

## **The Look Man Report 2007**

### **Week Seven: London Bridge is Falling Down**

*"We've just got to go out there and play and try to do our job the best way we know how. It's not like it's the first time it happened this year." - Marine Mammals LB Joey Porter (Paints), after hearing LB Zach Thomas will not play on Sunday*

#### **PROLOGUE**

The NFL nears the halfway point of the season as several surprises occurred in Week Seven. Brian (Beer Batter) Griese and the Monsters of the Furniture Mart went 97 yards for the game winning TD over Philly. The Stillers lost another road game to Denver on a last minute FG. The Jynts have rounded into shape to go 5-2 after an 0-2 start. The Bungals got their first win since Week One by coming back against the Jets. And the Chowds and Ponies continued their inexorable path to their November 3<sup>rd</sup> showdown undefeated.

Perhaps that last item was not a surprise, but the way that it happened was. The Chowds continued to pass after being up by 21 over the Marine Mammals, resulting in a pick six for Miami. Bill (Dr. Evil) Belicheat decided to reinsert Tom (Zoolander) Brady, who promptly sealed the 49-27 rout. When asked by reporters why he replaced backup Matt Cassell, Dr. Evil sniffed, "One more TD and they're down by two touchdowns in the middle of the fourth quarter. I was at the game." Yeah, Belicheat was at the game, and he was passing to extend the lead instead of salting away an easy road win. Verilee, the Football Gods are watching, and they are not happy.

So Indy and New England remain the class of the NFL, which is looking to expand its profile with a game in London on Sunday. Well, perhaps the Marine Mammals and Jynts aren't the best examples, but NFL Commish Roger (Rabbit) Goodell is hoping to mimic the international success of the NBA by contesting games in multiple cities outside the US. After last year's Mexico City battle between Arizona and Dallas, the NFL believes it can achieve financial success on a global scale.

The downsides are many. NFL Europe failed miserably despite owners incredible financial contributions. Though the NFLEL developed such players as Jake Delhomme and Kurt Warner, it was a constant drain on league revenues, without a concomitant viewer increase across the pond.

So why give away home games to international cities like London? Because money talks. David Stern has increased demand in the NBA by adding international stars like Yao Ming and that German guy in Dallas. NBA rosters now read like Eastern European white pages, and interest is off the charts in the People's Republic.

The Look Man believes the NFL is making a huge mistake here. Pro basketball was already big on an international level. Besides the Olympics, nearly every major country has a pro team with a solid following. American football competes with soccer, and it does very poorly unless it is propped up by substantial dollars. College football doesn't even do well in neighboring Canada, where it is soundly thrashed by hockey and CFL ratings.

More importantly, Jerry (The King of Pop) Jones is reluctant to forego the revenue from home games in his new mega-stadium in exchange for Euros. Jones is attempting to convince other owners that gigantic, multi-use venues are the appropriate tool for maximizing profit. Jones is currently building *Neverland Stadium*, which will seat over 100,000 fans. He has stated that he is not willing to give up loge box, parking, and ticket revenues from home dates in Texas. Stay tuned as this battle is waged in the box office and the board room.



*London bridge wanna go down?*

The Look Man missed a lot of live NFL action last week, so without further xenophobia, here are a few appetizers:

### **LAGNIAPPE:**

#### *I'm No Superman*

Marine Mammals Zach (Scrubs) Thomas is not expected to play in the matchup in Great Britain due to an auto accident suffered after last Sunday's game. Scrubs was riding home from Pro Player Stadium with his wife when a Chowds Fan rear-ended him on the freeway. Thomas suffered whiplash, exacerbating a concussion. The Marine Mammals have been devastated by injury this season, losing QB Trent Green, safety Jeremiah Bell and RB Ronnie Brown for the season.

Police are now investigating whether Jynt's head coach Tom Coughlin had anything to do with the accident. Coughlin coached with Chowds head coach Bill Belichick in New York, and is rumored to admire Dr. Evil. Thomas was non-plussed by the crash, saying, "We shouldn't have any trouble beating Eli and the Jynt's. Did you see the size of the animatronic Jason Taylor in London? Insert that guy, and Eli's passes will be navel high even if they don't get batted down."

#### *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 Salisbury, Herbstreit, and Jesse (The Bachelor) Palmer.

#### *Mr. Green Jeans, I Presume?*

Dallas is rejoicing about the difference between their new head coach and former leader Bill Parcells. Coach Bob Keeshan is giving them candy during breaks, and generally being less of a disciplinarian than the Tuna. "I can't say enough about what this coaching atmosphere has

brought to this locker room," said WR Terrell Owens. "I think every guy can share a little bit about what these coaches mean to them. But enough about them, let's talk about me!"

The Look Man predicted a nice bounce in Year One of the Captain Kangaroo Era. Unfortunately, the Pokes will revert to their previous lack of discipline by Year Two, sending Keeshan back to the Mr. Green Jeans and the Grandfather Clock for answers. By the way, any of you Tailpipes ever notice that they stole the Grandfather Clock's lips for the Thomas the Train characters? Odd....



*Wade Phillips at the chalkboard*

### The High Life

Four Indian elephants were electrocuted this week after imbibing copious amounts of rice beer and going on a rampage. A herd of about 20 to 25 elephants went Dick Cheney, trampling rice fields in search of adult beverages. Four of the elephants were killed instantly when their trunks came into contact with electrical power lines.

Conflicts between elephants and men are becoming more common as the animals have developed a taste for the seasonal beverage brewed in villages. The herd attacks in search of the beer, typically on Friday and Saturday nights. After becoming inebriated, the huge mammals often turn violent, killing villagers and destroying property.

The incident this week mirrored similar events in which 180 villagers were killed. The locals have begun to kill the elephants to avoid the conflicts, angering Right to Lifers. A spokesman from the Miller Brewing Company said, "Eleven dollars for an elephant sandwich??! You must be crazy! That ain't the High Life."

Naturalists believe the loss of habitat is responsible for the attacks. "It has been noticed that elephants have developed a taste for rice beer and local liquor and they always look for it when they invade villages," said Apu Inmahpants, an elephant expert. "They don't even have designated drivers. I think I recognized one of the elephants as Babar. He's going down, baby."

No word on whether the recent forest fires will cause a similar problem with GOP officials in Southern California.



*Dubya and the GOP flee San Diego*

### Mangina Stricken with Chadydia

Eric Mangina lost another winnable game after Chad Pennington threw an out pattern with no zip. CB Jonathan Joseph turned the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter pass into six, and the Bungals salvaged their season with a rare home win.

Marvin (Jerry) Lewis actually fielded an NFL defense in Week Seven, largely because Mangina refused to continue to go deep. Pennington threw two deep balls early on, and then abandoned the deep ball for a running game that went nowhere. Everyone in the league knows Pennington can't throw the out pattern, so they crowd the middle. This is at least the second time Chad has thrown a TD to the other team, but Mangina refuses to bench him in favor of big-armed Kellen (Mark Twain) Clements.

TJ Whosyomama had another big game despite getting drilled repeatedly. (Johnny) Carson Palmer threw him several medicine balls, adding "MD" to his resume. Despite winning this game, Mr. Tonight Show and the Bungals are still not right.

The game was interesting for a late game miscue by Marvin Lewis. After the Jets scored with no time remaining to make it 38-29, Mangina went for a two point PAT. Lewis was confused, and called a timeout to ensure, well, the Look Man is not sure what he was doing. Logically, a two point PAT on an untimed down meant nothing. Marvin's clock management continues to mystify.

### Testing, 1-2-3, Testing

Beer Batter Griese was forced to call his own plays with a little over a minute remaining, no timeouts and down by four. To make matters worse, Beer Batter's helmet receiver conveniently went dead at the Linc in Philly. Stories about the Chowds interfering with sideline communications are rampant, and this one makes you wonder if the Iggles stole a page after a close Super Bowl loss to New England.

Beer Batter calmly went 7 of 9 for 97 yards, finishing the drive with a TD pass to Mushin (Moose) Muhammad. Griese was able to read the lips of his O-Coordinator once he got near midfield, but his calm demeanor under pressure was noteworthy. Terry Bradshaw is one of the last QBs to call his own plays in the modern era, but it is rare today. Only Peyton Manning comes close to the field generalship that was once common. Nowadays, anyone can get under center and throw for six TDs, right Zoolander?

### **THE LOOK AHEAD:**

#### Stillers at Bungals (+3):

This game is a comical call as the Bungals have lost six straight to the Stillers at home, but they are one of the few teams capable of winning at Ketchup Field. The Stillers come in with two consecutive road losses, making one believe that head coach Omar Epps may need some additional seasoning.

Epps needs to steal a page from Wesley Snipes' *Passenger 57* playbook, and get a road win to solidify their slim lead in the AFC Asgard Division.

The Nati got some key calls to rescue their 2007 season against the hapless Jets, but don't expect the same thing this week. Rudi is tanking the season as retribution for the drafting of Kenny (Ki-Jana) Irons. He claims to have a bad groin, but Kenny (Guitar) Watson's 130 yard day may change his mind.

Chad (The Dentist) Johnson has toned down his antics, and the Bungals hope to limp to .500 with the return of Chris Henry, but they won't get any help this week. LBs Anthony Shlegel Lock and Dhani Jones face real competition against a team with real TEs.

The Stillers win this one to get three games up on the Vaunted Bungals Offense, turning Pall Bearer into Ketchup Field West once again.

Browns at Lambs (+3):

Stephen (Action) Jackson may be back from a groin this week in a curious move for St. Louis. Jackson is hoping to re-enact his Nike commercial against one of the worst run defenses in the NFL, but the Lambs have a bye next week. The smart money has him sitting one more game in order to be healthy for the second half.

Coach Scott Linehan needs a win for the 0-7 team in order to keep his job. Linehan has lost the team, which laid an egg after he laid into them two weeks ago. He will now go Marvin Lewis, looking for moral victories. The O-line is seriously damaged, with backups at nearly every position.

Mark (Scarecrow) Bulger still has bad ribs and his receiving corps is suffering after losing Mike Furrey and Kevin Curtis in favor of aging vets Holt and Bruce. They have added former Marine Mammals TE Chris Chambers, and C-town has given up a league high in TDs to TEs.

Look for Derek (Neo) Anderson and the Browns to win after their bye week, starting a little roll. The Browns three losses have been to solid teams, and the second half schedule is friendlier. Browns win this one, renaming St. Louis *The Gateway to the Worst*.

Cadillacs at Bears (-5):

The Bears Tommie (Hilfiger) Harris went Porter Paints, guaranteeing a win over Etroit to get to .500 for the bye week. The Motor City has a penchant for giving up sacks in bunches, and their DBs were exposed against the Iggles several weeks back. They cannot stop the deep ball.

Etroit OC Mike (Megalomaniac) Martz swallowed his ego and ran the freaking football last week against Tampa, but he can't stay on the wagon forever. Look for Martz to get pass-whacky, exposing his defense to deep balls by Griese. Beer Batter and the MOTFM win at home, making Jon Pickna and the Caddies wonder about the ten win prediction. Bears.

Philly at Minnesota (+1) :

Swedes QB Tarvaris Jackson is one game from being benched in favor of Kelly (Tires) Holcomb. Adrian (AP) Peterson can run on anyone if he gets the rock, but he saw the ball infrequently in the second half last week at Dallas.

The Iggles are struggling with injuries and McNabb is not healthy. A strong pass rush makes him twitchy, and the Swedes defense is underrated. They can stuff the run, but have shown trouble in pass defense.

Both teams need this win, but the Look Man anticipates Kelly Tires to have his annual 400 yard passing day. Swedes win, facilitating the trade of McNabb to Chicago in 2008.

Houston at San Diego (-9.5):

Brush fires in SoCal will disturb the Bolts, in a game that may be played on the road in Phoenix. The Deadbirds have a bye week, making this game reminiscent of the 2005 Icons, who were forced to play on the road due to Hurricane Katrina.

Injuries to Houston QB Matt Schaub may make this a matchup between Sage (Rosemary & Thyme) Rosenfels and Philip (Muddy) Rivers. Houston has struggled with injuries, and the Bolts win but don't cover the spread.

Genocide Victims at Chowds (-16.5):

As great as the Chowds have played, they could easily get knocked off this weekend. The Look Man likes the matchup of the GVs defensive backfield against New England. Shawn Springs, Sean Taylor, and Fred Smoot match up well with the spread formation, plus they can stop the run. The GV D is capable of matching up with Wes (Lawrence) Welker and the four wides, as well as put pass rush on Tom (Zoolander) Brady.

The only downside is the QB play of Washington. Jason Campbell (Soup) will be confused by New England's defensive formations, but if he simply puts the ball in the hands of H-back/TE Chris Cooley (High), the Victims could pull the Pepto Upset of the Year.

The Look Ahead Factor to the Indy game, plus an underrated DC Defense make this a game to watch closely. Despite the Chowds' historic NFC domination, they do not match up well with Washington. The Look Man expects Old DC to stay within sixteen points to cover the spread.

Breen Gay at Denver (-3):

The Pope has had a great year so far in 2007, but the Look Man expects his reign to be short-lived. The Pack has not developed a running game, and they face the porous Donkey run defense this week on MNF. Though the Donkeys stopped the Blitzburgh running attack, they haven't been able to stop anyone else's. Breen Gay's best chance is to run the ball early and often, keeping Denver QB Jay Cutler(y) from carving them up.

Cold weather could expose Frett Bavre in this one. The Donkey D is tougher than advertised, with a strong, quick, and athletic D-line. The Cheesehead front seven is solid, and they could easily overwhelm the Donkeys. Denver wins on a late Jason Elam FG for a push.

**EPILOGUE**

The halfway point of the season looms, making this week particularly important. Though nearly everyone is looking ahead to the New England/Indy game next week, don't be so sure both teams will be unblemished. This week separates the wheat from the chaff, and contenders from pretenders.

Injuries at QB continue to mount, as David Garrard of the J-Squareds and Byron Leftwich of the ATL are the latest casualties. A few more serious injuries and we can expect someone to call Tim Couch and Jeff George. And no one wants that to happen.

Peace,

The Look Man