

THE LOOKMAN REPORT 2021

Week Thirteen – “W”

“THEY’VE DONE IT! THREE ZEROES ON THE CLOCK! THIS GAME IS OVER! IT’S OVER! THREE ZEROES ON THE CLOCK! JARED GOFF TO AMON-RA ST. BROWN! HIS FIRST CAREER TOUCHDOWN, AND HOW BIG IS THAT! MY GOODNESS!!! HAVE A DAY BOYS, HAVE A DAY!” — Detroit play-by-play voice Dan Miller, calling the end of Detroit’s win over Minnesota to avoid a winless season.

PROLOGUE

Detroit received its first “W” of the season and did it in epic fashion, with a walk-off win over America’s most entertaining team – the Minnesota Hornheads. Perhaps more important, the Lions dedicated the game and the week to the Michigan school shooting which left four dead. The Cadillacs have played just well enough to lose in 2021, but we all gained from their focus on this unnecessary crime.

The rest of the league remains in flux, with the AFC and NFC bunching up a bit. Minnesota really needed that conference win, and they continue to struggle with an unvaccinated QB at the helm, and a defense that could not stop a nosebleed. Even HC Mike Zimmer’s job is in jeopardy, and Zim is one of the really good guys in the NFL.

The Look Man did pretty well in the pick segment last week, with one notable exception. The Chowds beat the Bisons by passing the ball only three times. That is not a typo - - - THREE passes in a win. One has to wonder what is going on in Crapchester, and the calls in the first half were historically bad.

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

LAGNIAPPE

AB Negative

Tampa WR Antonio (AB) Brown has been suspended for three games after using a counterfeit vaccination card. As bad as AB’s antics have been, this one endangered his aging coaching staff featuring Bruce (BA) Arians and 83-year-old offensive consultant Tom Moore.

Arians is a three-time cancer survivor, and Moore’s age makes them extremely vulnerable. BA once said: “If any of you make me or Tom Moore sick, I have a gun and I will shoot you in the kneecaps.”

AB’s latest actions are selfish at best, and he needs to be canned. The Corn Kings will play the long game to ensure he doesn’t land on a playoff squad, then send him packing.

Minshew Mania Part II

The Look Man watched Gardner (the Mullet) Minshew’s first start against the Aeronauticals, and it was pretty good. Igles QB Jalen (Always) Hurts was on the pine with an ankle, so the Mullet went 20-of-25 for 242 yards and two TDs in a workmanlike 33-18 win.

The Mullet was gushing afterwards. “It felt so good, man. It’s the best time I had since Week One of last year. There’s nothing like that feeling. Glad to do it with this group of guys. They made it easy for me. So, it was a lot, a lot of fun.”

Igles HC Nick Sirianni has a problem: Hurts is often unavailable, and the most important QB ability is availability. Minshew captures the blue-collar mentality of the city. Or, put another way, neither QB is taking you to the playoffs any time soon.

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ZEBRA OF THE WEEK

Your Cheatin' Heart

The silly season has begun, and the annual move to ensure New England began in Week Ten. Late in the KC win over Denver, Baby Backs QB Patrick Mahomes was flagged for a false start.

Former NFL Zebra Terry (Bottlegate) McAulay defended the call, but acknowledged calls like that are uncommon. “I still don’t know why I got called for the false start,” Mahomes said. “So, I’ll try to figure that out and not do that again. I thought I was pretty common on what I usually do on hard counts. But he called it, so you’ve got to try to not do it again. Or those State Farm commercials where I play a sneakerhead.”

There have been a lot of horse crap calls in 2021, which undermines zebra credibility. The Chowds stand at 9-4 with an AFC best 7-1 conference record. KC is 8-4, with a 3-4 conference record, so crap calls against an AFC opponent really hurt them and help New England.

The Look Man will be keeping an eye on this today versus the Raiders, and for the balance of the year. KC finishes with five AFC opponents, including a January game in Cincy that could decide AFC seeding.



Belicheat setting up for another run...

THE LOOKAHEAD

Dumpster Ducks at Cleveland Browns (-1.5)

Baltimore HC John Harbaugh got some bad news in the Stillers game, losing yet another DB in the form of CB Marlon (Hubert Horatio) Humphrey. HHH tore a shoulder late in the contest, forcing the Ducks to go for a two-point TD conversion. They failed, and they are already without CB Marcus Peters, which doesn’t bode well for the postseason.

Most pundits view QB Lamar *Action) Jackson as an elite QB, but not the Look Man. Action cannot throw outside the numbers, and while he is a special athlete, if you double TE Mark Andrews and employ a spy, he is pedestrian in the pocket. The failed PAT last week shows how inaccurate Jackson can be in the crunch, and why his playoff record stinks. Good teams find a way to stuff the Baltimore offense, and no defense can play for 40 minutes and win.

Still, the Browns are without a decent QB, and WR Anthony Schwartz may be done for the year after a concussion in the New England game. That play didn’t draw a flag, but it was warranted. The Look Man

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believes if a defensive player intentionally goes helmet-to-helmet, he should miss as much time as the offensive player he hurt. Without Schwartz, the Browns have no vertical passing game, and the Baltimore D is too fast to succeed with a horizontal one.

And by the way, Odell Beckham Jr. just matched the Browns two-week output with his second TD catch in LA. For those keeping score, that is two TD pass receptions for OBJ in LA, while the Browns have only two total TDs since he left Cleveland. The Look Man expects OBJ to catch eight TD passes now that he is running routes without having to carry (Cake) Baker Mayfield on his back.

Baltimore finds (another) way to beat Cleveland, and Baker still hasn't beaten them in a meaningful game. Cake has gone 2-5 with 11 touchdowns and eight picks against the Ducks, including an 18 of 37 for 247 yards, with a touchdown and two sacks in a 16-10 loss two weeks ago. The Browns enjoyed a bye week, but not very much, as leading receiver TE David Njoku is out with COVID, and TE Harrison Bryant still has an ankle.

Baltimore has 17 players on IR in down year, and will still sweep Cleveland thanks to Cake. If you cannot beat them with four picks, how can you ever? Ducks.

San Francisco Niners at 'Nati Bengals (+2.5)

The Niners have owned the Bengals since forever, and this game should be outstanding. Both teams are coming off a loss, and badly need a win. The Look Man has worn jerseys for a dozen teams to Pall Bearer Stadium, but the only time he felt any physical jeopardy was when he wore a Jerry Rice jersey.

Bengals QB Joe (Goat Boy) Burrow injured his throwing pinky last week vs. the Bolts, and it showed. Goat Boy pulled within two before Justin Herbert and the Bolts blew their claws off. Goat Boy dislocated the pinky on a strip-sack in the first quarter, but still posted three bills passing with a TD and two picks.

“It's just something I am going to have to deal with. I am not going to miss any games because of it. Unless it somehow gets worse which, I can't imagine it is going to, I am going to play next week. Now pass me some of that garbage. I'm kinda hungry,” said Burrow.

The Bolts game featured an odd delay of game prior to a key two point try. Bengals HC Zac Taylor called timeout, and the offense got flagged for a delay before the attempt. Taylor eschewed the two-point PAT, and decided to kick the extra point, which missed.

You don't beat Niners HC Shanahan with that type of foolishness. Taylor has made some bad calls, most of which are in the redzone. He has talent, but has not figured it out yet.

The Niners may be without uber WR Deebo Samuel, but they still have TE George (Pot Calling the) Kittle (Black). And any team with a good TE and a good coach can house the Ugly and Black. Niners.

Dallas Pokes at Washington Football Team (+4.5)

Pokes HC Mike McCarthy all but guaranteed a win on Sunday, and created controversy in the process. The Pokes have struggled of late, and were swept by Washington in 2020. Not a good time to talk smack, especially with the recent resurgence of QB Taylor (Bud Light) Heineke.

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Bud Light leads the conference with four game-winning drives, and only Justin Herbert and Ben Roethlisberger own more in 2021. He does his best work in the fourth stanza, and it has become a signature move for the undrafted free agent. Heineke is looking down on Tom Brady, Kirk Cousins and Matt Ryan when it comes to game-winning drives, and those guys aint chopped liver.

As a case in point, the Football Team climbed back to respectability with their road win in Vegas. Their reward is to face the Pokes at home, the first of a series of NFC Least games. They have a sound, good tackling defense, but lost TE Logan (Wolverine) Thomas for the year last week.

The Pokes receivers are getting healthy, with Amari Cooper and Ceedee Lamb back. Something is amiss with RB Zeke Elliott’s knee, and backup RB Tony Pollard has a foot injury. Dak Prescott is going to have to carry the load, including the weight of McCarthy’s poor time management.

The Look Man likes HC (Riverboat) Ron Rivera is going to shake it up, and wins a battle of coaching wits against McCarthy despite a large talent deficit. Micah Parsons, DeMarcus Lawrence and Randy Gregory all suit up for the first time together in a while, and the pass rush will be ferocious. WFT to cover.



Heineke has looked great of late – or less filling

Las Vegas Raiders at KC Baby Backs (-8.5):

The KC defense has made a dramatic turnaround, perhaps highlighted by a double A gap pressure using DT Chris Jones. The front seven has made even Daniel Sorensen and Juan Thornhill look like Pro Bowlers, and each have a pick six in 2021.

Vegas QB Derek (You Can Drive My) Carr has come back to earth since HC Rich Bisaccia (means ‘biyotch’ in Italian) took over. The team has no identity, other than WR Hunter Renfrow, who is having a career year. TE Darren Waller is still iffy, and RB Josh Jacobs is just okay after missing games to injury. The defense is missing DE Carl Nassib and LB Patrick Onwuasor, who provide depth and pass rush support for DE Maxx (XXX) Crosby.

The Baby Backs haven’t forgotten the Raiders’ victory lap at Arrowhead last year. KC wins to set up an epic Thursday Nighter at the Bolts. KC.

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Chicago Monsters of the Furniture Mart at Green Bay Cheeseheads (-11.5) Football Night in America

This spread is a steal. Da Bears are back to Justin (Strawberry) Fields at QB, and HC Matt Nagy is a dead man walking. Green Bay QB Aaron (Discount Double Check) Rodgers claimed ownership of Chicago in the last win, but some bloom is off of his rose.

Look for da Bears to play a tough, physical, NFC Norse game and lose a close one. Nearly every FNIA game in 2021 has been close, largely due to zebras who make it happen. The Pack needs this game to remain in the mix for a One Seed in the NFC, but they don't need it double digits bad, and WR Randall Cobb is out. Monsters cover.

LA#2 Rams at Arizona Deadbirds (-2) Monday Night Football:

Arizona can essentially clinch the NFC West with a win, having had Colt (My Little Pony) McCoy go 2-1 during Kyler Murray's injury. The Deadbirds are an NFC best 10-2, and QB Kyler Murray is the number one QB against the zone defense. Murray has parlayed his offensive weapons into timely scoring and red zone efficiency. The Bears game last week was a textbook example in bad weather conditions.

The Look Man really likes the Arizona D, helmed by former Donkeys HC Vance Joseph. VJ is the real force behind their wins, playing some physical ball behind a cover two shell.

Enter the Rams, who cannot get out of their own way, and looking bad in the process. They have only one win since acquiring DE Von Miller and WR Odell Beckham Jr., and that was against Jacksonville. QB Matt Stafford looks lost.

The Rams have bad chemistry, and win by taking the top off the defense, and stretch running plays. The losses of WR DeSean Jackson and Robert Woods eliminate the former, and have trouble running the football behind the horrible blocking of TE Tyler Higbee.

Still, the NFL loves parity, and a runaway Deadbirds team hurts drama. The Rams need this game to remain relevant and an upset win in the desert sets up Tom Brady and the Expensive Corn Kings for another deep playoff run. Rams.



This pic could become commonplace again in LA

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EPILOGUE

The eighteen-week season is becoming a real grind, and COVID is starting to play a role. Detroit is barely able to field a team in Week Fourteen, and the Browns lose their leading receiver in a must win game against Baltimore. One has to wonder how the playoffs will be affected.

December is running time, and New England and Indy are polishing the running games to perfection. The Tennessee Flaming Thumbtacks could get RB Derrick (King) Henry back in Week Eighteen and the playoffs. If a team can run the football in December, chances of a deep postseason run increase.

Of course, the opposite is also true, as cold temperatures can freeze a passing game. Week Fourteen is an important barometer for progress, and we will see what happens.

Peace,

The Look Man