

THE LOOK MAN REPORT 2003

Week 12 - Yakitty Yak

Week 12 of the 2003 NFL season finds us rounding into form. Just as the cream rises to the top, so do the good NFL teams rise from the detritus. Cases in point:

- the Cowpokes get a quality home win over the Confederate Black Cats of Carolina,
- the Flintstones break the scoreboard with 44 points after 4.5 quarters to take out the Coffeetown Shehawks in B-More,
- the Tennessee Flaming Thumbtacks suffer the loss of MVP Air McNair and beat the Dirty Birds 38-31 in the ATL Dirty Dome,
- the Lincoln Financial Gang Green Defense gives up over 100 yards rushing for the 3rd consecutive week but still tames the New Orleans Religious Icons 33-20, and finally,
- the surprising Cincinnati Bungals knock off Marty's Mission Bay Bolts 34-27 in Sunnyvale to maintain their tie in the AFC North.

In case you thought that last item was a typo, let's repeat: Jon Pickna goes Buddy Love with 4 TD passes and 3 bills passing ON THE LEFT COAST to beat Doug (Zamfir) Flutie and the Lightning Bolts. After 12 weeks of action, the Bengals earn their names back with back-to-back wins over the previously undefeated KC Baby Backs and Marty's Boys. They are now 6-5, tied for first with the Flintstones and sewing up the Coach of the Year award for head coach Marvin (Jerry) Lewis. If nothing else, the 2003 season must be remembered for this incredible development.

Stillers @ Browns:

Meanwhile, in Cleveland, the Browns go George Costanza to the Nati's Jerry Seinfeld, turning the ball over 5 times in a must-win game over the Stillers. The Browns squandered numerous opening quarter opportunities in the red zone, coming away with only 6 points total. When it looked like they might turn the momentum around, a Dennis North(and South)cutt punt return for six was recalled with a phantom holding call.

The Barking Dawg D played out of its mind but missed 3 interception opportunities. Following the last one, the Steelers punt to the Browns' 5 yard line and shazaam! A James (not Michael) Jackson fumble yields 7 Stiller points and the lead.

The rest of the game was not much different with the D playing lights out while the offense put the ball on the turf or threw it to the wrong colored jersey. Kelly (Tires) Holcomb forced it to WRs Northcutt or Andre Davis, resulting in 2 picks and some near misses. When head coach Butch (Hurricane Boy) Davis did muster the guts to go on 4th down, Northcutt was ruled down at the 1 inch line. The play was reviewed and upheld by Zebra of the Week candidate Walt Coleman (Lantern). Despite the score, the play calling was idiotic as indicated in the following sequence:

- First and goal at the 5: power run to Jackson; no score
- Second and goal from the 2: power run to Jackson; he gets his head taken off by ILB Kendrell (You Can Ring My) Bell, who emerges from the Witness Protection Program
- Third and goal from the 3: Jackson fails to get in on a power trap due to missing the hole outside while looking to see if Bell will ring his again.
- Fourth and goal from the 3: reverse to Northcutt, who scores, but gets robbed.

After this, the rest of the game was mailed in. And so the Browns fall and the Stillers rise to 4-7, neither with a sniff of the playoffs.

Black Cats at Pokes:

What looked like the Game of the Week turned out to be just that. It was a very physical game, with Stephen (Jefferson) Davis held to 59 yards on 22 carries by Doomsday Lite. The defense played so well that they came up with a new name for themselves: The Dallas Unknown Bandits. Well, maybe the name does need some work, but the defense doesn't, as it shut down Jake (The Man) Delhomme and the President of the Confederacy on Sunday. It was such a monumental win following their Monday Night loss to the Chowds that it left Bill Parcels in tears. Of course it might just have been the post-game horseradish. "You can't call them losers anymore. Their record makes them something else besides losers," said the Tuna. "One more (win) and you have to call us winners. Pass the wasabi and pickled ginger, please."

The play of the game was an option pitch play on 3rd down in the redzone. The Gauchos needed a stroke of genius, and got one as X-Back Richie (Cunningham) Anderson took a pitch, optioned, and then pitched to unknown RB Aveion Cason, who took it to the House. The play also featured the return of Hall of Fame Poke Roger (The Dodger) Staubach, who appeared on camera in the Fox booth. "I've been asleep since Troy left, but I'm back into it now," said the Dodger. The Lone Starheads are moving into position, but have a tough matchup on Turkey Day in Big D against the Miami Marine Mammals in the memorial Leon Lett It Go! Game. Look for both teams to be worn out, but based on the cover corners for the Marine Mammals it could be a long day for Dallas. On the other hand, since QB Jay Fiedler has returned from his annual pre-Hanukkah injury early, it could be a long day for the Fish. See your newspaper for local times and channels.

Chowds @ Houston:

Houston had a chance as the Brady Bunch came down into the Lone Star state a little flat. Referee Mike Carey has gone over to the Dark Side of the Feast, calling several questionable pass interference calls, including setting up the game winning FG with about 3 minutes left. Despite a great early career, Carey has become a distinct ZOTW contender. Still the Slim Shadys sent it to overtime as Chowds PK Adam (The Winemaker) Vinatieri gets one blocked after announcers say he has never had one blocked.

"Vinatieri has never had one blocked, Jim."

"Yes, and when he gets into this position, he is money, Bob."

BOOOOSSHHHH!

"IT'S BLOCKED! IT'S BLOCKED! WHATTAGAMEWEHAVEHERE!!!!"

After all that drama, Shady WR Andre Johnson dropped the game winner in OT and The Winemaker got another chance to make some wine. Good, and a 23-20 OT win for the piping hot Chowds.

Genocide Vix at Marine Mammals:

Sunday Night ESPN went retro as they commemorated the Garo (I Keek a Touchdown) Yepremian Super Bowl VII matchup between the DC Genocide Victims and the Fish. To add additional spice to the mix, the Marine Mammals decided to tick off the Football Gods by wearing an awful orange jersey. Result: DC United gaffes them in the gills for 3 quarters until Brian (Beer Batter) Griese gets benched. Jay Fiedler (on the Roof) avoided allowing octogenarian DE Bruce Smith to pass Nobel Prize Winner Reggie White for the sack total, while engineering 2 comeback TD drives. While the rest of Smith's former teammates prepare to enter the HOF, Bruce continues to pursue this record, often looking foolish while doing it. Speaking of looking foolish, the Look Man did some research on wearing orange, and found only 1 individual capable of doing so with style (see attached photo).



Now that's a nice jersey!

So it was Ricky, Ricky, Ricky as Ricky (Rasta) Williams played Ja Rule for the hometown fans and scored the decisive TD. Dave Wannstedt saved his job for one more week, and is looking forward to his own return to Big D, mainly to get coaching tips from the Sashimi Meister.

Miscellaneous:

Cleveland RB William (Red) Green's legal troubles continued as the Peach finds cannabis at his crib in Possum Lodge following him being stabbed by his fiancée, Misty. Red Green starred as Clint Eastwood, with his fiancée playing Jessica Walter with better aim. Clint was unable to punch Jess out of the window this time around, and ended up in the hospital after a 911 call in which Misty claimed he cut himself. In the back. ESPN is making a *Playmakers* episode on the event in which an obsessed fiancée finds her NFL husband cheating on her, and plunges a knife into his back, then calls for an ambulance. This dark, tension-building, steamy thriller is expected to be highly popular upon release, and may result in a 12-month suspension for the NFL hubby.

A calf injury to Air McNair could hurt his MVP push, but the Thumbtacks find a way to stay competitive and win vs. the Dirty Birds with Billy (Bob) Volek at the QB helm. Speaking of ugly uniforms, the Gods were ticked about those ugly red jerseys the Dirty Birds wore on Sunday, and as a result Birds RB Warrick Dunn is done - - - for the year with a foot injury.

Dave Wannsdedt is one of several coaches who may be gone after 2003. The list includes: Wannie, Steve (Mooch) Mariucci, Hurricane Boy, Steve (I Got Spurs that Jingle jangle jingle) Spurrier, Herm (Helllloooo!) Edwards, Mike (the Walrus) Holmgren, Marty (Grab an Oar) Schottenheimer, Dan (Zocor) Reeves, Bill (Iron Chin) Cowher, Dave (Who Drank) McGinniss, and Dick (The Crying Man) Vermeil (if the Baby Backs win a title). Bungals Coach Jerry Lewis is

expected to last until the end of his contract in 2005, then go Sam Wyche, demanding more cash, before he takes his Coach of the Year award to another team.

The Bengals will be off to Bedrock following their battle with the Stillers on Sunday. The Flintstones are resurgent after scoring 44 in OT against the Shehawks. This is a new-look Bengals team, but since they took B-More to the slate mine once already this season, this should be a good game. The Bengals will be the only team in the NFL to have 3 consecutive road games in 2003.

ZOTW contestant Tom (Snow) White allowed the Flintstones 4 timeouts in the second half, creating a game tying FG that sent the game to OT. The NFL announced that Snow White also counted 8 dwarves in the huddle on one play and will be unanimously elected **Zebra of the Week** by the Look Man. Ed (Hulk) Hochuli received several votes for phantom pass interference calls in the Gauchos-Black Cats game, but the win by the Starheads corralled his shot at the ZOTW.

Three of 4 AFC North teams won in Week 12, countering the argument that it is the worst division. The NFC North is the worst according to the Look Man. The Lions and Bears both stink on ice, while only the Browns stink on ice in the AFC North. While the 12/28 matchup between the Browns and Bengals looks less and less like a meaningful game, it could determine the division champion. Look for the Browns to handle the resurgent Bengals despite the W-L records at the time.

Former 'Pokes QB Anthony (A-Dub) Wright threw for a career high 4 TD's to former Bear Marcus (Mr.) Robinson in the Flintstones win. A-Dub was unceremoniously jettisoned for current Lone Star QB Quincy (Klugman) Carter, and had only 8 career starts before Sunday. The Flintstones almost don't even need a QB with their defense, and if they can simply score 17 per game, they should win the AFC North.

CDC Alert: Green Onions

Some 80 Pittsburghers contracted hepatitis A or received shots to prevent it after eating at Chi-Chi's Mexican Restaurant. Health officials said that the hepatitis A outbreak at Chi-Chi's probably was caused by green onions imported from Mexico. Department of Agriculture spokesperson Booker T stated, "There is nothing wrong with green onions. Hey, it made me a lot of money back in the 60's, so it can't be all bad." The Stillers are expected to cater the Bengals pre-game meal with help from Chi-Chi's.

Layoffs Announced in Cleveland; Browns Offense Unaffected:

In a 45-minute address at City Council on Monday, Mayor Jane Campbell announced a \$61 million cut in the city's budget, including the layoff of 263 city workers. Campbell stated, "The City of Cleveland will do everything in its power to live within its means in 2004." Campbell went on to say that next year's budget will "maintain city services" with layoffs of over 660 police, fire and sanitation workers.

One city worker (and LMR reader), Brian Grancha stated that he would do his part by resigning from the Water Department in order to pursue a QB position with the Cleveland Browns. "Hey, the way Kelly has been stinking up the joint, there's no way I could do any worse," said the Granch Meister. "I would demand having the Look Man as Offensive Coordinator, however."

Head Coach Butch (Hurricane Boy) Davis would say only, "With Grancha at QB, every week would be a walk in the cake", referring to his usual euphemism for an easy game. Many Browns Fans have wondered whether Hurricane Boy is eating too much cake in an effort to fill out his Santa outfit. HB has put on a few since taking over 3 years ago, and should probably mix in a salad. Browns ownership had no comment except to say that with less sanitation workers, it was likely that their offense would not be taken out with the rest of the city trash. Yakitty yak.

Celebrity Field Goal:

Singer and songwriter Glen Campbell was placed under arrest on suspicion of DUI in Phoenix this week. When asked by the County Sheriff to identify himself, the singer said he was "Glen Campbell, the Rhinestone Cowboy." Campbell told the county mounties he had had two rum drinks at a country club, but breath tests showed Campbell had a blood-alcohol level of 0.20. The Rhinestone Cowboy posted bail and was minutes from release when he became upset and attempted to knee a cop in his package. The knee missed, and he succeeded only in getting body slammed and re-jailed on assault charges. "There was a lot of, 'Do you know who I am? I'm Glen Campbell. ... I shouldn't be locked up like this,'" said the arresting officer. "He tried to tell us he was a lineman for the County, but we weren't buying that story. Our linemen have red birds on their helmets." Dallas Cowpokes head coach Bill Parcels corroborated Campbell's story, saying, "Oh yeah. He played D-line at Wichita State and he was adequate. I remember one time he forced a fumble and I recovered it for a score. He was great at yodeling, but I never knew he had a drinking problem."

Campbell's illegitimate son, Dan, plays TE for the Pokes, and was expected to pick him up at the hoosegow in Phoenix. "Dad has always been a Cowboy Fan, living in Galveston and all, but that rhinestone getup is a little over the top," said the younger Campbell. "It looks almost as bad as those jerseys the Marine Mammals wore on Sunday Night. He told me that by the time he got to Phoenix he'd be wasted, and I guess he was right."

At the time of this story, the Wichita Lineman was still under 'rest.

Celebrity Obit:

Twenty-seven year-old actor Jonathan Brandis, who starred in two seasons of Steven Spielberg's "SeaQuest DSV," was found dead at his home this week. The county coroner's office ruled that Brandis hung himself on November 12th. Brandis started his career in commercials and on television, landing a recurring role on the soap "One Life to Live" at age 6. Speculation that he was engaging in autoeroticism is unfounded said County Coroner Quincy Carter. "He didn't even own a car. How could he have been involved in autoerotic asphyxiation?" asked the part-time medical examiner.

Staubach In Fistfight at Nati Firm

The Official Firm of the Look Man is doing business with The Staubach Group, owned and operated by, you guessed it, Roger The Dodger. In a meeting last week, Staubach spoke to a packed lunchroom, regaling us with stories of his Cincinnati high school, Naval Academy and professional football glory. When it came time for questions, one of our guys teasingly says, "The Look Man says Drew Pearson pushed off in the famous 1975 Hail Mary play vs. the Vikings." Staubach retorts, "Well, he's probably a member of al Qaeda. Everybody knows Dallas is America's Team." He then goes on to tell us that the term "Hail Mary" was born on that day when he told a reporter that all he did was "...say a Hail Mary and throw it as far as he could." The NFL now recognizes that term for any last second pass. "And that was years before Doug Flutie," said America's QB. The Look Man responded with, "Yeah, a Hail Mary and a shove in the back goes a long way."

Staubach seemed okay with it and the Q&A went on while he signed autograph model footballs. When the Look Man's turn in line comes, he says, "I'll sign yours, 'for my friend AI'." The Look Man took umbrage with this comment, and said, "LOOK MAN, I ain't goin' for no banana in the tail pipe!" The next thing you know, America's Starhead takes a poke at the Look Man, we're rolling around on the ground, and coworkers are separating us. The Look Man may now face termination, but nobody accuses the Look Man of being unpatriotic. Especially a Hall of Fame QB with a black eye.

The Look Man would like to hear your 'brushes with greatness.' Please send any stories you have on meeting NFL players to the Look Man at this email address. The winning story will be published in a future LMR.

Looking Ahead:

Miami @ Dallas Turkey Day Special: A rematch of the Super Bowl VI, where Dallas got revenge for losing in Super Bowl V by a FG to the Horsies. Staubach was the MVP, with notable contributions by LB Chuck Howley, RBs Duane Thomas and Walt (Skoal) Garrison. The Look Man predicts an interesting battle since both teams played physical games on Sunday, and there are playoff ramifications for both. The Pokes need it more as the Iggles are assembling a posse. The Look Man sees the Pokes prevailing with superior coaching. And jerseys.

Philly @ Carolina:

Gang Green takes their show on the road and after giving up 100 yards rushing each of the last few weeks, they could be in trouble. Somehow, QB Donovan (Filthy) McNabb(sty) has souped his way to W's over those teams, but this Black Cat squad is tough. The battle for the NFC Least title and home field is underway, so every game matters. The Look Man looks for the Cats to stop the Iggles on Sunday.

New England @ New Indy:

The piping hot Chowds go to the Bible Belt on Sunday to take on the AFC South leading Horsies. With Air McNair possibly out, the Horsies have a chance to make hay and eat it if they can beat Dr. Evil and the Baked Bean Defense. Tough to call, but after struggling the last few weeks, the Look Man likes Indy to keep pace with a W.

Bengals at Stillers: The Stillers got lucky last week after the Browns marched up and down the field all over their D. Look for the Ugly and Black to beat the Yellow and Black at Ketchup Field. The Look Man wouldn't count on seeing the giant condiment bottles oozing on Sunday unless they do so for Joe Montana's illegitimate half brother, Jon Pickna. Pickna has 13 TDs and 3 picks over the last 5 games. Tommy (That Deaf Dumb and Blind Kid) Maddox's numbers are, shall we say, not that impressive in that time. TDDABK threw for a paltry 73 yards in the win over Cleveland.

Out.

-The Look Man