

## **The Look Man Report 2007**

### **Week Five: Death by Suicide**

*"Moss has been killing people, and we didn't want him to kill us, so we died by the hands of somebody else." - Browns coach Romeo Crennel after losing to New England*

The second quarter of the 2007 NFL season began with four undefeated teams and ended with only three. Indy and New England entered as heavy favorites and left with their records unscathed. Green Bay lost a close one to perennial foe Chicago in a close one that featured Brett (the Pope) Favre's record tying 247th interception. Dallas and Buffalo played one of the most entertaining games in recent memory. The Pokes turned the ball over early and often, and survived the dreaded Ice the Kicker move to win on a 53-yard FG as time expired.

The rest of the league began to take shape. San Diego blasted an overmatched Denver squad. Detroit continued its record of futility in DC, managing only a FG against a physical Genocide Victims team. Miami, New Orleans and St. Louise all failed in their bids to put a win on the left side of the ledger. The scales of the NFL are again in balance, with undefeated teams equaling winless ones.

The QB position continued to be a source of evolution as eleven teams now have new hurlers by virtue of injury or performance. Atlanta, Baltimore, Buffalo, Chicago, Cleveland, and St. Louise have all gone to the bullpen at one time or another in 2007. The number of teams that have different QBs in 2007 continues to amaze the Look Man.

But a more interesting development may be the emergence of the Tight End. TEs have had a field day in 2007 as Offensive Coordinators are working the Cover Two using the seam route. The weakness of the zone defense is the area between linebackers and defensive backs. A fast TE can maneuver into these cracks, stretch the field, and take advantage of mismatches.

Cleveland, New England, Indy, Dallas, Chicago, KC, and San Diego have all taken advantage of this weakness. In fact, if you look at the teams who are at or near .500, nearly all of them have superior TEs. The Bengals TEs have entered the Witness Protection Program, and their record is reflective. When you can double the wideouts, the best remaining option is the center of the field. Most WRs don't really want to go there, due to the propensity of the QB to throw a medicine ball. One good hit over the middle can ruin your season, let alone your day.

The solution to the TE is a solid safety with speed. Guys like Baltimore's Ed Reed and Blitzburgh's Troy Polamalu blow up the TE by using their strength and speed. Ditto for New England, where freakish LB Adalius Thomas often plays safety at 270. No TE in the world wants to get hit by these boys.

Last year, Cleveland's Kellen Winslow failed to make the Pro Bowl after leading the AFC in TE receptions. This season, there are at least four TEs in the AFC alone that deserve recognition. The NFC boasts a few more, with Chicago having an embarrassment of riches at the position.

Without further gushing about power forwards playing in the NFL, the Week in Review:

## THE WEEK IN REVIEW

### Bears at Cheeseheads:

This game was the Tale of Two Halves, as Brett (The Pope) Favre had an unbelievable first half, and a horrible second half. The Pope tied the NFL interception record after putting the Pack out in front of the Bears in the first half.

The game was a nice back and forth affair in half number two, with backup CB Charles (Peanuts) Tillman stripping the same receiver twice. The turnovers put Brian (Beer Batter) Griese in position to throw two sweet second half TDs for the win. But only after sweating out another improbable Brett Favre late second bumrush.

The Look Man is left cackling about the Chicago win. Who, in their right mind, throws the rock 52 times with Griese at the helm? On the other side of the ball, give Mike McCarthy credit - - - for coaching half a football game. The Cheeseheads ran the ball well in the first half, before he went pass wacky with the Pope. They led by 10 at the half and threatened to rout the MOTFM before the wheels came off the cheese wagon. That 3rd down TD pass to TE (Paul) Desmond Clark following Favre's turnover was sweet music to Bears Fan.

### Browns at Chowds (-16.5):

Somehow the Chowds covered in this lackluster affair. Derek (Neo) Anderson let Agent Smith get in his grill, throwing three picks. His second half bullet dodging couldn't bring the Browns closer than ten points. Some of the blame belongs to Browns C Hank (Hey Now) Fraley, who allowed overrated LB Tedy Bruschi to walk into the backfield untouched. Bruschi employed a delayed blitz, obviously turning himself invisible to anyone named Hank. Bruschi nearly knocked Neo out with a shoulder injury.

The Chowds covered in strange fashion. The Browns scored in four plays to cut the lead to ten, then forced a punt by New England. Winslow then fumbled inside his own twenty with 50 seconds remaining, and Gay returned it for six to raise the lead to seventeen. Worse yet, Winslow got one foot down in the endzone as the clock turned to 0:00. The Zebras acted like it was a track meet, running off the field before the booth could push the replay button. Final TNA score: NE 34, Browns 17.

### Game of the Week - Dallas at Crapchester (+10):

If you missed the Monday Nighter, you missed one of the most entertaining games in the last ten years. Tony Romo (the Place for Ribs) added turnovers to the menu, throwing not one, but two pick sixes in succession. The Ribmaster couldn't get the Bisons out of his kitchen, finishing with FIVE picks. That number could easily have been seven, if the Bison defenders had hands instead of hooves. The ball-hawking Bisons D obviously noticed on film that Romo was saucing his ribs before putting them on the grill. They read his eyes, batted his side-arm delivery, and generally made his life miserable. The result was the only NFL game in history with two pick sixes AND a 103-yard kick return for six.

Dallas was able to defeat the Bisons on the strength of Doomsday Lite, which figured out RB Marshawn Lynch and the Bisons O-line scheme. By stuffing the run, they forced rookie QB Trent (NPR) Edwards to throw a late pick that Terrence (Hello) Newman nearly took to the Hizzie. Newman caught a pass tipped by DE DeMarcus (Tupper) Ware, and later called it "better than a pair of bear claws."

Bisons coach Dick Jauron (means "yellow bellied coward" in Altronian) lacked the testicular fortitude to milk the clock with the run, and his decision to pass negated an outstanding night for the O-line. In

addition to poor clock management on a timeout deficient Dallas, he also failed go Cover Three at crunch time, with two down linemen, and extra DBs and LBs to cover the sidelines. Either go Cover Three, or sack up and go with exotic blitzes, but don't select slow death in a game where you can ONLY be beaten by a TD and two-point PAT.

Tack on an ill-advised 54 yard FG attempt by (T)Rian Lindell, allowing Dallas to pull to 17-10 with their own Figgie, and you could say the Ivy Leaguer's stupid coaching decisions actually cost Crapchester the game. On one hand, they forced Dallas to play ball control on a night where Romo couldn't hit the broad side of a BBQ smoker. On the other, they relegated themselves to Chinese water torture, eating Nuclear Hot chicken wings without beverages. The Bisons' inexperienced and injury-depleted secondary allowed Romo to calmly throw two out patterns that put Dallas in position to hit a game winning 53-yard FG.

This game was outstanding despite the ESPN commentators, who were totally at sea. Normally instructive Ron (Polish Rifle) Jaworski has become the straight man for Tony Kornheiser, whose contributions were limited to yelling about how the game was over each time Romo added to his turnover tally. One has to hope Kornholio doesn't do a Jon Pickna game, or he will be regaling us with stories of New York bakeries.

Jauron's lack of courage has cost the injury-depleted Bisons two games this season. This young, plucky squad deserves better, and they will be a force in 2008.

## **ZEBRA OF THE WEEK**

Actually this week Larry Nemmers(kull) was the only real nominee. Some of the Tailpipe Nation wanted Pete Morelli (Mushroom), but the Look Man actually thought Mushroom did a decent job.

Mushroom could've called defensive pass interference on TO's dropped two point PAT, but DB Jabari Greer actually did a decent job. Since face guarding is no longer illegal, Greer's contact was bang-bang, and he stripped Owens pretty cleanly.

The other possible gaffe was clock timing, as Morelli and crew did a decent job disappearing, but they had at least two clock errors that really helped the Pokes:

- 1) the on-side kick only took two seconds off the clock, instead of the normal five or six for a loose ball scramble;
- 2) the incomplete pass ruling when TO trapped the rock allowed Mushroom to reset the clock to 13 seconds. That reset number was somewhat subjective in light of how long it took for the play to be run.

Bottom line: Dallas kicked the GW FG with two seconds remaining, after Patrick (Crayola) Crayton's toe tapper on the sideline. Either of these clock errors would've been fatal to Dallas' comeback win. On the Other hand, the Pokes demonstrate outstanding efficacy at realigning for the clock spike and FG tries. Most teams wouldn't even have been able to execute these plays irrespective in the allotted time.

Zebra of the Week is therefore, a no-call. Congrats to Mushroom for a better job than many in a tough, pressure packed game.

### Take a Knee?

Everyone had an opinion about Trent Green's low hit on Houston's Travis (Dwayne) Johnson. Green's blocking attempt resulted in a grade three concussion for him and a taunting flag for The Rock. Some folks even believed the block was illegal, and should have resulted in a fine for Green.

Green threw the block on an end-around to Ted Ginn (& Tonic). Tonic attempted to reverse his field at the last moment, and Green decided to go low on the 320 pound tackle. Unfortunately, Johnson's knee NFL Flag Commandant Gene Washington announced this week that Johnson's taunting penalty would not result in a reduced paycheck. NFL spokesman Greg Aiello explained, "The player was upset about what he thought was an illegal block. Gene did not believe he deserved to be fined.

"Not every taunting penalty draws a fine. The block, in fact, was legal," Aiello continued. "Should the taunting penalty have been called? Yes. Standing over a player on the ground and pointing at him is by rule, taunting. The penalty was properly called. Of course, they could've called *unnecessary stupidity* on Green. What 200 pound QB with a history of concussions goes against a 400 pound lineman?"

The league gives an inordinate amount of love to its QBs, but this block remains legal. Despite rule changes to disallow chop blocks on the line, and crack backs by receivers, this loophole looms as large as Shanahan's Kicker Icing Rule in the off-season.

### Sideline Shenanahans- Part IV

Mike (The Rat) Shanahan is now receiving royalties on his patented last second kicker icing technique. His trickle down coachonomics has infected the NCAA, and threatens to detonate the 2007 season. The latest episode occurred on MNF, when an Ivy Leaguer actually employed the ethically bankrupt trick.

The 2005 NFL rule change allows coaches on the sideline to call timeouts. Prior to that, the ILB typically turned to the Umpire to call timeouts right in the middle of the field. Being in plain view, the fans could see it, as the players stood next to the zebra, bracing to signal the TO. It didn't surprise anyone, especially not the K, who could actually see it. Now, it's ridiculous.

Two possible fixes:

- 1) no timeouts within five seconds of the end of the play clock, because it would adversely affect injury timeouts, and delays for having twelve men on the field.
- 2) reversing the current ruling won't work because coaches fought hard to get more control; they simply don't trust players to know how to manage the clock on the field.

Most coaches preserve TOs in order to ensure last second chances. Only Marvin Lewis wastes timeouts to ice kickers with more than a minute remaining. Still, the rule needs some repair, and it will be addressed in the off-season. Of course by then, ten to fifteen games will have been altered by this BS.

The Look Man says let's just stop the coaches from whispering sweet nothings into the ear of the HL, FJ or SJ. Of course, it may stop as soon as a kicker actually misses the first attempt and hits the second one. But that that would be simply too poetic.

## **LAGNIAPPE:**

### *Dis Fight is to da Dess!*

LB Lance Briggs now wants to stay in the Big Windy. Briggs rejected a \$33M offer in favor of a one year \$7.2M tender. He also wrapped his Lambo around a tree and walked away before filing a police report. At least he didn't pull a Khalif (Khalifay) Barnes.

The Jacksonville OT called the police at 6:30 AM to tell them he crashed his rig into a tree after falling asleep. The death dueler then called back four hours later, doing his best Jon Lovitz impression, "Yeahhhh, my Benz was stolen, that's the ticket. It was stolen by...Peyton Manning!

"Yeah, that's right, Manning was getting chased down a hallway by Jason Taylor. He and this kid in a Colts jersey carjacked my rig and drove away. " When the authorities informed Barnes that his earlier 911 call had been recorded, Barnes sung like Marion Jones.

Barnes, President of the Jacksonville Mensa Chapter, had been arrested previously on DUI charges. Sprint has approached him regarding a new series of television spots. The spots feature the Offensive Tackle attempting to make his line blocking calls while Flaming Thumbtacks DT Albert Haynesworth steps on the heads of his line mates en route to the QB.

### *Match Game LMR Style*

Thanks to Tailpipe GB Shaw, who has sent in the attached match game for the Tailpipe Nation. The game is simple: mach the coach with the Look Man appellation. The grand prize is a trip to Burbank to star with Gene Rayburn on the real *Match Game* show, featured on the Game Show Channel. Good luck!

### *We're Number One!*

Penn State head coach and real octogenarian Joe (JoePa) Paterno addressed internet rumors that he flipped the double bird to a Happy Valley couple for driving too slowly. JoePa pinned their rig to the curb after honking repeatedly, then jumped out and did the deed while verbally abusing the couple for several minutes.

The Look Man believes the cranky coach was only telling the woman how many TDs PSU would score this weekend. The victim was quoted as saying, "He was who we thought he was!" adding that JoePa also stole a twelve pack of Coors beer from the back seat of their rig.

## **THE LOOK AHEAD**

### *Miami at Cleveland (-4.5):*

The Browns are actually getting some respect at 2-3, and just in time for Ted Ginn's homecoming. After a slow start, the speedy first round pick returns to his face his hometown team. Ironically, it was Miami's selection of Ginn & Tonic that led to the Browns picking up Brady Quinn (Medicine Woman). Speculation had the Browns actually waiting until Week Six to play Jane Seymour, based upon the superior defenses in weeks one through five.

The Ginn vs. Quinn scenario is now very unlikely, unless Jason Taylor goes *Mannings Mind.com* on QB Derek (Neo) Anderson. The Browns are nicked up offensively, with Joe (Sid) Jurevicius having a bad wheel to go with RB Jamal Lewis' bad foot. Match that stat with the fact that the Marine Mammals are 0-5, and you have a possible upset in the making.

The other factor is the war of words between Mammals LB Joey Porter (Paints) and Kellen (The Soldier) Winslow. These two have had bad blood since the Dutch Boy was a Stiller, and it continued this week.

"He doesn't block, so he's really just a receiver," said Porter. "It ain't going to stop me from doing anything that I want to do." The Soldier hasn't even attempted a block since injuring his shoulder in Week Three. Instead, KWII is doing his talking on the field. The way Winslow has beaten solid defenses this season makes the Look Man believe he will win this battle. Porter Paints didn't learn his lesson after running his mouth before the Grayders game. The Grayders won, and Joey was left watching himself dry after the game.

The Marine Mammals have struggled defensively since losing LB Zach (Scrubs) Thomas to a concussion early. Fortunately, for Cleveland, head coach Cam (Candid) Cameron is the Allen Funt of NFL coaches. Browns win a close one, heading into the bye at .500.

#### Bengals at Baby Backs (+4):

The Bye Week came at the right time for Cincy, but RT (Big) Willie Anderson, RB Rudi (Ray Moore) Johnson, and a couple of LBs are still injured. Further, team in-fighting threatens to turn Marvin (Jerry) Lewis' telethon into a nightmare. This game features the worst D (Cincy) in the league against the worst offense.

QB Damon (The Omen) Huard is expected to play despite a shoulder injury from last week. The Omen got his starting job after the 2006 Bengals' decapitation of Trent Green, and he doesn't want to lose his starting role to backup Brodie Croyle on the anniversary.

Of note is the impending end of Bengals RT Willie Anderson's streak of 116 consecutive games as a starter. Big Willie returned early from a bad heel, only to injure his right knee against the Chowds. The Lipping Load was heard to bemoan his circumstances this week: "We had a chance to be thomething thpecial thith year. I don't know whath wrong with uth."

KC used to be one of the toughest road venues in the NFL. That September 10, 2006 game represents the end of the Baby Backs Home Dynasty and the beginning of Herm Edward's *Reign of Error*. Look for the Baby Backs to pound the run behind Larry (Grandmama) Johnson. The banged up Bungals won't be able to stop the scoring, and hope only for a track meet.

Cincy beat the Baby Backs on the strength of Guillotine Geathers cheap hit in 2006, so look for KC to grill up a nice leg of Carson this time. KC returns the favor, covers, and wins this one.

#### Genocide Victims at Cheeseheads (-3):

On its face this game looks like an easy win for Breen Gay, but in the parlance of ESPN's coach, "Not so fast, my friend!" The Look Man likes the depth of the Casino Owners, and Brett (The Pope) Favre showed flashes of renouncing Christianity last Sunday. If the Cheeseheads attempt to throw 40 times, they will not win this game.

Having said that, DC must grow up in a hurry. They will be playing against the Pack plus guys with numbers in the triple digits on Sunday. If the Genocide Vix can keep the Zebra Love from affecting their offensive

continuity (a big if), they cover and win in the not-yet Frozen Tundra. Genocide Victims.

#### Chowds at Pokes (+5.5)

This contest is shaping up as the Game of the Week, with two undefeateds going head to head. It's not common for two 5-0 teams to face each other, so this one is special. The Look Ahead factor was in full effect in both team's games last week.

The AFC is clearly superior to the NFC, posting a 40-24 interconference record. Though last weekend, the AFC was 198-143 against its National cousins. The Chowds have one of the best interconference records at 23-4 (including the postseason), to go with seven straight wins.

The Look Man previously picked the Pokes as one of the teams capable of knocking off New England based upon its TE. He's now reversing his field, but not based upon Romo's penchant for picks. It's actually based upon a feeling that Terrell Owens is about to implode, taking the team down with him.

The Pokes have been way too pleased with themselves beginning with beating the Bears in Week Three. Since Pride goeth before a fall, the Pokes get knocked off the Undefeated Horse this weekend. Chowds cover and win.

#### Grayders at Bolts (-9.5):

The Look Man likes the Grayders to cover. They haven't beaten the Bolts in seven consecutive, and got robbed last year after Vincent Jackson spun the ball on a 4<sup>th</sup> down conversion. Problem was, no Grayder touched Jackson, and the Zebras ruled it an incomplete forward pass.

The Grayders are still ticked, and now have the run game to stay in the game. Look for them to cover, and perhaps beat Norv Turner this time. Grayders to cover.

#### Swedes at Bears (-5)

It's time for the MOTFM to sack up and admit that both the (T-)Rex Grossman and Benson the Butler picks were wasted. The Butler looks like a poor man's Shaun Alexander out there, juking and limp legging it until someone wraps him up. He absolutely stinks, and with WR Bernard Berrian (Swallow) out with a toe, the offense is relegated to (Paul) Desmond Howard and Moose Muhammad for scoring.

TE Greg (the Gregulator) Olsen is showing some signs, and he had a TD last week. This kid is going to be good once he figures it out.

The only problem is that the Swedes would like to see head coach Brad Childress get fired. Childress is not well liked in Minnesota, but he should get enough from his offense to beat an injury-depleted Bears defense.

Look for Adrian (AP) Petersen to run wild on the Monsters of the Furniture Mart, setting up the physical Purple Helmet Wearers defense. They pin their horns back and force Griese to batter up some picks. Hornheads cover.

## EPILOGUE

Don't look now, but Jason (Luke) Campbell is looking like a real NFL QB. Luke Skywalker has recovered from a preseason knee courtesy of Stiller Casey Hampton's cheap shot. On Sunday, he connected on a Brady-esque 80% of his passes against the Etroit (No D) Lions, for a workmanlike 248 yards and three TDs. If the rapping MC can continue to assimilate the offense at his current pace, watch out for the DC version of 2 Live Crew.

The Look Man has only seen flashes of the Genocide Vix D, but holding the prolific Detroit O to only three points is awesome. If the Casino Owners can stay healthy, and if O-Coordinator Al (Colonel) Saunders can keep his playbook from getting as thick as the DC Yellow Pages, Washington has a legitimate shot in the NFC Least.

The GVs have depth at nearly every position. Despite losing Pro Bowl OT Jon Janssen, their O-line has skill at every spot. C Casey Rabach was a starter in the Baltimore Super Bowl squad. Jason Fabini, solid with

The Jets and Pokes at tackle, now plays guard. He joins former Jets line mate Pete Kendall and former Corn Kings T Todd Wade to make a solid line.

The offensive depth extends to RB, with Clinton Portis, Rock Cartwright, and 280 pound RB Ladell (All) Betts (Are Off). In fact, third stringer Cartwright could start for Tampa Bay tomorrow. After all, he's half Flintstones, half Bonanza (respect to Keith Olbermann for that one).

Peace,

The Look Man



## MATCH GAME

<b>LMR Moniker (in case it's not obvious)</b>	<b>Real Name</b>
1. The Rat	a. Rob Chudzinski
2. The Walrus	b. Jon Gruden
3. Dr. Evil	c. Mike Martz
4. Bob Keeshan	d. Mike Shanahan
5. Chucky	e. Tony Dungy
6. Fine Young Cannibal	f. Lovie Smith
7. Meglomaniac, or Megalo	g. Bill Belichick
8. Hume Cronyn	h. Wade Phillips
9. Iron Chin	i. Sean Payton
10. Ralph Cramden	j. Mike Holmgren
11. Thurston Howell III	k. Bill Cowher
12. Secret Squirrel	l. Sam Wyche
13. Wicky Wacky	m. Romeo Crennel

**Answer Key on Next Page**

**Answer key:**

1-d  
2-j  
3-g  
4-h  
5-b  
6-a  
7-c  
8-e  
9 –  
10-m  
11-f  
12-i  
13-l

**Scoring:**

0 – 5 That's okay, you just need more time reading the LMR.  
6 – 10 Experienced tailpiper, in danger of adapting aspects of the Look Man's humor into your everyday discourse.  
10 + Don't tell me, let me guess – you regularly describe to your football-watching buddies what the Look Man says about certain players, zebras, and, yes, coaches, don't you? You HAVE been assimilated!