

THE LOOKMAN REPORT 2025

WEEK SEVEN: THANK YOU, CLEVELAND

“Listen, it is fun. It’s enjoyable when you’re doing things like last night. And there’s a lot of pressure, man, with this game. And even though I’ve been playing it for so long, I still get those feelings before a game.”
– Bengals QB Joe Flacco following a 33-31 win over the Stillers on Thursday Night Football

PROLOGUE

The Look Man attended the Icy Hot Bowl in Cincy last week, and it was incredible. The Bengals all-white uniform is their best look, and the fan white out was spectacular. The pre-game at PBS was cool as well, with the lights going out, and liberal use of white smoke. There was electricity in the air on a beautiful autumn evening.

The Look Man has been to 26 NFL venues, and this one was special from the outset. The Stillers got up early, and wanted to run the ball and grind out a win. That didn’t stop Aaron Rodgers from generally being an ill-mannered guest. That dime he threw to TE Pat Freiermuth was nothing short of special, and the ten second scramble drill on an earlier TD pass was Hall of Fame worthy.

The game looked to be over when the Stillers went up late, but the magic was about to happen. Flacco has ice water in his veins, and the winning score was special. The fan chant of “Thank you Cleveland” seems like an homage to the late Sam Wyche while celebrating their new hurler. Special.

Without further ado, the Week That Was.

LAGNIAPPE

Icy Hot Bowl

As indicated the Thursday Nighter at Cincy was one of the best games the Look Man has witnessed in ten years. Not only was it the first time he had seen future HOFer Aaron (Discount Double Check) Rodgers live, but the other 40-year-old QB outplayed him.

Cleveland actually checked with Flacco before agreeing to the trade with the Orange and Black. “Now I don’t know if they would’ve done it anyway, if I wasn’t interested. If I said, ‘No, I really don’t want to do that, guys, I don’t know if they would’ve said, O.K., yeah, that’s cool, we won’t do it then,’” Flacco told SI. “But it did seem like [GM] Andrew [Berry] was like, ‘Look man, we appreciate what you’ve done. Would this be something you’d be open to? So we had a conversation about it, for sure.”

The Look Man likes Berry, who is a thoughtful GM who values players. He allowed the Passtronaut a chance to start in Arizona, gave Nick Chubb a contract following injury, and generally takes care of players. It is why free agents jump at a chance to go to Cleveland.

Flacco certainly appreciated the opportunity to play with Ja'Marr Chase, Tee Higgins, and a real receiving crew after turning Amari Cooper and Jerry Jeudy into household names again. Would he have been open to a trade to another team? “That’s hard to answer,” said Flacco. “I certainly didn’t want to go to the Jets.”

Flacco’s incredible start is reminiscent of his 2023 Cleveland season, when he propelled the Browns to the postseason. Flacco started five days after the trade, and his win over the Stillers puts the AFC Asgard

THE LOOKMAN REPORT 2025

WEEK SEVEN: THANK YOU, CLEVELAND

Division back in reach. He has thrown for 561 yards and five touchdowns in two starts, completed 65.2% of his passes with a 100.0 quarterback rating. Pretty good for an old guy.

Wally World

The Jynts-Donkeys game proved the Look Man's theory on officiating at Mile High. Prior to that game, teams had lost 1,602 consecutive games when trailing by at least 18 points with six minutes to play. Denver scored 33 points in the fourth quarter, tied for the second most in NFL history. The Jynts lost by one point in a game that they dominated for three quarters.

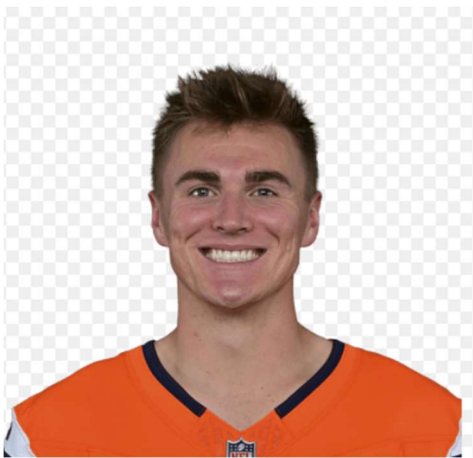
The game marked the largest fourth-quarter comeback for a team held scoreless for three quarters. In addition, Bo Nix became the first NFL player in history to rush for two touchdowns and throw for two in a final quarter.

"I don't even know how we scored 33 points in a quarter, that's kind of insane," said Nix. It's just whatever we had to get done, we did it. And the zebras only helped a little..."

The Zebras attempted to rectify their ridiculous calls with a horrible DPI call late in the game. HC Sean Payton received an unsportsmanlike penalty on the call, and LB Dre Greenlaw got a one game suspension for threatening Zebra Brad (Little Head) Allen after the game.

When asked how in the world they lost the game, Jynts captain (Sexy) Dexter Lawrence said the loss hurt even more than New York's overtime defeat to Dallas in Week 1. "Can't give up 33 points in the fourth quarter," Lawrence said.

While Denver Fan expects all the calls to go their way, they are not far from wrong. The Donkeys make the playoffs for the second consecutive year on the backs of the zebras. They love the Walmart ownership, Sean (Secret Squirrel) Payton, and serial killer Bo Nix.



Dexter is targeting this guy...

THE LOOKAHEAD

The Look Man got killed in the pick segment last week, as chalk ruled. Hard to believe the Raiders didn't cover a double digit spread at KC, but at least (Cake) Baker Mayfield came back to Earth. Better luck this week, but it looks like more chalk.

THE LOOKMAN REPORT 2025

WEEK SEVEN: THANK YOU, CLEVELAND

Cleveland Browns at New England Chowds (-6.5/40.5)

Chowds QB Drake Maye is quietly one of the best in the AFC and perhaps the NFL. Maye has only two picks and ten TDs, and is completing deep balls at a prodigious clip. Maye eclipsed Tom Terrific's completion rate last week, going 21 of 23 against the Flaming Thumbtacks.

He ranks first in the NFL in completion percentage, second in yards per attempt, passer rating, and completion percentage. Perhaps more importantly, no one is talking about this MVP candidate, instead spending their time on (Cake) Baker Mayfield.

Enter the anti-Maye, Browns QB Dillon Gabriel (Horn), whose yards per attempt is in the low single digits. Gabriel hasn't even thrown for two bills in a game he started, and his lack of deep ball prowess has defenses laughing out loud.

Browns Fan would like to see Shedeur Sanders, who has a bigger arm, bigger personality, and bigger upside. HC Kevin Stefanski is bidding his time until the bye week, but it is likely Sanders will start at least four games in 2025. Stefanski wants to ensure those starts happen AFTER the Browns tanking assures a high draft return.

Chowds HC Mike Vrabel spent a season in Cleveland as a consultant, and he knows this Browns squad inside out. Look for the Vray Man to get on top early, and attempt to run the ball down the Browns' collective throats. He will try to go no-huddle to mitigate the Browns D-line rotation and play downhill.

But not so fast, my friend, as the Chowds have a penchant for fumbles in the run game and they haven't played anyone (good) in 2025. RB Rhamondre (Treasure Island) Stevenson has put it on the ground in 2025, and the Barking Dawg D will be looking to strip. Cleveland stuffs the run and turns this one into an ugly, low scoring affair.

Turnover ratio decides this one, and the Browns cover the spread at the Blade. Browns, baby, Browns.



God's Plan may include this New England QB

Chicago Monsters of the Red Hots at Baltimore Dumpster Ducks (-300)

Lamar (Action) Jackson is out again this week, so it's Snoop Huntley at the helm. Da Bears are riding a four-game winning streak, but must stuff King Henry. Baltimore gets back FB Patrick Ricard this week, so

THE LOOKMAN REPORT 2025
WEEK SEVEN: THANK YOU, CLEVELAND

that won't be easy. Ricard is like having an offensive guard in the backfield, and he can punish would-be tacklers, paving the road for Derrick (King) Henry.

The Look Man likes da Bears, but wouldn't put any money on them against a 1-5 Baltimore team that desperately needs a win going into the bye week. Watch the zebras here...

Buffalo Bisons at Carolina Black Cats (+325)

Buffalo might get caught looking ahead to Week Nine tilt with KC. Carolina is better than you think, and Andy (The Beige Water Pistol) Dalton starts for Bryce Young and covers the number. HC Dave Canales on the hot seat in Charlotte. Bisons win, Cats cover.

New York Aeronauticals at Cincinnati QB Killahs (-275)

CB Sauce Gardner and WR (Mc)Garrett Wilson are out for NY, and the Nati needs this win. QB Killahs against a woeful Jets team that wanted to bench Justin (Strawberry) Fields, but Tyrod Taylor is out with a knee. Nati.

Tampa Bay Expensive Corn Kings at New Orleans Religious Icons (+225)

Cake Mayfield has been talking smack, but he could eat crow, baking up turnovers at his new outlet in the Big Easy. The Icons have gotten hot of late and HOF WR Mike Evans is done for the season. Icons cover and win, shutting up Cake. Icons.

Dallas Cowpokes at Denver Donkeys (-170)

Good, tough game as Denver HC Sean Payton loves to make Jerrah Jones eat crow. He once drank Jerrah's Chateau d'Yquem at a restaurant, claiming it was okay because he was Jerrah's favorite. Denver was looking ahead to this game last week when the Jynts nearly upset them.

Dak is on fire, posting some of the best numbers in the NFC. Pickens and CeeDee are tough, but Dak needs time.

Ignore the spread, this is going to be an old-fashioned shoot out. Denver and the over.

Green Bay Cheeseheads at Blitzburgh Stillers (+145) Football Night in America

Another great game on paper. Cheeseheads get WR (Sister) Christian Watson back from a knee, and need this win to keep pace in the NFC Black and Blue. The Stillers need it also, as they let Cincy back into the division hunt, but the NFL would love to see Baltimore in the postseason.

Pack wins, and Stillers Fan calls for Tomlin's head, as they do on every day that ends in a "Y." Go, Pack, go.

Washington Commies at KC Baby Backs (-550) – Monday Night Football

KC might get caught looking ahead to Week Nine tilt with Buffalo, making this game tighter than expected. The zebras are giving them zero love, but Jayden Daniels is out and the Commies defense looks old. Baby Backs, baby.

Bye weeks: [DET](#), [LV](#), [LAR](#), [ARI](#), [SEA](#), [JAX](#)

THE LOOKMAN REPORT 2025
WEEK SEVEN: THANK YOU, CLEVELAND

EPILOGUE

November wins are how NFL teams get back in the hunt, and offenses are clicking on all cylinders. The bye weeks are making it weird, but in the words of Bill (the Tuna) Parcells, "You are what your record says you are."

Peace,

The Look Man