

The Look Man Report 2005 Week 12 – Do You Believe in Magic?

Week 12 of the NFL season held some special magic. Not only was the Look Man reminded of his personal belief in the power of numerology, but teams in Houston, Indy and Seattle put those powers to work as well. After all, there are 12 months in a year, 12 inches in a foot, 12 signs of the Zodiac, 12 apostles and 12 people in a jury. If you think that sounds magical, week 12 was even more incredible.

The Babylonians loved to use units of 12 because it is easily divided into halves, thirds, or fourths. The advent of the incandescent lamp made folks able want to express times at night, dividing the day into 12 equal hours of light and dark. Even the word “hours” was derived from the ancient Greek word “hora” for season. The Greek Orthodox Church used the term to define religious services held at specific times, thus marking twelve subdivisions of each day.

For the Look Man, the NFL season is a religious experience. At a minimum, the performances of Ryan (Veritas) Fitzpatrick of the Lambs, the Colts electric win over the Stillers, and the Seattle win all qualified as miraculous events. Veritas put that magic to work, spinning his own version of the Truth by overcoming a nearly overwhelming lead by the Slim Shadies. The Colts put the “D” back in Indianapolis with a physical whipping of the Tissue Paper Curtain, and the SheHawks overcame the Jynts and the Zebras to win a thriller in CoffeeTown.

Without further pontification, the week in review:

Dirty Birds at Detroit (Turkey Day Special):

Mike (Ron Mexico) Vick and the Dirty Birds flew into the Motor City in search of a win and trying to punk the Look Man, who predicted a Lions win. The ATL had some substantial help from the Zebras, who are trying to help Ron reinvent himself as an NFL icon. Detroit obliged by self destructing, with a boatload of help from Joey Harrington. Harrington threw the ball away, and his line voted with their feet, letting waves of Dirty Bird lineman knock him into next week.

Jeff Garcia then took over, but it was too little too late as the ATL embarrassed the home team on national television. Lions GM Matt Millen was obliged to throw Steve (Mooch) Mariucci under the bus in order to save his own hide. Mooch was summarily terminated with extreme prejudice the following week.

It's worth noting that Millen circumvented NFL rules by failing to interview any minority candidates before proclaiming Mooch the savior of the franchise. Millen then paid a \$250K fine for his hubris, demonstrating even more by selecting three receivers in three successive first rounds. Everyone knows NFL football is won in the trenches, not in the secondary. Everyone, that is, except Millen and owner Henry Ford. Just because you inherit a football franchise doesn't mean you inherit the genius of your ancestors. Just ask Mike Brown of the Bengals.

The ATL still can't stop the run, and the Zebras rescue is only a temporary fix. They will not be at the playoffs unless they are paying customers.

Donkeys at Starheads (Turkey Day Special):

Jake (The Fake) Plummer was exposed by the Starheads in Dallas on Thursday. The Pokes used a strong edge rush to keep the Fake in the pocket, which is Kryptonite for his plumbing powers. It took a Drew (Big Boi) Bledsoe gift INT TD to Champ Bailey and a Ron (formerly Great) Dayne TD run to knock off the Pokes. Every dog has his day, and this was Ron's.

But, the Look Man digresses. The game featured some great performances, including a QB sneak for a TD by Big Boi, CB Aaron (The Senator) Glenn's return from a concussion to break up a pass, and some hard hits by the Doomsday Lite D. Granted, the Donkeys won, but any team with hard edge rushers and good linebacker speed will give them fits down the stretch. You listening Marty?

Browns at Vikes:

The matchup in Erotic City was pathetic. Browns QB Trent Dilfer got no time, and ended up coughing up the rock and throwing gift INTs to the Hornheads. Offensive Coordinator Maurice Carthon brought back the cacophonous chants of "Mo Must Go!" in C-Town. The Browns were two of eight on 3rd down conversions, firmly entrenching them as the worst red zone offense in the league. Mo then allowed the clock to run down just before the half with the Browns down only 10-0.

To top it all off, Dilfer had to leave the game with a bum patella, allowing the Browns "brain trust" to install backup QB Charlie (Biggie Size) Frye. Frye shot his regular, throwing a horrible pick to FS Darren Sharper before returning to clipboard duty.

Braylon Edwards not only failed to have a breakout performance, he refused to speak to the media after a lackluster day. Vikes WR Marcus (Mister) Robinson returned from the Witness Protection Program to score three TDs as Bad Brad Johnson is turning the Norsemen into an NFC juggernaut. The only thing that can stop them now is another boatload of strippers on Lake Minnetonka.

Meanwhile, in the Land of the Cleves, a QB controversy is brewing, but only for the ill-informed. Dilfer is questionable for Sunday, as the Browns think about throwing Biggie Size into the fryer against the physical defense of the J-Squareds. For once, the Look Man might actually agree, if only to allow Dilfer's bum knee to heal in time for the Battle of Ohio Part Deux on December 11.

Dumpster Ducks at Bengals:

What the Look Man termed "a trap game for the Ugly & Black" nearly turned out to be a laugher. The Nati was cruising, up 24-0, when the madness struck. Either that or Marvin Lewis realized that he was going to have to insert Jon Pickna and called off his defensive dogs.

Whatever the reason, the Bengals D gave up numerous quick scores to the Dumpster Ducks, and nearly blew the game. It got so bad that the Ugly & Black decided to go for a two point conversion late in the game. The Football Gods do not look kindly on this kind of thing, especially when it helped preserve the nine point spread. That, and five first downs by penalty courtesy of the Zebras.

Brian Billick, a genius in his own mind, must have missed the Indy-Cincy game. Colts TE Dallas Clark owned the Bengals with 6 catches and two TDs, but Ravens TE Todd

(Uriah) Heap had to wait until they were down 24-0 to see the rock. Pickna should've played.

Jynts @ SheHawks:

What a game. The SheHawks decided to throw a pajama party, showing up in their ridiculous blue on blue unis. Despite the epic running of Shaun Alexander (the Great) and the strength of Joe (Sid) Jurevicious, they nearly lost this critical NFC playoff preview. Sid Vicious had an eight-catch, 137-yard, two-touchdown performance, but the defense needed more pass rush and run stuffing at crunch time.

Just as the SheHawks looked to do their usual stumble, Jay Feely, the Jynts PK missed several easy FGs. He and Tampa K Matt Bryant probably cost their team wins with missed FGs. The CoffeeTown PJs eked out a win, but proved that there are 5 teams in the AFC who could beat the best the NFC has to offer.

Stillers at Colts (MNF):

The Stillers are in a bad place after losing to Baltimore last Sunday. Cowher and Company have thrown Tommy (That Deaf Dumb and Blind Kid) Maddox under the bus, and look to Big Ben Roethlisberger to lead them against the Colts. The Tissue Paper Curtain defense is beginning to fray at the edges, due to too much blitzing, and some injury problems.

The Colts defense may have been exposed as soft on the run in the Bengals battle. Look for Iron Chin Cowher and the Stillers to play keep away in an effort to dictate the game. Blitzburgh cannot win a shootout and the Colts can wrap up home field advantage with a win. Look for Dungy's dawgs to do just that, ending Cowher's 4-0 MNF streak.

Celebrity Obit of the Week:

Actor Pat Morita, whose portrayal of the inscrutable Mr. Miyagi in "The Karate Kid" earned him an Oscar nomination, has died at the age of 73. Morita first rose to fame in the role of a Milwaukee restaurateur on *Happy Days*, had "dedicated his entire life to acting, comedy and beating up young punks." It seemed that Morita was destined to be known only as Arnold from *Happy Days* when he portrayed Ralph Macchio's mentor in the coming of age piece. His famous "wax on, wax off" line was used to hone Daniel-san's karate skills through menial chores. Who knew you could learn to kill at a car wash?

The California-born Morita was the son of immigrant farm workers, spending most of his formative years in the hospital with spinal tuberculosis. When he recovered at age 11, he was sent to a Japanese internment camp in Arizona. Morita went on to serve with distinction in WWII as a member of the 442nd Military Intelligence Service Battalion. The unit was comprised of Japanese Americans who became renowned for their acts of courage and sacrifice. They became known as the "Purple Heart Battalion" because so many of its number were killed or wounded in action. The unit became the most highly decorated of its size in the history of the US Army. No less than General Douglas MacArthur credited these men for shortening the war in the Pacific Theater and saving thousands of lives.

Morita's family settled in Sacramento after the war, opening a Japanese restaurant in an African American section of town. "We wanted to open a Mexican Soul Food restaurant

called "Nacho Mama's", but we were afraid there would be retribution," said Morita in a 1989 interview.

Morita began as a stand up comedian, practicing his routines on restaurant patrons. He took work as a computer programming department head in an aerospace firm before devoting himself full time to show business.

Though he lost the 1984 best supporting actor award to Haing S. Ngor, for "The Killing Fields" Morita never complained. "I just figured it was poetic justice. The guy barely had enough vowels to pronounce his name. After all, he did only the one film, and I turned the Karate Kid into a franchise, with three sequels. I even dated Hilary Swank during The Next Karate Kid back in 1994, before she started going out with Clint Eastwood," said Morita. "And he thinks he taught her how to punch."

Actress Elizabeth Shue delivered the eulogy. When Macchio arrived late, interrupting her speech, she bellowed, "Nice car, Mrs. LaRusso!"

Morita is survived by his wife and three daughters.

Noriyuki "Pat" Morita
1932 - 2005



"You pretty okay, too."

Lagniappe

You Crack Me Up:

Former Cowpoke and current ESPN analyst Michael (The Playmaker) Irvin was arrested this week in Dallas for misdemeanor possession of drug paraphernalia. The Playmaker was stopped for speeding, and during a routine turning out of his seat cushions, a crack pipe was located. Irvin Hall of Fame campaign is now all but shot, but he used the classic Eminem legal defense: "it wasn't me." His current defense stems from the fact that he was helping a chemically dependent friend by throwing the pipe away. Good thing his friend didn't have an eight ball or he would be out of a job at ESPN.

Meet Me at Top Gun House:

This just in: LaDanian (The New LT) Tomlinson is awesome. The NLT took over the Washington game, burning the Genocide Vix with some nifty moves at the point of attack. He made SS Sean Taylor look like an idiot - - - twice.

The performance reminds the Look Man of why he dislikes the antics of Chad (The Dentist) Johnson so much. Football is the ultimate team game, and it takes eleven guys

to make it all happen (twelve if you count the head coach). FB Lorenzo (Curly) Neal opened holes in the Genocide Victims line like a can opener, allowing Tomlinson to break some sweet runs. Do you ever see the Dentist giving love to the O-line that makes his skits happen?

Veritas

Ryan (Veritas) Fitzpatrick in St. Louise and Vikes C Matt Birk(enstock) are the only NFL players from Harvard, but could this be a trend? This kid gets the rock again this week, so if you missed his sweet passing skills in Week 12, you can catch him this week. Unless Bengals P Pat McInally makes a comeback, these guys are the best things to come out of Beantown since long suffering Bengals Fan Dave Sundin.

Kicks Aren't for Kids:

Mike (Ted) Nugent, from THE Ohio State University, suffered a bad case of cat scratch fever as he missed a game-winning FG versus the New Orleans Religious Icons on Sunday Night. Yet, the 53-yarder was longer than it needed to be due to bad play calling by the Jets coaching staff. The Aeronauticals called for a pass once in FG range. The Icons were all over QB Brooks (Brothers) Bollinger like a cheap suit, setting up a FG that was 7-8 yards longer than necessary. Result: Saints win in a return to their 'home field' at the Meadowlands.

Zebra of the Week

The contestants:

From Seattle, Larry Nemmers(kull) for the SheHawks—Jynt's fiasco. Senior Zebra Gerry Austin(-Green) for going 90210 on the Pokes on Turkey Day. Rookie Zebra Scott (Seth) Green for giving the Bengals five first downs by penalty in the Ducks-Bungals. Umpire Jim Quirk of the same crew gets honorable mention for getting run over numerous times in retribution for the bad calls. Quirk work a helmet and shoulder pads in the second half for protection.

Austin-Green lost control of his game, demonstrating his usual confused demeanor in the process. Denver's late TD drive was kept alive on a play in which CB Aaron (The Senator) Glenn had position, but was roughed up by a backup Donkey WR. The offensive PI was so bad that the Senator couldn't prevent himself from a nasty face-plant, owing to being tackled at the time. He did return to break up a pass, but looked as if he was orbiting the Earth in the process.

And the winner is: Larry Nemmerskull, who nearly cost the SheHawks the W. The NFL contacted Mike (the Walrus) Holmgren to apologize for an extremely poor call on a gift TD to TE Jeremy Shockey. Shockey got only one foot down before ex-Bengal S Marquand Manuel blasted him, knocking the ball loose. Nemmerskull even upheld the call after review, proving his IQ is lower than his collar size. It was so bad that if The Walrus had suffered a stroke, Nemmerskull might have been charged with aggravated homicide.

Larry Nemmerskull, for winning this week's *Look Man's Zebra of the Week*, you are awarded a gift certificate to the Pike Street Market Starbucks. Good luck.

The Look Ahead

This week features some incredible battles. Denver travels to KC, where they have lost 4 in a row. The Bengals go to Blitzburgh to face a Stillers team with its back against the wall. The Pokes meet the G-Men in the Big Apple, with the NFC East title on the line. All these games will add definition to the playoff picture, and they all occur in unlucky Week 13.

Pokes at Jynts:

The Pokes' running game is struggling, largely due to teams stacking the line and using run blitzes to pressure Bledsoe. Julius (Dr. J) Jones is getting healthy and will split time with Marion Barber at running back. Dallas LB Dat Nguyen is done for the year, and cover corner Anthony Henry is banged up.

Despite the lack of good news in Big D, the Look Man likes Dallas in the Game of the Week. Dallas is still the class of the NFC East, and they will prove it by handling the Jynts next week. Despite the league's desire to establish Eli as the next Big Thang, the Jynts are going nowhere in 2005.

Bengals at Stillers:

That crashing sound you heard Monday Night was the Stillers bandwagon flipping over. With all of the talk of gloom and doom, these guys still own the Ugly & Black, who have given up 74 points in two weeks, with 29 of those going to the offensively challenged Ravens.

On the other hand, the Look Man was surprised to see that only Peyton and Eli have a QB rating of 100 vs. the Tissue Paper Curtain defense. Of course, Tiki and the Edge have the power running styles to set up play action. Based on the injuries to Kimo von Oehlfoffen and the starting RT, we might have to add Mr. Tonight Show to that list after Sunday if Rudi (Rudiger) Johnson goes over 100. Nahhhhh! Marvin Lewis and the Ugly & Black had better be wearing their 'Bill Cowher Spit Shields' [patent pending] on Sunday. Stillers, baby, Stillers.

Atlanta at Carolina:

Mike Vick owns the Black Cats, but look for Carolina to find a way. John Fox is a great coach, and the Falcons are flawed. Fox will pass the torch to RB DeShaun (Bananas) Foster in order to get Stephen (Jefferson) Davis healthy for the stretch run. The Dirty Bird D has been more vulnerable to the run this season, and the Panthers need this one badly. Panthers.

Colts at Tennessee:

Everyone is talking 16-0 for the Colts and looking ahead to the Colts-SheHawks matchup, but this one could derail the Perfect Season. Tennessee has nothing to play for but pride, but head coach Jeff Fisher is a defensive wizard. The Look Man still likes the Colts, but 14.5 points?! The Colts will be flat on Sunday vs. the Flaming Thumbtacks. Can you say trap game?

J-Ville at Cleveland:

(Lord) Byron Leftwich is out for six weeks with a broken leg. Backup QB David Garrard is one of the best backups in the biz and that D-line is awesome. It won't matter whether Frye or Dilfer starts this one, as the Browns get serious about the Reggie Bush Derby. The Browns have J-Ville minus Lord Byron, but Vegas has still installed them as 2 point

Dawgs. The oddsmakers are also laying 5-2 on Frye getting eaten by Jags DT John (The Hamburglar) Henderson.



"Dah-daht-daht-DAHT-dah. I'm NOT lovin' it"



"What?! No shake with that?!"

This season has been a very strange one indeed. Or, as my man Billy (White Shoes) Shakespeare once said, "There are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio, than are dreamt of in your philosophy." Translation: the NFL schedule makers are sadists.

The Chargers have traveled over 20,000 miles to date and face a brutal path to the playoffs. They need to overtake Denver or rely on a lot of help in the AFC (read: Bengals AND Stillers crash). The Bolts could be this season's Panthers or Bills, who missed the playoffs after playing their best ball down the stretch.

Meanwhile, the Bengals must be charmed. Not only do they have a cake schedule, they have faced good teams when they are banged up all season long. If you asked twelve folks at random, they would all predict the Bengals make the postseason.

Peace.

The Look Man