



The NFL's best weekend of the year. By far!

Kerry Schmidt 01-14-2007

I'm still a near total cripple, so I will write this column as far as the single malt and percacet will take me. Hang on.

If you are an NFL fan – or even if you are not, this is most definitely the best weekend of the year.

I always look forward to this weekend. The “wild card” losers are cast by the wayside, as they should be. Hell, how did a team like the Giants at 8-8 and loser of five of their last six regular season games even make the playoffs.? Why not include every team that does not have a losing record? It would be like the college BCS BS, wherein any team that makes it to .500 is bowl eligible.

Maybe we could make the NFL season like the college, I.E. just let the computers figure out who the best two teams are and go right to the Super Bowl. Then you could give the two teams 46 days off, like Ohio State did.

Hey, look what it got them.

I did watch every minute of every game last weekend. Not because I was enthralled with the fantastic play, but rather that, being a cripp like I am, it was either that or watch my knee swell.

Let's see, there were four games last weekend, and each game consisted of four quarters. Take my single malt, add the percacet and then toss in a tough math problem.

Question, given the above formula, how many quarters were really played last week.

After heavy calculations, I give you the answer: ONE!

See what you can do with a wee dram and some narcotic pain pills!

Yea, yea, I know the records will show 16 quarters were played. But only one of them was REALLY played. The other 15 sucked so much that they hardly counted.

The only really good football was the 4th quarter of the Patriots – Jets game, when Tom Brady and company played like a real championship team. Good stuff.

Yes, I know the infamous Cowturds – Eagles game had an incredible finish, but you can hardly call it a “good” game. More like a botched abortion.

Tony Romo, who after just six games was anointed the second coming of Christ and voted to the Pro Bowl, bobbled the winning FG placement.

After this weekend, the Turds - Eggles game will be long forgotten.

But I can assure you that Romo's FU will go down in infamy as one of the all time screw ups in the NFL. Romo will be remembered in history as a member of the all time “Bloopers” film clip team.

I have no idea how this will affect the career of TR, and rather than go into detail of the possibilities, let me simply say, “Who the hell cares?” It could not happen to a nicer team. Screw them.

The Giants deservedly lost to the Eagles. Not because the Eagles were so much better, but that they sucked the least. The two teams combined converted a whopping 25% of third downs. That's championship stuff.

BORING! I even started to look forward to the commercials.



OFF THE WALL SPORTS

And what is the real story on the other Manning, Eli? At times he can look like his brother. Other times he looks more like a brain-dead zombie. A \$60 million zombie, but still...

The only sad part was that this was the career finale of one of the classiest and nicest guys to every play the game, Tike Barber. Football could use a whole lot more like him. The Colts' thrashed KC, even though Manning (the good one) threw 3 INT's.

KC Coach Herm Edwards pretty much summed up his exciting team's performance. "We couldn't run it. We couldn't pass it. We couldn't do anything." I'd say that covers this games excitement.

Best part of the weekend was that both New York teams lost. Yea!!

The final shocker of the bad football weekend was that the Giants ownership, in their ultimate wisdom, decided to keep Tom Caughlin as head coach. Are you kidding me?! If I had a dollar for every time I saw him throw his arms in the air and had that look of utter stupidity, I would be drunk and stoned somewhere in the tropics. The guy is utterly clueless!

All right, on to my favorite weekend.

On paper, you have some really good contests.

You have the feel good story of the decade, in the always woeful Saints.

You have the Dr. Jekyll, Mr. Hyde Chicago. Make that the Rex Grossman story. All he has to do is not screw up too bad and they will beat the piss-poor Seahawks.

Then you have the Colts, led by all-time great QB Peyton Manning, he of the "can't win the big one."

And last but not least, you have the no-name Patriots against the team with the league's best (14-2) record.

The AFC has all the power and if I had to rank the four teams therein, I would have Baltimore first, San Diego a very close second, New England third and then the Colts.

But you gotta love the Pats.

I challenge you to name five or six players on that team besides Tom Brady.

OK, name two or three.

Adam Vinatieri, the FG kicker who won 2 of the 3 SB's the Pats have won?

Gone. To the Colts. Household name Stephen Gostkowski took his place.

Also gone are the Pats' top two receivers from last year, Deion Branch and David Givins.

Two of their starting CB's have been injured much of the year. Of the players on this year's starting lineup, seven were not there last year.

Coach Bill Belichick is far and away the best coach in the league.

No matter what and/or who, he just tweaks things, fills the holes and reloads, again with a true contender.

Legendary Coach Bum Phillips, when asked about Dolphin's Coach Don Shula, said, "He could take his'n' and beat yourin' and then he could take yourin and beat his'n'."

The same definitely applies to Belichick.

In the "new Baltimore versus old Baltimore" game, you have the passing magic of Manning against the league's top defense.



The Saints – Eagles? If the Saints can shed the voodoo curse and not turn the ball over – they were minus 4 in that category this year, 25th in the league, they should shoot down the birdmen.

Speaking of single malt and whatever, ole party boy Ken Stabler, who when caught in a bar in the French Quarter before the Super Bowl one year, said, “Nothin’ wrong with readin’ your playbook by the light of the jukebox,” was asked what would happen if the Saints were to make it to the Super Bowl.

“It would make Mardi Gras look like a church picnic,” he replied.

I’ve been in every stadium in the league, and there are no fans ever that are as loyal as Saints’ fans.

I remember seeing the greatest banner ever hung in a stadium in the Super Dome.

It read, “New Orleans. A drinking town with a football problem.” What a wondrous pleasure it would be if they could spend the first week in February in Miami.

Bears – ‘Hawks. On paper it is a mismatch. But Grossman can make it exciting.

First five games of the season he looked like Joe Montana. Since then, he has more often looked like Joe Blow.

In the last six of seven games, he has 3 TD passes and 15 INT’s.

In game 14, he had a QB rating of 1.3! I did not think that was possible. But then ole

Rexie topped that on the final game of the year with an Animal House Bluto like 0.0!!

His explanation for the last game was that he, basically, had too many other things on his mind and did not concentrate on the game.

Man, that sure builds up his teammates’ confidence in him. Maybe it’s his IQ that is 0.0.

But to me, perhaps the most intriguing game is the magical Patriots at San Diego, who according to oddsmakers, is the top favorite to win the SB.

On paper, the Chargers are definitely the better team, and they are at home.

But I will never count out a Belichick coached team. With Tom Brady.

Brady is never mentioned in the same breath with Manning or several of the other top QB’s in the league.

Why? Probable because he is rarely, if ever, in the top 8-10 of the most publicized QB ratings. All he ever seems to do is win. The bigger the moment, the better he is. After another big win, analysts and fans alike simply scratch their heads and ask, “how did he do that?”

I’m not saying they will beat S.D., but one of my business transactions with my bookie is the Pats plus five.

I’m also down with the Ravens, Saints and Chicago, although giving up 8 ½ points to a Grossman run team scares me. But Seattle sucks most of the teams left, and the weather forecast is for around 30 degree weather with sleet.

Final notes: The BCS Championship game, 41-14, was about what I expected. Except that a different team won.

It wasn’t so much that I thought Ohio State was that much better, it was just that I did not really give a damn about the game and thus I guess I bought into the hype of the talking heads.

Final, final. Would someone tell that little young golfing bitch, Michele Wei, to get a life.



OFF THE WALL SPORTS

She failed miserably – again – this weekend to make the cut of a PGA tournament. Hell, she has never even won a LPGA. What's with her?

Enjoy the games. Hopefully, with SM and P, my meal and drink of choice. Or is it necessity, I can't remember.

You, however, should remember to take Mr. Bluto's advice, and, "Drink Heavily!"