

## **The Look Man Report 2007**

### **Week Ten: A-U-T-O-matic**

*"We call that 'a Brokeback Mountain game' with all the penetration and kickouts." – NBA Lakers coach Phil Jackson when asked about the Spurs' three point shooting.*

#### **PROLOGUE**

Week Ten battles for first place did not disappoint as the Browns, Jynts, and Donkeys all played for a share of the division lead. Only the Donkeys ended up winning, but not for the lack of trying. Even the Ponies-Bolts game was entertaining, despite a sudden bout of color-blindness by Pete Manning. Manning's six picks were a stunning example of a letdown after a big game.

The Pokes-Jynts and Cleveland-Blitzburgh games were epic, but the biggest development might have been another team dying in the Desert. The Detroit Cadillacs were the latest victim of the Deadbirds, who bounced the Stillers at Retractable Grass Field in Phoenix. Arizona is trying to mount a challenge in the NFC, and Ken-Whiz is just the coach to pull it off.

Head coach Ken Whisenhunt is parlaying a physical defense into wins, with a lot of help from WR Larry Fitzgerald (Kennedy). LFK's sparkling catch and run TD was sweet, and he and Anquan Bolden are quietly putting together nice seasons.

The Stillers are attempting to mount a challenge to the Chowds in the AFC, and the Pokes and Pack are trying to run and hide in the Junior Circuit. The Pack looked mighty tough in destroying the Hornheads at Flambeau, knocking Adrian Peterson out in the process. Seattle attempted to serve notice on Monday Night, but it's tough to tell how good they are over in the NFC Worst.

The postseason will round out over the next few weeks, as Dallas plays three games in 12 days. Once December arrives, the NFL games become experiments in mental and physical toughness. If you can't run with the Big Dogs, please stay on the porch.

Without further metaphoric content, Week Ten:

#### **WEEK IN REVIEW**

##### **Browns at Stillers (-9.5):**

Derek (Neo) Anderson turned sweet field position into points as the Browns jumped out to a 21-9 first half lead. Neo could do no wrong as he led an economical passing game. Little wonder, as the flat Stillers got zero sacks.

The second half was a different story as Big Ben Roethlisberger used his feet instead of his arm to bring the Stillers back. Of course, BB also used boneheaded coaching by Romeo (Ralph Cramden) Crennel to get a win. Ironically, it was Cramden's defensive skill that forced four sacks of the Berger, forcing him to use his wheels.

Speaking of wheels, Browns Fan is wondering why the coaching staff doesn't use KR Joshua Cribbs on offense. Cribbs had a 100-yard KO return to go with a 90-yarder early. His late 30 yard return almost put the Browns in position to go to OT. How come the former QB is not running reverse option passes to keep aggressive defenses honest? The Kid is sensational.

The Browns lost a close one due to bad clock management. No one has ever hit a FG over 44 yards in the open end of Ketchup Field, so the Look Man ain't hatin' on Dawson. Even the Winemaker never hit a 50 yarder there, and Dawson's 52-yarder was only one yard short of sending the contest into OT at 31. The talented Browns deserve better coaching, and this one could cost them the playoffs.

Pokes at Jynts (+1.5):

The Jynts broke out the red jerseys in their rematch with Dallas. While Jeremy Shockey had a great game, Big Blue couldn't stop Terrell Owens, who made their mood match their jerseys. Romo tossed in one of the best plays of the week with his fake tuck-and-throw to TE Tony (The Boston Strangler) Curtis. The Strangler seems to only catch TDs, and he is a nice change-of-pace with Witten.

The Pokes and Pack both play on Turkey Day, perhaps setting up the first matchup of one loss teams late in the season. That game would set up home field for the postseason, which is big. It's tough to beat the Cheeseheads and the Zebras at Flambeau, which has become the new Investigation Field.

J-Squareds at Flaming Thumbtacks (-4):

The J-Squareds kept starter David (The Fugitive) Garrard on the pine, winning this one with tough defense and opportunistic scoring. Vince Young and Company are starting to show some warts, and their offense is nearly unwatchable.

Meanwhile, if J-Ville can string together some W's, they may be the team on the come in AFC Souse. Fred (Sanford) Thomas teams with Maurice (MoJo) Jones-Drew to make a formidable backfield tandem. These guys may put J-Ville in the driver's seat by not forcing Quinn Gray to throw. The only issue will be the loss of DE Marcus Stroud to a drug suspension. Stroud will return in December, just in time for a playoff push.

Ponies at Bolts (+3.5) SNF:

The Bolts won a *Tale of Two Halves* as they allowed Indy to race back from a blowout. The Ponies did their best Secretariat impression despite six picks of Peyton Manning. Manning violated the Look Man's Rule of Three: any QB who throws three picks wins a seat on the bench next to the coach. It doesn't matter whether it's a Hall of Famer or Charlie Frye.

The worst part of this game was the two missed FGs by Adam (The Winemaker) Vinatieri. The Vinophile is the best in the binness, but his last miss cost Indy a winnable game. He is usually like a Prince song: A-U-T-O-matic.

This game could have serious playoff implications as the Ponies lost DE Dwight Freeney for the year. Freeney is lucky he's not going to the Horse Hospital after suffering a Lisfranc foot injury. He joins Dallas Clark (Bar), Marvin Harrison, and a boatload of linebackers in the M\*A\*S\*H unit.

Indy is now going to struggle to get the opportunity to meet New England in the postseason. The Look Man hopes they make it. If they do, Dungy will have done his greatest coaching job ever. And that's saying a lot.

**LAGNIAPPE:**

Fans Gone Wild?

Things have gotten ridiculous at Flambeau as the Leap has gotten scandalous. The attached photo resulted in an obscenity conviction. Pack Fan Cyle (Card Shark) Cantrell has entered an innocent plea, but the Breen Gay has called in Gil Grissom for a special consultation. Apparently Card Shark left Cheez-Whiz in the offending area.



*Illegal use of hands?*

### THE Ohio State University Un-Luckeyes?

The Buckeyes got a little reverse-Zebra love last week at the Big Horseshoe. Not only did Illini QB Juice Williams cough up the rock on a key third down, but the officials nearly won the collegiate Zebra of the Week award. The Illini were holding on at least two TD passes.

But the story of the week might be the poor in-game coaching of Jim (Train) Tressel. Train Tressel ran off the tracks with an ill-timed timeout on a key fourth and one. When Tressel blinked, Illini coach Ron Zook pulled his kicking team off the field, and gained a first down. The possession turned into a TD that was the margin of victory.

Tressel's fourth down gamble in the championship game against Florida game cost him the ballgame. Now one has to wonder if he's attending the Marvin Lewis School of Coaching Technique.

### **ZEBRA OF THE WEEK**

The Stillers-Browns game had its share of bad calls in Week Ten. Braylon Edwards' sensational TD catch was the result of a Ralph Cramden challenge, and a solid kickoff return was called back due to a phantom holding call on TE Darnell (Mayor) Dinkins. Cramden went bang-zoom on a challenge of TE Heath Miller's juggling TD catch, blowing not one, but two timeouts on the play.

But the real travesty was the lack of flags on key plays. The Browns led 21-6 before they went ultra-conservative in the second half. Still, there was an O-lineman in the endzone on the Miller TD, and the right tackle actually tackled Browns DE Antwan Peek on Big Ben's 30 yard TD scamper. Ron (A Lyin' in) Winters swallowed the whistle in the second half, donating the game to the Tissue Paper curtain.

Gene Steratore wracked up another honorable mention for his work in the Ponies-Bolts matchup. Steratore had another first down spot overturned by replay in what is becoming embarrassing. Gene later called illegal procedure on Indy for a legal shift that attempted to draw San Diego offsides. Even the normally placid Tony (Hume Cronyn) Dungy went ballistic, losing his cool and the game.

A few more of these and Mean Gene will suffer the fate of Phil Lockett. Lockett lost his stripes after ruling that Jerome Bettis miscalled a coin toss a few years back on national TV.

Ron (A Lyin' in) Winters was even more dreadful than usual, and he gets the Look Man's **Zebra of the Week** award.

### **THE LOOK AHEAD:**

The lines this week look very suspicious, as a number of teams are getting double digit spreads. The Look Man doesn't like this one bit, as he struggles enough with single digit calls. At any rate, the Week in Preview:

#### *Cleveland at B-More (+2.5)*

Neo and the Browns go on the road to STD-more, where several ex-Ravens have a point to prove. The locals are calling for Brian Billick's head, as he refuses to bench an ineffective Steve (Air) McNair. Of course, Billickgoat has seen Kyle Boller (Hat) in practice, so he knows that he has little to gain.

The Browns help along McNair's retirement plans by dusting off the Ducks at M&T Bankrupt Stadium. Browns win, and not by kicking seven FGs like Cincy.

#### *Bolts at J-Ville (-3):*

The Bolts force Quinn Gray to put it up early and often, as they romp on J-Ville. San Diego's run defense is getting healthy in proportion with NT Jamal Lewis, and the J-Squareds just don't match up well here. The Look Man is not sold on Bolts' QB Philip (Muddy) Rivers, but the physical game against the Thumbtacks takes its toll on J-Ville.

#### *KC at Indy (-14.5):*

Herm (Hello!) Edwards turns to Brody Croyle at QB, but only because he is facing a busted up Ponies' D. DE Simeon Rice signed this week to replace Freeney, who is done for the season. Indy's real issue is LB, where they can't stay healthy.

The Look Man doesn't really like the spread here, especially without Larry (Grandmama) Johnson, but two TDs is a lot of points. The odds makers are looking for Pete Manning to rebound after an ugly loss to San Diego. Ponies.

#### *New England at Crapchester (+15.5):*

New England never loses after a bye week, but two TDs are too much on the road at Crapchester. Look for the Bisons' to play with passion and heart in this meeting of two Mensa head coaches.

The Look Man likes Buffalo to cover, despite the loss of Marshawn Lynch. Hell, they nearly won without a QB against Dallas. The Bisons may be the toughest little team no one knows about. Buffalo covers and New England goes to 9-2 ATS, despite winning.

#### *Zona at Cincy (-3.5):*

The Look Man really likes this game. The Bungals are starting to look like an NFL team with WR Chris Henry back in the lineup. They face one of the most physical defenses in the NFC at Pall Bearer.

Look for the Bungals Fan to get ugly if the Ugly & Black don't get up big early. The Deadbirds dive bomb the Bungals with double moves and deep balls, posting an easy win.

Carolina at Breen Gay (-10):

The Look Man would like to go with the Black Cats, but Vinny Testaverde is injured. The only thing you need to know about backup David (U Can Drive My) Carr is that he plays with TWO color-coordinated gloves. Breen Gay rolls over the Black Cats, pushing coach John Fox closer to the unemployment line in Charlotte.

DC at Dallas (-10.5):

QB Jason Campbell (Soup) has cooled off since the Look Man gave him kudos. The Genocide Victims almost fit the profile to beat the Pokes, because they have a good TE and a decent run game. They just don't have a QB with a brain. Campbell Soup stars in the Sci-Fi Channel remake of The Wizard of Oz as the Scarecrow. Pokes.

Jyns at Detroit (+2.5):

The Lions are the Jekyll-Hyde of the NFL. No one knows which team will show up, but the Look Man thinks it will be the winning Caddies in Week Ten. Though Mike (Megalomaniac) Martz will likely throw the running plays out with the bathwater, QB Jon Pickna picks apart the woeful Jyns secondary. Etroit covers and wins.

Chicago at Sheattle (-6):

The Bad News: Sexy Rexy returns at QB with the shoulder injury Brian (Beer Batter) Griese. The Worse News: Sheattle is second in total sacks. Sheattle punishes the Monsters of the Furniture Mart, celebrating with a grande triple shot skim mochaccino latte afterwards.

**EPILOGUE**

Turkey Day looms as several teams go with short weeks, so look for the Look Ahead factor for Dallas, Breen Gay and KC. It's not unusual for Turkey Day contestants to look bad in the week prior. The Look Man remembers one particularly humiliating Dallas loss to the Texans.

It could happen again this week, as the Multi-colored Fish Wrap christened Dallas Number Two in the Power Rankings. Number Twos in the NCAA have struggled, so Big D would do well to watch their backs.

Peace,

The Look Man