

## **The Look Man Report 2004**

### **Week 7: Who's Your Daddy?**

While many NFL analysts choose to view the season as a series of 4 game stretches, the Look Man has found that Week 7 usually constitutes a pivotal time in the development of a team psyche. By this point in the season, a team needs to have developed its identity, and typically gets into a flow. Substitutes have learned the ropes well enough to replace injured players; the grind of the every Sunday play becomes routine, and a natural rhythm of the NFL season develops.

This theory gives us a context to understand the results of Week 7. The previously hapless Cincinnati Bengals overcame all odds and defeated a Denver Broncos squad it had no rights beating. The Browns offense woke up and took an undefeated Steelers team to the brink before bowing in overtime. The previously winless Miami Dolphins knock the snot out of Mike (Megalomaniac) Martz and the St. Louis Rams. And the New England Patriots proved they are the "Daddys" of the league by beating a good Jets squad. Some things never change.

Week 7 had thrills, chills and spills, but more than anything, it reinforced the one constant the NFL maintains: it's a parity party out there.

#### **Dallas @ Green Bay:**

Would it be the Ice Bowl or the Toilet Bowl as Dallas invaded the not-yet frozen Tundra of Lambeau Field? Cowpokes QB Vinny Testaverde threw for his usual 3 bills, but it was another ugly outing as the Pokes got punished by the Pack. Newly acquired WR Quincy Morgan contributed immediately, with 3 catches for 76 yards and another 25 on kick returns. Unfortunately, CB Terence (Hello) Newman got burned more than the toast at Denny's as the Cheeseheads rolled all over the Pokes 41.-20. The beating was accentuated by a halfback pass by Tony Anderson to Bubba Franks. It was the 2<sup>nd</sup> HB pass this season for the Gouda Group, and it has gotten so bad that running backs are auditioning their arms instead of their moves for head coach Mike Sherman. Tack on a 90-yard TD run by Ahman Green, and you have a pretty explosive offensive day.

The Pokes badly miss SS Darren Woodson, who acts as a coach on the field. In addition, the addition of DE Marcellus (Fear no Evil) Wiley has not yielded any chemistry. Overall, the Vaqueros defensive calls have been very predictable. After seeing the newfound aggression of the Phoenix D, one has to wonder if it was Clancy Pendergast or Mike Nolan who really masterminded the scheme? Butch Davis and Dave Campo are in C-Town, and now Parcells must go back to the drawing board after consecutive losses.

The Detroit Cadillacs come to Big D this weekend, and things could get ugly. Not to mention the fact that the election on November 2 includes a new stadium initiative in Arlington. A loss could torpedo the state of the art \$650M facility between DFW and South Dallas.

#### **Philly @ Cleveland:**

Philly's Terrell (TO) Owens visited Cleveland to attempt to place his dead presidents where his oral orifice was. TO's constant criticism of Cleveland QB Jeff (Jerry Garcia) has been one of the few constants all season. What followed was one of the most entertaining games in recent memory at the Dawg Pound.

The Iggles bused out with a quick-strike, 2-play TD drive. The Browns answered with a long drive of their own, tying the score at 7 with a sweet running game. Not to be outdone, McNabb(sty) and the Birds put together a drive of their own, culminating in TO's first TD catch.

The game went back and forth as the Browns secondary got cooked pretty well by TO early on. They made some adjustments, turning this one into a shootout the likes of which haven't been seen in C-Town since Browns version 1.0. Unfortunately, the game had a similar outcome for the Heartbreak Kids, who selected McNabb instead of Couch in 1999. In truth, McNabb would not have been able to sustain the beating that the O-Line allowed Timmy to absorb over the course of those years. He might even be in the soup line next to Akili Smith, McCown and the Sofa Boy.

McNabb threw for 376 yards in less than 5 quarters on Sunday. Garcia kept pace with a gutsy performance that included a nice TD run to tie the score in regulation. As Marty Schottenheimer would say, "Parfull men, parfull!" Garcia paid the price with a brutal hit from Dawkins on the TD run. He was also drilled by LB Dhani Jones on the first half INT that should have been a TD to Denny Northcutt.

Willie Green and Lee Suggs ran well in the first half, but the second half the Browns eschewed the run for the pass. FB Terrelle Smith was not used in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter and it allowed the Iggles defense to have just enough left to stuff the Browns in OT. This type of bad coaching is why the Browns have failed to turn the corner. The midweek WR swap ended up costing the Browns bigtime when they had no veteran backup at KR.

TO's antics didn't even backfire when Browns wideout Frisman Jackson coughed up the rock on a 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter kickoff. The fumble left the Browns with nothing to show for the 15 yard TO penalty for tearing down a sign in an endzone celebration. This is just one of many examples of little plays that caused the Browns to come up short in this overtime thriller.

Another is the lack of guts to go for 4<sup>th</sup> and 2 at crunch time. Granted, going for that inside your own 50 is reckless, but Fortune favors the Brave. The Browns, sadly, still think that .500 ball is a good thing. The Look Man sees them competing with the Bungals in the Moral Victory Standings.

Still, the bottom line is that we may have located the tons of missing Iraqi explosives in Cleveland. The Browns Offensive Unit is ready to roll once they iron out the turnover kinks.

#### Denver at Nati - Monday Night Football:

The Donkeys romped into the Nati for the Bungals' first home Monday Nighter in 15 years. The city was ablaze in a "Light Up the Nati Night", but someone forgot to notify the Reds. The Great American Capitalist Ballpark was strangely dark in the blimp shots. When asked about it, Reds GM John Allen claimed it was "an economic decision." Typical Nati.

The game was a good one as the Bungals uncharacteristically went deep early and often. The Ugly & Black went right at All World CB Champ Bailey with Chad (The

Dentist) Johnson, their best offensive weapon. The result was a high scoring (for them) game and openings in the running game for Rudi (Ray Moore) Johnson.

The defense even showed up, stuffing the Donkeys, and limiting the passing game. The D really didn't start to play until DT Tony Williams decided to donate his ankle to science courtesy of OL George Foster #72. Foster issued a cheap shot chop block that ended the season of the Bungals best D-lineman and renewed the debate on chop blocks.

At any rate, the Nati got ticked about the incident and went strong on defense. They went to the high school monster back defense, using 3 to 4 safeties to plug gaps. The extra speed late in the game seemed to confuse the Donkeys, and Justin (Dr. Zachary) Smith stowed away on the Jupiter 2, getting 2 sacks, including the game capper on the Fake.

The offense finally picked up the tempo after sporadic big plays, turnovers and ill-advised 4<sup>th</sup> down calls. Johnny Carson Palmer looked good with time to throw deep. The flip side is that Jake (The Fake) Plummer's career is in the toilet for sure. The Fake had a 100 yard rusher and still struggled. Even when Rueben Droughns ran for 193 yards, the Donkeys still only won 20-17. Jake Plummer, meet Kyle Boller, your next replacement. In the words of Shrek, "Sahrry Donn-key."

#### Stewart in the Big House:

*Oct 23, 7:09 AM EST*

*Martha Stewart has been exercising, reading and making friends in prison, but the food at the minimum-security prison camp in West Virginia is "terrible," the domestic diva's daughter said Friday. "I'm sure she could give them quite a few pointers, but I think that the budget is so limited that ... I'm not sure how much change they'd be willing to make," Alexis Stewart said on CNN's Larry King Live. "She already has to hold one inmate's belt. I hope she doesn't end up having to munch some rug.", said Alexis.*

*Alexis Stewart said her mother has one roommate in a dormitory-type building that houses 80 women. The celebrity homemaker has not yet been assigned a job, but in the meantime she has been taking walks, going to the gym, watching television news and reading. The prison allows her mother to have five books at a time, and she subscribes to newspapers, Alexis Stewart said.*

*Alexis Stewart described reports that she was being groomed to take over her mother's company, Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia, as "a large exaggeration" but the idea that she might someday run the company was within the realm of possibility. Martha Stewart, 63, who was convicted of lying to investigators about a stock sale, is serving a five-month sentence and is expected to be released in March.*

#### Moral Victory Standings:

The Look Man has decided to start tracking team moral victories, beginning this week. So far , the standings are as follows:

Browns 1-0 (Iggles OT loss in C-Town)  
Bengals 4-0 (no blowouts in 2004)  
Jets 1-0 (loss to Chowds)

It looks like the Bungals can only win at night, as they are 0-4 in the daylight and 2-0 on Sunday and Monday nights.

On the topic of the MVS, RB Curtis (My Favorite) Martin defended his coach, saying moral victories were "just a loser's way of making excuses for not winning. I don't really believe in those moral victories." The Jets were driving for a go-ahead touchdown before (Hanging) Chad Pennington threw incomplete into double coverage on fourth down deep in Patriots territory. "It's like I always told Tim O'Hara, always bet on black!", said the extraterrestrial RB.

The Jersey Jets have feasted on weak teams while struggling against New England. The loss was particularly crushing due to the great defensive effort. DE John Abraham (Lincoln) joined the Herm Edwards Defense Team saying, "You can't be crazy," Abraham said. "You've got to know you can't win every game. If we would have come out and gotten blown out it would have felt a whole lot different, but they're the best team in the league right now. Playing with them was big for us."

The Look Man doesn't believe in moral victories, but if such a loss helps a team gain confidence and avoid making similar mistakes in the future, it's not necessarily a negative. Of course, if it makes the team feel better than they actually are, as in the case of the Bungals, it's a mistake.

#### Chopping Wood:

Donkeys' OL George (Bananas) Foster wasn't available for comment on Wednesday. He did apologize to Tony Williams as he was being carted off the field Monday Night. Foster said after the game, "I don't think it was a cheap shot. He presented that ankle, and I was really hungry, so I took it."

The NFL confirmed that the block was legal but most folks feel that Bananas should be fined. Among them is Seahawks coach Mike (the Walrus) Holmgren. The Walrus said the 49ers used the same technique in the Old Days, and "people were always kind of upset about it." He went on to say, "I thought it was unnecessary. That's how I'd look at it. After all, a man only has so many tibias to donate to science," he said.

#### Joke of the Day:

Three people, 2 men and a woman are vying for a job as a CIA assassin.

The CIA interviewers give a loaded gun to the first man and tell him 'Your wife is in the room to our left tied to a chair. If you have what it takes to be a CIA assassin, go in there and kill her.' The man takes the gun and walks into the room. Nothing but silence fills the interview room for about two minutes. Finally the man walks out weeping and sobbing and saying 'I just can't do it. I just can't.' The interviewer snatches the gun out of his hand and tells him 'Get the hell out of here! You don't have what it takes'

Then the interviewer hands the gun to the 2nd guy and tells him 'Your wife is tied to a chair in the room to our right. If you got what it takes to be an assassin for the CIA, go in there and kill her.' The man takes the gun and leaves. Silence fills the room for about 5 minutes until he returns sobbing and weeping. 'I can't do it either.' The interviewer snatches the gun from him and says 'You get the Hell out of here too. You can't be an assassin for the CIA.'

Finally, the interviewer gives the gun to the woman and tells her that her husband is tied to a chair in the room behind them. 'If you have what it takes to be a CIA assassin, you'll go in there and kill him' With that he hands her the gun and she goes into the room behind him.

Almost immediately, they hear BANG!BANG!BANG! BANG!BANG!BANG!  
<click><click><click>! All sorts of noise is heard from the room. Furniture getting thrown around, items banging up against the wall, loud cursing and screaming. Finally, after a few seconds of silence, the shaken interviewers see the woman come out of the room and say 'Some idiot put blanks in the gun, so I had to beat the SOB to death with the chair.'

### **Look Ahead:**

#### **Bungals at Thumbtacks:**

As indicated, the Bungals are overrated in their own minds, and this game will prove it. Despite the fact that McNair is doubtful, Billy Volek and Company can still bring it. Look for the Thumbtacks to dominate this one in a physical matchup.

#### **Chowds at Stillers:**

The Chowds are coming off a tough win over the Jets, so a letdown is possible, but unlikely. The Stillers are tough, but Big Ben is still a young man, baby. Dr. Evil will throw everything but the kitchen sink, plus a healthy dose of Corey Dillon to boot. The Stillers defense is missing a NT and a CB, so look for this one to hinge on a turnover by the Black and Gold.

#### **Flintstones at Iggles:**

TO vs. Ray Ray in the City of Brotherly Love. What a matchup. The Browns tenderized the Iggles, knocking Westbrook out. The result will be a diminished offensive production from the Iggles. Still, McNabb is tough, and this offense may be too potent for an offensively challenged Kyle Boller. The Look Man likes the Dumpster Ducks in a close one.

### **Epilogue:**

The look Man is the champion of the Underdog in any sport. The BoSox inspiring ALCS and World Series wins have renewed his belief in sports. Despite the whining coming out of Beantown's Boys of Summer earlier this year, hats off for a great run by the Red Sox. They are a tribute to hardluck fans everywhere, but especially in Cleveland and Chicago. Now, if only Man Ram and Pedro can get their lettuce fixed. Didn't anyone tell them the jeri curl is dead?

Out.

The Look Man