

Below, we explore what happened in this past week's NFL games.

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### Divisional Round

- Against Spread: 1-1
- Straight Up: 2-0
- Over/Under: 1-1

#### **IND 30, NYJ 17 [IND 24, NYJ 20 (Pick: New York +8, over 39)]**

For about a quarter and a half, everything was coming up Jets. The defense had Manning on the ropes, holding him to a handful of first downs and three points. During that span, the Jets' offense was able to move the ball at will. The first drive ended when Jay Feely missed a very easy field goal attempt. This could have been discouraging for the offense and its rookie signal caller, but Sanchez was able to keep his head on straight and get results. After a red-zone hold and a Matt Stover 25-yard field goal made it a 3-0 game, the offense thought a quick-strike tactic could do the trick. At their own 20-yard line, Sanchez dropped back and found the Man of 1000 Drops, Braylon Edwards for an 80-yard score. The Colts put together another lengthy drive, but once again got stalled in the red-zone, settling for a 19-yard field goal.

The Jets needed another score here to give them some separation. The Colts offense was moving the ball with tremendous ease, and much like heroine addicts, they were eventually going to score. Sanchez needed to post a time killing drive to give the Jets some breathing room, and more importantly, put the seed of upset in the head of Manning -- make him hearken back to all the other playoff games where the Colts should have rolled, only to be embarrassed by a lesser team. So the Mexicutioner did just that. Sanchez took the Jets down the field, thanks in part to a long Brad Smith/Jerricho Cotchery 45-yard hook-up, and eventually found Dustin Keller for a 9-yard touchdown, and more importantly, a 14-6 lead.

## NFL - 2009 Fantasy Football Conference Playoffs Week 20 Recap

Written by Patrick Mayo

Monday, 25 January 2010 00:05 - Last Updated Monday, 25 January 2010 15:07

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The Jets knew they couldn't take the foot off the pedal and had to keep coming. Next drive: Addai fumbles, and the Jets recover and kick a field goal, 17-6. Then, with two minutes left in the second quarter, everything stopped coming up Jets. Manning needed only four plays and less than a minute to cover 80-yards and find Austin Collie in the end-zone. 17-13.

Coming out of the break, the Colts answered another Jets missed field goal with a Pierre Garcon TD, 20-17. Whatever adjustments Indy made defensively at half-time worked, as Sanchez and Co. had trouble getting out of their own half of the field the rest of the game. The Colts? They weren't going to be denied in the red-zone anymore. Once the clock flipped to the fourth, it was all over. First Colts possession, 15-yard Dallas Clark touchdown, 27-17. Jets punt. Colts net another Stover trifecta, 30-17. Needing two touchdowns and with just over two minutes left, Sanchez was finally in a corner. His response was an interception just before the two minute warning -- game over.

The Colts were just too much for the Jets to handle. Credit the Jets with getting this far despite a certain lack of talent that should have had them on the outside looking in come playoff time. It's was a run very few of us saw coming, and it gives New York something to look forward next season. And, with the loss, Rex Ryan now has the time to participate in all the hot dog eating contests he wants. From the looks of his exercise-ball shaped body, he's a definite contender.

### **NO 31, MIN 28 [NO 27, MIN 24 (Pick: Minnesota +4, under 53)]**

What a fun game this was. It was exciting, close, and, most imperatively, Brett Favre lost. Despite the many apologists he has, remember one thing, when it came time to win the big game, Favre made one of his classic "not so thought out" decisions. How do I know this, you may ask? Well, at the podium after the game, Favre was quoted as saying, "Geez, I don't even know how far we needed, I just knew we needed some yards." You'd think, with so little left on the clock and it being 3rd down, your quarterback would know the spot on the field he needed to get to to afford his kicker the chance to make the field goal that would send them to the Super Bowl. You'd think. Instead, with all his receivers covered, he decided to force the ball into Sidney Rice. The problem? Favre apparently didn't see Tracy Porter standing directly in front of him. And there it is again. Favre had running room, at least five yards of it. Those five yards would have set up a 50-yard field goal. Now, a 50 is no gimmie, but I've heard it can be harder to score when the other team now has the ball.

The Saints knew they were thrown a bone. Was there any doubt the game was theirs as soon

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as they won they toss? Of course not. Favre had his chance to win, and he blew it. What I can't understand is, why people seem to be so surprised by it. This is generally why having smarts makes you a better playoff quarterback. Think Dan Marino, great quarterback, but more than likely, he thought his cameo in *Ace Ventura* was real life. Just watch him on CBS -- there's just nothing behind those eyes. He's a blank slate. It's why he couldn't get it done in the playoffs. Knowing the situation is integral to winning playoff games. Know what you need to do, where you need to get to, and what you can't do to blow the game. If it's clear that an interception will take away our chance to win, don't force the ball into a spot where it will be picked off. Simply throw it away, that seems like a pretty sensible plan of attack. But not for Brett Favre. To him, there's something cowardly about throwing it away. He knows that a perfect throw will make his terrible decision look good, and it's worked, for the most part, all season long. But, under this kind of pressure, Favre constantly picks the wrong option.

Maybe I'm wrong though. Maybe Favre takes those five yards and Longwell misses the field goal. The Saints win the toss, score, and still win. Then, Longwell is the goat. One problem, Favre is also egomaniac who demands to always be the center of attention -- good or bad. If this is going to be won, it's not going to be by Ryan Longwell, it's going to be Brett Favre. If it's going to be lost, well that too needs to be done by Brett Favre. When push comes to shove, Favre has never trusted his teammates to help him win -- he needs to do it all himself. And once again, he finds himself already being asked if he'll be back next season. Is there anyone out there who wouldn't put money on him taking field next September, no matter how many times he's claimed it's all over? Of course not. His selfishness leads him to the spotlight and loses him big games, why would that change now?

I say congratulations to the Saints on their historic win and a kindly, good riddance to Vikings. Although I have a feeling Favre won't make this the last time we talk about said Vikings over the next six months.

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