

2013

Week Eight



# EFL NEWS

ELITE FOOTBALL LEAGUE

2013

Week Eight

November 24, 2013



VV	23	YOR	21	CAR	3	MOH	23	CHP	31	DV	23	LA	6	CHI	21	SS	28	GDM	30
DTL	34	PIC	37	COW	34	TCT	21	SC	37	SBE	14	MAR	20	GWG	27	MVM	11	ICC	0



Durham linebacker **Russell Allen** gets his hands on a **Tim Masthay** punt, marking a dramatic turn of fortune against the Violators in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter. The Lizards went on to complete a comeback after a rough start had Virden in front by 10 points in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, winning in the end 34-23. The victory allows the Lizards to keep pace in a tight North Division race.

## LATEST EFL NEWS INSIDE

- VIRDEN'S UNENDURABLE LOSS
- CONVICTS GIVE AWAY
- MUSTANGS TRAMPLE CUBS
- ROMO REVIVES REGS
- HELLFIRE TRIUMPH
- IN THE BAG FOR DV
- AND MORE.....

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- JIMMY THE GEEK
- THIS WEEK IN EFL HISTORY



*Who was slick  
in Week Eight?*

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



**Tony Romo**  
QB  
South Carolina  
Regulators

29 of 42, 423 yards, 4 TDs, 1 INT.  
Led 21-point 4<sup>th</sup> quarter comeback.



**Chris Long**  
DE  
Death Valley  
Undertakers

5 Tackles, 2 Sacks, 1 FF. Sack and  
FF set up game-winning FG.



4-4-0



## GAME OF THE WEEK



5-3-0

Virden

23

MVP

Drew Brees

34

Durham

## TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Cmp	Att	Yds	TD
Stafford	18	47	269	2
Rushing	Car	Yds	Avg	TD
Charles	20	94	4.7	0
Receiving	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD
Smith,T	4	100	25.0	1

Team	1	2	3	4	OT	Total
Virden	3	3	10	7	-	23
Durham	7	3	3	21	-	34

## Play of the Game

Trailing 23-20 with less than 7 minutes remaining, Durham LB **Russell Allen** blocked a **Tim Masthay** punt that **Devin McCourty** picked up at the 1 yard line and walked in for the go-ahead TD.

## TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Cmp	Att	Yds	TD
Brees	24	41	262	2
Rushing	Car	Yds	Avg	TD
Bush,R	15	68	4.5	1
Receiving	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD
Johnson,C	7	81	11.6	1

**SUMMARY:** Reggie Bush converted a 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10 with a 23-yard run and scored on a 3-yard dive to spearhead Durham's opening TD drive on its second series of the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter. The Violators answered with a FG then the teams exchanged three-pointers in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter to wrap up a conservative 1<sup>st</sup> half with the home team leading 10-6. The Violators took the lead on their first possession of the 2<sup>nd</sup> half when **Matthew Stafford** found **Torrey Smith** wide open for a 49-yard pass play for a TD then added a FG to make it 16-10 after **Tramon Williams** intercepted **Drew Brees** and returned it 42 yards to the Durham 16. With the score 16-13 heading in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, Virden appeared to jump in the driver's seat after **T.Y. Hilton** fumbled a punt return and it was recovered by the Violators at the Durham 36. **Dez Bryant** caught the next pass for 23 yards and 4 plays later caught another in the end zone from 8 yards out to give his team a 23-13 lead. But the T-Lizards bounced back with a 60-yard drive that ended with Brees checking down to Bush for a 20-yard TD pass to make it 23-20. Virden countered with a 3-and-out, setting up the game's turning point; linebacker **Russell Allen** blocked **Tim Masthay's** punt and **Devin McCourty** picked it up for the eventual game-winning TD. The Lizards put the game out of reach when **Tyrann Mathieu** intercepted Stafford at the Virden 28, setting up Durham's final TD on a 6-yard pass to **Calvin Johnson**.

**QUOTES:** "I never doubted we would rebound from T.Y.'s fumble. The veterans on this team weren't going to let that be the end of it. Russell (Allen) doesn't get much credit for the great job he does, but everyone saw the effort on that punt block." – Durham coach, **George Kaldis**.  
 "Of course I'm disappointed – we dropped a 10-point lead late in the game and lost by 11 points. We're a better team than that, but I'm not going to quit or anything. No, we're going to come back and get them in the Championship!" – Virden coach, **Lance Barrate**.



## ANGRY FAN



titter

## HAPPY FAN



Voltan @VoltantheViolator

Stafford falls apart when he faces Brees. Charles is the only running back who can't run against Durham. We sure suck!



Deano @Deantempleton

Brees is great in the clutch. Russell Allen is a quiet leader. Tyrann Mathieu is going to the Hall of Fame. Go Din-Os!

11-20-2013 Jurassic Park Temp: 75 Wind: Calm None MVP: Drew Brees

1 5:57 Durham	TD Bush 3 run (Dawson) (15-83-6:07)	0-7
1 2:15 Virden	FG Tynes 37 (9-46-3:33)	3-7
2 10:50 Durham	FG Dawson 27 (13-71-6:21)	3-10
2 5:45 Virden	FG Tynes 39 (9-59-5:02)	6-10
3 12:21 Virden	TD Stafford 49 pass to Smith (Tynes) (7-79-2:35)	13-10
3 7:08 Virden	FG Tynes 34 (4-0-0:12)	16-10
3 1:05 Durham	FG Dawson 39 (11-54-5:52)	16-13
4 11:32 Virden	TD Stafford 8 pass to Bryant	23-13
4 8:41 Durham	TD Brees 20 pass to Bush (Dawson) (9-60-2:44)	23-20
4 6:28 Durham	TD McCourty blk punt ret 1 (Dawson)	23-27
4 5:50 Durham	TD Brees 6 pass to Johnson (Dawson) (3-28-0:14)	23-34

	VV	DTL
First Downs	20	25
Rushes	20-94	27-98
Passes	47-18-269	41-24-262
Sacked	3-20	0-0
Fumble	0	2
Penalties	9-87	11-61
Turnovers	2	3
Missed Tackles	7	7
Blitzes	11	15
Time	28:35	31:25
Third Down	4-16	8-14
Fourth Down	0-2	0-0
Red Att/Td/Fg	3/1/2	4/3/1
Net Offense	343	360

Blue 35, Blue 35, hut, hut hut! Red 23, 3, Red 23, 3, hut, hut, hut! Green 49, hut!



## MUSTANGS

5-3-0

7

10

0

13

0

30

OT

Brandon Lloyd  
7 Catches, 135 yards, 2 TDs



## CUBS

6-2-0

0

0

0

0

0

0

Russell Wilson  
15 of 20, 144 yards, 1 INT

A 22-yard screen to **Arian Foster** followed by a 36-yard catch-and-run to **Brandon Lloyd** set up a 1-yard TD pass from **Matt Ryan** to Lloyd to give Garland an early 7-0 lead. The Cubs marched back nearly the length of the field, but a red-zone interception and 57-yard return by safety **Earl Thomas** thwarted that scoring opportunity and set up a 25-yard **Nick Folk** FG to make it 10-0. That began a day of dominance on both sides of the ball for the resurgent Mustangs. The Cubs' offence was completely stifled by the Garland D while the Mustangs slowly built an insurmountable lead.



## SWORDFISH

2-6-0

7

21

0

0

0

28

OT

Andy Dalton  
12 of 18, 124 yards, 2 TDs



## MONARCHS

2-6-0

0

0

0

11

0

11

Bernard Pierce  
45 Carries, 235 yards

A fumble by **Randy McMichael** at the Sebastian 2 yard line on the Monarchs' opening drive energized the Swordfish and led to a 12-play, 98-yard drive to open the scoring with a 15-yard TD pass from **Andy Dalton** to **Brandon Myers**. On the Monarchs' next series, **Sav Rocca** shanked a punt to set up good field position for the Swordfish. They capitalized with a TD drive that ended with **Alex Green** crossing the goal line on a 7-yard pass play. Back-to-back pick sixes by **Patrick Robinson** and **Leon Hall** finished off a 28-point 1<sup>st</sup> half that turned out to be more than enough for the Fish.



## UNDERTAKERS

5-3-0

7

0

6

10

0

23

OT

RGIII  
22 of 36, 270 yards, 1 TD, 2 INTs



## BLUE EAGLES

2-6-0

0

14

0

0

0

14

Aaron Rodgers  
18 of 23, 235 yards, 2 TDs

**Aaron Rodgers** converted a 3<sup>rd</sup> and 33, and more, with an 87-yard TD pass to **Brandon Marshall** to tie the game at 7-7. The Eagles took the lead after **Michael Griffin** picked off **Robert Griffin III** on the ensuing series, setting up Marshall's second TD catch of the day. Scarborough's offence failed to stay on track, however, as Rodgers was dumped 5 times in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half, fumbling away the ball in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter to set up the go-ahead FG by **Alex Henery**. The Undertakers put the game away late in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter when RGIII finished off a 58-yard drive with an 8-yard TD to fullback **Greg Jones**.



**EFL**  
ELITE FOOTBALL LEAGUE

# QUICK COUNTS!!

Blue 35, Blue 35, hut, hut hut! Red 23, 3, Red 23, 3, hut, hut, hut! Green 49, hut!



## KNIGHTS

3-5-0

0	3	0	3	0	6
OT					

Alex Smith

11 of 16, 69 yards



## NORTH STARS

7-1-0

7	7	3	3	0	20
OT					

Jordy Nelson

7 Catches, 117 yards, 1 TD

Returning from a Week 1 injury, **Jordy Nelson** made his presence felt on Markham's opening drive, snaring a 1-yard pass over the middle for a TD to give the Stars a 7-0 lead. An interception and 37-yard return by the Knights' **Haruki Nakamura** set up a FG to close the gap for LA, but the Stars extended their lead to 14-3 on their next series with a 41-yard TD pass from **Eli Manning** to **Heath Miller**. The LA defence slowed down the Markham offence in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half, but three more turnovers on fumbles and an ineffective running game kept them from mounting a serious comeback.



## CONVICTS

5-3-0

7	0	7	7	0	21
OT					

Cam Newton

281 pass yds, 62 rush yds, 3 TDs



## GLADIATORS

4-4-0

0	10	0	17	0	27
OT					

Ahmad Bradshaw

29 Carries, 163 yards, 1 TD

**Cam Newton** opened the scoring on a 3-yard scramble for a TD to give Chino a 7-0 lead. The Glads erased the lead and took a 10-7 advantage before the half on a FG followed by a 37-yard TD on an end-around by **Nate Burleson**. The Convicts regained the edge in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter with a 2-yard TD pass from Newton to **Greg Olsen** then seemed to pull away in the 4<sup>th</sup> with a 22-yard TD pass to **James Jones**. But a pair of turnovers, a fumble by **KeShawn Martin** and an interception by **William Moore**, set up 2 Gwinnett TDs in a 6-minute span causing the game to slip away from Chino.



## EXCALIBURS

3-5-0

0	0	14	7	0	21
OT					

Davone Bess

9 Catches, 129 yards



## SPARTANS

6-2-0

7	27	3	0	0	37
OT					

Adam 'Pacman' Jones

Punt Return TD, 1 FF

An interception by safety **T.J. Ward** set up a 2-yard TD pass from **Matt Schaub** to **Scott Chandler** and sparked a decimating 34-point 1<sup>st</sup> half in which three lost fumbles by York and a 78-yard punt return for a TD by **Adam 'Pacman' Jones** led directly to 24 Pickering points. A fumbled kick return by **Danieal Manning**, his second, to start the 2<sup>nd</sup> half led to a 37-yard **Josh Scobee** FG and a 37-0 Pickering lead. The Excaliburs took to the air in an effort to comeback, posting 3 TDs in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half to make the score more respectable, but could not overcome the effect of their 6 turnovers.

Blue 35, Blue 35, hut, hut hut! Red 23, 3, Red 23, 3, hut, hut, hut! Green 49, hut!



## CANNIBALS

4-4-0

0	3	0	0	0	3
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OT

## Philip Rivers

11 of 20, 84 yards, 1 INT



## CORN KINGS

4-4-0

14	7	10	3	0	34
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## Joe Flacco

22 of 34, 276 yards, 3 TDs

The Corn Kings scored twice in their first 2 possessions, getting pair of TD passes from **Joe Flacco**, 18 yards to **Marcedes Lewis** and 7 yards to **Larry Fitzgerald**, for a quick 14-0 lead. A wind-assisted 54-yard FG by **Steven Hauschka** in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter turned out to be the only points for the Cannibals' offence. The Corn Kings' defence effectively contained **Philip Rivers** and shut down the running game to hold Carthage to just 7 first downs and 129 net yards of offence, while **Alfred Morris** kept the ball out of Carthage hands by running over the Cannibals' defence for 179 yards on 24 carries.



## HELLFIRE

2-6-0

7	7	0	9	0	23
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OT

## Andrew Luck

18 of 28, 195 yards, 2 TDs



## TRIUMPH

3-5-0

0	7	14	0	0	21
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## Doug Martin

20 Carries, 125 yards, 1 TD

A 1<sup>st</sup>-quarter interception by **Roman Harper** set up the first Mohave TD, a 10-yard dump off from **Andrew Luck** to **Montee Ball**. Mohave made it 14-0 on a 22-yard TD pass from Luck to **Chris Givens**, but the Triumph countered with a 1-yard TD run by **Shane Vereen** to make it 14-7 at the half. A 31-yard run by **Doug Martin** in the 3<sup>rd</sup> keyed the tying TD drive then **Jay Cutler** connected with **Pierre Garcon** for a 23-yard TD pass to give them a 21-14 lead. But 146 yards by **Jonathan Dwyer** in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half helped set up 3 Mohave FGs, including the 30-yard game-winner from **Matt Prater**.



## PATRIOTS

4-4-0

0	14	14	3	0	31
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OT

## Adrian Peterson

31 Carries, 150 yards, 3 TDs



## REGULATORS

4-4-0

7	3	0	21	6	37
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## Tony Romo

29 of 42, 423 yards, 4 TDs, 1 INT

The Regs scored a TD on their opening drive then fell silent while the Pats tied the game on a 22-yard TD pass from **Peyton Manning** to **Rhett Ellison** and took the lead after a **Desmond Trufant** pick set up the first of 3 TDs for **Adrian Peterson**. The Pats built a 28-10 lead in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter before **Tony Romo** caught fire in the 4<sup>th</sup> with TD passes of 23 yards to **AJ Green** and 77-yards to **Earl Bennett** and a 1-yard keeper for a 31-28 lead. The Pats tied it on a 41-yard FG as time expired to bring up OT. The Regs scored on the first possession of OT on a TD pass to **Brandon Pettigrew** to win it.

## WEEK EIGHT

# STANDINGS

East	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Charleswood	4	4	0	0.500	260	32.5	203	25.4	7.1	1 3 0	3 1 0	4 2 0
Virden	4	4	0	0.500	185	23.1	206	25.8	-2.6	2 2 0	3 1 0	4 2 0
Carthage	4	4	0	0.500	145	18.1	188	23.5	-5.4	4 0 0	2 2 0	3 3 0
York	3	5	0	0.375	206	25.8	211	26.4	-0.6	2 2 0	1 3 0	2 4 0
Mohave	2	6	0	0.250	146	18.3	246	30.8	-12.5	0 3 0	1 3 0	1 5 0
West	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Iowa City	6	2	0	0.750	186	23.3	153	19.1	4.1	3 1 0	4 0 0	5 1 0
Chino	5	3	0	0.625	231	28.9	172	21.5	7.4	3 1 0	2 2 0	4 2 0
Death Valley	5	3	0	0.625	234	29.3	233	29.1	0.1	2 2 0	2 2 0	3 3 0
Los Angeles	3	5	0	0.375	164	20.5	226	28.3	-7.8	1 2 0	1 3 0	2 4 0
Mission Viejo	2	6	0	0.250	137	17.1	217	27.1	-10	0 4 0	1 3 0	2 4 0
North	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Markham	7	1	0	0.875	203	25.4	124	15.5	9.9	4 1 0	4 0 0	5 1 0
Pickering	6	2	0	0.750	206	25.8	173	21.6	4.1	3 1 0	3 1 0	5 1 0
Durham	5	3	0	0.625	221	27.6	186	23.3	4.4	4 0 0	2 2 0	4 2 0
Cowtown	4	4	0	0.500	205	25.6	143	17.9	7.8	2 2 0	0 4 0	2 4 0
Twin Cities	3	5	0	0.375	164	20.5	185	23.1	-2.6	2 2 0	1 3 0	2 4 0
South	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Garland	5	3	0	0.625	213	26.6	116	14.5	12.1	2 2 0	3 1 0	3 3 0
Gwinnett	4	4	0	0.500	184	23	164	20.5	2.5	3 1 0	3 1 0	3 3 0
South Carolina	4	4	0	0.500	178	22.3	187	23.4	-1.1	3 1 0	2 2 0	3 3 0
Scarborough	2	6	0	0.250	148	18.5	243	30.4	-11.9	1 4 0	1 3 0	2 4 0
Sebastian	2	6	0	0.250	115	14.4	155	19.4	-5	0 4 0	1 3 0	1 5 0

# PASSING

Passing	Att	Cmp	C%	Yards	In	I%	Lg	TD	TD%	Rate
1 Manning, P	285	204	71.6	2152	5	1.8	59	18	6.3	106.9
2 Vick	95	49	51.6	787	1	1.1	82	9	9.5	106.8
3 Smith, A	220	164	74.5	1635	5	2.3	54	13	5.9	105.4
4 Roethlisberger	163	104	63.8	1041	0	0.0	32	8	4.9	98.2
5 Rodgers, A	290	194	66.9	1839	3	1.0	87	15	5.2	97.2
6 Griffin II	201	130	64.7	1619	7	3.5	77	12	6.0	94.9
7 Wilson, R	177	117	66.1	1466	5	2.8	60	7	4.0	93.1
8 Newton, C	239	154	64.4	1833	9	3.8	51	14	5.9	91.6
9 Brady	308	185	60.1	2247	4	1.3	64	12	3.9	90.1
10 Ryan, M	237	158	66.7	1805	7	3.0	62	9	3.8	89.7
11 Brees	312	185	59.3	2424	13	4.2	59	20	6.4	87.9
12 Romo	277	189	68.2	2014	9	3.2	78	9	3.2	86.5
13 Manning, E	209	119	56.9	1510	8	3.8	46	14	6.7	86.0
14 Cutler	242	148	61.2	1683	6	2.5	58	10	4.1	85.5
15 Stafford	282	147	52.1	2048	8	2.8	54	18	6.4	85.2
16 Schaub	275	167	60.7	1902	9	3.3	73	14	5.1	84.8
17 Rivers, P	241	160	66.4	1481	4	1.7	57	6	2.5	84.4
18 Tannehill	232	139	59.9	1513	8	3.4	78	12	5.2	82.1
19 Flacco	291	155	53.3	1965	8	2.7	71	14	4.8	79.2
20 Luck	223	118	52.9	1326	5	2.2	52	9	4.0	75.1
21 Dalton	243	146	60.1	1531	9	3.7	47	6	2.5	71.2
22 Kaepernick	62	36	58.1	480	1	1.6	53	3	4.8	92.1
23 Manuel	4	3	75.0	11	0	0.0	5	0	0.0	77.1
24 Kolb	38	18	47.4	135	0	0.0	24	2	5.3	73.9
25 McElroy	34	21	61.8	143	0	0.0	15	0	0.0	71.1

## RUSHING

Rushing			Att	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD
1	Morris	COW	191	1096	5.7	44	8
2	Peterson,A	CHP	202	979	4.8	29	11
3	Martin,D	TCT	186	905	4.9	31	5
4	Jackson,S	PIC	165	841	5.1	27	3
5	Charles,J	VV	134	708	5.3	66	0
6	Bradshaw	GWG	137	707	5.2	41	5
7	Bush,R	DTL	120	688	5.7	27	4
8	Pierce	MVM	143	663	4.6	34	3
9	Foster,A	GDM	146	641	4.4	50	12
10	Johnson,C	CHI	121	602	5.0	60	3
11	Gore	SC	122	580	4.8	39	6
12	Greene	LAK	163	571	3.5	19	1
13	Ball,M	MOH	125	458	3.7	27	5
14	Williams,D	MAR	97	430	4.4	26	4
15	Ridley	DVU	119	425	3.6	17	2
16	Turner,M	YOR	93	407	4.4	17	7
17	Newton,C	CHI	74	375	5.1	27	4
18	Spiller	SBE	76	358	4.7	17	1
19	Rice,R	SBE	83	345	4.2	49	2
20	Bernard	YOR	70	335	4.8	44	3
21	Lacy	CAR	65	320	4.9	55	2
22	Richardson	ICC	74	314	4.2	33	1
23	Green-Elli	CAR	88	313	3.6	12	2
24	Jones,F	MAR	64	287	4.5	16	0
25	Sproles	ICC	48	286	6.0	38	2

## RECEIVING

Receiving			No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD
1	Johnson,C	DTL	61	1061	17.4	59	12
2	Crabtree,M	CHP	56	730	13.0	59	8
3	White,R	CHI	56	781	13.9	32	5
4	Welker	SBE	52	561	10.8	64	3
5	Johnson,A	DVU	50	1210	24.2	82	13
6	Witten	CHP	47	425	9.0	44	3
7	Jackson,V	PIC	46	685	14.9	73	5
8	Thomas,D	PIC	46	638	13.9	57	3
9	Graham,J	MOH	45	457	10.2	21	3
10	Bryant,D	VV	44	689	15.7	54	7
11	Cobb	DVU	43	410	9.5	25	4
12	Wayne	GWG	43	520	12.1	24	6
13	Decker	DTL	42	568	13.5	50	3
14	Cruz	YOR	41	652	15.9	54	6
15	Jones,J	VV	40	605	15.1	26	7
16	Marshall	SBE	40	543	13.6	87	6
17	Scheffler	YOR	39	542	13.9	64	0
18	Lloyd,B	GDM	38	569	15.0	62	2
19	Pitta	MVM	38	337	8.9	25	3
20	Rice,R	SBE	37	210	5.7	16	2
21	Rudolph	CAR	37	316	8.5	29	1
22	Colston	MAR	36	528	14.7	46	6
23	Martin,D	TCT	34	268	7.9	34	0
24	Gonzalez	ICC	34	428	12.6	27	2
25	Jones,J	CHI	33	469	14.2	51	6

## KICKING

Kicking			FGA	FGM	FG%	40	50	Lg	Pts
1	Walsh	YOR	18	15	83.3	6	2	57	68
2	Suisham	GWG	19	17	89.5	6	3	51	68
3	Folk	GDM	16	15	93.8	4	1	51	66
4	Henery	DVU	13	13	100.0	7	3	54	64
5	Scobee	PIC	18	14	77.8	3	2	54	62
6	Hauschka	CAR	18	16	88.9	6	3	54	61
7	Zuerlein	ICC	18	13	72.2	6	0	49	60
8	Tynes	VV	15	13	86.7	3	1	50	59
9	Dawson	DTL	12	11	91.7	2	1	54	59
10	Hartley	CHP	9	8	88.9	3	0	46	56
11	Prater	MOH	15	14	93.3	5	1	54	56
12	Bironas	SC	17	13	76.5	8	0	47	56
13	Bailey,D	CHI	14	9	64.3	5	1	50	55
14	Lindell	LAK	13	11	84.6	7	2	54	50
15	Novak	COW	14	11	78.6	5	1	53	47
16	Graham,S	MAR	10	7	70.0	2	0	49	47
17	Gostkowski	TCT	10	8	80.0	3	1	54	44
18	Vinatieri	SS	12	11	91.7	4	0	46	43
19	Carpenter	MVM	10	8	80.0	4	2	53	39
20	Janikowski	SBE	8	5	62.5	0	0	37	34
21	Medlock	COW	4	3	75.0	0	0	38	18

## TACKLES

Tackles			
1	Kuechly	SC	84
2	Dunbar	CHI	82
3	Freeman, J	SBE	73
4	Riley	SS	71
5	Mayo	DVU	64
6	Willis, P	ICC	62
7	Posluszny	VV	60
8	Ninkovich	MAR	59
9	Laurinaiti	GWG	57
10	Houston, J	MOH	57
11	Washington	PIC	57
12	Jackson, D	MAR	56
13	Barnett	VV	55
14	Woodyard	YOR	55
15	Bowman	GDM	53
16	Barwin	LAK	51
17	Bailey, C	DTL	51
18	McClain, R	SC	50
19	Hawk	MVM	50
20	Winfield	TCT	49
21	Tulloch	COW	49
22	Johnson, J	MVM	48
23	Werner	CHP	47
24	Wagner	TCT	47
25	Davis, T	DTL	46

## SACKS

Sacks			
1	Johnson, M	YOR	9
2	Ninkovich	MAR	8
3	Watt	GDM	8
4	Atkins	YOR	7
5	Quinn, R	LAK	7
6	Smith, A	VV	7
7	Johnson, C	DVU	6
8	Long, C	DVU	6
9	Griffen	COW	6
10	Abraham	MAR	6
11	Sheard	PIC	5
12	Peppers	CHI	5
13	Dunbar	CHI	5
14	Ware, D	MOH	5
15	Keisel	COW	5
16	Pierre-Pau	ICC	5
17	Wake	MOH	5
18	Avril	GDM	5
19	Kerrigan	COW	5
20	Dareus	COW	4
21	Irvin, B	MOH	4
22	Fairley	DVU	4
23	Matthews, C	DVU	4
24	Redding	CHP	4
25	Dumervil	DTL	4

## INTERCEPTIONS

Interceptions			No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD
1	Sherman	DTL	4	40	10.0	16	0
2	Hayward, C	ICC	4	43	10.8	30	0
3	Jackson, K	CHP	3	61	20.3	28	1
4	Elam	DVU	3	54	18.0	26	0
5	Mathieu	DTL	3	49	16.3	47	1
6	DeCoud	GWG	3	6	2.0	6	0
7	Barber	SS	3	44	14.7	34	0
8	Jammer	COW	2	28	14.0	28	0
9	Trufant, D	CHP	2	27	13.5	16	0
10	Landry, L	VV	2	16	8.0	16	0
11	Bailey, C	DTL	2	12	6.0	12	0
12	Byrd, J	MAR	2	27	13.5	22	1
13	Tillman	MAR	2	0	0.0	0	0
14	Brown, S	PIC	2	20	10.0	11	1
15	Ward, T	PIC	2	0	0.0	0	0
16	Wilson, J	TCT	2	0	0.0	0	0
17	Slay	TCT	2	0	0.0	0	0
18	Winfield	TCT	2	33	16.5	33	0
19	Reid, E	TCT	2	29	14.5	29	0
20	Verner	CHI	2	29	14.5	29	0
21	Finnegan	CHI	2	68	34.0	63	0
22	Williams, T	VV	2	42	21.0	42	0
23	Gilmore	ICC	2	34	17.0	34	0
24	Rhodes, X	ICC	2	0	0.0	0	0
25	Clark, R	YOR	2	0	0.0	0	0

## KICK RETURNS

Kick Returns			No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD
1	McKnight	MAR	9	274	30.4	103	1
2	McKelvin	GWG	20	582	29.1	57	0
3	Jones, J	CHP	26	733	28.2	108	1
4	Holliday, T	CHI	24	663	27.6	102	2
5	Cribbs	LAK	36	979	27.2	72	0
6	Rainey	COW	23	611	26.6	56	0
7	Patterson	MOH	30	774	25.8	62	0
8	Washington	VV	29	744	25.7	60	0
9	Hester	DTL	22	563	25.6	34	0
10	Cobb	DVU	16	399	24.9	38	0
11	Tate, B	MVM	35	854	24.4	38	0
12	Cadet	CAR	22	528	24.0	37	0
13	Robinson, D	PIC	12	280	23.3	29	0
14	Rodgers, J	SC	12	274	22.8	33	0
15	Austin, T	ICC	15	320	21.3	36	0
16	Logan	SS	13	273	21.0	34	0
17	Wheaton	TCT	17	336	19.8	33	0
18	Bolden, O	YOR	19	341	17.9	33	0
19	Royster	SBE	9	110	12.2	23	0
20	Edelman	GDM	13	156	12.0	25	0
21	Welker	SBE	17	189	11.1	16	0
22	Pettis	SBE	10	110	11.0	13	0
23	James, L	ICC	5	152	30.4	36	0
24	Robinson, J	SC	3	76	25.3	32	0
25	Barner	DVU	5	116	23.2	27	0

## PUNT RETURNS

Punt Returns			No	Fc	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD
1	Jones, A	PIC	26	3	355	13.7	78	2
2	Cribbs	LAK	23	3	309	13.4	74	0
3	Tate, B	MVM	12	7	151	12.6	46	0
4	Martin, K	CHI	18	6	224	12.4	79	1
5	McKelvin	GWG	8	7	99	12.4	19	0
6	Peterson, P	GDM	15	4	184	12.3	38	0
7	Arenas	SC	14	2	147	10.5	22	0
8	Ginn Jr.	TCT	12	5	118	9.8	22	0
9	Harris, D	SS	14	1	131	9.4	22	0
10	Welker	SBE	10	0	87	8.7	21	0
11	Cobb	DVU	10	6	78	7.8	13	0
12	Bernard	YOR	15	4	116	7.7	23	0
13	Parrish	MAR	20	4	153	7.7	18	0
14	Jones, J	CHP	14	6	103	7.4	14	0
15	Banks	MOH	20	1	136	6.8	15	0
16	Sherels	VV	12	9	78	6.5	14	0
17	Wheaton	TCT	8	1	44	5.5	22	0
18	Hilton	DTL	22	4	106	4.8	12	0
19	Franklin, J	COW	14	15	66	4.7	12	0
20	Sanders, E	CAR	7	10	213	30.4	87	1
21	Austin, T	ICC	6	2	111	18.5	76	1
22	Williams, K	COW	4	3	52	13.0	22	0
23	Leonhard	GWG	2	0	24	12.0	18	0
24	Jenkins, J	DVU	1	0	10	10.0	10	0
25	Easley	YOR	2	0	19	9.5	18	0

## SCORING

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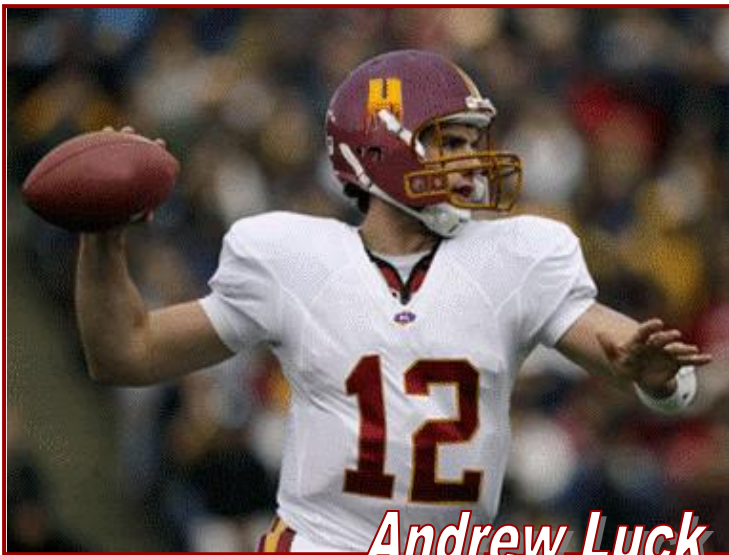
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WHERE FANS SPEAK

## LUCK'S FUTURE IS BRIGHT

BY JUAN FUEGO (CONTRIBUTOR) ON NOVEMBER 23, 2013



*Andrew Luck*

If you were starting to think that the Hellfire made the wrong choice when they picked Andrew Luck #1 overall in the 2012 rookie draft you weren't the only one.

Andrew has been anything but "Lucky" in his sophomore season after showing such promise as a rookie. Heading into this week, Andrew was stuck at #20 in the QB rankings, ahead of Andy Dalton and behind everyone else, including Michael Vick, whose supporting role in Death Valley has been better than most starters.

Has Luck really been that bad? His overall numbers may not dazzle, but between some admittedly poor outings there have been a couple of gems that aren't getting much attention because of Mohave's irrelevance in the standings. One of those was this week when he led a gritty 23-21 win on the road over no pushover in Twin Cities. His back-up running back, Jonathan Dwyer, came out of nowhere and rushed for 159 yards. Like magic, Luck had one of his most efficient games of the year, throwing for 195 yards and 2 TDs and a QB rating of 108.5. Most impressively, he did this without his top target and security blanket, Jimmy Graham.

Luck's struggles this year have not all been his fault. His running game has been, until Dwyer's performance, a non-factor in the offence, placing the burden on Luck's arm. With all of the predictable drop-backs, opposing pass rushers are not giving him much time to find his receivers and those receivers, with the exception of Graham, are struggling to get open. Luck has been sacked 26 times already.

Owner Bobby Elder has come under fire for not aggressively building a supporting cast around his franchise quarterback. Elder's response to date has been to tell everyone who questions his strategy to "f%&k off." So far, this has scared off most reporters from pursuing the issue, but the deflection won't work forever. If Luck is going to realize his full potential, he will need help. Football is a team sport, and even the great ones need a team to win.



# AROUND THE



## With Spats McChad

NEW YORK – Although the spiritual home of the EFL rests in Canton, OH, the commercial center of the EFL is the Greater Toronto Area, where four of its teams are based. At a population exceeding 6 million, the GTA is one of the most densely populated cosmopolitan centres in North America. The City of Toronto, at 2.6 million residents, is by far the most heavily populated city in Canada and, whether Calgary likes it or not, the nation's financial center. That causes some people to refer to Toronto as "the New York City of Canada." This is, of course, meant to be a relative term – Toronto is to Canada what New York is to the United States; but in literal terms it is kind of like comparing a lion to a rabid pussy.

Toronto's pretentious claim to 'World Class' status has never looked more absurd than recently as startling revelations about its crack-smoking Mayor give way to sheer astonishment that he remains in office and – get this part – that 40% of those polled think he is doing a "good job" as Mayor. This, more than the misbehaviour of a clearly drug and alcohol-addled, likely mentally ill, overweight bully, has the citizens of *real* World Class cities aghast. Sure, Washington had Marion Barry, but apart from the White House and the Pentagon, nobody pretends that Washington is anything other than a place where the White House and Pentagon happen to be located. New Yorkers would never tolerate a crack-smoking Mayor, no matter how drunk he may have been at the time he smoked the crack.

Ultimately, this proves that if the EFL is to become a truly World Class sports league, its commercial center needs to move away from the crack bed of Toronto to the teeming, culturally sophisticated, and fabulously wealthy concrete jungle of New York City. But the probability of a New York saviour arriving on the scene may have been reduced slightly after the announcement early this week in Garland of a controversial new head coach.....

### HEADBALL

This past Monday, Garland Mustangs owner **Haus Beauregard** named former Headball coach, **Ricky "Coco" Main** as his team's new "interim head coach." Main comes to the EFL from the obscure Oceania Vegetarian Headball League (OVHL), a professional sports association comprised of Headball players, Headball historians, and the deranged fans of the sport commonly referred to as "Headies." Extremely popular in the south western Pacific Ocean, the sport called Headball is virtually unknown and unplayed in North America. This is because it would likely be quickly banned in all 50 States, 10 Provinces and 3 Territories if it made a public appearance in any of them; with, of course, the possible exception of Texas.

Headball is derived from an ancient Polynesian ritualistic contest called '*Ai Ai Ta'aloga*' or, "The Hunger Games." Presided over by a special Priest, called a '*Pu*,' the "Hunger Games" was a way for native communities to identify dinner during the recovery period following a major tropical storm. With conventional food stores depleted or destroyed by the force of these storms, villages often took several months to recover from the damage and several weeks to rebuild fishing fleets. During that tense period, food was scarce. The lack of livestock and domestic pets in ancient times meant that the tastiest and most available sources of protein were often neighbouring villagers. Strong villages would attack the weaker villages and eat the population in the wake of these natural catastrophes. With island populations dwindling as a result of this practice, and the resulting "wastage" (usually more people were killed than were needed for food), saner heads eventually prevailed and the "Hunger Games" was invented.

In its earliest form, Headball used an actual human head as the "ball" – the head used was always the preserved head of the '*Maka Muka*', or Captain, of the losing Headball team from the previous game. The head was brought out of storage and consecrated by the presiding *Pu* – this involved various foul practices that cannot be described here – then tossed into the sand where 10 selected warriors from each competing village would fight to gain possession of the head and impale it on a stake located in the another village's territory. The winning village won the privilege of selecting people from the losing village to eat, up to a limit awarded by the *Pu*. The '*Maka Muka*' of the losing team was, of course, forfeited automatically. If there were any other rules apart from the ones described above, they are lost to history.

The rules of modern Headball, such as they are, involve two teams of 10 players each attempting to lodge a hollowed out coconut on top of an 8' pole guarded by the opponent. The game is played on a beach with the ocean in play and a shore side boundary of between 50 and 60 yards from the water's edge marked by a fence of wooden stakes. Similar to rugby, the teams pass and run the coconut back and forth until one successfully "pales" the coconut on the opponent's pole. Play stops

and a “toss” is called by the *Pu* (the referee) at the beginning of the game, after a “pale” is scored, and whenever the ball goes over the fence. In the event of a “lost ball” in the ocean, the last team to touch the ball is penalized by having a player sit and its opponent is awarded automatic possession. Play runs continuously for an hour with no timeouts, even for injury. Severely injured players are sometimes moved out of play during the game by teammates, but most are left where they fell, or hobble around as well as they are able, until the game is over. The only equipment worn by the players is a cup and fancy headdress in the team’s colours.

**Ricky “Coco” Main**, the wild-ass brother of Carthage owner **Ken Main**, was until just now, the Head Coach of the Mu Pineapples of the Micronesia Division of the OVHL. His team had won the Golden Salad for three straight years before losing in last year’s Salad Bowl to the Lemuria Mermen, 4 pales to 3. The league goes to great lengths to emphasize fruit and vegetables in all of its products and names in order to divert attention from the sensitive origins of its sport.

Clearly, Headball is one tough game, classified as an “extreme sport” in the few sports encyclopaedias that even acknowledge its existence; and toughness is clearly what Mustangs’ owner, Beauregard feels his team has been lacking.

“I’m proud to announce the beginning of a hard-nosed era of Mustangs football,” Beauregard pronounced at the podium at the team’s head offices. “I present you the toughest son of a stitch coaching football today, *Ricky “Coco” Main*!”

Ricky, himself, simply nodded grimly and said nothing at the conference. Rumours that he had lost his



Pacific War photographer **Lester Pigmalion II** captured this shot of a Headball referee, also known as a *Pu*, when the US Navy Destroyer he was a passenger on stumbled upon a game in progress on a tiny atoll near Guam. Mistaking it for live action, the crew was surprised to learn that it was a game. The friendly players invited them to dine afterwards.

ability to speak as a result of a Headball injury were vehemently denied: “Ricky plans to *show* you what he’ll do to bring pride back to Garland, not *tell* you. So keep watching Mustangs football! Yahoooooo!” yelled Beauregard, tilting his head back while raising Ricky’s arm in the air.

So far, actions do speak much louder than words. All “Coco” did in his Garland debut was direct his new team to a 30-0 stomping of the Iowa City Cubs on the road. The Mustangs’ defence, in particular, looked to be playing in a higher gear, even over last week’s domination of Mohave. The proof was in the result, 261 net yards of offence for the Cubs, almost 100 less than their season average, and 2 forced turnovers. If this is a taste what the “Main Mustangs” have in store for the league, Texas may be “heading” for a title.

#### **AROUND THE EFL**

Before I move on to Professor McChad’s mid-term report card, let’s take a quick tour around a week that was saved from being relatively lacklustre by four 4<sup>th</sup> quarter comebacks, one of which might be more accurately described as a 4<sup>th</sup> quarter meltdown.

Starting with the meltdown, the Convicts appeared to have the Gladiators exactly where they wanted them after taking a 21-10 lead and forcing three-and-out on the Glads’ ensuing possession. But punt returner **Keshawn Martin** fumbled at his 10 attempting a return and Gwinnett recovered. On the next play, **Ben Roethlisberger** found Reggie Wayne at the back of the end zone for a TD to narrow the Chino lead to 4 points. After an exchange of punts, the Convicts took over at their own 20 yard line with 5:58 remaining and a chance to put the game away. But **Cam Newton** underthrew **Greg Olsen** on the first play of the drive and **William Moore** intercepted it and brought it inside the Convicts’ red zone. An unnecessary roughness penalty on **Jo-Lonn Dunbar** brought the ball to the 4 then **Ahmad Bradshaw** bulled through the line for the go-ahead touchdown. Completing the “bad-things-come-in-threes” moment, **Trindon Holliday** fumbled the kickoff, setting up the final points for Gwinnett on a **Shane Suisham** field goal. Touchingly, coach **Rob Nazar** tried to mollify a distraught special teams coach, **Abe Reles**, by embracing him with a quick peck on the cheek before walking off the field. But the gesture seemed to make Reles even more upset. Sadly, Reles, also known as ‘**Kid Twist**,’ was found lying face up in the parking lot of the Coliseum after the game with a bullet in his head.

Such is life and death if you are a member of Convict Nation.

At the Carolina Slammer, the favoured Pats led the Regs 28-10 after 3 quarters. That was **Tony Romo's** cue to turn on the light inside his head that tells him to throw touchdown passes as opposed to interceptions. He delivered, with scoring strikes of 27 yards to **AJ Green** and 77 yards to **Earl Bennett**, then he ran it in himself to give his team a 31-28 lead with 1:17 left in the game. Not to be outdone, **Peyton Manning** engineered a frantic drive for a field goal as time expired to send the contest into overtime. But Peyton would never touch the ball again. The Regs won the toss and Romo the Magnificent finished off his command performance with an all passing drive that featured a brilliant check down for 25 yards to **Frank Gore**, a perfectly executed screen to **Marcel Reece** for 21 yards, and a 4-yard pass that thread the needle for the game-winning touchdown. The crowd in Columbia celebrated wildly and, for perhaps the first time ever, Regulators fans *believed*.

In Twin Cities a far less dramatic, but still unexpected outcome kept viewers tuned to their screens longer than usual for a game involving Mohave. With the Triumph leading 21-14, an apparent bad break early in the game turned into good fortune as Hellfire running back **Jonathan Dwyer**, subbing for an injured **Montee Ball**, carried the ball 10 times for 76 yards to set up a **Matt Prater** field goal to make it 21-17. Up by 4 points, the Triumph felt, not without cause, that they could run **Doug Martin** through the Hellfire line and burn up the clock. But they went to Martin once too often, sending him up the middle on 4<sup>th</sup> and 1 at their own 32 yard line. The Hellfire were ready for him and **Cameron Wake** wrapped him up in the backfield for a 1 yard loss. The stop put Mohave in field goal range and Prater made it a 1-point game with a 46-yard field goal. A second Mohave stand forced a Triumph punt from deep in their territory, giving the Hellfire great field position at mid-field. A pair of completions to **Benjamin Watson** and some nifty running by Dwyer brought Mohave inside the Twin Cities' red zone, from where Prater kicked the eventual game-winner from 30 yards to make it 23-21. With almost 2 minutes remaining, there was more than enough time for a comeback; but Martin was stopped attempting a sweep on 4<sup>th</sup> down to wrap up an unlikely Mohave victory.

At Jurassic Park, an impatient crowd was voicing its displeasure at **Drew Brees** and the Dinos' offence as they trailed Virden 23-13 with 11 minutes to go in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter. Brees made it a one-score game with a dump off to **Reggie Bush**, who dodged and weaved through the Violators defence for a 20-yard touchdown to quiet the boo-birds. The devastating blow, that brought the fickle crowd to its feet, was landed shortly after when the Durham defence forced Virden to punt and linebacker **Russell Allen** blocked it. **Devin McCourty** picked up the loose ball and stepped across the goal line for the go-ahead score. What had been a very close game for most of it turned even uglier for Virden when **Matt Stafford** was promptly picked off by safety **Tyrann Mathieu**, setting up an insurance touchdown on a 6-yard pass to **Megatron** to make the final 34-23.

It was a "Long Day" at Bluffs Stadium for Eagles' right tackle, **Cordy Glenn**, who found Undertaker defensive end **Chris Long** too much to handle. Glenn was flagged 5 times for 48 yards and gave up 2 sacks to Long, including the one that forced **Aaron Rodgers** to fumble near mid-field, setting up the eventual game-winning field goal by **Alex Henery** in the Undertakers' 23-14 victory over collapsing Scarborough.

An assortment of routs closed off the first half of the 2013 campaign on a high note for the routers and a depressing note for the routed. At Thermopylae Stadium, the power of turnovers showed dramatically in Pickering's 37-21 blowout of York. Don't let the 21 points for York fool you into thinking the Excaliburs were ever in this one – they turned the ball over 6 times, 3 of those on special teams, to fall behind at one point 37-0. Kick returner **Danieal Manning** fumbled twice; begging the question as to what the hell he was doing returning kicks in the first place. At Tillman Field, the Corn Kings thwarted the Cannibals' bid for their first road win, and much more, rolling over them 34-3 in a game that was never close. At the Dawg Pound, the North Stars looked like a team that was bored as they handled the Knights with not so much aplomb as their demanding fans would have liked. Credit the Knights with giving a great, if sometimes amusing, effort on defence to keep the score down. Finally, the Swordfish looked like Sharks in tearing apart Mission Viejo 28-11, building a 28-0 half time lead. So ready were the Monarchs to get out of the Fish Tank that they ran the clock out for their opponent, sending **Bernard Pierce** into the line 45 times.

With half of the EFL season complete, it is fair to say that we now have a good enough sample size to make some meaningful observations about the teams that are competing for the Gale Sayers Trophy. My hope is that the coaches of the EFL's 20 teams take note of these grades, offered in the sincere hope that *all* teams improve their standing in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the season.



## Professor McChad's Mid-Term Report Card

### December 2012

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

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

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

**Carthage (B+):** The Cannibals get a '+' for hanging on this long in the East Division race. Their 4-0 record at home is impressive, especially considering that they dispatched two heavyweights in the process. But their 0-4 record with a pair of really bad losses on the road is an indicator that they are not a serious contender for the post-season. What it means, however, is that Carthage is likely going to continue being a pain in the ass for contenders who have to travel to Samoa with their playoff aspirations in the balance. The ability to play an effective spoiler role is an accomplishment for this team.

**Charleswood (B):** While a vast improvement over last year, hopes for this year's edition of the Patriots are much higher than their current 4-4 record. The 3 losses at home is cause for concern, particularly given that two of those came against heavy underdogs. It's tough to argue that the league's top scoring offence can do better, but AP could do a little bit more to keep the suspect Charleswood defence off the field and fresh for late in the game when they too often seem to fall apart.

**Chino (B+):** The aging Convicts' defence is struggling to stop the run, but its experience is limiting opponents to field goals more than touchdowns in the red zone. With the enhanced 'Cam Newton Offence' moving the ball and putting points on the board, the defence has been good enough to keep them in all of their games. Chino is winning the games it should win and has an upset under its belt despite committing 16 turnovers. All of their losses have been close against good opponents. If Cam stops throwing the ball to the other team, Chino could go very far in the second half.

**Cowtown (B-):** A late surge to improve to 4-4 rescued this mark from the Cs, but the Corn Kings should not be satisfied. Instead, they should be relieved that their season didn't get completely away from them after a 1-4 start. The worst defence in the league after 3 weeks rebounded and now has two shutouts to their credit. Alfred Morris is leading the league in rushing and Joe Flacco is settling down. Things are looking up, but will it be enough to overcome a 0-4 divisional record?

**Death Valley (B+):** Anybody who was expecting an encore in Death Valley after a 15-1 season was delusional. Those few who did may disagree with this mark, but by any realistic measure the Undertakers have done well to land at 5-3. The RGIII version of the Death Valley offence is proving to be prolific, but turnover prone. The defence continues to get scored upon at a slightly slower rate than their offence scores. They miss out on 6-2 and an 'A' by taking the first week off against LA.

**Durham (B):** The Lizards don't attempt to conceal the fact that they are going to pass the ball a lot and this has caused Drew Brees to be intercepted 13 times already. It has been a problem in their losses, but the offensive strategy is heavily dictated by the personnel and is unlikely to change. The defence is discovering that shutting down the pass is good, but not as effective when opponents are running a lot and gaining 5.1 yard per carry. The Dinos see themselves as rightful owners of the North Division, so sitting at 5-3 in third place is no reason to celebrate.

**Garland (B):** The pre-season favourites to appear in the final have had their struggles with bad luck this year but now appear to be turning things around under new management. Although it has been just two games since Doug Shirley packed his bags, the two wins by a combined score of 77-3 in those two games is an impressive turn. Thankfully for the Mustangs, their principal rival in the South Division is falling off the playoff map, muting the effects of their slow start.

**Gwinnett (B+):** 4-4 may look mediocre, but for the Gladiators this year it is a major achievement. Beset by crippling injuries and facing a brutal schedule, the Glads pulled off two big upsets to help them stay in the South Division race. Despite giving up more yards per game than any other team, the Glads are ranked #6 in points allowed. This puzzling fact may be explained by the +9 turnover ratio in their favour, a league-high rate; in fact, a lot can be explained by that. Credit the coach for keeping Big Ben out of trouble.

**Iowa City (A-):** This mark was on its way to the top after a 5-0 start, but a couple of lapses, one in Carthage and another at home versus the Mustangs, brought it down. Still, the Cubs have been one of the good news stories in the league this year coming off a horrendous 2012 season. The defence has been the strength of the team, giving up some yards but few points, while forcing lots of turnovers. The QB Carousel when the offence doesn't produce instantaneously could be a future distraction.

**Los Angeles (B-):** A 3-5 record is impressive when you consider what the Knights have on the roster. It's actually more than impressive, it's bordering on the miraculous. The team declared most likely to finish 0-16 has already won 3 games and nobody knows how; except Alex Smith's 74.5% completion rate and 105 QB rating might have something to do with it. As bad as the defence is, they play with spirit and never quit. You have to love this version of the Knights, even if you hate their chances to win another game this year.

**Markham (A):** In a year of parity, a 7-1 record is worthy of the highest possible grade, but the North Stars lose a '+' for style (or lack thereof), while remaining one of the most exciting teams to watch. That is not because of their stifling defence, but because they lead the league in forcing turnovers while committing a lot of their own. In the end they come out ahead and that is why they have lost only one game all year.

**Mission Viejo (D+):** Two victories, over Mohave and LA, and five losses to potential playoff contenders would have the second year expansion Monarchs sitting firmly where they should be with a 'C'; but a loss to the anemic Swordfish where they looked like they mailed it in pulls the grade down. One of the league's better offensive lines should be helping the skill

players to produce more points than they are, but curious play-calling is stymieing their efforts.

**Mohave (C-):** The confusion about expectations created by the presence of Andrew Luck and a gang of elite pass rushers alongside a weak offensive line and a rookie at running back divides reactions to the Hellfire's 2-6 record. Statistically they have been abysmal to the point of being a team deserving of 0 wins, but impressive victories over Charleswood and Twin Cities on the road support the belief that they have some game. Who can tell if this team is over-achieving or under-achieving?

**Pickering (A):** An A- for the record and an extra '+' for the effort to get there. At 6-2 the Spartans are far ahead of where most expected them to be at this point. If Josh Scobee makes a FG in Week 4, they are 7-1 and Markham is runner-up. A +6 turnover ratio is a big help, but solid fundamentals on both sides of the ball are the stabilizers that have helped make the most of those turnovers. The only true blip in their performance so far came in Samoa without a running back for most of the game.

**Scarborough (D-):** You may notice that I appear to judge this 2-6 team more harshly than others with the same record. That is because this is no 2-6 team. If Pickering is the most pleasant surprise then Scarborough is the biggest disappointment of the 2013 season to date. Injuries have played a role in this, but their opponents have had to play through injuries as well. The offensive line has been a big culprit, but the overall lack of clutch play by the offensive stars on this team has been both debilitating and befuddling. It is probably too late to save their season, but they can only improve.

**Sebastian (D):** The biggest feather in their cap, an upset of Scarborough in Week 3, doesn't look so impressive now that the Blue Eagles are below the Fish in the South Division standings. Their other win, at home over Mission Viejo, was not so shocking. The Fish appear on most levels to be a natural 2-6 team but the presence of Andy Dalton implies that they are supposed to be a little better than that. As long as Dalton is considered a franchise quarterback, results like the Swordfish have achieved so far will appear far below standard.

**South Carolina (B+):** The word, "eeehaaa" applies here. Like the Spartans, the Regulators emerged from parity to be unlikely contenders in their division race. The offence, as always, thrives because of Tony Romo first, and Frank Gore second. Factor in the vastly improved performance of the historically bad South Carolina defence and the results have been more impressive than most expected. If the Regulators can build on this pace they may be looking at their first ever 'A' grade by the end of the year.

**Twin Cities (C+):** The Triumph stumbled in Week 8 against Mohave and the misstep may have cost them long term in the playoff race. Certainly it cost them a half point in their mid-season grade, as the manner of their loss – the inability to run the ball when they needed to run it – brings into question their overall viability as contender this year. On defence they have been occasionally tough, but not tough enough to compensate for an offence that relies so much on the running game.

**Virden (B-):** The 4-4 record appears good enough at first but pales when considering the Violators have yet to beat a team with a .500 record this season. That has fans worried that there will no post-season for Virden when the chips fall at the end of the year. Matt Stafford has taken a step backwards in his production and it may be because of his team's noticeably lower commitment to the running the ball this year, even if Jamaal Charles is a better runner than Virden has seen in the past.

**York (C-):** In a year when teams are so closely matched overall, it doesn't take much to derail a team like the Excaliburs from performing up to expectations. This year it is a -6 turnover ratio that has dropped York from contender status to a team on the edge. Losses to LA and Carthage bring this grade down a notch while the manner of their loss to Pickering – 6 turnovers and no poise under pressure – brings it down even further. York fans rightly expect much better from this team that features one of the best QBs of all time and the defensive player with the highest impact potential in the league.

At the mid-way point of the 2013 season, it is difficult to pinpoint one player on either side of the ball who stands out definitively as being the most valuable player, but you can't go wrong with either of the two listed below. Take a close look at their numbers and I'm sure you'll agree:

## MID-SEASON MVPS

### OFFENCE

*Andre Johnson (WR) – Death Valley*

### DEFENCE

*Rob Ninkovich (DE) – Markham*

# BUG THE BOOKIE!

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

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**RECORD VS THE SPREAD AFTER WEEK 8:**

**45-32-3**

### JIMMY'S WEEK NINE PICKS

#### **VIRDEN @ PICKERING (line – SPARTANS by 6)**

**INJURIES:** **Virden** – Brandon Albert (QUESTIONABLE), Fred Davis (OUT), Vontae Davis (OUT), Brandon Meriweather (OUT), Knowshon Moreno (OUT), Aquib Talib (OUT); **Pickering** – Aubrayo Franklin (OUT).

To say that the 6-2 Spartans have been as dominant on the stat sheet as their record indicates would not be accurate. But they have been among the best in scoring touchdowns on defence and special teams, with 5 major scores coming via that route. They also have the #1-ranked run defence in the league by far, surrendering just 3.3 yards per carry, and also enjoy a +6 turnover ratio. What this all means is that the Spartans “find a way to win” on any given Sunday and the sliding Violators are in tough with them on the road. Matt Stafford has not looked good the past two weeks of his ‘North Division Tour’ and his prospects this week look less than promising if Jamaal Charles can’t snap his season-long touchdown drought on the ground. If Virden’s star running back can’t carry the ball across the goal line, it will mean more field goals and fewer touchdowns in the red zone for the Violators and that won’t win a game in Thermopylae Stadium. But it just might beat the spread. **PICK: VIRDEN**

#### **YORK @ DURHAM (line – THUNDER LIZARDS by 7)**

**INJURIES:** **York** – Dustin Keller (QUESTIONABLE), Chris Gamble (OUT), Donald Jones (OUT), Richard Seymour (OUT); **Durham** – Uch Nwaneri (PROBABLE), Danny Amednola (QUESTIONABLE), David DeCastro (OUT), Carl Nicks (OUT).

The annihilation of York in Pickering last week has pushed the line on this game uncomfortably high. But don’t let the Sword’s meltdown on special teams last week discourage you from picking York here; instead, let York’s anemic rushing attack, their mediocre pass defence, and Durham’s all-star secondary discourage you from picking York here. Tom Brady may be Tom Brady, but Champ Bailey is Champ Bailey, and he has a young buddy next to him in Richard Sherman who will make life difficult for a quarterback who is forced to throw the ball. The bottom line is that, if Michael Turner and Giovani Bernard can’t get traction on the prehistoric grass of Jurassic Park, it will be a long and difficult afternoon for Tom and his one receiver, Victor Cruz. I haven’t even addressed the Drew Brees-to-Megatron connection yet and things are looking dim for the visitors. **PICK: DURHAM**

#### **CARTHAGE @ TWIN CITIES (line – TRIUMPH by 4)**

**INJURIES:** **Carthage** – Jon Beason (OUT), Bruce Carter (OUT), Dannell Ellerbe (OUT), David Hawthorne (OUT), Maurice Jones-Drew (OUT), Jacob Lacey (OUT), Eddie Lacy (OUT), Brooks Reed (OUT), Stefen Wisniewski (OUT); **Twin Cities** – Ike Taylor (PROBABLE), Henry Melton (QUESTIONABLE), Glenn Dorsey (OUT), Rishard Matthews (OUT).

Carthage is still looking for its first road win and chances are good that they will still be looking for it after this week. With Eddie Lacy and MJD out the Cannibals’ running game is highly suspect, which means Philip Rivers will have to pick up the slack. On a good day, he is capable of carrying the team, but on a bad day he’ll bury them just as easily. So much depends on the health of Henry Melton and Ike Taylor, both difference-makers for the Triumph defence in their respective phases of the game. When Twin Cities has the ball, they will face a Carthage line-backing corps depleted by injury and a defensive line depleted by lack of talent. Doug Martin saw what Alfred Morris did to this defence last week and thinks he can do better. **PICK: TWIN CITIES**

#### **MARKHAM @ MOHAVE (line – NORTH STARS by 5)**

**INJURIES:** **Markham** – Chris Canty (OUT), Percy Harvin (OUT), James Starks (OUT), Titus Young (OUT); **Mohave** – Jimmy Graham (PROBABLE), Reggie Nelson (OUT) Hakeem Nicks (OUT), Scott Wells (OUT), Aaron Williams (OUT).

The Markham defence continues to be ranked #1 in the league and the Mohave offence continues to hold up the rear, which sets up the biggest mismatch possible when Mohave has the ball. Presuming then, that Mohave doesn't score, except by accident, is it possible that the Hellfire defence might stop the North Stars cold and give their offence some extra opportunities? When you stop laughing, pause to consider that the Hellfire lead the league in sacking and pressuring the quarterback and that Eli has been known to make a few mistakes under pressure. Does it still seem so laughable now? Yes, it does. **PICK: MARKHAM**

### **CHARLESWOOD @ GWINNETT (line – GLADIATORS by 3)**

**INJURIES:** Charleswood – Marcus Gilbert (OUT), Santonio Holmes (OUT), Phil Taylor (OUT); Gwinnett – Joseph Randle (PROBABLE), LeSean McCoy (PROBABLE), Jeremy Maclin (QUESTIONABLE), Leodis McKelvin (QUESTIONABLE), Bill Bentley (OUT), Josh Brown (OUT), Kevin Kolb (OUT), Robert Mathis (OUT), Troy Polamalu (OUT).

The Gladiators have rushed the ball more than any other team, which is the price of keeping the pressure off Big Ben. The strategy has paid off – the notoriously imprudent Ben is the only starting quarterback in the EFL who has not thrown an interception this year. This impressive string could very well be extended with the probable return of LeSean McCoy adding another dimension to the backfield punch. But if the Glads and their wounded defence fall behind early to the league's highest scoring offence, the running backs could become moot and Big Ben will be exposed. It is in that latter situation that we will see if Ben has turned the corner as a quarterback and can move the ball effectively under pressure while avoiding a catastrophic error, or five. One way or the other, I can't see him keeping pace with Peyton and AP. **PICK: CHARLESWOOD**

### **DEATH VALLEY @ GARLAND (line – MUSTANGS by 9)**

**INJURIES:** Death Valley – Rob Gronkowski (PROBABLE), Alfonzo Dennard (OUT), Aaron Hernandez (OUT), Todd Herremans (OUT), Clay Matthews (OUT), Kenny Phillips (OUT), Jimmy Smith (OUT); Garland – None.

At first glance this line appears exceptionally high, but upon further review it may be what it takes to get action on Death Valley this week. Bettors are reacting to the coaching change in Garland and see a Mustangs team ready to fulfil its potential. They are also reacting to a rookie QB who has already thrown 7 interceptions and fumbled 7 times to the half way point of the season. The Undertakers' high-powered offence has stalled due to 17 turnovers while the defence has been like AAA roadside assistance to broken down offences. The Mustangs have the personnel to exploit these imperfections, so the Shrouded Ones will need to be almost perfect to pull off a win on the road here. Defeating a spread like this, however, is always within reach of a team with Andre Johnson on the roster. **PICK: DEATH VALLEY**

### **SCARBOROUGH @ LOS ANGELES (line – KNIGHTS by 3)**

**INJURIES:** Scarborough – Logan Mankins (PROBABLE), King Dunlap (QUESTIONABLE), Ryan Kalil (OUT), Jordan Norwood (OUT), Darrelle Revis (OUT), Terrell Suggs (OUT); Los Angeles – Andre Brown (PROBABLE), Byron Bell (QUESTIONABLE), Brian Bulaga (OUT), Barry Church (OUT), Brian Cushing (OUT), Clyde Gates (OUT), Ryan Mathews (OUT), Brian Orakpo (OUT), Nick Sundberg (OUT), Kenny Vaccaro (OUT), Charles Woodson (OUT).

It's time for a gut check in Scarborough. Can they pull it together after an unimaginably poor start or do they intend to mail it in against the intrepid but bumbling Knights? Jeff Dohrn has his team playing as if they have nothing to lose and, apart from the first overall rookie pick, they don't. But every time the Blue Eagles lose it is one more black mark on the record of what is shaping up to be the EFL's All-Time Choke Champs. The good news (if the term is even appropriate at this point) is that Logan Mankins is listed as 'PROBABLE' for this game. If he can go he will bring much needed stability to an offensive line that has stood out as one of the reasons for Scarborough's offensive ineptitude. The bad news (as if its news at this point) is that last week's villain, Cordy Glenn, will continue to play right tackle. Aaron Rodgers has been dumped a league-high 28 times. If somehow he can stay upright he will find a gambling and inexperienced Knights' secondary ripe for the picking. I know I will regret it, but I just can't pick the Knights and their horrible defence, despite the Eagles' woes. **PICK: SCARBOROUGH**

### **CHINO @ COWTOWN (line – Pick'Em)**

**INJURIES:** Chino – James Harrison (PROBABLE), Chris Ivory (OUT); Cowtown – Maurkice Pouncey (OUT), Kyle Williams (OUT).

When you boil it down the main difference in the fortunes of these two evenly matched teams is the 6 touchdowns produced by the Convicts' defence and special teams compared with the single one produced by the Corn Kings. That, and the versatility of

Cam "One Man Show" Newton compared with his one-dimensional opponent, Joe Flacco, have the number-crunchers lining up behind Chino for this game. However, if there is such thing as momentum, the Corn Kings have it at the moment. Call it "confidence" after winning three games to scrape back to 500 and revive their dying playoff hopes. Chino, for its part, is coming off a demoralizing loss at Gwinnett where it squandered an 11-point lead in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter by committing two turnovers in the last six minutes. The most significant injury for either team is Cowtown center, Maurkice Pouncey, meaning both teams are relatively healthy. I find this one is too close to call, but my hunch tells me to go with the hot home team. **PICK: COWTOWN**

### **MISSION VIEJO @ SOUTH CAROLINA (line – REGULATORS by 6)**

**INJURIES:** **Mission Viejo** – William Powell (DOUBTFUL), Koa Misi (OUT), DeMarco Murray (OUT), Lardarius Webb (OUT); **South Carolina** – Greg Jennings (DOUBTFUL), Star Lotulelei (OUT), Tracy Porter (OUT), Sam Shields (OUT), All Woods (OUT).

Speaking of teams with momentum, the Regulators are giddy after knocking off powerhouse Charleswood in overtime last week and now find themselves in the thick of the South Division race. The Monarchs are anything but hot, having dropped five in a row while looking rather limp on offence. William Powell is listed as 'DOUBTFUL' and Bernard Pierce is looking burnt out after carrying the ball an astounding 84 times in the past two games. Is Ryan Tannehill really so bad that he can't attempt more than 24 passes in games his team is trailing? Apparently somebody on the Mission Viejo sideline thinks so, or else thinks back-up Pierce can do it all by himself. Regardless, the offensive situation looks bleak for the visitors as the Regulators' defence is playing with uncommon vigor and can now be genuinely referred to as "not bad." The real weapon for South Carolina, however, is Tony Romo, whose hot hand last week has some people whispering "MVP" if he can keep up the pace. If Romo does return to his erratic form at some point, that will be a shame; but don't expect it to be this week. **PICK: SOUTH CAROLINA**

### **IOWA CITY @ SEBASTIAN (line – CUBS by 2)**

**INJURIES:** **Iowa City** –Rodney Hudson (OUT), LaMichael James (OUT); **Sebastian** – Roy Helu (OUT), Willis McGahee (OUT), Zach Strief (OUT).

How quickly the people forget. After a 6-1 start during which they looked like the class of the PAC, one blowout loss to, arguably, the class of the EFL and Deron Redding's Cubbies fall to mere 2-point favourites on the road against the team that manages, with good reason, to fill its own stadium but once a year. Sebastian leads the league in TV blackouts and, once again, Floridians who care will have to turn to Swedish-based net services to watch their beloved Swordfish get filleted by the hungry Baby Bears. The problem is not the Swordfish defence, which has given up points grudgingly and has been tough against the pass, it is their offence, ranked last in most categories. Signs point to a lazy shutout by the Cubs. **PICK: IOWA CITY**



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

FROM THE EFL ARCHIVES – 2007 – Following a week of records and spectacular offensive displays in Week 6, the pace of play settled down across the league in Week 7 everywhere but in Chino. The Convicts' super offence murdered the Bucs 45-19 to make Chino the top-scoring team in the league, averaging 32 points per game. Donovan McNabb won Offensive Player of the Week for his 296 yards, 2 TD passes, and his game day QB rating of 123.8, but with the effort coming against Anchorage's pathetic defence, the award was a half-hearted one. It was finally beginning to dawn on most people that the 2-5 Bucs weren't

going anywhere good this year with that defence and Drew Brees was not going to rescue it. It was right around this point that eccentric Bucs' coach Anthony Fenton began to display signs of a mental disturbance that would put his team in the hands of his assistants for the better part of the remainder of the year.

The Thunder Lizards exploded for 21 points in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter to take out Cowtown 35-17, setting up a three-way tie at the top of the West Division with Chino at 5-2. It was the start of a tradition of Durham 4<sup>th</sup> quarter comebacks over their arch rival Cowtown that continue to this day.

In the East Division, 6-1 Mohave remained in undisputed control with a rather dull 34-12 putting down of the Swamp Dogs. The Hellfire were in firm command, however, controlling the ball for over 43 minutes.

In Florida, the Patriots revived their fortunes with a solid 26-3 mauling of the Dragons to rise to 4-3. The defence was the star of the show for Charleswood, forcing 4 turnovers, but Peyton Manning was quick to point out to the media that this was his second best game of the season thus far. For the 4-3 Dragons, the result was a disappointment coming at home.