

THE LOOKMAN REPORT 2023

Week Seven: Wha happened??

“That’s stuff we’ll discuss throughout this week. Obviously, I did not like the result.” – Kyle Shanahan after DC Steve Wilks’ zero-blitz gave up a 60-yard TD just before the half. The TD was the margin of victory in Minnesota’s upset win over the Niners.

PROLOGUE

The Look Man is a little pressed for time this week, owing to the Spousal Unit pressing him to pack for a weekend trip.

Having qualified that, Week Seven was wild in the NFL. The Niners lost for the second consecutive week, the Browns strung back-to-back wins together with a QB who is not a household name in his own house, and the Stillers stole a game at Sofi because Rams HC Sean McVay mismanaged his timeouts and couldn’t challenge a spot. Ray Charles could’ve seen that QB Kenny (Two Gloves) Pickett was short on a key fourth down sneak.

But the most amazing thing the Look Man saw was DE Myles Garrett in the Browns-Ponies. Garrett single-handedly willed Cleveland to victory with notched nine tackles, two sacks, two forced fumbles and a blocked field goal. His second strip sack fumble was recovered by the Browns for a touchdown. Garrett then sold popcorn at halftime and served as a valet postgame.

This defensive performance was nearly comical, placing Garrett in the conversation with Lawrence (LT) Taylor, Reggie White, and Michael Strahan. It was the most dominant effort by a defender in the last 20 years, and the Browns still only won 39-38 with help from the zebras.

Without further ado, the week that was.

LAGNIAPPE

The Watson Gambit

Cleveland QB Deshaun Watson couldn’t even make it through the first quarter at Lucas Oil Field last week. He threw a worm-burner pass to a running back on first down, followed by a bad pick, and getting knocked from the contest with a concussion. Browns HC Kevin Stefanski pulled him from a game he had no business starting.

The Look Man cannot even understand how the front office allowed Watson to play. He could barely raise his arm above shoulder level, and had zero zip on the rock. It was painful to watch, let alone play.

National media is now killing the Browns Front Office, calling the trade a bust, and calling Watson a malingeringer. Apparently, none of them saw what the Look Man saw.

But what is more troubling is the tenor of the discussion, including how Baker Mayfield played with his arm torn off, and Tom Brady never missed a down. Some of the commentary threw Russell Wilson into the mix, saying that once ‘these guys’ get paid, they don’t care about performance. Brady Quinn (Medicine Woman) voiced similar concerns on social media, ending his tweet with an inappropriate comment about ‘happy endings.’ Quinn should know better with his medical experience, not to mention his dominant play at Notre Dame and the National...Football...League.

The 2021 season was tanked because (Cake) Baker Mayfield forced himself into the lineup after tearing his non-throwing shoulder. He was (selfishly) worried that backup Case Keenum would take that offense and put up 40 per game, relegating Mayfield to the bench.

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Fast forward beyond an eleven-game suspension in 2022 that was both capricious and arbitrary. NFL ownership was angry about a fully-guaranteed QB deal which required billionaire owners to escrow the salary. The zebras proceeded to allow Watson to be tackled by his facemask in the Steelers games in both 2022 and 2023, no flag.

Watson showed promise in the Tennessee game, and with that defense, the Browns looked like a legitimate playoff team, beating the Flaming Thumbtacks 27-3. The rotator injury resulted in Watson being medically cleared in the Baltimore game, despite the fact that he still cannot drive the football or protect himself.

This chorus of doubt has a stench about it. The guy is legitimately hurt, and cannot go despite the fan protestations. It doesn't matter how much money you make – hurt is hurt, and the front office and ownership are doing him no favors. He should sit until he is well enough to play because he is facing offseason surgery.

Everything else is pure bunk. Quit focusing on the money and show some humanity.



"C'mon Deshaun! We need you out there!"

THE LOOKAHEAD

After six teams sat the pine last week on bye, there are zero this week, leading up to two games in Germany in Week Nine.

Without further ado, the Lookahead to Week Eight:

LA Rams at Dallas Cowpokes (-6.5)

The Pokes have won ten consecutive home games, the longest active streak in the NFL. Enter Sean McVay and the Rams, fresh off a robbery by the zebras in Week Seven. The Rams finally have a running game, and WRs Puka Nacua and Tutu Atwell are teaming with all-world Cooper Kupp for some fireworks.

The Pokes are currently struggling in pass defense, having lost Trevon Diggs for the year. While their pass rush is still potent, it is predicated on a D-line rotation. Stafford and the Rams go no-huddle, saving a timeout for a possible challenge at the 2:12 mark. They don't want a repeat of the Stillers game. The Pokes get caught looking ahead to a Week Nine battle at Philly. Rams cover, Rams win.

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Minnesota Hornheads at Green Bay Cheeseheads (-1)

The Hornheads improbable win over the Niners in Week Seven was made possible via an incredible passing performance by Kirk (Curt) Cousins and a stellar performance by rookie wideout Jordan Addison. Oh, and the dumbest zero blitz call evah by Niners D-Coordinator Steve Wilks just before halftime. That blitz allowed a 60-yard TD pass that served as the margin of victory.

The Look Man is not impressed with Cheesehead QB Jordan (All You Need Is) Love, who holds the ball too long. However, he is less impressed with the Hornheads team that played over its head with the Niners. Green Bay is a stadium in which the rules of football don't apply when it comes to the Zebras, who engage more than necessary. Cheeseheads.

J-Squareds at Stillers (+3)

The Stillers are a three-point dog at home, which won't sit well with Mike (Omar Epps) Tomlin. One has to wonder how they even have a winning record, with Houdini wins against Baltimore and the Rams. The answer: DE TJ Watt.

J-Ville's QB Trevor Lawrence has a knee, but showed good straight-line speed in Week Seven. He and the offense do just enough to knock the Stillers down to 4-3, setting up a battle in the AFC. This Sacksonville defense is better than folks think. J-Squareds.

Philadelphia Iggles at Washington Commies (+6.5)

The Commies create matchup issues the Iggles, beating them more often than they should base upon talent alone. HC (Riverboat) Ron Rivera is on the hotseat, but the Sam Howell Experiment is becoming a nightmare on K Street. Commies cover against a dinged up Iggles team.



"Ggggugh..."

Browns at Seahawks (-3.5)

Deshaun Watson is out, handing the car keys to PJ (Dyno-Mite) Walker in Coffeetown. The Browns offense is a M*A*S*H unit, with RB Jerome Ford (Fairlane) out, and backup Kareem Hunt limping.

Seahawks QB Geno (Jacob Jingleheimer) Smith is regressing to the mean. Last season he said, "They wrote me off, but I didn't write back." This season he is producing red zone picks at an alarming rate, and the Browns defense is salivating.

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Look for backup QB Dorian Thompson-Robinson to come in as a reliever, as the offense catches fire in the Northwest. Browns, baby Browns.

Bengals at Niners (-3.5)

The Orange and Black are a wholly owned subsidiary of the Frisco Niners, having lost two Super Bowls and several regular season contests. The Bengals are coming off a bye week, ostensibly healthy and ready to topple their nemesis.

The Niners by contrast may be in trouble. They already missed WR/Factor Back Deebo Samuel, and QB Brock (Mark) Purdy is in the concussion protocol. LBs Fred (the Wonder Years) Warner and Dre Greenlaw are a little nicked as well after that Monday Nighter. The Niners have been through the sausage grinder of late, playing physical games at Cleveland and Minnesota.

The Bengals do not have a serviceable TE on the roster, and it is hurting their passing game. Further, the team is 28th overall in rushing, making them one dimensional, something you really don't want to be against Kyle Shanahan and the Niners.

"I have as much confidence in Sam as I could have with someone that I haven't gone into a real NFL game with," said HC Kyle Shanahan on Wednesday. "He was great in the offseason. He doesn't get many reps, as no backups do, but he does it well on the scout team, he's always good in the meetings and later, when he brings me coffee and stuff."

If Purdy clears concussion protocol before Sunday and plays, he will be the first player to do so in 2023.

Purdy began showing signs of a concussion on the plane home but his in-game performance was ragged, culminating in a game sealing pick at crunch time.

Bengals provide the cure for Frisco, despite a valiant defensive effort. Niners.

Bears at Bolts (-8.5) Football Night in America

When the Look Man watched Pokes at Chargers a couple of weeks ago, it seemed neither head coach wanted to win. Brandon Staley and Mike McCarthy took turns doing stupid things, and McCarthy won by default.

The Look Man is not saying the same thing happens Sunday night, but Matt Eberflus should not have to go far to win. Backup QB Tyson (Secret) Bagent was 21-29 passing last week, and he looks promising. Bears cover.

Las Vegas Raiders at Detroit Cadillacs (-8.5) MNF

The Look Man drank the Kool Aid on Detroit last week, just prior to a 38-6 drubbing at the Dumpster Ducks. Look for them to bounce back against a Vegas team that is on the verge of mutiny. Raiders HC Josh McDaniels is attempting to install *the Patriot Way* in Vegas with predictable results. He may be fired before the end of the year. Cadillacs.

EPILOGUE

Eight teams are 4-3 or better and Week Nine is upcoming. KC, Miami, Buffalo, Dallas, Blitzburgh, Detroit, Cleveland and Frisco are all primed at this point in the year and it is exciting.

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But the Look Man is more interested in the next tier, which includes the Houston Slim Shadies, Jacksonville J-Squareds, Cincinnati Bengals, New York Aeronauticals, and Ponies. At least one or two of these squads are going to rise up and knock someone out of the postseason.

The Look Man is in the midst of Native American summer, the last gasp of warm weather in the Southeast. He is going to celebrate his 35th wedding anniversary in the Smoky Mountains with the Official Wife of the Look Man. While the rigors of work life have been pressing, it will be nice to smell the roses before the weather turns cool for good.

The World Series is always a waypoint in the NFL season, and soon football will be the only game in town. NBA and NHL teams are playing, but everyone knows those seasons don't start until Christmas.

Peace,

The Look Man