

The Look Man Report 2007

Week One: Analgesic Angst

Without violence, rugby is nothing. Violence is the setting, the context. Without violence there is no courage, without mayhem there is no grace, without pain there is no exalted relief in victory. Memo to all who run both codes of the game: rugby is a mimic war. When we want real war, we turn to the front of the newspaper." - Simon Barnes, "The Times"

Week One of the 2007 NFL season did not disappoint as NFL schedule makers continue to pound the networks flex scheduling with great games in the first two weeks. While it makes for better games when teams face off later in the year, these games may actually add some fire to the end of the year, when teams need to win in order to counteract early seminal losses.

The unfortunate side effect of the tough scheduling is early injuries to key team components. Four starting QBs got knocked out in Week One, Bears safety Mike (Reservoir Dogs) Brown and Genocide Vix OT John Janssen got their annual season-ending knee injuries. Lambs OT Orlando Pace is out for the year, and it doesn't look good for Dumpster Ducks OT Jonathan Ogden.

But the most devastating injury was the catastrophic spinal injury to Bisons TE Kevin Everett. Not only does it demonstrate just how dangerous the NFL has become, it underscores the fact that the sheer number of hard hits that don't result in more wheelchairs. The Bengals - Baltimore game featured a number of knockout shots that went largely unnoticed. Ray (Ray) Lewis played nearly the entire game with a torn triceps, Ed Reed destroyed TJ Houshmandzadeh, and the Bengals knocked Air McNair out of the game and halfway into retirement.

All in all, it is a vicious game and an outlet for vicarious violence. The league cannot legislate hitting out of the game, but with four starting QBs already on the bench, one has to wonder how much the product will suffer. The league has marketed scoring, and the average fan doesn't appreciate the 15-12 slobberknocker that transpired in Crapchester last Sunday.

The Look Man does, but he would advise the league to get a lot more of those light green dots that go on the back of the QB's helmets. They're gonna need 'em before it's over.

Without further medical analysis, the Week in Review:

Stillers at Browns:

The Look Man's prediction that the Stillers new offense would be quick strike was accurate. After the Browns imploded on their first three drives, Stillers OC Bruce Arians (Nation) went for the throat immediately. The result was (Big) Ben Roethlisberger doing his best Dan Marino impression, with four TD passes in twelve completions.

The game was not nearly as bad as the 34-7 final, but the Browns poor start was too much to overcome. Charlie (Biggie Size) Frye got ketchuped with five sacks in ten pass attempts. The Look Man has to agree with Tiki Barber; the Browns offense was nearly unwatchable.

Having said that, Big Ben got pretty tenderized by the Barking Dawg D, and he was last seen limping to the sideline holding his wing. Stiller Fan is still waiting to see Big Ben make it an entire season without missing games. At this rate, Double B will be lumbering around like Earl Campbell in ten years.

Blitzburgh head coaches had been 0-8 in their first games against the Browns, but not after Sunday's fiasco. Browns head coach Romeo (Must Go) Crennel is now 1-13 against the AFC Asgard opponents, and if he falls to 1-15, he will receive a version of the home game in 2007. He has beaten Billick once, never beaten Marvin Lewis, or Cowher, and he has now lost to actor Omar Epps, the new head coach of Blitzburgh.

"I feel blessed to win one in the NFL," said Epps. "My closest previous experience is playing a basketball player in *Love and Basketball*. Of course, I figure I can always go back to playing a doctor on *House, MD*, so I'm not sure I even want this job."

Crennel did score high on the Unintentional Comedy Rating scale, however. Comedy ensued when the CBS announcers began talking about Crennel, only to have the chain gang nearly take his feet out while on camera. All that was missing was the Benny Hill soundtrack. Romeo must go, and Savage should be close behind.



Dr. Eric Foreman wins in C-Town

Lions at Grayders:

The Detroit-Oakland game ended up being an unlikely contestant for Game of the Week. After throwing an early red zone pick, QB Jon Pickna drove the Caddies to a 17-0 lead. The Grayders, led by former Cadillac and Deadbird QB Josh McClown, came back to take a 21-17 lead in the third. Pickna stayed out of the bakery in the fourth quarter en route to a 36-21 final. Of course, McClown went Pickna Lite, by baking it up three times in the quarter, then breaking the index finger of his throwing hand on the final play.

Lions players like RB Tatum (Paper Moon) Bell kept going into the Black Hole during the decisive fourth quarter to call out Grayder Fan. The zebra-face painting Violator and others were so pleased that they responded by offering Paper Moon their paper drinking receptacles. The trash flying out of the stands coulda put someone's eye out!

Bears at Bolts:

This marquee game did not disappoint as the Bears and Bolts defense both looked fantastic. The halftime score of 3-0 was indicative, and then the Bolts stopped the Bears on three straight runs at the 6 minute mark, punctuated by a 4th and 1 stuffing for no gain.

This one was very physical. When RB LaDanian (The New LT) Tomlinson got shut down on the ground, he simply threw for one score and ran for another. TE Antonio (Not Bill) Gates went over 100 receiving yards while making S Adam (Jughead) Archuleta look horrible. Phillip Rivers managed the game for the Bolts, while (T-)Rex Grossman turned into Bad Rex - - - again.

The only other item of note was the new Bolts uniforms. The throwback helmets are nice, but nothing could look as good as the powder blues. On the other hand, nearly every team since 1980 that has changed uniforms has made it to the Super Bowl, so who knows?

Jynts at Pokes (SNF):

A Jynts-Pokes game is always special, but this Sunday Night home opener was great. The Starheads lit up the scoreboard while the defense pounded the G-Men, knocking out RB Brandon Jacobs (Ladder).

The Jynts responded by roasting Dallas DBs with deep balls to Plexiglass Burrell for six. TE Jeremy Shockey decided to YAC right over Pokes S Roy (Rogers) Williams in a tour de force sideline reception. For those keeping score, Roy Rogers stinks in pass coverage, routinely getting beaten deep. One has to wonder why does Dallas acquire former Shehawks safety Ken (Harry) Hamlin. They now have TWO strong safeties, and no help for their corners. With Terrence (Hello) Newman out with a foot, they are dependent on Jacques Reeves, who does a mean burnt toast impression.

Just when it seemed the Jynts might pull it out, Julius (Dr. J) Jones stepped out of bounds inside the three minute mark to preserve a New York timeout. No worries mate, as Tony Romo (The Place for Ribs) zipped a sweet slant to Hurd for a 51-yard game winning TD pass. Now why weren't the Jynts in Cover Two again? Maybe they got free passes to one of Romo's eateries after the game?

Eli went out with a bad wing late, and he was replaced by Jared (the Pillsbury Throw Boy) Lorenzen. The Hefty Lefty was a little rusty, but he didn't look bad for a QB on the high side of 300 pounds. More importantly, unlike Eli, he only has his mouth open to eat, which he apparently does a lot of.

ZEBRA OF THE WEEK:

The Look Man expected improvement this season in terms of the Zebras. It could hardly get worse after 2006, the year in which even Mike Carey went to the Dark Side.

But what a surprise when several games were taken over by the refs. The Donkeys, Genocide Victims, Cheeseheads, and Bungals all stole wins courtesy of the officials. Here's life on the Serengeti:

Bears at Bolts - Peter Morelli (Mushroom)

Morelli Mushroom and Crew allowed Bears DT Tommie Harris to jump the snap repeatedly, but failed to call encroachment. Harris was in the backfield before Rivers could even get the snap on two occasions.

A Bolts punt actually hit one of the robotic TV camera wires for the first time, which should have resulted in a do-over. Instead, the ball bounced oddly, striking a Bears blocker and resulting in a turnover that blew the game wide open.

The Look Man is calling for the immediate cessation of these robotic cameras, but with the networks kicking in 330 large, that seems unlikely. What seems more likely is that this phenomenon will reoccur, possibly on a misdirection play that affects the playoffs.

Jynts at Pokes - Ed (Hulk) Hochuli

The Hulk didn't get angry when DE DeMarcus Ware jumped the snap in the 4th quarter. He was too busy calling a crackback block on Amani Toomer five minutes after the play was over. The call was correct, but did they have to wait until Week Two to call it?

Iggles at Cheeseheads - Mike (Dancin' with the Stars) Carey:

Dancin' with the Stars failed to call interference on a game changing punt fair catch, resulting in a muff and a Green Bay win. LB Brad Poppinga actually touched the punt receiver, but in Wisconsin, that doesn't draw a flag. What it does is tack on another spurious come-from-behind, 16-13 win for Brett Favre.

Corn Kings at Shehawks - Larry Nemmers(kull):

Late in the game, the fans blew a loud, inadvertent whistle on a punt. The Corn Kings punter pulled the ball down and stopped the play. The rushers weren't sure whether to drill him or pull up. For the first time ever in the Look Man's memory, a fan whistle caused a do-over.

Nemmerskull should have thrown a flag for unsportsmanlike conduct on the Seattle fans, granting a first down for the Corn Kings. It is now more likely that we will see this phenomenon again, courtesy of inebriated fans.

Dumpster Ducks at Bungals - Terry (Bottlegate) McAulay

In one of about three Week One games that included twelve or more penalty flags, this game featured several calls that went in favor of the Ugly & Black:

- pass interference at the goal line by Bengals CB Delta O'Neal, keeping WR Demetrius Williams from jumping to catch what might have been a TD pass;
- a questionable interception by Guillotine Geathers that obviously hit the ground. The play was upheld despite replay, with Bottlegate indicating that Guillotine's hands were under the ball.
- a ridiculous offensive PI call on TE Todd (Uriah) Heap that almost certainly would've sent the game to overtime. Bottlegate and Crew decided that OT would be an issue since the Disney Network had a MNF doubleheader. The back judge then issued a make-up call to set up a possible two-point conversion for the win by Baltimore. Of course, Billick(goat) blew that option by throwing too often inside the ten yard line. The resultant pick by Michael (Halloween) Myers iced the game for the Ugly & Black.

The Look Man felt sure that Nemmerskull had locked up the ZOTW until seeing this game live. Bottlegate snatched victory from the jaws of certain defeat for the Bungals, and earned the first of many likely ZOTW awards in 2007. Bottlegate McAulay, you are the Look Man's Zebra of the Week.

The Banks Project

In a wild development, NFL Referee Michael Banks has been indicted on federal racketeering charges for his part in a gambling empire. It seems that Banks, AKA the

Parabola Kid, has been fixing games for years. The nickname comes from the arc of his flags, which are often thrown from great distances away from the play.

Banks has worked on Terry (Bottlegate) McAulay's crew for years, but was arrested following last night's Bengals - Ravens game. McAulay, when interviewed, said, "I guess we now know why he kept making calls from the other side of the field. It's sad, really, because he changed right after the Jacksonville-Cleveland game a few years back. A plastic beer bottle caught him on the temple, and he's never been the same."

Several fans questioned the calls last night in Cincinnati, including long suffering Bengals Fan Dave Sundin. "Well, some of the calls did seem questionable, but I attributed it to bad eyesight", said Sundin. "After we won, I forgot all about them. Who dey!"

Banks is expected to enter a plea bargain tomorrow in Fifth District Federal Court in Hamilton County. When asked about his plea, Banks would say only, "I take da Fif." No word on whether the downtown Cincinnati construction project sharing Banks' name would be affected by the indictment.

Banks' was the second high profile arrest of the week in Cincinnati. Baltimore coach Brian Billick (goat) was also indicted on charges of leaving his offense in the car while he was at the game Monday Night. Paramedics attempted to revive the offense without success, and the Hamilton County Prosecutor is investigating negligent homicide charges against the Baltimore head coach.

Special K Cereal Sponsors Place-kickers

The NFL has announced new placekicking rules following Romo's muff in the playoffs last year in Seattle. The kicking, or K-balls, will now be held by a special league official in order to avoid home team conspiracies. The K-balls are now numbered, locked in a safe, and read bedtime stories by the new Commissioner of K-balls.

This development is positive, especially following the conspiracy in the Seattle playoff game. Of course, New England has heated balls for Adam (the Winemaker) Vinatieri for years in cold weather Beantown.

LAGNIAPPE

Manning Commercial Watch:

We all knew that Peyton Manning would be everywhere in TV commercials following a win in Super Bowl XLI. We did not expect to see him on a *Saturday Night Live* tour de force or on every other commercial.

The latest and best include Manningsmind.com for Sprint, or appearing with Eli and Matt Leinart in Visa's *A Day by the Lake*. Manning gets honorable mention for the taping a rookie to a goal post spot. *The Look Man can't wait for his new feminine hygiene, Magnum prophylactics, and Viagra commercials.*

In the same vein, the Look Man loves *the Jerry Jones Diet Pepsi Max commercial*. *It's an instant classic*. As for the Heineken Draft Keg chick with the bionic arms and beer keg popping out of her torso if she was four feet tall with a flatter head, she would be perfect!

Chowds Chick-a-Bow-Wow

The latest NFL brouhaha featured America's New Team, the New England Chowderheads, getting popped shooting video of the Aeronauticals' defensive signals. The league does not allow any form of video to be used in-game, as indicated by the faxed Polaroids you see the QBs reviewing on the sideline.

The Jets caught Chowds chef Bill (Dr. Evil) Belichick's longtime henchman Ernie Adams with a video camera full of video of their defensive signals. It turns out that Number Two has been doing this for years, owing to the fact that he is not even an offensive or defensive tactician. The Cheeseheads also caught him shooting footage a few years back, so when Jersey head coach Eric Mangina notified the league to be on the lookout, the jig was up.

Commissioner Roger (Rabbit) Goodell didn't need yet another attack on league integrity after the summer he's had. Former NLF Commish Paul Tagliabue must've seen the handwriting on the wall, because he got out just in time. Rabbit has had to deal with Pacman, Mike Vick, the Ben-jails, concussions, and drug testing. Now, Robert Kraft, one of his staunchest supporters and buddies, is found guilty of videotaping defensive signals.

Belicheat has apologized for the indiscretion, but the FCC may now get involved because that video might be considered pornographic after what the Chowds did to the Aeronauticals. You don't have to be a Supreme Court Justice to "know it when you see it", and 38-7 is the NFL equivalent of the *Caught From Behind* porn franchise.

HOF = 'Hall of Fluoride 20??'

The Dentist has now really obliterated the bounds of good taste with his HOF blazer routine. Chad had a solid game, but he shouldn't be in the Hall before Art Monk. More importantly, The Dentist will have to compete with the likes of Marvin Harrison, Hines (57) Ward, and Terrell Owens. While Ward's numbers won't be as good, he and these other guys do have something the Dentist doesn't - some Super Bowl jewelry.

Chad's antics are great with the media, but he is campaigning for the Hall without the credentials. He will be in the waiting room for a long time until he becomes a gamebreaker, who can take over a game without help from Whosyomama and Chris Henry. Until then, he needs to lose the gold teeth and rededicate himself to the game instead of clowning.

THE LOOK AHEAD:

Bungals at Browns (+7.0):

The Battle of Ohio Part 1 is looking pretty lopsided after the Without a Trace cast was able to locate Cincinnati's defense in Week One. The Browns offense looks enough like Notre Dame's without inserting former Golden Domer Brady Quinn (medicine Woman). After sending former starter Charlie (Biggie Size) Frye to the Shehawks in exchange for a sixth round pick and 25 pounds of salmon, the Browns appear to be clearing the decks for the coronation of Quinn.

Derek (Neo) Anderson inherits the job with a shaky O-line that has played together for about 60 minutes. Until the line gets some cohesion, it would be idiotic to expose Jane Seymour. If the Browns play Quinn against Baltimore, Oakland, and the Chowds, he

could look older than Walter Brennan by the Bye Week. Each of these defenses was in the top ten in 2006.

Chad (The Dentist) Johnson has indicated a desire to leap into the Dawg Pound in celebration should he score, but the Look Man doesn't recommend it. In this case, their bite is certainly worse than their bark. Browns CB Leigh Bodden has shut down The Dentist, who hasn't scored in C-Town since 2002.

Like most late-night talk show hosts, Mr. Tonight Show hates to get touched in the pocket, and without suspended WR Chris Henry, the Bengals lack a third receiving threat. More importantly, after seeing the Browns get blasted, who could blame the Ugly & Black for looking ahead to Week Three in Seattle?

Look for the Browns to string together the **Pepto Bismol Upset of the Week** as they face a Bungals team that was seriously tenderized by Baltimore. The Look Man is not sure if the cameras caught it, but (Johnny) Carson Palmer took a mean shot on his *good* knee late in Week One.

The Browns knocked the Bengals out of the postseason early last year with a punishing game in Week Two in 2006. They'll bring the pain again, despite the much ballyhooed Bungals D in 2007. One week does not a defense make, and the improved D-line has masked a decimated linebacking corps in the Nati.

Bolts at Chowds (-3.0) [Sunday Night Football on NBC]

The Chowds look to take out their embarrassment on the field after a week in which Bill (Dr. Evil) Belichick got a whole can of SHHHHHHHH! RB LaDanian Tomlinson didn't help matters by saying the Chowds subscribe to the old baseball adage, "...if you ain't cheatin' you ain't trying."

Look for the Chowds to bring the pain to Philip Rivers and the Bolts in the Gillette home opener. Still, the Look Man likes the Bolts to avenge their AFC Divisional Playoff loss to New England, bringing some serious run stuffing to the party. The Chowds like balanced offense, but Tom (Zoolander) Brady can air it out if necessary. It also doesn't hurt that he has Moss, Welker, Watson, and Stallworth as receivers. Bolts cover and win in this marquee matchup.

Pokes at Marine Mammals (+3.5):

Dallas put up points in bunches in Week One, but this ain't the G-Men. Based upon the injuries to CB Terrence (Hello) Newman, DE Greg Ellis and WR Terry (*She) Glenn, the Miami D could give the Starheads some trouble. Further, the Pokes will be looking ahead to the epic matchup in the Big Windy in Week Three. They know the Monsters of the Furniture Mart will give them fits, and they make the classic trap game against one of the more underrated QBs in the AFC in Trent Long Green. Miami covers.

Hornheads at Cadillacs:

This game is quietly one of the better matchups of the week. If you didn't see the Detroit offense score 19 unanswered against Oakland's highly rated defense in the 4th quarter, you missed it.

Mike (Megalo) Martz has this offense clicking on eleven cylinders in 2007, despite not having a bona fide factor back. They've added ex-Dumpster Duck OG Edward Mulitalo

(means "mule" in Espanol) to a decent O-line, and the acquisition of rookie WR Calvin Johnson bolsters an already solid receiving corps of Roy Williams and Mike Furrey.

On the other side of the ball, the Minnesota D is playing like the Purple Helmet Wearers of old. They force you to throw the ball, and they gobble it up. The Wicinga scored two TDs on Sunday, including a Fat Man Special with NT Pat Williams rumbling, bumbling, and stumbling to the Hizzie.

Since Look Man believes Detroit QB Jon Pickna will be baking up turnovers in bunches, he's picking the Vikes to take out the Caddies in Week Two.

EPILOGUE

Roger (Rabbit) Goodell is letting good friend Robert Kraft and the Chowds off with a slap on the wrist. Three quarter of million in fines and a first round pick in 2008 is nothing for a team that could win its fifth ring in seven years. Since free agency smiles on playoff caliber teams, draft picks mean less in terms of wins than draft picks who might not even produce.

In a year where the Commish has demonstrated toughness with the players, he is allowing the Seafood Soup Crew way too much latitude. To paraphrase NFLPA chief Gene Upshaw, "(The owners) hired me, and they CAN fire me."

Before you Tailpipes minimize the advantage of videotape in the NFL, think how easy it was for Zoolander to destroy the Jets using Moss. At one point, Brady threw into triple coverage for six, and Moss' 183 receiving yards were nearly a career best. Anyone who plays video games knows that knowing the defense is a tremendous tactical advantage. Especially when you're an evil scientist trying to take over the world one game at a time.

The Look Man could not assemble all of the NFL 2007 picks this week, so if you Tailpipes still wish to participate, send them in before Sunday. You know who you are.

Peace,

The Look Man