

## NFL - 2009 Fantasy Football Divisional Playoffs Week 19 Recap

Written by Patrick Mayo

Monday, 18 January 2010 00:05 - Last Updated Tuesday, 19 January 2010 00:19

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

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### Divisional Round

- Against Spread: 1-3
- Straight Up: 1-3
- Over/Under: 1-3

#### **NO 45, ARI 14 [ARI 41, NO 38 (Pick: Arizona +7, over 57.5)]**

Things certainly started out on the right foot for the Cardinals. A Tim Hightower touchdown on the game's first play looked to have Arizona well on their way to another high-scoring affair. The Saints responded on the next drive, and it looked like it was "game on". On the subsequent drive, Warner connected with Jerheme Urban for what would have been a sizable gain, that is, until he fumbled, and Darren Sharper returned said fumble deep into Cards territory. The Saints posted another score, and that was it for Arizona. Who knows where the game would have gone if Urban had just protected the ball a bit better. But, he didn't, and the Saints' rout was on. The Cards had no answer for Reggie Bush, who ran between the tackles effectively for the first time since college. Questions will arise about the future of Kurt Warner, but this loss will add fuel to the fire, which should lead him back for one more season.

#### **IND 20, BAL 3 [IND 32, BAL 23 (Pick: Indianapolis -6, over 44)]**

This was a terrible game all around. Joe Flacco was over-matched from the start. Need an answer to whether the Colts should have rested their players? I think their defense showed it was a keen strategy. If the defense shows up like this next week against the Jets, the Colts will win in a rout.

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### **MIN 34, DAL 3 [DAL 31, MIN 27 (Pick: Dallas +3, over 45.5)]**

After weeks of not believing in Dallas, I finally jumped on the Cowboys bandwagon, and they do this to me. Everything that Romo and company had become known for came to surface in this game. The early loss of Flozell Adams allowed the Vikings to get intense pressure on Romo all day long, causing confusion and turnovers. The Vikings, on the other hand, looked explosive in every way. Turns out Sidney Rice was the biggest mismatch on the field -- his combination of speed and size made him virtually uncover-able all day long. The Rice/Favre combination sent the Cowboys packing and should be striking fear into the Saints' secondary for the next seven days.

### **NYJ 17, SD 14 □ [SD 33, NYJ 14 (Pick: San Diego -6.5, over 42)]**

I congratulate the Jets on their improbable victory, but they didn't win this game -- the Chargers lost it. Now, everyone will point to Nate Kaeding's three missed field goals as the death blow, and they would be correct, but it wasn't just that. Penalties set San Diego back all day long. It ruined their momentum and took them out of their offensive rhythm. Credit the Jets for making the most of their opportunities, though. They turned a brutal Rivers pick into six points, and their game plan to keep the ball on the ground and wear out the Chargers defense paid off in spades when Shonn Greene was able to find a seam to the end-zone. My disdain of the Jets is well known, but I have to give props to Rex Ryan for electing to go for it on 4th and 1 to win the game. I loved the call. Much like Belichick's memorable 4th and 2 call earlier this year, it was the right call. It took a lot of guts because of the repercussions that would have followed if he didn't make it, but it was nice to see the Jets played to win, and not to lose. All this being said, I can only hope this momentum doesn't carry into next week. I don't think I can handle looking foolish three weeks in a row.

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