

2018



WEEK

11



EFL

ELITE FOOTBALL LEAGUE

*In our 11<sup>th</sup> season and still going strong!*

December 16, 2018

2018



WEEK

11

EAST



CENTRAL



WEST



NORTH



COASTAL



SOUTH



# PATS ATTACK!



## Demarcus Lawrence

**Demarcus Lawrence** hauls down **Matt Ryan** for his 11<sup>th</sup> sack of the year in 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter action in Aurora. The Patriots' star defender was one of six different Pats players to sack the Mustangs' QB, who went to the turf 8 times and threw 4 interceptions in a 37-24 loss. The upset keeps the Pats alive and well in the Pacific Wildcard race. In other league action, the Triumph shutout the Glads, the Hawks downed New Jersey and Toronto suppressed Virden to put those teams on top of their respective divisions, while Cowtown lost to Seattle to fall even with the Swordfish.



*Who was slick  
in Week  
Eleven?*

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



**Demaryius  
Thomas  
WR  
Pickering Spartans**

10 catches, 203 yards, 4 TDs. Career day helped knock Buffalo off track.



**Arden Key  
DE  
Charleswood  
Patriots**

5 Tackles, 3 sacks, 1 FF. His strip-sack of Ryan led to fumble return TD



## OFFENSIVE PLAY OF THE WEEK

1<sup>st</sup> & 10, 6:38 1<sup>st</sup>: **Kareem Hunt** (SEA) breaks through a keying defence (COW) for a 56-yard TD to spark upset.

## GAME CENTER

### 2018

### Week Eleven



## DEFENSIVE PLAY OF THE WEEK

2:52, 2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr. **Arden Key** (CHP) strips **Matt Ryan** (AUR) and **Jalen Mills** (CHP) returns 39-yards for a TD in big win.

	<b>23</b>	Tom Brady fumbled the snap at the York 24-yard line on the first play of OT, setting up a 3-yard bootleg by Marcus Mariota five plays later for the winning TD. The muffed exchange marred a 4 <sup>th</sup> -quarter comeback that saw Brady connect with Paul Richardson for a 16-yard TD to tie the game with 3:20 left. That score forced the extra period in this hard fought, back-and-forth match. Nick Chubb opened the scoring with a 1-yard TD run, making it the 3 <sup>rd</sup> straight game York has scored a TD on its first series. Leonard Fournette answered with a 1-yard TD in the 2 <sup>nd</sup> and added a second TD run to put Bruxelles ahead in the 4 <sup>th</sup> .
	<b>17</b>	
	<b>12</b>	Greg Zuerlein broke a scoreless tie mid-way through the 2 <sup>nd</sup> quarter with a 31-yard FG. That broke the seal on a tightly-contested defensive struggle. On the next Spartans' series, Demaryius Thomas hauled in a long slant from Philip Rivers for a 30-yard major – the first of his 4 TD catches on the day. Thomas was Rivers' preferred target for the remainder of the game, hauling in 10 catches for 203 yards while working primarily on back-up corner, Dontae Johnson after Brian Boddy-Calhoun went down. Pickering built a 31-0 lead before the Derailers broke the shutout late in the 4 <sup>th</sup> with a pair of TD passes to Julio Jones.
	<b>31</b>	
	<b>27</b>	Sammy Watkins turned a short slant into a 26-yard TD to give Budapest a 20-10 lead in the 3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter. The winning score was the 3 <sup>rd</sup> TD pass in a four-TD day for Tyrod Taylor, who also scored on a 6-yard scramble to give his team a three-score lead halfway through the 4 <sup>th</sup> and threw for a season-high 267 yards. Jacoby Brissett took over the Chargers' offence after an injury to Sam Bradford in the 1 <sup>st</sup> while Carson Wentz sat on the bench. Brissett connected with Travis Benjamin on a 72-yard catch-and-run for a 2 <sup>nd</sup> quarter TD, but was unable to generate more scoring until late in the 4 <sup>th</sup> with the game out of reach.
	<b>17</b>	
	<b>41</b>	Alex Smith capped a 75-yard drive with a 14-yard TD pass to HB, Evan Engram to push Brooklin into a 24-18 lead over the Wrecking Balls late in the 3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter. The Hawks took off from there, with Smith throwing his third TD pass of the day and second to Engram on their next possession and Janoris Jenkins returning an interception of Jared Goff 34-yards for a TD to create a 20-point cushion that NJ would not overcome. Brooklin held a slim 17-15 lead at half time, but saw it disappear briefly on Chris Boswell's 35-yard FG midway through the 3 <sup>rd</sup> . Goff threw for 338 yards and 2 TDs for New Jersey in defeat.
	<b>25</b>	
	<b>6</b>	Saquon Barkley knifed through a stacked Virden line from 3-yards out for the game's only TD, breaking a 3-3 tie in the 2 <sup>nd</sup> quarter and putting the Wolverines in front to stay. The story of the rest of the game was the 3 Virden turnovers – a Jamaal Charles fumble and a pair of Derek Carr interceptions – that foiled the visitors' attempted comeback. Trailing by a converted TD, 13-6 in the 4 <sup>th</sup> , the Violators were driving in the Toronto red zone when Jalen Ramsey picked off Carr at the 12 and returned it 23 yards to preserve the lead. Adam Thielen caught 10 passes for 141 yards and Barkley finished with 86 all-purpose yards.
	<b>13</b>	
	<b>37</b>	With Aurora holding an early 3-0 lead, DeShaun Watson slung a medium button-hook to Alvin Kamara, who busted a tackle and ran it in 41-yards for a 1 <sup>st</sup> quarter TD. That set off 27-point streak for Charleswood that had the Mustangs' offence playing from behind early. The Pats brought a steady wave of pressure on Matt Ryan, sacking him 8 times, inducing 4 interceptions and getting a strip-sack by Arden Key that corner Jalen Mills returned 39-yards for a TD. Kamara starred for the Pats' offence, piling up 152 combined yards and adding a 54-yard TD run in the 3 <sup>rd</sup> . Watson threw 3 TD passes and 3 INTs.
	<b>24</b>	
	<b>21</b>	Melvin Gordon broke free off right tackle for a 22-yard 1 <sup>st</sup> quarter TD run to open the scoring for the Twin Cities. That would be all the points they would need on a day when the Triumph defence swarmed aggressively at all levels, sacking Georgia quarterbacks 5 times, forcing 4 fumbles, picking off 3 Ben Roethlisberger passes and stopping the Gladiators 3 times on 4 <sup>th</sup> down in their territory. Carson Palmer threw for 316 yards, 1 TD and 1 INT, with 12 of those completions and 170p of those yards to Antonio Brown. Darius Slay was top among many stars for the defence with 7 tackles, 2 deflections, 1 FF and 1 INT.
	<b>0</b>	
	<b>15</b>	Stephen Gostkowski took care of the scoring for the Caddies, kicking 5 FGs in 7 attempts, including a 55-yarder in the 1 <sup>st</sup> quarter to open the scoring. It would be enough against the Crusaders, who briefly took a 7-6 lead in the 2 <sup>nd</sup> quarter on a 14-yard screen pass to Chris Ivory for the game's only TD. Cincinnati was able to move the ball, but penalties, sacks and pressure put them in too many 3 <sup>rd</sup> - and-long positions to sustain drives. Justin Houston had 2 sacks and 2 forced fumbles, while Erieanu's big offensive play was a 39-yard slant to Terrance Williams that put them in range for the go-ahead 49-yard FG in the 2 <sup>nd</sup> .
	<b>7</b>	
	<b>14</b>	The Cubs held off the Thunder Lizards at their own 8-yard line, forcing 4 straight incompletions with less than one-minute left in the game to hold on to their 20-14 lead and record their 6 <sup>th</sup> win. This was a hard-fought victory for Iowa City. Justin Tucker booted a 55-yard FG late in the 2 <sup>nd</sup> quarter that would turn out to be the difference, but he also missed two close FGs to allow Durham to stay close. Josh Allen made his second start for Durham, throwing a nice pass on an 18-yard TD to Austin Hooper, but also making too many poor throws to open receivers. Alec Ogletree starred for the Cubs' D, with 13 tackles and 2 sacks.
	<b>20</b>	
	<b>14</b>	Ka'imi Fairbairn kicked a 40-yard FG to make it 17-14 for the Knights with 1:10 left in the 4 <sup>th</sup> and Robert Quinn sacked Aaron Rodgers on 4 <sup>th</sup> down with 0:26 left to preserve the lead and give LA its third straight win. After scoring a TD on the game's opening drive, the Blue Eagles' offence sputtered against a strong Knights' pass rush and D-line. Scarborough took a 14-7 all the same after a Deion Jones interception of Josh McCown at the LA 13 set up a 2-yard Jordan Howard TD run. But McCown would get that back early in the 4 <sup>th</sup> with a 14-yard TD pass to DeVante Parker, set up by a 49-yard pass to Brandin Cooks.
	<b>17</b>	
	<b>17</b>	Drew Brees connected with Antonio Callaway on a long fly for 33-yards and a TD as part of a 16-point 3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter that gave the Swordfish a 34-17 lead. It was Brees' 5 <sup>th</sup> TD pass of the afternoon and would prove to be more than enough to stay in front of the Convicts. After a Trumaine Johnson 50-yard pick-six on Sebastian's first possession, Brees went to work on the Chino secondary while CJ Anderson and Brandon Bolden pounded away at the defensive line to stay one step ahead of Chino in a back-and-forth 1 <sup>st</sup> half. After a good start, Dak Prescott struggled trying to rally the offence, throwing 2 picks in the 2 <sup>nd</sup> half.
	<b>37</b>	
	<b>31</b>	Kareem Hunt rushed for 185 yards and 2 TDs, a 5-yard trap and a 56-yard breakaway, and Eli Manning tossed a 17-yard TD to Michael Crabtree to round off a 21-point 1 <sup>st</sup> quarter for the Pilots. The opening scoring blitz would allow Seattle to withstand a mid-game push by the Corn Kings that saw them come back to within a single point on the strength of 2 TD passes from Joe Flacco to Mike Evans and a pair of Matt Bryant FGs. But Seattle would earn breathing room in the 4 <sup>th</sup> after an 87-yard drive ended in an 8-yard TD pass to Mercedes Lewis and Josh Lambo finished off a time-killing 43-yard drive with a 41-yard FG.
	<b>20</b>	












TRIUMPH



21

PASSING: Carson Palmer, 22 of 34, 316 yds, 1 TD, 1 INT


RUSHING: Royce Freeman, 19C, 55yds, (2.9), 1 TD

RECEIVING: Antonio Brown, 12 for 170yds, 31LG, 1 TD

DEFENCE: Darius Slay, 7 T, 2 PD, 1 FF, 1 INT

KICKING: Dustin Hopkins, 3 of 3 XP, 0 of 0 FG, 3 Pts

GLADIATORS



0

PASSING: B. Roethlisberger, 20 of 41, 220 yds, 0 TD, 3 INT

RUSHING: Sony Michel, 9C, 36yds, (4.0), 0 TD

RECEIVING: Kenny Stills, 8 for 113yds, 22LG, 0 TD

DEFENCE: Sean Smith, 12 T, 2 PD, 1 FF, 1 INT

KICKING: Giorgio Tavecchio, 0 of 0 XP, 0 of 0 FG, 0 Pts

Georgia Stadium

Temp: 72

Wind: 5-15

MVP: Brown

	1	2	3	4	Tot
Twin Cities (7-4)	7	7	7	0	21
Georgia (6-5)	0	0	0	0	0

Scoring Summary


1 7:51 Twin Cities TD Gordon 22 run (Hopkins,D) (9-64-3:46) 7-0

2 11:10 Twin Cities TD Freeman 1 run (Hopkins,D) (8-67-4:07) 14-0

3 2:12 Twin Cities TD Palmer 10 pass to Brown (Hopkins,D) (5-64-2:49) 21-0

	TCT	GEO
First Downs	23	16
Rushes	36-107	19-39
Passes	22-34-316	20-41-220
Sacked	1-13	5-35
Fumble	1	4
Penalties	7-58	3-31
Turnovers	2	4
Missed Tackles	1	10
Dropped Passes	1	1
Bad Passes	3	7
Passes 25+	3	0
Runs 10+	2	0
Blitzers	0	5
Time	33:31	26:29
Third Down	5-12	4-15
Fourth Down	0-4	2-5
Red Att/Td/Fg	4/2/0	2/0/0
Net Offense	410	224

CADILLAC



15

PASSING: Matt Stafford, 19 of 37, 231 yds, 0 TD, 1 INT


RUSHING: Marshawn Lynch, 17C, 63yds, (3.7), 0 TD

RECEIVING: Terrance Williams, 4 for 83yds, 39LG, 0 TD

DEFENCE: Zach Brown, 10 T, 1 STF, 1 FF

KICKING: Steven Gostkowski, 0 of 0 XP, 5 of 7 FG, 15 Pts

CRUSADERS



7

PASSING: Kirk Cousins, 28 of 49, 260 yds, 1 TD, 0 INT

RUSHING: Kirk Cousins, 7C, 36yds, (5.1), 0 TD

RECEIVING: Keenan Allen, 8 for 77yds, 13LG, 0 TD

DEFENCE: Akiem Hicks, 8 T, 2 STF, 1 HUR

KICKING: Blair Walsh, 1 of 1 XP, 0 of 0 FG, 1 Pt

Paul Brown Stadium

Temp: 46

Wind: 15-25

MVP: Gostkowski

	1	2	3	4	Tot
Erieau (4-7)	3	6	3	3	15
Cincinnati (3-8)	0	7	0	0	7

Scoring Summary

1 11:52 Erieau FG Gostkowski 55 (6-33-2:55) 3-0

2 12:11 Erieau FG Gostkowski 29 (16-81-5:23) 6-0

2 4:01 Cincinnati TD Cousins 14 pass to Ivory (Walsh,B) (9-68-5:09) 6-7


2 3:17 Erieau FG Gostkowski 49 (6-44-0:39) 9-7

3 5:43 Erieau FG Gostkowski 42 (9-47-2:45) 12-7

4 7:42 Erieau FG Gostkowski 46 (6-23-1:49) 15-7

	ERI	CIN
First Downs	17	19
Rushes	30-86	19-88
Passes	19-37-231	28-49-260
Sacked	2-6	4-35
Fumble	1	3
Penalties	8-54	9-82
Turnovers	1	2
Missed Tackles	6	4
Dropped Passes	1	3
Bad Passes	0	2
Passes 25+	1	0
Runs 10+	2	3
Blitzers	19	27
Time	28:25	31:35
Third Down	2-17	3-14
Fourth Down	1-1	1-3
Red Att/Td/Fg	3/0/1	1/1/0
Net Offense	311	313

THUNDER LIZARDS



14

PASSING: Josh Allen, 13 of 34, 91 yds, 1 TD, 1 INT


RUSHING: Rashaad Penny, 15C, 116yds, (7.7), 0 TD

RECEIVING: Austin Hooper, 5 for 47yds, 18LG, 1 TD

DEFENCE: Ken Crawley, 8 T, 1 PD, 1 FF

KICKING: Phil Dawson, 2 of 2 XP, 0 of 0 FG, 2 Pts

CUBS



20

PASSING: Russell Wilson, 18 of 30, 216 yds, 0 TD, 0 INT

RUSHING: Bilal Powell, 13C, 72yds, (5.5), 1 TD

RECEIVING: Marqise Lee, 5 for 84yds, 27LG, 0 TD

DEFENCE: Alec Ogletree, 13 T, 2 SK, 1 STF

KICKING: Justin Tucker, 2 of 2 XP, 2 of 4 FG, 8 Pts

Joe Ferguson Stadium

Temp: 38

Wind: Calm

MVP: Ogletree

	1	2	3	4	Tot
Durham (3-8)	0	7	7	0	14
Iowa City (6-5)	7	10	0	3	20

Scoring Summary

1 4:53 Iowa City TD McKinnon 3 run (Tucker,J) (7-48-4:10) 0-7

2 14:53 Durham TD Allen 18 pass to Hooper (Dawson) (11-75-5:00) 7-7

2 6:07 Iowa City TD Powell 3 run (Tucker,J) (10-67-4:25) 7-14

2 1:43 Iowa City FG Tucker 55 (8-36-3:20) 7-17

3 2:52 Durham TD Hyde 48 run (Dawson) (8-84-2:29) 14-17

4 3:56 Iowa City FG Tucker 30 (8-51-3:52) 14-20

	DTL	ICC
First Downs	16	27
Rushes	24-177	37-182
Passes	14-36-95	18-30-216
Sacked	2-19	2-22
Fumble	0	1
Penalties	8-44	5-40
Turnovers	1	1
Missed Tackles	8	6
Dropped Passes	3	2
Bad Passes	8	1
Passes 25+	0	1
Runs 10+	5	8
Blitzers	31	4
Time	25:09	34:51
Third Down	4-14	4-13
Fourth Down	1-3	1-1
Red Att/Td/Fg	2/1/0	4/2/1
Net Offense	253	376



## BLUE EAGLES



14

**PASSING:** Aaron Rodgers, 11 of 18, 85 yds, 1 TD, 0 INT  
**RUSHING:** Jordan Howard, 19C, 61yds, (3.2), 1 TD  
**RECEIVING:** Brandon LaFell, 3 for 30yds, 19LG, 1 TD  
**DEFENCE:** Deion Jones, 7 T, 2 PD, 1 INT  
**KICKING:** Mason Crosby, 2 of 2 XP, 0 of 1 FG, 2 Pts

## KNIGHTS



17

**PASSING:** Josh McCown, 14 of 23, 195yds, 1 TD, 1 INT  
**RUSHING:** Le'Veon Bell, 19C, 81yds, (4.3), 0 TD  
**RECEIVING:** Le'Veon Bell, 8 for 73yds, 15LG, 0 TD  
**DEFENCE:** Michael Bennett, 8 T, 2 SK, 2 STF  
**KICKING:** Ka'imi Fairbairn, 2 of 2 XP, 1 of 1 FG, 5 Pts

Round Table Stadium

Temp: 62 Wind: 0-5

MVP: Bell

	1	2	3	4	Tot
Scarborough (1-10)	7	0	7	0	14
Los Angeles (4-7)	7	0	0	10	17

### Scoring Summary

1 7:29	Scarborough	TD Rodgers 13 pass to Sims (Crosby) (12-75-7:31)	7-0
1 1:03	Los Angeles	TD Dalton 11 pass to Ridley (Fairbairn) (10-75-6:26)	7-7
3 12:10	Scarborough	TD Howard 2 run (Crosby) (3-13-1:28)	14-7
4 12:40	Los Angeles	TD McCown 14 pass to Parker (Fairbairn) (6-69-2:14)	14-14
4 1:10	Los Angeles	FG Fairbairn 40 (12-58-3:50)	14-17

	SBE	LAK
First Downs	15	25
Rushes	29-120	23-91
Passes	11-18-85	23-33-278
Sacked	5-38	3-27
Fumble	1	1
Penalties	7-47	8-60
Turnovers	0	2
Missed Tackles	3	4
Dropped Passes	0	1
Bad Passes	2	0
Passes 25+	0	1
Runs 10+	5	2
Blitzers	27	13
Time	29:46	30:14
Third Down	7-14	5-10
Fourth Down	0-1	1-1
Red Att/Td/Fg	3/2/0	4/2/0
Net Offense	167	342

## CONVICTS



17

**PASSING:** Dak Prescott, 14 of 34, 158 yds, 1 TD, 2 INT  
**RUSHING:** Mark Ingram, 15C, 29yds, (1.9), 1 TD  
**RECEIVING:** Marvin Jones, Jr., 4 for 60yds, 31LG, 1 TD  
**DEFENCE:** Craig Robertson, 10 T, 2 STF  
**KICKING:** Dan Bailey, 2 of 2 XP, 1 of 1 FG, 5 Pts

## SWORDFISH



37

**PASSING:** Drew Brees, 19 of 32, 228 yds, 5 TD, 1 INT  
**RUSHING:** C.J. Anderson, 14C, 106yds, (7.6), 0 TD  
**RECEIVING:** Doug Baldwin, 5 for 66yds, 28LG, 0 TD  
**DEFENCE:** Carlos Dunlop, 8T, 2 SK, 1 PD  
**KICKING:** Adam Vinatieri, 4 of 5 XP, 1 of 1 FG, 7 Pts

The Fish Tank

Temp: 76 Wind: None

MVP: Brees

	1	2	3	4	Tot
Chino (6-5)	7	10	0	0	17
Sebastian (8-3)	14	7	16	0	37

### Scoring Summary

1 12:58	Chino	TD Johnson 50 interception return (Bailey,D)	7-0
1 7:32	Sebastian	TD Brees 2 pass to Kearse (Vinatieri) (9-75-5:26)	7-7
1 1:48	Sebastian	TD Brees 14 pass to Anderson (Vinatieri) (7-59-3:55)	7-14
2 13:10	Chino	TD Prescott 31 pass to Jones Jr. (Bailey,D) (5-67-1:25)	14-14
2 7:41	Sebastian	TD Brees 9 pass to Kearse (Vinatieri) (10-75-5:29)	14-21
2 1:38	Chino	FG Bailey 44 (13-55-5:54)	17-21
3 12:37	Sebastian	TD Brees 3 pass to Kearse (no good) (5-45-2:16)	17-27
3 11:10	Sebastian	TD Brees 33 pass to Callaway (Vinatieri) (1-33-0:11)	17-34
3 3:04	Sebastian	FG Vinatieri 35 (6-24-3:07)	17-37

	CHI	SS
First Downs	11	23
Rushes	22-55	35-182
Passes	14-34-158	19-32-228
Sacked	4-37	0-0
Fumble	0	0
Penalties	2-18	4-25
Turnovers	2	1
Missed Tackles	5	5
Dropped Passes	1	0
Bad Passes	3	0
Passes 25+	1	3
Runs 10+	0	4
Blitzers	15	13
Time	25:50	34:10
Third Down	4-18	3-13
Fourth Down	2-3	3-3
Red Att/Td/Fg	0/0/0	7/4/1
Net Offense	176	410

## PILOTS



31

**PASSING:** Eli Manning, 26 of 34, 214 yds, 2 TD, 1 INT  
**RUSHING:** Kareem Hunt, 26C, 185yds, (7.1), 2 TD  
**RECEIVING:** Michael Crabtree, 12 for 129yds, 18LG, 1 TD  
**DEFENCE:** Marcus Lattimore, 7T  
**KICKING:** Josh Lambo, 4 of 4 XP, 1 of 1 FG, 7 Pts

## CORN KINGS



20

**PASSING:** Joe Flacco, 21 of 35, 190 yds, 2 TD, 0 INT  
**RUSHING:** Todd Gurley II, 18C, 121yds, (6.2), 0 TD  
**RECEIVING:** Mike Evans, 5 for 61yds, 21LG, 2 TD  
**DEFENCE:** Aqib Talib, 12 T  
**KICKING:** Matt Bryant, 2 of 2 XP, 2 of 2 FG, 8 Pts

Tillman Field

Temp: 42 Wind: 5-15

MVP: Hunt

	1	2	3	4	Tot
Seattle (3-8)	21	0	0	10	31
Cowtown (8-3)	0	10	10	0	20

### Scoring Summary

1 8:03	Seattle	TD Hunt 5 run (Lambo) (11-71-5:10)	7-0
1 6:38	Seattle	TD Hunt 56 run (Lambo) (1-56-0:16)	14-0
1 3:19	Seattle	TD Manning 17 pass to Crabtree (Lambo) (3-37-1:27)	21-0
2 6:22	Cowtown	FG Bryant 29 (12-72-8:21)	21-3
2 1:53	Cowtown	TD Flacco 6 pass to Evans (Bryant,M) (4-70-2:13)	21-10
3 14:44	Cowtown	TD Flacco 19 pass to Evans (Bryant,M) (1-19-0:10)	21-17
3 9:08	Cowtown	FG Bryant 41 (4-8-0:54)	21-20
4 8:47	Seattle	TD Manning 8 pass to Lewis (Lambo) (14-87-7:49)	28-20
4 1:23	Seattle	FG Lambo 41 (9-43-2:13)	31-20

	SEA	COW
First Downs	22	18
Rushes	28-190	24-145
Passes	26-34-214	21-35-190
Sacked	1-4	3-31
Fumble	1	2
Penalties	9-79	10-98
Turnovers	2	0
Missed Tackles	7	9
Dropped Passes	1	0
Bad Passes	1	3
Passes 25+	0	0
Runs 10+	5	4
Blitzers	8	24
Time	30:31	29:29
Third Down	4-12	1-13
Fourth Down	0-0	0-1
Red Att/Td/Fg	3/3/0	6/2/1
Net Offense	400	304



## WEEK ELEVEN

## STANDINGS

PACIFIC CONFERENCE												
East	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
St. Charles	8	3	0	.727	232	21.1	178	16.2	4.9	4 1 0	2 1 0	7 1 0
Bruxelles	6	5	0	.545	247	22.5	214	19.5	3.0	3 3 0	1 2 0	4 4 0
New Jersey	5	7	0	.455	203	18.5	229	20.8	-2.4	3 3 0	2 1 0	4 4 0
Buffalo	3	8	0	.273	151	13.7	237	21.5	-7.8	2 3 0	1 2 0	3 5 0
Central	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Twin Cities	7	4	0	.636	231	21.0	167	15.2	5.8	3 2 0	2 2 0	5 3 0
Viriden	6	5	0	.545	217	19.7	171	15.5	4.2	4 1 0	2 2 0	5 3 0
Charleswood	5	6	0	.455	199	18.1	206	18.7	-0.6	3 2 0	2 2 0	3 5 0
Erieau	4	7	0	.364	127	11.5	236	21.5	-9.9	2 3 0	2 2 0	3 5 0
West	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Chino	6	5	0	.545	260	23.6	244	22.2	1.5	2 3 0	2 1 0	5 3 0
Iowa City	6	5	0	.545	222	20.2	201	18.3	1.9	2 3 0	1 2 0	4 4 0
Los Angeles	4	7	0	.364	161	14.6	214	19.5	-4.8	3 2 0	1 2 0	3 5 0
Seattle	3	8	0	.273	221	20.1	271	24.6	-4.5	1 6 0	2 1 0	2 6 0
ATLANTIC CONFERENCE												
North	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Cowtown	8	3	0	.727	294	26.7	184	16.7	10.0	5 1 0	3 0 0	6 2 0
Sebastian	8	3	0	.727	275	25.0	183	16.6	8.4	6 0 0	2 1 0	5 3 0
Durham	3	8	0	.273	207	18.8	274	24.9	-6.1	2 4 0	1 2 0	2 6 0
Scarborough	1	10	0	.100	76	7.6	198	19.8	-12.2	0 4 0	0 3 0	0 8 0
Coastal	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Brooklin	7	4	0	.636	308	28.0	271	24.6	3.4	3 2 0	2 2 0	4 4 0
Budapest	6	5	0	.545	164	14.9	176	16.0	-1.1	3 2 0	2 2 0	4 4 0
York	6	5	0	.545	217	19.7	174	15.8	3.9	3 2 0	3 1 0	5 3 0
Pickering	6	5	0	.545	261	23.7	233	21.2	2.5	4 2 0	3 1 0	4 4 0
South	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Toronto	8	3	0	.727	223	20.3	173	15.7	4.5	6 0 0	2 1 0	5 3 0
Aurora	7	4	0	.636	273	24.8	224	20.4	4.5	6 1 0	2 1 0	6 2 0
Georgia	6	5	0	.545	218	19.8	232	21.1	-1.3	3 3 0	2 1 0	5 3 0
Cincinnati	3	8	0	.273	200	18.2	294	26.7	-8.5	1 4 0	0 3 0	2 6 0



TOP PASSERS												
Rk	Player	Team	Att	Cmp	C%	Yards	In	I%	Lg	TD	TD%	Rate
1	Smith,A	BRH	387	243	62.8	2901	6	1.6	76	27	7.0	102.4
2	Cutler	TOR	238	145	60.9	1934	6	2.5	71	16	6.7	98.6
3	Brees	SS	387	247	63.8	2577	9	2.3	52	25	6.5	94.9
4	Prescott	CHI	354	224	63.3	2426	7	2.0	60	18	5.1	92.1
5	Flacco	COW	271	169	62.4	1733	4	1.5	68	14	5.2	91.8
6	Brady	YOR	356	217	61.0	2459	9	2.5	53	22	6.2	91.7
7	Rivers	PIC	373	210	56.3	2874	10	2.7	73	22	5.9	89.6
8	Taylor	BUD	269	164	61.0	1743	4	1.5	62	12	4.5	88.6
9	Ryan	AUR	403	243	60.3	2825	10	2.5	66	20	5.0	87.7
10	Roethlisberger	GEO	387	221	57.1	2652	11	2.8	62	22	5.7	85.3
11	Dalton	LAK	223	130	58.3	1323	3	1.3	50	8	3.6	81.7
12	Carr	VV	309	170	55.0	2278	9	2.9	61	14	4.5	81.6
13	Manning	SEA	360	209	58.1	2324	10	2.8	57	16	4.4	80.6
14	Mariota	BRX	334	197	59.0	2388	16	4.8	62	18	5.4	79
15	Goff	NJ	340	195	57.4	2180	11	3.2	75	15	4.4	77.8
16	Cousins	CIN	412	226	54.9	2599	11	2.7	58	15	3.6	75.1
17	Wentz	STC	279	150	53.8	1628	7	2.5	52	10	3.6	72.7
18	Rosen	BUF	216	122	56.5	1321	8	3.7	55	8	3.7	71.5
19	Wilson	ICC	307	172	56.0	1871	10	3.3	41	10	3.3	71.5
20	Trubisky	TCT	179	92	51.4	1260	8	4.5	63	8	4.5	70.5
21	Bortles	CHP	356	198	55.6	1983	11	3.1	42	10	2.8	68.1
22	McCown	LAK	191	106	55.5	1189	9	4.7	49	7	3.7	66.9
23	Stafford	ERI	239	122	51.0	1247	6	2.5	64	6	2.5	64.3
24	Newton	DTL	301	155	51.5	2051	17	5.6	66	11	3.7	62.0
25	Garoppolo	COW	44	33	75.0	485	0	0.0	43	7	15.9	150.1

KICKOFF RETURNERS								PUNT RETURNERS								
Rk	Player	Team	No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD	Rk	Player	Team	No	Fc	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD
1	Patterson	BUF	32	923	28.8	47	0	1	Davis,T	ICC	25	12	302	12.1	93	1
2	Cooper,P	ERI	44	1212	27.5	90	1	2	Campanaro	COW	23	17	276	12.0	86	2
3	Lockett	ICC	24	645	26.9	43	0	3	Agnew	SEA	15	18	151	10.1	36	0
4	Williams,K	GEO	16	412	25.8	42	0	4	Cooper,P	ERI	35	3	330	9.4	22	0
5	Grant,C	CHP	22	565	25.7	79	0	5	Jones,A	NJ	20	2	171	8.6	25	0
6	Smith-Schuster	VV	21	518	24.7	94	1	6	Jackson,A	STC	27	3	229	8.5	16	0
7	Hunt,A	BRX	15	368	24.5	39	0	7	Sherels	BUD	38	13	314	8.3	17	0
8	Bray	CHI	30	734	24.5	36	0	8	Roberts,A	LAK	22	16	176	8.0	17	0
9	Dayes	COW	15	362	24.1	39	0	9	Erickson	BUF	21	11	164	7.8	17	0
10	Switzer	PIC	19	446	23.5	41	0	10	Amendola	YOR	38	11	284	7.5	20	0
11	Bolden Jr.	YOR	21	486	23.1	35	0	11	Ervin	VV	26	14	193	7.4	44	0
12	Lewis,D	STC	17	389	22.9	31	0	12	Alexander	TCT	38	12	279	7.3	17	0
13	Moore,C	SS	15	340	22.7	36	0	13	McCaffrey	CHI	19	12	133	7.0	23	0
14	Roberts,A	LAK	30	677	22.6	36	0	14	Callaway	SS	19	18	125	6.6	28	0
15	Barner	BRH	13	284	21.8	35	0	15	Taylor,T	DTL	25	8	161	6.4	15	0
16	Lewis,T	SBE	21	441	21.0	29	0	16	Barner	BRH	24	12	147	6.1	17	0
17	Foster,D	NJ	12	249	20.8	25	0	17	Crowder	SBE	26	11	151	5.8	12	0
18	Langley	CIN	15	297	19.8	43	0	18	Switzer	PIC	21	9	117	5.6	15	0
19	Agnew	SEA	18	355	19.7	42	0	19	Richard	CHP	38	12	188	4.9	16	0
20	Ballage	AUR	14	270	19.3	31	0	20	Sutton,C	CIN	22	8	72	3.3	9	0



RUSHING LEADERS								RECEIVING LEADERS							
Rk	Player	Team	Att	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD	Rk	Player	Team	No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD
1	Gurley II	COW	201	1162	5.8	66	8	1	Landry	GEO	89	1025	11.5	54	11
2	Hunt,K	SEA	215	1076	5.0	76	6	2	McCaffrey	CHI	77	741	9.6	41	3
3	Bell,L	LAK	265	1014	3.8	30	2	3	Allen,K	CIN	77	1005	13.1	51	6
4	McCoy,L	NJ	240	957	4.0	40	5	4	Hopkins,D	BRH	70	1116	15.9	76	10
5	Gordon,M	TCT	218	949	4.4	47	7	5	Brown,A	TCT	66	942	14.3	63	8
6	Howard,J	SBE	196	895	4.6	58	4	6	Tate,G	PIC	60	1029	17.2	73	11
7	Elliott,E	VV	220	794	3.6	35	7	7	Baldwin,D	SS	60	819	13.7	52	6
8	Fournette	BRX	194	791	4.1	26	7	8	Bell,L	LAK	59	614	10.4	50	4
9	Barkley	TOR	162	734	4.5	37	5	9	Kearse,J	SS	59	664	11.3	34	12
10	Collins,A	GEO	165	725	4.4	55	3	10	Jones,J	BUF	59	690	11.7	35	4
11	Penny	DTL	123	696	5.7	21	1	11	Sanu	CHP	58	637	11.0	23	2
12	Michel	GEO	126	683	5.4	50	1	12	Witten	SS	58	534	9.2	36	2
13	Lynch,M	ERI	163	679	4.2	56	1	13	Smith-Schu	VV	57	1042	18.3	61	7
14	Crowell	BUD	152	677	4.5	49	3	14	Cooks	LAK	56	716	12.8	49	6
15	Anderson,C	SS	148	640	4.3	29	2	15	Kelce,T	BRX	56	721	12.9	52	5
16	Drake	AUR	120	638	5.3	70	2	16	Fitzgerald	COW	55	616	11.2	43	6
17	Powell,B	ICC	108	625	5.8	55	5	17	Parker,D	LAK	55	669	12.2	42	4
18	Ingram,M	CHI	155	623	4.0	33	6	18	Gronkowski	BRH	54	642	11.9	44	5
19	Freeman,D	PIC	121	604	5.0	28	7	19	Stills	GEO	54	828	15.3	62	7
20	Breida	BRH	98	529	5.4	38	2	20	Bryant,D	AUR	54	691	12.8	41	6
21	Freeman,R	TCT	112	525	4.7	48	3	21	Thielen	TOR	53	820	15.5	71	8
22	Lewis,D	STC	114	506	4.4	34	3	22	Thomas,M	STC	51	669	13.1	52	2
23	Chubb,N	YOR	131	488	3.7	22	2	23	Funchess	CIN	50	723	14.5	53	4
24	Henry,D	YOR	127	469	3.7	17	2	24	Decker,E	NJ	50	541	10.8	28	2
25	Stewart,J	BRH	111	464	4.2	27	5	25	Kamara	CHP	50	521	10.4	42	4

INTERCEPTION LEADERS								SACK LEADERS				TACKLE LEADERS			
Rk	Player	Team	No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD	Rk	Player	Team	No.	Rk	Player	Team	No.
1	Slay	TCT	7	67	9.6	37	0	1	Morgan	SBE	13	1	Ogletree	ICC	103
2	Ramsey	TOR	6	55	9.2	23	0	2	Heyward	CHP	13	2	Smith,J	TOR	93
3	White,T	LAK	5	103	20.6	63	1	3	Jones,C	SS	11	3	Jones,D	SBE	91
4	Weddle	TOR	5	74	14.8	44	1	4	Lawrence	CHP	11	4	Mathieu	DTL	80
5	Williams,M	STC	5	66	13.2	35	0	5	Judon	NJ	11	5	Brown,P	AUR	79
6	Jackson,J	CHI	4	114	28.5	47	2	6	Smith,P	BRX	9	6	Mosley	CHP	79
7	Robertson	CHI	4	86	21.5	37	1	7	Kerrigan	COW	8	7	Barrett	STC	78
8	Hayward	ICC	4	34	8.5	30	0	8	Houston,J	ERI	8	8	Kuechly	CIN	77
9	Mills,J	CHP	4	78	19.5	42	1	9	Ingram,M	VV	8	9	Irvin	BUF	77
10	Robinson,P	SS	4	44	11.0	24	0	10	Jordan,C	BUD	8	10	Davis,D	STC	75
11	Howard,X	PIC	4	78	19.5	42	1	11	Campbell,C	BUD	8	11	Ward,D	PIC	74
12	Trufant	CHP	3	10	3.3	10	0	12	Quinn,R	LAK	8	12	Morgan,D	SBE	73
13	Fuller,K	BRX	3	2	0.7	2	0	13	Suggs	BRX	7	13	Woodyard	ERI	73
14	Grimes	BRH	3	78	26.0	59	0	14	Bennett,M	LAK	7	14	Jackson,K	SEA	73
15	Evans,R	BUF	3	29	9.7	26	0	15	Davenport	AUR	7	15	Watt,T	COW	72
16	Smith,T	PIC	3	86	28.7	37	1	16	Clayborn	NJ	6	16	Clowney	SS	72
17	Butler,M	NJ	3	84	28.0	43	0	17	Houston,L	BUD	6	17	Jewell	ICC	71
18	Shazier	CHI	3	29	9.7	16	0	18	Clowney	SS	6	18	Trufant	CHP	70
19	Smith,P	BRX	3	39	13.0	18	0	19	Donald	BUF	6	19	Reid,E	ERI	70
20	Bouye	ICC	3	58	19.3	25	1	20	Matthews,C	BRH	6	20	Mingo	SEA	70

#### SCORING LEADERS



Rk	Player	Team	FG	XP	2Pt	Run	Rec	Int	KR	PR	Fmb	Sf	Tot
1	Hauschka	STC	20	22	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	82
2	Gurley II	COW	0	0	0	8	5	0	0	0	0	0	78
3	Bryant,M	COW	15	33	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	78
4	Kearse,J	SS	0	0	0	0	12	0	0	0	0	0	72
5	Gonzalez	VV	16	22	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	70
6	Tucker,J	ICC	15	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	70
7	Landry	GEO	0	0	1	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	68
8	Tate,G	PIC	0	0	0	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	66
9	Parkey	BRH	11	31	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	64
10	Vinatieri	SS	12	27	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	63
11	Lutz	AUR	10	33	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	63
12	Zuerlein	PIC	11	30	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	63
13	Hopkins,D	BRH	0	0	1	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	62
14	Hunt,K	SEA	0	0	1	6	4	0	0	0	0	0	62
15	Hyde,C	DTL	0	0	0	9	1	0	0	0	0	0	60
16	Bailey,D	CHI	10	30	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	60
17	Catanzaro	BRX	10	29	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	59
18	Lambo	SEA	11	24	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	57
19	Boswell	NJ	12	21	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	57
20	Carlson	TOR	11	24	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	57
21	Fournette	BRX	0	0	1	7	2	0	0	0	0	0	56
22	Succop	CHP	12	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	55
23	Gano	YOR	10	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	55
24	Gostkowski	ERI	15	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	55
25	Forbath	BUD	14	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	54
26	Tavecchio	GEO	10	22	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	52
27	Elliott,J	BUF	14	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	51
28	Jones Jr.	CHI	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	48
29	Smith-Schuster	VV	0	0	0	0	7	0	1	0	0	0	48
30	Brown,A	TCT	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	48
31	Thielen	TOR	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	48
32	Freeman,D	PIC	0	0	0	7	1	0	0	0	0	0	48
33	Fairbairn	LAK	10	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	47
34	Hopkins,D	TCT	6	27	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	45
35	Walsh,B	CIN	7	23	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	44

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	Hauschka	STC	25	20	80.0	8	2	53	82	1	Kern	BRX	51	2536	5	17	71	0	49.7
2	Bryant,M	COW	20	15	75.0	3	0	44	78	2	Colquitt,B	SEA	50	2476	1	18	58	0	49.5
3	Gonzalez	VV	19	16	84.2	4	0	49	70	3	Lee,A	BUF	51	2490	1	12	64	0	48.8
4	Tucker,J	ICC	22	15	68.2	8	5	56	70	4	Kaser	BUD	66	3195	10	20	80	0	48.4
5	Parkey	BRH	17	11	64.7	4	2	55	64	5	Hekker	COW	60	2902	2	28	61	0	48.4
6	Vinatieri	SS	14	12	85.7	6	1	51	63	6	O'Donnell	NJ	58	2783	6	20	77	0	48.0
7	Zuerlein	PIC	19	11	57.9	4	2	51	63	7	Morstead	DTL	45	2147	4	14	67	0	47.7
8	Lutz	AUR	16	10	62.5	2	0	46	63	8	King,M	TOR	76	3596	2	36	70	0	47.3
9	Bailey,D	CHI	16	10	62.5	5	1	51	60	9	Colquitt,D	SBE	67	3153	4	18	70	0	47.1
10	Catanzaro	BRX	22	10	45.5	6	4	57	59	10	Lechler	STC	59	2750	3	27	62	0	46.6
11	Boswell	NJ	19	12	63.2	5	0	46	57	11	Way	CHI	43	1985	2	14	58	0	46.2
12	Lambo	SEA	19	11	57.9	3	1	52	57	12	Jones,D	YOR	57	2621	1	28	55	0	46.0





# AROUND THE



## With Spats McChad

NEW YORK – As markets tumble across the board our trade war with China is accruing most of the blame in the mainstream media. Undoubtedly, the existence, or even just the prospect, of a trade war between the world's two leading economies has investors cautious, if not fully spooked. However, in reading the business news a little deeper there are other factors at play.

For example, the worst drop in stock value last Friday came in the health care sector. This is an area that has very little if anything to do with China. Why did it drop? It seems that *Johnson & Johnson* – a major company in the S&P 500 health care sector – dropped over 10% on news that it had been keeping the presence of carcinogenic asbestos in its baby powder from regulators and consumers.

There are many problems with this news that go far beyond the drop in the stock price. *Johnson & Johnson* not informing consumers and regulators about the presence of a harmful substance in its products is bad enough. What I find outrageous is that they sold it to the public fully aware that in some cases, levels of asbestos were “rather high.” Almost as disturbing is that this news is not making front page headlines and has to be found buried in the business news section.

Instead of blaring to the rafters that a ubiquitous substance used on babies might be causing cancer, we are force-fed tripe about the President supposedly “colluding” with Russia to influence the US election. While the special report from Reuters on killer talcum powder cites the company's own records – in other words, “evidence” – I have yet to read a single piece of evidence in the news that there is even a *basis* for the Special Counsel's investigation; one that has been going on for over 19 months now. Let all of this sink in for a bit. What does that say about our major media outlets?

If you are wondering why people voted for Trump, one of the reasons might have to do with the constant attacks on him by mainstream organs of a fourth estate that more and more people are coming to realize does not have the interests and welfare of the people in mind.

### **TWITTER DOCTOR**

The collision did not catch the announcers' notice when it happened. Only when New Jersey's *Alfred Morris* was slow to get up and LA's star linebacker, *Sean Lee* stayed on the ground did it attract official attention. Replays showed Morris, acting in an unfamiliar blocking role in the two-back set he shared with *Alfred Blue*, lunged forward to block Lee as Blue cut left to follow tackle *James Hurst*. But Morris slipped on the turf and nosedived toward his target, contacting Lee's left leg just above the ankle with his helmet. Lee immediately buckled and fell as the play continued around him. After spending a couple of minutes on the grass, he got up with the help of trainers and shuffled off the field.

Within minutes the Twitter account [@TheFootballDoctor](#) offered this assessment for concerned Knight's fans:

“Based on the angle of impact shown on the video and the forcing inward of the lower fibula, this could be a rare eversion ankle sprain. Depending on the severity should take between 3 and 8 weeks to heal. Don't expect to see [@SeanLee\\_50](#) return.”

Later that week, the Knights announced that Lee would be out for 4 to 5 weeks with a lower ankle sprain. It was another in a growing list of successful long-distance diagnoses from [@TheFootballDoctor](#).

[@TheFootballDoctor](#) is **Dr. Richard Choo**, a former doctor with the Death Valley Undertakers, who has developed a widespread following diagnosing EFL injuries on social media in real time through video. His uncanny accuracy has made him the go-to source for fantasy players and in-game sports bettors trying to gain an edge.

“My experience on the sideline treating players taught me a lot about the common football injuries,” Choo explains in *Deathspun's* recent attempt at an exposé, ‘*Twitter Doctor*.’ “I'm no different from any normal fan or sports writer watching the games, except that I have a medical degree and firsthand exposure to many of these injuries.”

But the impact of Choos' ever-growing reputation and popularity make him anything but a “normal fan.” His tweets and interviews regarding high profile injuries are having an immediate affect on betting lines and fantasy plays – even on the player's themselves. The same week that Choo made the call on Lee's ankle injury, Georgia corner, *Sean Smith* suffered a hamstring pull in his right leg while trying to mirror Sebastian wide receiver, *Jermaine Kearse*. Smith hobbled off the field with the assistance of trainers and immediately went to the dressing room instead of the medical tent on the sideline. The reason? He wanted to get to his phone and “*check out the football doctor on Twitter*” to find out what he had just suffered.

“*Reviewing a video is no substitute for a proper diagnosis*,” cautions **Dr. Albert Finney**, head of the EFL Physician's





**Cam Newton** with **Drake** at Drake's Toronto restaurant, 'Pick 6ix.' Newton has signed a deal with his new-found buddy to promote the restaurant as a destination for visiting athletes and their families. "We both think it's a great fit," Drake explained, claiming no connection between the deal and the benched Durham quarterback's recent tendency to throw TDs to the opposing team.

Association. "A doctor may be in a better position than other people to make an educated guess, but it is still a guess."

Dr. Choo does not have a perfect record. And when things go wrong, it can be embarrassing. For example, back in Week Four, when Brooklin tackle **Gerald McCoy** sacked Bruxelles quarterback **Marcus Mariota** and landed with his full weight upon him, [@TheFootballDoctor](#) tweeted:

"This looks bad. [@Geraldini93](#) weighs 300lbs and drove all that weight down on the fully exposed chest of Marcus Mariota. From the look on Mariota's face he has at least a half dozen broken ribs, probably a broken clavicle and maybe even a punctured lung. That will put him out for 4 to 8 weeks."

This instant prognosis had an immediate effect on the in-game betting line, driving Brooklin up to 24-point favourites in a game they were already winning by 16. It also prompted an immediate downgrade in the Bombers' odds to win the Gale Sayers trophy. Back-up QB, **Landry**

**Jones** finished the series but Mariota was back under center for the Bombers' next possession and promptly led his team to a TD in game the Bombers would eventually lose by 5. Later, [@TheFootballDoctor](#) tweeted:

"Didn't know about Mariota's flak jacket. Oops, sorry!"

It is this probability of error and lack of accountability that has critics taking aim at Dr. Choo with a view to restricting his media exposure or eliminating it entirely. While no law prevents anybody from offering their opinion on what they see on television (it's what announcers and analysts do for a living) Choo's status as a medical professional can be targeted through complaints to the Medical Board in the State where he practices.

In fact, Choo has already had his licence revoked in Michigan following a professional misconduct complaint while he was physician for the Undertakers. He was accused of prescribing a "zombie bite" to chronically injured **Brent Grimes** in order to turn him into a zombie. This was apparently at the behest of Death Valley coach, **Chris Worthley**, who had explained in defence of Choo at the Board Hearing: "Zombies can't get injured unless you blow their heads off." It was considered a very serious complaint at the time. Prior to the tactical nuclear strike that wiped out Hell, Michigan and forced the move of the Undertakers' franchise to Santa Clara, there was a thriving zombie population there, many of which had season tickets to the Graveyard where the Undertakers played.

But Dr. Choo, who resides in Puerto Rico and works part time as a medical consultant for the Puerto Rico Soccer League, is well beyond the reach of State Authorities in the US. And although complaints have been filed in California and Florida, medical authorities, in general, and professional colleagues who know him, do not seem hellbent on stripping Choo of his medical licence.

"From what I recall, he was a pretty good doctor before he got in with that Worthley fellow," former classmate at the University of New Mexico School of Medicine, and former partner in an Albuquerque Walk-In Clinic, **Dr. Howard Buttrell** told *Deathspun*. "Prescribing a zombie bite isn't very smart, but either is over-prescribing something like Xanax or Fentanyl, which happens a lot."

Other people have attempted to get in on Choo's act; or a variant of it, using the power of Social Media to provide a service. Homeopathic nutritionist, **Hasbring Yuttipandi**, [@FootballFoodie](#), is providing nutritional advice to individual athletes and entire teams based on what he sees on television. As the performance of North Stars' running back, **Isaiah Crowell** degraded in the middle of the team's long mid-season road trip, Yuttipandi tweeted:

"[@IsaiahCrowell34](#) need to increase fiber in your diet. Avocado strawberry coconut milk smoothie with golden flax booster every morning should do the trick."

When Crowell took the advice and ran for 118 yards on just 15 carries two weeks later versus Pickering, Yuttipandi's social media following more than quadrupled the next week and has been growing ever since.

Former Cubs and Knights' journeyman quarterback, **Brodie Croyle** now has a Twitter account, [@InTheHuddle](#), and a simultaneous podcast where he guesses plays before the snap based simply on what he sees on television. This is limited by how many games he can watch at once, so he focuses on two at a time based on user input. His 83% success rate is simultaneously intriguing and alarming to coaching staffs across the league. Already, play-callers of a half-dozen EFL teams have assistants standing next to them



with I-Pads monitoring [@InTheHuddle](#) in real time.

Fans and writers are amazed at Croyle's football acumen and openly wonder why he was not very successful as a player at the professional level. One of Croyle's college football assistant coaches explains:

"Brodie was smart as heck, but he didn't have much physical talent," claims old-timer **Bo Snyder**, special assistant to Alabama coach at the time, **Mike Price**. "At least not enough talent for the pro game. Good arm, but as an athlete he was weak, physically weak and kind of clumsy too, which kept screwing up his knees."

What does all of this mean, dear readers? It means that social media has incredible power to establish and rebuild careers virtually out of thin air. And as quickly as they are built, they can disappear. The empires they build are as ephemeral as the energy that drives the medium. It also means there is a lot more information about football coming at the speed of light from all kinds of sources all at once, all the time. It is far too much for one person to process. So, my advice to all of you is: don't even try to nail it all down. Just sit back, enjoy the game and let your football instincts guide you – like I do. And I'm rarely wrong.

### **JOSHING AROUND**

Has Durham coach, **George Kaldis**, given up on the 2018 season? At Joe Ferguson Stadium in Iowa City the Thunder Lizards started no.18 overall draft pick, **Josh Allen** for the second straight week, leading many observers to conclude just that. It appears that the team has decided to move on from their top free agent acquisition in 2017, **Cam Newton**, and is willing to jettison the 2018 season to see what they have in the young rookie. The Durham coach denies it, however. At his Friday press conference before his team's Week Eleven game in Iowa, Kaldis flatly disputed the repeated insinuations from reporters that the team is, in effect, tanking.

"Josh gives us our best chance to win now," Kaldis stated in a clipped monotone, evidently trying to conceal his annoyance. "I take exception to your suggestion that we have, somehow, given up. Josh was a first round pick for a reason!"

Kaldis has reason to be defensive. Allen's start in Week Ten was nothing to get excited about. Against one of the worst-performing defences in the league he was sacked 8 times, completed just 9 passes, threw 3 interceptions and fumbled. His one saving play was a 2-yard touchdown pass to **Carlos Hyde** on 4<sup>th</sup> down, where he nimbly side-stepped the pass rush and ran around long enough to find Hyde open a half-yard inside the end zone. It was a sign of what he might be able to accomplish on a regular basis, once he catches up to the game. Technically, it was better than Newton's performance the previous week against the Mustangs; at least Allen threw a touchdown pass. And so, Allen was to be given another shot in Week 11, against a better team in the Cubs.

Nobody in Durham buys the company line. Newton has been awful, but at least he looks like he knows what he's doing. He's just not doing it. And that may be what lies at the root of the coach's decision. If the quarterback isn't buying into the program, isn't focused on game day and is distracted during the week by the attractions of a large and up-and-coming city like Toronto, maybe it's time to develop the quarterback of the future, a keen rookie who is at last trying and can be molded, even at the expense of a season.

Nevertheless, giving up on a season in Week Ten, when the wildcard teams are beating each other up at an unprecedented rate, is not a good play in a place like Durham, where fans are accustomed to their team being at or near the top of the pack every year. Kaldis has been on the receiving end of an increasing barrage of local and national media criticism for his coaching decisions this year and his hardline approach to Newton. For the first time, some are calling for the coach's head.

Nobody is ready to predict a firing, however. While the fans and local media are incensed, Kaldis' position is still considered one of the safest in the league. He has a history of winning and team owner, **Celine Dion** is reputedly oblivious to the football operation. She focuses most of her attention on Jurassic Park itself and, lately, her exotic new restaurant on the stadium grounds, *Mesozo*, featuring internationally acclaimed transgendered French-Tibetan chef, **Mister Suze-Anne Karma**. Dion is typically happy to sign the cheques and leave the football side to the "savage men who know such business."

However, my inside sources claim Kaldis' tenure as coach is under threat for reasons only indirectly related to the quarterback controversy that currently engulfs the football team. **Celine Dion** is reportedly very angry at Kaldis for dragging his heels on the installment of a gender neutral change area in the Thunder Lizards' dressing room and for declining an invitation to dine at *Mesozo* with her and Canadian Prime Minister, **Justin Trudeau**. She is also, according to my sources, horrified at innuendo that systemic racism in the Thunder Lizards' organization may be at the root of Newton's benching; something she vows to "investigate."

The situation behind the scenes in Durham is getting ugly and may be ready to hit the boiling point after the Lizards' 20-14 loss to the Cubs this week. As documented previously in my column, the Cubs are experiencing their own brand of troubles this season. The fact that they remain in the playoff hunt despite these troubles is keeping the Iowa wolves at bay for now. But the Cubs were certainly a team ripe for picking this week playing in front of an irritable home crowd that came to the stadium expecting to see a long-awaited blowout against a 3-7 basket case being led by a raw rookie. Instead, they were forced to watch in near panic as their defence hang on for dear life trying to keep that dazed and confused rookie out of the end zone in the final 30 seconds of a 6-point game.

Allen's slightly improved statistical showing – from a QB rating of 22.7 in Week 10 to 44.0 and 6 fewer sacks in Week 11 – was not enough to mollify a Durham fanbase and media who believed they had just seen an opportunity for a victory pass them by. With Newton on the field there had always been hope that he would throw or run for a touchdown on the *next* drive, no matter what he had done or not done the drive before. In Allen's case, the only hope was that he would avoid turning the ball over and maybe make a first down or two to give his defence a rest. Allen was failing the eyeball test miserably.

As Allen was joshing around on the football field, his highly paid back-up was hanging with rapper, Drake and his body guards



at Drake's personal tent behind the visitors' sideline. Since Newton signed an endorsement contract to promote Drake's 'Pick 6ix' Toronto restaurant and Drake signed an agreement with Celine Dion's management company to be an "Ambassador" for the Thunder Lizards, Drake and his entourage have become a fixture on the Durham sideline at games.

Wearing his shoulder pads without a jersey and sporting a white bowler hat with the letters N T embroidered on its face, **Cam Newton** laid down a diss track with **Drake** which he podcast live during the game. Rapping under his stage name, *New Tone*, Cam clumsily rattled off the words to a track he called 'Durham State of Mind':

*Ayo, my fans, it's time, it's time, to blow the old Durham state of mind,  
Call the plays in a haze in a maze like rats in a cage, hey yo coach! What you sayz?  
You complain about losing, but who dat you foolin, not me, not driz, not the rook that you choosin',  
Your miss is a kissing you bye 'cause she knows, that you do what you doin' 'cause you know that it blows,  
But I'm here now, I'll be now for four years you'll hear how, I'll make it, like shake it, while you bake it,  
Beyond the walls of lizards, life is defined, I think of winning when I'm in a Durham state of mind!*

The so-called diss track was posted on YouTube and the views were piling up by the hundreds of thousands every hour as of this writing. Worse for the coach, owner **Celine Dion** tweeted that she "liked" the track and suggested that *New Tone* could get a special spot on her Vegas show in the Spring. Drake has already offered to help Newton make an official recording and music video.

Coach Kaldis refused to address the on-field rapping during his post-game presser but he was clearly very tense as he focused on what he saw as "progress" from his rookie quarterback. "It's a process that Josh is going through, so we have to be patient," he concluded.

It's a process alright. One that might see Durham's original and only coach and GM fired sooner rather than later.

### **AROUND THE EFL**

At Tillman Field in Cowtown, the Pilots shocked the football world with 31-20 ambush of the Corn Kings. In theory, I could see this one coming. It was the proverbial "trap game" for surging Cowtown after they had pounded the first place Wolverines in Week 10 and looked ahead to a vital division match-up against Scarborough in Week 12. Seattle was weak and on the skids. **Jimmy Garoppolo** had been cleared to play but was kept out to ensure he would be 100% for the stretch run. **Ronald Darby** was similarly ready to go but was deactivated "just to make sure." Injuries to the offensive line warranted no mention in the pre-game analysis. But even with all those ingredients I did not see this one coming, because I thought the Corn Kings were above that kind of letdown. I was wrong. Instead, what we witnessed was a motivated Pilots team playing to prove something after getting punched out by feeble Buffalo the previous week. **Kareem Hunt** blasted through the Corn Kings' line like a cannonball, breaking a 22-yarder and scoring from 5 yards out two plays later on the opening drive; and exploding for a 56-yard TD run on the second drive, defying the feeble clutching and grabbing of a defence that was actually keying on him. **Eli Manning** was in rare form, completing his first 10 pass attempts and throwing a 17-yard TD to **Michael Crabtree** to cap off a 21-point first quarter! The Corn Kings recovered – almost. After putting together a string of 20 points to pull within 1 in the third, they let it go again. The Seattle offence finished almost as strong as it had started, mounting a punishing 87-yard touchdown drive in the 4<sup>th</sup> and adding a game-clinching field goal with less than 2 minutes remaining. The lesson for readers and me: don't assume anything in the topsy-turvy season that is 2018 in the EFL.

Continuing in the category of big road upsets, the Patriots slapped down the Mustangs at Magna Park, 37-24. Yes, I know the Mustangs are not the team they were in 2017, but the consensus remains that they are still better than the Pats. At home, with a division to play for, they did not lack for motivation. The 4-6 Pats, while theoretically in the race and not considered a pushover, were a team on the ropes after losing three of their last four. The return of **DeShaun Watson** was a wild card that called for some caution in predicting an Aurora stroll in the park. But a Patriot win was still obviously a longshot. What fans witnessed was eerily reminiscent of the Patriots' 2015 Championship victory over the Mustangs. The Pats' defence went on the attack, continually beating the Aurora offensive line to the punch at the line of scrimmage and routinely collapsing the pocket around **Matt Ryan**. The result was 8 sacks, a forced fumble returned for a touchdown and a boatload of pressures – both real and imagined – that forced 4 interceptions. Give Ryan credit for still dropping back a total of 66 times and putting his life on the line under such hazardous conditions. He fought to the end even when there was no hope of rallying the win. His counterpart on the other side made the kind of mistakes one might expect from a young quarterback coming off a long injury. He threw 3 interceptions and displayed inconsistent accuracy. But he also made some big plays, including long TD passes to **Alvin Kamara** and **James Washington**. Kamara was the offensive star, finishing with 152 total yards and 2 touchdowns. This outcome changes the Pats' situation dramatically. Not only did they come away with a needed win, they showed that they can not only compete with, but put down a strong opponent in convincing fashion. Watch out for Charleswood down the stretch!

At Georgia Stadium, the Triumph took advantage of good old Southern hospitality to skunk the Gladiators 21-0. The massive breakfast buffet, sponsored by Greensboro area *Biscuitville* laid out by the Gladiators for guests every home date was apparently well-received by Triumph defenders. **Jurrell Casey** and **Danielle Hunter**, who together wiped out the supply of pork chop biscuit, had two sacks and a forced fumble each. **Darius Slay** reportedly demolished 6 bowls of oatmeal and **Nigel Bradham** devoured 9 sausage and egg biscuits, fueling 7 tackles each and a forced fumble and interception for Slay. **Jerry Hughes** broke a month-long special diet by engulfing a stack of 12 pancakes and washing it down with 2 litres of iced tea. He notched a sack a stuff



and forced a **Blaine Gabbert** fumble on the first play after **Big Ben** had his bell rung by Hunter in the third quarter. Hunter, who savaged Glads' right tackle **Chris Hubbard** all afternoon, credited the buffet with his performance and took an indirect shot at his own coach: *"We never had food like that back home. We get that Birdie Burger stuff that coach's restaurant serves us and it never feels like I'm full,"* he said after the game. While Big Ben played a lot like **Big Boob** on this day, it was hard to blame him entirely for his three-interception performance. None of the picks were of the typical **Big Boob** variety; the kind where he stands unmolested in the pocket for 5 seconds while his open receivers wave at him then throws the ball directly to the opposing safety. Ben was under severe pressure on a day when his running game could not gain traction. All in all it was a bad day for Georgia and they will pay a price for the lapse by falling another game behind Toronto in the race for the South Division title. For the Triumph, the victory installs them in first place in the Central, after their main rival laid an egg in Toronto. Read on....

At the Wolverines' Den in Toronto, the Violators' offence showed just how much **Ezekiel Elliott** means to them by dropping a 13-6 decision to their hosts. Delicate ex-star running back, **Jamaal Charles** filled in for "Zeke." While he posted nice numbers – 130 yards on 24 carries – they came against a Toronto 'D' that did not respect the run and laid in wait for those critical moments when **Derek Carr** was forced to go to the air. The strategy paid off in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half with the Wolverines protecting a vulnerable 7-point lead. Interceptions by **Trevor Williams** and **Jalen Ramsey** – the latter turning back a rare red zone foray by the Virden offence – helped to hold off the attempted Virden rally and give the home squad an essential win. With it, Toronto takes sole possession of 1<sup>st</sup> place in the South while the Violators fall 1 game behind the Triumph in the Central.

At St. Charles Stadium, a revitalized **Tyrod Taylor** led Budapest to an eyebrow-raising 27-17 win over the East Division-leading Chargers. This was another game that went against the grain of expectations. Taylor, who had thrown just one touchdown in his previous 4 games, threw three against a St. Charles defence that coming into the game ranked no.1 overall in points-allowed and no.1 in TD pass percentage against. What caused Taylor's switch to flip into the 'ON' position is not entirely clear, but he certainly got help from the Charger defence; they looked unsure of themselves all afternoon and were often slow to react to the play. **Darrin Jones**, who has been facing pressure from fans and media to start **Baker Mayfield**, was quick to credit Taylor's 'dual-threat' as one reason for the unusual success of his offence: *"The Chargers' defence was clearly respecting Tyrod's ability to extend plays and take off running,"* Jones claimed in the post-game presser. The loss brought another controversy to the narrative in St. Charles. The Chargers opted to insert **Jacoby Brissett** at quarterback over **Carson Wentz** when starter **Sam Bradford** went down to injury in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter. The 7<sup>th</sup> round pick in the 2016 EFL draft had attempted just 14 passes in his two previous seasons with the club and had shown no signs of being ready to take over. Brissett posted respectable numbers, throwing for 285 yards and 2 TDs, but struggled to sustain offensive pressure as the North Stars built up their lead. Getting a reason out of coach, **John Clingan** after the game was impossible. *"Look, it was my call based on the situation. I'm not going to second guess myself and I'm not going to tell you what factors I consider during the game. Carson was healthy, but I did not feel he was the best option."* It's an awkward time for a QB controversy in St. Charles. Wentz had not been meeting expectations statistically, but the team had won 7 out of his 9 starts.

At Camelot in Avalon, the Excaliburs dropped their third game in a row, falling 23-17 in overtime to the Bombers. Evidently still sore after being pummelled relentlessly in last week's "throwback rules" game in Budapest, **Tom Brady** did not look overly sharp. He made two critical errors that indirectly led to his team's demise. With the game tied at 10 in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter and York driving in Bruxelles territory, Brady overthrew a wide open **Delanie Walker** and saw the pass picked off by safety **Tashaun Gipson**, who returned it 62 yards to the York 14-yard line. Four plays later, **Leonard Fournette** was in the end zone for a 17-10 Bombers lead. Although Brady redeemed himself by leading a game-tying touchdown drive two possession later, he was unable to finish off a last-minute drive, sending the game into overtime. York won the toss and elected to receive. But on the first snap from scrimmage, Brady muffed the exchange and **Muhammad Wilkerson** smothered the ball at the Swords' 24-yard line. The Bombers' offence drove the ball down the throats of the demoralized York defence and ended their misery on a 3-yard bootleg by **Marcus Mariota** for win. With the Chargers' loss, the Bombers are now two games out of the East. With a QB controversy bubbling in St. Charles, don't count the Bombers out just yet.

And finally, at the Fish Tank in Sebastian, the Swordfish took advantage of Cowtown's slip against the Pilots to draw even in the North Division with a 37-17 snuffing out of the Convicts. **Drew Brees** threw 5 touchdown passes, 3 of those to his newfound favourite receiver, **Jermaine Kearse**. The relatively obscure Kearse is getting an opportunity to shine with **Odell Beckham** haunting the sidelines for no apparent reason; he has 8 touchdown catches in the last 5 games and a 12 in total on the season. Meanwhile, Chino's **Dak Prescott** had another shaky outing after being feted as a potential MVP candidate only three weeks earlier. He completed just 41% of his pass attempts and threw 2 interceptions in the loss.

The races are heating up, folks! This may be one of those rare years where everything is in play in the season's final week.





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

## PLAYOFF PICTURE AT A GLANCE

### PACIFIC CONFERENCE





#### EAST

IN	ALIVE	OUT
 1	 1	
	 2	
	 6	

#### CENTRAL





IN	ALIVE	OUT
 2	 3	
 W	 4	

#### WEST





IN	ALIVE	OUT
 3	 5	
 W	 7	

### ATLANTIC CONFERENCE





#### NORTH

IN	ALIVE	OUT
 1	 6	
 W		

#### COASTAL

IN	ALIVE	OUT
 3	 2	
	 3	
	 4	

#### SOUTH

IN	ALIVE	OUT
 2	 1	
 W	 5	

## Jimmy's WEEK TWELVE PICKS

### GAMES TO WATCH

#### CHINO @ TWIN CITIES (line – CONVICTS by 3)

**INJURIES:** Chino – Ryan Kalil (OUT); Twin Cities – Joe Thomas (OUT), CJ Beathard (OUT), Kwon Alexander (OUT), Montae Nicholson (OUT), Jake Fisher (OUT).

I have not yet dissed the Convicts but I am sure their locker room will read it as such that I am not onboard with the Vegas theory that they should walk into Wilhalla Stadium and win by a field goal. I am not saying they cannot; only that it should not be expected. There is a difference. The felons are on a bit of a slide due to a faltering attack. Dak Prescott has won a lot of goodwill with his overall play, but there is no hiding the fact that he played a significant role in the team's two-game losing streak. With 4 interceptions to just 1 touchdown in those two games, it is easy to lay all the blame on him. But Mark Ingram has not been breaking tackles and defences appear ready for Christian McCaffery as a target out of the backfield. The Triumph, on the other hand, are on a mini-roll since the return of Carson Palmer. The veteran isn't really lighting it up, but it is clear that defences are paying more respect to the passing game and opening up holes for the Triumph running backs. And let's not forget the Triumph defence; it brought out the Boob



in Big Ben in their shutout against Georgia last week. Take the hot ticket at home. **PICK: TWIN CITIES**

### **GEORGIA @ YORK (line – EXCALIBURS by 6)**

**INJURIES:** **Georgia** – Tremaine Edmunds (OUT), Jimmy Smith (OUT), Mike Iupati (OUT); **York** –Denzelle Goode (OUT), William Hayes (OUT).

York is fighting on two fronts with the division still within its reach and the Gladiators a viable player in the wild card race. But the Swords have run into some tough luck, losing very close games the past two weeks. A fumbled snap by Tom Brady was the culprit last week, setting up game-winning score in OT. But the future hall-of-famer must shake it off and move on. While not quite the proverbial “must-win” game for either team, it is a game both teams really need if they hope to have any margin of error heading into the final quarter of the regular season. Georgia is also on a two-game losing streak and is watching helplessly as Toronto continues to rise at the top of the division and Aurora holds the fort with the second wildcard. Like the Swords, the Glads need a big game from heir quarterback. Big Boob was wearing no.7 behind center last week, throwing 3 picks, losing a fumble and throwing wildly in a shutout loss to the Triumph. If a hint of that version appears here against the York secondary, it won’t be close. **PICK: YORK**

### **VIRDEN @ IOWA CITY (line – VIOLATORS by 1)**

**INJURIES:** **Virden** – Ja’Wuan James (OUT), Deone Bucannon (OUT), Noah Spence (OUT), John Kuhn (OUT), Eric Berry (OUT), Ezekiel Elliott (OUT), Marshall Yanda (OUT), Neville Hewitt (OUT), Malik Hooker (OUT); **Iowa City** – None.

Nobody is taking Cubs supremacy for granted anymore, even after winning two games straight to revive their hopes for the division title. They find they are pegged as the underdog at home against a Violators team that will be missing its best offensive player, Ezekiel Elliott. That’s quite a fall from grace. But Jamaal Charles looked reborn coming off the bench in Virden’s loss to Toronto last week, offering hope that the Violators can find their ground game anyway against arguably the worst run defence in the league. Despite this, Cubs’ fans are not overly worried about their team’s defence. They are nervous about the offence, which is mired in the middle of the pack, well below expectations for a unit captained by Russell Wilson. It is hard for a team to put up big numbers when its no.1 receiver has 9 drops already and catches less than 50% of his targets. No question about it, Wilson is on his own this year. There are a few of us who think that might actually be just enough to knock off an ailing Virden team. **PICK: IOWA CITY**

### **AURORA @ BROOKLIN (line – HAWKS by 4)**

**INJURIES:** **Aurora** – Wayne Gallman (OUT), Duane Brown (OUT), Zach Miller (OUT); **Brooklin** – Jake Ryan (QUESTIONABLE), Randall Cobb (OUT), Trai Turner (OUT), Vontaze Burfict (OUT).

The Mustangs were blindsided by a ferocious Pats’ defence last week. Matt Ryan was abused worse than he was in the 2015 Championship, turning the ball over five times and getting victimized by 8 sacks. In spite of the beating, he kept chucking the ball downfield right up until his team’s final possession in a vain attempt to come back. That Mustangs fight is one reason they have been so dominant the past four years, so expect them to come into Brooklin looking to take out their frustrations on the rather rickety Hawks’ defence. This has all the makings of a traditional “barn-burner” with Brooklin’s no.1 ranked offence fully healthy and not intimidated by Aurora’s fading defence. Both teams are in the playoffs if the season ended right now, but both are looking to improve their positions in the seeding. I expect the last team to have the ball will be the winner in a close contest. **PICK: MUSTANGS**

## **GAMES OF NOTE**

### **BRUXELLES @ NEW JERSEY (line – BOMBERS by 1)**

**INJURIES:** **Bruxelles** – Frank Ragnow (OUT), Chris Thompson (OUT), Chris Conley (OUT), Jason Verrett (IR); **New Jersey** – Kentrell Brice (OUT), Jeremy Maclin (OUT), Chidobe Awuzie (OUT), Jeremy Kerley (OUT).

score. **PICK:**

The Bombers come into Stone Pony Shore one-game ahead of the Wrecking Balls and the no.1 runner-up to a wildcard berth. This is not an ideal position for last year’s Pacific Conference champs but they will take it given their slow start to the season. They are coming off a dramatic overtime road win – an upset over York – and look to capitalize on that positive vibe and avenge a Week One loss against a New Jersey team reeling slightly from two straight losses. The Balls did not play all that badly last week but still gave the appearance of being blown out by the Hawks thanks to a 2<sup>nd</sup> half breakdown on both sides of the ball. They look like a different team from week-to-week but the pattern so far indicates that, however they win or lose, they tend to do neither more than two weeks in a row. Riding a two-game losing streak, the home team is due for a win. **PICK: NEW JERSEY**



## **CHARLESWOOD @ LOS ANGELES (line – PATRIOTS by 1)**

**INJURIES:** **Charleswood** – Marcus Gilbert (QUESTIONABLE), Jamie Collins (DOUBTFUL), Marcus Cannon (OUT), Jamarco Jones (OUT); **Los Angeles** – Vernon Hargreaves III (QUESTIONABLE), Alex Boone (QUESTIONABLE), Bryan Bulaga (OUT), Terrance West (OUT), Weston Richburg (OUT), Sean Lee (OUT).

Just when the Knights seemed destined for the basement, they turn it around and win three in a row. Believe it or not, this actually puts them back in the playoff discussion, although they still have their work cut out for them. The buzz surrounding the return of DeShaun Watson to the Pats' line-up was eclipsed by the command performance of their defence last week in their big win over Aurora. While the offence looked to have more potential with Watson behind center, it is the defence that gives the Pats real hope of coming-from-behind to top a central division that still remains up for grabs. Similarly, it is the Knights' defence that gives them their best chance to win. In this battle of the defences, take the one that blew away the league champs last week. **PICK: CHARLESWOOD**

## **SEBASTIAN @ DURHAM (line – SWORDFISH by 5)**

**INJURIES:** **Sebastian** – Aaron Lynch (OUT), Shawn Lauvao (OUT), D'Onta Foreman (OUT), Arik Armstead (OUT), Menelik Watson (OUT), Darren Sproles (OUT); **Durham** – Devontae Booker (OUT), Terron Armstead (OUT), Josh Gordon (OUT), Ryan Kelly (OUT).

The Swordfish got a five-TD performance from Drew Brees last week but it was their defence, that bottled up Dak Prescott and held Mark Ingram to less than 2-yards per carry, that was the difference-maker. They are now a tie-breaker out of first place in the North and looking to improve their division record with a road win over the staggering Thunder Lizards. Losers of seven-in-a-row, Durham is coming off a moral victory of sorts in a loss to the Cubs. They turned the ball over just once in Josh Allen's starting debut and kept it close as a result. But Allen, who faced almost no blitz pressure, was still wildly erratic and is clearly not ready. Whether he was bad enough to prompt a return to Cam Newton remains to be seen. Expect the Fish to school whoever gets the start. **PICK: SEBASTIAN**

## **COWTOWN @ SCARBOROUGH (line – CORN KINGS by 9)**

**INJURIES:** **Cowtown** – Matt Ioannidis (OUT); **Scarborough** – Cordy Glenn (DOUBTFUL), TJ Yeldon (OUT), Dont'a Hightower (OUT), Pierre Garcon (OUT).

The Corn Kings stubbed their toe in a surprising home loss to the Pilots. Kareem Hunt ran wild and Eli looked like a good quarterback in outdueling Joe Flacco; who did not play badly, but will pay the price for the team's loss anyway and give way to a healthy Jimmy Garoppolo. Although out of the playoffs, the Blue Eagles have shown in their two losses since the return of Aaron Rodgers that they still have fight left. Their Week One loss to Cowtown on the road was very close until a Damon Harrison pick-six and Rodgers' injury put the game out of reach. This is the same Scarborough team that kept it close then and now they are at home. Although Vegas sees a triumphant return of Jimmy G, I see the line as a set-up. The Cowtown offensive line is banged up and has traditionally struggled to stop Derrick Morgan on the blitz. This will be no cakewalk for the Kings at Bluffs Stadium. **PICK: SCARBOROUGH**

## **PICKERING @ TORONTO (line – WOLVERINES by 5)**

**INJURIES:** **Pickering** – Doug Martin (OUT), Ronald Leary (OUT), Dion Jordan (OUT), Ty Montgomery (OUT); **Toronto** – Tyreek Hill (OUT), Zach Vigil (OUT), Ryan Griffin (OUT).

The Wolverines bounced back from their Week Ten fiasco in Cowtown with a defensive tour-de-force against Virden. But handling the Violators without Ezekiel Elliott is not the same as containing a healthy Spartans team led by Philip Rivers. The Pickering that many observers were expecting to see at the start of the season may have finally arrived. Winners of three straight, they are moving the ball without the drag of losing the turnover battle and are holding their own on defence. But they face a unique challenge against Toronto. Devonta Freeman has not been asked to carry much of the load to this point, but he will have to step up here against a Wolverines defensive line that can be run on. The key to a Spartans victory will be setting up the play action pass on offence and finding a way to pressure Jay Cutler on defence. It's been a good run for the Wolverines, but things are about to take a rough turn. **PICK: PICKERING**

## **HOLIDAY LEFTOVERS**

### **ST. CHARLES @ BUFFALO (line – CHARGERS by 3)**

**INJURIES:** **St. Charles** – Tayler Decker (QUESTIONABLE); **Buffalo** – Jordan Hicks (OUT), Jaquiski Tarrt (OUT), Whitey Mercilus (OUT).

Technically, the Derailers are still in the playoff hunt but we all know it will not be for very long. They could easily see their post-season hopes end this week against an irritated Chargers team that is still pouring over game film trying to figure out how they gave up



267 Yards and 3 TD passes to Tyrod Taylor. Much like the East Division-leading Chargers' season-long success, the reasons why they failed to stop a guy who had thrown just 1 TD pass in his previous four games are not obvious. The many missed tackles suggest that it was simply one of those games where the defence mailed it in, possibly thinking they didn't need to work hard. They cannot afford to be complacent here, however, despite Buffalo's spotty offensive record. St. Charles has a chance to earn the valuable no.1 seed and cannot afford to let up. In their Week One match-up, the Chargers rode a 21-point first quarter to a dubious home victory. On the road, in the winter, against one of the most dangerous pass rushes in the league, expect Jacoby Brissett to be challenged. **PICK: BUFFALO**

### SEATTLE @ ERIEAU (line – Pick 'Em)

**INJURIES:** Seattle – None; Erieau – Eric Reid (OUT).

I can just picture the desert odds-makers, meticulous masters of their craft, giving up when trying to make sense of both these teams and yelling "pick 'em!" to the clerk posting the lines. The Cadillac got five field goals and made the red zone a forbidden zone in their mind-numbing win over the Crusaders last week; while the Pilots soared offensively to upset Cowtown on the road. If we're counting style points rather than wins, Seattle has had a more attractive season and looks to be the stronger team. If we're counting wins, however, the Cadillac have the edge and presumably should retain the advantage at home. Their only hope rests in the defence holding their lanes against Kareem Hunt and the ability of Joey Bosa and Justin Houston to pressure Eli Manning. If that happens, the Cadillac offence may require only two field goals to win, as the defence will take care of the rest of the scoring. If it turns into a low-grade shootout, however, don't expect Matt Stafford and his tired old running backs to keep up. **PICK: SEATTLE**

### BUDAPEST @ CINCINNATI (line – NORTH STARS by 2)

**INJURIES:** Budapest – Jason Peters (DOUBTFUL), Jordan Reed (OUT), Chris Hogan (OUT); Cincinnati – PJ Hall (OUT).

Amazingly, it is still mathematically possible for the Crusaders to make the post-season despite their offence coming up flat in their loss to the Cadillac last week. It will be equally amazing if their post-season hopes are still alive after this game. The North Stars got an overdue A-grade effort from Tyrod Taylor in taking down first-place St. Charles last week. They look to be back on track to make a late push into the playoffs. If the Budapest offence can do even half as well for the remainder of the season, they will have as good a chance as any to win their division. Assuming the defence does not implode against the Taylor Train, the Crusaders will absolutely be relying on Kirk Cousins to lead the way. The running back-by-committee that is the Crusaders' ground game is not built to overpower the Budapest line. Fortunately, however, the offensive line stands a fighting chance of holding off the North Stars' edge rushers in the absence of a strong blitz. Although that is still unlikely, stranger things have happened. **PICK: BUDAPEST**



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FROM THE EFL ARCHIVES –Week Eleven of the 2012 EFL season ended talk of perfect seasons in both Death Valley and Scarborough. In Camelot, the league's top pass rush interrupted the tit-for-tat flow of the anticipated shootout between York's *Tom Brady* and the Undertakers' *Drew Brees* when a strip-sack by *Von Miller* set up a TD pass to *Michael Crabtree* to give York a 21-7 lead. The back-and-forth continued after that, but the rhythm had been compromised and Death Valley never got the lead in a 38-31 loss. At Jurassic Park, the Thunder Lizards scored 21 pts

in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter to come back and knock off the Blue Eagles, 24-17. It was the third start of the season for *Matt Schaub*, who struggled early against the dominating Scarborough defence but got hot in the 4<sup>th</sup>, completing 12 of his last 15 pass attempts for 201 yards and 2 long TD passes to *Dwayne Bowe*.

By Week 11, the playoff situation was beginning to take concrete form in the shape that so many analysts had predicted it would. York's victory placed them in the catbird seat to win the East, as they held a one-game lead over Virden. But the contest between the Excaliburs and the Violators was the only viable division race left. The rest of the league was a story of three mega-teams: Death Valley, Durham and Scarborough, all of them comfortably leading their respective divisions at 10-1. Respectable teams in Chino (7-4), Cowtown (7-3-1), Markham (7-3-1) and dark horse, Commonwealth (6-5) each won in Week 11 in a vain attempt to catch-up.

Interestingly, while the *Cam Newton* of 2018 rapped on the bench for Durham, the *Cam Newton* of 2012 threw 5 TD passes in Chino's 42-7 shellacking of the woeful Pats. In the defensive performance of the week, the Triumph's *Dwight Freeney* had 3 sacks in a 42-3 win over the Regulators.