

## **THE LOOK MAN REPORT 2010**

### **Week Eleven – Things to Do in Denver When You're Dead**

*"We are terrible. Terrible. I'm sorry. I just don't have a sound bite for you guys today." – Nati WR Terrell Owens, after the Bengals blew a 28-7 lead en route to a 49-31 pasting by Buffalo.*

The Look Man agrees with TO in this case, but the reason for the loss was Owens himself. Anyone who watches film can see the Bengals force the ball to TO in the redzone. Buffalo simply picked a few and took one to the house.

The Nati game was blacked out, sparing the locals the ugliness that appeared on the field. No doubt the coaches threw out the tape to get a fresh start for a short week. The Jets are no joke, even though the Bengals are.

The Look Man is up to his proverbial elbows in alligators at work, and missed writing the LMR the last two weeks. But he did watch the games, and they were outstanding.

The 2010 NFL season continued to confuse, with losses by Indy, Minnesota and Frisco. These teams are all in battles to make the postseason, and Week Eleven will decide their fates. Well, all except for Minny, whose blowout loss to the Cheeseheads likely ended hopes of Brett (the Pope) Favre riding off into the sunset in the Popemobile.

In lieu of a full length column, the Look Man will go with a truncated missive and some Week Twelve picks. Not too bad for a guy who's actually working on Turkey Day.

### **LAGNIAPPE**

#### My Favorite Things (About Week Eleven)

Ten things I liked and hated about Week Ten:

- 1) The Comeback Win of the Year by Buffalo, which inspired TO's sound bite. The Look Man took the Lone Bengals Fan at the sports bar for a fin, when the score was 28-7. When the LBF opined that the Bengals might score 50 the way they were playing, the Look Man seized the moment by betting the Bisons would win the game. The LBF paid up in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter, walking out the door cussing and shaking his head.
- 2) Browns QB Colt (My Little Pony) McCoy running out of bounds with less than three minutes remaining and the Browns leading Jacksonville. My Little Pony had a bad ankle, but he stole a page out of WR Chanci Stuckey's playbook by not knowing when to stay in and when to go out of bounds. Stuckey's strip fumble when he should've gone out of bounds the week prior against the Jets cost the Browns an OT win. Stuckey had pecan pie as he also went out of bounds inside the three minute mark against J-Ville. Bad coaching is the difference between winning and losing close games.
- 3) Marvin Lewis is now sweating like a dog at a Chinese restaurant about a contract extension. On the other hand, Lewis turned down one offer already, and he may relish a chance to get out of the Nati with no GM, and no prospects.
- 4) Bills QB Ryan (Veritas) Fitzpatrick is The Truth, with 316 passing yards, 4 TDs and a great comeback using bear skins and stone knives. The Truth does have RB Fred Jackson and WR Steve Johnson, soon to be household names outside their own homes.
- 5) Peyton (The Avalanche) Hillis – because he's white and runs downhill. The Avalanche will now replace The Hillis Have Eyes as his official name of the Look Man Report.

- 6) Eli Manning's goofy fumble lost the game for the Jynths last week, and he is beginning to look inept. It's hard to imagine this is the same guy who has a championship ring when you see the way he's playing. The Look Man loved Coughlin's postgame presser, when he talked about the "...cavalier disregard for the football..." costing them games.
- 7) Tampa Bay destroyed the Niners, who are trying to get their coach fired. It's tough to pick games with teams in this mode, and the Vikes, Bengals, Panthers and Jynths all qualify.
- 8) Ndamakong Suh's hair tackle of Marion (the Predator) Barber was flagged, and it cost the Lions the game. Detroit had just scored a safety on a holding call in the endzone, and this penalty provided a first down that made them lose their composure. A 97-yard punt return reflected their lack of concentration at getting hosed by the zebras.
- 9) Bad tackling cost the Broncos and Browns, and it's beginning to be an epidemic in the league. The Helmet to Helmet rule cost Cleveland the Jets game when Santonio Holmes went 37 yards in OT with sixteen ticks left. The safety had to decide whether to blow up Holmes and get fined, or make a tackle. He missed on both counts, much like Brian Dawkins last week against Darren Sproles.

Ball carriers are way too nifty for indecision, and tackling is not practiced in the NFL. Defenders conduct thud drills instead of actual form tackles, and the result is showing itself on the field.

- 10) The firing of Brad (Mr. Potato Head) Childress continued a trend of replacing coaches with guys who got them fired. Leslie Frazier takes over a dysfunctional team that has underachieved, especially on defense, where he had control. Like Jason Garrett, he now assumes control by getting his leader canned, leaving Mr. Potato Head to figure out things to do in Denver when you're dead. *(Note: if you haven't seen this classic movie with Andy Garcia and Christopher Walken, rent it today.)*

Frazier ought to sit Favre, but knows that owner Zygi Wilf needs the Pope in order to sell a new stadium deal. The Vikes are going nowhere fast, and now won't know whether they have a starting QB for 2011. Perhaps they'll be like the Bengals; looking to draft a guy to lead them in the next season.

## THE LOOK AHEAD

The Look Man got jobbed by the zebras on his pool picks the last two weeks. This week, he rebounds courtesy of a nice slate and a short week.

### *New England at Detroit (+6.5) [Turkey Day Special I]*

Detroit QB Shaun Hill, RB Jahvid Best and WR Calvin Johnson would love to prove that Detroit still deserves this Turkey Day spotlight. The defense is banged up, but can play hard and physical. They'll tear your hair out if you let them.

Chowds QB Tom (Zoolander) Brady has a bad foot, so his runway modeling days are over. The Chowds come in after a short week following the key home win over Indy. They'll overlook the Lions and head coach Jim Schwartz on Turkey Day.

Tough call since the Chowds make you beat them instead of beating themselves. The Look Man likes the Lions to go off and send New England back to the pack in the AFC playoff race. Lions cover and win. Lions.

### *New Orleans at Dallas (+3.5) [Turkey Day Special II]*

Dallas would love to post a win here and act as if the playoffs are still possible. New Orleans looks to avenge a 2009 loss when DeMarcus Ware single-handedly tore them apart.

Jason Garrett figures out how to lose in Dallas as well as win. Religious Icons make the Pokes eat Tur-crow-ken...and like it.

#### Cincinnati at Jets (-9) [Turkey Day Special III]

The Nati was looking ahead to this game after posting a two TD lead in the first half against Buffalo. They now look to avenge back-to-back losses to the Jets in the 2009 season, the latter knocking them out of the postseason.

The Jets are winning close games, but they are not consistent. Teams are allowing big plays in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter and the Jets are laughing all the way to the bank.

Look for the Bengos to cover in a close, physical game. Unfortunately, most of the US won't see this one because it's on the NFLN.

#### Carolina at Cleveland (-10)

Eric Mangina and Colt (My Little Pony) McCoy came close to getting their real names back, but after two winnable games that they lost, they continue to be persona non grata for the Look Man. Mangina should be terminated with extreme prejudice at year end, and McCoy needs to build bulk and learn to hit intermediate routes. Looks like another year on the Island of Misfit Teams for Cleveland.

Since the beginning of the year, you just knew Jake (the Man) Delhomme would start this game, and My Little Pony may not really be hurt. Jake wins over the fans with a victory over his former squad, helmed by the eminent Brian St. Pierre. Browns get Tresselized, winning but not covering the ten. Carolina.

#### Philly at Chicago (+3.5)

There's an MVP controversy brewing, because Mike (Ron Mexico) Vick is playing out of his mind. He's taking a lot of punishment when running, and he's facing the Monsters of the Furniture Mart in the Chi.

Chicago is the worst 7-3 team evah, but is winning uncharacteristically by running the ball. Jay (the Knife) Cutler gets picked and abused this week, and former Browns RB Jerome Harrison will have a breakout performance to spare Mr. Mexico. Iggles.

#### Tampa Bay at Baltimore (-7.5)

Tampa Bay is better than advertised, and head coach Raheem Morris is the real deal. He has parlayed a staunch defense with a run game bolstered by the physical LaGarrette Blount. He'll run you over and punch you out afterwards for good measure.

On the other side, there is discontent on the offense in B-More, resulting in a near fistfight on the sidelines between Flacco and WR Derek Mason last week. Flacco wants to go deep but has no vertical receivers.

Put it all together and you have a recipe for an upset. B-More's defense is not as good as the media would have you believe, as demonstrated by The Avalanche's buck forty four rushing a few weeks back. Corn Kings cover and may roll the Ducks on the road. Kings.

#### Jacksonville at NY Giants (-7)

J-Ville's record reflects the strong running of Mo-Jo Drew, and the Jynts look like stiffs without their wideouts. The Jags can be run on, but Ahmad Bradshaw needs to hold on to the rock.

The Look Man wants to take the Jynts, but seven is too much for Jags QB David (The Fugitive) Garrard, who is consistently putting up a 100 passer rating in the fourth quarter. Jags cover.

*Miami at Oakland (-3)*

Tyler Thigpen at QB for Miami?? Grayders roll.

*Kansas City at Seattle (+2.5)*

Pete Carroll has lost this team, and the Baby Backs need to prove they can win on the road. Marshawn Lynch is putting the rock on the ground and Matt (Hair Club for Men) Hasselback looks old and tired. KC covers.

*St. Louise at Denver (-4)*

The Lambs are quietly getting good, and should've beaten the ATL last week. Head coach Steve Spagnuolo was ticked by the lack of zebra love and by a key turnover by rookie QB Bradford.

The Lambs rebound against a moribund Denver offense and cover the spread. Lambs.

*Green Bay at Atlanta (-3) [Game of the Week]*

This should be the Game of the Week, with Matty (Ice) Ryan vs. Aaron (Staff of Moses) Rodgers. These two MVP candidates are tough, but the Dirty Birds are nearly unbeatable at home.

A Falcons win would nearly secure the NFC home field advantage, but the Look Man believes the Lookahead Factor is in play. The ATL plays Tampa next week, and they will be gripping. Cheeseheads upset the Dirty Birds to stay in the hunt for home field. Pack.

*San Diego at Indianapolis (-3)*

Peyton was ticked off by a bad game-ending INT against the Chowds. He returns home to face the hot in November/cold in January Bolts.

Rivers is having an MVP season, but lost yet another wideout in Pat (Crayola) Crayton. Look for Peyton to turn The Drum into Peyton's Place with a win that puts the AFC West in turmoil. Ponies.

## **EPILOGUE**

There are a lot of mediocre teams out there this season, and none of them are world beaters. The Jets have beaten only one team with a record better than .500, and the Chowds have knocked off a couple of good teams.

Even the NFC, which is thought to be weaker, has beaten some good AFC squads in 2010. This season, like the previous handful, will come down to which team gets hot in the stretch. Look out for teams like Tampa Bay and J-Ville, which are running the football well, and will have cold weather success.

Any way you slice it, the final stanza of 2010 is going to be outstanding. The labor talks have heated up, with the NFLPA offering concessions in order to restore labor peace. The Look Man still believes the lockout will occur, but we now have hopes for a 2011 season.

Happy Thanksgiving to one and all.

Peace,

The Look Man