Brandon Weeden compares him to Wes Welker. Solomon Wilcots sees a lot of Brandon Stokley in him. And some drunk dude in the Muni lot calls him the second coming of Brian Brennan. Yes, we're merely two games into the pro career of rookie Josh Cooper, but the reviews already seem unanimous. The Browns finally have themselves a bona fide white receiver! --I mean WIDE receiver! *Wide Receiver*, obviously, is what I meant and what everyone else meant, as well.

Let's start with the wisdom of Solomon. As CBS's go-to commentator for "other games in your area," Wilcots has been contractually obligated to watch a lot of expansion Browns football over the years. As a consequence, he is uniquely versed in Cleveland's endlessly fruitless search for a viable receiving threat-- making his high praise of the 23 year-old Cooper all the more encouraging. "You think about what Welker does for Tom Brady in New England, or Stokley in Denver," he said, "and that's what Josh Cooper gives Brandon Weeden in this Cleveland Browns offense. … Any team could use that type of guy."

It's so true, Solomon! And as it happens, "that type of guy" also seems to sell a weirdly disproportionate number of jerseys relative to his skill level. Who knows why? People just really love undersized possession receivers!

Anyway, now that Super Cooper Mania is clearly upon us, it's probably worth asking, "who is this guy and what makes him different?" Well, on a Browns offense littered with baby-faced greenhorns, J.C. (do what you will with the Biblical connotations of the kid's initials) has

emerged as an unlikely standout since hopping off the practice squad in Week Six. He certainly isn't the deep threat of fellow rookie receivers Josh Gordon (2nd round) or Travis Benjamin (4th round), but as a former trusted target of Weeden at OK State, the undrafted Cooper provides a certain
je ne sais quoi
that has some fans recalling the tough-nosed, sure-handed likes of guys like Don Beebe, or Wayne Chrebet, or hell, maybe even Ed McCaffrey!

"I never heard of him until the Bengals game," exclaimed the drunk dude in the Muni lot, pointing to the makeshift J.C. jersey he'd fashioned by duct taping a scrap of paper to his back with "Cooper" scribbled on it in magic marker. "But I gotta tell ya, I was here in the '80s when that little white guy [a lazy and racially irrelevant reference to ex-Browns receiver Brian Brennan] used to catch every [expletive] thing thrown anywhere near him, man. This Cooper… he reminds me a lot of that guy for some reason."

Perhaps no one is more excited about Cooper's arrival, of course, than his good buddy Weeden—whose praise has included the aforementioned comparisons to Wes Welker (based solely on their reliable hands and YAC capabilities, of course), as well an eye-opening statement repeated several times during the last two Browns telecasts.

From the mouth of Solomon's D-list crewmate Kevin Harlan: "Brandon Weeden has said that he actually trusted Josh Cooper more than any of his other receivers at Oklahoma State, including Justin Blackmon!"

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