

The 10 Best Clutch Catches Since the Browns' Return

Written by {ga=jonathanknight}

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From the instant Mohamed Massaquoi soared into the air like a falcon taking flight, then landed oh-so- gingerly along the sideline in the end zone with both feet clearly in-bounds, we recognized it as a thing of beauty - a tapestry of art we haven't seen much along the Lake Erie shore these past few years. Or decades.

Wins have been hard enough to come by, to say nothing of wins defined by spectacular receptions in dramatic situations. But there have been a few truly impressive snags that have either helped deliver or emphatically declared victory since the Browns' reboot in 1999.

And one of the discussions ramping up this week is where exactly Massaquoi's ranks.

Here's my humble opinion - etched out in a ranking of the 10 greatest clutch catches we've seen since the Browns' return:

10. KJ Sets Up First Home Win

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September 17, 2000

After nine straight losses to open Cleveland Browns Stadium, the home team was overdue for a break. Knotted at 20 with the hated Steelers, they got it from their own 8 with four minutes left when Tim Couch connected with Kevin Johnson over the middle for a 79-yard gain - the longest play of the new Browns' first five seasons.

A Phil Dawson field goal gave the Browns the lead, then Courtney Brown's sack of Kent Graham (and subsequent mistake by the officials in not stopping the clock afterward) wrapped up their first win in their new home.

9. Campbell's Christmas Gift

December 22, 2002

With a schizophrenic season hanging in the balance, the Browns capped a typically schizophrenic performance with a 92-yard drive in the final two minutes on the road against Baltimore's mighty defense.

Trailing 13-7, the Browns reached the Baltimore 1, where Tim Couch faked a handoff, rolled right, and lobbed a soft pass into the waiting arms of ridiculously wide-open tight end Mark Campbell with 29 seconds left to give the Browns an unlikely victory over the Ravens.

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8. Heiden KO's KC



December 3, 2006

Not exactly what you'd call a playmaker - even on the talent-challenged Browns teams of the mid-2000s - tight end Steve Heiden played the hero in a Browns' comeback victory over the Chiefs that, for better or worse, marked the arrival of Derek Anderson.

Trailing the playoff-bound Chiefs by two touchdowns with 12 minutes to go, Heiden capped an 81-yard drive with a six-yard scoring catch. After a defensive stop, the Browns took over at their own 30 with five minutes left and drove to the Kansas City 3.

With 35 seconds remaining, Anderson, in for injured Charlie Frye, hooked up with Heiden again, this time to tie the game and force overtime, where a 33-yard Anderson run set up Phil Dawson's game-winning field goal.

7. Heiden Does the Lambeau Leap

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