

The Look Man Report 2007

Week Six: The Enemy Within

"Moral victory is trash," he said. "It's a sin to say that. That was the [old] attitude and mind-set. It wasn't to win the game -- it was to keep it close." – Houston OG Chester (Earl) Pitts (Uhmerican)

PROLOGUE

On the original Star Trek series, the concept of parallel universes and personalities was a constant premise. In *The Enemy Within*, Kirk is split into two in a transporter accident. He is left without command capability, one half a whimpering do-gooder and the other a hard drinking womanizer. The episode explores the relationship between the psychology of Id and Super Ego in creating personality. It also delved into the use of weird camera angles, mascara for men, and the overacting that turned Bill Shatner into the icon he is today. It was like The Patty Duke Show except with fight scenes, phasers, and no Poppo.

Without the swagger, bravado and gunslinger mentality, QBs are transformed into automatons. Instead of leading the team, they are afraid to make errors that might cost the team the game. The truth is that with great risk comes great reward. Sometimes all the coaching in the world can't tell a QB when to throw the ball away in the red zone or attempt to gun the ball through a keyhole for six.

NFL QBs offered a similar study in personality in Week Six. Thirteen NFL teams have featured backup hurlers at the helm, and Week Six offered up octogenerarian Vinny Testaverde in his latest role of starting QB. The Carolina Black Cats recruited Vinny after two starters suffered injury. All he did was carve up backup cum starter Tim Rattay (Furniture) and the Arizona Deadbirds.

Backup QBs want to provide a spark and get the team on a roll that an injured or ineffective starter couldn't. But they face the constant fear that they will be yanked for mistakes, or let the team down. Only after they defeat their own demons can they conquer the eleven guys on the other side of the line of scrimmage.

There was no such problem in Dallas, where the much-hyped Duel in Dallas turned into a 48-27 pasting of America's Old Team. The Pokes' Tony Romo (the Place for Ribs) couldn't play defense, and New England beat the snot out of Doomsday Lite. The game failed to live up to the hype, and the Pokes failed to measure up to the much tougher AFC in their first loss.

Dallas fell from the ranks of the undefeated, while five teams stand at .500 after six weeks. Another six teams are one game below .500 in a season of parity. The NFL race for the postseason is a study in patience. The sheer numbers of one and two loss teams dictates that a team with a gaudy record could end up getting bounced in Round One of the playoffs. It happened to the Bolts in 2006, and the Look Man believes the same thing is likely in the AFC again this season. The Enemy Within in the 2007 is the starting QB that is one play away from losing his job to a backup.

Without further Freudian dips, the **Week in Review**:

WEEK IN REVIEW

Miami at Cleveland (-4):

Backup QB Derek (Neo) Anderson had a nice day as the Browns put up 41 points on the winless Marine Mammals D. The Barking Dawg Defense was dawg ugly in allowing 31 points to backup QB Cleo Lemon(head). The Candy Man carved the secondary as the Mammals converted 3rd and ones like clockwork.

WR Braylon Edwards put up three TDs to go with three drops on Sunday. Edwards was still ticked off that the Phish failed to select him a few years back. The game also featured a 91 yard kick return for Miami speedster and Cleveland native Ted Ginn Jr. The return was called back on a questionable holding call, and Cleveland rocked and rolled to get to .500.

Minnesota at Chicago (-4.5):

The Swedes were hoping the return of QB Tarvaris Jackson would provide the boost that they needed to resurrect their slow start. As it turned out, the real savior would be first round pick Adrian (Associated Press) Peterson, who ran through, over and around the Monsters of the Furniture Mart defense on Sunday.

AP has better press than the other Adrian Peterson (OAP), who should be starting ahead of Bears RB Cedric (The Butler) Benson in Chicago. After a stunning 244 yard rushing performance against the Monsters of the Furniture Mart, there is no question about the *real* Adrian Peterson.

AP went wire to wire, posting a 53-yard kickoff return to position the Swedes for a game winning FG. Ryan Longwell was as good as his name, hitting a 55-yarder to send the MOTFM back to Rush Street to drown their sorrows.

Bears QB Brian (Beer Batter) Griese threw for three TDs in this one, including a rainbow bomb to KR Devin Hester. The problem is that when John Madden asked him, "Let's see that arm", Beer Batter threw a pass that missed the target, hitting a fan who was trimming his giraffe plant sculpture. The Purple Helmet Wearers defense digested two Griese passes, setting up scores. Afterwards, Griese was seen stumbling down the hallways at Halas Hall, drinking Saurian brandy and attempting to rape Lovie Smith's wife. Ms. Lovie scratched his face, leaving him sweating and disheveled.

Minnesota has now climbed back into the NFC Norse Division race with a 2-3 record. Only a Zebra-assisted win by Breen Gay separates them from truly contending in a division with a number of mediocre teams. Chicago drops to 2-4, and looking for answers while Minnesota begins to right the Love Boat.



Sign in please...

New England at Dallas (+5.5):

It was the fifth time in NFL history that two undefeated teams met so late in the season. The media came up with titles like the *Duel in Dallas*, *Big Game in Big D*, and *the King of Pop vs. the King of Slop* in reference to Pokes owner Jerry Jones vs. Chowds coach Bill Belichick. The King of Pop even installed himself on the sidelines for this one, just to make sure he got some face time prior to his new CD release.

Unfortunately, the game failed to live up to the NFL hypometer, as New England dropped 48 on Doomsday Lite. Terrell Owens was a non-factor while Pokes WR Patrick (Crayola) Crayton ate the Chowds alive. The Chowds actually faced their first third quarter deficit before adding some white pepper to the stew, and pounding the Pokes down the stretch. When they lost TE Ben (Dr.) Watson, New England simply dialed up Wes (Lawrence) Walker, who caught 11 for 124 and two TDs. Welker was later heard exclaiming "Tank ya Boys, won-a-ful, won-a-ful" to the Pokes D.

The Chowds left Irving with a six spot in the win column, and Dallas chirping about meeting them again in the postseason. That seems unlikely unless the Pokes plan to purchase tickets to the Bowl in nearby Phoenix.

LAGNIAPPE:

Chicken Little

The NFL avoided tragedy last week when an overhead NBC TV camera fell to the turf during a timeout during the SNF game between the Icons and Shehawks. The camera nearly clipped two Seattle players and caused a 10-minute delay while the technicians repaired it.

New Orleans had just called a first quarter timeout when the camera fell a few yards from QB Matt (Hair Club for Men) Hasselbeck's offensive huddle. The camera was righted, and fell again, right next to WR Bobby Engram, who was en route to the sideline.

Both teams cleared the field while the technicians effected repairs. Shehawks coach Mike (the Walrus) Holmgren monitored the camera's movement closely, while his players gave it a wide berth. "That's total access right there," HCFM said. "I was hoping to shoot an in-game infomercial for my new pubic hair product, but the camera got too close for comfort. I just feel really fortunate it didn't hit me."

The camera was shelved after a ten minute delay, but multiple ZOTW winner Jeff (Beanbag) Triplette announced: "If any live ball were to touch the wires overhead, there will be a replay of the down, by rule." Beanbag was then seen preparing to throw his BB-loaded beanbag at the camera operator, hoping to put his eye out if there was any reoccurrence.

The Look Man predicted this kind of problem a few weeks back, but the NFL is reluctant to get rid of the cameras. They will likely wait until Peyton Manning gets beamed before siding with the Look Man, but by then it will be too late. They are also investigating whether Bill Belichick was involved in any way.

Call in the Play:

A lot of folks figure that offensive linemen make great head coaches. Not only are they the smartest players on the team, the game is won or lost in the trenches. But the truth is that QB is the most prevalent position among NFL head coaches. Ten current NFL head coaches played QB, and three more played QB and another position.

Mike (The Walrus) Holmgren, Brad Childress, Gary Kubiak, Scott Linehan, Sean (Secret Squirrel) Payton, Lane Kiffin, Norv Turner, Jon (Chucky) Gruden, Bobby Petrino, and Cam Cameron all called signals in college. Tony (Hume Cronyn) Dungy, Mike (The Rat) Shanahan, and Marvin (Jerry) Lewis played QB and another position in college. Hume actually played safety in the pros during the Stillers Dynasty. It's hard to imagine his narrow behind on defense, but Hume was known for laying the lumber in a secondary that included several Hall of Famers.

It follows that the NFL would appeal to college QBs who can't make it at the next level. Unfortunately, the big money opportunity for marginal hurlers makes the long hours unappealing. That and the fact that ESPN will hire them and turn them into talking hairdos like Herbstreit and The Bachelor.

Vinny the Vampire?

David (U Can Drive My) Carr says he's healthy again and ready to take the rock from Vinny Testaverde. Vinny looked doggone good in his first game back, creating a QB controversy in Charlotte. The Look Man thinks Carr is among the worst in the league, and would do better as a coach.

Vinny, on the other hand, looks suspiciously like an 18th century count from Transylvania. The soon-to-be 44 year old has a great deep ball, and picked up the Carolina offense in only four days. He kept calling the Deadbirds defense "Buffy", turning them into his personal biyotch with the help of Steve (Jacob Jingleheimer) Smith. Of course, he may have to avoid day games, garlic dishes, and pregame holy water.



[The Count circa 1742 AD](#)

Play of the Year Nominee:

Dallas RB Marion (The Predator) Barber had the best two-yard run of the decade in the loss to New England last week. The Predator broke seven tackles and avoided the safety after getting zero blocking. He was actually one block away from pulling a Tony Dorsett and going 106 yards for six against the Chowds. This play has to go into the Play of the Year hopper, along with Live and Let Addai's helicopter TD. Barber even inspired Julius (Dr. J) Jones to run hard, and that is no small feat.

NFC Norris or Norse?

Time will tell but the Motor City (s)Hitmen seem more like pretenders than contenders. The hype of the Cheeseheads is based upon a passing offense that might fall apart when the weather turns ugly. The Breen Gay addition of WR Koren (Chronic) Robinson may help, but not as much as a running game would. Cold weather coming, and when it does, Detroit, Chicago and the Pack must run the football.

The one team in that division that can run is Minnesota. The Swedes have a solid running game, but need the pass. Like one guy told the Look Man last week, "You can't name more than one of their receivers. AP is all they have."

Well, they have a decent defense that is unheralded, so watch out. In fact, it looks as if it will be GB or MIN this season. Both teams have solid defenses and one-dimensional offenses. If Minnesota can add a dimension on O and stay healthy, each has a chance to be a force in the weak NFC. If the Swedes knock off the Pokes this week in Dallas, look for them to get on a roll that could land them in the postseason.

ZEBRA OF THE WEEK:

The nominees are:

Terry (Bottlegate) McAulay for DC at Green Bay, Jeff (Beanbag) Triplette for Icons at Shehawks, and Mike Carey for the Duel at Dallas.

Bottlegate was McAwful, calling numerous questionable calls in the key game for the Cheeseheads. He allowed the Pack to hold, and called numerous holding calls on a young DC squad. The worst call was a duel possession interception for Charles Woodson. The pick allowed the Pack to come back and win a game that featured several Brett Favre picks.

But the ZOTW goes to Mike Carey for New England at Dallas. The Look Man likes Carey, whose moves qualify him for Dancing with the Stars, but he allowed the following:

- Not calling a force-out when TO's first half catch was disallowed despite being pushed out by NE

- A key 3rd quarter pass interference call on CB Jacques (Brel) Reeves; Reeves was called for bumping into Randy Moss in the end zone simply for maintaining his position. The Chowds TD eliminated the run for Dallas, who never recovered.
- A bogus call on Moss' toe tap "TD" in the end zone corner. Replay overturned the call, but it unnerved the Pokes, forcing them to single up Lawrence Welker.
- Multiple phantom holding calls on Dallas that ruined their offensive continuity, turning the game into a blowout.

Mike Carey, you are the Look Man's **Zebra of the Week**.

THE LOOK AHEAD:

Hornheads at Pokes (-9.5)

Young Tarvaris Jackson came back from his groin last week in Chicago. He now faces a ticked off Pokes Doomsday Lite. Fortunately, he has the help of rookie RB sensation Adrian (AP) Peterson, who carved the Monsters of the Furniture Mart last week. The Purple Helmet Wearers defense is adept at stopping the run, so Marion Barber and Julius (Dr. J) Jones will have trouble.

Romo will need to work the secondary and keep Terrell Owens from blowing up. The harbinger of doom is that TO is well ahead of his broken mitten pace in 2006 with 15 dropped passes. Owens had six grabs and a TD last week, but complained about his role in the offense. This despite getting an identical number of passes thrown his way as last season, when he led the league in touchdowns.

Look for Minnesota to get on a little roll, while Dallas suffers postgame food poisoning from New England's chowder. Vikes cover the spread.

Stillers at Donkeys (+3.5) [SNF]

The Stillers return from their bye to travel to Mile High at Investigation Field. Troy Polamalu, Heinz (57) Ward, and Santonio Holmes are expected to have a timely return from injury.

Look for Fast Willie Parker to continue his dominance against one of the worst run defenses in the NFL. Mike (the Rat) Shanahan and Stillers coach Omar Epps match wits in a must win for Denver. Look for Big Ben and the Stillers to *House* the Donkeys, preserving their number three rating in the Power Rankings. Stillers cover and win.

Jets at Bungals (-6)

Marvin (Jerry) Lewis actually claimed a moral victory after the Week Six loss to KC. Now Jerry's Kids go up against former Bears RB Thomas Jones and the Aeronauticals. The Bungals defense is giving up huge chucks on the ground, with backup LBs who couldn't stop paint from running.

The Bengals are struggling, but TJ Whosyomama is having a monster year. Chad (The Dentist) Johnson has promised to put his drill on the shelf if he scores, but the real issue is a defense that can't stop anyone. That and the fact that (Johnny) Carson Palmer has thrown picks in bunches. Despite factor back Kenny (Guitar) Watson having a great season; Mr. Tonight Show has made comparisons to Brady and Manning premature by baking up turnovers at an alarming rate.

Chad Pennington can't throw the ball more than 20 yards, so look for Eric Mangina to focus on the run. New York also leads the league in kickoff returns, and they will get one on Sunday against the depleted Cincy special teams. Jets cover when Mangina yanks Pennington in the second half.

Bears at Iggles (-5.5)

Lovie has a one dimensional offense, but finally got Devin Hester (Prynn) to put out on offense. "Brian is our quarterback," he droned on after last week's three TD/two pick outing. "I don't care that he has been hitting on my wife. Brian is our QB."

Lovie takes his rag tag team to the City of Good Cheesesteaks to scout his QB of the future. McNabbsty and the Iggles are negotiating, but don't expect Donovan back in 2008. He'll trade his cheesesteaks for real ones at Gibson's on Rush.

Look for McNabbsty on the sidelines coaching up WR Kevin Curtis with his Dominos Oreo Dessert Pizza beard. NFL films will capture the following:

Curtis: "You think I can grow an Oreo pizza beard like you Donovan?"

McNabb: "Give it time, Kevin. It'll fill out."

Curtis: "You think so?"

McNabb (with a thicker beard): "I think so, Kevin. I know so."

Iggles win, and get on their NFC Least roll. The MOTFM have to clean up the Oreo crumbs afterward.

The Monsters of the Furniture Mart are vulnerable to the TE, and the Iggles' TJ Smith is back from a protracted injury. Smith is just alright, but Westbrook runs the TE routes as well as anyone. Iggles prevail, sending Lovie back to Gilligan's Island for a make out session with Thurston.

Ponies at J-Squareds (+3) [MNF]

Peyton Manning and the defending Super Bowl Champ Ponies invade J-Ville hoping to avenge a 44-17 December loss in which they allowed 375 rushing yards. The J-Squareds are quietly putting together a solid season behind QB David (The Fugitive) Garrard. This game has playoff ramifications in the AFC and beyond.

Tailpipe Calvin the Cookie Man notified the Look Man of some very interesting stats two weeks ago: "All four members of the AFC South won Sunday to push the division's record to 14-4, best in the NFL. Three of those losses have been inflicted by one another, and AFC South members have permitted an average of only 15.9 points, fewer than any other division. The NFC East is next at 18.9. Tennessee (3-1) ranks fifth in total defense, the Colts (5-0) sixth, Jacksonville (3-1) seventh and Houston (3-2) 11th."

Cookie Man continued: "The only loss outside the division is when the ATL Falcons beat the Texans two weeks ago. That was predicted because the Texans endured a lot of injuries against the Colts the previous week. So far the AFC South appears to be the league's toughest division."

The Tennessee loss to the Corn Kings last week was aided by an injury to Vince Young, so the stats speak for themselves. These teams are tough, physical, and well coached, so don't expect Indy to go unscathed in 2007.

J-Ville RB Fred Taylor had his annual groin injury, but backup RB Maurice Jones-Drew (Mo-Jo) will test Indy's run defense. The J-Squared also added possession receiver and Look Man favorite Denny Northcutt in the off-season, and he is having a great year.

Indy will turn in a gutsy performance, and the Ponies win to go 6-0.

EPILOGUE

The QB situation in the NFL has become laughable. When Vinny Testaverde and Tim Rattay (Furniture) play after mid-week calls from the couch, you know the league is in trouble. The dearth of talent at the QB position is one of the worst developments in recent years. Ironically, this parallels the emergence of pro-style offenses in college, which should have the opposite impact.

The Look Man blames this phenomenon on the focus on highly drafted hurlers and the incredible pressure to win now. Tom Brady, Tony Romo and Derek Anderson were unheralded players who have succeeded in the pros while Akili Smith, David Klingler, and Cade McCown are at home selling insurance. The Look Man would advise pro scouts to do their homework and begin to focus on developing talent instead of inserting raw rookies in order to preserve head coaching jobs.

Fans need to quit calling for Brady Quinn (Medicine Woman) to start ahead of guys with more talent and experience. Perhaps more importantly, owners should give more opportunities to NFL coordinators instead of recruiting college coaches who can't coach.

The success of Mike Tomlin in Blitzburgh is proof positive about the benefits of taking a chance on a young guy. Chuck Noll and John Madden were among the youngest coaches in the league when they started making their reservations for the Hall of Fame. Let's look to young, talented coaches before we call re-treads like Marty Schottenheimer and Iron Chin Cowher.

Peace,

The Look Man