

Ravens rely on defense in 14-6 win over Browns

Written by Associated Press
Monday, September 16, 2013 12:18 AM -

By DAVID GINSBURG

Associated Press

BALTIMORE — Humbled and embarrassed one week earlier, the defending Super Bowl champion Baltimore Ravens cranked up the defense to earn another win over their favorite patsies, the Cleveland Browns.

Baltimore sacked Brandon Weeden five times, finally driving him out of the game with a thumb injury in the fourth quarter of a 14-6 victory on Sunday.

After yielding 49 points and 510 yards in a lopsided loss at Denver, Baltimore (1-1) kept Cleveland out of the end zone. The Ravens came into the game ranked last in the NFL in total defense.

“You have to have a short memory,” said Terrell Suggs, who had six tackles and a sack. “We played really good on defense.”

The Browns (0-2) didn’t score after halftime and gained only 85 yards over the final 30 minutes.

“It was huge,” Ravens linebacker Daryl Smith said. “You never want to out there and play the way we did in Denver. We just couldn’t wait for the next game to come.”

Cleveland has scored only one touchdown in its first two games under first-year coach Rob

Ravens rely on defense in 14-6 win over Browns

Written by Associated Press

Monday, September 16, 2013 12:18 AM -

Chudzinski.

“We just have to keep grinding,” Chudzinski said. “We have to keep working at it. The plays are there, the things are there. We’re just off a little bit.”

Down 6-0 at halftime, Baltimore took the lead on a 5-yard run by Bernard Pierce with 5:13 left in the third quarter. The Ravens added a touchdown with 8:57 remaining on a 5-yard pass from Joe Flacco to rookie Marlon Brown.

That was enough support for a charged-up Ravens defense.

It all added up to the Ravens’ 11th straight win over Cleveland, a streak that began when John Harbaugh took over as Baltimore’s coach before the 2008 season. It’s the longest active streak for one NFL team against another.

Flacco went 22-for-33 for 211 yards. Just over an hour before kickoff, his wife gave birth to the couple’s second child.

“Anytime you have a child, it’s one of your best days,” Flacco said. “The game didn’t go exactly how we wanted it to but that’s how we’ve won football games around here. Sometimes you have to do it in an ugly way.”

In the first half, Flacco was 2-for-6 for 9 yards on third down.

After halftime, Flacco went 7-for-8 for 87 yards on third down, getting six first downs in the process.

Weeden completed 21-of-33 passes for 227 yards before he hit his right thumb on a Baltimore

Ravens rely on defense in 14-6 win over Browns

Written by Associated Press

Monday, September 16, 2013 12:18 AM -

helmet during the follow-through.

"I couldn't grip the ball, so I knew I had to come out," he said. "It really hurts. But the X-rays were negative."

He was replaced by Jason Campbell with 3:34 left and Cleveland down 14-6. The Browns quickly turned the ball over on downs and Baltimore ran out the clock.

Ravens running back Ray Rice left early in the fourth quarter with a strained hip flexor. He was limited to 36 yards and 13 carries before limping off the field and into the locker room.

The afternoon began with the unveiling of a sign commemorating the Ravens' Super Bowl victory last season. Once play began, it took Baltimore nearly 40 minutes to get on the scoreboard.

Limited to 122 yards in the first half, the Ravens moved 80 yards in 12 plays on their opening possession of the third quarter to take a 7-6 lead. Before Pierce scored, Flacco went 3-for-3, completing all three passes on third down.

The Browns led at halftime after Billy Cundiff kicked field goals of 21 and 51 yards and Justin Tucker, who replaced Cundiff in Baltimore last season, missed from 50 and 44.

Browns defensive tackle Phil Taylor shoved Rice in the facemask after the game's second play from scrimmage, turning a third-and-13 into a first down. But Tucker misfired to end the 12-play drive.

Cleveland's first offensive play was a 53-yard pass to Jordan Cameron, setting up Cundiff's first field goal.

Ravens rely on defense in 14-6 win over Browns

Written by Associated Press

Monday, September 16, 2013 12:18 AM -

The game's next eight possessions ended with punts. The trend turned just before halftime, when a 27-yard completion from Flacco to Torrey Smith led to another missed field goal try by Tucker.

Cleveland then moved 33 yards before Cundiff connected with 11 seconds left.

The second half, however, belonged to Baltimore. The Browns made only five first downs after halftime and finished 4 for 15 on third downs.

Notes: Ravens DL Chris Canty sustained a groin injury. ... Browns LB Quentin Groves sprained his ankle. X-rays were negative. ... Ravens CB Chykie Brown strained his knee. ... DE Paul Kruger, who left Baltimore to sign as a free agent with Cleveland during the offseason, had three tackles and no sacks.