

THE LOOKMAN REPORT 2023

Week Twenty-One: Omar's Coming

"Ayo, lesson here, Bey. You come at the king, you best not miss." – Omar Little, The Wire

PROLOGUE

The Look Man can scarcely think of a better show than HBO's The Wire, and the quote above is a microcosm of the message. Alas, Michael Kenneth Williams and Lance Reddick died last year, but one would be hard pressed to omit this franchise from televisions' Pantheon.

Similarly, Conference Championship Sunday was incredible, as the Baby Backs and Dumpster Ducks engaged in a slobberknocker for the Ages and Detroit at Frisco was a nail biter. The Cadillacs went up seventeen points in the first half, and the Official Youngest Brother of the Look Man's prediction of a Detroit win looked plausible. But the Look Man noticed HC Dan Campbell (Soup) on the sideline, and he was never in doubt.

Soup blew the regular season Dallas game by eschewing points in the red zone, and he picked right up where he left off there. After telling CBS the winner would be "the first team to 30" he passed on two field goals late. The final 34-31 score was not indicative, as Campbell mismanaged the clock and timeouts down the stretch. He is most responsible for the outcome, being badly outcoached by Kyle Shanahan. And when that happens, you know you really stink as a head coach.

Andy (Kool Aid) Reid was his usual ice water self, forcing John (not Jim) Harbaugh to choke by passing the football instead of pounding the rock. Baltimore turned the ball over three times, including the goal line fumble by WR Zay (Call Me) Flowers. Many fans blamed Flowers for the loss, which included a taunting call on top of the fumble.

The Look Man looks at coaching, including allowing emotion to turn the Number One defense in the NFL into a litany of ill-timed penalty makers. Several personal foul calls were made, and just as many could've been called on the Dumpster Ducks. Perhaps using Ray (Ray) Lewis and Terrell Suggs wasn't the right choice?

When the smoke cleared, the two best teams were left standing, setting up one of the best finals games evah. The Look Man truly likes and respects both contenders, and the game should rise to expectations for a change.

Without further ado, the week that was...

LAGNIAPPE

Tech Savvy

CBS will employ 165 cameras and new technology on Sunday, including the first TV ever stationed at the Fountains of Bellagio. The technology will focus on high def with enhanced zoom capabilities and 48 slo-mo cameras in addition to the pylon cams in the endzone. There will be sky cams, fly cams, drones, and even augmented reality cams. The Look Man is not even sure what that last one is, but it sounds like something used in the movie *Brainstorm* with Natalie Wood. If Taylor Swift though she was overexposed in 2023, just wait until she shows up in Vegas.

All of this video should make for an exceptional viewing, but alas, the Look Man does not even own a 4K TV. He will be relegated to watching on conventional HD, with a sound bar turned up to maximum.

THE LOOKMAN REPORT 2023

Week Twenty-One: Omar's Coming

Zero Tolerance

The Look Man's workplace recently established a zero-tolerance policy on drugs and alcohol. Them is just fancy words to say if you get overserved on Super Sunday and show up with a Blood Alcohol Level above 0.01, you might be looking for work.

The Look Man is no teetotaler, and this policy seems draconian. The federal and state standard for DUI is 0.08, and while you don't want to show up to work hammered, there is a big gap between the two values. If you've ever awakened after real humdinger, had a glass of water and felt a little unsteady, you know what the Look Man is talking about.

You don't want to purchase an automobile manufactured the day following the Big Game, and there are billions in lost productivity this week. Perhaps the Powers That Be should consider making Super Bowl Monday a national holiday. That would eliminate some of the productivity loss, and make for a more enjoyable game.

Viewing pleasure

The Look Man took in two shows this week that surprised him. The first was the Grammy Awards show, which is typically overlong and somewhat tedious. This year's show featured Tracy Chapman and Joni Mitchell, two stars who have been too long out of the limelight. It also leaned into Girl Power, with women taking center stage and stealing the show. There were some warts, but Emcee Trevor Noah was pure energy, but the performances were dominated by young talented women, and viewers were the better for it.

The second show was the NFL Honors award show in which annual winners of the year were feted by the money-making machine that is the NFL. The show was hosted by Keegan-Michael Kagan of *Key and Peele* fame, and it was surprisingly solid. Cam Heyward was presented the NFL Man of the Year award by Prince Harry, and Barry Sanders made a cameo. But the Look Man's favorite might have been the Kirk (Curt) Cousins/Cam Jordan presentation for Defensive Player of the Year.

Hornheads QB went all Kirko Chainz, performing a musical number with the Magic Mike Dance Team. Cousins danced on his surgically repaired Achilles, tossing aside rumors that he is not a viable free agent. He also doubled down after last year, when he sang Kelly Clarkson's hit song "Since U Been Gone" in honor of Tom Terrific. Well, at least it was better than the Wayfair commercial...<https://youtu.be/chtyGhMIIP8>

The awards were somewhat pro forma, with Myles Garrett getting DPOY, CJ Stroud Offensive ROTY, and Joe Flacco Comeback POTY. It was amazing to see Browns players in the limelight, and the film clips of the year's best are always fantastic.

Cousins has the rare gift of not taking himself too seriously, and Twitter is all in. The Look Man wouldn't want him as a QB, but he is surprising as a performer. It reminded the Look Man of the infamous line from *Beverly Hills Cop*, when Victor Maitland's henchman asks Axel Foley, "What up Cuz?" right before he punches him in the gut.

THE LOOKMAN REPORT 2023
Week Twenty-One: Omar's Coming



"What up Cuz? "

ZEBRA OF THE WEEK

In vino veritas

Bill (the Winemaker) Vinovich is doing the game on Super Bowl Sunday, a return engagement from Super Bowl LIV between the Niners and Baby Backs. KC won that contest, unlike the Religious Icons in the infamous NFC Championship in which a DPI no-call propelled the Rams to the final. The Look Man is not a huge fan of the Winemaker, but he is better than Ron Torbert or Brad (Small Head) Allen.

Super Bowl LVIII also features the first official to ever play and officiate in a Super Bowl in umpire Terry Killens. Killens made a special teams tackle for the Flaming Thumbtacks in Super Bowl XXXIV, a game that resulted in a Lombardi for the Greatest Show on Turf.

Senior Zebras make about two hundred fitty large, with three to five large additional for each playoff game. The Super Bowl can earn them another fitty large on top of their base salary, not to mention the fact that they all have day jobs. Not a bad haul for blind, cripple, and crazy equines on the Serengeti.

The Look Man predicts an excellent game, and a close finish. Let's hope the Winemaker doesn't cock it up.

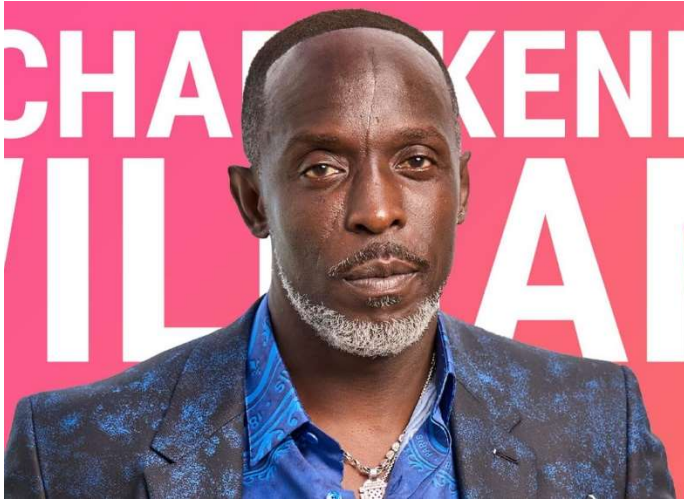
THE LOOKAHEAD

Super Sunday is almost here, and one of the greatest sporting days of the year cannot come soon enough. The NBA is leveraging a triple-header in the run-up, and studio shows will drone on for four hours.

The Look Man has spent a lot of time in Las Vegas, and it represents the pinnacle of debauchery. It is like Disneyland for adults, and between the gambling, booze and beautiful women, one would be hard pressed to think of a more appropriate venue. Gladiator sports and Vegas are a match made in Heaven, and this will be the first ever in the Biggest Little City in the World.

Without further ado, the Lookahead to The Ultimate Game.

THE LOOKMAN REPORT 2023
Week Twenty-One: Omar's Coming



Omar's coming...

KC Baby Backs at Frisco Niners (-2/47.5)

The Look Man is surprised by this spread which opened at Niners -1. Apparently, <https://youtu.be/chtyGhMlP8he> injury to KC guard Joe (Loony) Thuney and NT Derrick Nnamdi are big drivers to the number.

But the Look Man likes QB Patrick Mahomes in any fight, and backed up by HC Andy (Kool-Aid) Reid, he has a puncher's chance. He and Kelce own the receiving TD record, and he Rashee Rice and the rest of his offensive weapons are outstanding.

Besides, this KC defense is better than anyone thinks, bowing their backs and shutting down one of the best running games in the NFL in Baltimore. They defeated the NFL MVP Lamar (Action) Jackson and withstood a physical defense that turned the Niners offense into mush meat. In the words of Omar Little from The Wire, this KC team is tops, and the Niners had better not miss.

Niners HC Kyle Shanahan has no shortage of weapons of his own, with Christian (Run CMC) McCaffrey, Deebo Samuel, George Kittle, and Brandon Aiyuk. QB Brock (Steady) Purdy won't face any rain in the domed Allegiant Stadium, and Shanny scripts the first 25 plays.

The Frisco defense is also star studded with Nick Bosa, Fred Warner and Dre Greenlaw, with DE Chase Young for good measure. These guys play a Tampa Two with talented corners on the back end, and they can bring the wood. Look for the Niners to go up early, with KC making halftime adjustments and winning a close one at the finish line.

The Look Man likes KC in this one. These guys have been there, done that, and this is their chance for a legacy grab. Mahomes told the team he would pay to fly them all back to Vegas if they win a ring on Sunday. Reid gets his third ring after they said he couldn't win the Big One in Philly. Baby Backs, baby.

THE LOOKMAN REPORT 2023
Week Twenty-One: Omar's Coming



The MVC - "I gotta start locking this place up"

EPILOGUE

The 2023 season grinds to a close with the hype that is the Super Bowl. Allegiant Stadium is the latest jewel in the crown of the NFL, and it is somewhat fitting that this season finishes at the apex of legal wagering. The fans there are very savvy about gambling, and they see what we all see: the fix looks to be in with the NFL heavily invested in Draft Kings and Stub Hub.

Based upon early returns, Niners Fan will dominate the stadium, booing KC early and often. Around the Horn asked this week whether the Baby Backs are playing the villain card, and the reviews are mixed. There is a lot of anti-Taylor Swift hate, and most of it unwarranted.

The NFL PR machine nearly always gets it wrong, and this year's attempt to curry favor with the Swifties and women in general is no exception. Their cameras go to Swift too often, and it is not her fault that she is overexposed. Her love story with Travis Kelce is trite, but her fans are fiercely loyal. Too bad the NFL cannot figure it out.

Peace,

The Look Man