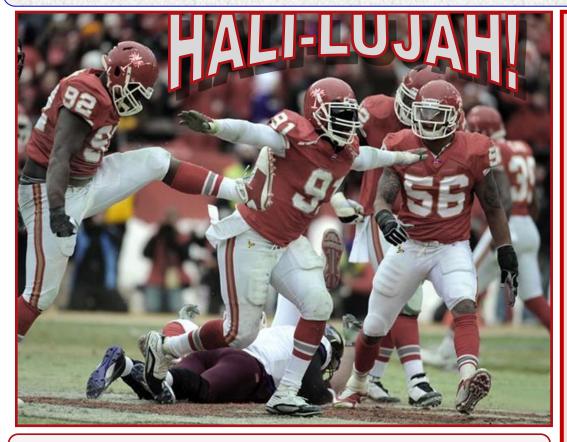
December 14, 2015



PIC	34	MAR	10	AUR	35	SEB	21	GWG	28	BCR	21	CHI	13	ICC	27	DTL	34	SBE	30
CAR	31	TCT	27	VIR	9	МОН	41	СНР	38	SC	24	cow	20	YOR	34	MVM	0	LAK	24



Regulator linebacker, *Tamba Hali* celebrates after stuffing Ravens' running back *Karlos Williams* for a loss in 4th quarter action in Columbia. Hali would force a key fumble on the next play that would be instrumental in a 24-21 SC win. (*Story Inside....*)

LATEST EFL NEWS INSIDE

- REGS BOUNCE BACK
- RAIN IN THE DESERT
- CAM CARTED OFF FIELD
- RODGERS LAUNCHES AIR STRIKE ON LA
- BEAST MODE MAULS
 CUBS
- SPARTANS SPEAR CANNIBALS
- AND MORE.....

Also in this issue

- SPATS FEATURE, 'BATTLE OF SOUTH CAROLINA,' 'IT WILL RAIN IN HEL,' & 'AROUND THE EFL.'
- JIMMY THE GEEK GETTING BETTER THAN EVER
- THIS WEEK IN EFL HISTORY – WEEK TENOF 2009



Who was slick in Week Ten?

"BRYLCREEM" THE EFL'S FIRST SPONSOR



Andrew Luck

QB

Mohave

Hellfire

35 of 50, 483 yards, 5 TDs, 1 INT. Passed Mohave to 2nd win of season.



JJ Watt
DL
Aurora
Mustangs

7 Tackles, 3 Sacks 2 FF. All star made certain Virden had no hope.



AM L	EAD	ERS	
Cmp	Att	Yds	TD
25	31	209	2
Car	Yds	Avg	TD
15	83	5.5	1
Rec	Yds	Avg	TD
6	79	13.2	0
	25 Car 15 Rec	Cmp Att 25 31 Car Yds 15 83 Rec Yds	25 31 209 Car Yds Avg 15 83 5.5 Rec Yds Avg

Team	1	2	3	4	ОТ	Total
Beaufort County	7	7	7	0	-	21
South Carolina	7	7	0	10	-	24

Play of the Game

With 4:03 left and the score tied at 21, *Tamba Hali* stripped the ball from the Ravens' *Jonathan Stewart* in the Regulators' red zone. South Carolina drove back for the game-winning FG.

TE	TEAM LEADERS											
Passing	Cmp	Att	Yds	TD								
Romo	20	31	176	1								
Rushing	Car	Yds	Avg	TD								
Gore	21	116	5.5	1								
Receiving	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD								
Green	6	72	12.0	0								

SIMMARP: In the battle for bragging rights in the State of South Carolina, the Columbia Regulators struck first on the game's opening drive with a 25-yard TD run by Frank Gore. The Ravens from Hilton Head responded by taking advantage of a 4th down offside penalty against the Regs then finished off an 80-yard drive with a 7-yard TD pass from RGIII to Alshon Jeffery. TJ Ward's 3rd interception of the season set up the Regs at the Ravens' 33 yard line and rookie Ameer Abdullah cashed in with a 7-yard TD run. But the Ravens evened the score before half time with another long drive, ending with a check down in the end zone to Jonathan Stewart from 5 yards out. A big 3rd & 15 completion to Rob Gronkowski for 15 yards kept the Ravens' 2nd possession of the 3rd quarter alive and 6 plays later Jonathan Stewart bowled into the end zone from 2 yards out to give Beaufort a 21-14 lead. The Regs' survived 2 fumbles on their ensuing series to tie the game on an 8-yard TD pass from Tony Romo to HB, Tim Wright. RGIII hit Hopkins for 37 yards and Stewart broke a 16-yard run to penetrate the Regs' red zone, but Tamba Hali stripped the ball from Stewart at the 9 and Kroy Biermann recovered for South Carolina, setting up a 64-yard drive for the game-winning 45-yard FG by Justin Tucker.

QUOTES: "I think I deserved better in my first start this year. I played well enough for us to win. I did my part. There are some guys on this team that just have to do better – give 100% all the time like me," – Ravens QB, **RGIII**.

"This was such a big win for us. I am over the moon about it. Our offence did a good job and our defence made two huge plays that turned the game around. We're not out of the woods yet, but we are finding our way back." – South Carolina coach, Hal Corson.



ANGRY FAN



titter

HADDY FAN





General Supernaw @SpOpReDead Let the Regulators be South Carolina's Team. The Ravens are America's Team and that is what matters to America.



Champ McGee @bestsouthernbbq Never count out the Regulators people. We are coming back! Special "Regulator-Style" Ribs on sale this week at Little Pigs.

12-11-2015 Carolina Slammer Temp: 10 Wind: None MVP: Frank Gore

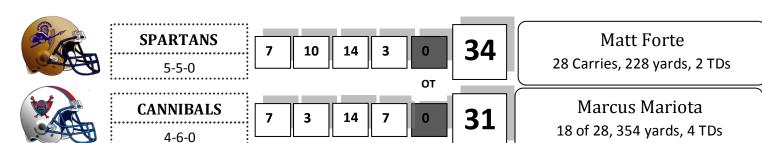
Scoring Summary

1 10:20	South Carolina TD Gore 25 run (Tucker,J) (9-85-4:34)	0-7
1 0:52	Beaufort County TD Griffin III 7 pass to Jeffery (Parkey) (17-80-9:23)	7-7
2 10:19	South Carolina TD Abdullah 7 run (Tucker,J) (6-33-2:59)	7-14
2 2:01	Beaufort County TD Griffin III 5 pass to Stewart (Parkey) (14-85-8:18)	14-14
3 2:04	Beaufort County TD Stewart 2 run (Parkey) (13-75-7:29)	21-14
4 7:42	South Carolina TD Romo 8 pass to Wright (Tucker,J) (16-80-9:22)	21-21
4 0:07	South Carolina FG Tucker 45 (14-64-3:52)	21-24

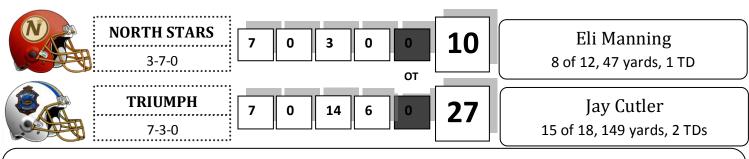
	BCR	SC
First Downs	26	21
Rushes	26-152	26-147
Passes	31-25-209	31-20-176
Sacked	0-0	1-5
Fumble	1	2
Penalties	9-65	6-53
Turnovers	2	0
Missed Tackles	6	4
Blitzes	14	14
Time	34:23	25:37
Third Down	6-7	11-13
Fourth Down	0-0	0-0
Red Att/Td/Fg	4/3/0	2/2/0
Net Offense	361	318



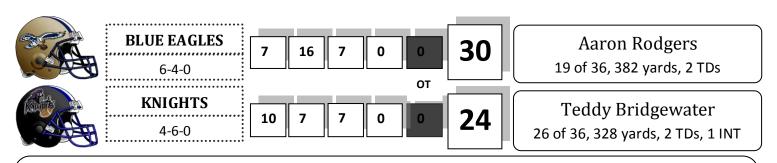
Blue 35, Blue 35, hut, hut hut! Red 23, 3, Red 23, 3, hut, hut! Green 49, hut!



The teams split 925 yards of total offence in a shootout that began with *Matt Forte* scoring the 1st of his 2 TDs on a 6-yard run. The Cannibals kept pace until Forte capped a late 2nd quarter drive with a 13-yard TD run to make it 17-10 at half time. The Cannibals turned it over on downs to start the 2nd half, leading to a 54-yard TD bomb from *Philip Rivers* to *Demaryius Thomas* on the next play. *Marcus Mariota* hit on TD passes of 32 and 39 yards to *Emmanuel Sanders* but could not catch up as Thomas added another TD catch and *Steven Hauschka* missed a 52-yard FG attempt to tie it late.



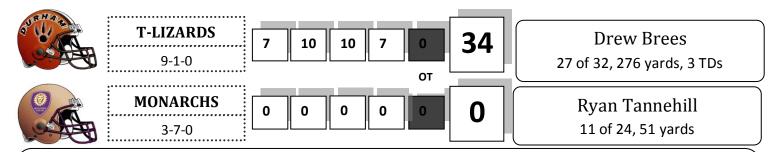
A hard fought 1st half saw the Triumph score on the opening drive on a 3-yard TD run by *Melvin Gordon* and the North Stars follow with a 7-yard TD pass from *Eli Manning* to *Brandon Marshall*. Twin Cities was denied by Markham at the goal line on 4th down to prevent further scoring in the 1st half. The Stars grabbed the lead on a 56-yard FG by *Josh Brown*, but a 15-yard TD pass to *Vincent Jackson* and a lost fumble by *Zane Beadles* on the ensuing squib kick-off set up a 7-yard TD pass to *Antonio Brown* to put the Triumph in the driver's seat. A pair of *Stephen Gostkowksi* FGs sealed it.



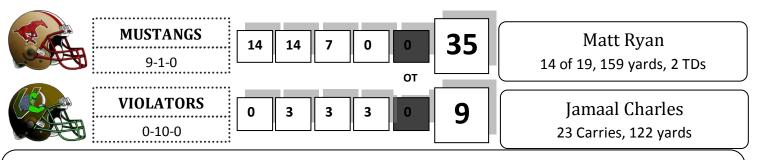
The Knights looked good early with a FG followed by a 3-yard TD run by *Le'Veon Bell* on their first two possessions. Scarborough struck back with a 47-yard bomb to *Jordy Nelson* to set up an 8-yard TD scramble by *Aaron Rodgers* then followed up with a 16-yard TD pass to *Pierre Garcon* to make it 14-10. A failed 4th & 1 at their 20 by LA set up the first of 3 *Mike Nugent* FGs in the 2nd quarter. *Teddy Bridgewater* found *Brandin Cooks* for a 62-yard TD pass to round out the 1st half scoring. The teams traded TD passes in the 3rd then the Scarborough defence shut down LA for the remainder.



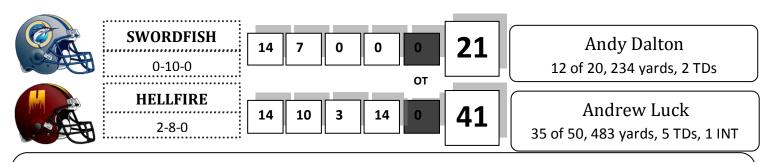
Blue 35, Blue 35, hut, hut hut! Red 23, 3, Red 23, 3, hut, hut, hut! Green 49, hut!



A 23-yard run by **Darren McFadden** helped set up a 16-yard TD pass from **Drew Brees** to **Devin Hester** to open the scoring for the Durham. The Monarchs would get as close as they would ever get to scoring on their first series, driving 45 yards in 14 plays to the Durham 32, where they failed to convert 4th & 3. It was all Durham the rest of the way. Brees threw TD passes of 4 yards to **Anthony Sherman** and 10 yards to **Eric Decker**; and McFadden added a 4-yard TD run in the 4th quarter. The Monarchs managed just 7 first downs on the day and only 2 trying to comeback in the 2nd half.



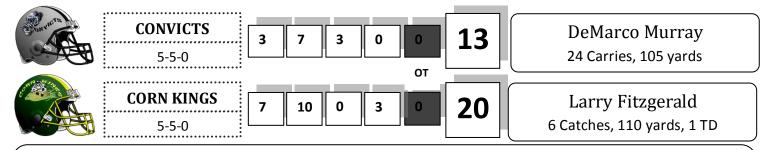
The Mustangs opened the game with a 75-yard drive that *Arian Foster* capped with a 4-yard TD run. Following a 3-and-out by Virden they drove 76 yards for another score, a 5-yard TD pass from *Matt Ryan* to *Corey Fuller*. Virden turned the ball over on downs at the Mustang 47 on their next series and Aurora turned it into 7 more points on a 6-yard TD pass to *Heath Miller*. *Derek Carr* was intercepted by *Eric Weddle*, setting up an 8-yard TD by Foster to give Aurora a 28-0 lead. The Violators strategy after that was to run the ball and eat up time, never posing a comeback threat.



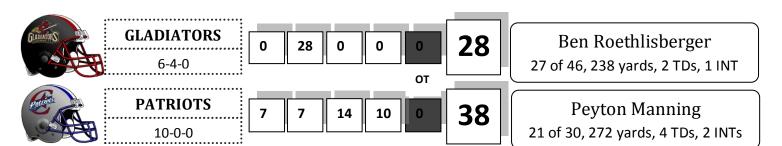
Swordfish DT, **Sharrif Floyd** blocked a punt and fell on it in the end zone for the game's opening score. **Andrew Luck** responded with TD passes of 16 yards to **Allen Robinson** and 11 yards to **Jimmy Graham** but **Andy Dalton** evened the score then put Sebastian in front with TD passes of 66 yards and 10 yards to **Odell Beckham Jr.** Mohave rebounded with a 12-yard TD pass to Graham to make it 24-21, Mohave, at half time. A Beckham lost fumble led to the only points of the 3rd quarter then Mohave pulled away with a 40-yard TD pass to Robinson and a 3rd TD pass to Graham for 25 yards.



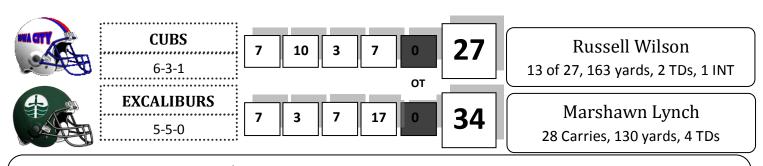
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Larry Fitzgerald caught a 3rd down slant from **Joe Flacco** and took it 61 yards for a TD on the game's first series. Chino's **Leodis McKelvin** intercepted Flacco at the Chino 25 to thwart a drive and set up a **Dan Bailey** FG. **Rodney McLeod** picked off **Cam Newton** to set up a Flacco 8-yard scramble for a TD and a **Brandon Flowers** interception on Chino's next series set up a FG to make it 17-3. A 33-yard TD pass to **Malcom Floyd** narrowed the gap to 17-10 at half time. Newton got injured in the 3rd quarter for Chino and **Kirk Cousins** was unable to mount a rally, finishing 2 of 13 for 16 yards.



Peyton Manning threw two interceptions in the 2nd quarter, the second returned 34 yards the other way for a TD by **Thomas DeCoud**, to fuel a 28-point explosion by the Gladiators that gave them a two-TD lead, 28-14, after one half. The Pats got back in the game on the first play of the 2nd half when **Dez Bryant** took a medium fly 66 yards for a TD and evened the score on the last play of the 3rd with an 8-yard TD pass to Bryant. After the Glads failed to convert 4th & 2 at the 35, the Pats drove back to take the lead on a 5-yard TD pass to Bryant then held off the comeback attempt **Big Ben**.



Marshawn Lynch scored on his 3rd attempt from the 1-yard line to give York a 7-0 lead. A 44-yard pass interference penalty on York's *Rashean Mathis* set up a 16-yard TD pass from *Russell Wilson* to *Mike Wallace* to even the score and a 65-yard punt return TD by *Darren Sproles* put the Cubs up 17-10 at half time. *William Gay* intercepted Wilson and returned it 41 yards to set up the tying TD on a 12-yard run by Lynch. *Greg Zuerlein* regained the lead with a 48-yard FG, but the Swords put together consecutive TD drives of 83 and 59 yards, with Lynch scoring on each, to take control.







WEEK TEN

STANDINGS

East	W	L	Т	Pct	Pts	Ave	Орр	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Charleswood	10	0	0	1	296	29.6	165	16.5	13.1	5 0 0	4 0 0	6 0 0
Twin Cities	7	3	0	0.7	287	28.7	216	21.6	7.1	3 2 0	3 1 0	5 1 0
Carthage	4	6	0	0.4	301	30.1	276	27.6	2.5	2 3 0	2 2 0	2 4 0
Mohave	2	8	0	0.2	172	17.2	296	29.6	-12.4	1 4 0	1 3 0	1 5 0
Virden	0	10	0	0	128	12.8	294	29.4	-16.6	050	0 4 0	060
West	W	L	Т	Pct	Pts	Ave	Орр	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Beaufort County	6	3	1	0.65	262	26.2	217	21.7	4.5	4 1 0	3 0 1	4 1 1
Iowa City	6	3	1	0.65	273	27.3	205	20.5	6.8	4 0 1	2 1 1	4 1 1
Chino	5	5	0	0.5	241	24.1	245	24.5	-0.4	2 3 0	2 2 0	3 3 0
Los Angeles	4	6	0	0.4	192	19.2	246	24.6	-5.4	1 4 0	1 3 0	2 4 0
Mission Viejo	3	7	0	0.3	216	21.6	267	26.7	-5.1	1 4 0	1 3 0	2 4 0
North	W	L	Т	Pct	Pts	Ave	Орр	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Durham	9	1	0	0.9	282	28.2	149	14.9	13.3	5 0 0	4 0 0	5 1 0
Cowtown	5	5	0	0.5	228	22.8	266	26.6	-3.8	3 2 0	1 3 0	3 3 0
Pickering	5	5	0	0.5	248	24.8	236	23.6	1.2	2 3 0	1 3 0	2 4 0
York	5	5	0	0.5	233	23.3	217	21.7	1.6	3 2 0	2 2 0	3 3 0
Markham	3	7	0	0.3	178	17.8	182	18.2	-0.4	3 2 0	2 2 0	3 3 0
South	W	L	Т	Pct	Pts	Ave	Орр	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Aurora	9	1	0	0.9	316	31.6	228	22.8	8.8	4 1 0	4 0 0	600
Scarborough	6	4	0	0.6	215	21.5	237	23.7	-2.2	4 1 0	2 2 0	3 3 0
Gwinnett	6	4	0	0.6	271	27.1	220	22	5.1	3 2 0	2 2 0	3 3 0
	U	•	-									
South Carolina	4	6	0	0.4	215	21.5	262	26.2	-4.7	3 2 0	2 2 0	2 4 0

PASSING

Rk	Player	Team	Att	Cmp	C%	Yards	In	1%	Lg	TD	TD%	Rate
1	Manning,P	СНР	309	215	69.6	2493	6	1.9	71	23	7.4	110.4
2	Cutler	TCT	269	186	69.1	2288	8	3	73	20	7.4	107.5
3	Mariota	CAR	319	191	59.9	2684	7	2.2	66	26	8.2	105.1
4	Brees	DTL	372	258	69.4	2827	4	1.1	65	20	5.4	105
5	Hill,S	BCR	229	160	69.9	1738	4	1.7	56	14	6.1	105
6	Wilson,R	ICC	250	155	62	1980	2	8.0	56	16	6.4	104.8
7	Roethlisbe	GWG	327	212	64.8	2634	5	1.5	72	21	6.4	104.7
8	Newton,C	CHI	268	175	65.3	2410	7	2.6	69	17	6.3	104.2
9	Romo	SC	346	229	66.2	2400	5	1.4	56	21	6.1	100.3
10	Bridgewate	LAK	236	154	65.3	1739	4	1.7	62	14	5.9	99.9
11	Rivers,P	PIC	239	139	58.2	1955	5	2.1	74	16	6.7	98.2
12	Manning,E	MAR	186	123	66.1	1296	2	1.1	63	8	4.3	96.1
13	Flacco	COW	366	225	61.5	2416	6	1.6	61	23	6.3	94.9
14	Ryan,M	AUR	396	249	62.9	3013	8	2	62	18	4.5	92.9
15	Brady,T	YOR	297	188	63.3	1874	4	1.3	87	13	4.4	90.1
16	Rodgers,A	SBE	366	222	60.7	2646	8	2.2	63	16	4.4	88.2
17	Tannehill	MVM	319	202	63.3	1997	6	1.9	47	11	3.4	84.6
18	Dalton	SS	345	207	60	2470	13	3.8	81	17	4.9	82.6

RUSHING

RECEIVING

Rk	Player	Team	Att	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD
1	McCoy,L	GWG	224	1160	5.2	40	9
2	Bell,L	LAK	289	1095	3.8	25	5
3	Forte	PIC	196	1064	5.4	36	8
4	Murray,D	CHI	237	996	4.2	40	8
5	Lacy	CAR	187	926	5	31	5
6	Gordon,M	TCT	154	915	5.9	44	9
7	Gore	SC	169	911	5.4	50	3
8	Lynch,M	YOR	199	884	4.4	33	8
9	Morris,A	COW	174	866	5	47	2
10	Anderson,C	SS	173	853	4.9	24	5
11	Miller,L	CHP	153	850	5.6	23	5
12	Stewart	BCR	144	667	4.6	73	3
13	Ingram,M	VV	154	656	4.3	36	5
14	Hill,J	ICC	105	648	6.2	30	4
15	Bell,J	MVM	121	631	5.2	60	6
16	Charles,J	VV	133	631	4.7	54	2
17	Foster,A	AUR	104	630	6.1	34	7
18	Johnson,D	CHP	119	630	5.3	29	5
19	Ivory	MVM	124	623	5	70	8
20	Yeldon	SBE	103	504	4.9	20	1

Rk	Player	Team	No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD
1	Brown,A	TCT	67	868	13	59	9
2	Johnson,A	CHP	62	636	10.3	20	2
3	Fitzgerald	cow	62	694	11.2	61	11
4	Maclin	GWG	62	1051	17	60	10
5	Kelce,T	CAR	59	616	10.4	41	7
6	Allen,K	SC	58	646	11.1	42	5
7	Hopkins,D	BCR	57	659	11.6	45	6
8	Jones,J	MOH	56	931	16.6	99	3
9	Cobb	BCR	55	670	12.2	56	6
10	Bryant,D	CHP	55	853	15.5	71	13
11	Decker	DTL	54	543	10.1	28	5
12	Boldin	AUR	54	863	16	40	2
13	Graham,J	MOH	53	508	9.6	28	4
14	Johnson,C	DTL	52	890	17.1	65	10
15	Evans,M	cow	49	636	13	48	4
16	Gronkowski	BCR	47	455	9.7	54	4
17	Landry,J	GWG	47	533	11.3	31	5
18	Hilton	DTL	46	581	12.6	40	0
19	Matthews,J	LAK	45	662	14.7	52	5
20	Nelson,J	SBE	45	644	14.3	47	6

KICKING

Rk	Player	Team	FGA	FGM	FG%	40	50	Lg	Pts
1	Folk	AUR	24	19	79.2	4	0	48	94
2	Dawson	DTL	23	20	87	5	0	49	90
3	Succop	CHP	19	17	89.5	5	1	51	86
4	Parkey	BCR	20	19	95	8	1	54	84
5	Brown,J	MAR	26	22	84.6	9	3	56	82
6	Gostkowski	TCT	18	16	88.9	6	0	48	81
7	Bailey,D	CHI	19	17	89.5	11	5	53	75
8	Zuerlein	ICC	19	15	78.9	6	0	49	73
9	Novak	cow	19	16	84.2	7	2	52	72
10	Scobee	PIC	15	13	86.7	6	2	53	68
11	Murray,P	LAK	16	15	93.8	10	5	53	66
12	Hauschka	CAR	13	9	69.2	5	1	51	65
13	Suisham	GWG	13	11	84.6	4	0	47	65
14	Nugent	SBE	11	11	100	3	0	43	59
15	Tucker,J	SC	12	11	91.7	6	0	47	59
16	Vinatieri	SS	12	12	100	6	1	50	59
17	Walsh	YOR	16	10	62.5	2	0	48	57
18	Janikowski	MOH	13	11	84.6	5	3	57	52
19	Crosby	VV	12	12	100	8	1	52	48
20	Carpenter	MVM	9	7	77.8	5	1	55	48







PYINGYANG SUN



SEOUL CALM

TAIPEI SHARKS

MYD-SEASON REPORT

STANDINGS - WEEK 3

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

PASSING

Rk	Player	Team	Att	Cmp	C%	Yards	In	1%	Lg	TD	TD%	Rate
1	Soto	PYO	80	58	72.5	553	0	0	51	5	6.3	112.1
2	Carroll	Seo	85	54	63.5	517	2	2.4	41	7	8.2	98.0
3	Souza	Tai	71	47	66.2	498	2	2.8	39	3	4.2	88.8
4	Calloway	Bei	88	55	62.5	533	2	2.3	44	3	3.4	81.3

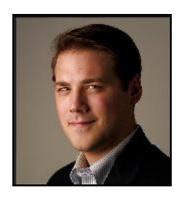
RUSHING

RECEIVING

Rk	Player	Team	Att	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD	Rk	Player	Team	No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TE
1	Broderick	Bei	62	362	5.8	72	2	1	Steen	Bei	21	299	14.2	44	3
2	Hutcherson	Tai	53	307	5.8	55	2	2	Alvarado	Seo	15	136	9.1	27	3
3	Hopkins	PYO	54	295	5.5	28	0	3	Russell	PYO	15	227	15.1	51	2
4	Russell	Seo	64	278	4.3	25	1	4	Stevens	PYO	14	110	7.9	20	1
5	Carroll	Seo	20	96	4.8	15	0	5	Jeter	Tai	14	124	8.9	14	0

KICKING

Rk	Player	Team	FGA	FGM	FG%	40	50	Lg	Pts
1	Chacon	Seo	8	5	62.5	4	2	54	24
2	McCormack	Bei	5	4	80	2	0	45	18
3	Tunk	PYO	4	4	100	2	0	45	16
4	Bradley	Tai	3	2	66.7	1	0	46	12





NEW YORK – As EFL viewership and attendance rise in North America, its experimental counterpart on the other side of the world is in trouble. EFL Asia is reeling in wake of the second disappearance of the Pyongyang franchise and the gratuitous delays that beset the Beijing team as it attempted to cross the border into North Korea for its Week Three bout with the Sun.

Kim Jong-un surfaced during mid-week prior to the scheduled game with Beijing to announce a 'Day of Great Concentration' for athletes. The intention was "to centralize the tiger will in the sinews of the great country" (according to one translation) or "to will a strong victory like leopards eating" (according to another from the Ministry of Physical). The practical result of the "DGC" was to stop all athletic endeavours country-wide in order to allow rest of the body and exercise of the mind. The collateral effect was the physical imprisonment of the Red Dragons in a border concentration camp while the travel papers of the players were processed, re-processed and processed again for good measure. Unable to practice, only visualize plays, the Dragons spent many 'days of concentration' sleeping on cots and subsisting on rice and tea waiting to be allowed entry into the Hermit Kingdom. When they were finally permitted entry, the day before the re-scheduled game against the Sun, they were in a weakened physical and mental state.

Meanwhile, the whereabouts of the Sun players was unknown for about 8 days. When they re-appeared in Pyongyang, they looked physically healthy but spoke little, laughed less and refused all media interviews except those requested by reporters from the *Pyongyang Sinmun*, the national daily. Quarterback, *David Soto* was quoted by Physical Leisure Reporter, **Sing Song Crak** as saying, "the inspiring Great Leader makes us heroes of the field every day in the great country." What he might actually have said was "get me the hell out of here!" but until the season is over we will never know for sure. Nor are we likely to know where the Sun players spent their days of great concentration until the EFL Asia experiment runs its course. The information well has dried up according to my unparalleled network of football sources.

Conspicuously absent from the team upon its return to Pyongyang was EFL expansion mentor, **Pat Crew** and coaching staff from the Creeping Death. A request for contact from Crew's relatives to the State Department and relayed through the Swedish Embassy in Pyongyang has not been formally answered by the North Korean government. However, one confidential source in the US Government, quoted by *Deathspun* columnist, **Tarkin Smith-Abdullah**, suggests Crew may have been detained for "spying" – the catch-all charge when Kim Jong-un wants to make a point or gain some leverage.

As for the long-delayed match-up between the Beijing Red Dragons and the Pyongyang Sun, Kim Il-Sung Stadium was filled to capacity with the olive green and tan uniforms of the North Korean military. The officer corps was treated to a game much more competitive than the political authorities may have planned for. The Red Dragons scored first on a *Wilford Calloway* to *Barry Steen* 17-yard hook-up for 6 and controlled the balance of play until an adroit two-minute drill featuring the running of Noah Hopkins saw the Sun tie it up at 10 on a 6-yard TD pass from *David Soto* to *Duane Willis*. The game winner came on Pyongyang's first series of the 2nd half when Soto lofted a deep spiral that landed in the hands of a streaking *Percy Russell* ("*Warrior Rabbit*" as he has been dubbed by the Pyongyang Press) for a 51-yard scoring strike. The soldiers dutifully cheered, whipping themselves into a carefully choreographed frenzy that, nevertheless, would challenge, for volume, the fans at 'The Big House' in Chino. Who says you can't have fun in North Korea?

BATTLE FOR SOUTH CAROLINA

When South Carolina and Gwinnett meet, they call it the Battle of the South. When South Carolina and Beaufort County now meet, it is called the 'Battle of South Carolina.' The fight for bragging rights in the Palmetto State is already taking on some of the flavour of the old Jets-Giants rivalries from the glory days after the NFL-AFL merger. Ah, those were the days! At least the old films from those days make it look like they were the days – a simpler time – before huge profit and concurrent corruption had wormed its way like a cancer through the fabric of the NFL. With New York still scandalously bereft of a professional football franchise, let alone two, the Regulators and the Ravens are one of two geographic rivals capable of provoking the kind of internecine conflict that used to characterize the relationship between Giants and Jets fans. In this case, the Regulators are the Giants and the Ravens the new-kids-on-the-block Jets.

Perhaps, some day, the Columbia-Hilton Head rivalry will carry the same intensity as the one between the Jets and the Giants. For now, let's say it is one part fans and 4 parts media fueling the idea of a cross-State feud for professional

football dominance. Most of the caring fans are in Columbia, original Regulators season ticket holders, incensed that the Media would be focusing on a State rivalry at all. In their minds, since the Regulators were the first – the pioneers – they are, and always will be, South Carolina's team, end of discussion. For those few Ravens fans feisty enough to challenge that claim, they say the Regulators blew their chance to win the hearts of the State with their less than stellar play over 5 mediocre seasons. Both sides have points to make, but whether consumers of football in South Carolina, or the south in general, really care is hard to gauge. Nevertheless, 'The Battle of South Carolina' was displayed on the marquee outside of Carolina Slammer on game day and CBS ran clips of drunken fans in bars in Beaufort County and Columbia good-naturedly trash-talking the other side through the safety of a microphone.

Lost in the frenzied fandom was the importance of this game from a football standpoint. The Ravens entered Week Ten neck-and-neck with the Cubs in the league's only true divisional race, while the Regulators were on the verge of practical elimination from the chaotic and crowded quest for wild card berths in the Can-Am Conference. More importantly, the EFL had launched an investigation into 'Field Goal Gate' – the controversial acceptance of a holding penalty against the Knights by Regs coach, Hal Corson, following a *missed* field goal by LA kicker *Patrick Murray*. The decision had led to a successful kick on the subsequent attempt and an eventual South Carolina loss. The league stressed that it was "not investigating bad coaching," rather it was digging to the bottom of allegations of tampering that had swirled in the aftermath of one of the most baffling coaching performances since **Bobby Elder** called 41 hand-offs to *Montee Ball*, 30 of those consecutive, in a 27-7 loss to these same Regulators in 2013.

The bizarre series of decisions in the LA-South Carolina game, detailed in this column last week, need not be repeated here. Suffice to say that they seemed to defy rational explanation. All of them could be laid at the doorstep of the beloved **Hal Corson**, as coach after coach and player after player would shrug their shoulders and say, "don't ask me, ask Coach Corson" when pressed for explanations. For once, he was not getting a pass in the partisan Columbia press. With normally supportive writers, such as **Johnny Rebb**, calling for Hal to take a sabbatical, the pressure to address the matter publicly grew too great to bear. Having avoided the Media in the immediate aftermath of the controversial loss, an emotional **Hal Corson** finally called a press conference and tearfully revealed to the nation that he was struggling with addiction.

"I am here before you to talk frankly about my problem," Hal solemnly began. "I am, and have been for some time, addicted to energy drinks. Badly addicted. I have been told that I am, quite possibly, the poster boy for energy drink addiction."

A gasp rippled through the media pool. In an industry that quietly survives on energy drinks like '*Red Bull'* and '*Rock Star*,' such an admission was both unprecedented and unbelievably brave. A few of the more bug-eyed reporters could be seen tearing up as Hal laid bare his private nightmare:

"It started innocently enough," he said, speaking not from notes, but from the searing memory of lived experience. "Head coaches put in a lot of hours, as you know. I am no exception. But the work was catching up to me. I napped at my desk, nodded off in my car, fell asleep in the film room. I began falling asleep in the middle of team meetings — meetings I had called. It was all very embarrassing. Then one night before a big game a trainer approached me with a Red Bull in his hand. 'It looks like you need this, coach,' he said. He meant well. He didn't know what he had set in motion."

Hal went on to describe a progressive descent into energy drink hell. He had tried them all by now. He even mixed them. He drank one first thing in the morning and continued quaffing them throughout the day, consuming an average of 20 to 30 drinks a day until conventional commercial beverages stopped having a noticeable effect. He switched to illegal imports with greater kick, such as 'Viva Coca,' a 24-hour cocaine-based drink from Columbia, 'Ballista Elephant,' a 48-hour ecstasy-laden drink from Thailand, and 'Godzilla,' a 72-hour energy drink from Japan laced with speed.

The effect on his sleep patterns and concentration was catastrophic. He struggled to focus and to make routine decisions. He began hallucinating and twitching so violently in his tortured sleep that he was forced to move to the guest room of his house. With the Regulators struggling on the football field, he became a nightmare to work with. He berated his assistant coaches and gradually assumed all of their duties because he "couldn't trust them anymore." On the field, his behaviour would alternate between catatonia, mania and paranoia. The coaches soon learned that if they needed a particular call to be made, it was best to suggest the opposite. Of course, sometimes the coach was totally unreachable and simply did whatever popped into his head. Such was the case during the critical moments of that unfortunate Knights game.

Steps were already under way to address Hal's addiction. Medical professionals had been hired to oversee a strict WWP (Working Withdrawal Program) that would enable Hal to continue coaching the Regulators while undergoing intense EDWT (Energy Drink Withdrawal Therapy). With doctors only recently beginning to conduct research on EDA (Energy Drink Addiction), the treatments are experimental at best. Healthy energy drink substitutes designed to blunt withdrawal symptoms have not been tested on humans and carry risks. But with the apparent blessing of Hal's doctors, who insisted that taking time off in his current frenzied state would cause him to explode, the team is proceeding with treatment as the coach goes about his daily duties as head coach of the Regulators.

In addition to the medical steps, the Regulators have hired a new assistant coach responsible for 'Field Awareness.' It is the job of the Field Awareness Coach to keep the Head Coach informed of who has the ball as well as the current down, distance, time remaining, timeouts left, and injuries. He is to offer options, with recommendations, for decisions that "may directly affect the outcome of the game." The man hired for the task, **Wyatt White**, was the personal coaching assistant to **Bobby Bowden** in

his final decade at Florida State – a little known fact.

Whether it was the calming presence of his new assistant talking in his ear or just the comfort of knowing somebody was there if needed, Hal put in one of his finest ever coaching performances in a 24-21 win over south state rival Beaufort County.

When the Ravens switched to the nickel to counter the Regulators' short passing game, Corson kept his pro set on the field and pounded the line with *Frank Gore*. He was rewarded with 46 yards on 3 carries, the last a 25-yard touchdown run to open the scoring. He sniffed out a Ravens bomb attempt a couple of series later, doubling the receiver and sending two blitzers – the type of gamble rarely if ever seen from Mr. Conservative. He was rewarded with a *TJ Ward* interception that set up the Regulators' second touchdown. Even as Ravens' coach, Neil Shannon adroitly orchestrated three long scoring drives to build a 21-14 lead through the first three quarters, one never got the sense that the Regulator defence had switched to auto-pilot. Sometimes players simply make plays. *RGIII*, the former top draft pick looking for redemption, made his fair share of plays, as did running back, *Jonathan Stewart*, in propelling Beaufort into a winning position entering the 4th quarter.

Sensing (through the discreet intervention of Wyatt White) that time was becoming a factor, Hal's play-calling took on a rare sense of urgency. He deployed his offence in multiple receiver sets and put the game in the hands of *Tony Romo*. He was rewarded with an 80-yard touchdown drive to tie the game at 21. However, his big moment was yet to come. The Ravens responded with a bold 37-yard deep pass to *DeAndre Hopkins* that brought them to the South Carolina 38 yard line. Closing in on field goal range, the Ravens switched to the ground game and caught the Regs flatfooted with back-to-back runs of 16 yards by Stewart and 11 yards by *Karlos Williams*. The Ravens were not only well within field goal range, they were inside the red zone and well-positioned for more than a field goal



Regulator coach **Hal Corson** leaps for joy onto the back of new assistant coach in charge of 'Field Awareness,' **Wyatt White**, after winning the Battle of South Carolina over the Ravens in Columbia. "It was all Hal today," said White after the game.

if they preferred to go for the jugular. They switched to a three-wide receiver set, as if intending to pass.

With the entire situation laid out for him in detail by the Field Awareness Coach, Hal's mind went to work. If he played the run, it would expose his defence to the pass; **RGIII** had been pretty accurate so far and he had an extra target now. But if he played the pass, with the hardy Stewart as the lone setback he would be exposing his defence to a slow, clock-burning death on the ground. What would I do in Neil's shoes, thought Hal to himself? I would play it safe! he answered himself in his mind.

"It's going to Stewart," he suddenly barked as the defence regrouped after stuffing Williams for a 1-yard loss. "Key Stewart, key Stewart!" he barked into his headset.

Luke Kuechly got the message, turned toward the sideline and nodded. The Regulators lined up in a straight 4-3 with the linebackers at medium depth. It was all a feint. With the snap Tamba Hali honed in on Stewart, following him with his eyes as the Ravens running back caught the pitch back from RGIII and sprinted outside. He turned the corner and started heading up field, unaware that he was being lined up by a line-backing demon. Streaking in from the side, Hali punched the ball loose and defensive end, Kroy Biermann pounced on it for the Regulators. The Carolina Slammer exploded in cheers. But the ecstasy was short-lived as it dawned on many of the fans that their coach could decide it was now time to run out the clock and settle for overtime.

With the Field Awareness Coach accurately communicating that the Regulators did indeed have possession; there remained 3:55 left in the game; and that the team would need between 55-60 yards to get into makeable field goal range, Hal's mind went to work. We could win this with a field goal, he thought to himself. If only we could gain between 55 and 60 yards in the next 3 minutes and (55-3=52) 52 seconds! "Let's go win this game!" he announced triumphantly as his offence took the field.

Mixing Gore runs and Romo passes, the Regulators moved steadily up the field, taking just enough time off the clock as they progressed. Facing a critical 3rd and 1 at the Ravens' 45 with 1:58 remaining in the game, Hal called for *Marcel Reece* to run the ball and the seldom used fullback delivered with a 5-yard dive up the gut in the spot where All Pro defensive tackle *Gerald McCoy* would have been had he not been injured. "*Brilliant call there!*" exclaimed 'Regulator Radio' play-by-play man, **Jesse Bee**.

Three plays later, Hal caught the Ravens guessing and called a pass to *AJ Green* in one-on-one coverage. The star receiver snared the ball in front of *Brent Grimes* for a 13-yard completion to the Ravens 27. The crowd roared its approval but then tensely waited after a hand-off to Gore was stonewalled for no gain, to see if the Regulator coach would remember to call a timeout. With the Field Awareness Coach counting down the seconds in Hal's ear: *13*, *12*, *11*,the Regulator's coach suddenly signalled for the timeout. In his excitement, he forgot to bring the clock down to 3 seconds. Oh well, you can't have everything!

With 11 seconds on the clock, *Justin Tucker* lined up for what would likely be the game-winner if he made it. He got all of it, starting a touch wide right and hooking mid-way to the left and inside the right upright by about one foot. It was good! Hal leapt up for joy, suspending himself temporarily on the shoulders his Field Awareness Coach. The crowd roared. They were ecstatic in the moment, temporarily forgetting that the Regulators still remained on the outer ring of playoff contention. As a fringe benefit, they could claim the title of 'South Carolina's Team,' until such time as they would meet their rivals from Hilton Head once more. In a season filled with disappointments for football fans in Columbia, there was hope once more.

IT WILL RAIN IN HELL

According to Mohave urban legend, a down-and-out Shoshone native shaman panhandling in front of the Longstreet Inn & Casino was reportedly abused by an inebriated **Bobby Elder**, who was despondent over losing **Kendall Langford**'s bonus money at the black jack table earlier in the evening. The angry shaman cursed Elder, declaring that it would be a rainy day in Death Valley before his team would win another game at home.

Elder laughed it off, but sure enough, the prediction came true. The Hellfire had appeared snake-bitten at home, losing their first four home games by a combined score of 147-58. But on a rainy Week Ten day in the driest place in the United States, the first rain on game day in Hellfire history, *Andrew Luck* exploded for 483 passing yards and 5 TD passes to oversee a 41-21 throttling of the winless Swordfish. The Hellfire gained 31 first downs and 584 yards of total offence in a display of offensive dominance as rare as rain in the desert. Everything seemed to go Bobby's way in this one. Nobody seemed more stunned than Elder himself. He thought to test the magic of the moment by passing around the play sheet randomly on the sidelines and in the first row of the stands, challenging assistant coaches, players, and fans to "pick the next play." The Hellfire didn't miss a beat with the new "system" in place.

As bad as the Swordfish can be on the defensive side of the ball, they aren't so bad that one can easily explain how the Hellfire managed to torch them to the blackest cinder. It will rain in Hell before we see another game like that, I'm sure.

AROUND THE EFL

At Camelot, York running back *Marshawn Lynch* was in full "beast mode" against the monstrous Cubs defensive line, rushing for 130 yards and 4 touchdowns in a 34-27 upset over Iowa City. For the second straight game, the Cubs asked little of their quarterback, *Russell Wilson*, who met expectations and delivered little. His third quarter interception, returned 41 yards by *William Gay* to the Iowa 18, set up Lynch's second rushing touchdown and put the Yorkies back on even footing, 17-17. The referees did not do **Deron Redding** any favours – the Cubs were flagged 11 times for 137 yards, including two pass interference calls costing 31 and 24 yards that fueled York touchdown drives in the 4th quarter.

At the Killing Field in Carthage, *Matt Forte* ran all over the Cannibals for 228 yards and 2 touchdowns to make the difference in a 34-31 firefight that saw both teams combine for 925 yards of offence. Carthage coach, **Ken Main's** obsession with the Pickering passing attack opened up plenty of room for the Spartans running back, who is better known for catching passes than carrying a team on his shoulders in the run game. *Marcus Mariota* threw 4 touchdown passes in defeat and hooked up with *Emmanuel Sanders* for 235 yards and 2 touchdowns on 7 completions. With 18 completions over 25 yards and 9 TDs so far this season, the Mariota-Sanders connection is deadliest deep threat in football.

At Tillman Field in Cowtown, the Corn Kings kept their team in the playoff discussion with a clunky, awkward-looking 20-13 win over the Half-a-Cam Convicts. *Cam Newton* went down in the 3rd quarter with a foot injury after being stepped on by his right guard, *Jon Asamoah*, who had been pushed back by *Jared Crick* while trying to double team *Justin Smith* on a run off right tackle. With Cowtown in front at the time, 17-13, the game was well within Chino's reach. However, with no longer having to worry about containing Newton, the Cowtown pass rush came alive and delivered sustained pressure on back-up *Kirk Cousins*. He finished 2 of 13 for 16 yards and was sacked twice as the Convicts' offence fizzled down the stretch. *Larry Fitzgerald* showed he still has life in his legs with a 61-yard catch-and-run for a touchdown on the game's opening series.

At Patriot Place in Charleswood, a marquis quarterback bout between *Ben Roethlisberger* and *Peyton Manning* ended with the veteran Pats pivot out-flinging the face of the Gladiator franchise to lead the home team to a 38-28 win. A 28-point explosion by Gwinnett in the 2nd quarter, including a pick-six by safety *Thomas DeCoud*, pointed to a different outcome, but a 66-yard TD pass to *Dez Bryant* on the first play of the 2nd half was the springboard for a complete comeback by the Pats. In the end, Manning threw 4 TD passes (3 to Bryant) to Big Ben's 2 and the Glads were shutout in the 2nd half.

At TCF Bank Stadium in Twin Cities, the Triumph led with the ground game and cleaned up with the passing of *Jay Cutler* to wrest control of a tight game in the 3rd quarter and prevail 27-10 over Markham. A 15-yard TD pass to *Vincent Jackson* to cap a 79-yard drive late in the 3rd was the winning blow, with insurance coming on the very next series following a fumbled squib kick return by Markham lineman *Zane Beadles*. A goal line stand in the 1st half, literally at the goal line, was the highlight moment for the Stars.

At Round Table Stadium in LA, the Knights put up a feisty fight in falling 30-24 to the Blue Eagles. Maybe the Knights were a little too feisty – a 4th down gamble at their own 20 went horribly wrong when *Ndamukong Suh* sacked *Teddy Bridgewater* for a 6-yard loss, setting up an easy field goal. *Aaron Rodgers* pushed the ball down field more than usual, tallying 382 yards, 6 passes of over 25 yards and a pair of touchdown passes through the air. **Rex Ryan** and **Chris Dickinson** got some positive press from the LA Media.

And finally, we wrap up the week with a couple of non-games: The return home after splitting a two-game road trip did nothing to inspire the Monarchs. They ran into a red hot Thunder Lizards and got bombed back into reality, getting blown out 34-0. And at *TERRORDOME* in Virden, a sense of pure self-preservation caused the Violators to rush 46 times and attempt 7 4th downs trying to hold on to the ball. They did, for over 40 minutes, and still fell to the Mustangs by the inflated score of 35-9.

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JIMMY'S WEEK ELEVEN PICKS

MISSION VIEJO @ CARTHAGE (line – CANNIBALS by 8)

INJURIES: Mission Viejo – Timmy Jernigan (OUT), Kevin White (OUT), Jerod Mayo (IR). Carthage – Justin Durant (IR), Greg Hardy (IR), Derrick Johnson (IR), Manti Te'o (IR), Matt Slauson (OUT), Andre Smith (OUT).

The ultra-aggressive Carthage offence is the exact opposite of what one would have expected from a team breaking in a rookie quarterback. Marcus Mariota throws long more than any other starting quarterback in the league and he has been successful at that distance, with deep throws resulting in 11 of his league-leading 26 touchdown passes. He takes the no.2 ranked team in points scored up against a Monarchs defence ranked 16th in points surrendered and last in TD pass percentage. With the Mission Viejo offence coming off a blanking at the claws of the Thunder Lizards, the 8-point line looks a little lean, but the wobbly Carthage defence and the inconsistency of both teams makes it no given that this will be a blowout in the Cannibals' favour. That I am even considering blowout as a possibility is testimony to how Carthage has taken the league somewhat by storm after battering the Mustangs in Week Seven. The Monarchs can control the ground and slow the game down if they choose, but might be forced to air it out if the Carthage offence is able to maintain its breakneck speed. **PICK: CARTHAGE**

TWIN CITIES @ LOS ANGELES (line - TRIUMPH by 3)

INJURIES: Twin Cities – Charles Clay (DOUBTFUL), LaAdrian Waddle (OUT), Kendall Wright (OUT); Los Angeles – Cortland Finnegan (OUT), Andrew Norwell (OUT), Brian Orakpo (OUT).

The interesting match-up here is the league's top rushing offence in yards-per-carry facing off against the league's top run defence. Whether the Triumph wish to test that match-up or simply torch the kindling in the Knights secondary to start will be something to look for. Twin Cities has the offensive firepower to melt the Blue Shield into a molten blue blob, but the occasionally unsteady aim of the part-time marksman Jay Cutler has the potential to rebound harshly against the 4th ranked team in takeaways. LA has opened up the offensive playbook over the past two games, resulting in one win, one loss and two very competitive showings. This brings some hope that the Knights will at least run the right plays to give them a chance to stay in the game against the high-flying Triumph; whether they can execute those plays against a difficult Triumph defence is another question. **PICK: TWIN CITIES**

CHINO @ VIRDEN (line – CONVICTS by 7)

INJURIES: Chino – Victor Cruz (IR), Cam Newton (OUT), Michael Schofield (OUT); Virden – Prince Amukamara (OUT), Trumaine Johnson (OUT), Daniel McCullers (OUT), Eric Berry (IR), Kelcy Quarles (IR), Demeco Ryans (IR), Stephen Tulloch (IR), Aldon Smith (IR).

This would have been an auto-pick for Chino until the injury to Cam Newton and the dreadful performance by Kirk Cousins in relief last week in a loss to Cowtown changed the math slightly. The Violators are bad but their coach is canny, as his strategy to keep Aurora from hitting 50 points last week demonstrated. However, Lance Barrate would have to be greater than a genius and Cousins would have to be worse than Ryan Leaf for the banged-up Violator defence to tamp the Chino offence into the turf over four quarters. Trumaine Johnson is out, likely for the season, which will force Virden to either start Marcus Sherels at cornerback or move Trae Waynes back to corner and start Derron Smith at safety. The defensive line is also in bad shape, with just four natural linemen healthy and a gaggle of mediocre linebackers lined up to substitute. If Cam had to go down for one game this season, this

would be the game. As bad as Cousins looked last week, I am betting he can't look so bad against this outfit. **PICK: CHINO**

BEAUFORT COUNTY @ MOHAVE (line – RAVENS by 3)

INJURIES: Beaufort County – Mason Foster (DOUBTFUL), Vontaze Burfict (OUT), Nick Fairley (OUT), Shaun Hill (OUT), Ryan Mathews (OUT), Gerald McCoy (OUT), Stevan Ridley (OUT), Frank Alexander (IR), Jairus Byrd (IR); **Mohave** – Byron Jones (QUESTIONABLE), Ronnie Hillman (OUT), Jimmie Ward (OUT), Donnie Avery (IR).

Andrew Luck broke out in a big way last week and Sebastian incompetence was only part of the reason. Luck was hitting his receivers in stride and looked relaxed in the pocket. His one miscue, an interception, was actually on his receiver, Julio Jones, who lost the deep ball in flight and did not contest the catch. If Luck is back on his game to stay, it will certainly change the playoff picture for any contending opposition that might have been counting on a free win. The Ravens are one of those teams in the thick of the race that might have been looking forward to an easy outing in the desert heat. They are coming off a loss to a South Carolina team that had been going nowhere until they ran into the mistake-prone Blackbirds. The Ravens are looking to find their way with RGIII behind center. The third version of Robert Griffin played well in defeat last week, but the bounces did not go their way as they had with Shaun Hill. Expect them to experience a different kind of Luck this week. **PICK: MOHAVE**

IOWA CITY @ CHARLESWOOD (line – PATRIOTS by 6)

INJURIES: Iowa City – None; **Charleswood** – Kelechi Osemele (OUT).

Back-to-back losses against Durham and York have driven Cubs stock down a peg. The Durham loss is one thing, but surrendering 34 points to the sporadic York offence, coupled with Russell Wilson's failure to find an air corridor against the average talent of the Swords' secondary, has swollen this line 3 points in the direction of the Pats since first posted by Vegas. Nevertheless, this match-up is the most likely PAC Championship Preview I can imagine at this point in the season. The Cubs are fully healthy and the Pats are only missing a good guard, who has a capable back-up in Patrick Omameh. The Pats defence is ranked no.1 overall but still has work to do to convince skeptics that it is truly an elite unit. It is, at least, a very good unit at each level of the defence, with the only weakness being a decent, but not overly intimidating pass rush that borrows from the work of the secondary to get many of its sacks. The Pats have a balanced attack with the potential to take the edge off the Cubbies strength on the D-line and secondary. The Cubs have a clutch QB and a brutally effective ground game to keep the Pats D on the field longer than they are accustomed to. The Cubs have more to play for and the Pats are due for a loss. **PICK: IOWA CITY**

SEBASTIAN @ DURHAM (line – THUNDER LIZARDS by 22)

INJURIES: Sebastian – Jadeveon Clowney (IR), Paul Posluszny (IR), Jamell Fleming (OUT), Chandler Jones (OUT), Alex Mack (OUT), Darrin Walls (OUT); **Durham** – Ahmad Bradshaw (OUT), DJ Hayden (OUT).

Giving up 41 points to the Hellfire and an average of 35 per game will do this to a betting line when a winless team is about to face a future hall-of-fame quarterback throwing to a future hall-of-fame wide receiver. Never mind that the Durham duo of Drew Brees and Megatron is hot right now and the Durham defence is surrendering a league-low 15 points per game, this game is such a mismatch on paper that it might actually end up working against the Thunder Lizards. The temptation to rest starters and the inevitable overconfidence that takes root in the players when facing a team that just last week made Andrew Luck look like a no. 1 overall pick again usually has a negative effect on the intensity level. Let's not overlook the fact the Swordfish can move the ball better an average 0-10 team, nor forget that they have pushed playoff contenders like Gwinnett, Cowtown and Twin Cities to the wall before falling in games that could have gone either way. I am not saying that Sebastian has a hope of actually winning this game, but I am saying that it might be one of those comfortable but non-blowout wins for Durham. **PICK: SEBASTIAN**

PICKERING @ SCARBOROUGH (line – SPARTANS by 2)

INJURIES: Pickering – David Cobb (PROBABLE), Roberto Garza (OUT); Scarborough – None.

This line favouring the Spartans on the road is a product if the pseudo-scientific power rankings, most of which have Pickering slotted 3 to 4 ranks on top of Scarborough. If the analysts are less than impressed with the calibre of Scarborough victims in their 6 wins – only one of which is a .500 team – they should not be much more impressed with the stature of those that have fallen to Pickering. Of course, beating the Cannibals – beaters of the Mustangs – in a full blown shootout last week showed flair and bolstered credibility for a Spartan playoff run. But let's not forget that Pickering was on very few lists as a playoff contender at the start of the season and there was a reason for that. That reason has recently reared its ugly head over the last 3 games in the form of a hole-riddled defence that has surrendered 30 points and over 400 yards per game, including a tilt against the lowly Violators. The Blue Eagles have the guns to pump more holes in the Defenders of Thermopylae and the studs on defence to contain Philip Rivers and Matt Forte enough to squeak by in a close contest down to the final gun. **PICK: SCARBOROUGH**

SOUTH CAROLINA @ MARKHAM (line – NORTH STARS by 4)

INJURIES: South Carolina – Dontay Moch (OUT); **Markham** – Stedman Bailey (PROBABLE), Jordan Reed (OUT), Max Unger (OUT), Chris Long (IR).

The Regulators' clutch win over Beaufort County and the North Stars 4th consecutive loss did not dampen the enthusiasm of bettors for the always sturdy North Stars. At home against the seldom rugged Regulators they look like an attractive bet at first glance, despite an increasingly arthritic offence. One factor that is probably being overlooked here is the potential for turnovers to play a key role in the outcome. Markham is no.1 in turnovers generated with 18, resulting in a +11 differential; while South Carolina is ranked no.2 with 15 and a +9 differential. Both rely on turnovers for much of whatever limited success they have had to date, but if both teams turn the ball over with relatively equal frequency, the game will come down to player match-ups. The Regs have a significant talent edge, with an underrated offensive line and a streaky quarterback who has yet to play to his potential. Expect the Regs, riding high after last week, to keep this within a field goal either way and likely win outright. **PICK: SOUTH CAROLINA**

AURORA @ COWTOWN (line – MUSTANGS by 2)

INJURIES: Aurora – Kevin Pierre-Louis (OUT); **Cowtown** – Jay Bromley (QUESTIONABLE), Derek Carrier (OUT), Mike Evans (OUT), Cedric Ogbuehi (OUT).

With Aurora leading the league in points scored and passing yards per game; and the Corn Kings ranked no.18 in total yards allowed, the 2-point line seems a little tight, even for a road favourite. If the maddeningly inconsistent Corn Kings pass rush fails to bring pressure on Matt Ryan, scoring could be like stealing candy from a toddler for the high-powered Mustangs offence. The Cowtown line will struggle to contend with an unleashed JJ Watt should the Kings find themselves in a shootout, but they could find success on the ground in a close game against the league's 19th ranked run defence. Mike Evans is out for Cowtown, which hurts their chances in a shootout even more. Look for the Corn Kings to try and slow the game down with Todd Gurley and for the Mustangs to try and speed it up with the deep ball to Anquan Boldin and Andre Holmes. **PICK: AURORA**

GWINNETT @ YORK (line – GLADIATORS by 2)

INJURIES: Gwinnett – Vic Beasley (DOUTBFUL), Rey Maualuga (OUT); York – Vincent Brown (OUT).

The Glads are no.1 overall in yards per game and 1st in 3rd down conversion percentage, which sets up an intriguing match-up against the no.2 ranked defence in yards-per-play. All the same, you might want to throw the team stats out the window with Ben Roethlisberger in the game. History shows that Big Ben can go off on or wilt against any defence depending on his mood, so don't count on the Swords holding their defensive posture here. On the other side, Tom Brady brings ball security and steadiness to a capable if not exactly breath-taking offence with limited weapons. The Glads defence has been middle-of-the-road overall, but can be kept on the field for long stretches, as their poor third down stop rate suggests. The Glads are in a position to extend their lead in the playoff race and drive a knife in the Swords post-season hopes. They won't pass up this opportunity. **PICK: GWINNETT**





FROM THE EFL ARCHIVES – It took just 10 weeks for the 2009 edition of the Florida Dragons (10-0) to clinch a playoff berth. A decisive and much anticipated 31-13 victory over the Pickering Spartans did the trick. The worst Florida could have finished after that was 10-6, making it theoretically possible to lose the South Division, but not the wild card.

One of those teams still in the running for the South Division title kept its slim hopes alive thanks to a great game from an unlikely hero. Nickel cornerback *Leodis*

McKelvin returned a kickoff 101 yards for a TD and returned an interception 66 yards for another score to lead the Gladiators over the flabbergasted North Stars, 30-16.

McKelvin was no.1 on a short list of unexpected Week 10 heroes: *Brodie Croyle*, relegated to 3rd string on the Cubs after starting 7 games for the Knights in 2008, stepped in out of the blue to manage a 24-13 win over Kutztown, going 12 of 18 for 135 yards and one interception. Okay, it wasn't exactly a heroic performance, but with *Trent Edwards* injured and *JP Losman* as the other option, Brodie not completely screwing it up felt like a big deal at the time.

As West Division-leading Chino found itself in a battle with the lowly Violators, they got an unexpected boost from back-up running back *LenDale White*, who rushed for 180 yards and 2 TDs, including a 75-yard burner to give the Convicts some needed breathing room in the 3rd quarter.

Durham (8-2) avoided an embarrassing loss to Ringgold (2-8) thanks in part to the play of defensive end *Ty Warren*, who recorded 10 tackles, 3 sacks, 2 stuffs and 1 forced fumble. Oh, and they also got a 13-yard TD pass from *Philip Rivers* to *Austin Collie* with 0:08 left for a 20-17 win.