



Ah, relief.

It's like being chased up a mountain by a polar bear while carrying Cee Lo after having just been stung by a scorpion - the road is hard and hard to bear, but you keep going, you must - must - keep going, because the alternative is unthinkable.

Then, when you finally stumble and fall, dropping Cee Lo on your ankle and shattering it, you sigh with contentment because finally the long hellish road is over. As the polar bear's jaws crush your skull, your last thought is: *It was all worth it.*

The game started as so many Browns games do - with an embarrassing long TD play by the opponent. After a promising Cleveland drive ended with a batted-ball interception, tackling was sparse on a 55 yard TD pass to Jermaine Gresham which was mostly YAC. So starting the 2nd Quarter at their own 29 with a 3rd and 8, things weren't looking so good.

Then ba-zing! The O Line gave Brandon Weeden plenty of time and he heaved a ball deep to a wide open Josh Gordon for a 71 yard TD - the 2nd Weeden-to-Gordon bomb of the week in as many weeks (3 TD's for that combo altogether).

Which naturally sparked an offensive explosion of 7 consecutive 3 and outs.

But kudos to the Browns Defense, as the Bengals were unable to take advantage of the Offensive nap. They scored a TD on a 27 yard drive right before Half following a long punt return (Cleveland has trouble stopping Cincy on punts), but had 6 punts and a pick during the same span.

A great punt return of their own (60 yards by Josh Cribbs) allowed the Browns to close to 14-10 midway through the 3rd, and then a Joe Haden INT on the following drive (courtesy Buster Skrine's D) enabled them to close to 14-13.

During that drive, Trent Richardson, who was only marginally effective, whiffed on a block and got Weeden nailed. Weeden's ankle was hurt, and it was revealed that Richardson was also playing hurt with a rib injury. Montario Hardesty was tapped to take over at RB, and Colt McCoy started warming up.

Perhaps the thought of being replaced at QB on his birthday (Weeden turned 29 Sunday) was the kick in the pants that he needed, and he opened up a can of whoopass on the Bengals from that point forward. He was pinpoint (and Hardesty was inexplicably effective) as the Browns marched 66 yard to close out the 3rd Q, finished by a leaping TD by Mr. Montario - his first NFL TD.

That gave the Browns a 20-14 lead, and that's when they - and the entire stadium - finally started to truly believe they could actually finish this one off.

The Bengals did get a FG on their next drive, but another long Cleveland drive ended with a ridiculously easy 3 yard TD pass to Ben Watson (a shockingly good play call from the Shurminator) and a 27-17 lead.

Then Andy Dalton immediately threw a Pick 6 to Sheldon Brown and with a 34-17 lead with

about 7 1/2 left, the game was over.

Which of course it wasn't. If they were up 38 points with 23 seconds left, I would still be convinced they would find a way to lose. And after giving up a 57 yard TD heave to AJ Green on 3rd and 17 with 5 1/2 left, it was "*Here We Go Again*" time.

True to form, the Browns went 3 and out on a drive that was originally supposed to kill time then made a weak effort to get a 1st - predictable by-the-book play calling. So Cincy got the ball back down 10 with about 4 left and marched right down the field taking the underneath stuff that Cleveland was giving them in their Prevent. They got to the CLE 9 with 2:39 left when Emmanuel Stephens broke free from Dalton's blind side and climbed on his back, hacking the ball loose at the same time. Billy Winn scooped it up and thundered back into Bengal territory, and then THAT was it.

But the best moment of the day wasn't the scoring or the final score or getting off the schvide - it was the sight of the Browns players and the Browns fans finally enjoying each other again.

Been too long.

Stats

Time of Possession: CIN - 30:03, CLE - 29:57

Total Yards: CIN - 438, CLE - 328

Net Yards Passing: CIN - 362, CLE - 218

Net Yards Rushing: CLE - 110, CIN - 76

First Downs: CIN - 20, CLE - 16

Turnovers Forced: CLE – 4, CIN - 1

Sacks: CLE - 2, CIN - 2

Final Score: Cleveland 34, Cincinnati 24

Stats be lyin' this week. Cincy outgained Cleveland by over 100? Yeah, and a ton of that came after the Browns went up by 17 and settled into a soft time-killing zone.

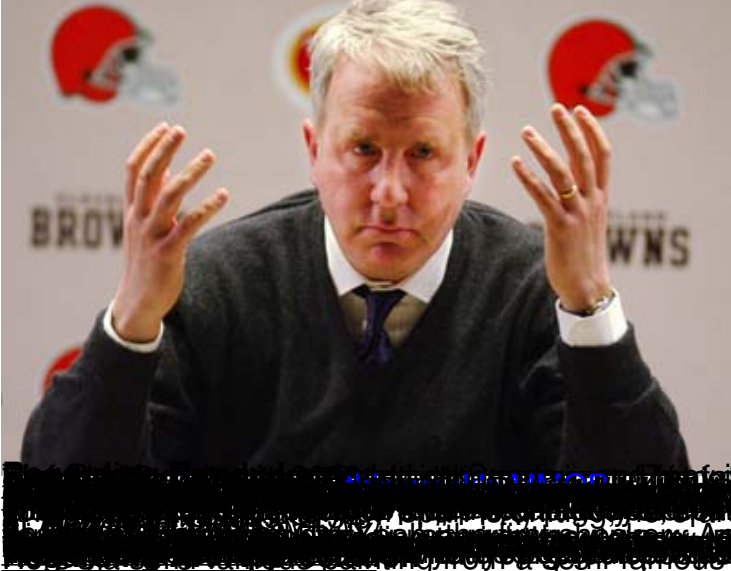
10 INT's thus far this year is good for 3rd in the NFL. Yardage-wise, this D is not good, but with sacks and turnovers, they're right up there.

Game Balls

Josh Gordon – I keep hearing whining about the 2nd round pick given up to take him, so let's assume the Browns get a Top 5 pick and would have been choosing around #37 overall. WR's picked around that spot in this year's draft? AJ Jenkins (SF), Brian Quick (STL), Stephen Hill (NYJ), Alshon Jeffery (CHI), Ryan Broyles (DET). Which one of those is markedly better than Gordon so far? And Gordon missed the 2011 season, so **he's still raw**. Works for me.



redundant.



redundant.



A friend of mine told me that if you've likely seen this picture a zillion times from the intro to Ch



the only person who can do this is a person who has a very good understanding of the human mind and the way it works. This is a very difficult task and one that requires a great deal of skill and experience. The only person who can do this is a person who has a very good understanding of the human mind and the way it works. This is a very difficult task and one that requires a great deal of skill and experience.

