

Jets 23, Dolphins 20 - The Good, The Bad and The Ugly

Contributed by Rich Rodriguez
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The Good

The run defense once again had a dominant performance, holding the Jets to 88 yards rushing and a 2.7 yard per carry average. And it isn't as if the Jets didn't try to run, with 33 attempts on the ground.

The running game also dominated, gaining 185 yards on the ground at a 4.3 yards per carry clip. All three running backs played well, with Bush gaining 61 yards and Lamar Miller chipping in with 48 yards. Unfortunately, Bush went down with a knee injury.

Davone Bess was the only receiver that put up a productive game, gaining 86 yards on 5 catches.

Chris Clemons had a nice game at the safety position, with 6 tackles and a big interception in the red zone.

The Bad

Dan Carpenter missing some critical field goals really were the difference in the game. You can talk about the pick 6 or failing to stop some deep passes, but both teams are going to make plays throughout a game. But when it comes to being paid a couple million dollars to kick a ball once in a while and you miss with a chance to end the game? Yeah, that's the big difference in the game.

There were times when the playcalling left a bit to be desired. For example, the Dolphins went away from the run at one point despite having success all game long.

The Ugly

You'll notice that I left Daniel Thomas's name out of "The Good" section. While Daniel Thomas led the team in rushing and had a rushing touchdown, he continues to have issues fumbling the ball and isn't as consistent at running the ball as Bush and Miller. While Bush and Miller are averaging north of 5 yards per carry, Daniel Thomas averaged 3.6 yards per carry against the Jets and is averaging less than 4 yards per carry for the season, and did so last season as well.

Ryan Tannehill had an ugly game, which is to be expected from a rookie. One of the most critical mistakes he made was a pick 6 to Laron Landry. There were also the typical overthrows from a rookie. However, Tannehill did his part in getting his team in a position to win late in the game.

Richard Marshall had an interception that set up a touchdown and he showed glimpses in coverage in which he was making me forget about Vontae Davis, and then got absolutely abused in the 2nd half by Santonio Holmes. If not for the pick, he goes to "The Bad".

The pass rush brought pressure in the first half, but only one sack. In the second half, the pass rush seemed to disappear and Mark Sanchez started hitting his receivers down the field more often.

Overall

A heart-breaking loss for the Dolphins, very reminiscent of previous games against the Jets. An ugly, close game that could have gone either way. The Dolphins dominated early and faded late, but also did enough to win. The goat will be Dan Carpenter, but as always, this was a team loss.

The good news is that the Dolphins have been a competitive team all season, minus the 2nd quarter of the Houston game. The bad news is that they are 1-2 and are 0-1 in the division when they could just as easily be 2-1 and 1-0 with one more play or one less mistake.

Be prepared to see this be the case all season long.

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