

TRASH TALK: GIANTS V. TEXAS

Apparently, football started early this week, with San Francisco's team beating the Texas team one TD, a conversion, and a field goal to a TD on Wednesday, and shutting them out last night with three field goals. I understand the quarterbacks in these games have been a big part of the story, with the QBs from Texas playing like Tony Romo in a big game, and the QBs from San Francisco recalling Montana or Young; ah, the good old days! You know you're in trouble when W looks to be the bright spot from the mound for the Rangers. May the Giants continue to score touchdowns over the evil Rangers!

Meanwhile, weird things are going down in the preprofessional football league. We're well into the season, and yet the Big 10.2 still has 3 teams in the top ten, with the Spartans at the Hawkeyes one of the better games this weekend. Soon to be Big 10.2 team, the Huskers, face a big game at home against Missouri. And in bmaz' part of the country, the Ducks will see whether the Spoiled Children have really returned to their winning ways yet. As for the Wolverineenies? Is it too soon to speculate whether JoePa will outlast yet another big program coach when he hosts RichRod this weekend?

The big drama in the pro leagues has to do with whether age and injuries will end the Geezer's 291-game consecutive streak. I'm with BillBel on this: nahhh!! Favre has started every game since **before** Clinton was elected! No puny thing like broken bones and a penis scandal will keep him out. That said, much as I believe the Pats' record grossly overstates their ability this year, I do think the Pats will beat Randy Moss in his return to New England.

But the Vikings-Pats game isn't even close to the most interesting game of the week (even if bmaz and I will be at each others' throats

during it). I think the Stillers—who **have** earned their 5-1 record, will prove the champs are still suffering from a season long hangover. Likewise, I fear the Packers' joy at beating the Geezer will be short-lived as they travel to play the Jets (though I do hope against hope that Russ Feingold's attendance at the Packer's victory over Favre will give him just enough juju to pull off a win in WI).

Meanwhile, does Randiego even read these threads anymore? Or does he cower away with the knowledge that the Bolts are likely to be 2-6 by Sunday after the very good Titans come to town? Jeebus, after all the mental errors Norv's players made last week, I am gobsmacked he still has a job.

And Monday Night's game? It's never sane to bet against Peyton at home, but with the absence of Dwight Clark, I think the Texans might just pull off a repeat of their win against the Colts earlier this season. So which team do you think will be leading the AFC south on Tuesday?

Finally, let me confess to an unusual bout of optimism and predict that the newly healthy Stafford and his Kitties will surprise the Skins this week.