

THE LOOK MAN REPORT 2005

Week Two: Would You Believe - - - The Bengals?

"I don't know exactly what that means. I don't think so. I like to kill anybody just like the next guy." - Seattle coach Mike Holmgren when whether his team lacks a killer instinct.

Week Three engendered the age old question of who has the temerity to deign that they might defeat the omnipotent Cincinnati football club? In other words: "Who Dey Think Gon' Beat Dem Bengals?!" For those of you unfamiliar with the "Who Dey" Bengal Fan war cry, let me spare you the confusion. The Nati Faithful have not used this chant since the Nineties, but with the Bengals at 3-0, it will surely be heard this Sunday at Pall Bearer Stadium. The Look Man wanted to jump on the Bengals bandwagon, but unfortunately he was knocked off by some dude wearing a chicken hat and a chick with a bad case of cankles. Oh, well.

In other news, Jon (Chucky) Gruden and the Tampa Bay Expensive Corn Kings hitched their wagon to rookie RB Carnell (Cadillac) Williams. Despite a sore left foot, the luxury RB is on pace to tote the rock nearly 500 times this season, followed by immediate enshrinement into the Emmitt Smith Hall of Geriatric Running Backs. And the Rookie of the Year Award. The question remains whether Chucky can make it to Detroit with Brian (Beer Batter) Griese at the helm? After all, with great taste comes great borborygmous.

These two stories remind the Look Man that Week 3 is way too early to begin talking about the weather in Detroit in early February. Anyone who does is looking to anger the Football Gods and end up like the 13-3 Bears from 2002.

CELEBRITY OBIT OF THE WEEK

Not only did Don Adams change the American lexicon with his catchy sayings, he helped revolutionize the television landscape during a difficult period in American history. His Cold War spy sitcom *Get Smart* brought laughter to the hearts of folks who spent their non-TV hours building bomb shelters and hiding under desks at school, learning to "stop, drop and roll."

Adams starred as Maxwell Smart, Agent 86 of the super-secret federal agency CONTROL. Smart tickled TV viewers while combating the evil agents of KAOS. *Get Smart* was a clear spoof of the spy genre, with its catchy pop theme song, gadgets and sexy girls. Smart was also licensed to kill - - - with laughter. His ineptitude was only exceeded by his comical habit of catchy lines that never worked.

One of the Look Man's favorites was his habit of trying to convince the bad guys after blowing his cover. When his explanations failed to convince them, he dropped the "would you believe ...?" bomb, which never worked. It went on to become a national joke, similar to the GEICO tag line of today. Agent 86 was a notorious klutz, and after spilling things on or injuring The Chief, uttered the apologetic "Sorry about that, Chief." He occasionally ended up thwarting the bad guys, if only by accident.

The fact that Smart was a bumbling idiot, contrasted by the villains' belief that he was a superhuman killer, served as the basic premise in the Pink Panther series. *Get Smart*

borrowed liberally from the Bond franchise, including techno-gadgets like Smart's cellular phone in a shoe, pen guns, and other toys. His partner, Agent 99, was portrayed by brunette hottie Barbara Feldon. Feldon's portrayal of a smart, capable woman was probably the first on television. In an age where most women were seen as housewives, many believe she helped usher in the Sexual Revolution, or at least Mary Tyler Moore.

The show became so popular that actors clamored to play the villains. Among the Look Man's favorites: A pre-Love Boat Bernie Koppell, who played KAOS agent Siegfried, The Crow (an Asian spy who couldn't pronounce the letter "L"), Rembrandt Von Bronzefinger (an obvious takeoff on Bond's 'Goldfinger.'), Dr. Yes, Hymie the Robot, and Fang. In one of the funniest bits ever uttered on TV, KAOS has captured Maxwell Smart and Agent 99, and the evil agent Shtarker is preparing to kill them:

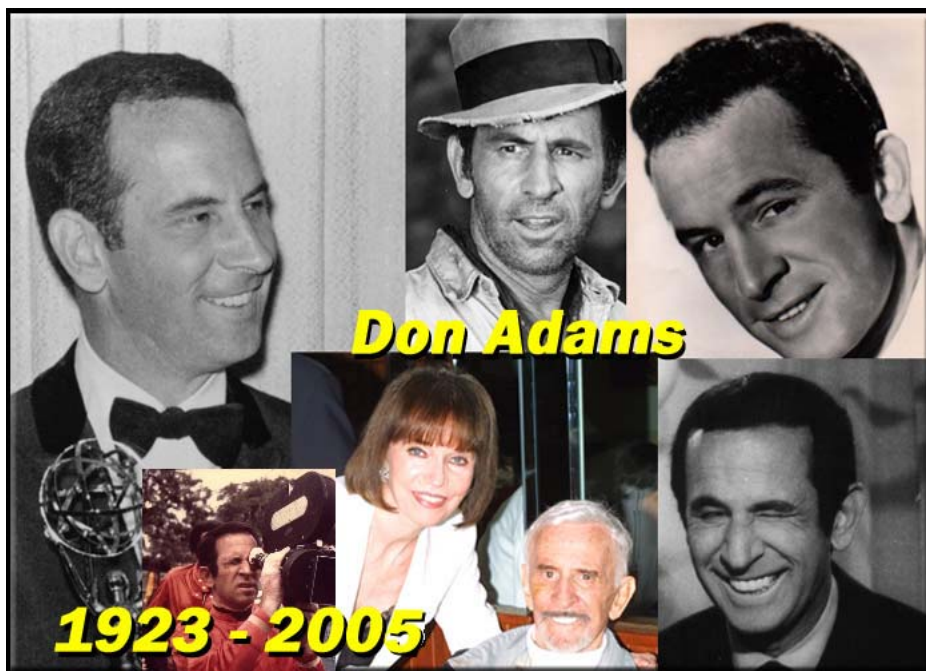
Agent 99: What are you going to do with us?

Shtarker: Let me let them have it. Dudududududu (making a machine gun noise).

Siegfried: Shtarker, zis is KAOS, we don't 'Dududu' here.

Adams was also an unlikely Marine, having served in the battles for Guadalcanal in WWII. He returned to the US and served as a drill instructor before entering show business. Adams was originally cool to the idea of doing a spy spoof, but changed his mind immediately when he discovered the legendary Mel Brooks and Buck Henry were on board. Brooks and Buck are members of the Comedy Pantheon, with legendary hits such as The Dick Van Dyke Show, Blazing Saddles and Saturday Night Live to their credit. Their work helped Adams win 3 Emmys for best comedy actor, though the show never really broke the Top 10.

This nice finish from LMR Reader Michael Hatfield: *CONTROL has now transferred your shoe-phone number to "Inactive" status. RIP, Don Adams.*



"I asked you not to tell me that!"

Without further *Dududududu*, the **WEEK IN REVIEW**.

The Game of the Week competition was stiff. Although the Bengals at Bears failed to live up to expectations, New England at Blitzburgh, Dallas at Frisco and the Jags at the Jets did not. Each game ended in spectacular fashion, reminding the Look Man of the old Alcoa Fantastic Finishes commercials of the 70s.

Browns at Colts:

The Browns entered the game as 13.5 point underdogs to the Colts, who had yet to score more than a TD in a game. The Look Man knew this would have the Browns in a salty mood, and sure enough the game started off with hard hitting and bad attitudes. The Zebras jumped in immediately to cool things off by calling taunting penalties twice on Cleveland in the first quarter. They added an illegal block on a TD punt return by Denny Northcutt just to eliminate the chance for any celebration in C-Town.

Nonetheless, the Browns played a tough, physical game including some nice runs by Reuben (Hurricane) Droughns. The Hurricane's damage was mitigated in the 3rd quarter when Colts S Mike Doss knocked the wind out of him after one carry. He went from a category 3 to a tropical depression thereafter.

The Colts looked solid, especially on defense, but the game was much closer than the 13-6 final. Indy chewed up much of their time of possession on the last drive, actually taking a knee in the red zone as time expired.

Bengals at Bears:

The Look Man was hoping this would be the Game of the Week, a chance for the surprising Bears D to expose the Bengals as pretenders. Instead, Bears chief Lovie Smith allowed rookie QB Kyle Orton to throw the ball all over the place, resulting in five interceptions. After the first pick, Bengals QB (Johnny) Carson Palmer threw a wicked skinny post pattern pass to Chad (The Dentist) Johnson for six. The Dentist the executed a perfect Lord of the Dance Irish jig after hauling in the TD with 13:46 left in the first quarter.

"That was the Riverdance," DDS Johnson said. "You never seen that commercial? I'm like Michael Flatware." When told that it was actually 'Michael Flatley,' he simply smiled and shook his head. Bengals head coach Marvin Lewis was less than pleased afterwards. "Zis is Zinzinnati," said Lewis. "Ve don't Riverdance here."

The Dentist went on to extract several more teeth from the Missers of the Midway defense, performing a new celebration after each. He added the names of defensive backs Nate Vasher, Charles (Schultz) Tillman and Mike Brown to his list of "Who Covered 85 in '05" with a "no" check after each.

The Dentist is now working on the choreography for this Sunday at home against Houston. He is planning an homage to Don Adams featuring a skit where he uses cleats phone to dial his mom following the score.

New England at Blitzburgh:

The rematch of the 2004 AFC Divisional Playoff was well hyped, and it turns out, with good reason. This smash fest featured hard hitting D, amazing offense and even an early trick or treat play.

The Chowds jumped out to an early 7-0 lead on the hometown Stillers. Crew Clambake was trying to keep the lid on the crowd and the Ketchup Field endzone bottles, which spew each time the Stillers score. But (Big) Ben Roethlisberger was having none of it, and he responded with a nice bomb to Hines (57) Ward for six.

The Stillers wanted to get up early, and Benburger threatened to take control of the game with a sweet scramble pass to Antoine Randle-EI (Sid). Just when the Stillers had an opportunity to make it 17-7 at the half, El Sid went Get Smart, attempting a high speed lateral to Agent 86 (Ward) in the red zone. The Chowds recovered, and after they quit laughing, Randle-EI was overhead apologizing to Bill (Iron Chin) Cowher. "Sorry about that Chief," said El Sid. "I thought they might go for the old 'high speed lateral jake fake play.'"

Not only did the Chowds not go for it, they began chewing on the Big Burger, courtesy of DE Richard Seymour. Seymour rotated along the line, stunting and generally wrecking KAOS on the Stillers QB. At one point, he pancaked Pro Bowl center Jeff Hartings with a palm shiver, then punished Big Ben. Big Ben began to lose his accuracy on the rollouts after LB/safety Don Davis put the Sufflex move on him in the 3rd stanza.

The Steel Curtain flexed its muscle, stripping Kevin (Fumbles) Faulk on a sweet tandem move between LBs Foote and Haggans. The move was classic Bruschi, leading Bill (Dr. Evil) Belichick to utter, "I knew I should have taken the opportunity to play a villain on Get Smart. I would've made Bernie Koppell look like Sal Mineo!" Haggans was injured on this play, after having a spectacular game to this point.

The Stillers were unable to really capitalize and due largely to the injury to Big Ben, were forced to answer the Chowds scores only with the help of the Zebras. A really questionable pass interference call on former Stiller Chad Scott led to a TD and a tie ball game.

More importantly, it seemed that the constant zone blitz antics of the Stillers turned them into the Tissue Paper Curtain. The Chowds used the extra 52 seconds donated by the Zebras to kick a FG and win this one in regulation. Tom Brady had pinpoint passing to put Adam (The Winemaker) Vinatieri in position for a game winning FG.

The Stillers dropped to 2-1, the Chowds improved to 2-1 and the rest of the AFC just saw the level of competition. Sadly, injuries may play a part in any rematch, if it ever happens.

Dallas at Frisco:

The Niners and Cowpokes have a storied history in the playoffs, and after a Seven Squared guarantee of victory by LB J Peterman, this one promised to be a doozy. The game didn't disappoint, as the Niners came out trying to prove they were ready to Cowboy Up with a quick score.

Starhead QB Drew Bledsoe answered with a drive of his own, followed by a comical fracas after current Pokes K Jose Cortez missed the extra point. Future HOF OG Larry (LA) Allen nearly tore the head off of the former Niners place-kicker following the miss. "This is Dallas. We don't miss kicks here!" said LA, in an obvious reference to KAOS agent Siegfried.

Despite being down late in the 4th quarter, Bledsoe took command, putting together a drive that made it 32-31. Bledsoe's TD run was a true Get Smart moment. The Niners weren't sure whether to laugh or tackle. In the end, Bledsoe went to Keyshawn for a questionable 2 point conversion, erasing the PAT miss differential. With the score 34-31, they could only be beaten by Nolan and the Niners with a TD.

Dallas recently released deep snapper Jeff Robinson in a cost cutting move, replacing him with rookie Jon (Townhouse) Condo. The Townhouse has blown 2 snaps, including the first one on Sunday. Bill Parcels is looking for a new snapper, and he has interviewed Agent 44, but has trouble locating the player, who often hides inside of blocking dummies, locker room stalls, and other convenient places.

ZEBRA OF THE WEEK

After Bill (Toyota) Carollo's failure to notice 52 additional seconds as well as the questionable PI call on Chad Scott, you might think he gets the award in a runaway. Or, you might give it Terry (Bottlegate) MacAulay for KC at Denver. After a skirmish out of bounds in which the replay clearly showed KC TE Tony Gonzalez nearly getting his facemask torn off in front of the Side Judge, MacAulay intoned, "There is no penalty on the scuffle after the play."

In both cases, you would be wrong. Old Browns favorite Jeff (Beanbag) Triplette called a masterful game in Indy, as the Zebras called back yet another punt return for Northcutt. They also called not one, but two 15-yarders for taunting AND missed a blatant late hit on Dilfer's knee that nearly knocked him out of the season.

"I asked the ref if the hit was low and late," Dilfer said. "He said he could tell me, but he wanted to use the Cone of Silence. Once inside, the ref said the guy was pushed into me. I don't get caught up in that other stuff. If you do, you can lose your shoe phone or be replaced by Agent 8."

The Look Man didn't like to see Braylon Edwards and Antonio Bryant called for taunting. Especially after Mike Doss' smack talking following his hit on Droughns. The Browns haven't gotten a call since Bottlegate, but at least Triplette didn't put anyone's eye out.

Jeff Triplette, you are the Look Man Report **Zebra of the Week!**

LAGNIAPPE

Safety Dance:

Safety play was terrific last Sunday, and the Look Man particularly liked Tony (Jefferson) Parrish (Niners), Madieu Williams from the Nati, Ike Taylor (Stillers), and Lance (Corporal) Schulters (Marine Mammals). Madieu is a great run stuffer, and showed nice hands on a pick of Kyle Orton. Parrish, a former Midway Masher, punished the Pokes and showed flashes of speed and ballhawking. Lance (Corporal) Schulters' pick of Delhomme keyed Miami's improbable win over Carolina. Ike Taylor outplayed overrated teammate Troy Polamu, as he stuffed runs by the Chowds and shut down the passing game.

The Tuna loves linebackers but the Look Man loves safeties. If they make too many tackles it's a bad sign for your defense. Case in point is Ike Taylor, whose 13 tackles presaged the Stillers' loss. On the other hand, a missed pick or tackle can cost you the

game. While Roy Williams of Dallas and Ed Reed of Baltimore get all of the press, these guys are just plain good.

NFL – No Fast-Food Losers?:

The Burger King NFL spots have forced Mickey D's to counter with its own campaign to lure male viewers away. On the heels of Paris Hilton's sexually supercharged burger campaign for Hardee's and Carl's Jr, fast-food giant McDonald's has a new Japanese campaign which replaces Ronald McDonald with a sexy, bikini-clad woman. The foxy female Ronald has shoulder-length auburn hair and wears a red and white striped bikini with leggings and red high heels."

Burger King is planning a spoof where the King finds new ways to score, including a dalliance with Ms. McDonald. He may give new meaning to the term "giving head." No word yet on whether Burger King and McDonalds will cooperate in offering an open faced roast beef sandwich in the near term. Demand is rumored to be high amongst the target 15-44 year old male population as well as many alternative lifestyle females.



McDonald's geisha?

THE LOOK AHEAD

Jets at Baltimore:

Hey kids, we kill the fatted calf tonight so stick around for - - - Vinny and the Jets! With Chad Pennington out with his annual injury, Brooks (Cuvee Brut) Bollinger will get uncorked by a ticked off B-More defense. Can the Nevermores' Anthony (if loving you is wrong I don't wanna B) Wright do anything here? The Jets will need to stuff the run to be successful.

Denver at Jacksonville:

Jake (the Fake) Plummer gets his comeuppance away from Investigation Field. This is the second tough game in a row for Jags QB (Lord) Byron Leftwich, who keeps battling, despite his latest injury. J-Ville's AllTell Stadium should get the moniker the House of Pain, since the SNF game versus the Stillers was the hardest hitting contest of 2004. Look for teeth, hair and eyeballs all over the field in this one, mainly Plummer's.

Houston at Cincinnati:

Could this be the Pepto Bismol Upset of the Week? The Bungals may have the Look Ahead Factor as they face J-Ville on Sunday Night in Week 5. They are looking for respect, and could easily overlook the Slim Shadies. Of course, with Houston having benched starting CB Philip Buchanon, it could be an easy day for Mr. Tonight Show and the Dentist. Either way, Dom Capers had better do better than he has historically in the Queen City, or he could be the first NFL head coach to be given a version of the home game.

Indianapolis at Tennessee:

RB Travis Henry is out for this one after hanging out with Cheech Marin and Ricky Williams last weekend. Look for Flaming Thumbtacks QB Air McNair to get his amputation injury of the year on Sunday, but the Colts are not as good on grass as they are on turf. Tennessee in a close one?

San Diego at New England:

The Lightning Bolts are coming off an emotional win over the Jynnts on Sunday night. They now travel to the Blade to take on the Chowds, who are without Rodney Harrison, OT Matt Light, or feature back Fumbles Faulk. Nobody circles the wagons/takes over the world like Bill (Dr. Evil) Belichick, especially after facing Marty Schottenheimer Lite last week in Blitzburgh. He now faces the real Marty, but look for a similar outcome despite being outmanned. Last time the Look Man checked, the Chowds have Tom Brady, and quite frankly, that's all you need.

Dallas at Oakland:

The Rhaiduhs are desperate at 0-3 and the Pokes pulled off a tough win on the road last week. Two road wins in a row is a tall order for the Gauchos, especially matched against a WR who can expose the lack of secondary speed by Roy (Rogers) Williams. Of course, now that the horse tackle is illegal, Roy Rogers will need to practice a new technique on girlfriend Dale Evans.

Peace.

The Look Man