

The Look Man Report 2004 Week 2: Suicide is Painless

Week 2 of the 2004 NFL season brought surprises, thrills and yawns. But mostly, Week 2 brought injuries. In a week that was reminiscent of Larry Gelbart's best MASH TV series, no fewer than 36 starters will miss 1 or more weeks due to injury. The worst toll was paid by none other than the Cleveland Browns, who faced the ignominy of losing 4 starters to serious injury, including it's last 3 first-round picks.

Week Two

Cleveland @ Dallas:

The Browns rolled into Big D fresh off of a great win over division rival Baltimore. The Pokes were looking to avoid going 0-2 in their 2004 season opener. The field temp at kickoff was nearly 130F, so something had to give. Whether it was the heat, the sunny hole in Texas Stadium, or both teams being mediocre, this game had more ugly than the label on a bottle of iodine.

Jeff Garcia missed an early deep pass to a wide-open Quincy Morgan on his first series. When the Look Man says "wide open", he means that the nearest defender was in Tarrant County, Texas. It mattered little, since Garcia's ball landed harmlessly in Lake Lewisville, forcing a punt.

The Starheads began by marching right down the field for six, making it look like a long day at the office for Cleveland. A flea flicker to Meshawn Johnson badly fooled Robert Griffith, setting up the score. Unfortunately, the Pokes figured it would be an easy day based on the ease of this score. They were mistaken.

In the second half, QBs Vinny Testaverde and Jeff Garcia both did their Five O'Clock Charlie routines, and at one point there were actually 6 turnovers in a 10-minute span. No one said anything until one of the picks dented Bill Parcels' Caddy on the sidelines, then all tarnation broke loose. Jerry Jones is researching the installation of anti-aircraft guns to knock down all of the lame ducks in the air at Texas Stadium.

While Vinny ended up passing for over 3 bills, Garcia finished with an incredible 0.0 QB rating after an 8 of 27, 3 pick outing. Not to be outdone, the teams made the field look lie the set of the 4077th. The injury list included:

Courtney (Still A) Brown(?) - sprained foot, out for the year
Ryan Tucker, torn quads, out 2-4 weeks;
Gerard (Big Money Wasted) Warren - aggravated pectoral tear, out 2-4 weeks
Kellen (the Soldier) Winslow Jr., broken tibia, out 8-10 weeks
Julius (Dr. J) Jones, broken scapula, no pancakes for 2 months.

Still A and BMW are no great losses to C-Town, since both get injured routinely. It might actually be a blessing since both are owed big balloon payments in 2005, and now the Browns will likely send them a version of the home game instead. The MASH motif suggests the Browns add arrow signs outside the stadium as follows:

*Seoul 34 miles
Tokyo 259 miles
San Francisco 5428 miles
Burbank 5610 miles
World Championship 1000 light years*

Miami @ Nati:

The Look Man was not expecting a great game in the Nasti on Sunday Night ESPN, largely owing to the lengthy injury list of the two combatants. What happened on the field however, was utterly atrocious (or 'terrocious', as one of the Look Man's friends says).

The Ugly & Black was hoping to avoid a repeat of its last pasting on national TV at the hands of the ATL Dirty Birds, but unfortunately, Marvin Lewis' Nutcracker drills have turned his team into a hospital ward. When Hawkeye Pierce appeared on the waiver wire, the Bungals nearly picked him up to help with the surgeries. Instead, they chose 400-year old center Jerry Fontenot (of Youth), who contributed immediately. Ponce de Leon showed his familiarity with Florida by making line calls, and kept Marine Mammals DE Jason (JT the Brick) Taylor from completely taking over the game. Of course, this was only after JT harassed Carson Palmer, including an INT, 2 sacks, and several tackles for loss on plays where he was not even supposed to be blocked. In other words JT the Brick had a career in one evening, flying all over the field, and proving the Look Man's theory that if you are 6'5" with a 34" waist, you can do nearly anything you like.

What followed was so ugly it made the local ABC affiliate question canceling the Emmy Awards to show the game. Long-Suffering Bungals Fan Dave Sundin won the award for *Most Composed in a Drunken Stadium*. Luckily, the seventeen beers he consumed helped him blend in with the remainder of the Bungal Faithful, fresh off of Oktoberfest, and wearing orange and black chicken hats. "I accept this award on behalf of the Wheredafuggawee Indian Tribe", said Sundin. Like the Bungals, the Wheredafuggaweews are pretty lost.

(Johnny) Carson Palmer led a game winning drive, going 7 of 8 to score a FG with 0:02 on the clock. When the Bungals did finally prevail, it was more of a relief than exhilaration, but the locals did the Chicken Dance nonetheless, led by Doc Severinsen and his Orchestra. This just in: the Fish stink on ice and Wannsededt is toast.

Minnesota @ Philly:

The City of Brotherly Love was not very hospitable to the visiting Vikes, who arrived to prove their 35-17 pasting of the Cowpokes was no fluke. The Iggles had just issued a statement game of their own, and this matchup was touted as a high powered offensive showdown. What occurred was a low wattage comedy of errors, with much of the comic relief provided by the Zebras.

Daunte (Baby Huey) Culpepper looked even more massive in all white, and ABC miked up Randy (Mouth) Moss just for the event. Unfortunately, no one told the Iggles defense to play along, and D-Coordinator Jimmy Johnson used every conceivable D-package. Mike (Fried) Tice was badly outcoached, mainly because the O-line could not buy Huey enough time to go deep. With 2 bogus holding calls on center Matt Birk, it was pretty obvious the refs were not going to allow the Norsemen to win. The Vikes accepted FGs instead of TDs, and when a Culpepper rushing TD was called back, the cake was pretty much all dough.

Especially when Tice allowed a Terrell (TO) Owens non-catch to stand as a touchdown. Fried should have challenged the call, but the Look Man knows that visitors get few, if any replays on the JumboTron. As a result, TO got a TD that he didn't earn, and the Vikes win the right to take it out on Chicago in the Swede Dome next Sunday.

Stats/Sweet Play of the Week:

The Look Man believes there ought to be a competition for the best statistic or play of the week, and submits the following for Week 3:

- 1) Nick Harper's pick off of a sure TD to Derrick Mason (Horsies @ Flamin' Thumbtacks)
- 2) Nate Wayne's goalline strip of Culpepper (Vikes @ Iggles)
- 3) Jerry (San Francisco Treat) Rice failed to make a catch in a game for the first time since 1985
- 4) Jake (The Man) Delhomme's no-look pass to Chris Mangum for 6 (Black Cats at Chefs)

Well, that last play is disqualified, because The Man is lucky it didn't end up as a TD the other way. As for the other plays, the Look Man has to go with Nick's Pick, since it saved the game in the Game of the Week. The Flaming Thumbtacks never recovered, and it keyed the Horsies 3rd consecutive win over the 'tacks in the AFC Souse Division. In presenting the award, Captain Dylan Hunt of the Andromeda Ascendant said, "Mr. Harper, you just won the Look Man's SPOTW Award. You are granted an hour with Lexa Doig in your cabin!"

The winner of the Sweet Play of the Week will compete for the Sweet Play of the Year Award, with a grand prize of a date with Emmy Award Winner Sarah Jessica Parker, reliving her Gap commercial with Lenny Kravitz. How...Do...You...Wear...It?



Perfectly selected spokesperson for "The Gap"

James Carville Moment ?

Presidential hopeful John Kerry appeared this week on "The Late Show with David Letterman", making jokes about Dubya's tax plan. In bashing the plan, Kerry joked, "...that Vice President Dick Cheney can claim the president as a dependent." Kerry went on to poke fun at vice presidential debate negotiations in which Kerry wanted running mate John Edwards to stand, but Veep (Big) Dick Cheney wanted to sit. "We compromised and now George Bush is going to sit on Dick Cheney's lap," he said.

Here is a synopsis of Kerry's "Top 10 Bush Tax Proposals":

10. No estate tax for families with at least two U.S. presidents.
9. W-2 Form is now Dubya-2 Form.
8. Under the simplified tax code, your refund check goes directly to Halliburton.
7. The reduced earned income tax credit is so unfair, it just makes me want to tear out my lustrous, finely groomed hair.
6. Attorney General (John) Ashcroft gets to write off the entire U.S. Constitution.
5. Texas Rangers can take a business loss for trading Sammy Sosa.
4. Eliminate all income taxes; just ask Teresa (Heinz Kerry) to cover the whole damn thing.
3. Cheney can claim Bush as a dependent.

2. Hundred-dollar penalty if you pronounce it "nuclear" instead of "nuclear."

1. George W. Bush gets a deduction for mortgaging our entire future.

Recent polls show Dubya's lead is either double digits, or extremely close, depending on the poll. Of course, if the polls were from CBS News, one might have a credibility gap as wide as the duration between Dubya's physicals in the National Guard.

Ride on the Peace Plane

In a bizarre story, singer Mustafa Islam, formerly known as Cat Stevens, was denied entry into the US on a jet airliner from the UK. Stevens' new Muslim name is on the new federal "watch list" as a potentially dangerous terrorist. Apparently the Dubya Administration took issue with his revival of the tune *Peace Train* in opposition to the US war in Iraq. Stevens' Dulles flight was diverted to Bangor, where the signer was helping Steven King write a new tune for his garage band.

The flight crew was interviewed afterwards, and they were pretty shook up. "He was back there singing *Moonshadow* over and over again. It was creepy", said one attendant. Vice President Cheney was also interviewed, saying, "This speaks poorly of the airlines. If this is an example of their decision making, it could have devastating effects for the United States of America." The side-talking Veep went on to say, "If they make the wrong decision before November 2nd, it could have devastating effects for the United States of America." And the Ventriloquists Union...



Stevens: "If I ever lose my hands, I won't have to work ...no more."

Zebra of the Week:

Week 3 featured some stiff competition for the ZOTW. Hulk Hochuli and crew led a 3-horse race in the blazing hot Texas sun, which featured the following:

- 1) a sequence involving a roughness penalty on Browns safety (Duke of) Earl Little, who dropped a hard hit on Terry (She) Glenn while he was on the ground, resulting in a flag; Me-Shawn then retaliated by kicking the Duke of Earl. By rule, kicking calls for automatic ejection, but no;
- 3) CB Terrence (Hello) Newman delivered a helmet to helmet hit on Winslow out of bounds. There was no call, probably because KWII shook it off like a mosquito, actually throwing Newman to the turf afterwards;
- 4) a catch in bounds and fumble out of bounds by Northcutt, which was incorrectly ruled an incomplete pass, and finally,
- 5) Offensive holding in the endzone called on backup RT Joaquin (Phoenix) Gonzalez, resulting in a safety and the free kick on which The Soldier was injured.

The offsetting unsportsmanlike penalties on the Little Incident forced Dallas to kick a FG instead of a game breaking TD. Meshawn got verbal abuse from Tuna when he attempted to defend himself. TV cameras clearly showed Tuna saying, "Just shut up!" Meshawn was apparently making his case for a punter tryout to take over for Pokes P Matt McBriar, who went Garo Yepremian in the opener. "Just cuz a guy don't run a 4.3 doesn't mean he can't punt the football", said Me. "I can punt, spot the ball for field goals AND throw, if necessary. I'm better than Marvin Harrison!" Well, Me might be a punter, but Hulk Hochuli is no Zebra.

The Hulk and Crew would've been in for some clobberin' time if not for the lack of courage in the fearless crew of Walt (Richard) Anderson in the Nati-Marine Mammals game on Sunday Night. At one point Oscar Goldman called illegal motion on "...everyone but the center." Later, he described a catch using such detail as, "...the receiver got two feet inbounds before going out." He and the rest of the crew then swallowed their whistles to avoid a well-lubricated crowd having to endure overtime in a deadly boring game. Next up for the Bungals: The Pittsburgh Paint Dryers. What excitement!

Finally, in the Vikes-Iggles matchup, Bill (Toyota) Carollo went the extra mile for the ZOTW. Toyota's second holding call on Matt Birk (Barch), the Harvard-educated All Pro, negated a rushing TD by Daunte Culpepper and changed the outcome of the game. The play didn't affect the outcome nearly as much as the lack of a replay on the Baby Huey goal line fumble. Or the no-catch on TO's 45-yard juggling act "touchdown."

This game was much closer than the score would indicate, and the Football Gods will most surely strike down the Iggles for this blasphemy, perhaps even this weekend in Dee-Troit (means "a City in Michigan" in Pete Rose-ese).

By any measure, Toyota Carollo and crew win the **Zebra of the Week** award flags down.

Celebrity Obit of the Week:

Noted filmmaker and auteur Russ Meyer, who helped spawn the "skin flick" died of pneumonia at the ripe old age of 82 this week. Meyer, whose films featured voluptuous, buxom women, gained a measure of critical acclaim after the initial reaction to his films. His opus, *Beyond the Valley of the Dolls*, was co-written by film critic Roger Ebert.

Meyer's films included *Vixen*, *Faster, Pussycat! Kill! Kill!*, *The Immoral Mr. Teas*, and many more. Ironically, Meyer's films were among the first to use empowered women who used their gifts to extract vengeance on their male counterparts. The well-endowed female leads were typically more dominant than the males well prior to the Sexual Revolution.

Despite being reviled by critics, Meyer maintained that women enjoyed his work. "The girls kick the hell out of the guys. I've always played well at the Ivy League — Cornell, Dartmouth. I have never encountered a berating woman," he said. Or, obviously, a flatchested one. None of his stars suffered from *micromasty*.

The Oakland-born Meyer was married three times, most notably to actress Edy Williams (pictured below). He left no survivors and is probably best characterized by an epitaph by Mel Brooks: "It is impossible to handle bad taste in good taste, but possible for a movie to rise below vulgarity." Russ Meyer had no peers and leaves no survivors.



Williams: The Original Vixen

The Look Ahead:

Browns @ Jynts:

The Browns look to regroup vs. 2 ex-Browns in Jersey. Former OG Shaun (Commissioner) O'Hara and LS Ryan (He's So) Kuehl know the nomenclature, and Kelly (Tires) Holcomb is waiting in the wings, so Garcia had better be decisive. Winslow is likely done for the year, so look for the Browns to run the ball well and go vertical, really vertical, for the W.

Flintstones @ Bungals:

Bedrock Boys hit the Nasti Nati for a good old good one at Pall Bearer Stadium. While QBs Kyle Boller (Hat) and Mr. Tonight Show are both young, this one boils down to defense. The Bungals are confident after the Sunday Night win, but Brian (Barney Rubble) Billick and Jamal (Bam Bam) Lewis look to stonewall the Ugly & Black.

Cheeseheads @ Horsies:

Matchup of MVP QBs on tap, but the real story will be the running games. If the Horsies can get Ahman Green to put it on the carpet, they will replace the Cheeseheads into corn-based cheese puffs. The Look Man likes the Horsies since Favre Bean stinks like Limburger in domes.

Jaguar S-Types @ Flaming Thumbtacks:

Excellent game to see whether the S-Types are real or simply Memorex. The Look Man likes the Jags in this one, but the Tacks are always tough at (ill-)Adelphia. Take the under and laugh all the way to the bank.

Dallas @ Washington DC (Monday Night Football)

The Pokes roll into DC to face the Genocide Victims on ABC. The Vix will be without QB Mark Brunell and LB Lavar (Roots) Arrington, while the Gauchos go without Dr. J. It should be a fun time for all and the Look Man gives a slight edge to the Pokes.

Vinny is averaging over 40 passes per game in 2004, is likely to require a bionic arm in order to make it to December. The Look Man is wondering if he receives a bonus if he averages a pass for each year of age. Whatever the reason, he won't last at this pace.

Peace.

The Look Man