

THE LOOKMAN REPORT 2024
Week Twenty-One: The Green Hornet(s)

"It'll be amazing, something I've dreamed about since I was a little kid. To actually be here and have it come to light will be amazing, but the dream wasn't just getting there. The dream was to win the Super Bowl, and I think we're capable of doing that." – Look Man MVP Saquon (Big Valley) Barkley

PROLOGUE

Way back in the 1960s, a show premiered about a newspaper publisher and his Asian valet/martial arts expert, who battled crime in their spare time. The Green Hornet featured Van Williams as publisher Britt Reid and Bruce Lee as his major domo, Kato.

The show was a stylized comic book adaptation using jazzy music, martial arts fighting, and car chases to capture the imagination of an emerging movement. In two short-lived seasons, it introduced martial artist Bruce Lee to millions, parlaying the superhero genre into a glossy progenitor to buddy cop series like *Miami Vice* and *Lethal Weapon*.

The Look Man told you that story to tell you this one: the Conference Championship games were comparable to Batman vs. The Green Hornet, tarnished by awful officiating and corny storylines. But the Look Man may surprise you by saying that Washington at Philly was the Batman to Buffalo at KC's Green Hornet.

Without further ado, the Look Man Report 2024 for Week Twenty-One.



Black Beauty or Batmobile? The Look Man likes the former.

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ZEBRA OF THE WEEK

WTF Ovah?

The Commies-Iggles game was over-officiated by Shawn (Baby Hulk) Hochuli, who threw flags in the red zone to ensure Philly's appearance in Super Bowl LIX. Baby Hulk even threatened to award a TD if the Commies jumped offside even once more in the red zone. Granted, Washington made mistakes in that game, but the calls were so one-sided that the outcome was decided by the zebras instead of on the field. The picks thrown by rookie sensation Jayden Daniels came from desperation, not incompetence.

The game that received all the ink was Buffalo at KC, largely due to a 4th and 1 call. It can be argued that Bisons QB Josh (Irwin) Allen made the line to gain, but the Down Judge and Line Judge couldn't agree on the spot.

Here is the recap from Longtime Tailpipe K-Gunn Dunn:

What was once an "any given Sunday" now only applies to mid-tier teams. The side judge who could see the ball on the Buffalo fourth and inches moved his spot 2 feet to match the one who could only see Allens back- crazy. The Games are largely a forgone conclusion, and the officiating has become so bad even the talking heads and rules experts are having trouble justifying it. What's the point of review and rules experts when they are consistently "wrong" according to the hats on the field? Can them all and let Collinsworth and Romo just go full cheer mode for Mahomes and the Walrus. I never thought I would rather hear Brady talk, but that's what it's come to.

(Nothing to do with the Vikes meltdown- everyone with eyes knows they were playing with house money all year.)

From the Look Man's viewpoint, both zebras had an obstructed view of the play, largely due to the crush of humanity on a short yardage sneak. The Down Judge (the Artist formerly known as the Head Linesman), marked Allen short, while the Line Judge indicated Allen had made the line to gain. Confusion ensued, but with more than five minutes in regulation, this call did not decide the outcome.

NFL has always been a game of inches, but the Look Man does not favor using technology or automation to fix the issue. He favors getting more than a yard when you need six inches. And don't even get the Look Man started on *The Brotherly Shove*, which is formerly known as an aiding the runner penalty.

As for the Iggles, they dominated the Commies once it was clear the zebras favored them. As a player, you know when the zebras are on your side, and it provides confidence that typically propels you to victory.

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Baby Hulk got more airtime than Leave it to Beavah reruns...

A lot has been made of the NFL conspiracy to aid the KC Baby Backs, but in the words of Flava Flav, “don’t believe the hype.” Shawn (Baby Hulk) Hochuli is the Look Man’s **Zebra of the Week**.

WTF Ovah – Part II

Super Bowl LIX will be officiated by Ron (the Eighth Man) Torbert, the Look Man’s least favorite zebra. While Torbert's crew has not worked a KC game in 2024, he has what pundits call “a history.”

His crews have tied for third-most accepted penalties in 2024, with the third-most penalty yards. This after a 2023 season where they ranked second in penalties called.

Torbert may be known to Bengals Fan, after he called a key roughing call on Bengals DE Joseph Ossai in the AFC Championship a few years back. Ossai pushed Mahomes after he'd stepped out of bounds in the final seconds of a close game, setting up the game-winning field goal to send KC to the Super Bowl.

The call was correct, but Bengals Fan now has a burning hatred for Mahomes, who they believe own a few rings which should rightfully be displayed a Pall Bearer Stadium. Tack on a Super Bowl LVI holding call on Bengals LB Logan Wilson vs Rams wideout Cooper Kupp on a third-and-goal, and you have some real irritation for Torbert.

"Cooper came up to me and tried to push off me and I thought I made a good play on the ball," Wilson said after the game. "The refs saw otherwise. Just a tough call. Hell, Kupp was the only receiver they had, so I figured why not hold him? Torbert and the NFL wanted legitimacy for the Rams and owner Stan Kroenke. To say it sucks would be a disgrace to the word 'sucks.'"

The Look Man is praying Super Bowl LIX doesn’t come down to Torbert and crew. It would be a shame to ruin the biggest game of the year on a guy who needs a cane and sunglasses.

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"Watchu talkin' bout Willis?"

LAGNIAPPE

The Prodigal Returns

The Baby Backs backup QB is Carson (From) Wentz (It Came), who took the Iggles to the championship round, only to be injured. (Big Dick) Nick Foles sealed the deal against the Chowds in Super Bowl LII with *the Philly Special* and then drafted gimmick QB Jalen Hurts (So Good). When the Iggles announced Wentz would have to compete with Hurts for the starting role, he demanded a trade.

Wentz has played with three teams in the interim before landing in KC. He is now used in emergencies only and hasn't looked the same since he tore his ACL and back in previous years. The Look Man once thought Wentz would be drafted by Cleveland, but hindsight is not only 20-20. Sometimes, the best moves are the ones you failed to make.

It seems unlikely that Wentz will play on Sunday, but it would be poetic for him to get a ring against the team that decided he was no longer required. Perhaps a special play featuring Wentz by Andy Reid? They could call it *The KC Masterpiece*.

Myles Garrett

The Look Man read with intrigue that two-time DPOY Myles Garrett wants out of Cleveland. It would appear that the Cleveland front office informed Garrett of its intention to draft a young gunslinger in the upcoming draft, and Myles wants no part of a rebuild. Ignore for a minute the resurgence of the Washington Commies and Denver Donkeys, which both went from bums to contenders in a single season after drafting a hurler.

Garrett is not the only noteworthy player on a squad comprised of choir boys and role players. The Browns also have Denzel (Bruce) Ward, the best cover corner in the NFL. But the Browns have needed a stud LB and secondary pass rusher for a while now, and absent a QB to bring it all together, Myles either wants out or a jaw-dropping new deal. And he deserves it.

Unfortunately, in today's NFL, you need multiple key players to be successful. It hasn't turned into the NBA Big Three yet but just wait to see the Pokes and Bengals in 2025 once they sign Parsons and Chase to eye-popping deals. They will instantly become mid-tier teams praying for a ring instead of expecting

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one. It's the old saw: "What's the common theme between Belicheat's 24-year-old GF Jordan Hudson and the Chowds? Neither one is expecting a ring anytime soon!"

The Look Man respects Garrett's position, but he would not release him unless the reward was huge, like two first round picks huge. If Cleveland could position itself with four picks in the first hundred, it could secure several needs at once. While the Look Man is not sold on any of the current collegiate QBs, he would like to see Penn State edge Abdul (Get) Carter in The Land.

Pairing Carter with Garrett would fix the defense, but the nagging QB issue would still remain. And please don't acquire Kirk (Tiberius) Cousins, Sam (Ghosts) Darnold, or another retread as a bridge QB. Those guys are paper tigers.



Mama, there goes that Man again...

THE LOOKAHEAD

Super Bowl LIX is being contested in the Big Easy, site of a recent terrorist attack. Security is going to be ratcheted up way beyond usual due to the presence of Teflon Don. No one wants to see this game marred by violence or see anyone hurt. And that includes folks betting on the outcome.

Two six-figure wagers have been made on the BetMGM money line: (1) someone bet \$800K on the Iggles at +110 odds, and (2) a \$300K bet on the Baby Backs came in at -130. Of course, comedian Kevin Hart owns the former bet, and Taylor Swift the latter, but it is early yet. Everyone is waiting to see how Elon Musk and Donald Trump bet later in the week.

Interestingly, the odds haven't shifted at all on this game, so feel free to jump all over the spread and money line if you feel lucky. Like Dirty Harry lucky, not the other kind.

Philadelphia Cream Cheese Iggles at KC Baby Backs (-1.5/47.5)

This is a battle between the best rushing offense in the NFL versus the number 4 rush defense. Saquon (Big Valley) Barkley has torn up the competition in 2024, including the Play of the Year with Barkley reverse hurdling a defender. If he attempts that move in this game, you may expect KC safety Justin Reid to plant him in the ground.

Mahomes and the Baby Backs go for the unprecedented Three-Peat against an Iggles squad that can beat you with the run, the pass, or the zebras. KC is attempting this feat against the Number One rated

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defense in the NFL. The Iggles have given up the fewest rushing and passing yards of any defense, led by D-Co Vic Fangio. The secondary includes Darius (Big Play) Slay, LB Zack Baun, and safety (Britt) Reed Blankenship. These green hornets can play, and if the zebras allow DT Jalen Carter to go full Mean Joe Green and head slap O-linemen, it could get ugly.

The Iggles didn't sign Saquon to get to the Big Game; they signed him to eat clock, keep Mahomes on the pine, and win the Lombardi Trophy. If he fails to do so, they spent a lot of time and money on very little.

It is an old shoe that defense wins championships, and if that holds true, the Iggles will be victorious. But the Look Man believes that coaching wins championships, and Andy Reid is better than Nick Sirianni, and not just by a little. KC wins, claiming the only three-time consecutive win streak in NFL history. Baby Backs, baby.

EPILOGUE

This game is being heralded as a referendum on the GOAT at QB, but the Look Man disagrees. The real comparison is whether teams win games versus individual players.

Belicheat and Reid are both excellent head coaches, but their mastery lies in situational responses. Brady authored several come-from-behind wins, albeit aided by *Videogate* (*Note: it is easy to call plays when you know what the offense and defense are about to run*).

Mahomes has done more with fewer games and his one failing happened when Brady was at Tampa. The Corn Kings demolished KC 31-9 in Super Bowl LV when Mahomes had a bad wheel and an O-line decimated by injury.

Mahomes vs. Brady, Part 1

STAT	PATRICK MAHOMES	TOM BRADY
Playoff games (W-L)	20 (17-3)	48 (35-13)
Win %	85%	72.9%
EPA/Dropback	0.23	0.14
Dropback success rate	51.1%	49.8%
TD/INT	5.4	2.2
Sack rate	5.2%	4%
Yards/attempt	7.7	7.0
Passer rating	105.8	89.8
Rushing first downs + TDs	43	35
Fourth-quarter comebacks	6	9
Game-winning drives	7	14

The "alleged" GOAT is nervous...

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Other than that anomalous win, Brady's teams won six, and lost three, twice to Eli (Elite) Manning and the New York Football Jynets, and once to the (Big Dick) Nick Foles and the Iggles. The Look Man finds it interesting that Eli, a two-time Lombardi winner, failed to make it into the Hall on his first ballot. Perhaps Roger (Rabbit) Goodell does not like his five-head jokes about brother Peyton. After all, Roger has lost a LOT of hair.

Do not allow QB comparisons to distract you from the real show: the beauty of Andy Reid.

Reid has over 100 plays on his call sheet, and when crunch time arrives, he calls a variation on one of those he has run half a dozen times prior. The defense recognizes the play and begins to 'cheat' to stop it, and WHAM! Reid runs the variation, and a receiver pops wide freaking open.

Reid did this against Philly in Super Bowl LVII; the Niners in Super Bowl LVIII; he did it last week against the Bisons, and he is going to do it again on Sunday. That's why he is Andy Freaking Reid.

Peace,

The Look Man