

# 2011



# 2011

## WEEK TEN IN REVIEW

December 11, 2011

ON TOP!



Pickering wide receiver **Percy Harvin** hauls in a lob from QB, **Joe Webb** for 21 yards in Week Ten action. Harvin opened the scoring with a 29-yard TD run in Pickering's 23-20 win over the Los Angeles Knights.

### LATEST EFL NEWS INSIDE

#### THE GAMES

- GLADS BLUNT SWORDS
- CONVICTS RUN OVER DINOS
- CATS HOLD OFF REG RALLY
- CUBS CLUB NORTH STARS
- VIOLATORS MAIM MUSTANGS
- SPARTANS TAKE OVER TOP SPOT
- COWTOWN BURIES UNDERTAKERS
- DEFENSIVE CLASH IN DESERT

#### COMMENT

"Philosophical Musings," "Fourth Down Follies," "The York Revolution," "Doubting Thomas," and "Around the EFL," – Spats McChad

#### PREDICTIONS

'Who will prevail in the Battle of the Bluffs?'  
'Will Brady redeem himself?' 'Betting on snails.'  
– Jimmy the Geek



*Who was slick  
in Week Ten?*

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



**Mike Thomas**  
**WR**  
**Virden**  
**Violators**

**8 receptions, 236 yards, 77 and 87-  
yard TD catches in Virden victory.**



**Mario Williams**  
**DE**  
**Iowa City**  
**Cubs**

**4 tackles, 1 sack, 2 stuffs, 2 QB  
hurries, 2 FFs, 82-yd recovery TD**

# GLADS DISMANTLE YORK AT CAMELOT!



**GWINNETT  
GLADIATORS**

**29**

**10**

**YORK  
EXCALIBURS**



## GLADIATOR OF THE GAME

**Ahmad Bradshaw**  
21 carries, 105 yards, 2 TDs

Team	1	2	3	4	OT	Total
GWINNETT (7-3)	10	10	0	9	-	29
YORK (3-7)	0	3	0	7	-	10

## EXCALIBUR OF THE GAME

**Da'Quan Bowers**  
3 tkles, 2 sacks, 1 QB pressure

**HIGHLIGHT REEL:** Ben Roethlisberger completed 14 of 26 for 181 yards and 1 TD

- **Reggie Wayne** caught 6 passes for 93 yards and 1 TD, and **Jeremy Maclin** caught 3 for 44 yards to lead the air attack.
- **Jim Laurinaitis** made 7 tackles, deflected 3 passes and recovered a fumble.
- **Darren McFadden** rushed 17 times for 66 yards and scored York's only TD.
- **Tom Brady** completed 20 of 36 for 222 yards and threw 2 rare interceptions for a game day QB rating of 50.9.

**GAME SUMMARY:** The Excaliburs were never in this game from the beginning. On their opening possession, **Tom Brady** was picked off over the middle by linebacker, **Daryl Smith**, setting up the Gladiators at the York 44 yard line. **Ben Roethlisberger** hit **Jeremy Maclin** for completions of 16 and 21 yards then **Ahmad Bradshaw** ran it into the end zone from 5 yards out to capitalize on the turnover and give Gwinnett an early 7-0 lead. The York offence fizzled quickly on their next possession, moving the ball 19 yards before punting it back to the Glads. Gwinnett drove the ball back into the York red zone, but had to settle for a 33-yard **Josh Brown** field goal. Less than one minute later, the Glads got the ball back after **Troy Polamalu** picked off Brady at the York 33 yard line. Three plays later, Roethlisberger hooked up with **Reggie Wayne** for a 19-yard TD pass to increase the Gladiators' lead to 17-0 early in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter. The teams traded field goals before the half for a 20-3 Gwinnett lead as the players headed into the locker room. Both teams did not get generate much offence when they returned to the field for the 2<sup>nd</sup> half. With the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter looming and still trailing by 17, the Swords gambled on 4<sup>th</sup> and 7 at their 47, but failed to convert when **Leodis McKelvin** jarred the ball out of the hands of **Roy Williams**. Gwinnett took over in York territory and moved into field goal range for Brown, who cashed in 3 points from 48 yards out to increase the Glads' lead to 23-3. York finally struck back with a major to draw within 13 points after Brady connected with **Michael Crabtree** for 32 yards to set up a 3-yard TD run by **Darren McFadden**. But, after stopping the Excaliburs on 4<sup>th</sup> and 23 at the York 22, the Gladiators put the game on ice with a Bradshaw-only drive of 5 straight carries for the final TD.



**THE FANS LOVED**  
Complete game by the Glads

**THE FANS HATED**  
11 York penalties, 2 Brady picks



**FAN RATING**

★ ½

12-10-2011 Camelot Temp: 57 Wind: 0-10 None MVP: Ahmad Bradshaw

1 8:40	Gwinnett	TD Bradshaw 5 run (Brown,J) (5-44-2:49)	7-0
1 0:00	Gwinnett	FG Brown 33 (11-53-5:01)	10-0
2 12:41	Gwinnett	TD Roethlisberger 19 pass to Wayne (Brown,J) (3-33-1:26)	17-0
2 6:17	York	FG Gano 28 (11-66-6:12)	17-3
2 1:46	Gwinnett	FG Brown 30 (12-48-4:26)	20-3
4 13:20	Gwinnett	FG Brown 48 (7-17-2:53)	23-3
4 9:10	York	TD McFadden 3 run (Gano) (10-70-4:05)	23-10
4 2:36	Gwinnett	TD Bradshaw 6 run (no good) (5-22-3:06)	29-10

	GWG	YOR
First Downs	21	16
Rushes	28-114	26-108
Passes	26-14-181	36-20-222
Sacked	3-9	0-0
Fumble	1	1
Penalties	5-41	11-70
Turnovers	0	3
Time	29:33	30:27
Third Down	6-12	5-16
Fourth Down	0-0	2-4
Red Att/Td/Fg	5/3/2	2/1/1
Net Offense	286	330



## INJURIES

GWINNETT – Jeremy Maclin (PG-2<sup>nd</sup>)

YORK – Roy Williams (1 game-DOUTBFUL)

## QUOTE OF THE GAME

"I wouldn't say we're struggling. We're playing our game and it's not always working out. Some things, like scoring, we could do better; but other teams are playing better than we expected." – York QB, Tom Brady.

# CONVICTS RUN OVER LIZARDS!



**CHINO  
CONVICTS**

**30**

**13**

**DURHAM THUNDER  
LIZARDS**



CONVICT OF THE GAME
<b>Steven Jackson</b>
26 carries, 144 yards

Team	1	2	3	4	OT	Total
<b>CHINO</b> (5-5)	3	7	10	10	-	30
<b>DURHAM</b> (6-4)	3	10	0	0	-	13

LIZARD OF THE GAME
<b>Philip Rivers</b>
19 of 34, 227 yards, 1 INT, 1 TD

**HIGHLIGHT REEL:** **Cam Newton** completed 6 of 13 for 58 yards, 1 TD, and rushed for 109 yards and 2 TDs on 11 carries.

- **Hines Ward** caught 4 passes for 47 yards and 1 TD to account for 81% of all receiving yards.
- Chino defensive end **Julius Peppers** made 6 tackles, 1 sack, 2 run stuffs and 2 QB pressures.
- **Cortland Finnegan** made 4 tackles, deflected a pass and returned an interception 34 yards.
- **Steve Breaston** had 6 receptions for 85 yards and **Antonio Gates** had 2 catches for 52 yards and 1 TD to lead Durham receivers.
- **Michael Turner** carried 6 times for 29 yards with a long run of 24.

**GAME SUMMARY:** With the score tied 13-13 in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter, **Cortland Finnegan** intercepted **Philip Rivers** at the Chino 25 and returned it 34 yards to the Durham 41 yard line. With a chance for a field goal at the 33 yard line, the Convicts went for it on 4<sup>th</sup> and 2 and **Steven Jackson** converted with a 4-yard run. A 9-yard bootleg by **Cam Newton**, an 11-yard run by Jackson, and then a second 9-yard bootleg for a TD by Newton, put Chino in front 20-13, a lead they would hold and add onto in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half. It was a big turning point for the Convicts. The Thunder Lizards had led 13-10 at half time on the strength of a 44-yard TD pass from Rivers to **Antonio Gates** and two chip shot **Adam Vinatieri** field goals – the second coming 12 plays after **Devin McCourty** forced a Jackson fumble, recovered by **Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie**, at the Durham 31 yard line. Down 13-3 at that point, the Convicts were able to tack on a late 1<sup>st</sup> half TD after Jackson atoned for his fumble with a 32-yard run; Newton then rambled for another 25 yards on a bootleg and threw a 9-yard TD pass to **Hines Ward**, one of just 6 completions on the afternoon for the Chino rookie QB. The Convicts' defence shut down the Durham offence in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half and eventually the offence caught up and put the game away decisively. After 3 consecutive three-and-outs by Durham, Newtown finished off a 3-play scoring drive with a 45-yard TD on another bootleg. **Billy Cundiff** added a late 39-yard field goal to cap off a decisive and important win for Chino.



**THE FANS LOVED**  
Newton's versatility

**THE FANS HATED**  
Lizards' 2<sup>nd</sup> half exit



**FAN RATING**



12-10-2011 Jurassic Park Temp: 75 Wind: Calm None MVP: **Cam Newton**

1 9:42 Durham	FG Vinatieri 19 (11-58-5:09)	0-3
1 4:09 Chino	FG Cundiff 36 (10-53-5:22)	3-3
2 14:34 Durham	TD Rivers 44 pass to Gates (Vinatieri) (6-71-1:56)	3-10
2 2:55 Durham	FG Vinatieri 26 (12-61-6:40)	3-13
2 1:50 Chino	TD Newton 9 pass to Ward (Cundiff) (3-66-0:57)	10-13
3 9:59 Chino	FG Cundiff 20 (9-44-4:50)	13-13
3 4:03 Chino	TD Newton 9 run (Cundiff) (7-41-3:29)	20-13
4 8:31 Chino	TD Newton 45 run (Cundiff) (3-64-1:36)	27-13
4 2:25 Chino	FG Cundiff 39 (7-16-4:19)	30-13

	CHI	DTL
First Downs	19	15
Rushes	45-288	19-50
Passes	13-6-58	37-20-239
Sacked	0-0	1-6
Fumble	1	0
Penalties	3-43	4-35
Turnovers	1	1
Time	32:36	27:24
Third Down	5-11	2-12
Fourth Down	1-1	0-3
Red Att/Td/Fg	5/2/2	2/0/2
Net Offense	346	283

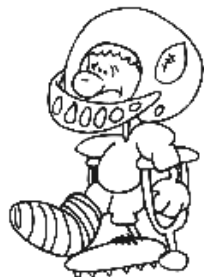
## INJURIES

CHINO – None

DURHAM – None

## QUOTE OF THE GAME

"We decided to go after their weakness." –  
Chino coach, **Rob Nazar**.





# PATS ESCAPE SOUTHERN HEAT!



**CHARLESWOOD  
PATRIOTS**

**24**

**17**

**SOUTH CAROLINA  
REGULATORS**



## PATRIOT OF THE GAME

**Peyton Manning**

20 of 26 for 188 yds, 1 INT, 2 TDs

Team	1	2	3	4	OT	Total
CHARLESWOOD (7-3)	17	0	0	7	-	24
SOUTH CAROLINA (2-8)	0	3	7	7	-	17

## REGULATOR OF THE GAME

**Jason Campbell**

31 of 41, 268 yds, 1 INT, 2 TDs

**HIGHLIGHT REEL:** **Adrian Peterson** gained 50 yards on 15 carries and **Javon Ringer** 38 yards on 6 carries to lead Pats' runners.

- **Jason Witten** caught 7 passes for 54 yards and 5 first downs and **Santonio Holmes** caught 5 for 52 yards and 1 TD.
- **Shaun Phillips** made 11 tackles, deflected 1 pass, and safety **Chris Harris** returned an interception for a TD.
- **Frank Gore** carried the ball 19 times for 84 yards and **Jason Campbell** scrambled for 34 yards.
- **Austin Collie** made 9 catches for 62 yards and 1 TD, while Greg Jennings had 8 receptions for 106 yards.
- Linebacker, **E.J. Henderson** made 10 tackles and stuffed 2 runs, and safety **Patrick Chung** had an interception and 32-yard return.

**GAME SUMMARY:** Charleswood safety **Chris Harris** intercepted **Jason Campbell** and returned it 21 yards for a TD to highlight a 17-point 1<sup>st</sup> quarter for the Patriots. Seldom used running back, **Javon Ringer** tore off runs of 14 and 17 yards while **Adrian Peterson** added a 12-yard gallop around the end to set up an easy 4-yard TD pass from **Peyton Manning** to **Santonio Holmes** to make the score 17-0 late in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter. The Regulators responded with **Frank Gore**, who sparked a drive with runs of 11 and 22 yards to break into opposition territory. But facing 4<sup>th</sup> down and 1 at the Pats' 24 yard line, Campbell attempted to sneak the ball across the first down line and fell just short, turning the ball over on downs to the Pats. The Regulators finally broke into the score column with mere seconds remaining in the 1<sup>st</sup> half after a 14-play, 60-yard drive ended with **Nate Kaeding** booting a 29-yard field goal to shave 3 points off the Charleswood advantage. The 2<sup>nd</sup> half began with both teams trading punts before South Carolina's offence engineered a prolonged drive that covered 91 yards and gouged over 9 minutes off the clock. It ended with Campbell finding **Chris Cooley** wide open over the middle of the field for an 8-yard TD pass to make the score, 17-10 for Charleswood. The Patriots answered that score on their next possession with one of their own. A 24-yard reception by **Jacoby Jones** broke into the Regulators' red zone and five plays later, Manning found **Jason Witten** wide open on a 7-yard slant to re-establish a two-touchdown lead, 24-10. A 6-yard TD pass to **Austin Collie** to narrow the deficit to 7 points and an interception by **Patrick Chung** to the Pats' 12 had Regulators' fans thinking comeback; but a sack by **Phil Taylor** and a deflection by **Ed Reed** on 4<sup>th</sup> down in the end zone ended the threat.



## THE FANS LOVED

"Pick Six" by Chris Harris

## THE FANS HATED

10 SC penalties !



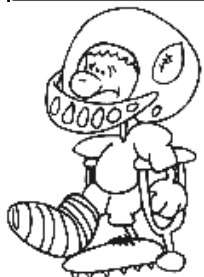
## FAN RATING



12-10-2011 Williams-Brice Stad. Temp: 87 Wind: 0-5 None MVP: **Peyton Manning**

1 9:21	Charleswood	FG Gostkowski 39 (9-58-5:29)	3-0
1 9:10	Charleswood	TD Harris 21 interception return (Gostkowski) (0-0-0:08)	10-0
1 2:23	Charleswood	TD Manning 4 pass to Holmes (Gostkowski) (7-81-4:07)	17-0
2 0:04	South Carolina	FG Kaeding 29 (14-60-3:06)	17-3
3 1:39	South Carolina	TD Campbell 8 pass to Cooley (Kaeding) (16-91-9:23)	17-10
4 11:03	Charleswood	TD Manning 7 pass to Witten (Gostkowski) (13-78-5:28)	24-10
4 7:12	South Carolina	TD Campbell 6 pass to Collie (Kaeding) (7-80-3:51)	24-17

	CHP	SC
First Downs	17	22
Rushes	24-91	25-119
Passes	26-20-188	41-31-268
Sacked	0-0	2-18
Fumble	1	1
Penalties	5-35	10-78
Turnovers	1	1
Time	26:20	33:40
Third Down	6-10	8-12
Fourth Down	0-0	0-2
Red Att/Td/Fg	2/2/0	4/2/1
Net Offense	279	369



## INJURIES

CHARLESWOOD – Stewart Bradley (5 games)

SOUTH CAROLINA – Todd Herremans (PG-3<sup>rd</sup>)

## QUOTE OF THE GAME

"The Manning Disease could bring this team down in the long run." – *Pats' columnist, Charlie Wood, commenting on Peyton's 8<sup>th</sup> straight game with at least 1 interception and brother, Eli leading all QBs in picks thrown.*

# CUBS DOMINATE PENALTY-PLAGUED GAME!



**IOWA CITY  
CUBS**

**27**

**9**

**MARKHAM NORTH  
STARS**



## CUB OF THE GAME

**Sam Bradford**

15 of 25, 186 yards, 1 INT, 2 TDs

## Team 1 2 3 4 OT Total

IOWA CITY (4-6)	10	10	7	0	-	27
MARKHAM (3-7)	0	3	0	6	-	9

## NORTH STAR OF THE GAME

**Jahvid Best**

14 carries, 85 yards, 1 TD catch

**HIGHLIGHT REEL:** **Arian Foster** gained 108 yards on 22 carries and **Donald Brown** added 53 yards on 12 carries.

- **Mike Wallace** caught 2 passes for 94 yards, including a 70-yard TD reception.
- **Mario Williams** made 4 tackles, 1 sack, 2 run stuffs, 2 QB pressures, 2 forced fumbles and returned one 82 yards for a TD.
- Cubs' safety, **Donte Whitner** made 6 tackles, deflected 3 passes and forced a fumble.
- **Mark Sanchez** completed just 11 of 23 passes for just 83 yards, 0 TDs, 1 INT, and was pulled from the game in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter.
- **Takeo Spikes** made 11 tackles and deflected 2 passes to stand out for the Markham defence.

**GAME SUMMARY:** With the North Stars crowding the line gunning for **Arian Foster**, **Sam Bradford** went deep to **Mike Wallace** for a 70-yard TD bomb to jump out to a 10-0 lead late in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter. After failing to counter on their next possession, Markham caught a break when the Cubs' **Kellen Winslow** fumbled at his 30 yard line, turning the ball over to the Stars. But receiver **Kenny Britt** gave it right back and more when **Donte Whitner** stripped the ball and **Mario Williams** picked it up and ran it back 82 yards for a TD to make it 17-0. Markham finally replied with some points after a 35-yard run by **Jahvid Best** put **David Akers** in range for a 49-yard field goal. However, a 21-yard pass interference penalty against **Antoine Winfield** and a 15-yard unnecessary roughness penalty against **Takeo Spikes** fuelled an 81-yard Iowa City drive that ended with **Neil Rackers** kicking a 25-yard field goal with 43 seconds left in the half to give the Cubs a 20-3 lead at the halfway mark. The Cubs had to punt from deep in their own end after going backwards on the opening drive of the 2<sup>nd</sup> half, giving Markham good field position at the 47 yard line. A 21-yard run by Best and a 12-yard reception by Britt keyed a promising drive to the Cubs' red zone; but Markham's comeback hopes took a hit when **Mark Sanchez** was picked off by **DeAngelo Hall** at the Iowa City 8 yard line. From there, an 11-yard completion to **Larry Fitzgerald** was extended by a 15-yard facemask penalty against **Charles Tillman** to get them out of a hole. Then Foster and **Donald Brown** both pulled off carries of 13 yards each to set up a 6-yard TD pass to Fitzgerald. Markham added a late TD, set up by a **Casey Matthews** interception, when back-up **Jake Locker** found Best for a 4-yard TD pass, but by then the Dawg Pound was empty.



## THE FANS LOVED

70-yd TD bomb, 82-yd fumble TD

## THE FANS HATED

20 penalties!



## FAN RATING

★ ½

12-10-2011 The Dawg Pound Temp: 39 Wind: 5-15 None MVP: **Sam Bradford**

1 3:57 Iowa City	FG Rackers 38 (7-15-3:24)	3-0
1 1:49 Iowa City	TD Bradford 70 pass to Wallace (Rackers) (2-75-0:56)	10-0
2 12:24 Iowa City	TD Williams 82 yd fumble recovery (Rackers) (0-0-1:24)	17-0
2 10:15 Markham	FG Akers 49 (5-35-1:59)	17-3
2 0:48 Iowa City	FG Rackers 25 (11-81-3:37)	20-3
3 2:18 Iowa City	TD Bradford 6 pass to Fitzgerald (Rackers) (12-92-6:04)	27-3
4 4:23 Markham	TD Locker 4 pass to Best (2 - failed) (6-30-2:28)	27-9

	ICC	MAR
First Downs	18	12
Rushes	37-164	24-93
Passes	25-15-186	33-17-124
Sacked	0-0	1-4
Fumble	2	3
Penalties	10-77	10-103
Turnovers	2	3
Time	32:04	27:56
Third Down	6-15	3-13
Fourth Down	1-1	2-2
Red Att/Td/Fg	3/1/2	2/1/0
Net Offense	350	213



## INJURIES

IOWA CITY – Chris Gamble (7 games); Arian Foster (PG-3d);

MARKHAM – Akeem Ayers (1 game-QUESTIONABLE)

## QUOTE OF THE GAME

"This was a three-ring circus and we were the geeks – a real embarrassment all around." – Markham coach, **Darrin Jones**.

# THOMAS RIPS THROUGH MUSTANGS!



**GARLAND  
MUSTANGS**

**14**

**33**

**VIRDEN  
VIOLATORS**



## MUSTANG OF THE GAME

**Jordan Shipley**  
5 catches, 60 yards, 1 TD

Team	1	2	3	4	OT	Total
<b>GARLAND (2-8)</b>	0	0	7	7	-	14
<b>VIRDEN (3-7)</b>	10	10	6	7	-	33

## VIOLATOR OF THE GAME

**Eli Manning**  
17 of 26, 313 yds, 2 TDs

**HIGHLIGHT REEL:** **Mike Thomas** had 8 receptions for 236 yards, 2 long TDs of 77 and 87 yards.

- **LeGarrette Blount** rushed for 51 yards on 18 carries and **LT** rushed for 28 yards on 14 carries as the Virdean running game struggled.
- Virdean safety **Eric Berry** made 4 tackles, deflected a pass, intercepted another and returned it 56 yards.
- **Cameron Heyward** made 2 tackles, recorded 1 sack, deflected a pass, pressured the QB, and returned a fumble 68 yards for a TD.
- **Matt Ryan** completed 24 of 55 pass attempts for 229 yards, 1 INT and 1 TD for a QB rating of 54.3.
- **Matt Forte** rushed for 44 yards and 1 TD on 7 carries and added 3 receptions for 27 yards.

**GAME SUMMARY:** The Mustangs were violated three times by big plays in the first half to fall behind Virdean 20-0. It started on the third play from scrimmage when **Michael Thomas** snared a short hitch in tight man coverage and somehow slipped out of the grasp of defender, **Patrick Peterson** to break free for a spectacular 77-yard TD. The second came as Garland was marching in Virdean territory with the aim of evening the score. Safety, **Eric Berry** picked off **Matt Ryan** at the Virdean 13 and returned it 56 yards to the Garland 31 yard line, setting up an eventual 30-yard field goal by **Lawrence Tynes**. The third came with less than a minute left in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter as the Mustangs tried to get on the board before half time. **Matt Forte** snagged a 22-yard pass from Ryan but **Erik Flowers** punched it out and defensive end **Cameron Heyward** picked it up cleanly and rumbled 68 yards for a TD and a 20-0 Virdean lead. The Mustangs came charging out of the gate in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half but fell flat. Three straight long balls, all missed, and a 4-yard scramble by Ryan turned the ball over on downs and the Violators capitalized after a short drive with a 28-yard Tynes field goal. Garland's next possession saw more pass attempts and more failure to move the chains. A medium out pass to **Wes Welker** on 4<sup>th</sup> down and 7 sailed over his head and Virdean took over again in Garland territory at the 38 yard line, setting up Tynes' 4<sup>th</sup> field goal of the afternoon to make it 26-0 Violators. The Mustangs finally marked up the scoreboard aided by two long completions to **Jordan Shipley**, the second into the end zone from 22 yards out to make it 26-7 for Virdean late in the 3<sup>rd</sup>. However, the Violators would put the game away from their 13 yard line when Thomas got behind a goal line defence to sprint 87 yards for his second long TD.



**THE FANS LOVED**  
Turnover-free Eli!

**THE FANS HATED**  
Welker's 3 drops, 2 of 12 targets



**FAN RATING**  
★ ½

12-07-2011 **TERRORDOME** Temp: 67 Wind: Calm None MVP: **Michael Thomas**

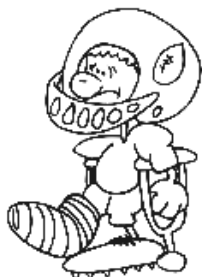
1 13:05 Virdean	TD Manning 77 pass to Thomas (Tynes) (3-83-1:47)	0-7
1 2:49 Virdean	FG Tynes 30 (7-19-3:10)	0-10
2 8:12 Virdean	FG Tynes 44 (15-50-8:15)	0-13
2 0:52 Virdean	TD Heyward 68 yd fumble recovery (Tynes) (0-0-0:07)	0-20
3 9:50 Virdean	FG Tynes 28 (9-36-3:54)	0-23
3 6:25 Virdean	FG Tynes 51 (4-5-1:17)	0-26
3 1:43 Garland	TD Ryan 22 pass to Shipley (Gould) (9-71-4:38)	7-26
4 5:00 Virdean	TD Manning 87 pass to Thomas (Tynes) (2-93-0:58)	7-33
4 2:09 Garland	TD Forte 1 run (Gould) (9-76-2:45)	14-33

	<b>GDM</b>	<b>VV</b>
First Downs	15	13
Rushes	15-66	33-80
Passes	55-24-229	26-17-313
Sacked	1-2	1-5
Fumble	2	1
Penalties	6-40	9-100
Turnovers	3	0
Time	27:38	32:22
Third Down	3-16	8-18
Fourth Down	5-9	0-0
Red Att/Td/Fg	2/1/0	2/0/2
Net Offense	293	388

## INJURIES

**GARLAND** – None

**VIRDEN** – None



## QUOTE OF THE GAME

"I'm not sure what the Mustangs are trying to do, Al. It looks like they're doing the same thing that didn't work last week or the week before that, and so on." – TV analyst, **Chris Collinsworth**.



# KNIGHTS GET TANGLED IN SPARTANS' WEBB!



**LOS ANGELES  
KNIGHTS**

**20**

**23**

**PICKERING  
SPARTANS**



## KNIGHT OF THE GAME

**Josh Freeman**

17 of 30, 159 yds, 2 TDs

Team	1	2	3	4	OT	Total
<b>LOS ANGELES (8-2)</b>	3	7	3	7	-	20
<b>PICKERING (9-1)</b>	7	10	3	3	-	23

## SPARTAN OF THE GAME

**Percy Harvin**

4-51 receiving, 1-29 rushing, TD

**HIGHLIGHT REEL:** **Joe Webb** completed 14 of 22 for 164 yards, 1 TD and carried 6 times for 44 yards.

- **Chris Johnson** rushed for 91 yards on 20 carries, and a long run of 20 yards.
- **Anquan Boldin** caught 5 passes for 70 yards and 1 TD.
- **Josh Freeman** led the Knights in rushing yards with 64 on 6 carries.
- **Jamaal Charles** rushed for 63 yards on 16 carries and caught 2 passes for 26 yards.
- **Roddy White** caught 6 passes for 48 yards and 1 TD.

**GAME SUMMARY:** A tipped pass fell into the hands of center, **Casey Wiegmann** for a 3-yard TD pass that allowed Los Angeles to tie the game at 20-20 with 3:33 left in the fourth quarter. But the vaunted Knights' 'Blue Shield' was unable to stop a late Pickering drive led by rookie QB, **Joe Webb**, who gained 13 yards on a bootleg to get into field goal range for **Josh Scobee**. A 9-yard pass to **Percy Harvin** and a 4-yard run by **Chris Johnson** got them closer, to the LA 17 yard line, where Pickering coach **Gus Konstantakos** allowed the clock to run down to 3 seconds before Scobee nailed the game-winner from 35 yards out to hand LA their second straight loss and give his team the best record in the EFL. Harvin's 9-yard reception was a nice finishing touch on a game where he contributed in multiple facets of the game. Harvin got Pickering on the board first with a 29-yard TD run on the end-around. He also got the game-winning field goal drive off to a good start with a 32-yard kickoff return to the Pickering 37 yard line. After falling behind 7-0, the Knights came back and took the lead on a 31-yard field goal by **Dan Carpenter** and a 6-yard TD pass from **Josh Freeman** to **Roddy White**, set up by a 28-yard Freeman scramble and a 25-yard run by **Cedric Benson**. But the Spartans answered that with a quick 10 points of their own – a 32-yard field goal, followed by a 28-yard TD pass to **Anquan Boldin**, while the LA defence crowded the line looking for Johnson, to grab a 17-10 lead at half time. The teams exchanged field goals in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter, setting up the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter dramatics that saw the Knights tie the game in unlikely fashion, only to give it back on the final possession.



## THE FANS LOVED

Resourceful Spartan game plan

## THE FANS HATED

Wobbly LA Defence



## FAN RATING



12-10-2011 Thermopylae Stadium Temp: 41 Wind: Calm None MVP: Percy Harvin

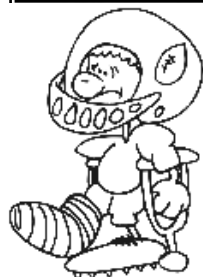
1 11:28 Pickering	TD Harvin 29 run (Scobee) (5-60-1:53)	0-7
1 2:53 Los Angeles	FG Carpenter 31 (15-67-8:31)	3-7
2 12:36 Los Angeles	TD Freeman 6 pass to White (Carpente,D) (6-79-3:05)	10-7
2 7:09 Pickering	FG Scobee 32 (11-65-5:16)	10-10
2 2:52 Pickering	TD Webb 28 pass to Boldin (Scobee) (5-65-3:07)	10-17
3 7:22 Los Angeles	FG Carpenter 21 (9-61-5:34)	13-17
3 0:23 Pickering	FG Scobee 19 (15-81-6:49)	13-20
4 3:33 Los Angeles	TD Freeman 3 pass to Wiegmann (Carpente,D) (12-61-5:23)	20-20
4 0:00 Pickering	FG Scobee 35 (9-46-3:23)	20-23

	LAK	PIC
First Downs	18	19
Rushes	26-154	33-190
Passes	30-17-159	22-14-164
Sacked	0-0	1-7
Fumble	0	2
Penalties	7-72	4-23
Turnovers	0	1
Time	29:03	30:57
Third Down	6-14	7-13
Fourth Down	0-0	0-0
Red Att/Td/Fg	4/2/2	2/0/2
Net Offense	313	347

## INJURIES

LOS ANGELES – Nnamdi Asomugha (3 games)

PICKERING – Kyle Vanden Bosch (6 games)



## QUOTE OF THE GAME

"Joe came through for us like Leonidas did for the Spartans at Thermopylae.....again!" –  
Pickering coach, **Gus Konstantakos**.

# FLACCO-TO-MOSS BURIES UNDERTAKERS!



**COWTOWN CORN  
KINGS**

**31**

**13**

**DEATH VALLEY  
UNDERTAKERS**



## CORN KING OF THE GAME

**Santana Moss**

7 catches, 158 yards, 3 TDs

Team	1	2	3	4	OT	Total
<b>COWTOWN (8-2)</b>	7	7	3	14	-	31
<b>DEATH VALLEY (5-5)</b>	0	3	7	3	-	13

## UNDERTAKER OF THE GAME

**Charles Johnson**

4 tackles, 3 sacks

## HIGHLIGHT REEL

**Joe Flacco** completed 20 of 26 for 297 yards, 3 TDs, and a game day QB rating of 152.2

- **Maurice Jones-Drew** rushed 14 times for 61 yards and 1 TD.
- **Tramon Williams** made his 4<sup>th</sup> pick of the year and returned it 33 yards to set up final Cowtown TD.
- Undertaker QB, **Drew Brees** went 17 of 29 for 140 yards, 1 INT, and a game day QB rating of 56.7
- **DeMarco Murray** carried the ball 15 times for 70 yards and **Ryan Matthews** rushed for 68 yards on 16 carries
- **Brandon Tate** returned 3 kicks for 129 yards, long of 95, and 1 TD.

**GAME SUMMARY:** The Undertakers made a bold opening move by attempting an onside kick to start the game. Cowtown back-up lineman, **Bruce Campbell** recovered at the 48 and the Corn Kings took advantage of the short field by driving 52 yards for the opening score – a 19-yard TD pass from **Joe Flacco** To **Santana Moss** for their 11<sup>th</sup> scoring hook-up of the season. Death Valley responded by sending **Ryan Matthews** and **DeMarco Murray** into the Cowtown line five straight times for 49 yards. But the drive was cut short inside the Corn Kings' red zone when Matthews was stripped of the ball by **Derrick Johnson**. A mad scramble ensued with Cowtown's **Vontae Davis** finally coming away with it to end the threat. Neither team could get anything going until the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter when Death Valley's **Devin Hester** returned a punt 29 yards to the 46 yard line. Back-to-back runs of 13 and 11 yards by Matthews and a 14-yard pass to Murray put the Undertakers in field goal range and **John Kasay** drilled it home from 26 yards to put them on the scoreboard. On their next possession, the Corn Kings got a big play from Moss, 66 yards on a short cross, to reach the 4 yard line. On the very next play Flacco checked down to Moss for another TD to make the score 14-3. In the second half, Death Valley opened with a 95-yard kickoff return for a TD by **Brandon Tate** to draw closer, trailing 14-10. In another bold and controversial move, the Undertakers attempted to convert 4<sup>th</sup> and 1 at their 23 yard line. They did not make it, putting the Corn Kings in field goal range. After losing 3 yards, **Olindo Mare** booted a 44-yarder to give Cowtown a 7-point advantage. After Kasay countered with a field goal, the Corn Kings broke the game open when Flacco audibled and went deep to Moss for a 44-yard TD, their third touchdown connection of the day. They put the game away after **Tramon Williams'** 4<sup>th</sup> pick of the year set up a final TD by **Maurice Jones-Drew**.



## THE FANS LOVED

Flacco to Moss

## THE FANS HATED

Grounded Brees



## FAN RATING



12-05-2011 The Graveyard Temp: 41 Wind: 20-30 None MVP: **Santana Moss**

1 10:50	Cowtown	TD Flacco 19 pass to Moss (Mare) (7-52-4:05)	7-0
2 6:19	Death Valley	FG Kasay 26 (8-46-3:54)	7-3
2 4:36	Cowtown	TD Flacco 4 pass to Moss (Mare) (3-73-1:37)	14-3
3 14:55	Death Valley	TD Tate 95 kick return (Kasay) (0-0-0:29)	14-10
3 3:41	Cowtown	FG Mare 44 (4-17-1:58)	17-10
4 12:59	Death Valley	FG Kasay 38 (10-35-5:30)	17-13
4 11:15	Cowtown	TD Flacco 44 pass to Moss (Mare) (3-67-1:37)	24-13
4 9:59	Cowtown	TD Jones-Drew 9 run (Mare) (1-9-0:08)	31-13

	COW	DVU
First Downs	14	14
Rushes	22-94	32-135
Passes	27-20-297	29-17-140
Sacked	4-29	2-9
Fumble	2	3
Penalties	9-65	7-52
Turnovers	0	2
Time	26:11	33:49
Third Down	6-14	3-16
Fourth Down	0-0	2-3
Red Att/Td/Fg	3/3/0	3/0/2
Net Offense	362	266

## INJURIES

COWTOWN – Maurice Jones-Drew (2 games)

DEATH VALLEY – None



## QUOTE OF THE GAME

"A couple of bad breaks and one dicey decision by Worthley opened the door for Flacco and Moss to crash this party!" – Cowtown radio announcer, **Billy Bob Bobb**.



# EAGLES PREVAIL IN DEFENSIVE STRUGGLE!



**SCARBOROUGH  
BLUE EAGLES**

**14**

**3**

**MOHAVE  
HELLFIRE**



## BLUE EAGLE OF THE GAME

**Aaron Rodgers**

28 of 41, 221 yards, 2 TDs

Team	1	2	3	4	OT	Total
SCARBOROUGH (7-3)	0	0	7	7	-	14
MOHAVE (1-9)	0	3	0	0	-	3

## HELL PLAYER OF THE GAME

**Tyson Alualu**

1 sack, 1 stuff, 5 hurries, 1 FF

**HIGHLIGHT REEL:** Lance Moore caught 7 passes for 58 yards and 1 TD.

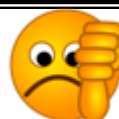
- Ray Rice rushed for just 31 yards on 17 carries, but added 4 receptions for 17 yards and a TD.
- The Scarborough Defence recorded 8 deflections, 2 sacks, 6 QB pressures and forced 3 fumbles.
- Mohave QB, Matt Schaub completed 17 of 35 for 157 yards and 1 INT while under pressure all day.
- Running back Mike Tolbert rushed for 37 yards on 11 carries and caught 4 passes for 29 yards.
- The Mohave Defence recorded 2 sacks, pressured Rodgers 12 times, stuffed 5 runs and forced 2 fumbles.

**GAME SUMMARY:** The defences on both sides applied the heat to opposing quarterbacks in 93-degree weather at The Fiery Depths. The Hellfire defence turned in their best performance of the season by far, limiting the Blue Eagles' running game to an average of 3 yards per carry and subjecting Aaron Rodgers to more pressure than he has felt in years. Unfortunately for the home squad, the Blue Eagles' defence had a similar stellar outing and, in the end, Rodgers proved more adept at evading the pressure and finding the open receiver than his Mohave counterpart, Matt Schaub. It was a defender's day from the very start. The first 8 possessions of the game ended in 7 punts and 1 interception. The first scoring opportunity came at the 6:59 mark of the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter when Sebastien Janikowski's 51-yard field goal attempt hit the upright and missed. The Hellfire took over and, after nearly giving the ball back with a Mike Tolbert fumble on the first play, drove in dink-and-dunk fashion to the Scarborough 14 yard line where they finally stalled and Rob Bironas broke the scoreless tie with a 32-yard field goal. That would be all the scoring in the first half with Mohave holding the narrow lead coming as a surprise to most. The 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter started with a three-and-out by the Hellfire followed by a Scarborough 10-play drive that went 60 yards and ended with Rodgers threading the needle into the teeth of a 6-man stacked line for a short quick 1-yard TD pass to Ray Rice. This would turn out to be all that the Blue Eagles would need on a day when the defences ruled the gridiron. They got an insurance score thanks, in part, to a Mohave gamble that went wrong. Facing 4<sup>th</sup> down and 2 at the Scarborough 28, the Hellfire turned down a field goal attempt and sent Tolbert on the sweep. A six-man defensive front gave him no place to run and he was stonned for a 1-yard gain. Scarborough followed up with a 12-play drive for the clinching score: a 6-yard pass to Lance Moore.



**THE FANS LOVED**  
D-FENCE!

**THE FANS HATED**  
Schaub failing the gut test



**FAN RATING**



12-10-2011 The Fiery Depths Temp: 93 Wind: Calm None MVP: Aaron Rodgers

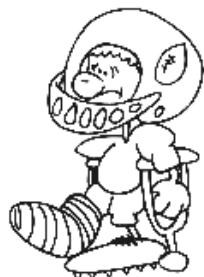
2 1:51 Mohave FG Bironas 32 (11-45-5:04) 0-3  
3 8:23 Scarborough TD Rodgers 1 pass to Rice (Janikowski) (10-60-6:11) 7-3  
4 4:50 Scarborough TD Rodgers 6 pass to Moore (Janikowski) (12-73-7:01) 14-3

	SBE	MOH
First Downs	20	10
Rushes	27-82	13-39
Passes	41-28-221	35-17-157
Sacked	2-13	2-14
Fumble	2	3
Penalties	8-45	4-30
Turnovers	0	2
Time	37:48	22:12
Third Down	9-19	2-11
Fourth Down	0-0	0-3
Red Att/Td/Fg	3/2/0	1/0/1
Net Offense	290	182

## INJURIES

SCARBOROUGH – Nate Allen (4 games)

MOHAVE – None



## QUOTE OF THE GAME

"Listen, you smug motherf#\$ers, you seem to know all the f#\$%\$en answers so why are you asking *me* questions? You should be up here." Mohave coach, Bobby Elder, responding to reporters after the game.

## EFL STANDINGS

East	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Charleswood	7	3	0	0.700	212	21.2	193	19.3	1.9	3 1 0	3 0 0	4 1 0
Virden	3	7	0	0.300	163	16.3	197	19.7	-3.4	3 2 0	2 1 0	2 3 0
York	3	7	0	0.300	162	16.2	237	23.7	-7.5	1 5 0	1 2 0	2 3 0
Mohave	1	9	0	0.100	137	13.7	247	24.7	-11	1 4 0	0 3 0	0 5 0
West	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Los Angeles	8	2	0	0.800	253	25.3	136	13.6	11.7	5 0 0	3 0 0	5 0 0
Chino	5	5	0	0.500	192	19.2	147	14.7	4.5	3 2 0	0 3 0	1 4 0
Death Valley	5	5	0	0.500	242	24.2	272	27.2	-3	2 4 0	2 1 0	3 2 0
Iowa City	4	6	0	0.400	214	21.4	214	21.4	0	2 2 0	1 2 0	3 2 0
North	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Pickering	9	1	0	0.900	259	25.9	176	17.6	8.3	5 0 0	2 1 0	4 1 0
Cowtown	8	2	0	0.800	298	29.8	149	14.9	14.9	4 1 0	2 1 0	3 2 0
Durham	6	4	0	0.600	240	24	193	19.3	4.7	4 1 0	1 2 0	3 2 0
Markham	3	7	0	0.300	134	13.4	212	21.2	-7.8	2 3 0	1 2 0	1 4 0
South	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Scarborough	7	3	0	0.700	205	20.5	173	17.3	3.2	3 2 0	3 0 0	4 1 0
Gwinnett	7	3	0	0.700	241	24.1	182	18.2	5.9	2 3 0	2 1 0	4 1 0
Garland	2	8	0	0.200	105	10.5	230	23	-12.5	1 4 0	1 2 0	1 4 0
South Carolina	2	8	0	0.200	148	14.8	247	24.7	-9.9	1 4 0	0 3 0	0 5 0

## PASSING

Rk	Name	Team	Att	Cmp	C%	Yards	In	I%	Lg	TD	TD%	Rate
1	Flacco	COW	316	209	66.1	2514	5	1.6	66	23	7.3	108
2	Brees	DVU	307	203	66.1	2254	7	2.3	81	18	5.9	97.8
3	Freeman	LAK	312	198	63.5	1993	4	1.3	65	18	5.8	95.5
4	Newton	CHI	137	87	63.5	850	1	0.7	51	7	5.1	94.8
5	Roethlisberger	GWG	175	102	58.3	1268	3	1.7	78	10	5.7	92.8
6	Campbell, J	SC	297	198	66.7	1997	5	1.7	52	10	3.4	89.9
7	Cassel	PIC	144	74	51.4	1174	3	2.1	78	8	5.6	88.7
8	Rodgers	SBE	288	185	64.2	1786	2	0.7	41	8	2.8	87.8
9	Rivers, P	DTL	286	178	62.2	2170	10	3.5	62	10	3.5	82.6
10	Manning, P	CHP	325	215	66.2	2150	11	3.4	56	10	3.1	80.9
11	Schaub	MOH	314	190	60.5	2002	7	2.2	53	6	1.9	76.2
12	Bradford	ICC	275	152	55.3	2030	10	3.6	70	10	3.6	75.9
13	Brady, T	YOR	316	180	57	1832	5	1.6	88	6	1.9	73.4
14	Ryan, M	GDM	383	225	58.7	2233	9	2.3	61	5	1.3	69.9
15	Manning, E	VV	321	195	60.7	2523	22	6.9	91	11	3.4	68.3
16	Sanchez	MAR	215	112	52.1	1231	7	3.3	55	3	1.4	60.4
17	Cutler	CHI	114	70	61.4	566	6	5.3	73	0	0	52
18	Young, V	GWG	88	55	62.5	647	1	1.1	48	6	6.8	102.8
19	Locker	MAR	10	6	60	41	0	0	11	1	10	102.5
20	Tebow	DTL	10	4	40	43	0	0	26	3	30	92.9

## RUSHING

Rk	Name	Team	Att	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD	Rk	Name	Team	Att	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD
1	Foster, A	ICC	222	1171	5.3	72	7	11	McFadden, D	YOR	116	516	4.4	39	6
2	Peterson, A	CHP	190	929	4.9	74	9	12	Rice, R	SBE	162	507	3.1	38	1
3	Johnson, C	PIC	220	928	4.2	58	8	13	Tolbert	MOH	131	477	3.6	31	5
4	Charles	LAK	153	778	5.1	19	5	14	Jacobs, B	YOR	100	475	4.8	59	8
5	Jones-Drew	COW	171	770	4.5	29	4	15	Mendenhall	DVU	137	426	3.1	21	3
6	Jackson, S	CHI	195	738	3.8	47	2	16	Jackson, B	COW	74	402	5.4	42	2
7	McCoy, L	GWG	116	623	5.4	40	3	17	Jones, F	SC	88	387	4.4	29	4
8	Bradshaw	GWG	143	621	4.3	20	4	18	Newton	CHI	52	373	7.2	46	5
9	Turner, M	DTL	137	577	4.2	78	2	19	Forte	GDM	83	365	4.4	59	2
10	Ivory	MOH	107	552	5.2	44	1	20	Addai	MAR	112	352	3.1	25	1

## RECEIVING

Rk	Name	Team	No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD	Rk	Name	Team	No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD
1	White, R	LAK	76	740	9.7	33	8	11	Fitzgerald	ICC	45	458	10.2	35	2
2	Witten	CHP	61	593	9.7	22	7	12	Watson, B	MOH	44	475	10.8	52	4
3	Moss, S	COW	57	932	16.4	66	13	13	Miller, Z	COW	42	507	12.1	52	5
4	Wayne	GWG	53	803	15.2	47	10	14	Keller	GDM	41	462	11.3	48	2
5	Thomas, M	VV	51	882	17.3	91	4	15	Royal, E	GDM	41	370	9	18	0
6	Cooley	SC	48	393	8.2	34	1	16	Gonzalez	LAK	41	371	9	29	5
7	Edwards, B	DVU	47	621	13.2	81	3	17	Owens, T	MOH	41	394	9.6	34	1
8	Bowe	DTL	47	663	14.1	49	8	18	Welker	GDM	41	446	10.9	42	0
9	Bryant, D	VV	46	660	14.3	51	4	19	Colston	CHP	40	406	10.2	38	0
10	Jennings, G	SC	46	598	13	41	5	20	McCoy, L	GWG	39	399	10.2	48	1

## TACKLES

	Barber, R	PIC	93	8	Brackett	VV	75	15	Spikes, T	MAR	67
2	Mayo	DVU	93	9	Timmons	YOR	74	16	Ruud	CHI	65
3	Henderson, EJ	SC	93	10	Urlacher	YOR	73	17	Williams, D	GWG	64
4	Lewis, R	DVU	88	11	Jones, D	MOH	71	18	Dansby	GDM	63
5	Beason	CHP	80	12	Laurinaitis	GWG	70	19	Tulloch	COW	63
6	Willis, P	ICC	78	13	Johnson, D	COW	70	20	Posluszny	VV	63
7	Whitner	ICC	76	14	Cole, T	MAR	68	21	Atogwe	PIC	63



## KICKING

Rk	Name	Team	FGA	FGM	FG%	40	50	Lg	Pts
1	Brown, J	GWG	29	26	89.7	9	1	53	97
2	Mare	COW	20	18	90	5	0	49	88
3	Carpenter, D	LAK	21	19	90.5	4	1	55	85
4	Vinatieri	DTL	22	19	86.4	4	0	43	82
5	Cundiff	CHI	23	22	95.7	6	1	55	82
6	Scobee	PIC	19	16	84.2	3	0	48	77
7	Kasay	DVU	18	16	88.9	7	2	52	74
8	Rackers	ICC	26	18	69.2	8	5	56	74
9	Janikowski	SBE	24	17	70.8	8	3	55	73
10	Akers	MAR	18	17	94.4	3	0	49	62
11	Tynes	VV	23	15	65.2	6	3	58	61
12	Bironas	MOH	14	13	92.9	2	0	48	53
13	Gould	GDM	18	14	77.8	4	1	53	51
14	Gano	YOR	9	7	77.8	2	1	50	40
15	Kaeding	SC	13	9	69.2	2	0	44	38
16	Gostkowski	CHP	8	6	75	2	0	45	36
17	Rayner	CHP	4	4	100	0	0	30	20
18	Buehler	SC	1	0	0	0	0	0	4

## INTERCEPTIONS

Rk	Name	Team	No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD	Rk	Name	Team	No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD
1	Williams, T	COW	4	78	19.5	33	1	11	Bullitt	CHP	2	99	49.5	76	1
2	Rodgers-Crom	DTL	4	158	39.5	67	1	12	Ayers	MAR	2	7	3.5	4	0
3	Polamalu	GWG	4	31	7.8	14	0	13	Atogwe	PIC	2	60	30	60	1
4	Tillman	MAR	3	70	23.3	43	0	14	Mauuluga	VV	2	84	42	71	0
5	Winfield	MAR	3	58	19.3	34	1	15	Harris, D	PIC	2	6	3	6	0
6	Cason	PIC	3	26	8.7	26	0	16	Jones, S	COW	2	49	24.5	49	0
7	Haden	PIC	3	80	26.7	52	1	17	Peppers	CHI	2	0	0	0	0
8	Godfrey	COW	3	45	15	38	1	18	Talib	CHI	2	72	36	55	1
9	Florence	YOR	2	20	10	20	0	19	Finnegan	CHI	2	75	37.5	41	0
10	Thomas, T	COW	2	37	18.5	37	1	20	Moore, W	DVU	2	0	0	0	0

## SACKS

1	Woodley	SBE	8	8	Houston, L	DTL	5	15	Suggs	SBE	5
2	Matthews, C	DVU	7	9	Johnson, C	DVU	5	16	Allen, J	DTL	5
3	Ware, D	DVU	7	10	Williams, M	ICC	5	17	Mathis, R	GWG	5
4	Edwards, R	PIC	6	11	Cole, T	MAR	5	18	Harrison, J	CHI	4
5	Orakpo	LAK	6	12	Anderson, M	COW	5	19	Vanden Bos	PIC	4
6	Umenyiora	LAK	6	13	Tuck	SBE	5	20	Hampton	GWG	4
7	Abraham	CHP	6	14	Suh	SBE	5	21	Raji	LAK	4



# AROUND THE



## With Spats McChad

NEW YORK – My weekly instalment reports on the Knights' quest for a perfect season lasted one week. Not even long enough to pluralize it. What was supposed to be a series on the Knights' victory run turned out to be a rather brief *report* on the team's first loss. Was I responsible, in some way, for that loss? Or did Mr. Finchley's impromptu idea of a weekly chronicle curse the franchise?

The human conceit that somehow we, as individuals, have an impact on events central to other people's lives by simply thinking about them, or by performing some ritual, or by wearing some "lucky shirt" or sitting in a "lucky chair," is something we grow out of as we get older. Yet, even in our adult years, we can revert to superstition instinctively when the irony of circumstances hits us over the head. To me, that means we instinctively *believe* in our individual power to change the world even if we don't *think* we can. That also means that, for me and billions of people on this planet; the world revolves around each of us individually as we revolve around each other.

### **FOURTH DOWN FOLLIES**

It is time to *stop the fourth down insanity!* While there is a growing school of coaching thought that questions traditional 4th down conventions, some coaches are "going for it" on 4th down in situations that would have been considered grounds for committal to a mental institution in the old days. To be sure, "playing it safe" on 4th-and-short has been questioned, and challenged, more and more as a loser's formula by coaches in the mainstream. But lately, aggressive offensive strategies that involve daring 4th down-and-long attempts are coming into vogue. '4th and Go' is "trending" in the coaching 'Twitterverse.' The question: is this trend the next step in the continuous evolution of football, or a passing fad indulged by desperate coaches on the edge?

A quick look at the data suggests the latter. After ten weeks, the average number of 4th down conversion attempts per team is 16. On the high end is Garland, with 38 attempts; on the low end is Cowtown with 1. Half the league's teams fall within the 10-18 range, while the remaining half of the league occupy different levels toward the extremes on both ends.

It is interesting to note that the four teams with 25 or more attempts, **Death Valley** (25), **York** (30), **Mohave** (33) and **Garland** (38), have a combined record of 11-29; while the four teams with 8 or fewer attempts, **Gwinnett** (8), **Pickering** (7), **Virden** (6) and **Cowtown** (1) have a combined record of 27-13. This is, in part, due to the obvious fact that weaker teams are more often in situations where they are trying to come from behind and must take chances on 4th down. But, in the case of this particular group of four at the top of the chart, it is also due to a "gutsy" (or foolhardy) philosophy that puts 4th down in play virtually any time, as early as the first quarter with the score tied, at virtually any spot on the field. The thought behind this strategy seems to be; "*we're bad, we need an extra down to compete.*" But, as we're seeing, increasing the number of risky 4th down gambles when your team is not very competitive just makes everything worse. The Top Four were all expected to be better than their current records. Of the 'Bottom Four,' three are among the top teams in the league. **Virden**, at 3-7, is the anomaly; but they would probably have more 4th down attempts but their games have been close and **Eli Manning** keeps getting intercepted before they make it to 4th down situations.

It may be easy to dismiss the impact of 4th down experimentation when it involves teams like **Mohave** and **Garland**. But how does the 4th down insanity impact a serious game? In **Death Valley** this week, a game still well within reach for the home team (down 14-10 with 5:53 left in the third quarter) took a significant turn against them when they failed to convert on 4th and 1 at their 23. Overcoming two holding penalties, the Corn Kings managed to stay in field goal range without earning a first down. **Olindo Mare** kicked the field goal and suddenly the Corn Kings were up by a TD, instead of 4 points, in a tight game. The Undertakers may have lost anyway, but there was a real momentum shift on that series. Although they had given up a couple of big plays, the dangerous **Death Valley** pass rush had been disrupting the **Cowtown** offence and preventing their usual sustained drives. There was a sense before that gamble that the game could have gone either way. But after the Undertakers put their team's "manhood" on the line unnecessarily and failed to gain a



Garland fans cheer a 4<sup>th</sup> down conversion, one of 18 they have made in 38 tries this year. If these crazy guys had their way, it would be "4<sup>th</sup>-and-go" all the time. Garland coach, **Doug Shirley**, is giving the fans what they want, but losing games in the process.

yard, the sense that one team was over-compensating for an inferiority complex became a belief in the players' minds, and the Corn Kings went on to beat Death Valley easily, 31-13.

Supporters of 4th down insanity might counter that, had Worthley's gamble worked, we would be praising him as some kind of 'avant garde' genius. Not really. Throwing short, he would likely have gained a first down somewhere between his 24 and (to be generous) his 35. Big deal! The reward was small compared with the risk and therefore was a sucker's bet.

### ***THE YORK REVOLUTION***

The crowd at Camelot got ugly drunk and mean watching the Excaliburs' Week Ten debacle against the Gladiators. The loyal and normally cheery fans in York seem to have finally come to the realization that there is no light at the end of the tunnel for this curiously weak team with so much unrealized potential. Nobody expected the Swords to dominate in 2011, but few, if any, expected a team with **Tom Brady** at quarterback to be two games out of a playoff spot after 10 weeks.

As long as there were no great expectations of their team, the fans at Camelot were more than happy to eat and drink until the stench of vomit overpowered the smell of exhaust fumes in the parking lot after games. But since brimming hope was gradually beaten down and flattened by the Hammer of Defeat in 7 out of 10 games this year, a growing sense of disappointment and betrayal turned the once jovial masses into angry mobs as the Excaliburs fell 29-10 to Gwinnett.

When fights started breaking out in the third quarter and the beer taps were shut off early for the first time since the franchise came to York, a petrified Head of Security went to owner, **Jay Hammond's** luxury box with an urgent message that the fans were restless and complaining that they had no beer to drink. Red-faced and sauced to the gills, Hammond apparently bellowed, *"they have no beer? Let them drink scotch, then!"* Word of Hammond's comment spread quickly through the stands and soon, a mob estimated at about 1,000, drunkenly staggered up the stairs to storm Hammond's private box. *"TO THE BASTARD!"* they chanted as yellow-clad security fled before them.

Not quite realizing his peril, Hammond leaned out from his luxury suite and addressed the mob with his thumb to his nose, his fingers wiggling and his tongue out. This just made them angrier and within minutes they had broken through what remained of stadium security and had stormed into the suite. Hammond narrowly escaped the wrath of the drunken crowd by quickly changing his shirt, throwing on a King Arthur mask (a popular item at the souvenir stands) and joining in the trashing of his own private box. He eventually got out of harm's way by leading a charge into the visiting Gwinnett owner's box before slipping away through a service tunnel to call the Police.

Police arrived by the dozens and eventually restored order, but not before another group of fans stormed the York dressing room and tied up the assistant coaches. Led by a fan named Nick, decked out in a Lancelot outfit, a group of about two dozen inebriated season ticket holders proclaimed themselves 'The Fan's Assembly' and declared that they would be calling the plays for the rest of the season. Their reign was short-lived as Nick's assistant, Charlie, located the beer keg storage room while searching for the team's playbook. This led to the Fan's Assembly drinking themselves into unconsciousness and eventual arrest.

### ***DOUBTING THOMAS***

Virden wide receiver, **Mike Thomas** is used to being overlooked as a number one receiver. **Dez Bryant** and **Julio Jones** are considered by many to be the top studs in Virden stable. That's okay by Thomas – he prefers it that way. "All the time



growing up, people doubted my ability. But I always believed in myself," Thomas told ESPN commentator, **Russ Flont**; who proclaimed Thomas to be a future hall-of-famer, and the possible supplanter of **Jerry Rice** as the all-time leading receiver in history, after his standout performance in Week Ten against Garland. Thomas is creeping up the leader board and drawing serious attention from Fantasy coaches everywhere.

Thomas certainly played a key role for his team this week. He got the Violators started with a brilliant 77-yard catch-and-run TD and never looked back in leading a 33-14 shellacking of the Mustangs. Despite missing 10 players due to injuries, by far the most in the league, Virden looked healthy and the Mustangs looked sick. **Eli Manning** had his first interception-free game of 2011 and, in the process, showed what he could do when he doesn't throw the ball to the opposing team. Of course, he got a lot of help from Thomas' individual effort, who's 236 yards on 8 catches set a single game mark for the 2011 season. Thomas got a little help from the Garland defence on his final 87-yard TD reception. In a new twist to the train wreck that is the Garland coaching staff's approach to strategy in 2011, the Mustangs formed up in a goal line defence at the Virden 13 yard line. Yes, that is correct, the VIRDEN 13 yard line. Thomas benefitted from having nobody to beat on the play apart from fee safety **Earl Thomas**, who he had gained a step on from the outset. In a whacky way the choice of defence made sense in retrospect – the Violators did actually reach and cross the goal line on the play.

#### **AROUND THE EFL**

How good is Chino's run defence? Aside from being first in the league with a full yard-per-carry advantage (2.8) over their nearest competitor, Virden (3.8); they have given up just two runs of 20+ yards in 10 games: a 25-yarder to Gwinnett's **LeSean McCoy** and, this week, a 24-yarder to Durham's **Michael Turner**. That run, and a 44-yard TD pass to **Antonio Gates**, were the only two highlights for Durham fans in a 30-13 loss to Chino in Week Ten. How bad is Durham's run defence? Not the worst, but this week they looked like it, surrendering 288 yards rushing – the most by any team in a single game this year. 109 of those came from **Cam Newton**, who rushed for more yards than he passed for - proving that the sensational rookie can beat you one way or the other. The Convicts urgently needed a win to stay above water in the highly competitive West Division playoff race. Meanwhile, the loss puts the Thunder Lizards two games behind the Corn Kings and one game behind Gwinnett in the wild card race. They are looking for new gimmicks after the "Crossbow" (the formation led by **Tim Tebow** that forces an opponent to guess if he will run or pass) did not fare well in a critical situation against a defence that does not need to overplay the run to stop it.

The Regulators are going to be a thorn in opponents' sides in the final third of the season if their recent performances against LA last week and Charleswood this week are any indication. The Pats rode a 17-point outburst in the first quarter to survive a late push-back by **Hal Corson's** feisty team. Briefly it looked like an amazing comeback was in store for boisterous and rowdy South Carolina fans. **Patrick Chung** picked off **Peyton Manning** and returned it 32 yards to the Pats' 12 yard line with 4:43 remaining. Trailing 24-17, the Regulators needed a TD to tie, which would have made it anybody's game. But the Pats stood firm as **Phil Taylor** sacked **Jason Campbell** for a 7-yard loss on 2nd and goal from the 3, and **Ed Reed** batted away a 4th down pass for **Austin Collie** in the end zone. The Pats felt they had narrowly avoided an embarrassment in Columbia, but if the Regulators continue to play tough, losing to them will not be the embarrassment it would have been in the first half of the season.

Just call him "Bombs Away Bradford." One of the bright spots in an up-and-down season for young Cubs' quarterback, **Sam Bradford** is his success rate on the long bomb. Bradford is 8 of 12 for 371 yards and 4 TDs for a QB rating of 149.3 throwing the long bomb (a pass attempt of 30 yards or more). Much of this success is due to receiver **Mike Wallace**, the target of all 12 attempts, getting open behind the defender. Wallace is the league's premier deep threat, but nevertheless, Bradford deserves credit for hitting the moving target. This gives Iowa City a weapon no other team has - the entire league rest of the league has thrown just 12 bombs, completing only 2 of them for 65 yards. The 'Long Bomber' struck again in Week 10, burning Markham corner, **Antoine Winfield** for a 70-yard TD strike to give the Cubs a 10-0 lead in the 1st quarter and setting the tone for a dominating Cubs win that could have been much worse than the 27-9 score would indicate.

The Knights came into Thermopylae Stadium determined to stop running back **Chris Johnson**; but that effort, as well as the loss of **Nnamdi Asomugha** in the first quarter, may have opened the door for young quarterback **Joe Webb** to show that he is a little better than a mere game manager. With **Matt Cassel** out, the Spartans were forced to turn to the young rookie, who had never started a game in his career, but had experienced first string pressure relieving the brittle Cassel in three previous contests. After leading a last minute drive for the winning field goal in a 23-20 win against one of the top defences in the league, Webb is now established as a reliable back-up – an asset the Spartans did not know they had at the start of the season.

In a game marked by a surprisingly strong showing by the Mohave defensive line, the Blue Eagles squeezed by the Hellfire for their 7th victory of the season, to keep pace with the surging Gladiators in the South Division. The Scarborough offensive line, one of the better outfits in the league, wilted in the Mohave heat and allowed rookie **Tyson Alualu** and second year defensive end **Robert Ayers** to look like Pro Bowl candidates as those two harassed and knocked down **Aaron Rodgers** 10 times, including a sack and a forced fumble. It was more pressure than Rodgers is used to facing but he responded well - eventually throwing the only TD passes of the game to account for his team's 14 points. **Matt Schaub**, far more accustomed to defensive harassment, did not fare as well and that was the difference in the ball game. If you're the kind of hard-nosed fan who loves defence, you would have enjoyed this game; but if you are like most of the league's fans you would have flipped the switch and never come back right after **Ray Rice** caught that 1-yard TD pass in the 3rd quarter.

# BUG THE BOOKIE!

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



### JIMMY'S Week ELEVEN picks

#### **IOWA CITY @ CHARLESWOOD (line – PATS by 5)**

Both teams dispatched relatively weak opponents in Week Ten so both will have to turn up the intensity level for this match. The team that takes the other more seriously first, will have the edge. The Pats are losing true believers every time Peyton Manning lets a weaker opponent back into the game with an unforced error – as he did last week against South Carolina. This week his team faces a club they should beat at Patriot Place, but which has true playmakers on both sides of the ball and a knack for knocking off giants. The Pats are no longer giants but they have the talent to take out the Cubs and their unreliable quarterback without breaking much of a sweat. While the Cubs continue to move the ball with ease, their defence remains questionable despite some top grade talent and they are now missing Chris Gamble at cornerback. Expect the Pats to get a fine day from Adrian Peterson and a solid game from Peyton to cover the spread and a bit more. **PICK: CHARLESWOOD**

#### **DEATH VALLEY @ MOHAVE (line – UNDERTAKERS by 3)**

The Hellfire see an opportunity to score some points here against the league's most generous defence but they may come away disappointed at their haul. While the Undertakers are giving up big plays and big yards, they also have the strongest pass rush in the league, and when it is able to get through, few quarterbacks can overcome it. Mohave has one of those offensive lines that will continually test its own quarterback by letting opposing linebackers into the backfield. Despite having serious reservations about Chris Worthley's ability to fix the defence that Darth Vader broke, I can see the 'Fearsome Foursome' and friends generating a six-sack day against Matt Schaub and creating turnovers in the passing game. Meanwhile, Drew Brees will do just enough against a mildly resurging Mohave defence that Death Valley should just barely cover against the spread. **PICK: DEATH VALLEY**

#### **VIRDEN @ CHINO (line – CONVICTS by 6)**

The Violators showed last week against Garland how dangerous they can be when Eli Manning plays turnover-free football. Mike Thomas can score from any area of the field, both catching the ball and returning kicks. This week, however, he may be showered with more attention than usual as Eli's other main target, Dez Bryant, sits due to injury. Although he must be respected, LeGarrette Blount has had just one rushing day over 100 yards and he is extremely unlikely to get even half that amount against Chino's run defence. Cam Newton showed in last week's upset over Durham that he can win a game with his legs if he has to. The Virden line, although playing well, lacks true run-stopping talent and will be vulnerable to Newton's improvisational skills. Expect a return to "Turnover Time" for Eli and a good rushing performance from Steve Jackson and rookie Cam. **PICK: CHINO**

#### **YORK @ LOS ANGELES (line – KNIGHTS by 8)**

Both teams have lost 2 straight and find themselves dealing with confidence issues. The inability of the Knights' critically-acclaimed defence to stop Joe Webb from marching the Spartans into field goal range in the final minutes of a Week Ten loss to Pickering has many in the Media questioning their heart. Although still ranked in the top four, the Knights' defence goes forward into this week missing Nnamdi Asomugha, their best player. Against most other teams this would be a significant and clear disadvantage, but against emotionally unstable York, the

pressure of the opportunity may be enough to keep Tom Brady's offence tight and ineffective – as it has been most of this season. York is desperate for a win and LA, while not desperate, is very concerned about their sudden loss of fortune after ruling the EFL for half a season. York needs to get their tight ends back into the game, since their receivers are not getting the job done. If they do, I can see Tom Brady, already bottomed out emotionally after a disappointing 3-7 start, rising out of his rut with a fresh approach to the passing game against a limping and mildly depressed LA. After all, “misery loves company.” **PICK: YORK**

### **PICKERING @ SCARBOROUGH (line – BLUE EAGLES by 2)**

The Spartans have been moving the ball and scoring in spite of an ordinary quarterback who bears no resemblance to the ego-maniac who led this same team to the Championship last year. This can be attributed to the running game and an offensive line that gives Matt Cassel (and Joe Webb) time to throw. Pickering is also well-coached and, at 9-1, is getting the most out of its talent. The Blue Eagles are best in the league in red zone defence and at sacking the QB, but otherwise are not dominating the rankings as they should be. The offence is even worse – ranked 13<sup>th</sup> and, just last week, struggled to score 14 points against the Mohave turnstile. With all this in view, about the only thing the Blue Eagles have going for them is the home field advantage. If you had asked me about this game before the season started I would have laughed and thrown my pay cheque on Scarborough. Now, I'm laughing in the other direction. **Pick: PICKERING**

### **DURHAM @ GWINNETT (line – GLADIATORS by 5)**

Although the early part of Gwinnett's 2011 journey was plagued by injuries on defence and inconsistencies on offence, their recent performances over the course of a four-game winning streak suggest they may be set to finally realize their potential as a usurper of the South Division hierarchy. Although I did call it, Durham's largely unexpected loss to Chino last week blunted their swagger and pushed them a game out of the wild card race. They now need to post a winning record over the remaining 6 weeks to have a good chance at a playoff berth – too bad for them that their final run of six begins in Gwinnett. The Glads are getting stronger while Durham is stepping backwards. Take the home team to win with the points. **Pick: GWINNETT**

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

With six days to go until game day, the North Stars have not sold even half of the tickets available for this ‘Clash of the Molluscs,’ meaning this game will almost certainly be blacked out in the Markham area unless Darrin Jones buys the remainder of the tickets and donates them to the Penetanguishene Mental Health Centre, as he did once before in 2010. Let's hope he allows the game to be blacked out and that it will start a trend to black it out everywhere, except for Garland. The prospect of accidentally flipping to this game on EFL Sunday Ticket has me worried, and a blackout would alleviate that concern. Still, as long as somebody is betting on this contest, I have a job to do. One team has to win and, although neither team has played well in recent weeks, the Mustangs were the last to actually win a game, so I say they are peaking for this one. **PICK: GARLAND**

### **SOUTH CAROLINA @ COWTOWN (line – CORN KINGS by 14)**

The Corn Kings bounced back from a one-point loss to Gwinnett in Week Nine with a convincing 31-13 win on the road against Death Valley last week. This week they face a much healthier Regulator team that, over the past two weeks, has spoiled the Knights' perfect season bid and come from behind to challenge Charleswood late. Tony Romo is still out, but with the way Jason Campbell has played in his absence this no longer means much. Although many fans are still in shock about the Corn Kings' overwhelming success to this point, it is finally time to acknowledge that they are among the league's top teams; ranked #1 in both offensive and defensive efficiency, in case you have any doubts. But while they should be a prohibitive favourite against South Carolina, even with Maurice Jones-Drew on the sidelines, Joe Flacco will certainly miss Cowtown's leading rusher this week, and that will make a difference in the spread, if not the bottom line. **PICK: SOUTH CAROLINA**