"He's playing on fire right now. You can't take the hot man out. It's not my decision but I'm sure Dirk and coach Monken and the guys that make those calls, they'll make sure they stay on fire until that fire is out." – Tampa Bay's DeSean Jackson on the QB that has him as the number one WR in the NFL right now.

PROLOGUE

Week 2 of the 2018 NFL season saw the state of Florida remain undefeated, Baby Backs' QB Patrick Mahomes throw his eleventh TD pass of the year, and Expensive Corn Kings QB Ryan (The Great Gazoo) Fitzpatrick drinking from the Fountain of Youth with a back-to-back four bills/4 TD performance. Oh, and yet another OT tie, making it two in two weeks, if you need that.

Of the seven winless new head coaches going into Week Two, two got some love: Ponies HC Frank (Fourth) Reich and Flaming Thumbtacks chief Mike (Black Label) Vrabel. The tally for these guys is now 2-12 for the year, and several have tough matchups in Week 3. Given the fact that head coaches typically only turn over for teams bereft of talent, the Look Man expects that the final tally will be significantly below .500 for the season.

The NFL loves the offensive output after two weeks, but the quality of officiating has gone wanting, especially as it relates to roughing the passer. While everyone wants to avoid a Kizer (Söze) versus Cody Kessler matchup in Super Bowl LIII, you have to allow the defense to play. The sheer number of roughing and defensive holding/PI calls in only two weeks is ridiculous.

Without further rumination, the week that was.

LAGNIAPPE

Week Two featured a lot of very odd items, including a halftime retirement, two placekicker firings, and Andy (The Beige Water Pistol) Dalton coming up large on national TV.

Browns Kicker Terminated

Cleveland placekicker Zane Gonzalez was summarily terminated after missing two extra points and two makeable field goals in a three-point Cleveland loss to New Orleans. While he didn't single-handedly cost the Browns the game, he kinda did.

The Look Man engaged in some investigative journalism to determine the backstory on Gonzalez. Zane began writing erotic stories to pass the time after football practice. His stories developed a following on the Internet and Gonzalez published some of the stories before landing a deal with Skinemax.

His project, *Zane's The Kick Off*, premiered in March 2013, and features stories about a professional placekicker with a foot fetish. The stories all feature wild sexual encounters, and titles to match:

- Zane's Sex Chronicles
- Tee for Three
- Pointless and Pantieless
- Kickin' it With Flava
- PAT: Points After Tickling

Gonzalez is expected to secure a six-figure salary outside of the NFL. No word on whether he will offer former Jets skipper Rex Ryan and Browns HC Huge Action roles in his show.

The Browns signed former Marine Mammals K Greg Joseph during the week. Joseph was signed off the beach after Minnesota snatched up former Pokes placekicker Dan Bailey.

60 Minute Man...

The Look Man doesn't support CB Vontae Davis' halftime retirement, but also does not believe the case is as simple as it seems. Davis dressed and left at the half, stating he was done with the NFL, but perhaps he was irritated that Bisons HC Sean McDermott took over the defensive playcalling from veteran DC Leslie Frazier.

Frazier, a veteran of the Tony Dungy coaching tree, was not responsible for turnovers by Bisons QB Josh Allen, which created short fields for the defense. He also was not responsible for starting Nathan Peterman in Week 1, an experiment that blew up in the Bisons' faces.

The Look Man believes that TMZ will ultimately provide tape to back his assessment, but keep an eye on McDermott. He has lost this team after appearing in the playoffs in 2017 and then jettisoning QB Tyrod Taylor. McDermiott clearly has some problems in Crapchester.

Good Andy vs. Bad Flacco

The Look Man incorrectly picked the Bengos to lose to the Dumpster Ducks in Week 2, only to find a hidden betting nugget: Ducks QB Joe Flacco stinks in the Nati. He once threw a career-high four picks there, and his QB passer rating is nearly 50 points lower in the Queen City than in Blitzburgh and 60 points lower than in Cleveland.

This information probably resulted in Andy Dalton having the confidence to throw three first half TDs to AJ Green. This game was over well before Flaccid got strip sacked late in the contest. The Bengos know how to make Cool Joe look his worst, and he has nearly a dozen turnovers against his primary AFC Norse nemesis.

Bottom line: never go against the nuggets. In this case, Flaccid is only the better QB outside the I-275 beltway.

ZEBRA OF THE WEEK

The Clay Matthews III roughing call in the Hornheads-Cheeseheads OT tie was clearly the worst in recent memory. The call negated a pick and allowed the Hornheads to climb back into the game after a gutsy performance by Discount Double Check and the Green Bay defense.

What received significantly less publicity was the Cousins to Thielen TD catch in which the Packers safety went for the pick instead of blasting Thielen at the one. In the old days, that play would've been a no brainer, but in today's fine happy environment, it resulted in a TD in a division game which could have far-reaching playoff ramifications. Think back to this one come December.

Zebra Tony Corrente (means "a lively dancer" in Italian) can attempt to dance around the issue, but he is one of the most senior officials following the retirements of Hulk Hochuli and Mean Gene Steratore. If nothing else, he and Clete Blakeman possess the largest guns of the Zebra crews now that the Hulk is gone. They must do set a tone for the rest of the herd.

Corrente's explanation was ridiculous. "He lifted him and drove him into the ground," When asked how Matthews could have prevented the penalty, Corrente responded, "Not picked him up and drove him into the ground." Who is this guy, the Bill Belichick of Zebras?

The hit by Clay was a clean, rugby tackle made while Cousins still had the rock in his right hand. Clay even put his hand down and twisted Cousins to avoid the deadly "full weight" conundrum which results in fines.

This call was only one of several horrific calls including:

- WR Davante Adams negated sideline grab on phantom offensive pass interference call
- TE Jimmy Graham got no love of a clear DPI call and lost a TD to a ticky-tack holding call.
- Hornheads Eric Kendricks very questionable roughing penalty on Aaron (Discount Double Check) Rodgers.

In the end, the Zebras took over this contest and dictated the final score.

Other ZOTW contenders:

<u>Carolina at Atlanta – Bill Vinovich</u>: Atlanta safety Damontae Kazee was correctly ejected after attempting to decapitate Cam Newton while Newton at the end of a running play. Newton slid to avoid the hit, and Kazee tried to take his face off, forcing Newton to the sideline for a concussion evaluation.

ATL HC Dan Quinn(Martin Production) said, "I didn't have a view of the play. Everybody supported the call, and the team has work to do to make sure players hit the right way." Quinn went on to say that he doesn't believe in the Moon Landing, cheats at golf and rubs a rabbit's foot prior to each game.

Tony (Toni, Tone) Corrente, you are the Look Man Zebra of the Week!



"Whassamattyou? Callin' a game ovah eah!"

THE LOOKAHEAD

Week 3 looks like chalk across the board, which is scary. Especially since the Look Man was a disastrous 0-4 in Week 2. There are a couple of opportunities for Pepto Bismol Upset picks, and the Look Man is going for it.

Cincinnati at Carolina (-3):

This is the battle of two banged up teams. Carolina is missing TE Greg Olsen and LT Cam Robinson, perhaps for the rest of the season. Cincy is missing C Billy Price with a foot/ankle, and RB Joe Mixon (Mix Off) has a knee.

The Bengals and Pokes swapped O-Line coaches in the offseason, and while it is unclear who got the better end of that deal, the Bengals are 2-0. Inherent in that record is the pickup of former Jynts OL Bobby Hart. Hart is flourishing at RT and he's already better than higher picks Cedric Ogbuehi or Jake Fisher

Hart and Ereck Flowers refused to hang out with Manning and the rest of the Big Blue O-line, so GM Dave Gettleman terminated him. Hart is playing well with the Orange and Black.

There is no timetable for Mixon's return, and he is the engine that has driven the Orange and Black to 2-0. Mixon will be replaced by RBs Gio Bernard and Mark Walton (think Duke Johnson Lite). Bengos ILB Preston Brown (ankle), may return on Sunday, but these are two beat up squads.

The difference here is Cam Newton, plain and simple. Black Cats win, setting up their early bye in Week 4.

Bisons at Hornheads (-16.5)

The Look Man hates this spread, but also hates the Bisons, a team in disarray. While he is not advocating taking a Crapchester team which would like to see its head coach fired, Minnesota faces a red-hot Rams team in Week 4. The Look Man ain't touching this one, but if you believe in the Lookahead factor, take the Bisons to cover.

Green Bay at DC: (+3)

This is the 4th meeting of Discount Double Check and Alex (Captain Checkdown) Smith since the 2005 draft in which Captain Checkdown went first overall and DDC fell to Pack at 25th. As a local kid from Chino, Rodgers seemed a perfect pick for the Niners, but they took Smith, who is 6'4" and a lot more athletic than you think. That was nearly fourteen years ago, and both guys just signed \$100+ million contracts.

Captain Checkdown got injured several times and lost his job to Colin Kaepernick. Rodgers had to wait until Brett Favre got his special jersey (with the fork sticking out of the back) before he got his chance in Green Bay.

This looks like a trap game. Rodgers is gutting it out and the Genocide Vix are down to their fourth running back. The Cheeseheads have faced two top five defenses and the prospect of having Kevin Spacey at QB if anything happens to Discount Double Check. Washington is nicked up also, but they can look forward to an early bye in Week 4.

Green Bay covers and wins in this battle of head coaching geniuses. Go Pack, go.

Blitzburgh at Tampa (-1) Monday Night Football

Based upon Ryan (The Great Gazoo) Fitzpatrick and his back-to-back-to 400 yard passing games, Expensive Corn Kings WR DeSean Jackson now questions whether (Famous) Jameis Winston gets his

starting job back following suspension. The Amish Rifle has been Fitzmagic over the last two games, with a QB rating of 151.8 that nearly doubles his career number.

Plus, Fitz shows up at the postgame presser channeling his inner Conor McGregor, replete with chains and shades. Fitz is cooler than the other side of the pillow and has been since he took over for (Johnny) Carson Palmer in Cincinnati as a rookie. Mister Tonight Show missed a season after suffering a knee in the AFC Divisional Playoff. Fitz had a Swiss cheese offensive line, so he took one read and headed downfield in those days. These days, he's looking for a \$20 million payday like Aaron Freakin Rodgers. or maybe, just maybe, a ring with a lot of diamonds in it.

On other side, the Stillers are a team in disarray. Antonio Brown was fined for missing practice, and the team is still bent over the loss of Le'Veon Bell at RB. They have more drama than points, but Big Ben looked pretty good in hurry up mode once they were down 21 against KC

Look for more of the same against a Tampa D that is quietly requiring Fitzmagic to score 40 in order to win. Corn Kings continue to roll, setting up a must-win Baltimore Blitzburgh matchup in Week 4. Tampa.



Brothers from another mother?

EPILOGUE

Roughing the passer took center stage in Week Two, and no call stood out more than the clean play by Clay Matthews III. Unless it was an earlier play in which a Packers DT had a clean sack of Cousins and released the QB to avoid a fine. Cousins went on to complete that pass and issue a thank you note to the Cheesehead lineman.

That is the central problem with this call. You cannot allow the QB to stay alive and complete what might be the game winning play. You also cannot anticipate whether a routine rugby tackle is going to draw a flag and generate a first down. The defense is in a Kobayashi Maru scenario of the league's making, and the result is going to be awful.

Roger (Rabbit) Goodell and the NFL keep tinkering with the rulebook in order to put asses in seats by manufacturing offense. More likely, the Law of Unintended Consequences will intervene, and the outcome will be awful football. We've already seen two OT ties in two weeks, and fans are unhappy with the product. The Zebras are actually manufacturing outcomes instead of administering the game, leading to the Tweet of the Year:



Sam Monson 🔗

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NFL's official guide to sacking the QB: Beat your blocker. Send written notice to the QB of your intention to take him down. Follow up by phone call. Only if both ignored may you lay him gently to the turf, taking care not to stain his uniform. Do not fall on him... In 2.5 secs.

8:07 PM - 10 Sep 2018 from Forestville, OH

It doesn't take a geologist to figure this stuff out. In the words of Oscar winning actress Tara Reid, "This ain't rock science."

Peace,

The Look Man