

THE LOOKMAN REPORT 2024

Week Fourteen – Three Coffins

"Someone had to get fined," – Stillers TE Pat Freiermuth, who was fined for punting the ball into the stands following a TD grab. Freiermuth was referring to the often-fined WR George Pickens, who missed the game with a hammy.

PROLOGUE

In the old spaghetti western, *A Fistful of Dollars*, Clint Eastwood's character Joe tells the local undertaker to "get three coffins ready" before one of the best speeches in movie history. Eastwood proceeds to tell three gunmen who tormented his mule by shooting at his feet, "I don't think it's nice, you laughin'. You see, my mule don't like people laughing. He gets the crazy idea you're laughin' at him. Now if you apologize, like I know you're going to, I might convince him that you really didn't mean it."

Joe later has to apologize for needing four, not three coffins, but you get the point. The NFL is a lot like the movie. Teams like the Iggles who haven't lost since September, make a big deal because certain disgruntled players, typically wideouts, are angry because they are not making incentives. The Iggles are doing it with a stout running game, and possible record-breaking rushing by Saquon (Heath) Barkley. Barkley is going all Big Valley on the rest of the league, and could break Eric (Dick-Dog) Dickerson's single season rushing mark. Instead, all of the talk is about a wide receiver who isn't seeing the ball.

The same thing happened in Cleveland, and it broke apart the team. Odell Beckham Jr. couldn't buy a target from (Cake) Baker Mayfield, largely because Cake wanted to be the Show. A video from OBJ's father torched the season.

The Iggles have already blown a good start in 2023, and this miasma threatens to make history repeat itself. The NFC is wide open in 2024, with the Niners banged up, and nearly every team in the NFC Black and Blue staking a claim. The Rams, Seahawks, and Tampa are the only other teams with a prayer, and all are flawed.

Without further ado, the Week that Was:



"When a man's got money in his pocket he begins to appreciate peace."

THE LOOKMAN REPORT 2024

Week Fourteen – Three Coffins

LAGNIAPPE

The Revengers?

The Stillers went into Week Fourteen looking to avenge their Snow Globe loss at Cleveland a few weeks ago. They weren't in top form, absent WR George Pickens, and got outgained 300 to 267 at home. But Cleveland provided the turnovers, the penalties, and the red zone inefficiency to lose a winnable contest.

TE Pat Freiermuth punted a ball into the stands after scoring at sweet TD, Russ was definitely cooking. His other TD pass was a sweet bullet to Mike Williams, and the Browns late scores were cosmetic.

This Stillers team is one no one wants to face in the postseason. Their stretch run is tough, but would form a crucible if successful. If they win the AFC Asgard Division, the Wild Card runs through the Still City.



Rather be lucky than good?

The Bengals stole a game in Big D last week, scoring the game winning points after having their own punt blocked deep in enemy territory. The play was reminiscent of the Leon Lett snow game against the Marine Mammals years ago, as the special teamer didn't realize that a muffed punt can be recovered by the kicking team.

QB Joe Burrow calmly continued his MVP performance, hitting Ja'Marr Chase for the game winning TD. Burrow received much love from analyst Troy Aikman, who sounded like he wanted to date Burrow.

The Pokes were stunned, and this won't end well for Mike McCarthy. Of course, the Bengals cannot look ahead, because their former OC is the HC in Tennessee. The Flaming Thumbtacks have the goods on Burrow, but not much else.

The Bengals are not yet eliminated from the playoffs, but they are on life support.

THE LOOKAHEAD

Week Fifteen features some outstanding matchups, but unfortunately, nearly all of them are in the late window. What nitwit put the Battle of Pennsylvania, and a possible Super Bowl preview between Buffalo and Detroit in the same window? Add in Green Bay at Seattle, and you need the Sunday Ticket just to watch these contests.

THE LOOKMAN REPORT 2024

Week Fourteen – Three Coffins

Here's the Lookahead to Week Fifteen:

KC Baby Backs at Cleveland Browns (+4/43.5)

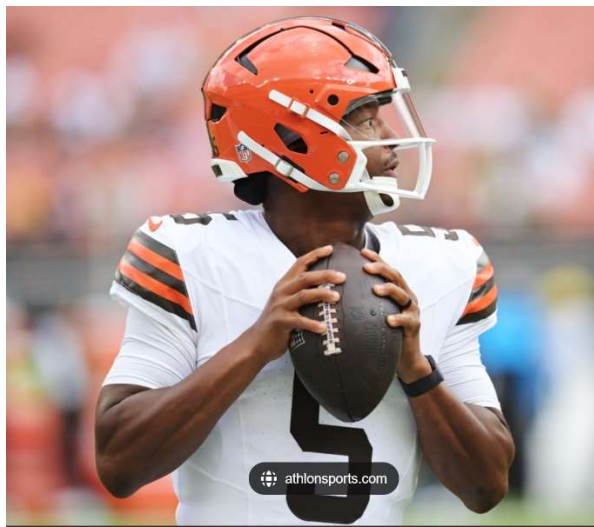
Patrick Mahomes is having one of the worst statistical years of his career, but the defending champs have only one loss. They keep winning ugly, and if they can get healthy, a stretch run is within their grasp. WR Hollywood Brown and newly signed LT DJ Humphries will not play this week, but both could be back in Week Sixteen.

The Browns are the best 3-10 team in the NFL, having defeated Baltimore and Blitzburgh already. WR Cedrick Tillman is still out on concussion protocol, and TE David Njoku is lumbering around with a bad hammy. Perhaps worse, the Cleveland coaching staff is getting into (Famous) Jameis Winston's head over the INTs.

Browns K Dustin (Rain Man) Hopkins is trying to get himself cut by missing kicks. He sees the contenders with banged up kickers and knows he can do better. His salary is guaranteed, so WTH?

When you have a gunslinger QB, you can either over coach him, or just let him play. The Look Man believes ball security is paramount, but when you are 3-10, do you really care? Let Jameis put up four bills passing and hope he doesn't give the Baby Backs fourteen points.

The Browns stun the NFL with a win over the Baby Backs in Week Fifteen, setting up a dramatic stretch run for the One Seed in the AFC. Buffalo and Baltimore climb back into the race, and the Browns defeat the defending Super Bowl champs. Browns, baby, Browns.



This guy's pre- and post-game speeches are comic gold...

Dallas Cowpokes at Carolina Black Cats (-3/43.5)

This point spread made the Look Man laugh out loud. Carolina is the team no one wants to face, and the Pokes are coming off a horrible home loss to the Bengals.

Pokes WR CeeDee Lamb is playing with a shoulder held together by chewing gum and bailing wire. DE Micah Parsons (Brown) is not in the holiday spirit, walking off the field following a bizarre loss to the Bengals last week.

THE LOOKMAN REPORT 2024

Week Fourteen – Three Coffins

QB Bryce Young (Man) and RB Chuba Hubbard team up to get a win on Sunday, and the Pokes are better on the road than at home for some reason. Black Cats cover and win, setting up an ugly plane ride home for Mike McCarthy and the Pokes. Black Cats.

Blitzburgh Stillers at Philly Cream Cheese Iggles (-5.5/43.5)

The hidden stat here is that (Dange)Russ Wilson owns the Iggles, posting a 5-0 record against them. Philly is about to reenter the Twilight Zone portion of their season, in which a team that has a top record suddenly goes over the cliff and loses several in a row to get the HC fired.

In a battle of wits, Stillers HC Mike (Epps) Tomlin wins hands down against Nick Siriani and the Iggles. Unfortunately, this game is played on the field, and the Stillers are likely without WR George Pickens and DT Larry Ogunjobi this week. The Look Man thinks Tomlin is killing two avian species with a single projectile: (1) he is teaching Pickens a lesson on self-discipline, and (2) getting the mercurial wideout ready for the murderous stretch run in the AFC Asgard Division. They also have O-line problems, and they need AFC wins to get where they want to go.

Fortunately, Russ is back to throwing moon balls and using his legs to create plays. Not only is Russ in Top Ten QB form, he looks a lot like the guy who last took the Seahawks to the Super Bowl. The Stillers D has played well against mobile QBs like Lamar Jackson and Jayden Daniels in 2024.

Hurts gets hurt trying to run, and Saquon Barkley will not be enough in this contest, as the Iggles must throw to win this one. Stillers.

Breen Gay Cheeseheads at Seattle Seahawks (+2.5/45.5)

The Cheeseheads go to Coffeetown in a must win for both squads. Jordan Love (Broker) sometimes struggles in loud venues, but the Seahawks offensive weapons seem superior to the Pack secondary. Seahawks win to set up a stretch run for the NFC West crown. Hawks.

Tampa Bay Expensive Corn Kings at LA Lightning Bolts (-3/45.5)

This game is a battle between two teams battling to make the playoffs. The Bolts are down WR Ladd McConkey and RB JK Dobbins. TE Will Dissly got a shoulder last week, and they are banged up on the offensive side of the ball.

But Tampa is also hurting, with RB Bucky Irving, and a number of defensive secondary players injured. They may be pulling guys out of the stands for the stretch run, so the Look Man believes they may gamble with a loss this week to an AFC opponent in order to win their division.

Tampa is currently in the driver's seat in the lame NFC Souse Division, and their remaining schedule is: at Pokes in Week Sixteen on FNIA, then Black Cats and Religious Icons at the Big Sombrero. If they win out, they win the division.

Jim (the Milk Man) Harbaugh has speed on defense, and leverages that to beat Tampa. QB Justin Herbert has a bum ankle, but balls the size of church bells. Bolts.

THE LOOKMAN REPORT 2024
Week Fourteen – Three Coffins



Cake is balling out in 2024, but will he have enough?

Crapchester Bisons at Detroit Cadillacs (-2.5/54.5) Football Night in America

NFL teams struggle when they are on the road for two consecutive weeks. The Bisons lost a 44-42 heartbreaker to the Rams in SoFi last week, perhaps because Sean McDermott mismanaged the clock.

It certainly wasn't because of Josh (Irwin) Allen, who nearly salvaged a game in which the Bisons couldn't run at all. Allen is not turning the ball over, and maintaining long, ball control drives with opportune QB runs. He is in the top ten in nearly every stat, including nine rushing TDs.

Detroit is everyone's sweetheart, aka *America's Team*. They win with gutsy coaching, clever offense, and hard-nosed defense.

The Look Man loves the Cadillac's story, but HC Dan Campbell (Soup) is living on the razor's edge between gutsy and reckless. This Bisons team can win anyway they need to, and if it comes down to coaching, one error can turn the tide.

The Look Man has only one good reason to take the Bisons, and his name is Allen. Bisons.



This man is playing mistake free ball

THE LOOKMAN REPORT 2024
Week Fourteen – Three Coffins

EPILOGUE

There may yet be additional coffins in the NFL coaching carousel. Nick Sirianni and Mike McCarthy flirt with disaster on an annual basis, and the Raiders Antonio Pierce, Bengals Zac (Opie) Taylor, and Browns Kevin Stefanski may yet be released.

The Look Man believes the AFC is clearly superior to the NFC, and the record bears it out. The Stillers are 3-1 vs. the NFC and the Bisons, Donkeys, Baby Backs, and Bengals are all above .500 against the conference.

The playoff race in both conferences is very tight, and only a handful of teams are officially eliminated from the postseason. This weekend could see the Stillers, Baby Backs, and Hornheads clinch a playoff berth. But only if Joe doesn't come into town on his mule.

Peace,

The Look Man