

## **THE LOOK MAN REPORT 2008**

### **Week Two – Where's Toto?**

*"When they go take their car in, they hope the guy inside did it right, and hope that he doesn't decide that you only need three of the four lug nuts. That's the way we'll go about it, and that's the way it has to be." – Bungals Coach Marvin Lewis following the loss to the Thumbtacks*

#### **PROLOGUE**

Week Two of the NFL season saw an explosion of offense, as teams mounted epic comebacks to avoid an 0-2 hole. San Diego, Detroit, Washington, and Indy all came back to take the lead after being down early. The Bolts and Cadillacs came up short, but the other two teams gained confidence by overcoming adversity.

The Game of the Week was easy. After witnessing some pathetic football in Cincy and Cleveland, the NFC Beast brought us an instant classic on Monday Night. The Iggles and Pokes game featured seven lead changes, defensive TDs, offensive bombs and haymakers aplenty. The game made the Tennessee-Cincy game on Sunday look like a completely different sport.

Defense is usually ahead of offense in the second week of the season, so look for things to break wide open in 2008. Commissioner Goodell may take the focus off of the negatives by swallowing the whistles and letting the boys play. Even if you don't buy into that conspiracy theory, things look good early. Now we simply need to eliminate the lipstick on the pigs that reside in Cincy, KC and St. Louise.

Without further ado, Week Two in Review:

#### **THE WEEK IN REVIEW**

##### *Iggles at Cowpokes (MNF)*

The Look Man liked the Iggles going into this one. Not only had they beaten the Pokes the last three meetings, but their offense was putting up mad points. Of course, even the Look Man didn't envision this beauty in only Week Two.

While waiting for the game to start (and avoiding endless chatter of ESPN pre-game hacks), the Look Man scanned cable. Over on The Deuce was something that caught his eye: the Arguello-Pryor II fight.

For the uninitiated, Alexis "The Explosive Thin Man" Argüello was a Nicaraguan professional boxer whose frenetic style earned him acclaim in the US. After capturing the featherweight championship, he went on to defeat former world champions Bobby Chacon and Rafael 'Bazooka' Limon, two of the baddest men on the planet.

Argüello's thin frame belied his incredible punching power, and he proceeded to attempt to become the first world champion in 4 different categories by taking on future Hall-of-Famer Aaron (The Hawk) Pryor. Pryor was the Cincinnati Kid in the flesh, knocking out nearly every opponent despite his weight class.

Pryor fought Arguello in Miami in what was billed as The Battle of the Champions. The Thin Man was stopped in an epic 14 rounds despite a controversy over a drug-filled

water bottle requested by Pryor trainer Panama Lewis. Arguello-Pryor II convened in Vegas in a fight that rivaled the first one.

The fight was a great metaphor for the Iggles-Pokes game last Monday. Both sides wanted a win to cement their legacies. The game featured the second highest scoring first half in 40 years of MNF history. If LJ Smith, Hank Baskett and Greg Lewis could really play, who knows how many points would've been scored?

If anyone questioned whether Romo is the real deal, he answered it last week. He torched the Iggles D, with Terrell Owens burning FS Sean Considine with a double move. The Iggles counterpunched with CBs Lito Sheppard and Asante Samuel in the second half, limiting TO to less than 100 yds but 2 TDs overall.

McNabb looked like the McNabb of old, throwing his own deep balls to less-than brand name receivers. He danced, scrambled and even ran on Doomsday Lite, nearly pulling off a win.

The zebras let the teams play early, and the result was fantastic. When the smoke cleared, Pokes' safety Roy (Rogers) Williams had a broken arm, TE Jason Witten had a separated shoulder, but Dallas had a season-changing win.

The Look Man actually likes Williams' replacement Pat Watkins, and the embarrassing wealth of DBs should help the Pokes down the road. On the other side of the rock, (Steve) Austin and Stanback leave much to be desired. Ditto for Doomsday Lite, which reached deep to shut down the Iggles late.

The NFC Beast is simply the best division in football, and these two teams fittingly face each other the last week of the season. As for Arguello, he went on to become a politician, becoming the mayor of capital city Managua. Arguello represented his nation in the Beijing Summer Olympiad as a flag holder, and he is currently thinking about running for vice president of Nicaragua.

When the Look Man contacted him for an exclusive interview, Arguello intoned, "You know the only difference between a boxer and a vice president? Lipstick."



*How 'bout dem Cowboys?!*

## **ZEBRA OF THE WEEK**

Ed (The Hulk) Hochuli received widespread infamy for his inadvertent whistle of the Jay Cutler(y) fumble versus the Bolts. The game hinged on that play and the gutsy, game-winning two-point conversion following the TD. It looked as if The Hulk would win the

ZOTW award whistles down. That is, until the MNF game featuring Terry (Bottlegate) MacAulay.

Bottlegate turned an instant classic into a near farce by letting them play (holding on 3 separate scoring plays), then calling every ticky-tack foul. He consistently missed facemask calls that threatened to turn the game into a brawl. He called pass interference on Pro Bowl CB Asante Samuel, who gave as good as he got from Terrell Owens in the end zone.

When he wasn't missing facemask penalties, Bottlegate was reversing his own calls on the field. It was unclear whether replay verified DeSean Jackson's TD faux pas, but the PI call on Asante Samuel was garbage. Owens was pushing as much as Samuel and the zebra was totally out of position to make the call.

Bottlegate continues to lead the league in bad calls, and he is now joined by two rookie zebras. The Look Man has not yet seen the FNGs in stripes, but they couldn't be much worse than Bottlegate or the recently retired Gerry Austin (City Limits).

As for the Hulk, he may be eliminated from postseason play based upon his gaffe. Unfortunately, that opens the door to bums like Bottlegate, Jeff (Beanbag) Triplett, and Walt (Disney) Anderson. Stay tuned.



*"Hulk no like replay.."*

## **LAGNIAPPE**

### *An Ill Wind...*

The Look Man got caught up in the remnants of Hurricane Ike last Sunday following the Flaming Thumbtacks/Bungals game in Cincinnati. The game was pretty non-descript, and as usual, the locals got de-clawed, but the weather was a little odd.

Swirling vortices of cups and debris floated above both benches, and at one point, a pizza box slammed into a D-lineman in his stance. The DE threw the box in the air, and it nearly took out Tennessee LB Keith Bullock.

As the Look Man departed the stadium, he encountered a sand storm of intense magnitude. You don't typically get this type of dermabrasion in Southern OH unless you're at the plastic surgeon's office.

As the Look Man continued toward the parking lot, he witnessed large sheets of metal roofing flying overhead like kites in the wind. The eight foot sheets spiraled down, nearly decapitating four denizens and inspiring a panic amongst the balance. The resulting race for cars was punctuated only by seeing vehicles with smashed windshields, random fires from power lines, and telephone poles lying across the street.

Upon arriving home, there was the Official Wife of the Look Man surveying the damage. Every yard was covered with tree branches and debris. A few homes had been crushed under the weight of 50 year old trees and there was no electric power anywhere, save the chain saws buzzing. Oddly, there was no rain; just intermittent 50 MPH wind gusts that threatened to send furniture through patio windows.

Most of the city had no electric power through Thursday, so needless to say most of the Sunday NFL was off the menu. Fortunately, the Domestic Headquarters suffered no major damage, but it gave the Look Man a new appreciation for the post-Ike Gulf. It was odd to see how quickly civilization declines after even a few hours without NFL, adult beverages and hot showers.

#### *The More Taste League?*

The Pokes have extended an agreement to feature Miller Lite in Irving as well as the new Jerry Jones Dome in Arlington. Miller Brewing Company will pay Jerry (The King of Pop) Jones \$8 million per year for exclusive beer rights in Big D. Since beer is a major advertiser in the NFL, this move is seen as a coup for Jones and the Pokes.

But the story doesn't end there. Miller also sponsored floats in Frisco's Folsom Street Fair, an event that highlights alternative lifestyle couples. One FSF print ad featured men and women in various stages of leather dress/undress, including several members of Sci-Fi channel's Battlestar Galactica cast in Da Vinci's Last Supper tableau. The bread and wine representing Christian symbols were replaced with sex toys. The Miller Lite logo appeared prominently in the ad.

Miller Lite spokesman and former Scrubs star John C. McGinley made this comment: "While Miller has supported the Folsom Street Fair for several years, we take exception to the poster the organizing committee developed this year. We understand some individuals may find the imagery offensive."

The Beer Commish went on to add, "Then again, we won't settle for just any light beer. We drink only the ultimate light beer, Miller Lite. It tastes great even if it's in bad taste. Now how about a big old glass of - - - busted?!"

The Other Commish is expected to issue a ruling regarding the Cowpokes/Miller agreement. Goodell has already interceded on behalf of the Jewish Anti-Defamation League after the New York Stadium Commission attempted to give naming rights to the German-owned insurance giant Allianz.

Allianz once insured concentration camps in WWII Germany, and refused to pay life insurance claims to its Jewish clients -- instead granting the proceeds to the Nazis

government to support its war effort. This just in - - there are a lot of Hebrew season ticket holders in NYC.

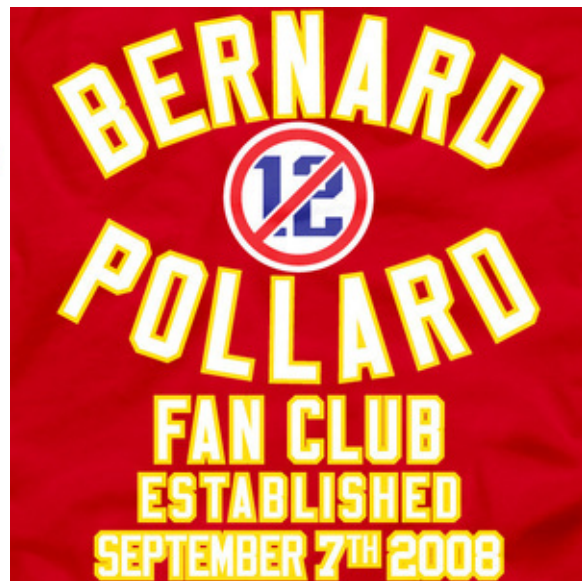
*The Passion of the Tom?*

The Injury to Chowds QB Tom Brady has created a feeding frenzy on the Internet. Not only did the KC DB responsible receive death threats from the Beantown Faithful, some other items appeared as follows:

Check out this image of Brady, which appeared on a slice of toast in the Vatican City. This slice of his glory was discovered by Cardinal Josef Ratzinger and led to his being named Pope Benedict XVI back in April of 2005:



On the other side, there was this T-Shirt trumpeting KC DB Bernard Pollard:



Sales have been extremely brisk in Miami, NYC and Buffalo, but there is no truth to the rumor that the T-Shirts were created by former Brady beau Bridget Moynihan.

Former USC pine-warmer Matt Cassell has taken over at QB, and the handsome signal caller has one relief save and one win. Not everyone is smitten with Brady's replacement. Marine Mammals LB Joey Porter (Paints) had this say about their upcoming battle:

"It'll be good to go out and get our first victory. I just know [Cassel] is not a Tom Brady," said Porter. "If it's not Tom Brady, it shouldn't be that hard. They won last week, but it's not like they were putting up the crazy 40 points they were when they had Tom. Hey, did you see that piece of toast from 1985? Whacked, baby, whacked."

*(Thanks to Tailpipe C-Ray for the above photos – LM)*

## **THE LOOK AHEAD**

### *Black Cats at Swedes (-3.5)*

Swedes coach Brad Childress threw QB Tarvaris Jackson under the bus after an 0-2 start. Childress inserted Gus Frerotte after selecting Jackson from a D-II university and touting him as the next McNabb. Childress is now backpedaling faster than John McCain as his job is on the line.

Frerotte is best known for throwing a left-handed pick six against Cleveland while with Cincy, and nearly breaking his own neck celebrating a TD run while he was in DC. One has to wonder whether he can resurrect a Minnesota offense that has no number one WR, and a TE who can't catch.

The Look Man is having trouble figuring out whether the team will implode and get Childress fired, or respond with a win. He likes Jake (The Man) Delhomme and a Carolina team that has comeback power. The Look Man has to go with the plucky Black Cats, who will celebrate the return of Steve (Jacob Jingleheimer) Smith following a two game suspension for punching out a teammate.

The Swedes have a checkered past, never showing love for Hall of Famer Warren Moon in Minnehaha, despite his relative success. The Hornheads unceremoniously dumped Culpepper, and now throw Tarvaris Jackson into the Mississippi River, making the Look Man ask: can a brother ever be successful at QB in Minnie? Black Cats eke out a win.

### *Blitzburgh at Philly (-3.5)*

This game figures to be decided in the bottom of the ninth inning as these two defensive teams square off. Both sides live and die by the blitz, but the Iggles have shown some offensive power despite missing their top two wideouts.

Big Ben got further tenderized by the Browns, and his busted wing will be the focus of D-Co Jim Johnson's men. The Iggles will shut down the run and dive bomb Ben in waves, sending the Stillers to 2-1.

McNabb looks to be in MVP form, despite his miscues last Monday night. The guy entered the season with the third best winning percentage behind two guys named



Brady and Manning. Not bad company for a QB that has had only one Pro Bowl receiver in ten years.

Bungals at Jynts (-12.5):

Marvin (Jerry) Lewis had ultra-comical press conferences this week, trotting out his familiar, 'keep grinding', 'consistency', and 'play smarter' clichés. At one point he even mentioned that QB (Johnny) Carson Palmer would've had a QB rating over 100 if not for the two picks. Lewis is attempting another telethon with his trademark, *You'll Never Walk Alone*.

This game has been a chic upset pick, but the matchups don't support it. To wit:

- 1) The Jynts have a tough, physical defense. The Bungals are soft as marshmallows on offense, and missing their free agent TE.
- 2) The Jynts rush the passer as well as any team, and play ball control offense featuring punishing big backs. The Ugly & Black cannot stop the run, giving up a 51-yard draw play just last week.
- 3) WR Plaxico Burress has earned his name back, and is nearly unstoppable one on one. Bungals CB Jonathan Joseph may not play, and CB Leon (Monte) Hall can't close any deals.

The Bungals mail it in while looking ahead to the Battle of Ohio in Week Four. Jynts cover the spread and DT Justin (Friar) Tuck ends up wearing Carson Palmer like a cassock.

Starheads at Cheeseheads (+3):

Aaron (Mister) Rodgers has emerged with a fantastic QB rating, leading a team with offensive weapons and defensive heart. They have posted big numbers in two consecutive weeks, including two defensive scores late to pound Detroit.

Meanwhile, in Big D, Tony Romo has been the Good, the Bad and the Ugly, all in Week Two. The Place for Ribs was fantastic at times, hitting the deep ball, then rumbled, bumbled, stumbled and fumbled in his own endzone.

Look for the Pack to take advantage of the injury to (TE) Jason Witten, forcing Romo to go to Owens. With shutdown CBs Al Harris and Charles Woodson, they will funnel TO into the middle where SS Atari (Sega) Bigby will blast anything that moves.

The Pack is back, and this time they're secular. Mister Rodgers teaches the kids in Big D that it's not nice to read your own press clippings. Cheeseheads.

Browns at Flintstones (-2):

The Browns enter the game with a decent run defense, but a milk carton offense. QB Derek (Neo) Anderson has been inaccurate, and tends to lock in on WR Braylon Edwards, who can't seem to catch a cold naked in Alaska.

The Look Man believes the Browns brain trust has gone away from what made Neo successful in 2007: using deep balls to set up the running game. The conservative passing game does not allow them to set up the run because the LBs are sitting on short

pass routes. Quit worrying about Anderson's performance forcing you to go to Brady Quinn (Medicine Woman) and throw the damn ball.

Complicating the Browns' woes has been the injury to WR Donte (Inferno) Stallworth. Inferno tweaked a knee in Week One pre-game and is not expected to play. Without big wideouts, Cleveland has been unable to seal the corner needed to set up the off-tackle run. Jamal (Bam Bam) Lewis gets stuffed, putting the offense in predictable 3<sup>rd</sup> and longs.

The Browns offense comes to life in B-More as the defense confuses rookie QB Joe (Viagra) Flacco. Browns baby, Browns to set up the Battle of Ohio in the Nati in Week Four.

## **EPILOGUE**

Three 2007 playoff teams are 0-2, and media darlings like the Bungals, Swedes and Browns join them. While everyone is pointing to the 2007 Jynt's rise from the 0-2 ashes, that scenario seems unlikely this season. We have already seen eight new QBs take over the helms of their respective teams. The schedule does not bode well for the Browns, J-Ville, or the Bungals. Week Three will separate the men from the 'boys.

Smart NFL coaches divide the season into four quarters, so whoever can right their ship after the first quarter will have a solid chance. Injuries are a part of any season, but if your offensive or defensive lines are a mess, so are you. Parcells brought popularity to the quote, 'It is what it is', but the Look Man likes his original: "You are what you are."

Teams need to figure out who they are after two weeks of vision questing. Otherwise, they'll end up on the Island of Misfit Teams with a version of the home game in January.

Peace,

The Look Man