

## THE LOOKMAN REPORT 2013

### Week Ten – Clap for the Wolfman

*"You can't make this stuff up. It takes the rivalry to a whole new level." – Maysville, Wisconsin Police Chief Christopher MacNeill after arresting a man for tasing his wife following the Bears-Pack tilt.*

#### PROLOGUE

Rivalries are mother's milk to NFL teams and fans. The NFL would be nothing without Pokes-Genocide Victims, Bears—Packers, or the Battle of Ohio. Fans take these games to heart, and they make the fabric of the league into chain mail.

Last week, another type of rivalry arose in the Big Easy as former Pokes D-coordinator Rob (The Wolfman) Ryan faced his old team. Pokes owner Jerry Jones made Ryan a scapegoat for the Pokes poor defensive performance last season, and the Wolfman wasn't having it.

Ryan proceeded to do the functional equivalent of pantsing the Pokes on national TV, holding Romo to 0-9 on 3<sup>rd</sup> down. The New Orleans defense has given up 20 points only twice all season, both losses. They are averaging 17.5 points allowed, one of the better defensive performances in the NFL. And this with a cast of folks that are not even household names outside of the Big Easy.

Coaches and players love beating their old teams. It makes up a little for the ego bruising when teams send you packing. And revenge, like the old Klingon proverb, is a dish best served cold.

Speaking of dishes, The Wolfman walked into a New Orleans dive bar following the win over the Pokes and laid a C-note on the counter saying, "Folks drink free. Keep the change." The bar, called Miss Mae's, features shots for \$2, so that is a lot of free drinks. The Wolfman was obviously pleased.



*I will eat...ALL OF YOU!*

Without further ado, the Week that Was:

#### LAGNIAPPE

*The 3<sup>rd</sup> time is the charm!*

The Green Bay Packers' loss to the Chicago Bears was particularly painful for one Packers fan who was tasered by her husband, who is a Bears fan, to settle a bet after Monday's game.

John Grant, 42, of Tinley Park, Ill., told police that he and his wife made the wager as they watched the game at a bar in Mayville, Wis., but his wife told police that she didn't think her husband would follow through with it.

After the Bears beat the Packers 27-20, Grant and his wife, who police say had both been drinking, went outside to an alley next to the bar to smoke cigarettes. Grant tasered his wife twice in the buttocks while she filmed it with her cellphone camera.

Mayville police chief Christopher MacNeill said the woman was laughing during the first two taserings caught on video, but when Grant tasered her a third time in the thigh, this time not on video, she apparently considered that over the line. An argument ensued that led to the woman calling the police. "You can't make this stuff up," MacNeill said. "It takes the rivalry to a whole new level."

MacNeill said at first the woman said Grant tasered her without her consent but after the officer viewed the cellphone video and saw her laughing, he determined that he did not have enough evidence to arrest Grant for battery. Grant was charged with felony possession of an electronic weapon. In Wisconsin, even steel tipped bar darts are illegal, so go figure.

## **ZEBRA OF THE WEEK**

*"Is this the man who ruined the buffet at the Harrow Club?"*

The Look Man is beginning to get really frustrated with the state of NFL officiating. In point of fact, every time he sees Jerome (Captain) Boger(mill) doing a game, he is tempted to turn it off. In Week Ten, the Look Man saw Bogermill nearly ruin the buffet at M&T Bank Stadium in Bengals-Ravens, and Walt Coleman (Lantern) get not one but two overturned replays in the first half. This is the same Coleman Lantern who can never officiate a game in Oakland owing to the Tuck Rule game, and leads the NFL in fewest overturned calls.

The state of officiating is likely due in large part to the new rules. Three guys in a bar can no longer agree on what constitutes a catch and the helmet-to-helmet and horse collar tackle rules are like quantum physics. Did you know for instance, that a QB can be horse collared in the tackle box but not on the sideline?

The NFL needs to quit monkeying around with the rule book and start focusing on a better product on the field. And that means ending Thursday Night games, forgetting about the eighteen game schedule and international expansion.

The Golden Goose is starting to look a little pale in light of Bully-gate, the League of Denial book, and defensive backs essentially playing for free after they pay H2H fines. Jeez, Roger, give it a rest.

## **THE LOOK AHEAD**

*Indy at Tennessee (-3) Thursday Night Football on NFLN:*

The Ponies got housed by the Lambs last weekend, with St. Louise leveraging rookie WR Tavon Austin into 300 yards of combined offense. Austin is proof that speed kills, especially when playing a slow-footed team like the Ponies. The 38-3 butt-whooping was decisive and awe inspiring tour de force. The Ponies are known for slow starts, but they never even left the team hotel last week. Indianapolis State Troopers have warrants for the entire offense, claiming that they committed grand theft larceny in receiving a paycheck in Week Ten.

To make matters more confusing, the Flaming Thumbtacks also lost, to winless Jacksonville. Backup QB Ryan (The Great Kazoo) Fitzpatrick got strip sacked for a TD, snatching defeat from the jaws of victory.

This is the Thumbtacks last best chance for a playoff spot, and they need a home win against a speed challenged Indy team that is finally feeling the loss of Reggie (Millionaire Playboy Bruce) Wayne. On the other hand, teams that lose by 30 or more win at a 70% clip the following week. This Indy team can and will bounce back against the Tacks. Colts.

*San Diego at Miami (+1.5):*

Miami is this year's conundrum, a team that wins when it shouldn't and loses the same way. They have no real strength, and free agent Mike (60 Minutes) Wallace has not been able to take advantage of his double moves because

QB Ryan Tannehill cannot stay perpendicular long enough to get him the rock. Tannehill leads the league in sacks and number of hits taken, and that usually translates into injury. Just ask Discount Double Check in Green Bay.

Bolts QB Phillip Rivers is near the top in fewest sacks, and his 3<sup>rd</sup> down conversion percentage is solid. New England castoff RB Danny (Viagra) Woodhead has filled the void left by the departure of Darren Sproles. Rivers never really forgave Norv Turner for getting rid of his security blanket, and now he has a new one in Viagra.

Between Viagra, former Donkeys WR Daryl Royal and Antonio (Microsoft Hands) Gates, the Bolts should be better than they are. Bolts beat the Bullies.

#### Cleveland at Cincy (-6) The Battle of Ohio Part Deux:

The Browns are coming off of a bye week, and they likely installed their offensive running game for the balance of the season. With only three RBs on the roster, one has to hope seven days was enough, because the AFC Asgard Division requires a strong running attack and a stronger resolve.

Meanwhile, the Bengals are coming off a two game losing streak, with both occurring in OT. The Ugly and Black is reeling, a tired team with an identity crisis. As soon as they read the headlines about how good they are, they begin to believe their own bowel movements don't stink. The results, it seems, are self evident.

The Battle of Ohio Part One was a 17-6 defensive masterpiece, and the Browns are the only team to hold the Bengals without a TD in 2013. Andy (The Red BB Gun) Dalton has since blown out the Jets by 40, and thrown picks in bunches against the Marine Mammals and Dumpster Ducks. One never knows whether it's going to be good Andy, or if he'll shoot his own eye out like Ralphie in The Christmas Story. Given that TCS was filmed in Cleveland, the Look Man is going with the latter interpretation.

Ironically, Hue Jackson, the Bengals RB coach, goes up against Jason Campbell, his former QB in Oakland. Campbell will soup his way to his third straight solid performance while TRBBG throws picks early and often, and the boo-birds light into Dalton at Pall Bearer Stadium.

The Browns, already insulted by the six point spread in a division game, parlay his misfortune into a rough and tumble win, going 3-1 in the division and pulling within a half game of the Beng. Browns, baby, Browns.

#### Detroit at Blitzburgh (+3)

Detroit matches up well with the Stillers, who can stop the run but struggle against good passing teams. The Stillers have some drama building, with Big Ben saying he never wanted to leave, but the locker room is divided. The Look Man loves head coach Mike (Omar Epps) Tomlin, and any remodeling needs to begin with the O-line, not the front office. Lions.

#### Washington at Philadelphia (-3.5)

The Look Man believes the score might eclipse a 70 point total in this contest. The Jynts are the only team in the NFC Least that even has a defense, and these two are no exception.

Everyone is jumping on the Nick Foles bandwagon based upon his sixteen TDs and zero picks, but the Iggles defense gave up 400 offensive yards to Oakland and another four bills last week to rookie QB Scott Tolzien (Cookies). No one is going to confuse Iggles WR Riley Cooper with Jerry Rice anytime soon, but the kid has put up amazing numbers in the last two weeks. Look for DC DB DeAngelo Hall to hang with Mister Cooper and shut him down on Sunday.

The Iggles are not for real, and DC hands them their eleventh consecutive home loss. Genocide Vix.

### *Frisco at New Orleans (-3)*

This game might be the best of the week, and this in a week that features undefeated KC, the Battle of Ohio and the Chowds at Carolina. Colin (CK) Kaepernick might be injured, but irrespective of the reason, it's tough for anyone to win in NOLA.

The Icons played a very emotional game against the Pokes last week, with the defense playing out of its mind. The Icons held Tony Romo to 0-9 on third down, which is unheard of in today's pass-happy NFL. CK doesn't throw it that well anyhow, and with RB Frank Gore possible out, they face a serious challenge. The spread hangs on whether Niners TE Vernon Davis can come back from a concussion.

Look for CK to do his Last Son of Krypton impression and run the football a lot more. The Jets beat the Icons with a tough, physical running game, largely courtesy of former Icon Ivory. The Niners would like to do the same thing and take the home crowd out of this one. Nope, Icons cover and win, repaying the Nines for knocking them out of the postseason in 2012. Icons.

### *Green Bay at Jynts (-5)*

The Jynts have won three in a row, and the Cheeseheads are starting rookie QB Scott Tolzien. Things are so rosy in the Big Apple that Rick's Cabaret New York, the famous gentlemen's club in midtown Manhattan, is considering showing NY Giants football games again. Rick's discontinued covering the Jynts on the club's numerous Hi-Def TVs and big screens earlier this season.

After losing six in a row, the G-Men have won four in a row, and may be climbing back into the NFC East mix. Eli and the G-Men handle the Pack, setting up an NFC cage match next week vs. the Pokes. Jynts.

### *KC at Enver (-8) Football Night in America (Flex Game)*

The world is Peyton (The Sheriff) Manning's oyster, mountain oyster that is, after his incredible season. The Sheriff claims he has a lower leg injury, but the Look Man believes he's playing possum. When Tamba Hali and the Baby Backs get after him, Manning will have a miraculous recovery, firing the ball into small windows and generally making the Baby Backs look like chumps.

KC is the most overrated 9-0 team in history, with Alex Smith as chief cook and game manager. Smith cannot throw the deep ball, and now his only speed WR is starting after a run-in with the Po-Po Sunday night.

KC receiver Dwayne Bowe was arrested for speeding and possession of the Chronic during the bye. When he was pulled over, he rolled down the window and asked the cop where the closest Sonic was. The cop smelled some skunk and confiscated about eight ounces of weed, including two joints that contained an ounce each. In the words of Bobby Boucher, "Now that's some high quality H-Two-Oh!"

The Look Man has made no secret of the fact that he believes the Chiefs are NFL fool's gold. Both Cleveland and Buffalo should have beaten KC, but Andy (The Walrus II) Reid is 13-1 after a bye week. Let's just say the Walrus II pulls out all the stops in the week following a bye. Look for Reid to come out of a bag, with new offensive formations, onside kicks and all manner of trickery in this game.

The Walrus II will also need to employ the New England approach: have his DBs play tight man-to-man, roughing up the Donkeys receivers and forcing the Sheriff to throw early. Indy employed this defense to great effect in their win over the Donkeys, but that was in the Drum. The basic rules of football don't apply at Investigation Field at Mile High, so get

ready for flag fest 2013 as the zebras help their equine cousins win this game. As for the spread, KC covers but Donkeys win.



*"Gee, that Dwayne Bowe has some nice herb..."*

### *New England at Carolina (-2.5) Monday Night Football*

Talk about an exciting matchup; Cam Newton and the Black Cats proved they are for real in a physical tour de force win at Candlestick. They are now forced to back that up with a home tilt versus the resurgent Chowds.

Like Andy Reid, Belicheat is very dangerous coming off a bye week. Some coaches don't need extra incentive to game plan, and can beat you in a normal week. Tom Brady is getting on the same page as his receivers, and the once puny offense is beginning to click. Just as important, the Black Cats won a very physical matchup on the Left Coast and look to be beat up. The Look Man calls this the Schottenheimer Syndrome, where a superior team can look beat up after a particularly physical outing.

Still, Cam and the Black Cats win the old fashioned way, with solid running and play action. While they don't have great weapons, they can run and stop the run. Brady and Belicheat are looking ahead to a key AFC East matchup next week versus Peyton Manning at the Blade, and they let this one get away. Black Cats cover and win.

## **EPILOGUE**

The Look Man believes this is the wildest NFL season in a decade and he is not alone. J-Jack of the Big Windy concurs, saying, "CRAZY year. Division winners could be: Jets, Browns, Titans, Chefs, Skins/Eagles/G-Men, Bears, Panthers and SeaChickens. Only Seattle would not be a surprise. Nothing says NFL playoffs like Geno Smith vs. Weeden or Locker vs. Alex Smith or McClown vs. Wallace."

Well, the Look Man won't take it that far, and he believes the Bengals, Bears and everyone in the NFC East are pretenders. Having said that, don't sleep on the Jynts, who could be looking at the post season. These guys are grinders, and with the rest of the NFC Least in turmoil, Eli and company could salvage their season.

In the AFC, things are much more difficult. With Enver and KC having locked up the West and one Wild Card, only one at large bid remains. Miami, the Jets, Cincinnati, Cleveland, B-More, San Diego, and Tennessee could all be competing for one wild card slot. This horse race promises to be unusual, and should provide serious drama for the last half of the season. If the zebras can stay out of the picture, it will be a December to remember in the National...Football...League.

Peace,

The Look Man