

Hiko



A View From The Cheap Seats **Week 2 - Cleveland vs. Pittsburgh**

I can't even muster up the energy to feel righteous indignation.

I saw it coming because I've seen it before. Over and over again. Like a terrible episode of *Full House* (what other kind are there?) that I'm doomed to watch repeatedly until I eventually - and mercifully - die.

You can only remain furious for so long before you get numb. Since 1999, hell, since 1990, I've known a helluva lot of fury. Just when a corner seems to be turned and the team is finally heading back to the upper echelons of the NFL world, they get scared and run back around the corner again.

When it happens enough times, you start to not trust hope, not to trust that a corner has actually been turned. You get gun shy.

Eventually, apathy sets in. You watch the game because of a sense of duty, because somewhere, deep down, you still have a modicum of hope. You hate to think that you wasted all those years faithfully living and dying with this team just to throw it all away, then have the team go on to glory without you.

But you know what's going to happen before it does. You know it, and then you have to sit and watch as your low expectations are met. Again.

Most people, myself included, seem to feel there's enough talent on the Cleveland Browns to be a better team than what they are. The depth is shaky, and the injuries have taken a toll, but everyone has injuries, and everyone is shallow in one position or another. That's life in the big city.

There's no reason the Browns should've gotten a beatdown versus the Cowboys. There's no reason they should've killed themselves against the Steelers.

They're not prepared. Their game plans are unimaginative. They don't make adjustments. They make stupid mistakes. They commit costly penalties. They mismanage the clock. They mismanage the personnel. They make poor decisions.

Who's to blame? It has to be the coaches, right? The GM is responsible for the talent, which may or may not be adequate, but it's difficult to tell when the team itself is being bungled so massively by the coaching staff.

So what's keeping me off the *Fire Romeo* bandwagon?

Is it the fact that his firing will only come as a result of a terrible season, and I don't really want to face that prospect at this juncture? Is it the fact that there are 14 games left, and, even before the season, I felt that this team would emulate the Indians - getting themselves out of the playoff hunt early, then coming on strong at the end? Is it the fact that, despite the plethora of mistakes, the Browns were every bit as good as Pittsburgh on Sunday night?

I'm not ready to give up just yet.

No, I'm not talking about the season. I gave that up before it even started. I'm talking about this group - this corps. I want to believe that it's only one draft and one year of experience away from being a contender. I want to believe that this year of lumps will be the impetus of a great leap ahead. I want to believe that this is the step back before we take the two steps

forward.

If we're bringing in a new coach in 2009, then it's probably back to the drawing board - another "3 Year Plan". Who knows if he keeps the 3-4? One could argue that it should be scrapped anyway, but we have 3-4 personnel now, and switching back to a base 4-3 means another massive player overhaul. Regardless, the first year will probably be a throw away. One hopes that by Year 2 or Year 3, the team has the right guy in place and is destined for a Patriots-esque stay at or near the top. But there are no guarantees. It could easily mean just another 3 years of frustration until the eventual "Fire John Doe" chants come out.

Over and over again - a vicious cycle without end. I don't want rebuild again right now. It's like the Browns house stands on railroad tracks. Just when you think you've got it repaired, along comes another train.

So, despite my serious qualms about Romeo's abilities and preparation, I'm still hoping he gets his shit together and evolves and blooms. I can't say I have a ton of hope, but what I do have left, I have to invest in this. I have to stay off the bandwagon for the time being. It's for my own sanity.

If they lose to Baltimore, remaining off will not be easy. Not easy at all.

Pregame

Ohio State played USC on Saturday night. Cleveland played Pittsburgh on Sunday night. How could this Ohio boy not be excited?

Because watching my two favorite teams get "rear-ended" wasn't that appealing to me. I had little to no hope for a victory from either of them, and no real reason to watch other than masochism.

But watch I must.

I expected the OSU game to be ugly - not THAT ugly, but ugly. What happened to them was not pretty. The game belonged on an episode of *Faces of Death*. I've seen rabbits get sucked into wood chippers that came out looking better.

For some reason, the idea of facing the second half of an evil butt-whoopin' doubleheader wasn't that appealing to me. So it was with much trepidation and anxiety that I approached the beginning of the Steelers-Browns contest.

Come here beer, my dear.

First Quarter

The Browns got the ball first, and predictably ran the ball up the gut on 1st Down for no gain. That led to 3rd and Long, and

Cleveland got to punt after a quick 3 and Out.

The Steelers did manage to get a 1st Down, but it was evident that the Browns intended on bringing a lot more pressure than they did against Dallas, and Corey Williams, Nick Sorensen, and D'Qwell Jackson all met at Ben Roethlisberger for a sweet sack on 3rd and 2.

Derek Anderson totally underthrew Braylon Edwards on 1st, but hit him on 3rd and 7. Unfortunately, Braylon doesn't like balls thrown right to him, so he dropped it in protest. For some reason, the crowd was displeased with him.

Brandon McDonald almost picked a pass from Roethlisberger on 2nd Down, and Ugly threw it to no one in particular on 3rd

, and it seemed that the Browns D had come to

play.

The Browns had bad field position at their own 8, so they went unsurprisingly conservative, running Jamal Lewis for 2 short gains. Then DA went and threw another terrible pass, missing an open Winslow in the middle. Certainly, the weather had to be taken into account for Derek's poor passes. But, for some reason, Ugly was on target most of the night. Maybe the wind only blew when Anderson was passing.

Dave Zastudil kept the Browns in the field position game early since the Browns O had nothing but three 3 and Outs to show for

their efforts. His punts were long, impressive, especially into the wind.

On the 3rd play of the Steelers' next possession, Ugly had all day and threw a perfect deep pass to Willie Parker at the 1. But Brodney Pool knifed in and knocked the daylights out of him - and the ball out of his hand. Hines Ward inexplicably dropped the 3rd Down pass, and the Browns were clinging desperately to life.

Cleveland looked poised to shoot itself in the foot again after a Rex Hadn't (Hadnot is so formal) False Start, but Braylon actually caught a slant pass, and the Browns picked up their initial 1st Down.

The drive seemed like it was about to become pertinent, but Syndric Steptoe picked up an Offensive Pass Interference, and they ran a stupid useless quick screen to Josh Cribbs on 3rd and 18 (dropped), and it was over as soon as it begun.

End of 1st: □ Browns 0, Steelers 0.

Second Quarter

Pittsburgh gave the Browns a heavy dose of Willie Parker, and it was apparent his runs were getting more effective as the Defense got worn down by lack of rest. But Ugly tried to quick-snap sneak it on 3rd and 1, and he got stuffed.

Throwing with the wind now, DA went deep for a streaking Braylon, who was open. To our chagrin, the pass was a floater, a soft, awful throw that was at least 10 yards too short. Naturally, it

was picked at the PIT 30.

Pool penetrated the backfield and slowed Parker down, and Shaun Rogers ate him for a loss. Soon after, Shaun Smith had Ugly for a sack, but made the mistake of grabbing his facemask, securing the Personal Foul and a PIT 1st Down. On 3

rd

and 6 from the CLE 45, Rogers barely (if at all) beat the snap and got called for Offsides, killing a

nice stop. Pool made a great tackle on 3

rd

and 1, but the Steelers decided to go for it on 4

th

and 1.

Willie McGinest, having a bad game, jumped Offsides, but was saved because PIT coach Mike Tomlin called Time Out just before. On the actual 4th

and 1 play, it looked like Robaire Smith might get Parker in the backfield, but just missed, so Willie bounced it outside for 13. McGinest had "contain".

From the CLE 11, Hines Ward, suffering from Braylonitis, dropped a Touchdown on 2nd. But the Browns allowed Ugly way too much time on 3

rd

, and this time Smiley
McWard didn't drop it.

Steelers 7, Browns 0.

DA finally threw to 2nd WR
Steptoe, then Cribbs picked
up Cleveland's second 1

st

Down of the Half on an end
around to Cribbs. Lewis got
a nice chunk as he finally

ran outside the Guards, and
Vickers picked up the 1
st

on 3
rd

and 1 with that stupid quick
Fullback handoff that
everyone in the stadium
knows is coming. Anderson
tried to quick snap it with
2:01 left on the clock, but
the Defense knew they were
going to try that, and threw

Lewis for a 2 yard loss.
Either get up to the line
quicker, get set, and run a
proper play, or wait until the
2 minute warning. Don't try
and get cute.

Winslow made a great 19
yard catch to the PIT 30,
then the Browns screwed
around and finally called a

Time Out with 1:23 left in the Half. They got to the 16 with 55 seconds left, where Hank Fraley snapped the ball before DA was ready. I mean, he was still walking up to the line. Eric Steinbach just sat there, obviously not expecting the snap either, as all Confusion broke loose. Buddha knows what possessed Fraley to

snap the ball at that moment, but it was just all part of the Mess.

In the end, it was an Illegal Shift penalty, so the Browns got the option of using their last Time Out or having 10 seconds run off the clock. They wisely opted for the latter. Play

was resumed at 45 seconds, but the Browns waited to snap the ball until 33 seconds were left, then threw a screen to Jason Wright down to the 12. They unwisely opted to not use their Time Out, instead blowing more time and sneaking for a 1st Down. The final Time Out did not come until only 8 seconds were left.

Feeling the pressure of only having one shot to throw an 11 yard TD, Anderson instead threw it to Troy Polamalu over the middle, and the drive was botched, butchered, and killed.

And the Browns trotted

into Halftime to a chorus
of Boos.

(If this line seems familiar
here, it's because I wrote
the exact same thing at
the exact same spot last
week.)

***Halftime: □ Steelers 7,
Browns 0.***

Third Quarter

Pittsburgh got the ball first in this Half, and almost immediately got hit with a

Holding call, setting them back. On 2nd and 15, Brandon McDonald blitzed and almost got Ugly, making him step up in the pocket, where Shaun Rogers finished him off with a belly flop. The joy was tempered, however, because Robaire Smith was down with an obviously bad

ankle injury. From the way he was helped off, you knew it was all over for him.

Ugly hit Heath Miller for a short gain, and the Steelers punted.

The Browns killed their next drive when Winslow randomly dropped a pass on 2nd and 5, then caught the 3rd and 5

ball short of the 1st

Down. Why he didn't ensure that he was past the sticks is beyond me.

After another great Zastudil punt, Ugly went deep for Holmes. McDonald was in good position for the pick, and went for it. But somehow, some way, he totally misjudged the ball and whiffed, allowing the completion. Maybe it

was the wind. Yeah,
that's it - the wind.

The Browns D went
strong after that, with
Eric Wright making a
nice Defensive play on
Holmes on 3rd and
Short, and the Steelers

had to settle for a 48 yard FG that barely drifted over the crossbar.

Steelers 10, Browns 0.

On the ensuing possession, CLE got two 1st Downs

primarily by running the ball. 1st & 10 from their 41, DA threw his best ball of the day, a floater to Winslow on the sideline for 10 as he was getting hit. Tack on the Roughing the Passer penalty, and the Browns were down

to the PIT 34. From there, Braylon caught his 2nd

ball for 13, but reverted to form on the next play by dropping the pass over the middle at the 3. Sure, he got decked as soon as he touched it, but

replays clearly showed him dropping it before he got hit.

That's 6 drops in 2 games, B.

James Farrior of PIT foolishly got himself a taunting foul after that, so the Browns were still in great position - 1st & 10 at the PIT 11. DA screened to Lewis for 6, but, on 2nd

and 4 from the 5, the run play was blown up because the Browns were foolish enough to try to run to the left with Kellen Winslow as the primary blocker. Winslow is a great pass catcher, but he

can't block a lick.
James Harrison
plowed him and
nailed Lewis for a 3
yard loss.

Then Winslow got a
False Start. Then,

on 3rd and 12, DA
misfired on a little
screen to Jason
Wright that had no
chance of scoring
even had the ball not
been in the dirt. The
Browns held up their
foot, grabbed, their
.22, and took careful,

careful aim... **S**
teelers 10, Browns
3.

The following
Kickoff blew away
from the Rashard
Mendenhall, and the

ball was live around the 10. Jerome Harrison, who had a great game on Special Teams, dived at it, hopped up, and dived at it again. He probably should've come up

with it at the 7, but, alas, the ball got knocked out of bounds at the 2, and PIT retained possession.

Backed up deep, it

seemed the Browns
D would come alive,
stuffing Parker for
no gain. However,
on 2nd Down, they
inexplicably called
off the blitz, rushing
only 4 and dropping
everyone back into

coverage. Given all day, Ugly threw an easy 31 yard pass to Smiley, and the field position was wasted.

End of 3rd :
Steelers 10,
Browns 3.

Fourth Quarter

A rash of penalties on both sides left the Steelers with 2nd

and 9 at the PIT 48. Ugly swung it to Smiley, but Rogers and Sorensen

converged on the
ill-conceived play,
and then Ugly
barely missed
Smiley on a deep
pass down the
middle on 3
rd

and 12. Rogers

quickly became
one of my favorite
Browns on that
play, purposely
lowering his
shoulder and
plowing into Ugly
well after the ball
was thrown.

Really, it was a cheap shot that probably could've been called for Roughing. But it wasn't, and it was a beautiful thing to watch Ugly wince his way to the

sideline.

The Browns got
the ball back and
finally had the
brilliant idea to
maybe throw a

screen pass to
Jerome Harrison,
who excels in
such roles. He
caught on the left
side of the field,
avoided and
broke tackles all

the way to the right side of the field, and put a sweet move on Polamalu (who rarely whiffs). Unfortunately, he just stepped out

on that move, but
it was still an
electrifying gain of
23. It seemed to
breathe life into
the tired
Cleveland O.

Three plays later, on 3rd and 5, DA threw to Winslow, but Polamalu was right there to bat the ball up in the air. Winslow maintained his

concentration and
pulled in the
pop-up for the 1
st

Down.

On the next 3rd
and 7 from the
PIT 43, Steptoe
made a nice
catch to keep the
drive alive. Then
they converted
another 3

rd

and 7 to Braylon,
moving the ball to
the PIT 32.

Finally, finally, the
Offense was
looking good.

So what do you
do now that
everything's
starting to click?
Run the ball up
the gut 2 straight
times, netting 3
yards. 3rd and 7

couldn't be
converted 3
times in a row,
as Braylon didn't
get position on
his Defender on
the slant, and the
ball fell

harmlessly to the
ground. I won't
call it a drop, but
Edwards
could've done
more to get that
pass.

The crowd wanted Romeo to go for it on 4th and 7 from the PIT 20 with 3:24 left to go, but he would hear none of it. He loves

those moral
victory Field
Goals, and Phil
booted another
one through
here. I've never
heard Cleveland
Browns Stadium

boo a scoring
drive so loudly.

The Browns
lined up as if to
go for the

Onside Kick, but
with 3:21 left
and 3 Time
Outs, the smart
play was to boot
it deep and let
the Defense try

and make a
stand. They
stopped
Parker's run on
1st Down, but
were surprised
that Ugly rolled

out on 2nd,
getting plenty of
time and
heaving a 19
yard pass to
Heath Miller.
Then Parker got

another 1

st

Down on a 19
yard run, and,
with all the Time
Outs used
earlier in the

drive, that was
pretty much ball
game.


Cleveland did

stop Pittsburgh
on 4th Down
with 26
seconds left at
their own 26,
but DA's long
attempt to

Braylon was well covered, then he got sacked, and the last desperate snap-throw he got off was so

ugly that it kind
of capsulated
the entire
game.

Even 50 mile
an hour winds
couldn't drown
out the Boos.

***Final:  Steelers 10,
Browns 6.***

Offensive

**MVP: □ Kellen
Winslow. □ Ne
w Offensive
Game Plan -
throw to
Winslow on
every down.**

Defensive

MVP(s): □

**Shaun Rogers
& Brodney**

Pool. □ **Rogers**

for good

penetration,

swallowing
some running
plays whole,
and
cheap-shotting
Ugly Ben in the
shoulder. Pool

for being all
over the field
and actually
being a
difference
maker in the
secondary.

Conclusion

~ ~ ~ Naturally,
one of the first
situations that

many people
cite when
claiming that
Romeo should
be fired is his
mismanagement
of the clock

at the end of
the 1st Half.
Here's my
breakdown:

Coming out of
the Two
Minute
Warning, the
Browns had 2
Time Outs left.
The 1st play

was the 19
yard pass to
Winslow. He
was tackled
down at 1:51.
Anderson kept
looking to the

sidelines,
begging for a
play.

Confusion.

So, at 1:23,
after wasting
28 seconds,

the Browns
burned their 2
nd
Time Out.

*Total Wasted
Time - 28
seconds.*

From the 30,

Anderson
scrambled,
then PIT got
hit with a
penalty, so
CLE was at
the 21 with

1:17 left.
Winslow
caught a short
pass, then
came the
infamous
False Snap

play that
resulted in an
Illegal Shift
penalty,
leaving the
Browns with 2
nd

and 10 at the
21 with 55
seconds left.

Naturally, the

Browns opted
to preserve
their last Time
Out and run
the 10
seconds off

the clock.
However,
since the
previous play
didn't stop the
clock, play

began at 45
seconds. Yet
the Browns
stood in
formation,
waiting, doing

nothing, not
snapping the
ball until only
33 seconds
remained, a
12 second

waste.

*Total Wasted
Time - 40
seconds.*

DA threw a
screen to
Wright, who
got 9 yards
down to the
12, but was

tackled in
bounds. He
hit the ground
at about 28 or
29 seconds
left. If the

Browns had
called their
last Time Out
immediately,
they would've
had 3rd and 1

at the 12 with
about 25 or
26 seconds
left.

Anderson was
confused

again, looking
at the
sidelines for
what to do.
Eventually, he
snapped the

ball at 16
seconds left
(waste of 10
seconds),
running a
sneak to get

the 1st

Down before
calling Time
Out, which
didn't come
until 8

seconds left
(waste of 4
seconds).

*Total Wasted
Time - 54
seconds.*

That's almost
half of the
final 2
minutes.

If the Browns
would've
taken their
last Time Out
with 26
seconds left,

they had 2
options:

1. Try and
throw for the
1st Down

along the
sidelines. If
you make it,
you have
time for
several shots

at the End
Zone. If you
don't, you
kick a FG.

2. Run the

sneak, but
since the
play is short
and - coming
off a Time
Out -

everyone is
prepared to
immediately
get back into
formation
and spike the

ball, the clock
is probably
stopped with
about 16-18
seconds left,
enough time

for a couple
shots at a
TD.

The team
was so
unprepared
and
confused,
and the time

was
mismanaged
so badly, that
I was pulling
my eyebrows
out in

frustration.

It was really
really really

really really
really
unacceptable
for the
Browns to
come up with

0 points in
that situation,
and an
elephant's
share of the
blame is

portioned out
to the
coaches.

*"; I didn't
want to use
the timeout
then because
I thought
having the*

*timeout at the
end would be
better,*
"
Crennel said.
"

*As it turned
out, we had
eight
seconds left,
we had time
to throw the*

*ball into the
endzone or
kick the field
goal*
.”;

No, Romeo, I
liked your
explanation
to Andrea
Kremer after
Halftime

better:
"We
screwed it up
."

No shit.

**RAC, borrow
a page from**

Ed Hochuli
and don't try
to sugar-coat
your
copulate-up.

~ ~ ~ I didn't
have as
much of a
problem with
the Field
Goal with

3:24 left to
make it 10-6.
4th and 7 is
not an easy
conversion,
and the

Browns D
had been
doing the job
most of the
day. My
thinking also

went along
this line: If
Cleveland
goes down
and scores
the tying TD,

then it still
gives
Pittsburgh
enough time
to pull it out
of their ass

with a long
game-winnin
g FG,
because
that's just
what the

Steelers do
against the
Browns. But,
if the
Steelers are
up by 4,

they're apt to
be more
conservative,
trying to run
clock, and
the Browns,

with all 3
Time Outs,
perhaps stop
them, getting
the ball back
with a

chance to
win.

However,

reflection
has taught
me that this
is how a fan
with zero
confidence in

the team
thinks. This
is not how a
coach should
think. The
coach should

play to win,
not to
not-lose.

So, although
I can
certainly
understand
Romeo's
reasoning for

the kick at
that point, I
can also
understand
why so many
of you are

incensed
about it.

Plus, the

Time Outs
were
misused
again. Not
that it
mattered in

the long run.

The Browns

inability to

get the

Steelers off

the field until

26 seconds
remained
sealed their
doom.

~ ~ ~ Whither
hast thy play
calling gone,
Rob
Chudzinski?

Running
Jamal up the
gut on 1st
and 2
nd
Down every

drive is no
way to crack
a Defense.

~ ~ ~ Cribbs is
not nearly
100%. It is
apparent
that he's still
feeling the

effects of his
high ankle
sprain. He
is mortal.

Mortal Josh
Cribbs can
sit on the
bench until
he's totally
healed, as

far as I'm
concerned.

~ ~ ~ Is there

some kind of
rule that all
NFL Wide
Receivers
must be
egotistical,

cocky,
mouthy, high
maintenance
, and
intensely
stupid?

You've got
TO, you've
got Brandon
Marshall,
you've got
Randy

Moss,
you've got
Steve
Smith... the
list goes on
and on and

on.

Now there's
Deshaun

Jackson, a
talented
rookie WR
for Philly
recognized
as

somewhat of
a headache
coming out
of Cal. In
the NFL,
talent always

wins out
over
headcase,
especially at
the WR
position,

because
good luck
finding a
good one
that ain't
nuts.

In the
Monday
Night game
between PHI
and DAL,
Jackson

caught a
deep ball
behind the
secondary
and had an
easy route to

the End
Zone.

Unfortunately,
he threw
the ball
down in

celebration *b*
efore he
crossed the
goal line

▪

The refs
initially ruled
it a TD, so
no one
bothered to
pick up the

loose ball.

But the

review

challenge

revealed that

he was,

indeed, so
colossally
stupid as to
spike the
ball prior to
actually

scoring. In
ancient
Mongolia,
people were
disembowel
ed for such

idiocy.

Since no
one picked

up the ball, it
was Philly's
ball where
the fumble
came to rest.
The Eagles

managed to
score a TD
anyway, so,
as far as
they were
concerned,

no harm no
foul.

But the guy

in my
fantasy
league that
had
Deshaun
Jackson -

that lost by 4
points -
probably
doesn't see
it the same
way.

If you're a
prima
donna, then
there's only
one position
for you:

Wide
Receiver.
And
speaking of
prima
donnas...

~ ~ ~ I don't
like Braylon
Edwards.

I know he's
good with
charities and
the
community,
and I respect

that. But it
somehow
doesn't keep
me from
looking upon
him with

distaste. For
some
reason, I
don't like
Braylon on a
personal

level. I don't
know why.

It has

nothing to do
with him
being from
Michigan.
College is
college. If a

Michigan
player gets
drafted by
the Browns,
then I love
him as a

Brown. If an
Ohio State
player gets
drafted by
Pittsburgh,
then I hate

him as an
enemy.

(See: *Holmes*
S, Santonio
. I don't
secretly wish

for Santonio
to do well
because
he's a
former
Buckeye. I

secretly wish
for him to
contract
gonorrhoea
because
he's a

current
Steeler. I
don't care
what he did
for OSU
back in the

day - right
now, he's
doing it for
Pittsburgh,
and that
makes him

worm vomit.)

I don't really

care about
the speeding
thing. Kids
drive fast,
especially
well-to-do

kids with
expensive
cars and
more than
enough
dough to

cover the
ticket. And it
wasn't like
he let
himself go
without the

ticket. That
was the
dumbass
cop's fault.

And the
running in
his bare feet
thing... OK,
yeah, that
pissed me

off too.

But I guess if
I had to try

and put my
finger on the
main source
of my
Braylon
displeasure,

it would be
that - to me -
he seems
like a huge
pain in the
ass with a

gi-normous
sense of
entitlement.
He's like a
trophy wife.
He just rubs

me the
wrong way.

Now, we

tolerate
expensive,
high
maintenance
,
self-congratu

latory elite

WR's

because

they are just

that - elite.

But Braylon
ain't
elite. You
can throw
whatever
little stats

from last
year at me
that you
want -
Braylon
ain't

elite. One
season
doesn't get
you in the
Hall of
Fame. You

don't drop
the ball as
much as he
does and be
"elite&
quot;. You

don't make
the mental
mistakes
that he does
and be
"elite&

quot;. If
you're
"elite&
quot;, you
make a
difference at

crunch time.

If you're

"elite&

quot;,,

everyone

knows

you're on the
field
because of
your play,
not your
antics.

So I kindly
invite Mr.
Edwards to
STFU until
he does
become

"elite&
quot;. Then
he can make
as much of
an ass out
himself as

he wants.

" *You
win 20 in the*

*show, you
can let the
fungus grow
back on your
shower
shoes, and*

*the press will
think you're
colorful. □*

*Until you win
20 in the
show, it*

means

you're a slob

.";

~ ~ ~ Props to
reader David
from Tyler,
TX, who
dubbed our
precocious

WR "B

raylon

Edwards

Scissorhand

S

" for

his recent
pass
catching
attempts.
Can
someone

break out
the
Photoshop
for me?

~ ~ ~ Sadly,
though,
Braylon is
THE key to
the Browns
Offense

under Derek
Anderson.

Without

Edwards,

DA simply

can't

function.

If Braylon
isn't getting

open and
making
spectacular
catches (like
he did last
year), then

DA isn't
moving the
ball (like he
isn't this
year).
Braylon is

DA's safety
valve, his
blankie.

It's rather a
black mark
against a
QB's skills if
he is so
dependent

on one
player for
success.

~ ~ ~ Besides,
it doesn't
matter how I
feel about
the players
personally -

as long as
they're good
for the team,
then I
support
them.

On most
days,
Braylon
Edwards
helps the
team.

Kellen
Winslow,
another guy
I have scant
personal
love for,

helps the
team.

And, if

Romeo
Crennel, a
seemingly
nice guy, the
kindly black
uncle I never

had,
continues to
hurt the
team, then
off with his
proverbial

head.

This be
bidness,

people.

~ ~ ~ Willie

McGinest

has officially
become
useless.

~~~~ You  
think Phil  
Savage  
would jump  
at 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>  
round picks

for DA if it  
were offered  
to him  
today?

Coulda had  
that back in  
March...

~ ~ ~ I've said  
it before and  
I'll say it  
again -  
Jerome  
Harrison

needs to be  
on the field  
more.

There is  
definitely a  
place in this

league for  
small,  
speedy,  
shifty backs.  
Yet Romeo  
seems to be

emulating  
Jim Tressel  
on this topic  
- stubbornly  
sticking with  
the veteran

starter to a  
fault.

Now, I'm not

suggesting  
that Jerome  
Harrison  
start over  
Jamal Lewis  
- no, that is

foolishness.  
But Harrison  
certainly  
needs to be  
in there  
more,

especially in  
a game  
where  
Jamal's  
brand of  
up-the-gut

running isn't  
working  
(averaged  
about 2  
yards a  
carry for

most of the  
game), and  
a change-up  
is  
desperately  
required.

The light  
probably  
went on for  
Romeo &  
Company  
after

Harrison  
took the  
screen for  
23 on easily  
the most  
exciting

Offensive  
play of the  
game for the  
Browns.  
But that was  
way too late.

Like 2  
games too  
late.

It's this kind  
of lack of  
looking  
outside the  
box that  
gets

old-school  
coaches like  
Crennel and  
Tressel in  
trouble.  
They're so

deep in the  
box that  
idea of sky  
is like a  
crack  
dream.

~ ~ ~ My level  
of hatred for  
Ben R. has  
reached  
catastrophic  
levels. I

dislike him  
so intensely  
that it's  
actually  
physically  
difficult for

me to look  
at him, and  
not just  
because  
he's so  
damn ugly.

It probably  
aptly  
demonstrate  
s the  
increasing  
gap

between  
myself and  
reality, but if  
the movie *H  
ostel*  
starred Ben

as one of  
the victims, I  
would  
probably  
have found  
it to be a

heartwarmin  
g and  
hilarious  
comedy.

~ ~ ~ Ben's  
responses  
after the  
game to  
Andrea  
Kremer's

questions  
about his  
shoulder  
were further  
evidence  
what a tool

he is.

Andrea

asked him

point blank

3 times

about how

his shoulder  
was doing,  
and he  
purposefully  
ignored the  
question all

3. It went  
something  
like this:

Andrea: *Ben, how is your shoulder holding up?*

Ben: *Well,*  
*the*  
*Offensive*  
*Linemen all*  
*were using*  
*breath mints*

*tonight, so  
the huddle  
smelled  
better than it  
usually  
does.*

Andrea: Yo  
*u got hit  
pretty hard  
by Shaun  
Rogers at  
one point.* □

*Is the  
shoulder  
more sore  
than it was  
before?*

Ben: *People say that eating lead paint is a bad thing, but I kinda*

*dig it.*

Andrea: Yo  
*u've avoided*

*my question  
twice. □ One  
last time -  
how's your  
shoulder  
feeling?*

Ben: *It's  
true. I have  
no penis.*

~ ~ ~ Wow,  
were the  
San Diego  
Chargers  
screwed this  
weekend.

See? It's  
not just a  
Cleveland  
thing.

~ ~ ~ I am  
embittered  
by the *Colle*  
*ge Football*  
*Now*  
commercials

on the NFL  
Network.

The promo,  
obviously  
shot before  
Saturday,

features

Mike

Mayock

claiming that

he thinks

&quot;

*Ohio State  
has  
something  
to prove*  
.”;

Yeah, they  
had  
something  
to prove, all  
right. That  
they're just

as weak and  
pathetic as  
the rest of  
the country  
assumed.

The  
Buckeyes  
are who  
everyone  
else thought  
they were.

~ ~ ~ Robaire  
Smith is out  
for the  
season with  
an ACL  
injury.

Sigh. Great  
news. Just  
flippin'  
fantastic.

I can't even  
think of an  
amusing  
quip for this.

# Next Up

~ ~ ~ The  
Baltimore

# Ravens.

The Ravens  
are not a

good team.

I don't care  
that they're

1-0... they  
beat Cincy.  
Everyone's  
gonna beat  
Cincy this  
year.

The  
Baltimore O  
is a foul  
sight to  
behold.  
Rookie QB

Joe Flacco  
might be  
good some  
day, but that  
day is not  
now. Lost in

the hoopla  
about him  
winning his  
first start  
was the fact  
that, for

most of the  
day, he  
looked like  
crap. The  
Ravens  
Wide

Receivers  
are  
sucktastic,  
their  
Running  
Game

racked up a  
lot of  
yardage in  
Week 1, but  
that was  
against the

Bengals,  
and their  
O-Line is  
not in the  
upper half of  
the league.

The  
Baltimore D  
is still quite  
good,  
talented,  
and deep.

But it's  
aging, and it  
doesn't quite  
hold the  
same  
mystique it

did 4 or 5  
years ago.  
They'll keep  
their team in  
most  
games, but

they won't  
win those  
games  
single-hand  
edly any  
more, like

they used  
to.

The Ravens

coach, John  
Harbaugh,  
is a rookie,  
and bound  
to make  
some

mistakes.

By all  
deliberation

s, the  
Browns  
should win  
this game.  
It will be the  
first game

where they  
are  
considered  
to be the  
better team.  
And they

should be  
angry, bitter,  
embarrasse  
d by the  
criticism,  
both

nationally  
and locally.

Can they

lose it?

Sure. The  
pressure is  
squarely on  
them. Every  
loss brings

them one  
step closer  
to getting  
their coach  
fired. And  
Baltimore

won't have  
that same  
pressure.  
They're 1-0,  
and their  
expectations

were low  
this season  
to begin  
with.

Is it too  
early to call  
this one a  
"must-  
win"?  
No.

This is a  
&quot;must-  
win&quot;.