

The Look Man Report 2010

Week Four: Kiss, kiss. Bang, bang

*“His college coaches at Arkansas told us that you'd have to shoot him to get him off of the practice field. That work attitude really convinced us that Felix was who we wanted.”
– Dallas owner Jerry Jones regarding why they selected RB Felix Jones over Chris Johnson in the draft*

Week Four started to put things in perspective for the 2010 season. In an odd move, Minnesota, Dallas and KC had bye weeks, but the balance of the league labored on.

The Colts lost to Jacksonville on a 59-yard last second field goal, dropping them to 2-2 and 0-2 in the AFC South. Cleveland got into the win column with a hard fought win over the Bengals. And the Baltimore Dumpster Ducks won at Blitzburgh for the first time in the Joe Flacco era.

Chicago was who we thought they were, giving up a record ten sacks to a Jynx team that had looked punchless. New England pounded Miami with a second half special teams explosion.

When the dust cleared, parity reigned, and the contenders were separated from the pretenders. Just as it takes 3-4 weeks for an offense to gel, it takes the same amount of time for teams to show their weaknesses.

Teams with winning records that are one dimensional in the pass are pretenders. The same teams that have used the running game can still develop a passing game once the offensive line gels.

But the biggest story of the week might be the personnel moves. The Seahawks acquired RB Marshawn Lynch to help their anemic attack. The Hornheads orchestrated a blockbuster trade to obtain Randy (The Chronic) Moss.

The latter move could decide the fate of two teams; the Vikes get a deep threat to open up the running game for Adrian Peterson, while New England has decided to go with Wes Welker clones.

Tailpipe Keith, a native New Englander, is concerned. “Right now all I see is Wes Welker getting hammered because they have no one to stretch the field or force double coverage deep. They are maximizing use of eleven personnel, which could have a chilling effect on the running game.”

For you non-technical Tailpipes, “eleven personnel” refers to the number of backs and receivers in the offensive set. One running back, one tight end is eleven personnel. By extension, twenty-one personnel is two running backs, one tight end. You all know that empty or zero personnel is five wides of which Mike Martz is so fond.

The Chowds are in flux to be sure, but the Look Man has seen Dr. Evil in action before. Based upon New England's acquisition of Carolina's 2nd rounder in 2011, they could package the 3rd rounder received for Moss to obtain WR Vincent Jackson from San Diego. As of the writing of this report, they were in discussions with San Diego to obtain

OT Logan Mankins. Either way, the Chowds can cruise into Week Seven when Jackson could bear fruit.

Or they could simply use the picks in 2011 to get the best receivers available. The emergence of TEs Gronkowski and Hernandez, as well as WR Julian Edelman and RB Danny Woodhead has already made their offense pretty potent. They still need a deep threat to make it all click, and keep Tom (Zoolander) Brady perpendicular in the pocket.

LAGNIAPPE

CJ2K vs. Felix the Cat?

Folks in Big D thought they had the “steal of the draft” when they selected the Cowboys selected Arkansas running back Felix Jones with the 22nd overall pick. Not only was Jones a much needed speed back to pair with Marion (the Predator) Barber, but the pick was a bonus received for allowing Cleveland to move up to take QB Brady Quinn (Medicine Woman).

The celebration was mitigated last season, when the guy drafted by Tennessee with the 24th pick racked up 2,000 rushing yards and a stellar Pro Bowl season. Chris (CJ2K) Johnson earned his nickname and took the league by storm.

CJ2K has 354 yards on 94 carries and 4 touchdowns in four games, corresponding with just 88 yards on 22 carries with no scores for Felix the Cat. Needless to say the Pokes are struggling with their running game, and the pick could go down as one of the biggest blunders in Pokes history.

The two teams face each other on Sunday, making the timing of Jerry’s comments even more bizarre. To complicate matters, Vince Young returns to his native Texas, and the Flaming Thumbtacks want a pound of cow flesh.

It’ll be interesting to see what Jerry has to say after the 4:15 game on Sunday. One has to wonder if he’ll eat filet mignon or crow.

The One-eyed Man is King...

Did you see the look on Eric Mangina’s face after the Browns’ 23-20 win over the Bengos? Mangina almost skipped onto the field, looking for someone to shake his hand.

The irony is that Bengals coach Marvin Lewis seriously mismanaged the clock - - - again. Lewis used his timeouts around the three minute mark, so when Peyton Hillis galloped for 24 yards and stayed in bounds at the 2:40 mark, the game was effectively on ice. The Browns went into victory formation right after the two minute warning, flipping the rock to the zebras with 35 seconds remaining.

There are some coaches that simply should never outcoach you. Eric Mangina is on that short list with Lovie Smith, Marvin Lewis and Norv Turner. Mangina just has the look of Pop N Fresh, the Pillsbury Dough Boy.

ZEBRA OF THE WEEK

Jerome (Captain) Bogermill – Bengals at Browns

The Battle of Ohio is always a physical affair and this one was no different. The Look Man counted two roughing the passer calls and two unnecessary roughness calls that were questionable. Since when did the league throw PF flags in divisional games that determine playoff spots?

One of the personal foul calls was on the dramatic TJ (Hospital) Ward – Jordan Shipley hit in the end zone. The hit gave the Bengos a first down and ultimately resulted in a TD.

TJ (Hospital) Ward, the grandson of Burt Ward, an actor who played Robin on the Batman TV series in the 60s, was fined \$15K for the hit on Shipley, twice what Ndamakong Suh paid for nearly ripping Jake Delhomme's head off in the preseason. Check out the play in real time on YouTube:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kfoPYpC4pyY>

Pereira, Pariah let's call the whole thing off...

Former head zebra Mike (Pariah) Pereira has lost his marbles. Not only did he suggest that Browns safety TJ Ward be suspended for a bang-bang hit on Jordan Shipley, he now wants to make defensive pass interference a 15-yard penalty. Pariah couldn't define penalties when he worked as head zebra for the league, and he certainly can't now.

Pariah's other suggestion was to suspend Tennessee D-coordinator Chuck Cecil for giving the zebras "you're number one!" signal on national TV. Cecil did accuse the zebras of betting on the games last season, but one year without pay is too much. The 40 large that he has to pay is penalty enough.

As Eddie Murphy said in Beverly Hills Cop, "Disturbing the peace? I got thrown out of a window! What's the fuckin' charge for getting pushed out of a moving car, huh? Jaywalking?"

NFL, please don't legislate the football out of football. And while you're at it, how about fines for QBs who throw medicine balls to defenseless receivers? Carson Palmer and Boomer Esiason would be broke if that rule applied.



Kiss, kiss. Bang, Bang. Note the ball still in the air...

And the winner is Mike Pereira, who isn't really even a zebra; he just plays one on TV. Mike Pereira, you are the Look Man's **Zebra of the Week!**

THE LOOK AHEAD

There are some intriguing matchups in Week Five. Please note the preponderance of seven point spreads. It doesn't seem to track with how close these games should be.

Among the Look Man's favorites:

KC at Indy (-7.5)

It's time to separate the contenders from the pretenders. While the Bears were pretenders who were using the pass to mask their shortcomings, KC is doing it the right way. They are running the football with Jamal Charles and Thomas (It's Not Unusual) Jones. Matt Cassel is adequate and the Baby Backs defense is young and aggressive.

Look for Peyton to attempt to take advantage of an inexperienced secondary, but D-Coordinator Romeo (Ralph Cramden) Crennel usually does a good job on the Sheriff. If you review his games against Indy with New England and Cleveland, they were low scoring affairs.

The loss of the aptly named safety Melvin Bullitt hurts the Colts, especially with Bob Sanders out with his career ending injury d'annee. It's crunch time for the Colts, especially with them being 0-2 in the AFC Souse and ticked off about last week's heartbreaker in J-Ville. Indy's not playing especially well, and they have injuries across the board.

The Look Man wants to take a flyer on KC, but the league wants the Colts to win and bring the Baby Backs back to the pack in the AFC West. KC covers, but Indy takes it.

Denver at Baltimore (-7)

The Donkeys won a close, physical game last week at Tennessee. Under the heading of No Good Deed Goes Unpunished, they now travel to B-More to face the number one defense in the NFL.

B-More could have a letdown after a big win in a physical game at Blitzburgh and Kyle Orton is averaging over 3 bills per game passing. The key is whether Champ Bailey and the enver D can regain their first letter. If they can, they could upset the Dumpster Ducks.

The Look Man has a theory about road wins two weeks consecutively. While the Denver team matches up pretty well with B-More, they are struggling in the red zone. B-More maintains their hold on the AFC Asgard, but fails to cover the seven. Denver in a cover.

Atlanta at Cleveland (+7)

Falcons had two tough, physical games and the Browns could get QB Jake Delhomme back. The Look Man would wait one more week to ensure that Jake's high ankle sprain doesn't get aggravated. The Browns play the Stillers in two weeks, for the home return of Big Ben from suspension.

The Dirty Birds have played tough against the Saints and beat the Niners after CB Nate Clements fumbled during an interception return. Is it just the Look Man, or didn't the

same thing happen against the same time last year, with Dre Bly providing the turnover? The Niners need to get their heads out of their butts because just falling down would've sealed the win instead of making them 0-4.

Peyton Hillis injured a thigh this week in practice, just as the Browns hard nosed running game was getting untracked. This kid defines the Browns running game and he is being used way too much by Eric Mangina. The Browns need him for the balance of the season, so it would be wise to use him judiciously pending the Stillers game.

Look for WR Mohammad Massaquoi to have a coming out party against Atlanta, as the Browns cover but don't win. The reason: two words - - - Eric Mangina.

St Louis at Detroit (-3)

Talk about a war! The Lions are actually favored at home and they would like to win this one to get off the schneid. Meanwhile, break up the Lambs who have won two straight against decent opponents.

It's looking more and more like Matt Stafford may be done for the year with that shoulder, and Shaun Hill has been capable. The Lions get their first win of the year over a tough, scrappy Lambs team. Detroit.

Tampa Bay at Cincy (-7)

ShIPLEY was knocked into next week by a Carson Palmer medicine ball, but can the Bengals rebound? Tampa Bay TE Kellen Winslow could and should get double digit catches vs. the Bengos LBs. The secondary for the Beng is questionable, with Crocker, Jonathan Joseph and Roy Williams all nicked up

Tampa plans to integrate rookie RB LeGarrette Blount into their rushing rotation, with Cadillac Williams. You'll remember Blount as the kid who one-punched the Boise State trash talker while he was at Oregon. The Expensive Corn Kings have a puncher's chance against the Bengos if they use Blount at RB to establish a power running game. They still haven't gotten the cleat marks off them from Peyton Hillis last week.

The back story is a battle between Marvin Lewis and Tampa coach Raheem Morris. The two disagreed over Desmond Briscoe, who was picked up by the Corn Kings in unusually fashion. Teams typically only pay \$80K for practice squad players, but the Bucs ponied up the rookie minimum of \$325 for Briscoe. Marvin Lewis was ticked, because he knows that both TO and Ochocinco could be history in 2011.

Neither team is lighting it up in the red zone, but the Look Man likes the Bucs to play hard nosed defense and take home a surprise victory. Tampa covers and wins, starting the call for Lewis' job. Tampa.

Chicago at Carolina (+3.5)

The Bears have installed journeyman Todd Collins at QB based upon the concussion suffered by Jay (the Knife) Cutler. The big story is the return of DE Julius Peppers to Carolina, the team where he made his bones.

Carolina likely lost WR Steve (Jacob Jingleheimer) Smith to a high ankle sprain, and cut WR Dwayne Jarrett after his second DUI. Jimmy (The Pickle) Clausen is getting pretty sour reviews, and the running game hasn't materialized due to injuries and illness to

DeAngelo Williams. In short, it looks like revenge for Peppers and the Monsters of the Furniture Mart. Bears.

Frisco at Philly (+2) Football Night in America

It's hard to believe the Niners are giving two to the Iggles, even at home. While Frisco has been in three of the four games, it has self-destructed each time. One has to wonder if they're trying to get Mike Singletary fired at this point.

Kevin (Korn) Kolb gets his first road start in place of the injured Mike Vick. Kolb looked awful in relief last week vs. DC, missing wide open guys in favor of the dump pass. The real issue is that Korny doesn't trust his O-line, and why should he? They would get any QB killed with holding galore to boot. Let's not forget that a holding call negated the first and goal on the play in which Vick was injured.

The Look Man likes Frisco to rebound here, playing better and getting its act together. Even at 0-4, they could climb back into the division race in the NFC West, where 7-9 might get it done. Niners.

Tennessee at Dallas (-7)

This might be only late game worth watching. Jeff Fisher and the Flaming Thumbtacks have been accused of playing cheap shot football, hitting late and after the whistle. The Tacks were the recipient of six personal foul penalties on the G-Men when the two teams met a few weeks back. Now the Broncos are complaining as well. Where there's smoke...there's a Flaming Tack.

Wade (Captain Kangaroo) Phillips has an outstanding record following the bye week. More importantly, the Pokes have typically gone on to win three in a row following bye weeks under the Captain.

This year could be no different, as the O-line has had time to heal Kyle Kosier and Marc Columbo. The Look Man hasn't seen enough of LT Doug (World B) Free to make a determination, but he'll need a solid day on Sunday, and again the following week in the Minnesota game.

The Minnesota game is the Pokes' chance to avenge the 34-3 Pants on the Ground shellacking Minnesota gave them in the Divisional Playoffs. The Pokes are coming for blood against the Hornheads, which reinforces the Look Ahead theory that they're going to lay an egg against Vince Young and the Flaming Thumbtacks on Sunday.

Of course that last bit is also buttressed by Jerry Jones' outrageous comments on passing on Chris Johnson. CJ2K is going to bring his A-game, and the Pokes had better not be sleeping. While the Pokes are rated 8th defensively vs. the rush, they haven't played a solid rushing team with the possible exception of Houston. Tennessee covers.

Minnesota at Jets (-5.5) [MNF]

This game features the return of the Mack, er Pope, to his old stomping grounds. Brett Favre helmed the Jets to a fast start before retiring yet again, and the Jets are a little sour about it. They should just count their blessings, as it gave them a chance to fire Mangina and get a real head coach.

The Hornheads don't just come in quietly; they're bringing Randy (The Chronic) Moss. CB Darrelle Revis (Island) returns from a hamstring and the doctors typically don't prescribe large quantities of Moss for that injury.

Favre and the Vikes rock the Jets, providing yet another upset on Monday Night. The Look Man hasn't picked a MNF game correctly all year, and this could follow the trend. Look for the Jets to play hard, but lose to a gun slinging, hard running Minnesota team. Vikes cover and win.

EPILOGUE

If this season has taught us anything, it's that the unlikely can and will happen. The surprise win by Washington, the injury to Vick, and the Chiefs being the last undefeated team in the league all speak to that.

But what is unclear is the middle game. If the first quarter is over, then the next four games constitute the second. How will teams bounce back to begin a push for the postseason. Will any of the 0-4 teams be able to make the push? Will the Pokes and Vikes end up at 1-3 looking at a long climb to respectability?

Stay tuned to find out. Same bat time. Same bat channel. Just don't hit anyone too hard, or you're sure to be sending some caish to the NFL Charity Ball.

Peace,

The Look Man