

THE LOOK MAN REPORT 2005

Supplemental – Collective Bungling Agreement

"That's why I hate Stillers Fans. They are always talking @#\$, or taking out people's knees!" - Shehawks Fan at Randy's Super Bowl Bash

The recent developments with the negotiation of a long term Collective Bargaining Agreement have forced the Look Man out of semi-retirement. Failure to ratify a long term CBA would result in a low cap in 2006 and a probable lockout before after the 2007 season. Commissioner Paul Tagliabue and NFLPA Executive Director Gene Upshaw have reached an impasse. Tagliabue will now take the union's proposal to NFL ownership meeting in Big D for ratification. A no vote by the owners will trigger the beginning of a wild free agency ride into uncertainty.

The Browns, Deadbirds, Cheeseheads and Hornheads are all \$20M or more below the cap, so these teams could rise to playoff success. On the other side of the ledger, the Genocide Victims, Grayders and Aeronauticals are all over the cap, and must cut veterans simply to survive. Ironically, many so-called High Revenue teams have little cap room despite their revenue advantage, setting up a haves and have-nots league. Fingers and toes are crossed as major stars faced release if a deal cannot be made soon.

Without further good faith negotiations, the supplemental Look Man Report.

Rumble at ROY's

Super Sunday is always an exciting event, and it is often made even more exciting by the random fistfight at a Super Bowl party. The Look Man was fortunate enough to witness such a near brawl at ROY's Bar and Grill.

The assembled revelers were feeling little or no pain due to the high quality booze that was flowing courtesy of Randy (He's still a) Young (Man) and Pam (Gepetto) Schumacher. When you tack on mass quantities of white chili, Roethlis-burgers, pierogies and other authentic Blitzburgh grub, the atmosphere was definitely festive. It was almost like having Primanti Brothers in your own kitchen.

The Look Man had a front row seat, right next to the Dave the Burgher in full black and gold regalia. Dave was accompanied by his daughter, a woman who defies the stereotype that all Blitzburgh women have to shave their faces and wear babushkas. She looked like she might have been a scrilla in her younger days.

To the left of the Look Man was Shehawks Fan, or rather, a Bengals fan whose hatred of all things Stiller drove him to the Dark Side. This particular Jedi was pretty well oiled, or at least it seemed that way when he kicked the Lucky Turnover Ball out of the hand of the Look Man, nipping several fingers in the process. A couple of folks actually gasped when it happened, but the Look Man took it in stride, realizing that the ultimate game of the year sometimes gets folks over excited.

For those who have never witnessed the Lucky Turnover Ball, it is a non-descript official NFL rock that can cause footballs to pop out of the hands of offensive players and into the hands of defensive players. The LTB was likely responsible for Jerome Bettis' goal

line fumble in the Indy game and over the years, has been particular effective when the game seems hopeless. It has been present at scores of NFL broadcasts.

But back to the rumble at ROY's. The Look Man realized that Seahawks Fan was plenty hammered. He knew his football, though more about the college game than the Big Boi league. He exposed himself as a fan of the amateurs when he called for an unsportsmanlike call for Fast Willie Parker's Fosberry Flop into the end zone. He also incorrectly announced the D-Jack touchdown for merely kicking the pylon instead of actually getting two feet down for a real possession. Shehawks Fan was over the top, getting more belligerent with each zebra call. When the Scrilla made an offhand comment about *someone* having "beer balls" it was on.

Shehawks Fan went off like a guy who had imbibed too many triple shot lattes. He barked back at the Scrilla, "yeah, I got a set of beer balls, and I keep 'em right heyah!", grabbing his package for emphasis. He uttered a few more epithets, and topped it all off by calling the Scrilla a *beyotch* right in front of Pops. It was all fun and games until that happened, and that's when the Look Man broke with, "People, people. There's 1:16 left, the Shehawks are driving and they are only down 11. We have a ball game here."

ROY intervened at that point, not wanting to have bloodshed at his annual affair. Especially when some of the blood might have been his relatives'. The show wasn't quite over though, as Mrs. Shehawk Fan got up in Scrilla's face to defend her spouse. If you've ever had your spouse publicly cross the line of propriety, you've had to make the choice to blindly defend them or immediately hit the road. It's funny how one never knows what one is going to do until faced with that situation.

Anyway, the Look Man felt pretty bad about the whole affair. The truth is that he was once close to being Likes to Fight Guy himself at a bar watching Super Bowl XXII. When Doug Williams threw 4 TDs in the second quarter to torch Elway and the Donkeys, he exploded with glee over and over. Most of the assembled west side Nati crowd was pro-Elway, and didn't really appreciate the gesture. Suffice it to say the Look Man paid his tab and hit the road cackling shortly before the end of the blowout win by the Genocide Vix.

Wonder(lic) Woman?

The Look Man is ticked off about the recent publication of Vince Young's Wonderlic test results. Not only did Young score higher on a re-test, the whole affair smacked badly of tampering. It was reminiscent of the release of failed drug testing data for Warren Sapp, who went on to lead the league in QB sacks by a DT. Sapp fell all the way to Tampa Bay, who used him to solidify a defense and win a Lombardi.

Not only is the score irrelevant, it likely cost Young millions of dollars. Although he will not slip below the 10th pick anyway, the bad pub allowed many of the top ten teams to select QBs like Matt Linehart or Jay Cutler ahead of Young. Here's a list of the top ten in draft order:

1. Houston
2. New Orleans
3. Tennessee
4. N.Y. Jets
5. Green Bay

6. San Francisco
7. Oakland
8. Buffalo
9. Detroit
10. Arizona

At least seven and as many as all ten teams desperately need a QB. The Aeronauticals went as far as to re-sign bust-out Chad Pennington based on this development. Now instead of the colorful Young at the helm, we may have retread QBs like Jon Pickna, Kelly (Tires) Holcomb, and Joey (Friends) Harrington competing for starting jobs with these Terrible Ten.

The Look Man will go out on a limb and predict that Young, with Arizona, will get a ring before either Linehart or Cutler. BTW, Dan Marino scored a pedestrian 14 on the Wonderlic test and he owns a yellow jacket and a parking space at Canton, Ohio now.

Union Gene?

With the NFL on the brink of a labor battle that could likely result in a work stoppage in the 2008 season, Pokes owner Jerry Jones is vehemently opposed to revenue sharing. Jones, aka the King of Pop, reiterated his stance on March 6:

"I'm not happy with the proposal. I didn't think that we would be entertaining the kinds of propositions that we got from the players. I'm not happy with it at all," he said. "As you well know, I don't think anyone particularly cares how happy I am. As I have said before, I'm not like other guys. Hee-hee!"

Jones, Daniel (Voldemort) Snyder of DC, Pat (PBA) Bowlin of the Donkeys, and Bob (No Hair) McNair of Houston are all members of the so-called High Revenue Brigade. The HRB opposes corporate welfare in the NFL, and would like to maintain non-TV revenue streams in order to pay their massive debt service. On the other hand, revenue sharing is what has separated the NFL from MLB, the NBA and the failing NHL. Pete Rozelle's vision of small and large market teams coexisting peacefully has allowed the salary cap to go from \$34.5M in 1996 to its current level near \$100M per year. With numbers like these, it would be wise not to kill the golden goose.

Minnesota Vikes C Matt (Bjorn) Birk has given the NFLPA and owners a lot of grief over the labor dispute. His argument that the battle is bad public relations is a valid one, but it seems ironic that a guy who attempted to negotiate guaranteed money in exchange for postponing mandatory surgery would take this tact. Birk asked the Hornheads to guarantee his 2005 salary if he played instead of taking the season off for a herniectomy. The Swedes chose not to pay Birk, thus avoiding a precedent setting move that might have swung the balance even farther for the NFLPA and its membership.

The Look Man foresees a protracted battle over this issue. Upshaw has become the 2nd most powerful African American man in America, right behind former President Bill Clinton. League ownership would like to minimize Upshaw's stature before the 2008 presidential elections. The lame duck status of President Cheney makes Upshaw's goal of becoming POTUS attainable. Unless, of course he goes hunting with Cheney, the rootinest, tootinest, shootinest cowboy east of the Pecos!



"Dang it, Dubya! I told you no one cares about 100,000 Iraqis!" - Pres. Cheney

Edgar Takes a Dirt Nap

Speaking of President David Palmer, did anyone catch this week's episode of 24? Despite their history of killing off big time stars, the Look Man was amazed by the death of Edgar Stiles.

For the initiated, Edgar is part of the Counter Terrorism Unit (CTU), and a protagonist in a romantic back story. Character actor Louis Lombardi played Edgar, as well as FBI agent Skip Lipari on the Sopranos. Lipari was responsible for turning Big Pussy Bompansero state's evidence, resulting in his ultimate demise.

The Look Man has watched 24 off and on for the last couple of seasons, but this season has gotten him hooked. Not sure whether it's the unexpected assassination of key characters or the sexy Kim Bauer as portrayed by Elisha Cuthbert, but whatever it is, the show works. Two questions for 24 veterans though: (1) why does Jack Bauer always whisper everything? (2) is it really okay to torture anyone who gets in your way, because my wife has been bugging me lately.

Long Walk on a Short Pierre

The governor of South Dakota has initiated an all out assault on the NFL by banning all televised NFL games in the state. The broadcasting of NFL games in the state has been legal since a 1973 statute that allowed televisions to be purchased, as long as they did not impede the movement of ice fishing cabins. The signing of the bill by Gov. Mike Rounds (Em Up and Heads Em Off) is expected to result in a battle between pro- and anti-football fans in the state.

"We fully intend to challenge this law," said Kate (Hock a) Looby, publisher of Rushmore Weekly, the state's only NFL periodical. "It's just a question of how. Next thing you know, they'll be banning pro ball in Idaho. I know Napoleon Dynamite will be very unhappy to hear about that. Dang!"

The bill would make it a crime for networks to broadcast an NFL contest unless the telecast was necessary to save the viewer's life. It would make no exception for cases of the Playoffs or Super Bowl, but such games could get emergency cable broadcast rights

if suicide were imminent. Under the bill, network execs could be incarcerated for up to five years for televising a game.

An appellate judge is likely to suspend the broadcast ban before July 1, making any change to state policy unlikely unless the case is reviewed by the U.S. Supreme Court. State legislators passed the bill late last month after the recent appointment of non-athletic justices John (Brokeback) Roberts and Samuel (Scalito) Alito to the High Court.

Legislators believed this direct confrontation will overturn previous legal precedent supporting NFL broadcasts. Roberts has made historical comments such as: "...the paucity of Harvard athletes...makes the NFL look more like...the Democratic Caucus than a sporting event." It's unclear whether the recent additions of Veritas alums Matt Birk and Ryan Fitzpatrick have changed Roberts' views.

State Representative Pat Haley('s Comet) voted against the bill, saying that while he opposes professional football, he could not vote for the bill because it contains an exception only for the postseason. "Not allowing an exception for Bears-Packers, Browns-Stillers or Pokes-Genocide Vix is a radical position," said Comet. "Most of the people who have talked to me about this think that this is a very foolish piece of legislation, and most of those people are sports fans."

Anti-NFL forces in South Dakota have long bemoaned the televised contests, which have raised divorce rates to record levels. South Dakotans tend to root for the Vikings or Baby Backs, and the recent lack of playoff success for these teams may have increased domestic violence complaints.

Women's rights groups are pleased with the development. Leslee (Nielsen) Unruh, founder of a local center that provides counseling to football widows, said the governor's decision is a victory for women. "We finally have been heard," said Unruh. "We are so excited. We're ordering lobster and having a party. We are thrilled. And don't call me Shirley."

When questioned why folks couldn't simply change the channel when confronted with unwanted professional football, Unruh said only, "Well, some folks can't afford a fancy remote control channel changer!"

Peace.

The Look Man