

## THE LOOK MAN REPORT 2011

### Week Five – You Can Call Al

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*DIDN'T want the merger. You were one of a kind.”-- @RealJoeNamath, a tweet from Broadway Joe on the late Raiders owner and CEO Al Davis.*

The death of Raiders owner and NFL icon Al Davis elicited a broad spectrum of reaction last weekend. Whether you loved him or hated him, Davis was the epitome of the classic villain. In an age where Tony Soprano, Hannibal Lecter and Darth Vader are perhaps more popular than their protagonists, Davis did it his way in the NFL for decades. His teams reflected his persona: tough, gritty and fast.

For those who don't really know the history of Davis, his history is the NFL's history. He belongs in The Pantheon, right next to Paul Brown, George Halas, and Vince Lombardi. His contributions as coach, GM and owner extend well beyond 99% of the current stakeholders of the game.

Perhaps Davis' biggest contribution was the merger between the AFL and NFL. Though he felt the upstart AFL was superior to the old school NFL, he bent to pressure from Paul Brown and other AFL owners to support the merger.

The AFL's brand of fast offensive football is more reflective of today's game than the slower, pendulous version that existed previously. Who knows how history might have looked if not for Davis and his big armed QBs throwing to fleet-footed receivers. What we do know is that it wouldn't be the National Pastime.

Davis and the Raiders might have an altogether different history if not for the Tuck Rule game in 2011. His legendary battles with the NFL old guard made the product better, and his recent drafts may yet yield a championship. Though many felt the game passed him by, Al Davis forgot more about football than most ever knew. Just win, Baby.

### **LAGNIAPPE**

The Look Man is headed off to a well-deserved vacation, so we're looking at a truncated LMR this week. Here are five things about Week Five:

- 1) Snap-gate continues with false starts and bad shotgun snaps proliferating across the NFL. Defenses are simulating QB signals and causing teams to jump offsides. IF you watched the Bears-Lions or Bengals-Jags, you witnessed this phenomenon. The NFL needs to get those umpires back behind the defense.
- 2) It's Tebow Time in Denver, and the Donkeys are going to get what they deserve. Instead of trading the Amish Rifle in the offseason, they kept him around, and now he's going to kill their team. Denver has already shopped Pro Bowl WR Brandon Lloyd, who came out in support of Kyle (Foo Fighters) Orton. Now, they're tearing the team apart in midseason to bring in a lefty who can't throw or read defenses. Good luck when Tebow wins four or five games and you have to play him again in 2012.
- 3) The Raiders played an emotional game in Houston following the death of their owner, but the key play was a pick in the end zone courtesy of Texans QB Matt Schaub. Schaub has a history of Romo-esque meltdowns in the clutch, and this one was big.

The Raiders are better than advertised, but you just can't turn it over on the game winning drive. Perhaps Schaub is *Just Good Enough to Get You Beat?*

- 4) The Iggles lost another winnable game when the Bills changed their minds on a fourth and less than one with 1:23 remaining. Everyone watching knew Buffalo was going to attempt to draw the Iggles offside and seal the win. Everyone, that is, except Iggles DT Juqua Parker, who fell for it.

The 1-4 Iggles are a mess and an embarrassment to the term "dream team." Head coach Andy (The Walrus II) Reid is starting to get some well-deserved blame. Michael Vick's four picks were largely due to gifts by his receivers, and Vick is simply trying to make plays with a substandard O-line and horrible play calling.

Meanwhile, The Walrus II is the guy who eschewed a FG with 0:08 seconds remaining, put the O-line coach on defense, and hasn't drafted a decent O-lineman since before the retirement of John Runyan. The Look Man has never liked the lack of offensive patience by the Walrus, whose teams are among the worst every year in 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> down short yardage. The chickens are finally coming home to roost.

- 5) New Orleans safety Roman Harper('s Bizarre) decked Carolina WR Steve (John Jacob Jingleheimer) Smith a full three steps into the end zone last week. Harper was fined fifteen large by the NFL, and it will have future repercussions. Apparently, Harper felt like Smith was showboating en route to the Hizzie: "If you're going to score, go score, but a guy is not going to try and just walk it in on us like that," Harper said. "You're going to have to pay for it as you get past the goal line."

Smith also dismissed the need an apology from Harper "You best believe I'm not looking for an apology. I'm not looking for one, don't think I deserve one," Smith said, according to the Charlotte Observer.

"I didn't lose any sleep over it, won't lose any sleep over it. And when we play them down there I'm not going to walk up to him and say, 'Hey, I expect an apology, or can we make amends?' It's football." The Look Man expects a love fest when the Black Cats play the Religious Icons later this year in the Big Easy.

## **THE LOOK AHEAD**

### *Cleveland at Oakland (-7)*

The Browns will face an emotional Raiders team at home for the first time since the death of Al Davis. Raiders LB/DE Kam Wimbley faces the team that discarded him, and in the perfect irony, he could sack Colt (My Little Pony) McCoy, the guy Cleveland took with the 3rd round pick for Wimbley.

The Raiders are dinged up on defense and the Browns had two weeks to get healthy and prepare. Browns, baby, Browns.

### *Indy at Cincinnati (-7)*

Curtis (House) Painter is at the helm for Indy in what should be a good game. The Bengals have looked tough for a young team, and Joe Addai is out this week. What's odd about this one is the Bengals favored by a TD plus. It's an embarrassment that will not be overlooked by Indy, even though the locals won't even see the game due to yet another TV blackout. Colts cover.

### Dallas at New England (-7)

This contest could be the game of the week. The Look Man likes a healthier Dallas to rebound following its bye week. Dez Bryant and Miles Austin (Powers) are back, and the d-backfield is near full strength.

More importantly, D-Co Rob Ryan beat the Chowds with Cleveland's defense in 2010, so he should be fine with Doomsday Lite under his purview. Of course, half of the Chowds team wears black and white jerseys, so beware. Dallas covers.

### New Orleans at Tampa Bay (+4.5)

The Look Man will be in attendance at his twentieth NFL stadium when Secret Squirrel and the Icons take on the upstart Corn Kings. Tampa was stunned by the Niners last week on the Left Coast, losing 48-3. The Look Man thinks they were looking ahead to this game, and it should be a slobber knocker.

The expectation is Brees vs. Tampa Two, except they don't run much of the Cover Two anymore. Raheem has them playing more bump and run and man, and this should be right up Brees alley.

Hidden stat: Tampa RB LeGarrette Blount is expected to miss the game with a knee, and DT Gerald McCoy may also miss. Brees will carve them up like a Thanksgiving grouper in southwest Florida. Icons.

### Carolina at Atlanta (-4)

The Dirty Birds are starting to look fallible, and Carolina is the Cincinnati of the NFC. Cam Newton has looked great, and Atlanta WR (Me and) Julio Jones is expected to sit with a hammy.

It adds up to Carolina upsetting the Dirty Birds with Cam Newton attacking Atlanta's Cover 2 defense with tight ends Jeremy Shockey and Greg Olsen. Matt Ryan will have to counter with the ground and pound due to the absence of Julio Jones. Carolina in an upset win.

### Minnesota at Chicago (-3.0) Football Night in America

Adrian Petersen owns the Bears, and despite an incredible performance by Jay (The Knife) Cutler last week, the Bears lost a big game.

The Look Man believes the Bears are actually better than advertised, largely because of Cutlery. He makes plays without talented receivers or linemen. In short, he's Donovan McNabb 2.0.

McNabb has a chance to turn his season around on Sunday night. McNabbsty will go deep seam against the pathetic Monsters of the Furniture Mart Cover Two, allowing AP to go off on the draw play. The Bears cover two is so bad that the locals are calling it Pizzeria Due after the Uno's owned franchise.

The Look Man likes the Vikes defense and it will need to be good to make up for the lack of offense in the Twin Cities. Vikes cover.

### Miami at Jets (-7) [Monday Night Football]

The Jets are ripping each other, and the Fish are starting Matt (Dudley) Moore at QB. Sound like a recipe for a blowout? Not to the Look Man.

Division games are typically close, and the Marine Mammals are not happy about this spread. More importantly, the Jets are blowing up from egos after WR Santonio Holmes called out the O-line. Miami covers.

## **EPILOGUE**

There are a lot of odd looking spreads in division matchups in Week Six, and that seems fishy. If the Look Man's record is any indication, Vegas must be getting pounded this season. Be careful betting this week, but there is money to be made.

If nothing else, the games should be entertaining. The Look Man knows of at least one other guy doing an NFL roadie this weekend, and the season is ripe with excitement. It's just the kind of chaos that the late Al Davis would have loved. The autumn wind is still a Raider...

Peace,

The Look Man