

WEEK 15



EFL

ELITE FOOTBALL LEAGUE



Blazing Through a Pandemic in our 14th Season!

January 24, 2021

JOSHIN' AROUND!



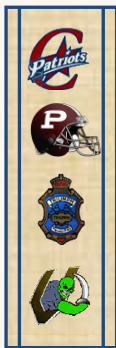
*Josh Allen
Durham Thunder Lizards*

Durham QB, *Josh Allen* crosses into the end zone while Cowtown safety *Jeremy Chinn* tries to punch the ball loose in 2nd quarter action in Durham. The mobile Lizard QB ran for 2 TD in a division-clinching 23-17 win over Cowtown.

EAST



CENTRAL



WEST



NORTH



COASTAL



SOUTH



*Who was slick
in Week
Fifteen?*

**“Brylcreem” THE
EFL’S FIRST SPONSOR**



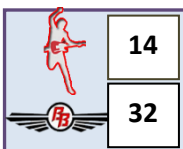
Anthony Miller
WR
Seattle
Pilots

12 Rec., 184 Yds., 9 1st Dn., Kept the chains moving in win over LV.



Anthony Walker
ILB
Erieau
Cadillac

10 T, 2 SK, 2 STF, FF. The only guy playing for the Caddies in loss to AUR.



14

32

Jared Goff passed for 191 yards and 2 TDs in the 1st half to help build a 19-0 lead against his former team. Goff had the NJ defence off balance, hitting on long passes to **Chris Godwin** for 22 and 37 yards and flipping it underneath to move the chains and find the end zone. The Wrecking Balls' offence finally woke up in the 2nd half when **Matt Stafford** capped a 54-yard series with a 21-yard TD pass to **Terry McLaurin**. But the Balls could not build on that score. **Matt Prater** missed 2 FGs in the 3rd to keep it close until Godwin broke the game open with an 82-yard screen for a TD in the 4th

01-23-2021 The Fortress Temp:77 Wind: Line:BRX by 11 MVP:Goff HFA:ON(

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2019 New Jersey (2-13)	0	0	7	7	14
2019 Bruxelles (11-4)	9	10	0	13	32

Scoring Summary

1 10:45	Bruxelles	FG Prater 41 (9-52-4:11)	0-3
1 4:46	Bruxelles	TD Goff 5 pass to Waller (no good) (8-72-3:26)	0-9
2 9:09	Bruxelles	FG Prater 56 (9-54-2:49)	0-12
2 1:21	Bruxelles	TD Goff 17 pass to Thompson (Prater) (12-67-6:51)	0-19
3 11:36	New Jersey	TD Stafford 21 pass to McLaurin (Boswell) (6-54-3:13)	7-19
4 14:36	Bruxelles	TD Goff 82 pass to Godwin (no good) (3-99-1:15)	7-25
4 10:18	Bruxelles	TD Kuechly 23 yd fumble recovery (Prater)	7-32
4 5:25	New Jersey	TD Stafford 19 pass to Cohen (Boswell) (9-75-4:53)	14-32

Passing

NJ: Stafford 49/31 358 Yds 2 TDs

BRX: Goff 42/22 378 Yds 3 TDs

Rushing

NJ: Stafford 2/6, Cohen 1/4, Montgomery 4/4, Hill 3/3

BRX: Fournette 8/28, Johnson 8/23, Williams 3/1

Receiving

NJ: Chark Jr. 10/139, Cohen 7/58 TD, McLaurin 5/75 TD, Samuel 5/59, Swaim 2/14

BRX: Kelce 7/91, Fournette 4/37, Thompson 4/60 TD, Godwin 3/141 TD, Waller 3/31 TD

Defense

NJ: Cunningham 12-Tk, Adams Sk 5-Tk, Landry III Sk 4-Tk

BRX: Smith 2-Sks FF 5-TK, Dupree 2-Sks 3-TK, Flowers Sk FF 2-Tk, Slay 10-Tk

Injuries

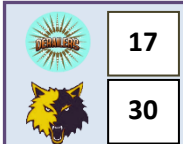
NJ:

BRX: Wynn 1

Misc

NJ: 13/107 Penalties, Spencer 2/101 KR

BRX:



17

30

A 34-yard fake punt pass by **Andy Lee** to **Noah Fant** kept Buffalo's opening drive alive but, in the end, they settled for a 52-yard **Jake Elliott** FG. The lead was erased on the Coyotes' next drive, with 38 yards rushing by **Adrian Peterson** setting up a 4-yard TD pass from **Ryan Tannehill** to **Julio Jones**. A punting duel followed until a Buffalo miss on 4th & 1 inside the red zone gave set up a FG drive going the other way to give Cobb County a 10-0 lead. The Coyotes pulled away in the 2nd half, scoring on their opening drive of the 3rd and taking advantage of risky Buffalo gambles on 4th down to pad their lead.

01-23-2021 Coyote Field Temp:71 Wind:Calm None Line:CB by 8 MVP:Tannehill HFA:ON(4)

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2019 Buffalo (8-7)	3	0	7	7	17
2019 Cobb County (14-1)	7	3	10	10	30

Scoring Summary

1 10:39	Buffalo	FG Elliott 52 (8-41-4:15)	3-0
1 6:36	Cobb County	TD Tannehill 4 pass to Jones (McManus) (8-75-4:03)	3-7
2 1:51	Cobb County	FG McManus 44 (11-55-5:39)	3-10
3 10:34	Cobb County	TD Mostert 23 run (McManus) (8-75-4:26)	3-17
3 7:08	Cobb County	FG McManus 33 (4--3-1:37)	3-20
3 3:25	Buffalo	TD Jackson 6 pass to Tate (Elliott,J) (2-6-0:12)	10-20
4 8:19	Cobb County	TD Tannehill 37 pass to Parker (McManus) (10-83-5:10)	10-27
4 5:23	Cobb County	FG McManus 45 (4--3-1:02)	10-30
4 2:28	Buffalo	TD Jackson 31 pass to Fant (Elliott,J) (5-75-2:55)	17-30

Passing

BUF: Jackson 31/17 104 Yds 2 TDs, Lee 1/1 34 Yds

CB: Tannehill 26/17 226 Yds 2 TDs, Bridgewater 3/1 11 Yds Int

Rushing

BUF: Jackson 10/55, Woods 2/26, Erickson 3/20, Johnson 5/6

CB: Peterson 23/67, Mostert 9/61 TD, Tannehill 2/5, Calais 3/1

Receiving

BUF: Tate 4/11 TD, Woods 4/14, Fant 4/79 TD, Erickson 3/12, Sanders 2/20, Schwartz 1/2

CB: Jones 5/54 TD, Parker 4/87 TD, Cooks 3/51, Peterson 2/17, Holtz 2/11, Cook 1/12

Defense

BUF: Mercilus Sk FF 3-TK, Dunbar Int 5-Tk, Hicks 10-Tk, Donald 10-Tk, Brown 9-Tk

CB: Jenkins 9-TK, White 8-TK

Injuries

BUF:

CB:

Misc

BUF: 78 Blitzers

CB:



The Violators scored on each of their five possessions, three of those TD passes by **Patrick Mahomes** to three different receivers, to take a 27-0 lead into halftime. On the other side, the Triumph went three-and-out on their first four series and did not gain a first down in the 1st half. The pace slowed down in the 2nd half, with the Violators sticking mostly to the ground but taking to the air on a short hitch to **Ezekiel Elliott** for Mahomes' 4th TD pass of the game. Twin Cities broke the shutout in the 4th when **Clyde Edwards-Helaire** broke a 29-yard and snared an 8-yard check down for a TD.

01-23-2021 Wilhalla Stadium Temp:70 Wind: Line:TCT by 6 MVP:Mahomes HFA:

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2019 Virren (13-2)	17	10	7	0	34
2019 Twin Cities (2-13)	0	0	0	6	6

Scoring Summary

1 9:42	Virren	FG Gonzalez 23 (11-61-4:51)	3-0
1 4:53	Virren	TD Mahomes 4 pass to Hockenson (Gonzalez) (7-69-3:19)	10-0
1 1:16	Virren	TD Mahomes 1 pass to Hamler (Gonzalez) (8-67-2:05)	17-0
2 9:13	Virren	TD Mahomes 16 pass to Cooper (Gonzalez) (9-61-5:47)	24-0
2 0:32	Virren	FG Gonzalez 31 (13-61-6:46)	27-0
3 1:18	Virren	TD Mahomes 7 pass to Elliott (Gonzalez) (11-64-6:44)	34-0
4 7:00	Twin Cities	TD Trubisky 8 pass to Edwards-Helaire (no good) (12-86-5:34)	34-6

Passing

VV: Mahomes 39/26 307 Yds 4 TDs
TCT: Trubisky 24/12 60 Yds TD

Rushing

VV: Elliott 24/116, Freeman 6/14, Mahomes 1/7
TCT: Edwards-Helaire 13/95, Trubisky 3/12, Gordon III 1/10, White 1/3

Receiving

VV: Cooper 7/96 TD, Elliott 5/49 TD, Brown 5/71, Hockenson 4/42 TD, Hamler 4/40 TD
TCT: White 5/13, Edwards-Helaire 3/15 TD, Golladay 2/24, Moore 1/2, Gordon III 1/6

Defense

VV: Collins Sr. 8-Tk
TCT: Thornhill 10-Tk, Wagner 9-Tk

Injuries

VV: Watson 3, Bradham 2, Johnson 2, Adderley 2, Guice 1
TCT: Brown 1, Savage 1

Misc

VV:
TCT: 11/78 Penalties



The Pats drove 99 yards in 11 plays on the game's opening drive to take the lead on a 19-yard TD pass from **DeShaun Watson** to **Zay Jones**. But the Charleswood offence went to sleep after that. The Crusaders stuck back on the ensuing possession, with **Aaron Jones** paving the way with 41 yards on the ground to set up a 4-yard TD run by **Duke Johnson** to tie. Peg City would stick to the run game to control the clock, finishing with 228 yards rushing on 45 carries, and slowly building up their lead on five **Harrison Butker** field goals while their defence played shut down the rest of the way.

01-23-2021 True North Field Temp:72 Wind: Line:PCC by 6 MVP:Jones HFA:

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2019 Charleswood (3-12)	7	0	2	0	9
2019 Peg City (8-7)	7	6	3	6	22

Scoring Summary

1 8:51	Charleswood	TD Watson 19 pass to Jones (Carlson) (11-99-6:04)	7-0
1 1:30	Peg City	TD Johnson 4 run (Butker) (11-75-7:21)	7-7
2 5:57	Peg City	FG Butker 34 (13-72-6:48)	7-10
2 0:07	Peg City	FG Butker 45 (4-30-0:38)	7-13
3 6:58	Peg City	FG Butker 35 (14-58-7:59)	7-16
3 4:27	Charleswood	Safety Hankins	9-16
4 13:23	Peg City	FG Butker 49 (9-46-4:18)	9-19
4 1:52	Peg City	FG Butker 33 (5-15-2:18)	9-22

Passing

CHP: Watson 40/20 174 Yds TD Int
PCC: Cousins 18/13 95 Yds

Rushing

CHP: Kamara 9/25, Watson 3/11
PCC: Jones 22/168, Johnson 19/63 TD

Receiving

CHP: Kamara 9/34, Jones 6/58 TD, Meyers 3/67, DeValve 1/6, Metcalf 1/9
PCC: Allen 4/35, Johnson 3/8, Higbee 2/15, Sutton 2/17, Aiyuk 2/20

Defense

CHP: Queen 10-Tk, Ferguson 9-Tk, Hankins Sk 3-Tk
PCC: Rapp Int FF 3-Tk, Maye 10-Tk

Injuries

CHP: Mosley 2
PCC:

Misc

CHP:
PCC:



A short field and a 4th & 5 convert at the 35 sparked the game's first TD, a 1-foot run by Cubs' **Joe Mixon**. But two big plays, a 68-yard catch-and-run by **Larry Fitzgerald** and a 49-yard screen to **Ronald Jones II**, were the catalysts setting up a pair of TD runs in a 17-point Chino outburst in the 2nd quarter. The Cubs rallied in the 2nd half, with two long completions and a 19-yard PI call leading to a quick Cubs' TD then, on their next series, **Russell Wilson** hitting **Cole Beasley** in stride for a 29-yard TD to take a 21-17 lead. The Cubs' defence did the rest in shutting out Chino the rest of the way.

01-23-2021 Joe Ferguson Stadium Temp:29 Wind:Calm None Line:ICC by 4 MVP:Wilson

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2019 Chino (8-6-1)	0	17	0	0	17
2019 Iowa City (10-4-1)	7	0	14	3	24

Scoring Summary

1 4:07 Iowa City	TD Mixon 1 run (Tucker,J) (13-51-7:21)	0-7
2 12:31 Chino	FG McLaughlin 28 (12-64-6:22)	3-7
2 4:52 Chino	TD McCaffrey 4 run (McLaughlin) (6-91-3:46)	10-7
2 1:52 Chino	TD Prescott 3 run (McLaughlin) (3-50-0:58)	17-7
3 12:53 Iowa City	TD Wilson 28 pass to Lockett (Tucker,J) (3-68-1:05)	17-14
3 7:25 Iowa City	TD Wilson 29 pass to Beasley (Tucker,J) (7-68-3:22)	17-21
4 2:19 Iowa City	FG Tucker 35 (14-66-7:50)	17-24

Passing

CHI: Prescott 34/17 245 Yds
ICC: Wilson 38/28 303 Yds 2 TDs

Rushing

CHI: McCaffrey 17/42 TD, Ingram II 4/10, Prescott 1/3 TD
ICC: Mixon 9/21 TD, Wilson 7/20

Receiving

CHI: McCaffrey 6/31, Jones Jr. 3/55, Olsen 3/23, Jones II 2/58, Fitzgerald 2/76
ICC: Lockett 7/95 TD, Mixon 5/40, Beasley 5/69 TD, Conner 4/20, Brown 3/47

Defense

CHI: Jarrett 2-Sks FF 4-Tk, Smith Sk 5-Tk, Carter Sk 4-Tk, Jackson 9-Tk
ICC: Littleton 8-Tk

Injuries

CHI: Byrd 3
ICC:

Misc

CHI:
ICC:



Sam Darnold was a perfect 4 of 4 on the game's final drive, putting **Josh Lambo** in position for the 48-yard game-winning FG as time expired. The kick salvaged a 533-yard effort by the Seattle offence and 429-yard passing day by Darnold that almost came undone by two giveaways and a special-teams breakdown that led to an 82-yard punt return for a TD by **Mecole Hardman**, tying the game at 27 with 2:21 left. With **Hunter Renfrow** out of the game, Darnold targeted **Anthony Miller** 21 times for 12 catches and 184 yards. The Seattle forced 6 punts and held the Vegas attack to 267 yards.

01-23-2021 Assassin's Den Temp:74 Wind: Line:LV by 3 MVP:Darnold HFA:ON(

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2019 Seattle (6-9)	7	10	7	6	30
2019 Las Vegas (5-10)	14	0	3	10	27

Scoring Summary

1 10:51 Las Vegas	TD Wentz 10 pass to Thomas (Fairbairn) (8-56-4:04)	0-7
1 5:57 Seattle	TD Mack 8 run (Lambo) (8-74-4:46)	7-7
1 4:37 Las Vegas	TD Cook 64 run (Fairbairn) (4-75-1:20)	7-14
2 14:27 Seattle	FG Lambo 29 (12-80-4:53)	10-14
2 0:05 Seattle	TD Darnold 1 run (Lambo) (12-78-2:16)	17-14
3 13:51 Las Vegas	FG Fairbairn 29 (4-7-0:58)	17-17
3 2:41 Seattle	TD Darnold 61 pass to Lamb (Lambo) (8-94-3:28)	24-17
4 12:20 Las Vegas	FG Fairbairn 21 (13-72-5:18)	24-20
4 4:58 Seattle	FG Lambo 23 (12-70-7:18)	27-20
4 2:21 Las Vegas	TD Hardman 82 punt return (Fairbairn)	27-27
4 0:00 Seattle	FG Lambo 48 (8-45-2:18)	30-27

Passing

SEA: Darnold 51/31 429 Yds TD Int
LV: Wentz 30/18 172 Yds TD

Rushing

SEA: Akers 19/66, Mack 5/42 TD, Brown 1/5, Darnold 3/2 TD
LV: Cook 15/103 TD

Receiving

SEA: Miller 12/184, Akers 5/50, Deguara 5/56, Lamb 4/96 TD, Mack 3/19, Moreau 2/24
LV: Pascal 7/77, Graham 4/40, Thomas 3/20 TD, Cook 2/12, Richardson Jr. 1/8

Defense

SEA: Thompson FF 7-Tk
LV: Anderson 17-Tk, Griffin 11-Tk, Williams Int 5-Tk, Ngakoue Sk FF 2-Tk, Lotulelei Sk

Injuries

SEA: Hunt 1, Mack 1
LV: Van Roten 1, Leonard 1, Witherspoon 1

Misc

SEA:
LV:



17



23

Durham corner **Kenny Moore II** picked off **Jimmy Garoppolo** and returned it to the Cowtown 14 to set up a **Josh Allen** scramble for a TD, giving Durham the early lead. It was an early pivot point. The Corn Kings went on to score on their next two series, with **Todd Gurley II** finishing off both drives with TD runs. But the Lizards tied it on a well-timed 12-yard draw to Allen before. Durham dodged a bullet when **Nick Chubb** fumbled to start the 3rd, but the Lizards recovered and went on kick a FG. From then, it was a field position battle that the Lizards won to stay in front and claim the win.

01-23-2021 Jurassic Park Temp:69 Wind:Calm Heavy Rain Line:DTL by 5 MVP:Allen HFA:ONC

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2019 Cowtown (9-6)	0	14	0	3	17
2019 Durham (11-4)	7	7	6	3	23

Scoring Summary

1 8:50 Durham	TD Allen 14 run (Pineiro) (1-14-0:13)	0-7
2 12:42 Cowtown	TD Gurley II 5 run (Slye) (12-96-4:44)	7-7
2 4:48 Cowtown	TD Gurley II 7 run (Slye) (10-74-5:07)	14-7
2 1:42 Durham	TD Allen 12 run (Pineiro) (7-53-2:55)	14-14
3 7:44 Durham	FG Pineiro 38 (13-61-5:24)	14-17
3 1:06 Durham	FG Pineiro 47 (10-55-5:24)	14-20
4 7:20 Cowtown	FG Slye 33 (7-33-3:41)	17-20
4 0:09 Durham	FG Pineiro 47 (7-15-2:35)	17-23

Passing

COW: Garoppolo 27/16 180 Yds Int
DTL: Allen 35/18 180 Yds

Rushing

COW: Gurley II 9/26 2 TDs, Boone 3/14, Washington 2/4, Garoppolo 3/4, Bell 2/2
DTL: Chubb 29/129, Allen 3/26 2 TDs, Gibson 2/4

Receiving

COW: Conley 4/47, Washington 3/30, Evans 3/65, Bell 2/8, Lazard 2/19, Gurley II 1/10
DTL: Kupp 4/46, Boyd 3/35, Hilton 3/29, Chubb 3/14, Knox 2/8, Gibson 1/31, Mattison 1/7

Defense

COW: Watt Sk FF 11-Tk
DTL: Oliver Sk 6-Tk, Moore II Int 4-Tk

Injuries

COW:
DTL: Johnson 1

Misc

COW: Harris 5/156 KR, 15 Missed Tackles
DTL:



23



20

A snap over the head of punter **Jordan Berry** recovered at the Sebastian 12 led to a check down 12-yard TD pass to **Eno Benjamin** for a 10-0 Scarborough lead. **Drew Brees** and **Joe Burrow** then traded TD passes before **Dan Bailey** capped off the 2nd quarter scoring with a 41-yard FG. The Blue Eagles drove to the Swordfish 3 to open the 2nd half but settled for 3 points. The Swordfish converted three 4th downs en route to a 61-yard TD drive but missed the two-point try to pull within 4. They finished the comeback late in the 4th with a 65-yard pass to **Jalen Reagor** for the winning TD.

01-23-2021 The Wolverine's Den Temp:30 Wind:Calm None Line:SBE by 4 MVP:Brees H

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2019 Sebastian (6-9)	0	10	0	13	23
2019 Scarborough (7-8)	10	7	3	0	20

Scoring Summary

1 3:21 Scarborough	FG Crosby 33 (11-56-6:13)	0-3
1 2:22 Scarborough	TD Burrow 12 pass to Benjamin (Crosby) (2-12-0:41)	0-10
2 12:37 Sebastian	TD Brees 9 pass to Shenault Jr. (Bailey,D) (9-75-4:45)	7-10
2 4:39 Scarborough	TD Burrow 14 pass to Robinson II (Crosby) (9-68-4:26)	7-17
2 0:55 Sebastian	FG Bailey 41 (8-48-3:33)	10-17
3 9:07 Scarborough	FG Crosby 21 (12-91-5:44)	10-20
4 10:34 Sebastian	TD Brees 10 pass to Witten (2 - failed) (17-61-8:41)	16-20
4 1:33 Sebastian	TD Brees 65 pass to Reagor (Bailey,D) (4-84-0:30)	23-20

Passing

SS: Brees 44/26 322 Yds 3 TDs
SBE: Burrow 38/24 271 Yds 2 TDs

Rushing

SS: Edmonds 9/23, Shenault Jr. 1/8, McFarland 6/5, Brees 2/2
SBE: Freeman 20/40, Burrow 5/19, Benjamin 3/11

Receiving

SS: Shenault Jr. 6/48 TD, Witten 6/55 TD, Reagor 6/129 TD, Boykin 4/44, Beckham Jr. 4/46
SBE: Freeman 7/72, Robinson II 5/56 TD, Eifert 5/76, Crowder 3/44, Benjamin 2/10 TD

Defense

SS: Baker 9-Tk
SBE: Thomas Sk FF 8-Tk, Ryan 8-Tk

Injuries

SS: Williams 1
SBE:

Misc

SS:
SBE:



0



23

A fumbled snap that gave Pickering the ball at the North Stars' 29-yard line opened up an early opportunity for the underdog Spartans. But a holding penalty stalled the drive and **Calais Campbell** blocked the FG attempt. The Spartans would not get close again. The league's top defence held Pickering in check and scored the game's first TD on a blocked punt recovered in the end zone by **Benardrick McKinney**. The Budapest offence began to click on the opening series in the 2nd half with the first of two **Aaron Rodgers** to **Stefon Diggs** TD passes in the 3rd quarter to win walking away.

01-23-2021 Ferenc-Liszt Intl Temp:51 Wind:0-5 None Line:BUD by 15 MVP:Rodgers HF

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2019 Pickering (3-12)	0	0	0	0	0
2019 Budapest (12-3)	3	7	13	0	23

Scoring Summary

1 7:13 Budapest	FG Myers 25 (10-70-5:48)	0-3
2 1:55 Budapest	TD McKinney blk punt ret -15 (Myers,J)	0-10
3 10:43 Budapest	TD Rodgers 29 pass to Diggs (no good) (8-75-4:17)	0-16
3 2:06 Budapest	TD Rodgers 18 pass to Diggs (Myers,J) (8-53-3:56)	0-23

Passing

PIC: Rivers 15/8 49 Yds
BUD: Rodgers 20/12 140 Yds 2 TDs

Rushing

PIC: Swift 19/72, Sanders 6/23, Hurts 3/8
BUD: Taylor 10/75, Howard 13/55, Dallas 4/22, Walton 3/12, Rodgers 4/11, Williams 3/3

Receiving

PIC: Sanders 3/19, Williams 3/26, Jackson 1/2, Seals-Jones 1/8, Swift 1/3
BUD: Kittle 4/33, Jefferson 3/28, Diggs 2/47 2 TDs, Williams 2/16, Watkins 1/16

Defense

PIC: Hyde 8-Tk
BUD:

Injuries

PIC: Jackson 5, Shepard 2, Ward 2, Leary 2
BUD:

Misc

PIC: 2/13 Third Downs
BUD:



28



24

The Hawks clinched a playoff berth with a furious 4th-quarter finish, scoring 2 TDs in the final 6 minutes to edge out the Excaliburs by 2. After giving up a first series TD and third series FG to Brooklin, the Excaliburs launched their push when **Derrick Henry's** 27-run set up a 20-yard deep slant to **Zach Ertz** for a TD. Then a **Tom Brady** scramble for a TD with 0:01 left in the half put York in front 14-13. A fumble by **Carlos Hyde** set up another York TD, giving them a 24-13 lead. But **Derek Carr** led back-to-back TD drives, the second 97 yards, to win it on a 16-yard TD to **Van Jefferson** with 0:01 left.

01-23-2021 Camelot Temp:46 Wind:0-5 None Line:BRH by 1 MVP:Carr HFA:ON(3)

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2019 Brooklin (10-5)	7	6	0	15	28
2019 York (6-9)	0	14	3	7	24

Scoring Summary

1 12:59 Brooklin	TD Carr 14 pass to Fells (Bullock) (4-69-1:56)	7-0
2 14:15 Brooklin	FG Bullock 21 (16-77-7:37)	10-0
2 11:35 York	TD Brady 20 pass to Ertz (Hauschka) (6-75-2:40)	10-7
2 5:51 Brooklin	FG Bullock 45 (12-48-5:40)	13-7
2 0:01 York	TD Brady 11 run (Hauschka) (16-95-5:43)	13-14
3 5:25 York	FG Hauschka 34 (11-76-5:09)	13-17
4 11:17 York	TD Brady 11 pass to Johnson (Hauschka) (11-63-5:23)	13-24
4 5:38 Brooklin	TD Carr 10 pass to Cobb (2 - Cobb) (10-75-5:39)	21-24
4 0:01 Brooklin	TD Carr 16 pass to Jefferson (Bullock) (11-97-2:08)	28-24

Passing

BRH: Carr 38/27 329 Yds 3 TDs
YOR: Brady 30/20 225 Yds 2 TDs

Rushing

BRH: Hyde 20/126, Breida 3/14, Scott 1/1
YOR: Henry 26/128, Brady 2/12 TD, Snell Jr. 2/8

Receiving

BRH: Cobb 5/38 TD, Perriman 5/67, Hopkins 5/62, Fells 4/36 TD, Jefferson 3/88 TD
YOR: Ertz 6/82 TD, Johnson 4/36 TD, Williams 4/61, Smith 2/12, Davis 2/19, Henry 2/15

Defense


BRH: McPhee Sk 5-Tk, Tuitt Sk 5-Tk, Vander Esch 8-Tk
YOR: Byard FF 9-Tk

Injuries

BRH: McKinney 2, Jeffery 1
YOR:

Misc

BRH:
YOR:



24
3

Erik Harris picked off Kyler Murray midway in the 1st quarter, leading to a 4-yard TD run by Kenyan Drake to give Aurora a 7-0 lead. The 'Stangs extended that lead on their next drive after a 31-yard long slant to Davante Adams set up Drake for his second TD run of the game. Erieau broke the shutout after a Julian Edleman fumble at midfield set up a drive that feel short at the 6-yard line, leading to an Austin Seibert FG. Aurora took firm control in the 2nd half, holding the ball for over 10 minutes on an 80-yard TD drive in the 3rd quarter and shutting down a struggling Cadillac offence.

01-23-2021 Kelly-Burke Field Temp:34 Wind:20-30 None Line:AUR by 5 MVP:Ryan HFA

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2019 Aurora (11-4)	7	7	7	3	24
2019 Erieau (6-9)	0	3	0	0	3

Scoring Summary

1 2:54	Aurora	TD Drake 4 run (Lutz) (11-59-5:35)	7-0
2 14:00	Aurora	TD Drake 10 run (Lutz) (7-61-1:34)	14-0
2 0:27	Erieau	FG Seibert 24 (11-44-2:27)	14-3
3 1:11	Aurora	TD Ryan 3 pass to Adams (Lutz) (18-80-10:44)	21-3
4 11:46	Aurora	FG Lutz 48 (5-50-1:32)	24-3

Passing

AUR: Ryan 39/21 254 Yds TD
 ERI: Murray 39/19 140 Yds 2 Int

Rushing

AUR: Drake 8/28 2 TDs, Perine 7/25, Ryan 4/19, Samuels 2/14, Singletary 4/7
 ERI: McCoy 6/26, Moss 6/21, Gore 5/15, Hines 1/1

Receiving

AUR: Juszczyk 5/47, Adams 3/81 TD, Samuels 3/26, Drake 3/30, Edelman 2/23, Goedert 2/17
 ERI: Andrews 5/39, Gordon 4/41, McCoy 3/4, Hines 2/0, Ruggs III 2/26, Higgins 2/23

Defense

AUR: Davenport Sk FF 2-Tk, Harris Int 5-Tk, Watt Sk 3-Tk
 ERI: Walker 2-Sks FF 10-Tk, Gilmore FF 6-Tk

Injuries

AUR:
 ERI: Jackson 3, Smith 2, Ellison 2, Moss 1

Misc

AUR: 12/93 Penalties
 ERI: |



17
35

Big Ben got his first start of 2020 and led the Glads to an equalizing TD on their first series of the game after the Irish had scored on the game's opening drive. But the momentum shift came early in favour of the Irish when **Kenny Stills** fumbled at the Georgia 49, setting up the first of back-to-back TD drives that put East Elmhurst in front 21-7. **Tremaine Edmunds** blocked a punt at the Irish 24, but the Glads managed just a FG. The Irish charged back with the third **Baker Mayfield** to **Tyreek Hill** scoring hook-up of the game to take what would turn out to be an insurmountable 28-10 lead into the 2nd half.

01-23-2021 Msgr McClancy Mem Temp:30 Wind:0-10 None Line:EE by 6 MVP:Hill HFA:

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2019 Georgia (3-12)	7	3	0	7	17
2019 East Elmhurst (5-10)	14	14	0	7	35

Scoring Summary

1 12:23	East Elmhurst	TD Mayfield 20 pass to Hill (Blankenshi) (5-77-2:31)	0-7
1 8:19	Georgia	TD Michel 27 run (Bass) (7-75-4:04)	7-7
1 5:01	East Elmhurst	TD Mayfield 9 pass to Hill (Blankenshi) (6-49-1:54)	7-14
2 13:22	East Elmhurst	TD Murray 4 run (Blankenshi) (7-63-3:59)	7-21
2 5:21	Georgia	FG Bass 23 (5-19-1:33)	10-21
2 0:36	East Elmhurst	TD Mayfield 13 pass to Hill (Blankenshi) (11-75-4:45)	10-28
4 5:46	East Elmhurst	TD Hill 2 run (Blankenshi) (13-77-7:47)	10-35
4 3:34	Georgia	TD Hodges 44 pass to Stills (Bass) (6-75-2:12)	17-35

Passing

GEO: Roethlisberger 23/13 121 Yds, Hodges 8/5 70 Yds TD
 EE: Mayfield 29/19 250 Yds 3 TDs

Rushing

GEO: Michel 15/102 TD, Bernard 1/16
 EE: Murray 11/90 TD, Kelley 11/44, Hill 11/42 TD, Mayfield 3/5

Receiving

GEO: Johnson 5/35, Stills 4/76 TD, Landry 3/42, Bernard 2/5, Akins 2/20, Michel 1/3
 EE: Hill 9/160 3 TDs, Quinn 3/29, Murray 2/6, Izzo 2/30, Callaway 2/14, Hurns 1/11

Defense

GEO: Bryan 2-Sks 4-Tk, Edmunds 9-Tk, Brown Sk 3-Tk
 EE: Canady 2-FF 7-Tk, Smith Sk FF 4-Tk

Injuries

GEO:
 EE: Davis 8, Everett 1, Thielen 1, Agholor 1

Misc

GEO:
 EE:



Near the end the win.



WEEK FIFTEEN

STANDINGS & STATS

EFL 2020 Official Standings

East	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
y-Cobb County	14	1	0	.933	W6	472	31.5	270	18.0	13.5	7 1 0	5 0 0	10 1 0
z-Bruxelles	11	4	0	.733	W6	438	29.2	335	22.3	6.9	6 1 0	3 2 0	7 4 0
Buffalo	8	7	0	.533	L2	347	23.1	340	22.7	0.5	4 4 0	1 4 0	6 5 0
New Jersey	2	13	0	.133	L1	320	21.3	454	30.3	-8.9	1 6 0	1 4 0	1 10 0
Central	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
y-Virden	13	2	0	.867	W3	519	34.6	277	18.5	16.1	6 1 0	5 0 0	9 2 0
Peg City	8	7	0	.533	W1	424	28.3	363	24.2	4.1	4 4 0	4 1 0	8 3 0
Charleswood	3	12	0	.200	L3	319	21.3	470	31.3	-10.1	1 6 0	1 4 0	3 8 0
Twin Cities	2	13	0	.133	L7	211	14.1	380	25.3	-11.3	1 7 0	0 5 0	2 9 0
West	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
y-Iowa City	10	4	1	.700	W5	396	26.4	356	23.7	2.7	6 1 0	4 0 1	7 3 1
Chino	8	6	1	.567	L1	374	24.9	372	24.8	0.1	5 1 1	2 2 1	5 5 1
Seattle	6	9	0	.400	W1	295	19.7	378	25.2	-5.5	3 5 0	1 4 0	4 7 0
Las Vegas	5	10	0	.333	L2	320	21.3	366	24.4	-3.1	4 4 0	2 3 0	3 8 0
North	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
y-Durham	11	4	0	.733	W5	361	24.1	220	14.7	9.4	6 1 0	4 1 0	8 3 0
z-Cowtown	9	6	0	.600	L1	292	19.5	242	16.1	3.3	4 3 0	3 2 0	6 5 0
Scarborough	7	8	0	.467	L1	311	20.7	353	23.5	-2.8	4 4 0	1 4 0	4 7 0
Sebastian	6	9	0	.400	W1	313	20.9	437	29.1	-8.3	3 5 0	2 3 0	3 8 0
Coastal	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
y-Budapest	12	3	0	.800	W4	333	22.2	152	10.1	12.1	7 1 0	3 2 0	9 2 0
z-Brooklin	10	5	0	.667	W3	396	26.4	320	21.3	5.1	5 2 0	5 0 0	9 2 0
York	6	9	0	.400	L2	338	22.5	311	20.7	1.8	5 2 0	1 4 0	5 6 0
Pickering	3	12	0	.200	L7	225	15.0	383	25.5	-10.5	3 5 0	1 4 0	2 9 0
South	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
y-Aurora	11	4	0	.733	W4	389	25.9	294	19.6	6.3	6 1 0	5 0 0	9 2 0
Erieau	6	9	0	.400	L3	230	15.3	320	21.3	-6.0	3 4 0	2 3 0	5 6 0
East Elmhurst	5	10	0	.333	W1	322	21.5	379	25.3	-3.8	2 6 0	1 4 0	3 8 0
Georgia	3	12	0	.200	L2	250	16.7	423	28.2	-11.5	3 5 0	2 3 0	3 8 0

y-Clinched Division Title

z-Clinched Wildcard Berth

EFL 2020 - Week 15 Passing Leaders

			Att	Cmp	C%	Yards	In	I%	Lg	TD	TD%	Rate
1	Tannehill	CB	311	218	70.1	3526	4	1.3	82	37	11.9	142.0
2	Mahomes	VV	447	290	64.9	3802	7	1.6	56	41	9.2	115.6
3	Cousins	PCC	510	332	65.1	3891	2	0.4	71	39	7.6	112.0
4	Carr,D	BRH	544	374	68.8	4089	3	0.6	52	34	6.3	109.2
5	Brees	SS	336	235	69.9	2820	5	1.5	88	20	6.0	109.0
6	Bridgewater	CB	87	57	65.5	762	1	1.1	90	4	4.6	103.7
7	Jackson,L	BUF	475	336	70.7	3387	7	1.5	58	27	5.7	103.5
8	Stafford	NJ	317	206	65.0	2384	4	1.3	68	18	5.7	101.2
9	Wilson,R	ICC	486	322	66.3	3705	9	1.9	94	29	6.0	101.2
10	Ryan,M	AUR	441	275	62.4	3404	12	2.7	62	34	7.7	100.6
11	Prescott	CHI	490	312	63.7	3656	5	1.0	73	23	4.7	97.6
12	Garoppolo	COW	453	296	65.3	3479	8	1.8	64	20	4.4	95.9
13	Watson,D	CHP	526	335	63.7	3601	11	2.1	73	28	5.3	92.7
14	Goff	BRX	565	304	53.8	4260	11	1.9	82	36	6.4	91.5
15	Allen,J	DTL	440	260	59.1	2932	2	0.5	63	18	4.1	90.8
16	Brady	YOR	480	282	58.8	3332	9	1.9	72	25	5.2	89.5
17	Mayfield	EE	302	187	61.9	2344	14	4.6	68	20	6.6	88.8
18	Burrow	SBE	511	316	61.8	3192	10	2.0	58	26	5.1	88.4
19	Minshew II	PIC	108	57	52.8	698	1	0.9	49	6	5.6	87.7
20	Rodgers,A	BUD	442	250	56.6	2899	3	0.7	50	18	4.1	87.3
21	Darnold	SEA	469	292	62.3	3101	8	1.7	72	18	3.8	87.2
22	Keenum	NJ	287	190	66.2	1751	5	1.7	54	10	3.5	87.0
23	Wentz	LV	422	262	62.1	2692	5	1.2	66	14	3.3	86.5
24	Trubisky	TCT	351	202	57.5	2018	4	1.1	75	15	4.3	83.5
25	Rivers	PIC	318	201	63.2	2253	11	3.5	76	13	4.1	83.5

EFL 2020 - Week 15 Kick Return Leaders		EFL 2020 - Week 15 Punt Return Leaders														
		No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD			No	Fc	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD		
1	Grant,J	CHI	34	1023	30.1	101	3	1	Johnson,D	GEO	34	8	380	11.2	78	2
2	Spencer,D	NJ	20	592	29.6	57	0	2	Hardman	LV	39	6	423	10.8	82	1
3	Patterson	VV	20	581	29.1	94	1	3	Berrios	AUR	39	5	399	10.2	26	0
4	Cooper,P	BUD	16	453	28.3	91	0	4	Ervin	VV	20	21	185	9.3	41	0
5	Hardman	LV	29	816	28.1	89	0	5	Agnew	SEA	32	10	293	9.2	78	1
6	Harris,D	COW	21	552	26.3	42	0	6	Carter,D	BUF	37	13	336	9.1	45	0
7	Davis,T	SBE	29	758	26.1	86	0	7	Reagor	SS	22	10	196	8.9	49	0
8	Roberts,A	BRX	25	651	26.0	46	0	8	Cooper,P	BUD	29	21	227	7.8	22	0
9	Hilliard	PCC	27	694	25.7	46	0	9	Cohen	NJ	28	14	204	7.3	21	0
10	Latimer	DTL	18	462	25.7	46	0	10	Proche II	DTL	51	10	367	7.2	19	0
11	Raymond	EE	30	734	24.5	41	1	11	Roberts,A	BRX	32	21	228	7.1	15	0
12	Agnew	SEA	25	603	24.1	38	0	12	Rogers,C	CHI	29	15	202	7.0	15	0
13	James Jr.	GEO	31	721	23.3	40	0	13	Harris,D	COW	38	8	238	6.3	17	0
14	Barner	BRH	18	408	22.7	39	0	14	Amendola	YOR	24	16	140	5.8	21	0
15	Ruggs III	ERI	25	535	21.4	53	0	15	Thomas,D	SBE	47	7	265	5.6	17	0
16	Bolden	YOR	19	401	21.1	36	0	16	Logan,T	PCC	36	10	195	5.4	15	0
17	Ballentine	SS	22	429	19.5	37	0	17	Peppers	ERI	15	9	81	5.4	13	0
18	Carter,D	BUF	43	816	19.0	52	0	18	Quinn,T	EE	31	18	142	4.6	15	0
19	Richard	CHP	39	576	14.8	30	0	19	Natson	CB	25	6	106	4.2	14	0
20	Cohen	NJ	1	28	28.0	28	0	20	Richard	CHP	15	4	48	3.2	8	0
21	Erickson	BUF	1	25	25.0	25	0	21	Barner	BRH	28	1	89	3.2	15	0
22	Sanders,M	PIC	13	325	25.0	29	0	22	Hines	ERI	11	2	275	25.0	33	0
23	Campbell,P	CHP	1	24	24.0	24	0	23	Sherels	YOR	2	1	19	9.5	12	0
24	King II	ERI	3	72	24.0	26	0	24	Peoples-Jo	SS	4	1	31	7.8	12	0
25	Natson	CB	10	235	23.5	42	0	25	Lockett	ICC	13	11	92	7.1	13	0

EFL 2020 - Week 15 Rushing Leaders

			Att	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD
1	Chubb,N	DTL	293	1560	5.3	75	5
2	Fournette	BRX	260	1386	5.3	56	9
3	Jackson,L	BUF	234	1381	5.9	31	10
4	Mixon	ICC	252	1370	5.4	41	11
5	Elliott,E	VV	280	1366	4.9	30	10
6	Carson,C	SBE	243	1233	5.1	66	3
7	Hyde,C	BRH	248	1230	5.0	44	9
8	Henry,D	YOR	296	1188	4.0	70	8
9	McCaffrey	CHI	236	1107	4.7	50	14
10	Jones,A	PCC	183	1093	6.0	66	6
11	Mack,M	SEA	194	999	5.1	81	2
12	Drake	AUR	182	998	5.5	59	11
13	Peterson,A	CB	202	863	4.3	45	4
14	Edwards-He	TCT	184	862	4.7	29	6
15	Cook,D	LV	217	854	3.9	64	10
16	Mostert	CB	146	847	5.8	45	11
17	Kamara	CHP	177	746	4.2	50	8
18	Singletary	AUR	140	738	5.3	45	0
19	Jacobs,J	GEO	161	713	4.4	35	0
20	Murray,L	EE	153	673	4.4	32	4
21	Murray,K	ERI	107	624	5.8	30	3
22	Williams,J	BUD	117	598	5.1	50	4
23	Howard,J	BUD	122	572	4.7	20	7
24	Taylor,J	SS	145	568	3.9	22	2
25	Swift	PIC	129	559	4.3	63	1
26	Sanders,M	PIC	169	526	3.1	55	2
27	Gurley II	COW	165	519	3.1	15	10
28	Barkley,S	PCC	91	484	5.3	29	3
29	Ingram II	CHI	114	462	4.1	29	5
30	Montgomery	NJ	152	423	2.8	33	2
31	Johnson,D	PCC	76	385	5.1	29	1
32	Allen,J	DTL	73	374	5.1	15	9
33	Breida	BRH	88	374	4.3	32	0
34	Robinson,J	GEO	111	337	3.0	27	0
35	Wilson,R	ICC	65	337	5.2	24	2
36	Akers	SEA	73	334	4.6	20	2
37	Freeman,R	VV	74	333	4.5	47	2
38	Watson,D	CHP	46	330	7.2	33	5
39	Kelley	EE	94	320	3.4	22	2
40	Bell,L	COW	88	317	3.6	19	0

EFL 2020 - Week 15 Receiving Leaders

			No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD
1	McCaffrey	CHI	120	973	8.1	28	6
2	Thomas,M	LV	119	1341	11.3	59	8
3	Hopkins,D	BRH	114	1540	13.5	52	14
4	Woods,R	BUF	97	1185	12.2	58	10
5	Edelman	AUR	92	1143	12.4	49	16
6	Jones,J	CB	85	1355	15.9	82	13
7	Cohen	NJ	84	537	6.4	24	2
8	Cooper,A	VV	76	1386	18.2	50	14
9	Kupp	DTL	74	961	13.0	63	5
10	Lockett	ICC	73	871	11.9	34	6
11	Metcalf	CHP	73	1017	13.9	73	7
12	Kittle	BUD	73	828	11.3	24	7
13	Beckham Jr	SS	72	888	12.3	46	4
14	Kamara	CHP	72	508	7.1	49	3
15	Brown,J	VV	72	1128	15.7	56	7
16	Robinson,A	SBE	71	910	12.8	58	11
17	Sanders,E	BUF	70	725	10.4	28	3
18	Kelce,T	BRX	70	997	14.2	56	7
19	Ertz	YOR	68	832	12.2	36	7
20	Allen,K	PCC	67	978	14.6	54	4
21	Parker,D	CB	67	1275	19.0	62	11
22	Freeman,D	SBE	65	454	7.0	28	2
23	Chark Jr.	NJ	64	915	14.3	54	7
24	Sutton,C	PCC	63	905	14.4	71	11
25	Moore,D	TCT	63	729	11.6	75	6
26	White,J	TCT	63	606	9.6	52	4
27	Witten	SS	61	634	10.4	40	5
28	Boyd	DTL	61	751	12.3	38	4
29	Golladay	TCT	61	1017	16.7	55	4
30	Fournette	BRX	61	463	7.6	26	1
31	Andrews,M	ERI	61	637	10.4	53	7
32	Bell,L	COW	60	474	7.9	30	3
33	Fitzgerald	CHI	59	861	14.6	73	5
34	Beasley	ICC	59	640	10.8	59	8
35	Evans,M	COW	58	886	15.3	64	5
36	Miller,A	SEA	58	649	11.2	41	2
37	Kirk	ICC	55	608	11.1	86	9
38	Sanu	VV	55	665	12.1	27	7
39	Crowder	SBE	54	682	12.6	31	8
40	Cobb,R	BRH	53	587	11.1	34	5

EFL 2020 - Week 15 Kicking Leaders

		FGA	FGM	FG%	40	50	Lg	Pts	
1	Gonzalez	VV	27	24	88.9	8	2	51	135
2	Prater	BRX	37	29	78.4	16	6	56	130
3	Bullock	BRH	32	30	93.8	7	5	55	126
4	McManus	CB	25	23	92.0	7	1	51	124
5	Myers,J	BUD	37	31	83.8	12	5	52	123
6	Butker	PCC	29	24	82.8	8	2	53	120
7	Tucker,J	ICC	26	25	96.2	8	1	51	120
8	Pineiro	DTL	33	26	78.8	14	6	53	115
9	Lambo	SEA	28	28	100.0	17	5	54	111
10	Crosby	SBE	26	25	96.2	10	4	54	105
11	Boswell	NJ	24	24	100.0	6	1	50	104
12	Fairbairn	LV	26	23	88.5	4	1	51	98
13	Hauschka	YOR	23	21	91.3	10	2	51	96
14	Lutz	AUR	20	15	75.0	10	5	54	93
15	McLaughlin	CHI	19	15	78.9	5	0	48	92
16	Bailey,D	SS	20	20	100.0	8	0	49	89
17	Slye	COW	27	20	74.1	7	2	52	88
18	Blankenshi	EE	17	17	100.0	7	4	53	88
19	Bass	GEO	24	21	87.5	4	2	51	86
20	Seibert	ERI	27	21	77.8	11	2	50	80
21	Zuerlein	PIC	21	17	81.0	10	5	55	75
22	Elliott,J	BUF	14	10	71.4	5	2	54	71
23	Carlson	CHP	13	9	69.2	4	2	51	63
24	Hopkins	TCT	11	8	72.7	1	0	40	47
25	O'Donnell	NJ	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0

EFL 2020 - Week 15 Punting Leaders

		No	Yards	Tb	20	Lg	Bk	Ave	
1	Way	CHI	53	2612	6	16	64	0	49.3
2	Lee,A	BUF	47	2283	2	24	73	0	48.6
3	Kern	BRX	58	2813	3	22	63	0	48.5
4	Morstead	DTL	62	2967	3	24	68	0	47.9
5	Dixon,R	GEO	72	3428	5	20	64	0	47.6
6	Hekker	COW	69	3234	6	32	59	0	46.9
7	Palardy	YOR	72	3374	1	19	79	0	46.9
8	Anger	LV	70	3265	7	31	67	0	46.6
9	Edwards,L	EE	67	3121	2	29	62	1	46.6
10	Koch	AUR	47	2182	1	16	62	1	46.4
11	Bailey,J	SEA	68	3141	1	25	60	0	46.2
12	Huber	CHP	51	2352	5	14	64	0	46.1
13	Berry,J	SS	43	1978	3	11	80	0	46.0
14	O'Donnell	NJ	67	3077	5	23	58	0	45.9
15	Wishnowsky	TCT	82	3730	3	23	54	0	45.5
16	Mann	VV	42	1903	4	10	59	0	45.3
17	Martin,S	CB	42	1901	0	14	65	0	45.3
18	Dickson	ERI	76	3433	8	32	60	0	45.2
19	Haack	PCC	44	1981	2	18	53	0	45.0
20	Colquitt,D	SBE	69	3069	8	31	54	0	44.5
21	Sanchez	BUD	60	2644	2	22	80	0	44.1
22	Pinion	ICC	46	1987	1	14	54	0	43.2
23	Jones,C	PIC	77	3284	1	22	57	4	42.6
24	Scott,J	BRH	29	1311	3	13	52	0	45.2

EFL 2020 - Week 15 Sack Leaders

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

EFL 2020 - Week 15 Tackle Leaders

1	Leonard,D	LV	141
2	Ryan,L	SBE	118
3	Smith,J	EE	117
4	Edmunds,T	GEO	114
5	Littleton	ICC	111
6	Alexander	TCT	109
7	Terrell	CHI	106
8	Apple	BRH	103
9	Cunningham	NJ	103
10	Schobert	PIC	101
11	Kuechly	BRX	100
12	Wagner,B	TCT	97
13	Lattimore	SEA	96
14	Davis,C	COW	95
15	Landry III	NJ	95
16	Hicks,J	BUF	93
17	William,Tr	LV	93
18	Fulton	GEO	92
19	Martinez	CB	92
20	Awuzie	NJ	91
21	Wallace,L	SS	90
22	Davis,D	LV	89
23	Fuller,K	BRX	89
24	Brooks,J	TCT	89
25	Henderson	YOR	88



AROUND THE



With Spats McChad

NEW YORK – Week Fifteen is in the books and, as a result, Week Sixteen unfolds in front of us with as much suspense as a Charleswood play sheet. Teams on the fringe of wildcard contention in the Pacific Conference managed to hold on to their long shot positions going into the final week, with Peg City mastering the feeble Pats and Chino dropping its grudge match with the Cubs to leave an opening for a Buffalo squad that stretched, some would say shattered, the boundaries of play-calling innovation and entered the realm of the uninged in their loss to Cobb County (more on that later).

With three teams still competing for the final wildcard spot and the no.1 seed still undecided, there will be at least *some* Week 16 drama in a few of the Pacific Conference match-ups, which is more than I can say for the nearly full slate of unwatchable games in the Atlantic Conference. Durham can sneak into the no.2 seed with a win over the Blue Eagles and an Aurora loss to Georgia. The odds of this happening are roughly less than the chance of a meteor hurtling to Earth and striking **Celine Dion** square in the beak at the precise moment she is about to open her mouth for the umpteenth time to announce another COVID-19 restriction at Jurassic Park. While both would be welcome events for Durham fans, as well as a large part of humanity, it simply ain't gonna happen, folks! The Atlantic Conference that has offered up generous heaps of non-riveting football for the past 15 weeks, and thereby trails the Pacific Conference by a wide margin in the TV ratings, is poised to set an historical ratings-low for the final week.

Far more interesting than what is left of the playoff races is the concurrent race to the bottom of the league in the quest for **Trevor Lawrence**. While it has been assumed for the better part of the second half of the season that the Wrecking Balls were heading to Lawrence Land, it is actually the Triumph who have the edge going into the final week due to a lesser strength of victory. The Wrecking Balls had the temerity to beat the Bombers – a good team – and that could end up biting them in the butt. However, if the Balls somehow manage to defeat the Derailers in the final week and Twin Cities finds enough Mojo to knock off Charleswood, the latter will snare the number one overall pick and, with it, a dilemma about what to do with it. **DeShaun Watson** doesn't want to leave, apparently, despite **Jason Findlay** gutting the team's defence in the off-season.

The bizarre collapse of the Wrecking Balls – a team ostensibly and, in retrospect comically, built to win it all – as well as the sudden appearance of an unprecedented leadership vacuum in Twin Cities have raised the eyebrows of football conspiracy theorists on two continents. How is it that these two teams are the front-runners for the first overall pick, when there are teams like the Gladiators and the Spartans taking the field every Sunday? It is a good question. The eyeball test is clear – the Glads and Spartans are the most undermanned teams in the league, followed by the Patriots, who have a slight edge due to their quarterback. Before the season started, the Wrecking Balls were considered a contender. The Triumph were not placed in that class, but their core players and their coach were expected to elevate them to at least a reliable “spoiler” role, if not a dark horse wildcard. But it turns out that the only wildcard the Triumph got was **Jameis Winston**. He turned out to be a Joker in the deck – one that was not shuffled out until a fan revolt and accruing damage to his reputation as a coach and evaluator forced **Guy Williams'** hand.

One thing for sure: while **Trevor Lawrence** would look good on any bottom-feeder team, he would yield greater short term dividends on either New Jersey or Twin Cities, as neither team sits at ground zero in their respective rebuilds. Of course, there are no *absolute* guarantees in any college class – as **JaMarcus Russell** tells us – and there are other attractive looking quarterbacks available in the upcoming draft. But Lawrence is considered as near to an absolute lock as any quarterback since **Andrew Luck**, who turned out to be a very good quarterback, despite playing under **Bobby Elder** in Mohave.

So, I will be tuned in to the basement showdown between Twin Cities and Charleswood this week to enjoy the spectacle of watching how deftly two coaches are able to pull back on the reins while seeming to move forward.

LOCKDOWN LETDOWN

Entering their Week 15 showdown against hated rival Cowtown in Week 15, the Thunder Lizards were one of only three teams in the league that had had zero fans in the stands to watch any portion of their previous 6 home dates. East Elmhurst, situated in the heart of Queens, was one of the others. The Irish are in the middle of a “hot zone” and team officials were basically told by municipal authorities to forget even applying for any exemptions to restrictions on large gatherings. Erieau, the other, applied for and received a permit from the region of Chatham-Kent to allow 2,000 fans into Kelly-Burke Field for their Week 14 game versus Cobb County, but no fans showed up. All other teams in the league have had at least one “spectator” night, whether reserved for front line workers, friends and family, select season ticket holders, or a combination of all the above. But despite COVID-19's remarkably low impact on the operations of most of the league's teams and the fact that not a single Durham player has yet tested positive for the

virus, the seats of Jurassic Park have not been occupied by a single human behind all season. This is not because Durham Region is unwilling to grant a permit – they did so for the Pickering Spartans recently. It is due to the decrees of Thunder Lizards’ owner, **Celine Dion**, who every week has issued new restrictions on what can and cannot be done in the stadium which she now owns.

The people of Durham, the players and especially their coach, **George Kaldis**, are not happy at all about having no fans in the stands. The arrangement to set up cameras in the seats and provide live stream video from each of those cameras to individual season ticket holders holding the seats did not have the desired effect and had generated many complaints. Too many technical glitches, due to intermittent Wi-Fi outages and fogged up camera lenses, due to the frequent rainfalls and humidity, literally put a damper on the entire gimmick. Most season ticket holders ended up opting out of the ‘Thunder Lizards Game Day’ sub-package and tuned in to regular TV.

But as the season progressed, games played in Jurassic Park became increasingly more difficult to enjoy on telecasts. New restrictions on network crews imposed by Dion prior to Week 12, reduced the number of operating TV cameras to 1980’s levels. This had a significant impact on Replay Review, while the lack of a flyover camera ended the arms-length close-ups and overhead view of the players fans had become accustomed to in the increasingly detailed and life-like modern TV coverage. Frustration had been building among fans, the networks and sponsors and was already near the boiling point well before Dion released her new and even more draconian proclamations prior to the Lizards’ crucial game against the Corn Kings.

The ‘Office of the Owner’ issued a news release on Tuesday before the game informing the public of the following: ‘COVID-19 is deadly. We must all do our part to curb the spread of COVID-19. [*Spats’ Note: all of Dion’s proclamations started with those two lines*] Due to the recent arrival of a new COVID-19 mutation from the UK and taking into account the gross negligence of authorities in Cowtown in continually allowing fans to attend games, visiting players, coaching staff and journalists will not be permitted entry to Jurassic Park until they have spent two weeks in quarantine and tested negative for COVID-19. Those permitted into the stadium will be required to wear masks and goggles at all times, including on the field while playing and will not be permitted to speak above a whisper to ensure minimal particulate emissions. I have spoken. Thus it shall be!’ (Signed, Céline Dion – Owner)

When first released, people took it to be a spoof. ‘*Ha ha, very funny!*’ was the common reaction. But when measures started to be implemented, beginning with the booking of entire hotels by staff from the ‘Office of the Owner,’ people began to realize that Dion was serious. When the backlash came, it was severe. Dion had gone too far this time. This was even worse than when she attempted in one of her proclamations to impose a dusk-to-dawn curfew on all of Durham Region. This latest dictate threatened the entire EFL schedule and the position of both teams heading into the post-season.

In response, Cowtown owner, **Farmer Brown** wrote a letter to the league and sent it by standard post. What it said is still unknown as it has not yet reached Canton as of this writing, but we can assume it was some kind of objection as the Cowtown players did not report for quarantine as directed by supplemental correspondence sent directly to “The Opposition” by the ‘Office of the Owner.’

Durham coach **George Kaldis**, whose uneasy relationship with ownership since the team’s inception had been a constant source of tension in the Thunder Lizards’ organization, threatened to quit, along with most of his coaching staff. The EFL Committee convened an emergency meeting to discuss the situation. They initiated arrangements to play the game at Thermopylae Stadium and informed Dion that her ownership of the Thunder Lizards had been placed under official review. Other owners rallied. Dion’s shows in Vegas were suspended at the instigation of the Estate of **Sheldon Addelson**. Then came the online memes showing Dion dressed as **Mao Zedong** as well as outright death threats from angry fans and other unhinged Dion-hating whackos looking for an excuse.

Under such pressure, Dion finally backed down and revoked her order. While announcing this in a supplementary proclamation, she spitefully added new restrictions limiting the networks to just four cameras and one booth crew and barred visiting journalists from the stadium, without exception. CBS immediately launched a lawsuit, but its efforts at a court injunction were unsuccessful. This meant that one of the league’s two marquis match-ups in Week 15 ended up being televised to 1950s standards, with three high game cameras positioned to capture play up and down the field and one end zone camera for field goals.

The ridiculous drama surrounding the game was all but forgotten, however, when the teams took the field. The stakes were high: The Thunder Lizards could clinch the North Division with a win; the Corn Kings would assume first place and lock-in the division tie-breaker over Durham going into the final week if they could pull off the upset. Even though the Corn Kings had decisively won the Week Two contest between these teams, the Lizards were riding a four-game winning streak and were beginning to look like the team that had been picked to win the North Division in pre-season by a majority of writers and experts. They entered the game as 5-point favourites and were expected by most experts to avenge their earlier humiliation at Tillman Field. But the effect of that shocking Week Two loss still reverberated in the Durham locker room. Nobody on that side of the field took this game lightly. The mood was dampened by a sense of foreboding brought on by the dark overcast sky and steady rain falling on the field. Rain was nothing new at Jurassic Park, but with winter in full swing outside the contained eco-system around the stadium, the droplets pelting down felt like freezing rain in sharp contrast to the relatively balmy ambient temperature of 69°F.

The game started with Durham in possession at its own 25 after the opening kickoff was downed in the end zone. **Nick Chubb** promptly churned out 27 yards on 4 straight carries and **Josh Allen** hit **TY Hilton** for a 14-yard gain to get into field goal range. But two incomplete passes, one that should have been an interception by **Roquan Smith**, and a 3-yard check down under pressure brought on the field goal unit to make an attempt from 42 yards. The kick by **Ed Piniero** started right and sailed further right, missing by more than the width of the goal posts. It was a bad miss and it topped off a drive that had looked promising when Chubb was running the ball, but had come to a sudden end when Allen had tried to assert himself in the passing game. Gloom enveloped the Durham sideline. Allen had not

played well when these teams had played each other in Week Two. It looked like history was getting ready to repeat itself.

It did not take long, however, for the Week 15 changes to the original script to become apparent. **Jimmy Garoppolo**, who had been practically flawless in that Week Two win, threw high over the middle to **Adam Humphries** on his first pass of the game. **Kenny Moore II** got a hand on it and came down with the interception, returning it 30 yards to the Cowtown 14-yard line. One play later, the Durham quarterback was in the end zone on a 14-yard scramble. The run look ridiculously easy and served as a rude reminder to the Cowtown pass rush that pinning its ears back came with risks when targeting the big and deceptively mobile Allen.

The first break had gone Durham's way. Fears among the Cowtown faithful that it might trigger a blowout faded when the Corn Kings' defence held on Durham's next possession and **Jimmy G** came back with a gritty performance on a 96-yard scoring drive, hitting **Mike Evans** 3 times for 68 yards, including a 19-yard out pass on 4th & 2 from the Durham 38 to keep the drive alive. **Todd Gurley II**, who has not looked like Todd Gurley much this year, did the one thing he has done well in 2020 by finishing off the drive with a strong 5-yard touchdown run to even the score. The Corn Kings then took the lead on their next series, a 76-yard touchdown drive that Gurley again finished off with a strong run around the edge from 7 yards out. Thunder Lizard frustration had shown on the drive. An over-anxious **Ed Oliver** had jumped offside to help Cowtown get past mid-field and **Arik Armstead** had helped his opponent's cause by slamming Garoppolo to the turf after he had released the ball, adding 15 yards to a simple 5-yard dump-off deep in Durham territory.

It was now the turn of Durham fans to worry. The Corn Kings had rebounded impressively from an early setback and now it was the Lizards who looked unsettled. An unlikely contributor stepped up at that moment to turn things around. **Cody Latimer** picked a good time for his best kick return of the season. Fielding the kick from **Joey Slye** at his own 1-yard line, Latimer scooted along the sideline for a return of 46 yards, giving his team excellent field position at its own 47. This time, it was Allen's passing that got the Lizards in position inside the Cowtown red zone. They switched gears to the run, but after Chubb was stuffed for a loss on 2nd down, Durham faced 3rd & 4 at the Cowtown 12. Expecting a return to the passing game that had been successful in getting them close, the Corn Kings crowded the line and went after the passer. Allen took two steps back, froze then darted forward through a gaping hole and into the end zone for a touchdown. It looked almost exactly like his last touchdown, except this time it was a designed run – the perfect call at the perfect time. The momentum had stabilized as the teams entered the locker room at halftime tied at 14.

The Corn Kings got the ball to start the second half but failed to execute on the ground against a pass-oriented Lizard defence and went three-and-out. It was the first sign that things would not go their way for the remaining 30 minutes. The second sign came on the first Durham play from scrimmage. As **Nick Chubb** struggled to break a tackle, **TJ Watt** forced a fumble. But the ball took a Durham bounce in the direction of Hilton who covered it up at the Durham 24. From there the Thunder Lizards plodded purposefully up the field, catching a break when the officials flagged Watt for arriving early on a 3rd & 18 pass to Chubb to win a new set of downs. It was bang-bang play, the kind that in the 1950s almost certainly would not have been called. With the limited 1950s style replay angle it was impossible to tell exactly when Watt arrived in relation to the ball. At least one announcer thought it looked like perfect timing.

"It looks like they are going to flag Watt for arriving early," announced **Jim Nantz** as referee **John Hussey** peeled off his mask to make the announcement to the empty seats at Jurassic Park.

"That's a tough call, Jim," weighed in booth partner, **Tony Romo**. "I know as a former quarterback, you appreciate that call going your way in that situation, but when it's bang-bang like that, I think you have to give credit to the defender for sticking with his man. That's a killer call against the defence. You think you have your opponent stopped on third and long in their territory then suddenly it's back to first and ten and they're 13 or 14 yards closer. It's demoralizing."

The Corn Kings were still absorbing the blow two plays later when **Antonio Gibson** broke a tackle on a screen pass and carved a 31-yard path of destruction through the secondary to the 26-yard line. But the Cowtown defence stiffened, with Watt sacking Allen on the next play and **Roquan Smith** wrapping up **Alexander Mattison** 4 yards short of the first down on 3rd and 11 to bring on the field goal unit. Piniero hit it true from 38 yards to give Durham the lead, 17-14.

"That was an important stop for the Corn Kings," Romo noted. "They got flagged then gave up that big play. The Thunder Lizards looked like they were going in, but the Corn Kings rallied and held them to a field goal. Now the offence has to deliver."

But the Cowtown offence did not deliver. Jimmy G appeared on edge as the defence swarmed around him. He forced a throw to Evans that was almost picked off by **Richard Sherman**, and rushed a third down throw that went too far for **Le'Veon Bell**. **Johnny Hekker** came on to punt on 4th & 5 at his own 41. If it crossed the mind of Coach **Jim Coughlin** to try a classic 'Hekker Hail Mary,' he thought better of it. His Corn Kings were still very much in the game, down by just 3 points with more than 6 minutes left in the third quarter. But they would be out of it in a hurry if his punter was the slightest bit off target and Durham got the ball in his team's territory. Instead, he had Hekker lay a punt down inside his opponent's 20 at the 16-yard line.

The Lizards, in no particular hurry, turned to Chubb to move the chains. It was a good call. The league's leading rusher banged off 28 yards in 4 carries before yielding to Allen's arm, which generated a pair of first downs before fizzling out at the 29-yard line. After a desperate draw gained nothing on 3rd & 10, Piniero came on to give Durham a 6-point advantage with a 47-yard field goal.

The Corn Kings went three-and-out for the third straight time but ended up with good field position on their next possession after **Ryan Jensen** was flagged for holding and Allen was sacked for an 11-yard loss by **Matt Ioannidis**, forcing a punt from deep in Durham territory. Starting at the Durham 48, the Corn Kings finally registered their first 1st down of the second half with 18-yard pass to **Chris Conley** on 3rd & 2 that put them in position for a 33-yard **Joey Slye** field goal, narrowing the Durham lead to just 3 points. But they had also lost star receiver **Mike Evans** on the first play of the drive, and now missed a vital piece of the offence.

All the Corn Kings needed to regain serve was a stop and they got it, forcing a Durham punt from the 34-yard line. But the kick from **Thomas Morstead** was a great one. It travelled 56 yards and soared high, allowing the coverage to get in close and stone **Deonte Harris** for no gain at the Cowtown 10. With 4:19 left in the fourth quarter, time was starting to become a factor; not enough to eliminate runs entirely from the play sheet, but Coach Coghlin had little confidence in his team's run game. He opted instead for quick, short passes to move the chains. The Lizards saw it coming, however, and played press man coverage while their defensive line crashed the middle. Armstead shot past guard **David Edwards** and dropped Garoppolo for a 3-yard loss before he could even cock his arm to throw. Then linebacker **Bruce Irvin** came through untouched on the blitz to dump Jimmy G for a 4-yard loss at the Cowtown 3-yard line. Facing 3rd & 17 with no protection from his offensive line, Garoppolo gave the ball to Gurley II for a 3-yard run to give his punter a bit more room. Hekker let loose a 51-yarder, but **James Proche II** turned it into a 38-yarder with a 13-yard return.

With 2:50 left in the 4th quarter it fell to the Cowtown defence to determine their team's fate. They needed a stop before the two-minute warning to stand a reasonable chance of getting the ball back in time for their plodding offence to score at least a field goal. They got off to a good start by stopping Chubb twice for no gain. But on 3rd down, with the pass rush closing in, Allen rifled a pass off his back foot to **Tyler Boyd**, hitting him on a slant for 12 yards and a first down. It was the play the Lizards needed.

"What a throw by Josh Allen!" cried announcer, **Jim Nantz**. "He hits Tyler Boyd clean for 12 yards on third down and they'll move the chains to the 32 of Cowtown."

"That might be the back-breaker for the Corn Kings, Jim," **Tony Romo** added. "Barring something unforeseen, if Durham plays this right, Cowtown won't get the ball back with much time left to do anything."

Durham indeed played it right. With a new set of downs, they bled out most of the clock with three straight runs and added a final field goal with 9 seconds remaining. The Cowtown offence never saw the field again. The gun sounded on a 23-17 Durham victory after Harris was pulled to the turf attempting a futile return of a squib kick.

The Lizards players celebrated to the sound of canned fan noise and an obnoxiously loud recording of **Celine Dion** singing 'My Heart Will Go On.' They had won the North Division and would get a much-needed week of rest before the Quarter Finals. Durham coach, **George Kaldis** strode deliberately toward mid-field to meet his hated rival, his expression betraying relief over exuberance. He was well aware that his team had not entirely put to rest the ghosts of that Week Two loss. How would Cowtown have fared down the stretch had wide receiver Evans not gone down to injury early in the 4th quarter? No worse than how they actually performed, he was certain. Like many of the Thunder Lizards' victories and all of their losses, this win was not exactly a ringing confirmation of their finalist pedigree.

"It was a good team effort against a tough opponent," Kaldis stated matter-of-factly after the game. "I thought our defence played very well in the second half. We put them in a position where they had to execute perfectly to get anything done. That's all a coach can ask of a defence, I think. And of course, Josh stung them a couple of times with his mobility and made that nice throw to seal the game at the

end. There are lots of things to look at. We still need to improve our consistency, which takes the kind of practice we aren't getting enough of due to all of the COVID restrictions here at the stadium."

On the other side, Coach **Jim Coghlin** addressed the Zoom camera with an image of an expansive field of corn artificially inserted as his background. He looked resigned to the result.

"They got a turnover deep in our zone in the first quarter and made the most of it," he began, referencing the Garoppolo interception. "We had a chance for a turnover in their zone in the third quarter when TJ forced that fumble but the ball bounced their way. I am not going to say it was that simple, but when you look at the final score, at what they got off that, I think it was. I have no problems with the way my team played."

I have to agree with the Cowtown coach. His team looked like it was destined for a top ten draft pick before the season began. Challenging the heavily-favoured Thunder Lizards for the division is an achievement. The defence is proving tenacious and the offence is making do because of **Jimmy Garoppolo's** poise under steady pressure, playing behind a poorly-performing offensive line that is doing nothing right. **Todd Gurley II** has almost completely disappeared as an offensive force; his sudden inability to cut and gain yards after contact a source of mystery. An angry faction of snide Corn Kings fans has dubbed their former star **Todd Girley Man**. How soon fans forget. They will forget Gurley's down year too if Cowtown can make another deep post-season run.



Charleswood's **Jalen Richard** reflects on his decision to return the opening kickoff to his own 1-yard line from 9 yards deep. It was dumb, but Richard has a short memory and will do it again.



Peg City's **Aaron Jones** turns up field and barrels his way to another big run in Week 15 action versus Charleswood. The Crusader running back finished with 168 yards on 22 carries to spearhead a 228-yard team effort in the ground game that carried his team to a much-needed 22-9 victory. Often overlooked, Jones has averaged 6.0 yards per carry, best in the league among qualifying runners.

GRUDGE MATCH 2.0

NBC Sunday Night Football featured the other top-billing of the week, the annual showdown between the Iowa City Cubs and their hated rival, the Chino Convicts. In addition to the unbridled hatred that feeds the intensity on the field when these teams face each other, the high stakes involved in this game increased the tension exponentially. The West Division would go to the Cubs for the ___th time in the past ___ years if they were to emerge victorious. The Convicts could take over first place and secure the tie-breaker with a win.

In the week leading up to the game, both coaches were careful not to give the other bulletin board material. Although they openly despised one another, **Deron Redding** and **Rob Nazar** summoned every ounce of self-control to avoid saying that one little thing that would set off the powder keg in their opponent's locker room. The game depended almost as much on that as it did on the players' on-field performance, because the two tended to go hand-in-hand. If the Cubs could be induced into a state of mental hibernation they would invariably start slowly, a problem that had beset them too often in 2020. If the Convicts could be lulled into complacency, believing their opponent to be afraid, their cockiness would get the better of them. It was a mind game.

"It's no secret that a big part of our defensive game plan will be to limit their go-to guy, Christian McCaffrey," Redding affirmed in a Friday interview with beat reporter **Sparky McGillicuddy** of *The Iowan*. "But we cannot ignore Dak and all of the others, like Larry Fitzgerald and Mark Ingram and everyone else. They are all more than capable of picking up the slack. We will focus on everybody, but to be honest I don't know if it is possible to stop the Chino offence. You just have to hope they have an off day."

Upon hearing this, **Rob Nazar** became enraged. What could he possibly do with that? He fired back with a vengeance. "We know what we are up against and it will take everything we have as a team to go into Joe Ferguson Stadium and come out with a win this week," he said beguilingly, his mouth frozen in a straight line as he attempted to smile. "The Cubs are well-coached, highly motivated,

supremely-talented and, to top it all off, they have the best quarterback in the league running their offence. It doesn't matter how good our offence is – no lead is safe with Russell Wilson on the other side.”

When this got back to Redding he became apoplectic. He was well-aware how sensitive his quarterback was to all of the attention being paid to **Patrick Mahomes** and **Lamar Jackson** by the fans and media. Heck, even **Ryan Tannehill** was getting more national press. Redding knew that Wilson felt he was the forgotten man behind center, underappreciated by all. He was aware that his quarterback had been using this lack of attention and respect as motivation over the 7-of-8 stretch that had propelled the Cubs into first place. That is why he had wisely stopped pumping up his starter with motivational speeches heavy on praise. He wanted his quarterback to remain hungry until that day, if all went well, when they hoisted the Gale Sayers Trophy together. With the arch villain of all arch villains now feeding his ego, the effect on Wilson's performance would be unpredictable.

Redding had to admit it: Nazar had cornered him. It had been a diabolical move that he could not easily counter without alienating his starter. What could he do? Tell Wilson that the Chino coach did not mean a word that he said and thereby infer that it could not possibly be true? If he challenged it in any way, would Wilson's resentment turn him into a passive-aggressive Trojan horse on game day? All that was left was to let it ride and hope that Nazar screwed up enough calling plays during the game to undo the damage.

It turned out to be a wise approach.

There was a playoff atmosphere in the air with 7,500 physically-distanced, mask-wearing fans in Joe Ferguson Stadium doubling their noise-making efforts. **Iowa Joe**, the team's mentally unhinged 'super fan,' raced around the aisles dressed only in a Cubs hat, a red and blue striped *Speedo* and pool slippers, bellowing slogans and leading cheers through a giant megaphone. It was 29°F outside, but somehow Joe was working up a sweat.

The tension on both sidelines was taught as a steel suspension wire. Chino's **Za'Darius Smith** cracked open his helmet head-butting the concrete in the tunnel while waiting for the team to take the field. The Cubs broke their pre-game sideline huddle with a blast of 'FOR COACH!' so sharp and loud that a handful of Sheriff's Deputies drew their pistols and looked around in alarm. **Deron Redding** ground his teeth and stared off at mid-field following the National Anthem, while **Rob Nazar** scowled malevolently at his play sheet, as if selecting a method of execution for a particularly heinous felon, his black skull mask wilting below his nose. A classic was brewing and about to boil over onto the field.

When the game started it appeared that both offences had been paralyzed by the suspense. Smith, wearing a one-size too large new helmet, jumped offside on the game's first play from scrimmage, which put the Cubs in position to gain a first down on the next play. But after that gift, it was three-and-out. Chino's first play saw a 12-yard run by **Christian McCaffrey** nullified by a holding call on **Kelvin Beachum**. The Convicts never recovered from the 10-yard setback and had to punt from their own 8 after three unproductive plays, giving the Cubs excellent field position at their own 49 for their next possession.

The Cubs moved the chains on a 3-yard check down to **Christian Kirk** on 3rd & 2, but on the next series of plays, good penetration by the Chino defensive line on three consecutive pass attempts brought up 4th & 5 at the 38. Technically, this field position was within the outer orbit of **Justin Tucker**'s range. But for some reason, Redding – a coach not renowned for fourth down aggression – decided to keep his offence on the field. It was a popular and exciting decision judging from the roar of the 7,500 fans and the protrusion from under the *Speedo* of a clearly aroused **Iowa Joe**, who redoubled his efforts on the megaphone with cries of 'I-OH-WA!' – The crowd joining in with vigor on the 'WA!'

It turned out to be a good call. The Chino line jumped and, emboldened by the free play, Wilson fired a bullet into tight coverage to **Tyler Lockett** on a curl route for a 14-yard gain and a first down. The crowd roared in delight. As I watched this play a few times on my DVR recording, I found it remarkable that 7,500 fans could create so much noise. It struck me that on a normal, pre-COVID game day most of the 'Twelfth Man' noise is probably created by a relatively small proportion of the fans in the stands. Think about it: When you go to see a game live, how many people around you are actually bellowing like lunatics? With only 7,500 tickets available and a locked down populace starved for live action, the proportion of true fanatics in this crowd was probably much greater than usual.

The fourth down conversion was the spark the Cubs needed to drive it home. Facing fanatical resistance from a 'Lockdown Crew' barely a shadow of its former glory, the elusive Wilson was able to move about in the pocket and find open receivers. When the Cubs arrived at the Chino 4, Redding switched to the 'pro set' to open up the run option. The Convicts bit; they brought in a heavy goal line package and keyed on **Joe Mixon** the entire way. But it was a cleverly set trap. Wilson dropped back to pass, with a buffet of open receivers in the end zone in front of him to choose from. But before he could get the throw off, a blitzing **Kiko Alonso** knifed through the line and took him down for a 6-yard loss. One of those receivers should have picked up the blitz, but had not.

Deron Redding was livid. His carefully laid plan to drive home the knife early had perhaps been fatally compromised by his offence's failure to recognize and adjust to the blitz. It turned out to be a temporary setback, however. Wilson found Kirk near the goal line for a first down and Mixon pounded it through on the very next play to give the Cubs 6 points. Tucker came on to make it 7 and the crowd at Joe Ferguson Stadium danced.

On the other sideline, a sullen **Rob Nazar** pondered the situation. He had banked on a sleepy start by the Cubs that would have allowed his offence to build up a lead before making adjustments during halftime to contain the inevitable counter-assault by Wilson. But the Cubs quarterback was playing as if he did not want it to get to that stage. Realizing that he needed to answer this score immediately, Nazar abandoned caution on the next drive by keeping his offence on the field on 4th & 1 at this own 35. It was a bold enough move that nobody, including the NBC booth crew, took it seriously.

“The Warden is sending Dak Prescott and the offence back on to the field,” announced **Al Michaels** with evident surprise.

“This is just a test to see if they can get the Cubs to jump offside,” **Chris Collinsworth** added confidently. “I’d be surprised if they went for it here. If you’re the Cubs’ defensive coordinator in this situation, you tell your guys to hold still, don’t try to anticipate the count, and wait for that ball to be snapped. You can’t give them a free first down here.”

Dak Prescott indeed went with the hard count, reinforcing the idea that it was all just for show to draw an over-eager Cub into the neutral zone. But then he switched to an audible and, to the surprise of both the broadcast crew and the Cubs, he dropped back to pass. The Cubs were slow off the mark, which gave Prescott time to dump the ball off to **Greg Olsen** for 7 yards and a first down. The gutsy call and the positive result knocked the Cubs momentarily off balance. A short slant to **Marvin Jones Jr** went for 37 yards and a hard 3-yard run by **Mark Ingram** on 3rd & 2 gave Chino a first & goal at the Cubs’ 10. But they were allowed to go no farther. **Chase McLaughlin** came on to redeem the effort with a 28-yard field goal to put the Felons on the board. It was not the preferred outcome, but it was better than nothing as far as Nazar was concerned. Now the defence would have to step up.

Buoyed by the red zone stop, the Cubs’ offence looked sharp in getting the ball to the Chino 39 to start their ensuing drive. But a false start penalty on Al Pro guard **Quenton Nelson** seemed to spook the unit. They stalled and had to punt, pinning the Convicts back at their 9-yard line. After a quick first down, the Chino attack got a huge boost when **Larry Fitzgerald** took a short slant 68 yards to the Cubs’ 13-yard line. This was a play that had clicked for big yardage before and this time it set up a touchdown run by McCaffrey to give Chino a 10-7 lead.

The Convicts’ pass rush, living on the edge, was flagged for two encroachments but also struck for two sacks on the Cubs’ next series. The sacks won out and the Cubs punted, giving the ball to Chino at the 50-yard line. After McCaffrey was stuffed for a two-yard loss, the Chino big play machine struck again, with a wide receiver screen to Jones going for 49 yards to the Cubs’ 3-yard line. Prescott then shaved the pylon on a bootleg for a touchdown, giving Chino a 17-7 lead with less than two minutes to go in the half.

The momentum had clearly swung in favour of the visitors. The crowd had been subdued. They registered their dismay with an agitated murmur – no jeers, catcalls or boos yet, but the mood was heading in that direction as the teams broke for half time.

We don’t know what was said in either locker room. All we know is that two different teams took the field in the second half. The desperate aggression of the Convicts turned to cautious conservatism. The vacillating posture of the Cubs turned to single-minded resolution. It was as if the team that was backed into a corner most had the advantage over the other, and the Cubs were the ones backed into a corner as the Convicts took possession to open the 3rd quarter.

A surge from the Cubs’ trenches made short work of the opening series. Three plays and a **Dalvin Tomlinson** sack later and the Convicts were punting, giving the ball back at the Cubs’ 32-yard line. With the urgency of a 4th-quarter, two-minute drill, Wilson connected on a medium slant to **AJ Brown** for 21 yards then came back to Brown with a deep ball that drew a flag when **Donte Jackson** mugged him prior to the ball’s arrival at the Chino 28. With the Convicts’ secondary staggering, Wilson fired a short slant into the bread basket of Lockett on the dead run. The speedy wide-out easily beat out **Patrick Chung**, the last man in the Chino defence, to cash in 6 points and narrow the Chino lead to 3 points.

As conscious as anybody about the failings of his fragile secondary, **Rob Nazar** knew they needed a chance to rest and regroup after being sheared for 68 yards on 3 plays and giving up a touchdown, one that had looked far too easy. He hoped to build a long drive on the next possession – one designed to tire the Cubs while keeping Wilson off the field. But his offence was not up to the task. Prescott checked down too quickly to McCaffrey for a 1-yard gain then McCaffrey was brought down by **Cory Littleton** for 4-yard loss. On 3rd & 14, Prescott checked down meekly to **Tajae Sharpe** for a 2-yard gain to bring on the punting unit.

“And Sharpe is downed immediately at the 24 by Kevin Johnson for, at most, a 2-yard gain,” droned **Al Michaels**, his tone betraying a measure of mockery at the outcome. “That’s not going to do the trick and on comes the punting unit.”

“Well, it looked like Dak pulled off his first read and went straight to the outlet,” **Chris Collinsworth** commented. “But he had Marvin Jones open down the seam. He just didn’t see him. He’s going to be kicking himself in the film room tomorrow.”

The Cubs took over for the second straight time at their own 32 and for the second straight series Wilson looked possessed in pushing the ball downfield. He hit Brown and Lockett for 18 and 16 yards respectively, checked down to Mixon for 14 yards, then connected with Beasley on a short slant that the agile route runner carried untouched through the shell-shocked Chino secondary for a 29-yard touchdown pass.

“And Beasley will score!” announced **Al Michaels**. “And just like that, the Cubs are back in front. Boy, they made that look easy, Chris!”

“Well, they went back to the same play they ran on the previous touchdown,” **Chris Collinsworth** observed. “Except this time they used Lockett to ghost pick the defender, allowing Beasley to get a full step on Jackson and from there it’s a foot race to the end zone. I’m telling you, they’re going to keep doing this until the Convicts show they can stop it!”

While Cubs fans and **Iowa Joe** spun deliriously in the stands and the Cubs’ defence high-fived the offence as it came off the field, the Chino coach fumed on the sideline. He realized he had no defence against **Russell Wilson** when he was on a mission. His pass rush, which had kept the Cubs’ quarterback contained in the first half, was struggling to penetrate the Cubs’ offensive line in the second half. Without pass rush pressure, his corners didn’t stand a chance against the Cubs’ receivers. The only thing Nazar could do was to play defence with his offence. But his offence also needed to score. It was a dilemma. He decided to fall back on what had worked more often than not over the course of the season. He called for the Dak-and-Dunk – a mix of east-west runs and pass routes behind and no more than five yards beyond the line of scrimmage. The Dak-and-Dunk was trademarked Convicts fare – their bread and butter.

The only problem with going with what had worked in the past, of course, was that the Cubs, a division rival well-versed in the Convicts' ways, had seen it all on before, on the field and in the film room. There were no secrets between these teams, just execution. For the remaining 22:25 the Cubs executed and the Convicts did not.

While the Chino offence trudged along at an ultra-conservative 3-yard per play pace – their longest advance coming on a 16-yard pass interference penalty – the Cubs also worked the clock, doing a much better job of it and notching a field goal for their efforts to extend their lead to 24-17 with just over 2 minutes remaining.

Jakeem Grant downed the kickoff in the end zone following the Cubs' field goal and **Dak Prescott** took the field at the 25-yard line, carrying the weight of his team's aspirations for a division win on his shoulders. Whereas his counterpart on the opposite sideline fed on such moments, Prescott was apparently not as hungry for the spotlight with the game on the line and it showed. After a shaky advance to the Cubs' 27-yard line – aided almost as much by Iowa penalties as from Chino yards gained from scrimmage – Prescott simply missed on four straight passes, turning the ball over unceremoniously on downs with 0:27 left to play. It was an anti-climactic and feeble end to a game that had started off resembling a blood sport, but it was one the Cubs and their fans were happy to take.

"We felt we were the better team today and deserved to win the game," Redding firmly declared at his post-game presser. Gone was the deferential tone he had used in reference to the Convicts in the days leading up to the game. "They gave it a good try, but I never doubted that we would come back and win. They caught our defence napping on a few plays early, but we were ready for those in the second half. I am happy to say we took care of business tonight."

Rob Nazar was surly and tight-lipped after the game, refusing to concede defeat. "Let's just say that the Cubs got away with one today," he said ambiguously. "This was a setback for us, for sure, but we're not out of the race. We will probably see them again in the post-season. Things won't go so well for them next time."

So, with the Cubs advancing as the no.3 seed and the Convicts refusing to concede defeat, we may not have seen the last of the toxic Cubs-Convicts conflict in 2020.

DEEP REBUILD

The Pats stayed in the race for the first overall pick by dropping a 22-9 decision to the Crusaders this week. But the loss did not come without a few high points to give fans hope for next year. Charleswood took the opening drive 99 yards in 11 plays, finishing off with a 19-yard catch-and-run to **Zay Jones** for a touchdown. It is always impressive when a team scores on the opening drive of the game. But it is even more impressive when a team covers 99 yards to do so. This is because it just doesn't happen very often that a team starts at its own 1-yard line after a kickoff. On those exceedingly rare occasions when it does happen, there is usually a fumble involved or a back-tracking returner who forgets where he is on the football field. But in this case, it was simply a matter of Charleswood kick returner, **Jalen Richard** biting off more than he could chew, for the umpteenth time this year.

Ever since Richard took over the kick return duties from **Cordarell Patterson** – one of the league's premier return men who was traded along with other important players to Virden in the off-season – he has been determined to be the best return man in the game and has styled himself after the greats at the position.

"I pattern my game after Devin Hester," Richard told reporters in an interview after his debut performance in Week One, when he returned 4 kick-offs for 86 yards, including a season-high 30-yarder. "I'm just beginning to scratch the surface of my potential returning kicks. That 30-yarder I peeled off - that's just the start!"

If it was the start of anything, it was the start of a historically unproductive year. Richard ranks dead last in the league among kick return specialists who have returned at least one kickoff per game, with an average of 14.8 yards per return. It's not as if he hasn't had plenty of opportunities. He ranks second in number of returns attempted, with 39, just 4 returns shy of the league high of 43 by Buffalo's **DeAndre Carter**.

"I have the green light from the coach to go whenever I feel I can break one!" he explained to *Charleswood Banner* reporter, **Charlie Wood**. "With my talent and explosiveness, you never know. I don't look at returning it from deep in the end zone as taking chances, I look at as an opportunity to change the game, you know!"

This week, Richard apparently saw an opportunity when he fielded a kick from **Harrison Butker** 9 yards deep in his end zone and he nearly changed the game, in a bad way, when he barely broke the inside plane of his own goal line on the return. It fell to **DeShaun Watson** and Jones to get him off the hook.

Richard's dogged persistence coupled with his lack of ability is just one more peculiar aspect of the Pats' depressing season. But the coach allows the failure to continue for some deeper purpose.

"This season is not about strategy or tactics," explained owner **Jason Findlay**, when asked if he intended to fire his team's coach of going on 14 years after their 12th loss. "This season is no longer about winning games either, although we do our best to win every week. This season is about discovery. We are in a deep rebuild. Our players are free to discover themselves as players, not as components in a game plan. That's why we run the same plays over and over again – to give the players a chance to express their talent on a consistent platform. How else are we going to measure their relative worth? If Jalen needs to return every kick to develop himself, then let him. The pain of failure will inspire success or bring him down. Let's see where he is after the season is over!"

For those of you who were still wondering why a proud and successful franchise suddenly started sucking, there you have it spelled out for you! The Patriots have no game plan and have let the players run the show while the team's management bides its time waiting for the next off-season to resume their push to relevancy. Meanwhile, for teams like the Crusaders, that need easy wins to stay alive, a game against the Pats is the perfect prescription.

AROUND THE EFL – ERUDITE OBSERVATIONS AND LEARNING POINTS

Having devoted extensive space to the two *bona fide* games of the week and indulged one of my pet peeves by turning the magnifying glass on a glaring dysfunction of the 2020 edition of the Patriots, I am forced to restrict my erudite Week 15 observations to the most salient points from the other 9 contests.

↷ The Blue Eagles played it safe and now fans and pundits will have a whole off-season to mull over the decision that might have changed their team's fate in a Week 15 loss to Sebastian. Leading 17-10, Scarborough faced 4th & goal at the Swordfish 3-yard line to open the 3rd quarter. On a normal day, a field goal would do. But when facing Kamikaze **Russ Lemmon**, 4th & goal at the 3 is a must gamble. (You know he would be doing it to you if the situation were reversed). The Eagles kicked the field goal anyway, to take a 20-10 lead and it looked like it would work out well, but a fourth-quarter surge led by **Drew Brees** wiped out the 20-10 Scarborough lead. The comeback started with one of the longest 61-yard scoring drives in history – a 17-play monster that ate almost 9 minutes off the clock and featured three 4th-down conversions en route to a touchdown. In keeping with the inanity of this year's Swordfish campaign, Lemmon went for the two-point conversion after the score, but the try was unsuccessful, leaving Scarborough in front by 4, 20-16. But with less than 2 minutes left, Brees let his coach off the hook by hooking up with **Jalen Reagor** for a 65-yard touchdown pass to give the Fish a 23-20 victory. The Eagles' loss eliminated them from the playoffs

↷ At Camelot in York, the Hawks secured the first wildcard position in the Atlantic Conference with a come-from-behind 28-24 victory over the Excaliburs. Brooklin staked the Yorkies to a 24-13 lead before storming back late in the 4th quarter. **Derek Carr** went HAM on the Swords' secondary in his final two possessions, completing 14 of 18 passes for 176 yards and 2 touchdowns in the 4th quarter, including the game-winning 16-yard toss to **Van Jefferson** with 1 second left on the clock. With 10 wins under their belts, the Hawks remain the most underrated team in the league by the national media...but not by Yours Truly.

↷ At the Assassin's Den in Las Vegas, Seattle quarterback **Sam Darnold** and wide receiver **Anthony Miller** helped each other to career days to lead the Pilots to a 30-27 win over the Assassins. Darnold finished with 429 yards passing, 184 of those to Miller, who caught a career high 12 passes. This game was lop-sided in favour of Seattle in every way except the scoreboard. An impressive 64-yard TD run by **Dalvin Cook** and an 82-yard punt return TD by **Mecole Hardman** kept the Assassins in the game well past their shelf life.

↷ At Coyote Field in Cobb County, the desperate Derailers blitzed with abandon, gambled liberally on 4th down and tried every trick in the book, including two punt fakes by **Andy Lee** – a pass (successful) and a run (not) – but still fell to the Coyotes by a decisive 30-17 score. Some of the Buffalo blitzes were truly horrifying to behold, but surprisingly successful most of the time. But one that spectacularly missed was the six-man all-out blitz that got picked up long enough to allow **Ryan Tannehill** to find **DeVante Parker** short over the middle for a 37-yard touchdown pass. The lack of a safety helped. The score gave Cobb County a 27-10 4th quarter lead and made the final eight minutes a mere exercise. A clearly tired **Lamar Jackson** threw 2 touchdown passes, but only 104 yards in the loss.

↷ To hear New Jersey GM and co-owner **JC Cohen** tell it, one would have the impression that his luckless Wrecking Balls had deserved a better fate than the 32-14 strapping they received from the Bombers in Week 15.

"We gave it our all out there today! Matt Stafford was on the money. He was out there trying to *win* that game. If they awarded points for effort, we would have won that game in a landslide," Cohen lamented with affected sadness. "The whole team deserves accolades for the way they battled out there today. You know, we weren't far off. You change around about a dozen plays, and the outcome is reversed. A dozen isn't that much really, as anyone who has bought a dozen Kettleman bagels will tell you!"

The reality was that the Wrecking Balls were never really in it from the outset. The **Jared Goff**-led Bombers were slow but steady off the mark, building up a 19-0 half time lead before the Jerseyites marked the scoreboard with TD pass to **Terry McLaurin** to start the 3rd quarter. The score momentarily paralyzed the action, with nothing of note happening until **Chris Godwin** broke a wide receiver screen for 82 yards and a TD to start the 4th quarter. Any ensuing heroics claimed by Balls ownership are pure propaganda.

↷ Like a heavyweight punching out a featherweight, the Violators pounded the Triumph from the opening bell, scoring on their first five series, three of those TD passes by the league's leader in that category, **Patrick Mahomes**. The punch-drunk Triumph went three-and-out on their first four possessions and ended the 1st half with a 1-yard scramble by **Mitch Trubisky** on their aborted fifth. The beating slowed down in the 2nd half, with the Triumph defence stabilizing against a somewhat half-hearted Virden attack that was nevertheless happy to tack on a fourth TD pass for Mahomes and looked like it was aiming for a fifth, just to say they did it and bolster the kid's MVP credentials. But they didn't try too hard, conscious of how it might look, and ended up helping to burn out the clock on a 34-6 victory much more competitively lop-sided than the score.

↷ At Monsignor McClancy Memorial Stadium in Queen's, the **Baker Mayfield-to-Tyreek Hill** combo continued to build up a reputation for quick-strike devastation as the pair hooked up for 3 touchdowns in a straightforward 35-17 lambasting of the Gladiators by the strong-finishing Irish. Hill has now caught 8 touchdown passes in his last 4 games after coming back from a hamstring injury that had him out of action for three weeks. In the eight games prior to going out, Hill had just 3 touchdowns combined. The evolution of this deadly duo serves notice to the rest of the league that, with a few key additions, the ex-Wolverines will soon be back in the limelight.

↷ At Kelly-Burke field in Erieau the Cadillac stalled once more, managing just 3 points in dropping a 24-3 decision to the Mustangs. **Matt Ryan** claimed the game MVP prize with 254 yards passing and a touchdown, but the actual star of the game was Erieau linebacker, **Anthony Walker**, who logged 10 tackles, 2 sacks, 2 stuffs and forced a fumble. It might have even made a difference but the regressing Erieau offence was far away from figuring things out, especially against the 'Stangs.

↷ And, finally, at Ferenc-Liszt International Airport Stadium in Budapest, possibly the most boring game of the season unfolded in front of 5,000 drunken Budapestians, as the Stars slowly crushed the Spartans, 23-0. I don't need to write any more about this one.

BUG THE BOOKIE!

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

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RECORD VS THE SPREAD AFTER WEEK 15:

101-75-4

PLAYOFF PICTURE AT A GLANCE

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

Jimmy's WEEK SIXTEEN PICKS

GAMES TO WATCH

PEG CITY @ VIRDEN (line – VIOLATORS by 10)

INJURIES: Peg City – Tyler Higbee (QUESTIONABLE); Virden – Eric Ebron (QUESTIONABLE), Nigel Bradham (OUT), Lane Johnson (OUT), Mohamed Sanu (OUT), Nasir Adderley (IR), Derrius Guice (IR), Ben Watson IR).

After the Violators nosed out a victory in a flat-out race when these teams met in Week Nine, the Crusaders still looked like they had the juice to make a charge down the stretch and possibly make this a pivotal game for the Division. It was always going to be a long shot for the Pegs to overcome that Week Nine loss and make a run for the division, but nobody expected that they would be fighting for their playoff lives in Week 16. The Crusaders not only have to win this game, but hope for losses by both Chino and Buffalo to advance. They are close to fully healthy, with Tyler Higbee the only question mark, while the Violators are missing left tackle, Lane Johnson, an important, if unsung piece of the offence. Still, beating the Violators in *TERRORDOME* is a tall order on a good day. If a Crusaders win was all that mattered in this contest, this would simply be a game of note. But Virden still has a shot at the no.1 overall seed in the Pacific Conference and can stay in the running with a win here. They, too, will need help. If the Coyotes lose and Violators pull this one out, Virden will secure the no.1 seed with the better record in common games. It's not that big of a long shot. The Violators are big

favourites and should take care of business here. But the Pegs are fighting for their lives and will keep it close. **PICK: PEG CITY**

SEATTLE @ CHINO (line – CONVICTS by 4)

INJURIES: **Seattle** – Hunter Renfrow (PROBABLE), Marlon Mack (OUT), Kareem Hunt (IR); **Chino** – Andrew Adams (PROBABLE), Morgan Burnett (PROBABLE), P.J. Williams (PROBABLE), A.J. Terrell (QUESTIONABLE), Damiere Byrd (OUT).

The Convicts came up flat in the second half of their division-deciding loss to the Cubs last week. Christian McCaffrey could not gain traction and the team appeared unwilling to push the ball downfield against the static and non-mystifying Cubs' defence. Dak Prescott outright fanned on his last four pass attempts to add some feebleness to the finish. Now they must win this game to assure themselves of a wildcard berth; or they can lose and back into the post-season if both Buffalo and Peg City also lose. The Pilots looked very much alive in their victory over the Assassins last week. Sam Darnold was flinging the ball like he didn't have a care in the world. That has to worry the Convicts' coach, who is aware as much as anyone that his squad ranks last in passing yards allowed, at almost 300 per-game. When these teams met in Week 8, the Pilots moved the ball at will in the first half before being shut down in the second half by the Convicts' grip on the time of possession and a red zone interception by Gareon Conley. Take away Jakeem Grant's two touchdowns on kickoff returns, however, and the Convicts might not have survived that encounter. With Marlon Mack out, don't expect subtlety from the Pilots' offence. They will go right at the Convicts through the air and see where it takes them. **PICK: SEATTLE**

GAMES OF NOTE

COBB COUNTY @ BRUXELLES (line – COYOTES by 1)

INJURIES: **Cobb County** – None; **Bruxelles** – Kerryon Johnson (DOUBTFUL), Isaiah Wynn (OUT).

It would have made for better TV if this game were about to decide the division instead of who will hold homefield advantage throughout the playoffs. With the division locked up, the Coyotes can finish off a stunningly successful regular season in style and notch the no.1 seed in the conference with a win over the Bombers here on the road. They could also snatch it less gracefully with a loss here and a Virden loss. These are fine stakes, but neither team will be booking tee times next week if they lose this one. The Bombers, for the second week, have nowhere to go. Win or lose, they remain locked into the first wildcard spot. Expect at least a few starters to sit, but not Jared Goff. Starting back-up James Morgan guarantees a loss, while the Bombers would find some personal satisfaction in a win after getting mauled by the Coyotes in Week 5. With rumours circulating that Ryan Tannehill is under some kind of mysterious pitch count, it is not inconceivable that the league's top-rated quarterback will see limited action in this game. The team with the most prolific offence, that outgains its opponents by an average of 133 yards per-game and outscores them by 13½, feels it can play these kinds of games. Whether they can get away with resting some starters will depend on Bruxelles doing the same. **PICK: COBB COUNTY**

BUFFALO @ NEW JERSEY (line – DERAILERS by 3)

INJURIES: **Buffalo** – Riley Ridley (PROBABLE), Jonathan Abram (QUESTIONABLE); **New Jersey** – Jamal Adams (DOUBTFUL), Delanie Walker (QUESTIONABLE).

The Derailers threw everything and the kitchen sink at the Coyotes last week and still wound up two score short. Now they must win here and hope for help from the Pilots to make the playoffs. The running of Lamar Jackson is what powers this Buffalo offence – he has racked up more than two times the total yards produced by his team's running backs and ranks third in the league in rushing. There are subtle signs that his legs are beginning to tire, however. The Wrecking Balls, if they do anything right, are good against the run, but they are abysmal versus the pass. This sets up what promises to be a test of Lamar's ability to win a game with his arm, something he has not done explicitly more than twice this season. One of those wins was against this Jersey squad back in Week Five, when he was held to just 3.9 yards per carry but threw for 271 yards and 3 touchdowns against a largely pass-oriented Balls defence. Expect this game to unfold similarly, but with the Wrecking Balls playing with less intensity. They have no real interest in winning this game. They need to lose here and hope for a Triumph victory to sew up the no.1 overall pick and you-know-who. **PICK: BUFFALO**

TWIN CITIES @ CHARLESWOOD (line – PATRIOTS by 3)

INJURIES: **Twin Cities** – Darnell Savage (OUT), Antonio Brown (COVID-19); **Charleswood** – Devin Funchess (QUESTIONABLE), CJ Mosley (IR).

Speaking of you-know-who, the Triumph can secure the right of first refusal for Mr. Franchise if they can manage a loss here against the Patriots. On the other side, the Pats can steal that privilege from the Triumph with a loss and a New Jersey victory over Buffalo. I think you now get where I am going by putting these two losers in the 'Games of Note' category. The result could have lasting implications on the franchises involved and the league as a whole. Plus, it is always interesting to watch two teams clash who secretly don't want to win. The players, of course, are out there trying to win. They don't want some snot-nosed rookie kid trying to take away one of their jobs.

But the coaches and GMs – that’s another story. Any coach who has to suffer through double-digits losses is naturally looking to the future. There are lots of things coaches can do to subtly wreck their chances – like putting Jameis Winston in, or alternating the same three plays for an entire half. The Triumph have the edge here – they have managed to lose more games with more talent than the Pats so far. The Pats have DeShaun Watson and he certainly has no interest in you-know-who taking his job. **PICK: CHARLESWOOD**

SCARBOROUGH @ DURHAM (line – THUNDER LIZARDS by 10)

INJURIES: **Scarborough** – Shaq Lawson (QUESTIONABLE), TJ Yeldon (QUESTIONABLE), DeSean Jackson (DOUBTFUL); **Durham** – Austin Hooper (DOUBTFUL), Isaiah Johnson (IR).

The Hollywood Ending did not end up happening for the Blue Eagles this year – far from it. Drew Brees got hot in the 4th quarter last week and torched their chances of a playoff run. They are now out of the race while the Thunder Lizards have the North Division locked up after surviving a pesky challenge by the Corn Kings. It would appear at first glance that neither team has anything to play for, but the Lizards can, in fact, improve their position in the post-season seeding with a win here and an Aurora loss to Georgia. Okay, it’s a longshot, I know, and probably not worth Durham playing its key starters to optimize their chances of victory. But the advantage of playing at home against Aurora versus on the road in the playoffs cannot be dismissed as negligible. Expect Durham to put most, if not all, of its starters on the field to start the game, while the Blue Eagles will deploy whatever is left of their arsenal in an attempt to finish the season at 500, which would be a welcome boost to franchise morale after consecutive 2-14 seasons. When these teams met in Week 8, the Lizards made Joe Burrow look like a raw rookie, intercepting him 3 times and holding him to 44 yards. The Kid will be looking for some kind of redemption in this game, even if it is just keeping his team in the contest until the end. **PICK: SCARBOROUGH**

HOLIDAY LEFTOVERS

SEBASTIAN @ COWTOWN (line – CORN KINGS by 6)

INJURIES: **Sebastian** –Jadeveon Clowney (QUESTIONABLE), Jeff Gladney (QUESTIONABLE), Jordan Jenkins (QUESTIONABLE), Kevin King (DOUBTFUL), Jonathan Taylor (OUT), Damien Williams (OUT); **Cowtown** – Alex Cappa (PROBALE), Mike Evans (OUT).

The Corn Kings owe the Swordfish a favour after they took care of the Blue Eagles last week, which allowed Cowtown to back in to the post-season a week early. In return, expect the Corn Kings to rest a lot of starters in this game, one which means nothing to them in the standings. The Fish have been playing more or less meaningless games ever since Drew Brees got injured, but with the veteran back in the line-up, are now looking to salvage a little pride. Expect Brees to be the feature of the Fish attack this week with their no.1 and 2 running backs out and Cowtown starting their back-ups in the secondary. It is a good week to start Odell Beckham Jr in your fantasy league. The only thing that might ruin the party would be the Cowtown pass rush, which is expected to remain mostly intact. On the other side, the Corn Kings have hinted that Joe Flacco may see the field in the second half, further reducing their chances of competing in a shootout with Mike Evans and Le’Veon Bell already ruled out. This is a silly line under the circumstances. **PICK: SEBASTIAN**

PICKERING @ BROOKLIN (line – HAWKS by 11)

INJURIES: **Pickering** – Calvin Ridley (PROBABLE), Ronald Leary (OUT), Denzel Ward (OUT), Sterling Shepard (IR), Malik Jackson (IR). **Brooklin** – Brandon Williams (PROBABLE), Rodney Hudson (QUESTIONABLE), Larry Warford (DOUBTFUL), Xavier McKinney (OUT), DeShon Elliott (IR), Alshon Jeffery (IR);

If there was any doubt that the Spartans are one of the two worst teams in football, it is being gradually put to rest as they limp across the finish line of the 2020 season. They won’t be compensated sufficiently in the draft next year, but on the bright side, a win here will not affect their draft position, while it would look a lot more palatable in the final standings – something more impressive about winning one-quarter rather than 3/16ths of your games. The Hawks are a lock for the first wildcard and are well-aware that their opponent next week is giving half of its roster the day off this week. They won’t want to be outdone in the resting department, so expect to see some unfamiliar names wearing seagull blue here. All this is points to glorious finish for the tarnished Spartans. **PICK: PICKERING**

BUDAPEST @ YORK (line – NORTH STARS by 3)

INJURIES: **Budapest** – George Kittle (PROBABLE); **York** – Mike McGlinchey (QUESTIONABLE), Rock Ya-Sin (DOUBTFUL), Raekwon McMillan (OUT).

The Excaliburs looked pretty strong against the Hawks last week up until the final six minutes. The defence that in the past has bailed them out of tight spots is finally realizing that it misses Von Miller as the season winds down. On the other side of the ball, Derrick Henry is not proving to be enough of a factor on his own to drive the York offence with the paucity of weapons in the passing game. The Swords are certainly not going to blow anybody away, let alone the top seeded team in the conference. But the North Stars are proving to

be a pretty lethargic no.1 seed when measured against the style of the day, which is high-octane offence. What the Stars do best is stop others from scoring. They have not given up a touchdown since Week 12 and have given up only 6 points in their last three games. Aaron Rodgers doesn't need to test the safeties with a team like this. Expect another Stars strangulation of their opponent. **PICK: BUDAPEST**

EAST ELMHURST @ ERIEAU (line – IRISH by 1)

INJURIES: East Elmhurst – Nelson Agholor (OUT), Gerald Everett (OUT), Christian Jones (OUT), Vernon Davis (IR), Adam Thielen (IR); Erieau – Isaiah Wilson (PROBABLE), Rhett Ellison (OUT), Gabe Jackson (OUT), Zack Moss (OUT), Tyron Smith (OUT).

The Cadillac offence has been sputtering in the driveway for the past three weeks and it all points back to Kyler Murray, who has thrown 4 interceptions to 0 TD passes in that span. In fairness, Murray is getting no support from the run game and doesn't have a reliable outside threat in the pass game – nothing new there in Erieau. The Irish, at five wins, are playing way over their heads, which tells how mediocre the roster talent is. Yet, Baker Mayfield is providing the spark that can, under the right circumstances, ignite the clump of damp logs that is the congregated talent on this roster. Expect the Irish to come gunning and finish on a high note. **PICK: EAST ELMHURST**

LAS VEGAS @ IOWA CITY (line – CUBS by 6)

INJURIES: Las Vegas – Deatrich Wise (QUESTIONABLE), Wendell Smallwood (DOUBTFUL), Darius Leonard (OUT), Greg Van Roten (OUT), Akhelo Witherspoon (OUT); Iowa City – Jason Pierre-Paul (PROBABLE).

When these teams met earlier in the season, rookie Justin Herbert saw his first pro football action and looked pretty good, albeit in a game that had already spiralled out of reach due to a poor start by Carson Wentz and Jacoby Brissett. That loss was one of the low points in the long spiral downward for Vegas after a 3-1 start to the season. With Carson Wentz now finishing strong, it is the Assassins' 'D' that is letting them down. They gave up 533 yards against the Pilots and 428 yards the week before against the Hawks. For a team that boasts three pro-bowlers at linebacker and plenty of secondary talent, these numbers are a sign that the defence is either exhausted or has given up. That is not a good state to be in coming into Iowa City to face a Cubs team high off their division-clinching win over Chino last week. The Cubs are locked into the no.3 seed and may rest some key players. That is the only thing that will give Vegas hope. **PICK: LAS VEGAS**

GEORGIA @ AURORA (line – MUSTANGS by 15)

INJURIES: Georgia – James Robinson (PROBABLE), Jimmy Smith (OUT); Aurora – None.

The Mustangs must win this game to assure themselves of the no.2 seed in the conference, so don't expect a wholesale benching of starters in this game. But it is the Glads they are facing, so we can expect players like JJ Watt to be deactivated for this one. Georgia looked pretty lost without Tua. Devlin Hodges turned into a frog the week after charming the fanbase with his win over Erieau; and Big Ben looked mediocre at best last week against the Irish. Perhaps the rookie can re-inject life into this marginally talented and now sluggish-looking roster. More likely, though, he will be trying in vain to come from behind after the merciless Mustangs open with a few well-timed long hitches and slants to Davante Adams and James Washington – just to remind everyone who's boss. **PICK: AURORA**



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This Week in EFL History
With Professor Sterling Smitherman

FROM THE EFL ARCHIVES – Week Fifteen of the 2014 EFL Season witnessed a reversal of fortunes for the Convicts and Cubs when compared with their respective fates in 2020. Six years ago, the Convicts eliminated the Cubs, not just from the division title, but from the playoffs entirely. The Cubs got off to their usual slow start but barnstormed their way back with 17 points in the 4th quarter to tie things up at 24. But Chino got into field goal position when *Cam Newtown* hit *James Jones* for a 36-yard completion and *Dan Bailey* came on to make the 44-yard attempt and kick the Cubs out of the post-season.

Six years ago, in Week 15, the Corn Kings were also eliminated from post-season contention The Spartans' *Peyton Manning* showed his mastery of the Cowtown defence with 334 yards passing and 4 TD passes, his last a 23-yard strike to *Pierre Garcon*. The win also allowed the Spartans to keep pace with rival Durham, who won handily, 28-10 against an over-matched Gladiators squad. The teams shared first place in the north heading into Week 16.

The Excaliburs were another Week 15 playoff casualty. They were taken out of the post-season conversation after falling without much of a fight to the North Stars 30-14. Markham jumped out to a 21-0 lead in the first half and never looked back after that.

In the Big Performances department, Durham running back *Fred Jackson* (remember him?) racked up 241 yards from scrimmage, 163 rushing and 78 receiving, and scored 4 touchdowns to be a one-man offence against Gwinnett. On the defensive side of the ball, *Olivier Vernon* earned the Monarchs a rare positive mention on the highlight reel, registering 17 tackles, 3 sacks and 2 stuffs in Mission Viejo's 27-6 mauling of the still winless LA Knights. One more loss and Jeff Dohrn's motley crew would become the first EFL team to go winless.