

THE LOOKMAN REPORT 2012

Week XXI – Straight Cash, Homey

“He’s Randy Moss. If you burned someone deep, you got ‘Moss’d.’ That’s all we said growing up. That was the term.” — Torrey Smith, Ravens wide receiver, on Randy Moss

The Look Man missed the Championship Week recap owing to work demands, but he’s back for the ultimate contest this week. It’s not a moment too soon, because Super Bowl XLVII is a matchup between two of the most physical defenses since the '85 Bears. The matchup of Baltimore and Frisco is one for the Ages.

The hot team in the NFL has won the last five Lombardi trophies, but both of these teams are in that category. The Niners got on a roll by benching QB Alex Smith and installing the Read Option Offense under an inked-up young superstar in Colin Kaepernick. The Dumpster Ducks survived a sub-zero trip to Mile High courtesy of a 70-yard Hail Mary, parlaying the momentum into an emotional win over hated rival New England.

We can count on a good game on Sunday, and the Look Man is really stoked. The 2012 NFL season has been the Year of the QB, and Kaepernick and Flacco won’t disappoint. If nothing else, the back story of Flacco in a free agent year playing for caish is contrasted by Kaepernick and his \$700K minimal salary. Any way you slice it, this game is going to be special.

LAGNIAPPE

The Chronic

Randy (The Chronic) Moss has always been a Look Man favorite. His on-field accomplishments are diminished only by his antics, making him an NFL Rain Main. Moss, a former Marshall University teammate of Chad Pennington, quickly dominated the NFL as a Hornhead wideout. He may have lost a step after 14 seasons, but when you start off with a 4.25 forty, you have a step to lose.

Moss’ career flamed out courtesy of a lack of discipline, and he appeared in the Super Bowl XLVI loss to the Jynts. Sunday’s game may represent the last opportunity to get a ring for one of the greatest receivers of all time.

Moss has a checkered history that is well chronicled. Here are a few samples of “Randy being Randy:”

Speed kills

”He took a wide receiver screen — a 2-yard pass at the line of scrimmage — and he smoked the fastest player on our team, Samari Rolle, for a 60-yard touchdown. I’d never seen anything like it. He caught a screen pass, and then, on a dead sprint — just burned right past our fastest guy. “— Eddie George, former NFL RB

Ten Large?

After being fined \$10K for ‘fake mooning’ the crowd at Flambeau Field:

Reporter: “Write the check yet, Randy?”

Moss: “When you’re rich you don’t write checks.”

Reporter: “If you don’t write checks, how do you pay these guys?”

Moss: “*Straight cash, homey.*”

Private Parts

“I heard one time that this actor I knew smoked weed with Francis Ford Coppola. And he’s telling me this whole story, and the only thing I’m thinking the whole time is, ‘What

kind of weed does he get?' When I think of Randy Moss, I think, 'He must get just incredible weed.' "— Artie Lange, comedian

With the Chowds:

"Tom Brady always wanted to do his interviews at his locker instead of his podium. Well, Randy Moss' locker happened to be next to Tom Brady's. So, after every game, there was a giant crowd in front of Brady's locker. Randy, though, didn't want anyone stepping on or coming near any of his stuff. If you came too close to touching anything, Randy would just start yelling. It wasn't bad yelling — he wasn't cursing or anything — but he'd just start yelling at the top of his lungs.

"So, after one game, Randy decided to just put out a towel in front of his locker and he told us that we weren't allowed to step on the towel. Of course, it's an enormous towel. So, it became a weekly battle to get to Brady's locker first, then get position so you didn't come close to standing on Randy's towel. That was Randy." — Ian Rapoport, NFL writer, former Chowds beat writer with Boston Herald

Sexual Discrimination

"In Oakland, he was not interested in talking. We would sit across from each other in the locker room and I would say, 'Randy, one day, you'll have to talk to me.' He would say, 'One day, I will ma'am . . . But not today.' " — Nancy Gay, FOXSports.com

"A female friend of his sued Randy while he was with the Patriots, claiming he'd injured her finger in some sort of tussle. Moss countered that it was 'consensual horseplay.' Eventually she dropped the suit. Consensual horseplay?!" — Ron Borges, Boston Herald

The stories could go on forever, but the Look Man sees an intelligent but misunderstood sociopath that happens to be a hell of a football player.



"Baddest man on Erf?"

Support Your Local Sheriff

Peyton (The Sheriff) Manning is a first ballot Hall of Fame QB. Still, he has been knocked from the playoffs in one-and-done fashion eight times, many times as a one seed. That stat is amazingly poor in comparison to Brady, Elway, Favre and even Flacco. All Flacco has done is make the playoffs in consecutive seasons since he took over.

There is a lot of loose talk about 'elite quarterbacks' in this league and The Look Man thinks it is garbage. There are only thirty two QBs in the NFL, and 30% of them can't be elite. In point of fact, twenty percent would equate to six elite QBs, a number that defies the meaning of the word.

Elite doesn't mean the best. It means the best of the best, a higher level, the Pantheon if you will. And the Pantheon doesn't have room for guys who throw walk-off pick sixes, or don't have multiple Super Bowl rings. Everybody else is just a contender.

Zebra of the Week

The Look Man is not a big fan of Jerome Boger(mill), but the captain from Beverly Hills Cop is going to officiate the game on Sunday. Bogermill once actually violated protocol by high five-ing Vince Young during a game. While Jerome never saw a flag he wouldn't throw, he ended up as the number one rated zebra of the year based upon NFL review.

Ironically, Boger's brothers in arms are also ticked off, saying that Jerome had too many overturned bad calls during his reviews. Some of the zebras are saying the selection of Boger is a form of affirmative action based upon the recent failure of the Rooney Rule to result in minority head coaches. Irrespective, one can only hope that Bogermill doesn't ruin the game with a flag fest. Hearing his southern tang explain bad calls in nearly enough to make the Look Man turn a game off.



"Where's Taggart and Rosewood?"

THE LOOK AHEAD

We certainly have the first (and perhaps last) opposition of brothers as head coaches, and the teams match up uncommonly well. Without further ado, the Super Bowl XLVII preview.

Baltimore Ravens at San Francisco Forty Niners (-3.5)

That's right; the Dumpster Ducks are the visiting team here. The Niners are the home team due to their superior record. It's fitting really; Frisco has been dominant for most of the year, dating back even before Jim (Jim-Ha) Harbaugh benched Alex Smith of the near perfect QB rating.

The Football Gods do not look favorably on guys who bench starters following injury. Tom Brady's legacy began with Drew Bledsoe getting his sternum rearranged by the Jets. Steve Young took over the Niners after Joe Montana's back injury in the NFC Championship against the Jynts. History is rife with examples, but the Look Man finds it unseemly.

In addition, Jim-Ha is "pulling a Gruden:" taking the defense that Mike Singletary built and attempting to steal a ring with it. Jon (Chucky) Gruden did the same thing in Tampa after the firing of Tony (Skeletor) Dungy, never again returning to prominence.

On the other side of the field is Brother John (John-Ha) Harbaugh. John-Ha played college ball at tiny Miami of Ohio, the Cradle of Coaches. Miami alums include Weeb Eubank, Paul Brown, Woody Hayes, Sid Gillman, Ara Parseghian, and Sean Payton. That is one impressive list of football minds ladies and gents.

John-Ha played DB, never even sniffing the pros as a player. He rose up as a special teams maven, getting the Dumpster Ducks job only after a stellar interview. His polite demeanor with the media stands in stark contrast to Jim-Ha, and he is the older brother of the tandem.

Ironically, this family has another interesting claim: their .696 winning percentage stands fifty points higher than the Manning family featuring Archie, Peyton and Eli. They also claim Hoosiers coach Tom Crean as a brother-in-law, but the Look Man won't hold that against them.

There is no love lost between Browns Fan and Baltimore Fan after the latter stole the former's team and won a Lombardi. Still, in the spirit of the underdog, the Look Man is pulling for Art Modell's former team to beat Jim-Ha and the Niners.

The Niners are the most hated team in Bengals history after taking two rings from the Nati. The Look Man has never received more enmity than when he wore his Niners gear to Pall Bearer Stadium. SF also stands just one Super Bowl win away from tying the Squealers with six total rings. Rooting for the Dumpster Ducks aligns the Look Man with both Pokes Fan and Who Dey Fan, a place that is foreign territory.

The Super Bowl traditionally features a player that no one thought would be the difference maker. A few examples:

- Larry Brown's MVP after picking off Neil O'Donnell for two pick sixes in Dallas vs. Blitzburgh Super Bowl XXX (the Vin Diesel Bowl).
- Breen Gay wideout Max McGee going for two TDs after a surprise start and playing with a severe hangover.
- Desmond Howard's special teams tour de force in Super Bowl XXXI.
- Pokes LB Chuck Howley winning an MVP in a losing affair in Super Bowl V, the first bowl to feature Roman numerals.

WR/special teamer Jacoby Jones is the odds on pick to come out of a bag and surprise the Niners, but he's from New Orleans. Montana and Marino never played well in Pittsburgh, and Jones is no Marino.

Look instead to uber-sub Bernie (BP) Pierce to rise uppa, busting off some nice plays. While Ray-Ray and Colin Kaepernick get all of the ink, someone like BP is bound to steal the show, making it the first time BP was popular in NOLA since Deep Water Horizon.

The strategy:

Niners: the Read-Option offense has been getting a lot of press, but Jim-Ha is a megalomaniac. Look for Jim-Ha to eschew the run and attempt to get up early and force B-More out of its game.

The Look Man expects trick plays, razzle dazzle and bunch of other hooey instead of Frisco going with its strength: the power running game. B-More is vulnerable to the run, with Ngata nicked up and Ray-Ray long in the tooth.

Ducks: B-more is a veteran team, so don't look for anything fancy. They will play power ball first, mixing in Pierce as needed to spell Ray Rice. The Look Man also believes that John-Ha will go to his special teams origins for a big play if needed.

The Pick:

The Big Game has historically come down to kickers, and the Niners have a guy whose confidence is awful. David (Green) Akers has been spotty all season, nearly losing his job several times.

B-More has a rookie in Justin (Friar) Tucker, who took over for Billy Cundiff, who blew a chance to appear in SB XLVI by missing a chip shot in the AFC Championship. Friar Tuck is playing with confidence, and the stage won't be too big for him.

Both defenses are outstanding, and both are banged up. Look for a tough, physical battle that results in several players getting the snot knocked out of them.

All indicators point to Frisco so of course the Look Man is taking B-More. The Dumpster Ducks narrowly missed last year, this is Ray Lewis' swan song, and this is a Team of Destiny. B-More will use the experience advantage and close this game out with a narrow win.

Game. Set. Match. Baltimore wins a ring, setting up Ray-Ray to ride off into a deer antler spray sunset.



One will be a man of constant sorrow...

EPILOGUE

The 2012 NFL season has been a real blast. The storylines have been solid, and two hot teams are coming out at the conclusion. In Week Ten, who would've seen Baltimore in the Lombardi chase, or Houston and New England outside looking in?

This game could be the best ever based only on the quality of the defenses. Both teams are stingy against the run, and hit you with bad intentions. Don't be surprised if the game comes down to an injury to a key player that affects the outcome. If a key skill player gets knocked out, it would dramatically alter the game.

The Look Man loves the Super Bowl, a secular holiday in America. It's at once pageantry, pride, competition and capitalism. The fact that the game is sold with Roman numerals is consistent with the gladiatorial nature of the sport. No one knows whether the NFL can survive the lawsuits for head injury, but for several decades the Super Bowl has captured America and the world.

So have a great Super Bowl; enjoy the party, and remember to bring something good to eat to your venue. After all, "KFC Gameday Bucket go BOOM!"

Peace,

The Look Man