

## **The Look Man Report 2007**

### **Week Sixteen: Breakdown in Bungaltown**

*"I just try to keep it loose. If you get tight then you start second-guessing things. I've realized that I play better when I play loose." – Browns QB Derek Anderson before Week 16*

*"The tighter the game gets, the looser he is. That's a great quality to have." - Browns GM Phil Savage before Week 16*

#### **PROLOGUE**

Week Sixteen saw the final playoff picture develop with the exception of the final AFC wild card. Tennessee now has the pole position on that spot courtesy of the common opponents tiebreaker. The Browns' disastrous 19-14 loss in the Battle of Ohio Part II had far reaching ramifications, cinching the AFC Asgard Division title for the Stillers, as well as the first Wild Card seed for J-Ville. The loss also meant the Look Man's annual wager with Long Sufferin' Bengals Fan Sundance was a push. Oh, the humanity!

The Look man is writing this report poolside in Ft. Lauderdale (means "large breasted women" in Floridian). He felt the need to give himself the Christmas present that the Bengals denied Cleveland, so he packed his bags and moved to Beverly. Hollywood, Florida, that is, right next to Uncle Jed and the rest of the crew.

The Pokes stole a win down in Charlotte, courtesy of Zebra Mike Carey. Missed defensive pass interference and pass reception calls sealed the win for the Pokes, who lost key players Terence (Hello) Newman and Terrell (TO) Owens to injury. Once Dallas saw it was getting preferential treatment from the zebras, they salted away the win and clinched home field throughout, courtesy of the Pack loss to the Monsters of the Furniture Mart.

The Marine Mammals were unable to remain competitive with the Chowds, who continue the Pursuit of Pomposity this week against the Jynts. With the Jets, Bisons, and Mammals in the AFC East, six of the 15 wins to date are pretty much a given. Tack on a zebra-assisted win at B-More, and the Chowds are halfway to 16-0. Still, if they pull it off, it will secure their position as the best team in NFL history. Of course, if they lose in the first round of the playoffs, the history books will include an annotation about the worst choke job of all time as well.

So, the Jags hold the first wild card spot, and cannot improve with a win at Houston this week. The Browns need the Ponies to knock off division rival Tennessee, or they'll be home for the post season. A Flaming Thumbtacks victory sends them to San Diego, where they'll be treated to a big dose of the New LT in the first round.

Over in the NFC, the Cheeseheads' Week 16 loss may actually help their playoff chances. The Pack passing game needs warmer climates to ensure success as its running game has reverted to nearly zero. The Genocide Victims surprised the Hornheads, and can clinch a playoff spot with a win at Dallas.

The prospect of a DC postseason looked bleak just weeks ago, but since the Pokes suffered injuries last week, they will likely rest their starters to get ready for Round Two of the playoffs. Their extra bye week comes at a good time, since TO can get his ankle ready for prime time. TO's Super Bowl return from a broken fibula may actually have been the easier task, as high ankles take about a month to heal.

On to the week that was, in bullet form:

## WEEK IN REVIEW

- *CLE QB Derek (Neo) Anderson went from humble beginnings in Scappoose, OR to humbling picks in Week 16. Neo likely cost himself several million dollars by throwing 4 picks to the vaunted Bengals D, costing the Browns the playoff clincher. Imagine \$67 M man Tony Romo throwing 4 picks in a pivotal game vs the Iggles or GVs and you can understand the Look Man's frustration. Neo's two late first picks gave the Nati short field, and two TDs to boot. Only Marvin Lewis' ridiculous two point PAT try stopped the scoring as the Bengals failed to add to their 19 point total, winning 19-14.*
- *The Chowds offense decided to work on their run game against the Marine Mammals, and Boney Maroney busted 100 for only the fourth time all year. The Chowds must be reading the LMR, because, like the Cheeseheads, their offense is better suited to warm weather. They had better look out for a run stuffing team and hope for good weather at the Blade or they could choke in the postseason.*
- *Pro Bowl snub Fred Taylor RB at J-ville makes the team based upon the broken fibula of (Fast) Willie Parker in Week 16. Parker was doomed from the start, simply based upon the number of carries this year. RBs with more than 300 carries are just looking to throw a shoe in the postseason, and with the injury to Big Ben, the Stillers reverted to their 2006 personality by handing the ball to Najeh (The Dump Truck) Davenport.*
- *The Big Tuna went to Miami after using the ATL to drive up the price. Parcels is not going to coach in 2008, but he will attempt to retool the Marine Mammals by selecting better players. Head coach Cam (Candid) Cameron is sweating bullet as the Mammals hope that Parcels is dolphin friendly tuna.*
- *As predicted by the LMR, Cleveland's fate is in the hands of Ponies coach Tony (Hume Cronyn) Dungy. Indy can't improve its seeding, so the Thumbtacks could easily win this one and get in. On the other hand, Indy hates losing to AFC Souse opponents, so the D might rise up and stuff the Tacks suddenly pedestrian offense. NBC celebrated the AFC mess by flexing this game, meaning Cleveland won't know whether to pack until after the Sunday Nighter. The Look Man would advise them to plan ahead because those fishing charters are booking up fast.*
- *San Diego's Norv Turner has inserted more pulling guard plays for LaDainian Tomlinson, resulting in big wins. Turner must've watched film from 2006, when the pulling guards killed the Bengals and the rest of the league. The New LT has now definitely won the battle to determine who the Man is on this SD team. It certainly ain't QB Philip Rivers, who was caught on You Tube smack talking Denver QB Jay Cutler. Rivers is so obviously NOT the Man in SD, and now everyone knows the score.*
- *Dallas WR Terry Glenn will be back this week vs. DC, with TO out after the dreaded high ankle sprain (HAS). TO should be back for the playoffs, but without him, Dallas is a totally different offense. OC Jason Garrett really needs to retool and run the friggin' football. Dallas has the largest O-line in the league, but has gone Sam Wicky Wacky Wyche at times by passing the ball too often. Meanwhile, Garrett has gained a rep as the hottest coaching prospect in the NFL, and it ain't a coincidence. Running the ball rarely makes you a genius, but it is smart football.*

## LAGNIAPPE

### OR = Oregonian Recognition

Derek Anderson used to be the second most famous person from Scappoose until this season. 2007 Playboy Playmate of the Year Sara Jean Underwood, a childhood friend of Anderson's was Numero Uno. Underwood appeared in the Girls of the Pac-10 wearing a painted Number 7 jersey from Anderson's Oregon State team.

"It's just a little highway town, very close-knit. Derek was a grade older than me. He started dating one of my good friends, Lisa, who he ended up marrying," said the PMOY. "He wanted to marry me, but he was worried that a celebrity girlfriend might cause him to throw picks."

The Look Man simply wonders how so many nice Beavers keep appearing in the news.



[Sara Jean in Underwear](#)

### *Krakatoa, East of Java!*

The Look Man is always amazed at the sheer number of American Samoans in the NFL. The most recent star in the making is DT Matt Toeaina, a 6'2", 311-pounder playing for Chicago. Toeaina was released by the Nati, which obviously has too much talent on its D-line. Aging Bengals veterans Bryan Robinson, John Thornton, and Michael Myers were overlooked by Pro Bowl voters, perhaps because of their tendency to allow runners to go for 200 yards.

The Bungals could have kept Toeaina by activating him off the practice squad, but instead saved \$30K by allowing him to go to the Bears. All he did was shut down All Pro C Matt Birk, and blow up Adrian (All Day) Peterson and Green Bay RB Ryan Clark in successive weeks.

The injury-riddled Bears helped their D-line with the acquisition, while the Bungals are counting on fellow Samoans Domato Peko and Jonathan Fanene in 2008. The loss of Toeaina reminds long suffering Bengals Fan of DT Kelly Gregg, who went on to perennial Pro Bowl status after Baltimore dug him up from the Bungals practice squad. The Bungals defense continues to languish against the run, while B-More is in the top 10 every year. Go figure.

### *Seedy Results*

The NFL began the playoff seeding approach in 1975, as part of its expansion program. Home field was alternated by division before that, but only 19 of the 66 top seeds have gone on to win the Lombardi.

More relevant, only three top seeds have won a ring in the last ten years. The last top seed to do so: the 2003 Chowds.

Here's a look at the breakdown since 1995:

### **NFC**

*1995 -- Cowboys-Won Super Bowl*

*1996 -- Packers-Won Super Bowl*

*1997 -- 49ers-Lost NFC Championship*

*1998 -- Vikings-Lost NFC Championship*

*1999 -- St.L Rams-Won Super Bowl*

2000 -- NY Giants-Lost Super Bowl  
2001 -- St.L Rams-Lost Super Bowl  
2002 -- Eagles-Lost NFC Championship  
2003 -- Eagles-Lost NFC Championship  
2004 -- Eagles-Lost Super Bowl  
2005 -- Seahawks-Lost Super Bowl  
2006 -- Bears-Lost Super Bowl

## AFC

1995 -- Chiefs-Lost Div. playoff  
1996 -- Broncos-Lost Div. playoff  
1997 -- Chiefs-Lost Div. playoff  
1998 -- Broncos-Won Super Bowl  
1999 -- Jaguars-Lost AFC Championship  
2000 -- Titans-Lost Div. playoff  
2001 -- Steelers-Lost AFC Champ  
2002 -- Raiders-Lost Super Bowl  
2003 -- Patriots-Won Super Bowl  
2004 -- Steelers-Lost AFC Championship  
2005 -- Colts-Lost Div. playoff  
2006 -- Chargers-Lost Div. playoff

The moral of this story is that the top seed is not a lock in either conference, so get your playoff popcorn ready.

## **ZEBRA OF THE WEEK**

### Sapp Slapped With Fine

Grayders DT Warren Sapp was fined 75 large after a first half altercation with the zebras in Sunday's 49-11 loss at J-Ville. The Zebras called four unsportsmanlike conduct penalties in one series, turning the game.

The fracas began after J-Squared RT Tony Pashos was flagged for illegal use of his hands to the face to set up a 43-yard FG. After initially signaling the Grayders declined the penalty, they then said Oakland would accept the penalty, pushing J-Ville out of FG range.

When J-ville's offense returned, the zebras unsportsmanlike conduct on Sapp, triggering an outburst from the outspoken DT. The automatic first down kept the drive alive, and the Oaktown D-line kept blasting the officials and getting flagged for unsportsmanlike conduct penalties. D-line coach Keith Millard had to restrain them in order to keep them from being ejected.

Zebra Jerome (the) Boger(man) then tossed Sapp for bumping the umpire, changing the face of the contest. Sapp denied making contact, but still owes the NFL some meal money. Millard made some comments about the zebras putting their guns away to face his own guns, an homage to his battle with the police during his playing career. No word on whether PacMan Jones was involved.

### PBS Music Show

The Look Man was concerned when he saw Gerry Austin was doing the Battle of Ohio in Week 16. His concern was mitigated by the frigid 19F wind chill, which usually translates into few calls and a short contest. But the oldest zebra in the league struck late in the game with a phantom offensive PI call on Braylon Edwards that changed the outcome.

First off, The Jordan Rule extends to the NFL, where Pro Bowlers are rarely called for penalties. Secondly, zebras typically swallow the whistle in division games, especially ones with playoff

implications. Austin City Limits forced the Browns to attempt to win with one timeout and less than two minutes on the clock. The Look Man proclaims him Zebra of the Week, and is looking forward to his retirement at season's end.

## **THE LOOK AHEAD:**

Quick picks for a largely meaningless Week 17:

### *Dallas at Washington (-9):*

The resurgent Genocide Vix can lock up a playoff berth with a win, while the Pokes cannot improve their number one seed. Genocide Victims cover and win.

### *Frisco at Cleveland (-10.5)*

The win is meaningless for C-Town, which needs only a Tennessee loss to advance. Browns cover and look for face some mahi mahi in the Caribbean.

### *Blitzburgh at Baltimore (-xx):*

Ben will sit, while retaining his status as the only player in the NFL known by one name.

### *Tennessee at Indy (+6):*

Dungy plays Manning for a series or two, getting backup QB Jim Sorgi ready to avoid being choked in the playoffs. Flaming Thumbtacks win, setting up an early departure in the postseason.

### *Bungals at Marine Mammals (+3):*

Marine Mammals punk the Ugly & Black, setting up the Reign of Tuna.

### *Jynts at Chowds (-13.5) Saturday Night Special on NFLN:*

The Pursuit of Pomposity continues as the NFL Network agrees to share this one via simulcast. It's the first such broadcast since Super Bowl I, and the game will be as exciting. Look for the Chowds to set all kinds of records as Eli goes color blind in the snow at the Blade.

## **EPILOGUE**

The 2007 season has seen its share of craziness. Teams like Cleveland rose from the ashes, while perennial winners stunk. The Bungals continued their Bungalization, and look to eject Big Willie, Rudi Johnson and others in the off-season purge.

The NCAA announced it will attempt to fix its officiating issues in the off-season and the NFL would do well to do likewise. The Zebras have been embarrassing, and the game has suffered. Only the Chowds pursuit of an unblemished season has given any luster to 2007, and even that is tarnished by the league's blind eye.

Happy New Year,

The Look Man