

WEEK 10

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2012 EFL 2012

December 16, 2012



EAST				WEST				NORTH				SOUTH			
York	8	2	0	Death Valley	10	0	0	Durham	9	1	0	Scarborough	10	0	0
Virden	7	3	0	Chino	6	4	0	Cowtown	6	3	1	Garland	7	3	0
Commonwealth	5	5	0	Los Angeles	5	5	0	Markham	6	3	1	Gwinnett	4	6	0
Mohave	2	8	0	Iowa City	1	9	0	Pickering	3	7	0	South Carolina	4	6	0
Charleswood	0	10	0	Mission Viejo	1	0	0	Twin Cities	3	7	0	Sebastian	2	8	0

Brandon Jacobs runs over Cowtown's **Charles Godfrey** on his way to a 57-yard TD run in 3rd quarter action in York. The play was typical of the way the Excaliburs handled the Corn Kings without difficulty for almost the entire game until late in the 4th quarter, when a back-up quarterback suddenly turned it all around to force an unlikely overtime period. In other EFL action, **Drew Brees** set another passing record in a Death Valley shootout with South Carolina, but not everybody is impressed; while Chino's **James Harrison** returned from injury to dump Big Ben 4 times in an effort to keep Chino in playoff position. All this, and more, inside.....

SLAIN BY A SWORD!



BRANDON JACOBS



*Who was slick in
Week Ten?*

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



DEATH
VALLEY
UNDERTAKERS



Drew Brees
QB
Death Valley
Undertakers

40 of 47, 479 yards, 8 TDs, set another TD record in SC slaughter.



CHINO
CONVICTS



James Harrison
OLB
Chino Convicts

8 tackles, 4 sacks, 1 Stuff, 2 FF, 1 FR; a force returning from injury.



6-3-1

24



GAME OF THE WEEK



8-2-0

27

FURIOUS FINISH!

KINGS' 4TH QTR EXPLOSION FORCES
OVERTIME – WALSH SAVES DAY FOR YORK!

CORN KING OF THE GAME

Matt Moore

19 of 34, 311 yards, 3 TDs

Team	1	2	3	4	OT	Total
Cowtown	0	3	0	21	0	24
York	0	14	7	3	3	27

EXCALIBUR OF THE GAME

Brandon Jacobs

10 Carries, 75 yards, 1 TD

GAME SUMMARY: Cowtown appeared to be heading for a certain loss – trailing 24-10 and electing to punt the ball from its own 30 yard line with 4:23 remaining in the game. But the tone of the contest turned suddenly against the home team after the Cowtown defence forced a York 3-and-out with 2:42 remaining. With the situation looking hopeless after a **Chris Kluwe** punt put Cowtown at its 13 yard line, the Corn Kings got a huge play from their premier weapon, **Larry Fitzgerald**, who caught a medium out pass and charged through double coverage to take it all the way to the house for an 87-yard TD catch. Down by 7 with 2:19 remaining, the situation still looked bad for Cowtown; but **Donnie Avery** recovered the onside kick in a mad scramble at the 46 yard line to give them a fighting chance. With **Matt Moore** in the game in relief of an ineffective **Joe Flacco**, the Kings moved down the field, converting a 4th and 2 from the York 34 to stay barely alive. Two plays later they were at the York 17 with 37 seconds left and no timeouts; and two plays after that, facing 4th and 9, they were down to their last play. Moore made it count, connecting with **Malcolm Floyd** on a hitch for a 17-yard TD pass with 8 seconds on the clock. The extra point by **Nick Novak** forced overtime and for a while it looked like Cowtown might finish off their miracle after they won the toss to get the ball first. But the Excaliburs had other plans. The defence collected itself and played like they had for the first 3 quarters – forcing a holding penalty and pressuring the QB. A Cowtown 3-and-out gave the ball to York at its own 42 yard line and **Tom Brady** went to work, throwing two key passes – a 12-yarder to **Anquan Boldin** to convert a 3rd and 6, and a 15-yarder to **Victor Cruz** to put his team in field goal range for **Blair Walsh**. Five running plays then set the stage for a 37-yard attempt that Walsh nailed without a doubt to save the day for York. It was a huge recovery for the Excaliburs after a shocking turnaround. They had dominated the first 3 quarters, jumping out to a 14-0 lead on a 13-yard TD pass to Cruz and a 6-yard scramble by Brady after a **Danieal Manning** pick of Flacco gave them a short field. It looked like a rout after a 57-yard TD run by **Brandon Jacobs** against a keying defence put them ahead 21-3 in the 3rd.

QUOTE OF THE GAME

"It was tense, man. I may have lost some hair in the 4th quarter. This was not an easy game. Even when it looked like we might run away with it they kept fighting and it paid off for them. Big kick by Blair and clutch defence in OT!" – **York coach, Jay Hammond**.

"I wanted to see us finish it off, obviously; but I am still proud of this team for not giving in after a rough start to a tough York squad with a lot of weapons." – **Cowtown coach, Jim Coghlin**.



FANS' THUMB UP

Crazy Comeback!

FANS' THUMB DOWN

Flacco's Follies hurt



FAN RATING



12-13-2012 Camelot Temp: 44 Wind: 0-5 None MVP: Tom Brady

2 14:11 York	TD Brady 13 pass to Cruz (Walsh) (12-66-6:14)	0-7
2 11:05 York	TD Brady 6 run (Walsh) (3-14-1:26)	0-14
2 6:21 Cowtown	FG Kasay 32 (8-19-3:10)	3-14
3 3:39 York	TD Jacobs 57 run (Walsh) (1-57-0:13)	3-21
4 13:56 Cowtown	TD Moore 48 pass to Floyd (Kasay) (6-68-1:39)	10-21
4 11:03 York	FG Walsh 54 (7-12-2:42)	10-24
4 2:19 Cowtown	TD Moore 87 pass to Fitzgerald (Kasay) (1-87-0:23)	17-24
4 0:08 Cowtown	TD Moore 17 pass to Floyd (Kasay) (11-54-2:03)	24-24
5 6:18 York	FG Walsh 35 (11-41-6:14)	24-27

	COW	YOR
First Downs	20	20
Rushes	28-79	37-167
Passes	55-27-400	31-20-203
Sacked	4-30	1-8
Fumble	1	1
Penalties	9-77	5-35
Turnovers	1	2
Missed Tackles	11	7
Blitzes	23	20
Time	33:21	35:21
Third Down	9-23	10-17
Fourth Down	5-6	0-0
Red Att/Td/Fg	2/1/1	4/2/1
Net Offense	449	362



QUICK COUNTS!!

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



GLADIATORS

4-6-0

7

0

3

10

0

20

OT

Ben Roethlisberger
26 of 42, 351 yards, 2 TDs



CONVICTS

6-4-0

3

21

0

3

0

27

Cam Newton
199 pass yds, 44 rush yds, 3 TDs

Haloti Ngata dumped **Ben Roethlisberger** for a 6-yard loss and a fumble that was recovered by the Convicts at the Gwinnett 14. Three plays later, **Cam Newton** found **Steven Jackson** open in the end zone from 6 yards out to score the 2nd Convict TD in less than one minute, giving Chino a 17-7 2nd quarter lead. They added another TD on a 3-yard bootleg by Newton to cap-off a 14-play, 78-yard drive before the half. Hampered by crippling injuries to the running game, Big Ben was forced to the air and the Convicts were waiting for it, holding off a late Glads' rally to prevail by a TD.



SWORDFISH

2-8-0

7

6

9

0

0

22

OT

Andy Dalton
23 of 33, 199 yards, 1 TD, 1 INT



VIOLATORS

7-3-0

0

14

7

20

0

41

Matt Stafford
22 of 27, 324 yards, 5 TDs

After spotting Sebastian to a 7-0 lead on a 2-yard TD run by **Roy Helu**, the Violators struck back with a pair of **Matt Stafford** TD passes on consecutive possessions in the 2nd quarter. But the Swordfish fought back tenaciously, possessing the ball for entire remaining 9:35 of the 1st half, with the benefit of a successful onside kick, to add 2 FGs to close the gap. They took a 19-14 lead on a 33-yard TD pass from **Andy Dalton** to **Michael Jenkins**, but the defence withered under the fire of 3 more Stafford TD passes and a 63-yard TD run by **Beanie Wells** to turn this game into a late laugh.



REGULATORS

4-6-0

7

13

7

7

0

34

OT

Tony Romo
18 of 29, 365 yards, 3 TDs, 1 INT



UNDERTAKERS

10-0-0

12

6

6

27

0

51

Drew Brees
40 of 47, 479 yards, 8 TDs

Drew Brees set a single-game TD passing mark with 8 in leading an unbelievable 4th quarter aerial barrage that erased a 27-24 South Carolina lead and had spectators both amazed and outraged. For three quarters it was an exciting shootout between **Tony Romo** and Brees, with Romo gaining the upper hand due to 4 failed 2-point conversion attempts by the Undertakers. But once DV took the lead on a 17-yard TD pass from Brees to **Marques Colston**, two consecutive onside kick recoveries and plenty of deep passes up to the end led to overkill, with 4 4th quarter TDs.



QUICK COUNTS!!

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



MUSTANGS

7-3-0

14

7

7

10

0

38

OT

Arian Foster
14 Carries, 96 yards, 3 TDs



HELLFIRE

2-8-0

7

7

7

0

0

21

Andrew Luck
27 of 53, 253 yards

The Mustangs shook off 14 penalties, 8 of them against the defence, to eventually pull away from a 21-21 tie with Mohave late in the 3rd quarter. A **Sam Koch** punt backed Mohave up to their own 7, where a sack of **Andrew Luck** by **Brian Cushing** forced the Hellfire to punt from their 1 yard line, giving the Mustangs field position at the Mohave 33 yard line. From there, **Arian Foster** broke two tackles en route to a 33-yard TD run to give Garland a lead they would not relinquish. An 80-yard punt return TD in the 4th by **Patrick Peterson**, his third of the season, put the game on ice.



BLUE EAGLES

10-0-0

7

10

10

7

0

34

OT

Ray Rice
20 Carries, 107 yards, 2 TDs



PATRIOTS

0-10-0

0

0

0

3

0

3

Michael Vick
14 of 20, 168 yards, 1 INT

Ray Rice rushed for 2 TDs, **CJ Spiller** ran for another, and **Aaron Rodgers** connected with **Brandon Marshall** for a 25-yard TD pass as the Blue Eagles made short work of the struggling Patriots. 9 penalties for 84 yards going against Charleswood coupled with a nearly air-tight Blue Eagles' defence held the Pats to just 9 first downs and 191 yards of total offence. With the game not yet out of hand in the 2nd quarter and Charleswood driving, **Amari Spivey** picked off **Michael Vick** at the Scarborough 24 yard line to end the threat. A 40-yard FG by **Nick Folk** erased the shutout in the 4th.



T-LIZARDS

9-1-0

14

21

14

0

0

49

OT

Reggie Bush
17 Carries, 114 yards, 4 TDs



COLONIALS

5-5-0

7

3

0

10

0

20

Lance Moore
5 Receptions, 65 yards

The Colonials took the opening possession 79 yards to grab a 7-0 lead on a 3-yard run by **Leon Washington**. That would be their high-water mark in the game as the Lizards came right back with their own TD drive, keyed by a 34-yard completion to **Vernon Davis** and capped-off with a 1-yard run by **Reggie Bush** to tie it. **Jared Allen** leaped and picked off **Josh Freeman** on the Colonials' next possession and Bush capitalized 4 plays later with a 4-yard TD run to take the lead. 3 different Commonwealth QBs entered the game but generated little as the Lizards' offence exploded for 5 more TDs.



QUICK COUNTS!!

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



SPARTANS

3-7-0

0

3

3

7

0

13

OT

Robert Griffin III
244 pass yds – 1 TD, 53 rush yds



KNIGHTS

5-5-0

3

0

0

17

0

20

Alex Smith
22 of 36, 218 yards, 2 TDs

The Knights snapped a series of 4 straight punts with a 32-yard FG by **Chris Carpenter** to take a 3-0 lead. The Spartans overcame 2 holding penalties and 2 sacks to tie it on a 55-yard FG by **Josh Scobee** to create a 3-3 deadlock at the half. Another Scobee FG to open the 3rd quarter gave Pickering a lead that was erased early in the 4th by a 13-yard TD pass from **Alex Smith** to **Tony Gonzalez**. But Pickering quickly got that back with a 73-yard TD pass from **Robert Griffin** to **Vincent Jackson**. The Knights scored the winner after an 80-yard drive with an 8-yard TD pass to **Steve Smith** in the 4th.



TRIUMPH

3-7-0

10

7

7

0

0

24

OT

Jay Cutler
21 of 28, 281 yards, 3 TDs



CUBS

1-9-0

0

7

0

10

0

17

Russell Wilson
15 of 26, 204 yards, 2 TDs

Mohamed Massaquoi caught 3 passes for 72 yards on his team's first two possessions, including a 13-yarder for a TD from **Jay Cutler**, to help stake the Triumph to a 10-0 lead. The Cubs fired back with a 21-yard TD pass from **Russell Wilson** to **Mike Wallace**, but **Albert Haynesworth** sacked Wilson on 4th down at mid field, leading to a 23-yard TD to Massaquoi to make it 17-7 at half time. The Triumph took firm control with a 7-yard TD pass to tight end **Dwayne Allen** to make it 24-7 late in the 3rd. The Cubs never threatened, but added a late TD in the 4th quarter to narrow the margin.



NORTH STARS

6-3-1

14

21

10

0

0

45

OT

Eli Manning
17 of 25, 262 yards, 4 TDs, 1 INT



MONARCHS

1-9-0

3

3

0

7

0

13

Rashard Mendenhall
12 Carries, 62 yards, 1 TD

Markham defensive end **John Abraham** sacked **Colt McCoy** on the opening series of the game and forced a fumble that led to an 11-yard TD pass from **Eli Manning** to **Wes Welker** for the first of 5 North Star TDs in the 1st half. The Stars' offence went silent in the 2nd half but the defence had a hand in 10 more points – **Sean Lee** intercepted McCoy and returned it 33 yards for a TD while another forced fumble by Abraham in Monarchs' territory led to a **David Akers** FG. **T.J. Yates** saw his first action at QB for Mission Viejo, leading an 80-yard TD drive for the only scoring in the 4th quarter.



BODY COUNT



WEEK TEN INJURY REPORT



CHARLESWOOD	Jon Beason, ILB – OUT (Season); Marcus Trufant – OUT (Season)
CHINO	Danny Woodhead, RB - QUESTIONABLE
COMMONWEALTH	Lance Moore, WR – OUT (3 games); Josh Morgan, WR – OUT (Season)
COWTOWN	None
DEATH VALLEY	Jimmy Smith, CB – DOUBTFUL; Gerald McCoy, DT – OUT (4 games); Brent Grimes, CB – OUT (4 games)
DURHAM	Corey Wootton, DE – PROBABLE; Nick Mangold, C – OUT (2 games)
GARLAND	Quinn Johnson, FB – OUT (5 games); Jahvid Best – OUT (Season)
GWINNETT	Ahmad Bradshaw, RB – OUT; Demaryius Thomas, WR – PROBABLE; Dion Lewis, RB – QUESTIONABLE
IOWA CITY	Casey Hayward, CB – (2 games); Mario Williams, OLB – OUT (6 games)
LOS ANGELES	Michael Bennett, DE – PROBABLE; Nick Miller, WR – OUT (3 games); Andre Fluellen, DT – OUT (4 games); Osi Umenyiora, DE – OUT (Season); Sam Young, T – OUT (Season)
MARKHAM	Roscoe Parrish, WR – OUT (4 games)
MISSION VIEJO	Michael Brockers, DE – PROBABLE; Jonathan Vilma, LB – QUESTIONABLE; Koa Misi, OLB – OUT (3 games); Derek Cox, CB – OUT (Season); Tim Hightower, RB – OUT (Season)
MOHAVE	Trevor Laws, DT – OUT (2 games); Aaron Williams, CB – OUT (2 games); Quan Cosby, WR – OUT (4 games); Ben Graham, P – (5 games); Chris Hope, S – OUT (7 games); Chris Massey, LS – OUT (9 games)
PICKERING	Darren McFadden, RB – OUT (2 games); T.J. Ward, S – OUT (3 games); Miles Austin, WR – OUT (3 games)
SCARBOROUGH	Jermaine Gresham, TE – PROBABLE; Kris Dielman, G – OUT (5 games)
SEBASTIAN	AJ Hawk, ILB – OUT (3 games); Leonard Hankerson, WR – OUT (6 games); Leon Hall, CB – OUT (7 games); Kenny Britt, WR – OUT (Season); Mike McGlynn, C-G – OUT (Season)
SOUTH CAROLINA	Shareece Wright, S – OUT (2 games); Bradley Fletcher, CB – OUT (3 games); Greg Jennings, OUT – (4 games); Brandon Spikes, ILB – OUT (5 games); Patrick Chung, S – OUT (6 games); Brandon Graham, DE – OUT (Season)
TWIN CITIES	Bobby Wagner, ILB – OUT; Ray Lewis, ILB – QUESTIONABLE; Louis Vasquez, G – OUT (3 games); Antoine Winfield, CB – OUT (6 games)
VIRDEN	La Ron Landry, S – OUT (2 games); Julio Jones, WR – OUT (2 games); Prince Amukamara, CB – OUT (4 games); Shawne Merriman, DE-LB OUT (8 games); Fred Davis, TE – OUT 4 games; Eric Berry, S – OUT (Season); Jeff Ota, T – OUT (Season)
YORK	Rashean Mathis, CB – PROBABLE; Donald Jones, DOUBTFUL; Jason Peters, T – PROBABLE; Steve Hutchinson, G – OUT (2 games); Anthony Herrera, G – OUT (5 games)



STATS



WEEK TEN

STANDINGS

East	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
York	8	2	0	0.8	290	29	168	16.8	12.2	4 1 0	3 1 0	5 1 0
Virden	7	3	0	0.7	312	31.2	242	24.2	7	4 1 0	4 0 0	5 1 0
Commonwealth	5	5	0	0.5	228	22.8	279	27.9	-5.1	3 2 0	2 2 0	4 2 0
Mohave	2	8	0	0.2	182	18.2	331	33.1	-14.9	3 2 0	2 2 0	0 3 0
Charleswood	0	10	0	0	116	11.6	342	34.2	-22.6	0 5 0	0 4 0	0 6 0
West	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Death Valley	10	0	0	1	391	39.1	232	23.2	15.9	5 0 0	4 0 0	6 0 0
Chino	6	4	0	0.6	230	23	207	20.7	2.3	3 2 0	2 2 0	3 3 0
Los Angeles	5	5	0	0.5	267	26.7	198	19.8	6.9	2 3 0	3 1 0	3 3 0
Iowa City	1	9	0	0.1	170	17	251	25.1	-8.1	1 4 0	0 4 0	1 5 0
Mission Viejo	1	9	0	0.1	112	11.2	335	33.5	-22.3	1 4 0	1 3 0	1 5 0
North	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Durham	9	1	0	0.9	320	32	166	16.6	15.4	5 0 0	3 1 0	5 1 0
Cowtown	6	3	1	0.65	266	26.6	172	17.2	9.4	4 1 0	2 1 1	3 2 1
Markham	6	3	1	0.65	253	25.3	169	16.9	8.4	3 1 1	2 1 1	4 1 1
Pickering	3	7	0	0.3	195	19.5	231	23.1	-3.6	2 3 0	2 2 0	2 4 0
Twin Cities	3	7	0	0.3	184	18.4	237	23.7	-5.3	2 3 0	0 4 0	1 5 0
South	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Scarborough	10	0	0	1	306	30.6	139	13.9	16.7	5 0 0	4 0 0	6 0 0
Garland	7	3	0	0.7	281	28.1	170	17	11.1	4 1 0	2 2 0	3 3 0
Gwinnett	4	6	0	0.4	216	21.6	230	23	-1.4	2 3 0	1 3 0	2 4 0
South Carolina	4	6	0	0.4	190	19	257	25.7	-6.7	2 3 0	2 2 0	2 4 0
Sebastian	2	8	0	0.2	137	13.7	290	29	-15.3	1 4 0	1 3 0	1 5 0

PASSING

			Att	Cmp	C%	Yards	In	I%	Lg	TD	TD%	Rate
1	Brees	DVU	380	280	73.7	3660	6	1.6	54	47	12.4	136.6
2	Stafford	VV	337	237	70.3	3109	6	1.8	64	28	8.3	119.4
3	Smith,A	LAK	363	247	68.0	2656	4	1.1	51	21	5.8	104.0
4	Brady	YOR	288	190	66.0	2612	9	3.1	75	19	6.6	103.8
5	Rodgers,A	SBE	312	216	69.2	2552	5	1.6	73	15	4.8	103.2
6	Newton,C	CHI	264	178	67.4	2012	4	1.5	75	15	5.7	102.7
7	Cutler	TCT	254	167	65.7	1890	3	1.2	47	15	5.9	102.6
8	Rivers,P	DTL	270	172	63.7	2396	10	3.7	53	20	7.4	101.4
9	Ryan,M	GDM	373	245	65.7	2867	6	1.6	81	17	4.6	97.3
10	Manning,E	MAR	272	168	61.8	2315	11	4.0	73	16	5.9	91.8
11	Wilson,R	ICC	224	139	62.1	1812	5	2.2	66	9	4.0	91.6
12	Flacco	COW	326	183	56.1	2273	8	2.5	76	23	7.1	91.2
13	Romo	SC	316	208	65.8	2513	14	4.4	75	17	5.4	89.5
14	Roethlisbe	GWG	337	215	63.8	2315	12	3.6	80	18	5.3	86.8
15	Luck	MOH	301	190	63.1	2077	8	2.7	52	12	4.0	85.7
16	Vick	CHP	164	100	61.0	1087	7	4.3	71	5	3.0	72.9
17	Weeden	CHP	108	62	57.4	716	3	2.8	50	2	1.9	72.1
18	Dalton	SS	299	188	62.9	1747	10	3.3	59	6	2.0	71.6
19	Freeman,J	COM	267	162	60.7	1850	17	6.4	61	9	3.4	66.2
20	McCoy,C	MVM	168	94	56.0	832	6	3.6	44	4	2.4	62.4

RUSHING

			Att	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD				Att	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD
1	Rice, R	SBE	194	1002	5.2	70	7	11	McGahee	DVU	110	578	5.3	66	1
2	Jones-Drew	COW	221	957	4.3	23	4	12	Mathews, R	DVU	122	570	4.7	36	1
3	Turner, M	YOR	190	899	4.7	43	7	13	Williams, D	MAR	87	561	6.4	73	7
4	Brown, D	ICC	162	870	5.4	72	6	14	Jackson, S	CHI	130	536	4.1	52	1
5	Jackson, F	COM	171	822	4.8	35	6	15	Thomas, P	SS	111	522	4.7	31	4
6	Martin, D	TCT	162	708	4.4	55	1	16	Tate, B	VV	103	521	5.1	27	1
7	Sproles	LAK	83	650	7.8	34	1	17	Newton, C	CHI	94	502	5.3	25	9
8	McCoy, L	GWG	151	638	4.2	48	7	18	Stewart, J	MAR	92	468	5.1	18	3
9	Johnson, C	PIC	167	617	3.7	36	2	19	Wells, B	VV	103	449	4.4	63	3
10	Bush, R	DTL	129	603	4.7	44	8	20	Tolbert	MOH	106	437	4.1	18	4

RECEIVING

			No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD				No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD
1	Graham, J	MOH	66	715	10.8	52	3	11	Gonzalez	LAK	49	448	9.1	36	4
2	Fitzgerald	COW	64	992	15.5	87	10	12	Cruz	YOR	48	980	20.4	75	10
3	White, R	LAK	62	708	11.4	48	6	13	Winslow	YOR	46	482	10.5	23	2
4	Gronkows, R	DVU	61	946	15.5	54	8	14	Jones, J	VV	45	766	17.0	35	7
5	Smith, S	LAK	59	835	14.2	51	8	15	Burleson	GWG	45	414	9.2	56	4
6	Johnson, C	DTL	57	980	17.2	57	9	16	Green, A	SC	45	732	16.3	75	7
7	Welker	MAR	56	748	13.4	73	3	17	Colston	DVU	44	543	12.3	33	3
8	Wallace, M	ICC	55	1088	19.8	66	9	18	Jackson, D	SBE	44	632	14.4	73	4
9	Nicks, H	MOH	53	907	17.1	51	7	19	Thomas, P	SS	44	249	5.7	13	0
10	Bowe	DTL	52	672	12.9	53	9	20	Wayne	GWG	43	687	16.0	80	6

KICKING

			FGA	FGM	FG%	40	50	Lg	Pts
1	Janikowski	SBE	25	20	80.0	7	3	52	94
2	Carpenter	LAK	23	21	91.3	7	5	57	91
3	Crosby	DTL	21	18	85.7	4	2	52	90
4	Gould	GDM	22	19	86.4	6	1	50	89
5	Tynes	VV	18	16	88.9	6	0	49	84
6	Akers	MAR	21	17	81.0	7	0	49	79
7	Gostkowski	COM	20	18	90.0	8	1	54	78
8	Gano	DVU	16	11	68.8	3	3	55	77
9	Scobee	PIC	21	19	90.5	8	3	58	75
10	Bailey, D	CHI	21	16	76.2	8	1	51	74
11	Walsh	YOR	15	11	73.3	3	1	54	68
12	Zuerlein	ICC	23	17	73.9	9	2	51	68
13	Kasay	COW	14	12	85.7	2	1	52	66
14	Vinatieri	SS	18	18	100.0	6	0	49	61
15	Longwell	SC	14	12	85.7	5	1	50	58
16	Brown, J	GWG	12	9	75.0	4	1	52	54
17	Bironas	TCT	12	10	83.3	4	2	53	52
18	Rackers	MVM	17	13	76.5	8	3	59	48
19	Cundiff	MOH	8	7	87.5	3	0	48	44
20	Folk	CHP	9	6	66.7	2	0	47	32

INTERCEPTIONS

			No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD				No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD
1	Webster	COW	4	97	24.3	41	1	11	Griffin,M	SBE	3	21	7.0	9	0
2	Brown,T	MAR	4	3	0.8	3	0	12	Cushing	GDM	3	10	3.3	9	0
3	Manning,D	YOR	3	50	16.7	29	0	13	Weddle	GDM	3	34	11.3	19	0
4	Phillips,K	COW	3	42	14.0	42	0	14	Polamalu	GWG	3	33	11.0	33	1
5	Flowers	COW	3	68	22.7	27	1	15	DeCoud	GWG	3	50	16.7	29	0
6	Barron	CHP	3	112	37.3	45	2	16	Robinson,P	SS	3	28	9.3	14	0
7	Chancellor	DTL	3	0	0.0	0	0	17	Tillman	MAR	2	0	0.0	0	0
8	Sherman	DTL	3	52	17.3	29	1	18	Reed,E	MAR	2	0	0.0	0	0
9	Williams,T	VV	3	90	30.0	66	0	19	Joseph,J	PIC	2	20	10.0	20	0
10	Matthews	DVU	3	56	18.7	31	0	20	Witherspoo	PIC	2	66	33.0	52	1

SACKS

1	Allen,J	DTL	13	8	Sheard	PIC	7	15	Seymour	SC	6
2	Babin	YOR	11	9	McDonald	PIC	7	16	Carter,A	LAK	5
3	Peppers	CHI	11	10	Cole,T	MAR	7	17	Tuck	SBE	5
4	Pierre-Pau	ICC	10	11	Atkins	YOR	6	18	Anderson,M	COW	5
5	Suggs	SBE	9	12	Campbell,C	SBE	6	19	Freeney	TCT	5
6	Barnes,A	GWG	9	13	Avril	GDM	6	20	Johnson,M	YOR	5
7	Ware,D	VV	8	14	Abraham	MAR	6	21	Harrison,J	CHI	5

TACKLES

1	Laurinaiti	GWG	110	8	Lofton	DTL	81	15	Chaney	SS	75
2	McClain,R	MOH	100	9	Smith,D	CHI	81	16	Conner	SS	71
3	Cushing	GDM	90	10	Pierre-Pau	ICC	79	17	Kuechly	SC	68
4	Johnson,D	COW	89	11	Burnett,K	TCT	79	18	Bowman	GDM	65
5	Washington	PIC	88	12	Mayo	DVU	79	19	Henders,EJ	SC	64
6	Barnett	VV	87	13	Briggs	GWG	76	20	Martin,S	MVM	64
7	Hawthorne	COM	86	14	Jackson,D	LAK	76	21	Hall,D	GDM	64

KICK RETURNS

			No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD				No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD
1	Harvin	PIC	23	690	30.0	98	1	11	Logan	GWG	38	899	23.7	42	0
2	Sherels	SS	34	990	29.1	76	0	12	Washington	COM	42	991	23.6	36	0
3	Ginn Jr.	TCT	32	923	28.8	106	1	13	Hester,D	DTL	21	488	23.2	52	0
4	Sproles	LAK	31	890	28.7	82	0	14	Banks	MOH	47	1072	22.8	47	0
5	McKnight	MAR	31	878	28.3	82	0	15	Cobb	DVU	32	725	22.7	35	0
6	Stroughter	CHP	56	1530	27.3	104	1	16	Weems	COW	25	563	22.5	35	0
7	Scott,D	SBE	28	711	25.4	100	1	17	Tate,B	MVM	49	1102	22.5	52	0
8	Gates,C	ICC	41	996	24.3	75	0	18	Mariani	YOR	28	604	21.6	49	0
9	Cribbs	CHI	30	724	24.1	58	0	19	Lefeged	VV	24	485	20.2	51	0
10	Karim	GDM	12	284	23.7	35	0	20	Boykin	PIC	14	257	18.4	32	0

PUNT RETURNS

									No	Fc	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD										No	Fc	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD			
1	Peterson,P	GDM	26	6	436	16.8	80	3	11	Banks	MOH	12	2	131	10.9	23	0															
2	Sproles	LAK	23	8	349	15.2	84	2	12	Weems	COW	33	10	337	10.2	17	0															
3	Jones,J	CHP	25	1	362	14.5	75	2	13	Logan	GWG	18	10	180	10.0	27	0															
4	Bess	DTL	15	11	216	14.4	40	0	14	Tate,B	MVM	18	3	171	9.5	22	0															
5	Arenas	SC	14	4	188	13.4	31	0	15	Edwards,A	ICC	24	3	203	8.5	41	0															
6	Mariani	YOR	20	7	258	12.9	69	1	16	Jackson,D	SBE	20	15	165	8.3	23	0															
7	Cobb	DVU	13	8	161	12.4	62	1	17	Cribbs	CHI	26	4	209	8.0	13	0															
8	Ginn Jr.	TCT	21	4	258	12.3	25	0	18	Adams,J	PIC	19	7	145	7.6	15	0															
9	Crayton	MAR	12	6	137	11.4	40	0	19	Sherels	SS	14	4	100	7.1	13	0															
10	Washington	COM	22	2	248	11.3	19	0	20	Parrish	MAR	1	1	29	29.0	29	0															



AROUND THE



With Spats McChad

SOMEWHERE ON EARTH – Tragically, another case for and against gun control was made this week in the small town of Newtown, Connecticut, where a “troubled genius” killed 20 children, 6 adults, and himself in a hail of gunfire issuing from weapons owned by his mother. Imagine being the parent of one of those children massacred without mercy by Mr. Angry-at-the-World – there would be no rationalizing any of it, only inconsolable grief and helpless fury. Politicians and lobbyists on all sides of the gun issue in this country will use this senseless event to advance their cases and they will all be wrong. They are missing the main point that screams out from all of these mass killings (and the list is certainly growing) and that is the sheer insanity of all of them. Think about it for a moment – it’s the *insanity*. We have to take better note of, and care for, the nuts among us. Whether homicidal, suicidal, both, or simply the kind who enjoy a good stroll in the snow without shoes; they deserve and require our care and attention. Lives may depend on it.

NO MOORE FLACCO?

The most popular sports figure in Cowtown since depression-era fast-pitch star, Hank “Bo” Cutter, is surprisingly on the verge of losing, or may already have lost, his starting job. Although the Corn Kings would be in the playoffs if the season were to end today and he is third in the league in touchdown passes with 23, last year’s Offensive MVP, **Joe Flacco** has struggled badly in some big games this year. His big passing numbers in 2012 have come against struggling defences in South Carolina, Iowa City, and Charleswood, while his output against teams with more competent defences, the kind one might find in the playoffs, have not only been unimpressive, but sometimes just plain bad.

A recent case in point was Flacco’s Week Ten performance on the road against the pride of the East, York. After watching him complete just 8 of 21 pass attempts for 89 yards and throw a costly interception, Coach **Jim Coghlin** had seen enough and made the switch to **Matt Moore** at half time with the Corn Kings trailing the Excaliburs 14-3. It was not the first time Moore had entered the game in relief this year, but it was the first time he had been sent in with the game still within reach. This telling move may have been intended as a strong message from the coach to this year’s cover boy for the popular video game ‘Badden 2012’ to shape up; but the ensuing events may have forced the coach’s hand in a direction he was not yet prepared to go.

Moore came in and, after adjusting to the pace of play, led one of the most exciting and improbable comebacks of the year. When the situation looked hopeless for Cowtown, trailing 21-3 late in the third quarter and with nothing going right offensively against a York defence that looked unbreakable, Moore temporarily rescued his team and gave them a fresh start with three touchdown passes in the fourth quarter – two of them in the final two minutes of regulation – to force overtime. Sure, he got help from **Larry Fitzgerald**, who broke through double-coverage to take a pass 87 yards to the house with 2:19 left to bring the Corn Kings within 7 points. He also got help from **Malcolm Floyd**, who had his best day as a Corn King with 8 catches for 165 yards and 2 touchdowns, both from Moore, including the game-tying catch on 4th down with 8 seconds remaining. But it was Moore who withstood the relentless pressure of the Excaliburs’ pass rush and made the necessary throws.

Moore’s heroics were impressive, but did not turn out to be legendary. A mundane three-and-out where the final play from scrimmage was a panicked pitch to center **Maurkice Pouncey** closed out the Cowtown offensive effort in overtime. York’s **Tom Brady** got the ball in great field position at the York 42 yard line and without much effort moved the ball into field goal range for **Blair Walsh**, who nailed the game-winner from 33 yards for a nerve-wracking but well-deserved 27-24 York win. The amazing comeback but the failure to finish creates a bit of a dilemma for Coach Coghlin; does he go with Moore and the promise of grit, or return to Flacco, the known and previously steady commodity, against Garland next week?

SUMMON THE REGULATORS

The Undertakers’ perfect season is the best thing that has happened to Hell, MI and the Greater Death Valley Area in a long time – at least since those legendary days before Satan, in the form of a giant swollen and flatulent black condor, dumped a load of excrement on Chief Worthy Wolf’s land and cursed his tribe to live as zombies for eternity. With a crime rate worse than that of Camden, NJ and scarce industry apart from the Head Office of 13 Reaper Funeral Homes and the ramshackle ‘Grey-Away Cosmetics’ factory, Hell is a community shunned by its neighbours and at war with itself. Gangs, drugs and guns infest the housing projects that make up 50% of the residential zoning while the city’s posh ‘Tomb’ district sits like an armed camp perched on top of



A red-faced and red-necked **Hal Corson** watches his defence disintegrate in the face of another record-setting performance by **Drew Brees**. The Undertakers prevailed over South Carolina 51-34 in a controversial shootout in Hell.

Death Mountain overlooking Death Valley, with dozens of private armed security guards posted at gates to keep non-residents out. The notorious Die Young High is #1 atop the nation's list of most dangerous schools and the local 'A'-level baseball team, the Hell Hackers, has been prohibited from playing in its own home stadium for one year while the Midwest League enforces enhanced security measures at Black Diamond Park.

Undertakers' owner **Chris Worthley**, in his own way, is attempting to clean up the community. He has contributed funds to local gun clubs to provide free gun safety classes for children under 10 and currently provides discounted funeral services for innocent victims caught in the crossfire of gang violence. He has erected a giant "Zombie Fence" to keep the undead out of the housing projects and has opened a shroud factory to employ local school drop-outs. Recently, on the advice of his lawyers, he has taken steps to prevent violence from taking root by making his players available to deliver positive messages to youth in Greater Death Valley area schools. One of those is an anti-bullying message from star quarterback **Drew Brees**. Against all odds, it seems to be having a positive effect on the elementary and junior school students in the area. Ironically, this could be because Brees' unbridled aggression and complete dominance on the football field this season has earned him the respect of a violent and troubled community, where ruthlessness can mean survival. Communities outside of Death Valley don't understand the survival dynamics of crime-ridden and dysfunctional communities such as Hell. So, to most observers across the nation, the idea of the league's biggest bully on the football field teaching kids about mutual respect is an outrageous incongruity. Not everyone outside of Death Valley is celebrating Brees' achievements this year, especially

when they come the way they did in Week Ten versus the Regulators.

South Carolina came into town with little chance of winning and a big chance of suffering a blowout with the league's top passer facing the league's most feeble secondary. But it turned out that the Regulators came to play; and an ultra-belligerent strategy by the Undertakers of going for two-points on every conversion back-fired. The result was that Death Valley found itself in the unexpected predicament of trailing 27-24 after three quarters.

Brees turned it on in the final frame, however, starting with the go-ahead TD pass of 17 yards to **Marques Colston**. Then a surprise came – an onside kick. With the Undertakers' defence returning to its customary bumbling form in this contest, keeping the ball away from **Tony Romo** with an onside kick was not a completely crazy strategy, but it was risky nonetheless. Fortunately, Death Valley recovered and promptly marched 51 yards to another TD, coming on a 29-yard pass to **Alshon Jeffrey**, for Brees' 6th TD strike of the day. Leading 38-27 with 9 minutes left, the Undertakers defied both convention and the odds by attempting, and recovering, their second consecutive onside kick. 7 plays later, Brees tied his own (shared) single-game record for TD passes and added to the Death Valley lead with a 1-yard TD pass to **"The Gronk,"** causing the sellout crowd at the Graveyard to break into a deafening zombie chant. Leading 44-27 – a 17-point margin – the Undertakers eschewed the easy single point, and went for two. The reason for this, as with all of the other 2-point attempts earlier in the game, was unclear; since a 19-point lead was hardly safer than an 18-point lead while an 18-point lead was a lot safer than a 17-point lead. A 17-point lead would require three conventional scores, one of them a field goal, to erase; 18 points meant 3 touchdowns, or at least two with one 2-point conversion and a field goal. It was hard to escape the conclusion that Worthley's team was, at that moment, like a blood-thirsty shark and its coach not capable of working out the finer details with the smell of carnage in the air. A 40-yard TD pass from Romo to **Dezmon Briscoe** with 2:49 remaining narrowed the lead to 10 points, 44-34; but a missed onside kick attempt by the Regulators put the ball back in the hands of the Undertakers with 2:30 remaining. With everyone expecting the Undertakers to run out the clock, and with South Carolina's standard defensive package on the field, Brees thrilled the crowd at the Graveyard and surprised everyone else, by throwing deep for

a 31-yard completion to Colston. With chants of "we want a record" filling the air, Brees kept flinging the ball downfield until finally, with 1:17 remaining, he connected with **Alshon Jeffery** for a 5-yard TD pass to break the EFL's single game TD pass record.

While Brees leaped, jumped and pumped his fists and adoring fans at the Graveyard celebrated, the dignified and soft-spoken **Hal Corson** stood grimly on the Regulators' sideline, his stoic Tom Landry-like expression broken only by a dark crimson hue rising slowly up from his neck to his cheeks and forehead so that his head looked like a giant cherry lollipop on top of his white-shirted stick figure. He walked off the field, curtly nodding to Coach Worthley but not extending his hand – not that it mattered; a bug-eyed Worthley was too busy chest-thumping with Brees to take much notice of his opponent.

Reaction to Brees' new record was decidedly mixed, and did not begin to approach the unanimous approval from pundits everywhere to his shattering of **Tom Brady's** single season record last week. The most vociferous detractor was none other than Regulators' beat writer for The State, **Johnny Rebb**, who wrote in his weekly column: *"This was one record that lacked sportsmanship. It was an artificial creation, not developing naturally in the ebb and flow of the game. There comes a time in most games when one team has the other beaten, and both know it. When that point is reached, it is bad form for the victor to attempt to humiliate the loser. It shows that the game has crossed the line from sport to vendetta, or, in this case, vainglorious display."*

Network play-by-play man, **Hal McMichaels**, called the record with less enthusiasm than expected: *"Undertakers at the five yard line, first and goal, can you guess what's coming here, Kris?"*

"It ain't a run Hal," **Kris Hollingsworth** replied dryly.

McMichaels continued: *"Brees under center, he drops back, complete to Jeffery, touchdown Death Valley. That's a new record, Kris."*

"It sure is, Hal," echoed Hollingsworth.

– Long pause –

"The crowd here is loving it, Kris."

"The crowd always does, Hal," commented Hollingsworth, *"but I can tell you there aren't too many players on the Regulators' sideline loving it right now."*

While muted and qualified enthusiasm for Brees' latest record dominated the mainstream media reaction, a few famous figures, notably **Brett Favre**, praised Brees' accomplishment; *"I think you absolutely go for it (the record). There aren't too many opportunities to set one, so when you have an opportunity, you take it. Look at what I did for Michael Strahan when he was on the verge. If only I'd been a DB with the Regulators today Drew would have had it sooner than he did."*

Chris Worthley was so excited after the game that he seemed completely unaware of any controversy, or he didn't care. *"It was a tough game. Our 2-point experiment didn't work so well, but Drew and our special teams made up for it with that performance in the 4th quarter. Another record for Drew, wow!"*

A slightly less red-faced, but animated **Hal Corson** took the podium after the game to answer questions from the media. In response to a pointed question of whether or not he felt the Undertakers were purposely running up the score, Corson's reply was diplomatic, but telling:

"They certainly needed to score more points in this game than they usually do, so it's hard to tell if they were trying to run it up on us. I thought the late passing was unusual, but I wasn't aware of a record being on the line at the time. I'm concerned about winning games, not about individual records; but since it seemed to matter a lot to them, had I known about the record I might have sent a couple of more corners out there to make it a little more challenging. Make him earn it!"

Corson's public reaction seemed at odds with other reports coming from anonymous sources close to the team that he was beyond furious at the conduct of his opposing coach and the play of his defence and special teams. Upon entering the locker room he apparently turned to an unidentified aide and was heard to say, "Summon the Regulators." When a helpful assistant who had overheard him informed him that the players were all there, Corson paused then said cryptically, "I know, I know. I mean, summon the *Regulators*. They know how to deal with troublesome persons."

What exactly *that* was supposed to mean is not known for certain, but a helpful Google search yielded this old quote from an interview with Corson when he first took control of the team: *"The Regulators were part of something called the Regulator Movement in South Carolina in pre-revolutionary times. There was a lot of uncontrolled settlement back then and the rule of law was weak in some of the counties. The Regulators were sort of like the self-appointed police force of the day in those areas. They would deal with what they called 'roguish' and 'troublesome' persons in a peremptory fashion. The spirit is alive today in some of those areas, even though the Regulators themselves are long gone."*

Oh, really? But, *are they?*

NO PEACE IN MISSION VIEJO

It didn't take long for things to go wrong for the Monarchs in Week Ten. First of all, **Darrin Jones** rejected the neutrality of the Kingdom of Mission Viejo and symbolically declared war by taking the field for the coin toss, meaning the game would have to be played. Then, on the Monarchs' first offensive series, defensive end **John Abraham** knocked over tackle **Will Beatty** and swatted the ball out of the hand of a fleeing **Colt McCoy** for a turnover that gave Markham the ball at the Mission Viejo 29 yard line. Three

plays later **Eli Manning** found **Wes Welker** wide open at the sideline for an 11-yard TD pass, his first of four on the day to lead Markham to a 45-13 slaughter.

I will give the Monarchs credit for one thing – they do keep coming at you no matter the score. I guess that the players' fear of the ever more brutal workout regimes that always come after each loss is motivational in a similar way that the fear of being shot by their own officers kept conscripts advancing under fire toward enemy lines in battles of old; either way, somebody is going to get hurt. Watching Mission Viejo play teams like Markham is like watching the Charge of the Light Brigade when they are on offence, and the French defending the Maginot Line when they are on defence. Amazingly, the spirited play of the Monarchs' D in the second half, after all the damage was done, held the North Stars to a single first down while the Stars still had an interest in moving the ball, even if they weren't needful of a score. Of course, **Darrin Jones** wasn't ordering Eli to throw long slants late into the game with a 36-point lead, which kept Markham down to only 45 points.

COACHING WITH CONAN

The return of **Will Blandford** to the Colonials sideline in Week Ten was a welcome return to normalcy for this Cinderella squad that had fought hard for the Little General, but had nothing to show for it in the 'W' column. They celebrated with a quick start, scoring a touchdown on their opening possession after a 79-yard drive to take an early 7-0. Everything seemed to be going according to Blandford's plan to turn the EFL on its head with another stunning upset; but then Durham got the ball. **Philip Rivers**, starting for a delicate **Matt Schaub** (who was not on the sidelines for this game but reclining in a massage chair in the owner's luxury box), completed four consecutive passes for 79 yards and **Michael Bush** finished it off with a 1-yard plunge for the tying touchdown. On Commonwealth's next try, **Josh Freeman** was intercepted by back-up linebacker **Russell Allen** at their 32 yard line on the first play from scrimmage. **Reggie Bush** finished off a short drive with runs of 23 and 4 yards, the last for a touchdown, to put the Dinos out in front, 14-7. The Colonials responded with a field goal after a long drive; but soon afterwards Durham's **Devon Bess** ripped off a 47-yard punt return to set up Reggie Bush's second touchdown run to make the score 21-10. The game quickly got out of hand after that, with the Lizards adding two more big scores to lead 35-10 at half time. EFL Network's *Sound Effects* [Uncut] was on scene and captured the reaction of the Commonwealth coach as he became increasingly incensed at Durham as they added to their lead in the third quarter.

"Go ahead, pass, run, whatever!" he is heard yelling across the field at the Durham sideline. "I don't care! See? I'm watching **Conan O'Brien** over here!" he says as he holds up an I-PAD with animated images of the late night talk show host moving on the screen. He then turns to an assistant and barks, "nail that mother-f^%&er in the backfield, you hear me! Send someone in there to kill him now!" A quiet "who" can be barely heard from the apprehensive assistant. "Bush, you idiot, Bush. Who do you think, f^%&en Thomas Jefferson?" "There's two of them," the assistant replies quietly. "The one who's killing our defence, you moron!" he responds angrily, almost dropping his I-PAD. He then turns his attention back to the screen, lets out a sudden chuckle, and says under his breath, "I love Conan at times like this."

AROUND THE EFL

The Blue Eagles let their defence do the talking in wiping out the Patriots as expected, 34-3 at Patriot Place. The outcome was never in doubt, even as the Pats mounted a modest threat in the 2nd quarter while the score was still 10-0 for Scarborough. **Amari Spivey** picked off **Michael Vick** to snuff out a 4th down conversion attempt and set up an eventual 25-yard touchdown pass to **Brandon Marshall** to make it 17-0. The way the rest of the game played out the score might have remained 17-0; but, curiously, the Pats appeared to be trying to run up the score against *themselves*. With Scarborough in pure time-consumption mode, sending running back **CJ Spiller** on every play, the Pats sat in a pass defence and did the minimum required to stop the Scarborough running back, while Spiller did the bare minimum to move forward. The result was an almost trance-like finale that kept people in their seats only by putting them to sleep.

In Virden, a spirited showing by **Russ Lemmon's** Swordfish actually had them leading the Violators 19-14 in the 3rd quarter after **Andy Dalton** connected with **Michael Jenkins** for a 33-yard TD pass. But once **Lance Barrate** administered a sharp slap to the side of **Matt Stafford's** head, the young gunslinger shot up Sebastian for three touchdown passes in a 12-minute span to pull away in the 4th quarter. **Beanie Wells** punctuated the comeback with a 63-yard TD run to make the final 41-22, Virden.

In front of an estimated 23,000 adoring Mexican replacement fans at the Fiery Depths, **'El Doce'** attempted 53 passes trying to keep pace with Garland, but fell behind in the 3rd when **Arian Foster**, the forgotten star, busted loose for a 34-yard TD run to give the Mustangs a 28-21 lead. Foster scored three TDs on the ground as the Mustangs prevailed 38-21 over Mohave. Could this be the long-awaited return of the run to **Doug Shirley's** play-book?

The Knights boosted their playoff aspirations with a desperately-needed 20-13 win over Pickering at Round Table Stadium. After managing just 3 points through the first three quarters, the LA offence broke free for 17 points in the final period to cause the Spartans to drop their 7th game and owner **Gus Konstantakos** to drop Aristedes Kalogiannis when the tongue-tied scribe filled the awkward silence after the final gun with the observation that at least **Robert Griffin III** had thrown a touchdown pass.

Twin Cities handled the Cubs pretty easily at Joe Ferguson Stadium, 24-17, causing owner **Rodney Alberhasky** to install his son, **Rodney Alberhasky II**, as interim *something*. Due to very slow and groggy speech brought on by unplanned mid-day nap by Alberhasky Senior, it wasn't clear exactly what younger Alberhasky would be doing to help the Cubs help themselves, but it certainly seemed to put interim *outgoing* coach **Deron Redding** in his place.

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JIMMY'S WEEK ELEVEN PICKS

CHINO @ CHARLESWOOD (line – CONVICTS by 4)

The return of James Harrison to the Convicts line-up was pivotal in their victory over Gwinnett last week but the defence is still grading a touch lower than expected against the pass due to fewer interceptions than normal for the 'Lockdown Crew.' Still, the traditional strength of the Chino squad is tough to move the ball on, and it is hard to imagine the current Patriots' circus offering more than comic relief for viewers flipping from channel to channel on EFL Sunday Ticket. Adrian Peterson is back in the line-up and I expect him to improve on his dismal season pace of 2.3 yards per carry; but this will not be the breakout day many are still looking for from the one true stud in the Charleswood stable. The Cam Newton Show is playing to rave reviews this season and there is no reason to believe he will not deliver another command performance at half-empty Patriots Place. **PICK: CHINO**

VIRDEN @ MISSION VIEJO (line – VIOLATORS by 9)

I had a dream last night that the Monarchs pulled off an unbelievable upset on a fumble recovery and touchdown by Jonathan Vilma in a Joe Pisarcik-like bumble on the exchange between Matt Stafford and Beanie Wells in the final two minutes of the game after I had bet my mother's house on Virden. It seemed so real it caused me to wake up instantly in a cold sweat. It got me wondering if, in fact, anything is possible on any given Sunday. It's hard to say, especially since my dream did not show how Mission Viejo managed to stay within a touchdown of the high-flying Violators' offence with 2 minutes left in the game. Looking at the injury reports for both teams offers no clue as to how the Monarchs could manage to keep this game close, but with Vilma listed as questionable, it casts doubt on the predictive quality of my vivid dream. My advice after all this – go with the common sense pick here unless you see a last minute change in the Monarchs' linebacker's status. **PICK: VIRDEN**

DEATH VALLEY @ YORK (line – EXCALIBURS by 1)

The Undertakers won't find the offensive pickings as plentiful as they were last week against the Regulators, unless by "pickings" you are thinking of interceptions by the Excaliburs' defence. In a possible preview of this year's PAC Final, this game will offer a preliminary ruling on what actually wins Championships – an explosive, one-of-a-kind offence quarterbacked by a magician; or a stiflingly synchronized and balanced defence that can stop the run, pressure the quarterback, and make the interception. The Undertakers' defence reverted to old form last week against South Carolina and if they continue to surrender yards in the passing game this week, they may have finally meet an offence that can keep pace and exceed their own on the score sheet. Once again, Death Valley's perfect season will rest in the ability of Drew Brees to outgun the competition; but his task will be exceedingly difficult, and unlikely to be made easier by running the ball against a stout York front four. Expect fireworks. **PICK: YORK**

LOS ANGELES @ MOHAVE (line – KNIGHTS by 5)

The Knights may be finally turning the corner on their season after a critical win over Pickering in Week Ten. Ahead of them is a string of four games that they should win, starting with the most difficult of those four at Mohave. Yes, the Hellfire are the best of the lot, which speaks volumes about the ineptitude of the other three. The Knights had better take this game seriously, though. The 'Blue Shield' is slowly improving vs. the pass, but opponents are still completing 66% of their passes against them and there has been a dearth of defensive takeaways. Mohave can't do much, but they can pass the ball when Andrew Luck is having a good day. Expect the #1 pick in the draft to have a good day, but for Alex Smith to keep a step or two ahead of him. **PICK: LOS ANGELES**

IOWA CITY @ COMMONWEALTH (line – COLONIALS by 3)

Josh Freeman is leading all quarterbacks in interceptions and this is a major reason why the surprising Colonials have not been surprising anybody recently. The other reason is that over their current 3-game losing streak they have run into a series of very strong defences that are clearly out of their league. Fortunately for Freeman, the Cubs are second last in the league in takeaways, with one lone interception by Kevin Barnes accounting for their only turnover in the passing game. If Freeman can keep the ball away from the Cubs, he will find some room to move the ball in both phases; but will it be enough? Despite a dismal 1-9 record, the Cubs' offence has been occasionally explosive and a potential wild card in any given game. The other unknown is how a new coaching staff in Iowa City will affect play. **PICK: IOWA CITY**

GARLAND @ COWTOWN (line – CORN KINGS by 4)

The big question heading into this game is who the Corn Kings will start at quarterback – Joe Flacco or Matt Moore. Last week's thrilling comeback against York pushed Moore's stock up and post-game comments by Coach Coghlin suggest a change is in the air. However, it is not easy to bench an MVP, even if he has looked like a liability lately. The Mustangs are plugging along with the least exciting 7-3 record in sports, but that lack of profile is a weapon in itself. Don't believe the Corn Kings aren't aware that they are facing a potentially great defence and a pass-first offence that used running back Arian Foster to beat the Hellfire last week. Cowtown's defence is performing at a top tier level and they will need it to keep performing that way this week if they hope to win, forget covering an overly generous spread. **PICK: GARLAND**

PICKERING @ SEBASTIAN (line – SPARTANS by 2)

It will come as a shock, if you haven't been paying attention, to learn that the Swordfish offence has been performing slightly ahead of a Spartans' offence that has such weapons as Chris Johnson, Percy Harvin, and Vincent Jackson at its disposal. The price of using a rookie QB in Pickering seems unusually high so far, but it is not too late for a turnaround. Pickering must basically run the table to stand a reasonable chance of making the post-season and a trip to Sebastian is an excellent start. I still like the Spartans as a team and I like them against spread even more. **PICK: PICKERING**

SCARBOROUGH @ DURHAM (line – THUNDER LIZARDS by 2)

Expect Matt Schaub to finally return to the line-up to face the unbeaten Blue Eagles. This could be a preview of the conference championship and the Lizards get the home field advantage to try and secure the psychological edge of being the first team to knock off the southern juggernaut. This one is almost too close to call, with both teams neck-and-neck in key offensive and defensive categories. The lack of a true power running game for the Lizards will put more pressure on Schaub, but with excellent secondary and tertiary options at wide receiver, he can avoid Revis Island and still move the ball if his protection holds up. Nick Mangold is out for Durham, which is the most significant injury for either team as Eugene Amano is a significant downgrade at an important position. On offence, the Blue Eagles are gathering momentum and with Ray Rice in the backfield, they don't need to pass the ball a lot to move the chains. **PICK: SCARBOROUGH**

GWINNETT @ MARKHAM (line – NORTH STARS by 9)

Coming off two easy wins, it is back to testing the playoff pedigree of this Markham team as they host a sinking but still dangerous Gwinnett. Big Ben showed gumption against Chino last week, working without a running game and racking up 351 yards of passing without an interception. With LeSean McCoy back in the line-up, they can return to two-dimensions provided McCoy can stay healthy throughout the game. With both back-ups out or questionable, even a temporary injury at running back could be telling. Both teams tend to turn the ball over, but the North Stars also have 23 takeaways, 2nd in the league. Turnovers will be a factor, in which direction I am unsure. All I know for sure is that 9 points is too large. **PICK: GWINNETT**

SOUTH CAROLINA @ TWIN CITIES (line – TRIUMPH by 2)

The Regulators showed well until the 4th quarter in Death Valley last week, but their fall was precipitous. A strangely silent Frank Gore is hampering the overall effectiveness of the offence, putting pressure on Romo that he can't handle, while injuries and lack of talent in the secondary make them acutely vulnerable to the pass. A solid, if unspectacular Twin Cities team is playing better than its record indicates – they have decent depth and have thrown the fewest interceptions in the league. Yes, that would be Jay Cutler protecting the ball, another sign of the coming end of the world. **PICK: TWIN CITIES**