

2018



WEEK

12



EFL

ELITE FOOTBALL LEAGUE

2018



WEEK

12



In our 11th season and still going strong!

December 23, 2018



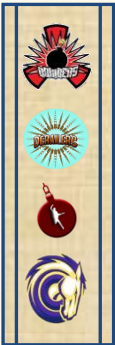
FOR THE WIN!



Dustin Hopkins

Dustin Hopkins of Twin Cities kicks the ball through the uprights from 27 yards with 2:24 left in the 4th quarter to give the Triumph a 27-24 win over Chino. His was one of five game-winning field goals coming in the final period this week. Hopkins, like most kickers in the EFL this year, is struggling with accuracy. He was two of four on the day and had missed one from 29 yards earlier. His performance was the rule, not the exception in Week 12.

EAST



CENTRAL



WEST



NORTH



COASTAL



SOUTH



*Who was slick
in Week
Twelve?*

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OFFENCE

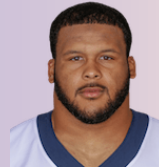


Kirk Cousins
QB
Cincinnati
Crusaders

28 of 43, 349 yards, 5 TDs. Threw game-winning TD pass with 0:18 left.



DEFENSE



Aaron Donald
DE
Buffalo
Derailers

11 Tackles, 3 sacks, 1 HUR, 1 FF. Standout showing in loss to STC.



1st & 10, 8:19 1st: **Keenan Allen** (CIN) runs a long cross and **Kirk Cousins** is on target for a 72-yard TD pass.

5:50, 4th Qtr. **Josey Jewell** (ICC) picks off a pass in the flat from **David Carr** (VIR) & returns 15-yards for tying TD.

	14	With the score tied at 7 in the 2 nd quarter, Nick Chubb crowned a 16-play, 95-yard drive with a 10-yard TD run to put York in front to stay. Tom Brady followed up with another prolonged drive of 73 yards, finishing it off with 5-yard TD pass to Josh Doctson then a Micah Hyde interception set up a 24-yard FG by Graham Gano in the final seconds of the half. The Glads closed the gap with a 12-yard TD pass from Ben Roethlisberger to Jarvis Landry, but would get no closer. Time-consuming drives on offence and solid defence kept the Excaliburs in front by a comfortable margin. Brady threw for 259 yards and 3 TDs.
	34	
	10	Justin Tucker booted a 52-yard FG as time expired in overtime to lift the Cubs to their 7 th win. The long kick finally broke a tense defensive struggle where each team managed just one drive of more than 70 yards. The Violators capped theirs with the game's only offensive TD, a daring 14-yard dive by Jamaal Charles on 4 th & 1; while the Cubs saw their only red zone opportunity stolen by a Darian Stewart interception. Trailing 10-3 with 5:50 left in the 4 th , the Cubs got the equalizer on a 15-yard pick-six by rookie linebacker, Josey Jewell. Jerrick McKinnon burst free for a 20-yard run in OT to spark the winning drive.
	13	
	16	In light snow, Steven Hauschka kicked a 43-yard FG as time expired in OT to lift the Chargers to victory. The game-winning boot atoned for an earlier miss in OT from 38-yards. The Buffalo offence started fast, with Jay Ajayi catching a 38-yard pass Josh Rosen then rambling for 23 yards and a TD for a 7-3 lead. Jacoby Brissett responded, hitting Mercedes Lewis for 41 & 2 yards, the second for a TD to make it 10-7 Chargers. 11 Buffalo sacks kept St. Charles at bay. David Fales, in for an injured Rosen, turned the ball 3 times in the 2 nd half, but still managed to force OT, driving to a 55-yard FG by Jake Elliott with 2:00 left.
	13	
	30	Drew Brees threw for 272 yards and 3 TDs against his former team and CJ Anderson rushed for 104 yards to lead the Swordfish to an easy victory over struggling Durham. Brees connected with 3 different receivers for the scores, including a 12-yard TD pass to Odell Beckham Jr. for his first TD of the year. Looking for a spark to snap their long losing streak, the Lizards started Nick Foles at QB, but the third-stringer looked rusty, completing less than 50% of his pass attempts and throwing 2 interceptions. The score might have been worse, but the Swordfish missed 3, 4 th down conversion attempts in Durham territory.
	7	
	24	Chandler Cantanzaro decided the game with a 33-yard FG as time expired to give Bruxelles the win and extend New Jersey's losing streak to 3 games. The teams were even at 7 at halftime, but the game appeared to break in the Bombers' favour after back-to-back TD drives saw Marcus Mariota scramble for a score and pass for another for a 21-10 lead. But a sack and safety by Willie Henry sparked a 12-point NJ comeback and they took a 22-21 lead on a 20-yard Chris Boswell FG with 1:40 left. But a 19-yard pass interference penalty and a 23-yard pass to Dede Westbrook put Bruxelles in position for the winning FG.
	22	
	35	For the second straight week, Alvin Kamara was game MVP, piling up 210 total yards from scrimmage and scoring 3 TDs, 2 on the ground and 1 through the air, to lead the Pats to a second straight victory. Kamara turned a medium hitch into a 26-yard TD in the 1 st then set up his own 7-yard TD run with a 47-yard catch-and-run in the 2 nd to make it 14-0 Pats at half time. The Knights briefly got back into the game after Tre'Davious White forced a Duke Johnson Jr fumble that led to a 3-yard Le'Veon Bell TD run. But the Pats fired back with 2 quick TDs, the 2 nd coming after a Demarcus Lawrence strip-sack to pull away.
	13	
	24	Dustin Hopkins nailed a 27-yard FG to give the Triumph a 27-24 lead with 2:24 left in the 4 th quarter. The Convicts would get two more possessions to try and get the equalizer or a go-ahead major but the Triumph defence held fast to save the win. It looked like Twin Cities might run away with the game after Carson Palmer threw 3 TD passes in the 1 st half, 2 of those to Antonio Brown, with the third assisted by a short field after Chino failed to make a risky 4th & 2 at their 33. But Trumaine Johnson's 51-yard pick-six to start the 3 rd quarter and Dak Prescott's 9-yard scramble in the 4 th tied the game, setting up the close finish.
	27	
	26	In another field goal finish, Seattle's Josh Lambo drilled a 37-yarder with 5:35 left in OT to give the Pilots their 4 th win. The game had the signature of a barn-burner from the start, with Eli Manning connecting with Anthony Miller for a 55-yard TD pass to open the scoring and Matt Stafford answering on Erieau's next series with a 57-yard bomb TD to Jordy Nelson to make it 7 all. A Timmy Jernigan 29-yard fumble return set up a 20-yard TD pass to Michael Crabtree and the Pilots led 17-10 at the half; and 20-13 after 3. Erieau tied it up twice in the 4 th , with Stephen Gostkowski's 55-yard FG at 0:36 sending the game to OT.
	23	
	6	On his 4 th attempt, league-leading rusher Todd Gurley was denied on 4 th & goal from the 2-yard line with 1:21 remaining in the 4 th by an inspired Scarborough defence, allowing the Blue Eagles to hang on to a slim 4-point lead and win their second game of the season. Both offences struggled to gain traction on a snowy field in Scarborough, but the Eagles were able put together a 62-yard drive in the 2 nd that led to the game's only TD, a 13-yard hitch from Aaron Rodgers to Charles Sims. Penalties and two lost fumbles helped thwart Cowtown's attempts to build momentum and exploit more favourable field position.
	10	
	31	Kirk Cousins threw a dart to Devin Funchess for a 7-yard TD pass, his 5 th of the day, with 0:18 left in the 4 th quarter to lift the Crusaders over the North Stars in a see-saw battle. The TD topped off a 91-yard drive that started with a mishandled snap and near turnover at the Cincy 5. Cousins threw 4 TD passes over the first 3 periods, including one to Keenan Allen for 72 yards and 2 to Cameron Brate, to build up a 28-14 lead. But Tyrod Taylor rallied Budapest back with a 52-yard bomb TD to Sammy Watkins and Kai Forbath gave them the lead with 4:29 left after a Robert Alford pick and 43-yard return set up a short field.
	35	
	28	TD passes of 22 and 24 yards from Alex Smith to DeAndre Hopkins in the 1 st quarter and three takeaways by the Hawks' defence enabled Brooklin to build up a 24-0 lead heading into the 4 th quarter. But the Mustangs erupted for 28 points in the 4 th , aided by a 59-yard fumble return TD by NaVorro Bowman and a recovered onside kick which brought them to within 3, trailing 24-21. A 1-yard TD pass to Hopkins gave the Hawks some breathing room, but after a 19-yard TD pass to Davante Adams, Smith was stripped by Denico Autry, setting up a final Aurora push that fell short when Ryan fumbled the snap at the Hawks' 28.
	30	
	0	Philip Rivers' first pass was picked off and returned for a 21-yard TD by Trevor Williams and that set the tone for a miserable afternoon for the Spartans' QB. Toronto's Jay Cutler in contrast completed 6 of 7 passes in the 1 st quarter for 135 yards and 2 TDs, one of those a 58-yard medium out to Adam Thielen, to lead 21-0 after one period. The Wolverines' offence tapered off in the 2 nd quarter and they were only able to manage a couple of Daniel Carlson FGs, although they still controlled much of the play. Rivers turned the ball over 3 times was inaccurate all day, completing just 7 passes for 56 yards and 2 INTs.
	27	

GLADIATORS**14**

PASSING: B. Roethlisberger, 14 of 22, 158 yds, 2 TD, 2 INT
RUSHING: Alex Collins, 11C, 67yds, (6.1), 0 TD
RECEIVING: Jarvis Landry, 6 for 57yds, 12LG, 1 TD
DEFENCE: Reggie Ragland, 10 T, 1 STF
KICKING: Giorgio Tavecchio, 2 of 2 XP, 0 of 0 FG, 2 Pts

EXCALIBURS**34**

PASSING: Tom Brady, 27 of 41, 259 yds, 3 TD, 0 INT
RUSHING: Nick Chubb, 17C, 80yds, (4.7), 0 TD
RECEIVING: Delanie Walker, 9 for 89yds, 14LG, 1 TD
DEFENCE: Joe Schobert, 6 T, 1 STF
KICKING: Graham Gano, 4 of 4 XP, 2 of 3 FG, 10 Pts

Camelot Temp: 46 Wind: Calm MVP: Brady

	1	2	3	4	Tot
Georgia (6-6)	7	0	7	0	14
York (7-5)	7	17	0	10	34

Scoring Summary

1 8:36 York	TD Brady 7 pass to Walker (Gano) (12-79-6:17)	0-7
1 4:38 Georgia	TD Roethlisberger 36 pass to Fuller V (Tavecchio) (6-75-3)	7-7
2 7:51 York	TD Chubb 10 run (Gano) (16-95-6:57)	7-14
2 0:31 York	TD Brady 5 pass to Doctson (Gano) (11-73-5:00)	7-21
2 0:03 York	FG Gano 25 (4-0-0:16)	7-24
3 7:47 Georgia	TD Roethlisberger 12 pass to Landry (Tavecchio) (6-37-3:1)	14-24
4 9:05 York	TD Brady 14 pass to Bernard (Gano) (11-78-6:16)	14-31
4 0:57 York	FG Gano 23 (10-38-6:26)	14-34

	GEO	YOR
First Downs	15	31
Rushes	19-86	35-168
Passes	14-22-158	27-41-259
Sacked	0-0	3-17
Fumble	0	0
Penalties	5-40	7-51
Turnovers	2	0
Missed Tackles	7	2
Dropped Passes	0	4
Bad Passes	1	0
Passes 25+	1	0
Runs 10+	3	5
Blitzers	7	7
Time	21:57	38:03
Third Down	2-6	10-18
Fourth Down	0-1	2-2
Red Att/Td/Fg	2/1/0	6/4/2
Net Offense	244	410

VIOLATORS**10**

PASSING: Derek Carr, 15 of 34, 182yds, 0 TD, 1 INT
RUSHING: Thomas Rawls, 18C, 54yds, (3.0), 0 TD
RECEIVING: JuJu Smith-Schuster, 4 for 112yds, 52LG, 0 TD
DEFENCE: Anthony Barr, 11 T, 1 PD, 1 STF
KICKING: Zane Gonzalez 1 of 1 XP, 1 of 1 FG, 4 Pts

CUBS**13**

PASSING: Russell Wilson, 20 of 43, 193 yds, 0 TD, 1 INT
RUSHING: Jerrick McKinnon, 11C, 54yds, (4.9), 0 TD
RECEIVING: Jerrick McKinnon, 8 for 35yds, 10LG, 0 TD
DEFENCE: Alec Ogletree, 13 T, 1 PD, 1 HUR, 1 FF
KICKING: Justin Tucker, 1 of 1 XP, 2 of 4 FG, 7 Pts

Joe Ferguson Stadium Temp: 37 Wind: Calm MVP: Jewell

	1	2	3	4	5	Tot
Virden (6-6)	0	3	7	0	0	10
Iowa City (7-5)	3	0	0	7	3	13

Scoring Summary

1 7:41 Iowa City	FG Tucker 49 (5-36-2:12)	0-3
2 12:13 Virden	FG Gonzalez 35 (10-67-4:10)	3-3
3 12:22 Virden	TD Charles 14 run (Gonzalez) (5-75-2:38)	10-3
4 5:50 Iowa City	TD Jewell 15 interception return (Tucker,J)	10-10
5 0:00 Iowa City	FG Tucker 52 (10-41-2:20)	10-13

	VV	ICC
First Downs	13	19
Rushes	37-118	38-120
Passes	15-34-182	20-43-193
Sacked	2-17	3-25
Fumble	1	1
Penalties	9-83	11-76
Turnovers	2	1
Missed Tackles	5	6
Dropped Passes	3	1
Bad Passes	0	1
Passes 25+	2	2
Runs 10+	3	4
Blitzers	2	4
Time	37:53	37:07
Third Down	5-19	5-22
Fourth Down	1-1	1-1
Red Att/Td/Fg	2/1/1	5/0/0
Net Offense	283	288

CHARGERS**16**

PASSING: Jacoby Brissett, 30 of 46, 299 yds, 1 TD, 0 INT
RUSHING: Dion Lewis, 17C, 67yds, (3.9), 0 TD
RECEIVING: Mike Thomas, 13 for 155 yds, 21LG, 0 TD
DEFENCE: T.J. Carrie, 9 T
KICKING: Steven Hauschka, 1 of 1 XP, 3 of 7 FG, 10 Pts

DERAILERS**13**

PASSING: David Fales, 13 of 25, 94yds, 0 TD, 2 INT
RUSHING: Jay Ajayi, 19C, 80yds, (4.2), 1 TD
RECEIVING: Julio Jones, 8 for 77yds, 19LG, 0 TD
DEFENCE: Aaron Donald, 11 T, 3 SK, 1 HUR, 1 FF
KICKING: Jake Elliott, 1 of 1 XP, 2 of 3 FG, 7 Pts

New Era Stadium Temp: 19 Wind: 15-25 Light Snow MVP: Brissett

	1	2	3	4	5	Tot
St. Charles (9-3)	10	0	0	3	3	16
Buffalo (3-9)	7	0	3	3	0	13

Scoring Summary

1 11:51 St. Charles	FG Hauschka 21 (8-19-2:59)	3-0
1 11:21 Buffalo	TD Ajayi 23 run (Elliott,J) (2-61-0:23)	3-7
1 4:41 St. Charles	TD Brissett 2 pass to Lewis (Hauschka) (9-73-4:42)	10-7
3 11:59 Buffalo	FG Elliott 22 (5-17-2:52)	10-10
4 9:24 St. Charles	FG Hauschka 45 (7-25-4:31)	13-10
4 2:00 Buffalo	FG Elliott 55 (9-24-3:25)	13-13
5 0:00 St. Charles	FG Hauschka 43 (10-38-2:17)	16-13

	STC	BUF
First Downs	24	11
Rushes	38-152	23-88
Passes	30-46-299	16-31-153
Sacked	11-63	5-36
Fumble	5	3
Penalties	8-57	5-30
Turnovers	1	4
Missed Tackles	3	5
Dropped Passes	2	4
Bad Passes	2	1
Passes 25+	1	1
Runs 10+	5	4
Blitzers	23	35
Time	45:30	29:30
Third Down	7-23	0-14
Fourth Down	1-2	2-2
Red Att/Td/Fg	6/1/2	3/0/1
Net Offense	388	205

SWORDFISH**30**

PASSING: Drew Brees, 25 of 42, 272 yds, 3 TD, 0 INT
RUSHING: C.J. Anderson, 24C, 104yds, (4.3), 0 TD
RECEIVING: Doug Baldwin, 7 for 89yds, 22LG, 1 TD
DEFENCE: Jadeveon Clowney, 6T, 1 SK, 1 STF
KICKING: Adam Vinatieri, 3 of 3 XP, 3 of 3 FG, 12 Pts

THUNDER LIZARDS**7**

PASSING: Nick Foles, 16 of 37, 166 yds, 1 TD, 2 INT
RUSHING: Carlos Hyde, 6C, 38yds, (6.3), 0 TD
RECEIVING: T.Y. Hilton, 5 for 79yds, 42LG, 1 TD
DEFENCE: Eric Rowe, 10 T, 1 PD
KICKING: Phil Dawson, 1 of 1 XP, 0 of 0 FG, 1 Pt

Jurassic Park Temp: 69 Wind: Calm MVP: Brees

	1	2	3	4	Tot
Sebastian (9-3)	7	10	10	3	30
Durham (3-9)	0	0	0	7	7

Scoring Summary

1 3:44 Sebastian	TD Brees 7 pass to Baldwin (Vinatieri) (7-62-4:25)	7-0
2 14:13 Sebastian	TD Brees 6 pass to Everett (Vinatieri) (8-73-4:05)	14-0
2 5:43 Sebastian	FG Vinatieri 22 (16-62-6:10)	17-0
3 8:43 Sebastian	TD Brees 12 pass to Beckham Jr. (Vinatieri) (14-75-6:17)	24-0
3 6:00 Sebastian	FG Vinatieri 19 (4-5-2:18)	27-0
4 11:44 Durham	TD Foles 8 pass to Hilton (Dawson) (7-75-3:57)	27-7
4 6:10 Sebastian	FG Vinatieri 46 (7-13-3:29)	30-7

	SS	DTL
First Downs	25	10
Rushes	40-120	9-42
Passes	25-42-272	16-38-166
Sacked	0-0	3-16
Fumble	0	0
Penalties	3-25	9-75
Turnovers	0	2
Missed Tackles	2	3
Dropped Passes	3	0
Bad Passes	4	4
Passes 25+	1	1
Runs 10+	2	1
Blitzers	15	31
Time	39:24	20:36
Third Down	7-19	3-11
Fourth Down	2-5	0-2
Red Att/Td/Fg	5/3/2	2/1/0
Net Offense	392	192

SPARTANS**0**

PASSING: Philip Rivers, 7 of 26, 56 yds, 0 TD, 2 INT
RUSHING: Doug Martin, 10C, 31yds, (3.1), 0 TD
RECEIVING: Golden Tate 3 for 21yds, 9LG, 0 TD
DEFENCE: Eric Kendricks, 9 T, 2 PD
KICKING: Greg Zuerlein, 0 of 0 XP, 0 of 0 FG, 0 Pts

WOLVERINES**27**

PASSING: Jay Cutler, 15 of 22, 208 yds, 2 TD, 0 INT
RUSHING: Mike Gillislee, 13C, 32yds, (2.5), 0 TD
RECEIVING: Adam Thielen, 6 for 106yds, 58LG, 1 TD
DEFENCE: Danny Trevathan, 13 T, 1 STF
KICKING: Daniel Carlson, 3 of 3 XP, 2 of 3 FG, 9 Pts

The Wolverine's Den Temp: 35 Wind: 0-5 MVP: Cutler

	1	2	3	4	Tot
Pickering (6-6)	0	0	0	0	0
Toronto (9-3)	21	3	0	3	27

Scoring Summary

1 9:59 Toronto	TD Williams 21 interception return (Carlson)	0-7
1 5:37 Toronto	TD Cutler 16 pass to Hill (Carlson) (6-82-2:34)	0-14
1 1:58 Toronto	TD Cutler 58 pass to Thielen (Carlson) (5-73-2:42)	0-21
2 1:51 Toronto	FG Carlson 36 (7-14-2:23)	0-24
4 11:29 Toronto	FG Carlson 30 (7-16-3:52)	0-27

	PIC	TOR
First Downs	8	13
Rushes	28-63	37-91
Passes	7-26-56	15-22-208
Sacked	1-9	1-8
Fumble	1	1
Penalties	5-38	6-60
Turnovers	3	0
Missed Tackles	6	1
Dropped Passes	3	1
Bad Passes	6	1
Passes 25+	0	2
Runs 10+	0	1
Blitzers	0	6
Time	25:20	34:40
Third Down	2-16	5-15
Fourth Down	0-0	0-0
Red Att/Td/Fg	0/0/0	3/1/2
Net Offense	110	291

BOMBERS**24**

PASSING: Marcus Mariota, 14 of 23, 242 yds, 1 TD, 0 INT
RUSHING: Leonard Fournette, 19C, 82yds, (4.3), 0 TD
RECEIVING: Travis Kelce, 6 for 83yds, 22LG, 0 TD
DEFENCE: Frank Clark, 7 T, 1 SK, 1 HUR
KICKING: Chandler Cantanzaro, 3 of 3 XP, 1 of 1 FG, 6 Pts

WRECKING BALLS**22**

PASSING: Jared Goff, 18 of 26, 261 yds, 2 TD, 0 INT
RUSHING: LeSean McCoy, 19C, 156yds, (8.2), 0 TD
RECEIVING: LeSean McCoy, 5 for 69yds, 47LG, 0 TD
DEFENCE: Willie Henry, 6 T, 1 SK, 1 HUR
KICKING: Chris Boswell, 2 of 2 XP, 2 of 4 FG, 8 Pts

Stone Pony Shore Temp: 57 Wind: 0-10 MVP: Mariota

	1	2	3	4	Tot
Bruxelles (7-5)	7	0	7	10	24
New Jersey (5-7)	7	0	3	12	22

Scoring Summary

1 9:57 New Jersey	TD Goff 41 pass to Cook (Boswell) (9-80-4:56)	0-7
1 3:09 Bruxelles	TD Mariota 6 run (Cantanzaro) (10-75-6:48)	7-7
3 9:56 New Jersey	FG Boswell 34 (5-50-2:52)	7-10
3 4:27 Bruxelles	TD Mariota 9 run (Cantanzaro) (8-63-5:23)	14-10
4 13:19 Bruxelles	TD Mariota 15 pass to Westbrook (Cantanzaro) (6-79-3:45)	21-10
4 9:13 New Jersey	Safety Henry	21-12
4 2:13 New Jersey	TD Goff 11 pass to Decker (Boswell) (12-76-6:54)	21-19
4 1:40 New Jersey	FG Boswell 20 (4-5-0:24)	21-22
4 0:00 Bruxelles	FG Cantanzaro 33 (6-54-1:31)	24-22

	BRX	NJ
First Downs	21	18
Rushes	27-114	31-188
Passes	14-23-242	18-26-261
Sacked	3-17	2-15
Fumble	1	0
Penalties	3-30	7-64
Turnovers	1	0
Missed Tackles	14	7
Dropped Passes	0	1
Bad Passes	0	0
Passes 25+	2	3
Runs 10+	1	5
Blitzers	30	30
Time	28:21	31:39
Third Down	6-11	4-14
Fourth Down	1-2	1-2
Red Att/Td/Fg	5/3/1	4/1/2
Net Offense	339	434

PATRIOTS



35

PASSING: Deshaun Watson, 15 of 28, 195 yds, 2 TD, 0 INT
RUSHING: Alvin Kamara, 5C, 65yds, (13.0), 2 TD
RECEIVING: Alvin Kamara, 7 for 145yds, 47LG, 1 TD
DEFENCE: Jerome Baker, 9 T, 1 STF
KICKING: Ryan Succop, 5 of 5 XP, 0 of 0 FG, 5 Pts

KNIGHTS



13

PASSING: Josh McCown, 11 of 20, 103yds, 1 TD, 0 INT
RUSHING: Le'Veon Bell, 34C, 122yds, (3.6), 1 TD
RECEIVING: DeVante Parker, 6 for 50yds, 14LG, 1 TD
DEFENCE: Robert Quinn, 7 T, 1 SK, 1 STF
KICKING: Ka'imi Fairbairn, 1 of 2 XP, 0 of 1 FG, 1 Pt

Round Table Stadium Temp: 65 Wind: 0-5 MVP: Kamara

	1	2	3	4	Tot
Charleswood (6-6)	7	7	14	7	35
Los Angeles (4-8)	0	0	7	6	13

Scoring Summary

1 2:50 Charleswood	TD Watson 26 pass to Kamara (Succop) (9-69-3:21)	7-0
2 6:21 Charleswood	TD Kamara 7 run (Succop) (4-67-2:30)	14-0
3 11:14 Los Angeles	TD Bell 3 run (Fairbairn) (6-32-3:36)	14-7
3 7:14 Charleswood	TD Watson 5 run (Succop) (9-75-4:00)	21-7
3 6:15 Charleswood	TD Watson 5 pass to Johnson Jr. (Succop) (2-17-0:54)	28-7
4 8:41 Los Angeles	TD McCown 3 pass to Parker (no good) (17-78-8:28)	28-13
4 4:15 Charleswood	TD Kamara 12 run (Succop) (8-75-4:26)	35-13

	CHP	LAK
First Downs	23	17
Rushes	25-165	44-137
Passes	16-29-206	13-24-117
Sacked	1-5	3-31
Fumble	1	2
Penalties	5-55	9-77
Turnovers	1	1
Missed Tackles	6	10
Dropped Passes	0	1
Bad Passes	2	2
Passes 25+	2	0
Runs 10+	7	3
Blitzers	16	11
Time	23:53	36:07
Third Down	5-10	5-17
Fourth Down	0-0	4-5
Red Att/Td/Fg	5/4/0	3/2/0
Net Offense	366	223

CONVICTS



24

PASSING: Dak Prescott, 23 of 33, 186 yds, 0 TD, 1 INT
RUSHING: Mark Ingram, 14C, 67yds, (4.8), 0 TD
RECEIVING: Christian McCaffrey, 8 for 92yds, 35LG, 0 TD
DEFENCE: Todd Davis, 10 T, 1 STF
KICKING: Dan Bailey, 3 of 3 XP, 1 of 1 FG, 6 Pts

TRIUMPH



27

PASSING: Carson Palmer, 22 of 35, 295 yds, 3 TD, 2 INT
RUSHING: Royce Freeman, 16C, 106yds, (6.6), 0 TD
RECEIVING: Antonio Brown, 6 for 131yds, 38LG, 2 TD
DEFENCE: Nigel Bradham, 9 T, 1 PD
KICKING: Dustin Hopkins, 3 of 3 XP, 2 of 4 FG, 9 Pts

Wilhalla Stadium Temp: 70 Wind: None MVP: Brown

	1	2	3	4	Tot
Chino (6-6)	7	0	10	7	24
Twin Cities (8-4)	7	14	3	3	27

Scoring Summary

1 9:16 Chino	TD Prescott 1 run (Bailey,D) (9-75-5:44)	7-0
1 6:04 Twin Cities	TD Palmer 35 pass to Brown (Hopkins,D) (7-75-3:12)	7-7
2 2:34 Twin Cities	TD Palmer 18 pass to Brown (Hopkins,D) (12-67-5:26)	7-14
2 0:34 Twin Cities	TD Palmer 18 pass to Matthews (Hopkins,D) (5-33-1:16)	7-21
3 13:17 Chino	TD Johnson 51 interception return (Bailey,D)	14-21
3 6:54 Twin Cities	FG Hopkins 32 (12-61-6:19)	14-24
3 1:44 Chino	FG Bailey 50 (11-50-4:57)	17-24
4 10:52 Chino	TD Prescott 9 run (Bailey,D) (10-64-4:03)	24-24
4 2:24 Twin Cities	FG Hopkins 27 (11-51-4:13)	24-27

	CHI	TCT
First Downs	15	23
Rushes	22-100	33-139
Passes	23-33-186	22-35-295
Sacked	1-9	4-13
Fumble	0	1
Penalties	7-55	6-40
Turnovers	1	2
Missed Tackles	13	8
Dropped Passes	0	1
Bad Passes	1	5
Passes 25+	1	2
Runs 10+	4	5
Blitzers	24	0
Time	26:01	33:59
Third Down	2-11	7-15
Fourth Down	1-3	0-0
Red Att/Td/Fg	3/2/0	5/2/2
Net Offense	277	421

PILOTS



26

PASSING: Sam Darnold, 13 of 23, 188 yds, 0 TD, 0 INT
RUSHING: Kareem Hunt, 28C, 144yds, (5.1), 0 TD
RECEIVING: Michael Crabtree, 7 for 92yds, 20LG, 1 TD
DEFENCE: Barkevious Mingo, 11 T, 1 FF
KICKING: Josh Lambo, 2 of 2 XP, 4 of 5 FG, 14 Pts

CADILLAC



23

PASSING: Matt Stafford, 23 of 35, 278 yds, 2 TD, 1 INT
RUSHING: Marshawn Lynch, 17C, 85yds, (5.0), 0 TD
RECEIVING: Jordy Nelson, 5 for 121yds, 57LG, 2 TD
DEFENCE: Zach Brown, 14 T, 2 STF
KICKING: Steven Gostkowski, 2 of 2 XP, 3 of 3 FG, 11 Pts

Kelly-Burke Field Temp: -7 Wind: None MVP: Hunt

	1	2	3	4	5	Tot
Seattle (4-8)	7	10	3	3	3	26
Erieau (4-8)	7	3	3	10	0	23

Scoring Summary

1 5:36 Seattle	TD Manning 55 pass to Miller (Lambo) (5-74-2:39)	7-0
1 4:30 Erieau	TD Stafford 57 pass to Nelson (Gostkowski) (2-60-1:01)	7-7
2 11:41 Seattle	TD Manning 20 pass to Crabtree (Lambo) (1-20-0:09)	14-7
2 9:02 Seattle	FG Lambo 36 (5-11-2:28)	17-7
2 0:00 Erieau	FG Gostkowski 53 (9-55-2:22)	17-10
3 4:21 Seattle	FG Lambo 24 (12-79-6:39)	20-10
3 1:14 Erieau	FG Gostkowski 48 (8-39-2:57)	20-13
4 9:42 Erieau	TD Stafford 16 pass to Nelson (Gostkowski) (7-58-3:34)	20-20
4 3:17 Seattle	FG Lambo 32 (11-65-6:13)	23-20
4 0:36 Erieau	FG Gostkowski 55 (10-33-2:29)	23-23
5 5:35 Seattle	FG Lambo 37 (9-44-4:07)	26-23

	SEA	ERI
First Downs	22	17
Rushes	33-154	24-89
Passes	25-39-341	23-36-278
Sacked	5-37	2-16
Fumble	1	2
Penalties	6-55	10-69
Turnovers	0	3
Missed Tackles	4	9
Dropped Passes	1	0
Bad Passes	3	0
Passes 25+	2	1
Runs 10+	6	2
Blitzers	16	10
Time	40:42	28:43
Third Down	5-17	3-13
Fourth Down	0-0	1-1
Red Att/Td/Fg	8/1/4	1/1/0
Net Offense	458	351

CORN KINGS**6**

PASSING: Jimmy Garappolo, 15 of 25, 218 yds, 0 TD, 0 INT
RUSHING: Todd Gurley II, 22C, 78yds, (3.5), 0 TD
RECEIVING: Mike Evans, 6 for 127yds, 49LG, 0 TD
DEFENCE: T.J. Watt, 7 T, 1 SK
KICKING: Matt Bryant, 0 of 0 XP, 2 of 2 FG, 6 Pts

BLUE EAGLES**10**

PASSING: Aaron Rodgers, 13 of 22, 145 yds, 1 TD, 0 INT
RUSHING: Jordan Howard, 25C, 68yds, (2.7), 1 TD
RECEIVING: DeSean Jackson, 3 for 34yds, 15LG, 0 TD
DEFENCE: Ndamukong Suh, 8 T, 1 STF
KICKING: Mason Crosby, 1 of 1 XP, 1 of 2 FG, 4 Pts

Bluffs Stadium Temp: 29 Wind: 5-15 Heavy Snow MVP: Rodgers

	1	2	3	4	Tot
Cowtown (8-4)	3	3	0	0	6
Scarborough (2-10)	0	10	0	0	10

Scoring Summary

1 1:51 Cowtown	FG Bryant 55 (9-26-4:56)	3-0
2 7:50 Scarborough	FG Crosby 44 (7-54-4:38)	3-3
2 1:55 Scarborough	TD Rodgers 13 pass to Sims (Crosby) (9-62-4:23)	3-10
2 0:10 Cowtown	FG Bryant 34 (9-59-1:41)	6-10

	COW	SBE
First Downs	15	14
Rushes	33-100	33-141
Passes	16-26-222	13-22-145
Sacked	4-30	3-26
Fumble	2	2
Penalties	8-53	3-17
Turnovers	2	0
Missed Tackles	4	5
Dropped Passes	0	1
Bad Passes	6	2
Passes 25+	1	1
Runs 10+	2	3
Blitzers	23	26
Time	30:49	29:11
Third Down	4-15	3-13
Fourth Down	1-2	0-1
Red Att/Td/Fg	2/0/1	4/1/1
Net Offense	292	260

NORTH STARS**31**

PASSING: Tyrod Taylor, 18 of 31, 247 yds, 3 TD, 0 INT
RUSHING: Isaiah Crowell, 18C, 91yds, (5.1), 0 TD
RECEIVING: Stefon Diggs, 7 for 101yds, 56LG, 2 TD
DEFENCE: Myles Jack, 10 T, 2 PD
KICKING: Kai Forbath, 4 of 4 XP, 1 of 1 FG, 7 Pts

CRUSADERS**35**

PASSING: Kirk Cousins, 28 of 43, 349 yds, 5 TD, 1 INT
RUSHING: Aaron Jones, 9C, 50yds, (5.6), 0 TD
RECEIVING: Keenan Allen, 8 for 158yds, 72LG, 1 TD
DEFENCE: Joe Haden, 9 T, 1 PD
KICKING: Blair Walsh, 5 of 5 XP, 0 of 1 FG, 5 Pts

Paul Brown Stadium Temp: 31 Wind: 5-15 MVP: Cousins

	1	2	3	4	Tot
Budapest (6-6)	7	7	7	10	31
Cincinnati (4-8)	7	14	7	7	35

Scoring Summary

1 8:19 Cincinnati	TD Cousins 72 pass to Allen (Walsh,B) (1-72-0:16)	0-7
1 1:24 Budapest	TD Taylor 3 pass to Diggs (Forbath) (15-75-6:55)	7-7
2 6:30 Cincinnati	TD Cousins 6 pass to Brate (Walsh,B) (15-79-8:30)	7-14
2 2:19 Cincinnati	TD Cousins 22 pass to Funchess (Walsh,B) (5-48-2:26)	7-21
2 0:16 Budapest	TD Taylor 9 pass to Diggs (Forbath) (8-69-1:55)	14-21
3 8:20 Cincinnati	TD Cousins 5 pass to Brate (Walsh,B) (12-86-5:10)	14-28
3 3:31 Budapest	TD Taylor 52 pass to Watkins (Forbath) (7-75-4:49)	21-28
4 12:26 Budapest	TD Forte 5 run (Forbath) (7-95-4:33)	28-28
4 4:29 Budapest	FG Forbath 20 (9-34-4:22)	31-28
4 0:18 Cincinnati	TD Cousins 7 pass to Funchess (Walsh,B) (12-90-4:06)	31-35

	BUD	CIN
First Downs	21	32
Rushes	28-155	25-125
Passes	18-31-247	28-43-349
Sacked	1-13	1-8
Fumble	2	2
Penalties	6-64	4-44
Turnovers	1	1
Missed Tackles	3	11
Dropped Passes	1	2
Bad Passes	2	2
Passes 25+	2	1
Runs 10+	4	3
Blitzers	6	12
Time	27:50	32:10
Third Down	8-12	7-12
Fourth Down	0-0	1-1
Red Att/Td/Fg	4/3/1	4/3/0
Net Offense	389	466

MUSTANGS**28**

PASSING: Matt Ryan, 23 of 46, 224 yds, 2 TD, 1 INT
RUSHING: Wayne Gallman, 20C, 85yds, (4.3), 0 TD
RECEIVING: Dez Bryant, 8 for 83yds, 13LG, 1 TD
DEFENCE: NaVorro Bowman, 11 T, 1 PD, 2 STF, 2 FF
KICKING: Wil Lutz, 2 of 2 XP, 0 of 0 FG, 2 Pts

HAWKS**30**

PASSING: Alex Smith, 29 of 40, 275 yds, 3 TD, 1 INT
RUSHING: Matt Breida, 11C, 84yds, (7.6), 0 TD
RECEIVING: DeAndre Hopkins, 10 for 123yds, 24LG, 3 TD
DEFENCE: Manti Te'o, 7 T, 1 PD, 1 STF, 2 FF
KICKING: Cody Parkey, 3 of 4 XP, 1 of 3 FG, 6 Pts

Optimist Park Temp: 23 Wind: 0-5 MVP: Smith

	1	2	3	4	Tot
Aurora (7-5)	0	0	0	28	28
Brooklin (8-4)	14	7	3	6	30

Scoring Summary

1 6:02 Brooklin	TD Smith 22 pass to Hopkins (Parkey) (5-59-3:00)	0-7
1 2:30 Brooklin	TD Smith 24 pass to Hopkins (Parkey) (6-58-2:37)	0-14
2 4:52 Brooklin	TD Smith 7 run (Parkey) (6-53-3:09)	0-21
3 3:26 Brooklin	FG Parkey 31 (12-63-5:06)	0-24
4 11:33 Aurora	TD Ryan 13 pass to Bryant (2 - Adams) (13-75-7:04)	8-24
4 11:09 Aurora	TD Bowman 59 yd fumble recovery (2 - failed)	14-24
4 6:52 Aurora	TD Drake 3 run (Lutz) (9-53-4:10)	21-24
4 4:20 Brooklin	TD Smith 1 pass to Hopkins (no good) (4-45-2:25)	21-30
4 1:50 Aurora	TD Ryan 19 pass to Adams (Lutz) (9-86-2:24)	28-30

	AUR	BRH
First Downs	20	25
Rushes	25-95	23-151
Passes	23-46-224	29-40-275
Sacked	2-10	1-9
Fumble	4	2
Penalties	4-38	6-74
Turnovers	3	3
Missed Tackles	7	2
Dropped Passes	3	2
Bad Passes	0	3
Passes 25+	0	0
Runs 10+	2	5
Blitzers	1	4
Time	29:26	30:34
Third Down	5-17	8-13
Fourth Down	3-4	0-0
Red Att/Td/Fg	3/3/0	3/2/1
Net Offense	309	417



WEEK TWELVE

STANDINGS

PACIFIC CONFERENCE												
East	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
St. Charles	9	3	0	.750	248	20.7	191	15.9	4.8	4 1 0	3 1 0	8 1 0
Bruxelles	7	5	0	.583	271	22.6	236	19.7	2.9	3 3 0	2 2 0	5 4 0
New Jersey	5	7	0	.417	225	18.8	253	21.1	-2.3	3 4 0	2 2 0	4 5 0
Buffalo	3	9	0	.250	164	13.7	253	21.1	-7.4	2 4 0	1 3 0	3 6 0
Central	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Twin Cities	8	4	0	.667	258	21.5	191	15.9	5.6	4 2 0	2 2 0	6 3 0
Charleswood	6	6	0	.500	234	19.5	219	18.3	1.3	3 2 0	2 2 0	4 5 0
Viriden	6	6	0	.500	227	18.9	184	15.3	3.6	4 1 0	2 2 0	5 4 0
Erieau	4	8	0	.333	150	12.5	262	21.8	-9.3	2 4 0	2 2 0	3 6 0
West	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Iowa City	7	5	0	.583	235	19.6	211	17.6	2.0	3 3 0	1 2 0	5 4 0
Chino	6	6	0	.500	284	23.7	271	22.6	1.1	2 3 0	2 1 0	5 4 0
Seattle	4	8	0	.333	247	20.6	294	24.5	-3.9	1 6 0	2 1 0	3 6 0
Los Angeles	4	8	0	.333	174	14.5	249	20.8	-6.3	3 3 0	1 2 0	3 6 0
ATLANTIC CONFERENCE												
North	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Sebastian	9	3	0	.750	305	25.4	190	15.8	9.6	6 0 0	3 1 0	6 3 0
Cowtown	8	4	0	.667	300	25.0	194	16.2	8.8	5 1 0	3 1 0	6 3 0
Durham	3	9	0	.250	214	17.8	304	25.3	-7.5	2 5 0	1 3 0	2 7 0
Scarborough	2	10	0	.167	100	8.3	221	18.4	-10.1	1 4 0	1 3 0	1 8 0
Coastal	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Brooklin	8	4	0	.667	338	28.2	299	24.9	3.3	4 2 0	2 2 0	5 4 0
York	7	5	0	.583	251	20.9	188	15.7	5.3	4 3 0	1 3 0	6 3 0
Pickering	6	6	0	.500	261	21.8	260	21.7	0.1	4 2 0	3 1 0	4 5 0
Budapest	6	6	0	.500	195	16.3	211	17.6	-1.3	3 2 0	2 2 0	4 5 0
South	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Toronto	9	3	0	.750	250	20.8	173	14.4	6.4	7 0 0	2 1 0	6 3 0
Aurora	7	5	0	.583	301	25.1	254	21.2	3.9	6 1 0	2 1 0	6 3 0
Georgia	6	6	0	.500	232	19.3	266	22.2	-2.8	3 3 0	2 1 0	5 4 0
Cincinnati	4	8	0	.333	235	19.6	325	27.1	-7.5	2 4 0	0 3 0	3 6 0

TOP PASSERS

Rk	Player	Team	Att	Cmp	C%	Yards	In	I%	Lg	TD	TD%	Rate
1	Smith,A	BRH	427	272	63.7	3176	7	1.6	76	30	7.0	102.7
2	Cutler	TOR	260	160	61.5	2142	6	2.3	71	18	6.9	101.2
3	Brees	SS	429	272	63.4	2849	9	2.1	52	28	6.5	95.6
4	Brady	YOR	397	244	61.5	2718	9	2.3	53	25	6.3	93.4
5	Flacco	COW	272	170	62.5	1737	4	1.5	68	14	5.1	91.8
6	Taylor,T	BUD	300	182	60.7	1990	4	1.3	62	15	5.0	91.4
7	Prescott	CHI	387	247	63.8	2612	8	2.1	60	18	4.7	90.3
8	Ryan	AUR	449	266	59.2	3049	11	2.4	66	22	4.9	85.9
9	Roethlisberger	GEO	409	235	57.5	2810	13	3.2	62	24	5.9	84.9
10	Rivers	PIC	399	217	54.4	2930	12	3.0	73	22	5.5	83.9
11	Manning	SEA	377	221	58.6	2477	10	2.7	57	18	4.8	83.2
12	Dalton	LAK	224	130	58.0	1323	3	1.3	50	8	3.6	81.4
13	Goff	NJ	366	213	58.2	2441	11	3.0	75	17	4.6	81.3
14	Mariota	BRX	357	211	59.1	2630	16	4.5	62	19	5.3	81.1
15	Cousins	CIN	455	254	55.8	2948	12	2.6	72	20	4.4	79.3
16	Carr	VV	343	185	53.9	2460	10	2.9	61	14	4.1	78.4
17	Wentz	STC	279	150	53.8	1628	7	2.5	52	10	3.6	72.7
18	Rosen	BUF	222	125	56.3	1380	8	3.6	55	8	3.6	71.9
19	Trubisky	TCT	179	92	51.4	1260	8	4.5	63	8	4.5	70.5
20	Wilson	ICC	350	192	54.9	2064	11	3.1	41	10	2.9	68.8
21	McCown	LAK	211	117	55.5	1292	9	4.3	49	8	3.8	68.7
22	Stafford	ERI	274	145	52.9	1525	7	2.6	64	8	2.9	68.5
23	Bortles	CHP	357	199	55.7	1994	11	3.1	42	10	2.8	68.3
24	Newton	DTL	301	155	51.5	2051	17	5.6	66	11	3.7	62.0
25	Garoppolo	COW	69	48	69.6	703	0	0.0	49	7	10.1	136.3

KICKOFF RETURNERS

Rk	Player	Team	No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD
1	Patterson	BUF	35	983	28.1	47	0
2	Cooper,P	ERI	49	1353	27.6	90	1
3	Lockett	ICC	26	692	26.6	43	0
4	Williams,K	GEO	16	412	25.8	42	0
5	Grant,C	CHP	22	565	25.7	79	0
6	Hunt,A	BRX	19	475	25.0	39	0
7	Smith-Schuster	VV	21	518	24.7	94	1
8	Switzer	PIC	21	511	24.3	41	0
9	Bray	CHI	32	766	23.9	36	0
10	Dayes	COW	16	375	23.4	39	0
11	Bolden Jr.	YOR	22	508	23.1	35	0
12	Lewis,D	STC	17	389	22.9	31	0
13	Moore,C	SS	15	340	22.7	36	0
14	Roberts,A	LAK	30	677	22.6	36	0
15	Barner	BRH	13	284	21.8	35	0
16	Foster,D	NJ	13	263	20.2	25	0
17	Lewis,T	SBE	23	459	20.0	29	0
18	Langley	CIN	16	309	19.3	43	0
19	Ballage	AUR	14	270	19.3	31	0
20	Agnew	SEA	22	410	18.6	42	0

PUNT RETURNERS

Rk	Player	Team	No	Fc	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD
1	Benjamin,T	STC	12	7	173	14.4	76	1
2	Campanaro	COW	24	17	276	11.5	86	2
3	Davis,T	ICC	31	13	352	11.4	93	1
4	Erickson	BUF	28	11	279	10.0	45	0
5	Cooper,P	ERI	39	4	380	9.7	22	0
6	Agnew	SEA	16	19	152	9.5	36	0
7	Jones,A	NJ	20	3	171	8.6	25	0
8	Jackson,A	STC	27	3	229	8.5	16	0
9	Sherels	BUD	40	13	319	8.0	17	0
10	Roberts,A	LAK	23	18	182	7.9	17	0
11	Amendola	YOR	38	11	284	7.5	20	0
12	Alexander	TCT	40	14	297	7.4	17	0
13	McCaffrey	CHI	20	13	136	6.8	23	0
14	Ervin	VV	30	18	202	6.7	44	0
15	Barner	BRH	28	13	187	6.7	17	0
16	Taylor,T	DTL	27	8	175	6.5	15	0
17	Callaway	SS	22	20	133	6.0	28	0
18	Crowder	SBE	30	12	170	5.7	12	0
19	Switzer	PIC	25	11	134	5.4	15	0
20	Richard	CHP	40	15	197	4.9	16	0

RUSHING LEADERS								RECEIVING LEADERS							
Rk	Player	Team	Att	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD	Rk	Player	Team	No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD
1	Gurley II	COW	223	1240	5.6	66	8	1	Landry	GEO	95	1082	11.4	54	12
2	Hunt,K	SEA	243	1220	5.0	76	6	2	McCaffrey	CHI	85	833	9.8	41	3
3	Bell,L	LAK	299	1136	3.8	30	3	3	Allen,K	CIN	85	1163	13.7	72	7
4	McCoy,L	NJ	259	1113	4.3	53	5	4	Hopkins,D	BRH	80	1239	15.5	76	13
5	Gordon,M	TCT	230	975	4.2	47	7	5	Brown,A	TCT	72	1073	14.9	63	10
6	Howard,J	SBE	221	963	4.4	58	4	6	Baldwin,D	SS	67	908	13.6	52	7
7	Fournette	BRX	213	873	4.1	26	7	7	Jones,J	BUF	67	767	11.4	35	4
8	Elliott,E	VV	220	794	3.6	35	7	8	Kearse,J	SS	65	740	11.4	34	12
9	Collins,A	GEO	176	792	4.5	55	3	9	Witten	SS	64	587	9.2	36	2
10	Crowell	BUD	170	768	4.5	49	3	10	Thomas,M	STC	64	824	12.9	52	2
11	Lynch,M	ERI	180	764	4.2	56	1	11	Tate,G	PIC	63	1050	16.7	73	11
12	Barkley	TOR	169	760	4.5	37	5	12	Kelce,T	BRX	62	804	13.0	52	5
13	Anderson,C	SS	172	744	4.3	34	2	13	Bryant,D	AUR	62	774	12.5	41	7
14	Michel	GEO	133	700	5.3	50	1	14	Bell,L	LAK	61	628	10.3	50	4
15	Penny	DTL	125	699	5.6	21	1	15	Smith-Schu	VV	61	1154	18.9	61	7
16	Ingram,M	CHI	169	690	4.1	33	6	16	Fitzgerald	COW	61	675	11.1	43	6
17	Drake	AUR	122	649	5.3	70	3	17	Parker,D	LAK	61	719	11.8	42	5
18	Freeman,R	TCT	128	631	4.9	48	3	18	Cooks	LAK	60	763	12.7	49	6
19	Freeman,D	PIC	136	629	4.6	28	7	19	Thielen	TOR	59	926	15.7	71	9
20	Powell,B	ICC	111	626	5.6	55	5	20	Sanu	CHP	58	645	11.1	23	2
21	Breida	BRH	109	613	5.6	38	2	21	Gronkowski	BRH	58	686	11.8	44	5
22	Lewis,D	STC	131	573	4.4	34	3	22	Kamara	CHP	57	666	11.7	47	5
23	Henry,D	YOR	144	549	3.8	17	2	23	Funchess	CIN	55	785	14.3	53	6
24	Ajayi	BUF	127	539	4.2	44	2	24	Crabtree	SEA	55	723	13.1	49	3
25	Chubb,N	YOR	140	530	3.8	22	3	25	Stills	GEO	55	838	15.2	62	7

INTERCEPTION LEADERS								SACK LEADERS				TACKLE LEADERS			
Rk	Player	Team	No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD	Rk	Player	Team	No.	Rk	Player	Team	No.
1	Slay	TCT	7	67	9.6	37	0	1	Morgan	SBE	14	1	Ogletree	ICC	116
2	Ramsey	TOR	6	55	9.2	23	0	2	Judon	NJ	13	2	Smith,J	TOR	97
3	White,T	LAK	5	103	20.6	63	1	3	Heyward	CHP	13	3	Jones,D	SBE	96
4	Weddle	TOR	5	74	14.8	44	1	4	Lawrence	CHP	12	4	Mathieu	DTL	88
5	Williams,M	STC	5	66	13.2	35	0	5	Jones,C	SS	12	5	Irvin	BUF	87
6	Jackson,J	CHI	4	114	28.5	47	2	6	Suggs	BRX	9	6	Mosley	CHP	85
7	Shazier	CHI	4	41	10.3	16	0	7	Donald	BUF	9	7	Kuechly	CIN	84
8	Robertson	CHI	4	86	21.5	37	1	8	Smith,P	BRX	9	8	Barrett	STC	84
9	Hayward	ICC	4	34	8.5	30	0	9	Kerrigan	COW	9	9	Brown,P	AUR	82
10	Mills,J	CHP	4	78	19.5	42	1	10	Houston,J	ERI	9	10	Mingo	SEA	81
11	Robinson,P	SS	4	44	11.0	24	0	11	Ingram,M	VV	9	11	Davis,D	STC	81
12	Carr,B	TOR	4	66	16.5	33	0	12	Jordan,C	BUD	9	12	Ward,D	PIC	79
13	Howard,X	PIC	4	78	19.5	42	1	13	Quinn,R	LAK	9	13	Watt,T	COW	79
14	William,Tr	TOR	4	77	19.3	56	1	14	Campbell,C	BUD	8	14	Woodyard	ERI	78
15	Wagner,B	TCT	3	2	0.7	2	0	15	Peppers	STC	8	15	Jackson,K	SEA	78
16	Grimes	BRH	3	78	26.0	59	0	16	Davenport	AUR	8	16	Clowney	SS	78
17	Evans,R	BUF	3	29	9.7	26	0	17	Clowney	SS	7	17	Morgan,D	SBE	77
18	Smith,T	PIC	3	86	28.7	37	1	18	Bennett,M	LAK	7	18	Trufant	CHP	76
19	Hyde,M	YOR	3	53	17.7	37	0	19	Mack,K	SEA	7	19	Jewell	ICC	75
20	Butler,M	NJ	3	84	28.0	43	0	20	Matthews,C	BRH	7	20	Suggs	BRX	74

SCORING LEADERS

Rk	Player	Team	FG	XP	2Pt	Run	Rec	Int	KR	PR	Fmb	Sf	Tot
1	Hauschka	STC	23	23	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	92
2	Bryant,M	COW	17	33	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	84
3	Hopkins,D	BRH	0	0	1	0	13	0	0	0	0	0	80
4	Gurley II	COW	0	0	0	8	5	0	0	0	0	0	78
5	Tucker,J	ICC	17	26	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	77
6	Vinatieri	SS	15	30	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	75
7	Gonzalez	VV	17	23	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	74
8	Landry	GEO	0	0	1	0	12	0	0	0	0	0	74
9	Kearse,J	SS	0	0	0	0	12	0	0	0	0	0	72
10	Lambo	SEA	15	26	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	71
11	Parkey	BRH	12	34	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	70
12	Gostkowski	ERI	18	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	66
13	Tate,G	PIC	0	0	0	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	66
14	Bailey,D	CHI	11	33	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	66
15	Carlson	TOR	13	27	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	66
16	Gano	YOR	12	29	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	65
17	Lutz	AUR	10	35	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	65
18	Catanzaro	BRX	11	32	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	65
19	Boswell	NJ	14	23	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	65
20	Zuerlein	PIC	11	30	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	63
21	Hunt,K	SEA	0	0	1	6	4	0	0	0	0	0	62
22	Forbath	BUD	15	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	61
23	Hyde,C	DTL	0	0	0	9	1	0	0	0	0	0	60
24	Brown,A	TCT	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	60
25	Kamara	CHP	0	0	0	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	60
26	Succop	CHP	12	24	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	60
27	Elliott,J	BUF	16	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	58
28	Fournette	BRX	0	0	1	7	2	0	0	0	0	0	56
29	Tavecchio	GEO	10	24	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	54
30	Thielen	TOR	0	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	54
31	Hopkins,D	TCT	8	30	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	54
32	Walsh,B	CIN	7	28	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	49
33	Smith-Schuster	VV	0	0	0	0	7	0	1	0	0	0	48
34	Jones Jr.	CHI	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	48
35	Freeman,D	PIC	0	0	0	7	1	0	0	0	0	0	48

KICKING LEADERS

Rk	Player	Team	FGA	FGM	FG%	40	50	Lg	Pts
1	Hauschka	STC	32	23	71.9	10	2	53	92
2	Bryant,M	COW	22	17	77.3	4	1	55	84
3	Tucker,J	ICC	26	17	65.4	10	6	56	77
4	Vinatieri	SS	17	15	88.2	7	1	51	75
5	Gonzalez	VV	20	17	85	4	0	49	74
6	Lambo	SEA	24	15	62.5	3	1	52	71
7	Parkey	BRH	20	12	60	4	2	55	70
8	Gostkowski	ERI	27	18	66.7	14	8	58	66
9	Bailey,D	CHI	17	11	64.7	6	2	51	66
10	Carlson	TOR	20	13	65	6	3	52	66
11	Catanzaro	BRX	23	11	47.8	6	4	57	65
12	Boswell	NJ	23	14	60.9	5	0	46	65

PUNTING LEADERS

Rk	Player	Team	No	Yards	Tb	20	Lg	Bk	Ave
1	Kern	BRX	54	2693	6	19	71	0	49.9
2	Kaser	BUD	69	3342	10	20	80	0	48.4
3	Hekker	COW	67	3244	2	33	61	0	48.4
4	Lee,A	BUF	60	2899	1	15	64	0	48.3
5	Colquitt,B	SEA	57	2753	1	20	58	0	48.3
6	O'Donnell	NJ	61	2934	6	20	77	0	48.1
7	Morstead	DTL	51	2452	4	15	67	0	48.1
8	King,M	TOR	83	3945	2	39	70	0	47.5
9	Lechler	STC	67	3148	4	27	62	0	47.0
10	Colquitt,D	SBE	74	3457	4	21	70	0	46.7
11	Way	CHI	47	2182	2	14	58	0	46.4
12	Jones,D	YOR	59	2718	1	29	55	0	46.1



AROUND THE



With Spats McChad



NEW YORK – I was a big hit at the family Christmas last year. My dividend cheque from *Fool* was devoted to bringing Christmas cheer to all of my kin at our annual holiday get-together in Connecticut. My carefully selected and conspicuously pricey gifts – cashmere scarves from *Bottega Veneta* for the ladies and sterling silver *Tateossian* cufflinks and tie bar sets for the men – were a Boxing Day smash. The dozen bottles of *Chateau-Grillet* and *Chateau-Margaux* that I donated to the feast were consumed with élan to the last drop. And I cannot even list all of the children’s gifts that earned me the undisputed title of “*bestest uncle ever*” from my brothers’ and sister’s offspring.

My sudden change in status from struggling writer to fashion company executive brought with it a change in the seating arrangements at my father’s dining room table. I was now at my father’s right hand at the head, while my older brother, Chad, who is President of the family business, sat at his left. This was an unprecedented promotion and a vast improvement over my previous seat in the middle bordering the women’s half of the table next to my senile old Uncle Aldrich.

My position at my father’s right hand meant that everything I said was listened to attentively and elicited whole-hearted agreement from everybody – everybody except my brother Chad, who could not conceal his jealousy at having been ousted from his traditional privileged perch. As the left-hand man (previously occupied by my younger brother, Yates, who held a board position in the family firm) Chad was expected to offer mild challenges to the arguments and assertions of the righthand man – acting as a kind of foil to keep the dinner discussions lively and interesting. But when push came to shove to settle an argument Father was expected to always land in favour of his righthand man.

Chad, breaking with traditional practice, was especially aggressive in his challenges to me. He frequently resorted to *ad hominin* attacks and never missed an opportunity to insinuate that a woman had made my fortune. This last part was considered a stinging insult in the fiercely patriarchal society that is the McChad Clan. I am not ashamed to state that I exploited my position at my father’s right hand to get my father to agree, reluctantly, that the custom of male-preference primogeniture practiced by the McChads as far back as records exist, was overtly sexist and therefore outmoded in a society where gender lines are disappearing and women are claiming equal place. This outraged Chad who, as the eldest son, was set to inherit everything. My sister, Cordelia, who rarely spoke up at the family dinner table, piped up to offer support for my view as did Yates and my youngest brother, Digby. My mother, as usual, suppressed her opinion on the topic. She did, however, issue a stern rebuke to all of us to watch our tone at the dinner table.

Unfortunately, with our stock price falling due to all of the publicity around the lawsuit launched against *Fool* by **Jackie Kuro**, the CEO of *No*; and following what I believe to be planted hit pieces targeting *Fool* designs in influential magazines *Elle* and *Vogue*, there will be no big dividend cheque for me this year. What money is left for executive bonuses is being funnelled to placate the increasingly unstable and belligerently flamboyant **Menfant Sisi Pamplemousse**, our Board Chairman. He has threatened to leave the company no fewer than 1,000 times in the last month and I say good riddance to him. But **Gabrielle Laurent-Vainluven** insists on keeping him around, claiming that his name and reputation allows our company to charge elite market prices for its designs.

The bottom line is that there will be no big bag of expensive gifts crammed into my four-wheeled *Infiniti Q70L* sleigh to shower on my relatives this Christmas. That doesn’t mean I will arrive empty-handed. Let’s just say that this year I will find out if the *true* Spirit of Christmas is alive and well in the McChad clan.

WHAT’S UNDER THE TREE?

If I had the wherewithal to fix the problems of each EFL team I wouldn’t do it. Let each franchise rise and fall according to the unique blend of acumen, skill and luck – or lack of such – that currently guides their fortunes. If every team had everything it needed to succeed, results on game day would boil down to pure luck. Who wants that? The Football Gods will always play a role, of course, but do we really want everything to be left in their mischievous hands? I know I don’t and either should you.

However, fixing all of a team’s problems is different from focusing on just fixing the main one. Identifying and correcting the major flaw in a franchise would be the greatest gift a team could receive. Suppose for a moment that I was cursed with the magical powers of Santa and could create and deliver gifts to all the children of the world, including the owners of each EFL team. What would I give them – whether they wanted it or not? Read on and see what’s under the tree....



We are all kids at heart. As we grow older, we learn to mask our feelings and control our impulses. But beneath the mature veneer we are a seething mass of conflicted emotions. So, if we could see past the mask of maturity, which EFL teams would react like the kid on the left to Santa McChad's Christmas gift and which teams would react like the kid on the right? We'll never know for sure.

AURORA – A healthy **JJ Watt**. Missing from the Mustangs' formula for success this year has been the type of defensive play that shuts down opponents before they get started. The captain of the Aurora defence has made it onto the field just once in 2018 and did not look close to his old form. His strength against the run and powerful push on the pocket is what the Aurora D needs more of.

BROOKLIN – A physical shutdown corner. **Janoris Jenkins** and **Brent Grimes**, when healthy, are as good a cover combination as any team could hope to have. But Grimes is ageing, Jenkins is injury prone and neither are very useful in the run game or jamming today's big receivers at the line. Too many missed tackles in the secondary has the Hawks dead last in passing yards allowed.

BRUXELLES – **Brian Urlacher 2.0**. The Bombers are getting gouged in the run game and it is not because the defensive line is not doing its job. The strength of the linebacking corps is in the pass rush, not sideline-to-sideline run containment or maintaining their running lanes. Starter-in-theory, **Nick Vigil** spends more time off the field than on it and **Jarrad Davis** cannot make up the difference.

BUDAPEST – Nothing under the tree for the North Stars; they have what they need. The QB with an arm that they lack on the playing field is biding his time on the sidelines, watching **Tyrod Taylor** teach him what not to do if you want your offence to score more than 16 points per game. Okay, since I'm Santa, I'll leave a gift card for another WR when **Baker Mayfield** is ready to start.

BUFFALO – One of the neediest children in the EFL could use more than one gift. But seeing as I can bestow just one, a month or two of all-expenses paid treatment at the Mayo Clinic for **Andrew Luck** should help. The Derailers spent a first round pick to learn that **Josh Rosen** is not, and may never be, the answer at QB. Either is flimsy back-up **David Fales**. A bit of Luck is what they need.

CHARLESWOOD – A suit of armour for **DeShaun Watson**. The Pats look like a different team on both sides of the ball with Watson behind center. I don't think it is because Watson is a great QB, just that **Blake Bortles** is so inept that Watson looks great in comparison. If he gets injured again, the Pats can forget about a miracle run to a playoff spot in the season's last quarter.

CHINO – A cloning machine so that **Rob Nazar** can clone **Ryan Shazier** and put him back on the field for the stretch run. Chino's leading tackler and a rare pick-off artist out of the linebacker position is the glue that holds the rickety Convicts' defence together. Second last in YPP allowed, the prospect of what the Lockdown Crew will be like without him should terrify Convicts fans.

CINCINNATI – A stable owner. The Crusaders have plenty of football needs in order to be competitive and they won't be able to address any of them effectively without a committed and stable owner – the kind they used to have. The orphan of the EFL longs for **Hal Corson** and the Paradise Lost in Columbia, SC.

COWTOWN – A **Tony Gonzalez** doppelganger. The original Tony G. could catch, run and block at an All-Pro level. That is what the Corn Kings need to turn the **Todd Gurley** Offence into an unstoppable one. Some claim they need a QB more, but whether it is **Joe Flacco** or **Jimmy G.** behind center, having a **Tony Gonzalez** on the line instead of **Julius Thomas** would make any QB's job easy.

DURHAM – Hypnotherapy for **Cam Newton**. At some point between Chino and Durham the 12 Million Dollar Man forgot how to pass. He needs to recover that memory soon or the Lizards will be years away from competing. Yes, they could use a couple of corners and at least one more edge rusher to shore up their rundown defence, but the dire QB situation calls for desperate measures.

ERIEAU – **Calvin Johnson 2.0**. Watching **Matt Stafford** in action these days it is hard to believe that he once threw 45 TD passes in a single season. He didn't have a Calvin Johnson then, but he had five good wide receivers, including **Dez Bryant** and **Julio Jones**. Santa McChad can't give Erieau five WRs, but he can wrap up Megatron in a box and leave him under the tree at Kelly-Burke Field.

GEORGIA – **Troy Polamalu II**. **Big Ben** gets all of the attention in Georgia but it is their defensive secondary that allows opposing QBs to perform at a higher level than Big Ben that the Glads need to worry about. Although they could certainly use a shutdown corner like the Hawks, it is a free range, hard-hitting, ballhawk at the safety position – a captain of the secondary – they need more.

IOWA CITY – *Steve Smith Jr.* The Cubs need a WR with speed, shifty feet and steely nerves who can also catch the ball – like the guy they used to have back in the day, *Steve Smith Sr.* The Cubs have been paying a high price on the football field for not paying Smith Sr's price when he was eligible for free agency for the 2015 season. *Russell Wilson* cannot do it all on his own.

LOS ANGELES – A good quarterback. It's Free Giveaway day whether *Josh McCown* or *Andy Dalton* is under center. With those two tag-teaming the opposition, it's no wonder the 'Blue Shield' is worn out and playing beneath its historical rep. Nobody knows better than *Jeff Dohrn* that good QBs are hard to find, as he has yet to find one in 12 years. Don't worry, Jeff, Santa's coming to town.

NEW JERSEY – Socks. Figuring out exactly what the main problem is with the Wrecking Balls tests the limits of Santa's powers. There are little things, such as an uninspiring group of WRs, a lot of average talent on defence and a QB who looks the part but sometimes forgets to play it. No glaring deficiencies, just a lump of...*blah*. A nice, warm pair of socks will bring *Jeff Cohen* comfort.

PICKERING – Underwear. This is a team built with some intelligence to win now. Win, it should, but it does not. Curious deficiencies, such as dead last rankings in run-game production and opposition 3rd down conversion rate, stand out. But why? Would anyone want to replace *Devonta Freeman*? Is the defence so gutless? Some soft, roomy boxers might release the coach's tension on game day.

SCARBOROUGH – The *real Aaron Rodgers*. I'm not talking about the coke-snorting, boozing, party-going imposter of the past 4½ years. Whoever has been wearing no.12 since the Blue Eagles' spiritless loss to Markham in the 2012 Wildcard Game has been killing the team's hopes every year. Some say the real Rodgers was murdered afterwards and replaced by his evil twin. I believe it.

SEATTLE – A 1st Round Pick for Eli. It would never happen in the real world, but in Santa McChad's world a 1st round pick for the Pilots' erratic and past prime former championship-winning QB is doable. It certainly would solve a lot of problems. It would allow *Mitch Gangwish* to start *Sam Darnold* without angering the Manning Clan and allow him to draft a decent, much-needed young WR.

SEBASTIAN – A healthy *Odell Beckham Jr.* It is a bit of a mystery why the Swordfish superstar has dressed for 7 games but has played just 53 snaps this season. Is he *sort* of healthy, or just sort of *unhealthy*? All I know is that, with most of everything else in place (they could use another better-than-average CB to make their defence really scary), Odell on a pitch count is holding Brees back.

ST. CHARLES – A franchise left tackle. Santa likes a team that makes the most of what they have. The Chargers have no stars apart from WR *Michael Thomas* and guy who hasn't played a game in three weeks named *Carson Wentz*. Yes, the franchise QB has struggled at times; but who wouldn't when forced to air it out with a guy named *Bobbie Massie* protecting the blind side?

TORONTO – What to give a first-place team with more holes in its roster than a block of Swiss cheese? Nothing. Something magical, bordering on destiny, is happening in Toronto. Why would Santa want to screw that up by adding a foreign substance to the delicate, alchemically stable mix of rejects and superstars that have somehow managed to turn *Jay Cutler* into pure gold?

TWIN CITIES – A hyperbaric chamber for *Carson Palmer*. The Quarterback of the Now does not have many good throws left in his arm. Those few that he has need to be preserved for the anticipated Triumph playoff run. Back-up *Mitch Trubisky* is at least a year away from being a reliable starter and the notion of *CJ Beathard* under the playoff spotlight is enough to make *Guy Williams* shudder.

VIRDEN – *The Golden Apples of the Hesperides*. Hera had a hundred-headed dragon guarding the golden apples for a reason – the apples could bestow health, eternal youth and immortality. Health, if not necessarily youth and immortality, is what the Violators need most just about every year. Whatever is causing Virden's chronic injury woes, golden apples will cure. What do you think Santa eats?

YORK – *Warren Sapp 2.0*. Fans in York may criticize Santa for not giving *Tom Brady* a wide receiver for Christmas. Well, screw them! If he likes his great QB, let *Jay Hammond* pore over scouting reports looking for the next *Victor Cruz*. The Swords' defence is pretty good, but it could be great with a big, fat guy with speed and strength clogging up and blowing apart the middle of the trench.

SEABISCUIT II

Imagine a sequel to the Academy Award-winning equestrian sports film in which *Seabiscuit*, in his final race, falls to dead last and is actually lapped by the lead horse ridden by his villainous jockey, *Thomas Jonas*. *Seabiscuit* gets a good look at the mocking snout of the lead horse, *Admiral Hawk*, and takes off in fury. Impossibly, Seabiscuit defies all probability to gain a lap and draw almost neck and neck with *Admiral Hawk* as they approach the finish line. But as *Seabiscuit* is about to overtake *Admiral Hawk*, he stumbles and throws his jockey, *Charles Howard* onto the track to be trampled by the pack behind. A Hollywood plot without a Hollywood ending.

Now, imagine that *Rich Liotta* was Charles Howard and that *Seabiscuit* was his team, the Mustangs, and you have, in the above plot summary, the essence of Aurora's 30-28 loss at Brooklin. It is rare that a losing team draws more attention, even admiration, for losing than the winning team for winning; but media and fans are buzzing about the Mustangs' near-miraculous comeback in a Week 12 loss. On the flip side, the Hawks are drawing a measure of scorn for coming within seconds of an epic 4th quarter collapse.

With 3:26 left in the 3rd quarter at Optimist Park in Brooklin, the Hawks appeared to have the game under wraps. *Cody Parkey* had just kicked a 31-yard field goal to give *Tom Jones'* squad a 24-0 lead over a discombobulated Mustangs teams that looked thoroughly beaten. Brooklin defensive lineman, *Gerald McCoy*, who had already notched a sack in the game, and linebacker *Clay Matthews* bounced up and down on the sideline, beckoning their teammates on defence to join them in a sack dance as the special teams took the field for the kickoff. "We're warming up," McCoy could be heard boasting as his colleagues laughed.

On the other sideline, *Rich Liotta* seethed. The normally reserved Aurora head coach had already lost his temper once that day. In an uncharacteristic display of frustration, Liotta had thrown the challenge flag at an official after what he had claimed was a missed blow to the head levelled at *Matt Ryan* by McCoy on a 4th & inches sack at mid-field. The hit had knocked the ball loose and the Hawks had taken over at the Aurora 47, ending a promising 2nd quarter drive with the Mustangs already trailing 21-0. Setting aside

the intemperance of calling a play-action pass when half a foot was needed, Liotta had had reason to be angry. McCoy had clearly swatted Ryan in the helmet before taking him down by the neck. On another day, it might have been called. But not this day.

“Matt, get over here!” he barked as Ryan pulled his helmet onto his head and, shoulders slouched, cautiously approached his coach. “Look at them! They want your head! The way you’ve been playing they’re going to get it! So, pick it up, for crissakes! Remember, you’re the champ, man!”

Those words, delivered in an unheard-of way by his coach, must have lit a fire in Ryan’s heart, because he was a different quarterback in the 4th quarter than he had been all day. After running back, **Wayne Gallman** set the pace with 51 yards on 9 carries, Ryan completed a 4th & 9 strike to **Dez Bryant** for a 14-yard TD pass. A short cross to **Davante Adams** converted the two-pointer and the Hawks’ lead was reduced to 16 points.

An onside kick attempt went to the Hawks but the Mustangs’ defence was determined to make a stand. Inspired by the first sign of life from the offence, linebacker **NaVorro Bowman** stripped the ball from **Matt Breida** on the first play from scrimmage, picked it up on one bounce and ran 59 yards for a TD. The two-pointer was missed but the Hawks lead was now trimmed to 24-14.

Then the unthinkable happened. Mustangs’ special teamer **Jeff Janis** came up with the ball at the end of a scramble on Aurora’s second onside kick attempt. The thrill of the recovery spilled over into a 9-play, 53-yard drive that ended with **Kenyan Drake** busting across the goal line from 3 yards out. **Wil Lutz** made the extra point and suddenly the Hawks were clinging to a 24-21 lead with all of 6:52 remaining in the 4th quarter. The crowd at Optimist Park was stunned momentarily into silence before a faint smattering of boos could be heard. McCoy and the rest of the Brooklin defence were no longer dancing.

The momentum shift was real and coach Liotta looked to take advantage. He ordered his third onside kick in a row. That, in retrospect, may have cost him the game. The kick was recovered by Hawks’ reserve tackle **Julie’n Davenport**, setting up Brooklin at the Mustangs’ 45. On the next play, veteran running back, **Jonathan Stewart** took advantage of a two-man defensive front and a crushing block by **Andrew Whitworth** to peel off a 35-yard run to the Aurora 10. Three plays later, **Alex Smith** slung a 1-yard hitch to **DeAndre Hopkins** for his 3rd TD catch of the day to make it 30-24. But Parkey’s extra point attempt hit the upright, holding the lead to 9 and setting up a dramatic finish. The Mustangs took over at their 14 after a short return with 4:14 left.

With the crowd fired up once more, Ryan quieted them down with two clutch third down completions. Then the visitors caught a big break when reserve cornerback **Robert McClain** hauled down intended receiver **Tyrell Williams** on a bomb incomplete at the Brooklin 21-yard line for a 40-yard pass interference penalty. Two plays later, Adams settled in a soft spot in the zone and turned a medium hitch into a 19-yard touchdown. The score was now 30-28 for Brooklin with 1:50 left in the game.

It was officially nervous time in Brooklin. The Hawks and their fans were rattled and the Mustangs were pumped up. But when Hopkins made a nice play to snare Lutz’ fourth straight onside kick attempt, the atmosphere settled down. The crowd was aware that, with 2 timeouts left for Aurora, a first down could be enough to end the game in their favour. They got that first down on the first play, a 10-yard pass to **Randall Cobb**. The Mustangs called timeout with 1:33 left; they had one remaining. If the Mustangs somehow managed to get the ball back, it would be with almost no time left on the clock. Stewart was stoned for no gain on 1st and 10, forcing Aurora to call their final timeout with 1:20 left. The game would be over in two plays once the Hawks knelt down and held the ball.

But to the bafflement of the crowd and the announcers, the Hawks ran a sweep to the left with Stewart on the next play. With the entire Mustangs’ defence converging on him, Stewart was lassoed 5 yards behind the line. As he fell backwards the ball was punched out by a charging Bowman. When the officials uncovered the pile, it was Mustangs’ lineman **Denico Autry** who had the ball. Against all odds, Aurora was alive and well at their own 45 with 1:15 remaining in the game, trailing by just 2 points.

“And I don’t believe it! The Mustangs have recovered the football!” screamed the CBS play-by-play announcer, **Bill Mimes**. “And the crowd here in Brooklin is staring on in disbelief!”

“They aren’t the only ones, Bill,” colour commentator, **Phil Mimms** added. “This has been an absolute meltdown by the Hawks. And I mean by everybody, including the coaches. Why you would run a sweep like that when your opponent is out of timeouts is beyond me!”

As the teams switched platoons for the final series the stunned crowd was too shocked to indulge in a round of boos. Nor could a majority muster up the spirit to chant ‘*D-Fence!*’ A few catcalls and scattered diehards trying to whoop up enthusiasm in the demoralized crowd was all that could be heard from the stands as Ryan settled under center with a chance to win the game.

Ryan completed 3 of his first 4 pass attempts for a combined 27 yards to the Brooklin 28. There was 0:33 left and the Mustangs were already in field goal position. Brooklin needed a big play, but nobody was expecting one. It felt like destiny that the Hawks would be the first team in EFL history to surrender 31 points in the 4th quarter and blow a 24-point lead in the process.

Ryan hurried to the line and stood under center, shouting the signals. **Clay Matthews** hovered near the line growling, ready to blitz. We may never know whether the Hawks’ linebacker (who had already sacked Ryan once) managed, through his barbarian demeanour, to distract Ryan just enough to throw off his concentration, or if the thrill of the moment got the better of him. Whatever the reason, Ryan failed to secure the snap on the next play and the ball came loose. He jumped on it immediately as a pile of linemen fell upon him. A mad scramble ensued to retrieve the ball, place it at the line of scrimmage, and get **Wil Lutz** onto the field in time to attempt a 47-yard kick.

The Mustangs special teams raced onto the field as the offence raced off, banging into each other as they ran. The Hawks

kept their dime defence in place to avoid any possible infraction or a quick snap. The field was a madhouse.

“And the Mustangs are sending their field goal unit out,” **Bill Mimes** observed.

“They’re going to have to hurry, Bill,” **Phil Mimms** cautioned. “It took the officials time to uncover that pile.”

“And Lutz is on the field with the holder, Sam Koch...they’re lining up!” Mimes rattled on.

“They don’t have seven men on the line!” Mimms exclaimed. “Koch is motioning Goedert to get on the line.”

“Five...four...three...two...they’re set!” cried Mimes. “No...they won’t get the play off! They couldn’t get the play off! The Hawks are going to escape with a 30-28 victory in one of the craziest finishes I have ever seen, Phil!”

“That is just unbelievable!” declared Mimms. “I don’t have any words for this fourth quarter. I can tell you this, though: neither team and neither coach is going to be happy with their performances today. It is hard to believe that we just watched two of the top professional football teams around put on a crazy display like this!”

Both coaches came under fire for key decisions. Liotta was asked if he got greedy attempting that third straight onside kick that led to the eventual game-winning touchdown by Brooklin:

“That’s not how I look at that decision,” Liotta replied. “I thought we had a good shot to get it back and if we didn’t our defence would hold them. Stewart made a play on us. He’s a great player who made a great play. I have to say this, though: I am proud of our players for not giving up. We just ran out of time at the end.”

Tom Jones, who had prepared his team with a great game plan and had seen it executed through the first three quarters, was forced to endure a bombardment of criticism during the press conference and later in the local and national media that his team had crumbled under pressure and that he had almost cost them the game with his play calling on their last possession:

“You know guys, math was not my strong suit in school,” Jones confessed. “I lost track of their timeouts and, in the moment, I thought they had more time than they had. That’s not an excuse, that’s simply an explanation. As far as my team, they know they have to finish better than they did; but give the Mustangs credit – they turned it on at the end and made plays.”

Although his counterpart, **Alex Smith** finished with 275 passing yards 3 touchdown passes, **Matt Ryan** was the focus of attention after the game. His poor start and his fateful fumble at the end were overshadowed by fans’ and pundits’ admiration for the amazing determination he showed in leading three touchdown drives in the final quarter to put his team in a position to win a game that many viewers had turned away from by the end of the third quarter.

“That is why Matt Ryan has two Championship rings!” declared ESPN’s **Russ Flont**. “The guy’s a champion even in defeat. His teammates and his fans love him. When he’s all done in this league, he may be the greatest quarterback of all time.”

I personally found it refreshing that a game between two top teams ended in such frenetic chaos. It is a sign that parity is real. When the stakes get higher in the playoffs this season, expect more of the same.

AROUND THE EFL

In another year when kickers are collectively struggling with accuracy, hitting on just 66.2% of all field goal attempts, the field goal took on magnified importance in Week Twelve. Five games were decided by a field goal on the winning team’s final possession – three of those kicks were in overtime:

At Stone Pony Shore in New Jersey, **Chandler Cantanzaro** – the least efficient kicker in the league with a 47.8% success rate – hit it true from 33 yards away with no time left to lift Bruxelles over the fading Wrecking Balls, 24-22. Less than 2 minutes earlier, New Jersey’s **Chris Boswell** had put his team in front with a 20-yard chip shot, but had missed two earlier attempts from 44 and 39 yards out. Boswell’s unimpressive 60.9% success rate is one of the reasons the Wrecking Balls are struggling this year.

As light snow fell at New Era Stadium in Buffalo, **Steven Hauschka** grazed the inside of the right upright from 43 yards with no time on the clock in overtime to get the Chargers back on track against the Derailers for a 16-13 win. Hauschka, who leads the league in field goals made and attempted, missed four attempts earlier in the game, including one from 27 yards out and another, in overtime, from 38 yards. His troubles dropped his season average to a mediocre 71.9%, still well above the league average.

At Wilhalla Stadium in Twin Cities, **Dustin Hopkins** made good from 24 yards with 2:24 remaining in the 4th quarter to put the Triumph in front to stay, 27-24 over Chino. Although it was from less distance than an extra point these days, it was still a nervous situation for Triumph fans and Coach **Guy Williams** as Hopkins had missed earlier from 29 yards. He would miss again with 1:28 left from 43 yards. Hopkins’ season average of 66.7% is almost amateurish, but in line with the league average.

At Kelly-Burke Field in Erieau, **Josh Lambo** put an end to the Lilliputian struggle between the Pilots and the Cadillac with a 37-yard boot at the 5:35 mark of overtime to boost Seattle to a 26-23 victory. Lambo made 4 out of 5 field goal attempts while his counterpart, **Stephen Gostkowski** made all three of his attempts to buck the two-out-of-three trend that has plagued the league in 2018. Gostkowski, a career 83% kicker, is hitting on just 66.7% of his attempts this year.

At Joe Ferguson Stadium in Iowa City, the much-abused **Justin Tucker** finished off a laborious 13-10 Cubs’ victory over Virden with a 52-yard field goal as time expired in overtime. Tucker, the highest paid kicker in the league, missed two field goals earlier and has made good on just 65.4% of his attempts this year. If it is any consolation to a frustrated **Deron Redding**, Tucker has made 6 field goals from 50 yards or more, second in the league behind Gostkowski’s 8.

Something is affecting the kickers. They are performing at their lowest success rate in the history of the league at a statistically significant differential. Don’t worry, readers. Spats is on the case and will bring you an investigative report in the near future. In the mean time, have a happy and safe holiday season. *Merry Christmas!*

BUG THE BOOKIE!

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

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RECORD VS THE SPREAD AFTER WEEK 12:

83-56-5

PLAYOFF PICTURE AT A GLANCE

PACIFIC CONFERENCE

EAST

IN	ALIVE	OUT
1	3	
W		

CENTRAL

IN	ALIVE	OUT
2	1	
	2	
	6	

WEST

IN	ALIVE	OUT
3	4	
W	5	

ATLANTIC CONFERENCE

NORTH

IN	ALIVE	OUT
2	6	
W		

COASTAL

IN	ALIVE	OUT
3	3	
W	4	

SOUTH

IN	ALIVE	OUT
1	1	
	2	
	5	

Jimmy's WEEK THIRTEEN PICKS

GAMES TO WATCH

BRUXELLES @ VIRDEN (line – BOMBERS by 2)

INJURIES: **Bruxelles** – Chris Thompson (OUT), Chris Conley (OUT), Tavon Wilson (OUT), E.J. Gaines (OUT), Jason Verrett (IR); **Virden** – John Kuhn (QUESTIONABLE), Noah Spence (OUT), Eric Berry (OUT), Ezekiel Elliott (OUT), Marshall Yanda (OUT), Neville Hewitt (OUT), Malik Hooker (OUT), Vontae Davis (IR).

Marcus Mariota is starting to flash the kind of magic that helped carry the Bombers to the brink of a championship last year, pulling a game-winning field goal drive out of his hat to beat New Jersey last week. The return of Mariota's gamesmanship comes not a moment too soon for the Bombers, who have a one-game edge in the crowded wild card race and are desperately chasing the Chargers for the East Division title at the same time. Virden is one of those teams Bruxelles has to stay in front of, so they cannot afford to fade on this, the third game of their three-game road trip. The Violators' defence is proving to be a tough nut to crack at the same time that the offence is proving to be as difficult to prod forward as a mule with Ezekiel Elliott out of action. Jamaal Charles does not have the stamina and Derek

Carr lacks the elite qualities necessary to carry the offence under the circumstances. I would not be surprised if the Virden D dug deep enough to keep the offence in the game for three quarters; it is the 4th quarter Virden fans should worry about. **PICK: BRUXELLES**

TWIN CITIES @ ST. CHARLES (line – TRIUMPH by 2)

INJURIES: **Twin Cities** – Kwon Alexander (DOUBTFUL), Montae Nicholson (DOUBTFUL), Phillip Gaines (OUT), Jake Fisher (OUT), Charles Clay (OUT), Tyler Eifert (IR). **St. Charles** – Will Hernandez (QUESTIONABLE), Zach Line (OUT), Sam Bradford (OUT).

No doubt the Chargers' locker room will have a blown-up picture of this line posted in the middle of the bulletin board. On its face, favouring the Triumph on the road appears to show a lack of respect for the ability of the no.1 seed in the conference to defend its own house. But, in reality, the line is a cold reaction to the possibility that the Jacoby Brissett experiment in St. Charles will continue, despite the Chargers picking up the win against Buffalo last week. Take away 1 of the 4 Buffalo turnovers and add one more defensive recovery of 4 quarterback fumbles, and the outcome could easily have been reversed. Brissett was sacked 11 times and although the Triumph, with their blitz-free game plan, will not come close to duplicating that feat, the danger posed by the Triumph ballhawks is much greater and will not require much more than a little pressure to turn the tide against the Charger offence. The Chargers' coach is bitterly disappointed in Carson Wentz, with some cause. But the "cure" could be deadlier than the disease. **PICK: TWIN CITIES**

GEORGIA @ AURORA (line – MUSTANGS by 5)

INJURIES: **Georgia** – Jimmy Smith (DOUBTFUL), Mike Daniels (OUT), Malcom Brown (OUT), Mike Iupati (OUT); **Aurora** – Zach Miller (QUESTIONABLE), Matt Slauson (QUESTIONABLE), Marcus Davenport (DOUBTFUL), Duane Brown (OUT).

For the second consecutive week Matt Ryan took on the air of a tragic hero in guiding powerful but fruitless 4th quarter comeback attempts in Aurora losses. Last week's 28-point last period effort, aided by two turnovers and a recovered onside kick, looked to be guided by Destiny until an anti-climactic fumbled snap scuttled a game-winning field goal attempt for Wil Lutz. The impressive near comeback took attention away from the three quarters of offensive ineptitude that preceded it. The Mustangs' offence has not been getting off to a good start over their mini two-game tumble. This week they will look to reverse that trend in a virtual must-win game at home against rival Georgia. The Mustangs are knocking on the door of a wild card berth, but would switch places with 2nd-in-line Georgia if they cannot hold off Big Ben. The Glads are not looking too threatening at the moment, victims of a three-game tailspin. Injuries to the defensive line and the doubtful return of Jimmy Smith at corner could make it a crash landing. **PICK: AURORA**

GAMES OF NOTE

SCARBOROUGH @ BROOKLIN (line – HAWKS by 14)

INJURIES: **Scarborough** – Jamison Crowder (QUESTIONABLE), TJ Yeldon (OUT), Dont'a Hightower (OUT), Pierre Garcon (OUT); **Brooklin** – Janoris Jenkins (QUESTIONABLE), Trai Turner (OUT), Vontaze Burfict (OUT), Stephon Tuitt, (OUT), Charles Johnson (OUT).

This would not be a noteworthy game if it weren't for the playoff implications for the Hawks and the recent signs of life from a Scarborough team already eliminated from the post-season. After holding off the Corn Kings in a major Week 12 upset and staying close in three losses prior to that, the Blue Eagles look to settle into a spoiler role as they play out the string. They can throw a wrench into the Brooklin playoff works if they can find a way to win. The return of Aaron Rodgers has steadied the offence and made it competitive, although it remains less than explosive. DeSean Jackson is averaging 7.5 yards-per-catch and the team's season long pass play remains the 42-yarder that Pierre Garcon ripped off in Week Two. The Blue Eagles will have to compensate for their lack of quick-strike capacity with a sound defensive effort against the league's top-ranked offence. If they can slow down DeAndre Hopkins, they can manage the bleeding then aim to win the ball possession battle. If it is close in the 4th, you never know. **PICK: SCARBOROUGH**

IOWA CITY @ SEATTLE (line – CUBS by 2)

INJURIES: **Iowa City** – None; **Seattle** – Connor Williams (PROBABLE), Brian O'Neill (QUESTIONABLE), Uchenna Nwosu (QUESTIONABLE), Larry Ogunjobi (DOUBTFUL), Allen Hurns (OUT).

It is only a matter of time before the Pilots land short of the playoff runway, but for now they are still aloft, albeit at low altitude. The interesting aspect to this game is the potential damage to the Cubs should they lose and draw even with the Convicts. With a nasty five-team brawl developing for the two Pacific wild card spots, the safest route to the post-season is to hold on to the division. But Seattle seems to have the Cubs' number and they are at home, coming off two straight wins on the road. The offence put up over 450 yards last week against a respectable Cadillac defence. The downside is that they gave up 23 points to a team averaging just 12.5 points per game.

While the Cubs have struggled to move the ball and can thank their defence for the score that beat Virden last week, they have enough punch to knock out Seattle if their defence can hold fast. Can Seattle make it two-in-a-row over the Cubbies? Nah! **PICK: IOWA CITY**

LOS ANGELES @ CHINO (line – CONVICTS by 10)

INJURIES: Los Angeles – Weston Richburg (PROBABLE), Vernon Hargreaves III (QUESTIONABLE), Sean Lee (OUT); Chino – Zach Fulton (OUT), Ryan Shazier (OUT), Henry Anderson (OUT).

Sometimes I think it is a computer program coming up with these lines, because any human observer could tell you the Convicts are on their heels after three straight losses. They don't match up well against LA either, having dropped their season-opener to them – a game in which the Knights humbled Dak Prescott and controlled the time of possession. Chino is also missing their best defensive player in Ryan Shazier, a tackling machine with 4 interceptions. Despite this, they deserve to be the favourite, just not double-digit favourites. The Knights were on a three-game roll before getting unhorsed by the Pats last week. They know they are living on borrowed time, but that hasn't stopped Jeff Dohrn's teams from playing hard. Expect this game to be closer than the computer thinks. **PICK: LOS ANGELES**

PICKERING @ COWTOWN (line – CORN KINGS by 7)

INJURIES: Pickering – Ronald Leary (OUT), Cameron Fleming (OUT), Dion Jordan (OUT), Ty Montgomery (OUT); Cowtown – Nick Martin (QUESTIONABLE), Roquan Smith (DOUBTFUL), Aqib Talib (OUT).

At the mid-way point, I thought the Corn Kings were the class of the Atlantic Conference. But their failure to prevail in consecutive weeks against teams with a total of 6 wins between them has caused me to place them back where I thought they were at the start of the season. Their failure to put a death grip on the North Division when they had the chance could come back to haunt them if they don't find their moxie against Pickering, a team that got its moxie ripped out and stomped on in a shutout loss to Toronto last week. Nobody saw that ass-whopping coming but the Spartans have been nothing if not compulsively unpredictable this year. Logic dictates their offence should rebound here against a Corn Kings' defence that has looked shaky recently and will be labouring under the loss of two key defenders. While 'Logic' and 'Pickering' are antonymous, it is hard to imagine Philip Rivers having a worse game than he did in Toronto. If the Spartans are firing on all cylinders, expect this to be a shootout. On the other hand, don't expect anything. **PICK: PICKERING**

YORK @ SEBASTIAN (line – SWORDFISH by 6)

INJURIES: York – Danny Amendola (QUESTIONABLE), Nick Chubb (OUT), Denzelle Good (OUT), William Hayes (OUT); Sebastian – Menelik Watson (QUESTIONABLE), D'Onta Foreman (OUT), Arik Armstead (OUT), Darren Sproles (OUT).

The Fish are riding the crest of a wave and are back on top of the North Division after winning three-in-a-row. They will remain in front of rival Cowtown and also knock an out-of-division challenger down a peg if they can stay the course being set by the blazing hot Drew Brees. The future hall-of-famer has hurled 12 TD passes to just one interception in his past three games, throwing previously overshadowed wide receiver Jermaine Kearse under the spotlight with 5 of those scoring strikes. With the offence back on track and the defence steady as always, the Swordfish are looking like the class of the conference at the moment. But appearances are more often than not deceiving in the season of parity that is 2018. York has the make-up as a team to net the Swordfish. They need a strong performance from Tom Brady, who snapped a three-game losing streak with a 3-TD outing against Georgia last week. The Swordfish will be a greater challenge, but one Brady can overcome if he elevates his play the same level as his ego. But while the York QB needs to be solid, the defence holds the hammer. Stars like Von Miller and the two ball-hawking safeties are poised bring Brees down to earth. **PICK: YORK**

HOLIDAY LEFTOVERS

DURHAM @ BUDAPEST (line – NORTH STARS by 9)

INJURIES: Durham – Terron Armstead (OUT), Josh Gordon (OUT), Ryan Kelly (OUT), Ken Crawley (OUT), Ronald Blair III (OUT); Budapest – Minkah Fitzpatrick (QUESTIONABLE), Jordan Reed (DOUBTFUL), Chris Hogan (OUT).

While Durham remains technically in the hunt for a wild card spot, one can already feel the trembling of an impending landslide well before the coin toss. The Thunder Lizards have no viable option at quarterback, with Cam Newton reportedly relegated to a back-up role and Josh Allen as green as the newly legalized weed in Canada. That spells real trouble against a North Stars' defence that slipped up at Cincinnati last week but is typically dominant at home. The Lizards' principal hope for an upset lies in the play of their defence against the always uncertain, but never to be totally discounted, Tyrod Taylor. The much-criticized running quarterback of the North Stars attempted two passes that traveled more than 20 yards in the air last week, completing one of them for a touchdown. This shows that he can be more than an alternate running back with benefits. Durham's losing streak stands at 8 games and counting, however. Hope is nothing more than an analytical concept, able to be discarded as a factor when the players have lost theirs. **PICK: BUDAPEST**

ERIEAU @ NEW JERSEY (line – WRECKING BALLS by 6)

INJURIES: Erieau – Hunter Henry (OUT), Jared Veldheer (OUT), Tyron Smith (OUT); **New Jersey** – Ted Ginn Jr (QUESTIONABLE), Chidobe Awuzie (DOUBTFUL), Kentrell Brice (OUT), Rick Wagner (OUT), Jeremy Kerley (OUT).

The Wrecking Ball faithful deserve a fan award for sticking with their team after another heart-breaking loss. Chris Boswell isn't signing many autographs in Jersey lately after missing two makeable field goal attempts last week to lower his league-worst field goal percentage to 60.9%. With the Wrecking Balls rarely blowing opponents away, missed field goals have taken their toll on the bottom line. On the darker side of misery, the Cadillac wasted what was, for them, a great offensive effort in their loss to Seattle last week. They remain alive, but only in the clinical sense. Stranger things have happened, but don't expect Erieau's playoff prospects to survive another week – win or lose here. New Jersey can prolong their agony with a win. They will actually revel in it when they do. **PICK: NEW JERSEY**

TORONTO @ CINCINNATI (line – WOLVERINES by 3)

INJURIES: Toronto – Ryan Hewitt (OUT), Ryan Griffin (OUT); **Cincinnati** – PJ Hall (DOUBTFUL), Ricardo Allen (OUT), Christian Covington (OUT).

Win or lose, Kirk Cousins has been carrying the Crusaders on his back since the season's halfway point. But this week he may need to step back a bit against what is, by far, the top pass defence in the league. The Wolverines have held opposing quarterbacks to a collective 45.2 passer rating and lead the league in interceptions with 21. There is a message in those numbers that offensive coordinators ignore at their peril. But the lack of a no.1 running back in Cincinnati dictates that Cousins will have to step up at some point. His success, or lack thereof, will depend on how well the RB Committee can establish the run against a Toronto D that has struggled in that area, but is capable of making plays in the clutch. On the other side, the Toronto offence is like a snake in the grass – invisible most of the time until it suddenly strikes. It's hard to bet against the track record, but "parity" dictates Toronto is due for a fall. **PICK: CINCINNATI**

BUFFALO @ CHARLESWOOD (line – PATRIOTS by 8)

INJURIES: Buffalo – Jaquiski Tarrt (QUESTIONABLE), Jordan Hicks (DOUBTFUL), Josh Rosen (OUT), Briean Boddy-Calhoun (OUT), Aaron Donald (OUT), Whitey Mercilus (OUT); **Charleswood** – Marcus Cannon (PROBABLE), Danny Shelton (OUT), Jamarco Jones (OUT), Nazair Jones (OUT).

The return of DeShaun Watson at quarterback has resulted in more consistent offensive output and a much more intense effort from the Pats' defence, since conserving energy between three-and-outs is no longer a priority. This has created the conditions in Charleswood for a powerful late-season push. While catching Twin Cities in the Central Division will be a severe test, the Pats have to be regarded as one of the stronger candidates for a wild card berth. The Derailers are about to be derailed in their playoff hunt with the injuries to Josh Rosen and Aaron Donald all but guaranteeing a feeble effort here. Take the points and sleep well. **PICK: CHARLESWOOD**



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PRESENTS
This Week in EFL History
With Professor Sterling Smitherman

FROM THE EFL ARCHIVES – In Week Twelve of the 2012 EFL Season the front-runners in the league's four divisions all won. But with one quarter of the season left to play and three teams sporting 11-1 records, amazingly no team had yet clinched a post-season berth, let alone a division title. That was due to the fact that each division had at least one team still within striking distance of the top. It would be difficult for any single one to falter and it would take a miracle to knock all three top teams out of the post-season hunt, but in theory it was possible. The rest of the

league, however, continued to flounder and provide fodder for the 8 teams leading the race.

In the almost exclusively lop-sided Week 12 match-ups, it was the Triumph who provided rare excitement by pushing the powerful Blue Eagles to the wall. Twin Cities benefitted from two pick-sixes and two TD passes from **Tim Tebow** to stay close in a 31-28 loss. In the end, the Triumph defence had no answer for **Ray Rice**, who gained 181 total yards and ran for a TD to lead the Scarborough attack.

In the hyped-up "Game of the Week" the Corn Kings made a contentious move by benching **Joe Flacco** in favour of **Matt Moore** to take on division-leading Durham. The move backfired. The Thunder Lizards got the better of Joe's back-up, picking him off twice, sacking him 4 times and forcing a fumble in a decisive 34-14 win. **Matt Schaub** grabbed player of the week honours with 4 TD passes to no interceptions. This in spite of Death Valley's **Drew Brees** throwing 7 TD passes in a 55-10 rout of Commonwealth. With 58 TD passes on the year, the Affiliated Press writers who vote for such honours were simply tired of voting for Brees every week. Plus, it came against the Colonials, hardly a great accomplishment!