

THE LOOK MAN REPORT 2005 WEEK 20 – CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP WEEK THE KOBE-ASHI MARU

First study the enemy. Seek weakness." - Romulan Commander, Star Trek "Balance of Terror"

In the original Star Trek series, Captain James T. Kirk was renowned for being the only Federation officer ever to beat a training simulation for potential starship captains. In the Kobayashi Maru simulation (which means "small wooden ship" in Japanese) cadets receive a distress signal from a stranded vessel and have to risk their own destruction by superior enemy forces via the attempted rescue of a defenseless vessel, or leave and allow the ship to be destroyed. Kirk was the only individual ever to beat the computer, but only by reprogramming the simulation. The test became a metaphor for a rock and a hard place scenario.

In Week 20, both Jake (The Man) Delhomme and Jake (the Fake) Plummer faced such a test in the conference championships. In difficult trials against superior forces, the QBs had to choose between saving their teams and getting killed in the process, or abandoning their pursuit of the Lombardi Trophy. Since neither has advanced degrees in computer programming, the results were predictable.

The Two Jakes might have benefited from the following dialogue from Star Trek 2: The Wrath of Khan.

Saavik: "Permission to speak candidly, sir."

Kirk: "Granted."

Saavik: "I don't believe this was a fair test of my command abilities."

Kirk: "And why not?"

Saavik: "Because, there was no way to win."

Kirk: "A no-win situation is a possibility every commander may face. Has that never occurred to you?"

Saavik: "No, sir, it has not."

Kirk: "How we deal with death, is at least as important as how we face life, wouldn't you say?"

Simply replace Saavik with either of the Two Jakes, and replace Kirk with say, Chuck Noll, and you can see the parallels. At any rate, neither Jake succeeded when the needs of the one outweighed the needs of the many. The opposing coaches examined their weaknesses and both Jakes have been expelled from Star Fleet Academy pending a retake of their final exams.

In other Star Trek news, LA Lakers guard Kobe (means 'tender beef' in Japanese) Bryant busted for 81 points on Sunday in an attempt to bump the NFL Conference Championships to page 2 of the sports section. In doing so Kobe rose to number 2 on the highest single scoring depth chart behind Wilt (the Stilt) Chamberlain's magnificent 100 point performance.

The fact that a guard was able to do this is dramatic. More staggering is the fact that Bryant became the only NBA player ever to score 80 in a contest. Neither Michael

Jordan, Kareem, Magic nor Bird ever achieved this feat. Whether Bryant can repeat this effort is to be determined, but every high scoring performance was done by a player in his 20's. Kobe's advancing age may work against him but on a night when the NFL should have been center stage, Kobe tenderized the Raptors and continued one of the hottest scoring streaks in NBA history.

Without going further where no man has gone before, the Week in Review.

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

AFC Championship - Stillers at Donkeys:

(Big) Ben Roethlisberger and the white-clad Stillers rolled into the Mile High City just a day before the game. Bill (Iron Chin) Cowher didn't want them affected by the altitude or the hype, so he kept his team in the Steel City until the very last.

It didn't matter much as the Stillers flipped the script and passed all over the Enver Onkeys (no D). Big Ben threw two sweet touchdowns, and then settled into low gear with Jerome (The Bus) Bettis at crunch time. Truth is, Cowher and the Stillers let their foot off the accelerator a little too soon, and nearly gave the Donkeys a chance to get back into the contest.

Enver's defensive strategy was to put John Lynch (Mob) in the box, forcing the Stillers to throw. With little support for S Nick Ferguson, the Stillers picked on CB Dominique Foxworth for multiple big plays. In the red zone, they ran the old Z-Corner to Cedric (The Entertainer) Wilson for six. Big Ben provided an exaggerated pump fake that ate up (IBF) Champ Bailey. Cedric the Entertainer was wide open and Ben hamburgered the ball into his hands for the toe-tap TD.

Jake (the Fake) Plummer was flustered by a hard edge rush and the lack of reading ability. The Stillers, who are known for blitzing, flipped the script on defense as well, sending blitzes only about 15% of the time. Poor Jake was left looking for plumbing tools to ward off the blitzers, alternately throwing worm burners and medicine balls. After throwing a sweet TD to (Laura) Ashley Lelie, Jake plumbed the depths of poor performance by throwing picks left and right.

LB Larry (Dr. Scholl) Foote added an athletic INT over the middle when Jake Plummer mistook the zone blitz for the real article. Blitzburgh's designated goon Kimo von Oelhoffen helped by tackling pulling offensive linemen to keep the LBs clean. In the final analysis, the Stillers' Troy Polamalu was the MVP of this one. His declating goal line hit on Mike Anderson was a tour de force, exceeded only by an incredible screen tackle. On the latter, Polamalu shrugged off an O-line block, moved laterally and tackled Anderson. Not only was Troy outweighed by 60 pounds by his blocker, his swivel hip move demonstrated his athletic superiority. This just in: Number 43 can flat out play.

As is their wont, the Stillers used the pass to set up the run. Once they got a lead, Cowher fed the ball to (Fast) Willie Parker, who responded by putting the rock on the ground - - - twice. Despite the fact that one of the fumbles was reversed by review, Iron Chin should have benched Willie. Instead, he sent Jerome (The Bus) Bettis in to tenderize the reeling defense. When the clock struck 0:00, we, Big Ben and the rest of the Stillers knew exactly what time it was.

The Donkeys Courtney Brown, Michael (Halloween) Myers, Gerard (Big Money Wasted) Warren and Ebenezer (Double E) Ekuban reverted to Cleveland form, missing tackles and getting pushed all over the field. They mounted little pass rush, and when they did, Big Ben simply ran away from it and tossed touchdowns. The Look Man's favorite was when Big Ben bootlegged over the left side, allowing Faneca to block Double E halfway to Lo-Do. Afterwards Double E was screaming for help, but the BB TD made it 24-3, essentially sealing the win.

Afterwards, Mike Shanahan said, "We called a J-Trap X-Right 44 Blast Z-Out, but Jake got confused. He thought we were trying to install a new bathroom. You just can't turn it over like that and win. His career is really in the toilet after today." Shanahan then turned to Plummer and sighed, "I wish I knew how to quit you, Jake." The Brokeback Donkeys and their Rocky Mountain fans feel the same way.

When asked about the outcome, President Bush claimed not to have seen the game. "I'm happy to talk about football, but I haven't seen the game," said Dubya. "Heard about it, though." Apparently the AFC Championship wasn't on the NSA surveillance list.

Denver now replaces the Niners in most favored team status among alternative lifestyle men. The popularity may be linked to many of their players wearing cowboy gear, or simply the Donkeys' annual volleyball game at the Air Force Academy in nearby Colorado Springs. The game, often called the *Top Gun Volleyball Tourney*, features the Donkeys against celebrity players such as Tom Cruise, Val Kilmer, Tim Robbins and Anthony Edwards.

So the Stillers are booking their flights for Detroit, where the Bus will no doubt provide chauffeur services. Bettis is said to be planning a trip to Windsor *for amusement purposes only*. Coach Cowher is not officially invited due to his reputation as a womanizer. "I don't get ott much anymore," said Iron Chin. "Yins may have to go without me since my wife Katie and my girls are coming to tonn."

NFC Championship - Carolina at Seattle:

Looks like the Defensive Rookie of the Year honors for Lofa (means "sponge" in Ermitano) Tatupu were not a bad choice. Tatupu put his stamp on his team as well as Carolina RB Nick (Porn Star) Goings, and the SheHawks defense dominated the Black Cats.

Porn Star initiated the contact, knocking both players out, but the Sponge was able to get up while Goings did his best Batman impression. Once the running game was snuffed, the SheHawks owned the Cats, and this one was effectively over. Although the Goings-Tatupu collision was the best hit by an offensive player in 2005-06 season, it was hardly worthwhile as Goings was forced from the game with his second concussion of the postseason. His career is now in jeopardy, though he may have budding potential as the new Johnny Wadd.

Tatupu was joined by future superstars Marcus (Miami Vice) Tubbs and Rocky (Crockett) Bernard. The Hawks may erect a statue to Bernard, who had two sacks while moving from DT to DE on various snaps. The D-line kept the Blue Man Group LBs clean, allowing them to stuff the run, and then drop into deep zones and blanket Steve Smith.

The CoffeeTown O-Line was not to be outdone by the defense. They knocked around Carolina Pro Bowlers like bowling pins. After the D-line was on the ground, the LBs and DBs were getting facefulls of Robbie Tobeck and Steve Hutchinson. It's hard to tackle the league MVP when you have 300 pounders knocking you around.

The Blue Man Group ran the ball early and often, resulting in over 40 minutes of possession time and little chance that Matt (Hair Club for Men) Hasselback would blow the game by going Jake the Fake. Shaun Alexander was once again great, turning short runs into long gainers with patient running. Carolina's defense looked as if it was out of gas and even some catnip from Head Coach John Fox couldn't revive them.

HCFM threw less than 20 times, and when he did, he got the rock to TE Jerramy (Darren) Stevens, who emerged from the Witness Protection Program with a fine offensive day. Darren bewitched the Black Cats safeties, forcing them to drop out of the box and open running lanes for Alexander the Great.

Jake Delhomme and Steve (John Jacob Jingleheimer) Smith combined for 22 completions, 302 yards and three TDs in their two previous playoff games. On Sunday in CoffeeTown Delhomme threw to Stevie Jingleheimer 11 times, completing five for 33 yards and zero trips to the Hoose. The SheHawks defense disproved the Look Man's theory that J³ is "simply unstoppable." Needless to say, the Black Cats went down to defeat, and the people didn't get a chance to shout.

The SheHawks D doubled and tripled Jingleheimer, shutting him down and daring the Black Cats to run the football or throw elsewhere. From the looks of things, Jake either didn't trust his other receivers or they ran the wrong routes, as he was picked off, sacked and generally harassed for most of the day.

The result was a blowout win for the SheHawks, who showed that Blitzburgh ain't the only Super Bowl squad with a solid defense. After posting an undefeated season at home, they now head to Detroit where they will attempt to see if Motown execs will help market their blue on blue pajamas.

LAGNIAPPE

Would You Believe - Jimmy Paraguay?

Dirty Birds QB Michael Vick believes Virginia Tech overreacted by dismissing his brother Marcus after stomping on an opponent in the Gator Bowl. Vick the Younger claimed the stomp was inadvertent. Unless Louisville's Elvis Dumervil was wearing a grass colored uniform, the stomp was willful.



Ron Mexico of the ATL

Marcus Vick's Gator Bowl shenanigans came on the heels of a December speeding ticket he received while driving with a suspended license. He is free on a \$10K bond for charges of pulling a gun on three Virginia teenagers as well.

"Sometimes your emotions just take over," said Michael Vick. "I know Marcus. He's not the kind of kid that's going to do something like that on purpose. That's just something he's got to live with, and now it's just time to move on." Vick spoke from his seat during the Atlanta Hawks-Cleveland Cavaliers NBA game on Wednesday night. His brother Marcus sat with him, and both denied speculation that he was actually the fan who shined a laser pointer into the eyes of several Cavs players at the free throw line.

The Brothers Vick are currently living together at Michael's crib under assumed names. After his VT dismissal, Marcus made himself eligible for the NFL draft, where he will likely be selected as a running back or receiver. Vick is listed on the draft boards as "Jimmy Paraguay."

Vick the Elder believes Marcus will be exonerated. "No, I ain't mad," Michael Vick said. "He didn't do anything wrong. The world will all know when the truth comes out. There's only one Maurice Claret and Marcus ain't him."

Black Cop Infiltrates KKK

Ron Stallworth, an African American undercover cop, came forward this week with his tale of joining a Colorado Ku Klux Klan chapter in the 1970s. Stallworth perpetrated the scheme by answering a newspaper ad by telephone and using Klan buzz words. He exchanged numerous phone calls with Klan leader David Duke during his investigation. Duke would often mock and insult minorities during these calls.

Stallworth was considered one of the group's most loyal members, but the plot was uncovered when he was asked to lead their Colorado Springs chapter. "Well, obviously, it was an obstacle. When this whole investigation started, I honestly didn't think it was going to go very far," said Stallworth. "I answered this ad in the classifieds. I told him I was a pure Aryan, white man, which in and of itself is a joke. I said I had been the victim of racial prejudice because of the dominance of blacks, Jews, and Mexicans, and other minorities, except I used the racial terms that they liked to use referring to those groups."

Stallworth provided his general physical description, knowing that he had a friend in Narcotics who could pose as him. The KKK fell for the ruse when Stallworth's surrogate

provided fake ID. The surrogate was wired for sound, and was admitted by the Denver chapter.

“I talked to David Duke once or twice a week over the year that this investigation took place,” said Stallworth. “And David did tell me that he could tell I had a little fun. I asked him one time. I said, “Aren't you afraid of being infiltrated by the police or maybe some black person trying to get information on the group?” He said, no, he never worried about that.”

Stallworth continued, “He said, “I can always tell when I'm talking to a black man because they pronounce words and letters a certain way. And he said, “I can tell that you're a pure-blooded white man, because you don't pronounce your words in that manner.” And from that point on, I started pronouncing those words in that manner just to play with him.”

Though he has since retired from the force, Stallworth continues to work undercover. He is attempting to be hired by the NFL as a head coach and has targeted Matt Millen of the Detroit Lions as his principal target. “You never know. I might even get the job,” said Stallworth. “Maybe I could convince him that I was a Hall of Fame WR for the Stillers. I'm going to be in town for the Super Bowl, so I will call him then.”

The NFL league office was contacted to determine if their minority hiring failures merited investigation, but they did not return a call for comment on this story.



“David Duke and I are tight,” says Stallworth

Eat Your Heart Out, Roddick

The Look Man is not in the habit of watching professional tennis, but when scanning the Australian Open matches the other night, the image of Cypriot player Marcos (The Fall of) Baghdatis' shorty made him stop short. The attached shot of the comely Camille Nevier does not do her justice, but it may increase ratings for Baghdatis' upcoming match.

Baghdatis and Nevier have been knocking boots for awhile, and are said to be 'serious.' No doubt this will have an impact on Andy Roddick, who is dating superstar (How do you solve a problem like) Maria Sharapova.



Never say Never

ZEBRA OF THE WEEK

The Look Man predicted some well-officiated games based on the travesties that were Week 19. Perhaps that is why the league finally unveiled Ed (The Hulk) Hochuli for the NFC Conference Championship. Though he was Mr. Deliberate, the Hulk got it right and it looks as if he will be doing Super Bowl Extra Large as a reward.

Hochuli did a great job in picking up the hanky on the notorious illegal block in the back call that threatened to reverse a sensational punt return for six by Stevie Jingleheimer. He and his crew ruled correctly that the offensive player simply touched the potential tackler, and that the touch did not constitute a block. The TD counted, and it almost looked like Carolina could climb back into the game.

Hulk did miss a fumble on the Goings' noggin-rattling hit on Tatupu, but it is difficult to blame him. The Look Man himself was nearly concussed just witnessing that hit at home.

Terry (Bottlegate) McAulay did the Blitzburgh-Denver game, and for the most part, he allowed the players to determine the outcome. Bottlegate did not escape unscathed, based either on his lack of clock knowledge or that he bet a few bucks on the Donkeys.

McAulay must have seen the DVD Clockstoppers over the weekend because he stopped the clock at 10:25 in the 3rd; again at 6:50 in 3rd and twice in the fourth quarter. The rule states that the clock only stops on incomplete passes or out of bounds plays for the last two minutes of the first half and the last five minutes of the fourth quarter. Bottlegate's actions saved Denver nearly 4 minutes of game time, and gave them at least two extra possessions. Had the game been close, this could have been disastrous.

Terry, you are, without a doubt, the Look Man **Zebra of the Week!**

CELEBRITY OBIT OF THE WEEK

Wilson (Wicked) Pickett was born in Prattville, Alabama, the youngest of 11 children. Pickett grew up in poverty, but went on to become a rhythm and blues legend with such standards as *Mustang Sally*, *In the Midnight Hour* and many more. Pickett was also a popular songwriter, and his songs were recorded by Led Zeppelin, Van Halen, The Rolling Stones, Aerosmith, the Grateful Dead, Booker T. and the MGs, Genesis, Creedence Clearwater Revival, Hootie & the Blowfish, Bruce Springsteen, Los Lobos, and many others.

Pickett's early life in Alabama was marked by a tumultuous relationship with his mother. He once called her "the baddest woman in my book" recounting how she used to hit him with skilletts, stove wood and anything else in reach when he misbehaved. Pickett ran away from home and eventually moved to live with his father in Detroit.

The move allowed Pickett to participate in gospel music groups and meet the movers and shakers in the emerging Motown Sound. With his family struggling financially, he joined future legends Sam Cooke and Aretha Franklin in singing the more lucrative secular music. This move prompted his first major break, resulting in recording "I Found a Love," with The Falcons in 1962. Pickett sang lead vocals and the song went to #6 on the R&B charts.

Pickett's eventual breakthrough came with his signing with Stax Records in Memphis, where he recorded "In the Midnight Hour" in 1965 with house band Booker T. and the M.G.'s. Pickett would then leave Stax to record in a converted tobacco warehouse in Muscle Shoals, Alabama. Like James Brown, Pickett recorded some of his greatest hits in an out of the way location. It was there that he recorded "Mustang Sally" and "Funky Broadway," blending his unique voice with funky horns and nasty R&B guitar riffs.

Pickett never really maintained his early fame, descending into drug, alcohol and criminal lifestyle in the 80's. Although he was honored by the Cleveland Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1991, he remained a troubled soul, serving time in prison. Pickett began to experience major health issues in 2004, and his declining health eventually led to his death on January 19, 2005.

Pickett suffered a fatal heart attack at his Virginia home and was laid to rest next to his mother in Louisville, Kentucky. He was 64 years old.



Pickett in 1981

EPILOGUE

We have a two week wait for Super Bowl Extra Large and the Titanic clash between the Stillers and SheHawks. Despite being designated the home team, the Stillers will wear their road white. Superstition? Maybe, but if it ain't broke, don't fix it. As a road team, Cowher and the Stillers have worn white each week in the playoffs.

While the best Super Bowls have occurred with only a one week window, the NFL decided to go to a permanent two week hiatus in order to allow the teams and the league to make their arrangements. That, and the fact that it gives the imported prostitutes a chance to get into town and maximize their revenue. The pros should have a good case of mattress back by the time the game is actually played.