

Chris Hutchison is sick of this. No, he's not talking about the game. The game was fine. It felt good to see the Browns beat up on somebody, even if it was the Lowly Lions. He's talking about this stupid QB "competition". He says it's a sham. A farce. A waste of time. A joke. In this week's Outsider, Chris explains his position on the QB drama, gives our readers an in-depth and humorous game recap on the win over the Lions, hands out his gameballs, and hits on the Josh Cribbs contract situation.



A View From The Cheap Seats

I'm sick of this.

No, I'm not talking about the game. The game was fine. It felt good to see the Browns beat up on somebody, even if it was the Lowly Lions (who were obviously not 0-16 last year by accident).

I'm talking about this stupid QB "competition". It's a sham. A farce. A waste of time. A joke.

I had no problem with it coming into camp because I was somewhat confident that Brady Quinn would distance himself from Derek Anderson, but the way this thing has been handled by Mangini is sloppy. Back and forth, up and down. They're supposed to get equal reps in games, but that hasn't been anywhere near the case. No consistency.

Here's what this "*competition*" is accomplishing: The team has no idea who their leader will be, there is no way to solidify the starting Offensive unit, and the players are probably starting to lose faith in both guys due to the fact that neither one can take control.

Congrats, Mangini - you're making a big ol' heapin' mess.

At this point of the season - going into the 3rd Preseason game - it's time to name a starter. The team needs to have some clarity.

There are only 2 logical reasons I can think of why Mangini is perpetuating this shamockery: Either 1) Mangini is trying to pressure Quinn into overcoming adversity and secure the position outright or 2) Mangini

knows who his starter will be, but is trying to keep Minnesota "*in the dark*" before the Season Opener so they'll " *have to prepare for both QB's* ".

(Which I'm sure is just keeping the Vikings up nights, wondering which crappy Browns QB they'll be facing.)

Before Training Camp began, I might've accepted a 3rd option - that whoever " *wins* " the " *competition* " should play because they give the Browns the best chance of winning. Yep, I'd buy that if the Browns were the Ravens or the Patriots or the Colts. I'd buy that if the Browns were a good team that could win a lot of games despite mediocre QB play.

But I've seen enough of this team to realize that they are **not very good**. The talent level is at low

tide. Barnacles hang off the goal posts. There is no pass rush. The Run D will be mid-level at best. The running game will be questionable, and the QB will probably make enough mistakes to keep a lot of games from being winnable.

In lieu of this fate, the QB "*competition*" is null and void because there is only one possible answer, and any other answer is horrifically flawed.

Brady Quinn must start at QB.

If Derek Anderson "*wins*" this competition, then I will lose a lot of faith in Mangini, and I'll laugh at the scowls he makes every time DA Favre's him in the keister-hole. There is absolutely no reason for DA to start at QB for this team. He is simply not a starting-caliber QB on a good - nay, decent - team. I don't care what he did in the 1
st

Quarter of the Lions game - I've seen way too much of Mr. DA to buy that load of pyrite.

You've got one QB from whom you know exactly what to expect, and another who's a complete enigma but yet can't seem to buy starting reps. You've got a bad team that will likely be in the running for Colt McCoy/Tim Tebow/Sam Bradford. So you either 1) start Derek Anderson, and completely necessitate the drafting of McCoy/Tebow/Bradford because you need a Franchise QB for chrissakes or 2) start Brady Quinn and find out if *maybe you might* already have a Franchise QB on the roster, *possibly* allowing you to draft a Taylor Mays (or his ilk) instead of McCoy/Tebow/Bradford.

This ain't rocket surgery.

And yet this "*competition*" is supposedly a "*dead-heat*" or "*too close to call*", and DA's performance somehow "*narrowed the gap*". If I had hair, I'd be freakin' tearing it out.

That performance was just more of the same. DA's always been hot and cold. He can look like the second coming of Otto Graham... for a Quarter or a Half. Then he'll jam a brick right in your colon.

He was much better than last week, but he wasn't anything special. I watched the 1st Half 3 times. DA had 4 good throws... and the 4th

was being generous. 1) first throw to Mo Massaquoi, 2) the 3rd

Down pass to Josh Cribbs, 3) the pass to Steve Heiden, and, I guess, 4) the 34 yard pass to Braylon Edwards, even though it was behind him.

He also had 4 bad throws - the pass to Braylon that was OB, a slant to BE that was way too fast and nowhere near him, the pass that missed Robert Royal in the End Zone (no, he wasn't hit as he threw; he anticipated the hit, tried to flick it with "touch", and you saw the result), and, of course, the INT.

That was typical DA, and I, for one, don't want to see that starting for the Cleveland Browns. If you *know* he's the best you've got, then that's one thing. But no one knows that.

You may call me a hater, and I don't care. I have nothing against DA, and I especially have nothing for Quinn. But here are the facts about DA - he's inconsistent, inaccurate, lacks touch, and makes a lot of bad decisions.

Other than that, he's fine.

Quinn might be just as bad. Hell, he might

be worse. But, with him, there's at least a *chance* he might be good. There's a smidgen of hope.

Otherwise, we're just hitting Control-C on the 2008 season.

1st Quarter

Josh Cribbs started the party with a 95 yard Kickoff Return for TD, but it was

predictably called back. However, due to some nice intermediate passing from starter du jour Derek Anderson and some decent running from Jamal Lewis, the Browns finally managed to crack that End Zone hymen which has haunted them for nearly a year. Browns 7, Lions 0.

Superboy Matt Stafford started for Detroit, and it only took him one pass to throw a bad pick, this one to Eric Wright, who returned the ball to the DET 5. However, a stupid ticky-tack Personal Foul penalty drove the ball back to the 20, and DA & Co. did little with it from there. Browns 10, Lions 0.

A 3 and out from DET, a punt, and Cribbs took it 84 for a TD, sans yellow hanky this time. Browns 17, Lions 0.

Another 3 and by the Kitties, and DA managed another decent drive, this one ending in a FG and an inconceivable 20 point lead. Browns 20, Lions 0.

Finally, Stafford led his team to a 1st Down, but it was all for naught as they still punted. The Browns got the ball back and drove to a 3

rd

and 1 on the DET 38 when the Q ended.

End 1st: □ Cleveland 20, Detroit 0.

2nd Quarter

Quinn came in for DA, and was summarily sacked on a slow moving play. The Browns punted for the 1st time.

The rest of the Quarter was an exercise in futility. Stafford remained ineffective. Quinn was plagued by OL penalties. James "Crafty"; Davis came in and showed effectiveness with the 1st Unit.

Daunte Culpepper finally replaced Stafford and led the Lions on a nice drive. But on 4th and 1 from the Browns 27, Robaire Smith blew up the

Kevin Smith run and a couple other guys finished him off.

With 49 seconds left in the Half, Mangini was true to his word of getting DA a 2 minute drill (Quinn got 2 series to Anderson's 5). DA dinked and dunked and blew a lot of time off the clock, then reminded us that he was - indeed - Derek

Anderson and threw a terrible pick high and behind Crafty... tipped and picked. DET immediately kicked a FG to salvage something of the 1st Half.

**Halftime: □ Cleveland 20,
Detroit 3.**

3rd Quarter

This Quarter was no fun to watch... until the end. DET kept punting, but Brett Ratliff and the backup OL were going

nowhere. Ratliff was getting lambasted - he barely had time to drop back. He got the ball swatted out of his hand on a long 3rd Down, and the Lions recovered. Drew Stanton came in and took all of one play to get a 20 yard TD pass. Browns 20, Lions 10.

The poor Browns O continued to suffer, and there were no holes for Crafty. No holes, that is, until 3rd and 12 at the CLE 19 with about a minute left. Ratliff faked a throw and handed to Davis on a delay. DET wasn't looking for it. Davis dashed through the hole, made a move

that broke some poor bloke's ankles, shrugged off a would-be tackler, and took it 81 yards to the House. Browns 27, Lions 10.

End 3rd: Cleveland 27, Detroit 10.

4th Quarter

Not much happened.
How's bout we not

waste our time
re-capping this
Quarter, mmm-kay?

**Final: □ Cleveland
27, Detroit 10.**

Gameballs

Josh Cribbs - Mr.

Cribbs is bucking for a promotion.

Obviously, a Kickoff Return TD (negated) and a Punt Return TD (completed) would be enough to get you a gameball, but he made a nice catch on 3rd Down

as a Receiver, and I would be faulty if I didn't mention how effectively I saw him blocking on running plays. DB's are not gonna want a face full of Cribbs all day if he starts getting significant WR

minutes.

Crafty Davis - ran
very well with the
first string OL.
Struggled a bit more
with the crappy 2
nd

Unit (see: Shame, Wall of), but still managed to break off that 81 yard TD. Also was a threat as a Receiver.

Corey Ivy - had

several nice plays,
including a pass
breakup, a good
tackle on 3
rd

Down, and a forced
fumble. Might be
locking up the
Nickel.

Bret Lockett -
several times I
noticed this guy.
He played with all
the units, including
the 1st
Unit D, and I was
impressed by his
solid tackling and

frequency of being
around the ball.
Which is nice for a
Safety for a
change.

Honorable Mention

Eric Barton - yes,
that Eric Barton.
Almost had a pick
off of Stafford (who
didn't), then
planted him on a
rush on the next
play.

Derek Anderson -
led a TD drive, and
that is apparently
not easy to do
around here these
days.

Robaire Smith -
his penetration on
the DET 4
th

and 1 right before
Half blew that play
right up.

Kaluka Maiava -
making his
Special Teams
presence felt, 2
tackles there, plus
a nice hit with the
late-string
Defense.

Blake Costanzo -
another Special
Teams maestro.
The guy looks like
a brick
port-o-potty, and
was in the middle
of much of the ST

action.

Leon Williams -
actually made
some nice plays
sideline to
sideline, using his

speed to cut off a couple plays that looked like they'd get a lot bigger.

Wall of Shame

Backup Offensive

Line - flat out

blew. Didn't do

Quinn any favors,

and certainly

made Brett
Ratliff's life
miserable by
being unable to
block even 4 man
fronts. Pray there
are no more OL
injuries, cuz this

unit's thinner than
a microwave
pizza.

John St. Clair -
mysteriously killed
2 significant gains

on Quinn drives
with penalties
(Holding and
Illegal Formation).

How does a RT
get an Illegal
Formation in this
day and age?

Coincidence or
PenaltyGate?
You decide.

Abe Elam - the
only time I noticed
him, he was

wiping out Cribbs'
opening Kickoff
Return TD with
some Holding.

Conclusion

Time of
Possession:
Detroit - 30:09,
Cleveland - 29:51

Total Yards:
Cleveland - 348,
Detroit - 288

This, of course,
reminds me of the
classic YouTube

Cleveland Tourism Video

-
-

*Come on down to
Cleveland town
everyone!*

*Under
construction since
1868.*

*See our river that
catches on fire.*

*It's so polluted
that all our fish
have AIDS.*

*You see the sun
almost 3 times a
year.*

*The Flats look like
a Scooby Doo
ghost town.*

*Don't slow down
in East Cleveland
or you'll die.*

*Our economy's
based on LeBron
James.*

*Buy a house for
the price of a
VCR.*

*Our main export is
crippling
depression.*

*It could be worse
though - at least
we're not Detroit!*

We're not Detroit!

The tackling was much better, but the reduction of penalties was not (especially on Special Teams). 11 penalties for 85 yards. One

wiped out a 95
yard TD run.

Another (on a
punt) cost the
Browns around 35
yards of field
position. Several
others killed nice

offensive gains
(those drives all
subsequently
died).

Mangini said in
his press

conference :

"

The penalties tick me off. It's a problem. It's going to lose games. It doesn't work. It doesn't work. It's

*not good football.
That's a focal
point. It's been a
focal point. It'll
continue to be a
focal point
."*

Glad I'm not the
only one that
noticed.

Does running
increase
brainpower? Let's

find out.



We have an
interesting
situation at
Running Back.
With the
emergence of
James Davis, the
Browns can now

claim to be
legitimately 3
deep at the
position, and
(outside of fantasy
football) I love it
when a team can
bring a powerful

Running
Back-by-committe
e. Think about
the Giants of the
last couple years -
they'd trot out big,
powerful Brandon
Jacobs, then

versatile Derek
Ward, then
fireplug Ahmad
Bradshaw. All 3
effective, all 3
bringing a
different skill set
to the table.

So the Brown
Committee would
likely consist of
Jamal Lewis,
Jerome Harrison,
and James Davis.
Triple J! (or some
such bologna).

Aye, here's the
rub - Harrison and
Davis bring a lot
of the same skills
to the table, so
switching out
Jerome for Crafty
or vice versa

doesn't really give
you a unique
advantage.

Jamal Lewis is
done. The maple
tree in my back

yard grows faster
than he moves,
and it's dead. He
had some nice
runs against
Detroit, but those
plays where he
bounced it outside

and finally turned
it up wouldn't work
against a real NFL
Defense.

However, he still
has his purpose.

He still has power,
and he would be

excellent at
wearing down a D
in the 4th Quarter.

My vision for him

is this: Due to his stature and history, he remains the “starting” RB. He gets the first series of the game.

Maybe the first 2.
Then in comes
RB2, who
switches back
and forth with
RB3 for the
remainder of the
1st Half. Then

Jamal gets the first series of the 2nd Half, and back to the bench until late in the 4th

Quarter, when he is brought on to

Jerome Bettis his
way through the
tired enemy D
and finish them
off.

Now, that would entail asking Harrison and Davis to carry the entirety of the rest of the game, and I'm not sure 2 guys

with that similar
a skill set can
pull it off
effectively. So
maybe you hold
on to a guy like
Noah Herron,
who has looked

good in his
limited time and
does have that
skill set which
appears to be
somewhere
between
Harrison/Davis

and Lewis (nice
shiftiness and
power). And
since you can't
really let one of
Harrison or
Davis go (can
you?), you're

forced to keep 4
RB's on the
roster.

But, oh, what
Committee

potential!

And, no, I'm not
kidding.

Alex Hall and
Kam Wimbley
both made some

nice plays in this game, especially in run contain (keeping the RB from bouncing outside for a big gain). However, they once again

did not manage
to make much
headway in
attacking the QB.

Ahtyba Rubin
once again did a
respectable job
at Nose, and the
DL didn't get
blown off the ball
like they did
against Green

Bay, but they
also didn't get
much in the way
of penetration.

David Veikune

rushed from the outside a couple times, but was completely negated by simple RB chop blocks (the legal kind).

One thing is
painfully
(emphasis on
"pain";
) obvious - this
team will have to
blitz all day and
all night to get

pressure on the
QB. That will
be... ahem... a
PROBLEM.

Josh Cribbs is
looking for a new
contract. He's
got 4 years left at

around a million
per, but he
claims he had a
bad agent and
he didn't know
what he was
doing and he
made a mistake

and now he's not
getting paid
anything near
market value.

It is also rumored

that he might sit
out the Regular
Season if some
headway is not
made to a
contract
re-structure from
the powers that

be.

This is a bit of a
conundrum.

Cribbs has rare
talent - a

combination of
speed, power,
and moves
makes him one
of the best Kick
Returners in the
league. He's
also tits on Kick

Coverage, and
he now even
seems to be
making a serious
contribution as a
Receiver.

But you just can't go tearing up the contract of a dude that's got 4 years left. You can't. There's this thing called the Salary Cap,

and if you do it
for Cribbs, every
two-bit schmoe
on the team is
gonna be
threatening a
holdout before
you can say

Shiznit. That's
the concept that
so many foo...
ahem,
individuals... that
I've heard saying
"*Just pay*
the man !&

quot; don't seem
to grasp.

If there were only
some way to
re-do the

contract without
making it look
like a
capitulation.

The only thing I

can think of is to
name him
starting WR
(opposite
Bray-Bray), then
claim that, due to
his responsibility
spike, he is due

appropriate
compensation.
That way, Josh
is happy, and yet
you can still tell
the next guy that
comes to the
office with his

hand out, "
YOU don't play
14 positions, do
you
?"

Matthew Stafford
is one of the
highest paid

players in the
NFL. Nice to
see that he's
earned it. He
was awesome in
that game. How
he's not the **THE**
highest paid

player, I don't
know. With
overthrows and
decisions like
those... ye Gods!

This is why we
need an NFL
Rookie Pay
Scale. Stafford
may one day be
one of the best
players in the
NFL and

deserving of his
fat contract. But
until he is, no
way in Detroit
should raw Rook
be making 10
times almost
everyone else on

his team.

Mangini on the
sidelines is a
hoot. I mean,
what a character!
I need to party
with that guy!
Standing there
with that pissed

off look on his
face, no matter
what happens...
rock on, big guy!

Don't get me

wrong. I appreciate that he takes the job seriously and that he's never satisfied and that there's always some way to get

better. That's a
good thing.

But he does look
like about as
much fun as a

colonoscopy.

Oh, guess I forgot to address this in my earlier ramblings...

Round 2 winner

**- Derek
Anderson.**

Quinn didn't get
much of a
chance, and DA

must've paid off
St. Clair, but you
can't argue with
the fact that DA
was more
productive in his
time behind
Center.

So the score is tied at 1 now, for whatever that's worth. (And the answer to that is: *Nothing*).

At Halftime, I
noticed that
Channel 3 News

had a brief spot about what they would be showing after the game. When discussing what would be on sports later, they

had more coverage of the game, as well as highlights of the Steelers-Redskins contest.

Why? Because they're AFC North rivals, and they didn't show highlights of the Ravens and Bengals because they played on

different nights?

It better be. If a
Cleveland News
Station was
kowtowing to

Populist
Bandwagon
Hilljacks, it is a
sad day indeed.
You think they're
showing Browns
highlights on
Pittsburgh

stations? Detroit
no they ain't!

Those Tim Misny commercials are so vague. What is it he does for a living? What's his goal? What kind of service does he provide?

It's so hard to
tell.



Uhhh... yeah...
so I went to the
grocery store on
Saturday to pick
up some things
for my girlfriend
who was making
a bunch of food

for a party we
were having. I'd
spent all week
under the cruel
whip of actually
having to
complete
household

projects, which included staining the deck, mulching around the back garage, and caulking around the tub in the bathroom

she just painted.
So I was more
than glad that my
next (and last)
task was to
purchase bread
crumbs and
large quantities

of alcohol.

As I walked
down an aisle,
searching vainly
for said bread

crumbs, my cell phone rang. It was my friend Zeke, who had stopped by my house whilst I was away and was hanging out

with (bothering)
my girlfriend. He
complimented
me on the deck
stain job.

*" Yeah,
well, check out
the caulk in the
bathroom ,
" I told him.*

Suddenly, a woman I was walking by looked at me with disgust and grabbed her child protectively.

It wasn't until I
was in the next
aisle that I
realized why.

Reader E-mail

From Lon Doe,
Cuyahoga Falls:
"You suck!
*I agree with you
that the Browns
will probably
suck this year,
but you suck*

more! When I
look up suck in
the dictionary, I
see you !&
quot;

It was a slow
week in e-mail
land.

Next Up

The Tennessee
Titans.

Good Running
Game. Good
OL. Solid DL.
Get a lot of
pressure on the
QB. Get a lot of
turnovers.

You know, all the
stuff that gives
the Browns
nightmares.

This will be a

Detroit of a test
for our team. If
they can hang
with the Titans,
then Cleveland
might actually
start to let hope
fester once

again.