



True Grit

for
PAFL4

Season 10 Issue 2

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Editorial

Hello again one and all. It gives me great pleasure to say hi to all out there, and to know that some coaches are actively participating.

Spreads and the usual stuff overleaf including a coaches corner with people bemoaning their QB!!! Whoever would have thought people were unhappy with their teams!

I will get started with the season preview (If belated since we are already 2 weeks into it) next week!

So far we have 9 teams yet to lose and 7 yet to win, I'm sure some more of those "0's" will go this week.

Anyway, enough of my ramblings, lets get into.....

Week 2 Review

Atlanta made it to 2-0 with a comeback win over the Buccaneers in Tampa. Each side played a different game, the Falcons passed for 312 yards and 4 scores, the Buccs Ran for their 3 scores and 189 yards. Despite losing, the Buccs had more first downs and better third down conversions. When they did rush the ball the Falcons had 109 yards from 15 carries. The Falcons were more efficient at using the ball when they had it, giving them the edge.

Buffalo handed Kansas a pasting in Arrowhead 38-10. A balanced offence gained 513 yards and 5 TDs, 3 passing and 2 rushing. Riley ran for 116 yards from 20 carries and Scott caught 4 balls for 91 as the Bills offence made the Chiefs look distinctly ordinary. If Jack Jones hadn't gone for 87 yards and a TD for the Chiefs it could have looked even worse than the 7 first down performance.

Chicago hung on to an early lead against the Colts who scored 10 late points to keep the crowd interest alive. 19-16 the final scoreline which was very close, as the comparable stats show. Both sides had gains in the high 200's in yardage, 12 first downs and 35% third down conversions. The only major difference between the two sides was the Bears defence forced a turnover, whilst the Colts forced 6 sacks. Could have gone either way, but Coach Tostevin will be on a winning streak before we know it!

Cincinnati travelled to Baltimore and were handed a 59-21 drubbing. The Ravens had an amazing 7 passing Ads spread out over Ragone and Gaffney. The Ravens had 545 yards and the Bengals 319, not one for the defensive purist. The game was close into the final period but the Ravens went on a TD streak with 4 in the final quarter alone. Horn ran for 90 yards and a TD from only 5 carries. More first downs and better third down conversions gave the Ravens their deserved victory.

San Francisco got their season win totals underway with a 24-16 scoreline in Dallas. White

was knocked out of the game early in the first quarter for the Cowboys, which helped the 49ers cause. Dunlop was still benched this week, and Berry passed for 3 TD and 2 INTs on his way to 161 yards. Richardson ran for 180 yards on 10 carries including a 92 yarder that was NOT a TD!!!! With the loss of White the Cowboys task was always going to be tough, especially when they had a passing gameplan. Adams was thrown in at the deep end and performed effectively, 15 of 40 for 161 and a TD, but it wasn't enough to win.

Denver and Miami played out the game of the week with a thrilling 37-34 overtime win for the Dolphins. Miami gained 4 scores through the air on their way to 419 passing yards at 62%. Denver ran 53 times for 275 yards, Smith being the biggest contributor gaining 216 yards from 28 carries in a losing effort. White threw for 61% and 126 yards with 2 Ads as well, but it was the quick striking from Miami that kept their noses in front.

Detroit travelled to Carolina and lost 27-15 as the Panthers got their season underway a week late. Lucas ran for 120 yards and 2 Ads but had one of his customary fumbles. He caught 10 balls from Rubley for another 70 yards to show the old boy is still the Panthers number 1 threat. Turner for the Lions had another poor day, 42% completions and a pick do not show his prowess. Best player for the Lions - Kenley Nolan - 2 INTs and 5 tackles.

Minnesota raced out a 2-0 start with a 26-16 victory over the Packers in Minnesota. Jones had a rating of 94, a measure of the overall high quality production of the Vikings offence. Minnesota had the ball for 37 minutes and used it to gain almost 350 yards of offence. They had 19 first downs and over 50% conversion rate on third downs. Green Bay didn't have the ball that long but the passing they did do worked well. It may be a sign of how to beat the Vikings, but not today!

Washington travelled to Tennessee and came away with their tails between their legs on the wrong end of a 21-7 scoreline. Harrington was accurate, 172 yards at 61% and a TD, and the rushing game was good with Bettis gaining 172 yards from 24 carries. So how did they lose? Ramsay completed 75% of his passes for the Titans, and Smith ran for 101 yards from 19 carries with 2 Ads. Put simply, both sides were effective on the ball, the Redskins stalled at inopportune times. Coach Martin can rightly feel aggrieved.

Pittsburgh travelled to Oakland where the Raiders sent them away with a second defeat of the season 17-10. Both Qbs were very efficient, James with 63% and Green with 64%, but it was the costly interception by Green in his own half that allowed the Raiders to take the come from behind victory. As usual, the

Raiders rushing offence was awful, 54 yards from 21 carries shows the Steelers solid defence. The Steelers had this game won, apart from a second turnover, giving the Raiders a short field to play with. (Thank you PAFL PC) New Orleans took another step towards their goal of a perfect season with a crushing 31-7 win over the Rams. Moon was sacked 1.25 times for each completion, that's 4 completions and 5 sacks! Once again the Saints had monster breakout runs of 35 and 70 yards for touchdowns, Sullivan managing 160 yards on 17 carries. The rams cause was helped by Brooks being knocked out of the game and replaced by Nicholson. Neither side was effective on third downs and amazingly the player of the game was Jon Pertwee, who had 3 touches of the ball, 72 yards and 2 Ads.

The Patriots hosted the Jets this week and rose to 2-0 with a 29-10 victory. They had 476 yards of offence and an amazing 28 first downs with 38 minutes possession. The Jets were held to 108 yards passing at 35% and 59 yards rushing from 17 carries to complete the Patriots total domination of the game. Hadley completed 60% of his passes for 269 yards but no Tds, the pats were held to 5 Fgs, a point of hope for the rest of us.

Philadelphia travelled to the Giants and were beaten handily 23-13. Macghee ran 16 times for 109 yards for the Eagles but he fumbled twice to aid Brown's 3 interception day to hand the game to the Giants. Jackson passed for 221 yards at 56% but their rushing was contained at 111 yards from 26 carries. Gannon with 7 receptions for 121 yards was the MVP for the Giants.

Arizona held on in squeaky bum time to defeat the Jaguars 24-20 with the Jags scoring 10 unanswered points in the final quarter. Rothlisberger completed 555% of his passes for 186 yards and a TD with Boles gaining 78 on the ground from 18 carries in the Cards win. Jacksonville out-gained Arizona 395 yards to 346 but 2 costly interceptions and 5 sacks allowed showed the Cards pass defence to be better than the Jags, who recorded just 2 sacks. Barr was also held to 38% completions to show the Cards pass defence was the unit that won them the game.

In the final game of week 2, San Diego just held on to defeat the Seahawks 19-16. Seattle used to be a pass first rush later team, but now they have switched over. Scobey gained 169 yards from 30 carries and a TD for Seattle, but Klein was held to under 50% completions and was sacked 4 times on their way to defeat. The Chargers passed their way to victory. Henderson gained 200 yards on the nose with 58% completions and ran for 128 more. Their efficiency on third downs was much better than the Seahawks. A good win for the Chargers.

Alliteration Alley

Amazing Atlanta Thump Terrified Tampa
 Buoyant Buffalo Bash Contorted Chiefs
 Calm Chicago Clump Inept Indy
 Brilliant Baltimore Banish Brittle Bengals
 Super San Fran Slap Dire Dallas
 Dominant Dolphins Dump Dejected Denver
 Powerful Panthers Punish Lonely Lions
 Veracious Vikings Vandalise Puny Packers
 Tight Titans Tounce Wistful Washington
 Omnipotent Oakland Oust Surprised Steelers
 Sublime Saints Shock Stupid St Louis
 Nifty New England Noble Naff New York
 Gargantuan Giants Grate Failing Philly
 Awesome Arizona Astound Jumpy Jets
 Cool Chargers Coax Sorry Seahawks

Week Four Highs and Lows

Offence		Defence	
Dolphins	419	PY	50
Saints	386	RY	54
Ravens	545	TY	167
Dolphins	11.32	PA	2.89
Saints	8.04	RA	2.40
Dolphins	8.86	TA	2.87
Titans	75.0	P%	26.7
Patriots	68.8	3%	13.3
Bills			
Patriots	28	1sts	7
Dolphins	0/0	Pens	9/62

INJURY REPORT

After 20 weeks of injury last week there were 15 this week, the PAFL PC is being nicer to us! Most injuries were for one week, but here are the very worst.....

Significant Injuries - AFC

Central

Pittsburgh's battle with the PAFL PC continues apace with their fourth injury of the season. This time, Robert Jean the 7 year Tackle went down this week for a 4 week injury. Thankfully for Lionel, they have a replacement of similar quality, so there should be no discernible difference in performance for the visit of the Titans.

Significant Injuries - NFC

Central

Tampa Bay said tata to LB John Terry for 2 weeks. Their 4th rated LB has a reduced quality backup so there may be more chance of getting breakout runs if you manage to get through the defensive line. Good news for the Saints, who like to breakout runs!

WEEKLY AWARDS

OFFENCE - the Ravens had 545 yards total offence and 7 (seven) passing TDs alone! 59 points will win you this award even if you're playing the Norwich Devils (0-8)!!!

DEFENCE - New England may have allowed a TD but they held the Jets to 167 yards total offence and 11 first downs. For their solid performance, the Pats.

COMEBACK - Atlanta scored 10 unanswered points in the final quarter to defeat the Bucacs and complete a come from behind victory.

OVERALL - The Saints allowed 2.87 yards per play, and had 386 yards rushing alone (well they only passed 4 times!)

Game of the week - very easy. Any game that has 71 points and goes into overtime will win this. Denver vs Miami

Shock of the Week - I must say this one goes to the Titans for their defeat of Washington.

Without their only tight end Ramsay is Streets ahead throwing for 253 yards ay 75% AND they score 2 rushing Ads. The other one was the Raiders defeat of the Steelers, but that's no shock to me! (Ahem)

Time to do the Ironing - no real snores this week, but the Kansas Buffalo game was only going one way from the start of the second half, so the ironing needed to be done quickly!

Player of the week - It has to go to a Raven, so let's choose Ryan Yarbrough with 10 catches for 130 yards and FOUR TD receptions!!!! Some of us would like one receiving TD!!

Coaches Corner

I would like to say thanks to everyone who has contributed this week. Firstly, I want to place an ad.....

For Sale - Morris Lewis

6 year Punter A.Ave Good rated

Open to all reasonable offers, inclusive of draft picks. Enquiries to PAFLA@hotmail.com

Right, now that's been done, we have something from Mark out web guru (all praise him)...

I'd like to think a Lions victory this week will depend on which Floyd Turner turns up to play. He's had a 13 and a 48 rating so far this season.

Puskyn has only one catch (though Coach Piller's tactics of killing him off on his first touch in week 1 was a bit mean) for a 35 yard gain.

Next, Webbo in New Orleans about the woeful 2-0 record he has!!!

Nice to see TG again.

I'm getting worried about my QB Moon. Now while he's only VG G G, That's about what his predecessor Reich was when I took over the Saints, but in Moon's two games he had the 19 yards against the Raiders and another 51 in week two. In week 1 he had a rating of 0.0 and week 2 of over 150 on the basis that he completed all of his four passes and got a TD. Now while it was my decision to not give him the ball much after week 1 he did actually have the ball another 5 times in week 2 and ended up on his back. Perhaps Reich should come off the bench again and show him how it's done.

I don't know the answer Webbo. Anytime your QB has more sacks than completions is a worrying time. Perhaps you need to trade for a better QB Kenney my old safety seems to be enjoying himself in New Orleans!

Ah, the memories come flooding back! Lionel's first whinge of the season.....

Good to see True Grit back.

Now to do my bit, which since my Steelers have gone down to two defeats, is more difficult than I'd like it to be.

I could set up a new line in the most outlandish whinge. I do have a problem, it seems, with the Eagles. They have now beaten me twice in a season opener, both times uncoached. That really grates.

The fault is mine in actually doing the return late on Saturday night - excuse is that sometimes it's the only time I get on the computer these days. So while I was mostly accurate, I wasn't accurate enough. Conceding 5 TDs is a bit of a novelty for me, not one I enjoyed much and the inquest is still going on as to find a way to prevent a repeat in the future.

True, one of the TDs was a return which I give up only once or twice a season, so luck did have a part to play. And I was missing a couple of starters to injury. Even so I was somewhat disappointed with the performance. Never mind, put it behind one and concentrate on next week.

And then in week 2 what happens? Some jammy git turns me over despite being outplayed. Turnovers, bloody turnovers! Grr! Some Toughness coaching seems indicated. More worrying is despite 30+ minutes of possession my lot managed only 10 points on the board. Is there something wrong at the heart of my game (don't answer, Webbo!) or was it just bad, rotten, even awful luck? Just to round things off there's another injury to a starter.

Yet worse in some ways - to complete this long whinge - is that I forgot to look at the free agents list

after week1. I'm losing it, old age is creeping up on me...

Good news for the rest of you, the old man will be easier to beat. You hope!

In response, I don't take kindly to being called a Jammy git, it was in fact My Raiders skilful play that defeated the Steelers. As I was watching the game via the oh so superb game replay feature, I actually skipped it through to the end after the second quarter because I was 100% convinced my Raiders were going to lose.

I would trade that jammy win for either of the two defeats suffered to the Steelers in the playoffs!

If you'd like to send something in, by all means do so! New and even Old are all welcome.

Predictions

Darren F (me!)

I'm going to try for a trixie again. This week we go for the Saints Steelers (surely not 0-3) and Falcons all to cover their respective spreads.

Mark S (Seattle)

A trixie on Chicago Oakland and Seattle - three £250 doubles and £250 on the treble. I may be mistaken, but I'm pretty sure Mark always refused to back his own side. New tactics here?

Webbo (Saints)

I was going to pick CP but they play the Giants, then I thought 49ers, but they play the Raiders, so a double to start off with, namely Redskins and (surely they must win this week) Steelers.

Week 3 Spreads

+2½	SDC	@	AF	
	BR	@	BB	+1½
	Chi	@	AC	+3½
	Cin	@	NYJ	+5½
	GBP	@	DC	+7½
	NEP	@	DB	+6½
	MV	@	DL	+8½
+5½	TT	@	PS	
+2½	MD	@	IC	
+1½	StL	@	KCC	
	OR	@	SF	+3½
+6½	TBB	@	NOS	
+2½	NYG	@	CP	
+3½	WR	@	PE	
	JJ	@	SS	+9½

Standings

PSN	Player	Weekly	Balance	wks
(1)	You	£ 0	£ 0	2
(2)	Darren	£- 89	£ - 89	1

THE SCUM - Hogan no Hero!

Coach Hogan of the Ravens has been accused running up the score against the Bengals. They scored 28 points in the final quarter alone. With 59 points, being so far ahead, the Ravens replaced QB Ragone who had thrown 5 TD passes with Gaffney the 8 year Veteran.

"It was great to play against such a soft defence" said Gaffney, "Coach Hogan told me to "Go out there and have some fun"".

Coach Stevensen was not amused with the scoreline, "they played like they were 10 points behind, there was no need to pass in that final period."

Hogan said "It was good enough for the Patriots in the NFL, perhaps he should spend a bit more time coaching his defence!"

EPILOGUE

Well thank you to everyone who has contributed SO FAR. This is the first edition... I will update with everybody's extra betting as the week progresses.

Thanks again, it really makes the time worthwhile to know you are reading.

TTFN,

Dazza