"I know it's disappointing for him. I think it's probably icing on the cake for the Packers fans. This was a big win for the Green Bay Packers, make no mistake about it. We'll have to really dig deep." – Pokes owner Jerrah Jones after a crushing OT loss at Flambeau

"Just every single play call probably. Felt like we were 30 yards from winning the game in regulation." – Aaron (Discount Double Check) Rodgers on why he cussed out HC Matt LaFleur during the game.

PROLOGUE

This is the Look Man's favorite time of the year. The weather is finally cooling off and professional sports are well represented in football, basketball, and hockey. Even MLB has its awards season in full swing. We also have World Cup soccer in a few weeks, and though the Look Man is not a big fan, he does enjoy some nationalistic rooting.

The other great thing about this time of year is that the silly season of election politics is over. No more outrageous commercials barking, "Vote for me and I will set you free!" Our airwaves can now be cluttered by Black Friday sales, and Saturday NFL football is right around the corner.

There are no undefeated teams remaining in the fiftieth anniversary of the Perfect Season. The previously unbeaten Iggles were beaten by the Washington Football Team and seven guys in black and white uniforms. Minnesota received an improbable W at Crapchester in what looks like a Game of the Year candidate and their 8-1 record is as good as it gets.

NFL teams have regressed to the mean. There are fifteen teams above .500 and seventeen teams below. The entire NFC Souse Division resides below the Mendoza Line while the entire NFC Beast is above it.

Four Letter Network analyst Jeff Saturday posted his first NFL win for the Ponies, defeating the Raiders in Vegas. Saturday's hire was blasted by the media, but the win had more to do with the fact that McDaniels accepted and then rejected a job by Indy last season. As the saying goes, *On Any Given Saturday*...

One must wonder how much longer Vegas HC McDaniels will keep his job. Of course, he will keep it due to salary and the fact that the previous Gruden regime didn't know how to draft. Most of their draft class is either in jail or out of the NFL, and owner Mark Davis ain't saving enough on haircuts to take another one. He is already paying Jon Gruden to sit on the couch.

Without further ado, the Week that was.

LAGNIAPPE

Errors and Omissions

The Zebra of the Week feature is protracted this week, so the Look Man will issue just one piece of lagniappe. DE / EDGE Bradley Chubb was traded to the Marine Mammals not the Dumpster Ducks as indicated in the Week Eight LMR. The Look Man was so upset about Baltimore's acquisition of LB Roquan_Smith that he conflated the trades.

Chubb was a game wrecker in the Browns-Mammals game, sacking Jacoby (Corned Beef) Brisset and generally creating chaos. Look for Roquan to do the same this week against (Cake) Baker Mayfield and

the Carolina Black Cats. If there is any doubt, Cake can reach out to Andy (The Beige Water Pistol) Dalton, who got destroyed by Baltimore last week.

ZEBRA OF THE WEEK

<u>Browns at Marine Mammals - Shawn (She Hulk) Hochuli</u>: She Hulk missed some earlier offensive holding calls and was clearly favoring the often-concussed Tua Tagovailoa on the day. As a result, Tua got hotter than the Cleveland sideline, which radiated to 100F on the 85-degree day.

It is noteworthy that former Miami HC Don Shula switched the visitors and home sidelines back in 1972 prior to the Perfect Season after OT Larry Little complained how hot it was for the home team. Shula made the switch and the heat differential was evident in the win over Buffalo earlier this season and again on Sunday.

Hochuli also missed several DPI calls on the Mammals, who treated Browns receivers like grocery store ponies, resulting in a tired Browns D that never rebounded. Of the Browns six losses, four were by a combined total of nine points.

Baby Backs at J-Squareds – Brad Rogers:

WR Juju Smith-Schuster caught a ball over the middle and was leveled by a linebacker. The roughing flag was thrown and picked up following a review. Smith-Schuster went into the fencing behavior reminiscent of Tua Tagovailoa, and left the game with assistance from the training staff. Jacksonville covered the spread, losing 27-17 in what threatened to be a blowout before this play.

Pokes at Cheeseheads - Brad (Peanut Head) Allen:

The Zebra with the smallest head in the NFL missed a late DPI on a third down, and generally allowed Green Bay O-linemen excessive latitude. If not for the horrible coaching decision by McCarthy, he might have won the ZOTW in a boatrace.

Hornheads at Bisons – Craig Wrolstad:

WR Gabe Davis made a questionable catch after the Two Minute Warning. By rule, Minnesota could not challenge the call, and neither the zebras or replay officials intervened.

Hornheads HC Kevin O'Connell said, "It was right in front of me. Didn't think that was a catch. In that mode that needs to be something either is from up top or possibly from New York and we didn't get any clarification on that. I did ask." NFL Senior VP of Officiating Walt (Disney) Anderson later confirmed it would've been overturned.

In OT, RB Dalvin Cook was stuffed for a 2-yard loss on first and goal from the two. The zebras failed to notice that Buffalo had twelve players on the field, which would've been first and goal from the one. Kirk Cousins was sacked on the next play, and Minny ended up settling for a field goal.

<u>Commies at Iggles - Alex Kemp</u>: Kemp missed a ridiculously obvious facemask on TE Dallas Goedert in crunch time, resulting in a fumble. The worst part was that the turnover was reviewed, but the penalty was deemed an unreviewable offense.

Kemp piled on with a roughing call when Washington QB Taylor Heinicke took a last second knee on a third down scramble. He was run into by pursuing defenders, and awarded a first down for "unnecessary pillow fighting."

The double digit spread in this game was ridiculous. Washington played a solid defensive game, and the outcome was clearly influenced by Kemp. Even disgraced NBA ref Tim Donaghy thinks this one was fishy.

Alex Kemp, you are the Look Man Zebra of the Week!



If you see this man on Sunday, get ready for anguish...

THE LOOKAHEAD

The Look Man was off last week, but he saw a lot of upsets coming with double digit spreads in key matchups. There are still several bye weeks available, and the slate is a little threadbare. This week is interesting and opportunity knocks.

Cleveland Browns at Crapchester Bisons in Detroit (-7.5)

This game was moved on Thursday to Detroit due to six feet of lake effect snow in Buffalo. Not only did New York governor close the interstates, the Bisons may have a tough time getting a flight.

The Look Man was inconsolable after the blowout loss last week to the Marine Mammals, but Tua Tagovailoa was pinpoint accurate. The bigger issue was the run defense, which couldn't stop a nosebleed. DTs Tommy Togiai and Taven Bryant got used like toilet paper, and MLB Deion Jones was awful. The Browns actually inserted seventh round LB Jordan Kunaszyk, who stuffed the Mammals early on a 4th and 1 and added a later TD pass breakup.

No amount of defensive alchemy is going to prestidigitate a D-line or replace MLB Anthony Walker and Jordan Elliott for Browns DC Joe Woods. Ndamakong Suh is available in free agency, and the Browns passed on several other guys, including Johnathan Hankins, who is now in Dallas. Browns Fan needs to quit complaining about Woods, and focus on the lack of offensive production in close games.

The Bisons took an unlikely L in OT to the Hornheads at Rich Stadium in Week Nine, with QB Josh (Irwin) Allen throwing a pick to seal the loss. Allen is clearly diminished with the elbow injury, and turned it over three times on Sunday.

Lightning strikes the Poor House at Ford Field on Sunday as the Browns run, pass and fight to a win, sending Buffalo to their third straight loss. The Bisons lost six such games last year to end up in the AFC Divisional Playoff at KC, and they have already lost to the Jets and Miami in 2022. Browns, baby Browns.

Cincinnati Orange Cats at Blitzburgh Stillers (+4)

This game was flexed out of the Football Night in America spot owing to the lack of consistency for either squad. The Look Man thinks that may be a mistake in what could be one of the more entertaining games of the season.

Nati DT DJ Reeder is back this week, and looking to stuff Najee Harris and the Stillers run game. Reeder has been the missing piece of the puzzle, but the secondary is now so banged up it may not matter.

Stillers HC Mike (Omar Epps) Tomlin is doing a masterful coaching job with a squad that is missing a number of pieces. The Look Man figured there was no path to avoiding his first non-winning season, but "not so fast, my friend."

Tomlin is talking about benching RB Najee Harris for lack of effort, but safety (That Little) Minkah Fitzpatrick is missing time due to an appendectomy. Najee has been playing the skin flute of late, with a bad foot, but Omar Epps doesn't want to hear it. He needs wins like a dog needs a bone, and he isn't interested in excuses.

The Look Man actually likes the Stillers to compete here, and the Bengals are still missing uber WR Ja'Marr Chase. CB Mike (Paris) Hilton is back this week, but CB Chidobe Awuzie is done for the year with an ACL.

The weather forecast is not good, and the Stillers will stuff the run game on a day when passing will be at a premium. Stillers cover on a snowy day in Yinzerville.



Tomlin: "The Standard is the Standard...foot or no foot."

Dallas Cowpokes at Minnesota Hornheads (+1.5)

The Pokes suffered a loss at the hands, or arm, of Aaron (Discount Double Check) Rodgers in Week Nine, blowing a 28-14 lead in the process. Dak Prescott could not overcome two turnovers or the officiating of Brad (Peanut Head) Allen, who missed a clear DPI against Ceedee Lamb in crunch time. There are two places where the rules of NFL officiating do not apply: the Blade in new England, and the Frozen Tundra of Flambeau Field.

But the real issue was the coaching of Mike McCarthy in his return to Green Bay. McCarthy eschewed an OT field goal and it came back to haunt resulting in the following telegram secured by Tailpipe Emeritus GB Shaw:

TO: JERRY JONES CARE OF LAMBEAU FIELD VISITORS LOCKER ROOM FROM: SEAN PEYTON

JERRY TOUGH LOSS STOP I UNDERSTAND IT IS THE WORST FOURTH QUARTER COLLAPSE IN FRANCHISE HISTORY STOP EVERYONE KNOWS O HOLDING NOT CALLED AGAINST HOME TEAM LAMBEAU FIELD BUT DAMN STOP YOUR FRIEND SEAN

POST SCRIPT I WOULD HAVE KICKED THE FIELD GOAL BUT THAT IS JUST ME

McCarthy was given a version of the home game by Green Bay largely because of incoherent decisions like this. Given the talent level, he should have had at least one more Lombardi to his credit.

The Hornheads went all Snake Plissken in the *Escape from Crapchester* win over the Bisons in OT, including the Catch of the Year by WR Justin (JJ) Jefferson down the stretch. JJ snatched away a surefire pick on a fourth and eighteen, setting up the Alcoa Fantastic Finish. Between this kid and Ja'Marr Chase, the NFL is in for receiving treats for the next several seasons.

This Hornheads team is getting little love because of QB Kirk (Kurt) Cousins, who does his best Andy Dalton impression in prime-time games. You never know which Cousins is going to show up, but the embarrassment of talent on both sides of the ball is enviable.

Count Minnesota out at your own peril. The Look Man won't - - - especially when Dallas always loses before its annual Thanksgiving game. Hornheads.

KC Baby Backs at LA Lightning Bolts (+6.5) – Football Night in America

The Bolts are getting healthy, and WRs Keenan Allen and Mike Williams are listed as questionable after missing time. On the other hand, KC WRs JuJu Smith-Schuster and Mecole Hardman are out this week, with JuJu getting clocked in the J-Squareds game. The non-call in that game was historic, and that zebra should be summarily terminated or terminated summarily, whichever GB Shaw prefers.

The Bolts suffered a physical loss in Week Nine against the Niners in one of the most entertaining games of 2022. Niners QB Jimmy (G) Garoppolo won a game in which he had zero TD passes, and it was not the first time. The real issue was the lack of offensive talent for the Bolts, who were a walking wounded in Week Nine. The receiving crew included guys named Stinkston and Trash, and they played accordingly.

It is now KC's turn to be injured, but the recent acquisition of WR Kadarius Toney from the Jynts could be key. RB Isiah Pacheco has secured the striating job from Edwards-Helaire, and the Baby Backs are

running a physical ground, pound and pass offense. The Look Man really likes this new, post-Tyreek Hill look, but Juju contributes a big part of the offense by running TE routes underneath. He reminds the Look Man of TJ (Who's Yo Mama) Houshmandzadeh from Bengals fame.

KC continues the Revenge Tour, eking by the Bolts and HC Brandon Staley, who borrows his hats from zebra Brad Allen. Bolts cover but Baby Backs win.



"Hey, Little Hat, why'd you miss the postseason in 2021?"

Frisco Niners at Arizona Dead Birds (+8) – Monday Night Football

"Jimmy Garoppolo has a 10-2 record in starts where he has thrown zero touchdown passes. (Regular and postseason)," The Athletic shared in a Tweet. While that stat is unbelievable, it goes back to the 2017 acquisition by the Niners from New England. Jimmy G won five straight to finish the year following Week Twelve. The Niners did not win a ring, but it does create a conundrum for Kyle Shanahan and the Niners. Little wonder they drafted a QB two years ago.

Colt (My Little Pony) McCoy is playing in place of Kyler Murray, who has a hammy. My Little Pony has been in the NFL forever, but has a lot of tread left on the tires at age 36. MLP was drafted by Cleveland in 2010, but has only thirty-three career starts. His career was nearly ended by LB James Harrison, who knocked his teeth out in a Turnpike Bowl battle with Cleveland.

Look for the Niners to get hot here, using Christian (CMC) McCaffrey, Deebo Samuel and a host of offensive talent to make this game a rout. Niners.

EPILOGUE

The third quarter of the NFL is gearing up and offensive football teams had better start running the football. The blizzard in Beefalo is just the beginning, and cold weather means your running game and run defense had better be portable.

The Look Man believes Green Bay is done and should be fitted for the Brett Favre Special Edition Jersey with the hole in the back for the fork to stick out. Discount Double Check has a thumb, and cold weather doesn't help.

Deshaun Watson is back at practice this week, and if Cleveland can hold on, it could get interesting. The Bengals last four home games include Cleveland, KC, Buffalo and Baltimore, which is going to be tough.

Baltimore has "a walk in the cake" facing teams which are at or below .500 for the balance of the season.

Unfortunately, the NFL does not want Cleveland within striking distance of a playoff berth in 2022. The Browns haven't received a fair shake all year, and likely will need to beat fifty-three players plus seven zebras to get in. The close losses are as much about officiating as coaching and talent.

The Look Man is very concerned about the state of officiating in the National...Football...League in 2022. The aforementioned Washington at Philly matchup included a cover-your-eyes ugly missed facemask call that changed the game. It was at least the second such call in favor of the Commies in 2022, and one has to wonder if it is coincidence.

The team is up for sale according to the tea leaves, and is winning games it has no business winning. You may attribute it to plucky play and good coaching by (Riverboat) Ron Rivera. The Look Man attributes it to Las Vegas.

Perhaps most importantly, we get an opportunity to be with family during the holidays and give thanks. It's said that you cannot pick your family, but the drama can be entertaining even if it is stressful.

The Look Man can't wait for some overserved family member 'ack a fool' even sponsoring a pre-holiday pool. It's almost like the game where you wager on which member of the wedding party will end up in a compromising or embarrassing situation before the weekend is over. There are literally no losers.

Peace,

The Look Man