

WEEK 12



EFL

ELITE FOOTBALL LEAGUE



Blazing Through a Pandemic in our 14th Season!

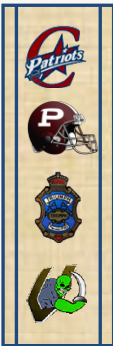
January 3, 2021

TAKE NO PRISONERS!

EAST



CENTRAL



WEST



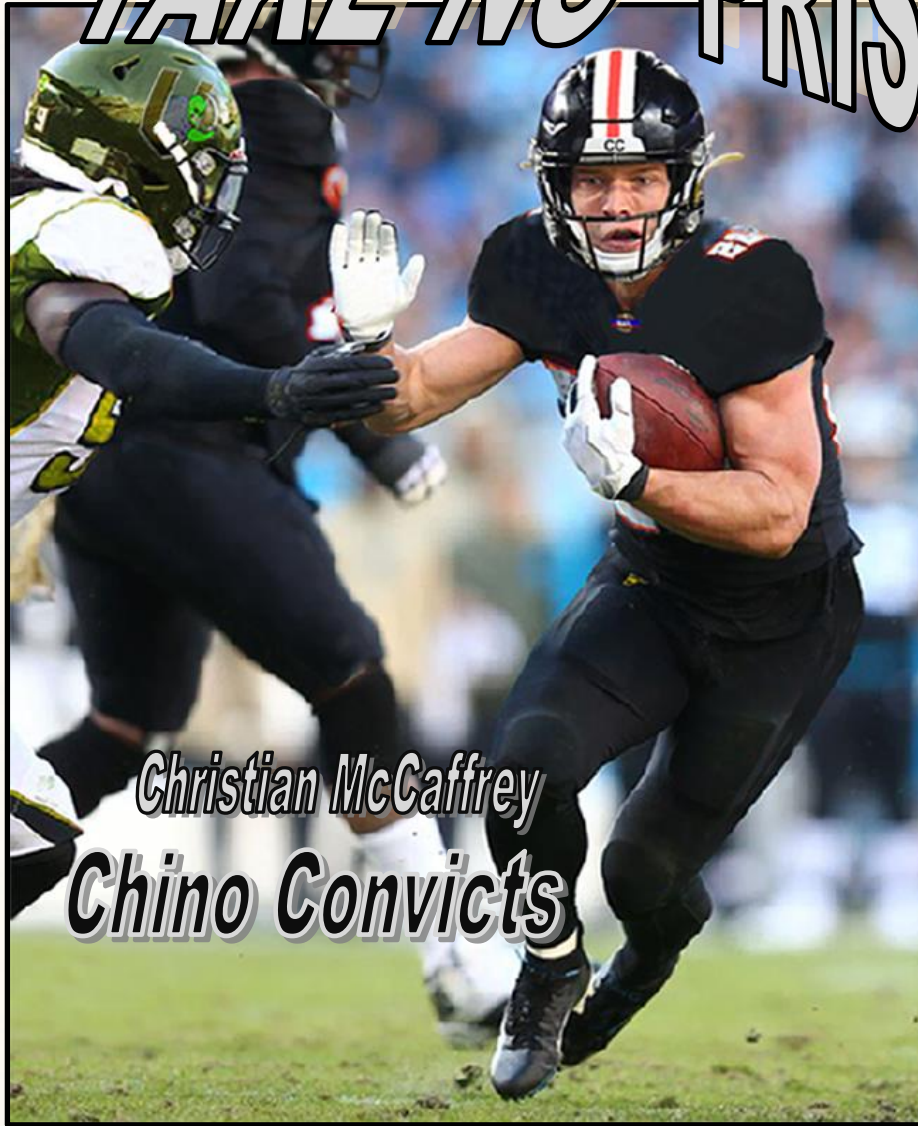
NORTH



COASTAL



SOUTH



Christian McCaffrey
Chino Convicts

Convicts running back **Christian McCaffrey** cuts in front of a Virden defender on his way to a 16-yard touchdown in 2nd quarter action of Chino's surprising 31-28 upset of the Violators in Week 12. McCaffrey earned his second consecutive Offensive Player of the Week honours, outdoing his 176-yard performance in Week 11 with a 229-yard, 3-TD effort this week. McCaffrey was one of the few bright spots in a game marred by controversial officiating and unconventional COVID-19 testing. On an aesthetic note, the Convicts unveiled their new "third uniform" in this game: their 'Ultra-Blacks,' billed as the blackest uniforms the EFL has ever seen. *(Full story inside)*



*Who was slick
in Week
Twelve?*

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



OFFENCE



**Christian
McCaffrey**
RB
Chino Convicts

26 Car-126 Yds, 12 Rec-103 Yds. 3 TDs. An MVP showing vs Virden.

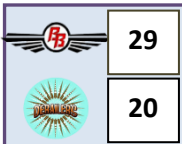


DEFENCE



Ricardo Allen
CB
Erieau Cadillac

3T, 1 PD, 1 INT (20yds), 1 FF. Turnovers he forced led to 14 points.


29
20

With the score tied at 7, **Whitney Mercilus** picked off **Jared Goff** at the Bruxelles 44, but a Bomber stand on 4th & goal turned the Derailers away without a score. Two FGs within 10 seconds at the end of the 1st half, the second set up by fumbled kick return, put Bruxelles in front 13-7. Buffalo controlled the clock but the Bombers struck back with big plays, including a 65-yard TD pass to **Chase Claypool** and a 51-yard pass to **Chris Godwin** that set up the Bombers' final TD. The Derailers got within 6 with 5:15 left in the 4th, but a possession drive and FG salted the game away for Bruxelles.

01-01-2021 New Era Stadium Temp:25 Wind:0-5 Light Snow Line:BUF by 3 MVP:Fournette HFA:0

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2019 Bruxelles (8-4)	7	6	7	9	29
2019 Buffalo (7-5)	7	0	7	6	20

Scoring Summary

1 6:49	Buffalo	TD Jackson 25 pass to Woods (Elliott,J) (14-90-8:05)	0-7
1 3:14	Bruxelles	TD Fournette 3 run (Prater) (8-68-3:28)	7-7
2 0:11	Bruxelles	FG Prater 50 (10-49-2:00)	10-7
2 0:01	Bruxelles	FG Prater 35 (1-0-0:00)	13-7
3 13:05	Bruxelles	TD Goff 65 pass to Claypool (Prater) (5-75-1:55)	20-7
3 4:15	Buffalo	TD Jackson 6 run (Elliott,J) (15-82-8:41)	20-14
4 13:37	Bruxelles	TD Goff 6 pass to Waller (2 - failed) (8-86-1:41)	26-14
4 5:15	Buffalo	TD Jackson 3 pass to Smith (no good) (15-97-8:12)	26-20
4 0:55	Bruxelles	FG Prater 40 (11-58-4:15)	29-20

Passing

 BRX: Goff 23/12 224 Yds 2 TDs Int
 BUF: Jackson 35/21 209 Yds 2 TDs

Rushing

 BRX: Fournette 23/83 TD, Claypool 1/2
 BUF: Jackson 21/132 TD, Johnson 13/22, Woods 1/11

Receiving

 BRX: Fournette 4/37, Godwin 3/89, Kelce 2/15, Waller 2/18 TD, Claypool 1/65 TD
 BUF: Woods 7/95 TD, Sanders 4/34, Tate 3/29, Smith 2/9 TD, Erickson 2/17, Johnson 2/15

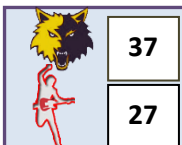
Defense

 BRX: Dupree Sk FF 5-Tk, Slay 11-Tk, Smith 11-Tk, Flowers Sk 4-Tk, Ogbah Sk 3-Tk
 BUF: Hicks 12-Tk

Injuries

 BRX: Wynn 5, Johnson 2, Moreau 1
 BUF: Ridley 3, Abram 3, Thomas 2

Misc

 BRX:
 BUF: 41:00 TOP, 12/106 Penalties, 29 1st Downs

37
27

A strip-sack of **Ryan Tannehill** by **Harold Landry III** at the Coyote 11 set up a TD pass to **Terry McLaurin** to give New Jersey an early 17-7 lead. But the relentless Coyote attack, led on this day by **Julio Jones'** 11 catches for 158 yards, battled back to tie it then took the lead to stay when **Malcolm Jenkins** forced a **Tarik Cohen** fumble and **Chuck Clark** picked it up and scored from 37 yards to make it 24-17. Cobb County did not need to convert a 3rd down on the opening drive of the 2nd half, scoring on a TD pass to **CJ Uzomah**, to make it 31-17 and setting up a race to the finish that the Balls could not win.

01-01-2021 Stone Pony Shore Temp:62 Wind:5-15 None Line:NJ by 4 MVP:Jones HFA:0

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2019 Cobb County (11-1)	7	17	10	3	37
2019 New Jersey (1-11)	17	0	7	3	27

Scoring Summary

1 10:56	New Jersey	TD Keenum 10 pass to Hill (Boswell) (7-75-4:04)	0-7
1 7:40	Cobb County	TD Tannehill 3 pass to Jones (McManus) (5-75-3:16)	7-7
1 2:53	New Jersey	FG Boswell 45 (10-48-4:41)	7-10
1 1:08	New Jersey	TD Keenum 13 pass to McLaurin (Boswell) (3-11-1:24)	7-17
2 12:34	Cobb County	TD Tannehill 19 pass to Jones (McManus) (6-75-3:34)	14-17
2 7:34	Cobb County	FG McManus 39 (5-22-1:42)	17-17
2 1:21	Cobb County	TD Clark 37 yd fumble recovery (McManus)	24-17
3 11:08	Cobb County	TD Tannehill 8 pass to Uzomah (McManus) (7-75-3:52)	31-17
3 4:23	New Jersey	TD Keenum 1 run (Boswell) (14-75-6:45)	31-24
3 1:52	Cobb County	FG McManus 34 (7-59-2:28)	34-24
4 7:17	New Jersey	FG Boswell 37 (8-56-3:50)	34-27
4 0:36	Cobb County	FG McManus 26 (14-67-6:37)	37-27

Passing

 CB: Tannehill 29/21 302 Yds 3 TDs
 NJ: Keenum 40/26 252 Yds 2 TDs Int

Rushing

 CB: Peterson 16/98, Mostert 6/30
 NJ: Cohen 2/36, Montgomery 13/36, Chark Jr. 1/16, Hill 5/3, Keenum 2/2 TD

Receiving

 CB: Jones 11/158 2 TDs, Parker 7/127, Peterson 2/9, Uzomah 1/8 TD
 NJ: Cohen 6/37, McLaurin 5/52 TD, Gabriel 5/32, Chark Jr. 3/39, Montgomery 2/11

Defense

 CB: Payne Sk FF 3-Tk, Jenkins FF 7-Tk, Lawrence Sk 5-Tk
 NJ: Landry III Sk FF 6-Tk, Awuzie 11-Tk, Judon 8-Tk, Bradberry 8-Tk, Peters Sk 3-Tk

Injuries

 CB: Williams 1
 NJ: Walker 3, Quinn 1

Misc

 CB: 10/85 Penalties
 NJ:



Christian McCaffrey starred for the Convicts, with 229 yards from scrimmage and 3 TDs. McCaffrey moved the chains on 14 of 29 Chino 1st downs and helped to build a 10-minute advantage in time of possession that limited opportunities for Virden's **Patrick Mahomes**. This was a back-and-forth contest that ultimately turned on the Chino 'D' forcing one of only two Virden punts in the game on the series between back-to-back 4th quarter Chino TD drives, giving them a 31-21 lead with only 6:22 left. Virden got the TD back but could not pass mid-field on their final drive as the Convicts hung on.

12-23-2020 The Big House Temp:70 Wind:Calm None Line:VV by 5 MVP:McCaffrey HFA:ON(3)

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2019 Virden (10-2)	7	7	7	7	28
2019 Chino (7-4-1)	3	14	0	14	31

Scoring Summary

1 8:02	Chino	FG McLaughlin 25 (14-62-6:47)	0-3
1 4:24	Virden	TD Elliott 1 run (Gonzalez) (6-68-3:32)	7-3
2 8:28	Chino	TD Prescott 16 pass to McCaffrey (McLaughlin) (10-74-5:39)	7-10
2 5:14	Virden	TD Mahomes 11 pass to Cooper (Gonzalez) (7-69-3:08)	14-10
2 0:42	Chino	TD McCaffrey 6 run (McLaughlin) (11-51-4:20)	14-17
3 9:39	Virden	TD Mahomes 9 pass to Elliott (Gonzalez) (11-87-5:12)	21-17
4 14:55	Chino	TD Ingram II 1 run (McLaughlin) (16-75-9:44)	21-24
4 6:22	Chino	TD McCaffrey 2 run (McLaughlin) (12-70-6:44)	21-31
4 4:29	Virden	TD Elliott 1 run (Gonzalez) (6-66-1:46)	28-31

Passing

VV: Mahomes 38/24 361 Yds 2 TDs
 CHI: Prescott 31/22 205 Yds TD

Rushing

VV: Elliott 8/28 2 TDs, Mahomes 2/28
 CHI: McCaffrey 26/126 2 TDs, Ingram II 12/28 TD, Prescott 4/20

Receiving

VV: Cooper 7/143 TD, Brown 6/93, Elliott 5/39 TD, Sanu 4/72, Hockenson 2/14
 CHI: McCaffrey 12/103 TD, Jones II 3/35, Jones Jr. 2/26, Fitzgerald 2/22, Gallup 1/9

Defense

VV: Barr 14-Tk
 CHI: Smith 2-Sks 4-Tk

Injuries

VV: Adderley 5, Guice 4, Ebron 3
 CHI: Short 1

Misc

VV: 11/75 Penalties
 CHI: 38:48 T.O.P.



DeShaun Watson touched off a 5-TD pass outing with a 21-yard sideline pass to **DK Metcalf** to grab the early 7-0 lead. **Darius Leonard** picked off a tipped pass and returned it 42 yards for a score, but the extra point was blocked. **Carson Wentz** was intercepted by **Jalen Mills** deep in Vegas territory and Watson made them pay with a 7-yard TD pass to **JK Dobbins**. The teams traded long TD drives to end the 1st half with the Pats leading 21-12. Wentz was picked off on the first play of the 2nd half, setting up Dobbins' third TD catch. That was the final turning point as the Pats romped to victory.

12-28-2020 Patriot Place Temp:75 Wind: Line:LV by 3 MVP:Watson HFA:ON(3)

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2019 Las Vegas (4-8)	0	12	7	6	25
2019 Charleswood (3-9)	7	14	17	7	45

Scoring Summary

1 10:19	Charleswood	TD Watson 21 pass to Metcalf (Carlson) (8-75-4:41)	0-7
2 14:43	Las Vegas	TD Leonard 42 interception return (no good)	6-7
2 10:47	Charleswood	TD Watson 7 pass to Dobbins (Carlson) (3-12-0:53)	6-14
2 4:45	Las Vegas	TD Wentz 10 pass to Jeudy (no good) (12-75-5:52)	12-14
2 0:24	Charleswood	TD Watson 8 pass to Dobbins (Carlson) (11-90-4:14)	12-21
3 12:32	Charleswood	TD Watson 8 pass to Dobbins (Carlson) (5-24-2:18)	12-28
3 12:13	Las Vegas	TD Cook 12 run (Fairbairn) (1-12-0:11)	19-28
3 7:31	Charleswood	FG Carlson 46 (11-47-4:37)	19-31
3 3:54	Charleswood	TD Watson 73 pass to Metcalf (Carlson) (1-73-0:20)	19-38
4 6:36	Las Vegas	TD Brissett 13 pass to Thomas (2 - failed) (11-80-4:01)	25-38
4 5:14	Charleswood	TD Oliver 58 yd fumble recovery (Carlson)	25-45

Passing

LV: Wentz 34/22 215 Yds TD 2 Int, Brissett 13/6 60 Yds TD
 CHP: Watson 35/24 324 Yds 5 TDs Int

Rushing

LV: Cook 11/60 TD, Brissett 5/26, Wentz 3/14
 CHP: Dobbins 23/73, Watson 4/15, Richard 2/5

Receiving

LV: Thomas 13/140 TD, Jeudy 7/63 TD, Pascal 5/59, Cook 2/2, Brate 1/11
 CHP: Metcalf 8/160 2 TDs, Dobbins 6/59 3 TDs, Jones 4/41, Meyers 2/26, Smith-Schuster 2/24, DeValve 2/14

Defense

LV: Davis PD 2-Stf 10-Tk, Barrett Sk FF 7-Tk, Leonard 2-Stf Int 4-Tk, Armstrong Sk PD 1-Tk
 CHP: Mills 2 PDs Int 13-Tk, Hankins Sk STF 3-Tk

Injuries

LV: Van Roten 5, Jeudy 1
 CHP: Lawson 3, Trufant 3, Fuller 1, Smith-Schuster 3, Tunsil 2

Misc

LV: Hardman 4/179 KR, 10/75 Penalties
 CHP:



31



35

An opening drive gambit by the Cubs on 4th & 4 failed, setting up a 55-yard Triumph drive ending with a 5-yard TD pass to DJ Moore. The Cubs answered with a 41-yard run by Joe Mixon to set up a Russell Wilson dive into the end zone to tie it. From then on, the teams traded score-for-score in a turnover-free game, causing the lead to change hands 8 times. After Clyde Edwards-Helaire had made it 31-28 Triumph with 6:14 left, Mixon broke free for a 30-yard run to set up the Cubs' final TD on a 3-yard Ryquell Armstead run. The Cubs held off two late TC thrusts to seal the win.

12-24-2020 Joe Ferguson Stadium Temp:27 Wind:0-5 None Line:ICC by 9 MVP:Wilson

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2019 Twin Cities (2-10)	7	3	14	7	31
2019 Iowa City (7-4-1)	7	7	7	14	35

Scoring Summary

1 5:06	Twin Cities	TD Trubisky 5 pass to Moore (Hopkins) (14-55-6:51)	7-0
1 2:26	Iowa City	TD Wilson 2 run (Tucker,J) (5-75-2:40)	7-7
2 8:00	Twin Cities	FG Hopkins 30 (11-47-5:53)	10-7
2 1:45	Iowa City	TD Wilson 4 pass to Kroft (Tucker,J) (12-75-6:15)	10-14
3 5:05	Twin Cities	TD Trubisky 5 pass to White (Hopkins) (15-83-9:46)	17-14
3 2:26	Iowa City	TD Wilson 11 pass to Kroft (Tucker,J) (5-75-2:39)	17-21
3 0:05	Twin Cities	TD Trubisky 11 pass to Moore (Hopkins) (6-63-2:09)	24-21
4 10:23	Iowa City	TD Mixon 6 run (Tucker,J) (11-75-4:42)	24-28
4 6:14	Twin Cities	TD Edwards-Helaire 5 run (Hopkins) (7-75-4:09)	31-28
4 2:08	Iowa City	TD Armstead 3 run (Tucker,J) (9-71-3:57)	31-35

Passing

TCT: Trubisky 41/29 262 Yds 3 TDs
ICC: Wilson 25/17 221 Yds 2 TDs

Rushing

TCT: Edwards-Helaire 11/61 TD, Gordon III 6/28, Trubisky 7/21, White 3/16, Moore 1/13
ICC: Mixon 20/157 TD, Wilson 7/33 TD, Armstead 4/15 TD

Receiving

TCT: Golladay 9/101, White 8/59 TD, Moore 4/29 2 TDs, Edwards-Helaire 3/14
ICC: Beasley 7/105, Lockett 5/53, Brown 3/48, Kroft 2/15 2 TDs

Defense

TCT: Wagner 9-Tk
ICC: Bouye 10-Tk, Ogletree 9-Tk

Injuries

TCT: Brown 4, Roby 2
ICC: Cashman 2, Pierre-Paul 1



10



34

An offside penalty on 4th & 1 kept alive a 17-play opening Peg City drive that ended with Kirk Cousins hitting Tyler Higbee for a TD. Both offences slumped until Sam Darnold struck suddenly with a 57-yard bomb to Hunter Renfrow to tie the game. The Crusaders hit back with a TD, then a strip-sack of Darnold with 0:02 left in the half led to 27-yard FG and a 17-7 lead. An 81-yard run by Marlon Mack to start the Pilots' 3rd set up a FG, but the Crusaders' 'D' clamped down after that, shutting down Seattle the rest of the way while the well-balanced Peg City attack added 17 insurance points.

12-24-2020 True North Field Temp:72 Wind: Line:PCC by 4 MVP:Jones HFA:

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2019 Seattle (5-7)	0	7	3	0	10
2019 Peg City (7-5)	7	10	7	10	34

Scoring Summary

1 3:51	Peg City	TD Cousins 6 pass to Higbee (Butker) (17-78-8:39)	0-7
2 4:05	Seattle	TD Darnold 57 pass to Renfrow (Lambo) (4-80-2:23)	7-7
2 1:05	Peg City	TD Jones 8 run (Butker) (7-75-3:00)	7-14
2 0:00	Peg City	FG Butker 27 (1-0-0:00)	7-17
3 10:36	Seattle	FG Lambo 34 (5-71-1:58)	10-17
3 4:34	Peg City	TD Cousins 9 pass to Sutton (Butker) (12-75-6:02)	10-24
4 8:20	Peg City	FG Butker 29 (13-87-7:14)	10-27
4 1:50	Peg City	TD Jones 5 run (Butker) (8-81-3:12)	10-34

Passing

SEA: Darnold 17/11 157 Yds TD
PCC: Cousins 37/29 293 Yds 2 TDs

Rushing

SEA: Mack 10/92, Harry 1/0, Darnold 2/-2
PCC: Jones,A 17/80 2 TDs, Johnson,D 11/71, Cousins 2/5, Barkley 1/2

Receiving

SEA: Renfrow 4/82 TD, Moreau 2/27, Mims 1/16, Miller 1/9, Robinson 1/9, Lamb 1/8, Deguara 1/6
PCC: Allen 7/82, Jones,A 5/60, Sutton 5/55, Boyle 5/44, Higbee 4/27, Johnson,D 2/10, Aiyuk 1/15

Defense

SEA: Wright PD STF 10-Tk, Mack,K Sk PD 8-Tk, Ogunjobi Sk 4-Tk, Brocker Sk 2-Tk
PCC: Jones,C 3-Sks 5-Tk, Allen,J Sk 4-Tk, Godchaux Sk FF 1-Tk

Injuries

SEA: Jack 3, Jackson 3
PCC: Barkley 3, Miller 1, Guhges 2

Misc

SEA: 9/74 Penalties
PCC: 37:08 TOP



24



7

With no score and the Blue Eagles closing inside the Cowtown red zone, **Carlton Davis III** knocked the ball out of the arms of **Trevor Davis** and **TJ Watt** scooped it up and returned it 91 yards for the game's opening score. Cowtown struck again before half time on a 3rd & 16 pass from **Jimmy Garoppolo** to **Adam Humphries** that went 33 yards for a TD. The Cowtown defence continued to hold off **Joe Burrow** in the 2nd half, while the Corn King offence added 10 more points to make it 24-0. Scarborough would break up the shutout on their last series with a TD pass to **Jamison Crowder**.

12-27-2020 The Wolverine's Den Temp:41 Wind:0-5 Rain Line:COW by 1 MVP:watt H

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2019 Cowtown (8-4)	0	14	3	7	24
2019 Scarborough (6-6)	0	0	0	7	7

Scoring Summary

2 10:16 Cowtown	TD Watt 91 yd fumble recovery (Slye)	7-0
2 0:40 Cowtown	TD Garoppolo 33 pass to Humphries (Slye) (10-64-4:13)	14-0
3 2:20 Cowtown	FG Slye 30 (11-75-4:10)	17-0
4 3:14 Cowtown	TD Gurley II 3 run (Slye) (10-51-6:38)	24-0
4 0:28 Scarborough	TD Burrow 8 pass to Crowder (Crosby) (10-88-2:30)	24-7

Passing

COW: Garoppolo 33/20 269 Yds TD Int
SBE: Burrow 30/18 161 Yds TD Int

Rushing

COW: Bell 7/59, Gurley II 13/22 TD, Boone 3/16, Washington 6/10, Powell 1/2
SBE: Carson 11/38, Burrow 4/19, Davis 1/15, Lock 1/10, Freeman 4/1

Receiving

COW: Humphries 5/69 TD, Bourne 4/56, Conley 3/76, Gurley II 2/5, Bell 2/12
SBE: Freeman 6/16, Robinson II 5/100, Crowder 4/35 TD, Carson 2/-1, Edwards 1/11

Defense

COW: Watt Sk 7-Tk, Davis III Int FF 4-Tk
SBE: Jones 12-Tk, Ryan Int 7-Tk, Fowler Jr. Sk FF 2-Tk, Suh Sk 4-Tk, Dantzler 8-Tk

Injuries

COW: Evans 2, Cappa 1
SBE: Yeldon 5, Jackson 3, Desir 1, Lock 1, Ward 1

Misc

COW: 12/118 Penalties
SBE:



10



51

On his second pass of the day, **Dwayne Haskins** was picked off by **Richard Sherman**, who took it back to the house for a 6-0 Durham lead one-minute into the game. That set the tone for a tough day at QB for the Swordfish back-up. He managed to pass for just 49 yards and was picked off 3 times. The Durham defence held the Swordfish as a team to just 3 first downs and 96 yards of offence. Sebastian safety **Justin Reid** returned a pick-six for Sebastian's only TD. On the other side, **Josh Allen** had all day to throw, pitching 3 TD passes and running for 2 TDs to earn the Game MVP.

12-23-2020 Jurassic Park Temp:70 Wind:Calm None Line:DTL by 4 MVP:Allen HFA:ON(

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2019 Sebastian (5-7)	0	0	3	7	10
2019 Durham (8-4)	13	24	7	7	51

Scoring Summary

1 13:59 Durham	TD Sherman 36 interception return (no good)	0-6
1 4:33 Durham	TD Allen 27 pass to Kupp (Pineiro) (8-76-4:15)	0-13
2 14:55 Durham	FG Pineiro 48 (5-27-2:08)	0-16
2 12:54 Durham	TD Allen 6 run (Pineiro) (3-12-1:01)	0-23
2 7:10 Durham	TD Gibson 1 run (Pineiro) (7-49-3:24)	0-30
2 0:45 Durham	TD Allen 6 run (Pineiro) (7-58-2:21)	0-37
3 11:11 Sebastian	FG Bailey 49 (4-7-1:34)	3-37
3 1:30 Durham	TD Allen 3 pass to Boyd (Pineiro) (15-78-7:52)	3-44
4 10:56 Sebastian	TD Reid 35 interception return (Bailey,D)	10-44
4 4:23 Durham	TD Allen 6 pass to Gibson (Pineiro) (9-36-3:25)	10-51

Passing

SS: Haskins Jr. 21/9 49 Yds 3 Int
DTL: Allen 39/25 280 Yds 3 TDs Int

Rushing

SS: Taylor 6/25, McFarland 6/25, Williams 2/6, Haskins Jr. 6/4
DTL: Gibson 15/62 TD, Allen 8/40 2 TDs, Evans 4/22, Mattison 7/15, Bowden Jr. 3/4

Receiving

SS: Shenault Jr. 2/17, Beckham Jr. 2/10, Witten 1/8, Boykin 1/7, Taylor 1/0
DTL: Boyd 7/60 TD, Kupp 7/120 TD, Gibson 3/22 TD, Samuel 3/20, Mattison 2/17

Defense

SS: Reid Int(TD) 5-Tk, Wallace 11-Tk, King 10-Tk, Gladney 10-Tk, Clowney FF 7-Tk
DTL: Sherman Int(TD) 6-Tk, Young 2-Sks 4-Tk, Davis Sr. 8-Tk, Armstead Sk 3-Tk

Injuries

SS: Williams 4, Tate 2, Reagor 1, Brees 1, Edmonds 1
DTL: Johnson 6

Misc

SS: 3 1st Downs, 96 Yds Offence
DTL: 37:50 TOP



Aaron Rodgers dumped off a pass to **George Kittle** that the tight end took 21-yards to the end zone for a first series touchdown to open the scoring. The Stars demonstrated that they could move the ball and control the time of possession, but did not find the end zone again until the opening drive of the 3rd quarter, when **Justin Jefferson** took a short slant in untouched from 18 yards out for the score. **Tua Tagovailoa** hit **Jarvis Landry** in stride on a long slant for a 26-yard TD pass in the 2nd quarter, but otherwise the Glads' offence was bottled up by the Stars, held to just 8 1st downs and 162 yards.

12-23-2020 Georgia Stadium Temp:59 Wind:5-15 None Line:BUD by 7 MVP:Rodgers HFA:O

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2019 Budapest (9-3)	6	6	7	7	26
2019 Georgia (2-10)	0	7	0	0	7

Scoring Summary

1 9:56 Budapest	TD Rodgers 21 pass to Kittle (no good) (8-63-3:24)	6-0
2 9:39 Budapest	FG Myers 24 (14-61-7:31)	9-0
2 7:12 Georgia	TD Tagovailoa 26 pass to Landry (Bass) (5-75-2:27)	9-7
2 2:15 Budapest	FG Myers 44 (12-44-4:37)	12-7
3 9:57 Budapest	TD Rodgers 18 pass to Jefferson (Myers,J) (8-93-4:45)	19-7
4 14:50 Budapest	TD Rodgers 8 pass to Williams (Myers,J) (10-42-5:19)	26-7

Passing

BUD: Rodgers 36/21 270 Yds 3 TDs
 GEO: Tagovailoa 21/11 90 Yds TD Int

Rushing

BUD: Taylor 5/51, Williams 12/46, Johnson 11/41, Walton 5/7, Dallas 2/4, Rodgers 2/2
 GEO: Jacobs 9/44, Robinson 6/26, Michel 2/7, Hodges 1/1

Receiving

BUD: Kittle 6/83 TD, Hollister 6/72, Diggs 5/88, Williams 2/12 TD, Jefferson 1/18 TD
 GEO: Landry 4/47 TD, Stills 4/28, Robinson 2/2, Johnson 1/7, Jacobs 1/7, Snead IV 1/7

Defense

BUD: David 2-Int 4-Tk, Campbell Sk FF 2-Tk
 GEO: Edmunds 12-Tk, Fulton FF 7-Tk, Kazee 8-Tk

Injuries

BUD: Britt 2
 GEO: Jacobs 2, Tagovailoa 2

Misc

BUD: 39:49 TOP
 GEO: 2/11 3rd Down



Matt Ryan started going 4 of 4 for 88 yards, including a 44-yard bomb to **James Washington** and a TD pass to **Julian Edelman**, to get the Mustangs off to a quick 7-0 lead. With the Spartans' offence stuck in neutral, Aurora added 10 more points before Pickering struck back with an efficient drive ending in a 5-yard **Miles Sanders** TD run. Pickering opened the 2nd half with a penalty-assisted drive to a TD to pull within 3 points, but that was as close as they would get. The Mustangs scored on their next three series while the defence clamped down on **Philip Rivers** with a strip-sack and a pick.

01-02-2021 Thermopylae Stadium Temp:31 Wind:0-10 None Line:AUR by 7 MVP:Ryan H

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2019 Aurora (8-4)	10	7	0	17	34
2019 Pickering (3-9)	0	7	7	0	14

Scoring Summary

1 12:25 Aurora	TD Ryan 16 pass to Edelman (Lutz) (4-88-2:29)	7-0
1 0:58 Aurora	FG Lutz 53 (11-30-4:46)	10-0
2 10:49 Aurora	TD Drake 12 run (Lutz) (7-51-4:00)	17-0
2 6:43 Pickering	TD Sanders 5 run (Zuerlein) (8-75-4:06)	17-7
3 8:49 Pickering	TD Rivers 1 pass to Ridley (Zuerlein) (11-75-6:11)	17-14
4 14:52 Aurora	TD Ryan 3 run (Lutz) (14-75-8:57)	24-14
4 11:57 Aurora	FG Lutz 53 (5-4-1:11)	27-14
4 6:31 Aurora	TD Ryan 1 pass to Goedert (Lutz) (4-21-2:08)	34-14

Passing

AUR: Ryan 39/28 324 Yds 2 TDs
 PIC: Rivers 20/14 150 Yds TD Int, Hurts 2/1 19 Yds, Minshew 3/0 0 Yds

Rushing

AUR: Drake 11/64 TD, Ryan 2/8 TD, Samuels 2/4, Juszczuk 1/3, Perine 1/3
 PIC: Sanders 13/42 TD, Swift 5/19, Hurts 2/13

Receiving

AUR: Edelman 8/100 TD, Goedert 5/44 TD, Samuels 5/29, Washington 4/113, Drake 3/10
 PIC: Swift 4/20, Brown 3/57, Ridley 3/22 TD, Williams 2/41, Shepard 1/4, Sanders 1/13

Defense

AUR: Davenport Sk FF 3-Tk, Ward Int 4-Tk, Watt Sk 3-Tk, Thompson 8-Tk
 PIC: Smith 2-Sks 2-Tk, Schobert 8-Tk

Injuries

AUR: Jernigan 2
 PIC: Jackson 8, Shepard 5, Randall 2, Joseph 2, Shepherd 1

Misc

AUR: 4/4 4th Down
 PIC:



14



26

A failed 4th & 3 by York at their own 42 and a **Ricardo Allen** interception of **Tom Brady** and return to the York 4-yard line led to 10 quick points for Erieau. After a fumble recovery by Erieau was overturned on review, York finished off a 70-yard drive with 3-yard **Derrick Henry** TD run, but a 45-yard **Austin Siebert** FG made it 13-7 Caddies at half time. A **Kevin Byard** interception set up a 12-yard Brady scramble for a TD, but two more Siebert FGs made it 19-14 Erieau as York took over with 2:26 left. But **Kaden Smith** fumbled and **Anthony Walker** scooped it up and scored to put the game away.

12-24-2020 Kelly-Burke Field Temp:30 Wind:0-5 None Line:YOR by 1 MVP:Hines HFA

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2019 York (5-7)	0	7	7	0	14
2019 Erieau (6-6)	10	3	3	10	26

Scoring Summary

1 7:49 Erieau	FG Seibert 33 (9-27-3:26)	0-3
1 5:48 Erieau	TD Murray 6 pass to Higgins (Seibert) (3-14-1:37)	0-10
2 8:40 York	TD Henry 3 run (Hauschka) (11-70-5:32)	7-10
2 1:19 Erieau	FG Seibert 45 (9-38-2:36)	7-13
3 9:56 Erieau	FG Seibert 39 (10-57-4:50)	7-16
3 0:43 York	TD Brady 12 run (Hauschka) (4-60-2:39)	14-16
4 7:19 Erieau	FG Seibert 38 (5-13-2:08)	14-19
4 2:00 Erieau	TD Walker 22 yd fumble recovery (Seibert)	14-26

Passing

YOR: Brady 39/17 211 Yds 2 Int
ERI: Murray 23/11 92 Yds TD 2 Int

Rushing

YOR: Henry 26/70 TD, Brady 2/13 TD, Snell Jr. 1/3
ERI: Murray 7/68, Moss 10/54, Gore 9/19, Allen 1/15, McCoy 3/11, Vaughn 4/2

Receiving

YOR: Smith 5/67, Amendola 4/42, Johnson 2/58, Henry 2/18, Williams 2/13, Ertz 1/7
ERI: Andrews 3/24, Johnson 2/26, Higgins 2/14 TD, Arcega-Whiteside 1/12, Gore 1/10

Defense

YOR: Poyer Int Sk 8-Tk, Alualu Sk 6-Tk, Griffen Sk 5-Tk, Buckner Sk 4-Tk
ERI: Allen Int FF 3-Tk, Hewitt Int 4-Tk

Injuries

YOR: Scherff 3, Kline 2
ERI: Ellison 5, Peppers 1, Staley 1, McCoy 1

Misc

YOR:
ERI: Hines 6/143 PR, Seibert 4/4 FGs



28



25

Starting at their own 3 on their first possession, the Irish covered the distance in just 5 plays, finishing with a 68-yard TD pass to **Tyreek Hill**. **Baker Mayfield** seemed to have things in hand until **Jessie Bates III** picked him off with 0:41 left in the half to set up a quick Brooklin TD and close the gap to 14-10. The teams began the 3rd with a 4-round punting duel before Mayfield and Hill struck for their third TD hook-up of the day to make it 21-10. **Derek Carr** replied with a TD pass to **Breshaud Perriman**, but the Irish stayed out of reach with an 18-yard Mayfield scramble for the eventual winning tally.

12-28-2020 Optimist Park Temp:26 Wind:0-5 None Line:BRH by 9 MVP:Mayfield HFA:ONC

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2019 East Elmhurst (4-8)	7	7	7	7	28
2019 Brooklin (7-5)	0	10	0	15	25

Scoring Summary

1 8:49 East Elmhurst	TD Mayfield 68 pass to Hill (Blankenshi) (5-97-3:09)	7-0
1 12:37 Brooklin	FG Bullock 24 (15-76-6:47)	7-3
2 6:00 East Elmhurst	TD Mayfield 2 pass to Hill (Blankenshi) (12-85-6:17)	14-3
2 0:28 Brooklin	TD Carr 22 pass to Hopkins (Bullock) (2-28-0:13)	14-10
3 2:58 East Elmhurst	TD Mayfield 6 pass to Hill (Blankenshi) (8-73-4:05)	21-10
4 10:17 Brooklin	TD Carr 15 pass to Perriman (2 - Hopkins) (11-93-7:32)	21-18
4 7:21 East Elmhurst	TD Mayfield 18 run (Blankenshi) (6-66-2:44)	28-18
4 2:19 Brooklin	TD Hyde 2 run (Bullock) (12-75-5:02)	28-25

Passing

EE: Mayfield 26/17 243 Yds 3 TDs Int
BRH: Carr 36/24 264 Yds 2 TDs

Rushing

EE: Murray 15/73, Mayfield 7/36 TD, Kelley 5/32
BRH: Hyde 17/59 TD, Breida 7/17, Carr 1/10, Bonnafon 1/3

Receiving

EE: Hill 7/141 3 TDs, Davis 3/27, Hurns 2/28, Murray 2/18, Quinn 1/12, Kelley 1/5
BRH: Perriman 6/81 TD, Hopkins 6/70 TD, Fells 5/37, Cobb 4/42, Jefferson 2/19

Defense

EE: Ramsey 8-Tk
BRH: Bates III Int 5-Tk

Injuries

EE: Thielen 4, Agholor 4, Anderson 2, Charlton 1
BRH: Jeffery 4, Elliott 3, Engram 1

Misc

EE:
BRH: Barner 4/124 KR



Near the end the win.



WEEK TWELVE

STANDINGS & STATS

EFL 2020 Official Standings

East	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Cobb County	11	1	0	.917	W3	392	32.7	244	20.3	12.3	5 1 0	4 0 0	8 1 0
Bruxelles	8	4	0	.667	W3	358	29.8	283	23.6	6.3	5 1 0	2 2 0	5 4 0
Buffalo	7	5	0	.583	L2	293	24.4	266	22.2	2.3	3 4 0	1 3 0	5 4 0
New Jersey	1	11	0	.083	L10	269	22.4	369	30.8	-8.3	1 6 0	1 3 0	1 8 0
Central	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Virden	10	2	0	.833	L1	409	34.1	250	20.8	13.3	5 1 0	4 0 0	7 2 0
Peg City	7	5	0	.583	W1	362	30.2	306	25.5	4.7	3 4 0	3 1 0	7 2 0
Charleswood	3	9	0	.250	W1	273	22.8	390	32.5	-9.8	1 6 0	1 3 0	3 6 0
Twin Cities	2	10	0	.167	L4	195	16.3	289	24.1	-7.8	1 5 0	0 4 0	2 7 0
West	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Chino	7	4	1	.625	W5	319	26.6	288	24.0	2.6	5 1 1	2 0 1	5 3 1
Iowa City	7	4	1	.625	W2	313	26.1	294	24.5	1.6	5 1 0	2 0 1	5 3 1
Seattle	5	7	0	.417	L1	234	19.5	283	23.6	-4.1	3 4 0	0 3 0	3 6 0
Las Vegas	4	8	0	.333	L1	232	19.3	288	24.0	-4.7	3 3 0	1 2 0	2 7 0
North	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Durham	8	4	0	.667	W2	264	22.0	187	15.6	6.4	4 1 0	3 1 0	6 3 0
Cowtown	8	4	0	.667	W3	248	20.7	173	14.4	6.3	3 3 0	3 1 0	6 3 0
Scarborough	6	6	0	.500	L2	243	20.3	269	22.4	-2.2	3 2 0	1 3 0	4 5 0
Sebastian	5	7	0	.417	L1	276	23.0	335	27.9	-4.9	3 3 0	1 3 0	2 7 0
Coastal	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Budapest	9	3	0	.750	W1	254	21.2	146	12.2	9.0	4 1 0	2 2 0	7 2 0
Brooklin	7	5	0	.583	L2	297	24.8	252	21.0	3.8	4 2 0	4 0 0	7 2 0
York	5	7	0	.417	L2	244	20.3	248	20.7	-0.3	5 0 0	1 3 0	4 5 0
Pickering	3	9	0	.250	L4	195	16.3	309	25.8	-9.5	3 3 0	1 3 0	2 7 0
South	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Aurora	8	4	0	.667	W1	307	25.6	261	21.8	3.8	4 1 0	3 0 0	7 2 0
Erieau	6	6	0	.500	W4	214	17.8	253	21.1	-3.3	3 2 0	2 1 0	5 4 0
East Elmhurst	4	8	0	.333	W2	239	19.9	293	24.4	-4.5	1 5 0	0 3 0	2 7 0
Georgia	2	10	0	.167	L2	198	16.5	352	29.3	-12.8	2 4 0	1 2 0	2 7 0

EFL 2020 Official Passing Leaders

			Att	Cmp	C%	Yards	In	I%	Lg	TD	TD%	Rate
1	Tannehill	CB	285	201	70.5	3300	4	1.4	82	35	12.3	142.8
2	Mahomes	VV	327	216	66.1	2894	4	1.2	56	30	9.2	119.5
3	Cousins	PCC	429	282	65.7	3381	2	0.5	71	35	8.2	115.0
4	Brees	SS	292	209	71.6	2498	5	1.7	88	17	5.8	109.6
5	Stafford	NJ	196	131	66.8	1628	4	2.0	68	14	7.1	107.7
6	Jackson,L	BUF	374	270	72.2	2865	7	1.9	58	22	5.9	106.0
7	Carr,D	BRH	436	298	68.3	3143	2	0.5	51	24	5.5	105.5
8	Prescott	CHI	381	252	66.1	2887	5	1.3	73	21	5.5	101.7
9	Garoppolo	COW	360	234	65.0	2859	5	1.4	64	17	4.7	99.3
10	Ryan,M	AUR	335	209	62.4	2580	11	3.3	62	26	7.8	98.4
11	Wilson,R	ICC	383	247	64.5	2717	6	1.6	59	20	5.2	96.3
12	Watson,D	CHP	421	269	63.9	3054	10	2.4	73	22	5.2	93.1
13	Goff	BRX	452	244	54.0	3420	10	2.2	72	30	6.6	91.5
14	Darnold	SEA	362	233	64.4	2419	7	1.9	72	16	4.4	90.2
15	Burrow	SBE	377	235	62.3	2365	7	1.9	58	20	5.3	90.1
16	Allen,J	DTL	346	203	58.7	2242	2	0.6	63	14	4.0	89.1
17	Trubisky	TCT	275	162	58.9	1742	3	1.1	75	13	4.7	88.8
18	Murray,K	ERI	343	206	60.1	2194	6	1.7	53	16	4.7	87.0
19	Keenum	NJ	287	190	66.2	1751	5	1.7	54	10	3.5	87.0
20	Rodgers,A	BUD	381	215	56.4	2437	3	0.8	50	16	4.2	86.5
21	Brady	YOR	375	212	56.5	2500	7	1.9	72	18	4.8	85.2
22	Mayfield	EE	202	119	58.9	1471	9	4.5	68	13	6.4	84.4
23	Rivers	PIC	268	172	64.2	1982	11	4.1	76	12	4.5	84.2
24	Minshew II	PIC	95	47	49.5	564	1	1.1	41	5	5.3	81.2
25	Fitzpatr,R	EE	147	83	56.5	943	3	2.0	53	5	3.4	78.7

EFL 2020 Official Kick Return Leaders

		No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD
1	Hardman	LV	22	668	30.4	89 0
2	Patterson	VV	18	536	29.8	94 1
3	Grant,J	CHI	25	741	29.6	101 2
4	Cooper,P	BUD	16	453	28.3	91 0
5	Hilliard	PCC	22	606	27.5	46 0
6	Davis,T	SBE	19	523	27.5	86 0
7	Spencer,D	NJ	18	491	27.3	57 0
8	Roberts,A	BRX	21	563	26.8	46 0
9	Agnew	SEA	19	482	25.4	38 0
10	Raymond	EE	25	621	24.8	41 1
11	Latimer	DTL	14	344	24.6	38 0
12	James Jr.	GEO	25	587	23.5	36 0
13	Barner	BRH	14	327	23.4	39 0
14	Ruggs III	ERI	21	479	22.8	53 0
15	Bolden	YOR	13	292	22.5	36 0
16	Carter,D	BUF	37	759	20.5	52 0
17	Ballentine	SS	19	388	20.4	37 0
18	Richard	CHP	33	517	15.7	30 0
19	Cohen	NJ	1	28	28.0	28 0
20	Sanders,M	PIC	11	279	25.4	29 0
21	Erickson	BUF	1	25	25.0	25 0
22	Lockett	ICC	5	124	24.8	31 0
23	Natson	CB	9	223	24.8	42 0
24	Campbell,P	CHP	1	24	24.0	24 0
25	King II	ERI	3	72	24.0	26 0

EFL 2020 Official Punt Return Leaders

		No	Fc	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD
1	Johnson,D	GEO	28	6	331	11.8	78 2
2	Reagor	SS	15	9	157	10.5	49 0
3	Ervin	VV	14	14	146	10.4	41 0
4	Berrios	AUR	33	4	343	10.4	26 0
5	Agnew	SEA	28	7	261	9.3	78 1
6	Hardman	LV	32	6	295	9.2	31 0
7	Carter,D	BUF	31	11	265	8.5	45 0
8	Cooper,P	BUD	24	18	202	8.4	22 0
9	Rogers,C	CHI	22	12	166	7.5	15 0
10	Roberts,A	BRX	22	20	161	7.3	15 0
11	Cohen	NJ	24	9	175	7.3	21 0
12	Harris,D	COW	32	8	206	6.4	17 0
13	Proche II	DTL	40	5	257	6.4	11 0
14	Amendola	YOR	21	15	130	6.2	21 0
15	Logan,T	PCC	28	8	165	5.9	15 0
16	Peppers	ERI	15	9	81	5.4	13 0
17	Thomas,D	SBE	41	6	220	5.4	17 0
18	Quinn,T	EE	24	15	121	5.0	15 0
19	Natson	CB	22	5	96	4.4	14 0
20	Barner	BRH	22	1	70	3.2	15 0
21	Hines	ERI	7	0	175	25.0	33 0
22	Lockett	ICC	9	4	67	7.4	13 0
23	Sherels	YOR	1	0	7	7.0	7 0
24	Peoples-Jo	SS	3	0	19	6.3	8 0
25	Kirk	ICC	8	4	47	5.9	9 0

EFL 2020 Official Rushing Leaders

		Att	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD
1	Chubb,N	DTL	232	1266	5.5	75 4
2	Jackson,L	BUF	195	1198	6.1	27 9
3	Mixon	ICC	208	1159	5.6	41 9
4	Fournette	BRX	222	1146	5.2	56 7
5	Elliott,E	VV	222	1111	5.0	30 10
6	Carson,C	SBE	214	1083	5.1	66 2
7	Henry,D	YOR	254	1010	4.0	70 7
8	McCaffrey	CHI	187	979	5.2	50 11
9	Drake	AUR	168	940	5.6	59 9
10	Hyde,C	BRH	180	923	5.1	44 9
11	Mack,M	SEA	156	778	5.0	81 1
12	Jones,A	PCC	131	767	5.9	66 6
13	Jacobs,J	GEO	161	713	4.4	35 0
14	Mostert	CB	126	702	5.6	45 8
15	Kamara	CHP	144	612	4.3	50 8
16	Peterson,A	CB	139	609	4.4	45 2
17	Cook,D	LV	164	585	3.6	19 7
18	Edwards-He	TCT	138	580	4.2	24 6
19	Singletary	AUR	108	578	5.4	45 0
20	Murray,K	ERI	97	558	5.8	30 3
21	Williams,J	BUD	105	543	5.2	50 3
22	Murray,L	EE	119	501	4.2	32 2
23	Barkley,S	PCC	91	484	5.3	29 3
24	Gurley II	COW	149	470	3.2	15 8
25	Taylor,J	SS	124	457	3.7	15 2
26	Howard,J	BUD	88	432	4.9	20 4
27	Ingram II	CHI	102	419	4.1	29 5
28	Swift	PIC	96	404	4.2	63 0
29	Montgomery	NJ	128	374	2.9	33 1
30	Sanders,M	PIC	137	370	2.7	24 2
31	Breida	BRH	81	349	4.3	32 0
32	Johnson,D	PCC	55	325	5.9	29 0
33	Freeman,R	VV	60	307	5.1	47 2
34	Watson,D	CHP	38	302	7.9	33 5
35	Allen,J	DTL	59	291	4.9	15 6
36	William,Dm	SS	71	280	3.9	30 3
37	Bell,L	COW	73	275	3.8	19 0
38	Robinson,J	GEO	81	269	3.3	27 0
39	Wilson,R	ICC	50	263	5.3	24 2
40	Johnson,D	BUD	59	262	4.4	16 1

EFL 2020 Official Receiving Leaders

		No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD
1	McCaffrey	CHI	100	847	8.5	28 6
2	Hopkins,D	BRH	96	1296	13.5	51 10
3	Thomas,M	LV	94	1051	11.2	59 6
4	Woods,R	BUF	81	1061	13.1	58 7
5	Edelman	AUR	76	945	12.4	49 13
6	Cohen	NJ	68	434	6.4	24 1
7	Jones,J	CB	64	1138	17.8	82 11
8	Kupp	DTL	62	798	12.9	63 3
9	Kittle	BUD	62	717	11.6	22 7
10	Cooper,A	VV	60	1097	18.3	50 11
11	Metcalf	CHP	60	896	14.9	73 5
12	Brown,J	VV	59	939	15.9	56 7
13	Lockett	ICC	59	722	12.2	34 5
14	Allen,K	PCC	56	860	15.4	54 4
15	White,J	TCT	56	589	10.5	52 4
16	Beckham Jr	SS	55	677	12.3	46 3
17	Evans,M	COW	55	821	14.9	64 5
18	Sanders,E	BUF	55	571	10.4	28 3
19	Moore,D	TCT	54	665	12.3	75 6
20	Parker,D	CB	54	1049	19.4	62 9
21	Sutton,C	PCC	53	760	14.3	71 10
22	Kamara	CHP	53	411	7.8	49 2
23	Kelce,T	BRX	51	716	14.0	41 6
24	Ertz	YOR	51	606	11.9	36 5
25	Fournette	BRX	51	387	7.6	26 1
26	Beasley	ICC	50	542	10.8	59 6
27	Golladay	TCT	50	851	17.0	55 3
28	Chark Jr.	NJ	49	673	13.7	52 6
29	Renfrow	SEA	49	675	13.8	72 7
30	Tate	SS	49	509	10.4	44 1
31	Andrews,M	ERI	49	542	11.1	53 7
32	Fitzgerald	CHI	48	625	13.0	73 5
33	Smith-Schu	CHP	47	598	12.7	36 5
34	Freeman,D	SBE	47	337	7.2	28 2
35	Robinson,A	SBE	47	628	13.4	58 7
36	Bell,L	COW	46	388	8.4	30 3
37	Samuel,D	NJ	45	524	11.6	42 3
38	Witten	SS	45	491	10.9	40 4
39	Sanu	VV	44	539	12.3	27 3
40	Gallup	CHI	44	764	17.4	60 8

EFL 2020 Official Kicking Leaders

		FGA	FGM	FG%	40	50	Lg	Pts	
1	Prater	BRX	32	27	84.4	14	5	55	116
2	Gonzalez	VV	23	20	87.0	7	2	51	109
3	Tucker,J	ICC	24	23	95.8	8	1	51	103
4	McManus	CB	19	17	89.5	5	1	51	98
5	Myers,J	BUD	31	25	80.6	9	3	52	98
6	Bullock	BRH	25	23	92.0	4	4	55	95
7	Boswell	NJ	21	21	100.0	5	1	50	89
8	Butker	PCC	20	15	75.0	3	1	53	88
9	Lambo	SEA	22	22	100.0	15	4	54	88
10	Crosby	SBE	22	21	95.5	10	4	54	85
11	Pineiro	DTL	24	19	79.2	10	5	52	84
12	Bailey,D	SS	19	19	100.0	7	0	49	82
13	McLaughlin	CHI	16	13	81.3	4	0	47	79
14	Slye	COW	23	17	73.9	7	2	52	74
15	Hauschka	YOR	18	17	94.4	9	2	51	74
16	Bass	GEO	21	18	85.7	4	2	51	72
17	Lutz	AUR	16	11	68.8	7	5	54	71
18	Blankenshi	EE	15	15	100.0	6	3	53	71
19	Fairbairn	LV	20	17	85.0	3	1	51	70
20	Seibert	ERI	23	18	78.3	9	1	50	70
21	Zuerlein	PIC	15	14	93.3	8	3	55	63
22	Elliott,J	BUF	11	8	72.7	4	1	54	59
23	Carlson	CHP	11	8	72.7	4	2	51	55
24	Hopkins	TCT	10	7	70.0	1	0	40	43
25	O'Donnell	NJ	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0

EFL 2020 Official Sack Leaders

1	Barrett	LV	13
2	Smith,Z	CHI	11
3	Dupree	BRX	9
4	Jones,C	SS	9
5	Young,C	DTL	8
6	Smith,P	BRX	8
7	Watt,T	COW	8
8	Armstead,A	DTL	8
9	Landry III	NJ	7
10	Heyward	VV	7
11	Fowler Jr.	SBE	6
12	Quinn	NJ	5
13	Phillips,J	BRX	5
14	Allen,J	PCC	5
15	Jones,C	PCC	5
16	Flowers,T	BRX	5
17	Jordan,C	BUD	5
18	wolfe	PIC	5
19	Kinlaw	PIC	5
20	Buckner	YOR	5
21	Clark,F	BRX	5
22	Golden	CB	5
23	Allen,J	EE	5
24	Charlton	EE	5
25	Joseph,L	EE	5

EFL 2020 Official Punting Leaders

		No	Yards	Tb	20	Lg	Bk	Ave
1	Way	CHI	40	1995	5	12	64	0 49.9
2	Dixon,R	GEO	55	2658	3	18	64	0 48.3
3	Morstead	DTL	52	2501	3	19	68	0 48.1
4	Kern	BRX	42	2012	2	13	60	0 47.9
5	Lee,A	BUF	35	1675	2	19	73	0 47.9
6	Palardy	YOR	61	2882	1	15	79	0 47.2
7	Hekker	COW	58	2714	6	24	59	0 46.8
8	Edwards,L	EE	57	2664	2	23	62	0 46.7
9	Anger	LV	61	2842	7	28	67	0 46.6
10	Bailey,J	SEA	55	2551	0	20	60	0 46.4
11	Koch	AUR	39	1806	1	15	62	1 46.3
12	Martin,S	CB	34	1571	0	13	65	0 46.2
13	O'Donnell	NJ	49	2255	3	16	58	0 46.0
14	Huber	CHP	35	1607	5	9	57	0 45.9
15	Haack	PCC	33	1512	2	13	53	0 45.8
16	Sanchez	BUD	48	2160	2	15	80	0 45.0
17	Dickson	ERI	61	2738	6	25	56	0 44.9
18	Wishnowsky	TCT	60	2690	1	20	53	0 44.8
19	Pinion	ICC	35	1553	1	10	54	0 44.4
20	Colquitt,D	SBE	58	2568	7	25	54	0 44.3
21	Jones,C	PIC	57	2418	0	17	57	3 42.4
22	Berry,J	SS	28	1301	1	5	80	0 46.5
23	Scott,J	BRH	25	1142	2	11	52	0 45.7
24	Mann	VV	30	1333	2	7	58	0 44.4

EFL 2020 Official Tackle Leaders

1	Leonard,D	LV	130
2	Lattimore	SEA	95
3	Smith,J	EE	95
4	Littleton	ICC	92
5	Terrell	CHI	92
6	Alexander	TCT	89
7	Henderson	YOR	88
8	Ryan,L	SBE	87
9	Edmunds,T	GEO	85
10	Davis,C	COW	81
11	Kuechly	BRX	81
12	Awuzie	NJ	80
13	Davis,D	LV	80
14	Fulton	GEO	80
15	Apple	BRH	80
16	Martinez	CB	79
17	Brooks,J	TCT	78
18	Wagner,B	TCT	78
19	Landry III	NJ	78
20	Schobert	PIC	77
21	Hicks,J	BUF	76
22	William,Tr	LV	76
23	Jones,J	BRH	75
24	Hightower	SBE	73
25	Stone	ICC	73



AROUND THE



With Spats McChad



NEW YORK – Welcome...oh most hearty and warm welcome to the year 2021! This new year begins with the distinct advantage of *not* being 2020 and thus brings us hope that we will soon scrap the “new normal” and return to the “real normal” – the kind of normal we have experienced for thousands of years as social, interactive creatures trading viruses and immunity with each other, culling and strengthening the herd in the process. Unless COVID-19 is some kind of man-made biological warfare weapon, escaped or deliberately released from a lab (a theory not yet ruled out) then there is no reason to treat this new corona virus any differently from the way we have dealt with corona viruses since we have known them to exist: protect the vulnerable, take reasonable individual hygienic precautions and let the healthy work to maintain society.

Of course, hope is usually based solely on wishful thinking that some force or series of events will resolve a problem we cannot resolve on our own. This new year’s hope of natural relief from COVID-19 is already threatened by hints of a “COVID-20” virus in the form of a new “mutation” of the COVID-19 virus that has recently surfaced in England, threatening to extend COVID-Totalitarianism indefinitely while the Masters of the Universe herd us into the psychic pen of helplessness that will enable the “Great Reset” – whatever that is!

Folks should be worried when they hear rich and powerful people in the World Economic Forum refer to the Pandemic as an “opportunity” and propose putting such broad goals as “sustainable capitalism” and “building back better” in the hands of the private sector (read: Global Financial Elite) that got us into the economic soup we are currently wallowing in to begin with. When they speak of “sustainable capitalism,” they, in their typical euphemistic way, are actually speaking of organizing the *destruction* of capitalism, at least as it applies to you and me, and the consolidation and control of the wealth of the planet in their hands. No more “American Dream” for any individual. Witness how small business owners are being crushed by pandemic measures while “big box” retailers and Amazon are thriving. A totalitarian prison is being built for us based on fear of an invisible enemy – the best kind of enemy for hidden manipulators because they can change its properties at will. Thus, the “new mutation” that will keep this scam going while plans are put in place.

Now, many of you have criticized me – even vowed to stop reading my column – due to my skepticism surrounding the nature and handling of the COVID-19 virus. I have been called at best a “science denier” and at worst a paranoid lunatic. Others, those who like my football commentary, beg for more evidence. “*Where is your proof, Spats?*” I have been asked by many. Well, it should surprise nobody that I do not have actual proof in the traditional sense. The proof is carefully guarded at the highest levels of the conspiracy – as it is with all conspiracies. The vast majority of people – including most of our leaders, who blithely invoke the term “medical experts” when justifying shutting down the economy and ruining millions of lives – do not have any “proof” and, in some cases, have no clue that they are being manipulated and think they are being responsible. They just follow along with the top-down narrative like useful idiots. Some may have small pieces of the puzzle, are perhaps unsure where they fit, and choose to stay silent for fear of ostracization in their professions or in society.

The lack of tangible proof obstructs my construction of a defensible thesis about what the exact endgame of all this is. The ‘Great Reset,’ like all slogans, is light on specifics. I just know, from a long career in observing and being part of the media, when I am being manipulated. And I am confident, 100%, that we are being manipulated; perhaps even re-engineered as a society. COVID-19 is the convenient excuse to do so. The sad part is that my vindication will only come when it is too late to change anything. A few of you may recall that Spats told you so.

So, I am left with nothing more than faint hope that something will go awry in the World Central Planning Department to free us from the coming enslavement. ‘Hope’ springs eternal and everybody can indulge in it...even Erieau fans.

FIRST IN CLASS – A SPATS *SPECIAL REPORT*

As we count down the final quarter of the 2020 EFL season, analysts are paying as much attention to the bottom of the league as they are to the developing playoff races at the top. The race for the no.1 overall pick in the rookie draft is a side-story at this time most years, but not this year! The reason: **Trevor Lawrence**, a multi-generational, natural talent who everyone agrees was born to play quarterback in the EFL – the archetype for a Franchise Quarterback.

Like the four-year old child prodigy who effortlessly taps out Mozart’s piano Sonata No.1 in C Major, Lawrence looks skilled and confident beyond his years – a true natural. Amazingly, there are no dissenters among the industry’s leading draft gurus – everyone is on board with Lawrence not only being the no.1 overall pick, but that he will redefine the term “franchise” at the

quarterback position.

“Franchise” is a term much-abused, however. Considering the impact and rarity of a true franchise quarterback – like a *Peyton Manning*, who has won two EFL titles, or a *Tom Brady*, who has held together and made respectable many a ramshackle York team – most of the names associated with the term “franchise quarterback” in the lead-up to the EFL draft are, in retrospect, an embarrassment to those who have applied the term to them so freely – like adding the title “Mr.” to a surname.

A prospective “franchise” quarterback is one who was drafted in the first or second round, or in later rounds if, due to developments soon after the draft, the term “franchise” was applied in any serious way to describe the quarterback’s ceiling prior to him seeing the field. It turns out there have been, by my count, at least 40 “franchise” quarterbacks drafted since the start of the EFL. Let’s review some of these so-called “franchise” quarterbacks and see how many of them actually lived up to the term:

TRUE FRANCHISE

These guys are the real deal, setting the bar for everyone else.

Patrick Mahomes: 2017 Draft, 2d Rd, **Viriden Violators** – Some will accuse me of jumping the gun on young Patrick here, but after watching him lead Viriden to the playoffs in his first full season and seeing where he has his team today, I don’t see his talent going away any time soon – maybe when he’s 40.

Russell Wilson: 2012 Draft, 4th Rd, **Iowa City Cubs** – Wilson was a speculative pick for the Cubs, four QBs went before him. Perhaps he doesn’t belong on this list because he was un-touted prior to the draft. But before he saw the field to oversee the Cubs’ 1-15 record in his rookie season, Iowa was abuzz with “franchise QB” talk after an impressive training camp. After a rough 2012, when the Cubs finished 1-15, Wilson led the Cubs to 7 straight winning seasons and 6 playoff finishes, making it to the Conference Finals twice. No, he has not won a championship yet, but there is no doubt that he is the face and heart of a consistently relevant Cubs’ franchise.

Matt Ryan: 2008 Draft, no.4 overall, **Colorado Thundersnow** – The longest tenured starting quarterback for a single team currently playing has led the Mustangs to three championships and has won two MVP awards. He is the face of the league’s most successful franchise. Doesn’t get any more “franchisey” than that!

‘FAUX’ FRANCHISE

These guys were drafted high and flashed more than passing signs of being ‘True Franchise’ players, but lacked long term consistency, or were otherwise unable to raise their franchises out of the ashes of obscurity to meaningful success.

Andrew Luck: 2012 Draft, no.1 overall, **Mohave Hellfire** – After a 3-12 rookie campaign, Luck’s star showed early signs of waning the next year when he shared starting duties with another “franchise” QB, **Blaine Gabbert** (see below). He started every game in 2014, going 4-12 and again in 2015, also going 4-12. After riding the pine behind **Ryan Fitzpatrick** in 2016, Luck re-emerged with a 7-8 campaign in 2017, was injured for all of 2018, then posted his best statistical year with 31 TD passes and 94.0 QB rating with Buffalo in 2019. It looked like Andrew was about to turn a corner, but he abruptly retired, citing health reasons. Luck probably doesn’t belong on this list, but he was the face of a crappy Mohave franchise for years and, despite their losing record, was the best player on that team.

Robert Griffin III (RGIII): 2012 Draft, no.2 overall, **Pickering Spartans** – Drafted right after Luck and trumpeted by some as the best player in the draft, **RGIII** (the original “III”) was summarily traded to Death Valley after presiding over a 6-10 campaign in Pickering in his rookie year. He improved statistically in 2013, sharing playing time with **Michael Vick**, but came into his own in 2014 when the team moved to Santa Clara, leading the Banana Sluggs to the Conference Finals, where they lost to Carthage. He had a successful, but injury-plagued 2015 with Beaufort County then sat on injured reserve on the Brooklin roster in 2016 before being released. He was signed as a free agent by East Elmhurst in 2020 and currently sits on the roster as a back-up. The general consensus is that **RGIII** would have lived up to the “franchise” tag if not for multiple injuries. But again, his playing style put him at risk.

Matt Stafford: 2009 Draft, no.9 overall, **Ringgold Crimson Hawks** – After much hullabaloo, Stafford sat on the bench for two seasons in Ringgold behind **Big Ben** then sat out the 2011 season due to injury as a member of the Violators. He finally debuted as a full-time starter for Viriden in 2012 and it was a season to remember, except that nobody does. He led Viriden to a 13-3 record and a division title, broke the single-season record for TD passes with 45, and finished with a 124.1 QB rating. But an early playoff exit coupled with **Drew Brees** having his famous record-setting season the same year – throwing a never-to-be-broken 73 TD passes – meant that Stafford’s heroics went unnoticed outside of Viriden. He posted mediocre numbers and a 15-17 record over two more unhappy years with Viriden then was cut before the 2015 season. Stafford resurfaced in 2017 as a free agent, signed by Erieau to a whopping three-year, \$45 million deal. In three seasons with the Cadillac, Stafford won 8 starts and posted sub-par numbers on an admittedly abysmal team. In his final season with the Caddies, he shared time with another “franchise” quarterback, **Kyler Murray**. For some reason, the Wrecking Balls found Stafford’s resume attractive and traded for him. He is now starting (when not injured) for the worst team in the league.

AVERAGE STARTER

These are the players who either briefly held out a glimmering hope that they would turn into “franchise” quarterbacks, or who were drafted with that purpose in mind. They have since established enough of a body of work for us to fairly say that they are about average – not bad, merely serviceable and not likely to significantly raise the play of those around them.

DeShaun Watson: 2017 Draft, 2nd Rd, **Charleswood** – There is still a “franchise” mystique around Watson that will be hard for some to shake off, but the reality is that he is no better, nor worse, than your average run-of-the-mill starting QB. He has flashed signs of a high ceiling, but he is no better at making decisions today than he was in his rookie year.

Jared Goff: 2016 Draft, no.2 overall, **New Jersey** – Nothing says “franchise quarterback” more than being the very first rookie

ever selected by an expansion franchise. Goff made his first start in Week 3 of his rookie year and was in-and-out of the line-up as part of a three-QB rotation with **Brian Hoyer** and **Nick Foles**. In 2017 he rode the pine behind **Sam Bradford** then took the reins full time in 2018 and 2019, leading the Wrecking Balls to a franchise-best 10-6 record in his final year before being traded to Bruxelles in 2020. Goff's numbers are usually above pedestrian and he is dangerous when he gets into a rhythm. But he is also prone to off stretches and turns the ball over too much. His story is still being written but it is unlikely to include a championship chapter in its pages.

Carson Wentz: 2016 Draft, no.4 overall, **St. Charles Chargers** – If it is possible to earn then lose “Franchise QB” status in the span of three years, Wentz is the example of how that is possible. Another, first ever draft pick for an expansion franchise, Wentz saw a lot of action in his rookie season and became the face of the team starting in 2017 and throughout their amazing Championship run in 2018. He briefly wore the crown of a “True Franchise” quarterback heading into an injury-plagued 2019 season, but today finds himself ranked 27th in passing efficiency and fighting to keep his starting role on a struggling Assassins team.

Marcus Mariota: 2015 Draft, no.5 overall, **Carthage Cannibals** (Bruxelles) – Mariota was hand-picked by Samoan, **Ken Main** to lead his team forward after they lost in the Championship Game to Aurora in 2014. After two losing seasons, Mariota came into his own in 2017, finishing second in passing behind MVP **Matt Ryan** and leading the now Bruxelles Bombers to the final, where they, again, lost to the Mustangs. The Bombers remained competitive in 2018 and 2019 but their failure to make it back to the final put Mariota out of favour, perhaps unfairly. In a stunning fall from grace, he was traded to Budapest for a handful of magic beans and was subsequently traded to East Elmhurst, who cut him prior to the start of 2020. Mariota is now starting for the Tijuana Tacos of the Tex-Mex League.

Derek Carr: 2014 Draft, 2nd Rd, **Virden** – There are some (mostly idiots) who will argue that Carr is a franchise quarterback due to his output in Brooklin. While Carr was statistically impressive in 2019, his Hawks nevertheless went 6-10. This year, he continues to post impressive numbers as Brooklin fights for playoff position. The story may end happily for Carr, but one cannot simply erase the Virden years. In his four seasons as the starter there, he made the playoffs only once, when he threw 2 interceptions in a first-round exit. In 2015, his first year as a starter, he notoriously led Virden to an 0-16 record, a negative feat that will forever taint his legacy in Virden.

Ryan Tannehill: 2012 Draft, no.19 overall, **Mission Viejo** – While he is currently putting up historically great passing numbers as the leader of the league's top team, Tannehill was never associated with anything close to greatness in any of his previous 8 seasons. Drafted by the Monarchs in their expansion year, Tannehill took over the starting role in 2013 and for three years led the Monarchs to an average 5.3 wins per season. He was traded twice during the off-season and landed on the expansion Toronto franchise in 2016, where he presided over back-to-back 3-13 seasons before being injured and sitting out 2018. In 2019, he was acquired by the LA Knights in free agency and helped them to a 4-12 season. Over his entire career, Tannehill had never played for a team with more than 6 wins in a single year. Then came the move to Cobb County and his fortunes changed dramatically.



JaMarcus Russell sits on the sideline as a member of the Kutztown Golden Bears in 2009. That was Russell's final season in the EFL, a mere 3 years after being drafted no.2 overall in 2007.

Cam Newton: 2011 Draft, no.13 overall, **Chino Convicts** – Newton has a “bust” aura surrounding him after his ignominious last two seasons as a member of the Thunder Lizards. But for five seasons he was “The Man” at The Big House. After a so-so rookie debut in 2011, during which he shared playing time with **Jay Cutler**, Cam led the Convicts to three straight winning seasons, including two playoff runs and an appearance in the Conference Championship game in 2014. That was the highwater mark of Cam's career. He looked average in guiding Chino to an 8-8 finish in 2015, and distinctly worried with rookie prospect **Dak Prescott** watching and learning on the sideline as he piloted them to a 7-9 ending in 2016. It was clear where the Convicts were going, but for some reason, one known only to the Durham brain trust, the Lizards made a massive bid on Newton in free agency that the Convicts were only too pleased not to match. The \$12 million Newton sat on the bench behind **Drew Brees** in 2017 then went on to single-handedly ruin Durham's season in 2018, throwing 20 picks to just 12 TDs and posting a league-worst 59.1 QB rating – a fitting punishment for trading away Brees. He was cut, at great cost, in 2019 and is now out of football.

Andy Dalton: 2011 Draft, 4th Rd, **Iowa City Cubs** – Dalton was another speculative 4th-round pick by a GM desperate to replace his 1st-round mistake of 2010, **Sam Bradford**. Although he appeared in only two games his rookie season with the Cubs, the Iowa Press engaged in a concerted media campaign to promote “*The Red Rifle*” as a must-have “franchise quarterback” – for any team other than the Cubs, that is. Anyone with a nickname like

that *had* to be good, and that was enough for rookie Sebastian GM, **Eron Osman**, who took the bait and traded away his 1st round pick of the 2012 draft for Dalton's services. In a funny way, Dalton was indeed a "franchise quarterback." Impressionable youngsters following football on the Florida East Coast for the first time will forever remember Andy fondly as the smiling, happy-go-lucky face of that woeful franchise that never won more than 4 games in its first four seasons. In 2016, however, the Swordfish gelled into a powerhouse and Dalton was a big part of the team's run to the Championship that year; and his in-game injury a big part of why they lost that final game to Twin Cities. The Swordfish decided to roll the dice with **Jameis Winston** the next year and dealt Dalton to LA, where he presided over a 9-7 record and a wildcard berth in 2017 then a 5-11 finish in 2018. Officially a journeyman at this stage, Dalton's last trip was to Durham, where he posted an impressive 108.6 QB rating in 8 starts in 2019 before going down to injury. Durham went in another direction and Dalton was cut and is now looking for work.

Joe Flacco: 2008 Draft, 3rd Rd, **Cowtown Corn Kings** – Flacco was the longest tenured active starting quarterback for a single franchise after **Matt Ryan** until he was supplanted officially, and for good, by **Jimmy Garoppolo** this year. After seeing limited action in his first two seasons backing up **Chad Pennington**, Flacco took over the starting role in 2010 and guided Cowtown to a 3-13 record, its worst ever finish. But he bounced back in 2011, leading the team to 14 wins and earning the EFL Offensive MVP award for his efforts. How Flacco's fortunes would have turned had it not been for a naked fan running onto the field at a critical moment in their Quarter final loss to Durham that year, we will never know. All we know is that after that pinnacle of regular season achievement and tragic playoff defeat, Flacco provided steady but unspectacular play in leading Cowtown to 8 consecutive 500-or-better seasons and 6 playoff qualifying finishes. He got help in the later years and, despite his efforts to help them get there, he never won a playoff game. He currently remains a sentimental fixture on the Cowtown bench, backing up Jimmy G.

JUST A GUY

These are the hoped-for "franchise quarterbacks" who don't fit well into any category, due to lack of action and/or uncertain team fit. They are just "guys" hoping to get a chance to prove they can throw a football at a "franchise" level with 250lb behemoths bearing down on them.

Drew Lock: 2019 Draft, 2nd Rd, 25th overall, **Scarborough Blue Eagles** – The future of the franchise at the time he was drafted, Lock lost the starting job in training camp to **Brock Osweiler** – a worrying sign. Lock saw action in 6 games and his penchant for throwing interceptions prompted **Chris Dickinson** to draft **Joe Burrow** the next year. Lock currently sits on the bench as a back-up, his long-term status uncertain. He is likely to be traded or kept around as insurance. For now, he is just a "guy."

Daniel Jones: 2019 Draft, 2nd Rd, **Brooklin Hawks** – Skeptical of **Derek Carr** as the long-term answer, the Hawks selected Jones with "franchise" in mind due to his accuracy, intelligence and deceptive mobility. He saw very limited action in his rookie year due to the rebirth of Carr. Jones is sitting on the bench for now. He's not destined to be a back-up but he's not starting. He's just a "guy."

Dwayne Haskins: 2019 Draft, no.19 overall, **Bruxelles Bombers**: Haskins put up good numbers in limited action behind **Marcus Mariota** in this rookie season. It was certainly not enough action to make a judgement either way, but **Ken Main** saw something he didn't like and cut bait with Haskins in the off-season, sending him to Sebastian for a no.3 and no.4. It was a prescient move. Haskins is looking mighty shaky as a back-up currently seeing action for an injured **Drew Brees**. He's not in the most stable of situations there and his trajectory is currently downward. Could he be out of the league as early as next year? Until we know, he remains just a "guy."

Mitch Trubisky: 2017 Draft, no.24 overall, **Twin Cities Triumph** – This is a curious case. After riding the pine behind **Carson Palmer** in his rookie season, Trubisky's playing time gradually increased until, in 2019, he led the Triumph to a 12-4 record, a Conference title and a Gale Sayers appearance. He struggled under the EFL's brightest lights, throwing a bad interception to set up an Aurora touchdown in a 29-21 loss. The idea that he could not win a championship took root and he lost his starting job to confirmed bust, **Jameis Winston**, to start 2020. Winston was so bad that **Guy Williams** had no choice but to put Trubisky back in. He is currently starting, but with his coach wistfully eyeing **Trevor Lawrence**, his future is uncertain. Not a real starter, not yet a bust, he's just a "guy."

CAREER BACK-UP

Some guys are just better coming off the bench. They can come into a game in relief and make an impact on an unprepared defence. In a starting role they have a limited shelf life, but can get you through a one or two game stretch unscathed. This type of quarterback is actually very hard to find. That's why I could find only one in the EFL "Franchise Quarterback" draft class.

Teddy Bridgewater: 2014 Draft, no.25 overall, **LA Knights** – After being spared the agony of having to participate in the Knights' 0-16 campaign in his rookie season, Bridgewater looked relatively steady as the starter for the 5-11 Knights the following year and top notch in leading them to the playoffs in 2016. Then a career-threatening knee injury derailed his progress, keeping him off the field for two seasons. Bridgewater returned gradually and is now a very capable back-up behind **Ryan Tannehill**.

CONFIRMED BUST

We come now to the Island of Broken Toys, where all of the quarterback busts go to bemoan their lot and exchange tales of woe, away from the harsh glare of an unforgiving and derisive public. To a degree, their stories are all tragic. Whether due to personal delusions of grandeur, unreasonable expectations from impatient fans/coaches/owners, bad team fit, or a simple talent deficit that went undetected until it clashed with real professionals, they all ended up in the same place, mostly forgotten but, in some cases, infamous examples of failure – their stories cautionary tales of the perils of putting all of a team's eggs in one basket.

Josh Rosen: 2018 Draft, no.7 overall, **Buffalo Derailers** – The long sought-after prospect, billed as "NFL-ready," was drafted

by the Derailers after **Sam Darnold**, but before **Josh Allen**, **Baker Mayfield** and **Lamar Jackson**. Rosen was immediately thrown into the fire on a team bereft of weapons. He exemplified immaturity in every facet of the game in his rookie year and posted shockingly poor numbers over a 3-13 campaign. With the return of **Andrew Luck** in 2019, Rosen saw some much-needed bench time and that is where he remains in 2020 – an unready back-up to the Derailers newest “franchise quarterback,” **Lamar Jackson**.

Jameis Winston: 2015 Draft, no.4 overall, **Sebastian Swordfish** – Jameis was the first quarterback selected, from a very shallow quarterback pool in the 2015 draft, as the heir apparent for **Andy Dalton**. He spent his rookie year being “mentored” by Dalton as a 1-15 season unfolded in front of his impressionable eyes. When the Swordfish suddenly became relevant in 2016, Winston did his part by posting the third-highest QB rating in the league as a back-up for the oft-injured “**Red Rifle**.” But when he was forced into action in the Championship Game that year, he looked overwhelmed and is blamed to this day for Sebastian’s loss. Nevertheless, the Fish dropped Dalton and went with Jameis in 2017. The “franchise” finished 9th in passer rating but the team finished 7-9, last in the North. With the acquisition of **Drew Brees**, Winston was sent to the bench, where he saw little action and did not distinguish himself when he did. The Triumph thought they saw something in Winston and offered him \$10 million in free agency, which the Fish wisely did not match. Winston is currently a total disaster in Twin Cities. Expect him to be out of the league in 2021.

Johnny Manziel: 2014 Draft, no.8 overall, **Twin Cities Triumph** – Gauging the shelf-life for **Jay Cutler** at no more than two years, the Triumph bit the bullet on the most polarizing prospect in the draft, the boom-or-bust Heisman Trophy winner, **Johnny Football**. At no.8 overall it was a bold gamble – one that ultimately did not pay off. Injuries to Cutler forced Manziel onto the field in his rookie season and he performed adequately, but well below the standard needed to keep a talented 11-5 Triumph team at a competitive level with its peers. With a healthy Cutler returning in 2015, Manziel rode the pine and at the end of the season was released. He spent the Triumph’s 2016 Championship Year on the bench in Virden and then vanished from the EFL.

Blake Bortles: 2014 Draft, no.20 overall, **Charleswood Patriots** – After winning the EFL Championship in 2013, the Patriots traded their iconic leader, **Peyton Manning** and in the process pretty much guaranteed that whoever replaced him would be a disappointment. The Pats selected the physically well-proportioned, but mentally un-developed UCF product as Manning’s heir apparent. This choice, even without the benefit of hindsight, seemed almost pitiful at the time. It turned out to be close to that. Bortles took his lumps but, impressively, survived his rookie season, starting every game and leading the Pats to a 3-13 record. Showing toughness was not enough, however. The Pats realized their error and traded to reacquire Peyton from Pickering. They went on to win the Championship in 2015 under Manning, thereby ensuring that Bortles would never live up to expectations. Blake got another shot in 2016 but all that did was confirm his mediocrity. **DeShaun Watson** was drafted the next year and, after spending two seasons sharing playing time in a back-up role, Bortles disappeared from the EFL.

Zach Mettenberger: 2014 Draft, 3rd Rd, **Durham Thunder Lizards** – As **Drew Brees** entered his mid-30’s, thoughts of a future replacement were forefront enough in the mind of Durham management that they saw fit to draft the two-year LSU starter relatively early. Mettenberger started just one game in his three-years with the Lizards before disappearing from the ledger.

Geno Smith: 2013 Draft, 2nd Rd, **Virden Violators** – It is not clear that Virden drafted Smith with “franchise” intentions, as **Matt Stafford** was coming off his runner-up MVP season in 2012. But he was the first quarterback selected in the 2013 draft, which suggests the Violators intended to make something of him. He never got a chance to prove himself one way or the other. He saw the field only once in two years with Virden, fumbling a kneel down at the end of the game. He was traded to Charleswood in 2015, but did not see the field with the Pats either. He started one game in 2016 with Durham, which was a victory. He spent one more year with Durham, making a cameo appearance in one game before landing in Seattle, where he spent his final season sitting on the bench behind **Eli Manning**. Over a 6-year career, Smith, the 28th overall pick in 2013, attempted just 25 pass attempts and appeared in just 4 games.

Blaine Gabbert: 2011 Draft, no.8 overall, **Mohave Hellfire** – The Hellfire were on the verge of a steep decline as the team entered the 2011 draft and were looking for a long-term solution at QB to replace **Matt Schaub**. Gabbert was highly touted enough at the time to induce Mohave to select him over **Cam Newton**. He sat on the bench his rookie year and must have really sucked in practice because the Hellfire selected **Andrew Luck** no.1 overall the next year and Gabbert hardly saw the field in three seasons with Mohave. He was cut in 2014 and made a modest name for himself as a starter for the Buggsville Bunnies of the SFL. Signed by Georgia as a free agent in 2017 to back-up **Big Ben**, he saw his most action as an EFL quarterback that year, appearing in 6 games and even starting one. His performance was abysmal, however and his QB rating of 32.1 was worst in the league for passers with more than 50 attempts. After one more uneventful season as Ben’s back-up, he was released. He is now at home waiting for the call that will likely never come.

Sam Bradford: 2010 Draft, no.3 overall, **Iowa City Cubs** – A trade for Pickering’s 1st round pick in 2009, put the Cubs in position to draft the “can’t-miss” QB prospect of the draft and stabilize their chronic volatility at the position. Bradford was pushed onto the field immediately as the starter. He played adequately in leading a bland group to a 6-10 finish, but not up to the level envisioned by the draft hype or Cubs’ management. This prompted the Cubs to begin to stockpile QB talent through the draft. Bradford started all 16 games in 2011 and led improved talent to another 6-10 record. **Deron Redding** started shopping him around as **Russell Wilson** entered the picture, confirming Bradford’s Cubs’ days were about to be over. Quarterback-starved LA picked him up and he helped to hold down the fort for two losing seasons, appearing in 11 games in the infamous winless season of 2014. A torn ACL kept him off the field in 2015 but he was back in action in 2016 as the well-used back-up to **Big Ben** in Gwinnett. Sam was traded to New Jersey in 2017, where he started every game for the Wrecking Balls that year and directed them to a 1-15 record. Being part of the travesty that was that season in

New Jersey confirmed for many that Bradford was a perennial loser. The Chargers picked him up on waivers for the 2018 season to back-up **Carson Wentz**, but he reagravated his knee injury and has not appeared since. Some will argue that Bradford was not a total bust, due to the fact that he played well enough to keep getting opportunities. But looking back at his stature as a prospect heading into the draft and considering where he was picked, Bradford is a confirmed bust that just took a little longer to reveal himself.

Jimmy Clausen: 2010 Draft, no.6 overall, **LA Knights** – With **Kurt Warner** nearing his forties, the Knights selected Clausen as his heir, partly because he was considered another “can’t miss”-type and partly because he was comparable to Warner in many ways – in theory at least. Clausen sat on the bench for most of his rookie year, but was called upon to start against Florida. That was unfortunate as the powerhouse Dragons ate the rookie for lunch. There must have been multiple red flags off the field as well, because **Jeff Dohrn** cut him at the end of the season and no other team picked him up. He is now bootlegging liquor somewhere in Indiana.

Brian Brohm: 2008 Draft, no.19 overall, **Durham Thunder Lizards** – Brohm was the second big swing-and-a-miss for a Lizards’ management already looking to replace their original franchise quarterback of 2007, **Philip Rivers**. It is unclear what attracted the scouting community to Brohm and caused him to be projected as a “franchise QB” to go as high as no.11 overall – a lot of prospects have “prototypical size” and a “big arm.” Brohm hung around for 3 seasons as a back-up, attempting a total of 38 passes in that time and not distinguishing himself in a positive way. He was cut in 2011 and is now a quarterback coach for Erieau.

Brady Quinn: 2007 Draft, no.23 overall, **Durham Thunder Lizards** – Tagged before the draft as a “franchise quarterback” and drawing favourable comparisons with **Tom Brady**, Quinn did not go in the first round of the inaugural EFL rookie draft as many had expected. However, he did not get past Durham in the 2nd round because he was considered too talented to pass up at that spot. The excitement soon wore off as Quinn showed little aptitude for success on the field. In two seasons as a back-up to Rivers, he attempted just 53 passes – hardly much of a sample size, but apparently enough to convince **George Kaldis** to cut him in 2009. Nobody else picked him up and, after a year in the Tex-Mex League, Quinn became a regular commentator on EFL Network Sirius XM.

JaMarcus Russell: 2007 Draft, no.2 overall, **Meadowlands Swamp Dogs** – Finally... the bust to end all busts! Before a single EFL game had been played, the Swampies were already letting their eyes wander away from **Ben Roethlisberger**, who was not coming off a particularly good year with Pittsburgh in the NFL’s final year of existence in 2006 before the EFL distribution draft. The praise showered on Russell in the lead-up to the draft is, in retrospect, profoundly embarrassing to many so-called professionals; for example, **Mel Kiper Jr.**, who compared him with **John Elway** and predicted he would be a top five quarterback within two years. Russell is a classic “Combine Pick” – in other words, his impressive physical attributes that allowed him to excel in college blinded scouts to character and work ethic issues that showed up immediately upon being drafted into the pros. He was a holdout through training camp and as a result saw very little action in his rookie season. His few appearances that year were a disaster – he threw 5 interceptions in just 32 pass attempts. Russell’s performance did not improve with the team’s new surroundings in Ringgold. He hardly saw the field in 2008 and was traded to Kutztown at the end of the season. He backed up **Tony Romo** in 2009 and actually started 3 games for the Golden Bears when Romo was injured. While his stats were not that bad, he lost all three games and it was obvious that he did not know what he was doing. He was cut that off-season and never saw a football field again.

JURY STILL OUT

These are the quarterbacks with “franchise QB” expectations or hopes who have yet to prove themselves worthy, or unworthy of such exalted status. If data over the previous 32 quarterbacks holds up, there is a 9% chance that any single one of these prospects will attain the level of a **Matt Ryan** or a **Russell Wilson**. Let’s see who has a lottery ticket....

Joe Burrow: 2020 Draft, no.1 overall, **Scarborough Blue Eagles** – Three-quarters into his rookie season, Burrow is meeting expectations in leading last year’s laughing stock Blue Eagles to a 6-6 record and keeping them in the playoff hunt. His presence on the field is inspirational and his play continues to be promising. Despite a couple of hiccups against Durham and Virden, where he looked like a raw rookie against two top-tier teams, there is no reason to believe Burrow will not continue to progress.

Tua Tagovailoa: 2020 Draft, no.5 overall, **Georgia Gladiators** – With **Big Ben** sidelined due to injury and **Devlin Hodges** a back-up at best, Tua is getting lots of chances in his rookie year to show what he can do. The reviews are mixed – more downs than ups. But considering the state of the team around him, the “ups” are tantalizing indeed. Unfortunately, Tua’s development is currently on hold as he recovers from a shoulder injury suffered in Week 12 against Budapest.

Justin Herbert: 2020 Draft, no.11 overall, **Las Vegas Assassins** – There was no consensus that Herbert should be considered a top quarterback in the 2020 draft, but those who liked him, liked him a lot. It appears that Assassins’ GM **Anthony Holguin** liked him a lot, because he spent his second pick in the first round on him with **Carson Wentz** still, nominally, the team’s “franchise quarterback.” No doubt Herbert will get a shot at some point, but until we know where and when the jury is not even deliberating.

Kyler Murray: 2019 Draft, no.3 overall, **Erieau Cadillac** – Disillusionment with **Matt Stafford** led the Cadillac to select the under-sized, but mobile, playmaking Murray at no.3 overall. He has enticing hints of **Russell Wilson** in his play, but is still trying to put everything together at the pro level. He played a situational role in his rookie year, appearing in 15 games with Stafford, but was unable to establish a rhythm. In his first year as the undisputed starter, Murray has been hot and cold, but his trajectory seems to be heading up.

Sam Darnold: 2018 Draft, no.2 overall, **Seattle Pilots** – Marketed as a potential “franchise QB” in a rich draft class, it was still a gamble for Seattle to take Darnold with the second overall pick. Concerns about ball security did not show up in limited action in his first two seasons, but in his first season as full-time starter, his 7 interceptions and 7 fumbles through 12 games are a negative to be weighed against otherwise solid technical play. He is a gamer, which is a good, provided he doesn’t turn into a riverboat gambler.



This week's frame-up photo features Durham quarterback, *Josh Allen*, whose five-TD game against Sebastian in Week Twelve showcased his dual-threat talent. Allen passed for 280 yards and 3 TDs and rushed for 2 more TDs against an overwhelmed Swordfish squad. Allen is still in the process of developing, but is one of the up-and-coming "new breed" of EFL quarterback.

Josh Allen: 2018 Draft, no.18 overall, *Durham Thunder Lizards* – It is not a coincidence that Durham drafted Allen in the same year that they turned over the starting quarterback duties to *Cam Newton*. Allen is comparable to Newton from a physical tool set perspective, but is far less polished than Newton was when the latter came into the league. The Lizards likely planned to keep Allen on the bench in his rookie season, but Newton played so poorly that Allen was pushed prematurely onto the field to show what he could do, which turned out not to be very much. Allen improved slightly in his second year, playing behind *Andy Dalton*, well enough that **George Kaldis** handed him the keys to a well-built, burgeoning powerhouse in 2020. Through 12 weeks, Allen has been up and down – a liability one week and an asset the next. The talent is unquestionably there, but he has yet to fully harness it.

Baker Mayfield: 2018 Draft, no.21 overall, *Budapest North Stars* – As would any team with *Tyrod Taylor* as its nominal starter, the Stars made quarterback one of their top priorities in the 2018 draft. The former Heisman Trophy winner was considered one of the most pro-ready prospects. Budapest did not let Baker slip into the second round, but unlike many 1st-round picks, decided to let him "mature" on the bench during his rookie season. When he saw the field as a starter in 2019, he impressed on his way to a 12-4 regular season finish. He did his part in the playoffs, but a quarter-final round exit at the hands of Cowtown cast a pall over young Baker's achievements. **Darrin Jones** got cold feet heading into 2020 and traded Mayfield to East Elmhurst for *Aaron Rodgers*. After playing behind *Ryan Fitzpatrick* to start the season, Mayfield took over the starting role in Week 8 against none other than Budapest. He started slowly, but has been red hot the past two weeks. The Baker story is not over and the Irish may have nabbed a gem.

Lamar Jackson: 2018 Draft, 2nd Round, **Los Angeles Knights** – Scouts were unified in recognizing that Jackson's special athletic ability would make him an impact player at the next level. Not all team talent scouts saw him as a quarterback, but the Knights drafted him with playing behind center in mind. Jackson watched *Andy Dalton* and *Josh McCown* from the bench in year one, but started to get meaningful reps in support of starter *Ryan Tannehill* the following year. Rushing was where Jackson excelled in 2019, but

his passing was below average. When the Knights were sold and moved to Cobb County, Jackson did not make the trip. He was traded to Buffalo, where he is now the focal point of the Derailers' push for the playoffs. Jackson is a dangerous runner and a maturing passer, but a mediocre start and a poor outing in Week 12 have forced a pause in anointing him a genuine "franchise quarterback."

BUT WHAT ABOUT...?

Some of you, no doubt, are wondering why I have not covered *Kirk Cousins* or *Dak Prescott* or *Jimmy Garoppolo* in this survey of "franchise quarterbacks." If I was doing a special report focusing on late round gems, or draft surprises, those three would certainly make an appearance. But my report is about perception versus reality going in the other direction. The hope that comes with every new draft class is made up as much by wishful thinking as it is by shrewd analysis. The more important the position, the more intense that hope becomes, thus the preoccupation every year with finding that rare "Franchise Quarterback" and the willingness, in some cases, to do whatever it takes to land one. But, as I have just demonstrated, the real-deal does not grow on trees and, for some teams, chasing the "franchise quarterback" is like searching for the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow.

Spats' advice to GMs everywhere: Take care of the fundamentals, do your homework and let the QB chips fall where they may.

THE WARDEN'S RULES

The Big House in Chino was the site of a tense, seesaw battle that saw the Convicts, wearing their new third uniforms, take the lead in the 4th quarter and hang on for a 31-28 upset of the Violators. The somewhat unexpected result means Chino still holds its position at the top of the West Division going into Week 13, a tie-breaker in front of the Cubs; while the setback for Virden could ultimately hurt their seeding position in the Pacific Conference.

This game was everything the Chino GM & Coach **Rob Nazar** promised it would be. 'The Warden,' as he is referred to inside the Convicts organization, went on a public relations offensive in the lead-up to this contest to promote his team's new "ultra-black" uniforms, which he claims are "much blacker" than those worn by the Assassins. To add another hook, he stated to the media more than once that he expected his team to win this game, and to do it "straight up," without the need of turnovers. While falling short of taking the ultimate brash step of "guaranteeing" a win, he left very little wiggle room to save face if the game had yielded a different outcome.

On the day before the game, after delivering his injury report, Nazar proclaimed to the gathered press, "I have no doubt that we will win this game and we'll win it without a bunch of lucky bounces going our way. I mean, it would be nice to have those bounces, but we won't need them. We're planning to win this thing straight up." Then he added, to muted chuckles in the Zoom Room, "Here at the Big House, we know how to handle violators."

Many long-time observers of coach Nazar, including myself, were slightly taken aback by his cocksure display. The "Warden" was known to be caustic in defeat and gloating in victory post-game, but I could not remember a time, outside of the occasional pre-game barb that he would toss at his bitter rival on the Cubs, that he poked the bear like this *before* a game, especially a grizzly like Virden. **Lance Barrate's** crew was more than capable of executing the Convicts without appeal. This bold stance could easily backfire on Nazar's reputation as well as his team. Feeding the Violators bulletin board material did not seem to be all that smart.

But it would appear that Nazar had a few tricks up his sleeve to make him confident of victory. The Violators are appealing to the league about excessively invasive COVID-19 tests administered by Convict medical staff prior to the game that they claim disrupted pre-game preparations and kept the roster status of **Patrick Mahomes** in doubt up to 30 minutes before kickoff. At least four tests were administered for each Violator player, one for each orifice of the body, and Mahomes was compelled to endure 12 such tests after results of the first four came back positive.

"Totally outrageous!" an angry **Lance Barrate** fumed via Zoom in the post-game interview. "Maybe even criminal – our lawyers are looking at it as I speak."

'The Warden' unabashedly defended the unprecedented testing measures put in place before the game: "We act solely on the advice of medical professionals," Nazar stated flatly. "Due to a recent COVID-19 outbreak among the prisoners, the head of Prisoner Care here at the Big House mandated that visiting players undergo the same tests we administer to the prisoners. Apparently, the virus hides in areas of the body we were not aware of. I understand that two of the tests administered as part of the regimen are uncomfortable and one is quite painful. That is unfortunate, but we are not going to apologize for putting safety first."

In the end, no Virden players were ruled out due to COVID-19, but the humiliation of the testing process is being blamed by fans for the Violators' uncharacteristically effeminate tackling efforts that opened up space for a 229-yard, three-touchdown performance by **Christian McCaffrey** and a 73-48 snap advantage for Chino.

Violators' beat reporter, **Marquis de Sade**, writing for the *Virden Eviscerator*, thinks the Convicts got away with something far more egregious, however. "*The attempt to break the enemy through torture, mildly physical and powerfully psychological, is no surprise, but that can and should be overcome by a strong mental resilience one would expect an EFL player to possess,*" he writes. "*The invasive COVID tests are not what they appear. They are a clever distraction from the real scandal, which was the replacement of the referees with prison officials.*"

Un-commented on during the broadcast by play-by-play announcer, **Tom McCarthery** and game analyst **Rich Cannon**, but obvious on tape is an exceptionally muscular **Tony Corrente** with long scraggly hair and an unkempt goatee calling the penalties, or more aptly, *not* calling penalties that clearly should have been called against the Convicts at key moments in the game. Whoever was wearing Corrente's uniform was clearly not Corrente, nor were any of the officials on the field who their uniforms said they were.

It is now emerging, post-game, that the real Corrente and his entire crew tested positive for COVID-19 at the prison hospital and were incarcerated immediately prior to the game. They were replaced at the last minute by "local officials," who are actually referees and

linesmen in the California prison league. These “officials” donned the uniforms of the regular EFL crew and took the field anonymously. It turns out that “Corrente” was impersonated by senior prison referee, **Freddy “Triggerman” Falasco**, a former mob contract killer and part-time Vegas bookie serving a life sentence for a series of murders committed for crime kingpin, **Festo “Babyface” Pollio**.

Falasco called 11 penalties on the Violators while he called only 2 against the Convicts. But the calls that were *not* made have Virден fans and many observers more incensed. With the Convicts clinging to a 3-point lead and Virден with possession at their own 49, Mahomes threw back-to-back darts to **John Brown** at the sideline, but the Virден wide-out was full-out mugged by corner **Gareon Conley**, who threw a bear hug on him on the first pass then pushed him out of bounds before attempting an interception on the second. **Lance Barrate** threw the red challenge flag on both plays, but twice “Referee” Falasco handed it back to the Virден coach, the second time with a warning that he would lose his arm if he threw it again.

The EFL is currently investigating the situation, but they are not expected to reverse the result of the game or seriously sanction Chino. We’ve been down similar roads before with the Convicts’ organization and every time they come out unscathed. The reality is that the Chino win is good for a league that sees its cherished “parity” threatened by the domination of teams like Virден and Cobb County, even as the emergence of Mahomes as a star is also good for league revenue. Sadly, the controversy over-shadowed another great outing by Chino running back, **Christian McCaffrey**, who has to be considered for Offensive MVP if he continues this pace.

AROUND THE EFL – ERUDITE OBSERVATIONS AND LEARNING POINTS

My ‘Special Report’ on the league’s many franchise quarterbacks over the years has taken up more than its fair share of space this week. This means less room to devote to the Week 12 outcomes. No big loss there, as there were not many cliff-hangers this week.

↪ At Optimist Park in Brooklin, Hawks’ fans are no longer so optimistic after the Irish took down their heroes, 28-25. **Baker Mayfield** picked up where he left off against Buffalo last week by firing a missile to **Tyreek Hill** that went for 68 yards and a touchdown to cap off the Irish’s first possession. That set a worrying tone for the home team. The Mayfield-to-Hill combo was good for 141 yards and three touchdowns in targeting **Jonathan Jones**, Brooklin’s best corner; while **Latavius Murray** and **Joshua Kelley** (you are forgiven if you do not know who they are) combined for 105 yards on the ground. This was a game Hawks fans had counted in the ‘win’ column when calculating their chance of catching Budapest after their big Week 10 win. That task just got much tougher.

↪ At New Era Field in Buffalo, the Bombers again did not look like the better team, but somehow found a way to win, topping the Derailers 29-20. The Bombers got a couple of big plays from their wide receivers and feasted on 12 Buffalo penalties to overcome a statistical mismatch. Buffalo racked up 29 first downs and dominated the time of possession 41:00 to 19:00, but in the end just could not get the ball into the end zone enough. Early in the game, with the score tied at 7 and facing 4th & goal at the 2, the Derailers opted to try and punch the ball into the end zone, but **Lamar Jackson** was stuffed for a loss. The foregone field goal was not the difference in the game statistically, but it pumped up the Bombers’ morale as it deflated the Derailers. Call it the psychological turning point. The win puts the Bombers in the driver’s seat for the first wildcard berth and keeps them technically in the hunt for the East Division title.

↪ A turnover on downs, two regular turnovers and the punt return prowess of **Nyheim Hines** led to short fields for the Cadillac offence, which they needed on this day to hang up 19 points against the steady York defence and prevail 26-14. The average length of an offensive scoring drive for the Caddies was 29.8 yards. The longest came mid-way in the 3rd quarter and measured 57 yards, setting up the third of four **Austin Seibert** field goals. Neither **Tom Brady** nor **Kyler Murray** passed the ball with authority, both completing less than 50% of their pass attempts and throwing 2 picks each to finish with game-day QB ratings under 40. But Murray was able to convert 4 first downs using his legs and his two picks were slightly less costly. Erieau sneaks into the playoff picture with this win and figures prominently as the next in line for a wildcard berth after Durham and Brooklin. I can’t say I saw it coming; or that I want to see it now that it’s here. Nothing will drive down the TV playoff ratings like an appearance by the Cadillac in the post-season.

↪ At The Wolverine’s Den, temporary home of the Blue Eagles, Cowtown exacted some revenge for their opening day loss with a convincing 24-7 over Scarborough. This was a pivotal game for both squads and with the win the Corn Kings continue to enjoy the slimmest of leads in the North Division over Durham, while Scarborough sinks below Erieau in the wildcard race. As important as the game was, it was not that fun to watch. In a steady rain, neither offence looked like it wanted to score, so the Corn Kings defence stole the honours when **Carlton Davis** punched the ball out of the arms of **Trevor Davis** on the end-around and **TJ Watt** scooped it up and returned it 91 yards for the game’s first score. That blow had the Blue Eagles teetering, but Cowtown’s final drive of the first half seemed to suck the wind out of them completely. **Jimmy Garoppolo** hit **Kendrick Bourne** on a medium slant for an 18-yard gain on 3rd & 18 then later, on 3rd & 16, **Adam Humphries** beat great coverage by **Cameron Dantzler** to take a medium fly 33 yards to the house for a 14-0 Cowtown lead. From then on, it was simply a matter of defensive dominance by the Corn Kings while the offence played a smart field position game, adding 10 more points along the way. The win came at a cost, however. **Mike Evans** stubbed his toe, quite badly, and had to leave the game early in the 2nd quarter. He will miss three weeks of his team’s most challenging stretch.

↪ At Joe Ferguson Stadium in Iowa City, the Cubs’ 35-31 win over the Triumph was as back and forth as a game can be. After the Triumph broke serve by stopping the Cubs on 4th & 4 at their 45 on the game’s opening drive, they kicked off the scoring with a **Mitch Trubisky** touchdown pass to **DJ Moore**, beginning the see-saw battle that saw the lead change hands 8 times over the course of ten scoring drives, five by each team. This contest can be summed up with the following figures: Triumph – 5 trips inside the red zone, 4 TDs and 1 FG; Cubs – 5 trips into the red zone, 5 TDs. The game was just as clean and neat as the tidy summary above: 4 penalties in all (3 for the Triumph, 1 for the Cubs) and no turnovers; which meant that the little executable things ended up making a big difference. The Triumph defence was sloppier (11 missed tackles, to 6 for the Cubs) and the offence was a little less efficient on 3rd downs, although 8 of 14 is more than respectable. In the end, the better team won, but not for lack of effort or tactics by the loser. **Russell Wilson** simply showed us who he is at the critical time which, in Russell World, is the final or penultimate drive of the game.

∩ At Patriot Place in Charleswood, **DeShaun Watson** flashed MVP talent with a career-high, five-touchdown pass performance against a tough defence in his team's 45-25 pasting of the Assassins. Watson surprised many by throwing for over 300 yards and completing almost 70% of his pass attempts without the benefit of **Alvin Kamara** supporting him in the backfield. The Vegas defence, for the most part, had a good game plan to deal with the potentially dangerous, but often creaky Charleswood offence. But Watson just flat out beat them...mostly. **Darius Leonard** continued his MVP-calibre season on the defensive side of the ball with a pick-six of Watson in the 2nd quarter. But despite that setback and the Pats' predictable, vanilla offensive game plan, Watson got the job done by simply making the throws he needed to make, and making them to the right people, such as second-year wide-out **DK Metcalf**, who posted a career day with 8 catches, 160 yards and 2 TDs, including a 73-yard catch-and-run for the longest reception of his young career. On the other side, this loss suddenly appears attractive to Assassins' fans, who, having given up on this season, will be looking for their team to solve a quarterback problem they did not think they had going into the season. **Carson Wentz's** gambling instinct got the better of him in this game, as he made two poor decisions resulting in interceptions deep in his own territory, setting up two Charleswood touchdowns. This outing was another downer in a steady slide into the quarterback gutter this year for Wentz, who has "back-up of the future" written all over him. It is very likely too late to take a dive down to no.1 overall, but there are some other attractive options at the QB position for Vegas in the upcoming draft who they could get early dibs at.

∩ After a poor outing against Vegas last week, the **Aaron Rodgers**-led Budapest offence started slowly, like a coal-powered locomotive, but picked up steam as the game progressed to post 26 points and lend its signature to a complete, 26-7 victory over the Glads at Georgia Stadium. The Stars controlled the time of possession by a wide margin, with their defence holding the Glads to single touchdown while forcing 3 turnovers and 7 punts. **Tua Tagovailoa** was pretty much mastered by the Budapest defence, although he did make a nice throw to **Jarvis Landry** for their only touchdown of the game. Tua was put out of his gridiron misery by a **Calais Campbell** hit in the 4th quarter and will miss at least 2 weeks. **Devlin Hodges** took over and played as if he just wanted the game to end and to keep his head on his shoulders. With Hodges now starting, the Glads are now officially playing out the string and will not pose much of a challenge to opponents over the coming four weeks.

∩ At Jurassic Park in Durham, the Thunder Lizards savaged the Swordfish and their young QB by the grotesque score of 51-10. This game turned out worse than even I thought it would for the visitors. Swordfish QB, **Dwayne Haskins**, starting place of an injured **Drew Brees**, looked as out of place on the same football field with the Thunder Lizards as an actual swordfish might have looked if you had strapped a helmet on its nose, like Flipper, and dumped it out of its tank at the 50-yard line. He flopped around like a fish out of water in and out of the pocket, unsure of his surroundings at most times and certainly colour blind when it came to selecting targets for his hurried, errant passes. Haskins finished the day 9 of 21 for 49 yards, 3 interceptions – one going back for a pick-six – and no touchdowns. As a team, the Fish made just 3 1st downs and 96 yards all game. There was not much even **Russ Lemmon** could do to make it worse. His weekly 4th down gamble at his team's own 34-yard line failed, leading to an easy Durham touchdown to make it 30-0. At that point, who really cares, unless one is sensitive about losing by 31, instead of 41-points.

∩ **Sam Darnold** was sacked 6 times, 3 of those by **Chris Jones**, while his opponent, **Kirk Cousins** played game-manager to running back **Aaron Jones**, who posted 140 yards from scrimmage and 2 TDs, in a 34-10 Crusader victory over Seattle at True North Field. The Peg City defence is clearly a much different beast when Jones is playing. The Crusaders' offence, despite losing **Saquon Barkley** in the first quarter, regained its form with a balanced attack that had the Pilots guessing and which eventually ground them down.

∩ At Stone Pony Shore in New Jersey, the Wrecking Balls got off to good start but, as expected, were unable to hang on against the powerful Coyote attack as Cobb County improved their league-leading record to 11-1 with a 37-27 victory. **Ryan Tannehill** continued his MVP-calibre season with yet another 100+ game-day QB rating in this contest, his 11th such game in 12 starts this season. The Balls have given up a total of 211 points in the 2nd half of games this year, 42 more than the next lousy runner-up.

∩ And, finally, in front of an exclusive invitation-only coterie of 300 fans at Thermopylae Stadium in Pickering, the Mustangs got off to a quick start, let up in the middle then finished strong to knock off the Spartans as expected, 34-14. One has to hand it to the Gus Konstantakos' squad – they played Aurora tough, holding them to just 3 of 13 on 3rd down and forcing them to gamble on 4th down more often than prudent. Of course, in the end Aurora made those 4th downs and finished strong, with 17-points in the 4th quarter.

PLAYOFF PROGNOSIS

As the playoff races heat up, it appears that most of the drama will come from the West, where Chino currently holds the tie-breaker over Iowa with a better record in common games. This race will likely be settled in Week 15 when, barring another draw, the head-to-head tie-breaker will be determined. Another neck-and-neck battle is raging in the North Division, where Cowtown presently has the edge over Durham due to their win in Week Two. But the Corn Kings are heading into a tough stretch without their star wide receiver, **Mike Evans**. It was a good run for Cowtown while it lasted, but they are about find out who they really are starting in Week 13 in Budapest. In the Coastal, the illusion of a fight for the division between Budapest and Brooklin is on the verge of being dispelled. The Hawks teasingly have a lock on the tie-breaker, but realistically need to run the table and hope for help from at least two teams. In the South, the Mustangs can see the Cadillac in their rear view mirror but the chance that they will be caught is slim. It would mean the Caddies finding a gear they've never had before and a Mustangs' collapse that will not happen. Neither Cobb County nor Virden have clinched their respective divisions yet, but it would take a brutal choke by both down the stretch and some inspired play from their rivals to prevent the inevitable. The wildcard races in both conferences are not close to being decided yet. They promise to be interesting if you enjoy lightweights fighting it out for a chance to be sacrificed in the quarter final round. They will fight hard anyway, as getting into the post-season tournament does give a team a shot at the big prize, however remote it might be.

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79-61-4

PLAYOFF PICTURE AT A GLANCE

PACIFIC CONFERENCE								
EAST			CENTRAL			WEST		
IN	ALIVE	OUT	IN	ALIVE	OUT	IN	ALIVE	OUT
1 W	2		2	1 		3 W	3 4	
ATLANTIC CONFERENCE								
NORTH			COASTAL			SOUTH		
IN	ALIVE	OUT	IN	ALIVE	OUT	IN	ALIVE	OUT
3 W	2 4		1 W	3 6		2	1 5	

Jimmy's WEEK THIRTEEN PICKS

GAMES TO WATCH

PEG CITY @ BUFFALO (line – CRUSADERS by 2)

INJURIES: Peg City – Saquon Barkley (OUT), Mike Hughes (OUT), Von Miller (OUT); Buffalo – Quinton Dunbar (PROBABLE), Johnathan Joseph (QUESTIONABLE), Tevin Coleman (DOUBTFUL), Demaryius Thomas (OUT), Riley Ridley (OUT), Jonathan Abram (IR).

With their respective divisions all but wrapped up, the only realistic hope for either of these teams is to sneak into a wildcard spot. At the moment, both are on the outside looking in, but they are no.1-2 in runner-up seeding, with Peg City currently owning the tie-breaker due to a better conference record. While neither team can be eliminated here, this game (barring a tie) will decide which team conclusively owns the tie-breaker over the other in case of a head-to-head clash in the standings. To say it is critical is an understatement. Peg City re-established itself as a team to be concerned about after playing the Pilots last week. It was a strong game for them on both sides of the ball and it alleviated concerns that had been growing over a 1-4 stretch the previous five weeks. They come in with a pair of significant injuries, however. Saquon Barkley is 'OUT' and, while he has been playing second fiddle to Aaron Jones this year, he is a potential scoring threat that opposing defences must respect when he is in the game. Von Miller is also 'OUT' which means a reduced ability to overload one side in the pass rush as well as to contain Lamar Jackson. The Derailers will be relying on Jackson to keep the Crusaders

off balance on defence, as Marlon Humphrey is likely to take away a portion of the threat posed by Robert Woods. But Jackson is beginning to show a bit of wear on his tread lately. A one-dimensional Buffalo offence is unlikely to succeed. **PICK: PEG CITY**

COWTOWN @ BUDAPEST (line – NORTH STARS by 4)

INJURIES: **Cowtown** – Alex Cappa (OUT), Mike Evans (OUT); **Budapest** – Sammy Watkins (PROBABLE), Justin Britt (OUT), Benardrick McKinney (OUT).

The outcome here could have future implications in playoff seeding if the Corn Kings can maintain their slimmest of edges over Durham in the race for the North Division title. The North Stars have some breathing room in the Coastal after Brooklin failed to keep pace last week, but they are far from comfortable as they cannot afford a tie record with the Hawks. This match-up features the league's top two defences – with Cowtown ranking no.1 on efficiency and the Stars ranking no.1 in the all-important points allowed category. There is no tougher defence in preventing red zone touchdowns than that of Budapest and none stingier on third down. Let's face it; the North Stars are loaded with stars (pun intended) on the defensive side of the ball and they are itching for a shot at Jimmy Garoppolo without a top-tier wide receiver at his disposal. With Mike Evans 'OUT,' the Corn Kings will struggle to move the ball and will be relying on their defence to give them opportunities. Aaron Rodgers may not be tearing it up these days, but his ball security will figure importantly into what will likely be a drawn-out field position battle, with the Stars' defence having the final say. **PICK: BUDAPEST**

BROOKLIN @ SCARBOROUGH (line – HAWKS by 2)

INJURIES: **Brooklin** – Boston Scott (QUESTIONABLE), Pernelle McPhee (OUT), DeShon Elliott (IR), Evan Engram (IR), Alshon Jeffery (IR); **Scarborough** – Pierre DESIR (OUT), Troy Hill (OUT), DeSean Jackson (OUT), Drew Lock (OUT), Greg Ward (OUT), TJ Yeldon (IR).

The Hawks let one get away from them last week and they know it. How it will affect the team's mindset heading into this all-important tilt against a definite wildcard rival is a big question in assessing this game's likely outcome. The Blue Eagles are also down after laying an egg against Cowtown. Joe Burrow was pulled in that game due to ineffectiveness, but his replacement, Drew Lock, went down 3 plays later. There will be nobody to relieve Burrow this week if he falters, which unfortunately for Scarborough seems to be more often than not over the past five weeks. Brooklin needs to win-out if they still have designs on a division title, but more realistically need to secure the tie-breaker over one of the stronger challengers for a wildcard. Although not as strong offensively, the Blue Eagles are the more balanced team, with an underrated but steady defence keeping them competitive against good offences, like the one they will be facing here. Brooklin's gaggle of misfits on defence have somehow managed to keep opposing offences from laying many telling blows, ranking 3rd in the league in "yards-per-point" at 17.44. It is a tough call, but I am going with the experience at QB. **PICK: BROOKLIN**

GAMES OF NOTE

IOWA CITY @ SEATTLE (line – CUBS by 2)

INJURIES: **Iowa City** – Will Dissly (QUESTIONABLE), Blake Cashman (OUT), Jason Pierre-Paul (OUT); **Seattle** – Bobby Massie (DOUBTFUL), Myles Jack (OUT), Kareem Jackson (OUT), Kareem Hunt (IR).

The Cubs did not get the help they expected from Virden last week and remain a tie-breaker behind Chino for top spot in the West after a closer-than-expected win over Twin Cities. Meanwhile, the Pilots appear to be entering their usual late season swoon if last week's blowout loss to the Crusaders is any indication. It is coming later than usual this year, but the Pilots have played hard to remain competitive and the cumulative effect of pushing it to 110% every game is bound to take its toll eventually. But unlike past seasons, Seattle remains in the hunt for a post-season berth, even if it is only a dark horse's chance. Do they have enough left in the tank to dig deep and make a stand? It is now or never or Seattle, which means no 'gimme' for the Cubs here. But the reality for the Pilots is that they are ill-equipped to contain Joe Mixon and Russell Wilson at the same time while the Cubs can take something away from Seattle and not risk getting beaten by the other. Expect a tough fight, but Wilson to make sure of the right outcome. **PICK: IOWA CITY**

CHINO @ LAS VEGAS (line – CONVICTS by 1)

INJURIES: **Chino** – Matt Skura (PROBABLE), Kelvin Beachum (QUESTIONABLE), Kawann Short (IR). **Las Vegas** – Adoree' Jackson (PROBABLE), Jerry Jeudy (PROBABLE), Greg Van Roten (OUT).

The Convicts can eliminate the Assassins once and for all with a win, but taking Vegas out of the playoff picture is not their priority. With the quest for the West looking increasingly like a war of attrition, a wild card berth from this division is looking less likely. Therefore, Chino cannot afford to miss a game from here on, to ensure they stay in front of their real competition, the Cubs. Vegas needs to run the table and hope for help in order to stay in the playoff hunt, a mathematical unlikelihood that looks even more remote when one takes a close look at their crazy quarterback situation. Carson Wentz was benched mid-game for the sixth time this year in Vegas' loss to

Charleswood last week. While Wentz's troubles are well-documented, the alarming failure of the defence to stop a Kamara-less Pats offence has fans worried that the whole shebang is about to collapse. It probably is. But the problem for Chino if it is, is that a loose Assassins squad might unleash the rookie wildcard Justin Herbert on them, then all bets are off. **PICK: LAS VEGAS**

YORK @ SEBASTIAN (line – EXCALIBURS by 1)

INJURIES: York – Zach Ertz (PROBABLE), Corey Davis (QUESTIONABLE), Josh Kline (OUT), Brandon Scherff (OUT); Sebastian – Drew Brees (OUT), Chase Edmonds (OUT), Jalen Reagor (OUT), Golden Tate (OUT), Damien Williams (OUT).

This clash between the second-tier runners-up for a wildcard berth promises few fireworks with Dwayne Haskins slated to make his fourth consecutive start in place of the injured Drew Brees. This does not mean that York is home free for the win here, given Tom Brady's struggles the past two weeks. Brady should bounce back against the slumping Swordfish, who are missing several pieces on offence in addition to Brees and are bound to require the services of Jordan Berry frequently, provided suicidal 4th down attempts are off the table for Sebastian this week. Brady may or may not deliver the clinching blow, but as long as he doesn't turn the ball over like he did last week, the balance of play favours York due to the mis-match between their 4th-ranked defence and the Sebastian back-up. Jonathan Taylor, a bit of a disappointment so far, needs to step up and show his workhorse credentials to give the Swordfish offence any hope at all. Against a good run defence that surrenders a meagre 3.8 yards-per-carry, this is a far-fetched possibility. **PICK: YORK**

HOLIDAY LEFTOVERS

EAST ELMHURST @ AURORA (line – MUSTANGS by 10)

INJURIES: East Elmhurst – Nelson Agholor (OUT), Taco Charlton (OUT), Adam Thielen (IR), CJ Anderson (IR); Aurora – Marcus Davenport (QUESTIONABLE), Adrian Phillips (DOUBTFUL), Timmy Jernigan (OUT), Patrick Peterson (OUT).

The Irish are riding a bit of a hot streak, having won two in a row after dropping a close one to Scarborough in one of the more exciting games of the year. The secret to their success has been simply Baker Mayfield, who has battled losses at wide receiver to pass for 576 yards and 6 TD passes in the last two games. With Nelson Agholor joining Adam Thielen on the injury list, however, it is hard to picture him causing much damage to the Mustangs' secondary, even one missing Patrick Peterson. Nor do I see the run game taking the heat off the Aurora pass rush, even if Marcus Davenport is unable to play. The Mustangs are coming off another win over a weak opponent, one in which they converted four 4th downs that, against a better team, they might not have even attempted. Aurora has had to work hard to score 30 points in games this year, something they did in their sleep for most of the last 6 years. They are unlikely to lose a game at home to the likes of East Elmhurst, but they could easily find themselves in more of a game than they bargained for. **PICK: AURORA**

BRUXELLES @ TWIN CITIES (line – BOMBERS by 5)

INJURIES: Bruxelles – Dede Westbrook (PROBABLE), Kerryon Johnson (OUT), Fabien Moreau (OUT), Isaiah Wynn (OUT); Twin Cities – Bradley Roby (OUT), Antonio Brown (COVID-19).

The idea of a Bombers-Triumph match-up being in the leftovers pile just doesn't feel right, but that is where this game belongs with the Triumph of 2020 setting a new low standard for the franchise. But last week's slugfest and last-minute loss to the Cubs could be a sign that Twin Cities is picking itself up off the mat just in time to ruin their shot at the Trevor Lawrence Sweepstakes. If, against probability, the Triumph are gelling at the wrong time, they could make things difficult for a Bruxelles team that is not looking quite as solid as their record. Mitch Trubisky looked like a real starter last week, throwing 3 TD passes, and the running game was efficient. The Bombers hit on some big plays to save their bacon against the Derailers last week and there are indications that Leonard Fournette is wearing down after carrying the team in the first half of the season. Jared Goff is more efficient the fewer passes he attempts, so Fournette remains a big piece of the game plan. Look for the Triumph to take Fournette out and challenge Goff to beat them. **PICK: TWIN CITIES**

NEW JERSEY @ VIRDEN (line – VIOLATORS by 16)

INJURIES: New Jersey – Deebo Samuel (QUESTIONABLE), Robert Quinn (OUT), Delanie Walker (OUT); Virden – Weston Richburg (DOUBTFUL), Eric Ebron (OUT), Nasir Adderley (IR), Derrius Guice (IR).

The Wrecking Balls held up respectably well against the league's top team last week, but apparently not well enough to convince the Vegas oddsmakers or the public to give them another single digit spread to beat. Although they are coming off an unforeseen loss to Chino, the Violators remain the best team in the eyes of many; or at least the most talented and dangerous. Virden can clinch the Coastal early with a win here and a Peg City loss. The win should be no problem against the league's biggest basket case, but the line is large enough to give pause to those who recall the team flipping on the auto-pilot and losing to Seattle in Week Five. For all their problems New Jersey has had to address this season, lack of effort is not one of them. In fact, they may even try too hard. With Matt Stafford back under center, New Jersey has a trigger man capable of piling up garbage points against a coasting powerhouse. **PICK: NEW JERSEY**

DURHAM @ PICKERING (line – THUNDER LIZARDS by 6)

INJURIES: Durham – Isaiah Johnson (IR); Pickering – Darqueze Dennard (DOUBTFUL), Jeff Heath (DOUBTFUL), Derek Wolfe (DOUBTFUL), Karl Joseph (OUT), Damarious Randall (OUT), Nathan Shepherd (OUT), Sterling Shepard (IR), Malik Jackson (IR).

The Thunder Lizards dominated the Swordfish last week so totally that they may have done themselves a disservice by planting a false collective muscle memory of what real competition feels like. The Spartans, on the other hand, have a franchise memory of winning, despite a failing bottom line this year, and compete hard every week. Durham must be ready for a team that will come at them hard with everything they have, even if they don't have much. The Spartans will be hard pressed to stay in this one for long, however. Unless the Lizards do something to themselves, there is not much Pickering can do to them, especially with so many injuries. This game represents a chance for Durham to steal a march on Cowtown in the race for the North. They won't blow it. **PICK: DURHAM**

ERIEAU @ GEORGIA (line – CADILLAC by 4)

INJURIES: Erieau – Trevon Diggs (PROBABLE), Graham Glasgow (DOUBTFUL), Rhett Ellison (OUT), Hunter Henry (OUT), LeSean McCoy (OUT), Jabrill Peppers (OUT), Joe Staley (IR); Georgia – Andrew Wylie (QUESTIONABLE), Josh Jacobs (OUT), Tua Tagovailoa (OUT).

It is finally time to let go of presumptions about the Cadillac being no more than also-rans in the playoff race. Kyler Murray has changed the usual outlook for this team as it approaches the final stretch ranked 1st among the runners-up for a wildcard spot and trailing Aurora by just __ games. He has done this, not by being particularly good, but by being an intense competitor and elusive enough to keep alive drives that past Cadillac teams would have let die. Last week's game against York was not one of Murray's finest hours, yet the team still won. Against a Glads' team that boasts a tenacious, but barely-capable defence and is missing their top two offensive assets in Tua and Josh Jacobs, Murray will have lots of opportunities to improve his game while getting back on a respectable statistical track. Georgia will come to play, as they always do, but don't expect much from Devlin Hodges against this Erieau defence. **PICK: ERIEAU**

CHARLESWOOD @ COBB COUNTY (line – COYOTES by 15)

INJURIES: Charleswood – Alvin Kamara (QUESTIONABLE), Kendall Fuller (DOUBTFUL), Derrick Brown (OUT), Parris Campbell (OUT), Carl Lawson (OUT), Juju Smith-Schuster (OUT), Desmond Trufant (OUT), Laremy Tunsil (OUT), Devin Funchess (IR), CJ Mosley (IR); Cobb County – Greedy Williams (OUT).

The Patriots came to life last week against Vegas. This was as much as surprise as it was a warning not to take them lightly, even though they had spent most of the season encouraging people to do so. Without Alvin Kamara, DeShaun Watson was forced to take the team on his shoulders and he did so with remarkable success thanks in part to a career day by DK Metcalf and a gritty showing by JK Dobbins. Cobb County took care of New Jersey last week after taking an early punch in the gut. It was not the dominating win most expected, but it demonstrated that on an off-day the Coyotes can still get the job done with room to spare. This is a very large spread that the Coyotes of last week would not have covered against the Pats of last week. But this is a new week. **PICK: COBB COUNTY**



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This Week in EFL History
With Professor Sterling Smitherman

FROM THE EFL ARCHIVES – Week Twelve of the 2014 EFL season featured a classic overtime thriller between the Carthage Cannibals and the Chino Convicts. **Philip Rivers** earned Offensive Player of the Week accolades for his 441 yards passing and 4 TDs in leading his team to a 34-31 win. The game should have been over early, with Carthage hammering the Chino defence at the outset, but the stubborn Convicts rallied to tie the game and managed to take the lead with 4-minutes remaining in the 4th quarter. That's when **LeGarrette Blount** and Rivers teamed up to move Carthage 86 yards in 13 plays to force overtime with a TD

pass to **Jared Cook**. In the extra period, Blount ripped of an 18-yard run to set up **Steven Hauschka** for the 40-yard game-winning field goal. The loss was a blow to Chino's position in their race with the Banana Sluggs for the West Division crown.

Speaking of the Banana Sluggs, it was in Week 12 that the US Military announced that it had sold the Santa Clara franchise to retired Army Officer and Director of Dark Oceans Worldwide Services, **Neil Shannon**. The team, which had been under the auspices of the military since its "rescue" from Death Valley, would move to Beaufort County before the start of the 2015 season.

Fletcher Cox of the Cubs turned in the best defensive performance of Week 12, with 8 tackles and 3 sacks in Iowa's 29-10 victory over the still winless LA Knights. Any good performance that came against the Knights of 2014 was considered suspect, but whenever an interior defensive lineman bags the opposing QB 3 times in a game, it is worth noting regardless of the competition.

In a battle of division rivals, the Spartans maintained their lead in the North Division and dealt Markham a blow to their playoff hopes with a 33-30 win over the North Stars. **Josh Scobee** kicked the game-winner from 42 yards as time expired.