The soul who feels that there's still half a steak left will tell you that the Browns didn't scheme or game plan for this contest and that it was a Preseason game anyway and therefore means nothing.

The soul who feels the steak is half gone will tell you that clearly the world is ending because the Browns were dominated physically by the Eagles and that is a sure precursor of things to come.

They're both wrong, and they're both right.

The Real Game against the Eagles in 2 weeks will likely look a world different. The Browns will have some key pieces back. So will Philly. They'll show different cards. So this result, in the grand ol' scheme, means little.

Getting physically whipped at the line of scrimmage, especially the Philly D Line vs. Cleveland O Line, means a lot.

I said last week that the only real meaning of the game was to send a message. The Eagles knew this, and they clearly went out of their way to intimidate. They were so aggressive crashing the line that they got several Offsides penalties.

The Browns sent a message too - "*We are an outhouse, please come crap on us*."

You can bet that teams that have the Browns on their schedule are right now making mental notes to add a Wide 9 Defensive package on the week they play. Cleveland seems incredibly weak, slow, and confused by it.

Your starting QB - the only QB you have on the roster that has any chance of being anything but a place holder - is not particularly mobile. Your team will also rely heavily on a ground game from a rookie RB that has yet to see the field. If the O Line plays this way when the games start counting, THE TEAM WILL DIE.

The game started encouragingly enough with an 8 play 78 yard drive that featured at least 2 passes from Brandon Weeden that Colt McCoy simply cannot make - passes into traffic across the field along the sidelines. Those are Pick 6's if Colt throws them, which is why he does not (usually), which is why Colt should bless the Football Gods that at least he can run around a lot.

But after reaching the Philly 2, Jason Pinkston held to push the ball back to the 12, and then Derek Landri blew through a hole basically untouched and knocked the ball out of Weeden's hands before he even had time to turn around. With blocking like that, Weeden may never be allowed to take his eyes off the line of scrimmage again.

That play seemed to totally unnerve the Browns' Offense, because the O Line fell apart after that, Weeden fumbled again (retained), Montario Hardesty fumbled (lost), the Receivers seemed to be in absolute disconcert with the QB, and they didn't even threaten to get a 1st Down for nearly a Quarter. The O Line may be talented (then again, they may not), but they are for the most part young and inexperienced and don't know how to handle adversity. Brandon Weeden may be talented (then again, he may not), but he is inexperienced and has to learn how to handle the gang rush. Greg Little, Josh Gordon, Travis Benjamin, and Jordan Cameron may be talented (then again, they may not), but they are inexperienced and need to not only know where they're supposed to go but do it correctly AND actually catch the ball once they get there.

We'd all love to see the fairy tale where all these guys hit and became their potential at once and the Browns went from doormats to contendahs... but that just doesn't happen. You don't become James Bond the first time you convince a girl to move past 3rd base in the backseat of your mom's Ford Escort.

The free fall finally ended in the 2nd Quarter against Eagles backups with a 65 yard drive for a short Phil Dawson, and that basically ended Brandon's night. Colt McCoy came in with about a minute left (to the cheers of some deluded individuals) and promptly showed how much more effective he was against the vicious Eagles D by throwing 2 check downs and getting plowed under by 3 guys on 3rd down.

Oh, did I mention that the Defense was a whole lot of mediocre against 3rd string rookie QB Nick Foles? No? Yeah, the Defense was a whole lot of mediocre. Foles had 2 TD passes (albeit on 15 yard and 3 yard drives) and should've had a 3rd on flailing CB Sheldon Brown but for a replay reversal. Surely, the Browns weren't attacking Foles the way they would if it were a Real Game, but that doesn't change the fact that they made little impact physically against Philly's O Line and that next time it will be Mike freakin' Vick back there, not a 3rd round rook.

After a garbage Roughing call wiped out a Pick 6 by David Sims - and Cleveland responded to that adversity by allowing Trent Edwards to drive for another TD - McCoy got the start in the 2nd Half, and he showed again his plethora of experience with situations where there is no blocking, no pocket, and no Receivers by running around and making just enough plays to drive the field for a TD against Philly's 3rd stringers.

Seneca Wallace came on next to make his case for backup QB, and he showed his stuff by throwing a stupid INT on his first pass. He got one more series after that and promptly did not much, severely cramping his roster chances and allowing the Eagles to run out the final 6 minutes of the clock against guys that have probably already been cut.

Stats

Time of Possession: PHI - 31:59, CLE - 28:01

Total Yards: PHI - 328, CLE - 249

Yards Passing: PHI - 273, CLE - 184

Yards Rushing: CLE - 65, PHI - 55

First Downs: PHI - 22, CLE - 18

Turnovers Forced: PHI - 4, CLE - 1

Sacks: PHI - 4, CLE - 0

Final Score: Philadelphia 27, Cleveland 10

Meh.

Game Balls