

The LOOK MAN Report

Week Seven - Baby Needs a New Pair of Shoes

As we rolled a seven on the official 2003 NFL season dice, the Look Man finds that things are getting curiouser and curiouser. For one thing, the growth demonstrated by the Browns' ugly win over the Grayders turned out to be simply more ugliness. For another, the cream of the NFL keeps rising to the top, with classic wins by the Minnesota Swedes, KC Chefs, Dallas Buckaroos, and Tennessee Flaming Thumbtacks. Finally, the trend toward negative public relations in 2003 keeps rearing its ugly head, with racially motivated comments, performance enhancing drugs and dwindling crowds. Without further bananas in the tailpipe, here's Week 7 in review:

Bolts @ Brownies:

In a tribute to the failure to learn from history, the Browns wore the cursed orange jerseys that cost them a game last year vs. the Confederate Black Cats. With Tim (Sofa Boy) Couch at the helm against a winless So-Cal Bolts team, the Browns were looking at a great opportunity to move up in the AFC North, aka the Dud Division. The new inductees to the Browns Wall of Fame and the Kardiac Kids Browns of the Eighties were featured before the game to get the crowd going. Of course, then the Sofa Boy starts off the game with a few dropped passes to his wideouts, who were flatter than the new \$20 bill featuring the photo of ESPN's Peter Gammons.

In the first quarter, Bolts RB LaDanian (The New LT) Tomlinson ripped off a 27-yarder and never looked back. The defense responded in kind by doing their impression of a flag football team and allowing the NLT to take over the contest with a sweet 70 yard run to the House. The D got faked out of its collective socks AND jocks as he turned on the afterburners. The God of Lightning himself would have been proud of the speed and power demonstrated by NLT. On the Chargers' final field-goal drive, he ran seven times for 48 yards, including bursts of 12 and 16 yards.

After the drops and missed tackles, the Doddering Davenport proceeded to throw 2 balls to guys NOT wearing hideous orange jerseys. The first Furniture Kid pick went to Bolts S Kwame (the Swami) Lassiter, who correctly predicted that Sofa would look at his receiver for the entire pattern, and took the ball to the House. Butch (Hurricane Boy) Davis had seen enough when the second pick occurred after the intermission, so he went "reverse-Grady Little" and called the bullpen. Kelly (Tires) Holcomb rolled into the contest and proceeded to drive the Oranges to 2 quick-strike TD's to make the score close.

Limping noticeably, Kelly Tires nearly got a W with a heroic comeback despite his flat tire. LT (Carl) Barry Stokes reinjured his high ankle sprain, and the absence of linemen Jeff (Don't Take My Name In) Faine and Shaun O'Hara didn't help either. Browns QBs were like Timex watches in there, taking a serious licking. RB William (Red) Green chipped in with an injured shoulder and had to leave the game with 65 rushing yards.

"We knew how good [NLT] was coming in, but we just couldn't stop him," said CB Daylon McCutcheon. "We have to get this figured out because we have a lot of other good backs to face this season like Priest Holmes and Clinton Portis. These knuckleheads up on the D-line better start making some tackles, cause me and Griff ain't even thinking about trying to tackle them big boys. We don't want to end up like Romo, with a percussion or something." When notified that Romanowski suffered from 'concussions' not 'percussions', McCutcheon would say only, "Well they both make your head hurt."

Oranges Safety Earl Little provided a spark with an interception on the opening play of the second half that led to a Browns field goal to pull Cleveland to within 13-6, but he said he was too angry after the game to talk to reporters. "We can't cry over spilled milk," said Kenard (kd) Lang. "I have to go look at the film and see what I have to do to get better and so does everyone else. I

may have to write some songs about this, because I am starting to have feelings of angst, and an uncontrollable urge to munch some carpet."

Bolts Head Coach Marty Schottenheimer also went "David Blaine" on the hometown crowd, getting his first win in 42 days. He was seen to emerge from the coaching box sobbing uncontrollably, saying, "I love you all. This has been the hardest thing in my life. And the most beautiful." Many So-Cal spectators had been throwing eggs, hamburgers and paint balls at Marty during the 0-5 losing streak in 2003. He looked gaunt and withdrawn and was taken away by ambulance following the win.

Schottenheimer was also known for crying jags while coaching Cleveland. Former NT Bob Golic loves to remark about how Marty would break down at halftime while the troops were trying to eat. "Are we winning or losing?", asked Golic of his teammates. "Pass the mustard willya?"

Flintstones @ Bungals:

While the Oranges were losing by the Lake, the Cincinnati Bungals were busy busting out the AFC North-leading Baltimore Flintstones down at Pall Bearer Stadium. Former Flintstones D-Coordinator Marvin (Jerry) Lewis got his troops rallied and managed to close the bakery for one week, beating Fred and Barney's team 34-26. QB Jon Kitna kaboodled his way to 3 TDs and nearly 3 bills passing after hearing that (Johnny) Carson Palmer had been promoted to No. 2 on the depth chart.

"I just put my faith in my Lord and Savior today. That and a couple of deep balls to the Dentist.", said Kitna. "Some people said I was switching from Christianity to Krishnaism, but irregardless, I continue to be a man of faith. I went into the Jungle with the lion, and like Moses, I got a brontosaurus burger out of the deal." In addition to the sandwich, Kitna helped TE Aaron Schobel emerge from the Witness Protection Program with a 45-yard TD pass on a seam route. It did help that the Flintstones had DT Adalius Thomas covering Schoebel. Bungals TE's have been open all season like national convenience store chains, but Pickna doesn't like his dough to rise too quickly, and typically eschews the TE for the more sure handed CBs wearing opposing colors.

Despite Kitna's performance, the Bungals D managed to blow a commanding lead. They also allowed B-more rookie QB Kyle Boller (Hat) to do his Johnny Unitas impression in front of the Jungle Faithful. Boller Hat derbied his way to 302 passing yards, including a couple of first quarter beauties that burned Bungals CB Tory (The Price is Right) James.

After a Kevin (K Squared) Kaesviharn sack on a cornerback blitz that collared the young QB, Boller Hat gave up the ball early and often including 2 fumbles and a sweet pick to the aforementioned James. The Ugly & Black parlayed those into an big early lead that included an 82-yard pass to Chad (The Dentist) Johnson. The 82-yarder was interesting since B-more S Ed (Illiterate) Reed allowed the pass to go right threw his waiting hands to the speeding Dentist. "I flashed my bling-bling canines at him, and he dropped the rock. I knew he had the wrong angle, and once I blinded him, I just took it to the House.", said Johnson. All Pro RB Corey (Marshall) Dillon then followed with a nice run on a "Gus" play where FB Jeremi Johnson blew up Ray (Ray) Lewis. Marshall Dillon scored a rare North end zone TD on the play. "That's not how you hit the dummy! Now get back in line and hit the dummy again!" yelled Ray Ray after picking himself up out of the end zone.

The Toothless Tigers then added some unusual wrinkles, including having concussion victim Jeff Burris returning punts instead of Peter (P-Dub) Warrick, and having Justin (Dr. Zachary) Smith line up as a stand up LB outside Duane Clemons. The resultant pressure forced Boller to doff his hat to the punishment. Not to be outdone, Brian Billick(goat) added a wrinkle of his own. After climbing back into the contest at 34-26, Billickgoat inserted 2 kickers for the onside kick attempt to confuse the Ugly & Black. P-Dub looked pretty confused when he swatted the kick harmlessly out of bounds and ended the threat. Fortunately, the Bungals were not on the 10-yard line. How

he got on the 'hands team' is anyone's guess. The Look Man guesses that Jerry went "Buddy Love" and decided to gamble.

Referee Johnnie Grier pitched in with over 20 yellow hankies to keep his average intact while cementing the **Zebra of the Week** award for life. The Bungals win was not televised due to fans being disguised as empty seats, so most Nati-ans never saw the great win. In fact, many believe these wins over league powerhouses are simply Great Pumpkin tales from the Peanuts gang.

Donkeys @ Vikes:

The Denver Donkeys traveled to the Land of 10,000 Lakes to see if the Colorado Swedes could bump off the Minnesota Swedes. Unfortunately the Minnesota QB is not Swedish, his broken back is all healed up, and his wide receiver is the best in pro football ("Dante Stuffedpepper is back and he's still black! New this Fall on Fox!"). In addition, the Norseman defense came to play and forced substitute Donkeys hurler Steve (Christian) Beuerlein to sacrifice a digit on his throwing hand. Christian is now sporting a nice Roger Staubach impression with a finger that points to magnetic north while his other digits point elsewhere. The Beer Maker will be out for what ought to be his last season playing musical chairs with Jake (the Fake) Plummer, as Danny Kanell becomes the Donkeys QB of the Week.

But the play of the (pick one: day, week, month, year) was Randy (Mouth) Moss' hook-and-ladder pitch to (Curly) Moe Williams just before halftime. On a desperation deep ball with seconds remaining Stuffedpepper threw as far as he could to a double covered Mouth. Mouth then calmly delivered a no-look dime to Curly, who was circling on a planned play. Curly whoop-whoop-whooped his way into the endzone in a laugher. The T-Wolves are now thinking about offering Mouth a spot at small forward.

"It was a once in a lifetime thing that happens every so often," said Moss, who burned the Donks for 10 catches and 151 yards. "We're just lucky we scored before the half. We would've had to really light them up down the stretch otherwise. And Karl (The White Rhino) Mecklenberg was in attendance, so we had to do something special to torch the D. Consider it an homage to the Niners-Donks Super Bowl carving."

The Vikings are now 6-0, with a 3.5 game lead on the Cheeseheads, with their next 2 games in the Metrodome. If they can blow up the Cheeseheads and Jynts, they will open up an insurmountable 5 game lead with 8 to play. Can you say "earliest playoff clinch in history?"

Most folks believe that the Norsemen are doing it with offense, which is true. What is also true is that the Vikes and undefeated KC Chefs lead the league in turnover margin. The Vikes have a D to go with the O now. They have become solid by signing LBs Chris Claiborne and Henri Crockett, while adding Denard Walker, and Brian Russell to their D backfield. The V-Men are on pace to snag 37 picks for the year, and their ball hawking style complements the quick strike offense. Credit should go to D-Coordinator George Leary(of his Resume), who has parlayed the skills of his players into an attacking D not seen in these parts since the Purple People Eaters. Watch out when Michael (Harve) Bennett returns at RB ["Micheal Bennett, a man barely alive. We can rebuild him; make him better than before"]. These guys could be the class of the NFC.

Chowds @ Fish:

Speaking of homages, the Miami Marine Mammals blew numerous chances to beat the Minutemen, and end up as chowder themselves. With the Marlins in the World Series, South Beach fans are asking if the real Fish will please stand up, please stand up, please stand up. In a bizarre twist the Chowds did it with a M*A*S*H unit on D, as Head Coach Bill (Dr. Evil) Bellicose schemes up a masterful performance. Dr. Evil is doing it with guys no one ever heard of, and none of them are making, you guessed it, ONE MEELLION DOLLARS! The Chowds avoid a loss in OT when Olindo (Night) Mare can't hit the game winning FG in the Marlin infield dirt at Pro Player park. Ironically, Head Coach Dave Wannsededt asked Night Mare if he and the punter

wanted to practice on the dirt during the week and both declined. Now DW is asking them if they want to donate their paychecks to charity.

The Browns play at Gillette next Sunday so look for Dr. Evil to scheme a good one up for Sofa Boy. The Chowds have forced MVP level QBs like Air McNair and Peyton Manning into bad games. The Look Man thinks they will torch the Furniture Kid like a WV Mountaineer fan's couch after a VA Tech loss in Morgantown.

Iggles @ G-men:

On the anniversary of the Miracle at the Meadowlands, the Iggles bust out the Jynts with a defensive gem, and a punt return for a TD. Brian Westbrook starred as Herm Edwards to former Eagle Jeff F(eagles)' Joe Pisarczik, as the G-Men go down like free beer. Jynts QB Kerry (Special K) Collins was not so special, and he has a bigger windup than Dontrell Willis. The Gang Green D ripped his arm off and punked the Jersey Jynts to climb back into the NFC Least race.

Donovan (Filthy) McNabb(sty) needs to sit the pine after another subpar performance proved that he is still injured. He is likely to really incite the City of Fistic Fury and its sports fans worse than a Hakkar - Hopkins fight decision on HBO. Even Big George Foreman won't be able to keep them off the field if McNabbsty continues to plummet, and it may result in an interview like this one by Philly's own Larry Merchant conducted this spring after that fight:

Merchant: "Bernard Hopkins, why did you fight this bum?"

Hopkins: " It was a mandatory WBC challenge; they would have stripped me."

Merchant: "Well, you won't be doing it again here."

Hopkins: "That's not your decision Larry; you're a commentator, not a cable TV president."

Merchant: "It looks like you got paid a lot for not much."

Hopkins: "Well, Larry, you got paid a lot for not doing much for your whole career."

The game also featured a gruesome leg injury to Jynts OL Rich Seubert. Seubert went Theismann when ND Kalu stepped on his leg, breaking it in 3 places. He did wave the white towel fittingly as he left on a cart. One now wonders whether the best O-line coach in the business, Jim McNally can retool in 2003.

Cowpokes @ Cadillacs:

The Dallas Cowpokes showed Grady Little and Company how to really "Cowboy Up" with a 38-7 round up of Detroit. QB Quincy (Klugman) Carter performs autopsies on the entire Cadillac secondary while Terry Glenn dispelled rumors of his sexuality with a 3 TD performance in the first half alone. Doomsday Lite continues to shine, sending Joey (Blake) Harrington to the pine in favor of Mike (You May Have Already Won) McMahon. Neither could do anything and the GM is on the hotseat until a talent injection occurs.

Dallas' resurgence is nip/tuck with (Christian) Troy Hambrick and O-Coordinator Sean (McNamara) Payton surgically carving up the defenses in the NFC. They will both be guest starring on Fox's premiere of the OC this Fall (if you haven't seen this one, you need to). The Jynts fall and the Pokes resurgence may have more to do with Sean Payton than anything else.

Quick Hits:

Last Sunday might have had the most sweet plays in one day that the Look Man has ever seen. In one day we had:

1. Mouth Moss with the flip to Williams as time expires in the first half
2. Terrell (TO) Owens 75-yard stop and go vs. the Corn Kings
3. Pickna's 82 yarder to Chad Johnson
4. Brady Bunch 82-yarder to Troy Brown and His Band of Renown in OT vs. the Marine Mammals

5. Thumbtacks fake punt for TD from backup Volek to Eddie Berlin (Wall)
6. T'tacks safety's deceleating hit on Black Cats WR
7. The NLT's 70-yard TD run vs. Browns
8. Terry (Senator) Glenn 20 yard toe tapper TD vs. Detroit (one of 3 TDs)
9. Mouflons' WR Dane (Good) Looker's tightrope job for six

For those that didn't see it, WR Dane (Good) Looker had a nice tight roping TD for the Greatest Show on Turf on Sunday. One can almost see why the Lambs let Ricky Proehl(shampoo) get away to the Black Cats after seeing Looker the last 2 weeks. The Look Man still gives Mouth Moss the **Sweet Play of the Day Award**.

The league is on pace for a new record of overtime games in 2003. After a big outcry on the unfairness of one-possession overtimes, less than 50% of the teams won after winning the coin toss. CBS' Jim Nance(y Boy) and Fox/HBO's Cris Collinsworth were 2 of the proponents for OT rules changes. Can you say "jump the gun"?

Warren Sapp is a punk. After a \$50K fine for bumping the ref and attempting to intimidate the Horsies, he came out and kicked the TD pylon last week. His calling the NFL League Office a "slavemaster" was over the top, even for him. His comments are uncalled for, especially in light of the Rush Limburger comments earlier. A \$50K fine is nothing compared to the pay cut he will receive next season, when the Expensive Corn Kings send him packing.

Speaking of ill-timed comments, Junior Seau went Fuzzy Zoeller with some gratuitous comments about the New LT "eating watermelon and fried chicken" during a press conference last week. Although the NLT was not offended, many folks were. Junior should apologize and move on.

The trifecta might have been Bungals RB Corey (Marshall) Dillon's comments, in which asked to be "traded to Dallas" after practice this week. Marshall Dillon is not happy unless he is stirring the pot, but after a big win over the division rival Flintstones, and before meeting the 5-1 SheHags is NOT the time. Marshall Dillon went on to say, "They never treated Festus like this when he was here. Now Doc is telling everybody that I am washed up. Marshall Dillon is NOT washed up. Miss Kitty gives me the ball 20-30 times every night. Plus CD could be a star in the West. Someplace like Dallas. Hell, I love tuna anyway."

Dillon continued, "I don't care whether there is a new sheriff in town. CD is still Marshall Dillon. And he will speak in the 3rd person as often as he likes!" Jerry Lewis indicated that the problem was with the media. "It's you guys", said the Nutty Professor. "My running back doesn't like it when you laugh. He gets the crazy idea you're laughing at him. Now if you just apologize, like I know you're going to, me and my running back can just ride on out of town."

The Bungals are unlikely to be able to unload Dillon until June 1, and still need the Dillonator to nurse their ridiculous pipe dreams of the playoffs in 2003. The local fishwrap cited their chances of winning the AFC North based on winning percentage of their remaining opponents versus those of their opponent's opponents. Apparently, Sam Wyche was a contributor to the article.

More on entertainer Roy Horn's bout with a tiger. The Look Man Report has uncovered an exclusive photo of Montecore, the rare Siberian who attacked him (below). Only in the LMR can you get this exclusive.



The Browns are the first team in NFL history to allow two running backs to exceed 200 yards in games in a single season. Since the Jamal (Bam Bam) Lewis 295-yard debacle in Week 2, the Barking Dawg D had allowed only 75 yards per game. All of that went out the window along with the rocks that NLT ditched on Sunday.

The Monday Nighter between the undefeated Chefs and Grayders was good only after most folks went to bed. The Chefs sautéed their way to a lead only to have Grayders backup QB Marques (de Sade) Tuiasosopo manage a comeback. Kid Rock was in the audience when Grayder QB Rich (Loose) Gannon went down with a broken firing pin. Rock was heard to yell, "SOMEBODY'S GOTTA FEEL DIS!" No comment from Loose.

Celebrity Obit of the Week:

LMR reader Chris (Sea) Reh brings a passing to the attention of the Look Man. Jack Elam, the wild-eyed star of Hollywood westerns died this week in Oregon at the age of 84. Elam was a veteran of the stage and screen with his credits including such films as *Pardners*, *Rio Lobo*, *Cat Ballou*, *Once Upon a Time in the West*, and the *Support Your Local* franchise.

Elam began humbly as an accountant in Hollywood, and parlayed his wandering eye into a career playing heavies. His rambling eye was the result of a childhood accident in the Boy Scouts, when a pencil blinded him in a scuffle. Elam always played the heavy with a note of humor or pathos, never malevolence. His versatility allowed him to be just as comfortable playing next to John Wayne as Dub Taylor. When it came to scruffy bearded crazies, he was the best.

While nobody liked the TV version of *Cat Ballou* in 1971 as much as the famous 1965 movie starring Lee Marvin and Jane Fonda, there was something magical about Elam as Kid Sheleen and Lesley Ann Warren as *Cat Ballou*. Writers for the *Young Frankenstein* film even stole the Gene_Wilder/Marty Feldman line from that script [Wilder: "Damn your eyes!" Feldman: "Too late."].

Elam also starred in the NFL and his accomplishments include matching the longest FG in NFL history at Mile High Field. Vaya con Dios, Jack.

Looking Ahead:

Browns @ Chowds (-5.5):

Uh-oh Browns Fans, looks like another season on the Island of Misfit Toys. In truth, both teams are banged up. The Browns could rebound due to the Chowds emotionally streak snapper in OT last week. Plus the Browns play well on the road at stadia named after razor companies (The LM made that one up).

SeaHags at Bungals (+1.5):

Seahags have a very weak 5-1 record going into a Bungals team that is trying to close down its turnover bakery. Look for the Hags to get plenty of turnovers to go with their imported Starbucks, as hometown RB Shaun Alexander (the Great) feasts on the Ugly & Black D-line.

Pokes @ Expensive Corn Kings (-5.5):

The Pokes' bandwagon may stop here as the Corn Kings physical play to take its toll on the Emmitt-less Starheads. The secret to beating the East Coast Pirates is running the football, and the Pokes don't do it well enough - - - yet. Having said that, the Look Man's premise about the Corn Kings deep middle vulnerability in the Super Bowl should be a factor as S John Lynch (Mob) and a starting CB both miss the game.

Lambs @ Stillers(-1.5):

Pepto Bismol Upset of the Week as the Greatest Show on Turf lives up to their name. On grass, the Lambs are very ordinary, and Bill (Iron Chin) Cowher will resurrect the Stillers by installing the Jerome (The Bus) Bettis back at RB. The Stillers will run first, get a lead and hang on for the W at Ketchup Field.