

## THE LOOKMAN REPORT 2019

### Week Eleven – Stretch Run

*“I don’t need no motivation from nobody else. That’s done for me. I’ve been here for four [now five] weeks. Just trying to play football.” – Baltimore CB Marcus Peters on facing his former team (the Rams) in LA this week.*

#### PROLOGUE

The Look Man has two major factors he uses for amusement purposes only. One is the Lookahead Factor, in which teams with a tough future opponent let their guard down and lose to lesser foe. This one has been working to great effect and the Lookahead feature has been red hot of late.

The other is something called The Revenge Factor: teams who trade or release players or coaches to an opponent, only to face that team the following season. The Revenge Factor is bolstered by the fact that these interlopers know the system: play calls, tendencies and looks, and can translate that information into a game plan. Many fans believe Spygate was no big deal, that knowing plays in advance is not a major factor in winning. The Look Man is not among that number.

Week Eleven was interesting, but not noteworthy. A boatload of teams climbed back into the conversation for the postseason, and only the Bengals, have been eliminated. Like the NBA season, which doesn’t start officially until Christmas Day, the NFL season turns a corner on Thanksgiving. Somewhere between turducken and your third piece of pie, the NFL gets going at full throttle. And the Look Man cannot wait.

Without further foodporndaily.com, the Week that Was:

#### LAGNIAPPE

##### QB Ratings

The Look Man underrated Dak Prescott and Lamar Jackson. While both had substandard years in 2018, making one wonder where this came from. The answer is not in our hearts, but in our league.

The NFL is still operating from the model of a pocket QB, and these guys are bona fide leaders in the huddle. Dak is playing well in spite of Doomsday Lite, but instead of the Tony Romo model (beaucoup points and beaucoup turnovers), he is putting up MVP numbers with incredible precision. His receivers are not all-world; in fact, Michael Gallup is just beginning to look good, and Amari Cooper may not even be wearing the star in 2020.

As for Lamar (L-Jack City) Jackson, the ceiling is the roof. L-Jack has put on twenty pounds of muscle and his speed and power are off the charts. He still cannot throw the ball outside the numbers, but his Kent Tekulve sidarm delivery allows him to deliver the rock in the middle with incredible accuracy.

Tack on a power runner in Mark Ingram, two-TE 22 formations and wideouts Marquise Brown (AB’s cousin) and Willie Snead to take the lid off a defense, and you have a Time of Possession mismatch. The additions of CB Marcus Peters and Jimmy Smith make them a dangerous team that could go deep into the postseason. Most underrated players: LBs Mathew Judon and Patrick Onwasur, who have speed and power.

The Dumpster Ducks went out on a limb and dumped a bad QB and contract in Joe Flacco, replacing it with a first rounder with a fifth-year option. They have the right combination of cap room, talent, coaching, speed and power. If they can teach L-Jack City to throw outside the numbers, they can parlay this into a Super Bowl run, if not this season, then within two.

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Dallas is on the other end of the spectrum. They have paid Zeke Elliott and OG Zack Martin, and now face the prospect of paying Dak Prescott nearly \$40 million per. Their defense still lacks component corners, and Amari Cooper will probably be gone after 2019. They are about to be cap-strapped, and still have some missing pieces. The coaching staff has zero signature wins, and Jason Garrett is again on the hot seat. If the Pokes don't win the NFC Least and go deep into the Tournament, they may be looking to hire.

#### Legion of Zoom

The KC wide receiving crew has speed to burn, and now a new nickname as well. The Legion of Zoom is comprised of WRs Tyreek (Cheetah) Hill, Sammy Watkins and Mecole (Simpson-Brown) Hardman. Tack on RB Damien (The Omen) Williams, and you have four sub-4.5 forties. The only problem with this team is defense, or lack thereof. The Baby Backs couldn't stop a nosebleed, and they are going to get one if they make the postseason.

#### **ZEBRA OF THE WEEK**

##### Myles' Melee – Part Deux

The NFL came down hard after last week's Helmet-gate, setting up the retreat following the appeals. Myles Garrett's indefinite suspension was upheld, Ogunjobi got a week off, but ten large waived, and Stillers C Maurkice Pouncey went from three weeks at home to two. The fallout means that Pouncey won't see the Browns again on December 1, and Garrett is still done for the year.

No word yet on the fine for the instigator, (Brick) Mason Rudolph. Rudolph issued a formal apology, clearly written by his agent, but received no suspension. Garrett's appeal indicated that the Brick Mason dropped a racial slur in the fracas, but that has been denied.

This thing sets up in a ring kissing ceremony in the offseason where Myles goes to the Principal's Office to get his toys back. Goodell makes a speech about how Garrett promises to play nice with the other kids, and the whole sordid affair is over. Except the Browns get jobbed and the horrible officiating continues.



*“Some of my best friends are DEs”*

##### Houston at Baltimore – Alex Kemp

Kemp and his crew swallowed the whistle on a defensive pass interference call in the first stanza of the Game of the Week, changing the outcome of the contest. Ravens CB Marlon Humphrey undressed WR DeAndre Hopkins in the endzone, and the call was challenged.

## THE LOOKMAN REPORT 2019

### Week Eleven – Stretch Run

Even Stevie Wonder could've made that call, and Hopkins is calling for big changes in replay. The final score was not indicative of the game, as a TD there forces Baltimore to play from behind, something they couldn't do in the Browns 40-25 shellacking in 2019.

The pass interference replay is a one-year trial in response to the NFL putting the wrong team in Super Bowl LIII. Clearly Al Riveron and the boys in Manhattan want no part of the rule, and the Look Man hasn't seen even one overturn in NFL100. We all know where this is headed, and it's a bad look for a league that is boasting double digit millions in annual revenue. Alex Kemp, you are the Look Man **Zebra of the Week!**

### THE LOOKAHEAD

The Look Man doesn't know about you, but NFL100 is flying by at a scary pace. Perhaps it is the glaring missed calls, or it could be the drama of first round QBs going bust, but it seems odd. Week Thirteen promises to be the beginning of the Culling, when the wheat and chaff of the NFL begin to separate.

#### Browns at Marine Mammals:

Ryan (Veritas) FitzMagic missed practice on Wednesday, but many believe it is just because Veritas is an old man. No word yet on whether Philip Rivers and Tom Terrific also missed practice, but it's a good bet. These guys can barely get out of bed at their age.

Browns TE David Njoku (means 'potato chip' in Swahili) may return from a broken wrist this weekend. Njoku broke his wrist catching a medicine ball from Dr. Baker Mayfield in Week Two. He chose a surgery option via implantation of a steel rod in his wrist. He's hoping to parlay this into a series of ED commercials and a real career in the NFL.

If (Cake) Baker Mayfield cannot light up this Miami defense, he can get directly on the Mitch Trubisky Bust Bus. Browns.

#### Stillers at Bengals (+6.5):

Stillers WRs JuJu Smith-Schuster and Diontae Johnson suffered concussions, and RB James Conner has a shoulder and Mo Pouncey got a couple weeks off. Put it all together and you have a M\*A\*S\*H unit descending on Cincinnati.

This week represents their best opportunity for a win, and the Look Man believes they take it, especially since Tua will not be playing in 2020. The Stillers get caught looking ahead to Cleveland in Week Fourteen. Nati covers and wins in a minor upset.

#### J-Squareds at Flaming Thumbtacks (+3)

(Big Dick) Nick Foles is back at QB for Sacksonville, and the J-Squareds already beat the Flaming Thumbtacks in Florida, 20-7. Both teams have new looks, with the 'tacks featuring Ryan Tannehill at the helm instead of Marcus Bust-iota. Tannie has been completing passes at a 70% clip, and he is playing for a contract extension in 2020.

So what? The 'tacks may be the most overrated of the wild card hopefuls, and they will be looking ahead to their nemesis next week in Indy. The Colts consider them a wholly owned subsidiary, and with good reason. Big Dick Nick covers the three and pulls a minor upset. J-Squareds.

## THE LOOKMAN REPORT 2019

### Week Eleven – Stretch Run

#### Raiders at Aeronauticals (+3)

The Aeronauticals went on a little tear, winning one in a row over the Genocide Victims. The funny thing: they're better than their record, and they match up well with the Raiders. Better yet, the Silver and Black is looking ahead to next week at Arrowhead. NY-B wins a close one by shutting down the ground game and harassing QB Derek Carr, who is not that good. If you think this is a joke, the Look Man refers you to the October 13<sup>th</sup> 24-22 win over the Pokes, the NFC mirror image of the Raiders. J-E-T-S.

#### Pokes at Chowds (-6.5)

Something seemed seriously amiss with this Chowds-Pokes spread. The New England offense is missing Sanu and Dorsett, plus Edelman is nicked. Brady cannot hit the broad side of a barn and his passes are bouncing off of receivers like phaser fire off a Scalosian-rigged engineering panel. This was supposed to be the typical "New England is in trouble" hype period of the season, followed by "what a dynasty!", "Brady walks on water" and the Look Man's personal favorite, "I would drink Tom Brady's bathwater."

The Look Man has a little problem with Doomsday Lite, and Robert (the Mighty) Quinn and Demarcus (D-Law) Lawrence have not exhibited the needed pass rush. The key to getting to Brady is rushing the A Gap, typically using a T-E stunt instead of blitzing. He gets worried about the patella, and the ball comes out fast and inaccurate.

Bottom line: the Pokes could rise up and beat the Chowds with a running Dak, but Dak is only going to run if it's to the bank after he signs his mega-deal. He simply cannot afford to get hurt in a contract year. Chowds cover with a ground and pound attack. Chowds.

#### Cheeseheads at Niners (-3) Football Night in America

The Cheeseheads fly out to Levi Stadium to take on America's (Real)Team, the Frisco Niners, in an old school NFC battle. This game reminds the Look Man of the battles of yore, featuring former Niner coaches Mike Holmgren, Andy Reid and Steve Mariucci. Those guys transplanted the West Coast Offense to Midwest Green Bay, and the Niners never forgave them.



"Aaron who???"

## THE LOOKMAN REPORT 2019

### Week Eleven – Stretch Run

This updated battle features dreamy Aaron (Discount Double Check) Rodgers and Jimmy (G) Garoppolo battling for the cover of People Magazine's sexiest QB ever. The Look Man is not sure who wins that contest, but this game belongs to the baddest man on planet: Discount Double Check. Look for DDC to dump his agent and go straight Mayhem on the Niners, who are slightly overrated. WR Davante Adams is healthy after the bye week, and RB Aaron (II) Jones is a matchup nightmare. Cheeseheads.

#### Baltimore at Rams (+3) Monday Night Football

The Rams are actually getting three in this epic matchup. QB Jared (Subway) Goff has not shown up in 2019, and the Rams run game is subpar. Head coach Sean McVay has morphed into Andy Reid West; he's even starting putting on a few pounds from stress eating.

Baltimore has been doing it with smoke and mirrors, and the real secret to beating them is to get up early and force them to play from behind. They are outstanding at ground and pound; quick strike offense? Not so much.

The wild card in this game is D-Coordinator Wade Phillips, who is a defensive genius. Phillips will be at a deficit without his former CB Marcus Peters, who is wearing purple on Sunday. So, both the Revenge Factor and the Lookahead Factor are in play, because B-More is at KC in Week Fourteen. Peters wants a piece of McVay, and could victimize Subway Goff with a pick six.

The Look Man is slightly obsessed with Baltimore, and he needs them to lose. The only question is whether it is this week in LA or next week in KC. Think long, think wrong. Rams.

#### **EPILOGUE**

The push for the playoffs is now nearly official. The slate of Turkey Day games is fluff, but this is the last of the bye weeks. From here on, it gets real up in here.

The best part of this process is the twists and turns. Wins in November and December are gut check wins; losses are choke jobs. The teams with the most intestinal fortitude will rise and the pretenders will fall. That is the beauty of the National...Football...League: if you wipe away all the bad calls and political horseshit, it is truly a meritocracy.

Many consider the number thirteen unlucky. To the Look Man, it smells like money.

Peace,

The Look Man