

THE LOOKMAN REPORT 2023

Week Nineteen – “You don’t mess...”

"There's a few quarterbacks who have thrown me multiple picks in my career, and Dak is now one of them. So, he's among my top QBs." - Packers CB Jaire Alexander, whose first quarter pick started a points avalanche in a big win at Big D.

PROLOGUE

The Look Man is really taken with the new Amazon Reacher franchise, featuring Alan Ritchson as the title character. Lee Child crafted the protagonist as a 6'5" Brobdingnag who kicks ass and drinks coffee, and is all out of coffee. Jack Reacher is an ex-MP who solves real life crime as a champion of the underdog. The previous incarnation with Tom Cruise was entertaining, but the Look Man was left unsatisfied by the size discrepancy.

Year one of the series was excellent, and the second season, *Bad Luck and Trouble*, does not disappoint. The standard line, *"You do not mess with the special investigators"* applies in the NFL as well. Teams that make the tournament are not to be taken lightly, as Cleveland and Dallas found out – *The Hard Way*. Each was dismantled by an upstart squad that was younger and meaner in Super Wild Card Weekend.

The rest of the weekend was decent, with KC, Detroit, Tampa, and Crapchester battling their way to the Divisional Playoff round. KC and Miami played in a freezer bowl game that featured shattered helmets and frozen 'staches. Mahomes and the Baby Backs were physical and this top five defense is not messing around.

The Look Man was not thrilled with the officiating, including the Corn Kings nearly tearing the helmet off Jalen (Hulu has live sports) Hurts without a flag. There was holding on nearly every big offensive play by (Cake) Baker, and the Iggles dropped several picks. It was almost as if they wanted to get their defensive coordinator, Matt (Peppermint Patty) Patricia fired.

The Stillers WR George Pickens was victimized by a no-call on DPI, and some questionable personal foul call on a late Josh (Irwin) Allen slide. Pickens, when asked about it later, opined, "Can't play the Bills and the refs."

Without further ado, the week that was...



Peppermint Patty will not be back in Philly in 2024

THE LOOKMAN REPORT 2023
Week Nineteen – “You don’t mess...”

LAGNIAPPE

Travis (Freakin’) Kelce

The Look Man is the last to typecast players, whether it is football or the other kind. Kelce grew up in a very integrated Cleveland Heights neighborhood, and clearly looked to move up to flavor country. His previous affairs with Maya, Zuri and Kayla would lead one to believe he likes a certain body type. These women are built for speed, not comfort, and present an interesting contrast to Taylor Swift.



Kelce's Angels

Dak is back?

Dak Prescott has played in seven playoff games in his career, compiling at 2-5 record. His 92.3 playoff passer rating is no joke, and it comes with nearly 2000 passing yards, fourteen TDs and seven picks. So why hasn't Dak won in the postseason? The answer is the lack of balance. Dak has averaged over sixty passes in that span, eschewing the running game that sets up his play action. The slant pass was

THE LOOKMAN REPORT 2023

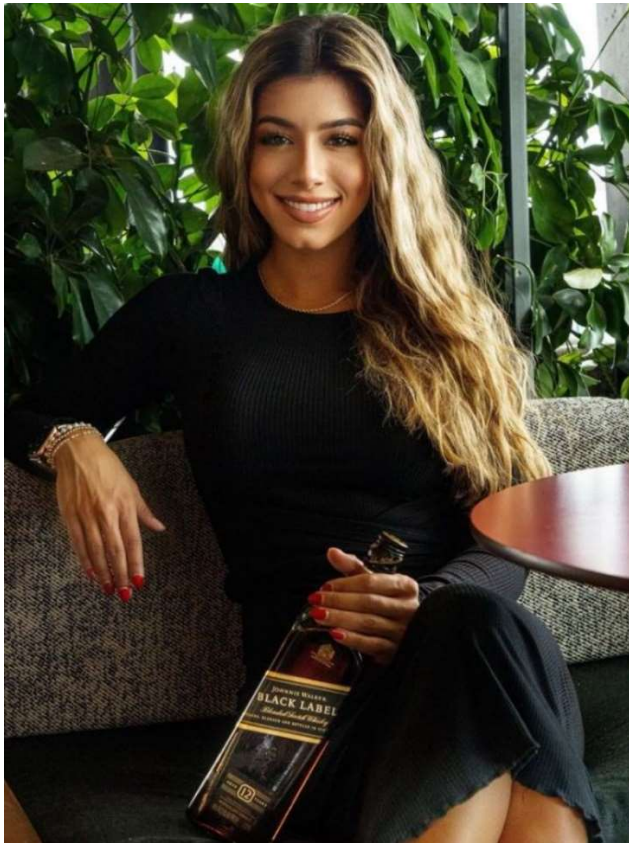
Week Nineteen – “You don’t mess...”

responsible for two picks last week alone, with defenders following Dak’s eyes right to the rock for a pick six and a game-changing pick deep in Dallas territory.

The Pokes need a HC to protect Dak from himself, and so far, they haven’t had one. McCarthy should have run the football and set up the pass off the running game. Instead, he opened up throwing, and Dak looked more like Joe Flacco than the second coming of Roger Staubach.

The really odd part of this game was the disagreement between CeeDee Lamb and Dak. It was unclear what was driving the friction, but Lamb’s first reception occurred near the Two Minute Warning. Prescott was uncharacteristically wild, throwing high and as if he had a bad case of the yips. Whatever it was, it put Dallas in a hole that they could not surmount.

McCarthy was renewed for the 2024 season this week, but not really. And as long as Jerrah Jones is coach and GM of the Pokes, they will fail.



Dak's GF Sarah Jane Ramos holding Jerrah's favorite Scotch...

THE LOOKAHEAD

The Super Wild Card Weekend is over, and we now look ahead to the Divisional Playoffs. Baltimore and Frisco watched with a bye week, and now the lowest seeds must travel to them. Both teams will be ready to pounce, knowing three wins equals a Lombardi.

Without further ado, the Lookahead to Week Eighteen.

THE LOOKMAN REPORT 2023

Week Nineteen – “You don’t mess...”

Saturday

Houston Slim Shadies at Baltimore Dumpster Ducks (-9.5/110)

The Look Man knew that Houston was a dangerous team peaking at the right time, and that is why this spread is whack. Lamar (Action) Jackson is the presumptive MVP, but if you saw what the Look Man saw, this CJ Stroud kid is no joke. He throws with touch and anticipation, and despite a lack of weapons, he simply balls out.

Baltimore is going to attempt to pound the football in this one, and Lamar seems to have gotten over his inability to throw outside the numbers. The Look Man’s film review shows there are as many drops as catches, and Odell Beckham Jr. is running TE routes over the middle.

Take the Slim Shadies and the points. It will be a battle royale, but this upstart H-Town team is no joke. Houston covers.

Green Bay Cheeseheads at Frisco Niners (-10/110)

The Cheese stands alone after a romp at Big D last weekend, in what many saw as a surprise. The only real surprise is that HC Mike McCarthy survived to coach another year in Dallas. Jerrah Jones simply doesn’t have enough left in the tank to start over by dumping Mac and Dak.

Jordan Love (Broker) threw dimes in the win, and the defense was not Swiss cheese. That all changes on Saturday, when a rested and ready Niners team spreads them on crackers. This Niners team is poised for a deep run, and a win here sets up the NFC Championship at Levi.

Mark Purdy (Good), Chirstian (Run CMC) McCaffrey, and Deebo (Friday) Samuel have too much firepower for the Cheeseheads. Niners cover and win.

Sunday

Tampa Bay Expensive Corn Kings at Detroit Cadillacs (-6/110)

(Cake) Baker Mayfield is having a career year, but this Detroit squad may be a Team of Destiny. The biggest challenge is an emotional letdown after knocking off Jared (Subway) Allen’s Rams in the WCW.

The Look Man doesn’t see the Detroit crowd allowing for a defensive lapse, however, and they might be the loudest home field remaining in the postseason. Bake puts up two picks and two TDs, but it ain’t enough. Cadillacs.

KC Baby Backs at Crapchester Bisons (-2.5/125)

The NFL is hoping to catch lightning in a bottle again, as these two perennial AFC contenders meet again. The last battle was shorted out with an ill-timed offensive offsides on one of the coolest plays of the season. Since that win, the Bisons have ripped off a number of big wins courtesy of the Josh (Reacher) Allen, who is punishing folks with his legs and arm.

But folks don’t realize just how good this KC defense is since the return of Nick Bolton (#32). Bolton, Karlaftis, Chirs Jones and a deep secondary are making it tough on folks to score, and Crapchester is no exception. Baby Backs.

EPILOGUE

The Super Wild Card Weekend didn’t live up to expectations with two blowouts, two mediocre contests impacted by the Zebras, and one decent game in Detroit. The KC game didn’t qualify as a blowout, but

THE LOOKMAN REPORT 2023
Week Nineteen – “You don’t mess...”

you never once felt that Miami was going to win it. That is, if you have Peacock streaming at all. This game was the most watched ever on a streaming service, and no one even saw the game.

The NFL would like to make all games pay per view, forcing the fans to pony up to watch what was once free. It seems wrong to the Look Man, and it will eventually disenfranchise millions of fans. GenZ already doesn’t care about the NFL, and if another generation is lost, the NFL will see financial reversals.

Mark Cuban predicted the decline of the NFL, saying greed was going to take them down. Overexposure, international expansion and streaming are just examples. The expansion to an eighteen-game season is almost a certainty, and injuries are already affecting play. More quarterbacks played in 2023 season than ever before, and for every Joe Flacco story, you have an Aaron Rodgers story.

The Look Man hopes the Divisional Round adds some drama, but more likely, it will have to wait for the Conference Championships. And when you put all of your eggs in one basket, sometimes that basket gets dropped.

Peace,

The Look Man