

# 2015

## Week Nine



# EFL NEWS

ELITE FOOTBALL LEAGUE

# 2015

## Week Nine

December 7, 2015



CAR	21	TCT	32	VIR	14	MOH	20	CHP	21	BCR	38	YOR	24	ICC	17	MVM	27	LAK	26
GWG	34	SEB	29	SBE	20	AUR	30	MAR	16	PICK	33	CHI	32	DTL	36	COW	24	SC	24



### LATEST EFL NEWS INSIDE

- PATRIOTS HOLD ON FOR WIN #9
- TRIUMPH LAND SLIPPERY FISH
- SLEEP COACHING
- MUSTANGS GALLOP THROUGH WALL OF FLAME
- AND MORE.....

#### Also in this issue

- SPATS FEATURE, 'MANNING VS MANNING,' 'SOUTHERN DISCOMFORT,' 'MACK & CHEESE,' & 'EFL ROUND-UP.'
- JIMMY THE GEEK
- THIS WEEK IN EFL HISTORY – WEEK NINE OF 2009

Patriot lineman, *CJ Mosley* hauls down North Stars' back-up quarterback *Alex Smith* for a 5-yard loss in 4<sup>th</sup> quarter action in Markham. The play thwarted a 1<sup>st</sup> and goal inside the Charleswood 1-yard line and led to a stymied Markham comeback attempt in a narrow 21-16 Charleswood victory. (*Story Inside....*)



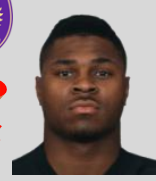
*Who was slick in Week Nine?*

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



**Tre Mason**  
RB  
Twin Cities Triumph

28 Carries, 183 yards, 2 TDs. Tore up ground in road win over Fish.



**Khalil Mack**  
OLB  
Mission Viejo Monarchs

8Tackles, 3 Sacks 1 PD. Three sacks to stop Cowtown drives.



9-0-0

Charleswood

21

MVP  
Peyton Manning

16



3-6-0

Markham

EFL ELITE FOOTBALL LEAGUE  
GAME OF THE WEEK

TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Cmp	Att	Yds	TD
Manning	19	25	187	3
Rushing	Car	Yds	Avg	TD
Johnson	15	80	5.3	0
Receiving	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD
A.Johnson	6	57	9.5	1

Team

Team	1	2	3	4	OT	Total
Charleswood	7	7	7	0	-	21
Markham	0	10	3	3	-	16

TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Cmp	Att	Yds	TD
Manning	19	25	267	1
Rushing	Car	Yds	Avg	TD
Ellington	21	73	3.5	0
Receiving	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD
Ellington	7	111	15.9	1

**Play of the Game**  
With 0:16 left in the game, the ball on the Patriots' goal line, and needing a TD to win, **Alex Smith** audibled a play action pass. As he turned he was blind-sided by **CJ Mosley** for a 5-yard loss.

**SUMMARY:** The 6<sup>th</sup> Battle of the Manning Brothers began well for Peyton and his Patriots. **Duke Johnson** burst free for 26 yards on a check down pass from Peyton to set up a 12-yard TD pass to **Dez Bryant**. Eli's Stars went three-and-out then the Pats drove 74 yards, with Johnson rushing for 50 yards and snaring a 4-yard TD pass to put them up 14-0. Not to be outshone, Stars running back **Andre Ellington** rushed for 34 yards and scored on a 38-yard screen pass from Eli to get on the board. The Pats' offence went silent, while the Stars got another play from Ellington, who broke loose for 43 yards on a hitch to set up a 21-yard **Josh Brown** FG before half time. Eli's opening drive of the 2<sup>nd</sup> half stalled at the 35, setting up a 53-yard FG to make it 14-13. Peyton responded with an 11-yard TD pass to **Andre Johnson** to cap an 89-yard drive, but Eli answered with a 30-yard pass to **Brandon Marshall** to set up Brown's 3<sup>rd</sup> FG. With 5:35 left, and needing a TD, Eli started at his own 8. He converted 4<sup>th</sup> and 1 at his own 17 then hit **Phillip Dorsett** for 20 yards and later Marshall for 19 on 4<sup>th</sup> & 2 to reach the Pats' goal line. **Alex Smith** was sent in to finish the job, but was sacked by **CJ Mosley**. Eli came back in, but his pass to **Percy Harvin** in the end zone was jarred loose by **Aqib Talib** on the game's final play.

**QUOTES:** "That's the kind of team they are. They will fight you all the way. We felt in control for most of it, but somehow, at the end there, they had a shot at taking it away from us. Little Bro played well...not sure why they took him out for that play." – Charleswood QB, **Peyton Manning**.  
"I just want to apologize to the fans for letting them down. This loss is on me. Eli...I couldn't have asked for a better game from him against a great team. Making that switch put Alex in a tough spot and lost us the momentum. I wish I could tell you why I did it. – Markham coach, **Darrin Jones**.



HAPPY FAN

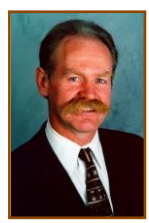


titter

ANGRY FAN



**Charlie Wood** @Cwoodbannersun  
Wins like this are the kind you need for a perfect season – won when we should have lost. Chi-ching!



**Lanny McDonald** @economistsunlm  
Thisiscrazy theresnoexcus e fothis thatwasoff sideontha t pl ay>

12-04-2015	The Dawg Pound	Temp: 38	Wind: 10-20	None	MVP: Peyton Manning			
Scoring Summary								
1	8:29	Charleswood	TD Manning 12 pass to Bryant (Succop)	(12-82-6:24)	7-0			
2	14:55	Charleswood	TD Manning 4 pass to Johnson (Succop)	(12-74-6:27)	14-0			
2	10:24	Markham	TD Manning 38 pass to Ellington (Brown,J)	(9-71-4:22)	14-7			
2	0:00	Markham	FG Brown 21 (7-59-3:12)		14-10			
3	11:20	Markham	FG Brown 53 (6-25-3:29)		14-13			
3	2:44	Charleswood	TD Manning 11 pass to Johnson (Succop)	(14-89-8:21)	21-13			
4	14:13	Markham	FG Brown 30 (7-54-3:21)		21-16			
						<b>CHP</b>	<b>MAR</b>	
						First Downs	19	14
						Rushes	28-128	27-86
						Passes	25-19-187	25-19-267
						Sacked	0-0	1-5
						Fumble	1	1
						Penalties	7-50	4-33
						Turnovers	0	0
						Missed Tackles	6	6
						Blitzes	24	13
						Time	31:20	28:40
						Third Down	5-12	1-11
						Fourth Down	1-1	3-3
						Red Att/Td/Fg	3/3/0	3/0/2
						Net Offense	315	348



**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!



**CANNIBALS**  
0-8-0

0	0	7	14	0	<b>21</b>
OT					

**Marcus Mariota**  
18 of 31, 204 yards, 2 TDs



**GLADIATORS**  
4-4-0

21	10	3	0	0	<b>34</b>
OT					

**Big Ben**  
18 of 24, 255 yards, 3 TDs

**LeSean McCoy** rushed for 72 yards on the Glads opening drive but **Ben Roethlisberger** did the honours with a 3-yard TD pass to **Jarvis Landry** to kick start a deluge of scoring. McCoy got his TD on a 16-yard run after **Eddie Lacy** fumbled then Big Ben connected with **Jeremy Maclin** for a 33-yard TD to finish a 21-point 1<sup>st</sup> quarter. **Owen Daniels** caught a TD pass and the Glads added a FG to make 31-0 Gwinnet at the half. **Marcus Mariota** found **Doug Baldwin** for a 23-yard TD pass to open the third and **Harrison Smith** returned a fumble 75 yards for a score, but it was not enough to spur a comeback.



**KNIGHTS**  
4-5-0

10	7	3	6	0	<b>26</b>
OT					

**Teddy Bridgewater**  
26 of 36, 265 yards, 1 TD, 1 INT



**REGULATORS**  
3-6-0

7	14	3	0	0	<b>24</b>
OT					

**Tony Romo**  
21 of 34, 304 yards, 3 TDs, 1 INT

The Blue Shield struck first when safety **JJ Wilcox** returned a **Tony Romo** interception 28 yards for a TD. The Regs' QB made up for it with a 37-yard TD pass to **AJ Green** then put his team in front 14-10 with a 21-yard TD pass to **Keenan Allen**. **Teddy Bridgewater** found **Jordan Matthews** for a 48-yard TD to regain the lead but the Regs got back on top with a 5-yard TD pass to Allen before half time. The teams traded FGs in the 3<sup>rd</sup> before the Knights took control with a pair of time-consuming FG drives, taking the lead with 3:10 left. The Regs slow-moving 2:00 drill fell short, giving LA the win.



**TRIUMPH**  
6-3-0

7	8	14	3	0	<b>32</b>
OT					

**Tre Mason**  
28 carries, 183 yards, 2 TDs



**SWORDFISH**  
0-9-0

8	14	0	7	0	<b>29</b>
OT					

**Andy Dalton**  
16 of 27, 162 yards, 4 TDs

The Triumph drew first blood with an 11-yard TD pass from **Jay Cutler** to **Antonio Brown** off the opening drive. But a safety by Fish LB, **Hau'oli Kikaha** and 3 TD passes by **Andy Dalton**, 2 of those to **Kenny Stills**, put the home team out in front 22-15 after one half. A fumble by **Isaiah Crowell** at his 37 opened the door for a 16-yard TD run by **Tre Mason** to tie the game then a 59-yard bomb to Brown put the Triumph in front. Sebastian answered with a 39-yard TD pass to **Odell Beckham Jr** but a 2-minute drill covering 57 yards set up **Stephen Gostkowski** for the game-winning 34-yd FG.

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



**VIOLATORS**  
0-9-0

0	7	0	7	0	<b>14</b>
OT					

**Derek Carr**  
17 of 29, 167 yards, 1 TD, 1 INT



**BLUE EAGLES**  
5-4-0

0	10	7	3	0	<b>20</b>
OT					

**TJ Yeldon**  
20 Carries, 125 yards, 1 TD

Rookie **Randy Gregory** forced a fumble that **Derrick Morgan** recovered and returned 19 yards for a TD to put the Eagles in front 7-0. **Derek Carr** hit **Michael Floyd** for 25 yards then **Eric Ebron** for 10 yards and a TD to tie it, but the Eagles regained the lead on a 34-yard FG by **Mike Nugent**. **TJ Yeldon** finished off the opening drive of the 2<sup>nd</sup> half with a 1-yard TD run and Nugent added a FG to give Scarborough a 20-7 lead, but **Jamaal Charles** scored on a 3-yard run to bring Virden within a TD. Virden drove 48 yards late but Morgan sacked Carr on 4<sup>th</sup> down at the Eagles' 33 to clinch the win.



**HELLFIRE**  
1-8-0

7	3	3	7	0	<b>20</b>
OT					

**Andrew Luck**  
12 of 28, 182 yards, 2 TDs



**MUSTANGS**  
8-1-0

3	3	14	10	0	<b>30</b>
OT					

**Matt Ryan**  
30 of 46, 311 yards, 1 TD

**Andrew Luck** lofted a 67-yard bomb to **Julio Jones** for the only TD of the 1<sup>st</sup> half to help secure Mohave a 10-6 lead after 2. Aurora took the lead when **Julian Edelman** returned an early 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter punt 98 yards for a TD but **Sebastian Janikowski** booted a 57-yard FG to tie it. **Matt Ryan** found **Heath Miller** for an 11-yard TD pass to give Aurora a lead that would last until late in the 4<sup>th</sup> when Luck hooked up Allen Robinson for a 42-yard TD pass. **Pierre Thomas** rushed for 35 yards on the ensuing Mustang drive to set up a 35-yard game-winning FG by **Nick Folk**. **Chris Polk** added a late TD



**RAVENS**  
6-2-1

7	14	7	10	0	<b>38</b>
OT					

**Randall Cobb**  
8 Catches, 154 yards, 2 TDs



**SPARTANS**  
4-5-0

7	6	0	20	0	<b>33</b>
OT					

**Denard Robinson**  
29 Carries, 169 yards, 2 TDs

A 56-yard bomb from **Shaun Hill** to **Randall Cobb** set up the Ravens' first TD, a 7-yard run by **Jonathan Stewart**. The Spartans tied it on a 23-yard TD pass from **Philip Rivers** to **Demaryius Thomas** but a pair of 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter TD passes to Cobb, one from Hill and the other from **RGIII**, gave the Ravens a 21-13 half time lead. The Ravens scored a TD on their first possession of the 2<sup>nd</sup> half then again after a 16-play, 99-yard drive to take 35-13 lead in the 4<sup>th</sup>. **Denard Robinson** rushed for 2 Pickering TDs and **Pacman Jones** returned a kickoff 108 yards for a TD with 0:40 left to make it close.

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



### EXCALIBURS

4-5-0

14

7

0

3

0

24

OT

**Marshawn Lynch**  
29 Carries, 130 yards, 1 TD



### CONVICTS

5-4-0

0

9

7

8

6

30

**Cam Newton**  
20 of 31, 247 yards, 1 TD

**Marshawn Lynch** ran for a 1-yard TD on the game's opening drive and **De'Anthony Thomas** returned a punt 71 yards for a TD at the end of Chino's first possession to open up a 14-0 York lead. A 7-yard TD pass from **Tom Brady** to **Kelvin Benjamin** made it 3 TDs for York to 3 FGs for Chino in the 1<sup>st</sup> half to make it 21-9, York. Consecutive pass interference penalties against York set up a **DeMarco Murray** TD run and a 69-yard TD pass to **Jarius Wright** and 2-point convert tied the game. A blocked York FG attempt at the gun sent the game into OT, where a first-series Murray TD won it for Chino.



### MONARCHS

3-6-0

3

7

7

7

3

27

OT

**Ryan Tannehill**  
25 of 40, 237 yards



### CORN KINGS

4-5-0

0

3

7

14

0

21

**Joe Flacco**  
23 of 40, 213 yards, 3 TDs

A 60-yard run by **Joique Bell** set up a 2-yard TD run by **Chris Ivory** to give the Monarchs a 10-0 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter lead. Unable to move the ball in the 1<sup>st</sup> half, the Corn Kings got a break on a **Brandon Tate** fumble that set up a FG before half time. Cowtown tied it in the 3<sup>rd</sup> on a 12-yard TD pass from **Joe Flacco** to **Jeremy Kerley** but a 102-yard kick return for a TD by **Josh Huff** put Mission back in front. A pair of 4<sup>th</sup> quarter TD passes from Flacco and Ivory's second TD sent the game into OT. 3 straight passes to **Marques Colston** set up the game-winning 43-yard FG by **Dan Carpenter** as time expired.



### CUBS

6-2-1

7

0

7

3

0

17

OT

**Jeremy Hill**  
18 Carries, 96 yards, 1 TD



### T-LIZARDS

8-1-0

0

23

3

10

0

36

**Drew Brees**  
25 of 36, 272 yards, 3 TDs

The Cubs' **Jeremy Hill** swept 18 yards for an opening drive TD to put the Cubs in front. But the Lizards roared back with 23 consecutive 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter points on a pair of TD passes from **Drew Brees** and a blocked punt recovered in the end zone by **Thomas Davis**. Durham opened the 2<sup>nd</sup> half with a FG but the Cubs bounced back with **Tavon Austin** cutting around the corner for a 6-yard TD to make it 26-14 Durham. Brees took charge on the Lizards' next drive, completing 6 of 6 and finding **Calvin Johnson** for a 20-yard TD to round off the major scoring. The Cubs were held to a FG the rest of the way.

## WEEK NINE

# STANDINGS

East	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Charleswood	9	0	0	1	258	28.7	137	15.2	13.4	4 0 0	4 0 0	6 0 0
Twin Cities	6	3	0	0.667	260	28.9	206	22.9	6	2 2 0	3 1 0	5 1 0
Carthage	4	5	0	0.444	270	30	242	26.9	3.1	2 2 0	2 2 0	2 4 0
Mohave	1	8	0	0.111	131	14.6	275	30.6	-16	0 4 0	1 3 0	1 5 0
Virden	0	9	0	0	119	13.2	259	28.8	-15.6	0 4 0	0 4 0	0 6 0
West	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Beaufort County	6	2	1	0.722	241	26.8	193	21.4	5.3	4 1 0	3 0 1	4 1 1
Iowa City	6	2	1	0.722	246	27.3	171	19	8.3	4 0 1	2 1 1	4 1 1
Chino	5	4	0	0.556	228	25.3	225	25	0.3	2 3 0	2 2 0	3 3 0
Los Angeles	4	5	0	0.444	168	18.7	216	24	-5.3	1 3 0	1 3 0	2 4 0
Mission Viejo	3	6	0	0.333	216	24	233	25.9	-1.9	1 3 0	1 3 0	2 4 0
North	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Durham	8	1	0	0.889	248	27.6	149	16.6	11	5 0 0	4 0 0	5 1 0
Cowtown	4	5	0	0.444	208	23.1	253	28.1	-5	2 2 0	1 3 0	3 3 0
Pickering	4	5	0	0.444	214	23.8	205	22.8	1	2 3 0	1 3 0	2 4 0
York	4	5	0	0.444	199	22.1	190	21.1	1	2 2 0	2 2 0	3 3 0
Markham	3	6	0	0.333	168	18.7	155	17.2	1.4	3 2 0	2 2 0	3 3 0
South	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Aurora	8	1	0	0.889	281	31.2	219	24.3	6.9	4 1 0	4 0 0	6 0 0
Gwinnett	6	3	0	0.667	243	27	182	20.2	6.8	3 2 0	2 2 0	3 3 0
Scarborough	5	4	0	0.556	185	20.6	213	23.7	-3.1	4 1 0	2 2 0	3 3 0
South Carolina	3	6	0	0.333	191	21.2	241	26.8	-5.6	2 2 0	2 2 0	2 4 0
Sebastian	0	9	0	0	206	22.9	316	35.1	-12.2	0 5 0	0 4 0	0 6 0

## PASSING

Rk	Player	Team	Att	Cmp	C%	Yards	In	I%	Lg	TD	TD%	Rate
1	Manning,P	CHP	279	194	69.5	2221	4	1.4	71	19	6.8	109.9
2	Roethlisberger	GWG	281	185	65.8	2396	4	1.4	72	19	6.8	109.1
3	Wilson,R	ICC	223	142	63.7	1817	1	0.4	56	14	6.3	108.2
4	Newton,C	CHI	248	163	65.7	2249	5	2	69	16	6.5	107.7
5	Cutler	TCT	251	171	68.1	2139	8	3.2	73	18	7.2	105
6	Hill,S	BCR	229	160	69.9	1738	4	1.7	56	14	6.1	105
7	Brees	DTL	340	231	67.9	2551	4	1.2	65	17	5	101.7
8	Romo	SC	315	209	66.3	2224	5	1.6	56	20	6.3	101.3
9	Mariota	CAR	291	173	59.5	2330	7	2.4	66	22	7.6	100.2
10	Rivers,P	PIC	210	125	59.5	1749	5	2.4	74	14	6.7	98.7
11	Bridgewater	LAK	200	128	64	1411	3	1.5	52	12	6	98.6
12	Flacco	COW	342	212	62	2251	5	1.5	49	22	6.4	96.5
13	Manning,E	MAR	174	115	66.1	1249	2	1.1	63	7	4	95.7
14	Ryan,M	AUR	377	235	62.3	2854	8	2.1	62	16	4.2	90.9
15	Brady,T	YOR	260	161	61.9	1666	4	1.5	87	13	5	90.6
16	Tannehill	MVM	295	191	64.7	1946	6	2	47	11	3.7	87.5
17	Rodgers,A	SBE	330	203	61.5	2264	8	2.4	63	14	4.2	86
18	Dalton	SS	325	195	60	2236	13	4	81	15	4.6	79.5
19	Luck	MOH	331	179	54.1	2049	9	2.7	99	8	2.4	69.7

## RUSHING

Rk	Player	Team	Att	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD
1	McCoy,L	GWG	207	1071	5.2	40	8
2	Bell,L	LAK	279	1058	3.8	25	4
3	Murray,D	CHI	213	891	4.2	40	8
4	Morris,A	COW	168	862	5.1	47	2
5	Forte	PIC	168	836	5	36	6
6	Anderson,C	SS	156	818	5.2	24	5
7	Gordon,M	TCT	137	808	5.9	44	8
8	Gore	SC	148	795	5.4	50	2
9	Lacy	CAR	166	789	4.8	31	5
10	Lynch,M	YOR	171	754	4.4	33	4
11	Miller,L	CHP	131	733	5.6	23	4
12	Bell,J	MVM	114	615	5.4	60	6
13	Johnson,D	CHP	114	606	5.3	29	5
14	Ivory	MVM	117	596	5.1	70	8
15	Ingram,M	VV	132	593	4.5	36	5
16	Stewart	BCR	129	584	4.5	73	2
17	Foster,A	AUR	89	555	6.2	34	5
18	Hill,J	ICC	88	537	6.1	30	4
19	Charles,J	VV	110	509	4.6	54	2
20	Yeldon	SBE	94	472	5	20	1

## RECEIVING

Rk	Player	Team	No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD
1	Brown,A	TCT	62	810	13.1	59	8
2	Kelce,T	CAR	56	590	10.5	41	6
3	Fitzgerald	COW	56	584	10.4	21	10
4	Johnson,A	CHP	54	571	10.6	20	2
5	Boldin	AUR	54	863	16	40	2
6	Maclin	GWG	53	923	17.4	60	9
7	Johnson,C	DTL	52	890	17.1	65	10
8	Hopkins,D	BCR	51	580	11.4	45	6
9	Decker	DTL	50	507	10.1	28	4
10	Allen,K	SC	50	592	11.8	42	5
11	Bryant,D	CHP	49	728	14.9	71	10
12	Cobb	BCR	49	631	12.9	56	6
13	Evans,M	COW	47	611	13	48	4
14	Jones,J	MOH	43	714	16.6	99	3
15	Graham,J	MOH	43	391	9.1	28	1
16	Stills	SS	43	515	12	44	6
17	Landry,J	GWG	42	502	12	31	5
18	Crabtree	MVM	41	392	9.6	22	4
19	Gronkowski	BCR	41	405	9.9	54	4
20	Matthews,J	LAK	41	606	14.8	52	4

## KICKING

Rk	Player	Team	FGA	FGM	FG%	40	50	Lg	Pts
1	Folk	AUR	24	19	79.2	4	0	48	89
2	Parkey	BCR	20	19	95	8	1	54	81
3	Dawson	DTL	20	18	90	5	0	49	80
4	Succop	CHP	18	16	88.9	4	1	51	78
5	Brown,J	MAR	24	21	87.5	8	2	54	78
6	Gostkowski	TCT	16	14	87.5	5	0	48	72
7	Bailey,D	CHI	17	15	88.2	11	5	53	68
8	Novak	COW	15	14	93.3	6	2	52	64
9	Zuerlein	ICC	17	13	76.5	5	0	49	64
10	Suisham	GWG	13	11	84.6	4	0	47	61
11	Murray,P	LAK	15	14	93.3	10	5	53	60
12	Hauschka	CAR	11	8	72.7	4	1	51	58
13	Scobee	PIC	13	11	84.6	5	1	53	58
14	Vinatieri	SS	12	12	100	6	1	50	56
15	Tucker,J	SC	11	10	90.9	5	0	47	53
16	Carpenter	MVM	9	7	77.8	5	1	55	48
17	Walsh	YOR	14	8	57.1	2	0	48	47
18	Nugent	SBE	8	8	100	1	0	40	47
19	Janikowski	MOH	11	9	81.8	4	2	57	41
20	Crosby	VV	9	9	100	7	0	47	39



### STANDINGS - WEEK 3

ASIA	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff
Seoul	2	1	0	0.667	78	26	51	17	9
Taipei	2	1	0	0.667	48	16	43	14.3	1.7
Pyongyang	1	2	0	0.333	46	15.3	57	19	-3.7
Beijing	1	2	0	0.333	54	18	75	25	-7



**RED DRAGONS**  
1-2-0

7	3	0	3	0	<b>13</b>
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**Wilford Calloway**  
22 of 36, 212 yards, 1 TD



**SUN**  
1-2-0

3	7	7	3	0	<b>20</b>
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**David Soto**  
16 of 21, 152 yards, 2 TDs

A fumble by Sun QB, **David Soto** was recovered by Dragon, **Trumaine Dunaway**, setting up an opening Beijing TD on a 17-yard pass from **Wilford Calloway** to **Barry Steen**. A stand by the Sun defence on 4<sup>th</sup> and goal at the 2 held Beijing at bay until Soto could knit together an 80-yard drive that ended in a 6-yard TD pass to HB, **Duane Willis** to tie the game at 10. Pyongyang broke the tie with a 51-yard bomb to WR, **Percy Russell** on their first possession of the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter. **Carlos Tunk** added a 30-yard FG for the Sun while their defence made another 4<sup>th</sup> down stand and held Beijing to a FG.



**SHARKS**  
2-1-0

0	0	3	0	0	<b>3</b>
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**Mitch Souza**  
18 of 31, 207 yards, 1 INT



**CALM**  
2-1-0

3	7	14	0	0	<b>24</b>
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**Barry Carroll**  
16 of 23, 170 yards, 2 TDs

Seoul CB, **Patrick Strickland** intercepted Sharks QB, **Mitch Souza** to set up a 35-yard **Garth Chacon** FG to give Seoul a 3-0 lead. The teams then punted back-and-forth until safety, **Moses McDonald** blocked the punt of Taipei's **Alexander Price** and it was recovered in the end zone by **Alvin McCarthy** for a 10-0 Calm lead at half time. The bad day continued for Taipei with a failed onside kick to start the 2<sup>nd</sup> half that set up a 23-yard TD pass from **Barry Carroll** to **Francis Hoffman** to make it 17-0, Calm. The Sharks countered with a FG, but the Calm put it away with Carroll's 2<sup>nd</sup> TD pass.





# AROUND THE



*With Spats McChad*

NEW YORK – Week Nine was chock-full of interesting and exhilarating games. With playoff races beginning to heat up to a boil, the tension is growing in fan bases and the pressure is mounting on players and coaches to deliver victories. That pressure was more apparent than usual this week, with several veteran coaches making questionable and/or controversial calls, or experiencing baffling lapses, in critical game situations. While no week is ever devoid of coaching follies, this week the slip-ups and outright blunders were more obvious and numerous than we are accustomed to seeing in a typical week. Even more unusual, the culprits included some future Hall of Fame coaches and not just **Chris Dickinson**, who this week looked like **Chuck Knox** in comparison with some of his peers. Not all decisions turned out badly, but they could have. Others turned out very badly and some weren't decisions at all; unless you categorize indecision as a decision. This week, I focus on some of those coaching decisions and how they may have altered the fate of teams.

## ***MANNING VERSUS MANNING – PART VI***

The Week nine match-up between the Patriots and North Stars was the sixth time the Brothers Manning had faced each other since younger Eli entered the league in 2009 as the starting quarterback for the Pickering Spartans. Older brother, Peyton, had won all of the previous five contests, the last one for an EFL Championship in 2013. Like a bullying big brother giving noogies at will to a younger, smaller sibling, Peyton's mastery of Eli in face-to-face challenges had been almost uncontested. Only one of those games had been close, a 9-7 win for the Pats over Virden in 2011; and in that game both quarterbacks had taken a back seat to the defences – a punt return by **Mike Thomas** counting the game's only touchdown. Granted, Peyton was usually on the better team, but in the one game where they had been on equal footing – the big one in 2013 – Peyton had been the clear master that day. Few would claim that Eli and Peyton were on equal footing heading into this game, but the Stars had been playing opponents tough all year and had the home field advantage, while Pats detractors pointed to the team's easy schedule as a big factor in their 8-0 record. This was a winnable game for Markham and for younger brother Eli; one they probably would have won but for the untimely intervention of their coach.

Up until the final seconds, the game had unfolded like many North Stars games had before it – with apparently over-matched, Rocky-like Markham bleeding but still standing and wearing down its opponent with a combination of stubborn refusal to hit the mat and a flurry of debilitating counter blows. Charleswood had taken an early 14-0 lead and had looked poised to bury Markham early, but a 38-yard screen pass to **Andre Ellington** for a touchdown and a trio of chippy field goal drives had kept Markham in the game. With 5:35 remaining in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, the Stars took control at their own 8 yard line, trailing 21-16. It was shaping up to be a defining drive for younger brother, Eli and a pivotal moment in Markham's season.

Markham advanced up the field in their usual manner: slowly but surely. But this time there was some rare drama and a touch more urgency along the way. First, Eli fired an 11-yard strike to **Brandon Marshall** to convert 4<sup>th</sup> and 1 at their 17 yard line; second, Eli connected on a long comebacker to **Phillip Dorsett**, good for 20 yards and a first down at the Pats 27. Finally, facing 4<sup>th</sup>& 2 at the Pats' 19, Eli fired a bullet, complete to Marshall at the 1 yard line. The tall receiver turned but could not quite push the nose of the pigskin over the goal line. With the ball marked at the one-foot line, Markham called their second timeout with 0:16 left in the game. Eli went to the sideline to confer with head coach, **Darrin Jones** but did not return. Instead, out trotted back-up **Alex Smith**, to the bewilderment of all.

It is an annoying coincidence that Charleswood has two **CJ Mosleys**. One is actually **Clinton Mosley**, the second-year linebacker out of Alabama and the other is **Calvin Michael Mosley**, the journeyman free agent defensive lineman who signed with the Pats during the off-season. Both are called "CJ" even though, as far as I can tell, neither has a name that starts with "J". I guess we are now culturally liberated enough as a society to not require a connection between names and initials, as long as first initial is correct. Why is this annoying? Because they play on the same team, at the same time, that's why! Do you realize how irritating it is to have to distinguish constantly between **CJ Mosley**, the *linebacker*, and **CJ Mosley**, the *lineman* or, as my friend **Charlie Wood** likes to say: the "good" **CJ Mosley** and the "fat" **CJ Mosley**. Anyway, the "fat" **CJ Mosley** made arguably the play of the game for the Patriots, although his better known counterpart keeps getting credit for it in the media. The play unfolded thusly:

Smith lined up over center and surveyed the defence while Eli pouted on the sideline. For once, I sympathized with

pout. *Was Eli injured or something?* The Pats were playing in a tight, straight up goal line formation, anticipating a short yardage play of some sort. Smith began barking signals and waving his hands. The play clock wound down to 2 seconds, then came the snap. But instead of doing his best imitation of **Bart Starr** in the “Ice Bowl” of 1967, Smith turned, faked a handoff to Ellington and dropped back to pass. Before he could complete his turn to survey the field he was blindsided by **CJ Mosley**, the *lineman*, who had been left unblocked as tackle **Zane Beadles** lunged inward to double team **Johnathan Hankins**, as if running a sneak. Smith went down at the 5 yard to the loud groans of the drunken faithful at the Dawg Pound, but he popped right back up and began waving in his receivers to get set, in an apparent attempt to quick snap the Pats. **Jason Findlay** didn’t like the match-ups and called timeout with 13 seconds remaining. The Pats sent in their quarter package while Eli trotted back on to the field for Markham. There was time for maybe two throws into the end zone. Eli overthrew a fade to Marshall on the first, but drilled a bullseye to **Percy Harvin** on the next that Pats’ corner **Aqib Talib** jarred loose with a crushing hit. Game Over. Pats win, 21-16.

For hours after the game, the critical sack of Smith was recorded on the EFL webpage as a sack for **CJ Mosley**, the *linebacker*. **CJ Mosley**, the *linebacker*, was crowded by reporters after the game and asked how he felt about making the play of the game. Disconcertingly, the *linebacker* did not flat out deny he was involved or credit his teammate of the same name. Instead he jabbered on about how the team had come together in that moment and how proud he was to be a part of it.

The confusion over the sack was a minor by-line in a post-game presser abuzz with bigger questions, in particular: why had Eli been taken out of the game? Was the 1<sup>st</sup> and goal play designed or had **Alex Smith** gone rogue? Apparently, the answer was neither. A flustered **Darrin Jones** searched for the correct words in front of a packed media room:

*"Well...I had the sneak in mind....that's why I called for Alex, he's a runner. But I may have left the door open for an audible...yes...I may have told him that if he saw a defence he liked he could...you know...take advantage of that...like if they were stacked to stop the run...like really, really, really looked run hungry...he might want to try...you know...something different. You have to leave your quarterback with those options and I was letting him know he had those options if he chose to use them. He called an audible and that young linebacker of theirs – boy he looked big for a linebacker – somehow got penetration and made a great play."*

So it appears that Jones gave his quarterback options. But did he really? He told Smith that if he saw a defence that "really, really, really looked run hungry" he could switch out of the sneak. In a heated moment such as this, with so much on the line, it was tantamount to telling him to switch – not a direct order, but one that suggested to Smith that if he ran a sneak against a stacked line and failed, he might be asked to answer why he hadn't switched to a play action pass. Of course, the question that has to be asked is: what *other* kind of defence would a reasonable coach expect to see the Patriots in in that situation? One foot away from surrendering a game-winning touchdown, the Pats were, of course, stacked to stop the run and, incidentally, the short pass. And, of course, Smith – the quarterback voted by his peers as "least likely to go rogue" in an EFL player poll for EFL Network's Top Five Game Managers special this past summer – did his duty and audibled out of the sneak. It backfired and **Darrin Jones** is rightfully taking the heat.

In fairness to Jones, however, it must be noted that if Smith had passed for a touchdown, we in the media would certainly be stroking the Markham coach for his brilliance and for placing "trust" in his quarterback. That's our big advantage: we have the best hindsight in the world. But 20-20 hindsight notwithstanding, good coaches use common sense in the heat of the moment and, if they do something apparently off the wall, must have a darn good reason for it.

**Darrin Jones** is a *great* coach, with an impressive track record and more to come. There is no doubt that he will end up in the Football Hall of Fame someday. Having said that, there are times in a football game when a *great* coach is not required. Sometimes all a team needs is a good coach, or even just an *okay* coach, to make the obvious call that, in spite of its obviousness, will almost certainly work. This week the great Markham coach turned a simple situation, calling for the simplest play in the playbook, into a complex equation requiring a convoluted solution. **CJ Mosley**, the *lineman*, made that new math look silly.

#### **SOUTHERN DISCOMFORT**

At the Carolina Slammer in Columbia the Regulators lost their second straight, and fourth in five games, 26-24 to the reawakening Knights. You can't fault **Tony Romo** for this one, unless you focus on the 1st quarter pick-six he surrendered to Knights' safety **JJ Wilcox**. But fans of Romo know that pick-sixes are a work hazard whenever you give him the job of winning one for the “Gipper,” **Hal Corson**. Apart from that slip-up, he got the ball into the hands of his playmakers, **AJ Green** and **Keenan Allen**, targeting them 29 times and connecting with them on 19 of 21 completions for 281 yards and 3 touchdowns. The offence posted 24 points, which on an average day would be about 6 points more than they would normally need to overcome the Knights' famously feeble offence – but not on this day. The Knights got a good performance from their quarterback and more than a little help from the opposing coach to score an unexpected victory.

There has been much debate, in Columbia and out, about the reasons for the Regulators' unforeseen freefall into mediocrity. Initially this debate swirled around the performance of Romo, but the numbers simply did not support the criticism. It moved to the performance of the defensive line, which had some merit, but the fact that there were plenty of teams with better records and worse-performing defensive lines suggested the point might be overblown. Recently, the discussion has, very delicately, turned circuitously to the “game plan” and the role of the coaches who surround and advise the venerable Corson, “Father of Southern Professional Football,” and a minor icon in South Carolina, with a name recognition factor slightly better than **Melvin Purvis**, but lagging behind **Viola Davis**. Nobody seems willing to take on “The Good Old Boy” himself, but that



Monarch linebacker, **Khalil Mack** lines up during Week 9 action at Tillman Field in Cowtown. The 2014 1<sup>st</sup> round pick is exceeding expectations in his second year in the league. He recorded 8 tackles and 3 sacks in a 27-24 OT win over Cowtown.

may change in wake of the bizarre chain of events that led to the Regulators' 6<sup>th</sup> loss of the season.

To be fair (and I am always scrupulously fair) some credit for the outcome has to go to the Knights, in particular **Teddy Bridgewater**, who continued his suddenly rapid upward development with an efficient 265-yard passing day. His one error, a 3<sup>rd</sup>-quarter overthrow into the arms of **Tamba Hali**, could have gone the other way for 6. But, in a sign that the Football Gods favoured Teddy on this day, Hali stumbled inexplicably as he ran in a straight line toward the goal and was tackled at the Knights' 5 yard line. Leading 21-17 at the time, this was a chance for the Regulators to drive home the knife. But their approach was anything but killer in its instinct. They tried to finesse their way into the end zone, running a screen, a sweep, and a quick out to Green, but managed to get just one yard closer, forcing an appearance by **Justin Tucker** for the easy field goal. It was a

three-play series that summed up the Regulators' season to this point: timid. There was apparently no thought of throwing the ball into the end zone. Each play developed sideways or backwards, putting the ball in the hands of the receiver or carrier at, or behind, the line of scrimmage, forcing him to break at least one tackle in tight space to succeed. It's not that the plays were *wrong*, but they reveal an ultra-conservative mindset that looked like playing for the field goal.

Clearly though, the fans at the Carolina Slammer thought those were the wrong plays. The boos were a little louder than the gentle tut-tuts that had peppered the crowd noise at the end of the first half after the Regulators had missed a field goal opportunity as seconds ticked away because Coach Corson refused to call a timeout. It had been an inexplicable lapse, but many were still willing to give the coach the benefit of the doubt: "*It may seem strange to us here in the booth, but one thing I've learned over the years is that Coach would not have passed on that field goal without a very good reason,*" intoned 'Regulator Radio' anchor, **Jesse Bee**.

The "coaching inertia" that seems to have overcome the Regulators was evident in the defensive game plan – or lack thereof. The Regulators never once got up and in the face of the Knights' dink-and-dunk game plan. Although LA coach **Jeff Dohrn** called more medium passes than usual, the Knights still favoured the short throw, for obvious reasons, and the Regulators were content to let them – not even once bringing the coverage in tight to force Bridgewater to push it down the field. If the thought was that the Regs could play vanilla 'D' and win against the Knights, it was obviously a misconception by half time, yet no adjustments were made.

But the cake-taker came in the final 3½ minutes of the game. With the Regs hanging on to a 24-23 lead, the Knights drove 67 yards in 13 plays, stalling at the Regs' 2 yard line. Now, the EFL would like to see the Regulators stay in the playoff race if for no other reason that it keeps more fans interested in the games. The Knights, despite their recent modest successes, are no threat to the playoff picture. An angry **Jeff Dohrn**, who is rarely angry despite having a team that would test the patience of Job, suggested **Pete Morelli** might have been trying to give the Regulators an assist on behalf of the league with his three straight holding penalties preceding the game-winning field goal by **Patrick Murray**. What began as a 20-yard chip shot turned into a 50-yard tester after holding calls, the first one on **Brian Bulaga** and the next two on **David Bakhtiari** pushed them back 30 yards to the South Carolina 32.

At least one of the holds, the first on Bakhtiari, was highly questionable, since it appears from replay that he completely missed his block. Dohrn was picked up by field mics screaming at Morelli after the call: "*Hey Pete! That's unbelievable! That's unbelievable and you know it!*" When Dohrn asked for an explanation, Morelli ignored him while a side judge made a half-hearted attempt to justify the call by saying to Dohrn: "*He got his hand up, Jeff. You know that's going to be called every time.*" To which Dohrn replied, "*no I don't f%^&ing know that will be called every time! It shouldn't be called any time, let alone f%^&ing every time!*" To hear Dohrn use the 'F-word' is almost like hearing Santa Claus fart in the chair when a fat kid sits on his lap. You don't expect it and you don't know how to react to it. The side judge just stared, dumbfounded, at the agitated Knights coach and backed away cautiously.

Following that call Murray lined up for his third attempt, this one from 40 yards, but this time he actually *missed*. Dohrn threw down his headset down in disgust as a flag flew through the air. As if to make a point, Morelli had called another hold on Bakhtiari, a moot call given that Murray had missed the field goal. But in yet another sign that the beloved Regulator coach was not

paying attention to what was actually happening on the field, he signalled *acceptance of the penalty*.

It was now referee Morelli's turn to lose his cool. He looked incredulously at the South Carolina sideline and said "are you kidding me, Hal?"

Corson – flustered at the unexpected challenge from the ref and ignoring his assistant coaches, who were desperately trying to get his ear while making frantic signals to the referee declining the penalty – reacted with umbrage. He replied sternly, *"I've never been more serious in my life, Pete, now march them back 10 more yards right now!"* Morelli, as slowly as he could muster, paced off the 10 yards and waited an extra long period before signalling the resumption of play. **Hal Corson** stood there with his arms folded, staring straight ahead as his special teams coach, **Bill Bates** yelled in his ear *"it's not too late to change your mind, coach!"* But Hal wouldn't budge. Murray's fourth attempt went straight through the uprights, prompting catcalls and jeers from the stands that were the loudest yet. But it was not over...louder boos were yet to come.

With 2:54 left the Regs took over at their 35, trailing 26-24 with all of their timeouts. A 19-yard pass to **AJ Green** and a 7-yard pass to **Keenan Allen** had the crowd buzzing excitedly as the teams broke for the two-minute warning. All could still end well for the home team. But something happened during the break that changed everything.

When play resumed, the Regs ran three straight running plays and took their sweet time doing it while not calling a single timeout. It was as if they thought they were leading, not the other way around. While offensive coordinator, **Scott Linehan** tried to grab the headset that Corson had mystifyingly grabbed from him, the stubborn Regulators' coach kept repeating, *"they've had enough, Scott! I am not going to let you rub it in their faces."* And so the clock ran out, but nobody heard the sound of the final gun as hellacious booing, the worst ever witnessed in Columbia, rained down on the field. Corson looked up at the crowd, a look of stern disapproval on his face, muttered something that could not be made out and stormed off the field.

The post-game presser was a mass of confusion. Corson stood up on the podium briefly before stepping down with a curt "no comment" and left the room, clearly agitated. A trainer named Gideon fielded questions on behalf of the coaches but he had nothing to offer. **Tony Romo** simply stated about the final drive, *"Those plays aren't in our normal two-minute drill, but hey, I don't call the plays."* Rumours of game-fixing reminiscent of the NFL in its final year started to swirl in the media room and across the internet, swiftly countered by protests that no real fix would be that obvious; until somebody else pointed out that it was the perfect fix because nobody would ever believe that a fix would be that obvious and would assume that Corson had had one of his occasional "spells" on the sideline – just a particularly bad one. This speculation led most to believe the fix had indeed been in and that the orchestrators of the fix had used Corson's occasional befuddlement as cover.

Whatever the truth of the matter, the controversy is heating up and likely won't be resolved until we hear an explanation from **Hal Corson** himself. This may come as early as tomorrow (past my deadline) when he appears on Regulator Recap, an afternoon radio show in Columbia the day after game day. No doubt the EFL Sportsmanship Committee will be listening closely to what he says and may decide to open an investigation. Check out my column next week for the insider info and my personal analysis.

### **MACK AND CHEESE**

When **Chris Ferraro** made **Khalil Mack** the third overall selection in the 2014 Rookie Draft, very few scouts thought he had a steal on his hands. Mack was highly regarded, but he was not considered quite of the calibre of **Jadeveon Clowney** or **Greg Robinson** according to the conventional analysis. Two years later, that conventional wisdom is being revisited. Mack is the undisputed leader of the Monarchs defence – which in itself is no big deal – but he is also on track for a trip to the Pro Bowl in Carthage with 8 sacks, 3 forced fumbles and 12 tackles for loss so far this year.

Mack is tough, strong and fast. He came to play at Cowtown in Week Nine and made a mess out of the Corn Kings' fragile offensive line, logging three sacks. He played a key role in the Monarchs' third win of the season, a 27-24 overtime victory that broke a six-game losing streak. The prolonged downturn in the Monarchs' fortunes after a surprise 2-0 start had forced **King Ferraro** to grudgingly draw up contingency plans for HMK Royal Coliseum in the event the Monarchs didn't make the playoffs. The win, however, had the Mad Monarch once again proclaiming his team's imminent ascendancy to the top of the West Division:

*"Friends, I bring you great news. The Monarchs are back!"* he trumpeted from the podium during his post-game address. *"We have been sorely tested this year but our resolve has remained strong and today we conquered the enemy. Having steeled our will in the forge of tribulation, there is no team that can block our path to victory. This is just the beginning of a great march to glory! Thank you! You may go now!"*

When Mad King Chris gets in these moods he blends pomposity with cheesy old world clichés and usually doesn't take questions from the media pool. The afternoon following his team's upset win over Cowtown was no exception. After making his "Royal Proclamation" he withdrew from the podium in measured, regal stride, his chin elevated and his eyes scanning the multitude with a blend of satisfaction and scorn. Once Ferraro had fully cleared the room, Monarchs' head coach, **Shane Falco** approached the microphone and took questions, doing his best to maintain the fiction that his team was playoff-bound.

The Monarchs are heading in the right direction – up – but it is a very gradual slope. With a 3-6 record and a -1.9 average point differential over 9 games they are obviously a "tough out," but to consider them a contender is premature, especially when they share a division with the Cubs, Ravens and Convicts. The reality is that the Monarchs often play well enough to win, but don't. Their Week Nine victory was one of those exceptional cases where they played well enough to win and did. But perhaps it might not

have been such a happy ending had Falco's coaching opponent been a little more on the ball.

The "word" out of Cowtown is that coach, **Jim Coghlin**, is struggling to cope with the stress of walking the razor's edge with his team from week to week. The Corn Kings are one of those teams that sit smack on the tipping point between success and failure on any given Sunday, or any given quarter, even on any given play. Five of their nine games have gone into overtime, and four out of those five were decided on the opening possession of the extra period. He has acquired the habit recently of bracing himself before every game with a shot of **Farmer Brown's** infamous, and entirely illegal, *XXX Corn Shine Whisky*. This is to calm the stress of worrying about the safety of his meal ticket, **Joe Flacco**, behind Cowtown's jerry-rigged offensive line.

This week that line crumbled against the pressure of the Monarchs blitz. Flacco was sacked four times during a brutal first half that saw the only Cowtown points, a 29-yard field goal by **Nick Novak**, coming off a turnover deep in Monarchs territory. Immediately following that score, **Josh Huff** fumbled the kickoff at the 28 yard line with 0:43 left. It looked like, at least, a gift-wrapped field goal, but the situation deteriorated quickly for Cowtown when, for the first time in memory, Flacco had to leave the game after taking a brutal (but legal) hit from a blitzing Mack, who downed him for a loss of 4 yards. Overcome by concern for his quarterback's well-being, Coghlin left the sideline to check on his quarterback while untested **Jimmy Garoppolo** hurried to take over. During the confusion, nobody thought to call a timeout. Garoppolo ran a play, checking down to **Alfred Morris** for a 1-yard gain and looked shocked when the gun sounded to signal the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> half, with the Monarchs in front 10-3.

Flacco returned for the second half and Cowtown rallied to tie the game with 1 minute left in regulation. In the end, it came down to the very last play of overtime, with literally the difference between success and failure coming down to a 43-yard field goal by **Dan Carpenter** as time expired. It might never have happened, had Coach Coghlin not literally taken his eye off the ball in the final seconds of the first half.

#### **AROUND THE EFL**

At the Fish Tank in Sebastian, the Swordfish gave the Triumph all they could handle but wound up falling 32-29 on a 34-yard **Stephen Gostkowski** field goal as time expired. Rookie phenom **Melvin Gordon** was knocked out of the game early, opening up an opportunity for **Tre Mason**, the forgotten running back, to remind everyone that he is not chopped liver. The 23-year old Mason put on a running clinic hoping to gain the attention of one of the expansion team scouts in the audience. He rushed for 183 yards and 2 touchdowns on 28 carries. His team needed every inch of that output to put down a stubborn Sebastian team charged up by a 4-touchdown pass performance by **Andy Dalton** and a 12-yard rushing day from **CJ Anderson**.

At Candlestick Park in Aurora, the Hellfire brought the heat on **Matt Ryan**, sacking him 3 times and pressuring him 8, to keep a lid on the Mustangs' attack, but fell in the end, 30-20. Despite being sacked 6 times, **Andrew Luck** was able to connect on two deep touchdown passes, the second a 42-yarder to **Allen Robinson** to tie the score at 20 with 4:36 left in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter. To avoid the Mohave pass rush, Aurora turned to **Pierre Thomas**, handing him the ball 7 straight times for 38 yards to help get in position for the go-ahead 35-yard field goal by **Nick Folk**. The score was artificially inflated by a late touchdown run by **Chris Polk** after the Hellfire had turned it over on downs. Mohave is starting to show signs of life for the stretch run – too little, too late.

At Bluffs Stadium in Scarborough, the Violators fumbled five times, losing two of them, to drop a close game to the Blue Eagles, 20-14. **Derrick Morgan** returned the first lost fumble 19 yards to the end zone for the game's opening score and **Mike Nugent** turned the final lost fumble into 3 points. Despite the bad bounces and a red zone interception thrown by **David Carr**, winless Viriden made a game of it thanks to the 124 yards rushing of **Jamaal Charles** and **Mark Ingram** and a stoic defensive effort. I shudder to imagine what might have happened in Scarborough had the Eagles dropped one to the lowlife Violators.

At Thermopylae Stadium in Pickering, the Ravens won a 38-33 battle with the Spartans but may have lost the war in the process. Dependable quarterback, **Shaun Hill** went down mid-way through the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter with what the team is calling "chest trauma" after an uncalled late hit by lineman **Sen'Derrick Marks**. While **Peyton Manning** draws a roughing the passer penalty whenever a defensive lineman looks at him the wrong way, a journeyman like Hill could get kneed in the groin and punched in the throat without drawing a flag. Beaufort got their revenge by jumping out to a 35-13 lead as Hill and **RGIII** combined to complete 25 of 26, for 313 yards, 3 TDs and 0 interceptions. A 20-point 4<sup>th</sup> quarter by Pickering turned out to be entirely wind.

At the Dawg Pound in Chino, a dramatic 69-yard pass play for a TD to **Jarius Wright** and successful two-point conversion erased a 24-16 York lead with 1:36 left, forcing overtime. The Convicts got the ball to start the overtime and made it count with an 80-yard touchdown drive to make the final 30-24. The Excaliburs converted 12 of 18 3<sup>rd</sup> downs and got another special teams touchdown, their fifth of the year, from **De'Anthony Thomas** to build up their lead, but Chino took advantage of the game's only turnover and made their only three sustained drives of the day count to rack up 30 points and a much-needed win.

At Jurassic Park in Durham, the highly anticipated "Championship Preview" disappointed as the Thunder Lizards swatted down the Cubbies with a 23-point 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter and went on to win 36-17. A 37-yard pass to Brian Quick and 18-yard TD run by Jeremy Hill on the game's opening drive got the Cubs off to a good start. But a turnover-fueled scoring explosion by Durham, including a blocked punt recovered in the end zone, turned the game irrevocably in the Lizards' favour. Unwilling to test the Durham secondary, **Russell Wilson** passed just 11 times while **Drew Brees** went airborne with 272 yards and 3 TD passes.

And finally, at the Coliseum in Gwinnett, the drama of their recent successes finally took its toll on the young Cannibals as they fell behind 31-0 after two quarters in a 34-21 drubbing at the hands of **Ben Roethlisberger** and the Gladiators. Big Ben showed young **Marcus Mariota** a few things, completing 18 of 24 for 255 yards and 3 TDs.

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**RECORD VS THE SPREAD AFTER WEEK 9:**

**55-32-3**

### JIMMY'S WEEK TEN PICKS

#### **PICKERING @ CARTHAGE (line – CANNIBALS by 6)**

**INJURIES:** Pickering – David Cobb (OUT), Roberto Garza (OUT); Carthage – Russell Okung (DOUBTFUL), Justin Durant (IR), Greg Hardy (IR), Derrick Johnson (IR), Matt Slauson (OUT), Andre Smith (OUT).

The Cannibals recent mini-surge came crashing down last week in Gwinnett, but interestingly it was not because of rookie QB, Marcus Mariota. A complete failure of the running game to get on track and an incompetent defence left the rookie alone to fend for himself, with the result that the Cannibals didn't put a crooked number on the scoreboard until the second half. This resiliency of their quarterback is a good sign for Carthage and one that has to be considered when contemplating which horse to back in what should be a free-wheeling offensive race to the finish this week against the equally defenseless Spartans. The Spartans D was fully exposed last week by both Ravens quarterbacks, who together completed 25 of 26 passes! They will struggle to get off the field against the third-ranked team in 3<sup>rd</sup> down conversion percentage. On the plus side, a Spartan offence that has not lived up to its billing will have a shot at a 30+ point day if they can get the ball back often enough. Odds-makers are still enthralled by the Aurora upset and rating the Man-eaters a little too high here. Expect the Spartans to cover, if not win outright. **PICK: PICKERING**

#### **MARKHAM @ TWIN CITIES (line – TRIUMPH by 7)**

**INJURIES:** Markham – Stedman Bailey (OUT), Jordan Reed (OUT), Max Unger (OUT), Chris Long (IR); Twin Cities – Dwayne Allen (OUT), Charles Clay (OUT), LaAdrian Waddle (OUT).

Neither of these teams is brimming with confidence right now. The Triumph ended a two-game losing streak by surviving a combative but still winless Swordfish squad, while the North Stars simply failed to pull the trigger with the undefeated Patriots in their sights. The North Stars offence is gradually losing the battle against opposing defences but their pigheaded defence refuses to break, keeping them in games. The Triumph have an offence that, when healthy, matches up well against the Stars. But the loss of both Charles Clay and Dwayne Allen will remove a dimension from their full-service attack squad while the unknown quantity is, as always, Jay Cutler's ball security quotient for the afternoon. The question is: will the Markham offence be able to capitalize fully on a Bad Jay Day? If they don't turn the ball over, Twin Cities should eventually wear down the Markham defence and take control of the game by the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter. Strange as it sounds, the 3-6 North Stars are due for a bad hair day. **PICK: TWIN CITIES**

#### **AURORA @ VIRDEN (line – MUSTANGS by 11)**

**INJURIES:** Aurora – Kevin Pierre-Louis (OUT); Virden – Prince Amukamara (OUT), Daniel McCullers (OUT), Eric Berry (IR), Kelcy Quarles (IR), Demeco Ryans (IR), Stephen Tulloch (IR), Aldon Smith (IR).

Anyone who watched Aurora surpass Mohave last week knows that the outcome could easily have been different if Julian Edelman hadn't pulled off the second longest punt return for a TD in league history. The Mustangs are throwing the ball on 70% of their plays from scrimmage but not getting the same consistency as last year. Although they lead the league in points per game, their 35.9% conversion rate on third down puts them in some shady offensive company, which means more time on the field for the defence. The Violators nearly pick-pocketed a game from Scarborough last week, but turnovers did them in. They certainly can ill afford such carelessness this week or the damage could hit 50 points against a merciless Mustangs defence that likes to do the scoring on its own. Recent misfires by the Mustangs on offence and a general lack of total domination by the defence has influenced this line, keeping it under 20 points. Don't be fooled – it will be a turkey shoot. **PICK: AURORA**

## **SEBASTIAN @ MOHAVE (line – HELLFIRE by 6)**

**INJURIES: Sebastian** – Jadeveon Clowney (IR), Chandler Jones (OUT), Alex Mack (OUT), Paul Posluszny (OUT), Justin Pugh (OUT), Darrin Walls (OUT); **Mohave** – Harry Douglas (PROBABLE), Ronnie Hillman (OUT), Byron Jones (OUT), Jimmie Ward (OUT), Donnie Avery (IR).

Both of these teams are coming off good losses, if there is such a thing. Given that the Swordfish haven't won a game yet and the Hellfire are virtually winless themselves – their sole victory coming against “free square” Virden – good losses are the best these teams can reasonably expect most weeks. This week, however, one will taste the sweet wine of victory while the other continues to choke back the vinegar of defeat. A tie is possible, which won't rid Sebastian of the stigma of winlessness but will give them a break from losing. The truth is, when two teams are performing so atrociously, it is difficult to find the edge. The Swordfish have the advantage on offence but there are stars on the Mohave defence who made their presence felt last week against formidable Aurora. I have to believe Andrew Luck will find a way to get the ball downfield against the ghastly Sebastian secondary and Justin Houston will find his way Andy Dalton. 6 points is a bit of a stretch, but the Hellfire can get there. **PICK: MOHAVE**

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

**INJURIES: Gwinnett** – Rey Mauluga (OUT); **Charleswood** – Kelechi Osemele (OUT).

These next two games will likely determine whether or not the Patriots follow in the hoof tracks of the historic Mustangs of 2014. It hasn't been the toughest of schedules for them, but the numbers, particularly the defensive ones, have been impressive nonetheless. The Glads, at 6-3, have great curb appeal, but a test drive reveals an engine that backfires on occasion. They have fattened up their record on patsies since they last lost in Week Six to Cowtown. To show that they actually belong in the Big Boys Club and are not a first round playoff exit waiting to happen they need to compete in this game or, even better, win. A 3-touchdown game last week pushed Big Ben's QB passer rating to no. 2 in the league at 109.1, less than one point below this week's opponent, Peyton Manning. This is one of those titanic quarterback match-ups that can cause some to overlook the supporting cast on both sides. The offences are statistically deadlocked, but there is separation in their defences. The Glads D is good, but they take too many penalties and can be leaky around the end zone. The Pats defence is exceling in all areas and has surrendered a paltry 15 points per game. Expect three-quarters of a game before the Pats take off. **PICK: CHARLESWOOD**

## **BEAUFORT COUNTY @ SOUTH CAROLINA (line – RAVENS by 2)**

**INJURIES: Beaufort County** – Vontaze Burfict (OUT), Nick Fairley (OUT), Mason Foster (OUT), Shaun Hill (OUT), Ryan Mathews (OUT), Gerald McCoy (OUT), Stevan Ridley (OUT), Frank Alexander (IR), Jairus Byrd (IR); **South Carolina** – Jason Kelce (PROBABLE), Dontay Moch (OUT).

The Regulators have lost two straight – to Carthage and LA – and the situation could not be much bleaker for Hal Corson and his red riders. Apart from their coach sleeping at the helm, the Regs players have failed to stand out positively in any statistical category. They desperately need a win to regain confidence and to quell the increasingly loud whispers calling for the coach's head. The Ravens lost their folk hero, Shaun Hill, last week, possibly for the rest of the season, leaving the controls in the unpredictable hands of RGIII. The Battle for South Carolina should be an interesting one: the Ravens' winning formula may have been spoiled by the loss of its offensive MVP while it is no exaggeration to say that the Regulators' season is on the line here. The Ravens are missing key players on the defence, in particular Gerald McCoy. They are also re-introducing the mercurial RGIII in a starting role. Expect the Regulators, embarrassed by last week's debacle, to be on their game. **PICK: SOUTH CAROLINA**

## **CHINO @ COWTOWN (line – CONVICTS by 1)**

**INJURIES: Chino** – Victor Cruz (IR), Michael Schofield (OUT); **Cowtown** – Terence Newman (PROBABLE), Marcell Dareus (DOUBTFUL), Jay Bromley (OUT), Derek Carrier (OUT), Cedric Ogbuehi (OUT).

The struggles of the Corn King defence to get off the field on 3<sup>rd</sup> down continued last week in their loss to Mission Viejo. The pass rush is not getting through in those 3<sup>rd</sup> and long situations tailor-made for pass-rushers and that has been *with* Marcell Dareus attempting to disrupt the interior. The big guy is doubtful for this game, which will create a hole in the center of the defensive front big enough to drive a DeMarco Murray truck through. On offence, the Corn King receivers lead the league in dropped passes, many of them drive-killers. Meanwhile, the Convicts have won three of their last four games and have been a force in each of them. Cam Newton is enjoying his greatest success as an offensive leader since he entered the league, ironically at a time when the ‘Lockdown Crew’ is starting to show its age. This is a very important game for both teams as both are on the immediate fringe of tight playoff races. Chino may be on the road, but the Corn Kings have been hit-and-miss. **PICK: CHINO**

## IOWA CITY @ YORK (line – CUBS by 3)

**INJURIES:** Iowa City – Brian Quick (PROBABLE); York – Vincent Brown (OUT).

The feel good vibe that had enveloped the Cubs over a 6-game win streak was switched off temporarily following last week's decisive loss to Durham. The team that dominates the stat board in both phases went ultra-conservative, running 40 times and attempting just 11 passes in an attempt to bypass the strength of the Lizards defence. They can't afford to be so predictable this week. Although the play of the Yorkies has been anything but steady so far, their defence has been arguably the best in the league when bell-curved to their opposition. Both teams need a win here, but the Excaliburs are in the more desperate position in the middle of a 7-team race for two wildcard spots in the Can-Am Conference. The pressure continues to rest on Tom Brady, who has been performing stoically with limited weapons and getting help from a league-leading 6 special teams and defensive touchdowns.

This is not an easy match-up for the Cubs, but anger coming off a loss will bolster their superior talent. **PICK: IOWA CITY**

## DURHAM @ MISSION VIEJO (line – THUNDER LIZARDS by 9)

**INJURIES:** Durham – Ahmad Bradshaw (OUT), DJ Hayden (OUT); Mission Viejo – Timmy Jernigan (OUT), Jerod Mayo (IR), Kevin White (OUT).

The Lizards are the league's top defence at stopping opponents on 3<sup>rd</sup> down, with a 74.8% stop rate. A 12 of 18 showing against Cowtown last week boosted Mission Viejo into the no. 2 spot overall in 3<sup>rd</sup> down conversion percentage at a whopping 47.5%. One side has to give and it is unlikely to be Durham. Continued production from the Mission running game is a must if Ryan Tannehill is to have any hope to making an impact through the air. The Lizard offence continues to have its way with opponents in the passing game, but they could hit a snag this week if the Monarchs' pass rush repeats the intensity it displayed last week against the Corn Kings. The Durham run game has enjoyed fleeting success, depending on the day, but is not a reliable complement to a harried passing game. It's hard to imagine a Durham loss, but not hard to imagine a closer game. **PICK: MISSION VIEJO**

## SCARBOROUGH @ LOS ANGELES (line – KNIGHTS by 4)

**INJURIES:** Scarborough – None; Los Angeles – John Conner (PROBABLE), Brian Orakpo (OUT).

LA is second in the league in generating turnovers and the Blue Eagles will give them up when pressured. Conversely, the Knights have turned the ball over just 5 times all season, best in the league. The takeaway game adds another dimension to an already complicated analysis. On paper, the Scarborough defence should stop the Knights cold while the Knights secondary should be overwhelmed by the Aaron Rodgers-to-Jordy Nelson/DeSean Jackson connections. Nelson, brought over to fuel an Eagle playoff run, has not dazzled as predicted; his numbers are passable, but he has not broken any games wide open like he did with the Stars last year. Chris Dickinson's boys have repeatedly defied the paper odds, usually to their detriment, while the Knights have been performing above their pay-grade since rising up and thumping York in Camelot two weeks ago. I kind of like the Knights here, but cannot get my head around the 4-point line. The Eagles should cover if they don't win outright. **PICK: SCARBOROUGH**



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FROM THE EFL ARCHIVES – Week Nine of the 2009 EFL season had little of the excitement of the Week 9 we just enjoyed in 2015. The Cubs provided the most excitement with a come-from-behind victory over the Hellfire. After climbing back from a 21-7 deficit to make it 21-17 with 2:13 left in the game, the Cubs got the game-winner when *Oshiomogho Atogwe* picked off a deep pass from *Kurt Warner* and returned it 64 yards for a TD. What was Warner doing throwing deep in that situation? It was the sort of thing coach Bobby Elder did in those days – he

certainly did what he could to live up to his team's nickname.

In the most significant game of Week 9, *Peyton Manning* threw a pair of TD passes to lead the Patriots (7-2) past the Convicts (6-3). The loss pushed Chino one game behind the Knights in the West Division while the Pats win kept them 2 games ahead of Kutztown (5-4).

In a piece of trivia that says all you need to know about the Dragons' defensive dominance that year, Cowtown kicker *Jason Hanson's* late 40-yard field goal in a 28-6 loss was the first score surrendered by the Dragons (9-0) in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter to that point in the season. Wow!

Speaking of defensive dominance – Florida linebacker *Terrell Suggs* made life hell for Cowtown's *Chad Pennington*, sacking him 4 times, forcing a fumble, and ruining every promising Cowtown drive. The Corn Kings' offence was he punt returning of *Santana Moss*, who chewed up 87 yards on 4 returns.

The league leaders in Week 9 were: QB – *Matt Ryan* (110.3 QB rating); Rushing – *DeAngelo Williams* (FLD), 936 yards, 5.7 avg., Receiving – *Greg Jennings* (KUT), 58 catches, 14.1 Avg., 7 TDs.