

Brownie Bits: Week 11

Written by {ga=jonathanknight}

Wednesday, November 24 2010 7:00 PM -



Useless nuggets of information from Sunday's Browns game that you can certainly live without...

ANOTHER SNAG BY THE JAGS: After losing to the Jaguars in their first six meetings, the Browns have had the better of the series in recent years, winning four of the next six going into Sunday's game. Ironically, they've fared much better on the road than in Cleveland – losing five of six to the Jags at home, while Sunday's loss snapped a three-game winning streak by the Browns in Jacksonville. The Jaguars now lead the all-time series 9-4.

EARLY POINTS: This was the first time in five games and only the third time this season that the Browns did not score the game's first points. At the other end of the spectrum, Sunday's loss was the ninth time this season the Browns' opponent had scored the game's final points. (The lone exception was Peyton Hillis' exclamatory touchdown run against New England.)

EXTENDING THE STRING: The Browns have now held a lead at some point in 15 consecutive games. By leading in their first 10 games of the season, they match the new-era mark to start a season set by the 2001 team. If they can take a lead against Carolina next week, they'll match the string of 16 reached by the beloved 1980 team.

AVOIDING NOVEMBER: This was the first time the Browns and Jaguars had ever played in the month of November. They'd played in every other month of the football season, including January.

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SUNDAY DRIVE: At 16 plays, the Browns' first scoring drive marked the team's longest of the season. In terms of yardage, it ranks No. 2 behind the 98-yard touchdown march in Week Two against Kansas City. It was the Browns' fourth drive of 80 or more yards this season.

FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH: The Browns have never entered a game with Jacksonville with a winning record. As it happens, they've also never posted a winning record in a season in which they've lost to the Jaguars.

STILL MR. DEPENDABLE...SORT OF: Phil Dawson's missed 51-yard field goal attempt in the second quarter was his first miss since Week Two, breaking a string of 13 consecutive conversions. Though he's a respectable 10 for 19 from beyond 50 yards in his career, he's missed his past five from 50-plus yards (including his fourth-quarter miss). Conversely, with his successful 38-yarder in the third quarter, he's now made 27 consecutive from inside 40 yards (his last miss was from 34 yards out on Nov. 30, 2008 against Indianapolis).

NAILBITERS: Including Sunday, the last six meetings between the Browns and Jags have been decided by six points or less.

SHOOTING YOURSELF IN THE FOOT: The key to the Browns' low-risk offense is its ability to move forward in little chunks rather than rely on the big play. They were crippled by a total of nine plays that resulted in negative yardage: six sacks and three tackles for loss, plus 15 yards in offensive penalties.

POINTS ARE HARD TO COME BY: The Browns have never scored more than 23 points in a game against Jacksonville – a total matched in each of their previous two meetings, both Cleveland victories. Going in, the Browns were averaging less than 15 points per game against Jacksonville – being held to 10 points or less four times. Conversely, the Jaguars hadn't scored more than 20 points against the Browns since the infamous 48-0 bloodletting in December of 2000.

BACKFIELD TARGET: Peyton Hillis' 95 receiving yards were the most collected by a Browns running back since Lee Suggs snagged five passes for 100 yards in a victory over the Bengals in October of 2004.

WE NEED A LITTLE CHRISTMAS: Abram Elam's early Christmas gift from Maurice Jones-Drew was the first fumble return for a touchdown by the Browns since – appropriately – Christmas Eve, 2006 when Daven Holly ran back a fumble 40 yards for a score in a loss to Tampa Bay.

NO DOOR-SLAMMING: Browns opponents are now nine for 10 on fourth-down conversions for the season.

A BAD OMEN: For as bad as the Cleveland quarterbacks have been over the past two seasons, the Browns hadn't allowed six sacks in a game since the Steelers brought down Charlie Frye and Derek Anderson a combined six times on opening day 2007.

BACK TO THE SECOND-HALF STRUGGLES: After leveling off nicely in recently weeks, the Browns reverted back to their early season second-half struggles. They collected 167 total yards in the first half, averaging 5.4 per play, but struggled to pick up just 116 in the final two periods – 108 of which came on the final two drives. On their first five possessions of the second half, they racked up a whopping eight total yards and one first down.

MORE THAN A HANDFUL OF THEFTS: Collecting a season-high six turnovers, the Browns matched a season high and increased their ratio for the season to plus-six. It was the most turnovers the Browns had picked up in a game since they intercepted Ty Detmer seven times in a hilarious victory over Detroit in September of 2001.

WHY STATS DON'T REALLY MATTER: In the past two games, the Browns have tallied a combined total of 18 yards in the third quarter and held the football for just seven minutes and 41 seconds. Their opponents, meanwhile, have racked up 161 total yards and controlled the football for 22 minutes and 19 seconds. It's all meaningless, however, since the Browns somehow outscored the Jets and Jags 10-0 over the course of those two periods.

UNLUCKY SEVEN: This was the seventh time this season the Browns have held a lead in the fourth quarter. Their record in these games is an uninspiring 3-4.

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PROGRESS: Maurice Jones-Drew became only the second back to rush for 100 yards against the Browns this season (Atlanta's Michael Turner rushed for 140 in Week Five).

SACK EXCHANGE: The four sacks the Browns collected matched their previous season-high against Cincinnati in Week Four. They now have 20 sacks for the season – and are actually off-pace to match last year's total of 40.

PEYTON'S PACE: Despite a sub-par rushing performance (48 yards on 21 carries), Peyton Hillis is still on track to top the 1,200-yard mark for the season, with 774 yards gained. He's averaging 4.5 yards per carry.

ALMOST IN THE CLEAR: Until the "whoopsy" 75-yard screen pass to Jones-Drew that essentially lost the game, the Browns defense did a good job of preventing the big play. The Jags' longest play prior to that was Jones-Drew's 22-yard run that set up their second touchdown. Other than those two, they had no other plays longer than 20 yards.

WHERE WE RANK: This week the Browns dipped to 26th in the league in total offense (5.1 yards per play) but rose to No. 18 in defense (5.4).