Just how good are we?

Contributed by JP Correia
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The Dolphins have just beaten the defending AFC Champion New England Patriots, and their opponent in that AFC Championship game, in San Diego. In both of these games, Miami has out-muscled, out-hustled, and out-classed 2 very talented football teams. In two games where Miami was supposed to be man-handled, they were the ones who did the man-handling, both in the trenches, and on the box score. But just how good are we? The Patriots were Brady-less, and we did come off a bye to play a banged up Charger team.

In the last two games, Miami has put up a combined 851 yards, compared to 417 allowed. Pennington by himself put up 37 more yards than that 417 mark, and Ronnie Brown had 3 times the TDs than the entire Charger and Patriot teams combined. The Dolphins have out-scored last year's AFC's bests 55-23, (that's a 22 point margin, for those of you who weren't that good in math;-)). Joey Porter by himself has 4.5 more sacks than the Dolphin offensive line allowed.

Ok, so you get it. The Dolphins have been dominant. They have not only been dominant, but they have been fun to watch, turning the wildcat into the buzz of the NFL. Their running game is fantastic, and is what we expected coming into the season, maybe better, the passing game has been efficient, thanks to the most accurate throws we have seen out of a Dolphin QB since Marino himself; the defense has improved tremendously, and is a very good unit, stuffing the run, putting pressure on the QB, and not allowing many big plays.

Special teams is an area in which we definitely have room for improvement. Sproles is one of the better returners in the game, and we did hold him to a 23.7 yard kick return average, which is not great, but it is not bad either. However, for the most part, our coverage units have been sketchy at times, and have allowed a couple of big returns, luckily none for 6.

Whatever happened to Ginn returning the football since his days at OSU, and even since last year, is beyond me, and is concerning me. While Bess is a fine return man, especially on punts, he just does not seem to have the speed to bust through a crease and take it to the house. Ginn is such a threat, and he reminds me a little of Eli Manning in his first couple of years. I always thought that Eli was trying to hard to do everything mechanically right, and not make a mistake, rather than just play football. That is I think what is happening to Ted Ginn. He is trying to not make a mistake, instead of letting his natural talent and instinct take over, and just play football. He was drafted to be an electrifying returner, a game changer, for his big play ability, but all we are getting is a timid returner, and a WR who is afraid of contact.It is ironic that the area in which the most money and attention went this off-season, is the area which is generating the most concern. Still, the Dolphins are a good football team fellow DolFans, playing good defense, moving the chains efficiently, and playing with confidence. We are here to play, and are here to make a playoff push. If we continue to play well, come out with a good gameplan and execute it, get good play calling from Dan Henning, and get some luck flying our way, we have a chance to make some noise this season. But let's not look too far ahead, we've still got Houston next Sunday, a team in which, I believe, is ready for an offensive explosion.

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