

WEEK 5

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2012 EFL 2012

November 11, 2012

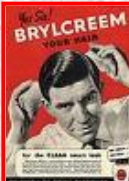
**EAST****WEST****NORTH****SOUTH**

Viriden	4	1	0	Death Valley	5	0	0	Durham	4	1	0	Scarborough	5	0	0
York	4	1	0	Chino	3	2	0	Cowtown	3	1	1	Garland	2	3	0
Commonwealth	3	2	0	Los Angeles	3	2	0	Markham	3	1	1	South Carolina	2	3	0
Mohave	1	4	0	Iowa City	1	4	0	Pickering	2	3	0	Gwinnett	1	4	0
Charleswood	0	5	0	Mission Viejo	1	4	0	Twin Cities	1	4	0	Sebastian	1	4	0

Markham kicker **David Akers** (right) can't believe he missed after pulling a 49-yard field goal attempt wide right in overtime against divisional rival Cowtown. After 75 minutes of play, no team emerged a winner as the Corn Kings and North Stars drew even at 20 to create a tie for second place in the North Division. In other EFL action, two teams remain unbeaten and one winless after 5 weeks. (More Inside)



DAVID AKERS



*Who was slick
in Week Five?*

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



OFFENSE



Reggie Wayne
WR
Gwinnett
Gladiators

8 Receptions, 161 yards, 3 TDs. The star of Gwinnett's first win of 2012.



DEFENSE



Derrick Johnson
ILB
Cowtown
Corn Kings

12 tackles, 1 sacks, 2 FF, 1 INT., in holding off Eli & crew in rare tie.



3-1-1

20



GAME OF THE WEEK



3-1-1

20

FIT TO BE TIED!

NOTHING SETTLED IN DAWG POUND AS
AKERS SAILS GAME-WINNER WIDE RIGHT!

CORN KING OF THE GAME

Derrick Johnson

12 Tackles, 1 Sack, 2 FFs, 1 INT

Team	1	2	3	4	OT	Total
Cowtown	7	3	3	7	0	20
Markham	0	7	3	10	0	20

NORTH STAR OF THE GAME

DeAngelo Williams

22 Carries, 158 yards, 2 TDs

GAME SUMMARY: A tactical mistake by Markham at the end of regulation and a missed field goal by the normally reliable **David Akers** kept the North Stars out of the 'Win' column as they ended the first round of divisional match-ups with an unsatisfying tie against rival Cowtown at The Dawg Pound. With the score deadlocked at 20 and 36 seconds remaining in the game, Markham took control at their 31 yard line with two timeouts remaining. A 10-yard pass to **Jonathan Stewart** and a quick timeout brought the ball to the 41 with 28 seconds left. Then a hand-off to **DeAngelo Williams**, who had been enjoying a good day, gained another 7 yards to approach mid-field, but he was tackled in bounds and the clock kept running. Apparent indecision about whether or not to call their last timeout resulted in a late spike by **Eli Manning**, leaving just 7 seconds on the clock. The ill-fated drive attempt ended with Manning's last gasp 'Hail Mary' being intercepted in the end zone as time expired in regulation. In the first overtime period of the EFL's 2012 campaign, Markham got possession first, but a sack by **Mark Anderson** stopped them without gaining a first down. The Corn Kings took over and appeared to be moving well until **John Abraham** blind-sided **Joe Flacco** for the star lineman's third sack of the day. Flacco fumbled and Markham's **Rob Ninkovich** recovered, giving the home team a golden opportunity at the Cowtown 37 yard line. The Cowtown defence held the Markham advance to just 6 yards but, at the 31 yard line, Markham was well within the range of star kicker Akers. With the crowd on its feet, Akers laid into the kick. It was long enough but slightly pulled, causing it to sail by the outside of the right upright. With a new lease on life, the Corn Kings roared back, reaching Markham's 35 yard line before their drive was stalled by a costly holding penalty on **Ryan Clady** that wiped out a 15-yard completion to **Kevin Walter**. Neither team would get as close again and the game ended with Flacco's 'Hail Mary' getting intercepted in the end zone as time expired. Both quarterbacks threw for over 270 yards but were intercepted 5 times between them. Markham dodged several bullets, fumbling four times and recovering three of them, while Cowtown was plagued by untimely penalties.

QUOTE OF THE GAME

"I am disappointed but thrilled to be involved in such an intense game. It makes me feel *alive*! No need for the little blue pills anymore." – *Markham coach, Darrin Jones.*

"I wanted to get extra height on it so I kicked it harder and I over-kicked it a little." – *Markham kicker, David Akers,* on his missed FG, wide right, in OT.

"Both teams had good chances to win and both teams screwed them up!" – *Cowtown coach, Jim Coghlin.*



FANS' THUMB UP

Can't get any tighter!

FANS' THUMB DOWN

Akers missed game-winner



FAN RATING



11-07-2012 The Dawg Pound Temp: 59 Wind: 0-5 MVP: Derrick Johnson

1 5:40 Cowtown	TD Flacco 9 pass to Fitzgerald (Kasay) (14-80-6:25)	7-0
2 1:46 Markham	TD Williams 1 run (Akers) (12-87-5:26)	7-7
2 0:01 Cowtown	FG Kasay 34 (4--2-0:44)	10-7
3 7:20 Cowtown	FG Kasay 37 (13-57-7:31)	13-7
3 2:42 Markham	FG Akers 34 (8-39-4:29)	13-10
4 10:40 Markham	FG Akers 28 (11-66-5:58)	13-13
4 6:49 Cowtown	TD Jones-Drew 1 run (Kasay) (9-80-3:51)	20-13
4 1:05 Markham	TD Williams 9 run (Akers) (11-76-5:38)	20-20

	COW	MAR
First Downs	26	30
Rushes	27-142	39-208
Passes	46-26-271	37-24-277
Sacked	4-26	4-33
Fumble	1	4
Penalties	6-37	3-33
Turnovers	3	4
Bad Passes	7	4
Blitzes	36	5
Time	34:22	40:38
Third Down	6-15	7-17
Fourth Down	1-1	0-0
Red Att/Td/Fg	4/2/2	5/2/2
Net Offense	387	452



QUICK COUNTS!!

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



REGULATORS

2-3-0

3

7

14

7

0

31

OT

Tony Romo
16 of 23, 291 yards, 2 TDs



SWORDFISH

1-4-0

3

3

0

0

0

6

Pierre Thomas
10 Carries, 68 yards

The Regulators' offence finally hit their stride late in the 2nd quarter with a 7-play, 71-yard drive that ended with **Frank Gore** sweeping to the pylon from 5 yards out to erase a 6-3 lead for the Swordfish. In the 2nd half, **Tony Romo** and **Greg Jennings** hooked up for a 65-yard pass to the Sebastian 15 yard line then Romo hit **Brandon Pettigrew** for a 15-yard TD strike to take a 17-6 lead. They broke the game open on their next possession with an 85-yard TD drive, keyed by a 61-yard pass to Jennings and a 6-yard TD pass to **Le'Ron McClain**. The Regs then shifted to ball control to end an easy win.



GLADIATORS

1-4-0

7

3

7

17

0

34

OT

Reggie Wayne
8 Receptions, 161 yards, 3 TDs



MUSTANGS

2-3-0

7

7

0

14

0

28

Matt Ryan
26 of 38, 257 yards, 2 TDs, 1 INT

A back-and-forth contest ended well for the struggling Gladiators. After the lead had exchanged hands four times, **Reggie Wayne** busted a short slant 80 yards for a TD early in the 4th quarter to vault Gwinnett into a 24-21 lead. Garland's **Matt Ryan** answered with a 7-yard TD pass to **Darrius Heyward-Bey** to regain the advantage, 28-24. The Glads answered with a run-heavy 80-yard scoring drive that was capped off by **Ben Roethlisberger's** 16-yard TD pass to Wayne. **Thomas DeCoud** intercepted a tipped Ryan pass with 1:07 left to put a lid on Gwinnett's first win of the year.



T-LIZARDS

4-1-0

3

0

10

14

0

27

OT

Philip Rivers
22 of 34, 277 yards, 2 TDs, 1 INT



TRIUMPH

1-4-0

3

10

0

0

0

13

Jay Cutler
18 of 33, 185 yards, 1 TD

A 33-yard pass to **Vincent Brown** and a facemask penalty on **Carlos Rogers** propelled the Triumph into the red zone then **Jay Cutler** found **Isaac Redman** for a 2-yard TD pass to highlight a strong 1st half for the Triumph. After a difficult start, Durham QB **Philip Rivers** tied the game at 13 with a 21-yard TD pass to **Dwayne Bowe** late in the 3rd quarter. He went on to lead two more TD drives on consecutive possessions, including a second TD pass to Bowe to pull away in the 4th quarter. Difficult to stop in the 1st half, Cutler and the Triumph managed to gain just one 1st down in the 2nd half.



QUICK COUNTS!!

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



SPARTANS

2-3-0

0	10	7	9	0	26
OT					

Robert Griffin III

7 of 14, 271 yards, 3 TDs, 1 INT



BLUE EAGLES

5-0-0

7	0	7	13	0	27
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Aaron Rodgers

32 of 43, 359 yards, 2 TDs

Big pass plays put the Spartans in position for a huge upset but a clutch 4th-down conversion with 45 seconds remaining kept the game-winning drive alive for the Blue Eagles, setting up a 1-yard TD pass from **Aaron Rodgers** to **DeSean Jackson** to win the game with 5 seconds left. **Robert Griffin III** heaved TD passes of 62, 65 and 93 yards to three different receivers to keep a hard-pressed Spartan offence in the game. Trailing 26-21, and facing 4th and 20 at the Pickering 33 with 0:54 left, Rodgers connected with **Heath Miller** for 20 yards to make the critical conversion.



VIOLATORS

4-1-0

14	3	3	7	0	27
OT					

Matt Stafford

19 of 30, 297 yards, 2 TDs, 3 INTs



UNDERTAKERS

5-0-0

0	14	7	20	0	41
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Drew Brees

21 of 38, 358 yards, 4 TDs, 2 INTs

The Virden defence got the scoring started as **Terrence Newman** picked off **Drew Brees** and returned it 27 yards for a TD on the game's 2nd play from scrimmage. But Brees would recover, going on to add 4 TD passes to his league-leading total and direct his team to their 5th win of the season in a battle between the EFL's top two quarterbacks. Death Valley's 'D' turned the back the early Virden tide with a 78-yard fumble return TD by **Brett Keisel**. After giving his team a 14-0 lead with a 24-yard TD pass to **Julio Jones**, **Matt Stafford** put his team in a hole by throwing 3 picks in the 2nd half.



CUBS

1-4-0

3	0	7	7	0	17
OT					

Donald Brown

10 Carries, 135 yards, 1 TD



MONARCHS

1-4-0

0	7	3	10	0	20
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Devery Henderson

6 Receptions, 167 yards, 2 TDs

The Monarchs notched their historic first win thanks to the great play of receiver **Devery Henderson** and a pair of takeaways by their defence. Trailing 3-0 mid-way in the 2nd quarter, **Atari Bigby** intercepted **Russell Wilson** and set-up a 54-yard TD pass to Henderson on a short slant from **Ryan Tannehill**. In the 4th, with the score tied at 10, Henderson took a medium cross 77 yards to set up a go-ahead FG by **Neil Rackers**. **Donald Brown** broke a 72-yard run for a TD to give the Cubs a 17-13 lead with 2:58 left; but a great end zone catch by Henderson on 4th down and goal at the 9 won it.



QUICK COUNTS!!

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



KNIGHTS

3-2-0

7

10

10

7

0

34

OT

Darren Sproles
302 return yards, 2 PR TD returns



CONVICTS

3-2-0

3

0

0

0

0

3

Cam Newton
17 of 26, 168 yards

Darren Sproles returned a punt 84 yards for a TD to put the Knights on the board in the 1st quarter and eclipse an early 3-0 Chino lead. The Knights never looked back after that. **Alex Smith** connected with **Steve Smith** for a 12-yard TD pass to give LA a 17-3 lead at half time. Sproles broke the game open in the 3rd quarter with his second punt return TD of the day, this one going for 77 yards to increase the Knights' lead to 24-3. The LA defence controlled the line of scrimmage, holding Chino to just 49 yards rushing on 24 carries, hurrying **Cam Newton** 8 times and sacking him 3 times for 25 yards.



EXCALIBURS

4-1-0

7

7

0

10

0

24

OT

Michael Turner
20 Carries, 110 yards, 1 TD



COLONIALS

3-2-0

0

6

0

3

0

9

Fred Jackson
25 Carries, 99 yards

A **Danieal Manning** interception of QB **Josh Freeman** in Colonial territory put a slow-starting York offence into gear and led to a 2-yard TD dive by **Brandon Jacobs** to open the scoring. After surrendering a pair of FGs, the second following an interception and 71-yard return by **Jacob Lacey**, York receiver **Victor Cruz** took a **Tom Brady** dump-off 74 yards to set up a 7-yard TD pass to **Jim Kleinsasser** to make it 14-6 at half time. The Commonwealth defence kept the game within reach for most of the 2nd half, but 3 interceptions in their last 4 possessions sealed the victorious finish for York.



PATRIOTS

0-5-0

7

7

7

7

0

28

OT

Brandon Weeden
18 of 31, 296 yards, 2 TDs



HELLFIRE

1-4-0

7

21

7

7

0

42

Andrew Luck
24 of 34, 288 yards, 4 TDs

The Patriots got a 3-TD showing from rookie QB, **Brandon Weeden** and a thrilling 104-yard kick-off return TD from **Sammie Stroughter** to reach their highest point total of the season, but it was not enough to overcome a 4-TD performance by rookie Hellfire QB, **Andrew Luck** and a 128-yard, 2-TD run outing from halfback **Mike Tolbert**, as the Mohave offence over-powered the Pats and left Charleswood the league's only winless team. Hellfire WR, **Hakeem Nicks** caught 4 passes for 114 yards and 3 TDs while the defence forced 2 fumbles in Pats' territory leading to 14 points.



BODY COUNT



WEEK FIVE INJURY REPORT



CHARLESWOOD	Peter Konz, C – DOUBTFUL; Michael Vick, QB – QUESTIONABLE; Shaun Phillips, LB – PROBABLE; Barrett Ruud, LB – OUT (4 games); Sidney Rice, WR – OUT (5 games); Adrian Peterson, RB- OUT (5 games); Jon Beason, ILB – OUT (Season)
CHINO	Arrelious Benn, WR – DOUBTFUL; Michael Boley, LB – OUT (3 games); James Harrison, OLB – OUT (4 games); Aqib Talib, CB – OUT (4 games)
COMMONWEALTH	Marcus McNeill, T – OUT (3 games); Emmanuel Sanders, WR – OUT (3 games)
COWTOWN	D.J. Williams, OLB – PROBABLE; Malcolm Floyd, WR – QUESTIONABLE; Todd Heap, TE – OUT (3 games); Alphonso Smith, CB – OUT (3 games)
DEATH VALLEY	William Moore, S – QUESTIONABLE; Marques Colston, WR – OUT; Gerald McCoy, DT – OUT (9 games)
DURHAM	Matt Schaub, QB – QUESTIONABLE; Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie, CB – OUT; Elvis Dumervil, DE – OUT (2 games); Devin McCourty, CB, OUT (3 games); Corey Wootton, DE – OUT (6 games)
GARLAND	Matt Forte, RB – OUT; Samson Satele, C – OUT; Joseph Addai, RB – OUT (2 games); Peyton Hillis, RB – OUT (4 games); Deji Karim, RB – OUT (4 games); Quinn Johnson, FB – OUT (11 games)
GWINNETT	Ernie Sims, OLB – QUESTIONABLE; Sam Baker, T – OUT (2 games); Jeremy Maclin, WR – OUT (2 games); Jaiquawn Jarrett, S – OUT (4 games)
IOWA CITY	Stephon Gilmore, CB – OUT (2 games); Brandon Harris, CB – OUT (5 games); Mario Williams, OLB – OUT (11 games)
LOS ANGELES	Brian Bulaga, T – QUESTIONABLE; Sam Young, T – OUT (Season)
MARKHAM	James Starks, RB – OUT; Jonathan Babineaux, DT – OUT (2 games)
MISSION VIEJO	Rey Maualuga, ILB – DOUBTFUL; Chester Taylor, RB – DOUBTFUL; Colt McCoy, QB – OUT; DeMarco Murry, RB – OUT (2 games); Jonathan Vilma, LB – OUT (6 games)
MOHAVE	Champ Bailey, CB – QUESTIONABLE; Daniel Thomas, RB – OUT (3 games); Benjamin Watson, TE – OUT (4 games); Aaron Williams, CB – OUT (7 games)
PICKERING	Kerry Rhodes, S – OUT (4 games); Darren McFadden, RB – OUT (7 games); T.J. Ward, S – OUT (8 games)
SCARBOROUGH	Jermaine Gresham, TE – PROBABLE; LaMarr Woodley, OLB – OUT (5 games); Justin Tuck, DL – OUT (5 games); Kris Dileman, G – OUT (10 games)
SEBASTIAN	Michael Jenkins, WR – OUT; Louis Murphy, WR – OUT (3 games); Leonard Hankerson, WR – OUT (10 games), Kenny Britt, WR – OUT (Season)
SOUTH CAROLINA	Mike Patterson, DT – OUT (2 games); Justin Durant, LB – OUT (4 games); Bradley Fletcher, CB – OUT (8 games); Brandon Graham, DE – OUT (Season)
TWIN CITIES	Albert Haynesworth, DL – OUT; Tyrone Crawford, DL – OUT (2 games); Matt Roth, DE – OUT (4 games); Antoine Winfield, CB – OUT (11 games)
VIRDEN	Beanie Wells, RB – QUESTIONABLE; Vontae Davis, CB – QUESTIONABLE; Todd McClure, C – OUT (2 games); Brandon Meriweather, S – OUT (5 games); La Ron Landry, S – OUT (7 games); Prince Amukamara, CB – OUT (9 games); Eric Berry, S – OUT (Season)
YORK	Jason Peters, T – QUESTIONABLE; Assante Samuel, CB – OUT (2 games); Danieal Manning, CB – OUT (4 games); Donald Washington, S – OUT (4 games); Rashean Mathis, CB – OUT (6 games); Donald Jones, WR – OUT (6 games)



STATS



WEEK FIVE

STANDINGS

East	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Viriden	4	1	0	0.800	185	37	130	26	11	2 0 0	4 0 0	4 1 0
York	4	1	0	0.800	158	31.6	81	16.2	15.4	1 1 0	3 1 0	4 1 0
Commonwealth	3	2	0	0.600	125	25	106	21.2	3.8	2 1 0	2 2 0	3 2 0
Mohave	1	4	0	0.200	79	15.8	177	35.4	-19.6	1 2 0	1 3 0	1 4 0
Charleswood	0	5	0	0	86	17.2	160	32	-14.8	0 2 0	0 4 0	0 5 0
West	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Death Valley	5	0	0	1.000	200	40	141	28.2	11.8	3 0 0	4 0 0	5 0 0
Chino	3	2	0	0.600	122	24.4	94	18.8	5.6	1 1 0	2 2 0	3 2 0
Los Angeles	3	2	0	0.600	160	32	101	20.2	11.8	1 2 0	3 1 0	3 2 0
Iowa City	1	4	0	0.200	86	17.2	101	20.2	-3	1 1 0	0 4 0	1 4 0
Mission Viejo	1	4	0	0.200	67	13.4	177	35.4	-22	1 2 0	1 3 0	1 4 0
North	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Durham	4	1	0	0.800	143	28.6	114	22.8	5.8	2 0 0	3 1 0	4 1 0
Cowtown	3	1	1	0.700	133	26.6	88	17.6	9	2 0 0	2 1 1	3 1 1
Markham	3	1	1	0.700	116	23.2	101	20.2	3	2 0 1	2 1 1	3 1 1
Pickering	2	3	0	0.400	108	21.6	112	22.4	-0.8	2 0 0	2 2 0	2 3 0
Twin Cities	1	4	0	0.200	88	17.6	114	22.8	-5.2	1 2 0	0 4 0	1 4 0
South	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Scarborough	5	0	0	1.000	155	31	59	11.8	19.2	3 0 0	4 0 0	5 0 0
Garland	2	3	0	0.400	121	24.2	96	19.2	5	1 1 0	2 2 0	2 3 0
South Carolina	2	3	0	0.400	74	14.8	115	23	-8.2	1 1 0	2 2 0	2 3 0
Gwinnett	1	4	0	0.200	106	21.2	148	29.6	-8.4	0 3 0	1 3 0	1 4 0
Sebastian	1	4	0	0.200	51	10.2	148	29.6	-19.4	0 3 0	1 3 0	1 4 0

PASSING

			Att	Cmp	C%	Yards	In	I%	Lg	TD	TD%	Rate
1	Brees	DVU	212	151	71.2	2072	2	0.9	54	24	11.3	136.0
2	Stafford	VV	144	109	75.7	1555	4	2.8	49	16	11.1	135.6
3	Newton,C	CHI	117	81	69.2	993	1	0.9	75	8	6.8	114.4
4	Brady	YOR	149	97	65.1	1396	2	1.3	75	9	6.0	109.9
5	Smith,A	LAK	168	114	67.9	1288	3	1.8	51	13	7.7	108.9
6	Rodgers,A	SBE	173	119	68.8	1433	1	0.6	73	8	4.6	106.9
7	Cutler	TCT	124	81	65.3	883	0	0.0	36	6	4.8	102.3
8	Rivers,P	DTL	163	104	63.8	1389	6	3.7	53	12	7.4	100.0
9	Vick	CHP	71	50	70.4	612	3	4.2	71	4	5.6	97.9
10	Flacco	COW	186	108	58.1	1334	4	2.2	76	12	6.5	92.9
11	Ryan,M	GDM	208	133	63.9	1644	5	2.4	81	9	4.3	92.7
12	Luck	MOH	101	65	64.4	766	3	3.0	52	5	5.0	91.4
13	Wilson,R	ICC	99	63	63.6	833	4	4.0	66	4	4.0	86.8
14	Manning,E	MAR	139	83	59.7	1176	7	5.0	57	5	3.6	78.1
15	McCoy,C	MVM	86	52	60.5	455	2	2.3	36	3	3.5	76.5
16	Romo	SC	170	111	65.3	1207	8	4.7	65	5	2.9	76.3
17	Gabbert	MOH	73	40	54.8	448	2	2.7	49	3	4.1	75.6
18	Griffin,R	PIC	101	55	54.5	779	5	5.0	93	5	5.0	75.5
19	Weeden	CHP	77	42	54.5	536	2	2.6	50	2	2.6	74.4
20	Roethlisbe	GWG	171	104	60.8	1046	10	5.8	80	9	5.3	71.4

RUSHING

			Att	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD				Att	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD
1	Rice, R	SBE	113	607	5.4	70	3	11	Johnson, C	PIC	72	306	4.3	36	1
2	Turner, M	YOR	106	557	5.3	43	7	12	Tate, B	VV	55	303	5.5	27	1
3	Jones-Drew	COW	115	552	4.8	23	4	13	Wells, B	VV	65	291	4.5	15	2
4	Jackson, F	COM	106	545	5.1	35	5	14	Jackson, S	CHI	66	291	4.4	52	1
5	Williams, D	MAR	70	462	6.6	73	6	15	McGahee	DVU	39	280	7.2	66	1
6	Brown, D	ICC	54	391	7.2	72	2	16	McCoy, L	GWG	71	263	3.7	17	2
7	Martin, D	TCT	80	374	4.7	55	1	17	Mendenhall	MVM	76	262	3.4	19	0
8	Sproles	LAK	48	362	7.5	34	1	18	Tolbert	MOH	54	241	4.5	18	2
9	Mathews, R	DVU	73	340	4.7	36	0	19	Gerhart	DTL	51	241	4.7	30	0
10	Stewart, J	MAR	62	320	5.2	18	1	20	Thomas, P	SS	50	211	4.2	31	1

RECEIVING

			No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD				No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD
1	Johnson, C	DTL	38	583	15.3	48	6	11	Wayne	GWG	28	465	16.6	80	6
2	Gronkows, R	DVU	37	605	16.4	54	5	12	White, R	LAK	26	315	12.1	41	2
3	Bowe	DTL	35	442	12.6	53	5	13	Bryant, D	VV	25	385	15.4	46	5
4	Graham, J	MOH	35	388	11.1	52	2	14	Jackson, D	SBE	24	365	15.2	73	2
5	Fitzgerald	COW	33	490	14.8	43	6	15	Winslow	YOR	24	242	10.1	20	1
6	Johnson, A	DVU	32	573	17.9	53	9	16	Jennings, G	SC	24	340	14.2	65	1
7	Jones, J	VV	31	575	18.5	35	6	17	Gonzalez	LAK	23	222	9.7	36	2
8	Smith, S	LAK	30	449	15.0	51	6	18	Marshall, B	SBE	23	295	12.8	44	3
9	Welker	MAR	29	392	13.5	43	1	19	Washington	GDM	23	317	13.8	53	0
10	Wallace, M	ICC	28	542	19.4	66	4	20	Jones, J	CHI	23	425	18.5	75	5

KICKING

			FGA	FGM	FG%	40	50	Lg	Pts
1	Tynes	VV	9	8	88.9	2	0	44	47
2	Janikowski	SBE	14	10	71.4	3	1	51	47
3	Carpenter	LAK	9	9	100.0	3	2	55	46
4	Crosby	DTL	13	10	76.9	4	2	52	45
5	Akers	MAR	15	11	73.3	5	0	49	44
6	Gould	GDM	12	10	83.3	4	0	44	43
7	Gano	DVU	8	6	75.0	2	2	55	42
8	Gostkowski	COM	11	9	81.8	2	0	46	41
9	Walsh	YOR	10	6	60.0	2	0	44	38
10	Bailey, D	CHI	10	8	80.0	4	1	51	38
11	Zuerlein	ICC	12	10	83.3	4	1	51	38
12	Kasay	COW	8	7	87.5	0	0	37	35
13	Scobee	PIC	7	6	85.7	3	2	58	30
14	Rackers	MVM	10	8	80.0	6	2	59	29
15	Bironas	TCT	6	6	100.0	2	0	48	28
16	Brown, J	GWG	6	5	83.3	3	1	52	28
17	Vinatieri	SS	8	8	100.0	1	0	42	27
18	Longwell	SC	7	6	85.7	2	0	46	26
19	Folk	CHP	4	3	75.0	1	0	47	20
20	Cundiff	MOH	4	3	75.0	2	0	48	19

INTERCEPTIONS

		No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD			No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD		
1	Williams,T	VV	2	69	34.5	66	0	11	Revis	SBE	2	22	11.0	18	0
2	Manning,D	YOR	2	21	10.5	21	0	12	Griffin,M	SBE	2	14	7.0	9	0
3	Kerrigan	COW	2	0	0.0	0	0	13	Cushing	GDM	2	1	0.5	1	0
4	Sherman	DTL	2	23	11.5	20	0	14	Weddle	GDM	2	15	7.5	15	0
5	Brown,T	MAR	2	0	0.0	0	0	15	Polamalu	GWG	2	33	16.5	33	1
6	Reed,E	MAR	2	0	0.0	0	0	16	Gay	YOR	1	0	0.0	0	0
7	Witherspoo	PIC	2	66	33.0	52	1	17	Adams,M	YOR	1	0	0.0	0	0
8	Smith,D	CHI	2	22	11.0	22	0	18	Wright,E	YOR	1	12	12.0	12	0
9	Jenkins,J	DVU	2	64	32.0	43	0	19	Barber,R	COM	1	10	10.0	10	0
10	Martin,S	MVM	2	0	0.0	0	0	20	Lacey	COM	1	71	71.0	71	0

SACKS

1	Pierre-Pau	ICC	7	8	Johnson,M	YOR	5	15	Redding	CHP	3
2	Allen,J	DTL	6	9	Tuck	SBE	5	16	Kruger	MOH	3
3	Babin	YOR	5	10	Abraham	MAR	4	17	Casey,J	TCT	3
4	Atkins	YOR	5	11	Peppers	CHI	4	18	Reed,B	COM	3
5	Kelly,T	DTL	5	12	Suggs	SBE	4	19	Anderson,M	COW	3
6	Cole,T	MAR	5	13	Avril	GDM	4	20	Wilkerson	ICC	3
7	Sheard	PIC	5	14	Barnes,A	GWG	4	21	Smith,A	VV	3

TACKLES

1	McClain,R	MOH	54	8	Mayo	DVU	41	15	Angerer	MAR	37
2	Laurinaiti	GWG	52	9	Jackson,D	LAK	40	16	Lofton	DTL	37
3	Pierre-Pau	ICC	51	10	Barnett	VV	40	17	Taylor,P	CHP	36
4	Cushing	GDM	49	11	Washington	PIC	39	18	Hawthorne	COM	36
5	Smith,D	CHI	44	12	Chaney	SS	39	19	Hall,D	GDM	34
6	Martin,S	MVM	42	13	Briggs	GWG	38	20	Henders,EJ	SC	33
7	Johnson,D	COW	41	14	Conner	SS	38	21	Wilson,G	DVU	33

KICK RETURNS

			No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD				No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD
1	Sproles	LAK	19	614	32.3	82	0	11	Washington	COM	17	404	23.8	35	0
2	Stroughter	CHP	28	884	31.6	104	1	12	Karim	GDM	10	233	23.3	35	0
3	Sherels	SS	21	641	30.5	76	0	13	Cribbs	CHI	11	254	23.1	34	0
4	McKnight	MAR	20	597	29.9	82	0	14	Gates,C	ICC	21	482	23.0	43	0
5	Harvin	PIC	12	341	28.4	40	0	15	Tate,B	MVM	25	567	22.7	52	0
6	Scott,D	SBE	14	377	26.9	100	1	16	Banks	MOH	26	569	21.9	35	0
7	Ginn Jr.	TCT	18	469	26.1	37	0	17	Lefeged	VV	12	255	21.3	29	0
8	Hester,D	DTL	12	302	25.2	52	0	18	Boykin	PIC	6	125	20.8	32	0
9	Cobb	DVU	17	411	24.2	35	0	19	Mariani	YOR	13	257	19.8	32	0
10	Logan	GWG	25	596	23.8	33	0	20	Weems	COW	12	235	19.6	34	0

PUNT RETURNS

		No	Fc	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD			No	Fc	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD		
1	Sproles	LAK	14	5	238	17.0	84	2	11	Logan	GWG	8	4	70	8.8	16	0
2	Arenas	SC	7	2	114	16.3	31	0	12	Sherels	SS	5	2	43	8.6	13	0
3	Jones, J	CHP	10	1	157	15.7	75	1	13	Cribbs	CHI	14	2	112	8.0	13	0
4	Banks	MOH	8	2	103	12.9	23	0	14	Cobb	DVU	7	5	53	7.6	17	0
5	Ginn Jr.	TCT	11	1	138	12.5	25	0	15	Thomas, M	VV	7	3	52	7.4	15	0
6	Washington	COM	12	2	146	12.2	19	0	16	Adams, J	PIC	11	5	81	7.4	15	0
7	Mariani	YOR	10	2	119	11.9	19	0	17	Edwards, A	ICC	18	0	132	7.3	41	0
8	Bess	DTL	8	6	95	11.9	23	0	18	Tate, B	MVM	8	3	58	7.3	11	0
9	Weems	COW	15	4	143	9.5	15	0	19	Jackson, D	SBE	10	9	69	6.9	12	0
10	Peterson, P	GDM	12	2	112	9.3	26	0	20	Crayton	MAR	2	3	46	23.0	40	0



AROUND THE



With Spats McChad

NEW YORK – For all its luxury and splendour, the Crowne Plaza Times Square Manhattan is missing some of the necessities – like EFL Sunday Ticket and a digital recording service. As a result, I was compelled to leave my comfy room and re-visit a place I had fond if somewhat vague memories of – Mickey Mantle’s Sports Bar. I hadn’t been there since the Conference Finals in 2010. Don’t ask me why I suddenly felt nostalgic for the place. Perhaps I needed some human contact after sitting in my hotel room for 8 days without venturing outside; the room service is great – and if you get a chance to experience it you’ll understand.

Sadly, I found Mickey’s had closed and with it a chance to build on memories of lively debates with Frenchie, lessons on the intricacies and importance of offensive line play from Mitch, and the latest update on Joe Baker’s baboon heart transplant. I had no idea this was about to happen or I would have done something. Exactly what I would have done, I am not sure; but at very least I would have posted a sterling online review on their website in an effort to get more people to patronize the joint.

So, I went wandering in search of a sports bar with real fans and real TVs – lots of them – to record my first impressions of Week Five in the EFL. It was much harder than I remember finding a proper sports bar. The economy must be worse than the already gloomy reports have suggested. Barack’s election – both of them – has been cited by some as the cause of America’s precipitous economic decline and the resulting lack of glitzy, over-priced sports bars. You know my opinion on this – Barack has nothing to do with America’s bankruptcy. He is the face of something else behind the scenes and a total puppet. Romney is the same. Even the third guy, whoever he is, would not be a free agent. You don’t leave the management of the most powerful bankrupt nation on Earth to the common people to decide – especially the increasingly dumb common people. Making them feel a part of it is important, though, or else they might rampage through the streets and loot Walmart instead of buying from it.

Politics and other aggravating topics aside, there was a lot of interesting action in the EFL this week that I got to see at my new favourite bar of all time – the Brickyard Gastropub in Hell’s Kitchen. Enough screens to cover all of the games and a wide variety of micro-brewed beers to suit any taste made this not only a great football-viewing experience, but a fantastic drinking experience that I will never completely remember. Luckily, when it came to the games, I made notes at the time and most of them are legible. I also enlisted my geek nephew Byron to tape everything for future reference, and that decision has been very helpful.

PUCKER-UP, SIS!

For just the second time in the EFL’s illustrious history a winner did not emerge from a regular season contest. If I were a fan of either Markham or Cowtown, which thankfully I am not, I would be quite unhappy after watching these two teams play each other to a 20-20 draw. Both had chances to put the game away and both screwed them up. The result left both teams stuck in a kind of purgatory between front-runner Durham and challenger Pickering in the ultra-competitive North Division.

If I had to judge a winner, like they do in boxing when nobody gets knocked down, I would pick Cowtown because they performed better than expected with significant injuries on offence and set the pace on the scoreboard. The North Stars followed, matching the Corn Kings score for score in perfect sequence, but were consistently derailed by misfortune or carelessness whenever they pushed to take the lead.

The tie was perhaps a fitting ending to a game that seemed to be just beyond the reach of both teams. The North Stars moved the ball with a little more ease, especially on the ground, but they looked muddled at times and were prone to mistakes; **Eli Manning** was picked off three times (nothing new there) and Markham players fumbled four times, recovering three of them. The Corn Kings were plagued by untimely penalties and a couple of costly turnovers of their own, but can claim that their biggest setback was a referee’s interpretation of a hold on **Ryan Clady**, that nullified a 15-yard pass to the Markham 23 yard line in overtime and with it the clearest opportunity to put the game away. In the end, the best chance to win the game came in overtime with Markham reaching the Cowtown 31 yard line and **David Akers** set up nicely for a 49-yard field goal attempt – not a chip shot by any means but well within his range. Kicking into a slight breeze, the left-footed Akers pulled it wide right to the jubilation of the Cowtown sideline and the disappointed moans of Markham fans. A depressed lull in the crowd noise followed, then a couple of loud blasts of natural gas, one from each orifice, could be heard from somewhere around Row 54.

BOMBS AWAY

If a tie is like kissing your sister, then winning the game on a touchdown pass with 5 seconds left in the game has to be a lot like



Actress, **Megan Fox**. Four out of five Blue Eagles would rather kiss her than win a football game.

planting a warm wet one on actress **Megan Fox**; or maybe not. A straw poll of the Blue Eagles players conducted by trainer and otherwise unemployable locker room clown, **Marty “MJ” Jacobson**, a childhood drinking buddy of owner, **Chris Dickinson**, found that four out of five of his players would have rather kissed Fox than win the game against Pickering this week. Were they joking, as receiver **Greg Little** suggested afterwards on 590 Sports Radio the Fan, or were they serious? Either way, it doesn’t look too good on the players – they either don’t care enough about the games or there could be something a little off with their libidos, if you get my drift.

“I wish MJ hadn’t brought it up,” Dickinson explained to ESPN reporter **Tina Dixon**. “He’s always asking players stuff like that, like, would you rather lose to South Carolina or have to, you know, ‘do it’ with the Fat Lady in Markham? He’s always kidding around like that. It wasn’t appropriate, but that’s MJ! He’s actually harmless!”

“Has he ever asked what the players would like to do with beat reporters, like say, myself?” Tina asked playfully.

“Other than the great ‘**Suzy Kolber** or **Jenn Brown** up the a*#’ debate, no,” Dickinson replied, to Dixon’s visible shock. “You’d be surprised how many like Kolber over Brown – I think Namath’s influence was felt.” The interview abruptly ended and I was lucky to have seen it live, because I don’t believe it’s been re-aired since. My connection in Scarborough, however, is digging up the results of the player poll for me.

On the football field, neither Scarborough nor Pickering followed the pre-game script and the result was a thrilling ‘improv’ at Bluff’s Stadium. Unable to control the ground, the Spartans took to the air and came mere seconds away from bombing the Blue Eagles into their first loss of the season. Somehow managing to avoid **Revis Island**, **Robert Griffin III** threw touchdown passes of 62 yards to **Vincent Jackson**, 65 yards to **Percy Harvin**, and 93 yards to **Jerome Simpson** to account for all his team’s major scoring and over half of their total yards on just 3 plays. The Spartans controlled the ball for just 21 minutes and only 5 minutes in the second half, yet appeared to be heading for an upset after taking a 26-21 lead with 2:19 remaining.

Scarborough marched quickly back up the field, needing nothing less than a touchdown, but appeared to have hit the wall after **Ray Rice** was stopped for no gain, **Aaron Rodgers** mis-fired twice on short passes, and **Ryan Kalil** was called for holding to bring up 4th down and 20 at the Pickering 33 yard line. 20 long yards stood between Scarborough and defeat; between Pickering and victory. The Spartans brought in their quarter package for maximum pass coverage, but played them dangerously close to the line. With time to throw, Rodgers eventually found **Heath Miller** wide open on the sideline, about 6 yards past **Morgan Burnett**. Miller took off and stretched the ball to the marker for a first down just as rookie **Brandon Boykin** took his legs out from under him.

How did Miller get that wide open with 7 defensive backs on the field? It’s a great question, but one that will not be officially answered until **Gus Konstantakos** returns from hospital after putting his fist through the shatter-proof glass in the visitor’s owner’s box and severing an artery in the process. Unofficially, it appears from a review of the tape that nobody switched the defence out of tight coverage and that both **Brandon Marshall** and **DeSean Jackson** were double-covered on the play, leaving Miller an acre of space behind the coverage and in front of the lone deep safety – a clueless rookie who was slow to react to, or else didn’t initially see, the pass coming from Rodgers.

The amazing fourth down conversion brought a wild frenzy of cheering from the crowd that nearly over-shadowed the actual game-winning touchdown, a 1-yard lob to Jackson in the back corner of the end zone as the entire Pickering defence converged on Rodgers. The TD pass to Jackson prompted Konstantakos to push away one of the paramedics attending to his wounded arm and kick their folded stretcher out of the broken window, where it fell 30 feet to the steps below, narrowly missing a popcorn vendor and a barrel-chested drunk balancing six beers on his way back to his seat. It was Pickering’s third straight loss, all coming on the road, and a game they could ill-afford to lose as the race for the North Division title heats up. It could be a long and dangerous season for the volatile Spartans’ owner and people close to him if things don’t turn around quickly for Ancient Warriors.

THEY'RE BAAAAACCKKK!

The Gladiators shook off a dreadful 0-4 start to the season with an inspired 4th quarter performance to upset the Mustangs 34-28 in Week Five action at The Corral. On the other coast, the Knights' 'Blue Shield' was back in pre-2012 form with a dominating performance in a 34-3 win at Chino. The hangover lasted four long weeks, but it appears that it may be finally over for last year's contestants in the EFL Championship Game. For the Glads, it may be a little too late to overcome the damage inflicted by four straight losses in a conference packed with serious contenders; but for Los Angeles, a team with its head well above water in the PAC, the possible re-emergence of its defence could be the deciding factor in catching unbeaten Death Valley for the West Division title. In addition to dominating the line of scrimmage and holding the Convicts and **Cam Newton** to a paltry 49 yards rushing, the ‘Blue Shield’ held the Chino passing game to under 200 yards did not allow a touchdown for the first time this year. As uplifting as

this performance must have been for **Jeff Dohrn** and his players, it should not be a reason on its own to book tickets to Garland for the 2012 Championship if you're a Knights fan. This game also exposed the lack of offensive support for Newton – a fact often ignored by the Chino media, hoping that somehow Newton will get the job done anyway and nobody will notice.

At the Corral, the Glads did unto Garland what had been done to them through the season's first four weeks – coming from behind late with a surge of offence and sealing the win with a takeaway by the defence. **Big Ben** looked like that guy *I used* to think could actually win a championship in leading his team back from a 28-24 deficit in the 4th quarter. Sure, he got a lot of help from **Reggie Wayne**, who caught three touchdown passes, including a short slant for 80 yards, but the point is that he put his best receiver in a position to make those plays rather than putting the Garland secondary into a position to make those plays the other way. It's a simple concept really: throw the ball to your teammates, not your opponents. If Big Ben can avoid his tendency to be Big Boob over the rest of the schedule, it might not be too late for the Gladiators.

FOOTBALL GODS A.W.O.L. IN COMMONWEALTH

The story of the York's Week Five win over Commonwealth was not the Excalibur's offence, or even the win itself (which was expected), but how the Excaliburs completely humbled a Championship-winning quarterback on his home turf. Signs that Commonwealth would not provide the same opportunities for **Josh Freeman** as his former home in Los Angeles were already there in abundance before the start of the season, starting with the supporting cast on offence; a group that are not bad, but not really good either. Virden's defence – pre-**DeMarcus Ware** a gaggle of over-achieving, marginal, and undeveloped talent – handled the Freeman-led Colonials with little trouble in Week Two. Yet, a 3-1 record in the standings looks the same as any other 3-1 record in the standings, and it appears that the 3-1 record was the thing being emphasized by the shrewd Commonwealth coach **Will Blandford** in order to get his players to believe they could knock off York this week and take another step on the road to an improbable championship. In a trick no less impressive than the mind control cures of the 'Great Mesmer,' Blandford managed to convince his players that they were actually "equal" to York because they were "tied in the standings."

Signs that the Colonial locker room had been inspired with unrealistic hopes were evident even *after* the decisive 24-9 Swords' win. A clearly chagrined **Kyle Rudolph** bemoaned his team's fate after the game, declaring with a straight face; "We knew this was a game we'd have a tough time winning but...man...it's tough to take a loss especially when you feel you could have won. The Football Gods were not on our side enough."

Oh, really? I realize the game looks different to the players on the field than it does to those of us watching on television, but the big advantage of watching football from the camera's vantage point is that it allows the viewer to see a bigger picture. Nowhere in that big picture did I see the hidden hand of **Walter Camp** or the football equivalent of **Zeus** force right tackle **Andre Smith's** arms around the leg of York defensive end **Michael Johnson** for a holding penalty that threw cold water on a 4th quarter Commonwealth drive that might have put them back in the game. Nor did I see the spirit of **Knute Rockne** or the Wind God **Zephyrus** blow a **Josh Freeman** pass into the waiting arms of York corner **Eric Wright** to kill that drive and set up the Excaliburs for 7 more points; but I did see the very human figure of **Von Miller** get a hand on the pass to misdirect the ball. Finally, to finish my point, I swear I did not see any entity, corporeal or otherwise, swat the ball out of Freeman's hands on the second sack of Commonwealth's very first series, other than a very mean-looking and violent **Geno Atkins**.

What happened to Freeman and the Colonials on Sunday was what happens occasionally to quarterbacks and teams that are completely over-matched – they get beaten up. Freeman was sacked and fumbled three times on his *first three drop-backs of the game*. That is one rough start. He was sacked just once more after that, but the damage had been done. Hearing footsteps and the panting of over-juiced big men hunting for his head, whether they were near him or not, Freeman threw too early, too often, and wound up tossing 5 interceptions to kill any chance that even the Football Gods could help him and his team. A fine effort by the beleaguered Commonwealth defence and a mail-it-in effort by **Tom Brady** were the only things keeping this game from getting away from the home team early. Hopefully, for the sake of his young team and their fans (especially Bambi) Freeman will not be scarred by this humiliating experience and will bounce back next week on the road against the...uh oh...Convicts....okay let's just hope for his sake he is not scarred and wait for the bounce back in two weeks when they host Twin Cities.

BATTLE IN THE PITS OF HELL

Hell, Michigan was the scene of the anticipated Week Five showdown between the 'Hand of Death' and the 'Staff of Pain' in a battle for EFL Quarterback Supremacy. Such is the attention being drawn to the amazing starts by **Drew Brees** and **Matt Stafford** that the battle between two unbeaten teams, the Undertakers and the Violators, was a mere sub-script to the battle between the two passing wizards for mastery of the air. Both teams had shored up their defences at the trade deadline, many thought in vain, in preparation to slow down their opponent's deadly arsenal.

In an unexpected twist that could have only been conceived over an enchanted beer or two in the Valhallan Halls of the elusive and inscrutable Football Gods, the first blow in this offensive showdown was leveled by one of those shored up defences, by a player acquired mere days before for this very purpose. **Terrence Newman**, having seen the play on film dozens of times, jumped a short slant route on the first pass of the game by Brees and took it back uncontested for a 27-yard interception return for a touchdown. You just can't beat veteran wiles sometimes. It was Brees' first interception in 175 attempts to start the season and it was a doozy. It actually shut up the eerie chanting that passes for cheering at the Graveyard and made things seem almost normal

for a few moments. Things got as quiet as...well...a graveyard actually, when Stafford hooked up with **Julio Jones** for a 24-yard TD pass to cap off their first possession of the game to make it 14-0 for Virden in the first quarter. Scattered boos could be heard early in the second quarter when Brees threw his second interception of the game, this one to **Tramon Williams** on a short quick. But after the Undertakers' defence forced a rare three-and-out, the macabre cacophony that is the signature sound of the Graveyard returned as **Rob Gronkowski** loped 43 yards for a touchdown after snagging a pass from Brees over the middle. The Undertakers' defence then answered Virden's with a 78-yard fumble recovery touchdown by lineman **Brett Keisel** to tie the game. Back and forth it went until the fourth quarter when all Hell broke loose on the Violators. The more



Suzy Kolber or Jenn Brown? You decide. I'll be tracking the answers and reporting on them in next week's column with the results of the Scarborough Blue Eagles' infamous locker room poll.

youthful wizard showed his age in the second half, wavering as the pressure increased and finally cracking in the fourth quarter. Stafford ended up throwing 3 interceptions, all in the second half, while the Elder Master, Brees, finished with 4 touchdown passes to reclaim the passing title, albeit by a sliverish 0.4 points in the QB rating category. The Undertakers ended up trouncing the Violators by a 41-27 final, scoring 20 points in the 4th quarter and proving that, for now, they are the team to beat in the PAC..

THE MADNESS OF KING FERRARO AND OTHER FABLES

It did not take long for my prediction of a winless season for the Monarchs to get turned on its head by a divinely-inspired performance by wide receiver **Devery Henderson** in Mission Viejo's stunning upset of Iowa City 20-17. The unfamiliar scent of victory also seemed to drive Monarchs' owner **Chris Ferraro** mad, as you will see when you read his 'Royal Proclamation' in this week's edition of EFL Focus. The Football Gods that missed the flight to Commonwealth showed up in force in Mission Viejo as **Jim Thorpe** lent his legs to a journeyman wide receiver who seemingly grabs a headline every year for a miraculous game-winning catch. **Ryan Tannehill** was awarded a car by Monarch's owner **Chris Ferraro** for his performance as Game MVP, but he should hand the keys over to Henderson, who single-handedly sheared the Cubs' secondary for 167 yards, 112 of those after the catch, and two touchdowns on 6 receptions. If the yards alone were not impressive enough, Henderson added an acrobatic finger-tip grab in the end zone for the winning score. The best that can be said for Tannehill on that play is that he "put the ball where no defender could get it," which is a code phrase announcers use when describing a pass that requires a highlight reel catch by the wide receiver. Tannehill gets the official props as the future of the franchise, but Henderson gets my game ball.

As for the Cubs, there will be no more trips to *Chuck E. Cheese* for the humiliated **Deron Redding**, who struggled valiantly to think of something positive to say at the microphone after the game and couldn't contain his emotion. "Any loss is hard to take but the important thing is that we learn from this and...and...maybe...ahhh...I really, *really* didn't want to lose this game....bwaaaaahhhh! This is so very, very embarrassing....bwaaaaahhhh!"

THE INVISIBLE GAME – In Sebastian, the first TV blackout of the young EFL season served a noble community purpose by ensuring that only the most diehard fans had to endure the pathetic sight of the Swordfish offence trying to move the ball with **Braylon Edwards** as the #2 option at wide receiver and **Roy Helu** lining up outside on three-WR sets. South Carolina won easily 31-6 as **Adam Vinatieri** kicked his customary 2 field goals and the remainder of the Swordfish offence failed to reach the end zone for the fourth time in five games. The Swordfish are consistent in defeat – in each of four losses this year they have scored 6 points and given up over 30, losing by a score of 31-6 three times and 34-6 the other. For South Carolina, **Tony Romo** had one of those games that keeps his boat afloat in a sea of interception-infested waters. He played a near-perfect game, throwing for 291 yards and 2 touchdowns while, more importantly, not turning the ball over.

AS LUCK WOULD HAVE IT – **Andres Afortunado**, or simply '**Doce**,' as he is called by Mohave's replacement fans, got his first professional win by lighting up the Patsies' secondary for 288 yards and 4 touchdown passes in a 42-28 blowout. It was the first win of the season for Hellfire as well, and the result left Charleswood the only winless team in the EFL. Although my prediction of a winless season for Mission Viejo blew up in my face, I nevertheless feel confident that I can predict a winless season for Charleswood and that if I am wrong, it won't be proven until they face Mohave again in Week Fourteen.

ANCIENT DENTISTRY – The T-Lizards are 3-1 with **Philip Rivers** as a starter, and 4-1 in games he has appeared in. But there is no bandwagon rolling down Main Street Durham calling for the reinstatement of the Dinos' long-time starter. That is because, while Rivers is winning games, he is winning them the hard way. Durham's Week Five win at Twin Cities is a case in point. After missing open receivers, rushing throws, and throwing a pick the Lizards were trailing **Jay Cutler** and the Triumph 13-3 after one half. Rivers came out in the second half completing 13 of 15, 10 in a row at one point, to post 24 unanswered points and submerge the Triumph 27-13. "It's like getting your teeth pulled without gas, watching this guy," commented network play-by-play man **Phil Winterall**. "It hurts like hell at the time but you feel better afterwards."

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JIMMY'S WEEK SIX PICKS

COMMONWEALTH @ CHINO (line – CONVICTS by 2)

Coming off a humbling of their offence last week against York, having the Convicts at the Big House for an encore is not what Josh Freeman or the Colonials needed to get their offence out of the ditch. The Lockdown Crew is ranked 6th overall in net yards allowed but, more importantly, it is 3rd in defending the run, which matches up well against Commonwealth's strong suit. The visitors will go only as far as Fred Jackson can carry them and don't expect it to be much farther than anyone else who has tried to run the ball against Haloti Ngata and Julius Peppers. On the other side, the Convicts might find moving the ball a challenge against a well-coached Commonwealth defence. This will be a low-scoring game and too close for the Convicts' comfort. **PICK: CHINO**

MOHAVE @ IOWA CITY (line – CUBS by 8)

Vegas is banking on a big rebound from the Cubs after the Monarchs pulled their pants down last week. They also seem to be projecting an implosion by the Hellfire after Andrew Luck threw 4 TD passes against the Pats. Anything is possible when two rebuilding teams with no cohesion face each other so I am not going to pretend I have a clear idea of what will happen in this game. I do know that Patrick Willis is back after missing four games and that will be a big boost for the Cubs. Champ Bailey is a game-time decision and if he is out it would be another boost for the Cubs. With predictable crowd noise a welcome change for the Hellfire, even if it is going against them, the home field is not as much of a factor as it could be. Iowa City should win, but I expect a more confident Andrew Luck to keep it close against a Cubs' secondary missing their best corner. **PICK: MOHAVE**

MISSION VIEJO @ YORK (line – EXCALIBURS by 15)

15 points is a big spread in any league and the shock of the Monarchs' first franchise win continues to reverberate and serve as a reminder of the maxim, "anything can happen." York is also not a team to pile on a weak opponent; so the points look very, very tempting, even considering Mission Viejo is the lowest ranked offence in the league and the second-lowest ranking defence in the league. On top of being bad, the Monarchs have key injuries, such as DeMarco Murray, Colt McCoy and Jonathan Vilma. The Excaliburs are missing their top two corners and All Pro tackle Jason Peters is questionable; but the Swords could lose another half dozen starters and still be better than the rag-tag expansion gang they host this week. So, will "anything happen" or will the likely happen? When in doubt, choose likely. York will not pile on offensively but their defence destroy Ryan Tannehill. **PICK: YORK**

LOS ANGELES @ VIRDEN (line – VIOLATORS by 5)

Last year's 'No Passing Zone' in the LA secondary has been re-zoned a 'No Running Zone' in the LA box. The "Blue Shield" is giving up a stingy 2.8 yards per carry and has not surrendered a touchdown on the ground. This will be a greater edge for Jeff Dohm's squad than the casual observer might realize. With all attention on the passing tricks of Matt Stafford, few realize how much Virden relies on the run to move the chains and set up the pass. Ben Tate is a threat to break the big one, but one big question will be whether the Violators' line can create room for him against Kevin Williams and Michael Bennett. The other will be whether or not Charles Woodson and Nnamdi Asomugha can contain Stafford's two favourite targets, Dez Bryant and Julio Jones. So far, the two corners have not lived up to their salaries and if that continues this week, it will be a long afternoon for the Knights. The Virden defence looks much more respectable with DeMarcus Ware in the line-up, but is it solid enough to hold off a balanced LA offence? **TERRORDOME** is inhospitable to visitors, but the Knights are not just any visitors. **PICK: LOS ANGELES**

DEATH VALLEY @ CHARLESWOOD (line – UNDERTAKERS by 7)

Death Valley continues to be an extreme team; top in the league in offence and bottom of the league in defence. The reason for their dominance on the attack is obvious and bears no repeating here, but the mystery of the leaking 'D' remains a topic of debate. The quality of their personnel suggest they should be situated somewhere in the middle of the pack defensively, but they continue to give up over 400 yards per game. This is due to a novel defensive approach recently dubbed, The Aggressive Zone (AZ) Defence. The AZ allows options for zone defenders to...wait for it....*leave their zone*. The details of how this works will be revealed in another feature column next week, but for our betting purposes this week it means only that Charleswood will score an extra touchdown while getting crushed mercilessly by the Death Valley offence. **PICK: DEATH VALLEY**

TWIN CITIES @ GARLAND (line – MUSTANGS by 5)

The return of Arian Foster to the starting line-up for Garland makes them a whole offence for the first time since Week One and should allow them to improve immediately on their league worst 2.6 yards per carry, especially against a banged up Triumph defensive line. The plague that hit the Mustangs' backfield did some serious, but reversible damage to Garland's playoff hopes. The road back for Doug Shirley's bunch begins this week against a team they should be able to handle. The Triumph is showing up and hanging tough for its games but has not been able to put away their non-expansion opponents. This should not change this week against one of the league's top defences. Expect another slow, comfortable southern pace from the patient Mustangs as they slowly take apart and bore the Triumph into submission. **PICK: GARLAND**

MARKHAM @ SOUTH CAROLINA (line – NORTH STARS by 3)

Markham's tie last week had the feeling of a loss for the North Stars – a missed opportunity. Certainly it could have gone the other way, but the Stars are holding themselves to a higher standard and expect to win at home, even against a quality opponent. They own a good record but have yet to fully click on all cylinders and this has some of the critics in Markham talking about a losing culture holding back the team. They visit South Carolina for the first of a two-game road trip and hope to reverse some of problems they have had with ball control against the team tied for second-to-last in takeaways. The Stars feel if they can eliminate the turnovers, the team will look a little stronger on the score sheet and confidence will grow. The Regulators are hoping for a similar thing to happen and are optimistic after Tony Romo went pick-free last week against Sebastian. Unfortunately, Markham is no Sebastian. Expect a spirited showing from the Regs to fall well short. **PICK: MARKHAM**

SEBASTIAN @ DURHAM (line – THUNDER LIZARDS by 10)

The Swordfish are still missing all of the receivers they were missing last week when they posted 6 points against South Carolina's woefully unskilled secondary. Rather than waste much time considering whether they will stay within the 10-point spread, put some thought to whether or not you like the 3-1 odds that they will get shutout by the vastly superior Durham defence. The T-Lizards enter this game with significant injuries as well, but this is the week to rest up everyone who needs it and to send in Philip Rivers for one last hurrah before Matt Schaub makes him a bench-warmer again. **PICK: DURHAM**

GWINNETT @ PICKERING (line – SPARTANS by 8)

This is an intriguing contest between two very good teams that are already fighting for their playoff lives in a tough conference and cannot afford to lose. As a rule, I never look at a game as "must win" before one-third of the season is over, but if I were to break my own rule, this would be the game I would choose. You can bet that both coaches consider this a "must win" and will be pulling out all of their tricks to come out on top. Pickering has the edge because they are at home and have the marginally better defence, but is it an 8-point edge? The Glads are relatively healthy but are missing a key piece in wide receiver Jeremy Maclin, a threat they would love to have to put some stress on that elite corner pairing of Jonathan Joseph and Joe Haden. Big Ben is the key – if he is *on*, the Glads will pull off an upset. If he is *off*, it could get really ugly. **PICK: GWINNETT**

SCARBOROUGH @ COWTOWN (line – CORN KINGS by 1)

The Corn Kings are a good team, but their ability to challenge an elite team like Scarborough will depend on them continuing to generate turnovers at their current league-leading pace. The Spartans showed that the Blue Eagles 'D' is vulnerable to the big play, but Cowtown is more naturally a small play, ball control team, meaning their line play will dictate their fortunes on offence. Justin Tuck and LaMarr Woodley are injured for the Eagles, but Terrell Suggs is still there and Joe Flacco still has to pass the ball in the direction of Darrelle Revis at some point. When Scarborough has the ball they will be looking to hold on to it and will ask Ray Rice to do the leg work to set up the big strike to DeSean Jackson. Cowtown is favoured here because they are at home and traditionally play this franchise tough, but it is a trap, folks, trust me. **PICK: SCARBOROUGH**



PROCLAMATION
FROM THE THRONE
OF
HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS

KING FERRARO

*Delivered by Royal Herald to His Highness
Michael S. Hickenbottom*

CELEBRATION WITH A HINT OF CRAZY WAS THE THEME HERE IN MISSION VIEJO THIS WEEK, AS TEAM OWNER CHRIS FERRARO CONTINUES HIS DELUSIONS OF GRANDEUR OF BEING AN ACTUAL KING. FERRARO KICKED OFF THIS WEEK'S CELEBRATIONS BY ISSUING A PUBLIC DECREE FROM THE STEPS OF HIS PALATIAL HOME THAT THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER SHALL FOREVER BE "OFFICIALLY" RENAMED "RYVEMBER" IN HONOR OF MONARCHS ROOKIE QUARTERBACK RYAN TANNEHILL, WHOSE 300+ YARDS OF PASSING THIS WEEK LED THE MONARCHS OVER THE IOWA CITY CUBS. THIS CERTAINLY DID NOT HELP QUELL THE RUMORS THAT FERRARO'S GRASP ON REALITY CONTINUES TO SLIP AWAY, YET THE SELF-PROCLAIMED OVERLORD OF ORANGE COUNTY WAS JUST GETTING STARTED.

THE FOLLOWING DAY, FERRARO RENAMED ALL 52 CITY PARKS IN MISSION VIEJO TO "HENDERSON PARK" IN HONOR OF DEVERY HENDERSON'S TWO TOUCHDOWN PERFORMANCE IN THE TEAM'S FIRST WIN. SATURDAY MORNING WAS FILLED WITH CONFUSION FOR YOUTH SOCCER PLAYERS AND PARENTS THROUGHOUT THE CITY TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHERE GAMES WERE BEING HELD. BUT THE MYSTIFYING MAGNATE WAS NOT DONE JUST YET.

FOR A THIRD CONSECUTIVE DAY, A PUBLIC DECREE WAS ISSUED TO THE PEOPLE OF MISSION VIEJO. THIS TIME AROUND, IT WAS THAT SPATS McCHAD IS A CRIMINAL AGAINST THE CROWN WITH A CHARGE OF HIGH TREASON, AND IF HE IS TO STEP FOOT WITHIN THE "SOVEREIGN STATE" OF MISSION VIEJO, HE SHALL BE CONVICTED AND CONDEMNED TO DEATH BY TREASON. TO MAKE MATTERS WORSE, IF ANYONE SO MUCH AS UTTERS HIS NAME, THEY SHALL BE THROWN INTO THE CITY STOCKADE FOR AN UNDETERMINED LENGTH OF TIME. OBVIOUSLY, THE HARSH CRITICISM OF THE MONARCHS BY HE-WHO-SHALL-NOT-BE-NAMED HAS FINALLY REACHED ITS WAY TO MONARCHS' TEAM OWNER.

WHEN WORD REACHED THE LOCKER ROOM AT PRACTICE THIS WEEK, THE MONARCHS QUESTIONED THE SANITY OF THEIR OWNER. ONE UNNAMED PLAYER EVEN WENT FAR ENOUGH TO SAY, "I HOPE THIS ISN'T GOING TO BECOME A WEEKLY EXPECTATION OF US. WE'RE AN EXPANSION TEAM TRYING TO GET OUR BEARINGS HERE. IT'S GOING TO TAKE SOME TIME. BUT ISN'T THAT GUY JUST A REAL ESTATE MOGUL?"

TO ADD TO THE EXCITEMENT, THE TEAM'S PUBLIC RELATIONS MANAGER ANNOUNCED THIS WEEK THAT THE MONARCHS NOW HAVE THEIR OWN TWITTER ACCOUNT THAT TEAM OWNER CHRIS FERRARO HAS DIRECT ACCESS TO. TO LEARN MORE ON THE MOST UP TO THE MINUTE INSANITY, CHECK THE ACCOUNT OUT AT @MVMONARCHS.