

2018



WEEK

2



EFL

ELITE FOOTBALL LEAGUE

*In our 1<sup>st</sup> season and still going strong!*  
October 14, 2018

2018



WEEK

2

EAST



CENTRAL



WEST



Gladiator QB, **Ben Roethlisberger** surveys the field during Week Two action in Budapest in the North Stars' home opener. Big Ben threw 4 TD passes, including 3 to receiver **Jarvis Landry**, to lead the Glads to a 28-21 victory and hold on to a tie for first place in the South Division. Neck-and-neck with the Glads is Toronto. The Wolverines won their game this week, upsetting Brooklin on the road, 24-10. Also moving to 2-0 were Cowtown, Erieau, Twin Cities and St. Charles. *See inside* for complete coverage of Week Two action.

NORTH



COASTAL



SOUTH



# BIG BEN IS BACK!



*Big Ben*



*Who was slick  
in Week Two?*

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



Ben  
Roethlisberger  
QB  
Georgia Gladiators

20 of 36, 252 yds, 4 TD passes.  
Made the money throws in road win.



Michael Johnson  
DE  
York  
Excaliburs

3 Stuffs, 1 Sacks, 3 FF. Terrorized  
Kirk Cousins all day in York win.



## OFFENSIVE PLAY OF THE WEEK

3<sup>rd</sup> & 10, OWN 46, 0:54 in 4<sup>th</sup> **Big Ben** hits **Jarvis Landry** in dble cov for 43yds to set up GW TD.



## GAME CENTER 2018 Week Two

## GAME BLITZ!

By Chris Sherman



## DEFENSIVE PLAY OF THE WEEK

Scarborough 3<sup>rd</sup> & 10 in 2<sup>nd</sup> Qt. **Oren Burks** (DTL) flips field with 59-yard pick-six of **B.Osweler**.



17



20

Jay Ajayi and Tevin Coleman combined for 159 yards on 36 carries to set up TD runs by Tion Green and Cordarrell Patterson and a 55-yard game-winning FG by Jake Elliott as the Derailers subdued the Bombers through the ground game. The Bombers got the ball back with a chance to tie, but Jaquiski Tarrt picked off Marcus Mariota to clinch the win.



16



13

Steven Hauschka booted 3 FGs, including the 43-yard game-winner as time expired in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, to lead the Chargers to a close road victory over the Wrecking Balls. NJ scored the only TD of the 1<sup>st</sup> half on a 59-yard bomb from Jared Goff to Ted Ginn, but gave up the lead on an 11-yard TD run by Carson Wentz in the 3<sup>rd</sup>. A four-FG battle ensued, with the Chargers kicking last to win.



41



14

Following a tight 1<sup>st</sup> half, that ended with the Violators and Convicts deadlocked at 14, Virden exploded for 27 points in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half while their defence shut down the Chino attack with 3 sacks of Dak Prescott and a forced Mark Ingram fumble. Ezekiel Elliott rushed for 2 TDs and Juju Smith-Schuster caught TDs of 10 and 33 yards from David Carr to lead the offence. Melvin Ingram had 2 sacks.



31



28

Jalen Mills returned an INT 42-yards for a TD and recovered a fumble that led to a 26-yard Blake Bortles TD run to give the Pats a quick 14-0 lead. But the Cubs scraped back, aided by AJ Bouye and Casey Heyward picks deep in Pats territory, that set up 2 TDs. With time running down, a 28-yard Russell Wilson run and 30-yard pass to Mike Wallace set up Justin Tucker's game-winning FG.



35



27

A 48-yard check down to Melvin Gordon and a 20-yard INT return by Sean Davis set up two 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter Triumph TDs to give them a 14-10 half time lead. The Pilots came within 2 in the 3<sup>rd</sup> on a 27-yard bomb TD to Anthony Miller from Eli Manning. But Mitch Trubisky's 2<sup>nd</sup> TD run and 3<sup>rd</sup> TD pass of the game allowed the Triumph to pull away in the 4<sup>th</sup>, despite a late Pilot TD by Allen Hurns.



20



23

The Cadillac got a 90-yard kick-off return for a TD from Pharoah Cooper, a pair of long TD passes from Matt Stafford to Jordy Nelson and a 47-yard FG by Stephen Gostkowski to beat the Knights. The Cadillac 'D' forced 5 turnovers and sacked LA QBs 8 times. Josh McCown relieved Andy Dalton in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and tied the game on a 13-yard TD pass to Le'Veon Bell, but turned it over 3 times in the 4<sup>th</sup>.



0



25

Cam Newton scrambled for a 26-yard TD and Oren Burks returned a pick 59 yard for 6, while the Eagles missed a 4<sup>th</sup> &3 in the red zone and a 36-yard FG to stay off the scoreboard as the Lizards built a 12-0 halftime lead. Brock Osweler was hurt in the 3<sup>rd</sup>, bringing in 3<sup>rd</sup> string back-up Sean Mannion for Scarborough. He could not get it done and Durham coasted to an easy win and the shutout.



7



17

The Corn Kings drove 94-yards for a TD on their first series and took advantage of a Ronald Darby INT to score on their second to take a 14-0 lead. The Fish drove to the Cowntown red zone, but a failure to convert on 4<sup>th</sup>&2 kept them scoreless. A 32-yd PI penalty on Jahleel Addae set up a Sebastian TD in the 3<sup>rd</sup>, but a Matt Bryant FG and good Cowntown D enabled the home team to hang on.



28



21

Ben Roethlisberger threw 4 TD passes, including 3 to Jarvis Landry, to spearhead a big road win for Georgia. The slow-starting Stars trailed 14-0 before a Brooks Reed forced fumble set up an 11-yard TD pass to Chris Hogan to make it 14-7 Georgia at the half. A sluggish 3<sup>rd</sup> gave way to fireworks in the 4<sup>th</sup>, as the teams traded 2 TDs each, the last one a game-winning 11-yard slant to Landry.



24



10

The Wolverine defence sacked Alex Smith 5 times and hurried him all day to spur Toronto to an upset road win over Brooklin. This game was tight in the 1<sup>st</sup> half, with Brooklin's Matt Breida tying it at 10 on a 12-yard TD catch. Toronto took the lead in the 3<sup>rd</sup>, after a 33-yard run by Saquon Barkley set up a 31-yard TD pass to Tyreek Hill. A red zone INT by Trevor Williams helped Toronto hang on.



17



24

Three 1<sup>st</sup> half INTs of Matt Ryan held off the Mustangs' offence while the Spartans built a 10-0 lead on a 67-yard TD pass to Golden Tate. Aurora scored with 0:04 left in the 1<sup>st</sup> half then tied it on a FG early in the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Tate's 2<sup>nd</sup> TD catch gave Pickering back the lead. But INTs by Patrick Peterson and Jason McCourty turned the game around and led to Ryan's tying and game-winning TD passes.



34



13

Tom Brady threw 4 TD passes, 3 of those in a 21-point 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter, to lead York to a lop-sided victory over the Crusaders. The floodgates opened after a Micah Hyde INT of Kirk Cousins in the red zone led to a 63-yard scoring drive. After that, the York offence rolled, converting two more drives into TDs. The 2<sup>nd</sup> half was steady until Michael Johnson's strip sack set up one final York TD.



**BOMBERS****17**

**PASSING:** Marcus Mariota, 11 of 17, 141 yds, 2 TDs, 1 INT  
**RUSHING:** Leonard Fournette, 16C, 69yds, (4.3), 0 TD  
**RECEIVING:** Travis Kelce, 5 for 90yds, 31LG, 1 TD  
**DEFENCE:** Chris Jones, 9 T  
**KICKING:** Chandler Cantanzaro, 1 of 1 FG, 2 of 2 XPA, 5 Pts

**DERAILERS****20**

**PASSING:** Carson Wentz, 14 of 23, 170 yds, 2 TDs, 0 INT  
**RUSHING:** Dion Lewis, 16C, 92yds, (5.8), 0 TD  
**RECEIVING:** Michael Thomas, 6 for 73yds, 24LG, 0 TD  
**DEFENCE:** Julius Peppers, 6 T, 1 SK, 1 STF, 2 HUR  
**KICKING:** Steven Hauschka, 3 of 3 XPA, 0 of 1 FG, 3 Pts

10-14-2018 New Era Stadium Temp: 76 Wind: 15-25 MVP: **Jay Ajayi**

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2017 Bruxelles (0-2)	0	7	3	7	17
2017 Buffalo (1-1)	3	14	0	3	20

## Scoring Summary

1 3:50 <b>Buffalo</b>	FG Elliott 37 (9-25-4:12)	0-3
2 10:27 <b>Buffalo</b>	TD Green 2 run (Elliott,J) (12-61-6:34)	0-10
2 5:03 Bruxelles	TD Mariota 9 pass to Kelce (Catanzaro) (8-76-5:16)	7-10
2 0:30 <b>Buffalo</b>	TD Patterson 19 run (Elliott,J) (11-75-4:33)	7-17
3 12:19 Bruxelles	FG Catanzaro 31 (6-53-2:29)	10-17
4 10:38 Bruxelles	TD Mariota 11 pass to Pettis (Catanzaro) (7-51-3:33)	17-17
4 5:54 <b>Buffalo</b>	FG Elliott 55 (9-34-4:30)	17-20

	BRX	BUF
First Downs	13	19
Rushes	32-127	46-194
Passes	11-17-141	11-18-85
Sacked	1-4	0-0
Fumble	1	0
Penalties	3-19	4-41
Turnovers	2	1
Missed Tackles	8	3
Blitzers	11	10
Challenges	2-2	0-0
Time	27:45	32:15
Third Down	6-12	6-13
Fourth Down	0-0	0-0
Red Att/Td/Fg	3/2/1	3/2/1
Net Offense	264	279

**CHARGERS****16**

**PASSING:** Carson Wentz, 18 of 36, 171 yds, 0 TD, 0 INT  
**RUSHING:** Carson Wentz, 10C, 71yds, (7.1), 1 TD  
**RECEIVING:** Travis Benjamin, 5 for 54yds, 14LG, 0 TD  
**DEFENCE:** Darius Leonard, 4 T, 1 SK, 1 FF  
**KICKING:** Steven Hauschka, 1 of 1 XPA, 3 of 3 FG, 10 Pts

**WRECKING BALL****13**

**PASSING:** Jared Goff, 13 of 33, 202 yds, 1 TD, 0 INT  
**RUSHING:** LeSean McCoy, 24C, 102yds, (4.3), 0 TD  
**RECEIVING:** Ted Ginn Jr, 3 for 121yds, 59LG, 1 TD  
**DEFENCE:** Matt Judon, 7 T, 1 SK, 1 STF, 2 HUR, 1 FF  
**KICKING:** Chris Boswell, 1 of 1 XPA, 2 of 2 FGA, 7 Pts

10-14-2018 Stone Pony Shore Temp: 75 Wind: 5-15 None MVP: **Carson Wentz**

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2017 St. Charles (2-0)	3	0	7	6	16
2017 New Jersey (1-1)	7	0	3	3	13

## Scoring Summary

1 6:40 <b>St. Charles</b>	FG Hauschka 45 (12-44-5:27)	3-0
1 2:33 <b>New Jersey</b>	TD Goff 59 pass to Ginn Jr. (Boswell) (1-59-0:17)	3-7
3 9:49 <b>St. Charles</b>	TD Wentz 11 run (Hauschka) (8-77-5:06)	10-7
3 0:46 <b>New Jersey</b>	FG Boswell 40 (8-31-4:34)	10-10
4 2:54 <b>St. Charles</b>	FG Hauschka 30 (14-68-7:19)	13-10
4 1:19 <b>New Jersey</b>	FG Boswell 36 (6-65-1:26)	13-13
4 0:00 <b>St. Charles</b>	FG Hauschka 43 (7-56-1:08)	16-13

	STC	NJ
First Downs	19	15
Rushes	25-146	32-179
Passes	18-36-171	13-33-202
Sacked	2-12	1-10
Fumble	4	1
Penalties	7-40	14-127
Turnovers	1	0
Missed Tackles	9	1
Blitzers	16	13
Time	31:41	28:19
Third Down	4-15	5-17
Fourth Down	0-0	1-2
Red Att/Td/Fg	5/1/1	8/0/2
Net Offense	305	371

**VIOLATORS****41**

**PASSING:** David Carr, 15 of 24, 255 yds, 3 TDs, 0 INT  
**RUSHING:** Ezekiel Elliott, 25C, 109yds, (4.4), 2 TDs  
**RECEIVING:** AJ Green, 8 for 145yds, 54LG, 1 TD  
**DEFENCE:** Melvin Ingram, 3 T, 2 SK, 1 STF, 2 HUR  
**KICKING:** Zane Gonzalez, 5 of 5 XPA, 2 of 2 FG, 11 Pts

**CONVICTS****14**

**PASSING:** Dak Prescott, 14 of 29, 194 yds, 1 TD, 0 INT  
**RUSHING:** Mark Ingram, 13C, 56yds, (4.3), 1 TD  
**RECEIVING:** Christian McCaffery, 5 for 57yds, 23LG, 0 TD  
**DEFENCE:** Ryan Shazier, 12 T, 1 STF  
**KICKING:** Dan Bailey, 2 of 2 XPA, 0 of 1 FGA, 2 Pts

10-14-2018 The Big House Temp: 96 Wind: 0-10 None MVP: **Ezekiel Elliott**

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2017 Virden (1-1)	7	7	17	10	41
2017 Chino (0-2)	7	7	0	0	14

## Scoring Summary

1 2:37 <b>Chino</b>	TD Prescott 39 pass to Jones Jr. (Bailey,D) (1-39-0:12)	0-7
1 2:11 <b>Virden</b>	TD Carr 54 pass to Green (Gonzalez) (2-75-0:26)	7-7
2 12:36 <b>Virden</b>	TD Carr 10 pass to Smith-Schuster (Gonzalez) (6-44-3:31)	14-7
2 7:46 <b>Chino</b>	TD Ingram 4 run (Bailey,D) (9-75-4:50)	14-14
3 7:29 <b>Virden</b>	FG Gonzalez 46 (6-44-2:16)	17-14
3 6:42 <b>Virden</b>	TD Carr 33 pass to Smith-Schuster (Gonzalez) (1-33-0:12)	24-14
3 2:40 <b>Virden</b>	TD Elliott 5 run (Gonzalez) (5-42-2:35)	31-14
4 10:08 <b>Virden</b>	TD Elliott 3 run (Gonzalez) (10-72-6:20)	38-14
4 3:16 <b>Virden</b>	FG Gonzalez 35 (10-33-5:08)	41-14

	VV	CHI
First Downs	20	11
Rushes	35-144	23-94
Passes	15-24-255	14-29-194
Sacked	0-0	4-23
Fumble	0	1
Penalties	4-33	6-36
Turnovers	0	1
Missed Tackles	6	5
Blitzers	0	5
Time	32:36	27:24
Third Down	5-13	4-14
Fourth Down	0-0	0-2
Red Att/Td/Fg	4/3/1	1/1/0
Net Offense	399	265

**CUBS**

**31**

**PASSING:** Russell Wilson, 16 of 27, 201 yds, 2 TDs, 2 INTs  
**RUSHING:** Russell Wilson, 7C, 78yds, (11.1), 2 TDs  
**RECEIVING:** Mike Wallace, 6 for 68yds, 30LG, 1 TD  
**DEFENCE:** Alec Ogletree, 14 T, 1 PD, 1 STF  
**KICKING:** Justin Tucker, 4 of 4 XPA, 1 of 2 FGA, 7 Pts

**PATRIOTS**

**28**

**PASSING:** Blake Bortles, 19 of 37, 180 yds, 2 TDs, 2 INTs  
**RUSHING:** Lamar Miller, 21C, 100yds, (4.8), 0 TD  
**RECEIVING:** Alvin Kamara, 8 for 77yds, 42LG, 0 TD  
**DEFENCE:** Jalen Mills, 4 T, 1 PD, 1 INT (42yds-TD)  
**KICKING:** Ryan Succop, 4 of 4 XPA, 0 of 3 FGA, 4 Pts

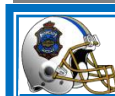
10-14-2018 Patriot Place Temp: 75 Wind: MVP: **Russell Wilson**

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2017 Iowa City (1-1)	0	7	14	10	31
2017 Charleswood (0-2)	14	7	0	7	28

**Scoring Summary**

1 14:48	Charleswood	TD Mills 42 interception return (Succop)	0-7
1 1:21	Charleswood	TD Bortles 26 run (Succop) (11-92-6:43)	0-14
2 6:19	Iowa City	TD Wilson 6 pass to Wallace (Tucker,J) (6-76-2:44)	7-14
2 0:23	Charleswood	TD Bortles 5 pass to Johnson Jr. (Succop) (11-75-5:56)	7-21
3 13:13	Iowa City	TD Wilson 1 run (Tucker,J) (2-2-0:44)	14-21
3 2:26	Iowa City	TD Wilson 17 pass to Lee (Tucker,J) (3-25-1:06)	21-21
4 9:57	Charleswood	TD Bortles 8 pass to Gesicki (Succop) (7-54-2:05)	21-28
4 5:28	Iowa City	TD Wilson 27 run (Tucker,J) (9-77-4:21)	28-28
4 0:00	Iowa City	FG Tucker 30 (7-72-1:56)	31-28

	ICC	CHP
First Downs	15	21
Rushes	26-154	34-221
Passes	16-27-201	19-37-180
Sacked	0-0	2-13
Fumble	1	1
Penalties	4-25	8-74
Turnovers	3	2
Missed Tackles	7	5
Blitzers	1	4
Time	23:57	36:03
Third Down	6-11	8-17
Fourth Down	0-0	2-2
Red Att/Td/Fg	4/3/1	5/2/0
Net Offense	355	388

**TRIUMPH**

**35**

**PASSING:** Mitch Trubisky, 17 of 29, 279 yds, 3 TDs, 1 INT  
**RUSHING:** Melvin Gordon, 16C, 43yds, (2.7), 0 TD  
**RECEIVING:** Antonio Brown, 8 for 117yds, 36LG, 1 TD  
**DEFENCE:** Sean Davis, 1 T, 2 PD, 1 INT (20yds)  
**KICKING:** Dustin Hopkins, 5 of 5 XPA, 6 Pts

**PILOTS**

**27**

**PASSING:** Eli Manning, 24 of 42, 261 yds, 3 TDs, 1 INT  
**RUSHING:** Kareem Hunt, 18C, 89yds, (4.9), 0 TD  
**RECEIVING:** Allen Hurns, 8 for 132yds, 39LG, 1 TD  
**DEFENCE:** Olivier Vernon, 14 T, 1 PD, 2 STF, 2 HUR, 1 FF  
**KICKING:** Josh Lambo, 1 of 1 XPA, 2 of 3 FGA, 7 Pts

10-14-2018 Kingdome Temp: 70 Wind: MVP: **Mitch Trubisky**

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2017 Twin Cities (2-0)	0	14	7	14	35
2017 Seattle (1-1)	7	3	9	8	27

1 7:10	Seattle	TD Manning 5 pass to Hunt (Lambo) (14-76-6:32)	0-7
2 12:24	Twin Cities	TD Trubisky 9 pass to Golladay (Hopkins,D) (8-75-3:10)	7-7
2 9:44	Twin Cities	TD Trubisky 1 run (Hopkins,D) (6-25-2:25)	14-7
2 2:26	Seattle	FG Lambo 39 (14-54-7:12)	14-10
3 9:47	Seattle	FG Lambo 24 (16-69-5:10)	14-13
3 4:14	Twin Cities	TD Trubisky 16 pass to Brown (Hopkins,D) (10-80-5:27)	21-13
3 2:09	Seattle	TD Manning 27 pass to Miller (2 - failed) (5-75-2:05)	21-19
4 9:16	Twin Cities	TD Trubisky 3 run (Hopkins,D) (14-75-7:53)	28-19
4 4:27	Twin Cities	TD Trubisky 16 pass to White (Hopkins,D) (4-55-2:02)	35-19
4 1:22	Seattle	TD Manning 39 pass to Hurns (2 - Hunt) (1-39-0:15)	35-27

	TCT	SEA
First Downs	22	20
Rushes	32-88	24-98
Passes	17-29-279	24-42-261
Sacked	0-0	0-0
Fumble	3	0
Penalties	8-44	5-27
Turnovers	2	1
Missed Tackles	4	7
Blitzers	3	14
Time	28:19	31:41
Third Down	8-13	4-16
Fourth Down	0-0	2-4
Red Att/Td/Fg	5/5/0	2/1/1
Net Offense	367	359

**KNIGHTS**

**20**

**PASSING:** Andy Dalton, 11 of 20, 98 yds, 1 TD, 0 INT  
**RUSHING:** Le'Veon Bell, 32C, 103yds, (3.2), 1 TD  
**RECEIVING:** DeVante Parker, 7 for 74yds, 13LG, 0 TD  
**DEFENCE:** Robert Quinn 6 T, 1 SK, 1 FF  
**KICKING:** Ka'imi Fairbairn 2 of 3 XPA, 2 Pts

**CADILLAC**

**23**

**PASSING:** Matt Stafford, 4 of 13, 97 yds, 2 TDs, 0 INT  
**RUSHING:** Marshawn Lynch, 20C, 77yds, (3.9), 0 TD  
**RECEIVING:** Jordy Nelson, 2 for 83yds, 57LG, 2 TDs  
**DEFENCE:** Trey Flowers, 8 T, 2 SK, 1 PD, 2 FF  
**KICKING:** S. Gostkowski, 2 of 3 XPA, 1 of 3 FGA, 5 Pts

10-14-2018 Kelly-Burke Field Temp: -4 Wind: None MVP: **Jordy Nelson**

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2017 Los Angeles (1-1)	0	13	7	0	20
2017 Erieau (2-0)	0	13	7	3	23

**Scoring Summary**

2 13:52	Los Angeles	TD Bell 16 run (Fairbairn) (3-29-0:22)	7-0
2 13:45	Erieau	TD Cooper 90 kick return (Gostkowski)	7-7
2 6:10	Los Angeles	TD Dalton 6 pass to Bell (no good) (12-62-7:27)	13-7
2 5:48	Erieau	TD Stafford 57 pass to Nelson (no good) (1-57-0:16)	13-13
3 5:10	Erieau	TD Stafford 26 pass to Nelson (Gostkowski) (1-26-0:11)	13-20
3 2:33	Los Angeles	TD McCown 13 pass to Bell (Fairbairn) (5-68-2:30)	20-20
4 5:23	Erieau	FG Gostkowski 47 (4-9-2:13)	20-23

	LAK	ERI
First Downs	22	9
Rushes	36-121	31-102
Passes	22-37-245	4-13-97
Sacked	8-47	1-6
Fumble	4	1
Penalties	6-37	4-33
Turnovers	5	1
Missed Tackles	6	9
Blitzers	6	21
Time	37:22	22:38
Third Down	8-20	1-11
Fourth Down	4-4	0-0
Red Att/Td/Fg	4/3/0	0/0/0
Net Offense	319	193

**BLUE EAGLES****0**

**PASSING:** Brock Osweiler, 13 of 23, 141 yds, 0 TD, 1 INT  
**RUSHING:** Jordan Howard, 18C, 76yds, (4.2), 0 TD  
**RECEIVING:** Pierre Garcon, 5 for 76ds, 42LG, 0 TD  
**DEFENCE:** Derrick Morgan, 5 T, 1 SK, 1 PD, 2 HUR, 1 FF  
**KICKING:** Mason Crosby, 0 of 1 FGA, 0 Pts

**T-LIZARDS****25**

**PASSING:** Cam Newton, 18 of 30, 207 yds, 1 TD, 0 INT  
**RUSHING:** Rashaad Penny, 15C, 63yds, (4.2), 0 TD  
**RECEIVING:** Cooper Kupp, 7 for 81yds, 16LG, 0 TD  
**DEFENCE:** Oren Burks, 4 T, 1 INT (59yds-TD)  
**KICKING:** Phil Dawson, 1 of 2 XPA, 1 Pt

10-14-2018 Jurassic Park Temp: 87 Wind: Calm None MVP: **Cam Newton**

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2017 Scarborough (0-2)	0	0	0	0	0
2017 Durham (1-1)	6	6	6	7	25

**Scoring Summary**

1 7:16 <b>Durham</b>	<b>TD Newton 26 run (no good) (8-87-4:49)</b>	<b>0-6</b>
2 11:21 <b>Durham</b>	<b>TD Burks 59 interception return (2 - failed)</b>	<b>0-12</b>
3 9:50 <b>Durham</b>	<b>TD Newton 14 pass to Hilton (2 - failed) (11-75-5:10)</b>	<b>0-18</b>
4 0:45 <b>Durham</b>	<b>TD Hyde 2 run (Dawson) (5-26-1:23)</b>	<b>0-25</b>

	<b>SBE</b>	<b>DTL</b>
First Downs	16	21
Rushes	25-121	32-159
Passes	23-42-191	18-30-207
Sacked	1-5	2-11
Fumble	0	2
Penalties	4-20	5-58
Turnovers	3	2
Missed Tackles	7	3
Blitzers	35	13
Time	28:12	31:48
Third Down	7-16	5-12
Fourth Down	1-3	1-2
Red Att/Td/Fg	2/0/0	2/2/0
Net Offense	307	355

**SWORDFISH****7**

**PASSING:** Drew Brees, 21 of 39, 166 yds, 0 TD, 1 INT  
**RUSHING:** CJ Anderson, 16C, 29yds, (1.8), 1 TD  
**RECEIVING:** Jason Witten, 7 for 79yds, 36LG, 0 TD  
**DEFENCE:** Jadeveon Clowney, 9 T, 1 STF  
**KICKING:** Adam Vinatieri, 1 of 1 XPA, 1 Pts

**CORN KINGS****17**

**PASSING:** Joe Flacco, 21 of 27, 199 yds, 1 TD, 0 INT  
**RUSHING:** Todd Gurley II, 17C, 61yds, (3.6), 1 TD  
**RECEIVING:** Larry Fitzgerald, 9 for 91yds, 17LG, 1 TD  
**DEFENCE:** Ronald Darby, 1 T, 1 INT (29yds)  
**KICKING:** Matt Bryant, 2 of 2 XPA, 1 of 2 FGA, 5 Pts

10-10-2018 Tillman Field Temp: 78 Wind: 5-15 MVP: **Todd Gurley II**

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2017 Sebastian (1-1)	0	0	7	0	7
2017 Cowtown (2-0)	7	7	3	0	17

**Scoring Summary**

1 5:06 <b>Cowtown</b>	<b>TD Flacco 17 pass to Fitzgerald (Bryant,M) (10-94-6:09)</b>	<b>0-7</b>
2 14:49 <b>Cowtown</b>	<b>TD Gurley II 5 run (Bryant,M) (8-44-4:54)</b>	<b>0-14</b>
3 8:22 <b>Sebastian</b>	<b>TD Anderson 3 run (Vinatieri) (6-53-2:49)</b>	<b>7-14</b>
3 5:39 <b>Cowtown</b>	<b>FG Bryant 38 (7-30-2:31)</b>	<b>7-17</b>

	<b>SS</b>	<b>COW</b>
First Downs	15	16
Rushes	18-32	31-100
Passes	24-43-230	21-27-199
Sacked	2-10	1-3
Fumble	1	1
Penalties	4-40	9-104
Turnovers	1	0
Missed Tackles	5	4
Blitzers	17	30
Time	27:43	32:17
Third Down	2-14	6-14
Fourth Down	3-6	0-0
Red Att/Td/Fg	2/1/0	3/2/1
Net Offense	252	296

**GLADIATORS****28**

**PASSING:** Ben Roethlisberger, 20 of 36, 252 yds, 4 TDs, 0 INT  
**RUSHING:** Sony Michel, 12C, 89yds, (7.4), 0 TD  
**RECEIVING:** Jarvis Landry, 8 for 128yds, 43LG, 3 TD  
**DEFENCE:** Mike Daniels, 8 T, 1 STF, 1 FF  
**KICKING:** Giorgio Tavecchio, 4 of 4 XPA, 0 of 2 FGA, 4 Pts

**NORTH STARS****21**

**PASSING:** Tyrod Taylor, 23 of 38, 233 yds, 3 TDs, 0 INT  
**RUSHING:** Isaiah Crowell, 23C, 109yds, (4.7), 0 TD  
**RECEIVING:** Sammie Watkins, 6 for 60yds, 15LG, 0 TD  
**DEFENCE:** Lavonte David, 6 T, 2 STF, 2 FF  
**KICKING:** Kai Forbath, 3 of 3 XPA, 0 of 1 FGA, 3 Pts

10-14-2018 Ferenc-Liszt Intl Temp: 79 Wind: 0-5 None MVP: **Ben Roethlisberger**







	1	2	3	4	Tot
2017 Georgia (2-0)	7	7	0	14	28
2017 Budapest (1-1)	0	7	0	14	21

**Scoring Summary**

1 2:02 <b>Georgia</b>	<b>TD Roethlisberger 21 pass to Landry (Tavecchio) (14-80-7:)</b>	<b>7-0</b>
2 10:12 <b>Georgia</b>	<b>TD Roethlisberger 16 pass to Landry (Tavecchio) (7-53-2:3)</b>	<b>14-0</b>
2 6:45 <b>Budapest</b>	<b>TD Taylor 11 pass to Hogan (Forbath) (1-11-0:09)</b>	<b>14-7</b>
4 12:04 <b>Budapest</b>	<b>TD Taylor 8 pass to Hogan (Forbath) (12-76-6:59)</b>	<b>14-14</b>
4 6:54 <b>Georgia</b>	<b>TD Roethlisberger 5 pass to Stills (Tavecchio) (12-75-5:1)</b>	<b>21-14</b>
4 1:59 <b>Budapest</b>	<b>TD Taylor 6 pass to Reed (Forbath) (11-75-4:55)</b>	<b>21-21</b>
4 0:45 <b>Georgia</b>	<b>TD Roethlisberger 11 pass to Landry (Tavecchio) (5-66-1:1)</b>	<b>28-21</b>

	<b>GEO</b>	<b>BUD</b>
First Downs	18	21
Rushes	26-153	32-134
Passes	20-36-252	23-38-233
Sacked	0-0	0-0
Fumble	2	1
Penalties	5-30	6-41
Turnovers	1	0
Missed Tackles	5	10
Blitzers	0	12
Time	26:27	33:33
Third Down	9-16	4-14
Fourth Down	0-0	2-4
Red Att/Td/Fg	8/4/0	4/3/0
Net Offense	405	367



<div>WOLVERINES</div> <div>24</div>		<div>HAWKS</div> <div>10</div>		<div>PASSING: Jay Cutler, 12 of 18, 121 yds, 1 TD, 0 INT RUSHING: Saquon Barkley, 16C, 68yds, (4.3), 1 TD RECEIVING: Tyreek Hill, 5 for 68yds, 31LG, 1 TD DEFENCE: Trevor Williams, 5 T, 1 PD, 1 INT (56yds) KICKING: Daniel Carlson, 1 of 1 FGA, 3 of 3 XPA, 6 Pts</div>		<div>PASSING: Alex Smith, 23 of 43, 286 yds, 1 TD, 1 INT RUSHING: Matt Breida, 11C, 72yds, (6.5), 0 TD RECEIVING: DeAndre Hopkins, 6 for 143yds, 76LG, 0 TD DEFENCE: Stephon Tuitt, 5 T, 1 SK, 2 HUR KICKING: Cody Parkey, 1 of 1 XPA, 1 of 2 FGA, 4 Pts</div>																																																														
<div>10-14-2018 Optimist Park Temp: 71 Wind: 0-5 None MVP: Saquon Barkley</div> <table><thead><tr><th></th><th>1</th><th>2</th><th>3</th><th>4</th><th>Tot</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>2017 Toronto (2-0)</td><td>10</td><td>0</td><td>7</td><td>7</td><td>24</td></tr><tr><td>2017 Brooklin (0-2)</td><td>3</td><td>7</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>10</td></tr></tbody></table> <div>Scoring Summary</div> <div>1 13:45 Toronto FG Carlson 42 (4-12-0:56) 3-0</div> <div>1 5:12 Toronto TD Barkley 1 run (Carlson) (6-80-3:20) 10-0</div> <div>1 2:06 Brooklin FG Parkey 28 (6-74-2:57) 10-3</div> <div>2 2:16 Brooklin TD Smith 12 pass to Breida (Parkey) (11-89-6:19) 10-10</div> <div>3 3:34 Toronto TD Cutler 31 pass to Hill (Carlson) (3-64-1:12) 17-10</div> <div>4 8:06 Toronto TD Murray 1 run (Carlson) (6-32-1:50) 24-10</div>					1	2	3	4	Tot	2017 Toronto (2-0)	10	0	7	7	24	2017 Brooklin (0-2)	3	7	0	0	10	<table><thead><tr><th></th><th>TOR</th><th>BRH</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>First Downs</td><td>14</td><td>21</td></tr><tr><td>Rushes</td><td>31-105</td><td>29-182</td></tr><tr><td>Passes</td><td>12-18-121</td><td>23-43-286</td></tr><tr><td>Sacked</td><td>1-4</td><td>5-42</td></tr><tr><td>Fumble</td><td>0</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>Penalties</td><td>10-77</td><td>8-77</td></tr><tr><td>Turnovers</td><td>0</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>Missed Tackles</td><td>7</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>Blitzers</td><td>12</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>Time</td><td>23:58</td><td>36:02</td></tr><tr><td>Third Down</td><td>0-10</td><td>8-20</td></tr><tr><td>Fourth Down</td><td>0-0</td><td>0-1</td></tr><tr><td>Red Att/Td/Fg</td><td>2/2/0</td><td>4/1/1</td></tr><tr><td>Net Offense</td><td>222</td><td>426</td></tr></tbody></table>			TOR	BRH	First Downs	14	21	Rushes	31-105	29-182	Passes	12-18-121	23-43-286	Sacked	1-4	5-42	Fumble	0	1	Penalties	10-77	8-77	Turnovers	0	2	Missed Tackles	7	3	Blitzers	12	1	Time	23:58	36:02	Third Down	0-10	8-20	Fourth Down	0-0	0-1	Red Att/Td/Fg	2/2/0	4/1/1	Net Offense	222	426
	1	2	3	4	Tot																																																															
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Net Offense	222	426																																																																		
<div>SPARTANS</div> <div>17</div>		<div>PASSING: Philip Rivers, 15 of 26, 205 yds, 2 TDs, 3 INTs RUSHING: Doug Martin, 20 C, 102yds, (5.1), 0 TD RECEIVING: Golden Tate, 6 for 136 yds, 67LG, 2 TDs DEFENCE: Eric Kendricks, 5 T, 1 PD, 1 INT (30yds) KICKING: Greg Zuerlein, 2 of 2 XPA, 1 of 1 FGA, 5 Pts</div>		<div>MUSTANGS</div> <div>24</div>		<div>PASSING: Matt Ryan, 29 of 42, 308 yds, 3 TDs, 3 INTs RUSHING: Kenyan Drake, 16C, 81yds, (5.1), 0 TD RECEIVING: Davante Adams, 13 for 154yds, 22LG, 1 TD DEFENCE: NaVorro Bowman, 6 T, 1 INT (12yds) KICKING: Wil Lutz, 3 of 3 XPA, 1 of 1 FGA, 6 Pts</div>																																																														
<div>10-14-2018 Magna Park Temp: -9 Wind: None MVP: Matt Ryan</div> <table><thead><tr><th></th><th>1</th><th>2</th><th>3</th><th>4</th><th>Tot</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>2017 Pickering (1-1)</td><td>3</td><td>7</td><td>7</td><td>0</td><td>17</td></tr><tr><td>2017 Aurora (1-1)</td><td>0</td><td>7</td><td>10</td><td>7</td><td>24</td></tr></tbody></table> <div>Scoring Summary</div> <div>1 0:38 Pickering FG Zuerlein 30 (11-51-5:50) 3-0</div> <div>2 3:17 Pickering TD Rivers 67 pass to Tate (Zuerlein) (5-80-2:05) 10-0</div> <div>2 0:04 Aurora TD Ryan 14 pass to Bryant (Lutz) (13-83-3:05) 10-7</div> <div>3 9:23 Aurora FG Lutz 20 (8-55-4:00) 10-10</div> <div>3 5:07 Pickering TD Rivers 18 pass to Tate (Zuerlein) (10-79-4:12) 17-10</div> <div>3 0:54 Aurora TD Ryan 17 pass to Adams (Lutz) (1-17-0:10) 17-17</div> <div>4 11:21 Aurora TD Ryan 8 pass to Miller (Lutz) (4-40-1:03) 17-24</div>					1	2	3	4	Tot	2017 Pickering (1-1)	3	7	7	0	17	2017 Aurora (1-1)	0	7	10	7	24	<table><thead><tr><th></th><th>PIC</th><th>AUR</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>First Downs</td><td>16</td><td>26</td></tr><tr><td>Rushes</td><td>27-128</td><td>30-158</td></tr><tr><td>Passes</td><td>15-26-205</td><td>29-42-308</td></tr><tr><td>Sacked</td><td>0-0</td><td>2-17</td></tr><tr><td>Fumble</td><td>2</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>Penalties</td><td>8-54</td><td>8-54</td></tr><tr><td>Turnovers</td><td>4</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>Missed Tackles</td><td>5</td><td>9</td></tr><tr><td>Blitzers</td><td>0</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>Time</td><td>26:48</td><td>33:12</td></tr><tr><td>Third Down</td><td>6-11</td><td>9-15</td></tr><tr><td>Fourth Down</td><td>0-0</td><td>0-1</td></tr><tr><td>Red Att/Td/Fg</td><td>3/1/1</td><td>5/3/1</td></tr><tr><td>Net Offense</td><td>333</td><td>449</td></tr></tbody></table>			PIC	AUR	First Downs	16	26	Rushes	27-128	30-158	Passes	15-26-205	29-42-308	Sacked	0-0	2-17	Fumble	2	1	Penalties	8-54	8-54	Turnovers	4	3	Missed Tackles	5	9	Blitzers	0	0	Time	26:48	33:12	Third Down	6-11	9-15	Fourth Down	0-0	0-1	Red Att/Td/Fg	3/1/1	5/3/1	Net Offense	333	449
	1	2	3	4	Tot																																																															
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<div>EXCALIBURS</div> <div>34</div>		<div>PASSING: Tom Brady, 20 of 28, 222 yds, 4 TDs, 0 INT RUSHING: Derrick Henry, 9C, 52yds, (5.8), 0 TD RECEIVING: Danny Amendola, 7 for 50yds, 12LG, 0 TD DEFENCE: Michael Johnson, 5T, 1SK, 1PD, 3STF, 1HUR, 3FF KICKING: Graham Gano, 2 of 2 FGA, 4 of 4 XPA, 10 Pts</div>		<div>CRUSADERS</div> <div>13</div>		<div>PASSING: Kirk Cousins, 25 of 42, 276yds, 0 TD, 1 INT RUSHING: Peyton Barber, 4C, 43yds, (10.8), 0 TD RECEIVING: Keenan Allen, 10 for 147yds, 40LG, 0 TD DEFENCE: Luke Kuechly, 11 T, 1 PD, KICKING: Blair Walsh, 2 of 2 FGA, 1 of 1 XPA, 7 Pts</div>																																																														
<div>10-14-2018 Paul Brown Stadium Temp: 70 Wind: Calm None MVP: Tom Brady</div> <table><thead><tr><th></th><th>1</th><th>2</th><th>3</th><th>4</th><th>Tot</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>2017 York (1-1)</td><td>3</td><td>21</td><td>3</td><td>7</td><td>34</td></tr><tr><td>2017 Cincinnati (0-2)</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>7</td><td>0</td><td>13</td></tr></tbody></table> <div>Scoring Summary</div> <div>1 6:29 Cincinnati FG Walsh 20 (9-50-4:33) 0-3</div> <div>1 4:04 York FG Gano 46 (7-32-2:18) 3-3</div> <div>2 11:41 York TD Brady 16 pass to Bernard (Gano) (10-63-4:11) 10-3</div> <div>2 6:23 Cincinnati FG Walsh 27 (10-66-5:15) 10-6</div> <div>2 2:17 York TD Brady 6 pass to Walker (Gano) (10-60-4:06) 17-6</div> <div>2 0:25 York TD Brady 18 pass to Ertz (Gano) (7-71-1:24) 24-6</div> <div>3 6:14 Cincinnati TD Edmonds 3 run (Walsh,B) (15-69-8:38) 24-13</div> <div>3 1:11 York FG Gano 45 (10-48-4:57) 27-13</div> <div>4 12:11 York TD Brady 17 pass to Ertz (Gano) (5-36-2:22) 34-13</div>					1	2	3	4	Tot	2017 York (1-1)	3	21	3	7	34	2017 Cincinnati (0-2)	3	3	7	0	13	<table><thead><tr><th></th><th>YOR</th><th>CIN</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>First Downs</td><td>21</td><td>19</td></tr><tr><td>Rushes</td><td>28-105</td><td>23-105</td></tr><tr><td>Passes</td><td>20-28-222</td><td>25-42-276</td></tr><tr><td>Sacked</td><td>1-7</td><td>4-21</td></tr><tr><td>Fumble</td><td>1</td><td>5</td></tr><tr><td>Penalties</td><td>6-35</td><td>11-87</td></tr><tr><td>Turnovers</td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>Missed Tackles</td><td>8</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>Blitzers</td><td>10</td><td>21</td></tr><tr><td>Time</td><td>27:27</td><td>32:33</td></tr><tr><td>Third Down</td><td>5-11</td><td>9-18</td></tr><tr><td>Fourth Down</td><td>1-1</td><td>1-3</td></tr><tr><td>Red Att/Td/Fg</td><td>4/4/0</td><td>4/1/2</td></tr><tr><td>Net Offense</td><td>320</td><td>360</td></tr></tbody></table>			YOR	CIN	First Downs	21	19	Rushes	28-105	23-105	Passes	20-28-222	25-42-276	Sacked	1-7	4-21	Fumble	1	5	Penalties	6-35	11-87	Turnovers	1	2	Missed Tackles	8	2	Blitzers	10	21	Time	27:27	32:33	Third Down	5-11	9-18	Fourth Down	1-1	1-3	Red Att/Td/Fg	4/4/0	4/1/2	Net Offense	320	360
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Net Offense	320	360																																																																		

## WEEK TWO

# STANDINGS

PACIFIC CONFERENCE												
East	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
St. Charles	2	0	0	1	37	18.5	31	15.5	3	1 0 0	2 0 0	2 0 0
New Jersey	1	1	0	0.5	37	18.5	37	18.5	0	0 1 0	1 1 0	1 1 0
Buffalo	1	1	0	0.5	38	19	38	19	0	1 0 0	1 1 0	1 1 0
Bruxelles	0	2	0	0	38	19	44	22	-3	0 1 0	0 2 0	0 2 0
Central	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Erieau	2	0	0	1	42	21	36	18	3	2 0 0	1 0 0	2 0 0
Twin Cities	2	0	0	1	63	31.5	37	18.5	13	1 0 0	1 0 0	2 0 0
Virden	1	1	0	0.5	57	28.5	33	16.5	12	0 0 0	0 1 0	1 1 0
Charleswood	0	2	0	0	38	19	59	29.5	-10.5	0 1 0	0 1 0	0 2 0
West	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Seattle	1	1	0	0.5	51	25.5	49	24.5	1	0 1 0	1 0 0	1 1 0
Los Angeles	1	1	0	0.5	40	20	40	20	0	1 0 0	1 0 0	1 1 0
Iowa City	1	1	0	0.5	45	22.5	52	26	-3.5	0 1 0	0 1 0	1 1 0
Chino	0	2	0	0	31	15.5	61	30.5	-15	0 1 0	0 1 0	0 2 0
ATLANTIC CONFERENCE												
North	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Cowtown	2	0	0	1	41	20.5	21	10.5	10	2 0 0	2 0 0	2 0 0
Sebastian	1	1	0	0.5	40	20	31	15.5	4.5	1 0 0	1 1 0	1 1 0
Durham	1	1	0	0.5	39	19.5	33	16.5	3	1 0 0	1 1 0	1 1 0
Scarborough	0	2	0	0	14	7	49	24.5	-17.5	0 0 0	0 2 0	0 2 0
Coastal	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Budapest	1	1	0	0.5	31	15.5	35	17.5	-2	0 1 0	1 0 0	1 1 0
Pickering	1	1	0	0.5	44	22	48	24	-2	1 0 0	1 0 0	1 1 0
York	1	1	0	0.5	41	20.5	23	11.5	9	0 1 0	0 1 0	1 1 0
Brooklin	0	2	0	0	34	17	51	25.5	-8.5	0 1 0	0 1 0	0 2 0
South	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Georgia	2	0	0	1	48	24	35	17.5	6.5	1 0 0	1 0 0	2 0 0
Toronto	2	0	0	1	52	26	27	13.5	12.5	1 0 0	1 0 0	2 0 0
Aurora	1	1	0	0.5	38	19	37	18.5	0.5	1 0 0	0 1 0	1 1 0
Cincinnati	0	2	0	0	30	15	62	31	-16	0 1 0	0 1 0	0 2 0

TOP PASSERS												
Rk	Player	Team	Att	Cmp	C%	Yards	In	I%	Lg	TD	TD%	Rate
1	Cutler	TOR	36	23	63.9	322	1	2.8	44	4	11.1	118.1
2	Manning	SEA	71	42	59.2	523	1	1.4	53	6	8.5	104.4
3	Roethlisberger	GEO	77	42	54.5	488	0	0	43	7	9.1	104.2
4	Flacco	COW	51	34	66.7	387	1	2	56	3	5.9	100.7
5	Brady	YOR	55	35	63.6	369	1	1.8	23	4	7.3	99.7
6	Stafford	ERI	46	26	56.5	286	0	0	57	3	6.5	96.8
7	Carr,D	VV	62	35	56.5	554	1	1.6	54	3	4.8	95.8
8	Taylor,T	BUD	65	37	56.9	401	0	0	56	4	6.2	95.7
9	Goff	NJ	61	29	47.5	392	0	0	59	3	4.9	84.9
10	Rivers,P	PIC	55	32	58.2	429	3	5.5	67	4	7.3	84.6
11	Wentz	STC	59	32	54.2	341	0	0	36	2	3.4	82.7
12	Ryan,M	AUR	79	52	65.8	544	4	5.1	45	4	5.1	81.4
13	Trubisky	TCT	52	27	51.9	368	2	3.8	48	3	5.8	78
14	Wilson,R	ICC	58	34	58.6	398	3	5.2	37	3	5.2	75.2
15	McCown	LAK	49	28	57.1	341	3	6.1	42	3	6.1	73.6
16	Smith,A	BRH	85	43	50.6	552	2	2.4	76	3	3.5	73.3
17	Mariota	BRX	62	37	59.7	398	4	6.5	31	4	6.5	73.2
18	Prescott	CHI	63	33	52.4	404	2	3.2	39	2	3.2	69.8
19	Newton,C	DTL	71	40	56.3	412	3	4.2	24	3	4.2	69.7
20	Rosen	BUF	35	21	60	158	1	2.9	17	1	2.9	68.5
21	Brees	SS	66	38	57.6	332	2	3	25	1	1.5	63.4
22	Cousins	CIN	84	44	52.4	551	3	3.6	58	1	1.2	62.2
23	Bortles	CHP	77	40	51.9	371	3	3.9	42	3	3.9	62.2
24	Osweiler	SBE	29	16	55.2	162	1	3.4	42	0	0	57
25	Rodgers,A	SBE	29	16	55.2	139	2	6.9	19	1	3.4	50.8

KICKOFF RETURNERS								PUNT RETURNERS								
Rk	Player	Team	No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD	Rk	Player	Team	No	Fc	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD
1	Cooper,P	ERI	10	341	34.1	90	1	1	Davis,T	ICC	4	3	59	14.8	20	0
2	Williams,K	GEO	6	189	31.5	42	0	2	Jones,A	NJ	13	1	152	11.7	25	0
3	Bray	CHI	3	90	30	33	0	3	Ervin	VV	7	4	81	11.6	44	0
4	Hunt,A	BRX	5	141	28.2	39	0	4	Fuller V	GEO	2	2	23	11.5	13	0
5	Lockett	ICC	6	169	28.2	37	0	5	Jackson,A	STC	8	1	85	10.6	16	0
6	Lewis,D	STC	4	106	26.5	31	0	6	Cooper,P	ERI	6	2	58	9.7	15	0
7	Switzer	PIC	3	78	26	33	0	7	McCaffrey	CHI	5	4	48	9.6	23	0
8	Roberts,A	LAK	5	123	24.6	29	0	8	Erickson	BUF	7	1	63	9	17	0
9	Foster,D	NJ	4	78	19.5	20	0	9	Roberts,A	LAK	2	4	18	9	9	0
10	Erickson	BUF	5	97	19.4	25	0	10	Alexander	TCT	6	1	50	8.3	12	0
11	Barner	BRH	4	77	19.3	25	0	11	Amendola	YOR	6	3	48	8	15	0
12	Smith-Schuster	VV	4	74	18.5	23	0	12	Callaway	SS	4	2	29	7.3	9	0
13	Lewis,T	SBE	7	124	17.7	28	0	13	Crowder	SBE	6	0	43	7.2	11	0
14	Grant,C	CHP	5	83	16.6	21	0	14	Sherels	BUD	10	0	65	6.5	13	0
15	Booker	DTL	6	62	10.3	16	0	15	Campanaro	COW	6	2	38	6.3	12	0
16	Dayes	COW	1	39	39	39	0	16	Pettis	BRX	6	3	35	5.8	9	0
17	Bolden Jr.	YOR	1	35	35	35	0	17	Richard	CHP	4	2	22	5.5	9	0
18	Langley	CIN	1	33	33	33	0	18	Taylor,T	DTL	3	2	16	5.3	13	0
19	Decker,E	NJ	1	29	29	29	0	19	Sutton,C	CIN	4	1	14	3.5	9	0
20	Mack,M	BRX	1	25	25	25	0	20	Barner	BRH	4	2	13	3.3	8	0



RUSHING LEADERS								RECEIVING LEADERS							
Rk	Player	Team	Att	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD	Rk	Player	Team	No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD
1	McCoy,L	NJ	48	223	4.6	28	0	1	Adams,D	AUR	21	277	13.2	45	2
2	Elliott,E	VV	54	222	4.1	31	3	2	Gronkowski	BRH	16	175	10.9	22	1
3	Hunt,K	SEA	45	211	4.7	21	0	3	McCaffrey	CHI	14	154	11	23	1
4	Bell,L	LAK	62	199	3.2	30	1	4	Brown,A	TCT	14	179	12.8	36	1
5	Lynch,M	ERI	54	198	3.7	15	0	5	Landry	GEO	14	182	13	43	4
6	Breida	BRH	33	179	5.4	25	1	6	Allen,K	CIN	14	230	16.4	46	1
7	Ajayi	BUF	35	176	5	20	0	7	Stills	GEO	13	178	13.7	34	3
8	Crowell	BUD	35	170	4.9	18	0	8	Hopkins,D	BRH	13	251	19.3	76	1
9	Barkley	TOR	31	166	5.4	33	2	9	Witten	SS	12	111	9.3	36	0
10	Drake	AUR	36	165	4.6	17	0	10	Parker,D	LAK	11	162	14.7	42	0
11	Gordon,M	TCT	37	155	4.2	20	1	11	Crabtree	SEA	11	154	14	49	1
12	Michel	GEO	25	154	6.2	50	0	12	Bryant,D	AUR	11	141	12.8	37	1
13	Fournette	BRX	33	145	4.4	26	1	13	Fitzgerald	COW	11	104	9.5	17	1
14	Lewis,D	STC	25	141	5.6	22	0	14	Thompson,C	BRX	11	83	7.5	15	0
15	Miller,L	CHP	32	135	4.2	18	0	15	Tate,G	PIC	11	178	16.2	67	3
16	Gurley II	COW	34	134	3.9	22	1	16	Kelce,T	BRX	11	136	12.4	31	2
17	Powell,B	ICC	27	129	4.8	16	0	17	Wallace,M	ICC	10	148	14.8	37	2
18	Freeman,D	PIC	31	128	4.1	28	1	18	Green,A	VV	10	166	16.6	54	1
19	Howard,J	SBE	32	126	3.9	10	1	19	Bell,L	LAK	10	82	8.2	15	3
20	Ingram,M	CHI	28	116	4.1	17	1	20	Kupp	DTL	10	127	12.7	16	0
21	Gallman	AUR	13	112	8.6	24	0	21	Kamara	CHP	10	83	8.3	42	0
22	Coleman,T	BUF	20	108	5.4	34	1	22	Jackson,D	SBE	10	92	9.2	19	1
23	Chubb,N	YOR	31	106	3.4	16	0	23	Amendola	YOR	10	67	6.7	12	0
24	Penny	DTL	25	105	4.2	13	0	24	Walker,D	YOR	10	93	9.3	16	1
25	Morris,A	NJ	14	104	7.4	22	0	25	Smith-Schuster	VV	10	221	22.1	46	2

INTERCEPTION LEADERS								SACK LEADERS				TACKLE LEADERS			
Rk	Player	Team	No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD	Rk	Player	Team	No.	Rk	Player	Team	No.
1	Darby	COW	2	36	18	29	0	1	Judon	NJ	3	1	Kuechly	CIN	29
2	Reid,E	ERI	2	6	3	6	0	2	Houston,L	BUD	3	2	Poole	ERI	21
3	Howard,X	PIC	2	33	16.5	24	0	3	Jones,C	BRX	2	3	Mosley	CHP	20
4	Bradberry	NJ	1	21	21	21	0	4	Davis,T	DTL	2	4	Ward,D	PIC	19
5	Butler,M	NJ	1	9	9	9	0	5	Morgan,D	SBE	2	5	Martinez	LAK	19
6	Fuller,K	BRX	1	0	0	0	0	6	Flowers,T	ERI	2	6	Reid,E	ERI	19
7	Harrison,D	COW	1	22	22	22	1	7	Houston,J	ERI	2	7	Shazier	CHI	18
8	Newman,T	DTL	1	25	25	25	0	8	Ingram,M	VV	2	8	Ogletree	ICC	18
9	McCourty,D	DTL	1	10	10	10	0	9	Longacre	NJ	2	9	Jones,C	BRX	17
10	Sherman,R	DTL	1	40	40	40	0	10	Johnson,M	YOR	2	10	Timmons	YOR	17
11	Burks	DTL	1	59	59	59	1	11	Buckner	YOR	2	11	Jackson,K	SEA	17
12	Kirkpatric	SBE	1	0	0	0	0	12	Cox,F	ICC	2	12	Mingo	SEA	17
13	Robinson,P	SS	1	9	9	9	0	13	Vernon	SEA	2	13	Barr	VV	17
14	Heath,J	SS	1	26	26	26	1	14	Williams,K	TOR	2	14	Judon	NJ	16
15	Boston	SS	1	2	2	2	0	15	Leonard	STC	1	15	Jones,D	SBE	16
16	Mills,J	CHP	1	42	42	42	1	16	Ellis,J	STC	1	16	Thomas,S	SBE	16
17	Mosley	CHP	1	13	13	13	0	17	Dareus	COW	1	17	Vernon	SEA	16
18	Trufant	CHP	1	0	0	0	0	18	Watt,T	COW	1	18	Clowney	SS	16
19	Peppers	ERI	1	3	3	3	0	19	Coleman,J	COW	1	19	Howard,X	PIC	16
20	Tartt	BUF	1	0	0	0	0	20	Smith,P	BRX	1	20	Bowman	AUR	16

SCORING LEADERS													
Rk	Player	Team	FG	XP	2Pt	Run	Rec	Int	KR	PR	Fmb	Sf	Tot
1	Trubisky	TCT	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	24
2	Bell,L	LAK	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	24
3	Landry	GEO	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	24
4	Elliott,E	VV	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	18
5	Tate,G	PIC	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	18
6	Gostkowski	ERI	5	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18
7	Ginn Jr.	NJ	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	18
8	Stills	GEO	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	18
9	Zuerlein	PIC	3	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14
10	Hunt,K	SEA	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	14
11	Boswell	NJ	3	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13
12	Hauschka	STC	3	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13
13	Lambo	SEA	3	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13
14	Elliott,J	BUF	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12
15	Smith-Schuster	VV	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	12
16	Gonzalez	VV	2	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12
17	Hogan,C	BUD	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	12
18	Breida	BRH	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	12
19	Graham,J	STC	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	12
20	Gurley II	COW	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	12
21	Ertz	YOR	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	12
22	Wallace,M	ICC	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	12
23	Wilson,R	ICC	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	12
24	Hilton	DTL	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	12
25	Foreman	SS	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	12
26	Miller,A	SEA	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	12
27	Fournette	BRX	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	12
28	Adams,D	AUR	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	12
29	Nelson,J	ERI	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	12
30	Kelce,T	BRX	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	12
31	Walsh,B	CIN	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12
32	Thielen	TOR	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	12
33	Barkley	TOR	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	12
34	Hill,T	TOR	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	12
35	Gano	YOR	2	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11

KICKING LEADERS										PUNTING LEADERS									
Rk	Player	Team	FGA	FGM	FG%	40	50	Lg	Pts	Rk	Player	Team	No	Yards	Tb	20	Lg	Bk	Ave
1	Gostkowski	ERI	7	5	71.4	3	2	58	18	1	Colquitt,B	SEA	8	410	0	3	54	0	51.3
2	Zuerlein	PIC	3	3	100	0	0	32	14	2	Lechler	STC	14	703	0	5	55	0	50.2
3	Boswell	NJ	5	3	60	1	0	40	13	3	Kaser	BUD	14	680	3	2	55	0	48.6
4	Hauschka	STC	4	3	75	2	0	45	13	4	King,M	TOR	13	630	1	4	57	0	48.5
5	Lambo	SEA	7	3	42.9	0	0	39	13	5	Huber	CHP	9	435	0	2	53	0	48.3
6	Elliott,J	BUF	4	3	75	1	1	55	12	6	Kern	BRX	11	528	0	4	55	0	48
7	Gonzalez	VV	2	2	100	1	0	46	12	7	Hekker	COW	13	621	0	8	60	0	47.8
8	Walsh,B	CIN	3	3	100	0	0	27	12	8	Jones,D	YOR	11	524	0	7	54	0	47.6
9	Bryant,M	COW	3	2	66.7	0	0	38	11	9	Dixon,R	GEO	10	471	0	6	59	0	47.1
10	Gano	YOR	2	2	100	2	0	46	11	10	Morstead	DTL	5	235	0	2	55	0	47
11	Vinatieri	SS	3	2	66.7	2	0	41	10	11	Jones,C	TCT	9	420	0	3	74	0	46.7
12	Parkey	BRH	4	2	50	1	0	45	10	12	O'Donnell	NJ	16	742	2	7	63	0	46.4
13	Fairbairn	LAK	3	2	66.7	1	1	50	10	13	Lee,A	BUF	10	462	0	2	60	0	46.2
14	Carlson	TOR	3	1	33.3	1	0	42	10	14	Haack	CIN	6	275	0	3	53	0	45.8
15	Hopkins,D	TCT	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	15	Colquitt,D	SBE	10	458	1	4	63	0	45.8



# AROUND THE



## With Spats McChad

NEW YORK – While we wrestle with a politically-divided society and hold our collective breath in anticipation of the coming midterm elections – the so-called “referendum” on Donald Trump’s Presidency – our neighbours to the North are fussily wringing their holier-than-thou hands over the impending legalization in their country of *cannabis sativa*, better known as marihuana.

The Canucks are going the Colorado route and making it legal for citizens 19 years of age or older to purchase and consume marihuana for recreational purposes. It should tell you a lot of what you need to know about Canadian politics that one of the principal election promises of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau was the “legalization of pot.” And why not? It was an easy sell. Canadians, even respectable ones, have acquired a taste for the herb. Canadians also typically want to do the lawful thing and it was getting very uncomfortable for respectable users to spark up a doobie knowing that it was against the law – even though no cop in the country was charging anybody for possessing personal quantities and no court would take the time to hear a simple possession charge.

In many ways, marihuana had become like alcohol in the minds of most citizens and, more importantly, the judiciary. No doubt that many of be-robed men and women sitting on the bench had had their own histories with the substance and, judging from some Canadian Case Law, are experiencing current histories with it. Why not make it legal and be done with it?

Well, as the day of legalization approaches, we are learning a bit more about why not, as Provinces, Municipalities, community groups and even Canadian EFL franchises, come to grips with the reality of legalization. The lack of communication and public debate has been stark, according to my Canadian sources and a quick study of news stories. Suddenly, at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour however, more people are becoming aware that marihuana is not like alcohol and that perhaps it is worse than smoking. It is one thing to be exposed to cigarette smoke – it is another to be exposed to something that can alter your perception of reality and stay in your system for up to 28 days. Suddenly, concerns about driving while impaired, the welfare of children, and the rights of non-users are at the forefront of discussion. Where were those protests when it mattered?

But it is too late for this debate. The legalization train is hurtling full speed toward the dark tunnel of the unknown. Canadians are locked in. There will be a long period of uncertainty and attempts by the marihuana community to assert their “rights” – both real and imagined – to the fullest. Conflicting studies will be released and trumpeted by both sides in an attempt to curtail the other. The ill-effects of legalization will be publicly suppressed as long as the government remains in power while any fringe benefits accrued will be celebrated as stupendous successes.

Just remember one thing, EFL fans, when crossing the border: Pot isn’t legal in the United States. Bringing it with you will land you in jail. Admitting you’re a user will get you turned away. Now that would be a “real drag,” wouldn’t it?

### **SACRED HORSES**

The torrent of invective that I received from Mustangs fans after shutting Aurora out of the post-season in my ‘Bold Predictions’ column last week was shocking. It was shocking not because the language used was unusually crass, vile or personally offensive (although some of it was), but because the volume of reaction was, in a single week, more than I had received from Aurora fans in the four previous Liotta seasons *combined*. Obviously, I hit a nerve and probably should explain myself.

The Mustangs have been a special team over the past four seasons under **Rich Liotta**. Of that, there is no question. They have established the greatest dynasty in EFL history over that period. Of that, there is also no question (although Dragon holdouts will disagree). Aurora Fan should know, from reading my Championship column following the Mustangs’ historic win over Bruxelles in the 11<sup>th</sup> Gale Sayers Game and from other writings over the years, that I have always held the coach, the franchise and even its fans in high esteem commensurate with their achievements over four years of domination. Long time readers know how critical I can be. It cannot be said that I have been overly critical of the Mustangs since they moved from Garland to Aurora. Criticism requires flaws, misjudgements and bone-headedness to thrive. Liotta and his troops have given me very little of that to work with over the years.

But the recent shining history of the Mustangs does not blind me to changing times. This is a new season with a new dynamic under the surface. Cumulative seasons of salary cap mismanagement by some, and self-limiting parsimony by others, has altered the competitive landscape so that there are no great teams in the field in 2018. Some are indeed stronger, and others





**Drew Brees** attempted 10 “bombs” in a 17-7 loss to Cowtown. This was to “better leverage our quarterback asset,” according to new Swordfish offensive coordinator, **Stedman Techner**.

weaker, relative to the field, but no team has the personnel to be dominant over all others. And that includes, like it or not, the Mustangs. Their opening week loss to Georgia did not surprise me, although it shook the pro-Aurora mainstream to its core. The team’s 24-17 comeback win over Pickering this week was a game they could have easily lost had **Philip Rivers** been more careful with the football late in the game.

The journey to this year’s Gale Sayers Game will a week-to-week affair for everybody, Aurora included. That does not mean that **Matt Ryan** and **Rich Liotta** will not find their way back to the big game – it just means that anything can happen. There are no Sacred Horses.

This year, in keeping with the “Bold” part of my pre-season predictions, I picked an up-and-coming Toronto team to knock off the Mustangs in a weak South Division. Yes, it was bold to do so, especially considering the implications such a prediction means for **Jay Cutler**, a quarterback who has, historically, ruined the playoff hopes of every team he has played for. But I like Toronto’s strengths over Aurora’s strengths. There is not much more I can say about it than that. We will see how things transpire on the football field – the final court of arbitration in these matters.

### **BOMBS AWAY**

Sebastian coach, **Russ Lemmon** has a reputation for daring gambles in unconventional circumstances. What that means is that he gambles a lot on 4<sup>th</sup> down when the distance to be gained, the field position, the score and the time of the game,

taken all together, would tell a more conservative coach to punt. He also likes to throw in the occasional surprise onside kick. But when one looks at the offensive style of the Swordfish over the years, the play-calling has been fairly conventional and consistent. Anywhere from a 60-40 to 55-45 pass-to-run ratio out of a standard two-back set, with most passes of short or medium length and most runs to the strong side of the line. His receivers run primarily safe hitch routes with his running backs running mostly off, or between, the tackles. If there is a quirk at all, it is that when the Fish decide to run outside the tackles it is invariably a pitch. The idea that **Russ Lemmon**, the Intrepid, is more than simply a guy who doesn’t like to give back the football would appear to be a myth.

Following Sebastian’s step backwards in 2017, Swordfish GM, **Eron ‘Ozdoltorps’ Osman** decided to fix the offence with one bold move: The acquisition of **Drew Brees** from Durham. But Brees was unlike any quarterback Sebastian had had before. Brees was a record-setter and destined for the Hall-of-Fame. Claims that he was over-the-hill dogged him, however. And the fact that the incumbent QB, **Jameis Winston**, had thrown more TD passes than Brees in 2017 (30 to 25) fueled criticism in local media that Jameis was not getting a fair shake and that trading for Brees would turn out to be a mistake.

Osman was not about to let his singularly most important move of the off-season fail. So, he went out and hired the top candidate from the inaugural Class of 2018 from EFL Football University in Canton, OH, to be ‘Advisor to the Offensive Coordinator.’ **Stedman Techner**, an offensive-minded whizz kid who had scored 99% in Aerial Dynamics and 96% in Route Displacement Theory at Football University, presented like a switched-on, modern aged football tactician – the first pick of a new crop of cutting-edge football strategists the league was hoping to introduce in increasing numbers into the coaching ranks of the EFL.

“The enabler and driver of the offence is the quarterback,” Techner pronounced when asked what knowledge and advice he would bring to the Swordfish offence in 2018. “We need to leverage this asset and align its capacity with those attributes and skills of our receivers best suited to meeting our goals and objectives. We plan to leverage both assets simultaneously with a view to exploiting the defensive weaknesses of our opponent while allowing for flexibility and seamless rescaling in the face of any adjustments. It is by no means a linear process, rather think of it as a continuous cycle involving stringent gap analysis. The offence will be treated as a whole, not as separate parts, but the quarterback will play a central role in this all-inclusive process.”

Not surprisingly, this rapid-fire, modern language to describe old concepts acted like a code and a marker to separate the “new way” from the “old and out-dated way.” Incumbent Offensive Coordinator, **Dan Henning**, a personal friend of **Russ Lemmon** who was close to retirement but had stuck around for Russ’ sake, was very quickly marginalized at team meetings. The words he used were understood by all and, therefore, old and part of the problem. On the other hand, Techner spoke animatedly and confidently about things like “synergy,” “execution metrics” “target state” and “risk management” – all new and strange terms and that undoubtedly signified positive change. In short order, the ‘Advisor to the Offensive Coordinator’ had become the *de facto*

Offensive Coordinator, while the latter had become a sort of figurehead, appearing to call the plays, but with Techner nattering non-stop in his ear.

That, at least, had been the arrangement in Week One during a landslide rout of Durham. In Week Two, at Tillman Field in Cowtown, the process changed slightly. After the Corn Kings had driven 94 yards in 10 plays for a touchdown on their first series of the game, **Dan Henning** was recorded on the Sebastian sideline saying to the offence: “Okay, boys, we have to string together some first downs and give the defence a rest. They’re darn tuckered out.”

**Stedman Techner**, who took his role as an “actualizer of success” seriously, did not think first downs a worthy enough goal now that the Swordfish had fallen behind an opponent for the first time under his watch.

“Ah, check that, offence!” he snapped peevishly as he motioned for **Drew Brees** to come over to him. “Drew, we’re going to run Accelerator-2, okay? Accelerator-2, got it?” Accelerator-2 was one of a “full suite” of bomb plays that Techner had created – all of them were called ‘Accelerator.’

“You want that now?” Brees replied, not challenging, rather confirming. He had once played for **Chris Worthley** and, as a result, had plenty of experience throwing deep and often at unexpected times in the game.

“Yes, first thing! Go get ‘em Champ!” Techner replied as he clenched his fist in the air.

Brees stood under center, barking the signals. The Corn King defence was set up in a standard 4-3 with the safeties and corners at mid-depth. It was almost impossible to tell what they were playing, therefore no need to audible out of the play call. If Cowtown was playing the run, a deep pass could turn well turn into a huge gainer, maybe even a touchdown.

With the snap, Brees dropped back. Right defensive end **Chris Long** swooped around **Anthony Castonzo**, forcing Brees out of the pocket. The Corn Kings were definitely playing the pass. Brees rolled out and heaved the ball deep downfield while on the run. It was not a bad throw under the circumstances, but intended target **Jermaine Kearse** had been unable to break away from **Ronald Darby** and the ball arrived between them. Darby snatched it out of Kearse’s hands and returned it 29 yards to the Sebastian 44. The crowd roared, Brees shook his head, Henning rolled his eyes. **Russ Lemmon** could be seen glancing over briefly at Henning, but quickly shifted his attention to his defence as they grudgingly put their helmets back on their heads.

“We got to stop ‘em here!” Lemmon shouted out as they trudged onto the field.

Techner raced over to Brees as he walked to the bench. “Drew! We have to embrace that experience and learn from it,” he said consolingly. “The other guy made a good play. Now let’s visualize it happening differently.”

The Corn Kings marched down the field without much effort against the tired Sebastian defence. **Todd Gurley II** scored on 5-yard draw on the first play of the 2<sup>nd</sup> half to give the home team a 14-0 lead. While that was going on, Henning gathered the offence around and preached patience; there was still “plenty of football left to play. We don’t have to get it back all at once.”

But apparently such a patient approach was not what EEL Football University valued in its prized graduates. While Henning drawled on, Techner stood behind him smirking and shaking his head. When Henning was done, he jumped in.

“I don’t think so, guys. We’re not in the Doctor’s waiting room here, we’re on a football field,” Techner chided. “We need to expedite our offence in this situation. Drew, let’s start with Accelerator-2 again and take it from there! Got it?”

“Accelerator-2 coming right up,” Brees replied, ever the professional.

Henning looked down at Techner, who was a short man with a sharp nose but acted as if he was the tallest guy on the Sebastian side of the field. “Look, who’s running the show, Sted?” he asked quietly, adhering to the unwritten rule that you don’t show up a fellow coach in front of the players, even if the courtesy was not being reciprocated.

“Well, you are of course, Dan.” He replied guilelessly. “And this series is going to make you look really good. Trust me!”

The first play of the drive was a nearly an exact replay of the last, except that this time Brees did not try to force the ball downfield. Instead he tried to throw underneath but was jolted by Long as he threw incomplete toward **CJ Anderson**.

“Ahhh, shit!” Henning exclaimed as Brees limped off the field, hunched over in pain after taking a hard hit from Long. “Jameis, get in there!”

As **Jameis Winston** threw his helmet on and began to trot out onto the field, Techner sidled up to him. “Okay Jameis, like we practiced. Accelerator-6, okay?”

Winston stopped. He had rarely ever been asked to throw a bomb and certainly never in the middle of the game. “Are you shittin’ me?” he asked. “That’s like, the one to the tight end, right?”

“Exactly, Jameis! Good work – you remembered! Don’t worry about it – they will not be expecting it, trust me.”

This time the Corn Kings were not expecting it. The corners and linebackers drew tight to the line, while middle linebacker, **Roquan Smith** remained a half step back from the rest – his eyes focused on Winston, who was always a threat to run. Jameis dropped back and threw the ball high and far, but not too far that 35-year old **Jason Witten** could not reach it at full trot. The safety, **Jahleel Addae**, had kept one eye on the backfield, which had allowed Witten to get behind him. The ball sailed over his head and into the arms of Witten, who stumbled as he extended to make the catch and fell to the ground for a 39-yard gain.

The Sebastian bench raised their heads. Something good had happened. Not wanting to lose the momentum, Techner shrieked into the radio mic of Henning’s headset, which was still on the Offensive Coordinator’s head, “Okay, *Accelerator-1! Acceerator-1!* Let’s *do* this!”



Blue Eagles' QB, **Sean Mannion** endures the disapproval of Coach **Chris Dickinson** after throwing an interception that squandered a red zone opportunity in Scarborough's 25-0 loss to Durham.

Emboldened by his success, Winston grinned when he heard the call. He dropped back with a spring in his step and looked for **Doug Baldwin**. *Where was he? Is that him over <bam!!>* In his excitement, Winston had missed seeing the blitz entirely and was blind-sided by **TJ Watt**. The ball came loose, but luckily for the Sebastian quarterback, it bounced back up into his chest as he fell to the Tillman Field grass for a 4-yard loss.

"He was supposed to see the blitz and audible out of it!" Techner whined loudly as he slammed his clipboard against his thigh. "That is pilot error right there! Pilot error!"

Henning struggled to maintain his patience and decorum. "Okay Sted, that's enough," he said quietly. "We dodged a bullet there. Let me handle things for a bit." As he said that last bit he turned away and, shielding his microphone with his hand, called in the next play, a pitch to **CJ Anderson**.

It was a play designed to gain back some of the yards lost on the sack in order to set up a "third-and-manageable" situation. But **TJ Watt** was on fire and blew the play up for another 4-yard loss. It was now 3<sup>rd</sup> & 18 and there weren't too many plays for that situation.

"What are you going to do now?" Techner asked snidely – a tight smirk across his lips.

"Get the first down," Henning replied calmly. Again, cupping his microphone with his right hand and turning away from Techner, he called in a medium cross to Baldwin. The play worked like a charm. The Corn Kings were deployed in loose man coverage and the extra space made for an easy completion, in stride, to the team's best receiver. Baldwin made **Mike Hilton** miss then raced the extra 12 yards for a first down and more.

"Okay, good call! I'll give you that one," Techner stuttered, creeping up close to Henning as he spoke. "Now let's go for the jugular here. Let's re-engage the deep threat...*Accelelrator-2, Accelerator-2!*" he shrieked, no more than a few inches from Henning's face. The play call was picked up on Winston's headset. Meanwhile, Henning was signalling the play to the field, a back-up procedure when radios mal-functioned. He thought he had turned his radio off but had not.

Winston snapped the ball and took a deep drop while Kearsse sidestepped his cover then broke straight downfield. He turned to look back at about the 9-yard mark to see his quarterback still dropping back. Realizing, too late, that he had the wrong play, Kearsse made a late break to go deep downfield but it was not enough. Winston's pass sailed far over the head of the deep safety and incomplete.

It was at that point that Coach Lemmon, an intense but studiously disciplined game day competitor, removed his headset, turned down the volume on his microphone and walked over the offence's side of the bench. "What the f%k is going on here, guys?" he asked, his eyes wide with wonder.

"Trying some things out, boss," Henning replied matter-of-factly.

Techner looked momentarily chastened, like a child who had been caught with his hand in the cookie jar. And he did what children often do in such situations – he blamed it on somebody else. "It was his idea!" he said, pointing at Henning.

"I expect it was," Lemmon replied. "It *is* his offence. Let's save the experimenting for practice, okay Dan? We have to get back in this game now."

The Swordfish managed to move the ball into the red zone but came up empty-handed after a failure to convert on 4<sup>th</sup> & 2 at the Cowntown 17. The decision to go for the fourth down instead of taking a shot at a short field goal falls on the Sebastian head coach. But the offence's lack of rhythm and composure had been almost entirely the fault of his dueling offensive coordinators, with some credit going to the Cowntown defence for staying disciplined and making plays.

The Swordfish offence did not really improve after that. Despite Coach Lemmon's warnings, Henning and Techner continued their quiet battle for control of the offence, although the younger was much more circumspect in how he went about changing the plays. Five more 'Accelerator' plays were called, the most effective of them resulting in a 32-yard Pass Interference penalty that led to Sebastian's only touchdown of the day. The team suffered a delay-of-game penalty when a tussle for Henning's headset resulted in the play not being called in to an incredulous **Drew Brees**, who had returned to the game after Winston's one and only series.

The Sebastian defence made some astute and effective adjustments to deal with the Cowntown game plan and held **Joe Flacco** and his troupe to just 3 points the rest of the way. Had the Swordfish offence been able to get its act together, the outcome of this game might have been more favourable to Sebastian than the 17-7 loss it turned out to be. Nevertheless, the whole debacle would have been written off as "one of those days" by Coach Lemmon until he viewed the game film.

It turns out that the Sebastian-Cowntown game was one of the test games for a new EFL Network live game feature called '*From the Field*.' Scheduled to go live in 2019, the pay-for-play feature will allow you to watch the EFL game of your choice from field level with just the natural noises of the game. Hundreds of parabolic microphones, arranged to maintain balanced acoustics, will enable



the viewer, through a controller issued with the service, to “zoom-in” on any area of the field. As the video view narrows, the sounds emitted from that part of the field increase in volume. In effect, the entire stadium is “mic’d up.” It was through the viewing of the raw footage of the Sebastian sideline, as part of the “coach consultation process,” that Coach Lemmon became aware of the embarrassing tug-of-war between his co-offensive coordinators.

The same source who provided me with a copy of the ‘*From the Field*’ Sebastian sideline video also informs me that **Stedman Techner** will be released by the Swordfish later this week; but not because he tried to wrestle the play-calling duties from **Dan Henning**. It will be because the ‘Accelerator’ plays he designed had been exposed as frauds. Coach Lemmon now knew exactly what those plays were and who had called them. Rather than a “compellingly agile suite of field elongation techniques,” as Techner had characterized them, the ‘Accelerators’ were in fact basic deep fly patterns to different receivers out of the same alignment. It was one of the oldest plays in the passing playbook, but without any deceptions built into the design to buy a quarterback time or get a safety to bite.

This incident will not reflect well on EFL Football University. Nor will it prop up the ‘new generation’ of play designers – the best-in-class geniuses flooding a once brutal but simple game with 1000-page playbooks in the hope of creating the next winning system. Most of them will not be successful. But, in Sebastian’s case, at least a season will not be wasted figuring that out.

### **MANNION-HANDLED**

When will enough be enough for the Curse of the Blue Eagles? Has not **Chris Dickinson** suffered plenty? Apparently not. ‘*The Curse*’ is alive and well and messing not only with the Blue Eagles, but with the balance of power in the North Division. In Week One, **Aaron Rodgers** went down with broken collarbone in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of a game the Eagles were trailing in. It effectively ensured that there would be no last-minute comeback as his replacement, **Brock Osweiler**, was not up to the job of engineering two scoring drives in less than five minutes against the Corn Kings.

Heading into Week Two against Durham at Jurassic Park, the hope that a week of first-team reps would make a difference in Osweiler’s play faded with each non-productive drive. The Thunder Lizards were not pulling away, but the lack of production from the Scarborough quarterback, and a questionable gamble on 4<sup>th</sup> down at the Durham 23, handed the home team more than enough opportunities to secure a comfortable lead before Osweiler also went down to injury.

Third-stringer **Sean Mannion**, whose last live action came with Carthage in 2015 and who could not secure playing time on a 1-15 New Jersey team last year, entered the game in the third quarter, his team trailing 18-0. He managed to look even *worse* than Osweiler. There are bad interceptions then there are *really* bad interceptions; Mannion’s first of two picks, coming in the Durham red zone, is one of the latter. A play that looked set-up for success turned ugly when an unpressured Mannion threw the ball directly to Durham safety, **Devin McCourty** at the 10-yard line. The play was designed as a slant to **DeSean Jackson**. The speedy wide-out had a step on **Tyrann Mathieu** and might have scored. But the ball was so far off target that it went straight into the arms of the safety playing containment.

Mannion strode back to the bench, a look of bewilderment on his face. He was not greeted kindly by Head Coach, **Chris Dickinson**, whose usual amiable manner had been subject to undue strain in two weeks of inadequate football. “That safety wasn’t even in the play!” he barked. “You put him in the play with that shitty throw!”

The Blue Eagles’ defence did not give up. **Derrick Morgan** blew up a slow-developing screen and strip-sacked **Cam Newton**, handing the ball back to the offence in Durham territory. But a three-and-out as the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter neared a close put the turnover to waste.

Early in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, a series of short passes – not all of them designed to be short – with some running plays sprinkled in created the veneer of a drive from the Blue Eagles’ 33 to the Durham 26. Progress was being made, but it was not comfortable or confident progress. The feeling that it was not going to last proved to be when Mannion failed to step up in the pocket under pressure and tossed a check down off his back foot in the direction of **TJ Yeldon**. The Durham secondary, sensing a collapse, converged. Mannion’s pass fluttered like a butterfly, hanging up long enough for McCourty to get a hand on it. The deflection went into the arms of corner **Terence Newman** for another interception.

The game was essentially over at that point, but the pain of watching the Blue Eagles try to mount a comeback with their third string quarterback continued. The torture ended at the 2:08 mark of the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, when Mannion missed **Brandon LaFell** from 4 yards away on 4<sup>th</sup> and 2 at the Scarborough 26. Yes, 4 yards...maybe 4 and-a-half. Unsympathetic to his opponent’s pitiful plight, Durham coach **George Kaldis** ran the ball down the throat of the defence to pass the time remaining in the game. He called pitches and an off tackle before concluding the punishment with 2-yard dive for a touchdown by **Carlos Hyde** to make the final, 25-0.

I only relate this game to you in some detail because I wish to emphasize a point that, in the abstract, cannot be emphasized enough. The Blue Eagles are F&\*KED! **Brock Osweiler** has a bad shoulder injury that will keep him out for at least 6 weeks. **Aaron Rodgers** is looking at a Week Eight return, if recovery goes perfectly. More likely he will be cleared to play by Week Nine.

As uninspiring as it was to watch Osweiler in action, the “eye test” in limited action indicates at least faint hope that he could engineer a victory against the right opponent with the Scarborough defence playing well. On the other hand, the “eye test” for Mannion required protective goggles to endure. There is no way the Blue Eagles will win a game against a competent opponent with him under center. It certainly would be unusual, but not the first time, a team was forced to trade for a quarterback by the Week 4 deadline. The Blue Eagles would be wise to do so or they will be staring at an 0-8 start.

## AROUND THE EFL

The trials and tribulations of the Blue Eagles notwithstanding, it was another competitive and fun week of football in the EFL. I cannot get to all of the games, but here are a few that stood out to me:

In high winds at New Era Field in Buffalo both the Bombers and the Derailers turned to the ground game to move the ball. The Derailers won that battle, compiling 194 rushing yards to set up 2 rushing TDs and a 55-yard **Jake Elliott** field goal in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter that would turn out to be the game-winner. Trailing by 3, Bruxelles had a chance to tie the game late, regaining possession at their own 46 with 1:09 left, but no timeouts remaining. But a disastrous series of plays, starting with a dive into the line for 0 yards by running back **Chris Thompson**, followed by an **Al Woods** sack of **Marcus Mariota** then an interception by **Jaquiski Tarta** on a desperation bomb, sealed a 20-17 home-opening win for Derailers, their first victory under new management.

At Stone Pony Shore in New Jersey, Chargers kicker **Steven Hasuchka** drilled a kick from 43 yards as time expired to spoil the Wrecking Balls' home opener, 16-13. In a game where a field goal was the difference, coach **Bill Parcells** found himself on the hotseat after the game for the controversial decision to go for it on 4th & goal at the Charger 6-yard line with 10 seconds remaining in the first half and his team leading 7-3. Corner, **TJ Carrie** tipped away a pass to **Ted Ginn** and New Jersey came away with 0 points. When questioned, Parcells, wearing his Wrecking Balls ball cap backwards, a thick wrecking ball chain around his neck and a blue seamless wind shirt with a red left sleeve, postured aggressively and fired back in clipped tones: "We're going to try that most of the time - we're not going to let a chance to score 6 points pass us by. I have confidence in Jared - they, that Charger corner, made a good play there!" It was a curious retort from an "old school" coach who, at 77 years, is the oldest coach in the EFL. Trying such a gambit was never on the menu when he coached the NY Giants. But, like a man going through a midlife crisis, Parcells appears to be trying to keep up with a new, more aggressive coaching style fueled by analytics and the modern desire for instant gratification. Playing the field position "long game" is not sexy or admired. Not surprisingly, many people agree that Parcells was "right" to "take a shot" in that situation. But, as I see it, the final result of the game speaks more eloquently. "Taking a shot" means taking a chance and suffering the consequences of missing. In this case, the consequences were no shot at the 3 points that would have come in handy as Hauschka's kick sailed through the uprights for the game-winning field goal as time expired.

At Kelly-Burke Field in Erieau, the clickety-clunkety Cadillac passed the Knights on the shoulder and finished in front by a field goal, winning 23-20. The Cadillac managed just 9 first downs and **Matt Stafford** completed just 4 passes in the win. But two of those passes went to **Jordy Nelson** for TDs of 57 and 26 yards; while a 90-yard kickoff return for a touchdown by **Pharoh Cooper** eliminated the need for a sustained offensive attack. Oh, and the 8 sacks and 5 turnovers forced by the Caddies helped as well. The Knights started **Andy Dalton**, but yanked him for **Josh McCown** in the 3<sup>rd</sup> with the game tied at 13. The move backfired. McCown was strip-sacked twice and picked twice, causing irreversible damage to LA's chances. It was another LA QB-shuffle that didn't work out. Meanwhile, Erieau cannot win like this every week. They need to find a solution to their puttering offence.

At Patriot Place in Charleswood, the Pats got off to a fast start but in the end could not withstand the comeback magic of **Russell Wilson** in falling to the Cubs, 31-28. A **Jalen Mills** pick-six to open the scoring followed by two **Blake Bortles** TDs – a 26-yard run and a 5-yard pass to **Duke Johnson Jr** – staked Charleswood to a 21-7 half time lead. But both sides of the Cubs' squad came to play in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half. Interceptions by **AJ Bouye** and **Casey Hayward** set up two Iowa TDs in the 3<sup>rd</sup> while a 27-yard designed run by Wilson tied the game at 28 with 5:28 left in the 4<sup>th</sup>. After a stop by the Cubs' defence near mid-field, Wilson sparked the game-winning drive with another sweep, gaining 28 yards, then connected with **Mike Wallace** for 30 yards on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 1 to set up **Justin Tucker** for the 30-yard game-winner as time expired. Cubs fans are relieved to see "their Russell" back in form.

At Ferenc-Liszt International Airport Stadium in Budapest, a resurgent **Ben Roethlisberger** continued his hot pace early in the season with a four-TD performance against the North Stars to lead the Gladiators to a 28-21 victory. Big Ben usually takes a few weeks to get going, but not this year. The quarterback that Georgian fans love to hate but couldn't do without got solid support in the run game from **Alex Collins** and rookie, **Sony Michel** and a good route-running performance out of **Jarvis Landry** to help him along. But the win would not have been possible without the "Big Guy" making precision throws when it mattered most. His hitch pass to Landry into double-coverage with 0:54 left was laser-guided and took out both defenders as they went for the pick, only to find the ball behind them. Landry turned up field for a 43-yard gain that set-up his own game-winning TD catch on the next play. The Glads are now 2-0 and tied for first place in the South with, of all teams, Toronto! The defence is still a soft spot, but if Big Ben continues to be "Good Ben," that may not matter too much.

Week Two is too early to panic but the Brooklin Hawks might want to consider in advance their plan when they do panic, since panicked decisions are always counter-productive. Just ask **Alex Smith**, who sensed pressure when there was none and failed to see **Trevor Williams** creeping up to jump a route to **Alex Cobb**. Williams' pick and 56-yard return turned a Brooklin red zone threat into a Toronto opportunity to put the game away, which they did five plays later on **DeMarco Murray**'s 1-yard dive for a TD to make the score 24-10, Wolverines. The score would stay that way and boost Toronto' record to 2-0 while dropping the Hawks to 0-2. Smith's imaginary pressure on that pivotal play was born of very real pressure all day. Toronto's defence, not known for its pass rush, harassed and harried Smith all game, sacking him 5 times and pressuring him 8 others. The Toronto secondary did the rest in holding the high-flying Hawks to just 10 points on their home field.

And finally, the Crusaders were victimized in their home opener by a fiery mad **Tom Brady** determined to bounce back after a dismal Week One showing in Budapest. Brady threw 4 TD passes in a 34-31 York victory over slow-starting Cincinnati.

# BUG THE BOOKIE!

## JIMMY THE GEEK GIVES YOU HIS PICKS FOR WEEK THREE EFL ACTION

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### *Jimmy's WEEK THREE PICKS*

#### **ERIEAU @ BUFFALO (line – CADILLAC by 1)**

**INJURIES:** Erieau – None; Buffalo – Sean McGrath (DOUBTFUL), Josh Rosen (OUT).

The Cadillac defence is leading the league in sacks and turnovers, covering up a pretty bendy backside-11 in terms of yards allowed. Still, this is a defence that cannot be trifled with. Its worst enemy is its own offence, which pushes it back onto the field before the oxygen has taken full effect. But this week they may want to be out on the field longer. It will mean more sacks and picks against a Buffalo offence that will offer up career back-up David Fales as a sacrifice. The Derailers lost starter Josh Rosen last week and with it any reasonable chance of competing against a defence like Erieau's. The only hope for the home team will lie in Aaron Donald and Bradley Chubb wreaking havoc in the Erieau backfield and causing an easily panicked Matt Stafford to panic. **PICK: ERIEAU**

#### **ST. CHARLES @ VIRDEN (line – VIOLATORS by 6)**

**INJURIES:** St. Charles – Zach Line (OUT); Virden – Leonard Floyd (OUT), Shane Ray (OUT), John Kuhn (OUT), Eric Berry (OUT), Marshall Yanda (OUT).

It did not take much for Virden's stock to rise. David Carr lit it up in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half while last year's sack leader Melvin Ingram got to the quarterback twice in a full-blown rout of Chino last week. The Violators are again Vegas darlings while the 2-0 Chargers, who won ugly last week after winning ugly the week before, seemingly get no respect. While it is unlikely the Chargers will rise to 3-0 on the road, the match-up is closer than people think. For one, the Violators are missing key defenders as well as their best O-lineman. Second, Carson Wentz is better than people give him credit for and he has targets to choose from and a solid running game behind him. This could mean trading blows with the balanced but explosive Virden attack anchored by Ezekiel Elliott. Expect to see a back-and-forth contest between two measured offences, with the odd quick strike thrown in for the highlight reel. **PICK: ST. CHARLES**

#### **NEW JERSEY @ TWIN CITIES (line – WRECKING BALLS by 2)**

**INJURIES:** New Jersey – Willie Henry (OUT); Twin Cities – Carson Palmer (OUT).

Even with the undefeated Mitchell Trubisky at the Triumph helm it seems that the Vegas favours Jared Goff and the Wrecking Balls to go into Wilhalla Stadium and steal one from under the noses of fanatical Triumph fans and their hot-tempered coach. While so far Trubisky has been more of threat to run than to pass – not a good sign for long-term success – Goff's credentials as the latest New Jersey saviour have yet to be established. New Jersey has more than one path to victory – the biggest one being a Trubisky meltdown – but they are matched, and more, by paths to defeat. The Triumph starting corners outclass Goff's wide receivers while Bobby Wagner and Jurrell Casey will ably lead the charge in the containment of LeSean McCoy. Two workhorse running backs are available to pound and weaken the soft middle of the Jersey D-line. Then there is always Antonio Brown. **PICK: TWIN CITIES**

#### **CHINO @ SEATTLE (line – PILOTS by 7)**

**INJURIES:** Chino – Austin Seferian-Jenkins (OUT); Josh Jackson (OUT), Ryan Kalil (OUT); Seattle – Brian O'Neill (QUESTIONABLE), Marshon Lattimore, Kam Chancellor (OUT).

Here is another puzzling line that seems to put a lot of weight in the Convicts 2<sup>nd</sup> half collapse last week against Virden and an apparent resurgence of the younger Manning into the top echelon of quarterbacks. The early weeks of any season are packed with anomalies as well as signs of emerging trends. Although clearly Eli Manning is throwing with a lot more confidence now that he has Michael Crabtree, it is fair to doubt that the Seattle airshow will continue here. The Convicts have some gamblers in the secondary



whose odds just increased with Eli in the pocket. In addition, one of the two pillars of the Seattle defence, Marshon Lattimore, is out. That will create opportunities for Dak Prescott to regain prior form. Chino needs this win desperately. **PICK: CHINO**

### **DURHAM @ PICKERING (line – THUNDER LIZARDS by 3)**

**INJURIES:** Durham – Oren Burks (OUT); Pickering – Telvin Smith (OUT), Devonta Freeman (OUT), Tyvon Branch (OUT).

Neither team has shown its true colours yet after two weeks of play. A freakishly bad start followed by a freakishly bad opponent the next week does not permit a proper evaluation of the Lizards' team chemistry. The Spartans eked out an OT win in which Philip Rivers looked good then stumbled against Aurora when Rivers looked putrid in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half. So which Rivers will it be? One thing is certain, the "patient" defensive style currently in place in Sparta is leaving the unit on the field for long stretches and resulting in lots of yards surrendered and fatigue-induced penalties. Until they figure out how to force a three-and-out, the offence will have fewer chances to showcase its many strengths. One of those, Devonta Freeman is out this week. **PICK: DURHAM**

### **YORK @ SCARBOROUGH (line – EXCALIBURS by 9)**

**INJURIES:** York – Brandon Scherff (OUT), Mike McGlinchey (OUT); Scarborough – Brock Osweiler (OUT), Aaron Rodgers (OUT), Cordy Glenn (OUT).

The Blue Eagles are in serious trouble at quarterback. Third stringer, Sean Mannion is the last man standing at the position after a bizarre twist of fate resulted in the starter and the back-up going down for long term injuries in successive weeks. Mannion did not look like a competent pro level replacement in 1½ quarters of action last week. Even an improved version here will leave Scarborough wanting much more. The Swords won't have to do much to walk away with a victory on the road. Basically, if they avoid a repeat of their Week One no-show against Budapest and Tom Brady doesn't die, they will be fine. **PICK: YORK**

### **COWTOWN @ BUDAPEST (line – CORN KINGS by 2)**

**INJURIES:** Cowtown – Rodney McLeod (QUESTIONABLE), Ronald Darby (OUT); Budapest – Stefon Diggs (OUT), Orlando Scandrick (OUT), Jason Peters (OUT).

After two weeks of healthy home-cooking, the undefeated Corn Kings will be tested with a long trip to Budapest to face the sphinxlike North Stars. The Stars' offence looked much better in its loss than it did in its victory, suggesting that the defence will continue to be the primary factor in their success or lack thereof. The Cowtown defence has played a decisive role in both of their wins, shutting down opponents after the offence grabbed early leads. Joe Flacco has been steadier than expected, but his offence has consistently stalled in the second half. Tyrod Taylor continues to be an X-factor for Budapest. His personal numbers suggest a better QB than he actually is, but he is fully capable of making the pivotal play in a tight game. Losing Stefon Diggs hurts, but so does the loss of Ronald Darby on Cowtown's side. In the end, expect nothing less than an ugly game. **PICK: COWTOWN**

### **BROOKLIN @ SEBASTIAN (line – Pick'Em)**

**INJURIES:** Brooklin – Brandon Williams (OUT); Sebastian – William Jackson (QUESTIONABLE);

Neither team can afford to lose but it is the Hawks who are up against the wall in a tougher division and see an 0-3 start as a death sentence. The Swordfish have to be concerned that maybe they have a serious rival in Cowtown, so the need to keep pace will keep them focused here. Drew Brees has so far failed to deliver on Hall-of-Fame expectations but it is not too late to start. The Hawks might be the kind of defence – a little older and a little slower than most – against which to get the job done. Alex Smith was relentlessly harried by the Toronto pass rush last week – a very bad sign for an offensive line that is reputed to be among the league's best. They must play better here against the ferocious Chandler Jones and Jadevoen Clowney. **PICK: SEBASTIAN**

### **TORONTO @ AURORA (line – MUSTANGS by 5)**

**INJURIES:** Toronto – Tom Compton (OUT), Shawn Williams (OUT), John Simon (OUT); Aurora – Trent Williams (OUT).

The Mustangs are in the unprecedented situation of playing catch-up against Toronto! It's early, but when a team that has lost just 3 regular season games in four full seasons finds itself behind a team that has won only 6 games in its existence, the fact is worth mentioning. Despite Toronto's hot start, the Mustangs are rightly favoured here at home against a quarterback who is always ripe for the "picking" – if you know what I mean. But is 5 points the right number when you have a shutdown secondary facing off against a pass-happy home town QB who will be operating without blindside protector, Trent Williams? There are plenty of risks in the air for both teams. That does not mean that either coach won't be willing to take shots down field, but in the end the running games could prove to be the drivers of both offences in this contest. The Mustangs have been galloping at a good clip, averaging 5.4 yards a carry while burning up Kenyan Drake. Toronto has Saquon Barkley. Should be interesting. **PICK: TORONTO**

## GEORGIA @ CINCINNATI (line – GLADIATORS by 2)

**INJURIES:** Georgia – Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie (PROBABLE), Reuben Foster (OUT); Cincinnati – None.

I expected this line to be more heavily in favour of Georgia, having come off two big wins to start the season. But Vegas is declaring that the Glads aren't as good as they look, while the Crusaders are not as bad as they look. I cannot disagree with either premise. The Cincinnati offence should be able to move and score against a Georgia defence full of holes that has been magically keeping opponents off the scoreboard while allowing the yards to pile up. The key for Cincy will be to get off to a fast start. They have had to play from behind in the second half of games so far due to being slow off the mark. The Glads will be relying on Big Ben to continue his hot hand against one of the shallower and more vulnerable secondaries around. If the "Good" Ben shows up, there won't be much the Crusaders can do to stop him. If, on the other hand, "Bad" Ben.... **PICK: CINCINNATI**

## CHARLESWOOD @ BRUXELLES (line – PATRIOTS by 2)

**INJURIES:** Charleswood – Deshaun Watson (OUT), Marcus Gilbert (OUT), Jamie Collins (OUT); Bruxelles – Terrelle Pryor Sr (OUT), Anthony Walker Jr (OUT), Dede Westbrook (OUT), Mitch Morse (OUT).

According to *Odds-Dolphin* the chance of an 0-3 team making the playoffs falls to around 3%. The last EFL team to do so was York in 2013. Only two other EFL teams have accomplished it: The Knights of 2010 and the Gladiators of 2008. While greater league parity may allow for a sudden sharp shift in trends, leading to unexpected outcomes, the weight of probability remains against one of these teams after Week Three is over. The Bombers have not looked good in falling to last year's laughing stock, New Jersey, and to an anticipated finalist for this year's laughing stock, Buffalo. But the Pats have Blake Bortles at quarterback and, so far, he is proving to be a liability. The Pats have a pretty good defence to fall back on while the Bombers have not shown much offensively to this point. Expect Marcus Mariota to finally put something together in a close contest. **PICK: BRUXELLES**

## IOWA CITY @ LOS ANGELES (line – KNIGHTS by 6)

**INJURIES:** Iowa City – None; Los Angeles – None.

I think this line is far off reality and it causes me to wonder what the bookies and bettors are seeing that I don't see. Certainly, Russell Wilson has been alarmingly shaky, along with kicker Justin Tucker, but it is still very early. Wilson overcame a slow start last week and finished by leading the team in rushing and making key plays on the game-winning field goal drive in their win over Charleswood. It was vintage Wilson at the end. The Knights, on the other hand, played quarterback roulette and ended up shooting themselves as Josh McCown melted down with 3 turnovers in the fourth quarter in their loss to Erieau. McCown will likely get the start against the Cubs this week, although he has done nothing to deserve it after last week's fiasco. Regardless of who gets the nod, it will difficult for the Knights to sustain a presence in the air against a Cubs' secondary that woke up last week with a pair of game-changing interceptions. It will be up to Le'Veon Bell again and that will not be enough. **PICK: IOWA CITY**



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FROM THE EFL ARCHIVES – Week Two of the 2012 EFL Season was an eventful one. Undertaker QB, **Drew Brees** followed up his 620-yard, 7 TD pass performance of Week One with another 7 TD pass display, leading Death Valley to a 48-17 pummeling of the Mission Viejo Monarchs in the expansion franchise's first ever home game. With 14 TD passes in two weeks, Brees was on pace for 112 TD passes, an impossible pace. Or was it?

The Corn Kings extracted a measure of "revenge" for the naked fan incident that led to their playoff demise the

previous year by knocking off mighty Durham, 30-23. The Lizards looked in control through one half of play, but lost the handle on the victory in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half due to 4 turnovers that Cowtown turned into 24 2<sup>nd</sup> half points. The final turnover was the toughest to take. With the score tied and less than 3 minutes left, **Devin Hester** fumbled the kick return. **Kevin Walter** took it in on a pass from **Joe Flacco** from 19 yards out on next play for the game-winning score.

A fan strike in Mohave led by the Fan Liberation Association of Greater Mohave and Everywhere (FLAME) resulted in the first recorded use of replacement fans in pro football history. 30,000 Mexican sports fans from the Baja Peninsula and numerous border towns were bused up for the Hellfire's game against Chino. They created a lot of noise and, not really knowing the sport well, cheered for both teams as the Convicts thumped the "home" team, 41-17.

The two combatants in the 2011 EFL Championship were off to a combined 1-3 start after Week Two. The 1-1 LA Knights had famously lost to the Undertakers in Week One, while the Glads were 0-2 thanks largely to Big Ben's 6 interceptions and 2 fumbles.