

THE LOOKMAN REPORT 2016

Week Twenty – Sic Semper Tyrannis

“The reality is that Tommy never got suspended for deflating footballs. He got suspended because the court said ...Roger Goodell could do anything he wanted to do to any player for any reason whatsoever. That’s what happened.”—Tom Brady Sr., in an interview with KRON-TV in San Francisco.

PROLOGUE

Tom Senior is still tilting at windmills, with the hope that he and Tawmmy Juniah will be able to rub Goodell’s nose in the Deflategate suspension Sunday night. The Look Man agrees with his basic premise: it was never about deflating the balls; it was about personal integrity, destroying the cell phone evidence and the careers of two of his trainers. It was an attempt to gain an illegal advantage on the playing field.

Goodell’s power has always been a problem, but now that QB Tom (Zoolander) Brady is feeling the pain, something needs to be done! Which translates into: “it’s okay when we fine players for the lack of impulse control caused by concussions, but we cannot discipline our rainmakers in public.”

All of this reminds the Look Man of the old Latin phrase: sic semper tyrannis, an idiomatic expression meaning "Thus always I bring death to tyrants." John Wilkes Booth infamously yelled this phrase following the Lincoln assassination at the Ford Theater, but it applies here as well.

The New England Chowds may be the biggest tyrants on the block, as their dominance is strongly correlated to residence in the weakest division in the NFL. They routinely go 11-4 against Buffalo, Jets and Marine Mammals, and the Chowds parlay their W-L record into AFC home field advantage. Little wonder these guys are appearing in a ninth championship game, with the chance to get a record five rings for Brady-Belicheat.

This Super Bowl sets up to be an offensive show, with a little Lady Gaga thrown in for good measure. Without further ado, on to Super Bowl LI.

LAGNIAPPE

Most Vulnerable Player?

Matty Ice, who has thrown for five large with TDs to thirteen different dudes, is a bit of a conundrum. No QB likes to get hit, but some hate it more than others. (Johnny) Carson Palmer comes to mind. He will complete passes when he has plenty of room in the pocket. Put a few hard hits on him, and he turns into your next-door neighbor in the backyard.

Ryan has an improved O-line and plenty of time to stand and deliver in the pocket. Given time, Ryan is the MVP; rough him up, he’s Mister Tonight Show.

Trump 2020?

Russian president Vladimir Putin has been in the news recently for his meddling in American politics. While Putin may not have single-handedly given Donald Trump the American presidency, his fingerprints were all over it. Which takes us back to this story from 2005, when Putin pocketed Chowds owner Robert Kraft’s Super Bowl ring.

Kraft’s business partner asked him to show Putin the championship ring, which Kraft had just won weeks prior. "I took out the ring and showed it to (Putin). And he put it on and he goes, 'I can kill someone

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with this ring," Kraft said. "I put my hand out and he put it in his pocket, and three KGB guys got around him and walked out.

The 5-carat, 124 diamond studded ring now resides in the Kremlin's library, with other official state gifts. Putin went 'full Donald' at an annual economic forum in St. Petersburg, Russia, when asked about the story. "You know," he reportedly said, "I remember neither Mr. Kraft nor the ring."

Either way, Kraft is out a ring, but it probably was a lesson cheaply learned. This year, he's bribing the zebras up front, just to ensure he doesn't get robbed again in Super Bowl LI. "Why shouldn't I bribe the refs?," asked Kraft. "It worked great on that last second interception by Malcolm Butler in Super Bowl XLIX. They didn't even bother to call defensive PI, despite the fact that he knocked Ricardo Lockette into the next county."



Upon further review?

Zebra of the Game

KC Baby Back TE Travis Kelce's favorite zebra, Carl Cheffers, or number 51 on your program, will be officiating Super Bowl LI game on Sunday. Cheffers is known for the controversial two-point conversion offensive holding call that sealed the Wild Card playoff win for the Stillers a few weeks ago.

This will be the first championship assignment for Cheffers, who has been a head zebra since 2008. He is best known for his uncanny resemblance to Bill Vinovich, another head zebra. "People say we all look alike, but in our case, it's actually true," said Cheffers. "of course, Bill makes a lot worse calls than I do. And he should: his vision is 20-200."

Cheffers is also known for a crapping the bed in a 2013 Football Night in America game between the Jynts and Genocide Victims in DC. Washington completed a 2nd down pass for what appeared to be, and was signaled, a first down. Following a down marker change to signal a first down, the Genocide Victims tossed an incomplection.

And here's where it gets dicey: Cheffers went all Terry (Bottlegate) MacAulay, and changed his mind about their earlier first down call, and inexplicably changed the marker to 4th down. Old DC fumbled on the ensuing 4th and 1 play, turning over the ball to the Jynts. In other words, Cheffers directly affected play-calling by Washington in a tight divisional match which had playoff implications. Nice.

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Kelce was interviewed this work on Media Night, and had this to say when asked about the 2013 call: “It’s like I said before, Number 51 shouldn’t be working in the NFL. Now he’s the head zebra in the biggest game of all time?” Kelce continued, “What, Stevie Wonder wasn’t available on Sunday?”



Separated at birth? Cheffers (left) and Vinovich

THE LOOKAHEAD

Atlanta at New England (-3) – Super Bowl LI at NRG Field in Houston

Bill Belichick and his record setting Chomds take the number one defense in scoring and points allowed into the game to end all games. Atlanta counters with the number one scoring offense and the 28th ranked defense. Defense wins Super Bowls as evidenced by the 4-1 record when the number one D and O square off in the Roman Numerals Bowl.

But in the words of ESPN talking head Lee Corso, “Not so fast, my friend.” This Dirty Bird offense is can really spread it around. The addition of C Alex (Return of the) Mack has solidified the O-line and fueled Matty Ice’s five large passing yardage total. OC Kyle Shanahan has this team playing fast and loose, with weapons at every position. And despite being ranked near the bottom, the Dirty Birds D is long and fast, with pass rushers like Vic Beasley and Dwight Freeney. In short, the Falcons are like no other team since The Greatest Show on Turf.

This game should be a doozy, as indicated by the three-point spread and over of 59 points. Here’s how it looks to the Look Man:

Why Atlanta will win:

Atlanta has gotten here via the draft, making a blockbuster trade with Cleveland to get uber WR Julio Jones back in 2011. Subsequent drafts yielded tweener LB Deion Jones, Keanu (Neo) Neal at safety, and fire and more fire running backs Tevin Coleman and Davonte Freeman.

They filled holes via free agency, obtaining former Browns Alex Mack and speedy WR Taylor Gabriel. They threw in former Bengals WR Muhammad Sanu as a possession receiver to leverage number one WR Julio Jones. Freeney is a paid gunslinger who is teaching Beasley the tools of the pass rushing trade.

ATL GM Thomas Dimitroff is also a Cleveland castoff, serving on the 1995 staff which featured Belichick, Eric Mangina, Scott Pioli, Nick Saban, Ozzie Newsome, Kirk Ferentz, Mike Lombardi, Jim Schwartz, and Phil Savage. That Browns team had just gone 11-4, and won only one game following the mid-season announcement that they would become the Baltimore Ravens.

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Dmitroff teams with head coach Dan (the Mighty) Quinn, and young Turk OC Kyle Shanahan. Add this intellectual talent to the physical talent on the field, and the Falcons are one year away from greatness. They still need some D-line help, often giving up big yards inside the tackles, and big passing plays in the seam.

Why New England will win:

Tom Brady. Bill Belicheat. Number One scoring defense. Any other questions?

The Chowds don't beat themselves, and their playoff experience far exceeds that of Atlanta. The defense is not chock full of names, but they play hard and smart.

The offense lost Zoolander for four games due to suspension, Gronk is out for the year, and like Timex, they keep on ticking. They can beat you on the ground with power or speed. They can spread the field like they did against the Stillers, going single back and four wide. Receivers like Amendola and Edelman create interchangeable pieces that kill you on seam routes. And they do all of this in the middle of the game in response to your tendencies.

Despite his tyrannical tendencies, Belicheat reminds the Look Man of a quote by Bum Phillips, "That Don Shula is a helluva coach. He can take his'n and beat your'n. He can take your'n and beat his'n. Shula is a helluva coach."

Atlanta allowed Seattle KR Devin Hester to gash them several times in the Conference Championship. Belicheat is savvy enough to use Dion Lewis to flip field position and/or create short field scoring opportunities.

Atlanta lost to the Chiefs, Buccaneers, Bolts and Seahawks this season, and you know what each of these teams has in common? A: excellent tight end play.

Travis Kelce, a Look Man favorite, went 8 for 140 in the KC win. The Bolts' Antonio Gates went 5 for 60 (in a wheelchair), and Blue Man Group's Jimmy Graham (Crackers) went 6 for 90. New England has a dude by the name of Martellus Bennett, and this just in: he's pretty good.

When you put it all together, one has to wonder why the spread is only three. On paper, the Chowds win this game by twenty.



"Bennett can get medieval on your ass"

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Who will win:

New England has historically started slow in Super Bowls, and they have zero first quarter TDs in eight previous appearances. Don't count on that stat in this one; Belicheat will want to score early and often.

Look for New England to employ power running with RB LaGarrette Blount pounding the inside. Belicheat would love to take the air out of the ball (pun intended) and keep the ATL offense on the pine.

Atlanta starts fast, and the Chowds have not faced a top ten QB all season long. More importantly, Belicheat shuts down your number one offensive option, but struggles against slot personnel when facing a boss number one. Former Bengal Muhammad Sanu is going to be huge. He may even throw a TD pass.

Edelman might also go off, but the Look Man has a feeling rookie SS Keanu Neal or FS Ricardo Allen will knock his block off, turning him into Concussed Stone Hands Edelman.

Just as the Conference Championship week, the Atlanta goal is simply to get two or three stops/turnovers and hope Matty Ice can win it on the last possession. Matty doesn't have commercials like Brady and Rodgers, but he will after this game. Atlanta covers and wins a 35-31 shootout.



What's in your wallet?

EPILOGUE

Will youth will be served or does experience matter? The biggest key to this game is whether the zebras allow the Chowds DBs to maul Julio, Sanu and Gabriel. The zebras certainly swallowed the whistles in the postseason, but if they let them play here, it could make for a boring outcome. Offense may not win championships, but it keeps asses in seats, and at four million for a thirty second advertising spot, that may matter.

When it's all over, Commissioner Roger Goodell will either have to award the trophy to Kraft, Belicheat and Brady, all smirking and smug with their fifth ring, or introduce America to the new Dirty Birds, a Falcons team that could be the next dynasty.

The Look Man is reminded of one of his favorite movies: The Matrix. There's a sparring scene where the Larry Fishburne character tells Neo, "Stop trying to hit me and just hit me." If the Falcons figure out this simple formula, they will walk away from Houston as winners. Otherwise, the tyrants win.

Peace,

The Look Man