

THE LOOKMAN REPORT 2020
Week Sixteen – “We all see it. We all see it”

“This one is going to sting for a day or two, but we have the Steelers to win and get in. You know what, this group fought today, but I didn’t do enough. I didn’t play well enough for us to win. And that’s it.” – Browns QB Baker Mayfield following a four turnover day and loss to the one-win Jets.

PROLOGUE

The dominos fell nearly perfectly for the Browns, but (Cake) Baker Mayfield couldn’t beat either the Ravens or the Jets. Once the NFL saw that, they ensured that the Stillers were well-positioned for the postseason with an AFC Asgard title in Week Sixteen.

Cake continues to mystify, but not nearly as much has a Browns brain trust which thought throwing the ball 53 times with all of your receivers out was a good idea. If you’re Cleveland, you need to decide: are we a running team that features Cake Baker or are we intent on making Cake a star? The answer is not in the stars, but in our minds.

In other NFL news, the NFC Least got flipped upside down again with a Pokes win. All of the teams spare Philly are in position to win the division in Week Seventeen. Granted, they all stink, but Hope springs Eternal. Once in the tournament, anything can happen. After all, it’s 2021 and we are in the midst of a pandemic.

The NFC picture is nearly in focus, while the AFC is a jumble. The NFL could not have asked for more. They got the entire seventeen weeks in without catastrophe, the playoffs are setting up with excitement and Vegas is getting paid. What more could any mega-monopoly want?

LAGNIAPPE

Dr. Rick – Progressive QB Life Coach

The Look Man loves the Progressive TV commercials, some more than others. The *Dr. Rick* campaign stands out, as a life coach to a bunch of randos, with predictably hilarious outcomes.

“My job is to help fans who believe their new quarterback is a star player, when in actuality, they stink. I got into this because I was a Steelers Fan who kept thinking Bubby Brister would lead us to a Lombardi. I call it *BIRG: Basking in Reflected glory*. It is a self-serving cognition whereby an individual associates with known successful others such that the winner's success becomes the individual's own accomplishment.”

“To BIRG, one must simply associate themselves with the success. In reality, you are your own person; you’re not Bubby – you’re you.”

“Cleveland Fan has been one of my best clients. They keep falling in love with bad choices: Colt (My Little Pony) McCoy, Brady Quinn (Medicine Woman) and even Johnny (Football) Manziel, all disastrous guys. I cannot wait until they figure out (Cake) Baker Mayfield is just the next in a long line of bums. My fees will be astronomical!”

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“He has blue hair. Blue....”

Dr. Rick has some general guidelines. Here are a few:

“If you turn the ball over, you’re going to lose. You have too many - - - turnovers, that is.”

“Who else roots for sub-par quarterbacks? Dave Wilkins, that’s right.”

Dr. Rick: “We’re in the redzone and we need to minimize our turnovers. Who knows how to do that?”

Dave Wilkins: “I don’t have a turnover limiter.”

Dr. Rick: “We all have one, and here it is. It’s called the Bench. “

The Look Man also has a guideline and it is simple: if you turn the ball over three times in a game, you are going to ride the pine. Even if your name is Peyton Manning.

Belicheat Knee-capped by Brady?

Chowds’ HC Bill Belicheat was salty last week after being told to challenge a catch in the Bisons game. He was seen afterward slamming a telephone and stomping away angrily after losing the challenge.

Double B is ticked that Brady is going to the postseason, and New England was eliminated in Week Fifteen. The question in the NFL this season was whether Brady made Belichick or vice versa. The answer is now clear.

Granted, New England suffered a talent drain due to players opting out and poor drafts, but the Cam Newton Experiment was an unmitigated failure. Bill should’ve asked Dallas owner Jerry Jones about hubris.



“WHADDYA MEAN BRADY SAID WE SHOULD CHALLENGE THE CALL???!?”

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Do You Believe in Magic?

Ryan FitzMagic struck again in a relief role last week. Fitz threw a dime for a first down while looking out of his earhole due to a facemask call. The Look Man hasn't seen a penalty this bad since the 1983 Stillers-Bengals game where Stillers DE Keith Gary nearly twisted Kenny Anderson's head off.

The Magic Man somehow completed the 34-yarder, and with the penalty yardage, kicked a game winning FG to beat the Raiders. The entire drive took nineteen seconds.

“The disappointing thing is we played well enough to win that football game,” Jon (Chucky) Gruden said. “It goes down to one lousy play and it still sticks in my gut the wrong way right now. I feel like Baker Mayfield.”

Chucky and the Raiders have underachieved with great talent in 2020. They need to beat Denver at Mile High just to get to .500. Gruden has now gone nearly two decades since taking Tony Dungy's Buccaneers to a Lombardi in 2003.

ZEBRA OF THE WEEK

Vegas, Baby, Vegas

Nevada sportsbooks posted their largest win total evah in November 2020, winning the most money in fitty years of sports betting history. The record net of \$61.8 million bested the previous mark of \$56.4 million in September 2018, with NFL and college football leading the charge.

NFL underdogs went 42-28 against the spread in November, and Scott Van Pelt had enough *Bad Beats* material for two complete seasons. The betting public takes it on the chin when favorites lose. The two biggest individual winners were New Orleans 38-3 destruction of Brady's Buccaneers and the Chowds 23-17 upset of Baltimore.

"The win was all about pro football results," said Jay Kornegay, Westgate Las Vegas VP. "I'd say 90 percent of the largest NFL decisions went our way in November, including some that were among our biggest wins ever. Thank God the Zebras saw it our way and swallowed the whistles. We've been losing our arses on hotel and restaurant revenue due to the 'Rona, so it's good to finally eat." NFL Commish Roger (Rabbit) Goodell had no comment, indicating he was too busy counting his winnings.

Week Sixteen ZOTW

Alex Kemp and crew did the Ponies-Stillers in Week Sixteen, and it was a travesty. The game started out cleanly, with Indy leading 24-3 in a hanky-free game. Suddenly, in the second half, yellow laundry started flying on every play.

Indy was called for several questionable offensive holding calls, and the Stillers simply threw the deep ball and waited for DPI. Every single Stillers drive in the second half was penalty assisted, including two calls on Pro Bowl DB Xavier Rhodes. Indy nearly doubled the Stillers in penalties, and lost the penalties by first down battle 4 to 1.

Alex Kemp, you are the Look Man's **Zebra of the Week**.

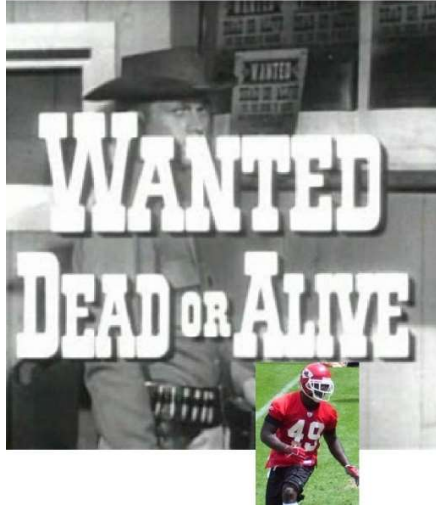
THE LOOKAHEAD

Week Seventeen defines the playoff picture, and there are going to be a lot of unhappy clubs. There have only been two 11-5 teams to miss the postseason in NFL history, and the Brady-less Chowds in the

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2008 season are the poster child. Matt (Sand) Cassell lead them to the brink of the playoffs after Tom Terrific was knee-capped by KC safety Bernard Pollard.

Pollard has never returned to Boston, and would do so at his own peril. He would have to wear a disguise to avoid detection in a city where his face is still on a wanted poster.



“You’ll never make it, Bernard.”

Dallas at Jynts (+1.5)

The NFC Least Division is a total zoo, with only Philly eliminated. The Pokes roared back courtesy of Andy (the Beige Water Pistol) Dalton and defensive play of Doomsday Lite. The Look Man doesn’t see how the Jynts can match up with (A-B) Cee Dee (E-F-G) Lamb and a suddenly healthy Pokes running game. Pokes cover and win to keep hope alive pending the Washington-Philly tilt on Football Night in America.

Green Bay at Chicago (+5.5)

The Pack is the current leader for the one seed in the NFC, and seal it by dispatching the Monsters of the Furniture Mart. New Orleans and Seattle can sneak into the mix with a loss, so this game has drama.

Aaron (Discount Double Check) Rodgers and WR Devante Adams have been magic the last few weeks, but the real story is the running game. Aaron Jones went down two weeks ago, but AJ Dillon ran like a 245-pound rolling ball of butcher knives, punishing the Flaming Thumbtacks front seven, and opening up the deep ball for Rodgers.

Five and half is too much for this division matchup and Cheeseheads LT David (Dhaktari) Bhaktiari tore an ACL in practice and is out for the year. The Bears have quietly moved to the head of the class in red zone offense the last few weeks. Mitchell Tru-bear-sky is using his legs, and the Bears are pesky. Not pesky enough to win this game, but they always give the Pack trouble.

Bears cover, Pack wins, eliminating da Bears from the postseason but saving HC Matt Nagy’s job.

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Blitzburgh at Cleveland (-9)

Odd point spread here until you notice the Stillers are resting Ben, Mo Pouncey, and two or three key defenders. This represents a bounce back week for (Cake) Baker, who is on the cycle of answering media criticism for his poor play. The Look Man is almost hoping for a Browns loss, so they can jettison this bum. Of course, that is bad karma, but who wants to debate his merits for the next few seasons while the championship window closes?

If the Browns are smart, they run the ball every down and force the Stillers to muck it up. The Browns defense is hurting with the loss of LB Joel Goodson and safeties Sendejo and Joseph to the ‘Rona. This game is going to be a low-scoring game with hardnosed defense. Stefanski should take the air out of the ball and win the short game.

Quit trying to make Cake the hero, and give it your best player: Nick Chubb. Nine points is too much for in a division rivalry game and the Browns are horrible against the spread in 2020. Browns win, Stillers cover.

Bolts at KC (-3.5)

KC is winning ugly, and this Bolts team is no joke. Unfortunately, WR Keenan Allen has the ‘Rona. KC by a FG. Take the Bolts and the points as they try to save HC Anthony Lynn’s job and take a commanding lead in morale boosting losses. This could be a *Pepto Bismol Upset Pick of the Week...*

Washington at Philly (+2) Football Night in America

The DC football team went through a tumultuous week, kicking Haskins to the curb in the midst of a playoff push. Alex (the Terminator) Smith took reps with the first team and has a chance to go to the playoffs for the first time since his days in KC.

Perhaps the most important news is the neck injury to DT Fletcher Cox in Philly. The Iggles were up eleven over the Pokes before he left with a stinger, and lost big afterwards. The Philly pass rush is predicated on the push from Cox, and the Terminator is anything but mobile with a calf. If the Iggles can rush to a spot, he is duck soup.

The DC team is clearly in disarray, and may have to start Alex (the Terminator) Smith or some AAFL QB named Heineke in a win-or-go-home contest. If you saw the ESPN E-60 documentary entitled *Project 11*, you know that Smith is playing with a leg right out of a sci-fi picture. You also know that Mrs. Smith is a stunningly beautiful woman. One has to wonder why Alex is doing this at all, but the Look Man digresses.



Mister Smith could be the DC starter on Sunday with this leg...

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The Look Man likes the coaching of Rivera over the offensive genius of Pederson. That, and the fact that rookie DE Chase Young is the truth. 99 can wreck an entire offense, and is on poised to give the Other 99, Aaron Donald of the Rams, a run for the Defensive Player of the Year in 2021.

The Look Man would love to see Haskins as a developmental QB in Cleveland in 2021. Haskins is either an idiot or the next Cris Carter, who was released in Philly and went on to a HOF career in Minny. The Look Man is betting on Haskins, who threw 50 TD passes at THE Ohio State University in 2018 alone.

Just a hunch: take DC and the points to win and get in. WFT.

EPILOGUE

The tournament is a brand-new ball game, full of twists and turns. While there are only a handful of teams capable of going all the way, the Look Man expects a few surprises. Weather in January increases the need for a portable running game, and any team without one is vulnerable. The Stillers are 1-3 in the last four because their running game has not been available. Ben pulled them out of the fire in Week Sixteen with the help of the deep ball and a lot of laundry.

This season, Indy, Tennessee, Cleveland, Baltimore and Miami could all finish 11-5. Since there is an additional wild card in each conference, at least one of these teams will be eliminated from the tournament. Two- and three-way ties are resolved differently under the tiebreaking procedure, and the AFC will likely have at least one eleven-win team on the outside looking in.

Kansas City is not peaking but should have a bye week to get their puppies organized and incorporate LeVeon Bell into the offense. Tennessee, Baltimore, Indy and Cleveland can all run the football, and are therefore, all dangerous.

COVID has reared its ugly head in the preparation for Week Seventeen, with Cleveland and Miami having key personnel succumb. Atlanta is not in the race, but center Alex Mack tested positive. If a guy who touches the ball on every play goes down in the tournament, it could ruin your whole day.

The Look Man believes it will be three teams from the AFC Asgard in the postseason, and all present problems. Buffalo looks like the cream of the AFC crop, KC is eking out wins, and Tennessee is up and down. Get your popcorn ready, cuz it's gonna be a show.

Happy New Year in 2021. The Look Man's motto for the year: Unity and fun in '21.

Peace,

The Look Man