



2008

WEEK TWELVE

December 14, 2008



Colorado's Matt Ryan sets to deliver a pass to Tony Scheffler. Ryan threw 3 TD passes to Scheffler in a 27-21 win over the Winnemucca Outlaws.

THUNDERSNOW BLIZZARD IN WINNEMUCCA!

*Colorado notches historic first win
after 11 game drought.*



COLORRADO

27



WINNEMUCCA

21

WINNEMUCCA – In the face of howling wind and flurries in Winnemucca's 'Hole in the Wall' stadium, the Colorado Thundersnow looked right at home and defiant of the elements. They scored with the wind, they scored against the wind. Yes, believe it or not, they scored – a franchise high 27 points! Not since Week Three against Pickering had the Snow looked so in gear on the attack. Except this time, the running game showed up as well. With **Kevin Smith** and **Matt Forte** grinding it out with effectiveness on the turf, **Matt Ryan** had time, when he needed it, to throw the ball.

In a game that was not really as close as the score indicated, Colorado scored the first 20 points on two **Robbie Gould** field goals and a couple of Matt Ryan touchdown passes to tight end, **Tony Scheffler** to dominate the first 35 minutes of the game. The Outlaws' offense, which had been held to just 3 first downs in the first half, finally came to life toward the end of the third quarter when **David Garrard** found **Laveranues Coles** in the corner of the end zone from 14 yards out to break the Colorado shutout and put the home team within striking distance heading into the fourth quarter.

But history would not be denied for the Thundersnow on this day. On the Outlaw's next possession, **Calvin Pace**, unquestionably Colorado's defensive MVP this year, broke through the line to sack **David Garrard** on a critical 3rd down conversion attempt and Colorado got the ball back on the Winnemucca 44 yard line after a shanked Chris Kluwe punt netted 0 yards. **Matt Ryan**, showing the instinct of a champion, (albeit a champion of a 0-11 team), went for the jugular on the next play, hitting **Mark Clayton** for a 28-yard gain on a long crossing pattern, then again on a medium out route for 13 yards to bring the ball inside the Winnemucca 10 yard line. A holding penalty on Jacoby Jones brought the ball back 10 yards, but three plays later, Ryan found **Tony Scheffler** for their third TD connection of the day from 8 yards out to all but seal the deal for Colorado.

The Game Ball deservedly went to the Captain of this young expansion squad, **Matt Ryan**, who was efficient, if not prolific, in victory with 14 completions in 20 attempts for 145 yards and 3 TD passes. **Kevin Smith** rushed for 96 yards on 16 carries and **Matt Forte** added 66 yards on 19 carries to carry the offensive load on a windy day in Winnemucca. **Tony Scheffler** caught 5 passes for 58 yards and 3 TD passes and now leads the team in touchdowns scored with 4.

As for Winnemucca, they hibernated during the first half, waking up too late to avoid getting hit by a Colorado Thundersnow-style blizzard, and in the end looked lost. Both teams are looking forward to next year, because this year could not have been much worse. But at least on this day, Colorado got to finally experience the glow of victory.

12-13-2008	Hole in the Wall	Temp: 35 Wind: 30-40	MVP: Ryan			
2007 Colorado (1-11)	6	7	7	7	-27	
2007 Winnemucca (1-11)	0	0	7	14	-21	
1 11:40 Colorado	FG Gould 52 (6-20-2:16)			3-0		
1 4:42 Colorado	FG Gould 33 (7-22-2:19)			6-0		
2 0:46 Colorado	TD Ryan 16 pass to Scheffler (Gould) (15-80-6:33)			13-0		
3 10:23 Colorado	TD Ryan 6 pass to Scheffler (Gould) (9-80-4:37)			20-0		
3 0:22 Winnemucca	TD Garrard 14 pass to Coles (Vinatieri) (6-57-3:38)			20-7		
4 4:55 Colorado	TD Ryan 8 pass to Scheffler (Gould) (9-44-4:48)			27-7		
4 3:09 Winnemucca	TD Garrard 39 pass to Coles (Vinatieri) (5-81-1:38)			27-14		
4 1:18 Winnemucca	TD Garrard 18 pass to Coles (Vinatieri) (11-57-1:43)			27-21		
				First Downs	COL 18	WMO 17
				Rushes	39-162	22-78
				Passes	20-14-145	39-16-252
				Sacked	0-0	1-6
				Fumble	0	1
				Penalties	8-62	9-51
				Turnovers	0	1
				Time	34:08	25:47
				Third Down	9-16	6-14
				Fourth Down	0-0	1-2
				Net Offense	307	324



DURHAM

6



CHARLESWOOD

27

MANNING AIRS IT OUT VS SLUGGISH LIZARDS

GAME POINTS: Durham's **Ike Taylor** picked off **Peyton Manning** 4 plays into the game and returned it 56 yards to the Patriot 7 yard line, leading to a **Mason Crosby** chip shot field goal and a 3-0 lead. It turned out to be the highlight of the day for Durham as Manning went on to be nearly perfect after that, throwing 2 TD passes before the half and another in the 4th quarter, to lead the Pats to an easy win over Division rival Durham.

KEY PERFORMANCES: **Peyton Manning** finished the day 30 of 41 for 371 yards, 3 TDs and 1 INT. **Wes Welker**, **Jason Witten** and **Chad Johnson** all had over 100 yards receiving and 1 TD each. **Marcus Trufant** snagged his 7th interception of the year. **Adrian Peterson** was held to 55 yards on 14 carries. **Frank Gore** and **Clinton Portis** both struggled, combining for just 49 yards on 18 carries. **Philip Rivers** completed only 9 of 21 passes for 92 yards.

12-07-2008	Patriot Place	Temp: 75 Wind:	MVP: Manning			
2007 Durham (6-6)	3	3	0	0	-6	
2007 Charleswood (11-1)	10	7	3	7	-27	
1 10:45 Durham	FG Crosby 20 (3-4-1:57)			3-0		
1 5:40 Charleswood	FG Gostkowski 29 (9-69-4:54)			3-3		
1 1:08 Charleswood	TD Manning 13 pass to Johnson (Gostkowski) (7-61-2:42)			3-10		
2 2:19 Durham	FG Crosby 45 (9-53-4:13)			6-10		
2 0:58 Charleswood	TD Manning 25 pass to Witten (Gostkowski) (6-80-1:10)			6-17		
3 6:43 Charleswood	FG Gostkowski 27 (9-53-5:48)			6-20		
4 10:10 Charleswood	TD Manning 14 pass to Welker (Gostkowski) (8-75-4:45)			6-27		
				DTL	CHP	
				First Downs	11	24
				Rushes	21-62	18-63
				Passes	35-18-169	41-30-371
				Sacked	0-0	2-16
				Fumble	0	2
				Penalties	5-40	5-35
				Turnovers	1	1
				Time	26:51	33:03
				Third Down	1-13	2-9
				Fourth Down	2-2	0-1
				Net Offense	231	418



KUTZTOWN

24



COWTOWN

14

ROMO THROWS 3 TDS TO TIP COWS

GAME POINTS: **Plaxico Burress** turned a simple hitch route into a 39-yard TD to tie the game 14-14 in the 3rd quarter. **Larry Johnson** and **Kenny Watson** rushed for 31 of 36 yards on Kutztown's next possession to set up **Nate Kaeding's** go-ahead field goal from 39 yards. Cowtown threatened in the 4th quarter, but an untimely false start penalty on 4th down and inches at the Kutztown 38 put them out of field goal range and forced a punt. The Golden Bears would keep the ball for almost the entire game after that, scoring the clinching TD on a 14-yard pass from **Tony Romo** to Burress.

KEY PERFORMANCES: **Tony Romo** went 17 of 31 for 216 yards, 1 INT and 3 TDs. **Plaxico Burress** made all the clutch catches, snagging 5 passes for 93 yards and 2 TDs. **Chris Redman** struggled, completing only 8 of 23 passes for 119 yards and 1 INT. **Marion Barber** scored Cowtown's 2 TDs.

12-12-2008 Tillman Field Temp: 51 Wind: 0-10 MVP: Burress							KUT	COW	
						First Downs	20	16	
2007 Kutztown (7-5)		0	7	7	10	- 24	Rushes	34-126	36-170
2007 Cowtown (6-6)		0	7	7	0	- 14	Passes	31-17-216	23-8-119
						Sacked	1-8	1-7	
2 12:24 Kutztown		TD Romo 23 pass to Johnson (Kaeding) (13-85-6:11)				7-0	Fumble	2	1
2 3:27 Cowtown		TD Barber 1 run (Hanson,J) (6-24-2:53)				7-7	Penalties	4-29	6-35
3 9:15 Cowtown		TD Barber 2 run (Hanson,J) (7-55-3:50)				7-14	Turnovers	2	1
3 4:45 Kutztown		TD Romo 39 pass to Burress (Kaeding) (10-71-4:16)				14-14	Challenges	1-2	0-1
4 14:16 Kutztown		FG Kaeding 39 (8-36-3:46)				17-14	Time	32:20	27:40
4 1:27 Kutztown		TD Romo 14 pass to Burress (Kaeding) (16-80-8:13)				24-14	Third Down	5-14	3-12
						Fourth Down	2-3	1-3	
						Net Offense	334	282	



PICKERING



MARKHAM

12

16

MARKHAM PREVAILS IN UGLY UPSET

GAME POINTS: Charles Tillman picked off Donovan McNabb and lateralled the ball to James Sanders, who returned it 15 yards for Markham's only TD of the game. That score started a 13-point 4th quarter comeback for the North Stars that erased a fragile 12-3 Pickering lead built up over the first three quarters. The Spartans struck first on a 2-yard TD pass from McNabb to Chris Johnson in the 1st quarter, but Lawrence Tynes missed the extra point. That would prove significant later as the Spartans were forced to play for the TD on their final possession, leading to a second and final interception by Tillman.

KEY PERFORMANCES: Jamal Lewis rushed for 143 yards on 26 carries to lead the Stars' offence. Charles Tillman had 2 key interceptions, while Mike Vrabel recorded 3 sacks and 1 forced fumble to lead the defense. Donovan McNabb completed 20 of 37 passes for 223 yards, 1 TD and 2 INTs.

12-10-2008	The Dawg Pound	Temp: 12	Wind:	None	MVP: Tillman		PIC	MAR	
2007 Pickering (5-7)		6	3	3	0	- 12	First Downs	19	13
2007 Markham (3-9)		0	0	3	13	- 16	Rushes	21-89	37-162
							Passes	37-20-223	28-15-126
							Sacked	4-18	1-7
1 6:26	Pickering	TD McNabb 2 pass to Johnson (no good) (12-77-5:42)				6-0	Fumble	1	1
2 15:00	Pickering	FG Tynes 41 (9-55-4:06)				9-0	Penalties	9-63	9-46
3 4:40	Markham	FG Lindell 48 (5-60-1:49)				9-3	Turnovers	2	0
3 0:09	Pickering	FG Tynes 34 (11-63-4:27)				12-3	Time	29:39	30:21
4 10:56	Markham	TD Sanders 15 interception return (Lindell) (0-0-0:00)				12-10	Third Down	1-12	3-18
4 4:43	Markham	FG Lindell 54 (9-25-3:59)				12-13	Fourth Down	0-0	1-1
4 1:43	Markham	FG Lindell 37 (11-64-1:56)				12-16	Net Offense	294	281



LOS ANGELES



ANCHORAGE

27

9

CROYLE BROILS BUCS!

GAME POINTS: Down by 1 point in the 4th quarter, Drew Brees went deep to Randy Moss but found Knights' safety, Antoine Bethea instead, leading to a 6-yard TD pass from Brodie Croyle to Steve Smith five plays later that gave the visitors a 17-9 lead. The game broke decisively in the LA's favour on the next series when Brees was picked off by lineman, Kevin Williams, who returned the ball 33 yards for a TD. The Knights would score 20 points in the 4th quarter.

KEY PERFORMANCES: Brodie Croyle continued his solid play, finishing 19 of 30 for 193 yards and 2 TDs. Roddy White caught 5 passes for 86 yards and 1 TD. The LA defense, as a unit, was officially credited with 8 QB Pressures, but did not log a sack. Drew Brees completed 20 of 35 passes for 186 yards and 2 INTs. Kyle Boller finished the game at QB for Anchorage, throwing 2 more interceptions to give the Bucs 4 turnovers on the day.

12-12-2008	Great Northern Sports Complex	Temp: 70	Wind:	MVP: Croyle		
2007 Los Angeles (7-5)	0	7	0	20	-27	
2007 Anchorage (3-9)	3	3	0	3	-9	
1 2:01 Anchorage	FG Stover 19 (16-88-9:23)				0-3	
2 7:39 Anchorage	FG Stover 22 (13-75-7:15)				0-6	
2 0:21 Los Angeles	TD Croyle 10 pass to White (Brown,K) (15-64-6:55)				7-6	
4 14:48 Anchorage	FG Stover 19 (15-86-7:35)				7-9	
4 8:11 Los Angeles	FG Brown 27 (10-70-6:34)				10-9	
4 3:11 Los Angeles	TD Croyle 6 pass to Smith (Brown,K) (5-43-3:21)				17-9	
4 2:29 Los Angeles	TD Williams 33 interception return (Brown,K) (0-0-0:00)				24-9	
4 0:51 Los Angeles	FG Brown 53 (3--1-0:21)				27-9	
First Downs	LAK				ANC	
Rushes	17				21	
Passes	22-106				27-139	
Sacked	30-19-193				41-22-201	
Fumble	2-13				0-0	
Penalties	2				2	
Turnovers	7-52				5-38	
Time	0				4	
Third Down	28:32				31:22	
Fourth Down	6-12				7-14	
Net Offense	1-1				1-3	
	286				340	



WINNETT



FLORIDA

14

34

DRAGONS PICK APART PALMER

GAME POINTS: Antonio Cromartie intercepted Carson Palmer and returned the ball 24 yards to the Gladiators' 4 yard line to set up 4-yard TD pass from Tom Brady to Brandon Marshall with 3 seconds remaining in the 1st half. That score put the Dragons up 17-7 and set the tone for a jittery second half for Palmer. Nate Burleson returned a punt 88 yards for a TD to give Gwinnett an early 2nd half boost, but a 53-yard TD pass from Brady to Marshall and 3 Ken Hamlin interceptions, one returned for a TD, locked up Florida's 11th win.

KEY PERFORMANCES: Steven Jackson kept the Dragons going on the attack with 143 yards on 30 carries. Tom Brady was 14 of 27 for 149 yards, 1 INT and 3 TDs. Brandon Marshall caught 6 passes for 94 yards and 3 TDs. Ken Hamlin had 3 interceptions to lead the defense. The sad story for the Glads was Carson Palmer, who completed 15 of 27 for 134 yards, 1 TD but threw 4 costly INTs. Willie Parker gained 77 yards on 16 carries, but added a fumble.

12-12-2008	Dragonmount	Temp: 72	Wind: 0-5	None	MVP: Hamlin		
2007 Gwinnett (6-6)	0	7	7	0	-14		
2007 Florida (11-1)	0	17	17	0	-34		
2 11:56 Florida	TD Brady 6 pass to Marshall (Nugent) (18-98-8:40)				0-7		
2 6:27 Gwinnett	TD Palmer 10 pass to Gonzalez (Brown,J) (10-78-5:15)				7-7		
2 1:48 Florida	FG Nugent 34 (10-57-4:26)				7-10		
2 0:03 Florida	TD Brady 4 pass to Marshall (Nugent) (3-4-0:18)				7-17		
3 6:57 Gwinnett	TD Burleson 88 punt return (Brown,J) (0-0-0:00)				14-17		
3 5:08 Florida	TD Brady 53 pass to Marshall (Nugent) (3-72-1:28)				14-24		
3 3:24 Florida	TD Hamlin 43 interception return (Nugent) (0-0-0:00)				14-31		
3 1:07 Florida	FG Nugent 41 (3-8-1:55)				14-34		
First Downs	GWG				FLD		
Rushes	14				17		
Passes	22-93				38-183		
Sacked	27-15-134				27-14-149		
Fumble	1-6				1-2		
Penalties	1				0		
Turnovers	6-40				5-37		
Time	5				1		
Third Down	23:09				36:51		
Fourth Down	2-9				8-15		
Net Offense	0-1				0-0		
	221				330		



MOHAVE



RINGGOLD

9

34

BIG BEN BAGS BIG WIN!

GAME POINTS: The Ringgold Crimson Hawks kept their slim playoff hopes alive with a timely and convincing upset of the Mohave Hellfire, 34-9. The Hawks brought pressure all day, disrupting the Mohave attack and forcing 4 turnovers, 3 of them by Kurt Warner. With most of the Hellfire secondary and LBs rushing the QB, Ben Roethlisberger stood firm and connected with a wide open Dwayne Bowe for a 55-yard TD pass towards the end of the 3rd quarter to give the Hawks a commanding 24-6 lead that they would not relinquish.

KEY PERFORMANCES: Ben Roethlisberger completed 16 of 25 for 263 yards, 4 TDs and 1 INT. Maurice Jones-Drew rushed for 91 yards on 20 carries. Nick Barnett recorded 10 tackles, 1 sack, 1 pass defended, and 1 run stuff. Kurt Warner was 16 of 33 for 175 yards and 3 INTs for a 26.7 QB rating.

12-12-2008	The Hawk's Nest	Temp: 36	Wind: Calm	None	MVP: Roethlisberger			
2007 Mohave (8-4)	0	6	3	0	- 9	First Downs	15	14
2007 Ringgold (4-8)	0	17	7	10	- 34	Rushes	36-159	24-94
						Passes	33-16-175	25-16-263
						Sacked	2-12	0-0
2 13:22 Mohave	FG Bironas 28 (16-69-8:36)	3-0				Fumble	3	3
2 7:24 Ringgold	FG Suisham 46 (4-2-1:34)	3-3				Penalties	6-45	6-50
2 5:31 Ringgold	TD Roethlisberger 17 pass to Chambers (Suisham) (3-36-0:3	3-10				Turnovers	4	3
2 2:00 Mohave	FG Bironas 29 (6-62-3:18)	6-10				Time	32:57	27:03
2 0:15 Ringgold	TD Roethlisberger 4 pass to King (Suisham) (7-46-1:37)	6-17				Third Down	4-17	3-11
3 4:38 Ringgold	TD Roethlisberger 55 pass to Bowe (Suisham) (3-65-1:45)	6-24				Fourth Down	4-8	0-0
3 0:13 Mohave	FG Bironas 46 (8-33-4:12)	9-24				Net Offense	322	357
4 6:00 Ringgold	FG Suisham 26 (6-57-4:35)	9-27						
4 4:02 Ringgold	TD Roethlisberger 40 pass to Watson (Suisham) (2-39-1:13)	9-34						



IOWA CITY



CHINO

26

22

CUBS WIN SEE-SAW BATTLE IN CHINO

GAME POINTS: A botched 4th down conversion attempt by the Convicts on their own 38 yard line led to a 47-yard field goal by the Cubs' **Jay Feely** and an Angelo Crowell interception led to another as Iowa City kicked into gear with 4 1st half field goals to take a 12-7 half time lead. Chino responded with a masterful 78-yard drive for a 1-yard TD run by **L.T.** to start the 2nd half, but Iowa City responded in kind with a long drive, ending on a 15-yard TD pass from **Jeff Garcia** to **Kellen Winslow**. Chino quickly regained the lead on a 5-yard pass from **Jay Cutler** to **L.T.** and increased it to 3 points with a successful 2-point conversion. But Garcia found **Larry Fitzgerald** 3 times on the next drive to help set up a 1-yard TD run by **Ronnie Brown** to win the game.

KEY PERFORMANCES: **Ronnie Brown** gained 113 yards on 24 carries and added 43 more on 6 catches to earn the MVP award. **L.T.** rushed for 150 yards on 26 carries and scored 2 TDs – one rushing and one receiving.

12-12-2008	The big House	Temp: 73	Wind: 0-5	None	MVP: Brown			
2007 Iowa City (10-2)	3	9	0	14	- 26	First Downs	21	20
2007 Chino (7-5)	7	0	7	8	- 22	Rushes	29-114	32-170
						Passes	30-19-193	25-17-171
						Sacked	0-0	0-0
1 8:12 Iowa City	FG Feely 21 (14-70-6:32)	3-0				Fumble	1	3
1 2:55 Chino	TD Cutler 15 pass to Brown (Reed,J) (9-80-5:14)	3-7				Penalties	3-16	4-20
2 13:34 Iowa City	FG Feely 36 (8-51-4:09)	6-7				Turnovers	0	2
2 9:15 Iowa City	FG Feely 47 (3-7-1:59)	9-7				Time	34:25	25:32
2 2:30 Iowa City	FG Feely 47 (3-2-1:30)	12-7				Third Down	6-10	4-9
3 7:02 Chino	TD Tomlinson 1 run (Reed,J) (13-78-7:45)	12-14				Fourth Down	0-0	3-4
4 14:10 Iowa City	TD Garcia 15 pass to Winslow (Feely) (14-66-7:41)	19-14				Net Offense	307	341
4 11:20 Chino	TD Cutler 5 pass to Tomlinson (2 - Tomlinson) (6-70-2:37)	19-22						
4 2:25 Iowa City	TD Brown 1 run (Feely) (10-80-5:59)	26-22						

INJURY REPORT - Out in Week Thirteen

ANCHORAGE – McGahee (knee), Naeole (knee); **CHARLESWOOD** – None; **CHINO** – None; **COLORADO** – Pryce (hand), Vasher (shaken), Vilma (knee), A. Johnson (knee), Simpson (wrist), D. Williams (back), Booker (hand), Brooks (wrist), J. Jones (neck); **COWTOWN** – None; **DURHAM** – C. Johnson (shoulder); **FLORIDA** – None; **GWINNETT** – None; **IOWA CITY** – Lawson (achilles); **KUTZTOWN** – M. Harrison (elbow), A. Smith (shaken), L. Johnson (shoulder); **LOS ANGELES** – T. Bell (hip); **MARKHAM** – Amato (shaken), C. Brown (shaken), Long (shaken); **MOHAVE** – J. Mathis (neck); **PICKERING** – Sensabaugh (hand), A. Henry (hand); **RINGGOLD** – A. Ross (shaken); **WINNEMUCCA** – Leftwich (hamstring), Jansen (knee), T. Kelly (shaken), Dawkins (hamstring), McAlister (hip).





AROUND THE



With Spats McChad

NEW YORK – The latest mega-fraud on Wall Street has me remembering that just about everything in this big town has an element of disingenuousness to it. Not that there is anything wrong with that, but when you get caught, it's bad for your image and, therefore, bad for business. This city is all about business.

COLORADO COMES THROUGH

Loyal and suffering Colorado fans finally got something to cheer about after their beloved **Colorado Thundersnow** gave it hard to their expansion counterparts, the **Winnemucca Outlaws** on a blustery day in Winnemucca. I have to admit, I was glad they won. I like **Matt Ryan** and I think he is going to be a star in the EFL very soon. For most of the season, though, the Colorado offense has looked only slightly more potent than a sardine in a diabetic coma. The quarterback has to take at least *some* of the blame for that *if* you believe that the quarterback is the most important position in offensive football (and if you are feeble-minded enough to think otherwise, disregard). This season has been a learning experience for everybody in the Colorado organization. The good news is that they seem to be improving by small increments every week.

WINNEMUCCA GOES THROUGH THE MOTIONS

On the other side of the good news story in Colorado is the bad news story in Winnemucca. Well, not so much bad news as.....*indifferent* news. Does anybody really care what happens to the Outlaws? A modest crowd of 14,326 fans showed up at the 'Hole in the Wall' to watch their team disgrace itself against the weaklings of the EFL and nobody seemed to really care, not least the coach. With Colorado advancing into gale force winds in the second quarter, they wisely handed the ball off 12 times during a 15-play touchdown drive near the end of the first half. The Winnemucca response was to sit back and wait on the pass for 12 of those plays. Coach, **Pierce Roberts** was nowhere to be seen during the game and word was that he was text-messaging plays to his coaching staff, who relayed them onto the field without taking into account the situation. Obviously, the EFL is not quite as elite as we had hoped.

JEFF DOHRN ANNOUNCES 'COACH OF THE YEAR' CANDIDACY

Toward the end of his post-game press conference after his **Los Angeles Knights** danced all over the hapless **Anchorage Buccaneers**, 27-9, Coach **Jeff Dohrn** announced his candidacy for 'EFL Coach of the Year.' This announcement was surprising only because all coaches are automatically candidates and no announcement is required. Dohrn believes he deserves kudos for mentoring two misfit quarterbacks into the third and fourth QB rankings in the EFL. Having nothing good to say about either **Tavaris Jackson** or **Brodie Croyle**, I would have to agree that Dohrn has done something exceptional, if not miraculous, with his offense. Defense is another matter. The Knights are near the bottom of the league defensively despite an abundance of talent, and one has to wonder where Los Angeles would be if their defense equaled their offense in pleasant surprises. In the final analysis, the Knights, and Dohrn, will be judged by their record. At the moment, the Knights are 7-5 and heading for the playoffs. Where they go from there will determine who gets final recognition for the ultimate coaching achievement.

SFL REFUGEES SEEKING ASYLUM

SFL standouts are becoming more vocal in their intentions to abandon their current teams. **Greg Ellis**, the veteran outside linebacker of the Torrance Tigers has instructed his agent to seek out a deal with an EFL team. Cornerback, **Nick Harper** of the Mississippi Rebels and running back, **Quinton Ganther** of

the Miami Monsoons are also in the hunt. **Frostee Rucker**, the defensive end with the best name in the business is also available as is veteran center, **Andy McCollum**. Word is that even more players are waiting for the final word regarding SFL solvency. If the league were to fold completely, there would be an overwhelming influx of new players looking for work in the EFL.

COACH COGLIN ON HOT SEAT

Riding the crest of a six-game winning streak, and facing a key Divisional opponent, the **Cowtown Corn Kings** elected to start back-up **Chris Redman** over **Chad Pennington** against the **Kutztown Golden Bears** in Week Twelve. The surprise move came after a Pennington-led six game winning streak had brought the Corn Kings back into the playoff picture from the abyss of a 0-5 start. Cowtown coach, **Jim Coghlin** rationalized his choice by citing the weather and the advantage of Redman's stronger arm in the windy conditions of Tillman Field. When game day arrived and conditions were not so windy, Coghlin sent Redman out anyway. The results speak for themselves: 8 completions in 23 attempts for a QB rating of 34.5 and a Corn King loss. In spite of success running the ball, the Corn Kings had no passing game. Cowtown fans are blaming Coghlin, apparently forgetting that this also happened under Pennington early in the season. Let's face it – the Children of the Corn have no passing game worth talking about. But Redman's performance was much worse than an average day with Chad. Did Coghlin *throw* away the Corn Kings' season?

MOHAVE PUNTER "BARRED" FROM KICKING

Mohave punter, **Mike Barr** got to rest his leg last week as the Hellfire attempted 8 fourth down conversions, several of them in their own territory, in their 34-9 loss to Ringgold. A shocking verbal exchange earlier in the week during practice between Coach **Bobby Elder** and Barr, in which Elder called Barr "the most useless player on the team," resulted in the punter being permitted holding duties only against the Hawks, seeing the field for just 3 field goals by **Rob Bironas**. Of course, this tactic shortened the field considerably for Ringgold every time Mohave failed to convert on 4th down. Searching for some logic in this move, reporters questioning Elder were told, "mind your own f*&^in business." Barr was somewhat more forthcoming; "he's been a flaming nutbar ever since we got our asses kicked against Kutztown," the punter said with a smirk. "The guy hates kickers. Rob (Bironas) and I are here only because the league has a rule."

NEW YORK GRIPES

What's with the Mohave coaching staff? **Bobby Elder** has taken to wearing small round dark glasses, military fatigues and a beret, smoking *Gitanes* on the sidelines and calling himself, "*Generalissimo* of the Football Revolution." The Mohave match-up against Ringgold in Week Twelve featured some maverick play-calling by the Desert Rats: 8-man blitzes; no punter; 7 consecutive "bomb" pass plays called during one stretch and 18 called on the day; 'Prevent' defenses on regular plays early in the third quarter. Seriously, what is up with that? Is it time for the league to extend mandatory drug-testing to coaches as well? Don't laugh! The players and the game are affected by this. Advocates of the Hellfire play-calling experiments are calling it "*Extreme Football*" and contend everyone will soon be doing it. We'll see. The first experiment blew up in their faces – Ringgold won a 34-9 blowout to stay barely alive in the playoff race.

WEEK TWELVE LEADERS

Passing Yards

Manning,P (CHP)	41-30-371
Roethlisberger (RCH)	25-16-263
Garrard (WMO)	39-16-252
McNabb (PIC)	37-20-223
Romo (KUT)	31-17-216

Rushing Yards

Tomlinson (CHI)	26-150
Lewis,J (MAR)	26-143
Jackson,S (FLD)	30-143
Brown,R (ICC)	24-113
Smith,Kev (COL)	16-96

Receiving Yards

Coles,L (WMO)	6-147
Witten (CHP)	8-127
Welker (CHP)	11-109
Johnson,C (CHP)	7-108
Marshall,B (FLD)	6-94

LEADER BOARD

STANDINGS

PACIFIC - ATLANTIC CONFERENCE

East	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Pickering	5	7	0	0.417	220	18.3	286	23.8	-5.5	4 2 0	3 1 0	5 3 0
Markham	3	9	0	0.250	153	12.8	267	22.3	-9.5	2 4 0	3 1 0	3 5 0
Colorado	1	11	0	0.083	92	7.7	329	27.4	-19.8	0 5 0	1 3 0	1 7 0
Winnemucca	1	11	0	0.083	134	11.2	354	29.5	-18.3	0 7 0	1 3 0	1 7 0

West	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Iowa City (y)	10	2	0	0.833	338	28.2	205	17.1	11.1	5 1 0	4 0 0	8 0 0
Chino	7	5	0	0.583	342	28.5	229	19.1	9.4	5 1 0	2 2 0	5 3 0
Los Angeles (y)	7	5	0	0.583	297	24.8	252	21	3.8	3 1 0	2 2 0	6 2 0
Anchorage	3	9	0	0.250	233	19.4	304	25.3	-5.9	2 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)	11	1	0	0.917	324	27	137	11.4	15.6	6 0 0	4 0 0	7 1 0
Kutztown	7	5	0	0.583	275	22.9	235	19.6	3.3	3 2 0	2 2 0	4 4 0
Cowtown	6	6	0	0.500	221	18.4	234	19.5	-1.1	3 4 0	0 4 0	2 6 0
Durham	6	6	0	0.500	220	18.3	234	19.5	-1.2	4 2 0	2 2 0	3 5 0

South	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Florida (y)	11	1	0	0.917	381	31.8	187	15.6	16.2	6 0 0	4 0 0	8 0 0
Mohave	8	4	0	0.667	324	27	300	25	2	5 1 0	2 2 0	4 4 0
Gwinnett	6	6	0	0.500	273	22.8	226	18.8	3.9	4 2 0	1 3 0	3 5 0
Ringgold	4	8	0	0.333	217	18.1	265	22.1	-4	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	347	225	64.8	2659	4	1.2	56	25	7.2	107.3
2	Garcia,J	ICC	238	161	67.6	2111	4	1.7	54	13	5.5	106.6
3	Croyle	LAK	144	92	63.9	1034	2	1.4	46	8	5.6	98
4	Jackson,T	LAK	134	83	61.9	1103	5	3.7	71	10	7.5	97.3
5	Manning,P	CHP	386	244	63.2	3041	13	3.4	52	27	7	96.9
6	Warner,K	MOH	314	188	59.9	2574	15	4.8	51	24	7.6	91.7
7	Rivers,P	DTL	317	193	60.9	2347	8	2.5	48	14	4.4	87.9
8	Garrard	WMO	266	162	60.9	1736	5	1.9	48	12	4.5	87.2
9	Roethlisberger	RCH	264	157	59.5	1958	12	4.5	55	18	6.8	86.3
10	Cutler	CHI	261	172	65.9	1934	13	5	34	14	5.4	85
11	Romo	KUT	400	227	56.8	2790	15	3.8	72	23	5.8	82
12	Palmer,C	GWG	360	208	57.8	2377	14	3.9	75	18	5	78.2
13	McNabb	PIC	349	197	56.4	2117	10	2.9	50	16	4.6	77.7
14	Pennington	COW	234	142	60.7	1577	10	4.3	30	7	3	72.9
15	Brees	ANC	414	245	59.2	2530	22	5.3	67	17	4.1	68.4

RUSHING

			Att	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD				Att	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD
1	Tomlinson	CHI	241	1333	5.5	49	13	8	Parker,W	GWG	196	753	3.8	32	1
2	Barber,M	COW	219	1086	5	56	9	9	Jackson,S	FLD	164	706	4.3	26	7
3	Taylor,F	PIC	173	942	5.4	83	2	10	Maroney	COW	112	687	6.1	64	3
4	McGahee	ANC	197	927	4.7	44	4	11	Lewis,J	MAR	146	641	4.4	54	1
5	Westbrook	MOH	188	905	4.8	36	2	12	Gore	DTL	150	594	4	33	7
6	Peterson,A	CHP	164	825	5	72	6	13	Young,S	LAK	120	583	4.9	44	0
7	Brown,R	ICC	109	777	7.1	66	5	14	Jones-Drew	RCH	130	579	4.5	59	0
8	Parker,W	GWG	196	753	3.8	32	1	15	Davenport	LAK	96	528	5.5	41	4

RECEIVING

			No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD				No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD
1	Welker	CHP	71	800	11.3	33	5	8	Gonzalez,T	GWG	59	525	8.9	21	7
2	Witten	CHP	64	842	13.2	52	10	9	Moss,R	ANC	58	774	13.3	67	5
3	Holt,T	CHI	64	851	13.3	34	3	10	Marshall,B	FLD	58	870	15	56	8
4	Johnson,C	CHP	62	936	15.1	47	9	11	Colston	ANC	56	557	9.9	34	5
5	Ward,H	WMO	62	670	10.8	24	2	12	Edwards,B	GWG	54	707	13.1	75	9
6	Smith,S	LAK	60	799	13.3	71	7	13	Houshmandzadeh	FLD	54	648	12	37	7
7	Wayne,R	GWG	60	855	14.3	55	1	14	Burress	KUT	54	704	13	46	5
8	Gonzalez,T	GWG	59	525	8.9	21	7	15	Fitzgerald	ICC	53	768	14.5	42	4



BRYLCREEM PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

Brylcreem continues to be a proud sponsor of the EFL

OFFENSE



QB – Ben Roethlisberger, Ringgold C.H.

25 Att., 16 Comp., 263 yds, 4 TDs, 1 INT, 122.2 Rating
4 TD passes to upset against one of league's top defenses.

DEFENSE



CB –Charles Tillman, Markham N. Stars

2 Tackles, 2 Interceptions.

Perfect timing with 2 key picks to keep Stars in playoff race.

SPECIAL TEAMS



K – Jay Feely, Iowa City Cubs

4/5 Field Goals, 2/2 Extra Points, 47 Long.

4 1st half field goals – two of 47 yards – kept Cubs in game.

BUG THE BOOKIE!

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

YOUR SOURCE FOR FANTASY AND ON-LINE BETTING SOLUTIONS










PLAYOFF PICTURE AT A GLANCE AFTER 12 GAMES

PACIFIC – ATLANTIC CONFERENCE

	IN	ALIVE	OUT
1			
2			
3			
4			

CAN – AM CONFERENCE

	IN	ALIVE	OUT
1			
2			
3			
4			

JIMMY'S WEEK THIRTEEN PICKS

CHINO @ CHARLESWOOD (LINE – PATRIOTS BY 6)

The Patriots are the first team to clinch a Division title and are now playing for home field advantage throughout the playoffs. Chino has clinched a playoff berth but wants to reclaim the West Division from Iowa City. Last year's Championship finalists are 1-1 all-time against each other, but Chino can claim the bigger victory, making history by beating Charleswood in the ultimate game and claiming the first ever EFL title. The Pats remember this loss with bitterness and are looking for revenge. They face a Chino team that continues to show the ability to surprise, although on a lesser scale than last year. While the Convicts should not be underestimated, the difference between their squad and the Pats has widened since last year's dramatic clash. Charleswood has the clear edge in most offensive and defensive categories, but is vulnerable to the run, giving up 4.6 yards per rush, 15th in the EFL. L.T. is as eager to run against the Pats' line as Jay Cutler is reluctant to pass against the Pats' secondary, ranked 1st in the league by a wide margin. If Chino can slow the game down, they stand a chance in the hostile confines of Patriot Place. If the Pats can grab the early lead, watch out Chino! I would like the Convicts at the Big House, but on the Pats' home turf there is only one outcome worth betting on.

PICK: CHARLESWOOD

IOWA CITY @ DURHAM (LINE – CUBS BY 3)

The Thunder Lizards are a disappointment this season on many levels but they still remain in the hunt for a wildcard berth in the Can-Am Conference. The Cubs are on the verge of clinching the West Division title and would like to finish the job as early as possible. The Lizards have the home field advantage this week but some local pundits are questioning whether the chronic wetness of Jurassic Park is suited to the Durham attack, which is centered on the running game. Despite strong personnel, the Durham rushing attack continues to perform at a mediocre level, especially at home against the faster defenses. The Cubs boast one of the better run pursuit defenses in the EFL with DeMeco Ryans and Patrick Willis in support of the defensive line, meaning the Lizards will have to run with caution. The Durham passing game is doing better overall, but their success is mostly against the weaker teams. Don't expect Philip Rivers and Co. to attempt the power passing game this week. The Cubs have beaten all comers except for the top two teams in the league. Durham is not in that league. Take the Cubs.

PICK: IOWA CITY

COWTOWN @ LOS ANGELES (LINE – KNIGHTS BY 5)

Look for the Corn Kings to hand the ball back to Chad Pennington this week – perhaps one week too late to save their season. With so many teams close together in the mix for wildcard berths in the Can-Am conference, a loss would not put the Cows completely out of the race, but it would be a severe, if not a mortal blow, to their playoff hopes. The Knights have an outside shot at the West Division title and have clinched a playoff berth, so there is not the same sense of urgency at the Round Table. But with Coach Dohrn angling for Coach of the Year honours, a strong finish is imperative for Los Angeles. They will find running the ball against Cowtown's front four a little tougher than usual, which means that one of either Brodie Croyle or Tavaris Jackson will have to step up and make plays in obvious passing situations. The Corn Kings' pass defense has been average overall and surprisingly ineffective in putting pressure on the quarterback. If the trend continues this week, the Knights could have success in the passing game. The Corn Kings' shaky offense could either be the perfect victims of an often foolishly aggressive Los Angeles defense, or the perfect beneficiaries. It all depends on Chad Pennington's nerve in the passing game. Based on their track record, I don't see them reaping the rewards of LA's *'Blitz Mania.'*

PICK: LOS ANGELES

KUTZTOWN @ ANCHORAGE (LINE – GOLDEN BEARS BY 2)

After all of the bumbling and stumbling and comedy and tragedy of the Buccaneer's season, I still cling to the belief that they have the talent to be a contender. Too bad it will not be this year. The Bucs find themselves eliminated from playoff contention after all tie-breakers are considered and have nothing to play for but pride and some kind of vicarious satisfaction in knowing they made a difference for *another* team's season. A victory at home against Kutztown would make a lot of Can-Am Conference contenders very happy indeed, and Anchorage should keep this in mind as they take the field in an otherwise meaningless game for them. The Golden Bears currently hold the final playoff seed in their conference, but are looking over their shoulders. This year's "Golden Boys" in the EFL are winning despite a hefty dose of mediocrity on the stats sheet; making big plays at the right times and somehow surviving their own turnovers while making opponents pay for theirs. Will Anchorage, with nothing to play for, finally put it all together when it won't help them at all? I say, yes – it would be a fitting twist of the dagger in the heart of their lost season to demonstrate what *could* have been.

PICK: ANCHORAGE

MARKHAM @ FLORIDA (LINE – DRAGONS BY 15)

Coming off a big upset over Pickering, the North Stars are riding a wave of renewed hope that they can somehow steal the East Division title from under the noses of those same Spartans. They are about to come crashing back down to Earth this week against the Dragons, but that will not necessarily mean the end of their playoff hopes. The Spartans face off against the angry Gladiators and will have their hands full as well. Florida can clinch the South Division with a win, which gives them reason enough to show up

and play for at least half the game. The only thing that will keep this match from becoming a football atrocity will be Jim Heaton's benevolence.

PICK: FLORIDA

PICKERING @ GWINNETT (LINE – GLADIATORS BY 7)

The Spartans fell apart offensively last week against the North Stars, which has to be cause for concern heading into the Coliseum to face a frustrated and angry Gladiators squad, losers of three straight. Carson Palmer is struggling again, but could find some relief this week against a Pickering secondary missing their top corner, Anthony Henry. The Spartans are looking forward to letting their Two Taylors loose on a Gwinnett run defense which is surprisingly dead last in the league, surrendering 5.0 yards per rush. If Pickering can run the ball, (and there is no reason to believe they won't as they lead the league in rushing average), look for McNabb to have a big day exploiting openings in the Gwinnett secondary. The Glads need this game badly, though, which means they will be pulling out all the stops. They are at home and rumour has it that the Palmer-eating lions have returned to the cages beneath the field at Gwinnett Coliseum. The last time this happened the Glads won big. Look for it to happen again.

PICK: GWINNETT

MOHAVE @ WINNEMUCCA (LINE – HELLFIRE BY 5)

Mohave's loss last week to Ringgold means they no longer control their own fate in the race for the South Division title. A Florida win over Markham this week, which seems virtually certain, will clinch the Division for the Dragons. That means the Hellfire are realistically playing for the 3rd seed in the playoffs. They are the front runner in that race and should remain that way after this week. The Outlaws are a joke, but what is about to happen to them this week against the "blitzing bomber," Generalissimo Elder, will not be very funny. Their only hope will be that drastically poor weather conditions at 'Hole in the Wall' will keep Air Warner from flying high.

PICK: MOHAVE

RINGGOLD @ COLORADO (LINE – CRIMSON HAWKS BY 5)

The Toyota Thunderdome will be packed and rocking with the return of the 1-11 Thundersnow to their home field. The fans who cheer every first down (because there have been so few of them) will be in full throat attempting to boost their team to the dizzying heights of a two-game winning streak. Colorado is no doubt an improved team and they enjoy the benefit of home field advantage, but the Crimson Hawks are no Winnemucca. Ringgold, with a new but tenuous lease on life, will be gunning hard to keep their playoff hopes alive, if only by a thread. Colorado is banged up with the loss of Nathan Vasher, Jonathan Vilma, and Trevor Pryce – key players at each level of the defense – and will be able to dress only two wide receivers due to injuries; Mark Clayton and rookie, Dwayne Jarrett. The league's patsies are more vulnerable than ever, making a Ringgold loss here is unthinkable.

PICK: RINGGOLD

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

LAST WEEK: 4-4-0

OVERALL: 73-23-0