

THE LOOK MAN REPORT 2010

Week One – One and Done?

"A shootout? You gotta have something to be shooting. We haven't been shooting. We can't get in a shootout with anybody." – Former Jets QB and Hall of Famer Broadway Joe Namath on the possibility of engaging in a shootout Sunday with the New England Patriots

Broadway Joe voiced what anyone who saw Monday Night Football felt. The Jets multiple offense looked pathetic and overmatched against Baltimore. QB Mark Sanchez couldn't connect with his wide receivers and the play calling was awful. In short, the Hard Knocks Crew was not ready for prime time.

The bigger story might be Houston's dismantling of the Colts. It's unusual to see Peyton (The Sheriff) Manning to get sacked, let alone pounded, and the Slim Shadies did both. The Colts run defense has always been suspect, but RB Arian Foster ran around, over and through them. Indy safety Bob Sanders had his annual career threatening injury in the form of a torn bicep, and the rest was history. Houston is now 1-14 with the Colts in games that matter.

The front-running Jets, Pokes and Bengals laid eggs on the big stage, leading their fans to wonder, "What in the Sam Hill is going on here?!" The Football Gods don't like hubris, and these teams have it in spades.

Meanwhile, Blitzburgh, Houston, New England, and New Orleans are all rolling. It's way too soon to declare anything, but failure to win in Week Two is close to a playoff death knell. If the slide continues into Week Three, the season is officially DOA.

Dallas, Frisco, Cincy, and the Jets are all gripping, and the season is in its infancy. In the words of Yogi Berra (Bear), "It gets late early out there" if 'there' is the NFL.

LAGNIAPPE

Boo-Boos Abundanza

RB Ryan Grant (GB), DT Kris Jenkins (NYJ), and DT Justin Harrell (GB) all landed on the season-ending injured reserve list. QBs Jake Delhomme (CLE), Kevin Kolb (PHL), Matt Moore (CAR), and Matt Stafford (DET) joined LB Stewart Bradley (PHL) and FS Bob Sanders (IND) on the day-to-day list, meaning they could miss one to seven weeks.

Kolb and Moore suffered concussions, meaning they have to pass a mental integrity test in order to return. QB controversy will likely ensue, especially in the City of Brotherly Hate, where the same fans that slammed Mike Vick as a dog killer will be rooting for him to take them to the Bowl.

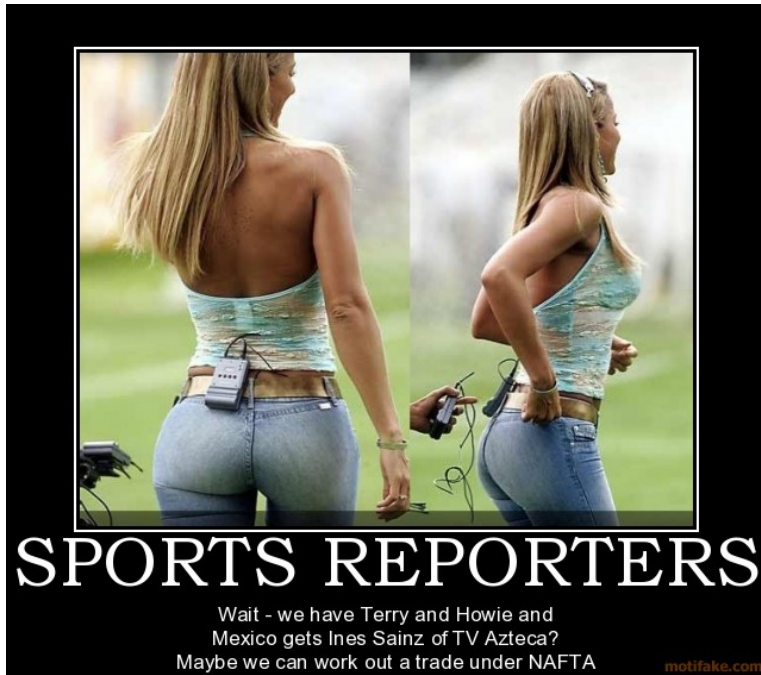
The net result is that these teams will struggle with these injuries, attempting to get their offenses to gel in the interim. It's not a great start for the 2010 season.

Jets Go Sam Wyche

Reporter Ines Sainz ventured into the Jets stadium to interview Mark Sanchez for Azteca TV. Sanchez made a pass at her, but overthrew it. The rest of the Jets, including an assistant coach, also made ham-handed efforts at the comely Hispanic lass. Roger Goodell was not happy, and owner Woody Johnson issued a formal apology for the team.

This whole episode is reminiscent of a similar one in which Sam Wyche defied the league in opposing females in the locker room. This time, Washington RB Clinton Portis went off the reservation with some inappropriate comments that he was forced to retract.

The Look Man doesn't condone this type of foolishness and the Jets have offensive troubles enough without offending the media.



Sainz - Sexier than Rex?

Up With People in Coffeetown

The Look Man attended the Frisco-Shehawks game at Qwest Field last Sunday. He was expecting a fantastic game between an up-and-coming Niners team and a plucky Shehawks bunch with Pete Carroll at the helm. Instead, the game was a 31-6 blowout courtesy of the 12th Man and some awful officiating.

But the real story was the halftime show which tipped the Unintentional Comedy Rating at a 9.9. About 150 local cancer survivors dressed in black and white strutted to midfield to perform a synchronized dance. These folks were young and old, very diverse, and all feeling this was their big moment in show biz. They danced to Michael Jackson, Lady Gaga, and all manner of high energy jock jams. It was obvious that they had practiced extensively, but the overall effect was like a giant line dance at a bad wedding reception and a Saturday Night Live skit combined.

Seattle has a reputation for being hip and musically avant garde, but this was laugh out loud hilarious. The Look Man was expecting a dog and a Frisbee, but this was real entertainment. You just couldn't take your eyes off of them.

ZEBRA OF THE WEEK

Week One highlighted the fact that even the zebras need time to refine their craft. There were four games that featured the zebras instead of the teams, as follows:

Detroit at Chicago – (Mean) Gene Steratore

Mean Gene was behind the foolishness that saw Calvin Johnson's game winning TD ruled a no-catch. Actually, the booth changed the call because it was inside two minutes, but Gene made the call.

Dallas at Washington – Tony Corrente

The Look Man has an adage: "One first down by penalty is okay; two is suspicious." Washington garnered four first downs by penalty. Granted, at least two of those were idiotic, undisciplined play by the Pokes, but this game featured a lot of penalties, including some make up calls.

The final straw was the holding by RT Alex Barron, which negated the game winning TD. Ironically, Barron was brought in as a possible replacement to Flozell (Geico) Adams, whom the Pokes jettisoned. Also, center Andre Gurode was also holding on the play, though it wasn't called.

San Francisco at Seattle – Mike (Dancin' with the Stars) Carey

Mike Carey used to be a favorite of the Look Man, with his precise calls and excellent verbal descriptions. Someone in Vegas must've obtained photos of Mike hanging with Tiger Woods, because he is awful now.

Carey was standing less than 10 yards away when Seattle LB Curry roughed up QB Alex Smith. The first was a blistering hit two beats after Smith released a pass. The second was a concussive hit in which Curry wrapped his elbow around Smith's head and piledrove him into the ground - - - OUT OF BOUNDS! This WWF move was right in front of Carey, and when Smith pled for a call, Mike just shook his head and thought of the Tiger Woods photos.

Baltimore at Jets – Walt (Disney) Anderson

Walt Disney went Phantasia again, giving B-More six first downs by penalty, including some very questionable defensive holding calls that turned third-and-forevers into long drives.

One of the holding calls was on Revis Island, where Darrelle was treating WR Derek Mason like an inflatable date. Another was on rookie CB Kyle Wilson, who was called merely for being in the same zip code as TJ Houshmandzadeh. Of course, Housh celebrated the bogus call with a lot of fist pumping. He has serious anger management issues.

The smart money is on Mean Gene Steratore for the award, but the Look Man has to select Mike Carey. Dancin' with the Stars overlooked some key calls that turned this contest from a must-see to an avert-your-eyes blowout. Mike Carey, you are the Look Man's **Zebra of the Week!**

THE LOOK AHEAD

The Look Man was 6-4 ATS and 7-3 straight up last week, not bad for a one-eyed fat man. Still, there are plenty of surprises left in 2010, and they begin in Week Two.

Kansas City at Cleveland (-2)

The Browns' four game winning streak came crashing down last week in Tampa. Kansas City is coming off a rousing slam dunk over division rival San Diego, and remembers the 41-34 shootout in 2009. Jerome Harrison ran over them for nearly three bills as Cleveland hung on to win their 3rd straight in dramatic fashion.

KC is now New England West as former Browns chief Romeo (Cramden) Crennel is the D-coordinator, and Charlie (Tuna II) Weis handles the offense. Former Chowds GM Scott Pioli rounds out the trio, calling the shots and acquiring talent like RBs Dexter McCluster, Thomas Jones, and Jamal Charles.

The Baby Backs are tailor-made for the Browns, which has a decent running game. The Bolts blew it by attempting to pass on every significant down. Look for Crennel to attempt to stem the Browns running game with stunts, but get burned by the deep ball in the process. Jake Delhomme sits with an ankle, but the Browns win with Seneca (Laxative Arm) Wallace at QB. Browns, baby, Browns.

New England at NY Jets (+2.5)

The Chowds looked solid in pounding the Bengos in Week One. They now face the arch enemy and division rival Jets in a week two game that could help decide the postseason.

The Jets offense was moribund against the B-More defense, and they will struggle against the Chowds. The loss of DT Kris Jenkins won't help, and the Chowds can run and pass. The Jets can run, but Braylon Edwards can't catch. If you see a pick on Sunday, look for Number 17 in the frame. The Look Man guarantees he'll be somewhere nearby.

The X-factor is the Randy (Chronic) Moss fiasco. His rambling postgame comments about New Englanders not wanting to see him do well were cryptic. It came on the heels of Tom (Zoolander) Brady's incredible new deal for \$18 million per year.

At any rate, Belicheat will get the troops aligned, as the Chowds roll over the Hard Knocks Crew. Chowds cover and win, sending Rex Ryan to the buffet line at Carnegie Deli.

Chicago at Dallas (-7.5)

The Pokes looked offensively challenged against a surprised Washington defense in Week One. O-Coordinator Jason Garrett resorted to quick passes in order to keep Tony Romo's ribs intact. The running game was disjointed and the offensive penalties were stultifying. In short, they stunk up DC.

Da Bears won the home opener courtesy of big plays and bad officiating. Jay (The Knife) Cutler(y) was able to find RB Matt Forte for some YAC, and he looked like he might be figuring out the Mike Martz offense. The Look Man ain't really buying that, because it looked like he was making it up as he went along.

Look for the Pokes to rebound, but the Look Man doesn't expect them to cover in this one. Chicago covers the spread against a Pokes team with a nicked up DeMarcus Ware. Bears.

Philly at Detroit (+5)

There's a QB controversy brewing in Philly, and Mike (Ron Mexico) Vick gets the nod for a concussed Kevin (Korn) Kolb (Pipe). Mr. Mexico makes the offense click with his ability to get to the corner and buy time.

What folks don't know is that Detroit backup Shaun Hill is pretty good. He was a starter in Frisco, and he has some decent weapons including RB Jahvid Best and WR Calvin Johnson. The defense gave up big plays to Chicago's Matt Forte, but played hard and physical. Coach Jim Schwartz made the right call in answering questions on the Catch last week, and his defensive line is excellent.

The Look Man is going to go out on a limb and pick the Lions to get even and one and one. Lions cover and win, sending the Iggles into a nose dive. Lions.

Miami at Minnesota (-5.5)

This could be a great matchup as the Hornheads swapped DB Bennie Sapp for Marine Mammals WR Greg Camarillo. These swaps tend to favor the team with the offensive player, in this case, Minnesota.

The Hornheads have great run defense, and Miami is a strong running team. Miami has the receivers advantage, but Minny's secondary is superior. It's a tough call, but the Look Man likes Miami to cover. Fish.

Baltimore at Cincinnati (+2)

The Nati lost an ugly one in Beantown, and they return home for a key divisional tilt with Baltimore. The disappointing loss included controversial early halftime departures by Batman and Robin. Apparently, coach Marvin Lewis lost his Bat Signal when he needed a Hail Mary play.

The Dumpster Ducks won ugly in New York in a very physical matchup. The Look Man has a theory that teams that win close, physical ballgames often struggle in subsequent weeks. It's called the Marty Rule, after former Browns head coach Marty Schottenheimer. Marty's teams often lost close contests, but beat the snot out of the opposition in the process. That opposition rarely won after facing his teams.

Still, the Nati punked the Ducks twice in 2009, and Baltimore didn't like it one bit. The Dumpster Ducks are on a revenge tour, and chalk up two in a row this week. Ducks win; Bengos go back to the drawing board. Same old Beng-os.



"To the Locker Room, Old Chum!" "Holy halftime, Batman!"

EPILOGUE

The 2010 season started out with a bang, and the players suffered in the process. Key players for a boatload of teams are injured, and we're only in Week Two. At this rate the owners' dream

of an eighteen game season seems even more idiotic. Unless you'd like to see David Carr versus Matt Leinart battle for the Lombardi, the owners need to seriously rethink that premise.

The owners, like the Tea Party, figures if it tells the Big Lie often enough that folks might actually believe it. The fans don't want less preseason games; they don't want to pay full price for football that doesn't feature star players. That sentiment goes double for late season games in Weeks Sixteen and Seventeen, when starters play a quarter or less. \

Unfortunately, these games have little meaning for the principals, but wild cards often hang in the balance. The Jets got into the 2009 postseason on the strength of these 'laydowns.' Cincinnati was actually able to pick its opponent for the postseason, and that can't be a good omen for the future.

The NFL also needs to step in to fix the Catch Rule. John Madden said famously, "If three guys in a bar think it's a catch, then it's a catch." Well, three million guys in bars saw Calvin Johnson's TD catch against Chicago and former NFL Zebra Czar Mike Pereira says they were wrong. Guess he doesn't drink...

Whether it's a catch, a force out, umpire positioning, or a bogus holding call, the league needs to get its house in order. Otherwise, the golden goose may end up laying contaminated eggs.

Peace,

The Look Man