

**THE LOOKMAN REPORT 2025**  
**WEEK TWENTY-THREE SUPER BOWL LX: TCBOO – Part 60**

*"Let's get Michael Jackson, and let's make sure this never happens again. They just kept getting big names, like Prince [2007] and Madonna [2012]," - Keenan Wayans on the NFL executives following his 1992 halftime show which changed the way we watch the Super Bowl.*

### **PROLOGUE**

The 1986 movie Highlander describes a tale of Connor Macleod, an immortal who has died and been reborn many times. Macleod is trained by Juan Sanchez Villa-Lobos Ramirez, who explains that he is immortal unless he is killed only by decapitation. As one of many, these immortals engage in game killing each other until only one survives. Their battle cry is simple and direct: "THERE CAN BE ONLY ONE!"

The NFL has the same plot, but it is called the Super Bowl. Two teams enter; one team leaves with a shiny trophy and an orgasmic *quickenning* derived by being World Champions. The special effects are not as good as in *Highlander*, but you get the drift.

The Football Gods have spoken, and granted Sam Darnold and the Seahawks a Lombardi. Darnold looks a little like a Scottish Highlander, all red hair, beard, and pale skin. But he has true grit, the kind you cannot get out of a needle. America loves a redemption story, and this kid has been through the wringer and come out shiny and clean on the other side.



*Darnold is from "...Lots of different places..."*

Perhaps the real irony is that Darnold isn't even the story of Super Bowl LX. It was part Darnold, part RB Kenny (K-9) Walker III, and whole lot of hard-nosed defense. With the emphasis on that last piece.

The New England Chowderheads ran into a buzzsaw, and despite the 29-13 final score, were never in this contest. Sure, QB Drake Maye posted 235 passing yards in the fourth quarter, but that was garbage time, and Seattle was already making dinner reservations.

Perhaps Maye's shoulder injury was worse than advertised, but it is difficult to imagine a scenario in which the Chowds win this game. Seattle OC Clint Kubiak was calling the game conservatively, and

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Darnold wasn't interested in taking any chances with a game that was firmly under control. He missed at least four throws which could have turned this game into a laugher.

When the dust settled, the blue and green confetti was flying, and the tears were flowing in the New England postgame presser.

The Look Man was a little offput that the MVP was RB Kenny (K-9) Walker III. Though K-9 did put on an offensive show, the Legion of Whom were the real stars. Safety Devon Witherspoon deserved at least an honorable mention with four tackles, a sack, and one pass breakup. His hit on Drake Maye directly resulted in a pick-six, one of only two TDs by Seattle on the day.

The sacks, picks, and mayhem were evenly distributed, resulting in a beatdown that was not indicated in the final score. This, ladies and gents, was an assault on public TV.



*'spoon was spectacular; dare we say "MVP-worthy?"'*

Without further ado, the Week That Was.

**LAGNIAPPE**

***The AFL-NFL Championship Game***

A few of you (not many) may remember that the original NFL championship game was not called the Super Bowl. Vince Lombardi and the Packers beat KC and Oakland before an NFL executive noticed a revolutionary product ad for the Super Ball, a ball that would literally bounce over your house.

The game was renamed in Year Three, and given Roman Numerals to add portent. As it turns out, that game officially announced a new era, as it was the first in which the AFL beat the NFL representative, and (Broadway) Joe Namath predicted the win prior to 16-7 pasting of the Baltimore Ponies.

The Look Man didn't begin covering Super Bowls until the 1969-70 season, when the Baby Backs under HC Hank Stram "...matriculated the ball down the field..." against the Hornheads. That game was a close second to the Look Man's favorite Super Bowl and first cold weather game, held in the Pontiac Silverdome in January 1982.

**THE LOOKMAN REPORT 2025**  
**WEEK TWENTY-THREE SUPER BOWL LX: TCBOO – Part 60**

AMC is broadcasting a series chronicling that 1981 season called *The Rise of the Forty-Niners*. The show is narrated by Tom (Zoolander) Brady among others, and it is a fantastic documentary of America's (Real) Team, the Frisco Niners.

Super Bowl XVI had a bit of everything; it featured the great Paul Brown against the head coach he let get away in Bill Walsh. It had a smash mouth running game for Cincinnati led by Pete Johnson. It also had Joe Montana (the GOAT) and WR Dwight Clark, both playing after *The Catch* in the NFC Championship win over the Pokes. WR Jerry Rice was not yet a Niner, and the wide-open passing game was still in its infancy.

Walsh was the progenitor of the West Coast Offense, which was actually born in Cincinnati, Ohio in the 1970s. Kenny Anderson was the perfect QB for this run-first, horizontal passing offense which dominates today. Walsh used the fullback and tight ends on early downs, keeping ahead of the sticks for long ball-controlled drives with explosives.

Paul Brown, the real father of professional football, hired Homer Rice to run the team, beating out Walsh. Rice was ineffective, and ex-Packer Forrest Gregg took over in 1979 after engaging in a fistfight as Cleveland Browns HC. The 1981 Bengals included rookies like Anthony Munoz and Cris Collinsworth, as well as TE Dan Ross who caught a record eleven balls in SB XVI. Other headliners included RB Archie Griffin, OGs Dave Lapham, Max Montoya, and LB Reggie Williams.

Super Bowl XVI featured the largest halftime lead of all time (20 points), but the game tightened in the third quarter, and featured a rookie WR named Cris Collinsworth grabbing a pass with CB Eric Wright's fingers in his facemask, pulling his head back like a bobblehead doll. Greatest catch the Look Man has ever seen.

The game pivoted on a Niners goal-line stand in which LB Jack (Hacksaw) Reynolds denied Pete Johnson and LB Dan Bunz stopped Charles Alexander from the one-yard line. The call by Pat Summerall and a young John Madden was nothing short of epic.

*Milan-Cortina Winter Olympics – the Fun Zone*

Officials at the 2026 Winter Games announced a condom shortage in the Olympic Village, due to "...higher than anticipated demand."

Organ-izers have been handing out free condoms to athletes in the Olympic Village since the 1988 Summer Olympics in Seoul to promote safe sex and raise awareness around HIV/AIDS. It took only three days to exhaust the "meager" 10,000-condom allotment. Nearly 300,000 condoms were distributed at the 2024 Paris Olympics but that number served over 100,000 athletes.

"I'm not so shocked. I saw it in Beijing already," said one Olympian who also competed four years ago at the Winter Games in China. "There were some boxes with a lot of condoms at the entrance of every building where we were staying at the village. Every day, everything was (gone)."

No word on how many were claimed by emcee Mike Tirico.

The Winter Games shortage coincides with Valentine's Day this year, and apparently medals are not the only thing in high demand. "... a lot of people are using some condoms or just taking them to give to

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their friends outside of the Olympics because it's a kind of gift for them. Of course, with the French and Italian teams here in close proximity to the Swedes, it was bound to happen. Of course, this is nothing compared to the NBA All-Star Game allotment in Los Angeles."

Officials are now restocking the jimmy hats, and no further shortage is expected prior to the closing ceremony on February 22.



*Robert "Bobby" Drake plays in Chicago when he's not fighting crime...*

*The Iceman – Caleb Williams*

The NFL Network picked the Top Ten plays of the 2025 season, and the Look Man has issues with the selections. The list included a Jameis Winston flea flicker TD catch, and two passes by Caleb (the Iceman) Williams.

In truth, the Iceman alone owned six or seven of the best plays of 2025. Here are a few examples, in no particular order:

- 1) 4th and 8 pass to WR Rome Odunze to set up a win over the Pack. Caleb hit Odunze between four or five defenders.
- 2) 58-yard TD pass to TE Coleston Loveland to stun the Bengals in Cincy in OT
- 3) TD pass to WR DJ Moore to beat the Pack in OT in Week Sixteen. A walk-off TD that traveled over 50 air yards.
- 4) TD pass to TE Cole Kmet on 4th down that traveled 70 air yards vs. Rams
- 5) Amazing comeback to beat the Jynts 24-20 after being down 17-7. This win got G-Men HC Brian Daboll fired.
- 6) TD pass to DJ Moore in Cleveland, throwing across his body between three defenders. This play got Kevin Stefanski fired.

**THE LOOKMAN REPORT 2025**  
**WEEK TWENTY-THREE SUPER BOWL LX: TCBOO – Part 60**

The Look Man remembers folks saying Drake Maye was better than Caleb Williams in 2024. There is no QB in the NFL with the arm talent and scrambling ability of the Iceman. He is easily one of the most exciting players in a decade.

Before we get too far ahead in 2026, the Bears won seven comeback games in 2005. The defense set up a number of these Alcoa Fantastic Finishes with turnovers, something that is unlikely to recur next season. Still, the Iceman deserved consideration for the MVP despite the fact that his completion percentage hovers below sixty. If Williams figures that piece out, he could be the best QB in the NFC.

*Halftime History*

Way back in 1992, the Wayans Brothers decided it was time for a fitting halftime show. The NFL was presenting the viewing public with dowdy *Up With People* shows that no one watched. They instead went to the bathroom or chowed down on snacks while awaiting the second half.

These shows weren't just bad; they were legendary fails which didn't capture the celebratory feeling of America's Pastime.

Enter avant garde comedians Damon and Keenan Wayans, with their hit sketch comedy called *In Living Color* on to the then fledgling Fox network. These two were on a heater which included writing and producing credits on Eddie Murphy's *Raw*, in which they expanded on Saturday Night Live's blind spot: black culture. The show was fearless, irreverent, and streetwise, introducing us to such luminaries as Jim Carrey, Jamie Foxx, David Alan Grier, and Jennifer Lopez, a *Fly Girls* dancer.

The *In Living Color* Halftime Show was an immediate hit. Instead of a bathroom break, the ILC show featured an ode to the Winter Olympics including America's square sweethearts Dorothy Hamill and Brian Boitano skating to Gloria Estefan and the *Miami Sound Machine*'s music. Frito Lay paid \$2 million for exclusive rights to the show, which one CBS exec said, "...would only appeal to the people who watch *In Living Color*."

The show crammed 26 minutes of fun with a countdown clock to ensure "you won't miss any of the senseless brutality" in the second half. The show included Carrey's Fire Marshall Bill, and an overtly gay Siskel and Ebert style sendup including damaging sexual rumors about Richard Gere and Carl Lewis which slipped beneath the censors' five-second delay. To this day, the Look Man cannot see a gerbil without thinking about *Pretty Woman*.

Over 22 million folks watched this event, forcing the NFL to abandon its cornball production and bring in Michael (the King of Pop) Jackson the following year. That halftime show is largely heralded as the greatest ever with over 133 million viewers.

The game itself didn't help, as Washington dominated the Bisons 37-24 on CBS. The NFL took note, and decided it would never be punked again. Until the FCC saw Janet Jackson's bare nipple.

THE LOOKMAN REPORT 2025  
WEEK TWENTY-THREE SUPER BOWL LX: TCBOO – Part 60



*They were Wayans ahead of their time...*

## THE RECAP

Super Bowl LX was considered boring, with more to do over the halftime show than the actual game. The injury bruhaha over Drake Maye's shoulder turned out to be noteworthy, and the Chowds now face fines and draft pick losses for their chicanery. Hard to imagine a team with \$250 million in fines would attempt to fool the betting public.

Without further ado, the Super Bowl LX recap:

### New England Chowderheads at Seattle Seahawks (-4.5/45.5)

The casual NFL Fan appreciates offensive scoring more than defense. Both teams started off strong, looking as if they knew which plays were coming. Darnold came damn close to a couple of picks early, and missed at least four TD passes. Drake Maye had no such luck, and his confusion at the defensive looks created a pick, six sacks, and a defensive pick six.

The Look Man kept wondering when Chowds OC Josh McDaniels was going to make an adjustment. Would he go big, with six offensive linemen, provide chip help for struggling LT Will Campbell, or take advantage of shorter routes. While Maye set a record for fourth quarter passing yards at 235, New England waited way too long to make changes.

When the smoke cleared, America had its redemption story in Sam Darnold, and the Seahawks were faced with re-signing their MVP or moving on. They are in the enviable position of not having to pay Darnold, and so does the Look Man. Hawks avenge themselves, winning 24-13.

THE LOOKMAN REPORT 2025  
WEEK TWENTY-THREE SUPER BOWL LX: TCBOO – Part 60



*LT Will Campbell didn't have a chance...he was a victim of natural selection*

**EPILOGUE**

The silly season is right around the corner, with the draft and the new league year beginning. But the big deal would seem to be free agency, with at least seven teams needing QB help. Since Fernando (ABBA) Mendoza as the only legitimate QB in the draft, teams are going to compete for free agents like Malik Willis, Mac Jones, and others. And that doesn't even count whether Aaron (Discount Double Check) Rodgers will return to da Burgh for new HC Mike McCarthy.

The Cleveland Browns are not exempt, especially after middling performance by Shedeur Sanders. Sanders had periods of competency, but Deshaun Watson is on the books for one more ride in 2026. While whispers of Malik Willis and Mac Jones have risen to a cacophony, neither is likely in C-Town.

With ten new head coaches in the NFL, the 2026 season is going to be up and down. John Harbaugh and Kevin Stefanski are likely can't miss prospects, but if the NFL has taught us one thing, it is that rookie HCs are suspect at best. And coaches can only go so far without an elite signal caller, something that is exceedingly rare.

The 2025 NFL season was a thrill ride that we haven't seen often in the last few decades. As we head to 2026, the question remains: will the 800-pound gorilla be able to repeat?

The good news: just 25 weeks until the NFL preseason begins.

Peace,

The Look Man