



2008

WEEK ELEVEN

December 7, 2008



Jeff Reed celebrates after kicking a 38-yard field goal to take the lead with 8 seconds left in the game. Chino upset Florida 36-34.

CONVICTS SHOCK DRAGONS!

Jeff Reed kicks winning field goal with 8 seconds left / L.T. over 100 yards rushing



FLORIDA

34



CHINO

36

CHINO – One of the most exciting games played this year ended in story-book fashion for the **Chino Convicts** when **Jeff Reed** kicked his last of 5 field goals on the day from 38 yards out to win the game with 5 seconds left. The kick clinched a stunning upset of the powerhouse **Florida Dragons** and sent the Big House into a frenzy of vandalism and violence not seen since the EFL Championship Game, when fans destroyed the digital scoreboard and removed every seat from the stadium.

From the start it felt like anything could happen. Both teams were fired up and getting flagged at record rates. Despite what some felt was referee interference; many great football plays made this a memorable contest. The Dragons' swagger showed early on their first score: lined up for a field goal on 4th & 8, the Convicts were flagged for offside. Now facing 4th & 3, the Dragons spurned the field goal and ran a play from scrimmage, turning the opportunity into a 4-yard TD run by **Steven Jackson** to put them in front 7-3. It looked like Florida was cruising to another easy win after a 2-yard TD pass from **Tom Brady** to **T.J. Houshmandzadeh** made it 14-6, but a desperate Chino squad suddenly turned the momentum around with a gamble of their own. Facing 4th & 4 at the Florida 47, Nazar kept his offense on the field, sending L.T. on a sweep. The Dragons were waiting for him, but the Chino star broke a couple of tackles and found 40 yards of green before being stopped. That run set up a 7-yard TD pass from **Jake Delhomme** to L.T. and the Convicts were back in it. A fumble by Jackson on Chino's 49 yard line set up a 32-yard Reed field goal as time expired in the first half for a 16-14 Chino lead.

A sluggish start to the second half was prelude to the game's most exciting and pivotal play. Florida's **Mat McBriar** angled a punt toward the sideline, but **Joshua Cribbs** snagged it on one bounce and exploded forward past the surprised Dragons. 88 yards later, he was in the end zone, giving his team a 9-point lead. Florida fought back, and appeared to have turned the tide after a 39-yard TD pass to **Brandon Marshall** and a 17-yard TD pass to **Heath Miller** put them in the lead 28-23. But **Jake Delhomme**, starting over **Jay Cutler**, struck back with a 28-yard TD pass to **Anquan Boldin** to make it 30-28, Chino. A rare interception of Brady, by **Jarrad Page**, set up a 21-yard field goal to make it 33-28. A grinding 16-play drive by the Dragons followed, resulting in the apparent game-winning score, a 9-yard TD pass from Brady to Jackson. But the two-point convert failed, giving Chino an opening if they could get the ball into field goal range. A fumble by Cribbs on the kickoff return made for a nervous moment, but **Tory Holt** pounced on the loose ball to keep the Convicts alive. After a holding penalty on **Pete Kendall** threatened again to kill the comeback, Delhomme was able to find his wide receivers as the Dragons focused on L.T., moving the Convicts into field goal range in 7 plays. With 8 seconds left, Reed lined up and casually booted the ball dead center to complete the most dramatic upset of the season and keep Chino alive in the hunt for the West Division title.

12-06-2008 The Big House Temp: 73 Wind: 5-15 None MVP: Cribbs							FLD	CHI	
2007 Florida (10-1)						7 7 7 13 - 34	First Downs	26	19
2007 Chino (7-4)						6 10 7 13 - 36	Rushes	32-116	16-118
							Passes	42-30-359	35-22-261
							Sacked	1-3	2-14
1 11:04 Chino	FG Reed 45 (6-36-2:50)					0-3	Fumble	1	1
1 6:21 Florida	TD Jackson 4 run (Nugent) (10-84-4:30)					7-3	Penalties	14-76	10-55
1 1:21 Chino	FG Reed 46 (9-55-4:51)					7-6	Turnovers	2	1
2 8:08 Florida	TD Brady 2 pass to Houshmandzadeh (Nugent) (13-73-7:57)					14-6	Time	34:57	25:02
2 4:30 Chino	TD Delhomme 7 pass to Tomlinson (Reed,J) (6-67-3:25)					14-13	Third Down	12-17	3-11
2 0:03 Chino	FG Reed 32 (7-36-1:57)					14-16	Fourth Down	2-2	1-1
3 5:49 Chino	TD Cribbs 88 punt return (Reed,J) (0-0-0:00)					14-23	Net Offense	472	365
3 3:31 Florida	TD Brady 39 pass to Marshall (Nugent) (5-60-2:18)					21-23			
4 12:24 Florida	TD Brady 17 pass to Miller (Nugent) (7-64-2:57)					28-23			
4 10:39 Chino	TD Delhomme 28 pass to Boldin (Reed,J) (3-63-1:33)					28-30			
4 5:46 Chino	FG Reed 21 (4-16-2:05)					28-33			
4 1:35 Florida	TD Brady 9 pass to Jackson (2 - failed) (16-70-3:55)					34-33			
4 0:08 Chino	FG Reed 38 (7-41-1:15)					34-36			



45

CHARLESWOOD



10

WINNEMUCCA

MANNING THROWS 6 TDS

GAME POINTS: Charleswood's **Peyton Manning** threw 6 TD passes, 3 to **Jason Witten**, to account for all of the major scoring in a 45-10 whitewash of the Winnemucca Outlaws. The outcome was never in doubt from the start as the Pats rode 3 TDs in the second quarter to build a 31-3 half time lead. **Adrian Peterson** sat out the game to rest as did several other starters for the Pats.

KEY PERFORMANCES: **Peyton Manning** completed 27 of 39 for 355 yards and 6 TD passes. The 6 TD passes equaled a personal best set last year against Meadowlands. **Jason Witten** caught 7 passes for 128 yards and 3 TDs. **D.J. Williams** made 7 tackles, 3 run stuffs, and had 1 INT to lead the defense. **Darren McFadden** rushed for 76 yards on 15 carries and scored a TD.

12-06-2008	Hole in the Wall	Temp: 42	Wind: 10-20	None	MVP: Manning		CHP	WMO	
2007 Charleswood (10-1)		10	21	14	0	- 45	First Downs	25	18
2007 Winnemucca (1-10)		0	3	0	7	- 10	Rushes	16-97	27-117
							Passes	39-27-355	26-18-203
							Sacked	0-0	1-5
1 10:16	Charleswood	FG Gostkowski 42	(6-30-3:03)			3-0	Fumble	1	0
1 4:12	Charleswood	TD Manning 17 pass to Witten (Gostkowski)	(9-70-3:50)			10-0	Penalties	5-37	5-45
2 10:51	Charleswood	TD Manning 19 pass to Johnson (Gostkowski)	(7-64-3:25)			17-0	Turnovers	0	1
2 7:35	Charleswood	TD Manning 22 pass to Welker (Gostkowski)	(2-58-1:05)			24-0	Time	28:29	31:31
2 1:34	Charleswood	TD Manning 13 pass to Witten (Gostkowski)	(9-68-3:31)			31-0	Third Down	8-10	3-10
2 0:03	Winnemucca	FG Vinatieri 30	(6-67-1:31)			31-3	Fourth Down	1-1	1-1
3 11:42	Charleswood	TD Manning 52 pass to Witten (Gostkowski)	(6-77-3:09)			38-3	Net Offense	452	315
3 3:27	Charleswood	TD Manning 12 pass to Welker (Gostkowski)	(12-52-6:26)			45-3			
4 1:40	Winnemucca	TD McFadden 1 run (Vinatieri)	(16-80-8:22)			45-10			



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DURHAM



6

COLORADO

LIZARDS SUFFOCATE SNOW

GAME POINTS: **Philip Rivers** connected with **Kevin Faulk** for a 5-yard TD pass to open the scoring for Durham in the first quarter. The Dinsosaurs added a pair of TDs on runs by **Clinton Portis** and **Frank Gore** in the second quarter to build a 21-0 half time lead. Colorado could not move the ball offensively until the game was well out of reach, breaking the goose egg in the scoring column with 2 **Robbie Gould** field goals in the 4th quarter.

KEY PERFORMANCES: **Frank Gore** rushed for 55 yards on 17 carries and scored 2 TDs. Four different running backs carried the ball for Durham. **Patrick Kerney** made 8 tackles, 2 sacks and 1 run stuff. **Philip Rivers** attempted only 10 passes, completing 8 of them for 67 yards and 1 TD. **Matt Forte** gained 58 yards on 10 carries. **Calvin Pace** had 18 tackles for the Colorado defense.

12-06-2008 Toyota Thunderdome					Temp: 41 Wind: 10-20 MVP: Gore		
2007 Durham (6-5)	7	14	7	0	- 28	First Downs	DTL 17
2007 Colorado (0-11)	0	0	0	6	- 6	Rushes	COL 6
						Passes	44-155
						Sacked	10-8-67
1 2:27 Durham	TD Rivers 5 pass to Faulk (Crosby,M) (9-59-5:39)					Fumble	0-0
2 14:50 Durham	TD Portis 2 run (Crosby,M) (3-3-0:53)					Penalties	4-18
2 5:32 Durham	TD Gore 5 run (Crosby,M) (11-54-6:51)					Turnovers	1
3 2:40 Durham	TD Gore 2 run (Crosby,M) (7-33-2:23)					Time	0
4 13:25 Colorado	FG Gould 22 (9-61-4:00)					Third Down	34:28
4 6:32 Colorado	FG Gould 49 (6-13-3:54)					Fourth Down	6-12
						Net Offense	0-0
							222
							165



KUTZTOWN



PICKERING

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KUTZTOWN PUTS BEAR HUG ON SPARTANS

GAME POINTS: The Golden Bears held the Spartans to 224 yards of offense and gained a season-high 168 yards on the ground to dominate the game and raise their record to 6-5. **Tony Romo** overcame a slow start to throw two 2nd quarter TD passes to **Plaxico Burress** to establish a 14-3 half time lead. The second came after a successful 4th down & 3 gamble at their own 49 yard line kept the drive alive. **Ray Lewis** returned an interception 46 yards for a TD early in the 3rd quarter to put the Spartans permanently back on their heels.

KEY PERFORMANCES: **Tony Romo** completed 12 of 21 passes for 202 yards and 3 TDs for a game day rating of 129.4. **Kenny Watson** became the first Kutztown RB to break the 100-yard barrier in a single game this year, rushing for 105 yards on 21 carries. **Donovan McNabb** went 15 of 26 for 121 yards and 1 INT. **Fred Taylor** was held to 66 yards on 15 carries.

12-06-2008 Thermopylae Stadium					Temp: 10 Wind: None MVP: Romo		
2007 Kutztown (6-5)	0	14	7	10	- 31	First Downs	KUT 18
2007 Pickering (5-6)	3	0	3	3	- 9	Rushes	PIC 13
						Passes	37-168
						Sacked	21-12-202
1 10:03 Pickering	FG Tynes 46 (9-47-4:44)					Fumble	26-15-121
2 4:33 Kutztown	TD Romo 5 pass to Burress (Kaeding) (13-83-7:32)					Penalties	1-6
2 0:05 Kutztown	TD Romo 1 pass to Burress (Kaeding) (12-58-2:13)					Turnovers	1
3 11:07 Kutztown	TD Lewis 46 interception return (Kaeding) (0-0-0:00)					Time	3-35
3 2:08 Pickering	FG Tynes 36 (15-64-8:52)					Third Down	5-26
4 14:15 Kutztown	FG Kaeding 26 (6-71-2:48)					Fourth Down	1
4 10:26 Pickering	FG Tynes 41 (9-51-3:30)					Net Offense	31-9
4 1:34 Kutztown	TD Romo 43 pass to Jennings (Kaeding) (13-93-8:41)						363
							224



GWINNETT



IOWA CITY

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26

GLADIATORS POWER SUFFERS "BROWN-OUT"

GAME POINTS: Facing 3rd and 14 midway thru the 2nd quarter, the Cubs sent **Ronnie Brown** off left tackle and he turned it into a 46-yard TD run to put the Cubs ahead, 10-3. Two more field goals gave the home team a 16-3 lead, but the Glads surged back to begin the second half with 10 points to momentarily close the gap. However, a 26-yard pass to **Larry Fitzgerald** and 64 total yards by **Ronnie Brown** on the Cubs' next possession led to a 9-yard TD run by Brown and 23-13 advantage for Iowa. An interception by **Gibril Wilson** led to 3 more points for Gwinnett, but the Glads' offense was stymied the rest of the way by **Mario Williams** and the Cubs' 'D'.

KEY PERFORMANCES: **Ronnie Brown** had 232 total yards from scrimmage and scored 2 TDs to win Game MVP. **Mario Williams** had 2 sacks and 3 QB Pressures. **Willie Parker** was held to only 44 yards on 15 carries.

12-06-2008	Joe Ferguson Stadium	Temp:38	Wind:0-5	None	MVP: Brown			
2007 Gwinnett (6-5)	3	0	10	3	- 16	First Downs	12	19
2007 Iowa City (9-2)	0	16	0	10	- 26	Rushes	21-73	25-150
						Passes	34-17-185	34-23-331
						Sacked	3-16	4-21
1 7:08 Gwinnett	FG Brown 37 (9-60-4:16)				3-0	Fumble	0	3
2 14:05 Iowa City	FG Feely 25 (7-41-3:21)				3-3	Penalties	6-55	9-49
2 8:56 Iowa City	TD Brown 46 run (Feely) (6-62-3:02)				3-10	Turnovers	0	2
2 2:58 Iowa City	FG Feely 32 (8-65-4:07)				3-13	Time	28:30	31:21
2 0:16 Iowa City	FG Feely 28 (7-71-1:26)				3-16	Third Down	8-17	7-15
3 10:46 Gwinnett	TD Palmer 2 pass to Gonzalez (Brown,J) (8-70-4:07)				10-16	Fourth Down	0-0	0-0
3 3:47 Gwinnett	FG Brown 32 (7-7-3:01)				13-16	Net Offense	242	460
4 14:54 Iowa City	TD Brown 9 run (Feely) (7-63-2:21)				13-23			
4 9:16 Gwinnett	FG Brown 41 (3-4-1:22)				16-23			
4 1:02 Iowa City	FG Feely 41 (5-38-1:38)				16-26			



LOS ANGELES



RINGGOLD

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CROYLE FOILS CRIMSON HAWKS

GAME POINTS: Steve Smith broke loose along the sidelines for a 46-yard catch-and-run, then **Brodie Croyle** hit **Roddy White** for a 9-yard TD pass on the next play open the scoring. The Knights botched a chance to increase their lead at the end of the 1st quarter when an attempt to run the ball in from the Ringgold 8 yard with 10 seconds left accidentally ran out the clock. **Ben Roethlisberger** put Ringgold on the board with a 9-yard TD pas to **Santonio Holmes** early in the 3rd, but Croyle completed 4 straight passes, including a 16-yard flare to **Todd Heap**, to put the Knights up 17-7 in response. The LA defense held the Hawks to 7 points the rest of the way to earn their 6th win.

KEY PERFORMANCES: **Brodie Croyle** completed 17 of 32 passes for 228 yards, 1 INT and 2 TDs. **Kevin Jones** rushed for 99 yards on 21 carries and **Selvin Young** added 68 yards on 9 carries for 167 total rushing yards. **Big Ben** completed only 14 of 30 passes for 144 yards, 1 INT and 2 TDs.

12-06-2008	The Hawk's Nest	Temp: 37	Wind:0-5	None	MVP: Croyle			
2007 Los Angeles (6-5)	0	10	7	0	- 17	First Downs	LAK	RCH
2007 Ringgold (3-8)	0	0	7	7	- 14	Rushes	20	15
						Passes	30-167	26-127
						Sacked	32-17-228	30-14-144
2 14:09 Los Angeles	TD Croyle 9 pass to White (Brown,K) (6-73-2:11)				7-0	Fumble	1-3	2-12
2 6:25 Los Angeles	FG Brown 30 (8-39-5:08)				10-0	Penalties	3-25	3-20
3 11:07 Ringgold	TD Roethlisberger 9 pass to Holmes (Suisham) (6-76-3:45)				10-7	Turnovers	1	2
3 0:00 Los Angeles	TD Croyle 16 pass to Heap (Brown,K) (6-62-3:39)				17-7	Time	31:00	29:00
4 9:03 Ringgold	TD Roethlisberger 7 pass to Holmes (Suisham) (8-66-5:45)				17-14	Third Down	4-13	3-11
						Fourth Down	0-0	0-1
						Net Offense	392	259



COWTOWN



MARKHAM

23

17

CORN KINGS HOLD OFF NORTH STARS

GAME POINTS: Chad Pennington found Kevin Walter cutting across the middle for a 9-yard TD pass to highlight a 16-point first half for the Corn Kings. The Markham offense stalled early in the game, but came to life in the second half when **Matt Hasselbeck** threw his first TD pass in five games, a 24-yard short out pass to a wide open **Jeremy Shockey**. The Corn Kings got some insurance that turned out to be the difference in the game when **Marion Barber** dodged a blitzing **Mike Vrabel** to score from 12 yards out near the end of the 3rd. The North Stars got close on a 46-yard TD bomb from Hasselbeck to **Devery Henderson**, but **Rashean Mathis** picked off Hasselbeck with 42 seconds remaining in the game to snuff out Markham's comeback try.

KEY PERFORMANCES: **Marion Barber** and **Laurence Maroney** combined for 142 yards on the ground. **Chad Pennington** was 13 of 19 for 154 yards and 1 TD. **Matt Hasselbeck** was 17 of 27 for 192 yards, 2 TDs and 1 INT.



32

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	ANC	MOH
First Downs	24	21
Rushes	29-145	28-96
Passes	48-29-325	22-16-331
Sacked	1-5	0-0
Fumble	1	3
Penalties	7-33	6-35
Turnovers	3	3
Time	33:54	25:58
Third Down	7-16	1-8
Fourth Down	1-1	2-4
Net Offense	465	427

ANCHORAGE – Olson (knee), J. Wilson (shaken), Naeole (knee); **CHARLESWOOD** – None; **CHINO** – None; **COLORADO** – Pryce (hand), Vasher (shaken), Vilma (knee), A Johnson (knee), Simpson (wrist), D. Williams (back), Rossum (shaken), Booker (hand); **COWTOWN** – None; **DURHAM** – None; **FLORIDA** – None; **GWINNETT** – McFadden (hand); **IOWA CITY** – Jacobs (hand), Lawson (achilles); **KUTZTOWN** – M. Harrison (elbow), A. Smith (shaken), L. Hill (elbow); **LOS ANGELES** – T. Bell (hip); **MARKHAM** – D. Robinson (arm), Holliday (shoulder); **MOHAVE** – J. Mathis (neck); **PICKERING** – Sensabaugh (hand); **RINGGOLD** – Ugoh (shoulder); **WINNEMUCCA** – Leftwich (hamstring), W. Anderson (stinger), Jansen (knee), T. Kelly (shaken), Dawkins (hamstring), McAlister (hip).





AROUND THE



With Spats McChad

NEW YORK – I officially adopted the Florida Dragons as “New York’s Team” after they knocked off Charleswood last week. By doing that, did I accidentally curse them? The Dragons certainly looked like the old Jets used to look this past week against Chino (see next piece).

GODZILLA BLIND-SIDED BY MOTHRA

With the **Jason Findlay’s** Japanese Army in full retreat and **Jim Heaton’s** *Godzilla* advancing slowly but steadily on a terrified league, *Mothra* (played by **Rob Nazar’s** Chino Convicts) dealt the Florida Monster a setback with a ray blast from her antennae and gale force winds from her wings. *Godzilla* was knocked back into a line of hydro poles and fell on his tail, spraining it and causing the King of Monsters to temporarily retreat in pain. Just when you think you know who’s invincible, the “Terror of the EFL” becomes mortal in the face of the craziness of ‘The Big House’ and some puzzling calls by the zebras. Not saying that the refs were on the take or anything (but in Chino anything is possible!), but the number of penalties on both teams, 24 in all, certainly disrupted the flow of the game. The Dragons still looked like the better team, controlling the ball more and out-gaining the Convicts, but they did not deal particularly well with adversity and seemed to underestimate the hunger of their opponent. Whenever the Convicts saw an opening, they charged in fearlessly. The Dragons appeared to want to slow the game down, play it on their terms, but kept getting frustrated by untimely penalties and some inspired performances by the likes of **L.T.**, **Jake Delhomme**, and **Josh Cribbs**, who refused to go down to the better team. When the Dragons were forced to go to the air, it was with obvious reluctance instead of determination. Maybe this loss will be good for the Dragons in the long run. Even as **Jeff Reed** celebrated his winning field goal, the Florida bench looked on in apparent disbelief. When the reality of their lost perfect season sinks in, they will be looking to punish somebody for it. Maybe then the real and ferocious Florida Dragons (*Godzilla*) will emerge.

NO PUSSIES ALLOWED IN “DAWG POUND”

I received this letter from a Markham fan after I wrote in my column that the **North Stars** were turning into the most boring team in the EFL. I had to edit it somewhat, for space and content, but the gist of it remains:

As a season ticket holder and chairwoman of the Local Markham Chapter for "Single Older Ladies for Life "I take deep exception to Spats McChad article that Markham has become the most boring team in the EFL. [cut: a diatribe about why Markham is not boring] I encourage Mr McChad to leave his cozy confines of his Manhattan office and spend time with real football fans in Markham who know how to eat , cheer for their team and then go back for seconds.[cut: accusations against me that I am a closet Corn kings fans and other nonsense].

This person did not sign the letter and I could find nothing on *Google* about “Single Older Ladies for Life,” SOLL, (probably a good thing) but I decided to take her up on her challenge anyway and last week I actually attended the **Corn Kings – North Stars** game in person.

All I have to say is, “WOW!” The team that could bore an Anthropology Professor who specializes in the study of boring teams also has the craziest fan base east of Chino, and that’s a lot of real estate! There are pictures of Kate Smith everywhere and it isn’t clear why, other than the Markham fans seem to believe they are Americans – Americans who love hockey and drink Tim Horton’s coffee. The concessions are an ‘All You Can Eat’ buffet and people can bring their pets and hunting dogs to the stadium. The North Stars don’t have cheerleaders, so much as young groupies in tight jeans and low cut blouses who hang out on the field with the players during games and smoke DuMaurier. For this game only the team banned the sale of popcorn and milk to show disrespect for the visiting Corn Kings. As a final touch, Stadium Security, (really just a bunch of Good Ol’ Boys in red Lumber Jackets) confiscated Corn Kings paraphernalia at the gates from frightened Cowtown fans attending the game.

The “Dawg Pound” was packed beyond capacity, with overflow fans allowed to stand wherever they could find an open spot. I think I found the Chairwoman of the local chapter of SOLL when my eyes were drawn to the only open space in the stands. There, in the middle of a single row of empty seats on the second level, was the heaviest woman I have ever seen in my life, hooting and hollering and mowing down hot dogs and potato chips like a garborator. Her voice cut through the din of the crowd like a wheezy, raspy jackhammer, yelling things like, “kill them! Kiiiiiiiiiiiiii them! Kill those mother&^^* corn-holers!” and “I love you Matt! Come to mama, I’ll show you some heavy duty loving, baby!” Far from being repulsed by this behaviour, the other fans laughed and smiled and sometimes joined in, or brought her 24-ounce plastic cups of Coca-Cola as some kind of weird tribute.

The first half was all Cowtown, which meant trouble for the few fans of the visitors in attendance. Although their jerseys and hats had been taken away, some had been foolish enough to identify themselves by cheering when **Kevin Walter** caught a touchdown pass in the first quarter. At half time they were beaten up by a rowdy group of young North Stars fans and then beaten up again by Security as they were escorted from the stadium for causing a disturbance. When the Stars got back in the game in the second half, it got worse as rowdy drunks stood on railings and fell over each other. I knew it was time to leave when a 12-year old kid puked on my jacket after shot-gunning a King Can of Fosters. I never did see the end of the game, but I heard the groans in the parking lot when **Rashean Mathis** picked off Hasselbeck to end Markham’s comeback attempt.

After that experience, despite a decent performance by **Matt Hasselbeck** in which he threw a 46-yard TD pass, I would have to say that Markham is still a boring team. But their fans are anything but boring. Crazy, loyal, maniacal, bi-polar, well-fed,...you name it. But *boring*? Never!

CROYLE AND JACKSON DOING WELL

A reasonable man must admit when he is up against something bigger than his rational mind. The **Los Angeles Knights** are the biggest puzzle of the year so far – their offense is ranked 4th and with it their two amateur quarterbacks, **Tavaris Jackson** and **Brodie Croyle**, are ranked 4th and 5th respectively among EFL starting quarterbacks. The Running-Back-By-Committee is performing like Cowtown’s three-headed ‘Cerebrus’ of last year and the wide receivers are actually getting the ball. Meanwhile, last year’s highly ranked defense is ranked ahead of only **Anchorage** and **Winnemucca** this year. This is the *opposite* of what most pundits thought would happen before the season started.

NEW YORK GRIPES

Finding themselves in a 0-0 deadlock with the **Durham Thunder Lizards** just prior to the opening kickoff, the **Colorado Thundersnow** could not hang on, dropping another game and setting the bar higher for offensive futility. In what may have been the dreariest 60 minutes of football played in a single stretch all year, Colorado failed to log a first down until the 3rd quarter. Three plays in the fourth quarter, one of them a 47-yard run by **Matt Forte**, accounted for 96 yards of 165 total yards for the Snow, so you can imagine just how horrible the rest of the game was. Or maybe you can’t. You had to see it to believe it, but if you saw it you would have missed it because it would have put you to sleep. Durham was not much better, gaining 222 yards while sleep-walking to a 28-6 victory. I have made copies of this game and will be sending them out as Christmas gifts to my insomniac friends.

WEEK ELEVEN LEADERS

Passing Yards

Brady,T (FLD)	42-30-359
Manning,P (CHP)	39-27-355
Warner,K (MOH)	22-16-331
Garcia,J (ICC)	34-23-331
Brees (ANC)	44-26-302

Rushing Yards

McGahee (ANC)	25-128
Brown,R (ICC)	14-121
Tomlinson (CHI)	16-118
Jackson,S (FLD)	30-111
Watson,K (KUT)	21-105

Receiving Yards

Owens,T (MOH)	7-214
Marshall,B (FLD)	9-152
Witten (CHP)	7-128
Fitzgerald (ICC)	7-122
Jennings,G (KUT)	2-112

LEADER BOARD

STANDINGS

PACIFIC-ATLANTIC CONFERENCE

East	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Pickering	5	6	0	0.455	208	18.9	270	24.5	-5.6	4 2 0	3 0 0	5 2 0
Markham	2	9	0	0.182	137	12.5	255	23.2	-10.7	1 4 0	2 1 0	2 5 0
Winnemucca	1	10	0	0.091	113	10.3	327	29.7	-19.5	0 6 0	1 2 0	1 6 0
Colorado	0	11	0	0	65	5.9	308	28	-22.1	0 5 0	0 3 0	0 7 0

West	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Iowa City	9	2	0	0.818	312	28.4	183	16.6	11.7	5 1 0	3 0 0	7 0 0
Chino	7	4	0	0.636	320	29.1	203	18.5	10.6	5 0 0	2 1 0	5 2 0
Los Angeles	6	5	0	0.545	270	24.5	243	22.1	2.5	3 1 0	1 2 0	5 2 0
Anchorage	3	8	0	0.273	224	20.4	277	25.2	-4.8	2 3 0	0 3 0	3 4 0

CAN-AM CONFERENCE

North	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Charleswood	10	1	0	0.909	297	27	131	11.9	15.1	5 0 0	3 0 0	6 1 0
Cowtown	6	5	0	0.545	207	18.8	210	19.1	-0.3	3 3 0	0 3 0	2 5 0
Durham	6	5	0	0.545	214	19.5	207	18.8	0.6	4 2 0	2 1 0	3 4 0
Kutztown	6	5	0	0.545	251	22.8	221	20.1	2.7	3 2 0	1 2 0	3 4 0

South	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Florida	10	1	0	0.909	347	31.5	173	15.7	15.8	5 0 0	3 0 0	7 0 0
Mohave	8	3	0	0.727	315	28.6	266	24.2	4.5	5 1 0	2 1 0	4 3 0
Gwinnett	6	5	0	0.545	259	23.5	192	17.5	6.1	4 2 0	1 2 0	3 4 0
Ringgold	3	8	0	0.273	183	16.6	256	23.3	-6.6	2 5 0	0 3 0	0 7 0

PASSING

			Att	Cmp	C%	Yards	In	I%	Lg	TD	TD%	Rate
1	Brady,T	FLD	320	211	65.9	2510	3	0.9	56	22	6.9	108.7
2	Garcia,J	ICC	208	142	68.3	1918	4	1.9	54	12	5.8	108.6
3	Warner,K	MOH	281	172	61.2	2399	12	4.3	51	24	8.5	99.3
4	Jackson,T	LAK	134	83	61.9	1103	5	3.7	71	10	7.5	97.3
5	Croyle	LAK	114	73	64	841	2	1.8	46	6	5.3	96.4
6	Manning,P	CHP	345	214	62	2670	12	3.5	52	24	7	94.7
7	Rivers,P	DTL	296	184	62.2	2255	8	2.7	48	14	4.7	90.1
8	Garrard	WMO	227	146	64.3	1484	4	1.8	46	9	4	88.8
9	Cutler	CHI	236	155	65.7	1763	12	5.1	34	12	5.1	83.7
10	Palmer,C	GWG	333	193	58	2243	10	3	75	17	5.1	83
11	Roethlisberger	RCH	239	141	59	1695	11	4.6	54	14	5.9	81.1
12	Romo	KUT	369	210	56.9	2574	14	3.8	72	20	5.4	80.8
13	McNabb	PIC	312	177	56.7	1894	8	2.6	50	15	4.8	80
14	Pennington	COW	234	142	60.7	1577	10	4.3	30	7	3	72.9
15	Brees	ANC	379	225	59.4	2344	20	5.3	67	17	4.5	70.3

RUSHING

			Att	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD				Att	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD
1	Tomlinson	CHI	215	1183	5.5	49	12	8	Brown,R	ICC	85	664	7.8	66	4
2	Barber,M	COW	204	1020	5	56	7	9	Maroney	COW	94	595	6.3	64	3
3	Taylor,F	PIC	164	895	5.5	83	2	10	Gore	DTL	140	566	4	33	7
4	McGahee	ANC	180	841	4.7	44	4	11	Jackson,S	FLD	134	563	4.2	26	7
5	Westbrook	MOH	168	811	4.8	36	2	12	Young,S	LAK	111	545	4.9	44	0
6	Peterson,A	CHP	150	770	5.1	72	6	13	Lewis,J	MAR	120	498	4.2	54	1
7	Parker,W	GWG	180	676	3.8	32	1	14	Davenport	LAK	90	497	5.5	41	4
8	Brown,R	ICC	85	664	7.8	66	4	15	Jones-Drew	RCH	110	488	4.4	59	0

RECEIVING

			No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD				No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD
1	Welker	CHP	60	691	11.5	33	4	8	Houshmandz	FLD	53	638	12	37	7
2	Holt,T	CHI	60	807	13.5	34	3	9	Marshall,B	FLD	52	776	14.9	56	5
3	Ward,H	WMO	57	596	10.5	24	2	10	Moss,R	ANC	52	716	13.8	67	5
4	Witten	CHP	56	715	12.8	52	9	11	Gonzalez,T	GWG	52	468	9	21	6
5	Johnson,C	CHP	55	828	15.1	47	8	12	Colston	ANC	51	498	9.8	34	5
6	Wayne,R	GWG	55	808	14.7	55	1	13	Edwards,B	GWG	51	677	13.3	75	9
7	Smith,S	LAK	54	754	14	71	6	14	Burress	KUT	49	611	12.5	46	3
8	Houshmandz	FLD	53	638	12	37	7	15	Boldin	CHI	47	553	11.8	34	6



BRYLCREEM PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

WHO WAS SLICK IN WEEK ELEVEN?

Brylcreem continues to be a proud sponsor of the EFL

OFFENSE



QB – Kurt Warner, Mohave Hellfire

22 Att., 16 Comp., 331 yds, **6 TDs**, 154.4 Rating
Virtually perfect thru the air to out-shoot Bucs for 8th win.

DEFENSE



DE –Mario Williams, Iowa City Cubs

2 Tackles, **2 Sacks**, 1 Pass Def, **3 QB Pressures**.
Turned the heat on Carson Palmer in 4th Qtr to preserve lead.

SPECIAL TEAMS



Ret –Joshua Cribbs, Chino Convicts

6 KR, 187 yds, 30.7avg., 2 PR, 106 yds, 88 Long, 1 TD.
Charged up Convicts with PR TD in big upset over Dragons.

BUG THE BOOKIE!

JIMMY THE GEEK GIVES YOU HIS PICKS FOR WEEK TWELVE EFL ACTION

YOUR SOURCE FOR FANTASY AND ON-LINE BETTING SOLUTIONS



JIMMY'S WEEK TWELVE PICKS

DURHAM @ CHARLESWOOD (LINE – PATRIOTS BY 10)

The faintest of hopes for a Division title for Durham will disappear completely if they lose to the Patriots this week. But that's not what worries the T-Lizards. They know they are fighting for a wild card spot, and are currently in a four-way tie with Cowtown, Kutztown and Gwinnett for the final one. To say it is not a good time to be up against one of the two powerhouses in the league, on their home turf, would be an understatement. The Lizards will have to put doubt out of their minds if they are going to prevail in Charleswood. On offense, the Dinosaurs can dominate the line of scrimmage against a good, but not great, Charleswood defensive line. They are going to have to dominate it completely if they hope to force the Pats to make adjustments in tight and open up space in the secondary. On defense, they have the players to effect sudden change in a game, especially against a free-thrower like Peyton Manning, but they will have to be more consistent than they have been. Charleswood is coming off an easy win over Winnemucca and their starters are well-rested and healthy. With Florida's loss to Chino they are back in the race for the top seed in the Conference, so there will be no let up, especially against a Division rival. Take the Pats.

PICK: CHARLESWOOD

KUTZTOWN @ COWTOWN (LINE – CORN KINGS BY 2)

The Corn Kings lost to the Golden Bears in Week One after failing to put the ball in the end zone in spite of several good opportunities. That game was the first of a five-game losing streak to start the season. Now the Kings are riding a 6-game winning streak and find themselves back in the race for the final wild card spot. They need this game not just to keep pace, but to gain a much needed Division win. The Corn Kings are healthy and at home and appear to be a different team than the one that started the season 0-5. Kutztown is coming off a strong win last week over expansion Pickering and they did it with defense and the running game, getting just enough at the right time from Tony Romo to make it a blowout. This week they are missing Aaron Smith and Leroy Hill, a blow to their run defense any day, but even more problematic against a Cowtown team that is averaging 167 yards per game on the ground. Kutztown will be forced to bring in some support from the secondary to stop the run and feel they might be able to get away with it against Chad Pennington. The talk in Cowtown is that Chris Redman has been splitting first team drills in practice this week. Although less experienced, he has a stronger arm and may get the start if it is a windy day at Tillman Field. Against the Kings, Kutztown is unlikely to repeat their rushing performance of last week, so will have to air it out. Watch Aaron Kampman chase Tony Romo and watch the Corn Kings get their 7th straight win.

PICK: COWTOWN

GWINNETT @ FLORIDA (LINE – DRAGONS BY 8)

The Glads are in a downward slide and are unfortunate enough to catch the Dragons the week after their only loss of the season in a penalty-filled game in Chino. The Dragons will be breathing fire this week with the goal of getting back on top where they feel they belong. Vegas and the bettors seem to be thinking exactly that, giving the shaky Glads a generous 8 points. Fans are forgetting that the Gladiators are a very good, if a somewhat unlucky team, and match-up reasonably well against Florida in the sense that they are not grossly overmatched in any area. The Dragons are still the best team overall, but they can be beaten as Chino showed last week. I say that Florida gets back on the winning track this week, but with Gwinnett fighting for its playoff life, it will be closer than you might think – Dragons by 6 points.

PICK: GWINNETT

MOHAVE @ RINGGOLD (LINE – HELLFIRE BY 1)

The Hellfire returned to offensive dominance last week with a 45-32 pasting of Anchorage. Kurt Warner and Terrell Owens had a field day against a Bucs secondary that lost interest after the first 15 minutes. Without detracting from Warner's accomplishment of 6 TD passes, I am not prepared to say he will do anything like that again this week at The Hawk's Nest. The Crimson Hawks have the pass rush to give fits to a quarterback who likes to stand in the pocket, like Warner does, and they have a cornerback who can keep Owens in check. If they can force a few turnovers, they have a good chance to pull off an upset. The Hellfire defense is underrated in the Press but well-respected by opponents. They are capable of shutting down any team, but against Ringgold they will be looking for the big play against a turnover prone offense and will take some risks. The odds are against the Hawks, but that's why I like them. I sometimes feel the need to pick an upset and in this one I can see Elvis Dumervil and DeMarcus Ware knocking the ball out of Warner's hands more than once.

PICK: RINGGOLD

PICKERING @ MARKHAM (LINE – SPARTANS BY 1)

The Spartans looked like an expansion team last week against Kutztown after two big wins over non-expansion opponents. This week they return to their own Division to face the North Stars and the league's most obnoxious fans. Markham's offense showed signs of life last week against the Corn Kings but faltered in the end with the game on the line. They are the kind of offense that could be effective in a close game, or with the lead, but they have spent most of their season trying to catch up, which has put too much pressure on a mediocre receiving corps and slightly below average offensive line. The Spartans continue to lead the league in rushing average and Donovan McNabb, although sometimes inconsistent, keeps the passing game respectable. They should be able to establish an early lead and force the Markham attack into predictable situations. If that happens, it will be a long day for the Stars.

PICK: PICKERING

COLORADO @ WINNEMUCCA (LINE – OUTLAWS BY 4)

This is it – the best chance for a Colorado victory this season. If this one gets away, the door is virtually closed on their hopes for an historic first franchise win in 2008. The Outlaws, on paper, are the better team, but they are still labouring under the handicap of injuries to key players in their secondary. There will not be a better opening for Matt Ryan (or John Beck, perhaps?) in the passing game. The Thundersnow must make an attempt to stretch the field and loosen up the line of scrimmage for their running game, which has broken a couple of big runs in recent weeks. The Colorado defense has been playing over its heads, at least statistically, and is currently ranked 6th in the league. Critics contend that the Snow's success on 'D' is due to the opponents starting to run the clock out as early as the late second quarter. Durham's ultra-conservative game plan last week was an example. The Outlaws can move the ball and will probably have to score more than the one TD they scored against the Snow in Week One to prevail this time – something they can do. No team likes to go winless – Colorado will play hard – but their best will not be enough.

PICK: WINNEMUCCA

IOWA CITY @ CHINO (LINE – CONVICTS BY 2)

Chino's ambush of the Dragons last week has fans and sports talk show hosts in Chino talking Championship. Jake Delhomme is the toast of the Range and his Posse has grown at Cutler's expense. No doubt about it, the Convicts did something special in beating Florida. Suddenly they have regained some of the respect they had lost after losing at Cowtown and Pickering. While the Cubs are probably not quite the same caliber as the Dragons, they are without question the class of the West. Ronnie Brown made everyone forget about Brandon Jacobs last week and the Iowa City stars on defense, starting with Patrick Willis, will make life difficult for Chino's bread-and-butter running back, LaDainian Tomlinson. The question for those who are thinking of putting money on Chino is, "can lightning strike twice in the same spot?" If you think so, throw the mortgage on Chino. Otherwise, hide next to that smoking tree.

PICK: IOWA CITY

LOS ANGELES @ ANCHORAGE (LINE -KNIGHTS BY 4)

Oh, the pain! The disaster that is the Buccaneer's season has made it an uncomfortable chore just to look at them and try to figure out what will go wrong next week. Whether its Drew Brees throwing to the wrong jersey, or the defense going on strike, the story is always the same – the Bucs find a way to lose, sometimes when a loss seems almost impossible. So does it really matter what the Knights bring to the table? Well, it does because it could give us a clue to the final point spread. The Knights have been surrendering a lot of passing yards, which could lead to a measure of success for Brees and more points for the Bucs. But the Knights have been actually moving the ball better than they have allowed their opponents to move it – mostly on the ground, but efficiently when they have to thru the air. The Knights of last year would have had trouble keeping up with the Anchorage offense. Not so this year's edition of the Knights. Look for the total points to be over 50 as LA wins their fourth straight to rise to 7-5.

PICK: LOS ANGELES

SHOULD YOU LISTEN TO A THING I SAY??????

HOW I'M DOING AGAINST THE SPREAD

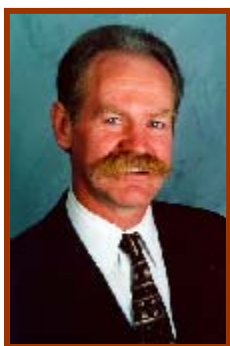
LAST WEEK: 7-1-0

OVERALL: 69-19-0

EFL FOCUS

A weekly tour of Media from around the EFL. This week we focus on.....

MARKHAM



MARKHAM

Economist and Sun

Lanny McDonald, beat writer for the Markham North Stars, is well known in the Greater Toronto Area as a former Toronto Maple Leafs player and hockey star. He covers football for the Markham Economist and Sun in order to bring local credibility to the sport. Unfortunately, his football knowledge is rudimentary....so have patience.

Markham - Just like the long red moustache that made me famous, the tilt between Markham and visiting Cowtown was a game about teams going in totally different elongated directions

So despite a packed house at the " Pound ", including EFL Scout Staff from Durham and Pickering and a very hostile and vocal home crowd, the same old story that has plagued Markham for the past 5 weeks - no offense, seemingly was going to be the story-line again.

So being down 16-0 at half-time was by no means any reason for the Markham faithful to leave their seats, except for some more "red-hots." Despite Cowtown, which had dominated the scoreboard and time of possession at half-time, it was Markham that came out of the gates in the 2nd half with passion and scored their first touchdown in 5 weeks , the euphoria sent the crowd into a tizzy , forcing Cowtown Head Coach , Jim Coughlin to speak to Head Referee , Dan Daoust , about the noise level and vulgarity being hurled at the Cowtown bench ...Referee Daoust cited that since he had not heard the word, " Tabarnac," he was not going to address the fans overall the PA system, like Coach Sam Wyche did in the defunct NFL years ago in a tilt between Cincinnati and Cleveland , over rabid fans throwing snowballs at the opponent.

Cowtown, on their next possession , would not be intimidated by the hostile environment and drove 73 yards in an exhausting 7 minute drive for a TD to restore the 16 point lead at 23-7.

Early in the 4th Quarter , with all the typewriters and notepads being put away so we in the Markham media could get a head start on the buffet table, almost came the greatest single moment in Markham Sports History since Steve Thomas and Mike Palmateer played together for the local Markham Waxers Jr A Hockey Team

Within 6 minutes left in the game Markham's kicking game displayed a rare form of accuracy and thus cut the lead to 23-10, then after a stingy defensive stop to get Markham the ball back , Markham completed its longest pass play from scrimmage of the year to narrow the margin to 23-17. Normally the Markham Beat writers talk about just " a " completed pass , but this 46 yard pass play was a thing of beauty and it forced Coach Coughlin to scratch what remaining hairs he had on his head.

Markham, with all 3 time-outs and the 2 minute warning at its disposal, kicked the ball deep to Cowtown. With everyone in the house thinking that Cowtown was going to grind out a first down or two on the ground to run out the clock, they were mistaken as Cowtown passed on 4 consecutive plays that ended up forcing Cowtown to punt to the dangerous Markham Return specialist. The Cowtown Media wanted Coach Coughlin's head right then and there, this curious play calling had seemingly given the Cowtown Media the firepower they were looking for and thus one Cowtown Scribe had already forged ahead with front sports page headline

Time for Coach Coughlin to step down as the top" Cornhusker "in Cowtown Then again , me think this was the same old scribe who declared that Dewey had beat Truman in the US election of 1948

So with Markham starting at their own 23 they were helped out by a crucial 4th down pass interference penalty that resulted in Markham having the ball at mid field , yet there would be no story book ending , no overtime goal on Long Island and thus Markham turned the ball over on a tipped pass into a Cowtown defender hands

Seemingly Cowtown lives for another corn roast , while Markham once again was left with nothing but the short end of the cub

Note : Unfortunately I could not cite (and I must admit do not recognize) any player names as all the media guides had mysteriously gone missing prior to the game, apparently there was clip out coupon for a dollar off Dairy Queen in the back of the media guide and Markham fans are known to enjoy their " Sundae' " afternoon for reasons other than football .

