

## **The Look Man Report 2009** **Week Eighteen: Wild Weekend for Woeful?**

*"There's only one team that feels good in the end, and it won't be us," - Bengals LB Brandon Johnson following an impressive win by the Wild Card Jets. Johnson was forced into action after starter Rashad Jeanty broke his leg on the opening kickoff.*

The Look Man was reviewing his picks from Wild Card week and feeling sick. That is, until he saw the Swami on ESPN had gone 0-4. Truth be told, if the Zebras hadn't gone Stevie Wonder in the Pack-Cards game, the Look Man would've gone 2-2 in a tough week. But the Look Man digresses.

The Wild Card week featured a number of non-competitive games and one excellent battle. The Pack showed some serious testicular fortitude in the Desert, coming back from a potential blowout to force OT. Aaron Rodgers lit up the scoreboard en route to the highest scoring playoff game in NFL history. When Neil (C)Rackers missed a chip shot in regulation, it looked like a certain W for the Cheeseheads.

The losing squads did little or nothing in Week Eighteen. The Chowds repeated their performance against New Orleans, getting blown out. The Iggles didn't show up in Big D, and the Bengals allowed a rebuilding Jets team to knock their teeth out in the Jungle.

All in all, WCW was pretty anticlimactic, setting up fantastic possibilities for the Divisional Playoffs. These matchups are solid, and with more marbles on the table each week, we can expect better competition.

### **LAGNIAPPE**

#### **Most Vilified Player**

Rex Ryan and the Jets were pleased to send the Bengals fishing for the off-season. They were not so pleased that CB Darrelle Revis lost the defensive MVP to Charles Woodson.

"A number I think is interesting would be eight. And, no, that's not the amount of touchdown passes Green Bay gave up against Arizona. That is the number of touchdown passes we gave up all season. And the biggest reason for that is Darrelle Revis." Sexy Rexy was poking fun at the Packers D that went from Limburger to Swiss cheese in surrendering 500 offensive yards to the Cardinals.

In truth, few defenses could've stopped Kurt Warner on the day. Warner had fewer incompletions (4) than TD passes (5) in the game. We haven't seen anything close to that kind of accuracy since Phil Simms went 22 of 25 against Denver in the Super Bowl.

As for Woodson, the Look Man finds him deserving. Woodson persevered despite several key personnel losses, including former Pro Bowler Al Harris on the other corner. He captained a defense that included rookie LBs, turning the Pack into the number one rated defense in the NFC. This award puts a cap on a fantastic career that has taken him through the Black Hole in Oaktown.

*The DA Dropped the Charges*

Former Browns WR Braylon Edwards pleaded no contest to aggravated disorderly conduct for punching a 135-pound man outside a downtown Cleveland nightclub. Edwards received probation, a fine of one large, and a suspended six month sentence. BE won't serve any jail time, according to his attorney, Pat (Beverly) D'Angelo. "He's a good man with good hands, contrary to what people are saying," said D'Angelo, joking about Edwards' penchant for dropping passes. "It's like when I was in National Lampoon's Vacation opposite Chevy Chase. Sure I got naked, but everyone was still waiting for Chevy to say something funny."

Edwards was traded to the Jets just days after he punching the friend of NBA star LeBron James. He dropped a Mark Sanchez TD pass last week against the Bengals, creating spontaneous eruption of laughter heard all the way from Cleveland. Or perhaps, it was just the Big Laugh from the Look Man at Pall Bearer Stadium.

Edwards returned to the Jets' facility after a brief leave of absence. He is planning on dropping more passes at San Diego on Sunday.

*Well, it is called the Hustler Club . . .* (from the NY Post)

A Delaware man says a visit to a Manhattan strip club left him with a 90-minute gap in his memory and a \$21,000 hole in his wallet. Gerard Wall says he ended up with an eye-popping \$21,620.60 in credit-card bills after a brief trip to Larry Flynt's Hustler Club on West 51st Street.

On Dec. 12, 2008, Wall went into the epidermis emporium and was "provided with two alcoholic beverages," the suit says. After downing the drinks, "he was approached by a dancer, who invited him to have a private lap dance in a separate room," which he was told would cost him \$300. Wall "submitted his American Express card" and says he doesn't know what happened after that.

The club refused to comment on this story.



*First Amendment, baby!*

## **ZEBRA OF THE WEEK**

### Packers at Cardinals – Scott Green (Acres)

The missed FG set up a great chance for Breen Gay to pull off the upset, but it should never have come down to that miss. Scott Green (Acres) and crew missed a ton of calls including:

- WR Larry Fitzgerald (Kennedy) running over Charles Woodson on the late TD; textbook offensive pass interference that would've nullified a great one-handed grab.
- Overturning a Pack first down for holding, despite the fact that Bertrand Berry nailed Aaron Rodgers under the chin with helmet-to-helmet contact. The next play was a turnover TD by the Cards to win the game.
- Green Acres missed the facemask on Rodgers on that play, which would've also been a first down.

All in all, if Green Acres makes even one of these calls, the Pack wins in regulation.

### Ravens at Chowds – (Mean) Gene Steratore

Mean Gene missed the out-of-bounds punt muff recovery that led to the Chowds only score. After the ball glanced off B-More's Tom (Wheel of Fortune) Zbikowski, the Chowds gunner clearly dropped the ball out of bounds. The possession should've gone to the Ravens, who likely preserve the shutout.

Nearly every first down spot was shy of the actual mark. Finally, Ducks coach John Harbaugh challenged a key spot and won. Mean Gene and crew were then humbled into calling a decent spot.

Mean Gene does get kudos for not calling roughing on the Ravens D. Ray Lewis had two sacks, ten tackles, and three arrests in that contest. His first quarter sack of Brady resulted in sore ribs for the balance of the game. Zoolander never recovered, looking old and injured.

And the winner is - - - Green Acres by a landslide. Fans were shouting "MR HANEY!" every time he blew a call, and the only thing missing was Eva Gabor and the Arnold the Pig. Scott Green, you are the Look Man's **Zebra of the Week!**

## **THE LOOK AHEAD**

### Arizona at New Orleans (-7)

The defending NFC champs are now GETTING seven points on the road at the Big Easy. After Kurt Warner lit up the number one defense in the NFC, the odds makers are picking the Religious Icons by a landslide. Weird.

For what it's worth, the Look Man agrees. The Icons are tough at home, and despite the loss of DL Sedrick Ellis, they have a ball-hawking defense that will give the Deadbirds trouble. WR Anquan Boldin will be a game-time decision, and with the emergence of LSU product Early Doucet, Arizona doesn't even care. Doucet crushed the Pack with YAC, and he is looking like he'll be a good one for years to come.

Drew (Cool) Brees and Company have gotten much needed rest, including TE Jeremy Shockey, who's battling a turf toe. Look for Brees to go all PHILLIP RIVERS on the Cards defense, resulting in a celebration in New Orleans. Of course, a sunny day is reason enough to drink in the Big Easy, so this should be special. Icons cover and win.

Note: The Zebras will feel the need to "fix" their errors from last week. The Deadbirds have now gotten BS calls in the 2009 NFC Championship (Iggles) and 2010 Wild Card. Both games cost a better team a trip to the next level.



*Tony Siragusa could use a Snickers bar*

### Baltimore at Indy (-6.5)

Joe Flacco pulled a *Cleveland Browns* last week, winning the game with four completions and less than 100 passing yards. Flacco is on schedule to win the Golden Globe award for best caretaker QB (aka the Trent Dilfer award). The running game is exploding with Ray Rice and Willis McGahee carrying the load. With a defense like B-More, you almost don't need a QB.

The Dumpster Duck Defense terrorized Tom (Zoolander) Brady, who looked pretty injured to the Look Man. On one play, Ray (Ray) Lewis blew up the play and sacked Zoolander due to the running back being too deep in the formation. When you can get to the QB before the RB can block you, that's pretty special. Ray Ray had a career last week.

The one guy who can beat the blitz in his sleep is Peyton Manning. The Look Man didn't like the MVP landslide for Peyton, but he is deserving of consideration. Peyton can kill you twenty different ways from a hard count to taking the defense right down to one second on the play clock. He'll make you jump early if you're too aggressive, and he'll burn you on a slant if you bring the house.

Colts wideouts Pierre (The Waiter) Garcon and Austin (Lassie) Collie will need to grow up quickly. Luckily they have veteran WR Reggie (Millionaire Playboy Bruce) Wayne to look to for guidance.

Colts roll as the patchwork B-More D can't cover all the weapons. These guys miss LB Bart Scott as much as anyone. Bart's in New York and he's gonna play in their game next Sunday. Colts win, setting up another trip to the AFC Championship.

### Pokes at Vikings (-3)

"Romo! Favre! This week on Fox!" Tony (Goose) Siragusa will be doing this one as sideline reporter, so if you live in the Big Easy, you better eat now while there's still food available.

You can see the headlines already, as the Pope takes on the Punk in the NFC Divisional Playoffs. Brett Favre and the Hornheads should be rested up for this battle after getting a bye week. The bad news is that they're facing one of the best defenses in the conference in Doomsday Lite.

Romo spread it around last week, putting up 20 second quarter points with numerous targets. The Felix Jones seventy yard scamper capped the win, but even Roy Williams was involved. The Dallas offense has jelled despite the absence of Marion (The Predator) Barber and RT Marc Columbo.

One big worry for Dallas is Flozell (Geico) Adams' potential to commit false starts because of the crowd noise. Geico already has six chicken walks this season, and he could have to choose between a really big bag and a still pretty big one if he jumps again. Geico faces off with Jared (Subway) Allen, whose mullet haircut is all business in the front and party in the back. Subway has a quick first step, and plenty of power moves to go with it. In other words, he has more than a \$5 foot long.

When Geico jumps, it disrupts Tony Romo (the Place for Ribs), who anticipates pass rushing heat when his line gets antsy. Romo starts to grip it and rip it, and he can get a little color blind if rattled. In other words, the ball's coming out, and the color of the jersey is meaningless.



*Tony doesn't like it when I jump!*

The Pokes were a little too pleased with themselves after knocking off the Iggles for the third time this season. If there is one constant in football, it's the Pokes getting the bighead after a win, only to gag the following week.

Every Vikings loss this season has been to a team that has a solid TE and Dallas has a great one in Jason Witten. Still, the Look Man is going with Mr. Tony and the Hornheads. Vikings win and cover in an attempt to frighten their NFC Champ opponent. Vikes.

### Jets at Bolts (-7)

The Jets dismantled the Bengals in two consecutive weeks, this latest at the Jungle. The game was over after the opening kickoff, when the Jets made a statement by breaking Rashad Jeanty's leg. Afterwards, the Jets dominated both lines of scrimmage,

sending Ochocinco on a three hour tour of Revis Island. RB Shonn Greene put the "Greene" in Gang Greene, rushing for a buck thirty-five on 21 carries.

Jets QB Mark Sanchez looked like anything but a rookie, while (Johnny) Carson Palmer couldn't hit the broad side of a barn. Mr. Tonight Show is still worried about that surgically repaired knee, as indicated by his high throws on deep passes. A bum knee makes you lean back instead of stepping into throws, and the result is overthrown balls. Tack on the bad left wrist, and one has to wonder whether he'll ever be bank in Burbank with Ed McMahon.

Sanchez should be given big ups for his performance. It's unusual to see a rookie perform well in the playoffs, and then jump around like a kid in a candy store afterwards. You can bet that the Bolts want to take the smile off his face with exotic blitzes and punishing hits.

The Look Man doesn't care for Phillip Rivers, who has an odd looking throwing motion, but delivers beautiful passes. Rivers is the hottest QB no one talks about, probably due to his smirking persona.

Rivers' tall and fast receivers constitute a real problem for smaller DBs, and despite a pedestrian running game, the Bolts are the cream of the conference. Head coach Norv Turner is an offensive genius with rings from his days with Jimmah Johnson. He will come up with wrinkles for the Gang Greene D, including a large dose of TE Antonio Gates. 2010 is the year of the Tight End, and Gates is Microsoft.

This is one of the toughest games of the weekend to predict, but after going 1-3 last week, The Look Man is going out on a limb. The 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary season of the AFL continues, as the Jets use a power rushing attack, and a staunch defense to knock off the Bolts en route to the AFC Championship. Rarefied air for a team that was considered in a rebuilding year. J-E-T-S, baby.

## **EPILOGUE**

The Divisional Playoffs constitute one of the best weekends in sports. Three of the four Wild Card games were blowouts, and the one that was decided by the Zebras. This week, there are four solid games, setting up possible slobberknockers in the Conference Championships.

Last week's back-story remains viable: the Ravens and Jets have combined strong running games with staunch defenses. These teams are capable of making a deep run in the postseason.

Meanwhile, Dallas and San Diego are the hottest teams at the perfect time. Recent history indicates that may be enough to propel them to a ring.

So either defense wins championships or being hot at the end is most important. We'll know which in a couple of weeks, but the Look Man is betting on the former.

Peace,

The Look Man