

## THE LOOKMAN REPORT 2021

### Week Seventeen – Mail Bag!

*“Just called to congratulate you and your team for a great effort last night. believe so firmly in this: that there is only one way to play the game, and it is a regular-season game and you go out to win the darn game ... We’ve gotten too much of, ‘Well, they’re going to rest their players and don’t need to win, therefore they won’t win.’ Well, that’s not sports and that’s not competition.”—the late, great John Madden to Jynts HC Tom Coughlin, the morning after the Giants lost to the Patriots in the final game of the 2007 regular season.*

#### PROLOGUE

The Look Man couldn’t resist one more tip of the cap to Madden, and this week’s quote reminds us of another special moment in his career. The Celebrity Obit of the Week in Week Sixteen failed to mention Madden’s contributions to affirmative action and player safety, but his nod to a fellow head coach was special. Madden had many nicknames, but the one that best describes him is “Coach.”

Week Seventeen included some special moments, but a lot of the drama was pilfered by Zebra Ron Torbert in KC-Cincinnati on Sunday. Torbert (the Eighth Man) took over a spirited contest tied, littering the field with yellow laundry and ensuring a win for the Bengal. That win made the Browns-Stillers Monday Nighter moot, as well as a winner take all Week Eighteen tilt in Cleveland. But the worst part of that ugly zebra performance was a reminder of what we have lost in 2022: no matter what our eyes tell us, we read the Internet description and figure it tells the whole story.

Week Seventeen also included a bizarre third quarter walk-off by Expensive Corn Kings WR Antonio (Mr. Big Chest) Brown. Brown, who was unhappy about his touches and how they were impacting salary incentives, tossed his gear and headed for the locker room in the third quarter. His striptease act proved to the whole world that he is completely off his rocker. Or as at one of the Tailpipe Nation put it: “...crazy as a June bug.”

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

#### LAGNIAPPE

##### Mail Bag 2021

The Look Man received several nice emails this season, and last week was exceptional. Longtime Tailpipe Murph emailed the following:

*I know you (Die Hard Brownie Fan) must be going through a tough time the way the season ended. I feel your pain and would advise DO NOT hesitate to reach out to Dr Rick.*

*I know how you feel about the "Baker Boy" so hope they can find a team and get a 2nd or 3rd round pick. I think he could be a decent QB in the right setting but his time in CTown is OVER.*

*P.S. I am a big Draft Guy so wanted to get your take on who/what the Browns will be targeting at the 2022 Draft (less than 4 months away).*

- *most all experts predict Browns taking a WR at #1 (Wilson from OSU)*
- *Maybe there is a decent QB around in the middle of Round #2 (remember Dalton)*
- *Will the Browns go after Watson/Wilson? sounds like that may be too much to give up.*
- *I hope Bengals target FA OL plus draft CB and OL early.*

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The Look Man concurs on the O-line selection in Cincy and so does Joe (Goat Boy) Burrow, who has run for his life on a weekly basis. As for Cleveland, the Look Man would like to see DeShaun Watson or (Dange)Russ Wilson in Seal Brown, but it seems unlikely. More likely, Matty Ice Ryan from the ATL could be available, and has Super Bowl experience. Cleveland also has needs at LB and WR, so the front office will earn its money in the offseason.

Long Suffering Bengals Fan Sundance offered the following:

*“Joe (Goat Boy) Burrow may be more injured than we know”, following the bizarre KC-Cincinnati finish. Bengals HC Zac Taylor called a QB sneak and a pass play that nearly got Joe (Goat Boy) Burrow killed. His name tag was torn off by the third quarter due to the number and ferocity of hits. Burrow’s ‘good’ ACL was likely damaged in that late sequence of bad play calling, and could impact whatever playoff future they have.*

Longtime Tailpipe GB Shaw following the awful Pokes loss to the Birdhead Heads:

*Yeah, I know the Starheads deserved to lose to the birdheadheads. But I do want to point out something about the fumble that Dallas recovered with 2:07 left.*

*Replay clearly shows an Arizona fumble, with Dallas recovery in-bounds. However, the side judge emphatically indicates the ball was down. My first reaction was that there were only two possibilities:*

- 1. Either the zebra saw what actually happened, and decided to lie, or*
- 2. He didn't see what happened, and was being emphatic just to be a (derogatory phrase here).*

*But then I realized a third possibility: that, knowing Dallas was out of timeouts and couldn't challenge, made a call that was not challenge-able (and reversed). I mean, if there was doubt, why not make the (correct) call that it was Dallas' ball? If it was wrong, it would be automatically challenged, and overturned. The fact that he so emphatically made the (wrong) call that he did tells me he wanted a specific outcome.*

*Yeah, the 'Boys will get into the playoffs. But your assertion(s) that Goodell has already determined, not only the participants in Super Bowl LVI, but the winner as well, is gaining credibility, and, with it, frustration for those teams (and their fans) not in the good commissioner's good graces.*

GB Shaw is correct; that was clearly a fumble, and the Head Linesman’s call of down-by-contact was capricious and erroneous. But the Pokes inability to challenge was due to coaching malfeasance, and it is hard to award the ZOTW on that basis. The *Marvin Lewis Bad Clock Management Award* should be probably be renamed after Pokes HC Mike McCarthy at this point.

Taylor and McCarthy should go immediately to a steel cage coaching matchup equivalent of the Star Trek TOS *Kobiyashi Maru*. Neither would make starship captain afterwards, but one might end up like Poor Old Ben Finney in *Court Martial*, listening afterwards for team heartbeats, and delivering bad press conferences through their tears and scenery chewing.

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*Why did you DO that??!!*

Thanks to Mad Marty, who provides weekly updates of the LookManReport.com, and the following cartoon, based upon the Look Man's love for the officials:

**SPEED BUMP** by Dave Coverly



*no caption required.*

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#### Zebra of the Week

The clear and obvious winner of the ZOTW this week is Ron Torbert, who did Chiefs-Bengals. He destroyed the integrity of the game with not one, but several incredibly bad calls down the stretch. Each call provided the Bengals with new life, and the final defensive hands to the face call sealed the win for Cincinnati. KC shut down the Bengals inside the two-yard line five times, and instead of a winner take all game in Week Eighteen, Torbert awarded the AFC Asgard to the Bengals on calls that a blind man would challenge.

The Browns were mathematically eliminated via this travesty, and the Look Man was glad he sold his Baby Backs-Bengals tickets. Paul Bearer Stadium is known for its lack of JumboTron replays, and even the broadcast version had Tony Romo scratching his head. It's amazing the Look Man's television survived, but the Spousal Unit's ears were scorched by some egg frying language.

If you see Ron Torbert in the playoffs, you should quickly turn off your television and seek other entertainment. Your wife and television will thank you later.



*Goat Boy got destroyed in an incredible game vs. the Baby Backs, but bailed out by Torbert*

#### **THE LOOKAHEAD**

##### Cincinnati Bengals at Cleveland Browns (-2.5)

The Browns made headlines this week after (Cake) Baker Mayfield decided to quit the season and get surgery on his labrum. Too bad the Front Office didn't make that decision in Week Three; the team was held hostage for fifteen weeks, and missed the postseason in a down year in the AFC Asgard division.

As a result, and because the Bengals are resting players, the Browns are favored. The Look Man is torn, wanting as high a draft seeding as possible, but wanting to sweep the Ugly and Black in 2021. Case Keenum and company should win this game handily, IF they have not quit on HC Kevin Stefanski.

That is a big IF, because much of the team is ticked off that Cake got OBJ jettisoned, and has now quit on his teammates. The only difference between Cake and Antonio Brown is better PR.

Nick Chubb and Myles Garrett have joined the list of injuries created by Cake Baker, and many more players are gutting it out. Not sure why, after Mayfield destroyed a promising season. Bengals.

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*"Mayfield is a punk and a poor man's Johnny Manziel" per Paul Finebaum*

*Blitzburgh Stillers at Baltimore Dumpster Ducks (-6.5)*

Dumpster Ducks' QB Lamar (Action) Jackson is still out with an ankle, but the Stillers have COVID issues. Big Ben had a victory lap at Ketchup Field last week, and who knows about this game. Both the Stillers and the Ducks have slim postseason hopes, and need help. The Look Man expects the Stillers to get into the postseason courtesy of the NFL's desire to see easy matchups for the Chowds, and to provide a fond farewell to Big Ben Rapelessberger. Stillers cover.

*Tennessee Flaming Thumbtacks at Houston Slim Shadies (+10.5)*

The Flaming Thumbtacks have already been beaten by the Houston Slim Shadies in Week Eleven, and hold the One Seed in the AFC. They can secure that seed with a win on Sunday, but the Look Man believes the zebras get involved. Houston HC David Culley has these guys playing well, and the Tacks are up and down. Houston covers, courtesy of yet another QB Ryan Tannehill pick six. Houston.

*Look Man Pepto Bismol of the Year Superfecta:*

Here is how the NFL facilitates Tampa Bay and New England in the Super Bowl LVI:

- *Carolina Black Cats at Tampa Bay Expensive Corn Kings (-7.5)*
- *Green Bay Cheeseheads at Detroit Cadillacs (no line)*
- *Indianapolis Ponies at Jacksonville J-Squareds (+15.5)*
- *New York Aeronauticals at Buffalo Bisons (-16.5)*
- *New England Chowds at Miami Marine Mammals (+6.5)*

The highlighted teams all win, raising the Corn Kings to the Two Seed, and helping the Chowds play a cupcake on the road in the Wild Card. It also helps J-Squareds owner Shad Khan overcome a "clown franchise" insurrection, in which the fans arrive showing up in clown costumes with the owner's signature mustache.

The smart money is on Chowds at Bengals in the Wild Card, with Burrow playing on a surgically repaired knee. The Nati is used to losing in the postseason every several years anyway. The last loss: an ugly playoff loss to the Stillers after Antonio Brown suffered a decapitating hit courtesy of Vontaze Burfict (Storm). Video courtesy of Brain, who noted that the AB walkoff in Week Seventeen was due to this hit:

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[https://youtu.be/o8iFSP\\_S5h8](https://youtu.be/o8iFSP_S5h8)

*Warning: contains graphic material which may be inappropriate for Bob Costas and/or non-NFL fans*

*[Insert City Here] Bolts at [Insert City Here] Raiders (-2.5) WWE Night in America*

The NFL has suddenly gone sentimental with the Raiders, likely due to the untimely death of John Madden. Goodell surreptitiously whacked Jon (Chucky) Gruden, but this rag-tag band of pirates has now assembled a streak of wins over good teams. Well, maybe just okay teams, if you include Cleveland and Indy. This game also has an unusual situation in which a tie would ensure that both teams make the postseason tournament.

While that outcome is unlikely, it would guarantee that three AFC West teams make the postseason, and it would eliminate Blitzburgh and/or Baltimore. The Chowds would be the third Wild Card, and the NFL would love to see them represent the AFC against Tampa Bay at Sofi in February.

Look for Bolts QB Justin Herbert to outshine Vegas QB Derek (Elvis) Carr, putting LA in position to play Super Bowl LVI at home in Sofi. On the other hand, if Elvis plays in LVI, it would be quite a spectacle. Perhaps the NFL might even rename the Lombardi to *the Madden Trophy*, replete with stainless steel turkey legs. Bolts.

#### **EPILOGUE**

The eighteen game season has been a marathon. Between COVID, injuries and just general unrest, the regular season has been a tough slog. The Look Man feels it just in writing the LMR week after week.

We now find ourselves in the same opposition as Tom Coughlin, where teams can't improve their seeding or don't want to based upon likely opponents. In the AFC, the Bengals, Flaming Thumbtacks and Baby Backs have clinched, and don't need another win to ensure division titles. Indy, the Raiders and Bolts are in the win and in category.

Over in the Junior Circuit, the Cheeseheads have clinched the One Seed. Arizona, Dallas and Tampa Bay have clinched division titles, but are fighting for seeding. The Niners and Religious Icons can clinch a Wild Card with a win in Week Eighteen.

Many of these teams have division titles, and instead of playing to win, can lay down. Between COVID and injuries, they could maintain or actually improve their seeds and/or draw. Let's just say Madden's successor won't be calling them on Monday morning with congrats.

The NFL could print their own money if Belicheat and Brady go head-to-head in Super Bowl LVI in LA. It might be dubbed: "Bruce (BA) Arians vs. Belicheat - the Kangol vs. the Hoodie."

Peace,

The Look Man