The Browns have a new coach, Pat Shurmur, or as the brilliant Chris Hutchinson has declared, Paddy O'Shurmur. Personally, I kind of like "Patches McShurmur", but I'm nothing if not a team player. So Paddy it is.

The Browns left no stone unturned in their exhaustive search for the next head coach. The only problem that some people are having is that there were apparently only three stones in the area Mike Holmgren was looking,

and two of those are those Styrofoam faux stones that people hide keys in*. There was only one real stone in the area that the Browns were looking. They turned it over and found Paddy.

**I love those things. Do those ever fool anyone? As if there is a criminal looking to break into a house who gives up because he's looked everywhere for the spare key, on top of the door, under the welcome mat, behind the rocking chair,...everywhere. And he keeps tripping over this annoying softball sized stone that's just laying there in the flower bed. Where the hell could that key be?*

I tend to believe that the search was a lot more comprehensive than it appeared on paper. I believe this because it makes sense, and Mike Holmgren said as much during his press conference. It makes sense that, even if Holmgren wasn't sure he was going to fire Mangini (and I believe the he knew it was very likely), he had some candidates that he liked rattling around in his head. He was thinking about a lot of these guys for a lot longer than the 10 days between Mangini's firing and Paddy's hiring.

If some random CEO has to fire one of his managers (because he catches him schtuping the cleaning lady after hours, is letting his moron brother in law run the IT department, and has been turning in crappy EBITDAs for the last two years) then obviously a search has to be done to replace the guy. In this case the CEO has to send out feelers, collect resumes, conduct interviews, and all of the rest of the horsecrap that comprises due diligence.

The difference in the NFL is Holmgren doesn't need to do a lot of that stuff to conduct a thorough search. Mike Holmgren already knows every possible candidate available. There was nobody who was a legitimate candidate for an NFL head coaching position that would have been a surprise to him. He knows who is available, where they've worked, what type of football philosophy they subscribe to, what their reputation is around the league, and most other pertinent information before he would even talk to them.

So, I don't necessarily agree with the view that Holmgren didn't conduct a comprehensive enough search. I do believe, however, that Paddy was one of the top choices from the get-go, and any other candidate had an uphill battle to change Holmy's mind. And that doesn't really bother me either. Out of the list of candidates I have absolutely no reason to think that my opinion is better than a guy like Mike Homgren's.*

**This is in direct contrast to the last hire. I have every reason to believe that my opinion is MUCH better than Randy Lerner's opinion on such things. I have no doubt that I watched more football and know more about football than Randy Lerner. And I'm a complete moron. That's the faith I have in Randy.*

The best way I can explain it is to say that Holmgren was living for a dream, loving for a moment. Taking on the world, that's just Mike's style. Then he looked into Shurmur's eyes, and he could see forever.

The search is over. Paddy was with us all the while.

The Search Is Over and Paddy O'Sburmur is the Survivor.