

2010



2010

WEEK TWELVE IN REVIEW

January 2nd, 2011

COSTLY WIN!



Gwinnett's Robert Mathis tackles LA's Kurt Warner at the end of an ill-fated scramble in the 3rd quarter. Warner left the game with a leg injury and never returned, but the Knights overcame adversity with a 13-10 win. (STORY BELOW)

GWINNETT - The LA Knights won the Battle but may have lost the "War-ner." The types of mistakes that have cost the Knights games this season continued with a lost fumble and a pick, but this time their defence stood up and their offence fought through the crippling effect of

LATEST EFL NEWS INSIDE

THE GAMES

- KNIGHTS WIN BATTLE, LOSE WARNER
- PATS HUSK CORN KINGS
- HAWKS CLIPPED BY CONVICTS
- DRAGONS MAUL CUBS
- PICKERING FRIES HELLFIRE
- MUSTANGS TRAMPLE SWORDS
- GOLDEN BEARS FLIP OUT AFTER GETTING BLOWN OUT
- BRES BRINGS VIRDEN BACK

COMMENT

"ANCIENT GREECE," "FAN APPRECIATION DAY," "ALLIGATOR & SKITTLES," "FESTIVE RESPITE," – Spats McChad

PREDICTIONS

No upsets this week. Completely predictable slate will line your wallet and let you finish that deck in the Spring. – Jim the Geek



*Who was slick
in Week
Eleven?*

**"BRYLCREEM" THE
EFL'S OLDEST SPONSOR**



Chris Johnson
RB
Pickering
Spartans

180 yards rushing, 27 receiving, 2 more TDs to spark win vs. Mohave.



Brian Cushing
OLB
Garland
Mustangs

9 tackles, 1 Sack, 1 FF, 1 pick & 30 yd return to stop Tom Brady.

KNIGHTS WIN GAME, LOSE WARNER

L.A. OVERCOMES TWO TURNOVERS TO EDGE OUT GLADS



LOS ANGELES

13



GWINNETT

10

losing their starting quarterback to score a late game-winning field goal by **Dan Carpenter** and remain within striking distance of a wildcard berth in the PAC.

With fragile playoff hopes in the balance for both teams, it was a hotly contested game that featured a rare shutdown performance by the Gwinnett defence and a standout performance by their punter, **Andy Lee**. However, the lead story emerging in the aftermath of this struggle was the loss of LA's **Kurt Warner** for an indefinite time period after he was tackled by **Robert Mathis** at the end of a scramble in the third quarter. Warner took off from his own 4 yard line when he could not find an open receiver. With Gladiators converging on him, he went into his slide too late and was tackled below the knee by Mathis. Warner lay on the field for several minutes before limping off under his own power. There was no immediate word from the Knights on the status of Warner's injury, but he did not return to the game.

When Warner went down the Knights were clinging to a 10-7 that they had taken near the end of the first half on a 26-yard TD pass from Warner to **Steve Smith** into double coverage. Since that moment, Gwinnett's Lee had managed to bottle up the LA offence with precision punts that repeatedly put the Knights deep in their own end to start drives. Meanwhile, LA's "Blue Shield" forced Gwinnett to punt six times on consecutive series to start the second half, holding them to just 59 yards of total offence in that period until **Thomas Jones** broke free for a 50-yard run at the 2:55 mark of the 4th quarter. That run combined with a 10-yard pass from **Eli Manning** to **Dallas Clark** put the Glads inside the LA red zone. But a first down sack by **Pat Williams** put the Glads back on their heels and they wound up settling for a 34-yard field goal by **Josh Brown** to tie the game at 10.

Looking to avoid the big run back by the dangerous **Jamaal Charles**, Gwinnett elected to kick-off high and on an angle, but the kick was short and Charles squirted through a hole in the coverage to log a neat 25-yard return, putting the ball on the LA 43. **Tarvaris Jackson** came in to the game to replace an ineffective **Jimmy Clausen** and engineered a last minute drive that went just long enough, 27 yards, to give Carpenter a decent chance at a field goal. He drilled it home from 47 yards away to give LA the lead with 11 seconds left in the game. The Glads took the field at their own 20 yard line after downing the kickoff. But there would be no holiday miracles in Gwinnett as Manning's last desperate passes fell in-complete.

12-27-2010 Gwinnett Coliseum Temp: 61 Wind: 10-20 Rain MVP: **Roddy White**

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2009 Los Angeles (5-7)	3	7	0	3	13
2009 Gwinnett (4-8)	0	7	0	3	10

1 11:18 Los Angeles	FG Carpenter 54 (8-26-3:29)	3-0
2 3:17 Gwinnett	TD Manning 6 pass to Clark (Brown,J) (6-56-3:19)	3-7
2 0:24 Los Angeles	TD Warner 26 pass to Smith (Carpenter) (10-68-2:36)	10-7
4 1:05 Gwinnett	FG Brown 34 (7-63-2:38)	10-10
4 0:11 Los Angeles	FG Carpenter 47 (7-27-0:41)	13-10

	LAK	GWG
First Downs	18	13
Rushes	38-132	17-95
Passes	31-17-221	38-21-178
Sacked	1-2	2-12
Fumble	4	0
Penalties	4-30	5-37
Turnovers	2	0
Time	33:33	26:27
Third Down	5-17	1-12
Fourth Down	1-2	0-0
Red Att/Td/Fg	1/0/0	2/1/1
Net Offense	351	261

< Los Angeles >

Passing	Att	Cmp	Yds	Sk	25	In	Td	Rate
Warner	20	11	162	0	2	1	1	77.5
Clausen	6	3	37	1	0	0	0	69.4
Jackson	5	3	22	0	0	0	0	70.4

Rushing	Att	Yds	Ave	FD	10	Lg	TD
Charles	21	53	2.5	3	1	10	0
Benson	6	44	7.3	1	1	33	0
Greene	6	21	3.5	1	1	10	0
Warner	4	11	2.8	0	0	4	0
Clausen	1	3	3.0	0	0	3	0

Receiving	No	Dp	Att	Yds	Ave	FD	25	Lg	TD
White	7	0	10	114	16.3	5	1	49	0
Smith	4	1	9	47	11.8	2	1	26	1
Heap	3	0	5	23	7.7	2	0	9	0
Benson	2	0	2	19	9.5	1	0	11	0
Charles	1	1	4	18	18.0	1	0	18	0
Hedgecock	0	1	1	0	0.0	0	0	0	0

< Gwinnett >

Passing	Att	Cmp	Yds	Sk	25	In	Td	Rate
Manning	38	21	178	2	0	0	1	76.4

Rushing	Att	Yds	Ave	FD	10	Lg	TD
Jones	16	96	6.0	4	1	50	0
Manning	1	-1	-1.0	0	0	0	0

Receiving	No	Dp	Att	Yds	Ave	FD	25	Lg	TD
Clark	10	3	20	81	8.1	5	0	13	1
Maclin	4	0	6	25	6.3	0	0	8	0
Wayne	3	0	5	37	12.3	2	0	13	0
Burleson	2	1	4	13	6.5	1	0	8	0
Scaife	2	0	2	22	11.0	1	0	17	0
Jones	0	0	1	0	0.0	0	0	0	0

AIRBORNE ASSAULT LIFTS PATS

GAME POINTS: Peyton Manning went to the air early and often, leading a 5 TD barrage through 3 quarters that buried the hapless Corn Kings before they knew what had hit them. After the Kings held Charleswood to a field goal on their opening drive, **Joe Flacco** committed his league-high 11th fumble when he lost the handle while being sacked by **John Abraham** at the Cowtown 29 yard line. Three plays later, Manning connected with **Sydney Rice** from 16 yards out for a TD and a 10-0 lead. The Kings got that one back quickly with a rare big play from the offence – a 57-yard pass from Flacco to **Santana Moss**. But the overmatched Corn Kings could not hang in the game for long. Manning made the home team pay for every little mistake and sometimes just made them just pay for being on the field by passing at will to an insurmountable 38-7 lead.

KEY PERFORMANCES: Peyton Manning completed 25 of 34 for 367 yards, 3 TDs and 1 INT, **Adrian Peterson** rushed for 132 yards and 3 TDs on 26 carries, **Sidney Rice** caught 9 passes for 145 yards and 1 TD; **Joe Flacco** went 23 of 42 for 324 yards and 4 TDs. **Santana Moss** caught 6 passes for 137 yards and 1 TD.



45

CHARLESWOOD



28

COWTOWN

12-31-2010 Tillman Field Temp: 51 Wind: 10-20 *Internet* MVP: Peyton Manning

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2009 Charleswood (9-3)	10	21	7	7	45
2009 Cowtown (2-10)	7	0	7	14	28

1 8:10 Charleswood	FG Gostkowski 30 (9-67-3:46)	3-0
1 5:10 Charleswood	TD Manning 16 pass to Rice (Gostkowski) (3-29-1:34)	10-0
1 2:15 Cowtown	TD Flacco 57 pass to Moss (Mare) (1-57-0:15)	10-7
2 13:31 Charleswood	TD Manning 27 pass to Colston (Gostkowski) (7-65-3:33)	17-7
2 7:57 Charleswood	TD Manning 10 pass to Witten (Gostkowski) (6-70-3:33)	24-7
2 1:45 Charleswood	TD Peterson 1 run (Gostkowski) (9-44-4:08)	31-7
3 7:46 Charleswood	TD Peterson 8 run (Gostkowski) (13-83-7:08)	38-7
3 2:25 Cowtown	TD Flacco 1 pass to Spaeth (Mare) (13-82-5:13)	38-14
4 9:46 Cowtown	TD Flacco 5 pass to Camarillo (Mare) (9-86-4:25)	38-21
4 4:42 Charleswood	TD Peterson 4 run (Gostkowski) (7-54-4:24)	45-21
4 0:15 Cowtown	TD Flacco 3 pass to Camarillo (Mare) (12-80-4:27)	45-28

	CHP	COW
First Downs	30	22
Rushes	32-143	20-76
Passes	34-25-367	42-23-324
Sacked	1-4	2-10
Fumble	1	3
Penalties	8-59	4-27
Turnovers	2	1
Challenges	1-1	0-0
Time	34:08	25:52
Third Down	8-10	5-13
Fourth Down	1-1	2-4
Red Att/Td/Fg	8/5/1	3/3/0
Net Offense	506	390



RINGGOLD

17



CHINO

41

CONVICTS "CUT" THRU HAWKS

GAME POINTS: Jay Cutler took over for an injured **Donovan McNabb** in the 3rd quarter and threw 3 TD passes to put away Chino's 9th victory of the season. McNabb was hit by **Domata Peko** a split second after releasing the ball on a 17-yard completion to **Hines Ward** and went down with an apparent rib injury. He had already built up a 20-7 lead by completing 13 of 16 passes for 176 yards and 2 TDs, including a 37-yard long cross to **Randy Moss** that broke a 7-7 tie before the end of 1st half. The Ringgold offence could not sustain a major scoring drive against the aggressive Chino 'D,' getting both their TDs on big plays – a 57-yard punt return by **Eddie Royal** and a 75-yard TD run by **Tashard Choice** in the final minute of the game.

KEY PERFORMANCES: Jay Cutler completed 8 of 8 for 129 yards and 3 TDs, **Hines Ward** caught 8 passes for 122 yards, **Randy Moss** 4 passes for 80 yards and 2 TDs, **Steven Jackson** had 101 combined yards and caught 1 TD pass; **Ben Roethlisberger** went 9 of 18 for 91 yards and 2 INTs, **Maurice Jones-Drew** had 92 yards on 20 carries.

01-01-2011 The Big House Temp: 78 Wind: 0-10 None MVP: Donovan McNabb

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2009 Ringgold (5-7)	0	7	3	7	17
2009 Chino (9-3)	7	10	3	21	41

1 7:15 Chino	TD McNabb 8 pass to Jackson (Reed,J) (5-48-2:47)	0-7
2 14:45 Ringgold	TD Royal 57 punt return (Suisham) (0-0-1:25)	7-7
2 2:47 Chino	TD McNabb 37 pass to Moss (Reed,J) (8-93-4:08)	7-14
2 0:39 Chino	FG Reed 31 (6-26-1:13)	7-17
3 10:04 Chino	FG Reed 31 (10-61-4:50)	7-20
3 2:32 Ringgold	FG Suisham 31 (14-61-7:26)	10-20
4 11:19 Chino	TD Cutler 15 pass to Moreno (Reed,J) (5-46-2:51)	10-27
4 10:52 Chino	TD Cutler 9 pass to Fasano (Reed,J) (1-9-0:09)	10-34
4 3:33 Chino	TD Cutler 13 pass to Moss (Reed,J) (3-54-1:36)	10-41
4 0:50 Ringgold	TD Choice 75 run (Suisham) (2-80-0:18)	17-41

	RCH	CHI
First Downs	13	19
Rushes	31-191	30-89
Passes	23-10-94	24-21-305
Sacked	2-20	0-0
Fumble	1	0
Penalties	3-25	4-25
Turnovers	3	0
Time	28:59	31:01
Third Down	5-14	1-9
Fourth Down	1-1	0-0
Red Att/Td/Fg	1/0/1	6/4/1
Net Offense	265	394

ANOTHER WEEK, ANOTHER WIN

GAME POINTS: The Florida Dragons subdued the Iowa City Cubs with workmanlike precision in another easy win for the home team. The Cubs defence came to play early as **Patrick Willis** sacked **Aaron Rodgers** to hold the Dragons to a field goal and, on Florida's next series, **Demeco Ryans** stuffed **DeSean Jackson** for -4 yards on an end-around to force a punt. But Florida got rolling early in the 2nd after stopping the Cubs on 4th down at mid-field. Rodgers connected underneath with **Brandon Marshall**, who carried the ball 16 yards to the end zone take a 10-0 lead. Rodgers found Marshall again at the back of the end zone 2 possessions later to grab a 16-0 advantage. The Cubs scored before the half after a 50-yard run by **Ronnie Brown** put them in FG range. The 2nd half played out with the Cubs offence unable to move the ball against the Florida "Firewall" and Iowa City's 'D' succeeding in slowing down, but not stopping, the Dragons' attack.

KEY PERFORMANCES: **Aaron Rodgers** went 15 of 24 for 181 yards and 2 TDs, **Ray Rice** gained 70 yards on 16 carries, **Justin Tuck** made 9 tackles and 2 sacks; **Sam Bradford** went 11 of 19 for 77 yards, **Ronnie Brown** gained 152 yards on 27 carries.



IOWA CITY



FLORIDA

6

29

12-27-2010 Dragonmount Temp: 75 Wind: 0-5 None MVP: **Aaron Rodgers**

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2009 Iowa City (4-8)	0	3	0	3	6
2009 Florida (12-0)	3	13	3	10	29

1 11:06 Florida	FG Longwell 39 (8-50-3:39)	0-3
2 13:41 Florida	TD Rodgers 16 pass to Marshall (Longwell) (6-51-2:52)	0-10
2 1:52 Florida	TD Rodgers 5 pass to Marshall (no good) (10-74-5:28)	0-16
2 0:06 Iowa City	FG Rackers 18 (7-75-1:31)	3-16
3 10:05 Florida	FG Longwell 42 (7-22-3:26)	3-19
4 13:37 Florida	FG Longwell 38 (5-14-2:06)	3-22
4 4:31 Florida	TD Stewart 4 run (Longwell) (11-45-6:06)	3-29
4 0:00 Iowa City	FG Rackers 38 (10-28-4:19)	6-29

	ICC	FLD
First Downs	9	20
Rushes	30-162	33-124
Passes	19-11-77	24-15-181
Sacked	6-23	2-13
Fumble	0	1
Penalties	6-54	5-45
Turnovers	0	0
Time	28:04	31:56
Third Down	1-13	5-13
Fourth Down	1-3	1-1
Red Att/Td/Fg	1/0/1	4/3/1
Net Offense	216	292



PICKERING



MOHAVE

28

17

JOHNSON HOTTER THAN HELLFIRE

GAME POINTS: **Chris Johnson** added another highlight to his banner season with a 55-yard TD run from scrimmage to put Pickering ahead of Mohave 14-3 in the 1st quarter. It was his 25th TD of the season and put him one TD away from tying the league record of 26. **Leon Hall** made a rare pick of **Brett Favre** in the 1st quarter to give the Hellfire the ball and a golden opportunity to get back in the game at Pickering's 20 yard line. But **Matt Schaub** tested **Kareem Jackson** and paid the price when the Spartans' corner made an end zone interception and returned it to the Pickering 32 yard line. The Spartans soon added another TD when Favre found **Vincent Jackson** in the corner of the end zone from 16 yards away to put Pickering in the driver's seat. An uneventful 3rd gave way to some minor fireworks in the 4th, but the Hellfire's 2 TDs were the proverbial too little, too late.

KEY PERFORMANCES: **Chris Johnson** gained 180 yds, 2 TDs on 24 carries, **Brett Favre** went 16 of 29 for 190 yds, 2 TDs and 1 INT, **Jason Taylor** recorded 3 sacks; **Matt Schaub** went 21 of 35 for 198 yds, 2 TDs, 1 INT, **Donald Driver**, 9 catches for 103 yds.

12-27-2010 The Fiery Depths Temp: 84 Wind: Calm None MVP: **Chris Johnson**

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2009 Pickering (11-1)	14	7	0	7	28
2009 Mohave (6-6)	3	0	0	14	17

1 11:02 Pickering	TD Johnson 4 run (Kasay) (7-60-3:58)	7-0
1 6:37 Mohave	FG Bironas 51 (9-46-4:15)	7-3
1 4:05 Pickering	TD Johnson 55 run (Kasay) (1-55-0:14)	14-3
2 7:15 Pickering	TD Favre 16 pass to Jackson (Kasay) (6-56-3:22)	21-3
4 12:22 Mohave	TD Schaub 4 pass to Mendenhall (Bironas) (8-66-4:14)	21-10
4 7:24 Pickering	TD Favre 25 pass to Jackson (Kasay) (10-73-4:53)	28-10
4 3:20 Mohave	TD Schaub 15 pass to Driver (Bironas) (12-63-3:52)	28-17

	PIC	MOH
First Downs	19	18
Rushes	30-206	24-84
Passes	29-16-190	35-21-198
Sacked	1-6	5-38
Fumble	0	1
Penalties	7-48	8-43
Turnovers	1	1
Time	28:58	31:02
Third Down	4-13	6-14
Fourth Down	1-1	1-3
Red Att/Td/Fg	3/2/0	5/2/0
Net Offense	390	244

MUSTANGS TRAMPLE SWORDS

GAME POINTS: Chris Chambers outran the York secondary to carry a Matt Ryan pass 63 yards to the house to jump start a domineering performance by the Mustangs. Garland received unusually stout play from their defence, holding Tom Brady and the Excaliburs to a single first down in the opening quarter and breaking open the game with a 26-yard "pick six" by cornerback Josh Wilson early in the 2nd quarter to give them a 21-0 lead. Danieal Manning set up York's only points with a 56-yard kick return that Michael Crabtree turned into 6 points five plays later on a 5-yard catch. It was the only wound the Swords would inflict on the hard-hitting Mustangs defence. Brian Cushing sacked Brady for a 10-yard loss and followed it up with a 30-yard interception return to set up Garland's final TD, an 11-yard TD pass to Julian Edelman in the fourth quarter.

KEY PERFORMANCES: Matt Ryan went 23 of 30 for 282 yards and 2 TDs, Wes Welker had 9 catches for 100 yards, Frank Gore had 67 yards on 12 carries, Brian Cushing made 9 tackles, 1 sack, 1 deflection, 1 forced fumble and 1 INT; Tom Brady went 17 of 31 for 180 yards, 1 TD, 2 INTs, Geno Hayes had 16 tackles, 6 run stuffs.



35

GARLAND



7

YORK

12-26-2010 Camelot Temp: 54 Wind: 0-10 None MVP: Matt Ryan

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2009 Garland (2-10)	7	14	0	14	35
2009 York (3-9)	0	7	0	0	7

1 9:08 Garland	TD Ryan 63 pass to Chambers (Gould) (6-91-3:26)	7-0
2 12:55 Garland	TD McGahee 2 run (Gould) (10-49-4:53)	14-0
2 11:41 Garland	TD Wilson 26 interception return (Gould) (0-0-0:39)	21-0
2 9:33 York	TD Brady 5 pass to Crabtree (Graham,S) (6-41-1:55)	21-7
4 12:41 Garland	TD McGahee 1 run (Gould) (10-80-5:21)	28-7
4 10:05 Garland	TD Ryan 11 pass to Edelman (Gould) (2-10-0:21)	35-7

	GDM	YOR
First Downs	22	11
Rushes	39-122	18-85
Passes	30-23-282	31-17-180
Sacked	0-0	3-25
Fumble	2	1
Penalties	4-25	8-62
Turnovers	0	2
Time	36:09	23:51
Third Down	8-15	1-10
Fourth Down	1-3	1-2
Red Att/Td/Fg	4/3/0	1/1/0
Net Offense	404	240



13

KUTZTOWN



35

DURHAM

DURHAM DUMPS KUTZTOWN

GAME POINTS: It was a classic example of the run setting up the pass as the Durham offence parlayed 200 rushing yards into 4 TD passes in a dominating win over the Kutztown Golden Bears. Michael Turner gained 31 yards in 4 carries on Durham's opening drive, drawing the Kutztown 'D' into the box, only to be burned by a 21-yard TD pass from Philip Rivers to Antonio Gates. It was a similar game plan that led to Durham's second TD, a 7-yard pass to Steve Breaston while the Bears keyed on Kevin Smith. Darren Sharper returned an interception 87 yards to bring the Bears within 4 points at half time, but the Durham defence shut down the Bears attack in the 2nd half and posted 3 TDs to walk away with an easy 35-13 victory.

KEY PERFORMANCES: Philip Rivers went 23 of 39 for 290 yards, 4 TDs and 1 INT, Michael Turner rushed for 106 yards on 19 carries, Antonio Gates caught 6 passes for 100 yards and 2 TDs, Elvis Dumervil posted 2 sacks; Tony Romo completed 16 of 30 for 151 yards, LeSean McCoy struggled with 15 yards on 11 carries.

12-31-2010 Jurassic Park Temp: 79 Wind: Calm Heavy Rain MVP: Philip Rivers

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2009 Kutztown (6-6)	3	7	0	3	13
2009 Durham (9-3)	7	7	7	14	35

1 9:18 Durham	TD Rivers 21 pass to Gates (Crosby) (7-68-4:03)	0-7
1 0:58 Kutztown	FG Kaeding 21 (6-15-3:22)	3-7
2 8:18 Durham	TD Rivers 7 pass to Breaston (Crosby) (13-57-5:29)	3-14
2 2:22 Kutztown	TD Sharper 87 interception return (Kaeding) (0-0-1:43)	10-14
3 1:00 Durham	TD Rivers 16 pass to Davis (Crosby) (8-80-3:24)	10-21
4 11:19 Kutztown	FG Kaeding 26 (4-5-1:44)	13-21
4 5:32 Durham	TD Bush 4 run (Crosby) (10-65-5:34)	13-28
4 1:02 Durham	TD Rivers 39 pass to Gates (Crosby) (6-68-3:23)	13-35

	KUT	DTL
First Downs	8	26
Rushes	20-25	33-200
Passes	30-16-151	39-23-290
Sacked	3-14	1-8
Fumble	2	2
Penalties	5-27	4-37
Turnovers	1	3
Time	26:42	33:18
Third Down	2-12	4-12
Fourth Down	0-1	2-4
Red Att/Td/Fg	2/0/2	4/3/0
Net Offense	162	482

VIRDEN FINISHES 4TH QTR FLURRY ON TOP

GAME POINTS: Markham started high but Virden finished on top after **Drew Brees** led two TD drives in the 4th quarter to finish off an exciting comeback. The North Stars squandered a pair of 10-point leads and found themselves trailing for the first time in the game, 21-17, after Brees connected on a 13-yard TD pass to **Mario Manningham** with 10 minutes left in the final period. But a 15-yard run on a gutsy individual effort by **DeAngelo Williams** got the Markham offence started and **Jason Campbell** replied with a 14-yard TD pass to H-back, **David Thomas**, finishing off a sharp 70-yard drive and giving Markham back the lead, 24-21 with 4:15 remaining. The Violators answered that score by putting together a methodical and masterful drive of their own that featured two critical 3rd down conversions; the second one a 13-yard pass to **Joseph Addai** on 3rd and 10 that put the ball on the Markham 4 yard line. **Ricky Williams**, limited for most of the day by the Markham linebackers, fought through a keying run defence to score the winning TD from 4 yards out. The much maligned Virden defence held off four long-shot throws from Campbell, two to the always dangerous **Devery Henderson**, to cap off the comeback and keep Virden in the playoff hunt.

KEY PERFORMANCES: **Drew Brees** completed 25 of 32 for 310 yards, 2 TDs, **Devin Hester** caught 7 passes for 109 yards and 1 TD, **Ricky Williams** gained 57 yards and scored 1 TD on 16 carries; **Jason Campbell** went 16 of 28 for 201 yards and 3 TDs, **DeAngelo Williams** rushed for 94 yards on 21 carries, **Jahvid Best** had 81 yards on 16 carries, **Chad Ochocinco** had 4 catches for 67 yards and 1 TD.



24

MARKHAM



28

VIRDEN

12-26-2010 TERRORDOME Temp: 66 Wind: Calm None MVP: **Drew Brees**

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2009 Markham (4-8)	7	3	7	7	24
2009 Virden (5-7)	0	7	7	14	28

1 1:14 Markham	TD Campbell 19 pass to Ochocinco (Lindell) (12-68-6:36)	7-0
2 3:47 Markham	FG Lindell 25 (11-51-5:30)	10-0
2 0:10 Virden	TD Brees 14 pass to Hester (Tynes) (9-83-3:32)	10-7
3 10:15 Markham	TD Campbell 6 pass to Britt (Lindell) (7-66-3:49)	17-7
3 4:49 Virden	TD Addai 2 run (Tynes) (11-77-5:22)	17-14
4 10:20 Virden	TD Brees 13 pass to Manningham (Tynes) (9-95-4:27)	17-21
4 4:15 Markham	TD Campbell 14 pass to Thomas (Lindell) (9-70-5:52)	24-21
4 0:53 Virden	TD Williams 4 run (Tynes) (10-60-3:22)	24-28

	MAR	VV
First Downs	24	23
Rushes	39-182	22-69
Passes	28-16-201	32-25-310
Sacked	1-9	0-0
Fumble	0	1
Penalties	5-30	3-20
Turnovers	0	1
Time	36:07	23:53
Third Down	10-15	5-8
Fourth Down	0-1	0-0
Red Att/Td/Fg	5/3/1	5/4/0
Net Offense	374	379

WEEK TWELVE LEADERS

Passing

Manning, P (CHP)	34-25-367
Flacco (COW)	42-23-324
Brees (VV)	32-25-310
Rivers, P (DTL)	39-23-290
Ryan, M (GDM)	30-23-282

Rushing

Johnson, C (PIC)	24-180
Brown, R (ICC)	27-152
Peterson, A (CHP)	26-132
Turner, M (DTL)	19-106
Jones, T (GWG)	16-96

Receiving

Rice, S (CHP)	9-145
Moss, S (COW)	6-137
Colston (CHP)	6-123
Ward, H (CHI)	8-122
White, R (LAK)	7-114

LEADER BOARD

STANDINGS

East	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Charleswood	9	3	0	0.750	393	32.8	221	18.4	14.3	5 0 0	2 1 0	5 2 0
Kutztown	6	6	0	0.500	271	22.6	304	25.3	-2.8	3 3 0	1 2 0	4 3 0
Mohave	6	6	0	0.500	241	20.1	294	24.5	-4.4	5 2 0	3 0 0	5 2 0
Viriden	5	7	0	0.417	275	22.9	328	27.3	-4.4	3 3 0	0 3 0	1 6 0
West	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Chino (z)	9	3	0	0.750	322	26.8	175	14.6	12.3	6 1 0	3 0 0	7 0 0
Los Angeles	5	7	0	0.417	256	21.3	257	21.4	-0.1	2 3 0	0 3 0	2 5 0
Iowa City	4	8	0	0.333	232	19.3	331	27.6	-8.3	1 4 0	1 2 0	2 5 0
York	3	9	0	0.250	229	19.1	358	29.8	-10.8	2 5 0	2 1 0	2 5 0
North	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Pickering (y)	11	1	0	0.917	392	32.7	180	15	17.7	4 1 0	3 0 0	6 1 0
Durham (y)	9	3	0	0.750	304	25.3	208	17.3	8	6 0 0	1 2 0	4 3 0
Markham	4	8	0	0.333	220	18.3	312	26	-7.7	3 3 0	1 2 0	2 5 0
Cowtown	2	10	0	0.167	185	15.4	360	30	-14.6	2 5 0	1 2 0	2 5 0
South	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Florida (z)	12	0	0	1.000	349	29.1	144	12	17.1	7 0 0	3 0 0	7 0 0
Ringgold	5	7	0	0.417	270	22.5	292	24.3	-1.8	3 2 0	2 1 0	4 3 0
Gwinnett	4	8	0	0.333	271	22.6	349	29.1	-6.5	3 3 0	1 2 0	2 5 0
Garland	2	10	0	0.167	262	21.8	359	29.9	-8.1	1 5 0	0 3 0	1 6 0

z-clinched division

y-clinched wildcard berth

PASSING

			Att	Cmp	C%	Yards	In	I%	Lg	TD	TD%	Rate
1	Favre	PIC	338	225	66.6	2981	7	2.1	53	24	7.1	109.3
2	Rodgers	FLD	290	190	65.5	2344	5	1.7	75	17	5.9	102.7
3	Manning, P	CHP	389	268	68.9	3262	13	3.3	73	24	6.2	101.1
4	Brees	VV	377	245	65	3079	10	2.7	51	21	5.6	97.8
5	Romo	KUT	359	236	65.7	2791	8	2.2	60	16	4.5	94.8
6	McNabb	CHI	343	209	60.9	2531	7	2	64	19	5.5	93.6
7	Manning, E	GWG	366	222	60.7	2616	10	2.7	78	24	6.6	92.9
8	Rivers, P	DTL	362	214	59.1	2663	12	3.3	86	25	6.9	91.2
9	Schaub	MOH	382	244	63.9	2846	11	2.9	56	19	5	90.9
10	Campbell, J	MAR	311	200	64.3	2215	9	2.9	64	14	4.5	88.3
11	Roethlisberger	RCH	358	230	64.2	2664	13	3.6	53	18	5	88.3
12	Brady	YOR	442	281	63.6	2922	13	2.9	55	22	5	86.9
13	Warner	LAK	327	198	60.6	2152	10	3.1	74	19	5.8	86.6
14	Ryan, M	GDM	313	202	64.5	2177	11	3.5	68	10	3.2	80.9
15	Bradford	ICC	253	153	60.5	1526	6	2.4	53	9	3.6	79.6

RUSHING

			Att	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD				Att	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD
1	Johnson, C	PIC	261	1560	6	55	23	8	Rice, R	FLD	162	764	4.7	58	5
2	Jones, T	GWG	240	1143	4.8	83	7	9	Charles	LAK	158	744	4.7	17	5
3	Peterson, A	CHP	249	1039	4.2	48	16	10	Brown, R	ICC	159	718	4.5	50	8
4	Williams, R	VV	229	1004	4.4	68	7	11	McCoy, L	KUT	183	707	3.9	75	4
5	Jones-Drew	RCH	202	931	4.6	94	3	12	Best	MAR	177	678	3.8	56	4
6	Jackson, S	CHI	187	812	4.3	50	2	13	Williams, D	MAR	118	675	5.7	54	3
7	Mendenhall	MOH	183	780	4.3	49	4	14	Barber	COW	141	592	4.2	40	1
8	Rice, R	FLD	162	764	4.7	58	5	15	Thomas, P	YOR	129	591	4.6	36	3

Yards/Game				Rushing Gains				of	10+	Rushing 1st		Downs	
1	Johnson, C	PIC	130	1	Johnson, C	PIC	47	1	Johnson, C	PIC	92		
2	Jones, T	GWG	95.3	2	Jones, T	GWG	27	2	Jones, T	GWG	61		
3	Peterson, A	CHP	86.6	3	Charles	LAK	25	3	Peterson, A	CHP	61		
4	Williams, D	MAR	84.4	4	Williams, R	VV	24	4	Williams, R	VV	49		
5	Williams, R	VV	83.7	5	Peterson, A	CHP	23	5	Jones-Drew	RCH	41		

RECEIVING

			No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD				No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD
1	Welker	GDM	80	1026	12.8	68	4	8	Smith, S	LAK	64	719	11.2	55	9
2	Rice, S	CHP	75	1009	13.5	28	4	9	Jennings, G	KUT	64	985	15.4	60	2
3	Holmes	RCH	73	989	13.5	40	6	10	Colston	CHP	63	861	13.7	32	5
4	White, R	LAK	72	800	11.1	49	3	11	Clark, D	GWG	61	606	9.9	25	6
5	Wayne	GWG	70	1057	15.1	78	14	12	Johnson, A	RCH	60	879	14.7	53	7
6	Witten	CHP	67	740	11	73	10	13	Crabtree	YOR	58	791	13.6	55	7
7	Moss, R	CHI	67	957	14.3	51	11	14	Driver	MOH	57	812	14.2	39	4
8	Smith, S	LAK	64	719	11.2	55	9	15	Ward, H	CHI	57	730	12.8	64	7

RAC Yards				Yards/Game				Receiving		First	Downs
1	Jennings, G	KUT	489	1	Welker	GDM	114	1	Holmes	RCH	62
2	Jones-Drew	RCH	411	2	Hester, D	VV	92.2	2	Rice, S	CHP	52
3	Moss, R	CHI	378	3	Wayne	GWG	88.1	3	Wayne	GWG	49
4	Jackson, V	PIC	355	4	Rice, S	CHP	84.1	4	Moss, R	CHI	46
5	Welker	GDM	350	5	Holmes	RCH	82.4	5	Witten	CHP	45



AROUND THE



With Spats McChad

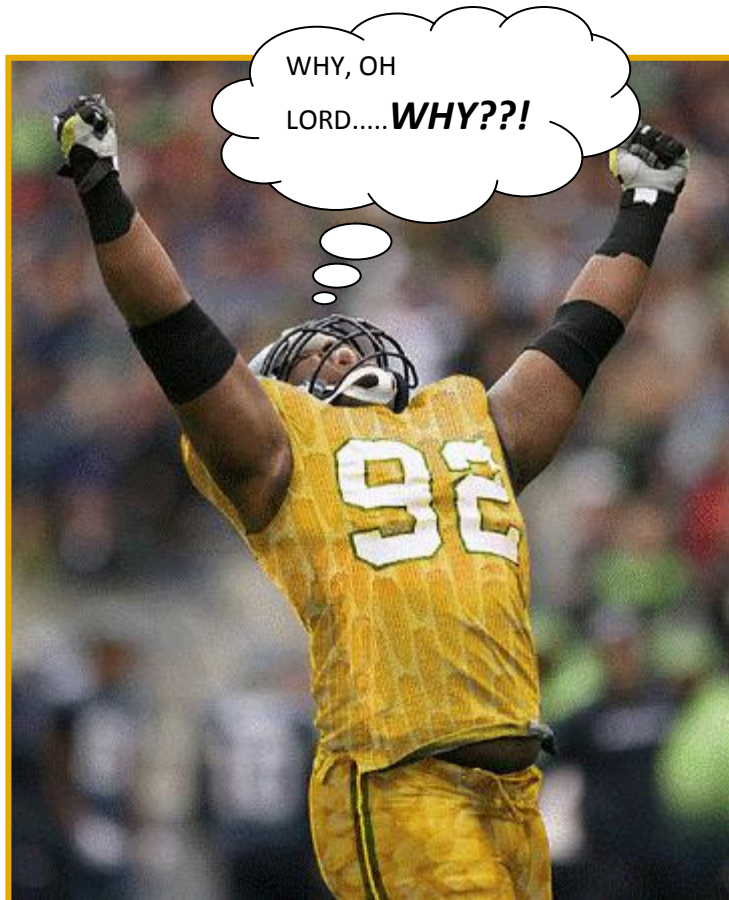
NEW YORK – I am sorry, dear readers, if this column lacks a certain....how shall I put it....*finesse* this week. I have always strived to bring a cultivated and refined perspective to the world's most savage sport after hockey. But as I write this, I find I am dreary and slow after a night of little sleep due to an intolerable noise outside my window last night around midnight. It was as if thousands of people had gathered in the street for the sole purpose of screaming, singing and throwing garbage. I tried covering my head with my pillow but to no avail. I even called the Police....*nine* times. After the ninth call, they showed up at my door and threatened to arrest *me* if I made another phone call. They're lucky I have such respect for authority or I would have given them a stern talking to, I can assure you. Something definitely crazy happened here last night – so crazy even the Cops went a little nuts. Once I finish this column I intend to complain to the concierge in my building about the noise. My mother pays good money to keep me in this Times Square condo and I expect more peace and quiet on a Friday night.

ANCIENT GREEK CONFLICTS IN THE 21ST CENTURY

The power and influence of Ancient Greece seemingly lives forever. This can be a problem in the modern world. The problem is that the people of Ancient Greece were...well...somewhat intemperate and violent by modern standards, with a total indifference to individual human rights. They are credited with creating Democracy but it was not like any Democracy that we know today, believe me. It developed first in Athens and Athenians were considered flaming fags by the rest of the Greeks. The big difference between Greeks and the Barbarians of the time was that the Greeks spoke Greek and had developed writing to a degree that allowed them to express complex violent and intemperate thoughts then preserve them for posterity. Thus the history of their violent ways, every grievance and atrocity imaginable, was preserved in detail so that their descendants could read and learn about now much they had been wronged in the past, or how glorious their tyranny and oppression of others had been. For those of you out there who think that the burning of the Great Library at Alexandria by the Romans was a *bad* thing, think again. Who knows what old and intractable grudges they purged with the ancient world's most famous marshmallow roast?

What does this have to do with the EFL? Not much actually. Except for the fact that three of the league's sixteen teams are owned by gentlemen of Greek descent and each one carries with him an ancient grievance against the other. Aside from cheering for Greece during World Cup Soccer, they have nothing that joins them together and plenty of historical baggage to create tension at the water cooler. When Durham Thunder Lizard's owner, **George Kaldis**; whose remote family lineage can be traced to a Spartan émigré to Attica around 600 BC (a Spartan "traitor" in other words), hosted Kutztown Golden Bears owner, **Pete Katsafanas** at Jurassic Park; whose greatⁿ grandfather was Petros Katsurius, a half-Roman, half-Greek Chariot Race bookmaker from Argos (of Peloponessian League), who allegedly fixed a javelin contest between Romodos of Messenia and Riversthes of Acheloos during the Olympic Games at Elis in 582 BC and was locked up for the offence by Marilopolous, the Patron of Phaolia, a third cousin of Kaldis' greatⁿ uncle, Atropos of Phrygia (who was not actually from Phrygia but had once travelled there to purchase a rare breed of Turkish goat); there was certain to be tension, especially considering that Kaldis's brother, EFL Commissioner Yorgo Kaldis, had admonished Katsafanas for an administrative impropriety prior to Kutztown's Week Ten game against York. Adding to the atmosphere of distrust and acrimony was the fact that Adonia, the greatⁿ aunt of Pickering Spartans owner, **Gus Kostantakos**, and eventual wife of Marilopokous's body slave, Mikalos, had been robbed of her virginity by Katsurius's thick-skulled and violent nephew, Blogdo of Pyssos, during a festival celebrating the arrival of the Painted Frogs of Carneia in 581 BC and had soon after given birth to the murderer of Atropos of Phrygia's younger brother's best friend, Zosime of the Blitikos following a dispute over a game of dice. It was no wonder then, that both owners could not be civil to one another.

The Thunder Lizards dominated the contest, playing with the Kutztown defence like a cat with a mouse – a very large, somewhat reptilian cat playing with a rather small and mollusc-like mouse. To his silent rage, it reminded Katsafanas of the infamous Battle of Tanagra in 426 BC, in which a distant, unnamed relative had lost his farm to a



Cowtown's Brandon Mebane is *not* celebrating. When your team is getting their butts kicked all over the field, what is there to celebrate? No, Brandon Mebane is asking God why...*WHY* does God let things like this uniform be created and *WHY* does Brandon have to wear it?

marauding band of Athenian Hoplites, who apparently had fornicated with the chickens before roasting and eating them. Chicken-ravaging-and-roasting cost the victim peasant big money in those days and it was the kind of offence that was never truly forgotten.

Katsafanas, according to sources, completely freaked out when **Antonio Gates** scored Durham's final touchdown on a 39-yard pass with one minute left in a blowout game that Durham won 35-13. After the touchdown, he stormed out of the visiting owner's luxury box at Jurassic Park and has not been seen or heard from since. My contacts in Kutztown are stunned and have no further information to offer as I write this column. Check in next week for the latest news on the Golden Bears and their suddenly delinquent GM.

FAN APPRECIATION DAY

A bad season took a pathetic turn in Cowtown this week with a dismal performance by the home team on 'Fan Appreciation Day' at Tillman Field. From the football perspective there was, as expected, little to cheer about if you are a Corn Kings fan. The Pat's Adrian Peterson lapped up the gravy as Peyton Manning roasted the Corn Kings' secondary to the tune of 367 yards and 3 aerial TDs in a 45-28 pounding that was not nearly as close as the score indicated. This, against a team that was focused on *stopping the pass*! Such wretched performances by Cowtown's defence are no longer newsworthy – except in this case when the back-drop

for it was the unveiling of the home team's new ceremonial "gold" uniform. Created for such special occasions as 'Fan Appreciation Day' and the commemoration of the franchise's marquis achievement: the best regular season record in the EFL's inaugural season; the obnoxious gold on gold "uni" imparted an extra measure of burlesque to the already laughable lop-sidedness of the game itself. The Corn Kings players, to a man, sported that sad, self-conscious look you see on pets faces when their owners dress them up for Halloween.

Solid 'niblet gold' with silkscreen corn niblets and corn cobs imprinted on the fabric; it was painful to look at while being impossible to ignore. The visual equivalent of somebody yelling in your face from about 6 inches away, the uniform alone may have been responsible for about 38 points. Peyton Manning looked determined to run up the score for fear that his manhood would be called into question if he did not completely slaughter this pack of golden buffoons; while Joe Flacco posted the best statistical day of his career, throwing 4 TD passes, in an effort to salvage what little was left of his team's dignity. I would have found the whole ridiculous show hilarious if I did not think I was watching the complete demise of a once, briefly, proud franchise. Any team that would do this to its fans is heading for the scrap heap and the EFL cannot afford another lame franchise.

ALLIGATOR AND SKITTLES

Instead of running a practice at Dragonmount the day before this week's contest against Florida, **Deron Redding** took his team to a West Palm Beach restaurant and ordered everyone alligator steaks. The purpose was to get his team, specifically rookie **Sam Bradford**, loose and relaxed before their dreaded outing against the league's perennial powerhouse. Alligator, according to Redding, is *"the closest thing there is these days to dragon meat."* How the Cub's coach would know this is a question for another day, or a psychiatrist, but the point is that the rookie Bradford was apparently terrified of facing Florida after watching film of them dismantling Durham, a team that had pounded the Cubs 31-14 in Week Seven. The Iowa City coach was determined to put his rookie QB at ease.

Redding's pre-game tricks did not end with an alligator entrée. He took the team out after dinner for a game of mini-putt and a round of laser tag that pitted the offence against the defence. Afterwards, he bought them all ice cream, and let Bradford and **Lee Evans** stay up late in the hotel to play a video game called *"Dragonslayer."* Bradford was, according to a team insider, high on 'Skittles' throughout the night and he crashed hard the next morning. By game time he looked as pale as a sheet and about as animated as a zombie on the sideline. On the field, he looked completely mechanical - handing the ball

with precision, but throwing the ball every time to an area roughly 4 yards wide, 2 yards deep and about 3 yards downfield and to the right of wherever he happened to be standing when he released the ball. It did not take the Dragons long to catch on, especially after the Cubs called a bomb to Evans that Bradford tossed at the back of right tackle **D'Brickashaw Ferguson**, who happened to be blocking **Terrell Suggs** at the precise spot where Bradford's arm had decided to throw the ball.

Instead of racking up the interceptions, however, the Dragons' 'D' showed unusual restraint - even kindness. Feeling bad for the kid, they threw themselves dramatically into the air under the pretence of trying to "bat away" the ball, or else pretended to "slip" at the last moment, allowing the occasional catch by a tight end or running back (who was immediately, viciously tackled after securing the ball). Florida had 6 sacks but could easily have had 6 more. **LaMarr Woodley**, the league sack leader with 15, "wrestled" unconvincingly for about 5 seconds with a completely immobile Bradford while Evans ran a deep post pattern. Eventually, Bradford's arm reacted to the pressure and tossed a short pass about 3 yards downfield to **Kellen Winslow**, after which Woodley pounded the grass with melo-dramatic mock frustration. Of course, the Dragons could not maintain the illusion for long. (They are football players after all, not actors). **Jim Heaton** called a meeting with the defence on the sideline. On the Cubs' next series Bradford was carefully sacked twice for appearances sake. After the second one, he wet his pants.

QUARTERBACK DEATH

Stricter EFL rules designed to protect the league's most valuable asset, the quarterback, could not save two West Division pivots this week. **Kurt Warner** of the LA Knights failed to slide in time and nearly got knee-capped by Gwinnett lineman, **Robert Mathis**. According to team sources, Warner will be out for next week's showdown against the Florida, making it not so much a showdown as a show-off for the Florida "Firewall," a squad that knows from experience how to deal with **Tarvaris Jackson**. In Chino, the Convicts quietly clinched the West Division but had their party spoiled by an arguably late lit on **Donovan McNabb** that has the Warden, **Rob Nazar**, calling for a league fine and electrocution for Ringgold lineman, **Domata Peko**, after he received word that McNabb sustained a rib fracture that will keep him out of action for at least one week. **Jay Cutler**, who has been pouting on the bench all year and getting very little playing time apart from mop-up duty, looked happy to be in the game when it counted and went a perfect 8 for 8 for 129 yards and 3 touchdowns in finishing off the passive Crimson Hawks, 41-17. Those are the kind of numbers, my readers, good enough to get you a perfect quarterback rating of 158.3. The league is reviewing the Peko hit on McNabb, but don't expect any fine or suspension to be levied. The league is desperate to find a team to challenge Florida in the South Division and Ringgold, for lack of anyone else, is it.

HOLIDAY BREAK KNOCKS STUFFING OUT OF PLAYERS

The EFL Christmas Break (sorry, "Festive Respite" as it is now called to avoid offence to Muslim players) seemed to instil an aura of blandness on the field this year rather than jubilation. This year's Christmas Miracle, er...."Holiday Wonder," is the unbelievable fact that every team, yes, *every* team, is still technically alive in the playoff hunt, although teams like Cowtown, Garland and York have only the faintest of pulses. So one would think that the competitive fire would be ablaze like a Yule Log (ah, sorry, "Sacred Burning Wood") on the gridiron. Unfortunately, such is the disparity between the league's elite teams and everyone else that the teams competing for the last wild card spots in each conference must feel like ship-wrecked sailors drawing lots to see who will be eaten next to keep the ship's Officers alive. Nobody really wants the playoff spot if it means going on the road to get the crap kicked out of them on national TV. Despite this apathy, Week Twelve brought some highlights:

Chris Johnson stole the show again this week, rushing for 180 yards and peeling off a 55-yard TD run to go along with a 4-yarder to score two TDs in the first quarter, leading the Spartans to a 28-17 drubbing of Mohave at The Fiery Depths. Those two scores increased his season total to 25, making it virtually certain that, barring injury, death, or the discovery that he is in fact a cyborg crafted with alien technology developed in Area 51 and therefore not eligible to play; he will break the league touchdown record of 26, set last year by Florida's **DeAngelo Williams**.

Given up for dead this season, the Garland defence resurrected itself with a shutdown performance against one of the league's best QBs in a 35-7 thrashing of York. **Brian Cushing** and **Will Smith** had standout games putting pressure on **Tom Brady** while their secondary, which usually demonstrates the mobility of a potted plant display at K-Mart, took away Brady's options in the passing game with unusually effective man coverage. Brady looked increasingly frustrated as the Mustangs dropped their linebackers back and kept **Michael Jenkins** blanketed by corner, **Josh Wilson** with occasional help from the safeties. The early season magic appears drained away from the Exclaiburs as they head into the final quarter of the schedule looking less and less like this year's "Cinderella." They are simply swords now....short ones...long daggers actually. Meanwhile, Garland, at 2-10, is still in the playoff hunt for the final wildcard spot in the Can-Am Conference.

Drew Brees continues to toil in obscurity in Virden. This week he led a fourth quarter comeback against the Markham North Stars at **TERRORDOME** to prevail 28-24 and keep the Violators' playoff hopes alive and well. Trailing by 3 with just over one minute left, Brees connected with **Joseph Addai** to convert 3rd down and 10 in the Markham red zone. On the next play, **Ricky Williams** broke the plane for the game-winning score. Nobody really expects Virden to make the post-season, but I assert that you cannot count them out as long as Brees is making **Devin Hester**, **Mario Manningham**, and **Fred Davis** look like stars. Davis, who had problems with drops in college, is having trouble dropping balls thrown to him by the deadly accurate Brees. The passes virtually catch themselves. If Virden does somehow squeak in, Brees has my vote for League Offensive MVP. Somebody needs to stand up to the developing **Chris Johnson** landslide.

















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PLAYOFF PICTURE AT A GLANCE

PACIFIC-ATLANTIC CONFERENCE		CAN-AM CONFERENCE			
OUT	ALIVE	IN	IN	ALIVE	OUT
			1 		
			2 		
			3 		
			4 		

JIMMY'S Week THIRTEEN picks

FLORIDA @ LOS ANGELES (line – DRAGONS by 8)

The story of this game happened last week when Kurt Warner went down with a knee sprain. The Knights have Jimmy Clausen and “Old Reliable,” Tarvaris Jackson ready to go behind center, which has the Florida defence salivating in anticipation. The starter will be a game time decision by Jeff Dohrn and it will boil down to which one he hates the most. When this game was originally scheduled for Prime Time it had a completely different complexion to it – a “Revenge Match” in the truest sense with the home field advantage to the offended party and a real chance for an upset. Now the challenge for LA is in finding a way to keep the game close so as to avoid embarrassment. The only way for them to do that is with their defence – which is overdue to step up against a top grade opponent. Florida keeps whacking teams firmly enough to keep them down but not hard enough to leave a mark. They have yet to score 40 points in a game this season but they routinely beat the spread scoring between 20 and 35 because their defence is virtually impenetrable. The Knights will get pumped up anyway, the defence will exhaust itself in the first quarter, and Florida will march without challenge to their 13th win of the season.

Pick: FLORIDA

GWINNETT @ IOWA CITY (line – CUBS by 3)

This battle between two ‘third tier’ playoff hopefuls promises to be...well, a battle between two ‘third tier’ playoff hopefuls and all that comes with it. Generally, that means that the team making the fewest errors will win. In fairness, both these 4-8 powerhouses have more playmakers than one would expect, given their records. The Cubs will count on their defence to turn the ball over and score, if possible, without handing the ball over to the offence to accomplish the task. Antrel Rolle is out, leaving the Cubs without a valuable ball hawk. The Glads will hope that Thomas Jones can keep enough heat off Eli Manning to allow Reggie Wayne to get open deep and add to his league-leading 14 TD receptions. In a season with little to cheer about, Gwinnett looks forward hopefully to the return of their defensive leader, Troy Polamalu, who is listed as ‘Probable’ for this game. If he plays as expected it will tilt the balance in favour of the visitors over the rookie-led Cubs. **Pick: GWINNETT**

CHINO @ GARLAND (line – CONVICTS by 6)

Jay Cutler gets his first start of the year in place of the injured Donovan McNabb. While McNabb is the undisputed leader of the Convicts, Cutler has not given up aspirations to regain the starting job he once held. He will be looking to make a statement for his coach and he is well-positioned to make it a loud one against the suspect, but improving, Garland pass defence. But the Convicts cannot take the Mustangs lightly. Once the punch line to any joke about lameness, the “Thoroughheads” have been gradually increasing their standing in the defence rankings, steadily climbing from last to 10th. Of concern to coach Nazar is Cutler’s tendency to make rash decisions under pressure. With Will Smith challenging Bryant McKinnie at the line of scrimmage and Brian Cushing roaming the second level, Cutler is capable of snatching defeat from the jaws of victory through sheer stubbornness. Luckily, Chino has an insurance policy in the “Lockdown Crew.” **PICK: CHINO**

YORK @ RINGGOLD (line – CRIMSON HAWKS by 8)

The streaky and volatile Crimson Hawks are nursing a two-game losing streak after getting smoked by Chino at The Big House. They return home at exactly the right time to play exactly the right opponent to get back on the winning track. The Excaliburs have lost 6 in a row and have been getting blown out in the process. Tom Brady is taking a beating and has lost his swagger if not his composure. York has been passing twice for every running play. Opposing defences know this and are sitting on the pass. The good news for York is that the Ringgold pass defence has been giving up a lot of yards and they are missing both Corey Webster and Brodney Pool. The bad news is they have no room for error – a loss will eliminate them from the playoff hunt. **Pick: RINGGOLD**

DURHAM @ CHARLESWOOD (line – PATRIOTS by 5)

Nothing definitive is riding on the outcome of this game but both teams need the win to maintain their respective positions in the playoff picture. Durham still has a slim hope for the North Division title but they will need to keep winning and get a lot of help from their Division rivals. Charleswood controls their own destiny but share the East Division with the only real contenders in the PAC other than Chino. They have a solid advantage but have designs on the top seed in the Conference and therefore need to keep winning. The Pats got a chance to pad their offensive stats last week in Cowtown but nobody has forgotten that they own the least efficient running attack in the league and that Peyton Manning has struggled mightily against the top defences. Durham’s defence is porous against the run but leads the league in efficiency against the pass. The Pats will have to pull a few more turnovers out of their loot bag to keep pace with Durham’s superior fundamentals. **Pick: DURHAM**

COWTOWN @ KUTZTOWN (line – GOLDEN BEARS by 10)

The Golden Bears have a simple task in front of them for the remaining four weeks of the season: keep winning. The Bears find themselves in the driver’s seat to a playoff berth if they can finish strongly. They have a “golden”

opportunity to maintain their slim advantage over the LA Knights for the final wildcard berth at home this week against the EFL's doormat. But since they throttled York in Week Ten the Bears' offence has gone silent, resulting in two poor performances against North Division bullies Pickering and Durham. The only ray of hope visible in Cowtown after their blowout loss to Charleswood was the sign that Joe Flacco might be finally getting comfortable under center. Although the game was out of reach, Flacco made some good throws under pressure against a good Charleswood defence to post a career-high 4 TD passes. Can he build on that performance and help steal a game that means nothing to Cowtown but so much to Kutztown? No. **Pick: KUTZTOWN**

MOHAVE @ MARKHAM (line – NORTH STARS by 2)

Signs of drug abuse in the halls of Vegas bookmakers surface every now and again and this is one of those “now and agains.” It has become fashionable to “bet up” on the Stars when they are facing a superior opponent and the herd is predictably moving their money *en masse* to those plucky, lovable losers in brown. I don't necessarily disagree with that approach based on Markham's historical performance against the top teams. I disagree that Mohave, especially without Owen Daniels and Ryan Harris in the line-up, is that much better than Markham to begin with. Yes, they are better, but not *so* much better that the Stars will go to great lengths to screw up their resolve not to be intimidated by them. The Dawg Pound will give them a lift but it won't be enough to carry them through a full 60 minutes of football against a Hellfire team highly motivated to hold their playoff spot. They will need more than a bellow from the Fat Lady here. **Pick: MOHAVE**

VIRDEN @ PICKERING (line – SPARTANS by 13)

The best quarterback in the EFL squares off against the second best quarterback in the EFL. So who is who? The debate rages between the statisticians on one hand and the Students of the Game on the other about how to define the honour. Brett Favre dominates the stat board while Drew Brees makes the football equivalent of tasty lemonade with very little sugar and a bushel full of lemons in Virden, keeping improbable playoff hopes alive. The argument will go on and on since nobody has found a way to objectively and definitively bell curve performance based on handicap. But why spend so much space on this endless topic? Because the actual game discussion is a short one: Pickering will shred the Violator's defence and score as many points as they wish. Drew will get his licks in, but not nearly enough to make a difference. **PICK: PICKERING**