

Progress REPORT

games 10-11

WHO'S HOT

- QB Chad Pennington followed a strong performance in the victory over Oakland with what might have been his best effort of the season in the loss to New England.
- TE David Martin was a major factor in the passing game against New England with four catches for 60 yards, including a long of 29 yards.
- T Jake Long not only keeps earning rave reviews for his play as a rookie, he also showed his toughness in the game against New England when he was able to return after sustaining an ankle injury in the third quarter.
- WR Davone Bess set a career high with 50 yards receiving against Oakland, then followed that with 88 yards on five catches against New England.
- Offensive coordinator Dan Henning keeps coming up with new wrinkles on a weekly basis. Against New England, he had Chad Pennington fake a pitch to Ronnie Brown near the goal line before Pennington turned around to throw a touchdown pass to Greg Camarillo.

WHO'S NOT

- Linebacker Charlie Anderson's biggest role for the Dolphins is on special teams, but he's been flagged for holding on returns each of the last three games.
- LB Joey Porter was able to record at least one sack in each of the last two games, but he wasn't a factor at all against New England. Worse, he was called for back-to-back unsportsmanlike conduct penalties in the late stages.
- TE Anthony Fasano was one of Pennington's favorite targets early in the season, but he was shut out in the reception department the last two games.
- WR Ernest Wilford, one of the team's prized free agent acquisitions, again was inactive against Oakland and New England.
- The Dolphins have tried several different players at right guard, but one guard who can't get off the inactive list is rookie fourth-round pick Shawn Murphy.

DEFINING MOMENTS

- The Dolphins find a new way to make use of Ted Ginn Jr., handing him the ball on an end-around that he takes 40 yards for a touchdown against Oakland.
- The Dolphins allow a 93-yard punt return for a



touchdown to Johnnie Lee Higgs, which puts them behind the lowly Raiders in the fourth quarter.

- Chad Pennington connects with Ginn for a 7-yard completion on a fourth-and-5 from the Oakland on the first play after the two-minute warning to keep their comeback alive.
- Rookie Dan Carpenter is called upon against Oakland to try his first NFL field goal with a game in the balance, and he delivers with a 38-yard strike right down in the middle.
- Pennington shows some scrambling ability and gets the crowd on its feet with a 7-yard touchdown run that puts the Dolphins ahead 14-10 against New England.
- Randy Moss pushes cornerback Andre' Goodman in the back as both run down the sideline and goes on to catch a 29-yard touchdown pass to extend New England's lead to 38-28. There is a flag on the play, but for some reason the official decided it was Goodman who committed pass interference.

Rookie Davone Bess played a significant role on offense the last two games, but tight end Anthony Fasano was reduced to the role of blocker and cheerleader.

Digest Photos/MICKI LEWIS (Bess) and KEN KEIDEL



- A fight ensues after a New England field goal, with Patriots tackle Matt Light yanking Channing Crowder's helmet and then throwing punches at him. Not long after, Porter gets his back-to-back unsportsmanlike conduct penalties.

FIVE QUESTIONS

- Will there be any kind of lingering effect after the loss to the Patriots snapped a four-game losing streak?
- How will the defense respond after the terrible showing against New England?
- Can the Dolphins continue to beat the mediocre teams on their schedule, regardless of how they get it done?
- Can the Wildcat formation produce some magic again the rest of the regular season after a few weeks of limited success?
- Will the Dolphins ever get a long punt or kickoff return from either Ted Ginn Jr. or Davone Bess?

W

hat now?

The Dolphins hit the road for two straight road games and nobody is going to take them lightly any longer. How will they respond to the pressure of important late-season games? The running game must step it up over the last month of the season to take pressure off Chad Pennington and the receivers.