

# 2010



# 2010

## WEEK SEVEN IN REVIEW

November 21st, 2010

# ROCK'EM SOCK'EM!



Randy Starks wraps up Joshua Cribbs in the backfield, forcing a fumble that Chris Johnson would turn into 6 points. The Spartans beat the Convicts at their own game. (STORY INSIDE)

### COMMENT

“ASSININE ART,” “ELDER FLAMES OUT ON REFS,” “HOW GOOD IS CHRIS JOHNSON,” “NON-MAGNFICENT SEVEN,” – Spats McChad

### LATEST EFL NEWS INSIDE

#### THE GAMES

- SPARTANS SPEAR CONVICTS
- FLORIDA WINS WITH “BEAR” MINIMUM
- SIBLING RIVALRY NO CONTEST FOR OLDER BROTHER
- STARS OUTSHINE SWORDS
- VIOLATORS BOUNCE BACK VS MUSTANGS
- BIG WIN WITHOUT BEN
- THUNDER LIZARDS RUMBLE OVER CUBS
- KNIGHTS SLAUGHTER CORN KINGS



*Who was slick  
in Week Seven?*

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



**Chris Johnson  
RB  
Pickering  
Spartans**

19 carries for 118 yds, 3 catches for 28 yds, 2 TDs vs tough Chino ‘D’



**Brandon  
Meriweather  
S  
Florida Dragons**

2 Interceptions, 1 forced fumble, 1 TD vs stubborn Kutztown squad.

# CHRIS CRACKS THROUGH LOCKDOWN CREW

## JOHNSON SCORES 2TDS, SPARTANS FORCE 3 TURNOVERS



**PICKERING**

**20**



**CHINO**

**7**

**PICKERING** – The Pickering Spartans beat the Chino Convicts at their own game, stealing the ball three times and making big defensive plays that gave their top-ranked offence an extra advantage in a fiercely contested match-up at Thermopylae Stadium. The Spartans defence stood up in the face of some early first quarter Chino momentum when they turned back Donovan McNabb on a quarterback draw on 4<sup>th</sup> down and goal from the half yard line. Forced to punt from their own end zone, the Spartans gave the ball back to the Convicts in great field position. Chino again breached the Pickering red zone and looked to be gathering force until Asante Samuel punched the ball out of Derrick Ward's hands as he tried to carry it to the goal line for the game's first turnover.

As the first quarter came to a close, the Convicts had kept the field position advantage but had no points to show for it. Early in the second quarter, the Spartans slowly regained lost ground and pressed home a 13-play, 97-yard drive for 7 points when Chris Johnson darted through the left side of the line on 3<sup>rd</sup> and goal from the 3. Penalties hamstrung the Convicts' attempt at a response to Pickering's score and the ensuing punt gave the Spartans the ball at their 20 yard line. Three big yardage plays, including a 38-yard slant to Vincent Jackson set up a 36-yard FG by Jon Kasay and the Spartans led 10-0. Chino responded quickly – Knowshon Moreno broke a 37-yard run and Hines Ward snared a 21-yarder at the sideline to set up a 7-yard TD pass from Donovan McNabb to Anthony Fasano. The Convicts got the ball back with less than two minutes left in the half hoping to at least tie the game. But, on the first play of the two-minute drill, Randy Starks broke through and stuffed Joshua Cribbs for a loss and a fumble at the Chino 18 yard line. Brett Favre made short work of the 18 yards, connecting with Johnson from 13 yards out for a TD and a 17-7 lead.

Both defences took charge in the second half until Chino managed to knit together a late 13-play push into the Pickering red zone. But as he had done in the first quarter, Samuel shut down the threat, sealing the game with an interception and a 49 yard return.

11-19-2010 Thermopylae Stadium Temp: 48 Wind: 5-15 None MVP: **Chris Johnson**

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2009 Chino (5-2)	0	7	0	0	7
2009 Pickering (6-1)	0	17	3	0	20

2 12:03 Pickering	TD Johnson 3 run (Kasay) (13-93-4:39)	0-7
2 6:17 Pickering	FG Kasay 36 (6-61-3:25)	0-10
2 3:56 Chino	TD McNabb 7 pass to Fasano (Reed,J) (4-68-2:05)	7-10
2 0:13 Pickering	TD Favre 13 pass to Johnson (Kasay) (3-18-0:50)	7-17
3 4:52 Pickering	FG Kasay 33 (6-48-2:48)	7-20

	CHI	PIC
First Downs	17	18
Rushes	26-137	24-120
Passes	35-20-237	33-22-265
Sacked	3-23	4-22
Fumble	4	1
Penalties	8-55	6-33
Turnovers	3	0
Time	28:08	31:52
Third Down	4-12	6-14
Fourth Down	1-3	0-0
Red Att/Td/Fg	4/1/0	4/2/1
Net Offense	351	363

### < Chino >

**Passing** Att Cmp Yds Sk 25 In Td Rate  
McNabb 35 20 237 3 1 1 1 75.5

**Rushing** Att Yds Ave FD 10 Lg TD  
Jackson 17 76 4.5 6 3 14 0  
Moreno 3 43 14.3 1 1 37 0  
Cribbs 3 14 4.7 1 1 16 0  
McNabb 3 4 1.3 0 0 5 0

**Receiving** No Dp Att Yds Ave FD 25 Lg TD  
Ward 7 0 8 76 10.9 3 0 21 0  
Moss 4 1 7 35 8.8 2 0 18 0  
Caldwell 3 0 5 25 8.3 0 0 9 0  
Cribbs 2 0 2 29 14.5 1 0 20 0  
Jackson 1 0 2 7 7.0 0 0 7 0  
Fasano 1 0 2 7 7.0 1 0 7 1  
Massaquoi 1 0 4 12 12.0 1 0 12 0  
Olsen 1 0 1 46 46.0 1 1 46 0  
Moreno 0 1 2 0 0.0 0 0 0 0

### < Pickering >

**Passing** Att Cmp Yds Sk 25 In Td Rate  
Favre 33 22 265 4 3 0 1 101.2

**Rushing** Att Yds Ave FD 10 Lg TD  
Johnson 19 118 6.2 6 4 32 1  
Jennings 4 5 1.3 1 0 6 0  
Harvin 1 -3 -3.0 0 0 0 0

**Receiving** No Dp Att Yds Ave FD 25 Lg TD  
Jackson 6 0 9 75 12.5 3 1 38 0  
Boldin 5 0 6 65 13.0 3 1 26 0  
Gonzalez 4 0 10 40 10.0 2 0 17 0  
Harvin 3 0 4 51 17.0 1 1 43 0  
Johnson 3 0 3 28 9.3 1 0 13 1  
Johnson 1 0 1 6 6.0 0 0 6 0

## FLORIDA "BEARLY" PERFECT

**GAME POINTS:** Safety, **Brandon Meriweather** snatched a deflected pass from **Tony Romo** and returned it 43 yards for a TD to erase an early Kutztown lead. The Dragons held on to that lead going into half time thanks to a sack and forced fumble by **Dwight Freeney** that snuffed out a Bears scoring opportunity at the Florida 6 yard line. Florida survived a fumble by **Aaron Rodgers** and a sack by **Tambi Hali** to move into field goal range where **Ryan Longwell** extended the Dragons lead to 10-3 on a 36-yard FG. But the Bears tied it up minutes later, following up on a 47-yard completion to **Greg Jennings** with a 6-yard TD pass from Romo to Jennings. Riding a 25-yard punt return by **DeSean Jackson**, the Dragons took the lead for good on a 24-yard TD pass from Rodgers to **Jerricho Cotchery** in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter.

**KEY PERFORMANCES:** **Aaron Rodgers** completed 18 of 26 for 197 yards and 1 TD, **Jerricho Cotchery** caught 5 passes for 72 yards and 1 TD, **Brandon Meriweather** had 2 INTs, 1 forced fumble and 1 TD; **Tony Romo** went 14 of 26 for 241 yards, 1 TD and 2 INTs, **Greg Jennings** caught 5 passes for 135 yards and 1 TD.



FLORIDA



KUTZTOWN

20

10

11-19-2010 Lincoln Financial Temp: 70 Wind: 10-20 None MVP: **Brandon Meriweather**

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2009 Florida (7-0)	7	0	3	10	20
2009 Kutztown (3-4)	3	0	7	0	10

1 8:31 Kutztown	FG Kaeding 19 (13-64-6:15)	0-3
1 3:37 Florida	TD Meriweather 43 interception return (Longwell) (0-0-1:5)	7-3
3 8:58 Florida	FG Longwell 36 (11-48-5:48)	10-3
3 5:05 Kutztown	TD Romo 6 pass to Jennings (Kaeding) (6-75-3:41)	10-10
4 6:43 Florida	TD Rodgers 24 pass to Cotchery (Longwell) (3-34-1:20)	17-10
4 1:45 Florida	FG Longwell 35 (6-21-2:55)	20-10

	FLD	KUT
First Downs	17	15
Rushes	28-74	25-78
Passes	26-18-197	26-14-241
Sacked	3-17	5-31
Fumble	2	2
Penalties	9-64	5-34
Turnovers	0	3
Time	30:45	29:15
Third Down	3-12	2-11
Fourth Down	0-0	1-2
Red Att/Td/Fg	7/0/1	3/1/1
Net Offense	254	288



GWINNETT



CHARLESWOOD

14

48

## PATS PUMMEL GLADIATORS

**GAME POINTS:** The Patriots exploded for 31 points in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter and led the Gladiators 38-7 at half time. The deluge began after a punt from the end zone and a 12-yard punt return by **Jacoby Jones** gave Charleswood a shortened field. Five plays later they scored on a 9-yard TD pass from **Peyton Manning** to **Marques Colston** to make it 14-0. **Justin Smith** broke through to force a fumble by **Eli Manning** on the Glads' next possession, leading to a 31-yard **Stephen Gostkowski** field goal. After another three-and-out by Gwinnett, **Adrian Peterson** broke a 48-yard run for the first of 2 TDs on the day to make it 24-0, Charleswood. A 57-yard pass play to **Jeremy Maclin** set up a 6-yard TD pass from Eli to **Nate Washington** to break the goose egg for Gwinnett, but the Pats came right back with another TD on a 1-yard plunge by Peterson.

**KEY PERFORMANCES:** **Peyton Manning** completed 20 of 29 for 204 yards, 3 TDs and 1 INT, **Adrian Peterson** rushed for 144 yards and 2 TDs on 28 carries; **Eli Manning** went 12 of 25 for 150 yards and 1 INT, **Matt Cassel** went 6 of 8 for 66 yards and 1 TD.

11-19-2010 Patriot Place Temp: 75 Wind: MVP: **Adrian Peterson**

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2009 Gwinnett (3-4)	0	7	0	7	14
2009 Charleswood (6-1)	7	31	7	3	48

1 9:22 Charleswood	TD Manning 6 pass to Peterson (Gostkowski) (11-67-5:25)	0-7
2 13:26 Charleswood	TD Manning 9 pass to Colston (Gostkowski) (5-39-1:47)	0-14
2 10:04 Charleswood	FG Gostkowski 31 (8-27-1:49)	0-17
2 7:31 Charleswood	TD Peterson 48 run (Gostkowski) (3-62-1:30)	0-24
2 6:17 Charleswood	TD Manning 6 pass to Berrian (Gostkowski) (3-4-0:56)	0-31
2 3:57 Gwinnett	TD Washington 6 run (Brown,J) (5-80-2:20)	7-31
2 0:07 Charleswood	TD Peterson 1 run (Gostkowski) (10-77-3:34)	7-38
3 11:13 Charleswood	TD Goodson 1 run (Gostkowski) (6-18-3:34)	7-45
4 13:26 Charleswood	FG Gostkowski 48 (9-39-5:06)	7-48
4 7:04 Gwinnett	TD Cassel 7 pass to Wayne (Brown,J) (13-79-6:10)	14-48

	GWG	CHP
First Downs	15	23
Rushes	19-53	43-157
Passes	33-18-216	29-20-204
Sacked	3-28	0-0
Fumble	3	0
Penalties	9-62	4-30
Turnovers	4	1
Time	23:06	36:54
Third Down	6-11	12-17
Fourth Down	0-2	0-1
Red Att/Td/Fg	3/2/0	6/5/1
Net Offense	241	361

## MARKHAM GETS 'BEST' PERFORMANCE

**GAME POINTS:** Gary Brackett intercepted Tom Brady on York's first play from scrimmage and returned it to the York 28 yard line. That set up a short TD drive, fuelled by an 18-yard run by Week Six hero, **Chad Simpson** and finished off by a 1-yard run by **Jahvid Best** to give Markham a 7-0 lead. The Excalibur's **Keith Rivers** intercepted **Jason Campbell** to set up a 35-yard **Shayne Graham** FG for what would turn out to be York's only points of the game. Campbell made up for that mistake with passes of 31 yards to **Justin Peelle** and 24 yards to **Kenny Britt** to key a 72-yard TD drive that ended in Best's 2<sup>nd</sup> TD of the game, a 5-yard burst behind left guard **Chilo Rachal**. The North Stars forced 5 York turnovers, including 3 interceptions by Brady.

**KEY PERFORMANCES:** **Jason Campbell** went 21 of 28 for 256 yards and 2 INTs, **Jahvid Best** rushed for 91 yards and 2 TDs on 26 carries, **Chad Ochocinco** caught 7 passes for 95 yards, **Barrett Ruud** had 8 tackles, 1 deflection and 2 forced fumbles; **Tom Brady** completed 18 of 32 passes for 164 yards and 3 INTs, **Pierre Thomas** rushed for 67 yards on 9 carries, **Geno Hayes** made 11 tackles, 2 deflections and 3 run stuffs.



YORK



MARKHAM

3

24

11-19-2010 The Dawg Pound Temp: 59 Wind: 5-15 None MVP: **Jahvid Best**

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2009 York (3-4)	0	3	0	0	3
2009 Markham (4-3)	7	10	0	7	24

1 7:11 Markham	TD Best 1 run (Lindell) (5-28-2:53)	0-7
2 9:29 York	FG Graham 35 (7-26-3:56)	3-7
2 6:08 Markham	TD Best 5 run (Lindell) (5-72-3:07)	3-14
2 0:10 Markham	FG Lindell 25 (11-63-4:20)	3-17
4 9:25 Markham	TD Jackson 1 run (Lindell) (7-59-4:00)	3-24

	YOR	MAR
First Downs	15	22
Rushes	17-110	38-140
Passes	33-19-189	28-21-256
Sacked	1-8	1-8
Fumble	3	0
Penalties	7-65	5-45
Turnovers	5	2
Time	24:06	35:54
Third Down	3-9	3-12
Fourth Down	0-1	1-2
Red Att/Td/Fg	2/0/1	5/3/1
Net Offense	291	388



VIRDEN



GWINNETT

34

24

## VIRDEN SURVIVES SLOW START

**GAME POINTS:** Garland jumped out to an early 10-0 lead, scoring on their first two possessions of the game while riding the duo running attack of **Frank Gore** and **Matt Forte** and the sure-handed receiving of **Wes Welker**. The Violators almost fell back further with two more turnovers, but the Mustangs followed up both with three-and-out series to keep the game with Virden's reach. The Violators started their comeback on a TD drive consisting entirely of runs by **Ricky Williams** to pull within 3 points at half time. In the second half, linebacker **Thomas Davis** intercepted **Matt Ryan** on Garland's first possession, setting up the go-ahead TD for Virden on an 18-yard pass from **Drew Brees** to **Robert Meachem**. A daring 4<sup>th</sup> down gamble by the Mustangs in their own territory failed and Brees exploited that with a 13-yard TD pass to **Joseph Addai** to go ahead 21-10. The Mustangs tried playing catch-up after that but could not close the gap.

**KEY PERFORMANCES:** **Drew Brees** went 11 of 16 for 149 yards, 2 TDs and 1 INT, **Ricky Williams** carried 24 times for 90 yards and 1 TD, **Matt Ryan** completed 23 of 34 for 282 yards, 2 TDs and 2 INTS, **Wes Welker** caught 11 passes for 186 yards and 1 TD.

11-20-2010 The Corral Temp: 81 Wind: 0-5 None MVP: **Drew Brees**

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2009 Virden (2-5)	0	7	14	13	34
2009 Garland (1-6)	3	7	7	7	24

1 4:59 Garland	FG Gould 45 (12-56-7:28)	0-3
2 13:27 Garland	TD Gore 1 run (Gould) (10-44-5:28)	0-10
2 0:00 Virden	TD Williams 1 run (Tynes) (9-78-3:03)	7-10
3 11:08 Virden	TD Brees 18 pass to Meachem (Tynes) (4-31-2:03)	14-10
3 5:48 Virden	TD Brees 13 pass to Addai (Tynes) (6-39-1:51)	21-10
3 0:35 Garland	TD Ryan 7 pass to Forte (Gould) (9-82-5:08)	21-17
4 11:12 Virden	FG Tynes 51 (7-60-4:10)	24-17
4 8:02 Garland	TD Ryan 36 pass to Welker (Gould) (7-71-2:57)	24-24
4 4:09 Virden	FG Tynes 52 (4-8-2:06)	27-24
4 1:24 Virden	TD Williams 39 yd fumble recovery (Tynes) (0-0-2:37)	34-24

	VV	GDM
First Downs	17	21
Rushes	30-108	28-94
Passes	16-11-149	34-23-282
Sacked	1-7	3-18
Fumble	3	1
Penalties	6-38	9-129
Turnovers	2	3
Time	25:10	34:50
Third Down	2-8	4-14
Fourth Down	2-2	4-5
Red Att/Td/Fg	3/3/0	2/2/0
Net Offense	250	358

## HAWKS SCORE BIG WIN WITHOUT BEN

**GAME POINTS:** Corey Webster intercepted a deep pass from Matt Schaub early in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter and returned it to the Mohave 40 yard line to set up the eventual game-winning FG by Shaun Suisham. The Crimson Hawks lost starter Ben Roethlisberger on their second offensive series, but still took an early 10-0 lead on the strength of a 7-yard TD pass from Matt Leinart to Mike Thomas. Mohave tied it up after a Leon Hall pick gave them the ball on the Ringgold 16. Two plays later, Schaub found Shawn Nelson in the end zone from 7 yards out for six. Mohave missed an opportunity to tie the game in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter after converting on 4<sup>th</sup> down and moving the ball to the Ringgold 21 yard line. 25 yards in penalties helped to stall the drive at the Ringgold 34, where Rob Bironas had his 51-yard FG attempt blocked by Mike Jenkins.

**KEY PERFORMANCES:** Matt Leinart completed 17 of 28 for 183 yards, 1 TD and 2 INTs, Andre Johnson caught 7 passes for 98 yards; Matt Schaub went 27 of 43 for 254 yards, 1 TD and 2 INTs, Hakeem Nicks caught 9 passes for 99 yards.



13

MOHAVE



16

RINGGOLD

11-19-2010 The Hawk's Nest Temp: 51 Wind: 0-10 None MVP: Andre Johnson

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2009 Mohave (4-3)	0	10	3	0	13
2009 Ringgold (3-4)	3	7	3	3	16

1 7:39 Ringgold	FG Suisham 39 (15-48-7:06)	0-3
2 10:14 Ringgold	TD Leinart 7 pass to Thomas (Suisham) (9-84-4:40)	0-10
2 9:07 Mohave	FG Bironas 44 (4-5-0:53)	3-10
2 6:34 Mohave	TD Schaub 7 pass to Nelson (Bironas) (2-16-0:53)	10-10
3 8:33 Ringgold	FG Suisham 47 (8-39-3:59)	10-13
3 1:22 Mohave	FG Bironas 42 (13-55-7:05)	13-13
4 11:06 Ringgold	FG Suisham 40 (7-17-2:21)	13-16

	MOH	RCH
First Downs	17	15
Rushes	19-68	28-70
Passes	43-27-254	34-20-207
Sacked	3-22	0-0
Fumble	0	0
Penalties	14-93	10-70
Turnovers	2	2
Time	29:38	30:22
Third Down	5-14	9-17
Fourth Down	2-3	0-0
Red Att/Td/Fg	1/1/0	2/1/1
Net Offense	300	277



31

DURHAM



14

IOWA CITY

## DINOS CLUB CUBS

**GAME POINTS:** The Durham defence opened the scoring when safety, Jim Leonhard picked off Sam Bradford and returned it 57 yards for a TD. Their offence got involved on their next possession, driving 60 yards to pay dirt with the first of 3 TD passes on the day by Philip Rivers – an 8-yard short quick pass to Calvin Johnson to make it 14-0 Durham. With the game not yet out of control, the Cubs responded with the longest drive of the day by either team, but came away with no points when Bradford misfired to an open Larry Fitzgerald on 4<sup>th</sup> down and 1 at the Durham 10 yard line. The Lizards broke the game open when Rivers hit Dwayne Bowe for a 24-yard TD pass on 3<sup>rd</sup> and goal from the 24 in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter. Iowa's Ronnie Brown tore off a 50-yard run to set up a TD before the end of the half, but a poor Cubs passing attack killed any comeback hopes.

**KEY PERFORMANCES:** Philip Rivers completed 7 of 19 for 150 yards, 3 TDs and 1 INT, Kevin Smith carried 29 times for 96 yards, Calvin Johnson caught 4 passes for 64 yards and 2 TDs; Sam Bradford went 7 of 23 for 44 yards and 1 INT, Ronnie Brown rushed for 131 yards and 2 TDs on 22 carries, Demeco Ryans made 15 tackles.

11-19-2010 Joe Ferguson Stadium Temp: 67 Wind: 0-10 None MVP: Philip Rivers

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2009 Durham (4-3)	14	7	7	3	31
2009 Iowa City (1-6)	0	6	0	8	14

1 9:40 Durham	TD Leonhard 57 interception return (Crosby) (0-0-0:07)	7-0
1 4:29 Durham	TD Rivers 8 pass to Johnson (Crosby) (6-60-2:54)	14-0
2 5:30 Durham	TD Rivers 24 pass to Bowe (Crosby) (9-66-3:10)	21-0
2 2:05 Iowa City	TD Brown 2 run (2 - failed) (8-72-3:19)	21-6
3 7:59 Durham	TD Rivers 8 pass to Johnson (Crosby) (11-44-6:47)	28-6
4 13:35 Durham	FG Crosby 36 (4--4-1:50)	31-6
4 7:20 Iowa City	TD Brown 8 run (2 - Winslow) (11-86-6:10)	31-14

	DTL	ICC
First Downs	16	12
Rushes	38-102	36-210
Passes	17-9-150	24-7-44
Sacked	1-11	0-0
Fumble	1	0
Penalties	4-30	3-18
Turnovers	1	2
Time	32:23	27:37
Third Down	8-14	5-16
Fourth Down	1-2	3-5
Red Att/Td/Fg	4/3/1	4/2/0
Net Offense	241	254

## KNIGHTS SCORE TOTAL VICTORY

**GAME POINTS:** The Los Angeles Knights did not look like a team that had won just one game in their first six. The double blue moved the ball 66 yards in 7 plays on their second possession, taking the lead when **Jamaal Charles** broke through a stacked line from 3 yards out for a TD. They never looked back. **Kurt Warner** carved up the Cowtown secondary for 3 TD passes in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter to blow the game open early. The situation became ugly for the visitors when **Golden Tate** fumbled away the kickoff return after the Kings had made a stand in the red zone and held LA to a **Chris Carpenter** FG. On the first play after the turnover, Warner connected on a deep crossing pattern with **Steve Smith** for 31 yards and a TD to make it 24-0. The Corn Kings tried vainly to rally in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half but were continually stymied by fumbles, penalties, and a suffocating "Blue Shield" defence that held Cowtown to 6 first downs and 193 total yards of offence.

**KEY PERFORMANCES:** **Kurt Warner** completed 22 of 27 passes for 276 yards and 3 TDs, **Steve Smith** caught 7 passes for 117 yards and 1 TD, **Jamaal Charles** rushed for 86 yards and 1 TD on 18 carries; **Joe Flacco** went 13 of 28 for 155 yards, **Donnie Avery** caught 5 passes for 48 yards, **Kevin Walter** caught 4 passes for 80 yards.



3

COWTOWN



40

LOS ANGELES

11-20-2010 Round Table Stadium Temp: 86 Wind: 0-5 None MVP: Kurt Warner

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2009 Cowtown (2-5)	0	3	0	0	3
2009 Los Angeles (2-5)	7	24	6	3	40

1 6:10 Los Angeles	TD Charles 3 run (Carpenter) (7-66-4:20)	0-7
2 14:54 Los Angeles	TD Warner 2 pass to White (Carpenter) (10-65-4:54)	0-14
2 7:40 Los Angeles	FG Carpenter 36 (10-54-5:34)	0-17
2 7:10 Los Angeles	TD Warner 31 pass to Smith (Carpenter) (1-31-0:15)	0-24
2 0:48 Los Angeles	TD Warner 9 pass to Heap (Carpenter) (8-71-2:28)	0-31
2 0:02 Cowtown	FG Mare 46 (3-20-0:31)	3-31
3 8:47 Los Angeles	FG Carpenter 51 (5-0-2:38)	3-34
3 2:47 Los Angeles	FG Carpenter 32 (9-52-4:13)	3-37
4 4:57 Los Angeles	FG Carpenter 53 (5-20-3:06)	3-40

	COW	LAK
First Downs	6	27
Rushes	21-44	37-142
Passes	28-13-155	33-25-307
Sacked	2-6	1-8
Fumble	4	1
Penalties	9-61	6-35
Turnovers	4	1
Time	20:49	39:11
Third Down	4-16	6-14
Fourth Down	0-1	0-0
Red Att/Td/Fg	0/0/0	5/3/0
Net Offense	193	441

## WEEK SEVEN LEADERS

### Passing

Ryan, M (GDM)	34-23-282
Warner (LAK)	27-22-276
Favre (PIC)	33-22-265
Campbell,J (MAR)	28-21-256
Schaub (MOH)	43-27-254

### Rushing

Peterson, A (CHP)	28-144
Brown, R (ICC)	22-131
Johnson, C (PIC)	19-118
Smith, K (DTL)	29-96
Best (MAR)	26-91

### Receiving

Welker (GDM)	11-186
Jennings, G (KUT)	5-135
Smith, S (LAK)	7-117
Nicks ,H (MOH)	9-99
Lee, D (YOR)	8-79

# LEADER BOARD

## STANDINGS

East	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Charleswood	6	1	0	0.857	257	36.7	130	18.6	18.1	4 0 0	2 1 0	4 1 0
Mohave	4	3	0	0.571	146	20.9	174	24.9	-4	3 0 0	3 0 0	4 1 0
Kutztown	3	4	0	0.429	154	22	183	26.1	-4.1	2 3 0	1 2 0	2 3 0
Virden	2	5	0	0.286	166	23.7	218	31.1	-7.4	0 2 0	0 3 0	1 4 0
West	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Chino	5	2	0	0.714	193	27.6	110	15.7	11.9	3 0 0	3 0 0	5 0 0
York	3	4	0	0.429	150	21.4	179	25.6	-4.1	2 1 0	2 1 0	2 3 0
Los Angeles	2	5	0	0.286	159	22.7	178	25.4	-2.7	1 3 0	0 3 0	1 4 0
Iowa City	1	6	0	0.143	139	19.9	211	30.1	-10.3	0 4 0	1 2 0	1 4 0
North	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Pickering	6	1	0	0.857	221	31.6	109	15.6	16	2 1 0	3 0 0	4 1 0
Durham	4	3	0	0.571	153	21.9	121	17.3	4.6	3 0 0	1 2 0	2 3 0
Markham	4	3	0	0.571	139	19.9	157	22.4	-2.6	3 1 0	1 2 0	2 3 0
Cowtown	2	5	0	0.286	107	15.3	201	28.7	-13.4	2 2 0	1 2 0	2 3 0
South	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Florida	7	0	0	1	212	30.3	88	12.6	17.7	4 0 0	3 0 0	5 0 0
Gwinnett	3	4	0	0.429	178	25.4	220	31.4	-6	3 0 0	1 2 0	2 3 0
Ringgold	3	4	0	0.429	148	21.1	163	23.3	-2.1	2 1 0	2 1 0	2 3 0
Garland	1	6	0	0.143	150	21.4	230	32.9	-11.4	1 3 0	0 3 0	1 4 0

## PASSING

			Att	Cmp	C%	Yards	In	I%	Lg	TD	TD%	Rate
1	Favre	PIC	196	128	65.3	1723	5	2.6	53	14	7.1	106.3
2	Manning, E	GWG	207	129	62.3	1689	4	1.9	78	14	6.8	102.5
3	Rodgers	FLD	164	106	64.6	1308	3	1.8	59	8	4.9	97.8
4	Manning, P	CHP	220	153	69.5	1734	9	4.1	38	14	6.4	97
5	Brees	VV	195	124	63.6	1524	6	3.1	41	11	5.6	93.6
6	Schaub	MOH	243	161	66.3	1837	7	2.9	56	12	4.9	93.3
7	Kolb	GDM	106	68	64.2	753	3	2.8	39	6	5.7	92.2
8	Romo	KUT	199	133	66.8	1666	6	3	60	7	3.5	91.8
9	Warner	LAK	202	125	61.9	1418	6	3	74	12	5.9	90.3
10	McNabb	CHI	222	134	60.4	1671	5	2.3	64	10	4.5	89.4
11	Brady	YOR	252	167	66.3	1688	9	3.6	45	14	5.6	88.9
12	Rivers, P	DTL	206	115	55.8	1453	7	3.4	86	12	5.8	83.3
13	Campbell, J	MAR	195	125	64.1	1382	7	3.6	64	7	3.6	82
14	Roethlisberger	RCH	183	114	62.3	1210	8	4.4	48	7	3.8	76.1
15	Ryan, M	GDM	160	102	63.8	1113	10	6.3	68	5	3.1	68.6

## RUSHING

			Att	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD				Att	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD
1	Johnson, C	PIC	156	891	5.7	40	12	8	Rice, R	FLD	97	437	4.5	30	3
2	Jones, T	GWG	148	727	4.9	45	5	9	McCoy, L	KUT	107	416	3.9	23	4
3	Williams, R	VV	148	724	4.9	68	5	10	Bush, R	ICC	58	403	6.9	80	4
4	Peterson, A	CHP	150	661	4.4	48	11	11	Jackson, S	CHI	95	350	3.7	20	1
5	Jones-Drew	RCH	115	591	5.1	94	3	12	Brown, R	ICC	80	349	4.4	50	4
6	Thomas, P	YOR	108	466	4.3	28	3	13	Best	MAR	97	346	3.6	15	3
7	Mendenhall	MOH	101	444	4.4	49	3	14	Jones, F	KUT	59	322	5.5	74	4
8	Rice, R	FLD	97	437	4.5	30	3	15	Charles	LAK	65	302	4.6	17	2

Yards/Game				Rushing Gains 10+				Rushing First Downs			
1	Johnson, C	PIC	127.3	1	Johnson,C	PIC	26	1	Johnson,C	PIC	55
2	Jones, T	GWG	103.9	2	Jones,T	GWG	20	2	Jones,T	GWG	43
3	Williams, R	VV	103.4	3	Williams,R	VV	18	3	Peterson,A	CHP	41
4	Peterson, A	CHP	94.4	4	Peterson,A	CHP	16	4	Williams,R	VV	34
5	Jones-Drew	RCH	84.4	5	Charles	LAK	12	5	Rice,R	FLD	24

## RECEIVING

			No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD			No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD	
1	White, R	LAK	47	486	10.3	21	2	8	Jennings, G	KUT	38	644	16.9	60	1
2	Smith, S	LAK	44	520	11.8	55	6	9	Crabtree	YOR	37	537	14.5	37	6
3	Moss, R	CHI	43	585	13.6	51	4	10	Welker	GDM	37	541	14.6	68	2
4	Witten	CHP	42	426	10.1	38	7	11	Colston	CHP	36	441	12.3	32	1
5	Wayne	GWG	41	714	17.4	78	8	12	Ward, H	CHI	36	456	12.7	64	5
6	Holmes	RCH	41	488	11.9	28	2	13	Walter	COW	35	354	10.1	49	3
7	Rice, S	CHP	40	501	12.5	28	2	14	Johnson, A	RCH	35	479	13.7	48	2
8	Jennings, G	KUT	38	644	16.9	60	1	15	Clark, D	GWG	34	351	10.3	18	2

Yards/Game			RAC Yards			Receiving First			Downs		
1	Welker	GDM	135.3	1	Jennings, G	KUT	344	1	Holmes	RCH	31
2	Wayne	GWG	102	2	Moss, R	CHI	256	2	Wayne	GWG	30
3	Jennings,G	KUT	92	3	Welker	GDM	255	3	Smith, S	LAK	29
4	Moss,R	CHI	83.6	4	Wayne	GWG	253	4	Crabtree	YOR	29
5	Hester,D	VV	79.4	5	Rice, R	FLD	220	5	Witten	CHP	28



# AROUND THE



## With Spats McChad

NEW YORK – Last week I was happy to be back in grey New York after spending time on the golden, but whacky Left Coast with my now “good friend” Gabrielle Laurent-Vainluven, (I am her “good friend” now, along with everyone else she has ever met and logged contact info about in her I-phone). The peace of mind that comes with knowing you live in a superior city has residual benefits for everything you do. Accordingly, I was settling into writing this column this week infused with just the right amount of condescension when I was suddenly undermined by a news “interest” item in the NY Times. It appears that a New York-based painter named Camomile Hixon is displaying posters of a “missing” unicorn around New York City. The unicorn is described as female with a friendly disposition and the “reward” for finding her is to be paid in *smiles*. Hixon got the idea from people-watching on the subways. He decided that everyone was too glum and that he needed to “brighten their days.” This affected twit was quoted as saying, “if I could just make a handful of businessmen on Wall Street think about unicorns, I will be successful.”

Don’t set your bar too high, Mr. Hixon. Getting people to think of unicorns when you show them a picture of a unicorn is no conceptual revolution. Posting pictures of unicorns everywhere and expecting that people who see them will *not* think of unicorns would be a much more impressive achievement. As unimpressed as I am by this stunt, I might have tolerated this Grade 6 Art Project, had I not read further and discovered that Camomile chose the unicorn as the prop for his lame sense of humour because the unicorn is “beyond race, beyond religion.” In his uncomplicated mind, the unicorn is politically correct because it does not really exist, has no race, and does not fall under any pantheon of Gods or mystical belief system. But is it really so neutral a symbol? Every unicorn I’ve ever seen is white – lily, pristine, *white*. Not black, not brown, not yellow, not red – *white*; as is the one featured on the posters created by the guy named after an herbal tea. You can bet that if I picked up on this, any modern descendant of the New Left who devotes serious time to uncovering racial biases and inequality will also. So my well-meaning, but moronic, New York artist is as unconsciously guilty of racial bias as every cop who stops a non-white violator for a traffic offence.

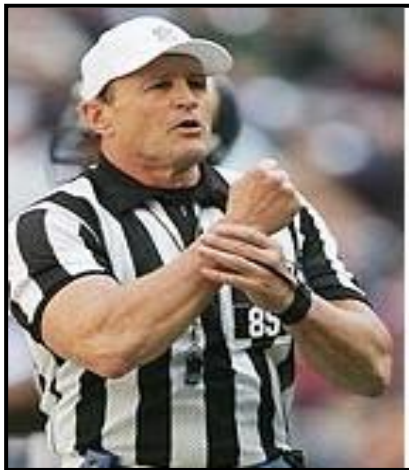
While I *do* think Camomile is an idiot, it appears he is a well-meaning one. Nevertheless, he has ruined my day by reminding me that West Coast-style idiocy can flourish even here in New York, where business happens.

### **ELDER FLAMES OUT ON REFS**

It was only a matter of time before somebody went postal on EFL referees. Although literally thousands of plays go by without controversy every year, it seems that when a game is on the line and betting spreads or TV ratings are most affected, the referees become the elephants in the room, or on the field, dropping huge piles of brown crap in the way of a just result. A comprehensive study of referee decisions at critical moments in the game is probably long overdue, but the thing that stands in the way of such a review is the underlying understanding by stakeholders in the game that questionable decisions by the referees are not just part of the game, they might just benefit *you* one day – if you bet on the right side of the ledger.

Mohave went into Ringgold needing a win to stay one game behind East Division front-runner, Charleswood. The Crimson Hawks were falling off the map at alarming speed and desperately needed a win if they were to stand a reasonable hope of turning their regular season into a post-season berth. The pre-game Vegas line was a surprise to any bettor who had watched both teams play this year. Despite a poor showing by Mohave at Dragonmount the previous week, their dominance in the early weeks of the season could not be discounted while Ringgold had had no such success since Week Two and had looked a lot like they had looked in every other season previous to this one – anaemic. The 3-point spread for the Hawks begged a bet against them and no doubt the mountain of money pouring through the betting halls of Vegas went down on Mohave. So, if you were a betting man and looking to make a bomb, Ringgold was the bet.

The fix might have gone without notice except that the Hawks lost Big Ben on their second series and found themselves turning to Matt Leinart to lead the way. Ringgold was going to need a lot of help to beat the spread.



Ed Hochuli calls his fifth penalty on Mohave lineman, Travelle Wharton. The Hellfire were dinged with 14 penalties, many of them questionable.

I have probably said too much already. But just in case I am not yet registered on the EFL Referee Mafia hit list, I will let Bobby Elder, coach of the Hellfire, make the case for referee "interference" in the eloquent way that only a madder-than-hellfire coach can.

Elder was clearly beyond angry when addressing the Media after the game. In a late 4<sup>th</sup> quarter drive, trailing the Hawks 16-13, his team had taken 3 penalties worth 25 yards over the course of four snaps. This had helped push them back to the edge of Bironas' field goal range at the 34 yard line. The ensuing field goal attempt had been blocked and Mohave would never be in a better position again the rest of the game.

With cheeks almost as red as his maroon pullover, Elder clearly tried to restrain his comments but eventually lost the war against his dark side, "we thought we had prepared as well as we could for Ringgold but clearly we didn't get the memo from the league," Elder pronounced cryptically as reporters stopped their scribbling to look at each other as if to say, 'what memo?'

"I'm talking about the changes to the holding and pre-snap movement rules that were not communicated clearly to us before the game, but were clearly in effect during the game – especially on our second to last drive," Elder intoned with gradually increasing volume. The reporters remained confused but stood and watched because

their instincts told them something newsworthy was about to happen. The following is the verbatim transcript from the unedited video feed, edited for a 14-and-over audience.

"I mean if by 'holding' the league means 'blocking,' and by 'false start,' they mean a pre-snap jump by the *defence*, then we would have taken a different approach entirely – although I don't know what we could have done to prevent the defence from jumping offside to induce a penalty against *us*!" His temples started to throb at this point.

"The refs aren't blind because they could clearly see the hash marks as they paced off those ridiculous penalties against us. So what's going on here? Can somebody tell me what the f&%k is going on?" Silence in the room. "You reporters – what did *you* think of that ridiculous sham out there? I need your help because I cannot explain it and I know the league is going to feed me some pat, dumbed down line that makes no f%\$king sense to anyone except another sh%-eating moron with a smirk on his fat face and ketchup on his tie who can't f^%king get it up any more and compensates by f%\$king hard-working *real* men with a yellow flag up the a#\$ on the football field. If I could challenge it I'd shove my f^%king red flag so far up their fat a#\$es they'd puke it out their f%king noses and beg me to do it again to keep me from wrapping it around a catheter and shoving it up their shrivelled shrink dicks! F^%king G\$d damned mother-f%\$king f\$%ks!"

You could hear a pin drop in the room as the final emphatic syllable bounced off the walls. When Elder asked if there were any further questions, the normally rabid media mob remained awkwardly silent, so fearful were they of possibly getting assaulted. "Good! I hope you save your good questions for that dumbass in charge of officiating!" he shouted and stormed away from the podium.

That "dumbass" in charge of officiating is "Dogsy" Siegel, great nephew of Vegas mobster, Bugsy Siegel. He didn't take kindly to Elder's outburst. He met reporters in front of his Las Vegas office later that day and defended the refs. "Ed Hochuli is one of our top officials," he dead-panned to nervous laughter. "Officiating is a tough job and all of our officials are doing their best to make the right calls regardless of the situation in the game."

When asked about the false start penalty on **Travelle Wharton** where TV footage shows that Ringgold linebacker **Clay Matthews** is clearly offside on the play, Siegel replied that what the video does not show, but what the officials *saw*, was Wharton hissing the words "jump, <expletive deleted>, jump!" an act and "sharp lip movement" which goes against the "spirit" of the rule, and thereby constitutes a false start by definition.

The league has not determined what discipline will be levied against the Mohave coach, but you can bet it will be severe and will probably include a suspension. Was it worth it? After hearing Siegel's defence of the officiating crew it is hard not to sympathize with Elder's frustration, if not his method of expressing it. He was just speaking what many fans, players and coaches already feel – except perhaps the part about what he would do with his challenge flag.

### SO WHO DO THE REFS LOVE?

With so much attention suddenly on the referees, I decided to conduct a quick, unscientific analysis of the overall penalty situation in the league. My geek nephew, Byron, is better equipped to look at this in depth but he is away at a Star Trek convention in Tempe, Arizona. So here is my quick take.

Soft suggestions, escaping from the Pickering camp, of a Florida-bias among officials seems to be borne out by the preliminary numbers. Florida has the second best penalty differential in the league at +14 (meaning opponents have been

flagged 14 more times than Florida). The Dragons have been penalized only 35 times in total, but they are not the least penalized team in the league. Surprisingly, that team is Kutztown, recipients of a league low 30 penalties. Could Pete Katsafanas' loose and downplayed connection to the Scarfo family have any bearing on this number, or is that mere coincidence?

The Spartans have nothing to complain about in the penalty department. While accusing the league of a Florida bias they enjoy the best penalty differential in the league at +15 and have been penalized only 31 times. The teams most sanctioned by the zebras so far this season, at 53 penalties each, are surprisingly, Charleswood and, not so surprisingly, Los Angeles. The team with the worst penalty differential is Cowtown, at -13. Mohave, the most standout recipient of alleged unfair treatment by the officials, has a penalty differential of -8, but up to this week's 14-penalty explosion against Ringgold, had been flagged a relatively low 34 times.

So what does all this mean? Are teams like Pickering (+15), Florida (+14) and York (+10) enjoying success because they are getting favourable treatment from the refs? Or are they inducing more penalties because they are better teams and opponents must cheat to keep pace with them on the field? Are Cowtown (-13) and Iowa City (-10) struggling because they are being persecuted by the refs, or are they incapable of keeping pace without holding and grasping at facemasks? The case for referee bias does not stand up to the extreme examples above. All one has to do is watch the games to know that Pickering and Florida are great teams while Cowtown and Iowa City are not. It is the York (+10) example, or Los Angeles at (-8) that cause eyebrows to questioningly rise. Could it be that **Tom Brady** brings more than just an accurate arm to the Excalibur's arsenal? Is his presence on the field subtly influencing officials to give York the benefit of the doubt in questionable situations? On the other hand, is **Jeff Dohrn's** incendiary sideline manner finally getting on the nerves of referees everywhere? And what did goody two-shoes Charleswood do to get under the ref's skin?

#### **HOW GOOD IS CHRIS JOHNSON?**

He is really good! At the 7 game mark of the season he is on pace to score 29 touchdowns – 27 on the ground and 2 through the air. That would break the thought-to-be unbreakable EFL record set by last year's MVP, **DeAngelo Williams**, who rushed for 26. Johnson is proving more versatile than Williams, who caught only 10 passes all season. Johnson already has 15 catches and would easily be a candidate for more throws if not for the many other options **Brett Favre** has at his fingertips.

#### **WEEK SEVEN ANYTHING BUT MAGNIFICENT**

Apart from the Chino vs. Pickering match-up there was nowhere on EFL Sunday Ticket an epic struggle to be found. Even Virden's second half comeback against Garland was less a case of **Drew Brees** heroics and more a case of **Matt Ryan** hiccups. The Garland quarterback has been bedevilled all season by turnovers and inconsistent play. This week he turned the ball over 3 times in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half, twice on interceptions and once on downs when he was sacked by **Brett Keisel** in his own territory, leading to 17 Virden points. The game was all about Ryan – he made all the great plays and all the worst gaffes.

Florida at Kutztown garnered interest as a conversation piece around 3:45 pm ET when shocked fans everywhere finally noticed that the Golden Bears were deadlocked at 10 with the fearsome Dragons with about 8 minutes to go in the game. Millions outside of Florida and Kutztown turned the dial in the hope of witnessing what would have been a legendary upset just in time to see **DeSean Jackson** returning **Brian Moorman's** punt 25 yards to the Kutztown 34 and, 3 plays later, **Aaron Rodgers** connecting with a wide open **Jericho Cotchery** for a 24-yard TD pass. Oh well! It was not Florida's finest 3½ hours of football (they clearly missed Brandon Marshall), but it may have been **Brandon Meriweather's**. The Dragon's talented young safety made 2 picks, returning one for a TD, and forced a fumble to earn a post-game hug from the usually emotionless **Jim Heaton**.

The rest of the slate was dreadful in one way or the other. After all of the pre-game hype around the sibling rivalry between **Eli** and **Peyton Manning**, it was embarrassing to watch older brother Peyton sitting on younger brother Eli and dangle sticky goobers over his face until he cried out for mom. Mom never showed up and Charleswood beat up Gwinnett 48-14 on the strength of 31 points in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter alone.

Durham toyed with the Cubs in a way that seemed to even sap the will of the always positive **Deron Redding**. The back-breaking moment came after **Mario Williams** had dumped **Philip Rivers** for an 11-yard loss and a fumble on 2nd and goal at the 13. Durham recovered the ball and on 3rd and 24 Rivers hit **Dwayne Bowe** for a 24-yard TD pass to make it 21-0 for the Lizards. **Sam Bradford** looked like a rookie more than ever, passing for only 44 yards.

Markham's dream of 6-10 looks brighter than ever following a 24-3 thrashing of York at the Dawg Pound. Well, not really a *thrashing*....more of a slow squeezing. **Tom Brady** had another three-interception game for York against a bad pass defence and one has to wonder if he is not getting in the bad habit of taking the lesser teams for granted. **Jason Campbell** did not throw a TD pass but completed 75% of his passes and threw for 256 yards to move the chains.

I have suspended my 'Why the Knights Suck' contest until I am sure they really do suck. Two very different 2-5 teams met at Round Table Stadium this week with the 2-5 Knights trouncing 2-5 Cowtown, 40-3. The Corn Kings were beaten up with injuries but there is still no excuse for their inept performance unless the Knights are finally back in stride. So dominant was Los Angeles in every phase of the game that the most notable achievement of the entire contest was the 46-yard field goal by **Olindo Mare** before the end of the first half to break the Blue Shield's shutout.

# BUG THE BOOKIE!

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

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



### JIMMY'S Week EIGHT PICKS

#### **CHARLESWOOD @ FLORIDA (line – DRAGONS by 3)**

Thursday Night Football on the EFL Network debuts in 2010 with a marquis match between two storied EFL franchises. The Pats (6-1) are enjoying a six-game winning streak after dropping the season opener to Mohave. The only team on a hotter run is perfect Florida (7-0). The Dragons have been looking forward to this game for two weeks and almost paid a price in Kutztown for focusing on film of Peyton Manning throwing to Jason Witten and Sidney Rice. The Pats are picking up steam after blasting Gwinnett out of the park in Week Seven, but they come to Dragonmount hobbled by injuries to defensive superstar Ed Reed and nickel corner, Jerraud Powers. Although arguably the class of the PAC conference, the Patriots have not been dominant in any category other than wins. The Dragons, by contrast, edged out Chino and LA for the top rated defence with their performance against the Golden Bears and are tied for 3<sup>rd</sup> in offensive efficiency. Brandon Marshall's hamstring is progressing and he is 'Probable' for this game, but talented tackle Russell Okung is out. This is another test for the Florida win machine but the Dragons have home field, talent, and history on their side in this one. **Pick: FLORIDA**

#### **KUTZTOWN @ GWINNETT (line – GLADIATORS BY 1)**

The Gladiators have been weighting their defensive strategy toward stopping the pass – deploying 5 and 6 defensive backs with regularity and relying on the beefy line to stop the run. This has not worked well and the Glads continue to surrender big yardage every week. They barely have enough healthy corners to field a dime package against the Bears so expect Tony Romo to go airborne often. The Golden Bears are similarly hurting in the secondary with Antoine Winfield out and Tracy Porter 'questionable.' They are also missing Justin Smith and E.J. Henderson. Look for Eli Manning, embarrassed last week in Charleswood, to regain some face with a big passing day against the beaten up Kutztown 'D.' **Pick: GWINNETT**

#### **GARLAND @ MOHAVE (line – HELLFIRE by 7)**

The league has not ruled on Bobby Elder's outburst criticizing the officiating crew in last week's loss to Ringgold. The only thing for certain is that Ed Hochuli's crew will be posted in another country, as far away from the Fiery Depths as possible, in Durham. Elder can whine all he wants about the officials but the real problem with Mohave is their play on the field, which has steadily deteriorated since they opened the season 4-0. Expect them to bounce back with a convincing win at home against jumpy Matt Ryan and Garland's "Thoroughdead" defence. **Pick: MOHAVE**

#### **RINGGOLD @ VIRDEN (line – PICK'EM)**

The Crimson Hawks have not looked good since they rallied from an 8-point deficit with 4 minutes remaining in the game against Gwinnett in Week Two. Yes, they won last week, but they can thank the officials and a struggling Mohave team for it. Ben Roethlisberger is questionable for this game and Coach Molinaro has not

revealed whether Matthew Stafford or Matt Leinart will start if Ben cannot go. Neither one inspires much confidence that Ringgold will pull out of their offensive slump this week. Drew Brees is more than capable of putting points on the board against the Ringgold defence but he will have to do so without Devin Hester and very possibly without Mario Manningham, who is questionable. This is a different game if Ben is back, but only in the point differential, not the bottom line. **Pick: VIRDEN**

### **LOS ANGELES @ DURHAM (line – THUNDER LIZARDS by 7)**

The Knights looked terrifyingly good against Cowtown but when you bell curve the win for difficulty they merely played a solid game. They face a much bigger challenge in a symbolic “must-win” situation this week at Jurassic Park against a team that, like the Knights themselves, appears to be finally waking up. Michael Bush replaces the injured Michael Turner at running back, a slight downgrade, but otherwise the Lizards are healthy. After leading his team to a big win over Chino, Philip Rivers is starting to regain his confidence; something he will need against the league’s best pair of starting cornerbacks and #2 rated defence. Joey Porter and Cedric Benson are out for the Knights but their back-ups are no downgrade. Kurt Warner is eager to build on a dominant performance last week and put together LA’s first winning streak of the season. **Pick: LOS ANGELES**

### **IOWA CITY @ COWTOWN (line – PICK’EM)**

This game is being sponsored by ‘Tidy Bowl’ toilet cleaner and the Cowtown Sleep Disorder Center. The centre is offering free sleep apnea tests for fans who doze off during the game and they expect so much business they have hired and trained 200 students from across the county to work game day at Tillman Field. Both teams are at the bottom of the pack in offence while the Cubs have the edge in defensive efficiency, ranked #11 to Cowtown’s #14 standing. Theoretically this narrow statistical advantage for the Cubs is nullified by the home field advantage for Cowtown, but if I were Joe Flacco or a member of the Corn Kings’ defence, I would prefer playing on the road at the moment. **PICK: IOWA CITY**

### **MARKHAM @ CHINO (line – CONVICTS by 9)**

The North Stars are creeping upward in the offensive rankings from dead last to third-to-last. This is thanks to a re-born Jason Campbell, who has a 3-1 record and a 98.7 QB rating since joining Markham from LA in Week Four. DeAngelo Williams is still injured, but their track record with the former MVP out of the line-up is a surprisingly good 3-1. Jahvid Best and Chad Simpson will be expected to pick up the slack. The North Star’s defence gives up big yardage on the ground and is not very deep in the secondary, but these two facts don’t seem to always matter from week-to-week. Chino has lost two straight after starting the season 5-0. They need a win and they want to punish somebody in the process. In the unfriendly, but familiar confines of The Big House, Donovan McNabb and the “Chain Gang” will move the ball while the “Lockdown Crew” throws Jason Campbell in jail and locks the key. **Pick: CHINO**

### **PICKERING @ YORK (line – SPARTANS by 8)**

How much longer can the Excaliburs maintain the fiction of being a contender? – not much longer, unfortunately – less than a week in fact. This week they host a *real* contender from Pickering and their challenge will be not to win, (because the mere thought is foolhardy) but to stay in the game for one half. If they can do that – and with Tom Brady calling the signals it is very possible – they can count their blessings and indulge in the dream that they will be a contender in the near future. On the other hand, the Spartans have some minor morale problems heading into this game. They have a fortune in offensive talent and not enough plays to satisfy everybody. Contract incentives are driving their victories but are also creating tensions on the team as each member fights for playing time. This should not affect the outcome, but it may affect your fantasy team if you own a lot of Spartans. **Pick: PICKERING**