

## THE LOOKMAN REPORT 2016

### Week Eighteen – The Ponn Farr

*“We don’t care about the nameless gray faces we’re playing right now. This is man versus himself.”- Stillers coach Mike Tomlin, on Sunday’s playoff rematch with Kansas City. Blitzburgh won the regular season meeting by 29 points.*

#### PROLOGUE

The Look Man has been on strike this season, much like the Browns in 2016. Now, the NFL has entered Amok Time, in which the participants are inflicted with a blood fever until an ultimate winner emerges in Super Bowl XLI. And that's only if Admiral Goodell doesn't force everyone to go to Altair Six and let Pokes Owner Jerry (the King of Pop) Jones die in the process. The Look Man can just hear DeForest Kelley yelling, "We've got to get Jerrah Jones a ring this season or he'll DIE Jihm! He'll die!!!"

The Wild Card Weekend is one of the clear best weekends in sports, but the games failed to satisfy. In 2015, each of the road teams won the wild cards, with Seattle and Houston upsetting their opponents. This year, it was chalk.

The Look Man was sure the Jynts would handle the Packers, and hoped that the Raiders would dispatch the Texans. He violated his own prime directive: pick the best QB; if neither QB is superior, pick the best coach.

Having said that, and being willing to violate these guidelines yet again, here's the LMR take on the Divisional Playoffs.

#### THE LOOKAHEAD

##### **Seattle (+ 4) at Atlanta**

One of two regular season rematches, with Seattle having won the first at Century Link. Hawks used the ground n pound to win a tight, physical game 26-24. Based upon the prime directive, Matty (Ice) Ryan should prevail, with the 2nd ranked offense. On balance the Dirty Bird defense was ranked 25th, but 17th against the run and 28th vs. the pass.

These paltry defensive stats are the reason the Look Man is rooting for the Hawks. Granted, their offense is spotty, and they appear to be a mirror image of Atlanta: hard running offense supported by a surprising offensive output.

If defense wins championships, Seattle's 5th ranked defense should be able to shut down the ATL. Perhaps more importantly, ball control decided the first meeting and could again. Atlanta has won by getting out fast and forcing opponents to be one dimensional. They have a nasty 'monster back' in tweener in OLB Vic Beasley, number 45 on your program. Dude can run like a deer and hit like a Mack truck.

Detroit showed the formula to beat Seattle: contain DangeRuss Wilson with a mush rush, making him throw from the pocket. The Lions simply didn't have the defensive backfield to make it work. The Dirty Birds are well rested but lack playoff experience, and Matty Ice is a little bit of a pudenda. Plus, this could be the last game ever at the Georgia Dome, but no one in the ATL even cares. Half of them root for other teams anyway. Hawks plus the points.

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#### **Houston (+ 16) at New England**

This game will be closer than the spread for one reason: Romeo Crennel is the best DC in the NFL. He lost JJ Watt and still finished with the number one ranked defense. Crennel and head coach Bill O'Brien bot came from the School of Belicheat, and they won't allow even the ridiculous Sock Brockweiler to blow this one by sixteen. The Slim Shadies lost 27-0 in the regular season, so they are motivated to avoid a blowout.

The rules of the NFL mean no one wins at The Blade, unless your nickname rhymes with "Shehawks." Belicheat is hell on mediocre QBs and Brockweiler is awful. Take Houston with the points, but Chowds win.

#### **Pittsburgh at Kansas City - even**

KC Head Coach Andy (Hey Kool-Aid) Reid is 19-2 following a bye week. This week he faces Mike (Omar Epps) Tomlin during Winter Storm Jupiter, which could dump an inch of ice and freezing rain on Arrowhead. The game has been moved from a 1:00PM kickoff to 8:20PM to address safety issues, which doesn't ensure Stillers LB Bud Dupree won't treat Alex (Capt. Checkdown) Smith just like he treated Marine Mammals QB Matt (Mandy) Moore last week.

The Look Man couldn't believe Moore came back after that hit. He got smoked, and the concussion protocol lasted one play. Safety, schmafety.

The Marine Mammals defense attempted to return the favor, hurting Big Ben in retribution. Big Ben was in a walking boot following the Wild Card win, and it could be a tough week for an immobile Roethlisberger at KC. Guess that's why the spread is "even."

KC has won several different ways, beating Denver and Oakland down the stretch to secure the AFC West title. WR/KR Tyreek Hill is a speedster who touches the rock 20-30 times per game. He scored 12 TDs on the year between reverses, catches and special teams. If he gets loose, watch out.

KC QB Alex (Capt. Checkdown) Smith got his name the old-fashioned way: he earned it. Smith is faster than you think, but lacks a legitimate WR and RB.

The Look Man likes the Still Curtain in this regular season rematch, even in one of the toughest road venues in the NFL. Stillers.



*Separated at birth???*

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#### Green Bay (+ 4) at Dallas

Aaron (Discount Double Check) Rodgers has been on fire, with his latest outing includes four TD passes against a Jynt's defense which allowed only 25 TDs all season. He will be with uber WR Jordy Nelson, who is currently dining at Tony Roma's – the Place for Ribs courtesy of Jynt's SS Leon Hall. Nelson suffered broken ribs after a nasty hit and is likely done for the year. In his place, DDC must use WRs Davante Adams and Randall Cobb with TEs Jared Cook and Richard Rodgers (no relation).

Dallas has won games mostly one way: handing the ball to Zeke Elliott and getting out of the way. They did beat the Stillers via the passing game in what could look a lot like the KC game. QB Dak (short for Dakota) Prescott can go deep and has weapons in Terence (Sweet Feet) Williams, Cole (Edelman) Beasley and Dez Bryant. But the real weapon may be TE Jason (No Quittin') Witten, who would love to turn this season into his swan song.

It's unclear whether the Cheeseheads D can stop Zeke; no one else really has. More urgent is the need to play ball control of their own, keeping Zeke off the field. The quiet secret is that Dallas uses 14 guys on defense, so if you go no-huddle, it not only keeps the rushers on the field, it also forces the offense to throw more to stay in a shootout.

The Look Man likes DDC to use the no-huddle in Jerry World, which has no home field advantage due to ticket prices. Rodgers will then yell to the Pokes crowd: "Nobody comes into this House without paying the ultimate price!" and throw a golf club into the stands.

The Look Man would like to predict The Cheese stands alone, but head coach Mike McCarthy is an idiot. He nearly blew the Jynt's game by going for a 4th and one. Still, The Look Man is picking the Pack to cover and perhaps win an upset against Jason Garrett and Doomsday Lite. Go Pack, go.



*"I have seen Dak circumcise a mosquito with my own eyes."*

#### **EPILOGUE**

NFL viewership really crashed in 2016, and the pundits claim it was due to election year politics. The Look Man attributes the drop in increased penalties, which have dropped sharply since Week 7. The Zebras are now swallowing the whistles, and defensive pass interference featuring holding the receivers inside arm has now become legal.

The playoffs now include a senior zebra on the sidelines in addition to the head referee on the field. It's clear to the Look Man that these zebra emeritus types on the sideline are actually using the radio to fix bad calls on the field. Watch this weekend to see whether Pete Morelli (Mushroom) and others use the radio on questionable calls.

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Any way you slice it, this season has not been one of the league's best, and frontrunners New England and Dallas are thought to be a foregone conclusion in February. Still, based upon history, nobody knows nothin'.

Peace,

The Look Man