

THE LOOKMAN REPORT 2025

WEEK EIGHT: YOU'RE WELCOME, CINCINNATI

"The craziest thing about Aaron Rodgers is (Steelers head coach) Mike Tomlin told me before the game, 'I've been in this league 25 years, but once a week, (he'll) make a throw in practice where I'll still say, wow, can you believe that?'" – FNIA alum Tony (Skeletor) Dungy on Discount Double Check

PROLOGUE

The Icy Hot Bowl in Cincy in Week Seven gave way to the Nick Mangold Game in Week Eight, but the balance of the slate was pedestrian. Fate is not without a sense of irony, or perhaps that is just shortchanging the analysis.

The real point is that the officiating in Week Eight reached a tipping point. The Tush Push fumble in Jynts-Iggles, and the Pick Six/Inadvertent Whistle in Corn Kings-Icons were just two examples. The Look Man watched games across the spectrum and even the Commies-Baby Backs were not immune. When the smoke cleared, every game other than the Nick Mangold Game had questionable if not awful officiating.

The NBA gambling scandal broke last week, but it wasn't about officiating. This spectre of doubt arises with the expansion of gambling, which makes it a referendum on organized crime. If you put enough money in the right hands, anything is possible. It's like Hyman Roth said in *The Godfather*: "This..is the business...we have chosen."

Not much else changed in Week Eight. Baltimore won a must-win contest at Miami, and Denver and Indy continued their inexorable paths to an AFC faceoff in the post-season. Ho hum.

Without further ado, the Week That Was.

LAGNIAPPE

The Nick Mangold Game

The Jets and Bengals played a no-brainer in which the winless New York team faced a Bengals program straight off a nice upset win on Thursday Night Football. New York was missing its best playmakers on both sides of the football, and the storyline focused on embattled coach Aaron Glenn. Glenn, it theorized, was in over his head with a team that he wasn't ready for.

When the smoke cleared, the NFL had one of its most entertaining games in years, and the Orange and Black was on the wrong side of a 39-38 score. The Look Man predicted that Bengals would be one of the most entertaining teams in the NFL, and it is coming true. They can drop a 50 burger on you on offense and give up 51 on defense. Now that's entertainment.

You now see why Cleveland traded QB Joe Flacco. He wasn't helping the rookie QBs get better, and if you're looking to tank, you don't need a 40-year-old who can throw dimes to talented receivers. You need draft picks to build a tough and deep team that can run the ball and stop the run.

The Bengals can do one of those two, but not the other. The scapegoating of Lou Anarumo is now ludicrous and the calls for Zac Taylor's job are similar. Instead of Taylor, the Bengals need to can their de facto GM, Duke Tobin. All Tobin has done is blow draft picks and trade assets. No first round offensive

THE LOOKMAN REPORT 2025

WEEK EIGHT: YOU'RE WELCOME, CINCINNATI

lineman has signed a second deal in Cincinnati. He acquired Trey Hendrickson who produced above his paygrade, but then re-signed Tee Higgins and let his defense twist in the wind.

The Look Man finds cold comfort in the win by New York, but dislikes the characterization of Glenn as the problem. In the NFL, you either have the horses or you lose. And if you can't get the horses, you have no shot to win. All the owners do is talk trash; they didn't make their money in football and they don't understand the game. Are you listening Jerrah Jones?

Glenn had a gameplan and heart, but the death of Jets icon Nick Mangold is what put this team over the top. Still, Glenn had to harness the team, and he did just that. And any talk of him being overmatched is pure garbage and possible racism.



Which coach would you rather have? Or owner...

Say what??!

Lip readers could easily discern what Aaron (Discount Double Check) Rodgers exclaimed following a DK Metcalf drop in the Stillers game. Rodgers was unhappy about the drop, calling Metcalf a pejorative term.

DDC was clearly upset, leading to reporters asking Metcalf about the play. Metcalf said the following:

"You steal one candy bar; you're not a thief. You cheat on one test you're not a cheat. But you suck one cock...."

<https://twitter.com/i/status/1982614451758002441>

The Love Doctor

Pack QB Jordan Love (Doctor) got married in the offseason, and his play reflects a new quiet confidence. Like Crapchester QB Josh (Irwin) Allen, marriage often suits players, adding maturity, and ensuring they get plenty of sleep when they might otherwise be out chasing women.

Love's spouse is used to the NFL, as her father, Ron Stone, played O-line for the Pokes. At any rate, hubby looks relaxed and capable. If things break just right, he could add a Lombardi to his wedding ring.

THE LOOKMAN REPORT 2025
WEEK EIGHT: YOU'RE WELCOME, CINCINNATI



Mrs. Love, daughter of Pokes O-lineman Ron Stone #65

THE LOOKAHEAD

Another bad outing for The Look Man last week, courtesy of Vegas and the zebras. NFL Fan is starting to get really ticked off at the officiating after the overturns of a clear pick six and Tush Push fumble. It's clear Vegas is calling the shots in 2025, which doesn't bode well for picks. You almost must be a wise guy to figure out this BS, and the NBA gambling scandal is creating unwanted attention.

Does the NFL butt out, or continue to bet on the stupidity of the American public? Your guess is better than the Look Man's.

Cleveland Browns at BYE (-6.5/19.5)

Browns QB Dillon Gabriel cannot see over the offensive line, forcing him to roll out and throw. He lacks arm strength, so deep throws, however rare, often result in picks. HC Kevin Stefanski continues to bake his lame horse, but ownership should use the bye week to prepare Shedeur Sanders. Hard to believe Gabriel once threw for six bills in a collegiate contest. He can't hit the ocean from a boat in the pros.

So far, the 2025 Season of the Tank is wildly successful, and one wonders if the Browns are rethinking the Myles Garrett trade. Typically, a five-sack performance is indicative of a blowout. Week Eight was, but it was Cleveland on the receiving end, as it failed to reach the 20-point barrier yet again in 2025.

THE LOOKMAN REPORT 2025
WEEK EIGHT: YOU'RE WELCOME, CINCINNATI



The Computer wore football cleats...

Chicago Monsters of the Red Hots at Cincinnati QB Killahs (+2.5/52.5)

Cincinnati may have effectively killed another QB, as Joe Flacco suffered an AC joint sprain in the loss to the Aeronauticals. HC Zac (Opie) Taylor calls it a 50/50 game time decision. If Joe can't go, it's back to Browning (Muzzle Loader) at QB, and no one wants that. Especially not Ja'Marr Chase.

The zebras ensured that Baltimore was back last week against the Bears, chopping up any offensive continuity with ticky tack fouls. As a result, a close game was turned into a laughter for the Dumpster Ducks, as Bears QB (Me 'n) Caleb Williams threw a pick late.

This matchup is much more favorable for da Bears, whose turnover based defense should feast on either Cincinnati QB. Perhaps more importantly, the Bengals defense couldn't stop a nosebleed, and da Bears running game is more than adequate. Da Bears.

Indy Ponies at Blitzburgh Stillers (+3/49.5)

Ponies roll into the Still City looking for a legitimate win. They haven't beaten anyone except Denver, and that game hinged on a FG do-over due to penalty. The Stillers have the highest compensated defense in the NFL, but are playing more like a middling squad. Something has got to give, and HC Mike Tomlin is not going to stand idly by for this foolishness. After all, The Standard is the Standard.

Ponies HC Shane Steichen stumbled into a gold mine with Danny Dimes Jones, and his multiple offense is clicking on all cylinders. D-Coordinator (Sweet) Lou Anarumo has a middle-of-the-pack defense which could use a talent infusion. Either way, Sweet Lou was clearly not the reason the toothless Bengals defense struggled in 2024.

It is hard to see the Stillers drop three in a row, even against this AFC Souse Division juggernaut. Vegas has been raking, and the home dog status of the Stillers looks like a trap. Vegas and Roger Goodell would also like to tighten up the AFC Asgard Division with another Stillers' loss, allowing B-More to climb back into the pole position.

THE LOOKMAN REPORT 2025
WEEK EIGHT: YOU'RE WELCOME, CINCINNATI

Split the baby; Stillers cover the spread, Ponies win to set up a titanic struggle overseas in Week Nine. Ponies.

KC Baby Backs at Buffalo Bisons (+1.5/52)

Buffalo rolled last week, avoiding a trap game with some help from the zebras, and liberal rust from Carolina QB Andy (The Beige Water Pistol) Dalton. This week is a different story, as KC brings a top five defense into High Mark Stadium.

KC now has its full complement of starters back, and HC Andy (Kool Aid) Reid has done some self-scouting. QB Patrick Mahomes is back to MVP form, and KC has dominated the competition in the last few weeks.

Again, Vegas sets the line for suckers, and the NFL has been calling a lot of chickenshit on KC. The Look Man can't remember a single punt or kick return that didn't include a ticky tack penalty. RB Isiah (Ferdie) Pacheco has a knee, so the running load falls to Kareem Hunt, who has looked great.

On the Crapchester side, RB James (Let Me) Cook is tearing it up in 2025. OC Joe Brady is getting out of the way and letting Cook cook, setting the stage for a head coaching job in Baton Rouge. The real issue is whether the Bisons' defense has the speed to keep up with KC. The answer: no. KC covers despite a lot of BS penalties. A Bisons loss helps Baltimore, too. Baby Backs, baby.

Seattle Seahawks at Washington Commies (+3.5/45.5) – Football Night in America

The federal government shutdown goes into Week 5, but the Commies are not a federal entity. They are, however, subsidized by the rest of the NFC Least Division. For some reason, Seattle has owned DC, creating a cross-country rivalry. The Seahawks have won three of the last four at FedEx Field, and four of the last six overall.

Seattle HC Mike MacDonald has parlayed decent talent into a superior defense in Seattle. He has also acquired QB Sam (Sixth Sense) Darnold and WR Jaxon Smith-Njigba (JSN) into a formidable offensive weapon.

The Commies leveraged a weak schedule into a playoff season in 2024. Seattle needs a win to keep pace in the NFC Best, where the Rams and Niners are playing solid ball. Seahawks.

Dallas Cowpokes at Arizona Deadbirds (+2.5/54) – Monday Night Football

Dak's MVP season was put on hold in Week Seven, as Denver's defense forced him into several turnovers. Prescott was getting sacked more than a bag of groceries at Piggly Wiggly, and the defensive secondary was pulling guys off the street to cover for injuries. Dallas is in trubba right now, and the Calvary isn't coming over that hill anytime soon.

QB Kyler (Fred Mc)Murray is back from a foot injury, but this team looked better without him. Arizona is a "team in disarray" but they always play the Pokes tough. The problem is, Doomsday is broken, having difficulty with the run and the pass. It is reminiscent of the old Tony Romo days, where you must score 50 just to ensure a close win.

The spread is a tease, but Pokes K Brandon Aubrey kicks a 70-yarder for the win. Dallas.

THE LOOKMAN REPORT 2025

WEEK EIGHT: YOU'RE WELCOME, CINCINNATI

Bye weeks: [CLE](#), [NYJ](#), [TPA](#), [PHL](#)

EPILOGUE

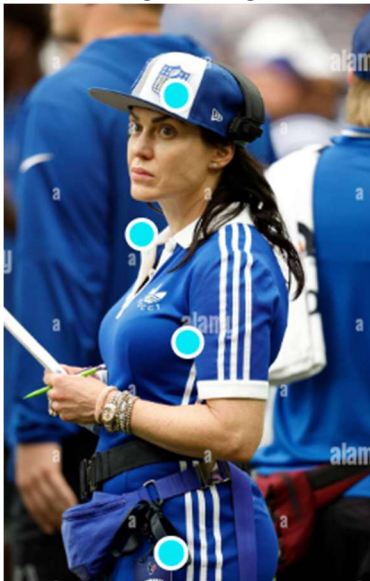
Halloween weekend is one of the Look Man's favorites. Fans, which are already rabid, dress for team success and laughs all over the league. The Bengals have the built in advantage of color scheme, so they will simply masquerade as a playoff contender. In truth, they were such a flawed squad at the outset that the injury to Joe Burrow was more icing than cake.

At the end of the day, you are what your record says you are. In the case of the Bengals, you are largely the same non-playoff squad from 2024 with larger paychecks. The injuries to Burrow and Hendrickson merely added salt to the wounds.

The interesting development in the NFL is Indianapolis, where coaching and Serendipity have conjoined for a playoff caliber team. HC Shane Steichen always had the scheme, but not the QB. Danny Dimes always had the arm and legs, but not the leadership. And GM Chris Ballard just needed an owner to help him reach his vision.

Ballard now has that in Carlie Irsay-Gordon, the headset wearing, note taking owner who succeeded father Jim Irsay. Ms. Irsay-Gordon could do more for NFL public relations than a whole bevy of Taylor Swifts. Her midwestern sensibility and no-nonsense approach is returning a winner to Indy for the first time since the unexpected retirement of Andrew (Neck Beard) Luck.

The Look Man welcomes her to the good ole boys club of the NFL. Hopefully, she can come in kicking ass and chewing bubblegum. Add a pass rushing DE at the trade deadline, and she might do just that.



The new face of Colts NFL ownership

Peace,

The Look Man