

2013

Week One



# EFL NEWS

ELITE FOOTBALL LEAGUE

2013

Week One

October 6, 2013



VIR	16	MOH	10	ICC	34	LA	40	CHI	35	DTL	3	PIC	26	SEB	7	GWG	35	GDM	24
YOR	6	CAR	12	CHP	27	DV	31	MVM	10	MAR	24	COW	20	TCT	14	SBE	38	SC	13



## LATEST EFL NEWS INSIDE

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- JIMMY THE GEEK

LA Knights' receiver **Brandon LaFell** falls down with the ball between two Undertakers' defenders in 4<sup>th</sup> quarter action at Death Valley. LaFell caught 4 TD passes to help lead the Knights to a shocking 40-31 upset of last year's Conference Champions.



*Who was slick  
in Week One?*

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



**Brandon LaFell**  
**WR**  
**Los Angeles**  
**Knights**

10 Rec., 184 yards, 4 TDs, Long 51,  
#1 target in upset of Death Valley.



**Aldon Smith**  
**DE**  
**Virden Violators**

6 tackles, 4 Sacks, 2 Stuffs, 1 INT to  
shut down York's Tom Brady



1-0-0

**Los Angeles**

40

**GAME OF THE WEEK**

MVP

**Brandon LaFell**

31

**Death Valley**

0-1-0

**TEAM LEADERS**

Passing	Cmp	Att	Yds	TD
Smith	30	37	379	4
Rushing	Car	Yds	Avg	TD
Taylor	9	33	3.7	1
Receiving	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD
LaFell	10	184	18.4	4

Team	1	2	3	4	OT	Total
Los Angeles	3	3	13	21	-	40
Death Valley	3	14	0	14	-	31

**Play of the Game**

Leading 26-24 with 3:59 left the Knights boldly gambled on 4<sup>th</sup> and inches at their own 49. **Brandon LaFell** grabbed a short hitch from **Alex Smith** and ran 51 yards for a stunning TD.

**TEAM LEADERS**

Passing	Cmp	Att	Yds	TD
Vick	21	38	393	3
Rushing	Car	Yds	Avg	TD
Vick	7	33	4.7	1
Receiving	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD
A.Johnson	8	248	31.0	3

**SUMMARY:** On a rainy day at the Graveyard both offences started slowly, playing to a 3-3 draw after one period. But mid-way through the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter the Undertakers broke the ice with an 82-yard TD pass on a **Michael Vick** audible to **Andre Johnson**. Johnson and Vick would hook up for another TD with less than 2 minutes remaining in the half to take Death Valley into the locker room with a 17-6 lead. However, the momentum suddenly turned against the home team with the opening kickoff of the 2<sup>nd</sup> half. Rookie, **Kenjon Barner** fumbled at the 26 yard line on the return and the Knights recovered. **Alex Smith** immediately connected with **Brandon LaFell** for a 26-yard TD pass and the Undertakers' lead was cut to five. Death Valley drove into FG range but gambled and missed on 4<sup>th</sup> and 2, setting up a 71 yard drive and the Knights' go-ahead TD on an 8-yard TD run by **Stepfan Taylor**. After a Death Valley three-and-out, LA's Smith connected again with LaFell for a 22-yard TD pass to take a 9-point lead. Death Valley replied with another Vick-to-Johnson connection for their 3<sup>rd</sup> TD pass of the day to make it 26-24. But the Knights turned a 4<sup>th</sup> and inches gamble into a 51-yard TD pass to LaFell to retake the initiative. LaFell then put the nail in the Undertakers' coffin with his 4<sup>th</sup> TD catch with 1:24 left.

**QUOTES:** "I can't say enough about what Alex did out there. He was having one of those games. He and Brandon made me look like an offensive genius and we all know I'm not that!" – Knights' coach, **Jeff Dohm**.

"I tried to warn you this would be a close game. You didn't believe me so I rested some guys to prove my point." – Undertakers' coach, **Chris Worthley**, addressing media questions about why so many regulars were inactive for the game.

**HAPPY FAN****titter****ANGRY FAN****SilverKnight @silverknight**

Smith to LaFell! #Knights go on attack and cut the zombies down! Champs are back, will surprise you dudes!

**Death Maggot @Rotten667**

Why is Vick on the field? Vick is proven LOSER! We traded MVP for #RGIII but he's not on field. What's up Worthless?

10-01-2013 Graveyard Temp: 72 Wind: 0-5 Rain No Line MVP: **LaFell**

1 11:49	Los Angeles	FG Lindell 39 (4-12-2:49)	3-0
1 3:42	Death Valley	FG Henery 31 (17-63-7:55)	3-3
2 7:21	Death Valley	TD Vick 82 pass to Johnson (Henery) (1-82-0:18)	3-10
2 3:26	Los Angeles	FG Lindell 46 (6-19-3:42)	6-10
2 1:17	Death Valley	TD Vick 9 pass to Johnson (Henery) (6-83-2:02)	6-17
3 14:42	Los Angeles	TD Smith 26 pass to LaFell (2 - failed) (1-26-0:11)	12-17
3 2:12	Los Angeles	TD Taylor 8 run (Lindell) (10-71-5:44)	19-17
4 12:21	Los Angeles	TD Smith 22 pass to LaFell (Lindell) (8-76-3:44)	26-17
4 8:09	Death Valley	TD Vick 18 pass to Johnson (Henery) (9-68-4:05)	26-24
4 3:59	Los Angeles	TD Smith 51 pass to LaFell (Lindell) (6-73-4:03)	33-24
4 2:22	Death Valley	TD Vick 19 run (Henery) (6-67-1:32)	33-31
4 1:24	Los Angeles	TD Smith 16 pass to LaFell (Lindell) (7-51-0:51)	40-31

	LAK	DVU
First Downs	20	20
Rushes	19-56	24-95
Passes	37-30-379	38-21-393
Sacked	3-12	2-21
Fumble	1	2
Penalties	5-25	7-55
Turnovers	1	1
Missed Tackles	5	6
Blitzes	72	3
Time	32:16	27:44
Third Down	1-10	11-15
Fourth Down	4-6	1-2
Red Att/Td/Fg	4/2/1	4/3/1
Net Offense	423	467



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



## VIOLATORS

1-0-0

0

10

6

0

0

16

OT

## Aldon Smith

6 Tackles, 4 Sacks, 2 Stuffs, 1 INT



## EXCALIBURS

0-1-0

3

3

0

0

0

6

## Giovani Bernard

15 carries, 92 yards, 44 Long

RB **Giovanni Bernard** broke a 44-yard run to set up a FG and **Victor Cruz** snared a 22-yard pass to set up another to give the Excaburs an early 6-0 lead. But the Violators erased that lead with an 80-yard drive for the game's only TD, a 7-yard pass from **Matt Stafford** to **Julio Jones**. The teams followed with 3 consecutive turnovers, the last one a pick of **Tom Brady** by **Aldon Smith** that set up a 50-yard FG by **Lawrence Tynes** as time expired in the 1<sup>st</sup> half. The 2<sup>nd</sup> half was dominated by the Violators' defence that shut down Brady with constant pressure, particularly from Smith's 4 sacks.



## HELLFIRE

0-1-0

0

7

0

3

0

10

OT

## Andrew Luck

14 of 24, 154 yards, 1 TD



## CANNIBALS

1-0-0

0

3

3

6

0

12

## Philip Rivers

24 of 31, 243 yards

The Hellfire broke a scoreless field position battle in the 2<sup>nd</sup> with the game's only TD, a 6-yard pass from **Andrew Luck** to **Jimmy Graham**. Carthage assembled an 8-minute drive in reply but settled for a FG before the half. A punting/kicking duel took over in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half with Carthage gaining the edge on FGs of 54 and 32 yards by **Steven Hauschka** to take a 9-7 lead. Kicker, **Matt Prater** gave Mohave back the lead with 3:00 left, hitting from 42 yards, but a 26-yard screen to **Eddie Lacy** and a 22-yard slant to **Kyle Rudolph** set up Hauschka's 4<sup>th</sup> FG of the day, as time expired, to win the game.



## CUBS

1-0-0

0

24

7

3

0

34

OT

## Russell Wilson

9 of 15, 146 yards, 2 TDs, 1 INT



## PATRIOTS

0-1-0

7

0

14

6

0

27

## Peyton Manning

42 of 53, 365 yards, 1 TD, 2 INTs

After falling behind in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter on a 9-yard TD pass from **Peyton Manning** to **Rhett Ellison**, the Cubs scored 31 unanswered points, 24 of those in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter, to take a commanding lead early in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half. After a 48-yard FG put Iowa on the board, rookie LB, **Alec Ogletree** picked off Manning to set up the go-ahead TD on a 3-yard scramble by **Russell Wilson**. The Cubs' offence scored TDs on their next 4 series, the last a 60-yard TD pass to **Steve Smith** to make it 31-7. The Pats rallied for 20 points but, with the Cubs playing 6 DBs every down, couldn't complete the comeback.



**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!



## SPARTANS

1-0-0

3	0	7	16	0	26
OT					

Matt Schaub

19 of 30, 260 yards, 3 TDs



## CORN KINGS

0-1-0

7	7	0	6	0	20
OT					

Joe Flacco

19 of 38, 207 yards, 2 TDs

The Corn Kings looked to have the early advantage, scoring a TD on their opening possession, adding another in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter after a long drive, and holding Pickering to a FG and 135 yards of offence in the 1<sup>st</sup> half. But Cowtown's offence went silent in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half while the Spartans revived their fortunes in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter with an amazing 13-yard TD on a pass to **Scott Chandler** and pitch to **Steven Jackson**. They took the lead in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter on a 44-yard TD strike from **Matt Schaub** to **DeMaryius Thomas** and put it away with a 33-yard long slant to **Vincent Jackson** with 2:26 remaining.



## CONVICTS

1-0-0

14	0	14	7	0	35
OT					

Cam Newton

21 of 28, 267 yards, 3 TDs



## MONARCHS

1-0-0

0	3	0	7	0	10
OT					

Ryan Tannehill

17 of 27, 160 yards, 1 TD, 1 INT

The Convicts scored 2 TDs on their first two possessions and that set the tone for the rest of the game. The Monarchs came close in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter, reaching the Chino 2 yard line, but were forced to settle for a FG. In the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter, Chino kicker **Dan Bailey** had a FG attempt blocked by **Akeem Spence**, but, with a chance to capture momentum, the Monarchs went three-and-out. The Convicts put the game out of reach soon afterwards, driving 94 yards for a 1-yard TD run by **Chris Johnson** and getting a 20-yard "pick-six" by rookie **Kiko Alonso** on an errant throw by **Ryan Tannehill**.



## T-LIZARDS

0-1-0

0	0	0	3	0	3
OT					

Drew Brees

24 of 45, 214 yards, 2 INTs



## NORTH STARS

1-0-0

14	7	0	3	0	24
OT					

DeAngelo Williams

7 carries, 17 yards, 3 TDs

Rookie safety, **Johnathan Cyprien**, picked off **Drew Brees** in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter and returned it to the Durham 4. **DeAngelo Williams** barreled across the goal line on the next play for a 7-0 lead that Markham would not relinquish. A failed 4<sup>th</sup> down gamble by Durham inside FG range set up the next Markham scoring drive, another Williams TD run, to make it 14-0. A fumbled punt by **TY Hilton** in Durham territory led to Williams' 3<sup>rd</sup> TD run of the game and 21-0 Markham lead after 2 periods. The Lizards had no answer in the penalty-laden 2<sup>nd</sup> half, managing only a late FG to break the shutout.

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



## SWORDFISH

0-1-0

7	0	0	0	0	7
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OT

Pierre Thomas

90 rush yards, 20 rec yards



## TRIUMPH

1-0-0

7	7	0	0	0	14
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Doug Martin

145 rush yards, 58 rec yards

The Triumph scored twice on their first two possessions, hitting pay dirt on a 1-yard dive by **Isaac Redman** and a 10-yard TD pass from **Jay Cutler** to **Lance Kendricks**. Between the Triumph scores, the Swordfish cashed in on a 13-yard TD pass from **Andy Dalton** to **Brandon Myers**. After 3 scores in 3 possessions, both defences took over. The teams combined for 5 straight punts before **Josh Wilson** broke the trend with an end zone pick of Dalton to preserve the Triumph lead. Two more interceptions, one of Cutler in the end zone by **Rahim Moore**, kept the offences off the board.



## GLADIATORS

0-1-0

6	7	14	8	0	35
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OT

Ben Roethlisberger

18 of 27, 176 yards, 2 TDs



## BLUE EAGLES

1-0-0

7	7	0	21	3	38
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Aaron Rodgers

37 of 54, 461 yards, 3 TDs, 1 INT

Scarborough rebounded from a 27-14 deficit by scoring 21 points in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter to force the game into overtime. The Glads had gained separation in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter, scoring two TDs in 3 possessions using **Ahmad Bradshaw** and short passes to move the ball. But accurate passing by **Aaron Rodgers** and timely runs by **CJ Spiller** and **Ray Rice** enabled the Eagles to close the gap quickly and tie the game on a 5-yard TD pass to **Greg Little** with 47 seconds left. In OT, **Wes Welker's** 12<sup>th</sup> catch of the night, for 22 yards, helped to set up the winning FG from **Sebastian Janikowski** with 1:57 left.



## MUSTANGS

1-0-0

7	10	7	0	0	24
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OT

Arian Foster

19 Carries, 77 yards, 2 TDs



## REGULATORS

0-1-0

10	0	3	0	0	13
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Greg Jennings

10 Receptions, 113 yards, 46 Long

The Regulators started well, stopping Garland on 3 plays then scoring first when **Frank Gore** capped their opening drive with a 4-yard TD run. The Mustangs evened the score on a **Patrick Peterson** pick-six, but the Regulators came back and regained the lead on a 46-yard FG by **Rob Bironas**. The Mustangs responded with an 80-yard drive that ended with **Arian Foster** barreling for an 8-yard TD run, then added a FG at the end of the half. The 2<sup>nd</sup> half highlight came early, with **NaVorro Bowman** injuring **Tony Romo** then intercepting **Christian Ponder** to set up a 1-yard TD run by Foster.

## WEEK ONE

# STANDINGS

East	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Virden	1	0	0	1	16	16	6	6	10	0 0 0	1 0 0	1 0 0
Carthage	1	0	0	1	12	12	10	10	2	1 0 0	1 0 0	1 0 0
Charleswood	0	1	0	0	27	27	34	34	-7	0 1 0	0 0 0	0 1 0
Mohave	0	1	0	0	10	10	12	12	-2	0 0 0	0 1 0	0 1 0
York	0	1	0	0	6	6	16	16	-10	0 1 0	0 1 0	0 1 0
West	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Chino	1	0	0	1	35	35	10	10	25	0 0 0	1 0 0	1 0 0
Iowa City	1	0	0	1	34	34	27	27	7	0 0 0	0 0 0	1 0 0
Los Angeles	1	0	0	1	40	40	31	31	9	0 0 0	1 0 0	1 0 0
Death Valley	0	1	0	0	31	31	40	40	-9	0 1 0	0 1 0	0 1 0
Mission Viejo	0	1	0	0	10	10	35	35	-25	0 1 0	0 1 0	0 1 0
North	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Markham	1	0	0	1	24	24	3	3	21	1 0 0	1 0 0	1 0 0
Pickering	1	0	0	1	26	26	20	20	6	0 0 0	1 0 0	1 0 0
Twin Cities	1	0	0	1	14	14	7	7	7	1 0 0	0 0 0	1 0 0
Cowtown	0	1	0	0	20	20	26	26	-6	0 1 0	0 1 0	0 1 0
Durham	0	1	0	0	3	3	24	24	-21	0 0 0	0 1 0	0 1 0
South	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Scarborough	1	0	0	1	38	38	35	35	3	1 0 0	1 0 0	1 0 0
Garland	1	0	0	1	24	24	13	13	11	0 0 0	1 0 0	1 0 0
Gwinnett	0	1	0	0	35	35	38	38	-3	0 0 0	0 1 0	0 1 0
South Carolina	0	1	0	0	13	13	24	24	-11	0 1 0	0 1 0	0 1 0
Sebastian	0	1	0	0	7	7	14	14	-7	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 1 0

# PASSING

Passing	Att	Cmp	C%	Yards	In	I%	Lg	TD	TD%	Rate
1 Newton,C CHI	28	21	75.0	267	0	0.0	21	3	10.7	140.0
2 Smith,A LAK	37	30	81.1	379	1	2.7	51	4	10.8	134.1
3 Schaub PIC	30	19	63.3	260	0	0.0	44	3	10.0	124.3
4 Vick DVU	38	21	55.3	393	0	0.0	82	3	7.9	117.5
5 Roethlisbe GWG	27	18	66.7	176	0	0.0	24	2	7.4	109.5
6 Rodgers,A SBE	54	37	68.5	461	1	1.9	66	3	5.6	105.6
7 Wilson,R ICC	15	9	60.0	146	1	6.7	60	2	13.3	104.4
8 Rivers,P CAR	31	24	77.4	243	0	0.0	26	0	0.0	99.3
9 Stafford VV	30	18	60.0	218	0	0.0	28	1	3.3	93.5
10 Luck MOH	24	14	58.3	154	0	0.0	28	1	4.2	91.3
11 Manning,P CHP	53	42	79.2	365	2	3.8	17	1	1.9	85.9
12 Ryan,M GDM	27	19	70.4	154	0	0.0	20	0	0.0	84.5
13 Flacco COW	38	19	50.0	207	0	0.0	20	2	5.3	84.0
14 Cutler TCT	37	24	64.9	226	1	2.7	18	1	2.7	79.3
15 Tannehill MVM	27	17	63.0	160	1	3.7	25	1	3.7	76.2
16 Foles DTL	11	6	54.5	33	0	0.0	12	0	0.0	60.0
17 Dalton SS	30	15	50.0	198	2	6.7	47	1	3.3	54.6
18 Romo SC	36	21	58.3	197	2	5.6	46	0	0.0	50.3
19 Brees DTL	45	24	53.3	214	2	4.4	18	0	0.0	47.8
20 Brady YOR	28	13	46.4	144	1	3.6	35	0	0.0	47.3
21 Manning,E MAR	23	9	39.1	92	1	4.3	13	0	0.0	33.2
22 Ponder SC	1	0	0.0	0	1	100.0	0	0	0.0	0.0



## RUSHING

	Rushing		Att	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD
1	Jackson, S	PIC	29	166	5.7	21	0
2	Martin, D	TCT	27	145	5.4	15	0
3	Rice, R	SBE	16	109	6.8	17	1
4	Bradshaw	GWG	27	106	3.9	10	2
5	Bernard	YOR	15	92	6.1	44	0
6	Sproles	ICC	13	92	7.1	38	0
7	Charles, J	VV	21	91	4.3	25	0
8	Thomas, P	SS	7	90	12.9	53	0
9	Johnson, C	CHI	22	89	4.0	11	1
10	Peterson, A	CHP	24	87	3.6	9	1
11	Bush, R	DTL	18	83	4.6	15	0
12	Foster, A	GDM	19	77	4.1	14	2
13	Spiller	SBE	12	75	6.3	17	1
14	Morris	COW	18	72	4.0	16	0
15	Newton, C	CHI	7	70	10.0	27	0
16	Murray	MVM	11	58	5.3	22	0
17	Wilson, R	ICC	10	53	5.3	22	2
18	Lacy	CAR	15	52	3.5	15	0
19	Jones, F	MAR	9	43	4.8	10	0
20	Woodhead	CHI	6	42	7.0	13	0
21	Green-Elli	CAR	9	41	4.6	11	0
22	Starks	MAR	9	41	4.6	11	0
23	Peerman	MOH	3	38	12.7	28	0
24	Forte	GDM	10	34	3.4	10	0
25	Taylor, S	LAK	9	33	3.7	9	1

## RECEIVING

	Receiving		No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD
1	Peterson, A	CHP	13	68	5.2	10	0
2	Welker	SBE	12	174	14.5	64	0
3	Crabtree, M	CHP	10	119	11.9	17	0
4	LaFell	LAK	10	184	18.4	51	4
5	Witten	CHP	10	87	8.7	14	0
6	Jennings, G	SC	10	113	11.3	46	0
7	Graham, J	MOH	9	87	9.7	18	1
8	Johnson, A	DVU	8	248	31.0	82	3
9	Rudolph	CAR	8	77	9.6	22	0
10	Roberts, A	LAK	8	85	10.6	15	0
11	Floyd, M	COW	8	108	13.5	20	0
12	White, R	CHI	8	106	13.3	21	0
13	Jackson, V	PIC	7	127	18.1	33	1
14	Boldin	GDM	7	76	10.9	20	0
15	Martin, D	TCT	7	58	8.3	18	0
16	Wright, K	TCT	6	63	10.5	14	0
17	Rice, R	SBE	6	44	7.3	16	1
18	Bush, R	DTL	6	42	7.0	18	0
19	Moore, L	CAR	6	71	11.8	20	0
20	Bryant, D	VV	6	97	16.2	28	0
21	Johnson, C	DTL	5	67	13.4	17	0
22	Bohanon	DTL	5	16	3.2	10	0
23	Murray	MVM	5	43	8.6	16	0
24	Pitta	MVM	5	47	9.4	25	0
25	Marshall	SBE	5	59	11.8	15	0

## KICKING

	Kicking		FGA	FGM	FG%	40	50	Lg	Pts
1	Hauschka	CAR	4	4	100.0	2	1	54	12
2	Tynes	VV	3	3	100.0	2	1	50	10
3	Zuerlein	ICC	3	2	66.7	1	0	48	10
4	Lindell	LAK	2	2	100.0	1	0	46	10
5	Hartley	CHP	2	2	100.0	0	0	30	9
6	Suisham	GWG	2	2	100.0	0	0	32	9
7	Novak	COW	3	2	66.7	0	0	37	8
8	Scobee	PIC	2	2	100.0	0	0	22	8
9	Janikowski	SBE	1	1	100.0	0	0	35	8
10	Henery	DVU	1	1	100.0	0	0	31	7
11	Bironas	SC	3	2	66.7	2	0	46	7
12	Walsh	YOR	3	2	66.7	2	1	51	6
13	Graham, S	MAR	1	1	100.0	1	0	43	6
14	Folk	GDM	1	1	100.0	0	0	32	6
15	Bailey, D	CHI	1	0	0.0	0	0	0	5
16	Prater	MOH	1	1	100.0	1	0	42	4
17	Carpenter	MVM	1	1	100.0	0	0	30	4
18	Dawson	DTL	1	1	100.0	0	0	30	3
19	Gostkowski	TCT	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	2
20	Vinatieri	SS	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	1

## TACKLES

Tackles			
1	Washington	PIC	13
2	Pierre-Pau	ICC	12
3	Branch,T	ICC	12
4	Kuechly	SC	12
5	Posluszny	VV	11
6	Greene	SS	11
7	Woodyard	YOR	10
8	Hall,D	GDM	10
9	Tillman	MAR	9
10	Briggs	GWG	9
11	Rogers,C	GWG	9
12	Mayo	DVU	9
13	Riley	SS	9
14	Freeman,J	SBE	9
15	Spikes,T	SBE	8
16	Abraham	MAR	8
17	Woodley	MAR	8
18	Tulloch	COW	8
19	Moore,W	GWG	8
20	Newman	COW	8
21	Johnson,D	COW	8
22	Asomugha	ICC	8
23	Houston,J	MOH	8
24	Maiava	SS	8
25	Robinson,P	SS	8

## SACKS

Sacks			
1	Smith,A	VV	4
2	Jordan,D	GWG	3
3	Irvin,B	MOH	2
4	Long,C	DVU	2
5	Wake	MOH	2
6	Houston,J	MOH	1
7	Johnson,M	YOR	1
8	Peko	CAR	1
9	Hardy	CAR	1
10	Jones,A	CAR	1
11	Kerrigan	COW	1
12	Smith,J	COW	1
13	Dumervil	DTL	1
14	Abraham	MAR	1
15	Woodley	MAR	1
16	Sheard	PIC	1
17	Ngata	CHI	1
18	Harrison,J	CHI	1
19	McCoy,G	DVU	1
20	Reyes	MOH	1
21	Cox,F	ICC	1
22	Wilkerson	ICC	1
23	Mingo	ICC	1
24	Barwin	LAK	1
25	Bennett,M	LAK	1

## INTERCEPTIONS

Interceptions			No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD
1	Trufant,D	CHP	1	11	11.0	11	0
2	Smith,A	VV	1	0	0.0	0	0
3	Mathieu	DTL	1	0	0.0	0	0
4	Tillman	MAR	1	0	0.0	0	0
5	Cyprien	MAR	1	38	38.0	38	0
6	Wilson,J	TCT	1	0	0.0	0	0
7	Slay	TCT	1	0	0.0	0	0
8	Alonso	CHI	1	20	20.0	20	1
9	Jenkins,J	DVU	1	0	0.0	0	0
10	Ogletree,A	ICC	1	51	51.0	51	0
11	Jones,R	ICC	1	43	43.0	43	0
12	Peterson,P	GDM	1	26	26.0	26	1
13	Bowman	GDM	1	35	35.0	35	0
14	Weddle	GDM	1	14	14.0	14	0
15	DeCoud	GWG	1	0	0.0	0	0
16	Moore,R	SS	1	0	0.0	0	0



## KICK RETURNS

Kick Returns			No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD
1	Cribbs	LAK	4	158	39.5	72	0
2	McKelvin	GWG	4	148	37.0	41	0
3	Rainey	COW	5	181	36.2	56	0
4	Holliday, T	CHI	3	99	33.0	37	0
5	James, L	ICC	2	57	28.5	29	0
6	Jones, J	CHP	6	157	26.2	34	0
7	Tate, B	MVM	6	143	23.8	33	0
8	Barner	DVU	5	116	23.2	27	0
9	Rodgers, J	SC	2	46	23.0	26	0
10	Bolden, O	YOR	2	45	22.5	33	0
11	Cadet	CAR	2	45	22.5	33	0
12	Hester	DTL	4	85	21.3	28	0
13	Robinson, D	PIC	3	60	20.0	26	0
14	Edwards, A	ICC	2	40	20.0	30	0
15	Stephens-H	GWG	2	32	16.0	17	0
16	Royster	SBE	5	78	15.6	23	0
17	Wheaton	TCT	2	28	14.0	17	0
18	Harvin	MAR	1	33	33.0	33	0
19	Cobb	DVU	1	33	33.0	33	0
20	Logan	SS	1	27	27.0	27	0
21	Allen, K	SC	1	21	21.0	21	0
22	Phillips, J	GDM	1	13	13.0	13	0
23	Schwenke	CHP	1	10	10.0	10	0
24	Williams, D	SBE	1	9	9.0	9	0
25	Brooks, B	SC	1	8	8.0	8	0

## PUNT RETURNS

Punt Returns			No	Fc	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD
1	McKelvin	GWG	2	2	37	18.5	19	0
2	Sanders,E	CAR	3	3	41	13.7	16	0
3	Parrish	MAR	2	1	25	12.5	17	0
4	Harris,D	SS	3	0	35	11.7	14	0
5	Tate,B	MVM	1	0	10	10.0	10	0
6	Peterson,P	GDM	2	0	17	8.5	17	0
7	Jones,A	PIC	3	0	25	8.3	12	0
8	Austin,T	ICC	2	0	16	8.0	10	0
9	Cribbs	LAK	1	1	8	8.0	8	0
10	Arenas	SC	5	0	40	8.0	14	0
11	Banks	MOH	3	1	18	6.0	10	0
12	Bernard	YOR	3	1	17	5.7	8	0
13	Martin,K	CHI	2	0	9	4.5	9	0
14	Jones,J	CHP	3	0	13	4.3	8	0
15	Holliday,T	CHI	2	0	8	4.0	5	0
16	Pettis	SBE	1	1	4	4.0	4	0
17	Hilton	DTL	4	3	9	2.3	5	0
18	Sherels	VV	1	1	1	1.0	1	0
19	Edwards,A	ICC	1	1	1	1.0	1	0
20	Franklin,J	COW	1	2	0	0.0	0	0
21	Ginn Jr.	TCT	1	1	0	0.0	0	0

## SCORING

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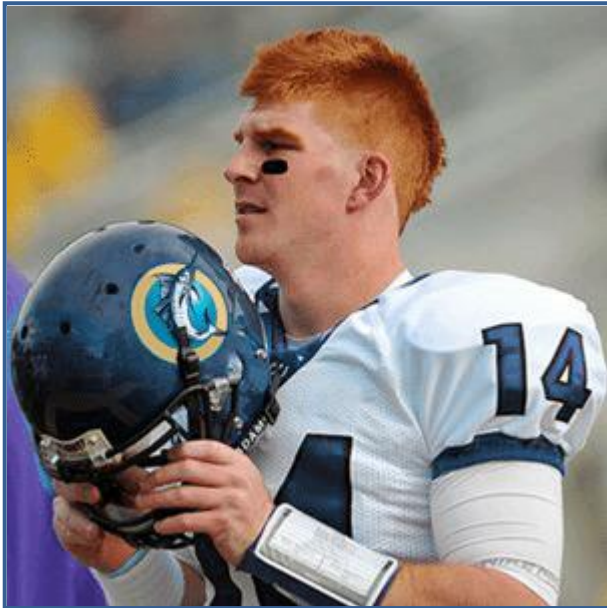


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WHERE FANS SPEAK

## SWORDFISH WILL SURPRISE IN 2013



The pieces are in place for a surprise run for the Swordfish in 2013.

Against what you may have read in the mainstream media, the Swordfish have as good a chance as any team to swim into the playoffs. In today's EFL, anything can happen. Two years ago the Markham franchise was a laughing stock. Last year they won it all.

Last year, the Fish were a laughing stock at times. Okay, most times. But there were

times when we made other teams a laughing stock, like when Andy Dalton threw 2 TDs to upset the Can-Am Conference Champion Gladiators at the Coliseum, and when we knocked off the EFL Champion North Stars in the final game of the regular season. Those games showed that 'The Red Rifle' has what it takes to win big games. This year, he has more weapons than ever before.

Yesterday's game at Twin Cities gave us a look at just how tough the Swordfish will be this year. The Fish went into a hostile stadium and kept the game close, never giving up. The offensive line that so many worried about held its own. Dalton wasn't sacked and left tackle Jermon Bushrod laid down a couple of nice blocks, including the one on Glenn Dorsey that sprung Pierre Thomas for a 53-yard gain. Dalton also hit on deep balls of 47 and 42 yards to Kenny Britt and Nate Washington, showing that the Fish can go vertical when they need to.

Kudos go especially to the defence that rebounded after giving up two early touchdowns. Missed tackles (7) were a concern, but not more than the Triumph who had the same number. Rookie LB Khaseem Greene had 11 tackles, and DT Sharrif Floyd put some pressure on Jay Cutler even if he didn't sack him, showing that our present and future are in good hands with fresh blood on D.

Don't let haters get you down Swordfish fans. The Swordfish will be just fine!



# AROUND THE



## With Spats McChad

NEW YORK – I finally caught the fantasy bug this year and it is going to change the way I watch the games. I joined a keeper, total-points league, with colleagues in the East Coast Chapter of the National Sports Writers Association. The winner gets the pot at the end of the year. It is, literally, a big black pot with the season's bid money stored inside. So far my team, the *Dominators*, is looking pretty good after big days from Andre Johnson and Aaron Rodgers on offence, and 2 sacks from Cameron Wake on defence. I didn't get the production I was hoping for from Alfred Morris but was glad to see he didn't stink in the EFL after setting the Tex-Mex League on fire last year.

When we gathered together for the draft, discussion turned to the changing media landscape with the proliferation of the Internet and social media platforms like 'Titter' and 'ScrapBook,' and its effect on traditional journalism. After many drinks we all agreed that traditional journalism is not going away; but it took many drinks to arrive at that conclusion. But with the clarity of sobriety all I have to do is look at the page before this very column to see how things are changing even in traditional formats such as the EFL Newsletter. Fan Blogs are popping up like weeds and, as weeds tend to be, they are proving ugly and resilient. Ugly, because there is little accountability or filtering of the opinions expressed; and resilient, because everybody has an opinion and wants to express it. I'm not saying that professional writers are always right, or always better than amateur counterparts, but professional journalists have professional standards and those standards should count for something in the marketplace.

### **THE CURIOUS FATE OF WILL BLANDFORD**

The EFL's most excited expansion owner suddenly sold his team as it prepared for its first pre-season game this summer. **Will Blandford**, who brought the Commonwealth Colonials into the EFL, then disappeared from public view without an explanation. His franchise was quickly scooped up by tuna cannery magnate and Antarctic adventurer, **Ken Main**, who immediately moved the team to Carthage, American Samoa, on the other side of the world (more later on Main and the unprecedented move to the Polynesia).

Blandford, whose ruthless passion for history quickly propelled him to the top of the Virginia Historical Society hierarchy, has possibly abandoned his passion for history as well. His office voice mail simply states that he is away on indefinite leave and that inquiries should be directed to his assistant, **Thelma Fernwell**. Thelma has been less than helpful, telling media that she is not at liberty to divulge any information about the private matters of her boss, but that "Mr. Blandford is still very active behind the scenes with the Society."

But 'Deathspun' columnist **Tarkin Smith-Abdullah** thinks he has tracked down Blandford in the West Virginia wilderness, likely living off the land within a day's walk of the Allegheny Trail, about 10 miles south of the Mason-Dixon Line. The theory of how he got there, and why, is largely speculation based on circumstantial evidence and unconfirmed rumours. But if you want to know the salacious details about how a Lady Colonial Cheerleader named Ashley may have stolen a fortune, moved to the Cooks Islands, and broken the heart of a man who could very well be Blandford's evil twin, if not Blandford himself, then click here: [http://www.deathspun.com/2013/09/23/former-EFL-owner-now-a-cheerless-mountain-man\\_0210\\_tracker.html](http://www.deathspun.com/2013/09/23/former-EFL-owner-now-a-cheerless-mountain-man_0210_tracker.html)

### **PLEASE JOIN US FOR DINNER**

The people of Carthage, a small community in American Samoa, love their American football. This applies to both the natives and the transplanted US Servicemen who live there. After WWII, the Navy built a stadium, Admiral Byrd Field, on the site of a historical human flesh market the natives called '*fasi'oti-ai-fa'alava*' or literally, "Kill-Eat-Place-(Across)." Unable to pronounce the former and finding the latter too crude and confusing, the Servicemen nicknamed it the Killing Field. The name stuck and eventually everyone except the highest ranking officials referred to the stadium as the Killing Field. This is the home of the newest EFL franchise, the Carthage Cannibals (formerly the Commonwealth Colonials).

The arrival of an EFL franchise to a place like Carthage is a huge deal for the locals – as monumental for them as it is a head-scratcher for the rest of us who actually live in heavily populated areas easily capable of supporting a major professional football team. The team's owner, **Ken Main**, owns a chain of tuna canneries that dot the South Pacific. He has also, reputedly, made a small fortune exploring remote islands in and around Antarctica, but how he has made money doing



that is not entirely clear. He is wealthy by Samoan standards, but he is no tycoon. In that, he is similar to Blandford, but he has no British billionaire backing his venture. Main is instead financed by the Pentagon. Although this fact is common knowledge, the actual reason the Pentagon is involved is classified information. Whatever the reason, it is the strangest arrangement since Mohave's **Bobby Elder** made a deal with the Devil to keep his Hellfire in business.

Opening Day in Carthage was quite a party. The entire island showed up, whether they had actual tickets or not. The general admission tickets were all purchased in advance by the Pentagon and



Cannibals fans pose for the cameras on Opening Day at the Killing Field in Carthage, American Samoa. The entire island showed up to see the game. Prolonged isolation from the main centres of civilization has fans starving for attention....and, some say, human flesh.

the community was welcome to come and go from the stadium as they pleased. This created chaos in the stands and concession areas, but as chaos goes it was generally good-natured. The fans left happy at the end of the day. Their newly adopted team squeaked out a victory with a 27-yard field goal by **Steven Hauschka** as time expired to prevail 12-10 over Mohave. Chalk it up to a serious case of jet lag, but **Andrew Luck** never got into a steady rhythm, despite throwing the game's only touchdown. **Philip Rivers**, however, seemed at ease in his new home, throwing for 243 yards and, most importantly, not turning the ball over.

#### ***THE WORST GAME EVER PLAYED***

Markham's 24-3 win over Durham was the worst game ever played. Alright.....I am exaggerating about it being the worst game ever played; but I am no guiltier of hyperbole than the person who dubbed the 1958 NFL Championship the "Greatest Game Ever Played." That was the first great TV game, but there have been greater played since then.

The marquis prime time match-up on Friday Night Football between the 2012 EFL Champion, Markham North Stars and the dangerous Durham Thunder Lizards was, however, the ugliest game of Week One. It was a showdown between last year's Offensive MVP, **Drew Brees**, and **Eli Manning**, the quarterback who sent Brees home from Garland last year without a ring and forever dimmed the glow of his dream season.

Neither quarterback put in a respectable performance while the offences they led faithfully followed their leads. Markham and Durham combined for a total of 535 yards of offence and 204 penalty yards on 24 separate flags. No, it wasn't raining, snowing, or hailing, nor was it particularly windy (0 to 10 mph over the course of the night). This was just bad offensive football – so bad that I hesitate to give too much credit to the Markham defence. However, there is no denying that, by generating 4 turnovers, they put their anemic offence in a position to draw first blood and, later, thwarted Brees' vain attempts to mount a comeback.

It is fair to say that the interception and 38-yard return by rookie safety **Jonathan Cyprien** not only set up the first of 3 TDs by **DeAngelo Williams**, but also set the tone for the rest of the game. The early touchdown seemed to panic the Lizards' coaching staff. On their next offensive series, **George Kaldis** went for it on 4th and 4 at the Markham 31 yard line. **Reggie Bush** came up short running a stretch play out of a 4 wide-receiver set and the North Stars promptly moved up the field and scored again. There is no way to know if the game might have been different if they had elected to go for the 3 points in that situation, but it is a question the unhappy Durham Media is asking right around now.

The mega-hyped Durham offence never got out of 1st gear. Brees looked out of synch with his receivers, uncomfortable in the pocket, and mentally out of it to the point that a disconsolate Coach Kaldis saw fit to remove him late in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter to give back-up **Nick Foles** some reps. The Markham pass rush generated pressure without much blitzing while their corners were aggressive at the line of scrimmage, knocking **Calvin Johnson** and **Danny Amendola** off course early in their routes. The Thunder Lizards' defence was not as dramatic, but held the line due to a feeble and disoriented performance by Markham QB, **Eli Manning**, who completed just 9 passes for 92 yards and threw an interception without a TD for a game day rating of 33.2. The play on the field was bad, but also extremely brutal. 8 players, 5 for Durham and 3 for Markham, went down with serious injuries, the worst one coming to Durham guard, **David DeCastro**, who is likely out for the season after tearing his ACL when center **Nick Mangold** missed a cut block on **Calais Campbell** and slammed into DeCastro instead. It was that kind of game – the kind that even the victor tries to forget.

Markham coach, **Darrin Jones** said afterwards, "We'll take the win any day against Durham but nobody should be

celebrating. This kind of performance is not going to get us back to the final.”

### **CLOWNEYING AROUND AT THE GRAVEYARD**

The **RGIII** Era in Death Valley began with **Michael Vick** tossing an 82-yard TD pass to **Andre Johnson** in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter then going on to throw for 393 yards and 3 TDs without an interception in the Undertakers’ shocking 40-31 home opener loss to the LA Knights. So, where was the poster child for **Chris Worthley’s** latest offensive revolution in Death Valley? He was on the sidelines – dressed but not playing – forced to watch while the lowly Knights imposed their will on a defence that was missing **Clay Matthews** and **Nick Fairley** for no other reason than they “might” get hurt.

After a humiliating loss to the recently disassembled Knights, Worthley’s strategy of playing down to the competition in order to keep his players fresh for the big challenges is not going over well in Hell, where some very nasty people with the means to get things done off the field are asking tough questions about the Undertakers’ goals in 2013. Posters calling for the Undertakers to draft **Jadeveon Clowney**, the #1 draft prospect from South Carolina, appeared in the stands toward the end of the incredible Knights’ upset. That shouldn’t be happening for *any* team in the first week of the season, let alone a talented one, like the Undertakers, that many predict will win the West Division.

The Knights, for their part, played as well as they could play. **Alex Smith** was phenomenal, completing over 80% of his passes. 10 of those went to recently acquired wide receiver **Brandon LaFell**, who also found the end zone 4 times. The formerly indomitable ‘Blue Shield’ blitzed all day – not getting much done in the process but showing that they cared. It was sweet revenge for the team that dropped 3 games to Death Valley last year, but it won’t be as satisfying for them if the Undertakers don’t care about getting back into the Gayle Sayers Game this year.

### **AROUND THE EFL**

Before I get to the predictions of the ‘Great Spatskin’ here are my one-sentence round-ups of the rest of Week One EFL Action:

In Bluff’s Stadium, a 21-point rally by the Blue Eagles to make it 35-35 in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter forced overtime against the Glads. A sack by **Kroy Biermann** on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 1 early in the extra period that pushed the Glads out of field goal range caused **Chris Dickinson** to jump out of his skin with excitement. **Sebastian Janikowski** ended it with less than 2 minutes left to avoid the tie.

At Tillman Field, **Steven Jackson** got stronger as the game went on, rushing for 166 yards against a Corn Kings’ defence that didn’t take him seriously until it was too late. Success in the ground game helped set up 3 TD passes from **Matt Schaub** as the Spartans overcame an 11-point deficit and costly penalties to dump Cowtown 26-20.

In South Carolina, the Garland Mustangs trotted to a 24-13 victory over the Regulators, but one would think the score was reversed by the reactions of the coaches. A beaming **Hal Corson** congratulated his team for its performance, saying: “I thought it was going to be worse.” On the other side, **Doug Shirley** cautioned his team, saying: “Take away that touchdown by the defence and it’s a 4-point game. Our offence needs to show more urgency, I think.”

The Convicts mugged the Monarchs 35-10 on opening day at the Kingdom. Chino scored touchdowns on their first two possessions, held the ball 37 minutes overall, and made 32 first downs. Fans in Mission Viejo had nothing to cheer about except the free stadium parking and the give-away **Ryan Tannehill** bobble-head dolls, many of which had lost their heads by half time.

The Triumph held the ball for the equivalent of nearly a full quarter on their first two possessions of the game, scoring on both of them to take a 14-7 lead over Sebastian early in the 2<sup>nd</sup> period. That’s where the score would stay as both offences then settled into mediocrity. **Doug Martin** was a workhorse for the Triumph, gaining 145 yards on 27 carries.

The resurrection of **Peyton Manning** created a celebratory air at Patriot Place that was quickly punctured when the Cubs used a Manning interception and a failed 4<sup>th</sup> down convert attempt at mid-field as the springboard for a 24-point 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter and a 24-7 lead at half time. A 60-yard TD pass from **Russell Wilson** to **Steve Smith** to start the 2<sup>nd</sup> half buried the Pats psychologically and they never recovered, dropping a 34-27 decision to the surprisingly tough Cubbies.

In Camelot, the Violators unleashed a ferocious beast named **Aldon Smith** on **Tom Brady** and the Excaliburs. Smith earned *EFL Defensive Player of the Week* honours for dumping Brady 4 times, picking him off once, and stuffing two runs for losses in a 16-6 Virden win.

### **THE GREAT SPATSKIN**

One sign that I nailed my prediction of the Division-winners last year is the lack of hate e-mails I received on the topic. People love to rub my face in it when I’m wrong, but aren’t generally gracious enough to congratulate me when I’m right. So let me pat myself on the back for getting 3.5 out of 4 last year – the half point being awarded by myself for York losing the title on tie-breakers. This year, there is more parity in the league as the salary cap levels the playing field in a multitude of interesting ways. Still, my predictions are more reliable than anybody else’s and here they are: **EAST** – Virden, because they have no glaring weaknesses compared with their rivals. **WEST** – Chino, because **Cam Newton** has weapons this year and Death Valley is being run by an unpredictable maniac. **NORTH** – Markham, because they are the Champs and will find a way to the top in a brutal 4-way scrum. **SOUTH** – Garland, because they have a dominating defence that can overcome their offensive inconsistencies. The Mustangs will rise from the Can-Am Conference and make the final for the first time in their history. On the other side, the Patriots’ **Peyton Manning** will rule the playoffs in the Pacific-Atlantic Conference and return once more to the big game.

# BUG THE BOOKIE!

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

*Your source for fantasy and on-line betting solutions*



**RECORD VS THE SPREAD AFTER WEEK 1:**

**0-0-0**

### JIMMY'S WEEK TWO PICKS

#### **CARTHAGE @ VIRDEN (line – VIOLATORS by 8)**

**INJURIES:** Carthage – Fred Jackson (OUT); Virden – None.

The Violators' offence sputtered last week but still managed to find the end zone once, which was enough to secure the win over a lethargic York squad. The real story coming out of Week One for Virden was the performance of the defence, specifically Aldon Smith, who almost single-handedly shut down Tom Brady. Smith won't have to repeat the same performance this week to scare off Philip Rivers; a sack or two and plenty of loud growling should be enough to generate a few turnovers. The lack of a standout corner in the Carthage secondary should allow Matt Stafford to return to 2012 form and make this game one-sided. The Cannibals are in tough this week, but could beat the spread if they can find a way to contain Jamaal Charles. Don't bet on it. **PICK: VIRDEN**

#### **CHARLESWOOD @ YORK (line – EXCALIBURS by 2)**

**INJURIES:** Charleswood – Phil Taylor (OUT); York – Dustin Keller (OUT), Rashean Mathis (OUT), Richard Seymoure (OUT).

Both teams dropped their home openers and need a win this week to recover. Although it's only the second week, the outcome of this contest will have playoff implications in a three-way race for the East Division. The Excaliburs will be the most damaged if they were to lose; having lost already to a divisional opponent, they will have dropped 2 home games as well. The Pats' schedule will allow them to recover, but if they were to drop two in a row it would be a big psychological blow to a team searching to regain its confidence. Iowa City exposed the Pats' vulnerability to the run and, although the Cubs did not pass much, they were effective when they did. The Pats' 'D' could well be their Achilles Heel, putting pressure on the offence to deliver. Tom Brady will likely bounce back from a terrible opening day performance against Virden, but will he be able to keep pace with Peyton Manning? A shaky ground game may limit his opportunities in the passing game. York coach, Jay Hammond must find a way to unleash Von Miller (a non-factor last week against Virden), or else Manning will pick apart his defensive backfield. Watch for Adrian Peterson as well – the big guy showed signs last week that he is shaking off the effects of a disastrous 2012 season. **PICK:**

**CHARLESWOOD**

#### **MISSION VIEJO @ MOHAVE (line – HELLFIRE by 6)**

**INJURIES:** Mission Viejo – Lardarius Webb (OUT); Mohave – None.

It's still early, but Andrew Luck's struggles to find his wide receivers against Carthage last week is a worrying sign for the Hellfire offence. With no proven threat at running back, Bobby Elder needs Luck to be able to spread the ball around. If the running game cannot exploit the opportunity to produce against a mediocre Monarch front seven, Luck may find passing to his wide receivers a challenge against corners Brandon Browner and rookie Dee Milliner. The Monarchs' offence did not look good against Chino last week but that should have come as no surprise. If their offensive line can handle the dangerous Mohave pass rush, Ryan Tannehill will perform much better and that should open up options in the running game as well. This spread opened at double-digits for Mohave and has been dropping steadily ever since. This appears to be less out of respect for Mission Viejo than it is skepticism that the Hellfire can dominate any team in this league. This one will be close either way. **PICK: MISSION VIEJO**



## **DEATH VALLEY @ CHINO (line – CONVICTS by 9)**

**INJURIES:** Death Valley – None; Chino – Bernard Pollard (OUT), David Stewart (OUT).

Whispers that Death Valley is secretly in rebuilding mode despite proclamations to the contrary by Chris Worthley were supported last week by his decision to rest Clay Matthews and start Michael Vick at quarterback over RGIII. The resulting loss, to the team most likely to finish at the bottom of the pile when the season is over, has fans outraged and is driving the spread upwards in favour of the Convicts, who, incidentally, looked pretty good in dominating Mission Viejo last week. Worthley announced that RGIII would be starting at QB this week and that Matthews' hair would be fully coifed for this week's showdown at The Big House, which pulled the line down from double-digit territory. But it is still an artificially high number. With Griffin behind center we should see a different Undertakers squad – one that should have little trouble moving the ball against an ageing 'Lockdown Crew.' The Convicts offensive line will need to buy time for Cam Newton to exploit a suspect secondary, or Chino won't be able to keep pace. If the Convicts win, it won't be by much. **PICK: DEATH VALLEY**

## **LOS ANGELES @ IOWA CITY (line – CUBS by 3)**

**INJURIES:** Los Angeles – David Bakhtiari (OUT), Le'Veon Bell (OUT), Brian Cushing (OUT); Iowa City – Darren Sproles (OUT).

Knights' fans are having a party after LA shocked Death Valley at the Graveyard on opening day. Enjoy the party while it lasts, Knights' loyalists, because, starting this week, there will be no more reasons to celebrate. The Cubs look like they are back in old form after walking into Patriot Place last week and ruining Peyton Manning's long-awaited return. The Cubs have loads of talent, which is something the Knights lack, and they have brought in some veterans to bolster their experience. A second look at the Knights team that knocked off the Undertakers last week just deepens the mystery of how they pulled off that amazing upset. Is Brandon LaFell for real? Is Alex Smith really that good? Those questions, and others, will likely be answered in the negative after the Cubs are finished with them. **PICK: IOWA CITY**

## **COWTOWN @ DURHAM (line – CORN KINGS by 1)**

**INJURIES:** Cowtown – Justin Smith (OUT); Durham – Danny Amendola (OUT), David DeCastro (OUT), Darnell Dockett (OUT), Tyrann Mathieu (OUT), Carl Nicks (OUT).

The Corn Kings' offence was inconsistent in last week's loss to Pickering – opening well but fading once the Spartans took Alfred Morris out of the game and forced Joe Flacco to carry the load. In contrast, the Thunder Lizards' offence was consistent, but consistently bad. To the shock of everyone, the Drew Brees-led Dinosaurs had pretty much the worst offence in Week One, and that was only partly due to the Markham defence. They have a chance to pull it together at home against a Cowtown defence that tired in the second half and showed unusual vulnerability to the run against Pickering. Their best defensive player, Justin Smith, is out, which should open up room for Reggie Bush. But if Durham is going to win, the real damage needs to come from their passing attack. One thing the Lizards did extremely well last week was neutralize Eli Manning. They will be looking to do the same to Joe Flacco, which means the Corn Kings will need Alfred Morris to have a big game in order to relieve pressure on their QB. Cowtown is slightly favoured, but don't be fooled. **PICK: DURHAM**

## **TWIN CITIES @ MARKHAM (line – NORTH STARS by 9)**

**INJURIES:** Twin Cities – Pierre Garcon (OUT), Ted Ginn Jr. (OUT); Markham – Chris Canty (OUT), Jordy Nelson (OUT).

There appears to be no championship hangover for the North Stars' defence as they dominated Durham last week in a huge Week One win. The same cannot be said for the offence, which looked shaky and was lucky to score 24 points. The Triumph won their home opener against the Swordfish, but leveled off after a quick start and had to work hard to put the game away. Most of the signs that the Triumph can't be taken lightly appear on defence, where a group of underrated defenders plan to give Eli Manning a tough time. On offence, the emergence of Doug Martin at running back will help keep the North Stars' pass rush honest, but Jay Cutler's reputation for generosity to opposing defences will likely not be diminished after four quarters of Charles Tillman, Jairus Byrd and Ed Reed. This match-up has the potential to be tough game in the trenches, but the propensity of the Markham defence to force turnovers, coupled with the tendency of Jay Cutler to give the ball away, creates the equal likelihood that it could be a blowout. **PICK: MARKHAM**

## SCARBOROUGH @ GARLAND (line – MUSTANGS by 4)

**INJURIES:** Scarborough – DeSean Jackson (OUT), Logan Mankins (OUT), Jordan Norwood (OUT). **Garland** – None.

The two front-runners in the race for the South Division face each other in a game that will go a long way to determining the eventual winner. This is the first time in memory that the Mustangs have been favoured over the Blue Eagles/Dragons in any game and it is easy to see why – they are at home and, on paper, they have the best defence in football. Ironically, the Blue Eagles have been, until this season, in situations where their best-defence-on-paper failed to be the best on the field. The Mustangs' D will need to be a force on the field to stop the high-octane Scarborough offence led by Aaron Rodgers. On the other side, Matt Ryan and his stable of running backs have the firepower to move the ball on a good, but no longer great, Scarborough defence. This will be a close game with a bit of everything and a field goal deciding the outcome. **PICK: SCARBOROUGH**

## GWINNETT @ SEBASTIAN (line – GLADIATORS by 1)

**INJURIES:** Gwinnett – None; Sebastian – Carlos Dunlap (QUESTIONABLE), Willis McGahee (OUT).

The performance of the Swordfish against the Triumph in Minnesota last week pushed local ticket sales in Sebastian high enough to avoid the embarrassment of a TV blackout for the home opener. A local fish cannery pitched in to purchase the last 500 tickets. It looks as if the Swordfish have improved over last year, but unfortunately so has many of their opponents. The Glads pushed the Blue Eagles into overtime on the road last week. With all of the weaknesses that bring them down from the top tier, the Glads still have Big Ben, LeSean McCoy, and one of the strongest offensive lines in the league. This should be more than enough to handle a Sebastian defence that boasts a 37-year old safety as their best player. Willis McGahee is out, which will put more pressure on an already suspect Swordfish running game and Andy Dalton has nobody to throw to. **PICK: GWINNETT**

## SOUTH CAROLINA @ PICKERING (line – SPARTANS by 10)

**INJURIES:** South Carolina – Earl Bennett (OUT); Pickering – Kyle Juszczyk (PROBABLE), Joe Haden (OUT).

The Spartans offence looked strong in their win over Cowtown with Steven Jackson at tailback and rookie Kyle Juszczyk at fullback. Both opened up space for the Matt Schaub, and his deep threats at wide receiver, to deliver the killing blows on offence. Expect the same strategy this week against a Regulator defence that has plenty of holes at each level. The difference in this game, though, may be the presence of Tony Romo at QB and Frank Gore at RB for South Carolina. Both can steal a game and the Spartans' defence is the kind of defence that might let them get away with it. The spread here is heavily influenced by reputation, but the reality is that the Regs will push the Spartans as hard as any Persian. **PICK: SOUTH CAROLINA**



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

FROM THE EFL ARCHIVES – Before we head down to the Archives allow me to introduce myself. I am a man of wealth and taste. And I've been around for a long, long time. My name is Sterling Smitherman. Apart from being devilishly handsome I am also wickedly smart. That's why I was hired to be anchorman for the Ancient News Hour on Dave Birdsall's Ancient History Channel. I bring you the latest news in ancient history and I write my own copy. That's why my boss, Mr. Birdsall, asked me to write this weekly segment for EFL News. The EFL is not ancient, but it is interesting. Let us go back now to the very beginning.

At the end of the 2006 season the NFL collapsed suddenly in a game-fixing scandal of apocalyptic proportions. The tipping point was Rex Grossman's performance in Super Bowl XLI; so ineffective after a year of dominance that people suspected the worst. The FBI got involved and within a month the whole NFL Empire imploded at the end of its 87<sup>th</sup> year. In relative terms, it fell quicker than the Roman Empire.

In Canada, the CFL continued to operate, improved by the sudden flood of unemployed players. In the United States, entrepreneurs unconnected with the old NFL stepped in to fill the pro football void. Dozens of leagues formed immediately across the country, but most, like the Montana Rancher's Football Cooperative, never came close to operating.

Eventually the big money and the networks would coalesce around three new leagues: the Superior Football League (SFL) based in Denver; the Tex-Mex Football League (TMFL) based in Las Vegas; and the Elite Football League (EFL) based in Canton, OH. Of the three, the EFL had the highest number of franchises, 12, compared with 8 in the CFL, 8 in the SFL and 6 in the TMFL. Next week we will learn more about those original 12 pioneering EFL franchises.