Yes, this picture is a blatant attempt to suck you into reading this article. Getting people to read about the Browns has become quite desperate as the losing seasons pile up, so you have to offer a little more, a little extra, for the beloved consumer.
Thus, this article features many incredible nude photos of this young lady at the end to help ease your Browns-related pain.

The catch - they only become visible if you read all the way through.*

Anyhoo... It's abundantly clear at this point that winning is not the main focus of the Cleveland Browns this season.

I felt this way somewhat even before the season began, but it's crystal now. I'm not saying they *wanted*
to lose, necessarily.
Sure, winning would've be nice.
If the pieces/parts they've put in there were to develop so quickly that the team were good enough to win on a consistent basis, that would be awesome, a super bonus.
But that's not what was most important to the powers that be entering this season.
No, DEVELOPMENT and DISCOVERY were.

This season was not about putting together the best team possible (regardless cap) and making a run at the Playoffs. No, this season was about finding out what we had - if Colt McCoy was a Franchise QB, if Peyton Hillis was more than a one-hit wonder, if any of the post-Daboll Receivers were worth a damn, if D'Qwell Jackson can come back from 2 lost seasons, if this

team's timeline can be pushed up with some early-developing young depth.

At least, we hope that's the plan (or that there's a plan at all).

Some speculate that this season was about sucking enough to be in position for one of the elite QB prospects in the draft. You start a QB that you don't think much of, you don't acquire any playmakers to help cover his flaws, you don't sign any veteran depth, you bring in a rookie Head Coach that looks more clueless than Alicia Silverstone, you find a way to keep your best Offensive weapons on the bench... maybe they're attempting to pull off the ol' presto-change-o while making it look enough like they're really trying to win, thus sacrificing the 2011 season and throwing Colt & Paddy under the bus in the interest of drafting a Franchise QB.
It sounds horrible and ridiculous... until you watch the team play.

Of course, logically, I don't buy it for one second. Put aside how evil Heckgren would have to be to willingly destroy Colt & Paddy's careers; conspiracy theories are for the gullible.

No, the only thing that makes sense is that they decided to get the growing pains out of the way now and develop some younger players and a rookie coach.

As much as I hate the concept of sacrificing today for tomorrow (sometimes tomorrow never comes), I can muster up enough patience to see if it works. What choice do I have anyways? It's not like I'm gonna sit here whining and crying for the next 11 games.
We've got more than enough people out there that will fulfill that requirement.
This wasn't a Playoff team anyway - I want to see what the end game is before I lose my shit.

But I want to caution the Front Office that this strategy is going over like a turd in a swimming pool with the hyper-sensitive emotionally fragile Cleveland fan base, and you certainly have to watch out that the team doesn't lose complete confidence in the Head Coach, because it's hard to see any reason why they wouldn't if this farce continues.

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Stats

Time of Possession: OAK – 34:41, CLE – 25:19

Total Yards: OAK - 329, CLE – 268

Yards Passing: CLE - 203, OAK – 178

Yards Rushing: OAK – 151, CLE - 65

First Downs: CLE - 18, OAK – 18

Turnovers Forced: OAK - 1, CLE – 1

Sacks: OAK – 2, CLE - 2

Final Score: Oakland 24, Cleveland 17

One could argue that the Defense held Oakland to only 10 points, and 3 of that came after a Colt McCoy fumble deep in their own territory. But they still allowed almost 35 minutes of possession, 329 yards (151 rushing), and didn't make enough impact plays, even when Kyle "The Terrible" Boller came in. But with a competent Offense (and, this week, Special Teams unit), they played well enough to win.

However, with 4:44 left and down by 14, the Browns only had 173 total yards (a pathetic 65 on the ground). Oakland went into a somewhat Prevent Defense, and Cleveland was able to pad their passing and 1st Down stats.

This Offense just isn't good enough for the Browns to compete against even decent teams.

It's really incredible that they were even in this game. Had Oakland just kicked the FG with 4th and 1 at the CLE 5, they would've gone up by 17 (three scores) and the game would've been iced. But Hue Jackson inexplicably went for it, and it might've come back to bite him.

Fortunately for him, it was Colt McCoy directing the would-be tying drive (after the successful onside kick) and not Tom Brady. Four completely ineffective passes - questionable decisions all - and Al Davis got to smoke a cigar in his tomb.

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Game Balls

Alex Mack – For even showing up to play, then doing a fairly decent job against a tough D Line.

D'Qwell Jackson – Better get him locked up now before he gets too disgusted with management...

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Honorable Mention

Greg Little – Looked pretty good in his first start, and would've had a TD if not for the tricky Oakland turf.

Jabaal Sheard – When/if this team ever does get good, Sheard will be a big part of it. 4 tackles, a sack, and a forced fumble.

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Wall of Shame

Paddy O'Shurmur – More on this guy below.

Colt McCoy – Same with him.

Special Teams – Give up a kickoff return TD and fake FG TD and you can pretty much kiss your chances of winning goodbye.

Phil Dawson – Nice tackle attempt there, Phil. A tackle attempt you wouldn't have to make if you just kicked the ball out of the back of the End Zone.

Shaun Lauvao – Another bad game for the young Right Guard. Penalties, missed assignments... not good.

Montario Hardesty – Meh.

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Regarding SSDD

Paddy, you had 2 weeks to prepare for the Oakland Raiders, and that's the best you could do? Did you just hit Copy and Paste on your game plan spreadsheets?

Mr. Shurmur, have you ever heard the term *Same Shit Different Day*? Well, get to know it. That's your new nickname.

I am so disappointed right now. Not in the 2-3 record, no, that's about where I thought the team would be. I'm so disappointed in the fact that you don't seem to have any clue what you're doing, and what's worse is that you're not even interesting while being inept. The team remains imagination-free on, well, both sides, but even more so on Offense.
Sloppy penalties, slow starts, missed assignments, random Time Outs, miscommunication, disarray... all while you sit there staring at your little playlist, droning on into your headset.

What's even more depressing is that you were Mike Holmgren's chosen candidate, a choice that as of right now looks like an epic fail, which brings Holmgren's judgment into question (which is bad if he's the de facto owner).

What's even MORE depressing than that is the probability that Holmgren will stick with you because he doesn't want to look bad, even if you make it abundantly clear that you just weren't cut out for this task. So if you prove in 2011 that you do indeed suck, we get to enjoy said suckage for 2012 too.

I am not psycho. I'm not going to start demanding SSDD's head after 5 measly games. And even the whackjobs out there will shut up in a heartbeat if the team shows up on Sunday and pounds the Seahawks and looks competent and makes it to 3-3.

But I get the impression that the respect level for him in the locker room is low. First, he mismanages the personnel, causing them to complain. Which they do publicly, already unafraid of questioning him in the media. Then the fans chime in, and then he basically gives in to their demands, promising to play the players in question more.

It may be completely false, but SSDD looks like an indecisive, lost pushover. Not ideal qualities for an NFL Head Coach.

Honestly, SSDD, how did you screw things up this badly? You're screwing with Peyton Hillis, screwing with Evan Moore. Colt McCoy looks more frustrated than a porn star without a penis.
You've even got eternal cheerleader Josh Cribbs bitching that his role on Offense is useless and spewing "
I want to say stuff, but I don't want to be a problem
."

I didn't think it was possible to be this down on the Browns' future after just 5 games.

For the love of god, man, get your shit together!

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Regarding Colt McCoy

Five games in a new Offense with no offseason to prepare is too short a time to nail someone to a cross when they fail, but I think I've seen about enough of Charlie Frye - er, Colt McCoy - to start pre-ordering lumber and nails.

Before you even bother to try to protest to me about bad playcalling or poor playmakers or the Offensive Line, I invite you to stuff it. The Browns WR corps isn't the most talented group, but Colt misses them even when they are open. SSDD's playcalling is often head-scratching, but that shouldn't force Colt to look completely lost and indecisive. The Offensive Line doesn't always hold up so well, but it's pretty difficult for them when the QB holds the ball so long and Defenses stack the line because they're more afraid of being raped by Shirley Temple than they are of Colt McCoy burning them deep.

All this in an Offensive scheme which was supposedly tailor made to hide Colt's inadequacies.

Hell, Colt hardly even runs, which he should do a lot more since his mobility is really the only weapon he has. Some say, "*Yeah, but if he runs more, he might get hurt*."

Yeah, he might. Who the F cares? Is it that hard to replace his pocket "production"?

That's not me proclaiming that I want to see the backup QB's, because I don't. They'd probably suck too. I'm not

sure at this point that they could suck
more
, but that doesn't mean I want to see them.

I want Mr. McCoy to continue to start, and I want him to finish this season. I allow him this leniency because there's no one behind him that I really think the team needs to take a long look at, and I want to give him the opportunity - no matter how slim - to show tremendous improvement and prove he can be The Answer.

Because, as of today, as far as I'm concerned the Browns have no choice but to use one of their 1st Round picks on a QB.

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Regarding The Luck Sweepstakes

Once upon a time, in an NFL far, far away, you could build a stalwart Defense and strong running game and make do with a mediocre QB.

That galaxy got nuked.

Today, the NFL is a pass-happy league designed to feature/protect QB's and their targets. And in a league that so features the QB position, you HAVE to have a Franchise-level passer.

In fact, a Franchise QB might not be good enough (ask the Ravens). Nowadays, you might need an Elite QB in order to have a practical shot to win it all.

Thus the reason I scoff at the ol' "*fill the other holes first then get the QB*" argument as

antiquated and naive.

If you don't have your Franchise QB, then that position is a hole. The biggest hole you could possibly have.

If a Franchise QB is available for you, you no longer pass on him in order to try and "*fill your other holes first*".
Until you have the QB hole filled, there is no progress, there is no chance.

The last time the Browns had that hole filled, some of these players weren't even alive.

Likely available in this draft will be Andrew Luck, the best QB prospect to come out of college in many, many years. He's the kind of can't-miss prospect that comes around once every decade (if that). Outside of the Super Bowl winner, the team that has the most successful 2011 season will be the team that lands this guy, and many teams recognize this. His draft presence, the new rookie cap, and the league's need for top-tier QB play has led to a circumstance I have never seen before.

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