

2010



2010

WEEK FIVE IN REVIEW

November 6th, 2010



Chino's Terrence Newman is mobbed by teammates John McCargo and Aqib Talib after intercepting Matt Schaub and returning it for a TD to open the scoring for Chino in a big win at the Big House. (STORY INSIDE)

COMMENT

- “GABBY AND THE KNIGHTS,” “DINOSAUR CIRCUS,” “McNABB IS CHUNKY,” – Spats McChad. * **EFL FOCUS** with Pickering's, Aristedes Kalogiannis.

LATEST EFL NEWS INSIDE

THE GAMES

- THEFT IN CHINO
- BEARS HUG CUBS
- GLADS REAP GOLDEN HARVEST
- MUSTANGS ECLIPSE STARS
- VIRDEN VICTORIOUS
- HAWKS RIPE FOR PLUCKING
- DRAGONS SINGE DINOS
- KNIGHTS DISMOUNTED BY PATS



*Who was slick
in Week Five?*

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



Brett Favre
QB
Pickering
Spartans

353 yards and 1 TD against good
'D' in Ringgold leads Spartans.



Terrence Newman
CB
Chino Convicts

7 tackles, 2 forced fumbles and 1
“pick six” to give Chino 5th win.

CONVICTS 'PICK' SCHAUB'S POCKET

TURNOVERS SNUFF OUT MOHAVE'S PERFECT RUN



CHINO

32



MOHAVE

13

CHINO – The Convicts lived up to their name and stole the game from Mohave in a contest between unbeaten teams. It was a miserable day for the Chino offence – **Donovan McNabb**'s crew did not register a first down until the two minute warning before the end of the first half. Yet when the gun sounded at the end of two periods, it was Chino in front of Mohave by a score of 10-6.

The Chino game strategy was revealed early. At the 4:33 mark of the 1st quarter, cornerback, **Terrence Newman** gambled and cut in front of **Donald Driver** on a hitch to intercept **Matt Schaub** and return it 24 yards for a TD to open the scoring. The Hellfire responded with a long drive to the Chino 1 yard line. But the "Lockdown Crew" shut down consecutive bucks into the center of the line by **Rashard Mendenhall** to force Mohave to settle for a field goal. The Hellfire drove back into the Chino red zone on their next possession, but a holding penalty on **Casey Wiegmann** and a 2-yard loss by **Jerome Harrison** stifled their momentum. **Rob Bironas** was called on to boot another field goal to make it 7-6 Chino. It was the closest Mohave would come to over-taking the home team.

James Harrison notched a safety on Mohave's second possession of the second half when he sacked Schaub in the end zone. That play seemed to ignite the Chino defence into a highly aggressive posture. Despite the pressure, Schaub was able to connect with Driver for a 30-yard pass to key a 9-play, 81-yard drive that ended with **Jerome Harrison** plunging into the end zone from 1 yard out to make the score 15-13, Chino. But in reply, **Joshua Cribbs** contributed a 22-yard run on one of the few sustained drives of the day for the Chino offence, helping to put McNabb in position to lob a 1-yard TD pass high in the air to **Randy Moss** to regain the 9 point advantage, 22-13. **Cortland Finnegan** finished Mohave off by picking off an underthrown ball to **Terrell Owens** and bringing it home for 6.

11-06-2010 The Big House Temp: 85 Wind: 0-10 None MVP: **Terrence Newman**

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2009 Mohave (4-1)	0	6	7	0	13
2009 Chino (5-0)	7	3	5	17	32

1 4:33 Chino	TD Newman 24 interception return (Reed,J) (0-0-1:11)	0-7
2 8:09 Mohave	FG Bironas 18 (17-79-8:06)	3-7
2 2:56 Mohave	FG Bironas 46 (10-15-4:43)	6-7
2 0:05 Chino	FG Reed 46 (13-53-2:44)	6-10
3 11:02 Chino	Safety Harrison	6-12
3 7:23 Chino	FG Reed 33 (7-22-3:23)	6-15
3 1:11 Mohave	TD Harrison 1 run (Bironas) (9-81-6:04)	13-15
4 11:14 Chino	TD McNabb 1 pass to Moss (Reed,J) (10-58-4:51)	13-22
4 10:24 Chino	TD Finnegan 45 interception return (Reed,J) (0-0-0:14)	13-29
4 4:58 Chino	FG Reed 36 (6-15-3:32)	13-32

	MOH	CHI
First Downs	15	10
Rushes	34-105	28-114
Passes	32-16-167	23-10-79
Sacked	3-15	3-12
Fumble	2	2
Penalties	7-51	2-15
Turnovers	3	1
Time	35:25	24:35
Third Down	9-17	6-14
Fourth Down	2-4	1-1
Red Att/Td/Fg	3/1/2	3/1/2
Net Offense	257	181

< Mohave >

Passing	Att	Cmp	Yds	Sk	25	In	Td	Rate
Schaub	32	16	167	3	1	2	0	39.5

Rushing	Att	Yds	Ave	FD	10	Lg	TD
Harrison	21	77	3.7	5	2	17	1
Mendenhall	9	21	2.3	2	0	4	0
Schaub	2	6	3.0	0	0	3	0
Tolbert	1	3	3.0	0	0	3	0
Slaton	1	-2	-2.0	0	0	0	0

Receiving	No	Dp	Att	Yds	Ave	FD	25	Lg	TD
Driver	6	0	7	80	13.3	4	1	30	0
Slaton	4	0	6	31	7.8	1	0	17	0
Daniels	3	0	8	31	10.3	1	0	16	0
Harrison	2	0	3	18	9.0	1	0	11	0
Mendenhall	1	0	5	7	7.0	1	0	7	0
Owens	0	0	2	0	0.0	0	0	0	0
Edwards	0	0	1	0	0.0	0	0	0	0

< Chino >

Passing	Att	Cmp	Yds	Sk	25	In	Td	Rate
McNabb	23	10	79	3	0	1	1	49.0

Rushing	Att	Yds	Ave	FD	10	Lg	TD
Jackson	20	69	3.5	4	1	14	0
Cribbs	2	26	13.0	1	1	22	0
Moreno	2	10	5.0	1	0	6	0
McNabb	4	9	2.3	1	0	6	0

Receiving	No	Dp	Att	Yds	Ave	FD	25	Lg	TD
Moss	3	0	5	20	6.7	2	0	15	1
Jackson	2	0	2	26	13.0	1	0	21	0
Ward	2	0	5	15	7.5	0	0	9	0
Olsen	1	0	4	5	5.0	0	0	5	0
Caldwell	1	0	3	8	8.0	0	0	8	0
Sellers	1	0	1	5	5.0	0	0	5	0
Massaquoi	0	0	1	0	0.0	0	0	0	0

24-POINT BARRAGE BUOYS BEARS

GAME POINTS: Darren Sharper's 48-yard "pick six" broke a 16-16 tie and ignited a 24-point flurry in the 3rd quarter that boosted the Golden Bears over the Cubs. **Tony Romo** opened the scoring early for Kutztown on a dump off to **Le'Ron McClain** that the fullback carried in for a 12-yard TD pass on the game's opening drive. The teams combined for 5 field goals to finish the first half with Iowa City trailing 13-9. The Cubs took the lead early in the second half on an 80-yard run off left tackle by **Reggie Bush** then held the Bears to a FG after they had penetrated inside the Cubs' 10 yard line. But after Sharper's pick put them ahead, Kutztown rode a wave of momentum to score 2 more TDs to take a commanding lead that Cubs' rookie **Sam Bradford** could not overcome.

KEY PERFORMANCES: **Tony Romo** completed 23 of 29 for 296 yards and 2 TDs, **Felix Jones** rushed for 106 yards on 9 carries; **Sam Bradford** went 10 of 20 for 100 yards, 1 TD and 1 INT, **Reggie Bush** rushed for 158 yards and 1 TD on 14 carries.



KUTZTOWN



IOWA CITY

37

26

11-02-2010 Joe Ferguson Stadium Temp: 67 Wind: 0-10 None MVP: **Tony Romo**

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2009 Kutztown (2-3)	7	6	24	0	37
2009 Iowa City (1-4)	3	6	7	10	26

1 11:30 Kutztown	TD Romo 12 pass to McClain (Kaeding) (3-30-1:34)	7-0
1 3:49 Iowa City	FG Rackers 27 (16-76-7:35)	7-3
2 9:58 Kutztown	FG Kaeding 19 (15-80-8:36)	10-3
2 7:37 Iowa City	FG Rackers 43 (6-20-2:06)	10-6
2 1:41 Kutztown	FG Kaeding 18 (13-72-5:45)	13-6
2 0:00 Iowa City	FG Rackers 43 (6-44-1:27)	13-9
3 14:00 Iowa City	TD Bush 80 run (Rackers) (3-85-0:53)	13-16
3 10:48 Kutztown	FG Kaeding 30 (7-39-3:00)	16-16
3 10:21 Kutztown	TD Sharper 48 interception return (Kaeding) (0-0-0:03)	23-16
3 4:28 Kutztown	TD Romo 20 pass to Bennett (Kaeding) (7-76-4:13)	30-16
3 0:59 Kutztown	TD Jones 74 run (Kaeding) (1-74-0:14)	37-16
4 11:03 Iowa City	TD Bradford 7 pass to Fitzgerald (Rackers) (9-64-4:41)	37-23
4 1:31 Iowa City	FG Rackers 49 (11-27-4:02)	37-26

	KUT	ICC
First Downs	24	16
Rushes	25-172	39-264
Passes	29-23-296	20-10-100
Sacked	1-4	0-0
Fumble	1	0
Penalties	3-20	7-35
Turnovers	0	1
Time	33:08	26:52
Third Down	3-8	6-14
Fourth Down	1-1	3-3
Red Att/Td/Fg	6/2/3	2/1/1
Net Offense	464	364



COWTOWN



GWINNETT

7

27

GLADS BREAK OUT, PUNISH CORN KINGS

GAME POINTS: Eli Manning connected with **Reggie Wayne** for a 35-yard TD pass on a long crossing pattern to break the game open and give Gwinnett a 17-0 lead late in the 2nd quarter. Penalties early and turnovers late frustrated the Corn Kings offence and kept them off the scoreboard until literally the last second, when **Kevin Walter** snagged a high pass from **Joe Flacco** in the corner of the end zone for Cowtown's only points. The Glads' offence could do no wrong while the defence forced 4 turnovers and made the big stops when they needed them. Manning and his wide receivers left the Corn Kings' secondary in the dust while **Thomas Jones** gained the tough yards on the ground and broke through a key for a 45-yard run to dig the Glads out of a hole in the 3rd quarter.

KEY PERFORMANCES: **Eli Manning** completed 16 of 25 for 310 yards and 3 TDs, **Reggie Wayne** caught 8 passes for 151 yards and 1 TD, **Thomas Jones** rushed for 145 yards on 24 carries; **Joe Flacco** went 25 of 45 for 256 yards, 1 TD and 3 INTs.

11-04-2010 Gwinnett Coliseum Temp: 73 Wind: 0-10 None MVP: **Eli Manning**

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2009 Cowtown (2-3)	0	0	0	7	7
2009 Gwinnett (2-3)	7	10	7	3	27

1 1:41 Gwinnett	TD Manning 14 pass to Clark (Brown,J) (9-80-5:09)	0-7
2 9:39 Gwinnett	FG Brown 21 (11-88-5:40)	0-10
2 4:32 Gwinnett	TD Manning 35 pass to Wayne (Brown,J) (5-63-2:48)	0-17
3 11:55 Gwinnett	TD Manning 47 pass to Maclin (Brown,J) (6-82-2:54)	0-24
4 2:03 Gwinnett	FG Brown 33 (8-18-4:43)	0-27
4 0:01 Cowtown	TD Flacco 9 pass to Walter (Mare) (11-74-1:59)	7-27

	COW	GWG
First Downs	23	19
Rushes	21-97	31-164
Passes	45-26-256	25-16-310
Sacked	3-14	0-0
Fumble	1	0
Penalties	8-65	6-50
Turnovers	4	0
Time	29:08	30:52
Third Down	8-15	1-9
Fourth Down	1-2	1-1
Red Att/Td/Fg	2/1/0	5/1/2
Net Offense	339	474

MUSTANGS GALLOP TO FIRST WIN

GAME POINTS: Kevin Kolb got hot and completed 6 of 8 passes for 81 yards, including a 6-yard scoring strike to **Dustin Keller**, on a drive to tie the game 10-10 mid-way through the 2nd quarter. The Mustangs took advantage of good field position on their next possession to grab the lead on an 11-yard pass from Kolb to **Chester Taylor**, and then capitalized on a **Jason Campbell** fumble to add a field goal to enter half time with a 20-10 lead. A 4th and goal gamble paid off for Markham when **Brandon Jackson** skirted around right tackle for 2 yards and a TD to narrow Garland's lead to 3 points late in the 3rd quarter. The North Stars failed to take advantage of a mid-field interception by **Chris Hope** when kicker **Rian Lindell** misfired on 48-yard FG attempt. The 'Stangs put the game away on their next possession after a 15-yard penalty to **Shaun Ellis** and a long pass to **John Carlson** set up a 1-yard TD plunge by **Willis McGahee**.

KEY PERFORMANCES: Kevin Kolb went 25 of 37 for 272 yards, 2 TDs and 2 INTs, **Wes Welker** caught 8 passes for 96 yards, **Will Smith** had 2 sacks and 1 run stuff; **Jason Campbell** completed 21 of 33 passes for 222 yards for 1 TD but lost two fumbles.



MARKHAM



GARLAND

20

27

11-04-2010 The Corral Temp: 75 Wind: Calm None MVP: Kevin Kolb

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2009 Markham (2-3)	0	10	7	3	20
2009 Garland (1-4)	3	17	0	7	27

1 6:36 Garland	FG Gould 29 (18-68-8:24)	0-3
2 14:07 Markham	TD Campbell 3 pass to Britt (Lindell) (15-79-7:17)	7-3
2 11:46 Markham	FG Lindell 31 (4-7-2:06)	10-3
2 8:31 Garland	TD Kolb 6 pass to Keller (Gould) (8-81-3:09)	10-10
2 3:33 Garland	TD Kolb 11 pass to Taylor (Gould) (7-55-3:13)	10-17
2 0:49 Garland	FG Gould 43 (4-1-1:01)	10-20
3 4:22 Markham	TD Jackson 2 run (Lindell) (10-62-5:25)	17-20
4 10:02 Garland	TD McGahee 1 run (Gould) (7-62-2:46)	17-27
4 3:14 Markham	FG Lindell 27 (15-70-6:48)	20-27

	MAR	GDM
First Downs	21	22
Rushes	35-120	20-69
Passes	33-21-222	37-25-272
Sacked	3-23	0-0
Fumble	3	1
Penalties	5-47	3-23
Turnovers	3	3
Time	34:03	25:57
Third Down	4-15	5-11
Fourth Down	4-4	1-1
Red Att/Td/Fg	4/2/2	4/3/1
Net Offense	319	341



VIRDEN



YORK

28

21

VIRDEN VICTORIOUS

GAME POINTS: Tommie Harris fell on a loose ball in the York end zone with 2:26 remaining in the game to give the Violators their first victory of the season. Lineman **Carlos Dunlap** broke through and swatted down **Jason Baker's** punt, the force of the ricochet sending the ball bounding into the end zone where Harris was the last player to contain it. It was a fitting way for the Excaliburs to lose – despite a 309-yard passing day and 2 TDs from **Tom Brady**, 3 interceptions made the difference; the first one by Virden rookie **Eric Berry** setting up the **Ricky Williams'** 1-yard TD run to open the scoring; and the last by **Thomas Davis** ending Brady's comeback bid in the waning seconds in the Virden red zone. An efficient **Drew Brees** failed to throw a TD pass for the first time this year but came away with the Game MVP award.

KEY PERFORMANCES: Drew Brees went 13 of 21 for 220 yards; **Devin Hester** caught 8 passes for 88 yards, **Ricky Williams** ran for 38 yards and 1 TD; **Tom Brady** completed 32 of 44 for 309 yards, 2 TDs and 3 INTS, **Devin Hester**, 4 catches for 88 yds.

11-04-2010 Camelot Temp: 64 Wind: 0-5 None MVP: Drew Brees

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2009 Virden (1-4)	7	7	3	11	28
2009 York (2-3)	7	0	7	7	21

1 8:38 Virden	TD Williams 1 run (Tynes) (7-27-3:23)	7-0
1 4:20 York	TD Brady 37 pass to Crabtree (Graham,S) (7-66-4:04)	7-7
2 14:52 Virden	TD Addai 7 run (Tynes) (9-75-4:23)	14-7
3 9:14 Virden	FG Tynes 37 (5-41-2:36)	17-7
3 5:00 York	TD Thomas 6 run (Graham,S) (8-73-4:06)	17-14
4 12:31 Virden	FG Tynes 32 (12-65-7:22)	20-14
4 6:09 York	TD Brady 5 pass to Lee (Graham,S) (13-69-6:09)	20-21
4 2:26 Virden	TD Harris blk punt ret -1 (2 - Hester) (0-0-0:56)	28-21

	VV	YOR
First Downs	15	24
Rushes	31-69	22-115
Passes	21-13-220	44-32-309
Sacked	1-5	1-4
Fumble	1	0
Penalties	5-34	3-30
Turnovers	0	3
Time	29:07	30:53
Third Down	5-11	7-14
Fourth Down	0-0	0-0
Red Att/Td/Fg	4/2/2	2/2/0
Net Offense	284	420

HAWKS LAY EGG, SPARTANS CRACK IT

GAME POINTS: The Spartans notched 13 points off of turnovers and controlled the time of possession while the Crimson Hawks struggled to get 1st downs for the third consecutive week. **Brett Favre** connected with **Tony Gonzalez** for a 21-yard TD pass with 5 seconds left in the first half to vault Pickering ahead by 2 TDs, 21-7. Despite a lack of offence, the Hawks fought back with back-to-back TDs in the 3rd quarter on a 94-yard kick return by **Eddie Royal** and a 10-yard run by **Tim Hightower** after a **Brodney Pool** interception gave them the ball at Pickering's 17 yard line. After a 37-yard FG by **Jon Kasay** made it 27-21 for Pickering, **Ben Roethlisberger** squandered Ringgold's chance to get back in the game by throwing an interception at mid-field to lineman, **Aubrayo Franklin**. The Spartans turned that into a FG and added a late TD to win by 16.

KEY PERFORMANCES: **Brett Favre** completed 24 of 39 for 353 yards, 1 TD and 1 INT, **Chris Johnson** rushed for 86 yards and 3 TDs on 25 carries, **Anquan Boldin** caught 6 passes for 111 yards; **Big Ben** went 16 of 28 for 165 yards and 4 INTs.



PICKERING



RINGGOLD

37

21

11-06-2010 The Hawk's Nest Temp: 53 Wind: 0-10 Rain MVP: **Brett Favre**

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2009 Pickering (4-1)	7	14	3	13	37
2009 Ringgold (2-3)	0	7	14	0	21

1 9:35 Pickering	TD Johnson 1 run (Kasay) (6-62-3:25)	7-0
2 8:47 Pickering	TD Johnson 1 run (Kasay) (4-13-2:01)	14-0
2 8:34 Ringgold	TD Royal 99 kick return (Suisham) (0-0-2:14)	14-7
2 0:05 Pickering	TD Favre 21 pass to Gonzalez (Kasay) (6-80-1:01)	21-7
3 5:16 Pickering	FG Kasay 31 (13-66-6:48)	24-7
3 5:02 Ringgold	TD Royal 94 kick return (Suisham) (0-0-7:02)	24-14
3 3:00 Ringgold	TD Hightower 10 run (Suisham) (3-17-1:31)	24-21
4 12:27 Pickering	FG Kasay 37 (10-45-5:18)	27-21
4 5:46 Pickering	FG Kasay 18 (11-43-5:14)	30-21
4 4:30 Pickering	TD Johnson 1 run (Kasay) (1-1-0:09)	37-21

	PIC	RCH
First Downs	26	11
Rushes	37-119	13-51
Passes	39-24-353	28-16-165
Sacked	3-17	3-24
Fumble	0	1
Penalties	5-40	4-25
Turnovers	1	4
Time	40:39	19:21
Third Down	10-18	2-8
Fourth Down	0-0	0-2
Red Att/Td/Fg	8/3/3	2/1/0
Net Offense	455	192



DURHAM



FLORIDA

10

31

JACKSON ABLAZE, DRAGONS TORCH DINOS

GAME POINTS: Wide receiver **DeSean Jackson** didn't do much receiving, but he blazed the trail for a Florida victory with a 71-yard TD run and a 72-yard punt return for another. Jackson broke a 7-7 tie in the 2nd quarter when he turned the corner on a sharply executed end-around as the Durham defence over-pursued **Ray Rice** on the play, and the speedy Jackson found open green down the left sideline. The T-Lizards scraped out some points to start the 2nd half with a 49-yard field goal by **Mason Crosby** to reduce the Florida lead to 14-10, but Jackson delivered a stunning blow less than 2 minutes later with a nifty 72-yard punt return for another TD to make it 21-10. **Philip Rivers** was unable to lead a comeback and Florida pulled away with 10 more points in the 4th quarter. The game featured big scoring plays – neither team scored points from inside the red zone.

KEY PERFORMANCES: **Ray Rice** rushed for 96 yards and 1 TD on 18 carries, **Jonathan Stewart** rushed for 87 yards and 1 TD on 7 carries, **DeSean Jackson** caught 3 passes for 38 yards to go with his rushing and punt return heroics; **Philip Rivers** completed 18 of 30 for 193 yards and 1 INT, **Michael Turner** gained 50 yards and 1 TD

11-05-2010 Dragonmount Temp: 96 Wind: 0-5 None MVP: **DeSean Jackson**

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2009 Durham (2-3)	7	0	3	0	10
2009 Florida (5-0)	0	14	7	10	31

1 9:07 Durham	TD Turner 45 run (Crosby) (1-45-0:15)	7-0
2 14:48 Florida	TD Rice 30 run (Longwell) (9-80-5:18)	7-7
2 10:11 Florida	TD Jackson 71 run (Longwell) (6-88-2:57)	7-14
3 11:21 Durham	FG Crosby 49 (7-36-3:25)	10-14
3 8:49 Florida	TD Jackson 72 punt return (Longwell) (0-0-0:51)	10-21
4 11:01 Florida	FG Longwell 44 (10-69-4:08)	10-24
4 1:45 Florida	TD Stewart 43 run (Longwell) (6-65-3:18)	10-31

	DTL	FLD
First Downs	15	14
Rushes	31-107	29-258
Passes	31-19-205	22-13-139
Sacked	2-13	0-0
Fumble	0	0
Penalties	8-45	6-51
Turnovers	1	1
Time	32:51	27:09
Third Down	3-16	5-12
Fourth Down	1-3	1-2
Red Att/Td/Fg	3/0/0	0/0/0
Net Offense	299	397

CLUMSY KNIGHTS COLLAPSE VS PATS

GAME POINTS: Roddy White fumbled at his own 23 yard line to set up Adrian Peterson for his second rushing TD of the game to give the Pats an early 14-0 lead. It was the first of four lost fumbles for the Knights in a game they all but gift-wrapped for the visitors. LA was able to capitalize on a Charles Woodson interception of Peyton Manning in the 2nd quarter to reduce the Pats' lead to 7 points on an 8-yard TD pass from Kurt Warner to Steve Smith, but that was as close as they would get. Manning connected on a 38-yard pass to Jason Witten on the Pats' first play of the second half to eventually set up a 9-yard TD strike to Witten to regain the 14-point lead. The Knights completely collapsed in the final frame, surrendering a 101-yard kickoff return to Jacoby Jones and giving up a 58-yard fumble recovery TD to Pats' corner, Sheldon Brown.

KEY PERFORMANCES: Peyton Manning completed 19 of 27 for 259 yards, 1 TD and 1 INT, Adrian Peterson rushed for 2 TDs but only 33 yards on 18 carries, Jason Witten caught 6 passes for 96 yards and 1 TD, Jon Beason made 10 tackles and forced 2 fumbles; Kurt Warner went 25 of 39 for 225 yards, 2 TDs and 1 INT, Jamaal Charles rushed for 75 yards on 13 carries, Brian Orapko had 2 sacks and 1 forced fumble.



38

CHARLESWOOD



14

LOS ANGELES

11-06-2010 Round Table Stadium Temp: 82 Wind: Calm None MVP: Jacoby Jones							
	1	2	3	4	Tot	CHP	LAK
2009 Charleswood (4-1)	14	0	10	14	38	First Downs	15
2009 Los Angeles (1-4)	0	7	0	7	14	Rushes	26-29
						Passes	27-19-259
1 9:31 Charleswood	TD Peterson 7 run (Gostkowski) (11-74-5:14)					Sacked	2-16
1 3:49 Charleswood	TD Peterson 2 run (Gostkowski) (3-23-0:55)					Fumble	1
2 6:31 Los Angeles	TD Warner 8 pass to Smith (Carpenter) (10-65-5:24)					Penalties	10-65
3 11:48 Charleswood	TD Manning 9 pass to Witten (Gostkowski) (3-57-1:32)					Turnovers	2
3 4:28 Charleswood	FG Gostkowski 39 (10-42-3:49)					Time	30:25
4 14:55 Los Angeles	TD Warner 1 pass to Bradley (Carpenter) (13-67-4:18)					Third Down	5-15
4 14:42 Charleswood	TD Jones 101 kick return (Gostkowski) (0-0-4:31)					Fourth Down	1-1
4 6:36 Charleswood	TD Brown 58 yd fumble recovery (Gostkowski) (0-0-3:42)					Red Att/Td/Fg	5/3/0
						Net Offense	272
							385

WEEK FIVE LEADERS

Passing

Favre (PIC)	39-24-353
Manning,E (GWG)	25-16-310
Brady (YOR)	44-32-309
Romo (KUT)	29-23-296
Kolb (GDM)	37-25-272

Rushing

Bush,R (ICC)	14-158
Jones,T (GWG)	24-145
Jones,F (KUT)	9-106
Rice,R (FLD)	18-96
Best (MAR)	25-94

Receiving

Wayne (GWG)	8-151
Maclin (GWG)	5-125
Crabtree (YOR)	8-118
Boldin (PIC)	6-111
Jennings,G (KUT)	8-101

LEADER BOARD

STANDINGS

East	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Charleswood	4	1	0	0.8	169	33.8	99	19.8	14	2 0 0	2 1 0	4 1 0
Mohave	4	1	0	0.8	133	26.6	124	24.8	1.8	3 0 0	3 0 0	4 1 0
Kutztown	2	3	0	0.4	126	25.2	146	29.2	-4	0 2 0	0 3 0	1 0 0
Virден	1	4	0	0.2	104	20.8	163	32.6	-11.8	0 2 0	0 3 0	1 4 0
West	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Chino	5	0	0	1	170	34	66	13.2	20.8	3 0 0	3 0 0	5 0 0
York	2	3	0	0.4	116	23.2	138	27.6	-4.4	2 1 0	2 1 0	2 3 0
Iowa City	1	4	0	0.2	118	23.6	149	29.8	-6.2	0 2 0	1 2 0	1 4 0
Los Angeles	1	4	0	0.2	93	18.6	144	28.8	-10.2	0 2 0	0 3 0	1 4 0
North	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Pickering	4	1	0	0.8	170	34	95	19	15	1 1 0	3 0 0	4 1 0
Cowtown	2	3	0	0.4	87	17.4	130	26	-8.6	2 1 0	1 2 0	2 3 0
Durham	2	3	0	0.4	98	19.6	91	18.2	1.4	2 0 0	1 2 0	2 3 0
Markham	2	3	0	0.4	84	16.8	128	25.6	-8.8	2 1 0	1 2 0	2 3 0
South	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Florida	5	0	0	1	158	31.6	78	15.6	16	3 0 0	3 0 0	5 0 0
Gwinnett	2	3	0	0.4	133	26.6	144	28.8	-2.2	2 0 0	1 2 0	2 3 0
Ringgold	2	3	0	0.4	115	23	132	26.4	-3.4	1 1 0	2 1 0	2 3 0
Garland	1	4	0	0.2	109	21.8	156	31.2	-9.4	1 2 0	0 3 0	1 4 0

PASSING

			Att	Cmp	C%	Yards	In	I%	Lg	TD	TD%	Rate
1	Manning, E	GWG	152	97	63.8	1245	2	1.3	50	13	8.6	112.4
2	Favre	PIC	132	84	63.6	1217	5	3.8	53	12	9.1	108
3	Schaub	MOH	180	124	68.9	1460	4	2.2	56	11	6.1	104.4
4	Romo	KUT	140	96	68.6	1171	4	2.9	60	6	4.3	96.5
5	McNabb	CHI	154	94	61	1203	4	2.6	64	9	5.8	94.2
6	Rodgers	FLD	122	78	63.9	942	3	2.5	59	6	4.9	93.7
7	Manning, P	CHP	165	113	68.5	1351	8	4.8	38	10	6.1	93.3
8	Kolb	GDM	106	68	64.2	753	3	2.8	39	6	5.7	92.2
9	Brady	YOR	188	125	66.5	1222	5	2.7	39	10	5.3	91.2
10	Brees	VV	153	94	61.4	1160	5	3.3	41	7	4.6	86.5
11	Bradford	ICC	78	48	61.5	468	3	3.8	24	4	5.1	79.4
12	Campbell, J	MAR	141	86	61	883	5	3.5	39	6	4.3	78.4
13	Rivers, P	DTL	154	86	55.8	1045	6	3.9	86	7	4.5	75.8
14	Warner	LAK	142	81	57	830	5	3.5	60	7	4.9	75.7
15	Ryan, M	GDM	74	48	64.9	454	2	2.7	31	1	1.4	74.9

RUSHING

			Att	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD				Att	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD
1	Johnson, C	PIC	125	701	5.6	40	8	8	McCoy, L	KUT	78	342	4.4	23	4
2	Jones, T	GWG	111	577	5.2	45	2	9	Rice, R	FLD	72	339	4.7	30	2
3	Williams, R	VV	107	522	4.9	63	3	10	Thomas, P	YOR	78	314	4	28	3
4	Jones-Drew	RCH	85	495	5.8	94	3	11	Dixon, A	COW	56	264	4.7	18	1
5	Peterson, A	CHP	102	410	4	28	6	12	Williams ,D	MAR	40	255	6.4	54	2
6	Bush, R	ICC	50	383	7.7	80	4	13	Best	MAR	71	255	3.6	15	1
7	Mendenhall	MOH	79	363	4.6	49	3	14	Stewart	FLD	36	246	6.8	43	4
8	McCoy, L	KUT	78	342	4.4	23	4	15	Charles	LAK	47	216	4.6	17	1

Rushing Touchdowns			Rushing Gains Of 10+			Rushing First Downs					
1	Johnson,C	PIC	8	1	Johnson,C	PIC	19	1	Johnson,C	PIC	44
2	Peterson,A	CHP	6	2	Jones,T	GWG	18	2	Jones,T	GWG	30
3	Jones,F	KUT	4	3	Williams,R	VV	13	3	Peterson,A	CHP	28
4	Stewart	FLD	4	4	Bush,R	ICC	11	4	Williams,R	VV	25
5	Bush,R	ICC	4	5	Peterson,A	CHP	10	5	McCoy,L	KUT	19

RECEIVING

			No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD				No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD
1	White,R	LAK	35	346	9.9	21	1	8	Daniels,O	MOH	29	304	10.5	19	4
2	Smith,S	LAK	35	382	10.9	55	5	9	Wayne	GWG	29	502	17.3	49	6
3	Moss,R	CHI	34	497	14.6	51	4	10	Driver	MOH	28	372	13.3	39	1
4	Witten	CHP	32	336	10.5	38	6	11	Holmes	RCH	28	358	12.8	28	2
5	Rice,S	CHP	31	386	12.5	28	2	12	Walter	COW	27	233	8.6	16	2
6	Crabtree	YOR	30	413	13.8	37	6	13	Fitzgerald	ICC	26	259	10	22	6
7	Jennings,G	KUT	29	468	16.1	60	0	14	Colston	CHP	26	353	13.6	32	0
8	Daniels,O	MOH	29	304	10.5	19	4	15	Ward,H	CHI	25	349	14	64	5

Receiving TDs				Receiving Gains 25+				Receiving 1st Downs			
1	Wayne	GWG	6	1	Jackson,V	PIC	7	1	Crabtree	YOR	23
2	Witten	CHP	6	2	Wayne	GWG	6	2	Moss,R	CHI	23
3	Crabtree	YOR	6	3	Crabtree	YOR	4	3	Wayne	GWG	22
4	Boldin	PIC	6	4	Moss, R	CHI	4	4	Holmes	RCH	22
5	Fitzgerald	d ICC	6	5	Owens, T	MOH	4	5	Jennings, G	KUT	21



AROUND THE



With Spats McChad

LOS ANGELES – LA and New York are always being compared with each other because they are big and rich, but there really is no comparison. NY is Mars, LA is Venus. There are similarities, of course; particularly the smog, which hangs a little more persistently here than in the Big Apple. There is also a lot of danger in LA due to street crime, but I didn't see any of that where I was. My hostess, **Gabrielle Laurent-Vainluven**, LA Sports columnist and Hollywood gossip queen, does not circulate in South Central LA. Perhaps it's the Mediterranean-like climate, but everybody here seems more laid back despite being on the move in their cars a lot. LA is flatter and you can still see the sun after high noon. I'm not sure I belong here, but I was made to feel welcome anyway – a reception I definitely would *not* have received in my home town and the kind *I* would certainly not extend to strangers if the positions were reversed. In New York, one learns quickly to avoid tourists and shun strangers.

GABBY AND THE KNIGHTS

My hostess for the week is an interesting person. I never thought I would say that about somebody whose principal topic of conversation is fashion and who divides the world into two camps – those who wear real fur and those who don't. After I had grown accustomed to her astonishing energy and perpetual conversation I found myself following along with her trains of thought and her myriad observations with a feeling approaching fascination. Not that I found the world of West Coast fashion and Celebrity social news suddenly engaging and exciting, but how she managed to relate all of that to the world of professional football was intriguing. But what surprised me the most is that she has managed to keep her position as principal Knights Correspondent for the LA Daily News without knowing anything about football.

Perhaps it is because Los Angeles is not the most football-savvy big city. They could not keep a football team here in the days of the old NFL and I can see why. The Lakers and the Dodgers are better suited to the city vibe than a gang of brutes knocking each other down over a pigskin ball. Notably, when I casually referred to the ball as a "pigskin," Laurent-Vainluven went pale. "They use pig's skin?" she asked incredulously, then quickly assessed the social impact of this surprising (to her) fact. Kayne West would approve, which wasn't a good thing, and Drew Barrymore would cancel her season tickets to the Knights when she found out!

"How many people know about this?" she asked in earnest.

"Ah...just about everybody who knows anything about Football," I replied.

She relaxed. "Oh, thank goodness!" she exclaimed. Clearly her most important following was, like herself, not very knowledgeable about the game. She brought up her guard again. "Is there an annual hunt of the pigs to make the balls for that year? Do they use babies?" she asked sternly.

"No, Gabby (at her insistence, I had come to call her that)," I replied as if answering an inquisitive 4-year old, "they take old, already dead pigs who were very sick and in pain and use them so that the healthy baby pigs can live."

This answer gave her an idea. "So, it's a benevolent, environmentally friendly act," she concluded. "Greenpeace and PETA will approve – they have a rich following in the Platinum Triangle. I shall organize a 'green' pig-skinning to raise funds for the Knights of Chivalry Widows and Orphans charity."

I cautioned her to avoid bringing up the topic entirely because, while football makers do their best to slaughter only the sick and suffering pigs, the system had flaws. Sometimes, unfortunately, healthy pigs were accidentally inserted into the production system. PETA would certainly find this out in any investigation and this could backfire on her well-intentioned event.

Gabby had invited me and other football correspondents down to LA to promote the 'Round Table Experience,' a new way of enjoying football designed for West Coast clientele. The service people at Round Table Stadium were all wearing mock quasi-medieval costume, new fashions based on old designs, all conceptualized by Gabby herself and realized by her brother Anson and his "buddy" Franz. The women wore those pointy cone hats with the long silk tassels



LA Knights correspondent for the LA Daily News, Gabrielle Laurent-Vainluven has a different take on professional football – one that is selling the EFL in the City of Angels.

that wound down around their chests, bare stomachs, and tight slacks with flared pant legs, while the men wore jester hats and ‘faux’ leather blue doublets with tights and pointy slippers. If you’ve ever been to ‘Medieval Times’ you’ll know what it’s like to see young people in their first real job struggling to convey an authentic medieval atmosphere without knowledge or interest in history. Round Table Stadium was worse due to the lameness of the medieval props and the awkward juxtaposition of ‘faux’ medieval forms with modern food offerings such as sushi snacks and vegetarian *hors d’oeuvres*.

Gabby had been given considerable leeway by the Knights organization to attract the money people in Los Angeles. As a result, you could get ‘reiki’ healing from ladies-in-waiting, tarot readings from witches, yoga hot saunas from seductive Sirens, and micro-brewed ale from young men dressed as Pages. I actually liked the micro-brews and found the fake “Olde English” lingo used by the sellers easier to tolerate once I’d had a few. But while all this distracted some, the majority of the crowd had come to watch the game. And so had I.

From my booth seat I watched a disaster unfold for the home team. The Knights could not get anything going offensively that wasn’t thwarted by a

turnover or some other mishap. The Patriots could hardly believe their good fortune – they had come to LA expecting a hard fight from a desperate Knights team and instead found the Knights handing them the ball or missing assignments in the secondary. While I watched and took notes, Gabby flitted from seat to seat making sure all of her guests were enjoying themselves. She counted celebrities in the stands and commented on their outfits. The only sign that she knew there was a game going on came when she glanced at the scoreboard in the third quarter and remarked, “oh dear, it’s not going well for Kurt. I had a feeling.” This was the woman who was supposed to write a column in a major daily newspaper about this game but seemed to be paying attention to everything *but* the game.

After the contest I had a few moments with Gabby in relative privacy. She was down in the dumps because much of the crowd had left early and only 9 people had signed up for her halftime vegetarian cooking class. I commented that I wasn’t surprised people had left early because the Knights had not played well and the game was out of reach for them by early in the fourth quarter. She agreed and said she wasn’t surprised they lost. **Kurt Warner** had apparently shown up at the stadium in blue jeans, a dress shirt with a blue T underneath and red socks. “He was mixed up coming in so I knew he wouldn’t play well,” she mentioned casually. “He probably tried to do too much,” she added.

To my amazement I learned that Gabby had effortlessly predicted the final outcome of every single Knights game since becoming the team’s correspondent and principal supporter – all based on what the quarterback wore to the stadium the day of the game. Well, every game except one. She had missed on last year’s 16-13 win over Chino when she failed to note what back-up quarterback, Tarvaris Jackson had worn to the stadium that day. Jackson ended up relieving an ineffective Jason Campbell and was instrumental in the Knight’s winning field goal drive. Campbell had apparently shown up in pyjamas, but Jackson had shown up in a steel blue ‘Eugene Ong’ ensemble from Aero & Co and tipped his driver with a Starbucks gift card. “I missed it because Calista Flockhart was vomiting in my suite,” she added ruefully.

CONVICTS STEAL A GAME FROM HELLFIRE TO STAY UNBEATEN

Donovan McNabb took his customary week off without warning his coach or his teammates. Although Donovan was on the field, his mind was elsewhere. This “too cool” version of McNabb completed less than half of his passes for only 79 yards and 1 TD. He was picked once and sacked 3 times, doing more to hurt his team than to help it.

The Convicts’ pivot complains to his inner circle that he doesn’t get enough respect for his accomplishments and, in fairness, he may have a partial point; after all, he *was* traded after winning a Championship and tossed around like a journeyman for 2 years, toiling thanklessly for two expansion franchises. But the reason he has only a partial point is because of games like the one he just played at home against the Hellfire – games where he looks worse than incompetent because there is no fire in his belly, only chunky soup. These games tug down on the elite status that he aspires to.

Although I never forget these McNabb lapses because I need to be able to refer to them in endless arguments with sauced barflies at Mickey Mantle’s over who is the best quarterback in the EFL (and I can’t afford, for credibility reasons, to lose an argument to a bunch of drunks, among whom invariably there will be one who pipes up that McNabb is among the best because he “has a ring”), Convicts fans will forgive and forget Donovan’s little poop on the home field this week because other forces came into play that saved the day for the home team and kept their perfect record intact. **Terrence Newman** and **Cortland Finnegan**, with their bookend “pick sixes,” should be indicted for Grand Larceny and the rest of the ‘Lockdown Crew’ arraigned as co-conspirators for their role in defying the natural law of the game and purloining 2 points in the

standings. The Hellfire controlled the ball for over 35 minutes and their defence held the Chino offence to a Markham-like 10 first downs and 181 total yards of offence. Yet when the final gun sounded the Convicts had soundly trounced the Hellfire on the scoreboard by a score of 32-13. When the numbers don't add up, you can bet that some kind of crime or impropriety is involved. It was a classic Convicts performance – impressive, but with an air of cheating behind it.

A NERVE STRUCK IN SPARTA LAND

The reaction to my Week Four column in Pickering was noteworthy (see EFL Focus). I am now bulletin board material in the Pickering locker room and Coach Kostantakos has posted some unflattering pictures of me in his private “No Spats Zone” in the Spartans head office. The counter-punch in the media was left to that two-bit hack, **Aristedes Kalogiannis**, to deliver. *Oooooooh, I'm scaaaared!* Kalogiannis' most hard-hitting journalistic piece was his essay criticizing the rocky beach at his Aunt's cottage on the island of Skopelos in his “What I Did on My Summer Vacation” homework assignment in Grade 5. Aristedes is a stooge and mouthpiece for the Spartans. Clearly, they are unhappy with the criticism.

Actually, I'm flattered. Not since the country bumpkin fan base of the Iowa City Cubs reacted to my lambasting of their Cubbies' play in the 2008 Championship have I received so much undeserved negative attention. I offer my opinion, nothing more. It is usually right, but not always. In this particular case, I stand by the criticism and do not credit the “hindsight” escape clause brandished by Spartan apologists. While it is true that Pickering ran well as a team against Florida's defence in that game, it is not true that they could run at will against a Florida defence *prepared for the play they knew was coming*. And everyone knew it was coming. The only thing I will take back is calling **Gus Kostantakos** a “quiche-eater.” It turns out that he hates quiche, preferring “egg pie” with hot basil instead.

LAST TWO LOSERS WIN

Week Five is in the books and no team is winless. Both Virden and Garland, entering the week at 0-4, won against teams that may end up challenging them for the first pick in the rookie draft. Virden dispatched York on a blocked punt recovered in the end zone by **Tommie Harris** to win by a TD, 28-21; and Garland rode the arm of **Kevin Kolb** to erase a 10-3 deficit and take care of business against a banged up Markham squad, 27-20.

The lack of a running attack from the Excaliburs combined with no top grade wide receivers is putting a strain on **Tom Brady's** arm, but nobody expected him to implode for 3 interceptions against the Violator's signature “11 Pylon Formation.” If Virden manages to repeat their 3-pick performance in any game this season I will buy **Aristedes Kaligiannis** a souvlaki dinner. York moved the ball well, as expected, but interceptions ruined their plans for a quick victory. The Swords missed a golden opportunity to become the only team in the Pacific-Atlantic Conference to have a winning record that did not involve a 4 or 5 in the ‘W’ column and bridge the gap between the “haves” and the “have-nots.” With LA and Iowa City both losing they could have placed themselves firmly in second place in the West Division and then the discussion would have turned to how far **Tom Brady** can take this team.

DINO CIRCUS COMES TO TOWN

If the definition of insanity is “doing the same thing over and over and expecting a different result,” then the Durham Thunder Lizards must be crazy. The Groundhog Day feel to the Durham-Florida game might have driven Coach **George Kaldis**, understandably, a little off the bend. Once again, Florida sat in a pass defence while Durham tried unsuccessfully to run the ball. Apart from a 45-yard breakout run for a TD by **Michael Turner**, this strategy got the Dinos nowhere. But that did not stop them from attempting back-to-back end-arounds on 3rd and 4th down and goal from the Florida 2 yard line at the end of the half. **Calvin Johnson** was stopped for no gain and, after the Dragons had seen the play once, **Steve Breaston** was stuffed for a 6 yard loss on 4th down and the Lizards came away with no points in a game that was still close at that point. Who am I to second guess a coach's decision? After all, I am but a mere humble journalist with “no feel for the game.” But anyone with common sense can tell you that circus razzle-dazzle on the football field usually only works when the defence has not seen the play in a while. Coming fresh off a failed attempt at the same play, running it a second time in that goal line situation with 11 Dragons crowded into a small area of the field was perversely obstinate. Yes, bordering on crazy. What's next in the Durham playbook – dancing Shetland ponies and bears riding tricycles?

BIG MATCH-UPS LET DOWNS

It was set to be a great slate of games in Week Five: a battle of undefeated teams at The Big House, the Knights fighting for their season survival against always strong Charleswood, two lightweight playoff dark horses duelling at Joe Ferguson Stadium, and the always important and largely over-hyped Durham-Florida match-up. It turned out that the big games were not close and mostly noteworthy for the roles played by defence and special teams. Both Chino and Charleswood were outplayed by the conventional measures but benefitted from their opponent's generosity with turnovers. In Iowa City, **Tony Romo** had one of his breakout games but the 24-point third quarter explosion he helped to engineer was teed off by **Darren Sharper** baiting rookie **Sam Bradford** into throwing a “pick six.” The best game was probably the Virden-York contest. Certainly the worst, from a watch-ability standpoint, was seeing the pathetic Corn King's defence trying to stop Gwinnett's **Reggie Wayne**, **Jeremy Maclin** and **Eli Manning**. The Glads mercifully switched gears early or else we might be talking about a record yardage day for their offence. How did Cowtown get their two wins, again?

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JIMMY'S Week SIX PICKS

PIKCERING @ IOWA CITY (line – SPARTANS by 7)

The Cubs are surrendering almost 300 yards a game through the air and the Spartans have the highest powered offence in the league. Vince Wilfork, the anchor of the Cubs defensive front is probable for game day, but DeAngelo Hall and Aaron Curry are both out. The Spartans are completely healthy and Brett Favre is starting to assert himself as a leader on the field. The proud Cubs will dig in for this game as they usually do when facing tough obstacles at home, but there are limits even to their pluck. The Spartans see themselves chasing Florida for the best overall record and are not backing off from anybody. The 7-point spread is a steal. Throw your money on the Spartans and run to the bank. **Pick: PICKERING**

MARKHAM @ LOS ANGELES (line – KNIGHTS by 3)

The Knights have to start picking up their game, starting with ball control. They have a negative-6 turnover ratio, handing the ball over to their opponents a league-leading 15 times. An angry Jeff Dohrn called out his players after last week's disastrous performance against Charleswood and then put himself on the hot seat by "guaranteeing a win" against Markham. It's not like he is going out on a limb with that declaration but it is still unusual for a coach to say that. He should be safe. Markham is battling it out with Cowtown for the worst offence in the league and things got even worse when rookie Jahvid Best went down to injury against Garland. Brandon Jackson will get the start at running back and I am sure he is not looking forward to it. Unless the Knights gift-wrap another game for their opponent, they should enjoy an easy win. **Pick: LOS ANGELES**

YORK @ COWTOWN (line – Pick'em)

The Corn Kings have the worst turnover ratio in the league at negative-7, turning the ball over 13 times to just 6 times by their opponents. This is almost entirely due to Joe Flacco and his league-leading 11 interceptions. Very little is going right for the Cowtown offence and York's defence, while not in the better half of EFL defences, is not so frail that it will give the ailing Corn King attack a boost. On top of everything, Cowtown is missing Rashean Mathis, Kris Jenkins, and Jordan Gross – each one important to the team. The Excaliburs enter the game missing only Jeremy Shockey. Although they are coming off a disappointing loss to Virden, their morale is still high because they don't realize they aren't going to the playoffs yet. **Pick: YORK**

CHINO @ DURHAM (line – CONVICTS by 4)

The Thunder Lizards are missing something. They aren't comfortable with the ball and they are getting gashed for 5 yards a pop trying to defend the run. They look rudderless on the attack and that is usually a sign of a struggling quarterback. Philip River does not look poised and his play has regressed noticeably from last year – his 75.8 QB rating places him at #13 in the rankings. But is it all his fault? Yes, it is. Rivers needs to have a game and the offence needs to score and hold on to the ball. It's tough that unbeaten and high-flying Chino happens to be the team strolling into town at such an early critical point in the season for Durham, but

the best time for Rivers to make a leadership statement is against the Chinos of the league when his team is at its lowest ebb. The Convicts are currently uncontested in the West Division and have to guard against complacency. As he showed last week, Donovan McNabb is looking a little too comfortable while the defence celebrated their triumph over Mohave and Matt Schaub a touch too extravagantly. **Pick: DURHAM**

RINGGOLD @ KUTZTOWN (line – GOLDEN BEARS by 2)

Sometimes the more things seem to change the more that actually stay the same. The Crimson Hawks took flight to start the season and soared to new heights, convincing many that they had turned the corner offensively. Now they are riding a 3-game offensive skid during which they have gained an average of 200 yards and scored 11 points per game. Big Ben is back to being “Big Boob” and Maurice Jones-Drew is back to running like something I am not allowed to print. The Golden Bears hope to build on last week’s shootout win over Iowa City. Tony Romo to Greg Jennings continues to be one of the most feared big play connections in the league but strangely have yet to hook up for a TD. Like a predator, Darren Sharper roams the secondary ready to pounce on any mistake, but he will need to hold himself to cover duties with both Antoine Winfield and Tracy Porter out. If the Hawks are going to get back on track, this is the time. **Pick: RINGGOLD**

GARLAND @ CHARLESWOOD (line – PATRIOTS by 13)

The Mustangs got in the win column with a good effort against the North Stars last week and hopefully they savoured it well because they are not going to taste victory again this week. The Pats are 4-1 and haven’t played their best football yet. Peyton Manning is carrying the offence but has stumbled a couple of times, while Adrian Peterson is finding the going tough in the trenches this year at 4.0 yards per carry. The Charleswood ‘D’ has not been as dominant as in years past but should be able to handle the Mustangs even if Frank Gore (Questionable) returns from injury. Don’t let the big spread scare you. **PICK: CHARLESWOOD**

VIRDEN @ GWINNETT (line – GLADIATORS by 6)

The Glads are getting a much-needed break in the schedule to put their house in order. Last week Eli Manning enjoyed a breakout game against the teetering Corn Kings. This week they face a defence even less equipped to deal with Reggie Wayne and Thomas Jones than the one they mauled at Tillman Field. The good news for Virden is that they still have Drew Brees. He faces a Gwinnett defence that is battling sinking confidence and looking for an identity. They took the ball away from Cowtown but everybody seems to be able to do that. They still surrendered 23 first downs and 339 yards to the equivalent of a semi-pro offence. If it goes to a shootout, we could see an upset here, but more likely we will see the Glads grab a big lead and watch Brees throw a couple of late consolation TDs for Virden trying to catch up. **Pick: GWINNETT**

MOHAVE @ FLORIDA (line – DRAGONS by 8)

The Dragons once more look unassailable following a 31-10 drubbing of Durham at Dragonmount last week. The Hellfire are fuming after getting burned by the Chino secondary last week in a game they otherwise controlled. Mohave is in a mood to torch somebody, but it won’t be easy to take out their Week Five frustrations against the Dragons on their home turf, where they have not lost a game since Week 15 of the 2007 season. I think Matt Schaub will face unbearable pressure from the Dragon’s pass rush and this will create turnovers in the passing game. The Dragons offence may find the Hellfire defence a tougher nut to crack through the air than on the ground. Look for Ray Rice to carry the ball 25 times and for the play action pass to put the game away for Jim Heaton’s squad. **Pick: FLORIDA**

EFL FOCUS

A weekly tour of Media from around the EFL. This week we focus on.....

PICKERING



No “Spats” After Victory

Spartans Locker Room United After Beating Ringgold

By Spartan Society sports correspondent, **Aristedes Kalogiannis**

PICKERING (Modern-Day Sparta) - Teams that aspire to be the best, not only need to prove it on the field by winning games and championships, they also need to prove it during periods of adversity. The Pickering Spartans found themselves in the middle of a maelstrom following last week's tough loss in overtime to the defending champions, the Florida Dragons. Instead of taking measure of where they stood early in this season, the team, and owner Gus Konstantakos, found themselves having to defend their play calling to award winning columnist Spats McChad.

For those not aware of the animosity that now exists between Spats and the Spartans, last week, in his national weekly column, Spats called out the Spartans for their play calling late in the game against Florida. In fact, he went so far as to question their coaches heart. During the week leading up to their game against Ringgold, players and management steered clear of any distractions from the fallout of Spats' comments. None would address the matter, despite persistent requests from media, including yours truly. "Aristedes, there will be a time and place to discuss this. Now isn't the time."

Pickering was able to go into a tough, hostile stadium, and effectively dominate the Crimson Hawks. If not for Eddie Royal's 2 kick-off returns for touchdowns, the game would've been settled a lot earlier than it eventually was. And this was done with Ringgold limiting Chris Johnson to under a hundred yards. Johnson did have 3 1-yard TD runs, but his usual explosiveness was negated.

Brett Favre saw firsthand what Ringgold was doing in attempting to shut down Johnson, and knew he had to take matters into his own hand. Time and time again, he gashed Ringgold for first down after first down, spreading the ball around to any and all targets. One week after telling reporters he just wants to make plays to help his team, he went out and did. Asked about last week, and that critical 3rd down late in the 4th quarter, Favre had this to say. "It's easy, after a game is over, to suggest a coach should have done this, or a player should have done that, but you must understand the situation. We ran the ball against the Dragons like no one ever has. And it wasn't just Chris either. We rushed for over 230 yards that day, and to suggest it was the wrong call at that time, speaks of someone who didn't understand the dynamics of the day, and the situation. Would I have loved to have the ball in my hand, and try and win the game? Absolutely. But I believe in our coach. I had an opportunity to audible, and chose not to. I believed in our running game that day, and still do."

It was a much different mood in the Spartan locker room following the win. Where last week's mood of disappointment permeated the room, this week saw a return to their quiet confidence in their abilities, and of their coach. All around the room, players were congratulating one another on getting their fourth win, their entire win total from the year before. Yet they know what lies before them. They cannot rest on their laurels, and must keep pace with those dominant Dragons, if they have any chance of catching them for home-field advantage.

I was on my way out of the room, when something caught the corner of my eye. In one of the adjacent rooms to the locker room, a door was slightly ajar. It appeared to be the room used for team meetings. It was there, that I finally understood what was said to me earlier in the week about not being the time to discuss the Spats controversy. There, on the wall, was a picture that Konstantakos allowed me to put in this column. He said, with a smile on his face, "Now is the time."



ATHENIAN BOY-LOVER FREE ZONE

It appears that the Spartans have decided to use last week's incendiary comments as extra motivation. Not that this team needed any more motivation in their chase for a championship. How far this takes them, is something that will be played out over the coming months.

Now for my take on this situation:

It's very easy for someone sitting in a New York cafe, sipping lattes all day to comment on a game, to comment on a coach, to comment on a franchise. As someone who covers this team extensively, if Spats was looking to create disharmony and unrest in Pickering, he may have succeeded in bringing them even closer together. If Pickering is successful in winning a championship, I suspect there will be other teams that will give voice as to why Spats chose to provoke a Spartan. Spartans do not take kindly to provocation.