

The Look Man Report 2004

Week 18: Total Eclipse of the Moss

Wild Card Week is one of the Look Man's favorites, and Week 18 did not fail to please. The games lived up to the name, with one overtime and one near-miss. The only 2 car wrecks were at the RCA Dome and Lambeau, where the frozen tundra got heated up by Randy (Moon) Moss' antics in the endzone.

In short, the week featured:

- 1) Mike (The Cockatoo) Martz sweeping Seattle;
- 2) Mike (Fried) Tice outcoaching Mike Sherman (Tank) at Lambeau;
- 3) Mike (the Rat) Shanahan extending his playoff losing streak since Elway hung 'em up.

Without further Mike, the week in review:

Lambs @ Hags:

The St. Louise Lambs headed to Coffeetown for the trifecta over the Seattle Seahags. The game started out looking like a rout, as Marc (The Scarecrow) Bulger went thru the Hags D like a hot knife through buttah. The game turned when the Hags defense began to knock the Scarecrow around like a pinyata, evidently determined to see what would fall out.

Bulger took a wicked hit from Hags LB Chad Brown, who drilled the QB before he could take a knee. Lambs trainers Dorothy and Toto had to take a timeout to put the straw back into Bulger's head. Not to be outdone, Hags QB Matt (Hair Club for Men) Hasselback got whipsawed 2 or 3 times himself, forcing his center Robbie (Benson) Tobeck to tell another player, "Man, it almost knocked me out just to see him get hit like that! I told him, next time he better just throw it away, or he is going to end up in the hospital."

The game was extremely hard hitting. Lambs LB Tommy Polley try to rip someone's face off on a potential pick and limited the running and passing game for Seattle. When Hags WR Darryl (D-Jack) Jackson dropped 8 balls, unknown Lambs receivers Kevin (Jamie Leigh) Curtis, Shaun (Ronald) McDonald and Cam Cleeland (Heights) took over the game as the Scarecrow delivered passes to 10 different guys. HCFM tried to tie the game with a gallant 2:00 drill, but WR Bobby (Brain) Engram dropped the game tying TD on 4th down. Game over, man. Game over.

Jets @ Bolts:

Herm (Blake) Edwards did a marvelous coaching job early, using the deep ball to set up the run and several good screen passes. Curtis (My Favorite) Martin had some nice runs, but kept coming out of the game for Lamont (Sanford & Son) Jordan, prompting Blake to shout at RB Coach Bishop (to Queen 4) Harris. The Jets have been notoriously bad in the redzone, yet MFM kept taking a blow right as they got inside the 30. Blake nearly went postal, and had to be restrained from pulling a Buddy Ryan by his players. "Hellllloooo! That's why we have the Back! For the red zone!", said Edwards. "Check and mate", replied Bishop, who then ducked a roundhouse right from Herm.

In OT Marty called 3 straight runs to set up a 40-yard FG try by rookie K Nick (Play)Kaeding. PlayKaeding missed, trading places with Eric the Red as Goat of the Week. IN reality, Marty is Goat of the Century after blowing another winnable game with ultra-conservatism. It may be hard to blame Marty after Drew (Cool) Brees threw a stupid pick in the red zone, but this is at least the 3rd such loss in Martyball history. He has not coached a playoff win since 1993.

On the other side of the field, Marty Schottenheimer was badly outcoached, even going as far as to get an unsportsmanlike penalty for running onto the field to protest a call. If not for Jet's LB Eric (the Red) Barton's cheap headshot on 4th down, the Jets would have won this one in regulation. Instead Eric the Red and Company had to wait for Marty to choke down the stretch.

Donkeys @ Colts:

What was supposed to be a horse race in Indy turned into a one horse race, as the Donkeys and Lucky Charms met for a rematch of last season's WC round match. The most exciting part of this one was to be the cheerleader shots featuring a raven-haired Colts cheerleader with some nice belly. The Look Man likes a little belly on his women; it adds drag, and as we all know, Love is about chemistry, but sex is about Physics.

At any rate, the Colts dominated the Donkeys, using their patented stretch play fake. Peyton Manning's play fake is excellent because the stretch run fake makes the FS and weakside LB wait extra long before committing, which leaves the receivers wide freaking open. Plus, Manning gets the rock off quickly due to his lightning reads.

The net result was that Manning hit 7 different guys for nearly 4 bills last week in a 49-24 pasting. Most notable: (Millionaire Playboy) Reggie (Bruce) Wayne's 220 yard performance. One of Batman's 2 TDs was assisted by the entire Colts O-Line who went 40 yards downfield to punish Denver's mouthy DBs. Marvin Harrison chimed in with a declating block on CB Champ (Bill) Bailey, forcing Starvin' to sing, "Won't you come home Bill Bailey? Won't you come home?"

Mike (Shrek) Shanahan was interviewed after the game, and would say only, "I dun't know wha' happened to mah Dun-Keys. Duh-yoo Prinncess?" Eddie Murphy could not be reached for comment.

Vikes @ Pack:

The Gouda Group was looking to work their magic on the Swedes at Lambeau, mimicking the Lambs-Hags. Unfortunately, the Swedes had other ideas, and went straight gangster on the Pack. Randy (Mouth) Moss, Bryant McKinnie and LB Donterrius Thomas broke out their Afro rakes, and picked their way to a dominating 31-14 win.

Brett (The Pope) Favre went Antichrist with a 4-pick outing that blew the game open for Minnesota. The final score shouldn't have been that close, as CB Antoine Winfield had 11 tackles and a pick. Winfield's offseason acquisition was a major reason why the Swedes selected D-Coordinator (Big) Ted Cottrell, formerly of Buffalo. Without Big Ted, Winfield would be wearing a NY Jets uniform.

Daunte (Pep) Culpepper was sterling at the helm of the Vikings ship. There are 2 words to tell why Pep isn't mentioned in the same breath as the MVP: Peyton Manning. Pep

went off on the Cheeseheads, including a sweet 70-yard scramble TD pass to (Curly & Moe Williams and a nice 34 yarder to a one-legged Randy Moss, right after Fox analyst Cris (Cadillac) Collinsworth announced that the Pack no longer needed to double cover Moss. Moss was limping badly when Cadillac said, "Al Harris can cover Moss one-on-one. He doesn't need safety help." A scant 2 plays went by before Pep recognized the coverage and he and Moss connected for the TD that put the game on ice, forcing Cadillac to exclaim, "Harris really bit on that move!"



Some of Brett's Conclave also laughed at Moss

Lambeau de la Lune:

Too much is being made of Moss' lunar eclipse simulation, mainly because no one warned the kids to use a cardboard box with a pinhole in it to watch the game. The fact that no less than Tony Dungy came out in support of the move made the Look Man think twice about condemning Moss' a(ss)ctions. He did wonder why the media seeks to turn Lambeau into a shrine and its fans into saints. The move may be linked to the Brett Favre canonization movement, but the fact that the Gouda Groupies moon opposing team buses following a home win made the celebration more understandable. The Look Man's reaction was unadulterated laughter, and in retrospect, it was one of the funniest celebrations in recent memory. In fact, it eclipsed Chad (The Dentist) Johnson's sign posting of last season, if only because of its spontaneity.

Without putting too fine a point on it, these are the LMR criteria for post TD celebration:

- 1) It is not mean-spirited;
- 2) It is not obscene;
- 3) It doesn't show up the opposing players;
- 4) It doesn't last longer than the actual play.

Lambeau de la Lune met some of those criteria, so what the hey?

All Kinds of Time:

If you haven't seen the extended spot All Kinds of Time on the NFL Network, you are missing a dandy. The spot is a sleek Madison Avenue ad that has all the elements of a good movie, let alone a music video. It starts with shots of young NFL gunslingers looking rattled in the pocket, and includes 41 QB shots in 58 seconds.

The ballad rock music is by a group called *Fountains Of Wayne*, over some spectacular NFL Films super slow mo' footage including:

- 1) Archie Manning hugging 2 small kids named Peyton and Eli;

- 2) Brian Sipe winking at the camera during the Kardiak Kids season;
- 3) Fran Tarkenton in a Jynys uni;
- 4) Vick, Culpepper, Peyton, Eli, Brady under center.

The rock ballad opens with young QBs facing the clock and intimidating defenses, and includes a setting, rising action and a denouement. The defensive team shots of New England, da Bears and Stillers are priceless, giving you the feel of facing these gritty, hard hitting studs. It ends with Joe (Willy) Namath famous one finger wave after Super Bowl III. There is a shorter version played on the networks during the playoffs, but the long version is far superior. Catch it if you can, 'cuz it is spay-shul.

Orange You Glad?:

Miami was 2-12 wearing the white jerseys and 2-0 when showing its alternative lifestyle unis with orange/aqua. The Marine Mammals are following the lead of the Bungals, who disorient opponents with their combos of stripes and garish colors. Look for Baltimore to go with a purple and leopard skinned motif in 2005.

Zebra of the Week:

Was definitely not Ed (The Hulk) Hochuli, who made the right call on Jets LB Eric Barton. With the Jets up 17-10, and 16 seconds left, Barton blitzed on 4th down, drilling Cool Brees. The play would have been fine, if Barton didn't issue a pro-style forearm flip to Drees' dome. The Hulk made the call, reserving the right to pound people for himself. "Hulk no like men in green suits!", said Hochuli after the game. "Men in green suits cause Hulk pain." Of course, the Men in Green caused Vegas some pain as well since the Bolts failed to cover the spread.

The Look Man likes the use of regular season Zebra crews instead of all-star zebra teams. The net result has been good calls of Mike Carey and The Hulk. Of course, one has to wonder how Walt (Disney) Anderson and Jeff (Bean Bag) Triplette made the postseason grade. If we see Tom (Snow) White this week, we will know he has compromising photos of Tagliabue in his locker. The smart money is on Gerry Austin (City Limits) and the hope that Anderson, who did the Tuck Rule game, won't be anywhere near Foxboro on Sunday.

The Look Ahead

Indy @ New England:

Colts-Chowds Playoffs 2003 was a mauling affair, now Manning returns to the scene of the crime in New England. The Zebras stole this one from the Lucky Charms at Foxboro, where Manning is 0-6 as a starter, with twice as many picks as TDs. This time the Zebras get it right, as the Colts play their third game at the Blade in 13 months. All Indy did was go 12-4, and they still have to play on the road.

The Horsies broke stride in the early 2004 game when Edgerrin (The Edge) James lost 2 guitar picks, er fumbles, that would have tied the game or given them the lead. They still had a chance to tie it at 27, but Mike (Yacht Boy) Vanderjagt missed a FG after hitting 42 straight.

Speaking of the Colts idiot kicker, Yacht Boy's comment about the Patriots that "I think they're ripe for the picking" in Sunday's playoff matchup with the Colts did not go under

the radar. Head Coach Tony (Hume Cronyn) Dungy asked each player not to get into discussions on the game, but Yacht Boy went on, "I think they're not as good as the beginning of the year and not as good as last year." Just what Bill (Dr. Evil) *Belichick* and the Chowds need: more incentive to punch Peyton in the mouth.

Of course, Dr. Evil also tempted the Football Gods thing when he allowed the Gillette groundskeeper to leave the field uncovered until 24 hours before game time. The League takes over the groundskeeping for the Conference Championship and Super Bowl, but this stinks. New England is expecting several inches of rain, so the track will be muddy. It so happens that Corey Dillon is a mudder; his father was a mudder, and his mother was a mudder.

The Look Man likes the Colts in this one, but it should be one helluva game.

Lambs @ Falcons:

All Vick does is win, and the Dirty Bird D is superior to the Lambs', especially without CB Aenas (Fables) Williams. The ATL won the earlier game by scoring 17 unanswered in the 4th quarter, including a defensive TD. Look for a replay as the Scarecrow's arm is not 100% yet, and the DB DBs are much faster than the Seahags'.

Vikes @ Iggles:

This is a rematch of the MNF game in which Terrell (TO) Owens got credit for a TD he didn't earn. Culpepper also coughed up the rock at the goal line in that one, but don't look for that to happen this time. Of course, the Vikes had superweapon Moss then, and they don't now. Still, the LM likes Vikes WRs Kelly Campbell, Nate Burleson (Ives) and Marcus (Mister) Robinson over Stinkston and Co.

The X-Factor will be McNabb's running. Though the Vikes have lost big games this year, they have nearly all been to passing teams. Unless LJ Smith and the Iggles TE's come up big, this could be a W for the Swedes.

Jets @ Pittsburgh

(Big) Ben Roethlisberger may be more injured than we thought, so the Jets will need to stuff the run. Remember, the Stillers' formula is 18-25 passes with plenty of running. If the Jets get up early, it will be a long day for the Stillers. Of course, after playing 9 quarters in 2 weeks, the Jets are likely worn out. Not to mention that DE John (Bosom of) Abraham is sitting, causing a team chemistry problem.

These teams are nearly equal on offense, defense and special teams. In order to come up with a difference maker, the Look Man looks to the players' personal lives. It so happens that Big Ben is now dating Ms. Natalie Gulbis, "The Anna Kournikova of Golf". Gulbis lives in Las Vegas, and BB is in Pittsburgh, so look for problems to ensue. The Look Man has a theory: famous girlfriend equals bad performance. The cases in point are numerous: Nomar Garciaparra-Mia Hamm, Jeff Garcia-Carmela DeCeseare, Cade McNown-Jenny McCarthy, Brian Urlacher-Paris Hilton. Garcia's Playmate of the Year is now on trial for fighting in C-Town after Jeff's horrible 2004 season.

Look for Big Ben to struggle in this week's game with the Jets, and afterwards. Gulbis is said to be in the Steel City for the Divisional Playoff, hoping to give Big Ben some much-needed lovin' after he gets roughed up.



Baby's got Big Ben's back in Blitzburgh

Epilogue:

The Football Gods will be smiling as they make Peyton prove he can win the Big One. But the Big One is the Super Bowl. Once he defeats the Chowds, the real work begins. After all, the Look Man would rather lose early than lose on the ultimate stage; who wants to be the Buffalo Bisons of the Aughts?

The Divisions Playoffs go a long way to determining the championship combatants. Ironically, in recent years, teams that failed to appear on Monday night Football have made it to the Bowl. If this trend continues, we could be looking at an ATL-Blitzburgh Super Bowl, featuring 2 of the best young guns in the bi'ness in Big Ben and Slick Vick. Stranger things have happened.

Out.

The Look Man.