

## Takeaways From The Browns 23-10 Week 1 Defeat To The Miami Dolphins

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The Browns struggled mightily in their [17-16](#) Week 1 loss to the Eagles...no, wait, that was last season. Let me try again. The Browns blew their opening day game to the Cincinnati Bengals by a score of [27-17](#) after a miscommunication left star receiver A.J. Green wide open...nope, that's not it either, that was two seasons ago. I got it now. The Browns got a nice defensive performance, but the offense led by Jake Delhomme struggled on their way to a [1](#)  
[7-14](#) defeat to the Bucca...crap, that's not it either.

Unfortunately, the Browns [23-10 Week 1 loss](#) to the Miami Dolphins looked the same as any other Browns Week 1 debacle since the team returned in 1999. The roster and coaching staff may be different, but it's the same old story on the lakefront. Here are the takeaways from the game.

### Offense

All eyes were on Brandon Weeden heading into the game against the Dolphins, and his performance was as underwhelming as fans feared it might be. I'm not the first one to point this out, but the scary thing about Weeden's performance as it relates to his development is that there was no discernable difference in his play from last year to this year. Weeden displayed the same scattershot accuracy and slow decision-making that plagued him last season. The play that most exemplifies Weeden's lack of progression was the [third interception](#) he threw on the pass to Jordan Cameron. On a pass that required touch and accuracy, it looked like Weeden was trying to impress a pretty girl in the stands by showing off how hard he can throw the football (Weeden did the same thing on the interception off the hands of Greg Little).

[Remind you of anyone](#)

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At the same time, Weeden got precious little help from the rest of the offense. As poor as some of Weeden's throws were, the dropped passes are tough to overcome, especially when the tips lead to interceptions. Outside of the passing game, the hope going into the opener was that we would see a refreshed Trent Richardson become the focal point of the offense. Richardson did look good early, going for 26 yards on four carries before Weeden's first interception. But after that first drive, Richardson was seldom used, and he was ineffective when he did get carries.

However, it's tough to pin the blame on Richardson for a slow day when he was running behind the mess that is the Browns' offensive line. Oneil Cousins was a disaster at right guard, and Mitchell Schwartz wasn't much better at right tackle. It makes sense that Norv Turner abandoned the run because there was absolutely no push from the interior of the line. There's no point in continually running Richardson if the opposing defense is getting penetration up the middle and the tackles and tight ends are unable to seal the edge. Hopefully at some point this season we'll get to see Richardson run behind an offensive line that can create a few running lanes.

### Defense

The lone bright spot from the game was the performance of the front seven. That group effectively shut down the Miami run game and, for three quarters at least, kept constant pressure on Ryan Tannehill. Ray Horton [talked during the preseason](#) about being able to line up in multiple fronts, not just a base 3-4 alignment. Horton backed up that sentiment Sunday as the Browns displayed all sorts of different looks, such as having only two down linemen or lining up Jabaal Sheard over the outside shoulder of the offensive tackle, ostensibly making him a defensive end in a two-point stance. The different alignments paid off early on, as Miami wasn't always sure which linebackers were blitzing and which were dropping into coverage. Even without Ahtyba Rubin and Barkevious Mingo, the Browns showed they have a lot of guys who can rush the quarterback and plug up running lanes, and this unit should only get better as the year goes on.

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