

THE LOOK MAN REPORT 2009

Week Sixteen – De-Playoffize

"I was in the team meeting this morning and Wade said one thing and he said it real quick: 'This game's about the world championship.' And that's all he said and walked out. His message was real simple and real easy for everybody to understand." – Pokes Owner Jerry Jones on head coach Wade Phillips' pre-game speech before the Washington game

The Pokes went on to dominate the Genocide Victims in that game, punching their way into the playoffs with an authority rarely seen in Big D. Perhaps the Cincinnati Football Bengals could take a lesson from the Pokes.

The Bengals laid an egg against an overmatched Kansas City team last Sunday. The game was 3-3 at halftime, and the 17-10 final score was not indicative of the poor performance. The MPAA is now considering a new Oscar category for "Worst Performance for a Team Entering the Playoffs."

The nominees are:

- Minnesota – has lost 3 of 4 after starting out undefeated; the latest loss at Chicago was clear indication that the Hornheads are in trouble
- Blitzburgh – have beaten four playoff teams including Minny, but lost to four non-playoff teams. If the Bengals and Chowds lay down on Sunday, the Still Curtain is out of the postseason.
- Cincinnati – beat only Green Bay of the playoff teams to date, but swept the AFC Asgard Division, potentially eliminating Blitzburgh, and B-more. Losses to Oakland, San Diego and Houston make them suspect in the postseason.

The big story was the extraction of the Indy starters in a 15-10 game in the 3rd quarter. The look on the faces of the starters showed how foolish this move was. The Jets went on to score 19 unanswered, largely on defensive prowess. The Colts spit in the face of perfection, something the Football Gods frown upon. Their hubris will be repaid in full with an early and/or ignominious playoff exit.

Meanwhile, Blitzburgh, Denver, Houston, and J-Ville are all wondering where their playoff invitations went. They're just gone, and some German dude is yelling, "WARUM BIN ICH IMMER PLAYOFFS?!" Perhaps Wolfgang Puck is a Dallas Fan.

LAGNIAPPE

Gin Rummy

Big Ben quietly joined the 500-yard passing game record book in Week 14, further illustrating just how good QB play has been in 2009. Ben, Drew Brees, and Philip Rivers join perennial passing leaders Brett Favre and Peyton Manning. Here's the short list of big-time QB performances:

500-yard Passing Games in NFL History

12/20/2009	Ben Roethlisberger	PIT 37 GB 36	503	W
11/19/2006	Drew Brees	NOS 16 CIN 31	510	L
11/5/2000	Elvis Grbac	KCC 31 OAK 49	504	L
11/10/1996	Boomer Esiason	ARZ 37 WSH 34	522	W*
12/16/1990	Warren Moon	TEN 27 KCC 10	527	W
10/23/1988	Dan Marino	NYJ 44 MIA 30	521	L
10/13/1985	Phil Simms	NYG 30 CIN 35	513	L
12/26/1982	Vince Ferragamo	TL 26 CHI 34	509	L
10/28/1962	Y.A. Tittle	NYG 49 WSH 34	505	W
9/28/1951	Norm Van Brocklin	STL 54 NYY 14	554	W
* - OT game				- Loss

Over one hundred quarterbacks have passed for at least 400 yards in a single game ("400-yard game"), with a total of 207 times in the regular season and 13 more in the postseason. Dan Marino leads that pack with 15, including two postseason games. Peyton Manning is the only other quarterback with two postseason 400-yard games, and has the second most overall, with nine.

Kelly (Tires) Holcomb of the Browns had one in the 2nd highest scoring game in NFL history against the Bengals, and one in the AFC Wild Card game at Blitzburgh. He lost both, and became the only tire magnate to make the list in the process.

Best NFL replica jersey

The Look Man saw the best NFL replica jersey of the year last week in the Nati. Dude was walking around with the name plate Mike's DUI, with the number .08 below it, and followed by the URL www.igotadui.com. It turns out that this is an actual website of Ohio attorney Matthew Ernst, a DUI defense attorney. Perfect advertising for an NFL game full of drunks.

Pluck Rule

Brett Favre and the Vikes blew a golden opportunity vs. the Bears last Monday Night. The Look Man has a rule: when you drop a pick in a close game last 2 minutes or OT, you lose. Bears safety Zach Bowman dropped a surefire pick and the Bears still won, largely due to over-blitzing of Jay Cutler, who lofted a sweet TD bomb to WR Devin Aromashadu (means 'don't stink' in Pashto).

The Four Letter Network crew went wild with that name, but Ron (Jaws) Jaworski went straight Harry Carrey trying to pronounce it, calling him 'Aro-sha-ma-do.'

CELEBRITY OBIT OF THE WEEK:

In addition to Slim Henry, and as an homage to the **Celebrity Obit of the Week**, who we lost in 2009:

Michael (Thriller) Jackson, Natasha Richardson (Neeson), **John (Fast Times) Hughes**, Patrick (Road House) Swayze, Farrah (Swimsuit) Fawcett, Ron (Antagonist) Silver, Bea (Maude) Arthur, **Karl (Booty Nose) Malden**, **David (Kung Fu) Carradine**, Ed (Hi-Yo!) McMahon, Dom (the Fat Man) DeLouise, **Ricardo (Khan) Montalban**, **Walter (That's the way it was) Cronkite**, Patrick (The Prisoner) McGoohan, **David (Fathead) Newman**, Andrew (the Brush) Wyeth, **Marilyn (Ivory soap girl) Chambers**, **Les (Six String) Paul**, **Frank (Angela's Ashes) McCourt**, Billy (OxiClean) Mays, Paul (Good Day) Harvey, William (AP) Safire, Soupy

(Hollywood Squares) Sales, **Larry (M*A*S*H) Gelbart** , (Peter, Paul &) Mary Travers, and **Steve (Air) McNair**.

Rest in peace, all.

THE LOOK AHEAD

J-Ville at Cleveland (-1)

The Browns have a chance to win four straight for the first time since 1994. Cleveland is doing it with defense and a solid running game. In other words, AFC North Style.

J-Ville is a team in transition. They struggle when Maurice Jones-Drew is bottled up, and their receivers are the reason why. Head coach Jack Del Rio is on the chopping block after another non-playoff season.

Browns win in a cold weather game with little meaning for J-Ville.

New England at Houston (-8)

The Chowds look to relax, and Houston needs a boatload of help. Look for Schaub to light it up after Belichick rests his starters. Houston.

Philly at Dallas (-3)

The only real game remaining on the schedule. The Pokes beat the Iggles at the Linc, largely based upon some questionable officiating. Now the Iggles can get the second seed in the NFC if the G-Men beat the Hornheads.

Philly has been, and ever shall be the Look Man's NFC dark horse. It's DeSean Jackson vs. Miles (Steve) Austin, with the winner getting the NFC Beast Division crown. Iggles.

Jynts at Minnesota (-9)

The Jynts were looking ahead to the Hornheads when they got dismantled by the Black Cats in Week 15. Minnesota needs some momentum, and a quality win prior to the playoffs.

The Hornheads struggle against the 4-3 defense, but the G-Men are extremely dysfunctional. They are about to jettison Osi Humanurine en route to a rebuild in 2010.

Unfortunately, the Jynts secondary is simply awful. Favre will carve them up like turducken in the Dome, securing the second seed in the NFC. Vikes.

Cincinnati at Jets (-10) Football Night in America

The Nati lost Rey Mauluga to a broken ankle, so don't expect them to play hard here. It's unlikely they can improve their seed, and even if they could, they would only increase the chance of facing Baltimore. No one wants to face a team they've already beaten twice. Jets.

There will be no alcohol sales for this final game at the Meadowlands. Officials cite the late start, but the Look Man believes the hooliganism and nudity may have played a role. No word on whether the Jets will hand out Mardi Gras beads for the game.

EPILOGUE

The 2009 season is going out with a whimper instead of a bang. The Cincy-Jets game was flexed to Sunday Night, effectively allowing Cincy to pick its playoff opponent.

By the time that game kicks off at 8:20, the Nati will know whether they can improve their seeding or not. The Bengals could pull their starters, allow the Jets to win, and then face the same team in Week One of the playoffs.

The NFL needs to step in to fix this issue. Instead of focusing on gang signs and celebrations on the field, how about ensuring the last week of the season is not a formality? Folks pay hard-earned cash to see backups in games that affect playoff selection.

While teams make their collective beds during the season, one move by the Colts will cause dominoes to fall in Houston, NY and Blitzburgh. It stinks and the league could fix it with simple re-seeding based upon strength of schedule or other tie-breaking considerations.

Have a safe and happy new year. Then we can do it one more 'gin in twenty-ten!

Peace,

The Look Man