

THE LOOKMAN REPORT 2025

WEEK TWO: Kickin' It

"Hindsight is 20/20 but they should have spent the money they used on Tee (Higgins) to get him a lineman. He's a pocket passer and holds the ball longer than most. Crazy to expose him the way they have." - The Rear Admiral, official friend of the Look Man, on Joe Burrow's turf toe injury.

PROLOGUE

The Look Man witnessed the Joe (Brrr) Burrow injury live, and a pall was cast over Pall Bearer Stadium in Cincinnati. Burrow is looking at surgery and a three-month recovery, placing him in the December 2025 window. If the Bengals can play .500 ball, he might return in time to go 9-8 and narrowly miss the postseason - - - again.

Ironically, this is the first season Burrow arrived totally healthy, and he has won the NFL Comeback Player of the Year twice already. Bengals ownership should be up on charges of impersonating a professional sports organization. They are wasting a generational talent in Joe Burrow, and the Look Man doesn't expect him back in 2025.

In other NFL news, the Bisons, Bengals, Bolts, and Ponies are all undefeated in the AFC, and the Iggles, Expensive Corn Kings, and Cheeseheads have not yet tasted defeat in the Junior Circuit. Hell, the Niners, Rams, and Dead Birds in the NFC West are all undefeated as well, making for some serious competition. If you contrast that with winless KC, it sets up a run for the roses unlike many other years.

Without further ado, the Week That Was.

LAGNIAPPE

Juiced Ball Era?

Kickers are making field goals from incredible distances this year, and it may have something to do with a rules change. In the old days (last season), each team received three "K-balls" for special teams use. The home team selected first, followed by the visitors. The special teams then received 45 minutes to condition the footballs, removing the coating, evening out the points, etc.

This practice was, like many, necessitated by the New England Chowderheads' attempts to gain an advantage by heating the balls, modifying the inflation, and generally having their way with the balls. Most will remember the Tuck Rule game in which Chowds K Adam (the Winemaker) Vinatieri kicked a long FG in subzero temperatures to defeat the Raiders. That ball had been in the Chowds sauna for three full hours.

Some kickers were even using helium in the balls, which was discovered only after one Justin Tucker ball was spotted hovering over the Inner Harbor following a Monday Night game. When Tom Dempsey, the handicapped kicker of the Saints boomed one from 63 yards in 1970, the Lions defenders laughter was interrupted by the gunshot sound of his metal shoe striking the football.

It wasn't until 2013 that Matt (Nancy) Prater hit a 64-yarder at Mile High. "Kickers like Matt were once like the buffalo, covering five states with their kicking radius. Now, he is the last of his kind," said Crapchester Special Teams Coach Chris Tabor. "These guys are special. Hell, Pokes K Brandon Aubrey is in range when he enters the stadium."

Dempsey's record stood for 43 years and he had a piece of metal in his kicking shoe.

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Brandon Aubrey hit a couple from 65-yards, including last week in the OT thriller with the G-Men, but Justin Tucker holds the record with a 66 yarder. The Look Man doesn't expect that record to stand much longer with the new rule.

No word on whether these K balls have been spotted at nightclubs around the NFL having cocktails and stogies...there could be suspensions for illicit behavior.



This guy cost the Look Man a LOT of money...

THE LOOKAHEAD

Week Three is the line of demarcation between making eth postseason and another season on the Island of Misfit Teams. Few 0-3 teams make it to the playoffs, and the Look Man can only remember one – the Dallas Cowpokes. There may be others, but let's simply agree that no team wants to be looking up at 0-3 in September.

Cincinnati Bengals at Minnesota Hornheads (-3.5, 42.5)

The Look Man posited that Hornheads HC Kevin O'Connell is the reason for their success, and that will be tested with the loss of QB JJ McCarthy, who has a high ankle and will miss two to four weeks.

The Hornheads defense is the reason they are winning, so it will be interesting to see the scheme by DC Brian Flores. This Cincinnati team has an embarrassment of offensive weapons, and even backup QB Jake Browning (Automatic) carried them to victory in Week Two.

Of course, that wouldn't have been necessary if the Bengals had acquired a decent O-line. You simply hate to pay Joe (Brrr) Burrow \$55 million to miss entire seasons. Joe Brrr has been the NFL Comeback Player of the Year twice already, and the Look Man doesn't believe he is coming back in 2025.

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Browning Automatic was dumped by the Hornheads in 2021, and is now a top-five backup. He does have a penchant for turnovers, as indicated in the three-pick affair at home last week in only two and a half quarters. Minnesota is a ball-hawking squad, and backup Carson Wentz can carve up the Ugly and Black.

The Look Man would like to pick the Bengals in an upset, but the defense and run game don't merit the pick. Still, this looks like one of the most entertaining games of the week, with Ja'Marr Chase and Justin Jefferson going off. Hornheads cover and win on a Browning turnover. Hornheads.

Cheeseheads at Browns (+8.5, 42.5)

The Browns failed to cover a 13.5 spread last week at B-More, and Green Bay is being anointed as the best team in the NFC, after the acquisition of DE Micah Parsons (Brown). But not so fast, my friend.

The Browns are on the verge of an offensive seplosion following the debut of RB Quinshon Judkins, who averaged six plus yards per carry at Baltimore. Rookies TE Harold Fannin, WR Isaiah Bond, and MLB Carson Schwesinger are balling out for Cleveland, which also has DE Myles Garrett.

Flacco turns it over only once, which is enough for the Browns to steal a home win and reshuffle the NFC playoff contenders. Browns, baby, Browns in an upset.

Indianapolis Ponies at TN Flaming Thumbtacks (+3, 43.5)

Indy RB Jonathan Taylor is back, dominating on offense, which sets up a sweet passing game for Indy. JT is the NFL's leading rusher (236 yards) and the Ponies are shocking the world at 2-0. TE Tyler Warren is making Danny (Dimes) Jones look like the steal of free agency.

Number One overall Cam Ward has little talent, and less defense. Ponies go to 3-0 and a commanding lead in the AFC Souse Division. Ponies.

LA Rams at Philly Cream Cheese Iggles (-3.5, 44.5)

Matthew (Stat Padford) Stafford and the Rams very nearly knocked the Iggles out of the postseason and a Super Bowl championship in 2024. Stat Padford's Big Three of Puka Nacua, Davante Adams, and Kyren Williams believe they are the equal of Philly's A.J. Brown, DeVonta Smith, and Saquon Barkley. The difference might be that Stafford anticipates while Jalen Hurts uses his legs.

This could be the Game of the Week, and the Look Man likes LA in an upset. Rams cover and win.

Raiders at Commies (-3, 44.5)

DC QB Jayden Daniels is out this week, and his replacement, Marcus Mariota once played for the Raiders. Meanwhile, Raiders QB Geno (Eugene Cyril DeBergerac) Smith stunk it up in Week Two at SoFi. The 20-9 final score was not indicative of how bad a beating really was, and Geno threw three picks.

The Look Man doesn't know what is wrong with the Commies D, but it lacks the killer instinct. Perhaps worse, the Commies run game is stuck in second gear at precisely the wrong time. PUSH.

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Dirty Birds at Black Cats (+4.5, 43.5)

Atlanta finally puts it together on offense, knocking Carolina into the dirt. QB Michael Penix Jr. is playing well enough to win, but his receivers are dropping balls, fumbling, and missing easy catches. Look for the ATL pass rush to rise up and shut down Bryce Young. Could be close enough for Younghoe Koo replacement (Peter) Parker Romo to win it at the buzzer, creating a backdoor cover for Carolina. ATL wins, Carolina covers.

Baby Backs at G-Men (+6, 44.5) – Football Night in America

KC stumbled to an 0-2 start, losing to the defending champs and divisional opponent Bolts. HC Andy Reid and Patrick Mahomes cannot afford to go 0-3 in the AFC, which already has at least three undefeated playoff contenders in Buffalo, the Bolts, and the Bengals.

The NY Football Jynts showed signs of life in an instant classic at Dallas. (Dange)Russ Wilson cooked up 450 passing yards before his defense allowed an OT loss to Dak and the Prescotts.

Look for the G-Men to attempt to run the ball on a depleted KC defense to shorten the game and keep Mahomes on the pine. Won't work; KC wins, G-Men cover as home dogs. Baby Backs.

Detroit Cadillacs at Dumpster Ducks (-6, 52) – Monday Night Football

The Caddies want to avenge a 38-6 can of whoopass last fall in Baltimore. HC Dan (Knee Biter) Campbell pressed them to step up last week, resulting in a fitty burger against Chicago and their former OC Ben Johnson.

Baltimore was the only double-digit underdog to cover last week, but it took four quarters to do it. The Browns Barking Dawg D held Derrick (King) Henry to 23 rushing yards, and the Ducks offense posted two touchdowns on Flacco turnovers. Lamar (Action) Jackson and the Ducks need to get on a roll, but the O-line is sub-standard.

Look for Jared (Subway) Goff and the Cadillacs to show up and show off in Baltimore. Baltimore tends to let its feet off the gas in the fourth quarter. Lamar and King Henry may prevail, but six is too big a number, especially with the lookahead to KC in Week Four.

Cadillacs with a backdoor cover or an outright win.

EPILOGUE

After watching Jacksonville's Travis (Kraven the) Hunter live, the Look Man is even more convinced Cleveland made the correct move in trading him for draft capital. Perhaps that is predicated on the fact that QB Trevor (T-Law) Lawrence is NOT the Real Deal, or that Hunter made several bad plays at Cincinnati.

Hunter ran the wrong route on a red zone interception, and gave up a killer DPI on a late fourth-and-five that kept the Bengals alive. He looked slow and reactive instead of standing out as a speed merchant and ball-hawk. Hunter may be good in a few years, but right now, the Jags have given him too much, too soon, and he is suffering.

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The Look Man also went back and watched the Cleveland-Baltimore game, and the zebras clearly favored the home team. Flacco was drilled on a slide following a first down scramble, and Expedited Replay picked up the flag.

In live action, TE Harold Fannin caught the ball, took two steps, was tackled and stripped. The incomplete pass call had to be challenged by Stefanski, when it was clearly obvious. The only thing Fannin didn't do was take the ball out to dinner.

The Browns loss wasn't close, largely the result of a blocked punt, a scoop six and a pick authored by Flacco. The defense held the Dumpster Ducks to 20 for most of the game. This Cleveland team has outgained both Cincinnati and Baltimore, dominated the Time of Possession and now stands at 0-2.

The Barking Dawg Defense is top five, and would be even better if their offense could put up even an average number of points. Something good is going to happen, and soon.



Mama, there goes that man...again.