

LMR 03 - Week 15 **Battlestations! Battlestations!**

Showdown Sunday became Blowout Sunday, and the Look Man had some trouble swallowing the frustrating Monday Night loss by Cleveland to an imminently beatable Lambs team. Week 15 sought separation of the wheat from the chaff in the NFL. Bubble teams were looking for W's to allow them to remain in the gum, while teams in the driver's seat needed to keep their feet on the gas. Blowouts by the Horsies, Chefs, Pokes and Mouflons teamed with the Iggles cruising were merely the highlights of Week 15. Here is the...rest....of the ...story.

Niners @ Bungals:

There was a distinct playoff atmosphere at Pall Bearer Stadium as the Bengals came in fresh off a disastrous 31-13 defeat by the rival Baltimore Flintstones. The game featured the reopening of Pickna's Pastries as he and the rest of the Ugly and Black gave it away like a Christmas present. Marvin (Jerry) Lewis exhorted the troops not to listen to the Flintstones Fan chant of "Same Old Bengals" in the losers' locker room. Said Jerry, "Hold your heads up! It's just like in 1959 when they said I couldn't make it without Dean Martin. I showed them, and I showed everyone. This ain't the same old Bengals!" This is the new Bengals where we give up 500 yards and 38 points and we still win!"

So on this Sunday the Look Man attended the game to see if his forecast of hangover loss would become a reality. He was pleasantly surprised to see Burl Ives in front of Gate D singing *Have a Holly Who Dey Xmas* as the snowflakes fell.

*Have a holly Who Dey Xmas,
And in case you didn't know,
I don't know if there'll be snow,
but no playoffs this year.*

*Have a holly Who Dey Xmas,
And in case you didn't hear,
Oh, by Golly have a holly Who Dey Xmas,
This year.*

OT Levi (Strauss) Jones' left meniscus was reassembled with bailing wire and chewing gum but he decided to play anyway after watching film of Scott Rehberg getting beat time and again against the Flintstones speed rushers. With DE Andre Carter coming into town, the Beng simply gave him an extra dose of novocaine and sent him out to protect the Pastry Chef. That and the fact that Elton John is the Bengal trainer, and he was singing "....cause you're my brother... you are younger than me and you can feel no pain..." in the locker room.

The Niners came out strong and RB Reggie (Christopher) Barlow did more than write poetry on the field, chewing up huge chunks of yardage between the twenties. Unfortunately, inside the red zone he went straight Doctor Faustus, putting the ball on the turf twice while Pickna's Marlboro Country theme played backwards in demonic fashion. Jeff (Jerry) Garcia was used to the cold weather and put the rock on folks again and again. Finally, after 2 first quarter drops, Terrell (TO) Owens decided to finally catch one, for 58 yards and a BRAND NEW CAR. Or just a touchdown. TO celebrated by making another video game commercial in the end zone.

The game went back and forth, with the Bengals maintaining a tenuous lead due in large part to Chris Marlowe's miscues and bad prose. Finally, leading by 10 and trying to put the Seven Squareds away, Jerry Lewis and the coaching staff got a third down and inches situation. Jerry went to the deep ball, and the Seven-Squared defense was ready and waiting. The ball fell harmlessly to the turf with not one but 2 Bengals players in the vicinity. Chad (The Dentist) Johnson wanted the flag, the Zebras were having none of that nonsense.

So the game was on the line as the momentum shifted to the Niners. On 4th and 6 inches, RB Rudy (Who Dey) Johnson popped a 49 yard scamper, burning the Niners safety blitz and the strong safety to the corner of the endzone. Up 17, most of the Beng Faithful figured it was over, but the Niners came roaring back with a sweet score to WR Tai Streets. Unfortunately, it ended up being too little too late as Who Dey Johnson recovered the onside kick despite getting whacked into next Tuesday by the kicking team. Ru-Dey hung on to the ball and the Beng to the win.

The Bengals showed resiliency by winning for the first time in club history after giving up 38 points and over 500 yards of total offense. Jerry Lewis proved prophetic and showed off some gutsy playcalling. He aided the emotional development of his offensive line by going for it on 4th down at crunch time. Most defensive head coaches take 1-2 years to come the realization of when to gamble; for Marvin Lewis it took only 15 weeks. Now his O-line playing with the coaches' confidence, and the Bengals are a threat no one wants to face down the stretch.

Dave (Sundance) Sundin was in hog heaven as the Bengals scored early and often despite giving up half a 1000 yards of total offense. "I didn't even have to break out the dismissive wave today," said Sundance. "It was almost like 1990 all over again, except this time we have a comedian at head coach instead of Sam Wyche."

When the Look Man informed Sundin that Wicky Wacky was also a comedian, he would say only, "Who Dey!!" Still, the Look Man maintains that if Kevan (Christopher) Barlow doesn't put it on the turf twice, the Seven Squareds walk all over the Ugly and Black. Instead, Terrell (Cokie) Roberts, a backup safety, forced 2 fumbles in replacing Rogers (Dr. Sam) Beckett in a quantum leap. Afterwards Cokie filed a report for NPR on the wonders of their Messianic head coach: "They call Marvin Lewis "Black Jesus" but all I know is he brought me back from the dead. After all, I would still be on NPR if it weren't for Jerry."

When it was all said and done, The Dentist got fined again for a goofy sign after a TD, and Erickson coached like a poor man's Bill Shakespeare in the defeat.

Browns @ Denver:

The Browns players clearly haven't given up on Butch (Hurricane Boy) Davis yet. Tim (Sofa Boy) Couch was still nothing more than a recliner, despite a few nice throws. Donkeys RB (George) Clinton Portis is still good, but now he has a knee and an ankle problem for the playoff stretch after 38 carries.

The Funk Meister was intent on proving HB was wrong in passing over him in the 2002 draft, and ended up with 7 consecutive carries to seal the win in OT. Of course, Mike (The Rat) Shanahan goofed by not kicking one play sooner. The gaffe will end up costing the Donkeys the playoffs, and The Rat has done nothing since John (The Mascot) Elway hung up his cleats.

Dallas @ Capitol City GVs:

The Cowpokes throttled the hapless Capitol City Genocide Victims, much to the delight of NFL fans and politically correct folks everywhere. The self-same GVs, whose QB was on the IR and whose defense played like it ought to have been. The GVs turn it over 6 times, including 3 to Terrence (Hello) Newman. GV's coach Jerry Seinfeld actually bumped into Newman on the sidelines after one of his INT returns and was heard to utter, "Hello, Newman." After the game, the press corps had difficulty locating GV head coach Steve (I've Got) Spurrier (That Jingle Jangle Jingle). Jingle was finally located in a spider hole beneath the locker room floor. When the press threatened to throw a used jock strap into the hole he responded, " My name is Jingle Jangle Jingle. I am the coach of the GVs and I would like to negotiate."

Jingle Jangle was interviewed by the Look Man, who asked, "Pete Hunter and Mario Edwards couldn't beat out Derek Ross in Dallas, and your guys made them look like Deion Sanders out

there. What up Dawg?" Jingle replied, "Yup, they shore did. That's a good question Mr. Look Man."

After the interview, Pokes Fan and longtime LMR Reader Michael (PokeMan) Hatfield exclaimed, "Wait a second, Mr. Look Man! CBs Pete Hunter and Mario Edwards looked transformed to me. Hunter had a pick and two fumble recoveries, and GV QB Tim Hasselback ended up with a 0.0 QB rating." PokeMan went to say, "If the computers allowed it, Hasselback's rating would have been in the negative numbers."

Hatfield continued, "Spurrier had not been shut out since his Syracuse days. Yes, the 'Skins were woeful, but give our D some credit, too. Their longest play from scrimmage was a 17-yard reception, but LB Dat(Man) Nguyen hit TE Zeron Flemister so hard that he coughed up the ball." Hatfield was referring to the Look Man's Week 13 comments about the Derek Ross waiver turning these 2 mouth breathers into real NFL corners. The assessment was true, but about a week later than expected. Even the Tuna can only make a casserole so far it seems.

Iggles @ Marine Mammals:

Strange things happen at the Orange Bowl and Pro Player stadium, but the Iggles win in convincing fashion against a monochrome Fish squad in a must win situation. Donovan (Filthy) McNabb(sty) opened up with a bomb, and the Iggles never looked back, despite several questionable calls. Looks like the Fish are in typical Hanukkah swoon mode in December.

ZOTW:

Without a doubt, Walt (Richard) Anderson in the Marine Mammals-Iggles tilt. Oscar Goldman called a roughing the kicker on an obvious running into the kicker, as well as numerous personal fouls. He and his crew completely lost control of the game, resulting in several personal foul calls and near melees. Walt Anderson, c'mon down! You are the **Zebra of the Week**.

Runner up goes to Bill (Toyota) Carollo and Crew who called two penalties that shaped the Bengals -Niners game. The first, a phantom D-holding gave Pickna a second shot for a TD inside Marlboro Country. The second, a personal foul on Niners bench, forced Niners QB Jerry Garcia deep into his own territory just prior to the empty hand fumble for a Kevin Hardy TD.

Miscellaneous:

Battlestar Gallactica:

If you remember the old Battlestar Gallactica by sci-fi maven Glen Larson, you will simply love the new miniseries on the SciFi Channel. Lorne Greene is now Hispanic; Starbucks is a woman and the Cylons are 36-24-36.

All the same characters are back, but the new series has an edgy feel that includes folks getting killed on camera, blood and guts, and some nice dogfight scenes. Canadian born Tricia Helfer plays Number 6, a sexy Cylon who is using her body to corrupt the human antagonist, Balthar.

Helfer is a former Victoria Secret model, 1992 Ford Supermodel of the World winner, and all around Cover Girl. She gained attention as an actress when she played the lead female role of Sarah, in the Showtime two-hour premiere of the series *Jeremiah*. Her new claim to fame far outstrips any of her previous duties, including a very nice spread in Maxim magazine. Ms. Helfer provided the following photo in a Look Man Report exclusive. Remember, you can only get this exclusive photo in the LMR:



"Is that a vegetable in your pocket, or are you simply happy to see me Balthar?"

Fine by Me:

FBM1: Bungals QB Jon Pickna was fined 5 large for wearing a baseball cap with a Christian logo in his postgame interview. Pickna has favored the cross-brim all season, but the league looked the other way until his recent emergence from the Witness Protection Program. Their big

fear was that he would begin to promote his bakeries on his lids, resulting in uncompensated endorsements of Pickna's Pastries as "the Official Turnover of the NFL."

FBM2: WR Joe (Toot My Own) Horn and The Dentist got fined for post TD antics as well. Horn broke out the old cellphone-in-the-goal-post-cushion trick and called Mom 'n 'Em on Sunday Night ESPN. He was then assessed a 15 yarder and the most expensive person to person call on record. The Look Man found it to be low class, but 30 grrrr is a lot of long distance minutes.

FBM3: Matt Millen goes to the F bomb on Baby Backs WR Johnnie Morton in the hallway after the Cadillacs were blown out 45-17. After congratulating Morton on his year and his steakhouses, M-Squared questioned Morton's sexuality twice, calling him a "faggot." Look for the league to fine Millen, an unqualified hack of a GM whose two hires have less than double digit wins between them. Perhaps Deion Sanders should be considered for the next Detroit GM position.

The Road to the AFC North goes thru C-town as the Browns face the Flintstones and Bengals in successive weeks. The Browns are out of it, but for some reason they favor the Nati as AFC North champs over STD-more. The last time they opened their yaps before a game, Bam Bam went yard on the defense. Don't they ever learn?

Jim (Poker Chips) Fassell was the first of many dominoes to fall in the 2003 after announcing that he won't be back in 04 this week. Poker Chips will be a lame duck, but look for his Jynts to hang tough vs. the Starheads on Sunday in Irving.

The US military apprehended Iraq president Saddam Hussein this week in a spider hole outside his hometown of Tikrit. Of course, based on his appearance, it may well have been Alexander Solzhynitzen, Glen Campbell, or some other candidate for the Celebrity Drunk Bus. The Rhinestone Dictator appeared unshaven and unkempt as he was examined by a medic. The medic appeared to be looking for Osama bin Laden somewhere in Hussein's pie hole and wig. Either that or Weapons of Mass Destruction.

The apprehension of the Iraqi dictator will have unknown impact upon Dubya's re-election campaign. It could hurt Democratic contender Howard Dean, especially in light of Joe Lieberman's derogatory comments about the anti-war Dean. More likely, the arrest will simply fuel more anti-American backlash in the region due to \$61 million in Halliburton overcharges for, you guessed it, gasoline.

The Lingerie Bowl to be broadcast during halftime of Super Bowl XXXVIII, was abandoned by its sponsor this week. Dodge, which couldn't dodge its critics, cited the inappropriate nature of the event, which included the Ram Tough logo on the brassieres of the contestants. The show is expected to go on with other sponsors, including Enzyte, a natural male enhancement supplement. For more on this arousing story, see the attached URL:
<http://moneycentral.msn.com/content/invest/extra/P69805.asp>

The Bengals' playoff chances are better than most would think, as they own many of the tiebreakers. For more detail, here are the NFL Division tiebreakers:

TO BREAK A TIE WITHIN A DIVISION

If, at the end of the regular season, two or more clubs in the same division finish with identical won-lost-tied percentages, the following steps will be taken until a champion is determined.

Two Clubs

1. Head-to-head (best won-lost-tied percentage in games between the clubs).
2. Best won-lost-tied percentage in games played within the division.
3. Best won-lost-tied percentage in common games.
4. Best won-lost-tied percentage in games played within the conference.

5. Strength of victory.(Huhhh?!)
6. Strength of schedule.
7. Best combined ranking among conference teams in points scored and points allowed.
8. Best combined ranking among all teams in points scored and points allowed.
9. Best net points in common games.
10. Best net points in all games.
11. Best net touchdowns in all games.

Celebrity Obit of the Week:

Otto Graham, QB of the world champion C-town Browns died this week in Sarasota FL at the age of 82. Nicknamed Automatic Otto, he never missed a game as a professional and won championships in every single season in which he played. He also made history as the first player to wear a facemask, following a brutal late hit in 1953. Moonlight Graham amassed a 105-17-4 record including 24,000 yards and 174 TDs. Among his other achievements:

- First Cleveland Browns player
- First Browns player to make the Pro Football Hall of Fame
- 7 league championships in 10 years with Cleveland
- top 10 QB rating using today's system

The legendary Paul Brown, the late Cleveland coaching genius, called Graham the greatest football player in history. "The measure of a quarterback is where his team finishes," Brown said in a later interview. "By that standard, Otto was the best of them all. He pulled us out of many situations. He had the best peripheral vision I ever saw."

George Steinbrenner, owner of the NY Yankees was one of Graham's closest friends. Steinbrenner, a Cleveland native, used to sit and watch Graham in the cold cavernous Cleveland Municipal Stadium. "He was a gamer. That time he got hit in the mouth in 1953, he was bleeding like a stuck pig, but he never left the game. Gutsy. Hey, you got any calzones in there Costanza?", said the Boss.

Many LMR readers have never heard of Otto Graham before, but he was the greatest Cleveland Browns player of all time, and arguably the greatest QB of all time. In the pantheon of NFL players, he stands with the precious few who really made the game what it is today. Folks like Joe Horn, Terrell Owens, and Chad Johnson make folly of the toughest, greatest game ever played. All Otto did was make it America's Pastime.

Oliver Gibson of the Bengals will pay tribute by calling himself "OG" for the remainder of the season.

Graham's number 14 has been retired by the Browns, and they will wear the number on their helmets for the remainder of the 2003 season. Graham, who also wore No. 60 earlier in his career with the Browns, was born on Dec. 6, 1921 in Waukegan, Ill. Rest in peace, Otto.

Looking Ahead:

This week features 3 games of bonus Saturday NFL coverage, and the playoff picture will go down to the wire in the final week. Still, the week has a few good ones left.

Baby Backs @ Viqueens:

The Viqueens are now holding on for dear life after allowing the resurgent but hapless Brutus Terribuli bust them up last Sunday. They are now tied with the Cheeseheads for first, and need this home win to make the playoffs. Look for them to try to run on the Baby Backs, who are already in, but need to establish a defense or risk having their coach renamed "Ick Vermeil" for his lack of D. I like the Backs in this one, if only because the Queens D can't stop anyone. Plus the Look Man would like to see Red (neck) McCombs blow another gasket and fire everyone after Saturday.

Bengals @ Mouflons:

BTW, the Look Man once thought the Beng could beat the Lambs in St. Lew. The Bengals running game is excellent and the Lambs have shown a defensive liability in this area. Of course, with the Bengals cornerbacks, it could turn into a scoring fest. Unfortunately, a win in the Gateway City could mean a disappointing season ending loss in the Battle of OH - Part 2.

The Look Man will take no pleasure in seeing the Ugly & Black go down like free beer, unless of course it is to the beloved Brownies on 12/28. That development would be Shakespearean, with a certain, "Death, where is thy sting?" quality. Just to be on the safe side though, the Look Man did purchase Bengals playoff tickets.

Flintstones @ Browns:

Andra Davis' foot is a part-time resident in his mouth as he states he would like to see Cincinnati win the AFC North instead of B-more. This, after his prediction before the last B-more game that he would shut down Jamal (Bam-Bam) Lewis. Bam Bam ran for 295 and the rest was history. Now Andra feels the defense will do better. Right.

Sofa Boy is still fighting for a job in front of the home fans. B-more is ticked and battling for its life. The Browns helping the Bungals by beating the Flintstones? NOOOOOOOO!!!

Jynts @ Pokes:

Jim (Old) Fassel got a version of the home game with 2 weeks left to play after the G-Men humiliated themselves against the Religious Icons last Sunday Night on ESPN. Now Fassel will give free cell phones to any NY player who can get him a W in Big D on Sunday. The Pokes' domination of the GVs was complete, and they can make the postseason by winning one of the last 2. Look for the busted up G-Men to play with heart and make this game much closer than the 11 point spread.

Have a fabulous holiday season.

Out.

The Look Man.