

## THE LOOKMAN REPORT 2024

### Week Fifteen – Bottoms Up

*"It's a loss. I mean, let's not get dramatic." – Stillers HC Mike (Omar Epps) Tomlin when asked how he plans to keep the defeat from snowballing into a larger problem over the next few weeks.*

#### PROLOGUE

Week Fifteen was an ass-kicking for the Look Man, who bet on the wrong horses. The Stillers got jobbed by the Philly zebras, the Browns failed to show up for a game against the defending world champs, the Pokes pounded the upstart Black Cats, and the Bolts got destroyed by (Cake) Baker Mayfield and the Expensive Corn Kings. Only the Bisons-Cadillacs saved the day for the Look Man, and that was after Josh (Irwin) Allen continued to prove that he is not from this planet.

Tomlin and the Stillers got steamrolled by a suddenly potent passing attack at Philly. They missed WR George Pickens, and couldn't count on the zebras, who called everything in the rule book when Blitzburgh was in the red zone.

Week Fifteen proved the old adage that nobody knows nothing. Or maybe just that the Look Man knows nothing. At any rate, it would appear that the NFC West is firmly in the hooves of the Rams, the Hornheads could steal the NFC Black and Blue, Green Bay is poised to clinch a Wild Card, and Blitzburgh at Baltimore is gonna be a slobber knocker.

It also proved that Josh Allen has the MVP on lock, despite incredible seasons by Lamar (Action) Jackson, Saquon Barkley, and Joe (Cool) Burrow. Each contender has excelled, but Allen stands alone after putting up six rushing and seven passing TDs in the last two weeks alone. The Look Man guesses someone told him Burrow, Jackson, Mayfield, and Goff have all eclipsed the 30 TD mark, and he needs more to contend. Dude is money.

When it was all said and done Week Eleven was indeed surprising, and perhaps a harbinger for the 2024 postseason.

Without further ado, the Look Man Report 2024 for Week Fifteen.

#### ZEBRA OF THE WEEK

##### Expletive Deleted

The Look Man got his first glimpse of newly minted Zebra Alan Eck last week in Stiller-Iggle. Eck and his crew officiated a fight in the end zone after a chunk player by the Stillers, and decided only Blitzburgh was guilty of personal fouls. Clearly, Iggle CB Quinyon Mitchell was delivering haymakers in the melee, but no flag was called on him.

The play set the tone for a game in which the Stillers were coming back and attempting to play their usual muck it up style. Instead, the ball was placed outside the red zone instead of offsetting penalties that would have put it at the doorstep of the Iggle end zone.

One of the zebras was explaining the call to HC Mike (Omar Epps) Tomlin, who didn't like it one bit. Tomlin's response was picked up on the mic: "Get the f\*ck away from me."

Eck functionally turned the game on that play, and several others favoring the Iggle. And for that, Alan Eck, you are the Look Man's **Zebra of the Week!**

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“He called what??!!!”

#### **LAGNIAPPE**

##### *Santa, Baby*

NFL QBs love to lavish their O-linemen with presents and this season is no exception. KC QB Patrick Mahomes bought Yeti coolers packed with high tech cryogenic recovery devices for his protectors last week. Niners QB Mark Purdy (Good) one-upped him with Toyota SUVs for his crew.

But Bengals QB took the cake by purchasing authentic Japanese Katana swords for each of his O-linemen. Describing the gifts, LT Orlando (Zeus Junior) Brown said, “They are all unique. Each sword comes with its own story, from certain towns or battles. Joe does a great job at buying gifts that are extremely meaningful. The fact that he bought me a sword, it’s the most ancient form of respect.”

The Look Man sees the gift a little differently. Burrow may be suggesting these guys commit Seppuku, a form of Japanese ritualistic suicide by disembowelment. It was originally reserved for samurai to restore honor for themselves or for their families. In the case of the Nati O-line, they have dishonored Joe and the team with their substandard protection. This guy is the franchise, and he is on pace to be sacked 400 times in a ten-year career.

##### *NFL Live*

The Four-Letter-Network has a daily show on the NFL starring Laura Rutledge, Marcus Spears, Ryan Clark, and Mina Kimes as the principals. The show is part Xs and Os, part information and all entertainment. The Look Man loves the format and the cast, especially Rutledge, who keeps the three-ring circus moving.

Rutledge is smart, funny, and pretty with a little goofiness mixed in. Spears affectionately calls her ‘Boogie’, but the respect is obvious.

ESPN took a flyer on Kimes, who abandoned a career on Wall Street to analyze the NFL. Clark is a little over the top, and the Look Man could take or leave former Cadillacs QB Dan Orlovsky, who once stepped on the end line of the end zone in a live football game for a safety.

If you haven’t seen this precursor to the ESPN Happy Hour with *Around the Horn* and *Pardon the Interruption*, you need to spend the time.

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*ESPN's Laura Rutledge has beauty and brains*

Scorigami

Longtime Tailpipe Smooth turned the Look Man on to Scorigami, the game in which all historical NFL scores are charted in a graph. When a game ends with a new addition to the data table, it is proclaimed far and wide.

The Bisons-Cadillacs 48-42 final was such a score and is nothing short of amazing. In over 100 years, that score had never occurred. The Look Man's take is that offensive football is taking over the game.

If a team cannot run the ball and milk the clock, then the last team with the football wins. It's great for TV, but bad for championships. If you can run the football, you leave fewer possessions for the opponent, increasing your chances for victory.

This new scoring jag is entertaining, but in reality, it is just bad football masquerading as sport.



**Scorigami**   
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Final

That's Scorigami!! It's the 1090th unique final score in NFL history.

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#### THE LOOKAHEAD

Week Sixteen begins the advent of Saturday football, and Stillers-Dumpster Ducks kicks off the slate. The NFL moved the Browns-Bengals for this one, so it had better be good. Perhaps more importantly, the Stillers need to win to avoid getting dropped into the playoff miasma in the AFC that includes H-Town, the Bolts and Donkeys.

It looks as if winning the division is the only clear path and the defending world champion Baby Backs may stumble with Mahomes in a walking boot. KC is a home dog against Houston, which hasn't happened often since Mahomes took the helm.

The Look Man hopes to get back to winning ways in Week Sixteen, or at least not stink it up as much as last week. Here is the lookahead for Week Sixteen.

#### Cleveland Browns at Cincinnati Bengals (-7.5/46.5) – the Battle of Ohio Part Deux

The Browns benched (Famous) Jameis Winston (Tastes Good) after another multi-pick performance against KC. The Barking Dawg D shut down Mahomes, but turnovers killed Cleveland.

Enter Dorian (Gray) Thompson-Robinson, the QB who can't shoot straight. DTR is a third-round pick that the front office and fans have fallen in love with. Unfortunately, he can't play.

Joe Burrow is on the injury report with a knee, and Tee (Magnum) Higgins, and OL Alex Cappa are also nicked. The Bengals are a M\*A\*S\*H unit, but hanging on until Hawkeye Pierce pronounces them dead.

The Browns have been officially eliminated, and he would love to see Cleveland play spoiler. No one wants to see Joe (Goat Boy) Burrow and Ja'Marr Chase in the Tournament, but this defense is awful. Goat Boy has to put up 40 just to ensure a win, and he is getting tired of being treated like a two-dollar mule in the pocket.

This game is simple: Burrow excels at carving up man-to-man, and Cleveland runs it a lot. Still, hope springs eternal, and Myles Garrett would like to get some in Week Sixteen. Browns, baby, Browns.



*Myles Garrett just loves shawarma...*

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#### Blitzburgh Stillers at Baltimore Dumpster Ducks (-6.5/46.5)

Baltimore just dominated the G-Men in Week Fifteen, and now face one of the few teams that always give them trouble. coming off a bad loss to the Stillers in Week Ten and are seeking a tie in the with a win. The Stillers loss at Philly has tightened up the AFC playoff picture, and the AFC Asgard Division race. This one is going to be special.

Lamar (Action) Jackson watched Josh Allen lock down the MVP last week, and they are injured across the board. They would like to post Derrick (King) Henry against a run defense that lost its leading tackler in DeShon Elliott.

George Pickens was ruled out again, but the team is hopeful that he will be ready to go on Christmas Day against KC. "He is running, and he did make an effort to try and get the doctors to clear him. Ultimately, didn't happen. Plus, Tomlin is still ticked off that he cannot stay away from personal foul penalties and teaching him a lesson," said NFL reporter Albert Breer.

Even worse, DE TJ Watt came up lame last week at Philly. The Stillers would seem to have no shot without Taco Boy and DeShon Elliott. When your safety is the leading tackler, it typically means you have a bad LB corps, and that is true for Blitzburgh.

Another tough call, but the Look Man is counting on (Dange)Russ Wilson and Tomlin to teach the Ducks a lesson. Stillers.

#### Detroit Cadillacs at Chicago Monsters of Time Management (+7.5/46.5)

The Cadillacs were devastated with injuries last week, losing RB David (Monty) Montgomery, and DT Alim McNeil. Luckily, they have DT DJ Reader in reserve, and they may get All Pro DE Aidan Hutchinson back for the postseason.

Still, those two losses can easily knock them out of the One Seed, and no one wants to play in Philly in January. Well, except for the Iggles.

Detroit's remaining games: at Chicago, at Niners on MNF, Hornheads at Ford Field. They are going to lose the One Seed. Cadillacs.

#### San Francisco 49ers vs Miami Marine Mammals (-2.5/46.5)

This is master vs. student, as Kyle Shanahan faces off with Mike McDaniell. Niners are still breathing in the Wild Card race, and Miami is on life support. Niners.

#### Tampa Bay Expensive Corn Kings at Dallas Cowpokes (+4.5/48.5) - Football Night in America

Like the famous line from *The Thing*, one of the Look Man's favorite movies, "This thing isn't dead yet." Dallas has bounced back after hitting bottom in home loss to the Bengals. Micah Parsons (Brown) can do the job when he's in town, and WR CeeDee Lamb is playing through a badly sprained AC joint.

Enter (Cake) Baker Mayfield, who returns to Texas in his usual all hat and no cattle style. Cake would love to end the Pokes' misery, and he just might. This game would seal the lousy NFC Souse Division crown for Tampa, and position them to play a home game against a Wild Card.

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Cake is baking and gets the W in Big D. Dude has 32 TD passes and a 104 QBR. Up next Carolina and New Orleans at the Big Sombrero. Corn Kings.

#### Philadelphia Iggles vs Washington Commies (+4/46.5)

Hurts and AJ Brown silenced the critics last week with a nice win over the Stillers, and now face the upstart Commies in DC. The Look Man believes they will go back to a healthy dose of Saquon Barkley to eke out a win. The film on Jayden Daniels is out, and defenses are shutting down a run game that is absent its two stars in Robinson and Ekeler.

Iggles remaining schedule includes Commies at DC, Pokes and the G-Men at home. Entertaining game, but too much defense. Iggles win and position themselves for the One Seed.

#### New Orleans Religious Icons at Green Bay Cheeseheads – Monday Night Football

Are you kidding? The NFL flexed Browns-Bengals out of TNF, then trot out this dog on MNF. The Icons are double digit dogs, and with good reason. QB Derek (You can drive my) Carr has his annual season-ending injury of the year, and Taysom Hill and RB Alvin (and the Chipmunks) Kamara are out.

The Pack is on a heater, and end with Icons, Hornheads, and Bears, putting them in a great spot for another first Round Wild Card upset. Go, Pack, go. They may even cover the 14.5.



*Night Shift is looking for a Love Broker....*

### EPILOGUE

At least one a year the Look Man (and Vegas) get taken to the cleaners. Week Fifteen was such a week for yours truly, but it underscores the reason why the NFL cannot go to an eighteen-game schedule: players are so beat up that they can barely finish the season as it stands currently.

The NFC West was likely decided last week in Seattle, where QB Eugene (Geno) Cyril Smith III and the Seahawks could not overcome injury. They did, however, look great in the fluorescent green uniforms, but the Rams are a team no one wants to see in the postseason. They have speed at nearly every position, and Puka Nacua and Cooper Kupp will block you out of your socks.

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They are so good that WR Tutu Atwell rarely sees the field, and this kid is lightning fast. QB Matt Stafford is clearly in the winter of his career, but he is accurate, cagey and tough. It would be very fitting if he played Detroit at full strength, but you can't always get what you want. Or at least that's what Mick Jagger says.

The AFC is coming down to the wire, with the Stillers, B-More, Bolts, and Hoston looking tough. Jim (The Milk Man) Harbaugh is catching lightning in a bottle and doing it with smoke and mirrors on offense.

No one knows how this is going to end, but the drama is incredible. And Saturday NFL football is a far superior product to the mythical national NCAA championship being paraded on television. That farce is trotting out inferior teams and bad officiating in what looks to be a pre-ordained winner.

Peace,

The Look Man