

THE LOOKMAN REPORT 2012

Week Eighteen – Mild Card Weekend

"Hail to the (racist name deleted)! Hail vic-to-ry. (Racist name deleted) on the (racial stereotype deleted)! Fight for all Dee Ceee!" - Mike Freeman of cbssports.com, on the Washington fight song at FedEx Field.

The Wild Card Week went thud after three games that were awful, and one epic battle. Sometimes 'tis better to start from the end than the beginning and that is true here. The Seattle Washington game was incredible, with the Genocide Victims starting like a house afire. They scored fourteen unanswered before the Seahawks opened up a can of whoopass the size of Rock Creek Park.

When the smoke cleared, the Look Man's tome on Mike (The Rat) Shanahan proved true. The Rat started Robert Griffin III in hopes that Bob could get DC to the next round. He finished with Bob in tatters, tearing a knee, and looking pedestrian in the process.

The Blogosphere went wild, crushing The Rat for his decision making. A Multi-Colored Fish Wrap article quoted team orthopedist and world renowned surgeon Dr. James Andrews:

"I've been a nervous wreck letting him come back as quick as he has. He's doing a lot better this week, but he's still recovering and I'm holding my breath because of it. He passed all the tests and all the functional things we do, but it's been a trying moment for me, to be honest with you."

Andrews went on to tell the Look Man, "Coach Shanahan insisted that we couldn't show up on Sunday with our backup QB, who happens to be Caucasian. In a Chocolate City like DC, that would've caused a race riot."

Not sure what happened behind the scenes in Washington, but the Seahawks prevailed, with Pete (Lewis) Carroll outcoaching The Rat. Perhaps more importantly, Bob Griffin had surgery this week and could miss substantial time in 2013, courtesy of The Rat. Afterwards, Shanahan did his best Jimmy Cagney impression, saying the move was "...a gut decision." Ironic, because catgut is what is now holding Griffin's knee together.

Without further ado, the Week that Was:

LAGNIAPPE

Celebrity Girlfriend Alert

The mythical national championship was played last week, and the game was a dog, with Bama beating the Fighting Irish like they stole something. The real story was broadcast analyst Brent Musberger, who went way over the top in describing Bama QB AJ McCarron's girlfriend, Katherine Webb. Musberger really freaked out co-host Kirk Herbstreit, who noticed a lump in Brent's pants.

The Look Man ain't hating, because Dude was right: God didn't make any mistakes on McCarron's girl.

The aftermath of Musberger's comments was the obligatory apology from the Four Letter Network. These guys have apologized more times of late than a Baptist preacher who stole the collection pot and moved to California (really happened!). They've also fired or suspended a number of folks, the latest being Rob Parker for his "cornball brother" episode with Bob Griffin.

The best part of the story was that Webb was actually flattered, and McCarron didn't get upset. That is, until Arizona Deadbirds DE Darnell Dockett tweeted Webb his telephone number and

suggested they meet after the game. The Bama QB responded, telling Dockett, "(hash)betterkeepdreaming like the rest of these dudes."



Make a blind man talk about seeing again...

Cannibalistic Human Underground Dwellers

The Look Man is pretty happy with the Browns' head coaching choice, Rob (Chud) Chudzinski. Not only does Chud fit in well with Cleveland's ethnic heritage, he has done a fine job with Cam Newton, Derek Anderson and Phillip Rivers. Chud is also formerly a TE coach, and the TE is the QB's best friend.

The other benefits are interesting. Chud will be bringing in Norv Turner's son, a coaching protégé from Carolina. If Norv's boy comes, Norv might also be named OC in Cleveland. Turner made Troy (Boy) Aikman in Dallas, and he can really help Brandon Weeden in C-Town.

The Look Man believes the Browns went with Chud for another reason: most coaches wouldn't accept keeping D-Coordinator Dick Jauron, who has crafted a fine 4-3 defense with the available talent. The Browns have a weak LB corps, so the switch to the 3-4 would set them back two years. Keeping Jauron means a top ten defense, especially if the offense can quit doing the 1-2-3-punt routine. That cha-cha wears out a defense, as fatigue makes cowards of even the best of us.



Getty Images

Zombie Apocalypse?

Look for continued growth by rookie QB Brandon Weeden and WR Josh (Flash) Gordon in 2013. Also, be on the lookout for any partially eaten human remains in Berea. Chud may be the first wave of the Zombie Apocalypse.

Wrong Ryan Fired?

The Pokes fired D-Co Rob Ryan this week, essentially blaming R-Squared for not making the postseason. The Look Man hates this type of scapegoating, especially since Ryan played the majority of the year without his starting ILB Sean (Bruce) Lee, NT Jay (Silent Bob) Ratliff, and a healthy DeMarcus Ware. And that doesn't even include the backup NT killing a linebacker in a DUI.

All Big Rob did was take backup nose tackles and turn a 3-4 defense into a modified 4-3 on the fly. Dallas' defensive rank actually improved under Ryan, yet Jerrah (the King of Pop) Jones canned him. The real question is not who will replace Ryan, but how will a cap challenged Cowpokes team fill all of the holes on its O-line.

The Look Man is curious what Tailpipe GB Shaw has to say on this topic. GB is a Poke Fan Number One, but The King of Pop's actions of late have been, shall we say, erratic. Folks have even gone so far as to venture that Jason Garrett's job is still in jeopardy, which would make him the ninth head coach to get canned this season. If the Rex Ryan Tattoo-gate proliferates, we could make it a metric milestone.



Cuckolded by his QB?

THE LOOK AHEAD

The Look Man was fo-fo-fo in Wild Card Week, including a nice upset by the Seahawks. This week the Divisional Payoff round features another Saturday doubleheader. Once more into the breach...old...friends...

Baltimore at Denver (-9.5)

The Dumpster Ducks beat the snot out Andy Luck and the Colts in Ray (Ray) Lewis' last home game in B-More. Can they follow up with a road win at Mile High against Peyton (The Sheriff) Manning and the Donkeys? The Look Man sees an X-factor here.

B-More Offensive Coordinator Jim (JC) Caldwell coached Manning to his last trip to the Super Bowl, where the Sheriff lost to the Religious Icons. Caldwell will call on his messianic powers to inspire the Duck defense. JC knows what the Sheriff likes and doesn't like. His insight will have a dramatic effect – on the total points.

With NT Haloti Ngata and the rest of the B-More defense banged up, the Donkeys will run at will. Knowshon Moreno put up a buck fifty last time, and if they're smart, it'll be more this week. Not to mention the fact that former Dumpster Duck Willis McGahee is back on the active roster at RB.

The Sheriff is rested and ready, and despite the fact that he doesn't play well historically in the postseason, he and the Donkeys will beat Flacco and the Ducks. The last game was a lot closer than the final score indicated; with a goal line pick six by the Donkeys creating a 14 point swing and a 17-0 halftime advantage.

The Sheriff is aptly named, and this could be one of his final runs at the Lombardi. He wants it badly, and he needs the money. He has a lot of pizzas to pay for courtesy of his Papa John Pizza giveaway.

The NFL badly wants Tom Brady vs. the Sheriff in the AFC Championship. The Look Man believes the Donkeys win with some help from the Zebras, but B-More definitely covers the nine point five. B-More.

Green Bay at Frisco (-2.5)

Another game, another great matchup. The Pack is back, and the Niners have shown some recent chinks in their armor. This game is so big the announcers might even figure out how to pronounce the Frisco QB's last name.

Niners DT Justin (Dr. Zachary) Smith has a torn triceps, and DE Alden Smith is nicked up as well. IF the Niners are forced to blitz to bring heat on Aaron Rodgers, they're in big trouble. A-Rodge will Discount Double Check them to death if they even try.

On the other hand, the Pack gets DB Charles Woodson back just in time. The Niners haven't bothered to introduce Kaepernick and all-World TE Vernon Davis, so Woodson is free to play monster back. Look for him to spy on the Niners QB, forcing bad throws and turnovers. No one in Tiletown is losing sleep over the Frisco receivers.

The Look Man likes the Pack to cover and win here, setting up a rematch of the Green Bay-Seattle MNF game that ended the Zebra Strike of 2012. As Fate would have it, a Green Bay and Seattle wins this weekend would make that happen. Since Green Bay won the division, the rematch would be a Flambeau in subzero conditions. Pack.



"RODGERS!!!"

Houston at New England (-9.5)

The Chowds historically play fast and well in the Divisional Playoffs following a bye week. Everyone assumes they will pound Houston like they did in the regular season. Not so fast, my friends.

Houston D-Co Wade Phillips is still smarting from that one, but he might have learned some lessons. For one, he knows he needs to cover Wes Welker, and keep that little RB Danny Woodhead. Woodhead is a human priapism, who is small enough to get lost in the big uglies.

Unfortunately for Wade, he has no one to cover all of the Chowds offensive weapons. This game will be closer than the points, but Houston will not be embarrassed. Houston covers, Chowds win, setting up the AFC Championship.

Seattle at Atlanta (-1)

Pete (Lewis) Carroll has taken this 'Hawks team further than anyone imagined, and we will get to see just how far down the rabbit hole goes this weekend. The irony is that Matty Ice plays better on the road than at home, and if he loses this game, he will be painted with the broad brush of "can't win the Big Game." Kinda reminds you of Peyton Manning's early years don't it?

Atlanta is under a tremendous pressure to win. The bye week may have helped them with rest, but their timing was not good down the stretch. If the Zebras let the Seahawks DBs play physical, watch out. Roddy White, (Me and) Julio Jones and Tony Gonzalez do not match up well with Brandon Browner, Richard Sherman and Cam Chancellor.

The Look Man likes the 'Hawks to stay on a roll here. Zebras typically don't get too flag happy in the Divisional round, and the Dirty Birds are not multi-dimensional. Hawks cover and win to set up a nice NFC Championship game.

EPILOGUE

The Divisional Playoffs remind us anyone can get into the mix. Seattle wasn't a playoff team in 2011, but they could appear in the Conference Championship after only two years under Carroll. The Browns could turn this thing around in 2013, and really need to do so quickly or risk losing the fan base.

Cleveland Fan used to be among the most knowledgeable in the league, but all of the losing is taking its toll. Maybe Chud is the next Mike Tomlin or John Harbaugh?

Peace,

The Look Man