

2010



2010

WEEK FOURTEEN IN REVIEW

January 16th, 2011



BEARS ROAR BACK!



LATEST EFL NEWS INSIDE

THE GAMES

- BEARS BOUNCE BACK
- KNIGHTS LANCE SWORDS
- DRAGONS WIN...AGAIN!
- MUSTANGS CLOBBER GLADS
- PATS CLINCH EAST DIVISION
- PICKERING RULES THE NORTH
- WAS THERE A GAME IN MARKHAM?
- CUBS SURPRISE CONVICTS

Greg Jennings of the Kutztown Golden Bears celebrates after scoring on a 17-yard pass from Tony Romo with 2 minutes remaining in the game. The TD would turn out to be the game-winner as the Bears scored 21 4th quarter points to beat Mohave 28-20. (STORY INSIDE)

COMMENT

“NEW YORK ON A BUDGET,” “HOLLYWOOD WITH A TWIST,” “DAMN RIVERS,” “KUDDLY IN KUTZTOWN,” “PLAYOFFS – WHO CARES?” – Spats McChad

PREDICTIONS

Kutztown clinches. Virden violated. Cubs and Glads hang on. – Jim the Geek



Who was slick in Week Fourteen?

“BRYLCREEM” THE EFL’S OLDEST SPONSOR



Reyton Manning
QB
Charleswood Patriots

21 of 23 for 263 yards & 4 TDs.
Dominated Virden in 45-10 rout.



Tracy Porter
CB
Kutztown Golden Bears

5 tackles, 2 big interceptions, 1 TD.
Turned around game vs Mohave.

PORTER "PICKS" UP BEARS

KUTZTOWN CORNER TURNS AROUND GAME WITH 2 INTS.



KUTZTOWN

28



MOHAVE

20

MOHAVE – After a torrid 4-0 start to the season, Mohave coach **Bobby Elder** is feeling the heat. At home to the Division-rival Kutztown Golden Bears, with a chance to gain the upper hand in a tight race for a wild card spot, the Hellfire hearth went cold in the second half, igniting a 3-touchdown Kutztown rally over an 8-minute span in the 4th quarter. The resulting loss was the 5th in a row for Mohave and their 8th loss in 10 games since taking the league by storm to start the season. Prominently featured in early MVP discussions, Hellfire QB, **Matt Schaub** has been inconsistent since Mohave's 4-0 start and may have jeopardized his team's season in this game by throwing 3 critical interceptions that sparked the Kutztown comeback.

It was all Mohave at the beginning. A 22-yard pass to **Braylon Edwards** on 3rd & 8 got the Hellfire into the red zone on their first possession then a personal foul on **Richard Seymour** salvaged a 3rd & 15 to put them on the 12 with a fresh set of downs. **Rashard Mendenhall** scored on a 5-yard screen pass three plays later to put Mohave in front 7-0. Mendenhall continued his hot start with a 63-yard run to set up a 19-yard **Rob Bironas** field goal to make it 10-0. The Hellfire took a 17-0 lead after **A.J. Hawk** picked off **Tony Romo** at the Mohave 6 then rode **Jerome Harrison's** 43-yard run to build a 94-yard scoring drive that ended in a 1-yard TD leap over the top by Harrison. All was looking good for the home team at that point; but with less than 2 minutes remaining in the 1st half, **Ike Taylor** picked off Schaub and returned it 20 yards to the Mohave 23. Romo found **Greg Jennings** for a 4-yard TD pass one minute later to put the Bears on the board and put a brake on the developing rout.

The Hellfire notched a field goal midway through the 3rd quarter to make it 20-7 then stopped the Bears on a 4th down gamble at the Mohave 23 early in the 4th quarter. That appeared to put them in the driver's seat with a 13-point lead and 13 minutes remaining in the game. However, with Schaub facing 3rd & 10 at the Mohave 43, Bears' corner, **Tracy Porter** picked off a pass intended for **Terrell Owens** and returned it 15 yards to the 37. After two incomplete passes, **Felix Jones** took the Hellfire 'D' by surprise with a 10-yard run for a first down on 3rd & 10 to keep the budding drive alive. Kutztown continued to run the ball until Romo found **Brandon Pettigrew** open in the end zone from 10 yards away for a TD to pull within 6 points. The fired up Bears swarmed **Andre' Davis** on the ensuing kickoff, holding him to a 9-yard return from the goal line. With poor field position, Mohave managed just one first down before punting, giving the ball back at the Bears' 42. Romo went into action, completing all 5 of his pass attempts, including a 17-yard TD strike to Jennings, to lead his team to the go-ahead TD. Trailing 21-20, Mohave took over at their own 35 yard line and came close to field goal range after Schaub completed a 17-yard pass to Edwards at the Bear's 36 on 4th & 10. But on the very next play, **Tracy Porter** stepped in front of an errant Schaub offering and returned it 67 yards for the game-clinching TD to complete the comeback.

01-12-2011 The Fiery Depths Temp: 84 Wind: Calm None MVP: **Tracy Porter**

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2009 Kutztown (8-6)	0	7	0	21	28
2009 Mohave (6-8)	10	7	3	0	20

1 7:05 Mohave	TD Schaub 5 pass to Mendenhall (Bironas) (11-55-6:39)	0-7
1 1:00 Mohave	FG Bironas 19 (6-65-3:35)	0-10
2 6:18 Mohave	TD Harrison 1 run (Bironas) (7-94-4:21)	0-17
2 0:27 Kutztown	TD Romo 4 pass to Jennings (Kaeding) (7-23-0:45)	7-17
3 3:56 Mohave	FG Bironas 33 (13-64-6:39)	7-20
4 7:54 Kutztown	TD Romo 10 pass to Pettigrew (Kaeding) (8-37-3:22)	14-20
4 2:05 Kutztown	TD Romo 17 pass to Jennings (Kaeding) (8-58-2:59)	21-20
4 0:34 Kutztown	TD Porter 67 interception return (Kaeding) (0-0-1:18)	28-20

	KUT	MOH
First Downs	17	17
Rushes	28-139	42-204
Passes	29-17-174	19-10-144
Sacked	2-21	0-0
Fumble	0	0
Penalties	8-67	4-22
Turnovers	1	3
Time	28:22	31:38
Third Down	9-15	8-16
Fourth Down	1-3	1-1
Red Att/Td/Fg	4/3/0	6/2/1
Net Offense	292	348

< Kutztown >

Passing	Att	Cmp	Yds	Sk	25	In	Td	Rate
Romo	29	17	174	2	0	1	3	96.0

Rushing	Att	Yds	Ave	FD	10	Lg	TD
Jones	18	93	5.2	4	1	10	0
Romo	4	22	5.5	1	0	8	0
McCoy	3	9	3.0	0	0	5	0
Wolfe	2	9	4.5	0	1	10	0
McClain	1	6	6.0	1	0	6	0

Receiving	No	Dp	Att	Yds	Ave	FD	25	Lg	TD
Jennings	6	0	8	59	9.8	4	0	17	2
Collie	5	1	8	66	13.2	4	0	19	0
Pettigrew	2	0	3	15	7.5	2	0	10	1
Washington	2	0	2	11	5.5	0	0	6	0
McCoy	1	0	2	14	14.0	1	0	14	0
Bennett	1	0	2	9	9.0	0	0	9	0
Jones	0	0	2	0	0.0	0	0	0	0

< Mohave >

Passing	Att	Cmp	Yds	Sk	25	In	Td	Rate
Schaub	19	10	144	0	1	3	1	55.5

Rushing	Att	Yds	Ave	FD	10	Lg	TD
Mendenhall	20	113	5.7	2	1	63	0
Harrison	15	79	5.3	4	2	43	1
Schaub	4	11	2.8	0	0	5	0
Owens	1	2	2.0	0	0	2	0
Driver	1	0	0.0	0	0	0	0

Receiving	No	Dp	Att	Yds	Ave	FD	25	Lg	TD
Driver	3	0	3	38	12.7	3	0	16	0
Edwards	3	0	5	55	18.3	3	0	22	0
Owens	2	1	4	36	18.0	1	1	31	0
Mendenhall	1	0	2	5	5.0	1	0	5	1
Nelson	1	1	2	10	10.0	1	0	10	0
Nicks	0	0	1	0	0.0	0	0	0	0
Harrison	0	0	2	0	0.0	0	0	0	0

KNIGHTS RUN OVER YORK

GAME POINTS: The Knights rushed for over 200 yards as a team and got a big play from one of their defensive stars in dispatching the fading York Excaliburs and staying in the running for the final wild card playoff spot in the PAC. York came out strong in the early going as **Pierre Thomas** rushed for 35 yards and caught 2 passes for 17 yards, including a 4-yarder for a TD on their opening drive to take a 7-0 lead. But the game turned around in a hurry after **Charles Woodson** picked off **Tom Brady** early in the 2nd quarter and returned it 48 yards for a TD to give the Knights 10-7 lead. LA started to pull away after that with a 10-point flurry before the half that featured a 47-yard run by **Cedric Benson** to set up a 16-yard TD pass from **Kurt Warner** to **Steve Smith**. **David Garrard** replaced Brady in the 2nd half but he could make no headway against the vaunted LA defence, playing shutdown with a lead, and the Knights went on to win easily.

KEY PERFORMANCES: **Kurt Warner** completed 18 of 24 for 152 yards and 2 TDs, **Cedric Benson** rushed for 124 yards on 20 carries, **Shonn Greene** rushed for 80 yards on 111 carries: **Tom Brady** went 9 of 17 for 88 yards. 1 TD and 1 INT.



7

YORK



30

LOS ANGELES

01-14-2011 Round Table Stadium Temp: 62 Wind: Calm None MVP: **Cedric Benson**

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2009 York (3-11)	7	0	0	0	7
2009 Los Angeles (6-8)	3	17	0	10	30

1 5:22 York	TD Brady 4 pass to Thomas (Graham, S) (15-90-7:14)	7-0
1 0:13 Los Angeles	FG Carpenter 37 (9-48-4:53)	7-3
2 13:17 Los Angeles	TD Woodson 48 interception return (Carpenter) (0-0-0:43)	7-10
2 7:52 Los Angeles	FG Carpenter 41 (6-25-3:40)	7-13
2 3:15 Los Angeles	TD Warner 16 pass to Smith (Carpenter) (4-66-2:11)	7-20
4 8:13 Los Angeles	TD Warner 3 pass to Williams (Carpenter) (10-58-4:54)	7-27
4 2:35 Los Angeles	FG Carpenter 38 (5-42-2:28)	7-30

	YOR	LAK
First Downs	14	19
Rushes	25-63	34-203
Passes	30-16-166	24-18-152
Sacked	2-8	0-0
Fumble	1	1
Penalties	7-49	5-30
Turnovers	1	0
Time	28:00	32:00
Third Down	8-15	3-11
Fourth Down	0-1	0-0
Red Att/Td/Fg	1/1/0	3/2/1
Net Offense	221	355



27

YORK



16

RINGGOLD

DRAGONS JUST TOO MUCH FOR HAWKS

GAME POINTS: Two lost fumbles slowed down the Dragons in the 1st half and led to an early Ringgold TD on a 23-yard pass from **Ben Roethlisberger** to **Andre Johnson**. But the Dragons kept moving the ball on offence while the "Firewall" held their ground in the red zone and the Dragons went on to log their 14th win of the season against no losses. After playing to a 10-10 draw through 2 quarters, the Dragons started to slowly pull away from the Hawks on their second possession of the 3rd quarter. **Jonathan Stewart** gained 37 yards on 4 straight carries, the last a 6-yard TD run to put Florida in the lead to stay. An **Aaron Rodgers** lost fumble gave the Hawks a FG but on the Dragons' next possession Rodgers hit **DeSean Jackson** in stride on a short slant that the speedy receiver turned into a 47-yard TD. The 11-point lead held as the teams traded FGs to finish off.

KEY PERFORMANCES: **Aaron Rodgers** completed 27 of 40 for 322 yards and 2 TDs, **DeSean Jackson** caught 7 passes for 109 yards and 1 TD, **Jonathan Stewart** gained 63 yards and 1 TD on 10 carries; **Ben Roethlisberger** went 14 of 27 for 203 yards and 1 TD, **Andre Johnson** caught 4 passes for 75 yards and 1 TD.

01-15-2011 The Hawk's Nest Temp: 37 Wind: 0-5 None MVP: **Aaron Rodgers**

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2009 Florida (14-0)	0	10	14	3	27
2009 Ringgold (6-8)	7	3	3	3	16

1 9:03 Ringgold	TD Roethlisberger 23 pass to Johnson (Suisham) (3-57-1:30)	0-7
2 13:35 Florida	TD Rodgers 8 pass to Miller (Longwell) (13-74-6:20)	7-7
2 9:13 Ringgold	FG Suisham 23 (9-58-4:11)	7-10
2 5:56 Florida	FG Longwell 45 (9-46-3:04)	10-10
3 7:10 Florida	TD Stewart 6 run (Longwell) (7-58-4:05)	17-10
3 2:51 Ringgold	FG Suisham 38 (4-8-1:54)	17-13
3 1:45 Florida	TD Rodgers 47 pass to Jackson (Longwell) (3-63-0:56)	24-13
4 13:48 Ringgold	FG Suisham 25 (8-55-2:45)	24-16
4 7:50 Florida	FG Longwell 56 (11-41-5:53)	27-16

	FLD	RCH
First Downs	29	11
Rushes	31-126	22-78
Passes	40-27-322	27-14-203
Sacked	2-11	3-14
Fumble	4	0
Penalties	5-35	6-55
Turnovers	3	0
Time	33:18	26:42
Third Down	6-11	1-12
Fourth Down	0-1	1-2
Red Att/Td/Fg	3/2/0	2/0/2
Net Offense	437	267

GARLAND DIGS "D"EEP FOR RARE WIN

GAME POINTS: The Mustangs defence forced 4 turnovers and made plays in all facets of the game to hold the Gladiators to just 3 points and win by 4 TDs despite a mere 12 first downs and 216 yards of total offence. The Garland secondary was credited with 10 passes defended while the pass rush got to **Eli Manning** for 3 sacks, 4 hurries and forced 4 QB fumbles. **Ted Ginn Jr.** kicked off Garland's day by returning the opening kickoff 96 yards for a TD. After the teams traded field goals, Garland jumped into the dominant position with a pair of quick TDs – the first by **Frank Gore** on a 6-yard pitch and the second directly off Gwinnett's next possession when rookie **Earl Thomas** picked off Manning and ran it back 52 yards to pay dirt. The Glads missed their last good opportunity to get back into the game when **Brian Cushing** forced a Manning fumble on the Garland 5 yard line in the 3rd quarter. The Mustangs galloped the rest of the way.

KEY PERFORMANCES: **Matt Ryan** went 16 of 22 for 173 yards and 1 INT, **Brian Cushing** made 15 tackles, 1 sack, 2 stuffs and 3 FFs, **Dominique Foxworth** defended 3 passes; **Eli Manning** went 20 of 36 for 209 yards, 1 INT and 3 fumbles.



3

GWINNETT



31

GARLAND

01-14-2011 The Corral Temp: 56 Wind: 0-10 None MVP: **Ted Ginn Jr.**

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2009 Gwinnett (5-9)	0	3	0	0	3
2009 Garland (3-11)	10	14	0	7	31

1 14:46 Garland	TD Ginn Jr. 96 kick return (Gould) (0-0-0:14)	0-7
1 7:29 Garland	FG Gould 23 (6-57-3:23)	0-10
2 9:15 Gwinnett	FG Brown 45 (10-70-5:03)	3-10
2 4:17 Garland	TD Gore 6 run (Gould) (10-60-4:51)	3-17
2 1:50 Garland	TD Thomas 52 interception return (Gould) (0-0-2:03)	3-24
4 11:38 Garland	TD McGahee 1 run (Gould) (8-49-4:25)	3-31

	GWG	GDM
First Downs	21	12
Rushes	30-101	24-48
Passes	45-24-237	22-16-173
Sacked	3-19	1-5
Fumble	4	0
Penalties	8-70	5-45
Turnovers	4	1
Time	33:32	26:28
Third Down	7-16	3-14
Fourth Down	2-3	2-3
Red Att/Td/Fg	2/0/0	4/2/1
Net Offense	319	216



VIRDEN



CHARLESWOOD

10

45

PEYTON PREYS ON VIRDEN

GAME POINTS: **Peyton Manning** became the first QB to reach 30 TD passes this season with a 15-yard scoring strike to **Bernard Berrian** in the 3rd quarter that put the Pats up 38-0 over the shell-shocked Violators. It was Manning's 4th TD pass of the game and 3rd TD pass in the 3rd quarter; all 3 set up by Virden turnovers. The Violators were never really in this game after **Marques Colston** streaked 35 yards for a TD to make it 14-0 Charleswood in the 1st quarter. But the wheels came off for the visitors when **Ricky Williams** fumbled on the Pats' 33 yard line on their first possession of the 2nd half. Colston was in the end zone 8 plays later for his 2nd TD of the game and the rout was on. **Adrian Peterson** scored bookend TDs, running it into the end zone from 8 yards on the Pats' first possession and punching it in from 1 yard to cap off the scoring in the 4th.

KEY PERFORMANCES: **Peyton Manning** went 21 of 23 for 263 yards and 4 TDs, **Adrian Peterson** rushed for 151 yards and 2 TDs on 25 carries, **Jason Witten** caught 10 passes for 93 yards and 1 TD, **Bernard Berrian** caught 5 passes for 77 yards and 1 TD; **Drew Brees** went 20 of 33 for 209 yards. 1 TD and 1 INT.

01-12-2011 Patriot Place Temp: 75 Wind: MVP: **Peyton Manning**

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2009 Virden (5-9)	0	0	0	10	10
2009 Charleswood (11-3)	14	3	21	7	45

1 9:42 Charleswood	TD Peterson 8 run (Gostkowski) (10-90-5:11)	0-7
1 6:07 Charleswood	TD Manning 35 pass to Colston (Gostkowski) (3-65-1:49)	0-14
2 0:09 Charleswood	FG Gostkowski 34 (10-46-4:43)	0-17
3 8:10 Charleswood	TD Manning 13 pass to Colston (Gostkowski) (8-67-5:06)	0-24
3 5:18 Charleswood	TD Manning 14 pass to Witten (Gostkowski) (3-30-1:28)	0-31
3 2:46 Charleswood	TD Manning 15 pass to Berrian (Gostkowski) (4-27-2:23)	0-38
4 12:00 Virden	FG Tynes 40 (12-50-5:34)	3-38
4 6:39 Charleswood	TD Peterson 1 run (Gostkowski) (8-73-5:08)	3-45
4 1:06 Virden	TD Brees 23 pass to Hester (Tynes) (5-69-1:26)	10-45

	VV	CHP
First Downs	13	28
Rushes	16-58	36-178
Passes	33-20-209	23-21-263
Sacked	0-0	1-7
Fumble	3	0
Penalties	5-50	2-10
Turnovers	3	0
Time	22:44	37:16
Third Down	1-9	6-9
Fourth Down	1-1	0-0
Red Att/Td/Fg	0/0/0	6/5/1
Net Offense	267	434

ANOTHER DAY, ANOTHER RECORD FOR C.J.

GAME POINTS: Chris Johnson broke a run off tackle for 88 yards and his 27th rushing TD of the season, an EFL record, to give the Spartans a 34-3 lead in the 3rd quarter. Johnson's personal and team highlight was the low point of the day for a beleaguered Durham squad that brought little fight to their home field against their division rival. Pickering was able to move the ball almost at will on the ground and through the air and went into half time leading 20-0 after an end zone interception of **Philip Rivers** by **Asante Samuel** kept Durham off the board on their most threatening drive. The Dinos turned the ball over 4 times, leading to 13 Pickering points, 6 of those on a 28-yard fumble return by **Brian Dawkins** in the 2nd quarter. Durham has turned the ball over 9 times in their past 2 games, both losses, sliding to 9-5 as Pickering clinches the North Division.

KEY PERFORMANCES: Chris Johnson rushed for 215 yards and 1 TD on 28 carries, **Brett Favre** went 14 of 20 for 211 yards and 2 TDs, **Vincent Jackson** caught 4 passes for 89 yards and 1 TD; **Philip Rivers** completed 21 of 42 for 216 yards and 2 INTs.



37

PICKERING



6

DURHAM

01-15-2011 Jurassic Park Temp: 69 Wind: Calm None MVP: Chris Johnson

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2009 Pickering (13-1)	3	17	14	3	37
2009 Durham (9-5)	0	0	3	3	6

1 10:53 Pickering	FG Kasay 40 (8-43-3:53)	3-0
2 12:40 Pickering	TD Favre 13 pass to Gonzalez (Kasay) (10-76-5:31)	10-0
2 11:31 Pickering	TD Dawkins 28 yd fumble recovery (Kasay) (0-0-0:47)	17-0
2 1:47 Pickering	FG Kasay 18 (12-79-5:19)	20-0
3 10:31 Durham	FG Crosby 27 (11-61-4:15)	20-3
3 8:14 Pickering	TD Favre 43 pass to Jackson (Kasay) (4-70-2:12)	27-3
3 7:18 Pickering	TD Johnson 88 run (Kasay) (1-88-0:13)	34-3
4 14:20 Pickering	FG Kasay 26 (6-12-2:13)	37-3
4 4:49 Durham	FG Crosby 45 (7-47-3:43)	37-6

	PIC	DTL
First Downs	18	17
Rushes	33-218	16-79
Passes	20-14-211	48-25-241
Sacked	1-9	2-17
Fumble	1	2
Penalties	6-44	7-45
Turnovers	0	4
Time	31:11	28:49
Third Down	5-11	4-13
Fourth Down	0-0	2-4
Red Att/Td/Fg	4/1/3	3/0/1
Net Offense	420	303



COWTOWN

10



MARKHAM

17

MARKHAM CLINGS TO PLAYOFF HOPES

GAME POINTS: Joe Flacco and Zach Miller hooked up for an 18-yard TD pass midway through the 2nd quarter to break an early stalemate and give the Corn Kings a 7-0 lead. It was a short-lived advantage as Markham responded with a gruelling 16-play drive, keyed by four 3rd down conversions that ended 6:49 after it had started with a 10-yard TD pass from **Jason Campbell** to **Kenny Britt**. The 2nd half was dominated by Markham as they stopped the Corn Kings' offence and posted 10 points with their own. The winning score came one play after **Shaun O'Hara** covered up a **DeAngelo Williams** fumble on the Cowntown 19 yard line; **Chad Ochocinco** reeled in a javelin from Campbell for a TD and a 14-7 lead as the Stars' offensive line fought off a blitz. Trailing by a TD, back-up QB **Matt Moore** threw away Cowntown's final hope when he was picked off by safety **Tyrell Johnson** with 1 minute remaining in the game.

KEY PERFORMANCES: Jason Campbell went 22 of 28 for 228 yards and 1 TD, **DeAngelo Williams** carried 24 times for 103 yards and 1 TD, **Chad Ochocinco** had 7 catches for 100 yards; **Joe Flacco** went 14 of 20 for 139 yards and 1 TD, **Matt Moore** went 9 of 14 for 65 yards and 1 INT, **Zach Miller** caught 7 passes for 73 yards and 1 TD.

01-14-2011 The Dawg Pound Temp: 32 Wind: 0-10 None MVP: Jason Campbell

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2009 Cowntown (2-12)	0	7	0	3	10
2009 Markham (6-8)	0	7	7	3	17

2 7:13 Cowntown	TD Flacco 18 pass to Miller (Mare) (10-49-4:45)	7-0
2 0:24 Markham	TD Campbell 10 pass to Britt (Lindell) (16-80-6:49)	7-7
3 7:25 Markham	TD Williams 10 run (Lindell) (9-80-5:20)	7-14
4 10:36 Markham	FG Lindell 21 (13-82-6:45)	7-17
4 4:14 Cowntown	FG Mare 45 (13-41-6:10)	10-17

	COW	MAR
First Downs	18	22
Rushes	21-65	33-141
Passes	34-23-204	28-22-228
Sacked	2-8	1-8
Fumble	2	2
Penalties	4-27	5-24
Turnovers	2	0
Time	27:31	32:29
Third Down	7-13	9-14
Fourth Down	1-1	0-0
Red Att/Td/Fg	2/1/0	3/2/1
Net Offense	261	361

BRADFORD GIVES CHINO "FITZ"

GAME POINTS: Sam Bradford tossed a short flare to Larry Fitzgerald that he turned into an 11-yard TD pass to open the scoring for the Cubs at The Big House. With Donovan McNabb out, Jay Cutler was in charge for Chino. The young back-up could not get the offence rolling early, leading his team to just six 1st downs, 96 yards and no points in the 1st half while falling behind 10-0. However, the Convicts erased that 10-point deficit quickly on their first two possessions of the 2nd half: a 26-yard pass to Anthony Fasano helped set up a 3-yard TD run by Steven Jackson then, after the Cubs' Ellis Hobbs fumbled the kickoff return, Jeff Reed booted a 3-pointer from 33 yards out to tie the game. Iowa took back the lead when 3 straight completions to Fitzgerald put them in range for a 42-yard field goal by Neil Rackers. But the turning point of the game came after Joshua Cribbs returned the ensuing Cubs' kickoff 62 yards, putting the Convicts in field goal range before they had run a play from scrimmage. Cutler connected with Hines Ward for 12 yards but Chris Gamble stripped the ball and Demeco Ryans gathered it up and ran it back 91 yards for a TD and a 20-10 Cubs lead. Jackson got Chino back within a field goal single-handedly with a big 61-yard run followed by a 1-yard TD plunge. The teams sparred for the balance of the 4th quarter until Gamble made his 2nd big play of the day – intercepting Cutler and returning it 34 yards to the Chino 1 yard line with little over 1 minute left. Bradford then snuck the ball across the line to put the game out of reach.

KEY PERFORMANCES: Sam Bradford went 17 of 22 for 184 yards and 1 TD, Larry Fitzgerald caught 9 passes for 101 yards and 1 TD, Mario Williams made 5 tackles, 1 sack, 1 FF and 5 QB Pressure; Jay Cutler went 18 of 36 for 178 yards, 2 INTs and 2 fumbles. Steven Jackson rushed for 139 yards, 2 TDs, on 22 carries.



27

IOWA CITY



17

CHINO

01-12-2011 The Big House Temp: 65 Wind: 10-20 None MVP: Sam Bradford							
	1	2	3	4	Tot		
2009 Iowa City (5-9)	0	10	10	7	27		
2009 Chino (10-4)	0	0	10	7	17		
2 10:41 Iowa City	TD Bradford 11 pass to Fitzgerald (Rackers) (13-94-6:37)				7-0		
2 2:30 Iowa City	FG Rackers 34 (9-57-4:02)				10-0		
3 10:34 Chino	TD Jackson 3 run (Reed,J) (8-63-4:13)				10-7		
3 7:44 Chino	FG Reed 33 (6-15-2:44)				10-10		
3 3:30 Iowa City	FG Rackers 42 (8-33-4:02)				13-10		
3 2:09 Iowa City	TD Ryans 91 yd fumble recovery (Rackers) (0-0-0:53)				20-10		
4 14:00 Chino	TD Jackson 1 run (Reed,J) (7-72-3:01)				20-17		
4 1:34 Iowa City	TD Bradford 1 run (Rackers) (1-1-0:08)				27-17		

	ICC	CHI
First Downs	16	17
Rushes	34-102	29-158
Passes	22-17-184	36-18-178
Sacked	0-0	1-5
Fumble	1	3
Penalties	4-23	0-0
Turnovers	1	3
Time	33:24	26:36
Third Down	8-13	3-14
Fourth Down	0-1	2-5
Red Att/Td/Fg	2/2/0	3/2/1
Net Offense	286	331

WEEK FOURTEEN LEADERS

Passing

Rodgers (FLA)	40-27-322
Manning, P (CHP)	23-21-263
Campbell, J (MAR)	28-22-228
Rivers, P (DTL)	42-21-216
Favre (PIC)	20-14-211

Rushing

Johnson, C (PIC)	28-215
Peterson, A (CHP)	25-151
Jackson, S (CHI)	22-139
Benson (LAK)	20-124
Mendenhall (MOH)	20-113

Receiving

Manningham (VV)	9-113
Wayne (GWG)	9-110
Jackson, D (FLD)	7-109
Fitzgerald (ICC)	9-101
Ochocinco (MAR)	7-100

LEADER BOARD

STANDINGS

East	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Charleswood (z)	11	3	0	0.786	468	33.4	234	16.7	16.7	7 0 0	3 1 0	6 2 0
Kutztown	8	6	0	0.571	318	22.7	334	23.9	-1.1	4 3 0	2 2 0	5 3 0
Mohave	6	8	0	0.429	285	20.4	353	25.2	-4.9	5 3 0	3 1 0	5 3 0
Virден	5	9	0	0.357	298	21.3	393	28.1	-6.8	3 3 0	0 4 0	1 7 0
West	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Chino (z)	10	4	0	0.714	369	26.4	212	15.1	11.2	6 2 0	3 1 0	7 1 0
Los Angeles	6	8	0	0.429	302	21.6	283	20.2	1.4	3 4 0	1 3 0	3 5 0
Iowa City	5	9	0	0.357	259	18.5	361	25.8	-7.3	1 5 0	2 2 0	3 5 0
York	3	11	0	0.214	256	18.3	428	30.6	-12.3	2 5 0	2 2 0	2 6 0
North	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Pickering (z)	13	1	0	0.929	449	32.1	199	14.2	17.9	5 1 0	4 0 0	7 1 0
Durham (y)	9	5	0	0.643	313	22.4	275	19.6	2.7	6 1 0	1 3 0	4 4 0
Markham	6	8	0	0.429	268	19.1	346	24.7	-5.6	5 3 0	2 2 0	3 5 0
Cowtown	2	12	0	0.143	205	14.6	396	28.3	-13.6	2 5 0	1 3 0	2 6 0
South	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Florida (z)	14	0	0	1	395	28.2	176	12.6	15.6	7 0 0	4 0 0	8 0 0
Ringgold	6	8	0	0.429	326	23.3	339	24.2	-0.9	4 3 0	2 2 0	4 4 0
Gwinnett	5	9	0	0.357	287	20.5	380	27.1	-6.6	3 3 0	1 3 0	2 6 0
Garland	3	11	0	0.214	303	21.6	392	28	-6.4	2 6 0	1 3 0	2 6 0

z-clinched division

y-clinch wild card berth

PASSING

			Att	Cmp	C%	Yards	In	I%	Lg	TD	TD%	Rate
1	Favre	PIC	379	254	67	3464	9	2.4	53	26	6.9	109
2	Manning, P	CHP	442	309	69.9	3728	13	2.9	73	30	6.8	105.9
3	Rodgers	FLD	364	238	65.4	2861	6	1.6	75	20	5.5	100.8
4	Brees	VV	441	287	65.1	3541	11	2.5	51	22	5	96
5	Romo	KUT	417	275	65.9	3185	9	2.2	60	19	4.6	95.1
6	McNabb	CHI	343	209	60.9	2531	7	2	64	19	5.5	93.6
7	Roethlisberger	RCH	413	263	63.7	3172	14	3.4	53	24	5.8	92.4
8	Campbell, J	MAR	363	238	65.6	2602	10	2.8	64	17	4.7	90.7
9	Manning, E	GWG	427	253	59.3	3005	11	2.6	78	25	5.9	89.6
10	Schaub	MOH	433	275	63.5	3180	15	3.5	56	23	5.3	88.9
11	Warner	LAK	351	216	61.5	2304	10	2.8	74	21	6	88.8
12	Brady	YOR	492	311	63.2	3223	15	3	55	24	4.9	85.6
13	Rivers, P	DTL	426	244	57.3	2960	16	3.8	86	25	5.9	82.7
14	Bradford	ICC	281	174	61.9	1754	6	2.1	53	10	3.6	82.7
15	Ryan, M	GDM	362	229	63.3	2529	15	4.1	68	11	3	76.8

RUSHING

			Att	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD				Att	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD
1	Johnson, C	PIC	311	1905	6.1	88	27	8	Rice, R	FLD	201	916	4.6	58	5
2	Peterson, A	CHP	303	1303	4.3	48	19	9	Williams, D	MAR	163	897	5.5	54	4
3	Jones, T	GWG	286	1283	4.5	83	7	10	Charles	LAK	180	812	4.5	17	6
4	Williams, R	VV	266	1115	4.2	68	8	11	McCoy, L	KUT	195	755	3.9	75	4
5	Jones-Drew	RCH	237	1106	4.7	94	3	12	Best	MAR	190	746	3.9	56	5
6	Jackson, S	CHI	228	1023	4.5	61	4	13	Brown, R	ICC	173	746	4.3	50	8
7	Mendenhall	MOH	225	982	4.4	63	4	14	Barber	COW	171	700	4.1	40	2
8	Rice, R	FLD	201	916	4.6	58	5	15	Thomas, P	YOR	155	678	4.4	36	3

Yards/Game				Rushing Gains			Of	10+	Rushing		1st	Dns
1	Johnson, C	PIC	136	1	Johnson, C	PIC	55	1	Johnson, C	PIC	107	
2	Peterson, A	CHP	93.1	2	Peterson, A	CHP	30	2	Peterson, A	CHP	74	
3	Jones, T	GWG	91.6	3	Jones, T	GWG	29	3	Jones, T	GWG	72	
4	Williams, D	MAR	89.7	4	Jackson, S	CHI	27	4	Williams, R	VV	55	
5	Williams, R	VV	79.6	5	Charles	LAK	26	5	Jackson, S	CHI	52	

RECEIVING

			No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD			No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD	
1	Welker	GDM	86	1124	13.1	68	5	8	Ward, H	CHI	76	894	11.8	64	9
2	Rice, S	CHP	84	1103	13.1	28	5	9	White, R	LAK	76	834	11	49	3
3	Witten	CHP	82	870	10.6	73	11	10	Smith, S	LAK	73	819	11.2	55	10
4	Holmes	RCH	82	1158	14.1	40	8	11	Clark, D	GWG	73	714	9.8	25	6
5	Wayne	GWG	81	1217	15	78	15	12	Johnson, A	RCH	71	1106	15.6	53	9
6	Jennings, G	KUT	78	1138	14.6	60	4	13	Colston	CHP	69	944	13.7	35	7
7	Moss, R	CHI	76	1048	13.8	51	12	14	Fitzgerald	ICC	67	668	10	35	9
8	Ward, H	CHI	76	894	11.8	64	9	15	Driver	MOH	66	923	14	39	6

RAC Yards				Yards/Game			Receiving		First	Downs	
1	Jennings, G	KUT	527	1	Welker	GDM	102	1	Holmes	RCH	71
2	Jackson, V	PIC	447	2	Wayne	GWG	86.9	2	Rice, S	CHP	61
3	Jones-Drew	RCH	437	3	Hester, D	VV	83.2	3	Wayne	GWG	57
4	Rice, R	FLD	420	4	Holmes	RCH	82.7	4	Witten	CHP	53
5	Moss, R	CHI	380	5	Jackson, V	PIC	82.5	5	Moss, R	CHI	51



AROUND THE



With Spats McChad

NEW YORK – The NY Times recently printed a story from the East African by an unnamed writer who spent a “weekend full of fun” in New York City for a mere \$100. The headline was eye-catching because of the juxtaposition of the words, “weekend,” “New York,” “fun,” and the figure of “\$100.” Knowing that these are all mutually exclusive terms unless your idea of fun is sleeping in a garbage bin in a Bowery lane, I was compelled to read on to discover the trick. I did not have to wait long – the writer revealed the catch almost immediately. All you needed was a free place to stay for the weekend. Well, *great!* That means nobody actually living and paying rent in New York can accomplish this fiscal feat. Nor can anybody who does not have a generous friend or relative living in the city willing to billet them for free for the weekend. So, after removing the most expensive and fundamental requirement of any vacation – lodging – it was still possible, according to this understandably anonymous writer, to have tourist-style fun in New York over the period of an entire weekend for the miserly sum of \$100. Even granting the free place to stay, I knew this was impossible, but I continued to read the story out of morbid curiosity.

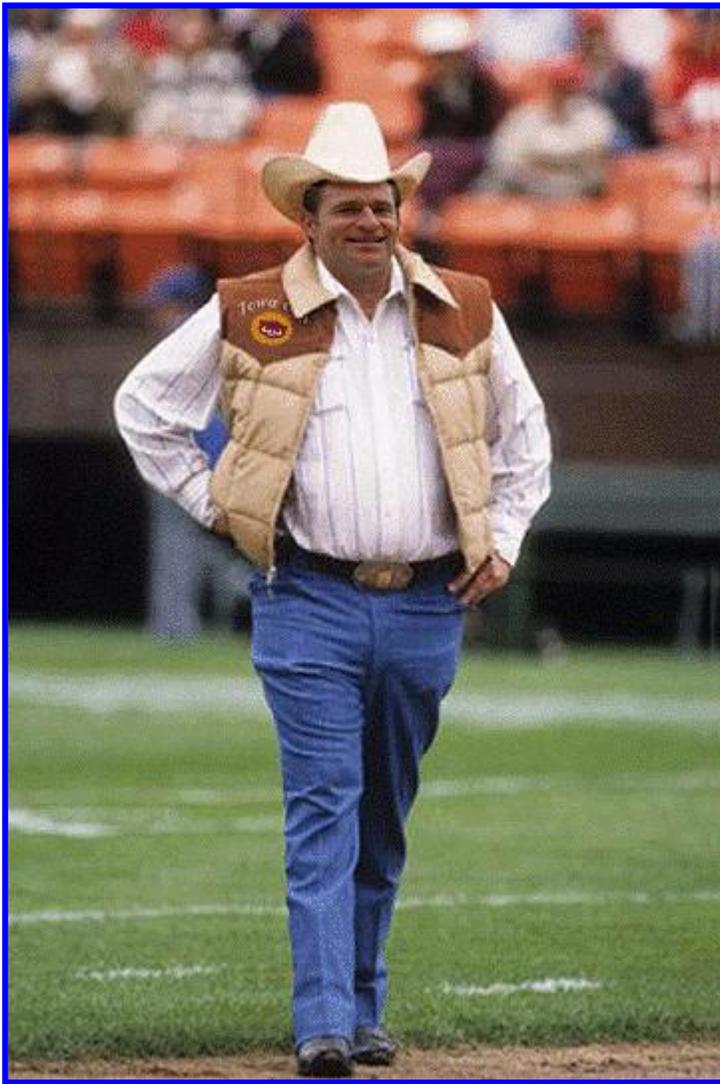
What I quickly realized was that the writer’s sense of “fun” was very different from mine. First of all, his (her?) alcohol budget was approximately 200% less than mine, meaning I would have blown the entire \$100 budget halfway through the first night. This was clearly not an article that was going to inspire me to visit the place where I lived but I kept reading anyway to discover what hidden gems might have been unearthed under my nose by this unknown person. As you might imagine, it took me little time to determine that there were no “gems” to be found, only “fool’s gold.” Apart from admiring the effort exerted in actually finding \$15 theatre tickets, I was not overawed by any thrift measure used by the writer. In fact, it became obvious that staying within the \$100 budget was a feat only attainable by the decision to do nothing on Sunday apart from sitting in a coffee house and eating borscht and stuffed cabbage at an obscure Ukrainian restaurant only open 6 hours three days a week. Well, *that’s* convenient!

Some of you might dismiss the article as a harmless human interest piece designed to downscale anxiety over a visit to the Big Apple. I, however, recognize it for the obvious trap that it is. Attracting low income people to New York City is not in any right-thinking resident’s interest. First of all, the poor visitor is going to soon realize how much *more* fun he/she can have for *more* than \$100 and either become very unhappy and resentful, prompting an early exit and a grudge against the city; or a turn to crime in order to have the fun denied them by a \$100 budget. If the visitor decides to stay and enjoy New York without resorting to overt criminality, that person might become an illegal immigrant, which we can all agree is a very, very bad thing unless you are a dodgy employer or a lawyer for illegal immigrants. So, my warning to you, my dear readers, is to stay away from New York City for the weekend unless you have \$1,000 cash and at least \$10,000 in unused credit card room on your VISA to fuel your “weekend fun.”

THE CUBS ARE ‘HOLLYWOOD’ WITH A TWIST

We are all familiar with the typical Hollywood Hero. He appears weak, simple and completely over-matched by the typical Hollywood Villain, who appears so indomitably powerful that World Domination is a virtual certainty but for the existence of the Hollywood Hero, who opposes him for no practical reason other than the love of a girl or to rescue his family and succeeds through luck born out of faith and perseverance. Like the Hollywood Hero, the Cubs have often managed to find their way *into* the big games regardless of the apparent odds against them. But, unlike the Hollywood Hero, they have not always managed to finish the deal. They are ‘Hollywood,’ but with a bitter twist – setting up the feel good story without the happy ending. This past week they may have set themselves up for eventual playoff failure yet again with an astounding upset on the road.

Going into Week Fourteen, it looked like the Cubs would be eliminated by the overwhelming power of the Chino Convicts. But to the surprise of even Yours Truly, the Cubs found a way to change the game and knock the Convicts down a peg. The ***Donovan McNabb*** factor came into play through his absence, putting ***Jay Cutler*** in the driver’s seat to steer the Convicts through the obstacle course of the Cubs’ defence. The Cubs stood tall, shutting down Chino’s attack by stopping three separate 4th down gambles and getting big performances by ***Mario Williams, Demeco***



“I’m proud of you, son!” Iowa City coach, Deron Redding looks on with pride as his young quarterback, Sam Bradford avoids the rush and completes a pass to Larry Fitzgerald.

Ryans, and cornerback **Chris Gamble**. In truth, that part was not really a complete surprise – the Cubs’ ‘D’ has had their good moments this season and Cutler can be a complete boob at times. The shock of Week Fourteen was the performance of rookie QB, **Sam Bradford** in one of the league’s most inhospitable road climates.

Coming off an injury last week against Gwinnett and an automaton-like showing in Florida the week before that, Bradford looked poised in the pocket this week and took what the “Lockdown Crew” gave him. He avoided getting sacked, did not turn the ball over, and threw for 184 yards and a TD in a 27-17 Iowa City win. For a guy who wasn’t even supposed to play after being helped off the field versus Gwinnett last week, it was a heroic effort and worthy of a little “Hollywood-style” applause.

DAMN RIVERS!

While **Sam Bradford** grows into a man in front of the nation’s eyes, Durham’s **Philip Rivers** is regressing to the “blanky” and thumb-sucking phase. After getting his ass spanked Patriot-red at Charleswood in Week Thirteen, Rivers responded with a tantrum and was given a timeout by his coach against Pickering at Jurassic Park in Week Fourteen. This is not the time for a quarterback meltdown but it appears that is exactly what Durham coach, **George Kaldis**, is being forced to deal with as the regular season winds down.

The back-to-back tests against two of the league’s powerhouses was widely regarded as an opportunity for the Lizards to shake off the stigma of “third best” they have had to endure for most of the season after a slow start involving an opening day loss to Markham and losses to Florida and Pickering

through the first five weeks. The Dinosaurs rebounded with a 6-game winning streak that they brought to Charleswood for their showdown with **Peyton Manning** and the Pats. Rivers was quoted before that game:

“We see ourselves as the best team. Our goal is to win the Championship. We know we can score every time we have the ball and that’s what we expect from ourselves. Our defence is peaking at the right time. I’m peaking. We are looking forward to the post-season, for sure, and many seasons of dominance after that,” Rivers told *Prehistoric Times of Durham* correspondent, **Sir Reginald Malcolm Clapham** a mere 24 hours before receiving an historic butt-kicking from the Pats – a team that is actually peaking on the field as opposed to in the Media.

In Charleswood, Rivers completed only 9 passes and was intercepted twice before being pulled for **John Skelton** in a 30-3 loss. This past week at home against Pickering he completed 21 of 42 for 216 yards, was picked off two more times, sacked twice and fumbled during a 4th quarter scramble. After that fumble he berated his offensive line all the way to the sideline, knocked a water bottle from a trainer’s hand, tore a strip off **Calvin Johnson** of all people, and stamped his feet for about two minutes while coaches tried to calm him down. Oh, and did I mention that he threw his helmet in the direction of a disabled boy sitting in the front row seating area reserved for Dino Kids Wishing World prize recipients? This shocking display earned him a much too late hook from the game and an early trip to the locker room. He would not speak to reporters afterwards.

Is Rivers putting too much pressure on his own shoulders? Perhaps; but the reality is that he plays a pressure-filled position and he had better learn to handle the heat. His career record in games against winning teams is a worrisome 12-16, lending credence to the claim that he chokes under pressure in the big games. Certainly, apart from a top drawer performance in their Week Six win over Chino, it has been the case this season. Of course, it is not *all* his fault (it is

mandatory to mention this when discussing a team game such as football), but according to the calculations of my geek nephew Byron, it is 93.6% his fault, 3.3% the fault of the pass rush, 1.7% the fault of the interior defensive line, 1.2% the fault of tackle **Eugene Monroe**, and 0.2% bad luck.

KUDDLY KUTZTOWN TAKING AIM AT POST-SEASON

The Golden Bears are 2-0 since they were abandoned by their owner and there is a palpable change in the locker room atmosphere. New owner, **Hal Corson's** smoke-free policy is contributing to that change, but something more profound is happening underneath the surface.

"He said hi to me and asked me how I was doing," said **Tracy Porter** of his new boss. *"Mr. Katsafanas never spoke to me. Except once when we were leaving a hotel in Iowa City he asked me who I was and I answered, Porter sir, and he asked me to carry his luggage."*

"Mr. Corson introduced himself and hung around the locker room. He talked about his life and asked a few of us about ours," **Greg Jennings** added clumsily, apparently suffering mild shock. *"The other guy never brought that kind of stuff up."*

"Mister K, that's what some of us called him, didn't spend much time around the team," **Darren Sharper** explains, *"When he did, it was like, we were like, who's this guy? Oh, he de owner. Why does he call us Belchers?"*

A picture is emerging of a team neglected and unloved by their owner. When asked about what it was like to work for **Pete Katsafanas**, many of his former players claimed to have never seen him, let alone spoken with him. *"I think I saw that name on my paycheque,"* a puzzled **Patrick Chung** offers after prolonged thought, *"Sorry, I'm new here."*

The only player who seems to have been on familiar terms with the old boss was quarterback, **Tony Romo**. *"Sure, we got along pretty well. I spent some time with him off the field,"* Romo reminisced. *"Once in the off-season he invited me and Jessica out on his boat. He was a nice guy. Didn't talk much – except when it came to betting football. Boy did he ever ask me a lot of questions about that, come to think of it. I once said to him, sir, shouldn't you not be doing that? He just laughed."*

Hal Corson is still taking stock of his new possession, but so far he likes what he sees. The team, for its part, seems to be responding positively to his attention. After **Tracy Porter** snared his second pick and returned it for a touchdown to seal an exciting 4th quarter comeback against Mohave last week, the excited corner ran the ball over to the sideline and handed it to Corson as if to say, 'look what I did Dad.' The Bears can clinch a post-season berth with a win this week and I, for one, will not be able to hold back a smile if they do.

PLAYOFFS? WHO CARES?

Week Fourteen in the EFL ended with all four Division Titles spoken for, but only one of the four wildcard spots claimed. Pickering confirmed their dominance in the North by trouncing Durham 37-6 while Charleswood pounded Virden 45-10 to claim the East Division crown. Wow, talk about winning in style.

Apart from Durham, nobody seems eager to clinch a playoff berth and who can blame them? There are really only four contenders (five if you count the reeling Thunder Lizards) and of those four, two (Florida and Pickering) are off the Richter Scale in terms of power. Many of the also-rans and their fans would like nothing better than to quietly play out their seasons, grab their draft slots, and head back to the drawing board. *But, nooooo!* Somebody has to play the big bullies sitting on top of the Divisions to confirm their rite of passage to the games that really matter – the PAC and CAC Championships and, finally, the Gale Sayers Game.

The LA Knights are still alive after knocking off York 30-7. If the season were to end today, the double blue would be in the playoffs and facing Charleswood on the road. **Cedric Benson** rushed for over 100 yards, making his first solid contribution of the year. Hey, maybe the Knights should work out this horse a little more.

Markham attained their pre-season goal of 6 wins with a 17-10 victory over Cowtown. The North Stars were looking to punish the Corn Kings for taking a chunk out of them in Week Three, but as far as "revenge" games go it was a tame affair. The highlight of the game was a 22-yard run by **Jahvid Best** to get the Stars into range for their final field goal to make it a two-score game in the fourth quarter. Thrilling!

Garland shocked Gwinnett 31-3 at The Corral. It was a banner performance by the Mustangs' defence; so impressive that the Professional Football Writers Association (PFWA) issued a memo to its members to refrain from referring to the Garland's defence as "Thoroughheads" until further notice, or at least until next week when they get run over by Florida.

New ownership in Ringgold was not enough to inspire the Crimson Hawks to overcome the odds against the Dragons. Florida added another win to their league-leading total, riding the fleet feet of **DeSean Jackson** and a tough red zone defence to a 27-16 win. With two games remaining against sub-500 teams, the Dragons look to have their perfect season all but wrapped up with a bow. Ringgold must knuckle down and work for that final playoff spot in the Can-Am Conference.

No weekly round-up would be complete without taking stock of **Chris Johnson's** latest feat. This week he set another record, for rushing touchdowns. His 27th came on an 88-yard sprint to give the Spartans a 34-3 lead over Durham in the third quarter. Yes, that's right – *third* quarter. More damage could have been inflicted but the Spartans had made their point and backed off. If there is somebody else in the race for EFL Offensive MVP, will somebody *please* tell me who he is?

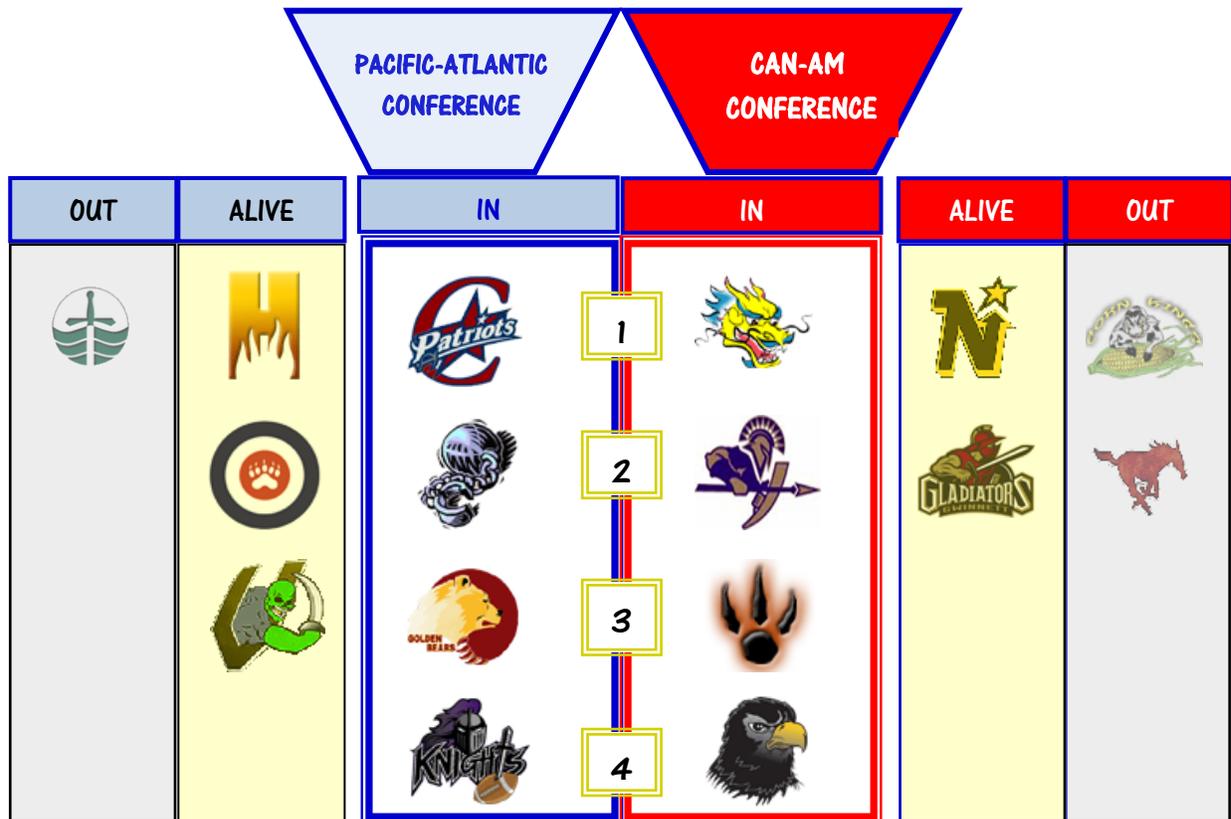
BUG THE BOOKIE!

**JIMMY THE GEEK GIVES YOU HIS PICKS
FOR WEEK FIFTEEN EFL ACTION**

Your source for fantasy and on-line betting solutions



PLAYOFF PICTURE AT A GLANCE



JIMMY'S Week FIFTEEN picks

MOHAVE @ CHARLESWOOD (line – PATRIOTS by 12)

The Hellfire had the game in hand last week versus Kutztown and let it slip away – their 8th loss in the last 10 games since beginning the season 4-0. At 6-8 and sliding down a mudslide towards the fiery pit of post-season torment, there remains faint hope for redemption. Yes, the devil's pitchfork can be stayed from its sadistic prodding with a Mohave victory in this game – although it would guarantee nothing – keeping them alive for another week. If they lose and LA wins, they are out. If they lose, but Iowa City wins, they are still alive, but precariously so. The Pats control their own destiny for the top seed in the PAC – all they have to do is win their remaining two games. They are the hottest team in the league over the past 4 weeks since getting strangled at the Big House by Chino in Week Ten. Peyton Manning and Adrian Peterson were absolutely dominant last week against Virden. Yes, the Violators have a terrible defence, but that defence was coming off a heroic effort against the league's top offence in Pickering the week before. Both teams are missing their starting right tackles but otherwise have clean bills of health. With the Pats on the rise and Mohave "on the schneid" it looks like the perfect scenario for a Las Vegas-engineered upset, but I will count on Matt Schaub getting the willies at Patriot Place and ruining their plans with another horrific game.

Pick: CHARLESWOOD

KUTZTOWN @ VIRDEN (line – Pick ‘Em)

The Bears can clinch a playoff berth and eliminate Virden with a win. The Virden playoff scenario is a little dicier – they must not only win their final two games but also hope that Mohave and LA lose their final two games and York beats Iowa City in the final game of the season. Not very good odds at all, but still; they are odds. With the game at *TERRORDOME* it is certainly possible that Virden will hold up half of their end of this improbable playoff scenario. Although coming off a sub-par performance against the Pats last week, Drew Brees is still a commanding presence on the field and you can count on him persevering in spite of the adversity. The Bears’ defence is almost completely healthy again (Aaron Smith is ‘Questionable’) and their pilfering ways were evident last week in their comeback win over Mohave. In the end, it will come down to Tony Romo taking aim at the Virden secondary and Kutztown’s defence slowing down Brees by generating turnovers. It’s been a valiant fight by Brees this season but the white flag will finally fly this week over the Virden trench. **Pick: KUTZTOWN**

MARKHAM @ DURHAM (line – THUNDER LIZARDS by 7)

What is going on in Durham? Certainly 2010 has not turned out to be the kind of season they were envisioning at the beginning, but in their last two games they have looked like a very bad team; not a good team going through a rough period. The Pats rocked them hard in Week Thirteen and the shock carried over last week against the Spartans. Philip Rivers was eventually pulled and Brian Brohm inserted to try and salvage some team dignity. That didn’t go so well and now the team and their fans appear to be in a panic. But things are not really so horrible for Durham in the big picture – they are guaranteed a playoff berth and are locked into the 3rd seed. Now they can work out the kinks in their game plan against the weak sisters in the North Division; Markham and Cowtown. However, the North Stars, at 6-8, are still in the playoff picture. This means that they will bring their ‘A’ game to Jurassic Park. Whether they will actually *play* their ‘A’ game, or forget it on the team bus, remains the usual unanswerable question one has to ask before betting for or against Markham each week. The EFL’s most passive-aggressive franchise has no major injuries to report, meaning that their starters are on the hook for their performance on Durham’s wet and unnatural field. I like Markham here. Not to win, but to keep it close. **PICK: MARKHAM**

COWTOWN @ PICKERING (line – SPARTANS by 18)

Vegas’ biggest line this year may not be nearly big enough. The Spartans have the advantage in every phase of the game except for punting – an area the Corn Kings will get to focus on a lot in this game. On top of simply being much better, Pickering is hot right now, coming off a 37-6 thumping of Durham. The biggest challenge for Gus Konstantakos will be in developing a game plan that apports sufficient scoring plays for his many offensive stars – *prima donas* all of them – so that they remain happy and their agents can assemble highlight footage for future contract negotiations. Chris Johnson could gain the 227 yards he needs to break the EFL single season rushing mark in this single game. It’s not merely possible, it is a betting prospect at 10-1. While I am not ready to bet on that, I am ready to place a large wager on the ancient warriors to shred the spread. **PICK: PICKERING**

GARLAND @ FLORIDA (line – DRAGONS by 13)

Florida can clinch the top seed in the Can-Am Conference with a victory while Garland can drop another draft position if they find a way to pull off the biggest upset in professional football history. No, I am not over-dramatizing it – a Garland win would be the biggest upset in pro football HISTORY. True, the Mustangs shocked Gwinnett last week in an unlikely fashion – with an inspired performance by their defence. But while that might bode well for the long term future of the franchise, the future *right now* remains fairly bleak when matched against the league’s best franchise over the past three years. While the Dragons can expect to win comfortably, do not bet on a blowout. The Mustangs have quietly improved their standing in both team defence and offence while competing for the league’s worst record. They are better than their record and they are starting to show some pluck as the season winds down and they are no longer burdened by unreasonable playoff expectations. Okay, I have painted as pretty a picture as I can for Garland fans. For the hardcore bettors out there, take Florida and the points. **Pick: FLORIDA**

LOS ANGELES @ IOWA CITY (line – Pick ‘Em)

The effects of the Knights' shaky season have reverberated in places like Iowa City, where the 5-9 Cubs remain alive in the playoff hunt because teams that were supposed to have eliminated them by now, such as the Knights, have not. LA can get the job done, preventing post-season play by the Cubs for the first time ever, with a win at chilly Joe Ferguson Stadium. A win and a Mohave loss would put the Knights in the post-season and make Week Sixteen academic. But winning in Iowa City is far from a certain prospect for the unpredictable Knights, especially now that the Cubs believe they can win. Deron Redding's team shocked everyone, including themselves, with a strong 27-17 win on the road against West Division top dog, Chino. The strength of the Cubs is their defence, led by Mario Williams, Demeco Ryans and turnover king, Jarius Byrd. If the Knights were not so prone to turnovers I might discard that factor, but LA has turned the ball over 27 times, good for second worst in the league after Durham. The Cubs beat Chino without much offence and if they can do that on the road, they are capable of the same thing at home against the Knights. It is time for Kurt Warner to step up and show why the Knights gave up some of their future for him. With the young Cubs riding an emotional high, however, it may prove too difficult even for the imperturbable vet. **Pick: IOWA CITY**

CHINO @ YORK (line – CONVICTS by 8)

The Excaliburs are out of the playoff picture and the Convicts have clinched the West Division title. But those two facts do not make this game a meaningless one. Chino is competing with Charleswood for the top seed in the PAC while York is trying to stop an 8-game losing streak and finish the season on an optimistic note. Okay, I admit that's not much incentive for the Swords, considering that they can only be hurt by losing another position in the upcoming draft. Nevertheless, the idealistic and, some say, stupid fans at Camelot will be cheering lustily for the kind of legendary upset that will fuel a heroic mythos heading into next season; when they expect Tom Brady will be fully recovered from the mental injury of being released by Florida after winning a Championship and will lead them to playoff glory. Meanwhile, the Convicts will start Donovan McNabb. He will resume control of the team from Jay "the Punk" Cutler, who succeeded in regressing the Chino offence a full year with his error-filled performance last week against the Cubs. For that reason and many others too numerous to list here, Chino will beat down the Yorkies with embarrassingly plain, sadistic glee; as do all bullies to unfit weaklings. **Pick: CHINO**

RINGGOLD @ GWINNETT (line – Pick ‘Em)

The Gladiators face elimination from the playoff race this week and for their tragically suffering fans it is about time. No team, except perhaps for the team they are facing this week, has disappointed optimistic hopes as much as Dave Birdsall's team has done. The difference between Gwinnett and Ringgold is that the Crimson Hawks look poised to enter the post-season in spite of themselves, while Gwinnett looks like they are going to pay the price for their mistakes. This is the way it looks now, but it can change entirely with a Gwinnett victory over Ringgold. Should the Gladiators win and the North Stars lose, it will be a free-for-all in Week Sixteen to decide the final wild card berth in the Can-Am Conference. The level of competition after the top three teams is so exceedingly mediocre that, for all the wrong reasons, anything is possible in the 2010 race for the final wildcard berth. The Gladiators were embarrassed last week against Garland while Ringgold lost honourably against Florida. The momentum appears to be in Ringgold's favour as well as the numbers. The Hawks are 5th overall in offence and they face the 12th ranked defence in the EFL in Gwinnett. The Glads' offence has been hot and cold all year, resulting in a #9 ranking. They could as easily be shutout by Ringgold's 10th ranked defence as they could hang 30 points on them. Both teams are unpredictable at the best of times, but a closer look at the injury list provides a clue to the eventual outcome. Corey Webster and Domata Peko are out for the Hawks and Brodney Pool is listed as 'Doutbful,' while Oshiomogho Atogwe is listed as 'Probable' for Gwinnett. Look for Gwinnett's defence to outperform their counterparts on Ringgold and make the difference. **PICK: GWINNETT**