

## Where is Miami emotionally?/Miami vs St. Louis

Contributed by Tony Simmons  
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Before I get to the game this Sunday I would like to comment on the New England game last Sunday. The Dolphins put it on the line last week emotionally and physically in that game last week and for 3 plus quarters battle New England on even terms. In the end the talent difference between the two teams caught up with Miami and the Patriots got out of Miami with a big win for them and a lot of bitterness from the Phins. Towards the end of that game emotions boiled over as Channing Crowder and Matt Light came to blows and Joey Porter was flagged twice for unsportsmanlike conduct.

Coming off such an emotional game the question I posed in the header and my concern is where is this team from an emotional standpoint?

Miami has already shown a tendency to play down to the level of competition, see Oakland and Seattle a few weeks ago and now they go on the road to take on a 2-8 St. Louis Rams team that may have Stephen Jackson back today.

We will once again learn a lot about our Dolphins in this game today from a maturity standpoint and leadership standpoint. Will Joey Porter, Jason Ferguson, Chad Pennington and the other veterans on this team get this team right from a mental standpoint or will they go into this game flat? If they come out flat they will find themselves in a battle with a team that has little to play for. If they can put that game behind them and jump on St. Louis early like the Bears did last week they can win this game and get out still in the middle of the playoff picture.

Miami still has a lot to play for and much much more than any of us could have ever thought when the season began. The playoffs are still very much in reach. It begins with this game today against St. Louis.