

Battle of 2-3 teams trying to remain in the playoff hunt

Contributed by Tony Simmons
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Today at 1:00 the Dolphins will battle the Baltimore Ravens in a game of 2-3 teams to see who can stay in the playoff race and in Miami's case, stay in the division race as well. Buffalo leads the division at 4-1 followed by New England at 3-2 and the Jets at 3-2, then Miami at 2-3.

Miami faces a Baltimore team that is struggling, losing 3 in a row after starting the season winning there first 2 ball games of the season, a team that lost there most recent game to Indy 31-0. As usual the Ravens bring the top ranked defense in the NFL into the game and a struggling offense lead by rookie QB Joe Flacco.

This should be a defensive battle with the key to the game being turnovers. Miami has been solid in regards to turnovers and the face a young QB that has struggled with turnovers and if Miami wins the turnover battle again they will have a very good chance of winning this game. Baltimore will attempt to get the running game going with Willis MaGahee to keep the pressure off of Flacco and let there defense win the game, a formula that has worked for them twice this year.

Offensively, Miami needs to be balanced and keep Baltimore off balance, and while I don't believe Miami will score points like they did against Houston, 10-17 points should win this game. Stop Baltimore's run game and make them one dimensional and put pressure on Flacco and things will look good for the Dolphins. Plus, the Dolphins need to create pressure with more than just Joey Porter as his mates on the defensive front need to step up in this game.

Finally, the Ravens do not have that big, fast, physical WR that has given Miami secondary fits all year long. This is a game Miami can and should win.