

THE LOOK MAN REPORT 2008

Week Five – Knock, Knock

"I did not dream that we would get in a situation where we had all the structure in place and literally have an incident that casts lightly with him publicly or with the league that would involve the very people that you're doing the structure with," Jerry Jones on Adam (Pacman) Jones' altercation with a team hired bodyguard.

PROLOGUE

In an old Star Trek episode called *This Side of Paradise*, Kirk and the Enterprise visit a planet expecting to find all of the inhabitants dead from radiation exposure. They are surprised to find the agricultural colonists not only alive, but thriving. The reason nearly brings down the Enterprise, culminating in a physical confrontation between Spock and Kirk.

Week Five of the NFL season reminded the Look Man of that episode. Tennessee and Washington continued on their unlikely winning streaks, while the G-Men defended their title by throttling the hapless Seahawks 44-6. Instead of turning up DOA, Miami knocked off the Bolts using their Wildcat formation. Arizona rose up like a desert storm, sandblasting the theretofore unbeaten Bisons 41-17, while knocking QB Trent (NPR) Edwards into next month.

The colonists of Omichron-Seti III were able to defeat the effects of radiation due to plant spores that produced a euphoric defense. Tennessee and Blitzburgh prevailed by beating physical, life threatening defenses in Baltimore and Jacksonville.

The only thing missing in Week Five was a comely colonist who had a thing for dudes with pointed ears. But then, we did have the Vice Presidential debates.

Without further winking, the Week in Review:

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

J-Ville 21 at Blitzburgh 26 (+4)

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

The J-Squareds had trouble getting their offense going against the ball hawking Stillers and it cost them the game. Despite roughing up Big Ben Roethlisberger, J-Ville was just too soft on offense. The game changer: a 3rd and long where Big Ben shrugged off tacklers and threw a strike to Heinz (578) Ward for a key 1st down.

Big Ben may not last the entire season, but he has looked fantastic with a horrible O-line. The Stillers keep winning in spite of key injuries, this time turning to 3rd string back Mewelde Moore. Winning ugly is a sign of character, and Mike (Omar Epps) Tomlin has these guys playing well. Big Ben and Fast Willie Parker look to heal up during the bye week, which comes at a great time for the defending AFC Asgard Division champs.

Cincy 22 at Dallas 31(-17):

Look Man said: *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.*

The Pokes played just well enough to win, or was it the Bungals playing just poorly enough to lose? When Marvin Lewis went for a 2 point PAT with seven and a half minutes left and the score at 24-22 Dallas, you just knew it was the wrong call. You don't end a positive, TD-scoring drive on a down note, especially with that much time remaining. It sends two messages: (1) we may not score again, so we better hope for OT, and (2) my defense stinks.

Marvin was right on both counts, as the Bungals gave it up like Sarah Palin in a Katie Couric interview. The Pokes produced a ball-control TD drive to ice the game, leaving Cincy down two scores with zero timeouts and a minute plus remaining.

Pokes WR Terrell Owens was seen crying on the sidelines during the contest. After demanding more balls in a loss to the Genocide Vix, TO had only five come his way in the Cincy game. He turned one into a game winning 57-yard TD, but still played the Kleenex card on the sidelines. Team owner Jerry (The King of Pop) Jones came to the sidelines in the 3rd quarter to console his player.

"I was just reminding him how important a player and an important part he is to this team winning," Jones said. "TO, like me, is not like other guys. Hee, hee!"

QB Tony Romo (The Place for Ribs) didn't look for TO because he was too busy handing off to Marion (The Predator) Barber and Felix (The Cat) Jones. The two RBs combined for nearly 200 rushing yards to offset a pedestrian 176 passing yards by Ribs King. Romo did sauce his way to 3 TD passes, two of which came in the deciding 4th period.

The game changing play came on a 33-yard scamper by Felix the Cat on a 4th and 4. The Cat caught the Toothless Tigers napping, as Bungals CB Jonathan Joseph (Children's aspirin) and S Chinedum (means "Bad Mo-Fo" in Swahili) Ndukwe got caught inside. "Man, that dude is fast," said BMF. "He turned that corner and gave us all a headache. I had to ask Joseph for a whole bottle of his aspirin for the plane ride home."

Speaking of the plane ride home, Bungals press secretary Butch Hobson was badly beaten for the following:

Hobson - "Knock, Knock?"
Marvin Lewis - "Who's there?"
Hobson - "Owen."
Lewis - "Owen, who?"
Hobson - "Owen five."

Washington 23 at Philly 17 (-6) [SNF]:

The Look Man said: *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. ...the Iggles cover and take the first of two with DC, tying them at 3-2*

The Look Man is not sure what happened to RB Bryant Westbrook and the Iggles, but it likely stemmed from their failure to put their talons into the throats of the Genocide Vix in the first half. The Iggles were up 14-0, and failed to convert on a key red zone third down. They kicked the FG to go up 17-0, waking up the GVs, and getting snuffed in the second half.

This just in: The Genocide Vix are for real, and the rest of the NFC had better take notice.

Tennessee 13 at Baltimore 10 (+3)

The Look Man said: *Tennessee covers and wins to go 5-0 for the first time in team history.*

If not for the Monday Night thrill ride, this would have been the Game of the Week. The Flintstones put a pounding on the Tacks, who failed to produce much for most of the contest. The key was coaching, as Jeff Fisher played it cool by not making the big mistake. Kerry (Tom) Collins mixed up a nice cocktail drive for the game winning FG.

Baltimore has enjoyed a serious resurgence by LB Ray (Ray) Lewis, who is averaging double digits in tackles per game. Ray Ray bashed rookie RB Chris (Run It) Johnson, but it wasn't enough. The Flintstones take their show on the road to Indy, where Peyton Manning and the Horsies had better be careful.

Swedes 30 at Religious Icons 27 (-3) Monday Night Football

Brad (Porn Stache) Childress faced off against fellow Eastern Illinois alum Sean (Secret Squirrel) Payton last Monday Night, and for a while it looked like Secret would prevail. Reggie (Dubya) Bush piled up 276 yards of total offense, including two spectacular punt return TDs. Drew (Cool) Brees threw for 3 bills, and New Orleans basically had their way with the Swedes.

But the contest came down to turnovers and penalties, as Brees was picked and Mr. President put the ball on the turf after nearly getting his head torn off by Swedes' LB Ben Leber. Gus Frerotte was able to assemble a final drive for a game winning FG in regulation, and the Swedes put the final touches on a heartbreaking loss for New Orleans.

The Look Man hadn't seen much of the Swedes in 2008, but the 1st half play-calling was awful. The Swedes failed to set up Adrian Peterson with any deep balls early, and the result was 32 yards rushing on 21 carries. The Swedes called in a fluffer in the 2nd half, and the deep balls to Bernard Berrian and company provided a prophylactic.

LAGNIAPPE

The Look Man is So There

If you've never watched ESPN's "State Farm NFL Matchup", you're missing the real reason why Ron Jaworski is an NFL analyst. Jaws does a fantastic hour of Xs and Os video with Sal Paolantonio, and Merrill (Hadji) Hoge each Sunday morning. The Look Man's favorite move is when Jaws stops the tape using his clicker to emphasize a point. Of course, it used to be hostess Suzi Kolber, who'll make you sit up a little straighter on your couch on a Sunday AM.

ESPN recently moved the show back to 7:30AM in order to get more church goers. If you really like the chess match that is the NFL, you need to TiVo this show. More importantly, it shows the real Jaws, not that goofy foil for Tony Kornheiser that you see every Monday night.



Did Namath put you up to this?

Absolutely, positively?

Washington has an incredible scheduling advantage at 4-1. Having played all of their NFC Beat roadies, they'll host Dallas (11/16), the G-Men (11/30) and Philly (12/21) to complete their division schedule. While FedEx doesn't have the home field advantage that RFK enjoyed, there is still plenty of home cooking in the nation's capital. The rest of the division is now in a

pressure cooker that could yield an NFC champ in an election year. Like AIG and the banks, Dallas, Philly and New York may need a bailout before the year is over.



Hail to the GVs?

The Langolier

This week, Adam (The Langolier) Jones was joking around with his team appointed bodyguard when things suddenly turned ugly. The resultant fistfight broke fixtures in the upscale Joule Hotel in Dallas.

The altercation occurred around 11PM, but the cops didn't get called for 2.5 hours. The bodyguard was an ex-cop hired as part of a 4 man security detail to ensure the Langolier doesn't get into mischief. Jones and the Dallas brain trust recently asked Pacman to keep a lower profile, and avoid making a public spectacle. Apparently, there was no mention of not destroying hotels.

Wade (Capt Kangaroo) Phillips was at sea during the press conference. He argued with reporters, basically pointing them to Jerry for answers. The craziness spread to the locker room, where reporters could not locate The Langolier. They were forced to ask teammate and solid citizen Tank Johnson about the incident. Tank replied that the altercation had been "blown out of proportion" before scolding the amassed media.

"I think it's something we can handle in-house," Johnson said when asked whether Commissioner Goodell should intervene. "Sometimes you don't have to go to the principal's office. You can just handle it in the classroom." He actually said that.

In the words of one of the characters from Steven King's *The Langoliers*: "We know what happens to today when it becomes yesterday. It waits for them. It waits for them, the timekeepers of eternity. Always following them behind, cleaning up the mess in the most efficient way possible: by eating it!"

Perhaps Jerry Jones is one of the Timekeepers.



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THE LOOK AHEAD

The Look Man is making it another week of upset picks. Before you laugh, just think about how many upsets have already transpired in 2008. And remember, these picks are Against the Spread.

Baltimore at Indy (-6)

Take Peyton and the Ponies based upon the physical nature of the Tennessee-Baltimore contest last week. Few teams can play that type of bone-crushing game and rebound, and fewer can do it against an Indy team that trails division leading Tennessee by 3 games. Colts cover and win.

Bungals at Jets (-6)

Butch Hobson is barely out of the hospital but he's already coming up with another knock-knock joke for next week. Favre and the Jets cover and win to send the Bungals spiraling into the Best Player in the Draft Bowl.

St. Louise at Washington (-14) Pepto Bismol Upset of the Year

The Lambs are seemingly a team in disarray after terminating Coach Scott Linehan. Interim HC Jim Haslett takes the helm, reinstalling QB Marc (The Scarecrow) Bulger and bolstering the emphasis on ball control and defense.

Meanwhile, Washington is cruising through the NFC, posting consecutive wins over tough division opponents. They don't turn the ball over, and they play a stifling, smart brand of defensive football. Head Coach Jim Zorn is receiving accolades all the way from his home planet in the Zebulon nebula.

The Genocide Vix sent Lambs O-Coordinator Al Saunders packing in the offseason, and he will figure out a way to stop young Jason Campbell. Disgruntled ex-coaches have a way of figuring out how to defeat their former teams. While the Look Man is sure about the cover here, he predicts an outright win for those of you who count that kind of thing. Lambs surprise the Genocide Vix, introducing suspense to the NFC Beast division.

Dallas at Arizona (+6)

Deadbirds QB Kurt Warner said he thought about retiring if WR Anquan Bolden had been seriously injured in the Jets game. The sickening crunch from that late game hit reminded Kurt that he could walk away at any time, and still pursue his dream of becoming a Sunday school teacher. It was either that or the six turnovers he committed.

Still, the Look Man likes the Deadbirds to take advantage of the turmoil from the recent events in Valley Ranch. TO is crying, Pacman is fighting, and Jerry Jones got some 'splainin' to do. In any event, the Look Man's prediction that Wade Phillips would be overwhelmed seems ever more likely. Captain Kangaroo doesn't seem capable of handling something that sent Parcels packing, and the unraveling is just beginning in Dallas. Deadbirds cover.

New England at San Diego (-5) Sunday Night Football

The Bolts are pretty dysfunctional, and they are ticked off after looking past the surprising Marine Mammals in Week Five. QB Matt Cassell and the Chowds looked sharp in a win over the Niners last week, so Bill (Dr. Evil) Belichick decided to let them stay in SoCal.

The Bolts have some injuries, but the Look Man expects them to run on the Chowds. Coach Norv Turner has seen Miami's Wildcat formation up close and personal, so don't be surprised if the running backs take a boatload of direct snaps this week. Bolts cover and win in a shootout.

Jynts at Browns (+7.5) Monday Night Football

The Browns were a chic pick for an AFC playoff team in 2008, but the 1-3 start has Browns Fan on the ledge. What Browns Fan doesn't realize is that they have played three top 10 defenses and the schedule is darn difficult.

The proverbial worm will turn Monday night when Cleveland opens up a Jynt sized can of whoop-ass on the G-Men. The Browns haven't forgotten that Jynt DE Osi Humanurine knocked Derek (Neo) Anderson out of a fast start with an unnecessarily rough sack in the preseason. Cleveland got manhandled in a way that will turn this game into a grudge match. Tack on the fact that the Browns are healthy again after coming off a bye week, and this is a recipe for an upset.

TE Kellen Winslow Jr. may not play due to illness, but the Browns pound the rock and go deep on the G-Men. WR Donte Stallworth should play, as well as G/T Ryan Tucker, rookie TE Martin Rucker, and rookie LB Beau Bell.

The Zebras are letting the boys play on Monday Night by swallowing their whistles. Look for a high scoring affair, ending with the Browns on top, and the Jynts back down to the pack in the tough NFC East. Hell, Dallas is in 4th place, and they're 4-1!

EPILOGUE

Buffalo, Blitzburgh and Tennessee all have byes this week, and it comes at a perfect time. These teams are all tough and physical, and if they can get fresh legs for the second quarter, it is going to get ugly for anyone they face.

The Bungals, on the other hand, need a break as they take on Brett Favre and the Jets. Based upon the schedule, the Nati could go all the way to Week Seventeen without a W. Many locals are pushing for an 0-16 record in order to cement their place in history. It's tougher to go winless than to go unbeaten in the Look Man's estimation. More importantly, the Browns need some help from the Southern Ohio chapter.

One amazing stat is the number of wins by young signal callers. Matt Ryan in ATL, Joe Flacco in B-More, Trent Edwards in Crapchester and Jay Cutler(y) are all doing extremely well. Let's hope the New Crew will play well long after Favre and the rest of the old guys hang up their cleats.

Peace,

The Look Man