

THE LOOKMAN REPORT 2021

Week Sixteen – QB Edition

"We went in with this mindset that we were going to be able to win this game, but in the end, we weren't ready. We didn't do the things that we were looking to do. And in that case, it wasn't good enough. Those guys know that. They know it's all of us." – former Denver HC Nathaniel Hackett, given a version of the home game after a 51-3 loss to the Rams. Merry Christmas coach!

PROLOGUE

The 2022 NFL season has been a weird ride, but nothing is more bizarre than the lack of success for Denver. Everyone predicted that the AFC West would excel, with three or four teams in the postseason, but reality has been a lot different. Free agent QB Russell Wilson has turned the ball over and is playing well below his career numbers. Derek Carr is riding the pine in Week Seventeen and even Patrick Mahomes has looked vulnerable at times.

The truth about the NFL is that it is a QB driven league. If you have a good one, you can compete for the Super Bowl. A bad one, and you may as well start looking at the want ads. Hackett was not ready for prime time, but he is not alone. The rumor mill has Sean (Secret Squirrel) Payton taking his pick of teams, and you can bet your bottom dollar he won't go anywhere unless the QB is solid.

The Look Man decided to focus on quarterbacks this week, if only because of this phenomenon. The Browns bet the house on Deshaun Watson, fully guaranteeing his quarter billion dollar salary to be competitive. It may still work out, but the alternative is too daunting to contemplate. You either go all in on a QB, or you fail to make the tournament.

Without further ado, the Look Man Report 2022 for Week Sixteen.

LAGNIAPPE

White Christmas

The Look Man enjoyed a white Christmas this courtesy of the Christmas Blizzard of 2022. He went from 70F in sunny Florida to -35F wind chill in the Nati in the course of a few hours. Everything ended well, but if you haven't driven in ice for a while, you are not missing much. One false move can ruin your whole day.

The Look Man told you that story to tell you these:

A Buffalo woman rescued a stranger who was stranded outside during the deadly snowstorm after she found a man with special needs screaming for help. She and her BF rescued, bathed and fed the man, tending to his frostbitten hands. The man — who has been identified as Joe White, suffered injuries from the extreme cold, including having "hands with ice balls" on them. White had a tote bag frozen to his hands requiring her to blow dry the ice off of them.

Emergency services were unable to help due to the blizzard, and it took two days before White could be transported to the hospital. As of December 28, GoFundMe had raised more than \$42K for his care. White is in stable condition and "in good spirits," but it's unclear if he will have lasting damage to his hands.

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Photo from Crapchester taken on December 25, 2022.

About 30 people were forced to spend part of their Christmas weekend in a Target store while they waited out the blizzard that crippled Buffalo. One woman was head to pick up family members when the journey home became treacherous.

"On our way back is when the blizzard came, and it came fast, and it came hard. You couldn't see two inches in front of you. I've been here 33 years, and I've never experienced anything like this in my entire life."

The local Target store allowed them in, where they ate and rested until emergency services could arrive. Their story ended well, but a twenty-two-year-old woman died in her car only a few hundred yards from her home. The death toll is still mounting, and the stories are mostly sad.

Winter weather is no joke, so if you find yourselves in it, please be careful. The Look Man has an emergency kit in the trunk, including blankets, candles and food. Be careful out there.

Mack the Switchblade?

Chowds QB Mack (the Knife) Jones was fined this week for a low block during a scoop six return by Nati LB Germaine Pratt last week. He chop-blocked CB Eli (Toasted) Apple on what appeared to be a dirty play. NFL defenders then weighed in on Jones' propensity for unnecessary roughness.

"I went down in front of him to kind of get in the way to stop him from slowing down Tyquan, who obviously could make the tackle there" Jones told WEEI. "So just kind of went down in front of him, trying to stop a fast guy from getting to another fast guy. It's a split-second decision, and there's a lot that goes into it."

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Iggle CB Darius (Christmas) Slay assembled a compilation of Jones' dirty plays and posted it on Twitter. The compilation included Jones kicking Bears SS Jaquan Brisker in the package after a QB slide. Brisker returned the favor by picking Jones a few plays later.

KC TE Travis Kelce weighed in, saying Apple is "a guy who talks a lot of s---, and Mac Jones probably got fed up with it." Kelce then criticized Jones' hit, saying "you hate to see it - that kind of stuff has no business in the league. You try and keep your composure in moments like that, especially when things aren't going great - that's when it typically happens. And you just do something stupid. ... He's gotta get fined."

The NFL fined Jones eleven large for his low hit on Eli Apple, and a suspension is looming for another occurrence. The Chowds have games remaining against Miami and Buffalo, with a slim Wild Card hope if the cards fall right. Or if they can quit turning the ball over in bunches.

As for whether Jones is a dirty player, we will call it 'mixed emotions' for now, but even the sun goes down sometimes... Let's just say he's no Grayson Allen - - - yet.



Young Mac the Knife as a child model

He's a frozen fire...

Raiders QB Derek (You Can Drive My) Carr was benched this week after throwing three picks in the Holiday Bowl loss to the Stillers last week. Carr and the Raiders mutually decided that he would leave the team with two weeks remaining in the season, and backup Jarrett Stidham taking the reins.

Reaction was swift and palpable as free agent WR Davante Adams trashed the move, saying "he's the reason I came here." TE Darren Waller, who has regressed in 2022, was non-committal, but supported Stidham. "Hell, I ain't catching no balls from Carr, so what do I care?" asked Waller.

Carr was drafted in the second round of the 2014 draft, missing just two regular season games in his career, both due to injury. He did once start crying when he broke his leg in a scrum and was widely ridiculed. This benching raises serious doubts about his future with Vegas despite making the Pro Bowl three times in nine years. The Raiders have made the playoffs twice with Carr, including a wild-card last season, courtesy of the Bolts coaching staff. The Raiders have not won a playoff game since 2002.

Carr has completed 61% of his passes for 3,522 yards with 24 touchdowns, the worst completion rate since his rookie season. His completion rate fell from 68.4% last year and his 14 picks lead the NFL.

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While last week's loss to the Stillers did not formally eliminate Vegas from the playoffs, they have only two chances: slim and none, and Slim has his coat on.

Early entrants in the Derek Carr Sweepstakes are the Commies, Jets and Black Cats. All three need a guy, and Carr is just that – a guy.

Gee Mister Wilson...

"He's a huge plan in our future. We're not quitting on the young man. We're going to do everything we can do to develop him." – Jets HC Robert Saleh. Contrary to that statement, most folks believe Wilson's future in New York can be measured in hours, not years.

"I think they do everything possible to trade him -- but I think they wait until maybe even the preseason or into the regular season to get his value up," an NFC executive told the Four-Letter Network. "There's nothing right now that says a team wants the Zach Wilson experiment and will trade a draft pick for him. But it could be a Baker Mayfield-type situation [with the Rams] where a team has injuries at the position and needs a spot starter."

Another anonymous NFL coordinator added, "His confidence is shot, and he's not seeing it [on the field]. Of course, he is big with the cougar crowd on the Upper East Side. He gets more @ss than a toilet seat. Dude is like Richard Gere in American Gigolo."

Wilson was benched previously, and the team went on a mini-winning streak under backup Mike White. The players wore T-shirts with White's face on them, and the offense actually scored points once Wilson was benched.

Dak Romo?

Pokes Fan is getting impatient, as Dallas hasn't been past the divisional round of the playoffs since the end of the 1995 season. Dallas is a proud franchise, with five Lombardi's and an iconic multi-billion-dollar value. Maybe they should expect more; after all, they have two more playoff than the Cleveland Browns since 1997.

The Pokes have pinned their hopes on Dak Prescott, who is on the doorstep of becoming the Dallas passing leader. He already boasts the highest passer rating in Pokes history, and he was the third best compensated QB in the NFL in 2021. Even with new 2022 deals for Kyler Murray, Deshaun Watson and Josh Allen, he is still in the Top Ten at number seven.

That's why it is so odd that if the Pokes lose to the Flaming Thumbtacks tonight, who need only a Week Eighteen win over Jacksonville to clinch a playoff berth, you can predict that Dak will get killed in the media and by Pokes Fan. You have already heard it.

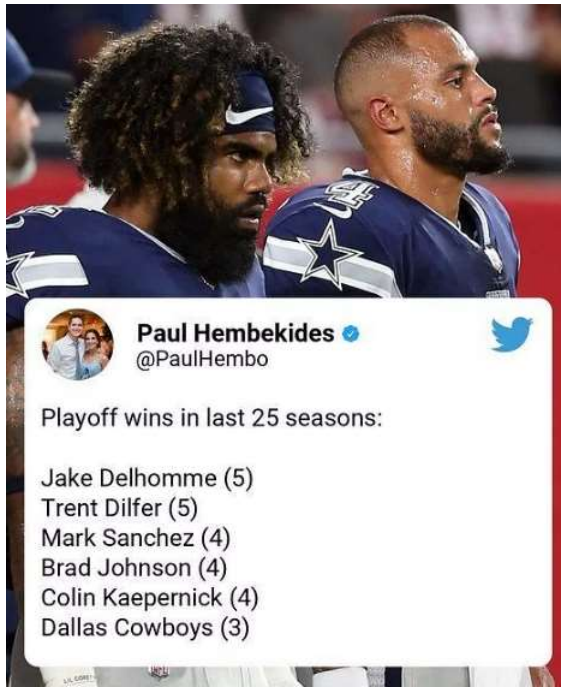
Dallas has no General Manager and has overpaid for Zeke Elliott and Dak in order to get asses in seats. They looked like world beaters early but released WR Amari Cooper over a few million dollars. They now face a situation where anything short of a deep playoff run will be viewed as complete failure.

Things could change; if the Pokes secure the Three Seed, they could face the winner of the NFC Souse, which stinks. if they win that game, they might even face the Iggles for the third time this season. But does anyone believe that they can beat the Niners or Iggles on the road?

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The Look Man believes Prescott is a cautionary tale in today's NFL. You simply cannot pay forty million just for mediocrity. Which is why (Cake) Baker Mayfield was released in C-Town.



Nuff said...

Tua Through in 2022?

Marine Mammals QB Tua Tagovailoa self-reported concussion-like symptoms Monday, just two days after hitting the back of his head in the Christmas Day loss to Green Bay. Tua proceeded to throw three picks in the fourth quarter, sealing the win for Aaron (Discount Double Check) Rodgers.

“I told him to take care of himself, too,” said Rodgers after the game. “He’s had some pretty vicious hits this year. But he’s a good kid. He’s got a long career in the league to look forward to.”

The NFLPA is reviewing the incident, the third time Tagovailoa hit the back of his head on the field this season. He was allowed to return twice but stretchered off the field against the Bengals. The fact that he continued playing on Christmas is criminal. Miami must now make decisions for the rest of the season and beyond, including picking up his fifth-year option. Remember, they could have selected Bolts QB Justin Herbert instead.

Miami now needs a win against New England and a Jets loss in Seattle to qualify for their third playoff spot in the last twenty years. Backup Teddy (Two Gloves) Bridgewater will start with Tua sidelined, but the real test will occur in the offseason when they evaluate a long-term deal.

Miami has no first-round pick in 2023; they traded it for DE Bradley Chubb at the trade deadline, while forfeiting another for tampering with Sean Payton and Tom Brady. Everyone has an opinion and just like assholes, they all stink:

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- “You want to bring him back. He’s obviously had a very good year. He’s an improved player. You’re going to need depth at that position because Tua is a very productive player, but his availability is a big concern.” - ESPN analyst Mike Tanenbaum, a former Dolphins front office executive
- “I can’t with good conscience sign him to a long-term contract,” - former NFL LB Bart (Can’t Wait) Scott said in response.

The jury is still out, but Tua should not play again in 2022. If he does, the NFL is selling its soul.

Foxy Brown Retrospective

Actress Pam Grier is plugging a new memoir, and it sounds fantastic. She has always been a favorite of the Look Man, who appreciates her work. Grier, who lives on Colorado ranch, also recalled her former beau, comedian Richard Pryor thinking she was hilarious because she drove his injured horse to a hospital in the backseat of her Jaguar. During the frantic drive, Pryor was wearing a bathrobe and she was in tennis gear.

“I said, ‘I’m taking him to the vet’. Richard didn’t have a truck or a horse trailer. So, I put Ginger in my Jag. We’re going fast, sparks flying, hitting the hydraulics, my struts and shocks are gone. And white people on the side of us going, “Oh noooo! There’s two Negroes in that car with a horse in the backseat’.

I thought okay, we might die on the way. How’s that gonna read? ‘News at 11: an actress, a comedian, and a horse crash in a Jaguar’.”



The Look Man likes his women like he likes his Coffy

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THE LOOKAHEAD

Dallas Pokes at TN Flaming Thumbtacks (+13.5) Thursday Night Football

Tennessee is a M*A*S*H unit, with half of the team out. RB Derrick (King) Henry is the latest casualty, and backup QB Malik (Watchu Talkin' Bout) Willis owns a completion percentage of 51% and has yet to throw for a TD or even 200 yards in a game. Even Todd Bridges thinks he stinks.

The Pokes are coming off a hard-fought win over the Iggles, but RB Tony (Stark) Pollard is doubtful. They may not cover, but the Pokes win this one in a walkover. Pokes.

Cleveland Browns at Washington Commies (-2)

Cleveland has been mathematically eliminated from the postseason, and Washington has benched Taylor (Bud Light) Heinicke in favor of Carson Wentz. This game looks like a replay of last week, with a strong running game by RB Brian Robinson spearheading the Washington offense.

The Browns have some drama, with the benching of Myles Garrett for a practice no-show last week. Garrett was fined but look for the Browns to finish strong and look ahead to 2023.

The Browns shake up the NFC Wild Card picture, placing the Commies in a position to need a win in Week Eighteen against the Pokes. Dallas cannot really improve its seed barring a collapse by Philly. Browns, baby, Browns.

New Orleans Religious Icons at Philly Cream Cheese Iggles (-5.5)

Philly blew the Dallas game last week, largely courtesy of giving up a third and thirty and two horrible fumbles by RB Miles Sanders. Backup QB (Chance) Gardner Minshew looks good enough to win and clinch the One Seed in the NFC. Iggles.

Denver Donkeys at KC Baby Backs (-12)

This spread is ridiculous, even for a team that just lost HC Nathaniel Hackett. Baby Backs need this win to maintain the Two Seed, and perhaps challenge for a One Seed if the Bengals can best the Bisons on Monday Night Football.

KC owns the Donkeys; they even beat them after Mahomes threw three picks a few weeks ago. (Dange)Russ Wilson wants revenge, but this team intentionally got its coach fired by allowing (Cake) Barker Mayfield and the Rams drop a fifty-burger last week. When a top five defense goes down like free beer, you know there is something afoot.

Baby Backs, baby, but not by a dozen.

Blitzburgh Stillers at Baltimore Dumpster Ducks (-2.5) Football Night in America

This game was flexed into FNIA, and the decision was a good one. the Stillers are 4-4 on the road and need this win to assure Mike (Omar Epps) Tomlin of a winning season.

QB Kenny Pickett has played well, and Lamar (Action) Jackson has not practiced this week. The Look Man believes Action is ready to move on to another team in 2023, and this game cements the deal. Stillers.

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Crapchester Bisons at Cincinnati Bengals (-1) Monday Night Football

This game has a lot to do with AFC seeding, which is very fluid. The Bisons, Baby Backs and Bengals are all candidates for the One Seed and could finish in any order. Cincinnati is the hottest team in the AFC right now, with an eight-game winning streak.

Enter Crapchester, straight off its second blizzard of the winter. Crapchester International Airport just reopened yesterday, and the city is in mourning following double digit deaths. If you have never lived through a blizzard, you cannot appreciate just how bad things can get. Even basic necessities become difficult as you fight the cold, the snow and the misery.

The Bengals won the game last week, but lost RT La'el (Bootsy) Collins to an ACL. The talk of the town was that Andrew (Big Whit) Whitworth would come out of retirement and re-sign in Cincinnati in a bid to win back-to-back Lombardis. Whit entertained the notion, but HC Zac Taylor stuck a pin in the idea, deflating the locals.

The Look Man likes the Bisons, who can clinch the One Seed with a win and a loss by KC. They will know by kickoff whether that is even on the table and may be looking ahead to archrival New England in Week Eighteen. That game would be a two-fer; they can clinch the One and knock the Chowds from the Wild Card.

The Look Man picked the Chowds to beat the Bengals in Week Sixteen, and New England blew it with turnovers and bad plays down the stretch. The Chowds consecutive losses are somewhat attributable to Rhamondre (Adlai) Stevenson, who lateraled the ball in the Raiders loss, and coughed it up in the red zone against the Bengals.

"I was trying to make something happen, probably doing more than I was supposed to do. Probably should have just went down." Said the senator regarding his redzone fumble. Belicheat chimed in: "I'm not going to second-guess Rhamondre on what he did. He had two hands on the ball, they were running him back, and they knocked it out at the end."

Belicheat has benched running backs for a lot less, but he isn't placing the blame on Stevenson, likely because he needs the senator to ball out in the last two regular season games. Plus, that was a great play by Bengals SS Vonn Bell, who is playing as well as any DB in the AFC.

Burrow has looked great, but he is throwing a lot of picks lately. His pick six last week put the Chowds in position to win the game. If he does that this week in what looks to be a rainy night, the Bengals win streak and quest for the One Seed is over. They can still win the AFC Asgard with a home win over Baltimore in Week Eighteen.

This game looks like a push, and in a push the Look Man takes the superior coach. In this case, Sean McDermott and DC Leslie Frazier defeat HC Zac Taylor and DC Lou Anarumo, but not by much. Bisons.

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EPILOGUE

The NFL ensured drama late in the season by scheduling division games in January. As a result, the AFC and NFC races are still entertaining, and few, if any teams can rest starters. The days of Indy and New England sitting half of the team the last week of the season are a distant memory.

The Look Man doesn't believe the NFC contenders storyline. Philly and the Frisco Niners pass the eye test, and everyone else in the conference is beatable. This is particularly true of the Minnesota Hornheads, who have been living on borrowed time all season. Their last two games include a 3-point OT win against Indy as a 3.5-point favorite and a 3-point last second W over the G-Men as a 4.5-point favorite.

Of course, Parcels was famous for saying, "You are what your record says you are." In this case, the Hornheads record says they play down to the competition. And that is undisputed.

As a point of comparison, the Bengals have covered seven straight and have gone 12-1 against the spread since Week 3. They are polar opposites to the Expensive Corn Kings, who have done it once since Week Two. The Bengals are numero uno vs. the number and Tampa is numero treinta y dos. Go figure.

It is getting down to nut cutting time, and the Look Man is going to enjoy Week Seventeen and the mythical National Championship in the NCAA. Go Bucks!

Peace,

The Look Man