

The Look Man Report 2009 **Week Seven: The Butler Did It**

"I believe that gender is something between your ears, not between your legs. I want to still feel vibrant and be able to enjoy my life in a male body and not wait until I am an old man." -- Sonny & Cher's kid Chastity on her sex reassignment surgery and name change to Chaz Bono.

Week Seven had several great games and two stinkers. The Bears and Browns got annihilated, much to the Look Man's chagrin. Meanwhile, the Stillers and Dallas were putting on shows. It was a week that failed to live up to the hype, but had good contests nonetheless. The 'Zona-Jynts, Stillers-Vikes, and Pokes-ATL games were hard fought battles.

We've arrived at the midpoint of the season with more questions than answers. Indy, New Orleans and Denver remain undefeated, while Tennessee, Tampa and St Louis are still looking for that elusive first W. Never before have so many teams been so good while so many others have simply stunk. It's a riddle wrapped in an enigma during the 50th anniversary of the AFL.

PLAYS OF THE WEEK:

Vikes at Stillers: Percy Harvin's sparkling return TD featured a whiff by K Jeff Reed. Reed has been in the news lately for his drunken antics, but nothing was funnier than watching his half-hearted attempt to tackle the former Gator. Harvin's TD made it a game before The Pope went Easy Bake Oven with a pick and a fumble for defensive TDs that blew it wide open.

Vikes at Stillers: Troy Polamalu's 3rd quarter tackle of WR Sidney (Scream) Rice at the Stillers one yard line. The TD seemed like a formality, but the Still Curtain held on this and two other trips inside the red zone. Polamalu's play was a hidden gem that helped preserve a win for the Stillers.

Bears at Bengals: the Look Man typically reserves the Plays of the Week for individual efforts, but Cedric (The Butler) Benson's 184 yard rushing day was incredible. The Butler got vengeance for the Bears cutting him two years ago. Benson had bust written all over him, and his emergence is a tribute to Bengals RB coach Jim Anderson. Anderson has coached up Ickey Woods, Rudi Johnson and now Benson.

ZEBRA OF THE WEEK

Ron (A Lyin' in) Winter - Vikes at Stillers:

The Look Man was surprised to hear Tony (Hume Cronyn) Dungy intimate that even he got nervous whenever Ron Winter was announced as his zebra. Winter and Company fabricated several calls in this one, including a tripping call on Hornhead TE Jeff Dugan that reversed a key Minny TD.

Dugan gained his revenge by face-planting back judge Rich Reels on a kick return. While Dugan obviously could have avoided Reels, he drilled him in retribution, sending Reels, well, reeling. The back judge did not return, and had to be helped to the sideline.

Meanwhile, Winter was calling everything against the Hornheads D, and was more responsible for this outcome than the Pope or anyone else.

Tailpipe Kevin (K-Gunn) Dunn was apoplectic over the calls, asking, " Have you every heard of the 'defensive delay of game' call before? 'Movement unrelated to the game?' WTF? In the Eagles game last night those guys were doing Riverdance on the D-line without anyone even looking funny. "

Ron Winter, you are the Look Man's **Zebra of the Week!**



Iggles new defensive alignment

THE LOOK AHEAD

Denver at Baltimore (-3)

Baltimore is on the verge of losing four straight, and the Donkeys are coming off the bye undefeated. The spread is based upon Denver looking ahead to a nationally televised battle with the Stillers at Investigation Field.

Look for Denver to take advantage of the Dumpster Ducks secondary, which has looked awful in the first half of the year. Not only is Kyle Orton for real, his quick release is tailor made for the blitzing Ravens. If they blitz him, they'll pay the price.

Flacco has no receivers, and it's showing. We now know why Derek Mason retired during training camp; his teammates stink. If the Ducks cover, they'll tighten up the AFC Asgard division race with Cincy and Blitzburgh. This one has bad beat written all over it. The Look Man likes the Donkeys here, but don't bet against Vegas. **Push.**

San Fran at Indy (-13)

This one looks like a walkover, but the Niners have installed Alex Smith at QB to help their passing game. Smith had been a bust, but he put up 3 TD passes last week, and would've won the game if not for an ill-timed pick. Even though he may not be the answer, he keeps them in the game in the event they get down by two scores, something Shaun Hill couldn't do.

Look for a healthy Frank Gore to give the Ponies trouble with his hard running style. Gore is somewhat healthier following an ankle, and if he can keep the chains moving and MVP Peyton Manning on the pine. Run stuffer Bob Sanders is back, but he'll have his hands full with TE Vernon (Root Beer) Davis.

More importantly, the Colts are quietly nicked up, with Donald Brown and (Millionaire Playboy) Reggie Wayne not practicing. They may be overlooking the Niners, whose

ball control style could yield the first loss of the year for Indy. At any rate, the Niners cover this ridiculous spread. Niners.

Houston at Buffalo (+3.5)

Slim Shadies QB Matt Schaub is quietly lighting it up, with 10 TD passes, 2 picks, and 1100 passing yards in three road wins. Owen Daniels and Andre the Giant are the key recipients, though the Giant has a contused lung. Factor back Steve Slaton rounds out the offense with the dangerous swing pass and screening attack.

Former Bengals backup Ryan (Veritas) Fitzpatrick is the likely starter for Crapchester after Trent Edwards suffered a concussion several weeks ago. Like head coach Dick Jauron, Veritas is an Ivy Leaguer with more brains than Trent Edwards, even before the concussion. Veritas is known to take off running early, but he has gotten the ball to the wideouts for the first time all year.

The Slim Shadies have always been enigmatic, but this is their breakout game. They beat the Bisons in their own crib, setting up an unlikely run at an AFC Wild Card. Houston.

Jets at Miami (+3)

Miami bounces back from a heartbreaker to beat the Jets in the autumn heat. Jets QB Mark Sanchez needs more than a hot dog following this loss. Marine Mammals in a minor upset.

New York at Philly (Even)

The parking lot at the Link will be full for this game and the world series battle that follows. It's ironic that two cities play each other the same day in two sports, with both games having a dramatic impact on determining a champion.

It's no accident the G-Men's slide coincides with Eli Manning's foot woes. What is odd is that the pass rush has disappeared. Teams have figured out that the no huddle defeats the Jynt's substitution patterns on the D-line. A tired defense is a slow defense, and the Icons and the Deadbirds lit them up over the last two weeks.

The Jynt's would love to hand the ball to their bruising RBs and let Eli get healthy. The Iggles won't allow that, as MLB Will Witherspoon stuffs the middle. The Iggles defense remains solid, and like the Phillies, the Iggles are looking for a world championship. Iggles.

Seattle at Dallas (-9.5)

The Pokes beat the Dirty Birds last week in a closer game than the score indicated. Big D needed a Patrick Crayola Crayton PR TD, and a miracle escape by Tony Romo to post the W.

Seattle has lost LB Mosi Tatupu for the year, and will continue to struggle. The Look Man believes that Matt (Hair Club for Men) Hasselback's back is hurt, the O-line is in shambles, and there is unhappiness with the coaching staff.

It all adds up to a Dallas win, with Miles (Steve) Austin posting lower numbers. The Shehawks double the soon-to-be-Six Million Dollar Man, allowing Crayola and Witten to go off. Dallas covers and wins.



Miles is 'better than before'

Cleveland at Chicago (-13.5)

The Browns look pathetic with their rookie receivers, while the Bears look pathetic with their franchise QB. Both teams got punished in Week Seven, so fireworks will ensue, if not downright fisticuffs.

Benson's running helped keep the Monsters of the Furniture Mart D off-balance in the Nati, largely due to the play-calling of the Bengals. Bob DUI-kowski called a brilliant game and (Johnny) Carson Palmer went 20-24 with five TDs. No one is saying that Derek Anderson is Mr. Tonight Show, but look for the Browns to take advantage of a weak Bears secondary.

The Bears need to go back to the drawing board with Jay the Knife handing the ball off to Pro Bowler Matt Forte. Forte and TE Greg Olsen deserve more opportunities, but OC Ron Turner wants to keep Cutlery happy. There's trouble in the Big Windy, and it's the same kind of trouble Denver had before Cutlery left. Browns cover.

Minnesota at Breen Gay (-4) [Game of the Week]

The Pope survived his matchup with the Stillers and the Zebras last week by going underground on nearly every turnover. Only Stillers' K Jeff Reed outdid Favre for avoiding tackles in that one. Apparently Favre didn't want to jeopardize his contiguous game streak, or his revenge tour against the Cheeseheads.

The Pack is coming off a laughter in C-Town, beating the Browns 31-3 in a game that wasn't even that close. There was no pain for the Cheeseheads, unless you include the potentially season-ending knee suffered by TE Jermichael Finley. Finley is the younger brother of NBA star Michael Finley. His mom couldn't decide between Jeremy and Michael, and she already had a kid named Michael, ergo the name.

The Stillers proved that the Purple Helmet Wearers can be run on. RB Delicious Mendenhall banged out some solid yardage. The Vikes have not allowed a 100 yard rusher for 31 consecutive.

The Look Man was impressed with RB Ryan Grant, who ran for a buck forty four on the Browns. Much of grant's yardage was tough sledding, so the Pack can do it both on the ground and in the air.

The Cheeseheads O-line is hurting. LT Chad Clifton is questionable, and even at full power he can't handle DE Jarred (Subway) Allen. Eat Fresh is liable to digest Aaron Rodgers if Breen Gay doesn't use an RB to chip him.

The Look Man is going with the Pack on sheer emotion. Also, CB Antoine Winfield is unlikely to play, so the Pack wideouts should go nuts. Pro Bowlers Al Harris and Charles Woodson hold down Sidney (Scream) Rice and a nicked up Bernard Berrian (Swallow). S Atari Bigby is back shooting spaceships, so look for him to pick the Pope at least once. Pack covers as Pack Fan brings lit torches to Favre's castle on Halloween Weekend.

Atlanta at New Orleans (-10.5) [Football Night in America]

The Religious Icons needed to score 36 second half points to beat the Marine Mammals in Week Six. Of course, they also needed five dropped 3rd quarter passes by the Fish, who blew this game. honorable mention goes to head coach Tony Sparano, who gave the Icons seven points at the end of the first half with an idiotic timeout.

Atlanta RB Michael Burner Turner has struggled, and the defense has followed suit. Coach Mike Smith has been a little too conservative, and the offense has lost confidence.

The Icons defense has been a key factor in their undefeated run, but they are banged up right now. . The Look Man simply loves LB Scott Fujita, a journeyman who has excelled everywhere he's been. Kodachrome didn't practice this week, so look for the Dirty Birds to use a strong running game, including short dump passes to set up the deep ball. Dirty Birds cover, and perhaps win outright, setting up a nice stretch run battle for the NFC Souse.

EPILOGUE

It's the Tale of Two Leagues in 2009, as the have-nots continue to struggle while surprise teams dominate. While the Indy juggernaut is no surprise, New Orleans and Denver are shockers. San Diego, Carolina and the Bears join the G-Men, Jets and B-More with disappointing showings in consecutive weeks.

It is very tough to figure out who wants it when most of the division leaders have wide margins. The Look Man believes that the division races tighten in Week Eight, setting up a nice stretch run for the League.

Don't believe the hype of the Bengals. Despite the dramatic Bears win, they're heading to 8-8 and a narrow playoff miss. Nuff said.

Peace,

the Look Man