

New England vs Miami/ It's about RESPECT

Contributed by Tony Simmons
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The Miami Dolphins will be participating in their biggest game in many years when the New England Patriots come to town Sunday for a 1:00 showdown. The game matches teams with identical 6-4 records with Miami riding a 4 game winning streak and the Patriots losing a tough game last Thursday to the New York Jets. Quite simply, win this game and the Dolphins are in good shape in regards to the playoffs. Lose, and the Phins fall in to a mass of teams battling for the playoffs.

Most of the so called experts are picking the Patriots, believing that Bill Belichick and the Patriots will not let Miami get off again with the "Wildcat Formation" and rip them for big yardage the way they did in the 1st game in New England, a 38-13 Miami win. Forget the fact there will be no Rodney Harrison, Adalius Thomas or possibly Ty Warren for this game. Belichick has not been swept by a division opponent since, who, Miami in his 1st year with the Patriots.

The media has fell in love with the Wildcat Formation so much that they ignore the fact that Miami is a pretty solid offensive team when they are not in the Wildcat, which is probably 85-95 percent of the time. They ignore the fact that Miami does have a solid defense that has been playing solid football for most of the year and features the NFL sack leader and possible Defensive Player of the Year, Joey Porter. The experts just see the improvement of Matt Cassel and believe that some how, some way the Patriots will pull out this game despite the fact that Ben-Jarvis Green is now the featured RB along with Kevin Faulk.

Point blank, these Patriots are a shell of the team that went 18-1, 16-0 during the regular season before losing in the Super Bowl to the New York Giants. Yes, they are well coached, play hard and have guys on that team that has been battle tested to say the least. Matt Cassel is playing much better and he has mobility that can be a problem and Randy Moss and Wes Welker makes a dynamic duo at WR. Still, this Miami team has been battling for respect since they started having success. You want respect, beat this Patriot team that once again is a shell of the team from 2007. Take your RESPECT.