

THE LOOKMAN REPORT 2023

Week Eight: Luv Ya Blue

“Let’s soak this one up. I don’t want to do anything to poke the bear.” – Pokes Owner, CEO and GM Jerrah Jones following a 43-20 beatdown of the Bolts. The bear is an Iggles team which sits at the top of the NFC with only one loss. The Pokes have choked in big games in 2023, and Jerrah doesn’t want to look stupid.

PROLOGUE

The Look Man has been getting killed in the pick segment, with some nice upsets, but the wrong side in blowout wins. The NFL has borrowed from the NCAA in the rules department, and now it appears that the Zebras are contributing to a quality reduction. The Flaming Thumbtacks-Stillers game on TNF Prime featured so many flags that Al Michaels called it “flag day.”

The real story of the 2023 NFL season is the lack of consistency. Miami drops a 70 burger one week and loses by 20+ the following week. Home teams are holding serve, but road wins seem to be at a premium. All in all, it is a little unsettling.

Meanwhile, the Browns-Seahawks contest exposed HC Kevin Stefanski, who turned a 20-17 lead into a 24-20 loss with under two minutes remaining. PJ (Turnover King) Walker bounced a pick off a blitzer’s headgear deep in his own territory on a third and three.

The Look Man has been a Stefanski apologist, but how do you put the ball in the Turnover King’s hands after a great defensive game? You run the football and force Seattle to use timeouts, making QB Geno Smith win the game.

Stefanski keeps blowing these close games by trying to be a genius. Football is a simple game; just let it play out like the Steelers do week after week and you make the postseason. After all, in the words of Mike (Omar Epps) Tomlin, the standard is the standard.

Without further ado, the week that was.

LAGNIAPPE

I like big butts...

Last week at Sofi Stadium, L.A. rapper Blueface posted a video on social media showing some barely clothed women dancing as he made it rain in one of the stadium’s suites. Kelly (Karen) Stafford, wife of Rams QB Matthew Stafford, was not a fan.

“I don’t think it was appropriate. My husband is on the field getting housed by the Pokes, and this rapper is up in here getting crunk. Plus, I don’t have any junk in the trunk, and I am jeally.” Kelly Stafford has been outspoken during Matt’s career, often on the wrong side of the issue:

“He said it’s so different and so hard to get to know these guys. He had the equipment guy get a book printed of all their faces, and all their names, because he’s like, ‘I need to know their names.’” – about her husband not knowing the names of his Rams teammates in 2023.

“Do refs get fined for bulls—t calls? If not, they 10000% should.” – after a Green Bay win over Detroit in 2021

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"I'm an idiot. I tried to apologize, but in the end I knew I was wrong. Will always stand up for my guy and everyone I love, but obviously needed to do it completely different!" – after being asked to leave Sofi for throwing a soft pretzel at a visiting Niners Fan.

"I understand there's a pandemic, and I understand it's very scary. I'm scared of it, too. If you are at risk, do not leave your house until there's a vaccine. Once this dictatorship decides to let us have some freedom, there will be nothing left. I'm just over it." – on the Rona virus quarantine in Michigan in 2020.

"When Kaepernick knelt during the national anthem, I had strong feelings about it. I kept not listening to him or anyone else and let the political rhetoric persuade me that him kneeling was disrespectful to our military," - about Kap in 2020, before an about face with a UGA social justice endowment.

The Look Man is inclined to agree with Kelly; she is an idiot.



The Staffords in Hawaii protesting the ocean...

Phantasia?

NFL Senior VP of Officiating, Walt (Disney) Anderson, appeared live during Monday Night Football after a non-call on grounding. Cadillacs QB Jared (Subway) Goff had just thrown a ball into the ground to avoid a sack when Disney said the rules "allow a lot of flexibility" and that the throw was in the "direction and vicinity" of RB Jahmyr Gibbs.

Disney contradicted the real-time explanation from ESPN rent-a-zebra John Parry. The rule states:

"It is a foul for intentional grounding if a passer, facing an imminent loss of yardage because of pressure from the defense, throws a forward pass without a realistic chance of completion. A realistic chance of completion is defined as a pass that is thrown in the direction of and lands in the vicinity of an originally eligible offensive receiver."

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That pass had about as much chance for completion as Kelly Stafford has of being mistaken for a genius. Or as analyst Joe Buck said afterwards, "And we'll leave it at that."

Just when the Look Man felt we were done with folks like Anderson, Jerome Boger(mill) and Terry (Bottlegate) McAulay, the NFL established a precedent by cutting into a live broadcast to defend a ruling. We now know who is making these hair-brained calls from New York, and the news is not positive.

Say what?!



[Clyde the Glide likes this look, but not in Nashville...](#)

The University of Houston featured opening day throwbacks which evoked memories of the old Houston Oilers. And it made the NFL "feel some kind of way" and issue a cease-and-desist order, demanding UH halt any further use of the uniforms.

The league and the Flaming Thumbtacks were so disappointed about the development that they allowed Tennessee to wear the Luv Ya Blues against the current Houston team, the Slim Shadies. This development ticked off many, including the Look Man.

Former Slim Shadies star JJ Watt was among the irritated, saying, "I wanted to wear those uniforms very badly. I understand the end with Bud Adams and everything that happened. I don't even want to get into all of that. I just know, having lived and played there for 10 years, and the people there and the connection they have to Earl Campbell, Warren Moon, to Billy White Shoes, to the guys that wore those uniforms and what that meant when they played in that Astrodome, it hurts to not be able to wear those in Houston, and it hurts to see them being worn somewhere else".

It is the functional equivalent of spitting in fans' faces. After losing the Oilers through no fault of their own, Houston Fan now has to see Tennessee wearing their colors. Imagine watching Baltimore rocking Seal Brown and Orange from Cleveland in an ACTUAL game against Cleveland!

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There are those who believe Tennessee now owns the Oilers' history, while others hope UH will fight the NFL in court. The Look Man believes it is yet another ugly mark on The Shield.

Make it last forever...

Chicago made a trade deadline move to bolster their pass rush, signing DC DE Montez (Keith) Sweat in exchange for a second-round pick. Sweat is expected to help a Monsters of the Furniture Mart D-line that has struggled to generate pressure.

GM Ryan Poles has faced opposition for the trade, which jeopardizes getting the first pick in the 2024 draft. Fans want the Bears to continue losing so the team can restock in the draft. So far, they have acquired QB Justin (Strawberry) Fields and WR DJ Moore, but wasted a two on failed WR Chase Claypool, who was traded to the Marine Mammals for five pounds of meat.

With Strawberry Fields out with a thumb, the Monsters could easily compete for the worst record, and the acquisition of Sweat adds as many sacks as the entire Bears defense has on the season. Sweat was still productive even when DE Chase Young was injured, producing 6.5 sacks, 10 TFLs, two forced fumbles and seven Grammys. Sweat is also expected to appear in the Super Bowl LVIII halftime show to perform his catalogue, including *Make It Last Forever*, *Love You Better* and *Sack Dance*.

This thing is not going to end well for the Windy City.

THE LOOKAHEAD

Week Eight was 'bye-less' and the action was spectacular. Of course, there was a lot of laundry on the field, much of it occurring in the J-Squareds at Stillers, but that is beside the point. And that point is that several teams lost winnable games, including the Niners, Browns and Stillers. The one common theme: quarterback play, or the lack thereof. As we approach the halfway point of the season, it's getting to be nut-cutting time in the NFL. And ball security is exceeded only by nut security.

Without further ado, the Lookahead to Week Nine:

Miami Marine Mammals vs. Kansas City Baby Backs (-1.5) (in Frankfurt, Germany)

The NFL Game of the Week is being held in the Faderland, much to the dismay of the Look Man. When this game appeared on the calendar, it had the look of a showdown, with former Back Backs WR Tyreek (Cheetah) Hill facing his old mates. As it turns out, the Backs looked fine in Year One without the Cheetah, but Year Two looks a lot different.

QB Patrick Mahomes (and Auto) accounts for 80% of the offense, much like (Dange)Ruiss Wilson in his Seattle days. He has Travis (Maauto) Kelce and not much else, as Mecole Hardman, Kadarius Toney, Marquez Valdes-Scantling, and Skyy Moore cannot catch a cold naked in Nome.

On the other side of the field, QB Tua (Double T) Tagovailoa is lighting it up with the Cheetah, and a multiple offense. The Marine Mammals have lost their sparkplug RB De'Von Achane, but still maintain a potent offense spearheaded by Raheem Mostert. Miami has been in Europe for most of the week in order to acclimatize and eat schnitzel.

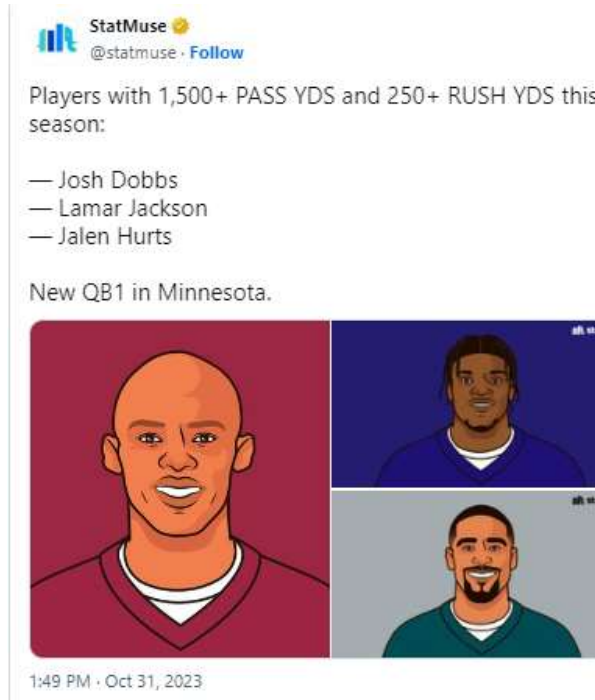
Look for a good Mammals defense to make trouble for Mahomes, but WR Rashee (Fried) Rice and Maauto pull out a close one. Baby Backs.

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Minnesota Hornheads at Atlanta Dirty Birds (-4)

Hornheads QB Kirk (Curt) Cousins suffered an Achilles and is out for the season. Minnesota moved quickly to acquire Arizona QB Josh Dobbs for six. They now have a veteran to help rookie Jaren Hall in his first start against the ATL. By virtue of moving to Minny, Dobbs instantly became the second best QB in the NFC Norse behind Detroit's Jared (Subway) Goff. The outcome of this game is not as interesting as this factoid:



[Interesting company for Dobbs, the rocket scientist](#)

Atlanta wins with (Bud Light) Heinecke at the helm, but Dobbs keeps Minny in the discussion for NFC postseason following the return of Justin (J. Jonah) Jefferson. Dirty Birds.

Arizona Deadbirds at Cleveland Browns (-8.5)

Arizona benched its starting QB, aerospace engineer Joshua Dobbs, and then traded him to the Hornheads at the deadline. Starter Kyler Murray is still not ready, so they could start (Looney) Tune on Sunday.

The Browns have QB trouble of their own, and the Look Man believes Deshaun Watson will take at least another week off. PJ (Turnover Kid) Walker gets another start but look for Dorian (DTR) Thompson-Robinson to play. With this defense, they won't need much. Browns, baby Browns.

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Turnover King PJ Walker is not “dyno-mite!”

Dallas Cowpokes at Philadelphia Iggles (-3)

The Pokes blew up the Look Man last week, failing to look ahead to this game and taking care of the Bolts in Big D. Likewise, the Iggles overcame a pesky Commies team to remain as the only one-loss team in the NFL. This game is going to be as spicy as a cookout in South Dallas.

The Look Man is not a huge Jalen (Hulu has live sports) Hurts fan, but he is even less so regarding Pokes QB Rayne Dakota Prescott. Surprisingly, both are in the Top 10 in 2023, coming in at six and seven, respectively. Much of that lies with the offensive lines, and Dallas has been a game of musical chairs with LT Tyron Smith nicked up and a turnstile at center and guard. The Iggles counter with stalwarts C Jason Kelce and RT Lane Johnson.

The defenses for both teams are formidable. While Dallas has Micah (Eleven from Heaven) Hyde, the Iggles boast a big, mean defensive front seven including Fletcher Cox, Brandon Graham and half of the University of Georgia. The Iggles will counter the deep Dallas D-line with no-huddle, wearing down the starters and forcing the secondary to deal with TE Dallas Goedert and WR AJ (UPS) Brown.

Whenever the matchups are this close, you have to look at coaching instead. The Iggles have fiery Nick Siriani (means “a-hole” in Italian) while the Pokes counter with Mike McCarthy, who never saw a clock he couldn’t mismanage. Iggles win a typical NFC Beast matchup. Iggles.

Crapchester Bisons at Cincinnati Bengals (-1.5) [Football Night in America]

Given that the Mammals-Baby Backs is being contested overseas, this Football Night in America game becomes the de facto NFL Game of the Week. Crapchester flies into the Nati looking to avenge the Damar Hamlin Game from 2022, and the suddenly healthy Bengals want to stay on a roll. Something has to give, and it won’t be Skyline Chili.

Bison’s QB Josh (Irwin) Allen is not healthy, and the lack of a running game is hurting this Crapchester squad. The Mafia defense really misses LB Matt Milano (Cookie), and the reserves are not covering themselves in glory.

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Luckily, the Bengals TE Irv Smith stinks on ice, so that won't be a worry to the Bisons. They will worry about the resurgent running game and Joe (Richard Milhous) Mixon. Mixon isn't much for pass protection, but he's not a crook, and Crapchester's pass rush is nothing to write home about.

The Look Man is looking for a spirited contest with few flags and a boatload of fireworks. He is thinking about attending the game with Long Suffering Bengals Fan Sundance. Season 104 of the NFL has featured very few classic games, and this has a chance to be one.

Josh (Irwin) Allen finds TE Dalton (Gang) Kincaid early and often, offsetting double coverage on uber wideout Stefon Diggs. Look for WR Gabe (Welcome Back Kotter) Davis to have a big night. Bisons cover and win on a late FG.

EPILOGUE

The AFC Asgard division has four teams above .500, with Baltimore leading the pack at 6-2. The Browns, Stillers and Bengals bring up the rear with 4-3 records, but each has a stiff defense. This division could put three teams in the postseason in an AFC Conference featuring some of the toughest quarterbacks in the NFL. Don't sleep on any of these teams, which are tough, accountable and nasty.

The NFC, by contrast, is a mess. The Niners have lost three straight after looking like the class of the conference. Philly is the only one-loss team, but their formula is to get on top early, and play downhill. Detroit is solid but unspectacular, Dallas is a maybe, and the rest of the conference looks meh.

Expect things to firm up in the next few weeks as the weather turns cold and running games become a requirement, not a nicety. The Niners have a bye this week but look to retool and come back strong. It would not surprise the Look Man to see the Road to Super Bowl LVIII to roll through Levi Stadium. But for that to happen, the Iggles and Pokes are going to have to struggle.

Peace,

The Look Man