

2019



WEEK

15



EFL

ELITE FOOTBALL LEAGUE

2019



WEEK

15

In our 13<sup>th</sup> season and still going strong!

January 26, 2020

# COOKED IN OVERTIME!

EAST



CENTRAL



WEST



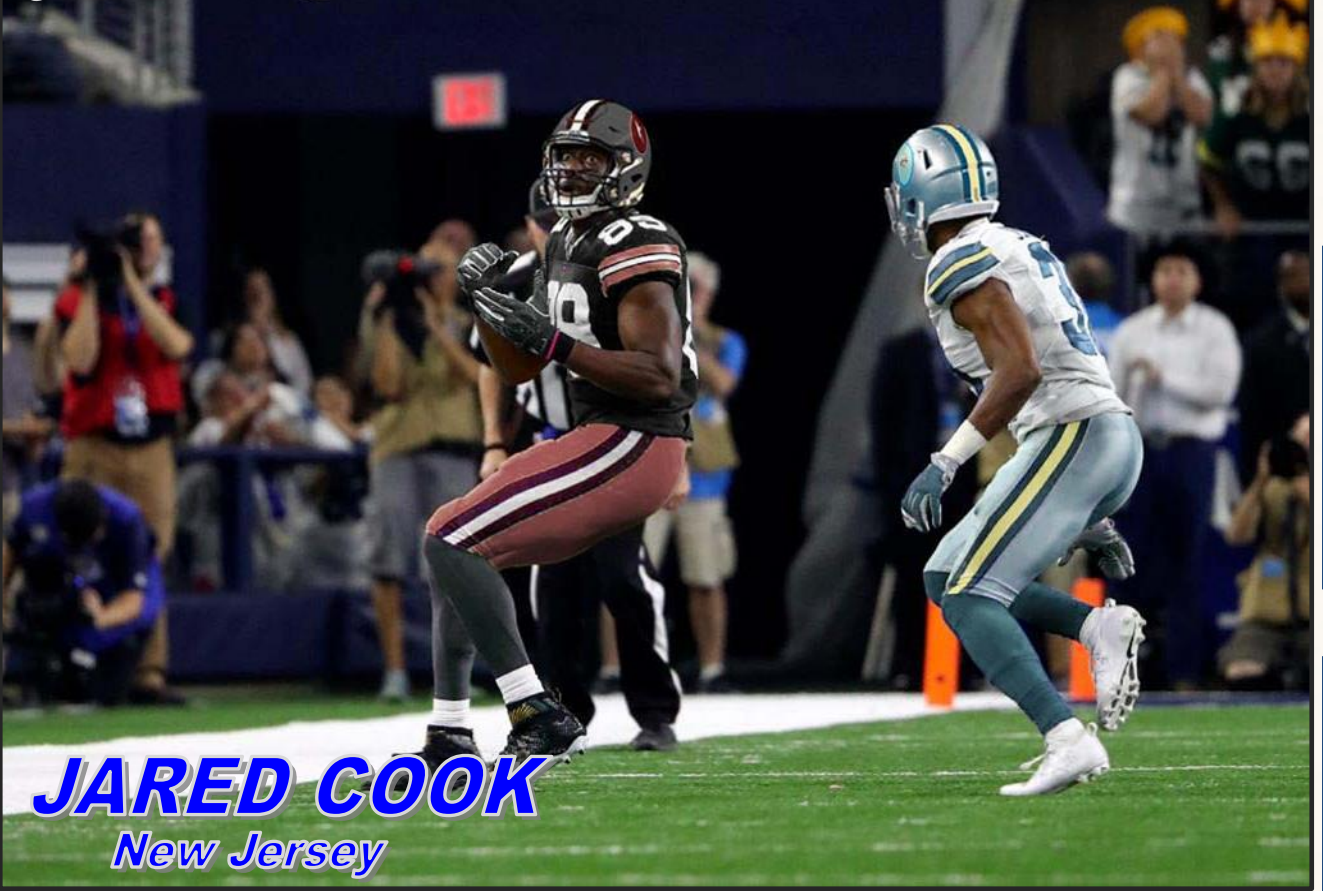
NORTH



COASTAL

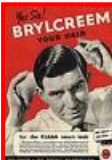


SOUTH



**JARED COOK**  
New Jersey

New Jersey tight end, *Jared Cook* gets open on a crossing pattern and watches the pass from *Jared Goff* into his arms as Buffalo safety *Kentrell Brice* looks on. On a hot-and-cold day for the Wrecking Balls, Cook stayed hot – catching 8 of 8 targets for 149 yards and 2 TDs, including a dramatic 32-yard game winner in OT for a 29-23 New Jersey win.



Who was slick  
in Week  
Fifteen?

“Brylcreem” THE  
EFL’S FIRST SPONSOR



Pat Mahomes  
QB  
Viriden  
Violators

26 of 38, 454 yds, 7 TDs. Won wild  
shootout at PC’s True North Field.



Kyle Fuller  
CB  
Bruxelles  
Bombers

14T, 2 PD, 1 INT (23yds), 5-12 ATT.  
Game-clinching INT vs Chargers.



## OFFENSIVE PLAY OF THE WEEK

1<sup>st</sup> & 10 OPP 32, 1:50 left in OT, **Jared Goff** (NJ) passed to **Jared Cook** for a 32-yard game-winning TD.



## GAME CENTER 2019 Week Fifteen








## GAME BLITZ!

By Chris Sherman



## DEFENSIVE PLAY OF THE WEEK

2<sup>nd</sup> & 7, STC 31, 2:17 4<sup>th</sup> Qrt. **Kyle Fuller** (BRX) picked off **Alex Smith** (STC) to preserve 16-15 lead.

	16	In a battle of kickers, a lone TD pass of 36 yards from Marcus Mariota to Travis Kelce early in the 2 <sup>nd</sup> quarter and a missed 40-yard FG attempt by Steven Hauschka at the gun to end the 1 <sup>st</sup> half wound up being decisive. Both defences played well, but it was a 4 <sup>th</sup> down stuff of Adrian Peterson at mid-field, leading to a Matt Prater FG, and Kyle Fuller shutting down Michael Thomas that turned the tide for Bruxelles.
	15	
	23	In a rare three-score OT, the Wrecking Balls kept their playoff hopes alive when Jared Goff capped off a perfect 4 of 4 on the final possession with a 32-yard curl-and-run to Jared Goff for the winning TD with 1:39 left. NJ overcame a slow start, using 2 picks of Andrew Luck to set up 10 points in the 2 <sup>nd</sup> half. The scrappy Derailers tied the game and sent it to OT on a dramatic 59-yard FG by Jake Elliott.
	29	
	9	The Patriots' offence struggled early, going three-and-out on their first three possessions, and never managed to get the passing game going despite injuries in the Triumph secondary. The Triumph pass rush stepped up, sacking DeShaun Watson 5 times and hurrying him 6 times. Mitch Trubisky directed a balanced, 414-yard attack for the Triumph, throwing for 2 TDs and rushing for another in the easy win.
	34	
	52	Trailing 14-10 early in the 2 <sup>nd</sup> , the Crusaders opted to run the ball on 4 <sup>th</sup> & 10 at their own 46 and came up short, setting up Patrick Mahomes for this 3 <sup>rd</sup> of 7 TD passes on the day and helping to boost Virden to a 28-10 half time. The Crusaders rallied for 4 TDs in the 2 <sup>nd</sup> half, but the Violators' offence remained unstoppable. Virden stayed one score ahead in a 21-point 4 <sup>th</sup> quarter, while 2 late picks of Kirk Cousins sealed the shootout win.
	38	
	19	Tyler Lockett caught a 32-yard hitch from Russell Wilson to set up a Joe Mixon TD run and AJ Bouye picked off Dak Prescott inside the Cubs' 10 to set up an 83-yard FG drive for a 17-10 Cubs halftime lead. The Convicts scraped back with 3 FGs to go ahead 19-17, but a Justin Tucker FG put Iowa in front with 2:54 left. Chino failed to convert a 4 <sup>th</sup> & 10 at their own 27 with 2:17 left, leading to the Cubs' final TD.
	27	
	10	Ryan Tannehill threw a career-high 6 TD passes, 5 of those to wide-receiver Brandin Cooks, to lead the Knights to a rout over the Pilots. Seattle went three-and-out on their first two series while LA scored TDs on their first three possessions to put the visitors in a 20-point 1 <sup>st</sup> quarter hole. Eli Manning found Anthony Miller for a 19-yard TD on Seattle's third possession, but that was all as the Knights kept rolling on.
	44	
	17	The teams exchanged two TDs apiece in the game's first four possessions, signalling the start of an epic shootout. But an 11-yard sack by Roquan Smith on 3 <sup>rd</sup> down forced a Sebastian punt to end trade-off and set up a go-ahead 19-yard TD pass to Kapri Bibbs. Cowtown took over in the 2 <sup>nd</sup> half, scoring on their first 5 possessions and playing tough defence to out-score Sebastian 27-0.
	48	
	31	A 28-yard slant to Cody Latimer on 3 <sup>rd</sup> & long kept an early 2 <sup>nd</sup> quarter drive alive and set up a 25-yard TD pass from Josh Allen to John Ross for the game's first major. That set off a 21-point 2 <sup>nd</sup> quarter for the Lizards that featured 4 interceptions on 4 straight series by Scarborough rookie, Drew Lock. Allen was as effective with his legs as he was with his arm, rushing for 112 yards and 2 TDs.
	10	
	54	Both teams barn-stormed to a 21-21 deadlock through one-and-a-half quarters before the Hawks started to fly away, beginning with a tie-breaking 38-yard FG by Cody Parkey. That was followed up by a defensive stop with 1:36 left in the half and a 1-minute drive for a TD to make it 30-21. In the 2 <sup>nd</sup> half, the Excaliburs' offence disappeared with the defence as the Hawks poured it on, finishing with 670 total yards.
	27	
	14	A run-heavy Budapest attack set-up two 1 <sup>st</sup> half TD passes by Baker Mayfield and built up a 17-14 lead. The North Stars drove for a FG on their first series of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> half to make it 20-14. Trying to make a play, Philip Rivers forced the ball to a blanketed Sterling Shepard and Pierre Desir picked it off to set up Mayfield's third TD pass. The Budapest defence took over, shutting out Pickering the rest of the way.
	27	
	24	Aaron Rodgers caught the Cadillac off-guard with a 15-yard TD pass to an open Adam Thielen to give Toronto a 10-0 lead in the 1 <sup>st</sup> . The Wolverines stuck to the ground after that, slowly building a 16-0- lead before consecutive PR fumbles by Dwayne Harris led to 10 Erieau points. With the Caddies driving to take the lead, Brandon Carr picked off Kyler Murray and returned it 55 yards to set up Saquon Barkley's game-clinching TD run.
	10	
	14	The Glads looked be in this game early as Big Ben finished off his first two possessions with long TD passes to Will Fuller V and Kenny Stills. But Matt Ryan was too hot to handle. He finished off his first 3 series with TD passes of 21, 43 and 67 yards, all to Davante Adams, to foreshadow a miserable day for the Georgia defenders. Roethlisberger was picked off 4 times to make the onslaught worse as the Mustangs galloped to victory.
	54	

**BOMBERS****16**

**PASSING:** Marcus Mariota, 17 of 30, 213 yds, 1 TD, 0 INT  
**RUSHING:** Kerryon Johnson, 6C, 28yds, (4.7), 0 TD  
**RECEIVING:** Travis Kelce, 5 for 86yds, 36LG, 1 TD  
**DEFENCE:** Kyle Fuller, 14 T, 2 PD, 1 INT (23yds), 5-12ATT  
**KICKING:** Matt Prater, 1 of 1 XPA, 3 of 3 FGA, 10 Pts

**CHARGERS****15**

**PASSING:** Alex Smith, 18 of 35, 163 yds, 0 TD, 1 INT  
**RUSHING:** Dalvin Cook, 20C, 105yds, (5.3), 0 TD  
**RECEIVING:** Jimmy Graham, 6 for 55yds, 14LG, 0 TD  
**DEFENCE:** Jordan Jenkins, 7 T, 2 SK, 2 STF, 1 HUR  
**KICKING:** Steven Hauschka, 5 of 6 FG, 15 Pts

01-26-2020 St. Charles Stadium Temp: 72 Wind: MVP: **Marcus Mariota**

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2018 Bruxelles (10-5)	3	10	3	0	16
2018 St. Charles (8-7)	3	3	3	6	15

## Scoring Summary

1 5:52 Bruxelles	FG Prater 39 (9-67-3:35)	3-0
1 0:11 St. Charles	FG Hauschka 25 (10-68-5:36)	3-3
2 14:05 Bruxelles	TD Mariota 36 pass to Kelce (Prater) (3-58-1:01)	10-3
2 5:40 Bruxelles	FG Prater 36 (9-31-3:11)	13-3
2 2:09 St. Charles	FG Hauschka 52 (6-35-3:16)	13-6
3 8:06 Bruxelles	FG Prater 27 (12-64-4:55)	16-6
3 3:13 St. Charles	FG Hauschka 22 (6-20-2:33)	16-9
4 14:02 St. Charles	FG Hauschka 48 (7-29-2:40)	16-12
4 8:57 St. Charles	FG Hauschka 49 (7-34-3:18)	16-15

	BRX	STC
First Downs	14	18
Rushes	24-81	30-165
Passes	31-17-213	35-18-163
Sacked	5-32	1-2
Fumble	0	1
Penalties	5-34	4-32
Turnovers	0	1
Missed Tackles	10	5
Passes 25+	2	0
Runs 10+	2	5
Blitzers	42	14
Time	27:12	32:48
Third Down	5-15	5-14
Fourth Down	0-0	0-1
Red Att/Td/Fg	3/0/2	2/0/2
Net Offense	262	326

**DERAILERS****23**

**PASSING:** Andrew Luck, 35 of 59, 394 yds, 2 TDs, 2 INTs  
**RUSHING:** Alfred Blue, 9C, 34 yds, (13.8), 0 TD  
**RECEIVING:** Robert Woods, 9 for 103yds, 45LG, 1 TD  
**DEFENCE:** Aaron Donald, 3 T, 1 PD, 2 STF, 1 HUR, 2 FF  
**KICKING:** Jake Elliott, 2 of 2 XPA, 3 of 4 FGA, 11 Pts

**WRECKING BALL****29**

**PASSING:** Jared Goff, 17 of 43, 298 yds, 3 TDs, 1 INT  
**RUSHING:** Tarik Cohen, 15C, 55 yds, (3.7), 0 TD  
**RECEIVING:** Jared Cook, 8 for 149yds, 32LG, 2 TDs  
**DEFENCE:** Cory Littleton, 13 T, 2 PD, 1 STF, 1 INT (15yds)  
**KICKING:** Brandon McManus, 2 of 2 XPA, 3 of 3 FGA, 11 Pts

01-26-2020 Stone Pony Shore Temp: 63 Wind: 0-10 None MVP: **Jared Goff**

	1	2	3	4	5	Tot
2018 Buffalo (6-9)	7	3	0	10	3	23
2018 New Jersey (9-6)	0	0	10	10	9	29

1 3:14 Buffalo	TD Luck 4 pass to Jones (Elliott,J) (13-73-7:02)	7-0
2 1:54 Buffalo	FG Elliott 24 (15-76-6:45)	10-0
3 7:17 New Jersey	TD Goff 4 pass to Gore (McManus) (6-76-2:02)	10-7
3 3:21 New Jersey	FG McManus 28 (4-7-1:41)	10-10
4 14:47 Buffalo	TD Luck 45 pass to Woods (Elliott,J) (3-61-1:31)	17-10
4 10:09 New Jersey	FG McManus 38 (11-55-4:35)	17-13
4 5:10 New Jersey	TD Goff 19 pass to Cook (McManus) (6-53-1:09)	17-20
4 0:00 Buffalo	FG Elliott 59 (7-29-1:49)	20-20
5 12:38 New Jersey	FG McManus 50 (6-43-2:16)	20-23
5 3:26 Buffalo	FG Elliott 39 (16-62-8:59)	23-23
5 1:39 New Jersey	TD Goff 32 pass to Cook	23-29

	BUF	NJ
First Downs	25	24
Rushes	31-94	29-109
Passes	61-36-401	43-17-298
Sacked	2-13	0-0
Fumble	1	2
Penalties	17-128	6-50
Turnovers	2	1
Missed Tackles	4	5
Blitzers	32	42
Time	44:43	28:38
Third Down	10-22	3-15
Fourth Down	2-2	0-2
Red Att/Td/Fg	3/1/2	4/2/2
Net Offense	482	407

**PATRIOTS****9**

**PASSING:** DeShaun Watson, 11 of 25, 136 yds, 0 TD, 0 INT  
**RUSHING:** DeShaun Watson, 7C, 41yds, (5.9), 0 TD  
**RECEIVING:** Jalen Richard, 6 for 73 yds, 26LG, 0 TD  
**DEFENCE:** Cameron Heyward, 6 T, 1 SK, 1 PD, 1 STF, 1HUR  
**KICKING:** Ryan Succop, 3 of 3 FGA, 9 Pts

**TRIUMPH****34**

**PASSING:** Mitch Trubisky, 23 of 39, 271 yds, 2TDs, 0 INT  
**RUSHING:** Melvin Gordon III, 17C, 89yds, (5.2), 1 TD  
**RECEIVING:** Antonio Brown, 8 for 109yds, 26LG, 1 TD  
**DEFENCE:** Danielle Hunter, 7 T, 2 SK  
**KICKING:** Dustin Hopkins, 2 of 2 FGA, 4 of 4 XPA, 10 Pts

01-26-2020 Wilhalla Stadium Temp: 70 Wind: MVP: **Mitch Trubisky**

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2018 Charleswood (6-9)	0	6	3	0	9
2018 Twin Cities (12-3)	7	10	0	17	34

## Scoring Summary

1 6:50 Twin Cities	TD Trubisky 14 pass to Brown (Hopkins) (14-75-5:41)	0-7
2 13:32 Twin Cities	FG Hopkins 43 (12-43-6:24)	0-10
2 7:12 Charleswood	FG Succop 38 (9-36-4:12)	3-10
2 3:22 Twin Cities	TD Gordon III 4 run (Hopkins) (11-75-3:50)	3-17
2 0:18 Charleswood	FG Succop 27 (14-67-2:54)	6-17
3 2:52 Charleswood	FG Succop 42 (11-49-5:58)	9-17
4 12:53 Twin Cities	TD Trubisky 9 run (Hopkins) (9-75-4:59)	9-24
4 5:26 Twin Cities	TD Trubisky 20 pass to Golladay (Hopkins) (10-93-4:28)	9-31
4 2:51 Twin Cities	FG Hopkins 36 (4-7-2:23)	9-34

	CHP	TCT
First Downs	14	26
Rushes	27-82	28-157
Passes	25-11-136	39-23-271
Sacked	5-33	2-14
Fumble	2	1
Penalties	3-25	7-62
Turnovers	1	0
Missed Tackles	9	1
Blitzers	15	11
Time	27:04	32:56
Third Down	4-14	7-15
Fourth Down	1-2	2-2
Red Att/Td/Fg	3/0/3	6/4/2
Net Offense	185	414

### VIOLATORS



52

**PASSING:** Pat Mahomes, 26 of 38, 454 yds, 7 TDs, 0 INT  
**RUSHING:** Pat Mahomes, 7 C, 76yds, (10.9), 0 TD  
**RECEIVING:** Juju Smith-Schuster, 11 for 197yds, 35LG, 2 TDs  
**DEFENCE:** Jarran Reed, 3 T, 1 PD, 4 HUR  
**KICKING:** Cairo Santos, 7 of 7 XPA, 1 of 1 FG, 10 Pts

### CRUSADERS



38

**PASSING:** Kirk Cousins, 31 of 48, 361 yds, 3 TDs, 2 INTs  
**RUSHING:** Chris Carson, 25C, 165yds, (6.6) 1 TD  
**RECEIVING:** Keenan Allen, 10 for 164 yds, 60LG, 1 TD  
**DEFENCE:** Luke Kuechly, 8 T, 1 PD, 2 STF, 1 FF  
**KICKING:** Harrison Butker, 5 of 5 XPA, 1 of 1 FGA, 8 Pts

01-26-2020 True North Field Temp: 72 Wind: MVP: Patrick Mahomes

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2018 Virden (11-4)	14	14	3	21	52
2018 Peg City (3-12)	10	0	14	14	38

Scoring Summary

1 10:57 Peg City	TD Cousins 11 pass to Davis (Butker) (7-75-4:03)	0-7
1 6:59 Virden	TD Mahomes 21 pass to Green (Santos) (7-75-3:58)	7-7
1 2:54 Peg City	FG Butker 24 (10-69-4:02)	7-10
1 0:07 Virden	TD Mahomes 14 pass to Ebron (Santos) (6-75-2:47)	14-10
2 10:04 Virden	TD Mahomes 16 pass to Smith-Schuster (Santos) (7-48-3:14)	21-10
2 3:30 Virden	TD Mahomes 25 pass to Smith-Schuster (Santos) (7-81-3:21)	28-10
3 13:05 Peg City	TD Carson 12 run (Butker) (4-41-1:43)	28-17
3 11:08 Virden	FG Santos 33 (7-60-1:52)	31-17
3 2:45 Peg City	TD Cousins 6 pass to Montgomery (Butker) (13-75-8:23)	31-24
4 14:13 Virden	TD Mahomes 5 pass to Elliott (Santos) (9-75-3:32)	38-24
4 11:19 Peg City	TD Jones 18 run (Butker) (7-75-2:54)	38-31
4 8:21 Virden	TD Mahomes 17 pass to Green (Santos) (7-75-2:58)	45-31
4 8:07 Peg City	TD Cousins 60 pass to Allen (Butker) (1-60-0:14)	45-38
4 7:08 Virden	TD Mahomes 40 pass to Cooper (Santos) (2-75-0:59)	52-38

	VV	PCC
First Downs	29	35
Rushes	17-105	30-213
Passes	38-26-454	48-31-361
Sacked	0-0	1-7
Fumble	2	0
Penalties	4-25	2-38
Turnovers	1	2
Missed Tackles	9	1
Blitzers	36	2
Time	23:48	36:12
Third Down	4-7	6-13
Fourth Down	1-1	4-5
Red Att/Td/Fg	5/4/1	6/4/1
Net Offense	559	567

### CONVICTS



19

**PASSING:** Dak Prescott, 34 of 50, 354 yds, 0 TD, 1 INT  
**RUSHING:** Christian McCaffrey, 20C, 64yds, (3.2), 1 TD  
**RECEIVING:** Christian McCaffrey, 10 for 106yds, 45LG, 0 TD  
**DEFENCE:** Sheldon Rankins, 2 T, 1 SK, 1 STF, 1 HUR  
**KICKING:** Sebastian Janikowski, 1 of 2XPA, 2 of 2 FGA, 7 Pts

### CUBS



27

**PASSING:** Russell Wilson, 21 of 25, 277 yds, 2 TDs, 0 INT  
**RUSHING:** Joe Mixon, 8C, 45yds, (5.6), 1 TD  
**RECEIVING:** Tyler Lockett, 6 for 93yds, 32LG, 2 TDs  
**DEFENCE:** Dee Ford, 9 T, 2 SK, 1 STF  
**KICKING:** Justin Tucker, 3 of 3 XPA, 2 of 2 FGA, 9 Pts

01-26-2020 Joe Ferguson Stadium Temp: 37 Wind: 0-10 None MVP: Russell Wilson

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2018 Chino (9-6)	3	7	6	3	19
2018 Iowa City (11-4)	7	10	0	10	27

Scoring Summary

1 8:12 Chino	FG Janikowski 37 (10-35-4:13)	3-0
1 2:54 Iowa City	TD Wilson 9 pass to Lockett (Tucker,J) (8-88-5:07)	3-7
2 10:56 Chino	TD McCaffrey 1 run (Janikowski) (13-75-6:58)	10-7
2 8:23 Iowa City	TD Mixon 7 run (Tucker,J) (5-75-2:33)	10-14
2 2:12 Iowa City	FG Tucker 27 (7-83-3:32)	10-17
3 0:12 Chino	TD Riddick 1 run (no good) (13-94-8:26)	16-17
4 12:46 Chino	FG Janikowski 24 (4-4-2:01)	19-17
4 2:54 Iowa City	FG Tucker 33 (9-65-4:31)	19-20
4 2:07 Iowa City	TD Wilson 27 pass to Lockett (Tucker,J) (1-27-0:10)	19-27

	CHI	ICC
First Downs	27	14
Rushes	26-88	13-82
Passes	50-34-354	25-21-277
Sacked	3-12	2-15
Fumble	0	1
Penalties	4-35	3-25
Turnovers	1	1
Missed Tackles	7	7
Runs 10+	1	2
Blitzers	8	14
Time	36:59	23:01
Third Down	6-13	2-7
Fourth Down	0-3	0-0
Red Att/Td/Fg	4/2/2	4/2/2
Net Offense	430	344

### PILOTS



10

**PASSING:** Eli Manning, 15 of 27, 189 yds, 1 TD, 2 INTs  
**RUSHING:** Kareem Hunt, 23C, 80yds, (3.5), 0 TD  
**RECEIVING:** Jamaal Williams, 3 for 36yds, 26LG, 0 TD  
**DEFENCE:** Larry Ogunjobi, 9 T, 1 SK, 4 STF, 1 HUR  
**KICKING:** Josh Lambo, 1 of 1 FGA, 1 of 1 XPA, 4 Pts

### KNIGHTS



44

**PASSING:** Ryan Tannehill, 26 of 31, 281 yds, 6 TDs, 0 INT  
**RUSHING:** Peyton Barber, 8C, 59yds, (7.4), 0 TD  
**RECEIVING:** Brandin Cooks, 7 for 135yds, 37LG, 5 TDs  
**DEFENCE:** Tre'Davious White, 2 T, 1 INT (20yds), 0-2 ATT  
**KICKING:** Ka'imi Fairbairn, 5 of 6 XPA, 1 of 1 FGA, 8 Pts

01-26-2020 Round Table Stadium Temp: 60 Wind: 0-5 None MVP: Ryan Tannehill

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2018 Seattle (3-12)	0	7	0	3	10
2018 Los Angeles (4-11)	20	10	7	7	44

Scoring Summary

1 8:09 Los Angeles	TD Tannehill 7 pass to Cooks (Fairbairn) (11-67-6:42)	0-7
1 3:14 Los Angeles	TD Tannehill 33 pass to Cooks (Fairbairn) (5-62-2:47)	0-14
1 0:00 Los Angeles	TD Tannehill 37 pass to Cooks (no good) (4-62-2:16)	0-20
2 10:35 Seattle	TD Manning 19 pass to Miller (Lambo) (9-75-4:25)	7-20
2 5:58 Los Angeles	FG Fairbairn 45 (11-48-4:32)	7-23
2 0:53 Los Angeles	TD Tannehill 18 pass to Cooks (Fairbairn) (8-66-3:04)	7-30
3 4:22 Los Angeles	TD Tannehill 10 pass to Cooks (Fairbairn) (2-18-0:44)	7-37
4 9:29 Seattle	FG Lambo 41 (10-52-5:19)	10-37
4 4:24 Los Angeles	TD Tannehill 14 pass to Morris (Fairbairn) (9-75-5:05)	10-44

	SEA	LAK
First Downs	12	26
Rushes	26-85	33-180
Passes	27-15-189	31-26-281
Sacked	0-0	2-14
Fumble	0	1
Penalties	5-50	6-30
Turnovers	2	0
Missed Tackles	7	3
Passes 25+	3	2
Runs 10+	3	7
Blitzers	5	2
Time	26:15	33:45
Third Down	3-11	6-11
Fourth Down	0-1	0-0
Red Att/Td/Fg	2/1/0	4/4/0
Net Offense	274	447

**SWORDFISH****17**

**PASSING:** Drew Brees, 19 of 32, 174yds, 2 TDs, 0 INT  
**RUSHING:** Kenneth Dixon, 5C, 42yds, (8.4), 0 TD  
**RECEIVING:** Doug Baldwin, 5 for 61yds, 21LG, 1 TD  
**DEFENCE:** Chandler Jones, 9 T, 1 SK, 3 STF, 1 HUR  
**KICKING:** Dan Bailey, 2 of 2 XPA, 1 of 1 FGA, 5 Pts

**CORN KINGS****48**

**PASSING:** Ryan Fitzpatrick, 24 of 32, 371 yds, 5 TDs, 0 INT  
**RUSHING:** Todd Gurley, 11C, 80yds, (7.3), 0 TD  
**RECEIVING:** Adam Humphries, 5 for 88yds, 24LG, 1 TD  
**DEFENCE:** TJ Watt, 9 T, 2 SK, 2 HUR  
**KICKING:** Matt Bryant, 6 of 6 XPA, 2 of 2 FGA, 12 Pts

01-24-2020 Tillman Field Temp: 31 Wind: 5-15 MVP: **Ryan Fitzpatrick**

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2018 Sebastian (7-8)	14	3	0	0	17
2018 Cowtown (10-5)	7	14	13	14	48

## Scoring Summary

1 9:26 Sebastian	TD Brees 6 pass to Baldwin (Bailey,D) (10-75-5:28)	7-0
1 6:05 Cowtown	TD Fitzpatrick 17 pass to Gurley II (Bryant,M) (5-60-3:21)	7-7
1 1:20 Sebastian	TD Brees 6 pass to Smallwood (Bailey,D) (7-59-4:30)	14-7
2 11:35 Cowtown	TD Fitzpatrick 7 pass to Gurley II (Bryant,M) (10-87-4:36)	14-14
2 6:32 Cowtown	TD Fitzpatrick 19 pass to Bibbs (Bryant,M) (6-75-3:23)	14-21
2 0:17 Sebastian	FG Bailey 30 (10-56-3:42)	17-21
3 12:56 Cowtown	TD Fitzpatrick 17 pass to Humphries (Bryant,M) (4-71-1:55)	17-28
3 3:17 Cowtown	FG Bryant 30 (12-64-6:27)	17-31
3 1:33 Cowtown	FG Bryant 58 (7-11-1:08)	17-34
4 14:43 Cowtown	TD Fitzpatrick 25 pass to Evans (Bryant,M) (3-28-0:51)	17-41
4 5:26 Cowtown	TD Fitzpatrick 14 run (Bryant,M) (12-86-7:34)	17-48

	SS	COW
First Downs	14	29
Rushes	17-77	30-146
Passes	35-19-174	32-24-371
Sacked	4-28	2-11
Fumble	1	1
Penalties	4-9	3-30
Turnovers	0	1
Missed Tackles	6	4
Runs 10+	3	8
Blitzers	4	32
Time	25:55	34:05
Third Down	3-13	7-11
Fourth Down	1-3	1-1
Red Att/Td/Fg	3/2/1	7/5/1
Net Offense	223	506

**T-LIZARDS****31**

**PASSING:** Josh Allen, 18 of 31, 179 yds, 2 TDs, 0 INT  
**RUSHING:** Josh Allen, 15C, 112yds, (7.5), 2 TDs  
**RECEIVING:** Cody Latimer, 6 for 65yds, 28LG, 0 TD  
**DEFENCE:** Tyrann Mathieu, 6 T, 1 PD, 2 INTs (33yds)  
**KICKING:** Daniel Carlson, 4 of 4 XPA, 1 of 1 FGA, 7 Pts

**BLUE EAGLES****10**

**PASSING:** Drew Lock, 24 of 43, 170 yds, 1 TD, 4 INTs  
**RUSHING:** Jordan Howard, 13C, 49yds, (3.8), 0 TD  
**RECEIVING:** Jamison Crowder, 5 for 23yds, 7LG, 0 TD  
**DEFENCE:** Patrick Onwuasor, 7 T, 2 SK, 1 STF, 2 HUR  
**KICKING:** Mason Crosby, 1 of 1 XPA, 1 of 1 FGA, 4 Pts

01-26-2020 Bluffs Stadium Temp: 21 Wind: 0-10 None MVP: **Josh Allen**

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2018 Durham (6-9)	3	21	7	0	31
2018 Scarborough (2-13)	0	3	7	0	10

## Scoring Summary

1 6:57 Durham	FG Carlson 24 (12-60-5:46)	3-0
2 14:56 Scarborough	FG Crosby 27 (12-75-6:50)	3-3
2 8:57 Durham	TD Allen 25 pass to Ross (Carlson,D) (11-87-5:54)	10-3
2 7:05 Durham	TD Allen 1 run (Carlson,D) (1-1-0:07)	17-3
2 1:18 Durham	TD Allen 21 run (Carlson,D) (4-38-0:45)	24-3
3 11:26 Durham	TD Allen 3 pass to Gaskin (Carlson,D) (7-69-3:24)	31-3
3 3:26 Scarborough	TD Lock 11 pass to Yeldon (Crosby) (7-36-3:52)	31-10

	DTL	SBE
First Downs	22	16
Rushes	28-129	22-69
Passes	31-18-179	43-24-170
Sacked	4-14	3-23
Fumble	0	0
Penalties	7-57	3-37
Turnovers	0	4
Missed Tackles	2	3
Runs 10+	7	2
Blitzers	11	27
Time	29:02	30:58
Third Down	3-10	3-17
Fourth Down	0-3	2-6
Red Att/Td/Fg	5/3/1	2/1/1
Net Offense	294	216

**HAWKS****54**

**PASSING:** Derek Carr, 34 of 51, 517 yds, 6 TDs, 1 INT  
**RUSHING:** Matt Breida, 14C, 117yds, (8.4), 0 TD  
**RECEIVING:** DeAndre Hopkins, 11 for 171yds, 31LG, 1 TD  
**DEFENCE:** Stephon Tuitt, 6 T, 2 SK  
**KICKING:** Cody Parkey, 6 of 7 XPA, 2 of 3 FGA, 12 Pts

**EXCALIBURS****27**

**PASSING:** Tom Brady, 16 of 30, 252yds, 3 TDs, 0 INT  
**RUSHING:** Derrick Henry, 11C, 74yds, (6.7), 1 TD  
**RECEIVING:** Danny Amendola, 3 for 65yds, 35LG, 2 TDs  
**DEFENCE:** Von Miller 2 T, 1 SK, 3 HUR  
**KICKING:** Graham Gano, 3 of 3 XPA, 3 Pts

01-26-2020 Camelot Temp: 46 Wind: Calm None MVP: **Derek Carr**

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2018 Brooklin (6-9)	14	16	14	10	54
2018 York (7-8)	7	14	6	0	27

1 10:22 York	TD Brady 16 pass to Amendola (Gano) (7-75-4:38)	0-7
1 7:16 Brooklin	TD Carr 9 pass to Breida (Parkey) (6-75-3:06)	7-7
1 1:41 Brooklin	TD Carr 9 pass to Gronkowski (Parkey) (9-74-4:42)	14-7
2 12:58 Brooklin	TD Carr 16 pass to Gronkowski (Parkey) (6-76-2:05)	21-7
2 8:35 York	TD Brady 35 pass to Amendola (Gano) (7-75-4:23)	21-14
2 4:55 York	TD Henry 1 run (Gano) (5-62-2:03)	21-21
2 1:57 Brooklin	FG Parkey 38 (10-55-2:55)	24-21
2 0:18 Brooklin	TD Carr 1 run (no good) (8-66-1:18)	30-21
3 10:43 Brooklin	TD Carr 3 pass to Hopkins (Parkey) (9-75-4:17)	37-21
3 8:18 Brooklin	TD Carr 77 pass to Jeffery (Parkey) (4-90-1:16)	44-21
3 3:38 York	TD Brady 32 pass to Williams (2 - failed) (5-53-1:49)	44-27
4 12:54 Brooklin	TD Carr 9 pass to Develin (Parkey) (10-75-5:44)	51-27
4 6:30 Brooklin	FG Parkey 31 (5-18-2:31)	54-27

	BRH	YOR
First Downs	36	19
Rushes	26-164	20-112
Passes	51-34-517	30-16-252
Sacked	2-11	7-49
Fumble	1	0
Penalties	5-57	5-58
Turnovers	2	0
Missed Tackles	8	12
Runs 10+	7	3
Blitzers	5	26
Time	35:02	24:58
Third Down	8-13	3-11
Fourth Down	1-1	0-2
Red Att/Td/Fg	10/6/2	2/2/0
Net Offense	670	315

**SPARTANS****14**

**PASSING:** Philip Rivers, 21 of 41, 257 yds, 2 TDs, 1 INT  
**RUSHING:** Doug Martin, 11C, 52yds, (4.7), 0 TD  
**RECEIVING:** Sterling Shepard, 4 for 59yds, 25LG, 0 TD  
**DEFENCE:** Tahir Whitehead, 16 T, 4 STF  
**KICKING:** Greg Zuerlein, 0 of 1 FGA, 2 of 2 XPA, 2 Pts

**NORTH STARS****27**

**PASSING:** Baker Mayfield, 13 of 17, 159 yds, 3 TDs, 0 INT  
**RUSHING:** David Johnson, 20C, 105 yds, (5.3), 0 TD  
**RECEIVING:** David Johnson, 5 for 744yds, 14LG, 1 TD  
**DEFENCE:** Pierre Desire, 6 T, 1 PD, 1 INT (3yds), 2-4ATT  
**KICKING:** Jason Myers, 2 of 2 FGA, 3 of 3 XPA, 9 Pts

01-26-2020 Ferenc Liszt Int'l Temp: 43 Wind: 0-10 None MVP: **David Johnson**

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2018 Pickering (10-5)	7	7	0	0	14
2018 Budapest (11-4)	7	10	10	0	27

## Scoring Summary

1 9:40 Budapest	TD Mayfield 14 pass to Johnson (Myers,J) (8-75-5:20)	0-7
1 4:53 Pickering	TD Rivers 10 pass to Snead IV (Zuerlein) (9-75-4:47)	7-7
2 13:59 Budapest	FG Myers 24 (11-69-5:50)	7-10
2 3:51 Pickering	TD Rivers 29 pass to McDonald (Zuerlein) (6-79-3:11)	14-10
2 0:30 Budapest	TD Mayfield 17 pass to Watkins (Myers,J) (9-75-3:21)	14-17
3 8:13 Budapest	FG Myers 43 (9-48-5:20)	14-20
3 3:05 Budapest	TD Mayfield 16 pass to Diggs	14-27

	PIC	BUD
First Downs	21	23
Rushes	26-92	46-232
Passes	41-21-257	18-14-175
Sacked	1-9	0-0
Fumble	0	0
Penalties	3-22	7-45
Turnovers	1	0
Missed Tackles	8	0
Runs 10+	3	9
Blitzers	3	3
Time	23:52	36:08
Third Down	6-15	6-13
Fourth Down	2-4	1-1
Red Att/Td/Fg	2/1/0	4/3/1
Net Offense	340	407

**WOLVERINES****24**

**PASSING:** Aaron Rodgers, 10 of 15, 126 yds, 1TD, 0 INT  
**RUSHING:** Saquon Barkley, 26 C, 155yds, (6.0), 1 TD  
**RECEIVING:** Adam Thielen, 5 for 61yds, 16LG, 1 TD  
**DEFENCE:** Brandon Carr, 5T, 1 PD, 1 INT (55yds)  
**KICKING:** Adam Vinatieri, 1 of 1 XPA, 3 of 3 FGA, 10 Pts

**CADILLAC****10**

**PASSING:** Kyle Murray, 9 of 16, 86 yds, 1 TD, 1 INT  
**RUSHING:** Isaiah Crowell, 6 C, 29yds, (4.8), 0 TD  
**RECEIVING:** Mark Andrews, 3 for 28yds, 14LG, 0 TD  
**DEFENCE:** Trey Flowers, 6 T, 1 SK, 1 HUR  
**KICKING:** S. Gostkowski, 1 of 1 XPA, 1 of 1 FGA, 4 Pts

01-25-2020 Kelly-Burke Field Temp: 37 Wind: 0-10 MVP: **Saquon Barkley**

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2018 Toronto (9-6)	10	3	3	8	24
2018 Erieau (2-13)	0	0	7	3	10

## Scoring Summary

1 7:10 Toronto	FG Vinatieri 48 (9-50-4:32)	3-0
1 0:03 Toronto	TD Rodgers 15 pass to Thielen (Vinatieri) (10-77-5:30)	10-0
2 7:51 Toronto	FG Vinatieri 25 (13-71-5:27)	13-0
3 6:20 Toronto	FG Vinatieri 33 (12-60-8:36)	16-0
3 2:50 Erieau	TD Murray 11 pass to Hogan (Gostkowski) (4-31-2:11)	16-7
4 13:57 Erieau	FG Gostkowski 33 (4-0-0:53)	16-10
4 7:59 Toronto	TD Barkley 3 run (2 - Thielen) (1-3-0:09)	24-10

	TOR	ERI
First Downs	21	9
Rushes	45-215	24-58
Passes	15-10-126	22-12-102
Sacked	1-5	1-1
Fumble	3	1
Penalties	5-20	7-42
Turnovers	2	2
Missed Tackles	4	9
Runs 10+	9	2
Blitzers	4	14
Time	36:27	23:33
Third Down	6-13	2-12
Fourth Down	0-1	1-2
Red Att/Td/Fg	4/2/2	2/1/1
Net Offense	336	159

**GLADIATORS****14**

**PASSING:** Ben Roethlisberger, 15 of 38, 234yds, 2TDs, 4INTs  
**RUSHING:** Josh Jacobs, 10C, 59yds, (5.9), 0 TD  
**RECEIVING:** Jarvis Landry, 5 for 77yds, 28LG, 0 TD  
**DEFENCE:** Reuben Foster, 6T, 1 PD, 1 STF  
**KICKING:** Brett Maher, 2 of 2 XPA, 2 Pts

**MUSTANGS****54**

**PASSING:** Matt Ryan, 24 of 39, 409 yds, 6 TDs, 0 INT  
**RUSHING:** Kenyan Drake, 14 C, 71 yds, (5.1), 0 TD  
**RECEIVING:** Davante Adams, 9 for 244 yds, 67LG, 3 TDs  
**DEFENCE:** JJ Watt, 3 T, 2 SK, 3 HUR  
**KICKING:** Wil Lutz, 4 of 4 FGA, 6 of 6 XPA, 18 Pts

01-26-2020 Magna Park Temp: 57 Wind: 10-20 MVP: **Matt Ryan**

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2018 Georgia (5-10)	14	0	0	0	14
2018 Aurora (13-2)	21	13	14	6	54

1 10:17 Aurora	TD Ryan 21 pass to Adams (Lutz) (8-58-4:38)	0-7
1 8:13 Georgia	TD Roethlisberger 53 pass to Fuller V (Maher) (7-75-1:59)	7-7
1 6:16 Aurora	TD Ryan 43 pass to Adams (Lutz) (4-75-1:57)	7-14
1 1:47 Georgia	TD Roethlisberger 34 pass to Stills (Maher) (11-75-4:29)	14-14
1 1:21 Aurora	TD Ryan 67 pass to Adams (Lutz) (1-67-0:18)	14-21
2 11:36 Aurora	FG Lutz 44 (8-32-2:59)	14-24
2 3:09 Aurora	FG Lutz 49 (12-61-5:32)	14-27
2 0:23 Aurora	TD Ryan 39 pass to Wilson (Lutz) (1-39-0:12)	14-34
3 9:49 Aurora	TD Ryan 3 pass to Williams (Lutz) (11-92-4:03)	14-41
3 1:03 Aurora	TD Ryan 14 pass to Rudolph (Lutz) (14-92-5:44)	14-48
4 14:20 Aurora	FG Lutz 53 (4-3-1:18)	14-51
4 10:10 Aurora	FG Lutz 30 (6-19-3:10)	14-54

	GEO	AUR
First Downs	19	26
Rushes	18-86	36-152
Passes	38-15-234	39-24-409
Sacked	4-28	0-0
Fumble	0	0
Penalties	1-10	7-65
Turnovers	4	0
Missed Tackles	10	7
Runs 10+	3	4
Blitzers	0	9
Time	24:00	36:00
Third Down	2-11	6-14
Fourth Down	1-2	2-2
Red Att/Td/Fg	1/0/0	3/2/1
Net Offense	292	561



**WEEK FIFTEEN**

**STANDINGS**

**PACIFIC CONFERENCE**

East	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Bruxelles (z)	10	5	0	0.667	W3	448	29.9	344	22.9	6.9	5 2 0	3 2 0	6 5 0
New Jersey	9	6	0	0.6	W3	414	27.6	406	27.1	0.5	4 4 0	3 2 0	7 4 0
St. Charles	8	7	0	0.533	L2	421	28.1	395	26.3	1.7	4 3 0	3 2 0	6 5 0
Buffalo	6	9	0	0.4	L2	331	22.1	323	21.5	0.5	5 3 0	1 4 0	5 6 0
Central	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Twin Cities (y)	12	3	0	0.8	W1	510	34	330	22	12	7 1 0	5 0 0	10 1 0
Virden (z)	11	4	0	0.733	W2	566	37.7	392	26.1	11.6	6 1 0	4 1 0	7 4 0
Charleswood	6	9	0	0.4	L3	354	23.6	389	25.9	-2.3	2 5 0	1 4 0	5 6 0
Peg City	3	12	0	0.2	L2	400	26.7	561	37.4	-10.7	3 5 0	0 5 0	1 10 0
West	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Iowa City (y)	11	4	0	0.733	W1	421	28.1	368	24.5	3.5	6 1 0	5 0 0	8 3 0
Chino	9	6	0	0.6	L1	409	27.3	378	25.2	2.1	4 3 0	3 2 0	7 4 0
Los Angeles	4	11	0	0.267	W1	337	22.5	414	27.6	-5.1	3 5 0	2 3 0	3 8 0
Seattle	3	12	0	0.2	L7	288	19.2	440	29.3	-10.1	2 6 0	0 5 0	1 10 0

**ATLANTIC CONFERENCE**

North	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Cowtown (y)	10	5	0	0.667	W5	464	30.9	382	25.5	5.5	5 2 0	4 1 0	7 4 0
Sebastian	7	8	0	0.467	L1	395	26.3	471	31.4	-5.1	5 2 0	3 2 0	5 6 0
Durham	6	9	0	0.4	W1	374	24.9	437	29.1	-4.2	2 6 0	2 3 0	4 7 0
Scarborough	2	13	0	0.133	L3	168	11.2	469	31.3	-20.1	1 7 0	1 4 0	2 9 0
Coastal	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Budapest (z)	11	4	0	0.733	W4	388	25.9	307	20.5	5.4	6 1 0	4 1 0	9 2 0
Pickering (z)	10	5	0	0.667	L1	417	27.8	275	18.3	9.5	5 2 0	3 2 0	8 3 0
York	7	8	0	0.467	L1	327	21.8	441	29.4	-7.6	4 4 0	2 3 0	6 5 0
Brooklin	6	9	0	0.4	W1	454	30.3	452	30.1	0.1	3 5 0	1 4 0	4 7 0
South	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Aurora (y)	13	2	0	0.867	W6	563	37.5	272	18.1	19.4	7 0 0	5 0 0	9 2 0
Toronto (z)	9	6	0	0.6	W1	401	26.7	329	21.9	4.8	5 3 0	3 2 0	6 5 0
Georgia	5	10	0	0.333	L1	300	20	421	28.1	-8.1	2 5 0	2 3 0	5 6 0
Erieau	2	13	0	0.133	L1	195	13	349	23.3	-10.3	1 7 0	0 5 0	1 10 0

(y)-clinched division

(z)-clinched wildcard

TOP PASSERS												
Rk	Player	Team	Att	Cmp	C%	Yards	In	I%	Lg	TD	TD%	Rate
1	Mahomes	VV	519	330	63.6	5228	4	0.8	82	58	11.2	131.1
2	Ryan,M	AUR	554	362	65.3	5420	5	0.9	69	54	9.7	126
3	Wentz	STC	342	244	71.3	2806	2	0.6	45	25	7.3	117.7
4	Mariota	BRX	367	246	67	3346	7	1.9	73	30	8.2	115.2
5	Carr,D	BRH	568	385	67.8	4949	13	2.3	77	48	8.5	113.5
6	Rivers,P	PIC	408	265	65	3771	5	1.2	60	27	6.6	111.7
7	Dalton	DTL	230	146	63.5	1945	4	1.7	78	18	7.8	109.1
8	Tannehill	LAK	278	193	69.4	2098	3	1.1	55	18	6.5	108.5
9	Rodgers,A	TOR	472	280	59.3	3737	2	0.4	80	33	7	106
10	Trubisky	TCT	413	256	62	3771	10	2.4	69	30	7.3	105.9
11	Watson,D	CHP	369	241	65.3	3177	10	2.7	80	27	7.3	105.5
12	Prescott	CHI	475	314	66.1	3747	5	1.1	46	27	5.7	104.6
13	Wilson,R	ICC	424	267	63	3653	5	1.2	86	24	5.7	104.4
14	Brees	SS	558	364	65.2	4124	8	1.4	81	37	6.6	103.4
15	Mayfield	BUD	428	269	62.9	3407	12	2.8	82	34	7.9	102.4
16	Cousins	PCC	521	341	65.5	3826	10	1.9	79	36	6.9	102.3
17	Goff	NJ	541	323	59.7	4366	14	2.6	91	39	7.2	98.7
18	Luck	BUF	525	346	65.9	3687	11	2.1	70	31	5.9	97.2
19	Flacco	COW	278	168	60.4	2255	6	2.2	87	14	5	94
20	Brady	YOR	513	317	61.8	3644	7	1.4	66	25	4.9	93.7
21	Stafford	ERI	234	161	68.8	1731	5	2.1	77	6	2.6	89.9
22	Manning	SEA	423	251	59.3	3234	15	3.5	62	26	6.1	89.1
23	Roethlisbe	GEO	481	283	58.8	3605	20	4.2	75	32	6.7	87.2
24	Jackson,L	LAK	211	117	55.5	1337	5	2.4	70	8	3.8	77.5
25	Osweiler	SBE	301	164	54.5	1646	10	3.3	45	11	3.7	68.6

KICKOFF RETURNERS								PUNT RETURNERS								
Rk	Player	Team	No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD	Rk	Player	Team	No	Fc	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD
1	Patterson	CHP	43	1399	32.5	105	3	1	Harris,D	TOR	31	18	463	14.9	82	1
2	Roberts,A	LAK	41	1307	31.9	102	2	2	Erickson	BUF	26	19	370	14.2	79	1
3	Smith,Tr	BRX	36	1054	29.3	96	0	3	Sherels	BUD	26	14	330	12.7	75	0
4	Erickson	BUF	60	1594	26.6	89	0	4	Roberts,A	LAK	29	11	366	12.6	79	1
5	King II	ERI	41	1027	25	42	0	5	Cohen	NJ	19	12	223	11.7	21	0
6	Coleman,C	AUR	30	745	24.8	39	0	6	Grant,J	CHI	29	9	337	11.6	71	1
7	Grant,J	CHI	48	1178	24.5	105	2	7	Hardman	STC	15	9	171	11.4	19	0
8	Pascal	STC	17	416	24.5	69	0	8	Edelman	AUR	22	8	217	9.9	24	0
9	Countess	YOR	27	658	24.4	39	0	9	Humphries	COW	21	20	197	9.4	16	0
10	Isabella	DTL	28	619	22.1	35	0	10	Ervin	VV	23	10	209	9.1	19	0
11	Harris,D	TOR	19	419	22.1	37	0	11	Hardy	CHP	28	6	246	8.8	20	0
12	Clement	SBE	30	661	22	43	0	12	Peppers,J	ERI	27	9	231	8.6	17	0
13	Logan	PCC	22	480	21.8	38	0	13	Kirk	ICC	21	4	140	6.7	14	0
14	Lockett	ICC	39	843	21.6	37	0	14	Amendola	YOR	20	4	127	6.4	13	0
15	Johnson,D	COW	25	529	21.2	66	0	15	Peterson,P	AUR	16	12	101	6.3	18	0
16	Moore,C	SS	34	701	20.6	33	0	16	Westbrook	BRX	26	21	134	5.2	14	0
17	Agnew	SEA	30	550	18.3	38	0	17	Henderson	BRH	25	11	120	4.8	15	0
18	Chark Jr.	NJ	37	643	17.4	42	0	18	Moore,D	TCT	24	14	115	4.8	12	0
19	Barner	BRH	30	473	15.8	38	0	19	Agnew	SEA	29	12	127	4.4	16	0
20	Hill,J	NJ	2	62	31	38	0	20	Beckham Jr	SS	26	6	110	4.2	13	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	261	1512	5.8	33	13	1	Hopkins,D	BRH	132	2111	16	58	17
2	Hunt,K	SEA	286	1438	5	45	2	2	Thomas,M	STC	113	1648	14.6	75	17
3	Elliott,E	VV	283	1257	4.4	39	12	3	Woods,R	BUF	107	1275	11.9	48	12
4	Carson,C	PCC	235	1226	5.2	23	7	4	Adams,D	AUR	96	1822	19	69	16
5	Barkley,S	TOR	249	1211	4.9	50	7	5	McCaffrey	CHI	93	1087	11.7	46	9
6	Breida	BRH	163	1145	7	52	5	6	Thielen	TOR	93	1185	12.7	44	8
7	Mixon	ICC	209	1118	5.3	56	11	7	Cooks	LAK	91	1177	12.9	37	11
8	McCaffrey	CHI	244	1069	4.4	55	10	8	Jones,J	BUF	91	967	10.6	70	10
9	Henry,D	YOR	213	1020	4.8	75	9	9	Brown,A	TCT	91	1433	15.7	69	15
10	Gordon III	TCT	184	953	5.2	39	9	10	Landry,J	GEO	88	1264	14.4	48	10
11	Peterson,A	STC	197	930	4.7	35	9	11	Beckham Jr	SS	87	1298	14.9	81	21
12	Kamara	CHP	206	865	4.2	48	8	12	Smith-Schu	VV	87	1731	19.9	82	16
13	Coleman,T	BUF	186	861	4.6	59	4	13	Ertz	YOR	85	1042	12.3	40	9
14	Howard,J	SBE	223	857	3.8	22	2	14	Allen,K	PCC	84	1196	14.2	79	6
15	Johnson,D	BUD	194	854	4.4	35	4	15	Diggs,S	BUD	78	1088	13.9	55	9
16	Mack,M	BRX	171	843	4.9	54	6	16	Ridley,C	LAK	77	1039	13.5	70	5
17	Sanders,M	PIC	170	822	4.8	28	4	17	Cohen	NJ	76	1111	14.6	73	8
18	Martin,D	PIC	159	739	4.6	24	6	18	Davis,C	PCC	75	891	11.9	45	13
19	Barber	LAK	171	733	4.3	21	0	19	Hilton	DTL	74	1137	15.4	68	10
20	Jacobs,J	GEO	171	696	4.1	32	2	20	Elliott,E	VV	74	734	9.9	39	8
21	Michel	GEO	147	692	4.7	27	2	21	Evans,M	COW	72	1377	19.1	85	18
22	Davis,M	BUD	126	661	5.2	42	5	22	White,J	TCT	72	1006	14	50	5
23	Watson,D	CHP	71	614	8.6	34	5	23	Barkley,S	TOR	71	609	8.6	24	3
24	Gore	NJ	149	596	4	32	5	24	Hill,T	TOR	71	1456	20.5	80	21
25	Singletary	AUR	136	587	4.3	30	3	25	Cooper,A	VV	70	1390	19.9	75	13

INTERCEPTION LEADERS							SACK LEADERS				TACKLE LEADERS				
Rk	Player	Team	No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD	Rk	Player	Team	No.	Rk	Player	Team	No.
1	Fuller,K	BRX	6	53	8.8	23	0	1	Watt,J	AUR	16	1	Leonard	STC	135
2	Haden	BRX	5	72	14.4	33	0	2	Ford,D	ICC	15	2	Vander Esc	BRH	129
3	Moore II	DTL	5	79	15.8	29	0	3	Kerrigan	COW	12	3	Littleton	NJ	126
4	Mathieu	DTL	5	72	14.4	39	0	4	Hunter,D	TCT	12	4	Amukamara	VV	119
5	Howard,X	PIC	5	65	13	43	0	5	Watt,T	COW	11	5	Hightower	SBE	109
6	Fuller,K	VV	4	50	12.5	30	0	6	Judon	NJ	10	6	Desir	BUD	109
7	Diggs,Q	BUD	4	50	12.5	38	1	7	Pierre-Pau	ICC	10	7	Wagner,B	TCT	109
8	Jackson,E	BUF	4	58	14.5	40	0	8	Donald	BUF	10	8	Carr,B	TOR	105
9	Ward,D	PIC	4	35	8.8	35	1	9	Autry	AUR	10	9	White,D	SEA	102
10	Butler,M	PIC	4	136	34	50	3	10	Atkins	PIC	9	10	Edmunds	GEO	99
11	Poyer	YOR	4	30	7.5	30	0	11	Hill,B	ICC	9	11	Watt,T	COW	98
12	Williams,G	LAK	4	37	9.3	37	1	12	Cox,F	ICC	9	12	Joseph,J	NJ	97
13	Norman	AUR	4	68	17	35	1	13	Lawrence,D	CHP	9	13	Brown,Z	ERI	96
14	McCourty,J	AUR	4	75	18.8	42	0	14	Heyward	CHP	8	14	Trevathan	VV	96
15	Williams,S	TOR	4	89	22.3	51	2	15	Smith,Z	CHI	8	15	Bradberry	NJ	96
16	Ingram III	VV	3	25	8.3	19	1	16	Jones,C	SS	8	16	Kuechly	PCC	95
17	Jackson,A	STC	3	18	6	17	0	17	Jordan,C	BUD	8	17	Baker,D	SBE	95
18	Conley,G	PIC	3	67	22.3	35	1	18	Hargrave	ICC	7	18	Burns	DTL	94
19	Douglas,R	YOR	3	0	0	0	0	19	Anderson,H	CHI	7	19	Fuller,K	VV	92
20	Trevathan	VV	3	7	2.3	7	0	20	Fackrell	PIC	7	20	Martinez	LAK	92

SCORING LEADERS													
Rk	Player	Team	FG	XP	2Pt	Run	Rec	Int	KR	PR	Fmb	Sf	Tot
1	Lutz	AUR	36	61	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	169
2	Prater	BRX	31	47	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	140
3	Bryant,M	COW	29	51	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	138
4	Hopkins	TCT	26	58	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	136
5	Zuerlein	PIC	30	45	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	135
6	Beckham Jr	SS	0	0	0	0	21	0	0	0	0	0	126
7	Hill,T	TOR	0	0	0	0	21	0	0	0	0	0	126
8	Vinatieri	TOR	28	39	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	123
9	Elliott,E	VV	0	0	0	12	8	0	0	0	0	0	120
10	Hauschka	STC	23	48	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	117
11	Santos	VV	15	69	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	114
12	Gurley II	COW	0	0	0	13	6	0	0	0	0	0	114
13	McCaffrey	CHI	0	0	0	10	9	0	0	0	0	0	114
14	Tucker,J	ICC	22	47	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	113
15	Myers,J	BUD	23	41	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	110
16	Evans,M	COW	0	0	0	0	18	0	0	0	0	0	108
17	Janikowski	CHI	23	38	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	107
18	Parkey	BRH	17	55	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	106
19	Hopkins,D	BRH	0	0	0	0	17	0	0	0	0	0	102
20	Thomas,M	STC	0	0	0	0	17	0	0	0	0	0	102
21	Fairbairn	LAK	21	34	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	97
22	Smith-Schu	VV	0	0	0	0	16	0	0	0	0	0	96
23	McManus	NJ	16	48	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	96
24	Adams,D	AUR	0	0	0	0	16	0	0	0	0	0	96
25	Lambo	SEA	21	29	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	92
26	Brown,A	TCT	0	0	0	0	15	0	0	0	0	0	90
27	Butker	PCC	13	47	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	86
28	Bailey,D	SS	13	44	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	83
29	Elliott,J	BUF	14	39	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	81
30	Gostkowski	ERI	21	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	81
31	Gano	YOR	15	34	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	79
32	Woods,R	BUF	0	0	0	1	12	0	0	0	0	0	78
33	Cooper,A	VV	0	0	0	0	13	0	0	0	0	0	78
34	Kamara	CHP	0	0	0	8	5	0	0	0	0	0	78
35	Gordon III	TCT	0	0	0	9	4	0	0	0	0	0	78

KICKING LEADERS										PUNTING LEADERS									
Rk	Player	Team	FGA	FGM	FG%	40	50	Lg	Pts	Rk	Player	Team	No	Yards	Tb	20	Lg	Bk	Ave
1	Lutz	AUR	38	36	94.7	19	6	55	169	1	Kern	BRX	48	2341	4	17	63	1	48.8
2	Prater	BRX	36	31	86.1	9	1	51	140	2	Dickson,M	ERI	79	3818	4	31	62	1	48.3
3	Bryant,M	COW	31	29	93.5	16	6	58	138	3	Morstead	DTL	49	2326	1	20	66	0	47.5
4	Hopkins	TCT	27	26	96.3	9	3	51	136	4	Lee,A	BUF	56	2655	2	25	69	0	47.4
5	Zuerlein	PIC	33	30	90.9	9	5	56	135	5	Bosher	VV	34	1603	2	17	67	0	47.1
6	Vinatieri	TOR	35	28	80	12	4	55	123	6	Way	CHI	45	2084	6	5	92	0	46.3
7	Hauschka	STC	33	23	69.7	7	3	52	117	7	Colquitt,B	SEA	70	3222	6	20	56	1	46
8	Santos	VV	20	15	75	6	0	46	114	8	Haack	PCC	40	1839	2	9	64	1	46
9	Tucker,J	ICC	28	22	78.6	8	5	54	113	9	Palardy	YOR	65	2986	3	17	57	0	45.9
10	Myers,J	BUD	24	23	95.8	12	1	56	110	10	Anger	STC	44	2019	0	15	52	0	45.9
11	Janikowski	CHI	25	23	92	6	3	58	107	11	Scott,J	BRH	36	1651	2	12	57	0	45.9
12	Parkey	BRH	20	17	85	9	0	49	106	12	Colquitt,D	SBE	66	3026	1	24	59	0	45.8
13	Fairbairn	LAK	22	21	95.5	7	2	53	97	13	Edwards,L	TOR	66	3016	4	22	87	0	45.7
14	McManus	NJ	19	16	84.2	5	1	50	96	14	Koch	AUR	46	2092	5	14	61	0	45.5
15	Lambo	SEA	24	21	87.5	12	5	59	92	15	Dixon,R	GEO	54	2453	2	19	56	0	45.4
16	Butker	PCC	16	13	81.3	2	0	42	86	16	O'Donnell	NJ	60	2722	3	16	58	1	45.4
17	Bailey,D	SS	15	13	86.7	2	0	45	83	17	Sanchez	BUD	52	2337	3	29	62	0	44.9
18	Elliott,J	BUF	17	14	82.4	3	1	59	81	18	Martin,S	LAK	56	2513	3	22	57	0	44.9
19	Gostkowski	ERI	29	21	72.4	10	4	53	81	19	Hekker	COW	40	1791	0	17	58	0	44.8
20	Gano	YOR	18	15	83.3	4	2	54	79	20	Jones,C	PIC	51	2282	3	22	55	0	44.7



# AROUND THE



# With Spats McChad

NEW YORK – One day after CNN breathlessly announced that the death toll from the coronavirus had risen to 41 in mainland China the EFL League Office issued an ‘Advisory’ to teams on how to prevent infection and manage containment of people exhibiting symptoms of the virus at EFL venues this weekend.

The two-page memo provides answers to frequently-asked questions about the virus, including a list of related symptoms. These basically amount to “flu-like symptoms” which can range from “mild to severe” and *may* include severe cough or difficulty breathing. In other words, there is no way to tell if you have the actual flu, severe bronchitis, a bad cold, or <da! Da! Daaaa!> the deadly **CORONAVIRUS**. If you have visited China recently, or have been in the vicinity of somebody who has just returned from China, or (better to be safe than sorry) you were anywhere near a Chinese person in the past month, you are at elevated risk.

Of course, the EFL’s advisory did not mention that last part, but it may as well have. The not-so subliminal message underlying the entire coronavirus hysteria currently being propagated by our overwrought media and public officials – including graphic descriptions of the exotic fish market in Wuhan where the virus supposedly originated – is that the Chinese are a barbarous people, one step removed from alien life-forms and generally a threat to the rest of humanity.

The coronavirus is getting a lot of air time. Single cases popping up in countries far away from China are being feverishly (excuse the pun) reported as if a bomb had dropped on the cities where these victims reside. The phrase “global health emergency” features prominently in every narrative, even though the World Health Organization has, so far, declined to declare such a state. But the WHO meeting to discuss the possibility is enough cause to justify our Media standing at the ready over the panic button.

Being a bit of a germophobe, I should be the last one to make light of a prospective pandemic. But I have enough confidence in the experts at the WHO to trust that they know what a global healthy emergency looks like and will declare the coronavirus to be one when, if ever, it actually becomes one. As of today, the Media report the corona virus death toll at “*more than 50*.” Oh gosh! *More* than fifty; not *less* than fifty! We don’t know how much more, but we know that it is *more*. Scary stuff!

The reason I am sanguine about the coronavirus is that I had it once, several years ago, and survived. I was in Cancun, Mexico, where *Corona* beer was cheap, everywhere, and refreshingly flavoured with a touch of lime. It was irresistible and I could not stop drinking it, to the point where I exhibited flu-like symptoms on several occasions – usually the morning after a nightly outbreak. It lasted about ten days, slightly less than the length of my vacation. Fortunately, I became symptom and disease-free the day after I returned to New York.

I am not surprised that I survived. At the time I was relatively young, robust and not suffering from other health complications. The fatality rate for the coronavirus currently stands at roughly 4% and of those who have succumbed the majority are elderly or weakened by a pre-existing medical condition. Compare this with the flu pandemic of 1918-1920 – the so-called “Spanish Flu” – that killed an estimated *50 million*, mostly young adults, at an estimated rate of between 10% and 20%. The origin of that flu pandemic of 1918 remains unclear, but none of the theories have it originating in any Spanish-speaking country. France and Kansas top the list of likely sources but the Media of the day would never have dared call it the *French Flu* or the *Kansas Flu*.

From all objective accounts the Chinese authorities have been taking strong precautionary measures by doing the only thing that can be done in these situations: quarantining the epicentre and restricting travel. Medical professionals around the world are hyper-vigilant. Now all the rest of us can do is wait and see. When the death toll rises above 8,200 – the number of Americans who have died from the common flu so far this winter – I will worry and become a shut-in. But not before.

So, what was the effect of the release of the EFL’s ‘Advisory’ on the coronavirus? It varied from city to city. At one end of the spectrum, officials at Ferenc-Liszt International Airport in Budapest ignored it completely and took no precautions; while at the other end, York Region declared a quarantine around the islet of Avalon where the Excaliburs play, despite having not a single case of coronavirus. Overall, it resulted in smaller crowds across the board. Smart move, EFL!

### **WRECKING BALL FEVER**

At Stone Pony Shore, where I spent my Sunday watching the Wrecking Balls cling to life for another week, the stadium authorities jumped onto the coronavirus bandwagon with over-the-top zeal. A personal health questionnaire that included a section on travel history had to be filled out at the gate. Then a nurse took your temperature and people registering over 100-degrees were turned away. Latex gloves, a mask and a bottle of hand sanitizer was issued to each ticketholder free of charge. Asian people were discreetly redirected to a large medical tent and, for the most part, never seen again.

A local Jersey band called *The Vice Rags* opened with a ‘Coronavirus Benefit Concert.’ The usually free pre-game show cost fans \$20 a head this time, with the proceeds going to support coronavirus research. T-shirts emblazoned with the words: ‘I SURVIVED CORONAVIRUS 2020’ were on sale for \$25 a piece, while the 50-50 draw was dedicated to support the families of victims of coronavirus in the United States (the number of which currently stands at zero). Flu shots, of course, were available for \$100 apiece at one of the pop-up medical clinics sponsored by Meridian Health Systems. There were, in short, more opportunities to spend than ever.

Surprisingly, this blatantly opportunistic money grab did not seem to arouse any resentment or suspicion from the people I came into contact with that day. *The Vice Rags* not only performed well, but they never missed a chance to praise and thank the fans for “giving to a great cause.” Every time they shouted out “you’re all awesome!” the fans cheered and promptly purchased another *Corona* from one of the many vendors, with half the proceeds from each sale proudly going toward the construction of a wing in the local hospital for the anticipated deluge of coronavirus victims.

Not a single person I spoke to openly questioned whether all of this was truly necessary. Facts that cast doubt on the severity of this outbreak, had they entered the conversation, would not have made a dent in the resolve of everybody to feel like they were doing something to help. This is what happens when a generous spirit is guided by a feeble mind.

Eventually we were allowed to almost forget about the coronavirus and experience the ups-and-downs of this crazy game. The muffling of our cheers and jeers by the facemasks we had been issued meant that we could never completely forget about the horrors of the wannabe coronavirus pandemic. But as the intensity rose, and the number of bad passes by *Jared Goff* grew, the crowd became less inhibited and many rashly removed their masks to make sure that Goff knew, in no uncertain terms, what they thought of him. They directed at him their best Jersey impression of a Bronx cheer by prefacing every raspberry with “you’re an *asshole*, Goff!” – the word “asshole” bellowed in that blood-curdling way that only a native of Jersey can pronounce. These same fans would, in the end, praise him as “clutch” and send him off the field with a hero’s salute. But we’ll get to that later....

It was indeed a bad start for Goff in arguably his team’s most critical game. His first-half line was a dismal 4 of 17 for 45 yards, no touchdowns. On the bright side, no interceptions either, but the Wrecking Balls had been unable to mount any sustained attack and were probably lucky to be down by just 10 points at the half. The stats do not tell the whole story of Goff’s 1<sup>st</sup> half performance. The gambling Derailers’ defence was guessing as usual, but guessing right most of the time. Goff’s over-achieving wide receivers were

getting doubled at a rate usually seen only for the game’s stars. There was no relief for Goff in the run and short passing game either. *Tarik “the Gadget” Cohen* was getting swarmed and gang-tackled at precisely the right time, as if Buffalo coach **Daryl Brothers** was in the New Jersey huddle.

The fans at Stone Pony were frustrated, but they should not have been entirely surprised. The misadventure of Buffalo’s season had caused them to forget that, in terms of talent, this was a top five defence Goff was facing. Its inability to reliably perform as one was being laid at the feet of the inexperienced owner/coach, **Daryl Brothers**. The Buffalo media had ruled that scheme and play-calling were the problems, not player effort. But this time the scheme was working and it looked at half time like Buffalo was about to live up to its name and *derail* New Jersey’s season.

**Jeff Cohen**, the passionate and excitable owner of the Wrecking Balls, paced on the sideline when the teams returned to the field. Watching from the media booth I could not hear what he was saying, but he appeared to be talking up a storm to his players and coach, **Bill Parcells**. Cohen was exceptionally animated on this day. I probably could have watched him exclusively and been able to tell what was happening on the field. Memories of the documentary film segment of his antics on the sideline back in Week Eight at Peg City flashed through my head. I imagined I could hear him whining to Parcells: “*what’s the plan, Bill? What’s the plan? Is it time to make the switch to AJ? I say, make the switch – we have nothing to lose!*”

**AJ McCarron** had not taken a snap in game action all season. In fact, he almost never took snaps in practice.



Sample of the shirt on sale at Stone Pony Shore to support coronavirus research. At the current mortality rate of 4%, it is projected there won't be enough shirts to go around to all of the survivors.

Parcells had made this Goff's team and he would not have undermined him with a mid-game switch short of a crippling injury. But it would not have stretched credulity to imagine that in his brewing panic, Cohen might have suggested – perhaps half in jest – to pull the plug on his starter and pray to the Football Gods.

The second half did not start well for New Jersey. The offence went three-and-out on its first two series. Fortunately, the Derailers' offence was equally inept, although it did manage one first down in two possessions. The failure of the Buffalo offence to take advantage of the mastery of its defence would wind up costing them in the end. At the time, however, it appeared that the Wrecking Balls were not going to get anything going on this day.

At the 8-minute mark of the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter the home team finally caught a break. With Buffalo crowding the line and blitzing at running back, **Frank Gore**, Goff dropped back and slung a pass on target to **Taylor Gabriel**, who was crossing over the middle one step ahead of corner, **Byron Jones**. Gabriel caught the ball in mid-stride, cut diagonally outside and hugged the sideline until he was pushed out at the 4 by safety, **Eddie Jackson** after a 45-yard gain. The crowd jumped to its feet and stayed there until Goff checked down to Gore on 3<sup>rd</sup> and goal for New Jersey's first touchdown. The sun had broken through the clouds over Stone Pony Shore.

The Derailer defence had made its first big mistake. Brothers had gambled on first down to stop the run and it had backfired. Jones, an elite corner, had hesitated ever so slightly to guard his running lane, allowing Gabriel to break loose. The seal had been broken and the tension rose for an offence that had done nothing impressive since their sole touchdown drive early in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter.

**Andrew Luck** was picked off on the next series attempting to sling a ball in the flat to **Tevin Coleman**. The turnover set up a chip-shot field goal by **Brandon McManus** to tie the game at 10. Everything was back at square one, but the momentum was clearly on the side of the home team – they had survived a dreadful start and were now no worse for it.

The Jersey defence, playing with confidence, shut down the Derailers on the ensuing possession. **Matt Judon** sacked Luck 1-yard short of his own goal line on 2<sup>nd</sup> down then an errant throw on 3<sup>rd</sup> & 17 forced a punt from the back of the end zone. The Wrecking Balls took over at their own 49 with the boisterous fans at Stone Pony Shore rising to their feet once more as Goff and the offence took the field.

It appeared to all to be the turning point. If it was, it was immediately followed by a hairpin turn in the opposite direction. On the next play, Goff tried to force a ball into tight double-coverage and was picked off by **B.W. Webb** at the Buffalo 39. Three plays later Luck located **Robert Woods** underneath the New Jersey zone and the elusive speedster took the ball all the way 45 yards for a touchdown. In the blink of an eye the Derailers were back on top and the home crowd was again cursing their quarterback.

The abrupt turn of fortune in favour of Buffalo was yet another turning point in a game of many turning points – a winding, meandering path over hilly terrain where neither team could maintain a steady direction backwards or forwards. Defence, on both sides, appeared to hold the upper hand most of the time; until those moments when the defence would suddenly break down and the offence would break out.

The game was being fought in the trenches and in the hyper-active heads of the opposing quarterbacks. Through three quarters neither signal-caller was impressing. Goff was off-target and out of rhythm – his lone big pass play to that point coming on a total fool of the Buffalo defence. He looked under pressure, whether in reality he was or not, and seemed to have the corner of his eye on **Aaron Donald** at all times, releasing the ball a fraction of a second too early when he sensed no.99's shadow nearing.

With three-quarters in the books, Luck had yet to challenge the New Jersey defence through the air beyond 10 yards. He was pecking away underneath. Statistically he was having the better day, but most of his passing yards had come after the catch. His best throw had come in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter on a precision-targeted short slant to **Noah Fant** that the rookie tight end carried an additional 46 yards for a 50-yard play. Even the TD pass to Woods had been slightly late, but Woods was having a career year and his confidence and burning speed had carried him to the end zone.

It popped into my head at one point, watching him deliver the ball, that Luck might be injured. I consulted my *EFL Stats Monkey* App during a break in the action. I was surprised to find, given his reputation as a full-range passer, that only 5% of Luck's pass attempts had traveled beyond the line of scrimmage more than 15 yards through the air; and that a full two-thirds had traveled just 7 yards or less. The Buffalo passing game was, in fact, the most conservative in the league; even more so than the unaccountably stilted and predictable Charleswood passing game. Even Erieau had attempted more deep shots. *Funny*, I thought, that it had not been a topic in the Media. Maybe all – myself included – had been distracted by the frenetic inconsistency of the Derailers' defence and the breakdowns on the Buffalo sideline that had them leading the league in delay-of-game penalties.

This game was about to quicken into a frenzied finale. It was in these pressure moments when Buffalo was at its worst.

**Daryl Brothers** stood at the edge of the chalk on the sideline, leaning slightly forward with his head down staring at a stack of papers that he shuffled nervously. His reading spectacles would sometimes fall off his nose when he was in that position. Such incidents had been the focus of countless meme video clips on social media. When it happened, he usually panicked and forgot to get the play in on time. Back-to-back spectacle incidents, resulting in back-to-back delay-of-game penalties, had probably cost his team a field goal in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of this game.

The Buffalo Media were now beyond poking gentle fun at the neophyte coach. Since Buffalo's elimination from the post-season they had started to grumble, reflecting the growing dissatisfaction of the fans. While the community still loved "De-Rail" for returning professional football to Buffalo – he remained a universally-recognized VIP who could still bump the line at the Buffalo Chophouse and other trendy Buffalo venues – they were also of the universal opinion that he was in over his head as a coach. The fan

and Media conspiracy to engineer a change was well underway, although it did not appear that “De-Rail” was aware of the extent of it. His answer to questions containing veiled or sometimes direct criticism was always the same: *“I’m just trying to coach this football team and I am going to continue trying to coach this football team until we get it right.”*

No doubt he was trying. But his single-minded stubbornness and willingness to sell out scheme-wise to stop the run, despite having one of the best groupings of run-stopping talent in the league, cost him again when **Bruce Ellington** got wide open in the middle of a zone entirely vacated by blitzing, run-stuffing linebackers. He turned the free range into a 30-yard gain to help set up a New Jersey field goal that narrowed the gap to 17-13.

Buffalo got the ball back and carved out a couple of first downs before disaster struck. On 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5, Luck, operating out of the shotgun, tried to thread a short cross to Woods in double-coverage. Wrecking Balls safety, **Marcus Gilchrist** recognized the play, having seen the same pattern run just 4 snaps earlier and at least a half-dozen variations of it throughout the game. He jumped the route and picked the ball off, returning it 14 yards to the Jersey 47.

This time the turnover seemed to take pressure off of Goff and embolden **Bill Parcels**. The Wrecking Balls went with an empty backfield on the last three plays of the drive and Goff delivered with a well-timed cross to **Jared Cook** for a 19-yard touchdown and a 20-17 lead. Facemasks flew into the air as the crowd at Stone Pony rose to celebrate. Worries about the coronavirus vanished as fans hugged one another. There was still 5:10 remaining in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, but the momentum had swung back heavily in their favour. Optimism lightened the grey of the Jersey sky.

The teams traded punts to set up one final chance for the visitors. Starting at their own 30 with 1:49 left on the clock and 1 timeout in their pocket, the situation looked dire. The two-minute drill had been a disaster for Buffalo all season due to time mismanagement.

Buffalo got off to a good start, with a quick first down, but consecutive false start penalties bogged the drive down. In short order the Derailers were facing 4<sup>th</sup> & 17 at their own 40 and the clock was running down with less than 40 seconds left. I did not recall Luck having yet thrown a pass more than 10 yards all day. He would almost certainly have to in this situation, I thought; but it was also entirely possible that he would stick with a short slant or cross and hope that his receiver would win a race to the marker.

Luck dropped back and, for the first time all day, looked long. He rifled a throw into **Robert Woods’** breadbasket one-yard past the marker. Woods was immediately corralled by two New Jersey defenders and brought down, in play, at the 41-yard line. *Nothing wrong with Luck’s arm on that throw*, I thought. The Wrecking Balls had almost perfect defence on the play, but a nice deep fake by Woods and a perfect throw by Luck beat the double-team. Buffalo was forced to call their last timeout, however, with just 4 seconds on the clock, setting up a decision between a Hail Mary and a long-shot 59-yard field goal attempt.

**Jake Elliott** had missed a 50-yard attempt earlier in the game. His season long heading into the week was just 44 yards. He had only attempted 13 field goals all year, the third lowest number of attempts in the league. On the plus side, there was a slight breeze at his back. There were no great options in this situation but it appeared that Brothers had opted for the better of two less-than-ideal choices. The field goal unit jogged onto the field.

**Jeff Cohen** was bouncing around **Bill Parcels** on the sideline, doing a passable impression of *Chester the Terrier* attempting to get the attention of the veteran head coach. From my vantage point, I could not tell what was going on between them. Parcels’ face remained fixated on the football field as Cohen tugged at his arm with his left and pointed frantically with his right. *This is the price of a coaching gig in New Jersey*, I thought.

Elliott lined up for the kick. I braced for a timeout to freeze the kicker that never came. Probably smart not give Elliott two shots at such a long kick. The snap from **Joe Cardona** was on the money. **Andy Lee** spun the laces away with precision. Elliott drove forward and connected. The ball started low, but rose steadily like a tee shot. It reached its apex around the five-yard line and dropped over the cross bar between the uprights for a game-tying field goal as the clock hit ‘0’. Several clusters of Derailers fans in attendance celebrated, their high-pitched hoots of happiness the only sounds in a stadium that had just had most of the air sucked out of it.

The torture was about to continue. And make no mistake; for **Jeff Cohen** and riled up Wrecking Balls fans, this game was becoming torture. Cohen had disintegrated in a paroxysm of agony when Elliott had made his unlikely kick. (I was to learn later that Cohen had used his “owner” card to convince Parcels to have his special teams set up for the fake, rather than attempting the block, allowing Elliott’s low kick to clear the line and carry the distance). **Daryl Brothers** did not look like he was having much fun either, but his team was out of the race. The only pressure on him was the pressure of exacting revenge for a Week Two loss to New Jersey in Buffalo’s home opener. He could not eliminate his hated rival – but he could sure make things more difficult.

New Jersey got the ball to start overtime. With the help of a pass interference penalty on **B.W. Webb** they snuck into field goal range and **Brandon McManus** made good on a 50-yarder to give the home team a 23-20 advantage.

It was now Buffalo’s turn. They prolonged the agony with a bloated 16-play drive that covered 62 yards and devoured 9 minutes before ending with Elliott’s third field goal of the day, from 39 yards out. With just over 3 minutes left, the teams remained tied at 23 apiece.

*If this game ends up tied after all this, I am going to barf*, I thought to myself. *Come on, Goff, get your head out of your arse!*

It was as if the New Jersey QB heard me. On the Wrecking Balls’ next possession, he came out firing the ball with a lot of confidence. The Derailers’ pass rush suddenly disappeared. They appeared to be playing the run and brought the linebackers close to the line. Goff took advantage. He connected twice with Cook for 18-yard gains each and once with **Tarik Cohen** for 7 yards. In the

blink of an eye, the Wrecking Balls were in field goal range at the Buffalo 32. The Derailers switched to five DBs and brought the heat on the next play, but the Goff-Cook tandem, now at full-throttle, attacked with perfection. Seeing tight coverage, Goff called an audible at the line, dropped back five steps and hit Cook on a mid-curl behind the defender. The powerful tight end turned and charged up field, making safety **Kentrell Brice** miss before angling toward the pylon. Nobody would catch him. He was in for the game-winning score.

The crowd at Stone Pony Shore broke into a frenzied celebration. Writers in the booth, among them **Dave Hodge**, commented that they had never seen the crowd so pumped up. Not only was this a dramatic win, it was a meaningful win late in the season. The Wrecking Balls had never sniffed the playoffs in their previous three seasons, but now they had a chance! They danced in the stands, sang songs and quaffed what remained of their beer – taking their time to make for the exits. If announcer had come over the PA and informed them at that moment that they were to be quarantined at the stadium to contain a coronavirus outbreak, they would have been okay with it. The coronavirus had turned into Wrecking Ball fever and everyone wanted to catch it.

### AROUND THE EFL

It was an eventful Week 15. Three teams clinched division titles, another team passed the front-runner in one of the two unresolved divisional races and three more teams were officially eliminated. Nine of the ten playoff teams have been decided, but two division crowns and the second wildcard spot on the Pacific Conference remain disputed. First, let's look at the new titlists in the North, the Central and the West:

At Tillman Field in Cowtown, the Corn Kings turned into North Kings for the first time since 2011, after shellacking Sebastian 48-17. **Ryan Fitzpatrick** (the 'Gnome of Tillman Field') has been arguably the hottest quarterback in football over the course of Cowtown's five-game winning streak. He threw for 371 yards and 5 touchdown passes in this game to give him 20 over that stretch, behind only **Matt Ryan** and **Pat Mahomes** during the same period. The ever-present threat of **Todd Gurley** and some decent blocking by the line meant Fitz was able to get comfortable in the pocket. When he was flushed out by the Swordfish pass rush, his feet kept plays alive. He ran for a touchdown, 4 first downs and a total of 47 yards to top off a game-MVP performance. This blowout sort of snuck up on the viewers. The Swordfish marched up the field all but unopposed on their first two possessions, finishing off with touchdowns both times. The three B's – **Brees**, **Beckham** and **Baldwin** – were in synch and made **Ronald Darby** and **Aqib Talib** look silly. But 'The Gnome' (as they call him in Cowtown now) was up to the challenge of hanging in with a future hall-of-famer on the other side. He answered both Swordfish scores with a pair of TD passes to Gurley. Cowtown's defence made the first stop – an 11-yard sack of **Drew Brees** by **Roquan Smith** on 3<sup>rd</sup> & 2 – and that seemed to permanently break the Swordfish offence. What followed was shockingly one-sided and positive proof that the Corn Kings are the best of a haphazard lot on the North Division.

At Wilhalla Stadium in Twin Cities, the Triumph secured their third division title in the past four years by smothering Charleswood, 34-9. The three-headed *Cerberus* of **Mitch Trubisky** – **Melvin Gordon** (the third Melvin Gordon of history) – **Antonio Brown** each contributed in their usual proportions, with Trubisky snatching Game MVP honours for his 2 TD passes and rushing TD. The pattern of control was established early: The Pats went three-and-out on their first three series and the Triumph came away with points – a TD followed by a field goal – on their first two. The Triumph 'D' put the slow screws to the Pats' offence. Charleswood managed just three field goals on the day, the first one aided by a pass interference penalty on rookie **Nick Nelson**, who saw more playing time than normal due to injuries to **Darius Slay** and **Chris Harris**. It was thought before this game that the injury gap in the Triumph secondary would create an opening for **DeShaun Watson** and the Pats to showcase their under-used deep ball capabilities. It was not like they didn't try. In 11 plays attempting to stretch the field, Watson completed 1 of 6 for 26 yards, was sacked twice for -11 yards, forced to scrambled twice for 12 yards, and drew the flag on Nelson. The one pass completed went to running back **Jalen Richard**. Watson completed just 3 of 11 for 33 yards to wide receivers (4 of 12 for 48 yards if you count **Cordarrell Patterson**). Watson was pressured heavily, but he also held the ball too long at times or his receivers simply weren't open. I guess the Pats haven't forced the issue downfield as much I thought they should because their coach knows they can't. In a bizarre footnote, reporting out of Minneapolis from *Deathspun* claims that **Antonio Brown** approached Triumph spokesperson, **Molly Qerim** in the buff as the locker room interviews were wrapping up and offered to do an interview with her. He reportedly said something to the effect that Molly should "get to know the man beneath the uniform" as he pointed toward his fully-engorged member. Brown was apparently hurried away by teammates and staff. Nobody from the team has confirmed or denied the event and, so far, Qerim is not talking. But Brown tweeted 'FTB!' later that evening, which many are taking to mean "F\*%k that B\*tch!"

At Joe Ferguson Stadium in Iowa City, the Cubs slipped by the Convicts 27-19 to claim their fourth straight West Division title. Since the league's realignment to six divisions, the Cubs have been the only team to win the West. The Convicts, their main competitors for two years running, came into this game with an opportunity to seize the initiative: A win and they would be in first place (due to the Conference record tie-breaker) and control their destiny heading into the final week; a loss would mean no division, but a good shot at holding onto their wildcard position. Chino gave it a good try. They actually looked to be largely in control of the game; holding the ball for 14 more minutes, moving the chains 13 more times and gaining more offensive yards than the Cubs, 430-344. But a small misfortune late the third quarter, when **Sebastian Janikowski** missed his seventh extra point of the season, coupled with the continued clicking of the **Russell Wilson** to **Tyler Lockett** connection, tipped the balance in the Cubs' favour in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter. Janikowski's missed extra point had game-changing implications insofar as it put pressure on Coach **Rob Nazar** to go for a risky 4<sup>th</sup> & 10 from his team's own 27, trailing 20-19 with 2:22 left. Had his team been tied, he almost certainly would not have risked putting the Cubs in instant field goal range of **Justin Tucker** by taking the gamble on fourth down. Having said that, Nazar is being criticized for his decision to go for it by the local media. In

the words of **Quentin San Pedro** of the *Chino Champion*, “the Dude freaked out under pressure!” With the two-minute warning and all of his timeouts, the Convicts could have punted and gotten the ball back in plenty of time to kick a field goal, provided their defence made a stop. But clearly, Nazar did not feel he could relinquish control of the initiative, despite the long odds. On the pivotal 4<sup>th</sup> down play, blitz pressure from the Cubs’ **Dee Ford** disrupted the timing of **Dak Prescott** causing his pass intended for **Larry Fitzgerald** to sail incomplete. On the next play, the Cubs drove the knife home with a 27-yard TD pass from Wilson to Lockett – their second scoring hook-up of the day. As a side note, the Cubs lead the league in sacks, with 52. All of last season they had 25. Ford is being credited with the turnaround. His 15 sacks speak for themselves, but not as obvious is the effect his presence is having on the defensive linemen. **Jason Pierre-Paul**, **Fletcher Cox** and sophomores, **B.J. Hill** & **Javon Hargrave** have combined for an impressive 35 sacks. Blitz pressure was an element sorely missing from the Cubs’ defensive repertoire last year. Could the presence of **Dee Ford** be the force that changes their fortunes in this year’s post season? Let’s see....

At Ferenc-Liszt international Airport in Budapest, Hungary, the North Stars surged in front of the Spartans in the race for the Coastal Division crown by beating them 27-14. The **Baker Mayfield** that showed up for this game did not look like the erratic, hyper-active wreck who threw three interceptions against the same opponent back in Week Five. This time, he played his part to near-perfection, throwing three touchdown passes without an interception. On the other hand, Baker was not asked to do too much. **Darrin Jones**’ game plan called an all-out ground assault on the Spartan line. Budapest ran the ball 46 times with four different running backs, two quarterbacks and one wide receiver, **Sammy Watkins**, whose 38-yard jet sweep set up the first Budapest touchdown. **David Johnson** carried most of the load, grinding out 105 yards rushing and catching 5 passes for 44 yards and one touchdown. The team finished with a season-high 232 yards on the ground. On the other side, **Philip Rivers** cooled off to Arctic temperatures in the second half after a solid first half in which he threw 2 TD passes. His performance came close to being a microcosm of Pickering’s season. After an 8-1 start, the Spartans are now 2-4 in their past 6 six games. They need to win next week and trust York to beat Budapest in order to reclaim the division they seemed to be in control of for most of the year. There is hope. Mayfield hurt his knee late in this contest and has been ruled out for next week, making **Tyrod Taylor** the next man up.

At St. Charles Stadium in St. Charles the defending champs were officially eliminated when they fell to division-leading Bruxelles by the oddball score of 16-15. This game was played at a curiously subdued pace considering that St. Charles’ season hung in the balance and the Bombers’ would have no reason to feel comfortable with two teams breathing down their necks. Whether it was the cumulative effect of the third game of a three-game road trip; or the penchant for the Chargers to play the kind of stealth defence that sneaks up on viewers and opponents alike, the Bombers’ attack looked shaky at best. The curiously cautious use of **Marlon Mack** and **Leonard Fournette** and the elevation of **Kerryon Johnson** as the feature back (if 6 carries can be considered a “feature”) may have also put off the rhythm. Whatever the reason, the short but effective sequence of back-to-back passes from **Marcus Mariota** to **Travis Kelce** that resulted in 53 yards and a touchdown to start the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter was the only glimpse we saw of the high-powered offence that dominated the league in the season’s first four weeks. This really was St. Charles’ game for the taking. And because it was so close, there is now plenty of second-guessing about the decision to go for it on 4<sup>th</sup> & 1 at the 50-yard line that resulted in **Adrian Peterson** being stuffed for a loss and the Bombers taking over on the Charger side of mid-field. Bruxelles got a field goal out of it and – coupled with **Steven Hauschka**’s flat-out miss of a 40-yard attempt as time expired in the 1<sup>st</sup> half – it turned out to be the difference in the final score. So, the Chargers are done for the year. It was a rocky and ultimately flat encore following their amazing Championship win in 2018. But it is easy to wonder, if **Carson Wentz** had been available in the season’s final weeks, whether things would have turned out differently.

At True North Field in Peg City, the Violators razed the Crusaders 52-38 to mark the third time this season that they have scored more than 50 points in a game. **Patrick Mahomes** threw 7 TD passes to bring his league-leading total to 58, four more than the super hero in the other Conference, **Matt Ryan**. The entire league is waking up to what could easily be a record-setting week for Virden’s young QB heading into the season’s final game. At least one of **Drew Brees**’ “unbreakable” passing records of 2012 could fall in Week 16. Mahomes needs 398 yards passing to tie the 5,622 yards thrown by Brees that year. This milestone is more possible than one might think. The Triumph have the division wrapped up thanks to a deep tie-breaker and may elect to rest their more fragile cornerbacks. Virden’s coach, **Lance Barrate** and Mahomes himself play down the talk of records in the media, but their game plans tell a different story. Unlike the Death Valley team that Brees played for in his incredible season, however, the Violators cannot be accused of blatantly running up the score on their opponent for the sake of the record books. Although Virden ended up winning handily this week against a last-place opponent, the Crusaders were full-value adversaries offensively. Peg City actually racked up more total yards and more first downs while holding onto the ball for a full 12 additional minutes. One can only speculate what the Crusaders might have accomplished this season without having the absolute worst defence in the league.

At Camelot in York, the runners-ups for the 2018 Gale Sayers Trophy joined their Championship Game opponents on the early off-season golfing tour by falling spectacularly to the Hawks, 54-27. Brooklin chose to wait until they were eliminated to unleash the full fury of their offence in frustration at a season that failed to meet expectations. **Derek Carr**, with the help of **DeAndre Hopkins** and **Alshon Jeffery**, sheered through the York secondary like a buzz saw through balsa wood, throwing for 516 yards and 6 TD passes. With **Darqueze Dennard** out, **Rasul Douglas** was left on an island with Hopkins and the Hawks’ receiver had his way with the second-year cornerback. On the other side, **Ryan Smith** looked even more lost in giving up acres of room to Jeffery. The one thing that might have saved the young corners some of their dignity – the York pass rush – was largely ineffective. The venerable **Tom Brady** tired in vain to keep pace, but the lack of comparable weapons was telling. The Swords know what they need in the draft.



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## PLAYOFF PICTURE AT A GLANCE

PACIFIC CONFERENCE								
EAST			CENTRAL			WEST		
IN	ALIVE	OUT	IN	ALIVE	OUT	IN	ALIVE	OUT
3	1		1 W			2 W		
ATLANTIC CONFERENCE								
NORTH			COASTAL			SOUTH		
IN	ALIVE	OUT	IN	ALIVE	OUT	IN	ALIVE	OUT
3			2 W			1 W		

## Jimmy's WEEK SIXTEEN PICKS

### GAMES TO WATCH

#### NEW JERSEY @ ST. CHARLES (line – CHARGERS by 4)

**INJURIES:** New Jersey – Johnathan Joseph (OUT), Bashaud Breeland (IR), Martavis Bryant (IR); St. Charles – Quincy Enunwa (PROBABLE), Bryce Callahan (DOUBTFUL).

The gut-wrenching drama that was the Wrecking Balls' overtime marathon win over Buffalo last week has put them in position to squeeze into the post-season with a bit of help. They can grab a wildcard berth with a win and a Chino loss, and they can snatch the East Division from the front-running Bombers with a win and a Bombers' loss. That is due to the fact that, in such a case, the Balls will have the better record in divisional games. On the other hand, a loss will knock them out of the post-season entirely. In that event the Chargers will own the tie-breaker over New Jersey, putting the Chargers potentially tied with Chino for the second wildcard. Since, win or lose, Chino owns the tie-breaker over both New Jersey and St. Charles, last year's champs are officially out of the race. However, they would certainly like to ruin New Jersey's season and leave St. Charles in style with a victory here. Carson Wentz is raring to go, declaring himself ready to play one week earlier than originally projected by team doctors. Missing the playoffs, the year

after winning the championship, is not something that will sit well with this team. Vengeance is priority one; and New Jersey happens to be the first target. The Wrecking Balls have put together a gutsy three-game run to save what had looked to be a lost season after they fell to 5-6 in Week Eleven. The Buffalo game drained them emotionally and physically. Johnathan Joseph strained a hamstring running after Julio Jones for five quarters and there is now nobody standing between Mike Thomas and double-digit receptions. After seeing this team topple mighty Virden two weeks ago, anything is possible. But I think the Balls may have shot their load. **PICK: ST. CHARLES**

### **BROOKLIN @ PICKERING (line – SPARTANS by 9)**

**INJURIES: Brooklin** – Clelin Ferrell (PROBABLE), Chris Ivory (DOUBTFUL), Kenjon Barner (OUT), Evan Engram (OUT), Trai Turner (OUT); **Pickering** – Eric Kendricks (DOUBTFUL), Chris Harris (OUT), Ty Montgomery (OUT), Miles Sanders (OUT).

The good news for the Spartans is that they are in the playoffs and will play at least one game at home. The bad news is that they will need help to climb back on top of the division after squandering their advantage last week. First, they need to win this game. Then they must hope that York has enough left in the tank, after getting strafed by the Hawks last week, to knock off Budapest in Hungary. In that scenario they will own the tie-breaker over the North Stars by virtue of a narrow advantage in common games. A few weeks ago, this game looked like a lock for Pickering. But the Hawks have come on like furies offensively in their last four games while the Spartans have been lacking the intensity they displayed early in the year. Philip Rivers looked foggy against Budapest past week. Some are blaming the jet lag but spiteful whispers from less friendly sources claim the old guy can't cut it for a full 16 games anymore. One thing for certain, Rivers will need to have his arm greased to keep pace with the surging Brooklin attack. Defensively, the Hawks will break more than bend, but with their current offensive production all they need is a couple of stops. With Miles Sanders out for Pickering, Doug Martin will carry the load, diminishing play-action as a viable strategy to boost the Spartans passing attack. Both corners are back, which should help considerably, but if the Spartans refuse to rush the passer – like they did last week – Xavien Howard will not be able to hold off DeAndre Hopkins for long. I think Pickering will pull it out, but it will be nerve-wracking. **PICK: BROOKLIN**

### **YORK @ BUDAPEST (line – NORTH STARS by 8)**

**INJURIES: York** – Adrian Clayborn (QUESTIONABLE), Giovani Bernard (OUT), Brandon Scherff (OUT), Wyatt Teller (OUT); **Budapest** – Baker Mayfield (OUT), Marcus Murphy (OUT), Darren Sproles (OUT).

The North Stars won a pyrrhic victory over Pickering last week that cost them Baker Mayfield for at least one game. They could turn to an old friend, Tyrod Taylor, to finish the job of planting their flag on top of the Coastal Division; or they could hand the ball over to street free agent, Kyle Allen, who showed a deft passing touch in a one-game gig for Twin Cities back in Week Five. Either way, it will certainly shift the game plan in the direction of David Johnson and Mike Davis and make it imperative that the defence keep Tom Brady and his twin attack dogs, Derrick Henry and Nick Chubb, from mounting too many of those 10-minute drives they specialize in. The Excaliburs are coming off what was probably the worst defensive performance of their existence last week. It was so bad that even their own offence joined the light chorus of boos from the sparse crowd in attendance at Camelot. The bizarre total collapse is a glaring outlier for a defence that has been traditionally difficult to move against. If for no more than pride, expect them to come to play this week. If they do, this could be a challenging game for whoever gets the ball behind center for the Stars. The York corners are tempting targets, but neither QB is a proven thrower. York beat Budapest in Week Nine with their defence. Expect another tight slog-fest. **PICK: YORK**

## **GAMES OF NOTE**

### **BUFFALO @ BRUXELLES (line – BOMBERS by 7)**

**INJURIES: Buffalo** – Jaquiski Tartt (OUT), Quinton Dunbar (IR), Johnathan Abram (IR); **Bruxelles** – A'Shawn Robinson (QUESTIONABLE), Anthony Walker (QUESTIONABLE), Emmanuel Ogbah (DOUBTFUL), Riley Reiff (OUT).

The Bombers clinched at least a wildcard berth after slipping past the Chargers by the narrowest of margins last week. It was not one of the better showings by the offence and the defence looked sloppy at times. But, somehow, Bruxelles managed to stay in front thanks to a missed field goal and an aggressive fourth down miscalculation by their opponent that they exploited for points. The Derailers have had a frustrating year and they are coming off a heart-breaking loss to New Jersey. It will be interesting to see the mood of the team as they play for nothing more than roster spots next season. Have they packed it in or are they looking to punish somebody? They can certainly do damage to the Bombers' playoff standing and avoid the eyesore of double-digit losses with a win here. The Vegas line is a touch hefty in the home team's favour considering the Derailers were once thought to be the front-runner in the division. Perhaps the draft advantages of not going all-out for the win have been factored into it; or possibly Buffalo is just too spent after last week's tribulation to bring a winning effort. These are the games that are tough to analyze. The Bombers are motivated with something to lose. The Derailers have nothing to lose; but is there a motive to win? Here's guessing that Buffalo will bring it, but not enough of it. **PICK: BRUXELLES**

## **TWIN CITIES @ VIRDEN (line – TRIUMPH by 2)**

**INJURIES:** **Twin Cities** – Jaire Alexander (DOUBTFUL), Chris Harris Jr. (OUT), Darrell Henderson (OUT), Chris Lindstrom (OUT), Kwon Alexander (IR). **Virden** – Dexter Lawrence (PROBABLE), Johnathan Hankins (DOUBTFUL), Gerald McCoy (DOUBTFUL), Eric Berry (OUT), Deone Bucannon (OUT), Malik Hooker (OUT), Duke Dawson (IR).

Sadly, this game is an anti-climax as these teams are locked into their playoff slots regardless of what transpires on the field. If the Triumph lose, they will win the division due to their better record in common games and finish as the no.1 seed overall. A win will look better in the record books as well as give them two victories against the Violators this year and a confidence edge heading into the playoffs. Although it won't affect the seeding, it is an important scout game for both sides. It is highly likely that they could face each other again in the quarter finals two weeks from now. For this reason, it is quite possible that key players on both sides will sit and the game plans cut down to pre-season form. On the other hand, neither coach likes to lose and it is quite obvious from the Lance Barrate's recent play-calling that he wants to help his QB, Patrick Mahomes crack at least one of Drew Brees' long-standing single-season passing records. The Triumph is one of the few teams that can handle Mahomes when healthy. But with Chris Harris and likely Jaire Alexander out as well, they are vulnerable. Expect this to be a firm statement from the Violators that they are coming. **PICK: VIRDEN**

## **SEATTLE @ CHINO (line – CONVICTS by 9)**

**INJURIES:** **Seattle** – Sean Murphy-Bunting (OUT), Matt Paradis (OUT), Dawuane Smoot (OUT), Olivier Vernon (OUT), Devin White (OUT); **Chino** – Barry Church (OUT), Mark Ingram (OUT).

The Convicts currently hold the second wildcard position over New Jersey but, strangely, find their destiny not completely in their hands. They could win this game and still be knocked out if New Jersey wins and Bruxelles loses. They could lose this game and still get in if St. Charles wins. They would get in if they win this game and both New Jersey and Bruxelles also win; or New Jersey and Bruxelles both lose. So, with all this scoreboard watching, will it be possible for Chino to concentrate on the job at hand? Objectively, it should not be hard for the Convicts to down the Pilots at home. Kareem Hunt, who is rumoured to have a sprained ACL, but still takes the field anyway, is showing signs of wearing down. After him there really is little else to threaten the Chino defence with, as we saw in Seattle's debacle last week against the Knights. Could something go horribly wrong? Khalil Mack is back, which never bodes well for opposing QBs. But his return is balanced by the loss of key linebacking partners Devin White and Olivier Vernon. Chino missed Mark Ingram last week, but that was against a fully-stocked Cubs team. Expect Christian McCaffrey to get by fine without him this week. **PICK: CHINO**

## **HOLIDAY LEFTOVERS**

### **PEG CITY @ CHARLESWOOD (line – PATRIOTS by 8)**

**INJURIES:** **Peg City** – Devin Bush Jr (PROBABLE), Josh Allen (DOUBTFUL), Marquises Blair (OUT), Everson Griffen (OUT), Quincy Wilson (OUT), Marlon Humphrey (OUT), Shaq Mason (OUT), Nick Vigil (OUT), Roderick Johnson (IR); **Charleswood** – Montez Sweat (QUESTIONABLE), Marcus Cannon (DOUBTFUL), Alvin Kamara (DOUBTFUL), O.J. Howard (OUT).

The injuries are beginning to pile up for the Crusaders and not just in number. Their best corner, potentially both starting defensive ends and stud guard Shaq Mason will miss the season finale. No doubt the whole defence is spent after running the equivalent of a marathon over the past 15 weeks. The only players having fun are Kirk Cousins and his receivers Keenan Allen and Corey Davis. Luke Kuechly hasn't smiled since Week 4. The Pats aren't having fun either as they carry a three-game losing streak into the final week. DeShaun Watson is holding onto the ball too long, Alvin Kamara is broken down trying to be a bell-cow back and the defence has apparently given up on trying to stop anybody these past few weeks. I wouldn't be surprised if Peg City kicks butt here. **PICK: PEG CITY**

### **DURHAM @ SEBASTIAN (line – SWORDFISH by 4)**

**INJURIES:** **Durham** – Jack Conklin (PROBABLE), Ed Oliver (PROBABLE), D.J. Swearingen (OUT); **Sebastian** – Kevin King (QUESTIONABLE), Budda Baker (OUT), Odell Beckham Jr., (OUT), Matt Feiler (OUT), D'Onta Foreman (OUT), Aaron Lynch (OUT), Denzel Perryman (OUT), M.J. Stewart (OUT), Levi Wallace (OUT), Patrick Robinson (IR).

A lot of second and third team players saw the field for Durham last week against Scarborough. Not sure if that was simply because it was Scarborough, or a sign that the Lizards were, let us say, indifferent to the outcome. Their top receivers are likely dying to take a run at the battered Sebastian secondary and want back on the field here. The Swordfish had something to play for last week and, after a nice start offensively, withered defensively to the point where Drew Brees could not keep up. Now Odell Beckham is out and it looks like the Fish are ready to complete their collapse to finish the season. It won't be pretty, no matter what happens. **PICK: SEBASTIAN**

### **TORONTO @ GEORGIA (line – WOLVERINES by 3)**

**INJURIES:** **Toronto** – Mark Barron (PROBABLE), Taco Charlton (OUT); **Georgia** – Tremaine Edmunds (PROBABLE), D.J. Hayden

(OUT), Jimmy Smith (OUT).

The Wolverines have clinched the second wildcard and cannot do any better or worse for their standing in this game. Saquon Barkley may be used sparingly, if at all, which shifts the calculus slightly away from this being a lock cover of the small spread. The season can't end fast enough for the Glads, however, and they looked like they were already golfing last week in Aurora. Talk about Big Ben being washed up grew after he threw four more interceptions to bring his season total to a whopping 20. Both starting CBs are out, so it is hard to imagine a spirited effort coming from this Georgia team. Even a half-engaged Toronto team might romp. **PICK: TORONTO**

### **SCARBOROUGH @ COWTOWN (line – CORN KINGS by 16)**

**INJURIES: Scarborough** – Dont'a Hightower (QUESTIONABLE), Corey Clement (OUT), Landon Collins (OUT), Pierre Garcon (OUT), Terrance Mitchell (IR). **Cowtown** – Bilal Powell (PROBABLE), Marcell Dareus (QUESTIONABLE), Andre Dillard (QUESTIONABLE), Da'Shawn Hand (OUT), Carlton Davis III (OUT), Vernon Davis (OUT), Rodney McLeod (OUT).

Cowtown is blazing hot and riding a five-game win streak. The severity of the beating their offence administered to Sebastian last week was lost in the hoopla around Brooklin and Virden's scoring orgies, but in a normal week it would have raised plenty of eyebrows. As a result, the Corn Kings sit on top of the North division, locked in the no.3 seed, with nowhere to go, either up or down. They are expected to rest some of their more fragile players, including Ryan Fitzpatrick and Todd Gurley. This would provide an opening for most teams to slash heavily into that double-digit spread, but not the Blue Eagles. Drew Lock threw four picks last week while Brock Osweiler nodded off on the bench. Dont'a Hightower is questionable and if he can't go even the defence will surrender. **PICK: COWTOWN**

### **ERIEAU @ AURORA (line – MUSTANGS by 19)**

**INJURIES: Erieau** – Justin Houston (OUT), Maurice Hurst (OUT), Terrelle Pryor (IR); **Aurora** – None.

What we learned about the Mustangs last week was that they believe in keeping their starters loose before the post-season by playing them as much as they would play them in the post-season. With the division and the no.1 seed locked up early nobody got a day off. In fact, Davante Adams drew extra duty, getting targeted 16 times as the Mustangs trampled and re-trampled the Glads in a 54-point outburst. Aurora is again at the top of the league power rankings and they are not going to let anyone forget it. Pity the Cadillac. **PICK: AURORA**

### **LOS ANGELES @ IOWA CITY (line – CUBS by 8)**

**INJURIES: Los Angeles** – Sean Lee (DOUBTFUL), Vontaze Burfict (OUT); **Iowa City** – Weston Richburg (OUT).

The Knights were delighted to join the ranks of the teams that scored 40 or more points in Week 15. They rarely earn such a distinction so it did not matter that the game meant nothing in the playoff race and actually hurt their draft standing. The sight of any Knights QB, let alone Ryan Tannehill, throwing 6 TD passes in a game was too delicious to not revel in. The Cubs were less flamboyant in downing arch-rival Chino last week, but they'll take a division title anyway they can. They are locked in the no.2 seed and can rest players if they choose. But they won't because they really hate the Knights and will not want to miss putting them back in their place. **PICK: IOWA CITY**



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*This Week in EFL History*  
*With Professor Sterling Smitherman*

FROM THE EFL ARCHIVES – In Week Fifteen of the 2013 EFL season, the worst-to-first odyssey of the Iowa City Cubs and the Charleswood Patriots continued with both teams winning their games to maintain identical 10-5 records and remain in a neck-and-neck race for the no.1 overall seed in the Pacific-Atlantic Conference. It was an early testament to the EFL Mission of Competition that the teams that battled for the no.1 overall pick the previous season, were battling for top playoff positioning the year after. The Cubs held the tie-breaker, having beaten the Pats in Week One and looked to clinch vs Mohave in Week 16.

The Pickering Spartans hit a speed bump on their way to clinching a playoff berth, and the way the momentum turned against them would stick with their coach a long time afterwards. With Pickering leading 7-3 and the Corn Kings facing 3<sup>rd</sup> & 28 at their own 12, a personal foul penalty on pro bowler Daryl Washington kept the drive alive. Then a 4<sup>th</sup> & 6 fake punt / pass by Cowtown punter Johnny Hekker stole a first down. The Corn Kings would go on to score a TD and from then on, the Spartans were on their heels, eventually falling 26-23 and allowing Cowtown back in the race.

In a game many thought might be a preview of the Conference Championship, the Markham North Stars beat the Mustangs 24-17 on a 4<sup>th</sup> quarter TD pass from **Eli Manning** to **Matt Spaeth**. The forerunners of the never-say-die Aurora Mustangs did not have the **Rich Liotta** magic to sustain a comeback, however. **Matt Ryan** was sacked by **Chris Canty** for a 13-yard loss with 1:07 left to all but kill Garland's chances.

The big player on offence in Week 15 was Charleswood's **Adrian Peterson**, who rushed for 144 yards and 2 TDs on 31 carries. **Ryan Kerrigan** of Cowtown, with 7 tackles, 3 sacks and a forced fumble grabbed defensive MVP.