

## The Look Man Report 2005

### Week Fifteen: A Charlie Brown Christmas

*"Let's put it this way. At this point, if Norv Turner or Kerry Collins dressed up as a traffic cop, I'd gladly hit them with my car."-- Randy Moss, after Oakland's 2-point loss to Cleveland.*

Week 15 of the 2005 NFL season was, as usual, mind boggling. Not simply because The Look Man's teams went down like free beer, but the ways in which these losses occurred. The Saturday games featured New England blowing out the Tampa Bay Corn Kings 28-0. The Jynts took out the KC Baby Backs courtesy of 220 rushing yards by Tiki (The) Barber (of da Ville). In Minnesota, the Stillers won a hard fought match with the NFC juggernaut Hornheads. And the Cowpokes were bitch-slapped by the rival Genocide Victims 35-7, thus saving Joe Gibbs' job.

Each of these games had tremendous playoff impacts for the teams, leaving the losers lingering playoff hopes like lumps of bituminous coal in their stockings. The winners didn't exactly get Red Ryder BB Guns, as they face uphill battles to the playoff promised land.

Without further bad Christmas metaphors, the Week in Review.

#### **Week in Review:**

##### Bengals at Lions

Lions Fans showed their displeasure with G(estapo)M(an) Matt Millen by wearing Bengals orange and organizing a march against Millen. The net result on the field was the same, however, as QB Jeff (Jerry) Garcia threw 3 picks and the Bengals routed the Motor City (s)Hitmen.

No word on whether Garcia's significant other, former playmate Carmela deCaesare conducted interviews after the game. Millen did announce through his ventriloquist dummy Dick Jauron that Joey Harrington will start next week in San Antonio. The good news is that Garcia managed to throw less than the five picks each by Culpepper and Favre in the Nati's two previous NFC Norse battles.

In an aside, the Look Man owes a note to Look Man reader Mike (Smooth) Barsan, who correctly predicted the Bengals resurgence in 2005. Smooth proclaimed the following right after the season opener:

*"Carson Palmer looks like he might turn out to be one of the better QBs in the league. He seems to be quick to read and hits the short passes with precision...They will win home field advantage throughout the playoffs even if they lose their regular season finale. They will proceed to Detroit for the Extra Large Super Bowl, where they will lose by 6 to Tampa Bay."*

Smooth's predictions, while still incomplete, have been incredibly close to the mark. He correctly predicted a Pro Bowl season for Mr. Tonight Show, as well as a playoff berth for the Ugly and Black. The guy just knows his football.

### Pokes at Genocide Victims:

The Genocide Vix were trying to win one for the Gibber with some of their best players on the shelf. Dallas arrived high off an incredible win over KC in Week 14, or maybe just high.

The Pokes failed to show up at all, allowing Hall of Famer Chris Cooley (High) to score three TD receptions. At least two of the receptions should not have been touchdowns, but alas (No "D") left their white tackling jerseys back in Texas. Mark Brunell looked like a HOFer as well, and DC wins a laugh over the Pokes.

Oddly, the Pokes still have slight playoff chance, based on the fact that the Genocide Vix must face the Jynts and Iggles in the final two weeks. Still, the chances are slim and none, and Slim has his ten gallon hat on, since the Starheads are competing with the Vikes, DC, Tampa and Atlanta for the final wild card. Their NFC East champ dream went up like a puff of peyote on Sunday.

### Chargers at Indy: (Game of the Week)

The Bolts proved that their Week 14 loss to the Marine Mammals was indeed of the look-ahead variety, as they mashed the Colts in Naptown on Sunday. The Bolts brought a very physical defense to put the panties on Peyton. Only the Colts defensive turnovers made this one even close. Essentially, the Bolts held Peyton and Company to three points when not faced with a short field.

The Look Man doesn't put too much stock into this loss and the end of the overrated undefeated season. Granted, it would have been nice to shut up Nick Bonticonti and the rest of those bitter old men in South Beach, but the Colts had nothing to play for. They have locked down home field and their ultimate goal is the Lombardi. San Diego will not make the playoffs, so the only thing this game proved was that if you have hard end rushers and a defensive mastermind, you can beat the Colts. Bill (Dr. Evil) Belichick already showed us that the last two years anyway.

### Stillers at Vikes:

The Stillers battle in Prince Country was too ugly to watch. Not because it featured two solid defensive squads, but because Ed (The Hulk) Hochuli and company called a penalty every other play.

The Vikes have been offensively challenged before, but they held the Stillers in check until (Bad) Brad Johnson lived up to his nickname and committed turnovers deep in the red zone. The timing was very fitting since the media kept raising the question of whether QB Daunte Culpepper should be traded based on Bad Brad's recent success. This media must have forgotten about the 39 TD's Daunte threw in 2004, or the fact that the defense is the real story in Minnesota. At any rate, the Stillers got a much needed 18-3 win in a very physical game.

The Vikes suffered a bad blow to its playoff hopes, facing the Baltimore Flintstones on Sunday night and finishing with Chicago. Those of you who laugh at the Flintstones may have missed the excommunication of Brett (the Pope) Favre on MNF.

## **LAGNIAPPE**

### King Kong?

The WBA heavyweight championship last week in Berlin was either a cleverly concealed marketing plan by the makers of King Kong, or there is a new sheriff in town. Either way, John Ruiz wants a rematch with Nikolay Valuev took his WBA heavyweight title. Valuev, a 7 foot, 323 pound giant, beat Ruiz in a split decision booed by 10,000 at Berlin's Max-Schmeling-Hall. Two of the judges narrowly awarded to the fight to the Russky, while the third scored it a draw.

"Boxing is the only sport where you can get robbed without a gun," Ruiz said before walking out of the press conference. "My promoter, Don King, should do his job and get me a rematch. Either that, or make it illegal for Bigfoot to enter the ring."

King was non-committal regarding the rematch, but he did call the tallest and heaviest champion the "King Kong" of the division. King added, "First you had King, me. Then you had Kong, the Movie. Now you have both in this kid Valuev. I was vociferous when they did not entertain my offer to have him play the namesake character. Why use CGI when you can use my guy?"

Ruiz seemed in control early, as he worked inside on the big man and then clinched. Gradually, Valuev was able to dodge the telegraphed blows of Ruiz, and began issuing punishment. Valuev was able to pound Ruiz with his jab, and even began to land the right hand, getting him back into the fight. Ruiz was awarded the final three rounds on all of the scorecards. Perhaps the most telling blow was a straight left which wobbled Ruiz halfway through the final round.

Ruiz was outweighed by nearly 90 pounds in addition to giving up 10 inches of height. He called for a new 'giant' division in boxing. "If they are going to start wheeling these big guys out of the Russian gulag system, there won't be any room for American fighters," said Ruiz. King countered, "No, not if they're as bad as John Ruiz. I have grandchildren who hit harder than he does."

The fight stirred controversy across the globe. "You can't win a fight in Germany unless you knock the guy out," said Ruiz manager Norman Stone. "I don't think he [Valuev] has a future in America. I think John exploited his weaknesses all night. For one thing, he needs depilatory cream in the worst way."

Valuev, who plans a title unification tour, remained unbeaten at 43-0, while Ruiz's record fell to 42-6-1. "I'm not thinking about being the first Russian champion, I'm thinking of improving, so I can keep the title two or three fights," Valuev said. "I've waited 12 years for this. This is the best New Year's gift I could have."

Look Man readers can expect to see Valuev on this side of the pond soon, perhaps even a Valuev-Wladimir Klitschko fight. It is unlikely, however that Ruiz's manager will be present, since he had to be restrained after the decision was read in Berlin. Stoney then taunted the Valuev camp, which resulted in a member of Valuev's posse dropping Stone with a right hand to the head.



*Valuev v. Ruiz in Berlin. A possible "Nair" commercial in the offing?*

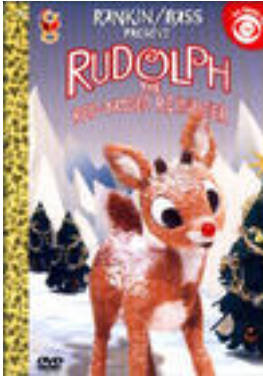
### Misfit or Christmas Savior?

Bengals WR Chad (The Dentist) Johnson's TD celebration in Detroit was simply no celebration. Perhaps he realized that there were no metal detectors outside Ford Field, and the Motor City fans were pretty ticked already. Now, the Dentist is planning to conduct a holiday celebration for this week's Buffalo home-finale.

"On the highway, I hit a deer," Johnson said Tuesday, insisting he was serious and that the animal wasn't hurt. "I kept him. He's at home in the garage. I'm going to use him for the celebration this weekend. He's a prop. They might suspend me for the last game, but I think this one is worth it."

Detroit Fans booed at his non-celebration celebration during a 41-17 victory Sunday. It was only the second time in 2005 that the Dentist failed to make a fool of himself after scoring. "But this Saturday, I'll be back to my old self," he said. "You can look forward to the celebration being part of something that has to do with Christmas. It's going to be fun. I might get in trouble, so I might as well let that out now. I might get in trouble for what I'm going to do, but it's worth it."

Rumor floating in the Bengals camp has Johnson trotting out the deer, along with WBA Champ Nikolay Valuev for the celebration. "I will play Hermie, with the deer as Rudolph. I will then extract some teeth from the Champ, who plays the Bumble." Said Johnson. "That's one of my favorite Christmas shows of all time. That kid who plays Hermie - - - what an actor!"



*Accident victim in Nati?*

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

Richard Franklin Lennox Thomas Pryor was born December 1, 1940, in Peoria, Illinois. Pryor, born to Gertrude Pryor, claimed his father LeRoy Carter was the son of the owner of a bordello. While it is unclear whether his parents ever married, it is certain that his upbringing in this environment spawned a unique insight into the human psyche that became Pryor's trademark.

Very little is known about Pryor's formative years, but he emerged from a rough and tough section of Peoria filled with pimps, whores, hustlers, winos and dope dealers. Young Richard learned to use comedy to avert physical conflict, a much needed skill for a thin, underweight black man. Pryor began to visit drama workshops at the local community center, where he met a young director named Juliette Whittaker. Whittaker mentored the slender boy after he finally summoned up the courage to ask her for a chance. While his confidence was derived from his innate imagination, he was at once incredibly lonely and amazingly creative.

Pryor would not recognize his destiny on the stage until he saw Redd Foxx and Dick Gregory doing television comedy. He began to do stand up comedy at a local Peoria nightclub, quickly progressing to emcee. When his father threw him out of the house in disgust, Pryor took his show to the Blackbelt Circuit - - - a string of comedy clubs in Cleveland, St. Louis, Chicago, Youngstown and Buffalo.

Pryor moved to the Big Apple in 1963 in order to be closer to the center of the showbiz culture. It was in Greenwich Village where he met Woody Allen, George Carlin, and Bill Cosby. He began emulating Cosby, doing clean comedy about human experience that spanned race. White critics began calling Pryor the next Bill Cosby in what amounted to an insult to Richard. After appearing on national television shows like the Ed Sullivan Show, Merv Griffin and the Tonight Show, Pryor walks off a Vegas stage in 1967 following a profanity laced tirade. He longed to prove that he was capable of much more than "white bread humor."

Pryor then received his first Hollywood movie role, followed by a small role in The Green Berets with John Wayne. He moved to Hollywood to focus on acting, and to refine his comedy act at spots like the Comedy Store. It was there that he released his first comedy album, which caused his popularity in the black community to skyrocket. Pryor began writing for television shows such as Sanford and Son, The Flip Wilson Show, and Lily Tomlin Show. His work with Tomlin garnered him an Emmy in 1973 for one of her TV specials. She called Pryor, "the greatest pioneering comic artist of the last three

generations." Tomlin has recalled, of her first glimpse of Pryor's act on The Ed Sullivan Show in the late '60s, "Even then, Richard's unique blend of vulnerability, attitude, and insight was apparent. He was already bringing audiences into his personal experience, temporarily abandoning them to the chaos, and finally rescuing them with his compassion."

Pryor's genius was evident in Mel Brooks' classic *Blazing Saddles*, which won him an American Writers Guild Award as a co-writer. Pryor was originally considered for the lead role, but lost out to Cleavon Little when executives became aware of his growing chemical dependency.

In December 1975 Pryor guest hosted a new television show called *Saturday Night (Live)* on NBC. Despite his controversial reputation as a blue comic, the show was a smashing success. Two years later, Pryor hosted his own special on NBC featuring guests John Belushi, The Pips (who performed a medley of their hits without any lead vocals), and poet Maya Angelou. Pryor played his drunk "Willie" character, and a money grubbing television evangelist "Reverend James L. White" who gets donation phones ringing off the hook when he announces they're collecting money for a "Back to Africa" campaign.

Since Pryor's appearances on NBC had always been golden, the network decided to give 'the most sexually suggestive comedian of the decade' a weekly TV series. The *Richard Pryor Show* was given a short, ten week leash, opposite *Happy Days*. The supporting cast included: Sandra Bernhard, Robin Williams, Marsha Warfield, and Tim Reid.

After being signed for the series, Pryor's box office career exploded. His skyrocketing movie career made it nearly impossible to do television at all. He was nearly reduced to a nervous breakdown and ultimately did only four of the ten shows for which he agreed. In addition, battles with censors began nearly immediately. It was then that Pryor did perhaps his greatest work of all: He appeared at the beginning of his first show stating firmly that he will never be compromised. When the camera pulled back, you saw he was naked (actually wearing a bodystocking) and his dick was missing. Although the network ordered the scene removed, it ran on the evening news on all three networks, gaining more viewership than it ever would have on the show itself.

Pryor severed his relationship with NBC and went on to a meteoric career in movies and recorded stage concerts. His *Live on the Sunset Strip* was an oeuvre if only because Pryor was able to work through the tremendous personal pain brought on by his troubled personal life. If you have not seen the joke where he spoofs his near self immolation from free basing, you are missing a treat.

Pryor was an important comedian for many reasons. Not only did he have incredible insight into the human psyche, he mixed it with race, sex and all that is the human experience. At a time when the US was nearly taken over by the most powerful president since FDR, Pryor was the anti-Nixon. Though many other comedians used profanity to get laughs, none did it as effectively as Pryor, nor did they share themselves as openly. His works are cathartic and enlightening. In the words of Robin Williams:

"Richard is the master of open-soul surgery, cutting right to the bone."

Goodnight, Rich. You still crazy!



Slow down fool!

### **ZEBRA OF THE WEEK**

You all know the rules: three contestants, one winner. And you must name your final ahnsah. Cue the strings music for ZEBRA of the WEEK!

#### Scott Green: Tampa Bay at New England

Zebra Scott Green(sleeves) turned the game around by calling a questionable roughing the kicker penalty with New England leading 14-0. Tampa Bay had just given the Chowds a short field, and could have gotten back into the contest with a solid offensive drive following their defensive stop. Instead, New England went on to make it 21-0 following a call that should never have been made. Greensleeves also kept the holiday spirit in check by calling back an 81-yard punt return TD by Tampa.

Replays clearly showed that two Corn King players were in the vicinity, but neither flagrantly fouled Josh Miller. Miller deserves an Emmy nomination for “Best Flop in a non-CBS sitcom” category. Greensleeves is a rookie ref with substantial ties to the Bush Administration. You may remember that Bush 41 is from New England.

#### Ed (The Hulk) Hochuli: Stillers at Vikes

The Hulk got very angry very early in this one. Despite the importance of the game, Hochuli called anything and everything with frequent reversals. The net result was a disjointed contest featuring 24 *accepted* penalties.

Hochuli’s crew had several calls reversed as well. Of course the term is relative, since a couple of the calls were merely “changed” after the crew got together and realized their grades by the league review committee would be pathetic if they let the original calls stand. The one call that was reviewed shows the subjectivity of the new reception rule.

The league has adopted a “catch plus football move” possession rule. A player must not only catch the football, but must demonstrate a football move thereafter. On the play in question, Vikes WR Marcus Robinson caught the ball in the end zone, got two feet down, spun, and was then stripped of the football by the Blitzburgh DB. The ruling on the field of no-catch was upheld by replay.

The Look Man hates this new rule. Any end zone possession, no matter how brief, should be upheld if the receiver gets two feet down and maintains possession for a count. All this new rule does is allow the Zebras to control the game by quickly blowing the whistle on potential turnovers that lead to defensive scores. If points are king, then

why would the NFL wish to eliminate this option from the scoring menu? In the words of Marvelous Marvin Hagler, "Vegas, baby. Vegas."

#### Mike Carey: Browns at Raiders

Two weeks, two bad performances by Mike Carey. The Browns and Raiders played a defensive gem, with slobber-knocking hits on both sides of the football. Then, with time running down, Carey's crew calls a fumble on Browns RB Reuben (on Rye) Droughns, when his knee and butt were obviously on the ground. The play occurred with the Browns in FG range and the game hung in the balance.

Carey and crew huddled to determine an original ruling, and emerged indicating that the play had been ruled a fumble. Review clearly showed the opposite, leading the Look Man to wonder who could have seen the fumble. In this league, you call what you see. Otherwise, the whole thing is meaningless.

And the winner is: Mike Carey. Carey has been the best in the business for years, and now has back to back Zebra of the Week awards. One even wonders if he is going for the Johnny Grier Award at this juncture. More importantly, it sets up some bad omens for the playoffs, where weekly grades factor into crew selections. It could get really ugly if we have Bernie Kukar and Jeff Triplette in the post season.

### **THE LOOK AHEAD**

#### Stillers at Browns:

Last weekend, the Browns lost center Jeff (Don't Take My Name in) Faine to his annual season ending injury du jour. Faine was replaced by four year man Mike Pucillo, who matched up against 400 lb. Raiders NT (Big) Ted Washington. Pucillo held his own against Washington, who also auditioned for the title role of the new Kong pic.

This week Pucillo faces pro bowler Casey Hampton of the Tissue Paper Curtain. Look for the Browns to run early and often in order to keep Charlie Frye out of the hospital. The Stillers need to win out, but faced a tough, physical defense last week in Minnesota. The Look Man thinks back to back road wins is too much to ask of this Stillers squad. Browns baby, Browns.

#### Bisons at Bengals:

The home finale against a woeful Bisons squad torqued by controversy. Eric (Jell-O) Moulds and RB Willis Magahee are unhappy, and there is a QB controversy with Kelly (Tires) Holcomb and JP Losman. Still, the Bisons' defense is better than advertised, and they have some very nice cornerbacks. The Bisons cover, if not shock the Bengals, who may be looking ahead to Kansas City.

#### Indy at Seattle:

Possible Super Bowl preview here is colored by the death of Tony Dungy's 18 year old son in Tampa. Look for the Colts to lose here, saving its best for the next matchup. Not only is their coach out, but they have several key injuries including Cato June, Bob Sanders and Ryan Diem. Seattle.

#### Dallas at Carolina:

Carolina has shown a lot of inconsistency, looking good at home while losing winnable road games. Dallas is facing elimination with one of its best offensive linemen out of the



game. Sound like a formula for disaster? It is, as Carolina wins and sends Big D home crying.

Atlanta at Tampa Bay:

Tampa is ticked after getting blown out in King Arthur's Court. Atlanta has been playing better, but the Look Man believes the bad karma generated by Mike Vick's selection to the Pro Bowl goes against the Dirty Birds. Not only is Vick unworthy, so is the team. Tampa Bay wins to set up a stretch run for the last NFC Wild Card.

Jynts at Washington:

The Look Man thinks the GVs were sky high last week in the Dallas win. Unfortunately, the Jynts may be playing without some key offensive linemen. Looks like the Jynts based on defense.

San Diego at Kansas City:

Dick (the Crying Man) Vermeil tells his men to, "Go to work!!" against the Bolts in a must win game. The Baby Backs home record in December is incredible, and the Look Man looks for it to continue as Marty can't get his troops pumped up fast enough for back to back roadies. Look for KC to win, setting up a good Bengals at Baby Backs season finale.

**EPILOGUE**

Never one to shy from controversy, the Look Man will now predict that the Bolts, Vikes, Cowpokes, Falcons, and Chiefs will miss the playoffs in 2005. There are boatloads of solid defensive teams out there, and any misstep will cost good teams the post season.

Ironically, Cincinnati does not matchup well with the AFC teams that will be knocked out, nor do they want to see Blitzburgh get in to the postseason tourney. Dr. Evil and the Patriots are waiting in the shadows, and they just got a 6 month extension from Congress. It's far from over in 2005, and things are getting very interesting.

The Look Man wishes everyone a happy and joyous holiday season. Even Marvin Lewis.