

2019



WEEK

9



EFL

ELITE FOOTBALL LEAGUE

2019



WEEK

9

In our 13th season and still going strong!

December 8, 2019

KICKIN' THE BALLS!

EAST



CENTRAL



WEST



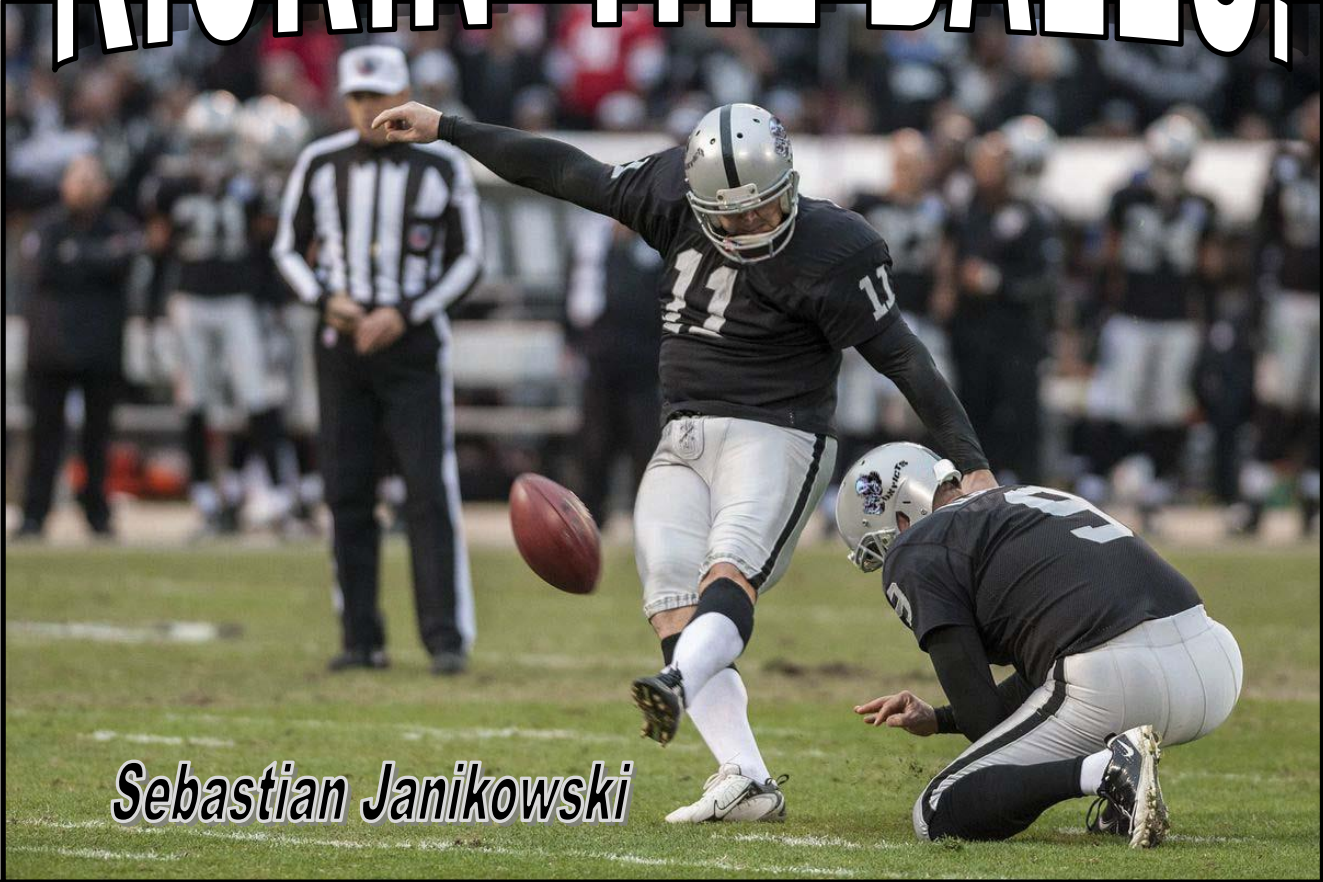
NORTH



COASTAL



SOUTH



Sebastian Janikowski

Chino placekicker, *Sebastian Janikowski* connects on his only field goal of the day – a 32-yarder – to win the game for the Convicts over St. Charles, 33-30. The kick was the final play of a wild Chino 4th quarter comeback that saw *Dak Prescott* lead the team to two touchdowns and two 2-point conversions to tie the Chargers and sent the game to OT.



Who was slick in Week Nine?

“Brylcreem” THE EFL’S FIRST SPONSOR



OFFENCE



Todd Gurley
RB
Cowtown
Corn Kings

192 rushing yds., 31 rec. yds., Set-up FG win with 29-yard run in OT.



DEFENSE



Morris Claiborne
CB
Buffalo
Derailers

3 T, 2 PD, 1 INT (53yds-TD). Pick-six gave Buffalo insurmountable lead



OFFENSIVE PLAY OF THE WEEK

3rd & 3, OPP 25, 1:52 in 4th Qrt, **Mitch Trubisky** (TCT) throws game-winning 25-yard TD to **Antonio Brown**.



GAME CENTER 2019 Week Nine

GAME BLITZ!

By Chris Sherman



DEFENSIVE PLAY OF THE WEEK

1st & 10, OWN 25, 3rd Qrt. **Marcus Peters** (CHP), picks off **Kirk Cousins** (PCC) for 37-yard pick-six to tie game

	30	Christian McCaffery scored twice in the final 6:35 of the 4 th quarter – on a 13-yard TD catch from Dak Prescott and a 1-yard run – and the Convicts converted two 2-point attempts to rebound from a 30-16 deficit and force overtime. A rattled Charger offence went three-and-out to start OT period, setting up a 58-yard Chino drive and a 32-yard Sebastian Janikowski FG for the win. McCaffery also scored the first Convicts TD to finish with 3 TDs.
	33	
	20	Tarik Cohen turned a medium curl route into a 66-yard TD to put the Wrecking Balls in front of Seattle, 21-13 to start the 2 nd half. Cohen added to his big day by taking a pass in the flat from Jared Goff and darting 20 yards for a TD to make it 28-13. Eli Manning found Michael Crabtree on a 14-yard slant for his second TD to close the gap, but a James Bradberry pick in the 4 th quarter snuffed out the comeback.
	28	
	16	Morris Claiborne picked off a Lamar Jackson pass in double coverage and returned it 53 yards for a TD to give the Derailers a 21-7 lead late in the 1 st half. The Derailer defence took over from there, with safety Kentrell Brice recovering an Alfred Morris fumble at the Buffalo 25-yard line to thwart an LA opportunity while the game was within reach. Andrew Luck threw 3 TD passes, 2 to Julio Jones.
	28	
	16	A pick-six by the Cubs' Alec Ogletree turned a closely contested 2 nd quarter into a 17-7 advantage for Iowa City before a 51-yard FG by Justin Tucker made it 20-7 before the half. A 47-yard fly to Dante Pettis brought the Bombers as close as they would get in the 2 nd half. Pettis gave it back with a fumble inside his own red zone that Fletcher Cox picked up and ran back for an 18-yard clinching TD.
	36	
	31	Viriden scored twice in a two-minute span to tie the game 31-31 late in the 4 th quarter. Mitch Trubisky got the Triumph back into the lead with a 25-yard TD pass to Antonio Brown. Pat Mahomes drove Viriden 75 yards to the half-yard line, but his quick pass to Amari Cooper was broken up as time expired. Melvin Gordon had a 35-yard TD run and a 32-yard TD catch to lead the Triumph a 21-17 first half lead.
	38	
	36	A pick and a strip-sack by Devin Bush Jr contained the Pats early and Kirk Cousins added a TD pass to Corey Davis to help Peg City build a 13-7 lead by the half. A first series TD run in the 3 rd by Chris Carson made it 20-6, but the Pats exploded for 3 TDs in 3 minutes, including a 31-yard pick-six by Marcus Peters. Peg City tied it at 27, but a 14-yard TD pass to Mohamed Sanu in the 4 th proved to be the difference.
	27	
	31	Aaron Rodgers connected with Adam Thielen for two TD passes in the 4 th quarter to pull away from the Swordfish in what had been a close game. The Swordfish began aggressively, following a 1 st quarter FG with a successful inside kick, only to turn it over on downs inside the Toronto red zone. Deadlocked at 10 at half time, Toronto scored a TD early in the 3 rd and stayed in front the rest of the way.
	19	
	24	The Corn Kings got two Todd Gurley TD runs, a 12-yard TD pass from Fitzpatrick to Mike Evans and 5 sacks from their defence to carry a 24-10 lead deep into the 4 th quarter. Matt Ryan and the Mustangs sprung to life late, with a 54-yard bomb to Mike Williams setting up the 1 st of 2 TD 4 th quarter TDs to Julian Edelman to tie the game. In OT, Gurley's 29-yard run set up a 35-yard Matt Bryant FG for the win.
	27	
	28	Andy Dalton found Tyler Boyd on a 29-yard slant for their 3 rd scoring hook-up of the game to take a 28-27 lead with 2:55 left in the 4 th . Durham safety, Tyrann Mathieu made sure that lead held with his 2 nd interception of the year, just before the two-minute warning, allowing the Lizards to run out the clock. The pick spoiled a 3 rd quarter rally by the Glads, in which they had scored 2 TDs to return from down 21-13.
	27	
	21	Mike Glennon, in the game for an injured Drew Lock, rifled a 16-yard TD pass to Pierre Garcon as time expired to snatch the Eagles' first win of 2019. The Cadillac looked in control after Desmond King's interception set up a 16-yard TD run by Isaiah Crowell to give Erieau a 20-14 lead with 9:55 left. But with time running out, Glennon drove from his own 13 to the Erieau 16 where he threw 3 incompletions before hitting the game-winner.
	20	
	19	An early field position battle resulted in a 6-0 half time lead for Budapest. They added to their lead with a 9-yard TD pass to Stephon Diggs to open the 2 nd half, but York rebounded with two TDs, the second set-up by a Jordan Poyer interception of Baker Mayfield. He made amends with a 42-yard TD to George Kittle, but the 2-pointer failed. Tom Brady made one final push but the Stars held firm at their 7 as time expired.
	14	
	31	Pickering came out fast with Philip Rivers capping a 4-for-4 opening drive with a 9-yard TD pass to Sterling Shepard. The Spartans added 2 more TDs to lead 21-6 at the half. A 22-yard TD pass to DeAndre Hopkins and an early 4 th quarter TD catch by Evan Engram got the Hawks back in the game. But runs of 16 & 17 yards by Miles Sanders set up an insurance TD pass to Willie Snead to secure the Spartans' win.
	19	

CHARGERS**30**

PASSING: Carson Wentz, 31 of 45, 350 yds, 1 TD, 0 INT
RUSHING: Carson Wentz, 7C, 47yds, (6.7), 0 TD
RECEIVING: Michael Thomas, 8 for 119yds, 37LG, 0 TD
DEFENCE: Darius Leonard, 13 T, 1 PD, 2 STF, 1 FF
KICKING: Steven Hauschka, 3 of 5 FGA, 3 of 3 XPA, 12 Pts

CONVICTS**33**

PASSING: Dak Prescott, 22 of 21, 279 yds, 2 TDs, 0 INT
RUSHING: Christian McCaffery, 20C, 89yds, (4.2), 2 TDs
RECEIVING: Christian McCaffery, 4 for 74yds, 44LG, 1 TD
DEFENCE: Za'Darius Smith, 2 T, 2 SK, 1 HUR
KICKING: Sebastian Janikowski, 2 of 2 XPA, 1 of 1 FG, 5 Pts

12-07-2019 The Big House Temp: 78 Wind: 5-15 None MVP: **Christian McCaffrey**

	1	2	3	4	5	Tot
2018 St. Charles (6-3)	3	10	10	7	0	30
2018 Chino (6-3)	0	7	7	16	3	33

Scoring Summary

1 7:24 St. Charles	FG Hauschka 30 (14-63-7:33)	3-0
2 14:02 St. Charles	FG Hauschka 41 (13-56-6:38)	6-0
2 12:29 St. Charles	TD Parker 16 yd fumble recovery (Hauschka)	13-0
2 0:53 Chino	TD McCaffrey 17 run (Janikowski) (9-70-3:35)	13-7
3 11:40 Chino	TD Prescott 12 pass to Olsen (Janikowski) (6-86-3:14)	13-14
3 6:19 St. Charles	FG Hauschka 33 (10-60-5:16)	16-14
3 0:33 St. Charles	TD Wentz 5 pass to Lewis (Hauschka) (9-54-4:12)	23-14
4 6:43 St. Charles	TD Peterson 3 run (Hauschka) (8-88-4:08)	30-14
4 3:18 Chino	TD Prescott 13 pass to McCaffrey (2 - Fitzgerald) (11-99-	30-22
4 1:11 Chino	TD McCaffrey 1 run (2 - Prescott) (8-59-1:36)	30-30
5 6:38 Chino	FG Janikowski 32 (10-58-6:39)	30-33

STC**CHI**

First Downs	23	28
Rushes	20-79	37-199
Passes	45-31-350	31-22-279
Sacked	5-30	0-0
Fumble	1	2
Penalties	3-30	6-33
Turnovers	0	2
Missed Tackles	5	4
Dropped Passes	0	1
Blitzers	8	18
Time	36:16	32:06
Third Down	8-15	1-7
Fourth Down	0-0	1-3
Red Att/Td/Fg	6/2/2	7/4/1
Net Offense	399	478

PILOTS**20**

PASSING: Eli Manning, 20 of 32, 274 yds, 2 TDs, 2 INTs
RUSHING: Kareem Hunt, 27C, 156yds, (5.8), 0 TD
RECEIVING: Michael Crabtree, 11 for 166yds, 27LG, 2 TDs
DEFENCE: Dpevin White, 14 T, 1 STF, 1 FF
KICKING: Josh Lambo, 2 of 2 XP, 2 of 2 FGA, 8 Pts

WRECKING BALL**28**

PASSING: Jared Goff, 19 of 25, 257 yds, 3 TDs, 0 INT
RUSHING: Frank Gore, 18C, 62 yds, (3.2), 1 TD
RECEIVING: Tarik Cohen, 7 for 147yds, 66LG, 2 TDs
DEFENCE: Cameron Wake, 10 T, 2 SK
KICKING: Brandon McManus, 4 of 4 XPA, 4 Pts

12-07-2019 Stone Pony Shore Temp: 62 Wind: 0-10 None MVP: **Jared Goff**

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2018 Seattle (3-6)	10	3	7	0	20
2018 New Jersey (5-4)	7	7	14	0	28

Scoring Summary

1 8:33 Seattle	FG Lambo 29 (11-75-6:16)	3-0
1 3:46 New Jersey	TD Gore 2 run (McManus) (8-75-4:47)	3-7
1 0:27 Seattle	TD Manning 6 pass to Crabtree (Lambo) (6-75-3:19)	10-7
2 2:17 New Jersey	TD Goff 6 pass to Cook (McManus) (8-67-3:22)	10-14
2 0:29 Seattle	FG Lambo 44 (7-49-1:43)	13-14
3 14:14 New Jersey	TD Goff 66 pass to Cohen (McManus) (3-78-0:39)	13-21
3 6:30 New Jersey	TD Goff 20 pass to Cohen (McManus) (8-76-5:19)	13-28
3 2:09 Seattle	TD Manning 14 pass to Crabtree (Lambo) (9-75-4:21)	20-28

SEA**NJ**

First Downs	23	25
Rushes	28-156	33-172
Passes	32-20-274	25-19-257
Sacked	5-21	1-5
Fumble	0	3
Penalties	5-27	0-0
Turnovers	2	1
Dropped Passes	1	2
Bad Passes	2	1
Blitzers	11	43
Time	31:53	28:07
Third Down	2-10	2-8
Fourth Down	0-1	0-1
Red Att/Td/Fg	3/2/1	4/3/0
Net Offense	409	424

KNIGHTS**16**

PASSING: Lamar Jackson, 18 of 29, 207 yds, 1 TD, 1 INT
RUSHING: Lamar Jackson, 16C, 79yds, (4.9), 1 TD
RECEIVING: Calvin Ridley, 7 for 486yds, 27LG, 0 TD
DEFENCE: Carl Nassib, 7 T, 1 SK, 1 STF
KICKING: Ka'imi Fairbairn 1 of 1 FGA, 1 of 1 XPA, 4 Pts

DERAILERS**28**

PASSING: Andrew Luck, 13 of 20, 137 yds, 3TDs, 0 INT
RUSHING: Alfred Blue, 10C, 76yds, (7.6), 0 TD
RECEIVING: Julio Jones, 6 for 73yds, 23LG, 2 TDs
DEFENCE: Morris Claiborne, 3 T, 2 PD, 1 INT (53yds-TD)
KICKING: Jake Elliott, 4 of 4 XPA, 4 Pts

12-07-2019 New Era Stadium Temp: 34 Wind: 10-20 None MVP: **Andrew Luck**

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2018 Los Angeles (3-6)	0	7	3	6	16
2018 Buffalo (4-5)	7	14	0	7	28

Scoring Summary

1 9:20 Buffalo	TD Luck 23 pass to Jones (Elliott,J) (10-78-5:33)	0-7
2 11:24 Los Angeles	TD Jackson 20 run (Fairbairn) (14-69-8:14)	7-7
2 9:17 Buffalo	TD Luck 16 pass to Woods (Elliott,J) (6-75-2:07)	7-14
2 2:33 Buffalo	TD Claiborne 53 interception return (Elliott,J)	7-21
3 9:30 Los Angeles	FG Fairbairn 53 (9-40-5:24)	10-21
4 9:58 Buffalo	TD Luck 14 pass to Jones (Elliott,J) (13-78-6:40)	10-28
4 1:33 Los Angeles	TD Jackson 27 pass to Parker (2 - failed) (6-64-2:09)	16-28

LAK**BUF**

First Downs	22	19
Rushes	35-140	33-181
Passes	29-18-207	20-13-137
Sacked	1-8	1-1
Fumble	3	0
Penalties	4-45	10-69
Turnovers	2	0
Missed Tackles	6	7
Bad Passes	1	1
Blitzers	13	52
Time	33:03	26:57
Third Down	7-16	5-12
Fourth Down	1-1	2-2
Red Att/Td/Fg	1/1/0	2/2/0
Net Offense	339	317

BOMBERS**16**

PASSING: Marcus Mariota, 14 of 27, 192 yds, 1 TD, 1 INT
RUSHING: Marlon Mack, 15C, 75yds, (5.0), 0 TD
RECEIVING: Travis Kelce, 5 for 90yds, 44LG, 0 TD
DEFENCE: Frank Clark, 7 T, 2 SK, 1 HUR
KICKING: Matt Prater, 1 of 2 FGA, 1 of 1 XPA, 4 Pts

CUBS**36**

PASSING: Russell Wilson, 18 of 23, 203 yds, 1 TD, 0 INT
RUSHING: Joe Mixon, 17C, 79yds, (4.6) 0 TD
RECEIVING: Joe Mixon, 5 for 39yds, 16LG, 0 TD
DEFENCE: Dee Ford, 5 T, 1 SK, 1 PD, 1 FF
KICKING: Justin Tucker, 3 of 4 XPA, 3 of 3 FGA, 12 Pts

12-07-2019 Joe Ferguson Stadium Temp: 42 Wind: 0-5 None MVP: Russell Wilson					BRX			ICC		
	1	2	3	4	Tot	First Downs	15	20		
2018 Bruxelles (5-4)	0	7	0	9	16	Rushes	21-137	33-153		
2018 Iowa City (7-2)	3	17	3	13	36	Passes	27-14-192	23-18-203		
Scoring Summary										
1 3:16	Iowa City	FG Tucker 27 (11-65-4:35)			0-3	Sacked	5-37	3-14		
2 12:07	Bruxelles	TD Sanders 10 run (Prater) (12-91-6:01)			7-3	Fumble	4	0		
2 2:40	Iowa City	TD Wilson 12 pass to Conner (Tucker,J) (9-80-5:23)			7-10	Penalties	8-67	3-22		
2 1:55	Iowa City	TD Ogletree 38 interception return (Tucker,J)			7-17	Turnovers	2	0		
2 0:13	Iowa City	FG Tucker 51 (7-38-0:48)			7-20	Missed Tackles	6	7		
3 0:45	Iowa City	FG Tucker 18 (12-64-7:21)			7-23	Dropped Passes	1	0		
4 9:52	Bruxelles	TD Mariota 47 pass to Pettis (2 - failed) (4-70-1:18)			13-23	Blitzers	28	9		
4 5:21	Iowa City	TD Conner 1 run (no good) (8-63-4:25)			13-29	Time	26:09	33:51		
4 5:06	Iowa City	TD Cox 16 yd fumble recovery (Tucker,J)			13-36	Third Down	3-11	7-13		
4 1:51	Bruxelles	FG Prater 51 (8-42-3:09)			16-36	Fourth Down	0-0	0-0		
						Red Att/Td/Fg	1/1/0	4/2/2		
						Net Offense	292	342		

VIOLATORS**31**

PASSING: Pat Mahomes, 26 of 42, 333 yds, 3 TDs, 0 INT
RUSHING: Ezekiel Elliott, 29C, 109yds, (3.8), 1 TD
RECEIVING: Amari Cooper, 6 for 83yds, 19LG, 0 TD
DEFENCE: Kendall Fuller, 5 T, 1 PD, 1 INT (20yds)
KICKING: Cairo Santos 4 of 4 XPA, 1 of 1 FGA, 7 Pts

TRIUMPH**38**

PASSING: Mitch Trubisky, 23 of 231, 393 yds, 4 TDs, 2 INTs
RUSHING: Melvin Gordon III 16C, 110yds, (6.9), 1 TD
RECEIVING: Antonio Brown, 10 for 178yds, 47LG, 2 TDs
DEFENCE: Danielle Hunter, 5 T, 1 SK, 1 STF, 1 HUR
KICKING: Dustin Hopkins, 5 of 5 XPA, 1 of 1 FGA, 8 Pts

12-07-2019 Wilhalla Stadium Temp: 70 Wind: MVP: Mitch Trubisky					VV			TCT		
	1	2	3	4	Tot	First Downs	31	26		
2018 Virden (6-3)	7	10	0	14	31	Rushes	34-133	26-149		
2018 Twin Cities (7-2)	7	14	7	10	38	Passes	42-26-333	31-23-393		
Scoring Summary										
1 6:32	Virden	TD Elliott 1 run (Santos) (12-62-6:18)			7-0	Sacked	3-14	0-0		
1 4:07	Twin Cities	TD Gordon III 35 run (Hopkins) (4-75-2:25)			7-7	Fumble	3	0		
2 14:28	Virden	TD Mahomes 10 pass to Blount (Santos) (8-75-4:39)			14-7	Penalties	2-10	9-115		
2 12:19	Twin Cities	TD Trubisky 47 pass to Brown (Hopkins) (4-75-2:09)			14-14	Turnovers	0	2		
2 7:33	Virden	FG Santos 34 (12-59-4:43)			17-14	Missed Tackles	12	16		
2 1:56	Twin Cities	TD Trubisky 32 pass to Gordon III (Hopkins) (11-75-5:37)			17-21	Dropped Passes	3	0		
3 3:19	Twin Cities	TD Trubisky 33 pass to Golladay (Hopkins) (3-50-1:39)			17-28	Blitzers	4	0		
4 5:27	Twin Cities	FG Hopkins 44 (12-60-5:47)			17-31	Time	32:54	27:06		
4 5:07	Virden	TD Mahomes 29 pass to Elliott (Santos) (2-75-0:20)			24-31	Third Down	6-14	6-9		
4 3:13	Virden	TD Mahomes 2 pass to Blount (Santos) (6-34-1:02)			31-31	Fourth Down	2-4	0-0		
4 1:52	Twin Cities	TD Trubisky 25 pass to Brown (Hopkins) (6-75-1:21)			31-38	Red Att/Td/Fg	5/3/1	0/0/0		
						Net Offense	452	542		

PATRIOTS**36**

PASSING: DeShaun Watson, 19 of 25, 265 yds, 4 TDs, 1 INT
RUSHING: Alvin Kamara, 17C, 47yds, (2.8), 0 TD
RECEIVING: Mohamed Sanu, 9 for 143yds, 39LG, 1 TD
DEFENCE: Marcus Peters, 2 T, 1 PD, 1 INT (37-ydsTD)
KICKING: Ryan Succop, 1 of 1 FGA, 3 of 5 XPA, 6 Pts

CRUSADERS**27**

PASSING: Kirk Cousins, 19 of 34, 303 yds, 2 TDs, 1 INT
RUSHING: Chris Carson, 19C, 108yds, (5.7), 1 TD
RECEIVING: Keenan Allen, 8 for 146yds, 79LG, 0 TD
DEFENCE: Devin Bush Jr, 5 T, 1 SK, 1 FF, 1 INT (11yds)
KICKING: Harrison Butker, 3 of 3 XPA, 2 of 2 FGA, 9 Pts

12-07-2019 True North Field Temp: 72 Wind: MVP: DeShaun Watson					CHP			PCC		
	1	2	3	4	Tot	First Downs	22	25		
2018 Charleswood (5-4)	6	0	21	9	36	Rushes	25-95	31-176		
2018 Peg City (1-8)	3	10	14	0	27	Passes	22-19-265	34-19-303		
Scoring Summary										
1 5:42	Peg City	FG Butker 40 (10-50-4:41)			0-3	Sacked	1-5	1-1		
1 0:12	Charleswood	TD Watson 5 pass to Kamara (no good) (8-84-5:22)			6-3	Fumble	1	2		
2 11:14	Peg City	TD Cousins 6 pass to Davis (Butker) (8-75-3:58)			6-10	Penalties	6-45	5-35		
2 0:05	Peg City	FG Butker 33 (17-82-6:26)			6-13	Turnovers	1	1		
3 9:51	Peg City	TD Carson 9 run (Butker) (10-75-5:09)			6-20	Missed Tackles	13	5		
3 8:41	Charleswood	TD Watson 8 pass to Jones (Succop) (4-60-1:10)			13-20	Dropped Passes	0	1		
3 8:28	Charleswood	TD Peters 37 interception return (Succop)			20-20	Bad Passes	1	2		
3 5:15	Peg City	TD Cousins 40 pass to Montgomery (Butker) (7-75-3:13)			20-27	Blitzers	3	3		
3 1:21	Charleswood	TD Watson 12 pass to Jones (Succop) (7-75-3:54)			27-27	Time	28:50	31:10		
4 6:55	Charleswood	TD Watson 14 pass to Sanu (no good) (7-54-3:52)			33-27	Third Down	4-8	5-11		
						Fourth Down	0-0	1-3		
						Red Att/Td/Fg	5/4/1	3/2/1		
						Net Offense	355	478		

WOLVERINES**31**

PASSING: Aaron Rodgers, 20 of 35, 233 yds, 4 TDs, 0 INT
RUSHING: Saquon Barkley, 16C, 82yds, (5.1), 0 TD
RECEIVING: Adam Thielen, 10 for 122ds, 16LG, 2 TDs
DEFENCE: Mike Hilton, 1 T, 5 PD, 0-4 ATT
KICKING: Adam Vinatieri, 4 of 4 XPA, 1 of 1 FGA, 7 Pts

SWORDFISH**19**

PASSING: Drew Brees, 29 of 50, 318 yds, 2 TDs, 0 INT
RUSHING: Wendell Smallwood, 8C, 73yds, (9.1), 0 TD
RECEIVING: Odell Beckham Jr 8 for 80yds, 19LG, 1 TD
DEFENCE: Chandler Jones, 8 T, 1 SK, 3 STF
KICKING: Dan Bailey, 1 of 1 XPA, 2 of 2 FGA, 7 Pts

12-03-2019 The Fish Tank Temp:76 Wind: MVP: **Aaron Rodgers**

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2018 Toronto (5-4)	7	3	7	14	31
2018 Sebastian (4-5)	3	7	3	6	19

Scoring Summary

1 12:05 Toronto	TD Rodgers 10 pass to Hill (Vinatieri) (6-60-2:55)	7-0
1 6:49 Sebastian	FG Bailey 37 (11-55-5:07)	7-3
2 3:56 Sebastian	TD Brees 3 pass to Beckham Jr. (Bailey,D) (13-94-5:38)	7-10
2 0:01 Toronto	FG Vinatieri 47 (10-46-3:50)	10-10
3 10:31 Toronto	TD Rodgers 19 pass to Hill (Vinatieri) (6-52-2:13)	17-10
3 6:01 Sebastian	FG Bailey 30 (9-48-4:26)	17-13
4 10:39 Toronto	TD Rodgers 12 pass to Thielen (Vinatieri) (12-77-5:26)	24-13
4 6:50 Sebastian	TD Brees 13 pass to Edmonds (2 - failed) (7-81-3:38)	24-19
4 3:42 Toronto	TD Rodgers 11 pass to Thielen (Vinatieri) (9-77-3:00)	31-19

	TOR	SS
First Downs	24	25
Rushes	27-123	23-109
Passes	35-20-233	50-29-318
Sacked	1-8	1-7
Fumble	0	3
Penalties	5-25	7-60
Turnovers	0	1
Missed Tackles	4	8
Runs 10+	6	5
Blitzers	27	12
Time	27:35	32:25
Third Down	4-12	4-13
Fourth Down	2-3	2-4
Red Att/Td/Fg	6/4/0	5/2/2
Net Offense	348	420

MUSTANGS**24**

PASSING: Matt Ryan, 23 of 36, 330 yds, 3 TDs, 1 INT
RUSHING: Kalen Ballage, 7C, 39yds, (5.6), 0 TD
RECEIVING: Julian Edelman, 8 for 104yds, 22LG, 2 TDs
DEFENCE: Tyler Davison, 5 T, 2 SK, 1 HUR
KICKING: Wil Lutz, 1 of 1 FGA, 3 of 3 XPA, 6 Pts

CORN KINGS**27**

PASSING: Ryan Fitzpatrick, 18 of 32, 235 yds, 1 TD, 1 INT
RUSHING: Todd Gurley II, 27C, 192yds, (7.1), 2 TDs
RECEIVING: Todd Gurley II, 5 for 31yds, 14LG, 0 TD
DEFENCE: TJ Watt, 7 T, 2 SK, 2 STF, 2 FF
KICKING: Matt Bryant, 3 of 3 XPA, 2 of 2 FGA, 9 Pts

12-03-2019 Tillman Field Temp: 46 Wind: 0-10 MVP: **Todd Gurley II**

	1	2	3	4	5	Tot
2018 Aurora (7-2)	7	3	0	14	0	24
2018 Cowtown (5-4)	7	10	7	0	3	27

Scoring Summary

1 8:16 Cowtown	TD Gurley II 1 run (Bryant,M) (7-68-4:36)	0-7
1 2:18 Aurora	TD Ryan 8 pass to Rudolph (Lutz) (14-66-5:47)	7-7
2 11:01 Aurora	FG Lutz 49 (8-38-4:34)	10-7
2 6:49 Cowtown	TD Fitzpatrick 12 pass to Evans (Bryant,M) (8-75-4:12)	10-14
2 0:00 Cowtown	FG Bryant 36 (9-49-1:50)	10-17
3 11:06 Cowtown	TD Gurley II 4 run (Bryant,M) (7-75-3:54)	10-24
4 6:21 Aurora	TD Ryan 22 pass to Edelman (Lutz) (3-90-1:50)	17-24
4 2:08 Aurora	TD Ryan 4 pass to Edelman (Lutz) (6-54-1:58)	24-24
5 9:54 Cowtown	FG Bryant 35 (6-58-2:29)	24-27

	AUR	COW
First Downs	20	27
Rushes	19-52	33-236
Passes	36-23-330	32-18-235
Sacked	6-38	3-12
Fumble	3	0
Penalties	3-20	4-40
Turnovers	2	1
Missed Tackles	16	6
Blitzers	12	27
Challenges	1-1	0-0
Time	31:00	34:06
Third Down	6-13	3-8
Fourth Down	1-1	0-1
Red Att/Td/Fg	2/2/0	6/3/2
Net Offense	344	459

T-LIZARDS**28**

PASSING: Andy Dalton, 19 of 28, 256 yds, 3 TDs, 0 INT
RUSHING: Alexander Mattison, 11C, 83yds, (7.5), 0 TD
RECEIVING: Tyler Boyd, 7 for 111yds, 29LG, 3 TDs
DEFENCE: Tyrann Mathieu, 4 T, 1 INT (39yds)
KICKING: Daniel Carlson, 4 of 4 XPA, 4 Pts

GALDIATORS**27**

PASSING: Ben Roethlisberger, 21 of 33, 263yds, 2 TDs, 1 INT
RUSHING: Josh Jacobs, 22C, 96yds, (4.4), 0 TD
RECEIVING: Jarvis Landry, 6 for 81yds, 20LG, 1 TD
DEFENCE: Termaine Edmunds, 9 T, 1 PD, 2 STF
KICKING: Bett Maher, 3 of 3 XPA, 2 of 2 FGA, 9 Pts

12-07-2019 Georgia Stadium Temp: 57 Wind: 0-10 None MVP: **Andy Dalton**

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2018 Durham (4-5)	7	14	0	7	28
2018 Georgia (3-6)	0	13	14	0	27

Scoring Summary

1 5:40 Durham	TD Dalton 1 run (Carlson,D) (8-82-5:14)	7-0
2 14:51 Georgia	TD Roethlisberger 5 pass to Beasley (Maher) (9-75-5:49)	7-7
2 10:24 Durham	TD Dalton 8 pass to Boyd (Carlson,D) (8-75-4:27)	14-7
2 4:48 Georgia	FG Maher 46 (11-58-5:23)	14-10
2 2:11 Durham	TD Dalton 9 pass to Boyd (Carlson,D) (7-75-2:37)	21-10
2 0:00 Georgia	FG Maher 51 (11-42-2:08)	21-13
3 10:40 Georgia	TD Collins 10 run (Maher) (9-75-4:20)	21-20
3 2:08 Georgia	TD Roethlisberger 18 pass to Vannett (Maher) (9-86-4:53)	21-27
4 2:55 Durham	TD Dalton 29 pass to Boyd (Carlson,D) (6-68-3:15)	28-27

	DTL	GEO
First Downs	22	24
Rushes	30-158	27-121
Passes	28-19-256	33-21-263
Sacked	0-0	2-12
Fumble	0	1
Penalties	4-42	2-14
Turnovers	0	1
Missed Tackles	4	8
Dropped Passes	2	1
Blitzers	13	9
Time	29:56	30:04
Third Down	3-10	8-13
Fourth Down	3-4	0-0
Red Att/Td/Fg	5/3/0	3/3/0
Net Offense	414	372

BLUE EAGLES**21**

PASSING: Drew Lock, 13 of 24, 154 yds, 2 TDs, 1 INT
RUSHING: Jordan Howard, 18C, 66yds, (3.7), 0 TD
RECEIVING: TJ Yeldon, 6 for 53yds, 15LG, 0 TD
DEFENCE: Don'ta Hightower, 10 T, 2 STF, 1 FF
KICKING: Mason Crosby, 3 of 3 XPA, 3 Pts

CADILLAC**20**

PASSING: Matt Stafford, 20 of 27, 224 yds, 0 TD, 1 INT
RUSHING: Isaiah Crowell, 12C, 55yds, (4.6), 1 TD
RECEIVING: Chester Rogers, 6 for 80yds, 33LG, 0 TD
DEFENCE: Trey Flowers, 6 T, 1 SK, 1 FF
KICKING: Stephen Gostkowski, 2 of 2 FGA, 2 of 2 XPA, 8 Pts

12-07-2019 Kelly-Burke Field Temp: 46 Wind: 0-5 None MVP: **Jacquizz Rodgers**

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2018 Scarborough (1-8)	7	7	0	7	21
2018 Erieau (0-9)	0	10	3	7	20

Scoring Summary

1 1:35 Scarborough	TD Lock 21 pass to Rodgers (Crosby) (9-80-4:51)	7-0
2 13:57 Erieau	TD Barwin 16 yd fumble recovery (Gostkowski)	7-7
2 8:25 Scarborough	TD Lock 4 pass to Wright (Crosby) (11-75-5:32)	14-7
2 4:15 Erieau	FG Gostkowski 28 (11-75-3:55)	14-10
3 7:58 Erieau	FG Gostkowski 42 (7-34-3:04)	14-13
4 9:55 Erieau	TD Crowell 16 run (Gostkowski) (4-33-1:04)	14-20
4 0:00 Scarborough	TD Glennon 16 pass to Garcon (Crosby) (11-87-1:48)	21-20

	SBE	ERI
First Downs	22	21
Rushes	24-71	26-105
Passes	41-25-277	35-25-277
Sacked	1-5	1-4
Fumble	2	1
Penalties	5-25	6-55
Turnovers	2	1
Missed Tackles	4	5
Dropped Passes	2	1
Blitzers	13	26
Time	28:39	31:21
Third Down	6-14	6-13
Fourth Down	1-2	0-0
Red Att/Td/Fg	2/2/0	6/1/2
Net Offense	343	378

NORTH STARS**19**

PASSING: Baker Mayfield, 18 of 28, 214 yds, 2TDs, 1 INT
RUSHING: Mike Davis, 13 C, 55yds, (4.2), 0 TD
RECEIVING: Stephon Diggs, 7 for 75yds, 15LG, 1 TD
DEFENCE: Cameron Jordan, 6 T, 1 SK, 1 STF
KICKING: Jason Myers, 1 of 1 XPA, 2 of 2 FGA, 7 Pts

EXCALIBURS**14**

PASSING: Tom Brady, 28 of 37, 248 yds, 1 TD, 0 INT
RUSHING: Derrick Henry, 17C, 49yds, (2.9), 1 TD
RECEIVING: Josh Doctson, 9 for 97yds, 14LG, 0 TD
DEFENCE: DeForest Buckner, 3 T, 2 STF, 1 HUR
KICKING: Graham Gano, 2 of 2 XPA, 2 Pts

12-07-2019 Camelot Temp: 58 Wind: Calm None MVP: **Baker Mayfield**

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2018 Budapest (6-3)	0	6	7	6	19
2018 York (4-5)	0	0	7	7	14

Scoring Summary

2 14:45 Budapest	FG Myers 43 (7-25-3:20)	3-0
2 2:17 Budapest	FG Myers 41 (13-62-5:05)	6-0
3 8:11 Budapest	TD Mayfield 9 pass to Diggs (Myers,J) (11-75-6:49)	13-0
3 0:11 York	TD Henry 1 run (Gano) (15-75-8:00)	13-7
4 9:46 York	TD Brady 7 pass to Amendola (Gano) (7-31-4:37)	13-14
4 8:01 Budapest	TD Mayfield 42 pass to Kittle (2 - failed) (4-75-1:45)	19-14

	BUD	YOR
First Downs	16	20
Rushes	26-111	30-85
Passes	28-18-214	37-28-248
Sacked	1-7	3-18
Fumble	0	0
Penalties	3-20	5-35
Turnovers	1	0
Missed Tackles	4	2
Blitzers	9	21
Time	26:19	33:41
Third Down	6-13	8-16
Fourth Down	0-0	1-2
Red Att/Td/Fg	1/1/0	3/2/0
Net Offense	318	315

SPARTANS**31**

PASSING: Philip Rivers, 19 of 25, 268 yds, 2 TDs, 0 INT
RUSHING: Miles Sanders, 17C, 79yds, (4.6), 0 TD
RECEIVING: Willie Snead IV, 7 for 112yds, 28LG, 1 TD
DEFENCE: Geno Atkins, 2T, 1 SK, 1 STF, 4 HUR
KICKING: Greg Zuerlein, 4 of 4 XPA, 1 of 1 FGA, 7 Pts

HAWKS**19**

PASSING: Derek Carr, 17 of 27, 149yds, 2 TDs, 0 INT
RUSHING: Matt Breida, 14C, 111yds, (7.9), 0 TD
RECEIVING: DeAndre Hopkins, 7 for 97yds, 22LG, 1 TD
DEFENCE: Leighton Vander Esch, 9 T, 1 STF
KICKING: Cody Parkey, 2 of 2 FGA, 1 of 1 XPA, 7 Pts

12-07-2019 Optimist Park Temp: 55 Wind: 0-10 None MVP: **Philip Rivers**

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2018 Pickering (8-1)	7	14	0	10	31
2018 Brooklin (3-6)	0	6	7	6	19

Scoring Summary

1 12:15 Pickering	TD Rivers 9 pass to Shepard (Zuerlein) (5-75-2:45)	7-0
2 14:03 Brooklin	FG Parkey 42 (12-68-5:32)	7-3
2 9:47 Pickering	TD Martin 3 run (Zuerlein) (9-75-4:16)	14-3
2 6:01 Brooklin	FG Parkey 45 (7-33-3:42)	14-6
2 0:32 Pickering	TD Jackson 2 run (Zuerlein) (11-75-5:29)	21-6
3 5:50 Brooklin	TD Carr 22 pass to Hopkins (Parkey) (9-66-3:47)	21-13
4 12:26 Brooklin	TD Carr 12 pass to Ingram (2 - failed) (8-74-4:03)	21-19
4 7:22 Pickering	TD Rivers 16 pass to Snead IV (Zuerlein) (9-74-4:48)	28-19
4 1:28 Pickering	FG Zuerlein 36 (9-43-4:04)	31-19

	PIC	BRH
First Downs	28	20
Rushes	36-155	20-144
Passes	25-19-268	32-20-171
Sacked	0-0	1-6
Fumble	0	1
Penalties	8-60	3-40
Turnovers	0	0
Missed Tackles	5	9
Runs 10+	4	8
Blitzers	3	3
Time	32:45	27:15
Third Down	6-10	3-9
Fourth Down	0-0	1-1
Red Att/Td/Fg	6/4/1	5/2/1
Net Offense	423	309



WEEK NINE

STANDINGS

PACIFIC CONFERENCE													
East	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
St. Charles	6	3	0	0.667	L1	257	28.6	216	24	4.6	3 1 0	2 1 0	4 3 0
Bruxelles	5	4	0	0.556	L2	290	32.2	252	28	4.2	3 1 0	2 1 0	3 4 0
New Jersey	5	4	0	0.556	W3	246	27.3	253	28.1	-0.8	2 2 0	1 2 0	4 3 0
Buffalo	4	5	0	0.444	W2	187	20.8	189	21	-0.2	4 1 0	1 2 0	3 4 0
Central	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Twin Cities	7	2	0	0.778	W2	301	33.4	217	24.1	9.3	3 1 0	3 0 0	6 1 0
Viriden	6	3	0	0.667	L1	335	37.2	240	26.7	10.6	4 1 0	2 1 0	4 3 0
Charleswood	5	4	0	0.556	W1	208	23.1	200	22.2	0.9	2 2 0	1 2 0	4 3 0
Peg City	1	8	0	0.111	L5	233	25.9	341	37.9	-12	1 4 0	0 3 0	0 7 0
West	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Iowa City	7	2	0	0.778	W3	250	27.8	209	23.2	4.6	4 0 0	3 0 0	5 2 0
Chino	6	3	0	0.667	W2	254	28.2	225	25	3.2	3 2 0	2 1 0	6 1 0
Los Angeles	3	6	0	0.333	L3	189	21	246	27.3	-6.3	2 3 0	1 2 0	2 5 0
Seattle	3	6	0	0.333	L1	186	20.7	234	26	-5.3	2 3 0	0 3 0	1 6 0
ATLANTIC CONFERENCE													
North	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Cowtown	5	4	0	0.556	W1	238	26.4	249	27.7	-1.2	2 2 0	2 1 0	4 3 0
Sebastian	4	5	0	0.444	L1	240	26.7	296	32.9	-6.2	3 2 0	3 0 0	4 3 0
Durham	4	5	0	0.444	W1	257	28.6	278	30.9	-2.3	2 3 0	1 2 0	3 4 0
Scarborough	1	8	0	0.111	W1	132	14.7	289	32.1	-17.4	0 4 0	0 3 0	1 6 0
Coastal	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Pickering	8	1	0	0.889	W5	259	28.8	120	13.3	15.4	5 0 0	3 0 0	7 0 0
Budapest	6	3	0	0.667	W1	243	27	184	20.4	6.6	4 1 0	2 1 0	5 2 0
York	4	5	0	0.444	L1	186	20.7	239	26.6	-5.9	1 3 0	1 2 0	4 3 0
Brooklin	3	6	0	0.333	L4	246	27.3	255	28.3	-1	1 3 0	0 3 0	2 5 0
South	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Aurora	7	2	0	0.778	L1	304	33.8	150	16.7	17.1	4 0 0	3 0 0	5 2 0
Toronto	5	4	0	0.556	W1	216	24	190	21.1	2.9	3 2 0	2 1 0	4 3 0
Georgia	3	6	0	0.333	L1	153	17	230	25.6	-8.6	0 4 0	1 2 0	3 4 0
Erieau	0	9	0	0.000	L9	118	13.1	226	25.1	-12	0 5 0	0 3 0	0 7 0

TOP PASSERS

Rk	Player	Team	Att	Cmp	C%	Yards	In	I%	Lg	TD	TD%	Rate
1	Mahomes	VV	318	209	65.7	3146	2	0.6	82	31	9.7	127.9
2	Mariota	BRX	267	186	69.7	2570	6	2.2	73	25	9.4	122.1
3	Rivers,P	PIC	227	155	68.3	2289	3	1.3	60	18	7.9	121.9
4	Dalton	DTL	192	131	68.2	1731	2	1	78	17	8.9	121.7
5	Wentz	STC	290	212	73.1	2471	2	0.7	45	22	7.6	120.9
6	Ryan,M	AUR	312	201	64.4	3085	3	1	64	26	8.3	120.7
7	Carr,D	BRH	306	210	68.6	2687	7	2.3	73	26	8.5	114.7
8	Trubisky	TCT	193	126	65.3	2007	5	2.6	69	13	6.7	111.5
9	Wilson,R	ICC	240	155	64.6	2122	2	0.8	86	16	6.7	111.5
10	Prescott	CHI	261	167	64	2059	1	0.4	44	18	6.9	109.7
11	Watson,D	CHP	211	139	65.9	1725	5	2.4	66	17	8.1	108
12	Goff	NJ	305	191	62.6	2502	5	1.6	73	21	6.9	104.6
13	Mayfield	BUD	269	168	62.5	2051	6	2.2	43	22	8.2	103.9
14	Cousins	PCC	316	203	64.2	2272	5	1.6	79	20	6.3	100.1
15	Luck	BUF	293	195	66.6	2155	6	2	56	18	6.1	100.1
16	Rodgers,A	TOR	295	166	56.3	2207	2	0.7	77	20	6.8	99.9
17	Brees	SS	346	217	62.7	2546	8	2.3	81	23	6.6	97.5
18	Manning	SEA	256	152	59.4	1982	8	3.1	62	18	7	94.2
19	Brady	YOR	304	187	61.5	2095	3	1	66	14	4.6	93.3
20	Flacco	COW	274	164	59.9	2184	6	2.2	87	14	5.1	93.1
21	Stafford	ERI	189	130	68.8	1366	4	2.1	77	4	2.1	87.8
22	Jackson,L	LAK	160	93	58.1	1121	4	2.5	70	8	5	86
23	Roethlisberger	GEO	308	182	59.1	2032	12	3.9	64	15	4.9	78.8
24	Osweiler	SBE	230	134	58.3	1435	7	3	45	10	4.3	78.4
25	Dolegala	VV	1	1	100	46	0	0	46	1	100	158.3

KICKOFF RETURNERS

PUNT RETURNERS

Rk	Player	Team	No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD	Rk	Player	Team	No	Fc	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD
1	Patterson	CHP	27	965	35.7	105	3	1	Harris,D	TOR	20	7	312	15.6	82	1
2	Grant,J	CHI	31	954	30.8	105	2	2	Grant,J	CHI	17	5	256	15.1	71	1
3	Smith,Tr	BRX	24	698	29.1	96	0	3	Roberts,A	LAK	17	6	242	14.2	79	1
4	Erickson	BUF	34	966	28.4	89	0	4	Sherels	BUD	17	11	231	13.6	75	0
5	Roberts,A	LAK	23	644	28	102	1	5	Cohen	NJ	12	4	159	13.3	21	0
6	Countess	YOR	18	455	25.3	38	0	6	Humphries	COW	11	8	123	11.2	16	0
7	Lockett	ICC	25	622	24.9	37	0	7	Erickson	BUF	17	7	174	10.2	20	0
8	King II	ERI	22	528	24	42	0	8	Hardy	CHP	21	4	184	8.8	20	0
9	Clement	SBE	24	575	24	43	0	9	Peppers,J	ERI	14	4	121	8.6	15	0
10	Agnew	SEA	16	373	23.3	38	0	10	Edelman	AUR	11	5	92	8.4	24	0
11	Coleman,C	AUR	13	300	23.1	37	0	11	Ervin	VV	12	7	96	8	18	0
12	Johnson,D	COW	14	322	23	34	0	12	Peterson,P	AUR	11	10	83	7.5	18	0
13	Harris,D	TOR	10	230	23	37	0	13	Kirk	ICC	12	2	89	7.4	14	0
14	Logan	PCC	18	412	22.9	38	0	14	Amendola	YOR	13	2	93	7.2	13	0
15	Isabella	DTL	14	298	21.3	35	0	15	Henderson	BRH	13	6	90	6.9	15	0
16	Moore,C	SS	21	440	21	31	0	16	Westbrook	BRX	16	9	89	5.6	14	0
17	Chark Jr.	NJ	26	484	18.6	42	0	17	Moore,D	TCT	17	8	91	5.4	12	0
18	Barner	BRH	18	315	17.5	38	0	18	Beckham Jr	SS	14	6	72	5.1	13	0
19	Lewis,T	SBE	3	123	41	39	0	19	Agnew	SEA	14	11	69	4.9	16	0
20	Pascal	STC	9	248	27.6	69	0	20	Jones,C	DTL	8	7	168	21	83	1

RUSHING LEADERS								RECEIVING LEADERS							
Rk	Player	Team	Att	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD	Rk	Player	Team	No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD
1	Gurley II	COW	188	1103	5.9	31	9	1	Hopkins,D	BRH	68	1053	15.5	58	9
2	Hunt,K	SEA	169	913	5.4	45	1	2	Woods,R	BUF	65	809	12.4	45	6
3	Elliott,E	VV	188	835	4.4	39	8	3	Thomas,M	STC	61	823	13.5	37	8
4	Gordon III	TCT	149	758	5.1	39	7	4	Landry,J	GEO	58	746	12.9	34	5
5	Barkley,S	TOR	164	742	4.5	44	3	5	Thielen	TOR	57	698	12.2	27	7
6	Carson,C	PCC	131	731	5.6	23	6	6	Adams,D	AUR	55	963	17.5	64	6
7	Sanders,M	PIC	127	664	5.2	28	3	7	Allen,K	PCC	54	734	13.6	79	4
8	Henry,D	YOR	121	655	5.4	75	5	8	Beckham Jr	SS	53	808	15.2	81	14
9	Mixon	ICC	121	655	5.4	56	6	9	Elliott,E	VV	52	524	10.1	29	6
10	Mack,M	BRX	121	616	5.1	54	4	10	Cooper,A	VV	51	984	19.3	75	8
11	Breida	BRH	91	614	6.7	33	3	11	Hilton	DTL	50	830	16.6	68	8
12	McCaffrey	CHI	146	598	4.1	38	4	12	Cohen	NJ	50	751	15	73	5
13	Peterson,A	STC	124	513	4.1	35	7	13	Jones,J	BUF	50	475	9.5	23	5
14	Johnson,D	BUD	113	512	4.5	35	4	14	Cooks	LAK	47	587	12.5	21	3
15	Howard,J	SBE	129	506	3.9	19	2	15	Barkley,S	TOR	47	418	8.9	23	1
16	Kamara	CHP	118	502	4.3	48	2	16	Davis,C	PCC	46	595	12.9	45	7
17	Coleman,T	BUF	113	468	4.1	35	2	17	Diggs,S	BUD	46	598	13	43	5
18	Jacobs,J	GEO	113	454	4	32	1	18	McCaffrey	CHI	46	570	12.4	44	7
19	Barber	LAK	100	428	4.3	21	0	19	Kelce,T	BRX	45	751	16.7	51	6
20	Singletary	AUR	86	410	4.8	30	2	20	Ertz	YOR	45	565	12.6	40	6
21	Davis,M	BUD	69	397	5.8	24	3	21	Golladay	TCT	45	852	18.9	47	6
22	Mariota	BRX	40	393	9.8	38	3	22	Brown,A	TCT	45	825	18.3	69	6
23	Watson,D	CHP	40	390	9.8	34	2	23	Ridley,C	LAK	45	705	15.7	70	4
24	Gore	NJ	92	359	3.9	30	4	24	Evans,M	COW	44	764	17.4	85	9
25	Ingram	CHI	75	338	4.5	23	2	25	Boyd	DTL	44	667	15.2	56	7

INTERCEPTION LEADERS							SACK LEADERS					TACKLE LEADERS			
Rk	Player	Team	No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD	Rk	Player	Team	No.	Rk	Player	Team	No.
1	Haden	BRX	4	51	12.8	33	0	1	Ford,D	ICC	11	1	Vander Esc	BRH	83
2	Howard,X	PIC	4	65	16.3	43	0	2	Hill,B	ICC	9	2	Leonard	STC	81
3	Fuller,K	VV	3	50	16.7	30	0	3	Pierre-Pau	ICC	8	3	White,D	SEA	76
4	Diggs,Q	BUD	3	50	16.7	38	1	4	Hunter,D	TCT	8	4	Joseph,J	NJ	75
5	Boston	SS	3	45	15	38	0	5	Hargrave	ICC	7	5	Littleton	NJ	74
6	Smith Sr.	PIC	3	49	16.3	33	0	6	Kerrigan	COW	7	6	Wagner,B	TCT	71
7	Ward,D	PIC	3	35	11.7	35	1	7	Watt,T	COW	7	7	Amukamara	VV	71
8	Poyer	YOR	3	0	0	0	0	8	Watt,J	AUR	7	8	Baker,D	SBE	68
9	Williams,G	LAK	3	0	0	0	0	9	Cox,F	ICC	6	9	Ryan,L	SBE	66
10	Lattimore	SEA	3	16	5.3	16	0	10	Lawrence,D	CHP	6	10	Dennard	YOR	66
11	Norman	AUR	3	59	19.7	35	1	11	Donald	BUF	5	11	Hightower	SBE	66
12	Lee,D	TCT	2	84	42	50	1	12	Heyward	CHP	5	12	Martinez	LAK	64
13	Ingram III	VV	2	19	9.5	19	1	13	Hughes,J	TCT	5	13	Trevathan	VV	62
14	Hooker	VV	2	26	13	26	1	14	Judon	NJ	5	14	Schobert	YOR	62
15	Fuller,K	BRX	2	30	15	20	0	15	Atkins	PIC	5	15	Watt,T	COW	61
16	Trevathan	VV	2	0	0	0	0	16	Smith,Z	CHI	5	16	Mack,K	SEA	61
17	Adams,J	NJ	2	70	35	36	0	17	Autry	AUR	5	17	Trufant	CHP	61
18	Vander Esc	BRH	2	3	1.5	3	0	18	Jordan,C	BUD	4	18	Fuller,K	VV	60
19	Jenkins,Ja	BRH	2	0	0	0	0	19	Hubbard,S	BRH	4	19	Sherman,R	DTL	60
20	Darby	COW	2	18	9	18	1	20	Jones,C	SS	4	20	Burns	DTL	59

SCORING LEADERS

Rk	Player	Team	FG	XP	2Pt	Run	Rec	Int	KR	PR	Fmb	Sf	Tot
1	Lutz	AUR	20	32	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	92
2	Bryant,M	COW	21	23	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	86
3	Elliott,E	VV	0	0	0	8	6	0	0	0	0	0	84
4	Beckham Jr	SS	0	0	0	0	14	0	0	0	0	0	84
5	Zuerlein	PIC	17	28	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	79
6	Hopkins	TCT	14	35	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	77
7	Prater	BRX	13	33	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	72
8	Hill,T	TOR	0	0	0	0	12	0	0	0	0	0	72
9	Tucker,J	ICC	14	28	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	70
10	Santos	VV	10	39	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	69
11	Gordon III	TCT	0	0	0	7	4	0	0	0	0	0	66
12	Gurley II	COW	0	0	0	9	2	0	0	0	0	0	66
13	Vinatieri	TOR	15	21	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	66
14	McCaffrey	CHI	0	0	0	4	7	0	0	0	0	0	66
15	Fairbairn	LAK	15	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	63
16	Janikowski	CHI	13	23	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	62
17	McManus	NJ	10	30	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	60
18	Lambo	SEA	13	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	58
19	Myers,J	BUD	10	27	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	57
20	Bailey,D	SS	10	26	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	56
21	Hauschka	STC	8	31	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	55
22	Evans,M	COW	0	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	54
23	Parkey	BRH	8	30	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	54
24	Hopkins,D	BRH	0	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	54
25	Butker	PCC	9	26	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	53
26	Gostkowski	ERI	14	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	52
27	Hilton	DTL	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	48
28	Cooper,A	VV	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	48
29	Thomas,M	STC	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	48
30	Peterson,A	STC	0	0	0	7	1	0	0	0	0	0	48
31	Gano	YOR	9	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	46
32	Succop	CHP	7	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	46
33	Maher	GEO	9	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	45
34	Rudolph	AUR	0	0	1	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	44
35	Johnson,D	BUD	0	0	0	4	3	0	0	0	0	0	42

KICKING LEADERS

Rk	Player	Team	FGA	FGM	FG%	40	50	Lg	Pts
1	Lutz	AUR	20	20	100	11	3	55	92
2	Bryant,M	COW	23	21	91.3	11	4	54	86
3	Zuerlein	PIC	17	17	100	6	4	56	79
4	Hopkins	TCT	15	14	93.3	5	3	51	77
5	Prater	BRX	15	13	86.7	5	1	51	72
6	Tucker,J	ICC	16	14	87.5	8	5	54	70
7	Santos	VV	13	10	76.9	2	0	41	69
8	Vinatieri	TOR	20	15	75	7	2	55	66
9	Fairbairn	LAK	16	15	93.8	5	1	53	63
10	Janikowski	CHI	13	13	100	3	1	56	62
11	McManus	NJ	13	10	76.9	3	0	46	60
12	Lambo	SEA	15	13	86.7	6	2	59	58
13	Myers,J	BUD	10	10	100	5	1	56	57
14	Bailey,D	SS	11	10	90.9	1	0	45	56
15	Hauschka	STC	14	8	57.1	2	1	51	55
16	Parkey	BRH	9	8	88.9	5	0	49	54
17	Butker	PCC	10	9	90	1	0	40	53
18	Gostkowski	ERI	19	14	73.7	6	3	53	52
19	Succop	CHP	8	7	87.5	2	1	50	46
20	Gano	YOR	11	9	81.8	3	2	54	46

PUNTING LEADERS

Rk	Player	Team	No	Yards	Tb	20	Lg	Bk	Ave
1	Dickson,M	ERI	42	2013	2	22	60	1	47.9
2	Dixon,R	GEO	33	1535	1	9	54	0	46.5
3	Lee,A	BUF	33	1529	0	13	61	0	46.3
4	Koch	AUR	33	1528	4	9	61	0	46.3
5	Colquitt,B	SEA	42	1934	4	13	56	0	46
6	Colquitt,D	SBE	34	1546	1	17	59	0	45.5
7	Martin,S	LAK	34	1542	1	17	55	0	45.4
8	Palardy	YOR	45	2033	3	11	57	0	45.2
9	Edwards,L	TOR	43	1924	2	17	87	0	44.7
10	O'Donnell	NJ	35	1566	1	9	58	0	44.7
11	Sanchez	BUD	33	1463	2	21	62	0	44.3
12	Huber	CHP	33	1458	4	11	54	0	44.2
13	Pinion	ICC	34	1490	1	8	56	0	43.8
14	Morstead	DTL	29	1411	0	18	58	0	48.7
15	Kern	BRX	28	1361	4	10	63	0	48.6
16	Way	CHI	30	1424	6	3	92	0	47.5
17	Anger	STC	28	1282	0	10	52	0	45.8
18	Jones,C	PIC	32	1463	2	13	55	0	45.7
19	Bosher	VV	19	867	1	12	55	0	45.6
20	Haack	PCC	21	956	2	5	53	1	45.5



AROUND THE



With Spats McChad

NEW YORK – I appreciate all of the support and hate mail I have received since I went on the record with my opinion of the firing of **Don Cherry** and the ongoing Impeachment Hearings here in the United States.

That's right; I appreciate all of it, even the hate mail. Not that most of it was expressly hateful. Some of it was merely insulting, some of it deploring of my ignorance, other pieces were simply inane or the product of people with likely untreatable mental disabilities. Even some of the messages of support were, in a few cases, disturbing. For the record, I do not wish to join the American Nazi Party, the Ku Klux Klan or any other racist or anti-immigrant organization.

The reason I appreciate *all* of it is that I recognize it as Free Speech in action and understand that, apart from one threatening e-mail from a Democrat that read: "I know where you live, asshole and I am going to come and kill you!," it is all opinion, well-founded or not. Not everybody has the ability to frame an argument, examine their inherent biases or recognize a logical fallacy if it landed on their nose, so not all opinions are going to carry equal value in my book. But people – even dumb people – have a right to express themselves. Stay away from threatening to commit serious bodily harm or murder, refrain from advocating genocide of any particular ethnic, racial or religious group, and we're good.

However, some of the responses I received got me thinking and re-examining my own impulses, triggers and views. One such response came in an article from Wrecking Balls beat writer correspondent, **Dave Hodge**, a former host of *Hockey Night in Canada* and various shows on The Sports Network (TSN) in Canada. Hodge worked with Don Cherry in the early years and provided some insights into what it was like to actually work with the man. His revelations and personal reflections were fascinating. He touched on two points that I would like to expand on here – not necessarily to agree or disagree, but to discuss. The first circled around what I will call the 'cult of personality' that developed around Cherry over the years that resulted in a sense that the man had become larger than the show itself or the sport upon which it centered.

Don Cherry is unquestionably a larger than life personality. What other kind of person could hold millions of viewers in thrall during a hockey intermission? While fans of other sports used breaks in the game to attend to personal necessity, grab a beer, or pay for the pizza that had been unfalteringly timed to arrive at that precise moment, hockey fans – and even people who weren't particularly interested in the game or in hockey – stopped what they were doing to listen to Don Cherry deliver the goods in his cocksure, curmudgeonly way. Cherry blew away the veneer of the overly polite, self-deprecating Canadian. Average Canadians appreciated him for it, whether or not they held his views on every topic.

For it was Canadians, and the network executives who recognized a ratings-boost when they saw one, who raised Don Cherry to the grand heights from which he fell on November 9, 2019. Whether people behind the scenes had reservations or not about the content he presented – sports, political or otherwise – Cherry seemed to be given free reign to bring in the viewers. One can question the wisdom of empowering any person to that extent, but it tends to happen when money is involved.

The second point has to do with the dividing line between sports and politics. There is wisdom in Dave Hodge's view that a broadcaster's job is *"to unify sports fans regardless of their heritage, ethnicity, sexuality, where they may have immigrated from, what Province they reside in, what political party they belong too, and or regardless of their social views on any given subject, including wearing poppies."* The sport itself is pure and can be a unifying force if allowed to remain so.

But is it realistic to expect that politics will never enter sport given that politics is as ubiquitous in society as the air we breathe? And when it does, what does the broadcaster do then? The history of the intertwining of politics and sport is long. The Olympics were invented for an essentially political purpose – to prevent war. The potential to unify was recognized in the same event. But the recent history of the Olympics – from the boycott and counter-boycott of the 1980 and 1984 Summer Olympics to the recent controversial barring of Russia from international sport for 4 years – tells us that politics and sport go together like cheese and crackers.

Not all political topics have a place in a hockey intermission, for sure, or on a football field on any given Sunday. But who decides when it is okay or not okay to intermingle a bit of politics with our sport of choice? When **Colin Kaepernick** knelt for the National Anthem, he used his sports "platform" to advance a political view. Many supported him for this; others said that a sports field was not the place. Who is right? And do the people who support Kaepernick's actions also respect the right for those who disagree with him to boo his butt off the field or refuse to go to games where he plays? The wisdom of not joining politics with sport should be self-evident in that case – at least it should be by now to Kaepernick. But

my point is that there is public division as to whether the act itself, at a sporting event no less, was appropriate and right to do.

Hodge's point about not permitting politics to enter the sports discussion referred to his job as a broadcaster, a necessarily neutral role. In that view, I think he is absolutely correct. But **Don Cherry**, a hockey coach, not a student of journalism or media, was never a broadcaster in the role that Hodge, or later **Ron McLean**, played. He was, or became, a TV personality who was on a hockey broadcast because he knew a thing or two about hockey. He was encouraged, actively or tacitly, to exercise his unique capacity to entertain...until he crossed the line of what was deemed to be socially acceptable and strayed out of bounds.

Interestingly, it was not so clear to everybody at the time that Cherry had stepped out of bounds. Referee



This just about sums up the state of free speech in North America. Deliberately taunting or denigrating somebody isn't nice. But when people mistake opinions for personal attacks, discourse is impossible.

Ron McLean signalled 'touchdown' by giving him the thumbs up. It was only after Coach Twitter threw the red challenge flag that, upon further review, Cherry's heel was seen to be on the line – not over it, but on it. But rather than place the ball back where he had stepped out and allowing him a chance to advance his position, 'New York' (Rogers) called the game and declared a forfeit. We would never accept that type of remedy in a game of football. Why should we accept it in the game of life? Especially life in a Democracy.

Speaking of Democracy: Freedom of speech is the First Amendment of the Constitution for a reason. Free speech is the only way to exercise free thought and develop skills of reasoning. Without the ability to reason, to think critically, or to constructively engage in open debate, we cannot sustain a true democracy. The Media are supposed to be its biggest defenders, not the first censors.

I will conclude this exceptionally long, dangerously political editorial by re-stating, a little more emphatically, my original position, so that you have no misconception that I agree with the content of Don Cherry's poppy speech. I think what Cherry said, while not agreeable to many, including me, and offensive to some, was within the bounds of acceptable free speech within the forum that Cherry had been allowed, even encouraged by his employer, to construct over many years. His view was rightly challenged and he should have been allowed to answer for it in that forum, not peremptorily shut down. After 37 years, Cherry deserved better treatment.

ROBBERY AT THE BIG HOUSE

Charger owner, **John Clingan** was in his typically choleric mood when talking to the media in the run-up to his team's Week Nine match-up against Chino at The Big House. St. Charles was coming off an impressive win at **TERRORDOME** over the league's hottest new sensation, the **Pat Mahomes**-led Violators. But instead of permitting himself some levity after his team's notable success, he took aim at the media that had been prodding and poking him all season about his team's ability to repeat their serendipitous 2018 run.

"I think it's interesting that all you guys who wrote us off in Week 3 can't acknowledge the truth that's right in your face," he began testily, when asked by one reporter whether he thought his Chargers would be able to sustain their recent 'surprising' success. "We've won five in a row, we've taken out two of the top teams in the conference in the last three weeks, we're playing great football; what the heck more do you want? Yeah, I get it; we're not the Violators, we're not the Triumph, we're not the Cubs! But we've beaten all those teams. So, when are you numbskulls going to stop being 'surprised' by that?"

Clingan's confrontational style doesn't score brownie points with many reporters, but it has won over his players and fans. It also gives head coach **Mike Martz** space to take the high road when the frequent baiting starts. And the Chargers seem to get baited by the media more than any other championship-winning team that I can recall. It typically does not come blatantly, but in the form of innuendo and tone. The implication that the Chargers somehow fluked their way into a championship in 2018 lies beneath the surface of such questions as: "Do you think your team's ability to win will hold out in 2019 now that other teams are better prepared for you?;" which was how Clingan was greeted by a national reporter in his opening press conference of the season. Typical questions have contained variants of that theme ever since.

For those in the media who cannot let go of a pre-conceived and ill-founded notion that the Chargers are somehow beneath their status as reigning champs, Wrecking Balls head coach, **Bill Parcells** has some advice: "You are what your record says you are." In a game that is not only about brute force and athleticism, but also tactics and strategy, a team's record over 16 games is the truest gauge and that simple theorem has essentially held up over time. We haven't had any 8-8 teams win the Gale Sayers Trophy yet.

But if you are what your record says you are, then the Convicts, at 6-3, are apparently right up there with St. Charles in 2019. Interestingly, the Left Coast media has seized upon Warden **Rob Nazar**'s bad boys and turned them into golden boys. The need for a true western regional counterweight to the current dominance of the central region in the conference is a focus of the national media as they aim to keep viewers tuned-in in all time zones. The Convicts, one of the original twelve teams, doing well, with at least one signature win under its belt and led by an up-and-coming young quarterback of the generation currently making its mark, fit the profile

of a hype-able team. And ever since they knocked off Twin Cities at Willhalla Stadium they have been hyped to the max. The fact that the Convicts beat an off-the-street free agent at QB that day – and barely at that – is not mentioned often, to avoid cluttering up the narrative. But have no doubt, my friends, that that tiny deficiency sticks in the minds of the narrative-builders as their story swells toward its exciting climax in the final race for the playoffs.

The buzz around the Convicts is not entirely unwarranted, though. Their offence, led by **Dak Prescott** and driven by the twin engines of **Christian McCaffery** and **Mark Ingram** is getting the job done and doing so without turning the ball over. The defence, the most penalized in the league and ranked near the bottom in efficiency, has done a credible job of holding in the red zone and getting stops on third down. It's not the 'Lockdown Crew' of old, but it's good enough to earn the trendy tag, 'New Crew.' And then there is their "Veteran Coach," **Rob "The Warden" Nazar**. As with all the original coaches who have managed to hold on to their jobs through 13 seasons, he is routinely referred to as "one of the best in the business." Whether he is or not doesn't matter for the sake of the narrative, as long as he's believed to be.

Of course, knocking off the Chargers would be a coup that would stimulate that narrative, one portraying the Convicts as some sort of new West Coast Posse posing a deadly threat to the Cubs. So, it was perhaps with this in mind that the league and certain influential media turned a curiously blind eye to homefield antics and shenanigans at the Big House for which the Convicts normally get reprimanded and fined.

The cheap prison labour that maintains the Big House under the watchful eyes of dozens of armed guards prepares the main playing field, the practice facilities and the locker rooms for both teams. Since all of these real convicts are Convicts fans (or for self-preservation say they are), not to mention hardened criminals, it was an easy task for them to disconnect the hot water, empty the soap dispensers, clog the toilets and turn up the air-conditioning to arctic temperatures in the visitors' locker room in advance of the Chargers' arrival. It was no trouble at all to loosen the bolts and remove the pulley cables on the exercise equipment, litter the floor with nails and refuse, disconnect the treadmills and turn the temperature up to tropical heat levels in the gym. It was child's play, although harder to conceal from the guards, to substitute the heated portable benches on the visitors' sideline with thin metal benches too high to allow feet to rest on the ground and to saturate the grass in the warm-up area with an oily spray.

The convicts at the Big House had performed this type of sabotage before. The only difference this time was that it was not caught and ordered rectified prior to the arrival of the visiting team. When the outraged Chargers discovered the condition of their facilities they refused to dress and were promptly informed by a league official that if they did not dress and take the field on time the league would declare a forfeit.

Playing under official protest, the Chargers took the field after changing in their team bus. Their only warm-up was on the field of play in the hour permitted before game time. The training staff were still taping up and stretching players all the way up to the National Anthem. All the while, the FOX booth team of **Kurt Manifoo** and **Howie Short** set the stage as if they were about to bring us a playoff game, making no mention of the tall, steel racks posing as benches that were gleaming in the mid-day sun on the Chargers' sideline, or that the game was being played under protest.

"They call it the Big House and it is very big indeed," proclaimed **Kurt Manifoo**, as the camera on the *Brylcreem Blimp* panned over the largest stadium in the EFL. "Welcome to Chino, home of the Convicts, where the hottest team in the west, led by young gun, Dak Prescott, plays host to the 2018 Champion St. Charles Chargers. Howie, both of these teams have been hot recently, both are coming off big wins, both are in tight races for their division. What can we expect to see from them today?"

"This is anybody's ball game, Kurt," replied **Howie Short**. "The Chargers surprised everybody last week with a win over Virden that went down to the game's final seconds. It was a game in which they were outplayed for the most part, but Carson Wentz made that big play at the end to pull it out. The champs are hanging in and you know they aren't going to be intimidated by this noisy and scary Chino crowd. The Convicts showed that they can beat anybody when they went into Willhalla a few weeks ago and beat the Triumph in their own house. I think this will be a fireworks display, Kurt and Dak Prescott is going to be the main pyromaniac."

And so, the table was set by the network. The casual fan might have guessed that the visiting Chargers were possibly 3-point underdogs on the road, when in reality Nevada had them as 2-point favourites.

Fireworks were hard to find in the first half. For the first and most of the second quarter, the "young gun," **Dak Prescott** came up firing blanks. The patience of his opponent may have unnerved him. The Chargers' defence maintained their gaps and reacted swiftly, paying attention predominantly to **Christian McCaffery**. He was not under serious pressure, but good coverage eventually forced Prescott out of the pocket and led him to scramble. On his first attempt to run, **Julius Peppers** reached out as he danced by and punched the ball out. Charger safety, **Ron Parker**, was already coming up to challenge Prescott. He picked up the ball on one bounce and ran it in untouched for the game's first touchdown and a 13-0 lead.

His counterpart, **Carson Wentz** looked a little sharper, but was under steady pressure from the Chino defensive line. He was strip-sacked by **Cody Jarrett** on the opening drive but the ball bounced back up into his arms to avert an early mess. He was able to grind and chip out a pair of lengthy drives under duress but, true to its reputation, the 'New Crew' eventually made stops on third down that forced the Chargers to settle for a pair of **Steven Hauschka** field goals on their first two series.

The first sign that this game would turn into the classic that it would eventually become came on Chino's final possession of the first half after a missed field goal attempt by Hauschka set up the Convicts at their own 30. After a quick first down, Prescott dropped back to pass and again found his receivers well-covered. But this time there was a wide gap in the middle of the field. He

took off running for a first down and more, finally sliding down at the Charger 34 yard for a 21-yard gain. It was a big play, but the Chargers' defence maintained its composure, holding Prescott to a 1-yard gain on a 3rd & 5 scramble to bring up a 4th & 4 at the 28.

With 1:45 left, **Mike Martz** called timeout in anticipation of getting the ball back after the inevitable field goal attempt. But Warden Nazar had other plans. He kept the offence on the field in what appeared to almost everybody to be a transparent attempt to draw the Chargers offside.

"And the Convicts are going to go for it here!" exclaimed **Kurt Manifoo**. "Are you surprised by this move, Howie?"

"I would be surprised if they actually ran a play here, Kurt," **Howie Short** replied. "They are in Gostkowski's field goal range and they need to get on the score board. The Chargers must maintain their discipline during the snap count. If they jump it's a first down. I think that's what Rob Nazar is looking for."

The Convicts were serious, however. A short hitch to the veteran tight end **Greg Olsen** was good for 7 yards and a new set of downs. It was a huge play and it knocked the Chargers off their game plan just long enough for Chino to strike. With the Chargers' 'D' now committed to stopping the pass, McCaffery turned the corner on a sweep behind **Nate Solder** and found the sideline unattended. He shadowed it all the way for a 17-yard touchdown run. The Convicts were on the board in dramatic fashion.

Mike Martz could not conceal his irritation. He paced the sideline and barked out orders. With 0:50 left and a kickoff out-of-bounds giving them good field position, the Chargers were not about to waste any opportunity. They went with an empty backfield and Wentz started firing. He connected on three of five pass attempts into a field littered with DBs and impressively moved his team to the Chino 25-yard line. With 0:03 left, Hauschka jogged onto the field to end the first half with a 43-yard field goal attempt. But with the wind swirling stronger than usual in the cavernous Big House, his kick sailed wide right for the second time that day. The half ended with the Chargers holding a hard-fought, 13-7 lead, but the momentum had swung toward the Convicts.

The Chargers remained on the field throughout the intermission, sipping bottles of Gatorade and lounging on the grass where they could find a dry patch. One trainer passed around a tray of watermelon while another served pineapple chunks. One of the equipment managers had gone to a nearby *Target* and picked up refreshments, as they did not trust the source of the food and drink provided by the Big House "staff." Fans from the convict seating area attempted to pelt the St. Charles players with hot dogs and other debris, but their throws were unable to reach the field, falling instead in the prestigious 'Silver' seating area. It did not take long for a squad of guards in riot gear to enter the notorious 'Section 187' with truncheons flailing. Within minutes the area was "pacified," i.e., empty.

The Chargers' players lying on the field, the hot dogs raining down on season ticket holders and the guards suppressing the riot all made for quite a spectacle. It was all captured in detail by both professional camera crews and a thousand cellular phones. But if you were not there and simply watching the game on television, you would have had almost no idea that it was happening.

"Welcome back to the Big House for the second half of this so-far defensive battle between the Chargers and the Convicts," announced **Kurt Manifoo**. "Howie, are you surprised at all that the offences of both these teams aren't gaining much traction?"

"A little surprised, Kurt," **Howie Short** replied. "But we have talked before about how both the Chargers and Convicts have competitive defences that rise to the occasion when their backs are up against the wall. I think that's what we witnessed in the first half, especially from the Convicts. The Chargers outgained them 166 yards to 116 and held the ball for more than 6 minutes longer, yet they were only able to score one touchdown and that was by their defence. The Chino defensive line is getting good penetration and disrupting Carson Wentz in the pocket. It will be interesting to see what adjustments were made at the half."

Chino started the half with the ball and promptly made the first big pass play of the day. Prescott caught the Chargers in press coverage and connected on a long fly pattern to **Marvin Jones Jr** for 36-yards to the Charger 28. Two pass plays later they were in the end zone on a 12-yard out to Olsen. The Convicts had their first lead of the game and the Big House roared its approval.

The lead did not last long. The Chargers assembled a strong initial drive that again hit a wall inside the Chino red zone. This time, however, Hauschka made the kick from 33 yards out to make the score 16-14 Chargers. Then the Convicts handed the Chargers a gift. They went for it on 4th & 7 at the St. Charles 47 and turned the ball over on downs at the 46 after a Prescott 1-yard scramble. Wentz turned the field position into points, going 4 of 6 for 35 yards and scrambling for 19 more on a 9-play drive that ended with **Dion Lewis** taking a screen pass into the end zone from 5 yards out to make the score 23-14 for St. Charles.

The Convicts drove the field in response, finding the going a little easier as Charger defenders started to show fatigue. They had already lost **Demario Davis** for the game to injury and now key players were rotating out for frequent breathers. Nevertheless, the Charger defence pulled it together and stuffed McCaffery on a 4th & 1 at the St. Charles 12-yard line. For the second possession, the Convicts had turned the ball over on downs.

"I must admit I don't understand that one," **Howie Short** offered unsolicited. "You're down two scores; a field goal pulls you within 6 points. I know, as a coach, you hope your star player can gain 1-yard to keep the drive alive, but you are basically taking important points off the table if you don't make it and that's exactly what the Convicts did there."

Not only did they take points off the table for themselves, they gave them to the Chargers. Buoyed by the stand, Wentz completed passes of 33-yard to **Mecole Hardman** and 37-yards to **Michael Thomas** to set up a 3-yard touchdown run by **Adrian Peterson**. St. Charles was now in front 30-14 with 6:43 left in the game. The fans at the Big House who weren't grumbling loudly were heading for the exits.

The situation looked bleak for Chino. Homerun-hitting return man **Jakeem Grant** returned the kickoff from deep in his end

zone but was stoned at this own 1-yard line, setting up an almost impossible task. But beneath the surface on the St. Charles sideline, cracks were forming. They had been unable to warm-up according to their usual pre-game routine and were now stiff from lying on the grass and dangling from hard metal benches. Muscles were seizing up across the defence and the trainers were unable to keep up.

They also let up, tactically. The defence sat in a deep prevent as Prescott flared a screen to McCaffery, who put his agility on display with a zig-zagging dash through the floundering St. Charles secondary for 44 yards. Prescott then picked apart the passive Charger zone, finishing off an improbable 99-yard drive with a 13-yard TD pass to McCaffery and capping it off with a 2-point pass to **Larry Fitzgerald**. The score was now 30-22 with 3:12 remaining.

Coach Nazar elected to kickoff deep and trust his defence. The gambit paid off. Coach Martz elected to plunge the dagger home by going to the air instead of running the ball. That gambit did not pay off. The Convicts anticipated the bold approach. Wentz dropped back three times, but every time found his receivers covered. A scramble for 2 yards was all the headway they could make, bringing **Bryan Anger** on the field to punt it back to the Convicts for one last hurrah.

“So, the Chargers will punt the ball after having used up only 13 seconds off the clock,” observed **Kurt Manifoo**. “Would you say they’ve left the door open for the Convicts here, Howie?”

“They certainly have, Kurt,” **Howie Short** replied. “Both these coaches are in a gambling mood today. The Chargers gambled that they could catch the Convicts by surprise and tried to throw the ball. The Convicts weren’t fooled and now they will get the ball back with plenty of time. They still have to score a touchdown and make the two-point conversion, but the extra time will give them more options offensively.”

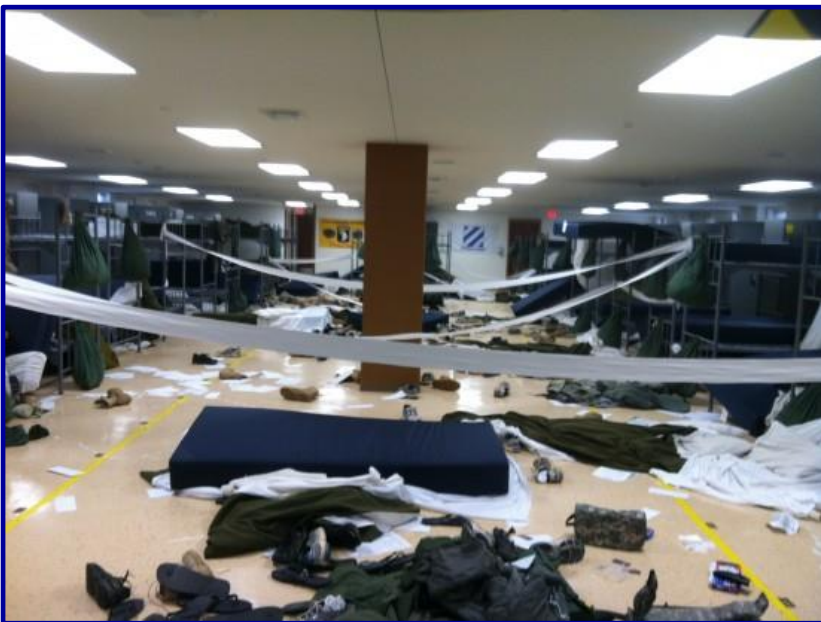
The Convicts’ position was improved further when Grant, making up for a poor decision earlier, returned Anger’s punt 20 yards to the Chino 41-yard line. The Chargers’ hobbled defence took the field. They had lost **Julius Peppers** and corner, **Adoree’ Jackson** on the last drive. The other starters were banged up, stiff or sucking air. Nevertheless, they switched to the physically more demanding man defence in an attempt to contain the Convicts’ short passing game.

Prescott was now in a rhythm. He was seeing the field and making quick decisions. The reaction time of the Charger defenders was a fraction slower than it had been and they were applying almost no pressure. Two completions to **John Brown** and **Theo Riddick** followed by four consecutive rushes, including an 11-yard draw by McCaffery, brought Chino to the Charger 1-yard line. The Chargers were now forced to call timeouts to preserve time in case it was needed for the worst-case scenario.

That worst-case scenario became a reality two plays later when McCaffery dove through the line from less than one yard out for a touchdown. But there was still one more step to take. Prescott took that step – in fact he took about a dozen steps – when he took it in himself for the successful two-point conversion. The Big House crowd, those who were still in the stadium, jumped for joy. The score was deadlocked at 30, a situation thought to be virtually impossible 6 minutes earlier.

The demoralized Chargers scurried around in the 50 seconds left to them but could not make it into field goal range. Wentz was sacked twice. The Convicts were brimming with energy and confidence as the game went to overtime.

The Chargers won the toss and proceeded to sleep-walk to a three-and-out. Chino took over at their own 28 and drove up the field, spurred on by a pair of Prescott scrambles for 13 and 15 yards apiece. Once they reached field goal range, they played it safe,



This visitor’s training room at The Big House prior to the Chargers’ game in Chino. St. Charles owner, **John Clingan** filed an official protest with the EFL after his team dropped a 33-30 decision to the Convicts.

rushing the ball three times with McCaffery before coming to a stop at the Charger 14-yard line. The veteran **Sebastian Janikowski** came on and made no mistake from 32 yards away. There was a swell of cheers as the ball traveled end over end through the air on its way to splitting the uprights. Those cheers exploded into cacophony at the Big House when the linesman signalled that the kick was good. The Convicts had rebounded from down 30-14 with a little more than 6 minutes left in regulation to beat the Chargers n overtime, 33-30.

While the Convicts and their fans celebrated their defeat of the 2018 Champs, the good cop/bad cop routine of the Chargers’ **Mike Martz** and **John Clingan** broke down. Both were bad cops in the pressers and media scrums that followed.

“I’ve never seen that before in all my years of coaching,” a disgusted Martz declared, shaking his head sadly. “I had heard that this sort of thing happened at The Big House but I had not seen it and, frankly, never believed it. This was more than a disgrace, it put our players in danger. I understand a protest has been filed.”

Clingan was, as usual, blunter. He took direct aim at his counterpart on the Chino side. “Rob ought to be embarrassed, winning this way,” he stated while surveying the reporters gathered around him. Then he looked directly into the camera and said, “Rob, if you are watching this you know you stole this game from us. At least be a man and admit it.”

Charger beat writer, **Thomas Jenifer** of the *Maryland Independent*, spoke up from the back of the room. “Mr. Clingan, I saw the condition of the locker rooms myself. Will you be protesting this game with the league, or at least seeking compensation for damages or a fine against the Chino organization?”

“You are damn right I will be lodging a protest, Thomas,” Clingan replied, obviously loving the question. “I will be seeking a hearing. I will demand a forfeit. I will probably ask for the Death Penalty for somebody. This cannot be allowed to pass.”

The controversy could not be suppressed from the network news indefinitely. Proliferation of photos in social media videos on YouTube would not allow it. But the mainstream media seem to be circling the wagons in an apparent attempt to preserve the narrative around the Convicts victory.

“I have never seen a game that was decided in the locker room,” declared **Peter Prince** smugly on *EFL Round-Up*.

“The Chargers had that game in the bag and they gave it away with some questionable calls,” ESPN’s acerbic **Will Simons** weighed in. “If Mike Martz is angry at the Chino organization – and I can understand why – he should also be mad at himself for leaving the Convicts with two of their timeouts and plenty of time to build that game-tying touchdown drive.”

So far, the league has been mum. I am waiting eagerly to hear what tripe they serve us when they are cornered into commenting.

AROUND THE EFL

The Convicts’ comeback stole the spotlight from several other Week Nine games that might have otherwise been the center of attention in an exciting week in the EFL.

At Willhalla Stadium in Minneapolis, the Triumph took game one of their imperative two-game series against rival Virden, 38-31, to take sole possession of first place in the Central Division. This was another wild one involving the staggeringly prolific Violator offence directed by wonder boy quarterback, **Pat Mahomes**, who threw for 333 yards and 3 touchdowns against arguably the league’s best defence. But for the second week in a row, the electrifying young Virden star fell short...oh, so short. **Mitch Trubisky** had given the Triumph the lead on a 25-yard touchdown pass to **Antonio Brown** with 1:52 left in the 4th quarter. Unlike last week’s collapse versus the Chargers, Mahomes got the ball last with a couple of timeouts and enough time on the clock to get something done. And he did, moving the ball 75 yards in less than two minutes to the doorstep of the Triumph end zone at the half-yard line. With 0:02 left on the game clock, trailing by a touchdown, Mahomes surveyed the stacked line of the defence, saw that **Amari Cooper** was covered by a safety and audibled out of the original play. But the Triumph defence sensed what might be coming and the safety crept up at the last second. Mahomes took just one step back and, seeing the safety converging, fired a quick out to Cooper that was high and just a touch behind him. Cooper was leaning forward, ready to lunge for the goal line and could not readjust in time. The ball deflected off his fingertips, incomplete. The last-ditch defensive stand saved the game and gave **Mitch Trubisky** the win, an important confidence-booster for the young and developing QB going forward into an increasingly difficult schedule with the division at stake.

At Tillman Field in Cowtown, **Matt Bryant** kicked a 35-yard field goal in overtime to lift the Corn Kings over the Mustangs, 27-24. This game blew away a few assumptions. The assumption that **Joe Flacco** was the starting quarterback for Cowtown was repudiated by Coach **Jim Coghlin** deciding to spot-start back-up **Ryan Fitzpatrick** – a move that clearly threw off the Aurora defensive game plan, at least initially. For those who assumed that injuries to both starting Cowtown corners would mean that **Matt Ryan** would set a new record for touchdown passes, the first three quarters were a stunning rebuke. Prior to their first full possession of the 4th quarter, the Mustangs had mustered only 129 team passing yards and found themselves trailing 24-10. But beginning with that first full possession of the 4th quarter, the Mustangs transformed back into the super team that has won two Gale Sayers trophies and posted two perfect seasons. A 54-yard bomb to **Mike Williams** set up a 22-yard TD pass to **Julian Edelman** then four straight pass completions on their next possession set up another TD pass of 4 yards to Edelman to tie the game at 24 with 2:08 left. While the offence was rolling, the Aurora defence turned up the heat on the suddenly discombobulated Cowtown offence. Ryan actually got the ball back with 0:24 left at the Aurora 42, which – in Aurora Land – is more than enough time and space to get into field goal range. But Cowtown corner, **Justin Coleman** stopped the bleeding with his second interception of the year to send the game into overtime. Finally, the unspoken but universally accepted assumption that when the Mustangs get into comeback mode, they cannot be stopped, was blown to smithereens by the team that had given up more 4th quarter points than any other this year. **TJ Watt** sacked Ryan on 3rd down on the first possession of overtime to give the ball back to the home team. That’s when **Todd Gurley** finished off a 192-yard rushing day with a 29-yard dash off right tackle to set up the game-winning field goal, giving Cowtown sole possession of first place in the North Division.

In a different kind of game from the ones we have been focusing on, **George Kittle** snared a medium hitch from **Baker Mayfield**, made a couple of defenders miss, and loped 42 yards for the game-winning touchdown as the North Stars began their five-game North American road trip with a 19-14 victory over York at Camelot. Even when the North Stars have young talent and personality on their roster, they still manage to subtract two or three eras from the one they and their opponent are playing in. They got a lot of help from the Excaliburs in making this game look like it was played sometime between the 70’s and the 80’s. I suppose it’s better than the infamous Throwback Rules 1920’s-style game these squads pioneered last year in Week Ten. The teams probed and tested each other through two quarters of tedium during which Budapest’s fundamental superiority in the trenches netted them a 6-0 advantage. York’s half time adjustments on defence resulted in surrendering the game’s first touchdown, a 9-yard TD pass to **Stefon Diggs** on the North Stars’

opening drive, to increase the Budapest lead to 13-0. That's when **Tom Brady** took over, making plays when he needed to make them and getting a lot of help from the pugnacious **Derrick Henry** and the high-strung **Giovani Bernard**. Throw in a **Jordan Poyer** interception of an overly aggressive Mayfield pass under duress and suddenly the Swords were in front 14-13. This game could have easily ended differently. After Kittle's big play, Brady put together an epic 16-play drive from his team's own 15 to the Budapest 7. But his short slant to **Zach Ertz** on 4th down was deflected by **Minkah Fitzpatrick**, allowing Budapest to escape with the win.

At Georgia Stadium in Greensboro, **Andy Dalton** connected with **Tyler Boyd** for a 29-yard touchdown pass with less than three minutes left, their third scoring hook-up of the game, to edge the Thunder Lizards past the Gladiators, 28-27. This was an intense contest between teams that have seen much better days, but are still clinging to playoff hopes nonetheless. This loss may have been Georgia's swan song in a South Division where Aurora and Toronto have the clear upper hands. The Lizards, on the other hand, are very much alive in a deteriorating North Division, where the front-runner is hard to spot. Watching Dalton shred any secondary without also throwing it to them is a rare treat and an indication of just how good the Durham receiving corps is. Even rarer is the 158-yard rushing total Durham tallied in this game. The Lizards' running-back-by-committee has not been working effectively until now. Let's see if it can continue to influence positive outcomes.

The Wrecking Balls pushed their win streak to four games by taking down the Pilots 28-20 at Stone Pony Shore. Offensive Weapon (OW) **Tarik Cohen** snatched 7 passes for 147 yards and two touchdowns, including a 66-yard hitch to open the scoring in the second half. It was a game where neither defence performed very well, but the Pilots must be singled out for their tackling ineptitude. There aren't too many offensive stars on New Jersey who have the moves to make opponents miss but Seattle managed to miss a lot of them anyway. New Jersey is in surprisingly good shape after a poor start. They are one game behind St. Charles and tied with Bruxelles now that the Bombers are coming down to Earth.

The Blue Eagles came out on top of Erieau by the narrowest of margins, 21-20, thereby avoiding a winless season while prolonging the misery of *winless-ness* for their opponent. **Mike Glennon**, coming into the game late in the 4th quarter for an injured **Drew Lock**, threw the game-winning touchdown pass on the last play of the game to drive a dagger into the hearts of the little over 5,000 fans in attendance at Kelly-Burke Field in Erieau. **Mike Smith**, the Caddies third coach in four seasons, is now rumoured to be on the chopping block. A cursory glance at the game film shows why. With four seconds left and Erieau clinging to a 20-14 lead, Scarborough faced a 4th & 10 at the Erieau 16-yard line. The only sensible play at this stage was a pass to the end zone and every broadcaster, analyst and fan watching the game knew it. Heck, anyone not watching the game knew it! For some reason, not only did Smith decline to deploy a fifth defensive back to counter the three-wide set of the Eagles, he elected to play his defence tight to the line – the only time the Caddies had played press coverage the entire game. It was a relatively simple thing for the Eagles' receiver, **Pierre Garcon** to beat the safety to the end zone under those circumstances; and he did, gaining a full step on his defender and catching the ball from Glennon cleanly. The infinitely patient owner of the 0-9 Cadillac, **Jamie Rilett** has likely seen enough of his new coaching staff.

At the Fish Tank in Sebastian, the Wolverines pulled away with a pair of 4th-quarter touchdown passes from **Aaron Rodgers** to **Adam Thielen** to upset the Swordfish at home, 31-19. It was clear early that the Fish would have trouble defending Toronto's Big Three, so Sebastian coach **Russ Lemmon** pulled off a couple of daring stunts trying to keep up. Trailing 7-3 in the first quarter, he ordered an onside kick that, incredibly, his team recovered. But it all came for naught when, on the ensuing drive, **Dexter Williams** came up well-short on 4th & 5 at the Toronto 17-yard line. Later, however, trailing 24-13 mid-way through the 4th quarter, his offence converted a 4th & 9 from their own 20-yard line and went on to score a touchdown to make it 24-19. Talk about walking the edge! "Analytics," the latest trend dissecting football down to its statistical core, could be at the root of Lemmon's repeated 4th down gambles. But since he's been doing them since he came into the league, I doubt it. I think he just likes the thrill of going for it!



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RECORD VS THE SPREAD AFTER WEEK 9:

66-40-2

LOS ANGELES @ ST. CHARLES (line – CHARGERS by 8)

INJURIES: Los Angeles – Reshad Jones (QUESTIONABLE), Wes Schweitzer (DOUBTFUL); St. Charles – None.

The Chargers let one slip away against the Convicts last week in an uncharacteristic defensive collapse in the 4th quarter. Carson Wentz had a good game under relentless pressure but his agitation showed late in the game, leading pundits to question whether he is ready to lead this team back to the final. The Knights got a complete game out of Lamar Jackson last week against an improving Buffalo defence, but he did not show enough in the passing game to replace Ryan Tannehill on a permanent basis. Or did he? Jeff Dohrn has not declared a starter for this contest, which may simply be a tactic to throw off preparation, or a sign that he intends to stay the course and see if Jackson's dexterity and speed can throw off the Charger defence. One way or the other, I do not envision the Chargers doing anything less than taking it to the Knights' rickety defence and damn the opposing QB. **PICK: ST. CHARLES**

IOWA CITY @ NEW JERSEY (line – CUBS by 1)

INJURIES: Iowa City – None. New Jersey – Andrew Norwell (DOUBTFUL), Bruce Ellington (OUT).

The Cubs' first interception of the year paid off with a pick-six, the first of two defensive scores in their Week Nine win over Bruxelles. Take those away and it was a much closer game, but I still do not understand why they are not bigger favourites against a New Jersey team that has yet to win a game against an opponent with a winning record. Yes, the Balls are on a four-game winning streak and came on strong in the 2nd half against the Pilots; but need I repeat that it was against the Pilots? If the Cubs take this game seriously, they should not have any difficulty putting away the weakest better-than-500 team in the league. There is not a single match-up that favours the home team here, unless the Cubs forget to cover Tarik Cohen with a safety. **PICK: IOWA CITY**

BUFFALO @ SEATTLE (line – DERAILERS by 1)

INJURIES: Buffalo – Ezekiel Ansah (OUT), Derek Barnett (OUT), Jaquiski Tantt (OUT), RJ McIntosh (OUT), Johnathan Abram (IR). Seattle – None.

The Derailers have won three-straight but still have a long way to go to become a factor in the East Division race, let alone the playoff hunt. Their recent offensive formula of running with anybody, including Alfred Blue, to take the heat off of Andrew Luck is paying off, but the defensive game plan, despite respectable numbers, could do better and is still a work in progress. They face an offence in Seattle that is working its big-name skill players to the bone simply to stay competitive. Michael Crabtree will not be able to evade Byron Jones regularly enough to be a decisive factor here, which puts pressure on deep threat Keelan Cole to become a possession guy. Eli Manning will need a big game from Kareem Hunt if he hopes to stay upright against a very good Buffalo pass rush, one yet to realize its full potential. I like Seattle's gumption overall, but it will take a bit more than that to survive here. **PICK: BUFFALO**

CHINO @ BRUXELLES (line – BOMBERS by 3)

INJURIES: Chino – Trumaine Johnson (OUT), Marvin Jones Jr., (OUT), Brian Orakpo (OUT), Patrick Ricard (OUT); Bruxelles – Anthony Walker (DOUBTFUL), Chris Thompson (OUT), Leonard Fournette (OUT), Kyle Long (OUT).

The Convicts are coming off their biggest win of the year. Dak Prescott may have come of age in that game with his astounding 16-point rally late in the 4th quarter. The Bombers are trying to forget the offensive miscues that turned into 14 points going the other way in their loss to the Cubs last week and focus on turning around a slide during which they have lost four of their last five games. Fundamentally they seem to be the same team as the one that cut a swathe of devastation through opposing defences in the first four weeks, apart from a rash of turnovers – 14 over that five-game stretch – compared with just 1 in the four prior games. It is clear that

Marcus Mariota has to take better care of the football. Protecting the ball is one of the reasons the Convicts are close on the heels of the Cubs in the West race, with only four giveaways ranking them second best in the league. They also run the ball well and the Bombers' defence has struggled in that area. Expect a grinding Chino attack to control the ball and keep Mariota off the field. **PICK: CHINO**

PEG CITY @ TWIN CITIES (line – TRIUMPH by 14)

INJURIES: **Peg City** – Jeff Heurman (OUT), Mike Hughes (OUT), Cre'von LeBlanc (OUT), Marcus Maye (OUT), Ricardo Allen (IR), Roderick Johnson (IR). **Twin Cities** – CJ Beathard (OUT), Chris Lindstrom (OUT), Kyle Allen (FA*-IR).

The Crusaders are going nowhere but they are proving to be a tremendous irritant. Last week they pushed Charleswood to the brink and they are hoping to repeat that effort against the Central front-runner this week. But the Triumph are a very strong team and even stronger when playing at home in the white noise generator known as Willhalla Stadium. Since they started using Chris Carson in Week 4, the Crusaders have averaged 30 points per game. They are capable of scoring against the stout Triumph defence, but it will be no free-for-all. On the other side, however, it will be a free-for-all unless Mitch Trubisky's arm falls off. The Triumph offence is ranked no.1 overall in efficiency and the Crusaders have, well, they haven't stopped anyone all year. Don't expect them to start here. **PICK: TWIN CITIES**

VIRDEN @ CHARLESWOOD (line – Pick'Em)

INJURIES: **Virden** – Austin Bryant (OUT), A.J. Green (OUT), D.J. Humphries (OUT), Andrew Sendejo (OUT), Eric Berry (IR), Duke Dawson (IR); **Charleswood** – Marcus Gilbert (OUT), Jalen Mills (OUT), Kelechi Osemele (OUT), Andrus Peat (OUT).

The Violators average 37 points a game but have lost two consecutive games in which they surrendered 38 points each to their opponents. The league's leading offence doesn't get as many shots at the end zone when its defence is giving ground faster. This defensive failure is probably at the root of the surprising Vegas non-spread. Influencers either see a serious vulnerability in the Virden defence, or an opportunity to exploit the perception of such a vulnerability. But in order to believe that the Violators' defence will be the deciding factor here, one must also believe the Patriots' offence is capable of hanging up 38 points, something it has not done all year. The Pats are ahead of only Erieau in pass plays of over 25 yards and will rely on stringing together small to medium gains to move the ball. That will not cut it if they get behind early against the team that eviscerated them for 40 points in Week One. **PICK: VIRDEN**

GEORGIA @ SEBASTIAN (line – SWORDFISH by 4)

INJURIES: **Georgia** – Kenny Stills (QUESTIONABLE), Will Fuller V (OUT), Mike Iupati (OUT); **Sebastian** – CJ Anderson (OUT), Doug Baldwin (OUT), Anthony Castonzo (OUT), D'Onta Foreman (OUT), Mark Glowinski (OUT), Geron Christian Sr. (IR), Kevin King (IR), Patrick Robinson (IR).

Georgia is approaching virtual elimination. A loss would practically erase them from the post-season picture, even if technically they remain in the race for a few more weeks. Their schedule gets harder down the stretch so the situation is probably already beyond rescue, but that will not stop them from throwing everything at the up-and-down Swordfish. The situation for Sebastian is less dire. Winning the North at 8-8 is not only a real, but a likely possibility. However, they do not wish to put off winning to the final weeks – they are banged up enough as it is, with their no.2 WR and two starting offensive linemen out. There are opportunities for Georgia here. The Fish "lead" the league in giveaways, with 19. The Glads are not much better in the giveaway department and much worse in takeaways with only 2. But if they can steal the ball a couple of times this week it may very well be the missing ingredient for victory. **PICK: GEORGIA**

COWTOWN @ TORONTO (line – WOLVERINES by 6)

INJURIES: **Cowtown** – Ronald Darby (OUT), Aqib Talib (OUT), Bilal Powell (OUT); **Toronto** – Mark Barron (OUT), Tim Williams (OUT).

The Corn Kings pulled a fast one on Aurora by spot-starting Ryan Fitzpatrick last week and it seemed to pay off in a significant upset. I say "seemed" because Todd Gurley once again stole the show offensively and Fitz's numbers were so-so. But a couple of scrambles for first downs early in the game that a Flacco-focused game plan would not have predicted altered the defensive scheme and clearly gave Gurley more room to roam. Expect Cowtown to try the same stunt this week against the Wolverines as they look to keep up with what will likely be an Aaron Rodgers air show with both Cowtown's starting corners out of action. It will be a catch twenty-two for the Corn King defence: Double the WRs and watch Saquon Barkley go to the races; key on Barkley and watch Tyreek Hill blow by the secondary in a cloud of dirt. It could get out of hand, but the Wolverines have yet to show they can blow away anybody. **PICK: COWTOWN**

ERIEAU @ DURHAM (line – THUNDER LIZARDS by 10)

INJURIES: **Erieau** – Deontay Burnett (OUT), Ted Ginn Jr., (OUT), Gabe Jackson (OUT), Marshawn Lynch (OUT), Joey Bosa (IR); **Durham** – Zach Fulton (QUESTIONABLE), Cooper Kupp (DOUBTFUL), L. Duvernay-Tardif (IR).

The Cadillac now bear the shame of being the league's last winless team after losing a heartbreaker to the previously winless Blue Eagles last week. Now everybody is afraid to play the Cadillac as nobody wants a piece of that aura by being the first team to lose to them.

Based on last week's debacle, there should no cause for concern. Erieau is on pace to break their own record for red zone futility set back in 2016. Their defence, talented as it is, broke down unforgivably at the end of the game last week; it cannot be counted on to bail out the offence. This is a team destined to lose, but the question is: By how much? The Lizards aren't running the ball well. They need Cooper Kupp healthy to begin to pose a serious challenge to the Erieau secondary. Expect this to be uncomfortably close. **PICK: ERIEAU**

SCARBOROUGH @ AURORA (line – MUSTANGS by 19)

INJURIES: Scarborough – Jamison Crowder (OUT), Deion Jones (OUT), Drew Lock (OUT); **Aurora** –Preston Brown (PROBABLE).

Traditional roles are reversed here as Scarborough comes into this game off a win and Aurora off a loss. Expect both to easily fall back into their natural states this week as the reality of the mis-match sets in. Mike Glennon will likely get the start after coming off the bench to lead the Eagles' comeback in the 4th. Even if he can replicate some of the magic of that final drive against Erieau it will not be enough to keep up with a Mustangs' offence keen to stretch its legs again after being frustrated for much of the contest last week. Although Aurora is not the kind of team to take its hoof off the gas prematurely, there is a small risk that weather or a freak play could compromise the giant spread. But small risks are definitely worth taking when betting against the Eagles. **PICK: AURORA**

PICKERING @ YORK (line – SPARTANS by 4)

INJURIES: Pickering – None; **York** – Russell Bodine (DOUBTFUL), Paul Richardson (OUT), Brandon Scherff (OUT).

The Spartans are officially the top team in the league in both the standings and the power rankings after taking care of the Hawks last week. It is hard to imagine them losing to anybody right now except the team they happen to be facing here. The Swords are riding a junior roller coaster this year and are due for another rise after dipping against Budapest last week. It is not as if they haven't beaten good teams before. In fact, they get up for the big ones and this is a big one. York is in danger of slipping out of the playoff picture. They need a win in the division to stay within striking distance and help with tie-breakers. To stand a chance they will need to run the ball while holding on to it for long stretches and find ways to pressure Philip Rivers into errors. The Spartans have had remarkable success keeping their error-prone QB comfortable in the pocket so far, but he is who he is and can throw a game away at any moment. **PICK: YORK**

BUDAPEST @ BROOKLIN (line – NORTH STARS by 1)

INJURIES: Budapest – Earl Thomas (OUT), Sammy Watkins (OUT); **Brooklin** – Alshon Jeffery (QUESTIONABLE).

Budapest kicked off their five-game road trip with a workmanlike win over York last week. It was not a standout effort in any particular area, simply a solid all-around professional showing. They will need to maintain that composure against a Hawks team that senses its playoff hopes are about to die and needs to lash out now to survive. The offence upon which Brooklin builds its meagre fortune is much better with Alshon Jeffery in the line-up. He is listed as questionable this week which creates a problem for both fantasy owners and prognosticators like me. The Hawks would probably prefer a shooting war over a typical North Star snoozer and need somebody semi-dangerous on the other side of DeAndre Hopkins. I am banking on Jeffery "gutting it out" and making a difference. **PICK: BROOKLIN**



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This Week in EFL History
With Professor Sterling Smitherman

FROM THE EFL ARCHIVES – In Week Nine of the 2013 EFL Season, the Virden Violators ambushed the favoured Pickering Spartans at Thermopylae Stadium by a score of 38-34 in a five-TD pass performance by beleaguered **Matt Stafford**. The winning score came with 17 seconds remaining when Stafford found **Torrey Smith** open across the middle for a 17-yard TD pass. It was the first loss at home for the Spartans that season and, sadly for them, the beginning of declining fortunes.

At the Corral in Garland, the Mustangs' **Arian Foster** rushed for 157 yards and **Matt Ryan** threw 4 TDs to

take down the Death Valley Undertakers, 44-21. Linebacker, **Anthony Spencer** led a 9-sack performance by the Garland defence with 4 sacks of his own, earning him Defensive Player of the Week. The Mustangs continued their ascent up the league standings following the resignation of their coach, **Doug Shirley**.

Joe Flacco threw for 383 yards and 4 TDs to lift the Corn Kings over the Convicts, 38-17 in a game that was less close than the score indicated. Incredible as that sounds, more astounding was that four TD passes went to the 4th WR on the depth chart, **Cecil Shorts III**. Cowtown, at 5-4 and talented, remained mired in 4th in the highly competitive North Division.

Those were actually the only two games that stood out in an uncompetitive Week Nine. Durham took out a pretty good York team, 31-10, and made it look easy; while the Triumph took advantage of a fake punt-pass by Carthage punter, **Pat McAfee** at his own 37, to put away a 38-15 win over the Cannibals that had looked close for most of the contest.

Charleswood and Virden remained tied at 5-4 in the East; Iowa City ruled uncontested in the West at 7-2; Markham led the North at 8-1 while Garland held the South at 6-3.