

THE LOOKMAN REPORT 2025

WEEK NINE: DEADLINE DEALS

"We're fortunate right now that, in the league, there's a lot of teams with multiple losses... You can catch a hot streak and be right there in the mix. And if you don't get a streak going, you're just putting yourself more and more behind the eight ball. It's now or never." – Pokes QB Dak Prescott following the loss to the Cardinals on TNF Prime

PROLOGUE

The Look Man is impressed with Dak in 2025, where he has survived most of his bad performances and horrid Doomsday Lite. The most impressive thing might be that Dak has become the adult in the room, offsetting the carnival created by Jerrah Jones and the front office. Dak has clearly benefitted from speaking classes, and though he is not always on the money, he puts team first and manages giant egos.

Denver and Indy are threatening to run away with their divisions in the AFC, while the NFC cannot decide whether Philly, Detroit, or Tampa Bay are the real deal. The NFC West is stacked with good teams which will likely cancel each other out once division play occurs.

The division races are wide open in 2025 as the NFL is getting what it truly wants: parity. The late Pete Rozelle envisioned a parity-based league with the 'any given Sunday' motif. Forty years later, Parity Pete's vision is coming to fruition.

Without further ado, the Week That Was.

LAGNIAPPE

The Matrix Game

The Bengals followed up the Nick Mangold Game with another thriller in Week Nine against da Bears. QB Joe Flacco's career high 470 passing yards and four TDs, wasn't enough as the Bengals defense couldn't stop anything.

"We put the ball in the end zone, and go up a point at the end," RB Chase Brown said. "Finish the f***ing game. Just end it. That's it. That's what we need to do, just end the f***ing game."

Flacco was more sanguine about the loss. He knows that you simply cannot throw your defense under the bus without tearing the team apart. Still, it would have been nice to win a game in which you score 42 points, recover a miraculous onside kick, and overcome a double-digit lead. Flacco went up 42-41 with fifty ticks left in the fourth quarter.

Chicago's defense wasn't much better, as it picked Flacco off twice, only to have the zebras call back a fourth quarter 96-yard pick six. There were also several other bad calls by Head Zebra Clete Blakeman. The Look Man typically likes Clete, but these calls were downright awful.

The final score on a 58-yard dime by Caleb Williams to rookie TE Coleston Loveland was outstanding. Loveland broke two tackles and high-kneed it to the end zone with everything on the line. "That was probably the craziest play I ever seen other than the blocked field goal," said Bears SS Jaquan Brisker. Added FS C.J. (G-J) Gardner-Johnson: "He was picking the knees up. He was gone. He was like a NASCAR."

The Bears lost a game like this at Washington in 2024 on a Hail Mary after celebrating early. This game marked the maturation of Caleb Williams and the Ben Johnson offense. Williams is not there yet, but

THE LOOKMAN REPORT 2025

WEEK NINE: DEADLINE DEALS

like Neo from The Matrix, he is going to be good if he does what he is capable of. Williams scrambled for 14 yards before hitting Loveland for the winning score, dodging several agents along the way.

Chicago's second-year QB broke the NFL record books, finishing 20-of-34 for 280 yards, three passing touchdowns, 53 rushing yards on five carries, caught two passes for 22 yards and a touchdown. He became the first player in NFL history to have multiple passing touchdowns, multiple receptions, and a receiving touchdown in a single game. He was, in short, The One.



"I need receivers...lots of receivers."

Jerrah's World

The Look Man has not been a fan of Pokes' owner Jerrah Jones, but his vision of a run stuffing Doomsday Defense may become a reality. The Pokes acquired DT Quinnen Williams and Kenny Clark to shore up the middle of their defense, and the draft picks haul from the Micah Parsons trade could position them to select an effective edge rusher in 2026. If Dallas can stuff the run, they will be able to defend against the Iggles, Commies, and Jynts for years to come.

In the old days, the NFC East built teams to stop each other, resulting in outstanding playoff competition between the Jynts, Iggles and Pokes. They overpaid QB Dak Prescott at \$60 million annually, so they no longer need to draft a replacement. They are playing with house money with WR George (Slim) Pickens, who is capable of riding a nuclear warhead to the ground or catching one in traffic.

Pickens, who is 24 years old, figures to slay in free agency, but the Pokes could use the franchise tag on him. "In every aspect of it, he's doing more than we did expect or that we could have expected," said Jerrah. "So, he's not only doing it on the field, he's doing it as part of the team concept, and that's very important and, in his particular case, should be noted. We knew full well that if things really went like we want them to go, that certainly we needed to think about having some room available if we were going to pay a second receiver at that level."

THE LOOKMAN REPORT 2025

WEEK NINE: DEADLINE DEALS

Jerrah is part showman, part shaman, and this Quinnen Williams trade is either genius or Providence. It allows Dallas to rebuild on the fly, opening a window for another ring before Jerrah gets called up to Heaven. Or that other place...



These could turn into tears of joy in 2026...

THE LOOKAHEAD

The Look Man went 2-3 last week, courtesy of Arizona and Blitzburgh upsets. He is steaming mad about the KC-Buffalo game, in which both Mahomes and Kelce took brutal hits that went uncalled. Either one of those penalties might have resulted in KC winning ugly in regulation.

Cincinnati QB Killahs at BYE (-1.5/-112.5)

Cincinnati is the most entertaining team in the NFL, losing two consecutive games after scoring 78 cumulative points. The Look Man predicted this outcome, but even he couldn't predict the sheer number of dick-punch losses in 2025. And the season is only half-over.

QB Joe Flacco is lighting it up in the Nati with 1,300 passing yards and eleven TD passes. He threw for nearly five bills with four TDs in the Bears game alone. Unfortunately, he is 1-3 for the Orange and Black, with a defense that couldn't stop a nosebleed.

HC Zac (Opie) Taylor and GM Duke Tobin likely won't survive the year, despite the tough luck and inherited bad defense. The Rumor Mill has the Bengals dealing Joe (Brrr) Burrow to the Jets for multiple first round picks. Given the holes on the O-line and defense, it would take a miracle to rebuild in Cincinnati, and they will count themselves lucky to avoid a loss during the bye week.

Cleveland Browns at NY Aeronauticals (-2.5/36.5)

The Browns head to *The City That Never Sleeps* fresh off of their bye week. HC Kevin Stefanski has given up playcalling duties to OC Tommy Rees, but declared QB Dillon Gabriel will remain the starter. Browns

THE LOOKMAN REPORT 2025

WEEK NINE: DEADLINE DEALS

Fan is not down with tanking, and would like to see if backup rookie hurler Shedeur Sanders can break the 20-point barrier.

NYJ HC Aaron (John) Glenn proved he can coach in the epic win over the Bengals two weeks ago, but his GM Darryl Bougey sold all his good players out from under him. Pro Bowlers Quinnen Williams and Sauce Gardner were traded for picks at the deadline, leaving the rest of the team to play for the future. NY is now stocked with multiple first rounders, and could push the rebuild out to 2027 if they don't like the QB picks this season.

The real issue here is whether Glenn will be around for the rebuild.

This game is comical if only to determine if *he who tanks last, tanks best*. Browns, baby, Browns, sealing the top pick overall for the J-E-T-S.

Buffalo Bisons at Miami Marine Mammals (+9.5/47.5)

Buffalo eked by KC at home last week, despite dominating Time of Possession, sacks, and the amount of popcorn purchased. You can say what you want about the Mammals, but this is a division matchup, and they are going to play hard for HC Mike McDaniels.

Buffalo could be in trap game territory, as they just played the Baby Backs, and will face the Corn Kings in Week Eleven. Miami covers.

LA Rams at SF Niners (+3.5/49.5)

The Niners have a QB controversy, and HC Kyle Shanahan deserves *Coach of the Year* consideration for cobbling together wins with an injured roster and a QB no one wanted. QB Mac (the Dull Knife) Jones is putting together a career year while starter Brock Purdy (Good) gets healthy.

It's a little-known fact that players cannot practice while on IR, so Shanny allowed Purdy to stay on the roster with a turf toe similar to Joe Burrow's. Purdy can heal on his own schedule while Mac Jones stacks wins in the rough and tumble NFC West. Funny how some organizations work around injuries while others use them as a pretext to tank.

The Rams are playing some of the best ball in the NFL with Matt Stafford, whose miraculous recovery from a bad back has many saying "MVP." While everyone touts the NFC Norse, the NFC West has three of the best teams in the conference in the Niners, Rams and Seahawks. Rams overcome a beat up Niners team to claim first place in the West. Rams.

New England Chowderheads at Tampa Bay Expensive Corn Kings (-2.5/48.5) – the Drake vs. Bake Bowl

Fittingly, Tampa Bay is coming off a bye week, and face New England in the first of three consecutive challenge games. The Corn Kings go to Buffalo in Week Eleven, then follow with a trip to SoFi to meet the Rams.

The Look Man spends a lot of time in the Tampa Bay area, and there is no shortage of Chowds Fan here. For one thing, many bought into the Corn Kings when Tom (Terrific) Brady relocated here. Perhaps more importantly, the weather beats the hell out of Boston, where snow has likely already flown by Week Nine. The real over/under here is how many Tom Terrific jerseys appear in the stands, and whether there will be more TB12 jerseys from New England or Tampa.

THE LOOKMAN REPORT 2025

WEEK NINE: DEADLINE DEALS

But not so fast, my friend. This Drake Maye kid is the real deal. He is breaking Tammmy's records and represents the best thing to happen to Boston since the Tea Party. Like Brady, Maye is doing all of this without a superstar receiving crew, and throws the deep ball with exceptional efficiency.

(Cake) Baker Mayfield, on the other hand, has lost HOF WR Mike Evans for the season, RB Bucky Irving, and Chris Godwin for weeks, and his O-line is depleted by injury. If not for WRs Emeka Egbuka and Tez Johnson, Cake would be looking at his usual 9-8 record. Hell, he still might be after this murderer's row of opponents: New England, at Buffalo, at Rams. After that, they return to the dreadful NFC South, but could stumble against New Orleans, ATL, and Carolina.

The Cowboys and Drake prevail, sending the Cowboys into some soul searching for *God's Plan*. Cowboys.

LA Bolts at Blitzburgh Stillers (+2.5/45) – Football Night in America

The Stillers looked like the Stillers of old last week, with defenders flying to the ball, sacking Danny Dimes and generally creating mayhem. It was helpful that the Stillers were celebrating a Super Bowl reunion weekend, and that HC Mike Tomlin had his foot squarely up their collective rumps. Mike T is not going down without a fight, and especially not to a Cowboys squad that hasn't played a physical opponent.

This game was not as bad as the press would indicate; though Indy (and mainly Indiana Jones) turned the ball over six times, the final score was a seven-point spread. Typically, losing the turnover battle 0-6 results in a 30-point beatdown. Instead, Indy took their beating, and went out and procured shutdown CB Sauce Gardner from the Jets.

D-Coordinator Lou Anarumo is missing a few pieces on defense, and this is going to help. Sweet Lou already has a top five rushing defense, but his pass defense drops them into the high teens overall. This acquisition is going to produce immediate results, because Sweet Lou is going to be able tilt the secondary coverage and leverage his exotic schemes. Anarumo was the scapegoat in Cincinnati, but he may be the savior in Indy.

The Look Man digresses because this Stillers defense finally played up to its payroll. The Bolts have no first-string tackles, so look for Mike Tomlin to feast on QB Justin (Eden) Herbert. The Bolts defense is solid, but Aaron (Discount Double Check) Rodgers employs 21 personnel matchups to overcome the disadvantage. For the uninitiated, 21 personnel is two tight ends, one running back, and the Stillers have excellent TEs in Pat Frieremuth, Darnell Washington, and Jonnu Smith.

This game is also in contention for Game of the Week, but it should be a slobberknocker. Three-point home dogs are always dangerous, and the Still Curtain is going to be ready. Stillers.

Philly Cream Cheese Iggles at Green Bay Cheeseheads (-2.5/44.5) – Monday Night Football

The Pack plays down to the level of its competition, with losses to the Browns and Black Cats. They tied Dallas, a potent offensive juggernaut which wanted to erase a playoff beatdown in 2024. Now, Green Bay faces its stiffest test in the Iggles on MNF.

Philly QB Jalen Hurts (So Good) is a fantastic deep ball thrower on a team that is clearly run-first. WR AJ Brown is unhappy seeing CeeDee Lamb and others post big numbers while he languishes in obscurity. But the Iggles need Brown for games like this one, and more importantly, the postseason.

THE LOOKMAN REPORT 2025

WEEK NINE: DEADLINE DEALS

Look for Green Bay to pressure Hurts into mistakes, forcing the game to focus on the middle of the field. Jordan Love (Broker) will have his own issues, as the Iggles defensive line stuffs the run and forces him to speed up his clock. DTs Jalen Carter and Jordan Davis are big boys with bad intentions.

Backup TE Luke Musgrave needs to have a big game blocking and receiving if the Pack wants to claim victory. Musgrave is actually a little faster than Kraft, forcing Philly to cover him with safeties and nickel defenders instead of linebackers. The problem arises if WRs (Sister) Christian Watson and Romeo Doubs can flex the weakness at CB. If they do, the Pack rolls.

This game is a referendum in the NFC, which has great teams. The Iggles are 4-0 following the bye week under Siriani, and baby makes five. Iggles.

Bye weeks: ***DAL, CIN, KC, TEN***

EPILOGUE

As the calendar flips from October to November, teams must establish an identity. Are you a run-first, defensive stopper (Detroit), a finesse passing team with no defense at all (Cincinnati), or a two-TE, power passing attack (Rams)? Once you have decided what you are, then all of your effort can be expended to make that your *raison d'être*.

Some teams can be more than one of these; the Iggles and Baby Backs come to mind, as they can win in multiple ways. Unfortunately, injuries can deter a team from pursuing its identity. Green Bay wants to be a run-first team, but the loss of TE Tucker Kraft takes away a key blocker. Detroit lost its identity when faced with a blitzing Hornheads squad that forced the Cadillacs to keep an RB in the backfield for blitz pickup. The result was a tight, 27-24 loss that impacted the balance of the NFC Norse Division.

Similarly, the Ponies finesse offense struggled when faced with a ferocious Stillers pass rush, turning the ball over repeatedly. The outcome was closer than it should have been, but you get the drift.

Belicheat was fond of saying that “the season doesn’t begin until Thanksgiving,” but it gets late early around here. Teams need to win now, or the conference seeding could create tie-break disadvantages.

Peace,

The Look Man