

THE LOOK MAN REPORT 2009

Week Fourteen – Quest for Perfection

"I used to ride with a vending machine repairman. He was high on intellectualism. I've never been there, but the brochure looked nice." - Wade (Captain Kangaroo) Phillips following the Pokes' loss to the Bolts in Week 13

Perhaps the above quote is better attributed to Sheryl Crow, but you get the Look Man's drift. After losing DeMarcus Ware to a neck injury, the Pokes gave up the game to a plucky San Diego squad. The Bolts are now the hottest team in the AFC if you discount the undefeated Colts. The Pokes, well, they are the coldest team in December history, but in their defense, Doomsday Lite played like they had been drinking Miller Lite.

The rest of the NFL week was also pretty special. The Iggles and Jynts played a spectacular offensive display, putting up 90+ points in a shootout won by the Philly Phanatics.

The Bengals were gored by the Hornheads in a game that wasn't nearly as close as the 30-10 score indicated. And the hapless Cleveland Browns crushed the playoff hopes of the Stillers. Apparently, head coach Omar Epps was referring to Stiller Fan when he said he was unleashing several weeks of Hell.

Week Thirteen cleared up the playoff picture for most teams, with Miami, J-Ville, and Frisco being the exceptions. It now seems clear that after Indy and New Orleans, everyone else is just a pretender.

Without further ado, the Week that Was:

LAGNIAPPE

To Win, or Not to Win...

There has been a lot of discussion on whether the Colts and New Orleans should rest their starters or continue the Quest for Perfection. The Look Man has always believed the season is like a football game; you break it into four quarters. It is far more important to play well in the fourth quarter than the first in any game, but you need to play for 60 minutes.

Typically, teams that play well for 59 minutes lose ballgames. Similarly, letting down the final few weeks of the season lead to negative results. Cases in point:

The Look Man would go for the undefeated season; it keeps the flow going, and allows a team to avoid a letdown. Cases in point:

1) The 2007 Colts and Titans sat their starters, allowing Cleveland to become the only 10-6 team NOT to make the playoffs. Coaches Tony and Jeff Fisher agreed to do this ahead of time, with each serving on the Competition Committee.

The Flaming Thumbtacks won the game, as Peyton Manning sat all but the first series. The Colts then lost at home to the Bolts after a first round bye. Neither team won a ring in that season, as the Football Gods don't like ugly.

2) The 2008 Cavaliers had a chance to set the home win record in the NBA. Instead, head coach Mike Brown sat all starters, losing to the Sixers in double OT. The result: none of LeBron's teammates stepped up in the off-season, resulting in the Cavs loss in the NBA Eastern Conference Championship. Orlando went on to get destroyed by the Lake Show, where Kobe was coronated.

The bottom line is the Herm Edwards Rule: you play to win the GAME.

Superfly

Most of you Tailpipes don't know Curtis (Superfly) Johnson, WR Coach for the Religious Icons, but you should. Superfly has turned two mediocre receivers, Robert Meacham and Devery Henderson, into possible Pro Bowlers. Brees gets all the love, but Johnson deserves much of the credit for taking Meacham off the scrap heap of 1st round busts.

Meacham's strip following the interception against the Genocide Vix is in contention for the Play of the Year with Stokely's 87 yard catch and run in Week One. Superfly also coached practice squad player Lance Moore, who become an all-star, as well as free agent Marques (Charles) Colston who started as a Watergate conspirator and now goes to Honolulu each year.

The group of standouts under his direction while at Miami and his prior stop at San Diego State includes some of the top wide receivers over the last decade, including NFL first-round picks Andre Johnson, Santana Moss, Reggie Wayne, Yatil Green and Darnay Scott. This guy is special.

Koo-Koo, Ka-choo?

Andy (The Walrus II) Reid even got some air in doing a reverse chest bump with rookie sensation DeSean Jackson following a score. Jackson should be getting out of the hospital any day now. The Walrus II actually got out of his own way in a shootout with the G-Men. Fortunately, clock management didn't come into play, because he's one of the worst.

Typically, it's defensive coaches who are horrible clock managers, but Reid is the exception. Show the Look Man a defensive coordinator cum head coach, and he'll show you a bad clock manager. The list of HG Wells clones includes Marvin Lewis, Mike Singletary, and even Mike Martz. Dr. Evil, Bill Belichick is the exception but even he goofed against the Colts, and blew it again two weeks ago when the Marine Mammals swept him. Singletary blew two challenges in the FIRST Quarter on MNF, costing him two timeouts that could've come into play in a close ballgame.

ZEBRA OF THE WEEK

And then, there were two...

Bolts at Pokes – Gene Steratore (means “loves Cow-Men” in Italian):

Mean Gene failed to call a blatant pass interference early on, and provided Doomsday Lite with numerous opportunities. He gave the Bolts bad spots, while giving the Pokes generous ones on offense. Bolts Jefe Norv Turner saw the handwriting on the wall and kept his foot on the gas pedal, resulting in a win.

Mean Gene was also spotted chatting up Jay Ratliff and a couple other Pokes linemen during the injury timeout for Ware. He may as well have high-fived Tony Romo, with a low five for Captain Kangaroo. He did get points for allowing Phillip Rivers to make an obscene comment to Pokes Fan after the outcome was decided. Rivers went all PHILLIP RIVERS with a towel obscuring his head from the zebras while he pimp smacked Pokes Fan.

Black Cats at Chowds – Terry (Bottlegate) McAulay

Bottlegate missed a number of calls early in this one, killing drives by Carolina in a close game. Despite the fact that Moss went AWOL, these drive killers forced Black Cat QB Matt (Mary Tyler) Moore to attempt to win the world with his smile. Mrs. Rob Petrie missed wide open receivers like Steve (Jacob Jingleheimer) Smith and TE Dante Rosario (Dawson).

The clear winner or loser this week is Bottlegate, whose calls allowed the Chowds to avoid a three game losing streak. Terry (Bottlegate) McAulay, you are the Look Man's Zebra of the Week!



"Personal foul, for throwing full beer bottles onto the field!"

Here we go, Brownies...

This week is the anniversary of one of the greatest and saddest days in NFL history. On December 17, 1995 the Cleveland Browns played the last game in Cleveland Municipal Stadium, beating the Cincinnati Bengals 26-10. Art Modell had announced midseason that the team was moving to Baltimore at season's end, sending the Browns into a tailspin that even head coach Bill (Dr. Evil) Belichick couldn't pull out.

Browns Fans celebrated by ripping the seats out of the stadium, lighting cherry bombs in the Dawg Pound endzone and generally misbehaving. The zebras even wanted to switch end zones late in the fourth quarter, but QB Vinny Testaverde and the Browns would have none of it. Vinny and the Browns scored the game sealing TD in the Pound, and then gave love to the True Believers long after the game was over.

The game was decided when Rocco Scotti sang the national anthem, sending many in the crowd into tears. Well, maybe it was just the Look Man who was blubbing, but it seemed fitting. Cleveland became the second team to leave town for greener pastures, shipped away like cattle to a place far, far away, never to be seen again. The Browns version 2.0 have never approached the kind of love felt that day, and they never will.



"Let's make a toboggan! Woof! Woof!"

...a rose by any other name...

Accenture, the Arthur Andersen spin-off accounting firm that allowed Enron to bilk its own employees, has terminated its relationship with Tiger Woods, saying he is no longer fit to represent the firm. This type of hypocrisy needs to stop.

PLAY OF THE WEEK:

- Derrick Mason's 62 yard catch and run after getting drilled by two Lions defenders. The defenders creamed Mason, who took off running after the two DBs crushed themselves. It was Newton's Law in effect, as two equal and opposing forces allowed Mason to withstand a brutal hit. Mason couldn't stand up straight after scoring the TD, owing to his bruised rib cage.

THE LOOK AHEAD

Indy at J-Ville (+3.5) Thursday Nite Special

The Colts are winning ugly, and face a division nemesis in a game with playoff implications. Double digit win seasons have become so commonplace in Indy that no one is giving them the kind of respect they merit. The AFC Souse Division is always tough, and they have played and beaten more solid opponents than anyone in the league. While New Orleans is also undefeated, the only good team they've faced to date is the Chowds.

The J-Squareds were victims of the look ahead factor last week against Miami. Their AFC conference record has them in the lead for the sixth seed, and they need this conference win. More importantly, they're flying under the radar. J-Squareds cover.

Dallas at New Orleans (-7) Saturday Nite Special

Tony Romo (the Place for Ribs) and the Pokes badly need a win to stay in the playoff hunt. The Ribs King is getting little love due to the losses, but it's really on the D. That and the fact that the biggest O-line in the league can't gain one yard at the goal line.

The spread is a little high, since the Starheads will be fighting for their playoff lives as well as the future of Captain Kangaroo. Plus, the Icons are known to turn it over, but the absence of DaLookMan Ware could have a chilling effect on pass rush. The Look Man can't seriously believe that he might play on Saturday.

Romo's excellence has been lost in the doom(sday) and gloom. He's done a solid job, but Doomsday Lite simply can't stop anyone. Terrence (Hello) Newman and crew need to step up big-time, but New Orleans will be rocking for this Saturday special, and Brees rises to the occasion.

Doomsday Lite's linebacking corps is awful, and the secondary struggles because the linebacking can't cover the run without backfield help. Keith Brooking is washed up, Bradie James is clueless, and Rob Carpenter is slow. They really miss the run stuffing of Canty and Ellis.

Jerry didn't look too happy following that loss, and neither did Romo. They'll have to blow this thing up, getting rid of Captain Kangaroo AND Jason (Pat) Garrett. Don't expect any of the big name coaching free agents want to come to Big D either, because the GM is Jerry and his son Stephen. Neither knows enough football to blow themselves up.

The key to this Icons squad is really the running game. Balance is key, and that will allow the Icons to knock a potential playoff team out. Icons cover and win.

Cincinnati at San Diego (-6.5)

No one knows what effect the death of Chris Henry will have, but the Look Man believes the Bolts will win this one. The Nati offense has been in the tank since Henry broke his arm, scoring few points despite solid defense.

Look for the Bolts to torch the secondary, with TE Antonio Gates catching ten balls. Philip Rivers proves he is an elite QB as the Bolts win, but don't cover. Bengals.

New England at Crapchester (+7)

The Chowds are in trouble if Randy (Chronic) Moss has gone in the tank. The deep threat makes their offense click, setting up double digit catches for Wes Welker. If Randy has truly quit on Dr. Evil, it could be a battle in the AFC Least.

Crapchester has turned to Veritas Fitzgerald at QB, but the Hahvuhd man relies on the running game. Buffalo covers with a strong running game. Buffalo.

Frisco at Philly (-8.5)

The Niners looked great last week, blasting the Deadbirds into oblivion. The problem is they were so high that they can't possibly achieve that level of defense in two consecutive weeks. The Look Man loves LBs sack master Ahmad Brooks, Bengal castoff Takeo Spikes, and All Pro Pat Willis. These guys are special.

Philly is the Look Man's NFC dark horse. Look for DeSean Jackson to light the Seven Squareds up. Iggles cover and win en route to the NFC Beast Division crown. Iggles.

Minnesota at Carolina (+9) Football Night in America

Despite Mary Tyler Moore at QB, the Look Man likes home dogs by 3 or more. Minnesota is feeling its oats, and it plays MUCH better on turf than grass. Look for the 4-3 defense to give Adrian Peterson and Brett Favre trouble.

The Pope has opened up the bakery again, having thrown 2 or more picks in the last few games. After starting with a 24/3 TD to INT ratio, he's nearing double digits. Look for the Black Cats to pick him, and make a game of it. Carolina covers.

EPILOGUE

The last quarter of the season will separate the men from the boys. It's all about the rhythm, and teams can emerge like Blitzburgh and Arizona in recent years. Getting hot at the right time can mean a trip to Miami in February.

On the other hand, a team like the Bengals could dedicate its season to the late Chris (Slim) Henry. If the death of Vicky Zimmer motivated them, who knows whether this untimely death can do? Despite the national media take that Henry was a thug, it seemed as if he was getting his life together and becoming a budding star.

One other thing; nobody wants to face the Bolts in the postseason. They match up well despite not having a great running game. The Colts are especially vulnerable, having lost several times in recent contests against the Super Bolts. No one in Indy wants to see San Diego in the postseason. If anyone is going to pull a rabbit out of a hat, it's the Bolts.

Peace,

The Look Man