

## THE LOOKMAN REPORT 2019

### Week Eight – The GOAT

*“It can be exhausting to maintain the all-in mentality in anything in life year after year, decade after decade. Bill’s most unique ability, I think, is to avoid complacency. His standard, his love of football, his preparation every week, every year, it’s never changed.” – Chowds WR Matthew Slater on Hall of Fame Head Coach Bill Belichick*

#### PROLOGUE

Week Eight saw two teams remain undefeated (Chowds and Niners), two teams pull victory from the jaws of defeat (Indy and the Bolts), and two teams pull victory with consistent offensive pressure (Texans and Pack). The Look Man went to the bar to see the end of the one o’clock games and there were five contests coming down to the wire. It was one of the greatest weeks of the season, as players played, coaches coached, and the games were decided on the field of play.

That is all except the Expensive Corn Kings at Flaming Thumbtacks, where a scoop six was thwarted by an advertent whistle. The Corn Kings probably didn’t deserve a win, but that call made it seem like the Zebras had a dog in the fight. Even normally calm Bruce Arians excoriated the officials, mirroring (Cake) Baker Mayfield’s call for accountability. And like Cake, Arians has a QB who turned the ball over twelve times in 2019.

Without further comedy, Week Eight.



*“I’m getting too old for this sh!t...”*

#### THE LOOKAHEAD

The Look Man got blown up in Week Eight, picking upsets at a dangerous rate. The big loss was the Pepto Pick of Cleveland over New England. Of course, no one could predict three turnovers on three consecutive plays - -- oh, wait, Vegas predicted a 13.5 point spread and the final was 27-13 final.

#### NCAA Special - Georgia at Florida (+6.5) – The World’s Largest Cocktail Party [in Jacksonville]

The Florida–Georgia football rivalry is one of the best in the country, if only because it generated the nickname for this contest. This rivalry started in 1915, but the game has been played in Jacksonville since 1933, making it one of the few neutral-site rivalries in the NCAA. It’s a fan favorite frequented by Cousin Keef and his lovely wife Lindy, and this season, a Look Man favorite.

The Dawgs are favored by six and a half, but the Look Man has not been impressed by Florida this season. They have won games by speeding up the tempo and forcing the opponent to make errors. You know, the New England Formula.

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The Look Man knows little about college football, other than the officiating stinks, but Georgia is better than that OT loss to South Cackalacki. They prove themselves this week with a convincing win over the Gators, knocking Florida down to their rightful position in the polls. Dawgs.

#### Chicago at Philadelphia (-5)

The Monsters of the Furniture Mart lost a heartbreaker last week when K Eddie Pinero doinked a 41-yarder. HC Matt (Groening) Nagy nearly went Mayfield in the presser, yelling about questions regarding why he lost with 44 seconds and a timeout in his pocket.

The Iggles are still dinged up, with a wounded secondary, but vertical threat WR DeSean Jackson could return this week. Every game is a must win in the NFC, where contenders abound.

The Look Man questioned the Iggles last week at Crapchester. He is going to be on the right side this week with a win over the QB-challenged Bears. Toss in a revenge motive for former Bear RB Jordan (Jo-Ho) Howard, and you have Nagy's playbook for your defense. Iggles.

#### Tennessee at Carolina (-3.5)

Black Cats backup QB Kyle Allen was awful in Frisco last week, but bounces back against a pedestrian Flaming Thumbtacks team. Tennessee should've lost in Week Eight to Tampa but for a blown Zebra call and too many turnovers by Jameis Winston.

BTW, if you have not seen Tacks' DT Jeffrey Simmons, he is a beast and a real candidate for Defensive ROTY. He jumps off the screen when you watch line play, and he is a steal at number nineteen overall.

Carolina is ticked after getting a 50-burger dropped on them at Levi. Black Cats cover and win.

#### Minnesota at KC (-1.5)

Kirk (Kurt) Cousins has been otherworldly since his ballyhooed apology. The offense has come to life, with RB Dalvin Cook leading the way, and timely play action passing. Cousins is actually earning his money in Minny, something no one thought possible.

Andy (Kool-Aid) Reid's defense has been awful, and backup QB Matt (Roger) Moore is not 007 since the Patrick Mahomes injury. RB Shady McCoy went into Kool Aid's doghouse courtesy of a fumble that cost them the game last week against the Pack.

Everything is pointing to a Hornheads victory, but the Look Man believes they will be looking ahead to Dallas in Week Ten. Mahomes is also 50-50 to play, but the Look Man takes a flyer here, believing Vegas knows more than we do. Baby Backs.

#### Indianapolis at Blitzburgh (+1)

Stillers QB Mason Rudolph got off to a slow start in Week Eight, but the Stillers scored 27 unanswered to beat the new-look Marine Mammals. Only problem was, they also lost RB James Conner to a shoulder.

The Ponies won a wild game with 85-year old placekicker Adam (the Winemaker) Vinatieri, and they are starting to look like the cream of the AFC Souse. Houston and J-Ville are pesky, but Indy HC Frank (The Fourth) Reich is a Look Man favorite. These guys are quietly good, but WR TY Hilton is officially out this week, meaning Eric (Double E) Ebron and the running game will have to show up.

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Colts cover and win as the Winemaker kicks the longest FG in the history on that post. In this case, a 47-yarder would just about do it. Colts.

#### Cleveland at Denver (+3.5)

Browns HC Freddie Kitchens called the worst game evah in Week Eight, including a poorly conceived challenge, an intentional false start to maintain a timeout, and a shovel pass that New England read like a book. Kitchens would have been fired upon arrival at Cleveland Hopkins airport if it were up to the Look Man.

This week, a petulant (Cake) Baker Mayfield got into a tiff with Browns ESPN reporter Tony Grossi. Those who know Grossi know that he is an arrogant a-hole who preaches gloom and doom. But his criticism of Mayfield led to an exchange in which Cake uttered the words, "...you don't know...because you never played the game..."

The comments and subsequent ghosting of the presser were indicative that Cake is feeling the pressure. The former first round pick is still attempting to validate himself by finding doubters instead of simply learning his craft. Kitchens need to put his butt under center and feed the real superstar, RB Nick Chubb.

The Donkeys lost QB Joe Flacco to a neck injury last week, and they are starting Brandon Allen this week. They also traded their best offensive asset, WR Emmanuel Sanders to the Niners. Sanders has responded with two TD catches in two weeks.

The Donkey D is still good, and they have a decent running game, but LT Garrett Bolles is a turnstile. Myles Garrett and the Barking Dawg D should light up Denver.

Every team has an opponent that they hate more than any other. For the Bengals, it's the Niners, who owe two rings to the Bengals. The Pokes have the Stillers, who have more rings than the Pokes. And for Cleveland, it is the John Elway led Horseheads. If the Browns lose this game, Kitchens is headed for unemployment line. Browns.

#### Green Bay at Bolts (+3.5)

This game is a home game in name only; it might as well be played at Flambeau for all of the Cheeseheads who will be in attendance. The Bolts play in a bandbox, ROKiT Field at Dignity Health Sports Park (formerly StubHub Center) before moving into their permanent home at the new LA Stadium at Hollywood Park in 2020.

The facility is a soccer park, and the fans from opposing teams typically outnumber Bolts Backers two to one. It was so bad against the Stillers that the DJ played the Styx song *Renegade* at the start of the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, and Yinzer Fan felt right at home. It was a Black and Gold party on the Left Coast, and the Stillers housed the Bolts.

Enter the 7-1 Pack and Aaron (Discount Double Check) Rodgers, who is having fun for the first time in a long time. DDC is assembling an MVP caliber year despite missing Randall Cobb, who is in Dallas, and Davante Adams, who has a knee. RB Aaron (not DDC) Jones is scoring at will, and the offense is lively.

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The Bolts gave former O-Coordinator Ken Whisenhunt a version of the home game, apparently because he was undermining head coach Anthony Lynn. Perhaps it was simply a promotion for new O-Co Shane Steichen, but the Look Man believes it will jumpstart an underperforming offense against a Cheesehead D which is good, but not great.

Too many Pack Faithful, but this will be a barn burner. Go, Pack, go.



*Steichen: "Dang it Philip, you need to check down on Cover Four!"*

#### New England at Baltimore (+3) – Football Night in America

It's the Ravens week to return from a Bye Week, rested and ready to face the buzz saw that is New England. The Browns showed the weaknesses in the vaunted Chowds defense, ripping off big runs when they weren't turning the ball over. With better playcalling, the Browns could have shocked the world and won that contest.

New England is high after winning number 300 for Belichick, and the offense is struggling. The 27-13 win over Cleveland featured a defensive score and some short fields. Don't expect a John Harbaugh led team to be that stupid, especially on its home turf. B-More has a chance to put distance between itself and the other AFC contenders, and it starts Sunday night.

The Look Man was right, but one week too early. This time the Ravens stun the world, knocking the Chowds from the ranks of the undefeated. Ravens win outright, beating the Zebras and the Chowds complacency.

#### Dallas at NY Jynts (+7): Monday Night Football

The Look Man is not sanguine about big point spreads in division games, especially when Jynts RB Saquon (Big Valley) Barkley and QB Danny (Dimes) Jones have looked solid of late. The Pokes are 13-2 outright and ATS in NFC Least games over the last three seasons, including five straight over the G-Men. Doomsday Lite is coming back after a bye week, and they are rested and healthy. Sounds like a great formula for a cover, right?

Not so fast, my friend. The Pokes would need to hold Big Valley to under a hundred yards total offense, and the Look Man likes the Jynts offense since the return of Golden Tate. TE Evan Engram will make it tough on the Pokes, and WR Darius Slayton is an ex-factor. The Look Man likes the Pokes to win, but not by seven. Jynts.

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**EPILOGUE**

The Look Man was witness to the greatness that is Bill Belichick last week, when he coolly destroyed the Browns 27-13 at Foxboro. The Browns turned the ball over on three consecutive plays in the first quarter, going down 17-0 in the process. The Look Man could barely stand to watch the rest of the game fearing a typical Belichickian beat down. It never happened.

The Look Man would like to think it didn't happen because the Browns defense stiffened, and the offense showed a pulse. He would like to think it was due to superior late game coaching by Freddie Kitchens. It wasn't. It was typical Belichick, doing only what is necessary to win and avoid embarrassing a colleague. Belichick enjoys being known as an ogre instead of what he really is: a quiet genius.

This win was number 300 for Belichick, and when he hangs up his whistle in five or ten years, the NFL is going to rename the championship trophy. He is, without question, the greatest NFL head coach in history.

Congrats Bill.



*"Nick, are they running man with zone over, or zone with man over?"*

Peace,

The Look Man