



2008

WEEK THIRTEEN

December 21, 2008



Shaun Phillips stares down the Chino bench after making an important 4<sup>th</sup> quarter interception. Charleswood beat the Convicts 21-19.

## CHARLESWOOD STRIKES BACK!

*Manning throws 3 TD passes in Championship rematch!*



CHINO

19



CHARLESWOOD

21

CHARLESWOOD – On paper for this season the game meant very little – **Charleswood** had already clinched the North Division title and **Chino**, though scarcely alive in the hunt for the West Division title, was virtually assured of a wildcard berth – but in the hearts of the players and the coaches on both sides this contest represented a test of spirit. Their last meeting was in the most important game played in the EFL to date; the 2007 Championship Game. That game had been an endurance contest with the Convicts' more balanced attack eventually prevailing. This year, with the Pats making changes to their running game and the Convicts handing the cell keys over to Jay Cutler, the tactical situation on the field had changed.

How much so was apparent on the first Patriots' touchdown drive. After the Convicts had taken a 3-0 lead, the Pats took over at their own 41 yard line. With the Convicts focusing their attention on running back, **Adrian Peterson**, **Peyton Manning** sliced and diced the Chino secondary with 3 straight completions, the last one a 34-yarder to **Chad Johnson** for a 7-3 lead. On their next possession, with the Chino defense switching posture to defend the pass, Peterson carried the load 5 times for 27 yards before Manning found **Jason Witten** open for a 27-yard TD pass to make it 14-3, Charleswood. The dual threat the Pats lacked in the big game last year was creating confusion in the Chino 'D' and making a difference early in the game this year.

But the Convicts would not be the Convicts if they didn't create a few surprises. A third down sack of Manning and forced fumble by **James Harrison** squelched a Pats drive to start the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter and set up Chino's first TD – a 1-yard plunge by **L.T.** The two-point convert attempt failed but the Convicts caught a break soon after when **Joshua Cribbs** returned a punt 64 yards for the go-ahead TD. Quiet engulfed Patriot Place as the sudden turnaround was all too reminiscent of last year's Chino squad.

Determined to stop **Peyton Manning**, the Chino 'D' sold out to stop the pass on the Pats' next possession. What had worked like a charm last year, however, would not work this year, as **Jerious Norwood** would carry the ball 6 times for 41 yards out of a 12-play drive to help set up Manning's third TD pass of the day, a 15-yard hitch to **Chad Johnson**, for a 21-19 Pats lead.

The Convicts looked like they would answer that score on their next drive, reaching Charleswood territory before **Shaun Phillips** sprang out of nowhere to intercept **Jay Cutler** and stop them cold. A methodical march by the Pats followed, bringing the ball to the Chino 1 yard line, where an agonizing decision had to be made. Coach Jason Findlay elected for the "sure thing" and went for the field goal. But, unbelievably, **Stephen Gostkowski** missed, bringing all the ingredients for a heart-breaking Pats loss into play as Chino took over at their own 20, needing only a field goal to win with 1:34 remaining. But the Pats 'D' held firm to preserve the win as the Convicts failed to gain a first down. Charleswood had struck back, albeit one year too late! Even so, it was a cathartic win for Charleswood, enabling them to switch emotional focus to a more powerful nemesis: Florida.

12-18-2008	Patriot Place	Temp: 75, Wind: 0	MVP: Manning		CHI	CHP	
2007 Chino (7-6)	3	3	13	0	- 19	20	21
2007 Charleswood (12-1)	14	0	0	7	- 21	34-151	31-119
						28-13-133	25-17-211
1 11:11 Chino	FG Reed 34 (8-57-3:38)			3-0		Sacked	0-0
1 9:21 Charleswood	TD Manning 34 pass to Johnson (Gostkowski) (3-59-1:33)			3-7		Fumble	0
1 4:19 Charleswood	TD Manning 27 pass to Witten (Gostkowski) (7-58-3:32)			3-14		Penalties	2-10
2 10:57 Chino	FG Reed 27 (16-66-8:09)			6-14		Turnovers	2
3 5:15 Chino	TD Tomlinson 1 run (2 - failed) (9-57-5:20)			12-14		Time	28:23
3 3:56 Chino	TD Cribbs 64 punt return (Reed,J) (0-0-0:00)			19-14		Third Down	5-12
4 12:19 Charleswood	TD Manning 15 pass to Johnson (Gostkowski) (12-76-6:25)			19-21		Fourth Down	1-2
						Net Offense	284
							324

**KEY PERFORMANCES:** **CHP** – **Manning**, 25-17, 211 yds, 3 TDs, 133.5 rating.  
**C.Johnson** 3 catches, 59 yds, 2 TDs. **Peterson & Norwood**, 25 carries, 121 yds. **CHI** – **Tomlinson**, 25 carries, 125 yds, 1 TD, 8 catches, 75 yds. **E. Sims**, 17 tackles, 4 run stuffs.

12-19-2008 Round Table Stadium Temp: 70 Wind: 0-5 None MVP: Pennington						COW		LAK	
2007 Cowtown (7-6)						7	17	0 10 - 34	First Downs 21 15
2007 Los Angeles (7-6)						7	0	3 7 - 17	Rushes 39-154 27-118
									Passes 22-18-251 23-13-160
1 8:43 Los Angeles	TD Jackson 4 pass to White (Brown,K) (11-70-6:17)					0-7	Sacked 0-0	1-6	
1 1:12 Cowtown	TD Barber 2 run (Hanson,J) (13-84-7:26)					7-7	Fumble 1	2	
2 11:54 Cowtown	TD Pennington 40 pass to Moss (Hanson,J) (5-80-2:59)					14-7	Penalties 5-25	8-36	
2 6:59 Cowtown	TD Pennington 3 pass to Hackett (Hanson,J) (6-45-3:13)					21-7	Turnovers 0	1	
2 0:25 Cowtown	FG Hanson 25 (10-49-4:50)					24-7	Time 38:28	21:25	
3 7:19 Los Angeles	FG Brown 30 (12-67-4:00)					24-10	Third Down 4-11	6-11	
4 7:22 Cowtown	FG Hanson 44 (8-46-6:37)					27-10	Fourth Down 2-3	0-1	
4 3:01 Cowtown	TD Pennington 16 pass to Alexander (Hanson,J) (4-26-2:56)					34-10	Net Offense 405	272	
4 0:26 Los Angeles	TD Croyle 38 pass to White (Brown,K) (7-63-2:13)					34-17			



KUTZTOWN



ANCHORAGE

0

27

### BUCS BLAST BEARS

**GAME POINTS:** Five turnovers by Golden Bears' QB, **Tony Romo** led to 17 points and a surprisingly dominating day for Anchorage. The Bucs defense turned in one of their best performances of the season, completely shutting down, and eventually shutting out, the Kutztown attack. While the Anchorage defense swarmed Romo and his receivers, **Drew Brees** was making the plays he needed to make, finding **Randy Moss** twice in the end zone in close quarters for 2 TD passes. Little-used WR, **Troy Williamson**, ran it in from 15 yards out on the end-around to add the third Anchorage touchdown.

**KEY PERFORMANCES:** **Drew Brees** was 14 of 21 for 129 yards a 3 TDs. **Joseph Addai** rushed 30 times for 98 yards. **Randy Moss** caught 9 balls for 61 yards and 2 TDs. **Andre Carter** had 2 sacks. **Tony Romo** was 14 of 31 for 127 yards and 4 INTs. **Morlon Greenwood** had 13 tackles.

12-15-2008 Great Northern Sports Complex Temp: 70 Wind:					MVP: Addai		KUT	ANC	
2007 Kutztown (7-6)					0 0 0 0 - 0		First Downs	12	14
2007 Anchorage (4-9)					17 7 0 3 - 27		Rushes	17-70	41-115
							Passes	31-14-127	21-14-129
							Sacked	3-19	0-0
1 12:21 Anchorage					TD Brees 4 pass to Moss (Stover) (5-20-1:31)	0-7	Fumble	3	2
1 9:27 Anchorage					TD Williamson 15 run (Stover) (3-19-1:33)	0-14	Penalties	11-64	6-33
1 3:33 Anchorage					FG Stover 46 (8-33-3:57)	0-17	Turnovers	5	0
2 1:08 Anchorage					TD Brees 3 pass to Moss (Stover) (9-80-5:24)	0-24	Time	23:15	36:45
4 8:53 Anchorage					FG Stover 43 (10-28-5:53)	0-27	Third Down	3-10	7-18
							Fourth Down	0-0	0-1
							Net Offense	178	244



MARKHAM



FLORIDA

10

38

### 3-TD EXPLOSION LIFTS DRAGONS OVER STARS

**GAME POINTS:** Finding themselves trailing 10-9 after an 86-yard punt return TD by Markham's **Darren Sproles** mid-way through the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter, the Dragons suddenly exploded for 22 points in a one-minute span to snuff out the Stars' faint hopes of an upset. After a 14-yard TD pass from **Tom Brady** to **T.J. Houshmandzadeh** capped off an 81 yard drive, two Markham turnovers in quick succession – a fumble by Sproles on the kickoff return and an interception of **Matt Hasselbeck** by **Richard Marshall** – led to 15 more points and a 31-10 half time Dragons lead. An uneventful second half saw the Florida run out the clock while the Stars struggled to make first downs.

**KEY PERFORMANCES:** **Tom Brady** completed 18 of 25 for 252 yards, 1 INT and 3 TDs. **Steven Jackson** gained 117 yards on 23 carries on the ground. **Will Witherspoon** had 12 tackles and 2 sacks. **Matt Hasselbeck** struggled, finishing 17 of 29 for only 107 yards and 2 INTs.

12-18-2008	Dragonmount	Temp: 73	Wind: 0-5	None	MVP: Brady		MAR	FLD	
2007 Markham (3-10)		3	7	0	0	- 10	First Downs	11	22
2007 Florida (12-1)		9	22	0	7	- 38	Rushes	20-112	34-146
							Passes	29-17-107	25-18-252
							Sacked	2-8	2-16
1 6:52 Florida	Safety Witherspoon					0-2	Fumble	1	0
1 6:27 Florida	TD Brady 59 pass to Marshall (Nugent) (1-59-0:14)					0-9	Penalties	4-25	3-25
1 1:05 Markham	FG Lindell 46 (10-36-5:08)					3-9	Turnovers	3	1
2 7:00 Markham	TD Sproles 86 punt return (Lindell) (0-0-0:00)					10-9	Time	25:44	34:16
2 1:39 Florida	TD Brady 14 pass to Houshmandzadeh (2 - Jackson) (10-81-5					10-17	Third Down	2-10	6-11
2 1:03 Florida	TD Brady 37 pass to Berrian (Nugent) (2-37-0:22)					10-24	Fourth Down	1-4	1-1
2 0:33 Florida	TD Marshall 75 interception return (Nugent) (0-0-0:00)					10-31	Net Offense	211	382
4 9:30 Florida	TD Jackson 1 run (Nugent) (10-71-5:30)					10-38			



PICKERING



GWINNETT

10

31

### ***PALMER FINDS WEAKNESS IN SPARTANS 'D'***

**GAME POINTS:** Donovan McNabb fumbled at the end of a 12-yard scramble to give the Glads the ball at mid-field half way thru the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter. That turnover led to a 2-yard pass from **Carson Palmer** to **Braylon Edwards**, the first of 4 TD passes for Palmer in the first half, as Gwinnett built up a daunting 28-7 lead heading into the locker room. The second half saw untimely penalties and the Gwinnett pass rush snuff out any semblance of a Pickering comeback as the Glads cruised to an easy win.

**KEY PERFORMANCES:** Carson Palmer exploited a weakened Spartans secondary with 17 completions in 23 attempts for 259 yards, 4 TDs and 1 INT. Reggie Wayne had catches for 155 yards and 1 TD. Gaines Adams and Will Smith each had 2 sacks. Donovan McNabb completed 19 of 31 for 195 yards and 1 TD, but was sacked 6 times and fumbled once.

12-18-2008 Gwinnett Coliseum Temp: 46 Wind: 10-20 None MVP: Palmer							PIC	GWG		
2007 Pickering (5-8)						0 7 3 0 - 10	First Downs	15	20	
2007 Gwinnett (7-6)						14 14 0 3 - 31	Rushes	24-139	34-119	
							Passes	31-19-195	23-17-259	
							Sacked	6-41	0-0	
1 7:01 Gwinnett						TD Palmer 2 pass to Edwards (Brown,J) (5-50-2:51)	0-7	Fumble	3	1
1 2:02 Gwinnett						TD Palmer 7 pass to Gonzalez (Brown,J) (7-48-4:00)	0-14	Penalties	5-35	5-40
2 11:18 Pickering						TD McNabb 20 pass to Jackson (Tynes) (10-74-5:33)	7-14	Turnovers	2	1
2 6:19 Gwinnett						TD Palmer 8 pass to Edwards (Brown,J) (9-73-4:48)	7-21	Time	28:09	31:43
2 4:15 Gwinnett						TD Palmer 45 pass to Wayne (Brown,J) (3-50-1:35)	7-28	Third Down	5-14	8-13
3 2:22 Pickering						FG Tynes 45 (9-43-4:17)	10-28	Fourth Down	1-2	0-0
4 11:06 Gwinnett						FG Brown 18 (9-79-6:11)	10-31	Net Offense	293	378



RINGGOLD



COLORADO

23

20

### ***PUNT BLOCK BREAKS DEADLOCK FOR HAWKS***

**GAME POINTS:** A hard fought first half began when **Randall Gay** intercepted **Ben Roethlisberger** and returned the ball to the Ringgold 5 yard line. 2 plays later, **Matt Ryan** found **Mark Clayton** in the corner of the end zone for a 7-0 Colorado lead. The Hawks battled back to get up 17-7, starting with a 54-yard TD bomb to **Santonio Holmes** followed by a 21-yard fumble return for a TD by **Gary Brackett**. A 50-yard field goal by **Robbie Gould** and a 29-yard TD pass to **Tony Scheffler**, after a Holmes fumble, knotted the score at 17 at half time. After both teams traded 4<sup>th</sup> quarter field goals, **Gerald Hayes** broke thru to block a punt and set up a 40-yard field goal by **Shaun Suisham** to win it.

**KEY PERFORMANCES:** Santonio Holmes caught 8 passes for 148 yards and 1 TD. Elvis Dumervil had 2 sacks and forced the fumble that led to Brackett's return for a TD. Matt Ryan completed 12 of 27 for 141 yards, 2 TDs and 1 INT. Calvin Pace had 12 tackles, 2 sacks and 1 forced fumble.



12-18-2008 Toyota Thunderdome Temp:19 Wind:0-5 None MVP: Holmes							RCH	COL	
2007 Ringgold (5-8)						3 14 0 6 - 23	First Downs	14	9
2007 Colorado (1-12)						7 10 0 3 - 20	Rushes	26-83	28-71
							Passes	32-19-224	27-12-141
1 8:32 Colorado TD Ryan 5 pass to Clayton (Gould) (2-5-0:08)						0-7	Sacked	4-26	4-27
1 2:01 Ringgold FG Suisham 28 (13-66-6:23)						3-7	Fumble	6	4
2 7:47 Ringgold TD Roethlisberger 54 pass to Holmes (Suisham) (6-74-3:11)						10-7	Penalties	5-30	5-47
2 6:46 Ringgold TD Brackett 21 yd fumble recovery (Suisham) (0-0-0:00)						17-7	Turnovers	4	2
2 2:00 Colorado FG Gould 50 (9-39-4:41)						17-10	Time	29:44	30:09
2 0:05 Colorado TD Ryan 29 pass to Scheffler (Gould) (4-43-0:50)						17-17	Third Down	5-15	6-17
4 10:34 Colorado FG Gould 36 (3-9-2:46)						17-20	Fourth Down	1-4	0-1
4 5:34 Ringgold FG Suisham 29 (10-56-3:52)						20-20	Net Offense	281	185
4 1:38 Ringgold FG Suisham 40 (6-17-1:08)						23-20			



**28**

**MOHAVE**



**13**

**WINNEMUCCA**

## OUTLAWS WILT UNDER MOHAVE HEAT

**GAME POINTS:** When **Aundrae Allison** fumbled away the kickoff return and **David Garrard** made him pay with a 9-yard TD pass to **Hines Ward** to make the score 13-7 for Winnemucca, it looked like the Mohave Hellfire, missing their punter due to injury, might be in some unexpected trouble at the 'Hole in the Wall.' But a quick recovery by the offense resulted in a 4-yard TD pass from **Kurt Warner** to **Roydell Williams** to put the Hellfire ahead 14-13 at half time. The second half was all Mohave as Warner added 2 more TD passes and a fine goal line stand by the defense kept the Outlaws off the scoreboard.

**KEY PERFORMANCES:** **Kurt Warner** finished 18 of 24 for 201 yards, 4 TDs, and 1 INT. **Brian Westbrook** rushed for 148 yards on 26 carries and added another 49 yards thru the air to win Game MVP. **Shaun McDonald** caught 10 balls for 124 yards and 2 TDs. **David Garrard** attempted only 13 passes, completing 6 for 73 yards and 1 TD. The Winnemucca running backs, led by **Julius Jones** and **Darren McFadden**, picked up 212 yards on 39 carries.

12-18-2008 Hole in the Wall Temp: 22 Wind: 0-10 None MVP: Westbrook							MOH	WMO	
2007 Mohave (9-4)						7 7 14 0 - 28	First Downs	22	13
2007 Winnemucca (1-12)						3 10 0 0 - 13	Rushes	32-153	39-212
							Passes	24-18-201	13-6-73
1 6:12 Mohave TD Warner 15 pass to Westbrook (Bironas) (9-65-5:29)						7-0	Sacked	1-4	1-8
1 1:50 Winnemucca FG Vinatieri 32 (9-65-4:22)						7-3	Fumble	2	1
2 11:38 Winnemucca FG Vinatieri 22 (6-48-1:52)						7-6	Penalties	1-19	6-51
2 8:31 Winnemucca TD Garrard 9 pass to Ward (Vinatieri) (5-24-2:51)						7-13	Turnovers	2	0
2 2:56 Mohave TD Warner 4 pass to Williams (Bironas) (12-80-5:35)						14-13	Time	31:07	28:48
3 11:41 Mohave TD Warner 41 pass to McDonald (Bironas) (2-53-1:00)						21-13	Third Down	4-9	4-12
3 1:55 Mohave TD Warner 12 pass to McDonald (Bironas) (11-90-5:56)						28-13	Fourth Down	2-5	1-5
							Net Offense	350	277

## INJURY REPORT - Out in Week Fourteen

**ANCHORAGE** – Naeole (knee); **CHARLESWOOD** – None; **CHINO** – None; **COLORADO** – Vasher (shaken), Vilma (knee), A. Johnson (knee), Simpson (wrist), D. Williams (back), Booker (hand), Brooks (wrist), Charles (shaken), Forte (shaken); **COWTOWN** – None; **DURHAM** – None; **FLORIDA** – None; **GWINETT** – None; **IOWA CITY** – Lawson (achilles); **KUTZTOWN** – R. Lewis (wrist), F. Jones (shaken); **LOS ANGELES** – T. Bell (hip); **MARKHAM** – Amato (shaken), Pickett (arm), Kiwanuka (neck); **MOHAVE** – J. Mathis (neck), Barr (hip); **PICKERING** – Sensabaugh (hand), A. Henry (hand); **RINGGOLD** – None; **WINNEMUCCA** – Leftwich (hamstring), Jansen (knee), T. Kelly (shaken), McAlister (hip).





# AROUND THE



## With Spats McChad

NEW YORK – Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow!! It looks nice and I don't have to shovel it! New York got hit by a snow storm this Friday, with more to come on Sunday. Flights were cancelled and the white stuff turned to gray in the downtown areas, but I don't really care. My condo on East 23<sup>rd</sup> Street has underground parking and I have a subway pass. Living in Manhattan has its perks.

### ***DIVISIONAL RE-ALIGNMENT A NECESSITY***

I was always opposed to the idea of putting the expansion teams in one Division and it is becoming obvious why. Look at the lame battle for the Division title that is taking place in the East. At the end of the year one of these sad teams (probably Pickering) will win the title and get to hang a banner in their home stadium proclaiming themselves "EFL East Division Champions." *Yea!* The purpose of the alignment, according to the EFL, was to give incentive to the new teams to build a contender and play hard. What, so they can win an empty Division title and get slaughtered by Iowa City? A lot of people bought into this idea – closet Communists, Environmentalists and Expansion Teams sponsors. What they didn't take into account was the futility of trying to build a *real* contender under the expansion rules. Now, I don't have a problem with the expansion rules. New teams should have to work extra hard to rise to mediocrity – that's part of their dues. What I don't like is the sight of a sub-500 team winning a Division title; a real possibility unless Pickering runs the table. Next year, we need realignment along real geographic boundaries: the North (Canadian) Division, with four of **Charleswood, Durham, Cowtown, Pickering, or Markham**. Let's put the Canucks in one place so we can keep tabs on them.

### ***CUTLER NO MCNABB***

In spite of the improvements Charleswood made in the off-season and at the trade deadline – the acquisition of **Jerious Norwood**, the emergence of **Adrian Peterson**, the strengthening of the pass rush – they were still a hair away from losing to Chino this week....*at home!* While watching the game it was obvious to me and many others that Chino misses **Donovan McNabb**. Had he been there, we might be talking about the Convicts *second* biggest upset of the year instead of another loss.

Down 14-6 and looking lost, the Convicts suddenly turned the tables on the Pats with big plays from their defense and special teams (much as they did for most of the 2007 season), grabbing a 19-14 lead heading into the fourth quarter. But they couldn't finish the job! With **L.T.** running out of his shoes (125 rushing yards and 75 receiving yards) the Convicts could not go vertical to their wide receivers against the vaunted Pats secondary.

Perhaps it's unfair to expect more from **Jay Cutler**, but I would have expected more from McNabb, who has a genius for extending the play and improvising on the fly – just the thing Chino needed to crack the disciplined Pats secondary. Cutler just sat in the pocket and got bamboozled. If the mark of a true champion is how well you do when the defense knows what you're going to do, Cutler fell well short. According to my pimply, four-eyed geek nephew, Byron, (who studied the game tape afterwards) Cutler completed 5 of 16 pass attempts for 44 yards, a 40.6 QB rating, against Charleswood pass defense sets. Noteworthy is that of the 5 completions, 3 were check downs to secondary receivers and 2 were designed plays to the half back. Not one completion to a wide receiver when the defense knew what was coming – and this from a team with Tory Holt and Anquan Boldin on the roster! Cutler did better when the Pats expected the run, completing 4 of 5 for 65 yards, but his one pick came against a run defense when the pressure of trying to come from behind in the fourth quarter caused him to try and force the ball in to a tight space. He found **Shaun Phillips** instead of Tomlinson, surrendering time

and distance at a critical juncture in the game.

#### ***WHAT REALLY HAPPENED TO MIKE BARR?***

The Mohave punter, who was consigned to the bench in punting situations in Week 12 against the Crimson Hawks, sat on the bench again in last week's game against Winnemucca. After the game, the team announced that Barr had suffered a "hip injury" during the game and would not be back for the rest of the season. This begs the question of how a player who sat on the bench the entire game, except to hold for Rob Bironas, got "injured" so badly. The team did not specify exactly how the injury occurred and **Mike Barr** could not comment as he was wheeled on a stretcher unconscious out of the Mohave locker room. When asked about it during a post-game press conference, Mohave coach, **Bobby Elder** snapped, "He slipped, okay!" Refusing to address it further, reporters were left to speculate. One scenario circulating the 'Blogosphere' is that Elder attacked Barr in his office after the punter came to complain about lack of use. According to one source close to the team, Elder was heard yelling something like "get your sorry punting ass out of here before I break your useless legs," followed shortly afterwards by the sound of crashing furniture and screams for help. It is probably just a rumour, but after the beating, Elder apparently then ordered Assistant Coach, **John Palermo** to have Barr taken outside and shot. Mohave has no plans to sign another punter. Nobody wants the job apparently.

#### ***'TIS THE SEASON***

Christmas is a time of giving. So let's see who has been giving away the ball most so far this year. The 9-4 **Mohave Hellfire**, surprisingly, have turned the ball over an astonishing 35 times, the most in the league. Who gets the Mohave "Santa Award" for giving? None other than **Kurt Warner**, whose 19 fumbles and 16 interceptions stand above all challengers. This is no surprise, as Warner routinely carries the ball away from his body while looking downfield for receivers – the perfect target – and after taking a big hit sometimes imagines he is on the other team and throws directly to them. Anchorage's **Drew Brees** is a nose behind Warner, with 12 fumbles and an eye-popping 22 interceptions. Durham's **Philip Rivers** is trying to keep up with 14 fumbles, but falls short in total giving with only 9 interceptions. Does the league issue tax receipts for this type of donation – or only when it goes to the truly needy, like Colorado or Winnemucca?

#### ***NEW YORK GRIPES***

Speaking of the season, who spiked the eggnog in the Florida locker room before the game against Markham? What other explanation is there for such a slow start by the Dragons against one of the league's certified lightweights? I thought I was seeing things when the TV screen showed **Markham 10, Florida 9** at the 7:00 mark of the second quarter. Of course, when the Dragons awoke it was with a vengeance. 22 points in one minute and six seconds must be some kind of record!

The spirit of the Holidays seems to have caught me off guard. Normally surly and aloof this time of year, I find myself oddly at peace as I gaze out the window from my Manhattan condo at the grey, cold sky. It's an uncomfortable feeling for me, this "inner peace," and I hope it passes soon. Yesterday I actually gave a dollar to a panhandler in the subway. Can't remember the last time I did that.

***To all my readers out there, have a safe and happy holiday! -SPATS***

## **WEEK THIRTEEN LEADERS**

### **Passing Yards**

Palmer,C (GWG)	23-17-259
Brady,T (FLD)	25-18-252
Pennington (COW)	22-18-251
Garcia,J (ICC)	31-19-236
Roethlisberger (RCH)	32-19-224

### **Rushing Yards**

Westbrook (MOH)	26-148
Tomlinson (CHI)	25-125
Jackson,S (FLD)	23-117
Jones,J (WMO)	20-101
Parker,W (GWG)	26-101

### **Receiving Yards**

Wayne,R (GWG)	6-155
Holmes,S (RCH)	8-148
McDonald,S (MOH)	10-124
Moss,S (COW)	5-114
Marshall,B (FLD)	3-99

# LEADER BOARD

## STANDINGS

### PACIFIC-ATLANTIC CONFERENCE

East	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Pickering	5	8	0	0.385	230	17.7	317	24.4	-6.7	4 2 0	3 1 0	5 3 0
Markham	3	10	0	0.231	163	12.5	305	23.5	-10.9	2 4 0	3 1 0	3 5 0
Colorado	1	12	0	0.077	112	8.6	352	27.1	-18.5	0 6 0	1 3 0	1 7 0
Winnemucca	1	12	0	0.077	147	11.3	382	29.4	-18.1	0 8 0	1 3 0	1 7 0

West	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Iowa City (z)	11	2	0	0.846	365	28.1	221	17	11.1	5 1 0	4 0 0	8 0 0
Chino (y)	7	6	0	0.538	361	27.8	250	19.2	8.5	5 1 0	2 2 0	5 3 0
Los Angeles (y)	7	6	0	0.538	314	24.2	286	22	2.2	3 2 0	2 2 0	6 2 0
Anchorage	4	9	0	0.308	260	20	304	23.4	-3.4	3 4 0	0 4 0	3 5 0

### CAN-AM CONFERENCE

North	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Charleswood (z)	12	1	0	0.923	345	26.5	156	12	14.5	7 0 0	4 0 0	7 1 0
Cowtown	7	6	0	0.538	255	19.6	251	19.3	0.3	3 4 0	0 4 0	2 6 0
Kutztown	7	6	0	0.538	275	21.2	262	20.2	1	3 2 0	2 2 0	4 4 0
Durham	6	7	0	0.462	236	18.2	261	20.1	-1.9	4 3 0	2 2 0	3 5 0

South	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Florida (z)	12	1	0	0.923	419	32.2	197	15.2	17.1	7 0 0	4 0 0	8 0 0
Mohave	9	4	0	0.692	352	27.1	313	24.1	3	5 1 0	2 2 0	4 4 0
Gwinnett	7	6	0	0.538	304	23.4	236	18.2	5.2	5 2 0	1 3 0	3 5 0
Ringgold	5	8	0	0.385	240	18.5	285	21.9	-3.5	3 5 0	1 3 0	1 7 0

z - Clinched Division

y - Clinched Wildcard

## PASSING

			Att	Cmp	C%	Yards	In	I%	Lg	TD	TD%	Rate
1	Brady,T	FLD	372	243	65.3	2911	5	1.3	59	28	7.5	108.6
2	Garcia,J	ICC	269	180	66.9	2347	4	1.5	54	15	5.6	106.6
3	Manning,P	CHP	411	261	63.5	3252	13	3.2	52	30	7.3	99.1
4	Croyle	LAK	151	95	62.9	1092	2	1.3	46	9	6	99
5	Jackson,T	LAK	150	93	62	1205	5	3.3	71	11	7.3	97.8
6	Warner,K	MOH	338	206	60.9	2775	16	4.7	51	28	8.3	95
7	Garrard	WMO	279	168	60.2	1809	5	1.8	48	13	4.7	87.3
8	Rivers,P	DTL	344	208	60.5	2504	9	2.6	48	15	4.4	86.4
9	Roethlisberger	RCH	296	176	59.5	2182	13	4.4	55	19	6.4	85.4
10	Palmer,C	GWG	383	225	58.7	2636	15	3.9	75	22	5.7	82.5
11	Cutler	CHI	286	183	64	2053	14	4.9	34	14	4.9	81.2
12	Pennington	COW	256	160	62.5	1828	10	3.9	40	10	3.9	80.7
13	McNabb	PIC	380	216	56.8	2312	10	2.6	50	17	4.5	78.8
14	Romo	KUT	431	241	55.9	2917	19	4.4	72	23	5.3	76.3
15	Brees	ANC	435	259	59.5	2659	22	5.1	67	19	4.4	70.7



## RUSHING

		Att	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD			Att	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD	
Tomlinson	CHI	266	1458	5.5	49	14	8	Jackson,S	FLD	187	823	4.4	26	8
Barber,M	COW	228	1123	4.9	56	10	9	Brown,R	ICC	110	776	7.1	66	5
Westbrook	MOH	214	1053	4.9	36	2	10	Maroney	COW	132	770	5.8	64	3
Taylor,F	PIC	173	942	5.4	83	2	11	Lewis,J	MAR	156	699	4.5	54	1
McGahee	ANC	197	927	4.7	44	4	12	Gore	DTL	163	683	4.2	43	7
Peterson,A	CHP	178	894	5	72	6	13	Young,S	LAK	128	646	5	44	0
Parker,W	GWG	222	854	3.8	32	1	14	Jones-Drew	RCH	134	585	4.4	59	0
Jackson,S	FLD	187	823	4.4	26	8	15	Jones,K	LAK	129	558	4.3	32	3

## RECEIVING

			No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD				No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD
1	Welker	CHP	78	868	11.1	33	5	8	Ward,H	WMO	65	710	10.9	24	3
2	Witten	CHP	70	917	13.1	52	11	9	Gonzalez,T	GWG	64	563	8.8	21	8
3	Moss,R	ANC	67	837	12.5	67	7	10	Colston	ANC	61	623	10.2	34	5
4	Holt,T	CHI	66	869	13.2	34	3	11	Marshall,B	FLD	61	969	15.9	59	9
5	Wayne,R	GWG	66	1010	15.3	55	2	12	Fitzgerald	ICC	59	856	14.5	42	5
6	Johnson,C	CHP	65	995	15.3	47	11	13	Burress	KUT	59	756	12.8	46	5
7	Smith,S	LAK	65	851	13.1	71	7	14	Houshmandz	FLD	59	692	11.7	37	8
8	Ward,H	WMO	65	710	10.9	24	3	15	Edwards,B	GWG	57	731	12.8	75	11



## BRYLCREEM PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

### WHO WAS SLICK IN WEEK THIRTEEN?

Brylcreem continues to be a proud sponsor of the EFL

## OFFENSE



### QB – Chad Pennington, Cowtown C. Kings

22 Att., 18 Comp., 251 yds, 3 TDs, 0 Sacks, 153.8 Rating

Made every throw he needed to make to keep Kings alive.

## DEFENSE



### LB –Ernie Sims, Chino Convicts

17 Tackles, 4 Run Stuffs.

A standout even in defeat, he helped to keep game close vs Pats.

## SPECIAL TEAMS



### P –Andy Lee, Gwinnett Gladiators

4 Punts, 199 yards, 49.8 avg., 54 yd long, 0 TB, 2 Inside 20.

Pinned back Spartans in second half to help preserve lead.

# BUG THE BOOKIE!

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

YOUR SOURCE FOR FANTASY AND ON-LINE BETTING SOLUTIONS



### PLAYOFF PICTURE AT A GLANCE AFTER 13 GAMES

#### PACIFIC – ATLANTIC CONFERENCE

IN

ALIVE

OUT

1



2



3



4



#### CAN – AM CONFERENCE

IN

ALIVE

OUT

1



2



3



4



### JIMMY'S WEEK FOURTEEN PICKS

#### COWTOWN @ CHARLESWOOD (LINE – PATRIOTS BY 9)

What appears, at first glance, to be a huge mismatch in favour of Charleswood is actually, on second glance, just a regular mismatch in favour of Charleswood. Although the Patriots have the advantage in overall team offense and defense, the Corn Kings match up fairly well with them on the offensive side of the ball. Cowtown leads the league in rushing yards while Charleswood is 13<sup>th</sup> in the league in rushing yards allowed. Sure, the Pats have the league's best pass defense – but what more can they do to the Corn Kings passing attack that the rest of the league hasn't already done? Let's face it, Cowtown's passing game has been struggling all year and they do not rely on it to carry the day. If they can get the Pats to focus on the run, there may be room for Pennington to find Santana Moss or D.J. Hackett down field. When Charleswood has the ball, they have a complete arsenal of weapons with which to torture Cowtown. The running game is a threat, but the real power still lies with Peyton Manning, who can be a boob at times, but more often than not completes the big pass at the critical moment. The Pats have the home field advantage and are coming off an emotional win over Chino, putting the Cows at an even greater disadvantage. Last year, I would have seen an upset here. This year, I see a close first half, but Charleswood domination in the second half to beat the spread.

**PICK: CHARLESWOOD**

### **DURHAM @ KUTZTOWN (LINE – GOLDEN BEARS BY 5)**

Durham's playoff hopes are fading as they cascade gently down in the rankings with each depressing loss – depressing because there is something inevitable about the outcome when Durham faces the better teams. They handle the poor to middling teams with a fair amount of ease, but there is no fire of an upset in their bellies against a Charleswood, a Florida, or even an Iowa City or a Chino. So where does Kutztown fall in the hierarchy of teams? I have implied all along that the Bears are somewhat overrated and the fat 5-point betting line above is further proof. Tony Romo is coming off an abysmal 5-turnover game against the lowly Buccaneers in which he saw his *season* QB rating drop from 82.0 to 76.3 in one week! Ray Lewis is out this week with a wrist injury, meaning Larry Foote will see action in their 3-4 scheme. The Lizards are healthy but their running game is performing as if it is perennially injured. The line has come under criticism lately for not stepping up their play. Chad Clifton and Leonard Davis have been exposed as inconsistent, and All Pro, Steve Hutchinson has allowed a team high 3 sacks this year. Generally, the line is not knocking people the way they did last year. The fact I am talking about them at all is a bad sign. Nevertheless, I still believe the Lizards are the better team overall, despite their sub-500 record. With a loss eliminating them from the playoff hunt, the Dinosaurs are playing to avoid extinction.

**PICK: DURHAM**

### **RINGGOLD @ FLORIDA (LINE – DRAGONS BY 12)**

The playoff scenario for Ringgold is this: they must win this game and hope that Durham, Charleswood, and Mohave *all* win as well. Then they must repeat a similar scenario next week and the next until either they lose, or one of Gwinnett, Cowtown or Kutztown wins. The Hawks need a full win over their competition to advance, since they lose all tie-breaking scenarios due to their poor head-to-head and in-Conference records. Thankfully, it will not bear repeating this tortuously convoluted scenario next week as the Hawks playoff hopes will be put to rest after this game. When it comes down to a blocked punt to save your bacon against the Thundersnow, you know you are not ready for the playoffs anyway, and certainly not ready for Florida on the Dragons' home turf. Florida is not just playing out the string, regardless of how it looked early in the game against Markham last week. They are playing for home field advantage throughout the playoffs and are being chased by the Patriots. Home field is very significant for them and they will not rest their top guns until they have clinched it. Say no more, the Dragons roar!

**PICK: FLORIDA**

### **GWINNETT @ MOHAVE (LINE – HELLFIRE BY 2)**

Gwinnett currently holds the final wild card spot, winning the tie-breaker over Kutztown. As long as they remain in a tie with the Golden Bears at the top of the wild card race, the Glads are in. They do not want to see Kutztown fall below a rising Cowtown in the North Division seeding as Cowtown has the head-to-head tie-breaking edge over Gwinnett. The bottom line is that they can help their cause immensely by running the table, but will still need some help to ensure a playoff berth. Their first challenge is to topple Mohave, a team they could still theoretically overtake in the standings, on the road, in the dessert. No easy task, but made a little easier now that Mohave's punter is in intensive care. Expect plenty of fourth down gambles by *Generalissimo* Elder and lots of Brian Westbrook against the league's most porous run defense. Carson Palmer, coming off a 4 TD pass performance against Pickering, is currently hot, but history has shown that he can go cold at any moment. Mohave's pass defense is top notch, so expect to see lots of Willie Parker to soften it up a little. Mohave's erratic play of late has me guessing here. I really don't know who will come out on top in this one. Coin flip comes up helmets.

**PICK: GWINNETT**

### **WINNEMUCCA @ MARKHAM (LINE – NORTH STARS BY 6)**

Markham's faint hope for an East Division crown rests on winning their remaining 3 games and Pickering losing their remaining 3 games. This week, the North Stars have a better than average shot at holding down their end of this improbable scenario as they host the basket-case Winnemucca Outlaws. At the start of the season it appeared that Winnemucca's quarterback was good enough to carry them past the weak

teams in the East. The reality has been that David Garrard, despite two good wide receivers in Hines Ward and Laveranues Coles, has not asserted himself as much as predicted. Last week against Mohave he attempted only 13 passes. Markham has been more aggressive in the passing game but Matt Hasselbeck has been a disappointment overall. Both of these teams are hard to watch, but for the crazy Markham fans at least it will be a festive day in the Dawg Pound as the Stars squeak out a win under the spread.

**PICK: WINNEMUCCA**

### **PICKERING @ COLORADO (LINE – SPARTANS BY 4)**

The Thundersnow are no longer the pushovers they have been for most of the season. Arguably, a blocked punt was the difference in their loss last week against Ringgold. The Spartans are mired in a three-game losing streak and are yet to clinch the East Division despite struggles by their main rival, Markham. Does this mean that the table is set for a main course of *'Upset à la Mode?'* I would say that it is, except for one very simple and illogical point: the Spartans are *due*! Yes, in the balance of all probabilities it is my belief that Pickering cannot suffer a fourth straight loss, due to the fact that the Markham loss two weeks ago represented such a strong deviation from the expected outcome that a correction is in order or else the universe will collapse upon itself. Sorry, Colorado, but in order for life in the universe to go on, you had better lose this game! There is also the incidental, but less compelling fact, that the Spartans have the edge in every offensive category except sacks allowed (where they are dead last!). On defense, Anthony Henry is still out for the Spartans, but so is Colorado's Nathan Vasher. Despite a statistical advantage in overall defense for the Snow, Pickering still has the edge in talent and, in any case, should be able to hold Matt Ryan and Co. to under 20 points. If McNabb can stay upright, Pickering should improve to 6-8.

**PICK: PICKERING**

### **ANCHORAGE @ CHINO (LINE – CONVICTS BY 8)**

The Bucs shocked the EFL with a 27-0 trouncing of Kutztown last week, putting Gwinnett and Cowtown back in the Can-Am conference playoff race. This week they cannot take Chino out of the playoffs, as the Convicts have clinched a berth, but they can sure hurt their standing in the race for the 3<sup>rd</sup> seed in the Pacific-Atlantic Conference. The Bucs are now playing to make other teams miserable, a role they have so far taken to with gusto. However, the Convicts are too strong at home and are well-equipped to take the Bucs to the woodshed for a spanking. Look for L.T. and Cutler to enjoy much success.

**PICK: CHINO**

### **IOWA CITY @ LOS ANGELES (LINE – CUBS BY 1)**

This is one of those rivalry games where intangibles have as much standing as the measurables. The Cubs have everything – the Division and home field advantage – all locked up. So what do they have to play for? Hate. The Cubs and the Knights detest each other going back to the inaugural season and have a history of close games. The Cubs are 2-1 lifetime over the Knights, their two victories, 15-14 and 20-19, coming on field goals on the final play of the game. The Knights remember the pain of those losses and will be looking for some sweet revenge, (and a better playoff seeding), this week at Round Table Stadium. Iowa City is favoured, as they should be, but by the slimmest of margins, reflecting the different situations of the two teams. Los Angeles will need a top shelf performance by their defense in order to upset the Cubs. They did not get it last week against Cowtown and falling behind it exposed the weakness of their offense in come-from-behind situations. Iowa City should have no problem stopping Tavaris Croyle, in theory, but the Knights QB tandem has been underestimated all season and still stands high in the QB rankings league wide. So, who will it be? Call me crazy, but the Knights will shine.

**PICK: LOS ANGELES**

**SHOULD YOU LISTEN TO A THING I SAY??????**  
**HOW I'M DOING AGAINST THE SPREAD**

**LAST WEEK: 5-3-0**

**OVERALL: 78-26-0**