

2018



WEEK

8



EFL

ELITE FOOTBALL LEAGUE

*In our 1<sup>st</sup> season and still going strong!*

November 25, 2018

2018



WEEK

8

EAST



CENTRAL



WEST



## THE MAN IN CHINO!



Dak Prescott

A poised **Dak Prescott** stands tall in the pocket and surveys the field in 1<sup>st</sup> quarter action in Iowa City. The Convicts' quarterback spent most of Sunday upright and composed while throwing for 253 yards and 3 TD passes in a 40-14 mauling of the Cubs. The victory broke a six-game losing streak against their historical rival and shot Chino into sole possession of first place in the West Division.

In other EFL action, York edged out Toronto, 27-26, on a 4<sup>th</sup> quarter TD pass from **Tom Brady to Josh Doctson** in a battle of first place clubs; while Brooklin stole a 34-28 overtime win over the Gladiators at Georgia Stadium to extend their winning streak to five games and stay within one game of the Excaliburs.

While Sunday featured some interesting and exciting games, the Thanksgiving line-up left viewers feeling hungry. Check out **Spats McChad's** column for complete coverage of Thanksgiving Thursday in the EFL. (See inside for complete story)

NORTH



COASTAL



SOUTH



*Who was slick  
in Week Eight?*

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



**Alex Smith**  
QB  
Brooklin  
Hawks

34 of 47, 438 yds and 5 TD passes.  
Rallied on the road to big win in OT.



**Rodney McLeod**  
S  
Cowntown  
Com Kings

5 Tackles, 1 FR, 1 INT (49yds-TD).  
His pick-six turned the game around.



1<sup>st</sup> & 10 OWN 46, 4<sup>th</sup> quarter: **Alex Smith** (BRH) lofts a bomb to **DeAndre Hopkins** for a 54-yard go-ahead TD.

11:01 3<sup>rd</sup> Qtr, DTL 22, COW 10. **Rodney McLeod** (COW) picks **Cam Newton** (DTL) & returns it 46 yds to ignite rally.

	<b>21</b>	Darius Slay's 5 <sup>th</sup> interception of the year set-up Melvin Gordon's 5-yard TD run to get the Triumph off to a fast start. Marcus Mariota rebounded with a pair of TD passes on back-to-back series to secure a 14-7 lead for the visiting Bombers before the end of the 1 <sup>st</sup> . The scoring subsided until the 3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter when Gordon cut through a hole, slipped a tackle and ran 47 yards for the tying TD. Then Kwon Alexander's 1 <sup>st</sup> pick of the year set up the go-ahead FG for Twin Cities late in the 3 <sup>rd</sup> . The Bombers rallied late in the 4 <sup>th</sup> , ending a 52-yard drive with a 10-yard TD pass on 3 <sup>rd</sup> & 9 to a wide open Terrelle Pryor for the win.
	<b>17</b>	
	<b>16</b>	A 1 <sup>st</sup> quarter 4 <sup>th</sup> & 3 gamble at the Virdeens 11 paid off for Buffalo with an 11-yard check down from Josh Rosen to Tevin Coleman for a 7-0 lead. Virdeens replied with a medium slant to Juju Smith-Schuster for 47 yards that set up a 3-yard TD run by Ezekiel Elliott. After both sides missed 44-yard FG attempts, Virdeens' Zane Gonzalez hit on a kick from 29 yards to make it 10-7 Virdeens at half time. A Rashaan Evans pick set up the Derailers' tying FG in the 3 <sup>rd</sup> , but a couple of long, time-consuming FG drives by Virdeens in the 4 <sup>th</sup> kept the Buffalo offence off the field and proved to be enough to finish off Virdeens' 4 <sup>th</sup> win of the year.
	<b>10</b>	
	<b>26</b>	The first-place Chargers came into Erieau and dominated play. With their defence keeping the Cadillac offence hemmed in, the offence slowly built up a 13-0 half time lead on a pair of Steven Hauschka field goals and a 3 <sup>rd</sup> & goal 5-yard cross to Michael Thomas for a TD. Erieau got on the board after a strip-sack by Joey Bosa set up Erieau at the Charger 2. Marhsawn Lynch finished it off with a 2-yard trap for a TD. That was all the offence the Caddies would muster. Carson Wentz fired TD passes of 16 yards to Kendal Wright and 23-yards to Thomas and the Charger D remained stout to finish off a convincing win no.6.
	<b>7</b>	
	<b>14</b>	This battle of teams aiming to reach 500 started well for the home squad and never turned around. A personal foul penalty on 3 <sup>rd</sup> down against the Pats kept a New Jersey drive alive and led to a 13-yard TD run by LeSean McCoy. NJ struck again with their star RB, 2 drives later, as Jared Goff found McCoy on a short hitch for a 4-yard TD. A 79-yard kick return by the Pats' Corey Grant set up a 10-yard TD pass to James Washington to cut the lead in half. But a Cameron Wake strip-sack of Blake Bortles to start the 3 <sup>rd</sup> led to another Wrecking Balls TD and 2 FGs built up a 27-7 lead that the Pats could not overcome.
	<b>27</b>	
	<b>40</b>	In a game for first place in the West, the Convicts took control early and never lost their grip. Dak Prescott capped off the opening drive with a 7-yard TD pass to Marvin Jones and finished the team's second possession with a 15-yard TD pass to Christian McCaffery. Chino's first punt even worked out as Trevor Davis fumbled the return to set up a 7-yard TD by Prescott on a bootleg to make it 20-0. The Cubs' attempt to comeback was hampered by further mistakes, as Russell Wilson was picked off and Bilal Powell lost a fumble to set up two more Chino TDs in the 2 <sup>nd</sup> half. Mark Ingram logged 168 total yards on offence.
	<b>14</b>	
	<b>13</b>	In a battle for last place in the West, the Pilots rallied in the 4 <sup>th</sup> quarter after falling behind 13-10 over 3 quarters of close-quarter combat. Eli Manning, who had been pressing for most of the game and whose inaccuracy resulted in a Tre'Davious White pick-six for LA's only TD, warmed up with a clutch 4 <sup>th</sup> down completion to Allen Hurns and a 22-yard pass to Kareem Hunt that set up the latter's 3-yard go-ahead TD run in the 4 <sup>th</sup> . After the Pilots' D held inside their own 10, a 57-yard fly to Anthony Miller got Seattle out of their end and set up a key FG to make it 20-13. The LA two-minute rally fizzled out after 4 snaps.
	<b>20</b>	
	<b>30</b>	Cam Newton's lost fumble on the game's first play set up a 15-yard TD pass to Larry Fitzgerald for a quick Cowtown lead. But the Lizards settled down and appeared in charge when Oren Burks returned a strip-sack of Joe Flacco 24 yards for a TD to make it 22-10 for Durham at the half. A 46-yard pick-six by Rodney McLeod on Newton's first pass of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> half energized the visitors. Julius Thomas then topped off an 83-yard drive with his first TD catch of the year to give the Kings a 23-22 lead. An Aqib Talib pick set up a 13-yard TD to Mike Evans. Glover Quin picked off Newton to quash the last-ditch Durham rally.
	<b>22</b>	
	<b>3</b>	The Blue Eagle highlights came early. Lamarcus Joyner intercepted Drew Brees at the Scarborough 2 then Jordan Howard's 35-yard run powered a 73-yard drive for a 43-yard FG to open the scoring. A break for the Swordfish on a fumbled punt return by Jamison Crowder led to a 21-yard TD to Jermaine Kearse to make it 7-3. The Swordfish took off from there. Completions of 16 and 20 yards to Kearse set up a 7-yard TD to Jason Witten to make it 14-3. The Sebastian D restricted Brock Osweiler to 66 yards passing and Chandler Jones bagged him for a safety while the offence added 9 points to win comfortably.
	<b>25</b>	
	<b>0</b>	It was a different type of domination for the Mustangs but it was domination all the same. The Budapest offence was able to penetrate the Aurora red zone only once, resulting in a missed 37-yard FG to keep the shutout intact for the Aurora defence. Offensively, the Mustangs initially struggled in the passing game, but a 10 of 11 passing streak for 89 yards by Matt Ryan on a 2 <sup>nd</sup> quarter drive ended with a 16-yard TD pass to Dez Bryant to make 10-0 Aurora at the half. An 81-yard drive, lasting over 10 mins, ate up the 4 <sup>th</sup> quarter and put the game out of reach for the North Stars with a 5-yard TD run by Kenyon Drake.
	<b>17</b>	
	<b>34</b>	The Glads blew a 12-point lead in the 4 <sup>th</sup> quarter then fumbled away their shot in OT as the Hawks secured their 5 <sup>th</sup> straight victory. Big Ben found Cole Beasley for a 19-yard TD pass to make it 25-13 for Georgia with 11:32 left in regulation. But Randall Cobb's 1 <sup>st</sup> down catch on 4 <sup>th</sup> & 4 and 5-yard TD grab closed the gap to 5. Alex Smith then found DeAndre Hopkins for a 54-yrd bomb to give Brooklin a 28-25 lead. The Glads tied it with a late FG and got the ball to start OT, only to have Kenny Stills fumble away a 33-yard pass play. That set up the Hawks for the game-winning TD; a 16-yard out to Cobb.
	<b>28</b>	
	<b>38</b>	The Crusaders continued to rebound while the Spartans continued to slide. The teams matched TD-for-TD over the first 1½ quarters, with both QBs throwing a TD and both starting RBs cracking the goal line for a 14-14 tie. But back-to-back TDs – a 24-yard run by Aaron Jones and a 7-yard run by Kirk Cousins – made it 28-14 Cincinnati at the half. Blair Walsh added a Cincy FG before Devonta Freeman got Pickering back in it with TD runs of 8 and 20 yards to make it 31-28 in the 4 <sup>th</sup> . But Cincy stayed 2 steps ahead on a 7-yard Peyton Barber TD run. Down by 10, a late Marlon Humphrey pick ended hope for the Spartans.
	<b>28</b>	
	<b>26</b>	The Excaltors started well with a 94-yard TD drive on their second possession and a 39-yard fumble return for a TD by Marcus Williams for a 14-0 lead. Toronto got one back before the half on a 10-yard TD pass to Jermaine Gresham then tied it in the 3 <sup>rd</sup> when a 45-yard pass to Saquon Barkley set up a 3-yard TD run by DeMarco Murray. Nick Chubb regained the lead for York on a 7-yard TD run, but Toronto scraped their way back with a 50-yard FG, a safety and a 1-yard sneak for a TD by Jay Cutler for a 26-21 lead. Tom Brady got the last word in; he fired an 8-yard TD to Josh Doctson for the game-winning TD.
	<b>27</b>	



## BOMBERS



21

**PASSING:** Marcus Mariota, 19 of 32, 224 yds, 3 TD, 2 INT  
**RUSHING:** Leonard Fournette, 16C, 26yds, (1.6), 0 TD  
**RECEIVING:** Travis Kelce, 7 for 59yds, 17LG, 0 TD  
**DEFENCE:** Terrell Suggs, 8 T, 2 SK, 1 STF, 2 HUR  
**KICKING:** Chandler Cantanzaro, 3 of 3 XP, 0 of 2 FG, 3 Pts

## TRIUMPH



17

**PASSING:** C.J. Beathard, 9 of 25, 103 yds, 0 TD, 1 INT  
**RUSHING:** Melvin Gordon, 23C, 134yds, (5.8), 2 TD  
**RECEIVING:** Antonio Brown, 7 for 69yds, 20LG, 0 TD  
**DEFENCE:** Bradley Roby, 8 T, 2 PD  
**KICKING:** Dustin Hopkins, 2 of 2 XP, 1 of 1 FG, 5 Pts

Wilhalla Stadium Temp: 70 Wind: None

MVP: Mariota

	1	2	3	4	Tot
Bruxelles (5-3)	14	0	0	7	21
Twin Cities (5-3)	7	0	10	0	17

## Scoring Summary

1 8:38	Twin Cities	TD Gordon 5 run (Hopkins,D) (6-38-2:53)	0-7
1 5:52	Bruxelles	TD Mariota 30 pass to Thompson (Catanzaro) (4-75-2:46)	7-7
1 2:08	Bruxelles	TD Mariota 17 pass to Pettis (Catanzaro) (5-73-2:41)	14-7
3 10:30	Twin Cities	TD Gordon 47 run (Hopkins,D) (2-50-1:01)	14-14
3 2:31	Twin Cities	FG Hopkins 29 (5-12-3:00)	14-17
4 3:19	Bruxelles	TD Mariota 10 pass to Pryor Sr. (Catanzaro) (7-52-3:28)	21-17

	BRX	TCT
First Downs	19	13
Rushes	25-44	34-162
Passes	19-32-224	9-25-103
Sacked	3-26	6-45
Fumble	1	2
Penalties	9-60	7-75
Turnovers	2	2
Missed Tackles	7	1
Dropped Passes	0	0
Bad Passes	2	3
Passes 25+	2	1
Runs 10+	1	5
Blitzers	30	13
Time	29:13	30:47
Third Down	2-13	3-15
Fourth Down	0-0	0-3
Red Att/Td/Fg	2/2/0	2/1/1
Net Offense	242	220

## VIOLATORS



16

**PASSING:** Derek Carr, 18 of 30, 255yds, 0 TD, 1 INT  
**RUSHING:** Ezekiel Elliott, 23C, 65yds, (2.8), 1 TD  
**RECEIVING:** A.J. Green, 7 for 78yds, 17LG, 0 TD  
**DEFENCE:** Leonard Floyd, 7 T, 1 STF  
**KICKING:** Zane Gonzalez 1 of 1 XP, 3 of 4 FG, 10 Pts

## DERAILERS



10

**PASSING:** Josh Rosen, 17 of 27, 155yds, 1 TD, 0 INT  
**RUSHING:** Jay Ajayi, 10C, 25yds, (2.5), 0 TD  
**RECEIVING:** Julio Jones, 5 for 55yds, 22LG, 0 TD  
**DEFENCE:** Jamar Taylor, 7T, 1 FF  
**KICKING:** Jake Elliott, 1 of 1 XP, 1 of 2 FG, 4 Pts

New Era Stadium Temp: 46 Wind: 5-15

MVP: Smith-Schuster

	1	2	3	4	Tot
Virden (4-4)	0	10	0	6	16
Buffalo (2-6)	7	0	3	0	10

## Scoring Summary

1 2:05	Buffalo	TD Rosen 11 pass to Coleman (Elliott,J) (12-68-8:15)	0-7
2 13:16	Virden	TD Elliott 3 run (Gonzalez) (7-75-3:49)	7-7
2 0:22	Virden	FG Gonzalez 29 (9-53-1:25)	10-7
3 5:45	Buffalo	FG Elliott 30 (4-5-0:58)	10-10
4 13:16	Virden	FG Gonzalez 26 (13-69-7:19)	13-10
4 0:58	Virden	FG Gonzalez 23 (11-55-5:38)	16-10

	VV	BUF
First Downs	16	14
Rushes	27-70	23-50
Passes	18-30-255	17-28-155
Sacked	0-0	2-18
Fumble	1	1
Penalties	12-78	6-30
Turnovers	1	1
Missed Tackles	2	3
Dropped Passes	1	2
Bad Passes	1	3
Passes 25+	2	0
Runs 10+	1	0
Blitzers	9	27
Time	29:21	30:39
Third Down	4-12	2-12
Fourth Down	0-0	1-3
Red Att/Td/Fg	5/1/3	3/1/1
Net Offense	325	187

## CHARGERS



26

**PASSING:** Carson Wentz, 14 of 31, 171 yds, 3 TD, 0 INT  
**RUSHING:** Carson Wentz, 6C, 64yds, (10.7), 0 TD  
**RECEIVING:** Kendall Wright, 3 for 53 yds, 24LG, 1 TD  
**DEFENCE:** Shaquil Barrett, 6 T, 1 STF  
**KICKING:** Steven Hauschka, 2 of 2 XP, 2 of 2 FG, 8 Pts

## CADILLAC



7

**PASSING:** Matt Stafford, 8 of 22, 92 yds, 0 TD, 0 INT  
**RUSHING:** Marshawn Lynch, 14C, 56yds, (4.0), 1 TD  
**RECEIVING:** Jordy Nelson, 2 for 49yds, 37LG, 0 TD  
**DEFENCE:** Eric Reid, 10 T, 1 PD  
**KICKING:** Steven Gostkowski, 1 of 1 XP, 0 of 1 FG, 1 Pt

Kelly-Burke Field Temp: -3 Wind: None

MVP: Wentz

	1	2	3	4	Tot
St. Charles (6-2)	10	3	6	7	26
Erieau (3-5)	0	0	7	0	7

## Scoring Summary

1 8:25	St. Charles	FG Hauschka 35 (12-64-5:09)	3-0
1 0:05	St. Charles	TD Wentz 5 pass to Thomas (Hauschka) (7-49-3:45)	10-0
2 3:48	St. Charles	FG Hauschka 44 (9-41-3:37)	13-0
3 13:51	Erieau	TD Lynch 2 run (Gostkowski) (1-2-0:07)	13-7
3 3:13	St. Charles	TD Wentz 16 pass to Wright (2 - failed) (6-35-2:29)	19-7
4 7:19	St. Charles	TD Wentz 23 pass to Thomas (Hauschka) (8-49-5:11)	26-7

	STC	ERI
First Downs	20	8
Rushes	41-145	22-77
Passes	14-31-171	8-23-92
Sacked	1-5	2-12
Fumble	1	2
Penalties	12-98	12-111
Turnovers	1	2
Missed Tackles	1	8
Dropped Passes	2	2
Bad Passes	2	3
Passes 25+	1	1
Runs 10+	6	1
Blitzers	13	12
Time	36:50	23:10
Third Down	7-19	1-10
Fourth Down	0-1	0-0
Red Att/Td/Fg	4/3/1	1/1/0
Net Offense	311	157

PATRIOTS



14

**PASSING:** Blake Bortles, 19 of 28, 191 yds, 2 TD, 1 INT  
**RUSHING:** Duke Johnson, Jr., 3C, 21yds, (7.0), 0 TD  
**RECEIVING:** Mohamed Sanu, 8 for 97yds, 18LG, 1 TD  
**DEFENCE:** C.J. Mosley, 10 T, 1 SK  
**KICKING:** Ryan Succop, 2 of 2 XP, 0 of 0 FG, 2 Pts

WRECKING BALLS



27

**PASSING:** Jared Goff, 16 of 22, 130 yds, 2 TD, 0 INT  
**RUSHING:** LeSean McCoy, 27C, 113yds, (4.2), 1 TD  
**RECEIVING:** Jared Cook, 5 for 48yds, 20LG, 0 TD  
**DEFENCE:** Malcolm Butler, 7 T, 1 INT  
**KICKING:** Chris Boswell, 3 of 3 XP, 2 of 3 FG, 9 Pts

Stone Pony Shore		Temp: 56	Wind: 0-5	MVP:McCoy			
		1	2	3	4	Tot	
Charleswood (3-5)		0	7	0	7	14	
New Jersey (4-4)		7	7	10	3	27	
Scoring Summary							
1 6:41	New Jersey	TD McCoy 13 run (Boswell)	(8-54-3:58)	0-7			
2 4:07	New Jersey	TD Goff 4 pass to McCoy (Boswell)	(16-67-8:22)	0-14			
2 2:22	Charleswood	TD Bortles 10 pass to Washington (Succop)	(3-28-1:39)	7-14			
3 12:39	New Jersey	TD Goff 11 pass to Ginn Jr. (Boswell)	(3-25-1:34)	7-21			
3 2:07	New Jersey	FG Boswell 44 (4-8-2:06)		7-24			
4 7:26	New Jersey	FG Boswell 44 (11-54-5:55)		7-27			
4 3:17	Charleswood	TD Bortles 18 pass to Sanu (Succop)	(7-60-4:09)	14-27			
				CHP	NJ		
First Downs				17	16		
Rushes				18-60	37-159		
Passes				19-28-191	16-22-130		
Sacked				5-36	4-23		
Fumble				3	1		
Penalties				6-61	11-57		
Turnovers				3	0		
Missed Tackles				1	2		
Dropped Passes				0	0		
Bad Passes				0	0		
Passes 25+				0	0		
Runs 10+				2	3		
Blitzers				3	22		
Time				25:20	34:40		
Third Down				2-10	4-15		
Fourth Down				0-0	2-2		
Red Att/Td/Fg				2/2/0	3/3/0		
Net Offense				215	266		

CONVICTS



40

**PASSING:** Dak Prescott, 21 of 28, 253 yds, 3 TD, 0 INT  
**RUSHING:** Mark Ingram, 15C, 73yds, (4.9), 0 TD  
**RECEIVING:** Christian McCaffrey, 6 for 55yds, 15LG, 1 TD  
**DEFENCE:** Ryan Shazier, 6 T, 1 FF, 1 INT  
**KICKING:** Dan Bailey, 4 of 5 XP, 2 of 2 FG, 10 Pts

CUBS



14

**PASSING:** Russell Wilson, 15 of 28, 179 yds, 2 TD, 1 INT  
**RUSHING:** Bilal Powell, 8C, 53yds, (6.6), 0 TD  
**RECEIVING:** Marqise Lee, 4 for 50yds, 20LG, 0 TD  
**DEFENCE:** Alec Ogletree, 10T  
**KICKING:** Justin Tucker, 2 of 2 XP, 0 of 1 FG, 2 Pts

Joe Ferguson Stadium		Temp: 56	Wind: 0-10	MVP:Prescott			
		1	2	3	4	Tot	
Chino (5-3)		13	7	3	17	40	
Iowa City (4-4)		0	7	0	7	14	
Scoring Summary							
1 8:36	Chino	TD Prescott 7 pass to Jones Jr. (no good)	(12-79-6:18)	6-0			
1 0:38	Chino	TD Prescott 15 pass to McCaffrey (Bailey,D)	(9-89-5:22)	13-0			
2 6:29	Chino	TD Prescott 7 run (Bailey,D)	(5-44-2:29)	20-0			
2 0:36	Iowa City	TD Wilson 16 pass to Wallace (Tucker,J)	(13-91-5:48)	20-7			
3 9:00	Chino	FG Bailey 24 (6-53-2:35)		23-7			
4 14:57	Chino	FG Bailey 35 (14-67-7:14)		26-7			
4 10:25	Chino	TD Jones 5 run (Bailey,D)	(6-41-4:01)	33-7			
4 9:06	Chino	TD Prescott 8 pass to Agholor (Bailey,D)	(2-10-0:55)	40-7			
4 3:46	Iowa City	TD Wilson 29 pass to Coutee (Tucker,J)	(9-88-5:13)	40-14			
				CHI	ICC		
First Downs				24	16		
Rushes				33-157	19-122		
Passes				21-28-253	15-28-179		
Sacked				1-7	1-6		
Fumble				0	2		
Penalties				3-15	5-39		
Turnovers				0	3		
Missed Tackles				11	6		
Dropped Passes				0	3		
Bad Passes				0	1		
Passes 25+				1	1		
Runs 10+				4	5		
Blitzers				2	2		
Time				35:47	24:13		
Third Down				7-13	3-8		
Fourth Down				2-2	1-1		
Red Att/Td/Fg				7/5/2	1/1/0		
Net Offense				403	295		


KNIGHTS



13

**PASSING:** Andy Dalton, 17 of 31, 186yds, 0 TD, 0 INT  
**RUSHING:** Le'Veon Bell, 23C, 100yds, (4.3), 0 TD  
**RECEIVING:** DeVante Parker, 7 for 86yds, 32LG, 0 TD  
**DEFENCE:** Tre'Davious White, 9 T, 1 FF, 1 INT  
**KICKING:** Ka'imi Fairbairn, 1 of 1 XP, 2 of 2 FG, 7 Pts

PILOTS



20

**PASSING:** Eli Manning, 20 of 42, 267 yds, 0 TD, 1 INT  
**RUSHING:** Kareem Hunt, 21C, 73yds, (3.5), 2 TD  
**RECEIVING:** Allen Hurns, 7 for 72yds, 11LG, 0 TD  
**DEFENCE:** Barkevious Mingo, 8T, 1 SK, 1 PD  
**KICKING:** Josh Lambo, 1 of 1 XP, 1 of 3 FG, 4 Pts

Kingdome		Temp: 70	Wind: None	MVP: Hunt			
		1	2	3	4	Tot	
Los Angeles (1-7)		0	10	3	0	13	
Seattle (2-6)		0	7	3	10	20	
Scoring Summary							
2 11:14	Los Angeles	FG Fairbairn 27 (10-54-5:22)		3-0			
2 9:22	Los Angeles	TD White 63 interception return (Fairbairn)		10-0			
2 4:35	Seattle	TD Hunt 8 run (Lambo) (15-75-4:47)		10-7			
3 10:33	Seattle	FG Lambo 43 (7-50-4:23)		10-10			
3 4:17	Los Angeles	FG Fairbairn 34 (13-57-6:02)		13-10			
4 14:06	Seattle	TD Hunt 3 run (Lambo) (11-75-5:11)		13-17			
4 1:47	Seattle	FG Lambo 28 (10-87-3:46)		13-20			
				LAK	SEA		
First Downs				13	21		
Rushes				26-104	25-77		
Passes				17-31-186	20-42-267		
Sacked				2-13	2-8		
Fumble				2	2		
Penalties				9-82	3-23		
Turnovers				1	2		
Missed Tackles				5	3		
Dropped Passes				3	2		
Bad Passes				3	6		
Passes 25+				1	1		
Runs 10+				3	2		
Blitzers				15	18		
Time				29:58	30:02		
Third Down				5-15	3-14		
Fourth Down				0-2	2-4		
Red Att/Td/Fg				3/0/2	3/2/1		
Net Offense				277	336		

## CORN KINGS



30

**PASSING:** Joe Flacco, 20 of 30, 197 yds, 3 TD, 1 INT  
**RUSHING:** LeGarrette Blount, 11C, 83yds, (7.5), 0 TD  
**RECEIVING:** Mike Evans, 8 for 80yds, 13LG, 1 TD  
**DEFENCE:** T.J. Watt, 8 T, 1 SK, 2 FF  
**KICKING:** Matt Bryant, 3 of 3 XP, 1 of 2 FG, 6 Pts

## THUNDER LIZARDS



22

**PASSING:** Cam Newton, 20 of 38, 283 yds, 1 TD, 3 INT  
**RUSHING:** Rashaad Penny, 11C, 83yds, (7.5), 1 TD  
**RECEIVING:** T.Y. Hilton, 5 for 76yds, 25LG, 0 TD  
**DEFENCE:** Tyrann Mathieu, 12 T, 1 INT  
**KICKING:** Phil Dawson, 1 of 3 XP, 1 of 1 FG, 4 Pts

Jurassic Park Temp: 75 Wind: Calm

MVP: McLeod

	1	2	3	4	Tot
Cowtown (6-2)	7	3	7	13	30
Durham (3-5)	10	12	0	0	22

## Scoring Summary

1 13:56 Cowtown	TD Flacco 15 pass to Fitzgerald (Bryant,M) (2-26-0:49)	7-0
1 8:34 Durham	FG Dawson 32 (9-57-5:15)	7-3
1 2:58 Durham	TD Newton 19 pass to Gordon (Dawson) (6-81-3:59)	7-10
2 12:54 Durham	TD Penny 6 run (no good) (9-89-3:09)	7-16
2 9:13 Cowtown	FG Bryant 31 (8-62-3:36)	10-16
2 0:44 Durham	TD Burks 24 yd fumble recovery (no good)	10-22
3 11:01 Cowtown	TD McLeod 46 interception return (Bryant,M)	17-22
4 14:51 Cowtown	TD Flacco 5 pass to Thomas (2 - failed) (14-83-8:20)	23-22
4 2:21 Cowtown	TD Flacco 13 pass to Evans (Bryant,M) (9-64-4:46)	30-22

	COW	DTL
First Downs	24	22
Rushes	33-150	20-105
Passes	20-30-197	20-38-283
Sacked	3-21	1-14
Fumble	3	4
Penalties	2-5	8-80
Turnovers	2	4
Missed Tackles	5	6
Dropped Passes	0	4
Bad Passes	3	3
Passes 25+	0	2
Runs 10+	5	3
Blitzers	16	16
Time	33:04	26:56
Third Down	4-11	3-9
Fourth Down	0-1	0-0
Red Att/Td/Fg	5/3/1	3/2/1
Net Offense	326	374

## BLUE EAGLES



3

**PASSING:** Brock Osweiler, 7 of 17, 66 yds, 0 TD, 0 INT  
**RUSHING:** Jordan Howard, 16C, 65yds, (4.1), 0 TD  
**RECEIVING:** Charles Sims, 3 for 13yds, 7LG, 0 TD  
**DEFENCE:** Derrick Morgan, 13 T, 1 STF  
**KICKING:** Mason Crosby, 0 of 0 XP, 1 of 1 FG, 3 Pts

## SWORDFISH



25

**PASSING:** Drew Brees, 27 of 32, 245 yds, 2 TD, 1 INT  
**RUSHING:** C.J. Anderson, 13C, 32yds, (2.5), 0 TD  
**RECEIVING:** Jermaine Kearse, 8 for 99yds, 21LG, 1 TD  
**DEFENCE:** Jadeveon Clowney, 7T  
**KICKING:** Adam Vinatieri, 2 of 2 XP, 3 of 3 FG, 11 Pts

The Fish Tank Temp: 76 Wind: None

MVP: Brees

	1	2	3	4	Tot
Scarborough (1-7)	3	0	0	0	3
Sebastian (6-2)	7	7	3	8	25

## Scoring Summary

1 3:53 Scarborough	FG Crosby 43 (10-73-4:52)	3-0
1 1:14 Sebastian	TD Brees 21 pass to Kearse (Vinatieri) (1-21-0:11)	3-7
2 6:09 Sebastian	TD Brees 7 pass to Witten (Vinatieri) (11-77-5:50)	3-14
3 4:04 Sebastian	FG Vinatieri 49 (10-55-6:05)	3-17
4 14:00 Sebastian	Safety Jones	3-19
4 8:24 Sebastian	FG Vinatieri 48 (9-43-5:24)	3-22
4 3:43 Sebastian	FG Vinatieri 32 (5-22-3:04)	3-25

	SBE	SS
First Downs	6	19
Rushes	22-76	33-91
Passes	7-17-66	27-32-245
Sacked	3-16	0-0
Fumble	3	0
Penalties	9-68	6-42
Turnovers	1	1
Missed Tackles	4	1
Dropped Passes	1	0
Bad Passes	1	1
Passes 25+	0	0
Runs 10+	2	2
Blitzers	33	29
Time	21:22	38:38
Third Down	1-11	4-15
Fourth Down	0-1	1-3
Red Att/Td/Fg	0/0/0	3/1/1
Net Offense	126	336

## NORTH STARS



0

**PASSING:** Tyrod Taylor, 3 of 12, 31 yds, 0 TD, 0 INT  
**RUSHING:** Isaiah Crowell, 10C, 32yds, (3.2), 0 TD  
**RECEIVING:** Sammy Watkins, 1 for 23yds, 23LG, 0 TD  
**DEFENCE:** Robert Alford, 8 T, 2 PD  
**KICKING:** Kai Forbath, 0 of 0 XP, 0 of 1 FG, 0 Pts

## MUSTANGS



17

**PASSING:** Matt Ryan, 27 of 41, 250 yds, 1 TD, 0 INT  
**RUSHING:** Kenyan Drake, 15C, 54yds, (3.6), 1 TD  
**RECEIVING:** Dez Bryant, 8 for 111yds, 38LG, 1 TD  
**DEFENCE:** NaVorro Bowman, 6 T  
**KICKING:** Wil Lutz, 2 of 2 XP, 1 of 2 FG, 5 Pts

Magna Park Temp: 4 Wind: None

MVP: Ryan

	1	2	3	4	Tot
Budapest (4-4)	0	0	0	0	0
Aurora (5-3)	3	7	0	7	17


## Scoring Summary

1 12:59 Aurora	FG Lutz 36 (7-45-1:51)	0-3
2 6:30 Aurora	TD Ryan 16 pass to Bryant (Lutz) (12-79-7:07)	0-10
4 4:58 Aurora	TD Drake 5 run (Lutz) (17-81-10:35)	0-17

	BUD	AUR
First Downs	5	19
Rushes	25-80	24-91
Passes	3-14-31	27-41-250
Sacked	2-10	5-32
Fumble	0	1
Penalties	3-25	5-25
Turnovers	0	0
Missed Tackles	4	3
Dropped Passes	0	2
Bad Passes	1	2
Passes 25+	0	1
Runs 10+	2	3
Blitzers	5	0
Time	22:14	37:46
Third Down	2-13	8-17
Fourth Down	0-1	1-1
Red Att/Td/Fg	1/0/0	3/2/1
Net Offense	101	309




HAWKS



34

PASSING: Alex Smith, 34 of 47, 438 yds, 5 TD, 1 INT  
RUSHING: Johnathan Stewart, 6C, 29yds, (4.8), 0 TD  
RECEIVING: DeAndre Hopkins, 12 for 208yds, 54LG, 2 TD  
DEFENCE: Leighton Vander Esch, 11 T  
KICKING: Cody Parkey, 2 of 3 XP, 0 of 0 FG, 2 Pts

GLADIATORS



28

PASSING: B. Roethlisberger, 22 of 38, 264 yds, 2 TD, 0 INT  
RUSHING: Sony Michel, 18C, 120yds, (6.7), 0 TD  
RECEIVING: Jarvis Landry, 9 for 81yds, 12LG, 1 TD  
DEFENCE: Jimmy Smith, 11 T, 1 PD  
KICKING: Giorgio Tavecchio, 1 of 2 XP, 3 of 3 FG, 10 Pts

Georgia StadiumTemp: 74Wind: 0-5MVP: Smith


	1	2	3	4	5	Tot
Brooklin (5-3)	6	7	0	15	6	34
Georgia (5-3)	3	9	6	10	0	28

Scoring Summary

1 7:58 Brooklin	TD Smith 19 pass to Hopkins (no good) (15-95-6:58)	6-0
1 3:13 Georgia	FG Tavecchio 32 (14-76-4:36)	6-3
2 12:19 Georgia	FG Tavecchio 40 (14-54-4:13)	6-6
2 9:03 Brooklin	TD Smith 7 pass to Jeffery (Parkey) (7-75-3:16)	13-6
2 0:44 Georgia	TD Collins 3 run (no good) (5-62-2:18)	13-12
3 6:40 Georgia	TD Roethlisberger 10 pass to Landry (2 - failed) (10-59-5	13-18
4 11:32 Georgia	TD Roethlisberger 19 pass to Beasley (Tavecchio) (11-80-5	13-25
4 7:10 Brooklin	TD Smith 5 pass to Cobb (Parkey) (11-65-4:12)	20-25
4 4:06 Brooklin	TD Smith 54 pass to Hopkins (2 - Hopkins) (2-65-0:24)	28-25
4 0:20 Georgia	FG Tavecchio 33 (13-60-3:42)	28-28
5 12:23 Brooklin	TD Smith 16 pass to Cobb	34-28

	BRH	GEO
First Downs	29	29
Rushes	14-49	35-194
Passes	34-47-438	23-39-268
Sacked	1-5	1-9
Fumble	0	1
Penalties	11-65	10-49
Turnovers	1	1
Missed Tackles	11	1
Dropped Passes	2	2
Bad Passes	3	2
Passes 25+	3	2
Runs 10+	0	8
Blitzers	4	5
Time	28:25	34:12
Third Down	4-11	8-16
Fourth Down	3-3	0-0
Red Att/Td/Fg	5/4/0	5/3/2
Net Offense	482	453


CRUSADERS



38

PASSING: Kirk Cousins, 30 of 47, 324 yds, 1 TD, 0 INT  
RUSHING: Aaron Jones, 14C, 108yds, (7.7), 2 TD  
RECEIVING: Kennan Allen, 9 for 105yds, 21LG, 0 TD  
DEFENCE: Marlon Humphrey, 7 T, 1 PD, 1 INT  
KICKING: Blair Walsh, 5 of 5 XP, 1 of 1 FG, 8 Pts

SPARTANS



28

PASSING: Philip Rivers, 24 of 38, 315 yds, 1 TD, 1 INT  
RUSHING: Devonta Freeman, 11C, 101yds, (9.2), 3 TD  
RECEIVING: Golden Tate, 7 for 93yds, 32LG, 1 TD  
DEFENCE: Denzel Ward, 10 T, 1 PD  
KICKING: Greg Zuerlein, 4 of 4 XP, 0 of 1 FG, 4 Pts

Thermopylae StadiumTemp: 30Wind: 5-15MVP: Cousins


	1	2	3	4	Tot
Cincinnati (2-6)	14	14	3	7	38
Pickering (3-5)	7	7	7	7	28

Scoring Summary

1 10:01 Cincinnati	TD Cousins 11 pass to Brate (Walsh,B) (13-75-4:59)	7-0
1 6:44 Pickering	TD Freeman 24 run (Zuerlein) (6-75-3:17)	7-7
1 1:30 Cincinnati	TD Jones 3 run (Walsh,B) (12-66-5:07)	14-7
2 6:19 Pickering	TD Rivers 32 pass to Tate (Zuerlein) (5-83-2:30)	14-14
2 2:16 Cincinnati	TD Jones 26 run (Walsh,B) (7-75-4:03)	21-14
2 0:01 Cincinnati	TD Cousins 7 run (Walsh,B) (6-79-1:29)	28-14
3 4:08 Cincinnati	FG Walsh 22 (17-78-9:11)	31-14
3 1:15 Pickering	TD Freeman 8 run (Zuerlein) (12-75-2:53)	31-21
4 10:47 Pickering	TD Freeman 20 run (Zuerlein) (8-77-4:06)	31-28
4 7:02 Cincinnati	TD Barber 7 run (Walsh,B) (9-75-3:45)	38-28

	CIN	PIC
First Downs	36	24
Rushes	35-178	15-118
Passes	30-47-324	24-38-315
Sacked	1-10	2-11
Fumble	0	1
Penalties	5-43	7-66
Turnovers	0	1
Missed Tackles	8	6
Dropped Passes	1	4
Bad Passes	4	1
Passes 25+	1	2
Runs 10+	6	5
Blitzers	17	0
Time	39:31	20:29
Third Down	10-15	3-9
Fourth Down	0-1	0-0
Red Att/Td/Fg	5/4/1	5/2/0
Net Offense	492	422


WOLVERINES



26

PASSING: Jay Cutler, 17 of 21, 231 yds, 1 TD, 0 INT  
RUSHING: Saquon Barkley, 27C, 123yds, (4.6), 0 TD  
RECEIVING: Tyreek Hill, 8 for 115yds, 23LG, 0 TD  
DEFENCE: Jaylon Smith, 7 T, 1 PD  
KICKING: Daniel Carlson, 3 of 3 XP, 1 of 1 FG, 6 Pts

EXCALIBURS



27

PASSING: Tom Brady, 19 of 25, 173 yds, 2 TD, 0 INT  
RUSHING: Nick Chubb, 10C, 51yds, (5.1), 1 TD  
RECEIVING: Giovani Bernard, 5 for 50yds, 23LG, 1 TD  
DEFENCE: Antonio Morrison, 9 T, 1 STF2  
KICKING: Graham Gano, 3 of 3 XP, 0 of 0 FG, 3 Pts

CamelotTemp: 53Wind: 0-5MVP: Brady

	1	2	3	4	Tot
Toronto (6-2)	0	7	12	7	26
York (6-2)	7	7	7	6	27

Scoring Summary

1 1:02 York	TD Brady 7 pass to Bernard (Gano) (14-94-7:30)	0-7
2 9:16 York	TD Williams 39 yd fumble recovery (Gano)	0-14
2 2:36 Toronto	TD Cutler 10 pass to Gresham (Carlson) (10-75-6:40)	7-14
3 11:35 Toronto	TD Murray 3 run (Carlson) (8-75-3:25)	14-14
3 7:11 York	TD Chubb 7 run (Gano) (11-69-4:10)	14-21
3 0:58 Toronto	FG Carlson 50 (9-38-6:08)	17-21
3 0:35 Toronto	Safety Poe	19-21
4 11:09 Toronto	TD Cutler 1 run (Carlson) (11-64-4:20)	26-21
4 5:02 York	TD Brady 8 pass to Doctson (2 - failed) (10-68-6:01)	26-27

	TOR	YOR
First Downs	23	20
Rushes	44-153	29-106
Passes	17-21-231	19-25-173
Sacked	2-15	1-10
Fumble	1	0
Penalties	4-25	12-80
Turnovers	1	0
Missed Tackles	10	5
Dropped Passes	0	1
Bad Passes	0	1
Passes 25+	2	0
Runs 10+	5	2
Blitzers	3	12
Time	34:02	25:58
Third Down	7-14	6-11
Fourth Down	1-3	0-0
Red Att/Td/Fg	3/3/0	3/3/0
Net Offense	369	269

## WEEK EIGHT

# STANDINGS

PACIFIC CONFERENCE												
East	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
St. Charles	6	2	0	.750	167	20.9	133	16.6	4.3	3 0 0	2 1 0	5 1 0
Bruxelles	5	3	0	.625	190	23.8	126	15.8	8.0	3 1 0	1 2 0	4 2 0
New Jersey	4	4	0	.500	147	18.4	147	18.4	0.0	3 2 0	2 1 0	3 3 0
Buffalo	2	6	0	.250	100	12.5	155	19.4	-6.9	2 2 0	1 2 0	2 4 0
Central	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Twin Cities	5	3	0	.625	178	22.3	136	17.0	5.3	3 2 0	1 1 0	4 2 0
Virden	4	4	0	.500	181	22.6	140	17.5	5.1	2 1 0	0 2 0	3 3 0
Erieau	3	5	0	.375	103	12.9	196	24.5	-11.6	2 2 0	2 0 0	3 3 0
Charleswood	3	5	0	.375	128	16.0	159	19.9	-3.9	3 1 0	1 1 0	2 4 0
West	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Chino	5	3	0	.625	191	23.9	152	19.0	4.9	2 2 0	2 1 0	4 2 0
Iowa City	4	4	0	.500	165	20.6	160	20.0	0.6	1 3 0	1 2 0	3 3 0
Seattle	2	6	0	.250	145	18.1	197	24.6	-6.5	1 4 0	2 1 0	2 4 0
Los Angeles	1	7	0	.125	97	12.1	184	23.0	-10.9	1 2 0	1 2 0	1 5 0
ATLANTIC CONFERENCE												
North	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Cowtown	6	2	0	.750	189	23.6	112	14.0	9.6	4 0 0	3 0 0	4 2 0
Sebastian	6	2	0	.750	207	25.9	115	14.4	11.5	5 0 0	2 1 0	4 2 0
Durham	3	5	0	.375	165	20.6	203	25.4	-4.8	2 2 0	1 2 0	2 4 0
Scarborough	1	7	0	.125	56	7.0	171	21.4	-14.4	0 3 0	0 3 0	0 6 0
Coastal	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
York	6	2	0	.750	174	21.8	120	15.0	6.8	3 1 0	1 1 0	5 1 0
Brooklin	5	3	0	.625	217	27.1	196	24.5	2.6	3 1 0	1 1 0	3 3 0
Budapest	4	4	0	.500	119	14.9	112	14.0	0.9	2 1 0	1 1 0	3 3 0
Pickering	3	5	0	.375	159	19.9	184	23.0	-3.1	3 2 0	1 1 0	2 4 0
South	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Toronto	6	2	0	.750	178	22.3	119	14.9	7.4	4 0 0	2 1 0	4 2 0
Georgia	5	3	0	.625	186	23.3	180	22.5	0.8	3 1 0	2 1 0	4 2 0
Aurora	5	3	0	.625	198	24.8	156	19.5	5.3	5 0 0	2 1 0	4 2 0
Cincinnati	2	6	0	.250	138	17.3	225	28.1	-10.9	1 2 0	0 3 0	1 5 0

TOP PASSERS												
Rk	Player	Team	Att	Cmp	C%	Yards	In	I%	Lg	TD	TD%	Rate
1	Brady	YOR	237	155	65.4	1830	5	2.1	53	18	7.6	105.3
2	Prescott	CHI	261	171	65.5	1868	3	1.1	60	15	5.7	100.9
3	Smith,A	BRH	292	182	62.3	2240	5	1.7	76	19	6.5	100.5
4	Cutler	TOR	179	107	59.8	1541	6	3.4	71	13	7.3	98.0
5	Brees	SS	281	185	65.8	1913	6	2.1	52	16	5.7	95.4
6	Roethlisberger	GEO	272	156	57.4	2006	5	1.8	62	18	6.6	95.0
7	Ryan,M	AUR	271	169	62.4	2003	5	1.8	66	14	5.2	94.4
8	Taylor,T	BUD	191	115	60.2	1255	2	1	62	9	4.7	91.0
9	Carr,D	VV	232	128	55.2	1760	4	1.7	61	11	4.7	88.3
10	Mariota	BRX	234	145	62.0	1721	11	4.7	53	15	6.4	86.1
11	Flacco	COW	188	115	61.2	1140	4	2.1	56	8	4.3	83.6
12	Rivers,P	PIC	271	151	55.7	1979	9	3.3	67	12	4.4	79.9
13	Goff	NJ	231	130	56.3	1378	6	2.6	59	11	4.8	78.9
14	Dalton	LAK	165	92	55.8	900	1	0.6	50	4	2.4	76.8
15	Wilson,R	ICC	231	129	55.8	1440	7	3	41	9	3.9	75.0
16	Manning	SEA	292	158	54.1	1811	8	2.7	57	11	3.8	74.2
17	Cousins	CIN	291	158	54.3	1841	9	3.1	58	9	3.1	71.1
18	Wentz	STC	253	134	53.0	1393	7	2.8	36	10	4.0	70.8
19	Trubisky	TCT	179	92	51.4	1260	8	4.5	63	8	4.5	70.5
20	Newton,C	DTL	269	145	53.9	1958	15	5.6	66	11	4.1	67.7
21	Bortles	CHP	292	163	55.8	1599	11	3.8	42	7	2.4	63.7
22	Fales	BUF	120	75	62.5	674	4	3.3	38	0	0.0	63.7
23	Stafford	ERI	165	78	47.3	843	4	2.4	64	5	3.0	62.8
24	McCown	LAK	159	85	53.5	881	8	5	42	5	3.1	59.2
25	Garoppolo	COW	44	33	75.0	485	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	18	588	32.7	47	0	1	Cooper,P	ERI	20	3	198	9.9	17	0
2	Cooper,P	ERI	35	966	27.6	90	1	2	Ervin	VV	18	8	177	9.8	44	0
3	Bray	CHI	16	439	27.4	36	0	3	Davis,T	ICC	17	8	163	9.6	20	0
4	Grant,C	CHP	17	461	27.1	79	0	4	Jones,A	NJ	19	1	172	9.1	25	0
5	Williams,K	GEO	15	400	26.7	42	0	5	Agnew	SEA	10	11	89	8.9	36	0
6	Smith-Schuster	VV	15	387	25.8	94	1	6	Erickson	BUF	17	8	148	8.7	17	0
7	Lockett	ICC	17	437	25.7	43	0	7	Jackson,A	STC	26	3	225	8.7	16	0
8	Hunt,A	BRX	11	273	24.8	39	0	8	McCaffrey	CHI	15	11	126	8.4	23	0
9	Switzer	PIC	11	264	24	41	0	9	Sherels	BUD	31	8	256	8.3	17	0
10	Moore,C	SS	10	233	23.3	36	0	10	Amendola	YOR	27	10	219	8.1	20	0
11	Bolden Jr.	YOR	14	325	23.2	35	0	11	Roberts,A	LAK	17	11	134	7.9	15	0
12	Lewis,D	STC	17	389	22.9	31	0	12	Alexander	TCT	29	7	201	6.9	17	0
13	Agnew	SEA	12	268	22.3	42	0	13	Callaway	SS	13	11	82	6.3	15	0
14	Roberts,A	LAK	24	529	22.0	34	0	14	Switzer	PIC	18	4	103	5.7	15	0
15	Barner	BRH	13	284	21.8	35	0	15	Barner	BRH	17	7	97	5.7	17	0
16	Langley	CIN	10	213	21.3	43	0	16	Taylor,T	DTL	17	6	91	5.4	15	0
17	Lewis,T	SBE	20	417	20.9	29	0	17	Campanaro	COW	15	11	80	5.3	12	0
18	Ballage	AUR	14	270	19.3	31	0	18	Crowder	SBE	19	11	101	5.3	12	0
19	Booker	DTL	13	225	17.3	31	0	19	Richard	CHP	26	10	119	4.6	12	0
20	Callaway	SS	1	36	36.0	36	0	20	Pettis	BRX	19	12	72	3.8	14	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	148	849	5.7	66	5	1	Landry	GEO	64	798	12.5	54	8
2	McCoy,L	NJ	181	774	4.3	40	3	2	McCaffrey	CHI	60	569	9.5	24	3
3	Bell,L	LAK	194	760	3.9	30	2	3	Allen,K	CIN	52	733	14.1	51	5
4	Elliott,E	VV	193	751	3.9	35	7	4	Witten	SS	50	469	9.4	36	2
5	Gordon,M	TCT	170	720	4.2	47	6	5	Hopkins,D	BRH	48	797	16.6	76	6
6	Barkley	TOR	143	666	4.7	37	4	6	Gronkowski	BRH	45	553	12.3	44	5
7	Howard,J	SBE	140	647	4.6	58	2	7	Baldwin,D	SS	45	623	13.8	52	5
8	Hunt,K	SEA	153	637	4.2	21	4	8	Tate,G	PIC	45	719	16.0	67	9
9	Collins,A	GEO	125	611	4.9	55	3	9	Bell,L	LAK	44	439	10.0	50	4
10	Penny	DTL	102	537	5.3	20	1	10	Kearse,J	SS	44	501	11.4	34	7
11	Michel	GEO	94	528	5.6	50	1	11	Brown,A	TCT	44	639	14.5	63	4
12	Fournette	BRX	128	524	4.1	26	4	12	Hill,T	TOR	44	755	17.2	52	6
13	Drake	AUR	102	518	5.1	70	2	13	Fitzgerald	COW	43	483	11.2	43	4
14	Crowell	BUD	117	500	4.3	34	3	14	Cooks	LAK	43	487	11.3	39	4
15	Lynch,M	ERI	120	464	3.9	24	1	15	Parker,D	LAK	42	491	11.7	42	1
16	Ingram,M	CHI	106	461	4.3	33	4	16	Sanu	CHP	42	450	10.7	18	1
17	Freeman,D	PIC	86	448	5.2	28	5	17	Smith-Schuster	VV	42	822	19.6	61	7
18	Anderson,C	SS	108	407	3.8	19	2	18	Adams,D	AUR	40	671	16.8	66	5
19	Powell,B	ICC	73	402	5.5	46	3	19	Stills	GEO	38	628	16.5	62	7
20	Lewis,D	STC	82	390	4.8	34	3	20	Green,A	VV	38	515	13.6	54	3
21	Chubb,N	YOR	98	387	3.9	22	1	21	Kelce,T	BRX	38	431	11.3	45	4
22	Wentz	STC	44	363	8.3	36	1	22	Funchess	CIN	35	529	15.1	53	2
23	Henry,D	YOR	103	362	3.5	17	2	23	Bryant,D	AUR	35	490	14.0	41	5
24	Stewart,J	BRH	82	345	4.2	27	4	24	Thompson,C	BRX	35	389	11.1	53	3
25	Coleman,T	BUF	74	338	4.6	34	2	25	Agholor	CHI	34	345	10.1	32	6

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	5	57	11.4	37	0	1	Jones,C	SS	8	1	Jones,C	SS	8
2	Weddle	TOR	5	74	14.8	44	1	2	Suggs	BRX	7	2	Suggs	BRX	7
3	White,T	LAK	4	103	25.8	63	1	3	Smith,P	BRX	7	3	Smith,P	BRX	7
4	Williams,M	STC	4	65	16.3	35	0	4	Lawrence	CHP	7	4	Lawrence	CHP	7
5	Ramsey	TOR	4	28	7.0	16	0	5	Heyward	CHP	7	5	Heyward	CHP	7
6	Fuller,K	BRX	3	2	0.7	2	0	6	Campbell,C	BUD	7	6	Campbell,C	BUD	7
7	Grimes	BRH	3	78	26.0	59	0	7	Kerrigan	COW	6	7	Kerrigan	COW	6
8	Howard,X	PIC	3	36	12.0	24	0	8	Morgan,D	SBE	6	8	Morgan,D	SBE	6
9	Jackson,J	CHI	3	88	29.3	47	1	9	Judon	NJ	6	9	Judon	NJ	6
10	Shazier	CHI	3	29	9.7	16	0	10	Peppers	STC	5	10	Peppers	STC	5
11	Robertson	CHI	3	49	16.3	22	0	11	Ngakoue	STC	5	11	Ngakoue	STC	5
12	Bouye	ICC	3	58	19.3	25	1	12	Clayborn	NJ	5	12	Clayborn	NJ	5
13	Butler,M	NJ	3	84	28.0	43	0	13	Houston,L	BUD	5	13	Houston,L	BUD	5
14	Smith,H	BRX	3	9	3.0	9	0	14	Jordan,C	BUD	5	14	Jordan,C	BUD	5
15	Robinson,P	SS	3	37	12.3	24	0	15	Donald	BUF	5	15	Donald	BUF	5
16	Boston	SS	2	37	18.5	35	0	16	McCoy,G	BRH	5	16	McCoy,G	BRH	5
17	Mills,J	CHP	2	42	21.0	42	1	17	Quinn,R	LAK	5	17	Quinn,R	LAK	5
18	Mosley	CHP	2	13	6.5	13	0	18	Davenport	AUR	5	18	Davenport	AUR	5
19	Trufant	CHP	2	0	0.0	0	0	19	Jackson,M	AUR	5	19	Jackson,M	AUR	5
20	Joseph,J	CHP	2	51	25.5	51	1	20	Dupree	BRX	4	20	Dupree	BRX	4

SCORING LEADERS													
Rk	Player	Team	FG	XP	2Pt	Run	Rec	Int	KR	PR	Fmb	Sf	Tot
1	Hauschka	STC	17	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	65
2	Tate,G	PIC	0	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	54
3	Gonzalez	VV	11	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	52
4	Bryant,M	COW	10	21	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	51
5	Vinatieri	SS	10	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	49
6	Tucker,J	ICC	10	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	49
7	Smith-Schu	VV	0	0	0	0	7	0	1	0	0	0	48
8	Gurley II	COW	0	0	0	5	3	0	0	0	0	0	48
9	Landry	GEO	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	48
10	Parkey	BRH	9	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	47
11	Bailey,D	CHI	8	23	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	47
12	Tavecchio	GEO	9	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	46
13	Boswell	NJ	10	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	45
14	Catanzaro	BRX	7	23	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	44
15	Carlson	TOR	8	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	44
16	Kearse,J	SS	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	42
17	Foreman	SS	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	42
18	Lutz	AUR	6	24	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	42
19	Elliott,J	BUF	12	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	42
20	Stills	GEO	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	42
21	Elliott,E	VV	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	42
22	Gano	YOR	7	21	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	42
23	Lambo	SEA	9	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	41
24	Forbath	BUD	11	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	41
25	Hopkins,D	TCT	6	22	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	40
26	Zuerlein	PIC	7	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	39
27	Succop	CHP	9	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	38
28	Hopkins,D	BRH	0	0	1	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	38
29	Hunt,K	SEA	0	0	1	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	38
30	Fournette	BRX	0	0	1	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	38
31	Gostkowski	ERI	9	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	37
32	Ginn Jr.	NJ	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	36
33	Hyde,C	DTL	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	36
34	Agholor	CHI	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	36
35	Trubisky	TCT	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	36

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	20	17	85.0	7	2	53	65	1	Kern	BRX	38	1900	4	11	71	0	50.0
2	Gonzalez	VV	13	11	84.6	2	0	49	52	2	Lee,A	BUF	38	1847	0	7	64	0	48.6
3	Bryant,M	COW	14	10	71.4	1	0	44	51	3	Colquitt,B	SEA	35	1696	0	10	58	0	48.5
4	Tucker,J	ICC	14	10	71.4	6	3	54	49	4	Kaser	BUD	48	2312	6	15	58	0	48.2
5	Vinatieri	SS	12	10	83.3	5	0	49	49	5	Hekker	COW	44	2115	2	21	61	0	48.1
6	Bailey,D	CHI	14	8	57.1	3	1	51	47	6	Huber	CHP	38	1805	7	11	58	1	47.5
7	Parkey	BRH	14	9	64.3	2	1	55	47	7	O'Donnell	NJ	44	2074	4	16	63	0	47.1
8	Tavecchio	GEO	16	9	56.3	2	0	45	46	8	Colquitt,D	SBE	51	2401	3	14	70	0	47.1
9	Boswell	NJ	15	10	66.7	5	0	46	45	9	King,M	TOR	53	2480	1	22	70	0	46.8
10	Catanzaro	BRX	14	7	50.0	3	2	57	44	10	Lechler	STC	45	2087	2	20	62	0	46.4
11	Carlson	TOR	12	8	66.7	5	2	51	44	11	Jones,D	YOR	37	1696	1	22	55	0	45.8
12	Gano	YOR	9	7	77.8	2	0	46	42	12	Dixon,R	GEO	34	1554	1	15	59	0	45.7



# AROUND THE



## With Spats McChad



NEW YORK – It's turkey time in the United States and the EFL served up three heaping helpings with the “championship line-up” of games it featured on Thursday. Aurora, Twin Cities and Sebastian hosted Budapest, Bruxelles and Scarborough respectively – one reigning champ, three former champs, and two championship finalists in this star-studded group. Not a bad idea, in theory, to feature storied, successful franchises, both new & old and, in the case of Sebastian, an up-and-coming franchise the EFL hopes will continue to build a following and secure the all-important Florida market. Unfortunately, at the time the league hatched its brilliant plan, it could not have forecast that the Blue Eagles would be relying on **Brock Osweiler**, the Triumph would be starting their third string quarterback and the North Stars' **Tyrod Taylor** would have forgotten how to pass.

### ROAST EAGLE

The day of football could not have been led off worse than it was with an overdone roast bird for the first course. In truth, when Scarborough safety **Lamarcus Joyner** intercepted **Drew Brees** at the 2-yard line to pull the rug out from under a first possession red zone opportunity for the Swordfish; and **Jordan Howard** followed that up 6 plays later with a 35-yard run through a gaping hole in the line to knife into field goal range, even a cynic like me allowed myself a second to pause and consider the possibility that the Thanksgiving spotlight might bring out the best in Scarborough. I mean, **Brock Osweiler**, freshly returned from injury, had, just the previous play, completed a perfect slant to **DeSean Jackson** for 17 yards in the teeth of the Sebastian blitz to convert a 3<sup>rd</sup> & 9. *If he keeps doing that, we have a game*, I thought! But then the drive fizzled. Apparently, Scarborough coach, **Chris Dickinson** was not so impressed by his quarterback's steely resolve on 3<sup>rd</sup> & 9 four snaps earlier. Betting that lightning wouldn't strike twice, he had Osweiler hand the ball off to Howard on 3<sup>rd</sup> & 10. Howard made a good effort, but came up 2 yards short. **Mason Crosby** hit on the 43-yard field goal to give Scarborough a short-lived 3-0 lead. That was the high point for Scarborough and for the holiday viewers, many of whom were just beginning to lay into their plates of turkey and stuffing.

Sebastian went on to skewer the hapless Eagles, 25-3, as most had expected they would, but they did it in less than impressive style. **Jermaine Kearse**, working against **Logan Ryan**, was the featured receiver in the Swordfish game plan, with 8 catches for 99-yards and a touchdown. *Who is Jermaine Kearse*, you ask? He was the third receiver last year on a team with **Odell Beckham Jr** and **Doug Baldwin** on the roster, so his name was not called very often. He's a solid route runner and can improvise, but he is no star. Ryan made him look like one by playing like he'd already gorged on stuffing. The real star, Odell Beckham, was dressed for the game but idle on the sideline for some reason. The other star, Doug Baldwin, was held to just 32 yards on 5 catches, with a long of 11 yards. The Swordfish easily shut down the somnambulistic Scarborough offence and went through the motions on offence, eventually stacking up 23 points. **Chandler Jones** notched a safety for the other 2 points, adding an exclamation mark to the defensive effort. Was anybody watching by the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter?

### AUNT JEN'S FAMOUS STUFFING

The second course of the 2018 Thanksgiving Classic was held in Minneapolis, where **CJ Beathard** of the Triumph squared off against “Bruxelles Legend,” **Marcus Mariota**. The Belgians, with no history of American football prior to last season, have already attributed legendary status to Mariota for the near-miracle he performed in leading the Bombers to the Championship Game in 2017. This year has not been as smooth for Mariota and his team, but they clearly had the edge at the most important position heading into this contest. It was a game many expected them to win and they did, by the everyday score of 21-17.

Under the circumstances this was a competitive game, but it was still painful to watch. Imagine two wrestlers in a ring with the bigger one's arm tied behind his back. The bigger one is giving it everything he's got but he just can't get it done against his two-armed opponent. Everyone knows where the match is going, but it is taking excruciatingly long to get there.

It was also irritating to listen to the hyperbolic antics of the broadcast crew. The virtual inevitability of the outcome seemed to prompt CBS colour commentator, **Phil Mimms** to hyper-ventilate over almost every success the Triumph had, while practically ignoring the positives for the Bombers. **Leonard Fournette**, who was locked down ruthlessly by **Bobby Wagner**, served as a mere foil for the outstanding Triumph defensive line. Mariota, in similar fashion, was elevated in stature only to emphasize the superior qualities of the Twin Cities pass rush and the agility and gamesmanship of corner, **Darius Slay** and safety **Bradley Roby**. Slay played well enough and made a nice pick on a 1<sup>st</sup> quarter deep ball that Mariota underthrew slightly. But Roby was exposed all day struggling to contain **Travis Kelce** despite getting plenty of help underneath from linebacker





Budapest quarterback **Tyrod Taylor** demonstrates his new throwing motion against the Mustangs on Thanksgiving Day. Taylor completed just 3 of 12 pass attempts for 31 yards and led the North Stars to just 5 first downs and 101 yards of offence in a 17-0 loss. Rookie, **Baker Mayfield** saw limited action in the 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Nigel Bradham** and over the top from free safety **Sean Davis**. Kelce was Mariota's principal target due to the absence of most of his wide receiving corps. Under those circumstances, holding him to 7 catches for 59 yards and, crucially, 6 first downs, was hardly a Pro Bowl performance by members of the Triumph secondary.

The loudest and most sustained accolades were reserved for **Melvin Gordon**. He was the legitimate star of the day for the losing side. If he is on your fantasy team you would have been excited by how he delivered on the challenge of being the only hope for the Triumph offence. He rushed for 134 yards and his team's 2 touchdowns, the second score coming on a 47-yard run to tie the game at 14 all in the third

quarter. As well as he played, however, Mimms comparing him repeatedly to **Barry Sanders** was more than a stretch.

However, the real torture in the commentary came when Mimms was trying to prop up quarterback, **CJ Beathard**. The third-stringer was clearly in over his head and everybody in the country watching the game knew it – except, apparently, Mimms and Triumph coach, **Guy Williams**.

With the Triumph leading 17-14 early in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter – after a **Kwon Alexander** interception at the Bruxelles' 23-yard line had set up the go-ahead field goal late in the third quarter – Beathard was stoned for no gain attempting to take the ball up the gut on 3<sup>rd</sup> & 6 at the Bruxelles 35-yard line. That brought up 4<sup>th</sup> down and a decision for the coach: Does he have **Dustin Hopkins** attempt a long field goal at the very edge of the kicker's range? Or does he punt the ball out of bounds and push the Bombers back deep in their own end? These, at least, were the conventional options laid out at the time by play-by-play announcer, **Bill Mimes**:

"If you are Coach Williams do you try a field goal here, Phil; or do you ask Chris Jones to try to win the field position battle for you?" Mimes inquired as the officials marked the ball with the nose just beyond the 35-yard line.

"If I am Coach Williams, I am going to try something a touch on the crazy side because I'm super competitive and incredibly stubborn, Bill," **Phil Mimms** replied without hesitation. "I'm keeping CJ Beathard on the field and putting the game in his hands."

Sure enough, Mimms was in the head of **Guy Williams**. With hardly a moment's hesitation the offence was directed to stay on the field. This caused **Bill Mimes** to speculate that perhaps they were trying to draw the Bombers offside.

"It's possible, Bill, but I don't think so," Mimms replied assuredly. "Coach Williams will be thinking that the Bruxelles defence will be thinking that and guarding against jumping offside. He is anticipating gaining a jump on the defence by actually running the play. Expect a pass here."

Again, Mimms's in-depth grasp of 'Triumph Strategy 101' was predictive. But the Bombers apparently also were well-versed in the thought processes of the Twin Cities coach. The defence deployed 7 defensive backs and sent **Preston Smith** on the blitz. Beathard froze and Smith jolted him to the turf, knocking the ball loose at the 40-yard line where corner **Artie Burns** covered it up.

The Bombers took over at their 40. Although they were unable to mount a scoring drive on that possession, they flipped the field, handing the Triumph the ball back at their 9 and eventually getting the ball back at their own 48. Bruxelles covered the remaining distance in 7 plays, finishing the drive with a 10-yard crossing pass to **Terrelle Pryor Sr.** for the go-ahead and eventual game-winning touchdown.

Twin Cities got the ball back at their 40-yard line with 3:07 left. Plenty of time to cover 60 yards...in theory. But an exaggerated sense of urgency permeated the Triumph offence. On the first play, Beathard took a 10-step drop as **Antonio Brown**, **Rishard Matthews** and **Kenny Golladay** streaked deep downfield. He lifted his head to survey the field. <Boom!> **Preston Smith** blindsided him, knocking him to the ground like a rag doll for his second sack and a 10-yard loss. On 2<sup>nd</sup> and 20 he again went deep, looking for Brown, but the Triumph star was double-covered and **Harrison Smith** tipped the pass away. On 3<sup>rd</sup> & 20, another attempted bomb was aborted when Beathard couldn't handle the snap from the shotgun and had to fall on the ball for a 5-yard loss. The whole sequence looked like a scene from *Paper Lion*, with Beathard playing **George Plimpton**.

"What do you think about the Triumph going for it all on that sequence, Phil?" **Bill Mimes** asked as Triumph punter, **Chris Jones** took the field.

"I like the calls, Bill," **Phil Mimms** replied. "Coach Guy Williams is not going to change his approach just because he has a rookie behind center. He is showing confidence in his young quarterback and challenging him to respond with a big play. Now I know CJ would like to have that sequence back, but look at him on the sideline. He looks like he wants to get back out there! I know that fire is what Guy Williams is seeing when he goes for broke like that."

The Triumph got the ball back at their own 2-yard line with 50 seconds left and no timeouts. In the category of small mercies

the Triumph quarterback was permitted by the Football Gods to finish the game without having to endure the further humiliation of a safety or worse – a sack and fumble in the end zone. He did get sacked – losing the 9 yards that he gained on a check down to Golladay on the first play from scrimmage. A spike of the ball stopped the clock at 1 second and brought up 4<sup>th</sup> & 10. The Triumph coach finally rightly calculated that the chance of his running back running for 98 yards was higher than the chance of his quarterback not getting sacked to end the game. He called a pitch that **Melvin Gordon** carried 6 yards before being brought down by Smith to end the game.

As the camera focused on **CJ Beathard** walking to the center of the field to shake hands with his opposite number, **Marcus Mariota**, **Phil Mimms** had the final word for the few thousands still in front of the television:

“That young man can hold his head up high!” Mimms gushed. “He kept his team in the game and gave them a chance to win it on the final possession. That’s all you can ask of a young quarterback still finding his way. My hat is off to both teams for putting on a Thanksgiving classic with the entire country watching.”

I replayed Mimm’s epilogue twice – just to make sure I had heard what I had heard. In listening to it again it brought to mind Aunt Jen’s “famous” turkey stuffing. Aunt Jen, God rest her soul, was a wonderful woman. But her stuffing was neither famous, nor particularly good. It was inevitably dry and over-seasoned with nutmeg and allspice, both Christmas spices usually found in mulled wine and eggnog. That was the clever and unique part, apparently. It is conceivable that at some point in the past Aunt Jen had made a better version; one that had been well-received by her family and guests, possibly during the last World War when rationing was in effect and spices expensive. But by the time I was old enough to be conscious of the details of a good stuffing, I knew it was the strangest stuffing I had ever eaten. And it seemed to get drier and spicier every year. I also knew not to challenge the legend of Aunt Jen’s self-proclaimed famous stuffing. Nobody in my family did and everybody dutifully choked down at least a half-dozen mouthfuls and tried to out-do each other in raving about how delicious it was. “*The highlight of the feast*,” my lying father used to crow, causing my dear old Aunt Jen to bat her eyelids and smile. When she passed away, she left the recipe to my mother instead of a healthy cheque drawn from her considerable estate. This was her way of letting her know how much she loved her more than her other nieces.

### COOKIES

It rarely happens, but it does. You have 60 or more items on your shopping list for the big ‘Thanksgiving Feast.’ It involves multiple trips to various stores and all the extra storage capacity of your refrigerators and pantry. It’s more than one person can do, so you split the duties with family. Eventually everything comes together and you are ready for the Big Day. And then....

...when all your guests are there, the first beers are cracked and the opening theme music for football floods the living room, somebody notices that there is no pumpkin pie. *Somebody* – usually you – forgot to buy the pumpkin pie! And because it’s Thanksgiving, and the stores are closed, there is no pie to be bought. So, what are you and your guests going to have for dessert?

Cookies. You scour your cupboards, or race to the *Seven Eleven* and purchase an attractive assortment of Snackwell’s Devils Food Cookie Cakes, Ginger Snaps, Oreos and Animal Crackers for the kids. It’s not pumpkin pie, but at least its *something*. “Something,” or cookies instead of pie, are the nicest terms I can think of to describe the night game between Aurora and Budapest that ended with Aurora shutting out the North Stars, 17-0.

The less time devoted to this game, the better. Nevertheless, a few observations:

The worst fears about **Tyrod Taylor** came to life in front of millions of viewers on Prime Time TV in high definition, digital splendor. Taylor completed just 3 of 12 pass attempts for 31 yards. He looked as bad as his stats suggest. So ineffective and unthreatening was he, that the Aurora defence was comfortable multi-tasking, keeping one eye on **Isaiah Crowell** and **Matt Forte** while ostensibly set up to defend the pass. It marks the second straight game Taylor has looked completely off his game. He is either nursing a secret injury or teams have figured him out.

Despite the ineptitude of the Budapest attack helping them to hold the ball for over 37 minutes, the Aurora offence managed to score just 17 points. **Davante Adams** went down with an injury early in the first quarter and the loss echoed the rest of the day. With the exception of a 38-yard completion to **Dez Bryant** on the game’s opening drive, there was none of the typical **Matt Ryan**-directed Aurora explosiveness. The Budapest defence deserves some credit for this. The front seven played with its customary discipline and tenacity. But even the best defences eventually crumble when they spend too much time on the field. The North Stars were showing signs of fatigue in the fourth quarter but the Mustangs were unable to break them with a big play. They closed the vice slowly, providing little to no highlight-quality material for the network recaps.

For Mustangs fans the game provided no comfort that their team is returning to the level of dominance it has enjoyed the past four seasons. For North Stars fans it was a depressing debacle that has caused a furor of support for a look at **Baker Mayfield**, even knowing that such a move would be like waving the white flag on the season. For the rest of us, the game was a stale cookie when we were craving pumpkin pie.

### PRISON BREAK

The Chino Convicts broke the chains of bondage that the Cubs had clapped on them for three full seasons with a 40-14 beat down of their hated West Division rivals at Joe Ferguson Stadium. The question now is: Will they be able to make a clean break for freedom and claim the Division title?

The revival of the Convicts’ fortunes, after a 1-3 start, had been built on the backs of awful Erieau; erratic New Jersey; and doleful Durham over a three-game win streak prior to their showdown with the Cubs this week. This is not an impressive list of

victims, but a win is a win and they all count. The Convicts entered Week 8 tied with the Cubs for first place in the West Division. The Cubs were on a slight downward trend after being humbled in Sebastian in Week 7, but conservative opinion favoured an Iowa rebound, even though Vegas had set the Convicts as a 1-point favourites.

The complete mastery demonstrated by the Convicts over the Cubs caught everyone's attention and came as a surprise to most. But for those who had been watching carefully, the outcome was not so shocking. There is a new energy in Chino and it is being channeled by one man: **Dak Prescott**.

Prescott is nipping at **Tom Brady's** heels in the race to be the league's top-rated passer and now his team is starting to win. This creates for him a powerful "turf cred" that is solidifying his standing as 'The Man' on the Convicts' practice range. The dwindling remnants of the old 'Newton Posse' are thoroughly demoralized or have switched sides completely. Dak rules – in the dressing room, in the Chino media and, more importantly, on the field. But as well as the young QB has played, it is his supporting cast that is garnering attention from football think tanks such as [FootballOutriders.Org](http://FootballOutriders.Org).

*"The Convicts have unheralded weapons that are being used in a system designed to keep defences off balance and unable to fully commit to a focused strategy,"* explains Outriders guru, **Harry Schultz**. *"Their split back set, with two complimentary running backs in the backfield, is reminiscent of the 70's, when the fullback and halfback shared the carry load. Chino uses it a little differently, though. They feature a run specialist, **Mark Ingram**; and a receiving specialist, **Christian McCaffery**. It's causing fits for defensive coordinators."*

The reason it is causing fits is because both have to be accounted for in different ways out of a standard set. Ingram is a problem all on his own. Add McCaffery as a quasi-slot receiver coming out of the backfield, a player who can also run effectively between the tackles, and you have an endless guessing game for the defence. The Cubs' defence had no answer for this formation as evidenced by the combined 234 total yards, both running and receiving, produced by the pair in Chino's resounding victory. This brings their combined total on the season to 1,385 yards of offence, an incredible 48% of the team's total of 2,867 yards. Add in Prescott's 301 rushing yards and you have 59% of the Chino offensive yardage output coming from the backfield.

The Chino backfield is a problem that a defence cannot game plan exclusively for because of the speed of the Convicts' receiving corps. **Marvin Jones Jr** and **Marquise Goodwin** are both potential game-breakers and **Nelson Agholor** is a solid all-purpose wide receiver. Jones and Agholor have 11 of Prescott's 15 TD passes. They cannot be ignored.

The Convicts' big win on Sunday may be the first definitive sign of a changing of the guard in the West. The Cubs are now in chase mode. They have half a season to catch the Convicts and put them back in their cells.

#### **KELLY-BURKE BLUES**

The Chargers took care of business in Erieau, knocking off the Cadillac 26-7 in a game that featured a rare 3-TD pass performance by **Carson Wentz**. **John Clingan's** squad looked strong and fully worthy of their no.1 standing the East. But how strong were they, really, given the competition?

Watching clips of this game (I could not bring myself to watch the whole thing) the thought popped into my head that the people of Erieau must have absolutely nothing to do on a Sunday afternoon in November. Why else would over 20,000 of them show up to watch a 24th-ranked offence nearly outdo the futility of its outing the week before? This was the fifth game that the Cadillac offence failed to make double-digits in first downs and gain less than 200 yards of offence. These types of outings are only tolerable if the defence is playing lights out. But that was not the case this week against St. Charles. The 26-7 Chargers' victory was a totally one-sided affair. **Matt Stafford** completed only 8 passes in 22 tries for a paltry 92 yards and managed to look surprised and disgusted every time he missed a mark or a receiver broke off a route. He should be used to this by now – it is a weekly occurrence!

Incredibly, the Erieau fans don't appear to be angry that their offence averages 182 yards per game and 3.5 yards per play and are dead last in the league by a considerable margin. They sat on their duffs eating dried fish and drinking 'Crankshaft' IPA and cheered tirelessly for their boys in 'Great Lake Blue.' They did moan slightly the eight times the punting unit had to come on the field and went "ohhh" the two times Erieau turned the ball over. But every new possession brought a hopeful rally cry of "Vrrooom Vrrooom Vrrooom!" and every appearance by the defence a loud chant of "Stop Them! Stop Them!" Imagine that they would do if this team started winning! Would they even know the difference?

#### **AROUND THE EFL**

My tour of other notable Week 8 games will be necessarily brief. Professor McChad has marking to do (see following pages).

At Georgia Stadium the Hawks turned the tables on the Gladiators with a thrilling 34-28 overtime victory. The Glads had come from behind in the last two minutes of regulation in 4 of their 5 victories entering Week 8. When **Giorgio Tavecchio** booted a field goal to tie the game at 28 with 0:20 left and **Big Ben** hit wide open **Kenny Stills** in stride on the first play of overtime for a big gain it looked as if the team was following their Week One script. But **Davon House** punched the ball out as Stills tried to streak by and **Ronnie Harrison** recovered to set in motion the game-winning drive. **Alex Smith** tossed a 32-yard screen to **Evan Engram** and followed that up with a short out that **Randall Cobb** took 16 yards to the house for the game-winning score. The spell is broken.

At Thermopylae Stadium in Pickering the Crusaders made it two wins in a row with a stunning 38-28 upset of the Spartans. **Kirk Cousins** threw for 324 yards and a TD and **Aaron Jones** rushed for 108 yards and 2 TDs to power the Cincinnati attack. A spokesperson for the Spartans explained that coach **Gus Konstantakos** was being placed back on suicide watch and had been confined to Zeus' Dungeon until the blue lasers from his head died down and therefore could not attend the post-game briefing.





## Professor McChad's Mid-Term Report Card

November 2018

In the Hallowed Halls of High Learning in the Living Football University called the EFL only the strictest standards apply. As a Senior Fellow of said EFL University it falls on me to maintain those standards by applying rigour to my grades. No team is spared the most exacting analysis and criticism based on my profound and every-increasing knowledge of this wonderful sport. For the sake of the sport, I spare no one. But if you meet or exceed the standard, you will be recognized and, in rare cases, praised. Here is my rating scale:

**A: Excellent    B: Good    C: Fair    D: Poor    F: Fail**

A plus (+) indicates slightly above the grade; a minus (-) slightly less.

**Aurora (A-):** This is not the type of dominant team we are accustomed to seeing in Aurora but they have still played well. They are adapting to the reality of parity and adopting strategies to cope with a downgrade in talent on the offensive line and on the defensive side of the ball. A rare blowout loss to Cowtown will prove to be the exception, not the rule. Impressive tactical victories over Toronto and Pickering show that the team can win the chess match as convincingly as the wrestling match.

**Budapest (B):** The North Stars are where most pre-season analysis predicted they would be by the end of Week 8. The offence was not projected to be the team's strong suit, but the abrupt drop-off in offensive production over the past three weeks is stunning even by traditional North Stars standards. This is a serious problem that has taken at least half a letter off their mid-term grade. The defence has the talent to carry the team far, but no team will win if it can't score. Is Baker Mayfield ready?

**Buffalo (C-):** If the Derailers had a decent quarterback they would be dangerous. But they don't, so they aren't. What they are is a team capable of being a huge pain in the posterior on any given Sunday for opponents who dare to take them lightly. This is worth a half mark bonus all on its own. The defence can take care of itself, but finds itself alone most weekends. The combo of rookie and career third-stringer at QB offers no hope for a rebound, so fans had better enjoy the beer and hot dogs.

**Brooklin (B+):** Nothing like acing the midterms to hide a failing grade in the first month quizzes. The Hawks have turned things around after an unlucky start. The offence has come alive over a five-game win streak while the wobbly defence does just enough to get by. The team learned the hard way that Alex Smith cannot carry the team with his arm. Support from the run game is opening up the passing attack and creating scrambling lanes for Smith. Give the coach a + for figuring it out.

**Bruxelles (B):** Making the final creates expectations the following year. Suffice to say that the Bombers are not taking any team by surprise in 2018. This fact and the obvious downgrades in the health and capacity of their wide-receiving corps has them fighting for every win in a division weakened by the loss of Brooklin. Impressive victories over Budapest and St. Charles are balanced by error-filled letdowns against Buffalo and New Jersey. Parity in action or lack of focus – it's hard to say.

**Charleswood (C+):** It's hard to grade a team fairly when the starting quarterback is knocked out with a serious injury five minutes into the season. Plan B is dependant on the back-up and Blake Bortles has been unimpressive in relief. The defence has upped its game after a slow start and can claim victories over Georgia and Virden. That leaves one win over hapless Seattle to the credit of the quarterback and a loss to Cincinnati as an indelible blemish. Praying fervently for DeShaun Watson's return.

**Chino (B+):** The Convicts are trending upwards after demolishing their main division rival to claim first place in the West. Dak Prescott is hotter than any quarterback not named Tom Brady and the defence is generating turnovers at a league-leading clip. A +14 turnover differential is covering up flaws on both sides of the ball, but there is no sign that the takeaway game is about to end soon. When it's not working, however, the 'Lockdown Crew' is susceptible to getting shanked up the wazoo.

**Cincinnati (D-):** This is a combo grade that factors in a mid-season change in management and wards off the 'F' that was brewing for six cheerless weeks of impotence under the Good Reverend. Since the interim staff was installed this has looked more like the team we had envisioned at the start of the year; a dark horse contender with the ability to upend a more established favourite on any given Sunday. The offence is regrouping but the defence, despite Luke Kuechly, will be a permanent liability.

**Cowtown (A):** When no team is a clear-cut dominator on game day, wins become the ultimate arbitrator of performance. With 6 of those to their credit, it is hard to argue that the Corn Kings have not met or exceeded expectations. They are succeeding while weathering a quarterback controversy that would have set back many teams. Todd Gurley and a stingy, no-name defence are key contributors, bringing out the better side of Joe Flacco and setting the table for the return of Jimmy G.

**Durham (C-):** It is tough to win when you turn the ball over. Durham labours under the worst turnover deficit in the league – a stunning -16 – and are losers of 4 in a row. Their 3-1 start is a distant memory. The freefall started in Week 5 when Kenny Stills raced 62-yards, untouched, for the wining TD against them in the dying seconds. Since then the Lizards are a mind-numbing -13 in turnover differential. Cam Newton has totally lost it and he is bringing his team and the coach down with him.

**Erieau (C):** The Cadillac deserve credit for finding a way to win 3 games. That is 2 more wins than an offence of their calibre deserves. The relative success of Week One – when they performed like a mediocre, but somewhat normal offence – has not been replicated since. The play of Matt Stafford is atrocious. Marshawn Lynch is hardly a factor. The team relies on the very occasional deep pass to Jordy Nelson and the defence to score. Somebody tell the coach that the two-TE attack is not working.

**Georgia (B+)**: When a team lives on the edge as much as the Glads, it is hard to tell if they are lucky or good. They have lived or died (mostly lived) in the final two minutes of 6 of their 8 games. It is a recipe for ulcers all around. Credit to Big Ben & Co. for never saying die on final possessions and staying one step ahead of the team's leaky defence. Deduct marks for repeatedly slipping into positions where they need minor miracles to win. Let's call them "good" with a bonus for excitement.

**Iowa City (B-)**: The Cubs will be the first ones to tell you that they can do better. I will be the second. A team widely considered to be a cut above the parity line finds itself in the middle of the pack in the race for post-season position. Their .500 record partially covers up a disturbing lack of power in their punch. Deprived of top weapons, Russell Wilson is faltering, while the GM is discovering that 3 elite corners cannot carry a defence that lacks a pass rush and plays with sub-standard safeties.

**Los Angeles (D)**: The Knights have been an unmitigated disaster since winning their season opener. Their seven-game losing streak began with 5 turnovers in Erieau, one of the unlikeliest places for a team to fall off the rails. They have been unable to look forward since. As is often the case when LA stumbles, instability at the quarterback position is a factor. The other is the vulnerability of the Le'Veon Bell Offence to teams keying on Le'Veon Bell. When there is nobody else, that is a losing formula.

**New Jersey (B-)**: The jury is out on the Wrecking Balls. Don't be surprised if it reports being hung. At times they have looked impressive; at other times, regressive. The offence is designed for ball control, yet capable of the big play; but we have not seen much of either. On the other hand, the defence – an afterthought in the off-season – has outperformed expectations and is keeping the team in games. "Ya win some, ya lose some" is the expression *du jour* at Stone Pony Shore.

**Pickering (C-)**: Not a lot has changed from this time last year apart from fans' expectations being higher and the resulting disappointment at failing to live up to them that much greater. It is hard to pin down why the high-powered offence can move the ball but can't score; and the talented defence suffers long stretches when it cannot stop anybody. Maybe the odd blitz might help? Apart from a Week One win over Brooklin, the Spartans have not looked comfortable or confident, even in victory.

**Scarborough (D)**: The loss of Aaron Rodgers in Week One and back-up Brock Osweiler in Week Two gutted any faint hope that the Blue Eagles would be in playoff position by the half-way point. The offence with Sean Mannion at the helm was so dismal that the team was forced to trade for Brett Hundley. His gift to the team was a mistake-free outing in Week 7 that led to their only win – a 21-point effort over Seattle. When such a game is the team's high point, you know it's been a bad year.

**Seattle (D+)**: The Pilots kicked off the campaign with their customary Week One "upset" of the Cubs and followed that up with three solid, albeit losing, outings against quality opponents in which they flashed uncommon firepower. But just as serious football people began to pay attention to the Pilots they slipped back into their customary bad habits, personified by their erratic and turnover-prone QB, Eli Manning. It is becoming obvious to all that as long as Eli is in the game, the Pilots won't be.

**Sebastian (A-)**: This year's version of the Swordfish contains the necessary elements of a first-rate contender, so their success to date is not a surprise. Adding Drew Brees was the key to bringing it all together, but the offence has sputtered at times. Odell Beckham Jr is lurking, but not a regular; CJ Anderson has yet to bust out; and Brees has faltered in short stretches. The ultra-aggressive 4<sup>th</sup> down posture is as much a disruption as it is a weapon. The 'D' is proving to be an elite and steadying force.

**St. Charles (A)**: I would feel more confident in giving the Chargers an A-grade if I knew how they were getting it done. Carson Wentz has been not been dependable. Ranked 20<sup>th</sup> in offensive efficiency and toward the middle in overall defence, they are not achieving statistical dominance typical of a no.1 seed; nor are they taking the ball away from opponents at a high rate. The only thing they do better than anyone is stop adversaries in the red zone. Making timely plays is what they do.

**Toronto (A)**: I am throwing out more A-grades than in past years for teams that if they were playing in those past years might warrant no more than a 'B.' The Wolverines, along with the Chargers, are such a team – riddled with holes too big to keep the ship afloat for long in choppy waters. But when every ship has holes, those that sink slower have better survival odds. Off-season moves to assemble a supreme secondary and acquire big playmakers have paid off handsomely for Toronto. Simply put, they dominate the skies and strike from afar. Any team that can turn Jay Cutler into a top 4 QB deserves no less than an 'A'.

**Twin Cities (B+)**: Despite the loss of Carson Palmer less than 8 minutes into the season, the Triumph were on their way to an A+ with young Mitch Trubisky at QB until they were run over by a Cadillac in Week Six. That set-in motion a sharp decline attributable to his sudden loss of confidence, followed soon after by injury and replacement by the even less capable CJ Beathard. The defence has been steady but can only generate so many turnovers to keep pace with the charity of their own QBs.

**Virden (B-)**: This is another Jekyll & Hyde edition of the Violators. Should I mark Jekyll or Hyde? Losses to Erieau and Charleswood showcased Hyde in action; quasi-drunken, dull-witted execution by Derek Carr and the offence. Masterful wins over Chino and Aurora exhibited the finer qualities of Jekyll; astute game-planning and flawless execution by Derek Carr, Ezekiel Elliott and the offence. The conclusion: when Elliott rolls, so does the offence. Let's hope nothing happens to him.

**York (A-)**: Let's be real; this is Tom Brady's mark as much as it is a team mark for the Excaliburs. Brady has been brilliant – as the top-rated passer in the league should be – in the six wins that currently have York as the no.1 seed in the conference. He was borderline amateurish in the other two games; both were, not coincidentally, losses. His supporting cast of non-stars has risen and fallen with him. The defence, one of the team's strong suits, has been altogether average, except for keeping teams off the scoreboard – a job at which they excel. All-in-all, a solid start. So, why the 'minus?' They could do better.



# BUG THE BOOKIE!

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

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### *Jimmy's WEEK NINE PICKS*

#### **LOS ANGELES @ BUFFALO (line – DERAILERS by 7)**

**INJURIES:** Los Angeles – David Bakhtiari (QUESTIONABLE), Vernon Hargreaves III (OUT), Bryan Bulaga (OUT), Terrance West (OUT), Weston Richburg (OUT); **Buffalo** – DJ Fluker (DOUBTFUL), Jordan Hicks (OUT), Jaquiski Tartt (OUT).

The Knights are suffering through a 7-game losing streak in which nothing has gone right for them. With or without Le'Veon Bell in the line-up they cannot muster enough offence to get ahead. This week they enjoy a rare opportunity to match-up against an equally woeful offence in Buffalo. The defence of the Derailers is no slouch, however, so don't expect a scoring windfall for LA. Statistically, both groups of defenders are closely comparable, suggesting a low-scoring game. But one cavernous area of separation may tell the difference: The Knights are dead last in red zone touchdown % allowed, at an eye-popping 70%; while Buffalo holds the line far more resolutely at a no.3 ranked 44% rate. The Knights collapse while the Derailers stiffen. Expect the home team to hold the line. **PICK: BUFFALO**

#### **IOWA CITY @ ST. CHARLES (line – CHARGERS by 6)**

**INJURIES:** Iowa City – None; **St. Charles** – Tyler Decker (OUT).

Perceptions of the Cubs have decreased steadily since the season started, for good reason. They have not beaten a team of significance and have lost to every better-than-five-hundred team they have faced. This has made them, in Vegas' eyes, serious underdogs on the road against a high-performing, but vulnerable St. Charles team that few people thought in pre-season was in the same category as the Cubs. They aren't. The Chargers are playing consistently better football right now, even if much of their success has come against lightweights. This game will be a test for both teams, but for the Cubs the result will be much more telling. A loss will downgrade them to 'pretender' status; a win would spark a fire in the belly of the team and possibly lead to a full recovery of their lost mojo. The Chargers need more reliable play from Carson Wentz. If he can somehow crack the Cubs' secondary, this could be his coming out party. **PICK: IOWA CITY**

#### **NEW JERSEY @ SEATTLE (line – WRECKING BALLS by 1)**

**INJURIES:** New Jersey – Demar Dotson (OUT), Kentrell Brice (OUT), Chidobe Awuzie (OUT), Jeremy Kerley (OUT); **Seattle** – Olivier Vernon (DOUBTFUL), Michael Crabtree (OUT).

The Wrecking Balls begin a two-week West Coast trip hoping to break the "500 rut" they are in with a pair of wins against struggling opponents. The Pilots broke a six-game slide last week against the only team unluckier than they are. It was not a convincing win and should not be taken as a sign of a rebound. However, the Wrecking Balls tend to be their own worst enemy, so facing an ailing opponent is no guarantee of success. A hint of overconfidence or complacency will work against them, as the Pilots can be counted on to at least try hard. Demar Dotson is out for NJ. That is bad news for Jared Goff's blindside against a team with Khalil Mack. But unless Mack can take command of this game, the Pilots will be flying in a storm against a Jersey team that is better than its record. **PICK: NEW JERSEY**

#### **TWIN CITIES @ VIRDEN (line – TRIUMPH by 3)**

**INJURIES:** Twin Cities – Carson Palmer (OUT), Mitch Trubisky (OUT), Joe Thomas (OUT), Montae Nicholson (OUT); **Virden** – Shane Ray (OUT), Ja'Wuan James (OUT), Noah Spence (OUT), John Kuhn (OUT), Eric Berry (OUT), Marshall Yanda (OUT), Neville Hewitt (OUT);

This is another head-scratching line from the wizards in Vegas that causes one to pause and wonder if the fix is in. Not that Virden on a bad day cannot be beaten by any team, no matter how inept. And not because the Triumph are not capable of edging out a Violators team that is on its game. It is a puzzler because C.J. Beathard, he of the 36.4 completion % (0.5 pts higher than his QB rating) will be starting for Twin Cities. On the road, versus a team that can gain both a game and a critical tie-breaker toward the division title with a win, this



would always be a tough game for the Triumph. But with a marginal third-stringer at the helm, this is Virden's game to lose. The Violators are hurt, but most are back-ups or easily replaced starters. Don't bet on a miracle – take the home team. **PICK: VIRDEN**

### **CHARLESWOOD @ ERIEAU (line – Pick 'Em)**

**INJURIES:** Charleswood – Mike Gesicki (OUT), Deshaun Watson (OUT), Marcus Gilbert (OUT), Jamie Collins (OUT), Marcus Cannon (OUT); Erieau – Jabrill Peppers (QUESTIONABLE), Corey Graham (OUT).

I don't know if the "pick 'em" line is a product of in-depth analysis or sheer indifference to the outcome. The Patriots' brand took a hit when the team lost to Cincinnati. A sloppy outing against NJ did nothing to improve its image. The play of Blake Bortles does not inspire confidence and the Pats' defence is not strong enough to carry the team. The Cadillac are the worst-performing team to win 3 games to this point. They cannot trust their bottom-ranked offence, although that offence will occasionally strike randomly from a distance and sting a sleeping opponent. The defences of both teams hold the key to victory, but predicting defensive play when both offences are sub-standard is a crap shoot at best. Hey! I guess that's why it's a "pick 'em!" (*flipping coin now...*) **PICK: ERIEAU**

### **AURORA @ DURHAM (line – MUSTANGS by 11)**

**INJURIES:** Aurora – Davante Adams (OUT), Duane Brown (OUT); Durham – Richard Sherman (PROBABLE), Josh Gordon (OUT), Ryan Kelly (OUT).

The Mustangs are back in stride and looking to make a move on first place Toronto with back-to-back softies on their schedule. At least that is the conventional wisdom leading to this double-digit line. My advice would be not to underestimate the Thunder Lizards. A preposterously bad -16 turnover differential has played the decisive role in many of their losses. While those gaffes cannot be discounted, one has to speculate that without half of them their fourth ranked offence, in terms of yardage, would have kept this team above 500. The Durham defence has been weak, but they catch a break here with Davante Adams and Duane Brown out. Deprived of his favourite target, Matt Ryan will be slowed down just enough to give a turnover-free Cam Newton a shot – at keeping it close at least. **PICK: DURHAM**

### **GEORGIA @ SCARBOROUGH (line – GLADIATORS by 4)**

**INJURIES:** Georgia – Will Fuller V (PROBABLE), D. Rodgers-Cromartie (PROBABLE), Taven Bryan (OUT), Reggie Ragland (OUT); Scarborough – Earl Watford (DOUBTFUL), Aaron Rodgers (OUT), Cordy Glenn (OUT), TJ Yeldon (OUT), Dont'a Hightower (OUT), Pierre Garcon (OUT).

The clock is ticking on the return of Aaron Rodgers. One more game...just one more game of Brock Osweiler & Friends and then...It is sad, but true, that the Blue Eagles' season is now basically a lost cause. That doesn't mean that the team will pack it in. The faint hope for diehards is that they can somehow find a way to eke out a win here and run the table with their star QB to finish above 500. If that happens and they get some help, who knows? It is a pipe dream, but the Glads, on the other hand, have high hopes for their season if they can stay on track. They fell short in OT last week, which dropped them into a tie with Aurora. They need this win to keep up. Big Ben shouldn't need a miracle comeback this week to take care of business; he must simply avoid being Bad Ben. **PICK: GEORGIA**

### **SEBASTIAN @ TORONTO (line – SWORDFISH by 1)**

**INJURIES:** Sebastian – Donald Penn (OUT), Aaron Lynch (OUT), Shawn Lauvao (OUT), D'Onta Foreman (OUT), Arik Armstead (OUT), Darren Sproles (OUT); Toronto – Zach Vigil (OUT), Ryan Griffin (OUT).

This could be the game where the decrepit offensive line of the Wolverines catches up with Jay Cutler and the offence. The Swordfish have one of the league's better pass rushes and have held opponents to a league-low 73 rushing yards per game. If Toronto cannot pick up 3<sup>rd</sup>-and-manageable with the ground game, Cutler and the offensive line could be mercilessly exposed in long passing down situations. On the other side, Drew Brees has the accuracy, the mobility and the patience to diminish the impact of the Toronto secondary, especially if CJ Anderson is on his game. As odd as it sounds, this could also be a preview of Conference Final if these teams continue along their respective paths. It is a big game – and in big games, big time QBs rule. The pick is obvious. **PICK: SEBASTIAN**

### **PICKERING @ BUDAPEST (line – NORTH STARS by 8)**

**INJURIES:** Pickering – Ronald Leary (OUT), Dion Jordan (OUT); Budapest – TJ Lang (OUT), Martellus Bennett (OUT), Jamize Olawale (OUT), Jason Peters (OUT), Jordan Reed (OUT).

The Aurora defence did not need to do much more than stand in place to throttle the Budapest offence last week. That has fans screaming for Baker Mayfield to make his starting debut in brown & orange. Darrin Jones has not announced his starter, but regardless of who it is, do not expect the North Stars to light up the scoreboard. The Spartans have played undisciplined football on the backside of the ball, but have the talent to contain an offence stuck in 'Park.' The question will be whether Philip Rivers & Co. can crack the code of Ferenc-Liszt International Airport Stadium; the place where offences go to die. Rivers has yet to play his best football and maybe a change of scenery

will inspire. Spartan fans can only hope. In any case, don't expect a blowout either way and take the points. **PICK: PICKERING**

### **BROOKLIN @ YORK (line – HAWKS by 1)**

**INJURIES:** **Brooklin** – Jesse Bates III (QUESTIONABLE), Janoris Jenkins (OUT); **York** – Lawrence Timmons (DOUBTFUL), Denzelle Goode (OUT).

According to Power World, the Hawks are ranked no.3 in the EFL Power Rankings. It doesn't take an algorithm to guess why. After dropping 3 games to start the season, the Hawks have overcome strong opponents convincingly over a five-game winning streak to reclaim their contender status. The Excaliburs have been no slouches either, but there has been a precarious quality to some of their victories. The offence is steady under Tom Brady, but far from explosive, while doubts remain about the stamina of the defence against the ground game. The above analysis partially explains the 2<sup>nd</sup> place Hawks being favoured over 1<sup>st</sup> place York on the road. It ignores the intangible advantage York enjoys in their quarterback – a proven champ who seems to have rediscovered his touch. **PICK: YORK**

### **COWTOWN @ CINICNNATI (line – CORN KINGS by 6)**

**INJURIES:** **Cowtown** – Jimmy Garoppolo (OUT), Ronald Darby (OUT), Patrick Omameh (OUT); **Cincinnati** – Chris Ivory (QUESTIONABLE), Joe Haden (OUT).

Is it insensitive to call what is happening in Cincinnati since the departure of Reverend Menefee a miraculous “resurrection?” It looks that way. Easter came early for the beleaguered former Regulators. But questions of whether it is a permanent change or a temporary phenomenon, born of new blood in the coaching staff, continue to fly. Kirk Cousins looked “born again” against Pickering last week, but if that was the sole criteria for lasting success then Tim Tebow would still be in the league. A leveling out will happen, but the question is: When? The Corn Kings got a respectable showing out of long-time starter, recently benched, Joe Flacco last week against Durham. The Crusaders' defence has been horrendous and offers a ripe target for even a Flacco-led Cowtown offence. **PICK: COWTOWN**

### **CHINO @ BRUXELLES (line – CONVICTS by 2)**

**INJURIES:** **Chino** – Ali Marpet (QUESTIONABLE), Spencer Long (OUT), Ryan Kalil (OUT); **Bruxelles** – Kyle Long (QUESTIONABLE), Dede Westbrook (OUT), Emmanuel Sanders (OUT), Mitch Morse (OUT), Chris Thompson (OUT), Chris Conley (OUT), Jason Verrett (IR).

Both teams have followed the same win-loss path from week-to-week, making it tough to guess which of these four-game win streak teams has the “biorhythmic” advantage in Week 9. Dak Prescott's clutch 4-TD performance (3 passing, 1 rushing) against Iowa is being played-up in the media and is tilting the hype toward Chino. The fact that the Convicts have to travel from Iowa to Europe does not factor in because the Bombers are actually travelling from slightly farther away Minneapolis. Chino has dominated in 4 of their 5 wins but the Bombers have more impressive heads on their war belts (although CJ Beathard's was already shrunken), a holdover from their Cannibals days. Both offences are playing well right now, but the Bruxelles defence has been dominant. This is due to a surprisingly tight pass defence led by Defensive MVP candidate, Harrison Smith. If the Convicts can't run, Bruxelles win run it up. **PICK: BRUXELLES**



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

FROM THE EFL ARCHIVES – Week Eight of the 2012 EFL season was week of the much-anticipated re-match between 2011 Championship belligerents, Gwinnett and Los Angeles. In addition to the drama of an encore, there were real stakes at risk in the present. Both the 3-4 Knights and the 3-4 Gladiators were in danger of falling out the wild card races in their respective conferences. As a result, both teams played as if a second championship was on the line. The Glads ended up partially avenging their loss of the previous year by overcoming a 16-0 deficit with a mid-3<sup>rd</sup>

quarter field goal and a pair of 4<sup>th</sup> quarter TD runs by **LeSean McCoy**. Clinging to a 17-16 lead, with the Knights driving at the Gwinnett 38, the Glads' **Tory Polamalu** tipped a 4<sup>th</sup> down pass intended for **Steve Smith** to preserve the win.

In Markham, the Violators wrested a victory away from the North Stars by scoring the last 9 points of the game and coming out on top, 25-24. The deciding blow was a 36-yard field goal delivered by **Lawrence Tynes** as the clock expired. The win lifted Virden to 6-2 and a tie for first place in the East with York. The loss caused Markham to fall to 4-3-1 and prompted a post-game pout by **Darrin Jones**, who promised to resign if his team did not make the playoffs. This was the first season the North Stars were expected to compete and, so far, the team had been not living up to expectations. Knowing what we know now, it is funny in retrospect. But at the time, Darrin was very, very upset.

Among the teams that were comfortable with great expectations, Death Valley, Scarborough and Durham each won to maintain strangleholds on their respective Divisions. **Drew Brees** added 4 more TD passes to bring his total on the season to 36.