

## **The Look Man Report 2003 - Week 18**

### **The Big Pey-Back**

The first round of the playoffs lived up to its Wild Card name, as 2 blowouts accompanied 2 wild finishes. Each day featured 1 tight game and 1 blowout win, as the NFL Tournament determines a true national champion, unlike the NCAA.

The weekend also featured some heroic performances by the Indianapolis Horsies Peyton Manning and the Tennessee Flaming Thumbtacks' Eddie George. These guys were all ready for folks to stick a fork in them, and suddenly said, "Now wait just one minizzle!", coming correct with mad game. It's enough to make a True Believer out of even the most jaded NFL fan.

The week also featured several season awards for Coach of the Year, Comeback Player of the Year, and Zebra of the Year. Well, maybe that last one ought to wait until the real end of the season, but the absence of referee Tom (Snow) White from the playoffs may be relevant. His replacements still managed to raise some eyebrows, while keeping most of the hankies in their pockets.

Without further gloss, here's Week 18:

#### **TN Flaming Thumbtacks at B-More Flintstones:**

The big question was whether Co-MVP Steve (Air) McNair could play at QB for the Tacks, or if Neil (Old) O'Donnell (Had an Arm) would come in from the bullpen. Air proved up to the task, but the physical nature of the game may have taken its toll. The Stillers used a healthy dose of straight ahead running to attempt to beat the Flintstones, and Tennessee executed the game plan to near perfection. Unfortunately, Air decided to keep it close by throwing an uncharacteristic 3 picks in the game, with 1 resulting in a TD return for S Will (Jack) Demps(ey). Fortunately, for the Tacks Dempsey's TD was not a knockout blow, as their defense reciprocated with a pick of its own.

The Tacks' run defense held RB Jamal (Bam Bam) Lewis to only 35 rushing yards on 16 carries, forcing the Flintstones to go to the air. Bedrock QB Anthony (If Loving You is Wrong, I Don't Wanna B) Wright answered the call with a couple of sweet throws, including a highlight film grab by TE Todd (Uriah) Heap. Uriah beat the aptly named Tank Williams on the play, a tall safety with rocks in his pockets. Williams said later, "They got the best running game in the NFL and they throw the ball to a keyboard player? No wonder I got beat!"

But the story of the game was RB (Fast) Eddie George. With Air McNair suffering 3 picks and several punishing hits in the game, Coach Jeff Fisher put his faith in the running game. Last week, the Look Man posited that Fast Eddie was a punk who looked to fall down whenever Ray (Ray-Ray) Lewis was in the same zip code. Fast Eddie started up quickly, gaining 44 yards in the first half before departing with a dislocated shoulder suffered when tackling super safety Ed (Can't) Reed on a pick. Fast Eddie unsuccessfully tried to strip Can't Reed, and left his shoulder on the field in the process. Trainers took him to the locker room where Oscar Goldman tried to rebuild him, make him better than before. They also gave him a healthy dose of novocaine and a brace.

Fast Eddie came back ala Emmitt (Catch 22) Smith vs. the G-Men, and in the fourth quarter, issued a fierce stiff arm to Ray-Ray with his bionic shoulder. Ray Ray got punked to the turf, and Fast Eddie landed on top of him for good measure. They went helmet to helmet afterwards in a serious smackdown.

"I was asking him if he had a great New Year's," George said of his shouting match with Lewis. "He said he had a great New Year's and said they had fried chicken, so I should have come by

the house. I told him I couldn't make it to the house, but he should taste my bionic shoulder; it's finger licking good. Of course, Ray-Ray has a sense of humor. He threatened to 'cut me like a fish.' What a joker!"

Lewis' mad dash to the sidelines held George to a 1-yard run, but the collision set the tone and momentum for the game. Not only did Eddie show heart, but he won over the Look Man as well as the other members of the Tacks. Are you listening, Troy Hambrick?

The other momentum swing was supplied by 'Stones right tackle Orlando (Zeus) Brown, who finished third in the voting for Comeback Player of the Year. Zeus was coming back from a career-threatening eye injury after an official accidentally hit him with a beanbag. That official, Jeff (Bilbo Beanbag)Tripplett, just happened to be officiating on Saturday, and Zeus was involved in two personal foul penalties. Brown threw down Tacks' DE Jevon (The Freak) Kearse twice, after plays. Both penalties resulted in key scores for the Tacks, with the last one setting up the game winning FG.

"You have to know your opponent," Kearse said. "You know players try to intimidate you and try to bully you and everything and, if you know that going into the game, you are going to get some of those plays if you play smart. He's like that -- especially if things aren't going their way. He's trying to bully you. Jim Schwartz, our defensive coordinator, knows him from Cleveland. He's always trying to grab you and head-butt you, poke your eye out, and things like that." The Freak went on to say, "You would think he would want good ocular health, in light of his history, but instead he tries to put your eye out. What a punk."

In the final analysis, place-kicker Gary (Gandalf) Anderson was the Lord of the Poles, and kicked 2 long FGs. The last one, a game winner, was big box office. Gandalf was 27 of 31 for the regular season, but only 10 for 14 between 40 and 43 yards. " There was a certain amount of pressure, but I have been in these situations before. Somehow, I focus on what needs to be done, so that everything disappears and I can focus on the ball. I heard Billick was a kaffir lover, so I wanted to bayt his oss anyway", said Anderson, a South African native. The 44-year-old Gandalf was out fishing when the Tacks called him to replace injured kicker Joe Nedney.

In a karmic correction, B-more Flintstones head coach Brian Billick(goat) and the 'Stones got outcoached, outplayed and outhit by the 'Tacks. In the win or go home world of the NFL, they have now gone fishin'.

#### **Dallas Cowpokes @ Carolina Confederate Black Cats:**

The Dallas Cowpokes took their Wild West show on the road to the Confederacy due to a goofy loss the New Orleans Religious Icons. Since they were already in trouble, the Black Cats decided to wear white, forcing the Pokes to wear the dreaded blue unis. To make matters worse, Pokes QB Quincy (Klugman) Carter was the only quarterback in the playoff field with more interceptions (21) than touchdowns (17).

So the Gauchos were facing a stiff defense in a rematch, and the Tuna decided to cross them up by making backup RB Richie (Cunningham) Anderson his featured back. The fact that (Dr. Christian) Troy Hambrick was a going-out-of-bounds-punk also factored into the equation. In a tough game, you need a tough guy, not a plastic surgeon/pretty boy.

The Black Cats countered with some deep passes early in order to loosen up the running game. The Look Man has always been a fan of the pass to set up the run, but it can backfire badly. In order for the late running game to be effective, a team must run well early to tire out the defense. Cats QB Jake (The Man) Delhomme loosened up the D by hitting WR Steve (Likes to Fight Guy) Smith who burned CB Terrence (Hellooooo) Newman AND S Roy Williams on a short pass, and took off down the sidelines. Starhead S Pete Hunter caught him at the 1, and the Doomsday Lite defense made the Panthers settle for a FG in a nice defensive stand. Newman looked like a

postal worker on the play, and Roy Williams ought to return to coaching basketball after several missed tackles on the day.



"He didn't beat me!"

Carolina Offensive Coordinator Dan Henning called a great game, catching the Pokes in blitzes on 3<sup>rd</sup> down, and throwing deeper routes than usual. The next long play to WR (Bullwinkle) Muhsin Muhammad resulted in a long pickup, despite a fumble on the play. After being stripped, Bullwinkle recovered his own fumble at the one.

The play featured a potential Zebra moment because Bullwinkle had his hoof out of bounds on the play. The Look Man has seen several replays, but unless a Pokes player touched the ball first, there should have been a penalty for illegal touching at a minimum. It is unclear whether a rabbit was actually pulled out of a hat on the play, but the zebras did spot a flying squirrel above the field.

Doomsday Lite did a great job of keeping the Cats out of the endzone, forcing K John Kasay (Kaseem) to kick 5 FGs on the day. Unfortunately, Klugman and Richie Anderson put the ball in the Cats hands too many times, and ultimately the defense got tired of looking at autopsies.

The best call might have been the isolation run by Stephen (Jefferson) Davis. The president of the Confederacy went untouched into the endzone after a nice isolation block by the TE, and a slip by CB Mario Edwards. The Black Cats ended up with a 29-10 thrashing of the Young Guns.

As a result, Jerry (Buddy Lee) Jones is expected to beef up his QB position and give up on Klugman, his personal pick. The rumor mill has JAX Mark Brunnell heading to Irving, but the Look Man expects a dark horse vet to emerge. Maybe actor Tony Randall can team with Klugman to make an effective starter? Afterwards, the Tuna took a separate plane back from Charlotte to DFW, citing his disenchantment with Hambrick, who he benched in favor of Richie from Happy Days. The handwriting is on the wall for Hambrick in 2004, so he should start packing his wagon for greener pastures.

The Pokes have nothing to be ashamed of since they were not slated for postseason play for at least another year. Now the future is bright, and the cap room is available to get a QB, a shutdown corner and a RB. Of course, Darren (Stevens) Woodson looked like someone cast a spell on him down the stretch. He couldn't have made a tackle in a phone booth, so maybe a safety is on Tuna's wish list also.



Jerry Jones, The King of Jeans?

### **Seattle @ GB:**

The Shehawks headed to the frozen tundra of Lambeau Field, with visions of a rare road win in

the heads. Mike (The Walrus) Holmgren, stripped of his godlike GM powers after 2002, was hoping that they would name a street after him in Coffeetown with a "W". Meanwhile, Brett (Favre) Bean and the Cheeseheads are on a mission to make it Houston. Would it be "Houston, we have a problem", or "Walrus Way in the Pike Street Market?"

The Pack started strong with some nice hard runs by former Shehawk Ahman (Corner) Green. Cheesehead LG Mike Wahle had a cast on his left hand that made it tough to hold Hawks d-linemen, but the way Ahman Corner was running made it moot. Just when the Hawks got lulled to sleep, Favre Bean went *Silence of the Lambs* and threw strikes to his receivers. Shehawks receivers helped the Green Bay cause by dropping 9 balls on the day. Still, the Hawks were able to stay in the game with some nice drives of their own, predicated on the passing of QB Matt (Captain Stubing) Hasselback.

The Cheeseheads built a lead with a solid, clock-eating 4<sup>th</sup> quarter drive. On 2 occasions, coach Mike Sherman (Tank) went for it on 4<sup>th</sup> down. He actually made it on 1, and the zebras gave it to him on the other. At any rate, the Pack couldn't protect the lead, despite Favre's plaintive wails to the defense. Captain Stubing went thru their D like venereal disease on the Love Boat, scoring a game tying TD to force OT. During the coin toss Stubing proclaimed, "We'll take the ball, and WE'RE GONNA SCORE!" Hasselback also promised that the new *Hair Club for Men* systems that he sold to Packers Al Harris and Mike McKenzie would look like real hair. The 2 cornerbacks were so excited with the *Rasta Man* that they bought the deluxe model.

Stubing's wide receivers, who had trouble catching the ball all day, were also disenchanted. "He kept calling us names in the huddle", said Koren (King) Robinson. "I am not sure who 'Isaac' is, but he kept asking if the beer was cold in the locker room. He asked D-Jack about somebody named 'Gopher' and kept humming this goofy song about 'love is in the air, exciting and new'. We think he may have been on something."

Stubing walked the plank with a hot read on a blitz package. He threw a lazy out pattern that CB Al Ha(i)rris took to the House for the win in OT. The formerly Swiss Cheese D by the Pack in regulation turned to sharp Limburger on the play, and Hasselback nearly cried afterwards.

There were some hilarious moments in this one, including commentator Cris Collinsworth's take on Pack DT Grady (Sanford and Son) Jackson. Grady, who goes 6'5" and about 400 lbs, stuffed the Hawks run all day. On one play, Collinsworth said, "Grady Jackson comes up big on that play. What an understatement." Following Harris' game winning pick for 6, he made the goofy reference to Favre's father's death, "Angels are still floating above Lambeau Field." Collinsworth has always been a goof, but his recent attempts at legitimacy are beginning to irritate the Look Man. The Pack has extended Grady's contract, insuring he will appear on the Lambeau version of Sanford & Son thru the next 2 years. When NT (Whatever Happened to) Gilbert Brown shows up in the 400 lb range next season, they will be able to stuff any runner in the NFC Norse. Or eat them.

By the way, Pack LB Marcus Wilkins was inactive with an injury.

#### **Denver Donkeys @ Indy Horsies:**

This game featured a horse race rematch of speed vs. spunk. Would Mike (the Rat) Shanahan be able to go Mr. Miyagi on RB Clinton Portis' bad knee? Would Co-MVP Peyton (James Brown) Manning rise to the occasion, and get revenge in the Big Pey-Back on the Donkeys? The Hardest Working Man in Throw Business was looking to win his first playoff game and lose the knock that "he couldn't win the Big One."

All these questions were answered and more, Tom Moore, that is. The Horsies O-coordinator called a brilliant game and JB executed to perfection with a perfect 158.3 QB rating. The game was over in the first half as only 1 ball touched the ground, and that one was due to a bad route run by TE Marcus Pollard. Manning was spectacular, and deleted the "co-" from any MVP in the

mind of the Look Man. In fact, the Look Man believes that the Godfather of Soul was ticked that he had to share his hardware with Air McNair in light of a career best 99.0 QB rating on the year, and the fact that Air watched many games from the bench. Granted, Air should have won the 2002 MVP over Rich (Loose) Gannon, but the past is the past.

On Sunday, the past was the present, as the Horsies won by more than a nose. The game was reminiscent of Joe Montana's 55-10 carving of the Donkeys in Super Bowl XXIV. The penultimate play was one in which super WR (Starvin) Marvin Harrison caught a nice post pattern pass and went directly to the ground in order to keep his head attached to his shoulders. In light of the big and often illegal hits by Donkeys safeties, the move was a smart one. When the Donkey DBs began arguing over who missed the coverage, Starvin' Marvin jumped up off the ground and took it to the House. Since he was untouched, no whistle blew and the TD stood.

As a result of this game, Manning is expected to have to be photographed and fingerprinted at airports under Tom Ridge's new program as an illegal alien, as in extraterrestrial. He and Starvin' Marvin Harrison caused the terror alert to rise with their play. Of course the Horsies defense was flying to the ball, making Denver QB Jake (The Fake) Plummer live down to this nickname. The running game was so non-existent, that Denver OT Brock Blakemeyer incurred bad karma by giving Dwight (Schizo-) Freeney the business after one block. Schizo-Freeney came back to strip sack Jake the Fake, leading to yet another perfect TD pass from Manning, aka ET.

Tom (The OC) Moore also had another innovation in the game. He installed second-year pro Tupe Peko (Tea) at C, moving Jeff Saturday (Night's All Right for Fighting) into the guard spot. The result was DT Trevor (The) Pryce (is Right) had 0 sacks and 2 tackles after living in ET's grill the last game. OG Steve Sciuillo may be back next week, but the Horsies outfoxed the Rat on this one. The OC also highlighted free agent WR Brandon Stokely (Carmicheal) who burned the Donkeys all day long before coming up lame late in the contest. Carmichael already has a ring from Super Bowl XXXV with the Flintstones, and if he can stay healthy, he might add another.

Speaking of WR play, the Look Man is glad he won't have to hear how tall Denver CB Lenny Walls is again this season. If the announcers said it once, they said it one thousand times: "Lenny Walls, at 6'4", is the TALLEST CORNERBACK IN THE NFL." At some point, the Look Man expected them to start saying, "Oh, my God. Walls' head is touching the top of the RCA Dome. HE'S GIGANTIC!" Irrespective of his height, Carmichael and Starvin' Marvin kept chopping wood, and cut him down to size. They are now expected to appear in a new Disney's franchise called, *Honey I Shrunk the CB*.

Johnnie (Big Bootay) Grier came back across the 8<sup>th</sup> dimension and made Denver OG Dan Neil (Armstrong) his personal biyatch. Big Bootay also put in his bid for Zebra of The Week for too much face time. Of course, the camera crew did provide some nice face - - - and other time, for the Horsie cheer squad and some very comely fans. The crowd shots showed some serious talent among the Hoosier faithful. The Look Man was unaware that it was legal to import women for a playoff game, or was that simply the Midwest's Finest on display among the corn fed Hoosiers?

Speaking of the Horsie-ettes, the Look Man would vote for some new uniforms for these fine mares. The unis they wore on Sunday looked like a cross between Victoria's Secret and Green Acres.

So, The Rat must go back to the drawing board and ESPN analyst Tom Jackson needs to get a job. Jackson's selection of the Donks to win was BS, if not BCS. In the "win or go home" world of the NFL, both of these goofs must do the latter.

#### **Zebra Of The Week:**

The nominees are: Jeff (Beanbag) Tripplett for Tacks @ Flintstones, Johnnie (Big Bootay) Grier for Donkeys @ Horsies, Walt Coleman (lantern) for Pokes @ Black Cats, and Bernie (The Kook) Kukar for Hawks @ Pack.

And the winner is: Bernie the Kook! Bernie had a couple of crazy calls, including not calling the Tuck Rule on a Captain Stubing incomplete pass that rookie LB Nick Barnett returned for an apparent TD, as well as a couple of questionable spots on close fourth downs. While neither seemed to really impact the outcome, Bernie's lack of control in critical games gives him the appearance of a modern day Ben Dreith. Congrats, Bernie. You are the **Zebra of the Week!**

Honorable mention goes to Walt Coleman-Lantern for his Bullwinkle fumble call.

### Miscellaneous:

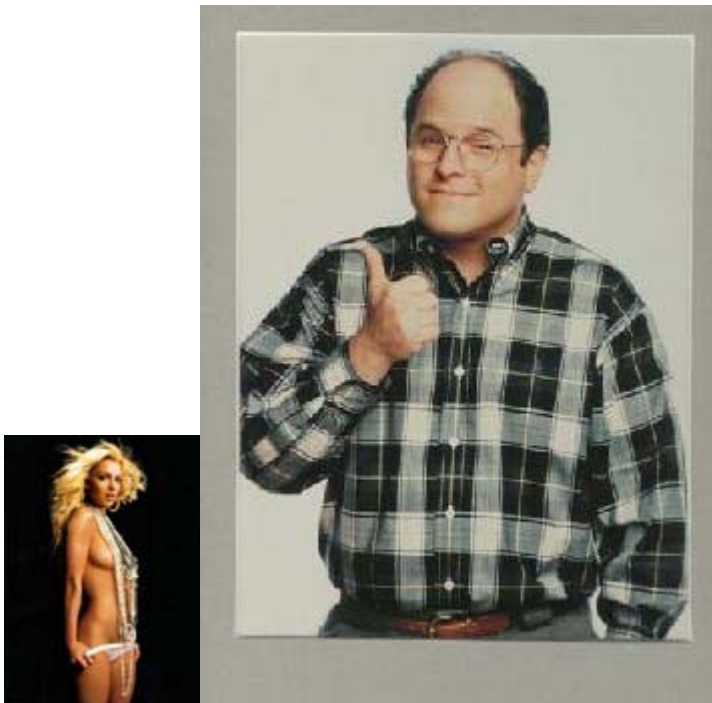
#### **Celebrity 'Bit of the Week:**

Pop singer Britney (Vlasic) Spears announced a quickie Vegas marriage to Jason Alexander of Seinfeld fame. Vlasic got herself into something of a pickle on a drunken rampage, and married her childhood sweetheart, who played George Costanza on the hit series. Spears spokespersons said that an annulment is imminent, but Costanza is said to be purchasing special envelopes for the wedding announcements in hopes of a big settlement.

When asked about the marriage, Alexander would say only, "I GOTTA DO SOMETHING! This was supposed to be the Winter of George, baybee! He went on to say, "I ran into Pete Rose at the sports book, and he bet me I wouldn't go through with it."

Seinfeld co-stars Jerry and Elaine are said to be very jealous of Costanza's nuptials, especially since Kramer was the Best Man at the ceremony.

Alexander provided these exclusive post-wedding photos to the Look Man:



"George has the kvorka!"

"I tagged that @ss!!"

Wildlife expert Steve Irwin raised the ire of his fans by holding his baby while feeding a crocodile. The Croc Hunter later complained that the baby was "in no rale dangah." Irwin said, "It's not like there were wild dingoes around. Of course, the wife was a little bit grumpay!" Michael Jackson expected to respond with a dangling a baby from the Sears Tower following his current legal battles. No word yet on responses from Siegfried and Roy.



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If you missed the Snoop Dogg commercials for the NCAA ADT national championship, you missed some good ones. Snoop has gone mass media advertising everything from AOL 9.0 Optimizer to Levitra. The Look Man is waiting for Chronic to be legalized so that Snoop can be the perfect spokesman.

Speaking of the NCAA mythical national championship, the Look Man boycotted the Sugar Bowl between LSU and Oklahoma. OU had no business even playing that game. Of course, the Look Man also wonders whether Jim Tressel aimed that co-ed at KSU QB Eli Roberson before the Fiesta Bowl. OSU narrowly escaped that one, despite hellacious defense and 4 TD passes from Krenzel. The Michigan-USC game proved only that the NCAA desperately needs a playoff system.

#### **Coach of the Year:**

New England Chowds coach Bill (Dr. Evil) Belichick won the COTY in a runaway vote. The Look Man has no beef with this, and it could mean a lot more clams for the Austin Powers star. While Bungals coach Marvin Lewis had the best turnaround, Dr. Evil posted a 14-2 record with 42 different starters, and could be headed for a second ring. If he does get a second ring, he would then have to leave the Shire (Beantown) in search of the final ring. Congrats Bill!

#### **Comeback Player of the Year:**

Bungals QB Jon Pickna won the CPOTY award in 2003, with a personal best 26 TD passes. Of course, da Beng lost down the stretch, and he got fined for wearing a hat with a religious symbol. To reward his accomplishments Coach Marvin Lewis is expected to bench him for (Johnny) Carson Palmer in 2004. Congratulations Pickna!

#### **Celebrity Obit of the Week:**

Tug (Quick Draw) McGraw, the zany relief pitcher who coined the phrase "You Gotta Believe" with the New York Mets and later closed out the Philadelphia Phillies' only World Series championship, died Monday at the age of 59. McGraw, who suffered from brain cancer, passed away at the home of his son, country music star Tim McGraw. McGraw underwent surgery for a malignant tumor and had been battling the disease since March.

McGraw's antics on the mound included slapping his glove on his thigh to say hello to his family, and joyous celebrations. He drove Mets pitcher John Franco's motorcycle onto the field a few years back in a tribute to the pitcher. McGraw had reconciled with his son Tim in recent years after being estranged from him. No word on whether his relationship with Baba Louie ever recovered after the hit TV series *Huckleberry Hound* was canceled. Mr. Hound was unavailable for comment, but he did provide an exclusive photo to the Look Man. Or is that Roy Williams' picture? You make the call.



Separated at birth?

#### **Looking Ahead:**

##### **Titans @ Chowds:**

As stated previously, the Look Man believes that Greg Brady's knee did get hurt, and that may affect his performance in this game. Of course, the Zebras have been swallowing the whistle,

and based on the Tuck Rule 2001, anything can happen in Beantown. Further, the physical nature of the Flintstones game might limit the Tacks, who face another physical challenge this week.

Here's why the Look Man likes the Tacks to win:

- 1) they were the only team in the league with four wide receivers with four or more touchdown catches in 2003 (none were 1<sup>st</sup> rounders)
- 2) the Tacks D is Number 1 vs. the run, but their DBs are solid, and NE has inexperienced WRs
- 3) I like Air to bounce back from a 3-INT game,
- 4) I hate the Chowds.

The big question is the availability of CB Samari (Esther) Rolle, who was injured in a bizarre attempt to stop JJ from cutting school last week. His backup is John Amos.

### **Horsies @ Baby Backs:**

The lack of defense by the Baby Backs is legend, and the Horsies made Head coach Tony (Hume Cronyn) Dungy look like the King of the Rohan last week. Still, one has to wonder if the Backs have a few sauces potboiling on the back eye of the stove. The Backs are rested, and tough to beat at noisy Agam Stadium, where the locals are sophisticated enough to drown out Manning's audibles.

As always, the Look Man is king of the underdog, and likes the Horsies as a true team of Destiny, not Green Bay. Hume Cronyn has provided some nice twists in an effort to prove he deserved a ring before now, and I like him to outcoach Dick (The Crying Man) Vermeil in this one. Or is that "Ick" (no D) Vermeil. After all, to win a championship, one must run effectively and stop the run effectively. KC can do only one, and maybe none versus Indy.

If Mike (Yacht Boy) Vanderjagt stays perfect, the Colts move on and the Baby Backs go home.

### **Black Cats @ Mouflons:**

The Confederacy goes 49-50 or bust on this trip to Missouri to face the Greatest Show on Turf. Again, a rested St. Lew team will be tough to handle, but the Cats are tailor-made for this one. To beat St. Lew one must run effectively, and the Look Man hopes that Dan Henning will pull speedy backup RB Deshaun Foster out of the mix to team with speedy WR Steve Smith and cagey big man Muhsin Muhammad.

If the defense can get some heat on the Marc (the Scarecrow) Bulger, look for the Confederacy to rise again for an appearance in the NFC Championship game.

### **Cheeseheads @ Iggles:**

It's Cheeseheads vs. Cheesesteaks II as the Pack and Iggles replay an earlier matchup. Well-coiffed Pack CB Al Harris formerly played for the Iggles and the offensive coordinator will be looking for help to combat the physical offense of the Birds. The bigger question is whether Mike (the Walrus II) Reid go conservative again, and will he get help from Mike (the Walrus) Holmgren in game planning?

Pack defensive coordinator Ed Donatell('os Pizza) will likely pull out the "Thriller" blitz again in Philly, trying to force Donovan (Filthy) McNabb(sty) to perform a different endzone dance. The absence of Philly's star RB Bryant Westbrook will force this game to be closer than anticipated, but the Look Man likes the Iggles to make Rush Limburger eat his words yet again. Look for the zebras to get into this one, but the Birds find a way to win in a squeaker.

### **Epilogue:**

The Look Man is looking forward to the end of the year pick segment. No update yet, but with only 4 playoff teams repeating, it should be a donnybrook.

Happy New Year! Go out and "Open New Doors in Deuce Double Aught Four!"



Peace.  
The Look Man