

THE LOOKMAN REPORT 2021
Week Five – Colonel Nathan Jessep

“Don’t act surprised. We’re better than we even showed today.” – Bisons’ HC Sean McDermott following their dismantling of the Baby Backs at Arrowhead.

PROLOGUE

The Look Man had an interesting thing happen at work this week. A disgruntled employee posted an open email to the CEO asking why the vaccine mandate applied to her and demanding a public answer. The CEO responded by not responding, and escorting the employee from the worksite.

The exchange reminded the Look Man of the exchange between Tom Cruise and Jack Nicholson.

Nicholson: “You want answers?”

Cruise: “I think I’m entitled to them.”

Nicholson: You want answers?

Cruise: “I want the TRUTH! “

Nicholson: “YOU CAN’T HANDLE THE TRUTH!”

Colonel Jessep went on a lengthy monologue afterwards, including the truth, which presumably got him arrested. The exchange was one of the best movie scenes ever, and reminds the Look Man of the current situation involving Jon (Chucky) Gruden, who, by the way, could have played Jessep in the scene.

A Few Good Men went on to four Oscar nominations and ten awards. It may have been Cruise’s best movie, and featured Demi Moore, an all-star cast, and of course, Kevin Bacon.

Cruise stepped up his performance to match Nicholson in same way a rag tag team from Western New York would rise if you installed an elite QB.

Without further ado, the Look Man Report 2021 for Week Five.

LAGNIAPPE

Child’s Play

The NFL leaked a select portion of its trove of 650 thousand emails from the Washington Football Team investigation, setting into motion the termination of one of its most high-profile coaches. Jon (Chucky) Gruden sent emails to his buddy and fellow misanthrope Bruce Allen, documenting racist, misogynist and homophobic views. Email content called Commissioner Goodell an anti-football pejorative, and included racial tropes about the NFLPA chief DeMaurice Smith. As a result, Gruden received a version of the Home Game and removal from the Tampa Bay Ring of Honor.

The emails likely include a large number of other inflammatory pictures and remarks, and the NFL fined the WFT ten million following the conclusion of the probe. They mandated the probe result in a verbal presentation as opposed to a written one, insulating them from embarrassment. A written report documenting the racist and misogynist ramblings of NFL owners and executives would not go over well in the seat of federal government or anywhere else in America.

But the Look Man’s real issue is the potential weaponization of the data in order to muzzle or eliminate anyone the league decides to target. That weapon has already been used on Chucky, and anyone who used email communication with the WFT is subject to a similar fate. “You see what happened to Gruden; you had better play ball, or you could be next.”

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Clearly someone wanted Gruden out, and that someone has a name that rhymes with “Poodell.” Although full disclosure would be embarrassing for the NFL, it would take away the weapon and create a transparency we should expect from the Moral Authority for the World. You cannot have end zone signs that say “Football is for Everyone”, “Stop Hate” and “End Racism” when you have owners and execs who do not embody these sentiments. Based upon the timing, it likely discussed kneeling, concussion settlements and other thorny topics. Perhaps even a mention of Pokes Owner Jerrah Jones circumcising mosquitos in his spare time.

Chucky was employed by ESPN at the time of the emails, but you cannot have black and gay players on your team and say what he said. He got what he deserved, but gets fired even though he was not employed by the team. Former Washington assistants Sean McVay (Rams) and Shanahan (Niners) were on that staff, and could have the Sword of Damocles hanging over their careers. Undoubtedly, other owners could have weighed in as well. And that is why the entire trove should be released.

The existence of an ‘enemies list’ is bad for the NFL and for its fans. Who knows if one of the female zebras finds out that a head coach is anti-women? Or Goodell decides to eliminate an owner who is giving him trouble in the next CBA?

Congress may need to engage, either with a hefty fine or rescission of the antitrust exemption. Most teams rely on public money for stadium financing and operating capital. A \$300 million dollar fine would equal about one thirty-second of the annual take, and force the NFL to comply. Granted, the opposite of progress is Congress, but something needs to be done.

Longtime Tailpipes know the Look Man has never liked Chucky, who took Tony Dungy’s Buccaneers to a Lombardi, and who effectively cut WR Keyshawn Johnson for challenging his godlike authority. The bigger picture is the NFL getting off Scott free and using the email weapon as it sees fit.

This ugly scene needs conclusion, and full transparency is the only real solution.



Gruden in a meeting with owner Mark Davis?

Having your Cake...

There has been a lot of ink regarding the possible trade of Odell Beckham Jr. in Cleveland. Beckham returned from a torn ACL, but has never risen to the promise he had with the Jynts. Cleveland Fan wants to trade him and recoup his double digit million-dollar salary.

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The Look Man could not disagree more. The sole reason OBJ has not flourished is Cake Baker Mayfield, who does not know how to use a guy of this talent. Cake got OBJ injured in 2020, when he was attempting to tackle a Bengals player following a ridiculous Mayfield pick. If anything, Cake should be traded, even if only a five-pound block of meat is the recompense.

Mayfield cannot win a shootout due to his inability to execute two of the five necessary throws: (1) the deep out, and (2) the nine route (fly). Every elite QB must master these patterns, or suffer the ignominy of losing every shootout. Cleveland is loaded offensively, and will never get over the hump as long as Mayfield is the QB. In point of fact, he could become an anchor if they pay him the going rate for a starting QB in 2022. He may already have hurt their free agent acquisition, because everyone sees his deficiencies except Cleveland Fan.

They need Cake to get on the same page with Odell Beckham Jr this week. All-World RB Nick is out on Sunday, and despite incredible rushing numbers, the passing game has not flourished. Cake simply cannot pick up the downfield read following the play action fake, and it is killing a team that should be dropping 40 burgers weekly.

Don't trade OBJ. Install Case Keenum at QB and laugh all the way to LA in February. Or pay Cake \$40 million annually and seal your fate as a laughing stock for the next ten seasons.

It's up...it's...No Good!

NFL kickers missed twelve PATs in Week Five, tying an ignominious record set in 2016, the year after the NFL moved the PAT spot to the 15-yard-line. The NFL wanted to spice up the games, and this is what happens.

The Week Five battle between the Pack and Bengals also featured three missed FGs, including a premature OT celebration by the Nati kicker. Mason Crosby's 49-yarder ended this farce as time expired.

The Browns-Bolts game featured two missed PATs, and if not for Cake choking at the end, they would have figured in the betting outcome. The Houston Texans missed three missed extra points in a row.

The Look Man has been concerned about betting influences for a long time, and this trend is even more worrisome. Perhaps he is not ready to say Vegas is impacting the games yet, but you cannot make this stuff up. If you go to your local betting website, you do so at your own peril.

Pet Cemetery

Browns DE Myles Garrett is a bad man, and near the top of the NFL in sacks. Still, his Halloween display at his Cleveland residence is ridiculous. Garrett has tombstones for several QBs, including Kyler Murray, who he faces this week.

Murray has undoubtedly seen this mess, and it could come back to haunt. The display also generated the predictable question: where is Stillers QB Mason Rudolph? Was he cremated instead?

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Pet Cemetery at Garrett's Home

ZEBRA OF THE WEEK

Point of Emphasis?

The Look Man wonders if there is some new rule about calling Defensive Pass Interference in any game that could become a blowout. The Zebras are manufacturing great games by calling DPI any time a team needs to score to create an Alcoa Fantastic Finish. It happened at Sofi last week with the Browns-Bolts, and every Sunday, Monday and Thursday Night game has included a questionable call down the stretch.

The Bolts received three or more phantom calls that affected the outcome. A fumble TD return, and two DPis altered the game, and turned QB Justin Herbert into the Flavor of the Month.

Aiding the Runner?

Great coaching by Browns HC Kevin Stefanski late. With time running down and nearly out of timeouts, he told his defense to pull RB Austin Ekeler into the end zone on purpose. On Ekeler's third TD of the day, four Cleveland players dragged him into the end zone to preserve 1:31 on the clock. That should be illegal, but since the NFL allows O-linemen to aid the runner, why not the defense?

The move was Belichickian, and provided Cake Baker with enough time to win a shootout. Of course, Mayfield then burned 55 seconds to gain thirteen yards before a Fail Mary pass. It was fitting that TE David Njoku was submarined before he could catch the ball, which fell about a foot from his reach.

Ron Torbert (the Eight Man) and Jerome Boger(mill) have been awful as usual, but Bill Vinovich is now joining the band. Bill Vinovich, you are the **Look Man Zebra of the Week!**

THE LOOKAHEAD

Cheeseheads at Bears (+6)

Aaron (Discount Double Check) Rodgers eked out an OT win at Cincinnati, and is set for a key division matchup in the Big Windy on Sunday. The Pack is getting healthier at O-line, and Chicago is missing some key components as well.

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Justin (Strawberry) Fields has a knee, his key RB, Montgomery is out, and backup Damien Williams has the ‘Rona. To add insult to injury, Akiem Hicks and Khalil Mack are ailing, but both should play on Sunday.

Look for DDC to dust off the Bears, a wholly owned subsidiary of Green Bay. Go, Pack, go.

Bengals at Lions (+3)

The early slate is brutal due to the first bye week of 2021. The Niners, Religious Icons, Dirty Birds and Aeronauticals all receive a week off, leaving a boatload of bad football.

Joe (Goat Boy) Burrow looks great for a guy with no running game or O-line. He got knocked around pretty good by the Pack last week at home, and takes his show on the road to the Motor City. The Lions lost another heartbreaker on a late FG, leaving the HC to start crying in the presser.

ironically, the Lookahead Factor will affect both teams. The Lions QB Jared (Subway) Goff faces the Rams at Sofi next week, and the Bengals travel to the Charm City to face Lamar Jackson. The Look Man won’t be watching this one, but expects the Lions to cover. Either way, the fans may have to cover their eyes for this ugly fest. Lions lose by, that’s right, a FG.

Birdheads at Browns (-3)

(Cake) Baker Mayfield and the Browns played in an almost instant classic last week at Sofi, and now get three games at home. The Barking Dawg D has been up and down, holding Chicago and Minny to 20 total points on offense, followed by allowing 47 to the Bolts.

Arizona comes in as a top five offense, and it should be a great contest. It features two former number one overall picks who happen to own Heismans, and both played at the same Big Twelve school – Chokelahoma.

The Browns secondary got torched last week, giving up two long balls to Mike Williams. Clearly, both were due to busted coverages when Grant Delpit and/or Ronnie Harrison decided neither would cover the Bolts’ best wideout. Myles Garrett and Jadaveon Clowney are nicked up, and they will need to be at full strength to stop Kyler Murray and the high flying Deadbirds.

Murray has DeAndre (D-Hop) Hopkins and a wealth of offensive talent, including former Stillers RB James Conner, former Bengals WR AJ Green, WR Rondale Moore, and Christian Kirk. These guys put points up in bunches, and the mobile QB option is dangerous as well. Murray has an ouchie in throwing shoulder, but the Browns have been susceptible to running QBs all year.

Arizona picked up Philly TE Zach Ertz during the writing of this report, and clearly are going for a Lombardi now. They secured Ertz to replace Maxx Williams, who is done for the year. Ertz has local ties in his wife Julie’s home town. And Kyler Murray now has a Super Bowl winning TE. In many ways, the Deadbirds are the NFC version of Cleveland, with an elite QB.

Look for Cake to find the chip on his shoulder in the form of Browns Fan, the media, or his Wife Emily. The Barking Dawg D rises up and shuts down Kyler Murray to post the Cards first defeat. Browns, baby, Browns.

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Raiders at Donkeys (-3)

The Raiders are swirling the drain after losing two straight, and finding out their HC was an ass. Well, they probably already knew the second part, but they will be challenged to play ball in the midst of this instability.

Teddy (Two Gloves) Bridgewater got knocked the F out by Baltimore, and is likely a game day decision. Even the Denver dominant defense cannot play sixty minutes, and they need some ball control to remain effective. And that means Drew Lock, a turnover machine, cannot start.

This game could go either way: us against the world, or a complete dumpster fire. The Look Man bets on the latter. Donkeys cover and win.

Pokes at Chowds (+3)

The Pokes are lighting it up weekly, and CB Treyvon Diggs has averaged more than a pick per week. QB Dak Prescott has put up huge numbers, and Doomsday Lite is emerging as a real defense.

While both Diggs and Zeke Elliott appeared on the injury list this week, the Chowds look like a MASH unit. They can barely field an offensive line and may have a hangover after losing to Tawmmy Touchdown.

The Chowds have allowed a lot of rushing yards this year, so look for the Pokes to use their two headed rushing attack. Three headed if you include Dak, who rarely runs this season. OC Kellen Moore is the hot head coaching candidate in 2021, but if he can overcome his ego and run the football, the Pokes win this one easily. Pokes.

Bolts at Dumpster Ducks (-3) - Game of the Week

Lamar (Action) Jackson put on a show in his Week Five comeback over the visiting Colts. He singlehandedly willed the team to a win after getting down 22-3. The Ponies didn't help matters by missing tackles, but Jackson put on a show.

Meanwhile, on the Left Coast, Bolts QB Justin Herbert torched the Browns for four bills passing, and added a running TD. The Bolts look like the class of the AFC West, having beaten some pretty good AFC opponents under new head coach Brandon Staley.

Here's the problem: the Bolts D cannot stop the run. They travel to play an East Coast game at one, and they could not stop a nosebleed. On the other hand, the Baltimore D is bringing guys out of the stands to paly DB, and can be had with the deep ball.

This should be the Game of the Week, and the Look Man likes the Bolts in a squeaker. Their FG kicker stinks, but Baltimore has been living on borrowed time since the Week Four Miracle at Detroit. Bolts.

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The rumors of Herbert's death are greatly exaggerated

Blue Man Group at Stillers (-4.5) – Football Night in America

This game is notable mainly because (Dange)Russ Wilson is out with a broken finger. Enter Geno Smith, the walking turnover machine, against a solid Burgh defense. Actually, Geno is a shadow of his former bakery employee credentials, and has added a running game to his mix. He will need it, even with the Stillers losing Juju Smith Schuster for the season. Stillers.

EPILOGUE

The NFL is an 800-pound gorilla, but this Gruden thing is a major issue. The league does not want to reveal its findings in the Washington Football Team probe, and given the ugly story of topless cheerleader photos, racist tropes and rabid homophobia, it is easy to see why.

Billionaire Mark Cuban has voiced concerns about the NFL for a while now, warning, “Pigs get fat, and hogs get slaughtered.” Perhaps a culling is in the near future for the National...Football...League.

Peace,

The Look Man