

## NFL Preseason Pick: Cleveland Browns vs New York Giants

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Last week the Cleveland Browns dominated the New York Jets statistically but lost the game 20-24. Tonight Cleveland will get its second taste of New York, only this time they will be facing the Super Bowl champion Giants. The Giants will play host for the game which starts at 8:00pm ET and will be broadcast on ESPN's Monday Night Football. NFL Betting odds at Bodoglife.com have the Giants as -3 home favorite and the game total set at 35.5.

The Browns dominated the Jets in many facets of the game last week; however, they had some problems that ended up costing them the win. Cleveland had three turnovers and they allowed the Jets third string quarterback, Brett Ratliff, to connect with rookie David Clowney on touchdown passes of 70 and 71 yards. The Browns special teams also gave up a 62 yard punt return touchdown in the fourth quarter.

Head Coach Romeo Crennel will be looking for his backups to perform much better this week, but he is giving them less time to do so as his starting units are expected to see more action tonight. The starting offense looked good against the Jets but they played only a few snaps. This week Derek Anderson and company should at least play the entire first quarter. However, wide receiver Braylon Edwards will be sidelined while the cut on his foot continues to heal.

The Giants, like the Browns, were dropped in their first preseason game; New York fell victim to the Lions by a score of 13-10 in Detroit. The New York secondary was abused and most of the exploitation took place in the first quarter at the hands of Jon Kitna. Kitna completed 6 of 7 passes for 106 yards and a touchdown.

Eli Manning struggled against the Lion defense going 2 of 6 for 19 yards. Manning was working largely with fourth, fifth and sixth receivers, though. Tonight he will likely play 20 to 25 snaps, but again, he will not be working with the first team receivers. Plaxico Burress is still nursing an ankle injury and will sit out tonight as will veteran wide out Amani Toomer.

Perhaps the most intriguing match-up to watch this evening will be the battle between the Browns starting offensive line and the Giants starting defensive front. Both units are outstanding and whoever wins that skirmish will most likely win the first half.

NFL Preseason Game Trends: The Browns have averaged 21.8 points per game in their second pre-season game since 2003. The Giants are 3-2 as a home favorite in the pre-season since 2003.

Bodoglife.com's line for tonight's game:

Browns +3 (-130), Over 35.5 (-105)

Giants -3 (+110), Under 35.5 (-115)

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