

THE LOOKMAN REPORT 2020

Week Nineteen – Godspeed

"I'm really thankful for Ted. The fact that I was his first draft pick will always link us together. He would always start the season and address the team for a few minutes and he would always finish with, 'Godspeed.' As he passes on, I want to thank him for what he meant to myself, the team and the organization, and wish him Godspeed." – Aaron Rodgers on former Pack GM Ted Thompson

PROLOGUE

The Look Man went 2-2 in the Divisional playoffs, 3-1 if you count the Browns' cover in KC. What he didn't anticipate was zebra interference in New Orleans, where two forty-year-old men entered and one man left. It was like *Around the Horn* without Tony Reali. Still, it was a good week, setting up an epic conference championship week.

The NFL also lost a legend in Ted (Double T) Thompson in Green Bay. Thompson's teams were built from the draft, and the former scout had a keen eye for talent. The list of players he acquired is too lengthy to enumerate here, but includes Brett Favre, Aaron Rodgers, James Jones, Clay Matthews III, Greg Jennings and David Bhattiari. Thompson was a giant whose ilk will not soon be seen again.

So, the weekend is set, with Tampa, KC, Crapchester and Breen Gay remaining. We are about to separate the matured adult humanoid males from the pre-pubescent, and it is going to be awesome.

LAGNIAPPE

Marty Homage by Romo

Tony Romo dropped a sweet Marty Schottenheimer (means "home in the shade" in German) reference during the Browns Chiefs telecast. The Browns had seized the momentum and were set up for a win following the concussion of Patrick Mahomes when Romo said, "There's a gleam; there's a gleam, men."

Schottenheimer coached in Cleveland prior to his stint in KC, and his teams played "Marty Ball," a physical, hard hitting brand of football rarely seen today. You might defeat him this week, but the toll usually showed up the following week in a loss.

On January 11, 1986, Marty gathered the Browns team to discuss an existential concept outside of our physical senses. He called it, *The Gleam*, and that speech has become a legendary term in Cleveland sports.

"The reference was, our goal was the championship. It was the championship. It was the Super Bowl Trophy. My reference to the gleam was the reflection of sunlight or any light on the Super Bowl Trophy and the gleam that becomes the byproduct of the reflection of light off of the Super Bowl. It wasn't something that I ever sat down and thought about, it just came out of my mouth. (Laughs). "It was the gleam men, the gleam, see the gleam, that's what we're trying to get, that's what we're chasing."

Schottenheimer routinely took his teams to the postseason, including near misses in The Drive, The Fumble and a 1993 AFC Chip with Joe Montana at the helm. Montana, the greatest QB who ever lived, was concussed in the first half, but Marty believed that team, with Marcus Allen and OLB Derrick Thomas, was the best he ever had. Buffalo won that game and went on to lose Super Bowl XXVIII 30-13 to Dallas in their last try for a Lombardi.

THE LOOKMAN REPORT 2020

Week Nineteen – Godspeed

Marty is now living on Lake Norman in North Carolina and suffering from Alzheimer's, a disease which took the life of the *Official Mom of the Look Man*. Let's hope he can enjoy his remaining days, thinking about *The Gleam* now and again.



"There's a gleam, men. Bring me my sunglasses..."

Super Bowl LV – Las Vegas???

The Look Man missed the signs in the postseason, believing the NFL would allow things to play out in this COVID19 influenced season. He forgot the NFL is in the Tom Brady bi'ness, and will do anything to see Zoolander get to the ultimate platform once again.

Drew Brees played like a 42-year-old man, and the Icons faded late in a physical contest. If not for a negated 67-yard punt return TD, New Orleans goes up big, and forces Tampa to become a one-dimensional offense.

Instead, the Icons settled for three, and Brady used Fournette to pound that defense and eat clock. In the end, Brees' three picks and a key Jared Cook fumble cost them the game, but it was set up by the zebras. And Las Vegas, which knew the NFL would not let them down.

By the way, both Brees and Cook need to retire. It is getting embarrassing, and no one wants them to wear the *Brett Favre Special Edition* jersey with a hole in the back for the fork to protrude.

The Big Lebowski Hired in Motown

Former Icons coach Dan Campbell was hired in Detroit this week, and channeled his inner Big Lebowski in the presser, dropping s-bombs and preaching rah-rah. Campbell, a former TE with Cleveland and Miami, talked about bringing back the mojo and his physical resemblance to Bridges, the star of *The Big Lebowski*. If you haven't seen this movie, you need to. If you haven't seen it recently, watch it again.

THE LOOKMAN REPORT 2020

Week Nineteen – Godspeed

Campbell even installed a nameplate outside his office referencing The Dude, and hired Walter Sobchak and Jesus Quintana as assistant coaches. It does seem odd that Detroit would overlook Eric Bieniemy and Leslie Frazier to get this guy. The Look Man guesses they “didn’t interview well.”

It will take a lot more than Campbell to make the Cadillacs a winner, including a replacement QB for Matt Stafford, and a defense to match up with Discount Double Check in Green Bay.



Andy Reid’s daughter is rooting for The Dude in Detroit

THE LOOKAHEAD

Sunday, Sunday!

Bisons at Baby Backs (-3 / 53.5)

Speaking of Mister Home in the Shade, the Revenge Tour continues for KC, who won it all in NFL100, but are looking to avenge 1993 AFC Championship loss to Buffalo and the Super Bowl I loss to Green Bay. That 1993 season included two Elway vs Montana games and two Marcus Allen vs. Al Davis wins. KC also provided a clean sweep by beating the Bolts twice to avenge a 1992 Wild-Card shutout.

This season features the two most talented young QBs in the AFC in Mahomes and Josh Allen. Both are surrounded by talented playmakers, including Tyreek (the Cheetah) Hill in KC and Stefon (They Call Me MISTER) Diggs in Crapchester.

But the defenses will be the story on Sunday, as Bisons’ D-Coordinator Leslie Frazier matches wits with Eric Bieniemy in KC. Andy Reid is no slouch either, and he and Sean McDermott will go at each other as well.

There is a lot of talk about Mahomes not emerging from concussion protocol. The smart money is on Mahomes to play, as well as the 25 ‘over’ on State Farm commercials during the contest.

THE LOOKMAN REPORT 2020

Week Nineteen – Godspeed

Josh Allen and the Bisons looked tentative in the Week Eighteen Divisional Playoffs and still sent Lamar (L-Jack City) Jackson and the Dumpster Ducks fishing. This defensive unit is multiple, and the backfield of White, Poyer and Hyde is deep and talented.

They are augmented by fleet-footed linebackers who won't get pushed aside like Browns CB Denzel Ward when facing Travis Kelce. Kelce gave Ward *the Okie-Doke-with-a-Shove* move on a quick post pattern, resulting in a first half TD.

The Look Man believes the Bisons are a team of Destiny, and they have looked great since losing to a *Hail Murray* at Arizona in November 2020. McDermott and Frazier have them humming, though OC Brian Daboll called a stinker last week.

Bisons cover and win a slugfest.

Expensive Corn Kings at Breen Gay (-3 / 52)

The Look Man didn't figure on Vegas getting involved to the extent that they did in New Orleans. Of course, it makes sense as the NFL is still in the Tom Brady bi'ness. They would love to see Brady win or lose in "Tom-pa" on Super Bowl Sunday.

But Green Bay has plenty to play for, especially with the death of former GM Ted Thompson. Double T drafted Aaron (Discount Double Check) Rodgers, and the dynastic teams that followed. Rodgers is getting a little long in the tooth for any QB not named Brady, and can cement his Hall of Fame legacy with another ring.

Tampa is playing bully ball, with RB Leonard (Kravitz) Fournette pounding the middle and setting up Dink and Dunk Brady. The Pack defense has been alternately Swiss- and hard cheese this season, including a 38-10 ass kicking at Tampa in Week Six. The Pack was coming off a bye week, and missed the flight to Tampa.

Brady is going to get his points against Mike Pettine's Limburger Cheese D, so Rodgers and the Pack are going to have to score to win this one. The Look Man likes the over here, but the Pack is going to have to beat eleven on the field plus the guys wearing Black and White jerseys.

The Pack covers and wins to advance to Tampa. Go, Pack, go!

EPILOGUE

The stage is now set for the conference championship weekend, with Brady vs. Rodgers and Allen vs. Mahomes. Two cagey veterans fight it out on the Frozen Tundra while two young gunslingers face off east of Dodge City. The winners go toe-to-toe in Tampa for all the marbles.

The NFL has never had a home team play in Super Bowl history. Even the dominant Niners and Dolphins never got to play in the friendly confines despite the odds. With Super Bowl LV in Tampa, Brady and Arians would be playing what amounts to a home game.

The Look Man is worried only because the NFL could be clearing the deck for Brady and the Corn Kings and the NFL would love to write an Elway-esque story where Brady wins his seventh ring and rides off into...2021 for an eighth and final ring.

THE LOOKMAN REPORT 2020
Week Nineteen – Godspeed

That storyline would allow Brady to achieve a milestone so great that it would never be eclipsed. He would then be on the Pantheon with Superman, Santa Claus, and the Lone Ranger. The Look Man wonders if those dudes were juicing also?

Speaking of which, if you need a chuckle, check out this YouTube...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KFabfnhlaY>



Elway and Brady photo from 2010

Irrespective of the outcomes, the conference representatives will be set up for the one of the oddest Super Bowls evah. There is not much chance of the combatants getting a night out at *Mons Venus* prior to the game.

The Look Man is excited about the games, and the rise of the Young Turks at QB in the NFL. These up-and-coming QBs are all under 25, and the retirement of Phil (Old Man) Rivers leaves just Big Ben, Discount Double Check, Brady and Cool Brees active. And the smart money is on Brees to call it a career after desultory performances the last few playoff appearances.

Harm to none and harmony to all,

The Look Man