

## **The Look Man Report 2007**

### **Week Seventeen: The Perfect Season**

*"This is definitely a team recognition, but one that I appreciate very much on a personal level." – New England head coach Bill Belichick following his AP Coach of the Year award*

#### **PROLOGUE**

Week Seventeen signaled the end of the first stanza and the beginning of the second season. New England completed its quest for an undefeated season by knocking off the Jynts at the Meadowlands. The Chowds added QB and receiver touchdown records for a season to their shiny 16-0 trophy as well. The names Brady and Moss are indelibly etched into the record books.

More importantly, these feats were witnessed by one of the largest viewing audiences ever, thanks the deal cut by the NFL Network. It was essentially the longest commercial in sports history, as the NFLN simulcast its product on CBS and NBC. Now everyone can attest to just how bad a play-by-play man Bryant Gumbel really is.

The final playoff puzzle piece was laid, as Tony Dungy and Jeff Fisher colluded to exclude Cleveland from the postseason. Instead of kicking a game sealing FG, Fisher ordered the Flaming Thumbtacks to take a knee at the Ponies 26 yard line. Dungy obliged by not calling timeout, despite the fact that it was only a six point game. In essence, Indy failed to attempt to win, violating the spirit of the NFL rules and sealing Cleveland's fate. Of course, if the Browns would simply have beaten the Bungals, they would not have relied on the rulebook.

So the playoff matchups are set, with the Wild Card weekend featuring J-Ville at Blitzburgh, Tennessee at San Diego, Washington at Seattle, and the Jynts at Tampa Bay. Only time will tell whether any of these teams have a shot at the brass ring. Irrespective, the Road to the Super Bowl goes through Boston and Dallas.

Without further ado, the Look Man's thoughts on Week Seventeen.

#### **WEEK IN REVIEW**

- The Look Man took the opportunity to visit another NFL facility last week on vacation. Dolphins Stadium, formerly Pro Player Stadium, hosted the Bungals at Marine Mammals and it was quite a contest. The Nati jumped out to a big lead, then took every opportunity to establish a cheap receiving record for TJ Whosyomama. (Johnny) Carson Palmer threw a number of chicken bleep naked screens to attempt to pad TJ's numbers, but fortunately the Football Gods intervened. The record went to Millionaire Playboy Reggie Wayne, who got it the old fashioned way - - - within the framework of the offense.
- Have you ever notice that when Mr. Tonight Show audibles, it is nearly always a running play? Miami figured this out as well, and on Sunday he threw one pass in about eight audibles, and that one was a naked screen to Housh that gained a yard. It is comical to watch, and likely what Palmer was talking about this week when he felt the coaching staff was broken.
- The Look Man sat next to a zebra at the Bengals-Phish fest, and the zebra confirmed that New England is getting ridiculous calls in 2007. The zebra did add that he doubted a league conspiracy, stating that it all happens so fast that most of the calls are simply make themselves. Still, he was unhappy with the officiating at the pro and collegiate levels.
- With no intended disrespect Adrian (All Day) Peterson, Joe Thomas of CLE could've been the Offensive Rookie of the Year. Thomas' play turned a 4-12 team into a nearly playoff caliber

squad. No rookie OT since J-Ogden has played this well. Too bad he allowed Bengals DE Justin Smith to bat down a possible game winner at Cincy; Thomas' bad game was more to blame for the loss than anything else except coaching.

- Chad (The Dentist) Johnson had a great last game for the Bengals in front of his hometown folks. He bought 120 ducats for the game, and got blasted on his end zone TD catch, losing his helmet in the process. He also got drilled after a 16 yard reception, so he paid for his catches. It was fitting, sine Ocho Cinco will be gone in 2008, as well as Big Willie, Justin Smith, Rudi Johnson and Dexter Jackson. The Dentist may be taking his drill to Miami, where the Tuna will put his grill to good use.
- The termination of Cam (Candid) Cameron rids the Look Man of one of his favorite coaching nicknames while simultaneously putting into play Romeo (the Bus Driver) Crennel. Apparently, Cramden is a Tuna favorite from his days with the Jynts. I appreciate the impact of Mr. Montague in C-Town, but I believe that he will likely suffer a fate similar to Billick in B-More. When a coach's expertise occurs on one side of the ball, and that expertise doesn't translate into improvement on that side for his current team, the result is never positive (see also Mike (Megalo) Martz and Marvin Lewis).
- Pokes' safety Roy Williams became the 12<sup>th</sup> Starhead on the Pro Bowl squad when he was selected to replace Sean Taylor in Honolulu. The Look Man hopes the Football Gods aren't feeling vengeful, because OJ Otagwe in StL, Gibril Wilson in NYG, or Atari Bigby GB (great name!) are all more deserving.
- If you didn't get a chance to watch the Pokes at GV game, you missed Dallas' 1 rushing yard performance. Granted, the Pokes had nothing to play for, but the Dallas Police have larceny warrants out for all of the starters for stealing money the last few weeks.
- The Look Man must reiterate his concerns with regard to Dallas OC Jason (Voorheis) Garrett and his fondness for the pass. The media seems more fixated upon Capt. Kangaroo's 0-3 playoff record than the 13-3 Pokes record. The way the Pokes have played of late, one can't really blame them. The Genocide Vix are getting on a roll, and they could shock the world in the woeful NFC.
- The Look Man saw the outcome coming well before it happened in the Chowds-Jynts tilt. Jynts OC Kevin Gilbride went Mike Martz and Eli turned it over at a crucial time. The zebras contributed as well, but Coughlin's choke job cost NY the game. Worse, the injury to center Shaun (Chief) O'Hara looked pretty bad. Eli depends upon the Chief to keep him perpendicular by making the correct line calls.

### *Bang! Zoom!*

The Look Man has put away all of his Browns gear to regain its mojo in the off-season, but he's still ticked off. The Look Man would not be unhappy if the Browns terminated Romeo Crennel, despite the Coach of the Year talk. Crennel could've iced a playoff berth with wins at PGH, PHX or CVG. Instead, Ralph Cramden is talking about listening to offers for Derek Anderson as the Browns prepare for a 2008 schedule that will be very tough.

The Look Man wouldn't mind a package deal sending Crennel to rejoin the Tuna in Miami in exchange for a first round pick and ten pounds of meat.

## **ZEBRA OF THE WEEK**

### Mike (Drew) Carey is Going Bowling

The Chowds pulled another three point win out of their collective backsides courtesy of the zebras on Saturday night over the G-Men. The illegal contact penalty was called despite Brady being put on his backside, and the defensive PI call on the Jyntz LB was ridiculous.

Despite the fact that Bryant Gumbel and Cris Collinsworth still believe face guarding is illegal, there was little, if any contact on the penalty that kept the Chowds in the game. Tack on the Chowds sticking fingers into the eyes of the Jyntz, and they are one Eli pick away from losing a contest in which the Jyntz had nothing to gain.

In 2007, the Iggles, Dumpster Ducks and Jyntz all came close to knocking off the paper champions, only to lose following coaching errors. Needless to say, the Marine Mammals, Jets and Bisons will not appear in the postseason, so the Look Man is predicting a playoff loss for America's Team in the playoffs. No passing leader has ever won a Super Bowl ring, and it won't happen in 2007, despite the league's attempts to crown they ass.

### Strike Three!

Umpire Jim Quirk was fined a game check for his full nelson move on Green Bay LB Nick Barnett in Week 16. Quirk went old-school when the steroid abusing LB began going postal in a pileup. The Look Man remembers when the umpires were actually enforcers, breaking up fights between the big uglies, but apparently, that day is past. The league is now going to let its gladiators kill each other while the zebras simply look on.

### The Israelite

Cleveland KR Joshua (The Israelite) Cribbs nearly had two TDs in one afternoon, but for a bogus penalty. The Apostle's 94-yard kickoff return was negated based upon a phantom holding call on OG Lennie Freidman. Ironically, former Brown and current Texan Andre Davis was allowed to return two kicks for TDs on the same day.

Cribbs had the best year of any returner, including Chicago's phenom Devin Hester (Prynn). Cribbs also leads the team in special teams tackles, something you don't see out of Hester or any other return man.

### The OB

Bengals got a lot of zebra love in the Miami game, including a phantom face mask and pass interference calls. The one Bengals drive was nearly all penalties, and it resulted in a nearly insurmountable lead for a demoralized Phish team. The Look Man isn't sure when Miami lost its old Orange Bowl zebra love, but it might have been around the time that Joe Robbie died and his mob ties went away.

## **THE LOOK AHEAD:**

Quick picks for the Wild Card Week 18:

### Washington at Seattle (-3.5):

The Genocide Vix are the team no one wants to face in the NFC. Veteran QB Todd Collins has yet to throw a pick, and the Shehawks D only wins when they turn it over. If Washington can run the football effectively, Seattle is in a lot of trouble.

A lot has been said about the team rededicating itself following the tragic death of Sean Taylor, but little has been said about the defense. With Shawn Springs and Fred Smoot at the corners, the Genocide Victims actually match up well with any team that runs the spread. Take away Jason Campbell's ugly picks, and they could've competed with the Chowds. No other NFC team has the DBs to cover Welker, Moss and Watson.

The GVs should dominate this game, but look for the zebras to attempt to shut them down. The NFL wants to honor Sean Taylor, but not at the cost of including a team that could beat both Green Bay and New England. Still, the GVs cover and win.

J-Ville at Blitzburgh (+2.5):

J-Ville takes on the difficult challenge of beating Blitzburgh twice in one year. The task is complicated by the fact that the Stillers rarely lose night games. That defense will be hitting anything that moves, with extreme prejudice.

Unfortunately, the Stillers are beat up. Since losing to the Chowds, they have given up points in bunches, and they really miss DE Aaron Smith. Aaron Smith is three times the player that his lost Brother Justin is in the Nati. Justin cannot maintain gap integrity, is an overrated pass rusher, and generally not worth \$8M/year.

The Stillers are toast. Ben was obviously limping before Sunday's loss of RT Max Starks, and LT Willie Colon add to a very beat up Stillers squad. In addition, Aaron Smith was the glue for the Tissue Paper Curtain. Fast Willie is out, Polamolu's knee is worse than folks admit and Santonio Holmes is hurting. Once they face the physical Jags on Sunday, they will be even more dinged up.

The weather could be a factor. Despite the fact that J-Ville is a mudder, Ketchup Field is a certified wetlands. Even if the Stillers survive, they will face another physical team in the second round, and it seems doubtful that Omar Epps can coach them up to the level required to go deep into the playoffs. Cleveland could've and should've won the division but for poor coaching by Ralph Cramden in 2007.

J-Ville wins a physical game, setting up a tough test at the Blade in the Divisional Playoffs.

Tennessee at San Diego (-9):

If you missed it, the Flaming Thumbtacks let the Bolts off the hook in their earlier meeting, losing in OT. Their defense stuffed the run, forcing QB Philip Rivers to do the heavy lifting. It was a great recipe for beating the Bolts, who have since stiffened on defense.

TE Bo Scaife and WR Roydell White are out for the year, and QB Vince Young is suffering from the Madden Curse. Their offense looks better behind Collins, using a strong running game to set up play action. Collins might actually be the better QB at this point, especially if Young can't run.

Tennessee will attempt to limit the New LT again, but it really comes down to whether DT Albert Haynesworth's hammy is up to the task. The Look Man likes the Bolts to win a slobberknocker, setting up a trip to Indy where San Diego gets clobbered. The Football Gods hate collusion nearly as much as celebrity girlfriends. Bolts, baby, Bolts.

Jynts at Expensive Corn Kings (-3):

The Jynts looked good in losing to the Chowds last Saturday. Eli actually passed the ball to his teammates instead of the opposition (for the most part). Their running game clicked, and they seemed to not miss playmaker TE Jeremy Shockey too much.

Tampa, on the other hand, has played poorly since locking up the woeful NFC Souse crown. They lost to a bad Carolina squad, and they have not looked crisp on either side of the rock. Their D-line is the strength of the team, so they should be able to stuff the Jynts, who lost center Shaun (Chief) O'Hara to a knee last week.

Every team that played the Chowds close has lost in the ensuing week. It's the Jynt's turn to get knocked out by a Tampa team that hasn't played well down the stretch. Jon (Chucky) Gruden has his work cut out for him with Jeff (Jerry) Garcia coming back with a bad back. Corn Kings win and go on, while Eli and Coughlin do a commercial for losers.

## **EPILOGUE**

The selection of Dr. Evil as COTY seems a little odd to the Look Man. First of all, Belichick has the highest payroll of any team in the league. Secondly, he was guilty of CameraGate, and owner Bob Kraft paid his hefty fine. Why honor a guy who is an avowed cheat?

The award seems oddly timed. The league runs the risk of looking a bit silly when Tony Dungy knocks the Chowds out of the playoffs en route to back-to-back championships.

Have a great 2008!

The Look Man