

## **The Look Man Report 2006** **Week XVIII: A Charlie Brown Field Goal**

*"The path of the righteous man is beset on all sides by the iniquities of the selfish and the tyranny of evil men. Blessed is he who, in the name of charity and good will, shepherds the weak through the valley of the darkness. For he is truly his brother's keeper and the finder of lost children. And I will strike down upon thee with great vengeance and furious anger those who attempt to poison and destroy my brothers. And you will know I am The Lord when I lay my vengeance upon you." - Ezekiel 25:17.*

### **OPENING**

Jules Winnfield made this biblical quote famous in the Quentin Tarrantino film classic *Pulp Fiction*. Like Clint Eastwood spitting in *The Outlaw Josey Wales*, it signified that bad things were about to happen to someone.

The movie also includes a defining scene for Samuel L. Jackson, who attempts to explain the quotation to an ignoramus in a hostage situation. Jackson explains that he was never sure if he was the tyranny, or if it was the folks he was about to kill. In the NFL version, the Football Gods smite the evil for selfishness, the lack of charity and good will.

Seattle and Philly survived the wildness of Wild Card Week, while Indy and New England staked their claims for Wild Card supremacy in the AFC. The games were all close with the exception of the Jets at New England, where a 37-16 beatdown marred the Parity Parade. Of course, that beatdown validated what Chowds Fan had been saying all week while simultaneously shutting up Jets Fan. It also signaled the beginning of the media frenzy to jump on board the Chowd Bandwagon.

What was overlooked in the Wild Card round was horrible coaching. In every single case, the better coach won in Week 17, despite the presence of two of the worst clock managers in league history. Despite desperate attempts by Mike (The Walrus) Holmgren and Andy (The Walrus II) Reid, these two coaches were able to *scumbo* their way to the next round. And in the case of the Original Walrus, it was via a horribly coached game by celebrated Bill (Big Tuna) Parcells. The Tuna was tossed out of the playoffs like a king salmon at the Pike Street Market.

All in all, Wild Card week was very competitive, and the games lived up to the title. All four of the home teams won, and as the Divisional Playoffs begin, the balance favors them again. It doesn't look good for visitors in this round, but stranger things have happened. In the NFL, that's why they play the games.

Without further Seattle inside jokes, the Week in Review:

### **WEEK IN REVIEW**

*Jynts (20) at Iggles (23):*

The Iggles and Jynts had an instant classic on the other side of last week's bracket, ending with some crazy clock management, and a long, game winning field goal by southpaw David (Green) Akers. The game featured some solid hitting, and even better running by HB Brian Westbrook, whose 49-yard TD scamper was one of the best runs of the 2006 season.

Dallas (20) at Seattle (21):

Well, there wasn't any spitting or biblical quotations in the Dallas-Seattle game, but the mere presence of Terrell Owens meant that bad things were about to happen. There may be some question whether Ezekiel could have envisioned the evil tyranny of TO, but the Football Gods definitely laid some serious karmic vengeance on the Pokes, who lost a game in the most ignominious fashion since the Cleveland Browns AFC Championship losses in the Eighties.

The game went back and forth, with each coach making incredibly idiotic mistakes. It culminated in the fourth quarter, when the Walrus went for it on fourth and goal, only to be denied. After the ball was placed on the one foot line, Parcells called a smoke screen to Terry (She) Glenn, who allowed a rookie CB to poke it out into the end zone. Fittingly, the ball was batted around and recovered for an apparent TD.

LB Lofa Tatupu nearly made an incredible play by batting the ball back into the end zone for his teammates. Unfortunately, review correctly showed that he was out of bounds, and the two point safety got the Shehawks right back in business. They also scored on the subsequent possession to open up a one point lead. That's when it got interesting.

The Walrus correctly went for a two point conversion, but failed. When Dallas got the ball, all they needed was to eat clock and score a TD to ice the contest. Tony (The Place for Ribs) Romo got them into the red zone when all Hell broke loose.

TE Jason Witten caught an apparent first down at the 1 yard line as Tatupu allowed zero YAC. The line judge was way out of position, but the clock was under two minutes, so the booth called for a replay. Surely enough, the first down was overturned, setting up a fourth and goal from the two.

Parcells correctly went for the field goal, but bad clock management left 1:14 on the clock even if he hit it. The resultant snap muff by Romo was a cluster, but the athletic QB nearly got the first down anyway. Romo's run was truncated by a great tackle by safety Jordan Babineaux, who was able to turn a FG block attempt into a game saving tackle. If Romo gets even 12 more inches, Dallas gets a first and goal and Seattle doesn't get another possession.

Ironically, diminutive PK Martin (Automatica) Gramatica failed to block Babineaux, allowing the tackle. One has to wonder whether the larger framed Mike (Dr. Yankenstein) Vanderjagt would have had more success.



*Did Romo's new girlfriend make him bobble?*

*KC (8) at Indy (23):*

Over in the AFC, the Ponies defense rose up and showed the press that even a blind squirrel finds a nut sometimes. In-ianapolis got its "D" back by stuffing Larry (Grandmama) Johnson and holding KC to zero first downs for three quarters. It was one of the ugliest games in recent memory, courtesy of the Ponies defense and Peyton Manning doing his best Elaine Benes dance impression in the pocket.

Manning threw three unforced picks, and forced Ponies Fan to moan, "Sweet fancy Moses" repeatedly. The good news was that TE Dallas (Dwight) Clark is back, and he was open like Seven Eleven. RB Joseph (Live and Let) Addai was also running, blocking and generally making a nuisance of himself to KC.

When it was all said and done, the Ponies D shut up the media, which said it couldn't be done. Of course, they got help from KC Coach Herm Edwards, who should've pulled an obviously injured and ineffective Trent Green. Keeping TE Tony (Speedy) Gonzalez in was yet another coaching error. Herm was just "keeping it real" for his homie, Lovie (Thurston Howell III) Smith, who was at the game just to see what a real QB looked like.

*Jets (16) at Chowds (37):*

The most irritating game of the day award went to Jets at Chowds, where the Jets defenders single-handedly put Tom (Zoolander) Brady into the Hall of Fame. Chowds Fan has long felt that Zoolander is the greatest thing since sliced bread, and his 11-1 playoff record after Sunday supports the theory. What doesn't pass the smell test are the four picks dropped by New York defenders, and two of those could easily have been of the pick-six variety.

Further, the Zebras added their typical Chowder love with their Quick Draw McGraw flags for offensive holding on New York. At least one of these came on a perfectly legitimate block by WR Justin McCareins, who had pinned his guy on a nice stretch run

by RB Leon (The Finger) Washington. The first down run was negated by the flag, and the youthful Jets could not overcome the psychological impact of attempting to beat the Chowds AND the Zebras. The 23-16 fourth quarter score with ten minutes remaining quickly became a 37-16 blowout as a result.

The Look Man's lack of love for the Chowds may be cited, but here is the ominous news for New England: Despite a 101.6 QB rating, Dr. Evil refused to allow Zoolander to chuck the rock in the fourth quarter. Instead, he ran the football for fear that Brady would throw a pick that would change the momentum and let New York back into the game. New England couldn't celebrate this one until Chad Pennington went Easy Bake Oven with multiple turnovers.

Afterwards, Brady crowed, "They are really good, and they really concerned us coming in. This is a team that outplayed us and beat us here during the season. We had a lot of respect for them." What really happened was that the offensive coordinator kept telling him on the headset, "...run it again..." out of fear that Brady would turn it over. And fear is no way to play against the best team in the NFL, which happens to reside in SoCal.

## **LAGNIAPPE**

### Pillsbury Throw Boy?

The Jynts inserted backup quarter(got)back Jared (The Hefty Lefty) Lorenzen into the game twice in short yardage situations with mixed results. The Hefty Lefty sneaked for a first down once, but was forced to call a critical timeout on the other, in order to eat a doughnut.

Coach Coughlin cost his team the game with bad clock management. If the Iggles can't run out the clock, Eli Manning gets a chance to go no-huddle, where he has flourished. Who knows if he could have gone to OT against a historically snake bitten Iggles team?

### Roc-A-Fella Records

That was a Roc-A-Fella Records logo that Baby Backs RB Larry (Grandmama) Johnson had shaved into his dome. Grandmama was going back to his hip-hop roots with the haircut, but it failed to have the desired effect on his rushing yardage. As an homage to Grandmama, Peyton Manning is expected to go with a huge Richard and Karen Carpenter tattoo on his throwing arm against Baltimore.

### The Croc Hunter

Monday night featured the BCS Championship game between the Florida Crocodiles and THE Ohio State Luckeyes. The 41-14 final score was a definitive answer to the BCS question of which one of these teams is better.

What wasn't answered was why Boise State and other teams get no shot to determine the real national champion. Also, why OSU coach Jim Tressell didn't pull QB Troy Smith, who clearly had 'an ankle' that made him an ineffective passer or runner. When linked with the early injury to WR Ted Ginn, Jr., the Luckeyes luck ran out.

Genocide Vix coach George Allen was fond of saying that "...luck is the intersection of preparation and opportunity." It is pretty clear that Florida was prepared, but the failure of Tressell to adjust in-game was the difference. Despite the final score, the clear turning point was Tressell going for a 4<sup>th</sup> and 1 inside his own thirty. There are some things that coaches should never do, and this is number one on the list.

BTW, RB Chris Wells actually got that first down, but received a horrible spot from the Pac-10 officials. The zebras weren't the reason that OSU lost, but they certainly weren't giving them any love, either.

## **ZEBRA OF THE WEEK**

The best games are those in which the Zebras actually swallow the whistles. The Look Man never advocates wholesale holding, but a little physical play never hurts in the playoffs. Zebras, like kids, are better seen, but not heard.

Last week, officials didn't exactly disappear, but only two of the contests actually called for outright investigation. Here are the Look Man's findings:

*Pokes at Shehawks* – Zebra Walt (Disney) Anderson actually gets high marks for correctly calling some close ones in this game. The interception by Pokes Roy (Rogers) Williams on the sideline and the Lofa Tatupu end zone save come to mind.

Disney was actually watchable in this game, but the failure of the Line Judge Gary Arthur to get into position on the Witten 'first down' late in the game was critical. Arthur could be seen telling players to "shut up" when they began jawing about the call on field. Even Troy Aikman correctly mentioned that there was no definitive replay that would overturn the first down that was called on the field. Still, Disney went reality in his version of Castle Rock films, and made the correct call.

*Jets at New England* – Zebra Bill (The Czech Winemaker) Vinovich was very creative with the calls. Not only did the zebras deal out the linen whenever the Jets looked to have an explosive play, they broke the spirits of the youthful Jets team.

You could see the Jets tackling Tom Brady as if he were composed of crystal, so that they would not incur the brutal Roughing the Passer call. But the worst call may have been a no-call.

When Pennington threw the lateral that was batted and nearly intercepted by LB Ro Colvin, Belichick actually ran onto the field to yell at his defense to retrieve the rock. The film clearly shows Dr. Evil on the field, then running down the field toward the goal line with mammoth DT Vince Wilfork.

The Look Man is wondering when it became legal to coach while on the field. The correct call would have been Unsportsmanlike Conduct on Belichick, with an additional foul for wearing that ugly cutoff hoodie. Irrespective, the numerous offensive holding calls on New York were enough to give The Czech Winemaker the award.

Bill Vinovich, you are the Look Man's **Zebra of the Week!**

## **THE LOOK AHEAD:**

*Indianapolis at Baltimore (-4)*

Manning and his Snoopy Dance are on the road in Baltimore this week. It represents another great opportunity for the Indy D to play the Disrespect Card based upon the love that the Dumpster Duck D is getting. While the Look Man likes the aggressiveness of the Ducks D, a good team can take advantage of it. Cleveland's backup QB was able to

complete thirteen passes in a row on Baltimore, so if Peyton doesn't go *Soul Train*, he has a chance to do something special.

The negatives for Indy:

- Joseph (Live and Let) Addai is too small to block LBs Bart (Simpson) Scott and Adalius Thomas in blitz mode. If he or RB Dominic Rhodes fail to keep these guys off Manning, it will be *Cry, Cry Again* for the Ponies;
- Marvin Harrison is dinged up, and has to face safety Ed (Can't) Reed. Reed has decleared a lot of good receivers with impunity in 2006, and Starvin' Marvin isn't known for taking big shots well;
- Dallas (Dwight) Clark is back, but his bad knee could get a workout against a very physical defense. This matchup is a key, because if Baltimore can blitz and cover Clark, Manning will be hearing "Cut that meat!" all day long.

The pick:

The Look Man likes the Ponies, but this will be a good litmus test. If Manning can man up, they can beat a Baltimore team that simply cannot score with them. If Manning chokes, he will become a current day version of Dan Marino. Ponies cover and win in a dramatic win for Snoop Dawg.

#### Philadelphia at New Orleans (-4.5)

New Orleans has become America's New Team in 2006, but this matchup could be a tough one. The Look Man likes the Boy Scouts to win this one and deny the Iggles another chance at The Brass Ring. It won't be easy, because these are the two hottest teams in the NFC.

Philly Phan has ticked off the Football Gods with his incessant complaining. These guys have the third best record over the last six years, right behind New England and Blitzburgh. Yet, Iggles Fan is crying about them not winning the Big One, and even wanted to fire Andy (The Walrus II) Reid mid-season. The Walrus II is a bad clock manager, but he deserves Coach of the Year recognition. Reid stole a COTY from Herm Edwards a couple of years ago, and Sean Payton is a front runner this season for good reason.

The reasons the Boy Scouts will win:

- Ex-Iggles DT Hollis Thomas and LB Mark Simoneau know their defensive signals and will help Payton game plan for the playoffs. Thomas is the run stuffer the Boy Scouts need to contain Westbrook, and Payton will use the knowledge to carve up the secondary.
- The Boy Scouts play AFC style ball, scoring at will, and using multiple sets to do it. They have more offensive weapons than anyone else, and their quick strike capability can turn the game into a rout. They are the only team that came close to beating the Bengals and Stillers and would make an excellent opponent for anyone in the AFC.
- The Iggles best cover CB Lito Shepherd is out with an elbow, and Marques Colston is a legitimate deep threat. The absence of Joe Horn might hurt, but RB Reggie Bush can play the slot receiver. Iggles WR Donte Stallworth is a former

Boy Scout, but he didn't know the playbook when he was there, so he is a non-factor.

The pick:

America's New Team will be pumped in a loud and proud Superdome. They are rested and ready and Philly got tenderized by a physical Jynt's squad. Besides, Reid's lack of clock management skill comes back to bite the Birds in the tail feathers. This game sets up the NFC Championship in one of the greatest party towns the world has ever seen. Boy Scouts.

#### Seattle at Chicago (-8.5)

This matchup features one of the better defenses in the NFC against an emerging offense. Matt (Hair Club for Men) Hasselbeck still looks tentative after missing several games with a knee. Shaun Alexander (The Okay) always looks tentative when guys are trying to take his head off and this game is in that category.

The problem on the other side of the ball is a Jurassic QB with short arms and a long leash. Lovie Smith waited way too long to pass the reins to a non-reptile, and the Monsters of the Furniture Mart defense has looked bad against the run recently. The MOTFM has really struggled against big WRs in 2006, and the Shehawks TE Jerramy Stevens had two TDs against the Starheads last week in his return from the Witness Protection Program.

The pick here is very tough. Seattle is playoff tested, having gone to the Super Bowl last year. Chicago is the worst 13-3 team in history, but they are rested. Since home teams win nearly 80% of these games, will the Bears to come out of hibernation ready to play or will the Shehawks peck them into submission?

When in doubt, it's best to go with the better QB, and there is no contest here. The Look Man likes the playoff tested Shehawks to stun the Bears, even though the weather favors the MOTFM. The forecast calls for miserable conditions with freezing rain/snow at Tommyknocker Field. The Look Man believes Chicago's Brian Urlacher will struggle without DT Tommie Harris in the lineup, and Coffeetown runs effectively to eke out a win against the Monsters of the Snow Shovel D.

The pick:

Seattle covers, knocking the Bears out of the Tourney, and forcing Superfan to eat their Super Bowl week vacations in Miami. On the positive side, Coach Dicka will be there on Super Sunday. Dicka is doing a PPV steel cage match with Godzilla for extra caish.

#### New England at San Diego (-5)

The Bolts announced that they will limit ticket sales to California residents only in order to keep rabid Chowder Lovers out of Jack Murphy Stadium. The Football Gods do not look favorably upon this brand of Mularkey, and the Look Man blames GM AJ Smith. Smith is the same goofball who ran Drew (Cool) Brees out of town, engendering the enmity of Marty Schottenheimer in the process.

First down will be critical for the Bolts. If they can pick up 4-5 on first down, and stay out of third and long, they will win handily. That is, if the Bolts play Smarty Ball instead of Marty Ball, and allow O-Coordinator Cam Cameron to do his job. Cameron<sup>2</sup> is the OC

that didn't get canceled in 2007. The Look Man is betting that Marty learned his lesson in the Nati game, where he donned the headset only three times all day.

Secondly, the loss of safety Rodney Harrison is huge. Harrison won't get to break any more of his own bones against his former team and the Chowds can't cover Antonio (Microsoft Hands) Gates without him.

On defense, the pressure needs to come up the middle on Zoolander. The Ponies have tried for years to get pressure off the corners with little success. The Look Man believes that Brady's peripheral vision must be off the charts, because he rarely gets blindsided. Instead, he turns it over when he feels the pressure up the gut. NT Jammal Williams fills the bill at 380 pounds.

Don't expect this to be the Game of the Week. That honor will go to the Iggles-Saints, largely because Belichick hasn't seen Phil (Muddy) Rivers up close and personal this season. Whenever he does that, QBs have a way of looking extremely bad against Dr. Evil and his Buoys.

The pick:

The Look Man's prediction is Bolts, baby, Bolts. LaDanian (The New LT) Tomlinson carves the Chowds with his feet, his hands, and his arm on Sunday. Dr. Evil tries to deck another cameraman afterwards, causing a melee.

## **EPILOGUE**

Home teams coming off a bye are 51 of 64 in the Divisional Playoffs over the last fifteen years, including a staggering 28 of 32 for the NFC Simpsons. This phenomenon also favors the top seeded Bears and Chargers, where the conferences best regular season record has translated into 30 wins and 6 losses. On the other side, two number one seeds have not met in the Super Bowl since 1992.

While everyone is picking the Bears to make an early exit from the postseason, the best approach would be to pick the games based upon the better coach. Despite the fact that the Walruses, Lovie Smith, Tony (Hume Cronyn) Dungy, Marty Schottenheimer, rookie head coach Sean Payton, and the egomaniacal Brian Billick don't exactly call to mind Hall of Fame credentials. Still, someone has to win, and the Look Man would like to see sentimental favorites likes Marty, Hume Cronyn, and Sean move on to the next round.

If we learned nothing else from the mythical BCS Championship, we now see the Schrödinger's Cat syndrome in full effect. Schrödinger was a scientist who theorized that the very act of watching something actually changes the outcome. When the media comes out and says one team is clearly superior to another, it creates an "us against the world" mentality that often changes the balance of power. Indianapolis at Baltimore could well be the NFL version of Florida versus Ohio State.

The 2006 NFL season is drawing to a close, and the Look Man believes this week's games could well enter The Pantheon level. Let's hope that they meet the expectation.

Peace,

The Look Man



**NFL Point Spreads For Divisional Playoffs - NFL Football  
Spread Divisional Playoff Games - NFL Playoff Game  
Dates 1/13 - 1/14, 2007**

<b>Date &amp; Time</b>	<b>Favorite</b>	<b>Spread</b>	<b>Underdog</b>
1/13 4:30 ET	At Baltimore	-4	Indianapolis
1/13 8:00 ET	At New Orleans	-4.5	Philadelphia
1/14 1:00 ET	At Chicago	-8.5	Seattle
1/14 4:30 ET	At San Diego	-5	New England