

# 2010



# 2010

## WEEK FIFTEEN IN REVIEW

January 23<sup>rd</sup> 2011



# IT'S NOT OVER!



Reggie Wayne stretches out to snare a 35-yard TD pass from Eli Manning to give the Gladiators a 20-6 lead midway through the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter as Brodney Pool looks on. The Glads avoided elimination with a clutch 20-13 victory over Ringgold. (STORY INSIDE)

### LATEST EFL NEWS INSIDE

#### THE GAMES

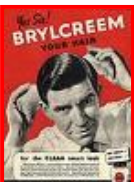
- GLADS SURVIVE DEATH MATCH
- VIRDEN WINS BATTLE, LOSES WAR
- DINOS DUMP STARS
- DRAGONS CLINCH #1 SEED
- PATS EXTINGUISH HELLFIRE
- FAVRE IS FAB
- CONVICTS CUFF YORKIES
- L.A. IS IN

#### COMMENT

“THE NEW LUNG DISEASE,”  
“WILD CARD TRIANGLE,”  
“NOBODY’S PERFECT, MAYBE.”  
– Spats McChad

#### PREDICTIONS

Ringgold will make playoffs, Florida will be perfect. – Jimmy the Geek



*Who was slick  
in Week  
Fifteen?*

**“BRYLCREEM” THE  
EFL’S OLDEST SPONSOR**

OFFENSE



**Reggie Wayne**  
**WR**  
Gwinnett  
Gladiators

4 receptions, 80 yards, 2 TDs. Made the catch that may save season.

DEFENSE



**Brandon Flowers**  
**CB**  
Kutztown Golden  
Bears

2 tackles, 2 big interceptions to hold off Romo and the Bears.

# GLADS LIVE TO FIGHT ANOTHER DAY

## MANNING AND WAYNE HOOK UP FOR 2 TDS



**GWINNETT**

**20**



**RINGGOLD**

**13**

GWINNETT – The math was simple for the Gladiators: lose, and they would be eliminated from the wildcard race; win, and they might still make the post-season despite an up and down season consisting of fewer ups than downs. The math was just as simple for Ringgold: win and they're in; lose and they would no longer control their own destiny. For two teams that had performed well below expectations and had struggled with consistency all year, it was fitting that the final outcome would be the one that would solve nothing and leave both of their fates in other's hands in Week Sixteen.

Both offences started slowly, feeling each other's pulse. After 4 punts and a missed field goal, it was Gwinnett that made the first gamble, going for it on 4<sup>th</sup> down and 2 at the Ringgold 45. **Leon Washington** dove forward toward the chains but was marked one foot short and the Hawks took over in good field position. Three completions to **Andre Johnson** put them in range for a 31-yard **Shaun Suisham** field goal and the Hawks had drawn first blood to begin the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter.

The Glads answered that score with a field goal following a **Troy Polamalu** interception and return that gave them the ball at their 48 yard line. A 16-yard pass to **Dallas Clark** keyed a short drive that ended with **Josh Brown** booting it through the uprights from 39 yards out. They added another field goal with 1 second remaining in the half after **Reggie Wayne** hauled in a medium hitch pass and turned it into a 36-yard gain to the Ringgold 24 yard line. The Hawks evened the score on their first possession of the 2<sup>nd</sup> half, settling for a 35-yard Suisham field goal after a big sack by **Darnell Dockett** on 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5 stopped Ringgold in the red zone.

The Gwinnett offence stalled again on their next possession, but the Hawks failed to push their advantage and the Glads' defence came up with a huge play that marked the turning point of the game. Punting from his 23 yard line, **Dustin Colquitt's** kick was blocked by Dockett and Gwinnett took over at the Ringgold 16 yard line. From there they ground out a 7-play drive that ended with a 1-yard slant from **Eli Manning** to Wayne for the game's first TD. The Gwinnett defence held the Hawks off with good pressure on 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5, forcing a punt that went out of bounds at the Gwinnett 13. The Glads' offence, which had been hot and cold all year and mostly cold in this game, found the right moment to come to life. Manning came through in the clutch after taking a sack by **Clay Matthews**. Facing 3<sup>rd</sup> and 17, he found **Nate Burleson** open deep over the middle for a 36-yard gain then, 3 plays later, connected deep with Wayne for a 35-yard TD pass that put the home team up by 2 majors. The Hawks came right back with a sharp 12-play drive featuring 4 completions to receiver **Mike Thomas** to get them in position and finishing with a 14-yard TD pass from **Big Ben** to Johnson. The Glads recovered the onside kick but managed to kill only 34 seconds off the clock before giving the ball back to Ringgold with 2 minutes left. The Hawks made a game of it, force-marching all the way to the Gwinnett 16 before **Robert Mathis** ended all doubt with a sack on the game's last play.

01-19-2011 Gwinnett Coliseum Temp: 54 Wind: Calm None MVP: **Eli Manning**

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2009 Ringgold (6-9)	0	3	3	7	13
2009 Gwinnett (6-9)	0	6	7	7	20

2 14:54 Ringgold	FG Suisham 31 (9-43-3:32)	3-0
2 2:07 Gwinnett	FG Brown 39 (12-30-6:46)	3-3
2 0:01 Gwinnett	FG Brown 41 (4-41-0:49)	3-6
3 8:52 Ringgold	FG Suisham 35 (8-25-4:31)	6-6
3 1:06 Gwinnett	TD Manning 1 pass to Wayne (Brown,J) (7-16-3:23)	6-13
4 7:56 Gwinnett	TD Manning 35 pass to Wayne (Brown,J) (10-87-5:36)	6-20
4 2:39 Ringgold	TD Roethlisberger 14 pass to Johnson (Suisham) (12-70-5:0)	13-20

	RCH	GWG
First Downs	21	12
Rushes	22-95	29-97
Passes	39-25-271	26-14-179
Sacked	5-30	2-15
Fumble	3	1
Penalties	5-37	7-63
Turnovers	2	0
Time	30:26	29:34
Third Down	4-13	7-18
Fourth Down	0-0	1-2
Red Att/Td/Fg	5/1/2	2/1/1
Net Offense	336	261

### < Ringgold >

Passing	Att	Cmp	Yds	Sk	25	In	Td	Rate
Roethlisber	39	25	271	5	1	1	1	82.3

Rushing	Att	Yds	Ave	FD	10	Lg	TD
Jones-Drew	16	75	4.7	3	1	10	0
Roethlisber	4	11	2.8	0	0	7	0
Hightower	2	9	4.5	0	0	5	0

Receiving	No	Dp	Att	Yds	Ave	FD	25	Lg	TD
Johnson	9	0	15	128	14.2	9	0	24	1
Thomas	5	0	6	45	9.0	3	0	12	0
Royal	4	0	7	25	6.3	1	0	10	0
Holmes	2	0	3	35	17.5	1	1	27	0
Hightower	2	0	3	20	10.0	2	0	11	0
Jones-Drew	2	0	3	11	5.5	0	0	6	0
Murphy	1	0	1	7	7.0	0	0	7	0
Starks	0	0	1	0	0.0	0	0	0	0

### < Gwinnett >

Passing	Att	Cmp	Yds	Sk	25	In	Td	Rate
Manning	26	14	179	2	3	0	2	101.3

Rushing	Att	Yds	Ave	FD	10	Lg	TD
Jones	22	70	3.2	6	0	8	0
Washington	6	20	3.3	0	0	7	0
Manning	1	7	7.0	0	0	7	0

Receiving	No	Dp	Att	Yds	Ave	FD	25	Lg	TD
Wayne	4	0	9	80	20.0	3	2	36	2
Clark	3	0	5	26	8.7	1	0	16	0
Washington	3	0	4	14	4.7	1	0	8	0
Maclin	2	1	5	14	7.0	0	0	9	0
Burleson	1	0	2	36	36.0	1	1	36	0
Jones	1	0	1	9	9.0	0	0	9	0

## VIRDEN WINS IN VAIN

**GAME POINTS:** With slim playoff hopes in the balance, Virden did their part, but fell out of the playoffs anyway. After a blocked punt led to an opening FG for the Bears, **Drew Brees** threw a 5-yard TD pass to **Joseph Addai** to give the Violators a 7-3 lead. The Bears came back with a long drive into the Virden red zone but **Eric Berry** picked off **Tony Romo** and returned it 37 yards to the 49 yard line to end the threat. Virden went ahead 10-3 after a **Brandon Flowers** interception at the Bears 13 set up a 25-yard FG by **Lawrence Tynes**. The Violators put together another time-consuming drive to extend their lead in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter, covering 61 yards to finish with a 1-yard plunge by **LaDainian Tomlinson** to make it 17-3. Kutztown got back into the game with a 14-yard TD pass to **Austin Collie** after a **Darren Sharper** pick, but Flowers' 2<sup>nd</sup> interception of the game set up a 29-yard TD pass to **Mario Manningham** to seal the Virden win.

**KEY PERFORMANCES:** **Drew Brees** completed 17 of 25 for 178 yards, 1 TD and 1 INT, **Ricky Williams** rushed for 121 yards on 25 carries, **Dez Bryant** caught 6 balls for 71 yards; **Tony Romo** went 22 of 37 for 184 yards, 1 TD and 3 INTs, **Austin Collie** caught 9 passes for 86 yards and 1 TD, **Darren Sharper** made a pick and blocked a punt.



10

## KUTZTOWN



24

## VIRDEN

01-19-2011 TERRORDOME Temp: 71 Wind: Calm None MVP: **Brandon Flowers**

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2009 Kutztown (8-7)	3	0	0	7	10
2009 Virden (6-9)	7	3	7	7	24

1 7:13 Kutztown	FG Kaeding 22 (7-41-3:36)	3-0
1 1:26 Virden	TD Addai 5 run (Tynes) (11-72-5:35)	3-7
2 5:26 Virden	FG Tynes 25 (4-5-0:49)	3-10
3 2:39 Virden	TD Tomlinson 1 run (Tynes) (10-61-5:56)	3-17
4 13:39 Kutztown	TD Romo 14 pass to Collie (Kaeding) (1-14-0:12)	10-17
4 4:49 Virden	TD Brees 29 pass to Manningham (Tynes) (1-29-0:12)	10-24

	KUT	VV
First Downs	17	19
Rushes	26-119	34-152
Passes	37-22-184	25-17-178
Sacked	0-0	1-8
Fumble	1	1
Penalties	9-75	5-45
Turnovers	3	2
Time	30:02	29:58
Third Down	3-14	5-12
Fourth Down	0-3	0-0
Red Att/Td/Fg	3/1/1	4/2/1
Net Offense	303	322



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## MARKHAM



34

## DURHAM

## 'D'-NOS SHUT OUT NORTH STARS

**GAME POINTS:** Markham managed only 7 first downs and turned the ball over 3 times against the Thunder Lizards' "D-No" defence while their defence yielded to the pressure of a steady Durham running attack led by **Michael Turner**. The problems for Markham started almost immediately – Durham's **Adrian Wilson** made his first interception of the year, picking off **Jason Campbell** on the game's 2<sup>nd</sup> play from scrimmage and returning it 40 yards to the Markham 6 yard line. 3 straight incompletions forced Durham to settle for a field goal. Unknown at the time, a field goal would be all Durham would need on a day when their defence was a brick wall against the Markham running game, which gained a mere 41 yards on 29 carries. A 10-play drive consisting entirely of runs, including a 24-yarder by **Tony Richardson**, gave Durham their 1<sup>st</sup> TD when Turner busted through a hole off left tackle for an 8-yard score. Turner would add an 11-yard TD run on their next possession on the identical play and Durham would cruise the rest of the way.

**KEY PERFORMANCES:** **Michael Turner** rushed for 109 yards and 2 TDs on 20 carries, **Philip Rivers** went 11 of 18 for 121 yards & 2 TDs, **Jonathan Vilma** made 9 tackles, 3 stuffs and 1 FF; **Jason Campbell** went 8 of 15 for 72 yards and 2 INTs.

01-19-2011 Jurassic Park Temp: 63 Wind: Calm None MVP: **Michael Turner**

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2009 Markham (6-9)	0	0	0	0	0
2009 Durham (10-5)	17	14	0	3	34

1 13:36 Durham	FG Crosby 23 (4-0-0:16)	0-3
1 7:20 Durham	TD Turner 8 run (Crosby) (11-82-5:44)	0-10
1 1:03 Durham	TD Turner 11 run (Crosby) (9-71-4:08)	0-17
2 9:22 Durham	TD Rivers 6 pass to Johnson (Crosby) (9-54-4:46)	0-24
2 4:26 Durham	TD Rivers 3 pass to Davis (Crosby) (6-37-2:48)	0-31
4 2:11 Durham	FG Crosby 26 (11-49-5:05)	0-34

	MAR	DTL
First Downs	7	23
Rushes	29-41	41-205
Passes	15-8-72	25-15-159
Sacked	1-6	0-0
Fumble	2	0
Penalties	8-67	0-0
Turnovers	3	0
Time	24:38	35:22
Third Down	4-12	8-13
Fourth Down	1-2	1-2
Red Att/Td/Fg	0/0/0	7/4/2
Net Offense	107	364



## FLORIDA HANDLES GARLAND

**GAME POINTS:** Jonathan Stewart rushed for 3 TDs and Aaron Rodgers passed for another to lead the Florida Dragons to a comfortable victory over the Mustangs in their last home date of the regular season. Garland started well, taking the opening drive 71 yards on the strength of the running combo of Frank Gore and Willis McGahee, but Bart Scott stripped the ball from McGahee at the Florida 9 to thwart the scoring chance. Garland got another opportunity to get on the board first when Randall Gay intercepted Rodgers and returned it to the Florida 36 yard line. But Robbie Gould missed a 38-yard FG. The Dragons marched back up the field, only to have their FG attempt blocked by Anthony Spencer. But the charmed start for Garland ended on the next play when Matt Forte was stripped by Scott and 3 plays later Rodgers found Heath Miller open in the end zone from 5 yards out. The Florida running game took control the rest of the way.

**KEY PERFORMANCES:** Jonathan Stewart rushed for 117 yards and 3 TDs on 18 carries, Ray Rice carried 11 times for 72 yards, Aaron Rodgers went 16 of 27 for 162 yards, 1 TD and 1 INT; Matt Ryan went 18 of 33 for 188 yards.



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GARLAND



28

FLORIDA

01-22-2011 Dragonmount Temp: 73 Wind: 0-5 None MVP: Jonathan Stewart

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2009 Garland (3-12)	0	3	0	7	10
2009 Florida (15-0)	0	7	14	7	28

2 11:46 Florida	TD Rodgers 5 pass to Miller (Longwell) (3-22-1:31)	0-7
2 6:38 Garland	FG Gould 54 (10-29-4:54)	3-7
3 12:02 Florida	TD Stewart 2 run (Longwell) (6-80-2:58)	3-14
3 3:32 Florida	TD Stewart 1 run (Longwell) (13-54-7:22)	3-21
4 13:19 Florida	TD Stewart 11 run (Longwell) (8-63-3:20)	3-28
4 3:51 Garland	TD Gore 1 run (Gould) (7-62-2:38)	10-28

	GDM	FLD
First Downs	16	24
Rushes	19-77	37-236
Passes	33-18-188	27-16-162
Sacked	3-24	0-0
Fumble	2	0
Penalties	6-50	8-57
Turnovers	2	1
Time	25:30	34:30
Third Down	4-12	9-17
Fourth Down	1-1	0-0
Red Att/Td/Fg	2/1/0	5/4/0
Net Offense	241	398



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MOHAVE



16

CHARLESWOOD

## CHARLESWOOD EXTINGUISH HELLFIRE

**GAME POINTS:** Adrian Peterson burst through the Mohave line for a record-setting 95-yard TD run to give the Pats a 13-3 lead in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter. In a game where both teams had difficulty sustaining offensive momentum, the highlight reel run caused a huge swing in momentum away from Mohave. They managed only 8 yards of offence in their next 5 possessions after that and on the last of those Quentin Jammer intercepted Matt Schaub to set up an easy 22-yard FG by Stephen Gostkowski to make it a two-score game, 16-3, with only 6 minutes remaining. The Hellfire came back with their best drive of the day, covering 73 yards and finishing off with a 22-yard TD pass from Schaub to Terrell Owens. But the lengthy drive consumed almost 5 minutes, leaving Mohave with less than one minute. The onside kick failed, and time ran out on the game and Mohave's season.

**KEY PERFORMANCES:** Peyton Manning went 11 of 26 for 101 yards and 1 INT, Adrian Peterson rushed for 108 yards and 1 TD on 7 carries, Clinton Portis gained 86 yards on 23 carries; Matt Schaub went 17 of 32 for 200 yards, 1 TD, 2 INTs, Rashard Mendenhall gained 53 yards on 16 carries. Terrell Owens had 8 catches. 97 yards. 1 TD.

01-21-2011 Patriot Place Temp: 75 Wind: MVP: Adrian Peterson

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2009 Mohave (6-9)	3	0	0	7	10
2009 Charleswood (12-3)	3	3	7	3	16

1 10:36 Charleswood	FG Gostkowski 31 (9-53-4:10)	0-3
1 2:49 Mohave	FG Bironas 40 (8-46-3:18)	3-3
2 8:37 Charleswood	FG Gostkowski 39 (8-22-4:02)	3-6
3 11:21 Charleswood	TD Peterson 95 run (Gostkowski) (1-95-0:16)	3-13
4 6:03 Charleswood	FG Gostkowski 22 (9-29-6:13)	3-16
4 0:54 Mohave	TD Schaub 22 pass to Owens (Bironas) (11-73-4:53)	10-16
(no attempt)		

	MOH	CHP
First Downs	13	12
Rushes	23-97	33-191
Passes	32-17-200	26-11-101
Sacked	3-22	2-13
Fumble	2	1
Penalties	9-60	5-20
Turnovers	3	2
Time	28:05	31:55
Third Down	2-12	4-15
Fourth Down	1-2	0-1
Red Att/Td/Fg	4/0/1	4/0/3
Net Offense	275	279

## FAVRE GRABS SPOTLIGHT

**GAME POINTS:** Brett Favre completed 88% of his passes and threw for 290 yards and 3 TDs with seldom-used back-ups **Dennis Northcutt** and **Devin Thomas** as his starting wide receivers. Having clinched the North Division, the Spartans elected to rest many of their starters this week against the basement-dwelling Corn Kings. They didn't miss a beat, moving the ball effortlessly through the air while Cowtown appeared to be focused on superstar running back, **Chris Johnson**. After 25 yards in penalties essentially ended their opening drive, Pickering got the ball back quickly and covered 62 yards to get on the scoreboard with a 22-yard TD pass to **Tony Gonzalez**. Another 3-and-out by the Kings forced a punt which **Darren Sproles** returned 82 yards for a TD, opening up a 14-0 Pickering lead. **Santana Moss** provided the lone highlight for Cowtown with a 34-yard TD reception, but Favre soon got that one back and more to romp to an easy win.

**KEY PERFORMANCES:** Brett Favre went 23 of 26 for 290 yards and 3 TDs, **Chris Johnson** rushed for 126 yards on 34 carries, **Tony Gonzalez** caught 6 passes for 74 yards and 2 TDs; **Joe Flacco** went 9 of 17 for 90 yards and 1 TD.



7

## COWTOWN



31

## PICKERING

01-20-2011 Thermopylae Stadium Temp: 28 Wind: 5-15 None MVP: **Brett Favre**

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2009 Cowtown (2-13)	0	7	0	0	7
2009 Pickering (14-1)	14	7	7	3	31

1 5:42 Pickering	TD Favre 22 pass to Gonzalez (Kasay) (8-62-4:06)	0-7
1 3:50 Pickering	TD Sproles 82 punt return (Kasay) (0-0-1:24)	0-14
2 10:57 Cowtown	TD Flacco 34 pass to Moss (Mare) (13-85-7:47)	7-14
2 6:12 Pickering	TD Favre 6 pass to Sproles (Kasay) (9-77-4:37)	7-21
3 6:08 Pickering	TD Favre 3 pass to Gonzalez (Kasay) (12-83-6:43)	7-28
4 9:25 Pickering	FG Kasay 21 (14-77-9:17)	7-31

	COW	PIC
First Downs	10	29
Rushes	17-56	37-126
Passes	26-13-117	26-23-290
Sacked	0-0	1-5
Fumble	1	0
Penalties	7-47	7-61
Turnovers	0	0
Time	21:03	38:57
Third Down	4-14	9-12
Fourth Down	0-1	0-1
Red Att/Td/Fg	0/0/0	4/2/1
Net Offense	173	411



## CHINO

38



## YORK

14

## McNABB-TO-MOSS MAULS YORK

**GAME POINTS:** Donovan McNabb played pitch and catch with **Randy Moss** for 2 quarters, connecting for 3 TDs in the first 20 minutes of the game to give Chino an insurmountable edge over the fading Excaliburs. After Moss made it 21-7 for Chino with his third major score of the day on a 34-yard fly pass, cornerback **Aqib Talib** finished off York with a stunning interception of **Tom Brady** and 31 yard return for a TD on an attempted screen pass to increase their lead to 28-7. York would register one more score before half time on a 2-yard TD pass to **Laveranues Coles**, but it would turn out to be simply window-dressing. **Josh Cribbs** took the opening kickoff of the second half to the York house and **Jeff Reed** chipped in an 18-yard FG at the end of an epic 18-play drive that burned over 9 minutes off the clock to round off the day's scoring.

**KEY PERFORMANCES:** Donovan McNabb went 9 of 10 for 147 yards and 3 TDs, **Randy Moss** caught 7 passes for 147 yards and 3 TDs, **Steven Jackson** rushed for 106 yards on 22 carries; **Tom Brady** went 29 of 44 for 219 yards, 1 TD and 2 INTs, **Darren McFadden** rushed for only 28 yards and 1 TD on 11 carries.

01-21-2011 Camelot Temp: 44 Wind: 0-10 None MVP: **Joshua Cribbs**

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2009 Chino (11-4)	14	14	10	0	38
2009 York (3-12)	0	14	0	0	14

1 9:16 Chino	TD McNabb 4 pass to Moss (Reed,J) (8-64-3:30)	7-0
1 6:21 Chino	TD McNabb 42 pass to Moss (Reed,J) (3-58-1:25)	14-0
2 8:33 York	TD McFadden 3 run (Graham,S) (19-90-9:41)	14-7
2 5:25 Chino	TD McNabb 34 pass to Moss (Reed,J) (5-60-2:54)	21-7
2 3:47 Chino	TD Talib 31 interception return (Reed,J) (0-0-1:21)	28-7
2 0:09 York	TD Brady 2 pass to Coles (Graham,S) (14-72-3:29)	28-14
3 14:44 Chino	TD Cribbs 95 kick return (Reed,J) (0-0-0:17)	35-14
3 1:32 Chino	FG Reed 18 (18-70-9:26)	38-14

	CHI	YOR
First Downs	16	19
Rushes	30-100	24-70
Passes	20-17-205	45-29-219
Sacked	1-10	3-12
Fumble	2	0
Penalties	6-35	8-50
Turnovers	0	2
Time	29:40	30:20
Third Down	5-10	7-18
Fourth Down	0-1	2-3
Red Att/Td/Fg	2/1/1	2/2/0
Net Offense	295	277

## KNIGHTS CLINCH WILD CARD BERTH

**GAME POINTS:** The Knights and the Cubs fought a field position battle through the opening quarter and into the 2<sup>nd</sup> until a Cubs miscue opened the door for LA. **Brandon Jacobs** fumbled at the Cubs 34 to give the Knights an opportunity they nearly squandered when **Jason Brown** was flagged for holding on consecutive plays. But **Dan Carpenter** salvaged the backwards drive with a 53-yard FG to open the scoring. The visitors added more points with time running down in the 1<sup>st</sup> half: **Shonn Greene** broke a 38-yard run and added another for 12 yards to propel the Knights deep into Cubs territory. Seldom-used **Johnnie Lee Higgins**, getting the start in place of **Steve Smith**, caught a pass from **Kurt Warner** and broke toward the goal line but fumbled at the 2. Brown made up for his earlier penalties by jumping on the loose ball, allowing **Cedric Benson** to catch a 2-yard TD pass from Warner on the next play to make it 10-0 LA at the half. The Cubs got the ball to start the 2<sup>nd</sup> half but threw away their opportunity to get back in the game when **Sam Bradford** was picked off at the LA 46 yard line by **Charles Woodson**, who returned it all the way for a 54-yard TD to make it 17-0. An offensive stalemate followed with LA running the ball and Iowa City unable to make headway against the Blue Shield defence. A pair of pass completions to Higgins for 26 yards helped put LA in position to cap off their playoff-clinching win with a 49-yard FG by Carpenter.

**KEY PERFORMANCES:** **Kurt Warner** went 15 of 18 for 139 yards and 1 TD, **Shonn Greene** had 12 carries for 92 yards, **Cedric Benson** rushed for 77 yards on 27 carries and caught a TD pass, **Johnnie Lee Higgins** caught 6 passes for 62 yards; **Sam Bradford** went 17 of 33 for 154 yards and 1 INT, **Brandon Jacobs** had 42 yards in 12 carries, **Lee Evans** had 5 catches for 50 yards.



20

LOS ANGELES



0

IOWA CITY

01-22-2011 Joe Ferguson Stadium Temp: 40 Wind: 0-5 None MVP: **Kurt Warner**

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2009 Los Angeles (7-8)	0	10	7	3	20
2009 Iowa City (5-10)	0	0	0	0	0

2 9:53 Los Angeles	FG Carpenter 53 (4--2-1:27)	3-0
2 0:14 Los Angeles	TD Warner 2 pass to Benson (Carpenter) (9-86-3:25)	10-0
3 12:51 Los Angeles	TD Woodson 54 interception return (Carpenter) (0-0-1:46)	17-0
4 6:42 Los Angeles	FG Carpenter 49 (8-39-3:49)	20-0

	LAK	ICC
First Downs	13	13
Rushes	39-169	20-72
Passes	18-15-139	36-17-154
Sacked	0-0	1-6
Fumble	1	1
Penalties	8-99	9-71
Turnovers	0	3
Time	35:42	24:18
Third Down	3-14	1-12
Fourth Down	1-1	2-2
Red Att/Td/Fg	1/1/0	0/0/0
Net Offense	308	220

## WEEK FIFTEEN LEADERS

### Passing

Favre (PIC)	26-23-290
Roethlisberger (RCH)	39-25-271
Brady (YOR)	44-29-219
Schaub (MOH)	32-17-200
Ryan, M (GDM)	33-18-188

### Rushing

Johnson, C (PIC)	34-124
Williams, R (VV)	25-121
Stewart (FLD)	18-117
Turner, M (DTL)	20-109
Peterson, A (CHP)	7-108

### Receiving

Johnson, A (RCH)	9-128
Moss, R (CHI)	7-118
Owens, T (MOH)	8-97
Collie (KUT)	9-86
Wayne (GWG)	4-80

# LEADER BOARD

## STANDINGS

East	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Charleswood (z)	12	3	0	0.800	484	32.3	244	16.3	16	8 0 0	4 1 0	7 2 0
Kutztown (y)	8	7	0	0.533	328	21.9	358	23.9	-2	4 3 0	2 3 0	5 4 0
Mohave	6	9	0	0.400	295	19.7	369	24.6	-4.9	5 3 0	3 2 0	5 4 0
Virден	6	9	0	0.400	322	21.5	403	26.9	-5.4	4 3 0	1 4 0	2 7 0
West	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Chino (z)	11	4	0	0.733	407	27.1	226	15.1	12.1	6 2 0	4 1 0	8 1 0
Los Angeles (y)	7	8	0	0.467	322	21.5	283	18.9	2.6	3 4 0	2 3 0	4 5 0
Iowa City	5	10	0	0.333	259	17.3	381	25.4	-8.1	1 6 0	2 3 0	3 6 0
York	3	12	0	0.200	270	18	466	31.1	-13.1	2 6 0	2 3 0	2 7 0
North	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Pickering (z)	14	1	0	0.933	480	32	206	13.7	18.3	6 1 0	5 0 0	8 1 0
Durham (y)	10	5	0	0.667	347	23.1	275	18.3	4.8	7 1 0	2 3 0	5 4 0
Markham	6	9	0	0.400	268	17.9	380	25.3	-7.5	5 3 0	2 3 0	3 6 0
Cowtown	2	13	0	0.133	212	14.1	427	28.5	-14.3	2 5 0	1 4 0	2 7 0
South	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Florida (z)	15	0	0	1.000	423	28.2	186	12.4	15.8	8 0 0	5 0 0	9 0 0
Gwinnett	6	9	0	0.400	307	20.5	393	26.2	-5.7	4 3 0	2 3 0	3 6 0
Ringgold	6	9	0	0.400	339	22.6	359	23.9	-1.3	4 3 0	2 3 0	4 5 0
Garland	3	12	0	0.200	313	20.9	420	28	-7.1	2 6 0	1 4 0	2 7 0

z-clinched division

y-clinched wild card berth

## PASSING

			Att	Cmp	C%	Yards	In	I%	Lg	TD	TD%	Rate
1	Favre	PIC	405	277	68.4	3754	9	2.2	53	29	7.2	112.3
2	Manning, P	CHP	468	320	68.4	3829	14	3	73	30	6.4	102.1
3	Rodgers	FLD	391	254	65	3023	7	1.8	75	21	5.4	98.9
4	McNabb	CHI	353	218	61.8	2678	7	2	64	22	6.2	97.7
5	Brees	VV	466	304	65.2	3719	12	2.6	51	23	4.9	95.4
6	Roethlisberger	RCH	452	288	63.7	3443	15	3.3	53	25	5.5	91.5
7	Romo	KUT	454	297	65.4	3369	12	2.6	60	20	4.4	91.2
8	Warner	LAK	369	231	62.6	2443	10	2.7	74	22	6	90.4
9	Manning, E	GWG	453	267	58.9	3184	11	2.4	78	27	6	90.2
10	Campbell, J	MAR	378	246	65.1	2674	12	3.2	64	17	4.5	87.6
11	Schaub	MOH	465	292	62.8	3380	17	3.7	56	24	5.2	86.7
12	Rivers, P	DTL	444	255	57.4	3081	16	3.6	86	27	6.1	84.1
13	Brady	YOR	536	340	63.4	3442	17	3.2	55	25	4.7	84
14	Bradford	ICC	314	191	60.8	1908	7	2.2	53	10	3.2	79.4
15	Ryan, M	GDM	395	247	62.5	2717	15	3.8	68	11	2.8	76.3

			Att	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD				Att	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD
1	Johnson, C	PIC	345	2029	5.9	88	27	8	Rice, R	FLD	212	998	4.7	58	5
2	Peterson, A	CHP	310	1411	4.6	95	20	9	Williams, D	MAR	184	936	5.1	54	4
3	Jones, T	GWG	308	1353	4.4	83	7	10	Charles	LAK	180	812	4.5	17	6
4	Williams, R	VV	291	1236	4.2	68	8	11	McCoy, L	KUT	197	760	3.9	75	4
5	Jones-Drew	RCH	253	1181	4.7	94	3	12	Best	MAR	194	751	3.9	56	5
6	Jackson, S	CHI	250	1129	4.5	61	4	13	Brown, R	ICC	173	746	4.3	50	8
7	Mendenhall	MOH	241	1035	4.3	63	4	14	Barber	COW	185	737	4	40	2
8	Rice, R	FLD	212	998	4.7	58	5	15	Stewart	FLD	125	680	5.4	43	10

#### Yards/Game

1	Johnson, C	PIC	135
2	Peterson, A	CHP	94.1
3	Jones, T	GWG	90.2
4	Williams, D	MAR	85.1
5	Williams, R	VV	82.4

#### Rushing Gains

#### Of

#### 10+

#### Rushing

#### 1st

#### Downs

1	Johnson, C	PIC	57	1	Johnson, C	PIC	116
2	Peterson, A	CHP	31	2	Jones, T	GWG	78
3	Jones, T	GWG	29	3	Peterson, A	CHP	75
4	Jackson, S	CHI	28	4	Williams, R	VV	60
5	Williams, R	VV	27	5	Jackson, S	CHI	55

## RECEIVING

			No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD				No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD
1	Welker	GDM	90	1155	12.8	68	5	8	Ward, H	CHI	79	922	11.7	64	9
2	Witten	CHP	89	933	10.5	73	11	9	White, R	LAK	79	865	10.9	49	3
3	Rice, S	CHP	85	1108	13	28	5	10	Jennings, G	KUT	78	1138	14.6	60	4
4	Wayne	GWG	85	1297	15.3	78	17	11	Clark, D	GWG	76	740	9.7	25	6
5	Holmes	RCH	84	1193	14.2	40	8	12	Smith, S	LAK	73	819	11.2	55	10
6	Moss, R	CHI	83	1166	14	51	15	13	Fitzgerald	ICC	70	703	10	35	9
7	Johnson, A	RCH	80	1234	15.4	53	10	14	Driver	MOH	70	973	13.9	39	6
8	Ward, H	CHI	79	922	11.7	64	9	15	Colston	CHP	69	944	13.7	35	7

#### RAC Yards

1	Jennings, G	KUT	527
2	Rice, R	FLD	452
3	Jones-Drew	RCH	447
4	Jackson, V	PIC	447
5	Moss, R	CHI	421

#### Yards/Game

1	Welker	GDM	96.3
2	Wayne	GWG	86.5
3	Jackson, V	PIC	82.5
4	Johnson, A	RCH	82.3
5	Holmes	RCH	79.5

#### Receiving

#### First

#### Dn%

1	Holmes	RCH	85.7
2	Johnson, C	DTL	78.4
3	Jackson, V	PIC	78
4	Davis, V	DTL	76.1
5	Chambers, C	GDM	74.5





# AROUND THE



## With Spats McChad

NEW YORK – The eroding Egyptian Obelisk in Central Park has me concerned about my lungs. I showed up last week at an urgent medical care center in Manhattan to get an opinion about the nagging cough I have had for the past two weeks. The sign over the entrance says “URGENT,” but to my dismay there was no sense of urgency at all in the staff’s response to my complaint. The receptionist, Nurse Kiddle, checked my pulse and asked me some questions then told me I should book an appointment with a specialist through my family doctor. I was stunned. I replied that I needed care immediately. She had the nerve to tell me that I *appeared fine* and that I should probably seek help in a non-emergency facility. I replied, (doing my best to remain civil), that while I might *appear* fine, I was not *feeling* fine and that if she did not get me the medical attention I needed right away, I would sue the center and her personally down to the last penny tucked underneath the moldy mattress in her closet-sized East Side apartment. After a brief standoff, she told me she would check to see if they might be able to “fit me in.”

After a 2-hour wait, during which I could feel my cough getting worse, I was finally called and directed to the radiology department. A very nice man, almost too nice, took x-rays of my chest from every conceivable angle, including angles I did not feel were absolutely necessary. Normally I would be extremely uncomfortable spending so much time naked but I was more concerned with what might be happening inside my lungs than with the peculiar practices of the medical profession. Finally, I was told to get dressed and wait for the doctor.

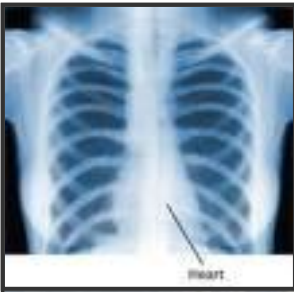
When I finally got to see the doctor, I was taken aback at his offhanded manner as he perused my x-rays. He did not look the least bit concerned and asked me questions that surprised me such as, “Are you going through a divorce or separation, Mr. McChad?” and “Are you experiencing stress at work, Mr. McChad?” I replied no to all of the above, but let him know that I was experiencing stress right now because of this worsening cough and the fact that he wouldn’t tell me what he was seeing on my x-rays. He replied that my lungs looked no worse than any other pair of healthy lungs subject to an urban environment and that I might want to drink more water as the air tended to be drier this time of year. He told me I had nothing to worry about and all but pushed me out of his office.

Of course, he is a doctor and everything, but I was appalled that he would give me so little insight into my condition. “*No worse than any other pair of healthy lungs subject to an urban environment.*” What was that supposed to mean? This urban environment is slowly dissolving a 3,000 year old stone pillar in the relatively short period of 100 years! What is it doing to people? That’s like saying, “your skin is no more burned than any other healthy skin exposed to the surface of a hot iron.” Has modern society so perverted our natural survival instinct that we can live in a poisonous atmosphere and basically shrug our shoulders and mutter, ‘ho-hum.’ This needs to be investigated. I am not well. I vow to get a second opinion about my worsening lung condition and invite you, my Dear Readers, to share your thoughts and opinions about what I suspect is an anonymous silent killer among us – a killer that could rival Cancer, Heart Disease and AIDS – a killer known as “Healthy Urban Lung Disease.”

### **WILDCARD TRIANGLE**

The Gwinnett Gladiators stayed alive in a three-way race for the final wildcard berth in the CAC by knocking off Ringgold 20-13 at the Coliseum in Week Fifteen. Their win also ensured that the team claiming the #4 seed would qualify with a sub-500 record of, at best, 7-9 and possibly as low as 6-10. As disagreeable as this would be, it would not be without precedent. In 2008, Pickering won the notorious “Expansion Division” with a 7-9 record and actually hosted a playoff game. At least this year the weak link in the playoff chain will have to travel to grab its small share of post-season glory. Having rationalized it so far, I must admit that I find the prospect of a 6-10 playoff team as distasteful as it is curious. A team that finishes 6-10 has no business being near the playoffs. How could it happen?

As I have been saying for most of the year, there is a clear division between the “haves” and the “have-nots” in the EFL this year. Power is concentrated in 5 teams (6 if you count LA and their star-studded defence) and the rest of the teams are in various stages of rebuilding or distress. Having said that, the teams that seem to occupy the middle of the pack are all very closely matched – capable of beating each other at any time. If teams split the games against their peers



New York City on a smog-filled day. This is what I breathe. Think about it. INSET: My lungs – do they look healthy to you?

while falling as a group to the league's powerhouses, it is not so astounding that the 4<sup>th</sup> best team in a given Conference would lose more games than it wins.

So going into the season's final week, three 6-9 teams: Markham, Ringgold and Gwinnett; each have a shot at grabbing the final playoff spot in the conference. Four possible tie-breaking scenarios could occur:

1. **Three-way tie at 7-9 or 6-10:** Gwinnett tops Ringgold in the South Division due to better win-loss percentage in common games. Markham has tie-breaker advantage over Gwinnett due to Week 4 win. Therefore, **MARKHAM** is in.
2. **Ringgold and Gwinnett tie at 7-9:** Teams split season series and are 3-3 in Division games. Gwinnett has better win-loss percentage in common games. Therefore, **GWINNETT** is in.
3. **Ringgold and Markham tie at 7-9:** Ringgold beat Markham in Week 9, therefore **RINGGOLD** is in.

4. **Markham and Gwinnett tie at 7-9:** Markham beat Gwinnett in Week 4, therefore **MARKHAM** is in.

None of these teams play each other in the final week so each will need help from a third party to finish the job. It is not the noblest of playoff scenarios for any team involved in the race, but it does provide some much-needed drama heading into the final week. Still, it is hard to truly root for any of these lightweights. They have given their fans mostly aggravation and disappointment through 15 weeks with just enough hope sprinkled in to make the inevitable falls that much more painful to endure. Two of them will continue to disappoint when Week Sixteen is in the books and the other will fall by the wayside in Florida the week after that. Still, a wise man once observed while watching an upset, "That's why they play the games."

#### ***HISTORY IS ON GWINNETT'S SIDE***

Of the three teams remaining in the Ca-Am Conference wildcard race Gwinnett boasts the noblest pedigree. One of the EFL's original and most stable franchises, the Gladiators are a community team with a national character imparted by the associations and activities of its owner, **Dave Birdsall**. CEO of the 'Glad-You-Ate-Here' chain of travel lodges that began in the south eastern US and are currently spreading westward, Birdsall is gaining national and international recognition as father of Origin Cable's 'Ancient History Channel.' Its' astounding success is creating excitement and controversy around the world and, in the process, raising the status of the EFL and the Gladiators.

Birdsall's rise to fame is similar to that of another southern gentleman, Ted Turner. Like the founder of CNN, few people supported Birdsall's idea of a channel devoted exclusively to ancient history, feeling that it would soon pass into the 'trivia' category of television history. But Birdsall's innovative, news-focused approach to marketing the content, including the catchy by-line, 'News so OLD, it's NEW,' has made more inroads into popular appeal than imagined.

*"Look at our recent history, look at what makes the news. The defeat of the Nazis in World War II, Kennedy's assassination; broadly speaking they are the two biggest news items of our century,"* explained Birdsall in an interview given to 'Channelverse' last month, *"They remain interesting topics, but so many historians and writers have combed over the wreckage of those events that we basically know everything we can know about them at this point. Ancient History is different. So much of it is unknown - and that is what people really love - a mystery."*

But do people really love a mystery that cannot be solved?

*"Most events from thousands of years ago, from the assassination of Julius Caesar to the building of the pyramids, are full of controversy because the record is mostly incomplete and unverifiable. For instance, the argument still rages about the actual race of the ancient Egyptians and the great thing about that debate is that nobody can prove anything! But we can speculate, and that is what people, deep down, really love to do. It allows them to invent things and insert their own prejudices. We give them that chance. Our interactive forums allow people to weigh in with their opinions about what they think happened to the Lost Tribe of Israel, or who actually murdered Julius Caesar, or why the Celts retreated to a tiny island after ravaging most of Europe, or where the North American Indians came from. It allows the general public to shape history and they love it! As a result, the Ancient History Channel is developing a picture of the ancient world and our human heritage that differs substantially from what historians, archaeologists, palaeontologists and linguists have led us to believe from their examination of the available evidence. We can now say with fair certainty, based on popular analysis, it was quite possible*

*that the Romans invented cheeseburgers and that King Tut was, in fact, a freed black slave from Mississippi who traveled back in time to build the pyramids and lived for 2 thousand years under many names."*

When asked if Gwinnett will be making football history this year by handing Florida its only loss of the year and earning the right to beat them again the following week, Birdsall just chuckles and says, "*As an owner that would be great to experience. But from history's point of view it will not even be a footnote a thousand years from now.*"

### ***NOBODY'S PERFECT....WELL, MAYBE FLORIDA IS***

The Florida Dragons have ruled the EFL indisputably for the past two seasons. This year they appear on the verge of reaching a milestone that has so far eluded them despite two years of near complete dominance. They have the opportunity to achieve perfection and earn the notoriety of being the first team to completely dominate their opponents over the course of a full season. With a 15-0 record and just one game remaining in the regular season, the question of whether Florida can become the first EFL team to win all of their regular season games is about to be answered this week in Gwinnett.

The Gladiators are in a death struggle with Ringgold and Markham for the final wildcard berth in their Conference and will do their best to deny Florida this rare accomplishment while staying alive in the playoff race. They have the personnel to pull it off. But how likely is it? Not very, if you ask me. Last year's darling defence, nicknamed the 'Tortoise' by admiring fans, has been lying on its back for most of 2010 and, despite flashes of its old form in the final quarter of the season, does not really scare any team, let alone Florida. **Eli Manning** has been hot and cold from week to week and the Gwinnett offence has risen and fallen with him. Does anybody reasonably expect that he will have one of his hot weeks against the "Firewall?"

So, it looks as certain as can be that Florida will make history this week. But don't suggest that to Florida coach, **Jim Heaton**. In fact, don't bring up the perfect season at all unless you want to be subject to a condescending scowl from the league's most laconic coach. When asked by Gwinnett correspondent, **Marcus Aurelius**, if the perfect season was changing his team's preparations for the game, Heaton paused briefly while fixing an irritated glare at his questioner then answered tersely, "We are preparing as we would for any regular season game. It is the only way to prepare and it has worked well for us so far." The words, "you idiot" at the end of the sentence were left unspoken but somehow could be heard anyway.

Heaton appears to barely suffer the Media at the best of times, but as the season has progressed toward the "Holy Grail" of finishes he has become more withdrawn than usual, almost hermit-like in his lack of availability. They can't admit it, but football correspondents in Florida, **William Wyrmwright** of the *South Florida Tribune*, **Merlin Pendragon** of the *Miami Herald*, and **Jean Boisvert** of the *Swampland Proof* are all, to varying degrees, filling in the information gaps with their own speculative imaginings - essentially inventing stories. Presumably because the facts he invents since **Tom Brady** was released are largely complimentary, Pendragon was granted a rare interview with Heaton after Florida's important Week 11 win over Chino. But the ground rules for the interview had obviously been set in advance and the story soon turned away from football and to a discussion about Heaton's collection of rare dragon toasters and his self-published treatise on the history of fireworks called 'Fun With Fire - from Tang to Today.' (Tang referring to the 7th century Chinese dynasty, not the powdered drink mix of astronauts). This story was slightly more riveting than reading the phone book.

### ***BY THE WAYSIDE***

It was an ugly but fitting end for Mohave in Charleswood this week. The Hellfire bowed out of playoff contention with a feeble offensive effort on a day when **Peyton Manning** looked like he was trying his best to let Mohave in the back door. **Matt Schaub** had other plans; throwing two costly interceptions while generating almost no offence when it mattered, to lead his team to a 16-10 defeat. It is hard to know exactly what happened to Mohave after a 4-0 start, but I'll think about it and tell you next week when I do my post-mortem on the non-playoff teams.

Los Angeles tore away Virden's paper-thin playoff prospects and earned the final wildcard spot in the PAC with a solid if unspectacular win over Iowa City. The Blue Shield is finally starting to perform as advertized, which bodes well for LA in the playoffs; but the thing that would get fans in LA *really* excited would be any sign that **Kurt Warner** can take control and move this offence consistently. If the Knights had managed to snag **Drew Brees** when Virden was shopping him around, we would certainly be looking at more than a wildcard berth for the double-blue.

Hardly noticed for its impact on the post-season was Florida's 28-10 dispatching of Garland. One of the by-products of a perfect season is the systematic locking up of playoff privileges and the Dragons officially reached the pinnacle by securing the #1 seed in the playoffs over Pickering with the win. The Mustangs came at the Dragons hard, I'll give them that, but their hearty effort caused as many mistakes as breaks and eventually the better team strolled to a leisurely victory.

Durham regained a scrap of lost dignity by manhandling Markham 34-0. **Philip Rivers** was not exposed and the 'D-No' defence stomped on **Jason Campbell** and **DeAngelo Williams**. The North Stars missed their chance, as it turned out, to secure a playoff spot and will hope for better this week against Pickering (yeah, right!)

**Brett Favre** loves corn – Corn *Kings* that is! Favre posted his second highest single game QB rating of the year – an eye-popping 151.6, with back-ups **Dennis Northcutt** and **Devin Thomas** as his wing men. He torched an often befuddled-looking Corn Kings secondary with indecent ease. His only better game came in Week One against these same Corn Kings when he posted a 151.7 rating. Meanwhile, **Chris Johnson** was held without a TD for only the second time this year. When was the first, you ask? You guessed it: Week One in Cowtown.

















# BUG THE BOOKIE!

## JIMMY THE GEEK GIVES YOU HIS PICKS FOR WEEK SIXTEEN EFL ACTION

*Your source for fantasy and on-line betting solutions*



### PLAYOFF PICTURE AT A GLANCE

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

### JIMMY'S Week SIXTEEN picks

#### **GARLAND @ RINGGOLD (line – CRIMSON HAWKS by 5)**

Last week's loss in Gwinnett has made Week Sixteen a do-or-die test for Ringgold. To grab the final wildcard berth in the Can-am Conference, the Hawks must win this game and hope that Florida successfully achieves their quest for perfection by beating Gwinnett. A loss, or a Gwinnett win, will end an unpleasant season for the troubled Hawks' franchise. On the upside, Ringgold is hosting a Garland team that has been a basket case full of foibles for most of the season. There is no reason, apart from another unlucky breakdown, for the Hawks to lose this game. Although both teams are evenly matched statistically overall on defence, the Hawks have the better pass rush and are ranked #4 against the run, which will force Matt Ryan, the league's 15<sup>th</sup> ranked QB, to the air in order to maintain possession. The Hawks can move the ball well and, if they can avoid turnovers, should be able to score 30 points by shelling the shaky Mustangs' secondary. Both teams are missing key pieces on defence – Domata Peko and Corey Webster for Ringgold and Josh Wilson and Jerod Mayo for Garland – cancelling out advantage for either. The other piece of good news for Ringgold is that Florida's determination to be the first EFL franchise to post a perfect regular season record will mean they will be playing their starters against Gwinnett. But the Hawks still have to win this game to stand a chance. I think Big Ben will come through in the clutch and Ringgold will win big. **Pick: RINGGOLD**

### **MOHAVE @ VIRDEN (line – VIOLATORS by 3)**

Nobody wants to touch the Hellfire lately and not because they are hot. Hot they are not. Limping into the final week with nothing to play for but pride Mohave must now suffer the added insult of being underdogs against Virden, a team with little more than promise and a helluva good quarterback. Will Mohave show up and, if so, will Colt McCoy get a look behind center? Don't kid yourself, Hellfire fans will want to see if there could be a future with McCoy because Matt Schaub's passer rating dropped like a stone over the last 11 weeks from 118.4 after Week Four to 86.7 heading into this game. No doubt Schaub wants a shot against the league's worst pass rush for no other reason than to boost his stats; but Bobby elder might have other plans. Meanwhile, Virden will be playing loose, as they have all season and will want to finish out of last place for the first time since expansion. **Pick: VIRDEN**

### **DURHAM @ COWTOWN (line – THUNDER LIZARDS by 6)**

The odds-makers are leery of Durham now that they have seen they can be blown up, but I see the 6-point spread as a complete over-reaction. For one, it gives the Corn Kings far too much credit; and two, it does not take into account that Philip Rivers likes to feast on the weaker teams and in Cowtown he will have a full banquet of opportunities. Opposition quarterbacks are passing at a league-high 119.8 rating against the Corn Kings and completing 70.2% of their passes. The Durham offence should have no trouble moving the ball, even if they are not having their best day. The Dinosaur's defence clamped down ferociously on the North Stars last week and the Kings are one of only two teams worse than Markham offensively. Joe Flacco seems to be good for one TD pass a game and then he falls apart. Cowtown will play hard for nothing more than rivalry's sake and to save Coach Coghlin's job, but it will not matter and it will not be pretty. **PICK: DURHAM**

### **MARKHAM @ PICKERING (line – SPARTANS by 14)**

With the Division clinched and the playoff seeding set, Coach Kostantakos is mothering his offence by resting his high-strung and fragile wide receiving corps. It did not make a difference last week against Cowtown – Brett Favre could have found the ball boy open down field against the Corn Kings – and it should not make much difference against Markham. Although they are playing better than Cowtown, the talent pool in the Markham secondary is about as shallow as the gene pool on Pitcairn Island. Chris Johnson had his first breakout game of the season against Markham in Week Two, rushing for 225 yards and a TD. This week he will take aim at the EFL single season rushing record of 2,132 yards held by Frank Gore, which he is 103 yards short of tying. Whether or not he wants to simply break it or shatter it remains to be seen, but Kostantakos will not want to risk an injury to his most valuable player for the sake of ego. Incredibly, Markham can still lose and make the playoffs at 6-10 provided both Ringgold and Gwinnett also lose. If they win and Ringgold wins they are out, unless Gwinnett also wins. If Ringgold loses, but Gwinnett wins, Markham must win to advance. If everyone wins they are in. Confused yet? The players will not be thinking about this, of course, and will have their hands full trying to stay close against the Pickering powerhouse. Call it a hunch, but I think the Stars will be successful in staying close as the Spartans go through the motions with their back-ups. Winning, well that's another story. **PICK: MARKHAM**

### **FLORIDA @ GWINNETT (line – DRAGONS by 7)**

Well, this is it! Florida can make history with a win, becoming the first and only team to finish 16-0 in the regular season. They must do it on the road against a team that needs to win to stay in the playoff hunt. Too bad for Gwinnett that they must try to rescue their season against arguably the league's best team, but that's the way it has gone for them this year – no luck except bad luck. They could have avoided this predicament if they had played to even half of their potential but the Glads have been in a strange funk all season. They say that a sinner can repent on his death bed and Gwinnett must hope that there is similar redemption policy in the EFL as they lie on the death bed of their season. The good news for Gwinnett is that they are almost completely healthy (except for Leodis McKelvin who nobody cares about anyway) and can put their best foot forward. The bad news is that Florida has shown no intention of sitting their starters as they seek football immortality. As an added incentive, they do not want to face Gwinnett in the playoffs and will eliminate them if they can. So, goodbye Gwinnett – see you next year. **Pick: FLORIDA**



### **CHARLESWOOD @ KUTZTOWN (line – PATRIOTS by 4)**

It makes no difference to the Golden Bears whether they win or lose – they are in the playoffs and locked into the #3 seed in the PAC. The Patriots are the team with an incentive in this game, needing it to clinch the #1 seed. If they lose and Chino wins, they will host Kutztown in the quarter finals; if they win, they will host Los Angeles. An argument could be made against winning this game except that the Pats would probably prefer taking their chances against the Knights at home and avoid having to travel to Big House if they advance from the quarter finals. Or maybe not – despite their troubles, the Knights are still considered a dangerous team. It's a discussion for another day and one that the players will not be thinking about when they take the field. The Bears are capable of an upset here but there is no reason to believe they will play hard to get it. **Pick: CHARLESWOOD**

### **CHINO @ LOS ANGELES (line – CONVICTS by 1)**

The Convicts demolished the Knights on opening day, 32-3 and the Knights have not forgotten this. Some observers point to that game as the main cause of LA's flat-footed start to the season as well as Chino's hot start. The Knights will be looking to avenge that humiliation and set the tone for the playoffs. Although it means nothing to the playoff seeding for LA, the game means everything to their morale. For Chino, there is a more practical reason for wanting to come out on the winning side of this contest – they must win and Charleswood must lose if they hope to grab the #1 seed in the post-season – a reward worth pursuing when your home park is a penitentiary with uncomfortable bullpen seating for visiting fans and a concrete locker room for the visiting team. Felix Jones is out for LA, as is corner Al Harris; both substantial, but not critical losses. The home field has not been an advantage for the Knights so far this year but with hated Chino as the visitor there is reason even for the sushi-eating, hemp-smoking crowd in LA to make some noise. **Pick: LOS ANGELES**

### **IOWA CITY @ YORK (line – Pick' Em)**

I am not going to pretend that I really care about this game. From a bettor's perspective it is a dangerous one, as you can see from the non-committal line. When two below-average teams with nothing to play for face each other in the last week of the season it is almost impossible to anticipate what will happen. You can never know who will show up to play and who will go through the motions with an eye on the tunnel to the change room. The Cubs have been playing better of late and they have a big edge defensively, but, as I have already implied, that means nothing under these uninspiring circumstances. Because my contract with the league tells me I must pick one I will go with my gut – which tells me that the pie-in-the-sky Yorkies will take this game seriously for the sake of their slavishly devoted, hopelessly naive, slightly unhinged fan base. Before the Cubs realize where they are and that they are not in danger of being killed by the crowd, Tom Brady will have posted a pair of TD passes. **PICK: YORK**