

THE LOOKMAN REPORT 2018

Week 3 – I Love the Corps...

“Hey, maybe you haven't been keeping up on current events, but we just got our asses kicked, pal!” – Bill Paxton as Private Hudson in Aliens (1986):

PROLOGUE

Like Private First-Class Hudson, some NFL teams believed they were still good in Week 3 despite evidence to the contrary. The Jacksonville J-Squads, New England Chowds, Tampa Bay Expensive Corn Kings, and Minnesota Hornheads all went into Week 3 believing they were among the NFL elite. They left the week with a busted-up spaceship, several dead or wounded and with the 2018 NFL season in mortal danger.

A few other teams were able to stop the slide in Week 3; Buffalo, Cleveland and Blitzburgh won, perhaps garnering an opportunity to get back to the mothership. The Stillers cooled off Expensive Corn Kings QB Ryan (The Great Gazoo) Fitzpatrick by blasting him into next week with blitzes. Browns QB Tyrod Taylor suffered a concussion courtesy of bad playcalling by OC Todd Haley, clearing the way for (Cake) Baker Mayfield to save HC Hue Jackson's job with a 14-point comeback win.

Kansas City Baby Backs QB Patrick Mahomes and Rams QB Jared Goff continued with explosive offensive outputs. The balance of the league held serve, with the possible exception of Raiders chief Jon (Chucky) Gruden, still in search of a biological weapon to parlay into win number one in 2018. The more things change, the more they stay the same.

Without further xenomorphic metaphors, the week that was.

LAGNIAPPE

Week 3 included some intrigue, with the Chowds annual September swoon, the return of Bad Andy (The Beige Water Pistol) Dalton due to an AJ Green groin injury, and the Jynts coming up big.

Hall of Famers on Strike

In a letter to the NFL, a group of Hall of Fame players suggested that they would boycott the NFL unless they receive a pension and health care benefits. The letter, obtained by the Look Man from a newly created Hall of Fame Board, and signed by Eric Dickerson, Marcus Allen, Mel Blount, Derrick Brooks, Jim Brown, Earl Campbell, Richard Dent, Carl Eller, Marshall Faulk, Mike Haynes, Rickey Jackson, Ronnie Lott, Curtis Martin, Joe Namath, John Randle, Jerry Rice, Deion Sanders, Bruce Smith, Jackie Smith, Lawrence Taylor, Kurt Warner, Sarah White (Reggie White's widow) and SCOTUS nominee Brett Kavanaugh.

When asked why Kavanaugh signed the letter, chairman Eric Dickerson would say only, “We wanted an unconvicted felon to sign along with us, just to give the letter some gravitas.”

Dickerson continued, "People know us from our highlight reels. As a group we are struggling with severe health and financial problems. To build this game, we sacrificed our bodies. In many cases, and despite the fact that we were led to believe otherwise, we sacrificed our minds. We write to demand two things: Health insurance and annual salary for all Hall of Famers that includes a share of league revenue."

The total cost for every Hall of Famer to have health insurance is less than \$4 million, which is less than that of a 30-second Super Bowl ad, or about 3 cents for every \$100 the league generates in revenue. It's not really too much to ask of the guys who made the NFL what it is, but the timing is interesting.

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Jimmy G, Minus a Knee

Less than a week following a season-ending knee injury to Garoppolo, the Niners worked out seven free agent QBs, none of whom are named “Colin Kaepernick.” Free-agent quarterbacks Kyle Allen, Kellen Clemens, Matt Simms, Tom Savage, T.J. Yates, Landry Jones and E.J. Manuel showed what they can do. Two of these guys have never started an NFL regular-season game.

Jimmy Garoppolo was placed on IR, and can now spend full-time rehabbing and banging porn stars on the Left Coast. Without a viable QB replacing him, he is guaranteed to win his starting job back in 2019.

CELEBRITY OBIT OF THE WEEK

Al Matthews, who portrayed the no-nonsense, cigar-chomping Sgt. Apone in the sci-fi horror classic *Aliens*, has died at the age of 75. Matthews provided one of the great pre-game speeches of all time, just before the Marines head into an alien bug hunt:

"All right, sweethearts, what are you waiting for? Breakfast in bed? Another glorious day in the Corps. A day in the Marine Corps is like a day on the farm. Every meal's a banquet. Every paycheck a fortune. Every formation a parade. I LOVE the Corps!" – Sgt Apone in Aliens



"Look into my eye..."

Director James Cameron shot the Marine scenes in the movie out of sequence to take advantage of months of the actors training with Matthews. There are at least a half dozen memorable ad libs, making this movie rank right up there with *A Few Good Men* and *Godfather I and II*.

Matthews portrayal of the alien-killing Marine drill sergeant was close to the bone, and with good reason: Matthews himself served three tours in Vietnam, garnering 13 combat awards and two Purple Hearts. He was the first black Marine to be promoted to the rank of sergeant in the field during his tour.

"Yes, I was the only person in the movie not pretending to be a Marine; in fact, I taught the other actors how to look and act. Director James Cameron was pleased with my input. He said he had no idea I was that good; had he known, my part would have been bigger," he said in 2006.

"In the original script I was supposed to play the role of Corporal Hicks, but the director worried that the sexual tension with Sigourney Weaver would be a problem. They chose Michael Biehn to play that role, so I chewed the scenery as Apone. Hell, I coulda shown Ripley a good time, like the ones we had in Ho Chi Minh city," said Matthews in 2006.

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Brooklyn-born Matthews began as a street corner doo-wop singer before finding his voice in the Greenwich Village scene. He retired to Europe after his military hitch, and scored a top ten hit in Europe.

Sigourney Weaver was nominated for Best Actress for her role as Ellen Ripley, the original Wonder Woman, the first ever for an actress in an action movie. If you haven't seen the director's cut of *Aliens*, do yourself a favor and watch it. You won't regret it.

Rest in Peace, Al.

ZEBRA OF THE WEEK

Week 3 was up for grabs based upon the roughing calls, and was highlighted by the following ZOTW contenders:

Stillers at Expensive Corn Kings: Pete Morelli (Mushroom) with 22 accepted penalties; that doesn't count the declinations. Final tally: Stillers 13-155; Corn Kings 9-80; for nearly three football fields of penalty yardage in a 30-27 finale. It was clear that the Stillers were going to keep drilling Fitzmagic until he crumbled. Mushroom lost control of the game and should've thrown someone out for personal fouls beyond the pale. Awful.

Jets at Browns Referee: Jerome Boger(mill): Captain Boger(mill) nearly closed the Beverly Hills Cop precinct, keeping the flag count to a season low 11 for 96. Oddly, the flags quit flying the moment (Cake) Baker Mayfield entered the contest.

And the winner, by a wide margin: for football that is nearly unwatchable, as well as outcomes dictated by the officiating, Pete Morelli (Mushroom), you are the Look Man **Zebra of the Week!**



"Wow, they are really giving Fitz the bi'ness!"

THE LOOKAHEAD

The Look Man has taken it on the chin in 2018, largely owing to the goofy new rules. But like a shooter in basketball, you gotta keep putting it up if you want to get buckets.

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There are some great looking games in Week 4: Hornheads at Lambs, Dumpster Ducks at Blitzburgh, Bengos at Dirty Birds, and Baby Backs at Donkeys. It takes about four weeks for the offenses to get into lock step, but the officiating has accelerated that effort in 2018. We now get to see fireworks in these key matchups with the outcomes impacting the postseason.

Cincinnati at Atlanta (-5.5)

AJ (Celo) Green fell awkwardly in Week 3 tilt at Carolina, leaving the game and not returning. Nati HC Marvin (Jerry) Lewis thought Green had re-aggravated an old college injury, and went into panic mode.

"He seemed to come around very quickly with the anti-inflammatories. We're very fortunate with that, plus I threw in a hummer," Lewis said. "We all know that we're one AJ Green injury away from me be fired. After all, the Tyler Show just ain't gonna cut it."

Lewis was referring to The Three Tylers: Tyler Eifert, Tyler Boyd and Tyler Kroft. WR Tyler Boyd is having a breakout season, averaging nearly 17 yards per catch despite being called "Stephen" by Boomer Esiason. Don't look for Eifert to be in Orange and Black in 2019, despite going 6 for 74 last week at Carolina.

Black Cats RB (Sister) Christian McCaffrey rolled for 184 rushing yards in Week 3, but ATL RB Devontae Freeman will be out on Sunday. (Me and) Julio Jones and Calvin Ridley (Scott) strike terror into the hearts of opposing defenses, with Matty (Ice) Ryan as the trigger man. Look for former Bengal Mo Sanu to have a breakout game.



Without AJ, the Bengos would be lost, forever lost

There are two problems for the ATL: (1) they don't have a solid TE, which is a Bengal killer, and (2) Matty Ice doesn't respond well to pass rushers like Carlos Dunlap (Tires) and Geno Atkins (Diet). Nonetheless, the ATL brings the Nati back to Earth with a thud, setting up a Week 5 shootout with the Marine Mammals in Cincinnati. Dirty Birds.

Miami at New England (-7)

The Marine Mammals will be without their two top DE in William Hayes (ACL – IR) and Andre Branch (knee). Hayes landed awkwardly and tore his ACL attempting to avoid a roughing penalty against Derek Carr in Week 3. Cameron Wake is the other DE, but he will have to overcome a knee.

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Former Chowds WR Danny (Boy) Amendola returns to the scene of the crime after signing a rich free agent deal with Miami in the offseason. Danny Boy knows the Chowds playbook and he will be leaking it to Adam Gase.

Marine Mammals QB Ryan Tannehill is 0-5 at the Blade, with five TDs and nine picks. The Look Man doesn't see this trend reversing in Week 4. The Marine Mammals are a wholly owned subsidiary of the New England Chowds. The Chowds, who are stinging after two consecutive losses and a lackluster 2-2 start.

Result: Chowds make fools of the media again, springing from Miami's chest like alien larvae Josh Gordon puts up 150 receiving yards. Chowds.

Dallas at Detroit (-3)

The Cadillacs opened up an unexpected can of whoopass against the Chowds last week, with HC Matt (Zig Zag) Patricia doing a Jedi mind trick on his master Bill Belicheat. The resulting win was an emotional too emotional.

Look for the Pokes to return the favor in this Week 4 tilt. The Detroit defense does not match up with Dallas as well as they did New England. They are fifth from the bottom of the NFL against the rush, so look for Zeke Elliott to turn Ford Field into the Ford Theater, with Zig Zag playing the role of Abraham Lincoln.

Doomsday Lite is surprisingly stout, owing to the excellent coaching of Rod Marinelli. Marinelli is again doing it with smoke and mirrors, as LB Sean Lee is currently on his "annual hamstring of the year" sabbatical. The play of LBs Jaylon (After Earth) Smith and Leighton Vander Esch will allow the Pokes to correct their 1-7 record without Lee in the last three seasons.

Other nice betting gems: (1) Marinelli coached in Detroit once upon a time, and this guy has a memory like an elephant on Adderall. (2) Matt Stafford the Cadillacs had an emotional Week 3 win, and will be looking ahead to the Week 5 tilt vs. Green Bay.

To sum it all up, Matt Stafford is going to throw it 40 times and the Pokes temporarily quiet the noise with a nice road win in the Motor City. Pokes.

Cleveland at Oakland (-2.5):

Despite having a breakout two quarters to beat the Jets, (Cake) Baker Mayfield is being hailed as the savior of the Cleveland franchise by both the fans and local media. There was even talk in the local newspaper that the Browns should now trade Tyrod Taylor to save even more money.

This kind of irresponsible journalism is part and parcel of why the Browns have stunk for nearly two decades. The fans, once among the most sophisticated in the NFL, have devolved into fantasy football idiots. The result is decades of misery, and a team with busted up QBs and playoff dreams dashed on the rocks of stupidity.

The Look Man liked what he saw in Week 3, but he ain't ready to fit Cake Baker for a gold jacket quite yet. OC Todd Haley and the Browns had better start running the football or Baker is going to end up just like Garoppolo.

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Week 4 is pivotal as Tyrod Taylor suffered a concussion and a bad back in Week 3 from carrying the weight of the franchise. Taylor's injury is directly attributable to Haley's game calling, which included a Week 3 flea flicker before the Browns ever established the run. Taylor got blasted as a result, and now journeyman QB Drew Stanton will be Cake's backup in the Black Hole.

Browns HC Hue (Huge Action) Jackson will be facing his old pal Jon (Chucky) Gruden, with whom he coached at Azusa Pacific, former home of Christian (the Nigerian Nightmare) Okoye. Huge Action's homecoming will be shared with former colleague Paul Guenther, with whom he shared the Cincinnati sideline. Guenther was terminated in 2017 despite his Bengals defenses holding opposing QBs to a league low 80.1 rating over the past four years. He reappears in the Black Hole for a winless Raiders team with blood in their eyes, and a rookie QB in their sites. One thing Guenther won't have is a pass rusher, as Chucky traded Khalil Mack to Chicago before lamenting how difficult it is to find good pass rushers.

The Raiders are quietly racking up serious yardage on offense, ranking in the top ten despite the absence of wins. QB Derek (You can drive my) Carr is averaging 300 yards, but is turning the ball over and the Oakland defense couldn't stop a nosebleed.

The prescription for a Browns win is simple: Quit trying to turn Mayfield into a superstar and run the f--- football. There's a reason Haley isn't in Blitzburgh anymore, and it's beginning to look like he is sabotaging Gregg Williams and the defense in order to build his own path to the head coaching position. Raiders.

Baltimore at Blitzburgh (-3) Football Night in America

The Stillers actually stink on defense, and the backyard balling out of Big Ben is the only thing saving them right now. They truly miss Le'Veon Bell, who sets up the passing game and provides rest for the defense with ball control, clock eating offense. A rested defense is a good defense; at least in Blitzburgh.

Enter the Dumpster Ducks, with Flacco having a solid season, and it looks like Baltimore gets an early jump on the AFC Norse crown. B-More.

Kansas City at Denver (+5) Monday Night Football

This game has historically been a home and home split, but the Look Man doesn't expect that this week. This game will be the first 2018 marquee matchup for Mahomes and the Baby Backs. This

Denver has given up catches to tight ends in bunches. Jason Witten, Travis Kelce, Charles Clay, Evan Engram, Trey Burton, Julius Thomas, Tyler Croft and Vernon Davis all had 2016 touchdown receptions against the Donkeys. Kelce has two of his three career 130-yard reception games against them. Like the Bengos, the Donkeys stink against good tight ends. Even Seattle's rookie TE Will Dissly dissed them for a buck oh five in the opener and B-More rookie TE Mark Andrews gashed them in Week 3.

It's hard to blame Denver; TEs are now like giant wingbacks; too big for safeties to manage and far too fast for most linebackers. Gronk may get the ink, but Kelce can and will line up anywhere. He is the best TE in the NFL, bar none.

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Craig Wrolstad is doing the game Monday night, so look for home cooking at Investigation Field at Mile High. If the Baby Backs get out to their customary 11+ point lead, there will be a lot of phantom calls to keep this one watchable.

The Mahometer will be dialed all the way up here, as the Chefs barbecue the Donkeys on Monday night Football. KC.



“The Most Catch-worthy Man in the World; stay thirsty my friends...”

EPILOGUE

The Look Man is not going to pile onto the roughing the passer discussion. Not only is it pointless, it's been done to death by the talking hairdos. Instead, let's focus on the other key issue in 2018: offenses are way ahead of defenses. The real question is whether this artifact is anomalous or a real trend. The League is going to discuss the elephant in the room, but the real key is mismatches. The advent of big, fast wideouts and tight ends who create matchup nightmares for defensive coordinators is changing the game. Tack on some ill-advised and very questionable holding and defensive PI calls, and you have a nearly unwatchable product.

Ball control offense keeps the opposing QB on the bench. The KC Baby Backs and LA Rams have been making a living by getting up big early, forcing the opposition to become one dimensional. They can then hand the ball off to their backs, eating clock and putting the game out of reach. While the formula has worked so far, it will only work until it doesn't.

The Look Man believes both Sean McVay and Andy (Kool-Aid) Reid never saw a pass play they didn't like. They will continue to pass long after they need to, especially if the potential game winning first down is in the balance. The problem is, that first down can turn into a pick six in a close contest.

A team with a solid running attack will expose the KC defense, which is pretty pedestrian. It won't happen in Week 4, but it will happen.

Peace,

The Look Man