

THE LOOKMAN REPORT 2011 **Week Ten – After Further Review**

"I don't even know what football is right now. I don't know what hitting is, I don't know what tackling is, and I've been in this league a long time. I can't tell what's a personal foul or what's anything anymore." -- Oakland coach Hue Jackson, after a win in which Oakland got flagged twelve times for nearly 200 yards

Week Ten featured a number of calls that made the Look Man come out of hibernation. Gresham's foray into the land of Megaton not only didn't pass the eye test for an overturned call, it was absolutely bogus. The unsportsmanlike conduct call on DeSean Jackson may have please Pokes Fan, but it was absolutely a dead ball foul that should have provided a first down.

Both calls changed the outcome of the contests, but the Bengals lost and the Iggles won. Irrespective, the zebras have now taken the game out of the hands of the players and into the realm of WWF. Tack on the outrageous calls in the Jacksonville-Cleveland contest, and you have a real conundrum.

The NFL has already slowed down the game by replaying every scoring play, and allowing Shanahanigans timeouts just before each game deciding FG. They won't allow fans to celebrate spontaneously at the game, but instead turn every play into something requiring further review. Major League Baseball has lost a lot of fans with a slow game, and the NFL is threatening its own future with the same foolishness. Be careful with that golden goose, Goodell. The job you save may be your own.

With further ado, the Week that was.

LAGNIAPPE

Tebow, Schmebo

Denver released QB Kyle Orton this week following the frenzy that is Tim Tebow. T-Squared has become the story in the NFL this season, going 4-1 since becoming the starter. But the real story is not the left handed linebacker in QB clothing, it's the defense.

Denver has earned its 'D' back after stuffing opponents and keeping the games close enough for double T to do his magic. The Jets were the latest victim, but in reality Horsehead Fan is the real loser. It is only a matter of time before teams get enough film to beat the Flaming Floridian. The Jets had only three days to prepare, and only an incredibly bad offensive performance by Mark Sanchize saved the Donkeys.

The Look Man actually likes the suddenly youthful Grayders in the post season, which is ironic after double digit penalties called against them on Sunday. While the Silver and Black is setting records for penalties, half the Denver squad wears black and white jerseys.

There is little question that the zebras are swallowing the whistle when Tebow has the rock in the fourth stanza. If you don't believe that, just compare Tebow's skill versus John Elway, the man who invented the fourth quarter comeback. While Elway (and Favre!) had the zebras helping him late, they pale by comparison to Tebow.

QB Carousels

Matt Cassell, Matt Schaub and Jay (the Knife) Cutler all suffered major injuries in the last two weeks, reinforcing the Look Man's belief that this isn't the Year of the QB. The release of Orton may set up his return to the Windy City. The Foo Fighters lead singer can now return to the team that sent him packing, and he may be their savior. With a solid running game and timely

passing, the Bears could still make the postseason as a wild card. But only if KC passes on Orton.

Mike Vick went Tony Romo with broken ribs, proving once again that taking a lot of hits ultimately results in big time injury. The season has been odd, with Aaron Rodgers playing like he sold his soul to the Devil, and everyone else struggling mightily or hurt.



Tebow is large among Spanish speaking denizens of the Mile High...

ZEBRA OF THE WEEK

The Zebras were working golden time in Week Ten, with Terry (Bottlegate) MacAulay in Cleveland, Ron (A Lyin' in) Winter providing comic relief in B-More and even Mike (Dancin' with the Stars) Carey getting into the act on the Great White Way in New York. Here's the rundown:

J-Ville at Cleveland – Terry (Bottlegate) MacAulay

It says something that Walt Coleman can never officiate another game in Oakland following the Tuck Rule, while Bottlegate MacAulay returns to the scene of the crime for the exact matchup for which he became infamous.

Bottlegate started early with a rarely called offensive PI call on a screen pass. O-linemen typically venture beyond the line while the ball is in the air, but it is never called. Hell, Tebow threw a screen pass that had ice crystals on it while his O-line blocked in the *END ZONE* and escaped a flag.

Bottlegate followed that call with several more, including a FG that wasn't, defensive pass interference on a ball that was tipped at the line. When the smoke cleared, the Browns stuffed the J-Squareds at the one yard line for a 'W' and Bottlegate got out without being pelted by beer bottles or D-cells.

Kansas City at New England – Clete Blakeman

Blakeman called back a key draw play run by Thomas Jones that would've set up the Chiefs based upon a holding penalty. The problem was that a 270 pound TE pancaked a 190 pound WR playing safety. Apparently that is illegal in Boston.

Blakeman also missed an onside kick that was recovered by KC, and several defensive PI calls. When the smoke cleared, the Chowds had another home win, albeit unimpressive.

Cincy at Baltimore– Ron (A Lyin' in) Winter

Winter took the cake with a TD that wasn't after Cincy TE Gresham walked into the end zone and out without getting six. As Fate would have it, Winter also got rolled up in a fumble scrum, coming up bleeding like: (a) a stuck pig, or (b) fellow zebra Gene Steratore.

The penultimate play might've been the hair tackle by Pacman Jones. How in the world is a horse collar tackle unsportsmanlike, but tackling a man by his wig is fair game? The NFL needs to look at itself and fix the rulebook.

Cincy still had a chance to go to OT, but Winter missed a hands to the face call on T-Sizzle Suggs. Suggs also horse collared The Red BB Gun on the play but that is actually legal. QBs are exempt from the horse collar call while in the tackle box.

Ron Winter, you are the Look Man's **Zebra of the Week!**

Iggles at Jynts – Mike (Dancing with the Stars) Carey

Carey gets honorable mention for giving an Iggles defender a palm shiver and calling back a 50-yard catch and run for taunting. The Look Man has never seen DWTS lose his cool, but shoving players is over the top.

What's worse, Carey allowed DeSean Jackson to bump a side judge who called the taunting penalty while lining up for the next play. Jackson should've been ejected, but then the Iggles couldn't have covered and won.



Ron Winter (14) looking for loose change in the middle of the scrum

THE LOOK AHEAD

Miami at Dallas (-7) [the Leon Lett Bowl] Turkey Day Special

Dallas has come back strong with the rib health of Tony (The Place for Ribs) Romo. What concerns the Look Man is the lack of discipline, with D-Co Rob Ryan and Tony Romo stealing the show from head coach Jason Garrett. Miami is playing great, and Tony Sparano returns to the place that let him go in favor of Garrett. Marine Mammals in a surprise.

Green Bay at Detroit (-6) Turkey Day Special

The Lions have struggled with immaturity while the Pack has looked invincible. Granted, Aaron Rodgers is playing lights out, but for some reason, the Look Man thinks the points are too much for a division opponent with a physical defense. Problem is, the Lions secondary is not good. Still, seven points in a division game?

Here's another thing: Matt Stafford has taken to wearing two gloves. Show the Look Man a hurler who wears gloves in a dome, and he'll show you a prima donna.

Lions cover, setting up a little slide by the Cheeseheads, who may have peaked too soon.

Cleveland at Cincy-- the Battle of Ohio Part Deux(-7.5)

The Look Man believes Peyton (The Avalanche) Hillis has played his last game for the Browns, and it's anyone's guess whether AJ Green plays for the Bengals. Still, it's the Battle of Ohio, and a divisional contest, so sparks will fly.

The Look Man is pulling out all of his mojo for this one. There's only one way to beat the Bengals, and it's the no huddle that keeps the eighteen D-linemen off the field.

Here's the real deal: the Bengals are actually entertaining for the first time in a decade. This Dalton kid may look like Penn State's Mike McQueary, but he plays like Roman Gabriel. When they pick up some depth with the picks for Carson Palmer, they are going to be a contender. For now, they're still young and learning how to win. Browns, baby, Browns...to cover.

Chicago at Oakland (-5)

If you haven't seen Carson Palmer lately, you're missing a show. Mr. Tonight Show is putting a solid running game with some serious vertical. They were solidly beating the Vikes' ass before the zebras got involved to make it close.

Look for the announcer to yell, "Here's Johnny!" as the Grayders beat the Monsters of the Furniture Mart en route to winning the AFC West. Grayders.

Jynts at New Orleans (-7) [Monday Night Football]

Drew (Cool) Brees is looking solid, and the Religious Icons play fantastic in the Dome. Especially on Monday Night, when the freaks come out and make some noise. The Superdome is the toughest home field advantage in the NFL, and the Icons beat the Jynts like Mike McQueary. Icons.

EPILOGUE

The postseason is beginning to take shape, and the AFC is looking like the more interesting of the conferences. The Look Man still can't see the Pack going undefeated, and it might lose on Thanksgiving. The rest of the pack is simply battling for momentum.

The final quarter of the season is about to get underway, and QB injuries are a big part of the final puzzle. If teams can use backups to get through, that means that they have mature running games that work well in cold weather. And cold weather is playoff weather.

By the way, Dallas, Oakland and Frisco all have mature running games. Just sayin'.

Peace,

The Look Man