

## THE LOOK MAN REPORT 2018

### Week 10 – Recipe for Disaster

*“Thanksgiving is one of my favorite holidays because it’s a double-hitter — you got good food and you got good football on the same day. The best are the Suited and Booted Loaded Nachos. So easy and cheesy. It’s a one pan slam. — Calvin (Snoop Dogg) Broadus in his new Thanksgiving Cookbook, “From Crook to Cook.”*

#### PROLOGUE

Snoop enjoys cooking as much as the next man, even if the next man is Snoop, who has been connected with uber chef Martha Stewart. Apparently, some boot-knocking has been going on, reminiscent of the Sly Stone/Doris Day May-December romance. Snoop also includes an updated *Gin and Juice* remix with vodka and pineapple, a favorite of Justice Brett Kavanaugh, who likes the casual change up from beer.

While Snoop is getting paid, the rest of the NFL world was droppin’ it like it’s hot in Week 10. The Stillers blasted the Black Cats on Thursday Night Football, the Pokes pounded the defending champ Iggles, and Cleveland dominated the ATL with a surprising 28-16 win.

And those were only the appetizers. The main meal saw the Flaming Thumbtacks blast the Chowds 34-10 in a game that wasn’t even that close. Backup QB Matt (The Big Valley) Barkley and the Bison posted a forty burger over the Aeronauticals, and the Rams swept division rival Seattle in a bounce-back win after their first loss of the season. The Look Man was worried about passing a drug test after seeing some of the Week 10 action. This stuff typically only happens after narcotic intake.



*Fo Shizzle My Nizzle..*

The 2018 season is rounding into form, with solid wild card races in both conferences. KC, New Orleans and the Rams are the runaway beauty queens, and two of those teams meet head-to-head in Week 11. The Look Man is actually looking forward to the long-awaited Browns bye week, meaning that all manner of NFL investigation can occur.

Without further worry about the vapors, the Week that Was.

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#### LAGNIAPPE

##### The 1.5 Million Dollar Man?

Teryl (Steve) Austin started the season with a reputation as a head coach in waiting. He ended it disgraced, fired by Marvin (Jerry) Lewis after giving up at least 500 yards to offenses in three consecutive weeks. Bengals personnel manager Oscar Goldman had given up on Austin, indicating that “they could not rebuild him or make him better than before.”

The Bengals have been guilty of key lapses, like the defensive holding in the Stillers game, or the supplemental zero blitz that cost them the game when Big Ben recognized it. The Chiefs are roughing everyone up, but the 51 dropped by Brees and the Saints was the proverbial straw. Austin was shown the door.

LB Vontaze Burfict (Storm) and CB Darqueze Dennard will likely return, but LBs Preston Brown and Nick Vigil remain sidelined. Those two are the glue that has bound the Ugly and Black defense, and without them, no coordinator is going to be able to succeed.

Tack on the laundry list of injured reservists on defense and you have a bad recipe. The offense has been a M\*A\*S\*H unit for weeks, with two Tylers (Eifert and Croft), the inability of first round WR John (Betsy) Ross to play more than a stitch, RB Joe Mixon having knee surgery and the recent loss of WR AJ (Celo) Green, and you can understand how the once 4-1 Bengals have fallen.

The path to the playoffs is uncertain, but with few contending AFC teams remaining on the schedule, 10-6 or 11-5 are still within reach. However, that record in the AFC Asgard does not include a path to the division title, and we all know how the Bengals have struggled in the Wild Card under Lewis. If you look at possible AFC Wild Cards, Tennessee, Indy, Miami and Houston might have plenty to say before it's over.

#### PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

In lieu of a Zebra of the Week, the Look Man wants to celebrate players. There were several notable performances, and only one stinker by the Zebras [Walt Coleman (Lantern) with Black Cats at Stillers].

Iggles at Pokes – LB Leighton Vander Esch (LVE) went off in this one, posting 13 tackles and a key 3rd down stoppage of RB Corey Clement. The kid was drafted as a potential replacement to the perennially injured Sean Lee. There are not many linebackers in NFL history with names like ‘Leighton.’

Dirty Birds at Browns - RB Nick Chubb: – Chubb ripped off a 92-yard TD run to set up the upset of the ATL in Cleveland. This TD run is the longest in Browns history, which includes the GOAT, Jim Brown. The Look Man thought the Browns took the wrong Chubb in the draft, but this kid is explosive, powerful and elusive.

Jynts at Niners – QB Eli Manning: The Look Man was among those who said Eli was done, but he looked okay in this coastal matchup, rediscovering Odell Beckham Jr. and his intermediate passing game.

J-Squareds at Ponies – QB Andrew Luck: Luck was 21 of 29 in a businesslike win over division rival Sacksonville. The offensive output in Indy is a mirror image of what is transpiring in Philly, making folks wonder whether Indy HC Frank Reich had more to do with the Iggles ring than imagined.

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Black Cats at Stillers - Walt Coleman: The Zebras swallowed the whistles for the Still Curtain, missing facemask penalties, a spearing of Cam Newton by TJ Watt, and several DPIs. The result was a Stillers fifty burger, but the Look Man isn't buying it. The Stillers clearly knew they were getting calls and it fed their confidence to the point that Big Ben had a nearly perfect QB rating. Even with RB James Conner out with a concussion, the Stillers rolled.

The top performers through Week 10 are surprising, highlighted by the following:

- Tacklers: Indy LB Darius Leonard and Miami LB Kiko Alonso.
- Sack leaders: Rams Aaron Donald with 12.5, but the Browns Myles Garrett has 9.
- Rushing: Blitzburgh RB James Conner is 3<sup>rd</sup> behind the Rams Gurley and Pokes Zeke Elliott.
- Receiving: ATL WR Julio Jones is the fastest receiver to 10,000 receiving yards, but he has only two TD catches to go with his 1,040 yards.

It's a who's who listing, but the new additions are interesting. The Browns are sixth overall in rushing yardage, with Seattle leading at 152 YPG. Cleveland, Denver and Frisco are the only top ten rushing teams without playoff hopes. And the Browns lead the NFL in turnover differential, even though their record is 3-6-1. Odd.

Leighton Vander Esch, you are the Look Man **Player of the Week!**

### THE LOOKAHEAD

Week 11 features some long awaited and strategic games.

#### Bengos at Dumpster Ducks (NL)

This game represents a crossroads for the Ugly and Black; they either knock Baltimore out of the playoff hunt with a decisive road win, or they begin the trek to Wild Card Heaven, and we all know how that ends. The Look Man has a vested interest in the Bengos winning the AFC Asgard, but that is not going to happen as a wholly owned subsidiary of the suddenly resurgent Blitzburgh Stillers.

Baltimore has issues at QB, with Flacco nicked up, they may go with RG3, the man made of porcelain or 1<sup>st</sup> round pick and uber-sub Lamar Jackson. The B-More defense has no soul, giving up hundred yard rushing games and struggling to rush the passer.

The Bengos have struggles of their own, with WR AJ (Celo) Green out with a bad toe. This injury ended Larry Bird's career, and the Bengos offense clicks when Celo stretches the defense to open up windows for Boyd and Mixon. Andy (The Beige Water Pistol) Dalton showed his feet of clay last week in a rout by New Orleans.

The injuries in Cincy are unbelievable, and even though they own the Dumpster Ducks, look for Ducks Head Coach John (The Sane) Harbaugh to bounce back in a virtuoso coaching performance to stifle the Bengals. WR Willie Snead IV racks up a C note receiving in a shootout. Ducks

#### Flaming Thumbtacks at Ponies (-2)

This game may quietly be one of the best of the week. The Flaming Thumbtacks rose up and smote the mighty Chowds last week in what is being called the annual burying of Brady and Belichick. The truth is, Tennessee has been taking the Look Man to another place all season, posting solid defense to offset the

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wounded elbow of Marcus Mariota. M-Squared is now back, albeit with limited throwing capacity, with the offensive coordinator calling plays that minimize his injury and maximize his accuracy.

The Ponies have owned the Thumbtacks, winning 8 of the last 10. The Tacks looked solid in last week's win over the Chowds to set up a race for the AFC home field advantage, and may have a little let down. Look for the chalk to continue, as Andrew Luck stays perpendicular on his way to an AFC Souse division title. Ponies.

#### Pokes at Dirty Birds (-3)

The Pokes have a one-in-a-row winning streak after dumping the Iggles and saving Jason Garrett's job for another week. That win didn't stop Jerrah (The King of Pop) Jones from wooing Chokelahoma HC Lincoln (Town Car) Riley, so Garrett needs a win on Sunday.

The ATL succumbed to the new look Browns in Week 10, especially vulnerable to the wishbone offense. The Browns ran, passed and generally stomped the Dirty Birds, shutting down Calvin Ridley and Matty Ice.

The Dirty Birds play poorly on grass, better in the friendly confines of the Mercedes Benz Dome. This game turns into a shootout, largely on the strength of the Falcons' poor run defense and the Pokes mediocre pass defense.

The problem with the Pokes is that they can win only one way: punishing run game and timely passing by Dak Prescott. If they get into a shootout, they have no path to victory.

The Pokes-get caught looking ahead to a DC rematch in Week 12, followed by New Orleans, Philly and Indy. Jason Garrett has the Sword of Jerrah-cles hanging over his head, and he won't survive it. Plus, the Pokes rarely win the week before their annual Turkey Day game. The ATL covers and wins.

#### Stillers at J-Squareds (+5.5)

Stillers RB James Conner is having a career year, making everyone ask "Le'Veon who?" B-More quietly has the number one defense in the NFL, so this matchup could be the best of the week.

Conner is in the concussion protocol, but he is expected to play. Sacksonville quietly has the number one pass D in the NFL, so the run will be key here.

The J-Squareds defense is looking better, and they get RB Leonard Fournette back from a bad hammy on offense. Sacksonville has a bye in Week 12, and they sorely need this game to have a chance at the postseason.

Not enough. Stillers don't cover, but win a close one.

#### Iqgles at Religious Icons New Orleans (-8.5)

The Religious Icons destroyed the Nati in Week 10, and now face the defending world champs. Brees is out of his mind this season, and they acquired former Donkeys/Bears/Jets/Seahawks WR Brandon Marshall after Dez Bryant went down with an Achilles.

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The Iggles are in struggle bus mode, having little receiving help and suffering from a lack of running punch. The Icons are vulnerable to ball-control, but the Iggles have none. Worse yet, they looked outclassed against the Rams running game and WR Golden Tate has not yet grasped the offense.

New Orleans is one of the toughest venues in the NFC, but they have a short week before playing the ATL on Turkey Day night. Take the points and Philly, but New Orleans wins this one in a special season. Icons.

#### Hornheads at Monsters of the Furniture Mart (-2.5): Football Night in America

The Look Man is not buying (Sing Along With) Mitchell Trubisky and da Bears, who have made hay against middling teams, and struggled against good ones. This game is a referendum on their starting QB and their head coach Matt Nagy, who has given up 20-point leads on a regular. Nagy's teams have lapses, and lapses get you beat in the National...Football...League.

Zimmer and the Hornheads are starting to put it together on D since the return of mental patient DE Everson Griffen. WR Stefon Diggs returns from an inadvertent rib injury suffered when he attempted to shake loose a mailbox from his spider-grip.

Both teams are in the middle of the pack in offense, and top five in defense. This game will be the first real test for Nagy and da Bears, and the Hornheads offensive firepower could come to the fore. Minny can score in bunches, as the tandem of Diggs and Thielen is deadly.

The Look Man likes what Kirk (Curt) Cousins is doing this season, but Minny is only one concussion away from backup QB Trevor Simien. Simien starred in Chicago at Northwestern University, but was clearly overmatched as the QB in Denver.

Look for the Hornheads to show Chicago who's boss in a physical NFC Black and Blue slobberknocker. Hornheads.



*Do you trust this man?*

#### Baby Backs at Rams (-3.5) Monday Night Football

This game has had more twists and turns than any other in 2018. It's the first time two one loss teams face off this late in the season in NFL history, and it looks like a Super Bowl preview.

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Rams WR Cooper (Athletic) Kupp tore a knee last week, and he is a key to QB Jared (Subway) Goff. Kupp makes the intermediate catches off the crossing routes created when defenses double WR Brandin Cooks and bracket RB Todd Gurley (Man).

There is no shortage of weapons on the KC side, and Head Coach Andy (Kool-Aid) Reid is a sorcerer; he knows the thoughts in other coaches' dreams. Look for KC to scheme over, around and through the Rams defense, with a specific focus on uber-TE Travis Kelce.

KC beats the zebras and the Rams, setting up a race for AFC home field advantage. Back Backs.

### **EPILOGUE**

The final quarter quell is setting up nicely in the NFL version of the Hunger Games. Favorites are sitting precariously and President Roger Rabbit Snow wants to see some action, otherwise the Games Maker pays the ultimate price. In this case, that guy is likely the same guy responsible for the Mexico City Estadia Azteca fiasco, and is looking at a plate full of poison berries anyway.

Rookie QBs like Rosen, Mayfield and Darnold have returned to earth, and their numbers are representative of rookies in the NFL. Other surprise teams, like Chicago, New Orleans and the Bolts are on the cusp of something special, and Weeks 11-16 will be rollercoaster rides. Either they have a blast en route to the postseason, or they eat too much cotton candy and puke all over the other passengers, in this case, their fans.

The key is the in-between teams: Green Bay, Dallas, Baltimore, and Cincinnati. How they fare in the quarter quell will determine their futures and the futures of their head coaches. And President Snow is watching very closely.

Peace,

The Look Man