

## THE LOOKMAN REPORT 2019

### Week Twelve – Turkey Trot

*"Right now, we are just a bunch of good individual players. Yeah, our roster looks great on paper -- whoopty-hell, alright? -- but at the end of the day, we better be a good team." – Browns HC Freddie Kitchens during training camp.*

#### PROLOGUE

The Thanksgiving Day games represent a real triumph for the NFL, force feeding professional football to fans who have already gorged on turkey and stuffing. The Look Man couldn't get to a real LMR this week owing to travel schedules and work, but here is a truncated post-Turkey Day special.



*"Neither one of us will play in the Rematch..."*

#### THE LOOKAHEAD

Week Thirteen is lucky for NFL Fan, with several compelling games upcoming. The Look Man was two of three on Turkey Day, and the Bears' Zebra-aided win was the only blemish.

The schedule makers did us a favor by loading up on the division matchups late in the year. It forces teams to play starters all the way to the finish line in order to secure home field advantage and playoff bye weeks. Of course, the Zebras are going to start screwing AFC teams in order to get the Chowds the AFC One Seed. And Baltimore might not be the only team to be affected.

The Week Ahead:

#### Ohio State at Michigan (+10) – Rivalry Week Bonus Game

In order to be a rivalry, both of the teams have to win the game from time to time. The Buckeyes haven't lost to Michigan since 2011, and Jim (Not John) Harbaugh is 0-4 since his arrival in Ann Arbor.

This season, Ohio State has an embarrassment of riches on offense, with QB Justin Fields, RB JK Dobbins, and a host of wideouts with talent. The Look Man's favorite is KJ Hill, a possession guy, but Chris Olave and Austin Mack are ballers also.

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The Buckeyes are gunning for a number one spot in the FCS, but win or lose, they are likely already in the college playoff. Still, it would be best to take no chances with the Myth of SEC Superiority.

The weather is likely to be bad, with freezing rain/snow mix which makes passing a challenge and neutralize aptly named All-World DE Chase Young, who is sure to be playing on Sundays in the near future. No puzzle, since both squads have an excellent run offense. While the footing won't support Young's patented bull rush, he will get to QB Shea Patterson, who will need to pass once that Team Up North gets behind on the scoreboard.

Buckeyes cover and win in a physical, poorly officiated battle in inclement weather. Bucks.

#### Browns at Stillers (+2) – Helmetgate II

Again, a bad weather game is likely, so whoever runs the ball will win this one. Browns RB Nick Chubb showed his talent last week, so hopefully he won't need to be introduced to the football by HC Freddie Kitchens.

Mike Tomlin is a legitimate Coach of the Year candidate with what he has done. He lost Big Ben and Mason Rudolph (the Redneck QB) and thrived, putting the Stillers in position for a wild card berth. He benched the Reindeer Kid and beat a winless Bengals team. JuJu Smith-Schuster is still out after the Turnpike Bowl I, and RB James (Sarah) Conner is doubtful. No problem: Tomlin installs Jalen Samuel and rookie Benny (Matt) Snell.

This game is going to be a slobberknocker and the winner may still miss the postseason. Stillers QB (Duck) Devlin Hodges lives down to his nickname as DT Sheldon Richardson dominates the line of scrimmage.

The Look Man likes Cleveland to beat the Stillers, the Zebras and the Yinzers, setting up the Battle of Ohio Part One in Week Fourteen and a nice rematch with the Ravens in Week Sixteen. Browns, baby, Browns.

#### Oakland at KC (-9.5)

Oakland got caught looking ahead to this game, losing to the Jets on the East Coast. But the Look Man believes the second game of a roadie is always the toughest, and this game is no exception. Mahomes and the Baby Backs jump out to a big lead and force the Raiders to pass the football.

Good thing too, because the KC Defense cannot stop the run. Of course, Gruden is not the head coach everyone says he is, and he is wholly owned by the Andy (Kool-Aid) Reid Corporation. Reid taught a young Gruden when they were both with the Niners and Cheeseheads, and he knows the thoughts in Gruden's dreams.

Still, this spread is too large for a division game. KC wins, Oakland covers.

#### Frisco at Baltimore (-6) – Game of the Week

The Niners have gotten big time hype after blasting the Cheeseheads at Levi last week, and the Ravens are the flavor of the week after Lamar (L-Jack City) Jackson destroyed the Rams. The truth is somewhere in between, as neither opponent was as good as the hype.

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Niners HC Kyle Shanahan has been masterful, using every inch of the field for an explosive offense. George Kittle(mer Accord) is a difference maker who represents a matchup nightmare for corners, safeties or Lbs. He is the Truth.

The Look Man (and everyone else) overlooked the talent of L-Jack City, a baller who put on 25 pounds of muscle in the offseason and learned to throw the rock. O-Coordinator Greg Roman intimated that Jackson couldn't even throw a spiral in 2018, but that is not the problem now. The problem now is that he rarely throws outside the numbers, largely because he doesn't have to.

The Niners' front seven is mean and fast, and they will dominate any pocket passer. But Jack City is not a pocket passer; he is an athlete using his football IQ to throw over the middle and inside the numbers to great effect. Niners D-Coordinator Robert Saleh is auditioning for a head coach position, so this game will be very important to his future.

Look for the Niners to employ the Mush Rush to keep L-Jack City bottled up. They will back that up with a spy, either a linebacker or perhaps nickel back K'waun Williams. The Look Man would employ a zone behind the pass rush, so that if he does take off, there are plenty of guys with bad intentions ready to punish him.

This matchup is going to be epic because it is two physical running teams and two physical defenses. Both teams' defensive success has been predicated on rest due to ball control double digit offensive drives that eat clock.

Both teams will split the next two tough games (Ravens: Niners and Bisons; Niners – Ravens and Saints). The Niners face a stiff road test, but they cover.

#### Tennessee at Indy (-2.5)

The Ponies are a M\*A\*S\*H unit, with TY Hilton and Marlon Mack both out. Tennessee is on a roll, using a power running game to dominate lesser opponents. This division game is huge, and the winner wins the AFC Souse.

Tannehill has looked good of late, and the Ponies are too banged up to compete. Thumbtacks cover and win.

#### New England at Houston (+3) - Football Night in America

This Chowds team is vulnerable, barely able to score on offense, but playing lights out on the defensive side of the ball. Too add fuel to that fire, a flu-like illness ravaged the team, which put thirteen guys on the injury report.

For once, New England has actual speed in the back end of the defense, perhaps due to the loss of SS Patrick Chung. Whatever the reason, you cannot run up the gut because of NT Danny Shelton at 450 pounds; you cannot run outside because LBs Kyle Van Noy and Jamie Collins are too damn fast; and you cannot throw to the offensive right side because of shutdown CB Stephon Gilmore.

Slim Shadies Head Coach Bill O'Brien is 0-5 against Belicheat. Sometimes, a guy just owns you. Chowds.

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#### *Minnny at Seattle (-3) - Monday Night Football*

The Hornheads have been on a tear since the Kirkpology, but this Seattle team is tricky. The injury report was not out as of the writing of this LMR, but the Look Man loves (Dange)Russ Wilson to do what it takes. And it takes a lot to shut down Dalvin Cook, who is averaging around six per tote in 2019.

The Seahawks LB corps is solid and look for KJ Wright and Bobby Wagner to pick Cousins off at least once. Seahawks cover and win to set up a nice stretch run in the NFC West. Seahawks.

#### **EPILOGUE**

The postseason race is officially on after the end of the bye weeks, and there are a lot of teams in the mix. The Ravens and Niners have a possible Super Bowl preview and the Hornheads-Seahawks, and Raiders-Baby Backs should be excellent.

One thing is certain as we head to the stretch run: nobody knows nothing.

Peace,

The Look Man