

THE LOOKMAN REPORT 2012

Week Five – Quarter Pole Plus One

"Nope. They is still using human beings." -- Minnesota defensive end Jared Allen, when asked if he was being blocked differently this year than in the past.

Week Five of the NFL 2012 NFL season came and went without incident. Mark Sanchez of the Jets still has his job despite losing in ignominious fashion to Houston. Cutler beat Romo in Big D, pushing Pokes Fan to the limit. The Chowds beat Peyton Manning in Foxboro. And the Browns lost another game to fall to 0-5.

Browns Fan is the on the ledge, but The Look Man isn't too worried. QB Brandon Weeden may be 29 years old, but he's still a rookie. More importantly, the Browns went up 14-0 on the world champion Jynths before bowing out, largely due to a string of BS calls at the 3:46 mark of the 2nd quarter. As long as they show improvement, the Look Man is happy, and all is right with the NFL.

The Look Man isn't exactly setting the world on fire with his picks, but there are some quality wins. Those wins contribute to the Look Man's war chest for NFL road games even though they are published "for amusement purposes only." Now that we've passed the quarter pole plus one, expect those picks to be more accurate and useful if you know what the Look Man is saying.

With further ado, the Week that was.

ZEBRA OF THE WEEK

The Look Man has no ZOTW award this week, as the honeymoon is still on for the Real Zebras. There was however a funny play in the Browns-Jynths game where QB Brandon Weeden threw two passes in a single play.

Weeden caught a rejected pass and threw a TD, only to have the zebras tell him it was illegal to do so. The Look Man enjoyed the quick witted athleticism, but wondered why the zebras did not enforce the loss of down on the illegal forward pass violation.



Can you count to two?

By the by, Weeden is actually 2nd among rookie QBs in yardage, and ahead of Peyton Manning's rookie pace. He is going to be a good one if Browns Fan just gives him time to simmer. Of course, if he keeps making turnovers, he might have join Jon Pickna in the bakery business.

The zebras are still screwing up, including clock stoppages outside of the five minute mark for each half, and bad spots. Irrespective, it is still superior to the clowns the NFL attempted to foist on us at the outset.

LAGNIAPPE

30 for 30

If you haven't seen ESPN's award winning 30 for 30 series, you're missing out. These films are directed by incredible auteurs, and the material is sensational. The series has just returned with two stellar productions: *Broke*, the story of how 78% of NFL retirees are bankrupt within five years, and *9.79**, a retelling of the Seoul Olympics disgrace of Canadian sprinter Ben Johnson. If you haven't seen the previous episodes, do yourself a favor. If you're missing the new stuff -- don't.

Broke Bozo

Speaking of broke, former Dallas Cowboys Super Bowl-winning coach Barry Switzer is among the alleged victims of a Ponzi scheme run by Hall of Fame football coach Jim Donnan. Donnan and his partner are accused of cheating investors collectively out of \$80 million. Those investors include former Pokes head coach Barry (Bozo the) Switzer, and former Stillers LB Kendrell Bell, among many others.

Donnan is remembered as a coach at Marshall University and the University of Georgia, and he was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in 2009. Donnan also worked as a talking hairdo for the Four Letter Network, before pocketing \$7.4 million in this latest Bernie Madoff.

The Look Man sought out Bozo the Switzer for an interview, but the coach declined, saying he didn't have time to talk, and that he was busy eating a hot dog.



"How 'bout dem hot dawgs?!!"

The Godfather, Part IV

The NFL re-instated the suspensions of the former New Orleans players involved in Bountygate this week after a federal judge questioned the commissioner's power to levy such penalties. Each of the players received a reduced suspension, except for Jonathan Vilma, who is still out for the season.

One such player, Browns LB Scott (Kodachrome) Fujita, had his suspension reduced from three games to one. Kodachrome was happy until Roger (Rabbit) Goodell had the temerity to attach a letter chiding Fujita for not standing up to his coaches for player safety. In the letter, Rabbit said he expected more from the team's NFL Union Rep,

Fujita responded as follows:

"For the league and the Commissioner, it's about perception and liability. The Commissioner says he is disappointed in me. The truth is, I'm disappointed in him. He failed to acknowledge a link between concussions and post-career brain disease, pushed for an 18-game regular

season, committed to a full season of Thursday night games, has continually challenged players' rights to file workers compensation claims for on-the-job injuries, and he employed incompetent replacement officials for the start of the 2012 season.

"My track record on the issue of player health and safety speaks for itself. And clearly, as I just listed, the Commissioner's does, too."

The Look Man really likes Fujita, and it's clear that the Browns LB is taking the hard line on this topic. What's clearer is that the Commish is attempting to punish the non-union coaches and GM while exacting an additional pound of flesh at the players' expense. As Master Po of Kung Fu fame once said, "It is wrong to punish an old man twice for the same crime."

The bounty system exists on every team in the NFL in some form, and the owners want to hide behind safety and compensation to implement discipline. Goodell rose from NFL gofer to its highest office, and he has an inferiority complex that makes him want ultimate power. In truth, he will always be on the outside looking in to the wealthy and powerful.



Starring Roger Rabbit as Michael Corleone

A Boy Named Suh?

Detroit DT Ndamukong (A Boy Named) Suh is in trouble again after being accused of sideswiping a car, leaving the scene of an accident, and then berating the driver Thursday morning. The debacle occurred near the Lions' practice facility, and led to further concerns that Suh's juicing has resulted in another roid rage episode.

"As we're going up the ramp, he just punched it, went right around me. ... He just sideswiped me," said Steve Vines, the victim. Vines followed Suh to practice bringing the police with him. Suh denied the allegations, indicating that Vines was at fault. "Don't make me stomp on your arm like I did that Packers O-lineman," yelled Suh. "Just look at the side of my Chrysler 300! I advise you to leave."



Suh before the accident

The po-po are investigating the accident, and it is unclear whether Suh will be cited. What is clear is that controversy seems to follow the young DT. Head coach Jim Schwartz wouldn't comment on the allegations, but he did tell the Look Man, "Suh is a kid with a big motor and high character. I'm sure all of this will work itself out." Schwartz added, "Of course, given his poor performance in 2012, Vines may be the first person Suh has hit all year."

THE LOOK AHEAD

Cincy at Cleveland (+1) [The Battle of Ohio Part Deux]

The Nati went down like free beer last week at Palt Bearer Stadium, courtesy of rookie QB Ryan Tannehill and the Marine Mammals. Tannehill managed the game surprisingly well, and the offense of the Ugly and Black disappeared at crunch time.

The Bengals tend to get too far out over their skis after winning a few in a row, and now face a hungry 0-5 Cleveland team. And by hungry, the Look Man means they might even be willing to eat some of that nasty Cincinnati "chili."

Look for the Browns to run the ball right down the gullet of Rey Mauluga, passing first to set up the run. If head coach Pat (Not Fritz) Shurmur is smart, he'll open with a few deep balls just to loosen up the defense, and then let Trent (T-Rich) Richardson eat.

The Look Man predicted the Nati would come back to Earth against J-Ville, but it was one week too soon. That and the fact that QB Blaine Gabbert stinks on ice. Browns win the Battle of Ohio, Part Deux, making them 1-5, and only three games out of first in the AFC North. Browns, baby, Browns.

Dallas at B-More (-3.5)

Tony Romo (The Place for Ribs) got torched by the media for throwing five picks against Chicago, but the Look Man saw it differently. The Ribs King threw to receivers that didn't know their routes or couldn't catch a cold naked in Alaska, resulting in two picks. He had one in traffic that was really a fumble, and he threw two in garbage time, attempting to pull the team out of the fire.

Now the Look Man has a rule that says, "QB throws three picks, and he's gonna be sitting next to me on the pine." However, Romo's third was only after the game had been decided, so the Look Man is giving him a pass.

Here's who doesn't get a pass: Ray (Ray) Lewis, who is so old and so slow that all of his tackles are four to seven yards downfield. Ray-Ray has lost a lot of weight to gain speed, and it ain't working. While he is faster, offensive linemen are putting him on roller skates.

Look for the Pokes to do the same on Sunday, focusing again on the running game to Romo's benefit. The Look Man likes the Pokes in a little upset, largely because Rex will give brother Rob Ryan the skinny on how to beat his former team. Pokes cover and win.



Sexy Rexy giving and getting the skinny

Chowds at Seattle (+3.5)

Here's a weird factoid: Tom (Zoolander) Brady has never played a game in Seattle. The NFL rotates the schedule, with each team playing each other every four years. Somehow, Belicheat and the Chowds always get an easy schedule.

This game might qualify but the Shehawks are actually ranked first in total defense. They feature some ginormous defensive backs, including a 240 pound safety that runs like a deer, and two corners that are six footers. The Blue Man Group actually has the horses to match up with Gronkowski and Welker.

This game should be closer than the spread, except for one thing: Belichick going against a rookie QB. Still, the Look Man likes the underdog, or under hawk, in this case. Take the Shehawks and the points since the Chowds were pretty up for Peyton and Company last week at home. Also, because Seattle's new fluorescent unis are the coolest in the NFL. 'Hawks.

Jynts at Niners (-7)

The Niners are sure to want revenge for the G-Men unceremoniously knocking them out of the postseason. Head coach and noted a-hole Jim Harbaugh was already counting his chickens when Eli and Big Blue sent them fishing.

This time the G-Men are absent a few key receivers, and the Niners picked up Mario Manningham and Brandon Jacobs to steal the playbook. Revenge is on the mind of Harbaugh, demonstrated by a polysyllabic diatribe issued to Jynts OC Kevin Gilbride this week.

But not so fast, my friend; Eli Manning is actually better on the road than at home, and after coming out flat against Cleveland in the New Meadowlands, Eli rallied the troops for a decisive win. Eli is the best road QB in the NFL today. Bar none.

Here's the deal: Niners win, but G-Men cover. Jynts.

Packers at Houston (-3) [Football Night in America]

There's something about a three point road dog that the Look Man just loves. He doesn't love it as much as a double digit division dog, but close.

The Cheeseheads struggle against good defensive coordinators on the road. But this game is against Wade (Capt Kangaroo) Phillips and Houston, who's D has been something special this season. They came up huge last week in the Big Apple, punishing the Jets, and slapping down Sanchize's passes like wild.

This week, the Slim Shadies have to go without LB Brian (Peter) Cushing, whose play typically creates sci-fi nightmares for opponents. Cush was the victim of a cheap shot hit by Jets OG Matt Slauson, and is out for the year with an ACL.

The Look Man likes the Pack to go back to its running roots courtesy of RB James Starks. Mike McCarthy will roll Aaron (A-Rodge) Rodgers out of the pocket to avoid the pounding. In return, A-Rodge is going to discount double check his way to a 'W', or at least cover the FG. Pack in a little upset.



"Are you a dancer?"

Denver at Bolts (Even) [Monday Night Football]

For some odd reason, the Bolts defense owns Peyton (The Sheriff) Manning. The Sheriff has always struggled there, and Sunday won't be any different. Maybe it's simply two road games back to back, but look for the suddenly resurgent Bolts to continue to try and save head coach Norv Turner's job. Bolts take the coin flip.

EPILOGUE

We're a week past the quarter pole of the season, and no one has really burst out with the exception of Houston. A number of teams are within a game of .500, and the Look Man is hearing the 'parity' word. Perhaps the real reason is these awful Thursday Night Football games on the NFLN.

Not only is the TNF theme song and pre-game production by C-Lo Green awful, the games have stunk on ice, and it ain't even cold yet. Perhaps Roger Rabbit and his cronies need to pull the stick back on teams playing two games in the space of four days. Guys are barely ambulatory, and the NFL has them traveling for prime time.

The Look Man can't name one road winner on these TNF games in 2012. Perhaps there is one, but the quality of the football has been putrid. Luckily, few are even watching this farce.

Peace,

The Look Man