

THE LOOK MAN REPORT 2006
Supplement: The 2006 NFL Draft through Star-Shaped Glasses

*"Democracy is a device that ensures we shall be governed no better than we deserve."
George Bernard Shaw*

Prologue:

Before we begin, the following review is from LMR Correspondent GB Shaw. GB resides in the Great Southwest, but as a former Dallas resident, he brings America's Team into focus. He has been a faithful follower of the LMR since the late fifties, and he is a great sounding board for the Look Man with his contrarian viewpoint.

A few items of housekeeping:

- 1) The views expressed herein do not reflect the views of the Look Man, the LMR or the Tailpipe Nation. They are intended solely for the pleasure of the reading audience and any other use of this material without the express written consent of the Look Man is strictly prohibited.
- 2) Unlike his namesake, Shaw is from the Conservative Wing of the Party, as you will likely glean from his takes. If you haven't already guessed, the Look Man is big on irony.

Without further qualifications, the 2006 Dallas draft in review:

ESPN began its coverage of the NFL Draft one hour before the official start. One of the very first reporters was a perky, pretty girl I hadn't seen before. She was talking about the amazing story of how Mario Williams was going to Houston. Quoting the Texan's owner, she said: "He said, 'don't boo Mario Williams. If you have to boo anybody, boo me.' Boo him, he said, boo him. Boo ...mer?" she said awkwardly, passing the talking baton back to Chris Berman using Berman's nickname. For some reason, the line up of "Boo me, boo me, Boo ...mer" made me snicker for the rest of the day.

Thanks to The Look Man for letting me contribute to the post-Draft LMR. While I respect his point of view, his conspiracy theories are beginning to take on the same level of credence as a Mary Mapes-produced *60 Minutes II* story done by Dan Rather. The famed LMR author and managing editor once posited that the NFL Draft was the closest thing to a modern-day slave auction that we will ever see. My response was to point out that M.D.s specializing in brain surgery can only go to a few cities to practice, since advanced neurological techniques congregate in a handful of cities which, coincidentally, tend to be the same cities that are represented in the NFL, with the possible exceptions of Green Bay and Buffalo.

Without further ado, here's what a former Metroplexer thought of the Draft.

Round 1. Dallas had the 18th overall pick, and it took an eternity to get there. In the meantime there was so much caterwauling about Reggie Bush, a mis-used overall 8th pick by Buffalo, and poor, poor Matt Leinart, that I thought some college Republicans were conducting a bake sale right there in Radio City Music Hall, complete with a sliding price scale where white males have to pay the most. Indeed, James Carville immediately went on the air to shout that Mario's contract price went up due to a Bush conspiracy. Bill O'Reilly pointed out ad infinitum that it only costs \$5,000 to get Mario into a Texan's uniform, so the remainder of his contract *is for profit! He's profiteering off the folks! He gouging the fans!* Kiper's hair appeared capable of surviving a meteor impact, much like the truck in the Toyota ad. Michael Irvin was so giddy, especially towards the end of the day, that I think Berman had him drug-tested after the cameras turned off. The Cowboys selected Bobby Carpenter, LB from THE Ohio State University. Should young Mr. Carpenter earn his star after a summer of being Parcell's waterboy, he will have to wait until October 23 to announce his name and THE for the taped player introductions in Monday Night Football.

Round 2. With the 53rd overall pick, Dallas selected Anthony Fasano, TE, from the Fighting Irish. James Carville immediately went on the air to shout that, while it was perfectly okay to depict the Irish as diminutive and with an unnatural propensity to pick fights, one must never, ever adopt a mascot that reflects well on Native Americans. This pick may forecast a move to more 2-Tight End sets, but Fasano is supposed to be highly versatile, as a TE, H-back, I-back, or even half-back. Some other teams were doing things, but I didn't pay much attention to them. My son thought that Dallas should have traded up to get Justice from USC, but his stock was dropping faster than a Hillary Clinton short-sell in pharmaceuticals, similarly due to loose dealings with the law. The Iggles deserve him.

Round 3. Jason Hatcher, a DE from Grambling State, with the 74th overall. Again, Dallas picks up a DE and a LB early in the draft. All three of these picks were grabbed at positions lower than the Multi-Colored Fish Wrap had them in their last mock draft. James Carville immediately went on the air to claim that Dallas had "talked down the econo ... I mean, draft!"

Round 4. Nancy Pelosi wanted the NFL to immediately withdraw from Radio City Music Hall, apparently oblivious to the fact that that's where the action was. In the meantime, the Starheads picked up Skyler Green, listed as a Wide Receiver though he's really a punt returner, from my favorite college team, LSU. Apparently Mr. Green led the SEC in return yardage last year, and led the Nation during LSU's National Championship year ("shared" with USC, much as other politicians "share" their quotes with Joe Biden).

Round 5. With the 138th overall, Pat Watkins, Florida State Safety (a Seminole!), was selected, though you wouldn't know that by watching ESPN until several minutes later. The NFL channel, on the other hand, reported it quickly and accurately. ESPN was busy interviewing Herm Edwards, who, as he appeared on TV screens in Radio City Music

Hall, was loudly booed by the rowdy Jets fans in attendance. Jesse Jackson immediately went on the air to decry FEMA's role in the incident.

The Remainder. With one 6th round and two 7s, Dallas selected a Defensive Tackle from Louisville, an Offensive Tackle from Weber State, and a Center from the Red Raiders of Texas Tech. Rotsa ruck to all three in making the team.

Summary: The MCFW's mock draft, plus "best available" by position, was helpful, but hopelessly out of whack by the 20th overall. I couldn't help but to wonder about whose opinion should carry more weight – owners, GMs, and coaches, who have to actually perform, or sports writers who are almost never held to account for their mistakes. I did note that ESPN carried no footage of the Draft Central office out at Valley Ranch, nor did they make any references to Carpenter being Parcell's water boy, as are all Dallas 1st rounders. The NFL channel did both. I was relieved at not having to listen to Theesman and his pointless blubberings, but eventually became highly irked at the Giants/Jets-heavy gallery, booing everything not-New York in general (though they did hoot at Buffalo a bit), and NFC-East in particular. I think next year, the Draft should be move out of New York, and to a non-football town ... like San Francisco.

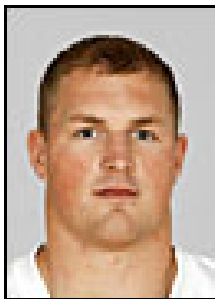
For the Look Man Report, this is "George Bernard Shaw" (I have, in fact, petitioned for another moniker, but haven't gotten there yet) saying:

Later...

Editor's Notes:

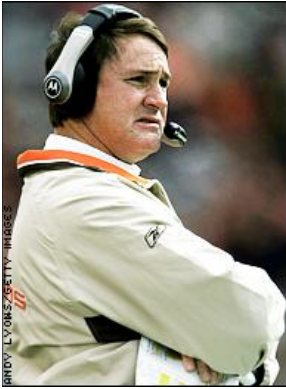
Dallas Fan has always been anti-Theismann, ever since he changed the pronunciation of his name to match that of the trophy honoring the highest paid, er...most accomplished collegiate player. It doesn't help that he played for Dallas' hated rival, the Genocide Victims, or that he is one of the few former players to get a nose job.

Speaking of jobs, the Look Man wonders why the Pokes selected Anthony (Big Tony) Fasano when they already have the best TE in the NFC. With all due respect to Alge (Cyanobacteria) Crumpler of the ATL, Witten is the Man. Now, (Little Christopher) J. Witten may be sleeping with the fishes now that Big Tony has arrived from Jersey. It won't be long before Uncle Jerry looks to create a new dish down at the Pork Store.



"Fuggedaboudid!"

One good point is the battle between ESPN and NFL Network draft coverage. The Look Man refused to watch the NFL Network for a few reasons: (1) any network that would include Butch (Hurricane Boy) Davis as a “draft expert” loses all credibility. Does anyone remember that he drafted William Green ahead of Clinton Portis? (2) it seems dishonest for a sports consortium to run a network featuring its sport. Cases in point: Atlanta Hawks/Braves on Turner Broadcasting and the Cubs on Tribune’s WGN.



Hello, NFL Network?

The third reason the Look Man watched ESPN instead of the NFL Network is that “perky pretty girl” mentioned by Shaw. Suzy Kolber is best remembered as the young lady with whom an inebriated Broadway Joe Namath embarrassed himself on Monday Night Football (“...Ah jus’ wanna kiss’yooo...”). Granted, Joe can hardly be blamed. Ms. Kolber’s bedroom eyes could make a blind man talk about seeing again. Her sex appeal nearly jumps off the screen. Now, with ESPN taking over MNF, we can at least look forward to more of her, and less of the other sideline hags at ABC. Like Theismann.



A sober Mark Brunell keeps his eye on the ball...

As regards a new moniker for our erstwhile correspondent, we look to Larry King Live: “HAVASU CITY HATFIELD! You’re on the air. “ GB, you’re now off the Budweiser Hot Seat.

Peace,

The Look Man