

THE LOOKMAN REPORT 2025

Week Twelve – Turkey Time

"I think it should be around 2 o'clock in the afternoon. People are hungry, and they're starting to circle the kitchen. You don't want to wait until nighttime. This way, you can eat and then watch the big game and then 'have more drinks and have fun' and eat dessert later." – Domestic goddess Martha Stewart on the proper time to eat Thanksgiving Dinner.

PROLOGUE

The Look Man concurs with Martha; eating early on Turkey Day allows for afternoon grazing, a light nap, and some serious dessert in the early evening. He also believes that NFL football is definitely a part of the event. The Official Wife of the Look Man disagrees, but nothing says Thanksgiving like a 12:30 kickoff.

The NFL is blowing it this year by moving the kick to 1:00PM, but don't let that stop you. Serve up the bird early, have a few cocktails and enjoy the day.

The lineup is great by its very nature. Dallas and Detroit used to be the only teams which wanted the big game, but it has now become tradition. This development is in no small part due to John Madden, who crowned the event with Turducken and dark meat aplenty. Now everybody's trying to do the Bump.

If there is one gripe, it is the potential flipping of the middle and late games. KC at Dallas should be far superior to the Bengals at B-More. Both teams NEED this win, and whoever loses is likely out of the postseason. Every household in America would be glued to KC-Dallas at 8:20PM. Less so at 4:30.

Without further ado, an abbreviated Turkey Day LMR:

LAGNIAPPE

The MVP?

The MVP race in 2025 has been solid. After some ludicrous early talk about (Cake) Baker Mayfield, this thing has settled down significantly. For the Look Man's money, here are the contestants:

Dak Prescott (Pokes) – a struggle here and there, but Dak is leading this team. He has turned Geoge (Slim) Pickens into a nuclear star, and he is doing it without a defense...until last weekend.

Matt Stafford (Rams) – there is an investigation into whether Stafford went *Damn Yankees* and sold his soul to the Devil for these numbers. Here is a dude that couldn't even practice during preseason, and now he is rolling out and throwing dimes. That no-look pass in Week Twelve was a dagger, and Stafford is doing it with two three and four TE packages. It's been a month since he threw a single pick. Wow.

Jonathan Taylor (Ponies) – dude is surreal, but so much better on turf than grass. His TD total is the driver, but he will need to become Saquon Barkley 2025 to have a real chance.

Corey Bojorquez (Browns) – normally a QB award, but this punter is showing out. He has half a dozen punts over 60 yards, and his net 46.3 is incredible considering how poorly this team is tackling. Plus, he punts 8-10 times a game in adverse weather. It's a no brainer; Bojo is the MVP.

THE LOOKAHEAD

The Look Man is going big this week, perhaps because of the week off. Thursday and Friday NFL is the gateway to Saturday games. And who doesn't love those...

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Turkey Day Games

KC Baby Backs at Dallas Cowpokes (+4.5/52.5)

The Pokes played a tough physical game against the Iggles, resulting in a remarkable 24-21 comeback. Even funnier, the Pokes NEVER win before their annual Turkey Day game.

Meanwhile, in KC, the Baby Backs came back from 20-9 to win in OT over Indy. They did it on the strength of Mahomes' legs and arm. And some timely and hard-nosed running by Kareem Hunt. ONIONS!

Every week is a playoff game for the Baby Backs from here on. Baby Backs in a thriller.



Ferdie is back for the knockout, but they need Kareem Hunt

Cincinnati Bengals at Baltimore Dumpster Ducks (-7.5/52.5) Turkey Night in America

Something is bad wrong with Lamar (Action) Jackson. He has knee, hamstring, ankle and foot problems, and the offense is slowed to a crawl behind him.

The Bengals get Joe (Brrr) Burrow and Ja'Marr Chase back for this game, ending the Joe Flacco Era. Unfortunately, Tee Higgins and Trey Hendrickson are out, and this is an all-hands-on deck contest.

The Bengals D actually looked professional last week, but couldn't beat the zebras and the Chowds. They will have the same problem this week, and can expect a full dose of Derrick (King) Henry as well. If they tackle like they did in the second Stillers game, it will be a long day.

Bengals put up a gallant fight, but the NFL wants Lamar in the postseason. Ducks.

Black Friday

Chicago Monsters of the Red Hots at Philly Cream Cheese Iggles (-7/44.5) – Black Friday on Prime

The Iggles lost a heartbreaker to the Pokes, and they return home in a foul mood. They really miss RT Lane Johnson, and they typically play poorly when he is out. The Look Man believes some teams are simply right-handed, preferring to run the action to that side to leverage a player like LJ. Whatever the reason, the Iggles offense is broken.

Enter the Bears, who are winning late, and look exciting in the process. Rookie HC Ben Johnson is building a winner and he and QB (Me 'n) Caleb Williams are an excellent tandem. That ball-hawking Baby Bears team behind them ain't bad either.

This is going to be a good game, but the Look Man doesn't believe Chicago yet has the cojones to win this kind of a game in inclement conditions. Iggles win to keep the heat on the Rams for the One Seed.

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SUNDAY

Frisco Niners at Cleveland Browns (+4.5/42.5)

Shedeur Sanders became QB number 42 in the pantheon of Cleveland Browns 2.0 quarterbacks. But unlike anyone since Eric Zeier in 1995, Sanders won his first start while ending a road losing streak in the process. Granted, it was largely a defensive BTA, but the Kid completed the longest pass of the season, and then executed two more explosives. He turned a moribund, unwatchable offense into a somewhat watchable offense. And in his first start.

Meanwhile in Frisco the natives are getting restless after seeing Brock Purdy struggle on Monday Night. Purdy went colorblind, throwing three first half picks and narrowly missing three more. Purdy is clearly struggling from the Turf Toe, and cannot drive the football. With the weather calling for rain and wind, that is a recipe for disaster in Cleveland.

This is the easiest money in the NFL this week. Browns, baby Browns, as Myles Garrett attempts to break the season sack record in Week Thirteen.



What a man; what a leg!

Houston Slim Shadies at Indianapolis Ponies (-3.5/46.5)

This game is the battle for the AFC South hanging in the balance. No team has played better defense than Houston in the last six weeks, and the Ponies have been exposed on the road.

QB CJ Stroud returns from a concussion, and the Ponies run defense is still missing Brenston Buckner in the middle. Unfortunately, Houston's run game is staffed by backups, including former Browns RB Nick Chubb. Chubb has lost a step, and starter Joe (Richard Milhaus) Mixon will miss the entire season.

This is a chance for Danny (Indiana) Jones to step up, but he won't need to. RB Jonathan Taylor is lighting it up at home. Taylor can be handled on grass, but he is fast and deadly on turf, as he has scored 13 of his 15 TDs in the Drum.

The Look Man likes the Ponies here, and for the division. Ponies.

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Arizona Deadbirds at Tampa Bay Expensive Corn Kings (-6/48.5)

As the Look Man predicted, Tampa is back on track for a 9-8 NFC Souse Division title after a fast start and some MVP chatter for Cake Bake. Tampa has lost three straight to potential playoff teams, but looks to get right against NFC cellar dwellers in their own division.

Relationship manager Teddy (Two Gloves) Bridgewater takes over at the helm for a struggling Tampa team as Baker irons out an AC joint issue in his non-throwing shoulder.

Apparently, Teddy Two Gloves got his moniker during his freshman season at Louisville, when he kept his gloves on during a heavy rainstorm. Bridgewater made some big-time throws in a driving thunderstorm, and just never quit wearing them. His small 9.5" hand size had a little to do with it as well.

No Baker, no problem, as the Corn Kings look to regain their footing after losing three in a row. Tampa.



"You're not a mechanic; it's not your job to fix Baker..."

Buffalo Bisons at Blitzburgh Stillers (+3.5/46.5)

Crapchester is now officially in trouble after losing to Houston, and getting dinged up in the process. LT Dion Dawkins left that game injured, and even the Brobdingnag QB Josh Allen had what looked to be a sprained wrist during the contest.

The Bisons are a walking wounded in a game that they must win. LB Terrel Bernard, TE Dalton Kincaid, WR Curtis Samuel and Dawkins all missed Wednesday's practice. This defense really misses DT Ed Oliver, and they are vulnerable to a strong running attack. Houston won the last game without one, and the Stillers are middle of the pack.

It looks as if Aaron (Discount Double Check) Rodgers will play on Sunday, and both teams need this win. This is shaping up to be a pick 'em, but the Look Man is leaning toward Mike Tomlin in a tough physical home game as a home dog. Stillers win to set up a race to the finish with Baltimore.

NY Football Jynts at New England Chowderheads (-7/48.5) - Monday Night Football

On paper, this looks like a walkover. But not so fast my friend. New England is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Jynts, who beat them twice in the Super Bowl.

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Further, (Famous) Jameis Winston lit up Detroit for nearly four bills, two TD passes, and a TD catch of his own. He did throw the obligatory INT. Jameis is not only entertaining, but he can get in yowass if you give him time. That athletic throwback TD pass in the Detroit game was one of the best of the season.

Don't get the Look Man wrong; Drake Maye is the real deal, and it is very tough to beat the Chowds at The Blade. Still, something tells the Look Man, "take the points and the G-Men." Jynts cover. G-Men win.

BONUS GAME

The Look Man remembers a football practice in Cleveland, Ohio in which giant snowflakes began to fall. The effect was magical; no matter how hard you hit, the snowflakes dampened the sound. The harder it snowed, the harder we hit. Coach had to terminate halfway through before someone got killed. It was one of the best afternoons of the Look Man's life.

The Ohio State University takes on *That Team Up North* (TTUN) in the greatest tradition in collegiate athletics. The game is played at Ann Arbor, and the likelihood of snow and hard-hitting football is extremely high. This game is why the Big Ten will always be better than the SEC; you simply do not have this type of marquee game on one of the biggest sports weekends of the year. And you definitely don't have snowflakes. Snow games are the best games there are.

The Buckeyes have been keeping their offense under wraps, waiting to spring some surprise plays on the Maize and Blue. TTUN is going to be black and blue after this game. They no longer have Jim (the Milk Man) Harbaugh to steal signs, and this OSU defense is the real deal.

The Look Man doesn't expect Ohio State to hang half a hundy on Saturday, but the W is in the bag. O-H!

EPILOGUE

The weather forecast is for cold and wet in Week Thirteen, and that means teams that haven't ironed out the running game are in for a rude awakening. That is especially true for speed teams like Indy, which play great at home, but stink on grass and in bad conditions. You can add Detroit to that particular mix, but oddly, the Rams nearly knocked off Philly in the playoffs at the Linc.

The Look Man is interested in teams like Chicago and Denver, which are untested. Both have aggressive defenses, but need the run game to jell. Similarly, KC gets Isiah (Ferdie) Pacheco back at RB this week, but it would seem that Kareem Hunt is the real bell cow. Hunt put that team on his back last week, toting the rock over 30 times.

It is said that in the NFL you pass for points and run for wins. And if you cannot run, you are subject to double digit comeback losses, just like Philly at Dallas. This 2025 season has been The Year of the Comeback Win, and this is the driving force.

As November closes, we shall see which teams have learned the lessons of history, and which are doomed to repeat them.

Peace,

The Look Man