

NFL - 2009 Fantasy Football Week 13 Recap

Written by Patrick Mayo

Monday, 07 December 2009 00:05 - Last Updated Tuesday, 08 December 2009 00:13

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

Ask a question about your lineup in our [FORUM](#) . Leave a comment about this article down below.

THURSDAY NIGHT

NYJ 19, BUF 13 [BUF 23, NYJ 17 (Pick: Buffalo +3, over 37) fantasy]

The Jets are now undefeated on foreign soil after a win at Rogers Centre, overcoming a Kellen Clemens appearance. QB Mark Sanchez left this game early in the second half with a sprained PCL but will not miss a start. Clemens showed off his expert handing-off skills, as the Jets dominated on the ground with Thomas Jones and Shonn Greene, as they were able to kill the clock in the fourth quarter and bury the Bills. The Bills' offense was effectively shut down by The DRE and company. Revis was flying all over the field and is making a strong case for defensive player of the year honors. This week's victim was the previously streaking Terrell Owens. Owens was limited to 31 yards with Revis on him which, which caused Buffalo's offense to embrace the great white north and go into hibernation.

SUNDAY EARLY

CIN 23, DET 13 [CIN 31, DET 10 (Pick: CIN -13, under 42) fantasy]

This was the first in a string of games where a late, meaningless TD just killed my spread picks. Detroit got out to an early lead when Matt Stafford got the entire Bengals defense to bite on a beautiful play action fake. This bought time for Calvin Johnson to simply outrun everyone else on the field and grab his fourth TD on the season. We finally got some insight on the Cincinatti back field -- Cedric Benson is the man back there. Benson racked up 110 yards on 36 carries, clearing up any rumors of a time share. Screw gorditas -- Ocho Cinco was all the [Mexican flavor](#) I needed on Sunday. Ocho delivered on the great match-up, finishing with 137 yards and a

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touchdown. Stafford re-aggravated his left shoulder and was replaced with Daunte Culpepper in the third quarter. Let's hope this doesn't continue.

DEN 44, KC 13 [KC 20, DEN 17 (Pick: Kansas City +4.5, under 38) fantasy]

Denver improved to 2-17 life-time at Arrowhead in December, with an impressive ground performance from Knowshon Moreno and Correll Buckhalter. The Broncos backfield left 245 yards worth of cleat marks on the Chiefs defenders. When picking the Chiefs as my upset of the week, I didn't take into account that fact that they may just decide to mail it in. While teams like the Raiders are giving it their all every week in spite of a lost season, Kansas City actually seems to be getting worse and trying less by the week. Franchise quarterback Matt Cassel was actually yanked in this game in favor of Brodie Croyle, after putting up a robust 14.6 QB rating. That can't be a step in the right direction. The only glimmer of hope was running back Jamaal Charles, who scored a TD in his fourth straight game.

JAC 23, HOU 18 [HOU 31, JAC 24 (Pick: Houston PK, over 46.5) fantasy]

The lack of success of the Texans franchise can be perfectly summed up with their goal-line attempt early in the fourth quarter. Down 23-12, the Texans line up first-and-goal from the Jags five yard line and decided to run a [half-back pass that should finally cost Gary Kubiak his job](#). Who was Chris Brown throwing to anyway? The Jags continued their stellar play at home... they must find the empty seats inspiring. Despite their season long roller coaster ride, Jacksonville is actually in a great position to grab the AFC's sixth playoff seed. Their schedule set up very nicely for them to earn the right to travel West and get crushed by San Diego in the first round.

MIA 22, NE 21 [NE 31, MIA 13 (Pick: New England -6.5, under 47) fantasy]

Miami threw a wrench into the AFC playoff picture by getting themselves within a game of the Pats in the East. This game seemed over after the Pats jumped out to a quick 14-0 lead, but they couldn't muster anything after that. The Dolphins did a great job of taking Randy Moss out of the picture after his 58 yard touchdown on the Pats first drive. He could only manage a measly one catch for eight yards after. New England needs to get Moss more involved if they intend on competing in January. While it doesn't seem problematic, Wes Welker (10 catches, 167 yards) leading the team in receiving is just that. Welker is a great compliment to Moss but

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can't the focal point of this offense. It was a great day for Devone Bess. The former Rainbow Warrior led the Dolphins' attack with 10 catches for 117 yards and a touchdown. This was a breakout day for Chad Henne as well. The Michigan product eclipsed 300 yards for the first time in his brief career and is starting to look like a real NFL quarterback. Despite the hiccup last week against the Bills, Henne is now 6-3 as a starter and has the Dolphins back in the playoff hunt after their miserable start. However, a tough upcoming stretch against the Jags, Steelers, Texans and Titans may have them on the outside looking in.

NO 33, WAS 33 (OT) [NO 35, WAS 14 (Pick: New Orleans -9.5, over 48) fantasy]

With 1:20 left in the fourth quarter and the ball on their own 47 yard line, did anyone really think that Washington was going to hold on? Winner of this week's strangely awkward last name to pronounce, Shaun Suisham, had a chance to ice the game but missed a gimme 23-yard field goal with 1:53 left. Come on Shaun, you're an NFL kicker! They could pulled someone out of the stands who would have made the 23-yard kick. Somehow this is all Jim Zorn's fault. The Sanits have won in basically every way possible this season and have a swagger about them that championship teams have. They have the ability to score from any point on the field and they know it. Opponents should continue to be terrified.

OAK 27, PIT 24 [PIT 24, OAK 3 (Pittsburgh -13, over (off)) fantasy]

It's hard to believe this game was 10-6 half way through the 4th quarter. That's when Bruce Gradkowski forgot who he was and went on a touchdown binge. Gradkowski matched his entire season's output with three TD passes in the final eight minutes (two to Louis Murphy) and led the game winning drive that may have put an end to the Steelers playoff chances. Shocking stuff. Really.

PHI 34, ATL 7 [PHI 28, ATL 20 (Pick: Philadelphia -6, over 43.5) fantasy]

Can anyone explain Michael Vick's touchdown celebration to me? Was he trying to throw the ball into that net? You would think as an NFL quaterback that he could throw around it. Bizarre. There's really nothing to say about this one. Turns out a week to game plan for Chris Redman can render him completely ineffective. The Eagles had this game put away so early, they let Vick play. It was that far out of reach. Despite the successful return to his old stomping grounds,

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Vick left the game with a wrist injury late in the fourth quarter.

CHI 17, STL 9 [CHI 20, STL 14 (St. Louis +8.5, under 41) fantasy]

Devin Hester left this game with calf injury, and the passing game must have left with him. Jay Cutler got off to a hot start going 3 of 4 for 130 yards and then Hester got hurt. Cutler finished 8 of 17 for 143 yards to cap off a dreary day at Soldier Field. The Bears were lucky they were playing shameful Rams. They certainly would have lost by 50 against a worthy opponent. Steven Jackson continues to be St. Louis' only saving grace. Jackson now has 1232 rushing yards and is behind only Tennessee's Chris Johnson for the rushing title. Hopefully his great play will get him an off-season trade so people can notice how great he is.

CAR 16, TB 6 [TB 17, CAR 13 (Pick: Tampa Bay +6.5, under 42) fantasy]

Tampa really should have won this game. Unfortunately for them, three red-zone turnovers are tough to overcome. The Bucs put up 457 yards of offense and could only muster six points. That is how a 1-11 team does it.

IND 27, TEN 17 [TEN 24, IND 21 (Pick: Tennessee +7, under 47) fantasy]

The Titans' magical run is over. Peyton Manning and the Colts put the kybosh on that. Never was there a time in this game where the Colts weren't in control. Manning became the first QB in NFL history to toss 25 TDs in twelve straight seasons with his strike to Austin Collie in the first half. Joseph Addai continued his underwhelming real season/remarkable fantasy season finishing with 79 yards on 21 carries (a sterling 3.8 ypc) and two touchdowns. Addai now has 12 TDs on the year to complement his dismal 655 rushing yards.

SUNDAY LATE

NYG 31, DAL 24 [DAL 27, NYG 20 (Pick: Dallas PK, over 45.5) fantasy]

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The Cowboys' December swoon begins in the face of Roy Williams' best day as a Cowboy (2 TDs). Romo attempted 55 passes -- not a strategy for success. The Giants may have turned their season around by scoring from all angles Sunday, getting a return touchdown from Dominic Hixon and an even more unlikely [74 yard TD catch from Brandon Jacobs](#) . The Giants are now a game behind the Cowboys for the NFC East lead and in a perfect spot to take advantage of Dallas' inevitable collapse.

SD 30, CLE 23 [SD 33, CLE 6 (Pick: San Diego -12, under 43) fantasy]

Cleveland put up just enough meaningless points late in this game to cover the spread, crushing the spirits of gamblers everywhere. Philip Rivers had another efficient day, piling up 373 yards on 25 attempts. San Diego has now won seven in a row and looks to keep the good times rolling right on into the playoffs. The Browns' Jerome Harrison is making his case as Cleveland's only useful player, as he scored two TDs in the fourth quarter.

SEA 20, SF 17 [SF 24, SEA 13 (Pick: San Francisco PK, under 41) fantasy]

Alex Smith passed for a career high 310 yards but it wasn't enough to make up for two fumbles that resulted in ten Seattle points. Frank Gore had a miserable day, posting 62 yards and one of those costly fumbles. It was a far cry from his 209 yard Week 2 performance against these same Seahawks. With the loss, San Fran is basically out of the playoff picture and will use the rest of the year to see if Smith is the long-term answer at quarterback. Fun trivia fact: A seahawk is a nickname for an Osprey. That's great news if Seattle loses another team to Oklahoma City.

SUNDAY NIGHT

ARI 30, MIN 17 [MIN 35, ARZ 20 (Pick: MIN -3, over (off)) fantasy]

Kurt Warner played. Kurt Warner dominated. As crazy as it sounds, the Cardinals may be the NFC's most feared team come playoff time. That have that strange mix of great offense and just enough defense to beat any good team. The Vikings' secondary had no solution for Boldin and

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Fitzgerald, as the two of them combined for 241 yards and 3 TDs. Favre finally had a let-down but managed to save his fantasy day with a late TD toss to Percy [Harvin "a time"](#). Minnesota still has a strangle-hold on a bye in the NFC but need to make serious adjustments if these teams meet in the land of lakes in January.

MONDAY NIGHT

GB 27, BAL 14 [BAL 34, GB 31 (Pick: Balitmore +3, over 44) fantasy]

Why did the Ravens lose? They didn't use Ray Rice enough. Joe Flacco threw three picks by forcing the ball downfield all night long. If he had hit Ray Rice (who was open over the middle the all night) there could have been a different outcome. The turnovers killed the little momentum that the Ravens had to bring with, resulting in a loss that couldn't afford to take.

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