

THE LOOK MAN REPORT 2008

Week Four – Show and Tell

“It's never a good day when you hear there's a picture of your son's penis on the Internet” – Nancy Cooley to her high school students after they saw TE Chris Cooley's inadvertent nude shot on his NFL blog

PROLOGUE

The 2008 season devolved into a distinct game of Show and Tell in Week Four with several upsets. The undefeated Cowpokes and Donkeys finally showed some chinks in their armor, losing games due to their defenses. So much for offensive firepower winning championships, especially after only three weeks of the season.

Buffalo continued its unlikely quest for an AFC Least Championship, going 4-0 by knocking off winless St. Louise 31-14. Brett (The Pope) Favre and the Jets genuflected all over the Deadbirds with six TD passes. The Pope never accomplished the feat in Green Bay, but attributed the air show to disparaging comments by some little known NFL blogger.

Favre's performance was also courtesy of WR Lavaerneus Coles, who put aside his love for former QB Chad Pennington in favor of winning ballgames. Apparently Coles has now accepted Favre as his personal savior. Gang Green helped turn six Kurt Warner turnovers into points, while nearly killing WR Anquan Boldin with 27 seconds remaining. Jets safety Eric Smith received a special invitation to stay at home next week for headhunting on the play.

The mounting losses were telling for two NFL head coaches. Lane (He-Man) Kiffin was kicked out of Graycastle by Grayders owner Al (Skeletor) Davis after posting only one win in 2008. Scott Linehan was given a version of the home game by the Lambs after installing QB Trent (Long) Green. Both teams head into the bye week with new leadership, but the prognosis is still bleak.

The NFL season heads into its second quarter with things pretty jumbled. Only three undefeated teams remain, and each faces a test in Week Five. Gone are the days when two undefeated teams meet in Week Nine. Now we have a miasma of injured players, coaches on the hot seat, and uncertainty.

LAGNIAPPE

Pocket Pool, Anyone?

There have been a rash of personal fouls related to the family jewels this season, making the Look Man wonder what in the Wide World of Sports is going on? Tampa O-lineman Jeremy Trueblood won the game when one member of the Chicago Bears grabbed Trueblood's package after the whistle. The resultant melee ended with a penalty against the Bears Peanut Tillman, giving Tampa a first down that evolved into the game winning points.

Testicular torsion is most common following fumbles. Players in a pileup will attempt to force the ball from another player's grasp by yanking the nuthouse. When players have to decide between protecting the rock or their reproductive organs, it's an easy decision.

Minnesota QB Gus Frerotte also experienced the pain of pudendal neuralgia when Tennessee DE Kyle Vanden Bosch drilled him with a cheap shot last week. Vanden Bosch went low on Frerotte after an incomplete pass, generating a roughing call, and gasps from Frerotte's wife.

The Swedes QB later said, "That just isn't called for in this game. To take and just spear somebody like that, that's pretty ridiculous. We just got a memo from (NFL Commissioner Roger) Goodell this week, saying we're going to cut all that stuff out and we're going to keep our

game legitimate. I could have ended up like that Lance Armstrong, with a ping pong ball prosthesis."

The Look Man isn't sure if this is an emerging trend, but it's kinda nutty. No wonder the players are getting teste.



Live strong, Gus!

True Blood, Part II

If you haven't watched the new HBO show *True Blood*, you might want to start. The black comedy is about mainstream vampires in small town America. Creator Alan Ball of *Six Feet Under* fame uses the show to make allegorical satire about civil liberties. More importantly, there are a boatload of hot, scantily clad actors including a grown up Anna Pacquin.

While writers have played up the sensuality of vampires since the introduction of Bela Lugosi, Ball takes it to new heights. Catch the back episodes if you can. Unlike the characters, they don't suck.



Pacquin: Almost famous?

Bottlegate II

Cleveland FB Lawrence (the) Vickers had an outstanding day blocking last week in the Nati. Unfortunately, he was hit in the eye with a beer bottle following Jamal (Bam-Bam) Lewis' late TD run.

"The bottle flew out of the stands," Vickers said. "It hit the top of my helmet and the top of the bottle, the part you drink out of, came across my eye, and I had beer all over my face."

Vickers didn't know what had happened at first, then he smelled beer and thought, "I know I haven't had anything to drink. Must be some Cleveland fan is still angry about that 4th and 1 drop I had two seasons back."

The Zebras failed to call a penalty on the home team, fearing additional reprisals similar to the Original Bottlegate. The Bengals responded by trotting out ex-coach Sam Wyche, who bellowed, "You don't live in Cleveland, you live in Cincinnati!" The Look Man contacted NFL Referee Terry MacAulay and former Browns GM Carmen Policy, but neither would speak on the brew-ha-ha.



Aiming for Derek Anderson?

ZEBRA OF THE WEEK

There are three contestants this week, and overall, the Look Man has not seen terrible officiating in 2008. The contestants are Walt Anderson, Ed Hochuli and Jerome Boger, but a shout out goes to Gene Steratore.

Walt (Disney) Anderson - Genocide Vix at Pokes

Walt nearly went Phantasia again last week, calling DC center Casey Rabach for fouls overturning successive TDs by the Genocide Victims. The calls may have been legitimate, but they are typically not called on swing passes when offensive linemen get a couple of yards upfield. The net result was keeping the game closer than it might have been once Washington had established the cover.

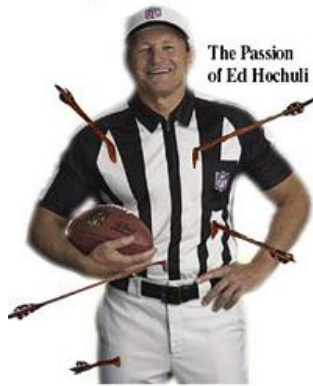
Ed (The Hulk) Hochuli – Dirty Birds at Black Cats

The Hulk pulled another Jackball move, citing Carolina DE Julius (Dr.) Peppers for a helmet-to-helmet hit on ATL QB Matt Ryan. The sack forced a fumble which was returned for a TD, but Hulk's call resulted in an automatic ATL first down. Replay clearly indicated that Peppers hit Ryan with his shoulder pads first.

The Panthers won handily at 24-9, but if they had failed to cover the spread, the NFL might have had to call General Ross to put the Hulk down. No word on whether Hochuli will replace Edward Norton in the cinematic sequel, *The Incredible Hulk: Vegas*.

The Look Man recently witnessed a pre-gamma ray exposed Hochuli in a replay of the 1995 NFC Championship game featuring Green Bay at Dallas. The gun-less Hochuli looked more like Bruce Banner in those days. There is not much chance Hochuli will be appear at a postseason contest this year unless he purchases a ticket.

Refaquite



Why is this man smiling?

(Lieutenant) Jerome Boger(mill) - Cleveland at Cincy

Lt. Bogermill and his crew turned a battle of winless teams into one of the ugliest games of the week. Not only did Beverly Hills Lieutenant call four infractions on Cleveland D-linemen for lining up in the neutral zone, he missed an offsides on Cleveland's DE Alex (Monte) Hall which resulted in a game ending sack and INT. When asked about the call, Bungals coach Marvin Lewis responded, "I'm not allowed to talk about the officials, you know that."

The Look Man was rooting for the Browns, but the calls were bad on both sides. In addition to the neutral zone infractions, he called Braylon Edwards for a personal foul for blocking after the whistle on a first down run. The play should've been called a dead ball foul, with Cleveland keeping the first down but losing half the distance back to the goal. When Browns' QB Derek Anderson chided Edwards about "being smart" on the sidelines afterwards, RB Jamal Lewis had to separate the two.

Bogermill is rapidly taking the place of Jonny (Big Bootay) Greer as one of the worst zebras of all times. Division matchups are the time to take charge, call only the important fouls, and get out of the game with a minimum of blowups. He needs to take a lesson from Gene Steratore, who kept the lid on an explosive Monday Nighter in Blitzburgh vs. Baltimore.

Jerome Boger, you are the Look Man's **Zebra of the Week**. Now go out and find Axel Foley.

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

DC at Dallas (-10.5):

The Genocide Victims beat the Pokes at their own game: ball control offense and tough defense. The Look Man predicted that the inability to create turnovers would haunt Doomsday Lite, and surely enough, they stayed on the field for 38 minutes on Sunday.

The Look Man also predicted DC's shut down corners would stifle the Pokes' pass offense, ticking off Terrell Owens and setting up some sideline drama. Done, and done, as Jason Garrett gives Marion (The Predator) Barber only 8 touches, and Felix (The Cat) Jones zero. Dallas had better get it together quickly, and the Look Man believes they will courtesy of an extremely crisp offensive attack.

Philly at Chicago (+3):

Donovan McNabb returned home to the Chi, his mom fed everyone including John Madden, and the Iggles lost. But the resiliency of the Bears defense was incredible. The four down goal line stand capped the win, and the Bears showed that they are a team to be reckoned with - - - until at least mid-season.

Baltimore at Pittsburgh (5.5)- Monday Night Football

A lot of folks called Washington at Dallas the Game of the Week, but this one actually was. There was slobberknocking defense with hair, teeth and eyeballs all over the field. Rashard (Delicious) Mendenhall paid for a mid-week text dissing the defense with a fractured shoulder. The Stillers also lost OG Kendall Simmons for the year with a torn Achilles, as well as their starting FB.

Somehow, the Stillers scored two TDs in fifteen seconds, setting up a fifth quarter. Their defense ratcheted up the pressure and secured the OT win. All this, and in the last three seasons, Big Ben has been sacked more than anyone except Jon Pickna; Why do the Stillers lose players and still win when everyone else loses? One word: Coaching!

THE LOOK AHEAD

Jacksonville at Blitzburgh (+4)

The J-Squareds are one of the few teams to beat the Stillers at Ketchup Field in recent years. Their style of ball control offense and solid pass coverage is a tough matchup for the Stillers, who enter the game with only Mewelde Moore healthy at RB. Fortunately, the Stillers were able to re-sign Najeh (The Dump Truck) Davenport to replace the Rashard Mendenhall.

But the Stillers' key problem is an offensive line that lost OG Kendall Simmons for the year. They have injuries all over the board, and Big Ben is taking a beating in the backfield. Their best bet is to throw the rock, but it's a risk-reward issue. If Big Ben goes down, the Stillers season is effectively over. If Ben Roethlisberger takes many more beatings like last week, he'll turn into Bubby Brister.

The J-Squareds cover and notch another win in what could be a significant wild card tie-breaker.

Cincy at Dallas (-17):

The Pokes lost a physical game to the Genocide Victims in Week Four, and now look forward to getting healthy against Cincy. On paper, the 17 points look like a gimme, but be careful what you wish for.

Doomsday Lite cannot look dominant if they are on the field for a long period of time. Not only must the Starheads score, they need to possess the rock. Giving Cincy's offense time on the field will only give them the confidence they need to turn this laughter into a close game.

Like the Jynts game, this one doesn't look good on paper for the Bungals. LT Levi (Strauss) Jones faces the speed of DE DeMarcus Ware. The Bungals D goes against the two headed monster of power back Marion (The Predator) Barber and speedster Felix (the Cat) Jones. Terrell Owens goes against CB Leon (Toast) Hall. Perhaps newly acquired RB Cedric (The Butler) Benson can add a power running attack to Cincy's arsenal, but his pass protection could get Mr. Tonight Show broken in half.

If (Johnny) Carson Palmer's elbow is a no-go, all bets are on --- Dallas that is. One still has to wonder if Jason Garrett and the Pokes learned the lesson of Time of Possession last week against DC.

The Look Man usually stays away from double digit favorites, but the Pokes win this one. Dallas plays Cincy, Arizona and St. Louise in consecutive weeks. They need to come through this stretch with three wins before getting into the meat of their schedule. Pokes fail to cover but win, propelling Marvin Lewis and the Bungals on their way to their third 0-6 record in the last ten years.

Washington at Philly (-6) [SNF]:

The NFC Beast heats up as the dinged up Iggles take on the Genocide Victims. RB Bryant Westbrook likely will not play, but the Iggles have enough passing offense to win. The GVs are coming off an emotional win over the Pokes in Big D, and the second of two consecutive road games is always a tough bill.

Donovan McNabb(sty) and the Iggles cover and take the first of two with DC, tying them at 3-2. More importantly, the Iggles need this division win to tie the Casino Kids at 1-1 in the NFC Beast.

Tennessee at Baltimore (+3)

The Flaming Thumbtacks are one of only three undefeated teams in the NFL in Week Five. They take on the physical Flintstones in an early look at the best defenses in the AFC.

Baltimore hasn't allowed a 100 yard rusher since the late 50's, but the tandem of bruiser LenDale White and Chris (Run It) Johnson could end that streak. On the other side of the rock, the Flintstones lost Willis McGahee to a rib injury last week, leaving them with rookie RB Ray Rice and LeRon (Die Hard) McClain, who yells "Yippee Yi Yo Ki Yay!" each time he scores.

Look for Tennessee to "shoot...the glass", forcing McClain jump off M&T Bank Stadium with a fire hose tied around his waist. Tennessee covers and wins to go 5-0 for the first time in team history.

EPILOGUE

There has been a lot of discussion regarding the hit that Jets safety Eric Smith put on Anquan Boldin in a 56-34 beatdown. Boldin was hit from behind on the play, forcing his head into Smith's target zone. The result was a severe concussion and a broken sinus for a Pro Bowl wideout.

Arizona was ordered to score by Coach Ken Whisenhunt despite the outcome having been decided. Whisenhunt received criticism for risking his first team players in an unwinnable game, and the Look Man agrees. Two touchdowns in under a minute are possible. Three scores mean you pull your starters and live to fight another day.

Injuries are a part of the NFL, and the Look Man doesn't believe a suspension and \$50K fine was in order. Still, the lack of useable bodies dictates that you don't get a star player killed in a game that can't be won. The Deadbirds now faced unbeaten Buffalo and Dallas without their second best offensive option. One can only hope the game doesn't come down to Kurt Warner, whose propensity for turnovers is second only to Jon Kitna's.

While the Look Man isn't ready to crown the 'Tacks just yet, they are playing the most physical ball in the AFC right now. These guys are like the G-Men of 2007; they could be a force if they continue to dominate teams with tough D and ball control offense.

This just in: Tacks' QB Kerry (Tom) Collins can manage a game with the best of them. He already has one Super Bowl appearance, and everything old is new again in NFL 2008.

Peace,

The Look Man