

**THE LOOKMAN REPORT 2023**  
**Week Nine: Houston, we have a problem...**

*"I told [my agent], this should be a book, or a movie. But who'd believe it?" – Minnesota QB Josh (Passtronaut) Dobbs an hour after the most unlikely win of 2023. Dobbs drove 75 yards for the winning score after showing up in Minneapolis-St. Paul on Wednesday, taking zero practice snaps, and not knowing the playbook. The aerospace engineer has been with five teams in 45 weeks.*

**PROLOGUE**

The Look Man enjoyed his first live action NFL football last weekend for Football Night in America. He enjoyed the company of Long-Suffering Bengals Fan Sundance but was disappointed that his fellow season ticket holders were absent. The game was electric, with the city lit up for game night, fans lit up with liquid entertainment, and a special video using cell phone flashes linked via a QR code application.

There were a lot of Crapchester fans in evidence, and the Mafia was well represented. The game was also attended by Concussion Girl, who sits in the row ahead of the Look Man. Concussion Girl is an extremely animated, but knowledgeable fan who irritates Sundance. The Look Man likes her, but suspects that she has personal issues. I mean, what woman has been concussed more than once in her lifetime? Well, excluding the Official Wife of the Look Man...

The week included several other good contests, including Tampa-Houston, Minnesota–Atlanta and Dallas-Philly, each with gut-wrenching finishes. All in all, Week Nine was outstanding entertainment in the National...Football...League.



*Dobbs at his side gig...*

Without further ado, the week that was.

**LAGNIAPPE**

*P&E on ESPN*

The alternate Monday Night Football ManningCast is very entertaining. This week's guests included Arnold Schwarzenegger, Trevor Lawrence and Keyshawn Johnson. Things went off the rails early when the Govenator was caught feeding his pet donkey on camera.

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Eli immediately named the donkey "Peyton" and drove Ahnuld crazy by asking him to repeat the line, "we'll be back" about 72 times. Trevor Lawrence was a good sport, and when questioned about hair comparisons with Justin Herbert, responded tactfully, "I'm not going to say anything that can be used against me."

ManningCast is good in short bursts, and quite a contrast to the buttoned-down Joe Buck and Troy Aikman affair. The Look Man enjoys the Xs and Os conversation but the humor can get sophomoric over time. Worth a watch.

*Marine Mammals Fan*

An elderly man rear-ended a guy driving an expensive European sports car. Enraged, the guy hops out and confronts the old man. He yells, "Look what you did to my car! You're going to give me \$10,000 right now or I'm going to beat you to a pulp!"

"Oh my..." the old man said nervously. "I don't have that kind of money. Let me call my son." he said with hope. "He trains dolphins and he will know what to do."

"Dolphins!" the other driver huffed, while rolling his eyes. The old man pulled out his phone, dialed his son, and just as his son answered, the irate man snatched the phone away from the old man.

"So, YOU'RE a dolphin trainer, huh?" The irate man yelled, "Well, your old man here just rear-ended my car and I need TEN GRAND right now, or I'm going to beat you AND your old man to a pulp!"

"I'll be there in 10 minutes." says the voice calmly on the other end. Exactly 10 minutes later, a Jeep pulls up and a guy hops out and proceeds to pulverize the bully, leaving him in a heap on the side of the road. When he finished, he walked over to his father and said,

"For the last time dad, I train Seals... Navy Seals. NOT dolphins!"



*Mammals' teacher Mike McDaniels concurs...*

*Shake it off...*

Q: what is the difference between Taylor Swift and the New York pro football teams?

A: Taylor Swift can sell out MetLife Stadium.

- Joke told by Peyton Manning on the CMA Awards. The Sheriff is not a big fan.

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**THE LOOKAHEAD**

The Look Man is still struggling with the pick segment, but Week Nine provided a glimmer of hope. It is tough to beat the Vegas wise guys and the zebras, but dems da berries...

Without further ado, the Lookahead to Week Ten:

*Cleveland Browns at Baltimore Dumpster Ducks (-6.5)*

Deshaun Watson is fresh off at 27-0 destruction of the Arizona Deadbirds in Cleveland last week. This game represented the first game in 2023 without an offensive turnover and the first Browns shutout since 2007. Browns Fan asked the Look Man how to act, given that this was the first season the Cleveland defense has had this type of dominance since the Chip Banks days.

The only bad news is the devastation of the Browns O-line, with former first round pick Jedrick Wills on IR for four weeks and rookie RT Dawand (Man Mountain) Jones limping his four hundred pounds around. Not what Cleveland needs heading to B-More for an AFC Asgard showdown. It's like the line from Airplane where Lloyd Bridges says, "I picked the wrong week to give up amphetamines!"

The sports media has crowned Lamar (Action) Jackson, who is having an MVP caliber season. Action has the best running game AND the best run defense in the NFL. Their 7-2 record is indicative of their dominance, and it could be a bad year for everyone else in the AFC.

But if you examine the 7-2 record closely, you see losses to Blitzburgh and Indy, two teams that don't inspire fear. Lamar cannot throw the ball outside the numbers, but is still a bad matchup for the Browns defense because their LBs are not good. TE Mark Andrews kills them every game, but look for DC Jim Schwartz to come up with some wrinkles this week.



*OBJ celebrated number 31 with Kim K this week*

This Baltimore team can be up and down, and after demolishing the Browns 28-3 in Cleveland, they may be looking ahead to Cincinnati on Thursday Night Football. The NFL will want to set that game up as a battle for AFC supremacy, so look for the zebras to help both of those teams this week.

QB Deshaun Watson begins his climb to redemption as the Browns win a close slobberknocker, knocking Jackson out in the process. Browns, baby Browns.

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*NY Football Jynts at Dallas Cowpokes (-16)*

The Pokes lost a heartbreaker last week, failing to capitalize on a first and goal late. The Iggles physicality was too much to overcome, and the zebras home cooking didn't hurt. Big D is going to be as salty as a cookout in South Dallas come Sunday.

The Jynts counter with rookie QB Tommy (Louie DePalma) DeVito and RB Saquon (Audra) Barkley. Not enough as the Jynts O-line is a sieve. Danny (Dimes) Jones got his ACL torn off last week and Tyrod (Iron) Taylor is already counting his ribs.

The Look Man wouldn't touch this spread with a ten-foot pole. It looks like easy money, and easy money is typically not real. Pokes win, but covering these points in a division game after an emotional loss seems like too much.

*Houston Slim Shadies at Cincinnati Bengals (-6.5) – Pepto Bismol Upset of the Week*

The Bengals are back, baby, having won five of their last six. Joe Burrow is healthy and looks outstanding. His footwork is a thing of beauty and he isn't even putting the ball in harm's way with his pinpoint passing. The Nati win over the Bisons at home on FNIA was dominant.

Enter the Houston Slim Shadies, with their own QB CJ Stroud, who threw for a rookie record 470 and five TDs last week. Stroud took the team down the field to beat Cake Baker and the Expensive Corn Kings in the last 0:46 of regulation. Bake had just thrown a dime TD to TE Cade Otton, and was celebrating his two TD/200-yard/turnover free day on the sidelines.

Stroud is doing it with guys who aren't even household names in their own homes, and this kid is special. He will be playing in front of a lot of Ohio State fans, and this matchup of former OSU quarterbacks should be a shootout. The Bengals are looking ahead to a Thursday Night Football tilt at Baltimore, in a game that could seal the AFC Asgard title.

Look for Houston to parlay draft picks and coaching into a deep playoff run in two seasons. It starts Sunday, with an upset win at Cincinnati. Slim Shadies.



*Is Stroud the Rookie of the Year?*

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*Frisco Niners at Jacksonville J-Squads (+3)*

The Niners have been getting killed by the media, which discounts injuries to Christian (Run CMC) McCaffery and WR/Factor Back Deebo Samuel. QB Brock (Mark) Purdy played straight out of the concussion protocol with predictable results.

Jacksonville is America's Darling, with the photogenic QB Trevor (Vicki) Lawrence at the helm. This team has been on a tear, winning two across the pond, and hanging on for four more wins on American soil. The team is advertised as a passing juggernaut, but they remind the Look Man more of an AFC version of the Iggles. They want to get up early and pound the rock on the ground if possible.

Not possible against the Niners defense, which is also fresh off a bye week. LBs Fred (the Wonder Years) Warner and Dre Greenlaw are irritated with the 5-3 record and tied with Seattle for first place in the NFC West. Recently acquired DE Chase Young teams with former OSU mate Nick (Not Joey) Bosa to terrorize QBs on both coasts.

J-Ville provides the cure for Frisco, despite a valiant effort. Niners.



*Peyton and Eli on ESPN bring you Trevor (Five Head) Lawrence*

*NY Aeronauticals at Las Vegas Raiders (+2.5) Football Night in America*

The Raiders got the 'dead cat bounce' after firing HC Josh McDaniels, who was sucking the life out of this team. Interim HC Antonio (Hawkeye) Pierce had the Silver and Black operating at high efficiency, and they destroyed his former team, the hapless New York Football Jynts.

The other New York team is not hapless; more like a wasp that you think is dead, which then stings the crap out of you. HC Robert Saleh has the defense humming along, while the offense is hampered by poor QB play by Zach Wilson. Wilson was nearly unwatchable the last two weeks, going 1-1 in the process.

Hard to figure the Raiders going on a mini-tear, but this NY team is awful. Raiders win as a home dog.

*Denver Donkeys at Crapchester Bisons (-7.5) Monday Night Football*

The Look Man saw the Bisons live at Pall Bearer Stadium last week, and they nearly beat the Bengals, but lost to the Zebras. If the Look Man was the Bison D, he would be pretty salty with QB Josh (Irwin) Allen, who pulled his usual stupid human pet trick routine, throwing a pick deep in his own territory. It seemed that Allen pre-decided who was getting the rock on several plays, resulting in WR Stephon Diggs dominating and Gabe (Welcome Back Kotter) Davis getting shut out.

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Denver QB (Dange)Russ Wilson is playing better than the team around him, while receiving nearly no credit. He has a 4 to 1 TD/INT ratio, which is pretty incredible when you realize his wideouts stink on ice. If you are on pace to 30 TDs with this receiving staff, you are pretty good.

The Donkey defense, however, is another story. Crapchester rights the ship, winning but not covering the spread. Take the over and Denver with the points.

**EPILOGUE**

The Look Man is a little nostalgic of the good old days, when you had five or six classic NFL games each season. The games were recapped on weekly programs like *This Week in the NFL* and *Inside the NFL*, and the highlights didn't really do the games justice. These shows featured a national aluminum manufacturer highlighting the comeback game of the week with a catchy title.

You now have very few instant classics, as the NFL attempts to manufacture *Alcoa Fantastic Finishes* each week. The result is like Schrödinger's cat; you change the outcome when you meddle in the process.

We have officially reached the midpoint of the NFL season, if there is such a thing in a seventeen-game slog. The weather is about to break in the East, and soon turkeys and snow will be flying. This type of football weather is something the Big Ten needs to market. The SEC cannot compete against snow games, crackling fireplaces and being able to see your breath on the gridiron.

We can only hope the zebras allow the teams to play with the change in weather. It would be nice to return to those halcyon days of classic NFL games without laundry flying everywhere.

Peace,

The Look Man