



How early is too early to give up on a season?

July?

That's when the news broke that Jimmy Haslam would be buying the team. That's when Mike Holmgren got the rude notice that his time was short. That's when Pat Shurmur was put on Win-Now-Or-Die watch. That's when Tom Heckert had to start explaining his decisions.

With a team so rife with rookies and 2nd year players, there was almost no way that this team had a chance of Winning Now. Growing pains would keep the franchise up nights, but IF it all worked out, MAYBE the team would be ready to compete in 2013.

But after Haslam bought the team, it was clear that that 2013 would be witness to another Reboot.

Not that a Reboot is necessarily bad. Like I've said many times, you don't change for change's sake, but nor do you stay pat for the sake of continuity. If you're driving down a road that leads straight off a cliff, continuity isn't your friend.

Regardless if you want it or not, after this start (which was hardly unforeseen), the Reboot is coming. And it's coming hard.

Which means at least 2 of the Big 3 (Holmgren and Shurmur) are dead men walking, and the third (Heckert) had better do a helluva sell job on Joe Banner when he walks through the Berea doors in mid-October.

Any team with a dead coach walking and a destiny with a new talent evaluation that will likely trim 1/4 to 1/3 of the existing roster is a team that can accomplish very little in the present. They're running a system that will likely be gone. They're memorizing a playbook that almost assuredly will be trash. They're learning the theories and fundamentals of the pro game from gents that will be far from the state of Ohio this time next year. It's like trying to master the Atlantis language 3 months before it sinks.

Can individual players progress and make this season worthwhile in that vein? Of course. I hope some do. But as a team, this season means almost nothing at this point.

It's just a period of house arrest that must be endured to get to the next step.

Stats

Time of Possession: BUF - 32:56, CLE - 27:04

Total Yards: BUF - 344, CLE - 240

Net Yards Passing: BUF - 138, CLE - 33

Net Yards Rushing: CLE - 207, BUF - 206

First Downs: BUF - 19, CLE - 17

Turnovers Forced: BUF – 2, CLE - 1

Sacks: BUF - 4, CLE - 0

Final Score: □ Buffalo 24, Cleveland 17

Until they reach some kind of Offensive consistency (which may not come until the second half of the season), this team will not be good enough to stay in games unless the Defense gets sacks and forces turnovers. They did not do that this week. The lone turnover was a ball that slipped out of Fitzpatrick's hand – hardly a "forced" turnover.

240 total yards... 33 yards rushing... if you're going to lose, at least try to be interesting.

