

THE LOOK MAN REPORT 2009

Week Four – Brady Rule, What Brady Rule?

"Whatever they call, they call. We don't make the rules. We just play by them. I think we were on the fortunate end of a few of them last week. I don't care if they hit me or not." - Tom Brady on the inconsistent application of the Brady Rule in Week Four vs. Baltimore

Week Four featured some fantastic matchups. Baltimore went to the Blade to take on the Chowds. San Diego tried their luck at Ketchup Field against the Stillers. The Pokes traveled to Investigation Field in a battle with Denver. And Cincinnati took a bus to C-Town to prove that they were no joke on the shores of the Great Lake Erie.

When the week was all said and done, New Orleans, Minnesota, Indy, the Jynts and Denver remained unblemished. Cleveland joined KC, St. Louise, and Tennessee as the only teams which have not yet tasted victory. You know you're in trouble when Detroit is looking down at you, and these teams all qualify.

The first quarter of the season is over, and we can't yet separate contenders from pretenders. With Dallas, San Diego and Blitzburgh all at 2-2, there's a lot of season left. Without further ado, the Week in Review:

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

Just Drop It!

Braylon Edwards was traded to Jets following a late night altercation with one of LeBron's boys in C-Town. The 215 pound WR punched 135 pound Edward Givens in the dome about 2:30 AM in downtown C-town. Within two days, he was punished by being shipped off to a potential playoff team in a town he wanted to play in anyway. Nice.

BE led the league in dropped passes for the last two seasons. If you noticed last week, Derek (Neo) Anderson never went back to Braylon Edwards after the drop in the first quarter. When asked by reporters if he wanted out of Cleveland, BE asked them to 'drop it.' The assault victim is expected to drop all charges since BE is no longer an item in Cleveland. And the Browns get WR Chansi Stuckey, a special teams LB, and two draft picks. They're expected to drop in the draft despite the new talent.

All kidding aside, the Look Man expects BE to do extremely well in the Big Apple. He has a QB who can get him the rock, a solid running game, an excellent defense, and...A COACH WHO ACTUALLY KNOWS THE GAME!!!!

Guys We Should've Drafted?

Cleveland can now play The Draft Game, citing players which should've been drafted versus the ones who were. It's a fun game regardless of your team, and here's a short list for the Browns:

1999	QB Donovan McNabb	QB Tim Couch
2001	DT Richard Seymour	DT Gerard Warren
2002	RB LaDanian Tomlinson	RB William Green
2004	QB Ben Roethlisberger	TE Kellen Winslow
2005	LB DeMarcus Ware	WR Braylon Edwards
2006	NT Haloti Ngata	LB Kamerion Wimbley
2007	RB Adrian Peterson	LT Joe Thomas Dr. Brady Quinn [for 2007 first rounder to Dallas]

2008 no pick
Flacco

RB Felix Jones [from CLE 2006 pick] /QB Joe

2009 QB Mark Sanchez

C Alex Mack

The Browns have only Quinn, Thomas and Mack (the Vegas boyz) to show for a decade of inept drafts. No wonder they are 0-4.

ZEBRA OF THE WEEK

Small field was this week. The Browns got seriously jobbed at home in the Battle of Ohio, but there was only one real contestant. And it was...

Baltimore at New England - Ron (A Lyin in) Winter:

Ron called two key personal fouls for roughing Tom Terrific. The first was a glancing blow to the chin by NT Haloti Ngata. On the second, LB Terrell Suggs was pushed into Brady, barely grazing his knees. Brady lobbied for both calls and got them, and each perpetuated a drive in a game that was decided by six points.

These calls wouldn't be so bad if we had universal enforcement of the Brady Rule. JaMarcus Russell and David Garrard got mauled by comparison without flags. Donovan McNabb's rib injury was the result of a late hit in the endzone, but no call was made. How does Brady get these calls?

At any rate, Ron Winter, you are the Look Man's Zebra of the Week!



"I like to hug the refs, ask them about their kids prior to the game."

Miracles in Minnesota

Who's had a better two weeks than the Twin Cities? The locals witnessed a miracle play to beat the Niners, and then followed that with a game for the ages by Favre on Monday Night over the hated Cheeseheads.

The Twinkies - Tigers playoff game was pushed back a night due to the Monday Nighter, but game 163 was sparkling display of offense and defense in a 12 inning win. Rarely has any city seen this much outstanding sport in such a short span.

Loser Wants to Buy Loser

Rush Limbaugh announced that he and Dave Checketts want to buy the Lambs. Limbaugh is originally from Missouri, the Show Me State, and would like to ensure the team remains in St. Louis. The NFL would like to add a team in Los Angeles, and the J-Squareds and Lambs are the leading candidates.

Limbaugh was the center of controversy after questioning the racial motivation of the media with regard to Donovan McNabb. The real question is whether the owners would approve an owner who was fired from the Four Letter Network for being an idiot. Or was it just the result of Limbaugh's conviction for synthetic heroin use? Hard to know.

PLAYS OF THE WEEK:

- Chad Ochocinco's one handed grab in the endzone in Cincy at Cleveland. The Look Man thought it might not have been in bounds, but he wasn't stupid enough to waste a timeout to challenge it.
- Brett (The Pope) Favre's across-the-body bullet to TE Visanthe Shiancoe. There aren't four guys in the league who even have enough arm to even think about this pass. The Look Man gives the Pope a lot of gas, but he looked sensational on Monday Night.
- Derek Anderson's sweet bomb to up-and-coming WR Mohamed (GOAT) Massaquoi. GOAT nearly scored on this rainbow over Cincy CB Leon (Toast) Hall. Look for this kid to end up being a professional receiver for a long time. Also, look for Hall to be selling insurance within 2 years.



Getty Images

"Leon! Stop that before you get burned!"

THE LOOK AHEAD

Cincinnati at B-More (-8.5)

Everyone believes the Ugly & Black is for real. They are one miracle loss away from being 4-0, and head to STD-more this weekend for a battle to determine AFC North supremacy.

Baltimore's secondary was simply awful the last few weeks, and they lost a big one at the Blade last week. Or should we say they lost to the Zebras? At any rate, the Look Man believes they right the dumpster this week, opening a can of whoop ass on the Bengals. B-More covers and wins, sending Marvin Lewis to the Kleenex box as B-More Fan chants, "same old Ben-gals."

Cleveland at Buffalo (-6)

Cleveland TE Robert Royal returns to the scene of the crime in Crapchester. Royal was stealing from them long before he allowed balls to bounce off his facemask in C-Town.

Fortunately, the King knows the Bisons' offense, so the defense should come to play. No one knows the impact of the BE trade this week. Will the Browns quit on Mangina, or will they bow their backs to avoid being shipped off to the center of the universe?

The Look Man is going to go with the Browns to cover based upon Mangina's familiarity with the AFC East. Browns, baby, Browns as Anderson celebrates the trading of his nemesis.

Carolina at DC (+3.5)

Carolina. Nuff said.

Dallas at KC (+8)

Tony Romo (the Place for Ribs) and the Pokes badly need a win to get the stench of defeat off of them. Unfortunately, Ribs King put WR Roy Williams in the hospital at the end of the game last week with a medicine ball. RB Felix Jones is hurt, and something weird is going on with Marion the Barbarian.

KC, on the other hand, is one of the worst teams in the league. Their defense is awful, and their offense has no game breakers. It's a perfect prescription for a team to get healthy.

The Pokes go back to the old Counter Trey, keeping the rock out of Tony's hands. Plus, they have good backup receivers in Miles Austin, Hurd and Patrick (Crayola) Crayton. Pokes win, but the Look Man ain't betting them to cover with this offense.

New England -3 at Denver

This one is being touted as the Game of the Week, but it should be. KC rookie head coach Josh (Mickey D) McDaniels goes up against former mentor Bill (Dr .Evil) Belichick in a possible AFC playoff preview.

Folks don't give teams enough credit when they face a player or coach who left. Mickey D built the protection schemes that New England employs, and his cat-quick defense can take advantage. More importantly, RB Fred Taylor is out with an ankle, and Boney Maroney is playing with a fork in his back.

The Look Man is actually developing an affinity for this Donkey team. They're better than advertised, and their secondary includes future Hall member Champ Bailey as well as the physical Hawk Dawkins at safety. They'll hit you, strip you, and spit on you if they can.

Look for Brady to attempt to set a single game record for catches for Wes Welker. In the battle of uniforms, the Denver throwbacks beat out the Pat Patriot unis. The Look Man sees Denver winning this one as the Chowds have a physical hangover from stealing that one last week over Baltimore. Donkeys.

The ATL at San Fran (-2.5)

The Niners have looked good last week, even without RB Frank Gore, who has an ankle according to NBC's Al Michael. They lost to the Hornheads courtesy of a fantastic catch with 0:02 left.

The Dirty Birds have struggled since meeting up with the Chowds in New England. Their running game has struggled, causing their passing game to slump.

The Niners get a win over the suddenly challenged Dirty Birds, extending the sophomore jinx of Matt(y Ice) Ryan. After the bye week, they emerge as the unquestioned leaders in the NFC West.

Indy at Tennessee (+3.5) Football Night in America

The Colts are playing extremely well on offense, and now face one of the worst secondaries in the league. Peyton Manning is playing at an MVP level, and no one is even talking about him. Everything is shaping up for a blowout win. You don't bet against him in a big game unless you want to give your money away.

The Flaming Thumbtacks are the best 0-4 team in the NFL, and they will be bringing it on Sunday night. The Tacks always play the Ponies tough, but Peyton is in a zone. This guy is having perhaps his best season ever after losing a lot of talented players.

There must be some behind the scenes action in Nash-Vegas, because Al Haynesworth wasn't that great even when he wore the Flaming Thumbtack logo. You wonder if the players found compromising photos of head coach Jeff

Freeney is dinged up, and Sanders still hasn't returned for the Ponies. They are vulnerable against the run, and it helps to keep Peyton off the field.

Tennessee covers and has a gas at LP Field in this division matchup. (BTW, don't bet this if you only get +3 for the Tacks!)

EPILOGUE

The first quarter of the season has been a rare jewel. Now, it's on to the second quarter to separate the men from the boys. Undisciplined teams like the Pokes need to get on the horse, while Minnesota will begin to face some real competition in this stanza.

Every division is up for grabs, and it will be interesting to see who wants them. This week's matchups may go a long way toward identifying those teams. Only after the byes align will we know the final story.

Peace,

The Look Man