



It was another road game, another mind-numbing, gut-wrenching, wide receiver-dropping a critical ball loss for the Browns. This one came in front of a brand new owner who looked none too happy with the missed opportunities and none too happy with another head-scratching decision from Pat Shurmur. Plenty of Browns, some Tribe and a little bit on the Buckeyes in this week's Weekend Wrap.

Apropos of Everything and Nothing

The final play of the Browns loss to the Colts was the perfect summation of the game and, ironically enough, the team:

(Shotgun) B.Weeden pass short left to J.Cribbs to CLV 28 for 8 yards. Lateral to G.Little to CLV 36 for 8 yards. Lateral to J.Cooper to CLV 40 for 4 yards. Lateral to G.Little to CLV 38 for -2 yards. Lateral to J.Gordon to CLV 46 for 8 yards. Lateral to B.Weeden to CLV 37 for -9 yards. FUMBLES, touched at CLV 37, recovered by CLV-J.Cribbs at CLV 40. J.Cribbs pushed ob at CLV 42 for 2 yards (J.Lefeged).

That was a whole lot of running around chaotically for a whole lot of nothing. The only thing missing was Reggie Hodges, Greg Little or Josh Gordon dropping a lateral and Sheldon Brown missing a tackle while Shurmur wore a puzzled look on the sideline (which I'm sure he was but he wasn't shown).

I guess the most enjoyable part of that 17-13 loss was watching Jimmy Haslam in the owner's box. The guy lived and died on every play we lived and died with and he expressed the exact

same emotions as I did when Old Blood & Guts Shurmur elected to punt on 4th and 1 from the Indy 40-yard line rather than going for it. Hell, I'd have been fine with lining up LIKE you were going to go for it and trying to draw Indy offside for the first down.

But that never works anyway, right Billy Wynn?

Maybe Shurmur was considering that another 20-yard punt from Hodges after a delay penalty would have given the Colts the ball at the 25-yard line instead of the 20-yard line if the Colts don't jump? Hard to say. There is such a cavalcade of idiocy emanating from nearly everywhere on the Browns roster and sideline that it's hard to keep it all straight.

For the sake of sanity and clarity I do think we can agree that these plays were kind of important:

1. Hodges dropped a perfect snap on the PAT following the Browns first touchdown and mutilated the momentum the drive should have given the team
2. Hodges was (and has been) brutal) this entire year doing his main job.
3. Shurmur continues to treat the 2-point conversion like it's a pork dish at a Muslim wedding reception.
4. Shurmur should probably know his defense and the game situation dictated that going for it on 4th and 1 from the Indy 40-yard line with six minutes left was not only the ballsy thing to do, but it was probably the textbook choice to make.
5. Jimmy Haslam facially expressed Shurmur's firing immediately after the punt team took the field and may have thrown his arm out of its socket expressing himself when Gordon dropped a beautiful throw from Weeden on the play that preceded the Shurmur punt decision.

I know this loss is a blow to those who had hoped the Browns might battle their way into playoff contention, but trust me, it's really probably a blessing in disguise. A

On the day Weeden was 25/41 for 264 yards and two touchdowns. He also didn't toss the football once to the Colts and he actually rushed once for 13 yards and a first down. He was solid. He was good. He was equal to or better than Andrew Luck on the day and he continues to

look more comfortable. It's not his fault his receivers apparently wear clown shoes on their hands at various times during a game. win there would have deodorized the Shurmur stink, the Hodges smell and the Owen Marecic stench. Instead Browns fans still got to see Brandon Weeden stand tall and make more good throws and decisions than bad ones, they got to see the potential of Gordon continue to bubble to the surface and they got to see it all while the skids for this overwhelmed coach were further greased and another Top 5 draft pick was all but sewn up.

On the other hand, Trent Richardson was a non-factor due to his rib injury. The rookie RB had only eight carries for eight yards and two receptions for 11 yards before he left the game and didn't return. The Browns might just want to consider the long term health of Richardson and let him recover for three weeks and return after their bye.

Of course, what's right and what gets done are two different things with this team.

Some Quick Hits on Browns vs. Colts

~ I got a kick out of Colts interim Head Coach trying to out-Shurmur Pat Shurmur as the first half wound down. Instead of calling a timeout with 26 seconds left in the half to make ham-handed Reggie Hodges punt the ball and maybe return one for a chance to score, Arians called timeout with just one second left. So not only did that eliminate Hodges from the equation (no small consideration) but it also ensured only the Browns would have a chance for a Hail Mary to end the half. Shurmur was still willing to just kneel out the half until Arians' defense took the field with 12 men on the field and gave the Browns another five yards. Weeden didn't connect on the play but Arians' moronic decisions there shouldn't be ignored.

~ Why do commentators and analysts insist on telling viewers how good the Browns defense was last year when comparing it to this year's defense? That's not the case in any way other than raw numbers and stats simply lie in this case. The Browns were statistically a good overall defense last season only because they couldn't stop the run at all, teams gashed them on the ground for huge leads without having to throw, and then those teams basically ran out the clock for the last quarter and a half. That was not a good defense last season. The Browns haven't had an impactful defense since...since...since a long time ago.



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