

THE LOOKMAN REPORT 2022
Week Eighteen – All About the Rematch(es)

"The Lord himself could come down, and we were not going to play again. She [Dawn Aponte] was getting pressure. She was not getting consistent and direct messaging that she deserved." – a high-ranking team official regarding resumption of the Buffalo-Cincinnati game following Damar Hamlin's cardiac arrest.

PROLOGUE

The Look Man's theory regarding the NFL's attempt to resume the Week Seventeen contest between the Bisons and Orange Cats was confirmed this week in an expose by the Four-Letter Network's Don van Natta. DVN went into detail about how onsite NFL official Dawn Aponte was being pressured by Goodell and Troy Vincent despite making the correct call on the ground.

The NFL claims that it respects women, and routinely fines and suspends players who abuse them. But in the moments when no one is watching, they undercut the authority of the women they place in positions of power. If this isn't the dictionary definition of hypocrisy, then the Look Man doesn't know what is.

The 2022 NFL season came mercilessly to a close last week, and the postseason is upon us. About two thirds of the Week Eighteen games were meaningful courtesy of revised scheduling, and even the Browns-Stillers game had import. When the smoke cleared, Blitzburgh, Green Bay and Detroit went fishing, and Miami and Seattle snuck into the back door. The NFL got what it wanted: a number of solid matchups in the Wild Card Weekend.



While Hamlin fought for his life, Roger Rabbit stewed

Without further ado, the Week that was.

LAGNIAPPE

Secret Squirrel

Sean Payton is making the rounds for vacant NFL head coaching jobs. Arizona and Denver have already received permission from the Religious Icons to interview him. The Ponies and Black Cats have announced that they are not interested based upon the requirement to pay draft capital as recompense. But the Look Man believes there are two stalking horses still out there.

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The first is the Houston Slim Shadies, who canned Lovie Smith and David Culley in successive one-and-done seasons. The ownership group in Houston has backed former Chowd Nick Caserio, whose principle claims to fame have been trading JJ Watt, DeAndre Hopkins and Deshaun Watson.

The other option is the Dallas Cowpokes, who, despite saying that HC Mike McCarthy is on steady ground, could be knocked out in the first round of the playoffs. Tom (Zoolander) Brady is 7-0 against the Pokes, and if he blows them away, McCarthy is history. Jerrah Jones already ripped the coaching staff and players a new orifice following a Week loss, and he doesn't have many more years left. He wants a Lombardi and soon, and Secret Squirrel could be just the ticket. Jones will also likely lose OC Kellen (Oh, no) Moore and DC Dan (the Mighty) Quinn to a head job, and he is desperate.

The Look Man likes Houston to hire Secret Squirrel. They have two picks in the first twelve courtesy of the DSW trade and finishing 3-13-1 in 2022. Chicago has the top pick, courtesy of Lovie's FU win in Week Eighteen. Houston had the first pick overall locked up midseason, but Lovie decided to reinstall QB Davis Mills, and the team was competitive down the stretch. They won 22-21 over the Ponies on the last week of the season after scoring an improbable late TD and 2-point conversion.

Payton is likely to recruit Morocco Mole to coach his offense, and Double-Q, head of the International Sneaky Service, on defense. Unfortunately, Bruce (Foghorn Leghorn) Arians is already retired, but this staff could win early and often.



The New Triplets in Texas?

But Baby I Love You

Raiders QB Derek (You Can Drive My) Carr was benched in Week Seventeen, and his replacement, Jarett Stidham posted nearly four bills passing. Now Carr has issued a farewell letter in the Vegas Gazette.

"Raider Nation it breaks my heart I didn't get an opportunity to say goodbye in person," Carr wrote. "We certainly have been on a roller coaster in our 9 years together. From the bottom of my heart, I am so grateful and appreciative of the years of support you gave to my family and me. We had our share of both heart-breaking moments and thrilling game winning drives, and it always felt like you were there next to me. Especially when I was at the bottom of a pile screaming following a bad sack with a broken leg."

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“There are so many people to thank; Coaches Gruden and Bisaccia, who allowed me to stink on my own level. Mark Davis’ girlfriend, who lent me her mascara, and most of all, my brother David, who showed me how a bust is supposed to comport himself in this league.”

There will be no shortage of NFL teams vying for the right to pay Carr, but only after he is officially cut. The Raiders must pony up nearly \$24 million if he is on the roster when the new league year begins in mid-February. Carr looks like a prototypical QB for the Washington Commies, who pay bums on a regular.

Madden Curse

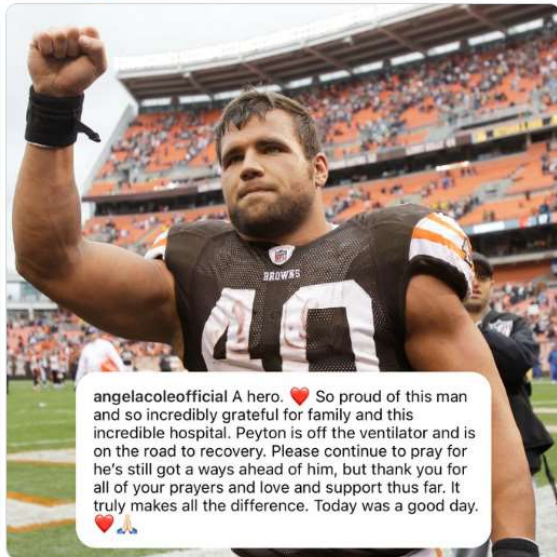
RB Peyton Hills, a one-year wonder in Cleveland, was hospitalized last week after saving his two young children from drowning near Destin, FL. Hillis pulled them from the water, but was rushed to the hospital and intubated, suffering from lung and kidney damage.

Hillis was removed from the ventilator this week and is on the road to recovery, but the Look Man wonders if the Madden Curse nearly claimed another victim. Hillis made the cover following a year in which he gained 1500 scrimmage yards for Cleveland in 2010.



Former RB Peyton Hillis is recovering after he saved his children from drowning in the ocean earlier this month.

Hero. ❤️🙏



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[Close call for Hillis](#)

THE LOOKAHEAD

The Tournament begins in earnest, with games on Saturday, Sunday and Monday night. The One Seeds are sitting at home resting, but the intensity of the postseason will be evident. This postseason includes a few teams that have not made appearances in the recent past, and that creates some juice.

The week ahead:

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Seattle Seahawks at Frisco Niners (-9/42) – Saturday Special #1

The Hawks backed into the playoffs courtesy of a win over the Rams and a Green Bay loss, but QB Cyril Eugene (Geno) Smith III has had a good season. RB and DB are both in the Rookie of the Year discussion, but the real award should go to the Head Coach. Pete Carroll is 71 and still kicking, just not as high.

Carroll took a rag tag team and took them to the Tournament. This team lost Pro Bowlers across the board, including: QB Russell Wilson, LBs KJ Wright and Bobby Wagner, DE Carlos Dunlap, and RB Chris Carson. This may be the finest coaching job Carroll has ever done, and no one is even talking about it.

Seattle faces the presumptive NFC champion for their troubles. Niners HC Kyle Shanahan isn't exactly chopped liver, turning rookie QB Brock Purdy (Good) into a viable hurler after losing not one, but two starters. Shanny has also benefited from DC DeMeco Ryan, who has turned the Niners defense into a monster. No matter what the numbers say, edge rusher Nick Bosa is in the DPOY conversation, and this defense can stop anyone.

Rain will be a factor, as an Atmospheric River takes over Cali, so don't look for the Niners to win by double digits. They played poorly in the season opening monsoon in Chicago, but expect a conservative, hard hitting game. Geno turns the ball over at least once, and the Niners come away with the win in a low scoring affair. Niners.



The Kid looks like Joe Montana, but it is still early

LA Lightning Bolts at Jacksonville J-Squareds (+1.5/47.5) – Saturday Special #2

Everyone knows the Niners are tough, but there are two teams with underrated defenses that no one wants to see: Jacksonville and Cincinnati. This Jacksonville team made the postseason in a rebuilding year, largely due to HC Doug Pedersen.

Pedersen has placed his faith in QB Trevor Lawrence, to fine effect. It doesn't hurt that his defense is vicious, turning the ball over and applying pressure to the QB. LB (the Other) Josh Allen gets all of the ink, but you should look for situational player Arden Key. Number 49 shows up on game day.

The Bolts had gotten healthy before Week Eighteen. They now travel to northern Florida in the second meeting of these teams this season. The J-Squareds blasted the Bolts 38-10 in the first one, but Bolts QB Justin Herbert was playing with broken ribs.

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Herbert has recovered, but his numbers fall whenever WR Mike Williams is not on the field. Granted, RB Austin Ekeler and WR Keenan Allen can put up numbers, but Williams is the offensive glue for this squad and he is out with a bad back.

Lawrence knocks the Bolts from the postseason, setting up an interesting trip to Buffalo or KC in the Divisional Round. J-Squareds.

Miami Marine Mammals at Buffalo Bisons (-13.5/43.5)

Crapchester was a preseason pick to win it all, likely because of the way they lost at KC in the 2021 playoffs. Miami is playing its third string QB after Tua and Teddy Two Gloves could not answer the bell.

Do not be surprised if Miami HC Mike McDaniel is shown the door after this game. M-Squared started the season 7-3, and this ownership is not happy.

This game is going to be a win for the Bisons, but two TDs is a lot. In fact, it's too much. Bisons.

NY Football Jynts at Minnesota Hornheads (-3/48)

Another playoff game, another rematch. The Hornheads beat the Jynts earlier in the season courtesy of bad clock management and a 61-yard clock beating field goal.

Yet, the Hornheads may be the worse 13-4 team in the history of the NFL. They have actually given up more points than they have scored, and won ten games on the last possession. These guys have great WRs in Justin Jefferson and Adam Thielen, and QB Kirk (Curt) Cousins is playing just well enough to win.

What chance do the lowly G-Men have in this game? QB Dan(ny Dimes) Jones is playing for his contract life, and Saquon Barkley is playing on one leg.

The Look Man says they have plenty of chances. The front seven is getting healthy at the right time and HC Brian Daboll is a shaman. Look for DEs Azeez Ojulari and Kayvon Thibodeaux to put pressure on Cousins without the blitz, setting up turnovers characteristic of a Wink Martindale defense.

Danny Dimes shortens the game by running the football, and the clock turns midnight for Minnesota. Jynts.

B-More Dumpster Ducks at Cincinnati Orange Cats (-8.5/40.5) Football Night in America Playoff Edition

The Nati slipped by the Ducks in Week Eighteen, winning the AFC Asgard crown. They now get the Rubber Match at home against Baltimore.

This contest will be interesting for several reasons. The Orange Cats complained about dirty play in Week Eighteen, and C Alex Kappa is out with an ankle. QB Lamar (Action) Jackson still hasn't recovered from a blown wheel, and backup QB Tyler Huntley will sub.

Finally, Baltimore employs a zone scheme that has caused Joe (Goat Boy) Burrow some struggles. Burrow has a 15 QBR and only five yards per attempt against it. For a guy with an overall 102.5 QBR, that is statistically relevant.

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Still, Cincinnati knows how to win, and HC Zac Taylor has really improved his redzone playcalling. The Look Man noticed it following the early loss in Baltimore, notably in the Miami Thursday Nighter. Taylor has quit forcing the ball to his stars, and looks instead to timely mismatches. As a result, even WR Trent Irwin (#16) becomes a threat in the Zone.

Look for the Bengals to press the run and force Huntley into mistakes. The cover seems unlikely in this divisional rivalry, but the Nati emerges victorious. Bengals.

Dallas Cowpokes at Tampa Bay Expensive Corn Kings (+2.5/45.5) Monday Night Football Playoff Edition

Tom (Zoolander) Brady is actually getting 2.5 in this game, which belies the fact that he is 7-0 career against the Pokes. Dak Prescott is throwing picks in bunches, and his fourteen in 2022 occurred in five fewer games.

The Corn Kings are quietly getting healthy, and this game will be a referendum for Pokes HC Mike McCarthy. While Jerrah (The King of Pop) Jones claims Mike's job is safe win or lose, a bad loss to the Kings could usher in the Sean Payton Era. OC Kellen Moore is already looking for his next job, and so is DC Dan (the Mighty) Quinn.

Zoolander has 35 playoff wins and is looking to get more than any team. The Chowds have 37 postseason wins — 30 of them with Brady at QB. The Pack and Steelers are tied for second at 36, and the Pokes are third with 35. If Zoolander gets number 36 on Monday night, he will eclipse the Pokes, and have a chance to exceed New England if he makes it to the Bowl. And that would cement his fabricated legacy as the GOAT.

The Look Man doesn't believe in coincidence. Brady and the Corn Kings send the Pokes fishing early. Corn Kings.

EPILOGUE

The Browns were eliminated weeks ago, largely with the help of the zebras, but the Stillers game in Week Eighteen was butt ugly. QB Deshaun Watson was tackled by his face mask, but didn't get a call, and the DPI calls were phantoms.



Watson after being sacked...by his facemask.

The Look Man struggled as he put away his Browns gear for another season, and DC Joe Woods paid the price by being fired on Black Monday. Woods was not alone as Houston fired its second head coach in

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as many seasons. Lovie Smith's crime: he went for two-point PAT and won the game 22-21. Unfortunately, he also lost the first draft pick overall, which went to Chicago.

The Look Man likes that Lovie Smith couldn't be bought, but there are a lot of open jobs out there. And there will be one more if the Bolts lose at J-Ville this weekend. Brandon (Little Hat) Staley missed the postseason in an OT loss due to awful coaching in 2021. This season, he played starters in Week Eighteen and WR Mike Williams broke his back. This kind of coaching malfeasance is punishable with a version of the Home Game.

The Rooney Rule means teams must interview minority candidates, but it doesn't work. Any league that could pass on KC OC Eric Bienemy fifteen times is corrupt. The current group of wunderkind People of Color is too good to overlook, especially with retreads and rookies like Jeff Saturday getting chances that they don't merit.

The Look Man likes the drama of the postseason, but the overtime rules changes don't hold the same cache. Sudden Death is no longer a playoff reality, and maybe it shouldn't be in light of the Damar Hamlin situation.

Peace,

The Look Man