poorly enough to lose, and it figures that one of these teams would be the **Lucky Dog**, and that honor belongs to the Bucs who won with just 25 PossessionPoints.

The QBs in this game were not that bad. Jake Delhomme, who last year held the "King of Interceptions" title was 20 for 37 for 227 yards, one TD and two interceptions. Josh Freeman was just 17 for 28 for 182 yards, two TDs and one interception.

In PossessionPoints, the Bucs totaled a sad 25 RED to the Browns also poor and very RED 41.



"Hey, the Bucs are unbeaten!"

### Unlucky Dog of the Week

Most PossessionPoints for a losing team for the week

**And the winner is: Cincinnati Bengals**

The Bengals had a good PossessionPoints performance in their losing effort to the Patriots; however, as it sometimes happens, many of these PossessionPoints came after the game was no longer in doubt. Since we started in 2007, we've been looking for a reliable filter to reduce some of these "who cares" points, but to date we have not been satisfied with any of the filters we have tested.

As for the QB stats in this game, Tom Brady was 25 for 35 for 258 yards, three TDs and no interceptions. Carson Palmer was 34 for 50 for 345 yards, two TDs and one interception.

In PossessionPoints, the Bengals looked a bit better than the Patriots which is why they are the Unlucky Dog. The Bengals posted a green 160 PossessionPoints to the Patriots equally green 145.



"Hey, the experts said the Patriots were rebuilding and the Bengals were playoff bound, how did this happen? It must be the magic of Tom Brady's Beiber haircut."

**Final Score: Patriots 38 Bengals 24**

## Dogs of the Week

### Top Dog

Most PossessionPoints for the week

*And the winner is: The Houston Texans*

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**Texans 34**

If we would have told you last week that the Colts' Peyton Manning would go 40/57 for 433 yards, three touchdowns and no interceptions while the Texans' Matt Schaub would go just 9/17 for 107 yards, one touchdown and one interception, would there be any way you would have thought that the Colts would have lost that game? It just goes to show how some statistics can be very misleading when it comes to winning and losing.

**Colts 24**

However, PossessionPoints in this game gives a pretty clear indication of what was happening -- even better than the score. Yes, the Texans won by 10 points but they led from start to finish. The Colts appeared to make one of their classic, late-half surges and went in at halftime trailing just 13-10.

The Texans opened up the second half with a seven-minute, 57-second-touchdown drive to send the score to 20-10. At this point, their PossessionPoints were all green, and they never really looked back. They built their lead to 27-10 before they had to withstand another late-half surge by the Colts. Unlike last season, the Texans were up to the task and answered the first of the final two Colts' scores with another TD of their own.

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#### **Saints March Past Vikings**

Neither team looked Super Bowl-ready in this season opening game. The world champion Saints opened their season with a defensive win over Brett Favre and the Vikings. These two teams played each other for the NFC championship last year, and both are looking to return to the playoffs this year. Their defenses look ready, but their offenses looked very average. Brett Favre was 16 for 27 for 171 yards, one TD and one interception. The Saints' Drew Brees had slightly better numbers at 27 for 36 for 237 yards, one TD and no interceptions. The PossessionPoints definitely tilted toward the Saints who had a yellow 74, meanwhile the Vikings posted a red 42.

**Final Score: Saints 14 Vikings 9**

#### **Dolphins Slide Past Bills**

In another low scoring game the Dolphins spoiled the Bills home opener. Neither QB set the fantasy world on fire; that is for sure. Chad Henne was 21 for 34 for 182 yards, no TDs or interceptions. Trent Edwards was 18 for 34 for 139 yards, one TD and no interceptions. In PossessionPoints, neither team was stellar either. The Dolphins totaled a yellow 83 to the Bills' red 59.

**Final Score: Dolphins 15 Bills 10**

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**Packers Fly Past Eagles** Finally, there were a couple of teams that put up some points. The Eagles' offensive numbers were decent and this may well be due to the fact that starting QB Kevin Kolb got knocked out of the game by a concussion and Michael Vick stepped in. So, we will look at three sets of QB stats and let you decide if there is a QB controversy in Philly. First, Aaron Rodgers was 19 for 31 for 188 yards, two TDs and two interceptions. For Philly, in the first half, Kevin Kolb was 5 for 10 for 24 yards, no TDs or interceptions, and in the second half Michael Vick was 16 for 24 for 157 yards, one TD and no interceptions. This game was a "green-green" shootout, but the Packers were the first to turn green and totaled 135 PossessionPoints while the Eagles came on late and posted a green 107.

**Final Score: Packers 27 Eagles 20**

### **Giants Green Sweep Panthers**

The Giants christened their new home in style by beating the Panthers in one of the few "Green Sweeps" this week. Eli Manning had a pretty good week going 20 for 30 for 263 yards, three TDs and three interceptions. At least two of the interceptions were in the hands of his receiver before they were intercepted, but that doesn't show up in the stat sheet. For the Panthers, Matt Moore was 14 for 33 for 182 yards one TD and also three interceptions. In PossessionPoints, the Giants earned a green 122 while the Panthers could only manage a red 18.

**Final Score: Giants 31 Panthers 18**

### **Jaguars Stalk Broncos**

Like the Giants-Panthers game, this was also a "Green Sweep". If the Jags could continue to play this way, they may surprise a few "good" teams this year. Time will tell, but this was just one week. David Garrard was 16 for 21 for 170 yards, three TDs and no interceptions. Kyle Orton was 21 for 33 for 295 yards, one TD and one interception. In PossessionPoints, the Jaguars earned a green 114 to the Broncos red 48. Even though this was just a seven-point win, PossessionPoints clearly fell to the Jags.

**Final Score: Jaguars 24 Broncos 17**

### **Cardinals Edge Rams**

If this were last year, this probably would have been an easy win for the Cardinals. This year, it was anything but easy. The Cardinals won, but the Rams had several opportunities late in the game to win it. The Cardinals new starter Derek Anderson was 22 for 41 for 297 yards, one TD and no interceptions. Sam Bradford was 32 for 55 for 253 yards, one TD and three interceptions. Turnovers were costly in this case. The Cardinals earned a yellow 75 PossessionPoints while the Rams were red with just 46 PossessionPoints.

**Final Score: Cardinals 17 Rams 13**

### **Redskins Hold Down Cowboys**

What in the world was Wade Phillips thinking calling the final play of the first half? We are guessing it was supposed to be a Hail Mary pass, but pressure forced Romo to run, then pitch to Tashard Choice. However, it was the Redskins' prayers that were answered, as they forced Choice to fumble and ran it into the endzone for the Redskins only TD. The Cowboys never got back on track and only managed one touchdown that counted. We say this because the second half ended almost as zany as the first half did. Tony Romo threw what appeared to be a game

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winning TD pass as time ran out but a holding call nullified the completion and ended the game. For the game, Donovan McNabb was 15 for 32 for 171 yards, no TDs or interceptions. Tony Romo threw 47 times and completed 31 for 282 yards, one TD and no interceptions. McNabb and the Redskins totaled just 45 red PossessionPoints to the Cowboys even redder 39 PossessionPoints.

**Final Score: Redskins 13 Cowboys 7**

### **Lions Fumble Opener to Bears**

If you watched any highlight shows on Sunday or Monday you saw the “controversial no catch” that could have won it for the Lions. Calvin Johnson clearly controlled the ball but for some reason he used the hand with the ball to brace himself as he stood up. When he put the hand with the ball to the ground, he lost control of the ball. By rule, this then became an incomplete pass. We don’t know if this will cause the NFL to rewrite the rule, but we will bet that Calvin Johnson will never be that casual with the ball in the future. A bigger loss for the Lions may well be the loss of Matt Stafford who left the game with a separated shoulder. He is out indefinitely. Matt Stafford was 11 for 15 for 83 yards, no TDs or interceptions. His replacement Shaun Hill was 9 for 19 for 88 yards, no TDs and one interception. While Jay Cutler of the Bears was 23 for 35 for 372 yards, two TDs and one interception. The Lions and Bears were both red in PossessionPoints as the Lions had 59 while the Bears had just 38.

**Final Score: Bears 19 Lions 14**

### **Seahawks Clobber 49ers**

After the game, Mike Singletary thanked the Seahawks for whipping their butt. Perhaps he felt the team had become overconfident because of all the predictions that the 49ers would win the division this season. The Seahawks, under Pete Carroll, made a statement of their own and perhaps should not be overlooked this year. In PossessionPoints, the Seahawks were less impressive with just a yellow 98 to the 49ers red 36.

**Final Score: Seahawks 31 49ers 6**

### **Steelers Beat Falcons in OT**

This was yet another low scoring defensive struggle. There is not much to note in this game. There were no touchdowns until the overtime score. In PossessionPoints, the Steelers totaled a yellow 72 to the Falcons red 55,

**Final Score Steelers 15 Falcons 9**

### **Titans destroy Raiders**

This one was never in doubt and should have been a green sweep were it not for late “so what” points by the Raiders. Once again, we wish we had a reliable filter to nullify these. Since we don’t. In PossessionPoints, the Titans earned a green 104 to the Raiders yellow 69 PossessionPoints.

**Final Score: Titans 38 Raiders 13**

**Ravens Smash Jets**

In yet another display of offensive ineptitude, the Ravens took on the Jets in the New Meadowlands Stadium. . The Jets came out fiery, and were well supported by a boisterous crowd in their new home. The Jets' offense could do little right this game. Mark Sanchez was 10 for 21 for just 74 yards, 0 TDs and no interceptions. Meanwhile, Joe Flacco wasn't much better. He went 20 for 38 for 248 yards, 0 TDs and one interception. In PossessionPoints, both teams were RED. The Jets had just 27 PossessionPoints to the Ravens slightly better 54.

**Final Score: Ravens 10 Jets 9**

**Chiefs surprise Chargers**

It wasn't an offensive thriller but special teams were the difference for the Chiefs who did what few people thought they could do - beat the Chargers. Maybe, just maybe, preseason isn't totally meaningless. The Chargers, Cowboys and Colts all had poor preseasons and all three went on the road, faced division opponents and lost.

Philip Rivers was 22 of 39 for 298 yards, two TDs and no interceptions. Matt Cassel was not as efficient, going just 10 for 22 for only 68 yards one TD and no interceptions. In PossessionPoints, both teams were RED. The Chargers had 54 PossessionPoints while the Chiefs had just 20.

**Final Score: Chiefs 21 Chargers 14**

## Season PossessionPoints Standings – Week 1

Season Totals (Rank By Offense)						
Place	Team	W	L	Offense		Defense
				Effect / game	Net / game	Effect / game
1	Texans	1	0	165.20	82.80	82.40
2	Bengals	0	1	160.68	15.27	145.42
3	Patriots	1	0	145.42	-15.27	160.68
4	Packers	1	0	135.35	27.95	107.40
5	Giants	1	0	122.75	84.40	38.35
6	Jaguars	1	0	114.08	65.20	48.88
7	Eagles	0	1	107.40	-27.95	135.35
8	Titans	1	0	104.58	35.48	69.10
9	Seahawks	1	0	98.67	61.92	36.75
10	Dolphins	1	0	83.30	23.87	59.43
11	Colts	0	1	82.40	-82.80	165.20
12	Cardinals	1	0	75.93	29.70	46.23
13	Saints	1	0	74.92	32.00	42.92
14	Steelers	1	0	72.72	16.92	55.80
15	Raiders	0	1	69.10	-35.48	104.58
16	Lions	0	1	59.50	20.70	38.80
17	Bills	0	1	59.43	-23.87	83.30
18	Falcons	0	1	55.80	-16.92	72.72
19	Ravens	1	0	54.90	27.57	27.33
20	Chargers	0	1	54.70	34.48	20.22
21	Broncos	0	1	48.88	-65.20	114.08
22	Rams	0	1	46.23	-29.70	75.93
23	Redskins	1	0	45.70	14.80	30.90
24	Vikings	0	1	42.92	-32.00	74.92
25	Browns	0	1	40.95	15.32	25.63
26	Bears	1	0	38.80	-20.70	59.50
27	Panthers	0	1	38.35	-84.40	122.75
28	49ers	0	1	36.75	-61.92	98.67
29	Cowboys	0	1	30.90	-14.80	45.70
30	Jets	0	1	27.33	-27.57	54.90
31	Bucs	1	0	25.63	-15.32	40.95
32	Chiefs	1	0	20.22	-34.48	54.70

**Top Five** – There was some offense this week and the top teams, except the Bengals won. The Bengals lost because they were playing one of the other top teams-- the Patriots. Rounding out the top 5 are the Texans, Packers and Giants. It is very early and there is bound to be a lot of movement in the coming weeks.

**Big Movers** – Since this is the first week, there are no movers. We will examine the big movers starting next week.

**Bottom Five** – Look at all the red on that chart. We have never seen the bottom 17 teams all red. If this doesn't change, this really would go down as the year of the defense. Two of the bottom 5 teams wound up winners, the Chiefs and Bucs. The remainder of the bottom 5 has 3 teams that better turn things around if they hope to make the playoffs as many think they will. The 49ers, Cowboys and Jets are all surprise occupants of the bottom of the chart.

**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.**