

## THE LOOKMAN REPORT 2024

### Week Eight – Pardon The Interruption

*"Unwavering faith. Ultimate belief. Dependence on the Lord. This is the day that the Lord has made. I will be glad and rejoicing in it." – (Famous) Jameis Winston in an interview before beating Baltimore in his first start since 2022. Winston has flipped over a new oak tree in C-Town, with comical charisma and a big right arm.*

#### PROLOGUE

In today's episode the Yankees go down like free beer in five, the Baby Backs remain undefeated in the AFC West, and Detroit posted yet another blowout victory. But we begin today's program with the Cleveland Browns, who upset the Baltimore Dumpster Ducks with backup QB (Famous) Jameis Winston.

The Browns followed the Look Man's script, replacing Deshaun DSW Watson due to injury, and posting over 300 passing yards against the AFC Asgard leading Ducks. Winston parlayed a timely passing, dropped interceptions, and a staunch defense into Cleveland's second win of the season. One might ask, what took the Browns front office so long to see this possibility. Now, instead a being in the middle of a dynamic AFC playoff picture, the Browns are clawing to survive with a top five defense, and a huge payroll.

The Look Man adores the Four-Letter Network show PTI, a throwaway that became the network's most watched. PTI features Washington Post columnists Tony Kornheiser and Michael Wilbon, with a wild "two guys in a bar" gestalt, into must-see, short attention theater. Whatever it is, it works.

The rest of the NFL storylines are a mélange of confusing data points, with injuries taking a toll on competing teams, and outcomes that baffle. The Houston Slim Shadies lost to Aaron (Double Check) Rodgers on Thursday Night Football, in a game that had awful flow and poor officiating. Chicago caught a stray bullet from a Jayden Daniels Hail Mary, and the Bisons and Stillers are cruising to a playoff berth.

There is still a lot of season left at the provisional midpoint of a seventeen game slate, but plenty of twists and turns remain. The NFC West is a mess, the NFC Least looks like a one team race, and the AFC Asgard has the Killer Bees: Blitzburgh and Baltimore. Things get curiously and curiously as we head to the Big Finish.

Without further ado, the Week that Was:

#### LAGNIAPPE – MAIL BAG

##### Full of grace...

The Commies' Hail Mary last week was nothing like the first one on December 28, 1975. The Pokes were trailing the Hornheads 14-10 in the final seconds of a divisional-round playoff. Pokes QB Roger (the Dodger) Staubach told Drew Pearson (the original "88") "...make a move and go deep" as they lined up at the 50.

Pearson obeyed, shoving his CB to the ground, snatching the pass and scoring to stun the Hornheads. Staubach joked afterward that he was simply "A Catholic kid from Cincinnati," who had closed his eyes and said a Hail Mary prayer for a win.

## THE LOOKMAN REPORT 2024

### Week Eight – Pardon The Interruption

That play was clearly offensive pass interference, and NFL Films shows only one angle to maintain the mythology. But the Hail Mary was born that day, and with the elimination of the kickoff, it may be the most exciting play in all of sports.

Part of the excitement is the rarity; Hail Marys an 8% success rate, working once in every twelve attempts since 2014. There have been nearly 200 attempts since the start of the 2009 season, producing sixteen TDs. Discount Double Check has four since then, and Andy (The Beige Water Pistol) Dalton is the only other QB with more than one during that span, both to WR AJ Green.

The irony of Rodgers' Hail Mary success is that coaches typically pulled Favre from that portion of practice to protect his arm. "You get good at it by practicing them," Rodgers said over the summer. "I was always doing the Hail Mary reps in those years, and I got used to throwing it outside the pocket or finding a spot to throw it inside the pocket, and kind of got used to what the throw felt like, height and distance wise."

Irrespective, the Mother of Jesus play is a sight to behold when it works. Or as Staubach once said about the Look Man, "If he thinks that was Offensive Pass Interference, he must work for al Qaeda. Everyone knows Dallas is America's Team."



*A shalom aleichem...*

#### Speaking of prayers...

Former Browns franchise QB Tim (Sofa Boy) Couch was named the Dawg Pound captain for last week's game against Baltimore. Like (Cake) Baker Mayfield, Sofa Boy was selected by Cleveland first overall, and like Cake, he sucked on ice in C-Town, playing five seasons before retiring due to suffering a broken everything. The Look Man ran into Sofa Boy in Lexington KY a few years ago, and he looked like a 70-year-old man.

**THE LOOKMAN REPORT 2024**  
**Week Eight – Pardon The Interruption**

Turns out Sofa Boy is a good luck charm. He fell out with the Browns organization years ago, after the crowd cheered when he lay injured on the field. Couch had a concussion from one of numerous sacks, and he later burst into tears on camera afterwards. It was reminiscent of the way they recently treated Deshaun (DSW) Watson, and very bad form. As Brain said last week, "For the second time, we have witnessed a Browns QB crying on television."

The Look Man counters: It is never right to cheer an injury, on your team or the opponent. Stay classy San Diego.



*Sofa Boy – The Return*

*Bear Down...*

Chicago Bears captain DJ Moore addressed the defensive lapse on the Hail Mary in the DC Commanders game last week. DB Tyrique Stevenson was dancing around showboating during the play, and then tipped the ball to the opponent after joining late. It was like watching a car wreck in slow motion.

"The captains were talking about how we need to really address that," Moore told 670 the Score. "I think he put something out about how he was sorry, but we still got to address that as a leadership group and in front of the team. ...Personally, I think we should give him a blanket party and I am bringing the oranges."

Stevenson was clearly part of the blame, but much of it falls on HC Matt (Flus) Eberflus, who made three other mistakes prior to the final play. Flus didn't have his team ready on the final play, allowing a player to get behind them in the end zone on the Hail Mary. He also allowed a 15-yard out pattern to set up the Hail Mary and refused to burn any timeouts to coach up the defense. Stevenson should have been terminated on the flight home, but Flus is likely next in line.

**THE LOOKMAN REPORT 2024**  
**Week Eight – Pardon The Interruption**

*Three Dogs Are Sitting in the Vet's Waiting Room*

The dogs ask each other what they're in for.

The first dog sadly says, "I just can't help myself regarding the mailman. I just got so angry when he walked up to the door that I bit him. Now I'm being put to sleep."

The second dog says, "Oh no, that's terrible. I'm a barker myself. I know I'm not supposed to bark all night, but I just can't help myself. So, I'm being put to sleep too."

The first two look at the third dog for his story.

"Well, my owner likes to do her housework in the nude," he said. "Yesterday, she vacuumed and bent over to get under the couch. I couldn't help myself; I hopped right on and had the ride of my life!"

The other two dogs looked at him compassionately. "So, you're being put to sleep too?"

"What? No, she's having my nails clipped!"

**THE LOOKAHEAD – THE WORD**

What's next Stat Boy?

*Dallas Cowpokes @ Atlanta Dirty Birds (-3/51.5)*

Dak and the Pokes are on a "let's get the head coach fired" tour, and poor Mike McCarthy is a dead man walking. Jerrah Jones and Company have no tools, and Micah Parsons (Brown) and DeMarcus Lawrence miss another week.

The Pokes announced RB Zeke Elliott will not make the trip "for disciplinary reasons" and the Pokes already rank dead last in rushing yards and yards per carry.

(Capt.) Kirk Cousins makes good decisions in the pocket "...if he has the time, Doctor. If he has the time." He does, makes football gunpowder and blasts the Gorn for a W. Dirty Birds.

*Miami Marine Mammals @ Crapchester Bisons (-6/49)*

Tua Tagovailoa returns, but Miami is a wholly owned subsidiary of Crapchester. The weather won't be a factor, but Josh (Irwin) Allen premieres another episode his latest sci-fi series "QB without a Pick." Bisons.

*Vegas Raiders @ Cincinnati Bengals (-7/48.5)*

The Orange and Black is winless at home in 2024, and the Raiders have something lacking in the Nati: speed. Look for crafty QB (Chauncey) Gardner Minshew III updates his role in Being There. Rookie of the Year candidate Brock Bowers turns it into *National Tight Ends Week* in Cincy, and Burrow is getting a taste of life after Tee (Magnum) Higgins. Also, Nati RB Chase Brown has a knee. Raiders send the Nati to 0-5 at home in 2024.

*LA Bolts @ Cleveland Browns (+1.5/42.5)*

(Famous) Jameis Winston throw for 334 in the win over B-More last week, but the Ducks allowed a lot of pics hit the field. The Look Man was accounting for some rust, and wideouts Jerry (Punch n) Jeudy and

## THE LOOKMAN REPORT 2024

### Week Eight – Pardon The Interruption

Elijah (Roger) Moore still make up routes on the fly, which doesn't help. Even Flacco couldn't figure out what routes 008 was going to run in 2023, and it cost him more than one pick six.

The Look Man hasn't seen the Bolts in 2024, but it's clear they are doing it with defense. Dobbins is an angry runner, and the defense is stingy. Not sure these guys can win a shootout, and Jameis is putting up points.

The Browns should've installed Jameis in Week One, because Watson's shoulder was nowhere near ready. If they had played it smart, they could be 6-2 and headed to the Tournament like the Stillers. Instead, they are scuffling with must wins on a weekly basis. Browns, baby, Browns.

#### Denver Donkeys @ Baltimore Dumpster Ducks (-9/45.5)

Lamar (Action) Jackson missed a couple of days of practice this week due to wear and tear. Donkeys QB Bo Nix has been putting up numbers, but the Denver defense is the real story in Mile High. Odds on favorite to officiate this game is Ron Torbert, turning the *Game of the Week* into a flag fest. Donkey Fan won't get to yell IN-COM-LETE much in this contest, as King Henry runs the wheels off this defense. Dumpster Ducks.

#### Chicago Bears @ Arizona Deadbirds (-1.5/44.5)

The Monsters of the Furniture Mart will be licking their wounds after getting beat in a game they had won last week at DC. Chicago will either bounce back in a major way or completely implode. The Look Man believes it will be the latter. Deadbirds.

#### Detroit Cadillacs @ Breen Gay Cheeseheads (+3.5/48.5)

Cheeseheads QB Jordan (the) Love (Broker) has a groin, and if the Pack was smart, they would start backup Malik (Whatchu Talkin Bout) Willis. They aren't. Cadillacs continue their dominance in the NFC Black n Blue. Caddies.

#### Indy Ponies @ Minnehaha Hornheads (-5/46.5) Football Night in America

Joe (Cool) Flacco has replaced Anthony Richardson at the helm of Indy, after Richardson left the game because "he was tired." Flacco is going up against one of the hottest defenses in the NFL.

Sam (Bewitched) Darnold is playing well but Indy needs this win more than Minnesota. The Look Man is betting on Flacco to pull another rabbit out of his hat like he did with the Browns in 2023. Ponies in an upset.

#### Tampa Bay Expensive Corn Kings @ KC Baby Backs (-8.5/45.5) Monday Night Football

(Cake) Baker Mayfield returns to the scene of the crime, this time without offensive weapons. Cake would love to beat Mahomes, who feeds his David vs. Goliath underdog narrative. Unfortunately, both his offense and defense are overmatched, but the Look Man is skeptical about the spread. The Corn Kings will attempt to run the football, and they have the backs to attempt it. Baby Backs.

### EPILOGUE – THE BIG FINISH

The 2024 season has been an odd dumpster fire in many respects. The officiating is awful, the expedited replay stinks, and the kickoff experiment is largely a failure. Cincinnati is one of only three teams to return a TD this season, and that proved to be the margin of victory in Cleveland.

**THE LOOKMAN REPORT 2024**  
**Week Eight – Pardon The Interruption**

The second half of the season is going to be a war of attrition. Most teams have to play division games in December, so their mettle will be tested. Oddly, there are more must-win games this week than most, as teams on the bubble battle to stay relevant in the postseason.

Any way you slice it, the NFL is still the 800-pound sports entertainment gorilla. Goodnight, Canada.

Peace,

The Look Man