

2013



EFL NEWS

ELITE FOOTBALL LEAGUE

2013

Week Eleven

Week Eleven

December 15, 2013



MVM	14	YOR	27	LA	21	DVU	26	CHI	28	SC	10	MAR	37	GWG	14	SBE	10	GAR	45
VV	31	ICC	14	CAR	14	MOH	41	CHP	35	DTL	42	SEB	27	COW	35	PIC	31	TCT	14



York tight end *Tony Scheffler* leaps for a pass in the end zone as *Stephon Gilmore* and *Reshad Jones* try to break it up. The Swords converted 4th and inches with a 4-yard TD pass to take a 17-14 lead in the 4th quarter. (story inside).

LATEST EFL NEWS INSIDE

- THE BEAST VIOLATES
- SWORDS SLASH
- BLITZKREIG IN MOHAVE
- KNIGHTS FEAST ON CANNIBALS
- PATS PUNISH CONVICTS
- GLADS SLIP ON COW PATTY
- AND MORE.....

Also in this issue

- EFL FAN BLOG VIOLWRITERS.COM
- SPATS
- JIMMY THE GEEK
- THIS WEEK IN THE EFL



Who was slick in Week Eleven?

"BRYLCREEM" THE EFL'S FIRST SPONSOR



Adrian Peterson
RB
Charleswood
Patriots

31 Carries, 189 yards, 3 TDs. Ran the Convicts into the ground.



Bruce Irvin
DE
Mohave
Hellfire

5 Tackles, 3 Sacks, 2 FFs, led an 8-sack attack in Undertakers upset.



5-6-0

York



GAME OF THE WEEK



7-4-0

Iowa City

MVP

Tom Brady

27

14

TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Cmp	Att	Yds	TD
Brady	38	63	466	2
Rushing	Car	Yds	Avg	TD
Bernard	18	48	2.7	1
Receiving	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD
Cruz	11	149	13.5	0

Team	1	2	3	4	OT	Total
York	7	3	0	17	-	27
Iowa City	7	0	7	0	-	14

TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Cmp	Att	Yds	TD
Wilson	23	36	228	1
Rushing	Car	Yds	Avg	TD
Richardson	11	54	4.9	0
Receiving	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD
Smith,S	5	118	23.6	1

Play of the Game

Trailing 14-10 in the 4th quarter, York faced 4th and inches at the 4. The offence stayed on and **Tom Brady** threw a short out to the end zone, caught by **Tony Scheffler** the eventual game-winning TD.

SUMMARY: It was an auspicious start for visiting York; **Tom Brady** connected deep with **Victor Cruz** on the game's opening play from scrimmage for a 42-yard completion. The Swords went on to draw first blood with a TD on a 10-yard check down from Brady to **Giovani Bernard**. But the Cubs would get that back late in the 1st on a 3-yard TD pass from **Russell Wilson** to **Tony Gonzalez** after **Dexter McCluster** broke into York territory with a 36-yard catch and run. The Excaliburs survived a fumble and a 13-yard sack to count 3 and regain the lead on a 33-yard FG by **Blair Walsh**, wrapping up the scoring in the first half. The Cubs began the 2nd half with a switch to **Colin Kaepernick** at QB; a move that soon paid off with a 64-yard TD pass to **Steve Smith**, giving them a 14-10 lead. A switch back to **Russell Wilson** on their next series did not yield dividends and the Cubs were forced to punt. Brady led the Swords back up the field, completing passes to 6 different receivers on his way to the Cubs' 4 yard line where he faced 4th and inches. With 6 linemen in the game for Iowa, Brady faked the hand off and fired a bullet to an open **Tony Scheffler** for the go-ahead TD. The Cubs charged back, with receiver **Mike Wallace** breaking free into the secondary and looking like he would go the distance; but **Rashean Mathis** caught him at the 2 and forced a fumble that York picked up and returned 42 yards, setting up an insurance TD to take control of the game.

QUOTES: "We lost our left testicle, Luke, early when that big French guy gave him the business in the pile. I thought we were in trouble but Brick shuffled over and did a good job. Tom had his best game, we needed his best game. It's about frickin time!" – York coach, **Jay Hammond**.
 "We almost overcame the penalties and the inconsistency on offence, but the two fumbles in their red zone killed us. It makes me sick to my stomach, but at the same time I have to tip my hat to the Excaliburs, or I would if I had a hat – it messes with my hair." – Cubs' coach, **Deron Redding**.



HAPPY FAN



titter

ANGRY FAN



Hoser Bum @DBeat7

Cruzing to victory on the arm of Brady. Rashean to the playoffs! Let the good times roll!



Magic Dog @Sevensausages

Kap comes in, throws a TD and gets the hook. Hey, DUH-ron! Sit your a\$\$ in the press box.

12-11-2013 Joe Ferguson Stadium Temp: 29 Wind: 0-5 None MVP: Tom Brady

1 9:01	York	TD Brady 10 pass to Bernard (Walsh) (9-80-5:59)	7-0
1 1:39	Iowa City	TD Wilson 3 pass to Gonzalez (Zuerlein) (7-72-3:43)	7-7
2 9:50	York	FG Walsh 33 (12-58-6:40)	10-7
3 9:13	Iowa City	TD Kaepernick 64 pass to Smith (Zuerlein) (1-64-0:18)	10-14
4 11:19	York	TD Brady 4 pass to Scheffler (Walsh) (15-87-7:23)	17-14
4 4:27	York	TD Bernard 5 run (Walsh) (7-56-3:04)	24-14
4 0:59	York	FG Walsh 30 (7-61-1:42)	27-14

	YOR	ICC
First Downs	25	13
Rushes	22-50	12-63
Passes	63-38-466	39-24-292
Sacked	1-13	3-18
Fumble	1	3
Penalties	9-76	9-84
Turnovers	1	3
Missed Tackles	8	6
Blitzes	9	11
Time	39:10	20:50
Third Down	8-19	1-12
Fourth Down	1-1	0-1
Red Att/Td/Fg	7/3/2	2/1/0
Net Offense	503	337



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!



MONARCHS	7	0	0	7	0	14
3-8-0					OT	

Ryan Tannehill
15 of 26, 161 yards, 1 TD



VIOLATORS	14	7	0	10	0	31
7-4-0						

David Wilson
12 Carries, 106 yards, 1 TD

It was all **Mark Ingram** on Virden's opening drive – he caught 2 passes and rushed for 43 yards, including a 2-yard score, for a 7-0 Virden lead. The Monarchs answered quickly with **TJ Graham** turning a medium sideline pass into a 44-yard gain and **Dennis Pitta** hauling in a 20-yard TD pass from **Ryan Tannehill** to tie it at 7. But **Matt Stafford** would find **Justin Blackmon** for a 7-yard TD pass on the ensuing drive to give Virden a lead they would hold on to. **Aldon Smith** had 3 sacks while Wilson and **Mark Ingram** combined for 3 TDs and 206 rushing yards as the Violators dominated at home.



KNIGHTS	0	0	7	14	0	21
4-7-0					OT	

Andre Roberts
6 Catches, 81 yards, 2 TDs



CANNIBALS	7	0	7	0	0	14
4-7-0						

Philip Rivers
22 of 33, 201 yards, 2 TDs, 1 INT

A fumble by **Shonn Greene** on the game's first play set up a 20-yard TD pass from **Philip Rivers** to **Kyle Rudolph** to put the Cannibals up 7-0. An end zone interception by **Stephen Nicholas** denied the Knights a scoring chance before the half. Carthage took the opening drive of the 2nd half in for a TD but the Knights answered that with a 72-yard drive for a TD to stay within one score. After tying it on a 13-yard TD pass to **Andre Roberts**, safety **Kenny Vaccaro** picked off Rivers with less than 2 minutes left, setting up the game-winning TD pass of 26 yards from **Sam Bradford** to Roberts.



UNDERTAKERS	7	6	7	6	0	26
6-5-0					OT	

Andre Johnson
5 Catches, 128 yards, 2 TDs



HELLFIRE	14	6	8	13	0	41
3-8-0						

Andrew Luck
20 of 30, 310 yards, 3 TDs, 1 INT

A 57-yard interception return by **Dawan Landry** on the Undertaker's first drive set up a 2-yard TD pass from **Andrew Luck** to **Jimmy Graham** to set the tone for a day of dominance by the Hellfire defence. **Bruce Irvin** notched 3 sacks, forced 2 fumbles, and recorded a safety to lead an 8-sack performance by the Mohave defence, which also had 3 interceptions. A 99-yard kickoff return for a TD in the 3rd by **Randall Cobb** breathed life into the struggling Undertakers, but Luck turned it into a romp with a 28-yard TD pass to **Chris Givens** to give them a 35-20 lead at the start of the 4th.

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



CONVICTS
5-6-0

0	7	14	7	0	28
OT					

Kirk Cousins
29 of 36, 334 yards, 2 TDs



PATRIOTS
7-4-0

7	14	14	0	0	35
OT					

Adrian Peterson
31 Carries, 189 yards, 3 TDs

Adrian Peterson started the opening drive with a 27-yard run and finished it with a 5-yard TD run to open the scoring for the Pats. **Jacoby Jones** made it 14-0 with an 83-yard punt return TD then a **Chris Johnson** fumble in Chino territory led to a **Peyton Manning** TD pass of 13 yards to **Brian Hartline** to make it 21-0. **Cam Newton** entered the game for **Kirk Cousins** to throw a 5-yard TD pass to Johnson to get Chino on the board before the half, but returned to the bench in the 2nd half. The Pats built up a 35-14 lead on 2 more Peterson TD runs then held off a late Chino surge for their 7th win.



REGULATORS
6-5-0

0	3	7	0	0	10
OT					

Tony Romo
13 of 21, 125 yards, 1 TD



T-LIZARDS
8-3-0

0	14	7	21	0	42
OT					

Drew Brees
21 of 25, 243 yards, 3 TDs, 1 INT

Durham lineman **Linval Joseph** had 2 sacks in the 1st half, forcing a fumble on the first and a turnover on downs on the second to set up the first score of the game on a 27-yard TD pass from **Drew Brees** to **Vernon Davis**. After building a 14-3 lead by the half, the Lizards opened the 3rd quarter with a run-oriented drive that ended with a 15-yard TD pass to **Danny Amendola** for a 21-3 Durham lead. **Tony Romo** hit **AJ Green** from 23 yards to pull within striking distance, but Durham poured it on offensively after that with 3 more TDs, including the 15th TD catch of the year for **Calvin Johnson**.



NORTH STARS
9-2-0

10	3	17	7	0	37
OT					

Eli Manning
27 of 37, 323 yards, 4 TDs, 1 INT



SWORDFISH
2-9-0

15	0	0	12	0	27
OT					

Andy Dalton
18 of 29, 236 yards, 2 TDs

An 82-yard TD pass from **Andy Dalton** to **Nate Washington**, an interception by **Leon Hall** followed by a 12-yard TD pass to **Michael Jenkins** and a 2-point convert gave the Swordfish an improbable 15-13 half time lead. But the North Stars would go in front on their first series of the 2nd half when **Eli Manning** connected with **Heath Miller** for an 11-yard TD pass. **Stefan Logan** fumbled the ensuing kickoff and Manning made Sebastian pay with a 6-yard TD pass to **Matt Speath** to make it 27-15. Logan made amends with a 99-yard kick return TD in the 4th, but it was not enough to score an upset.

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



GLADIATORS

4-7-0

0	0	7	7	0	14
OT					

Ben Roethlisberger

19 of 34, 137 yards, 2 TDs, 2 INTs



CORN KINGS

6-5-0

0	14	7	14	0	35
OT					

Joe Flacco

25 of 34, 240 yards, 3 TDs, 1 INT

A **Charles Godfrey** interception shut down the Glads' opening drive deep in Cowtown territory, leading to a scoreless 1st quarter. Cowtown broke the deadlock midway through the 2nd when **Joe Flacco** hit **Cecil Shorts III** for a 19-yard TD pass then took a 14-0 lead on a 7-yard TD run by **Alfred Morris**. After falling behind 21-0, the Glads were sparked by a **Dunta Robinson** pick that set up a 2-yard TD pass from **Big Ben** to **Jeremy Maclin**. They scored again on their next series on a 2-yard pass to **Reggie Wayne**. Cowtown took control with a Morris 8-yard TD run and a late **Trumaine Johnson** pick.



BLUE EAGLES

3-8-0

0	0	3	7	0	10
OT					

Aaron Rodgers

23 of 38, 246 yards



SPARTANS

8-3-0

7	17	0	7	0	31
OT					

DeMaryius Thomas

9 Catches, 150 yards, 2 TDs

DeMaryius Thomas caught a medium pass over the middle from **Matt Schaub** on the second play from scrimmage and carried it the distance for a 57-yard TD to give the Spartans a 7-0 lead. Scarborough stalled twice trying to even the score then Thomas capped a 65-yard drive with a 13-yard TD grab to make it 14-0. The Spartans added 10 more points on a couple of long drives before the half to take a 24-0 lead into the locker room. **Dont'a Hightower** returned a fumble 36 yards for a TD to give the Eagles hope, but the Spartans answered with a 5-yard TD run by **Steven Jackson** to seal it.



MUSTANGS

8-3-0

10	14	7	14	0	45
OT					

Matt Ryan

24 of 35, 250 yards, 4 TDs



TRIUMPH

5-6-0

0	0	7	7	0	14
OT					

Doug Martin

73 rush yards, 43 rec. yards, 1 TD

A 12-play, 86-yard drive ending in a 4-yard TD run by **Arian Foster** got the Mustangs rolling in the 1st quarter. A 12-yard TD pass from **Matt Ryan** to **Anquan Boldin**, a second Foster TD run, and a defensive stand in the red zone to stop a Triumph threat helped make it a 24-0 lead for Garland at half time. **Jay Cutler** opened the 2nd half with a 42-yard TD pass to **Dwayne Allen** but could not carry the momentum forward into their next possession. **Matt Forte** snagged a dump-off from Ryan for a 12-yard TD to make it 31-7 for Garland and set the pace for a 4th quarter gallop to victory.

WEEK ELEVEN

STANDINGS

East	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Charleswood	7	4	0	0.636	356	32.4	272	24.7	7.6	3 3 0	3 1 0	5 2 0
Viriden	7	4	0	0.636	287	26.1	264	24	2.1	4 2 0	3 1 0	5 2 0
York	5	6	0	0.455	260	23.6	259	23.5	0.1	3 2 0	1 3 0	3 4 0
Carthage	4	7	0	0.364	195	17.7	285	25.9	-8.2	4 2 0	2 2 0	3 4 0
Mohave	3	8	0	0.273	207	18.8	323	29.4	-10.5	1 5 0	1 3 0	2 5 0
West	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Iowa City	7	4	0	0.636	246	22.4	232	21.1	1.3	3 3 0	4 0 0	5 2 0
Death Valley	6	5	0	0.545	329	29.9	339	30.8	-0.9	3 2 0	2 2 0	3 4 0
Chino	5	6	0	0.455	295	26.8	269	24.5	2.4	3 2 0	2 2 0	4 3 0
Los Angeles	4	7	0	0.364	207	18.8	288	26.2	-7.4	1 4 0	1 3 0	3 4 0
Mission Viejo	3	8	0	0.273	175	15.9	279	25.4	-9.5	1 4 0	1 3 0	2 5 0
North	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Markham	9	2	0	0.818	285	25.9	212	19.3	6.6	4 1 0	4 0 0	6 1 0
Durham	8	3	0	0.727	332	30.2	227	20.6	9.5	6 0 0	2 2 0	5 2 0
Pickering	8	3	0	0.727	305	27.7	240	21.8	5.9	4 2 0	3 1 0	6 1 0
Cowtown	6	5	0	0.545	312	28.4	215	19.5	8.8	4 2 0	0 4 0	3 4 0
Twin Cities	5	6	0	0.455	240	21.8	264	24	-2.2	3 3 0	1 3 0	2 5 0
South	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Garland	8	3	0	0.727	323	29.4	160	14.5	14.8	3 2 0	3 1 0	4 3 0
South Carolina	6	5	0	0.545	239	21.7	239	21.7	0	4 1 0	2 2 0	3 4 0
Gwinnett	4	7	0	0.364	215	19.5	252	22.9	-3.4	3 2 0	3 1 0	3 4 0
Scarborough	3	8	0	0.273	192	17.5	308	28	-10.5	1 4 0	1 3 0	2 5 0
Sebastian	2	9	0	0.182	163	14.8	236	21.5	-6.6	0 6 0	1 3 0	1 6 0

PASSING

Passing	Att	Cmp	C%	Yards	In	I%	Lg	TD	TD%	Rate
1 Smith, A LAK	224	166	74.1	1674	5	2.2	54	15	6.7	108.0
2 Manning, P CHP	353	257	72.8	2829	6	1.7	59	20	5.7	107.9
3 Brees DTL	398	252	63.3	3222	15	3.8	59	30	7.5	98.0
4 Ryan, M GDM	337	225	66.8	2538	8	2.4	62	18	5.3	97.0
5 Griffin II DVU	294	183	62.2	2239	9	3.1	77	21	7.1	96.7
6 Romo SC	355	244	68.7	2701	9	2.5	78	16	4.5	95.5
7 Manning, E MAR	299	178	59.5	2272	10	3.3	46	23	7.7	95.1
8 Wilson, R ICC	276	185	67.0	2247	7	2.5	60	11	4.0	94.6
9 Newton, C CHI	301	194	64.5	2308	10	3.3	69	17	5.6	92.7
10 Stafford VV	385	214	55.6	2722	10	2.6	54	27	7.0	90.4
11 Schaub PIC	385	231	60.0	2733	10	2.6	73	22	5.7	89.9
12 Rodgers, A SBE	423	276	65.2	2659	7	1.7	87	18	4.3	89.9
13 Flacco COW	406	235	57.9	2955	11	2.7	71	24	5.9	89.1
14 Cutler TCT	326	201	61.7	2272	8	2.5	58	16	4.9	88.6
15 Brady YOR	417	248	59.5	3056	6	1.4	64	14	3.4	87.4
16 Roethlisbe GWG	256	157	61.3	1460	3	1.2	32	11	4.3	86.4
17 Tannehill MVM	314	186	59.2	2027	8	2.5	78	15	4.8	83.7
18 Rivers, P CAR	339	225	66.4	2067	9	2.7	57	12	3.5	83.5
19 Luck MOH	296	165	55.7	1892	9	3.0	52	14	4.7	78.3
20 Dalton SS	348	203	58.3	2239	11	3.2	82	10	2.9	73.9

RUSHING

Rushing	Att	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD	
1 Peterson,A	CHP	292	1461	5.0	29	18
2 Morris	COW	247	1375	5.6	44	12
3 Martin,D	TCT	244	1139	4.7	31	8
4 Jackson,S	PIC	215	1111	5.2	30	6
5 Charles,J	VV	184	994	5.4	66	0
6 Foster,A	GDM	191	972	5.1	66	16
7 Johnson,C	CHI	194	920	4.7	60	4
8 Gore	SC	179	877	4.9	39	6
9 Greene	LAK	221	840	3.8	29	1
10 Bradshaw	GWG	158	775	4.9	41	6
11 Bush,R	DTL	132	751	5.7	27	4
12 Ball,M	MOH	188	741	3.9	27	5
13 Pierce	MVM	170	733	4.3	34	4
14 Ridley	DVU	157	621	4.0	19	2
15 Turner,M	YOR	141	611	4.3	48	8
16 Richardson	ICC	122	536	4.4	33	1
17 Williams,D	MAR	121	531	4.4	26	4
18 Spiller	SBE	120	519	4.3	17	2
19 Bernard	YOR	109	487	4.5	44	6
20 Newton,C	CHI	91	458	5.0	27	5
21 Lacy	CAR	99	443	4.5	55	2
22 Rice,R	SBE	102	420	4.1	49	2
23 Forte	GDM	98	415	4.2	51	0
24 Griffin II	DVU	76	407	5.4	31	3
25 Jones,F	MAR	91	376	4.1	16	0

RECEIVING

Receiving	No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD	
1 Johnson,C	DTL	80	1356	17.0	59	15
2 White,R	CHI	76	1160	15.3	69	8
3 Crabtree,M	CHP	69	907	13.1	59	8
4 Welker	SBE	69	757	11.0	64	3
5 Thomas,D	PIC	68	968	14.2	57	7
6 Graham,J	MOH	66	690	10.5	31	4
7 Johnson,A	DVU	63	1530	24.3	82	19
8 Bryant,D	VV	63	933	14.8	54	11
9 Jackson,V	PIC	62	973	15.7	73	6
10 Witten	CHP	62	586	9.5	44	4
11 Wayne	GWG	61	697	11.4	27	8
12 Cruz	YOR	59	962	16.3	55	6
13 Marshall	SBE	58	713	12.3	87	7
14 Lloyd,B	GDM	54	755	14.0	62	4
15 Jones,J	VV	54	778	14.4	27	8
16 Rudolph	CAR	51	450	8.8	29	5
17 Decker	DTL	51	680	13.3	50	3
18 Fitzgerald	COW	50	649	13.0	44	5
19 Boldin	GDM	50	664	13.3	46	9
20 Pitta	MVM	50	453	9.1	36	5
21 Cobb	DVU	50	471	9.4	25	5
22 Smith,S	ICC	49	929	19.0	64	8
23 Colston	MAR	48	745	15.5	46	7
24 Martin,D	TCT	47	355	7.6	34	1
25 Williams,M	MVM	47	740	15.7	78	7

KICKING

Kicking	FGA	FGM	FG%	40	50	Lg	Pts	
1 Folk	GDM	20	19	95.0	4	1	51	92
2 Tynes	VV	22	19	86.4	5	1	50	89
3 Scobee	PIC	23	19	82.6	5	3	54	89
4 Walsh	YOR	23	19	82.6	7	2	57	86
5 Prater	MOH	23	22	95.7	8	1	54	85
6 Zuerlein	ICC	25	19	76.0	9	1	51	84
7 Hartley	CHP	13	12	92.3	5	1	52	80
8 Dawson	DTL	15	13	86.7	3	2	54	80
9 Bailey,D	CHI	19	14	73.7	7	1	50	77
10 Henery	DVU	13	13	100.0	7	3	54	75
11 Suisham	GWG	20	18	90.0	6	3	51	75
12 Bironas	SC	21	17	81.0	8	0	47	75
13 Novak	COW	17	14	82.4	7	1	53	70
14 Hauschka	CAR	20	17	85.0	7	3	54	69
15 Graham,S	MAR	17	11	64.7	2	0	49	69
16 Lindell	LAK	19	16	84.2	7	2	54	69
17 Gostkowski	TCT	12	10	83.3	3	1	54	60
18 Vinatieri	SS	14	13	92.9	4	0	46	51
19 Janikowski	SBE	11	8	72.7	1	1	51	48
20 Carpenter	MVM	11	9	81.8	4	2	53	47

TACKLES

Tackles			
1	Kuechly	SC	107
2	Dunbar	CHI	102
3	Riley	SS	101
4	Freeman, J	SBE	97
5	Mayo	DVU	85
6	Barwin	LAK	83
7	Willis, P	ICC	83
8	Washington	PIC	77
9	Ninkovich	MAR	77
10	Posluszny	VV	76
11	Bowman	GDM	75
12	Laurinaiti	GWG	75
13	Wagner	TCT	73
14	Houston, J	MOH	71
15	Jackson, D	MAR	70
16	Barnett	VV	68
17	McClain, R	SC	67
18	Johnson, J	MVM	65
19	Greenway	LAK	64
20	Bailey, C	DTL	64
21	Finnegan	CHI	63
22	Winfield	TCT	62
23	Hali	SC	62
24	Gilmore	ICC	61
25	Tulloch	COW	61

SACKS

Sacks			
1	Watt	GDM	12
2	Smith, A	VV	11
3	Johnson, M	YOR	10
4	Johnson, C	DVU	10
5	Atkins	YOR	10
6	Long, C	DVU	9
7	Ninkovich	MAR	8
8	Abraham	MAR	7
9	Peppers	CHI	7
10	Wake	MOH	7
11	Houston, J	MOH	7
12	Quinn, R	LAK	7
13	Irvin, B	MOH	7
14	Phillips, S	CHP	6
15	Ware, D	MOH	6
16	Sheard	PIC	6
17	Hardy	CAR	6
18	Kerrigan	COW	6
19	Dareus	COW	6
20	Griffen	COW	6
21	Bennett, M	LAK	6
22	Greenway	LAK	6
23	Jordan, C	MVM	6
24	Avril	GDM	6
25	Smith, W	GDM	6

INTERCEPTIONS

Interceptions		No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD	
1	Hayward, C	ICC	5	68	13.6	30	0
2	Reid, E	TCT	4	51	12.8	29	0
3	Elam	DVU	4	70	17.5	26	0
4	Sherman	DTL	4	40	10.0	16	0
5	DeCoud	GWG	4	28	7.0	22	0
6	Jackson, K	CHP	3	61	20.3	28	1
7	Ward, T	PIC	3	81	27.0	81	0
8	Wagner	TCT	3	91	30.3	49	1
9	Johnson, L	CHP	3	116	38.7	51	3
10	Williams, T	VV	3	85	28.3	43	0
11	Clark, R	YOR	3	3	1.0	3	0
12	Jones, R	ICC	3	51	17.0	43	0
13	Vaccaro	LAK	3	95	31.7	39	0
14	Cox, D	SBE	3	36	12.0	32	0
15	Thomas, E	GDM	3	116	38.7	57	1
16	Weddle	GDM	3	32	10.7	18	0
17	Mathieu	DTL	3	49	16.3	47	1
18	Wright, M	SC	3	9	3.0	9	0
19	Barber	SS	3	44	14.7	34	0
20	Hall, L	SS	3	121	40.3	65	1
21	Samuel	YOR	2	6	3.0	6	0
22	Wilson, J	TCT	2	0	0.0	0	0
23	Slay	TCT	2	0	0.0	0	0
24	Winfield	TCT	2	33	16.5	33	0
25	Smith, H	CAR	2	49	24.5	49	1

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WHERE FANS SPEAK

ALDON SMITH KINGPIN OF THE D!

BY PRINCE BLOOD (CONTRIBUTOR) ON DECEMBER 14, 2013

Aldon Smith



He be the Kingpin of the D, running free, like an escapee, you gotta chop him, 'cause you can't block him, you gotta stalk him, 'cause you can't lock him!

That is the start of an amateur rap song by Violator running back Knowshon Moreno, who speaks for the locker room when he calls, through the magic of music, for wider recognition of the achievements of defensive end-linebacker hybrid, Aldon Smith.

"He's like our beast, ya know," explains Moreno when asked about his inspiration, "but he has grace like those avatars in the movie. Nobody knows him, that's why we're singing about him!"

People around the league are starting to notice Smith. Offensive coordinators are becoming real familiar with him. With 11 sacks he is second in the league behind JJ Watt, and with 18 QB pressures he is second in the league behind Jason Pierre-Paul. He leads the league in sacks yards. Add in 7 stuff tackles and 4 forced fumbles and you have yourself a true defensive MVP candidate.

A first round pick out of Missouri, selected by the Violators #15 overall in the 2011 draft, Aldon didn't come out of nowhere, but he didn't deliver the goods immediately. He played on special teams in his first season, learning the system. In his second season he contributed with 8 sacks but played in the shadow of DeMarcus Ware. After 11 weeks this season he already has more sacks than all of last year and nobody is really missing Ware back there.

"I just go out there and give it 100%, 100% of 100% of the time," Aldon says when asked how he has made such a phenomenal impact. "I learned a lot from DeMarcus and how he just went out there and sacked quarterbacks. He had respect from everyone, even those quarterbacks he sacked so much. I pattern myself after him and I plan to sack a lot of quarterbacks."



AROUND THE



With Spats McChad

NEW YORK – It was a Winter Wonderland in New York City this weekend. It looks like we will have a white Christmas here on the East Coast and I, for one, am happy about it. Snow tends to keep people inside their homes, meaning less noise and less traffic on the roads and sidewalks. Of course, fresh snow will bring out the families and kids for snowball fights, snow sculptures, and other snow sports, but thankfully that lasts only as long as the snow is white. When it becomes grey, icy, packed and spotted with yellow patches, all the snow romantics return to their homes to watch snow on TV and listen to music about snow. All I know is I hate the reality of snow. Ever since I had a pile of it stuffed down the neck of my winter coat by Bradley Hassler in a fight over a snow mountain in elementary school I cannot think of it as anything other than really cold water. It looks nice on trees and colonial homes in postcards, though.

ROPE DAY

Defences that blitz heavily often pay the price in big plays allowed. But there is also reward to go along with the risk, and there can be no bigger pay-off for a defence than when the blitz gets through consistently. It was "Pay Day" in Mohave this week as the formidable Hellfire pass rush crashed through the Death Valley line for 8 sacks, 4 forced fumbles, and steady pressure that resulted in 3 interceptions, as Mohave upended Death Valley 41-26 in a battle between Satan's favourite teams. The Hellfire "Blitzkreig" was a game-changer, resulting in a significant upset that few had expected. Overloading the left side of the Death Valley line with a fifth down lineman, Mohave was able to bring pressure without the blitz. When they wanted to turn up the tap a little, they blitzed, with often devastating results. Flex lineman, **Bruce Irvin**, led the way with 3 sacks and a pair of forced fumbles, including one that foiled a Death Valley scoring opportunity in the third quarter and led to a Hellfire field goal. But the pass rush was not the only thing clicking for Mohave; Andrew Luck had his best day of 2013, throwing for 310 yards and 3 touchdowns, taking full advantage of the early Christmas presents from his defence.

Coming off an ugly riot last week, even uglier language from **Bobby Elders'** Titter account, and threats of a "Fan Action" this week from the head of FLAME (Fan Liberation Association of greater Mohave), **Carmen Diablo**; the game's fortunate result and subsequent standing ovation from a sellout crowd at the Fiery Depths provide a beacon of hope that the Mohave franchise can turn around years of futility and build a powerhouse reminiscent of the early years. The healing in Mohave began before the teams took the field on Sunday, with **Bobby Elder** adopting a conciliatory tone in an address to the media on Tuesday.

"I am here to offer an apology to Hellfire fans for my behaviour last week in the second half of the game against the Regulators," he began in a subdued and even tone. "Fans pay good money to come and watch the Hellfire and they deserve our best effort on the field at all times. I take full responsibility for our team's failure to put forth that best effort last week. I would also like to apologize publicly to Montee for calling his number 31 consecutive times. Contrary to reports that he was seriously injured by all that pounding he took, Montee is healthy and ready to go for the game against the Undertakers. He and I have spoken privately about this and we are good now – he knows it wasn't a personal thing. It's just....it's just..." Elder's tone was rising slightly, "it's just that coaching this team is so....freakin....*frustrating!*"

Looking on the verge of tears and gritting his teeth, but attempting mightily to keep a lid on his infamously fiery temper, Elder looked up from his prepared script and looked directly at the cameras. "You guys see it every week," he appealed. "Do any of you, honestly, think I don't care about this team? I show up every week don't I? The way they play, sometimes, it's *very* hard to watch. It's even worse when you know, like I do, what they are supposed to be doing out there and how much they are f%^ing it up. Believe me, guys, these players have f%^ed up a lot this year. To see them at practice and see them on game day, it's like watching two different teams. When I address it with them, they just stand there with these wide-eyed dumbass looks on their faces, looking at each other or down at their feet. Nobody takes responsibility for anything. The only guy who shows any leadership at all on this sorry team is **Reed Doughty**, but unfortunately it's all mouth because Reed can hardly play the friggin' game any more these days. I don't know why we signed him to a 3-year deal 'cause we'll probably cut him at the end of this year; we pay him way too much for doing next to nothing. Ah *shit!* Sorry, Reed, I don't really mean that," Elder slammed the podium. "You *see?* That's what this team does to a coach. It makes you say and do things you don't mean! It's like they're forcing you to yell at them, belittle them, punish them! It's like they actually want it!"

Elder stopped suddenly. He looked down at his notes, then looked back up, and said, "You know....I better just shut it down now guys, before I say something even more stupid – like **Andrew Luck** having no friggin' clue what he's doing out there! Who f%^&ing scouted that pr%^k? 'SureThing' my a\$\$! Ooops! Sorry, there I go again! I probably need medication guys, but I refuse to take any pills. I don't like the way they make me feel – like I want to shoot up a McDonalds or something," he chuckled a bit at that then composed himself.

"Anyway, I hope to see the fans out there on Sunday and I promise to be good."

The rare '*mea culpa*' from Elder may have been driven by an honest attempt to make things right, but it was likely equally driven by a proposed FLAME "Fan Action." Unable to call for a boycott of the game after signing a two-year deal last year to promote attendance, FLAME had plans to declare Sunday against Death Valley as "Rope Day." The



Hellfire linebacker **Justin Houston**, in his "Death Mask," mocks the Undertakers sidelines prior to Week 11 action in Mohave. The Hellfire defence torched the Undertakers with 8 sacks and 3 interceptions in a stunning 41-26 upset on "Rope Day" at The Fiery Depths.

first 10,000 fans would receive a red and yellow rope, with which they could hang virtually anything, including (the inference was unmistakable) the Mohave coach. Plans for "rope day" were put on hold following Elder's public apology, but Diablo was careful to keep the possibility alive of a future "rope day."

"FLAME is ready to move forward in the spirit of mutual respect and cooperation reflected in Coach Elder's media address on Tuesday," Diablo said in a radio interview. "We accept his apology and hope for a change in direction; however, history has shown us that we must continue to be vigilant in seeking value for Mohave fans."

Although Elder said the right things in his media address, (with the exception of a few emotion-driven slips), nobody expected the team to respond as they did on Sunday. Least of all Death Valley coach, **Chris Worthley**, who faced immediate criticism and accusations that he had not prepared well enough for the Hellfire. Satan's former roommate was in a testy post-game mood, "Look people, let's not make this too complicated. We turned the ball over 5 times and we didn't protect the quarterback. Otherwise, we knew exactly what we were doing; we followed the game plan."

But it was that very game plan that some analysts are questioning – in particular, Worthley's puzzling faith in **Michael Vick**. With Hellfire leading 14-7 in the 2nd quarter, Worthley pushed the early panic button and called for the 'Dog Whisperer,' who came in and led the Undertakers to a turnover on downs inside the Mohave red zone. On his next series he was picked off by **Chris Houston**. His third series began in Mohave territory after **Jerod Mayo** had intercepted **Andrew Luck**; he finished that off with a 16-yard TD pass to **Andre Johnson**. But after that bit of success, Vick gave way to **RGIII** in the 2nd half. Vick did not appear again until the 4th quarter, with the Undertakers trailing 41-20. It was a mixed bag of a clean-up performance – a nicely thrown 37-yard TD pass to '*Optimus Prime*' followed by a poorly thrown pass under pressure that was picked off by **DJ Moore**.

It is not clear, to most, what Worthley seeks to gain by shuffling **RGIII** and Vick when they are essentially the same quarterback separated by a decade of experience. One throws right, the other throws left; but this isn't baseball. Looking at a mirror image isn't confusing many defenders, many of whom would not know a mirror image if it looked at them in mirror. But Worthley was obviously right about one thing - the turnovers cost his team dearly, as they often do for any team unfortunate enough to experience five in one game, or as little as one untimely one in a close game. It seems to be the same story every year – the turnover ratio (the difference between giveaways and takeaways) seems to be the single most determining factor in a team's success or failure.

THE LOST SEASON

Scarborough's sad season continued in Week 11 at Thermopylae Stadium with another pathetic effort by the team that fortune forgot. It did not take long for the Blue Eagles' fragile self-esteem to be shaken in this one. A kick-off out of bounds by **Sebastian Janikowski** to start the game gave Pickering the ball at their 40 yard line. Not that the Spartans needed the head start – **Demaryius Thomas** snatched a medium cross from **Matt Schaub** and took off like a rocket through the flat-footed Blue Eagles' secondary for a 57-yard scoring play; he could have run longer if he needed to. It was just the second play from scrimmage. The Blue Eagles defence had a front row seat as the Spartans proceeded to build a 24-0 lead by half time. In the end, Pickering dispatched the once formidable Blue Eagles handily, 31-10; the only Scarborough touchdown coming on a fumble return by **Dont'a Hightower**.

It is now at the point where the compassionate side my nature, not overly large by any measure, hesitates to write my impressions of this tragedy in progress; truly, it is sad to watch. But like a spectacular car wreck, it is impossible to turn away from

the horror of the Blue Eagles' 2013 campaign. The fascination is not so much with the futility of the play, but with the sight of these erstwhile stars struggling to make basic plays against the most mediocre of teams while trying to stay out of the league's basement. It hardly seems fitting or proper that, if the season were to end today, Scarborough would draft ahead of the Monarchs. But if it is a truism that, "you are what your record says you are," then Scarborough, at 3-8, must indeed be bad enough to line up ahead of Mission Viejo in the post-season welfare line.

Scarborough's mercenary coach, **Bill Belichick**, is obviously trying to get fired, with the dual goals of getting out of town before his reputation is completely ruined, and collecting the salary from a massive 15-year contract that a panicked **Chris Dickinson** awarded him after the disappointing inaugural campaign of Dickinson's friend Jonesey at the helm of the powerhouse formerly known as the Florida Dragons. Belichick showed up at game time wearing a red dress and cowboy boots. He called plays by throwing darts at a play chart while picking his nose with his other hand. None of it seemed to have any effect on Dickinson, who may not have even bothered to watch the game. He released a statement afterwards through his pal, **Freckles Flannery**, saying: 'I have full confidence that Bill can turn this team around. He has a standing invitation over to my house for beers and wings any time we're in town. I am happy with the progress of the team. Rome wasn't built in a day.'

The problem is, Mr. Dickinson, that your team *was already Rome!* It is being sacked by Barbarians at the moment. Winning a professional football team in a poker game might not be all it's cracked up to be.....

AROUND THE EFL

In the cruel world of the Convicts you can be head of the range one week and in the 'Hole' the next. The undisputed head of the range for the past year-and-a-half, **Cam Newton**, was, without warning, tossed into the 'Hole' by an angry **Rob Nazar** and **Kirk Cousins** elevated to starter for Chino's Week 11 contest in Charleswood. Newton made one appearance, when Chino had the ball at the Patriots' 5 yard line, in order to pose an added running threat. The Pats ignored Newton's legs and played the pass, but Cam quickly checked down to **Chris Johnson** for a touchdown. Then it was back to the 'Hole' for Newton, who never appeared again. We will never know what might have happened if the Chino Franchise had made it back onto the field; but we do know that without him the Convicts could not keep pace with the potent Patriots' offence. **Adrian Peterson** bruised the creaky 'Lockdown Crew' for 189 yards rushing and 3 touchdowns as Charleswood outshot Chino 35-28.

With their season flashing before their eyes, the Excaliburs suddenly showed some game with a come-from-behind victory over the Cubs at Joe Ferguson Stadium. Trailing 14-10 in the 4th quarter, **Tom Brady** hit **Tony Scheffler** for a 4-yard TD pass on 4th down, giving York the lead. The Cubs charged back, but faltered unexpectedly when **Mike Wallace** was caught from behind by semi-fossilized **Rashean Mathis**, who punched the ball out of Wallace's arms for a York fumble recovery that led to an insurance touchdown. If anyone is looking for documentary evidence that Wallace is a shadow of his former self – look no further.

At the Killing Field in Carthage the Don Quixotes topped the Cannibals 21-14 in a stunning upset that failed to register on many fans because almost nobody was watching. If you were one of those who did, you may have noticed **Alex Smith** dragging himself onto the field to replace **Sam Bradford** at critical times in the 4th quarter to throw touchdown passes – two of them in fact. Not officially injured, Smith is listed as "TIRED" on the LA game sheet.

For half a game at the Fish Tank it looked as if the Swordfish might pull off another miracle. But half time adjustments by the North Stars paid off as Markham overcame a 15-13 deficit on the strength of three **Eli Manning** touchdown passes and a recovered fumble in the second half. The final was 37-27 for the Stars, but the spirited play of the home team made it feel like a much closer game. **Darrin Jones** recognized the effort, no doubt remembering his own difficult early days, and paid a misty-eyed tribute to his opposite, **Russ Lemmon**, "Great gutsy game, Russ. Really man, trust me on this, just keep your players playing hard and everything will come around someday. I love you, man!"

At Tillman Field in Cowtown, an 18-yard completion to **Malcom Floyd** to convert 3rd and 18 was the spark that **Joe Flacco** needed to rise out of a 1 for 7 funk and drive his team for a touchdown to break a scoreless tie in the 2nd quarter. After Cowtown had built a 21-0 lead, the Glads roared back to within 7 points on a pair of TD passes from Big Ben. But solid running and a touchdown by Alfred Morris took the pressure off of Flacco and he later put the game away with another 18-yard pass to Floyd for a touchdown in a 35-14 win.

Ricky "Coco" Main is developing a reputation around the league as a smiling assassin. Unsure if it is genuine good humour or the lingering effects of a Headball injury, the quiet coach bears the trace of a perpetual half smile, or smirk, on his face that, if caught in the wrong light as he turns to face you, looks like he is about to lay a beating on you and enjoy it. In Week 11, his Mustangs laid a 45-14 beating on the Triumph at the Metrodome, thumping a team previously brimming with confidence. It wasn't remotely sentimental – it was all business, and that's the scary aspect of the Mustangs under their new management; that, and the fact that Main routinely calls **JJ Watt** a pussy.

At Jurassic Park, the Thunder Lizards stomped all over the Regulators 42-10 in a game most notable for its anti-climatic qualities. It's almost embarrassing to think, in hindsight, that prior to the actual play of this game there were a number of people picking the Regulators to *win*, not merely cover the 8-point spread in favour of Durham. **Drew Brees** made the South Carolina defence look a lot like what we thought they were before **Luke Kuechly** and clever coaching had made them look respectable.

Finally, at **TERRORDOME**, the Violators had their way with the team that would be Kings, trouncing Mission Viejo by a score of 31-14. The "Beast," **Aldon Smith**, sacked **Ryan Tannehill** 3 times and forced 2 fumbles. **Jamaal Charles** took the night off in favour of back-ups **Mark Ingram** and **David Wilson**, who combined for 206 yards rushing and 3 touchdowns.

BUG THE BOOKIE!

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




















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RECORD VS THE SPREAD AFTER WEEK 11:

67-40-3

PLAYOFF PICTURE AT A GLANCE

		PACIFIC-ATLANTIC CONFERENCE		CAN-AM CONFERENCE	
OUT	ALIVE	IN	IN	ALIVE	OUT
			1		
			2		
			3		
			4		
					
					

JIMMY'S WEEK TWELVE PICKS

GAMES TO WATCH

DEATH VALLEY @ IOWA CITY (line – CUBS by 5)

INJURIES: Death Valley – Janoris Jenkins (QUESTIONABLE), Alfonzo Dennard (OUT), Daniel Fells (OUT), Todd Herremans (OUT), Greg Jones (OUT); Iowa City – Rodney Hudson (OUT), LaMichael James (OUT).

Providing neither team collapses down the stretch, this game could very well end up deciding the West Division title. The Cubs prevailed 31-28 when these teams met in Week Three at the Graveyard; three turnovers by the Undertakers led to 14 points for the Cubs and took a good chance of at least a Death Valley field goal off the board in a game that was decided by a 3-point margin. Obviously, Death Valley would like to hold onto the ball better and, hopefully, take it away from the Cubs. But this will not be easy if either of the Undertakers' quarterbacks is forced to air it out. The Cubs have made 15 interceptions, second highest total in the league, and they have given up a miserly average of 81 yards rushing yards per game. Don't expect the Death Valley offensive line

to move the Cubs' defensive studs around enough to give Stevan Ridley any room to manoeuvre; which means RGIII (or Michael Vick if the mood hits) will have to extend the play, throw accurately, and pick up some first downs with their legs to give Death Valley a fighting chance. Many of the fundamentals favour the Cubs here and they have the home field advantage. But they are also in the midst of a two-game losing streak where they have turned the ball over 6 times and taken it away just once. Like their opponent, the Cubs have two quarterbacks with similar styles and are not sticking with their #1 guy through thick and thin. Could this be affecting Russell Wilson's confidence? It's hard to say – but I am not as high on the Cubs as I used to be, especially when Vegas is giving the Undertakers 5 points. **PICK: DEATH VALLEY**

PICKERING @ MARKHAM (line – NORTH STARS by 2)

INJURIES: Markham – Percy Harvin (DOUBTFUL), James Starks (OUT), Jah Reid (OUT); **Pickering** – None.

This is Pickering's best chance to position itself for a North Division crown – an unlikely outcome at the start of the year, but looking increasingly possible with each charmed victory. Of course, to hear the Spartans' coach tell it, there was nothing charmed about their Week Four loss at home to these same Stars. Josh Scobee missed on a 49-yard field goal attempt with no time remaining in a 28-26 loss. Markham escaped Thermopylae Stadium after two lost fumbles in the final 4 minutes helped the Spartans to score 20 points in the final period and get back into a game that the visitors had controlled for 56 minutes. There is no reason to believe that the Stars, at the Dawg Pound, will control the play any less this week than they did when these two teams met previously. The game will be decided, however, on turnovers. Markham and Pickering are ranked one-two in takeaways and the team that takes the ball away last will be in a great position to win the game. The ability of the Spartans to strike quickly through the air both on offence and defence will counter-balance Markham's ball control style. The Stars are crossing their fingers that Percy Harvin can play, because that will add a dynamic playmaker to an offence that has been losing a bit of steam lately. Expect this clash of division rivals to be volatile with the outcome decided by a bounce. **PICK: MARKHAM**

GAMES OF NOTE

DURHAM @ COWTOWN (line – Pick 'Em)

INJURIES: Durham – David DeCastro (OUT); **Cowtown** – Kerry Rhodes (PROBABLE), Brandon Flowers (OUT).

The Corn Kings can pull themselves up a little higher out of the early hole they dug for themselves and give themselves a fighting chance at a playoff spot with a win, or they can slip back in with a loss. When these teams met in Week Two, a Cowtown turnover deep in its own end and an explosive Calvin Johnson in the second half resulted in Durham flying away with a 43-31 victory. The Lizards have the most efficient offence in the league thanks to Drew Brees and a wolf pack of wide receivers led by Johnson. This tends to overshadow their top pass-defending unit in the league as measured by opposing QB rating. For the Corn Kings to prevail they must take away the ball and turn it into points. Fortunately, they are facing a great quarterback whose dark side is a league-high 15 picks. Unfortunately, they are missing their top cornerback, Brandon Flowers, and they have the fewest number of takeaways in the league. The Lizards have to be concerned that their run defence, ranked 19th in the league, will not be able to handle Alfred Morris. On the plus side, they are also aware that the Corn Kings cannot win the game solely on the ground, and that an interception-prone Joe Flacco will have to put the ball in the air at some point. But it may not end up hinging on Flacco at all. Lizards have too many weapons at wide receiver and the Corn Kings have too few corners – you do the math. **PICK: DURHAM**

SOUTH CAROLINA @ GARLAND (line – MUSTANGS by 11)

INJURIES: South Carolina – Greg Jennings (PROBABLE), Rob Housler (QUESTIONABLE), Sam Shields (QUESTIONABLE), Lawrence Jackson (OUT), Tracy Porter (OUT), Brandon Thompson (OUT); **Garland** – None.

The odds-makers are giving the Regulators no respect after their evisceration at the claws of the Thunder Lizards last week. All of the flaws we thought we saw in the Carolina defence at the beginning of the year suddenly became highly visible under the laser light show of Drew Brees. Although Matt Ryan is not quite as flashy, he is more than capable of continuing the overdue humbling of the South Carolina back-11. The last time these teams faced each other the Regulators were able to contain the ponderously slow Doug Shirley-led offence and wound up losing 24-13, with one of the Mustangs' touchdowns coming on a Patrick Peterson "pick six." Facing the Ricky "Coco" Main Mustangs in Garland is a completely different scenario – one that doesn't look too promising for

Hal Corson's crew. The probable return of Greg Jennings will help, but the Regs will need production from Frank Gore for the passing game to be "Upset-Grade" effective. For Garland, there is no obscure winning formula; they merely need to hold on to the ball on the attack and watch their dominating defence do its magic. It was a nice run while it lasted, but the Regs are about to wake up from the pleasant dream of a division crown. **PICK: GARLAND**

TWIN CITIES @ GWINNETT (line – GLADIATORS by 3)

INJURIES: Twin Cities – Glenn Dorsey (OUT); Gwinnett – Bill Bentley (OUT), Loedis McKelvin (OUT), LaRod Stephens-Howling (OUT).

With both teams' playoff hopes dangling by a rotting vine over a 500-foot gorge, this week's loser can expect to splash thunderously into the piranha-infested waters below. The winner might be merely delaying the inevitable, but where there is a sliver of hope, a miracle is always possible. Although the Glads are technically still in the race, this game is really about the ultimate fortunes of the Triumph. Guy Williams pretty much needs his team to run the table to stand a good chance of making it to its first post season. While highly improbable, it is not impossible, but it must start with a win against the easiest of his five remaining opponents. After knocking off Chino to reach the 500 mark, the Glads have slipped drastically, losing 3 straight. Troy Polamalu is back, but the difference he can make is debatable. The key to victory for the Glads will be the performance of Ben Roethlisberger. Big Ben threw two interceptions last week against the league's worst takeaway team. That does not bode well against a healthy and deceptively sturdy Twin Cities defence. For the Triumph, they like the match-up of Doug Martin against the porous Gwinnett run defence and think that Jay Cutler can get the ball to Pierre Garcon and Kendall Wright against a rickety pass defence. Experience and the home field weigh in Gwinnett's favour, but neither are scale-tippers. **PICK: TWIN CITIES**

EARLY CHRISTMAS TURKEY TIME

MISSION VIEJO @ CHINO (line – CONVICTS by 11)

INJURIES: Mission Viejo – Koa Misi (DOUBTFUL), Atari Bigby (OUT), Michael Brockers (OUT), Aaron Maybin (OUT), Brice McCain (OUT), DeMarco Murray (OUT), Lardarius Webb (OUT), Pat Sims (OUT); Chino – Davon House (OUT), Chris Ivory (OUT) Jarius Wright (OUT).

The Monarchs arrive at the Big House just in time to save the Convicts' season. A four-game slide that included a desperation switch to Kirk Cousins at quarterback last week, has Rob Nazar in a sadistic mood. The results of a week of chain gangs in the quarry for the offence and solitary confinement for the defence, honing muscles and sharpening minds, will be seen this week. The Convicts lead the league in rushing average and rushing yards per game but were far below their league-leading pace last week with Newton on the sideline. Not that Chino needs much offensive diversity this week, but defending the run is near the top of the list of the many things the Monarchs don't do well, so some extra pop in the ground game with Newton on the field could make this a comfortable victory. The Monarchs have no running game to speak of with DeMarco Murray injured, Bernard Pierce nursing swollen legs, and William Powell being himself, meaning more misery for the Mission Viejo offence. **PICK: CHINO**

VIRDEN @ CARTHAGE (line – VIOLATORS by 3)

INJURIES: Virden – Knowshon Moreno (PROBABLE), Owen Daniels (OUT), Fred Davis (OUT), Brandon Meriweather (OUT); Carthage – Jon Beason (OUT), Jacob Lacey (OUT), Brooks Reed (OUT), Orlando Scandrick (OUT).

The grim mystique of the Killing Field is fading as visitors become accustomed to seeing shrunken heads on top of the end zone pylons. The creepy curse may have faded entirely with the Cannibals' loss to the woeful Knights last week, officially placing the Cannibals themselves in the "woeful" category. The Violators are anything but woeful these days, riding a 3-game winning streak on the strength of three standout performances by Matt Stafford. The #3 ranked Virden defence is fully healthy and the ferocious Aldon Smith is at the peak of his bestial powers. Philip Rivers will be hoping to maintain ball control through short passes and line-pounding runs with Eddie Lacy, but whatever they accomplish will only delay the reckoning. **PICK: VIRDEN**

MOHAVE @ YORK (line – EXCALIBURS by 7)

INJURIES: Mohave – Scott Wells (OUT); York – Wesley Woodyard (DOUBTFUL), Chris Gamble (OUT), Eric Wright (OUT).

The Excaliburs stole a game from the Cubs last week and hope to build on the big-win momentum. But the Hellfire that they dispatched with not much authority in Week 4 is a different team now, having experienced the birth of their defence and a confidence-building effort by Andrew Luck last week against Death Valley. York has an efficient defence and Tom Brady does not throw the ball away often, but the unlucky Swords have lost 12 fumbles, a league high, which has led to some tragic outcomes. The Hellfire are technically still in the playoff race, but going nowhere. This is York's game to lose and the Hellfire will be playing with abandon. Expect the better team to prevail in the end, but not without a lot of drama. **PICK: MOHAVE**

SCARBOROUGH @ SEBASTIAN (line – SWORDFISH by 5)

INJURIES: Scarborough – Ryan Kalil (OUT), Jordan Norwood (OUT), Darrelle Revis (OUT), Ahtyba Rubin (OUT); Sebastian – Carlos Dunlap (OUT).

The only team officially out of the playoff hunt has the Blue Eagles right where they want them – at home with nothing to lose. Scarborough is on the verge of elimination and even if they keep their heads above water in the Fish Tank it is only a matter of time before the physics of a 3-8 start in a competitive conference pull them under. The wasted season could not get any worse for Scarborough, even with a loss here; it's not as if they haven't lost to Sebastian before. Terrell Suggs is back after spending the worst part of his team's season on the sideline. With such calamity this year it is a stretch to say that things might have been better with Suggs available, but it is no stretch to say they could not have been worse. Make no mistake – my pick here is not due to any faith in the Blue Eagles, but has everything to do with lack of faith in the Swordfish. **PICK: SCARBOROUGH**

CHARLESWOOD @ LOS ANGELES (line – PATRIOTS by 3)

INJURIES: Charleswood – Phil Taylor (PROBABLE), Cory Redding (QUESTIONABLE), Marcus Gilbert (OUT), Santonio Holmes (OUT); Los Angeles – Charles Woodson (PROBABLE), Brandon LaFell (DOUBTFUL), Brian Bulaga (OUT), Barry Church (OUT), Brian Cushing (OUT), Brian Orakpo (OUT).

One would think that smart people would stop taking the Knights lightly in spite of their humorously under-manned roster. Nevertheless, this is one of those times to take the Knights lightly. The Patriots are surfing a surging wave of offense that cannot be denied, especially by the Blue Veil. In addition to the top quarterback, the Pats have the top running back in Adrian Peterson, who has rushed for 100+yards in seven consecutive games. The resourceful Knights cobbled together a victory in Carthage last week with Chronic Fatigue Syndrome sufferer Alex Smith stepping on the field to throw 2 TD passes then retreating to the sideline to rest. The question this week: how often will he be able to make a cameo? Not often. **PICK: CHARLESWOOD**



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FROM THE EFL ARCHIVES – 2007 – By Week 10, analysts had a better baseline by which to evaluate the results on the field. Only the winless Swamp Dogs were proving to be a pushover from week to week, but even they were never completely out of it due to the presence of players like DeMarcus Ware and MJD, both of whom were in their prime. The line play on both sides of the ball for the Dogs was pretty dismal to say the least, and they put in another lame performance in Week 10, getting whopped 52-34 by Gwinett in a record setting 7-TD pass performance by Glads' QB, Carson Palmer. The Swamp Dogs' had now lost

10 in a row. Their search for a win was becoming a sideshow by then, a curious, sometimes comic sub-plot to the real business going on around them.

In the West, the flash mob-style Chino offence knocked the Thunder Lizards out of sole possession of top spot in the division with a 38-17 win at Jurassic Park, while the Corn Kings joined a three-way tie for first with a 41-14 revenge win over Iowa City at Joe Ferguson Stadium.

In the most anticipated match-up heading into the week, the Hellfire shut out the Patriots in the 2nd half of their game to prevail by a final score of 37-21 and take a two-game lead in the East Division. The 8-2 Hellfire were the most solid and consistent team in the league at that point, despite not having a single leader in any individual stat category. In contrast to the star-driven Pats and Convicts, the Hellfire effort was a true team effort.

The big performances in Week 10 were; Steven Jackson leading the Dragons to a 34-31 victory over Kutztown with 170 yards rushing and 2 TDs while his teammate, corner Richard Marshall, recorded a key interception that he returned for a TD in a 34-31 win over Kutztown.