

The Look Man Report 2004

Week 13: Tora! Tora! Tora!

It is probably fitting that Pearl Harbor Day fell during the week of some of the NFL's best aerial attacks in 2004. Kerry (Tom) Collins and Trent (Long) Green each threw for over 340 in the Grayders-Baby Backs battle. Peyton Manning and Donovan McNabb had 400+ yard performances, and Bungals QB (Johnny) Carson Palmer nearly had 4 bills in the Bengals' first road win against an opponent with a winning record since 1990. Put it all together and you have a virtual cry of Tora! Tora! Tora! on the record books.

Not only did the Bungals climb back into wild card contention with a scintillating win over Baltimore, the Pokes put on a show in Seattle, scoring twice in 75 seconds in the greatest Monday Night Football comeback in 35 years.

The 2004 NFL run on points is also unparalleled. One might even expect head coaches to go Yukon Cornelius and begin shouting after each TD, "Silver! Gold!" Or in the case of Browns interim head coach Terry (Hatcher) Robiskie, "Nuthin!"

Without further adizzle, the Week 13 fishizzle.

Bungals @ Bal'mer:

Bungals QB (Johnny) Carson Palmer pretty much stunk up the joint early, as the Flintstones built a 20-3 lead on the strength of an Ed (Can't) Reed pick that CB Chris McAllister turned into six. Luckily, Kyle Boller (Hat) didn't do much either, except hand the rock to RB Chester Taylor. The Gunsmoke RB ran for 139 yards and a TD in place of injured Jamal (Bam Bam) Lewis, and it looked to be enough for a win against the 'same old Bungals.'

That's when Mr. Tonight Show lit it up, throwing for 200 yards and 3 TDs in the fourth quarter, in a 27-26 win over the Bedrock Boys. It was the Nati's first road victory against a team with a winning record since the first Bush Administration. It was also the second-biggest comeback on the road in franchise history.

Nati WRs Chad (The Dentist) Johnson and T.J.(Hooker) Houshmandzadeh combined for 20 catches and over 300 yards in receptions. The 2 former Oregon State Beavers dammed their way into the minds of Pro Bowl voters, recapping their past Fiesta Bowl glory days. They have a combined 34 catches for over 500 yards in the last two games, and the Look Man is starting to wonder if injured slot man Peter (P-Dub) Warrick will even return to the Ugly & Black in 2005.

But the game ball had to go to the late night talk show host, who threw a frozen rope to the Dentist for 6, as well as a rainbow out pattern to set up the game winning FG. Even the Dentist's exuberance on Hooker Houshmandzadeh's late TD couldn't dampen the Bungals' spirits. They were called for excessive celebration for chest bumping, something they have done all season. The resultant 15-yard penalty put Boller Hat and the Flintstones in position for a FG and the lead with little time remaining. Said Houshmandzadeh: "We've been doing that since Week 1. We're going to have to do that on the sideline. Or in the showers after the game. "

The only other significant action was the loss of Bengals LB Marcus Wilkins, who left after "a blow to the head." The woman who issued the blow is said to have a large nose and very voluptuous figure.

Green Bay at Philly:

Iggles QB Donovan McNabb(sty) threw for 464 vs. the Pack. That's 464. It's almost as bad as Philly's Moses Malone telling how they won the championship, Fo-Fi-Fo. McNabbsty carved the Pack DBs up like a nice piece of Idiazabal. And we are talking about All Pro S Darren Sharper and former Iggles CB Al Harris.

McNabb climbed back into the MVP race with the smashing victory. As John Madden is wont to say, "When you have a big game, you want your big time players to play big." McNabbsty responded in his big game challenge by throwing 5 TDs... in the FIRST HALF! He showed great accuracy and a nice touch that was absent most of last season. Former ESPN commentator Rush Limburger was interviewed after the game and quoted as saying, "I STILL don't think he's that good. Now pass the damn whiskey so I can choke down another Oxycontin!"

The most humorous part of this one is that it ended the recent canonization for Brett Favre (Bean). The Look Man is guessing there won't be any puff of smoke signaling Favre Bean is the new Pope any time soon. Mr. Bean did show some class by taking himself out of the game in the 4th, allowing backup Craig Nall(and Void) to throw 2 meaningless TDs. Either that, or he was tired of getting sacked by the relentless Iggles pass rush.

With cold weather impending, Philly used the second half to tune up their running game. RB Brian Westbrook had only 37 yards rushing to go with his 3 TD receptions. When the weather takes a turn in the playoffs, the Birds had better be able to run, or their dreams of a Super Bowl could be plucked.

The official Brother of the Look Man made one good point early in the season and it is still true: the Iggles are lazy offensively, and they will always take the 2nd and 1 bomb over the dive play for a sure 1st down. The Gouda Group simply played like they had never seen film of the Birds. If the Look Man were their defensive coordinator, he would get a resume on the street now. Ed Donatell, the last guy in that post, lost his meal ticket against these same Iggles in the playoffs. Donatell is now in the ATL dominating physical running teams in the NFC Souse.

Stillers @ Jags:

This game had all the makings of an upset. The J-Squareds really needed an AFC win vs. a quality opponent, and their home sellout on national TV was a great chance. The Stillers, on the other hand, have looked pedestrian recently. (Big) Ben Roethlisberger has become mortal again after numerous sacks and the loss of deep threat Plexiglass Buress.

What ensued was on of the best battles of the week. J-Ville RB Fred (Andy) Taylor got stoned each time he tried to run on the Steel Curtain D. Jags QB coach Ken Anderson finally decided to go for it with young Turk Byron Leftwich. Leftwich threw some absolute darts to former Stiller Troy (Blake) Edwards, who turned them into gold.

This game was the hardest hitting of the year. There was hair, teeth, and eyeballs laying all over the field in this one. Both Leftwich and Big Ben got drilled in the pocket after releasing passes. In fact, there was one sequence where Kimo von Olhoffen body slammed Big Byron that should have been called roughing. If Big Ben gets treated like that, they wouldn't have thrown a flag, they would have called the police.

At any rate, this one came down to coaching. Jags coach Jack Del Rio (means "a river runs through it") blew it by not forcing da Burgh to use its final timeout. Instead, he ran a play outside the 2:00 warning, allowing Big Ben to keep one in the bank. The Stillers calmly drove down on the strength of several nice throws, kicking the game winning FG.

Byron made it close with a bullet pass completion into triple coverage that allowed rookie PK Josh Scobee (Doo) to try a late FG. Scobee Doo's 60 yarder had the distance, but was barely wide right. All in all, a very entertaining evening that both teams will feel for a while. After the game, the kicker would say only, "Rass oray. Ree roulda run ra rame on rat run."

The J-Squareds are now in a tough spot relative to playoff contention. They will realistically need to run the table to get into an ultra-competitive AFC wild card slot. Otherwise, it looks like they will have to cancel Christmas in J-Ville. Too bad really, because the kids have been so good this year.

Chowds @ Browns:

The Browns season has been a bad roller coaster ride, and with 2 QBs injured, interim head coach Terry (Hatcher) Robiskie has become a Desperate Housewife. Terry selected QB Luke (The Rifleman) McCown to start vs. the world champion Chowds in Cleveland.

The game began in an inauspicious way for the interim HC, when Chowds KR Bethel(hem) Johnson found room at the inn with a TD on the opening kick. It was the first time the Browns had given up a score on the opening kick since the late 80's. The Chowds backed it up with some punishing runs by RB Corey Dillon, and got help from the Zebras on some pass interference and roughing calls. The game was essentially over at the half.

Chuck Connors responded with a nice carom TD to Antonio (not Kobe) Bryant, who has 250 yards and 3 TDs in the last 2 weeks. Bryant could be a keeper in C-Town, and was acquired from the Pokes in exchange for Quincy Morgan. Of course, Browns RB William (Red) Green forgot his duct tape, and coughed up the rock in the 3rd stanza, yielding a TD that put the Chowds up 28-7. The fumble return was interesting in that DE (Big) Willie McGinest pulled CB Randall (Ben) Gay's jersey, setting himself up for a key block that paved the road to the House.

Red was benched after that goof, allowing 7th round RB Adamchinobe (Joe) Echemandu to carry the pig. Joe may be the Browns' steal of draft day, but he could do little against the world champs, augmented by a running game courtesy of the Bungals stupidity.

The Dillonator got popped in the groin in the first half, so Bill (Dr. Evil) Belichick went deep twice late even though the Chowds were already up big. Bad Bill also allowed Dillon to go over 100 yards after leaving the game with 98 yards. Apparently the Dillonator needed the yards to trigger a bonus clause. Either that, or Dr. Evil was getting

even for his torture by the fans of Cleveland in the late 90's. Either way, the Football Gods won't like his hubris, and it will come back to haunt.

The Browns suffered one of their worst beatings ever, but McCown was a bright spot. Despite the lopsided loss, he put up some decent numbers, kept the line onside, and displayed arm strength not seen in Cleveland since Mike Phipps.

The Browns will likely go with the Rifleman for the balance of the season, since QB Jeff (Jerry) Garcia openly criticized Robiskie when the latter was still the offensive coordinator. It looks as if the Garcia Era may be over after less than a year in C-Town.

Pokes @ Seahags MNF: Game of the Week

What a game! If you missed the end of this one, you missed one of the most entertaining games of the season. After last year's late night MNF win over the Jynts, there was no way the Look Man was going to sleep on this finish. Not after the zebras tried to steal it by allowing Jerry Rice(a-Roni) to throw Pokes DBs around like \$2 whores before catching balls.

The game was a solid affair throughout, but the last 3 minutes was epic. The Seahags scored a 32-yard rushing TD by Shaun Alexander (the Great) on a fourth and one gambit. The play put the Hags up 39-29 with 2:46 left. Mike (The Walrus) Holmgren was rubbing his tusks and yucking it up with the rest of the squad, thinking this one was over.

Not so fast, my arctic friend. Vinny Testaverde broke out the Geritol, completing 4 in a row, including a sweet TD pass to Me-Shawn Johnson to cut it to 39-36. Of course, with 1:45 on the clock, only an onside kick would allow Dallas enough time to score the game tying FG, so good times in Coffeetown, right?

Wrong. Seattle, who had just gotten burned by a PK recovering his own onside kick the week prior, allowed (There's no quittin', in) Jason Witten to snag this one. After Vinny enjoyed a couple of cans of Ensure on the sidelines, he calmly drove the Pokes into FG range with 37 ticks remaining. Since Vinny had been throwing picks at an alarming pace, Parcels was obviously taking no chances with a game tying FG and OT. The call here is a high percentage running play right?

Sure enough, Julius (Dr. J) Jones ran the draw play, but the goofy Seahags had no clue. They got gashed up the gut, parting like the Red Sea in monochrome blue. Dr. J took it to the Hizzie, locking up the game and punking the Walrus yet again. "I have never been part of a game like this," said Dr. J. "I was disappointed in the way I caught the ball tonight," Jones said. "There is no excuse for that and I'll have to work on that. I have to go back and work on catching the ball. I never missed this many balls in a game."

The Look Man did wonder if the former Fighting Irish back could catch a cold naked in Alaska, after seeing the way he fought the pass receptions. Me-Shawn and Vinny kept comparing his running style to Curtis (My Favorite) Martin's. Before you start comparing him to a future Hall of Famer, you better look at his hands.

Dallas become the first team in the 35 years of Monday Night to come back from 10 points down in under 2 minutes. Comically, it happened after the infamous, Parcels is 17-1 when leading by 12 in the 4th quarter" graphic. The Look Man has often wondered

if the Football Gods are practical jokers. It seems that every time a goofy factoid appears on screen, something happens to blow it up.

KC @ Oaktown:

For sheer entertainment value, this one had it all. Grayders QB Kerry (Tom) Collins must be on the wagon, because he has been hotter than a \$2 shotgun over the last 3 weeks. The only guys hotter are named Manning and McNabb, and those guys are looking to add another "M" as in MVP.

Still, the battle between Tom Collins and Trent (Long) Green was a good one. Collins looked to get the better of this one until his new secret weapon, Ronald (Indian) Curry went down with a torn Achilles. Long Green then lived up to his nickname, capping a 14 of 15 second half with a 70 yard TD to Eddie Kennison to win it. Game over Grayders, thanks for coming.

The game winner included a broken tackle by Kennison. Backup Oaktown safety Karl Schweigart attempted to strip Kennison, and all he got for his trouble was humiliation and the fish eye from teammate Ray Buchanan.

Donkeys @ Bolts:

The Bolts are one of the best teams no one is talking about. Denver is always overrated, but this game was not. It was one of the finest defensive games on Sunday.

The game was a back-and-forth affair, coming down to a 20-17 San Diego lead late in the 4th quarter. Faced with a sure FG and possible OT, Donkeys' QB Jake (The Fake) took a shot at the win instead. The Fake tried a fade pass to WR Rod Smith in the corner. Jake's pass was a high, missile shot, and Bolts CB Drayton Florence (Henderson) reacted by tipping the ball up for a pick by DT Jerry Wilson. The pick killed the drive, and with one additional stop, the Bolts took a 2 game lead in the AFC West.

Mike (the Rat) Shanahan was asked about the play. "That's kind of an option right there," Shanahan said. "You run a running play and then if you get a certain coverage of bump, you feel like you got an easy fade route to give the quarterback or the receiver the option to do it. You have the option to hit the fade if you feel like the guy has right coverage. Obviously, the ball was thrown slightly more inside and was deflected. It was just one of those things that Jake screwed up again. Plummer's career is in the toilet now."

The Rat complained of a panic attack induced by the end zone cannon at Qualcomm. No matter how often it happens, those cannon shots after TD's scare the crap out of visiting teams. It ought to be outlawed.

Miscellaneous:

- Marc (The Scarecrow) Bulger went down with a shoulder injury, but octogenarian QB Chris Chand(e)(i)er came in for the 16-6 win. Remarkably, the Look Man was watching QB warm-ups on NFL Sunday Ticket, and wondered who Number 12 was. When he saw the highlights of Chandelier playing in his 3rd decade, it was off the Unintentional Comedy Rating scale.
- Bears CB Jerry (the Halls of Mont)Azumah blitzed the Vikes on Sunday, and ended up hanging onto Culpepper's leg like Jeff van Gundy hanging onto Zo in the melee at

Madison Square Gardens. Culpepper completed the pass anyway, and Moe Williams got the first down. Azumah did win the right to act as a stunt double for Van Gundy in the movie version, however.

- In the preseason, Terrell (TO) Owens was prohibited from wearing his skintight warm-ups in practice by head coach Mike (The Walrus II) Reid. The Walrus II stated, "You score 15 TDs this season and I'LL WEAR TIGHTS, TOO." TO scored TD number 14 on Sunday, and the Philly head coach is out shopping for a 5XL danskin. The league is prepared to fine Reid for "conduct unbecoming an arctic sea mammal."

Gouda Grouping:

The Pack's drubbing by the Iggles wasn't the only cheesy moment of note. The American Film Institute released the cheesiest lines in movie history this week. Here is a list of big cheese moments:

1. "Titanic": Leonardo DiCaprio's "I'm the king of the world!"
2. "Dirty Dancing": Patrick Swayze's "Nobody puts Baby in the corner."
5. "Top Gun": Val Kilmer to Tom Cruise: "You can be my wingman anytime"
7. "Independence Day": Bill Pullman's "Today we celebrate our Independence Day!"
8. "Braveheart": Mel Gibson's "They may take our lives, but they will not take our freedom!"
9. "Jerry Maguire": Renee Zellweger to Tom Cruise: "You had me at hello."

...And the Number One Cheesiest Moment in Film history: Bill Duke and Jesse (The Body) Ventura in Predator: Duke: "Hey man, you're bleeding." Ventura: "Ain't got time to bleed."

Well, maybe that last one was the Look Man's personal pick, but you get the message.

Rookie of the Year:

The 2004 NFL Draft has been lost amid all the hype and hoopla of the playoff race and the parity party that is the NFL. But the Look Man remembers wondering how those picks would turn out, not only in 2004 but also beyond. If you remember, Phoenix head Coach Enny (No D) Green decided to stick with McCown instead of drafting a QB. McCown has struggled, losing his starting job to Shaun King and then John Navarre before regaining it this week. The Deadbirds could have been in contention, but now face elimination in the pedestrian NFC West.

The Grayders selected can't miss offensive tackle Robert (Night) Gallery as their left tackle of the future. Mr. Serling hasn't done poorly, but he has played RT all season, suffering an elbow injury and typically underachieving. Grade: jury still out.

Bill Parcels was crucified in Dallas for passing on can't miss RB Stephen Jackson, who went to the Rams in the 1st round. The Tuna instead selected Our Lady RB Julius (Dr. J) Jones in Round 2. Dr. J has show flashes of brilliance after recovering from a broken scapula early on. Dr. J's injury forced the Pokes to rely on (Not so Fast) Eddie George and converted FB Richie (Cunningham) Anderson, neither of whom could carry the load. Had Jones not been injured, the Pokes might now be leading the NFC Wild Card race instead of looking to climb back into it.

What's Up Doc (Severinsen)?

Every player has a game where the lights go on and Sunday may have been that day for Mr. Tonight Show in the Nati. Palmer threw for 200 yards in the fourth quarter alone as the Bungals came back to beat the Flintstones. But it was not sheer numbers that made the performance memorable. MTS had some nice throws in the contest, including a frozen rope TD and a rainbow out pattern pass to The Dentist late. The Look Man believes the AFC North will soon have the best QBs in the NFL, thanks to Big Ben, MTS, Boller Hat and The Rifleman.

Zebra of the Week:

Ron (Lyn' in) Winter had the Donkeys at Bolts, Walt (Disney) Anderson had the Bungals at B-More, and Bill Vinivich had more face time than Paris Hilton. With Johnny Grier out for the year with a bad calf muscle, any one of these guys could make the push for Zebra of the Year. Of course, it might have been locked up in the college ranks by the official who did the USC-UCLA game the other night. That guy must've picked up a bundle from the USC Alumni Association for his game changing call.

Look Man correspondent Mike (Los Lobo) Hatfield had this report:

Hey, Look Man,

I don't know if you caught the USC/UCLA game, but a horrific call gave the Trojans the game -- and a trip to the Orange Bowl. With about 3 minutes left in the first half, that runner that everyone talks about as the second coming of O.J. caught a little swing pass near the sideline, was met by a Bruin, turned away from the side judge, and fumbled.

The ball one-hopped into the arms of an alert linebacker who began running up the sideline with nothing but daylight ahead. The side judge then blew the whistle, claiming the runner was down by forward progress! Apparently, the zebra didn't see the fumble nor the recovery, and called the play over based on the assumption that the runner still had the ball. Two plays later, USC kicked a field goal, making the point swing from the call 10 points. The final was 29-24, USC. .

The Look Man has always felt BCS had one letter too many, and avarice affects the outcomes in the minor leagues.

Here in the pros, the cast is different, but the song remains the same. Bernie (the Kook) Kukar starred in the Battle of the Network Offenses between Indy and the Flaming Thumbtacks. Can't this guy learn to say the word, "Foul." For Bernie the Kook, it rhymes with 'ball.' The Kook also had to sort out 3 onside kick attempts by Tennessee. The resulting physical game was nearly too much for the mental defective.

But the clear winner was Walt (Disney) Anderson, who tried to steal it from the Bungals by calling Chad (the Dentist) Johnson and TJ (Hooker) Houshmandzadeh for a simple chest bump on a possible game winning TD. Disney claimed he was really penalizing the Dentist, whose gold teeth blinded the zebra crew. The Look Man thought they were already blind based on the no-calls in this one. Anderson also overturned a key fumble recovery with a phantom illegal contact call on Pro Bowl CB Tory James. Anderson, who typically leads the league in total number of calls, wins the **Zebra of the Week** hooves down. Congrats Walt! You're going to Disneyland!

Celebrity Obit of the Week:

This just in, from the AP Wire:

The Pillsbury Doughboy died yesterday of a yeast infection and complications from repeated pokes in the belly. Doughboy was buried in a lightly greased coffin as dozens of celebrities turned out to pay their respects, including Mrs. Butterworth, Hungry Jack, the California Raisins, Betty Crocker, the Hostess Twinkies and Bungals QB Jon Kitna.

The gravesite was piled high with flours. A longtime friend, delivered the eulogy describing, Doughboy as someone 'who never knew how much he was kneaded.' Doughboy rose quickly in show business, but his later life was filled with turnovers. He was not considered a very smart cookie, wasting much of his dough on half-baked schemes. Despite being a little flaky at times, he was still, as a crusty old man, considered a roll model for millions.

Doughboy is survived by his wife, Play Dough, two children, John Dough and Jane Dough, plus they had one in the oven. The funeral was held at 3:50 for about twenty minutes.

The Look Ahead:

Aeronauts @ Stillers:

Herm Edwards' tough Jersey squad heads into Ketchup Field to face the toughest defense in the NFL. This game could be a playoff matchup, and the Stillers are coming off of a very physical game with the Jags. The Look man thinks Jerome (The Bust) Bettis should have gotten the ball more last week, despite the health of Duce Staley.

It may cost the Stillers this week versus a Jets D that is missing DE John Abraham. Unfortunately, the Jets lost James (Hey) Farnior in free agency to the Stillers. Farnior is having the best year of any LB in the NFL.

The pick: Aeronauticals find a way to win, and Herm Edwards comes with another "Heillloooo" moment. Not to mention that the Look Man is tired of seeing Stillers' coach Bill (Iron Chin) Cowher trying to repress his glee in the postgame press conferences. Iron Chin may have an episode if he gets any happier about his team's success in 2004.

Nati @ New England:

The game may be a blowout, but the matchup of the resurgent Bengals D vs. former Bengal RB Corey Dillon will be an event. The rest of the AFC is justifiably ticked at the Nati for providing the Chowds with the one piece needed for another championship. Karma dictates that the Bungals lose this one, but only after busting up Corey. The Bungals 31-3 preseason victory is still on Dr. Evil's radar screen, so don't expect a Chowds letdown. The Pick: Chowds roll, but Corey suffers a boo-boo that impacts the playoff picture for Beantown.

Seahags @ Vikes:

Another comical matchup of 2 teams that need a W. The Look Man believes that the Walrus has lost his defense, who would like to see him shipped off to the arctic. Culpepper and Company need to get on a roll after a horrific loss to a 70 's era TV detective in the Windy City last week. The pick: The Swedes find a way to score points and send Holmgren's Heroes back to *Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom*.

Lambs @ Black Cats:

Carolina has the best shot of any NFC Wild Card. They have been playing great defense, and now face Chris Chand(e)l(er) and a dinged up Mouflons offense. The Lambs typically play poorly on grass, and injuries to the Scarecrow, Marshall Faulk, and Steven Jackson don't help. The pick: Mike (Megalomaniac) Martz gets outcoached by John Fox in a Black Cat win.

Epilogue:

Over in the AFC Souse, Peyton Manning is having a dream season. The Horsies just signed (Starvin') Marvin Harrison to a \$66M deal that will paint a bullseye on his back. A lot of folks see the Horsies as the best offense in the league, but defense wins championships. Indy must face Houston, Enver (no D), Baltimore, and San Diego BEFORE even getting to the playoffs. Despite their recent tightening on D, the Look Man doesn't believe any team can run that gauntlet, especially one that plays in a dome.

Da Burgh also has a tough road, featuring Baltimore and the new look Bisons. By contrast, the Chowds are looking at the Nati, Niners, Marine Mammals and Jersey Jets down the stretch run. The road to the Lombardi goes thru Pittsburgh and New England, not necessarily in that order.

Out.

The Look Man