

THE LOOKMAN REPORT 2018

Week 4 – Sober As A Judge

“I liked beer. I still like beer.” – SCOTUS nominee and possible perv Brett Kavanaugh

PROLOGUE

The first quarter of the 2018 NFL season has seen an explosion of offense, with record numbers across the board. The focus on defensive roughness, holding and pass interference has directly contributed to these values as has the ridiculous number of overtime games.

The Look Man hates this trend in which teams cannot even play defense without whistles. There is only one defensive penalty which doesn't result in an automatic first down, and now defensive players are playing with one arm tied behind their backs. It is little wonder tackling has reached a new nadir in the league.

The trend doesn't bode well for the balance of the year, and it now appears we can expect Super Bowl LII level scoring. Defense is becoming simply a rumor in the National...Football...League.

Without further grousing, the week that was.

LAGNIAPPE

Week 4 is a good barometer for the season, with one quarter down and three to go. The offensive output has been, well, offensive, and several teams need to find wins in Week 5 if they want to resurrect their postseason hopes. Green Bay, Minnesota, and Blitzburgh immediately spring to mind.

I Like Beer

The Look Man caught the Senate nomination hearings last week, and he ain't hating on SCOTUS nominee Brett Kavanaugh for embibing. What he does have concerns about is the screed by Kavanaugh in the Senate hearings, hilariously satired by Matt Damon on Saturday Night Live (see also, YouTube, under “the funniest sh!t evah”).

The Look Man remembers a very cold late season Stillers-Bengals tilt that went to OT, largely due to some seriously questionable officiating. It's a little-known fact that NFL stadia quit selling beer at the end of the third quarter, so the Look Man and Long-Suffering Bengals Fan Sundance decided to load up on beers at Paul Bearer Stadium.

Those beers ended up as nearly frozen slushies by overtime, and the two guys in front of the Look Man were looking for any warmth they could find. The Look Man, ever beneficent, offered up some liquid heat in the form of his personal bourbon stash, which was gladly accepted.

The Bengals won that game on a questionable fumble call and it was so cold that the Zebras weren't looking too long to figure it out. The two fans in front of the Look Man may or may not have driven their car through the back of their garage after the game due to excess inebriation.

The FBI is now investigating whether alcohol may have been a factor in the garage crash, and the wife of one blames the Look Man. Though he didn't graduate at the top of his class at Yale, the Look Man is not accepting culpability.

Sudden Death?

The Look Man loves sudden death OT, but the new rules leave him cold. OT ties really shake up postseason tiebreakers, players don't know the rules, and coaches forget how to coach when a tie is

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imminent. Frank (The Fourth) Reich went for a 4th down deep in his own territory, giving the game away instead of risking a tie.

The current OT format puts asses in seats, and the Zebras tend to create OT by making chicken-bleep calls in regulation. It's unknown whether the equines receive extra pay for these contests, but free football ain't all it's cracked up to be. Just ask the guys who had to pay for that garage. Or, better yet, their wives.

The NFL established regular season sudden-death OT in 1974 as a knee-jerk reaction to sixteen ties between 1970-1973. In the 2010 postseason, the NFL, in a nod to the college OT approach, established a modified OT system requiring both teams to have the opportunity to possess the ball.

The league dropped the OT duration from fifteen to ten minutes in 2017, allegedly to reduce injuries. In truth, the reason was to maximize revenue for the late games, which cannot be broadcast until the early OT games have concluded. It also sets up teams playing Thursday Night Football, like the banged-up Ponies, who could barely field a team last night in Foxboro. There is no way the NFL is giving up that cash cow.

The NFL has never had three games end in a tie during one season. This season, it already has two and a pair of near-misses in six overtime games. The projected numbers would be eighteen regular season overtimes and eight ties.

It Was a Big Seplosion...

Like the SCOTUS nominee, the NFL 2018 season has been incredibly offensive. Here's the 2018 first quarter by the numbers:

- 3,030 points scored
- 344 total TDs
- 228 TD passes

The NFL is drunk with offense, as four and five hundred yard passing days have become common in 2018. Ryan (The Great Gazoo) Fitzpatrick, Kirk (Kurt) Cousins, Derek (You Can Drive My) Carr, and Jared (Goof) Goff are on pace to surpass Peyton Manning's single season yardage record of 5,477. None of these guys get into the Hall without paying admission.

The new NFL is pass-happy, but Drew (Cool) Brees has been the trendsetter. Cool Brees will eclipse The Sheriff's career passing mark on Monday Night, but he has never won the MVP, receiving only a handful of votes even in his Super Bowl season. Brees has five of the nine 5,000 yard passing seasons in NFL history, and has exceeded 70% completions in three of four seasons. He's as underrated for a first ballot HOF QB, having already erased Marino, Unitas and Favre.

Showtime or Big Bird?

Patrick (Showtime) Mahomes dropped some dimes on MNF, including a sweet left-handed push to Tyreek (Cheetah) Hill on 3rd down. He also converted a 1st and 35, defeating both the zebras and the Mile High faithful.

Both Mahomes and Mayfield were drafted by Browns GM John Dorsey, but the Look Man believes the Browns wasted a pick on (Cake) Baker Mayfield, who baked up four turnovers in a 45-42 OT loss in

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Oaktown. Cake's ceiling is Case Keenum, while Mahomes' is The Sheriff. He has a stronger arm than Montana, better on the run than Favre, can make every throw, and is on pace to break Manning's regular season 55 TD heaves. The Kid is a keeper.

Mahomes' goofy voice is being compared to Kermit the Frog of Sesame Street fame by his teammates and head coach (by the way, Kermit the Frog deserved Emmy nominations for his portrayal of a frog from the 'hood. What an actor!). The Look Man believes Big Bird is a better comparison, owing to the wig and bandana look. You be the judge:



Separated at bird, eh birth?

Bells Tolling?

The Stillers are actively shopping RB Le'Veon Bell, and numerous reports suggest the Iggles, Niners and Aeronauticals have made exploratory calls. All have running backs who are either nicked up or gone for the year, and could use a guy who makes offensive lines better.

Bell now says he will return in Week 7, but after seeing Shehawks safety Earl (Tiger) Thomas break his wheel last week, the Look Man wonders why. The NFL guarantees nothing if you're injured, so players are forced to take the money before they run. The Stillers are currently headed for the AFC Norse cellar, and will likely place an unfair burden on Bell if he returns.

ZEBRA OF THE WEEK

The Zebra of the Week award was not even a contest after the equines stole yet another win from Cleveland. Walt (Disney) Anderson overturned a defender blowing up Browns WR Jarvis Landry, ignored a helmet collision by Marshawn (Beast Mode) Lynch and a clear strip sack of Derek Carr.

Any one of those plays could have decided the game, but the one that did was a 3rd down measurement which would have effectively ended the game in regulation. Instead of running out the clock, Derek Carr generated OT with a TD pass and two-point conversion.

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The NFL came out with a Trumpian rebuttal, but no one is going for that banana in the tailpipe. Cleveland PD issued a warrant for Coleman's arrest, but it was too little too late.



Too bad Walt Coleman (Lantern) of Tuck Rule fame was not available. Oh, that's right - - - Coleman hasn't done an Oakland game since 2001.

Walt (Disney) Anderson, you are the Look Man's **Zebra of the Century!**

THE LOOKAHEAD

The Look Man turned it around in Week 4, with a 4-1 record. The one loss was a come-from-behind win by the Orange and Black in the ATL, largely due to a defense which has lost consecutive games when their offense scored 36.

Sundance suggests the Look Man take the gimmies, citing the Bengals 3-1 record as an example. The Look Man has too much game to spike the punch bowl. He prefers a challenge.

Dumpster Ducks at Browns (+3)

(Cake) Baker Mayfield has put up numbers, but has not seen a defense like the Ducks. Ducks' QB Joe Flacco is lighting it up, and Browns HC Huge Action has never beaten an AFC Asgard opponent. Look for Ducks WR (Slick) Willie Snead IV to have a career day. Ducks.

Marine Mammals at Bengals (-6.5)

The Marine Mammals took an ass-whooping last week in Boston, as accurately predicted by the Look Man. What wasn't predicted was the loss of the Miami center, who is now out for the season.

The Miami O-line is a mess and QB Ryan Tannehill is going to need gasoline on his ankles to keep the Bengals D from eating his candy ass up. Many fans don't look at linemen in today's fantasy football world, which is a mistake. If you have good O and D-lines, you are going to the postseason. If you don't you will have to buy a ticket like everyone else.

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The Bengals D has been awful on 3rd down, giving first downs up like free beer. Fortunately, Andy Dalton has been on fire, and the returns of RB Joe Mixon (Mix Off) and LB Vontaze Burfict (Storm) bode well for the Nati. Bengos.

Dirty Birds at Stillers (-3)

The Stillers are currently at the bottom of nearly every defensive category imaginable. If not for Big Ben leading the league in passing, they would be worse than their 1-2-1 record. These guys really miss Le'Veon Bell, who sets up blocks like Beethoven played piano. Antonio Brown may be the mortar, but the brick is Bell, and this team stinks without him.

Atlanta overcomes, as Matty Ice Matty becomes Tony Romo (The Place for Ribs), throwing into double coverage in order to put up a fifty burger to overcome his own defense and the Tissue Paper Curtain. ATL.

Hornheads at Iggles (-3)

Iggles QB Carson Wentz got seriously mistreated in Week 4, taking several questionable blows against the Flaming Thumbtacks. Folks can claim a Super Bowl hangover if they like, but the Iggles are banged up at every position. Wentz has no wideout weapons and RBs Darren Sproles and Coleman were both limited this week.

The Hornheads come in with a defense which got exposed. Their LBs got toasted by the speed of the Rams receivers and their defense misses Everson Griffen. The good news: the Iggles team speed is not great, and Kirk (Kurt) Cousins knows this team from his stint in the NFC Least. The Look Man still likes the Iggles to get to 3-2 courtesy of their front seven. Philly.

Pokes at Slim Shadies (-3) Football Night in America

The Pokes looked good in Dee-troit last week, but this game is huge for both teams. JJ Watt, Whitney (Ming) Mercilus and Jadeveon Clowney are quietly turning Houston's fortunes around, and QB

On the other side, Dallas gets DE David Irving back to team with DeMarcus Lawrence. This twosome is tough, and Doomsday Lite could be resurgent.

The Look Man likes Houston to win the Battle of Texas, especially with defensive wizard Romeo (The Bus Driver) Crennel in an increased role this year. Slim Shadies.

Genocide Victims at Religious Icons (-6.5) Monday Night Football –

This one looks like a shootout, with Alex (Captain Checkdown) versus Cool Brees. Not so fast, my damies; the Genocide Vix are quietly the number one ranked defense through four weeks and New Orleans is the sixth ranked offense.

Both teams can light up the scoreboard, and the sub story includes Adrian (All Day) Peterson against the team that told him he was finished. He really gave New Orleans HC Sean (Secret Squirrel) Payton a piece of his mind in 2017 before being cut and injured. He is back in 2018, looking as if someone is chasing him with a belt.

The Look Man likes the Icons with WR Michael Thomas, the return of RB Mark Ingram, and the prospect of Brees breaking the Sheriff's record. Clearly a Game of the Week candidate, though. Icons.

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EPILOGUE

We've passed the quarter pole of the season, so the next few weeks will be interesting. The surprising Bengals have the Marine Mammals and Stillers upcoming. The Chowds face KC, Chicago, and Green Bay, and the Iggles take on the Pokes twice, New Orleans and the Jynts.

Cincinnati is perhaps the surprise team of the season, and, will have a strong leg up on the AFC Asgard Division if they can beat the Marine Mammals and Stillers. The Pokes narrowly defeated a mediocre Detroit team on the road, and the Iggles are scuffling. The Look Man is not yet buying the young gun QBs despite Big Bird, Goof Goff and Mitch Trubisky's touchdown explosions.

Get yer popcorn ready, because it's gonna be a show.

Peace,

The Look Man