

Never take a team for granted/Oakland vs Miami

Contributed by Tony Simmons
Sunday, 16 November 2008

The Miami Dolphins go into another important game today against the Oakland Raiders in a 1:00 kickoff today. Miami comes into the game at 5-4 and winners of 3 straight games while Oakland comes into the game at 2-7, and looking and playing extremely dysfunctional.

This is a game that Miami should win in a sound manner, but we learned last week that no team should be taken for granted, especially by our Dolphins. The Phins were up 14-0 and were looking like they were going to win this game big, but all of a sudden a pick 6 turned this game in to a battle and it came down to the end of the game and Miami escaped with a 21-19 win over a 2-6 Seattle team without Matt Hassleback.

Put simply, Miami is in the middle of a massive turnover of a roster after a 1-15 season and the talent is not there yet for this team to overlook anybody and not expect to fight to get out with a win. The fact that they won the game last week without playing their best game showed me a lot in regards to the development of this team. Show me further development by coming out and taking the Raiders out of this game, jumping on them early and staying on the Raiders once you get them down.

The Raiders will come in today and look to establish the run game, as they average over 120 yard rushing per game and are a top 10 rushing team. Darren McFadden is expected to be back after battling turf toe and he joins Justin Fargas and Michael Bush to form a formidable trio. Key to this game for Miami, and it seems like the same old song, but make the Raiders one dimensional and put the game in JaMarcus Russell hands. Put simply, JaMarcus Russell still has a long way to go and right now is not a very good QB and does not have a lot of weapons in the passing game that scare you. The Raiders OL is good in regards to run blocking, but pathetic when it comes to pass blocking, which means Joey Porter should eat well today, and hopefully some of his mates will join him.

Miami is looking at a HUGE game next Sunday with New England coming into town. Don't take away from that game by overlooking this game and letting the Raiders sneak into town and leaving a win. This team beat Miami 35-17 last year and ran for 299 yards with Fargas being responsible for 179 of those yards. I don't believe these guys have forgotten that beating from last year.