

## **The Look Man Report 2009**

### **Week Three: QB Roulette**

*"I know there's no 30-point play out there, but I tried. I was forced to throw it. Yeah, I threw some balls in places I had no business throwing. If it's a 7-3 game, I'm not doing it." – Browns QB Derek (Neo) Anderson on his 3 picks after being inserted in the Baltimore game at halftime last Sunday*

Week Three of the NFL season was topsy-turvy, with surprises galore. Seven teams are 3-0 to begin the 2009 season. New Orleans, the Jets, and Denver are among the seven 3-0 squads which are shocking the world. Tennessee, Carolina and Cleveland are shocking the world on the other side of the ledger with 0-3 starts. Well, except for Cleveland. The Look Man fully anticipated a rough start when Eric Mangina announced that Brady Quinn (Medicine Woman) would captain the Browns.

More importantly, there are some questions about the 1-2 squads in the league, and even more about the 2-1 teams. The Bengals surprised the Cheeseheads and Stillers with last second wins. Are they for real, or simply lucky? Take away the 87-yard TD by Stokley, and the Bungals would be in the aforementioned 3-0 group. Who knew a *Hard Knocks* squad would be mentioned as a serious playoff contender?

The biggest development of Week Three was the quarterback carousel. The league is on pace to eclipse its 51 different signal callers in 2008 after Brady Quinn, Byron Leftwich, Matt (Hair Club for Men) Hasselbeck, and Chad Pennington all lost their starting jobs, courtesy of injury or ineptitude. Jake Delhomme and JaMarcus Russell are on thin ice, and we're seeing a lot of mediocrity at the position.

The advent of the "win now" philosophy makes coaches less patient and more apt to push the panic button. The result is a form of QB roulette that leaves teams confused and dysfunctional.

#### *Hear the Bengals Growlin'...*

Watching games at Pall Bearer Stadium is usually a pretty quiet affair. But this season, the two Bengals home games have been epic, featuring an 87-yard surprise TD by Denver, and a Bengals TD with fourteen seconds remaining to beat the Stillers.

The Stillers game was incredible, awakening a city with a twenty year history of apathy. The fans were jubilant, high-fiving, screaming and generally blowing up about a team that could have playoff aspirations. There were even guys jumping up and exhorting the fans to cheer on the defense at critical points during the game. Usually that job is left up to the Look Man, and with limited success.

It felt really good to see Bengals Fan actively participate. The played 'Who Dey' chant is only good AFTER a win, but the noise level in the stadium had a direct impact upon the outcome. If the Ugly & Black could start a game without having a false start on the first play, the Nati might have something to build upon.

Limas Sweed dropped the game-clinching TD in the fourth quarter, leaving the door open for the Bengals. But there's a massive difference between an open door and

actually winning the game and the Bengals passed the test. Now we get to see if they can make it through the foyer with a win against the hapless Cleveland Browns on Sunday.

### *You've Been Favre'd*

Brett (The Pope) Favre capped an incredible comeback win with a 49-yard TD laser to beat the Niners in Minneapolis. The Niners did everything right for 59 minutes and 58 seconds, and the great throw was capped by a fantastic toe tap catch by Iggles castoff Greg Lewis.

The Hornheads looked horrible until a 101-yard kickoff return by rookie Percy Harvin in the second half. Combined with the Play of the Week by Favre, they were able to beat an up and coming Niners squad. The Look Man still covered the spread, and the Niners will be a playoff team in 2009. On Sunday, we saw why Hornheads coach Brad Childress wanted to bring back the Pope.

### *Smile! You're on Candid Camera*

Baltimore is quietly becoming one of the best teams in the AFC and doing it without big name players. Ed Reed has been injured, and Derek Mason is the only receiver in B-More that is a household name outside his own house.

QB Joe Flacco is flourishing courtesy of O-coordinator Cam (Candid) Cameron and a solid defense. Baltimore has become the poster child for what can happen when an organization applies the right folks to develop young talent. Are you listening Cleveland?

## **PLAYS OF THE WEEK:**

1. Brett (The Pope) Favre's 49-yard laser, game winning TD pass.
2. Jake Delhomme's pick six to Pokes CB Terrence Newman to ice the win over the Black Cats on MNF. Steve (Jacob Jingleheimer) Smith's impatience cost Carolina a chance to win this game when he misread the coverage and went deep. Delhomme had already released the slant pass, and T-New walked into the endzone.
3. Browns head coach Eric Mangina benching Brady Quinn (Medicine Woman) after Quinn posted a paltry 34 passing yards in two quarters. Mangina saw the fear in Jane Seymour's eyes, but failed to notify Derek Anderson that he was starting until on-field warm-ups for the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter. Anderson went on to shake off the rust with 3 picks, but actually converted several 3<sup>rd</sup> and longs. Quinn, on the other hand, completed nearly 60% of his passes, but no 3<sup>rd</sup> downs and no TDs. Seymour was able to do a sideline appendectomy with a Bowie knife.
4. U of Florida's Tim Tebow getting knocked cold by Kentucky. Get used to it Superman, because this is your future in the NFL: laying on the field twitching and wondering if this is the National Championship while taking a standing eight and getting smelling salts.

## **ZEBRA OF THE WEEK**

*Tony Corrente – Carolina at Dallas*

Corrente allowed Dallas to maul Delhomme on a key 3<sup>rd</sup> down pass, setting up the win for Big D. NT Jay Ratliff stiff-armed Jake in the facemask on an incomplection, but no personal foul was called. Fittingly, the Four Letter Network also refused to show the replay.

The Pokes got their first sack and first turnovers of the year in the same game, courtesy of Corrente and Company loosening the rulebook.

Tony Corrente, you are the Look Man's **Zebra of the Week!**

### **THE LOOK AHEAD**

Week Four is the end of the first quarter of the season, and the league is celebrating with some fantastic games. These quarterly finals don't count much for final grades, but man are they going to be fun. Or maybe just fun-ny, like the Look Man's Week Three look ahead picks were.

#### *Baltimore at New England (-2)*

Brady went postal on his offense against the ATL last week, and the result was a tough win. This week, another physical defense comes to Beantown, and the Dumpster Ducks are no joke. Look for the pressure to frustrate Tom Terrific into picks.

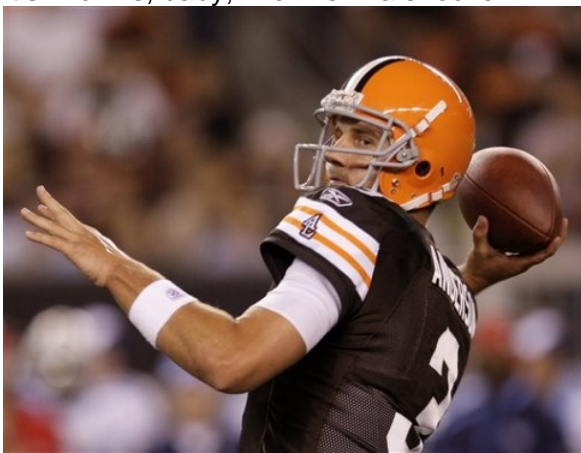
The absence of Ed Reed has not hurt Baltimore to date, but it could. Not sure if Reed will be Hooked on Phonics this week, but he needs to play. Take Baltimore to win outright.

#### *Cincy at Cleveland (+6):*

The Look Man wouldn't be surprised in DA dropped a 50-bruger on da Beng this weekend in Cleveland. Everyone is killing Mangina for basically being Belichick Lite. Despite everything stupid he's done, Mangina knows DA matches up well with the Bengals, whose underrated defense has shocked the league.

The same media that is killing Mangina is the same media that supported Brady Quinn over Derek Anderson. Mangina doesn't have the street cred to fine players two large for a \$3 bottle of water. If he had some championship pelts on his wall, he'd be wearing hoodies to games and telling the media to kiss his fat ass.

Look for Neo's revenge, as he puts together a highlight reel for his next team. Anderson is Tony Romo with no coaching. If he can get an O-Coordinator and QB coach, he has tremendous upside. The Bengals look ahead to the Baltimore game in Week Five, so it's Browns, baby, Browns in a shocker.



*"We need bombs, lots of bombs in this Matrix."*

### *Detroit at Chicago (-10.5)*

Detroit's win over Washington shocked no one last week, but the media loves the Monsters of the Furniture Mart too much here. Detroit's tall wideouts match up well with the Bears, so look for Matt Stafford to post good numbers and cover. Plus, the Look Man has it on good authority that Jay Cutler(y) has a celebrity girlfriend in Chicago and her name is Oprah Winfrey. Detroit covers.

### *San Diego at Pittsburgh (-6.5)*

Everyone expects Blitzburgh to simply flip the switch and start winning, but they really miss Troy Polamalu. Big Ben is doing everything he needs to win, but getting no help from his offensive teammates. Hines Ward turned it over in Week One to nearly cost them the game; Santonio Holmes and Limas Sweed dropped game clinching TDs in Weeks 2 and 3.

San Diego does not match up well with the Stillers without run-stuffing NT Jamal Williams, and the Stillers will get back to the run. D-Coordinator Dick LeBeau(nhead) will come up with some nice defensive wrinkles for Rivers, and Head Coach Mike (Omar Epps) Tomlin has been going *House* on the Still Curtain this week behind the scenes.

Epps is unhappy that other doctors are getting more face time on the show, and he'll correct that this week. Stillers cover and regain their swagger just in time for a big match up with Baltimore in Week Five.

### *Jets at New Orleans (-7)*

Two unlikely 3-0 squads face off at the Superdome and it will be epic. The Look Man has always liked Drew (Cool) Brees, and the Jets D is for real. Much has been made of Brees, who is blowing up the Icons' passing records, but these guys have a solid running game. Look for them to run the ball effectively against the blitzing Jets, gashing them with Brees audibles at the line.

The key match up will be Religious Icons S Darren Sharper versus rookie Mark Sanchise. Sharper takes the rookie to the house on a pick six for an Icons cover.

### *Dallas at Denver (+3)*

Dallas has the 800 pound gorilla off its back courtesy of a win on MNF. This week, they face their old AFC nemesis at Investigation Field. Based upon the lack of sacks by Dallas, the Look Man believes there will be an emotional letdown.

WRs Marshall and Stokley go Brandon Squared as Doomsday Lite fails to match up. Kyle (Foo Fighters) Orton and the Donkeys cover the spread and win outright.

### *Minnesota at Green Bay (+3.5) [MNF]*

Aaron Rodgers and the Pack face Brett Favre for the first time since his first retirement on the big stage at Flambeau. The Look Man expects the Pack to bow their backs for this matchup, but they may not have enough. In point of fact, the Vikes were likely looking ahead to this game last week, which is one reason the Look Man picked the Niners to cover and win in Week Three.

The key to the game will be the Pack defense. The Niners exposed the secret to beating Minnesota: shut down Adrian Peterson and force the Pope to throw a 49-yard

laser. Unfortunately, the Niners have more athleticism at LB and the Pack secondary is a MASH unit. Pack S Atari Bigby is out, and Charles Woodson is dinged up.

RB Steven Jackson carved the Pack for a buck seventeen last week. Even with the lookahead factor, that doesn't bode well for Green Bay. Favre gets his revenge and covers the number at his old stomping grounds.

## **EPILOGUE**

We're about to separate the contenders from the pretenders in Week Four, just in time for the first bye week. Atlanta, Carolina, Phoenix, and Philly get to retool for the second quarter, and they can use the time.

The Look Man believes one of the 0-3 teams will make the playoffs. The smart money is on Tennessee, but don't write off the Black Cats yet either. Write it down.