

THE LOOKMAN REPORT 2025

WEEK TEN: A DOG THAT WON'T BARK

"I mean, man, I'm going to be honest; it was like a tough week for me, like mentally, just trying to learn all the plays. I started watching tape on Cleveland, then already had to switch and watch tape on Atlanta, and that's besides having to hurry up and fly to Indy and then hurry up and fly to Berlin." – new Indianapolis DB Sauce Gardner.

PROLOGUE

Week Ten was a contrast in styles. The early games were decent, with an OT win by Indy in Berlin, followed by scintillating action in Jynts-Bears. These games felt like appetizers to the New England-Tampa Bay and Jacksonville-Houston games, which were up in the air all the way to the final gun. Toss in upsets between Buffalo-Miami and you have a decent slate of games in Week Ten.

The slate did a few things:

- (1) it exposed some pretenders to the Lombardi in Buffalo and Green Bay losses. No team that is serious about a chip loses these types of games this late in the season.
- (2) because they occurred following the trade deadline, some of the new acquisitions participated. And even if they did not, teams were excited about their impacts, and performed accordingly.
- (3) if you didn't believe tanking was real in pro sports, or if you're simply a masochist, watch CLE-NYJ again. The Browns wanted no part of this win.

The Look Man is sick of the tanking. The Browns Barking Dawg D held New York to 13 points, but Cleveland still lost by seven. Probably a bad idea to throw rookie Shedeur Sanders into the deep end, but the Browns are wasting Myles Garrett and a Top Five defense.

Any way you slice it, we are rounding into form for Thanksgiving, when wins count. We are about to know which teams are in contention, and which teams are pretenders.

Without further ado, the Week That Was.

LAGNIAPPE

Flacco CPOY?

Cincinnati's Joe Flacco is currently the *NFL Comeback Player of the Year*, and the margin is not slim.

Since being traded to the Bengals, a team with real NFL pass catchers, here are his numbers:

Date	Team	Opp	Att	Cmp	Pct	Yds	YPA	TD	TD%	Int	Int%	Lg	FD	20+	Sack	Loss	QB Rate	Result
10/12/2025	CIN	@ GB	45	29	64.4	219	4.9	2	4.4	0	0	19t	12	0	1	6	90.9	L, 27-18
10/16/2025	CIN	vs PIT	47	31	66	342	7.3	3	6.4	0	0	37	16	4	2	14	108.6	W, 33-31
10/26/2025	CIN	vs NYJ	34	21	61.8	223	6.6	2	5.9	0	0	44t	11	1	1	6	100.5	L, 39-38
11/2/2025	CIN	vs CHI	47	31	66	470	10	4	8.5	2	4.3	44t	22	10	3	21	109.4	L, 47-42
	TOTALS		173	112	258.2	1254	28.8	11		2			61	15	7	47		

The yardage, TD passes, and QBR are all off the charts. This season could be called the Year of the QB Reclamation. Flacco joins Sam Darnold, Daniel (Indiana) Jones as scrap heap hurlers who have shown that good coaching and system fit is the most important aspect of QB play. If you don't believe them, **"Flacc around and find out."**

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"I need receivers...GOOD receivers."

Blowout Sunday Afternoon

When the late games in Week Ten resulted in a 78-3 scoring disparity at halftime, NFL Fan went bananas. They want the NFL to balance the schedule during weeks with international games (like Indy-ATL in Germany last Sunday). The NFL allows teams to schedule a bye week following their international games.

"NFL needs to do a better job of balancing out the early and late afternoon schedule," one fan wrote.

"The NFL needs to start flexing the schedule sooner... 3 afternoon games with 3 starting QBs vs 3 backups isn't very entertaining," one fan added.

"So many afternoon slates have been unwatchable this year. The combination of too many overseas games and only having 3 late games most weeks is killing my interest," one fan added.

"WHY ARE THERE ONLY 3 LATE AFTERNOON GAMES???" one fan added.

It was pretty bad in Week Ten; as bad a slate of late games as the Look Man can remember. Believe it or not, we needed a Bengals roller coaster game to spice it up.

Scorigami

The ugliness extended into FNIA, as the Pirates and Padres score was 5-3 after two quarters. The final score of 36 to 29 has never occurred previously in NFL history. When Houston returned a pick six for a last-second score against Jacksonville Jaguars, and declined to go for the extra point, we got NFL Scorigami for the third time in 2025.

Buffalo's thrilling 41-40 Week 1 game and the 40-40 tie between the Pokes and Pack also applied as new scoring entries. Typically, these Scorigami occur during weird scoring plays, or bad coaching decisions.

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In the Houston-Jacksonville game, the J-Squareds went for two twice in the third quarter, failing both times. Houston also had two failed conversions and a pick six to wrap the scoring. Had they gone for the PAT, the 37-29 final score has happened four times.

There are still nearly 1400 NFL scores that have never happened remaining after 105 years of pro football. It's amazing.

THE LOOKAHEAD

After going 4-2 courtesy of the Browns and Blitzburgh losses, the Look Man is gearing up for one of the best weeks in the 2025 season. There are a lot of division matchups, and the inter-conference games could affect playoff races.

The Look Man admits to one error last week: he believed the Stillers-Bolts was at Ketchup Field instead of SoFi. As a result, the three point home dog rule was blown up. Perhaps more importantly, the Bolts were more physical than the Stillers, blasting Aaron (Discount Double Check) Rodgers into submission. DDC even turned his back during one red zone pass, basically saying, "UNCLE!" Bolts HC Jim (The Milkman) Harbaugh praised his team, which won despite pulling offensive tackles out of the stands.

So, it is on to Week Eleven for the Look Man, who did decently otherwise.

Chicago Monsters of the Red-Hot vs Minnesota Hornheads (-2.5/48.5)

Chicago is suddenly red-hot, and head into the Twin Cities to face the ice-cold Hornheads. QB JJ (Mofro) McCarthy is back at the helm, and stinking it up.

The Look Man didn't like him at Michigan, and both Sam Darnold and Daniel Jones are better quarterbacks than Mofro. HC Kevin McConnell disagrees, trying to prove his genius is better than your eyes. Da Bears cover and win.

Cincinnati QB Killahs at Blitzburgh Stillers (-5.5/50.5)

The most entertaining team in the NFL returns from its bye week, just in time to face the mad as wet hornets at Ketchup Field. HC Mike (Omar Epps) Tomlin is about to light a fire up under his defense, or anyone else who gets in between him and his money. Fans are again calling for Tomlin's head, as they believe he cannot coach.

With eighteen consecutive seasons over .500, his only contemporaries are Tom Landry, Bill Belichick, and George Halas. Pretty good company for a guy who has done it with quarterbacks like Mason Rudolph (the Red Nosed QB), Kenny (Two Gloves) Pickett, and Mitch (Drive Thru) Trubisky.

The Bengals took the bye week to self-scout and fix their O-line woes, but unfortunately, they could not clone a free safety in that time. Joe (Brrr) Burrow was activated for practice, and if the Orange and Black can string together some wins, could return for Thanksgiving like the Great Pumpkin.

The Look Man figures the spread is too high for a division game, and Cincinnati always struggles against good Tight Ends. Blitzburgh has three of them in Pat Friermuth, Darnell Washington, and Jonnu Smith, and a defense that is highly motivated after losing to Cincy on Thursday Night Football.

The Stillers always play well on Sunday and Monday night, but this is a day game. Perhaps worse, the next three include the Bears, Bisons, and Baltimore. Bengals cover in another wild finish.

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Tampa Bay Expensive Corn Kings at Crapchester Bisons (-5.5/50.5)

Buffalo hasn't played anyone except KC, and barely beat them in a game that they dominated statistically. Apparently, they were looking ahead last week, when they got pantsed by Carolina. The real issue is that they cannot stop the run without DT Ed Oliver, who is on IR.

Enter (Cake) Baker Mayfield and the Expensive Corn Kings, who are still nicked up at RB and WR. Baker himself has a bum knee, and his early season scrambling died, ending the MVP babble. Tampa needs this win to avoid their annual 9-8 record, enough to win the NFC South Division but not much else.

Buffalo is an enigma wrapped in a riddle. They struggle to fix in-season offensive and defensive scheme issues due to mediocre coaching. They typically lose two consecutive games to inferior teams with good scouts, and then cannot fix the problems. In this case, the problem is the lack of a vertical threat to create space in the running game. Play action only works if receivers actually catch the deep ball.

The Bills Mafia takes over the game, with proposition wagers on who can break the most tables or do the most shots. In this case, they shut the run down just enough, and force Cake into a pick or two. Bisons.

Breen Gay Cheeseheads at NY Football Jynts (+7.5/44.5)

Like the Bisons, the Pack needs to gain an identity. HC Matt LeFleur (means 'virgin' in French) wants to be a power running team that can beat you over the top. Unfortunately, you need healthy wideouts to be that team, as well as C/RG Elgton Jenkins, who is on IR with an ankle.

The sky is not falling for QB Jordan Love (Broker), he simply cannot make lemonade with rutabagas. The Pack was forced to play a DB at WR last week, and it showed. Love Broker was forced to throw it to him, because the Watson and Doubs couldn't create separation. Apparently, the zebras were in on the gag, allowing the Iggles DBs to treat them like grocery store ponies.

(Famous) Jameis Winston has been installed at QB, and he can put up points and picks in bunches. Since Jaxon Dart is still in concussion protocol, it was Famous or (Dange)Russ Wilson. Winston is the sole member of the 30 TDs/30 INTs Club, as well as being the only guy comfortable both in the pocket and *The Tonight Show* sofa.

The Pack is ripe for a *Get Right Game*, but they stink against the spread, and 7.5 is a lot. Go Pack, go.

Baltimore Dumpster Ducks at Cleveland Browns (-8.5/38.5)

The Browns lost *the Battle of Tanking Teams* last week. The Aeronauticals posted back-to-back kickoff and punt returns for touchdowns, sealing the fate of Browns Special Teams Coach "Bubba" Ventrone.

HC Kevin Stefanski refuses to give up on QB Dillon Gabriel, who will remain the starter/bait for the Baltimore defense. Baltimore is heating up since Action Jackson's return, and a rested defense is a better defense. They are missing CB Marlon Humphrey (Bogart) this week, but believe they can muddle through against a team that has a high-water mark of 20 points.

Browns cover the 8.5, largely in retribution for an early season beatdown in Baltimore. Browns, baby, please....

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Seattle Seahawks at LA Rams (-3.5/48.5) – Game of the Year?

The Niners got blown out by the Rams in Week Ten despite QB Mac Jones going 33 of 39 for 319 yards and three TDs. Mac the Knife posted a passer rating of 115.7 on the day, but couldn't even get within a touchdown of the Rams.

Rams QB Matt Stafford is playing unbelievable ball of late. He has double digit TD passes and zero picks in the last four weeks, and has done it largely without Puka Nacua. These guys have used three and four TEs to overcome the Nacua problem. Green Bay and Buffalo cannot fix any of their offensive woes, and Sean McVay is drawing up plays in the dirt at SoFi. "Wunderkind" is an insult to McVay, whose out of the box thinking is making the Rams one of the best teams no one knows about.

Speaking of unknown quantities, the Seahawks defense is returning to Legion of Boom levels. QB Sam (Ghosts) Darnold is on an incredible heater, and Jaxon Smith Njigba (JSN) is blowing up. This is the best NFC team that no one is talking about. Detroit and Philly are the class of the NFC, but these two teams are in the conversation.

Seattle is very multiple on defense, and plays the most nickel of any squad. They can matchup with the Rams TE formations, and perhaps force Stafford into turnovers.

There really is no home field advantage at SoFi. The Twelves descend on LA, and Seattle covers and wins this one.

KC Baby Backs at Wally World Donkeys (+3.5/44.5)

This game is a referendum on the AFC West, and the winner is likely a lock for the division title. The Look Man contends that most of Denver's wins are zebra-aided, especially at Mile High Investigation Field. QB Bo Nix is in the midst of a bad sophomore slump, and HC Sean (Secret Squirrel) Payton is about out of patience. The rumor mill has them drafting a QB in Denver.

In a game that is this tight, the Look Man looks to QB and coaching. Andy (Kool-Aid) Reid is superior to Secret Squirrel, and this game is going to be tight. Look for Reid to make a few tweaks to use Denver's aggression against them. Think of it as Kool-Aid Kung Fu, to beat the Donkeys and their Wally World zebras. Baby Backs, baby.



D-Coordinator Vance Joseph and HC Sean Payton discuss strategy...

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Detroit Cadillacs at Philly Cream Cheese Iggles (-2.5/46.5) – Football Night in America

The Look Man is fed up with the Iggles, who parlay a boring attack with timely deep balls into wins. Their defense is reminiscent of the guys from The Longest Yard, and once they get on top in the score, the Philly D pins back its ears and bludgeons you to death.

On the Detroit side, this team is a dichotomy; they play great on turf, but less so on grass. The speed run game and crossing routes don't work as well if you cannot cut on a dime. And The Linc is a grass field.

Iggles WR AJ Brown is making a mockery of the team, but he is right about one thing: the Iggles are playing with fire on a team that cannot run and wants to use a frail DeVonta Smith as WR1. It's going to blow up and when it does, the *City of Brotherly Shove* is going to be a dumpster fire.

Iggles by a FG.

Dallas Cowpokes at Las Vegas Raiders (+3.5/48.5) – Monday Night Football

The Pokes look to be dedicating their season to Marshawn Kneeland following his untimely death. Doomsday Light is getting healthy, with LB DeMarvion Overshown returning to spell newly acquired Logan Wilson. This front seven is suddenly legitimate, and Quinnen Williams and Kenny Clark are a headache ready to happen.

Geno Smith is going postal in Vegas, yelling at his wideouts, and generally irritable. His payday is about to end as HC Pete Carroll's butt is on the line. This matchup is bad for a rebuilding Raiders squad with no speed, no receivers, and no running game. Pokes.

Bye weeks: **Indy, New Orleans**

EPILOGUE

This weekend slate of games is one of the best in recent memory. There are also a few collegiate contests with merit, so it should be a nice sports weekend.

Peace,

The Look Man