

WEEK 2



EFL

ELITE FOOTBALL LEAGUE

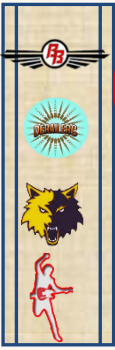


Blazing Through a Pandemic in our 14th Season!

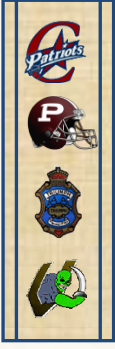
October 18, 2020

CRAZY GAME!

EAST



CENTRAL



WEST



NORTH



COASTAL



SOUTH



Wrecking Balls kicker, **Chris Boswell** is carried off the field by his jubilant teammates after drilling a 21-yard FG with 1:29 left in overtime to give New Jersey a 34-31 victory over Bruxelles. It was Boswell's second FG of OT, his first coming from 50 yards on the first possession of the extra frame. A wave of relief washed over the Jersey sideline when Boswell made his kick. The home team had dominated for most of the game only to see their hard-earned advantage disintegrate in the last 5 minutes of the 4th quarter. Then they almost blew their chance to score early in OT when a sack and holding penalty temporarily pushed them out of FG range. It all ended well as New Jersey rises to 1-1 on the young season. In other EFL action, the Hawks finished off their late comeback against the Cadillac, scoring twice in the final quarter on a pair of TD runs by **Carlos Hyde** to erase a 22-13 deficit and raise their record to 2-0. It was the team's second straight come-from-behind win (*more coverage inside*).

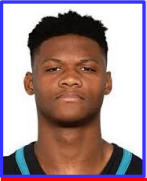


Chris Boswell
Wrecking Balls



Who was slick in Week Two?

"Brylcreem" THE EFL'S FIRST SPONSOR



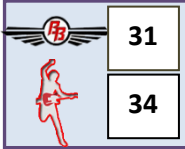
DJ Chark
WR
New Jersey
Wrecking Balls

12 Rec, 222 Yds, 3 TDs. Teamed up with Matt Stafford to lead NJ to win.



Darius Leonard
OLB
Las Vegas
Assassins

17 T, 2 PD, 2 STF, 1 FF, INT (49-Yds TD). Played dominant D in all phases



31

34

The teams combined for 939 yards of total offence, 53 first downs and 20 penalties totalling 170 yards over 69 minutes of high-intensity action that saw New Jersey blow a 28-14 lead in the 4th quarter, only to redeem themselves with 2 **Chris Boswell** FGs in OT to prevail over the Bombers. **Matt Stafford** played lights out over 3 quarters, throwing 4 TD passes before giving way to **Case Keenam** for an attempted run-down of the clock. But the Bombers stormed back and tied the game with 0:09 left. It took three scores to resolve OT, with **Matt Prater** the 21-yard game-winner with 1:29 left.

10-18-2020 Stone Pony Shore Temp:89 Wind:5-15 None Line:BRX by 10 MVP:Stafford HFA

	1	2	3	4	5	Tot
2019 Bruxelles (1-1)	0	7	7	14	3	31
2019 New Jersey (1-1)	7	7	14	0	6	34

Scoring Summary

1 3:13 New Jersey	TD Stafford 5 pass to Chark Jr. (Boswell) (13-85-7:42)	0-7
2 9:37 New Jersey	TD Stafford 28 pass to Chark Jr. (Boswell) (6-82-2:51)	0-14
2 3:09 Bruxelles	TD Goff 11 pass to Kelce (Prater) (9-74-3:32)	7-14
3 13:10 New Jersey	TD Stafford 22 pass to Gabriel (Boswell) (4-70-1:43)	7-21
3 4:11 Bruxelles	TD Goff 16 pass to Thompson (Prater) (11-64-4:13)	14-21
3 0:15 New Jersey	TD Stafford 16 pass to Chark Jr. (Boswell) (8-75-3:56)	14-28
4 2:12 Bruxelles	TD Goff 8 pass to Fournette (Prater) (9-42-3:00)	21-28
4 0:09 Bruxelles	TD Goff 17 pass to Westbrook (Prater) (10-63-1:40)	28-28
5 6:31 New Jersey	FG Boswell 50 (9-43-3:25)	28-31
5 5:31 Bruxelles	FG Prater 51 (7-23-0:45)	31-31
5 1:29 New Jersey	FG Boswell 21 (12-72-3:59)	31-34

Passing

BRX: Goff 64/32 335 Yds 4 TDs 2 Int
 NJ: Stafford 40/31 423 Yds 4 TDs

Rushing

BRX: Fournette 21/88, Goff 2/6

NJ: Montgomery 18/62, Stafford 3/25, Cohen 6/20, Samuel 1/8, Hill 6/6

Receiving

BRX: Thompson 8/85 TD, Fournette 8/78 TD, Godwin 5/38, Kelce 4/36 TD, Westbrook 3/30 TD, Claypool 2/39, Waller 2/29

NJ: Chark Jr. 12/222 3 TDs, Cohen 7/27, McLaurin 4/77, Gabriel 3/43 TD, Samuel 2/28, Montgomery 2/18, Walker 1/8

Defense

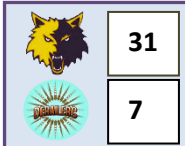
BRX: Ogbah Sk FF 7-Tk, Keuchly STF 8-Tk

NJ: Cunningham STF 22-Tk, Bradberry 3 PDS 5-Tk, Winfield Jr 2 INTs 3 PDS 2-Tk

Injuries

BRX: Phillips OUT, Flowers 1

NJ:



31

7

Following a **Jake Elliott** miss from 51 yards to end Buffalo's opening drive, **Raheem Mostert** dashed off runs of 16 and 25 yards to set-up a 5-yard TD pass from **Ryan Tannehill** to **DeVante Parker**, opening up an early Coyotes lead from which they never looked back. The Coyotes scored TDs on their four 1st half possessions, while the Buffalo offence floundered, punting twice and coming up short on a 4th & 7 at the Cobb 24. The 2nd half played out with **Lamar Jackson** attempting unsuccessfully to pass his team back into the game, but the disciplined Coyotes held him to a TD.

10-15-2020 New Era Stadium Temp:59 Wind:15-25 None Line:CB by 10 MVP:Tannehill HFA:0

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2019 Cobb County (2-0)	14	14	3	0	31
2019 Buffalo (0-2)	0	0	0	7	7

Scoring Summary

1 7:57 Cobb County	TD Tannehill 5 pass to Parker (McManus) (8-59-4:17)	7-0
1 0:40 Cobb County	TD Mostert 11 run (McManus) (8-72-4:07)	14-0
2 6:38 Cobb County	TD Tannehill 34 pass to Cooks (McManus) (9-80-3:50)	21-0
2 0:02 Cobb County	TD Tannehill 10 pass to Peterson (McManus) (9-99-3:19)	28-0
3 1:46 Cobb County	FG McManus 34 (11-57-5:44)	31-0
4 12:30 Buffalo	TD Jackson 12 pass to Fant (Elliott,J) (6-74-4:03)	31-7

Passing

CB: Tannehill 17/11 174 Yds 3 TDs, Bridgewater 4/3 38 Yds
 BUF: Jackson 23/13 101 Yds 1 TD

Rushing

CB: Peterson 11/78, Mostert 6/51 TD, Calais 14/35, Tannehill 4/11, Holtz 2/4, Bridgewater 1/0
 BUF: Jackson 18/103, Coleman 8/13, Woods 2/8, Johnson 3/6

Receiving

CB: Parker 5/82 TD, Cooks 3/60 TD, Jones 3/42, Mostert 3/27 TD, Peterson 2/19 TD, Pittman Jr. 1/9
 BUF: Woods 4/50, Tate 3/20, Sanders 2/13, Coleman 2/-2, Fant 1/12,

Defense

CB: Jenkins 7-Tk STF FF, Sheard Sk 2 STF 5-Tk
 BUF: Hicks 6-Tk 4 STF

Injuries

CB: Nelson 1
 BUF: Smith 1, Abram 14



10



41

The Violators scored TDs on all of their 1st half possessions as **Patrick Mahomes** rang up 201 1st half passing yards and 4 TDs to stake his team to a 28-10 lead. The pressure on the Cubs' secondary was evident on back-to-back PI penalties on **AJ Bouye**, totalling 36 yards, that set up the second Virdean TD. **Russell Wilson** torched the Virdean back end with 3 consecutive passes totalling 74 yards to set up a **Joe Mixon** TD, but that was all the Iowa offence could muster. Once Virdean had the big lead, their D took control of the deflated Cubs while Mahomes threw his 5th TD pass.

10-15-2020 TERRORDOME Temp:70 Wind: Line:VV by 12 MVP:Mahomes HFA:ON(5)

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2019 Iowa City (1-1)	7	3	0	0	10
2019 Virdean (2-0)	14	14	6	7	41

Scoring Summary

1 5:41 Virdean	TD Mahomes 18 pass to Brown (Gonzalez) (10-99-5:33)	0-7
1 3:11 Iowa City	TD Mixon 1 run (Tucker,J) (4-75-2:30)	7-7
1 0:31 Virdean	TD Mahomes 22 pass to Brown (Gonzalez) (6-75-2:40)	7-14
2 9:35 Virdean	TD Mahomes 20 pass to Cooper (Gonzalez) (7-72-3:51)	7-21
2 3:01 Iowa City	FG Tucker 26 (14-67-6:30)	10-21
2 0:01 Virdean	TD Mahomes 26 pass to Cooper (Gonzalez) (11-75-3:00)	10-28
3 8:15 Virdean	TD Mahomes 11 pass to Brown (no good) (12-75-6:45)	10-34
4 14:54 Virdean	TD Guice 7 run (Gonzalez) (11-65-6:42)	10-41

Passing

ICC: Wilson 16/10 132 Yds Int
VIR: Mahomes 30/21 296 Yds 5 TDs

Rushing

ICC: Mixon 10/36 TD, Wilson 2/36, Armstead 5/8, Conner 1/3
VIR: Elliott 28/150, Guice 8/30 TD, Mahomes 2/13, Dolegala 3/-2

Receiving

ICC: Beasley 2/34, Mixon 2/20, Kirk 2/12, Dissly 1/30, Wesco 1/21, Locket 1/16, Conner 1/-1
VIR: Brown 8/126 3 TDs, Cooper 6/101 2 TDs, Ebron 5/52, Hockenson 1/10, Elliott 1/y

Defense

ICC: Littleton 9-Tk 2 STF
VIR: Collins Sr INT 2-Tk

Injuries

ICC: Jones 10
VIR: Lawrence II Game



21



41

A swarming Crusader defence kept the Convicts bottled up early until an interception at mid-field by **Lorenzo Carter** set up a 3-play drive to tie the score at 7 on a 12-yard TD pass from **Dak Prescott** to **Christian McCaffrey**. The miscue seemed to focus **Kirk Cousins**, who led the Pegs to 20 unanswered points over the ensuing two quarters, with a pick and 25-yard return by rookie CB, **Jeff Okudah** setting up the 2nd TD of that string to give Peg City a 27-7 lead. Game management by the Crusaders from that point kept them in front for a runaway win. Cousins finished with 5 TDs.

10-15-2020 True North Field Temp:72 Wind: Line:PCC by 12 MVP:Cousins HFA

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2019 Chino (1-1)	0	7	0	14	21
2019 Peg City (2-0)	7	10	10	14	41

Scoring Summary

1 4:56 Peg City	TD Cousins 4 pass to Allen (Butker) (11-76-5:25)	0-7
2 10:59 Chino	TD Prescott 12 pass to McCaffrey (McLaughlin) (3-50-1:43)	7-7
2 6:57 Peg City	TD Cousins 13 pass to Boyle (Butker) (8-90-3:55)	7-14
2 0:47 Peg City	FG Butker 49 (14-55-4:26)	7-17
3 10:38 Peg City	FG Butker 34 (7-49-4:10)	7-20
3 6:00 Peg City	TD Cousins 21 pass to Allen (Butker) (2-21-0:14)	7-27
4 12:10 Chino	TD Prescott 24 pass to Jones Jr. (McLaughlin) (10-67-4:06)	14-27
4 7:36 Peg City	TD Cousins 3 pass to Higbee (Butker) (7-80-4:25)	14-34
4 3:54 Chino	TD Prescott 45 pass to Gallup (McLaughlin) (9-75-3:42)	21-34
4 2:03 Peg City	TD Cousins 71 pass to Sutton (Butker) (5-86-1:44)	21-41

Passing

CHI: Prescott 41/24 278 Yds 3 TDs Int
PCC: Cousins 47/32 451Yds 5 TDs Int

Rushing

CHI: McCaffrey 9/22, Ingram II 7/19, Prescott 3/3

PCC: Barkley 10/14, Jones 13/60, Cousins 1/3

Receiving

CHI: McCaffrey 9/78 TD, Jones Jr. 6/66 TD, Gallup 4/96 TD, Fitzgerald 4/35, Ingram II 1/3
PCC: Barkley 8/91, Higbee 7/82 TD, Allen 5/64 2 TDs, Sutton 4/106 TD, Boyle 4/72 TD, Jones 4/6

Defense

CHI: Carter 9-Tk PD Int, Ingram III Sk 2-Tk FF
PCC: Okudah Int 6-Tk, Miller Sk 6-Tk 3 STFs FF, Jones Sk 2-Tk

Injuries

CHI: Okorafor Game
PCC: None



20

30

Clyde Edwards-Helaire went over-the-top on 4th & goal from the 1 and a fumble by **Michael Thomas** inside his own red zone set up a 12-yard TD pass from **Jameis Winston** to **DJ Moore** to give the Triumph a 14-3 lead mid-way through the 2nd quarter. But an interception by **Demario Davis** in the backfield set up a 4-yard scramble by **Carson Wentz** for a late Vegas TD to make it 14-10 at the half. A mistake-riddled 2nd half by the Triumph, that included two more picks of Winston and a pick-six by **Darius Leonard**, let the Assassins back in the game and they ended up strolling to victory.

10-15-2020 Assassin's Den Temp:74 Wind: Line:LV by 12 MVP:Leonard HFA:ON

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2019 Twin Cities (0-2)	7	7	0	6	20
2019 Las Vegas (1-1)	3	7	6	14	30

Scoring Summary

1 8:24 Las Vegas	FG Fairbairn 28 (4-3-1:30)	0-3
1 3:30 Twin Cities	TD Edwards-Helaire 1 run (Hopkins) (9-35-4:33)	7-3
2 8:18 Twin Cities	TD Winston 12 pass to Moore (Hopkins) (3-14-1:24)	14-3
2 1:10 Las Vegas	TD Wentz 4 run (Fairbairn) (4-17-1:01)	14-10
3 4:22 Las Vegas	FG Fairbairn 36 (12-42-4:27)	14-13
3 2:28 Las Vegas	FG Fairbairn 30 (4-1-1:31)	14-16
4 9:01 Las Vegas	TD Cook 9 run (Fairbairn) (10-71-6:42)	14-23
4 7:21 Las Vegas	TD Leonard 49 interception return (Fairbairn)	14-30
4 4:53 Twin Cities	TD Roby 42 interception return (2 - failed)	20-30

Passing

TCT: Winston 40/18 198 Yds TD 4 Ints
LV: Wentz 34/18 198 Yds Int

Rushing

TCT: Edwards-Helaire 12/40 TD, Winston 4/16, White 3/6, Hopkins 1/-2
LV: Cook 26/102 TD, Wentz 6/27 TD

Receiving

TCT: White 9/74, Moore 3/57 TD, Golladay 3/40, Edwards-Helaire 2/20, Gordon 1/7
LV: Thomas 7/64, Richardson 5/51, Jeudy 3/29, Graham 2/39, Pascal 1/15

Defense

TCT: Green Sk 2 FFs STF 7-Tk, Roby Int PD 8-Tk, Clark Sk FF 2-Tk
LV: Leonard Int 17-Tk 2 PDS 2 STFs FF, Ngakoue Sk FF 5-Tk, Jenkins Int PD 1-Tk

Injuries

TCT: Brown 14, Lindstrom 11
LV: None

Misc

TCT: Lewis 2 FRs
LV: Wentz 2 Fumbles



31

26

A pair of **Josh Lambo** FGs and a 36-yard interception return for a TD by **Janoris Jenkins** spotted the Pilots an early 13-0 lead. The Pats clawed back, spurred by a 49-yard short hitch to **Alvin Kamara**, and narrowed the gap on a 2-yard scramble for a TD by **DeShaun Watson**. A 13-play, 91-yard drive to open the 2nd half ended on a 5-yard TD run by Kamara, giving the Pats their first lead, 17-13. Then rookie **Josiah Scott** picked off **Sam Darnold** and returned it 37 yards to the Pilots' 5, setting up a TD pass to **JK Dobbins** for a 24-13 lead. The Pats stayed one step ahead from there.

10-15-2020 Kingdome Temp:70 Wind: Line:SEA by 10 MVP:Watson HFA:ON(0)

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2019 Charleswood (1-1)	0	10	14	7	31
2019 Seattle (0-2)	13	0	0	13	26

Scoring Summary

1 12:25 Seattle	FG Lambo 50 (8-37-2:23)	0-3
1 4:03 Seattle	FG Lambo 40 (11-54-5:36)	0-6
1 3:03 Seattle	TD Jenkins 36 interception return (Lambo)	0-13
2 14:06 Charleswood	TD Watson 2 run (Carlson) (9-92-3:47)	7-13
2 0:50 Charleswood	FG Carlson 29 (12-72-3:56)	10-13
3 7:08 Charleswood	TD Kamara 5 run (Carlson) (13-91-7:36)	17-13
3 3:24 Charleswood	TD Watson 3 pass to Dobbins (Carlson) (2-5-0:42)	24-13
4 12:09 Seattle	TD Darnold 15 pass to Lamb (2 - failed) (15-75-6:15)	24-19
4 6:37 Charleswood	TD Watson 12 run (Carlson) (10-75-5:32)	31-19
4 2:10 Seattle	TD Darnold 11 pass to Renfrow (Lambo) (11-75-4:27)	31-26

Passing

CHP: Watson 42/28 383 Yds TD Int
SEA: Darnold 32/21 198 Yds 2 TDs 2 Ints

Rushing

CHP: Kamara 23/60 TD, Dobbins 3/14, Watson 2/14 2 TDs
SEA: Mack 12/39, Darnold 1/5, Hunt 2/4, Akers 1/4, Miller 1/0

Receiving

CHP: Metcalf 7/116 TD, Smith-Schuster 6/92, Kamara 5/74, Campbell 5/55, DeValve 4/43, Dobbins 1/3 TD

SEA: Hunt 7/64, Renfrow 6/52 TD, Miller 3/40, Lamb 2/27 TD, Robinson 2/10, Deguara 1/5

Defense

CHP: Brown Sk STF 7-Tk, Shelton Sk STF 3-Tk, Ojemudia Int 3-Tk, Scott Int 2-Tk
SEA: Jenkins Int TD 2 PDS



The Corn Kings scored first on a 9-yard TD pass from **Jimmy Garoppolo** to **Adam Humphries** after a rare 3rd down punt by the Thunder Lizards on their first drive. Durham marched back, but **Nick Chubb** was stopped short on 4th & 3 at the Cowtown 6, ending that scoring chance. **Mike Evans** caught 4 passes, including a 9-yard TD, on a late 2nd quarter drive that gave Cowtown a 14-0 lead at the half. Cowtown scored on their first series of the 3rd quarter then broke the game open after Durham failed to convert 4th & 8 at their 38 and a 36-yard pass to Evans set up a **Todd Gurley** TD run.

10-15-2020 Tillman Field Temp:65 Wind:5-15 None No Line MVP:Evans HFA:ON(5)

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2019 Durham (1-1)	0	0	0	7	7
2019 Cowtown (1-1)	7	7	13	0	27

Scoring Summary

1 5:03 Cowtown	TD Garoppolo 9 pass to Humphries (Slye) (12-65-6:33)	0-7
2 0:30 Cowtown	TD Garoppolo 9 pass to Evans (Slye) (12-80-4:10)	0-14
3 5:40 Cowtown	TD Garoppolo 8 pass to Evans (Slye) (10-68-3:59)	0-21
3 2:19 Cowtown	TD Gurley II 2 run (no good) (2-38-0:57)	0-27
4 11:57 Durham	TD Allen 4 run (Pineiro) (20-75-5:22)	7-27

Passing

DTL: Allen 31/14 139 Yds
COW: Garoppolo 24/19 213 Yds 3 TDs

Rushing

DTL: Chubb 22/85, Gibson 4/36, Allen 7/30 TD, Foles 3/-1
COW: Gurley II 15/58 TD, Bell 9/40, Washington 2/3

Receiving

DTL: Kupp 6/54, Boyd 5/53, Samuel 2/24, Chubb 1/8

COW: Evans 8/118 2 TDs, Bell 5/42, Humphries 3/30 TD, Conley 2/22, Gurley 1/1

Defense

DTL: Murphy Sk, 7-Tk, Oliver Sk FF, 4-Tk, Armstead Sk FF 2-Tk
COW: Watt Sk PD FF 2-Tk, Kerrigan 2 STFs 3-Tk

Injuries

DTL: Young 2
COW: Winters 6

Misc

COW: Garoppolo 2 Fumbles



The Blue Eagles picked up where they left off last week by playing tight defence and getting big plays from their rookie QB. That included a mad scramble for 26 yards on 3rd & 20 and a perfectly thrown cross to **Allen Robinson** for a TD to cap the opening drive. But the Swordfish 'D' started to gain penetration mid-way through the 1st half and continued to create unsettled conditions for **Joe Burrow** the rest of the way. Half time adjustments resulted in a more efficient Fish offence, as **Drew Brees** checked down for two big gains of 38 and 42 yards and threw 3 TD passes to fuel the win.

10-15-2020 The Fish Tank Temp:76 Wind: Line:SBE by 15 MVP:Brees HFA:ON

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2019 Scarborough (1-1)	7	0	3	3	13
2019 Sebastian (1-1)	0	3	14	7	24

Scoring Summary

1 8:57 Scarborough	TD Burrow 12 pass to Robinson II (Crosby) (12-70-5:55)	7-0
2 9:06 Sebastian	FG Bailey 35 (12-63-4:24)	7-3
3 8:11 Sebastian	TD Brees 13 pass to Reagor (Bailey,D) (11-75-6:49)	7-10
3 2:56 Scarborough	FG Crosby 43 (10-50-5:11)	10-10
3 0:27 Sebastian	TD Brees 12 pass to Witten (Bailey,D) (7-75-2:29)	10-17
4 9:33 Scarborough	FG Crosby 51 (11-42-5:49)	13-17
4 6:08 Sebastian	TD Brees 4 pass to Taylor (Bailey,D) (8-75-3:25)	13-24

Passing

SBE: Burrow 35/16 163 Yds TD
SS: Brees 38/23 313 Yds 3 TDs

Rushing

SBE: Carson 18/89, Burrow 5/36, Freeman 5/12
SS: Williams 6/21, Reagor 1/13, McFarland 2/4, Taylor 7/3, Edmonds 1/2, Brees 2/-1

Receiving

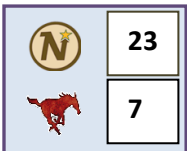
SBE: Freeman 6/26, Robinson II 3/49 TD, Ward 2/25, Jackson 1/21, Eifert 1/16, Edwards 1/14, Crowder 1/9, Carson 1/3
SS: Taylor 8/81 TD, Witten 5/49TD, Reagor 3/45 TD, Beckham Jr. 3/40, Tate 2/51, Williams 1/38, Sheanult 1/9,

Defense

SBE: Hightower 8-Tk, Collins PD, STF, 6-Tk
SS: Jones 2 Sks FF 7-Tk, Clowney Sk 4-Tk, King 3 PDs 4-Tk

Injuries

SBE: Jackson 12
SS:



The Mustangs were stifled by a suffocating North Star defence that shut them out in the 1st half. Budapest moved slowly as well, but an 11-yard screen from **Aaron Rodgers** to **David Johnson** made it 7-0 late in the 2nd and a 25-yard FG made it 10-0 after **Calais Campbell** stuffed **Lamical Perine** on 4th & 1 at the Aurora 38. Down 13-0, Aurora finally found the end zone mid-way through the 3rd, when **Julian Edelman** capped a quick 75-yard drive with an 11-yard TD catch. The Stars ground out another long TD drive then the 'D' picked off **Matt Ryan** twice to thwart the comeback.

10-17-2020 Magna Park Temp:65 Wind:10-20 None Line:BUD by 5 MVP:Rodgers HFA:ON(5)

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2019 Budapest (2-0)	0	10	3	10	23
2019 Aurora (1-1)	0	0	7	0	7

Scoring Summary

2 5:56 Budapest	TD Rodgers 11 pass to Johnson (Myers,J) (11-73-5:05)	7-0
2 1:18 Budapest	FG Myers 25 (7-26-2:26)	10-0
3 8:36 Budapest	FG Myers 51 (12-31-6:08)	13-0
3 5:14 Aurora	TD Ryan 11 pass to Edelman (Lutz) (6-75-3:22)	13-7
4 14:07 Budapest	TD Rodgers 8 pass to Williams (Myers,J) (11-75-6:07)	20-7
4 7:56 Budapest	FG Myers 43 (4-8-0:59)	23-7

Passing

BUD: Rodgers 32/19 166 Yds 2 TDs
 AUR: Ryan 26/17 1656 Yds TD 2 Ints

Rushing

BUD: Howard 17/75, Williams 7/48, Johnson 2/5, Rodgers 4/4, Taylor,J 1/4, Line 1/3, Taylor,T 4/-4
 AUR: Singletary 18/99, Ryan 2/11, Perine 1/-1

Receiving

BUD: Kittle 6/70, Johnson 4/27 TD, Hollister 2/19, Watkins 2/16, Williams 2/10 TD, Diggs 1/15, Jefferson 1/6, Howard 1/3
 AUR: Adams 5/68, Edelman 4/28 TD, Singletary 2/30, Washington 2/26, Gesicki 2/8, Goedart 1/4, Samuels 1/1

Defense

BUD: McKinney PD 7-Tk, Haden INT 2 PDS FF 3-Tk, Fitzpatrick INT 4-Tk, Suggs Sk STF FF 3-Tk
 AUR: Kendricks STF 11-Tk, Davison 4 STFs 7-Tk

Injuries

BUD: Dean 3, Watkins 2
 AUR: |



York notched the only TD of the game when **Tom Brady** found **Corey Davis** in the corner of the end zone from 9 yards to cap the opening drive. That was all the scoring the Swords needed. Their defence stifled the Glads' best efforts for 60 minutes. Georgia's best opportunity came when a bad snap over the head of punter **Michael Palardy** gave them the ball at the York 32. But the offence moved 1 yards and **Tyler Bass** missed the FG attempt. Soon after **Jake Matthews** was flagged for holding in the end zone for a safety. Two QBs tried their hand for the Glads and neither one worked out.

10-18-2020 Camelot Temp:81 Wind:Calm Rain Line:GEO by 2 MVP:Lee HFA:ON(2)

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2019 Georgia (0-2)	0	0	0	0	0
2019 York (1-1)	7	5	3	3	18

Scoring Summary

1 7:45 York	TD Brady 9 pass to Davis (Hauschka) (12-75-7:15)	0-7
2 5:06 York	Safety Buckner (Holding-Offense)	0-9
2 0:04 York	FG Hauschka 50 (6-48-1:03)	0-12
3 3:06 York	FG Hauschka 25 (5-18-2:13)	0-15
4 13:01 York	FG Hauschka 27 (7-15-1:45)	0-18

Passing

GEO: Tagovailoa 13/9 82 Yds Int, Hodges 15/7 58 Yds Int
 YOR: Brady 27/16 189 Yds TD Int

Rushing

GEO: Robinson 7/35, Jacobs 14/31, Thompson 2/7, Tagovailoa 1/2, Michel 4/1, Bernard 1/0
 YOR: Henry 24/74, Snell Jr 2/4, Brady 1/2, Sproles 1/1, Palardy 1/0, Cox 0/-13

Receiving

GEO: Akins 4/28, Johnson 3/27, Fuller V 3/57, Robinson 2/6, Bernard 2/4, Landry 1/12, Jacobs 1/6
 YOR: Davis 4/42 TD, Amendola 3/49, Williams 3/42, Ertz 2/24, Hamilton 2/14, Smith,K 1/12, Henry 1/6

Defense

GEO: Edmunds 2 PDS 2 STFs FF 12-Tk
 YOR: Lee 2 Sk PD 7-Tk, Henderson INT 5-Tk, Buckner Sk FF 5-Tk

Injuries

GEO: Whitehead 2
 YOR:



The Irish scored 21 points in a 4-minute span, starting with a TD pass to **Nelson Agholor**, then by a 52-yard pass to **Adam Thielen** that set up a TD to **Tyreek Hill** followed by a **Miles Sanders** fumble that was scooped up and returned for a TD by **Jalen Ramsey**. Pickering scored on an 11-yard TD pass to **Tyrell Williams**, but an Irish FG made it a 24-7 halftime lead for East Elmhurst. A 43-yard bomb to **Marquise Brown** set up a TD that had Pickering within 7 early in the 4th. The Irish finished strong with a big play 35-yard score to Hill and a 3-yard **Ryan Fitzpatrick** TD run for a 21-point win.

10-15-2020 Msgr McClancy Mem Temp:71 Wind:5-15 None Line:EE by 12 MVP:Fitzpatrick HFA

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2019 Pickering (0-2)	0	7	3	7	17
2019 East Elmhurst (1-1)	0	24	0	14	38

Scoring Summary

2 12:52	East Elmhurst	TD Fitzpatrick 5 pass to Agholor (Blankenshi) (7-46-4:16)	0-7
2 9:32	East Elmhurst	TD Fitzpatrick 8 pass to Hill (Blankenshi) (3-63-1:39)	0-14
2 8:27	East Elmhurst	TD Ramsey 37 yd fumble recovery (Blankenshi)	0-21
2 4:22	Pickering	TD Rivers 11 pass to Williams (Zuerlein) (8-74-4:00)	7-21
2 0:32	East Elmhurst	FG Blankenship 37 (11-56-3:45)	7-24
3 5:21	Pickering	FG Zuerlein 55 (6-31-3:20)	10-24
4 14:53	Pickering	TD Hurts 4 run (Zuerlein) (9-80-3:24)	17-24
4 13:03	East Elmhurst	TD Fitzpatrick 35 pass to Hill (Blankenshi) (3-71-1:41)	17-31
4 9:53	East Elmhurst	TD Fitzpatrick 3 run (Blankenshi) (5-32-1:56)	17-38

Passing

PIC: Rivers 33/21 302 Yds TD Int
 EE: Fitzpatrick 23/19 244 Yds 3 TDs

Rushing

PIC: Swift 10/11, Hurts 1/4TD, Sanders 8/2, Shepard 1/0, Rivers 2/-2
 EE: Murray 12/76, Hill, J 8/32, Fitzpatrick 3/22 TD, Anderson 1/0, Peters 1/-3

Receiving

PIC: Brown 5/133, Williams 5/51 TD, Swift 4/60, Shepard 3/35, Ridley 2/14, Sanders 2/9
 EE: Hill 7/102 2 TDs, Thielen 5/92, Agholor 3/26, Everett 2/18, Murray 2/6

Defense

PIC: Schobert 7-Tk

EE: Smith PD 7-Tk, Allen 2 Sks 3 STFs FF 4-Tk, Harmon INT 2-Tk

Injuries

PIC: None
 EE: Becton 1

Misc

PIC:
 EE: Ramsey FR TD



This game was a kicking duel between **Austin Seibert** and **Randy Bullock** until veteran **LeSean McCoy** broke into the end zone on an off-tackle run to cap a 75-yard drive with 1:18 left to give the Caddies a 13-6 lead at the half. Erieau followed with a TD drive to open the 2nd half, finishing with a 14-yard fly from **Kyler Murray** to **Mark Andrews** for a 19-6 lead. The Hawks got back in the game by running **Carlos Hyde**, setting up an 8-yard TD pass to **Evan Engram**. The Brooklin offence owned the 4th quarter. They held the ball for over 9 minutes and Hyde hit paydirt twice to complete the comeback.

10-16-2020 Optimist Park Temp:74 Wind:Calm None No Line MVP:Hyde HFA:ON(2)

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2019 Erieau (1-1)	3	10	9	0	22
2019 Brooklin (2-0)	0	6	7	14	27

Scoring Summary

1 6:37	Erieau	FG Seibert 23 (13-85-7:00)	3-0
2 13:27	Brooklin	FG Bullock 24 (17-69-8:07)	3-3
2 8:42	Erieau	FG Seibert 42 (10-51-4:36)	6-3
2 5:27	Brooklin	FG Bullock 37 (4-5-0:58)	6-6
2 1:18	Erieau	TD McCoy 7 run (Seibert) (8-75-4:09)	13-6
3 9:56	Erieau	TD Murray 14 pass to Andrews (no good) (10-79-4:48)	19-6
3 4:56	Brooklin	TD Carr 8 pass to Engram (Bullock) (8-75-5:00)	19-13
3 1:54	Erieau	FG Seibert 50 (5-43-2:56)	22-13
4 8:19	Brooklin	TD Hyde 4 run (Bullock) (9-78-4:42)	22-20
4 1:05	Brooklin	TD Hyde 11 run (Bullock) (14-81-4:42)	22-27

Passing

ERI: Murray 31/22 283 Yds TD
 BRH: Carr 38/26 247 Yds TD

Rushing

ERI: Murray 11/70, McCoy 5/33 TD, Gore 4/20, Moss 5/12
 BRH: Hyde 17/105 2 TDs, Breida 6/30, Carr 2/5, Scott 1/4

Receiving

ERI: Andrews 9/95 TD, Gordon 5/91, Ruggs III 3/50, Hines 3/23, Gore 1/17, Henry 1/7
 BRH: Engram 7/61, Hopkins 6/82, Scott 4/29, Jeffery 3/24, Cobb 2/19, Breida 2/17, Perriman 1/9, Hyde 1/6

Defense

ERI: Reid PD 8-Tk
 BRH: Williams J FF 2-Tk

Injuries

ERI: Van Noy

BRH: Hubbard, Vander Esch 6



WEEK TWO

STANDINGS & STATS

EFL 2020 Official Standings

East	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Cobb County	2	0	0	1.000	W2	76	38.0	35	17.5	20.5	1 0 0	2 0 0	2 0 0
New Jersey	1	1	0	.500	W1	62	31.0	76	38.0	-7.0	1 0 0	1 1 0	1 1 0
Bruxelles	1	1	0	.500	L1	62	31.0	53	26.5	4.5	1 0 0	1 1 0	1 1 0
Buffalo	0	2	0	.000	L2	26	13.0	62	31.0	-18.0	0 1 0	0 2 0	0 2 0
Central	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Viriden	2	0	0	1.000	W2	82	41.0	36	18.0	23.0	1 0 0	1 0 0	2 0 0
Peg City	2	0	0	1.000	W2	83	41.5	49	24.5	17.0	2 0 0	1 0 0	2 0 0
Charleswood	1	1	0	.500	W1	57	28.5	67	33.5	-5.0	0 1 0	0 1 0	1 1 0
Twin Cities	0	2	0	.000	L2	48	24.0	72	36.0	-12.0	0 0 0	0 1 0	0 2 0
West	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Chino	1	1	0	.500	L1	42	21.0	55	27.5	-6.5	1 0 0	1 0 0	1 1 0
Iowa City	1	1	0	.500	L1	27	13.5	51	25.5	-12.0	1 0 0	1 0 0	1 1 0
Las Vegas	1	1	0	.500	W1	44	22.0	41	20.5	1.5	1 0 0	0 1 0	1 1 0
Seattle	0	2	0	.000	L2	36	18.0	48	24.0	-6.0	0 1 0	0 1 0	0 2 0
North	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Cowtown	1	1	0	.500	W1	37	18.5	31	15.5	3.0	1 1 0	1 1 0	1 1 0
Durham	1	1	0	.500	L1	40	20.0	47	23.5	-3.5	0 0 0	1 1 0	1 1 0
Sebastian	1	1	0	.500	W1	44	22.0	46	23.0	-1.0	1 1 0	1 1 0	1 1 0
Scarborough	1	1	0	.500	L1	37	18.5	34	17.0	1.5	0 0 0	1 1 0	1 1 0
Coastal	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Brooklin	2	0	0	1.000	W2	53	26.5	45	22.5	4.0	2 0 0	1 0 0	2 0 0
Budapest	2	0	0	1.000	W2	54	27.0	17	8.5	18.5	0 0 0	1 0 0	2 0 0
York	1	1	0	.500	W1	41	20.5	26	13.0	7.5	1 0 0	0 1 0	1 1 0
Pickering	0	2	0	.000	L2	27	13.5	69	34.5	-21.0	0 1 0	0 1 0	0 2 0
South	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Aurora	1	1	0	.500	L1	35	17.5	49	24.5	-7.0	0 1 0	1 0 0	1 1 0
Erieau	1	1	0	.500	L1	43	21.5	46	23.0	-1.5	1 0 0	1 0 0	1 1 0
East Elmhurst	1	1	0	.500	W1	64	32.0	45	22.5	9.5	1 1 0	0 1 0	1 1 0
Georgia	0	2	0	.000	L2	19	9.5	39	19.5	-10.0	0 0 0	0 1 0	0 2 0

EFL 2020 Official Rushing Leaders

		Att	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD	
1	Elliott,E	VV	48	298	6.2	30	1
2	Fournette	BRX	47	293	6.2	56	2
3	Jackson,L	BUF	40	270	6.8	25	0
4	Chubb,N	DTL	48	223	4.6	21	2
5	Carson,C	SBE	43	214	5.0	18	1
6	Hyde,C	BRH	39	193	4.9	24	3
7	Howard,J	BUD	36	190	5.3	19	1
8	Henry,D	YOR	46	185	4.0	15	2
9	Jones,A	PCC	25	174	7.0	32	1
10	Williams,J	BUD	21	155	7.4	21	1
11	Murray,L	EE	29	145	5.0	32	0
12	Singletary	AUR	28	141	5.0	17	0
13	Peterson,A	CB	28	134	4.8	45	1
14	Jacobs,J	GEO	36	131	3.6	14	0
15	Cook,D	LV	40	129	3.2	19	2
16	Mixon	ICC	30	121	4.0	16	2
17	Mostert	CB	16	114	7.1	34	1
18	Edwards-He	TCT	30	105	3.5	18	4
19	Robinson,J	GEO	21	101	4.8	27	0
20	McCaffrey	CHI	24	98	4.1	18	1
21	Kamara	CHP	36	94	2.6	9	1
22	Mack,M	SEA	25	92	3.7	19	0
23	Ingram II	CHI	21	92	4.4	29	0
24	Murray,K	ERI	15	92	6.1	15	1
25	Montgomery	NJ	26	84	3.2	33	1
26	Burrow	SBE	10	74	7.4	26	0
27	Barkley,S	PCC	21	69	3.3	12	0
28	Allen,J	DTL	16	69	4.3	11	1
29	Gurley II	COW	23	68	3.0	12	1
30	Taylor,J	SS	19	68	3.6	15	0

EFL 2020 Official Receiving Leaders

		No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD	
1	Thomas,M	LV	18	171	9.5	17	1
2	McCaffrey	CHI	17	154	9.1	27	2
3	Chark Jr.	NJ	15	248	16.5	49	3
4	Smith-Schu	CHP	15	195	13.0	27	2
5	Metcalf	CHP	14	218	15.6	35	0
6	Brown,J	VV	14	212	15.1	25	3
7	Hopkins,D	BRH	14	207	14.8	39	1
8	Andrews,M	ERI	14	149	10.6	16	1
9	Boyd	DTL	13	133	10.2	16	0
10	Cohen	NJ	13	78	6.0	15	0
11	McLaurin	NJ	12	185	15.4	39	1
12	Sanders,E	BUF	12	130	10.8	27	1
13	Kittle	BUD	12	125	10.4	15	2
14	Barkley,S	PCC	12	122	10.2	36	0
15	Higbee	PCC	12	138	11.5	25	2
16	Bell,L	COW	12	74	6.2	12	1
17	Fournette	BRX	11	116	10.5	26	1
18	Allen,K	PCC	11	109	9.9	21	2
19	Campbell,P	CHP	11	101	9.2	18	2
20	Renfrow	SEA	11	100	9.1	16	1
21	Engram,E	BRH	11	87	7.9	12	1
22	Kamara	CHP	11	130	11.8	49	0
23	Cooper,A	VV	11	164	14.9	26	4
24	Freeman,D	SBE	11	52	4.7	10	0
25	Kupp	DTL	10	109	10.9	19	0
26	Sutton,C	PCC	10	191	19.1	71	1
27	Evans,M	COW	10	155	15.5	36	2
28	White,J	TCT	10	92	9.2	18	0
29	Gallup	CHI	10	187	18.7	45	1
30	Taylor,J	SS	10	83	8.3	42	1



AROUND THE



With Spats McChad

NEW YORK – Last week the league had to relocate a game due to a COVID-19 outbreak in Winnipeg. This week it had to push back a game after several members of the Georgia Gladiators tested ‘positive’ for COVID-19 on Thursday.

The players attended a charity event in Greensboro, where they circulated among a group of approximately 150 people. The most prominent player was **Maurkice Pouncey**, who was confirmed ‘positive’ for COVID-19 on Friday and was placed on the COVID-19 list. Other players whose follow up tests were ‘positive’ included Practice Squad players **Jordan Willis** and **Kendrick Rodgers**. The others, including right guard **Jonah Jackson** and wide receiver **Diontae Johnson** tested ‘negative’ on Friday and Saturday and are cleared to play.

Video of the players shows they were wearing masks and appeared to be conducting themselves according to guidelines. But the league is considering levying fines against all the players and the team for breaching the “bubble” rules. The did not hesitate to ley a \$50,000 fine against Pouncey for failing the wear his league-issued protective amulet to the event.

Pouncey was not happy, tweeting: “[Ain’t wearing no bug on my chest! You kidding me?](#)” The league promptly doubled the fine and sent a letter to the Gladiators threatening them with loss of a draft pick if they did not keep their players in line.

As a result of this drama and uncertainty, the league moved the Gladiators game against York to Tuesday night. As my article goes to print before then, you will not have the benefit of my insightful analysis of this contest. Not that the Excaliburs and Glads offer any mysteries. Both are going nowhere, regardless of what happens in Week Two.

HEAVYWEIGHT KNOCKOUTS

Two potential Conference Championship “previews” featured in the Week Two schedule that had analysts buzzing and fans wound up in anticipation. In the Pacific, the veteran **Russell Wilson** of the Cubs went into Virden to take on young **Patrick Mahomes** and the upstart Violators. In the Atlantic, brand new North Star **Aaron Rodgers** visited Magna Park to challenge Gale Sayers MVP **Matt Ryan**. The Budapest-Aurora game started at 1:00 pm ET; the Iowa City-Virden game started at 4:00 pm ET so fans could enjoy both. Sadly, both ended in knockouts. In the case of Virden’s 41-10 shellacking of the Cubs, it was an early one.

All I have to say about the Cubs-Violators game is this: If Cubs’ coach **Deron Redding** has a plan up his sleeve to slow down the Virden attack should they meet again in the post-season it was not evident in the beat down they endured at **TERRORDOME**. Their defence was bafflingly passive, apparently trusting in the players to remain disciplined in their assignments and execute. **Severin Handfottner Jr** of ‘Coach’s Call’ sums it up in his Week Two Coach Review (reprinted with permission):

*“If the Cubs’ defence was studded with pro bowlers, a game plan based on assignment discipline and execution could succeed. But the Cubs do not have that type of talent anymore. **Casey Heyward**, their best corner and possibly their best player, had his hands full against **Amari Cooper**. **AJ Bouye**, in his first game back from a pre-season injury, was embarrassingly ineffective trying to stop **John Brown**. Both clearly needed help, but none was forthcoming. The linebackers sometimes gave special attention to **Ezekiel Elliott**, but it was intermittent and ultimately ineffective as ‘Zeke’ ran for 150 yards on 28 carries. The Cubs may simply lack the essential talent to be able to answer the multi-pronged Virden attack. That does not excuse the apparent lack of any game plan to take something away from **Patrick Mahomes**. Instead, the free-wheeling Virden sniper was allowed to pick and choose his shots at leisure. Cubs fans had better hope this was a ‘set-up’ for down the road. But I doubt it. Coaches, even veterans like **Deron Redding**, tend to not think that far ahead.”*

What Handfottner does not address is the lack of punch from **Russell Wilson** and Cubs’ offence. To me, this is equally as concerning, since the offence is supposed to be the strong point of this team. This game shows me that the Violators are in a different league from the Cubs and their main challenger will come from elsewhere, if at all.

The other big heavyweight fight of Week Two was no one-sided offensive fireworks display. But Budapest’s 23-7 win over Aurora was no less shocking for the way the North Stars’ defence repeatedly shut down everything the Mustangs tried to do.

When he senses trouble, Mustangs coach **Rich Liotta** likes to carpet-bomb his calls, banking that the defence will not defend the same play three or four times in a row. He did this early in the game with both **Davante Adams** and **Devin Singletary** as targets. Budapest stopped it all. The most disconcerting part for the Mustangs likely was the fact that Budapest limited and ultimately stopped Singletary while guessing the play right less than half the time. Could things have gone better for Aurora had **Kenyan Drake** been available? Almost certainly. But when it was clear that Singletary was not going to get the Mustangs close to the end zone, Liotta stuck with him anyway – some say for too long. Likely he was wary of the ball-hawking Stars secondary salivating at the

opportunity to pick off **Matt Ryan**. Far from being fearful of the Mustangs' aerial attack, stars **Minkah Fitzpatrick** and **Joe Haden** were eager for Aurora to pass the ball. They said as much in the days leading up to the game:

“We got a surprise for @M_Ryan02” Fitzpatrick tweeted on Thursday. “@tae15adams is gonna wear a blanket on Sunday,” tweeted **Joe Haden**. Neither backed down from their boasts in the lead-up to the game.

The wisdom of acquiring **Aaron Rodgers** was most evident in this game. The Mustangs' defence was also playing at a high level, especially early in the game. We will never know how **Ryan “Fitz-magick”** or **Baker Mayfield** would have handled the swarming Aurora secondary, but we know that Rodgers was happy to throw the ball off target or away to avoid putting it in a spot where it could have been intercepted. His completion percentage suffered as a result (59%), but when he had an opening he connected, as he did on a perfectly executed screen pass late in the second quarter. He looked right toward a double-covered **George Kittle**, sucked in the pass rush as if he was unaware of it, then looped a pass to the left over the outstretched arms of **Marcus Davenport** and into the hands of **David Johnson**, who ran untouched into the end zone for the game's first major. It wasn't a cannon shot, but it was a thing of beauty – the kind of play that will be shown in film rooms of the Stars' opponents for months, possibly years to come.

An ill-advised attempt by Liotta to reclaim the momentum after Budapest's TD by sending an unknown third stringer into the heart of the Budapest defence on 4th & 1 at the Aurora 34 predicably backfired. The lost gamble gave the Stars a 75% discount on the yards needed to kick a gimme field goal and take a 10-0 lead. As punctuation to end the 1st half, a deep pass from Ryan to Adams as the seconds ticked away was picked off by Fitzpatrick. It was a team effort by the Tweeters. Haden tipped it; Fitzpatrick picked it. A play that against a lesser opponent often worked was, in this case, a turnover. The Stars went to the locker leading 10-0.

The 2nd half began in classic Jones fashion with a drive designed to wear down the defence with high-percentage, low-yield plays that can stretch drives out to back-breaking lengths. This one ended prematurely due to a holding call, but it went long enough to yield a 51-yard **Jason Myers** field goal and 13-0 lead.

The Mustangs' offence suddenly woke up. For one drive they looked like the Mustangs of tradition. They moved the ball 75 yards in 6 plays, the key gain coming on a 27-yard check down to Singletary. They scored on a classic 11-yard cross from Ryan to **Julian Edelman**. The Budapest secondary seemed AWOL on the drive. They would not be AWOL again.

The Stars remained non-plussed by the quick strike. Jones switched from **Jordan Howard** to **Jamaal Williams** as his feature back and put together another long, drawn out push toward the Aurora goal. This drive was assisted by a 20-yard PI call on **Patrick Peterson**, but ultimately succeeded because of Williams' determination and Rodgers' finesse. He finished it off with another classic screen pass, this time going the other way to Williams for an 8-yard TD. This score set in motion a frantic attempt by the offence to get back in the game, which played right into the hands of the Budapest secondary.

Instead of ending with a dramatic offensive comeback, the Mustangs' charge ended ignominiously with **D.J. Hayden** stripping the ball from Adams to end one drive; and Haden picking off Ryan to end another.

Both coaches were courteous in their post-game news conferences and said all the right things. Two of the classiest coaches in the league lived up to their reputations, both expressing how tough the game was and how much closer it was than the final score. But while it was, indeed, a tough game, it was one that left no doubt who the tougher team was. The Stars are slowly rising.

TROUBLE IN TRIUMPH LAND

There is trouble in Triumph Land. Twin Cities dropped its second game in a row, falling 30-20 on Sunday to what seemed to me to be a very beatable Assassins team. For the second straight week, the Triumph shot themselves in the foot. Or more specifically, **Jameis Winston** shot his team in the foot. But while Winston clearly stunk, there are clearly other distractions and red flags surrounding the attempted rebuild in Twin Cities that prompt the question: Are the Triumph rebuilding or disintegrating?

The ‘AB Saga’ entered a new and even more bizarre stage with the temperamental wide receiver declaring himself out for the remainder of the season with COVID-19. **Antonio Brown**, along with all the Triumph players, had tested ‘negative’ on Friday and Saturday and Brown was on the active roster for the game against Las Vegas. But after a 4th quarter pick-six by Assassin LB, **Darius Leonard** that put the game firmly in Vegas' hands, Brown stormed up to Coach **Guy Williams** as the offence was leaving the field and bellowed that he had COVID-19, getting within inches of Williams face then letting loose a series of choppy coughs.

As has become common practice in Twin Cities, pre-designated players on the Triumph bench immediately moved in to separate ‘AB’ and Coach Williams. But the damage had been done. Williams had taken a full-frontal blast of potentially COVID-laden droplets from the frothing mouth of his deranged protégé.

Brown's frustrations should have been anticipated given his fragile emotional state. For the second week in a row Williams had used him sparingly in a way that almost dared the unstable star to explode. Brown had received 4 targets in Week One and had received no targets in 16 snaps in the Vegas game before the lid blew off.

Williams is now receiving his share of criticism for letting an obviously deteriorating situation somehow get worse than the low point reached after Brown's antics in the Gale Sayers Game last year. But it is obviously a very complicated situation from a psychological perspective; both player and coach could clearly use some therapy.

In dealing with the issue post-game, a glassy-eyed and heavily medicated **Guy Williams** delivered a meandering, stream-of-consciousness statement that suggested there would be no closure on the AB issue any time soon:

“Coughing in a person's face, especially when you think you have COVID-19, is not the type of behaviour I condone in my players,” William began, downplaying to the extreme the seriousness of the act. “But I understand AB's frustration. DJ Moore has



One of several Cowtown super-fans named Bobby leans forward and delivers a resounding 'MOOOOOVE IT!' as the Corn Kings drive down the field for a score. Fans at Tillman Field aren't buying COVID-19 but they are buying their team, that bounced back to dominate Durham 27-7.

stepped up and basically taken over AB' role in the offence. AB is struggling to adjust to this. From his point of view, spreading COVID-19 to the person responsible for limiting his role makes sense. I won't argue with his motivation. I only urge him to get better control of his impulses, because deliberately spreading COVID-19 to his coach is *not okay*. As for his future? Well, if AB wants to self-isolate for 14 weeks instead of 14 days, that is his prerogative. I won't argue with the personal truth of a person who thinks they have COVID-19, even if that person continues to test negative. If AB thinks he has COVID-19, he has COVID-19. As his coach I just want the best for AB. I just want to see him return to the days when he was catching 120 balls and 30 TDs in a season and helping this team *win football games!*" Williams's raised his voice as he continued. "*That would be the BEST THERAPY for AB and ultimately the BEST THERAPY for this team. Of course, I am primarily concerned with AB's personal welfare, so I want to see him return to top production. I believe he can turn it around. Prove me right, AB! DO IT!*"

The presser continued, with all subjects ultimately circling back to AB and Williams' belief that his former superstar can somehow return from the continuous brink of total breakdown to the exalted status he once enjoyed and save the season.

But Triumph fans have long since written off the former franchise MVP and are now turning their sights on *Jameis Winston* and the coach who selected him to start over *Mitch Trubisky*. Local beat writer **Lars Odegard** of the *Wilhalla Press* had this to say after the loss to the Assassins:

"The coach needs to snap out of his AB Trance

and take a closer look at what is happening to his team right now. The decision to go with Jameis Winston is looking like a disaster after two weeks. The worst of Winston has been on display and, so far, none of the good," he writes in his piece entitled 'From Triumph to Tragedy to Travesty.' "*If the rest of the team was folding, the situation with Winston would only be depressing. But the team around him wants to win and believes they can win. This makes the Winston and AB situations infuriating. Coach Williams, once master of his team's domain, is in danger of losing the locker room he once controlled with an iron will."*

The Triumph will host Cobb County in their home opener in front of no fans next week. The Coyotes are looking like no easy opponent, so a rebound victory will be difficult. But fans will be looking to see how Winston plays, searching for signs that he and the coach can turn things around. Maybe having no AB on the bench will help.

BIZARRO WORLD 2020

The familiar yet now bizarre sight of Tillman Field filled to near capacity with real fans, few of them masked, in the middle of a pandemic, was a fitting backdrop for one of strangest football outcomes yet of the young 2020 EFL season. The town in the middle of the county that shut down almost completely in 2003 to contain an outbreak of Mad Cow Disease, appears to be bull-headed when it comes to the COVID-19 virus.

"It's the flu," stated one fan flatly, who gave the name Bobby to the masked reporter interviewing fans entering the stadium to watch their beloved Corn Kings take on the hated Durham Thunder Lizards. "I'm not missing a football game because there's a flu bug goin' around!"

Another fan, wearing a cow mask, who also identified himself as Bobby, became agitated when asked if he had any concerns that he would catch COVID-19 or spread it to a family member. "What are you talking about? Why would I be afraid of a virus that doesn't exist?" he replied. "It's all a plot by the government to scare us and get us microchipped! Thank God I live in the one sane place left in the country!"

"If I get it, I get it," said another young fan named Bobby, with a green-painted face wearing a *TJ Watt* jersey. "We're all going to get it eventually. So, what's the difference if I get it now? I'm either going to fight it off or I'm going to die! That's life!"

Not everybody in Cowtown is so indifferent to the virus. A small group of about 100 socially-distanced activists stood outside the gates to Tillman Field protesting the game. The group was comprised mostly of health care workers and medical practitioners, but also included citizens very concerned about the unscientific, faith-based approach to the virus adopted by Cowtown City Council.

"These people don't understand science and they don't want to understand it," said **Felicity O'Connor**, a self-styled concerned citizen. "I love so many things about this town, but it is backward in some of its thinking and I am afraid that people are going to die needlessly because of it."

The crowd at Tillman Field was extra boisterous on this day. They had taken some of the blame upon themselves for the Week One loss to Scarborough after receiving a rare scolding from *Cowtown Plain Dealer* beat reporter, **Orville Smucker**:

"In all of my days watching the Corn Kings I do not recall ever seeing the fans sitting on their hands, expecting a win and turning surly the moment things started to go sour," he wrote in his post-week one article, 'Credit the Blue Eagles - They Whooped Us Fair 'n Square!' *"The fans did not educate themselves prior to this contest. They assumed the Blue Eagles were the same as last year. They assumed our Corn Kings were no worse. They acted like entitled city slickers and turned on our boys like the city slickers do and got the same result the city slickers get. For shame, Corn Kings fans, for shame."*

Being called a "city slicker" in Cowtown is a stinging insult. Even more so when the barb is supported by more than a niblet of truth. The fans were determined to make up for it and brought their 'A-game' to the stands. There was not a single boo or catcall directed at the home team. Nothing but taunts and derision were directed toward the Thunder Lizard bench.

The noise and intensity of the crowd apparently shocked Durham coach **George Kaldis**, who was clearly rattled when a chewed-up corn cob tossed from the stands landed on his play-sheet as he attempted to guide the Lizards' opening drive. He lost track of the down, counting a holding penalty on **Jack Conklin** on the opening play as a play and ordered the punting unit onto the field on 3rd & 9. His delusion was shared by the special teams coach, **Paul Ferraro**, who also sent the punting unit onto the field, only to see it collide with the offence. There was confusion and an argument on the Durham bench. The fans paused in their cheering, not knowing what was going on. The only place where there was hardly any hesitation was on the Cowtown sideline.

Seeing the Durham coach snapping at his offensive coordinator, Coach **Jim Coghlin** quickly pulled back his third down nickel package and ordered the punt return team onto the field. Although there was hesitation on the Cowtown sideline, the transition went off just smoothly enough to reinforce Coach Kaldis' belief that it was 4th down. As an incredulous **Josh Allen** tossed his helmet in disbelief as **Thomas Morstead** launched a 40-yard punt that **Deonte Harris** fair caught at the 35.

The Corn Kings went on to score a touchdown and the highly surreal events flowed from that point. The easily agitated Allen did not recover his poise. He was inaccurate all day, missed open receivers, threw early and looked indecisive in the pocket. The Corn King defence that could not get off the field against a rookie QB in Week One, held Durham to 2 out of 14 third down conversions and made a key stop of **Nick Chubb** on 4th & 3 at the Cowtown 36. **Mike Evans**, who had been smothered by rookie corner **Damon Arnette** in Week One, made **Richard Sherman** look like a rookie, catching 8 out of 9 targets for 118 yards and 2 TDs. Evans single-handedly turned things around for the Corn Kings offence against one of the best corners in the league.

The final result was a shocking 27-7 win for the home team against the one of the front-runners for the Conference title. It was as if a spell had fallen over Tillman Field that befuddled the enemy and inspired the home team. And now it has befuddled Yours Truly. I simply do not know what to make of the Corn Kings or the Thunder Lizards now!

FIRE SALE ON HOPE

It's official: The Pats will not go 0-16 this season. They came from behind to win an exciting back-and-forth contest, 31-26, over the Pilots. Of course, the Pats were never going to go 0-16. But the Charleswood media, frustrated that **Jason Findlay** decided to do that thing he does every few years, take apart a team that doesn't look done yet, have been whipping up the fans to believe that Pats Football Armageddon – 2012 style – is on the horizon in 2020.

It doesn't matter in terms of attendance, since no fans are allowed in Patriot Place anyway. But in terms of the peripherals like merchandise sales and less-than-peripheral sources of revenue such as sponsors, the doom-and-gloom outlook carries a price. A concerned **Jason Findlay** has recently launched a media offensive to sell hope to the fanbase. The victory over Seattle gave him the perfect springboard on which to build his campaign.

"What we saw today was Patriots football!" Findlay declared to the media after the game. "We saw two up-and-coming teams go at each other with playoff intensity. Most importantly, our players had fun with it. They may be professionals, but they love to play the game like any kid! That's what fans can expect every week from their Patriots! Fun and intensity!"

Oh boy!

Nobody on the Pats' sideline looked like they were having fun after **Daniel "Shaky Legs" Carlson** missed a 34-yard field goal on the Pats' first possession. They looked positively glum after Seattle corner, **Janoris Jenkins** picked off a check down intended for **Alvin Kamara** and dashed 39 yards to the house to make it 13-0 Seattle in the 1st quarter. But the mood certainly did pick up after Kamara turned a short hitch into a 49-yard gain to dig the Pats out of a hole at their own 8-yard line. When the protection held up for **DeShaun Watson** on a 3rd & 8 completion to **DK Metcalf** for a first down the momentum clearly shifted toward the Pats. The sandlot fun officially began with a 2-yard Watson scramble for the first of two Watson TD runs on the day.

What followed was, objectively speaking, what most cogent analysts would have predicted for this game: a better Pats team slowly gaining the upper hand against a spirited but inferior Pilots team that is only "up-and-coming" in the sense that someday in the

unforeseeable future they will be better – they have to be because they have nowhere else to go but up.

The stats were not even close, with Charleswood outgaining Seattle 471 to 236. Had it not been for the defensive score and a whopping 13 penalties against the Pats (giving them a league-high 20 on the young season), it is likely the Pilots would have been blown away. Pats fans, of course, are no dummies. They have been become accustomed to winning football and know what a real contender looks like. Beating Seattle by 5 points is the least they expect, even from a truncated roster like this one. Findlay's attempts to soothe the crowd are going to make him look silly in the end. Better start studying the draft.

AROUND THE EFL – ERUDITE OBSERVATIONS AND LEARNING POINTS

I have an unsettled feeling as I examine the games closely that this could turn out to be the most unpredictable of seasons. While I have a good idea of where the top teams will land; how they will get there and who will win on any given Sunday is up in the air. It's a good thing I am not a betting man by profession or vice.

↪ Why do I feel like I am watching Football's version of WWE when I watch the Wrecking Balls? New Jersey's thrilling (some would say needlessly thrilling) 34-31 OT win over Bruxelles helped me to distill the feeling down to its constituent components. This was a game the Balls had in the bag, pretty much from the beginning. Over the course of three quarters things were clicking fantastically on offence and the defence was thwarting **Jared Goff** and **Leonard Fournette** at every turn as they built up a 28-14 advantage. But then new coach **Sean McDermott** did his best **Bill Parcells** impersonation – it was actually more of a parody – and trotted out back-up QB **Case Keenam** to oversee handoffs to the punch-less pair of **David Montgomery** and **Brian Hill**, with almost *a full 14 minutes left to play!* This against a Bombers' team that under **Ken Main** has come from behind to win more games than the Wrecking Balls have wins as a franchise. For Jersey fans, this was like seeing the non-combatant 'Bad Guy' wrestler creeping into the ring to help his faltering buddy while the 'Hero' and the ref remain oblivious. With New Jersey showing no intention of trying to extend their lead and unable to move the ball, Main went to work finding a way to get points on the board and he did. His wide receivers had been stymied all day by the dialed-in duo of **James Bradberry** and **Antoine Winfield Jr**, so he patiently went underneath to **Chris Thompson** until an opportunity presented itself to stretch the field. *Voila!* Two TD drives in less than 5 minutes and a tie game heading into OT! To be sure, a questionable PI penalty on Bradberry was the key play that kept the game-tying drive alive. But when you leave yourself so little room for error, these calls become much larger than they need to be. In keeping with the edge-of-your-seat WWE theme, the Wrecking Balls were able to successfully draw out the full value of the 10-minute overtime period, out-kicking the Bombers 2-1 thanks to a 50-yard bomb and a 21-yard chip shot by **Chris Boswell**. New Jersey piled up 523 yards of total offence while taking *an entire quarter off*, forced two turnovers and pressured Goff relentlessly. They totally outclassed the Bombers. Yet, there they were, flying by the seat of their pants in overtime desperately trying to salvage a win. If this is how the Wrecking Balls win a game on a day when **DJ Chark** could not have been better (12 catches, 222 yards and 3 TDs), **Matt Stafford** looked like he did back in 2012 and the defence was taking away everything that mattered for the Bombers, what is going to happen when it isn't going all their way? NJ fans should be worried.

↪ Perhaps the Cadillac have an offence after all. After a dismal showing in Week One, the **Kyler Murray Kidz** (and many of them are kids) flashed some chops unlike anything seen from the old rusted Caddies of the past in their 27-22 Week Two loss to Brooklin. For one, Murray led the rushing attack with 70 yards on 11 carries. While that is not necessarily always a good thing, he showed what he did not show in Week One – the ability to extend plays and make those around him better. The two geriatrics on the offence, **LeSean McCoy** and **Frank Gore**, who happen to be running backs, will be expected to contribute more if Murray is to bring the Erieau attack fully into the 21st century. But this Sunday, **Jamie Rilet's** charges racked up 418 total yards, 25 first downs and scored *all* 22 of their points. One would have to dig deep into the archives to find the last time an Erieau offence posted numbers like those. It is therefore tragic irony that on a day when the offence was clicking, the much-acclaimed Caddy defence was not. The front four failed to generate pressure except for one nice move by **Myles Garrett** that dumped **Derek Carr** before he could set up. The entire unit tackled sloppily, leading to a 4th quarter collapse that saw Hawks running back **Carlos Hyde** rush for 81 yards on 10 carries and 2 TDs to overcome a 9-point deficit in the 2nd half and give Brooklin a stunning 27-22 victory. It was the second come-from-behind victory in a row for **Tom Jones**. This bodes well for his Hawks' prospects of making the post-season. Of course, in order to come-from-behind, one must fall behind in the first place. But we can expect nothing less from the ragged Brooklin defence than to put their offence in a hole – that is going to happen anyway. The important thing is that the offence now believes they are never out of a game and, as we know, anything can happen in this league when the script unravels late in the 4th quarter.

↪ Chapter Two of the **Joe Burrow Era** was set in Sebastian and picked up initially where Chapter One in Cowtown had left off. The Blue Eagle defence that had given the Corn Kings such fits in Week One clamped down on the Swordfish as well, smothering attempts to establish a run game and keeping the Sebastian offensive line off balance. On his opening drive, **Joe Burrow** continued to look polished and elusive, scrambling for 26 yards on a 3rd & 20 and finishing off the initial putsch with a perfect crossing pass to **Allen Robinson** for a quick 12-yard TD. But the Sebastian front seven was just feeling the rookie out. They began to get penetration on the next series against both the run and pass to keep the Blue Eagles from inflicting any further damage. Second half offensive adjustments by the Swordfish turned things around. They opened the 3rd quarter with an 11-play, 75-yard drive, energized by a 21-yard long pass to **Odell Beckham Jr** on 3rd & 2 and ending with a 13-yard TD pass to **Jalen Reagor** on 3rd & 12 to take a 10-3 lead. Scarborough tied it up on a **Mason Crosby** 43-yard FG, but Sebastian came right back, riding a 38-yard check down to **Damien Williams** to the 12 before striking gold two plays later on a 12-yard TD pass to **Jason Witten**. The Blue Eagles countered with a FG, but that would be all the scoring for the visitors. Another big check down, 42 yards to **Jonathan Taylor**, set up the final major to Taylor on a 4-yard outlet pass



This week's frame-up is Hawks' running back **Carlos Hyde**. When one thinks of Brooklin rallies, **Derek Carr** going deep to **DeAndre Hopkins** comes to mind. But in Week Two, the Hawks' come-from-behind rally was led by the veteran back, who gained 81 yards in 10 2nd half carries and scored 2 TDs to blindside Erieau 27-22.

from **Drew Brees** to give the Fish a decisive 24-13 win. The better team won, but the Blue Eagles made a more than respectable showing. This was an error-free game on both sides and it was the ability of Brees to finish off in the red zone that really distinguished the two opponents. 'Burrow Watch' is enjoying the show so far.

There is no little doubt left now. **Lamar Jackson** is the best running back on the Derailers. Jackson's ground numbers in Buffalo's 31-7 Week Two loss to Cobb County were 103 yards on 18 carries. The numbers for alleged running back, **Tevin Coleman** were 13 yards on 8 carries. This can happen in a game on occasion when a dynamic multi-dimensional threat like Jackson is playing QB. But for two weeks in a row there has been no comparison. Neither Coleman nor **Ty Johnson** look like they could run through rice paper, while Jackson looks nothing less than dangerous with the ball in his hands. The same cannot be said so far for Jackson's passing, however. For two weeks in a row he has had to pass to overcome multi-score deficits and he has not looked good. To be fair, the Coyotes and Week One opponent, Bruxelles boast two of the best secondaries in the conference. But the Buffalo offence is looking scarily one-dimensional so far and the divisional competition does not get any easier with the Wrecking Balls coming to town in Week 5. The

offence better load-up their stat sheets against Charleswood next week to survive the lean weeks ahead. On the other side, **Ryan Tannehill** had no trouble side-stepping **Aaron Donald** and un-dressing the Buffalo secondary. He was able to do this largely because of a 179-yard rushing attack that held the Derailer pass rush on a leash. He was also helped by some exotic play-calling by the Buffalo defensive coordinator, who took the extremely rare of measure of deploying a goal line defence at the 34-yard line. ‘*Thank you,*’ Tannehill must have whispered under his breath and he tossed an easy 34-yard touchdown to **Brandin Cooks**.

It is only the end of Week Two, but consecutive 40-point games by the Crusaders’ offence has grabbed the attention of pundits across two continents. The Convicts are the latest victims of the Peg City offensive crusade, surrendering 523 yards of offence in falling 41-21 to the Pegs inside an empty True North Field. Little noticed in the hullabaloo over **Kirk Cousins’** five TD passes (giving him 8 in two games to start the season) was the stout play of the Crusader defence in limiting the powerful Chino running attack to just 44 yards. **Von Miller** was the main factor in the Pegs gaining control of the line of scrimmage, sacking **Dak Prescott** once, stuffing **Christian McCaffery** three times and generally terrorizing the Convicts’ front five. I am not making the case for the Crusaders finishing the season as a top five defence. However, if that defence can deliver this type of inspired play against good opponents, it will bolster the effectiveness of this so-far dangerous-looking offence. The Violators have to be looking over their shoulders.

The East Elmhurst defence can’t be *that good*, so the Pickering running game must be *that bad*. The Spartans rushed for 15 yards on 22 carries for an average of 0.7 yards per carry on their way to a 38-17 loss to the Irish. Of course, when a team is down by three TDs at half time, the run game ceases to be a major feature. But while the game was still within reach, the dud-like duo of **D’Andre Swift**, and **Miles Sanders** were stuck in the mud on a wonderfully dry day at the Monastery – or whatever that stone monolith at LaGuardia Airport is called. The Spartans’ offensive line couldn’t block either, as evidenced by the penetration **Jonathan Allen** got on his 4-yard stuff and forced fumble of Sanders that **Jalen Ramsey** returned for a touchdown as a kind of middle finger to accompany the third East Elmhurst touchdown in less than a 9-minute span. It was an ugly game all around and despite the score I was not very impressed with the Irish, despite my affinity for **Ryan Fitzpatrick**. In fact, there is something about the Irish (I can’t put my finger on it) that bugs me. My *Spats Sense* is tingling. As for the once glorious Spartans – at some point they will spank somebody. They have **Philip Rivers** and a few weapons that will allow them to do so. But overall, this will likely be one of the worst seasons ever for the legions of **Gus Konstantakos**.

THE GREAT SPATSKIN

I don’t come into this exercise this year with my customary bravado. I really think the disruption of training camp and the elimination of the pre-season is having unpredictable effects and will continue to do so until at least Week Four. And then there is that bizarre turnaround in the Durham-Cowtown game this week, where up was down and down was sideways. It would not be the first time that a football game played out in an unpredictable fashion, but usually there is some kind of lucky break (or several) involved in huge upsets. Not this time; it looked like a complete role reversal.

In such situations of intellectual uncertainty, I rely primarily on my instinct, which is a product of my superior intellect that is only accessible to my gut and not my head. What that means is that I do not intend to explain all of my choices; only those I can articulate in words you can understand. For the rest, I will defer to the powerful spirit of ‘*The Great Spatskin*.’

In the Atlantic Conference where, until this weekend, things appeared much clearer, the Division winners are easy to call. Durham will win the North because there is no viable competition – unless you take seriously the idea that a 41-year old quarterback is going to dig deep and win one for the ‘Gipper,’ who, in this case, is himself. I don’t believe in fairy tales. Of course, the best team in the Conference is certain to win its Division, so calling Budapest to take the Coastal is a no-brainer. *Oops!* I just inadvertently revealed my Conference Champion pick. Alright, continuing on, the Mustangs will win the South because there most definitely is no other competition there and, of course, they get the Reigning Champ ‘*Great Spatskin*’ Bye. The wildcards, as if anybody cares will be Sebastian and...you know, I don’t really care because the rest suck. But I like the Hawks’ moxie right now, so give it to them! As already mentioned, Budapest will win the Conference – they have already shown what they can do to Aurora and I am afraid the Lizards, as good as they are, will ultimately be betrayed by their QB.

On to the Pacific, where my gut is working overtime telling me that Cobb County will be more than most teams can handle; and those that can will have trouble handling them, including Virden. The East goes to the Coyotes. Virden will win the Central, but not without a stiff fight from Peg City, a team that in any other year would be the front-runner. My head says that the Cubs will win the West, but my gut is favouring Chino. I said I would go with my gut, so Chino it is. The wildcards are interesting because they all have a chance to beat any of the Division winners. The Crusaders are a lock with the arsenal at **Kirk Cousins’** disposal and an unsung but very good defence. I like the Bombers as a rule, but it may take time for them to find a path forward with **Jared Goff**. Give me the Cubs as the second wildcard and add in a first-round elimination for them with it. While I have some tiny nagging doubts about Virden, my gut tells me I will regret listening to those nagging doubts, so Virden wins the Pacific Conference.

And now...the moment you have all been waiting for: *Who will win the Gale Sayers Trophy?* The game will be a classic match-up of top-flight offence versus big-play defence. (If you don’t know which team falls under which category, stop reading right now and never watch football again!) We are entering the age when offence wins championships. The rules tend to favour scoring and Virden has the talent to exploit those rules better than anybody. But that does not mean defence is dead. A good defensive game plan filled with deception, discipline and knowledge of the opponent can take away the benefits of those rules. I guarantee **Darrin Jones** will have a plan to deal with the Virden offence and he has the talent to pull it off. It might not work. **Patrick Mahomes** could make a play or ten. But as an insurance policy against a shootout, the Stars have savvy veteran **Aaron Rodgers** at the helm of the offence. It’s Budapest all the way!

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Jimmy's WEEK THREE PICKS

PEG CITY @ NEW JERSEY (line – CRUSADERS by 6)

INJURIES: New Jersey – None; Peg City – None.

The top-ranked offence in scoring and efficiency faces its toughest challenge yet against a Wrecking Balls' defence that looked dominant last week against Bruxelles until they were hung out to dry in the 4th quarter. New Jersey nearly snatched defeat from the jaws of victory when they tried, with no success, to run out the clock with a full 14 minutes left, resulting in the defence continually being put back on the field. In the end they got away with it, but such timidity against an offence like the Crusaders will get them killed. The Peg City defence is no slouch either, but whether this is due to great talent or being able to rest more than others is unclear. It works in any case, as the Pegs are ranked in the top three defending both the run and the pass. Many people are picking the over in this game based on DJ Chark and Matt Stafford's blazing performances against Bruxelles. I see a game where the defences tone down the offensive production on both sides. The defence that shows up the best will make the difference. **PICK: PEG CITY**

COBB COUNTY @ TWIN CITIES (line – COYOTES by 12)

INJURIES: Cobb County – Steve Nelson (PROBABLE); Twin Cities – Chris Lindstrom (OUT), Russell Okung (OUT), Antonio Brown (COVID-19).

Ryan Tannehill shredded the respected Buffalo defence last week and took apart the highly-regarded Wrecking Balls' defence the week before. How is a journeyman like him doing it? Well, he might not be a journeyman at all. He may have found a home in Cobb County thanks to a solid offensive line, a productive two-back system, and Julio Jones and DaVante Parker as targets. It is still early and things can change suddenly, but based on two weeks of data it is hard to not see the Coyotes rising easily to 3-0 this week after two dreadful outings by Triumph starter, Jameis Winston. The pressure to put Mitch Trubisky back under center is mounting and the decision could make the difference in whether the Coyotes cover the unusually high early-season spread. Of course, we good also get the 'Good' Jameis this week, which would change the calculus. A little nervous about the double-digit spread. **PICK: TWIN CITIES**

BUFFALO @ CHARLESWOOD (line – DERAILERS by 3)

INJURIES: Buffalo – Donovan Smith (QUESTIONABLE), Derek Barnett (OUT), Jayon Brown (OUT), Jaquiski Tartt (OUT), Quinnen Williams (OUT), Jonathan Abram (IR); Charleswood – Derwin James (OUT), Jalen Mills (OUT), Desmond Trufant (OUT).

Two weeks in and the only excuse I can make for the Derailers is that they have been hit hard by injuries to good starters on the defence. For the rest, there is no excuse. No fault of Lamar Jackson that the offence has been built (if "built" is the right word) for a placeholder journeyman working for a paycheck. Jackson is no journeyman, but he is alone. Fortunately, he will get a chance to show what he can do with his arm against a Pats' secondary devastated by injury that is just beginning to realize that it is not very good anyway. On the other side, DeShaun Watson will be hoping the Derailers deploy another goal line package at mid-field. Aaron Donald, with no hurries and just 1 sack so far, has to find a way to make a difference against one of the more sackable QBs in the league. I don't have a good bead on this match-up for some reason. Buffalo should win, but.... **PICK: CHARLESWOOD**

VIRDEN @ BRUXELLES (line – VIOLATORS by 8)

INJURIES: Virden – None; Bruxelles – Darius Slay (PROBABLE), Trey Flowers (DOUBTFUL).

It does not have the same cache as Virden versus Iowa, but this game could end up being a much better match. That's easy to say since the Violators-Cub contest was no contest at all. Virden skinned the Cubbies alive and it was shocking to watch. Was the Cubs' defence so ill-prepared, the Virden offence that dominant, or a combination of both? I'll take the latter. But the Bombers are not going to sit on their hands and watch the Patrick Mahomes Show. They will do something – exactly what I don't know – but it will be

something, and they are better able than the Cubs to do whatever it is. Bruxelles needs to get both tight ends into the game – they are excellent and the Virden safeties are the vulnerability of their defence. Thinking the Bombers will find a way... **PICK: BRUXELLES**

IOWA CITY @ CHINO (line – CONVICTS by 1)

INJURIES: Iowa City – Reshad Jones (OUT); Chino– Morgan Burnett (OUT), Kawann Short (IR).

It will be hard for the Cubs to show their faces in public after the bare-back whipping they received from the Violators last week. Chino fans are picking out bags to wear after the Crusaders took their team to the woodshed in Week Two. The atmosphere for this game will be a toxic combination of teams that despise each other, seeking the dual satisfaction of beating each other to a pulp and making up for a recent humiliation. That alone will make it interesting, if only because it is funny to see Coach Redding with a frown on his face for 3 hours straight. But seriously, this is an early “must-win” game for both teams. Neither wants to fall to 1-2 and neither wants to drop the first tie-breaker. Both teams have been unimpressive so far, the Cubs particularly so. Chino has the definite edge offensively, but the Russell Wilson ‘X’-Factor can be a great equalizer. One can never disregard the ‘X,’ but one can’t bank on it either. **PICK: CHINO**

LAS VEGAS @ SEATTLE (line – ASSASSINS by 1)

INJURIES: Las Vegas – None. Seattle – None

They stuck 30 points on the board against Twin Cities last week, but I am not convinced that the Assassins are capable of a full-frontal assault on the Pilots defence. They will need the kind of help Sam Darnold gave the Pats last week if they hope to put some distance between them on the scoreboard. Both QBs, in fact, are ranked near the bottom at their position, while both defences are talented. The Assassins have the strongest trio of linebackers in the league to go with a better-than-average secondary, making the play-action pass the only viable option for success through the air for Seattle. The inconsistency of Carson Wentz has to be annoying for Vegas fans, but he has a winner’s swagger that still shows up occasionally and the best WR in the game to settle his nerves otherwise. **PICK: LAS VEGAS**

COWTOWN @ YORK (line – EXCALIBURS by 4)

INJURIES: Cowtown – Ronald Darby (OUT), Cordy Glenn (OUT), Brian Winters (OUT); York – None.

I was about to write off the Corn Kings against all but the Gladiators of the league when they came out of nowhere and punched the Lizards in the nose last week. So, which version of the Corn Kings is real: the one that bullied arguably the top-ranked team in the conference; or the one that fell meekly to a rookie QB leading a team coming off a 2-14 season? This game will be a good bellwether of which one is real and which is ‘Memorex.’ The Swords are a “sticky” team that always plays the Corn Kings tough. As a collection of talent, they are not impressive overall, but stars like Tom Brady, Derrick Henry and DeForest Buckner force one to pause. As well as they played last week, I do not see the Cowtown offence taking control here. Expect a defensive struggle on both ends with turnovers playing a role. York has the edge at home, but 4 points is a lot when there aren’t many points to work with. **PICK: COWTOWN**

BROOKLIN @ DURHAM (line – HAWKS by 2)

INJURIES: Brooklin – Stephon Tuitt (OUT), Leighton Vander Esch (OUT); Durham – Chase Young (OUT).

Durham’s reputation took a hit last week, but it will not be their reputation taking the field against a high-flying Hawks team. Players, angry players, will be taking the field looking to wipe clean the stain of an embarrassing loss by turning the Hawks into a stain on the Jurassic Park turf. Josh Allen did not look sharp last week, but the Corn Kings deserve some of the credit for putting him off his game; Allen’s inexperience took care of the rest. He should find the going much smoother against a Brooklin defence that remains ramshackle despite the lipstick of two big wins smeared all over its face. The Lizards will plough through the Hawks, whether through the air or on the ground with Nick Chubb. The question will be whether the defence can hold on to the offence’s gains. A unit viewed by most as elite currently ranks 15th overall. Richard Sherman has not yet defended a pass and rookie Chase Young, out for this game, has hardly seen the field. All eyes will be on this unit to see if it can hold on against the magic of...*wait* for it...Derek Carr! **PICK: DURHAM**

SEBASTIAN @ BUDAPEST (line – NORTH STARS by 8)

INJURIES: Sebastian – Carlos Dunlap (DOUBTFUL), Adam Gotsis (OUT). Budapest – Jamel Dean (OUT), Sammy Watkins (OUT).

I won’t put too much stock in a single game, but what the North Stars showed against Aurora was that they should have no problem at all keeping a lid on Drew Brees and a Swordfish offence that continues to rely heavily on David Beckham Jr, but now without the benefit of Doug Baldwin as a distraction. Jalen Reagor is tantalizing, but far from fully developed. Same for Laviska Shenault. Jonathan Taylor, an important piece of the offence, has not been used to best effect so far, leading some to question whether the coach is stuck in an old dynamic. Fans of the North Stars are waiting for Quarterback Saviour Aaron Rodgers to have that signature breakout game to establish himself with the team. But Darrin Jones seems quite content to play small ball for now and ease his star into the proper mindset of his mind-numbing offence. While he coddles his prize, expect the Swordfish to push the envelope offensively, as they always do, in the hope of sucking Budapest into a shootout mentality and creating conditions for Chandler Jones to dominate. **PICK: SEBASTIAN**

PICKERING @ SCARBOROUGH (line – BLUE EAGLES by 10)

INJURIES: Pickering – Charles Harris (DOUBTFUL), Xavien Howard (OUT); Scarborough – DeSean Jackson (OUT).

It's been a long time, going back to Week 5 of the 2012 season, since we last saw a 10-point line favouring the Blue Eagles over Pickering. Scarborough went 14-2 that season and the Spartans 6-10. While a top-end prediction for the Spartans wins this year happens to be 6, these Blue Eagles are no 14-win team. So why the big line? The Spartans' pass protection is simply awful and the Blue Eagles have shown so far that they can compete and win in the trenches. They have an excellent pass-rush unit and the offensive line is not only capable, but determined to keep Joe Burrow alive. Scarborough is a solid team, built from the inside out, that now has a "head" to command the body. The Spartans, on the other hand, are playing like they are the worst team in the league. **PICK: SCARBOROUGH**

ERIEAU @ AURORA (line – MUSTANGS by 9)

INJURIES: Erieau – Akiem Hicks (IR); Aurora – Kenyan Drake (PROBABLE), Duane Brown (OUT).

No team wants to be Aurora's opponent this week. Unfortunately for the luckless Caddies, they get to visit Magna Park with the memory of single-digit production against Budapest still fresh in Matt Ryan's mind. The Mustang offence has never been held to single-digits in a game since Rich Liotta took over the team in 2014. One must go back to the Garland iteration of the Mustangs, Week 14 of the 2013 season when they scored 3 points against Scarborough, to find the last time that happened. Although the worst is assumed for the Caddies, nobody can say for sure how the Liotta Mustangs will react trying to rebound from last week's setback. The coach himself will not hold back, but the players could be a little spooked by their brush with mortality. The Erieau offence showed signs of life last week, but the offence remains a work in progress. It is tough to imagine it moving the ball with consistency against the current no.1 ranked defence. The Erieau D could strike gold if Ryan gets too rash, but more likely they will wear down for being on the field too long. It may not be a dominant bounce-back game for Aurora, but it will be enough to put them back on track. **PICK: AURORA**

EAST ELMHURST @ GEORGIA (line – IRISH by 9)

INJURIES: East Elmhurst – Mekhi Becton (DOUBTFUL); Georgia – Maurkice Pouncey (OUT), Jordan Whitehead (OUT).

The Gladiators have a long, long road ahead with Tua and some guy name Hodges at quarterback. At 0-2, Dave Birdsall has this team playing over its head, in the sense that they have been competitive in both their losses. But I am guessing that it cannot go on for much longer. Low morale will set in, brought on by the collective awareness that there is nobody better than average on the roster (except for the big guy on the bench wearing the sling). That means they have to grab potential win opportunities like this one when they can. The Irish are coming off a decisive win over Pickering. They forced two more turnovers in that contest to bring their league-leading total to 6. Ryan Fitzpatrick seems to be the starting quarterback, but that could change on a dime. The Irish still have fragments of top talent on their roster that distinguishes them from teams like Georgia. But they are also vulnerable to them on the right day. **PICK: GEORGIA**



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With Professor
Sterling Smitherman

FROM THE EFL ARCHIVES – The Game of the Week in Week Two of the 2014 EFL season featured a rebuilding Cowtown registering what was thought to be, at the time, an impressive 26-23 upset of the heavily favoured Blue Eagles. In retrospect it was no upset at all and the poor saps who bet the Blue Eagles that day never stood a chance of covering the 8-point spread. The ending was controversial due to a decision by Coach **Chris Dickinson** to go for a 1st down on 4th & 6 at the Cowtown 30-yard line with 0:17 left and no timeouts. The Blue Eagles were facing a stiff wind and **Jay Feely** had missed an earlier 33-yard field goal attempt into

into that same wind. But decision to go for it meant that they had to both gain the first and ensure they had enough time to send in the kicking unit. **Kayvon Webster** batted away the pass to **Nate Burleson** to end the game.

In Iowa City, **Knowshon Moreno** rushed for 133 yards and 4 TDs to lead the Santa Clara Banana Sluggs to a 48-34 pounding of the Cubs. But while the offensive numbers all around stole the fantasy show, it was the 51 blitzes by the Sluggs' defence that had analysts talking about Major **Cooper Gerow's** 'Offence 2,' the new name for his defensive system. The Sluggs relentlessly attacked the Cubs' offence and while it often resulted in big plays for Iowa, it eventually wore down Russell Wilson and offensive line, which was flagged for 4 holding calls. 'Offence 2' would soon fade, but for a few heady weeks in early 2014, it was the all the talk.

The Mission Viejo Monarchs scored a Week Two upset and registered their first win of the season by out-scoring Mohave 37-20. The architect of that offensive display was no other than **Ryan Tannehill**, who threw for 258 yards and 3 TDs. Tannehill was not getting respect back then either and not only because he was a member of the Monarchs. It will be interesting to see how far he can take Cobb County in 2020.