

## **The Look Man Report 2007** **Week Twenty-One: Straight Cash, Homey!**

*"The NFL has a very preferred status in our country with their antitrust exemption. The American people are entitled to be sure about the integrity of the game. It's analogous to the CIA destruction of tapes, or any time you have records destroyed. What if there was something on the tapes we might want to be subpoenaed, for example? You can't destroy it. That would be obstruction of justice." - US Senator Arlen Specter on the NFL's destruction of the Patriots' Spygate video*

### **PROLOGUE**

The hype for the Super Bowl is in full throttle as the Big Game is less than 70 hours away. The cities of Phoenix and Scottsdale have long since geared up, boosting hotel, taxi and restaurant pricing in preparation for the corporate expense accounts. The Super Bowl has gone from an afterthought in 1967, to the verge of a national holiday in 2008. It's a pity that the game made popular by the everyman now commands between \$2500 and \$20,000 for a two seat package.

But this year may have something we haven't seen for quite a while: a competitive game. Most pundits are saying that New England is unbeatable. Their 18-0 record is indicative of their dominance in the new age of free agency. New England is the best team ever; just look at their stats. Well, the Look Man is not big on stats. As we all know by now, figures never lie, but liars can figure.

The Greatest of All Time isn't determined on paper. It's determined by a number of other factors, too numerous to mention here. The Miami, Frisco, Blitzburgh, and Dallas teams of eras gone by might have excellent arguments as to their standing as GOAT. New England is on the verge of entering that Pantheon, but Sunday would provide the exclamation point.

The difference between those other teams and New England is the competition. Each of the others played in a division that tempered the steel of their desire in a blast furnace. The Stillers played in the fierce AFC Black and Blue with Houston, Cleveland and Cincy. Dallas emerged from the NFC East, where power running and stingy defense meant only the strong survived. And the Niners had to get by physical Rams and Atlanta teams in order to face Dallas or the Jynts for a chance to dance. Each of these teams typically had more than one division rival join them in the postseason, and often had to play division opponents three times in a single season.

The Chowds have done it in an era of free agency, and in a division that includes zero playoff teams. Wins over Baltimore, Indy and the Philly were as much about officiating as they were about talent. In the end, the balls bounced New England's way, and away from the tepid sideline coaching they faced.

Sunday's 2007 season finale will either be a coronation for the Chowds, or a disastrous pie in the face. Folks can say all they want to about the pressure on the Jynts; this game means more to the dynastic Chowds than it does to a young bunch of upstarts from the Empire State. And that pressure cooker may yet yield some steamed clams from Beantown.

Without further culinary metaphors, the Look Man Super Bowl preview:

### **LAGNIAPPE**

#### **Ankle Biters Anonymous?**

Tom (Zoolander) Bride's lower extremities got a lot of press last week, and may get just as much pressure on Sunday. Zoolander was seen with a walking boot en route to visit girlfriend Gisele Bundchen. Speculation was magnified when Blue Steel failed to make practice during the first week.

The Look Man believes this whole thing is just a scam cooked up by Belichick to work the Zebras. Dr. Evil believes that the threat of an injury to Brady will make Mike Carey and Crew allow more holding than usual for New England. Since the Chowds lead the league in dosey-do holding moves already, it could be a harbinger of bad news for the Jynts pass rush.

Any way you twist it, Brady's ankle has been overexposed. The Jynts tend to run about 70-80% man coverage, so the New England pick plays should happen fast enough to free up Welker, Watson and Faulk underneath. The only possible impact would be the deep ball to Moss, who has only two postseason grabs to date.

### Oh, Behaaaaaveeee!

Late in 2006, the Marine Mammals claimed to have used audio tapes of Tom Brady's line calls to figure out his audibles. Zoolander called Miami's claims a "crock", as well as saying they "wouldn't have gained an advantage anyway."

Ironically, the Phish were able to play the Chowds close in the 2005 and 2006 season. For a team that went 1-16 in 2007 with very little talent, one might wonder how they hung with a powerhouse like New England. Of course, Miami got blown out twice in 2007 after receiving only a second round pick for Wes (Lawrence) Welker. Who knew that sending your best offensive receiver to the opposition could have that kind of impact?

### Kicking it with the Kardashians

Religious Icons RB Reggie (President) Bush got a rude surprise this week when HBO's Real Sports did an expose on the agent who loaned him 300 large while he was a student at USC. Convicted felon Lloyd Lake presented evidence in support of the charges that could revoke Bush's 2005 Heisman Trophy and USC's 2004 National Championship trophy. While Lake is not as polished as Bush, he did make a credible case. It's just another case of celebrity girlfriend equals bad news.

Reggie's celebrity shorty, Kim Kardashian appeared in the recent holiday edition of Playboy magazine, and has a cable TV show. Mike Wilbon's favorite piece of ass got 12 pages of coverage, and she will likely show up in Scottsdale this week. Kardashian joins Paris Hilton, Jessica Alba and other celebrity hotties in the Desert, adding some scenery in the foothills of the mountains.



*Reggie & Kim at Sundance*

If you haven't caught HBO's Real Sports, you need to get hip. James Brown, Frank Deford and other noted journalists join Bryant Gumbel in a real issues oriented show. It's some of the best TV out there, and a real platform for what Gumbel does best: studio work.

### Magilla for Sale?

At the beginning of the 2007 season, the Look Man solicited your picks for the playoffs and eventual championship. Most folks picked the usual suspects for the playoffs, but one perspicacious individual actually picked the G-Men to play J-Ville for all the bananas. Da Gorilla reminded the Look Man of his prescience this week in the attached email:

*Look Man,*

*I think since I picked the G-men to go all the way, I should win something!!!!!!! I'm sure nobody else did.....*

*I also correctly predicted the 2007 recession, Britney's meltdown, and the fact that gold exceeded \$900/ounce. I'm calling you from my private island in the Caribbean to inform you that Barack Obama will be the next president of the US.*

*Peace,*

*Da gorill*

The Brand New Car Award competition is up for grabs, but the Look Man is now firmly in the Jynts camp. Da Gorill has picked them to win it all on Sunday. Look for the final recap following Super Bowl XVII.

### Zebra of the Week?

Zebra Mike (Dancin' with the Stars) Carey becomes the first African American to officiate the Super Bowl on Sunday, and he is doing it in one of the last states to approve a statewide holiday for Martin Luther King Jr. Talk about a way for the NFL to begin Black History Month!

Carey allowed a LOT of contact in the secondary in the Chowds-Jynts December tilt, so let's hope he comes to his senses before Sunday. While the Look Man used to strongly support Dancin', someone in Vegas seems to have gotten some compromising photos of him since 2005. Carey has begun morphing into Terry McAulay in some of the biggest games of 2007.

Still, the Look Man likes the decision of selecting Mike Carey. His regular-season crews called 2.1 holding penalties a game, and teams had the sixth-highest scoring average in games he officiated. Look for a shootout on Sunday, with few cutaways to Carey doing his Michael Jackson moonwalk after calls.

### Boston Loggerhead

This is likely the last game for CB Asante Samuel (Adams) in a Chowds uniform. Samuel has been unhappy about his compensation, so look for the Patriots Way to preclude his return. He will be leaving the Boston Brewing Company, likely ending up in Miami and shutting down Brady and the Chowds for years to come.

The talented CB is looking for the market rate for a shutdown corner, but GM Scott Pioli pays only a predetermined percentage for each position. Since even Zoolander took less than market rate, it's unlikely that the Chowds can keep the Brewer in their secondary. New England has already allowed a winemaker, a lawyer and a gin runner (Adam Vinatieri, Lawyer Molloy, and Willie McGinest) go over salary.

The bigger question will be whether horticulturist Randy Moss will be willing to accept less dollars at WR in 2008. When asked how he paid his \$10K traffic fine in Minneapolis, Moss replied, "Straight cash, Homey!"

### Generic Jerseys

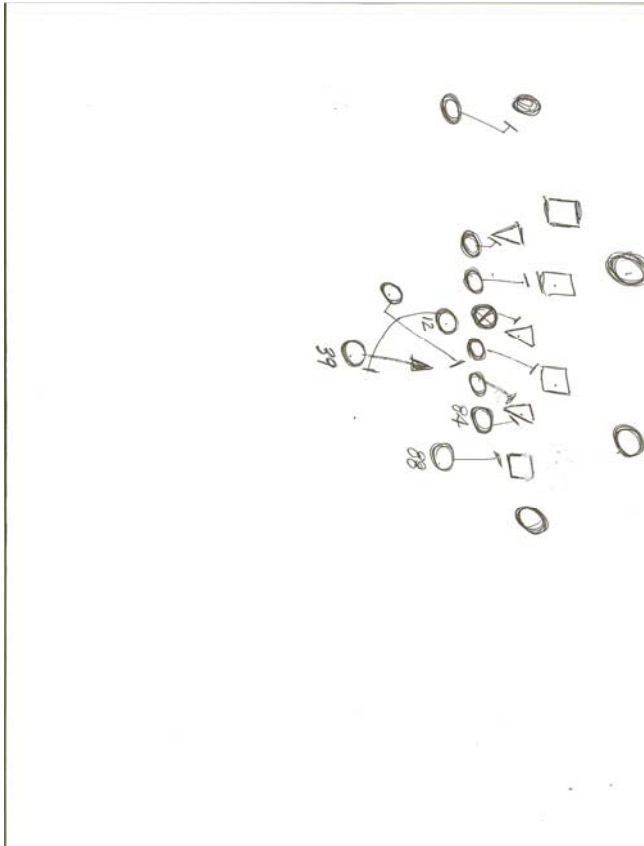
QB Tom Brady and TE Kyle Brady have the same last name, but don't have their first initials on their jersey nameplates. When the Chowds signed the TE, Chowd Fan figured it was simply a way to get them to reinvest in a new Tom Brady jersey with the letter 'T' on the back. Alas, marketing genius and human ventriloquist dummy Bob Kraft got the NFL to change the rule. The league no longer mandates first initials on jerseys of players with the same last name.

The Bengals are looking into the rule, since they have 29 games named Johnson.

### **THE LOOK AHEAD**

The Look Man has actually reviewed some Ti-Vo film of several New England and Jyntz games over the last week. Instead of the classic discussion, here are a few bullet points to support the pick for Super Bowl XLII.

- The Jyntz love man-to-man versus zone coverage. They have excellent DBs in former Marine Mammal Sam Madison, former Bear RW McQuarters, rookie Aaron Ross, Corey Webster and S Gibril Wilson. The Jyntz will need to emulate B-more and Philly by mixing the man and zone coverages by situation, or Brady will pick them apart. Look for the Chowds to use motion on offense to force New York to show its coverage; if the corners go in motion with the slot receiver, it's usually man-to-man coverage.
- On the other side of the rock, New England will attempt to confuse Eli with the "robber coverage." Rodney Harrison has turned this into an art form. The robber coverage is where the safety or corner will disguise the zone coverage to look like man. They cover the receiver out of their zone, then circle underneath looking for the pick. Harrison has at least one pick in each of his last seven playoff games using the coverage. The only way to really beat it is to pump fake and go the other way.
- the G-Men must force Faulk to fumble. Faulk has gotten rid of his "Fumbles" nickname in 2007, becoming Dr. Evil's version of factor back Dave Meggett. He plays on 3<sup>rd</sup> down, lines up all over the field, and gets crucial yardage at crunch time. Turnovers are key in the Super Bowl, with the winning teams having a plus 43 ratio in the last ten games.
- Two of the best plays that New England runs are called Jumbo and Faulk-U. On Faulk-U, the Chowds use the spread, with twins to one side including Faulk split wide. The other receivers clear out, then Brady dumps down to Faulk. The Jyntz need to exploit their LB speed or use a nickel corner on Faulk in these formations. Look for RW McQuarters, Gibril Wilson or Corey Webster to line up in the nickel on third and short.
- The Chowds will attempt to counter with Jumbo, (diagrammed below) power running with two TEs using (#88) Kyle Brady and (#84) Ben Watson. Their nicked up O-line precluded them from using this in the first game, and the Jyntz must use Big Nickel or the corners must pinch down in these situations. Their one glaring offensive weakness is that the Chowds cannot go no-huddle with the power run formation, so the Jyntz should have fair warning when it's coming. They need to have their Big Nickel crew ready to enter the game quickly if they see it.



*Jumbo is like a drunk elephant from India*

- The Jynts need to get physical with Randy Moss at the line. San Diego and J-Ville were able to do this and it shut him down. The Jynts will have to double him over the top with the safety, which will open up the lanes for Welker. Fortunately, G-Men LBs Kawika Mitchell and Michael Barrow can cover in space. This could be the X-factor for NY since Welker cannot take the pounding. NOTE: if Welker gets knocked out of this game, the Jynts win handily!
- Jynts K Lawrence Tynes is 23 of 27 on FGs for the year, but two of those misses came in the NFC Championship where he was kicking a frozen pumpkin in -24F wind chill. There has been a lot of talk about this kid choking, but the Look Man likes his chances a lot better than rookie K Steven Gostowski's. Having said that, the Jynts must score TDs in the red zone and eschew FGs on 4<sup>th</sup> and short inside the 30. Tynes can hit the long ones, but you can't turn into Norv Turner in the Bowl. Match the Chowds point for point, and you maintain a chance to win it in the fourth quarter.
- Clock management is key in the second half. Eli cannot blow timeouts in the third and early fourth quarter and expect to have a chance late. The Look Man has a feeling this game will come down to a decisive fourth quarter drive. And any Bengals Fan will tell you that 34 seconds from victory ain't the same thing as winning the Super Bowl.
- Don't expect the same things out of Belichick that he gave you in the first game or even the first half. San Diego and J-Ville were unable to make halftime adjustments, and both fell in the second half to dramatically different strategies than they saw early on. Dallas tried to beat New York using the same attack that worked in the two previous meetings. The take-home message: make smart adjustments and implement them in the second half. The first drive of the third quarter will decide who wins this game. Whoever scores the most points on that drive will win the game. Period.

- The Chowds will use Vrabel and Seau in goal line, so the Jynts need to be ready for it. Vrabel likes to catch the TE TD pass, while Seau is a FB for short yardage. Whatever you do, G-Men, do NOT let Vrabel go free off the line. It's a sure TD.
- One of the most unheralded guys for the G-Men is number 39, FB Madison Hedgecock. This kid is great on short yardage, and can open up holes like a can opener. Besides that, he has one of the best football names on the field (too bad Atari Bigby got knocked out in the last round). With a 270 pound bruiser like Brandon Jacobs, the last thing a defense wants to see is a 250 pound lead blocker with rocks in his pockets. This kid is a load.

The Look Man is going out on a limb here. He likes the G-Men to shock the world, beating the Chowds in Scottsdale. For the chicken at heart, at least take the spread, as the Jynts will not go gently. The pick: **Jynts 38, Chowds 36**, as Gostowski blows a potential game-winner, sending New England to 18-1. Afterwards, Bob Kraft is seen removing a pot of gold from the south end zone at Retractable Grass Field.

## EPILOGUE

With that, the Game of the Century will be played on Sunday evening. The Look Man always got a kick out of the fact that the Terminator's Sky Net snuffed out 3 billion lives at 6:18 pm. That's the same time as kickoff for the Super Bowl.

Brady has neared perfection in 2008, breaking nearly every imaginable record. But the Look Man believes that Eli has sought Peyton's counsel during the two week delay. No opposing QB knows the Chowds defense better than Peyton, and Eli could have a field day.

Despite the fact that the Look Man has never given Eli his due, the Kid is playing well at the right time. Plus, his girlfriend is not Gisele Bunchen!



*Celebrity girlfriend = Loss*

But seriously, the Jynts are a team of Destiny. Their defense is rising to the occasion and they are pulling a Blitzburgh - - - a six seed getting hot. The Number One scoring offense in the NFL is only 12-4 in Super Bowls. It was true when the Chowds knocked off the Greatest Show on Turf and it will be true on Sunday. Defense wins championships. Write it down.

Peace,

The Look Man