

2014

Week Three


EFL NEWS
 ELITE FOOTBALL LEAGUE

2014

Week Three

November 2, 2014



SCB	30	TCT	35	CAR	34	ICC	29	CHI	31	GWG	13	PIC	24	YOR	21	AUR	37	SC	28
CHP	28	VIR	34	MOH	31	LAK	24	MVM	21	MAR	27	DTL	27	COW	17	SEB	7	SBE	23

Foletunate!



Nick Foles of the Thunder Lizards dives for the first down marker in 4th quarter action at Jurassic Park, as Pickering's Joe Haden holds on. The play converted 4th & 12, extending a drive that would end with Phil Dawson kicking the game-winning field goal as time expired.

LATEST EFL NEWS INSIDE

- SLUGGISH WIN AT PATS HAVEN
- CUTLER STRIKES AGAIN
- THE BEAST PLOUGHS TILLMAN FIELD
- GORE GASHES EAGLES
- RIVERS FLOODING OVER
- AND MUCH MORE.....

Also in this issue

- SPATS FEATURE, 'THE GUS GUN'
- JIMMY THE GEEK
- THIS WEEK IN EFL HISTORY



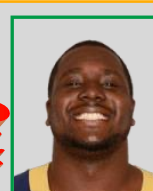
Who was slick
in Week Three?

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



Frank Gore
RB
South Carolina
Regulators

21 Carries, 171 yards, 1 TD. 50-yard run in 4th led to game-winner.



William Hayes
DE
York
Excaliburs

2 Tackles, 2 Sacks, 1 FF. Sack and strip of Flacco sealed the win.



1-2-0

Pickering**24****GAME OF THE WEEK****MVP****Nick Foles****27**

2-1-0

Durham**TEAM LEADERS**

Passing	Cmp	Att	Yds	TD
Manning	21	36	245	3
Rushing	Car	Yds	Avg	TD
Johnson	24	116	4.8	0
Receiving	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD
Thomas	5	72	14.4	2

Team	1	2	3	4	OT	Total
Pickering	3	0	7	14	-	24
Durham	0	21	0	6	-	27

TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Cmp	Att	Yds	TD
Foles	25	39	322	2
Rushing	Car	Yds	Avg	TD
Bush	10	47	4.7	0
Receiving	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD
Johnson	6	103	17.2	1

Play of the Game

Facing 4th and 12 at the Pickering 46, game tied 24-24, Durham gambled. With all his receivers covered, **Nick Foles** scrambled for 12 yards and 1st down to extend the game-winning FG drive.

SUMMARY: The Lizards failed to convert a strong opening drive into points when they were stopped on 4th and 1 at the Pickering 23. The Spartans responded with a FG drive to take an early 3-0 lead. But the Durham offence exploded in the 2nd quarter with **Nick Foles** hitting on two long pass plays – 57 yards to **Antonio Gates** and 52 yards to **Calvin Johnson**, both for TDs – and **Fred Jackson** slipping through the Spartan's line for 7-yard TD run to make it 21-3 at half time. The Spartans got back in the game mid-way in the 3rd when **Chris Johnson** snared a check down pass from **Peyton Manning** and sprinted through the Durham secondary on his way to a 43-yard TD. **Phil Dawson** gave Durham a two-TD lead with a 27-yard FG early in the 4th quarter, but the Spartans' offence came alive with Manning connecting on TD passes of 19 and 18 yards to **DeMarius Thomas** on back-to-back drives to tie the game at 24. Durham got the ball back at their 22 with 2:33 left in the game but almost gave it away when **Toby Gerhart** fumbled and recovered at his own 28. Facing 4th and 12 at the Pickering 46 with 1:05 left, Durham gambled big and Foles came up big, scrambling for 12 yards and a 1st down. Two plays later on 3rd and 12, Foles scrambled again for 19 yards, setting up a 35-yard game-winning FG by Dawson.

QUOTES: "There is always a way around the best defence. Like Ephialtes the slippery Foles found a trail through our bronze wall and drove a spear through our hearts!" – Pickering defensive coordinator, **Leonidis XCVII**.

"Manning was heating up and our secondary was banged up badly, I did not want them to have to take the field again. So that's why I made that crazy-looking call. It worked, thanks to a gutsy run by Nick." – Durham coach, **George Kaldis**.

**HAPPY FAN****titter****ANGRY FAN**

Aristedes @AristedesKalogiannis
The enemy so feared the Mighty Manning that they risked it all with a rogue. The Oracle smiled on such boldness and granted them favour!



Sir Reginald @RMClapham
That chap Foles, an artful fox if I ever saw one! That he should sneak a rabbit past Pickering is bang up according to Cocker.

11-01-2014 Jurassic Park Temp: 86 Wind: Calm None MVP: **Nick Foles**

Scoring Summary

1 3:11 Pickering	FG Scobee 42 (13-52-5:08)	3-0
2 14:20 Durham	TD Foles 57 pass to Gates (Dawson) (1-57-0:18)	3-7
2 4:27 Durham	TD Jackson 7 run (Dawson) (15-87-7:11)	3-14
2 0:36 Durham	TD Foles 52 pass to Johnson (Dawson) (3-71-0:48)	3-21
3 4:08 Pickering	TD Manning 43 pass to Johnson (Janikowski) (11-99-4:51)	10-21
4 14:04 Durham	FG Dawson 27 (12-69-4:56)	10-24
4 10:31 Pickering	TD Manning 19 pass to Thomas (Janikowski) (9-90-3:26)	17-24
4 2:39 Pickering	TD Manning 18 pass to Thomas (Janikowski) (12-58-5:19)	24-24
4 0:00 Durham	FG Dawson 35 (12-61-2:30)	24-27

	PIC	DTL
First Downs	23	24
Rushes	28-137	30-145
Passes	36-21-245	39-25-322
Sacked	1-7	0-0
Fumble	0	2
Penalties	7-73	10-95
Turnovers	0	0
Missed Tackles	5	8
Blitzes	14	30
Time	26:49	33:11
Third Down	7-13	5-15
Fourth Down	1-2	5-5
Red Att/Td/Fg	2/2/0	3/1/1
Net Offense	375	467

Blue 35, Blue 35, hut, hut hut! Red 23, 3, Red 23, 3, hut, hut, hut! Green 49, hut!



SLUGGS

3-0-0

0

6

7

17

0

OT

30

RGIII

14 of 21, 247 yards, 2 TDs



PATRIOTS

1-2-0

7

7

0

14

0

28

Blake Bortles

17 of 24, 294 yards, 2 TDs

The Patriots' defence bent but did not break against the Sluggs' ground game, surrendering just 6 points on 2 FGs, while **Chris Ivory** and **Lamar Miller** found room to run, scoring a TD each to give heavy underdog Charleswood a 14-6 lead at half time. **RGIII** went to the air in the third, hitting **Randall Cobb** for 44 yards then **Rob Gronkowski** for 12 yards and a TD to pull within 1 point. A wild 31-point 4th quarter saw the Pats fall behind 16-13 then regain the lead on a 20-yard TD pass from **Blake Bortles** to **Sammy Watkins**, only to lose it permanently on a Griffin-Gronkowski 55-yard TD pass play.



TRIUMPH

3-0-0

7

7

7

14

0

OT

35

Jay Cutler

25 of 37, 319 yards, 4 TDs



VIOLATORS

0-3-0

7

10

6

11

0

34

Matt Stafford

28 of 41, 425 yards, 2 TDs, 1 INT

Matt Stafford threaded the needle to **Julio Jones** from half a yard out with 0:15 left in the 2nd quarter, giving Virden a 17-14 edge to end a back-and-forth 1st half. The see-saw battle continued in the 2nd half, with **Jay Cutler** connecting for TD passes of 42 and 32 yards to **Vincent Jackson** to erase 3 and 2-point deficits built by 3 **Mason Crosby** FGs. The Violators gained the upper hand with 2:42 left when **Torrey Smith** got behind the Triumph defenders for a 15-yard TD. But Cutler covered 79 yards 51 seconds, throwing the game-winning TD to **Antonio Brown** from 19 yards with 1:43 left.



CANNIBALS

3-0-0

7

17

0

10

0

OT

34

Josh Gordon

10 Catches, 178 yards, 1 TD



HELLFIRE

0-3-0

7

7

0

17

0

31

Andrew Luck

17 of 36, 229 yards, 3 TDs, 1 INT

The arm of **Philip Rivers** set up 3 rushing TDs – 2 by **Eddie Lacy** and 1 by **LaGarrette Blount** – to give Carthage a 24-14 half time lead. A 75-yard kick return by **Cordarrell Patterson** set up a 2nd quarter TD that kept Mohave within striking distance. The Cannibals made it 31-14 on a 9-yard TD pass to **Josh Gordon**, but a 65-yard TD pass from **Andrew Luck** to **Jimmy Graham** and a 51-yard FG brought Mohave within 7. A red zone interception by **Jimmie Ward** led to the tying TD with 3:27 left. But Carthage controlled the ball for 2:54 in driving to a 53-yard game-winning FG by **Stephen Hauschka**.



EFL
ELITE FOOTBALL LEAGUE

QUICK COUNTS!!

Blue 35, Blue 35, hut, hut hut! Red 23, 3, Red 23, 3, hut, hut, hut! Green 49, hut!



CUBS

1-2-0

10

3

10

6

0

29

OT

Russell Wilson
20 of 27, 245 yards, 1 TD, 1 INT



KNIGHTS

0-3-0

7

0

10

7

0

24

Sam Bradford
18 of 29, 234 yards, 1 TD

Ryan Mathews lost two fumbles, leading to a pair of Cubs' FGs that turned out to be the difference. After falling behind 3-0, **Mike Glennon** hit **Brandon LaFell** for an 8-yard TD pass to give the Knights a 7-3 lead, but the Cubs built a 13-7 half time lead on another FG and a 12-yard TD run by **Jeremy Hill**. **Sam Bradford** got LA back in it with a 78-yard completion to LaFell, setting up a TD, then took a 17-16 lead after a **Tavon Austin** fumble set up a FG. But **Russell Wilson** checked down to **Bruce Miller** for a 3-yard TD and **Greg Zuerlein** kicked his 4th and 5th FGs of the day to give the Cubs the edge.



EXCALIBURS

2-1-0

0

14

7

0

0

21

OT

Marshawn Lynch
33 Carries, 162 yards, 1 TD



CORN KINGS

2-1-0

7

7

0

3

0

17

Joe Flacco
20 of 28, 279 yards, 2 TDs

Joe Flacco was hot early with TD strikes of 39 yards to **Jarrett Boykin** and 48 yards to **Larry Fitzgerald**. But the Excaliburs made it a 1st half draw with a 71-yard kick return by **Micah Hyde**, that set up an 11-yard **Giovanni Bernard** TD run, and a 21-yard TD pass from **Tom Brady** to **Zach Ertz**. In the 2nd half, **Marshawn Lynch** wore down the Cowntown line, rushing 10 times for 79 yards on a single drive and scoring the go-ahead TD on a 9-yard pitch. The Kings' defence held after that, giving the offence a chance, but **William Hayes** sacked and stripped Flacco with 1:21 left to seal the win.



GLADIATORS

0-3-0

3

3

0

7

0

13

OT

LeSean McCoy
21 Carries, 84 yards, 1 TD



NORTH STARS

2-1-0

10

7

3

7

0

27

Andre Williams
28 Carries, 130 yards, 2 TDs

Rookie running back **Andre Williams** made the most of his first full time action, scoring on two 1-yard TD runs to lead the North Stars past the Gladiators. Markham got on the board first after **Alex Smith** completed a 46-yard pass to H-back **Jordan Reed** to set up his own 4-yard TD run. The Glads answered with a FG but gave that back after **LeSean McCoy** lost a fumble at his own 15 yard line to set up a **Josh Brown** FG. After 4 straight 3-and-outs by the Glads in the 2nd half, the Stars erased any doubt when **Jordy Nelson** took a hitch 48 yards to set up the second of Williams' TD runs.

Blue 35, Blue 35, hut, hut hut! Red 23, 3, Red 23, 3, hut, hut, hut! Green 49, hut!



CONVICTS

3-0-0

7	14	0	10	0	31
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OT

Cam Newton

21 of 25, 256 yards, 2 TDs



MONARCHS

1-2-0

7	0	7	7	0	21
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Ryan Tannehill

21 of 35, 243 yards, 3 TDs, 2 INTs

DeMarco Murray broke a 62-yard run to the Convicts' 4, setting up the game's first TD and the Monarchs' only lead on a pass to **Mike Williams**. Chino tied it up on a 5-yard run by **Adrian Peterson** then jumped ahead by two majors on an 18-yard TD pass from **Cam Newton** to **Brian Hartline** followed by a 39-yard pick-six by **Alterraun Verner**. The Monarchs held the Convicts at bay in the 3rd and drew within a TD on a 30-yard TD pass from **Ryan Tannehill** to **Logan Paulsen**. But a 35-yard TD pass to **Danny Woodhead** with 10:55 left in the 4th put Chino in the driver's seat the rest of the way.



MUSTANGS

3--0-0

7	17	10	3	0	37
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OT

Anquan Boldin

5 Catches, 148 yards, 3 TDs



SWORDFISH

0-3-0

7	0	0	0	0	7
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Andy Dalton

10 of 28, 73 yards, 1 INT

A three-and-out by the Mustangs to open the game led to a 46-yard punt return by **Dwayne Harris** and a 1-yard TD run by **Andy Dalton** to give Sebastian an early 7-0 lead. That would turn out to be the high point of the game for the home team as the Mustangs went on to score 37 unanswered points. **Anquan Boldin** tied it up with a 17-yard TD catch from **Matt Ryan** then **Nick Folk** put Aurora in front to stay with a 50-yard FG. Boldin caught 2 more TD passes before the half – one from 22 yards and the other from 76 yards out – to put the game out of the reach for the over-matched Fish.



REGULATORS

2-1-0

14	0	7	7	0	28
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OT

Frank Gore

21 Carries, 177 yards, 1 TD



BLUE EAGLES

1-2-0

7	6	7	3	0	23
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Aaron Rodgers

19 of 34, 226 yards, 1 TD, 2 INTs

Frank Gore and the Regs overcame 3 missed FGs by **Justin Tucker** to escape with a win. Gore broke a 56-yard run on the 2nd play from scrimmage to set up his own 11-yard TD catch for a 7-0 lead. The Regs scored again on their next possession to take a 14-7 lead, but stalled as the Eagles slowly closed the gap and took a 20-14 lead in the 3rd on an 8-yard TD scramble by **Aaron Rodgers**. A 43-yard TD pass from **Tony Romo** to **AJ Green** put the Regs back in front, but **Jay Feely** made it 23-21 on a 21-yard FG. Gore broke a 50-yard run with 3:01 left then carried it in from 5 yards for the win.

WEEK THREE

STANDINGS

East	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Twin Cities	3	0	0	1.000	100	33.3	59	19.7	13.7	1 0 0	3 0 0	3 0 0
Carthage	3	0	0	1.000	103	34.3	72	24	10.3	1 0 0	2 0 0	3 0 0
Charleswood	1	2	0	0.333	49	16.3	84	28	-11.7	1 1 0	1 1 0	1 2 0
Mohave	0	3	0	0.000	76	25.3	102	34	-8.7	0 2 0	0 2 0	0 3 0
Virden	0	3	0	0.000	74	24.7	84	28	-3.3	0 1 0	0 3 0	0 3 0
West	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Chino	3	0	0	1.000	94	31.3	75	25	6.3	2 0 0	3 0 0	3 0 0
Santa Clara	3	0	0	1.000	113	37.7	75	25	12.7	1 0 0	2 0 0	3 0 0
Iowa City	1	2	0	0.333	98	32.7	108	36	-3.3	0 1 0	1 2 0	1 2 0
Mission Viejo	1	2	0	0.333	71	23.7	86	28.7	-5	1 1 0	0 2 0	1 2 0
Los Angeles	0	3	0	0.000	64	21.3	97	32.3	-11	0 2 0	0 2 0	0 3 0
North	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Cowtown	2	1	0	0.667	78	26	72	24	2	1 1 0	1 1 0	2 1 0
Durham	2	1	0	0.667	73	24.3	51	17	7.3	1 0 0	2 1 0	2 1 0
Markham	2	1	0	0.667	53	17.7	45	15	2.7	2 0 0	1 1 0	2 1 0
York	2	1	0	0.667	69	23	74	24.7	-1.7	0 1 0	1 1 0	2 1 0
Pickering	1	2	0	0.333	69	23	68	22.7	0.3	1 0 0	1 2 0	1 2 0
South	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Aurora	3	0	0	1.000	121	40.3	41	13.7	26.7	1 0 0	3 0 0	3 0 0
South Carolina	2	1	0	0.667	82	27.3	90	30	-2.7	1 1 0	2 1 0	2 1 0
Scarborough	1	2	0	0.333	76	25.3	71	23.7	1.7	0 2 0	1 1 0	1 2 0
Gwinnett	0	3	0	0.000	37	12.3	94	31.3	-19	0 1 0	0 2 0	0 3 0
Sebastian	0	3	0	0.000	53	17.7	105	35	-17.3	0 2 0	0 2 0	0 3 0

PASSING

#	Player	Team	Att	Cmp	C%	Yards	In	I%	Lg	TD	TD%	Rate
1	Griffin II	SCB	71	49	69	801	0	0	65	6	8.5	134.8
2	Cutler	TCT	104	69	66.3	822	2	1.9	42	12	11.5	120.8
3	Wilson, R	ICC	79	55	69.6	750	2	2.5	45	6	7.6	114.4
4	Brees	DTL	59	46	78	514	0	0	45	2	3.4	114.3
5	Bradford	LAK	52	31	59.6	447	0	0	78	3	5.8	106.8
6	Ryan, M	AUR	93	59	63.4	708	2	2.2	76	8	8.6	106.4
7	Newton, C	CHI	93	68	73.1	730	3	3.2	36	6	6.5	103.8
8	Brady	YOR	58	34	58.6	405	0	0	55	4	6.9	103
9	Flacco	COW	94	61	64.9	786	3	3.2	48	7	7.4	102.5
10	Rivers, P	CAR	113	78	69	1141	4	3.5	75	5	4.4	101.7
11	Bortles	CHP	74	47	63.5	666	2	2.7	71	4	5.4	99.3
12	Stafford, M	VV	122	72	59	1112	1	0.8	65	4	3.3	96.8
13	Manning, P	PIC	115	70	60.9	781	3	2.6	43	8	7	93.4
14	Tannehill	MVM	83	52	62.7	595	3	3.6	47	6	7.2	93.2
15	Smith, A	MAR	69	45	65.2	503	0	0	48	1	1.4	91.6

RUSHING

RECEIVING

#	Player	Team	Att	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD
1	Spiller	ICC	44	372	8.5	55	2
2	Moreno	SCB	75	365	4.9	24	6
3	Lynch, M	YOR	64	313	4.9	45	3
4	McCoy, L	GWG	70	286	4.1	35	2
5	Murray	MVM	54	286	5.3	62	1
6	Johnson, C	PIC	63	284	4.5	18	0
7	Gore	SC	47	266	5.7	56	1
8	Morris, A	COW	57	264	4.6	21	1
9	Lacy	CAR	68	236	3.5	13	6
10	Mathews, R	LAK	61	235	3.9	19	1
11	Rice, R	SBE	42	219	5.2	54	0
12	Peterson, A	CHI	53	214	4	15	3
13	Charles, J	VV	42	194	4.6	15	1
14	Jackson, F	DTL	45	191	4.2	15	2
15	Tate, B	VV	24	190	7.9	41	2
16	Williams, A	MAR	39	155	4	24	2
17	Miller, L	CHP	26	148	5.7	49	1
18	Newton, C	CHI	18	144	8	25	1
19	Forte	AUR	52	142	2.7	12	1
20	Ball, M	MOH	32	139	4.3	21	1

#	Player	Team	No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD
1	Jones,J	VV	26	511	19.7	65	3
2	Brown,A	TCT	25	300	12	33	4
3	Green,A	SC	24	310	12.9	43	3
4	Gordon,J	CAR	23	493	21.4	75	2
5	Watkins,S	CHP	20	317	15.9	71	2
6	Garcon	PIC	20	218	10.9	19	3
7	Woodhead	CHI	19	218	11.5	35	3
8	Jackson,D	SBE	19	255	13.4	49	1
9	Bryant,D	VV	18	290	16.1	30	0
10	Graham,J	MOH	18	252	14	65	2
11	Forte	AUR	18	97	5.4	15	0
12	McCoy,L	GWG	17	107	6.3	12	0
13	Thomas,D	PIC	17	253	14.9	41	3
14	Hilton	DTL	16	164	10.3	19	0
15	Wright,K	TCT	16	155	9.7	14	3
16	Wayne	GWG	16	227	14.2	46	1
17	Olsen	CHI	16	177	11.1	36	2
18	Hartline	CHI	15	164	10.9	27	1
19	Jackson,V	TCT	15	302	20.1	42	5
20	Colston	MAR	15	158	10.5	23	0

KICKING

#	Player	Team	FGA	FGM	FG%	40	50	Lg	Pts
1	Folk	AUR	10	10	100	7	4	55	43
2	Feely	SBE	11	9	81.8	3	0	49	34
3	Zuerlein	ICC	8	7	87.5	3	1	51	32
4	Crosby	VV	9	8	88.9	2	1	54	30
5	Henery	SCB	6	5	83.3	1	0	43	29
6	Prater	MOH	7	7	100	3	2	56	28
7	Bailey,D	CHI	7	6	85.7	2	0	49	28
8	Hauschka	CAR	6	4	66.7	3	1	53	25
9	Dawson	DTL	6	6	100	2	1	57	25
10	Brown,J	MAR	6	6	100	1	0	44	23
11	Carpenter	MVM	7	5	71.4	1	0	44	23
12	Gostkowski	TCT	3	3	100	2	0	49	22
13	Tucker,J	SC	9	4	44.4	1	0	40	22
14	Novak	COW	4	4	100	1	0	44	20
15	Vinatieri	SS	5	4	80	1	0	48	17
16	Lindell	LAK	4	3	75	1	0	49	16
17	Walsh	YOR	3	2	66.7	1	0	45	15
18	Suisham	GWG	3	3	100	0	0	37	13
19	Janikowski	PIC	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
20	Bironas	CHP	1	0	0	0	0	0	7

Welcome to the
BLOGOSPHERE
WHERE FANS SPEAK

 **Blogger**

<http://bluengold.com>

UNSUNG HERO

BY SHIRAZ MOHAMMAD (CONTRIBUTOR) ON NOVEMBER 2, 2014



Early in the pre-season the talk around Triumph training camp centered on the defence, running back Doug Martin, the development of tackle Louis Vasquez, and the drafting of Texas A&M star Johnny Manziel at no. 12 overall. Jay Cutler was there, but that was all, just there. The golden armed Vanderbilt prodigy was no longer part of the franchise quarterback discussion; that was why owner and GM Guy Williams

had drafted Manziel. People understood that Cutler was in the plan only for as long as it took Manziel to get his head up to EFL game speed. Everyone knew Cutler was very talented, but flawed, prone to tantrums and not overly likeable.

But then something unexpected started happening. Cutler started making all the throws, all the time, both in training camp and in pre-season games. His targets, Antonio Brown, Kendall Wright and Pierre Garcon, were all getting open and Cutler was finding them. When Garcon was traded to Pickering for Vincent Jackson, the former Spartan got open too and Cutler was finding him as well, but further down field for even bigger plays. Cutler started smiling, as did everybody who was watching him and his offence blow through opponents in the pre-season.

The local buzz heading into the regular season was that the Triumph passing game was going to turn some heads around the league. The national media started picking up on it as well, but never led a story with it, keeping our hidden gem hidden a little longer. Well, three games into the season, the potent Triumph passing game is no longer a secret. Cutler has 12 TD passes already, 4 more than the guy in second place. His three wide receivers are in the top 20 league-wide, with Brown ranked second with 25 catches and 4 TDs. Brown is on pace for a 133-catch season and has made it look so easy that nobody thinks he can't do it.

Now the pressure is on. With Martin injured, the running game is in shambles and teams will be gearing up to stop the pass. If Cutler can somehow get it done anyway, he will turn from an unsung, unloved hero into a beloved beacon. Winning can sure turn around an image.



AROUND THE



With Spats McChad

NEW YORK – My life may be in grave danger, yet here I sit, writing away for your reading pleasure, not oblivious of the danger, but defiant. It will take more than a perfumed letter signed in blood, with repulsive flecks of a whitish semi-solid discharge adhered to the linen-like paper and bearing the septic seal of the infamous *League of the Red Pimple*, to deflect me from my purpose: which is to bring you Truth in Football.

It seems that King Chris' televised command for his "guards" to "seize" me at the conclusion of his team's 37-20 victory over Mohave last week was an actual order directed to the circle of wicked extremists who would see the owner of the Monarchs actually installed, for real, on the throne of Portugal. Its leader, the notorious **Red Pimple** himself (or herself – for the true identity of this base rogue is a closely guarded secret) was mobilized as a result of Ferraro's public blustering; and now I am a hunted man.

'To flee is futile, McChad. Submit to your fate and I will be merciful in my vengeance. In the name of King Christopher de Ferraro,' The Red Pimple,' the letter read.

Those of you who have been diligently reading my column over the years will be familiar with some of the history behind King Chris and his claim to the Portuguese throne. For those who are not, the claim is no publicity stunt aimed at drumming up business in real estate; it is a real claim, backed by obscure documentation purported to constitute part of the "hidden history" of Portugal. Not that many Americans care about the Portuguese throne (or the Portuguese for that matter) but, historically speaking, the legitimacy of that throne would be of great importance. The Portuguese Empire was the first global European empire in history; and that fact is all the more impressive when one considers that it sprang from an impoverished hard scrabble coastal backwater populated by oppressed sardine-eating peasants.

So, if Mad King Chris were actually the legitimate monarch of Portugal, there could be a lot of money in it for him. Maybe he's not so "mad" after all....

THE GUS GUN

The volatile owner and head coach of the Pickering Spartans, **Gus Konstantakos**, is feeling the heat after his carefully assembled powerhouse dropped an important divisional contest against arch-rival Durham 27-24 at Jurassic Park this week to fall to 1-2; and when Gus feels the heat so do those around him.

Returning to Jurassic Park for the first time since he led the infamous One Man Riot of 2013 following a 23-20 loss to the Thunder Lizards, 'King Kon,' as Konstantakos is now known in Durham, came prepared to do anything in his power to avoid a repeat of that shameful incident and the inevitable long incarceration that would likely follow if he even tried. He hired a yoga instructor, not to teach him to actually execute yoga positions, but to talk to him in meditative tones about the positions and how to imagine their benefits. He hired a personal chef to discuss proper nutrition over lunch on the run between practices and games. He hired a Life Coach to help him to cope in a world where the influence of Greece was everywhere but the government of Greece was bankrupt. But just in case none of that worked, he hired an emergency response team to, in Gus' own words, "take me down hard if I lose it."

A win for Pickering and there would be no problem; but a loss, especially one that involved a critical error or a bad call, could easily put everyone at risk, none more so than Coach Konstantakos himself, who reportedly had been diagnosed after the One Man Riot with what doctors referred to as "Uncommonly Super High Blood Pressure" – a condition with an average systolic/diastolic pressure reading of 260/150 that would cause death in an average human being. In King Kon all that did was create a tremendous headache that caused him to lash out violently at everything in his path.

A 21-point explosion by Durham in the second quarter came dangerously close to triggering an outburst, but with half a game left to play and soothing words of "never surrender" being cooed into his ears by Delphic Handmaidens imported from Mount Parnassus, Coach Gus was able to compose himself and retire to the locker to strategize a comeback.

Examining the aerial photos carefully, Gus saw that the vaunted Durham secondary was living up to its reputation and taking his wide receivers out of the game. What was his solution? He decided to throw to somebody else and injure the Durham secondary. In both goals he was successful. **Peyton Manning** hooked up with running back **Chris Johnson** on a deep slant pattern for a 43-yard TD pass, an unpractised and unheard of play for the running back, to make it 21-10. Then, after

With 1:05 left in a tie game and the Lizards near mid-field at the Pickering 46, Durham coach, **George Kaldis** – a “never surrender” Greek of the more subdued variety – showed his own Hellenic spirit and



Pickering owner **Gus Konstantakos** looks on in horror as Durham's **Nick Foles** scrambles his way through the Spartans' secondary on his way to a 1st down, converting 4th and 12. Moments after this photo was taken, members of the Spartans' emergency response team kicked into action to prevent a potentially dangerous fit.

It was the first deployment of the ‘Gus Gun’ since development of the Spartans’ emergency “fit protocol” and, with the exception of a few moments of crowd and player panic in the wake of the gun’s report, achieved its purpose effectively and

efficiently according to Konstantakos' doctor, **Kristos Hippocrates**.

"The patient is doing well," Hippocrates said in an address to the press after the game. "Of course, he would be doing better if the Spartans had won the game. For this reason we are keeping him sedated and under observation for 24 hours to ensure a full recovery. Obviously, Coach Konstantakos will be unavailable for questions today."

AROUND THE EFL

With my life threatened and my enemies apparently lurking everywhere around me, I must change my location before they close in. That means I have less time to do justice to an exciting Week Three in the EFL, but here are my takeaways from each game:

As if protected by the spirit of a powerful and benevolent Football Saint, Patriot Place seems to be a safe haven for this team of tenderfoots led by head neophyte **Blake Bortles**. The fearsome Banana Sluggs (I love writing that!) were stood up through the first two quarters by a determined Pats' defence while, on the offensive side, Bortles stood up well against the blitz and just ran out of time trying to engineer another crazy comeback against a top team, falling by the narrow score of 30-28.

At **TERRORDOME**, the terrifying Triumph offence struck with precision at a distance as **Jay Cutler** added four more TD passes to his league-leading total of 12, three of them coming from 30 yards or more away, to knock off the Violators 35-34. While Cutler sniped, **Matt Stafford** took the shotgun approach, throwing for 425 yards but hitting the end zone only twice. Virden accumulated almost 600 yards of offence but still managed to come up short on the scoreboard. The only turnover of the game, an interception by Triumph safety **Josh Wilson**, ended up costing Virden the lead when Cutler capitalized with 42-yard TD pass to **Vincent Jackson**. With 12 TD passes already, Cutler is on pace for 64 which would likely put him in permanent second place behind the supernaturally-assisted all-time record of 73 set by **Drew Brees** the year he sold his soul to the Devil.

At the Fiery Depths, the Cannibals and Hellfire battled in relatively cool 96-degree temperatures. **Stephen Hauschka** lifted the Cannibals to their third straight victory with a 53-yard field goal with 27 seconds remaining to top Mohave 34-31. **Philip Rivers** turned in his second 400+ yard performance through the air, adding 416 yards to his league-leading total of 1141. As impressive as Rivers has looked to this point, it is hard to imagine that he would be having such success without wide receiver **Josh Gordon** as a target. The free agent signing is averaging 21.4 yards a catch on 23 catches, accounting for over 40% of the team's passing yards.

Sagging attendance for Knights' games continued despite the hated Cubs being in town this week. The realization that **Jeff Dohrn** has no plan at quarterback, apart from crossing his fingers and hoping for the best, combined with the short attention span of *Los Angelenos* in general, and Hollywood in particular, has led to a steady decline at the gate since the mid-point of last season. Marketing the team as 'Champions in Defeat' sounds noble, knightly even, but the "defeat" part has West Coast fans bummed out, man. All the same, for those of us on the outside the Knights never cease to amaze with their effort against the odds. In this week's loss, 29-24 to the Cubs, the offence actually moved the ball when it mattered and scored 24 points to put a scare into a blasé **Deron Redding**, who stated after the game, "that was not the team we saw on film." That was probably true for Redding himself, who apparently has not been watching much film these days. Reportedly he has been focusing on promoting his new self help book, 'Laughing at the Devil' and redecorating his Iowa ranch while **Rodney Alberhasky Jr.** runs the team.

Former Corn King defensive lineman **William Hayes** forced his old team to remember him in York's 21-17 besting of Cowtown at Tillman Field. Hayes started and ended the 2nd half with sacks of **Joe Flacco**, stripping him of the ball on the last one to snuff out a potential Cowtown comeback. Hayes was the defensive standout but the game's MVP was **Marhsawn Lynch**, who ploughed through Tillman Field like an ox, rushing the ball 33 times for 162 yards, 1 touchdown, and 9 first downs.

At His Majesty the King's Royal Coliseum in Mission Viejo, the ascendant Monarchs were checked by the Convicts 31-21, ending a one-game winning streak that had inspired an outburst of bilious megalomania from would-be King **Chris Ferraro**. It was back-to-reality time for all but the most delusional Monarchs' fan as they watched **Cam Man** rampage through their castle nearly unopposed. The head Convict completed 21 of 26 passes for 256 yards, 2 touchdowns and added 38 yards rushing, mostly thwarting the pass rush which had drawn such run-off-the-mouth praise from the Monarchs' owner. But one young Monarch defender looked more ready than others to stop Chino's leader. It may be time for somebody to start talking about rookie linebacker **Khalil Mack** as a possible future candidate for defensive rookie of the year. Overshadowed by **Jadeveon Clowney** in the draft, Mack has 3 sacks in 3 games and is displaying above-average coverage skills at the right outside linebacker position. Maybe that somebody carrying the torch for Mack will have to be me.

At Bluff's Stadium, a flustered **Chris Dickinson**, security guards in tow, oversaw another 4th quarter loss at home. The Regs' **Frank Gore** broke a 50-yard run to the Blue Eagles' 10 then rammed it home two plays later from 5 yards out to give the visitors a 28-23 lead with 2:11 remaining. For the second week in a row, **Aaron Rodgers** was unable to lead a comeback. But this time it was an opposing player that buried home town hopes, not the coach's call. **Tamba Hali** ran amok on the final drive, sacking Rodgers twice back-to-back to set up a 4th and 21 that they failed to convert with a questionable check down to **Jermaine Gresham**. It wasn't "Dickie's" fault this time, but the fans booed him anyway. The home field is no advantage in Scarborough.

Finally, we end an exhilarating week with the football equivalent of a snuff film. At the Fish Tank, the Swordfish drew first blood when **Andy Dalton** snuck across the goal line to finish off what a 48-yard punt return by **Dwayne Harris** started. But all that did was make the Mustangs angry. **Matt Ryan** threw three touchdown passes to **Anquan Boldin** while the defence smothered Dalton and blanketed his receivers, shutting down Sebastian the rest of the way and posting 37 unanswered points in a 37-7 rout.

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JIMMY'S WEEK FOUR PICKS

CHARLESWOOD @ CARTHAGE (line – CANNIBALS by 15)

INJURIES: Charleswood – Michael Crabtree (OUT), Anthony Spencer (OUT), Kellen Winslow (OUT); Carthage – Danny Amendola (OUT).

The Patriots venture out from their safe haven in Charleswood to engage the odds-on favourite to replace them as East Division champs. It is too early to say for certain that the Pats are significantly worse when away from Patriot Place, but having somewhat miraculously pushed the Banana Sluggs to the wall last week at home after failing to score in Minnesota the week before, it is an attractive theory. Blake Bortles asking the Twin Cities crowd for silence in Week Two caused a few on-air chuckles from commentators around the league. Bortles still has a lot to learn and think about on the field. Distractions, such as the 'Tagat'ai Mulumi Tagatulu' ("Man-Eating Wild Crazy Man," or 'Mulu' for short), the terrifying Cannibals' mascot, who bangs a skin drum with a mock severed human leg, might be enough to throw him off if the trance-inducing chants of the Carthage crowd do not. As much as I suspect the Pats will be totally out of their comfort zone here, the line is still high. All it would take to screw it up would be another Sammy Watkins special or for the Cannibals to get comfortable early and run out the clock. **PICK: CHARLESWOOD**

MOHAVE @ VIRDEN (line – VIOLATORS by 9)

INJURIES: Mohave – Robert Woods (DOUBTFUL); Virden – Justin Blackmon (OUT), Julio Jones (OUT), Aldon Smith (OUT).

It is not too dramatic to say that the fate of one of these teams will likely be decided in this game; the loser falls to 0-4 and prospects for a full recovery from a winless first quarter are typically rare. The question of how the Violators have stayed winless has not been definitively answered, but at 20.9 yards-per-point scored (Yds/Pt) they are the least efficient offence in the league by far. Red zone inefficiency is at the root of Virden's inability to light up the scoreboard in spite of a league-leading 1550 yards; at 68.8% they are ahead of just the Cubs. In addition, the defence has failed to perform to expectations, making the offensive inefficiency even more costly. The Hellfire have not been horrible in any of their three losses, but they have not lived up to the pre-season billing of a Mohave media desperate for a return to contention after too many years of irrelevance. Fans are expecting a lot from Andrew Luck, but there is not much he can do when his defence is surrendering an average of 329 passing yards per game, worst in the league. The raw numbers point to a Virden victory here, but the hapless Violators are finding clever ways to lose. In any event, the Hellfire will not go down quietly with their season also on the line. **PICK: MOHAVE**

IOWA CITY @ TWIN CITIES (line – TRIUMPH by 9)

INJURIES: Iowa City – None; Twin Cities – Lance Kendricks (OUT), Doug Martin (OUT), Henry Melton (OUT).

The Cubs got in the win column last week by shaking off a spirited Knights squad that doesn't play as bad as they are when facing the Cubs. Nevertheless, the Knights are bad enough that the fact they posted 24 non-garbage time points in defeat is a worrying sign that the Cubs' defence may not be that good after all. If they are as bad as the stats are indicating, it will not be a pleasant visit to Twin Cities. The Triumph are averaging 33 points per game, all by the offence, with all but one of their 13 touchdowns coming through the air. The Cubs' secondary is proving itself incapable of stopping any passing threat, let alone one of elite pedigree. The Cubs' only rational hope is that their offence can continue to set the league standard for efficiency and score, score, score. The Twin Cities defence surrendered 589 yards to Virden last week, which is a sign that they are missing much more than a healthy Henry Melton. This one will be a barn-burner with the Air Cutler carrying the home team to a narrow victory. **PICK: IOWA CITY**

CHINO @ SANTA CLARA (line – BANANA SLUGGS by 2)

INJURIES: Chino – John Conner (OUT), Roddy White (OUT); Santa Clara – Jairus Byrd (OUT).

The Banana Sluggs are looking vulnerable after being caught napping at Patriot Place last week. A lot of money was lost on them because they failed to live up to hysterical hype and because the Pats refused to live down to low expectations. Although veteran bettors know to be cautious not to take everything at face value, the pragmatic reality that you cannot ignore a team's track record means we are all prone to being ambushed by freakish outcomes. With 3-0 Chino visiting Santa Clara, however, it is time to take out the slide rule and carefully evaluate the talent. The Sluggs remain the dominant team, despite narrowly avoiding embarrassment last week, but the Convicts have the veteran skill players on offence to defeat the aggressive blitz schemes of Major Gerow; if Blake Bortles can find the vacated spots, so too can Cam Newton. The Sluggs should be able to run over the Chino defence, but they might not get a free pass through the air with Alterraun Verner challenging Andre Johnson. It will come down to coaching. Will the wiley Rob Nazar sneak a trick or two past the rookie coach at the right moment to turn the balance? Possibly, but the spread is too thin to avoid siding with the talent. **PICK: SANTA CLARA**

LOS ANGELES @ MISSION VIEJO (line – MONARCHS by 11)

INJURIES: Los Angeles– Le'Veon Bell (QUESTIONABLE), Andre Brown (OUT), Mike Brown (OUT), Cortland Finnegan (OUT), Shonn Greene (OUT), Spencer Larsen (OUT); Mission Viejo – Brandon Browner (OUT), Jarret Johnson (OUT), David Nelson (OUT).

This may be the first time ever that the Monarchs are favoured by double digits. As shocking as that first appears, they have improved enough to be the clear favourite at home against a Knights team stuck in rebuilding mode for the foreseeable future. The Monarchs are rebuilding also, but are farther along the path and boast some playmakers on defence that will make life difficult for tweedle-dee and tweedle-dum at quarterback. If you are in a survivor pool, the Monarchs are as good a bet as any to win the game, but the 11-point spread makes me nervous. The Knights stubbornly refuse to bend over for anybody and will view this game as an opportunity to crack the goose egg in the win column. Expect full engagement from them and do not expect the Monarchs' offence to roll at will over what is, talent-wise, a respectable Knights defence. **PICK: LOS ANGELES**

MARKHAM @ YORK (line – EXCALIBURS by 10)

INJURIES: Markham– Michael Griffin (PROBABLE); York – Geno Atkins (OUT), Von Miller (OUT).

The North Stars are proving to be tougher than expected on defence. They are especially adept at stopping the run, which they must be able to do here without loading up the box in order to stand a chance. Marshawn Lynch stole the show at Tillman Field last week, grinding the Corn Kings' defence into the ground and making life easy for Tom Brady. Take "Beast Mode" away, or limit him, and the lack of targets in the York passing arsenal will slow down their attack to a Markham-like pace. Alex Smith has played error-free football so far, allowing Darrin Jones to get the most out of his limited offence. But the Markham offensive line might be the worst in the league, making it only a matter of time before problems develop. Junior Galette is reportedly salivating at the opportunity for a breakout sack performance for his new team. I like the Excaliburs to win, but like so many other games this week, the spread seems overinflated. Jones will find a way to make this close. **PICK: MARKHAM**

COWTOWN @ DURHAM (line – THUNDER LIZARDS by 6)

INJURIES: Cowtown – Ryan Clady (OUT), Brett Keisel (OUT), Terrence Newman (OUT), Cecil Shorts III (OUT); Durham – Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie (PROBABLE), Elvis Dumervil (OUT), Tyrann Mathieu (OUT), Devin McCourty (OUT).

Durham is coming off a huge victory over Pickering but at the price of its secondary. One of the best groups of back defenders in the league lacks depth and that weakness could be telling this week. Sherrick McManis, a former Corn King, has been signed off the practice squad just to ensure that there is a cornerback to play opposite Richard Sherman. Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie is listed as 'probable' but not certain. If he plays, the situation returns to manageable for Durham. But if not, the unpredictable Joe Flacco could have a big day against the vaunted Durham pass defence. The Lizards are favoured here more for what Vegas perceives they are capable of doing than what they have done to this point, but the spread stays out of double digits because of the injuries and the Corn Kings' surprisingly strong start to the season. Alongside this is a brewing quarterback controversy after Drew Brees voiced his displeasure at being sat down against Pickering. If Brees gets the start, he will be out to prove something; if not, the pressure will be on Nick Foles to deliver again. **PICK: DURHAM**

AURORA @ PICKERING (line – MUSTANGS by 7)

INJURIES: Aurora – None; Pickering – Jordan Cameron (OUT), Charles Tillman (OUT).

The Spartans can already see the Division slipping away from them after just three weeks; a 1-3 first quarter start to the season, unthinkable 3 weeks ago, is looking possible, if not probable now. Seemingly, they could not be running into the Mustangs at a worse time. Aurora has been dominant in almost every facet of the game. While some of this has been due to weak opposition, they are still shockingly good, averaging over 3 takeaways per game and holding opposing quarterbacks to a combined 47.3 passer rating. Peyton Manning has not been having his way with Can-Am Conference defences, although his numbers are respectable. It is hard to imagine that he will dominate versus Aurora, but anything is possible. The Mustangs' weakness has been a running game that has averaged a dismal 2.5 yards per carry. This has not played a negative role so far, due to the dominance of the defence and a strong start by Matt Ryan, but it could be telling here if the defence cannot contain Manning. Pickering sees this as a must-win. Expect them to make a strong challenge and possibly hand Aurora its first loss. **PICK: PICKERING**

SOUTH CAROLINA @ GWINNETT (line – REGULATORS by 8)

INJURIES: South Carolina – Rob Housler (OUT); Gwinnett – Maurkice Pouncey (OUT), Joseph Randle (OUT), Reggie Wayne (OUT), Bjoern Werner (OUT).

Just how bad are the Gladiators? It is tough to imagine them so bad that being an 8-point underdog at home to South Carolina makes sense, but Vegas and the betting public seem to think so. A look at the numbers bears out the gloomy picture for Gwinnett. They have managed to hold their own against the run, but opposing quarterbacks are frighteningly efficient, passing for a collective 130 QB rating against them. Their offence is going nowhere, despite Big Ben, LeSean McCoy, and arguably the best left tackle in football on the line. With Reggie Wayne banged up, there is nobody for Ben to throw to and with no threat through the air, McCoy is a sitting duck. The Regulators have all the tools to dismantle the Glads' defence and enough on the back side to keep a hobbled Big Ben at Bay. **PICK: SOUTH CAROLINA**

SEBASTIAN @ SCARBOROUGH (line – BLUE EAGLES by 12)

INJURIES: Sebastian – None; Scarborough – None.

I almost fell off my chair when I saw the original line for this game. So, apparently, did many others, as it has fallen steadily since, dropping 5 points in five days. Much as I love to poke fun at Sebastian, I like to poke fun at Scarborough even more. The Eagles, although capable of laying a beating on the Fish, cannot be relied on to do so since they are as unpredictable as skunks and just as capable of stinking up a stadium. Factor in that the Swordfish are not as bad as their 0-3 record and I see the makings of some easy money here – if you live in a country or State where gambling is permitted. Don't expect many fireworks – the Swordfish won't score much, but they are capable of slowing down Aaron Rodgers. **PICK: SEBASTIAN**



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With Professor Sterling Smitherman

FROM THE EFL ARCHIVES – Opening day of the 2008 EFL season was an exciting one for the team's new franchises and the league office, in spite of the troubles involved in getting expansion off the ground. The North Stars of Markham took the misty field in Death Valley in their high school grade uniforms and played slightly better than a high school team in falling convincingly to the Undertakers (v. 1) by a score of 33-20. In the other expansion tilt, the Winnemucca Outlaws struggled to a 10-3 victory over the Colorado Thundersnow, breaking a 3-3 tie

late in the 4th quarter when **Byron Leftwich** connected with **Laveranues Coles** for a 20-yard TD pass. We will not discuss the Outlaws much in future columns. This sorry game would end up being the high point of their season as they would go on to lose 15 straight games to finish the year.

The game of the week saw the Florida Dragons turn away rival Gwinnett Gladiators 28-22 with a strong 4th quarter performance that culminated with a 15-play, 80-yard game-winning TD drive. **Tom Brady** found **TJ Houshmandzadeh** with 0:33 remaining to finish the comeback.

In other notable games, **Jeff Garcia's** 280 passing yards and 3 TD passes led the Cubs past Chino 37-24 while the Patriots built a 20-0 half time lead and coasted the rest of the way to knock off Durham 20-13.

The LA Knights' **Shawne Merriman** sacked **Drew Brees** 3 times and forced one of 7 Buccaneers' turnovers as LA stomped on Anchorage 41-17 in the week's only blowout.

It was a brutal opening week for injuries. Cowtown and Winnemucca were hit hardest, losing 4 starters each and teams introduced the word "shaken" to describe multi-game injuries, leading the league to change the injury reporting rules.