

## **THE LOOKMAN REPORT 2012**

### **Week Three – Mutual of Omaha’s Wild Kingdom**

*"Good evening, men. It's good to be back." - Referee (Mean) Gene Steratore's greeting to the captains of the Cleveland Browns and Baltimore Ravens for the pre-game coin toss.*

The Look Man isn't one to say he told you so...actually, he is. He predicted in Week One that an officiating catastrophe would happen in the next two weeks. The Monday Night Miasma would definitely qualify.

The week that started with a furor over the crazy call in the Pack-Shehawks Monday nighter culminated with the return of the Equids. Over \$200 million changed hands on that one play and the league may have to start looking for a new Commish. Maybe that's not a bad thing...

The Zebra Lockout ended this week with a spectacular coming out party in Baltimore. Mean Gene Steratore and company acquitted themselves nicely in a Thursday Night special featuring Cleveland 2.0 vs. Cleveland. The Bad Guys won the contest, but the officiating was crisp, and the game went off without hitches.

The NFL has now lost battles on multiple fronts: (1) they were unable to make the Bountygate suspensions stick, (2) they were publicly humiliated in their attempt to run the show with scab refs, and (3) the real zebras crushed them at the negotiating table, getting everything they wanted. Roger (Rabbit) Goodell is now 1-3, a wounded animal licking his wounds.

The sad part of this story is that the NFL is a multi-billion dollar machine that has drunk too much of its own Kool-Aid. They don't care about player safety, even though they make rules aimed at enforcement. They don't embrace the brutality of the game, hoping instead to make it a finesse-filled offensive video game. Each time they are faced with a decision, they choose poorly, like the Nazi in Indiana Jones and the Holy Grail.

With further ado, the Week that was.

### **ZEBRA OF THE WEEK**

When is a touchdown not a touchdown? Don't ask the replacement zebras!

The Sunday nighter between the Chowds and the Ravens was enough to make Bill (Dr. Evil) Belichick go postal, grabbing an official and lightening his wallet by 50 large. Dr. Evil felt that the game winning FG was wide right, but the PI call that led up to it was nearly as bad.



*"TOUCH-back???"*

The Look Man has no love lost for Belicheat, but that game was almost as big a robbery as the *Simultaneous Reception* in Coffeetown the following night.



*"Hey buddy, ever heard of a game called football??!"*

## **LAGNIAPPE**

### Angels with dirty faces?

A Victoria's Secret lingerie outlet is opening in the Taj Mah-Jones, just before the Pokes take on Chicago on Monday Night Football. The Pokes have been the vanguard of NFL marketing, taking their share of the loot. Previous deals with Pepsi and Nike have been very lucrative, and this should add to the till.

"Well, we've got some beautiful places out at that stadium, some gorgeous surroundings, and nothing would be nicer than to have the showing of pretty clothes," said Pokes GM Jerry (The King of Pop) Jones. "I like to wear pretty things underneath, so I might even buy something for me."

Victoria's Secret recently partnered with other sports franchises, but this is the first store inside a stadium. The Pokes are planning to install a hidden camera in the dressing room, and they are going to push the video out on the JumboTron at halftime.

Well maybe the Look Man made up that last item, but the Jones quote is legit.

### Sanchize and the Coug?

Jets QB Mark Sanchez has struck up a relationship with 37-year-old actress Eva Longoria, and like most celebrity QB relationships, it seems to be affecting his play. Sanchize opened the season with an offensive explosion, but he has fizzled in subsequent games.

When asked about the Jets QB's relationship on the Dan Patrick Show, Pack LB Clay Mathews opined, "I don't know. He must like the cougs."

The Look Man's theory is that Tebow will destroy the Jets chemistry, and cause the termination of (Sexy) Rex Ryan. After the NY media clamor for Tim Terrific this week, the Look Man might have yet another prediction come true before long.

The Look Man isn't a big fan of QBs dating celebrities, but in Sanchize's situation, Longoria might be worth it. Of course after this week, Sanchize may have plenty of time for long, romantic walks in Central Park.



*"Come back to bed Mark. I'm lonely."*

## **THE LOOK AHEAD**

### *Chowds at Buffalo (+4)*

Belicheat's Boyz head to Crapchester to take on the always scrappy Bisons. Look for the Chowds to bounce back strong after losing a heartbreaker in B-more courtesy of the replacement zebras. Buffalo sees the return of RB Fred (Sanford) Jones, but until (Super) Mario Williams records some sacks, this defense struggles. Chowds.

### *Hornheads at Detroit (-4)*

Cadillacs' QB Matt Stafford suffered his annual season-threatening injury last week on a pick six, while the Hornheads surprised the Niners at the Baggiedome. Look for the Hornheads to get on a roll and run over and through the porous Lions defense. A few more weeks of this and the team is going to have to change it's no to the Etroit Lions (no "D"). Hornheads.

### *Niners at Jets (+4)*

Niners, and Tebow gets his leg broken. Nuff said.

### *Bolts at KC (Even)*

Don't look now, but the Baby Backs are starting to look like a solid team. They struggled early, but knocked off the Religious Icons in the Big Easy last week on the strength of 255 rushing yards by RB Jamal Charles (Dickens).

It's the best of times and the worst of times for Bolts head coach Norv Turner, who is about to win the lifetime achievement award for underachievement. Norv will get a copy of the home game as his trophy. KC.

### Cincy at J-Ville (+2)

The Nati is winning ugly, living up to their Ugly and Black moniker. In successive weeks, they put up an early score and hung on to win. Part of this is good offensive scouting and play calling, like last week's wildcat bomb by rookie WR Mohammad Sanu to AJ Green(sleeves). The other part is bad defense, giving up an average of 27 points per week.

Look for the J-Squareds to stun the Bungals with a strong running game and just enough passing to win. Maurice (Mo-Jo) Jones-Drew is a bowling ball with butcher knives, and the Nati always struggles against this kind of runner. J-Ville in a minor upset as the Nati returns to earth.

### Saints at Packers (-7.5)

New Orleans is struggling mightily without head coach Sean (Secret Squirrel) Payton. QB Drew (Cool) Brees is trying to do too much, and the loss of offensive and defensive depth is hurting them late in games.

The Cheeseheads struggle once a year against good defensive coordinators on the road. They lost a crusher last year in KC to Romeo (the Bus Driver) Crennel, their sole loss in the regular season.

Look for the Cheese to rise, keeping the Religious Icons winless at 0-4. Go, Pack, go.



*Saints GM Mickey Loomis and Head Coach Sean Payton*

### Jynts at Iggles (-2) [Football Night in America]

This football Night in America special looks like a donnybrook on paper. In reality, Iggles QB Michael (Ron Mexico) Vick is about to be benched for a 3<sup>rd</sup> rounder Nick Foles. Mr. Mexico is giving it up like a cheerleader on barbiturates, with nine turnovers in the first three weeks. Even Tony (Skeleton) Dungy can't defend Vick's antics at this point, but he will try.

The Jynts defense is up and down, but Eli Manning is an elite QB. Eli looks and plays fantastic in the fourth stanza, lighting it up for 287 yards in a half last week. Eli is even more unstoppable on the road, which is an oddity akin to Lou Gehrig dying of Lou Gehrig's disease.

The Look Man likes the Jynts in this one, setting the stage for the rest of the NFC Beast, including the Pokes on Monday Night. Jynts.

### Bears at Cowboys (-3.5) [Monday Night Football]

This marquee matchup occurs one night after the Jynts-Iggles tilt, and promises to be a good one. While everyone is talking about Jay (the Knife) Cuter(y) versus Tony Romo (The Place for Ribs), this game actually comes down to offensive lines. Both teams have pedestrian blocking, and both quarterbacks are counting their ribs after each contest.

The difference is talent level. Without a healthy Matt Forte at RB, Chicago couldn't score on Lindsay Lohan with a pound of coke. Look for the Pokes to go Coleco on the Monsters of the Furniture Mart, prompting "same old Jay" to become Surly Boy. Pokes cover and win.



*"What's on the menu tonight – Jay-bird? Hey, check out that dressing room!"*

## **EPILOGUE**

The first quarter of the season is about over, and we've had some wild finishes, and offensive seplisions. The 2012 season is getting good, with only the Browns and New Orleans failing to get in the win column.

Half of the teams in the NFL are within striking distance of the division leaders, and Seattle and Arizona are surprise teams. Both teams are winning with defense and just enough offense to win. If history stands, at least two of the 2011 playoff teams will be knocked out of this year's tournament. It's not who's hot now, it's who finishes hot that determines the Lombardi winner.

Peace,

The Look Man