

THE LOOK MAN REPORT 2008

Week Three – Oh and Three Strikes

“It’s the biggest Hail Mary in the history of football or Marys.” – US Representative Barney Frank regarding McCain’s return to Washington to work on financial bailout negotiations

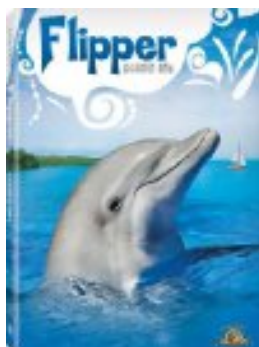
PROLOGUE

The topsy turvy nature of the NFL 2008 continued in Week Three, with five teams remaining winless. The Browns, Bungals, Baby Backs, Cadillacs and Slim Shadies all failed to register a value in the win column, while the Marine Mammals pulled a massive upset in New England. It’s far too late for the Look Man to solicit NFL picks at this point, although the Look Man doesn’t believe Rosie O’Donnell is even warming up her vocal chords at this point.

Miami head coach Porter Ricks was able to get kids Bud and Sandy a W by re-introducing the single-wing offense. The Chowds had a bad day at the office after RB Ronnie Brown ran and passed for five scores. Fish QB Chad Pennington was efficient, going 17 for 20 and keeping New England off balance. His 85% completion percentage set a new mark for Coral Key QBs, as the Fish destroyed the Chowds 38-13.

Afterwards, everyone realized that Miami LB Joey Porter (Paints) was correct: backup Matt Cassel is no Tom Brady. The Look Man realized that the Chowds D is long in the tooth, and HOF LB Andre Tippett ain’t walking through that door anytime soon.

But the Look Man digresses. NFL 2008 is as confusing a season in many years. It’s like the US financial markets. We all realize the economy is bad, but will a \$700 billion bailout actually fix the problem or simply encourage more greed? Despite the difficulty inherit in emerging from an early season hole, this could be the year that a non-favorite wins it all.



Miami mascot w/o headgear

The Look Man is going to shake up the format this week. Let’s call it 10 things The Look Man *knows* he thinks.

Without further ado, the Look Man’s bi-prime babble.

- 1) The Bungals made a big mistake casting off Etroit (no “D”) RB Rudi (Ray Moore) Johnson, who had 130 yards of total offense in the loss the Niners last week. Rudi had 17 rushes for 83 yards including a 27 yard run, to go with 3 receptions for 48 yards, including a 34 yard catch. Rudi still has tread on the tires, and the Bungals will rue the day they cut him after Chris Perry gets his annual broken leg of the year.
- 2) Brett (The Pope) Favre’s year in the Big Apple will end badly. Favre threw 2 picks last Monday night, including a pick six. The Bolts dropped two more possible picks, including CB Antonio Cromartie’s dropped first quarter pick six. Stick a fork in the Pope, who has talent

but doesn't know the playbook. As they said 4,000 times on MNF, "...it's a work in progress," but the Look Man thinks the job will end with a new papal conclave in NYC.

- 3) The media is painting Denver as a darling, but the Look Man believes they're merely a pretender. The Donkeys have put up mad points and QB Jay Cutler(y) is slicing up the competition with sharp passing. But the Donkeys are involved in shootouts instead of blowouts because their big play scoring approach leaves the D on the field for too long. They have lost the Time of Possession battle the first three weeks, and their D-line is too thin to take this kind of pounding for long. When they face a good ball control offense, they will get upset, perhaps even this week in KC.
- 4) Browns head coach Romeo Crennel is the wrong man for the job. Often, assistant coaches from championship teams fizzle in their new environments. Dave Wannestadt, Dave Campo, Chan Gailey, and Charlie Weis all coached on Super Bowl winning teams, only to struggle as the lead dogs. Being subordinate to Belichick or Jimmah Johnson means that one lacks the fire to be an alpha dog. As a result, assistants from relative obscurity are a better gamble if the owner wants to garner a ring. Bill Walsh and Vince Lombardi are just two examples.
- 5) Ed (The Hulk) Hochuli's San Diego-Denver miscue will impact the remainder of the season. Officials all over the league saw the NFL throw one of its finest zebras under the Range Rover, and they are now tentative in making calls. The DeSean Jackson faux TD was a prime example, as the whistle blew, stopping Adam (The Langolier) Jones from scooping up the fumble. Officials are worried about mistakes, making their real time calls and ultimately, the fans, suffer.
- 6) The Dallas Cowpokes are not the juggernaut they are advertised to be. WR Miles (Steve) Austin caught two long bombs on Sunday night, and the Look Man even noticed Oscar Goldman in the crowd cheering after the second bomb. Still, the Pokes still aren't in the barn yet because of a suspect defense. What they have is prolific offense, courtesy of OC Jason Garrett. The Starheads are the cream of the NFC, but the rest of the stable is a bunch of cows with Chinese milk. The Pokes are a lock for the postseason, but they will have to endure the physical nature of the NFC East schedule before they emerge as the favorite.
- 7) The Vikings have been cheered for going to backup QB Gus Frerotte, but they will continue to struggle. Brad Childress is not well-liked on his own team, and once Frerotte faces some heat, he and the offense will revert to mediocrity. Tailpipe K-Gun Dunn agrees, saying, "...the coach is an idiot. Brad (Porn Stache) Childress obviously thought that T-jack was the best chance until his ultra crap play calling did not work out. You can't expect a guy to throw 6 or 7 passes in the first half, then light up the field in the second half." The Look Man concurs, and the Hornheads are squandering a great chance in a weak NFC Norse Division.
- 8) The Jynts may repeat. The Look Man never did give it up Da Gorill, whose 2007 NFL picks predicted a G-Men championship. Da Gorill saw the handwriting on the wall based upon the stellar pass rush and despite early season woes. The Jynts were impressive in Week Three, bloodying (Johnny) Carson Palmer with six sacks en route to an OT win over the Ugly & Black. Mr. Tonight Show showed some testicular fortitude in the loss, but he looked like Rocky after the Drago fight.
- 9) The Arizona Cardinals are for real. The Deadbirds always struggle on the Right Coast, so they stayed in DC to avoid for back-to-back East Coast flights. After losing a close one to the Genocide Victims in Week Three, they face the Jets in the Big Apple in Week Four. Kurt Warner is back to form after years of getting pounded by the pass rush. This team has outstanding WRs in Larry Fitzgerald (Kennedy) and Anquan Boldin. Their running game is solid, and their defense is physical. Look for them to beat the Jets young CBs, and to remain in the hunt for the NFC West title.

10) Bears RB Matt Forte is the real deal, but their offense is struggling with bad TE play. The Look Man knows that a TE is the QBs best friend, but Greg (7th Floor Crew) Olsen has dropped some balls. The TE is the key to the Bears offense, which has no Numero Uno WR. As for defense, it usually takes 5 or 6 weeks for the opposition to figure out the Monsters of the Furniture Mart scheme. The MOTFM are giving it up like Lindsay Lohan on GHB, and it's only Week Four.



Chicago D, aka 'Firecrotch'

THE LOOK AHEAD

Cleveland at Cincy (-3.5)- the Battle of Ohio, Part I

The Browns will need to overcome the coaching of Romeo (Ralph Cramden) Crennel as they attempt to get win number one in 2008. Likewise, the Bungals need this win to keep the locals from throwing their chili into the Ohio River. The 70th meeting of the Battle of Ohio rivalry has produced 2 of the 8 highest scoring games in NFL history, and the Bengals' advantage came in the strike-shortened 1982 season.

The Bus Driver made the task tougher for the Browns by introducing a QB rivalry mid-week. Crennel openly indicated that Derek (Neo) Anderson's job is on the line, hanging the Sword of Damocles over his head. Neo had mixed reviews in the BOH last season, throwing five TDs in the first meeting but four picks in the loss with the playoffs on the line. Why would Cramden undercut his confidence when Neo hasn't had his starting O-line and receivers due to injuries?

The Look Man believes that Offensive Coordinator Rob Chudzinski is playing Norton to Crennel's Cramden. As bad as Anderson has looked, the play-calling has not worked to his strengths. Twelve rushes by Jamal (Bam-Bam) Lewis in the B-More game was pathetic, and the only deep throws occurred on 3rd and short. Either Neo got injured in the Jynts preseason game, or Chud is pulling a Marcus Junius Brutus, attempting to get Crennel fired.

Though the Browns are winless, they have faced three top 10 defenses. The Bungals D is the cure, and they can't stop anyone. On the other hand, the Look Man has a simple rule: you throw 3 picks and you're on the bench, even if your last name is Favre. The Bungals are 29-4 under Marvin (Jerry) Lewis when they win the turnover battle. Neo may have failed in his first 3 attempts at the Jump Program, but he needs to step up this week.



Et tu, Romeo? Et tu? Whoa.

The Browns will go deep early, setting up the ball control running to Lewis, who might break another defender's neck in Week Four. The Bungals D is vulnerable, and the Browns need to win. Browns, baby, Browns as the visitors beat the zebras and the striped Bungals in their black on black uniforms.

DC at Dallas (-10.5):

The Pokes are coming off of three impressive wins, and this is where the going gets tough. The Genocide Victims looked awful in their Week One loss to the Jynts, and can't afford another NFC Beast loss.

The inside stat is that the Starheads haven't picked a pass in 147 consecutive attempts — the longest active streak in football. Their last pick was in Week 16 against Carolina's backup QB Matt Moore. On the other side of the ledger, Jason Campbell (Soup) is beginning to slurp up the playbook, and hasn't thrown a pick since Week 13 of 2007. Either Dallas defensive coaches Todd Grantham and Dave (Papa Smurf) Campo pick up the pace, or it will be a long year for the defense.

On offense, TE Jason Witten is a complete player who can block and catch. Miles (Steve) Austin may be the third wideout the Pokes needed, and the Felix Jones (the Cat) pick was pure genius. The Pokes employ the Running Back by Committee approach to perfection, teaming power back Marion (the Predator) Barber with speedster Felix the Cat. The Browns gave up Felix the Cat in order to draft Brady Quinn (Medicine Woman). You can never have enough guys holding clipboards you know.

Look for the Casino Kids' shut down corners to stifle the Pokes' pass offense, ticking off Terrell Owens and setting up some sideline drama. Genocide Victims use TE and part-time nude model Chris Cooley (High) to expose the soft Pokes LB corps. DC covers in their last visit to Irving, TX.

Niners at Religious Icons (-5)

New Orleans is implementing the Bush Doctrine, but unfortunately, like Sarah Palin, most of the NFC doesn't know what that is. Frisco won their grudge match over Detroit, but this week face an offense that can put points on the board. The stingy Niners D takes a week off as QB Drew (Cool) Brees puts up numbers in a shootout with JT O'Sullivan.

Atlanta at Carolina (-7):

Dirty Birds QB Matt Ryan('s Hope) has put up great numbers in the Georgia Dome, but struggled on the road. He takes his 2-1 team to face Jake (The Man) Delhomme and the tough Black Cats.

Delhomme has been brutalized in the last few weeks, taking sacks due to the loss of LT Travelle Wharton (School of Business). Wharton is back, offering financial advice to ATL DE John Abraham, who leads the NFC in sacks with six. Atlanta covers, but Carolina wins a close one.

Philly at Chicago (+3):

The Look Man has several gambling rules which usually pay off: (1) double digit divisional underdogs nearly always cover, and (2) disgruntled ex-players/coaches will give away trade secrets and help their new teams cover the spread, and (3) never bet on a QB returning to his home town.

This week we have Donovan McNabb returning to Chi-Town, and the Genocide Victims as 10.5 underdogs in their last visit to Texas Stadium. This, my damies, is wagering Wicca. In the words of Bob Costas, "Cole me down on the panny sty!"

Look for the MOTFM to get aggressive, forcing the Iggles into mistakes early and often. Westbrook is out for this week, and the return of WR Reggie Brown hurts the offensive rhythm. Orton sings a number one hit against an Iggles team coming off of a physical game, and the Foo Fighters cover.

Baltimore at Pittsburgh (5.5)- Monday Night Football

Blitzburgh got pounded by the Iggles, who used the blitz to perfection in Week Three. Ironically, Stillers Defensive Coordinator Dick LeBeau(nhead) invented the package, but Jim Johnson has patented it. As a result, Big Ben and backup Byron Leftwich attempted 9 passes while on their backs.

Tack on the knee injury to (Fast) Willie Parker, and the Stillers are facing a tough one on Monday Night Football. The Stillers own the Flintstones on MNF, but Baltimore hasn't allowed a 100 yard rusher in 21 consecutive games.

Baltimore is winning with defense, and despite a rookie QB in Joe Flacco. The Look Man likes the Flintstones to cover and perhaps win this one, tightening up the AFC Asgard division race. After all, Big Ben has yet to complete an entire NFL season, and Leftwich is not the answer in Steeltown.

EPILOGUE

Week Four is huge for the five winless squads, and one of the two Ohio teams is guaranteed a win. If the Browns fall to the Bungals, they will exit the bye week with Brady Quinn at the helm and a coach with a guillotine over his head. The rest of the winless teams got their collective heads off the chopping block in Week Three.

The Look Man has had to talk several Browns Backers off the ledge this week. The schedule has not been kind to Cleveland, and facing top defenses in succession is never easy. The key is to win the easy ones and build confidence.

It is still early in the season, and momentum cures a lot of ills. Once a team gets its swagger, it can actually beat superior opponents. Just look at Buffalo, Denver and Tennessee if you have doubts.

Peace,

The Look Man