

THE LOOKMAN REPORT 2022

Week One – Easter Eggs

"If I tell you to go run a certain route, you go ahead and run it. If I tell you tomorrow is Easter, go paint some eggs." – Jyns QB Eli Manning instructing rookie RB Saquon Barkley

PROLOGUE

Week One lived up to the hype, with two OT games, and some serious drama. The Blitzburgh-Cincinnati game went so long that most of the nation got to see multiple balls clanging off the uprights due to missed FGs. Unfortunately, most missed the ending after getting up and going to Taco Bell.

There were a few clunkers, but overall Week One did not disappoint. The Look Man got to see The Baker Mayfield Face, and it ain't bad as a replacement to the Eli Manning Face. Speaking of Manning, the quote above came from the Manning Cast during the Donkeys-Shehaws Monday Nighter, which also included Shannon Sharpe getting soused and doing his impression of the Denver mascot.

All in all, the NFL got just what it wanted, and the season is off to a roaring start. It was so great that even Houston and Detroit were competitive, and when was the last time that could be claimed?

Without further ado, the Week that was.

LAGNIAPPE

Zoolander

Ryan (FitzMagic) Fitzpatrick made it clear he is no fan of Tampa QB Tom Brady on a podcast this week. The recently retired Fitz recalled multiple instances in which Zoolander disrespected him over the years.

The conversation began with a reference to Brady's infamous "that motherf---er" clip from HBO's "The Shop". The seven-time Super Bowl champion made the comment when one team rejected his free agency application, astounded that they would go with their incumbent QB over him.

"It had to be me," said Fitzpatrick. "Zero respect. He'd never shake my hand.

"I've told this story before, but he just pisses me off. Because you're in Buffalo, you're playing New England, they're kicking our ass every single year they're beating us. We finally in 2011 knocked them off. It was right at the beginning of the season. We had this great start and he threw five interceptions in the game, which was just wonderful to see every single one of them. Just wonderful to see.

"And (Brady would) run straight off. Like, no handshake, no quarterback middle of the field, no, 'Where are the cameras? OK, hey, stay healthy buddy.' Just ran straight off. So, it bothered me so much because there was no respect there. Every time I played him after that, I was like 'All right, let's make this dude respect me.'

"Ended up in New York with the Jets and with Miami beating him. The last one was especially sweet because it was the Tank For Tua year. ... They beat us by 40-something points at the beginning of the season. They needed to beat us to get home-field advantage and it was his last regular-season game as a Patriot, and we go and we score at the end of the game and beat them." No handshake.

Brady's persona is carefully curated, but this isn't the first handshake controversy. Zoolander also refused to Iggle QB (Big Dick) Nick Foles' hand after the Super Bowl LII loss. Seven rings and no class whatsoever.

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Pokes Fan Disgusted

Corn Kings LB Devin White and the Tampa defense snuffed many of the same schemes the Dallas offense used during last year's season-opener. Apparently, they were on the field yelling, "Fool me once, shame on you. Fool me twice, shame on me."

OC Kellen Moore's lack of creativity led to Pokes Fan grousing:

- "If I ran this organization, someone on the offensive coaching staff would be fired after this statement," one said.
- "Since Jason Garrett was an OC here defenses have been saying this. Please dear lord I want some creativity and juice in my offense. No more Moore, he's Garrett 2.0," another said.
- "This is embarrassing," another added.

That last comment came from VP Stephen Jones, whose father owns the Pokes.

When the smoke cleared, Dallas gained just 71 total rush yards — 52 from Zeke, 11 from Dak and 8 from RB Tony Pollard. The game also included some trick run plays that got blown up in embarrassing fashion. Even former Pokes great Michael (the Paymaker) Irvin was critical, and that takes a lot.

Let Russ Cook?

Denver gave up two first, two second-round picks and three players to acquire (Dange)Russ Wilson before signing him to a five-year, \$245 million extension. On Monday Night, they squandered twenty-five seconds and took the ball out of his hands with the game on the line.

Denver head coach Nathaniel Hackett called upon Brandon McManus to attempt a 64-yard field goal. The kick drifted wide left, resulting in an embarrassing 17-16 season-opening loss and quashing Wilson's bid for bragging rights.

Hackett has subsequently apologized for his clock management and decision making, but the Look Man was amazed at the amount of hate Wilson engendered from his former teammates. Richard Sherman, Marshawn Lynch and Bobby Wagner apparently all hate Russ, stemming from his time in Seattle. They attribute the Super Bowl loss to the Chowds to his interception, where Pete Carroll threw the ball instead of allowing Lynch to go Beast Mode for the win.

The issue stems from Wilson being too square, often practicing high fives in the mirror, and closing interviews with "Go 'hawks". Sherman notoriously yelled, "YOU SUCK" in practice after intercepting Russ.

His teammates despised Wilson, often yelling "Go 'hawks" and "let's ride" in a high-pitched voice during practice. Some called it jealousy over Wilson's wife Ciara, but the standing rumor was that former Seahawks WR Golden Tate cuckolded Wilson, which led to Tate's release.

The issue came to a head this week when Wilson badgered his Denver teammates into yelling "run" or "pass" from the sidelines in order to help the defense diagnose the play. In the NFL, this is ludicrous.

The Look Man likes Russ, but he is clearly a strange ranger.

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Separated at birth?

ZEBRA OF THE WEEK

For your consideration:

Stillers-Bengals – Shawn (She Hulk) Hochuli: The Stillers-Bengals featured an odd play in which Joe Burrow fumbled the ball late inside of the 2:00 warning. The ball was recovered by RB Samaje Perrine, who advanced the ball for a gain that set the Bengals up for a game winning FG try. Due to the old “holy roller” play by Dave Casper and the Raiders, only the fumbling player can advance the ball after a fumble inside of two minutes before the half or end of the game. The ball was set to the spot of Burrows fumble and the Bengals were forced to punt on fourth down.

Browns-Black Cats – Brad Rogers: The ZOTW award could easily have gone to Brad (Buck) Rogers for the questionable roughing and grounding call on the Jacoby Brissett spike to set up the game winning FG. Both calls were correct, and the right team won, so no dice on the award for Rogers.

But the Look Man actually learned something this weekend watching college ball in the Tennessee at Pittsburgh game.

In the NFL, no receiver can go out of bounds and be the first to touch the ball. The penalty is called illegal touching, and includes a loss of down and a five-yard penalty or ten second runoff if no timeout is available.

In the NCAA, if the receiver is forced out of bounds by the defensive back, he can be the first to touch the ball, gaining credit for a reception. Here is the NCAA rule:

Eligibility Lost by Going Out of Bounds ARTICLE 4. *No eligible offensive receiver who goes out of bounds and returns in bounds during a down shall touch a legal forward pass while in the field of play or end zones or while airborne until it has been touched by an opponent or official (A.R. 7-3-4-I, II and IV). [Exception: This does not apply to an originally eligible offensive player who immediately returns inbounds after going out of bounds due to contact by an opponent.]*

This rule seems idiotic. Apparently, there is no foul for illegal contact 20 yards downfield, but the receiver can get knocked out of bounds and still come back for a reception.

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This rule is also ridiculous because it fails to punish wideouts for running patterns too close to the sideline in the first place. The QB has no place to deliver the ball and the receiver can claim he was forced out even if he ran a poor pattern.

This just in: college football sucks.

THE LOOKAHEAD

Washington Commies at Detroit Cadillacs (-1.5/48.5)

The Washington Football Team owns Detroit historically, going 31-15 overall. Enter QB Carson (From) Wentz (It Came), he of the big arm and big turnovers. Wentz cost the Ponies a playoff berth in 2021 by turning the ball over at key times and losing to the hapless Jacksonville J-Squareds in Week 18. HC Frank (The Fifth) Reich sent him packing in short order thereafter.

Detroit was featured on *HBO Hard Knocks* in 2022, and the result was nearly unwatchable. Head Coach Dan Campbell is like a cartoon supervillain, using the English language to create macho word salads. He infamously rambled about “biting kneecaps” and playing with “three toes and one ass cheek.” The Look Man guesses when you have Jared (Subway) Goff at QB, you have to keep it simple, but this is pretty ridiculous.

The Cadillacs are favored for the first time since the late 50’s, probably because Washington is banged up defensively. Take From Wentz It Came and the points. Commies.

Carolina Black Cats at NY Jynts (-2/43.5)

(Cake) Baker Mayfield may thrive on revenge, but Carolina OC Ben McAdoo was unceremoniously ejected as head coach of the G-Men. McAdoo will be looking for payback when his Black Cats return to the Boogie Down on Sunday.

If you missed the Week One game at Nashville, you missed a doozy. Dan(ny Dimes) Jones couldn’t hit the broad side of a barn, so rookie HC Brian Daboll pounded the run behind RB Saquon Barkley. The Jynts never led until they hit the two-point conversion late in the game.

Daboll likes to ride the line between gutsy and reckless, and this game was proof positive. He told the offense he was going for two when they scored, and authored the 21-20 win with physical defense and punishing offense. Saquon is back baby, with 164 rushing yards including the GW conversion.

The G-Men look for real despite significant talent holes. The Look Man likes Daboll to get the W, sending Baker and Matt Rhule back to the drawing board. Belicheat sends Stillers coach Brian Flores a congratulatory text after the win. Jynts.

New York Aeronauticals at Cleveland Browns (-6.5/40)

The Browns were both lucky and good in Week One, beating Cake Baker and Carolina on a 58-yard FG. They made their own luck by draft K Cade York in the fourth round, and this kid’s huge leg closes a significant kicking gap for Cleveland.

The Barking Dawg D dominated Carolina, bottling up McCaffrey and holding Cake to 106 passing yards until the final stanza. They then gave up three big plays due to mental errors and had to battle back for the win.

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In truth, mental errors are more likely on a hot afternoon early in the season before conditioning has taken hold. Still, you cannot mock the Football Gods with Cover Zero at the goal line or single safety coverage up two scores.

NY QB Zach (Mister) Wilson injured himself while having sex with his mom's bestie, and will miss several weeks. (Cool) Joe Flacco takes the helm while Wilson is out with his annual four game injury. Flacco knows the Browns from his time in Baltimore, and he still has some tread left on the tires.

Former Ohio State Buckeye WR Garrett Wilson returns to Ohio and is looking to post big numbers in front of friends and family. This kid is a star in the making, and could be trouble. The Ohio motif continues with rookie CB Sauce Gardner from Cincinnati. Sauce had to earn his nickname and would love to take one to the house in Cleveland.

QB Jacoby Brissett knows the Jets after stints with Indy and Miami, so that is a positive. Better would be if he can get on the same page with Amari Cooper and TE David Njoku. Njoku has been on the side of a milk cartoon since signing a huge deal in the offseason.

This Jets team is ripe for the picking with a physical run game and timely passing. Browns win to set up the Turnpike Bowl on Thursday Night for AFC Asgard supremacy. Browns, baby Browns.



Jets rookie class is no joke

Cincinnati Bengals at Dallas Cowpokes (+7.5/41)

Bengals QB Joe Burrow was sacked seven times in Week One, adding to the 70 he took for the team in 2021. Blitzburgh posted an OT win in the wackiest football game in a decade, largely on the strength of Burrow's five turnovers. The Zebras helped, but there was so much bad clock management and poor special teams play that it was like watching a car crash or dumpster fire.

The Bengals suffered from a lack of preseason playing time. Burrow and the receivers were out of synch, and the offensive goal line play calling was horrible. Burrow posted three bills passing but couldn't score in the red zone and turned the ball over way too often. His new free agent O-line has not yet jelled, and he nearly got killed. This kid is tough, but if they keep this up, he will soon be in the NFL Network studio next to David Carr.

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Meanwhile, at the Jerrah Dome, the Pokes got destroyed by a physical Corn Kings defense that kept them out of the end zone. QB Dak Prescott broke his thumb in the loss, a 19-3 Jackson Pollack of a game.

Dak is a cautionary tale on why you don't pony up \$40 million for a mediocre QB. He is the reason why the Look Man didn't want to keep Mayfield in Cleveland: the price is too high for a QB who plays great with great talent around him, but doesn't elevate the talent of his teammates. Think Andy (The Beige Water Pistol) Dalton, Tony Romo (the Place for Ribs) and Jared (Subway) Goff; they're all decent players, but you are never really in the running for a ring if they are leading your team.

Dallas is now cap-strapped, with Dak and Zeke Elliott making far more than their relative contributions to the team. The Look Man thought it was a bad look when Pokes Fan threw trash at the injured Prescott as he departed for the locker room, but he gets the level of frustration. After all, Cake Baker has that effect on a weekly basis.

Jerrah went down to the locker room after the Week One thumping and read the entire coaching staff and team the riot act. Unfortunately, he was yelling at the wrong folks; he should've been directing his anger at VP Stephen Jones and the management team that agreed to overpay Dak and Zeke, and allow DE Randy Gregory to depart over a stupid morality contract clause.

Dak is out for at least four weeks, so former Central Michigan Chippewa Cooper Rush gets the start, but the Pokes continue the free fall to 0-2. Bengals win.

Tampa Bay Expensive Corn Kings at New Orleans Religious Icons (+2.5/44)

Just like his 7-0 record against the Pokes, Tom (Zoolander) Brady's 0-6 Tampa record versus New Orleans is a statistical anomaly after beating all 32 NFL teams.

Icons QB (Famous) Jameis Winston is still salty about his release from Tampa despite posting 5,100 passing yards and 33 TD passes in his final Corn Kings season. Of course, Winston also threw 30 picks that season, and who could say no to acquiring Brady?

Icons HC Dennis Allen is the architect of most of those wins over Tampa, and he has spotted a glitch in Brady's Matrix. Add the injuries suffered in the Week One slobberknocker at Dallas, and it adds up to a New Orleans win. Icons.

Chicago Monsters of the Furniture Mart at Green Bay Cheeseheads (-10/41.5) - Football Night in America

The Look Man watched the Browns – Black Cats at the local bar, sitting adjacent to the Bears Backers, who were watching Frisco-Bears. Browns Fan is pretty loud, so much so that the bar patrons often ask why all the noise is coming from their room. The answer is usually just a first down.

The Look Man told you that story to tell you this one: Bears Fan is the second best in the business. These folks hooted, hollered and harassed their team to a win at a soggy Spaceship Field in the Chi. The Niners and Bears played in a downpour most of the day, and the play was predictably sloppy. That didn't stop Bears Fan from singing Bear Down most of the afternoon, resulting in an old school NFL win.

As for this week's game, Aaron (Discount Double Check) Rodgers owns the Monsters of the Furniture Mart. The Bears D hounded Trey Lance, but DDC is the real article. Pack wins.

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Tennessee Flaming Thumbtacks at Crapchester Bisons (-10/48) - Monday Night Football Part 1

The NFL is going for ratings gold again in Week Two, pitting two potential playoff teams against one another on MNF. The Thumbtacks laid an egg in Week One with a loss to the Jynts, while Josh (Irwin) Allen and the Bisons defense sparkled.

Tacks QB Ryan Tannehill hasn't been the same since tossing four picks in the AFC Divisional playoff against Cincinnati. The seat is getting hot for he and HC Mike Vrabel in Nashville. Free agency acquisitions on defense cannot make up for losing WR AJ Brown in the offseason. They acquired TE Austin Hooper from Cleveland, but lost OT Roger Saffold and WR Julio Jones.

Josh Allen knows that this game is another playoff preview, and he has had eleven days to prepare. Hopefully that preparation includes practicing how to get out of bounds after a scramble. Allen stiff armed a Rams DB into the turf in Week One, but he needs to stay safe. No matter how big you are, someone can knock you silly. Just ask Pokes LB Micah Parsons and Tacks RB Derrick (King) Henry.

Speaking of King Henry, he got destroyed in the Jynts game. Henry was running too vertically when a LB drilled him in the chest on a third down. King Henry was never the same afterwards, and the Jynts parlayed that into a W.

Bills Mafia will be ready for a coronation in Week Two, breaking tables and generally creating mayhem like an Allstate insurance commercial. Bisons.

EPILOGUE

Week One is in the books, and the season looks promising. After seeing a number of the teams, the Look Man can say this: the AFC quarterbacking is incredible so far and the NFC is ho hum. It is reminiscent of Larry Bird showing up at the *NBA All Star Three Point Shooting* contest and asking who was gunning for second place. The AFC is out for blood in 2022.

The 2022 season includes significant changes in the networks. Amazon Prime is carrying the Thursday Night Football games, and Al Michaels and Kirk Herbstreit carrying the booth. The halftime features the comely Charissa Thompson, Tony Gonzalez, Richard Simmons, FitzMagic and Andrew Whitworth. While the opening lacks gravitas, the production is in its infancy.

Over at the Four-Letter Network, Troy Aikman and Joe Buck got paid, totaling \$165 million in long term contracts. Aikman now makes the same dough as Romo, and the game is getting back some of its cache lost in the Booger McFarland, Steve Levy, Brian Griese, and Louis Riddick era.

The future is bright, and the Shield is deflecting deserved criticism due to a well packaged product. For now...

Peace,

The Look Man