

THE LOOKMAN REPORT 2023

Week Six: Upset City

"Are you seeing this? Best fans in the f---ing league!"- Detroit QB Jared Goff after a 20-6 road victory over Tampa. Cadillac fans stayed late at the Big Sombrero to celebrate Goff's 353/two TD passing performance.

PROLOGUE

The Look Man got a late start on the 2023 season due to some personal reversals. The Official Father of the Look Man passed away in early September after 90 years on this blue green spec in space. He lived a purposeful life, teaching the Look Man lessons about sports, life and how to be a man.

Bringing closure to that life has been a challenge. My Dad was a shining light who brought joy to each life he touched. Several of my buddies at the memorial mentioned that they were closer to him than their own fathers. He was the kind of person who lived life the right way, quietly serving as an example and making you want to be a better person.

My Dad loved black walnuts, and we would harvest them each autumn. We would wait until they ripened in the cooling fall sun, then serve them on ice cream. On what would have been his 91st birthday, the Look Man was walking to his car and spotted a black walnut on the ground. Serendipity, it would seem, is not without a sense of irony. And *Serendipity* was the name of his boat.

He was a kindred spirit in this journey, and the Look Man will miss him sincerely.

Without further ado, the week that was.

LAGNIAPPE

Elementary, My Dear Watson

The Cleveland front office is doing QB Deshaun Watson zero favors, acknowledging that he was medically cleared to play the last two weeks, but declined. In truth, the term 'medically cleared' simply means the team physician doesn't believe the player can make the injury worse.

Watson was unable to drive the football or even lift his arm without pain. On Wednesday, Watson acknowledged that the injury is a strain of the subscapularis muscle, which is the largest and strongest of the four rotator cuff muscles controlling arm rotation and joint stability.

The Browns characterized the injury as day-to-day, making it seem as if the QB could just roll out of bed and play. In point of fact, he could have gone the way of Indy's Anthony Richardson, who is done for the year.

Sunday's game in Indy would signal the four-week mark since the injury, and it now looks like a game time decision. Cleveland Fan is killing him, denouncing his salary and saying he has quit on the team. Even the Official Botherer of the Look Man expressed concerns.

The Browns next three games are at Indy, at Seattle, and Arizona at home. The Look Man says just wait until Watson is healthy, winning with defense, allowing PJ (Dyno-Mite!) Walker to play and perhaps allowing Dorian Thompson-Robinson (DTR) to get some reps.

Cleveland can still make a stretch run if they knock off their AFC opponents and hold serve in the AFC Black and Blue Division. After seeing Geno Smith wilt against the No Name Defense in Cincinnati, he may faint when he sees the Browns in a couple of weeks.

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As for the Browns front office: show some support for your franchise. Instead of allowing him to play like they did with the selfish (Cake) Baker Mayfield, they should let him heal and prepare for the long game.

Have you met my brother David?

Icons QB Derek (you can drive my) Carr was cover-your-eyes ugly Thursday night. He clearly didn't trust the protection and rushed several throws. Carr did bounce back late, however, but TE (Bananas) Foster Moreau dropped a game-tying TD.

It was still no excuse for histrionics by Carr, who showed up his teammates on a regular last night. He fronted on Alvin (and the Chipmunks) Kamara for a failed route adjustment, and several missed blitz pickups in the backfield.

Invariably Carr alternated between throwing into triple coverage and yelling at his wideouts for running the wrong routes. His pick six deflection was the margin of the J-Ville victory, in a game where the NOLA defense played valiantly.

On at least one pass to second year WR Chris (Oil of) Olave, the ball was thrown six feet out of bounds, and Carr reacted by yelling, "WHAT ARE YOU DOING??!!!" Olave should have responded, "Waiting for Jameis Winston to come in and take your job."

Carr stinks, and this was never going to end well. He is replacing a legend in Drew (Cool) Brees, and he has neither the talent nor demeanor to lead.

THE LOOKAHEAD

The Look Man has watched the 104th season of the NFL with ambivalence. There are no remaining undefeated teams, and the weather has not yet turned cold enough to demand a running game. Offenses are beginning to catch up with defenses, but no one is running away and hiding.

Without further ado, the Lookahead to Week Seven:

Cleveland Browns at Indianapolis Ponies (-1.5)

Cleveland is riding high after a fantastic defensive effort in Week Six. Only the 1970 Hornheads and 1971 Ponies defense have bested the 1,002 total yards allowed after five full games. DC Jim (May the) Schwartz (Be With You) has turned this rag tag group into a cohesive unit.

The Ponies are quietly one of the better teams in the middle of the pack. They beat Baltimore on the road with Gardner (Mullet) Minshew at QB, and plan to feed newly signed RB Johnathan Taylor. They would like to turn this game into a smash fest to overcome the PED suspension of DT Grover Stewart in the middle.

The Deshaun Watson shoulder issue is huge, but even if he does return, he will be rusty. Both teams would like to run the football, but the Browns are a little thin at RB with Jerome Ford and Kareem Hunt nicked up. Indy has Taylor and Zack Moss, and that two-headed monster is going to be a huge challenge. Toss in some no huddle to minimize Browns defensive line substitutions and you have a recipe for an upset.

Whether it is PJ (Dyno-Mite) Walker or Watson, the Browns have enough to win. Browns, baby, Browns.

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Detroit Cadillacs at B-More Dumpster Ducks (-3)

If you haven't seen Detroit this season, you are missing out on a rare treat. HC Dan Campbell (Soup) has this team playing hard and mean, and you don't want to have your kneecaps exposed when they come knocking.

The Look Man is impressed by QB Jared (Subway) Goff and the offense, which is putting up points. Campbell Soup replaced RB D'Andre Swift, and has not missed a beat. This offense is crisp and efficient, headed by WRs (SG-1) Amon Ra St. Brown, Josh Reynolds, and rookie TE Sam (Open the Door) LaPorta. The Look Man loves the misdirection, which takes advantage of overly aggressive defenses like Baltimore.

The Detroit defense is the real story, and even with key injuries, they are flying to the football and punishing folks. Second year DE Aidan Hutchinson is the Truth, and LB Alex Anzalone is a poor man's Derrick Brooks.

Lamar (Action) Jackson still cannot throw the ball outside the numbers, and Odell Beckham Jr. is getting tired of running TE routes. Jackson is currently numero uno in salary at \$52 million a year, but he is fourteenth in QBR, behind Kirk (Kurt) Cousins and just ahead of Gardner Minshew. He lives in the middle of the field, using his legs when receivers run out of his range.

If LB Anzalone can cover Mark Andrews (Sisters), it's gonna be a long day for Action. Cadillacs cover and win to cement their death grip on the NFC Black and Blue Division. Detroit.



"And I thought Bake was bad..."

Blitzburgh Stillers at LA Rams (-3)

QB Kenny (Two Gloves) Pickett and the Stillers came back to beat Baltimore, and the miracle of Mike Tomlin continues. At no point in that game did the Look Man believe the Stillers were going to win the game. Yet, they played solid defense and waited for the Dumpster Ducks to make mistakes.

But this game is in Sofi, where no real home field advantage really exists. The Rams and Bolts often have to go silent count in their own stadium due to the large numbers of opposing fans. And Stiller Nation travels like no other.

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Look for Matt Stafford to go to WR Cooper Kupp early and often in this one. Quick releases nullify the impact of DE TJ Watt. Rams in a push.

Buffalo Bisons at New England Chowds (+8.5)

This point spread is completely out-of-whack. Granted, the Chowds are going full-mutiny on Bill Belichick in an attempt to get him canned, but Crapchester is a MASH unit. DT Ed Oliver is the latest casualty, and this game could get ugly early with Josh Allen having a bad throwing shoulder. Chowds QB Mac Jones kicks another player in the package, but New England wins a squeaker. Chowds.

Miami Marine Mammals at Philadelphia Iggles (-1.5) [Football Night in America]

This is another marquee matchup between two 5-1 squads. The Marine Mammals struggle on the road, having destroyed Denver 70-20 at home before taking a 48-22 loss at Crapchester. No one can match their speed, but good defense can force Tua to deal the football before he is ready.

The Look Man is not a huge fan of Jalen (Hulu Has Live Sports) Hurts. Hulu has mastered the QB sneak, owing to his 650-pound squats, but he has yet to master the deep ball. He often eschews intermediate receivers in favor of the deep ball, but he is not yet a complete QB.

Look for Philly to go ground and pound against a mediocre Miami defense. The Iggles play keep-away, forcing Tua to do more with fewer possessions. Iggles.

Frisco Niners at Minnesota Hornheads (+6.5) [Monday Night Football]

The Niners are ticked off after losing to Cleveland in a wet, rainy slop fest of a game. The Browns defense put the panties on Brock Purdy, who suffered the lowest passing output of his career. It was Purdy's first loss as starter outside of the playoffs, snapping his unblemished 10-0 record as a starter.

Minnny enters this game without uber WR Justin (J. Jonah) Jefferson, who has a hammy. Cousins is going to have to locate other receivers or eat the football. The Look Man is betting on the latter, largely due to the physical, hard hitting Niners defense.

Niners bounce back, beating the Hornheads and the Skol Mafia. Niners cover and win.

EPILOGUE

Six teams get a bye week in Week Seven, and the silly season is in full swing. The Houston Slim Shades, Cincinnati Bengals, Dallas Cowpokes, New York Aeronauticals, Carolina Black Cats, and Coffeetown Seahawks have all gone fishing, leaving a very short slate of games this week.

But the real story is the Zebras in 2023. Not only are they littering the field with laundry, they are clearly controlling the outcome of games. It is almost as if they are betting the under in several contests.

It used to be that you could moan about Ron Torbert or Jerome Boger(mill), but the Look Man is having trouble naming even a single Zebra who is competent. Even normally adequate John (That L'il) Hussey is horrible. Hussey took two Rams touchdowns off the board several weeks ago in Cincinnati, then parlayed that with 23 penalties during Frisco at Cleveland. He and his crew literally took over the game.

The new headsets have the Zebras piped directly into NYC, resulting in "expedited reviews" in which NFL HQ calls the game remotely. The result has been nearly unwatchable football. How many calls have we seen noodled over, challenged by coaches, and quickly resolved on the field?

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The intent is to speed up the game, but the perception is that the games are rigged.

The NFL generates \$14 billion a year, and their command center looks like a poorly done man cave. Further, their corporate teaming with DraftKings is fishy. And by fishy, the Look Man means, “it stinks from the head down.”



“...pass the Doritos, please...”

Peace,

The Look Man