

Week 6 – Cleveland at Pittsburgh

At 1-5, the logical tendency is to throw a great big hissy-fit and demand the firing of everyone from Mike Holmgren to the guy that changes the urinal cakes in the locker room (especially him - without fresh urinal cakes, the players cannot be expected to perform worth a squirt).

If you are one of the brave souls that has watched the horror that is the Browns' season, you know that they have had their chances in most contests, and have hung in there valiantly in the last two despite being down several key players and playing markedly superior opponents.

This is not a team to be ashamed of. But the final record will not reflect that, as the injuries continue to mount and the schedule continues to extract its evil toll.

Halloween should be envious of the terror that the Browns' schedule has brought. This road through NFL hollow is fraught with peril. Beware the headless man.

Except for the one team they beat, every team they've played has a winning record. Their opponents have a 20-12 combined record, which is pretty impressive until you consider that the Browns' next 3 opponents - the Saints, Jets, and Pats - have a combined 13-4 record.

Cleveland's last 7 games get a bit easier, but 5 of those 7 teams have a combined 16-11 mark at this point. The overall W-L differential is brought down only by the Bills and Panthers: 0-10 together.

Take out Buffalo and Carolina, and the combined records of the teams the Browns play in the other 14 contests is a whopping 49-27.

Bela Lugosi's Big Bag of Morphine!

But, lo! Take heart, ye lost souls! One would normally deem it nigh impossible to find a silver lining in a season like this, but I can't help but feel optimistic. And very curious to see more of Colt McCoy, who should undoubtedly start the rest of the season (barring inevitable injury, of course). The Browns may finish 4-12, and as long as they are hanging tough and making it a game against these clearly more talented teams, there is not only hope but a nice high draft pick waiting for them at the end of the charcoal rainbow.

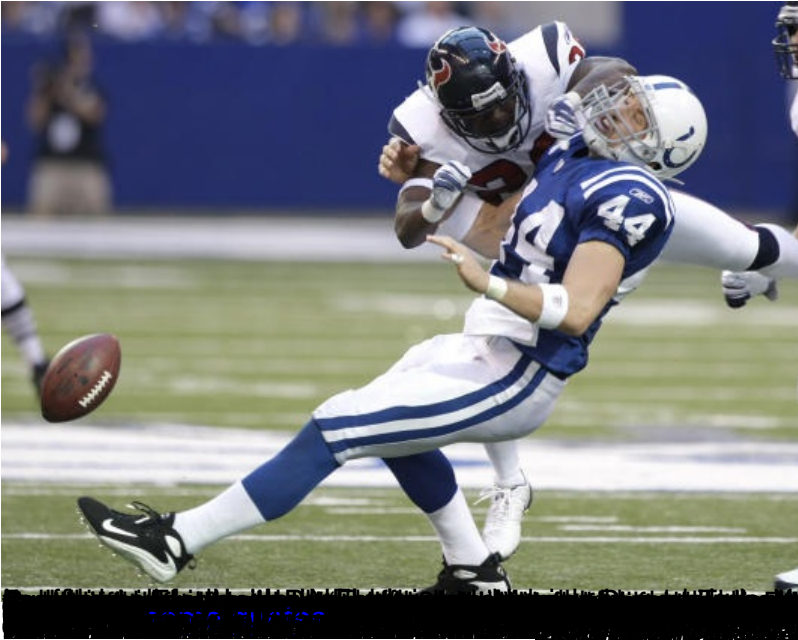
The past barrage of 4 and 5 win seasons were fraught with a sense of directionlessness. Wandering around, hoping to accidentally stumble upon a winning formula (like in 2007). I do not sense that now. I sense that this organization is finally in the hands of Professionals, and they will acquire the missing talent and they will make the necessary moves and they will finally deliver this franchise from the laughing-stock status we have dis-enjoyed for so long now.

Chortle if you will, but this sentiment is no trick. Someday, with luck, we may be in for a treat.

And, yes, a deal with the Devil might not hurt.

Why not? Everyone else in our division already did it.





Full of love: Greenle the imba "Mishak" holding the Browns' 2010s Repton Harry store

