

Despite Special Teams Meltdowns, Fins Sneak Past the Raiders 17-15

Contributed by Dave Blake
Sunday, 16 November 2008

Rather than have their rookie kicker kick a 52 yard field goal at 2 minutes remaining, Coach Sparano felt more comfortable going for it on 4th and 5.

Pennington makes the first down with a pass to Ted Ginn. The Dolphins take the ball down to the 21 yard line and has Dan Carpenter kick the game winning 38 yard field goal.

The Dolphins played excellent defense. In fact the only Raiders touchdown was a 94 yard punt return in the middle of the 4th quarter to give the Raiders the lead. Special Teams was terrible and seems to be getting worst and worst each game despite all the hard work the coaches are putting into that part of our game.

Offensively the Dolphins sputtered throughout the game. They lack consistency. In the first half you had the feeling that they were playing "not to lose". I really do not think we have to worry about this team running up the score, so, how about giving us fans a little more consistency.

It is a bit disappointing that the Dolphins continue to play just a little better than their opponents. When you are playing good teams that is fine, but when you barely beat teams such as the Seahawks and Raiders who are clearing hurting, it is a cause for concern. Still, we are 6-4 (6-2 in our last 8 games), so, you have to be thrilled about that.

Game Balls:

RB Patrick Cobbs made two excellent stops in the 4th quarter on Special Teams.

QB Chad Pennington only misfired on 6 of 22 passes. Actually, he did better than that as Bess dropped two catchable passes.

RB Ronnie Brown rushed for 101 yards on 16 carries. He did fumble in the red zone in the first half as the Fins were marching down for a TD.

WR Ted Ginn caught 4 passes for 51 yards and ran a 41 yard end around for a touchdown.

DE Vonnie Holliday had 1.5 sacks and clearly had one of his best games as a Dolphin.

CB Will Allen broke up a couple of passes and even had a sack (his first one as a Dolphin).

DT Jason Ferguson played superbly in the middle of the defense and was key in giving up on 57 rushing yards to the Raiders.

OLB Joey Porter had 1.5 sacks in the game with one of them on the Raiders last drive with no timeouts left.

Stinking Fish Award:

Miami's Kick Return and Punt Return Special Teams units. I have never seen a unit play so poorly in all of my years of watching football. They make our opponents average players look like Pro Bowl players.

WR Davone Bess dropped a couple of passes that should have been caught. He also made some poor decisions on special teams as a punt returner that pinned us deep near the goalline. One of these set up a Pennington sack which resulted in a safety for the Raiders.

RT Vernon Carey allowed the sack of Pennington that resulted in a safety for the Raiders

Rich will write his thoughts on today's game, so, be sure to come by tomorrow morning to read it. Enjoy our 6-4 record which leaves us tied with the Patriots for 2nd place.

Download the Free Phinfever Browser Toolbar

Support Phinfever by buying what you need from our advertisers. They pretty much pay the bills for us. Thanks!

Get the latest Miami Dolphins NFL lines at BetUS - America's online sports betting site for football betting and NFL odds and lines.

If you're looking for things to do in Miami FL, check CTC for Miami comedy shows and Miami football schedules. Also buy NFL tickets and college sports tickets, including Miami Dolphins football tickets and cheap Hurricanes football tickets.