

## THE LOOKMAN REPORT 2025

### Week One – Zebras on Parade

*"I just have juicy lips by nature. Some of my former girlfriends complained about sloppy kisses, but I never knew it could cost me money. It was a mistake that happened on my side, and it just won't happen again," - Philly DT Jalen Carter following his ejection for spitting on Pokes QB Dak Prescott*

#### PROLOGUE

The Look Man cannot remember a Week One in which so many tight games occurred. On a full moon night in September, NFL fans were treated to a gem in Crapchester. The Bisons and Dumpster Ducks put on a show, and the Bisons got the one stop they needed courtesy of a King Henry fumble. The One Stop Principle can win you a championship in the NFL, as previously proved by Philly, and the Rams.

The Football Night in America 41-40 instant classic between Baltimore and Buffalo couldn't have been more appropriate. Folks questioned the 2024 MVP selection of Josh (Irwin) Allen over Lamar (Action) Jackson. Allen responded in mid-season form to snatch a regulation victory from the Dumpster Ducks, who dominated the game. Jackson didn't bring his Superman cape to Crapchester, and couldn't overcome the late turnover. Given the fifteen-point fourth quarter lead, this may be the best game nobody even watched live.

Allen produced three TDs and 251 passing yards in the game, but these stats were ONLY the fourth quarter numbers. Josh put the cape on and wore it home Sunday night in a game that has clear post-season implications. Crapchester might be peaking too soon, but they clearly looked like a champion squad.

In other news, an Iggles player went full Bill Romanowski on international TV, the zebras went full WWE with some ridiculous calls, and there was even a Danny Dimes sitting in Indianapolis. Week One was, in Star Trek terminology, "fascinating."

#### LAGNIAPPE

##### Mafioso Misfire

A Bills fan got treated on Sunday night like the officials treated Jalen Carter on Thursday night. A member of the Bisons Mafia shoved both Baltimore WR DeAndre Hopkins and QB Lamar Jackson in the helmet after a third-quarter TD celebration. The mafioso was ejected, and is now banned indefinitely from attending any NFL games anywhere.

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TRENDING: "THE" #BILLS FAN WHO WAS HIT BY LAMAR JACKSON APOLOGIZES WITH HIS NECK BRACE ON.



This is gold.



*The fan in full litigation mode, apologizing for his actions with a neck brace...*

The Look Man wondered whether Jackson would face a fine or suspension, and the NFL has now rejected that notion. This harkens back to Baltimore Colts LB Mike Curtis, who once decked a fan who came onto the field. When fans attempt to become part of the action, it's caveat emptor!

#### Browns Lose in Singular Fashion

The Browns lost a heartbreaker 17-16 in the Battle of Ohio. After Flacco drove them into position to hit the game winning field goal, rookie kicker John (Jacob Jingleheimer) Szymt missed the kick. He also missed an extra point that would've tied the contest at seven in the first quarter.

Szymt beat out Dustin (Kramer vs. Kramer) Hopkins after a difficult training camp this year. D-Hop junior survived a tough 2024, which saw him miss several key PATs and FGs, with the fans calling for his head. Unfortunately, the front office resigned Hopkins after the Miracle playoff year in 2023, and Cleveland is now on the hook for dead salary cap hits this year and next of almost \$6 million combined.

Most of the \$2 million cap hit occurs in 2025, only slightly less than his cap hit if he hadn't been released, with the balance in 2026. That amounts to a wild swing from an extension that seemed like money well spent at the time.

Browns Fan is now calling for Szymt to be fired in favor of one of the following free agent kickers:

- Dustin Hopkins
- Greg Zuerlein
- Eddy Pineiro
- Michael Badgley
- Greg Joseph

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### Week One – Zebras on Parade

- Austin Seibert
- Zane Gonzalez
- Cade York
- Matt McCrane

Of course, the first name is the guy Szytm 'beat out' in camp after the fans demanded a change.

You could likely add Matt Prater to that list, but after his heroic efforts in place of Tyler Bass, he is likely to stick. The guys in yellow have already kicked for Cleveland, including Cade York, who was drafted in the third round, but has developed a years long case of the yips. The Look Man personally likes Greg (the Leg) Zeurlein for the job.

Browns Fan is killing GM Andrew Berry for the mistake, but there is no guarantee Hopkins would have done better. Kickers are like a box of chocolates; you never know which one is nuts.



*"I'd like to buy a vowel, please, Pat?"*

### **ZEBRA OF THE WEEK**

#### Road Field Advantage?

The Look Man figured the NFL had nowhere to go but up following the Jalen Carter spit take fiasco, but he was incorrect. The Bengals-Browns, Hornheads-Bears, TN-Denver, and Tampa-ATL games were all significantly impacted by officiating.

The Battle of Ohio began with so many horrible calls on both sides, stifling both offenses due to their inability to gain a rhythm. The Minnesota-Chicago game featured a defensive pass interference that Stevie Wonder complained about. Denver stole the game from the Flaming Thumbtacks in what was reminiscent of the old Mile High zebra advantage. The Look Man wondered if Denver ownership is sending Walmart cash to the NFL league office. And (Cake) Bake Mayfield completed his come-from-behind victory using Columbian neckties by his offensive linemen.

In short, the NFL has a significant officiating problem. The new kickoff rules could result in fewer touchbacks, but DPI / defensive holding continues to be a problem. And the only solution appears to be more cowbell...

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#### Spit Take?

Week One was one of the most poorly officiated weeks the Look Man has ever seen, and that is saying something. The NFL Kickoff on Thursday night featured DT Jalen Carter spitting on Pokes QB Dakota Prescott before the first offensive play. Carter was correctly ejected by Head Zebra Shawn Smith, but the NFL fined him only a game check.

While \$58 large may seem like a big number to most, Carter has routinely engaged in head slaps and other intents to injure throughout his career. He deserves a suspension of at least two games.



*Carter is not a good human being*

#### THE LOOKAHEAD

Week One is now history, and KC, Baltimore, Detroit, and Dallas are among the unfortunate teams looking to avoid an 0-2 start. Week Two is not only relevant, but in the words of the late Yogi Berra, "It gets late early around here."

#### J-Ville J-Squareds at Cincinnati Bengals (-3.5/49)

The Look Man made a special trip to see this Travis Hunter that the Browns passed on at number two overall. Hunter has played nearly exclusively at wideout, but could see action in nickel packages. The Look Man believes this is a mistake, but it has been a long time since a two-way player appeared in the NFL, so it should be entertaining.

The J-Squareds QB, Trevor Lawrence, is already a known quantity as the old woman playing QB in the NFL. Lawrence now has his fifth coordinator and third head coach to go along with a \$55 million bag. Folks in Duvall County are beginning to wonder if he will ever be their golden girl. If nothing else, it's Pretty Boy vs. Pretty Boy when he and Joe Burrow lock locks...

As stated last week, Bengals QB Joe (Brrr) Burrow has a penchant for early season picks, but the Browns dropped at least two last week. The J-Ville secondary is on the side of milk cartons all over the Southland, but perhaps they can squeeze the ball a few times.

Irrespective, the Look Man expects this Bengals defense melts down in the Indian Summer heat on Sunday. Also, Zebra Alan Eck will be officiating, he of the recent weight room physique and well exercised whistle. J-Squareds cover and steal a win via the Big Play. J-Ville.

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*Eck, a former member of the Eight Street Husseys*

#### Cleveland Browns at Baltimore Dumpster Ducks (-11.5/45)

QB Lamar (Action) Jackson is a regular season wonder, posting two MVPs, and missing a third due to Josh (Irwin) Allen's incredible performance in 2024. Action is the tip of the spear for a Baltimore squad that is strong in all three areas.

Baltimore became the first team in NFL history to drop at least 40 points, rush for 235 yards, and lose, ending up on the wrong end of a 277-1 record. HC John Harbaugh has lost eight games with a fourth quarter lead of at least eight.

Teams now realize that the Dumpster Ducks can be had, and that Lamar Jackson's *Kryptonite* is the final quarter. Browns, baby, Browns, to send B-More to 0-2 and the bottom of the AFC Asgard Division.

#### NY Football Jynts at Dallas Cowpokes (-5.5/44.5)

Pass rush is the Jynts stock in trade, and the O-line in Big D is untested. Can the new NY Sack Exchange put QB Dakota Prescott on skates?

Jynts QB (Dange)Russ Wilson has looked awful, and HC is already on the hot seat. Fans want to see rookie Jaxon Dart, who is not yet ready for prime time. The Look Man would settle for (Famous) Jameis Winston, who is the sole member of Club 40/40 (touchdowns and picks in a single season). JW could torch this defense and run just enough to stay healthy. Of course, Famous could also throw two pick sixes before the greatest post-game interview of all time, praising God, and praying for better vision.

Here are the hidden indicators: (1) Russell Wilson is 5-1 against Dallas in his career; (2) the Pokes were winless in Arlington in 2024, the only American professional sports team to fail to obtain a single home win. For analytic nuts, that record is 152-1, for the NBA, NHL, MLB, NFL, and MLS; (3) this dumpster fire needs a fuse, and a G-Men win in Week Two puts Jerrah on Def-Con 2. Jynts in an upset.

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#### Frisco Niners at New Orleans Religious Icons (+3.5/40.5)

Frisco just signed QB Mark Purdy (Good) to a huge \$50 million contract, so of course, he is slated to miss two to five weeks. These guys are a walking M\*A\*S\*H unit right now, but their schedule is a proverbial “walk in the cake” as former Browns HC Butch Davis would say.

No Purdy, no problem as the Icons are barely even a competent NFL squad. HC Kellen (Go-Go Gopher) Moore is in for a long season. He may single-handedly bring back the *Underdog* cartoon show.



*Colonel Kit Coyote isn't going to like this...*

#### Denver Donkeys at Indy Ponies (+1.5/43.5)

The Ponies' Danny (Dimes) Jones proves whether he is for real or simply *Memorex*. The Look Man likes him over Bo Nix, who appears to be in a sophomore slump. And HC Sean Payton (place) believes good enough is the enemy of perfection. Ponies.

#### Philly Cream Cheese Iggles at KC Baby Backs (+1.5/47) [Super Bowl LIX rematch]

Andy (Kool Aid) Reid needs a win, and faces his old squad. KC is a home dog for the first time in the 2020s. KC covers to avenge its Super Bowl loss.

#### Tampa Bay Expensive Corn Kings at Houston Slim Shadies (-2.5/42.5) – MNF Game 1

CJ Stroud looked lost last week. His O-line was allowing the defense to light him up. He finds a run game and WR Nico Collins in Week Two and the defense returns to form. Houston covers.

### EPILOGUE

NFL season 106 is off to a roaring start, with several games providing tremendous entertainment. The game quality is mediocre, and the players are not yet in shape. The Look Man likes to say that it takes two weeks to get into game shape on defense, and four weeks to find an offensive personality. Some teams are already there, while others are in the queue.

Only time will tell in the National...Football...League.

Peace,

The Look Man