

THE LOOKMAN REPORT 2022

Week Two – Bad Beats Blizzard

“McDaniel’s gonna need a wheel barrow for his nuts to carry them around.” – Tyreek Hill on HC Mike McDaniel’s play calling. The Marine Mammals are 2-0 after a 21-point comeback in Week Two.

PROLOGUE

After a spectacular Week One, Week Two far exceeded expectations, with dramatic comebacks, Alcoa Fantastic Finishes, and an unlikely Jets win in Cleveland. The Look Man has attended a lot of games, and was in attendance the last time a team lost a game up thirteen points after the Two Minute Warning.

There have been 2,229 such games, and only two losses – both by the Cleveland Browns. The last time was 2002, when the Look Man and his crew traveled to Spaceship Field in Chicago to see Tim (Sofa Boy) Couch pull defeat from the jaws of victory. The crew consisted of Dave E Dave and Brain, two diehard Browns fans who made the trek and suffered mightily on the return trip home.

The Week One loss to the Aeronauticals hurt nearly as much, perhaps because this Browns team is stacked, and New York won despite a talent deficit and geriatric QB Joe Flacco. The blame fell squarely on coaching, which might have mitigated any of the four or five errors contributing to the defeat. A great coach is good for at least two or three wins a year. In the words of O.A. (Bum) Phillips, “That Don Shula is a Helluva coach. He can take his’n and beat your’n; he can take your’n and beat his’n.”

There were other surprises in Week Two, including Dallas sending the Orange and Black to an 0-2 record, a dramatic Marine Mammals comeback over Baltimore, and a gritty New England win over the Stillers. When the smoke cleared, the AFC Asgard Division was knotted three ways, with Cleveland, Blitzburgh and Baltimore sharing the division lead.

Aaron (Discount Double Check) Rodgers continued to exercise his prerogative as CEO of da Bears, the Arizona Deadbirds knocked off Vegas in OT, and (Cake) Baker Mayfield fell to 0-2. The Bisons appear to be the cream of the AFC, with a 41-7 pasting of Tennessee, last year’s AFC Number One Seed. The AFC West, once a presumptive powerhouse, now appears to be a one-horse race with everyone looking up to Kansas City.

Without further ado, the Week that was.

LAGNIAPPE

Yeah, Baybee...

The story of the week might’ve been Eli Manning going undercover for a college walk-on tryout at Penn State. Manning claimed to be “Chad Powers, a home-schooled kid with remaining eligibility. All of this for the Manning Cast production of Eli’s Places on ESPN+.

Eli donned a wig, fake mustache and prosthetics at the tryout, where he proceeded to run a 5.5 forty-yard dash. The two-time Super Bowl champ then proceeded to demonstrate his arm talent, zipping the pigskin all over the field, and yelling, “I can throw it, baby!”

PSU HC James Franklin was in on the joke, but remarkably no one else seemed to recognize the Hall of Fame QB. Apparently, Eli did not employ his usual “five-head” reference to his prematurely balding older brother. Franklin informed Eli that his numbers were insufficient to make the squad, and that Eli is ineligible because he is in fact, a retired professional athlete.

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Please take this time to watch the next Manning Cast on Monday Night Football. This guy is underrated as a comedian.



Eli will play at PSU for, "One meellion doellars!"

Free Deshaun Watson

Social media went into an uproar after posting the photo below from the Cleveland Browns Muni lot tailgate last week. If you have never been to the Muni Lot in Cleveland, you cannot fully appreciate how wild it truly is.

A former Cincinnati mayor wearing a Bengals jersey once wanted to go into the Muni Lot but was denied by his own armed security detail. When asked why an armed detail couldn't handle a group of football fans, one of the officers indicated, "They're armed, too."

Clearly, this photo is a breach of etiquette, but so too, were the following Muni Lot incidents:

- 1) the Big Ben Roethlisberger dart board for Breast Cancer awareness, three tosses for \$5 at Ben's face;
- 2) chants of "a--hole" reigning down on anyone wearing a Stillers jersey;
- 3) the booing of a buddy who dropped several nice passes thrown by the Look Man.

Bottom line: the Muni Lot is not a welcoming place for non-Browns Fan. Venture in at your own peril.

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Note the Tip Jar...

ZEBRA OF THE WEEK

The NFL largely let 'em play in Week One, and the result was a slate of excellent games. The Look Man did see a lot of chicken bleep D-holding/illegal contact fouls, but on balance it was a pretty good week. He therefore recommends no award of the ZOTW in Week One.

ERRORS AND OMISSIONS

The Look Man indicated last week that Tom (Zoolander) Brady was 0-6 against New Orleans since his Tampa Bay engagement, but the number was really 0-4. Irrespective, Zoolander took care of business in a chippy affair in the Big Easy.

Also, college football does not really suck, but is clearly inferior. The Look Man hates the overtime and player number rules in the NCAA, both of which are bleeding into the NFL. NFL linebackers wearing single digit numbers is horrible. Why borrow from a clearly inferior product?

Having said that, the Tennessee Volunteers take on the Florida Gators this Saturday in Knoxville TN. The ESPN Game Day crew is in town, and the Look Man will be on the lookout for reporter Jess Sims. Sims, best known for her Peloton videos brings a freshness to the crew. Also, baby got back.

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Ms. Sims in the Scruffy City...

THE LOOKAHEAD

The Look Man went 3-4 last week, but one can hardly lay blame with the Browns squandering a 13-point lead and the Bengals laying an egg in Big D. God help you if you were in a Survivor Pool. This week promises to illuminate, perhaps even shedding light on the rest of the season.

Crapchester Bisons (2-0) at Miami Marine Mammals (2-0) – Game of the Week Bisons -6 | Total: 53

The Bisons look like a juggernaut through the first two weeks of the season, destroying both teams they faced. But the Look Man really likes Miami, and especially likes HC Mike (Mad Scientist) McDaniels.

Tua (TNT) Tagovailoa posted 319 passing yards and six (count ‘em – six!) TD passes in Week Two, including 28 fourth quarter points ON THE ROAD, tying and beating a good Baltimore team. The Marine Mammals defense stuffed Lamar (Action) Jackson, stacked the middle of the field, and burned a solid secondary deep on multiple occasions. It was perhaps, the most entertaining game of the week in a week full of fun games.

Enter Crapchester HC Sean McDermott and a highly motivated Bisons squad. The Bisons feel they were the best team in the AFC in 2021, and are proving it now. The defense is excellent against the run and pass, and they destroyed both 2022 opponents.

Sounds like a walkover and a TD spread, right? Wrong. Some key players, including Pro Bowl safety Micah Hyde, CB Dane Jackson, and DT Jordan Phillips are all out for Week Three. Dane Jackson nearly got his neck broken by friendly fire from LB Tremaine Edmunds in one of the ugliest hits of the decade.

The Look Man sees this game as a shootout involving a banged up Bisons squad that depends on D-line rotation to stay fresh on a hot day in South Beach. Both teams are talented and deep, but Miami may have the X-factors in McDaniels and WR Tyreek (Cheetah) Hill. Mammals cover and could win outright.

New Orleans Religious Icons (1-1) at Carolina Black Cats (0-2) - Icons -3 | Total: 40.5

QB (Famous) Jameis Winston is playing with a broken back, largely due to carrying this New Orleans squad. Famous reverted to form in a chippy Week Two contest with the Expensive Corn Kings, throwing picks on three straight possessions, culminating in a pick six.

Backup Andy (The Beige Water Pistol) Dalton could take over, and should against an overmatched Carolina squad featuring banged up RB Christian McCaffery. Hard to imagine TBWP doing it with RB

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Alvin (Kandid) Kamara suffering from ribs, but (Cake) Baker Mayfield stinks on ice, or in this case, Lake Norman. Icons win, sending Cake to 0-3 and wishing he had his O-line from Cleveland. Icons.

Baltimore Dumpster Ducks (1-1) at New England Chowderheads (1-1): Ducks -3 | Total: 44

The Look Man is still not a fan of Baltimore QB Lamar (Action) Jackson, and the injuries are mounting for his team. He did post a 21-point lead before hurting his wing but still cannot throw the ball outside the numbers.

Action ran a little bit last week, but he doesn't want to risk injury while waiting on a new contract. He needs to call his agent and get something done. Oh, wait a minute, he IS his agent. The MVP chants are premature.

Bill Belichick and the Chowds are going to be ready for this one, stacking the middle of the field to prevent 20 completions to TE Mark Andrews. QB Mac (the Knife) Jones looks better throwing the rock, and WR Nelson Agholor returned from his vacation on the side of a milk carton. It is now WR Kendrick (Jason) Bourne's turn to find *Treadstone* and burn it down.

The Dumpster Ducks secondary went down like free beer in Week Two, dropping to the worst-ranked passing defense in the league for a second year. Action has an elbow, and Chowds win to set up a battle for AFC Least supremacy. Chowds.

Cincinnati Bengals (0-2) at NY Aeronauticals (1-1) Bengals -4.5 | Total: 45

Joe Burrow is getting destroyed, and took another six sacks at Dallas in an upset loss. He needs to take what the defense is giving, and quit going for the jugular on every play. Sure, he has WR talent galore in Ja'Marr Chase, Tee Higgins and Tyler Boyd, but slow and steady wins the race, and RB Joe (Richard Milhouse) Mixon could run again in the 2022 midterms.

Burrow fixes it this weekend, setting up a battle royale with the Marine Mammals on Thursday Night Football on Amazon Prime, where the Nati debuts its white striped helmets. Bengals.

Green Bay Cheeseheads (1-1) at Tampa Bay Expensive Corn Kings (2-0) Kings -1 Total: 42

Tampa already had injuries to their receiving corps, and Mike Evans is suspended after the donnybrook in New Orleans last week. He politely asked Icons DB Marshawn Lattimore to "leave Tom alone" following Brady's plaintiff wails to the Zebras. Evans was suspended largely because the Zebras want to be the only ones to say "leave Tom alone."

This Tampa team is clearly out of control, and even former HC Bruce Arians was throwing punches in Week Two. Enter Aaron (Discount Double Check) Rodgers and a banged up Cheesehead receiving corps, and you have instant drama. Breen Gay's O-line is better, but this Tampa defense is no joke. DDC will have his head of a swivel.

Tom (Zoolander) Brady has a bad ring pinky, so he will want to lean on the run game. Rodgers will counter with more screen plays than you have ever seen, attempting to neutralize the pass rush. Eight different Pack receivers touched the rock in Week Two, but a number of them are injured. Add in the Tampa heat, and you have the formula for another 21-17 slugfest at the anniversary Battle of the Bay of Pigs.

The NFL wants to get Tampa back in line after last week's melee. Go, Pack, go. Cheeseheads.

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Frisco Niners (1-1) at Denver Donkeys (1-1) [Football Night in America] - Donkeys +1 | Total:45

This game was all over the board before settling at the final line. Jimmy (G)aroppolo has assumed the helm after Trey (Broken) Lance fractured his ankle in Week Two.

Sometimes the best moves are the ones you don't make, and Kyle Shanahan didn't pull the trigger on a Jimmy G trade despite some good offers. Lance is out for the season, but Jimmy G is one hit away from his annual Four Game Injury of the Year. Shanny now finds himself in the catbird seat with Lance broken, and uber TE George Kittle returning to health.

The real issue here is coaching. Nathaniel Hackett cannot coach his way out of a wet paper bag, and is squandering (Dange)Russ Wilson at QB.

Shanahan rolls over the zebras and Hackett en route to an NFC West showdown with the Rams in Week Four. Niners.

Dallas Cowpokes (1-1) at New York Football Jynts (2-0) [Monday Night Football] – G-Men -1 | Total: 39.5

QB Cooper (Fly by Night) Rush looked good as a replacement during Dak Prescott's annual Four Week Injury of the Year, and the Doomsday Lite pass rush pounded Joe Burrow and the Bengals in Week Two. The Jynts are the most surprising 2-0 team in the NFL, and head Coach Brian Daboll is ballsy.

Here's the deal: any QB can look good until you have film on him. Rush succeeded primarily by hitting practice squad WR Noah('s Ark) Brown in Week Two, and the Jynts are going to double him and Ceedee Lamb. Dallas really has no other healthy receiving weapons after trading Amari (Coop) Cooper to the Browns for a fifth-round pick.

Jynts RB Saquon (the Big Valley) Barkley gets a boatload of carries this week, as the Pokes are vulnerable to the run. Perhaps more importantly, DE Micah Parsons (Brown) is nicked up, and Jynts QB Danny (Dimes) Jones will light them up. G-Men.

EPILOGUE

The first two weeks of the season are history and they were historical. One can only wonder how long the NFL can maintain this pace, and the answer comes in one word: injuries. AFC West QB Justin Herbert broke his ribs last week in an epic battle, and Cleveland lost defensive signal caller Anthony Walker (Texas Ranger) for the year last night.

Fatigue makes cowards of us all, but injuries are a part of the calculus that makes champions. It is a violent sport, and unfortunately, injuries are a part of the equation.

The NFL is always a crapshoot where nobody knows nothing, but what a start. Things may begin to fall into place as offenses catch up to defenses. Any way you slice it, the NFL is still the 800-pound gorilla of sports.

Peace,

The Look Man