

2015

Week Seven


EFL NEWS
 ELITE FOOTBALL LEAGUE

2015

Week Seven

November 23, 2015



CAR	52	TCT	23	GWG	35	SC	34	COW	3	SBE	10	CHI	16	SEB	17	YOR	31	PIC	20
AUR	17	DTL	38	VIR	6	MOH	14	CHP	31	BCR	34	MAR	7	ICC	33	MVM	28	LAK	6

A STAR IS BORN!


Marcus Mariota

LATEST EFL NEWS INSIDE

- CANNIBALS END MUSTANGS STREAK
- LIZARDS BRES BY TRIUMPH
- REGULATORS ALIVE
- AND MORE.....

Also in this issue

- SPATS FEATURE, 'RUSH TO PROFIT,' 'ACTING LIKE AN ACE,' 'BROWN AGS' & 'EFL ROUND-UP.'
- JIMMY THE GEEK
- THIS WEEK IN EFL HISTORY – WEEK SEVEN OF 2009

Marcus Mariota threw for 5 TDs to end the Mustangs 25-game win streak. Shockingly, it wasn't even close! (Story Inside.....)



*Who was slick
in Week Seven?*

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



Marcus Mariota
QB
 Carthage
 Cannibals

19 of 32, 289 yards, 5 TDs. Star performance in major upset.



Telvin Smith
OLB
 Pickering
 Spartans

17 Tackles, 3 Stuff, 1 FF. Tackling machine forced critical fumble.



3-4-0



GAME OF THE WEEK



6-1-0

Carthage

52

MVP

Marcus Mariota

17

Aurora

TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Cmp	Att	Yds	TD
Mariota	19	32	289	5
Rushing	Car	Yds	Avg	TD
Blount	18	49	4.9	1
Receiving	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD
Baldwin	7	120	17.1	2

Team	1	2	3	4	OT	Total
Carthage	14	17	7	14	-	52
Aurora	7	0	3	7	-	17

Play of the Game

With the game tied 7-7 in the 1st quarter, **Marcus Mariota** threw long to **Emmanuel Sanders** in double-coverage. The perfect pass split the defenders and Sanders scored to give Carthage the lead.

TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Cmp	Att	Yds	TD
Ryan	29	46	370	1
Rushing	Car	Yds	Avg	TD
Thomas	10	46	4.6	1
Receiving	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD
Boldin	6	132	22.0	0

SUMMARY: The Cannibals entered this re-match of last year's championship heavy underdogs on the road against the Mustangs, winners of a record 25 straight. Aurora looked in control early, moving 73 yards on the game's opening drive and scoring on a 6-yard TD run by **Pierre Thomas**. But the Cannibals struck back quickly on their first possession when **Travis Kelce** gained 40 yards on a screen pass and Marcus **Mariota** hit **Doug Baldwin** for a 32-yard TD pass to tie the game. Mariota would do it again on his next drive, this time hitting double-covered **Emmanuel Sanders** for another 32-yard TD pass to make it 14-7 and put them in the lead to stay. A three-and-out and consecutive turnovers on downs by the Mustangs set up 17 third-quarter points for the Cannibals, giving them a comfortable 31-7 lead at half time. **Nick Folk** kicked a 44-yard FG to cap Aurora's first possession of the 2nd half, but the Cannibals replied with a balanced drive, mixing in three long passes to move 81 yards in 8 plays and score on a 22-yard TD pass to Sanders. A 43-yard bomb to **Albert Wilson** set up a 3-yard TD pass from **Matt Ryan** to **Heath Miller** to make it 38-17, but the Mustangs' further efforts at a comeback proved futile, as turnovers led to 14 more Carthage points, including Mariota's 5th TD pass, in a full scale rout.

QUOTES: "Well, the streak is over. Kudos to Kenny and his team for out-playing us and getting revenge from last year's final! There won't be much second-guessing about this one. It was as decisive a butt-whipping as it gets." – Aurora coach, **Rich Liotta**.

"Nobody can take away their accomplishments – they are worthy champs. But we knew we could beat them if we played our game. Today we played our game and a little better than our game at times. Marcus is special and he showed us how special today." – Carthage coach, **Kenny Main**.



HAPPY FAN



titter

ANGRY FAN



Kokopali @Crimpcarving

This is the revenge of the Gods!



Granny Gee @grannygee

They have a saying in Texas: the bigger they are the harder they fall. The Mustangs fell real hard today.

11-21-2015 Candlestick Park Temp: 59 Wind: Calm None MVP: Marcus Mariota

Scoring Summary

1 10:35	Aurora	TD Thomas 6 run (Folk) (7-73-4:21)	0-7
1 8:11	Carthage	TD Mariota 32 pass to Baldwin (Hauschka) (4-80-2:24)	7-7
1 0:54	Carthage	TD Mariota 32 pass to Sanders (Hauschka) (7-76-3:44)	14-7
2 10:47	Carthage	TD Mariota 9 pass to Kelce (Hauschka) (8-61-4:05)	21-7
2 3:30	Carthage	TD Blount 6 run (Hauschka) (10-58-4:28)	28-7
2 0:04	Carthage	FG Hauschka 26 (9-26-1:46)	31-7
3 7:27	Aurora	FG Folk 44 (10-56-4:37)	31-10
3 3:04	Carthage	TD Mariota 22 pass to Sanders (Hauschka) (8-81-4:15)	38-10
4 11:08	Aurora	TD Ryan 3 pass to Miller (Folk) (6-69-3:02)	38-17
4 4:00	Carthage	TD Mariota 17 pass to Baldwin (Hauschka) (3-18-1:23)	45-17
4 0:35	Carthage	TD McDonald 71 yd fumble recovery (Hauschka)	52-17

	CAR	AUR
First Downs	26	18
Rushes	35-148	10-46
Passes	32-19-289	46-29-370
Sacked	1-11	3-25
Fumble	0	2
Penalties	4-65	12-109
Turnovers	0	4
Missed Tackles	6	8
Blitzes	36	14
Time	32:09	27:51
Third Down	7-12	1-9
Fourth Down	0-0	1-4
Red Att/Td/Fg	4/3/1	4/2/1
Net Offense	426	391

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



SPARTANS

3-4-0

7

10

3

0

0

20

OT

Philip Rivers
9 of 13, 148 yards, 1 TD



KNIGHTS

2-5-0

0

3

0

3

0

6

Teddy Bridgewater
23 of 33, 269 yards

Philip Rivers hit **Golden Tate** for a 40-yard pass on the game's first play and **Demaryius Thomas** scored on a 20-yard fade two plays later to give the Spartans all the points they would need. The Knights took 19 plays and 11:22 to move 80 yards on their next series but settled for a 27-yard FG by **Patrick Murray**. **Adam 'Pacman' Jones** returned the ensuing kick-off 92 yards for a TD then Pickering capitalized on a **Dante Rosario** fumble with a 41-yard **Josh Scobee** FG to make it 17-3 Spartans at the half. A pair of missed 4th downs inside the Pickering red zone held the Knights at bay.



TRIUMPH

5-2-0

7

6

10

0

0

23

OT

Melvin Gordon
31 Carries, 207 yards, 1 TD



MUSTANGS

6-1-0

7

7

0

24

0

38

Drew Brees
26 of 33, 325 yards, 4 TDs, 1 INT

Melvin Gordon ran roughshod over the Lizards, rushing for 104 yards on one drive and scoring on a 2-yard run to tie at 7 in the 1st. **Chris Harris Jr** picked off **Drew Brees** early in the 3rd to set up a 1-yard TD pass from **Jay Cutler** to Gordon and the Triumph led 23-14 going into the 4th. A 61-yard bomb for a TD to **Calvin Johnson** got the 4th-quarter Durham rally started then a 39-yard pass to **Antonio Gates** set up another Johnson TD catch to give Durham a 31-23 lead. The Triumph went for 4th & 4 in their own territory late in the game but failed, setting up **Mike Davis** for Durham's final TD.



GLADIATORS

4-3-0

7

7

7

14

0

35

OT

Ben Roethlisberger
18 of 21, 250 yards, 2 TDs



VIOLATORS

0-7-0

3

3

0

0

0

6

Mark Ingram
24 Carries, 140 yards

Lineman **Kyle Williams** intercepted **Derek Carr** on Virden's opening series to set up a short field for Gwinnett's opening TD, a 3-yard run by **LeSean McCoy**. Virden running back **Mark Ingram** broke a 36-yard run on their next possession to set up a 46-yard **Mason Crosby** FG to get the home team on the scoreboard. The Glads responded with a 15-play, 83-yard scoring drive that ended with **Big Ben** sneaking across the goal line to make it 14-3. In the 2nd half, the worn out Virden defence gave up three long TD drives, while the offence hit a wall of Gwinnett defenders and failed to score.



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!



REGULATORS

3-4-0

14	0	7	13	0	34
					OT

Greg Jennings
7 Catches, 93 yards, 3 TDs



HELLFIRE

1-6-0

0	7	0	7	0	14
					OT

Ronnie Hillman
25 Carries, 114 yards, 2 TDs

Vinnie Curry sacked **Andrew Luck** on the first play from scrimmage and forced a fumble; the turnover set up a 5-yard TD pass from **Tony Romo** to **Greg Jennings** for a 7-0 lead. Jennings then turned a short cross into a 17-yard TD to double the Regs lead, but Hellfire RB, **Ronnie Hillman**, finished off a 64-yard drive with a 1-yard TD run to make it 14-7 before half time. A tight 3rd quarter broke the Regs way with a 24-yard TD pass to Jennings to make it 21-7. **TJ Ward** picked off Luck on the next series to set up a FG and **Joe Haden** returned a fumble 13 yards for a TD to cap the Regs' scoring.



CORN KINGS

3-4-0

0	0	3	0	0	3
					OT

Joe Flacco
14 of 31, 95 yards



PATRIOTS

7-0-0

3	14	0	14	0	31
					OT

Peyton Manning
27 of 34, 254 yards, 1 TD, 1 INT

The Corn Kings missed their chance to score first when **Nick Novak** hooked a FG attempt on the opening drive. After that it was all Charleswood. The Pats scored three times on their next three possessions, finishing off drives of 89 and 65 yards with TD runs by **Lamar Miller** and **Duke Johnson** to make it 17-0 at half time. **Glover Quin** intercepted **Peyton Manning** in the 3rd to set up a FG for Cowtown's only points. The Pats controlled the clock for the remainder with runs and short passes, adding a pair of 4th quarter TDs on a 6-yard TD pass to **Dez Bryant** and a 3-yard run by **Knile Davis**.



BLUE EAGLES

3-4-0

0	0	10	0	0	10
					OT

Aaron Rodgers
18 of 28, 2215 yards, 1 TD



RAVENS

5-1-1

10	14	0	10	0	34
					OT

Shaun Hill
22 of 29, 244 yards, 2 TDs

A slow start for the Scarborough offence and a hot start for the Ravens offence made this a one-sided contest through one half of play. **Jonathan Stewart** and **Karlos Williams** scored rushing TDs and **Shaun Hill** hooked up with **Randall Cobb** for a 14-yard TD pass to account for the major scoring in a 24-0 Beaufort lead. The Blue Eagles flew out of the gate in the 2nd half, with **Aaron Rodgers** hitting **Mohamed Sanu** for a 21-yard TD pass to top off their opening drive. But an 8-yard TD pass to **DeAndre Hopkins** to start the 4th quarter gave the Ravens a cushion and their defence did the rest.

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



CONVICTS

4-3-0

10	0	3	3	0	16
OT					

DeMarco Murray

38 Carries, 176 yards, 1 TD



NORTH STARS

3-4-0

0	7	0	0	0	7
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Andre Ellington

16 Carries, 61 yards, 1 TD

The Convicts scored on their 1st two series, grinding out a 12-play opening drive for a **Dan Bailey** FG and getting a 21-yard scramble by **Cam Newton** and a 34-yard catch from **Malcom Floyd** to set up a 1-yard **DeMarco Murray** TD run. Both teams kept the ball on the ground; **Andre Ellington** made it a 3-point game with a 2-yard TD run after carrying 6 straight times in the drive. With the Convicts in front 13-7 in the 4th, Markham's **David Johnson** was stuffed on 4th down at his own 40, setting up a 36-yard Bailey FG, making it a two-score game that the Stars' offence could not overcome.



EXCALIBURS

4-3-0

10	7	7	7	0	31
OT					

Tom Brady

21 of 27, 209 yards, 2 TDs



MONARCHS

2-5-0

0	14	14	0	0	28
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Chris Ivory

15 Carries, 151 yards, 2 TDs

York's **Omar Bolden** returned the opening kickoff 92 yards for a TD to spot the Excaliburs a TD then **Paul Richardson** returned a kick 52 yards to help set up a 1-yard **Tom Brady** TD run to make it 17-7 in the 2nd. The Monarchs fought back with an 8-yard TD run by **Joiqee Bell** before the half but York kept countered with an 8-yard TD pass to **Zach Ertz** following a **Rashean Mathis** interception of **Ryan Tannehill**. **Chris Ivory** busted a 70-yard TD run and Bell added his 2nd TD to put the Monarchs in front 28-24, but a 10-yard TD pass to Ertz followed by tough 'D' put the game away for York.



SWORDFISH

0-7-0

7	3	0	7	0	17
OT					

Andy Dalton

25 of 37, 241 yards, 1 TD, 1 INT



CUBS

5-1-1

3	13	14	3	0	33
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Colin Kaepernick

12 of 13, 141 yards, 2 TDs

Sebastian opened with an impressive 85-yard drive that took 9 minutes off the clock and ended with **Andy Dalton** sniping **Brandon Myers** in the end zone for an 11-yard TD pass. Riding a wave, the Fish attempted to convert 4th and 1 at their own 29 on their next possession but failed. The Cubs moved in quickly for a TD to take a 9-7 lead and later added a 10-yard TD pass from **Colin Kaepernick** to **Darren Sproles** to lead 16-10 at half time. The 2nd half witnessed back-up RB, **Bishop Sankey** pound the Sebastian line for a 14-yard TD run to spark a strong Cubs finish for the easy win.

WEEK SEVEN

STANDINGS

East	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Charleswood	7	0	0	1	206	29.4	103	14.7	14.7	4 0 0	4 0 0	6 0 0
Twin Cities	5	2	0	0.714	200	28.6	146	20.9	7.7	2 1 0	3 1 0	5 1 0
Carthage	3	4	0	0.429	222	31.7	184	26.3	5.4	1 2 0	2 2 0	2 4 0
Mohave	1	6	0	0.143	87	12.4	217	31	-18.6	0 4 0	1 3 0	1 5 0
Virden	0	7	0	0	85	12.1	201	28.7	-16.6	0 4 0	0 4 0	0 6 0
West	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Beaufort County	5	1	1	0.786	186	26.6	129	18.4	8.1	4 0 0	3 0 1	4 1 1
Iowa City	5	1	1	0.786	206	29.4	119	17	12.4	3 0 1	2 1 1	4 1 1
Chino	4	3	0	0.571	166	23.7	152	21.7	2	1 2 0	2 2 0	3 3 0
Los Angeles	2	5	0	0.286	118	16.9	178	25.4	-8.6	1 3 0	1 3 0	2 4 0
Mission Viejo	2	5	0	0.286	172	24.6	188	26.9	-2.3	1 3 0	1 3 0	2 4 0
North	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Durham	6	1	0	0.857	163	23.3	100	14.3	9	4 0 0	4 0 0	5 1 0
York	4	3	0	0.571	161	23	136	19.4	3.6	2 1 0	2 2 0	3 3 0
Cowtown	3	4	0	0.429	153	21.9	198	28.3	-6.4	2 1 0	1 3 0	3 3 0
Markham	3	4	0	0.429	136	19.4	111	15.9	3.6	3 1 0	2 2 0	3 3 0
Pickering	3	4	0	0.429	143	20.4	147	21	-0.6	1 2 0	1 3 0	2 4 0
South	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Aurora	6	1	0	0.857	220	31.4	182	26	5.4	3 1 0	4 0 0	6 0 0
Gwinnett	4	3	0	0.571	181	25.9	137	19.6	6.3	1 2 0	2 2 0	3 3 0
Scarborough	3	4	0	0.429	144	20.6	182	26	-5.4	2 1 0	2 2 0	3 3 0
South Carolina	3	4	0	0.429	143	20.4	188	26.9	-6.4	2 1 0	2 2 0	2 4 0
Sebastian	0	7	0	0	159	22.7	253	36.1	-13.4	0 3 0	0 4 0	0 6 0

PASSING

Rk	Player	Team	Att	Cmp	C%	Yards	In	I%	Lg	TD	TD%	Rate
1	Wilson,R	ICC	183	116	63.4	1521	0	0	56	13	7.1	113.2
2	Cutler	TCT	192	135	70.3	1611	5	2.6	73	15	7.8	110.8
3	Newton,C	CHI	186	119	64	1655	4	2.2	56	13	7	106.8
4	Hill,S	BCR	198	137	69.2	1468	2	1	54	12	6.1	106.6
5	Manning,P	CHP	224	152	67.9	1721	3	1.3	71	13	5.8	104.4
6	Roethlisberger	GWG	223	146	65.5	1826	4	1.8	72	14	6.3	104.2
7	Romo	SC	249	163	65.5	1698	3	1.2	56	15	6	100.1
8	Mariota	CAR	231	136	58.9	1888	7	3	57	19	8.2	100
9	Bridgewater	LAK	141	85	60.3	939	2	1.4	52	9	6.4	95.4
10	Brees	DTL	277	187	67.5	1992	4	1.4	61	10	3.6	94.3
11	Tannehill	MVM	222	146	65.8	1509	4	1.8	47	11	5	94.2
12	Flacco	COW	268	168	62.7	1836	5	1.9	49	15	5.6	93.8
13	Rivers,P	PIC	162	95	58.6	1305	5	3.1	74	10	6.2	92.2
14	Manning,E	MAR	133	84	63.2	913	2	1.5	63	6	4.5	92.1
15	Brady,T	YOR	201	125	62.2	1320	3	1.5	87	10	5	91.6
16	Ryan,M	AUR	294	180	61.2	2262	8	2.7	62	13	4.4	88.6
17	Rodgers,A	SBE	269	165	61.3	1832	5	1.9	63	11	4.1	87.5

RUSHING

Rk	Player	Team	Att	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD
1	Bell,L	LAK	230	889	3.9	25	3
2	McCoy,L	GWG	156	794	5.1	40	5
3	Murray,D	CHI	156	710	4.6	40	4
4	Forte	PIC	149	690	4.6	36	5
5	Gordon,M	TCT	117	682	5.8	44	5
6	Anderson,C	SS	129	668	5.2	24	5
7	Lacy	CAR	130	650	5	31	4
8	Miller,L	CHP	113	649	5.7	23	3
9	Morris,A	COW	116	595	5.1	47	2
10	Lynch,M	YOR	125	577	4.6	33	3
11	Gore	SC	115	571	5	50	1
12	Foster,A	AUR	89	555	6.2	34	5
13	Ivory	MVM	92	511	5.6	70	6
14	Stewart	BCR	103	477	4.6	73	1
15	Bell,J	MVM	83	448	5.4	21	4
16	Ingram,M	VV	96	424	4.4	36	4
17	Johnson,D	CHP	73	411	5.6	29	5
18	Charles,J	VV	81	380	4.7	54	1
19	Hill,J	ICC	60	366	6.1	30	3
20	Coleman,T	MOH	95	353	3.7	20	3

RECEIVING

Rk	Player	Team	No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD
1	Maclin	GWG	46	768	16.7	60	7
2	Brown,A	TCT	45	527	11.7	29	5
3	Kelce,T	CAR	44	502	11.4	41	6
4	Johnson,A	CHP	44	475	10.8	20	1
5	Johnson,C	DTL	42	678	16.1	61	6
6	Boldin	AUR	41	664	16.2	40	2
7	Decker	DTL	41	415	10.1	28	3
8	Bryant,D	CHP	40	612	15.3	71	7
9	Evans,M	COW	39	492	12.6	47	2
10	Fitzgerald	COW	39	418	10.7	21	6
11	Jones,J	MOH	35	594	17	99	1
12	Jennings,G	SC	35	398	11.4	36	4
13	Hopkins,D	BCR	34	431	12.7	45	5
14	Nelson,J	SBE	34	442	13	47	5
15	Smith Sr.	COW	34	443	13	45	5
16	Hilton	DTL	34	397	11.7	40	0
17	Gronkowski	BCR	34	338	9.9	54	4
18	Stills	SS	34	411	12.1	27	2
19	Graham,J	MOH	33	285	8.6	19	0
20	Jackson,D	SBE	32	418	13.1	25	1

KICKING

Rk	Player	Team	FGA	FGM	FG%	40	50	Lg	Pts
1	Folk	AUR	16	15	93.8	3	0	48	70
2	Succop	CHP	17	15	88.2	3	1	51	68
3	Parkey	BCR	18	17	94.4	7	1	54	68
4	Gostkowski	TCT	13	13	100	5	0	48	62
5	Dawson	DTL	17	15	88.2	4	0	49	61
6	Brown,J	MAR	17	15	88.2	5	1	54	58
7	Zuerlein	ICC	14	11	78.6	4	0	49	56
8	Bailey,D	CHI	12	11	91.7	9	4	53	52
9	Novak	COW	13	12	92.3	5	2	52	51
10	Vinatieri	SS	11	11	100	5	1	50	49
11	Suisham	GWG	11	9	81.8	4	0	47	47
12	Hauschka	CAR	8	6	75	2	1	51	46
13	Scobee	PIC	10	8	80	4	1	53	41
14	Tucker,J	SC	9	8	88.9	4	0	47	41
15	Murray,P	LAK	9	9	100	5	3	53	40
16	Walsh	YOR	11	7	63.6	2	0	48	39
17	Nugent	SBE	6	6	100	1	0	40	36
18	Carpenter	MVM	6	4	66.7	3	1	55	34
19	Crosby	VV	7	7	100	7	0	47	29
20	Janikowski	MOH	8	6	75	1	1	52	27



STANDINGS - WEEK 2

EFL ASIA	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff
Taipei	2	0	0	1.000	45	22.5	19	9.5	13
Seoul	1	1	0	0.500	54	27	48	24	3
Beijing	1	1	0	0.500	41	20.5	55	27.5	-7
Pyongyang	0	2	0	0.000	26	13	44	22	-9



RED DRAGONS

1-1-0

0	0	0	3	0	3
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Wilford Calloway

21 of 34, 131 yards, 1 INT



SHARKS

2-0-0

0	14	10	0	0	24
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Wiley Hutcherson

18 Carries, 123 yards, 2 TDs

Shark RB, **Wiley Hutcherson** broke a scoreless tie in the 2nd quarter with a 55-yard TD run then LB, **Harold Griffen** stripped Dragons' WR, **Malik Keel** at the Beijing 26 to set up Hutcherson's second TD run, from 2 yards out, for a quick 14-0 Taipei lead. The Sharks' **Erik Jeter** returned the opening kickoff of the 2nd half 101 yards for a TD to make it 21-0 and from that point the Sharks' defence took over. Beijing QB, **Wilford Calloway** was sacked 4 times, twice by **Cameron Cotton**, and struggled to find his primary receivers. The Dragons broke the shutout on a 45-yard FG with no time left.



CALM

1-1-0

7	10	3	3	0	23
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Owen Russell

20 Carries, 99 yards, 1 TD



SUN

0-2-0

0	3	0	7	0	10
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David Soto

15 of 23, 124 yards, 1 TD

Seoul QB, **Barry Carroll** connected with **Johnny Parsons** for 41 yards to set up a 3-yard TD pass to **Henry Alvarado** to put the Calm on top 7-0. **Carlos Tunk** got the Sun on the board with a 23-yard FG but the Calm would break out with the help of two turnovers: **Houston Trapp** strip-sacked **David Soto** to set up a 51-yard **Garth Chacon** FG then **Darnell Stevens** fumbled away the ensuing kickoff return to set up a 7-yard TD run by **Owen Russell** to make it 17-3, Seoul. The Calm 'D' held on, giving up a 4th quarter TD pass to **Jerome Schwartz** before running down the clock with a 9:03 drive.



AROUND THE



With Spats McChad

NEW YORK – The art of marketing at its highest levels includes the capacity to persuade consumers to desire a thing they do not really need, or would never have thought to ask for. With that in mind, it is becoming quite clear to me that the EFL is embarking on an aggressive, high level and multi-faceted marketing campaign to exploit its rising popularity and maximize its profit.

Take, for example, the EFL Asia project. I am sure that the ethnic Chinese and Koreans were not clamouring for America-style football one year ago. Yet, despite this lack of demand and a troubled start to the season, (in which it has taken four weeks to play two weeks of the schedule) the ratings for EFL Asia are actually going up. It's far too early to say the league is a success, but with skeptics aplenty vociferously doubting that the league would manage to get even a single game in, the league can rightfully claim a measure of success and remain cautiously optimistic for the future.

It appears that the sheer insanity of the concept and the way it is playing out on the international stage may be fueling interest both at home and abroad. The antics of **Kim Jong-un** have been more entertaining than the football itself. His bombastic threat of “merciless retaliation” and official proclamation of victory after the Pyongyang Sun fell to the Seoul Calm 23-10 in Week Two is better than satire. His detention of the Seoul players after the game was not as funny, but the resultant scandal provoked a brief, but highly-charged international incident that – guess what – *brought attention to EFL Asia!*

Similarly, childish taunting of the PRC by the Chairman of the Taiwan Solidarity Union, **Huang Kun-huei** following a decisive 24-3 win by the Taipei Sharks over the Beijing Red Dragons, is unlikely to strengthen relations between mainland China and its tiny “rebellious” splinter on the other side of the Formosa Strait. The deployment of Chinese destroyers in the Strait following Huang's public remarks that the Red Dragons players were tired because they are “brothel frequenters” like their “sons of dogs” masters in the Communist Party drew an American aircraft carrier to the area as a protective measure and dominated CNN frontline coverage for 24 hours. This kerfuffle caused the world to take notice of – guess what – *EFL Asia!*

The players, mostly unknowns in North America, are relishing their modest celebrity in strange and foreign lands. Beijing quarterback, **Wilford Calloway** gained a local cult following when his agent leaked to the Chinese Media that his client was taking deer penis, a stamina enhancer and healing aid in traditional Chinese Medicine. Deer penis is the Chinese equivalent of a performance enhancing drug in the United States, but perfectly legal in China, although frowned upon by modernizers. Taipei quarterback, **Mitch Souza** attended a Ghost Festival in Kaohsiung and threw footballs through the eye sockets of a giant papier-mâché skull being paraded down a street. His jersey is the league's top seller so far. It did not take long for Pyongyang DE, **Seymour Littleton** to figure out that attributing everything positive in his life to the Supreme Leader was enough to earn him a special status among the North Korean elite and the right to attend the exclusive Munsu Water Park anytime he wants, where he stands out as the only African American to set foot inside since **Dennis Rodman** did a cannonball off the ‘Platform of Progress’ diving board. As the player's local profiles increase, so too will attachment to the game they play – at least that is what the EFL brass are hoping for.

RUSH TO PROFIT

Along with the unhinged ambition of a pro football league in the Far East come other farcical gimmicks that, albeit on a lesser scale, have the potential to fall flat or succeed wildly. The most recent is a pay-per-view series produced by EFL Network called *Locker Room Insider*. The episodes feature, literally, video access to the inside of an EFL team's locker room on game day. Ever wanted to see how your favourite players prepare for a game; or how often they scratch their balls when getting into their gear? You can find out that and much more, more than you probably want to know, by subscribing to *Locker Room Insider*. Am I the only one who thinks this is creepy in a spy-cam sort of way?

And, if you haven't heard of them yet, you will definitely see them when you tune into this week's edition of *Friday Night Football*. The league just announced that they will be introducing so-called ‘Color Rush’ uniforms on Friday nights. The match-up between the Markham North Stars and Iowa City Cubs at Joe Ferguson Stadium will unveil all-solid colour uniforms for both sides. The uniforms themselves have not been publicly displayed, but reactions from insiders with the teams involved are split, tellingly, along team lines. The Cubs are reportedly excited about their ‘Flash Red’ pyjamas, with white and blue trim; while the North Stars are rumoured to be less than thrilled with their ‘Beaver Brown’ jerseys with buff trim,

described by one insider as “dung-like.”

North Carolina-based garment manufacturer, *Jubber*, is looking to push American-owned but foreign-manufactured *Plode* and *Goat* to the fringes of the sports gear industry. *Jubber* was a marginal player until they landed a contract with the Iowa City Cubs. **Deron Redding** became a spokesman for the company and soon his charismatic influence on new owners (Deron is Chairman of the EFL Welcome Wagon and is the first to send a Hickory Farms gift basket to new owners) resulted in new contracts with Markham, Scarborough, York, Carthage and Mission Viejo. They have not landed any more contracts since. With growth stagnating, the company pitched their idea to the league and, in its never-ending marketing attempt to sell more jerseys, the EFL bought in.

What will the ‘Color Rush’ look like? You won’t know unless you tune in to see. And that, my friends, is how they get casual, curious fans to boost the ratings and the bottom line.

ACTING LIKE AN ACE

At Jurassic Park in Durham, the Twin Cities Triumph entered the 4th quarter with their sights set on an upset of the Thunder Lizards. Their 23-14 lead had been craftily built around the impressive running of rookie **Melvin Gordon** and a staunch defensive effort that had limited Durham to 14 points through three quarters. It was, however, just the prelude to an incredible Durham comeback that made headlines for more than the football.

Phil Dawson kicked a field goal two minutes into the 4th quarter to narrow the lead to 23-17, but with no answer for Gordon, the Lizards faced the prospect of a slow death, as the rookie promised to eat up the clock in the final frame. However, as he went to work in the 4th quarter, it soon became clear that Gordon was tiring. He was stuffed for a 5-yard loss and soon **Jon Ryan** was punting. On the next play **Drew Brees** erased the hard fought Triumph lead with one great play. He heaved a high arcing spiral over 50 yards in the air, hitting **Calvin Johnson** in stride for a 61-yard touchdown pass.

Forgetting he was “mic’d up” with FOX for this game, Triumph Coach, **Guy Williams** let loose with a string of obscenities, unfit even for a military barracks, targeting safety **Da’Norris Searcy**, who had bit on an underneath route and left **Darius Slay** one-on-one with a charging **Megatron**. The networks did not air the diatribe, but the unedited video and audio is posted on *Deathspun* and it is not for the faint of heart. If not for the microphone, it would be difficult to detect at a distance anything untoward from Williams. He is undemonstrative as he tears a strip off Searcy, but the sound of grinding teeth between sentences and his menacing grimace as he unleashes his invective is chilling in its murderousness. It is as if a psychopath lurks just under the surface, held in check by a national television audience and a hundred cameras. Where would such a latent trait have come from? I decided to do some research on Williams’ background and I turned up some interesting facts.

Polite, professional, and a consummate gentleman during the week, Williams has a notoriously short fuse once the game is on according to colleagues. It appears that when it comes to sports competition Williams coaches in the spirit of his great, great grandfather, WWI ace fighter pilot, Captain **William "Wee Willie" Williams**. ‘Wee Willie,’ a 5’, 105 lb firebrand, who some say drank whiskey at breakfast and never backed down from a fight, is officially credited with shooting down 46 German planes, but till his dying day claimed to have “shot down more ‘n a hunerd of ‘em – more ‘n that Red Baron!”



Twin Cities coach, **Guy Williams**, is incredulous after a questionable pass interference penalty on linebacker **Nigel Bradham**. The competitive Williams completely lost his cool in wake of his team’s collapse in a 38-23 loss to Durham.

While the Allies dodged the deadly Red Baron over Battlefield France, Wee Willie flew freelance literally wherever the winds carried him. In the days before radar and computers, fighter pilots could easily get disoriented coming out of a dive and end up flying the wrong way. Wee Willie was especially challenged when it came to navigation, having “gone missing” eight times in enemy territory. Each time he found his way back by stowing away on German supply trains and punching his way to No Man’s Land, where forces from both sides would take pot shots at him as he scarpered across the desolate landscape. Wee Willie was so shifty and small that the worst injury he suffered during these daring dashes was a partially blown off small toe where a ricochet penetrated his worn out hobnail boots. He seemed to relish these escapes from enemy lines and



Unhappy Virden fans express their opinion of the Violators seven weeks into a winless season. Falling attendance and a rise in the number of brown bag fans are signs of an increasingly bleak and depressing outlook for football in Virden.

later told his biographer, Colonel Fred Williamson: "World War One was the best time of my life!"

In view of his navigational challenges, the Army Air Service procured Wee Willie a Curtiss H-12 Flying Boat, a floating plane that allowed him to "fly to sea" after missions and land safely in any body of water. There he would be "rescued" by the Navy, fed, refueled, replenished with ammo and sent back to wherever his instincts led him.

On one notable occasion he found his way to Northern Italy, where he was credited by an Italian General with downing German Ace, **Herdrich van Wauffelburger**, the 'Brown Burgermeister,' scourge of the Italian Front. He also, unfortunately, downed an Italian observation balloon and wiped out a platoon of Carabinieri, after mistaking the sound of the uncorking of lunch time wine bottles for ground fire. Wee Willie crashed in

the Alps when he ran out of fuel and spent a month living behind the Austro-Hungarian lines, disguised in robes he had stolen from an elderly monk. Eventually he found a German airfield, strolled up to a Phönix D1, climbed inside and flew back to the Western Front by following the planes of the enemy. It was during this flight that he racked up most of his enemy kills. Unsuspecting German pilots, seeing the Crown of Austria on the tail of his plane, mistook him for a friendly until it was too late.

Wee Willie was a fighter and, in his own words, "a nasty sun-uv-a-bitch" until the very end. He spent his final years drinking smuggled whiskey and raping the bed-ridden at the Sunset Acres Retirement Home before expiring during an all-out brawl with nursing home staff on Veteran's Day. His sole-surviving friend from the Great War, Lieutenant **Mack "Greasy" Brown** said: "he would have wanted to go out that way – fighting all comers!"

The mellowing effects of the good life on subsequent generations have made model citizens out of most of the Williams clan. This is especially true of Guy, who owns the 'Birdie Burger' chain and recently opened three 'Arrow' department stores in Minnesota, taking direct aim at 'Target' in the heartland of the discount retailer's empire. But DNA is what it is, and it will express itself. The result is that FOX is regretting mic'ing up **Guy Williams** and is busy suppressing the controversial 4th quarter segments.

The *Deathspun* file contains shocking lines made more disturbing by their off-handed delivery. Among the most outrageous was a reference to "knee-capping" rookie **Melvin Gordon** after he failed to gain a first down on 3rd and 5; a shout out to referee **Brad Allen** to "come here so I can kick you in the nuts," following an uncalled pick on Megatron's second touchdown catch of the game; and a vow to "kill that bitch's kids" in reference to **Celine Dion** as the audio system at Jurassic Park pumped the refrain of her song "Be The Man" after Johnson's score. In all fairness, I can understand the last one; that song is completely annoying and has no place in a football stadium.

The Triumph collapse was complete the moment back-up running back **Mike Davis** crossed the goal line for the final, clinching touchdown with 1:46 left in the game. A disgusted Williams uttered words that cannot be reproduced here (even in %\$^) and stormed off the field before the final gun, forgoing the traditional post-game handshake. This is the side of the Triumph owner/coach we typically do not see, although previous references to him as a "fierce competitor" and a guy who "doesn't like to lose" take on new meaning in retrospect. By post-game time, he was back to his usual self; professional, direct and engaging. The ghost of 'Wee Willie' Williams was, at least temporarily, at rest somewhere deep within.

BROWN-BAGGING IT

Seven weeks into the season, the Violators are simply unwatchable and most of their fans, I am sure, would agree. Virden set a franchise low for attendance this past week for their inter-conference game against the Gladiators. With Gwinnett near the bottom of the standings last year and little history between the teams, the pre-sale numbers were the lowest of Virden's home slate. Most game day sales went to visitors from Georgia or bored visitors snatching up an opportunity to catch an EFL game for the bargain basement price of around \$10, the going rate immediately prior to kickoff being charged by desperate scalpers trying to cut their losses. I probably don't need to tell you there aren't many tourists in Virden.

The announced crowd was 12,774 but the actual body count looked to be about half of that. The **TERRORDOME** is a haunted place at the best of times, but surveying the nearly empty drab green bowl peopled by some of the nastiest fans outside of Chino was

like watching a *Mad Max* cage match, sort of. What was missing was any sense of real excitement. An interception of **Derek Carr** on Virden's opening drive brought groans from the crowd and put a damper on hopes that the Violators would remain competitive for a half – a feat they have pulled off a couple of times at home. Virden coach, **Lance Barrate** was on “auto-call,” meaning that the offence would run a pitch or trap unless instructed otherwise. This allowed Barrate to concentrate on his I-pad, tracking his Fantasy Team and managing his complex portfolio of investments. Trader Lance, as he is called, is the Warren Buffet of the EFL, having built up a fortune in the markets through questionable practices, or alleged *violations* of trading regulations. No regulator has been able to pin anything on him, so he remains cocky, boldly naming his team the Violators to mock his enemies.

When it comes to his team, however, Barrate cannot afford to remain too cocky or dismissive. Plummeting ticket sales, struggling stadium concessions, low jersey sales, dwindling advertising revenue and the pervasiveness of brown bag fans at the games are threatening the bottom line and making his team the object of ridicule. With ex-Violator **Matt Stafford** tearing it up in for the Big Pond Pandas of the SFL and other ex-Violators playing prominent roles in the success of their new teams, Lance's repeated assurances that he “has a plan” are not being accepted at face value.

The brown bag fans were out in force at the **TERRORDOME** this week and their numbers grew during the game as opportunistic freelance entrepreneurs did a brisk business peddling brown bags with pre-made holes for \$5 a bag. A game effort by the Virden defence was overlooked due to the ineptitude of the offence, which drew torrents of scornful jeers from the anonymous brown-baggers in the stands. By the time the final gun sounded on the 35-6 final in favour of the visitors, almost all of the remaining 800-or-so fans in attendance were wearing brown bags, according to the TV video evidence. It was an image as damaging as the poor play on the field and one that will only get worse as the losses mount.

AROUND THE EFL

Lop-sided victories dominated the Week Seven slate but one game provided enough drama for ten.

At Candlestick Park in Aurora, *The Streak* came to an abrupt and shocking end. The Carthage Cannibals defied all predictions in grand style, smoking the Mustangs by the jaw-dropping score of 52-17. For 25 straight games under Head Coach, **Rich Liotta**, the Mustangs had been both lucky and good in winning all 25, but on their 26th outing the breaks went against them on a day when the Cannibals were nearly perfect. Carthage scored on its first five possessions, building a 31-7 half time lead that proved too much for even the vaunted Mustangs to overcome. As if to send a message that this win was no fluke, the Cannibals continued to come on strong, out-scoring Aurora 21-10 in the second half and depriving **Matt Ryan** of the valuable consolation stats usually accumulated in garbage time. **Marcus Mariota** threw five touchdown passes and looked unbelievably cool as he picked apart the elite Aurora defence. **Kenny Main** was composed and strangely quiet after such an historic victory. He showed deference to his opponent, praised his quarterback and let it be known in subdued tones that he was not as shocked as the Media in the room that his team had won. One gets the sense that he felt the same way at last year's Championship – respectful but unfazed by the greatest team in EFL history. This win was more than no. 3 for 2015 – it was an affirmation of 2014.

At the Dawg Pound in Markham, the Convicts literally ground out a 16-7 win over the North Stars to stay within reach of the Ravens and Cubs in the West Division. It was a coming-out party of sorts for **DeMarco Murray**, who carried the ball 38 times for 176 yards and a touchdown. Two Chino turnovers in the red zone kept this game within reach for Markham, but the three-quarterback Stars offence could not sustain any momentum.

At HMK Royal Coliseum in Mission Viejo, a 2-pick performance by Monarchs QB, **Ryan Tannehill** cancelled out 265 yards rushing, 151 by **Chris Ivory**, and opened the door wide for **Tom Brady** and Swords. They barged through and pulled off a 31-28 victory, placing York in a wildcard spot if the season were to end today. York got off to a running start with **Omar Bolden** returning the game's opening kickoff 92 yards for a TD. It was York's league-leading 4th special teams TD return of the season.

At Round Table Stadium in Los Angeles, the Knights controlled the play and the time of possession but ended up losing by 14 points, 20-6 to the opportunistic Spartans. LA was 0 for 5 on 4th downs, 3 of those attempts coming in the Pickering red zone, resulting in missed field goal opportunities. The Spartans offence struggled after two big pass plays led to a touchdown on the game's opening drive, but got the benefit of a special teams TD, a 92-yard kick return by **Adam 'Pacman' Jones**, and a fumble by Knight's back-up tight end **Dante Rosario** that set up a Spartans FG.

What is wrong with **Andrew Luck**? The glow is fading from the Golden Boy of the 2012 draft. He turned the ball over 4 times at the Fiery Depths this week to gift a 34-14 win to the struggling Regulators. Luck's largesse was the equivalent of a defibrillator jolt to the VSA Regs, rescuing them from imminent playoff death. **Greg Jennings** caught 3 touchdown passes to star for the South Carolina offence. Colour returned to **Hal Corson's** cheeks for the first time since their Week 4 win over Gwinnett.

We wrap up Week 7 with a trio of blowouts, beginning in beautiful Beaufort County, where the low-flying Blue Eagles were knocked out of the sky by the high-flying Ravens in a surprisingly one-sided contest. After 1 quarter of play Scarborough had gained -17 yards of offence, surrendered 120 yards, and trailed the Ravens 10-0. 56 yards in penalties and a lost fumble led to two more Ravens TDs en route to a 34-10 decision for the homies. At Joe Ferguson Stadium, **Colin Kaepernick** was let out of his cage for some exercise. He led the Cubs to an easy 33-17 win over Sebastian and looked pretty good for a clipboard holder. If proof was ever needed that **Deron Redding** is looking to dump Kap before the league forgets about him, this was it. Even a rusty Kapaernick could hardly fail to post decent numbers against the inept Swordfish defence. And finally, at Patriot Place in Charleswood, the Pats made short work of the Corn Kings by the lower-than-deserved score of 31-3. **Peyton Manning** dinked and dunked with impunity while the defence strangled **Joe Flacco** and the offence, holding them to just 9 1st downs and 157 yards.

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JIMMY'S WEEK EIGHT PICKS

SOUTH CAROLINA @ CARTHAGE (line – CANNIBALS by 10)

INJURIES: **South Carolina** – Keenan Allen (PROBABLE), Jason Kelce (OUT), Dontay Moch (OUT); **Carthage** – Justin Durant (IR), Greg Hardy (IR), Derrick Johnson (IR) Russell Okung (OUT), Matt Slauson (OUT), Andre Smith (OUT).

Coming off a historic and emotional victory over the Mustangs the Cannibals are at risk of a letdown. Luckily their first post-celebration action comes against the Regulators, a team that seems to be in perpetual letdown. The sleep-walking Regs were temporarily revived by an invigorating stopover in Mohave, where their malaise was treated by a heavy dose of turnover tonic served by their Hellfire hosts. Take away those turnovers (get it?), as well as the 13 Mohave penalties for 116 yards, and the outcome might have been very different. Everything went right for Carthage last week, as it had to for a rookie quarterback to hand Aurora its first loss in 26 games. Such serendipity is uncommon, but if there is any of it still lingering in the Carthage locker room, it could very well make the difference here. The Regs have been unimpressive, even in victory, but the talent on the roster has to look at the double-digit line as a serious affront. It is gut check time for the Regulators. **PICK: SOUTH CAROLINA**

COWTOWN @ TWIN CITIES (line – TRIUMPH by 10)

INJURIES: **Cowtown** – Terence Newman (OUT), Cedric Ogbuehi (OUT), Todd Gurley (OUT), Koa Misi (OUT); **Twin Cities** – Dwayne Allen (OUT), LaAdrian Waddle (OUT).

This is the rubber match of a three-game road trip for the Corn Kings that could signal where this up-and-down team ultimately finishes their season. The Triumph are coming off a tough loss to playoff-bound Thunder Lizards, while their main competition in the East Division man-handled these same Corn Kings last week. This is a game the Triumph have to win, not only to stay in the division race but to maintain appearances as a worthy contender for the conference crown. They are well-constructed to overpower the competition here, with three top-grade cornerbacks matching up well against Joe Flacco's principal passing targets and a good enough pass rush to tie up the suspect Cowtown offensive line. On the offensive side, Jay Cutler's top three targets should have no trouble beating their defenders, leaving it up to Cutler to find them. Therein lays Cowtown's slim chance for an upset: the ability of their pass rush to get to Cutler and force errors. Expect another heavy dose of Melvin Gordon this week to soften up the line and slow down that pass rush. Twin Cities is strong, at home, angry, and facing a schizophrenic opponent. **PICK: TWIN CITIES**

VIRDEN @ PICKERING (line – SPARTANS by 12)

INJURIES: **Virden** – Prince Amukamara (OUT), Martavis Bryant (OUT), Eric Berry (IR), Kelcy Quarles (IR), Stephen Tulloch (IR), Aldon Smith (IR); **Pickering** – David Cobb (OUT), Jason Hatcher (OUT);

The Spartans were opportunistic last week in beating the Knights, but apart from taking full advantage of their opportunities, it was not a convincing performance. The defence surrendered 420 yards to an offence that has not moved that far in a game in years and only kept the score down thanks to a couple of 4th down stands in their red zone. They should improve this week, but only because their opponent is even less impressive. On top of being bad, the Violators are banged up. Former pro-bowler Aldon Smith joined the list of permanently disabled stars during last week's debacle versus Gwinnett. There are currently five healthy defensive linemen on the roster and most of the names on the active secondary you probably haven't heard of. All this promises further debacles to come for Virden, starting this week against a Spartans team that is still alive in the Can-Am wild card race and needs a win and some momentum. Pickering has the offence to beat this spread while Virden doesn't have the offence to keep up. **PICK: PICKERING**

MOHAVE @ GWINNETT (line – GLADIATORS by 15)

INJURIES: **Mohave** – Tevin COLEMAN (OUT), Harry Douglas (OUT), Ace Sanders (OUT), Jimmie Ward (OUT); **Gwinnett** – Mychal Kendricks (OUT).

Big Line week continues with another mismatch. The Hellfire are going through their usual early rough patch – a period that commonly spans the first eight to ten weeks of the season. The last time Mohave posed a threat at this time of year was back in 2010. Thought to be a transition year toward a long-awaited return to contention, this season is turning into a disaster for Andrew Luck. With just 4 TD passes to 8 interceptions and a league-low 55% completion percentage, he is barely out-performing Derek Carr. The presumption that he would be able to raise the play of those around him is looking like wishful thinking. Of course, it's not all his fault – the defence is floundering and failing at the one thing it was supposed to do well: sack the quarterback and force turnovers. The Gladiators are performing about as expected, but fans are hoping for greater consistency from Ben Roethlisberger, who looks great one week, and bumbly the next. He is on schedule for an off-day this week, but the Hellfire might be the perfect cure for his bi-weekly hiccups. **PICK: GWINNETT**

CHARLESWOOD @ SEBASTIAN (line – PATRIOTS by 14)

INJURIES: **Charleswood** – Lane Johnson (OUT); **Sebastian** – Odell Beckham Jr. (OUT), Chandler Jones (OUT), Alex Mack (OUT), Paul Posluszny (OUT), Perry Riley Jr. (OUT).

The Pats thoroughly subdued the Corn Kings in all phases of the game last week, becoming in the process the last unbeaten team in the league and looking very much like a powerhouse. It is all but certain they will retain that status after they have grilled the Swordfish this week, but whether they will do it in full blowout style or remain conservative is the question that only Jason Findlay can answer. For all their troubles, the Fish are scoring over 22 points per game and remain a serious threat to score those late garbage points that drive bettors crazy. Odell Beckham Jr. is still 'OUT', which is a serious blow to "garbage time," but running back CJ Anderson is healthy and one of the most dynamic playmakers at the position in the league. However, the see-through Sebastian defence is missing its best pass rusher, Chandler Jones, which will give Peyton Manning even more time to pick his spots in the passing game. Good luck might not even be enough for the Swordfish here. **PICK: CHARLESWOOD**

AURORA @ BEAUFORT COUNTY (line – MUSTANGS by 3)

INJURIES: **Aurora** – Kevin Pierre-Louis (OUT); **Beaufort County** – Vontaze Burfict (OUT), Nick Fairley (OUT), Mason Foster (OUT), Ryan Mathews (OUT), Evan Mathis (OUT), Stevan Ridley (OUT), Frank Alexander (IR), Jairus Byrd (IR).

With no data on the Liotta Mustangs after a loss it rests on me to speculate how the team will react to having been blown out in their only loss. Beaufort is a team they should beat on paper, but so was Carthage – even more so. The Ravens are playing fundamentally sound football, committing a league-low three turnovers, moving the ball efficiently and scoring in the red zone. It may be time to stop doubting the ability of Shaun Hill to manage the game. They are also the toughest team to score on inside the red zone, which is not too much of a surprise considering they still have some big names on defence. The Mustangs have not had to be patient on offence throughout most of their 25-game winning streak, but they may want to tone down the aggressiveness against this team. Turnovers and penalties figured prominently in their loss to Marcus Mariota, and the Ravens' defence is much less forgiving than the Cannibals' defence. This is a match-up that could bite the Mustangs in the behind if they aren't careful, but they are still the deserved favourites. This figures to be a close one, but not close enough for the blackbirds. **PICK: AURORA**

DURHAM @ CHINO (line – THUNDER LIZARDS by 3)

INJURIES: **Durham** – Alex Carter (QUESTIONABLE), Ahmad Bradshaw (OUT); **Chino** – Michael Schofield (OUT), Roddy White (OUT).

The Convicts demonstrated last week against Markham that they did not have to pass the ball to move the ball and control the play. They will be counting on that ability again this week as they come up against the league's second best pass defence as measured by opponent QB rating. The Thunder Lizards have been shutting down opponents' air attacks, but have been giving up ground yardage at a 5.1-yard per carry pace, one of the worst averages in the league. It is as much a function of the reluctance of teams to pass against them as it is the ability of the front seven defenders in the box, but nevertheless the run defence has to be a concern for George Kaldis after seeing film of DeMarco Murray defeating North Star keys last week. This is an important game for the Lizards but it is far from a must-win. Conversely, the Convicts can afford few slipups from here on in if they hope to keep pace with the Ravens and Cubs. Cam Newton took a rare back seat last week in a win, but he will need to contribute here if the Convicts are to defeat the odds and pull off an upset. Don't expect Cam to be dormant two weeks in a row. **PICK: CHINO**

MARKHAM @ IOWA CITY (line – CUBS by 9)

INJURIES: **Markham** – Brandon Marshall (DOUBTFUL), Max Unger (OUT); **Iowa City** – None.

The Stars are averaging just 14 points per game over a 1-3 stretch that has seen their rate of takeaways drop to 1.5 per game. Yes, I wrote “drop.” Markham leads the league in takeaways by a significant margin and they have an over-achieving defence that leads the league in defending the pass. This combination of takeaways and pass defence has kept them in every game, win or lose, and it should keep them close in this tough road match-up against the Cubs – at least for a while. Iowa has a dominating offensive line capable of mauling defensive fronts at the first and second levels. They employ a balanced attack that can generate big plays on the ground and through the air, meaning that the Stars will not be able to sit on the pass as they prefer. The individual match-ups favour the Cubs here, but I cannot picture the gritty North Stars allowing this game to get away from them or the Cubs laying down the hammer. The Cubs will win, but it will be another Markham-induced labor. **PICK: IOWA CITY**

MISSION VIEJO @ SCARBOROUGH (line – BLUE EAGLES by 3)

INJURIES: **Mission Viejo** – Jerod Mayo (IR); **Scarborough** – None.

The Blue Eagles have dropped three in a row after a promising start. The Monarchs are on a longer skid, having dropped five straight after two wins to start the season. But the Monarchs have looked far healthier in their losses than have the Blue Eagles. Scarborough’s offence hit rock bottom last week at Beaufort County, managing just 10 points on 186 yards, most of those coming in the 3rd quarter. The numbers for Big Blue on both sides of the ball tell a grim tale, but it is almost impossible to put a finger on exactly why the Eagles have failed to perform to expectations. Mission Viejo is coming close each week, but cannot get everything clicking at the same time. In their loss to York they rushed for 265 yards and 4 touchdowns but Ryan Tannehill interceptions and special teams lapses cost them the game. Unquestionably the better team on paper, the Eagles’ intangibles are highly suspect right now. As field goal favourites, they are a dangerous bet. **PICK: MISSION VIEJO**

LOS ANGELES @ YORK (line – EXCALIBURS by 7)

INJURIES: **Los Angeles** – Brandin Cooks (QUESTIONABLE), John Conner (OUT), CJ Spiller (OUT); **York** – Giovani Bernard (OUT), Da’Qwan Bowers (OUT), Vincent Brown (OUT), De’Anthony Thomas (OUT), Nick Toon (OUT).

The York offence is dangerously close to anemic, but the defence has been one of the big success stories of the season so far. As a group it ranks in the top ten in every meaningful category. Individually, defensive end William Hayes has come out of nowhere to compliment the edge-rushing power of Junior Gallette, Micah Hyde has been playing at a pro bowl level with 3 interceptions, 7 deflections and a punt return for a TD, and ‘The Three Linebackers’ are gluing front and back together. This means tough times are ahead for Teddy Bridgewater and his band of Blue Knights. On the other hand, the Blue Shield has been rehabilitating its tarnished image, mostly through the work of its league-leading run defence. Marshawn Lynch will find the going tough, forcing Tom Brady to make plays. Expect a low-scoring affair featuring field goals over touchdowns. **PICK: LOS ANGELES**



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FROM THE EFL ARCHIVES – By Week Seven of the 2009 EFL season the gap between the contenders and the also-rans was becoming painfully obvious. Florida (7-0), Durham (5-2) and Charleswood (6-1) looked like locks to win their respective divisions while Chino and LA, both tied at 5-2, duked it out for top spot in the West. The rest of the league was mired in mediocrity or just plain bad.

There were plenty of close, exciting games this week. Pickering, for instance, won a barn-burner, 37-28 over Winnemucca that featured over 900 yards of offence,

with 650 of those coming through the air. But nobody cared that a 3-4 team, with few playoff prospects, lit up the board against a 1-6 team with no playoff prospects. Ringgold rallied for 14 points in the 4th quarter to beat Virden, 24-16 on **Andre Johnson’s** 9-catch, 167-yard, 2-TD day – big yawn! **Nick Kaeding** kicked a FG in the 4th quarter to lift Kutztown (3-4) over Garland (4-3) by a score of 24-21 – nice, but who cares?

The Big Three, Florida, Charleswood and Durham all won handily in Week Seven. The Dragons crushed the Hellfire, 38-14, limiting Mohave’s **Kurt Warner** to 112 yards passing and just 6 first downs. **DeAngelo Williams** won Offensive Player of the Week for his 4 rushing touchdowns, but the award seemed hollow given the competition. Charleswood body-slammed Gwinnett, 28-0. The Glads were one of the few teams outside the triumvirate thought to be able to compete with the league’s elite, but nobody was thinking that anymore.

In the Game of the Week, Cowtown continued to slide out of contention by dropping a 24-17 decision at home to the Cubs. **Chris Gamble** returned a fumble 71 yards for a TD in that game. It was not known at the time, but this game marked the beginning of a Cubs resurgence.