

2019



WEEK

8



EFL

ELITE FOOTBALL LEAGUE

2019



WEEK

8

In our 13th season and still going strong!

November 24, 2019

EAST



NORTH



CENTRAL



COASTAL



WEST



SOUTH



COMEBACK WRECKED!



Marcus Gilchrist

Keenan Allen

Peg City WR, *Keenan Allen* falls to the turf in the end zone and reaches out for an errant throw by *Kirk Cousins* as New Jersey DB, *Marcus Gilchrist* sticks to him like glue. This all-or-nothing missed 2-point conversion attempt was the difference between winning and losing, as the Wrecking Balls survived a late Crusader rally to win, 34-33.



Who was slick in Week Eight?

“Brylcreem” THE EFL’S FIRST SPONSOR



Carson Wentz
QB
St. Charles
Chargers

29 of 37, 344 yards, 5 TDs. On the money when it mattered vs Virden.



Darron Lee
ILB
Twin Cities
Triumph

2 T, 1 PD, 2 INT (TD). 50-yard pick-six got rout rolling. 2nd pick finished it.



OFFENSIVE PLAY OF THE WEEK

2ND & 10, OPP 24, 0:20 in 4th Qrt, **Carson Wentz** (STC) throws game-winning TD to **Travis Benjamin**.



GAME CENTER 2019 Week Eight


GAME BLITZ!

By Chris Sherman



DEFENSIVE PLAY OF THE WEEK

2ND & 10, OWN 25, 3rd Qrt. **Johnathan Joseph** (NJ), picks off **Kirk Cousins** (PCC) for 41-yard pick-six.

	38	Carson Wentz went 11 of 15 for 122 yards and 3 TDs in the final quarter to lead the Chargers to a stunning victory. St. Charles trailed 21-16 heading into the 4 th but took the lead on Michael Thomas' 2 nd of 3 TD catches. The lead switched hands four more times in the 4 th , with Ezekiel Elliott putting Virden in front with 2:29 left. Wentz then drove the field, hitting Travis Benjamin for a 24-yard TD with 0:10 left for his 5 th TD pass and the win.
	35	
	14	The Buffalo 'D' forced 5 punts, generated two turnovers and thwarted a 4 th down conversion attempt in shutting out the Pats through 3 quarters. Andrew Luck threw a TD pass and scrambled 11 yards for another to help build a 17-0 lead heading into the 4 th . DeShaun Watson connected with DK Metcalf for 2 TDs in the 4 th to make it close, but the Derailers ran out the final 1:40 to clinch it.
	20	
	38	After a static 1 st quarter with no points, the Triumph 'D' broke through with a 50-yard pick-six of Marcus Mariota by Darron Lee. The Bombers replied with a TD on an Emmanuel Sanders jet sweep, but Darius Slay forced a Travis Kelce fumble to set up a TD pass to Gordon and a 17-7 TC lead. The Triumph broke it open in the 3 rd with 3 TD runs, 2 by Mitch Trubisky, to ride a 38-7 lead into the 4 th .
	28	
	34	Sparked by 6 runs of 10 yards or more by Chris Carson, the Crusaders scored on 4 of their 5 first half possessions to take a 20-10 lead into halftime. But in the 3 rd , the Balls scored 3 TDs in a 4-minute span, including a 41-yard pick-six by Johnathan Joseph, and added a FG in the 4 th to lead 34-20. But Kirk Cousins led 2 late TD drives to pull within an extra point. They went for 2 points and the win but missed, allowing NJ to escape with the 'W'.
	33	
	33	Dak Prescott broke up a punting duel with a 10-yard TD pass to Larry Fitzgerald then Jamal Agnew fumbled the ensuing kickoff return to set up a 28-yard TD pass to Christian McCaffery for a 14-0 Chino lead. Seattle got on the board with a 24-yard TD pass from Eli Manning to Keelan Cole, but Chino kept the pressure with Prescott running and passing for TDs to build a 30-13 lead that the Pilots could not overcome.
	27	
	31	Ryan Tannehill and Lamar Jackson each threw a TD pass to give the Knights a 16-14 lead at halftime. Joe Mixon's 37-yard run set up his own 1-yard TD in the 3 rd , but Tannehill found CJ Uzomah from 23 yards to make it 23-16, LA. The Cubs rallied; Russell Wilson hit AJ Brown for his 2 nd TD of the game and Justin Tucker added a FG to make it 31-23, Cubs. LA rallied with a 94-yard TD drive but missed the 2-point convert.
	29	
	35	The Swordfish scored TDs on each of their first four possessions, starting with an 81-yard TD pass from Drew Brees to Odell Beckham Jr and ending with a 1-yard Damien Williams run, to take a 28-0 lead into halftime. Andy Dalton rallied the Lizards in the 2 nd half, throwing 3 TD passes and running for another to pull within a TD. But Dalton fell short as he was picked off at the Sebastian 20 by Tre Boston with 0:22 left.
	28	
	27	Despite throwing a 2 nd quarter interception, rookie Drew Lock looked stronger in his second start, converting 4 3 rd downs in guiding the Blue Eagles to a 13-7 half time lead. Cowtown's offence finally got on track mid-way in the 3 rd when Trey Burton took a flat pass 23 yards to the 7 and Todd Gurley ran it in from there to take a 14-13 lead. Ryan Kerrigan and TJ Watt combined for 5 sacks to keep the Eagles down.
	13	
	24	Leading 21-14 with 1:31 left in the 4 th , Toronto had a shot to put the game away but Adam Vinatieri missed the 36-yard FG attempt. With no timeouts, Tom Brady tied it with 0:37 left on a 49-yard pass to Mike Williams. In OT, both teams possessed the ball twice, but Graham Gano got the last shot and made the kick from 37 yards for the win. Aaron Rodgers threw 3 TD passes in the losing effort.
	21	
	14	Both QBs came out throwing the ball and both threw TD passes to cap off their opening possessions. From there the Mustangs started to pull away with a 46-yard Wil Lutz FG followed by a 5-yard TD pass from Matt Ryan to Mason Rudolph. Derek Carr hit on a 45-yard hitch to DeAndre Hopkins to pull within 2, but the Hawks would not get closer. Aurora would string together the final 20 points to gallop away.
	36	
	27	Jimmy Smith picked off Baker Mayfield and returned it 32 yards to the Stars' 15, setting up a Ben Roethlisberger TD pass to Cole Beasley to give the Glads a 21-19 3 rd quarter lead. Brett Maher added a 55-yard FG, but Budapest regained the lead on an 18-yard TD pass to Sammy Watkins. But the 2-point convert failed, opening the door for a 44-yard FG by Maher with 0:09 left for the win.
	25	
	10	Vance McDonald caught a 33-yard TD after an opening pick by Denzel Ward and Miles Sanders carried the ball 7 times for 59 yards in an 8-play drive and scored from 6-yards out for the Spartans' 2 nd TD in the 1 st quarter. That score would stand as the Cadillac were unable to muster enough offence to catch up. The Erieau defence tightened up after that and scored the team's only TD on an Eric Redi pick-six.
	23	

CHARGERS**38**

PASSING: Carson Wentz, 29 of 37, 344 yds, 5 TDs, 0 INT
RUSHING: Dalvin Cook, 14C, 77yds, (5.5), 0 TD
RECEIVING: Michael Thomas, 11 for 156yds, 28LG, 3 TDs
DEFENCE: Marcus Williams, 6 T, 1 FF, 1 FR
KICKING: Steven Hauschka, 1 of 1 FGA, 3 of 4 XPA, 6 Pts

VIOLATORS**35**

PASSING: Patrick Mahomes, 23 of 32, 328 yds, 2 TDs, 0 INT
RUSHING: Ezekiel Elliott, 22C, 119yds, (5.4), 3 TDs
RECEIVING: Juju Smith-Schuster, 5 for 101yds, 71LG, 2 TDs
DEFENCE: Anthony Barr, 11 T, 1 SK
KICKING: Cairo Santos, 5 of 5 XPA, 0 of 1 FG, 5 Pts

11-22-2019 TERRORDOME Temp: 80 Wind: Calm None MVP: Carson Wentz

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2018 St. Charles (6-2)	7	3	6	22	38
2018 Virden (6-2)	7	7	7	14	35

1 14:37 Virden	TD Mahomes 71 pass to Smith-Schuster (Santos) (1-71-0:15)	0-7
1 7:37 St. Charles	TD Wentz 8 pass to Hardman (Hauschka) (13-75-7:00)	7-7
2 6:42 Virden	TD Elliott 4 run (Santos) (9-80-5:36)	7-14
2 0:00 St. Charles	FG Hauschka 37 (5--4-0:56)	10-14
3 7:03 Virden	TD Elliott 1 run (Santos) (6-64-3:15)	10-21
3 4:28 St. Charles	TD Wentz 28 pass to Thomas (no good) (6-75-2:35)	16-21
4 14:02 St. Charles	TD Wentz 8 pass to Thomas (2 - Cook) (7-90-3:10)	24-21
4 10:44 Virden	TD Mahomes 1 pass to Smith-Schuster (Santos) (8-75-3:18)	24-28
4 5:17 St. Charles	TD Wentz 14 pass to Thomas (Hauschka) (10-75-5:27)	31-28
4 2:29 Virden	TD Elliott 4 run (Santos) (5-66-2:43)	31-35
4 0:10 St. Charles	TD Wentz 24 pass to Benjamin (Hauschka) (10-75-2:19)	38-35

	STC	VV
First Downs	30	31
Rushes	26-123	26-211
Passes	37-29-344	32-23-328
Sacked	4-27	0-0
Fumble	0	1
Penalties	3-24	7-55
Turnovers	0	1
Missed Tackles	8	6
Blitzers	32	10
Time	32:40	27:20
Third Down	5-10	3-6
Fourth Down	0-1	1-1
Red Att/Td/Fg	4/3/1	5/4/0
Net Offense	440	539

PATRIOTS**14**

PASSING: DeShaun Watson, 20 of 34, 221 yds, 2 TDs, 1 INT
RUSHING: DeShaun Watson, 4C, 36yds, (9.0), 0 TD
RECEIVING: DK Metcalf, 7 for 133yds, 30LG, 2 TDs
DEFENCE: Derwin James, 2 T, 1 PD, 1 INT (22yds)
KICKING: Ryan Succop, 2 of 2 XP, 2 Pts

DERAILERS**20**

PASSING: Andrew Luck, 14 of 25, 126 yds, 1 TD, 1 INT
RUSHING: Tevin Coleman, 17C, 104 yds, (6.1), 0 TD
RECEIVING: Robert Woods, 7 for 48yds, 10LG, 1 TD
DEFENCE: Aaron Donald, 4 T, 1 SK, 2 STF, 1 HUR, 1 FF
KICKING: Jake Elliott, 2 of 2 XPA, 2 of 2 FG, 8 Pts

11-22-2019 New Era Stadium Temp: 41 Wind: 15-25 None MVP: Andrew Luck

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2018 Charleswood (4-4)	0	0	0	14	14
2018 Buffalo (3-5)	7	7	3	3	20

Scoring Summary

1 6:08 Buffalo	TD Luck 10 pass to Woods (Elliott,J) (6-37-3:09)	0-7
2 0:22 Buffalo	TD Luck 11 run (Elliott,J) (8-45-1:58)	0-14
3 3:36 Buffalo	FG Elliott 23 (11-62-5:57)	0-17
4 13:50 Charleswood	TD Watson 19 pass to Metcalf (Succop) (3-19-0:19)	7-17
4 10:44 Buffalo	FG Elliott 33 (6-46-2:58)	7-20
4 1:49 Charleswood	TD Watson 29 pass to Metcalf (Succop) (8-79-2:10)	14-20

	CHP	BUF
First Downs	18	16
Rushes	16-67	37-184
Passes	34-20-221	25-14-126
Sacked	5-31	0-0
Fumble	3	0
Penalties	9-57	6-60
Turnovers	2	1
Missed Tackles	1	3
Blitzers	3	37
Time	27:56	32:04
Third Down	3-12	3-13
Fourth Down	1-3	0-3
Red Att/Td/Fg	2/1/0	5/2/2
Net Offense	257	310

TRIUMPH**38**

PASSING: Mitch Trubisky, 19 of 25, 183 yds, 1 TD, 1 INT
RUSHING: Mitch Trubisky, 15C, 85yds, (5.7), 2 TDs
RECEIVING: Melvin Gordon, 8 for 49yds, 18LG, 1 TD
DEFENCE: Darron Lee, 2 T, 1 PD, 1 INT (50yds-TD, 34yds)
KICKING: Dustin Hopkins 1 of 2 FGA, 5 of 5 XPA, 8 Pts

BOMBERS**28**

PASSING: Marcus Mariota, 20 of 36, 238 yds, 2TDs, 2 INTs
RUSHING: Marlon Mack, 13C, 71yds, (5.5), 1 TD
RECEIVING: Travis Kelce, 5 for 69yds, 23LG, 1 TD
DEFENCE: Chris Jones, 7 T, 2 STF, 2 HUR
KICKING: Matt Prater, 4 of 4 XPA, 4 Pts

11-24-2019 The Fortress Temp: 77 Wind: MVP: Mitch Trubisky

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2018 Twin Cities (6-2)	0	17	21	0	38
2018 Bruxelles (5-3)	0	7	0	21	28

Scoring Summary

2 8:52 Twin Cities	FG Hopkins 26 (17-75-7:09)	3-0
2 6:12 Twin Cities	TD Lee 50 interception return (Hopkins)	10-0
2 1:48 Bruxelles	TD Sanders 17 run (Prater) (8-75-4:24)	10-7
2 0:08 Twin Cities	TD Trubisky 10 pass to Gordon III (Hopkins) (3-11-0:18)	17-7
3 10:59 Twin Cities	TD Trubisky 2 run (Hopkins) (7-43-3:04)	24-7
3 5:04 Twin Cities	TD Trubisky 3 run (Hopkins) (8-87-4:19)	31-7
3 2:07 Twin Cities	TD Freeman 2 run (Hopkins) (6-67-2:04)	38-7
4 14:51 Bruxelles	TD Mariota 4 pass to Herndon (Prater) (6-65-2:09)	38-14
4 9:57 Bruxelles	TD Mack 3 run (Prater) (6-82-2:21)	38-21
4 8:28 Bruxelles	TD Mariota 23 pass to Kelce (Prater) (1-23-0:13)	38-28

	TCT	BRX
First Downs	24	20
Rushes	41-190	23-186
Passes	25-19-183	36-20-238
Sacked	0-0	3-21
Fumble	3	1
Penalties	5-33	10-90
Turnovers	1	3
Missed Tackles	12	7
Blitzers	4	36
Time	33:34	26:26
Third Down	4-14	5-11
Fourth Down	0-1	0-2
Red Att/Td/Fg	5/4/1	3/3/0
Net Offense	373	403

WRECKING BALL**34**

PASSING: Jared Goff, 19 of 31, 276 yds, 2 TDs, 0 INT
RUSHING: Jared Goff, 5C, 46yds, (9.2), 1 TD
RECEIVING: Jared Cook, 5 for 71yds, 31LG, 1 TD
DEFENCE: Johnathan Joseph, 8 T, 1 PD, 1 INT (41yds-TD)
KICKING: Brandon McManus, 2 of 3 FGA, 4 of 4 XPA, 10 Pts

CRUSADERS**33**

PASSING: Kirk Cousins, 18 of 29, 222 yds, 2 TDs, 1 INT
RUSHING: Chris Carson, 22C, 167yds, (7.6) 1 TD
RECEIVING: Corey Davis, 5 for 64yds, 24LG, 1 TD
DEFENCE: Luke Kuechly, 11 T
KICKING: Harrison Butker, 3 of 3 XPA, 2 of 2 FGA, 9 Pts

11-24-2019 True North Field Temp: 72 Wind: MVP: **Jared Goff**

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2018 New Jersey (4-4)	0	10	21	3	34
2018 Peg City (1-7)	6	14	0	13	33

Scoring Summary

1 10:27 Peg City	FG Butker 24 (10-69-4:29)	0-3
1 0:03 Peg City	FG Butker 29 (14-68-8:39)	0-6
2 12:32 New Jersey	TD Goff 31 pass to Cook (McManus) (5-75-2:34)	7-6
2 6:27 New Jersey	FG McManus 46 (6-42-1:47)	10-6
2 2:37 Peg City	TD Cousins 24 pass to Davis (Butker) (6-75-3:50)	10-13
2 0:24 Peg City	TD Cousins 5 pass to Sutton (Butker) (11-71-1:47)	10-20
3 7:07 New Jersey	TD Goff 9 run (McManus) (15-75-7:53)	17-20
3 6:53 New Jersey	TD Joseph 41 interception return (McManus)	24-20
3 3:09 New Jersey	TD Goff 49 pass to Cohen (McManus) (2-49-0:35)	31-20
4 13:19 New Jersey	FG McManus 44 (6-21-2:09)	34-20
4 11:19 Peg City	TD Jones 20 run (Butker) (5-75-2:00)	34-27
4 0:55 Peg City	TD Carson 6 run (2 - failed) (9-79-3:27)	34-33

	NJ	PCC
First Downs	20	30
Rushes	23-86	42-285
Passes	31-19-276	29-18-222
Sacked	0-0	1-6
Fumble	0	1
Penalties	6-51	6-38
Turnovers	0	1
Missed Tackles	13	4
Blitzers	19	9
Time	25:28	34:32
Third Down	3-10	4-10
Fourth Down	2-2	1-3
Red Att/Td/Fg	2/1/0	5/3/2
Net Offense	362	501

CONVICTS**33**

PASSING: Dak Prescott, 16 of 25, 231 yds, 3 TDs, 1 INT
RUSHING: Christian McCaffrey, 18C, 82yds, (4.6), 0 TD
RECEIVING: Larry Fitzgerald, 6 for 102yds, 43LG, 1 TD
DEFENCE: Kawann Short, 5 T, 1 SK, 2 STF, 1 HUR
KICKING: Sebastian Janikowski, 3 of 4 XPA, 2 of 2FGA, 9 Pts

PILOTS**27**

PASSING: Eli Manning, 17 of 22, 204 yds, 4 TDs, 0 INT
RUSHING: Kareem Hunt, 26C, 135yds, (5.2), 0 TD
RECEIVING: Keelan Cole, 5 for 82yds, 25LG, 1 TD
DEFENCE: Khalil Mack, 8 T, 1 INT (0yds)
KICKING: Josh Lambo, 3 of 4 XPA, 3 Pts

11-22-2019 Kingdome Temp: 70 Wind: MVP: **Dak Prescott**

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2018 Chino (5-3)	14	10	6	3	33
2018 Seattle (3-5)	0	13	0	14	27

Scoring Summary

1 1:12 Chino	TD Prescott 10 pass to Fitzgerald (Janikowski) (6-53-2:46)	7-0
1 0:51 Chino	TD Prescott 28 pass to McCaffrey (Janikowski) (1-28-0:14)	14-0
2 10:40 Chino	FG Janikowski 56 (8-21-3:14)	17-0
2 7:01 Seattle	TD Manning 20 pass to Cole (no good) (6-81-3:29)	17-6
2 2:55 Chino	TD Prescott 8 run (Janikowski) (8-69-3:57)	24-6
2 0:37 Seattle	TD Manning 1 pass to Williams (Lambo) (6-61-2:18)	24-13
3 7:14 Chino	TD Prescott 8 pass to Ingram (no good) (11-84-7:35)	30-13
4 14:52 Seattle	TD Manning 3 pass to Williams (Lambo) (5-38-2:52)	30-20
4 8:01 Chino	FG Janikowski 35 (12-58-6:47)	33-20
4 0:56 Seattle	TD Manning 15 pass to Hunt (Lambo) (14-75-7:05)	33-27

	CHI	SEA
First Downs	21	19
Rushes	34-140	26-135
Passes	25-16-231	22-17-204
Sacked	0-0	2-17
Fumble	1	1
Penalties	4-35	6-61
Turnovers	1	1
Missed Tackles	3	3
Runs 10+	3	5
Blitzers	6	6
Time	33:36	26:24
Third Down	5-11	4-9
Fourth Down	1-1	0-0
Red Att/Td/Fg	4/3/1	5/4/0
Net Offense	371	322

CUBS**31**

PASSING: Russell Wilson, 20 of 30, 285 yds, 2 TDs, 0 INT
RUSHING: Joe Mixon, 18C, 113yds, (6.3), 2 TDs
RECEIVING: AJ Brown, 6 for 107yds, 35LG, 2 TDs
DEFENCE: BJ Hill, 9 T, 2 SK, 1 FF
KICKING: Justin Tucker, 1 of 1 FGA, 4 of 4 XPA, 7 Pts

KNIGHTS**29**

PASSING: Ryan Tannehill, 21 of 27, 551 yds, 2 TDs, 0 INT
RUSHING: Peyton Barber, 10C, 54yds, (5.4), 0 TD
RECEIVING: Brandin Cooks, 8 for 84yds, 19LG, 1 TD
DEFENCE: Sean Lee, 10 T, 2 PD
KICKING: Ka'imi Fairbairn 2 of 3XPA, 1 of 1 FGA, 5 Pts

11-24-2019 Round Table Stadium Temp: 68 Wind: 0-5 None MVP: **Russell Wilson**

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2018 Iowa City (6-2)	0	14	7	10	31
2018 Los Angeles (3-5)	7	9	7	6	29

Scoring Summary

1 12:10 Los Angeles	TD Tannehill 17 pass to Parker (Fairbairn) (6-75-2:50)	0-7
2 13:58 Iowa City	TD Mixon 12 run (Tucker,J) (11-99-6:42)	7-7
2 9:20 Los Angeles	TD Jackson 19 pass to Cooks (no good) (8-66-4:28)	7-13
2 6:23 Iowa City	TD Wilson 11 pass to Brown (Tucker,J) (7-75-2:57)	14-13
2 1:10 Los Angeles	FG Fairbairn 27 (12-66-5:10)	14-16
3 7:05 Iowa City	TD Mixon 1 run (Tucker,J) (6-65-3:08)	21-16
3 3:04 Los Angeles	TD Tannehill 23 pass to Uzomah (Fairbairn) (8-75-4:01)	21-23
4 14:12 Iowa City	TD Wilson 10 pass to Brown (Tucker,J) (8-79-3:29)	28-23
4 5:51 Iowa City	FG Tucker 41 (9-62-5:06)	31-23
4 1:48 Los Angeles	TD Morris 11 run (2 - failed) (6-94-3:55)	31-29

	ICC	LAK
First Downs	27	24
Rushes	25-151	21-99
Passes	30-20-285	34-24-349
Sacked	0-0	3-12
Fumble	1	2
Penalties	6-39	6-48
Turnovers	0	0
Missed Tackles	6	10
Passes 25+	3	2
Runs 10+	5	4
Blitzers	17	7
Time	29:46	30:14
Third Down	2-6	6-10
Fourth Down	0-0	0-0
Red Att/Td/Fg	4/4/0	4/3/1
Net Offense	436	436

SWORDFISH



35

PASSING: Drew Brees, 12 of 18, 191 yds, 2TDs, 0 INT
RUSHING: Wendell Smallwood, 12C, 61yds, (5.1), 0 TD
RECEIVING: Odell Beckham Jr, 5 for 138ds, 81LG, 2 TDs
DEFENCE: Tre Boston, 6 T, 2 PD, 1 INT (7yds)
KICKING: Dan Bailey, 5 of 5 XPA, 5 Pts

T-LIZARDS



28

PASSING: Andy Dalton, 35 of 55, 392 yds, 3 TDs, 2 INTs
RUSHING: Alexander Mattison, 5C, 37yds, (7.4), 0 TD
RECEIVING: TY Hilton, 7 for 125yds, 27LG, 2 TDs
DEFENCE: Fred Warner, 9 T, 2 STF
KICKING: Daniel Carlson, 4 of 4 XPA, 4 Pts

11-24-2019 Jurassic Park Temp: 81 Wind: Calm None MVP: **Odell Beckham Jr.**

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2018 Sebastian (4-4)	14	14	7	0	35
2018 Durham (3-5)	0	0	7	21	28

Scoring Summary

1 9:20 Sebastian	TD Brees 81 pass to Beckham Jr. (Bailey,D) (2-97-1:04)	7-0
1 6:48 Sebastian	TD Brees 9 pass to Everett (Bailey,D) (2-9-0:11)	14-0
2 12:41 Sebastian	TD Williams 9 run (Bailey,D) (11-64-5:54)	21-0
2 3:00 Sebastian	TD Williams 1 run (Bailey,D) (10-57-5:31)	28-0
3 6:35 Durham	TD Dalton 18 pass to Hilton (Carlson,D) (11-86-3:10)	28-7
3 2:19 Sebastian	TD Winston 27 pass to Beckham Jr. (Bailey,D) (8-75-4:16)	35-7
4 11:54 Durham	TD Dalton 1 run (Carlson,D) (12-75-5:25)	35-14
4 10:42 Durham	TD Dalton 9 pass to Isabella (Carlson,D) (2-24-0:51)	35-21
4 3:38 Durham	TD Dalton 13 pass to Hilton (Carlson,D) (6-68-1:57)	35-28

	SS	DTL
First Downs	25	26
Rushes	33-149	9-36
Passes	28-18-266	55-35-392
Sacked	0-0	4-29
Fumble	2	1
Penalties	6-50	4-24
Turnovers	2	3
Missed Tackles	0	10
Runs 10+	3	1
Blitzers	18	26
Time	31:06	28:54
Third Down	3-9	5-11
Fourth Down	0-0	1-4
Red Att/Td/Fg	3/3/0	5/4/0
Net Offense	415	399

CORN KINGS



27

PASSING: Joe Flacco, 19 of 37, 286 yds, 1 TD, 1 INT
RUSHING: Todd Gurley, 21C, 145yds, (6.9), 2 TDs
RECEIVING: Mike Evans, 5 for 88yds, 27LG, 0 TD
DEFENCE: Ryan Kerrigan, 4 T, 3 SK
KICKING: Matt Bryant, 2 of 2 FGA, 3 of 3 XPA, 9 Pts

BLUE EAGLES



13

PASSING: Drew Lock, 17 of 32, 191 yds, 0 TD, 1 INT
RUSHING: Jordan Howard, 13C, 40yds, (8.0), 1 TD
RECEIVING: Allen Robinson II, 5 for 59yds, 20LG, 0 TD
DEFENCE: Deandre Baker, 7 T, 1 STF, 1 INT (35yds)
KICKING: Mason Crosby, 1 of 1 XPA, 2 of 2 FGA, 7 Pts

11-22-2019 Bluffs Stadium Temp: 38 Wind: 5-15 None MVP: **Todd Gurley II**

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2018 Cowtown (4-4)	0	7	14	6	27
2018 Scarborough (0-8)	3	10	0	0	13

Scoring Summary

1 7:55 Scarborough	FG Crosby 46 (14-47-6:54)	0-3
2 10:46 Cowtown	TD Gurley II 5 run (Bryant,M) (9-71-4:05)	7-3
2 6:21 Scarborough	FG Crosby 24 (11-69-4:22)	7-6
2 1:24 Scarborough	TD Howard 2 run (Crosby) (6-24-2:47)	7-13
3 5:27 Cowtown	TD Gurley II 7 run (Bryant,M) (11-84-6:10)	14-13
3 0:59 Cowtown	TD Flacco 11 pass to Bourne (Bryant,M) (7-73-3:21)	21-13
4 11:01 Cowtown	FG Bryant 45 (5-27-2:14)	24-13
4 3:52 Cowtown	FG Bryant 23 (11-84-5:30)	27-13

	COW	SBE
First Downs	24	14
Rushes	29-171	24-81
Passes	37-19-286	32-17-191
Sacked	2-16	5-26
Fumble	0	2
Penalties	5-35	3-15
Turnovers	1	1
Missed Tackles	3	12
Runs 10+	8	2
Blitzers	33	9
Time	32:03	27:57
Third Down	6-13	4-15
Fourth Down	0-2	2-4
Red Att/Td/Fg	4/3/1	2/1/1
Net Offense	441	246

EXCALIBURS



24

PASSING: Tom Brady, 29 of 42, 378 yds, 1 TD, 0 INT
RUSHING: Nick Chubb, 8C, 50yds, (6.3), 1 TD
RECEIVING: Danny Amendola, 7 for 63yds, 11LG, 0 TD
DEFENCE: Raekwon McMillan, 11 T, 1 SK, 1 FF
KICKING: Graham Gano, 3 of 1 XPA, 1 of 1 FGA, 6 Pts

WOLVERINES



21

PASSING: Aaron Rodgers, 22 of 31, 303 yds, 3 TDs, 0 INT
RUSHING: Saquon Barkley, 22C, 54yds, (2.5), 0 TD
RECEIVING: Adam Thielen, 11 for 127yds, 15LG, 1 TD
DEFENCE: Brandon Graham, 5 T, 2 SK, 1 PD, 1 STF
KICKING: Adam Vinatieri, 3 of 3 XPA, 0 of 1 FGA, 3 Pts

11-23-2019 The Wolverine's Den Temp: 45 Wind: 0-10 None MVP: **Tom Brady**


	1	2	3	4	5	Tot
2018 York (4-4)	0	7	7	7	3	24
2018 Toronto (4-4)	7	7	7	0	0	21

Scoring Summary

1 0:00 Toronto	TD Rodgers 56 pass to Hill (Vinatieri) (5-82-2:35)	0-7
2 8:35 York	TD Henry 1 run (Gano) (10-72-6:13)	7-7
2 4:45 Toronto	TD Rodgers 15 pass to Thielen (Vinatieri) (6-75-3:50)	7-14
3 11:25 York	TD Chubb 17 run (Gano) (9-64-3:31)	14-14
3 8:06 Toronto	TD Rodgers 23 pass to Hill (Vinatieri) (7-75-3:19)	14-21
4 0:37 York	TD Brady 49 pass to Williams (Gano) (5-74-0:54)	21-21
5 1:49 York	FG Gano 37 (12-55-6:09)	24-21

	YOR	TOR
First Downs	25	22
Rushes	31-114	31-101
Passes	42-29-378	31-22-303
Sacked	3-13	2-16
Fumble	0	1
Penalties	7-51	8-49
Turnovers	0	1
Missed Tackles	6	5
Blitzers	16	7
Challenges	0-0	1-1
Time	41:14	31:57
Third Down	8-16	5-12
Fourth Down	0-3	0-0
Red Att/Td/Fg	6/2/1	2/1/0
Net Offense	479	388


HAWKS



14

PASSING: Derek Carr, 14 of 26, 234 yds, 2 TDs, 0 INT
RUSHING: Matt Breida, 20C, 110yds, (5.5), 0 TD
RECEIVING: DeAndre Hopkins, 7 for 153yds, 45LG, 1 TD
DEFENCE: Eli Apple, 5 T, 3 PD
KICKING: Cody Parkey, 2 of 2 XPA, 2 Pts

MUSTANGS



36

PASSING: Matt Ryan, 17 of 33, 254 yds, 3 TDs, 0 INT
RUSHING: Devin Singletary, 13C, 67yds, (5.2), 0 TD
RECEIVING: Davante Adams, 4 for 59yds, 23LG, 0 TD
DEFENCE: Patrick Peterson, 5 T, 2 PD, 1 FF
KICKING: Wil Lutz, 3 of 3 FGA, 3 of 4 XPA, 12 Pts

11-24-2019 Magna Park Temp: 67 Wind: 15-25 None MVP: **Matt Ryan**

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2018 Brooklin (3-5)	7	7	0	0	14
2018 Aurora (7-1)	10	16	10	0	36

Scoring Summary

1 12:20 Aurora TD Ryan 24 pass to Williams (Lutz) (5-61-2:33) 0-7
 1 9:09 Brooklin TD Carr 17 pass to Cobb (Parkey) (5-75-3:11) 7-7
 1 3:25 Aurora FG Lutz 46 (10-62-5:29) 7-10
 2 13:19 Aurora TD Ryan 5 pass to Rudolph (no good) (8-46-3:20) 7-16
 2 11:52 Brooklin TD Carr 45 pass to Hopkins (Parkey) (3-67-1:17) 14-16
 2 9:16 Aurora TD Ryan 16 run (Lutz) (7-77-2:24) 14-23
 2 0:32 Aurora FG Lutz 49 (10-32-1:43) 14-26
 3 12:17 Aurora FG Lutz 43 (5-12-0:52) 14-29
 3 2:18 Aurora TD Ryan 21 pass to Edelman (Lutz) (10-95-5:09) 14-36

	BRH	AUR
First Downs	22	23
Rushes	34-171	25-144
Passes	26-14-234	33-17-254
Sacked	1-6	0-0
Fumble	1	0
Penalties	8-75	5-47
Turnovers	1	0
Missed Tackles	8	12
Runs 10+	5	6
Blitzers	15	0
Time	34:14	25:46
Third Down	2-10	3-10
Fourth Down	2-4	1-1
Red Att/Td/Fg	3/1/0	2/2/0
Net Offense	399	398

GLADIATORS



27

PASSING: Ben Roethlisberger, 22 of 32, 212 yds, 2TDs, 1 INT
RUSHING: Sony Michel, 11 C, 84yds, (7.6), 1 TD
RECEIVING: Jarvis Landry, 9 for 104yds, 34LG, 0 TD
DEFENCE: Jimmy Smith, 6 T, 1 PD, 1 INT (32yds)
KICKING: Brett Maher, 3 of 3 XPA, 2 of 3 FGA, 9 Pts

NORTH STARS



25

PASSING: Baker Mayfield, 21 of 33, 214 yds, 2 TDs, 1 INT
RUSHING: Mike Davis, 12C, 83yds, (6.9), 0 TD
RECEIVING: George Kittle, 5 for 68yds, 17LG, 1 TD
DEFENCE: Quandre Diggs, 3 T, 1 INT (38yds-TD)
KICKING: Jason Myers, 1 of 2 XPA, 2 of 2 FGA, 7 Pts

11-23-2019 Ferenc Liszt Int'l Temp: 60 Wind: 5-15 None MVP: **Ben Roethlisberger**

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2018 Georgia (3-5)	7	7	7	6	27
2018 Budapest (5-3)	3	10	6	6	25

Scoring Summary

1 8:36 Budapest FG Myers 23 (11-67-4:38) 0-3
 1 2:11 Georgia TD Michel 1 run (Maher) (12-75-6:25) 7-3
 2 9:46 Budapest TD Diggs 38 interception return (Myers,J) 7-10
 2 4:34 Georgia TD Roethlisberger 6 pass to Jacobs (Maher) (11-75-5:12) 14-10
 2 1:15 Budapest FG Myers 56 (9-33-3:04) 14-13
 3 11:33 Budapest TD Mayfield 15 pass to Kittle (no good) (8-75-3:27) 14-19
 3 4:28 Georgia TD Roethlisberger 19 pass to Beasley (Maher) (3-15-1:10) 21-19
 4 9:00 Georgia FG Maher 53 (11-60-4:47) 24-19
 4 1:50 Budapest TD Mayfield 18 pass to Watkins (2 - failed) (12-75-7:10) 24-25
 4 0:09 Georgia FG Maher 44 (9-65-1:25) 27-25

	GEO	BUD
First Downs	24	21
Rushes	29-152	24-116
Passes	32-22-212	33-21-214
Sacked	0-0	1-6
Fumble	1	1
Penalties	4-37	6-53
Turnovers	1	1
Missed Tackles	4	6
Runs 10+	3	2
Blitzers	0	7
Time	29:37	30:23
Third Down	9-13	8-12
Fourth Down	0-0	0-0
Red Att/Td/Fg	3/3/0	3/2/1
Net Offense	364	324

CADILLAC



10

PASSING: Kyler Murray, 9 of 18, 56 yds, 0 TD, 0 INT
RUSHING: Isaiah Crowell, 12C, 30yds, (2.5), 0 TD
RECEIVING: Chester Rogers, 3 for 23yds, 12LG, 0 TD
DEFENCE: Justin Houston, 10T, 2 STF, 2 FF
KICKING: Stephen Gostkowski, 1 of 1 XPA, 1 of 2FGA, 4 Pts

SPARTANS



23

PASSING: Philip Rivers, 12 of 20, 193yds, 1 TD, 2 INTs
RUSHING: Miles Sanders, 24C, 160yds, (6.7), 1 TD
RECEIVING: Sterling Shepard, 3 for 77yds, 39LG, 0 TD
DEFENCE: Denzel Ward, 4 T, 1 PD, 1 INT (0yds)
KICKING: Greg Zuerlein, 1 of 1 FGA, 2 of 3 XPA, 5 Pts

11-22-2019 Thermopylae Stadium Temp: 41 Wind: Calm None MVP: **Miles Sanders**

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2018 Erieau (0-8)	0	10	0	0	10
2018 Pickering (7-1)	13	3	7	0	23

Scoring Summary

1 13:51 Pickering TD Rivers 33 pass to McDonald (Zuerlein) (2-46-0:16) 0-7
 1 3:53 Pickering TD Sanders 6 run (no good) (9-66-3:58) 0-13
 2 11:18 Erieau FG Gostkowski 37 (4-0-0:48) 3-13
 2 3:00 Pickering FG Zuerlein 19 (14-74-8:14) 3-16
 2 2:03 Erieau TD Reid 42 interception return (Gostkowski) 10-16
 3 9:41 Pickering TD Rivers 1 run (Zuerlein) (9-75-5:19) 10-23

	ERI	PIC
First Downs	7	21
Rushes	28-83	40-138
Passes	22-11-79	21-12-193
Sacked	3-20	4-27
Fumble	1	4
Penalties	7-61	3-10
Turnovers	1	2
Missed Tackles	11	3
Runs 10+	4	8
Blitzers	24	1
Time	27:19	32:41
Third Down	0-13	3-13
Fourth Down	1-5	1-3
Red Att/Td/Fg	2/0/1	4/2/1
Net Offense	142	304



WEEK EIGHT

STANDINGS

PACIFIC CONFERENCE													
East	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
St. Charles	6	2	0	0.750	W4	227	28.4	183	22.9	5.5	3 1 0	2 1 0	4 2 0
Bruxelles	5	3	0	0.625	L1	274	34.3	216	27	7.3	3 1 0	2 1 0	3 3 0
New Jersey	4	4	0	0.500	W2	218	27.3	233	29.1	-1.9	1 2 0	1 2 0	3 3 0
Buffalo	3	5	0	0.375	W1	159	19.9	173	21.6	-1.8	3 1 0	1 2 0	2 4 0
Central	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Twin Cities	6	2	0	0.750	W1	263	32.9	186	23.3	9.6	2 1 0	2 0 0	5 1 0
Virден	6	2	0	0.750	L1	304	38	202	25.3	12.8	4 1 0	2 0 0	4 2 0
Charleswood	4	4	0	0.500	L1	172	21.5	173	21.6	-0.1	2 2 0	0 2 0	3 3 0
Peg City	1	7	0	0.125	L4	206	25.8	305	38.1	-12.4	1 3 0	0 2 0	0 6 0
West	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Iowa City	6	2	0	0.750	W2	214	26.8	193	24.1	2.6	3 0 0	3 0 0	4 2 0
Chino	5	3	0	0.625	W1	221	27.6	195	24.4	3.3	2 2 0	2 1 0	5 1 0
Los Angeles	3	5	0	0.375	L2	173	21.6	218	27.3	-5.6	2 3 0	1 2 0	2 4 0
Seattle	3	5	0	0.375	L1	166	20.8	206	25.8	-5	2 3 0	0 3 0	1 5 0
ATLANTIC CONFERENCE													
North	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Sebastian	4	4	0	0.500	W1	221	27.6	265	33.1	-5.5	3 1 0	3 0 0	4 2 0
Cowtown	4	4	0	0.500	W1	211	26.4	225	28.1	-1.8	1 2 0	2 1 0	3 3 0
Durham	3	5	0	0.375	L3	229	28.6	251	31.4	-2.8	2 3 0	1 2 0	2 4 0
Scarborough	0	8	0	0.000	L8	111	13.9	269	33.6	-19.8	0 4 0	0 3 0	0 6 0
Coastal	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Pickering	7	1	0	0.875	W4	228	28.5	101	12.6	15.9	5 0 0	2 0 0	6 0 0
Budapest	5	3	0	0.625	L1	224	28	170	21.3	6.8	4 1 0	1 1 0	4 2 0
York	4	4	0	0.500	W1	172	21.5	220	27.5	-6	1 2 0	1 1 0	4 2 0
Brooklin	3	5	0	0.375	L3	227	28.4	224	28	0.4	1 2 0	0 2 0	2 4 0
South	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Aurora	7	1	0	0.875	W6	280	35	123	15.4	19.6	4 0 0	3 0 0	5 1 0
Toronto	4	4	0	0.500	L1	185	23.1	171	21.4	1.8	3 2 0	2 1 0	3 3 0
Georgia	3	5	0	0.375	W1	126	15.8	202	25.3	-9.5	0 3 0	1 2 0	3 3 0
Erieau	0	8	0	0.000	L8	98	12.3	205	25.6	-13.4	0 4 0	0 3 0	0 6 0

TOP PASSERS

Rk	Player	Team	Att	Cmp	C%	Yards	In	I%	Lg	TD	TD%	Rate
1	Mahomes	VV	276	183	66.3	2813	2	0.7	82	28	10.1	130.6
2	Mariota	BRX	240	172	71.7	2378	5	2.1	73	24	10	127.7
3	Wentz	STC	245	181	73.9	2121	2	0.8	45	21	8.6	124.9
4	Ryan,M	AUR	276	178	64.5	2755	2	0.7	64	23	8.3	122.2
5	Rivers,P	PIC	202	136	67.3	2021	3	1.5	60	16	7.9	120.1
6	Dalton	DTL	164	112	68.3	1475	2	1.2	78	14	8.5	119.8
7	Carr,D	BRH	279	193	69.2	2538	7	2.5	73	24	8.6	115.9
8	Wilson,R	ICC	217	137	63.1	1919	2	0.9	86	15	6.9	110.7
9	Prescott	CHI	230	145	63	1780	1	0.4	43	16	7	108.2
10	Trubisky	TCT	162	103	63.6	1614	3	1.9	69	9	5.6	107.4
11	Mayfield	BUD	241	150	62.2	1837	5	2.1	43	20	8.3	104.7
12	Tannehill	LAK	115	78	67.8	933	1	0.9	55	5	4.3	103.3
13	Watson,D	CHP	189	120	63.5	1460	4	2.1	66	13	6.9	101.3
14	Cousins	PCC	282	184	65.2	1969	4	1.4	52	18	6.4	100.9
15	Goff	NJ	280	172	61.4	2245	5	1.8	73	18	6.4	100.7
16	Brees	SS	296	188	63.5	2228	8	2.7	81	21	7.1	98.8
17	Rodgers,A	TOR	260	146	56.2	1974	2	0.8	77	16	6.2	97.8
18	Luck	BUF	273	182	66.7	2018	6	2.2	56	15	5.5	97.6
19	Manning	SEA	224	132	58.9	1708	6	2.7	62	16	7.1	95.6
20	Flacco	COW	274	164	59.9	2184	6	2.2	87	14	5.1	93.1
21	Brady	YOR	267	159	59.6	1847	3	1.1	66	13	4.9	92.1
22	Stafford	ERI	162	110	67.9	1142	3	1.9	77	4	2.5	88.6
23	Jackson,L	LAK	131	75	57.3	914	3	2.3	70	7	5.3	87.1
24	Osweiler	SBE	228	132	57.9	1422	7	3.1	45	10	4.4	78.1
25	Roethlisberger	GEO	275	161	58.5	1769	11	4	64	13	4.7	76.8

KICKOFF RETURNERS

Rk	Player	Team	No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD
1	Patterson	CHP	24	869	36.2	105	3
2	Grant,J	CHI	25	812	32.5	105	2
3	Smith,Tr	BRX	20	622	31.1	96	0
4	Erickson	BUF	33	941	28.5	89	0
5	Roberts,A	LAK	22	610	27.7	102	1
6	Countess	YOR	18	455	25.3	38	0
7	Lockett	ICC	22	551	25	36	0
8	Johnson,D	COW	13	318	24.5	34	0
9	Clement	SBE	22	529	24	43	0
10	Agnew	SEA	15	360	24	38	0
11	Logan	PCC	17	399	23.5	38	0
12	King II	ERI	20	456	22.8	33	0
13	Moore,C	SS	16	355	22.2	31	0
14	Coleman,C	AUR	11	242	22	37	0
15	Isabella	DTL	14	298	21.3	35	0
16	Chark Jr.	NJ	23	440	19.1	42	0
17	Barner	BRH	16	283	17.7	38	0
18	Lewis,T	SBE	3	123	41	39	0
19	Pascal	STC	7	195	27.9	69	0
20	Ervin	VV	5	134	26.8	34	0

PUNT RETURNERS

Rk	Player	Team	No	Fc	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD
1	Grant,J	CHI	15	5	221	14.7	71	1
2	Harris,D	TOR	19	5	278	14.6	82	1
3	Roberts,A	LAK	16	3	227	14.2	79	1
4	Sherels	BUD	14	9	198	14.1	75	0
5	Cohen	NJ	12	1	159	13.3	21	0
6	Hardman	STC	8	4	95	11.9	19	0
7	King II	ERI	8	0	87	10.9	20	0
8	Peppers,J	ERI	12	2	108	9	15	0
9	Hardy	CHP	20	4	176	8.8	20	0
10	Erickson	BUF	13	7	111	8.5	14	0
11	Edelman	AUR	8	4	65	8.1	24	0
12	Ervin	VV	12	7	96	8	18	0
13	Amendola	YOR	10	2	79	7.9	13	0
14	Peterson,P	AUR	11	10	83	7.5	18	0
15	Kirk	ICC	9	1	65	7.2	14	0
16	Henderson	BRH	11	6	68	6.2	15	0
17	Moore,D	TCT	16	8	91	5.7	12	0
18	Westbrook	BRX	13	9	68	5.2	14	0
19	Beckham Jr	SS	13	6	65	5	13	0
20	Agnew	SEA	13	8	63	4.8	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	161	911	5.7	26	7	1	Hopkins,D	BRH	61	956	15.7	58	8
2	Hunt,K	SEA	142	757	5.3	45	1	2	Woods,R	BUF	60	757	12.6	45	5
3	Elliott,E	VV	159	726	4.6	39	7	3	Thomas,M	STC	53	704	13.3	33	8
4	Barkley,S	TOR	148	660	4.5	44	3	4	Adams,D	AUR	53	934	17.6	64	6
5	Gordon III	TCT	133	648	4.9	39	6	5	Landry,J	GEO	52	665	12.8	34	5
6	Carson,C	PCC	112	623	5.6	23	5	6	Hilton	DTL	50	830	16.6	68	8
7	Henry,D	YOR	104	606	5.8	75	4	7	Elliott,E	VV	48	452	9.4	26	5
8	Sanders,M	PIC	110	585	5.3	28	3	8	Thielen	TOR	47	576	12.3	27	5
9	Mixon	ICC	104	576	5.5	56	6	9	Allen,K	PCC	46	588	12.8	52	4
10	Mack,M	BRX	106	541	5.1	54	4	10	Cooper,A	VV	45	901	20	75	8
11	McCaffrey	CHI	126	509	4	38	2	11	Beckham Jr	SS	45	728	16.2	81	13
12	Breida	BRH	77	503	6.5	33	3	12	Cooks	LAK	45	560	12.4	21	3
13	Johnson,D	BUD	108	499	4.6	35	4	13	Jones,J	BUF	44	402	9.1	21	3
14	Peterson,A	STC	113	494	4.4	35	6	14	Davis,C	PCC	44	544	12.4	39	6
15	Kamara	CHP	101	455	4.5	48	2	15	Cohen	NJ	43	604	14	73	3
16	Howard,J	SBE	111	440	4	19	2	16	Ertz	YOR	42	536	12.8	40	6
17	Barber	LAK	92	411	4.5	21	0	17	McCaffrey	CHI	42	496	11.8	32	6
18	Singletary	AUR	86	410	4.8	30	2	18	Barkley,S	TOR	41	369	9	23	1
19	Coleman,T	BUF	95	410	4.3	35	2	19	Evans,M	COW	41	711	17.3	85	8
20	Jacobs,J	GEO	91	358	3.9	32	1	20	Kelce,T	BRX	40	661	16.5	51	6
21	Watson,D	CHP	36	350	9.7	34	2	21	Golladay	TCT	40	760	19	47	5
22	Davis,M	BUD	56	342	6.1	24	3	22	Gabriel	NJ	40	614	15.4	44	3
23	Mariota	BRX	35	341	9.7	38	3	23	Diggs,S	BUD	39	523	13.4	43	4
24	Drake	AUR	58	323	5.6	35	0	24	Ridley,C	LAK	38	619	16.3	70	4
25	Ingram	CHI	71	319	4.5	23	2	25	Hill,T	TOR	38	806	21.2	77	10

INTERCEPTION LEADERS								SACK LEADERS				TACKLE LEADERS			
R	Player	Team	No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD	Rk	Player	Team	No.	Rk	Player	Team	No.
1	Haden	BRX	4	51	12.8	33	0	1	Ford,D	ICC	10	1	Vander Esc	BRH	74
2	Howard,X	PIC	4	65	16.3	43	0	2	Hill,B	ICC	8	2	Littleton	NJ	72
3	Diggs,Q	BUD	3	50	16.7	38	1	3	Pierre-Pau	ICC	7	3	Leonard	STC	68
4	Boston	SS	3	45	15	38	0	4	Hunter,D	TCT	7	4	Baker,D	SBE	64
5	Smith Sr.	PIC	3	49	16.3	33	0	5	Watt,J	AUR	7	5	Wagner,B	TCT	63
6	Ward,D	PIC	3	35	11.7	35	1	6	Cox,F	ICC	6	6	Amukamara	VV	62
7	Williams,G	LAK	3	0	0	0	0	7	Kerrigan	COW	6	7	White,D	SEA	62
8	Lattimore	SEA	3	16	5.3	16	0	8	Hargrave	ICC	6	8	Joseph,J	NJ	61
9	Humphrey	PCC	2	12	6	12	0	9	Heyward	CHP	5	9	Dennard	YOR	60
10	Lee,D	TCT	2	84	42	50	1	10	Donald	BUF	5	10	Martinez	LAK	59
11	Hooker	VV	2	26	13	26	1	11	Watt,T	COW	5	11	Ryan,L	SBE	57
12	Fuller,K	VV	2	30	15	30	0	12	Lawrence,D	CHP	5	12	Burns	DTL	56
13	Trevathan	VV	2	0	0	0	0	13	Autry	AUR	5	13	Mack,K	SEA	56
14	Fuller,K	BRX	2	30	15	20	0	14	McCoy,G	VV	4	14	Hightower	SBE	56
15	Vander Esc	BRH	2	3	1.5	3	0	15	Ingram III	VV	4	15	Desir	BUD	55
16	Jenkins,Ja	BRH	2	0	0	0	0	16	Hubbard,S	BRH	4	16	Fuller,K	VV	55
17	Adams,J	NJ	2	70	35	36	0	17	Atkins	PIC	4	17	Schobert	YOR	54
18	Darby	COW	2	18	9	18	1	18	Buckner,D	YOR	4	18	Watt,T	COW	54
19	Sheffield	COW	2	0	0	0	0	19	Miller,V	YOR	4	19	Trevathan	VV	53
20	Douglas,R	YOR	2	0	0	0	0	20	Jones,C	BRX	4	20	Houston,J	ERI	53

SCORING LEADERS

Rk	Player	Team	FG	XP	2Pt	Run	Rec	Int	KR	PR	Fmb	Sf	Tot
1	Lutz	AUR	19	29	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	86
2	Beckham Jr	SS	0	0	0	0	13	0	0	0	0	0	78
3	Bryant,M	COW	19	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	77
4	Zuerlein	PIC	16	24	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	72
5	Elliott,E	VV	0	0	0	7	5	0	0	0	0	0	72
6	Hopkins	TCT	13	30	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	69
7	Prater	BRX	12	32	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	68
8	Santos	VV	9	35	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	62
9	Hill,T	TOR	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	60
10	Vinatieri	TOR	14	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	59
11	Fairbairn	LAK	14	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	59
12	Tucker,J	ICC	11	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	58
13	Janikowski	CHI	12	21	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	57
14	McManus	NJ	10	26	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	56
15	Gordon III	TCT	0	0	0	6	3	0	0	0	0	0	54
16	Gurley II	COW	0	0	0	7	2	0	0	0	0	0	54
17	Lambo	SEA	11	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	50
18	Myers,J	BUD	8	26	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	50
19	Bailey,D	SS	8	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	49
20	Hilton	DTL	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	48
21	Evans,M	COW	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	48
22	Hopkins,D	BRH	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	48
23	Thomas,M	STC	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	48
24	McCaffrey	CHI	0	0	0	2	6	0	0	0	0	0	48
25	Cooper,A	VV	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	48
26	Parkey	BRH	6	29	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	47
27	Gostkowski	ERI	12	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	44
28	Butker	PCC	7	23	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	44
29	Gano	YOR	9	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	44
30	Hauschka	STC	5	28	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	43
31	Ebron	VV	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	42
32	Lockett	ICC	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	42
33	Peterson,A	STC	0	0	0	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	42
34	Johnson,D	BUD	0	0	0	4	3	0	0	0	0	0	42
35	Succop	CHP	6	22	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	40

KICKING LEADERS

Rk	Player	Team	FGA	FGM	FG%	40	50	Lg	Pts
1	Lutz	AUR	19	19	100	10	3	55	86
2	Bryant,M	COW	21	19	90.5	11	4	54	77
3	Zuerlein	PIC	16	16	100	6	4	56	72
4	Hopkins	TCT	14	13	92.9	4	3	51	69
5	Prater	BRX	13	12	92.3	4	0	49	68
6	Santos	VV	12	9	75	2	0	41	62
7	Fairbairn	LAK	15	14	93.3	4	0	49	59
8	Vinatieri	TOR	19	14	73.7	6	2	55	59
9	Tucker,J	ICC	13	11	84.6	7	4	54	58
10	Janikowski	CHI	12	12	100	3	1	56	57
11	McManus	NJ	13	10	76.9	3	0	46	56
12	Myers,J	BUD	8	8	100	3	1	56	50
13	Lambo	SEA	13	11	84.6	5	2	59	50
14	Bailey,D	SS	9	8	88.9	1	0	45	49
15	Parkey	BRH	7	6	85.7	3	0	49	47

PUNTING LEADERS

Rk	Player	Team	No	Yards	Tb	20	Lg	Bk	Ave
1	Dickson,M	ERI	37	1781	1	18	60	1	48.1
2	Colquitt,B	SEA	38	1763	3	13	56	0	46.4
3	Palardy	YOR	39	1779	3	9	57	0	45.6
4	Edwards,L	TOR	39	1758	2	13	87	0	45.1
5	Morstead	DTL	26	1267	0	16	58	0	48.7
6	Kern	BRX	23	1100	3	9	63	0	47.8
7	Way	CHI	28	1328	6	3	92	0	47.4
8	Lee,A	BUF	28	1315	0	12	61	0	47
9	Dixon,R	GEO	30	1401	1	8	54	0	46.7
10	Koch	AUR	28	1294	4	8	61	0	46.2
11	Anger	STC	25	1149	0	10	52	0	46
12	Jones,C	PIC	29	1320	2	12	55	0	45.5
13	Haack	PCC	20	910	2	5	53	1	45.5
14	Scott,J	BRH	22	1001	1	8	57	0	45.5
15	Bosher	VV	16	724	0	11	53	0	45.3



AROUND THE



With Spats McChad

NEW YORK – House Intelligence Committee Chairman, **Adam Schiff**, announced that the House will move forward with its impeachment inquiry after declaring that two weeks of public hearings had produced what he called, “overwhelming evidence” that **President Trump** withheld military aid from the Ukraine in order to force an investigation of a political rival.

The headlines and sub-headlines of the *Washington Post*, *NY Times* and every other mainstream media (MSM) outlet apart from FOX come across as damning to Trump. The quotes of Democratic leaders, such as Schiff, are always unequivocal in their condemnation of the President as well as their absolute certainty of his guilt. Any American caught guilty of reading only the headlines or hearing in passing the opening remarks of a CNN broadcast or an MSNBC talk show would naturally assume that “Ukraine-gate” is gathering momentum and that it is only a matter of time before Trump is impeached.

The truth is that the Democrats have nothing on Trump and they know it. This is a desperate – and I mean desperate in the sense of *last-ditch* – attempt to damage Trump in the eyes of independents heading into a 2020 election that the Democrats, in their current morally bankrupt state, cannot win.

I realize that many football fans are not up on the nuances of politics and government and are guilty of absorbing just the headlines as they race about their busy lives. That is why I am reserving a piece of my column this week to address this bogus impeachment inquiry. Consider this section of my column a service, rather than entertainment, because I have watched some of this testimony, heard the so-called “overwhelming evidence” and I am appalled at how blatant the lies are that are falling out of the mouths of people like **Adam Schiff**. This is extreme deception even by the abysmal truth standards of American politicians and the devious spin mechanisms typically employed by the mainstream media.

What if I told you that one of the star witnesses who delivered “damning evidence” of *qui pro quo* between Trump and the Ukrainian President in fact had no direct knowledge of any arrangement and based his testimony on (get ready for it!) “*my own, personal, you know, guess?*” What if I told you that the so-called whistleblower is believed to be a CIA Analyst who once worked in the Obama Whitehouse? What if I told you that the President of the Ukraine himself denied that there was a *quid pro quo* between himself and Trump tying an investigation of the Biden’s to release of military aid?

Without drowning you further in the real facts that are absent from, or buried deep within, the mainstream media, it suffices that I would hope you would trust me when I tell you that there is even less at the base of this impeachment inquiry than there was at the bottom of the fraudulent investigation into ‘collusion’ between Trump and the Russians.

How many times do people have to be shown that there is no *Collusion Santa Claus* before they stop believing that one will magically swoop down the chimney and deliver a Democratic victory wrapped up in a nice blue ribbon? If you are one of those people who cling to the hope that this impeachment process will stop Trump, you are hoping for that kind of miracle.

Now, a few of you will pat me on the back for supporting Trump here; while most others will condemn me for it. But understand that this has nothing to do with how I feel about Trump. This has everything to do with how our democratic institution is being damaged by Democrats who steadfastly refuse to recognise the results of the 2016 election and seek to usurp power through any dubious, quasi-legal means available. The impeachment process was never intended to be used as a political weapon. That is how it is being used in this case. Its misuse establishes a terrible precedent that has the potential to paralyze our government in the future, regardless of which party occupies the Whitehouse.

If you don’t feel comfortable taking my word for it and you have the time, do some digging into the actual testimony, read the transcript of the call, do some research into the “whistleblower,” learn about what the framers of the Constitution intended relating to impeachment. If you are currently appalled at Trump’s cavalier dismissal of the whole process, you will come to understand that Trump acts that way because he knows he is bullet proof on this. And don’t forget to read up on the Biden’s business dealings in the Ukraine. The Democrats are protecting their own.

DOWNRIGHT OFFENSIVE

If you think scoring is up this year you are not imagining it. Points scored and yards-per-play are up substantially through 8 weeks of the 2019 season. Average points-per-team sits at 25.6, while average yards-per-play is a bloated 6.1. Not since 2015, when the average points per team was 24.6 and yards-per-play, 5.7; has the league seen an offensive surge close to this.

The 101-point exhibition put on by Virden and Brooklin in Week Seven was just the most dramatic manifestation of what has been – at an average score of 32-19 – the freest-scoring year on record so far. No lead, unless it is a lead over Erieau, feels safe. If the numbers hold through the second half it will be a record-setting year for offence.

While offensive production is clearly up, not so clear is the reason why. There are a number of popular theories floating around the talk shows, and the digital and print media. A virtual platoon of current and former defensive players point to the new safety rules around leading with the helmet and hitting quarterbacks that, they claim, overwhelmingly favour the offence.

“How am I supposed to avoid using my helmet when the receiver is twisting, turning and ducking all over the place?” Thunder Lizards, corner **Richard Sherman** bitterly complained prior to the start of the season. “I mean, I understand what leading with the helmet actually means, but there’s a difference between doing that deliberately and having it happen as part of the play! The way they called it in a pre-season was idiotic. It’s an idiotic rule!”

The theory is that defenders, particularly safeties, are unsure now how to tackle a ball-carrier or contest a pass and are playing tentatively. The split-second of hesitation by the defender is yielding more pass completions, more yards after the catch and more breakaway runs. The same concept applies to pass-rushers going after the quarterback.

“If they can’t go high and they can’t go low, where can they go?” asks ex-EFL lineman **Justin Smith**. “With these slippery quarterbacks they’re producing in college these days anything can happen when a lineman’s going at full speed.”

The new generation of quarterbacks is also getting its share of credit for the spike in scoring. Five of the top 10 rated passers have been in the league five years or less and three of the next five in the middle cut as well. Of the bottom ten, only one – **Lamar Jackson** – has less than seven years service. There are some hallowed names in that last group, including **Drew Brees**, **Aaron Rodgers**, **Tom Brady** and **Ben Roethlisberger**. Intriguingly, of that Hall of Fame foursome, only **‘Big Boob’** is having a truly awful year; the remainder are having good seasons but are being overshadowed by the outstanding showings of mostly younger rivals.

“We are witnessing a changing of the guard in quarterbacking generally,” says **Lazor Ponk** of *Scouts Ltd.*, “and it is happening at a revolutionary pace. Universities are doing a better job of preparing young quarterbacks to enter the pro ranks. When they get to the EFL, the best ones are being thrown into the fire early and surviving at a higher rate because they are better prepared.”

Currently leading the Quarterback Revolution is Virden’s **Patrick Mahomes**, whose 130.6 passer rating, 28 TD passes and 2,813 yards passing top the league. On his heels is the Bombers’ **Marcus Mariota**, who is enjoying a career year so far with a 127.7 QB rating, 24 TD passes and 341 yards rushing, highest amongst all signal-callers.

“Being able to pass out of the pocket remains a must for quarterbacks,” explains *The Quarterback Guru*, **Tom Cottage**, one of several high-profile quarterback trainers who has worked extensively with youngsters, **Dak Prescott**, **Jimmy Garoppolo** and **Carson Wentz**, as well as veterans, **Drew Brees** and **Tom Brady**. “But simply being a good pocket passer is no longer enough for most clubs. Offensive coordinators want somebody who can scramble and throw on the run as well. They want what they call, ‘escapability’ or ‘extendability’ – the ability to escape a collapsing pocket and extend the play.”

Of course, what offensive coordinator wouldn’t want that perfect Quarterback Weapon? But those don’t exactly grow on trees. Or do they? Whereas the Fran Tarkenton’s, Steve Young’s and Michael Vick’s of yore were relatively rare and precious commodities, today there are several starters who fit the same general mode, led by the Grand Daddy of them all, the Cubs’ **Russell Wilson**.

“Russell Wilson came on the scene, sort of out-of-the-blue, and made an immediate impression on coaches even before he became a fan favourite,” recounted *Profession Football Scouts Association* President, **Buddy Buddington** when I spoke with him by phone for this article. “Immediately every GM wanted a Russell Wilson. Of course, Russell Wilsons are hard to find. The search opened up a whole new area of scouting for members of the association. We’re no longer restricting our search to universities and high schools. We’re looking at them when they are really young and can be molded.”

In a controversial move, the EFL, the NCAA and the PFSA teamed up recently with Pop Warner Little Scholars to host the first ever Pop Warner Pro Day at Pop Warner Headquarters in Langhorne, PA. According to the brochure, the goal is to “help

develop and mentor” the young players while “teaching sportsmanship and fellowship.”

Yeah, right!

“Pop Warner opening up its doors to us is a fantastic opportunity,” Buddington enthused. “It’s a win-win for our pro and university clients as well as the kids, who get to experience a real-life pro day. Most of these kids have never had to run a real cone drill or sit in an interview before. It’s a great chance to learn about what it takes to be a pro.”

But groups like the *Child Welfare League of America* disagree. They released a statement objecting to the process, which they view as “child exploitation at a fundamental level” and “entirely inappropriate for the age of many of the children.”

“Well I don’t agree with that opinion,” replied Buddington when asked about the CWLA’s public stance on Pop Warner Pro Day. “Look, we don’t run any tests



A 12-year old quarterback prospect scrambles during a scrimmage in the first Pop Warner Pro Day in Langhorne, PA under the watchful eyes of EFL scouts. Over 100 of the top players from around the United States were flown in to participate at the joint expense of the NCAA and the EFL.

for kids in the Tiny-Mite Division (ages 5-7 years). At five years old, half these kids can't string a proper sentence together. Pro Day is strictly for Mitey-Mites to Junior Varsity – kids on the back half of 7 years on up to 15 years old. Don't tell me a 7-year old hasn't formed some goals and objectives in his life and that one of those is to play in the EFL Championship. These kids want the opportunity to realize their dreams and we are giving them a chance!"

The search for talent has reached such a competitive level that 15 of the 24 EFL teams sent at least one representative to Pop Warner Pro Day. Two franchises, Peg City and Iowa City, sent full scout teams to Langhorne. The Crusaders' rookie coach and GM, **Stephen Katopodis**, was candid about his team's reasons for investing in Pop Warner Pro Day:

"It's no secret we're in the middle of a youth movement in Peg City," Katopodis chirped in his clipped, machine-gun style. "And it looks like I'm going to be stuck with Kirk Cousins for a bit since I can't seem to deal him, so we are looking far into the future. We're setting up the Junior Crusaders. It's a club for young football players who want to be Crusaders when they grow up. The scout team is down there to pick the first members – the best young talent who want to be Crusaders for life."

If that is not creepy enough, the Cubs' have a stranger goal in mind. Cubs' coach **Deron Redding** could not be reached for comment, but my sources in Iowa say that Redding's ultimate goal is to bring the team's average age down to 19 years. My source, who asked to remain anonymous, told me that Redding has trouble getting through to the veteran players and prefers young, impressionable minds he can mold and who won't complain about his play-calling. To add fuel to the youth movement, Redding's cohort, **Dr. Rodney Alberhasky Jr.**, has declared openly his controversial medical opinion that the body is in its peak productive state between the ages of 18 and 20. The utopian Cubs' "Super Player" is a 19-year old elite athlete thoroughly indoctrinated in the 'Cult of Redding.'

It is logical to think that dynamic young quarterbacks who learn faster and are able to do more physically play a key role in the increase in offence. But when looking at such a huge spike over 2018 – 22% in yards-per-play and 28% in scoring – it strains credulity to believe that quarterbacks have gotten that much better, or defences that much worse, in a single season.

And so, we enter the realm of Conspiracy Theory to attempt to explain the phenomenon.

Zebra Watch – a website in the style of *Pro Football Focal Point* dedicated to analyzing trends and rating officials in professional sports – posted a lengthy article recently on *Referee Non-Calls* in the EFL.

"Fans tend to focus on the calls a referee makes," writes the author, **Stokan Phlaim**. "But it is what is not called that causes more damage to outcomes and, in the vast majority of cases, nobody but the players involved are aware at the time a penalty is not called." As his centerpiece to prove his point, he notes that in 96 games played so far in 2019, not a single offensive pass interference penalty due to an illegal pick has been called. That is astounding!

It is no secret that professional playbooks have for many years featured route combinations designed to contain hidden picks of a defender. Over that time, sloppy execution of those routes has resulted in illegal picks being flagged by officials. Not so this year.

"St. Charles and Aurora use playbooks that are typically among the league's more complex, so I studied film from those teams in detail," writes Phlaim. "Analysis of scrimmage pass plays in 2019 for the Chargers and Mustangs reveal both have new series of highly complex, hidden pick plays that are being executed with varying degrees of precision. In cases where the route runner makes clear contact, or 'picks' a defender, not a single one has been flagged for offensive pass interference."

Phlaim's clinical assessment is compelling because it is based on analysis of data and contains several clear video examples, such as one two-play sequence, taken from Aurora's 42-18 Week Four win over Chino, in which **Davante Adams** and **Julian Edelman** run back-to-back long slant patterns. On the first play, Edelman takes out the underneath zone safety **Josh Jackson**, opening up a lane for a 21-yard pass to Adams; then a mirror image of the same play follows, in which Adams takes out Jackson, opening up a lane for a 24-yard TD pass to Edelman. In the video, Jackson is seen throwing up his hands both times but the official ignores him.

The same article demonstrates that receiver push-offs are up while calls are down; and that most teams are routinely holding on blitz pick-ups but that the rate of holding calls in those circumstances is less than 10%. This inevitably leads to the question as to whether or not the EFL referees have been encouraged to go easy on the offences this year in order to increase scoring coming off two lean scoring years in 2017 & 2018. It is an open question, so ponder it and get back to me with your opinion.

There is also the very real possibility that, contrary to the rules, coaches in the booth are somehow able to communicate with the quarterback through the radio receiver in his helmet and are prompting audibles in advantageous situations. The outsider does not know much about those communications systems, apart from *Bose* producing the headphones.

The official response from the EFL to questions about the spike in scoring has been typical corporate baffle-gab:

"The EFL is proud to put a dynamic and exciting sports product on the field for the entertainment of our viewers," a statement from league Co-Chairman, **Yorrgo Kaldis**, read. "The EFL has the highest safety and rules standards of any professional sports league and our people, from the players to the staff, are the best in the world."

So, officially, the league is just getting better. The league's Defensive Coordinators might want to dispute that.

NOTHING TO LOSE

In the game of football, there is nothing much more concerning for a coach of a team in a playoff race than to have to travel to play a last-place team with nothing to lose, but with just enough talent to be dangerous. That was the intimidating scenario facing Wrecking Balls coach, **Bill Parcels** this week going up against the Crusaders in Winnipeg's brand new True North Field. Adding to his concern (although he would never admit it) was the ubiquitous and distracting presence of his overly attentive and gently interfering owner,

Jeff Cohen and his entourage of musicians, instruments in tow, ready to play, plugged or unplugged, at a moment's notice.

Over the years, Parcels had developed a strained tolerance for Cohen's chosen band-of-the-week playing live in the background during his pre and post-game press conferences. This week, however, he could not conceal his irritation when *The Watchmen* took the little stage behind him and launched into a trebly rendition of their song, 'Shut Up' as Parcels was attempting to answer a reporter's question about the injury status of guard, **Andrew Norwell**.

"Look, what if I say shut-up to *you*?" he barked at front man **Daniel Greaves**. "Would you not take it personally and maybe turn the volume down?"

Parcels' mood seemed a little better by the time *Grapes of Wrath* took the stage. The melodious strains of an unplugged version of 'A Very Special Day' played quietly in the background as Parcels wrapped up his pre-game presser having firmly established to the gathered pundits that his team was not about to take the Crusaders lightly. "Anything else, gentlemen, ladies?" he concluded. "Okay, let's get this very special day going!"

It turned out to actually be a very special day for the visitors and a strange game. Some of its quirkiest sideline moments were captured by a WLJP New Jersey camera crew that had tagged along on the road trip. Their purpose was to observe some of the unusual customs and behaviours of the Wrecking Ball groupies that always accompanied the team on road trips. They were a rag tag lot.

Trailing in tow behind leader and owner **Jeff Cohen** was Wrecking Balls beat writer, **Dave Hodge** (no compromise of journalistic integrity there!) and a gaggle of musicians, roadies, poets, writers and unemployed alcoholics, friends of Cohen who had known him before he had made his fortune and now clung to his aura. In exchange, they were often the first ones to step up and get arrested if any security issues arose at the impromptu concerts Cohen liked to stage at just about any location that suited his fancy.

This week the eccentric Wrecking Balls' owner had booked the Pyramid Café on Fort Street for a Wrecking Ball rally in the middle of Winnipeg. "Peggers" were chill about it, appreciative of native Manitobans, *The Watchmen* being honoured with heading the gig. It was also clear that very little passion had been generated so far for Manitoba's third EFL franchise, the Crusaders. While residents had marvelled at the rapid construction of their new stadium, few had rushed to adopt the team as their own. Most fans attended Crusaders games out of curiosity. The Patriots remained the darlings of the city.

The cavernous True North Field – it's nose bleed 700-level seats still un-installed, was operating at roughly two-thirds of its projected 60,000 capacity, but less than half of those available seats were actually occupied. A robust contingent of Wrecking Balls fans were in attendance, incomprehensively attracted to the idea of a Winnipeg road trip to watch their bumbling heroes butt heads with a 1-6 last place team.

This was not exactly a marquis match-up. The Crusaders came in with the worst defence in the league. **Luke Kuechly** had been left virtually alone after the senseless trade of **Akiem Hicks**. This pathetic unit was hobbled further by injuries. The Wrecking Balls' defence was hardly any better in its on-field performance, although on paper it was clearly superior. Its inability to actually make stops in live action was a lingering sore point with Parcels, who takes special pride in his defensive acumen.

Camouflaged by all of the losses and points surrendered was the fact that the Crusaders' attack had proven capable of inflicting serious damage. Rookie head coach, **Stephen Katopodis** was well aware of that fact, as well as the sorry state of his defence.

"We're going to attack," he declared straightforwardly at his pre-game presser. "We're in it to win it, but we have nothing to lose. We'll give the Balls a game, I guarantee you that!"

And that, they did. For most of the first half it looked like just one team was playing out there and it wasn't New Jersey. The Crusaders would make plays then screw up a few; the ebb and flow of their advance dependent more on their independent execution than the performance of the "scout team" defence that opposed them. Unsung RB, **Chris Carson** pounded the line 16 times for 133 yards while **Kirk Cousins** completed 13 of 17 for 138 yards and 2 TDs in a 20-point first half against a flat-footed Wrecking Balls defence that looked unsure of what to defend.

As often happens when a team is in disarray, an individual player will occasionally overcome the collective team failure and make a play. That was what **Jared Cook** did early in the second quarter when he plucked a floating cross from **Jared Goff** out of the air and stiff-armed his way to a 31-yard touchdown catch. It gave New Jersey a 7-6 lead, but it was a short-lived one.

As the Crusaders ploughed again and again through the New Jersey defence, owner **Jeff Cohen** stood behind Parcels, peeking anxiously over his shoulder at the play sheet and occasionally offering suggestions. The performance of his defence in 2019 had been a concern for him and he was determined to "help" his veteran head coach.

"Don't you think they might run here, Bill?" ventured Cohen nervously as Cousins broke the huddle and strolled up under center at the New Jersey 24. The clock was ticking down to under 3 minutes left in the 2nd quarter.

Parcels paused and may have rolled his eyes out of camera shot. He lifted the play sheet to cover his lips and barked into his radio: "*34 mirror – number one – Bond!*" he said in a clipped tone. Linebacker, **Cory Littleton** received the call and lined up the defence to key on the run. Cousins dropped back five steps and fired a pass to **Corey Davis** crossing behind the linebackers. He snared it in stride and streaked into the end zone for a 24-yard touchdown! The score gave the Crusaders a 13-10 lead.

The Wrecking Balls went three-and-out and the Crusaders responded with a slick two-minute drill, aided by consecutive defensive fouls that put the ball at the New Jersey 5-yard line with 0:25 left in the half. Cohen paced behind his head coach, unable to hide his eagerness. He craned his neck forward and spoke in Parcels' ear.

"I think they're going to run here, Bill! I have a feeling," he murmured, hoarsely.

“But you see, Boss, they only have one timeout left,” Parcels replied.

“I know, but I have a feeling, Bill! I have a *feeling!*” Cohen insisted, his eyebrows furrowed in concentration.

“Well, sometimes you have to go with your feelings,” Parcels sighed. He sent in the defensive play, a total sellout on the run with a spy on Cousins for good measure.

The play was a short cross to a wide-open **Courland Sutton** for an easy TD. The extra point made it a 20-10 Peg City lead.

“Damn it!” Cohen winced. “I thought they were going to run there!”

The start of the second half was like a brand-new game. The Wrecking Balls got the ball first and were determined to score. Facing 4th & 1 at their own 48-yard line Parcels kept the offence on the field for an uncharacteristically daring bid to keep the drive alive.

A frantic Cohen rushed to the side of his head coach. “Bill, what are you doing, Bill?” he asked frantically. “What if we don’t get it? What if we don’t get it?”

“We’ll get it,” Parcels replied confidently. “Watch.”

The Crusaders’ defence came with an all-out blitz, keying in on the ageing battle tank, **Frank Gore**. But Goff kept it himself. He slid to his right behind rookie guard, **Dalton Risner** and landed on the 49-yard line dead even with the marker. It was good for a first down!

“Yes! Way-to-go, Jared!” Cohen hopped twice and pumped his fist in the air. “Great play call! How did you know, Bill?”

“Sometimes I get those feelings, too, Boss!” Parcels replied with a slight smirk on his face.

Three plays later, however, the Wrecking Balls faced a 4th & 5 at the Peg City 46-yard line. Parcels motioned to his offence to stay on the field. This was a much bolder move. They were no longer in sneak territory; this would require a real play.

“Oh no, oh *no!*” Cohen moaned as he paced back and forth, inadvertently bumping one of the WLJP cameras in the process.

Goff dropped took a three-step drop and, without hesitation, slung the ball to Cook on a short hitch route. Crusader safety, **Marquise Blair** had been playing tight coverage and tried to stand him up short of the yard to gain. But Cook had anticipated his charge and was able to dodge away from the full force of the tackle. He twisted to his left, took another step and fell forward across the Peg City 40 for an 8-yard gain and a first down.

This second 4th down conversion rattled the Crusaders’ defence. They were also getting tired. Five plays later, Goff scrambled into the end zone from the 9-yard line for a New Jersey touchdown. The momentum had shifted.

On Peg City’s next possession, former Patriot and frequently-abused free agent corner, **Johnathan Joseph** stepped in front of an under-thrown Cousins pass intended for **Corey Davis** and returned it 41-yards for a touchdown. While Wrecking Balls fans whooped it up, Patriots fans in attendance let loose a blast of boos aimed at the player who had abandoned the city for more money in New Jersey. Joseph had been one of the stalwarts of the Patriot secondary but, so far, he had looked lost on his new team. But with the safety aiding him with a double-team, Joseph had given free reign to his ballhawk skills and it had paid off.

The positive energy on the Wrecking Balls’ sideline continued to grow. The offence got the ball back inside Crusader territory after the Crusaders turned the ball over on downs. Coach Katopodis had decided to go for it on 4th & 7 and the decision had back-fired. New Jersey struck quickly. **Tarik Cohen** (who had spent most of the 2nd quarter injured on the sideline) sucked in a screen pass from Goff and darted and weaved his way to a 49-yard touchdown. In the space of 12 minutes in the 3rd quarter, New Jersey had scored 21 points and now led, 31-20.

The wheels continued to fall off the Crusaders’ wagon. Katopodis’ declaration that his team would be aggressive had not been an idle threat. However, his 4th down gambles were hurting his team. Another turnover on downs in Crusader territory led to a **Brandon McManus** field goal and an apparently comfortable, 34-20 New Jersey lead with 13 minutes remaining in the 4th quarter.

The Wrecking Balls’ owner was in a festive mood on the sideline. “We really needed this win,” he explained to the WLJP camera team that was following him around. “It did not look good in the first half, but Coach Parcels’ half time adjustments were spot on! Spot on, I tell you!” He clapped a hand on Parcels’ shoulder as he uttered the second “spot on.” Parcels gave half a glance in his direction and a very brief smile before turning back to the field. His face had turned stern and with good reason.

His star safety, **Jamal Adams**, had missed his second tackle of the day attempting to deliver a monster hit on a receiver. The miss left lumbering tight end **Jeff Heuerman** free to lumber down the field, picking up New Jersey DBs along the way. Finally, covered fully by Wrecking Balls, he lurched to a stop at the New Jersey 27 after a 43-yard gain.

“You have to make that tackle!” Parcels bellowed, staring down the captain of his defence. “For f&*k’s sake, you guys can’t tackle your own grandmothers!” he added, addressing the entire defence.

Parcell’s stern admonition of his defence did not have any apparent effect. Three plays later, Crusader running back, **Aaron Jones** was breaking through tackles on his way to a 20-yard touchdown run. The New Jersey lead was now down to one score, 34-27.

With 11:03 left, the mission of the New Jersey offence turned to lead preservation. In true Parcels fashion, the Wrecking Balls assembled a slow, patient and methodical drive that aimed to bite off yardage in small and manageable chunks. It was a thing of beauty. 15 plays and almost 7 minutes later, the drive finally ran out of steam at the Crusader 13-yard line. Facing 4th & 1 there was no thought of gambling. McManus trotted out to make it a two-score game with what would be close to a chip shot attempt of 31 yards.

By this point, Cohen had returned to the game. He was surprised to see that the Crusaders had scored so quickly but happy with the way his coach had handled the ensuing possession. “Okay Brandon, put this baby to bed!” he shouted, rubbing his hands in glee.

Shockingly, the usually reliable McManus missed. He pushed it just outside the right post. The few Crusaders fans who remained let loose a happy hoot while the New Jersey sideline stood staring ahead in stunned silence.

“Oh my God! He missed!” Cohen threw his hands up and covered his head. “Did you see that? He missed! How did he miss?”

Like 11 condemned men, the New Jersey defenders took the field. They knew what was coming and knew they couldn't stop it.

Starting at the 21-yard line with over 4 minutes remaining, the Crusaders took their time. They ran the ball four times with Jones before Cousins finally threw his first pass, a 13-yard cross to a wide-open **Keenan Allen**. At the two-minute warning the ball was at New Jersey's 32 and shortly thereafter they had 1st and goal at the 6. The next play, **Chris Carson** cut through a gaping hole in the center of the line for a touchdown. The teams looked about to head into overtime. Or were they?

“What are they doing, Bill? What are they doing?” a panicked Cohen cried as **Kirk Cousins** remained on the field with the Crusader offence. “Are they going for two? Don't tell me they're going for two! Are they crazy?”

The Crusaders were indeed going for two. Katopodis' pre-game announcement that his team was “in it to win it” apparently meant that a tie was not on the table. He calmly sent in the play that would decide the game one way or another.

Parcells turned to his defensive coordinator and was about to speak, when Cohen stepped between them and shook Parcell's shoulders. “Bill, I think they're going to run it here!” he gasped, appearing on the verge of hyper-ventilating. “Actually, I *know* they are going to run it. I just know it!”

“You *know* it, Boss?” Parcells asked dubiously.

“I know it, Bill,” Cohen replied. “I *know* they are going to run here!”

Parcells shrugged his shoulders and sent in the jumbo package; five down linemen, three linebackers and three defensive backs, with instructions to key on Carson. It was possibly the worst defence for the play that the Crusaders ran. Cousins dropped back to pass. His eyes lit up as he watched Allen streak open across the end zone. He cocked his arm and fired...low...*incomplete*! For a split second, a stunned silence enveloped the stadium. **Jeff Cohen** had closed his eyes and covered his face, unable to watch the action from the instant Cousins dropped back to pass. When the roar of Crusaders' fans didn't come, he peaked through his fingers and asked, “what happened?”

“Looks like we won,” Parcells answered dryly as his defence celebrated on its way back to the sideline. “He missed the throw.”

In an awkwardly played game between two teams with issues, the outcome had been determined by failure. First, failure by the Wrecking Balls kicker to seal the game, redeemed only by failure of the Crusaders' quarterback to hit a wide-open receiver in the end zone. No wonder **Jeff Cohen** is a nervous wreck watching his team. No wonder **Stephen Katopodis** wants to ditch **Kirk Cousins**!

AROUND THE EFL

Shifting from the twin carnival acts that are the Crusaders and the Wrecking Balls, to teams more likely to grace the post-season schedule in January, the Chargers piled up 22 points in the 4th quarter to stun the Violators 38-35 at the **TERRORDOME** in Virden. A confident **Carson Wentz** went toe-to-toe with “Wonder Kid,” **Pat Mahomes**, throwing 5 TD passes, including a 24-yard long cross to fourth-string wide receiver, **Travis Benjamin** to win the game with 0:10 left. The Charges have won five in a row and appear to have shaken their Championship hangover. This game was another fireworks display involving Virden. In their last five games, dating back to a Week Five 26-24 win over Budapest, the Violators and their opponents have *averaged* a combined 77 points per game, with Virden dropping two of those contests by 3 points each. **Lance Barrate**'s offence is in position to break old Death Valley scorings records dating back to 2012, but the defence is proving sufficiently negligent to give most of it back.

At Ferenc-Liszt International Airport in Budapest, the Gladiators came back to life at an inopportune time for **Darrin Jones**, taking down his North Stars, 27-25. **Big Ben** did what he typically has done well over the years, but hadn't been doing this year: He ran a successful, game-winning two-minute drill on his final possession. Trailing 25-24 after Budapest's **Sammy Watkins** put the home team in front on an 18-yard TD catch with 1:50 left, Georgia's big old vet took over at his own 9-yard line and moved his team 65 yards into field goal range. The signature play was vintage Big Ben: He stood tall in the pocket as **Calais Campbell** and **Cameron Jordan** collapsed it from both sides. As he was about to be engulfed, he let fly a javelin that split double coverage and landed in the arms of **Jarvis Landry** for a 19-yard completion. On the next play **Brett Maher** nailed the kick from 44 yards. The win provides faint hope for Glads fans that **Dave Birdsall**'s squad can turn things around and make the post-season. For Budapest, the loss was a worrisome mis-step in their race against the Spartans. They now head out for a grueling five-week North American road trip.

At the Wolverine's Den, **Tom Brady** rallied the Excaliburs in the 4th quarter and **Graham Gano** connected on a 37-yard field goal in overtime to give York a 24-21 win over Toronto. The set-up to this improbable York victory was, up to a point, eerily similar to the final moments of the Wrecking Balls-Crusaders game. With Toronto leading 21-14, **Aaron Rodgers** engineered a clock-killing drive to get into field goal range with 1:31 remaining. But veteran kicker, **Adam Vinatieri** missed what would have been a virtual game-clinching kick from 36 yards, opening the door for an unbelievable 49-yard TD pass to **Mike Williams** that culminated an equally unbelievable drive against Toronto's 7-defensive back set that. Unlike the Crusaders, however, **Jay Hammond** elected to tie the game with a one-point try and was eventually rewarded for his patience with Gano's game-winning kick at the 1:49 mark of overtime.

And finally, in a game that caught my attention for its lack of competitiveness, the Triumph blasted the Bombers, 38-28 at The Fortress in Bruxelles. Don't be fooled by the score; this was a shockingly lop-sided contest due to miscues from two of Bruxelles' biggest stars. After 24 minutes of play, Twin Cities held a slim 3-0 lead in an early defensive struggle. That is when **Marcus Mariota** inexplicably threw a ball directly to Triumph linebacker, **Darron Lee**, who returned it 50 yards for a touchdown. A lost **Travis Kelce** fumble at his team's 11 and another Lee interception of Mariota to start the 2nd half led to two more Triumph TDs. By the 4th quarter, Twin Cities was in an untouchable position, leading 38-7. Turnovers have played a deciding role in all three Bomber losses this year.



Professor McChad's Mid-Term Report Card

November 2019

In the Hallowed Halls of High Learning in the Living Football University called the EFL only the strictest standards apply. As a Senior Fellow of said EFL University it falls on me to maintain those standards by applying rigour to my grades. No team is spared the most exacting analysis and criticism based on my profound and every-increasing knowledge of this wonderful sport. For the sake of the sport, I spare no one. But if you meet or exceed the standard, you will be recognized and, in rare cases, praised. Here is my rating scale:

A: Excellent **B: Good** **C: Fair** **D: Poor** **F: Fail**

A plus (+) indicates slightly above the grade; a minus (-) slightly less.

Aurora (A): Ranked second in the league in both team offence and team defence, with a close-to 20-point average point differential, it is safe to say that Mustangs are back in the saddle again. The play of the quarterback has been sensational and the return of JJ Watt has galvanized the defence to return to the impressive form it enjoyed in previous Championship seasons. A single loss to York stands as an outlier in an otherwise parity-mocking display of dynasty-era Mustang power.

Brooklin (B-): With two of their three wins coming against the league's only two winless teams, I instinctively recoil at the thought of awarding the Hawks any kind of 'B' grade. But their win over Charleswood was truly impressive, their loss to York truly unlucky, and playing in the Coastal Division warrants a gentle bell curve. The offence has shown it is the kind that can hang with the powerhouses while the defence has been...well...not horrible. The bottom line: they look better than their record.

Bruxelles (B+): The Bombers have cooled off after a sizzling 4-0 start during which they set the bar very high indeed. Although he was conspicuously culpable in their surprise loss to Seattle, Marcus Mariota remains in the conversation for half-season league MVP. The offence has been a pleasant surprise overall, but more is expected of a defence that boasts a strong secondary and elite pass-rushers, Chris Jones and Kenny Clark. If the Bombers tighten up, they can graduate with Honours.

Budapest (B): The North Stars are slightly behind where they were projected to be at this stage. The defence has largely delivered on high expectations in a year of mind-blowing offence, but the offence under Baker Mayfield is no better than average in terms of efficiency. It is unclear whether the hype around Mayfield was overblown or the weapons at his disposal were over-estimated, but it is clear that George Kittle is not getting the attention he deserves in an offence without a viable no.2 WR.

Buffalo (C): The Derailers look to be getting back on track after a horrible start. The talent on this roster is undeniable, but unsteady play from Andrew Luck, lack of a power running game, injuries to the D-line and questionable schemes from a rookie coach are disillusioning to a fanbase that rightfully expected more. To be fair, competition in their own division has been stiffer than expected and there have been few breaks in the schedule. But not matter how you slice it, they're a disappointment.

Charleswood (B): The Pats entered the season ambiguously and after 8 games have done nothing to reveal who they truly are. At times they have looked incompetent, other times brilliant. While most would probably agree that they are the third best team in their division, there is a hint of something more lurking beneath the surface, held back by a ho-hum, flaccid game plan that aims for nothing great but guards against catastrophe. It all evens out to a flat B grade for a team without expectations.

Chino (B+): The Convicts have done what they needed to do to win the games they were expected to win and were fortunate to catch the Triumph when they had to start a rookie free agent at QB. Chino smartly runs a careful, run-centric offence that slows the game down to control the ball and protect a porous defence. The team is average at best, but crafty game-play has them slightly ahead of where most analysts thought they would be at this point in the season. For this they get a '+' to their grade.

Cowtown (C+): The Corn Kings are lucky to have Todd Gurley or they would not be close to where they are, which isn't exactly where they think they should be. Gurley's been the lone bright spot on a team that is struggling to stay near the top of the second-rate North Division. Joe Flacco, the retread starter at QB, is performing okay, but the defence is unable to stop the pass and is getting gashed horribly in the fourth quarter. The team's inability to finish is the difference between a 'B' and a 'C.'

Durham (C): The Lizards saw 2019 as a rebuilding year and were surprised to find when the games began that they could be as competitive as any team in their division. A fine receiving corps and a revived Andy Dalton have kept them in games that their suspect defence would have otherwise surrendered early. But random starts by rookie Josh Allen disrupt the flow and seem at odds with a desire to win. The rookie QB leads the team in rushing, but can't get the most out of his receiving assets.

Erieau (D-): The Cadillac have gone backwards in 2019 and there was not much room to do so after three straight losing seasons. The switch to the robust South Division has not done them any favours, but their problems are deeper than a change in conference. Their defence is on par with some contenders, but their offence is so woefully inadequate that it puts to waste every effort to keep games close. One hopes to get more out of Matt Stafford, but he really has nobody to help him out.

Georgia (C-): The Glads knew they had to be on top of their game to stay in the race in the South Division. With Big Ben at the helm, there was no reason to doubt they could do it. But the notoriously streaky Georgia QB has been flat out terrible this year, ranked below last (no.25) in the QB rankings with 11 interceptions and less than 60% completion rate. Given the abysmal contribution from the game's most important position, it is kind of miraculous that they have won three games.

Iowa City (B+): The 6-2 record is impressive but the Cubs' path to it has exposed some flaws that could sink their ship later on. They play down to weaker competition, are under-developed in the passing game, have only two takeaways on defence and are the only team in the league without an interception. Fortunately, Russell Wilson can compensate for most of it. But when a rare talent is the only thing that stands between a losing season and the playoffs, the team grade suffers.

Los Angeles (B-): At 3-5 and plausibly still in the race for a playoff spot, the Knights are farther along the path to a successful rebuild than most had expected and for this the coach and team deserve some credit with a good grade. Also deserving of credit is 2nd year rookie, Lamar Jackson. He is being inserted into the line-up in moderation to demonstrate what he is learning from Ryan Tannehill, which appears to be nothing because Jackson is in a class of his own. The future looks bright in LA.

New Jersey (B-): Wrecking Balls management and fans are tearing their hair out watching this topsy-turvy gang win and lose games in the most ridiculous ways, but at 4-4 they are about where I expected them to be in a tough division. The defence could certainly perform better than it has, but many defences are also playing beneath expectations. Conversely, Jared Goff is making the most of classics like Frank Gore, no-names like Taylor Gabriel and gizmos like Tarik Cohen to compensate.

Peg City (D+): The Crusaders are positioned to play spoiler as they begin the painful process of restructuring the roster to better suit the image of its maverick new owner. Apart from stock-piling youth and ditching salaries, the over-arching vision is unclear to those on the outside. What is clear is that the Week Four trading of two prime assets on the offensive and defensive lines for Everson Griffen and a handful of magic beans weakens the team's spoiler potential and puts Kirk Cousins in the hotseat.

Pickering (A): The Spartans burst out of the gate in 2019 like caged berserkers after months of dwelling on their pitiful failure to live up to expectations in 2018. A blast of cold water in Peg City brought them briefly down to earth, but they rebounded to pick off two of the league's top teams in the ensuing weeks. They may have dozed off a bit in Erieau but woke in time to avoid falling off that cliff. Their defence is a turnover-generating machine and Philip Rivers isn't giving his usual back.

Scarborough (D-): Well, here we are again, with the Blue Eagles seemingly permanently grounded in the league's basement. The difference this year is that there is absolutely no hope without Aaron Rodgers to spit on. Brock Osweiler did his best to imitate a good starter early by flinging the ball with reckless abandon; achieving moderate success and almost stealing a win at Durham. But that early exuberance quickly wore off and now the team is waking up the reality that they really suck.

Seattle (B-): The question of how competitive the Pilots would be against teams not named the Cubs was answered in Week Six when they blasted the Bombers with the help of a violent 1st quarter coup. That signature win served notice to the league that the Pilots cannot be taken lightly, at least not before Kareem Hunt runs out of gas. The defence is respectable and the offence, when it gets to the red zone, usually comes away with points. Think of them as a better version of Erieau – much better.

Sebastian (B-): This year in Sebastian we get to see what Drew Brees and Odell Beckham Jr are capable of achieving on their own. So far, they have been impressive together, but it is becoming more obvious with each passing week that they will need more support than what Doug Baldwin and Jadeveon Clowney can provide. They get a bump up in grade for handling their divisional opponents and establishing themselves as the team to beat. But at some point, they'll have to beat somebody important.

St. Charles (A-): I am tempted to award the Chargers a straight 'A' for sustaining success as a defending champ with a roster not noticeably improved over last year. It is much more difficult to achieve success when teams put extra time into planning for *you*. But I wonder where they would be if not for the dramatic improvement in the play of Carson Wentz and the dismal showing of their thought-to-be main rival, Buffalo. Their defence has been exposed more than once and will be again.

Toronto (B): Given that the Wolverines expected to cement their grip on the South Division with their trade for Aaron Rodgers and the shoring up of the front seven of their defence, their 500 record is a plain disappointment worthy of tacking a 'minus' onto the grade. But the reality is that the Wolverines have big holes in their roster, a patchwork offensive line that barely came together before the start of the season, and the secondary is not playing up to its previous standard. Toronto is in tough now with a resurgent Aurora and powerful neighbours in the conference. They should get used to flirting with 500.

Twin Cities (A-): The Triumph have again established themselves as both an offensive and defensive power. But as their loss to Pickering in Week Seven shows, they probably fall short of a great power, at least on offence. This does not mean they won't win out the string – they are in position and Guy Williams has the coaching chops to pull off such a wonder. But with two games coming up against the Virden Juggernaut, it's hard to see anything less than a pyrrhic bloodbath deciding the Central.

Virden (A-): Patrick Mahomes and the Violators have their fans in a frenzy. This has been the most exciting team in the league to watch by far through the first half of the season. While their offence is aflame, unfortunately so is their defence over the last four games. This trend started as soon as they came across good opposing offences and their own offence started posting record-breaking numbers. It looks as if they let up, but the fact is that they are not very good. Suspect 'D' bumps down the grade.

York (B): The defending Atlantic Conference Champs, despite their current title, are somehow still able to sandbag opponents. This is because, despite an obviously decrepit roster riddled with holes begging to be penetrated, they still have Tom Brady guiding them. Ranked 21st in passer rating, Tom is finally starting to show his age. But opponents can never be certain that he won't rise up suddenly and swat them down, as he did against Aurora in Week Two and Toronto in Week Eight. When Tom awakens, Josh Doctson turns into Jerry Rice, Mike Williams turns into James Lofton and Zach Ertz turns into...Zach Ertz.

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Jimmy's WEEK NINE PICKS

ST. CHARLES @ CHINO (line – CHARGERS by 2)

INJURIES: St. Charles – Quincy Enunwa (DOUBTFUL); Chino – Trumaine Johnson (OUT), Patrick Ricard (OUT).

The defending champs are again in peak form after taking a game from Virden on the road last week. They are, in fact, looking better than at this point last year, although their record is the same. Riding a five-game win streak, during which they knocked off two of the top teams in their conference, they currently sit at no.6 in the Power Rankings. Carson Wentz is on fire. Last year's weak link is now the strong one, having completed 78% of his pass attempts and thrown 16 TD passes in his last five games. Working out where the Convicts stand in the pecking order is more difficult. They have managed to overcome a porous defence by holding up well in the red zone and not turning the ball over. They have the type of offence that can hold the ball and wear out an opponent. Expect "small ball" to be the strategy here against a Charger 'D' that does not give up many big plays anyway. St. Charles will look to exploit a suspect secondary missing its top cornerback. Double-teaming Michael Thomas is essential, but may not be enough. **PICK: ST. CHARLES**

SEATTLE @ NEW JERSEY (line – PILOTS by 1)

INJURIES: Seattle – None. New Jersey – Zach Cunningham (QUESTIONABLE), Bruce Ellington (OUT), Andrew Norwell (OUT).

Seattle is showing definite signs of life but I am not sure this recent surge is of road-favourite calibre against a Wrecking Balls team that is enjoying a three-game winning streak. Yes...it is a shaky winning streak, over lower echelon teams, totally lacking genuine impressiveness, but it is a win-streak nonetheless. Any win streak can have a lasting salubrious effect on an ailing team and its fans. The crowd at Stone Pony Shore may be enthusiastic for more than the free pre-game concert this week as they see that playoffs remain in reach. But the Pilots cannot be taken lightly. They are second in the league in forcing turnovers, while Eli Manning is spreading the ball around and finding the end zone more than opposing corners. Kareem Hunt is second in the league in rushing and Khalil Mack is starting to make game-altering plays. Still, Jared Goff is consistently the better quarterback and has a few more options than his opposite number, including super gremlin, Tarik Cohen. Expect another wobbly and unconvincing NJ win. **PICK: NEW JERSEY**

LOS ANGELES @ BUFFALO (line – DERAILERS by 4)

INJURIES: Los Angeles – Ryan Tannehill (OUT), Greedy Williams (OUT); Buffalo – Ezekiel Ansah (OUT), Derek Barnett (OUT), Jaquiski Tarrt (OUT), RJ McIntosh (OUT), Johnathan Abram (IR).

The streaky Knights enter this game having lost three in a row, but they have looked far from down-and-out in those three losses. They are playing carefree football right now and genuinely seem to be having fun rotating Lamar Jackson and Ryan Tannehill at quarterback. With Tannehill out for this game, it will be all Lamar here, which could create some confusion in the Derailer defence while also providing opportunities for a big play going the other way. Buffalo's highly-touted defence is showing signs that it is ready to deliver on its potential, but they are not there yet. The Derailer-Lamar battle is one of those risk-reward match-ups that could spell big trouble for both sides. But for the Knights to prevail, the best Jackson will have to show up. The Buffalo run game has awoken the past few weeks and with it, Andrew Luck. Expect the Derailers to put up points against the rusty 'Blue Shield.' **PICK: BUFFALO**

BRUXELLES @ IOWA CITY (line – BOMBERS by 1)

INJURIES: Bruxelles – Chris Thompson (OUT), Leonard Fournette (OUT), Kyle Long (OUT); Iowa City – None.

The Bombers are surprise favourites on the road against a team with a better record. While Bruxelles has lost three of their last four games, the Cubs have looked highly suspicious in their last two wins over substandard competition. The Cubs' offence high-pointed in their breathtaking win over Virden back in Week Five but has slid steadily downwards since. The absence of a reliable target at wide

receiver continues to hold back Russell Wilson. While the recent flashes shown by rookie, A.J. Brown are promising, the Cubs don't have that sure-handed route-runner who can convert third down when needed. The Bombers' strong secondary will not make Russell's third down life any easier. On the other side, the vaunted Cubs' secondary of last year has been no better than average in 2019. Marcus Mariota is having a career-year while Marlon Mack looks like a runaway truck out of the backfield. **PICK: BRUXELLES**

VIRDEN @ TWIN CITIES (line – VIOLATORS by 3)

INJURIES: Virden – Austin Bryant (OUT), D.J. Humphries (OUT), Lane Johnson (OUT), Andrew Sendejo (OUT), Eric Berry (IR); **Twin Cities** – CJ Beathard (OUT), Chris Lindstrom (OUT), Brandon Shell (OUT), Kyle Allen (FA*-IR).

On its face, this is another curious road favourite against a strong opponent. But a second look shows why Vegas likes the Violators here. Virden's offence is no. 1 and is on pace to challenge the record for points scored by a team in a season, 625, set by Death Valley in 2012. They average a mind-blowing 480 yards per game, 4 yards more than that Undertaker juggernaut did in its record-setting season. Patrick Mahomes is serving notice to the league that Virden is a force to contend with. His counterpart, Mitch Trubisky, is hearing whispers that he is not a big game quarterback. This is the biggest game for either of these clubs so far this year, so this is Trubisky's chance to put that rumour to bed. In contrast to their offensive prowess, Virden's defence has lapsed badly the past four weeks. The Triumph will score their share of points. Yet to be seen is whether the highly-regarded Triumph defence can solve the Rubik's Cube of Pat Mahomes and Ezekiel Elliott. Guy Williams always has a surprise in store. **PICK: TWIN CITIES**

CHARLESWOOD @ PEG CITY (line – PATRIOTS by 3)

INJURIES: Charleswood – Marcus Gilbert (OUT), Jalen Mills (OUT), Kelechi Osemele (OUT), Andrus Peat (OUT); **Peg City** –Mike Hughes (OUT), Cre'von LeBlanc (OUT), Marcus Maye (OUT), Ricardo Allen (IR), Roderick Johnson (IR).

The Pats will be missing three starters on the offensive line, which is two starters short of what they need to be missing in order for the Crusaders to mount a semblance of a defence. Last or near last in all meaningful defensive categories except rushing yards allowed, Peg City is the perfect tonic for the languishing Charleswood passing attack. Not that the Pats aren't able to pass; they just don't try it as often as every other team. Even the sorry Cadillac take more shots down field. This is DeShaun Watson's chance to join the passing party and give Alvin Kamara a bit of a breather. But the Peg City offence has increased production since they unpacked Chris Carson from his crate, enough to cause unrest in their usually superior opponents. The Pats will feel some of that unrest. **PICK: PEG CITY**

TORONTO @ SEBASTIAN (line – SWORDFISH by 1)

INJURIES: Toronto – Mark Barron (OUT), Tim Williams (OUT); **Sebastian** – CJ Anderson (OUT), Doug Baldwin (OUT), Anthony Castonzo (OUT), D'Onta Foreman (OUT), Mark Glowinski (OUT), Geron Christian Sr. (IR), Kevin King (IR), Patrick Robinson (IR).

Turnovers on both sides predominate in Swordfish games. This has led to erratic results that boil down to a disappointing 500 record. The Toronto offence has not bloomed into the powerhouse envisioned by management when they acquired Aaron Rodgers and this has knocked them out of Aurora's league for now. These dangerous, but somewhat disappointing teams, can turn their seasons around with a victory or put them in jeopardy with a loss. Toronto is in the more precarious situation, trying to keep the galloping Mustangs in sight. The Swordfish have room for error, so expect them to gamble freely on fourth down and stretch the field, as usual. The Wolverines hope to capitalize on Sebastian errors and keep Drew Brees off the field. The Fish hope to score early and often. This game could go horribly wrong for either team, but all things being equal, the Swordfish have the edge at home. **PICK: SEBASTIAN**

AURORA @ COWTOWN (line – MUSTANGS by 6)

INJURIES: Aurora – Albert Wilson (PROBABLE), Preston Brown (OUT); **Cowtown** – Ronald Darby (OUT), Aqib Talib (OUT), Bilal Powell (OUT).

The way the Mustangs have been dominating opponents over their five-game winning it is hard to recall how they lost in Week Two to York. Looking back then to what seems like ancient history reveals a simple of lack of execution on a couple of questionable 4th down gambles, sub-standard safety play and pressure on Matt Ryan by the York front-seven. If the Corn Kings generate the degree of pressure they feel they are capable of and Aurora shoots itself in the foot in one of the key areas, Cowtown has a chance to hobble the horses. The threat of Todd Gurley has been a boon to Joe Flacco, but the veteran still has the look of someone whose best days are behind him. He will need to be sharp and Gurley must produce at his current all-star level to keep pace with Aurora's anticipated all-out aerial assault on the wounded Cowtown secondary. Homefield has not been an advantage so far in Cowtown. **PICK: AURORA**

DURHAM @ GEORGIA (line – THUNDER LIZARDS by 3)

INJURIES: Durham – Zach Fulton (OUT), Cooper Kupp (OUT), L. Duvernay-Tardif (IR); **Georgia** – Will Fuller V (OUT), Mike Lupati (OUT).

The Lizards are suffering through a four-game losing streak and nobody outside of Durham is paying much attention. That is because it

will take more than that to knock any team out of the one-legged race for the wide-open North Division. Georgia has no such luxury. With Aurora on top and Toronto ahead of them, the Glads must snap out of their funk and start winning games like this one. They took a big step forward with a surprise upset of Budapest last week. Big Ben dug deep in that game and hopes to rebuild his season from there. Nobody knows who will start at QB for Durham, including the offence. That may be the problem for them. **PICK: GEORGIA**

SCARBOROUGH @ ERIEAU (line – CADILLAC by 5)

INJURIES: **Scarborough** – Jamison Crowder (OUT), Deion Jones (OUT); **Erieau** – Tyron Smith (PROBABLE), Deontay Burnett (OUT), Ted Ginn Jr., (OUT), Marshawn Lynch (OUT), Joey Bosa (IR).

Something has to give in this battle of winless teams. Or does it? The cloud over these two franchises is so dark and heavy that a tie is almost likely. The only thing that can be known for certain is that at least one team, maybe both, will max out at 15 potential losses in 2019. The Cadillac look to have the clear edge at home. Their defence has played well for the most part at Kelly-Burke Field. They also have the better QB in Matt Stafford, which reflects on the dismal state of the Blue Eagles' pivots. I would feel more confident if the line were a field goal or less. But, what the heck, let's take a gamble on the Cadillac firing on all cylinders! **PICK: ERIEAU**

BUDAPEST @ YORK (line – NORTH STARS by 1)

INJURIES: **Budapest** – Earl Thomas (OUT); **York** – Paul Richardson Jr. (DOUBTFUL), Russell Bodine (OUT), Brandon Scherff (OUT).

With the Spartans playing dominant football and a long road trip head of them, the North Stars could not afford to drop the ball at home last week against an unsettled Gladiator squad. They were unable to generate pressure and gave the league's lowest rated QB time to pick them apart. Although they are the better team, the North Stars might find the Excaliburs surprisingly tough to crack. Tom Brady has been up and down but when his team is in the game, he has been money in the fourth quarter. Establishing the run game with Nick Chubb and Derrick Henry will be critical to York's success offensively, but Budapest has been strong against the run this year. York is not playing spoiler here; they can get back in the race with a win. Expect Brady to work his magic once again. **PICK: YORK**

PICKERING @ BROOKLIN (line – SPARTANS by 4)

INJURIES: **Pickering** – None; **Brooklin** – Alshon Jeffery (OUT).

The Spartans looked shaky against Erieau last week but one of the hallmarks of a good team is winning on an off day. The Hawks did not finish well in their loss to the Mustangs, which has frustrated fans doubting their resolve. This is gut-check time for Brooklin; a loss and they can probably kiss their playoff hopes goodbye in the formidable Coastal Division. With Derek Carr looking strong, they have the firepower to challenge the league's top-performing defence. It will be critical for them to keep pace with Philip Rivers as playing catch-up will make them vulnerable to the predatory Spartan secondary, which leads the league in interceptions. The Hawks' defence is nothing special but it has held up better this year than in the past. The Spartans' offence has done the job but has not carried the team as much as anticipated. Rivers has thrown 3 picks to just 2 TDs in his last two games. Expect the Hawks to keep this very close. **PICK: BROOKLIN**



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PRESENTS
This Week in EFL History
With Professor Sterling Smitherman

FROM THE EFL ARCHIVES – In Week Eight of the 2013 EFL Season, the Garland Mustangs announced two weeks after the sudden resignation of **Doug Shirley** that **Ricky “Coco” Main** would be their interim head coach. Main, a former ‘Headball’ coach in the Oceania Vegetarian Headball League (OVHL) was selected for the job to bring toughness to a team that seemed to be lacking it. Headball, reputedly the most barbarous legally-organized sport on Earth, could apparently teach football players a thing or two about brutality. The Mustangs marked Main's first week on

the job with a 30-0 trampling of the West Division-leading Cubs, raising Garland to first place in the South.

At the halfway point of 2013 the division races were shaping up as follows:

In the East three teams were deadlocked at 4-4, with the Patriots holding the tie-breaker with a head-to-head sweep of the Violators and Cannibals. Behind the pack, at 3-5 was York, followed by 2-6 Mohave.

In the West, the Cubs were at 6-2 after being humiliated by Garland, but remained a full game in front at Death Valley and Chino, both at 5-3. LA (3-5) and Mission Viejo (2-6) trailed far behind.

In the North, Markham held sway with a 7-1 record, followed by Pickering (6-2), Durham (5-3), Cowtown (4-4) and Twin Cities (3-5), creating a neat descending countdown in the ‘W’ column.

In the South, the Mustangs rode their win over the Cubs to sole possession of first place, at 5-3, with Gwinnett and South Carolina neck-and-neck behind them at 4-4 and Scarborough and Sebastian languishing at 2-6. The Blue Eagles were – you guessed it – the league's biggest disappointment.

EFL FOCUS

A weekly tour of Media from around the EFL. This week we focus on.....

BUDAPEST



Attila the Hun
Budapest Weekly
Goulash



“The Road Trip to end all EFL Road Trips”

Special EFL Report from Budapest North Stars

Translated by Győző Brown

One the most intriguing EFL calendar events in August for every team, is the schedule release, especially for Budapest and Bruxelles, where often a lengthy road trip is simply a “*fact of life*” of being a European team in a North American professional Football league.

Specifically, in Budapest, it's the same 3 staple questions year in, year out

1. Who do we play week 1?
2. When do we play Pickering? (both games)
3. When is the annual long road trip?

In this year's schedule release, something was different for Budapest, very different! As, for the first time in EFL History, the League schedulers handed the North Stars the **first ever 5 game road trip**. Initial reaction from **Budapest head coach and GM Darrin Jones** was disbelief, “ I honestly thought it was a typo, a big “Öß+=€Ü mistake” , but when I was told it wasn't , I was about to send in a complaint via the local “Posta” to the league office to file an “inquiry” on the grounds of “**being imposed unfair and undue competitive circumstances**” ... (similar to the now extinct NFL , where the Miami Dolphins complained in 1984 when they played at New England that a NE grounds crew member on work release hopped on a John Deere mini-tractor to carve a swath of clean playing field out from the snow to allow for a game winning FG try).

The reasons for Budapest's initial “ire” was two-fold.

1. **5 games is just simply too long of a road trip** for any team in North America or Europe to play through, it's completely unprecedented and 2 more than any other EFL team this year!! Of course, all teams play 8 games home and 8 away, it technically balances it out, we get that, but to be either home or away for an extended stretch has its perils.
2. **There are financial implications**. As reported by Spats and common EFL knowledge , Budapest is on a tight budget , we pay our players monthly (every 4 or 5 weeks depending on how many Mondays in the month) and rely on home game revenue to pay the players, it's that simple , managing a 4 game road trip was barely doable , but a 5 game road trip , now put payroll at risk in addition to the potential union and team morale issues .

North Star Captain reactions

Before team management issued any communication to the league, we thought it was prudent to confide in our 2 team captains, DE's Cameron Jordon and Calais Campbell and apprise them on the situation.

“Coach, we got this!” exclaimed DE Cam Jordon right off the bat, *“players want to see their families more and a 5 game road trip will help , while we enjoy the Budapest and Central European night life , we could all use a good night on the town in Minnesota and Toronto, as for the paychecks we will find a way to do our part in order for the team to meet its payroll”..* **“I agree”** said Campbell, *“there is something that can be done here – no different when I used to play in the NFL many years ago and my team was constantly playing out of UK, Mexico and Japan! Talk about leadership, this is one of the very reasons the Budapest experiment has not failed, despite inconsistent gate attendance, and has led to relatively positive results on field in the 2+ years in Hungary.*

48 hours later

Sure, and soon enough, after a series of players only closed doors meetings, the following proposed solutions were provided and compromised with team management

1. Accommodations, Red Roof Inn all the way and staying with family be permitted.
2. 4 plus to a room, (not 2) with the rookies, punters and kickers to sleep on cots only.
3. Cut player per diem food expenses in its entirety, players will be required to bring lunch and drinks on game day or practices, no catering, unless provided by host team free of charge
4. Uniforms to be washed every other game ...re- stitching of player numbers and name only – given it's a league mandate and rule.
5. Travel from Budapest to North America, will be on low class economy airliner Wizz Air, travel from city to city will be on regular Greyhound bus service, trunk route only, no direct city lines.
6. Injured or planned in-active players will stay in Budapest, only healthy players will travel
7. limited training staff that meets league standards to travel, family members may assist recovery
8. On the management-coaching side, only “official coordinator role” coaches can travel, and video recording of the game will be limited to hand held 3G mobiles ...
9. The North Stars have advised the EFL league office, they will not attend any league sanctioned activities that require additional travel, outside of volunteer work.
10. The North Stars will formally ask the league to advance them their portion of TV revenue ahead of the week 9 travels versus the agreed constitution on shared revenues

Additional Reaction ...

To be transparent, not everyone was thrilled , Earl Thomas III currently on IR , was on record to say ***“this sucks and is unfortunate, you would not see “Aurora or Charleswood” treat its players this way”*** but even Thomas admitted its different in Budapest and this was an unforeseen situation at the time of his preseason trade....Safety Quandre Diggs offered this *“it is, what it is, I'm proud to be a North Star and to represent Budapest and Hungary, proud of my team mates to try and gut this out, but this (kind of) ain't right, you know what I mean”?!*

At the time of publication, the EFL League Office has declined at any comment.

Final words ...

Only time will tell, if and how the toll a five-game road trip will take on the players, coaching and the state of the franchise. Will there be more injuries, what about team performance, can the locker room stick together? Can the organization simply persevere?

Given the current reaction of the team (specifically the players) there is hope for optimism and unity and **in the end the North Stars did not file any formal “complaint”** but only shared some general observations and asks up through the appropriate league channels

For now, all we know is this, Week 9 to 13 is as follows:

@York @Brooklin @Twin Cities @Erieau @Durham

Below North Star Captain, Calais Campbell, seen in the upper left, addresses rookie and veterans alike as they prepare to get use to the unique travel conditions.

(North Star Rookie, DE Chase Winovich, seen far upper right, must have been thinking “No one ever told me at the EFL Draft and combine it would be like this!”)

