

When it comes to one comprehensive weekly column on the Cleveland Browns, one that incorporates the past week's game, the coming affair, and commentary on the state of the team in general ... I know of none better than Hiko's "The Browns Outsider". And this week's piece is no exception. Hiko knows this team like few people I know. And delivers his weekly commentary with high levels of humor and insight.



A View From The Cheap Seats **Week 6 - Cleveland at Washington**

We've all heard that little quote by Albert Einstein that goes: *"The definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting a different result ."*

I've never understood that quote, since people do the same thing over and over again all the time, and once in a while they DO get a different result. Ugly guys hit on drunk girls at bars over and over, and, very rarely, they might score. People play the lottery every day, and, very rarely, they might win. Children wish upon stars, and, very rarely, their dreams might come true.

The Cleveland Browns insist on staying a tired and self-defeating course, and, very rarely, they might look like a good team. Like last week.

But, more often than not, the Ugly Guy will get shot down, the Lottery Player will blow another \$5, the Child will see their dreams dashed by reality, and the Cleveland Browns will lose.

See? Doing the same thing over and over again and expecting a different result isn't insanity. It's just stupid, counter-productive, stubborn, and naïve.

Yet the powers that be will re-endorse staying the course. Derek Anderson will continue to start. Romeo Crennel will continue to coach. Phil Savage will continue to administer propaganda. Randy Lerner will continue to wring his hands in silence.

This whole process will carry on ad nauseum until one of the powers that be finally decides that enough is enough, and makes a change. But that won't be this next week, and it probably won't be for a while. The powers that be feel that they somehow "proved a point" by staying the course and winning last week.

Yeah - you proved that doing the same thing over and over again and expecting a different result *DOES* actually sometimes produce a different result! You disproved Albert

Einstein! You are freakin' geniuses!

Honestly, it's difficult for me to muster the energy to be angry. I've already been angry. I've already called for DA to be done. I've already called for Romeo to lose his job. I'm not going to keep pissing in the wind. Screaming about it continuously ain't gonna help. The definition of insanity is saying the same thing over and over again and expecting someone to listen.

So now that my anger is spent and the road to the immediate future remains bleak and unchanging, I become numb.

Honestly, the season is over. They're 3 back with 10 to go, but they already lost to Pittsburgh, and they show no signs of being anything as consistent. A Derek Anderson-led Cleveland isn't catching the Steelers, and they're not getting a Wild Card. They're just not. Sure, the Browns will win one here and there, and some of the wins will be surprising, wins where they'll play like they're capable, and we'll all get our hopes in a bunch again.

But that is fleeting. That's dust in the wind. This team is destined for mediocrity.

With the Playoffs out of question and the team flatlining under Derek Anderson, I find it hard to be interested. DA's the past. He won't be back next year - even Phil Savage wouldn't be so dense. So we're watching the Dead Man Walking just playing out the string. Combine that with the drab and error-laden coaching of Romeo Crennel (possibly another Dead Man Walking), and there's little of note to see, except a game or two where their frailties briefly are masked. There's no growth, there's no progress. There's just the endless repetition with the hope that doing the same thing over and over again will, well, you know.

As long as the Dead Men Walking remain in control, you can expect nothing out of this team.

Most of the time, you'll get it.

Pregame

Foolishly, I allowed myself to be excited. Noticing this emotion, I tried vainly to check myself.

Hmmmm... what's this I'm feeling? Is this?... I think it is... excitement? This is the first time I've been excited all year. That must mean I have hope, which means I have EXPECTATIONS!!! OH LORDY NO! NOT EXPECTATIONS!!! OK... count down backwards from 10! Hold your breath! Stick your head underwater! Wrestle an aardvark! Do whatever it takes to get rid of these expectations before the game starts!

Quickly, I threw in the tape of the Dallas game, then the Baltimore game, then the Cincy game, watching chunks of each, viewing enough Offensive vomit to sober even the most rampant apologist.

I was cured.

First Quarter

I'm not sure I should even bother re-capping the 1st Half. A whole lot of nothin' went on. Feel free to skim down to Conclusions.

The Browns got the ball first. After an incomplete screen and a 4 yard run, Derek Anderson threw the ball in the general vicinity of Kellen Winslow, meaning he threw it way over his head. It could've been a miscommunication, but who's to know? Punt # 1.

On the first Redskins' play, Brandon McDonald almost got a pick, undercutting Santana Moss. But Chris Cooley got the 1st on a short pass over the middle, and Clinton Portis got another 1st on a 5 yard run to midfield. However, on 2nd and 5 from the CLE 36, the Browns got pressure on Jason Campbell, and Campbell's screen pass to Rock Cartwright got sniffed out by Leon Williams for a loss of 7. The 3rd

Down check down to Portis was ended by a good tackle by Brandon McD, and we got Punt # 2.

If it's 3rd and Short, that means a quick handoff to Lawrence Vickers. It's as predictable as the sunrise. It worked this time, and the Browns had their **initial 1st Down**. But on 3rd and 4 at the CLE 37, DA's pass towards Jerome Harrison had no chance and fell incomplete. Punt # 3.

The Redskins got nailed for Holding on 1st Down, and they went very conservative on 3rd

and 13 from their 15, handing off to Portis for a gain of 1. You knew you weren't in Cleveland because the crowd did not Boo. They just don't care in Washington. Punt # 4.

The Browns were now winning the Field Position battle, starting at the WAS 46. But Anderson missed Jamal Lewis on an easy screen that would've gone for a lot of yards, and the Redskins realized that Bad DA was ruling the roost, so they brought 9 into the box. The 3rd Down pass to Winslow was nowhere near him - a weak pass to the outside when Kellen was running free on the inside. Ugh. Punt # 5.

Washington ran Portis a couple times with little effect, and McD had great pass D on 3rd Down, so... Punt # 6.

Once again, the Browns started in

Washington territory. And, once again, they did diddly-poo. On 1st, DA got blitzed and hit as he threw - incomplete. His 3

rd

Down pass to Braylon was dropped, but it would've been way short of the 1st

anyway, thus... Punt # 7.

End of 1st: □ Browns 0, Redskins 0.

Second Quarter

The Redskins had 3rd and 4 on their own 26, but the Rule of Thumb is that if Terry Cousin is guarding someone, throw it there. It worked for a 16 yard gain to Santana Moss. I used to like the number 25. Now it is tainted.

But Washington showed some Mo Carthon-esque brilliance by running a reverse to the Tight End, which is like throwing a deep ball to your Punter. That lost 3, and the 3^r
d

and 10 play resulted in Kamerion Wimbley almost being in on a sack, Campbell getting away, and Wimbley showing perseverance to take him down for just a 2 yard gain. Punt # 8.

The Browns got their **second 1st**
Down

of the game on 3rd

and 2 with a 2 yard run by
Josh Cribbs out of the Flash
package. The City of
Cleveland held a parade.
However, the joy was short
lived as Carlos Rogers
knocked the ball away from
Braylon Edwards on a slant

on 3

rd

and 2, and the parade
turned into a riot. Punt # 9.

Washington finally got a
long play to Antwan
Randle-El for 25, but
Shaun Rogers' pressure
on 2nd and short cause an
incompletion, and my boy

Alex Hall made a great play on a sweep on 3rd

and 3, throwing Cartwright out of bounds for a nada gain. Punt # 10.

On 1st Down, DA threw an absolute horrific pass towards K2, way over his head, and Braylon

dropped the bean again
on 3rd, but they got
bailed out by an Illegal
Contact penalty, and the
Browns
"earned" their
third 1
st

Down

. Jamal followed that by a
nice run outside the
Tackles (ever notice how

switching things up every
once in a while
sometimes results in
something positive?).

Then, on 1
st

Down from the CLE 31,
Anderson heaved once
deep towards an open
Donte Stallworth... but it
was out of bounds. Nice
throw, dillhole.

On 3rd Down, DA's pass was deflected at the line of scrimmage and incomplete, which was a good thing because the WAS corner would've had an easy Pick 6 had it gone through. Punt # 11.

With the Browns D starting to get worn down, Portis finally started to get effective, picking up big chunks. Cousin gave up another 1st Down on 3rd and 7, and Washington seemed primed to score with 1st

and 10 at the CLE 17 with 17 seconds left. However, Campbell slipped on the next play, and Shaun Rogers sat on him for the sack. They might not have had time to get the FG unit on the field, but Rogers sat on him a little too long,

nabbing the Delay of
Game penalty. So that
set the Redskins up for
an easy 36 Field Goal
as the 1
st

Half died... and the kick
hit the crossbar.

At least there wasn't
another Punt.

DA was 3 of 14 for 17
yards in the 1st Half.
Hall of Fame, start
bronzing a bust.

***Halftime: □ Browns
0, Redskins 0.***

Third Quarter

The Skins moved the

ball well to start the 2
nd

Half, but a Holding
call killed their drive.
Campbell hit Cooley
for 9 on 3
rd

and 11, and... Punt #
12.

Cleveland had bad Field Position again (started at their own 17), and did little with it. Anderson's 2nd down screen to Stallworth was high and outside - a horrible pass. His 3rd

Down attempt long
to Braylon was little
better, way short
and easily broken
up. Punt # 13.

Losing the Field
Position battle and
subjecting the
Defense to
continued
onslaught, we all
knew the Browns
would eventually
break. The first

play of the Skins drive was a 12 yard pass to Moss, but McD missed the tackle and it ended up going for 35. A couple runs later, and another play where Cousin gave

up an easy 13 yard
pass (I shall now
nickname him
"Sugar"
because he
"gives it up so
sweet"), and
Portis was in for a 3
yard TD. ***Redskin***

s 7, Browns 0.

After that TD, the Browns looked around at each other on the sidelines, mystified.

*"I didn't think
scoring was
allowed* ?&q
uot; Derek
Anderson asked
Braylon.

Shrugging, Braylon
replied, "I
didn't think so
either
."

He walked over to

Romeo and nudged
him. "Hey,
Coach ,
" he said.
"
*Are they allowed to
score*
?"

Romeo stared at
him for a moment,
the said, "/
dunno. □ *Let me*
check
."

He talked into his headset (the first time all season), then nodded, telling Braylon " *Yeah, I guess that's legal* ."

"*Huh*,"
Braylon said.

" *Ar*
e we allowed to do
that too
?"

Romeo stared at
him again. "Let
me check
."

After a moment, he
nodded again.

"*They said*
we are ."
t;

Braylon asked,
"*Do you think*
we should try

?"

" *Yeah, why
the hell not?* □ *Good
idea* !"
responded Romeo.

The Browns got the ball back and Jamal started to run. DA even completed a 3rd Down pass to Braylon. It was uncanny. A 22 yard run by Lewis

led the Browns to
the WAS 19, where
DA threw a
horrendous pass in
the general vicinity
of Steve Heiden
(who was open),
then got sacked on
3 rd

and 8. Phil
Dawson time.
***Redskins 7,
Browns 3.***

Washington
responded by

moving the ball
right down the field
on the tired
Browns D, but
stalled when they
reached CLE 37.
Wimbley almost
(should have) had
a pick on 3rd and

8, and we got to
see Punt # 14.

End of 3rd :
Redskins 7,
Browns 3.

Fourth Quarter

The Browns
were pinned
deep after the
punt, and DA

responded by
missing a wide
open Edwards
over the middle.
Or did Edwards
drop it? It's hard
to tell with those
two. On 3rd

Down, the Time
Clock was
running short,
and Cleveland
had to take a
Time Out. On
the way off the
field, DA

grabbed Vickers
- twice - and
Vickers threw his
hand off violently
both times.

After the game,
both claimed
they had no
issues. But it
doesn't matter
who was at fault,
I can't recall a
time where a

Fullback threw
off Peyton
Manning. Or
Tom Brady. Or
Brett Favre.
Or... well, the list
is long.

Following the
Time Out,
Anderson's pass
was tipped and
lucky not to be
picked. Punt #
15.

Washington had
great Field
Position, starting
at the CLE 49.
A 27 yard run by
Portis (nice
angle, Sean
Jones) and an

18 yard pass to Moss (nice coverage, Sugar) and the Redskins had their second TD of the game. ***Redskins 14,***

Browns 3.

Gerard Lawson
came on for
Cribbs for some
reason, and

returned the ball
to the WAS 44.
Finally, we saw
some Jerome
Harrison runs,
and DA got a 1st
on a sneak. DA
did miss

Winslow again
on an out route
(does he think
K2 is 10 feet
tall?), but hit a
good pass over
the middle to
Edwards for 14

to the WAS 32.
Anderson then
avoided the rush
nicely and hit
Heiden for 10
and another 1
st

Down. The

following screen
pass to Lewis
ended up just
short of the Goal
Line - 1
st
and Goal at the
1.

Then futility set
in. Jamal was
stuffed on 1st. A
stupid screen to
Charles Ali
(Charles Ali?)
lost 2. On 3
rd

Down, DA threw
an incomplection
towards a
double-freakin'-
covered Jason
Wright (WTF?).

With just 5:53
remaining,
Romeo decided
that it was high
time to go for it,
but the 4
th

Down pass was
batted down.
Curse words.

Starting at their

own 3,
everyone this
side of the
Pacific knew
that the Skins
would run
Portis, yet he

still ripped off a
24 yard run.

However, Eric
Wright alertly
swatted at the
ball, Portis
fumbled, and

Brodney Pool
picked up the
ball on his 3rd
attempt. The
Browns lived.

From the WAS
29, Anderson
threw his best
ball of the day,
splitting double
coverage down
the middle to

Braylon down
to the 9.

Winslow then
caught a pass
to the 1,

bringing up 2nd
and Goal. And

then we got to
go through it all
again.

Jamal got

stuffed on
Goal to Go
from the 1
(déjà vu?).
Then he was
short again on
a pitch-run on

3rd and Goal
(tick tick tick -
3 minutes
left... hurry the
F up!). And,
God bless, DA
rolled out to

his right (he
always seems
effective doing
that) to hit
Cribbs for the
TD on 4th
Down. The 2

Point
Conversion
was - ahem -
converted on a
quick pass
over the
middle to

Edwards.
***Redskins 14,
Browns 11.***

With just 2

Time Outs left
and only 2:37
remaining, the
Browns had to
come up big
on Defense.
And they did.

Portis ran it 3
times, and
none of them
did much.
The Time
Outs were
spent, the 2

Minute
Warning was
taken, and
Cleveland got
the ball back
at their own
29 with 1:51

left.

Ah, the stuff
legends are
made of.

Down on the
road,
outplayed all
day, and still a
chance to pull
out the
Victory. DA

hit Donte for
18, moving
the ball to the
CLE 47. Then
the Skins got
hit with
Defensive

Holding. After
a 9 yard pass
over the
middle to
Winslow,
Anderson
sneaked the

ball ahead for
a 1st Down to
the WAS 36
with 1:16 left.

And then the
Browns
decided to
nurse the
clock.
Instead of

spiking the
ball, they
didn't snap
the ball again
for 30
seconds.

DA's 1st Down
pass was
knocked
down. He
threw a hot
route towards

Edwards on 2
nd
Down, but
Braylon
wasn't
looking. His 3
rd

Down pass to
a WIDE
OPEN
Edwards
deep over the

middle was,
how do I put
this?, uh,
AWFUL. And
incomplete.

Dawson
trotted out to
try the 54
yarder to tie
it. The kick
was plenty

long enough.
But he
pushed it
right, and it
stayed there.
No dice.

The Redskins
got into the
Victory
Formation
and it was all
over.

Final:
Redskins 14,
Browns 11.

Offensive

MVP: **Jamal**

**Lewis. □ Ever
yone else
should be
crucified.**

Defensive

MVP(s): □

Brandon

McDonald &

Shaun

Rogers. □ **Nei**

ther had what
I'd call a
"sensati
onal"
game, but no
one else

really stood
out, and they
both made
some nice
plays.

Conclusion

~~~~On

Monday, the

day after this  
game, my 8  
year old  
daughter  
insisted on  
wearing her

#17 Braylon  
Edwards  
jersey to  
school. She  
doesn't really  
watch

football yet,  
but she  
knows how  
much Daddy  
loves the  
Browns, and

she wanted  
to wear it to  
please him.  
Because, as  
Daddy  
always tells

her, *We Are  
Cleveland  
Browns Fans*

▪

However,  
when I  
picked her up  
after school,  
a school  
located in

Akron, OH,  
she was no  
longer  
wearing the  
jersey. I  
already knew

why, but  
dejectedly  
asked her the  
question  
anyway.

Me: *Why'd  
you take your  
jersey off,  
honey?*

Her: *Because*

▪

Me: *Because*

*why?*

Her: *Because*  
*all the kids*

*were making  
fun of me.*

**Me:** *The kids*

*were making  
fun of the  
Browns  
jersey?*

Her: *They're  
all Steelers  
fans. □ I'm the  
only Browns  
fan.*

Me: *That's  
not true,  
honey. □  
There's  
probably lots  
of other*

*Browns fans  
there. □ They  
just won't  
admit it.*

To reiterate -  
my  
daughter's  
school is in  
Akron, OH.  
That's NE

Ohio. That's  
less than an  
hour from  
Cleveland  
Browns  
Stadium.

I gave her  
the ol' loyalty  
speech  
again, how  
you should  
love your

team no  
matter what,  
how you  
should  
always be  
proud to be a

fan, win or  
lose. But I'm  
sure it rings  
hollow for an  
8 year old  
that only

knows that  
showing her  
Browns pride  
means  
enduring  
ridicule.

I have been  
pissed off at  
this  
organization  
before, at the  
coaches,

players, front  
office types,  
and owners  
that have  
allowed this  
situation to

fester - but  
never like I  
was after  
confronting  
the reality  
that my

children  
cannot show  
their fanhood  
in a school in  
Northeast  
Ohio without

being made  
to feel like  
outsiders.

I would like to  
thank the  
following  
individuals  
for being part  
of bringing

this once  
proud  
franchise to  
its knees: *Art  
Modell, Al  
Lerner,*

*Carmen  
Policy,  
Dwight Clark,  
Chris Palmer,  
Tim Couch,  
Courtney*

*Brown, Butch*  
*Davis,*  
*Gerard*  
*Warren,*  
*Randy*  
*Lerner, John*

*Collins, Phil  
Savage, and  
Romeo  
Crennel.*

With a track  
record like  
that of these  
"leader  
s", who  
needs

# derailment?

And if any of  
them tell me

again that the  
Browns need  
to &quot;*stay*  
*the course*  
&quot;, then I  
respond with

a hearty  
double-bird.

Look where

your course  
has brought  
us. What is  
this, the  
River Styx?



~ ~ ~ | wonder

what Jeff  
Gillooly is  
doing these  
days?

You  
remember  
Jeff, don't  
you? The  
ex-husband  
of infamous

figure skater

Tonya

Harding?

The guy that  
hired another  
guy to whack

Nancy  
Kerrigan in  
the knee with  
a lead pipe or  
crowbar or  
something,

thus allowing  
Harding to  
win the  
following  
skating  
competition?

Good guy,  
that Jeff.

Now, I'm not

saying that I  
endorse  
violence as a  
means to an  
end (I'm not  
not saying it

either). But if  
someone  
were to get in  
touch with  
Mr. Gillooly  
and we later

get some  
video of  
Derek  
Anderson  
sitting in a  
Berea

parking lot,  
holding his  
knee, crying,  
mascara  
running down  
his face,

yelling &quot;

*Why God*

*Why*

?&quot;...

well, I don't

know nothin'

about it.



~ ~ ~ I shall  
now be an  
arrogant ass  
and highlight  
pertinent  
passages of

my view of  
Derek  
Anderson  
from last  
week:

**This game is  
why Derek  
Anderson  
drives me to  
insanity. □ Th  
e guy has**

more than  
enough  
potential to  
be a great  
QB,  
but he's got

**more peaks  
and valleys  
than the  
Adirondacks**

■

**He shows**

you how  
good he can  
be in a game  
like this,  
**then turns**  
**around the**

**next week  
and makes  
you long for  
the steady  
consistency  
of Charlie**

**Frye.**

**Surrounded  
by this**

Offense, if  
DA were able  
to maintain  
his focus and  
confidence  
(and

accuracy), he  
could be one  
of the best  
QB's in the  
NFL. But he  
doesn't do

**that. T**  
**herefore,**  
**more times**  
**than not,**  
**he's a**  
**liability. □**

There's  
either Good  
Derek or Bad  
Derek; there  
is no middle  
ground. And

**there's no  
consistency.**

Most of the  
time, Good  
Derek and  
Bad Derek  
take over for  
several

games at a  
time. But  
Good Derek  
can also be  
replaced by  
Bad Derek in

a damn  
hurry,  
sometimes in  
mid-quarter.  
**And when**  
**Bad Derek**

**takes over,  
well, you're  
likely stuck  
with him for  
at least the  
rest of the**

**game.**

**But the  
glimpses of**

Good Derek  
are just  
tantalizing  
enough for  
coaches to  
stick with him

a little longer,  
and then he  
buys himself  
a couple  
more weeks  
by going

ballistic every  
once in a  
while.

**I have a  
sinking  
feeling that  
Bad Derek  
will return  
again at**

**some point  
this season,  
and  
probably in  
a spot  
where it is**

**least  
convenient.**

I can expect  
nothing else  
since that's  
the data I

have to  
compute.  
That's his  
history, such  
as it is. He's  
up. He's

**down. □ He's  
Pogo.**

**I've said it**

before and I'll  
say it again -  
I do not care  
who plays  
QB for the  
Cleveland

Browns. I  
only want  
production  
out of the  
position, and  
DA was not

even getting  
close to  
providing it  
during the  
first 4 games.

He did  
provide it in  
Game 5.

If he is able  
to continue  
his confident,  
consistent  
play in Game  
6 and

beyond, then  
I say &quot;*B*  
*ully for you,*  
*Derek!* □ *Atta*  
*boy*  
!&quot;

**But if he's  
gonna make  
like a human  
yo-yo, then  
he needs to  
sit, because**

**no one  
needs a  
Cleveland  
Browns  
squad with  
only a**

**sporadic  
chance of  
winning. Es  
pecially not  
after what  
we saw from**

**the team as**  
**a whole on**  
**Monday.**



~ ~ ~ Unfortun

ately, it's not  
like replacing  
DA with a  
potentially  
competent  
QB will solve

all that ill.

The

Linebackers,

specifically

the Middle

Linebackers

(but you're  
not far  
behind,  
OLB's), are  
just not good  
enough to

take this  
team where it  
wants to go.  
They don't  
rush well,  
they don't hit

the gaps to  
stop the run,  
they don't  
cover the  
Tight Ends or  
Backs over

the middle.

It's Wali

Rainer all

over again -

rack up the

tackle stats

by dragging  
the RB down  
after a  
relatively  
easy 6 yard  
gain.

Regrettably,  
there's no  
one on the  
Linebacking  
bench save  
Alex Hall

whom I  
believe would  
even be the  
slightest  
improvement  
to what is

already out  
there. And  
there is  
absolutely no  
reason to  
deceive

ourselves by  
theorizing  
that the  
existing LB's  
will somehow  
&quot;get

better&quot;.  
At least, with  
the QB  
position,  
there's a guy  
on the bench

that *might* be  
an  
improvement.

That is not  
the case at  
Linebacker.

The position  
is as good as  
it's gonna get  
this year. So  
get used to  
what you

see.

I'm not  
complaining

about the  
Defense as a  
whole, and I  
think they've  
done an  
admirable

job. But it's  
so blatantly  
obvious that  
they could be  
so much  
better with a

couple of  
viable  
starting-quality  
NFL  
Linebackers.  
Sadly, we

must wait  
until next  
year to  
hopefully  
realize this  
potential.



~ ~ ~ The

Browns are  
1-0 on  
Monday night  
games.  
They're also  
1-0 in games

played on  
Sunday in  
the 1 pm  
(EST) slot.

They're 0-1  
on Sunday  
night, and  
now have  
dropped to  
0-3 on

Sundays at  
4.

Someone

please speak  
to the  
scheduler  
about getting  
our games  
earlier in the

day.



~ ~ ~ And  
apparently,  
Braylon  
Edwards has  
some kind of  
mind meld

with DA.

When DA is  
on, Braylon is  
catching  
everything  
that comes

his way.  
When DA is  
off, Braylon is  
off too.

To  
compound  
this, when  
Anderson  
plays badly,  
he doesn't

seem to see  
any other  
Receiver on  
the field *exce*  
*pt*  
Edwards. So

even the  
30% of his  
passes that  
are  
somewhat  
catchable are

being batted  
around,  
butchered,  
and thrown to  
the turf by his  
one and only

# Receiver.



~~~~ Well, we  
finally know
what sent
Kellen
Winslow to
the hospital

last week.

No, it wasn't
an STD or
swollen
testicles, as
reported by

various
wannabe
news
sources.
Nope, it
was...

STAPH!

Damn right.

*What's the
infection*

That can

*screw up
your
direction?*

STAPH!

*Can ya dig
it?*

Winslow
went vocal,
apparently
angry at the
loss, his
treatment,

and his
verbal
confrontation
with Phil
Savage after
the game,

revealing his
mystery
ailment and
complaining
that Savage
hadn't visited

him in the
hospital and
that he felt
like “a
piece of
meat.”

Now, I'm not
saying that
Winslow is a
whiny prima
donna.

Well,
actually, yes,
I am. You
think my
boss is
gonna come

visit me
during a 3
day hospital
stay?
Romeo
called

Winslow.
Several other
players
called. But it
seems that
Princess

Kellen (so
dubbed by
my girlfriend)
requires a
personal
appearance

by all his
subjects.

Professional

athletes have
become so
pampered
and so
adored by
the masses

that they
have lost
complete
touch with
reality. They
remind me so

much of
actors/actres
ses, whom, I
am not
ashamed to
admit, I

despised
during my
time in
Film/TV
Production.
Their attitude

was nausea
inducing. *Lo*
ve ME. □
Worship ME.
Need ME. □
Care about

MY needs. □

Tell me I'M

beautiful. □

Tell me how

great I am.

Quoth *Tool*:
"
*F** *these*
dysfunctional
, insecure
actresses

."

That goes for
some of the

glamour
athletes as
well.

However, it's
hardly a
secret that
Winslow is
High
Maintenance.

In a perfect world, a GM shouldn't have to be catering to a piece of

meat. But if
you're Phil
Savage, and
Winslow's
good will is
important to

you, then one
of your jobs
is to give him
a quick ring
while he's
laid up with

the Staph,
just to say
"*Hey,*
how ya
doing? □ *Yes,*
it's totally our

*fault that you
have the
Staph again.
I will have all
the Janitors
flayed for*

*allowing this
bacteria back
in. I will
have the
Halls of
Berea inlaid*

*with gold to
ensure that
this foul
affliction shall
never accost
you again*

."

Sometimes
it's in the

best interest
of the team
to humor the
children.
You'd think
Savage

would've
learned after
the
permanent ill
will of failing
to contact his

last
Staph-infected
prima
donna laid up
at the
Cleveland

Clinic,
longing to be
missed.

And, truly,
asking
Winslow to
hide his
Staph
infection -

claiming that
Kellen
wanted
privacy and
subjecting
him to

endless
speculation -
was really
uncalled for.
It ain't
coinky-dink

that the
Browns have
led the
league in
Staph
infections

over the last
4 years.

Something is
amiss there.

To make
things worse,
Phil Savage
turned
around and
suspended

Winslow for
the upcoming
game for
going public
with his
complaints. I

am all for
suspending
players that
don't follow
the rules or
need a slap

in the mouth,
but I'm not
sure that
Winslow
crossed the
suspension

line on this
one. It more
looks like
Kellen's
admission
that he 1)

had the
Staph and 2)
was asked to
keep it quiet
embarrassed
poor little

Phil, who obviously has insecurity issues.

Issues which probably led

him to ask
Winslow to
bury the
Staph news
in the first
place.

So Phil's
floppy ears
got red with
humiliation,
and he
"put his

foot
down"
on Winslow,
claiming that
his
comments

were
"detrimental to the
team";,
when the
truth is

probably
closer to
"I'll
show you to
make me
look

bad!"

Hey Savage,
you what

else is
detrimental to
the team?
Disharmony
in the locker
room.

Asking
players to do
things that
they
shouldn't be
asked to do.

Looking like
a petty liar
and an ass in
front of your
team, the
NFL, and the

whole world.
Embarrassin
g the
franchise.

Suspend
yourself a
game while
you're at it,
Phil.
Actually, go

ahead and
suspend
yourself for
the rest of
your life.

Obviously,
one cannot
deny that the
root of this
problem is
money. The

issue is born
of the
contract
dispute
between
Winslow and

Savage.
Definitely not
saying he
should, but
had Savage
paid Winslow

like Kellen
feels he
deserves to
be paid, then
all would be
hunky-dory.

Phil wants to
wait.

Winslow
wants it done
yesterday.

One can
hope that the
two of them
act like
adults, get
together, and

hash out their
concerns.

However, in

the world of
high-profile
athletics,
sense of
entitlement -
on both sides

- usually
trumps
common
sense.



~ ~ ~ At least

we're finally
getting some
national
attention.
That has to
be a good

thing, right?

Right?

Oh.



~ ~ ~ Some of
you are out
there right
now, freaking
out. I can
see you.

You're
spazzing out
about
hypotheticals
such as
"*No*

*Free Agents
are going to
want to come
here because
of the Staph
" and*

"
*No Free
Agents are
going to want
to come here
because of*

the
dishonesty of
the Front
Office
" and
"

Kellen

Winslow is

not going to

want to sign

an extension

now

."

Horsefeather

S.

Here are the
four reasons
Free Agents
sign with
teams: 1)
Money, 2)

**Opportunity
to start, 3)
Chance to
win a
championsh
ip, 4) Money.**

If the check
is big
enough, the
Free Agent
will say
"*I don't*

see no Staph
.";

If the check

is big
enough, the
Free Agent
will say
"*Phil*
seems like a

good guy to
me .&q
uot;

If the check
is big
enough,
Kellen
Winslow will
say "W

*e both said
some things
we didn't
mean, but
we're over it
now, and I'm*

*happy to be a
Cleveland
Brown for the
rest of my
career*
.”;

Didn't Lance
Briggs swear
he'd never
play for
Chicago
again? And

whom does
he play for
now?

Money
makes the
NFL world go
'round, and
Randy
Lerner's got

a lot of it.



~ ~ ~ In the
bizarro world
where the
Browns
Defense
carries the

team and
allows very
few points
per game,
the
weakness

that is the
impotent Run
D still worries
me. That
goes back to
the

Linebacking
issue I
mentioned
above.

And it too will
not be fixed
this season.



~ ~ ~ Quoth

Derek

Anderson:

"*Ever*

get writer's

block

?

" -

When asked
by a
journalist
about his
inconsistency
.

Every writer
has a bad
article here
and there,
and they
usually know

which ones
they are.

Maybe they
aren't
inspired,
maybe they

aren't
interested,
maybe they
just don't
have their A
game that

week. It
happens to
me all the
time.

But if you
were to
translate
DA's bad
performances
into

articles, they
would read
"Me no
did guud
" or
"

Splat

!";

That's more

than just
writer's block.



~ ~ ~ Quoth
Braylon

Edwards:
" *We
might've
underestimated
the
Redskins*

."

How does a
2-3 team

underestimate
a 4-2 team
that's playing
at home?
How. Does.
That.

Happen?

I just... sigh...



~ ~ ~ Is Josh

Cribbs
healthy?
Why is he so
ineffective?
The only
Special

Teams return
of note came
from Gerard
freakin'
Lawson, not
Cribbs (and

why is no
one asking
why Cribbs
was benched
on that
return?).

Josh hasn't
done much
all season.
That's a big
reason why
they're

struggling.



~ ~ ~ In the
end, the
Washington
Redskins are
5-2, and the
Cleveland

Browns are
2-4. And I
can't help but
think that the
Browns are
by far the

superior
team.

But I guess

you are what
your record
says you are.

Next Up

~ ~ ~ The

Jacksonville

Jaguars.

Seeing as
my fantasy

league

Defense is

Jacksonville,

I would

assume that

I'm in for a

nice high
score next
week. But
you never
know when
the

Cleveland
Hyde will
become
Jekyll again,
so I'd not be
shocked at a

surprising
Offensive
showing by
our Browns.

Jacksonville
is really just
about as
middle of the
pack as
Cleveland.

Their
Defense is
OK, their
Offensive
Line is weak,
and their

Receivers
are awful.
They don't
have the
same
deficiencies

as the
Browns, but
they have as
many.
Unfortunately,
they do

have good
Running
Backs, and
we all know
how
Cleveland is

doing
against the
Run this
year, so I'd
recommmend
starting

Jones-Drew
or Taylor.

We have no

clue which
Cleveland
Browns
squad will
show up
next. Predict

this game at
your own
risk.

However,
since the
game is in
the 4 pm
time slot, if
you are

compelled to
wager (which
I often am),
bet the
house on the
Jag-wires.