

THE LOOKMAN REPORT 2022

Week Thirteen – Return of the Archons

"This is gonna be his third team. The team that drafted him gave up. The team that traded for him gave up. I think that tells you everything you need to know," - anonymous NFL coach regarding Carolina's release of (Cake) Baker Mayfield this week.

PROLOGUE

In *Star Trek TOS*, the Enterprise travels to Beta III to learn the fate of a star fleet ship gone missing a century earlier. A red shirt disappears from the landing party, then returns in a strangely blissful state. When Kirk beams down the locals ask if he and his boys are "Archons," the name of the missing ship.

This episode deals with the concept of conformity, which is the hobgoblin of small minds. All of the denizens of the planet have obeyed the ruler for 6,000 years. Those who resist and cannot be absorbed into the body politic are killed.

The NFL is a lot like Beta III. Teams toe the line and avoid guaranteed contracts or are sanctioned by the NFL. In addition, players who go off the rails are targeted by the media wing of the league.

The Look Man told you that story to tell you this one: the Browns beat Houston last week in the return of Deshaun Watson. The defense won the game, as DSW threw a number of worm burners and failed to produce an offensive TD. Given that Houston is tanking for draft position, it was somewhat anticlimactic.

The KC at Cincy proved to be entertaining, but a bit tarnished by the officiating. Joe (Goat Boy) Burrow and backup RB Samaje Perrine put on a show, but the game came down to an untimely fumble by Travis Kelce. Cincinnati quietly has the best defense that no one talks about, and they ball out on a regular.

Niners QB Jimmy (G)aroppolo had his annual four game injury of the year last week, as did Lamar Jackson in Baltimore. Of all the football abilities (speed, hands, coordination) the most important without question is: availability.

Without further ado, the Week that was.

LAGNIAPPE

Jimmy (G-Winehouse) Back in Rehab

Jimmy (G)aroppolo broke his foot in the first quarter of last week's game against the Marine Mammals, and may be out for the regular season. While he avoided the dreaded Lisfranc break, it is Garoppolo's third season-ending injury in a nine-year career. Garoppolo will now attempt to navigate another rehab program while he waits for suitors to come knocking with a Brinks truck full of caish.

The Niners are interested in resigning the QB, but as an unrestricted free agent he is likely to bank \$100 million annually with whichever team he selects.

Porky's

KC owner Clark Hunt's daughter Gracie was turning heads left and right at Pall Bearer Stadium ahead of the AFC preview. She has launched a burgeoning Instagram empire, which makes the Look Man wonder why rich heiresses always end up in modeling?

Well, it could be worse. She could be named "Michael."

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“Say goodnight, Gracie”

OBJ 1

OBJ was done dirty by the Pokes this week, who revealed that his surgically repaired knee was not yet sound.

The Four-Letter Network’s Ed Werder wrote this week: “The Cowboys have concerns after Odell Beckham Jr.’s physical that his recovery from torn left ACL in Super Bowl has not progressed enough to ensure he would play before mid-January and possibility exists signing him would have no benefit until 2023 season.” This news did not come from Beckham’s camp. It came directly from Valley Ranch Pokes HQ, almost immediately after the media story that OBJ was removed from a Miami flight for being intoxicated.

It now appears that the Pokes were either: (1) faking interest in OBJ, (2) attempting to up the ante for the rival G-Men, or (3) looking for a long-term deal that OBJ was not interested in. The Look Man believes the Pokes got caught in Option 1 and had to placate Pokes Fan, who got overly excited about Beckham and the Pokes in general. The information leak is actionable as it violates Beckham’s medical privacy rights.

Dallas was either attempting to drive down the price or take the luster off a possible Jynt’s return for OBJ. DE DeMarcus Lawrence took the party line in rejecting Beckham, saying “If he can play, great. Otherwise, we don’t need the circus. I’m tyrna win a Lombardi up in here dog.”

Daniel (Danny Boy Hustle-Hard) Chalet, Beckham’s driver, dropped a bombshell. “Let me tell you something – I am better than Adam Schefter. He is not going to no Cowboys.” Danny Boy Hustle-Hard went on to say a lot more, but none of it is printable in a family blog.

OBJ-2

Anyone other than the Look Man find it odd that OBJ tore the same ACL twice – both against the Bengals. Beckham’s first ACL tear was courtesy of an errant Cake Baker Mayfield pass. OBJ attempted to tackle the intercepting defender and tore his knee off.

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The second tear occurred in Super Bowl LVI as the Bengals and Rams engaged in a pitched battle. Beckham was on his way to a Super Bowl MVP before he tore the patella attempting to cut too sharply. While he didn't win the award, he did elevate the Rams enough to hang on to the W. That and the fact that WR Cooper Kupp caught the ball thirty-seven consecutive times in the second half.

Beckham went from a dysfunctional Browns squad with (Cake) Baker Mayfield to winning a ring in a single season. He is, in point of fact, money.



OBJ Actual, with a healthy patella

ZEBRA OF THE WEEK

There is no formal Zebra of the Week contest this week, but if there were, it would go to John (“Pa, what’s a”) Hussey for KC at Cincy in Week Thirteen.

Hussey took an early TD off the board for KC on cheap ineligible downfield call, then proceeded to gift the Bengals with two calls that created a fourteen-point swing: (1) a cheap DPI call on a Ja’Marr Chase miss, and (2) roughing the passer for a DT who was actually being tackled into Joe Burrow.

The final score looked like the Bengals won the game on a Travis Kelce fumble, but the final ‘first downs by penalty’ stat read: KC – 0, Bengals - 3. One or two first downs by penalty is good; three are outrageous unless you’re playing the Las Vegas Raiders.

The Look Man would award Hussey with the prize, but that third down dime by Joe (Goat Boy) Burrow to ice the game was sweet. This kid is everything you look for in the first pick overall.

THE LOOKAHEAD

The Look Man went 7-2 last week, and the losses were Cincy over KC and Raiders over Bolts. Both games had some questionable officiating, but the Look Man will take his wins ‘for amusement purposes only’ and laugh all the way to the bank.

The week ahead:

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Detroit Cadillacs at Minnesota Hornheads (+1.5)

Detroit has been the surprise team of 2022, ranked in the top six in points scored. Unfortunately, they are also near the bottom in points allowed, but no one wants to play them. Jared (Subway) Goff has rekindled his career and the Cadillacs look to avenge a close loss to the Minny.

The Hornheads are 4-3 ATS since 2021 when uber WR Justin (Dyno-Mite!) Jefferson blew up. QB Kirk (Kurt) Cousins doesn't impress the Look Man despite outrageous talent advantage. Like Jurassic Park dinosaurs, Detroit finds a way. Cadillacs in a minor upset.

Tennessee Flaming Thumbtacks at Jacksonville J-Squareds (+4)

Tennessee stinks, but they own the J-Squareds, who are improved. The only reason this game is included is the mid-week firing of Tacks GM John (Jethro) Robinson, who received a version of the home game after former Tennessee WR A.J. Brown torched his team in Week Thirteen. Jethro traded Brown to the Iggles in exchange for a first and second round pick in the 2022 Draft. Brown is lighting up the league, averaging 15.6 yards per catch this season with nine TDs.

Ironically, Brown caught two TDs against the Tacks on Sunday, including back-to-back 41 yarders. The first TD was called back because Brown failed to apply the proper toe-drag-swag. The second, on the very next play, was a no-doubter on an identical pattern to the opposite side of the field. Robinson was fired in the owner's box before the next whistle.

Ownership and HC Mike Vrabel blame Jethro for failing to make a deal with Brown, and generally bad drafts. While he did acquire Derrick (King) Henry, the rest of his early picks either stink or are out of the NFL.



"Uncle Jaid, I'm gonna go to the cee-ment pond..."

Here is a summary of Robinson's tenure:

- *Free agent losses:* AJ Brown (PHL), DE Jadeveion Clowney (Browns), OT Roger Saffold (Bisons), CB Adoree Jackson (Jynts), OT Jack Conklin (Browns), WR Corey Davis (Jets)
- *Failed first-round draft picks:* LB Rashaan Evans (ATL), OT Isaiah Wilson (cut for disciplinary reasons after one season), CB Caleb Farley, WR Treyton Burks (2022, and he may still be okay).

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- *Good draft picks:* DT Jeffrey Simmons, RB Derrick (King) Henry.

But the damning thing is the free agent acquisition of QB Ryan Tannehill, who signed a huge deal and still stinks. Tannie is a lead anchor both financially and tactically.

The Flaming Thumbtacks will win the AFC Souse before losing in the first round. Only Jethro the GM won't be around to see it. Tacks.

Cleveland Browns at Cincinnati Orange Cats (-5.5) – The Battle of Ohio Part Deux

The Browns housed the Slim Shadies last week in the Return of DSW, but it was the defense that went off. Donovan Peoples-Jones decided he might as well return punts and scored on a 77-yard return. The Barking Dawg D put up a scoop-and-score and a pick six to save QB Deshaun (DSW) Watson from an embarrassing loss. To call DSW rusty is an insult to rust.

The Browns travel to the Jungle in Week Fourteen to face a Bengals squad which has now won four straight since the 32-13 Halloween Day Massacre at Cleveland in the Battle of Ohio Part One. Those wins include two over AFC playoff teams and this game will feature WR Ja'Marr Chase second week back following a fractured hip.

The Bengals are 0-4 against Cleveland and Joe (Goat Boy) Burrow would love some vengeance. Deshaun (DSW) Watson is gonna be rusty, so Sunday's Titanic Struggle will require some serious defense. The Browns lost Sione Takitaki, their third starting LB of the year last week in Houston, so they're recruiting guys off the street at this point. The Look Man wonders if Vontaze Burfict (Storm) would consider coming out of retirement for this contest?

The Look Man will definitely be in attendance for this game, despite the announcement that Jerome (Capt.) Boger(mill) is officiating. Expect Jerome will go all Beverly Hills Cop and force players to apologize after nasty collisions. The Look Man remains hopeful Capt. Bogermill will be largely silent and that the Browns will emerge victorious. After all, the Bengals are a wholly owned subsidiary of the Cleveland Browns until proven otherwise.

Watson stays rusty but does just enough as the Barking Dawg D plays "ball go, I go." Browns, baby, Browns.

Denver Donkeys at Kansas City Baby Backs (-9.5)

Denver enters this game with a ruptured locker room, rumors of firings and in-fighting and general malaise. QB (Dange)Russ Wilson is getting yelled at by defensive teammates and received a HC Nathaniel (Daniel Boone) Hackett vote of minimal confidence last week in the presser, after the Donkeys failed to score a TD in a 10-9 late loss at Baltimore.

Meanwhile, the Baby Backs got jobbed (again) by the zebras in the Jungle and they will be salty. Head Coach Andy (Kool-Aid) Reid will be drawing mustaches on players who are still awake if this continues. Jake from State Farm has no comment.

Of course, KC's addition of former Donkey RB Melvin Gordon last week should help immeasurably. Gordon will sing like a canary, and the Denver playbook might as well be at the Kansas City Public Library. Baby Backs rebound to keep pace in the AFC One Seed race. KC.

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"I will get to the bottom of this!"

Blitzburgh Stillers at Baltimore Dumpster Ducks (+2.5)

The Look Man is in the minority which believes backup Tyler Huntley is a serviceable QB who can win games. He wouldn't pay \$50 million a season to Lamar (Action) Jackson, who misses a handful of crunch time games each year. Baltimore also has backup Brett Hundley, which is the source of a lot of confusion in the QB room.

Mike (Omar Epps) Tomlin is making a run at .500 with a team that is just mediocre. Rookie signal caller Kenny (Two Gloves) Pickett is rounding into shape with WR George Pickens. Look for the Stillers to knock off Baltimore and tighten the AFC Asgard race. Stillers.

LA Bolts at Miami Marine Mammals (-3.5) Football Night in America

This game is a sneaky playoff preview unless Bolts HC Brandon (Little Hat) Staley screws up again. The Bolts blew an imminently winnable game last week at Vegas, and now need this win to stay in the Wild Card hunt.



Little Hat has been busy off the field...

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Mammals HC Mike (Eminem) McDaniel fell to the Niners last week, and is in a dogfight in the AFC Beast. QB Tua Tagovailoa has an ankle, but WR Tyreek (Cheetah) Hill is back to full strength. Look for Eminem to burn down the house and get a win over Little Hat. Mammals.

EPILOGUE

Pat Mahomes lost for the first time in November or December last week at Cincy, and the AFC playoff race is a virtual dead heat between KC, Buffalo and Miami. Cincinnati now has a window to creep back into the seeding and they are tied in the standings with Baltimore despite being 1-3 in the division.

A number of teams face mathematic elimination in Week Fourteen, but don't count out the rest of the field. The NFL wants to keep these races tight and Saturday football begins next week. The NFL flexed the Browns-Baltimore game to Saturday, much to the Look Man's chagrin. The Official Spousal Unit of the Look Man has a family holiday affair, which may turn into an AT&T Wireless 5G TV 'Space Launch' commercial.



"TOUCHDOWN!!! ...is what we'll say when we land."

Irrespective, it is difficult to believe we are in the final quarter of the NFL regular season. As the kids say, "It is about to get real up in heah."

Peace,

The Look Man