

## THE LOOKMAN REPORT 2022

### Week Twelve – Vegas Vacation

*“When we broke the huddle, I saw [Davis] run over and I was like, Man, it’s the perfect coverage for Amari. I saw him get held up a little bit. I was surprised it wasn’t a PI call, and I was just like, Man, I know my guy’s gonna go down there and get it. We’re gonna connect.” – Browns QB Jacoby (Corned Beef) Brissett on his 46-yard completion to Amari Cooper in OT against Tampa.*

### PROLOGUE

The Browns won a game for the ages in OT last week, preserving their slim chances at the postseason, but capping a wonderful stint by QB Jacoby (Corned Beef) Brissett. Corned Beef happens to be the national food of Cleveland Ohio, and Brissett has played well above expectations.

The Browns 4-7 record includes four losses by a total of nine points, as well as playcalling as bad as anything from the Mike McCarthy Green Bay era. RB Nick Chubb is over a thousand yards rushing for 2022, but has carried the ball fewer times than any back in the top ten. Perhaps he needs to start doing the Zeke Elliott ‘feed me’ meme to obtain more touches.

Despite all of the hubbub over Deshaun Watson, Brissett was the right man for the job, and he turns the reins over to Watson for what appears to be the rest of the year.

In other news, the Bengals are getting hot at the right time, and the Niners are rising to the top of the NFC pack. The Pokes are winning when they need it, and the wheat is being separated from the chaff across the NFL. As the temperatures drop, teams are starting to run the football, and last week’s bad beats may be just the beginning of the NFL version of the stock market Volatility Index.

Without further ado, the Week that was.

### LAGNIAPPE

#### Who Thought This Up?

If you haven’t seen the halftime teases on Football Night in America, you’re missing some high comedy. The game cuts to the studio host Maria Taylor, who tosses it to Tony (Skeletor) Dungy and Jason Garrett for pithy commentary.

In Week Twelve, Garrett looks into the camera and shouted, “The Bengals stuff King Henry” followed by a goofy (and possibly serial killer) smile. This schtick has been going on all year and is one of the funnier things the Look Man has ever witnessed.



*On the next episode of Dexter...Jason Garrett*

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Here is the link if you need it: <https://twitter.com/j/status/1597068533212467200>

#### Bad Beats Bonanza – II

Another week of awful calls. Vegas got paid in a major way, via a *Bad Beats Bonanza*. The overs were as follow:

Flaming Thumbtacks-Bengals over 42.5, Baby Backs-Rams over 42 and Commies-Dirty Birds over 40.5 points.

In the words of the legendary Mike Wilbon: All three games went under and bettors got *squadouche*.

Unders:

Jags-Ravens under 43.5, Buccaneers-Browns under 42.5 and Jets-Bears under 38.5 points.

Only the Buccaneers-Browns hit the under, and the Browns waited nearly 55 minutes between TD scores in that one. There were more three-and-outs in this game than you see in MLB.

The Jacksonville at Baltimore game was the most popular bet of the day, and B-More lost 28-27 when the J-Squareds went for two and the win. Bettors also loved Tampa Bay as a 3-point road favorite in Cleveland and Tennessee as a 1.5-point home dog against the Cincinnati Bengals. All three got crushed.

But the biggest bad beat of the day was Raiders at Seattle (-3.5). The game went overtime after a questionable Josh Jacobs fumble was overturned. Second worst was Jets at Chicago (+7), where the Jets pounded the Monsters of the Furniture Mart 31-10, courtesy of backup Jets QB Mike White and nearly four bills of passing.

Now the Look Man isn't saying all of these losses were linked to bad officiating - - - oh, wait, yes, he is. Which leads to a natural segue...

#### **ZEBRA OF THE WEEK**

Here is the Zebra of the Week rundown:

Cheeseheads at Iggles – Shawn Smith: Smith missed several false starts and the game was a lot closer than one might imagine in a contest featuring 363 rushing yards – by one team. The Iggles should have won by twenty points, but the zebras missed a ton of calls.

Chowds at Hornheads – Alex Kemp: this Turkey Day game became a turkey when Kemp ruled Chowds TE Hunter Henry's TD was an incomplete pass. Hunter spun to stretch the ball over the goal line and it was juggled only after he crossed the plane. Bizarre fourth quarter call, with a direct impact on the final score.

Corn Kings at Cleveland – Tra Blake: The final penalty numbers covered up a poorly officiated contest. Tampa LT Donovan Smith was mugging DE Myles Garrett all day long before getting called for illegal hands to the face late in the game. Garrett then posted two fourth quarter sacks on Brady.

Browns TE David Njoku was being held by LB Devin White during his one-handed TD in regulation – no call. Browns WR Amari Cooper put a double move on CD Carlton Davis, who fell, but not before trying to tackle Coop. No call, but Corned Beef Brissett hit Cooper in stride, effectively ending the overtime.

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Raiders at Seahawks – Brad (Peanut Head) Allen: Allen was cover-your-eyes awful, and the forward progress fumble ruling for RB Josh Jacobs was reviewed and upheld. That, my friends, was clearly a fumble and it cost Seattle the game.

But the craziest penalty miss occurred on the Raiders first offensive snap. Seattle LB Darrell Taylor came off the bench during an interception return and threw a block. Taylor assumed the intercepting teammate was down by contact, and came on the field to celebrate. Once he realized his error, he threw a block on Raiders WR Mack Hollins. That block could easily have sprung the return man for a TD.

The replay official, who looks at all turnovers, didn't catch it, and the Raiders couldn't challenge because it was a turnover. Twelve players on the field is a reviewable play and the review team missed it. Whaaaa???

Brad (Peanut Head) Allen secures the Look Man **Zebra of the Week**, and is now firmly in the lead for the annual booby prize. What a maroon.

### THE LOOKAHEAD

The Look Man went 4-3 last week, so the bad beats were not just limited to the betting public. Week Thirteen includes a few possible playoff previews.

#### Tennessee Flaming Thumbtacks at Philly Cream Cheese Iggles (-4.5)

The 7-4 'Tacks lost a tough one to Cincy, but have little jeopardy in the AFC Souse Division. They do face being a laughing stock after posting a one seed in the AFC last year. Again, they have one way to win, and it goes right through Derrick (King Henry). You make Henry go lateral at the point of attack, and it's over for Tennessee. Iggles.

#### KC Baby Backs at Cincinnati Orange Cats (+2.5) – Game of the Week

The Bengals have won three straight since succumbing to Cleveland in the Battle of Ohio Part One, and those wins include impressive wins over Carolina, Stillers and Tennessee. The Orange Cats expect WR Ja'Marr Chase to return from a fractured hip this week in a blood feud with the team they knocked out of the AFC Championship in 2021.

KC enters this game with a nice streak of its own, but the team is limping offensively. WR is a weak spot, with JuJu Smith-Schuster, Kadarius Toney and Mecole Hardman likely out. Head Coach Andy (Kool-Aid) Reid has bridged the gap with a strong running attack led by Isiah (Ferdie) Pacheco and Jerrick McKinnon. They also added former Pro Bowl RB Melvin Gordon this week, acquired on the waiver wire out of Denver.

A war of words broke out this week when KC safety Justin Reid (Richards) put TE Henry Hurst on lock down alert. "They have 88 Higbee — no, not Higbee, he's with the Rams — what's his name? It's Higgins, yeah they're gonna have him back, he's a very talented receiver, more of a finesse type of guy, not the best blocker, I'm gonna lock him down," said Mr. Fantastic to Fox 4 News in KC.

Not to be outdone, Bengals No. 88, TE Hayden Hurst, and not WR Tee Higgins, mos def not Rams TE Tyler Higbee, didn't like the smoke. "Whoever he thought he was talking about, I don't really care," Hurst said. "You can pick anybody in this locker room, but I feel like I'm the last person you want to talk shit about because I have a long memory."

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So then there's that. The Look Man can't hate; he confuses Hurst, Higbee and Chowds TE Hunter Henry all of the time, as they are interchangeable bums. Only now, Hurst will be referred heretofore as Hayden (Elephant) Hurst. KC covers and wins by three.

#### Cleveland Browns at Houston Slim Shadies (+7.5)

The NFL planned the return of Deshaun (DSW) Watson against the team that jettisoned him after keeping him in limbo for a year. There is bad blood on both sides of this matchup, and this could be the Game of the Week.

The oddest dynamic is that the three first round picks acquired for DSW place Houston in a position to tank the season. They already benched starting QB Davis Mills (Lane) in favor of Brandon Allen in an attempt to lose as many as possible. Still, this team is going to fight tooth and nail to avoid being embarrassed by Watson, who cost them money and prestige.

Houston enabled Watson's behavior, even providing blanket Non-Disclosure Agreements for the massage therapists he engaged. They then pretended to know nothing about the situation and kept Watson in purgatory for a full season with pay.

The Browns come into the game on a little bit of a roll after QB Jacoby (Corned Beef) Brissett fought to an OT win with a fourth and ten dime TD to TE David Njoku. Corned Beef has overperformed his contract and he was the perfect guy to supplant Watson. He kept the team cohesive during what should have been a six game (or less) suspension. After eleven games, the Browns are really out of the playoff hunt, largely courtesy of the zebras and NFL collusion.



*Catch of the Year candidate?*

The Look Man predicts the Browns pull out a squeaker in Houston on Sunday, largely on the legs of Nick Chubb(inator) and DSW, who will want to punish his old employer. Browns win, Houston covers to set up the Battle of Ohio Part Deux in Week Fourteen in the Nati.

#### Miami Marine Mammals at Frisco Niners (-4.5)

Niners RB Christian (CMC) McCaffrey has a knee, but the biggest story here is the matchup of padawan vs. Jedi master. Mammals HC Mike (Eminem) McDaniel has known Niners HC Kyle Shanahan for nearly three decades since their days as children in Denver, when Eminem worked as a ball boy and Kyle was the son of head coach Mike Shanahan.

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The two coached together for fourteen seasons at various stops in Frisco, Cleveland, Washington and the ATL. They meet this week in what could be a Super Bowl preview.

The Look Man favors the mentor over the protégé in these battles, but Tua Tagovailoa has looked great of late. In point of fact, the Mammals may be the most complete team in the AFC in 2022.

The Niners defense is absolutely no joke and they will terrorize the Mammals to set up a good stretch run for the AFC Beast title with Buffalo. This one will be close, and in a close game, the Look Man always selects the (slightly) superior head coach. Niners.



*Eminem don't 'Lose Yourself'*

#### Coffeetown Seahawks at LA Rams (+7.5)

The 6-5 Hawks got jobbed by the zebras last week at home, and are now locked in a pitched battle for the NFC West Division crown with 7-4 Frisco. Seattle QB Eugene Cyril "Geno" Smith III has come back to earth, making turnovers and missing some throws of late.

Rams' backup QB Bryce (Marlin) Perkins has better skills than you might imagine, and he went all Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom at times last week. Still, the absence of Cooper Kupp and Allen Robinson make this one a laugh. Seahawks.

#### LA Bolts at LV Raiders (-1.5)

This game is always three points, but the Look Man likes what he is seeing from the Bolts. Granted, HC Brandon (Little Hat) Staley is prone to dumb moves, but overcomes them with QB extraordinaire Justin Herbert. Plus, Raiders RB Josh Jacobs cannot put up 200 two weeks in a row. Bolts.

#### Indy Ponies at Big D Pokes (-10.5) - Football Night in America

Dak Prescott vs. Matty (Melted Ice) Ryan in a stinker. Ryan looked every day of his thirty-seven years last week in a winnable game. His turnovers and failure to complete anything cost the Ponies respectability.

New HC Jeff (Any Given) Saturday has no QB, and no hope against a Doomsday Defense featuring Micah Parsons (Brown). Pokes win, but the absence of WR Michael Gallup allows a late Indy back door cover as they look ahead to four consecutive NFC Beast games against the Jynts, Iggles and Commies. Pokes.

#### New Orleans Religious Icons at Tampa Bay Expensive Corn Kings (-3.5) – Monday Night Football

Another prime-time game, another dog, as Andy (the Beige Water Pistol) Dalton faces Tom (Zoolander) Brady. Brady and the Corn Kings are bound to be salty after an OT loss in Cleveland in Week Twelve, and TBWP stinks on prime time.

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A salty Zoolander is a dangerous thing. Corn Kings cover and win to seize control of the woeful NFC Souse Division.



*"I'm pretty sure there's a lot more to life than being really, really, ridiculously good looking. And I plan on finding out what that is."*

### EPILOGUE

As the calendar turns to December, it is winning time in the National...Football...League. Some teams, like KC, have little trouble staying on a roll. Others get tripped up, creating a pressure cooker atmosphere.

The Bengals were able to use this to their advantage in 2021, getting hot at the right time and parlaying that pressure into a Super Bowl run. They came within two seconds of pulling it off, but now face a Murderer's Row schedule in December and January. That schedule will either keep them in contention or bite them in the rear because they are now 1-3 in the AFC Asgard Division, with games between Cleveland and Baltimore remaining. The Bengals need to run the table in their AFC contests, or they could be on the bubble.

The Look Man likes three teams down the stretch: KC. Miami and the Niners are looking very solid, and have the formula to win via the ground and pound or over the top. For some reason, the Look Man sees vulnerability in Buffalo, everyone's darling. We are all about to see just how good a coach Sean McDermott really is.

Peace,

The Look Man