

## THE LOOKMAN REPORT 2023

### Week Twelve: Next Time I Will Call Charlie

*"I know I have a big idea when I talk it over with Charlie and he says 'no' instead of saying 'that's the worst idea I've ever heard'." – Warren (The Oracle of Omaha) Buffet of Berkshire Hathaway when asked how he knows he has a good investing idea.*

#### PROLOGUE

The NFL Week Twelve brought several teams back to earth, while the Philly Iggles continued their dominance in the NFC. Of course, it was hard to tell since half the Iggles team wore black and white striped jerseys. They beat the Bisons in OT, preserving their one-loss record, and marking the third consecutive win over a talented squad.

The Turkey Day slate was meh, with several blowouts. The Pokes and Niners dominated while the Detroit Cadillacs succumbed to the Cheeseheads. This year featured a Black Friday game, and the Marine Mammals took care of the NY Aeronauticals. Needless to say, new QB Tim (Young Frankenstein) Boyle looked much like Zach Wilson, running for his life behind a subpar offensive line.

The Look Man story of the Week was Browns at Donkeys, where (Dange)Russ Wilson and the Donkey D put a 29-12 butt-kicking on Cleveland. As usual, the Zebras at Mile High Investigation Field were partial, and the Look Man bristled when he read Denver stories about how they cannot buy a call. They received nearly every call until the game was out of reach, partially due to the incredibly poor play calling of Browns HC Kevin Stefanski. After averaging an incredible 9.3 yards per carry in the first half, Big K eschewed the run in the second half with predictable results.

As the calendar turns to December, teams are facing inclement weather and need portable running games. The Browns would do well to learn this lesson, but it is universal. Run or perish.

Without further ado, the week that was.

#### LAGNIAPPE

##### Charlie (Freakin) Munger

Buffet's longtime business partner Charlie Munger passed away this week at the age of 99. The Oracle of Omaha shared a long-time business relationship with Munger that made both of them ridiculously wealthy along with thousands of others. Munger famously owned the same modest home for over 70 years despite the fact that he could afford more. Nuff said.

Though Buffet is known as the brains of the outfit, he once lost a billion on a bad bet on which he failed to consult Munger. After notifying the board, buffet infamously said, "Next time I'll call Charlie."

Munger created a distinctive company based upon purchasing high quality, high integrity companies with skilled workers, brand loyalty and transparent disclosure. B-H is currently going toe-to-toe with Browns owner and noted crook Jim Haslam, who attempted to get the better of them in the Pilot gas station purchase. Needless to say, B-H is suing, and Haslam is about to lose his shirt – again.

The Look Man doesn't have time or space to detail this relationship, but if you don't own B-H stock, you need to think about getting some.

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*The Oracle and the Abominable No Man...*

**ZEBRA OF THE WEEK**

Given how bad the officiating has been this year, the Look Man considered retiring this section. It almost seems like hacking at a man when he's down. But the Prime Thursday Night Football game cannot go unchallenged.

The Pokes and Seahawks played one of the most exciting games in 2023, with Dallas prevailing 41-35 late. But the real story was Referee Clete Blackman and his crew, which stole the show. Clete and Company called 25 penalties, of which 19 were accepted. But at least three were 'picked up' after the flag was thrown, stating, "There was no penalty." In addition, they overturned one Seattle TD catch, and officiated a sequence where the Seahawks scored three TDs in seven seconds, but only the last one counted.

At the end of the night, Clete tied the record for the third-most flags, with 257 penalty yards. He narrowly missed the record of 374 and turned a potentially fantastic contest into a mess. The Niners and Browns October 15 contest held the previous 2023 record with 25 accepted penalties for 224 yards.

Seahawks coach Pete Carroll was pissed, especially with some bad clock management where the zebras moved the football, but did not reset the clock, costing Seattle a delay of game despite Carroll signaling timeout. "It's unfortunate. It feels like there's a whole other factor in this game," Carroll said. "I don't know. You guys saw it a lot better than I did, but there were just way too many penalties in this game from both sides, and we've got to get out of that kind of football."

The Cowboys ended up with nine for 127 yards, but they were getting away with a LOT of holding and received way too many DPI calls in their favor.

Clete Blakeman, you are the Look Man Zebra of the Week!

**THE LOOKAHEAD**

Baltimore continues to impress, the Iggles are rolling, and the J-Squareds look like a lock to win the AFC Souse. Vegas, and the NFL are making a killing in gambling money, but the outlook may shift due to bad weather across the East in December.

Without further ado, the Lookahead to Week Thirteen:

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*Video courtesy of the Official Little Brother of the Look Man*

*San Francisco Niners at Philadelphia Iggles (+3)*

The Iggles have pulled of some nice back-to-back wins over good teams, but the buck stops here. The Niners are coming back after a solid Thanksgiving Day performance. They are healthy, talented, and ready to make a statement in the NFC. And that statement is: Philly who?

And by the way, enjoy the Brotherly Shove play while you can Iggles Fan; it will be illegal in 2024. Niners cover and win at the Linc.

*Denver Doncos at Houston Slim Shadies (-3.5)*

Denver may be the hottest team in the AFC right now, winners of six straight. Their recent conquest of the Browns showed some cute coaching which took advantage of an over-aggressive D-line and solid running by DangeRuss.

This Houston team is no joke, losing a game to J-Ville by a doinked FG. Stroud is on the verge of breaking rookie passing records by Andrew Luck, and he is doing it with an offense that is not even good yet. This Kid is legit, and it is only Year One of the CJ Stroud Experience.

The Zebras helped J-Ville steal the win in Week Twelve, which preserves the illusion of a supposedly elite team. This just in: they ain't elite and Houston takes down Denver this week to prove who is boss in the AFC Souse. Slim Shadies.



*One yard short of leading the AFC Souse Division*

*Cleveland Browns at Sofi Rams (-3.5)*

The Rams bounced back last week with a laugh at Sofi. It was the first time LA put up 38 points in a minute and looked good doing it. Rams RB [insert name here] is healthy and rolled to two bills rushing, making it look easy.

Here come the banged-up Browns, with their fourth QB of the season and injuries to Myles Garrett, Denzel Ward, and Amari Cooper. They have no chance to win against the Rams and might get embarrassed.

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Not so fast, my friend. The Browns decided to stay out west after getting hosed by the Doncos in Dener last week. While the second week in a row on the road is usually a bad look, the Look Man predicts that the time together at UCLA is going to help this squad. Kevin Stefanski can get his head out of his...clouds and call a decent game with (Cool) Joe Flacco at the helm. RB Jerome Ford is the real deal, and he can gash a defense, run with power, and catch the rock.

Flacco has stayed in shape for a 38-year-old, and though his recent numbers are not good, he was playing for the Jets, whose O-line is trash. Give him a running game and some targets, and he is going to light it up. Maybe not this week, but for the balance of the year. The Look Man likes this move to add depth at QB, giving the team a chance to continue a playoff run and not waste a historically good defensive performance.

Browns, baby Browns as Cleveland turns Sofi into Dawg Pound West on Sunday.



*Gas left in the tank for Cool Joe Flacco*

### KC Baby Backs at Green Bay Cheeseheads (+6.5) Football Night in America

The Cheese stands alone in a woeful NFC Black and Blue as the Pack puts together a nice win on Turkey Day over Detroit. The Cheeseheads actually beat the Cadillacs and the Zebras in that contest and their reward is to face a dysfunctional KC team that got down by fourteen early at Vegas last week.

Not to fear, as KC runs, passes, and schemes past the Pack on Sunday. KC covers and wins to keep pace in the superior AFC.

### Cincinnati Bengals at J-ville J-Squareds (-8.5) (-7.5) Monday Night Football

The Bengals are dead, but no one told the fans. Burrow is so responsible for most of their success, and they allowed their best defensive players walk during free agency. This Lou Anarumo defense plays from the back to the front, and the safeties have been awful this year.

Perhaps worse, Sam Hubbard and Hendrickson cannot get on the field at the same time. A bad pass rush, poor safety play and the NFL attempting to turn Trevor Lawrence into the next "it" girl spells trouble. J-Squareds are looking over their shoulders at Indy, and with good reason. J-Ville.

## EPILOGUE

The Look Man is writing this week's prose on an airplane headed to The City of Angels. As anyone who has ever attempted to work a PC on an airplane knows, it stinks. The drink cart nearly removed a

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shoulder, and the legroom is horrid. Still, something nice about an early winter roadie, and Sofi will be the twenty-fourth NFL stadium for the Look Man.

The NFL Flex scheduling is raising its ugly head again this year. The Saturday December 16 slate includes Stillers-Ponies, Donkeys at Detroit, and Hornheads at Bengals. While the Look Man loves the nostalgia of Saturday NFL, it kills the fans when you cannot even make travel arrangements during a hectic holiday season. The Look Man himself is sitting on Ponies and Hornheads tickets that he cannot sell because: (a) the Bengals stink without Burrow, and (b) the dates were in flux.

It is clear that the NFL doesn't care about the fans anymore, but this is ridiculous. Perhaps more ridiculous is the attempt to manufacture matchups like Philly at Dallas by ensuring that the Pokes beat a scrappy Seattle squad. That game nearly set a record for penalties, and the Seahawks threw three TDs in seven seconds just before the halftime. Only one counted as the zebras had the under.

The league had better be careful, or it is going to kill the Golden Goose. After all, in the words of Mark Cuban, with regard to investing strategy: "Pigs get fed; hogs get slaughtered."

Peace,

The Look Man