



TODAY'S SPORTS: HOT AND COLD. VERY COLD!

By Kerry Schmidt 01-20-2008

If you are an NFL fan, today is the greatest day of the year. And the coldest. Way back in early – and warm - September, week two of the NFL season, Green Bay trounced the Giants, 35-13, in New York and the Patriots did likewise to the Chargers in Foxborough, MA, 38-14.

The average temperatures in those two games was about 82 degrees.

Well, in Green Bay today, the 6:30 p.m. ET start, the thermometer is scheduled to read about 82 degrees colder. Yes, ZERO. With some wind.

But in Foxborough, it will be warmer. The 3 p.m. ET temp. is predicted to be about 19 degrees. With an estimated 20-25 mile north wind. Wind chill? Six degrees.

Only San Diego has any excuse for complaining. The estimated temp. in S.D. at game time is 68 degrees.

In other words, the weather will be more of a factor than 15 weeks ago and the games, obviously, will mean a whole lot more.

Now Joe Namath will most certainly not appear on TV advertising “panty hose,” but the players may or may not “dress up.”

What did some of the “old timers” have to say about the cold?

Packers’ great, guard Jerry Kramer, who played in the “Ice Bowl” in 1967 – game-time temperature was – 13 degrees, and windy (the coldest game on record), said “When you first step out of the tunnel, that first blast takes your breath away. No one is totally prepared for it.”

Merril Hoge, who played for both the Steelers and Bears and is now an analyst for ESPN, said he’d watch opposing players to see who was worried about the cold.

“My whole approach in the cold was to smack somebody as hard as I could on the first play. That would get my blood flowing and I would watch him to see his reaction. If they worry about it, they’re done. Forget it.”

Brett Favre, a warm southern boy from Kiln, MS, says “I don’t even think of it. You just suck it up and play. The only thing I concentrate on is the effect the cold has on the ball.” Favre’s record in cold games speaks well. When the weather is below freezing, he is 43-5! Tom Brady is 11-2 in the same situation.

But how about those poor slobs, the network cameramen who have to stay out there and film? Tony West, a FOX cameraman laughed when asked about all those macho players who only wear short sleeve shirts. “That’s pretty funny,” he said. West even jumped into the stands last week to get a close shot of Greg Jennings after he scored. “The crowd patted me pretty good, which warmed me up, but trust me, we (all the cameramen) wear serious arctic gear!”

Bob Wishnie, a CBS camera man, wears his Winter Olympics gear, but since he rides along the sideline on the moving cart, he says “I get pelted pretty good by snowballs sometimes. Some guys even wrap heating blankets around themselves.”

Well, since Tony Romo spent his off week in warm and sunny Mexico with Jessica Simpson, he won’t have to worry about the cold.



Let's take a look at the four remaining teams.

First, the preseason predictions. A company that I hunted down called Football LOCKS.com, gave their pre season info. on the four teams.

On Green Bay, they said, "Favre is old, and last season was one of his worst. This year, he seems to have no running game and his offensive line is suspect." They said the Pack would go 4-12.

Well, we know what the "old man" did, and with the youngest team in the NFL, here they are, and are favored by 7 to go to the Super Bowl.

They were pretty right on with San Diego, having them to go 15-1.

They had the Pats at 14-2, but gave San Diego the AFC nod over them in the SB)The Pats are a 13 ½ point favorite.

They were more off than on re the Giants. They had them at 8-6, but said "the two running backs (Brandon Jacobs and Ahmad Bradshaw) would be hard pressed to pick up the slack of the retired Tike Barber, and that Eli Manning could suffer without a running game.

I am really glad to see Eli have such a good playoff season, and come out a bit from the shadow of his brother, Peyton.

With Jacobs, the 6'3, 264 pound RB who really softens up opposing LB's (at 264, he is almost 10 pounds heavier than Giants' sack leader, DE Michael Strahan), then in the second half, the darter, Bradshaw gives the Giants a very good running game.

Of the powerful Jacobs, former Giants great Frank Gifford says, "If he doesn't kill somebody or himself, he will have a great career. He's got a real mean streak in him and really beats up on LB's and DB's.

Former Cowboy fullback and current FOX analyst, Darrell Jackson, said "a good part of the Giants tandem is due to Madison Hedgecock, a 6'3, 266 pound fullback. He really opens up holes for both. Every team that has a good running game has to have a bruising fullback."

Ironically, Green Bay's running game is due in good part to the Giants. They traded RB Ryan Grant to the Pack for a 6th round draft choice. Grant ran for 201 yards last week and 3 TD's against the Seahawks.

Earlier in the season, Favre totally carried the team. They passed nearly 80% of the time before Grant broke out.

While The Pack is the youngest team in the league, the Giants have a league high 11 rookies on their squad. And one of them has been forced to fill some big shoes. Kevin Boss had to jump in after All-Pro tight end Jeremy Shockey broke his leg on December 16. The rookie from football powerhouse Western Oregon has 8 catches and 2 TD's since then.

While the Giants and, in a few instances, the Pack, utilize two RB's the Chargers pretty much rely on LT, LaDanian Tomlinson. Enough said.

The Chargers are a much better team than in week 2 – they lost their first three games, and New England's defense has shown some holes in the last couple of weeks.

Part of the reason is the age of their LB's. Junior Seau is 39 and Teddy Bruschi is 37.

They seem to have been worn down a bit and could be vulnerable.



OFF THE WALL SPORTS

The big question with S.D. is their starting QB, Philip Rivers, who is questionable for today's game with a right knee he injured last week.

I can assure you he will start. No pro at this level and time would not, but how effective he may be is a huge Q.

If Rivers is healthy, I think the Chargers have a decent chance. At least take the whopping 13 ½ points. Without him, they are dead.

New England? Maybe their defense is down a bit, but their offense is still atomic bomb like. If S.D. cannot really pressure Brady, forget it. Pressuring him and hitting him is imperative, as that does not allow Brady time to look at other receivers. Sans doing that, bad weather or not, he will kill them.

I say Favre will, if just by sheer will, beat Eli and company and N.E. probably will take the warm weather Chargers.

But what do I know?

A couple of quick idiotic antidotes.

A crazed Packer dad went bonkers. He was so pissed that his 7-year old son would not wear his Packers' jersey last week, that he duct taped the jersey on him and then duck taped him to a chair in front of the TV! NOTE: I wonder if they got that instant replay on TAPE?

Mathew Kowlad was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct after his (sane) wife told police about the incident. Besides pleading guilty and paying a \$186 fine, his wife got a restraining order against him coming anywhere near her/their son.

Would be cool if we could get a photo of his son wearing a Giants' jersey while watching today's game.

Also, the Pats will honor 15-year old high-school freshman, Anna Grant, at today's game. She won her age group punt, pass, kick competition last Sunday at the half-time of the Colts game. She was wearing a Patriots' jersey and so was booed loudly! Thus, she will be introduced before the game and get to be on the field for the coin toss.

Who the F cares.

Enough of the AFC & NFC title games. You probably are sick of hearing/reading the zillion things said about them.

Some of the boring? "hot" stuff.

Remember the book, The Peter Principal, by Dr. Laurence J. Peter? He was a prick, but the book still rings true today. It, essentially says that people will advance (get promoted) based on their incompetence. I.E. the more incompetent, the higher they get promoted.

Prime example A is Bud Selig. He got a new 3-year contract extension to be MLB Commissioner. The same f up who let steroids go wild while he looked the other way and then, well, he's still screwing it up. Peter the prick.

Note. An additional 11 players have allegedly committed perjury. Will Prick bother to go after them like he is with Barry Bonds?

Reggie Bush.

Lloyd Lake, a San Diego businessman and one time sports marketer, says he gave former Heisman Bush and his family \$291,600 in cash, living arrangements and other benefits between November 2004 and January 2006. He says it was part of a deal that Bush would sign with Lake when he went pro.



OFF THE WALL SPORTS

After 2 ½ years, he spoke to the NCAA for six hours last November and to USA TODAY for 2 ½ hours this week. He has also sued Bush for the money.

Stay tuned.

And again, who the F cares?!

Golfweek Magazine's January 9 issue has on its cover, a picture of a noose!

This is in reference to Golf Channel anchorwoman Kelly Tilghman saying the only way to beat Tiger Woods was to "lynch him in a back alley."

Tiger said it was not big deal at all, as did his agent and others. But when Golfweek editor Dave Seanor put a noose on the cover, he, and the magazine, took all sorts of crap. As they should.

PGA Chairman Tim Fihchem lashed out, saying it was an ugly attempt to inflame an incident that was moving out of the public eye.

I agree. I have never heard of Golfweek, but it now falls within the realm of sleaze journalism. What was he thinking? Certainly not that the picture would sell more magazines. Seanor should be lynched by his Peter principal, but who the f cares, again. I could really bore you by talking about new Michigan coach Rich Rodriquez, and how he left in the dark of night, allegedly shredded documents and a bunch of other who the f cares stuff.

Last and least. Winning costs money. LSU will raise their season ticket prices \$5 per game next year. Not for students, but for all others.

Why is that even news?

Enjoy your warm day in front of the fire while watching millionaires freeze their asses off. I would too for a million bucks.