



Many years ago there was an episode of *The Simpsons* - a "*Treehouse of Horrors*" episode - where Bart possessed mind powers to do anything he wanted. And if you had an issue with that - BAM! - he turned you into a dog or a jack-in-the-box. For fun, he turned the cat into some kind of strange fire-breathing creature, and when it caused its inevitable havoc, the family was forced to act happy about it.

Marge: *Oh good! □ The curtains are on fire!*

Homer: *It's good you made that awful thing, Bart!*

This sums up the life of a Browns fan.

Act happy about the awful things that occur since you are powerless to do otherwise.

Did I mention that Joe Banner is in Arizona to interview Chip Kelly?

There is really no reason to wring hands about the Browns' coaching search - all the candidates have flaws so no matter who they choose it'll be a little while before the move can be truly

judged. I personally feel that a guy like Kelly would be a disasterous choice and (if you have to go the college route) would rather have a guy with some NFL experience like a David Shaw or a Bill O'Brien or even break the bank for a Nick Saban, but, hey, I've got no dog in this fight. Whomever it is, I'll just say "*Oh good! □ The curtains are on fire!*" and go on with my day.

The new Coach will inherit a team that ended up with a final ranking of #23 (24th in points scored, 19th in points allowed, -66 in point differential), ahead of only Buffalo, Detroit, the Jets, Arizona, Tennessee, Oakland, Philly, Kansas City, and Jacksonville.

What's the common denominator there? Yep. None of them have a QB worth a damn (and, yes, I mean Matt Stafford too).

Cleveland teeters uncomfortably between Teams That Have Crap At QB and Teams That Have A Mediocre QB, teams such as the Rams, Dolphins, Cowboys, Bucs, and Chargers.

Then comes the top 16 or 17 teams in the league, and only a few of those have question marks at QB: Minnesota, Cincy, Houston, and maybe Baltimore are the only ones I can see.

So the correlation between NFL success/ranking is directly proportional to the quality of QB. Who'd a thunk it?

Anyhoo, the final rankings for 2012 look like this:

Team	Wins	Losses	Ties
Denver	13	3	0

New England	12	4	0
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Atlanta	13	3	0
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Seattle	11	5	0
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San Francisco	11	4	1
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Houston	12	4	0
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Green Bay	11	5	0
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Chicago	10	6	0
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Cincinnati	10	6	0
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N.Y. Giants	9	7	0
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Baltimore	10	6	0
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Washington	10	6	0
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Minnesota	10	6	0
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Pittsburgh	8	8	0
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Indianapolis	11	5	0
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New Orleans	7	9	0
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St. Louis	7	8	1
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Cleveland	5	11	0
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Buffalo	6	10	0
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Detroit	4	12	0
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N.Y. Jets	6	10	0
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Arizona	5	11	0
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Tennessee	6	10	0
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Oakland	4	12	0
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Philadelphia	4	12	0
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Kansas City	2	14	0
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Jacksonville

2

14

0

Key: WP = Winning Percentage, Avg_PF = Average Points Scored per game, Avg_PA = Average Points Allowed per game, Diff = Points Scored minus Points Allowed (season), Rank_PF = NFL Rank in Points Scored, Rank_PA = NFL Rank in Points Allowed