

THE LOOKMAN REPORT 2019

Week Nineteen – Chicken Hawks

“We ain't lasting that long. I had a couple of players that I played with that are no longer here. Take care of your chickens. Take care of your mentals.” – Seattle RB Marshawn (Beast Mode) Lynch after his most recent exit from the NFL.

PROLOGUE

The divisional playoff eliminated four more teams last week, and the Look Man went 3-1 with picks. It might have been 4-0 if Marshawn Lynch had picked up a blitz instead of nearly getting (Dange)Russ Wilson killed. DangeRuss nearly came all the way back with his own brand of playmaking but ran out of time.

The Packers, Niners, Chiefs and Flaming Thumbtacks advanced, but only narrowly. KC was able to overcome a 24-point deficit courtesy of bad coaching by Bill O'Brien and a potent offensive display. Baby Backs HC Andy (Big Red) Reid stayed the course, saying, “It was about settling down and calming the storm. No need to panic, just fix the problems. Pass the mustard.”

KC had a record-setting seven touchdowns on consecutive possessions to post an incredible 51-31 win. Reid is now chasing an elusive Lombardi to cap a 21-year career. He is chasing Paul Brown, the Father of Professional Football, in wins but needs a championship to lock in a trip to Canton.

The rest of the pack is now looking to secure a trip to Miami for Super Bowl LIV, and in the words of the funk band Lakeside, that game will be “all the way live.”

LAGNIAPPE

The Docket

Browns WR Odell Beckham Jr. found his way to the wrong side of the criminal ledger last weekend when he assaulted a security guard in the Superdome. OBJ was celebrating a mythical national championship win by his alma mater LSU, and things got out of hand. Well, at least money got out of hand, as OBJ proffered crispy Benjamins to several LSU players and made himself the center of attention. He is largely guilty of bad taste, and as the adult in the room, he should've stepped back and allowed the Bayou Bengals to soak up the glory.

OBJ's behavior pales in comparison to Chowds WR Julian Edelman, who is guilty of criminal vandalism for jumping on the hood of a \$100K Benzo in Beverly Hills after getting drunk with the Celtics Paul Pierce and Danny Amendola. All this proves is nothing good ever happens when you hang out with the Truth, who was once stabbed for “acking a fool” in the club.

If you're keeping score, this is OBJ's first criminal offense. Edelman has now been caught as a steroid cheat and a vandal, and that beard is illegal in 29 states.

Gin and Juice?

Speaking of the Program, Seahawks QB Russell Wilson was asked to drop pee in the middle of his postgame interview. The joke in the NFL is that if balling is often associated with being chosen for a random drug test. Niners CB Richard Sherman was tested following his clutch performance against the Vikings and tweeted, *“Hahahaha ball out and get the double dip.... PED and HGH tests.... hahaha gotta love it ...”*

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DangeRuss got nailed at his annual exit interview when the NFL asked him for a random test. Wilson asked if the narc was kidding in front of reporters. "Are you guys seeing this? Give me a second, guys," Wilson said before delaying the interview to significant laughter.

The NFL is rife with stories of players getting "random" drug tests, many occurring in consecutive weeks. Wilson is so square he makes Wayne Brady look like Tom Brady.



"Is Wayne Brady gonna have to Djokovic?"

Dalton to NE?

NBC Sports Peter King started a rumor that Andy (The Beige Water Pistol) Dalton is going to New England in 2020. Several others chimed in but the Look Man is not buying the hype for several reasons.

First, the Chowds are light on talent despite Brady taking a home team discount to stick around. That's why Tom Terrific is leaving and why The Beige Water Pistol is a bad fit. TBWP is great when he is surrounded by great players. He does not make players better, and cannot carry a team. Dalton stinks with WR Tyler Boyd and a weak offensive cast. New England has a lot of Tyler Boyds.

Second, Dalton needs a strong O-line, and that patchwork crap in New England will just get him killed. He is not as mobile as he once was, and is injury-prone to boot.

His best possible fit might be the Buccaneers, who need competition and counseling for Jameis (the Rifleman) Winston. Dalton could be a stone-cold killer with WRs Mike Evans and Chris Godwin, plus TE Tyler Brate. Bucs coach Bruce (BA) Arians could've won the NFC Souse with anybody who throws less than 20 picks a year.

The Bengals will go forward with Joe (Goat Boy) Burrow from the Bayou Bengals. Goat Boy will make the Nati better immediately, as well as making (Cake) Baker Mayfield the fourth best QB in the FAC Asgard Division. Dalton will wind up as the next Ryan Tannehill for someone, perhaps Oakland or Tampa Bay.

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Separated at birth?

The Homie Badger

Chiefs safety Tyrann (the Honey Badger) Mathieu had a clear shot for a bone-crushing hit on Texans QB Deshaun Watson last week, and passed. The Look Man has no problem with that professional courtesy, but he does have a problem with some earlier opportunities to delect Watson.

On at least two earlier occasions, Mathieu ignored chances to nail Watson on the sideline following scramble runs. He also dropped two picks that could've changed the final score. The Look Man is okay with collegial behavior, but not patronage. You get a chance to drill someone, you take it or the Football Gods will take it out on you.

This week, the Honey Badger faces off with stud RB Derrick (John) Henry, who is a load. The Flaming Thumbtacks offense is better than advertised, and they put defenses into a Kobiyashi Maru between run stopping or doubling the deep ball. If a defense stacks the safety to stop John Henry, Khalif Raymond and AJ Brown go deep. Mathieu will be forced to make business decisions all day on Sunday, and this game could be closer than anyone thinks.

THE LOOKAHEAD

The Tourney sets up for Championship Sunday with the winners taking their talents to South Beach. For the Look Man's money, the NFL can take cold weather championship games and toss 'em; keep the game in Miami, southern Cali and New Orleans. After all, what's a championship without an influx of beautiful women and men with too much time and money on their hands?

Green Bay at Frisco (-7.5)

Northern California native Aaron (Discount Double Check) Rodgers still has not forgiven the Niners for drafting QB Alex Smith. He is going to play the game of his life to prove they made a mistake in that draft, and his 28-4 TD/INT ratio is pretty special.

The problem is that DDC has been a little too careful with the football in 2019, and his usual superhuman numbers are simply just great. Rodgers doesn't trust any receiver not named Davante Adams, and LeFleur has run the football more than at any time since the late 1990s.

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Jimmy (G) Garoppolo has become a game manager in Frisco, dealing it out to rookie WR Deebo Samuels, TE George Kittle, and running back by committee. The name of the game in Frisco is defense, with Richard Sherman and Nick Bosa as the key figureheads. Sherman is battling Father Time and all of the folks who claimed he was washed up in Seattle. While the former is undefeated, the latter are going to have to shut the hell up after the 2019 season. Sherman's pick of Kirk Cousins in the Divisional Playoff sealed the game in what can only be called a "Don't you ever talk about me!" moment.

For those who don't remember, Sherman garnered the ire of America after yelling those words at sideline reporter Erin Andrews, who shoved a mic in his face after another NFC Championship game. Andrews went on to a lukewarm career and Sherman is headed to Canton.

Head Coach Kyle Shanahan is facing Matt LeFleur in this one and rookie HCs are 3-8 in championship games. It won't be easy, especially since Shanahan and Chris Simms have matching tattoos from their days in Texas.

The Look Man expects a war between a young Niners squad and a crafty veteran in Rodgers. Pack covers the 7.5, but Niners win. Niners.

Tennessee at Kansas City (-7)

The Flaming Thumbtacks take their epic roadshow to Kansas City, and they aren't planning to eat much BBQ. They plan on putting a saddle on Derrick Henry and riding him all the way to Miami. QB Ryan Tannehill has thrown for less than 200 yards in the win over New England and Baltimore, but this team can score in an instant.

Henry has pounded every team since Week Ten, when the Tacks beat KC. The Look Man misspoke last week when he said it was QB Matt Moore at the helm. Patrick Mahomes went 36 for 443 in that game, which came down to two blown special teams plays in a Tennessee win. The Tacks were 2-4 going in, and ripped off some nice wins thereafter, believing they were the most recent incarnation of Destiny's Team.

Andy (Kool Aid) Reid doesn't need a lot of time to scheme up against Tennessee. He will count on d-Coordinator Steve Spagnuolo to dial up blitzes to stop the run, and Mahomes to score plenty. This game is going to be good, because Tannehill can match speed for speed, and his deep ball is excellent. Perhaps more importantly, Henry can go the length of the field in nine seconds, especially if the secondary decides to avoid headaches.

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The Look Man likes the Tacks, but they meet their match in Week Twenty. The Chiefs win a seesaw battle for the AFC Championship. Tacks cover, Chiefs win.



He may be smiling, but the Football Gods are not...

EPILOGUE

The Look Man took in the 1997 NFC Championship and 1998 Wild Card playoff games between the Pack and the Niners this week. The games featured a goateed Brett Favre against a young Steve Young in two instant classics. Head Zebra Dick Hantak looked ridiculous, but he called a better game at the advanced age of 102 than any zebra the Look Man has seen all year.

Guys like Dorsey Levens, Mark Chmura, and Freeman starred for the Pack while Dana Stubblefield, Ken Norton Jr., Merton Hanks and a baby Terrell (TO) Owens lit it up for San Fran. Even head coaches Mike (the Walrus) Holmgren and Steve Mariucci looked young and vibrant, and the games weren't even broadcast in HD.

The Pack was defending their Super Bowl champion crown, and the games were tight, back and forth affairs. If you remember, Steve Young capped the WC win with a bullet to TO in triple coverage for a TD. The Niners went on to destroy John Elway and the Broncos in the Super Bowl. It was the famous "monkey off my back" game for Young, who celebrated in NoCal with a wild Niners crowd.

The Look Man told you that story to tell you this one: it's back to the future for the Niners, who will square off with the Chiefs in Super Bowl LIV. Perhaps Jimmy G is no Steve Young, but the staunch Niners defense is reminiscent of the one from those seasons in the late 1990s. They can run and stuff the run, and they will give any opponent as much as they can handle.

The other story is the officiating. While the Look Man is no friend of the zebras, the quality of officiating was much higher then than now. Guys like Hantak, Red Cashion and Jerry Markbreit wouldn't recognize today's game, with calls that are straight out of the WWE.

There is no guarantee that Niners-Chiefs will be the final. Green Bay-KC would be a dream game for the National...Football...League, owing to their misplaced marketing sense. Instead of the young guns Niners-KC, this game would be an homage to Super Bowl I, nicknamed by the late Chiefs owner Lamar Hunt. The NFL might even bring back Up with People for halftime.

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Either the Packers and Chiefs Super Bowl I rematch, or an instant classic between the Niners and Chiefs is a storybook ending for NFL100. Let's just hope they don't blow a DPI call just to get their happy ending.

Peace,

The Look Man