

## **The Look Man Report 2006**

### **Week 7: May I Have My Quarterback?**

*“Sure, luck means a lot in football. Not having a good quarterback is bad luck.” - Don Shula, HOF Football Coach, 1994*

#### **OPENING**

Week Six featured Alcoa Fantastic Finishes in Atlanta, Kansas City and Tampa, where each outcome rode on the leg of a kicker. Field goals decided the outcomes, and in Tampa and KC, the special teamers went long distance for the W. Tampa K Matt Bryant did his best Tom Dempsey impression with a 62-yard effort to thwart a furious comeback by the Iggles.

Elsewhere in the NFC, da Bearz were taking a siesta while Minnesota and Seattle duked it out big time in Coffeetown. Several AFC teams decided to turn the tables on their NFC brethren, with Jersey, Cincy, and Indy breaking out their respective cans of whoopass. Perhaps ‘whoopass’ is too strong a term for the Cincy win, but it certainly applied in the Ponies, who hit back hard when the Genocide Victims tried to turn Peyton Manning into a human pretzel.

The most interesting game of the week came on Monday Night Football, where the upstart Jyntz defeated the favored Pokes. The game included a full blown QB controversy in Dallas after Drew (Big Bum) Bledsoe ignored the play call and threw yet another red zone pick just before halftime. Bill (Tuna) Parcells retaliated by inserting backup Tony Romo (the Place for Ribs) after the half. Romo answered the fans cheers with a pick on his first pass.

The last time Dallas had a quarterback controversy it centered around Craig Morton and some tenth round pick from the naval academy. Head coach Tom Landry alternated starters to determine which one would rise to the top. He even went as far as to alternate the two QBs by possession, with disastrous results. When he finally settled on Roger Staubach, his guy ended up as the only tenth round pick in the Hall of Fame. The other guy started a salt company with the slogan, “When it rains, it pours.”

Pokes owner and GM Jerry (The King of Pop) Jones was discouraged. "I'm disappointed at the reason we're having to make this change," Jones said. “McCauley Caulkin suggested we stay with Drew. Apparently, the other guy didn't even know about my *Thriller* album. Hee hee!”

#### **WEEK IN REVIEW:**

##### **Carolina at Cincy:**

This one wasn't much of a contest as the Black Cats sprinted to a 7-0 lead and threatened to turn this into a laugher. Larry Nemmerskull helped the Bengals tie it up, and turn the contest into a, well, contest.

This one hinged on the gutsy 4<sup>th</sup> and 1 gamble that turned into a 32-yard pickup by Chad (The Dentist) Johnson. (Johnny) Carson Palmer threw a fantastic ball and The Dentist made an exceptional catch. Afterwards, the Black Cats gave it away with a red zone pick instead of a game tying FG.

It was a great call by the usually conservative Marvin Lewis. His defense made adjustments at the half, and Carolina OC Dan Henning did not. As a result, the Black Cats lost one they should have won, and now face a battle for the NFC South.

*Philly at Tampa:*

The Expensive Corn Kings jumped out to a big lead on a scorching hot day in Tampa. It's unclear whether it was the pickle juice and Gatorade cocktail or the heat that made Donovan McNabb puke in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter. Perhaps he simply saw the replays of his defense at halftime.

Chucky's team had trouble keeping its feet on the gas in the heat. What should have been a blowout turned out to be a squeaker won by the kicker. "I never really saw it go through," said K Matt (Anita) Bryant. "Somebody mauled me and I heard the cannon, so I figured it was good."

Mauled is not too strong a word, as TE Anthony Becht pulled Bryant's helmet down over his eyes before tackling the diminutive kicker to the turf. Philly's head walrus, Andy Reid, heard two cannons, with the first being the sound of Bryant's foot striking the rock. "We had to check his shoe to make sure there was no steel plate in it," said the Walrus II. "Dempsey only had half a foot, but his kid's shoe was harder than Holyfield's head. Rahman's head looked like an NBA basketball with eyes painted on after that fight."

The loss knocked Philly into a precarious spot in the NFC Least Division, and based upon the Dallas-Jynts game there would be a new division leader and bellcow in the NFC. More importantly, it constituted the third ignominious loss by the Iggles, who lost buzzer beaters to the Jynts in OT and New Orleans. The 91F in Tampa was nothing compared to the heat now felt by the front running cheesesteak eaters. Their offensive laziness is like a chicken coming home to roost.

*Minnesota at Seattle (-6.5):*

The Swedes low scoring offense came to life with a little help from the D. Matt (Hair Club for Men) Hasselback got the Kimo von Wilkes-Booth treatment, and will miss three weeks with a knee. The game was tight up until that point, and the Swedes exploded offensively afterwards.

The Purple Helmet Wearers won the right to play Tom (Zoolander) Brady and the Chowds at the Baggie Dome next week. These guys are one of the sleeper teams in the conference, and this one might have been a playoff preview.

*San Diego at KC:*

Kansas City knocked off the surging Lightning Bolts courtesy of a staunch defense and plenty of offense. One had to wonder what would happen when Marty Schottenheimer met up with another of his protégés in Herm Edwards.

The result was definitely not Marty-ball, as the teams combined for 57 points at Arrowhead. The impending suspension of All Pro LB Shawne Merroidman and the injury to OLB Shaun Phillips certainly played a role in the outcome.

*Blitzburgh at Hotlanta:(+2.5)*

Atlanta hosted the Game of the Week, with a 41-38 OT thriller over Blitzburgh. Mike (Ron Mexico) Vick made good on his threat to become a real NFL QB, throwing for 232

yards and four TDs. Mr. Mexico did this to a feisty Stillers defense, and in spite of four offensive TDs for the opposition. Three of those scores came courtesy of (Big) Ben Roethlisberger, who continued his Summer of George with a concussion that knocked him into November. Bill Cowher then uploaded Charlie Batch (File) for the last TD, but the Dirty Birds put the game away in OT. After a roughing the kicker call on long distance kicker Mike Koenen, Jim (Gepetto) Mora went Bobby Cox, calling upon octogenarian closer Morten Andersen to seal the deal.

The GOTW featured seven lead changes, and nearly 900 yards of offense. The Dirty Birds were able to run on the Tissue Paper Curtain defense, which played its second game in a row without Joey Porter (Paints). More importantly, Ron Mexico passed like a pro to targets like Alge (Cyanobacteria) Crumpler, who held on to the ball for a change. Blue Green Alge and his receiving teammates had been on the side of milk cartons all over the South for the last few weeks, in large part because of the dropsies.

The ATL rebounded from a tough week where Vick challenged his coaching staff to use his left arm instead of his two legs. Vick has been pounded this season due to the resurrection of the college option in the ATL. Against the rugged Stillers, Vick mixed in a few nice passes which his receivers gobbled up. WR Michael Jenkins made a particularly nice one-handed TD grab, and Troy Polomalu helped himself to one of two picks by Vick. The Stillers couldn't keep Ron Mexico in the pocket, and once he gets outside, he is like a teenager at Senor Frog's in Cancun.

#### *Jynts at Dallas (-3) – MNF:*

In the Look Ahead segment, the Look Man said the following last week: *Unless (the G-Men) can get pressure up the gut on the Dallas O-line, Bledsoe and Company will pick (the Jynts) apart.*

Well, suffice it to say that New York got plenty of pressure up the gut, courtesy of Lavar (Roots) Arrington, Strahan and the rest of the defense. Although some of the pressure was due to the blitz, stunts, coverage and missed blocking assignments played a role. Pokes RB Julius Jones and TE Anthony (Big Tony) Fasano never saw a block they couldn't avoid, and these guys must be on Romo's payroll. They nearly got Bledsoe killed - - - repeatedly.

Parcells inserted the Place for Ribs after the half, and the backup QB promptly threw a pick on an ill advised rollout pass. Apparently, it was Ribs Night at Irving, because he threw a Bledsoe Special for six to the other team. Memo to the Pokes coaches: ditch the 'out' pattern in the red zone package, fellas.

Romo may be an upgrade to the heart rending Bledsoe, but the Pokes are in the top 5 in the NFL in negative turnover ration since 2003. Owner Jerry (The King of Pop) Jones does not seem happy with Tuna's decision to bench Bledsoe, and his TO acquisition is beginning to look like money up a pig's butt.

The worst part about the change is the Terrell Owens reaction. When asked about his 8-yard TD from Romo, TO told the press that he already had better chemistry with Romo than he ever did with Bledsoe. "I looked across the formation and he looked at me and he knew what was going on," Owens said. "It's just two players making a play. I love me some me."

When queried about why he and Big Boi never developed a similar bond, Owens added, "I honestly tried to do that time and time again," he said. "But for whatever reason it didn't happen. Maybe he is gay or something."

## **LAGNIAPPE**

### Chess Notation:

Thuggish behavior has become the norm in football, and it is bad for the game. Football is a sweet science that is effectively a chess match to obtain a one man advantage at the point of attack. If a QB sees that advantage, he is morally obligated to check down at the line and take advantage.

The Cincinnati Bengals, Albert Haynesworth, and the Miami Hurricanes are a threat to the NFL Marketing Machine. This machine has even gone so far as to eliminate the hard hits and exploding helmet pregame montages. The league and the NFLPA cannot allow perceived lawlessness to ruin the game, and they need to rein it in. First to go should be ESPN's *Jacked Up*, which influences defensive players to issue highlight reel hits instead of solid tackles. The results are never shown, because they often lead to guys scoring after bouncing off these 'tackles.'

The league has made dubious calls that send mixed messages. They allowed Trent Green to be decapitated, Hair Club for Men and Mr. Tonight Show to be knee-capped, and Big Ben was blasted into next month, all without major consequence. If the league wants to send a message, it should issue 4 week suspensions for defensive players who abuse QBs. No one wants to see Damon (The Omen III) Huard against Bruce (The New Polish Rifle) Gradkowski in the Super Bowl. Peyton Manning's playoff reservation nearly got canceled twice when the GV defense tried to break him in half last Sunday.

Already this season we have seen numerous guys nearly getting their heads ripped off by their facemasks, hair tackles, and guillotine hits. The downside is twofold: (1) bad roughing the passer calls that are ticky tack, and (2) pregame videos featuring awful music, Pink, and policemen turning into Zebras. The league needs to address the dichotomy before it results in reduced viewership.

Every team needs a few guys with bad intentions in order to compete. Unfortunately, there is no formula, and when there are too many bad guys, you reach critical mass. Or, you simply put striped helmets on and pretend you care about character.

### Art Lovers:

The Nati's first round flop David (Jackson) Pollack was featured in the local fishwrap for doing charity at a children's hospital. Pollack made news again this week, as one of his paintings sold for \$53K at auction. The painting has yet to be authenticated, but another Pollack painting sold for \$11.7 million at a 2004 auction in New York. Just imagine what the artwork might have fetched if the halo-adorned Pollack had been killed on the field?

### Hit & Run

The old lady who ran over Big Ben's motorcycle is now living in Indy after her name and address were released in the Blitzburgh Gazette. The old lady went Bartman, relocating to Indy in the Fan Witness Protection Program.

Now that same woman has been implicated in another accident. Turns out she was the other driver in the accident with starting Colts DT Montae (Hall) Reagor. While en route

to the game in his SUV, Reagor was T-boned by the old lady, flipping his rig and tossing him onto the injured list with a broken orbital bone.

Montae Hall was not wearing a seatbelt. "Alex Trebek had a similar accident, and he wasn't wearing a seat belt, so I wanted to show I was just as tough a game show host as he was."

The part-time game show host is not expected to play this week against the Donkeys, but he has been replaced by new acquisition Booger McFarland. No word on when Hall will be cleared by the doctors to drive "A BRAND NEW CAR!"

## **ZEBRA OF THE WEEK**

This week really had no horrible officiating, but there was plenty of competition.

S Roy (Rogers) Williams has not received a lot of help from the free safety, and he got no love from the Back Judge on Monday Night. In the Jynts-Pokes game, the zebra fell directly in front of him, taking away a chance at the pick on Plexiglass' first TD. "Man, there was gonna either be a pick, or a lot of glass all over the field," said Roy Rogers. "I was just getting my spurs into Trigger when that tangle-footed yahoo got in my way. Where's Marshall Dillon when you need him?"

The Zebras followed that up with an incomplete pass call on Eli Manning's fumble deep in Jynts territory, and an 'in the grasp' call that negated Dallas field position. Here's a little suggestion to the Zebras: when a QB is over 220, you might want to verify that he is actually going to get tackled with the ball before you call the sack.

Larry Nemmerskull did the Black Cats-Bengals game, gift wrapping a tying TD to the Bengals with three defensive penalties on one drive. The drive was like CPR for a moribund Bengals offense, providing them with first half points and a breather for a defense about to implode.

There was one other game of note with respect to officiating. Stillers owner Dan Rooney went off the reservation with brutal criticism of the refs. He should have reserved some of the criticism for the Tissue Paper Curtain, which gave it up like a porn star. The Look Man has long criticized the use of the sideline timeout, and Cowher used one to negate a 56-yard field goal make in regulation.

It's bad enough that the Delay of Game call has been essentially eliminated by the sideline timeout, but this has gotten ridiculous. Player captains should be the only sanctioned timeout callers, or else the game gets a little silly.

So fittingly, the NFL Competition Committee is the Look Man's **Zebra of the Week**.

## **THE LOOK AHEAD:**

There were some juicy games that could have gone either way in Week 7. Unfortunately, the Look Man took the wrong side in nearly all of them. It would be great if the Zebras were to blame, but teams simply decided that they needed to prove something in Week 7. Now, in Week 8, the proof will be had in the ability to bounce back after a physical game to win two in a row.

The Look Man's Week Eight Picks.

*Frisco at Chicago (-16):*

It is a little known fact that Chicago is terrible after bye weeks. They lost to Cleveland following the bye in 2005, and they were exposed in the “win” over Arizona. Niners O-Coordinator Norv Turner takes advantage of the knowledge by blasting the Bears injury-depleted secondary.

Any team with a quick release QB, good TE, and big wide receivers can dominate the Bears. The Niners have ex-Brown Antonio Bryant, TE Eric Johnson, and big back Frank (Inconvenient Truth) Gore. Bryant scored two TDs against the Bears last year in Cleveland, so if Alex Smith can deliver the rock, the Niners handle the Monsters of the Furniture Mart. The key is to keep your foot on the throttle for 60 minutes by taking your Buddy Love potion. Frisco covers for sure in the Pepto Bismol Upset of the Week.

*Hotlanta at Cincy: (-4.5)*

This is the toughest pick of the week for the Look Man. The ATL is coming off of a physical game against the Stillers, and the Bengals get back talented WR Chris (O) Henry. Chad (The Dentist) Johnson decided to celebrate the NFL’s Hispanic Heritage Month by crowning himself “Ocho Cinco” and calling Dirty Bird CB DeAngelo ‘Falls.’ If you missed the video, check out the text here.

<http://news.enquirer.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20061026/SPT02/610260334/1066>



*Mohawk No More?*

Atlanta’s D-line is really dinged up, and the Bengals look to run the ball to set up the deep ball. If the Stillers can carve up the Atlanta secondary, what do you think the Bengals will do? Fortunately, the run happens to be the Achilles heel of the Ugly & Black, and if Vick and Company can keep the offense off of the field, they could win a war.

Look for plenty of no-huddle offense by Cincy to tire out the undermanned Falcons defense. Vick counters by getting outside the pocket and putting the ball in the hands of Alge Crumpler. Rookie LB Ahmad Brooks has looked solid in the middle, but he has not had to prove his pass coverage skills. The Bengals move LB Brian Simmons to the outside to contain Vick, then back inside on third down and long in the dime package.

The Look Man likes the Dirty Birds, who will respond to the smack talking with pressure and picks, in that order. They knocked Big Ben out, and Mr. Tonight Show really hates pressure. The Zebras get involved, but the Dirty Birds cover to make this shootout a FG affair.

Dallas at Carolina: (-5.5)

Romo-QB takes his rib burn off on the road to Carolina, which is seething after losing a winnable game in Cincy last week. The Black Cats defense looked pedestrian against the Bengals, so look for them to try to sample Romo's ribs.

Carolina features ex-Poke Keyshawn Johnson, who would love nothing more than to stick it to his former team. Key and Steve (Jacob Jingleheimer) Smith make mincemeat of the Doomsday Lite secondary, covering the spread, and continuing the downward spiral for Dallas.

Tampa Bay at Jyns: (-9)

This game is being called the Barber Bowl, as Ronde takes on twin brother Tiki in the Big Apple. Ronde and the Corn Kings have started to jell, and if the New Polish Rifle can take advantage of a beat up G-Men defense, they have a shot.

The Corn Kings have made hay in the warmth of the Big Sombrero in Tampa, and this will be their first road test. They will need to get pressure on Eli Manning, who is known for giving up the rock when pressured. The Look Man looks for a letdown after the big division win in Dallas, where the hits were brutal. Look for the Corn Kings to cover the big spread.

Seattle at KC: (-6.5)

Trent Green is now moving around with a walker, but he is likely toast for 2006. Backup Damon (The Omen III) Huard looks decent, and HCFM has been replaced by Seneca (Laxative) Wallace. The Shehawks defense steps up, allowing the 'hawks to cover.

Blitzburgh at Oakland: (+9)

Cowher looks to insert Big Ben despite the concussion, largely because New England is next. Iron Chin doesn't want to cool off Berger, who has 5 TDs and no picks the last two weeks. Stillers win, but Oakland covers.

Aeronauticals at Cleveland: -1.5

Browns Fan forced the resignation of Mo Carthon by leaving in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter against hated rival Denver. Both head coaches are former Chowds, but Mangini has looked better than Crennel, who is the next to go in C-Town. When in doubt, always take the fatter coach. Jets cover and win as the Browns players vote with their feet.

Indy at Denver: +3

This sounded like the game of the week, but Manning turns Investigation Field into Peyton's Place. For some reason, the Ponies own the Donkeys, and they send them to the glue factory early in this AFC playoff preview.

This game also sets up the next QB controversy, after Jake the Fake Plummer goes color blind. Jay Cutler is waiting in the wings, and Shanahan is not too enamored with the single digit wins. Indy wins, and Cutler plays in mop up.

New England at Minnesota: (+2.5)

The Swedes are quietly improving. They knocked Hair Club for Men out last week with a dirty hit, but their scoring makes the difference. Once their offense really clicks, they will be deadly.

Unfortunately, they are going up against Dr. Evil and the Chowds, who are coming off the bye week. Dr. Evil is tough enough without two weeks preparation time, and the Swedes are in for a war. Chowds win a tough one after the Shehawks physical game last week for Minnesota.

San Diego at St. Louise: (+9)

This could be one of the best of the week, as St. Louise looks to take their chance to create separation in the NFC West. With Hair Club for Men out with a knee, they can make up ground in the NFC West by pounding the Bolts with the ground game. Merroidman has gotten a stay in order to play, but there is simply too much controversy in Schottenheimer-ville. Lambs cover AND win this statement game.

**EPILOGUE**

We are nearing the halftime in the NFL season, and no real dominant team has yet emerged. The next few weeks will tell the tale, as Denver takes on Indy and Blitzburgh, and New England faces Minnesota and Indy. As usual, the Bengals are the luckiest team in the league, facing San Diego without starting LBs Merroidman and Phillips, as well as Atlanta coming off of the Stillers, and a Baltimore team that is reeling.

Over in the NFC, the Bears will face the Jynts in the first flex schedule game, and Dallas gets three consecutive road games with Romo at the helm. The Shehawks are looking at life without Matt (Hair Club for Men) Hasselback, and the Lambs and Vikings have a chance to get on a roll.

The Look Man is uncertain how all of this will shake out, but the Jets may be one beneficiary if the rest of the AFC beats each other up. The Jets are stringing together some wins, and they could be the surprise team of 2006. The Look Man will paraphrase Wilford Brimley's line from The Thing: "Watch the Jets, you hear *we*? Watch 'em close."

The return of Stokely and Sanders from injury should help Indy more than the loss of S Mike Doss. Peyton Manning is doing an incredible job this season without Edgerrin James, and Joseph (Live and Let) Addai has looked better and better. They need to ratchet up the running game, and run defense, but that tough game against the Genocide Victims served notice that a physical defense no longer dictates to the Ponies.

BTW, don't forget to exercise your responsibility to vote on November 7. Otherwise, you may actually be going for more than a banana in your tailpipe.

Peace,

The Look Man