

WEEK 4



EFL

ELITE FOOTBALL LEAGUE



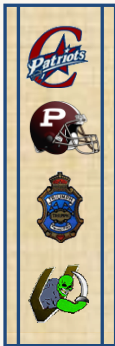
Blazing Through a Pandemic in our 14th Season!

November 1, 2020

EAST



CENTRAL



WEST



NORTH



COASTAL



SOUTH



*Allen Robinson
Scarborough Blue Eagles*

Blue Eagles' wide receiver *Allen Robinson II* hurls himself across the goal line for the third of four TD catches on the day in Week Four action against the Crusaders. This was the first of two scores in the 4th quarter that resulted in Scarborough erasing a 12-point deficit and edging out Peg City 37-35 on the road.



*Who was slick
in Week Four?*

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



OFFENCE



Davante Adams
WR
Aurora
Mustangs

11 Rec, 152 Yds, 3 TDs. Led all WRs in yards and scored game-winning TD.



DEFENSE



Grady Jarrett
DT
Chino
Convicts

4 T, 2 SKs, FF. Strip-sack on opening series flipped field & set up Chino TD.




23



13

Two **Austin Seibert** FGs accounted for the Erieau 1st half offence. The Bombers struggled against a stubborn Erieau D until a deep slant to **Chase Claypool** for 30 yards set up a breakthrough TD pass to **Travis Kelce** to give Bruxelles a 10-6 lead. The Bombers added two more **Matt Prater** FGs, one from 55 yards, before Erieau scored on a bootleg by **Kyler Murray** to make it 16-13. A struggle ensued. **Kyle Fuller** picked off Murray and **Nyheim Hines** was stoned on 4th & 2 at the Bombers' 19 to hold an attacking Erieau at bay before **Darren Waller** clinched the game with a 20-yd TD.

10-29-2020 Kelly-Burke Field Temp:65 Wind:15-25 None No Line MVP:Goff HFA:ON(3)

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2019 Bruxelles (2-2)	3	10	3	7	23
2019 Erieau (1-3)	3	3	7	0	13

Scoring Summary

1 10:14 Erieau	FG Seibert 29 (10-39-4:35)	0-3
1 0:28 Bruxelles	FG Prater 28 (10-57-6:40)	3-3
2 9:31 Erieau	FG Seibert 40 (6-41-3:38)	3-6
2 7:35 Bruxelles	TD Goff 17 pass to Kelce (Prater) (4-79-1:47)	10-6
2 1:06 Bruxelles	FG Prater 42 (10-50-3:08)	13-6
3 11:36 Bruxelles	FG Prater 55 (8-33-3:08)	16-6
3 5:55 Erieau	TD Murray 9 run (Seibert) (11-75-5:41)	16-13
4 2:20 Bruxelles	TD Goff 20 pass to Waller (Prater) (11-81-5:20)	23-13

Passing

BRX: Goff 35/18 255 Yds 2 TDs
 ERI: Murray 31/14 130 Yds 2 Int

Rushing

BRX: Fournette 19/94, Johnson 3/12, Morgan 1/-1, Goff 1/-1
 ERI: Moss 9/50, Gore 4/35, Hines 6/29, Murray 5/27 TD, McCoy 2/15, Ruggs III 1/0

Receiving

BRX: Kelce 5/74 TD, Fournette 5/34, Godwin 3/52, Waller 3/51 TD, Claypool 1/30, Westbrook 1/14
 ERI: Ruggs III 3/42, Henry 3/25, Andrews 3/22, Gordon 2/22, Johnson 1/11, Hines 1/4, Moss 1/4

Defense


BRX: Kuechly PD STF 12-Tk, Smith,H Int PD 6-Tk, Phillips Sk STF 2-Tk
 ERI: Walker 2 STF 7-Tk, Peppers 3 PDs 4-Tk, Reid 3 PDs 4-Tk, Houston Sk PD FF 1-Tk

Injuries


BRX:
 ERI:

Misc

BRX: Prater 3/3 FG 55 Lg
 ERI: |



31



38

The Mustangs erupted for 24 points over a 3½-minute span in the 2nd thanks to two interceptions of **Matt Stafford**, one a 66-yard pick-six by **K'Waun Williams**; and a pair of TD passes from **Matt Ryan** to **Davante Adams**. The Wrecking Balls stayed within striking distance with 2 catch-and-run TDs of 33 and 68 yards to **Terry McLaurin**, both scores paying off when a **Chidobe Awuzie** pick and a **Bashaud Breeland** forced fumble set the stage for TDs of 52 and 8 yards to **DJ Chark** to tie it at 31. **Mike Singletary** then ground out 40 yards on 7 carries to set up the 8-yard TD to Adams for the win.

10-31-2020 Magna Park Temp:65 Wind:0-10 None Line:NJ by 2 MVP:Adams HFA:ON(5)

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2019 New Jersey (1-3)	3	14	14	0	31
2019 Aurora (3-1)	7	24	0	7	38

Scoring Summary

1 10:22 Aurora	TD Ryan 8 pass to Edelman (Lutz) (8-75-4:38)	0-7
1 3:27 New Jersey	FG Boswell 37 (14-56-6:51)	3-7
2 12:38 Aurora	TD Ryan 10 pass to Adams (Lutz) (6-80-3:11)	3-14
2 11:22 Aurora	TD Ryan 18 pass to Adams (Lutz) (2-18-0:14)	3-21
2 9:08 Aurora	TD Williams 66 interception return (Lutz)	3-28
2 5:01 New Jersey	TD Stafford 33 pass to McLaurin (Boswell) (6-76-3:58)	10-28
2 2:20 New Jersey	TD Stafford 68 pass to McLaurin (Boswell) (3-81-1:39)	17-28
2 0:34 Aurora	FG Lutz 30 (8-48-1:42)	17-31
3 8:20 New Jersey	TD Stafford 52 pass to Chark Jr. (Boswell) (6-66-3:46)	24-31
3 2:13 New Jersey	TD Stafford 8 pass to Chark Jr. (Boswell) (3-18-1:35)	31-31
4 11:12 Aurora	TD Ryan 10 pass to Adams (Lutz) (10-75-6:03)	31-38

Passing

NJ: Stafford 34/25 346 Yds 4 TDs 2 Int
 AUR: Ryan 29/21 238 Yds 4 TDs Int

Rushing

NJ: Hill 7/27, Montgomery 13/24, Cohen 2/7, Samuel 1/4, Stafford 1/0
 AUR: Singletary 25/143, Ryan 1/-1

Receiving

NJ: Chark Jr. 6/112 2 TDs, Samuel 5/57, Cohen 5/33, McLaurin 3/107 2 TDs, Montgomery 2/19, Lewis 2/10, Hill 1/4, Sepncer 1/4
 AUR: Adams 11/152 3 TDs, Edelman 5/57 TD, Singletary 3/14, Samuels 2/15

Defense

NJ: Awuzie Int 11-Tk, Landry III Sk STF 9-Tk
 AUR: Onyemata Sk PD FF 8-Tk, Peterson Int PD 7-Tk, Williams,K Int-TD 5-Tk, Davison Sk 4-Tk

Injuries

NJ: Walker
 AUR:

Misc

NJ: 5 turnovers
 AUR: |



Tyler Bass hit on a 50-yard FG to cap the game's opening drive, ending the highlight reel for Georgia on a day when **Lamar Jackson** did it all for the visitors. The Derailer QB ran for 142 yards and a TD and threw 2 TD passes in leading Buffalo to a comfortable victory. Buffalo found the end zone on three of its first four possessions, using a balanced mix of runs and short passes to keep the Gladiators' defence from getting set. In the end, Buffalo held the ball for 38 minutes and tallied 34 first downs. Georgia added a late 4th quarter TD, set up by a bad snap to the punter, to reach double-digits.

10-28-2020 Georgia Stadium Temp:82 Wind:5-15 None Line:BUF by 2 MVP:Jackson HFA:0

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2019 Buffalo (2-2)	7	14	7	7	35
2019 Georgia (1-3)	3	0	0	7	10

Scoring Summary

1 9:31 Georgia	FG Bass 50 (12-61-5:20)	0-3
1 3:55 Buffalo	TD Jackson 6 run (Elliott,J) (11-75-5:36)	7-3
2 8:53 Buffalo	TD Coleman 6 run (Elliott,J) (9-52-5:17)	14-3
2 0:14 Buffalo	TD Jackson 8 pass to Johnson (Elliott,J) (8-66-2:33)	21-3
3 8:48 Buffalo	TD Jackson 6 pass to Sanders (Elliott,J) (10-87-6:03)	28-3
4 6:58 Buffalo	TD Dillon 12 run (Elliott,J) (13-99-7:56)	35-3
4 1:04 Georgia	TD Hodges 11 pass to Bernard (Bass) (3-41-0:52)	35-10

Passing

BUF: Jackson 25/19 192 Yds 2 TDs
 GEO: Tagovailoa 12/5 55 Yds Int, Hodges 3/2 33 Yds TD

Rushing

BUF: Jackson 21/142 TD, Dillon 14/83 TD, Coleman 5/32 TD, Woods 2/4, Johnson 3/3, Lee 1/0, Smith,L 0/-13 (bad snap)
 GEO: Robinson 9/33, Jacobs 6/29, Michel 6/18, Thompson 3/16, Tagovailoa 1/-1

Receiving

BUF: Sanders 6/61 TD, Woods 5/61, Thomas 3/29, Coleman 2/9, Dillon 1/12, Tate 1/12, Johnson 1/8 TD
 GEO: Landry 2/32, James Jr 1/22, Akins 1/11, Bernard 1/11 TD, Johnson 1/6, Robinson 1/6

Defense

BUF: Jackson Int PD 2-Tk, Hicks 3 STFs 4-Tk
 GEO: Fulton FF 10-Tk, Baker 2 STFs FF 8-Tk

Injuries

BUF: Joseph 2
 GEO: Smith 5

Misc

BUF: 5/5 Red Zone TDs
 GEO: |



After spotting the Irish a FG and a holding penalty to open their first series, the Coyotes attacked the East Elmhurst defence with every weapon they had. A sweep to the right to **Raheem Mostert** went for 40 yards and a TD; then a perfect cross into double-coverage to **Julio Jones** was good for an 82-yard score to quickly make it 14-3. The offence kept coming with Mostert running for a second TD and **Ryan Tannehill** hitting **Brandon Cooks** for a 49-yard pass to set up a FG to make it 24-3 at half time. In the 2nd half both teams went through the motions as the Coyotes added a TD and cruised.

10-31-2020 Msgr McClancy Mem Temp:74 Wind:Calm None Line:CB by 2 MVP:Tannehill HFA:

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2019 Cobb County (4-0)	7	17	7	0	31
2019 East Elmhurst (1-3)	3	0	0	3	6

Scoring Summary

1 6:28 East Elmhurst	FG Blankenship 22 (17-83-8:23)	0-3
1 4:17 Cobb County	TD Mostert 40 run (McManus) (4-85-2:03)	7-3
2 14:35 Cobb County	TD Tannehill 82 pass to Jones (McManus) (1-82-0:20)	14-3
2 5:27 Cobb County	TD Mostert 16 run (McManus) (11-83-7:31)	21-3
2 0:04 Cobb County	FG McManus 28 (7-79-1:35)	24-3
3 9:23 Cobb County	TD Tannehill 14 pass to Cook (McManus) (8-75-5:37)	31-3
4 1:08 East Elmhurst	FG Blankenship 53 (7-33-3:57)	31-6

Passing

CB: Tannehill 13/13 298 Yds 2 TDs, Bridgewater 4/2 11 Yds
 EE: Fitzpatrick 22/11 110 Yds Int

Rushing

CB: Mostert 6/83 2TDs, Peterson 10/40, Cooks 1/11, Bridgewater 5/8, Calais 6/4, Tannehill 1/1, Holtz 1/0
 EE: Hill,J 11/41, Kelley 10/16, Fitzpatrick 2/13, Murray 5/8, Anderson 2/1

Receiving

CB: Cooks 5/94, Jones,J 3/113 TD, Parker 3/39, Cook 2/33 TD, Williams 1/19, Peterson 1/11
 EE: Hill 5/44, Agholor 2/28, Hill,J 1/13, Hurns 1/11, Davis 1/8, Thielen 1/6

Defense

CB: Atkins Sk STF FF 5-Tk, Chaisson Sk PD 4-Tk, Mullen Int PD 1-Tk, Martinez PD 2 STFs 6-Tk
 EE: Charlton 2 Sks 2-Tk, Allen STF 6-Tk

Injuries

CB: Payne 1
 EE: Barron 1, Anderson 12

Misc

CB: Tannehill QB Rating 158.3
 EE: |



15



7

Jimmy Garoppolo checked down to **Chris Conley** for a 44-yard TD pass to top off the game's opening drive and give Cowtown a 6-0 lead. They added 3 field goals in the 1st half as their defence initially dominated the Triumph. Twin Cities responded with a TD drive to open the 2nd half, scoring on a 10-yard TD pass in the flat from **Mitch Trubisky** to **James White**. The Triumph took control of the play, but drives ending in a lost fumble and failed 4th down attempt kept them from getting closer. **Jameis Winston** came in for the final series, down by 8, and was sacked twice to end the rally.

10-28-2020 Wilhalla Stadium Temp:70 Wind:

Line:COW by 2 MVP:Garoppolo

HFA:

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2019 Cowtown (2-2)	6	9	0	0	15
2019 Twin Cities (0-4)	0	0	7	0	7

Scoring Summary

1 9:10	Cowtown	TD Garoppolo 44 pass to Conley (no good) (9-75-5:50)	6-0
2 14:15	Cowtown	FG Slye 30 (12-53-5:12)	9-0
2 3:59	Cowtown	FG Slye 52 (6-31-2:14)	12-0
2 0:00	Cowtown	FG Slye 38 (10-43-2:21)	15-0
3 8:59	Twin Cities	TD Trubisky 10 pass to White (Hopkins) (10-75-6:01)	15-7

Passing

COW: Garoppolo 28/15 196 Yds TD

TCT: Trubisky 28/17 159 Yds TD, Winston 2/1 13 Yds

Rushing

COW: Gurley II 14/34, Bell 8/15, Garoppolo 2/6, Washington 6/6

TCT: Edwards-Helaire 13/51, Trubisky 5/34, White 6/22, Gordon III 3/16

Receiving

COW: Evans 8/102, Humphries 2/20, Bell 2/16, Conley 1/44 TD, Sprinkle 1/8, Washington 1/6

TCT: Moore 5/68, Golladay 4/50, White 4/30 TD, Edwards-Helaire 4/22, Gordon 1/2

Defense

COW: Kennard 2 Sks 7-Tk, Mayowa 2 Sks 4-Tk, Watt Sk PD 2 FFs 5-Tk

TCT: Alexander 2 PDs STF 10-Tk, Hunter Sk 5-Tk

Injuries

COW: Smith 3

TCT: Alexander 8

Misc

COW: Coleman FR

TCT: |



10



31

An 8-minute opening drive by Durham resulted in a chip shot FG by **Ed Pineiro** to open the scoring. No further points until the final minutes of the 1st half when **Pat Mahomes** slung a pass to **Amari Cooper** on the fly for a 23-yard TD and **Nick Chubb** followed that immediately with a 75-yard TD run to put Durham back in front. **Chris Harris Jr** forced a fumble to set up a 5-yard TD run by **Ezekiel Elliott** that gave Viriden a momentum-changing 14-10 lead at half time. The Violators scored to open the 2nd half and their defence took over from there, holding **Josh Allen** to just 97yards passing.

10-29-2020 TERRORDOME Temp:70 Wind:

Line:DTL by 2 MVP:Elliott

HFA:ON(4)

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2019 Durham (2-2)	3	7	0	0	10
2019 Viriden (4-0)	0	14	10	7	31

Scoring Summary

1 6:49	Durham	FG Pineiro 23 (15-70-8:08)	3-0
2 5:41	Viriden	TD Mahomes 23 pass to Cooper (Gonzalez) (8-87-4:04)	3-7
2 5:22	Durham	TD Chubb 75 run (Pineiro) (1-75-0:19)	10-7
2 1:10	Viriden	TD Elliott 5 run (Gonzalez) (5-51-1:35)	10-14
3 11:30	Viriden	TD Mahomes 8 pass to Brown (Gonzalez) (7-84-3:21)	10-21
3 1:24	Viriden	FG Gonzalez 32 (12-62-7:49)	10-24
4 8:37	Viriden	TD Guice 5 run (Gonzalez) (10-70-6:27)	10-31

Passing

DTL: Allen 21/10 97 Yds, Foles 1/1 1 Yd

VV: Mahomes 22/14 174 Yds 2 TDs, Jake Dolegala 1/1 45 Yds

Rushing

DTL: Chubb 12/140 TD, Bowden Jr 3/11, Mattison 3/11, Evans 2/5, Gibson 2/3, Allen 1/0, Foles 3/-3

VV: Elliott 28/154 TD, Guice 4/28, Mahomes 2/22, Dolegala 1/0

Receiving

DTL: Kupp 5/56, Chubb 3/23, Hilton 2/18, Know 1/1

VV: Cooper 4/91 TD, Hickenson 4/70, Brown 4/47 TD, Elliott 3/11

Defense

DTL: Warner pD STF 12-Tk, Armstead Sk 3-Tk

VV: Collins Sk 2 STFs 6-Tk, Harris Jr FF 6-Tk, Peters 2 PD FF 2-Tk

Injuries

DTL: Young

VV:



39



28

Sebastian scored on their first 7 possessions to walk away with a road win over the struggling Pats. Drew Brees tossed TDs to Golden Tate, Jason Witten and connected on a 67-yard bomb to the post to Jalen Reagor to open up a 20-7 lead. Damien Williams snuck over the goal line from one foot to make it 26-7 and Dan Bailey added a chip shot FG as time expired in the 2nd to make it 29-14 at half time. The Pats played catch-up the entire game and made a mark with big runs by Alvin Kamara and DeShaun Watson going for TDs, but the 547-yard Fish offence was too much for them.

10-26-2020 Patriot Place Temp:75 Wind: Line:SS by 2 MVP:Brees HFA:ON(1)

Table with 5 columns (1-4, Tot) and 2 rows (2019 Sebastian (2-2), 2019 Charleswood (1-3))

Scoring Summary

Table with 4 columns (Time, Player, Play, Score) listing scoring events from 9:17 to 8:16.

Passing

SS: Brees 41/36 434 Yds 3 TDs
CHP: Watson 25/19 239 Yds 2 TDs

Rushing

SS: Taylor 13/43, Williams 7/36 2 TDs, McFarland 7/27, Edmonds 3/9, Brees 2/-2
CHP: Kamara 13/81 TD, Watson 2/30 TD, Dobbins 1/1

Receiving

SS: Beckham Jr. 10/132, Witten 9/92 TD, Tate 9/84 TD, Reagor 3/100, Williams 2/9, Shenault Jr 1/8, Edmonds 1/6, Taylor 1/3
CHP: Campbell 6/90, Meyers 5/71 TD, Metcalf 4/46 TD, DeValve 1/10, Smith-Schuster 1/9, Dobbins 1/8, Kamara 1/5

Defense

SS:
CHP: Moreland FF 12-Tk, Ojemudia FF 10-Tk, Ferguson STF 9-Tk

Injuries

SS: Jenkins 1, Wallace
CHP:

Misc

SS: 547 Total Yards
CHP: 8 missed tackles



37



35

Two lost fumbles by Peg City, on the first and last drives of the 1st half, turned into 10 points for the Eagles and allowed them to hang in a game they were in danger of being blown out in early. When not turning it over the Crusaders were scoring, finding the end zone on 3 consecutive series to build a 21-16 half time lead. When Kirk Cousins threw his last of 3 TD passes, a 43-yard hitch to Courtland Sutton, the Pegs looked in control, 35-23. But Joe Burrow completed 12 of his last 14 pass attempts, two for TDs, to complete the comeback with a 16-yard TD to Allen Robinson II with 0:30 left.

10-31-2020 True North Field Temp:72 Wind: Line:SBE by 2 MVP:Burrow HFA:

Table with 5 columns (1-4, Tot) and 2 rows (2019 Scarborough (3-1), 2019 Peg City (3-1))

Scoring Summary

Table with 4 columns (Time, Player, Play, Score) listing scoring events from 6:50 to 0:30.

Passing

SBE: Burrow 41/28 343 Yds 4 TDs
PCC: Cousins 37/27 357 Yds 3 TDs

Rushing

SBE: Carson 17/65, Crowder 1/20, Burrow 4/15, Freeman 4/7, Benjamin 1/0 TD
PCC: Barkley 15/86 2 TDs, Jones,A 9/37, Johnson 4/34, Cousins 1/12, Aiyuk 1/7

Receiving

SBE: Crowder 6/93, Robinson II 6/80 4 TDs, Ward 5/51, Freeman 4/42, Eifert 3/34, Edwards 2/24, Carson 1/10, Brown Jr 1/9
PCC: Sutton 5/103 2TDs, Allen 5/66, Barkley 4/29 TD, Higbee 3/31, Jones,A 3/29, Aiyuk 2/34, McDonald 2/24, Johnson,D 1/21, Boyle 1/12, Hilliard 1/8

Defense

SBE: Collins FF 9-Tk, Ryan 9-Tk, Jones,D FF 5-Tk, Bosa Sk PD FF 2-Tk
PCC: Humphrey STF FF 7-Tk, Maye 3 PDS 3-Tk, Godchaux Sk PD 1-Tk

Injuries |

SBE: Lewis 1, Jones 3
PCC:

Misc

SBE:
PCC: C.Jones 5 QB Hurries



A 1st drive fumble by **Gardner Minshew** set up an 11-yard TD run by **Christian McCaffery** to open the scoring. Minshew got it back with a 38-yard TD pass to **Sterling Sheppard**. The teams then traded TDs and FGs to end the 1st half tied at 17. Pickering struck first in the 2nd half, with Minshew finding Sheppard deep for another 38-yard TD to give them a 24-17 lead. The Spartans' attack faltered after that, while the Convicts rallied to tie and take the lead with a pair of TD passes from **Dak Prescott** to **Michael Gallup**. **Grady Jarrett** recorded an 11-yard sack to end the final Spartan rally.

10-26-2020 The Big House Temp:87 Wind:5-15 None Line:CHI by 12 MVP:McCaffrey HFA:ON

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2019 Pickering (0-4)	7	10	7	0	24
2019 Chino (2-1-1)	14	3	7	7	31

Scoring Summary

1 7:44 Chino	TD McCaffrey 11 run (McLaughlin) (8-45-3:43)	0-7
1 6:23 Pickering	TD Minshew II 38 pass to Shepard (Zuerlein) (5-69-1:12)	7-7
1 0:30 Chino	TD Prescott 1 run (McLaughlin) (11-75-5:53)	7-14
2 11:16 Pickering	TD Minshew II 41 pass to Brown (Zuerlein) (7-72-4:03)	14-14
2 8:54 Chino	FG McLaughlin 44 (6-67-2:08)	14-17
2 2:14 Pickering	FG Zuerlein 32 (12-61-6:37)	17-17
3 8:17 Pickering	TD Minshew II 38 pass to Shepard (Zuerlein) (9-87-5:01)	24-17
3 3:24 Chino	TD Prescott 24 pass to Gallup (McLaughlin) (9-74-4:43)	24-24
4 7:52 Chino	TD Prescott 14 pass to Gallup (McLaughlin) (12-63-6:15)	24-31

Passing

PIC: Minshew II 25/17 271 Yds 3 TDs
CHI: Prescott 30/22 193 Yds 2 TDs

Rushing

PIC: Swift 11/54, Sanders 9/14, Minshew II 6/12
CHI: McCaffery 16/116 TD, Ingram II 10/48, Jones II 1/0, Prescott 5/-3 TD

Receiving

PIC: Sheppard 6/107 2 TDs, Brown 4/81 TD, Williams 3/40, Swift 2/12, Seals-Jones 1/14, Ridley 1/13, Sanders 1/10
CHI: McCaffrey 8/46, Gallup 5/76 2 TDs, Fitzgerald 4/42, Jones II 2/10, Ingram II 2/6, Jones Jr 1/13

Defense

PIC: Harris 2 STFs 7-Tk, Blacklock 2 STFs 6-Tk, Schobert PD 2 STFs 5-Tk
CHI: Smith Sk STF 6-Tk, Jarrett 2 Sks FF 4-Tk, McKinley Sk STF 2-Tk

Injuries

PIC: Okwara, Kelin 1
CHI: Carter 1

Misc

PIC: Pickering 13 missed tackles
CHI: |



A short hitch to **CeeDee Lamb** went 24 yards to set up a 17-yard slant from **Sam Darnold** to **Hunter Renfrow** for a 7-3 Seattle lead. On their next series, a 16-yard pass to Lamb set up a **Josh Lambo** FG to extend that lead to 10-3. The Hawks flew high in reply, running with **Matt Breida** to set up a 25-yard air strike to **DeAndre Hopkins** to tie it at 10. Trailing 16-10 in the 3rd, the Hawks reached the Pilots' 1-yard line but opted for a FG. Seattle came back on the next drive and made it a two-score game on Lamb's 16-yard TD catch. The Pilots gave up a late TD but were able to hang on.

10-31-2020 Kingdome Temp:70 Wind: Line:BRH by 2 MVP:Darnold HFA:ON(1)

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2019 Brooklin (2-2)	3	7	3	7	20
2019 Seattle (1-3)	0	13	3	7	23

Scoring Summary

1 1:46 Brooklin	FG Bullock 27 (8-50-4:58)	3-0
2 13:21 Seattle	TD Darnold 17 pass to Renfrow (Lambo) (7-74-3:19)	3-7
2 6:08 Seattle	FG Lambo 42 (9-57-4:13)	3-10
2 1:50 Brooklin	TD Carr 25 pass to Hopkins (Bullock) (7-75-4:18)	10-10
2 0:00 Seattle	FG Lambo 44 (7-59-1:43)	10-13
3 7:51 Seattle	FG Lambo 40 (18-63-6:52)	10-16
3 2:32 Brooklin	FG Bullock 19 (9-74-5:15)	13-16
4 11:18 Seattle	TD Darnold 16 pass to Lamb (Lambo) (10-75-6:14)	13-23
4 1:06 Brooklin	TD Carr 10 pass to Jeffery (Bullock) (12-81-4:42)	20-23

Passing

BRH: Carr 33/24 269 Yds 2 TDs
SEA: Darnold 35/25 272 Yds 2 TDs

Rushing

BRH: Breida 14/71, Hyde 9/24
SEA: Mack 16/71, Akers 2/13, Hunt 3/3

Receiving

BRH: Hopkins 7/123 TD, Jeffery 6/59 TD, Ingram 6/52, Cobb 3/39, Scott 2/-4
SEA: Lamb 9/118 TD, Renfrow 7/73 TD, Hunt 2/25, Mack 2/23, Miller 2/21, Moreau 2/12, Robinson 1/0

Defense

BRH: Jones 9-Tk, Ferrell 2 STFs 6-Tk, Gunter Sk FF 3-Tk
SEA: Lattimore PD 8-Tk

Injuries

BRH:
SEA:



23



18

The Stars' defence was in command in the 1st half, forcing 4 three-and-outs and yielding a lone field goal to the Cubs. Offensively, they found the end zone with **Jordan Howard** on a penalty-aided 2nd quarter drive and added 2 FGs for a 13-3 half time lead. An excessive celebration penalty against the Cubs to open up the 2nd half and a 29-yard sweep by **Jamaal Williams** set up the Stars' second TD, a 2-yard run by Williams to put Budapest in front 20-3. The Cubs pushed back, but had to settle for field goals until they finally found the end zone with just 0:03 left, too late even for **Russell Wilson**.

10-29-2020 Joe Ferguson Stadium Temp:71 Wind:0-5 None Line:BUD by 13 MVP:Williams

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2019 Budapest (4-0)	3	10	10	0	23
2019 Iowa City (1-2-1)	3	0	3	12	18

Scoring Summary

1 6:37 Iowa City	FG Tucker 43 (10-48-4:46)	0-3
1 2:59 Budapest	FG Myers 50 (10-43-3:32)	3-3
2 11:34 Budapest	TD Howard 6 run (Myers,J) (11-66-5:10)	10-3
2 1:50 Budapest	FG Myers 35 (16-60-7:32)	13-3
3 12:19 Budapest	TD Williams 2 run (Myers,J) (5-75-2:41)	20-3
3 8:07 Iowa City	FG Tucker 43 (9-50-4:06)	20-6
3 1:04 Budapest	FG Myers 22 (10-70-6:53)	23-6
4 10:42 Iowa City	FG Tucker 34 (14-59-5:10)	23-9
4 7:25 Iowa City	FG Tucker 27 (7-56-2:00)	23-12
4 0:03 Iowa City	TD Wilson 14 pass to Lockett (2 - failed) (8-83-1:37)	23-18

Passing

BUD: Rodgers 27/17 184 Yds
ICC: Wilson 36/20 204 Yds TD

Rushing

BUD: Howard 15/66 TD, Williams 13/62 TD, Rodgers 2/21, Dallas 3/8, Taylor 2/6, Line 1/4
ICC: Mixon 14/53, Conner 5/17, Wilson 2/6

Receiving

BUD: Williams 5/45, Kittle 4/43, Hollister 4/28, Watkins 3/63, Howard 1/5
ICC: Conner 6/35, Lockett 5/78 TD, Brown 3/66, Beasley 3/11, Kirk 2/10, Mixon 1/4

Defense

BUD: Jordan 2 PDs STF 1-Tk
ICC: Littleton STF 13-Tk

Injuries

BUD: Dean, Watkins
ICC: Jones, Ford

Misc

BUD: Jordan 4 QB Pressures
ICC:



18



32

The swarming Assassins' 'D' held down the York offence for most of the 1st half while the offence under **Carson Wentz** broke through late in the 1st quarter with a 28-yard TD pass to **Jimmy Graham** and built up steam from there. The Excaliburs' defence had little answer for Vegas stars **Michael Thomas** and **Dalvin Cook**; both drove the Assassin attack and **Jerry Jeudy** mopped up with a pair of 2nd quarter TD catches, the second coming with just 0:47 left to make it 23-6 at the half. **Tom Brady** attempted to rally the York troops in the 2nd half with two TD passes, but made no more headway.

10-30-2020 Assassin's Den Temp:74 Wind: Line:YOR by 2 MVP:Wentz HFA:ON

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2019 York (2-2)	0	6	6	6	18
2019 Las Vegas (3-1)	10	13	6	3	32

Scoring Summary

1 9:38 Las Vegas	FG Fairbairn 38 (6-25-3:28)	0-3
1 2:00 Las Vegas	TD Wentz 28 pass to Graham (Fairbairn) (7-68-3:26)	0-10
2 11:53 York	TD Brady 9 pass to Ertz (no good) (11-75-5:07)	6-10
2 6:24 Las Vegas	TD Wentz 17 pass to Jeudy (no good) (10-75-5:29)	6-16
2 0:47 Las Vegas	TD Wentz 6 pass to Jeudy (Fairbairn) (9-42-2:37)	6-23
3 9:06 Las Vegas	TD Wentz 10 pass to Graham (no good) (11-75-5:54)	6-29
3 3:06 York	TD Brady 36 pass to Ertz (no good) (11-91-5:52)	12-29
4 9:12 York	TD Brady 12 pass to Amendola (no good) (13-84-6:27)	18-29
4 1:43 Las Vegas	FG Fairbairn 31 (7-11-2:42)	18-32

Passing

YOR: Brady 35/21 225 Yds 3 TDs Int
LV: Wentz 34/32 226 Yds 4 TDs

Rushing

YOR: Henry 18/68, Brady 1/1
LV: Cook 26/99, Wentz 3/17

Receiving

YOR: Ertz 8/96 2 TDs, Davis 6/53, Williams 3/42, Amendola 2/20 TD, Hamilton 1/7, Smith,K 1/7
LV: Thomas 12/108, Graham 6/69 2 TDs, Jeudy 3/38 2 TDs, Cook 1/7, Smallwood 1/4

Defense

YOR: Whitehead STF 8-Tk
LV: Ngakoue 2 Sks 2 PDs 4-Tk, Johnson Sk 4-Tk, Davis 2 STFs Int 4-Tk, Wise Jr Sk STF 3-Tk, Vea Sk STF 3-Tk

Injuries

YOR:
LV:



STATS



WEEK FOUR

STANDINGS & STATS

EFL 2020 Official Standings

East	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Cobb County	4	0	0	1.000	W4	137	34.3	48	12.0	22.3	1 0 0	2 0 0	3 0 0
Bruxelles	2	2	0	.500	W1	118	29.5	107	26.8	2.8	1 1 0	1 1 0	1 2 0
Buffalo	2	2	0	.500	W2	101	25.3	95	23.8	1.5	0 1 0	0 2 0	1 2 0
New Jersey	1	3	0	.250	L2	117	29.3	141	35.3	-6.0	1 1 0	1 1 0	1 2 0
Central	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Virden	4	0	0	1.000	W4	154	38.5	79	19.8	18.8	2 0 0	1 0 0	3 0 0
Peg City	3	1	0	.750	L1	145	36.3	110	27.5	8.8	2 1 0	1 0 0	3 0 0
Charleswood	1	3	0	.250	L2	108	27.0	146	36.5	-9.5	0 3 0	0 1 0	1 2 0
Twin Cities	0	4	0	.000	L4	62	15.5	117	29.3	-13.8	0 2 0	0 1 0	0 3 0
West	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Las Vegas	3	1	0	.750	W3	103	25.8	82	20.5	5.3	2 0 0	1 1 0	2 1 0
Chino	2	1	1	.625	W1	97	24.3	103	25.8	-1.5	2 0 1	1 0 1	1 1 1
Iowa City	1	2	1	.375	L1	69	17.3	98	24.5	-7.3	1 1 0	1 0 1	1 1 1
Seattle	1	3	0	.250	W1	82	20.5	95	23.8	-3.3	1 2 0	0 2 0	0 3 0
North	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Scarborough	3	1	0	.750	W2	97	24.3	86	21.5	2.8	1 0 0	1 1 0	2 1 0
Cowtown	2	2	0	.500	W1	65	16.3	58	14.5	1.8	1 1 0	1 1 0	1 2 0
Durham	2	2	0	.500	L1	74	18.5	100	25.0	-6.5	1 0 0	1 1 0	2 1 0
Sebastian	2	2	0	.500	W1	92	23.0	104	26.0	-3.0	1 1 0	1 1 0	1 2 0
Coastal	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Budapest	4	0	0	1.000	W4	107	26.8	44	11.0	15.8	1 0 0	1 0 0	3 0 0
Brooklin	2	2	0	.500	L2	95	23.8	92	23.0	0.8	2 0 0	1 0 0	2 1 0
York	2	2	0	.500	L1	79	19.8	71	17.8	2.0	2 0 0	0 1 0	2 1 0
Pickering	0	4	0	.000	L4	68	17.0	123	30.8	-13.8	0 1 0	0 1 0	0 3 0
South	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Aurora	3	1	0	.750	W2	93	23.3	97	24.3	-1.0	2 1 0	2 0 0	2 1 0
Erieau	1	3	0	.250	L3	73	18.3	89	22.3	-4.0	1 1 0	1 1 0	1 2 0
Georgia	1	3	0	.250	L1	45	11.3	88	22.0	-10.8	1 1 0	1 1 0	1 2 0
East Elmhurst	1	3	0	.250	L2	84	21.0	92	23.0	-2.0	1 2 0	0 2 0	1 2 0

EFL 2020 Official Passing Leaders

			Att	Cmp	%	Yards	In	I%	Lg	TD	TD%	Rate
1	Tannehill	CB	78	60	76.9	1059	2	2.6	82	12	15.4	147.2
2	Mahomes	VV	114	80	70.2	1079	1	0.9	31	13	11.4	134.4
3	Cousins	PCC	164	116	70.7	1473	1	0.6	71	14	8.5	124.4
4	Stafford	NJ	159	112	70.4	1382	2	1.3	68	13	8.2	119.0
5	Mayfield	EE	23	14	60.9	172	0	0.0	32	2	8.7	113.0
6	Minshew II	PIC	52	29	55.8	429	0	0.0	41	4	7.7	108.6
7	Brees	SS	138	96	69.6	1125	2	1.4	67	8	5.8	107.3
8	Burrow	SBE	133	85	63.9	899	0	0.0	36	9	6.8	106.1
9	Jackson,L	BUF	128	89	69.5	893	2	1.6	52	9	7.0	106.0
10	Watson,D	CHP	145	100	69.0	1180	4	2.8	49	9	6.2	102.7
11	Carr,D	BRH	145	103	71.0	1075	2	1.4	39	7	4.8	102.5
12	Prescott	CHI	147	99	67.3	1084	2	1.4	45	8	5.4	101.4
13	Rodgers,A	BUD	109	66	60.6	706	0	0.0	50	7	6.4	100.9
14	Brissett	LV	42	27	64.3	267	0	0.0	47	2	4.8	98.0
15	Garoppolo	COW	132	80	60.6	946	1	0.8	64	6	4.5	94.4
16	Ryan,M	AUR	128	82	64.1	906	6	4.7	35	10	7.8	91.5
17	Wilson,R	ICC	111	70	63.1	768	2	1.8	35	5	4.5	91.0
18	Goff	BRX	170	85	50.0	1145	2	1.2	65	11	6.5	88.5
19	Trubisky	TCT	28	17	60.7	159	0	0.0	28	1	3.6	88.2
20	Allen,J	DTL	116	66	56.9	735	0	0.0	36	4	3.4	87.4
21	Brady	YOR	117	72	61.5	856	4	3.4	52	6	5.1	86.7
22	Rivers	PIC	71	44	62.0	572	2	2.8	44	2	2.8	84.9
23	Darnold	SEA	136	83	61.0	826	3	2.2	66	6	4.4	83.8
24	Wentz	LV	113	66	58.4	652	2	1.8	33	5	4.4	82.2
25	Fitzpatr,R	EE	90	49	54.4	535	1	1.1	52	3	3.3	78.7

EFL 2020 Official Punt Return Leaders

EFL 2020 Official Kick Return Leaders

		No	Fc	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD			No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD		
1	Agnew	SEA	6	2	156	26.0	78	1	1	Patterson	VV	7	284	40.6	94	1
2	Ervin	VV	7	5	97	13.9	41	0	2	Roberts,A	BRX	6	179	29.8	46	0
3	Reagor	SS	5	3	63	12.6	36	0	3	Spencer,D	NJ	7	208	29.7	57	0
4	Cohen	NJ	7	1	69	9.9	17	0	4	Ruggs III	ERI	10	286	28.6	53	0
5	Hardman	LV	11	4	103	9.4	20	0	5	Carter,D	BUF	13	340	26.2	52	0
6	Berrios	AUR	11	1	101	9.2	19	0	6	Ballentine	SS	7	178	25.4	37	0
7	Johnson,D	GEO	9	3	80	8.9	16	0	7	Hilliard	PCC	7	171	24.4	35	0
8	Roberts,A	BRX	8	4	67	8.4	13	0	8	Raymond	EE	7	169	24.1	33	0
9	Harris,D	COW	11	4	87	7.9	17	0	9	Sanders,M	PIC	7	161	23.0	27	0
10	Carter,D	BUF	9	3	70	7.8	13	0	10	Latimer	DTL	6	136	22.7	37	0
11	Thomas,D	SBE	13	1	99	7.6	17	0	11	James Jr.	GEO	9	180	20.0	29	0
12	Rogers,C	CHI	8	5	60	7.5	15	0	12	Grant,J	CHI	8	158	19.8	28	0
13	Proche II	DTL	9	1	58	6.4	11	0	13	Bolden	YOR	6	116	19.3	34	0
14	Quinn,T	EE	9	5	57	6.3	15	0	14	Richard	CHP	9	167	18.6	30	0
15	Logan,T	PCC	11	6	67	6.1	13	0	15	Harris,D	COW	1	42	42.0	42	0
16	Cooper,P	BUD	7	7	40	5.7	10	0	16	Barner	BRH	1	32	32.0	32	0
17	Natson	CB	11	2	44	4.0	14	0	17	Booker	BUF	3	87	29.0	34	0
18	Barner	BRH	7	1	27	3.9	15	0	18	Cohen	NJ	1	28	28.0	28	0
19	Amendola	YOR	8	2	29	3.6	7	0	19	Scott,B	BRH	1	28	28.0	28	0
20	Kirk	ICC	2	1	16	8.0	9	0	20	Campbell,P	CHP	1	24	24.0	24	0
21	Moore,D	TCT	1	12	6	6.0	6	0	21	Cooper,P	BUD	4	94	23.5	33	0
22	Lockett	ICC	1	2	6	6.0	6	0	22	Pascal	LV	1	23	23.0	23	0
23	Richard	CHP	2	1	11	5.5	7	0	23	Hardman	LV	3	69	23.0	28	0
24	Peppers	ERI	3	4	14	4.7	8	0	24	Agnew	SEA	4	92	23.0	31	0
25	Switzer	PIC	2	8	8	4.0	6	0	25	Davis,T	SBE	4	91	22.8	29	0

EFL 2020 Official Rushing Leaders

			Att	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD
1	Elliott,E	VV	97	563	5.8	30	3
2	Chubb,N	DTL	85	509	6.0	75	3
3	Jackson,L	BUF	75	501	6.7	25	2
4	Fournette	BRX	84	498	5.9	56	2
5	Carson,C	SBE	83	379	4.6	18	1
6	Singletary	AUR	76	370	4.9	45	0
7	Howard,J	BUD	66	336	5.1	19	3
8	McCaffrey	CHI	58	312	5.4	50	4
9	Henry,D	YOR	89	303	3.4	15	3
10	Cook,D	LV	84	289	3.4	19	3
11	Jones,A	PCC	47	275	5.9	32	1
12	Mixon	ICC	56	256	4.6	17	2
13	Mostert	CB	32	250	7.8	40	4
14	Jacobs,J	GEO	61	233	3.8	14	0
15	Williams,J	BUD	36	230	6.4	29	2
16	Hyde,C	BRH	54	227	4.2	24	3
17	Peterson,A	CB	48	214	4.5	45	1
18	Mack,M	SEA	53	206	3.9	24	0
19	Kamara	CHP	57	199	3.5	50	2
20	Edwards-He	TCT	54	190	3.5	19	4
21	Swift	PIC	29	169	5.8	63	0
22	Barkley,S	PCC	38	164	4.3	29	2
23	Murray,L	EE	38	164	4.3	32	1
24	Robinson,J	GEO	41	162	4.0	27	0
25	Ingram II	CHI	39	161	4.1	29	0
26	Murray,K	ERI	28	155	5.5	16	2
27	Taylor,J	SS	46	138	3.0	15	0
28	Montgomery	NJ	48	128	2.7	33	1
29	Gurley II	COW	48	127	2.6	12	1
30	Hill,J	EE	30	123	4.1	18	1

EFL 2020 Official Receiving Leaders

			No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD
1	Thomas,M	LV	44	457	10.4	47	3
2	McCaffrey	CHI	38	296	7.8	27	3
3	Woods,R	BUF	34	427	12.6	52	5
4	Hopkins,D	BRH	29	437	15.1	39	3
5	Chark Jr.	NJ	26	422	16.2	52	6
6	Adams,D	AUR	26	364	14.0	33	5
7	Fournette	BRX	25	215	8.6	26	1
8	Kupp	DTL	24	311	13.0	36	0
9	Brown,J	VV	24	365	15.2	29	5
10	Evans,M	COW	23	390	17.0	64	2
11	Kittle	BUD	23	243	10.6	16	3
12	Cohen	NJ	23	149	6.5	15	0
13	Smith-Schu	CHP	23	308	13.4	36	3
14	Metcalf	CHP	23	340	14.8	35	1
15	Renfrow	SEA	23	270	11.7	66	3
16	Allen,K	PCC	23	278	12.1	28	3
17	Edelman	AUR	22	210	9.5	14	4
18	Sanders,E	BUF	22	246	11.2	28	2
19	Cooper,A	VV	21	382	18.2	31	6
20	Bell,L	COW	21	150	7.1	22	2
21	White,J	TCT	21	163	7.8	18	1
22	Andrews,M	ERI	21	210	10.0	16	3
23	McLaurin	NJ	20	338	16.9	68	4
24	Engram,E	BRH	20	165	8.3	12	1
25	Witten	SS	20	188	9.4	39	3
26	Sutton,C	PCC	19	348	18.3	71	3
27	Kamara	CHP	19	160	8.4	49	1
28	Freeman,D	SBE	19	128	6.7	17	0
29	Barkley,S	PCC	19	236	12.4	65	3
30	Ertz	YOR	19	228	12.0	36	3



AROUND THE



With Spats McChad

NEW YORK – Week Four was the best week so far for negative COVID-19 tests and recoveries. An equipment manager with the Assassins, a trainer with the Swordfish and a player on the Bombers’ practice squad tested positive. Twelve players, including the Glads’ **Maurkice Pouncey**, were cleared to play in Week Five. Only 9 players remain on the COVID-19 restricted list. Of those, only **Antonio Brown** and **Jalen Hurd** are not on practice squads and only Brown is suspected of not having COVID-19 at all, having tested negative officially 12 times since he declared himself infected. Nevertheless, because the virus is so elusive and ‘out of an abundance of caution,’ Brown has been instructed by the league to self-isolate. Not surprisingly, Brown is not obeying this direction.

There were no newsworthy COVID-19 related problems at stadiums this week either; unless one counts the attendance of roughly 200 Mennonites at Kelly-Burke Field to watch the Cadillac take on the Mustangs. Nobody had told the local Mennonites that the stadium was closed to spectators. Nobody had told them about COVID-19 either. Since most don’t have televisions, radios or computers, they were only aware of a “nasty bug” going around – nothing they had not dealt with in their own way before. Being Mennonites, they did not make a big scene when told the stadium was closed. They simply laid out a huge picnic spread in the empty parking lot and held a tailgate without alcohol or masks. Mennonites don’t typically drink spirits and see no reason to wear masks. They listened to the local broadcast on a huge transistor radio and seemed to have a good time.

So, with all of this good news floating around, it would not have been anticipated that the EFL, which has so far reacted with a measure of sanity to the COVID-19 mania, would choose this time to start behaving like INGSOC. The league issued a ‘Directive’ ordering all players and non-player staff to wear masks and *protective eyewear* at all times inside stadiums and team training facilities. In the directive, players were “strongly urged” to wear masks on the sideline during games and to put masks back on immediately following strenuous activity such as drills and workouts during the week. Pamphlets were issued to all team personnel to distribute to family members promoting mask wearing in common areas of the *home*. “*YOUR HOME IS NOT SAFE! YOU DON’T KNOW WHERE YOUR LOVED ONES HAVE BEEN*” reads the stern warning. Masks, masks, masks....

It may take me a bit of time to find out what is going on behind the scenes in Canton, but something is up. But then again, something has always been up everywhere since the mysterious “virus” came onto the scene....

SCARBURROW

They call it Scarborough now.

Even before the no.1 overall selection in the 2020 EFL Draft rallied his team for two touchdown passes in the 4th quarter to defeat Peg City in Week Four, the people of Scarborough had symbolically given **Joe Burrow** the key to the city by purchasing and donning *en masse* ‘**I AM FROM SCARBURROW**’ T-shirts, sporting the number ‘9.’ A local councillor had already put forth a proposal to erect a ‘**WELCOME TO SCARBURROW**’ sign at the border with Pickering. A petition to temporarily rename The Wolverine’s Den, ‘Scarburrow Park’ had been tabled to City Council.

All it had taken was a Week One win on the road over Atlantic Conference Championship finalist Cowtown to spur Burrow-Mania. After that, the initial healthy skepticism (a must for Blue Eagles fans) gave way in an instant to unfettered adulation. The kid had “it” – whatever “it” is. Some day soon he would be ‘The Man.’ Overnight, suppliers could not keep up with demand for **Joe Burrow** jerseys.

At 3-1 and leading the North Division, the Blue Eagles are *the* story in the league right now. Yes, undefeated Cobb County is deservedly earning national attention as well – nobody expected the team that traded **Lamar Jackson** to do well – but the transformation of the Blue Eagles under their rookie quarterback is practically a miracle. Whether the miracle lasts all year or not does not change the sense of providence that the team is headed for great things under Burrow. Only a serious injury would ruin that.

When building a legend, so-called *signature games* are the benchmarks. Burrow’s first win over Cowtown was one such benchmark. Scarborough’s 37-35 defeat of the Crusaders was another. Peg City was undefeated going into this week’s game and held a 12-point lead, 35-23, early in the 4th quarter after dictating the play for most of the game. Although not the strength of the team, the Crusaders’ defence is pretty good, especially at cornerback. Like all future and current quarterback legends, however, Burrow did not let that bother him. He simply went to work executing the plays that needed to be executed in order to win.

Burrow passed the ball without fear. He was cool and accurate under pressure. On the first of his 4th quarter touchdown drives he audibled a medium slant to the zone that would soon be vacated by a blitzing linebacker. The throw split the defence and went for 31 yards to **Jamison Crowder**. (11 yards were tacked on for the facemask grab that had prevented a touchdown). He passed

repeatedly to his top guy, **Allen Robinson II**, unworried that his opponent's best corner was covering him. Robinson rewarded his faith and accuracy with two great TD catches in the deciding moments, the last coming with just 30 seconds left in the 4th quarter. He did all of this while simultaneously conveying the impression that winning was everything, but that it wouldn't matter if they didn't win this time; they would get them next time. Everything, and nothing, was at stake – the secret to handling the pressure of the moment.

Joe Burrow's signature win is being covered everywhere where mainstream media reaches. I do not intend to pile on with more hype. I am honestly impressed with the guy, but, as is my style, I will not lose my mind over it by suggesting (as some have) that Burrow is a top five candidate for MVP, or a future hall-of-famer. I expect Young Joe will get his share of hard knocks before we can comfortably anoint him as the "Best Ever..."

Having said all this in praise of Joe, the Peg City team he undressed in the 4th quarter this week looks like the real-deal. They will shrug off this loss and move on. Their coach, **Stephen Katopodis**, like most young coaches, is a maniac and will demand nothing less of his players than a complete forgetting of the "bad part" of this game and complete remembrance and adherence to the "good part." Young football players today no longer learn from their mistakes; they *build* on their *successes*. This approach is not wrong, but it is missing the other essential half. Erasing bad stuff without addressing it will bring it back ten-fold.

Katopodis made a couple of crucial decisions in the game that looked a touch rash and somewhat demented to someone like me who subscribes to a more conservative football doctrine. In other words, "bad stuff." For example, after Scarborough had narrowed the Crusader lead to 35-30 on the first of Burrow's two 4th quarter TD passes, Peg City stalled on its next series and faced 4th & 1 at their own 34, with 9:10 left in the 4th quarter. In the Book of Football, this is a punting situation. Too much can go wrong if you don't make it and gaining the 1st down buys you nothing more than another set of downs in your own territory. To simplify, it is a high risk/low reward scenario. The most prudent option is to punt the opponent back 40-50 yards and challenge them to do something with the ball.

The Peg City coach saw things differently and went for it. **Saquon Barkley** ploughed forward toward the line of gain. It took a measurement to decide the outcome, but the Pegs survived – for a bit. In the end, the drive petered out and **Harrison Butker** missed the 49-yard field goal attempt. When asked about this potentially disastrous gamble, Katopodis responded as if it was an after-thought.

"Yeah, well I felt like we could get the first down there," he said then immediately moved on.

Regarding the second gamble, Katopodis was a bit more *mea culpa*, but only because he saw the consequences. Leading by the same score, 35-30, but with 2:33 left, facing 3rd & 13 at their own 33 and Scarborough with one timeout left, Katopodis called a medium pass to **Brandon Aiyuk**, anticipating that the Eagles would set up to stop the run. But the Eagles, knowing that a run was unlikely to gain a 1st down, defended the play that was most likely to gain a first down, a pass. **Ndamukong Suh** tipped the pass and it tumbled

incomplete, stopping the clock.

"I thought they would try to stop the run there, because it was a run situation," Katopodis explained. "But they didn't and that helped force the incomplete pass. That gave them extra time. It wasn't good for us, but our defence just has to make a stop to fix all that. We didn't make the stop and paid the price."

Okay, blame it on the defence.

In the final analysis, there is no way to figure out the exact effect of the second decision on the outcome of the game. Burrow threw his game-winning touchdown with 30 seconds to spare and did not use a timeout on the drive. Did having a timeout in his back pocket affect the play-calling? Probably. But, how much of a difference would that have made, since we do not know what the other play calls would have been? Mostly, it's a guessing game helped by hindsight. But what is beyond dispute is that the clock stoppage allowed Scarborough to preserve a timeout that gave the Eagles an extra time cushion they would not have had.

Philosophically, there is also the possibility that *none* of the calls actually mattered at all; that **Joe Burrow** was going to come from behind no matter what the coaches on either side



Spartans' coach **Gus Konstantakos** assesses the situation and determines that a kneel down with **Gardner Minshew II** is all his team can safely achieve with 0:51 left in the 1st half. But is it Gus behind the mask? The proud owner is said to be deathly scared of COVID-19 and ashamed to be seen in public with his 0-4 team.

called. It is, after all, a game played on the field and not on the clipboard. The coach's call just provides the starting point for action that the coach and fans have no direct control over. We debate these calls to participate in the game in the only way we can. We are reluctant to *truly* accept the idea that a *call* has influence, but does not produce the effect. Otherwise there would be nothing to talk about.

Armchair QBs take note: Your opinion is redundant.

NEVER SURRENDER...VERY OFTEN...!

At the Big House in Chino, the Convicts pulled out a 31-24 win against the still winless Spartans to stay within a half game of first place in the West Division. The Spartans played a spirited 29 minutes and 9 seconds before betraying to the football world that they are really a bunch of wusses who have no intention of winning a game this year.

For most of the first half, the Spartans went head-to-head with a very good Chino offence, matching the Convicts score for score before arriving at a 1st & 10 at their own 20, with 0:51 left in the 1st half, tied at 17 and a timeout in their pocket. Most teams would have attempted to use those final 51 seconds to get in position for a field goal or, at very least, make a good show of trying to for their fans' sake. '*Never Surrender*' Spartans fans are particularly demanding in this regard, since they've been conditioned to believe that "surrender" is not an option for them.

But apparently surrender was in the plan all along and the Spartans made no secret of it by having ***Gardner Minshew II*** take a knee in an attempt to burn out the clock. The decision to not push the envelope in a close game is marginally defensible. Taking a knee at your 20 with defensive timeouts in play on the other side is not. It sends the *wrong message*.

Chino would have none of it. They used their timeouts to force a punt. It turned out to be a pretty standard 49-yard punt with a fair catch. But had it been anything else at all, like a bad snap, a big return, or some other calamity, it would have been a supreme embarrassment for a coach who is already too embarrassed to show his face in public at the helm of this unimpressive group of Spartans.

Gus Konstantakos has been keeping a low profile this year. With good reason. His team is rebuilding and, well, he hates to lose and hates even more talking about losing. He is also reportedly scared to death of COVID-19 and has taken to wearing a complete face covering along with an oxygen mask at games. Nobody can hear him scream under such a contraption, nor understand the play-call, which goes to understanding why the Pickering offence is so disjointed.

But, for almost half a game the Spartans under part time starter ***Gardner Minshew II*** (never heard of Minshew I) looked like the Spartans of old. The early kneeling thing to end the 1st half killed the entire vibe! Although Minshew did connect with ***Sterling Sheppard*** for their second, long TD pass of the day early in the 3rd quarter to give Pickering a 24-17 lead, the Spartan offence went into symbolic "*kneel mode*" after that. TD passes, of 24 and 14 yards, from ***Dak Prescott*** to ***Michael Gallup*** took care of the scoring for Chino. Defensive tackle ***Grady Jarrett*** sealed the deal with an 11-yard sack of Minshew that killed the Spartans' final rally try.

Chino found a way to victory in the end – they do that sort of thing. The Spartans' defence showed again that they have about 30 minutes of hard play in the tank. What we learned new is here that we did not know before is that the fire is gone from the Spartans' sideline in the year of the pandemic. Spartans' fans might as well punch a ticket to the Trevor Sweepstakes.

JAKE THE SNAKE

He just seemed to slither in there. The unexpected appearance of Virden back-up ***Jake Dolegala*** to start the 2nd half of Virden's 31-10 win over Durham produced some unexpected consequences. But before I get to those, let's take a closer look at the game that was billed as one of two '*Championship Previews*' in Week Four and fell short of delivering on the hype.

The Violators wound up taking apart the Thunder Lizards at ***TERRORDOME***. Football fans should hope that this game was not a preview of the game to come in the league's marquis event come January. Statistically, it ended as a one-sided affair. Virden controlled the play on both sides and looked like they could have had more than they took from Durham. This happens sometimes to a good road team coming up against a tough opponent. It felt and looked bad, but it was not quite as bad as the score and the stats indicate. The really disconcerting thing, for Durham fans and for fans of parity and competition between the conferences, was how dispirited and beaten the Lizards looked the moment a late 2nd quarter turnover shifted the balance of power in favour of the home team.

Up until then, the Durham defence had performed as advertised in shutting down arguably the most explosive offence in the league. They had forced Virden to turn to ***Ezekiel Elliott***, who moved the ball, but not in the way the Violators want to move the ball. In fact, it was not until ***Amari Cooper*** finally found some space in the Durham secondary for a 21-yard gain, while the Durham line was focused on Elliott, that Virden regained confidence and started to look like Virden. Three plays later, ***Tyrann Mathieu*** missed a tackle that allowed Cooper to turn a medium fly into a 23-yard touchdown to put Virden in front, 7-3 with 5:41 remaining in the half.

The Lizards got the ball back and immediately erased the Virden touchdown thanks to an electrifying 75-yard TD run by ***Nick Chubb***. With the Lizards suddenly back in front, leading 10-7, Virden's nerve weakened again and they went three-and-out. Durham took over at their own 33 with 4:10 left in the first half and clearly possessed the momentum. Then "the-game-of-football" struck and hit the Lizards hard below the belt. Virden corner ***Chris Harris Jr*** punched the ball out of the hands of ***Cooper Kupp*** after he had secured a short slant pass from ***Josh Allen*** and was turning up field. ***Leonard Williams*** recovered and the Violators took over near mid-field. Elliott then busted a run off left tackle that went for 29 yards as the clock hit the two-minute warning. Two plays later, Elliott was in the end zone on a 5-yard run to record what would turn out to be the winning touchdown.

At the time, fans could not have anticipated the ensuing Durham collapse in the second half. Except for the turnover, the game had gone according to plan for the Lizards. But a bizarre glitch in the matrix on the opening drive of the second half shattered the confidence of the Durham war machine. Back-up QB, ***Jake Dolegala*** led the Virden offence onto the field, which was unheard of. He



This week's frame-up is Mustangs' wide receiver, **Davante Adams**, voted EFL Offensive Player of the Week for Week 4. He did what he is known for in Aurora's 38-31 victory over the Wrecking Balls – caught the passes that made the difference. Adams finished with 11 receptions for 152 yards and 3 TDs, including the game-winner.

had been dubbed the *Victory Formation Specialist*, having kneeled 5 times for victory in blowouts over the first three weeks of the season. He had thrown one pass in game action in his entire career, back in Week One of 2019, subbing for a shaken **Patrick Mahomes**. (That pass, interestingly, had been a 46-yard TD pass to **Amari Cooper** that had had a demoralizing effect on the Patriots at the time). But even stranger than Dolegala making an appearance in a contested game while a healthy Mahomes stood on the sideline, was the fact that nobody of importance on either sideline, Coach **George Kaldis** or Coach **Lance Barrate**, appeared to notice it until Dolegala checked down to tight end, **TJ Hockenson** for a 45-yard pass play that put Virden at the Durham 40-yard line. The incredulous announcer calling Dolegala's name and number, audible from the booth in an empty **TERRODOME**, snapped everyone back to reality.

The switch back to Mahomes was made quickly, and as discreetly as possible, but the damage had been done – to *both* sides. The Lizards melted under the presence and arm of Mahomes from then onwards. (If they could not stop his back-up, how the heck could they stop *The Man*?) An 8-yard TD pass from Mahomes to **John Brown** increased the Virden lead to 21-10 and it was all Violators after that. But as much as Virden took charge in the 2nd half, it was not exactly a banner day for Mahomes, statistically. His numbers – 174

Yards and 2 TDs – took a back seat to *Ezekiel Elliott* and his 28 carries for 154 yards and a TD. On top of that, the buzz around Dolegala's pivotal appearance shifted the spotlight further away from Mahomes and on to speculation about the true source of Virden's offensive hegemony: Was it due to **Lance Barrate**'s "system" or the quarterback, *Patrick Mahomes*? Dolegala's pass bolstered the "system" argument. Or was it actually the constant threat of *Ezekiel Elliott* that buoyed the passing game in Virden? This was all prime fodder for drunken debate. Along with that, the question of how Dolegala entered the game in the first place was a main topic of the post-game press conference in Virden.

"It was a simple miscommunication," **Lance Barrate** explained at the podium afterwards. "Jake had been in the game to close out the 1st half, doing that thing he does better than anyone else in the league, preserve the ball as the clock runs out. One of the coaching staff patted him on the back as he came off the field and said something like, 'good work, Jake, we'll need that in the second half!' and Jake took that to mean he was starting the second half. Now, we train our guys in the 'next man up' philosophy and the 'you can be called on at any time' mindset. Jake and Patrick thought this was a 'live drill' and went with it. Did the coaches let that one get away? Yes. But nobody is getting disciplined here. We're as happy with Jake under center as we are with Patrick."

That final line, meant with the best of intentions, has Virden and national media now talking non-stop about a quarterback controversy in Virden. 'WILL DOLEGALA START AGAINST SEATTLE?' read the sub-headline of a story in the *Charleswood Banner*, a paper owned by Virden's rivals.

Marquis de Sade, the Violators' beat reporter writing in the *Virden Eviscerator*, put a damper on that speculation: "There is only one starter in Virden. He is Patrick Mahomes. Putting Jake Dolegala on the field to run some plays was a subtle and very clever piece of psychological torture applied with a high degree of skill to the Durham victim. As we saw, it destroyed their will to resist."

Other, less knowledgeable writers, are running with the weird idea that the team was already looking for ways to introduce Dolegala into the offence as a regular feature, as he is actually the secret heir to a very short-lived Mahomes Era in Virden.

"That appearance by Jake Dolegala was a trial balloon," asserts rookie analyst **Aiden Drexler** of the ESPN's *Between the Lines*. "Lance Barrate is testing how his players and the fans react to a possible switch at QB down the road. Sources say that since Mahomes burst on the scene, coach Barrate has become concerned that the young talent will 'go rogue' and will be uncontrollable. Dolegala is said to be more amenable to coaching and less full of himself. Regardless, if you believe that Jake Dolegala 'accidentally' appeared on the field in the middle of a close game, I have some prime swampland in Florida to sell you."

Some people in the Virden media are fretting that the buzz around Dolegala and Mahomes is an unneeded distraction that could hurt the team's chemistry as they aim for the league's top prize. I say, 'come on, man!' to that. If the only thing the Violators have to worry about is a fake quarterback controversy that even the principals involved don't take seriously, they are in an enviable position.

They certainly would not trade such a harmless diversion for what appears to be a real quarterback controversy developing in Durham, where fans and writers remember the past contributions of *Nick Foles* and are actively searching for scapegoats to pin the blame on for the Lizards' sleepy 2-2 start to the season. *Josh Allen* is certainly on that list, as is *Richard Sherman*, rookie *Chase Young* and, of course, **George Kaldis** himself. The fact that Young has played just 54 snaps so far due to injury is because he is a "china doll." *Richard Sherman* is getting turned around the wrong way because he's "washed up." *Josh Allen* can't hit the broad side of a barn and the coach cannot remember what down it is. The mood in Durham is dark, but it is still early. It can get a lot darker.

CHAMPIONSHIP PREVIEW II

'Championship Preview II,' featuring the Budapest North Stars at the Iowa City Cubs, was a bust at the box office. Like most sequels, it was boring and lacked character development. But it did teach us something important; it is not a given that the powerhouse teams in the Pacific Conference are superior to those in the Atlantic Conference, as many illuminati suggested after Virden eviscerated Durham this week. The North Stars put paid to that idea with a bullying suppression of the powerhouse Cubs in a 23-18 victory that was not as close as the score indicates. But if we dispel the notion that the Cubs are a powerhouse – a reasonable position given how lacklustre they have played – this game is just another example of an excellent team knocking off a marginal team. So, how good are the North Stars, *really*?

It is too early to write the book on either squad, but the Cubs and their fans are clearly beginning to get worried, as evidenced by their excuses following this loss.

The North Stars finished with more penalties (10) and penalty yards (115) assessed against them than the Cubs (8/79), but it sure did not *feel* that way for most Cubs fans watching the game. The first four Budapest scoring drives, resulting in 20 points, were assisted to a greater or lesser degree by Cubs' penalties of the kind that make neutral observers scratch their heads. The most controversial was an excessive celebration penalty against *B.J. Hill* after *Aaron Rodgers* attempted a rare bomb that was deflected by *Casey Heyward* 40 yards downfield. Hill, who finished the play standing face-to-face with Rodgers near the pocket, shook his head vigorously like a kind of rattlesnake and waved his index finger back and forth in Rodgers' face. Nobody noticed this except Rodgers, Hill and the nameless official standing next to Hill, who threw the flag. It was a ridiculous call, but it cost the Cubs 15 yards and the Stars went on to score a touchdown.

Less controversial, but still highly questionable, was a pass interference call on Cubs' rookie safety, *Geno Stone*, that nullified an incomplete pass on 3rd & 8 at midfield. Stone drew the unlucky assignment of covering *George Kittle* on the play, but the rookie was up to it on this occasion and stuck to Kittle like glue; so much so that Kittle was unable to extend to reach the ball. It looked like excellent coverage to me and to at least one TV commentator, **Tony Dung**, who felt Stone's coverage was "textbook." But who is *Geno Stone* anyway? Its a good question that, because it had to be asked in the first place and had no ready answer, likely resulted in up-and-

coming star Kittle getting the benefit of the doubt from the officials when he threw his hands up in the air and made a flag-throwing motion at roughly the same time the ball hit the hard, artificial turf at Joe Ferguson Stadium.

I am getting really annoyed at the increasing soccer-ish theatrics from EFL receivers whenever a defender makes a play. The rules have become so slanted in favour of the passing game that the majority of receivers seem to feel entitled to complain about every little bit of contact during a contested pass. Some have forgotten, or never knew, what real pass coverage is like. Not that we want to go back to the pre-**Mel Blount** days when receivers took a beating up and down the field, but today's bias is most definitely in favour of the receiver over the defender in the modern EFL. Add in "virtual" and real pick-plays due to stacked formations and the job of the coverage team becomes that much harder. Yes, defenders are transgressing as well – lots more little tugs on the jersey, attempts to conceal subtle arm bars as the ball approaches and some outright muggings to avoid the embarrassment of giving up a big TD pass – but this is what it has come to in the thankless job of defending receivers in a pass-oriented game. Desperate times call for desperate measures.

The Stars went on to score a touchdown on that drive to take a 10-3 lead. Their momentum picked up from there. But when it faltered slightly with a tipped pass on 3rd & 10 at the Cubs' 32 as the 2nd half was winding down, a flag flew late after the whistle, but immediately *after Aaron Rodgers* raised his arms in the air in incredulity. **AJ Bouye** was called for pass interference on a play where he appeared to be a bystander to teammate **Cory Littleton**'s tip of a pass intended for **Sammy Watkins**. Littleton's coverage was excellent. Where Bouye came into play was not certain, although it did look like he made incidental contact with Watkins when the ball was in the air. It was not enough to change the outcome of the play in any case. The North Stars went on to kick a much easier 35-yard field goal than the 50-yarder they would have been forced to try, 3 minutes earlier, had that call *not* been made.

My point is not to claim that the Cubs lost this game because of the refs. But in the early stages of a tightly contested game, calls like that can set the tone; and these calls certainly felt like they set the tone.

Also setting the tone was a lacklustre Cubs attack that for most of the game looked completely overmatched by the Budapest defence. Nothing flashy on the Stars' side – just pure discipline and rock-solid tackling. This Budapest defence is a unit well-deserving of its current no.1 status, having achieved this success against three good offences. The Cubs went three-and-out on four of their five first-half possessions. They did not find the end zone until there was 0:03 left on the clock in the *4th quarter*, turning the final score into a deceptively respectable 5-point differential.

The Cubs' **Deron Redding** is accustomed to being on the hot seat, but his team's 1-2-1 start and its failure to show up against tough opponents may already be fraying at his nerves. He took the unusual step, for him, of blaming the referees after the game.

"This is a game of contact, man! When incidental contact is called a foul in certain situations, but not others, it makes you wonder what's going on," he said, trying to make his point without making it in a fine-inducing way. "I mean, our guys are out there *competing hard*...they're giving it their all and you know, to have it taken away, well, that doesn't seem fair to me. And the call on BJ! That just *blows* as far as I'm concerned. These are two great teams - let them play!"

Redding is not entirely wrong. In the 2nd half, with the Stars comfortably in the lead, the flags stopped flying against the Cubs and the Stars' did absolute squat offensively. This has prompted the conspiracy theorists to come out of the woodwork to support Redding. But the Iowa coach is treading on thin ice when he characterizes both teams as being "great." The Stars of 2020 may turn out to be; but his Cubs are trending in the other direction, toward mediocre. They have about four to six weeks to re-establish their puffery or it could be a very tough recovery.

WILL-HELL-A

Things went from bad to worse in Twin Cities this weekend. In the inter-conference battle of two teams that might not be what we thought they were, the Corn Kings did little in their 15-7 win over the Triumph to convince skeptics that they should be taken too seriously in 2020. Okay, so they won on the road, at Wilhalla Stadium no less, against a desperate team peppered with talented players who know how to dig deep and win. That is one plus – theoretically at least. A desperate team headed by a championship-winning coach (a future hall-of-fame candidate) who suddenly finds himself under the gun at home and ready to do almost anything to turn his ship around is usually considered dangerous and not to be taken lightly. But when that "*anything*" includes reinstating **Mitch Trubisky** as the starting quarterback after three consecutive misadventures by **Jameis Winston** then curiously reinserting Winston when the game was on the line, one has a tactical and PR disaster in the making.

There are serious people now openly speculating that **Guy Williams** threw the game by making the move to Winston for the final drive. This is a crazy assertion that is, nevertheless, incidentally backed up by the results: 4 drop-backs by Winston, 1 of 2 for 14 yards then consecutive sacks for losses of 10 and 11 yards. These sacks pushed the offence back to the Triumph 1-yard line to face an absurd 4th & 31. Not even "The Guy" has a play for 4th & 31 at his own 1. He punted and prayed for a miracle.

Trubisky was clearly shaking off the rust during the 1st half. He led his team to just 3 first downs (one by penalty) and 9 net yards of offence over two quarters and was sacked 4 times. All the while, the rickety Corn Kings' offence built a fragile 15-0 lead. But Trubisky showed definite improvement in the 2nd half. He led his team to a 3rd quarter opening drive TD and very clearly had the Corn Kings' defence sucking wind in the 4th quarter due to his ability to extend plays and keep his offence on the field.

A comeback was never going to be easy on a day when points came at a premium despite perfect conditions. As the game moved into its final chapter, the Triumph faced a situation where they trailed by 8 points with 91 yards in front of them, 2:22 left on the clock and 1 timeout left. They had had little success pushing the ball deep to that point in the game and would have had to move quickly, in small and medium chunks, to stand a chance. That was something Trubisky could do, but would he be able to do it in under 2:22?

Enter, Winston. People defending the switch (yes, there are a few out there – there are always a few nuts) use the rationale of too much distance and not enough time, to support the move to the “big-armed” Winston who, if nothing else in his so far ill-starred Triumph career, had shown the ability to occasionally get the ball deep downfield. But, of course, this assessment ignores the obvious problem; that Winston’s “big arm” is guided by a “small brain.”

The last hurrah for Twin Cities obviously did not go well, as already detailed. Winston looked and acted as if overwhelmed, his smallish brain unable to handle the pressure of more than one threat bearing down on him. If the Corn Kings did impress in one area on Sunday, it was in their ability to bring pressure on the quarterback. On three different occasions, their pass rush simply took over and wrecked drives. The final drive (more of a reverse) was one of those.

This was not a particularly impressive win for Cowtown, but it was an even less impressive loss for the Triumph. Signs of a crisis are in the air.

The press conference after the game was not one of Coach **Guy Williams'** finest hours. He did not come across as convincing in support of his decision to switch to Winston for the final drive. The lame defence was bad enough. Yet for some reason he felt the need to defend it to the hilt and subsequently talked himself into a hole that one reporter finally buried him in.

“I felt bringing in Jameis there gave us the best chance to win,” he declared flatly, with no conviction.

When asked the simple question, “why,” he deflected peevishly, in amateurish fashion: “You know, I don't need to explain that to anybody. I've been at this coaching game long enough and I know what I'm seeing out there on the field and I felt Jameis gave us the best chance to come back. Period. End of story. Next question, please.”

Variations of “why?” followed, answered by variations of “because.”

Finally, the variations of “why?” were replaced by “why *not* [Trubisky]?” which were a lot tougher to handle, given that Trubisky had kept them in the game and had not turned the ball over.

“It's not that I didn't have confidence in Mitch in that situation – I'm sure he could have tied the game and eventually won it for us,” he began. “It's just that I thought Jameis gave us a better shot at tying the game and eventually winning it. This is no disrespect to Mitch, it's more like respect for Jameis. You know, we brought Jameis here for a reason and it was to win football games.”

“How many games have you won, coach?” asked **Gorm Eetelbum** of the *Star-Tribune*. This question abruptly ended the press conference.

AROUND THE EFL – ERUDITE OBSERVATIONS AND LEARNING POINTS

Picking out the red smarties from a Halloween bag full of purples, oranges and browns, is a challenge. But here I go...!

↪ One of only two things to go right for the Glads in their 35-10 humiliation at home against the Derailers was the booth overturning a lost fumble by **James Robinson** at the Buffalo 32 on the game's opening drive. (Let's just say it was very close). The video reprieve allowed the Glads' **Tyler Bass** to boot a 50-yard field goal to give Georgia its first and last lead of the game. Buffalo took control as soon as they got the ball and stayed in control the rest of the way. They scored TDs on three of their four 1st-half possessions. They used a combination of designed runs by **Lamar Jackson** and short passes to their wide receivers to move the chains in a relentless rhythm. No deep shots, or breakouts, just Chinese Water Torture-type movement down the field. Once the Derailers realized that the Glads had no answer for Lamar it became a feeding frenzy. Even up 28-3 in the 2nd half and in total control in both phases, Derailer coach **Daryl Brothers** sent his prize QB on designed sweeps and even went for it on 4th down twice near mid-field – missing once and making it the second time. The successful conversion led to another Buffalo TD and a 35-3 lead. All the while it was clear that **Tua Tagovailoa** did not have it on this day and the Glads just wanted to get off the field before he got hurt. The final score could have been worse, except for the second thing that went right for Georgia on this day. A high snap by Buffalo's **Lee Smith** sailed over **Andy Lee's** head with less than 2 minutes remaining in the game, setting up the Glads for a face-saving touchdown pass from back-up QB, **Devlin Hodges**. Not that it mattered much – the humiliation was already complete.

“They certainly can run the ball with Lamar,” **Dave Birdsall** commented after the game. “They proved that again and again, all the way to the end. We got the message: Lamar can run. I honestly don't think there are any defences out there that will be able to stop him completely.”

Coach Brothers, his blood still raging from the high of two consecutive wins and another dominant showing by his offence was not shy about explaining his game plan: “People need to know that Lamar is pretty much unstoppable, so they don't even try to stop him,” he stated baldly when asked why he was risking his quarterback with designed runs late in a game that been decided long before. “We want Lamar to be MVP and that means winning the rushing title and finishing with 30 or more touchdown passes. Those are the numbers we're looking at achieving and we had a chance to add some yards against a weak Georgia team, so we took ‘em. You can't play as if injury is going to happen. That's ridiculous. You play until the end with all you got!”

Alrighty then! **RGIII** might disagree.

↪ The Coyotes bounded into empty Monsignor McClancy Memorial Stadium and snatched a 31-6 victory with relative ease from the Irish. The Irish made their game plan plain on their opening drive with a 17-play, 8:23 possession that resulted in a **Rodrigo Blankenship** 22-yard field goal. The aim, of course, was to reduce the number of possessions for the Coyotes by chewing up clock and, thereby, reduce the number of scores the Irish would need to make to keep pace. Now, if the Irish had *also* incorporated into their game plan a way of stopping **Ryan Tannehill** and **Raheem Mostert**, it was not so obvious to see. The Coyote QB stood tall in the pocket and dished out balls on silver platters to every receiver he targeted. One pass in particular was a thing of beauty. He fired a ball perfectly on

target that threaded the needle of double coverage and caught **Julio Jones** in stride, allowing him to sprint unchecked through the defence for an 82-yard score. When Tannehill wasn't throwing, Mostert was gouging the Irish defenders on the ground with touchdown runs of 40 and 16 yards. When a team scores *every* time it touches the ball, as the Coyotes did to the Irish in the first half, burning up the clock is no longer a winning strategy. Of course, once the Coyotes had served notice that they weren't messing around, East Elmhurst starter of-the-moment, **Ryan Fitzpatrick** tried to keep up by passing the ball for a couple of series. When this proved futile, Coach **Archbishop Thomas Molloy** made his peace with the Football Gods and began to call plays designed to end the game as soon as possible. It was a divinely-sanctioned ritual gridiron suicide. Tannehill finished 13 of 13 for 298 yards, 2 touchdowns and a perfect QB rating of 158.3. Mostert finished with 83 yards on 6 carries, 2 TDs and an average of 13.8 yards per carry. The Irish are clearly no longer the defensive powerhouse they were two years ago, but the Coyotes made scoring look so effortless on Sunday, it was surreal. How long will the bubble last before it bursts?

~ On a windy, but mild day at an empty Kelly-Burke Field surrounded by picnicking Mennonites, the Bombers dragged out a sluggish 23-13 victory over the Cadillac on a pair of **Jared Goff** TD passes and three **Matt Prater** field goals. Despite moving the ball more efficiently, Bruxelles was unable to gain clear separation on the scoreboard. Come the 7:40 mark of the 4th quarter, they found themselves clinging to a 16-13 lead, with the Cadillac in a position to tie, facing 4th & 2 at the Bombers' 19. With the wind at his back, this would have been like a chip shot for **Austin Seibert**. But the Erieau coach turned up his nose at the field goal attempt and resolved to try and carry the drive into the end zone. The smallish **Nyheim Hines** was sent off right tackle in quest of a first down, but ran into a wall called **Trey Flowers** at the line of scrimmage. The Caddies failed to convert and the Bombers took over. It was the pivotal play of the game as Bruxelles went on to score on the subsequent possession and take a 10-point lead into the final two minutes. **Kyler Murray**, who had struggled all day to complete even simple passes, was picked off by **Harrison Smith** to end the game. Caddies coach **Mike Smith** faced the anticipated grilling afterwards about the decision to go for it on 4th down. He defended it with an inane slogan and an appeal to the Analytics God. An unhappy **Jamie Rilett** left the stadium abruptly and jumped into the back seat of his vintage 1938 Packard Super Eight. His driver sped off and almost hit a Mennonite buggy at the entrance to the parking lot. I smell a coaching change in the air...

~ The Wrecking Balls brought their football equivalent of a Vaudeville act to Magna Park in Aurora and were out-lasted by the Mustangs, 38-31. There comes a point in every Wrecking Ball fans wretched existence when they must choose acceptance or be doomed to football agony for Eternity – or however long the Wrecking Balls survive as a franchise. It may not be long. This was another game scripted to shave a few months off **Jeff Cohen**'s life expectancy. It began with a complete 2nd quarter collapse during which they surrendered 24 points, 21 of those coming in a 3-and-a-half-minute span, to trail Aurora 31-17 at halftime. Second half redemption followed thanks to a couple of Mustangs turnovers and subsequent TD passes of 52 and 8 yards to **DJ Chark**. For a brief time, the game that had appeared all but lost was momentarily suspended in a tie at 31. This is tragic part for Balls fans. After deep despair, *Hope* now hovered above them like the rainbow, visible but unobtainable and quickly gone. After **Devin Singletary** laid the groundwork, literally, with 40 yards in 7 carries, Aurora star **Davante Adams** finished off a 75-yard drive with a 10-yard slant from **Matt Ryan** for the eventual game-winning touchdown. Then came the tragic part – tragedy being a common theme of almost every New Jersey loss. The Mustangs gave the Balls the gift of great field position thanks to a poorly-executed squib kick that went short, but to a live returner in **Diontae Spencer**, who brought it 20 yards to the New Jersey 45. Cohen's Crew made good use of it, driving down to the Aurora 2-yard line where they faced 4th & goal with 5:31 left. It was one of those 4th down scenarios where even I would not hesitate to go for it. But there was hesitation on the part of Coach **Sean McDermott**. Whether it was the decision itself, the choice of play or some technical glitch, the Balls were unable to get a play off in time and were flagged for delay of game. **Trey Boston** broke up the pass to **Tarik Cohen** on the subsequent 4th & 7 and New Jersey turned it over on downs. They might not have converted the 4th & 2, I know. But the needless delay-of-game penalty changed the entire dynamic. The run was no longer in play in the tougher 4th & 7 scenario. I did not check out what McDermott and Cohen had to say after this latest debacle. I don't really care at this point.

~ The Assassins sit on top of the West division after methodically deconstructing York, 32-18 at the Assassin's Den in Vegas. The Las Vegas defence was very impressive when it mattered, even if it did soften up slightly in the 3rd quarter after the offence had staked out a 29-6 lead. **Michael Thomas** did not catch a TD pass, but he caught 12 of 14 targets and moved the chains 6 times to set up his teammates **Jerry Jeudy** and **Jimmy Graham** for two TDs each. I am holding out to see how **Anthony Holguin**'s henchmen fare against Peg City next week and Cobb County the week after before I start getting excited about a possible changing of guard in the West. But I admit to being intrigued by the Assassins' prospects.

~ At Patriot Place in Charleswood, **Drew Brees** made short work of the Pats' beleaguered and battered secondary, throwing for 434 yards and 3 TDs to lead the Swordfish to a convincing 39-28 victory. The Pats were simply not competitive as a team, although impressive individual efforts from **Alvin Kamara** (50-yard TD run) and **DeShaun Watson** (20-yard TD run) helped to paper over the gaping holes in their performance. Sebastian took care of business, but do not read too much into this victory. The Pats are bad. Full stop.

And finally, at the dank and rickety old Kingdome, the Pilots got into the win column with a tightly-contested 23-20 win over Brooklin. **Sam Darnold** had a rare impact outing, passing for 272 yards and 2 touchdowns. Both teams made three trips to the red zone – the Hawks notched 2 field goals and 1 touchdown in those trips; the Pilots scored 2 touchdowns and kicked one field goal. That red zone efficiency edge for Seattle was the difference in this game. The Hawks fell behind, as they always do, but this time they could not mount a comeback. Evidence that they may be losing their late game swagger came late in the 3rd quarter when, trailing 16-10, they opted for a **Randy Bullock** field goal on 4th & goal at the Seattle 1-yard line. Hey, lots of time left – not the *wrong* decision (<wink/> <wink/>). But it was a *very* conservative decision. Very, *very* conservative. Not *too* conservative, just really, *really* conservative....

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Jimmy's WEEK FIVE PICKS

NEW JERSEY @ BUFFALO (line – DERAILERS by 3)

INJURIES: New Jersey – None; Buffalo – Jaquiski Tartt (OUT), Jonathan Abram (IR).

Last week's win bumped the Derailers up in the official power rankings, supplanting these very Wrecking Balls at no.8; while New Jersey's loss to the Mustangs dropped them down to no.11, where the Derailers used to be. With respect to the good old PR formula, I see these teams as exactly opposite. They are both sitting at 2-2. The Wrecking Balls' opponents over 4 weeks have 12 wins, while Buffalo's have 8. NJ has been in every game, the Derailers have not. New Jersey is the more complete team, while the Derailers boil down to three players who must deliver in order to be competitive: Lamar Jackson, Robert Woods and Aaron Donald. Chidobe Awuzie will make Woods work for his catches while Jamal Adams will keep an eye on Jackson. The Balls may not have an answer for Donald, but few teams do. Right now, Donald is the answer to Donald – he is not playing up to par. I expect this to be another Jersey barn-burner with the Wrecking Balls potentially self-immolating, but more likely coming out with the win. **PICK: NEW JERSEY**

BRUXELLES @ COBB COUNTY (line – COYOTES by 7)

INJURIES: Bruxelles – Jurrell Casey (OUT), Emmanuel Ogbah (OUT); Cobb County – Da'Ron Payne (QUESTIONABLE).

Ryan Tannehill has only thrown 78 passes in 4 games but he has sure made them count, as he leads all quarterbacks in passer rating and completion percentage. What is his secret? Discipline within a system that spreads the ball around to an underrated bevy of skill players like Raheem Mostert and, yes, Julio Jones, who many felt was washed up when the Derailers let him go. He is also getting ironclad protection on his blindside by the duo of David Bakhtiari and Joe Thuney, neither of whom has surrendered a sack yet. It has been an impressive run of success that it is hard to bet against it. But the Bombers' defence may have what it takes to bring the Coyote attack down to earth. The question for Bruxelles will be whether Jared Goff can strike enough fear in the Cobb County defence and make enough plays to allow room for Leonard Fournette to run. The Bombers have been relying on Fournette more than expected. It is time to get the two All Pro tight ends involved and for Goff to step up to the plate. **PICK: BRUXELLES**

CHINO @ TWIN CITIES (line – CONVICTS by 1)

INJURIES: Chino – Morgan Burnett (OUT), Lorenzo Carter (OUT), Kawann Short (IR); Twin Cities – Kwon Alexander (OUT), Chris Lindstrom (OUT), Russell Okung (OUT), Antonio Brown (COVID-19).

The Convicts have not been overpowering anybody, but the winless Triumph look totally out of sorts. The switch to Mitch Trubisky as the starter last week only to pull him with the game on the line in favour of the worst quarterback in the league is a telling sign that this version of the Triumph is the most dysfunctional to take the field in its 9-year history. It is difficult, but forget the talent on the Triumph roster. It means nothing if the coach has no plan, or his plan is wacky. So, while I think it is unhealthy for the Convicts to rely so much on Christian McCaffery, and I am not impressed with the marginally effective Chino defence, I cannot see them falling so flat on their faces that they will let this opportunity to beat up on the Sick Man of the Central pass them by. **PICK: CHINO**

SEATTLE @ VIRDEN (line – VIOLATORS by 13)

INJURIES: Seattle – Olivier Vernon (OUT). Virden – None.

The Pilots experienced a morale-boosting win over Brooklin and will be feeling better about themselves this week knowing they will not be going down in history as one of the worst teams in the EFL. That is nice, but they will need much more than good feelings to make a respectable showing against Virden inside *TERRODOME* (fans or no fans). The Violators were not exactly dominant against the Thunder Lizards last week and still won by 21 points. Despite some crazy claims in the media, Jake Dolegala will not be starting here, which practically reduces the chance of Seattle winning this game to almost nil. While there is always a way for any team to win on any

given Sunday, talk of win-lose is a distraction from the spread. Seattle loses, but has been in *every* game so far. **PICK: SEATTLE**

CHARLESWOOD @ IOWA CITY (line – CUBS by 4)

INJURIES: Charleswood – Desmond Trufant (QUESTIONABLE), Kendall Fuller (OUT), Derwin James (OUT), Jalen Mills (OUT), Devin Funchess (IR); Iowa City – Dee Ford (OUT), Reshad Jones (OUT).

The Patriots moved their best defensive player at the trade deadline and picked up rookie pass rusher AJ Epenesa in another sign that they have packed it in for this year. The move will not make a big difference in the calculus as long as the Pats' secondary remains decimated by injuries – the Cubs should be able to move the ball aerially to their wide-outs against a crew of back-ups regardless of the pass pressure DeMarcus Lawrence might have brought. The byword in that sentence is “should.” Take nothing for granted with these Cubs until they start to grant something other than a guarantee of mediocrity. Whether a problem of execution, play design or a slow start due to abortive training camp, the Cubs look stale – staler than most. The question is whether the Pats fall into that minority class of teams staler than the Cubs. After the message their head office just sent the players, I bet they are. **PICK: IOWA CITY**

PEG CITY @ LAS VEGAS (line – ASSASSINS by 2)

INJURIES: Peg City – None; Las Vegas – None.

The Assassins have put together three straight wins and lead the West. With this success a team personality is beginning to emerge; it consists of solid defence and Michael Thomas. The victims of the recent Vegas run will probably not be talked about as the playoff races reach their final stages, so it is premature to jump on the Assassins' bandwagon. This match should be a much sterner test of the Big 'D'-Thomas formula. The Crusaders bring the league's no.1 offence to the desert. Kirk Cousins leads the league in passing yards and TD passes and Aaron Jones is averaging 5.9 yards per carry. The Assassins will blitz and play exclusively man, so there will be opportunities one-on-one for Keenan Allen and Courtland Sutton. Unless Vegas gets a game-wrecking contribution from Shaquil Barrett, it is certain that the Pegs will find the end zone more than once. But can they stop Thomas? No, but they will slow him down. **PICK: PEG CITY**

DURHAM @ ERIEAU (line – THUNDER LIZARDS by 2)

INJURIES: Durham – None; Erieau – Brian Poole (OUT), Akiem Hicks (IR).

Durham is in the doldrums, sitting in a three-way tie for second place in the North Division looking up at Scarborough, of all teams. After dispatching Sebastian in Week One, the Lizards, pre-season favourites to duke it out in the conference final, have looked bafflingly below average. Most disturbing is the play of their secondary, rated in the near-elite category, which has given up 8.3 yards per pass attempt and an opponent passer rating of 108.8. Fortunately for the Lizards, the revamped Cadillac passing attack is still in the design phase and they haven't yet figured out how to get the ball to their wide receivers. Durham has little to fear from the Erieau offence, but the play of Josh Allen has been erratic enough thru four weeks that Erieau's back-up offence – the defence – could emerge to become a deciding factor. Establishing Nick Chubb as the driver of the Lizards' attack is a must, not to mention feasible. **PICK: DURHAM**

GEORGIA @ SCARBOROUGH (line – BLUE EAGLES by 8)

INJURIES: Georgia – John Johnson III (OUT); Scarborough – Alex Lewis (PROBABLE), Justin Jones (OUT), DeSean Jackson (OUT).

The Blue Eagles are in first place in the North Division after rookie Joe Burrow notched a signature comeback win over the Crusaders last week. Let that settle in for a minute...the Blue Eagles are in first place. It is still too early to dub them Cinderella, given their history, but the glass slipper is being sized. They are opposed this week by a Gladiator team going in the opposite direction with their rookie starting QB, Tua Tagovailoa, who sports a 78.5 QB rating. In this battle of top first-round prospects, Burrow, with better weapons and a solid defence behind him, is the clear favourite. But the wildcard in any rookie match-up is the “rookie factor.” Burrow has looked impressive so far – almost charmed. He is due for a rookie mistake, or five. I like the Eagles to win, but not to cover. **PICK: GEORGIA**

AURORA @ SEBASTIAN (line – MUSTANGS by 3)

INJURIES: Aurora – Duane Brown (PROBABLE), Kenyan Drake (DOUBTFUL); Sebastian – Jordan Jenkins (DOUBTFUL), Adam Gotsis (OUT).

The Mustangs have had to fight harder than they are accustomed to in order to reach 3-1 and maintain their perch on top of the South Division. All three of their wins have come on the final scores of the game. This is not the same dominant team of past years, but they don't have to be. With no resistance from their divisional rivals, they just need to get to the dance and rely on their prior experience once there. Sebastian is not in such a luxurious position. They are already in a dog fight with the season only one-quarter old. The Drew Brees to Odell Beckham Jr connection will have to be tight here. K'Waun Williams will get the assignment against Beckham; he will need occasional help in coverage, but should be reliable sticking with the Swordfish star when a play breaks down. On the other side, the Fish

have a less than convincing answer for Davante Adams. Expect Chandler Jones to step up in a big game. **PICK: SEBASTIAN**

COWTOWN @ EAST ELMHURST (line – Pick ‘Em)

INJURIES: Cowtown – Ronald Darby (OUT), Cordy Glenn (OUT), Roquan Smith (OUT), Brian Winters (OUT); East Elmhurst – Mark Barron (DOUBTFUL), CJ Anderson (IR).

This is a game that nobody outside of Cowtown, the borough of Queens and parlay bettors will be paying much attention to. It is a top candidate for most boring game of Week Five. The explosive qualities of the Corn King offence of the past two years have been absent so far this year, as Todd Gurley has struggled and Mike Evans gets fewer chances as a result. After gutting its roster of tradable commodities, the Irish remain a pesky, but not overly threatening opponent. Tyreek Hill and either one of the two starting QBs on the roster could get hot at any time, but it is more likely they will misfire. While the offence lags in production along with the Irish, the Corn King ‘D’ is holding its own at no.4 overall. They have been effective against the pass, despite having no interceptions, due to a top-grade pass rush led by TJ Watt. This distinct qualitative difference in the match-ups sets Cowtown apart, just enough. **PICK: COWTOWN**

BROOKLIN @ BUDAPEST (line – NORTH STARS by 10)

INJURIES: Brooklin – Isaiah Simmons (QUESTIONABLE), Ronnie Harrison (DOUBTFUL), Stephon Tuitt (OUT), Leighton Vander Esch (OUT); Budapest – None.

The Hawks’ offence is already showing signs of fatigue trying to keep up with its league’s worst-ranked defence. They fell short against Seattle last week and Durham the week before after two thrilling come-from-behind victories to start the year. Now they come face-to-face with The Power in the Central and coming from behind against the North Stars will not be easy. The Budapest offence has been moving along like a road grader, steady, slow and strong, but has not come close to matching the speed limit allowed by a QB like Aaron Rodgers. The match-ups are there for the breakout offensive display the fans have been looking for. But they should not need it to stay in front of Brooklin. The North Stars solved the puzzle of the Mustangs’ offence, they can handle DeAndre Hopkins. **PICK: BUDAPEST**

YORK @ PICKERING (line – EXCALIBURS by 12)

INJURIES: York – Darren Sproles (OUT); Pickering – AJ Klein (OUT), Xavien Howard (OUT).

The Spartans don’t look like a winless team on paper but they sure have looked like losers on the field – not pathetic losers, but still losers. The odd flashes of deep-strike capability by the offence and the frequent bend-not-break qualities of the defence are signs of a potential they fail to live up to in the end. Not that their potential is playoff-grade; but it sure is not Trevor Sweepstakes worthy. The Excaliburs believe they have a shot at the playoffs and who can say they don’t? If they do, however, it is a shot at one-and-done in the post-season. Their loss to Vegas last week was the first time they fell behind early in a game – they don’t want that to happen again. The line here is really overdone. The Spartans are struggling, yes, but they know York and will give them a fight. **PICK: PICKERING**



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This Week in EFL History
With Professor Sterling Smitherman

FROM THE EFL ARCHIVES – Week Four of the 2014 EFL season witnessed the Violators going in the opposite direction of their 2020 brethren. In a battle of winless teams, they dropped their fourth straight game, losing a 33-24 decision to Mohave. Virden in 2014 was not a bad team. In fact, they had a lot of talent. But to quote **Lance Barrate** after this loss: “It is the little things we aren’t doing right.” Yes, those, and the big things as well.

This Week in EFL History also marked the first appearance of the two-TE/2RB formation as a feature of the Mustangs’ offence. Its deployment on Aurora’s first series

against Pickering created confusion. The Spartans reacted by deploying a five down-lineman “stack” formation, the type of personnel mix usually used exclusively at, or near the goal line. On the first play, **Rich Liotta** called a deep pass to **Anquan Boldin**, which went for 29 yards. Notice had been served; the Mustangs would play with your head as well as beat you physically. Aurora went on to comfortably defeat a very good Pickering team, 31-13 and rise to 4-0.

The process of trying to create a winner out of an established loser continued in Gwinnett, where the Regulators finally broke out of Gladiator Prison mid-way through the 3rd quarter with a 71-yard TD pass from Tony Romo to AJ Green. The Regs went on to defeat Gwinnett 24-17 and rise to 3-1, one game behind Aurora in the South.

Philip Rivers of the Cannibals won Offensive Player of the Week by passing for 384 yards and 4 TDs in a 35-27 win over the Patriots. Although the Pats were not a good team overall in 2014, their defence had talent, but was riddled with injuries and too much time on the field.

Richard Sherman of the Thunder Lizards won Defensive Player of the Week by intercepting **Joe Flacco** twice in the 1st half of a 17-15 Durham win over Cowtown.