

Cautious Optimism

Contributed by Christopher Williams
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This past Sunday was witness to a spanking the likes of which haven't been seen from a Miami Dolphins team since 2006 when we clobbered the bears 31-13 at their house. That game, like Sunday's, featured Ronnie Brown as the star, with the rest of the team playing hard and tough in order to get the job done.

Hopefully, however, we'll see something different than what occurred in 2006; hopefully we can use this win as a spring board to building a better team as opposed to simply playing a lone good game only to sink back into a sea of mediocrity in the following weeks. In short, hopefully Sunday's blowout of the Patriots is the proverbial corner for this franchise, steering away from being a bad team on to a road that leads to us being a good team.

But we must look at this win with some caution.

Some have put on their favorite homer hat after having hidden it in the closet for the season, predicting that we've shown that we can go 8-8 or better, and that, I think, is a mistake. The Miami Dolphins showed but one thing this past week; that the "any given Sunday" rule is in effect, and nothing more.

Yes, they looked much improved, but it's hard to believe that we improved from the 31-10 whipping dog of the Cardinals, to a league powerhouse capable of the playoffs in just 1 week (which is what a 38-13 beating of the Patriots, the defending AFC champs, implies). So I say enjoy this win (I know that I have), but we must look at this development in our Miami Dolphins with cautious optimism. Too often we've been fooled in the past few seasons (lest I remind you of our miraculous 6 game win streak at the end of 05, or, again, our whipping of the Bears the year they appeared in the Super Bowl, or the 21-0 shutout of the Patriots at the end of the 06 season), believing that our team was finally out of the gutter of the league, only to be let down yet again. We should feel optimistic, but we must look at fair Optimism through a lens skepticism until our beloved Dolphins have shown that we can put together a string of good games ending in wins, and not just a fluke.

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