

## **The Look Man Report 2007** **Week Nineteen: Redenbacher's Revenge**

*"A word to the not so wise with regard to your little girlfriend. Do what you need to with her, then broom her, fast!" – Bill Parcells to Tony Romo in 2006*

### **PROLOGUE**

The Divisional Playoffs were true to form as Dallas, the NFC's number one seed, bowed at home to a feisty Jyntz team. The Pokes suffered the dual ignominy of losing the rubber match to a division rival while tarnishing a stellar 13-3 regular season record. If you tack on the gratuitous references to TO's trademark popcorn slogan, the pain was threefold.

Green Bay, the NFC's other juggernaut, was able to overcome two early turnovers by RB Ryan Grant to post a win over the Shehawks. In retrospect, their quality win in the snow globe of Flambeau was a harbinger of exactly how good the Cheeseheads really are. Irrespective of the Pokes-Jyntz outcome, they are the class of the NFC, and likely would've proven it against the Starheads in the NFC Championship.

Over in the AFC, the Chowds polished off a game J-Ville team in a game that wasn't nearly as close as the score indicated. While the J-Squareds covered the spread, head coach Jack Del River wasn't able to sustain the pressure necessary to win the game.

Of course, Vince Lombardi himself couldn't have overcome a white-hot Tom Brady, who set a new record for accuracy in the win. Brady destroyed the 21 of 25 Super Bowl XXI record held by Phil Simms. Zoolander went 26 of 28 with one dropped pass and a missed defensive pass interference call. If you watch the NFL for a hundred years, it is unlikely that you will ever see a more masterful performance.

The biggest upset of the week was the Bolts' win over the 13-3 Ponies. The Bolts were able to overcome the losses of LaDanian Tomlinson and Philip Rivers, in addition to a sub par Antonio (Bill) Gates. The Bolts simply uploaded a new operating system that included Billy Volek, Michael Turner, Darren Sproles, and some guy named Legedu Naanee (means "Bad Man" in Swahili).

The Look Man has been on Rivers' case most of the season, and with good reason. Rivers' immaturity has hurt team chemistry, but he has played through a bad wheel. His last two games have been incredible, using deep ball accuracy to overcome the lack of a running game. Defenses have challenged Old Man Rivers to beat them, and he has responded. He also answered taunts by the fans and the opponents, often in vocal fashion.

So, the Conference Championship matchups are set, and it should be one helluva ride. If the favorites prevail, the NFL will get its dream Super Bowl, with young turk Tom (Zoolander) Brady versus the old man Brett (The Pope) Favre. Will it be good vs. evil in Super Bowl XLII, or will one of the underdogs prevail on the road? Same bat time, same bat channel for the results, but first, the Week that was:

### **LAGNIAPPE**

#### ***Pop Goes the Weasel***

Terrell Owens battled gamely to overcome the dreaded high ankle sprain, but he was obviously not 100%. TO dropped one catchable ball, and got blanketed by backup CB Corey Webster. In the end, the G-Men ridiculed the Pokes for Owens' patented "Getcha popcorn ready" slogan.

Now it seems that TO will not go gently into that good night. He has filed a trademark infringement lawsuit against Michael Strahan, the Jyntz organization and even Orville Redenbacher. He railed against the G-Men in a teary post game interview, saying, "You can

point the finger at the product and talk about the butter flavoring causing health issues. But if you do that, it's unfair. It's really unfair." Owens added tearfully, "That's my product. That's my trademark."

Presidential candidate Hillary Clinton refused to comment on whether TO would receive sympathy for his on-camera crying jag, but the Popcorn Wars will likely heat up in 2008. The Jynts have to face the Pokes twice each year, and the Look Man can guarantee there'll be some popping going on after this fiasco.

### Jynts GM Jerry Reese

The Bungals have underachieved for nearly two decades and many believe it is due to the lack of a General Manager. If Mike Brown would like to see the impact of a GM, he needs look no further than Jynts GM Jerry Reese (Cup). While Tom Coughlin has gotten the press, Reese has quietly turned the G-men around with his savvy selections.

Reese selected WR Steve Smith with the 51st pick, and TE Kevin Boss at 153, and both made huge 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter grabs against Dallas. That drive at the end of the first half turned the game around, as well as turning Dallas' premature celebration into tears. Reese's final 2007 pick, RB Ahmad (Rashad) Bradshaw, set up the game winning fourth-quarter TD with a nasty eight yard blast to Pokes one yard line.

Reese's drafting acumen isn't the only benefit. He also pushed to sign Osi Humanurine from Troy, when pundits believed the kid was too light to play DE. All in all, Reese has crafted a team that should compete for years to come. Reese even made Eli Manning go to an eye doctor to verify he wasn't color blind. It may have been the first time Eli had ever taken "old one eye to the optometrist."

### Tom is Terrific

The Look Man gets on the Chowds, but Tom (Zoolander) Brady has rewritten the record books in 2007. Zoolander's 117 QB rating is derived from nearly 5,000 passing yards and 50 TDs. When you contrast the TDs against only eight picks, you're talking about a record that makes Joe Montana, Steve Young, and Brett Favre look like amateurs. Only Peyton Manning even came close, and that occurred during his 49 TD season. Manning actually sat in three fourth quarter blowouts during that season.

The Look Man has chronicled the woeful QB play in 2007 season, but Brady is just one of many which are solid. Eli Manning's playoff record exceeds Peyton's 0-3 record as a pup, and David Garrard, Philip Rivers, and Derek Anderson are all young but good. Just imagine that Terry Bradshaw took six pro seasons before his TDs exceeded his picks in a given year.

Brady has been spectacular, and last week's Divisional Playoff game nearly defied logic. The only hope for the rest of the league is that Zoolander peaked too soon. Otherwise, the big, laser armed QB can pick out his ring before the game on Sunday.

### Capital 1-B

Dr. Evil has signed a deal with banking giant Capital One to star in its new Card Lab advertisements. The slick ads feature super evildoers who build their own credit cards with low interest rates. Belichick is expected to do his patented monotone for the ads, and his personalized card will feature photos of Tom Brady. After all, what could be scarier than Dr. Evil's maniacal monotone 30-40 times each Sunday?



*"What's in your wallet?"*

### Thriller 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Release

The Look Man questioned Dallas' selection of Wade Phillips to replace the Tuna in Big D. While the Pokes did get a projected post-Tuna bounce, Capt. Kangaroo still wasn't able to marshall his first playoff win. After a thirteen year playoff win drought, one might expect Jerry (The King of Pop) Jones to get a 'thrilla' at the helm instead of children's show host.

Jones also pimped the Football Gods by presenting his players with NFC Championship tickets two days prior to the game, then standing on the sidelines during the crucial fourth quarter. The Gods were not pleased, and the players were confused, thinking Jerry was actually smiling after the loss. Apparently, it was just too much Botox.

Jones continues his ridiculous meddling this week by signing OC Jason (Voorheis) Garrett to a \$3 million/year extension. The King of Pop has essentially made Capt. Kangaroo into a lame duck while he waits for Jason to sharpen his knives. Jones also lost personnel man Ken Irving and D-Coordinator Tony Sparano to the Tuna in Miami. Despite having a great season and two number one picks, the Pokes could be in for some turmoil in 2008.

### Chick-a-Bow-Wow

If you missed Peyton & Eli Manning's latest Oreo commercial, you didn't miss much. The Manning boys are pushing the Double Stuff Oreo League (DSRL) in what could be viewed as a pornographic ad. The Mannings are seen licking cookies while their parents look on from the stands. Just add the Viagra disclaimer, and ---- instant porn!

Peyton has officially jumped the shark with his overexposure. The DSRL ad is the opposite end of the spectrum from his great [manningsmind.com](http://manningsmind.com) ad for Sprint. The Look Man does enjoy the VISA Priceless Pep Talks, especially the latest, "I been playing this dude since the fifth grade..." haircut blast. Peyton may need a follow up where he says, "So you're playing for a 13-3 squad and you lose the first round to a team that has two stars injured. Big whoop, you just go out and sign another advertising deal."

### Offensive Wizardry

Coaching is often overlooked in the NFL, as proven by retreads like Marty, Martz and Cowher getting so many opportunities. Last week, Mike McCarthy and Norv Turner provided adjustments that won games, but the announcers barely mentioned them.

In the Shehawks-Cheeseheads game, Mike Mac used a full house backfield to take advantage of a light front seven for Seattle. His two fullbacks opened up holes for RB Ryan Grant, using the bad footing to blow the Blue Man Group right off the ball.

Norvell was not to be outdone, using the matchup screen pass to RBs Naanee and Sproles. The screens set up trips away from the strong side and safety Bob Sanders. San Diego used their bigger WRs to block smallish DBs for the Ponies, and it was off to the races.

That's why the Look Man favors big WRs; they can block! Trips left, screen left killed the Ponies because Sanders was caught inside, attempting to blitz with a bad shoulder.

The next time your team is in the market for a head coach, look at some of the coordinators who make halftime adjustments instead of the talking heads in the studio. Games are often won or lost on the first possessions of the second half, using adjustments from halftime.

### Safety Dance

Breen Gay safety Atari (Space Invaders) Bigby reinforced the Look Man's theory that he belongs in Honolulu instead of the Pokes' Roy (Rogers) Williams. Space Invaders destroyed any receiver that dared roam the middle of the Flambeau Nebulus, forcing Matt (Hair Club for Men) to go against Woodson and Harris.

Ditto for Jynt's safety Gibril (means "small, sexual rodent") Wilson, who kept TE Jason Witten from double digit grabs. Mr. Wilson also influenced a key drop on Patrick (Crayola) Crayton's slant pattern. If Crayola catches the rock instead of sneaking a peek at the safety, the Pokes score and perhaps win the game.

Roy Rogers had to be removed from the game against the Jynt's because he is a liability against the pass. With Rogers out on passing downs, the Jynt's were able to pound the run, forcing Anthony Henry to tackle like a girl. Roy is living on past glory, and could be out of a job after 2008.

### Way Down in the Hole

B-More is still looking for a head coach after terminating Brian Billick(goat). Perhaps the candidates have been watching *The Wire*, the greatest HBO show ever. Director David Simon focuses upon inner city B-More street life with rich characters and fabulously relevant storylines.

If you haven't taken advantage of this show, check out the DVDs so that you can get hooked in time for the fifth and final season. Simon has added *Homocide's* Clark Johnson as a newspaper editor to go along with Bunk, McNulty, Bubbles, Marlo, and Avon Barksdale. Put it all together and you have maybe the best show never to be seen by masses or recognized by the Golden Globes. Tru dat.

### Plays of the Year

Week Nineteen featured four more candidates for Play of the Year. The first was Tom Brady's fake direct snap to Fumbles Faulk, followed by a bullet to Welker for a TD. The play fooled the J-Ville secondary out of its jock.

The sweet Philip Rivers throw to Chris Chambers at the flag was straight nasty. Chambers had man cover with a safety over the top, but Antoine Bethea couldn't beat the bullet throw for six. Rivers followed up with the 56-yard screen pass to Darren Sproles, who showed why speed kills as he went down the sideline.

Brett Favre himself rounded out the POTY party, with an underhanded toss to TE David Martin. The Old Man looked like he was 26 again, pulling himself out of a chicken dance to get a first down out of a potential sack. It was truly im-Favre-ization at its finest.

### The Eighth Man

Mike (The Walrus) Holmgren has gotten no love from the Zebras since Super Bowl XL, when he complained bitterly about a poorly officiated contest. He now resides in the same doghouse as C-Town's Bottlegate Fan relative to Zebra Love. Last week at Flambeau was no different, as he barked at Zebra Mike Carey at the half to no avail.

The media is speculating that the Walrus may now retire based upon this phenomenon. The Look Man actually likes Holmgren, who took rag tag teams and made them Bowl contenders. The ex-QB scoffed at speculation that health issues were to blame, as stated by LB Julian (nip/tuck) Peterson. "No, I'm good. I feel fine," Holmgren said. "Just disregard any medical data from 'Dr. Peterson'."

## **ZEBRA OF THE WEEK**

The officiating typically gets better in the postseason, but not this year. There are two worthy competitors from the Divisional Playoffs:

Pete (Mushroom) Morelli – Jynts at Pokes for the intentional grounding call on Romo. The rule says: grounding occurs when the ball is thrown away by a passer "facing imminent loss of yardage because of pressure from the defense." There was no defender in the same zip code as Romo when he threw the rock well beyond the marker.

Romo actually touched the zebra when he complained afterwards, and he is lucky he wasn't tossed. If Walter (Sweetness) Payton can get tossed, no one is exempt from the non-touching rule. Mushroom also called illegal procedure on Dallas while allowing Jynts tackles to line up deep and move before the ball.

Gerry Austin (City Limits) – Bolts at Colts had numerous questionable calls. While the lion's share went in favor of the Ponies, the calls disrupted their offensive rhythm, forcing them to look for flags instead of making plays.

Austin City Limits also allowed an awful holding call on S Eric Wettle on the Cromartie pick before halftime. The zebras allowed LB Stephen Cooper (#54) to grab O-linemen facemasks, then called a facemask personal foul on OT Ryan Diem. There was one series with four fouls on the drive, against both teams. It was nearly unwatchable.

Gerry Austin, you are the Look Man's **Zebra of the Week**. Enjoy your retirement, because we all will.

## **THE LOOK AHEAD:**

The Road to Phoenix for Super Bowl XLII has been paired down to the final four. The Jynts, Breen Gay, San Diego and Beantown are all looking to end their seasons on the biggest stage. For the Chowds, any thing less than a ring would be a letdown, but the other squads have overachieved.

The possible exception might be the Bolts, who followed the *Kick the Door Down* theory. After going 14-2 and losing in the first round of the playoffs, they are hoping to overcome the last remaining obstacle to a championship run. A storybook finish would end seven years of futility for LaDanian Tomlinson and much-maligned head coach Norv Turner.

### *San Diego at New England (-14):*

San Diego head coach Benito Santiago would love to add a win at the Blade to his burgeoning resume. Turner had a quality win last week at Indy, and now has a chance to win over his detractors by matching wits with Belichick.

The weather forecast is bad, with single digit wind chills, snow and a blustery cross wind. The Bolts may actually have drawn an ace, since the only thing that seems to affect Brady is a hard edge rush and high winds. Philip Rivers, NLT and Antonio (Bill) Gates are badly injured, but the double digit spread is still insulting.

The interesting factor will be the Bolts' strong edge rush, the only thing that can force Brady into bad decisions. Philly and B-More used this approach effectively, so look for San Diego D-Coordinator Ted(ric the Entertainer) Cottrell to apply pressure.

Combined with solid secondary play, the Bolts defense actually matches up well against the Brady Bunch. Cromartie will take on Moss, and safeties Clinton Hart and Marlon McCree will police the middle. The Chargers also have good speed at LB, so they can cover Faulk, Welker and TE Ben Watson with size.

The lack of a good tight end hurts the Bolts, so look for them to spread the Chowds. The quick screens from the spread formation will force the Chowds to cover the flats, opening up the middle of the field. Turner has enough talent to exploit the slow New England LB corps. He turned Troy Aikman into one of the most accurate passers in NFL history. Volek is a two-time member of the 400 yard passing club, and his mobility would be a plus for the Bolts' passing game.

In short, the Look Man is calling for an upset. The Chowds fall to the Bolts in a revenge game, and their 17-1 record falls one short of the greatest of all time. Bolts, baby, Bolts, in an epic upset.

#### *Jynts at Breen Gay (-7):*

The Jynts are parlaying a physical running game and stifling defense into a legitimate playoff run. OC Kevin Gilbride is helping develop an Eli Manning who is evolving as a true leader with Tiki Barber and Jeremy Shockey out. The surprise factor is the fact that the G-Men are 9-1 on the road this season, and if you haven't noticed, Sunday's NFC Championship is in Green Bay.

The forecast for brutal cold with flurries possible would seem to have little effect upon the Pack. They proved they could run the football last week, and their receivers specialize in Yards After Catch. Look for them to YAK their way to another win on Sunday, easily handling the banged up Jynts secondary. The key here will be the heated tundra of Flambeau, which turns even the fiercest pass rush into a mush rush. The slow turf favors the Pack by taking away the hard edge rush of Humanurine and Strahan.

The Look Man simply likes the Pack secondary matchups much more than the Jynts'. More importantly, inclement weather would seem to favor Favre, who has hands only slightly smaller than tennis rackets.

Don't be surprised to see some zebra love just to ensure that the NFL gets the dream matchup of Brady vs. Favre. Green Bay takes out the G-Men, ending a storied run in an NFL old school battle. Pack covers and wins.

### **EPILOGUE**

We may have seen the end of the Tony Dungy Era in professional football. Despite a playoff record just above .500, Dungy turned around not one, but two hapless teams. He took Tampa Bay to the brink of a championship, while earning one for the formerly hapless Indy. This just in, this guy is good.

Dungy did it with solid drafts, largely eschewing free agency. His teams played with fire and passion while displaying an uncommon discipline. Further, his coaching tree includes Herm Edwards, Mike Tomlin, and Jack Del Rio. He stands in stark contrast to Dr. Evil, winning with class and dignity. Not bad for a skinny ex-QB who played safety in the pros for just a few years.

Peace,

The Look Man