

THE LOOKMAN REPORT 2020

Week Twenty – The Way

“As you see ‘Patriot Way’ in the dictionary, it’s gonna have Tom Brady’s name next to it. None of those coaches threw any passes. None of those coaches caught any passes. None of those coaches made any tackles. But Tom Brady is the Patriot Way, and that’s the reason why Tom Brady’s in the Super Bowl right now and the Patriots aren’t.” – former Chowds WR Danny Amendola

PROLOGUE

The old Star Trek TOS featured an episode where Kirk’s brother Sam and his family were wiped out by flying jellyfish-like parasites. The antagonists assume control of their human hosts’ central nervous systems, forcing them to maim and kill. Bones finds an antidote that leaves Spock stumbling blind. But in the end, Kirk pulls a rabbit out of a hat, annihilating the threat, seizing revenge and riding out on a white starship.

Football fans would have to be like Spock to believe the outcome of the Tampa Bay-Green Bay NFC Championship. The easy story line is that head coach Matt LaFleur and Aaron (Discount Double Check) Rodgers choked away the win, but the Pack receivers know better. Tampa DBs may as well have had saddles on them, as they held, tugged and smothered potential receivers.

Brady looked pedestrian outside of a halftime TD pass. He threw three picks, and was set up to be the goat, not GOAT. The ultimate crap was when the Zebras bailed him out, calling Pack DB Kevin King for defensive holding to secure the win for Tampa. If Discount Double Check gets that ball back with a buck thirty on the clock, Green Bay would be playing on Sunday instead of Tampa.

The Look Man can’t call Brady the greatest ever, his myriad comeback wins tainted by bad calls and defensive backs assaulting the other team’s pass recipients. One has only to look back at those 1990s playoff games between the Colts and Chowds to see the same thing we saw last week.

At least three of Brady’s rings are attributable to illegal video and sign stealing. And that doesn’t even count the Tuck Rule, which triggered Brady’s destiny. He spent nineteen years in the AFC Least, the worst division in the NFL, and had never gotten to the Super Bowl as a Wild Card team - - - until now.

LAGNIAPPE

Slash

The Look Man caught a web story written by Kordell (Slash) Stewart this week. The story detailed how he was railroaded out of Blitzburgh based upon a rumor planted by the local po-po. His career was never the same, and he was shipped to three teams before landing on the scrap heap.

<https://www.theplayertribune.com/posts/kordell-stewart-nfl-football-pittsburgh-steelers>

Dwayne Haskins just signed with the Stillers, and could serve as a redemption story if he is able to replace Big Ben and thrive in his new home. Based upon the Slash story, the Look Man wonders. QBs can and do thrive when given opportunities in the right places, but Stewart’s story is a cautionary tale.

Two for Tampa

Super Bowl LV features two unlikely stories of guys who nearly ended their careers via stupidity: (1) a wideout who was cut from three teams and returns to the Big Game, and (2) a DE who mutilated himself

THE LOOKMAN REPORT 2020

Week Twenty – The Way

with a foolish fireworks prank and broke his own neck in a car wreck. Corn Kings WR Antonio Brown and DE Jason Pierre-Paul look for redemption this week on the biggest stage.

Pierre-Paul was asked about his story and said, “No matter how hard it seems, don’t quit. It may sound easier said than done, but I’ve never quit anything in my life. I didn’t quit holding that M-80, and I won’t quit punishing QBs.”

Pierre-Paul had 11.5 sacks in 2020, and returns to the Super Bowl after he helped beat current teammate Tom Brady in his first. KC QB Patrick Mahomes had better watch out. This guy is explosive.

See Ya, Wouldn’t Wanna Be Ya

The Pack were getting the ball first in the third quarter and Tampa had the ball at the fifty with six second and no timeouts. So, of course D-Coordinator Mike Pettine dials up a blitz with man coverage. The resulting Scotty Miller TD broke Green Bay’s back, and placed the momentum squarely behind Tampa. Miller went on to say that he is faster than KC WR Tyreek Hill, and that he once beat both Superman and the Flash in a race around the world.

Green Bay decided not to renew Pettine’s contract and head coach Matt LaFleur is now looking for a new defensive coordinator who won’t cut the cheese at crunch time.

LaFleur took the high road, thanking Pettine for his contributions. “Just really grateful for what Mike brought to us,” LaFleur said. “Obviously, he was a guy that I really leaned on. And anytime you make a decision like this, it’s never easy. Going to two straight NFC Championship games, we couldn’t have done it without Mike Pettine. And just felt like it was one of those deals where, [we] needed some new leadership on that side of the ball. Or at least, not a zero blitz with a DB who couldn’t cover my 80-year-old grandmother.”

The Look Man would’ve fired Pettine during halftime.

Home in the Shade

Speaking of ex-Browns head coaches, Marty Schottenheimer (means “home in the shade” in German), was placed in hospice care after being diagnosed with Alzheimer’s in 2014. He is listed in stable condition.

Marty was a fourth-round pick in 1965 by the Colts, but went to play linebacker with Buffalo and New England instead. He was never a great player, and overcame size and speed issues with superior instincts. Those instincts led to a coaching career that spanned decades, including twenty-one years in Cleveland, KC, DC and San Diego as a head coach.

Marty spent ten successful seasons in Kansas City after Browns ownership released him for his refusal to fire his brother Kurt, a marginal special teams coach. He finished his coaching career at San Diego, with the eighth best overall NFL record of 200-126-1. Not exactly Mike Pettine.

Marty was an emotional head coach, prone to crying in the locker room. Former Browns NT Bob Golic tells a hilarious story about how Marty was tearing up at halftime, and Golic had to ask a teammate if they were winning or losing before asking him to pass the mustard.

THE LOOKMAN REPORT 2020

Week Twenty – The Way

Marty's coaching tree includes current Tampa coach Bruce (BA) Arians, Pete Carroll, Mike Tomlin, Bill Cowher, Tony Dungy, and Mike McCarthy. His son Brian just accepted a post as passing game coordinator for the J-Squareds, with a chance to coach up Trevor Lawrence.

The last time the Look Man saw Marty was at a Bengals game in 2006, sitting fourteen rows behind the Bolts bench. (Johnny) Carson Palmer and the Bengals were beating the brakes off San Diego, up 21-0 after one.

Marty calmly removed his headset and conducted discussions with each player on the offense and defense, coaching them up, assuring them that the game was not over. He spent a lot of time with LaDanian Tomlinson, who scored four rushing TDs. QB Phil Rivers threw for 338 that day, compared to 440 for Mister Tonight Show.

The Bolts won 49-41 in a thriller. Best live coaching performance the Look Man has ever witnessed. Marty never put his headset back on that day, and the Bolts fired him at year end with a 14-2 record.

All the best, Marty.



"We're all in a boat, and everyone needs to grab an oar..."

THE LOOKAHEAD

Super Bowl LV

Expensive Corn Kings at Baby Backs (-3 / 56)

The Look Man whiffed in the conference championship round, and he knew it as soon as the clock hit triple zero at Flambeau. There was no way the NFL was going to allow a Buffalo-Tampa Bay game which would have been the lowest rated contest since Super Bowl I. Vegas counts on Super Bowl Sunday to make its annual nut, and no one would wager on that turd.

Tampa received the latest possible bye in Week Thirteen. How does a 7-9 team draw that million-to-one straw in order to allow Brady to get his annual European blood doping and make it to the end of the season?

THE LOOKMAN REPORT 2020

Week Twenty – The Way

That bye week set up the current Tampa bully ball, and the return of LB Devin White, LaVonte David, and RB Leonard (Kravitz) Fournette. The NFL allowed Antonio (AB) Brown to play this season and he is set to receive seven-fifty large in bonus if the Corn Kings win, even if he doesn't play. AB's bonus would equal his salary for the season.

KC is looking to go back-to-back with a win, a feat not done since the Chowds did it in 2004. The Chowds won both games by three points, courtesy of stolen signals and Videogate. The Stillers accomplished the feat twice, and the Pack, Marine Mammals, Pokes, and Broncos are the only other teams to join them.

KC is attempting to do something few teams have achieved, but Andy (Kool Aid) Reid is up to the task. Reid's record following a bye week is incredible, and if you haven't noticed, there was no game on Sunday. Look for a big special teams play on Super Sunday; it's a Reid staple.

The Look Man isn't going to sing Mahomes' praises. He is only twenty-five and has the world by the tail, with a half-billion-dollar contract. If he wins on Sunday, he can finalize a reservation for a gold jacket in Canton.

Look for Tampa to hold, blitz and generally menace the Baby Backs receivers. The key to this game is going to be the run. Clyde Edwards-Helaire (means 'Hella RB' in French) and Le'Veon Bell need to pound the rock, which won't be easy against Tampa's front seven. The Secret Weapon might be Damien Williams, who could pull a Max McGee and outshine all of them.

The Tampa Two is going to attempt to double Tyreek (the Cheetah) Hill, who destroyed them in the previous meeting with 240 yards IN THE FIRST HALF. Unfortunately, you cannot double the Cheetah and still cover Travis Kelce (who nearly led the NFL in receptions as a TE) and the Three Headed RB Monster in Helaire, Bell and Williams.

The Look Man is going chalk, picking the Baby Backs to overcome a patchwork O-line and go back-to-back. KC is going to run more than you think, but even if they don't, they can outscore the Bucs.

KC covers easy to make some new history and make Tampa *the Home of the CHEEEEEFFS!*

EPILOGUE

Surprise, the NFL got the matchup it wanted. The Look Man hasn't seen this much horse manure since the NFL forced the Rams-Patriots matchup in Super Bowl LIII. That game was known as the Big Lie, and it lived down to expectations.

Tampa is allowing 22K fans to attend the game in person, with another 12K in cardboard cutouts. The Look Man expects more like 40K rabid fans, with the lion's share rooting for the Corn Kings.

The Look Man is also counting on the zebras to swallow the whistles. They won't, of course, but perhaps Sarah Thomas, the first female official in Super Bowl history, will force them to have some integrity.

Hard to get excited about this one, because it is unclear whether the Zebras will let 'em play, or call the outcome they want. That's what happened in Super Bowl LI (the Little Lie), when the Chowds came back from 28-3 to the Dirty Birds with more than a little help from their teammates in black and white jerseys. Before that, no team had ever rebounded from as much as a ten-point deficit.

Of course, the halftime show is one reason for excitement. The Weeknd donated \$7 million of his own cash to the production, and it should be good.

THE LOOKMAN REPORT 2020

Week Twenty – The Way

The Look Man is ambivalent about the outcome. On one hand, Tampa has a diverse coaching staff and deserve credit behind Arians' coaching and hard work. On the other, KC could go back-to-back, starting a dynastic run like the Pokes and Niners.

Either way, the fans win if the NFL does the right thing and allows the game to be decided on the field.

Peace,

The Look Man



"Prince who?"