

# 2015

Week Thirteen



# EFL NEWS

ELITE FOOTBALL LEAGUE

# 2015

Week Thirteen

January 11, 2016



CAR	37	VIR	3	CHP	31	CHI	17	LAK	24	DTL	7	MAR	17	YOR	6	SC	34	SBE	26
BCR	42	TCT	41	MOH	9	MVM	14	ICC	66	AUR	35	PIC	24	COW	27	SEB	21	GWG	28



# NU-GOOD!!

LATEST EFL NEWS INSIDE

- MUSTANGS OUTPACE BLUNDER LIZARDS
- RAVENS MAINTAIN ALTITUDE
- REGULATORS MAKE IT 4 STRAIGHT
- CHINO ALIVE...BARELY
- CUBS SET GAME MARK FOR POINTS
- AND MORE.....

Also in this issue

- SPATS FEATURE, 'CURSE OF THE BLUE EAGLES,' 'POSSUM OR PUSSY?' & 'IT'S OKAY TO WIN.'
- JIMMY THE GEEK BREAKS DOWN THE EVER-SHIFTING PLAYOFF PICTURE
- THIS WEEK IN EFL HISTORY - WEEK THIRTEEN OF 2009

Scarborough kicker *Mike Nugent* slumps forward while Gladiator players celebrate around him after his 39-yard field goal attempt sailed wide left as time expired. The miss allowed Gwinnett to escape with a 28-26 win after a furious Eagle comeback. (Story Inside....)



Who was slick in Week Thirteen?

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



**Russell Wilson**  
QB  
Iowa City  
Cubs

22 of 26, 331 yards, 7 TDs. Tore up Knights D in 66-24 romp.



**Morgan Burnett**  
S  
Gwinnett  
Gladiators

4 Tackles, 2 INTs, 48 return yards. 2 red zone picks kept team in game.



6-7-0

# Scarborough



## GAME OF THE WEEK



8-5-0

# Gwinnett

### MVP

26

LeSean McCoy

28

TEAM LEADERS				
Passing	Cmp	Att	Yds	TD
Rodgers	27	48	329	1
Rushing	Car	Yds	Avg	TD
Blue	15	32	2.1	0
Receiving	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD
Jackson	7	136	19.4	1

Team	1	2	3	4	OT	Total
Scarborough	7	6	0	13	-	26
Gwinnett	7	0	7	14	-	28

TEAM LEADERS				
Passing	Cmp	Att	Yds	TD
Roethlisberger	16	23	196	2
Rushing	Car	Yds	Avg	TD
McCoy	30	178	5.9	1
Receiving	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD
Wayne	5	71	14.2	0

### Play of the Game

With 0:02 left in the game, the Blue Eagles had possession at the Gwinnett 21, trailing by 2 points. **Mike Nugent** hooked the 39-yard game-winning FG attempt left, allowing the Glads to hang on.

**SUMMARY:** The pressure was on Scarborough to steal a win on the road and draw even with the Gladiators in the South Division race. **Aaron Rodgers** was sharp on the opening drive, drilling a slant to **DeSean Jackson** for a 34-yard TD. **Ben Roethlisberger** answered with a long hitch to **Jeremy Maclin** for a 23-yard TD to even the score. **Morgan Burnett** intercepted Rodgers to stop a red zone opportunity early in the 2<sup>nd</sup>, but **Mike Nugent** capped Scarborough's next two drives with FGs of 36 and 41 yards to give the Eagles a 13-7 half time lead. A quick pitch to **LeSean McCoy** went for 30 yards to set up a 5-yard TD run that put Gwinnett on top to open the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter then Burnett's second red zone pick of the day set up a 16-yard TD pass to **Jarvis Landry** to make it 21-13 Glads. The Eagles got back in the game with a 37-yard pick-six by **Will Hill**, but could not convert the 2-point try and trailed, 21-19. A 24-yard pass to **Reggie Wayne** set up 6 straight carries by McCoy and a 14-yard TD run by **Joseph Randle** to put Gwinnett apparently in control, 28-19 with 2:45 left. But a 42-yard pass to Jackson set up a 5-yard Rodgers TD scramble and a successful onside kick, followed by two 1<sup>st</sup> downs, put Nugent in a position to win the game with 0:02 left. His 39-yard attempt went wide left to give Gwinnett the win.

**QUOTES:** "I don't know what to say and how often does that happen? We are good at finding ways to lose. Mike makes that kick in his sleep. He hadn't missed one all year. He was bound to miss one eventually - too bad it had to come now. But that's football!" - Blue Eagles coach, **Rex Ryan**.  
"We dodged a bullet for sure. Morgan came up huge for us and LeSean carried a big load. We have to get better at clamping down in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter. We're scoring but we're also giving up scores. We got lucky today," - Gwinnett coach, **Dave Birdsall**.



### HAPPY FAN



### titter

### ANGRY FAN



**Mike Myers @MikeMyers**

If I ever run out of material for my gags I can always dip into the Eagles game film for inspiration.



**Gladiator Man @gladman22**

Things are going our way! Big Ben is heating up. LeSean can run forever. We can lose that prevent D though.

01-07-2016 Gwinnett Coliseum Temp: 59 Wind: 0-10 None MVP: **LeSean McCoy**

#### Scoring Summary

1 6:28 Scarborough	TD Rodgers 34 pass to Jackson (Nugent) (8-82-4:59)	7-0
1 2:32 Gwinnett	TD Roethlisberger 23 pass to Maclin (Suisham) (7-75-3:49)	7-7
2 6:08 Scarborough	FG Nugent 36 (10-44-4:35)	10-7
2 0:05 Scarborough	FG Nugent 41 (12-46-3:00)	13-7
3 7:03 Gwinnett	TD McCoy 5 run (Suisham) (11-89-6:39)	13-14
4 12:39 Gwinnett	TD Roethlisberger 16 pass to Landry (Suisham) (7-68-4:03)	13-21
4 9:44 Scarborough	TD Hill 37 interception return (2 - failed)	19-21
4 2:45 Gwinnett	TD Randle 14 run (Suisham) (10-80-6:59)	19-28
4 0:46 Scarborough	TD Rodgers 5 run (Nugent) (7-74-1:53)	26-28

	SBE	GWG
First Downs	27	24
Rushes	24-85	32-201
Passes	48-27-329	23-16-196
Sacked	0-0	0-0
Fumble	0	0
Penalties	2-20	8-66
Turnovers	2	1
Missed Tackles	11	2
Blitzes	33	13
Time	28:34	31:26
Third Down	9-13	5-8
Fourth Down	1-1	0-1
Red Att/Td/Fg	3/1/1	3/3/0
Net Offense	414	397

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



<b>CANNIBALS</b>	7	10	7	13	0	<b>37</b>
5-8-0					OT	

**Marcus Mariota**  
24 of 35, 433 yards, 4 TDs, 1 INT



<b>RAVENS</b>	6	6	13	17	0	<b>42</b>
9-3-1						

**RGIII**  
25 of 32, 349 yards, 3 TDs

TD passes of 43 yards to **Emmanuel Sanders** and 17 yards to **Travis Kelce** from **Marcus Mariota** powered Carthage to a 17-12 half time lead. But a 71-yard TD pass from **RGIII** to a double-covered **DeAndre Hopkins** to start the 3<sup>rd</sup> got the Ravens rolling. Mariota countered with a 48-yard TD pass to **Doug Baldwin** but **Jonathan Stewart** put Beaufort on top 25-24 with his 2<sup>nd</sup> TD run. After a 15-yard TD pass to Hopkins made it 32-24, the Ravens extended their lead with an 18-yard TD pass to **Randall Cobb** after a failed 4<sup>th</sup> down gamble at the Carthage 41. The Cannibals added a pair of late TDs.



<b>VIOLATORS</b>	3	0	0	0	0	<b>3</b>
0-13-0					OT	

**Mark Ingram**  
6 Carries, 37 yards



<b>TRIUMPH</b>	7	14	14	6	0	<b>41</b>
10-3-0						

**Tre Mason**  
14 Carries, 166 yards, 4 TDs

**Mark Ingram** broke runs of 21 and 15 yards to set up an opening drive 38-yard FG by **Mason Crosby** to give the Violators a short-lived 3-0 lead. The Triumph took control of the game from that point, using a mix of short and long passes to set up a 5-yard TD run by **Melvin Gordon**. **Vincent Jackson** caught passes of 24 and 23 yards to set up **Tre Mason** for the first of 4 TDs on the day to make it 14-3. A **Jamaal Charles** fumble on Virden's next possession set up a 25-yard Mason TD run to make it 21-3 and the rout was on. The 2<sup>nd</sup> half saw both teams combine for 38 run attempts.



<b>PATRIOTS</b>	0	17	0	14	0	<b>31</b>
12-1-0					OT	

**Duke Johnson**  
19 Carries, 103 yards, 2 TDs



<b>HELLFIRE</b>	0	3	3	3	0	<b>9</b>
2-11-0						

**Tevin Coleman**  
101 Rush yds, 73 Receiving Yds.

A short cross to **Allen Robinson** gained 68 yards to set up a 25-yard Mohave FG, breaking a scoreless tie in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter. **Peyton Manning** answered with a 17-yard TD pass to **Jason Witten** then Pats linebacker **Jamie Collins** stripped the ball from **Andrew Luck** and returned it 78 yards for a TD. A **Jerraud Powers** with 0'36 left in the half set up a **Ryan Succop** FG to make it 17-3 Pats at half time. Penalties and a **Byron Jones** interception set up a pair of Mohave FGs before an **Aqib Talib** interception and 16-yard TD run by **Duke Johnson** broke the game open for the Pats in the 4<sup>th</sup>.

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



### T-LIZARDS

11-2-0

0	7	0	0	0	7
OT					

**Drew Brees**  
5 of 12, 68 yards, 1 TD, 1 INT



### MUSTANGS

12-1-0

14	21	0	0	0	35
OT					

**Matt Ryan**  
20 of 25, 244 yards, 3 TDs

The Mustangs set the tone with a 74-yard power drive and 4-yard TD run by **Arian Foster** to open the game. **Randy Starks** sacked **Drew Brees** for a 13-yard loss to shut down Durham's opening series, giving Aurora good field position for a second TD drive to make it 14-0 after 1 quarter. After the Lizards got on the board with a 10-yard TD catch by **Calvin Johnson**, **Matt Ryan** threw TD passes of 4 yards to **Anquan Boldin** and 40 & 30 yards to **Andre Holmes** on his next 3 drives to give Aurora a 35-7 lead. Both teams ran out the clock as Durham played its back-ups in a scoreless 2<sup>nd</sup> half.



### REGULATORS

7-6-0

7	17	3	7	0	34
OT					

**Tony Romo**  
19 of 27, 285 yards, 2 TDs, 1 INT



### SWORDFISH

0-13-0

7	0	0	14	0	21
OT					

**Andy Dalton**  
30 of 46, 318 yards, 3 TDs

After stopping the Regs on the opening drive, the Fish finished off a 12-play series with a 1-yard TD pass from **Andy Dalton** to **Odell Beckham** to take the early lead. But **Tony Romo** got the Regs even quickly with a 28-yard TD pass to **AJ Green**. **Ted Ginn Jr.** returned a punt 63 yards for a TD, Romo tossed a second TD pass to Green and **Justin Tucker** booted a FG as time expired to give SC a 24-7 half time lead. The Regs opened the 2<sup>nd</sup> half with a 52-yard FG then settled into running out the clock as the Fish comeback fell short with 2 TD passes to **Kenny Britt** in the final quarter.



### EXCALIBURS

6-7-0

0	3	3	0	0	6
OT					

**Tom Brady**  
19 of 38, 246 yards, 1 INT



### CORN KINGS

7-6-0

0	10	0	17	0	27
OT					

**Todd Gurley**  
31 Carries, 92 yards, 1 TD

York turned the ball over on downs at the Cowtown 41 and **Joe Flacco** capitalized with a 59-yard drive and 12-yard TD pass to **Steve Smith Sr.** The Kings added a FG with 0:52 left, but a 75-yard pass to **Delanie Walker** set up a matching 21-yard **Blair Walsh** FG as time expired in the 1<sup>st</sup> half. The offences traded FGs to make it 13-6 Cowtown before a **Micah Hyde** kickoff return fumble at the York 10 set up a 4-yard **Todd Gurley** TD run to make it 20-6 with 9:16 left in the 4<sup>th</sup>. A York turnover on downs and a 33-yard pass to **Jeremy Kerley** set up a game-clinching 1-yard TD run by **Alfred Morris**.

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



### CONVICTS

7-6-0

0	10	7	0	0	17
OT					

Cam Newton

13 of 24, 227 yards, 2 TDs, 1 INT



### MONARCHS

4-9-0

0	7	7	0	0	14
OT					

Chris Ivory

18 Carries, 62 yards, 1 TD

In the wind and snow both offences struggled for consistency throughout a scoreless 1<sup>st</sup> quarter. **DeMarco Murray** broke the drought for Chino by dodging tackles for a 38-yard catch-and-run TD. That score was equalled when **Josh Huff** returned the ensuing kickoff 96 yards for a TD. **Dan Bailey** booted a 45-yard FG late in the 2<sup>nd</sup> to give Chino the edge at half time. A fumble at the Chino 42 set up a 7-yard TD run by **Chris Ivory**, but on the first play of Chino's next possession **Malcom Floyd** turned a short slant into an 87-yard TD. A mid-field battle resulted in a scoreless 4<sup>th</sup> and a Chino win.



### NORTH STARS

3-10-0

7	0	0	10	0	17
OT					

Eli Manning

15 of 27, 151 yards, 1 TD, 1 INT



### SPARTANS

7-6-0

10	7	0	7	0	24
OT					

Golden Tate

7 Catches, 157 yards, 2 TDs

Markham's **George Iloka** picked off **Philip Rivers** on the opening drive to set up a 20-yard TD pass from **Eli Manning** to **Brandon Marshall**. Rivers came back with a 20-yard TD pass to **Golden Tate** and connected with Tate for 21 yards on the next drive to set up a FG and take the lead. **Denard Robinson** finished off a 62-yard drive with a 5-yard TD run to close out the 1<sup>st</sup> half, 17-7 for Pickering. The Spartans answered a Markham FG in the 4<sup>th</sup> with a 58-yard TD pass play to Tate to make it 24-10. The Stars added a late TD on a 1-yard run by **Andre Ellington** but could not get the ball back.



### KNIGHTS

4-9-0

0	7	7	10	0	24
OT					

Teddy Bridgewater

28 of 57, 257 yards, 2 TDs, 3 INTs



### CUBS

9-3-1

14	21	7	24	0	66
OT					

Russell Wilson

22 of 26, 331 yards, 7 TDs

The Cubs scored on their first two possessions with TD passes of 21 yards to **Coby Fleener** and 22 yards to **Brandon LaFell**. The Knights struck back with a 14-yard TD pass to **De'Vante Parker** but were subsequently unhorsed by consecutive turnovers that led to a quick pair of Cubs TDs to make it 28-7. La Fell caught his 3<sup>rd</sup> TD of 4 of the day to close out 35-71<sup>st</sup> half for Iowa City. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> half the Cubs maintained the pressure while the Knights vainly attempted a comeback. **Russell Wilson** starred with 7 TD passes and a perfect 158.3 QB rating on a points record-setting day.

## WEEK THIRTEEN

# STANDINGS

East	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Charleswood (y)	12	1	0	0.923	364	28	224	17.2	10.8	5 1 0	5 0 0	8 1 0
Twin Cities (y)	10	3	0	0.769	396	30.5	250	19.2	11.2	5 2 0	5 1 0	8 1 0
Carthage	5	8	0	0.385	393	30.2	355	27.3	2.9	2 4 0	3 2 0	3 6 0
Mohave	2	11	0	0.154	236	18.2	387	29.8	-11.6	1 6 0	1 5 0	1 8 0
Viriden	0	13	0	0.000	144	11.1	390	30	-18.9	0 7 0	0 6 0	0 9 0
West	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Beaufort County	9	3	1	0.731	365	28.1	305	23.5	4.6	5 1 0	4 0 1	7 1 1
Iowa City	9	3	1	0.731	417	32.1	255	19.6	12.5	6 0 1	4 1 1	7 1 1
Chino	7	6	0	0.538	289	22.2	286	22	0.2	2 4 0	3 2 0	5 4 0
Los Angeles	4	9	0	0.308	243	18.7	381	29.3	-10.6	1 6 0	1 5 0	2 7 0
Mission Viejo	4	9	0	0.308	270	20.8	343	26.4	-5.6	1 5 0	1 5 0	3 6 0
North	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Durham (z)	11	2	0	0.846	348	26.8	211	16.2	10.5	6 0 0	5 0 0	7 2 0
Cowtown	7	6	0	0.538	303	23.3	306	23.5	-0.2	4 3 0	3 3 0	5 4 0
Pickering	7	6	0	0.538	332	25.5	318	24.5	1.1	3 4 0	2 4 0	4 5 0
York	6	7	0	0.462	301	23.2	324	24.9	-1.8	4 2 0	2 3 0	4 5 0
Markham	3	10	0	0.231	224	17.2	254	19.5	-2.3	3 4 0	2 4 0	3 6 0
South	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Aurora (z)	12	1	0	0.923	414	31.8	259	19.9	11.9	5 1 0	5 0 0	9 0 0
Gwinnett	8	5	0	0.615	364	28	304	23.4	4.6	5 2 0	4 2 0	5 4 0
South Carolina	7	6	0	0.538	329	25.3	326	25.1	0.2	4 2 0	3 2 0	5 4 0
Scarborough	6	7	0	0.462	282	21.7	354	27.2	-5.5	4 3 0	2 4 0	3 6 0
Sebastian	0	13	0	0.000	285	21.9	467	35.9	-14	0 6 0	0 6 0	0 9 0

(z)-clinched division

(y)-clinched

wildcard

## PASSING

Rk	Player	Team	Att	Cmp	C%	Yards	In	I%	Lg	TD	TD%	Rate
1	Griffin II	BCR	200	149	74.5	1712	5	2.5	84	16	8	116.1
2	Wilson,R	ICC	326	209	64.1	2664	3	0.9	56	25	7.7	111.3
3	Cutler	TCT	368	259	70.4	3103	8	2.2	80	25	6.8	109.5
4	Romo	SC	427	291	68.1	3216	6	1.4	56	30	7	107.8
5	Brees	DTL	439	301	68.6	3369	6	1.4	65	29	6.6	107.5
6	Roethlisberger	GWG	431	280	65	3454	6	1.4	72	29	6.7	106.2
7	Mariota	CAR	400	242	60.5	3460	9	2.3	86	32	8	105.8
8	Hill,S	BCR	229	160	69.9	1738	4	1.7	56	14	6.1	105
9	Manning,P	CHP	414	285	68.8	3260	8	1.9	71	25	6	104.3
10	Rivers,P	PIC	299	179	59.9	2588	7	2.3	74	21	7	101.7
11	Newton,C	CHI	315	202	64.1	2773	8	2.5	87	19	6	101.7
12	Ryan,M	AUR	507	324	63.9	3979	8	1.6	62	27	5.3	99.2
13	Flacco	COW	451	276	61.2	3055	9	2	66	30	6.7	95.2
14	Manning,E	MAR	246	156	63.4	1717	4	1.6	65	10	4.1	90.8
15	Bridgewater	LAK	346	213	61.6	2303	9	2.6	62	19	5.5	88.6
16	Brady,T	YOR	421	264	62.7	2767	6	1.4	87	16	3.8	88.5
17	Rodgers,A	SBE	490	289	59	3439	10	2	63	20	4.1	85.6
18	Dalton	SS	472	285	60.4	3255	16	3.4	81	24	5.1	84
19	Tannehill	MVM	422	265	62.8	2587	8	1.9	52	15	3.6	83.9
20	Luck	MOH	510	287	56.3	3403	14	2.7	99	16	3.1	75.8

## RUSHING

Rk	Player	Team	Att	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD
1	McCoy,L	GWG	301	1590	5.3	40	11
2	Forte	PIC	264	1416	5.4	36	12
3	Murray,D	CHI	318	1379	4.3	40	10
4	Lacy	CAR	244	1271	5.2	31	10
5	Bell,L	LAK	314	1182	3.8	25	6
6	Gore	SC	228	1182	5.2	50	4
7	Lynch,M	YOR	253	1116	4.4	33	12
8	Foster,A	AUR	175	1014	5.8	34	11
9	Miller,L	CHP	180	1002	5.6	23	7
10	Morris,A	COW	200	971	4.9	47	3
11	Gordon,M	TCT	164	940	5.7	44	10
12	Stewart	BCR	182	933	5.1	73	6
13	Anderson,C	SS	196	924	4.7	24	5
14	Hill,J	ICC	147	914	6.2	30	7
15	Ingram,M	VV	200	866	4.3	36	5
16	Charles,J	VV	188	819	4.4	54	2
17	Ivory	MVM	160	771	4.8	70	10
18	Coleman,T	MOH	173	758	4.4	80	5
19	Johnson,D	CHP	146	757	5.2	29	7
20	Bell,J	MVM	156	732	4.7	60	6

## RECEIVING

Rk	Player	Team	No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD
1	Brown,A	TCT	97	1283	13.2	80	14
2	Cobb	BCR	86	1106	12.9	56	9
3	Johnson,A	CHP	85	853	10	20	2
4	Jones,J	MOH	81	1303	16.1	99	6
5	Hopkins,D	BCR	79	1031	13.1	84	11
6	Maclin	GWG	77	1359	17.6	61	14
7	Bryant,D	CHP	72	1140	15.8	71	14
8	Boldin	AUR	71	1149	16.2	40	7
9	Kelce,T	CAR	71	768	10.8	41	8
10	Fitzgerald	COW	70	782	11.2	61	13
11	Graham,J	MOH	69	688	10	36	4
12	Landry,J	GWG	66	713	10.8	31	7
13	Decker	DTL	64	645	10.1	28	6
14	Evans,M	COW	61	896	14.7	66	6
15	Green,A	SC	61	933	15.3	54	9
16	Jackson,D	SBE	60	973	16.2	49	5
17	Nelson,J	SBE	60	839	14	47	7
18	Allen,K	SC	60	696	11.6	42	6
19	Gronkowski	BCR	59	547	9.3	54	4
20	Stills	SS	59	698	11.8	44	6

## KICKING

Rk	Player	Team	FGA	FGM	FG%	40	50	Lg	Pts
1	Parkey	BCR	28	26	92.9	11	2	54	115
2	Gostkowski	TCT	25	22	88	9	0	48	112
3	Folk	AUR	28	21	75	5	1	50	112
4	Zuerlein	ICC	26	21	80.8	7	0	49	109
5	Dawson	DTL	24	21	87.5	5	0	49	102
6	Succop	CHP	21	19	90.5	5	1	51	100
7	Brown,J	MAR	30	26	86.7	10	3	56	98
8	Novak	COW	24	20	83.3	8	3	53	93
9	Scobee	PIC	21	17	81	6	2	53	90
10	Suisham	GWG	18	16	88.9	6	0	47	90
11	Bailey,D	CHI	23	19	82.6	13	5	53	87
12	Hauschka	CAR	17	12	70.6	7	2	51	85
13	Tucker,J	SC	16	14	87.5	7	1	52	83
14	Murray,P	LAK	19	18	94.7	11	5	53	81
15	Nugent	SBE	16	15	93.8	4	0	43	78
16	Walsh	YOR	21	14	66.7	5	1	54	77
17	Vinatieri	SS	15	15	100	8	2	53	75
18	Janikowski	MOH	19	16	84.2	6	3	57	74
19	Carpenter	MVM	11	9	81.8	5	1	55	60
20	Crosby	VV	16	15	93.8	8	1	52	58



BEIJING RED DRAGONS



PYONGYANG SUN



SEOUL CALM



TAIPEI SHARKS

### STANDINGS - WEEK 5

ASIA	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Pyongyang	3	2	0	0.6	101	20.2	103	20.6	-0.4	2 1 0	3 2 0	3 2 0
Taipei	3	2	0	0.6	106	21.2	83	16.6	4.6	2 0 0	3 2 0	3 2 0
Seoul	2	3	0	0.4	111	22.2	103	20.6	1.6	1 2 0	2 3 0	2 3 0
Beijing	2	3	0	0.4	91	18.2	120	24	-5.8	1 1 0	2 3 0	2 3 0



#### SHARKS

3-2-0

14	6	3	13	0	<b>36</b>
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Wiley Hutcherson  
30 Carries, 156 yards, 1 TD



#### RED DRAGONS

2-3-0

3	10	3	0	0	<b>16</b>
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Isaiah Broderick  
18 Carries, 120 yards

A 49-yard pass to H-back **Jeffery Orson** set up a 3-yard TD run by **Wiley Hutcherson** to give Taipei a 7-0 lead. After Beijing got on the board with a FG, a 46-yard pass to **Phil Spencer** set up a 7-yard TD pass to Orsen from **Mitch Souza** to make it 14-3. A **Dalton Yeager** interception set up a 23-yard TD run by QB, **Wilford Calloway** then a 24-yard FG closed the gap to 14-13. But the Sharks would add a couple of FGs before the half to lead 20-13. With the Sharks leading 26-16 in the 4<sup>th</sup>, the Dragons turned the ball over on downs at their 45, leading to a game-breaking 43-yard TD pass to Orsen.



#### SUN

3-2-0

7	14	7	3	0	<b>31</b>
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Noah Hopkins  
19 Carries, 137 yards, 2 TDs



#### CALM

2-3-0

10	7	0	7	0	<b>24</b>
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Billy Carroll  
23 of 31, 258 yards, 2 TDs

A back-and-forth 1<sup>st</sup> half saw Seoul QB, **Billy Carroll** score from 1-yard to open the scoring, only to have **Noah Hopkins** of the Sun answer with a 6-yard TD run to tie it. Hopkins broke a 53-yard run to set up a 4-yard TD pass to **Darnell Stevens** to make it 14-10, Sun in the 2<sup>nd</sup>, but **Johnny Parsons** responded with an 11-yard TD catch to regain the lead for Seoul. Hopkins scored from 10 yards out and 0:35 left in the 2<sup>nd</sup> to give the Sun the lead at half time. A 17-play, 76-yard TD drive by the Sun in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and a FG by **Carlos Tunk** in the 4<sup>th</sup> made it 31-17, Sun. The defence hung on for the win.



# AROUND THE



## With Spats McChad

NEW YORK – The EFL vision of competitive parity has turned blurry over the past four weeks. Week Thirteen brought another raft of clunkers before a football-ravenous public that, according to Nielsen, remained tuned-in throughout most of the butchery. The reasons why viewers decided to continue watching lemons – like South Carolina’s mastery over Sebastian or Durham’s debacle at Aurora – can only be speculated upon at this stage. However, with recent history showing us that no lead is safe in the offence-driven football of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the prospect of a fantastic comeback in an apparent blowout is an attractive lure to the diehard fan, the diehard gambler, or the drunk.

While viewer tenacity is good news for the profit-driven networks and the EFL itself, the bad news is that fewer viewers, in general, tuned in to the games this week, dipping slightly overall after flat-lining in weeks 11 and 12. Virden-Twin Cities drew a season-low 1.8 rating, (0.4 off the all-time low single game mark set in 2008 by the Markham-Colorado contest in Week 16) with most of the viewership understandably concentrated in the State of Minnesota and Las Vegas, where bettors were evenly divided on the mammoth 18-point line. In Virden and surrounding municipalities, more households tuned in to watch an all-day *Beachcombers* marathon than the football game.

Despite the recent preponderance of landslide victories and really boring games temporarily affecting the bottom line, there is ample evidence that the competitive health of the EFL is stronger than ever. Each division has a heavyweight capable of competing on near-even footing with the other heavyweights. Beneath those teams are a slew of good to very good teams that have enough talent to upset a heavyweight while making each other look great, horrible or average on “any given Sunday,” depending on the fickle bounce of the prolate spheroid called a ‘football’ and the whims of coaching.

Critics point to a couple of winless teams and a basket case franchise in Mohave to support the view of a widening gap between the rich and the poor in the EFL, but the reality of the numbers is quite different. There are only two teams currently below the “poverty line” of a 50 Power Rating – Sebastian (46.7) and Virden (45.5). 2-11 Mohave rates 50.7, one point less than 4-9 Los Angeles, a team most analysts agree has turned the corner this year and is on its way back from oblivion. There is talent on the Hellfire that has not yet come together with any consistency.

With 6.3 points in total separating the “middle cut” of 10 teams in the Power Rankings and just 4.4 points separating no. 1 from no. 6, there is undeniable competitive parity in the EFL this year. It just doesn’t always play out that way in individual games. Heading into Week 14, thirteen of twenty teams either occupy playoff positions or remain in the hunt for one. There are six teams with records ranging from 8-5 to 6-7 all competing for two wildcard berths in the Can-Am Conference while a dog-fight is looming between Iowa City and Beaufort County for the West Division title. Charleswood, despite a 12-1 record, has not yet clinched the East and faces a determined challenger in Twin Cities this week.

There is a lot to hold fan interest as the 2015 season hits the final stretch, even if Week 13 and the weeks preceding it did not live up to the ideal. For the discerning football enthusiast, there was much going on beneath the surface of the final scores this week to make one predict an exciting finish to the regular season.

### ***THE CURSE OF THE BLUE EAGLES***

When Scarborough owner **Chris Dickinson** got lucky in a game of *Mah Jong* with a wealthy Chinese heiress and “won” the Florida Dragons football team, he had no idea that it would change his life forever.

*“Looking back on it, I didn’t have a clue what I was doing, or what I was getting into,”* Dickinson admitted in a recent interview for an episode of *A Football Lifetime* on EFL Network.

Many would say that Dickinson still has no clue what he is doing, but that unkind view runs contrary to the many changes and improvements he has attempted to make in the almost five years he has been at the helm of the Blue Eagles. While few of those changes, if any, have actually worked out, the thought behind many of them suggests that he is at least heeding the advice of “football people” and has learned something personally from years of failing to meet high expectations. The School of Hard Knocks can concuss you or teach you. There is evidence, for Dickinson, that it has done both.

While 2015 has unfolded like many others for Scarborough fans and their fractious team – cautious optimism turning to bitter disappointment by the season’s final quarter – some scientific and analytical people, at a loss to explain how the Blue Eagles can be *that* bad given their personnel, are examining some very irrational theories about the root cause of their failure.

One such analyst, **Arpin Plunderflunder** of [FootballOutriders.org](http://FootballOutriders.org), is becoming a vocal proponent of alternative theories concerning the strange underperformance of the Blue Eagles. It is not that Plunderflunder is losing his mind. To the contrary, the track record of *Outriders* methodology has been impressive, but consistently off when it comes to Dickinson's team. To him, it was an anomaly that demanded an explanation.

His emerging dominant theory is that the Blue Eagles team, as claimed by Dickinson and others close to the team, is indeed *cursed* by a supernatural force. His argument is rooted in methodology that is hard to dispute and for which wisps of tangible evidence are now beginning to appear.

"The math doesn't lie," explains Plunderflunder, who graduated with a doctorate in Theoretical Mathematics from Stanford. "The models strongly assert the presence of a force – *X* – that we cannot detect through conventional measurement criteria. To give you an example, it is like the 'God Particle' in physics – we know it is there, we just haven't captured it yet."

To Dickinson, it is no 'God' particle, but rather something from the Devil himself: "*It just seems like every year we get the pieces in place for success, everyone buys in, everyone's excited, and just when we all start to believe, something bad happens,*" laments Dickinson in *A Football Lifetime*. "*I'm either the unluckiest guy in the world, or there is a curse on this team!*"

When it comes to luck, Dickinson is the last person who should be complaining. The 16-time winner of major lotteries and venture capitalist has succeeded, without apparent expertise in anything, in becoming a multi-billionaire. Everything he touches turns to gold. If he had been looking to acquire a football team back in 2011, he could not have done better than the Florida Dragons, the EFL's first true dynasty. The team fell almost literally into his lap while on vacation in China. Yet, the man who cannot do anything wrong in business pursuits, cannot do anything right when it comes to his football team. As a result, the Blue Eagles have become his personal obsession.

Having done, in his words "everything possible in football" to make the Blue Eagles a success, Dickinson started looking elsewhere for a solution. He hired a private investigation firm to spy on the players, team staff and team executives. When that turned up nothing untoward, he hired an investigator to spy on himself because, in his own words: "*I'm a bit of a partyer and can't remember past last-call most nights.*" When all that turned up was a penchant for late night massages and a high tolerance for sleeping on lawns and park benches, he consulted a battery of psychics until one finally told him something that hit home. Dickinson explains the eerie encounter in *A Football Lifetime*:

*"I was at a party and this woman comes up to me out of nowhere and says there is a 'cloud' over me. I was, like, <duh> everyone knows my team sucks and most of Scarborough wants to kill me, so of course there is a cloud over me. But before I can say anything to her, she grabs my hand, the one not holding my beer, and says, 'I know why.'"* Dickinson's eyes bug out at this point as he recounts the moment. "*She was this dark-eyed gypsy-like woman. She was intense. I had never seen her before and haven't seen her since. She hadn't been invited and nobody knew her (I later found out). She stared into my eyes and said, 'It is not your team. It belongs to another. When it is your team, you will have the success you desire!'* And then she dropped my hand as if I had a disease, said her cab was waiting, and walked away. I was stunned for a sec then I went after her. But she, like, just vanished. It was weird. I thought I had imagined the whole thing, but a buddy of mine had his pocket picked that night and thought it was this weird chick who had hit on him. He described her to a T."

The above could easily be discounted as the imaginings of a man coming gradually unhinged. However, some strange happenings around the team are now coming to light, encouraged by Plunderflunder's research. Two images have hit the Net that are causing a sensation. The first is an enhanced slow motion replay of the second fumble by **Aaron Rodgers** in the Aurora game in Week 12. The shot, taken by a high-speed motion camera of the type used by car manufacturers in crash testing, shows Rodgers with the ball securely tucked away under his right armpit. He is tackled by **Earl Thomas**, who grabs him around the waist with both arms. As Rodgers falls to the turf, the ball suddenly pops out of his grip as if punched out. Sure enough, a fist appears under Rodgers' arm from behind. The only problem is that there is nobody behind Rodgers except for Thomas, and both of his hands are clearly visible around Rodgers' waist. The fist appears in just three frames, meaning that it is visible for 3/1,000ths of a second in real time, too quick to be captured by a conventional camera. The video, shot by an unknown person, is being studied at MIT for authenticity.

This week in front of a vociferously partisan crowd in Gwinnett – where the recharged Gladiator fan base is excited again and, in the opinion of Gwinnett management, ready to purchase the team's brand new *third* jersey, a 'home white' tribute to Augustus, the first Roman Emperor – the Blue Eagles fought back valiantly from a 9-point deficit with 2:45 remaining in the game. After **Joseph Randle** put the Gladiators in front 28-19 with a 14-yard touchdown run, Scarborough drove desperately up the field, finishing off a 74-yard drive with a 5-yard touchdown scramble by Rodgers with 46 seconds left to make it 28-26 for Gwinnett. Amazingly, the Blue Eagles recovered the onside kick and, using their remaining timeouts, drove 34 yards into field goal range for **Mike Nugent**, who had not missed a kick all year. From 39 yards, success appeared all but guaranteed. The kick initially appeared true as it left Nugent's foot, but about half way to the posts it turned sharply left as if hit by a gust of wind. Strangely, the slight 5-mph wind was not even blowing in that direction. Nugent looked completely stunned afterwards.

Television footage of the end zone bleachers at Gwinnett Coliseum shows the usual partisan crowd gesticulating and

jeering in hopes of distracting the kicker – the common antics one will see in any end zone shot.

However, there is one oddity in the shot that people are buzzing about. A cowed figure in some kind of beaked mask can be seen seated in the stands.

Focusing in, the figure can be seen rising as the kick is made then sharply turning its head and waving a hand to the right as it faces the incoming ball. At the very moment of its movements the ball veers off course, missing left. The figure sits back and disappears as the fans around it rise in celebration. The figure cannot be seen clearly again in any further camera shot.

Who was this “fan,” dressed so strangely? Whoever it is has not yet come forward, despite publicity from mainstream media and millions of YouTube views. Few fans sitting in the area remember the figure at all in spite of its plainly bizarre (even by football fan standards) appearance. Was it coincidence that the figure was able to time a psyche-out gesture to coincide



Who, or what, is this mysterious cowed figure occupying an end zone bleacher seat at the Coliseum in Gwinnett? [Close-up inset] TV footage captures the figure making a gesture as the kick from Scarborough’s *Mike Nugent* sails toward the center of the uprights. At the same moment the kick turns hard left and misses.



perfectly with the exact moment Nugent’s kick turned away? Or did those movements have something to do with the kick missing?

What was the true meaning behind the words of the gypsy-woman who accosted Chris Dickinson at a party? Was she high on party drugs, or did she have otherworldly insight into forces beyond human comprehension? Who shot the high-speed video of Aaron Rodgers’ second fumble against Aurora? Is it authentic? If so, whose fist is punching out the ball?

As I track developments in this story through my many sources, I am told that Dickinson said much more on camera than was revealed in the episode of *A Football Lifetime*. Much of the interview was considered too bizarre to air and Dickinson’s lawyers reportedly bought back the unused footage at an unusually high price. My requests for an exclusive interview with Dickinson have so far gone unanswered.

There is definitely more to come in what may be the strangest story to hit the EFL since Hell, Michigan was overrun by zombies and nuked by the US military. **Arpin Plunderflunder** is reportedly preparing an analytical piece in which he tracks each of what he calls the *singularities* in the statistical record of the Blue Eagles since coming to Scarborough. He states that his report, when overlaid against other events, may come closer than any other to explaining how the Blue Eagles are the only team to consistently defy the proven *Outriders* analytical formula.

Stay tuned, dear readers, as I switch into investigative mode to bring you the inside scoop on *The Curse of the Blue Eagles*.

### **POSSUM, OR PUSSY?**

The EFL Sunday Night game featured a clash of the two top teams in the Can-Am Conference: the 11-1 Durham Thunder Lizards at the 11-1 Aurora Mustangs. The most heavily promoted game of the year so far promised fireworks aplenty as two pass-based offences, piloted by future hall-of-fame quarterbacks, squared off against two of the top pass defences in the league.

Under light rain and moderate winds at Candlestick Park, the Mustangs proceeded to trample the Thunder Lizards into submission beginning with the opening drive. Coach **Rich Liotta** used a two-tight end set to great effect in the short-to-medium passing game and power running game, covering 74 yards in 11 plays to open the scoring on a 4-yard touchdown run by **Arian Foster**. Durham’s opening drive, by contrast, went backwards 14 yards in 3 plays, prompting an early entrance by punter **Thomas Morstead**. The Mustangs took a different tack on their second drive, switching to wide open 4-wide receiver set to quickly cover the 47 yards to the Durham end zone, finishing with Foster’s second touchdown run of the quarter to make the score 14-0.

Durham rebounded with what would turn out to be the only sign of life from their offence for the entire day. **Drew Brees** finished off a 9-play, 76-yard effort with a 10-yard touchdown pass to **Megatron**. Unfazed, Aurora marched steadily back up the field, covering 80 yards, mostly through the air against the much-celebrated Durham secondary, to make it 21-7 on a 4-yard touchdown pass from **Matt Ryan** to **Anquan Boldin**. A three-and-out by Durham was answered by a 40-yard touchdown pass to **Andre Holmes** then the 3<sup>rd</sup> interception of the season for **Earl Thomas** quashed a late Durham drive attempt and set up a 30-yard touchdown pass to Holmes as time expired in the first half. After 30 minutes it was Aurora 35, Durham 7, and the football world was aghast.

The second half was even more of a shock. The Thunder Lizards virtually kneeled down from the opening possession, taking their time as **Darren McFadden** carried the ball on the first 9 plays from scrimmage, resulting in three 3<sup>rd</sup>-quarter punts. The Mustangs, having apparently no stomach to rub it in and possibly anger the Lizards for a future match-up involving larger stakes, followed suit by

running the ball in slowdown mode.

Lizard back-up QB, **Nick Foles** entered the game and made the feeblest of attempts to regain some pride by actually attempting some passes – 4 in fact – but with 3 of them falling incomplete he soon lost his stomach for whatever fight was left in his team. It was the longest mutual kneel down ever witnessed.

If this game was, as advertised, an actual preview of the Can-Am Conference Final, then I want no part of it when week 18 arrives; I'll watch *Ice Road Truckers* instead. This was one of, if not *the*, ugliest game in Durham football history – not to mention just an ugly game...period. The only thing that perhaps saves it from being no.1 on the blacklist of infamous games **George Kaldis** will want, but won't be able to forget, is that it happened against the first generation descendant of arguably the best football team in football history. But still, when two 11-1 teams go head-to-head, one expects a fight. Instead, we got a savage beating followed by a fetal curl-up in the second half by a team that by half time had lost all self-respect. I am going on the record now: *the Thunder Lizards will not win the EFL Championship and may be lucky to win a playoff game.*

Apologists for Durham (and there are more out there than one might think after such a poor performance) point out that, with the Division clinched, the edge had come off the Lizards heading into the game. After the lop-sided first half, it made no sense to risk injuries to starters in a long shot comeback attempt.

**Lazor Ponk**, the sober voice of *Scouts Ltd.*, who can be counted on to cut through the hysteria of most football analyses, made a dry observation: *"The Thunder Lizards looked flat from the very beginning and highly concerned about the health of Drew Brees. They went into max protection early and it still did not stop the Aurora pass rush. On a day when the war in the trenches is so one-sided, a coach can be forgiven for cutting his losses in a meaningless game. Durham fans may thank their coach later."*

To me, that's nothing but a rationalization of what will be remembered later as the downward turning point in the Lizards' 2015 campaign. You just don't surrender like that, so early, in a warrior's game like football. Playing possum is a dangerous game; it just may make your opponents believe you're a pussy.

### ***IT'S OKAY TO WIN***

In Iowa City, Cubs Coach and motivational speaker, **Deron Redding** handed out copies of his latest book, *Winning is Okay*, to the first 5,000 fans to enter the gates at Joe Ferguson Stadium.

Under the guidance of **Rodney Alberhasky II**, son of the Cubs' octogenarian owner, the team had begun 'Win Therapy' sessions during training camp and had carried them into the regular season. After three straight losing seasons, followed by a moderately successful two-year rebound, the younger Alberhasky had announced before the start of this year that the Cubs would be moving to the next level in 2015 by instilling a "winning culture" in the young players. *"They (the players) need to be able to express their feelings about winning and understand that it is okay to win. Winning feels good. When they understand that basic principle, they will be free to win and the great State of Iowa will finally bring home a Gale Sayers Trophy,"* he had said at the time.

Well, Week Thirteen was 'Go-Out-And-Win Day' on the 'Win Therapy' calendar and the young Cubs responded with a record-breaking 66-24 shellacking of the Los Angeles Knights, surpassing the old record of 63 points set by the Kutztown Golden Bears in a 63-24 beating of the Meadowlands Swamp Dogs in Week One of the 2007 EFL season! The Cubs took to winning – and winning big – like a pack of rabid Worthleys. **Russell Wilson** really got into the winning, throwing long deep into the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter and finishing with 7 touchdown passes, one shy of the record.

As tears welled up his eyes during the post-game presser, Wilson admitted, *"I ran up the score and it felt good. I'm no longer ashamed to be a winner, Mr Alberhasky! I didn't care what the other team felt! I'm finally free to win! Thank you!"*

As for that other team, the Knights are still accustomed to getting their butts kicked and the ever upbeat **Jeff Dorhn** took the butt-kicking as well as anyone: *"The Cubs are a really good team and they had a really good day. They beat us up fair and square,"* he said. But then he added with the slightest twinkle in his eye, *"We will have our day, someday. You'll see."*

### ***AROUND THE EFL***

In Beaufort County, the Ravens kept pace with the red hot Cubbies thanks to a dazzling performance by a sizzling **RGIII**. The QB once passed-over for **Shaun Hill** led his team back from a 17-12 half time deficit with three touchdown passes in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half to eliminate Carthage from playoff contention with a 42-37 win. Griffin threw for 349 yards, rushed for 62 and, most importantly, did not turn the ball over once. This is the kind of play the Ravens will need from RGIII if they hope to beat the Cubs down the stretch.

At Tillman Field in Cowtown, a tight defensive struggle broke the home team's way in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter to give the Corn Kings a 27-6 victory over York. A 17-point Cowtown outburst in the final frame, fueled by a kickoff return fumble by York's **Micah Hyde**, turned a very close game into a bit of laughter. Rookie running back **Todd Gurley** rushed 31 times for 92 yards and a touchdown.

On a rare snow day in Mission Viejo, the Convicts overcame the Monarchs 17-14 in a game that looked very much like two Markhams going at it. **Malcom Floyd** tip-toed 87 yards through the wet snow to score the winning touchdown as Monarch defenders slipped and slid all around him. Fighting for their playoff lives, the Convicts will take their wins any way they can get them.

In two games that looked closer than they actually were; the Regulators bumped their winning streak up to 4 games with a 34-21 domination of the winless Swordfish, while the Spartans rebounded from an embarrassing loss in Week 12 and kept themselves alive in the Can-Am Conference wild card race with a workman-like 24-17 besting of the tenacious, but not very good, North Stars.

Virden and Mohave joined Durham on the list of teams that didn't show up to play in Week 13. Virden dashed the hopes of fans hoping to cash in on an 18-point line by lying down for Twin Cities in a 41-3 exercise in futility; while the Hellfire fell back into their old ways with 3 turnovers in a 31-9 loss to powerful Charleswood.

# BUG THE BOOKIE!

**JIMMY THE GEEK GIVES YOU HIS PICKS  
FOR WEEK FOURTEEN EFL ACTION**

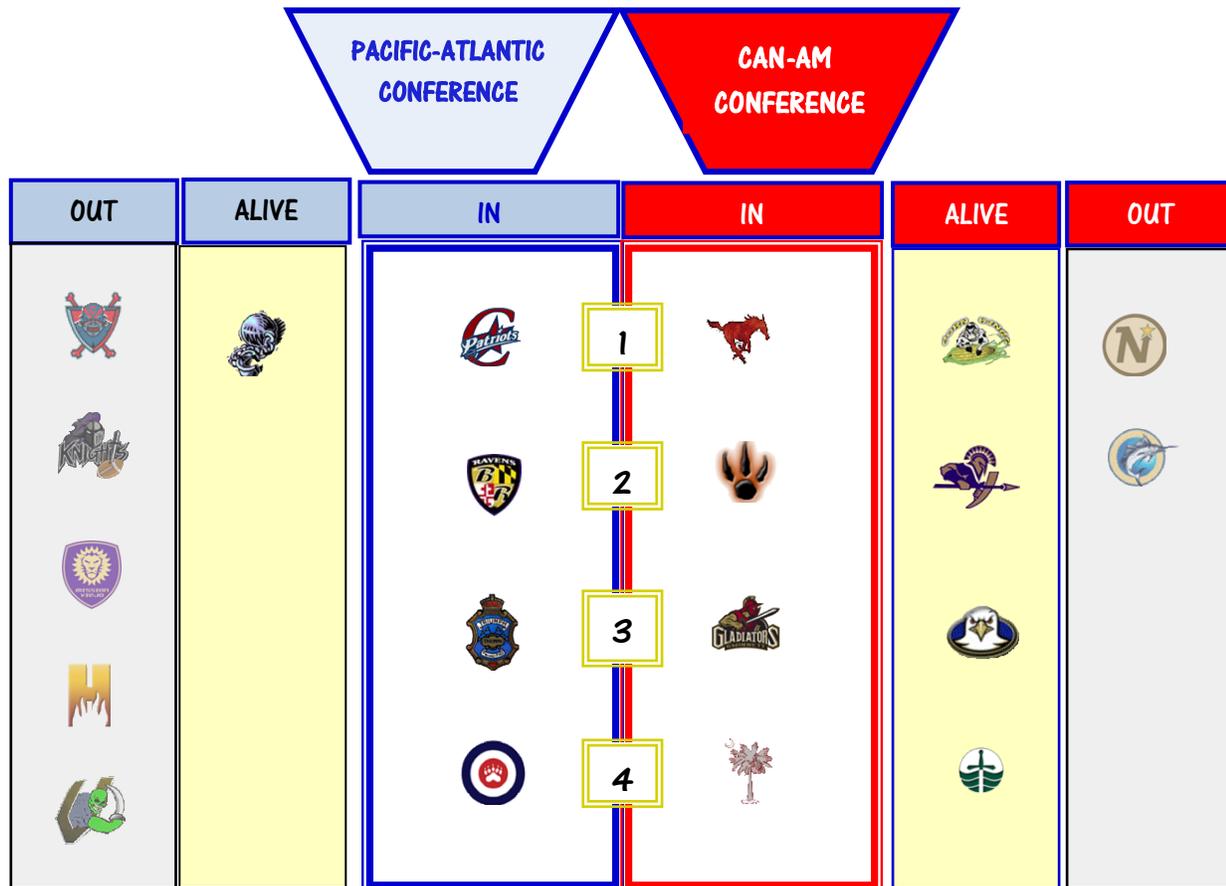
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**RECORD VS THE SPREAD AFTER WEEK 13:**

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## PLAYOFF PICTURE AT A GLANCE



## JIMMY'S WEEK FOURTEEN PICKS

### GAMES TO WATCH

**TWIN CITIES @ CHARLESWOOD (line – Patriots by 4)**

**INJURIES:** Twin Cities – Nigel Bradham (OUT); Charleswood – Lavonte David (OUT).

The East Division comes down to this game. The Pats can clinch with a win or a tie; the Triumph can stay alive in the Division race and clinch a wildcard berth with a win. The last time these teams faced each other the Pats got 221 kick return yards and a touchdown from Knile Davis to support nearly 400 yards of offence in a 40-27 trouncing. Obviously, the Triumph defence will have to do better this time to stand a hope. On the offensive side, Jay Cutler turned in his least efficient performance of the year in that game, with most of his struggles coming early before the game got out of hand. When the Patriots did switch to 5 and 6-defensive back sets the Triumph turned to Melvin Gordon until it became clear that they would never catch up by running the ball. Both teams

are missing an important linebacker in the center of their respective defences: the 2014 co-MVP, Lavonte David for Charleswood; and steady Nigel Bradham for Twin Cities. The impact will be felt in the running and short passing game, as both are effective in pass coverage and notable run-stuffers. The Triumph have a dangerous offence and a well-built defence that is performing above projections but Charleswood has better overall talent and the home field edge. It will come to coaching and that is where the daring game plans of Guy Williams will either make or break his team. Expect a conservative stance from the Pats on both sides of the ball while waiting patiently for Jay Cutler to implode. **PICK: CHARLESWOOD**

### **IOWA CITY @ BEAUFORT COUNTY (line – CUBS by 2)**

**INJURIES:** Iowa City – None; Beaufort County – Shaun Hill (OUT), Ryan Mathews (OUT), Stevan Ridley (OUT), Trai Turner (OUT), Frank Alexander (IR), Jairus Byrd (IR).

While this game will not decide the West Division, it will go a long way to determining which team will play at home in the quarter finals. The last time these teams faced each other, in Week Two, they slugged out a 20-20 tie in a game that the Cubs evened up with just 17 seconds remaining in regulation. The overtime frame was played almost entirely near mid-field as neither team managed to get into field goal range. A slow start by the Cubbies put them in the position they are in now, tied with the Ravens in won-loss record but behind them due to Beaufort's better Division record. But their Week 11 domination of Charleswood may have signalled the turning point of their season as they mature into a full-fledged powerhouse. That is the reason the Cubs are favoured on the road against a team they are chasing in the standings: they pass the eyeball test. On the other side, the Ravens are getting sterling play out of RGIII and if it continues, the Ravens could pour cold water on the Cubs' hot streak. It is a big "if," however. The notoriously brittle Griffin will be up against the strongest front four in football, as will his banged up workhorses at running back, Jonathan Stewart and Karlos Williams. With tackle Trai Turner out, the Ravens will turn to rookie Taylor Lewan to slow down left end Fletcher Cox. It's been an impressive run for Beaufort so far, but it could all end here. **PICK: IOWA CITY**

### **SCARBOROUGH @ SOUTH CAROLINA (line – REGULATORS by 6)**

**INJURIES:** Scarborough – Justin Tuck (PROBABLE), Tarell Brown (OUT), Chris Canty (OUT), Randy Gregory (OUT), Dont'a Hightower (OUT); South Carolina – Keenan Allen (DOUBTFUL), TJ Ward (DOUBTFUL), Ameer Abdullah (OUT), Brandon Brooks (OUT), Terrence Brooks (OUT), Star Lotulelei (OUT).

The Regulators snuck into the 2<sup>nd</sup> wildcard spot last week with a strong win over the bottom-dwelling Swordfish, kicking out Cowtown by virtue of a superior record in common games. Provided the Corn Kings continue to hold the edge over Pickering in the North, the Regs can control their playoff destiny by continuing to win. The Blue Eagles are on the edge of elimination here, but can stay in the race with a victory. A loss and they are relegated to the spoiler role. When these teams faced each other in Week Two the Eagles made it look easy in a 38-21 win. It was a much happier time for Aaron Rodgers, who threw 5 TD passes in that game. The tables have turned since then – the Regs are hot and the Eagles are not. The quarterback play has reflected the recent fortunes of both teams, as Rodgers struggles with turnovers and accuracy while Tony Romo catches fire. Both teams have injuries: the loss of Dont'a Hightower will be missed by the Scarborough defence while the injury to Brandon Brooks will create a hole in the interior line of the Regs' offensive line. Keenan Allen is listed as 'doubtful' and it will hurt the offence if he cannot go, but the Scarborough defence has taken a tumble over the past four weeks and cannot stop anybody; a rookie coming out party for Devin Funchess is a realistic possibility. The line is a little large for comfort, but the Eagles' recent fall has been larger. **PICK: SOUTH CAROLINA**

## **GAMES OF NOTE**

### **COWTOWN @ DURHAM (line – THUNDER LIZARDS by 9)**

**INJURIES:** Cowtown – Derek Carrier (OUT), Larry Fitzgerald (OUT), Cecil Shorts III (OUT), Cedric Ogbuehi (OUT), Julius Thomas (OUT); Durham – DJ Hayden (DOUBTFUL), Josh Gordon (OUT).

Durham is coming off a shockingly bad loss to Aurora and will be eager to get the taste of that out of its mouth. They have the Division sewn up and still have a shot at the no.1 seed in the conference. While resting starters may still be attractive to them, they would be wise to try and stay in the hunt for the home field advantage in the playoffs to avoid having to go back to Aurora, where the air apparently doesn't suit them. They are also undefeated at home and accustomed to the uncomfortable clammy dampness of Jurassic Park in winter time. The Corn Kings finally managed to string two wins together with a victory over York last week but still fell out of the last wildcard spot. They are now chasing South Carolina, but that could easily change after this week. In any case

they need to keep winning to maintain pressure on the five other teams all vying for wild card berths in the CAC. They have a tall task in front of them against a Lizard squad that is looking to pound somebody after getting their tails bitten off so ignominiously last week. Cowtown is missing its top receiver, Larry Fitzgerald, who joins Cecil Shorts and Julius Thomas on the sideline. It is a critical loss of depth against the four all-stars in the Durham secondary. Expect the Corn Kings to try and pound the ball on the ground to set up the pass as long as the score is close. On the Durham side, they will do what they usually do best, which is to pass the ball to their three big targets at wide receiver. The Cowtown pass rush is showing signs that it is waking up, but if it doesn't get in the face of Drew Brees, it could be a long day for the Corn Kings' secondary. **PICK: DURHAM**

### **PICKERING @ YORK (line – SPARTANS by 1)**

**INJURIES:** Pickering – None; York – Jonathan Goodwin (QUESTIONABLE).

The Spartans are still very much alive in the playoff race but, of the remaining front-runners for the last wildcard berth, appear to have the hardest road ahead. That road begins with a visit to Camelot, where the down-but-not-out Excaliburs can keep the playoff prayer flame burning with a win. A loss, however, will snuff them out. The York defence that had been holding strong through the first half of the season has struggled lately, surrendering almost 400 yards and 33 points per game over the past four weeks. The offence, which had been off-setting the defence to a degree, fell back to early season form last week with a flat showing against Cowtown. The Spartans have been hot and cold. When they are hot it is the offence that leads the way, spear-headed by the no.2 leading rusher, Matt Forte. The Swords are stout against the run, which means that Philip River may see more action on 3<sup>rd</sup> and medium than he is accustomed to seeing. The key to a Pickering win is to rush effectively first and pass for blood later. For the Swords, the defence must revert back to early season form while the offence shakes off its lethargic tendencies and takes advantage of a sparsely-talented defence that turns many Spartans games into mini-adventures. **PICK: YORK**

### **GWINNETT @ AURORA (line – MUSTANGS by 7)**

**INJURIES:** Gwinnett – Rey Maualuga (DOUBTFUL); Aurora – Kevin Pierre-Louis (OUT).

Any lingering questions about the Mustangs' ability to repeat their post-season Championship run appeared to have been answered during last week's demolishing of Durham. It was one of those dominant performances that left admirers in awe and put haters on notice. It also clinched the South Division, turning this match-up into one of lesser urgency for both teams. The Mustangs would still like to stay at home for the post-season and will take this game seriously. The Gladiators don't need the win to stay afloat, but a loss could conceivably throw them into a 4-way tie in one scenario – a situation they would prefer to avoid. The last time these teams met the Gladiators lost an overtime heartbreaker after the Mustangs tied it on a 4<sup>th</sup>-down TD with 4 seconds left in the game. It might have actually been an easy win for the Glads if not for 3 interceptions by Big Ben – great defences will sometimes get under the skin of great quarterbacks even on an off-day. It is not a stretch to imagine a better version of Big Ben making amends here for his mishaps in Week Two, but with the Mustangs on the rise and the Glads' defence looking shaky lately, it is easier to imagine another conclusive victory for the team that almost never loses. **PICK: AURORA**

### **LOS ANGELES @ CHINO (line – CONVICTS by 8)**

**INJURIES:** Los Angeles – Cortland Finnegan (OUT), Rolando McClain (OUT), Andrew Norwell (OUT), Brian Orakpo (OUT); Chino – Haloti Ngata (OUT), Michael Schofield (OUT), Victor Cruz (IR), Leodis McKelvin (IR).

With the Knights eliminated and the Convicts stranded on an unsteady rope bridge over Playoff Canyon hoping for help, this is a game that deserves the odd peek but not all of your attention – unless you're a Chino fan, of course. The Convicts can stay in the hunt another week with a win here and an Iowa City or Beaufort County loss. A Chino loss or an unprecedented second tie between the Cubs and Ravens would eliminate Rob Nazar's bad boys. The situation is dire for Chino but they cannot afford to feel sorry for themselves. The Knights always play for pride and, after taking a record pounding at the paws of the Cubs last week, they will be looking for a little redemption by knocking out the team everyone in the West Division loves to hate. Expect the Knights to play loose and take chances while the uptight Convicts squeeze out another ugly survival-type win. **PICK: LOS ANGELES**

## **HOLIDAY LEFTOVERS**

### **MOHAVE @ CARTHAGE (line – CANNIBALS by 9)**

**INJURIES:** Mohave – Ronnie Hillman (OUT), Whitney Mercilus (OUT), Donnie Avery (IR). Carthage – Justin Durant (IR), Greg Hardy (IR), Derrick Johnson (IR), Manti Te'o (IR), Jason Verrett (IR);

It will be interesting to see which Mohave team shows up for this meaningless Week 14 exercise in stat-building: the team that

plays hard for roster spots in the coming year, or the team that says “get me to the golf course now!” It matters if you’re a better and one assumes that if you are reading this you are interested in some kind of prognostication. Assuming both teams give it their all – a risky assumption – a volatile, high-scoring affair is likely in the offing. The flawed Cannibals have made the most of their assets and disguised their weaknesses much better than the Hellfire all season. There is no reason that should suddenly stop now, even in a meaningless game. The line is fat, but well within the capacities of Marcus Mariota to surpass. **PICK: CARTHAGE**

### **VIRDEN @ MISSION VIEJO (line – MONARCHS by 10)**

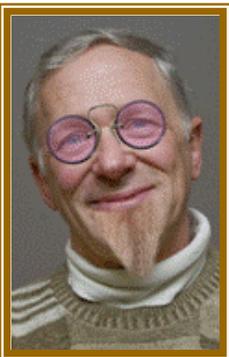
**INJURIES: Virден** – Trumaine Johnson (OUT), Daniel McCullers (OUT), Alex Carrington (IR), Eric Berry (IR), Todd Herremans (IR), Kelcy Quarles (IR), Demeco Ryans (IR), Stephen Tulloch (IR), Aldon Smith (IR); **Mission Viejo** – Kareem Jackson (OUT), Kevin White (OUT), Brandon Browner (IR), Jerod Mayo (IR).

This would be a game to watch if anyone cared whether the Violators have it in them to post a win in 2015. But the fact is that the Knights broke the winless season cherry last year and now fans care less about the stigma in general. It would appear that they care even less about Virден in particular, if ratings and attendance at Violators games are any indication. It is possible, even likely, that the Virден players don’t even care anymore. Those few fans who care to watch are witnessing one of the most disheartening football seasons in the history of football unfold in front of their eyes and it keeps getting uglier every week. The Monarchs have to win this game if for no other reason than Chris Ferraro’s ego and his players’ self-respect demands it. Expect them to not only play to win, but play to humiliate, because, in the country club of EFL owners, admitting to squeaking out a narrow win at home over the Violators of 2015 would be nearly as bad as actually losing to them. There will be no quarter here from the King. **PICK: MISSION VIEJO**

### **MARKHAM @ SEBASTIAN (line – NORTH STARS by 4)**

**INJURIES: Markham** – Max Unger (PROBABLE), Jordan Reed (DOUBTFUL), Ereck Flowers (OUT), Chris Long (IR); **Sebastian** – CJ Anderson (QUESTIONABLE), Chandler Jones (QUESTIONABLE), Alex Mack (QUESTIONABLE), Jerry Attaochu (OUT), Jamell Fleming (OUT), Mike Pouncey (OUT), Adrian Clayborn (IR), Jadeveon Clowney (IR), Paul Posluszny (IR).

An interesting tidbit about the 3-10 North Stars is that they continue to rank higher in the power rankings than one of the teams still in the playoff hunt in their conference. They also have the highest strength of victory ranking in the league and have faced the strongest schedule by combined winning percentage of their opponents. What does this mean? It means the North Stars remain a deceptively dangerous team, perfectly positioned to be a nasty spoiler in the tight Can-Am wildcard race. But that role will have to wait one more week. This week they face a winless Sebastian team that, while bad, has given their fans a couple of near-wins and many individual highlights to enjoy. Too bad this wanting but likeable team will be lumped together with the Violators if they don’t make the most of this final decent shot at victory. **PICK: MARKHAM**



CHAMPIONSHIP  
**ANCIENT HISTORY**  
CHANNEL  
PRESENTS  
*This Week in EFL History*  
*With Professor Sterling Smitherman*

FROM THE EFL ARCHIVES – Week 13 of the 2009 EFL season saw the much anticipated re-match of the 2008 Championship Game unfold very much like the 2008 Championship Game. The Florida Dragons got the receiving game of the year from wide receiver **Brandon Marshall**, who caught 8 passes for 200 yards and 1 TD, while scorching the Iowa City Cubs 37-17. The game was close for one quarter then the Dragons pulled away as Marshall ran rampant through the Cubs secondary. There have been several statistically better days for EFL wide receivers since,

but at the time in Jim Heaton’s run-first offence, it was an uncommon display of quick strike firepower.

In another big game, made smaller by the lack of high stakes, two teams that had already clinched their divisions pretended to go at it hammer and tongs and the result raised a few eyebrows. The Durham Thunder Lizards (11-2) dismantled the Charleswood Patriots (10-3) by the surprising score of 34-7. This was another game that was close for one quarter before the balance tilted in Durham’s favour following a failed 4<sup>th</sup> & 1 by the Pats at their own 29, tied 7-7 with over 10 minutes left in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter. **Adrian Peterson** was stuffed for a 1-yard loss and the Lizards made short work of a short field for the go-ahead and eventual winning TD.

The competitive disparity in the league at this time was evidenced by Kutztown (5-8), Mohave (5-8) and Iowa City (6-7) all being in contention for the final wildcard berth in the Pacific-Atlantic Conference.

In the Can-Am Conference, **Darren Sproles** of Markham (5-8) returned a kick 104 yards for a TD to key a 20-17 win over Virден, but the North Stars were eliminated from playoff contention anyway.