Colts Turn Miami's Opening-Drive Fumble Into a 24-22 Home Reset

NFL WEEK 10 · 2026 | GRADES 7–8 | MIA @ IND · IND 24 – MIA 22

NAME _____	DATE _____	SCORE _____ / 11

STORY Read the story, then answer the questions.

A Fresh Start Begins

The Colts had spent a week carrying the weight of a late loss to Dallas. At 2-7, they needed a home win that could change the direction of their season. Miami arrived at Lucas Oil Stadium at 1-7 without quarterback Malik Willis and running back De'Von Achane. That left both teams searching for an answer, and Indianapolis found one through its running game.

Jonathan Taylor lost the ball early, but the Colts recovered it and kept moving forward. His tough runs helped build a long drive, which Seth McGowan finished with a 4-yard touchdown early in the second quarter. Miami then answered with a surprise play. Receiver Malik Washington threw a deep pass to Jalen Tolbert for a 34-yard touchdown, tying the score. Yet the Colts stayed with their plan, and McGowan burst 23 yards to the 1-yard line before Daniel Jones hit Laquon Treadwell for a touchdown. With 39 seconds left in the half, Indianapolis led 14-7.

One Snap Changes Everything

That lead mattered, but the next turning point came just 12 seconds into the third quarter. On Miami's first play after halftime, cornerback Justin Walley rushed quarterback Kyle McCord and knocked the ball loose. This is called a strip-sack: a defender tackles the quarterback while forcing the ball free. Defensive tackle Adetomiwa Adebawore fell on the loose ball in the end zone for a touchdown, pushing the Colts ahead 21-7.

Miami did not disappear after that sudden blow. McCord connected with Washington for 31 yards,

helping set up a 53-yard field goal. Then cornerback Chris Johnson stepped in front of a Jones pass, intercepted it, and ran 59 yards for a touchdown. The missed extra kick left Indianapolis ahead 21-16. Jones and the offense had to respond after that mistake, and they did so by returning to the runners who had set the game's pace.

Holding the Final Line

Taylor finished with 83 rushing yards, while McGowan added 77. Together, they gave the Colts two reliable options and wore down the clock. Their work led to Spencer Shrader's 51-yard field goal late in the third quarter, extending the lead to 24-16. It was a practical response: instead of chasing a huge pass play, Indianapolis used steady runs to regain control.

Still, Miami showed resilience in the fourth quarter. McCord reached the goal line and scored on a 3-yard run, cutting the gap to 24-22, but his two-point pass was incomplete. Miami later tried a 51-yard field goal that sailed wide left. With the visitors pressing near midfield in the final minutes, the Colts defense sacked McCord on fourth down. McGowan then ran twice for 12 yards, and Jones took a knee to end it. Indianapolis moved to 3-7, having turned one sharp defensive play into the breathing room it needed.

WORDS TO KNOW From the story.

resilience (n.): the ability to recover after difficulty

READING Fill in the bubble for the best answer. Write full sentences.

1 **How did Indianapolis respond after Miami tied the score at 7-7?**

- (A) Taylor returned a kickoff, and Shrader made a field goal.
- (B) McGowan made a long run, and Jones threw a touchdown pass to Treadwell.
- (C) Jones threw a long pass, and Washington intercepted it.
- (D) Walley forced a fumble, and Adebawore scored a touchdown.

2 **What does the phrase “strip-sack” mean as it is used in the article?**

(A) A runner is stopped before reaching the goal line.

(B) A kicker misses a field goal from a long distance.

(C) A quarterback is tackled while the ball is forced loose.

(D) A defender catches a pass and runs toward the end zone.

3 **Which statement best expresses a central idea of the article?**

(A) Long field goals were the main reason Indianapolis won at home.

(B) Indianapolis used a key defensive score and steady rushing to protect a close win.

(C) Indianapolis won because its quarterback avoided every mistake.

(D) Miami’s passing attack was too difficult for Indianapolis to slow down.

4 **Which evidence most strongly supports the idea that Indianapolis used its running game to regain control late in the game?**

(A) Johnson returned an interception 59 yards for a Miami touchdown.

(B) McCord scored on a 3-yard run during the fourth quarter.

(C) Taylor and McGowan combined for 160 rushing yards, helping set up a field goal.

(D) Washington threw a 34-yard touchdown pass to Tolbert in the first half.

5 **How did Indianapolis answer after Johnson intercepted Jones’s pass and scored for Miami?**

(A) The Colts attempted a long pass to Treadwell on the next play.

(B) The Colts returned to their running game to set the game’s pace again.

(C) The Colts replaced Jones with a different quarterback.

(D) The Colts immediately scored on another defensive touchdown.

6 **Explain how Indianapolis built, lost part of, and then protected its lead during the game. Use details from across the article to show how the team's defense and running game helped produce the final result.**

MATH Use the game stats. Show your work.

1 **In week 10, Jonathan Taylor averaged 5.2 yards per rush. Suppose his practice average is 2.6 yards higher. What is his practice average?**

(A) 7.8
(B) 2.6
(C) 5.5
(D) 31.2

SHOW YOUR WORK

2 **On Mia's stat sheet, in a week 10 game, Jonathan Taylor had an average of 9.34 + (-4.15) yards per rushing attempt. Evaluate the expression.**

(A) -13.49
(B) -38.76
(C) 5.19
(D) -2.25

SHOW YOUR WORK

3 **Mia's week 10 stat sheet models Daniel Jones's passing-yard adjustment as 43 - (-65). Evaluate the expression.**

(A) -2795
(B) 108
(C) -22
(D) -108

SHOW YOUR WORK

4 **In week 10, Daniel Jones had 22 passing attempts. His practice total is 30% higher. Find it. Round to the nearest whole number.**

(A) 29
(B) 130
(C) 88
(D) 15

SHOW YOUR WORK

5 **In week 10, Daniel Jones had 22 passing attempts. His practice total is 60% lower. Find it. Round to the nearest whole number.**

(A) 35
(B) 13
(C) 88
(D) 9

SHOW YOUR WORK

PLAYER SPOTLIGHT · Jonathan Taylor (IND)

Rushing yards: 83 | Catches: 2 | Receiving yards: 20

6 **Jonathan Taylor's stats from this game (IND): 83 rushing yards, 2 catches, 20 receiving yards. Use the Player Spotlight above. Scoring: each rushing yard = 0.1 point; each catch = 1 point; each receiving yard = 0.1 point. How many fantasy points did Jonathan Taylor score?**

(A) 105
(B) 12.3
(C) 10.3
(D) 4

SHOW YOUR WORK

ANSWER KEY

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About 20 minutes

Separate these pages before giving the worksheet to students.

Standards: RI.8.1 · RI.8.2 · RI.8.4 · 7.NS.A.3 · 7.RP.A.3

READING

Correct answers are filled in.

1 **B** McGowan made a long run, and Jones threw a touchdown pass to Treadwell.

After Miami's touchdown tied the score, McGowan ran 23 yards to the 1-yard line, and Jones completed a touchdown pass to Treadwell.

2 **C** A quarterback is tackled while the ball is forced loose.

The article directly defines a strip-sack as a play in which a defender tackles the quarterback while forcing the ball free.

3 **B** Indianapolis used a key defensive score and steady rushing to protect a close win.

A defensive touchdown gave Indianapolis a 21-7 lead, and the team later used Taylor's and McGowan's runs to control the clock and preserve the victory.

4 **C** Taylor and McGowan combined for 160 rushing yards, helping set up a field goal.

The article explains that Taylor and McGowan provided reliable rushing options, wore down the clock, and helped create Shrader's field goal.

5 **B** The Colts returned to their running game to set the game's pace again.

After the interception return cut the lead to 21-16, the article says Jones and the offense responded by returning to the runners who had set the pace.

6 What a good answer includes:

A strong response should explain that Indianapolis scored before halftime, gained a larger lead when Walley forced a fumble that Adebawore recovered for a touchdown, and faced Miami's comeback after an interception return and a late touchdown. It should also describe how Taylor and McGowan helped control the clock, set up a field goal, and secure the final minutes after the defense stopped Miami on fourth down.

MATH

Correct answers are filled in.

1. **A** 7.8
2. **C** 5.19
3. **B** 108
4. **A** 29
5. **D** 9
6. **B** 12.3

   83 rushing yards × 0.1 = 8.3
   2 catches × 1 = 2
   20 receiving yards × 0.1 = 2
   Total: 8.3 + 2 + 2 = 12.3