

Rams 14, Dolphins 17 - The Good, The Bad and The Ugly

Contributed by Rich Rodriguez
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The Good

Ryan Tannehill - 21 completions on 29 pass attempts, 185 yards, 2 touchdowns and a QB rating of 112. This is the clean, efficient game you want your rookie quarterback to play.

Olivier Vernon - 2 sacks in his coming out party. One of those sacks was after he got his ankle rolled up on. Good to see Vernon finally making big plays.

Cameron Wake - Wake is on a tear the past few games, adding another sack to his total.

The Bad

The Dolphins defense gave up 462 yards, including 162 yards on the ground after giving up about 61 yards per game on the ground through the first five games. Early on, the Dolphins defensive front was getting pushed around by the Rams offensive line and throughout the game the defensive backs couldn't seem to cover a mediocre group of receivers. The Dolphins allowed 6 yards per carry.

Brian Hartline was held without a catch. I'm sure he won't be leading the league in receiving yards after today.

The Dolphins running game has left the building. Reggie Bush had 17 rushing yards on 12 carries and the Dolphins had 19 total rushing yards against a team that had been allowing 117 yards per game on the ground. Lamar Miller barely got in the game, which is curious considering Reggie Bush is obviously not himself right now with a knee and hip injury. The bye week couldn't come soon enough to remedy the problems with a ground game that was explosive just weeks ago, but can't get the job done now.

Blame also goes to the offensive line, who isn't opening the same holes it was early in the season and at times is not protecting Tannehill as well as is needed.

Sean Smith - After having good games against Larry Fitzgerald and A.J. Green, Sean Smith seemed to have a more difficult time with the Rams pedestrian receivers. Maybe it is a case of taking lesser players for granted, but he definitely did not have the same caliber game against the Rams as he did against the Cardinals and Bengals.

The Ugly

This win was as ugly as it gets. Winning 17-14 despite being outgained by 270 yards and getting 10 less first downs, 20 less plays and almost 7 minutes less in time of possession is the definition of winning ugly.

Overall

The Dolphins are now 3-3 and are winning the close games they were losing early in the year. This is the identity of the team, play tough, stay in the game, keep in close. This will probably be the way it is all year.

The bye week is next and it couldn't come at a better time. It will give Reggie Bush the time to heal and hopefully get his burst back. After that, an opportunity to get revenge on the Jets.

Oh yeah, don't look now... but the Dolphins are tied for first in the AFC East....