

WEEK 13

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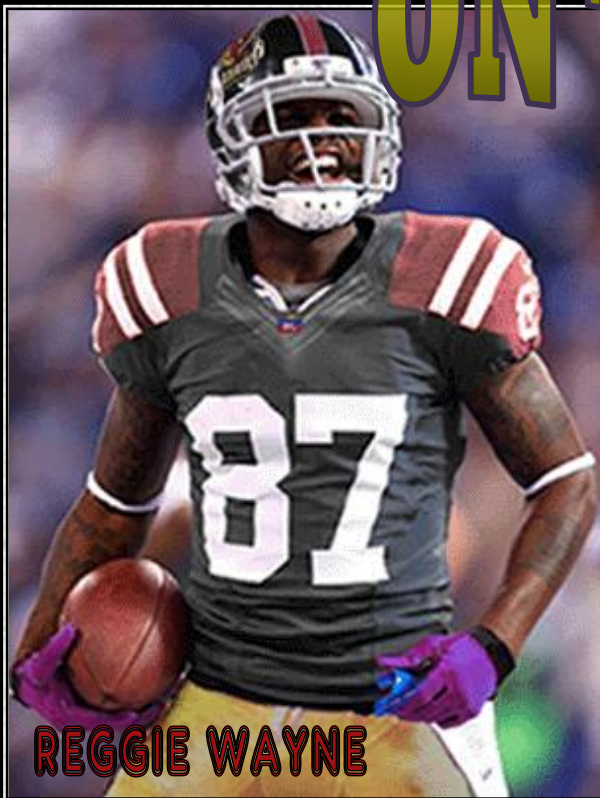
2012 EFL 2012

January 13, 2013

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

Virden	10	3	0	Death Valley	12	1	0	Durham	12	1	0	Scarborough	12	1	0
York	10	3	0	Chino	8	5	0	Markham	9	3	1	Garland	7	6	0
Commonwealth	6	7	0	Los Angeles	8	5	0	Cowtown	7	5	1	Gwinnett	6	7	0
Mohave	3	10	0	Mission Viejo	2	11	0	Pickering	4	9	0	South Carolina	5	8	0
Charleswood	0	13	0	Iowa City	1	12	0	Twin Cities	4	9	0	Sebastian	3	10	0

ON THE HUNT!

**REGGIE WAYNE****MATT STAFFORD**

Gwinnett wide receiver **Reggie Wayne** looks up as the crowd roars its approval after his 3rd quarter touchdown grab. The Gladiators are still in the playoff hunt after upsetting Cowtown at the Coliseum in Week 13. Virden QB, **Matt Stafford** leans forward to watch one of 5 field goals by teammate **Lawrence Tynes** as the Violators upset York to take possession of 1st place in the East. (MORE INSIDE)



Who was slick
in Week
Thirteen?

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



Drew Brees
QB
Death Valley
Undertakers

30 of 40, 296 yards, 5 TDs, 1 INT.
Another big day against big D.



Nick Barnett
LB
Virden
Violators

12 tackles, 1 PD, 1 TFL, 1 FF, 2 INTs; Picks of Brady closed door.



7-5-1

17



GAME OF THE WEEK



6-7-0

24

STILL IN IT!

WAYNE'S TD CATCH IN 3RD QUARTER KEEPS
GWINNETT IN PLAYOFF HUNT!

CORN KING OF THE GAME

Maurice Jones-Drew

32 Carries, 145 yards

Team	1	2	3	4	OT	Total
Cowtown	7	10	0	0	-	17
Gwinnett	0	14	7	3	-	24

GLADIATOR OF THE GAME

Reggie Wayne

6 Receptions, 104 yards, 1 TD

GAME SUMMARY: With the Corn Kings leading by 10, Gladiators' linebacker **James Laurinaitis** stripped the ball from **Maurice Jones-Drew** as the Corn Kings' running back stretched to make a first down, giving Gwinnett the ball at the Cowtown 37 yard line with under two minutes remaining in the first half. **Ahmad Bradshaw** allowed the Glads to take advantage of the game's only turnover by gaining 30 yards on 3 carries over a 4-play drive that ended with Bradshaw breaking into the end zone from 2 yards out to narrow the Cowtown lead to 3 points at half time, 17-14. The turnover and subsequent score appeared to be the turning point of the game, as the Cowtown offence under starter **Joe Flacco** struggled with penalties and a sputtering passing attack through most of the 3rd quarter. Meanwhile, Gladiators quarterback **Ben Roethlisberger** went a perfect 3-for-3 for 48 yards, including a 17-yard touchdown strike to **Reggie Wayne** that turned out to be the game-winning score, during a mid-quarter drive that put Gwinnett in front by a score of 21-17. Back-up quarterback **Matt Moore** came into the game late in the 3rd quarter to try and revive the Corn Kings' attack but his first effort came up empty when kicker **John Kasay** shanked a 32-yard field goal attempt. The Glads threatened to break the game wide open with a drive to the Cowtown 10 yard line, but **Everson Griffen** sacked Roethlisberger and forced a fumble that Big Ben managed to recover for an 11-yard loss. A 32-yard field goal by **Josh Brown** gave Gwinnett a converted-touchdown lead with 2:46 remaining in the game. The Corn Kings took over at their 20 for one last push to try and tie the game. Moore and Jones-Drew led their team methodically up the field, reaching the Gwinnett 11 yard line with 34 seconds left but without timeouts. A pair of incomplete passes brought up 3rd and 10 and a desperate situation for the Kings. On the next play, with the Glads playing tight, **Larry Fitzgerald** cut across the back of the end zone and gained separation from the defender; but before Moore could pull the trigger defensive end **Robert Mathis** broke through the line and brought him down for an 8-yard loss. A last gasp pass attempt to the end zone as time expired fell incomplete, keeping the Glads' playoff hopes alive for another week.

QUOTE OF THE GAME

"Playoffs, who cares about the playoffs! We only take one game at a time." – *Gwinnett coach, Dave Birdsall*

"I let the team down. The 100-yard game means nothing if we don't win." – *Cowtown running back, Maurice Jones-Drew*

"MJ tried to make a play there and they got a lucky hit on the ball. It was unfortunate but we have to overcome a setback like that. It's not all on MJD's shoulders!" – *Cowtown coach, Jim Coghlin*



FANS' THUMB UP

Ahmad Bradshaw power running

FANS' THUMB DOWN

Corn Kings' QB Carousel



FAN RATING



01-12-2013 Gwinnett Coliseum Temp: 43 Wind: 10-20

MVP: Reggie Wayne

1 9:09 Cowtown	TD Flacco 81 pass to Fitzgerald (Kasay) (6-99-2:55)	7-0
2 14:08 Cowtown	FG Kasay 21 (18-81-8:00)	10-0
2 10:28 Gwinnett	TD Bradshaw 2 run (Brown,J) (6-80-3:40)	10-7
2 5:11 Cowtown	TD Flacco 5 pass to Lorig (Kasay) (8-65-5:11)	17-7
2 0:24 Gwinnett	TD Bradshaw 2 run (Brown,J) (4-37-1:23)	17-14
3 6:56 Gwinnett	TD Roethlisberger 17 pass to Wayne (Brown,J) (4-60-2:18)	17-21
4 2:46 Gwinnett	FG Brown 32 (10-50-6:08)	17-24

	COW	GWG
First Downs	24	19
Rushes	37-161	27-143
Passes	41-21-270	21-14-186
Sacked	1-8	2-16
Fumble	1	1
Penalties	4-36	7-44
Turnovers	1	0
Missed Tackles	3	13
Blitzes	12	14
Time	31:31	28:29
Third Down	6-14	0-9
Fourth Down	1-2	0-0
Red Att/Td/Fg	4/1/1	5/3/1
Net Offense	423	313



QUICK COUNTS!!

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



PATRIOTS

0-13-0

14

0

0

0

0

14

OT

Michael Vick

15 of 31, 160 yards, 2 TDs, 1 INT



KNIGHTS

8-5-0

7

13

7

14

0

41

Alex Smith

30 of 39, 382 yards, 4 TDs

A lost fumble at the Knights' 30 yard line led to a go-ahead 14-yard TD pass from **Michael Vick** to **Sidney Rice** to give the Pats a rare 14-7 lead in the 1st quarter. But Vick gave that back with a lost fumble at the Pats' 45 yard line, leading to the Knights tying the score on a 2-yard TD pass from **Alex Smith** to **Tony Gonzalez**. Knights' kicker **Dan Carpenter** added a pair of FGs to give LA a 20-14 lead at half time. The Knights dominated the 2nd half, holding the Pats' offence to just 4 first downs and 65 yards while Smith tossed TD passes of 13 and 46 yards to **Roddy White** to cap off an easy victory.



COLONIALS

6-7-0

0

0

10

0

0

10

OT

Jake Locker

15 of 25, 163 yards, 1 TD, 1 INT



HELLFIRE

3-10-0

14

7

0

0

0

21

Andrew Luck

14 of 19, 146 yards, 3 TDs

In front of Mohave's first sellout crowd of the year, **Andrew Luck** led the Hellfire to 3 TDs in their first 3 possessions, completing TD passes of 7 and 25 yards to **Hakeem Nicks**, and 9 yards to **Mike Tolbert** to grab an early 21-0 lead by the 2nd quarter. Mohave linebacker **Cameron Wake** forced a fumble by Commonwealth fullback **Michael Robinson** while rookie corner **Aaron Williams** picked off **Jake Locker** in the end zone to shutout the Colonials in the 1st half. After surrendering 10 points in the 3rd, the Mohave defence clamped down on Commonwealth in the 4th to preserve the win.



UNDERTAKERS

12-1-0

7

14

7

14

0

42

OT

Drew Brees

30 of 40, 296 yards, 5TDs, 1 INT



CONVICTS

8-5-0

10

7

10

0

0

27

Cam Newton

11 Carries, 89 yards, 1 D

The Convicts took an early 10-0 lead on a 50-yard FG by **Dan Bailey** and a 53-yard interception return for a TD by **Aqib Talib**. But a pair of TD passes from **Drew Brees** to **Marques Colston** and another to **Aaron Hernandez** on either end of a 43-yard TD strike from **Cam Newton** to **James Jones** gave Death Valley a 21-17 lead at half time. The Convicts took the lead in the 3rd on a 5-yard QB draw by Newton but saw it vanish 5 minutes later with a 12-yard TD pass to Colston that would be the eventual game-winner. Death Valley held the ball for most of the remainder, adding two 4th-quarter TDs.



QUICK COUNTS!!

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



MONARCHS

2-11-0

7	14	7	0	0	28
OT					

Brice McCain
2 Tackles, 1 INT, 1 TD



CUBS

1-12-0

3	3	7	10	0	23
OT					

Trent Richardson
22 Carries, 140 yards

Cubs' quarterback **Russell Wilson** was intercepted 3 times in the first half, resulting in 21 early points for the Monarchs. Safety **Brandon Taylor** got the first, setting up a 1-yard plunge for a TD by **DeMarco Murray**; **Lardarius Webb** got the second returning it 36 yards to set up a 4-yard TD run by **Rashard Mendenhall**; and corner **Brice McCain** snared the third, returning it 57 yards for a TD. The Monarchs capitalized on a failed Cubs' 4th down conversion at mid-field with a 49-yard drive ending with in a 6-yard TD pass from **TJ Yates** to **Devery Henderson** for the eventual winning score.



EXCALIBURS

10-3-0

7	0	10	0	0	17
OT					

Michael Crabtree
8 Receptions, 110 yards, 1 TD



VIOLATORS

10-3-0

7	10	6	6	0	29
OT					

Matt Stafford
26 of 33, 283 yards

Matt Stafford completed 9 of 10 passes for 78 yards of an 80-yard TD drive that ended with **Beanie Wells** plunging into the end zone from 4 yards out to give Virden a 14-7 lead in the 2nd quarter. On York's next offensive play, **Nick Barnett** picked off **Tom Brady** to set up an 18-yard FG by **Lawrence Tynes**. In reply, the Excaliburs put together an impressive 80-yard drive that ended badly with Barnett's 2nd interception of the day in the Violators' end zone. With Virden holding a 26-17 lead and York driving in the 4th, Brady was picked off at the Virden 22 yard line by **Terrence Newman** to seal it.



T-LIZARDS

12-1-0

0	17	7	14	0	38
OT					

Matt Schaub
25 of 31, 397 yards, 2 TDs



SPARTANS

4-9-0

10	0	11	0	0	21
OT					

Daryl Washington
9 Tackles, 2 Sacks, 2 TFLs, 1 FF

Daryl Washington sacked **Matt Schaub** and forced a fumble on Durham's opening possession to set up a FG then **Devin Hester** fumbled the ensuing kickoff to set up a 4-yard TD run by **Darren McFadden** to give the Spartans a quick 10-0 lead. But the Thunder Lizards rebounded with a pair of Reggie Bush TD runs and a FG to lead 17-10 at half time. The Dinos struck in the 3rd with a 66-yard pass to **Calvin Johnson** to set up a TD pass **Vernon Davis** to make it 24-13. **Robert Griffin** scrambled for a 2-yard TD, but Durham pulled away in the 4th with two majors and a **Kam Chancellor** pick.



QUICK COUNTS!!

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



TRIUMPH

4-9-0

0

0

0

0

0

0

OT



NORTH STARS

9-3-1

3

3

21

0

0

27

Doug Martin

85 total yards (61 run, 24 rec)

Jonathan Stewart

5 Carries, 59 yards, 1 TD

An interception by **Rob Ninkovich** and a **Tim Tebow** fumble set up the only scoring of the 1st half – two FGs for the North Stars. **Jonathan Stewart** capped off the opening possession of the 2nd half with a 25-yard TD run to increase the Markham lead to 13-0. Then, over a 5-minute span, Tebow fumbled twice more – once on a designed running play and the next on a sack by **Fred Robbins** – to set up two more North Stars' TDs on turnovers to make the score 27-0. The Triumph offence continued to be ineffective as Markham went conservative in the final quarter to kill the clock.



BLUE EAGLES

12-1-0

14

7

14

0

0

35

OT



MUSTANGS

7-6-0

0

0

7

0

0

7

Aaron Rodgers

19 of 27, 249 yards, 2 TDs

Arian Foster

18 Carries, 80 yards

Scarborough receiver **Greg Little** made a leaping catch in the end zone on a pass from **Aaron Rodgers** for a 29-yard scoring play then snared a short pass and turned it into a 42-yard gain to set up the first of 2 rushing TDs by **Ray Rice** as the Blue Eagles jumped out to a 14-0 1st quarter lead. They added another TD before half time then finished off the Mustangs with an outstanding defensive performance, highlighted by a 72-yard interception return for a TD by **Darrelle Revis**. Matt Ryan was pulled in favour of **Kevin Kolb** early in the 3rd quarter after completing just 3 of 10 for 33 yards.



SWORDFISH

3-10-0

0

7

14

17

0

38

OT



REGULATORS

5-8-0

7

7

7

14

0

35

Andy Dalton

22 of 36, 212 yards, 4 TDs

Tony Romo

25 of 33, 323 yards, 4 TDs, 1 INT

With the score tied at 28 and 5:33 remaining in the 4th quarter, Sebastian line-backer **Jamar Chaney** picked off **Tony Romo** deep in Regulator territory and returned it to the 3 yard line. That set up a 3-yard TD pass on a check down from **Andy Dalton** to **Brandon Myers** to give the Swordfish a 35-28 lead. The Regs charged back with an 89-yard drive topped off by a 22-yard TD pass to **Brandon Pettigrew** to tie it. Return man **Marcus Sherels** gave Sebastian good field position and **Javier Arenas** was flagged for pass interference to set up **Adam Vinatieri** for the game-winning 42-yard FG.



BODY COUNT



WEEK THIRTEEN INJURY REPORT



CHARLESWOOD

Marcus Gilbert, T – OUT (2 games); Louis Delmas, S – OUT (Season); Jon Beason, ILB – OUT (Season); Marcus Trufant – OUT (Season)

CHINO

None

COMMONWEALTH

Corey Williams, DT – OUT; Stephen Nicholas, OLB – OUT (Season); Josh Morgan, WR – OUT (Season); Kevin Smith, RB – OUT (Season)

COWTOWN

None.

DEATH VALLEY

Gerald McCoy, DT – PROBABLE; Brent Grimes, CB – OUT; Jerod Mayo, LB – OUT (2 games)

DURHAM

None

GARLAND

Quinn Johnson, FB – OUT (2 games); Jahvid Best – OUT (Season)

GWINNETT

Casey Hampton, DT – OUT; Dwight Bentley, CB – OUT (2 games); Dallas Clark, TE – OUT (2 games)

IOWA CITY

Bruce Miller, FB – QUESTIONABLE; Mario Williams, OLB – OUT (3 games)

LOS ANGELES

Dan Carpenter, K – QUESTIONABLE; Andre Carter, DE – DOUBTFUL; Andre Fluellen, DT – DOUBTFUL; Osi Umenyiora, DE – OUT (Season); Sam Young, T – OUT (Season)

MARKHAM

Roscoe Parrish, WR – PROBABLE; Isaiah Pead, RB – DOUBTFUL; Justin King, CB – OUT (2 games)

MISSION VIEJO

Aaron Maybin, LB – OUT (3 games); Derek Cox, CB – OUT (Season); Tim Hightower, RB – OUT (Season); Ovie Mughelli, RB – OUT (Season)

MOHAVE

Quan Cosby, WR – QUESTIONABLE; Chris Houston, CB – OUT (2 games); Ben Graham, P – (2 games); Chris Hope, S – OUT (4 games); Chris Massey, LS – OUT (Season)

PICKERING

None

SCARBOROUGH

Kris Dielman, G – OUT (2 games)

SEBASTIAN

Leonard Hankerson, WR – OUT (2 games); Leon Hall, CB – OUT (4 games); Zach Strief, T – OUT (Season); Kenny Britt, WR – OUT (Season); Mike McGlynn, C-G – OUT (Season)

SOUTH CAROLINA

Greg Jennings, QUESTIONABLE; Felix Jones, RB – DOUBTFUL; Brandon Spikes, ILB – OUT (3 games); Patrick Chung, S – OUT (4 games); Brandon Graham, DE – OUT (Season); Major Wright, S – OUT (Season)

TWIN CITIES

Jason Campbell, QB – OUT (2 games); Jason Worilds, LB – OUT (2 games); Antoine Winfield, CB – OUT (3 games); Mike Jenkins, CB – OUT (3 games); Jay Cutler, QB – OUT (4 games); Jerome Felton, RB – OUT (Season)

VIRDEN

Prince Amukamara, CB – DOUBTFUL; Shawne Merriman, DE-LB OUT (5 games); Fred Davis, TE – OUT (2 games); Anthony Castonzo, T – OUT (5 games); Eric Berry, S – OUT (Season); Jeff Otah, T – OUT (Season)

YORK

Anthony Herrera, G – OUT (2 games)





STATS



WEEK THIRTEEN

STANDINGS

East	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Viriden	10	3	0	0.769	412	31.7	282	21.7	10	6 1 0	6 0 0	8 1 0
York	10	3	0	0.769	366	28.2	231	17.8	10.4	6 1 0	4 2 0	7 2 0
Commonwealth	6	7	0	0.462	270	20.8	376	28.9	-8.2	4 2 0	2 3 0	5 4 0
Mohave	3	10	0	0.231	210	16.2	412	31.7	-15.5	3 3 0	3 3 0	0 4 0
Charleswood	0	13	0	0	140	10.8	446	34.3	-23.5	0 6 0	0 5 0	0 9 0
West	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Death Valley (z)	12	1	0	0.923	519	39.9	307	23.6	16.3	6 0 0	5 0 0	8 1 0
Los Angeles	8	5	0	0.615	373	28.7	225	17.3	11.4	3 3 0	4 1 0	6 3 0
Chino	8	5	0	0.615	322	24.8	263	20.2	4.5	3 3 0	3 3 0	5 4 0
Mission Viejo	2	11	0	0.154	169	13	423	32.5	-19.5	1 6 0	2 4 0	2 7 0
Iowa City	1	12	0	0.077	221	17	324	24.9	-7.9	1 6 0	0 6 0	1 8 0
North	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Durham (y)	12	1	0	0.923	416	32	218	16.8	15.2	7 0 0	5 1 0	8 1 0
Markham	9	3	1	0.731	361	27.8	203	15.6	12.2	5 1 1	4 1 1	7 1 1
Cowtown	7	5	1	0.577	324	24.9	247	19	5.9	5 1 0	2 2 1	4 4 1
Pickering	4	9	0	0.308	260	20	319	24.5	-4.5	2 5 0	2 4 0	3 6 0
Twin Cities	4	9	0	0.308	236	18.2	298	22.9	-4.8	3 3 0	0 5 0	2 7 0
South	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Scarborough (z)	12	1	0	0.923	389	29.9	198	15.2	14.7	6 0 0	5 0 0	8 1 0
Garland	7	6	0	0.538	321	24.7	256	19.7	5	4 2 0	2 4 0	3 6 0
Gwinnett	6	7	0	0.462	283	21.8	295	22.7	-0.9	3 3 0	2 3 0	4 5 0
South Carolina	5	8	0	0.385	252	19.4	335	25.8	-6.4	3 4 0	3 3 0	3 6 0
Sebastian	3	10	0	0.231	192	14.8	378	29.1	-14.3	1 6 0	2 4 0	2 7 0

(z) - clinched division

(y) - clinched wildcard

PASSING

			Att	Cmp	C%	Yards	In	I%	Lg	TD	TD%	Rate
1	Brees	DVU	500	364	72.8	4625	7	1.4	59	63	12.6	135.0
2	Stafford	VV	419	298	71.1	3948	7	1.7	64	34	8.1	120.7
3	Schaub	DTL	150	103	68.7	1485	2	1.3	66	11	7.3	119.4
4	Smith,A	LAK	463	314	67.8	3484	4	0.9	51	30	6.5	108.0
5	Brady	YOR	374	246	65.8	3420	13	3.5	75	27	7.2	104.6
6	Cutler	TCT	290	191	65.9	2135	3	1.0	55	17	5.9	102.9
7	Rivers,P	DTL	270	172	63.7	2396	10	3.7	53	20	7.4	101.4
8	Rodgers,A	SBE	411	282	68.6	3364	9	2.2	78	21	5.1	101.3
9	Manning,E	MAR	339	210	61.9	3067	12	3.5	75	19	5.6	95.3
10	Newton,C	CHI	340	217	63.8	2430	7	2.1	75	18	5.3	94.1
11	Romo	SC	402	267	66.4	3167	15	3.7	75	22	5.5	93.0
12	Ryan,M	GDM	447	288	64.4	3285	8	1.8	81	18	4.0	92.4
13	Flacco	COW	364	201	55.2	2546	9	2.5	81	25	6.9	89.8
14	Luck	MOH	357	230	64.4	2509	9	2.5	52	16	4.5	89.5
15	Roethlisbe	GWG	415	263	63.4	2921	15	3.6	80	20	4.8	85.2
16	Wilson,R	ICC	311	186	59.8	2325	10	3.2	71	14	4.5	84.7
17	Dalton	SS	407	247	60.7	2326	11	2.7	59	10	2.5	73.4
18	Vick	CHP	248	146	58.9	1577	9	3.6	71	8	3.2	73.3
19	McCoy,C	MVM	190	108	56.8	956	6	3.2	44	5	2.6	66.0
20	Freeman,J	COM	320	187	58.4	2102	19	5.9	61	10	3.1	63.8
21	Griffin,R	PIC	309	170	55.0	2141	19	6.1	93	11	3.6	63.0
22	Tannehill	MVM	145	80	55.2	877	9	6.2	77	3	2.1	54.3
23	Henne	DVU	6	6	100.0	101	0	0.0	36	1	16.7	158.3
24	Naanee	CHI	1	1	100.0	15	0	0.0	15	0	0.0	118.8
25	Thigpen	GWG	1	1	100.0	10	0	0.0	10	0	0.0	108.3

RUSHING

			Att	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD				Att	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD
1	Jones-Drew	COW	297	1373	4.6	61	5	13	Williams,D	MAR	115	710	6.2	73	9
2	Rice,R	SBE	257	1298	5.1	70	10	14	Newton,C	CHI	123	708	5.8	25	15
3	Turner,M	YOR	235	1122	4.8	43	7	15	Johnson,C	PIC	189	690	3.7	36	2
4	Jackson,F	COM	212	945	4.5	35	6	16	Sproles	LAK	83	650	7.8	34	1
5	McCoy,L	GWG	198	905	4.6	67	9	17	Stewart,J	MAR	118	615	5.2	25	6
6	Brown,D	ICC	162	870	5.4	72	6	18	Murray,D	MVM	128	569	4.4	24	5
7	Bush,R	DTL	185	846	4.6	44	11	19	Tate,B	VV	111	562	5.1	27	1
8	Mathews,R	DVU	172	807	4.7	36	1	20	Gore	SC	158	548	3.5	15	6
9	Martin,D	TCT	186	807	4.3	55	1	21	Thomas,P	SS	125	546	4.4	31	5
10	Wells,B	VV	184	787	4.3	63	7	22	Mendenhall	MVM	133	460	3.5	23	2
11	McGahee	DVU	146	748	5.1	66	2	23	Thomas,D	MOH	136	452	3.3	27	2
12	Jackson,S	CHI	180	717	4.0	52	1	24	Tolbert	MOH	113	445	3.9	18	4

RECEIVING

			No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD				No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD
1	Graham,J	MOH	85	891	10.5	52	4	13	Nicks,H	MOH	63	1067	16.9	51	9
2	Gronkows,R	DVU	82	1176	14.3	54	11	14	Hernandez	DVU	61	666	10.9	54	15
3	Fitzgerald	COW	79	1261	16.0	87	13	15	Jackson,D	SBE	60	850	14.2	73	6
4	White,R	LAK	78	978	12.5	48	8	16	Cruz	YOR	58	1250	21.6	75	12
5	Johnson,C	DTL	67	1237	18.5	66	12	17	Green,A	SC	57	934	16.4	75	10
6	Smith,S	LAK	66	936	14.2	51	9	18	Pettigrew	SC	56	537	9.6	26	4
7	Winslow	YOR	65	723	11.1	35	3	19	Bryant,D	VV	56	896	16.0	64	10
8	Colston	DVU	65	910	14.0	59	9	20	Wayne	GWG	55	852	15.5	80	8
9	Bowe	DTL	65	860	13.2	53	13	21	Witten	CHP	54	529	9.8	50	4
10	Welker	MAR	65	939	14.4	73	5	22	Marshall,B	SBE	53	628	11.8	44	4
11	Wallace,M	ICC	64	1260	19.7	71	12	23	Williams,M	MVM	53	651	12.3	37	1
12	Gonzalez	LAK	64	619	9.7	36	7	24	Jones,J	VV	52	881	16.9	35	7

KICKING

			FGA	FGM	FG%	40	50	Lg	Pts
1	Tynes	VV	28	26	92.9	9	0	49	124
2	Carpenter	LAK	30	26	86.7	7	5	57	119
3	Akers	MAR	29	25	86.2	11	1	51	115
4	Crosby	DTL	26	22	84.6	4	2	52	114
5	Janikowski	SBE	27	22	81.5	8	3	52	111
6	Gould	GDM	27	23	85.2	6	1	50	105
7	Gostkowski	COM	27	25	92.6	9	1	54	102
8	Bailey,D	CHI	27	21	77.8	10	2	51	100
9	Gano	DVU	17	12	70.6	3	3	55	97
10	Scobee	PIC	27	24	88.9	12	3	58	96
11	Walsh	YOR	17	13	76.5	3	1	54	84
12	Zuerlein	ICC	26	20	76.9	12	3	51	83
13	Kasay	COW	20	15	75.0	4	1	52	82
14	Brown,J	GWG	18	15	83.3	5	1	52	79
15	Vinatieri	SS	20	20	100.0	7	0	49	74
16	Longwell	SC	18	14	77.8	7	1	50	72
17	Rackers	MVM	20	16	80.0	9	4	59	63
18	Bironas	TCT	13	11	84.6	4	2	53	62
19	Cundiff	MOH	8	7	87.5	3	0	48	48
20	Folk	CHP	10	7	70.0	3	0	47	38

INTERCEPTIONS

										No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD											No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD		
1	Barnett	VV	4	64	16.0	35	1	13	Reed,E	MAR	3	0	0.0	0	0	2	Webster	COW	4	97	24.3	41	1	14	Matthews	DVU	3	56	18.7	31	0
3	Chancellor	DTL	4	15	3.8	15	0	15	Allen,J	DVU	3	4	1.3	4	0	4	Sherman	DTL	4	52	13.0	29	1	16	Woodson	LAK	3	24	8.0	21	0
5	Brown,T	MAR	4	3	0.8	3	0	17	Webb,L	MVM	3	60	20.0	36	0	6	Revis	SBE	4	94	23.5	72	1	18	Cromartie	SBE	3	111	37.0	57	1
7	Weddle	GDM	4	40	10.0	19	0	19	Phillips,K	COW	3	42	14.0	42	0	8	DeCoud	GWG	4	52	13.0	29	0	20	Griffin,M	SBE	3	21	7.0	9	0
9	Newman	VV	3	87	29.0	50	1	21	Cushing	GDM	3	10	3.3	9	0	10	Williams,T	VV	3	90	30.0	66	0	22	Flowers	COW	3	68	22.7	27	1
11	Manning,D	YOR	3	50	16.7	29	0	23	Polamalu	GWG	3	33	11.0	33	1	12	Tillman	MAR	3	34	11.3	34	0	24	Barron	CHP	3	112	37.3	45	2

SACKS

1	Allen,J	DTL	15	10	Barnes,A	GWG	9	19	Dumervil	DTL	6
2	Pierre-Pau	ICC	14	11	Avril	GDM	8	20	Johnson,M	YOR	6
3	Babin	YOR	13	12	Cole,T	MAR	8	21	Abraham	MAR	6
4	Suggs	SBE	13	13	Miller,V	YOR	7	22	Anderson,M	COW	6
5	Peppers	CHI	11	14	Campbell,C	SBE	7	23	Jones,C	SS	6
6	Ware,D	VV	10	15	McDonald	PIC	7	24	Carter,A	LAK	5
7	Harrison,J	CHI	9	16	Atkins	YOR	7	25	Tuck	SBE	5
8	Freeney	TCT	9	17	Seymour	SC	7	26	Suh	SBE	5
9	Sheard	PIC	9	18	Smith,A	VV	6	27	Kelly,T	DTL	5

TACKLES

1	Laurinaiti	GWG	140	10	Kuechly	SC	104	19	Henders,EJ	SC	82
2	McClain,R	MOH	129	11	Pierre-Pau	ICC	103	20	Angerer	MAR	82
3	Barnett	VV	121	12	Briggs	GWG	102	21	Hall,D	GDM	78
4	Washington	PIC	117	13	Hawthorne	COM	102	22	Bowman	GDM	78
5	Johnson,D	COW	112	14	Burnett,K	TCT	102	23	Taylor,P	CHP	77
6	Cushing	GDM	110	15	Conner	SS	93	24	Phillips,K	COW	76
7	Smith,D	CHI	110	16	Mayo	DVU	92	25	Martin,S	MVM	76
8	Lofton	DTL	107	17	Chaney	SS	88	26	Sheard	PIC	75
9	Jackson,D	LAK	106	18	Maulaluga	MVM	87	27	Clark,R	YOR	73

KICK RETURNS

			No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD				No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD
1	Harvin	PIC	36	1117	31.0	109	2	13	Scott,D	SBE	36	830	23.1	100	1
2	McKnight	MAR	35	1061	30.3	100	1	14	Weems	COW	34	782	23.0	35	0
3	Sherels	SS	42	1194	28.4	76	0	15	Tate,B	MVM	63	1444	22.9	52	0
4	Ginn Jr.	TCT	43	1215	28.3	106	1	16	Banks	MOH	58	1314	22.7	47	0
5	Stroughter	CHP	73	2001	27.4	104	1	17	Cobb	DVU	44	993	22.6	35	0
6	Sproles	LAK	37	1007	27.2	82	0	18	Mariani	YOR	40	884	22.1	49	0
7	Cribbs	CHI	36	882	24.5	58	0	19	Lefeged	VV	32	621	19.4	51	0
8	Karim	GDM	21	512	24.4	35	0	20	Boykin	PIC	15	282	18.8	32	0
9	Gates,C	ICC	53	1274	24.0	75	0	21	Rogers,J	ICC	2	63	31.5	33	0
10	Hester,D	DTL	26	608	23.4	52	0	22	Skrine	MVM	1	30	30.0	30	0
11	Logan	GWG	44	1025	23.3	42	0	23	Arenas	SC	11	311	28.3	97	0
12	Washington	COM	56	1302	23.3	42	0	24	Cosby	MOH	1	28	28.0	28	0

PUNT RETURNS

										No	Fc	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD											No	Fc	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD		
1	Peterson,P	GDM	31	7	562	18.1	80	4	13	Banks	MOH	17	2	172	10.1	23	0																
2	Bess	DTL	18	15	250	13.9	40	0	14	Cribbs	CHI	40	6	382	9.6	18	0																
3	Sproles	LAK	37	8	511	13.8	84	3	15	Weems	COW	42	10	386	9.2	17	0																
4	Jones,J	CHP	30	1	414	13.8	75	2	16	Tate,B	MVM	21	3	176	8.4	22	0																
5	Arenas	SC	20	8	267	13.4	31	0	17	Edwards,A	ICC	37	3	310	8.4	41	0																
6	Mariani	YOR	25	11	325	13.0	69	1	18	Jackson,D	SBE	28	19	220	7.9	23	0																
7	Crayton	MAR	17	8	191	11.2	40	0	19	Adams,J	PIC	23	11	177	7.7	15	0																
8	Logan	GWG	23	13	256	11.1	27	0	20	Sherels	SS	19	6	129	6.8	13	0																
9	Ginn Jr.	TCT	34	4	375	11.0	25	0	21	Parrish	MAR	1	1	29	29.0	29	0																
10	Cobb	DVU	18	9	195	10.8	62	1	22	Decker	DTL	2	0	37	18.5	21	0																
11	Washington	COM	33	2	342	10.4	19	0	23	McKelvin	GWG	1	0	18	18.0	18	0																
12	Bryant,D	VV	13	8	134	10.3	46	0	24	Pettis	SBE	1	1	16	16.0	16	0																



AROUND THE



With Spats McChad

NOT IN SAUDI ARABIA – The latest import from Saudi Arabia is a new deadly *coronavirus*. The country that brought us Osama Bin Laden and 911 is once again bringing death to Americans, but in a different form. This is the price we pay for the lifeblood of our economy and, when measured against the devastation an oil shortage would bring to our fragile industry, it is a small price indeed – so far anyway. The fact that none of us have died as a result of the Saudi strand of the virus is beside the point. New Yorkers are falling in droves to the flu this year and it is just a matter of time before this Jihadist bug launches its microbial suicide mission into our bloodstreams. Although I religiously get my yearly flu shot and wear surgical masks at home to reduce the symptoms of my chronic HULD (Healthy Urban Lung Disease), I decided this week to get a second flu shot as a precaution; only to be told that they were *out of vaccine*! This is an unbelievable and unacceptable state of affairs for a world class city. Even more outrageous is the fact that when a new batch arrives, I will not be allowed to get one. Apparently you can't have two. So, Dear Readers, I hope to be able to continue bringing you my wisdom, but I could be struck down at any time.

IN PRAISE OF EXCESS

If my Twitter inbox is an accurate indicator, there are a disturbing number of you reading this column who would probably celebrate my incapacitation or demise. Telling it like it is has its drawbacks – that's why soothsayers of ancient times always spoke in riddles for fear of what would happen to them if they revealed to an inquiring King, or Prince, or Warrior General, that their heads were about to be lopped off as a result of the stupid war of conquest they were about to wage. Hey, don't kill the messenger! If you don't like what I have to say, stop and ask yourself why it offends you so much. If you are stung by it, then it's probably the truth; because the truth hurts.

Most of my readers who are hurt by truth just happen to be from the best and worst of EFL cities. In Death Valley, where **Drew Brees** is re-writing the passing section of the record book and the 12-1 Undertakers have now scored more points in a single season (519) than any other team in EFL history (passing Florida's record of 514 in 2008) with three games still remaining, my observations about Coach, **Chris Worthley's** "pedal to the metal" style are drawing the ire of his supporters in Hell.

@Necro tweets: "Quit whining Spats! They are professional athletes. They get paid to play. They should play their asses off for 60 minutes. This ain't Pop Warner. #Run it up"

@FKDNHD tweets: "Political Correct Bullsh*t! #No New Yorker"

@Undertaker666 tweets: "Psychological edge my friend. Surprised you don't see it. Losing your touch I guess #PsyOps"

And that's just the tip of the iceberg. Well, keep those hate-on tweets coming Death Monkeys; I can handle your venom. Personally, I could care less what you think because what you think is **WRONG**. First of all, I'm not whining – I'm pointing out **FACTS**. And the **FACTS** are that professional athletes understand sports better than you because they **PLAY** them and you don't. And if you *did*, you weren't good enough to get to the dance, so quit taking out your frustrations on the guys who did.

In all sports at all levels there are days when you have it and days when you don't. On days when you do, people think you're great, you feel great, and the sun shines. On days when you don't, people think you suck, you feel lousy, and a cloud hangs over you until the next time you're good. Imagine on a day when you don't have it, and the guy opposing you does, he rubs it in your face and doesn't stop hanging it on you in front of hundreds of thousands, sometimes millions of viewers who now, incidentally, think you suck really, really bad. Nobody likes to be embarrassed – *especially professional athletes*. To @Undertaker666 (who obviously still lives in his mother's basement): professional athletes aren't overawed by inflated scoring numbers; 10 year-olds are impressed by inflated scoring numbers. Professionals just get pissed off that other professionals are getting their rocks off at their expense and resolve to pay them back.

Unlike you readers, when pro athletes get embarrassed, it *costs them money*. So real pros know when to stop making their point at the expense of other pros because pros understand they are taking the milk money out of the other's hands when they make them look too foolish. It's like an unwritten code of conduct. And when coaches get embarrassed, it *costs them their jobs*. So coaches, in particular, are sensitive to another coach running up the score. When a player makes a play, that's one thing; but when another coach makes a call designed to score more points when the game is already won, it makes the losing coach really mad.

So the next time I point out that people might not be impressed by the gaudy achievements of Death Valley's offence this

year, please remember before you tweet drivels that I am telling it to you *as it is*. My personal feelings are not involved in the transaction.

But if you want to know my personal feelings, I don't see the point in tearing down the walls after blowing off the doors and looting the proverbial house of an opponent. Unless the other coach left your sister at the Alter or poisoned your dog, that kind of excess is pointless, in my view, because it really adds nothing to the game. But there may be a lesson to be learned anyway in pushing your team and the other team to the limits of endurance. As **William Blake** once said in his *Proverbs of Hell*, "*The road of excess leads to the Palace of Wisdom.*"

In defence of **Chris Worthley** and his "scorched turf" policy I assure you that if the shoe were on the other foot and it was his Undertakers getting their underwear blown off every week by an EFL Posse of teams bent on revenge, he would take it like a man and might even shake your hand afterwards. Spending a couple of years in Hell (the real one) can give one a different perspective on life – "live life to the fullest," **Ernest Hemingway** once said; and those words would ring truer for someone with a new lease on it.



Swordfish QB, **Andy Dalton** steps into a throw in Week 13 action at South Carolina. Dalton has shown flashes of leadership, most recently this week with 4 TD passes in his team's 38-35 upset of the Regulators.

REAL FANS DON'T EAT BURRITOS

Sparked by the roar of 66,666 *real* Hellfire fans at the Fiery Depths, **Andrew Luck** threw 3 touchdown passes in the first 17 minutes of the game and the Mohave defence forced two turnovers to highlight an emotional 21-10 win over Commonwealth. For the first time this season, the fans in the stands for a Mohave home game really cared about the outcome, and their genuine enthusiasm seemed to energize the players. For just over one quarter the Colonials' defence looked gob-smacked by Luck's precision passing; the shiftiness of **Mike Tolbert** catching balls out of the back field; the push of the Mohave offensive line (when was the last time that happened?); and the determined running of **Daniel Thomas**, who finished with over 100 yards rushing for the first time in his career. The Hellfire scored three touchdowns in their first three possessions before slowing down to a more familiar pace. Fortunately for the home team, the Mohave defence forced a couple of turnovers to hold Commonwealth off the board in the 1st half. After giving up 10 points in the 3rd quarter, they shut down **Jake Locker** and the Commonwealth offence in the 4th to preserve the win and earn some well-earned and rare praise from their cranky coach.

"They stepped up their game – it was good to see that," a terse, but obviously relieved, **Bobby Elder** said afterwards of his defence – one that has been an unmitigated disaster this season. Elder was in the awkward position of needing a win for the sake of his team, and possibly his own future, but not wanting it to appear too obvious that season ticket-holders returning from their 12-week fan strike had much to do with it. But Locker's frequent difficulties being heard over the din of fans screaming at the top of their lungs appeared to throw the Commonwealth offence off its rhythm and earn an assist for members of FLAME (the Fans Liberation Association of Greater Mohave and Everywhere).

Gone from the Mohave stadium was the smell of burritos and the sound of the mariachi bands (but nachos were still available of course) and back was the smell of hot dogs, fries and Budweiser. As Hellfire correspondent, **Randy the Desert Rat** so eloquently put it: "I felt like I was at a football game today instead of a Mexican wedding."

"Mr. GRIZZLY"

The low point in the history of the Iowa City Cubs franchise was reached on Sunday when the Mission Viejo Monarchs walked onto the hallowed Astroturf of Joe Ferguson Stadium and whipped the Cubbies 28-23 to move ahead of them a full game in the standings and sweep their two-game season series. **Russell Wilson**, the Cubs' over-awed rookie quarterback, was picked off three times in the first half by **Lardarius Webb** and two other players nobody outside of Mission Viejo had ever heard of until this game. **Brice McCain**, a cornerback apparently, stole a long ball intended for **Mike Wallace** and returned it 57 yards for the Monarchs' third touchdown, giving them a 21-3 lead at the time. By the time the Cubs got their offensive act together, it was too late. The 28-23 score makes the game appear much closer than it actually was.

While **Chris Ferraro** celebrated his team's second victory by uncorking a bottle of *Porto* and praising his team's new trainer, the First Lady, **Michelle Obama**; his counterpart **Deron Redding** ducked out of his post-game presser on the pre-text that he could not unzip his grizzly costume. The limited vocabulary of the State of Iowa generally, has caused their Press to run out of ways to say how much they loathe the Cubs' coach for bringing their team to this state of affairs. This loathing had reached a near homicidal level by late in the 4th quarter when another Monarchs' player unknown to the play-by-play announcer, a safety or light line-backer named **George Iloka**, broke through a gap in the immobile Cubs' line and sacked Wilson for a 7-yard loss at a critical moment in the Cubs' last ditch comeback attempt. The frenzied anger of the fans was in no way tempered by the sight of Redding stomping on the sideline dressed in a grizzly bear costume – in fact, it exacerbated it.

The recent arrival of **Dr. Rodney Alberhasky Jr** to bail out Captain Redding's sinking ship is not producing the short term repairs to the team's reputation or performance that the senior Alberhasky had hoped for. His use of untested child psychotherapy methods to galvanize the EFL's youngest team has, so far, not changed the Cubs' performance on the field. Under the theory that all children need a "father figure" in their lives to develop "sound emotional responses to external stimuli," Alberhasky proposed to develop Redding as that father figure by turning him into a stern disciplinarian – a departure from his previously affirmative and positive evangelical motivational style. He created 'Mr. Grizzly' as a "symbol of retribution" for misbehaviour.

"The team has never felt Father's disapproval," Dr. Alberhasky explained in his dissertation to the coaching staff on the reasons why the team was under-performing this year, according to a source inside the club. "Father is seen as weak for not enforcing the rules. Father blames himself, thus absolving the children of responsibility. It is time for Father to grow some teeth."

Dr. Alberhasky created two "nurturing figures" for the team – 'Mr. Grizzly' and 'Mother Bear.' If the players didn't do what they were supposed to do on the field, Mr. Grizzly would appear and roar as loudly as possible, possibly raising his arms in a menacing fashion or knocking over a Gatorade cooler. If the players did something good, Mother Bear would appear and feed them each a "treat" – usually a candy or a brightly coloured drink. Dr. Alberhasky took to the field on Sunday dressed as Mother Bear while Redding, of course, stood in the tunnel dressed as Mr. Grizzly, waiting to pounce at the first sign of trouble.

This Sesame Street-like tag team initially produced laughter from the crowd that thought it was a light-hearted promotional stunt. But as the Cubs slipped farther and farther behind the EFL's worst team (according to statistical analysis) the fun part quickly wore off and the fans started to get annoyed. Not only that, but the players were distracted. The catcalls began early in the 2nd quarter after Monarchs' running back **Rashard Mendenhall** ran for a 4-yard touchdown to make the score 14-3. Scattered but steady boos could be heard across the stadium at half time. After the final drive ended with the Cubs coming up empty-handed, a torrent of derisive hooting and cursing rained down on the field along with the occasional plastic beer cup or smuggled bottle, as Redding and Alberhasky retreated to the safety of the tunnel.

This season is an ironic turn of events for a team that had, from the beginning, attempted to re-shape its image by moving away from the clean and innocent red, white and blue, to a serious charcoal grey and tan with a nasty looking and predatory "older



Iowa City coach **Deron Redding**, dressed as "Mr. Grizzly," reacts to the last of three **Russell Wilson** interceptions during a disastrous 1st half against Mission Viejo. The expansion Monarchs dumped the Cubs 28-23, to win their 2nd game.

club" logo on the side of their helmets. At 1-12, the new-look Cubs have never looked as young and helpless as they do now.

THE SORCEROR'S APPRENTICE

With all eyes on the wizardry of **Drew Brees** and his ascension to the ranks of the EFL Immortals it is understandable that many might overlook the accomplishments of the mere mortals at the position. One such player is Virden's **Matt Stafford**, who last week led his team to perhaps its most important victory in its history without throwing a single touchdown pass. Even though he didn't find the end zone through the air, Stafford set up all his team's scores, including five field goals by **Lawrence Tynes**, by completing 79% of his passes for 283 yards against one of the best overall defences in football as the Violators cut up York by a score of 29-17. The victory raised Virden to first place in the East Division, an unprecedented accomplishment

for “the Markham of the PAC” – a team that had never, until this year, registered a winning season. Stafford is the reason for this success. Second in the league in passing with a 120.7 rating and second in touchdown passes with 34, he is close to breaking the old TD pass record of **Tom Brady**, his opponent in his team’s seminal victory in Week 13. If Sorcerer Brees was not breaking the sound barrier of TD pass-speed this year, Stafford would be the main topic of discussion as he approaches Brady’s old record. But since Brees has already broken, sorry, *shattered*, that record with 63 TD passes and counting, Stafford’s mere mortal accomplishment will garner one sentence in USA Today and slightly more than one paragraph in my column.

AROUND THE EFL

Speaking of the Devil’s Butler, the unstoppable **Drew Brees** is like a hurricane blowing through the EFL, knocking out defences from coast to coast. This week he blew down the stoic Chino defence with hardly a scar to show for it. After a 1st-quarter “pick six” by Convict corner **Aqib Talib**, Brees got his act together and threw 5 touchdown passes to lead his team to an impressive 42-27 win at the Big House. The victory clinched the West Division title for Death Valley, but not the overall first seed.

Swordfish QB, **Andy Dalton** came into South Carolina and helped to show why the Regulators are the most confounding EFL team to take the field in 2012. Coming off a shocking upset of Garland in Week 11 after being shockingly upset by Twin Cities the week before, the Regulators were shockingly upset 38-35 again in Week 13 by Dalton and his supporting cast of **Michael Jenkins** and **Roy Helu Jr** at the Carolina Slammer. With 4 TD passes bringing his season total to 10, the ‘Red Rifle’ is getting more press than he deserves because when he has a good game with such a horrendous team, everyone notices.

The still winless Pats scored offensive touchdowns on consecutive first quarter possessions and actually led 14-7 at one point; but a **Sydney Rice** fumble in Pats’ territory turned the tide against them, leading to a quick equalizing score for the Knights and eventually, the usual blowout result with Charleswood finishing on the short end of a 41-14 score. **Adrian Peterson** continued to look like **Leon McQuay** in the backfield with 35 yards on 18 carries. Who is **Leon McQuay**, you ask? Exactly!

Gwinnett won a 24-17 nail-biter at the Coliseum to hold on to their playoff aspirations for at least another week. The Corn Kings’ quarterback carousel continued with **Joe Flacco** starting and showing a hot hand early, only to cool down to sub-zero temperatures in the second half and bringing **Matt Moore** to the mound in relief. This time the switch didn’t work as the Glads’ defence withstood a late rally with the help of a timely sack by **Robert Mathis** to put Cowtown back on the 18 yard line with no timeouts and just seconds remaining. The balanced Glads’ attack did not turn the ball over and got key contributions from **Ahmad Bradshaw** (2 TDs), **Reggie Wayne** (6 catches for 104 yards and a TD) and **Big Ben** (110 QB rating).

The Thunder Lizards spotted the Spartans a 10-point lead, losing two fumbles to start the game. But the celebration in the stands at Thermopylae Stadium did not last past the first quarter. A pair of rushing touchdowns by **Reggie Bush**, the second one set up by a pick by **Richard Sherman** put the Dinos in front to stay. **Robert Griffin** threw his 19th interception of the season in the second half to seal a 38-21 loss –Pickering’s 9th – and guarantee a sub-500 finish. Leaving a trail of destruction in his wake, a furious **Gus Konstantakos** stormed to the parking lot and drove his Maserati repeatedly into a team bus as police tried to stop him.

In other, less interesting action, Markham plastered Twin Cities 27-0 as the Triumph ruined a fine outing from their defence by turning ball over 5 times; and Scarborough skunked limping Garland 35-7 to clinch the South Division. The Mustangs have come up lame in recent performances, dropping 3 straight and looking more and more like last year’s team.

SPATS SPECIAL REPORT

NICKNAME POWER RANKINGS

Choosing a nickname for a professional sports franchise is a serious matter. The nickname, in theory, helps to define the attitude and image of the team and the community that supports it. If not for nicknames, the promotion of the sport would be pretty boring. Imagine seeing the EFL logo flash on the screen, the song ‘*Pompeii*’ by E.S. Posthumus pulsing in the background, and the words ‘DURHAM’ and ‘MARKHAM’ spiraling onto the screen with the voiceover intoning deeply, “*this Sunday, the Durham football team plays the Markham football team at the stadium in Markham!*” I don’t know about you, but that doesn’t get my blood boiling as much as: “this Sunday, it’s the **Thunder Lizards** taking on the **North Stars** at the *Dawg Pound!*” I think we absolutely need nicknames for professional sports teams. Unfortunately, a strange or weak nickname can actually work against a team’s psyche. There aren’t too many examples of weak names in pro sports, since money is at stake in every aspect of a professional franchise. But there are a few, and, unfortunately a couple in our beloved EFL that, in the **Name Power Rankings**, just don’t measure up.

If a team could perform *exactly* like its name, bearing in mind that football is as violent as well as a tactical and strategic sport, how would the 20 EFL teams rank? After much research and deliberation, I have arrived at my own rankings. There is a subjective element to my selections, of course – they might differ from yours – but I stand by them as being pretty close, if not an absolutely accurate, ranking of how the *names* would fare against each other if they met on the gridiron.

1. **Thunder Lizards** - This is a nickname for dinosaurs in general but is often associated with a Tyrannosaurus Rex - the largest land carnivore of all time. Imagine 11 of them. For sheer, untamed ferocity it’s hard to top a dinosaur that eats other dinosaurs.

2. **Hellfire** - Supernatural, inextinguishable, hot and nasty. The sort of stuff that makes the most evil soul scream for

forgiveness. It might even make the T-Rex with its banana-sized brain think twice.

3. **Knights** - Noble, strong, skilled and fearless, the Knight embodies the chivalric ideal and, according to legend, is capable of slaying a dragon (or a Thunder Lizard) on any given Sunday.

4. **Spartans** - 300 of them held off 1,000,000 Persians for three days back in the day. The numbers have likely been embellished by history; nobody is certain exactly how many Persians were there or are quick to remember that there were actually 7,000 Greeks in total guarding the pass at Thermopylae. But we get the point – Spartans are tough. Specializing in goal line stands, they are vulnerable to end-arounds and the deep pass.

5. **Gladiators** - Professional fighters, entertainers, rock stars of the Roman Empire - these guys would be analagous to UFC combatants or WWF wrestlers today. Fit, tough as nails, but lacking in teamwork skills, they are not quite as dangerous as a phalanx of Greek spearmen.

6. **Regulators** - This one might appear surprising to some, but research these guys and you quickly get the picture that they were organized, principled, sometimes courageous, and often outright nasty. Picture an army of 18th century vigilantes who make the Ku Klux Klan look like a scout troop.

7. **Triumph** - This is a Mission Statement and the ultimate goal a franchise. The name leaves it to the imagination to decide who, or what, is carrying out the mission; but it's a great start.

8. **Patriots** - This name brings to mind American Revolutionary Minutemen, rebellious French Canadians, missiles, and amateur musicians. Irregular soldiers imbued with zeal armed with muskets and surface-to-air missiles, marching to the fife and drum seem pretty dangerous and impressive to me.

9. **Convicts** - Hard core vicious low-lives, slick con men, sleazy fraudsters, sexual deviants, brutal hit men, angry dimwits, and the occasional wrongly convicted innocent. If all of these selfish backstabbers could work together they'd be more dangerous than a company of Knights - like the Mafia.

10. **Colonials** - Whether its chopping wood, building a cabin, tilling the soil, shooting wild turkeys or spinning yarn, these are hardy and single-minded people who don't give up easily. They lost a few early games to Indians armed with bows and arrows, due to the home field advantage, but made adjustments.

11. **Blue Eagles** - I don't think there is such a thing as a blue eagle, but if there were blue eagles it would certainly cause one to pause, gaze skyward and admire its rare plumage as it dives to pluck one's eyes out.

12. **Mustangs** - Wild horses are impressive to look at, fast and strong. But what do they actually do in their spare time? Running around in circles at the first sign of trouble isn't very awe-inspiring. It seems to me that they were put on the Earth to be ridden by people. Good coaching a requirement to be effective.

13. **Monarchs** - Being in charge of everyone from birth usually means you can't actually do much yourself, unless you're the kind of Monarch who killed another Monarch for the throne. Like the King in chess, it is the most important piece but one of the weakest. A team of Kings might never see the field after wiping each other out to see who gets to play quarterback.

14. **Violators** - This one is open to interpretation and none of it very flattering. "What are they actually violating?" I ask myself. Whether the local traffic by-laws or your next door neighbour's daughter or son, being a violator generally means you don't play by the rules and nobody really likes people like that.

15. **Undertakers** - Scary only to the degree that their job is creepy and people feel uneasy around them. A Thunder Lizard, however, wouldn't think twice about eating or swatting one with its tail.

16. **Excaliburs** - The most fabulous legendary weapon of ancient times could conceivably carve up a Thunder Lizard with ease if it could just remove itself from the stone and go solo.

17. **North Stars** - Okay, I'm not sure what to do with this one. Inspiring from a distance it can guide the lost traveller - except that there is apparently more than one of them in Markham, which would be very confusing.

18. **Swordfish** - If these were the Water Polo Name Power Rankings, the Swordfish would be right up there; but unfortunately they are an aquatic species in a dry land game. Like Aquaman in the Justice League of America, people think, but are too polite to say, that their powers are useless here.

19. **Corn Kings** - Oooohhh, I'm frightened! Being a King of the Corn might suggest great farming skills, but for a football team I would rather have the Children of the Corn.

20. **Cubs** - Cute and cuddly, they only pose a threat when their mothers are around – then watch out! No team with this name wins anything because no professional athlete, let alone a muscle-bound workout warrior playing a violent sport like football, wants to be associated with the living equivalent of a Teddy Bear.

BEST AND WORST OF THE OLD – Before Virden was the Violators they were the **Anchorage Buccaneers**. There is always room for a nasty cut-throat band of pirates in any sports league; too bad they played like pantywaists. And long before Death Valley was the Undertakers and Ringgold was the Crimson Hawks, they were the **Meadowlands Swamp Dogs**. Not exactly an inspiring name to begin the history of any franchise, the Swamp Dogs nevertheless lived up to their name – getting bogged down in the muck of a 1-15 record in its only season in New Jersey.

BUG THE BOOKIE!

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





















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RECORD VS THE SPREAD AFTER WEEK 13:

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PLAYOFF PICTURE AT A GLANCE

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

JIMMY'S WEEK FOURTEEN PICKS

SEBASTIAN @ SCARBOROUGH (line – BLUE EAGLES by 15)

The last time these teams played Pierre Thomas averted a shutout for Sebastian by busting a 31-yard touchdown run, accounting on that single play for all of his team's points and 23% of its total yards in a 34-6 loss. I provide those details only to illustrate how overwhelmed the Swordfish offence will be when facing Darelle Revis and Terrell Suggs at Bluff's Stadium. Andy Dalton has logged good performances against quality defences this season, notably versus Gwinnett and Chino, but the Scarborough defence will punish Sebastian more than most for their lack of depth in skill players. The Scarborough offence has been like a Lamborghini driving the speed limit all season – it looks impressive but hasn't pulled away from the pack yet. Regardless, when your opponent can't even get out of the garage, a leisurely Sunday drive will win the race any day. **PICK: SCARBOROUGH**

SOUTH CAROLINA @ GWINNETT (line – GLADIATORS by 5)

The Glads' playoff condition has been upgraded from Critical to Serious after they staved off elimination with a nail-biting win over Cowtown last week. They can improve their playoff health further with a win against the Regulators coupled with Garland and Cowtown losses. The part they can control is no 'gimme' – especially since the Regulators' first of five wins this year came against Gwinnett back in Week Two. Which Regulator team shows up – the one that upset Gwinnett, or the one that got stomped on by Twin Cities – will dictate how difficult it will be for Big Ben and Troy Polamalu to keep the Glads in the race for another week. Gwinnett is still missing run-stuffer Casey Hampton, while questions about the ability of Greg Jennings and Felix Jones to dress for the game loom like a fog over the South Carolina offensive game plan. While national attention focuses on the playoff fate of last year's Can-Am Champions, it is easy to forget that the Regs are still gunning for a wild card berth as well. A win and a Cowtown loss will keep Hal Corson's band playing music for another week – a little out of tune, but still playing. **PICK: GWINNETT**

DURHAM @ GARLAND (line – THUNDER LIZARDS by 2)

The Thunder Lizards' winning streak is at 11 games with no sign of ending soon. The recent emergence of Matt Schaub has raised this team to the next level and is causing many prognosticators to opine that Durham is the favourite to represent the Can-Am Conference in this year's title game. However, having been around a long time in this business, and with the fate of your pocket books in my hands, I tend not to jump on bandwagons as quickly as the guy writing for ratings or readership does. But certainly, with the Mustangs coming off three straight losses, I will also not be quick to jump *back* on their bandwagon after having jumped off of it following their Week 12 debacle against South Carolina. The Dinos have the winning chemistry in their favour but the Mustangs are approaching the desperation stage. Will survival instinct kick in and motivate Doug Shirley's squad to get up off the mat and fight with fury? Garland has the home field advantage and a stable of talent that can get the job done if they believe in themselves. With Arian Foster and Matt Forte in the backfield, it boggles the mind that Garland's team yards-per-carry average is a paltry 3.2. With post-season hopes fading, look for Arian Foster to finally make a statement this week. **PICK: GARLAND**

PICKERING @ TWIN CITIES (line – TRIUMPH by 2)

It's "Tebow Time" in Minneapolis – with Jay Cutler and Jason Campbell out with injury, there is no avoiding it. What this means for the Triumph's offence is anybody's guess. Tebow is a true wild card because he is unconventional in the pocket, mobile, and determined to win. His performance against Scarborough in Week 12 shocked everyone, most of all Scarborough. But is he really that good? If his coach thought he was Jason Campbell wouldn't have started last week. He faces a counterpart in Pickering who is causing the same questions to be asked. The mobile Robert Griffin III has been a tremendous disappointment for the Spartans, who banked on the rookie to carry an otherwise competitive team. In a battle of bad QBs, I like the Triumph. **PICK: TWIN CITIES**

MARKHAM @ COWTOWN (line – CORN KINGS by 1)

With a tie on the books already, this is the rubber match in the season series between these teams and a playoff berth for Markham if they win. While much attention has focused on Eli Manning, the quiet strength of the North Stars has been the performance of their twin running threats, DeAngelo Williams and Jonathan Stewart, who have combined for 1,325 yards and 15 touchdowns on the ground. The Corn Kings' D has been able to contain the run overall this season but faltered last week against back-up Ahmad Bradshaw – a worrying sign for them as they go up against one of the top offensive lines in the league. The Markham defence leads the EFL in takeaways with 33, which may be a good reason for Cowtown to start the veteran Joe Flacco over journeyman Matt Moore. The QB controversy in Cowtown is putting pressure on both pivots to perform or get the hook, which could be leading to dissension. Uncertain chemistry for the Corn Kings does not match up well against Markham's win streak. **PICK: MARKHAM**

MISSION VIEJO @ DEATH VALLEY (line – UNDERTAKERS by 17)

Amnesty International is sending a delegation of observers to this game and will be reporting to the UN on playing irregularities and abuses expected from Drew Brees and his coach as they continue to test the limits of sportsmanship and good taste in their quest to pile up unprecedented *offensive* numbers. The Monarchs are condemned; last week's upset to sweep the season series over the Cubs was their last meal prior to execution. The last time these teams met was in Week Two in Mission Viejo, when the Undertakers got off to a slow start before picking up the pace with 5 touchdowns in the second half. Since then Death Valley has run the score up against all comers; so don't expect them to let up simply because they have clinched the West Division and are playing a team incapable of providing big league resistance. **PICK: DEATH VALLEY**

IOWA CITY @ LOS ANGELES (line – KNIGHTS by 10)

Historically these two teams have always battled each other tough regardless of where they sit in the standings; but that was then. Now the Cubs are 1-12 and looking like that one victory was an accident. Statistically the Cubs are rated 10th in both offensive and defensive efficiency, which is respectable and continues to influence analysts who claim they are better than their record; but on game day strange things have a way of happening to the woeful Cubs. Whether it is under-performance, inexperience, lack of focus, bad luck, careless coaching, or a combination of all of the above, poor showings have become the norm for the Cubbies. With the Knights surfing the wave of a 5-game win streak, don't expect ancient history to repeat itself this week at Round Table Stadium. **PICK: LOS ANGELES**

YORK @ CHINO (line – EXCALIBURS by 1)

Last week's loss to the Violators probably doomed the Swords to second place in the East. Virden has an easy final stretch while York has this game at Chino to deal with in order to keep pace. The Convicts fell out of the last wildcard spot with their loss to Death Valley and the Knights' dispatching of Charleswood in Week 13. They are in a more desperate situation than York and hope to rally after their much-feared defence was shredded by a more fearsome force in the form of Drew Brees. Not that Tom Brady is much of a downgrade, but the Excaliburs' leader threw away the game with 3 costly interceptions in last week's loss to Virden – the international choking sign for quarterbacks everywhere. But even if the Lockdown Crew can recover from last week's embarrassment, the Convicts will still need to score against the league's top-rated pass rush and 3rd ranked run defence. If anyone can find a way, it is Super Newton; but if the plan involves too much help from his receivers it probably won't work as intended. I see a shaky Brady pulling out a difficult and ugly win for the Yorkies. **PICK: YORK**

VIRDEN @ COMMONWEALTH (line – VIOLATORS by 5)

As already mentioned, the Violators' remaining schedule favours an unexpected but well-earned East Division crown. Of the three straw men lined up to be knocked down by Virden over the final three weeks of the season, the Colonials are the most likely one to put up a fight because they too, are in the hunt for a playoff berth....sort of. They are also on their home turf and they have a defensive unit that doesn't prompt a loud chortle at the irony of the word being applied to them. The offence, on the other hand, has been steadily deteriorating with Josh Freeman's lack of consistency and 19 interceptions leading to recent game-day experiments with Jake Locker and Nick Foles. On the other side, Matt Stafford's touchdown-pass streak ended at 12 games last week with Beanie Wells and Lawrence Tynes grabbing all of the scoring honours; but he still ranks second in the league by far with 34. It's difficult to imagine a logical scenario in which Commonwealth can prevail, but the beauty of the game of football is, like the bounce of the ball it's played with, its unpredictability. **PICK: VIRDEN**

MOHAVE @ CHARLESWOOD (line – Pick'Em)

Well, this is it – the last decent opportunity to erase the oval under the 'W' column in the standings for the once-storied Patriots franchise. It is one thing to be a bad team, but it is the depth of ignominy to go winless. Not even the famously bad Meadowlands Swamp Dogs – a failed experiment in drug-induced drafting – went winless. Not that the Pats are completely out of chances if they fail to extinguish the Hellfire this week; but being at home, facing a team that has looked worse than the putrid Pats on their bad days and never unbeatable on their good ones, it is not a stretch to imagine Michael Vick and Jason Witten rising to the occasion and winning one for old time's sake. It may be too much to ask Adrian Peterson to do the same, but if he decides to take the field instead of that other guy who has been wearing his jersey all year, I would venture to say a Pats' win is even likely. The last time these teams faced each other Mohave rookie Andrew Luck looked like a Hall-of-Famer with 288 yards passing and 4 TD passes, but that was against a Pats team missing Vick, Sydney Rice, and Shaun Phillips and sporting Brandon Weeden at quarterback. Don't expect such gaudy numbers this week, but expect Luck to be competitive in a humorously frantic lightweight battle to avoid embarrassment on both sides. **PICK: CHARLESWOOD**

