

## The Look Man Report 2005 Week Two: Oh and Through?

*"He invited me into the house for a little bit. There he was with his tight little shorts, no shirt and his little red hat. He was doing some farming or something. He was covered in dirt. It was awesome." – Buffalo QB JP Losman on meeting Brett Favre*

Wow. After reading that quote the Look Man is wondering about the Catholic Church's stance on alternative lifestyles. Are we sure that it wasn't really Kordell Stewart who was quoted here? At any rate, this quote is indicative of how goofy the 2005 season has been, and we're only in Week Two.

Used to be that any team that started the season 0-2 was pretty much done. New England, Buffalo and Dallas made that rule obsolete when they went to the Super Bowl after starting winless in the second frame. New England in 2001 and Dallas in '93 took home the Lombardi, while most of the other Oh and Throughers averaged less than six wins. So the presence of seven 0-2 teams in the 2005 season means that some towns are already looking forward to next season. The fact that Baltimore, Oakland, San Diego, Green Bay and Minnesota are in that mix is perplexing. For Houston and Arizona it's business as usual in 2005.

Week 2 also saw some great QBs look pretty average. The Look Man had to laugh at the fantasy players who took Peyton Manning and Daunte Culpepper, thinking they would pick up where they left off in 2004. Even odder are the performances of (Johnny) Carson Palmer and Trent Dilfer, who actually look better than last season. As they say in the stock market, "past performance may not be indicative of future rewards." As they say in the 'hood, "ain't nothing goin' on but the rent."

The week that was:

### Minnesota at the Nati:

Contrary to the Look Man's prediction, the Hornheads did not "slap the Bungals in the mouth." Instead, the Vikes decided to turn Oktoberfest into an early Christmas celebration with 8 turnovers, including 5 picks thrown by Daunte Culpepper.

Chad (The Dentist) Johnson took the second play from scrimmage for a 70 yard TD, backing up his pregame war of words with Hornhead CB Fred Smoot. DDS Johnson and Smoot battled in the Senior Bowl before their pro careers, and continued the war on Sunday at Pall Bearer Stadium. "Let's go, Smoot," said the Dentist before the contest. "I plan to wipe out pornography in this country before it's over." When informed that the word for porn is "smut" not "smoot", the mouth bone specialist said only, "Aw-ite. But he's still a raving anti-Dentite!"

Of course, The Dentist actually beat Antoine Winfield and Darren Sharper, not Smoot, but the rout was on early. The Dentist ended up getting the better of the contest, including 143 yards and a TD in the blowout. Mr. Tonight Show was not blitzed the whole day, and wound up with over 300 yards passing. The only real question was why the beating wasn't worse. This felt like a 63-0 shellacking. Even longtime Bengals Fan Dave Sundin was happy. "Who-dey!" said Sundin. "Frafer-perly yum kom drabby

sham!" The Look Man is not sure what that meant, but it sounded like happiness, and it wasn't accompanied by the two-handed dismissive wave.

#### New England at Carolina:

The Chowds took their show on the road to face the Carolina Black Cats in a Super Bowl rematch. The Carolina Black Cats didn't seem to miss All Pro DT Kris (Kringle) Jenkins, as they punished New England in a physical game. The Brady Bunch got mauled, and LB Mike Vrabel's pick for six made the 27-17 final look closer than it really was. Jake (the Man) Delhomme is rounding into shape and if the Black Cats can keep featuring the run, they will be legitimate NFC contenders in 2005. More on this game in the Zebra of the Week award section.

#### Jacksonville at Indy:

The Horsies continue to be a Waterloo for the Jacksonville, who continued to struggle at Indianapolis. The J-Squareds held the Colts to 3 points until the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, then relinquished the lead and losing 10-3. Everyone knows that Peyton Manning throws when he gets in the red zone, so the Colts crossed up the Jags with a draw play to the aptly named TB Ran Carthon (son of Maurice, Browns OC).

Also of note was the altercation between Jags QB Byron Leftwich and Colts D-line Coach John Teerlinck. Leftwich gave Teerlinck two identical 'We're Number One' hand signals, and is expected to be fined this week by the league office.

#### Cleveland at Green Bay:

The Browns traveled to the not-yet frozen tundra of Flambeau Field to face the offensively challenged Cheeseheads in Week 2. Brett (The Pope) Favre broke the 50K yardage mark for a QB, but couldn't really get it going. He threw a pick in the endzone to Browns CB Gary Baxter, and was generally outplayed by Cleveland's Trent Dilfer.

The big play potential of the Browns was on display when Dilfer threw an 80 yard slant to rookie WR Braylon Edwards, followed by a 62 yard hookup with TE Steve Heiden. On the latter, Heiden beat the blitz then had to go serpentine to outrun a defensive lineman. The Browns looked to have the game in the bag, but the zebras gave the Pope a little help down the stretch. Fortunately, Cleveland escaped 26-24 with Romeo Crennel's first win as a head coach.

#### Washington at Dallas (MNF):

The Cowpokes dominated this one for 56 minutes with hard hitting defense and solid offense. Safety Roy Williams and MLB Dat Nguyen roughed up the Genocide Victims to the point that someone nearly summoned the police. Suddenly, QB Mark Brunell went deep twice and the Genocide Victims beat Dallas in Irving for the first time since the LBJ Administration.

The ironic part about this one was that Brunell hit the same receiver with essentially the same pattern against, you guessed it, the same defense. Both times S Roy Williams bit on the play fake and both times Santana Moss was singing *Oye Como Va* in the endzone afterwards.

Of course, MNF put up the typical "*Parcells has never lost when ahead in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter*" graphic. This time, the Tuna and the Boys of Cow were scalped by Joe Gibbs and his pejoratively named Native Americans, 14-13.

Also, of note: Bledsoe has looked good this season, and he had a chance to pull this one out. Unfortunately, WR Patrick (Crayola) Crayton got blown up on an apparent first down catch near FG range. GV safety Sean Taylor added a 'black&blue' crayon color to Crayton's box on the play, which could have been called a fumble.

## **LAGNIAPPE**

### Oz (the HBO Show, not the Wizard):

Life in prison apparently didn't agree with Baltimore star tailback Jamal Lewis, the centerpiece of the Ravens offense, who has just 26 carries in the first two games of the season. On Sunday, he carried only 10 times, and for just 9 yards. Flaming Thumbtacks head coach Jeff (the) Fisher (King), took an ugly 'Tacks team and pounded out a win versus their former division rivals in B-More. The Tacks played with emotion and physicality, punishing Lewis and QB Anthony Wright.

The Fisher King is on the Look Man's short list of Shulites (shoo'-lites: n. – one who possesses great coaching skill). In the words of former Oilers coach Bum Phillips of Miami's Don Shula, "That man can coach. He can take his'n and beat your'n. And he can take your'n and beat his'n." Other Shulites: Bill (Dr. Evil) Belichick, John Fox at Carolina, etc. Collegiate OSU coach Jim Tressel aspires to be on this list, but his recent debacle with Mack Brown at Texas hurt his standing.

### Hing of Honor:

Michael Irvin, Troy Aikman and Emmitt Smith were inducted into the Dallas Ring of Honor during Monday Night's game against Washington. The players were all first rounders selected in successive years, 1988, '89 and '90. Together, they were called The Triplets, so named by legendary head coach Barry (Bozo the) Switzer.

While many believe that The Triplets will eventually end up in Canton, many of the Dallas' favorite sons have failed to make it to the Hall of Fame. The prejudice against ex-Pokes is one reason that owner Jerry Jones established the Ring of Honor. "We just felt that are players deserved a modicum of respect they were not getting in Canton," said Jones. "Bullet Bob Hayes, Rayfield Wright, and others have not gotten their fair share of accolades. Our Ring allows us to ratify those wrongs."

The debate over the greatest QB-RB-WR combinations is hotly contested in Big D, where they can boast the only set that won three Lombardi trophies in four years. New England's combos have been a virtual turnstile during the last few years. San Francisco's Montana-Craig-Rice and the Stillers' Bradshaw-Harris-Swann were only together for two championships.

"What we shared and what we were able to accomplish on the football field was something unbelievable," Smith said. "It almost makes me want to flatulate myself on my foreskin when I think about it."

### The Three Mikes:

The Look Man is very interested in the coaching carousel with particular scrutiny on the Three Mikes. They would be Mike (Megalomaniac) Martz of St. Louis, Mike (The Walrus) Holmgren of the Packers, and Mike (Fried) Tice of the Minnesota Hornheads. If brains were dynamite, each of these guys has less than enough to blow himself up.

Martz called for a late field goal when down 4 points in 2004. The Walrus allowed Denver to score in the Super Bowl to save timeouts for the Pack offense, and Tice simply lost more close games in 2004 than any other coach. This season, the loss of Offensive Coordinator Scott Linehan to the Miami Marine Mammals has exposed Tice as one of the biggest doofuses in the league. When assembled, the Three Mikes provide the comic relief for the rest of the league.

Last week, former Martz disciple Kurt Warner failed to spike the ball when down 5 with 22 seconds remaining. A procedure penalty ensued and the mandatory 10 second runoff cost Arizona a chance at the W. The Look Man still believes the Deadbirds will be competitive in the NFC West, but Kurt is still displaying Martz-isms long after leaving St. Louis.

#### Fines, fines, everywhere fines:

The NFL decided to underwrite its Hurricane Katrina relief effort by fining Iggles and Dirty Bird players nearly \$30K following their altercation on MNF last week. As you may know, player fines go directly to NFL Charities, so you could say that Chad (The Dentist) Johnson is a true philanthropist. The Dentist has bragged about his \$100K war chest for NFL fines ranging from uniform violations (shoes, blinding the opponent, un-beermanlike conduct) to celebration fouls.

#### The Louisiana Refund:



*President Bush and a giddy Jacques Chirac shake hands on the deal.*

BATON ROUGE, LA. The White House announced today that President Bush has successfully sold the state of Louisiana back to the French at more than double its original selling price of \$11,250,000. "This is a bold step forward for America," said Bush. "And America will be stronger and better as a result. I stand here today in unity with French Prime Minister Jack Sharaq, who was so kind to accept my offer of Louisiana in exchange for 25 million dollars cash."

The state, ravaged by Hurricane Katrina, will cost hundreds of billions of dollars to rebuild. "Jack understands full well that this one's a fixer upper," said Bush. "He and the French people are quite prepared to pump out all that water, and make Louisiana a decent place to live again. And they've got a lot of work to do. But Jack's assured me, if it's not right, they're going to fix it."

The move has been met with incredulity from the beleaguered residents of Louisiana. "Shuba-pie!" said New Orleans resident Willis Babineaux. "Frafer-perly yum kom drabby sham!"

However, President Bush's decision has been widely lauded by Republicans. "This is an unexpected but brilliant move by the President," said Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist. "Instead of spending billions and billions, and billions of dollars rebuilding the state of Louisiana, we've just made 25 million dollars in pure profit."

"This is indeed a smart move," commented Fox News analyst Brit Hume. "Not only have we stopped the flooding in our own budget, we've made money on the deal. Plus, when the god-awful French are done fixing it up, we can easily invade and take it back again."

The money gained from 'The Louisiana Refund' is expected to be immediately pumped into the rebuilding of Iraq. The French will likely bring many jobs to Louisiana with white flag factories.

### **ZEBRA OF THE WEEK:**

The contestants are: Mike Carey, Larry Nemmers, Walt Anderson, and Peter Morelli.

Mike (Jim) Carey returned to his usual good form, but the Look Man must call unbeerlike conduct on the comedian for wearing his pants WAY too tight. Perhaps Carey is simply trying to attract female zebras on those lonely road trips. Carey also acted as the technical consultant for the Miller Lite beer ref commercials, and came up with the line, "Tell me those aren't socks and sandals, Klein!"

Peter Morelli (Mushroom) took a run at the title doing the Browns at Packers. Mushroom's holding call on the kickoff after Packers late score was a good call, as S Brodney (the Dead) Pool was undressing Cheeseheads on the play. Most of the other penalties on the late Pack drives were bogus, including the offsetting offensive PI and D-holding call that made the final score close. Ultimately, they backfired when the Dead Pool handled the onside kickoff and the Browns took a knee. Still, one had to wonder if the announcers were ready to drop the "*Brett Favre has 595 comebacks in the 4th quarter when game is at Lambeau and the grass is green*" stat bomb.

Larry Nemmers(kull) – Washington at Dallas; Nemmerskull allowed the O-lines to play, including several holding calls on both sides, until the Genocide Victims scored late. He then called Pokes OT Flozell Adams for doing what he had done all night. The Look Man particularly dislikes the tight angle shots that television employs whenever the holding gets too egregious. Some of the takedowns in this game belonged on WWF Raw.

Walt (Disney) Anderson – New England at Carolina. Look Man reader Chris Reh offered the theory that the zebras are calling it tighter against the Chowds this season after New England was whistled for 12 penalties versus Carolina. The Black Cats clawed their way to a 27-17 win in Charlotte with a questionable TD run by Stephen (Jefferson) Davis and some solid D. The President of the Confederacy obviously coughed up the rock at the goal line. Bill (Dr. Evil) Belichick opened the call for goal line cameras after failing to challenge the play.

Belichick wouldn't say whether the league was receptive to his suggestion. "I don't want to get involved in that," Dr. Evil said. "Just talk to them. I'm sure they have an answer for everything. Including how we got the toughest schedule in the history of the league. If we go 12-4 this year, my contract calls for me to make - - - ONE MEEELLIION DOUGHLARS!"

Nonetheless, Mister Anderson made a great case with the following calls:

- A double pass interference on a Julius Peppers fade route in the endzone (Even Bob Trumpy knew better than this)
- The aforementioned fumble by Stephen Davis on the goal line
- The ever-popular hands to the face call on LB on Roosevelt Colvin that negated an interception.

The number of penalties was high, but a more telling factor is "first down by penalty." One of these is fairly common; two is questionable. The Black Cats got 3 in this game. To paraphrase Agent Smith in *The Matrix*, "I am going to enjoy giving you the **Zebra of the Week** award, MISTER Ahnderson."

#### Correction:

The "gameday" feature on NFL.com does capture the actual NFL officiating crew that worked each game, contrary to the Look Man's conjecture last week. So, despite the fact that no one can predict which officials will do which games, at least the league tracks this stat. Gameday also offers other important data like Time of Possession, first down by penalty and the identity of the person who allowed the canines to escape domesticity.

#### **CELEBRITY OBIT OF THE WEEK:**

Director Robert Wise passed away last week, leaving behind a body of work that included *West Side Story*, *The Sound of Music*, *The Day the Earth Stood Still*, *Run Silent*, *Run Deep* and over 30 other films.

Wise was one of the few directors that mastered more than one genre, but his musical version of an urban Romeo and Juliet thrilled audiences in the 60's. A lifelong New York Jets fan, Wise actually penned the song, "When You're a Jet You're a Jet" from *West Side Story*. "In the days before Chad Pennington and Joe Walton, the Jets were a great football team," said Wise. "Now Herm Edwards struggles when facing a wet paper bag."

Wise was criticized for casting Natalie Wood as a Puerto Rican, as well as casting Sal Mineo as a heterosexual. "The producers wanted me to use Ricky Ricardo and Lucille Ball, flipping the script a little. But I told them that Natalie was willing to put out, and I never liked redheads too much," said Wise. The big-budget productions of *West Side Story* and *The Sound of Music* remain the two most popular musicals of all time. Even the Look Man liked them, and he hates musicals.

Though best known for musicals, Wise directed many of the finest science fiction works in history. Who could forget "Klaatu barada nikto," the words given by Michael Rennie to a young Patricia Neal in *the Day the Earth Stood Still*? Produced in 1951, it remains in

the sci-fi pantheon along with two other Wise films, *The Andromeda Strain* and *Star Trek: The Movie*. If you haven't seen these videos, do yourself a favor this weekend.



*Gort, the Robot and Klaatu send regards*

Wise recently served as president of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences and the Directors Guild of America. Wise was born in Winchester, IN and dropped out of college during the Depression after his brother offered him a job at a Hollywood studio. He is survived by his wife Millicent, who was attending an overseas tribute to her husband's films at the time of his death. Wise was 91.

## **THE LOOK AHEAD**

### Bungals at Bears:

The Bengals may be the luckiest 2-0 team in the league. Not only did they catch Cleveland without its starting corners, they faced a banged up and disoriented Viking team at home last week. The Look Man questions the bandwagon dandies who are jumping on this team as a legitimate contender. Head Coach Marvin (Jerry) Lewis has the locals and the national media drinking his brand of Kool-Aid, but they simply have not had a real test.

The Bears, on the other hand, are quite for real. Their defense is playing extremely well, and this may be the game of the week. If the Bears can run the football, Sunday will be one of the best games of the season. If not, this one will be worse than that goofy H2 Hummer commercial spoofing Goldilocks.

### Browns at Colts:

Indianapolis is getting 13.5 points in this matchup in the RCA Dome, despite having zero TD passes on the year. Everyone expects a breakout game for Manning, who has not fared well historically versus Cleveland.

The Browns have not allowed a sack in 2005, but are going against one of the top defenses in the conference. While DE Dwight Freeney gets the ink, Larry Tripplette, Robert Mathis, and Brock Raheem do the heavy lifting. DT Corey Simon is not even in shape yet, and the LB Cato June is very underrated. In short, the Colts are winning with defense in 2005.

Look for C-town to make it interesting on Sunday. The Browns will cover, if only because of the physical nature of the game last week versus Jacksonville. The Tennessee Flaming Thumbtacks are next up for the Colts, while the Browns will have a Bye. The Look Man likes the Browns to win outright, but shhhhh!!!!

#### Jynts at Lightning Bolts:

Eli Manning returns to SoCal to face the team he didn't want. The Bolts are headed in the right direction, and the Jynts will stumble here. Look for Archie's youngest boy to be brutalized on the Left Coast, as San Diego eats him up like Chicago's favorite cheesecake.

#### Raiders at Iggles:

Everyone is touting Moss versus Owens as the elite WRs meet in the City of Brotherly Love. The bigger battle is whether Kerry Collins can hold on to the rock under duress. On the other side of the ball, the Look Man still thinks there will be lasting effects from Donovan McNabb's chest injury. McNabbsthy threw five TDs last week, but these injuries have a way of lingering. This one will be a dogfight either way.

#### New England at Pittsburgh:

The Chowds return to the scene of the 2004 AFC Championship in Blitzburgh. (Big) Ben Roethlisberger has thrown only 32 times in two games, so look for Cowher to try to run the ball down New England's throat, despite injuries to the Chowd secondary. Of course, Big Ben is averaging 15 yards per attempt and 21 yards per completion, so if they're smart, they will throw early and run late to seal the win.

The Look Man likes the Stillers in this one, if only because of the run-challenged Chowds. And the fact that the Chowds are in the midst of a Murderer's Row schedule including Atlanta, San Diego and Indy.

### **EPILOGUE**

Week 3 is always pivotal, and this one is no different. As the Swami says, "One is interesting, two is coincidence, and three is a trend." Look for some trends to begin developing in the coming week.

Peace.

The Look Man