Preseason Week 1 – Green Bay at Cleveland

No, that's not what I was expecting either.

I too expected misery, ineptitude, and disarray. I too expected to see the Offense confused and inefficient. I too expected the Defense to give up about half a hundo points.

As the Browns move to the West Coast Offense, we can look (longingly) to the 2010 Green Bay Packers as the best example of this scheme working to perfection. But to hope that this 2011 Cleveland team could mirror that kind of productivity - what with the 3 whole weeks of installation time and the questionable talent across the board - would be foolish at best.

But that's what it ended up doing, at least with Colt McCoy at the helm.

Shockingly unexpected.

Yes, I realize it's just the Preseason. Yes, I realize that Green Bay was playing vanilla D, and that the 2nd TD drive came against backups.

But watching as many Preseason games as possible this weekend taught me that vanilla Defenses and 2nd stringers are still trying as hard as they can to win, and the fact that this is still the Fake Season doesn't mean your Offense can't still look incredibly inept (see: Bengals, Cincinnati).

At the absolute minimum, this kind of performance can at least "fool" the Browns into believing that they are Offensively competent, and belief can go a long damn way in the NFL.

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Game Recap

This is now a thing of the past. I'm going to assume that you watched the game from now on.

Final: Browns 27, Packers 17.

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Conclusion

Time of Possession: Green Bay – 31:47, Cleveland – 28:13

Total Yards: Cleveland – 364, Green Bay - 341

Yards Passing: Green Bay – 263, Cleveland - 240

Yards Rushing: Cleveland – 124, Green Bay - 78

First Downs: Green Bay - 22, Cleveland – 18

Turnovers Forced: Green Bay - 2, Cleveland – 1

Sacks: Cleveland – 5, Green Bay - 1

This tells me that the game was pretty evenly matched - which is exactly what it was. This wasn't a contest like last year's Saints game where the Browns got some breaks and then held on for dear life against a clearly superior opponent that was having a bad day. This contest looked like 2 teams that might split a 10 game series.

But let us also remember that this was a Fake Season game. I don't for the life of me think that the Regular Season Browns would be able to go toe-to-toe with the Regular Season Packers.

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Gameballs

Colt McCoy – In just over a Quarter, Colt went 9 for 10, 135 yards, 1 TD. Extrapolate that (generously) over a game, and you get 36 for 40, 540 yards, and 4 TD's. That would work OK for me.

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